

APPENDIX 4.8.1.4-1

West Branch Montreal River Internet Flow Study

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WEST BRANCH MONTREAL RIVER INTERNET FLOW STUDY OCTOBER 2007

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ABSTRACT

The West Branch of the Montreal is a low-volume, popular class IV-whitewater river located on the south shore of Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin, USA. Those seeking whitewater recreation can generally only find adequate flows during a week or two in early spring when the reservoir upstream spills. In this study researchers have utilized the structural norm approach and impact acceptability curves to examine instream flows for recreation on the West Branch of the Montreal. The range of acceptable flows, as determined by the impact acceptability curve was from 400-1,000 cfs. All average evaluations for flows between these levels were above the neutral line. 600 cfs received the highest average evaluation and is therefore considered to be the optimal flow. According to these data, a release of 600 cfs would appeal to the greatest variety of river users. Dam operations upstream of Gile Falls could allow for scheduled whitewater releases into the West Branch extending the recreation season for paddling in the Lake Superior area.

KEY WORDS

instream flows, flow management, recreation flows, flow study

West Branch Montreal River Flow Study

INTRODUCTION

The West Branch of the Montreal is a low-volume river located on the south shore of Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin, USA. On the stretch of the West Branch between Gile Falls and Highway 2 a popular class IV- whitewater run exists. Although this stretch hosted the National Wildwater Championships in 1992 and the Pan Am races in the early 1980's, paddlers can generally only find adequate flows for whitewater runs during a week or two in early spring when the reservoir upstream spills.

Researchers have utilized the structural norm approach and impact acceptability curves to examine instream flows for recreation on a variety of river stretches across the United States including the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in Arizona (Whittaker & Shelby, 2002). River managers can manipulate instream flows through controlled dam releases. On river stretches where manipulation is possible, flow management has become a central issue in recreation management. Dam operations upstream of Gile Falls could allow for scheduled whitewater releases into the West Branch extending the recreation season for paddling in the Lake Superior area. To explore this possibility an internet flow survey was conducted between the spring of 2006 and 2007.

Whitewater paddlers who responded to the internet survey were enthusiastic about the possibility of scheduled releases. Many expressed difficulty in predicting runnable flows for the West Branch and some respondents had never done the run due to the extremely short season when adequate flows spilled from the dam. Respondents articulated a need for whitewater opportunities in the warm weather summer months in the upper Midwest and many were willing to travel long distances for scheduled releases on the weekend. Results from the impact acceptability curve suggest that instream flow releases of 600-1,000 cfs would be acceptable to a majority of river users. A Saturday release was favored by 56% of respondents and the average preferred time and duration for instream releases were 10am and 6 hours respectively.

METHODS

The structural norm approach is a technique used to represent social norms graphically. Structural characteristics of norms are displayed visually through a device referred to as an impact acceptability curve. This visual representation has proven useful to the process of communicating normative concepts to resource managers. The potential for conflict index (PCI) developed by Manfredo, Vaske, and Teel (2003) advanced the graphic representation of social norms by visually displaying information about their central tendency, dispersion and form simultaneously (Vaske, Needham, Newman, Manfredo, & Petchenik, in press).

Instream flow is the amount of water in a river at a given time. Understanding the relationship between instream flows and resource values can aid in the creation of standards for recreation use (Whittaker & Shelby, 2002). Using the structural norm approach, impact acceptability curves and the PCI (Figures 1 & 2) researchers have described optimum flows, ranges of tolerable flows, intensity and crystallization (i.e., respondent agreement) for numerous specific river settings (Shelby, Vaske, & Donnelly, 1996; Whittaker, Shelby, & Abrams, in press). The impact acceptability curve takes norms related to the acceptability of specific instream flows, measured at the individual level and then aggregates them to describe social norms by plotting the averages of individual's response evaluations (Shelby et al., 1996). The set of specific instream flows measured are displayed on the horizontal axis. Average evaluations are displayed on the

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vertical axis, with negative evaluations on the bottom, a neutral line in the middle, and positive evaluations on top (Whittaker & Shelby, 2002).

The highest point or peak of the curve represents the optimum flow. The range of flows with average evaluations above the neutral line represents the range of tolerable flows. The points where the curve intersects with the neutral line define the standards to be associated with too high and too low a flow. The relative distance of the curve in relationship to the neutral line defines the intensity of a norm. The variation among evaluations at each flow level constitutes the crystallization of the norm but is typically not visually displayed on a impact acceptability curve. In this study we use the PCI bubbles (Figure 2) to describe crystallization graphically on the curve, where the larger the PCI bubble, the less agreement between respondents and the smaller the bubble, the greater the agreement.

An internet specific instream flow survey was conducted between the spring of 2006 and 2007. The survey was advertised on the American Whitewater website through a number of articles. The Wisconsin Hoofers Outing Club also played a role in attracting respondents to the internet based survey. Individuals interested in the possibility of scheduled whitewater releases on the West Branch were invited to take part in the survey regardless of their skill level, whitewater experience, craft used or familiarity with the stretch.

A wide range of variables were measured for this study. Respondents evaluated the acceptability of 13 specific flows from the West Branch dam. The flows ranged from 100 cfs to 1,000 cfs (see Table 1 for a complete listing of flow levels measured). Each flow was evaluated on a 7-point scale: totally unacceptable (-3), moderately unacceptable (-2), slightly unacceptable (-1), neutral (0), slightly acceptable (1), marginally acceptable (2) and totally acceptable (3). Acceptable flows, optimal flows, and norm crystallization were determined for all respondents. Three release preference variables were measured including preferred release time of day (i.e. 9am, 10am etc.), preferred release duration (i.e. 1 hour, 2hours, etc.) and preferred day of release (Saturday, Sunday., or either). A set of open ended flow related variables were also measured including optimum, standard, increased challenge, and preferred release flow.

TABLE 1

Mean acceptability rating, Standard Deviation and Potential for Conflict Index value for measured specific cfs flows on the West Branch Montreal, Wisconsin, USA

Specific Flow CFS	Mean Acceptability	Standard Deviation	PCI
100	-2.82	0.40	0
150	-2.60	0.84	0
200	-2.10	1.45	0.06
250	-1.88	1.54	0.07
300	-0.90	2.13	0.40
350	-0.70	2.45	0.53
400	0	2.49	0.74
450	0.54	2.34	0.49
500	1.33	1.92	0.27
600	1.5	1.83	0.12
700	1.33	1.72	0.22
800	1.27	1.74	0.17
1000	0.83	1.80	0.28

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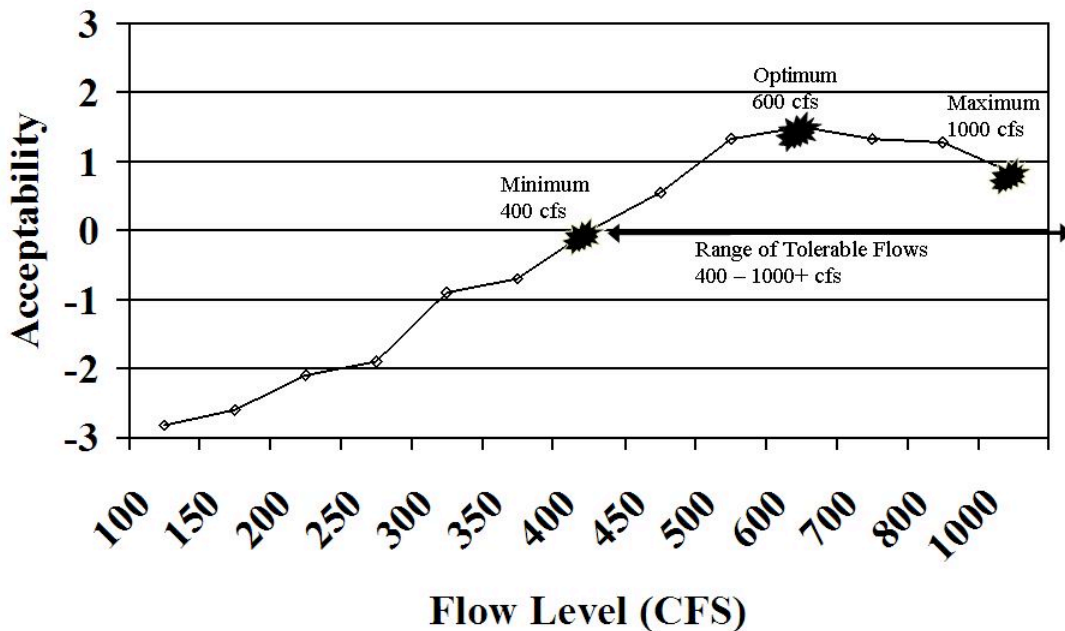
RESULTS

Under the structural norm approach, flows between 100 cfs and 350 cfs were, on average, unacceptable (Figure 1). Flows of 450 cfs and greater were within the range of acceptable flow conditions. Flows of 600, 700 and 800 cfs were considered optimal. Flows of 1,000 cfs were, on average, considered acceptable. Flows greater than 1,000 cfs were not measured. While some individuals have run the river at these higher flows these opportunities are limited and unlikely to be provided for during a controlled release.

Under the set of open ended flow response questions 905 cfs was considered, on average, to be the optimum flow, with responses ranging from 400-2,500 cfs. The average standard flow was 730 cfs on average, with a response range of 400-2,000 cfs. A flow of 1,310 cfs was the average flow for an increased challenge trip, with a range of 600-5,000 cfs. The average preferred release flow was 875 cfs, with a range of 400-2,500 cfs. The average preferred duration or length of a release was on average 6 hours, with a range from 4 hours to 1 week in length. The average preferred time of day for a release was 10 am, with a range from 9 am – 1 pm. When asked what their preferred day for a release would be, 56% of respondents chose Saturday, 3% preferred a Sunday release and 41% responded that either day of the weekend was acceptable.

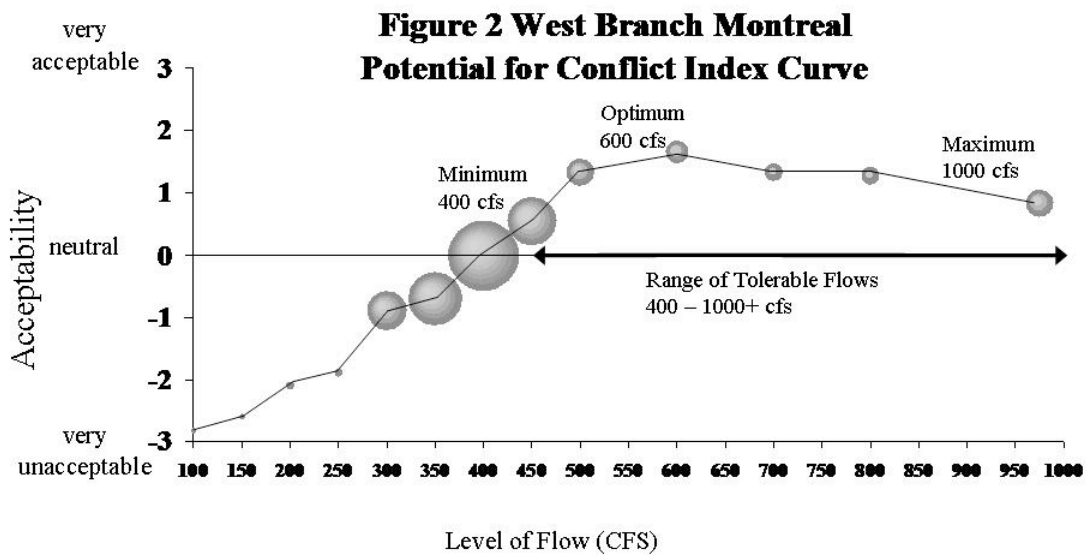
The Potential for Conflict Index ranges from 0 (no conflict, high consensus) to 1 (high conflict, low consensus). PCI scores for the acceptability of specific flows ranged from .00 (100 and 150 cfs), to .73 (400 cfs). Using the traditional norm acceptability curve (Figure 1), the average flow evaluation for 400 cfs was at the neutral line, suggesting that

**Figure 1 Impact Acceptability Curve
West Branch Montreal**



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a flow of 400 cfs was within the acceptable range of flows. When the curve is displayed with PCI bubbles (Figure 2), it is apparent that some boaters evaluated a flow of 400 as unacceptable. The bubble straddles the neutral line and the PCI value is the largest measured for any of the specific flow evaluations (.73). PCI scores at the optimal flows of 600, 700, and 800 cfs were .22, .17 and .17 respectively, the lowest for any of the flows measured with average ratings above the neutral line. These relatively low PCI values (small bubbles, Figure 2) suggest that across all boaters there was considerable consensus regarding the acceptability of these optimum flow levels. PCI values, as well as mean evaluations and standard deviations, for the flows evaluated under the impact acceptability curve are displayed in Table 1.



DISCUSSION

Understanding the impact acceptability curves for river stretches where instream flow manipulation is possible is fundamental to the proper recreation management of these stretches. Instream flow releases can provide unique recreation opportunities for multiple user groups and can help flow diversion and storage operations meet their protection, mitigation and enhancement measures necessary to re-license their operations under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) (Whittaker & Shelby, 2002). Xcel Energy manages Gile Flowage which provides water to their Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project and Montreal Hydroelectric Project downstream. Gile Flowage is a storage impoundment and not a licensed project, but paddlers are still interested in determining the potential for a scheduled flow release or releases.

This study was implemented to help determine the instream flow-recreation relationship and to help determine at which flow level a scheduled release would be most appropriate.

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The range of acceptable flows, as determined by the impact acceptability curve (Figure 1), is from 400-1,000 cfs. All average evaluations for flows between these levels were above the neutral line. 600 cfs received the highest average evaluation (1.5) and is therefore considered to be the optimal flow. According to these data, a release of 600 cfs would appeal to the greatest variety of river users.

Where respondents were able to identify flow characteristics in an open ended response format, average flow evaluations were slightly higher. This combined with the above neutral acceptability evaluation on the impact acceptable curve for 1,000 cfs, suggests that there is a significant population of river users who would prefer higher flow releases. When asked directly what flow level would be their preferred release, the range of responses was from 400-2,500 cfs, with a mean of 875 cfs. Respondents interested in release flows over 1,000 cfs were most likely looking for an increased challenge whitewater experience. Evidence of this phenomenon comes from the mean response to an open ended, preferred flow question for an increased challenge trip of 1,310 cfs. Users who are not as experienced river runners, or who preferred a more moderate whitewater challenge, are more likely to be comfortable with flows closer to the minimum acceptable flow of 400 cfs. All river users are likely to find these lower flows to be acceptable, but more experienced and daring river users may not find the level of whitewater challenge that they are looking for.

The Potential for Conflict Index (PCI) helps to identify the agreement between respondents at each individual flow level. Table 1 and Figure 2 reveal a PCI score trend that is similar to previous studies (Vaske, Stafford, Shelby & Whittaker, in review). Users are in the most agreement at flow levels which are highly unacceptable and highly acceptable. Users are in the least agreement when average response evaluations are near the neutral line. At the instream flow of 400 cfs, users are highly divided over the acceptability of this flow for whitewater recreation. Some respondents felt that this flow was too low for a meaningful whitewater experience, while other users found this to be an acceptable flow. It is possible that the acceptability of flows on the lower end of the flow spectrum have been influenced by the limited availability of days during the year when this stretch is runnable. Some users may find lower flows acceptable because these are the only flows they have been able to catch on this stretch.

PCI scores on the higher end of the flow spectrum show strong agreement between users. Flows of 600, 700, and 800 cfs had PCI scores of .22, .17, and .17 respectively. For whitewater river running a certain amount of flow is necessary just to navigate a stretch. In general, once that minimum flow level is passed, the stretch becomes runnable up to a certain much higher level of flow, which can be dictated by a number of variables, including skill level, experience and craft type. For the West Branch Montreal the majority of river users were in agreement that flows up to and beyond 1000 cfs are acceptable and are not out of their range of acceptable flows.

This study has a number of limitations. Internet studies are by nature a biased and hard to control medium for conducting research. For instream flow related research they may prove to be acceptable because instream flow research normally does not look to sample the general population. For most studies only experienced river users are surveyed because prior research suggests that experienced boaters are more knowledgeable about how flows affect recreation attributes and are most capable of evaluating specific flows (Shelby, Brown, & Baumgartner, 1992). Reaching out to experienced users through internet surveys is a very real possibility. There is also the chance that less experienced users who are not truly capable of estimating and determining the difference between specific flow levels will respond and should therefore be considered a limitation of this

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study. 63% of respondents estimated flow levels for their previous runs and 95% of respondents recalled their level of flow from memory. Flow level estimations can be a reliable source for actual levels from experienced river users, but in this study there is no way to determine the experience level of different respondents.

Another limitation to this study was the amount of respondents who had not run this stretch prior to responding to the survey. 38% of respondents had not completed the West Branch Montreal and an average of 31 respondents skipped the questions referring to specific flow levels. This can be attributed to the extremely short season for whitewater recreation on this stretch, but this also shows that there is strong interest in scheduled releases for this run. Respondents who have not completed this run were very likely the same respondents who skipped flow related questions and therefore would have little, if any affect on the variables used to determine the acceptability of instream flows.

This survey provides most, if not all of the necessary components to determine an acceptable instream flow level, a time of day, duration and day of the week for scheduled whitewater releases on the West Branch Montreal. The data strongly suggest that a minimum release level should be 600 cfs, as this flow level was found to be acceptable to the greatest variety of river users. The data also suggest that varying the flow levels released over multiple release days or a release weekend may provide for an even more varied group of river runners. An optimum release schedule for a weekend of two releases, according to this study, would begin with a release of 600 cfs on Saturday morning at 10 am and would last until 4 pm, and would have a second release day of 800-1,000 cfs on Sunday, which would begin at 10 am and would last until 4 pm. If the release schedule had to be limited to one day then a flow of 600-800 cfs should be released between 10 am and 4 pm on a Saturday. Considering this studies limitations, a follow up survey of participants is recommended subsequent to an initial whitewater release in order to obtain a more accurate instream flow – recreation relationship for the West Branch.

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Whittaker, D., & Shelby, B., Abrams, J. (in press). Instream flows and “angler habitat:” Flow effects on fishability on eight Pacific Northwest rivers. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 11(5).

APPENDIX 4.8.2.1-1

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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



Did You Know?

Wisconsin has received

\$81 million

from the federal
Land & Water
Conservation Fund

County Forests

are the largest public
land holding in
Wisconsin

2.4 million acres

60%

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

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

The exception?

Bird and wildlife watching

which peaks around age 65

95%

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

Consumer spending
on outdoor
recreation in
Wisconsin totals

\$17.9 billion

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

1910 = 1 million
2010 = 3.5 million

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:

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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."

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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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10	Recreation grants and guidelines for the development of local recreation plans

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

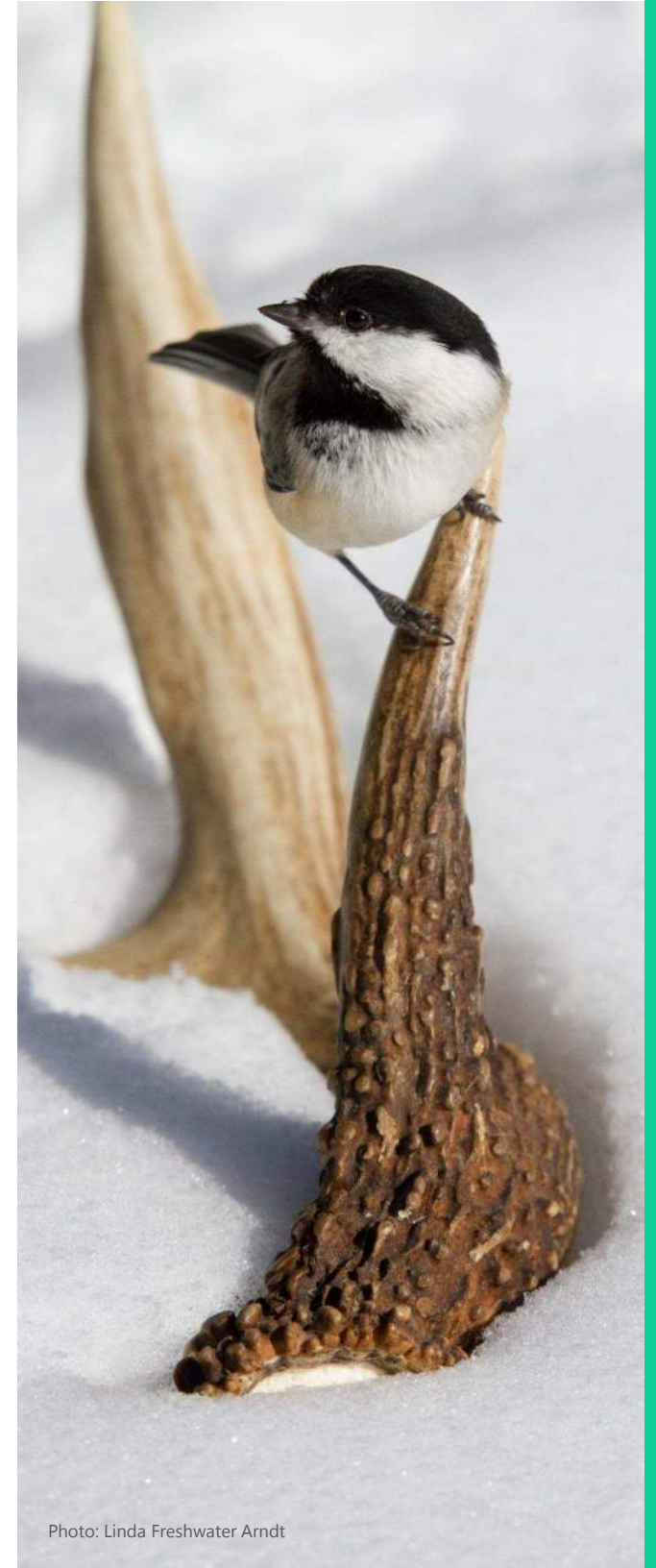


Photo: Linda Freshwater Arndt

5

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

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.



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.

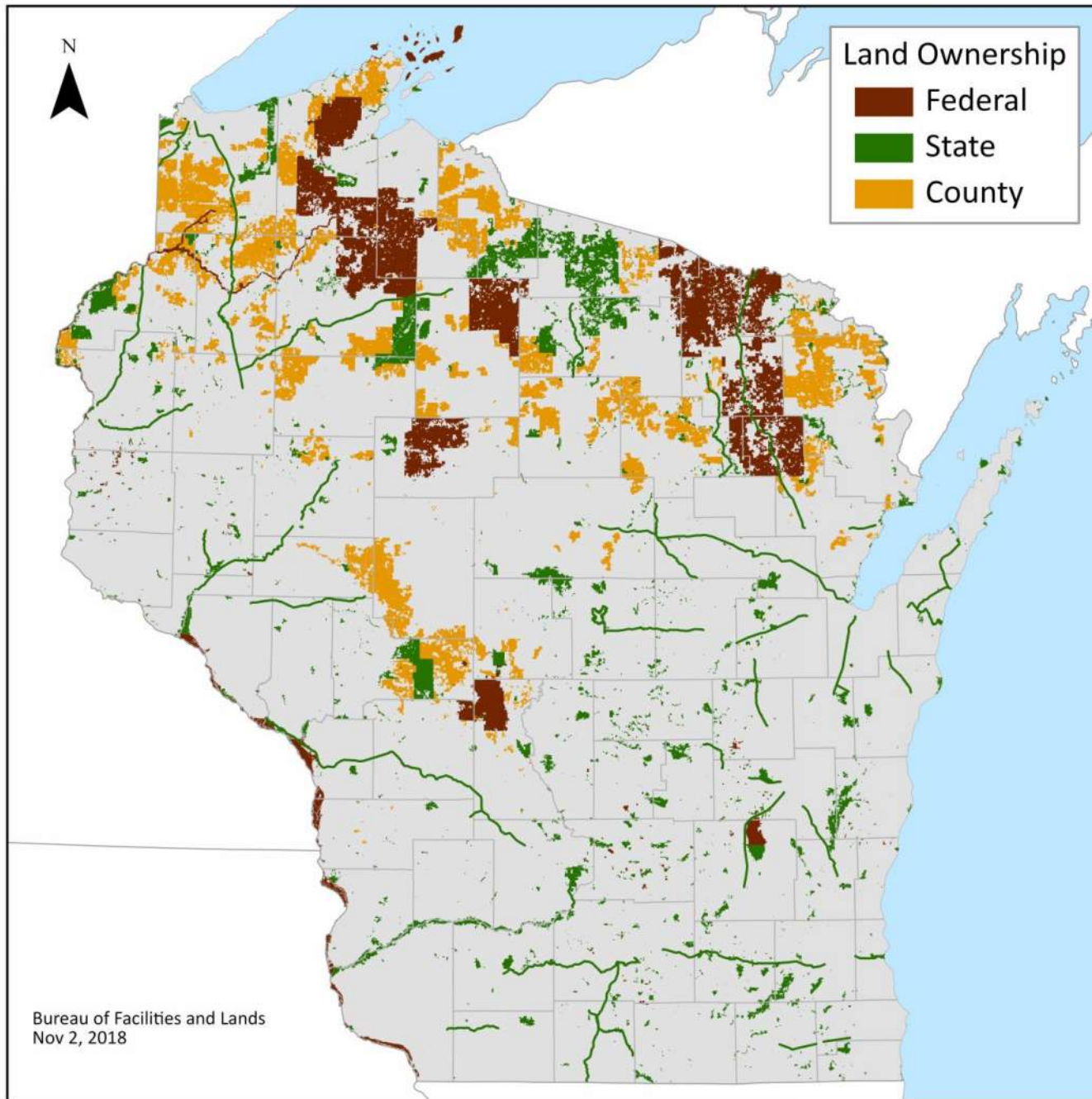
Parks and nature preserves, wildlife areas and refuges, and forests and trails connect people to the natural environment. These places, from small neighborhood parks to the large national, state and county forests, are the stages on which we enjoy the outdoors, improve our health, protect our air and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



“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.



Photo: Greg Sanderson



Photo: Greg Sanderson



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

PURPOSE OF SCORP

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.

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.

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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

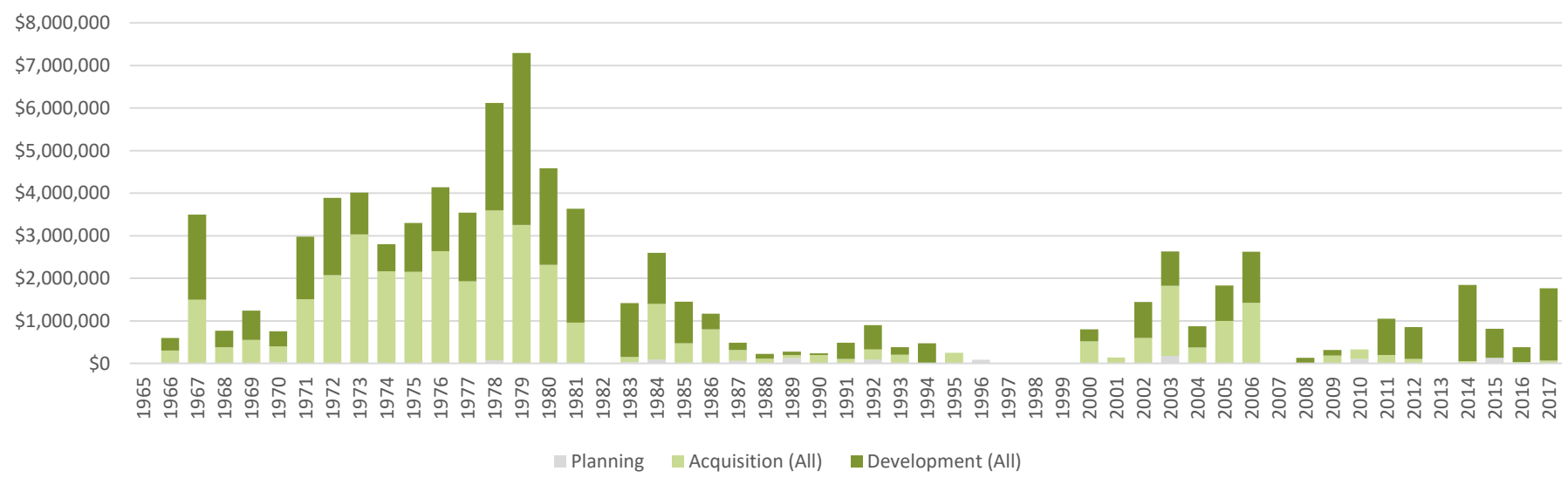
Background

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

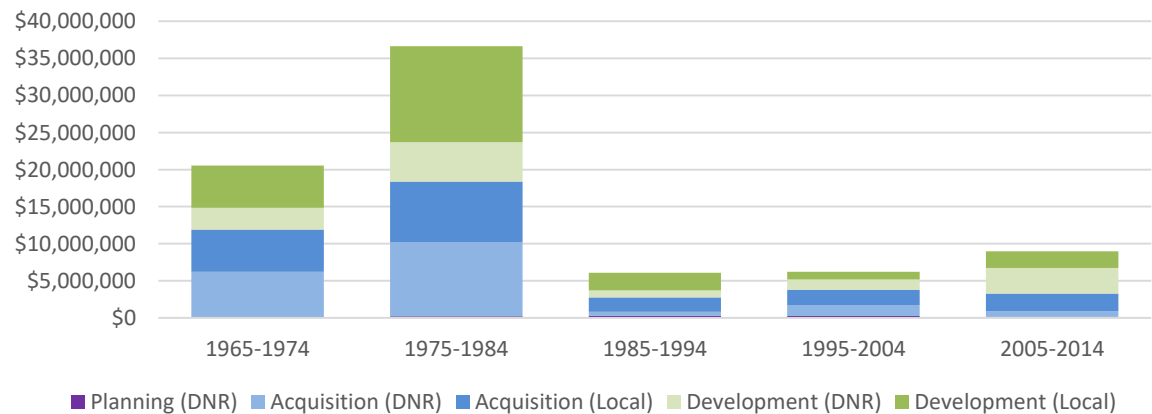


Table 3: LWCF grants by county, 1965 to 2017

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)





Photo: Joseph Warren



Photo: Linda Freshwater Arndt



Photo: Wisconsin Bike Fed



Photo: Angie Tornes

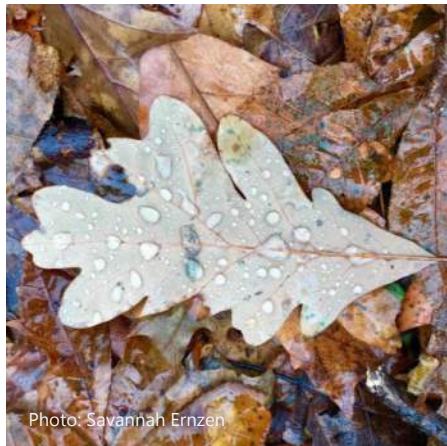


Photo: Savannah Ernzen



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}

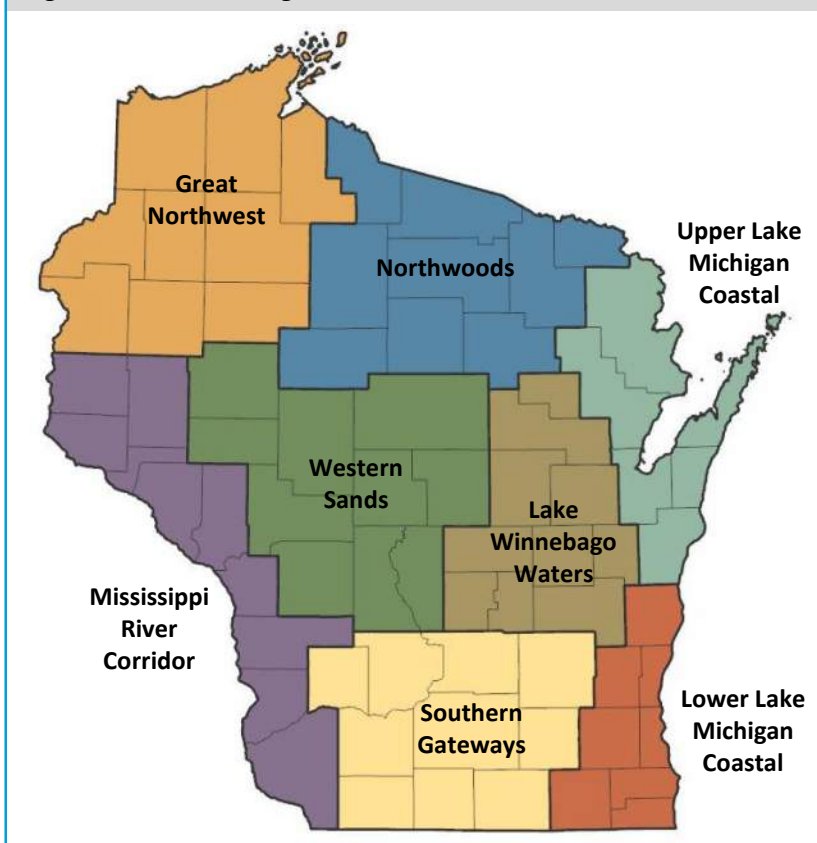
People are more likely to participate in activities in which their parents, other close family members or friends engage. This is most noticeable in activities, like hunting and trapping, that take considerable skill and experience to succeed.

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.

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.

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.

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

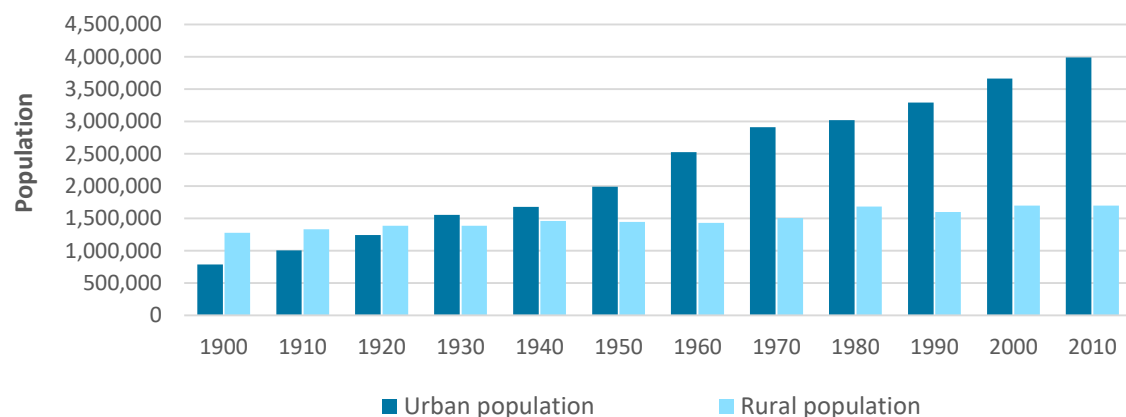
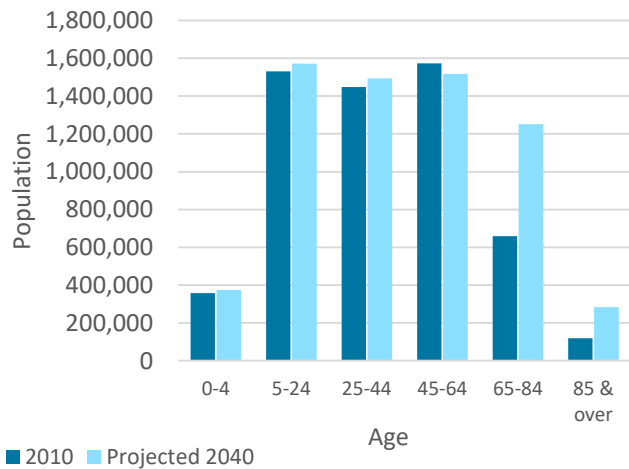


Table 4: Wisconsin population projected change, 2010 Census - 2040 projection, by age group¹¹

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

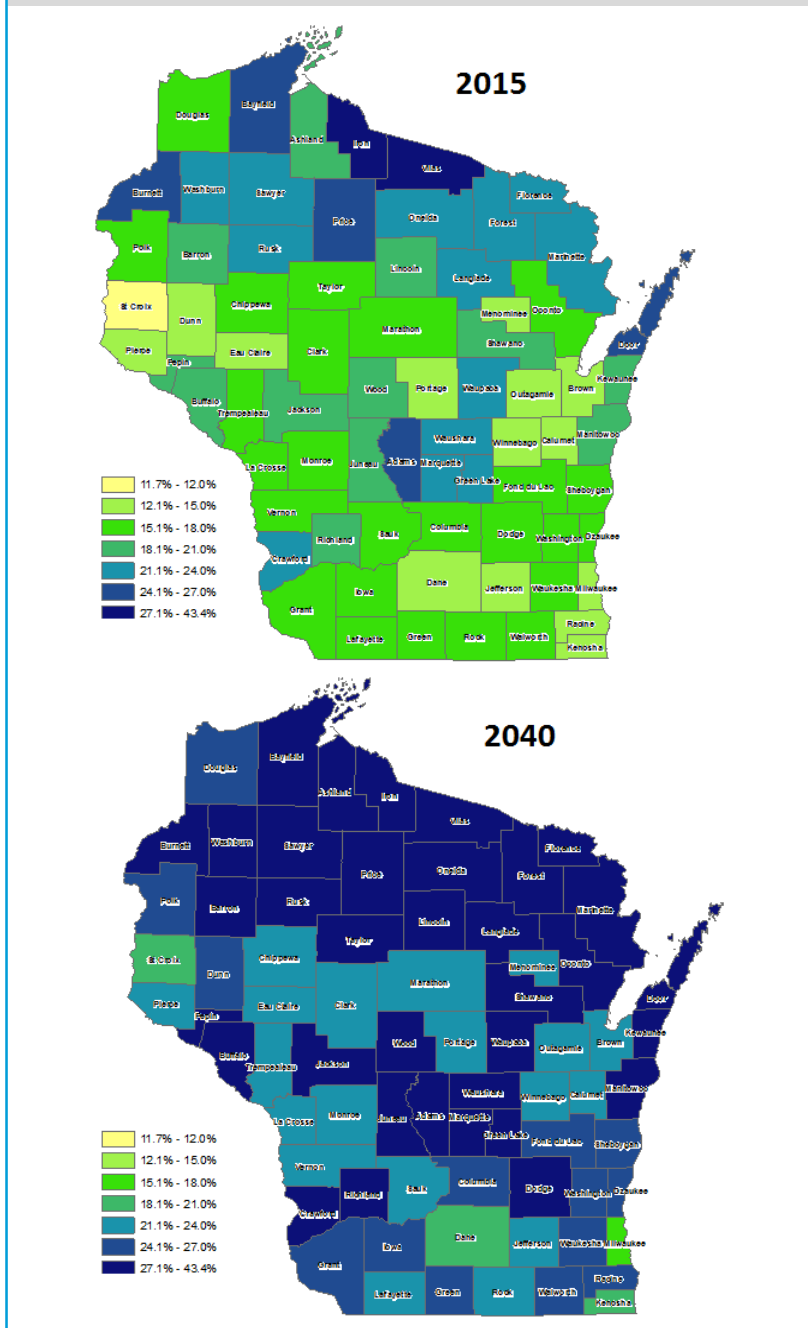


Figure 9: Population density by Census tract, 2010 Census²³

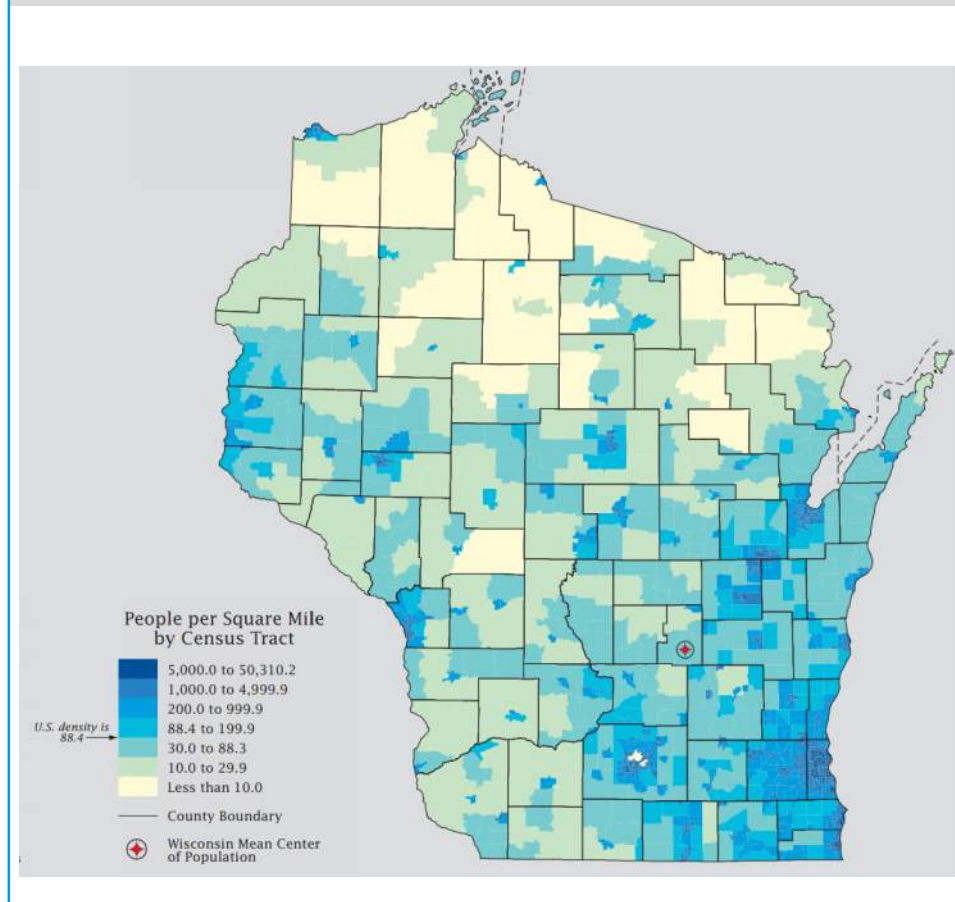


Figure 10: Number of Wisconsinites with a disability²⁴

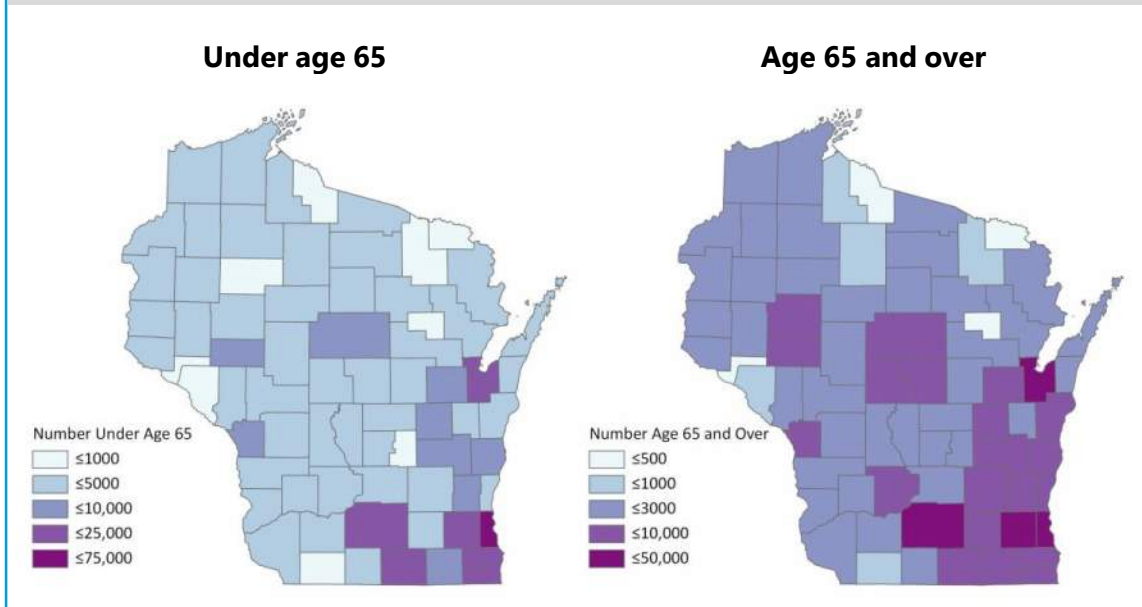


Figure 11: Percent of Wisconsin population with a disability²⁴

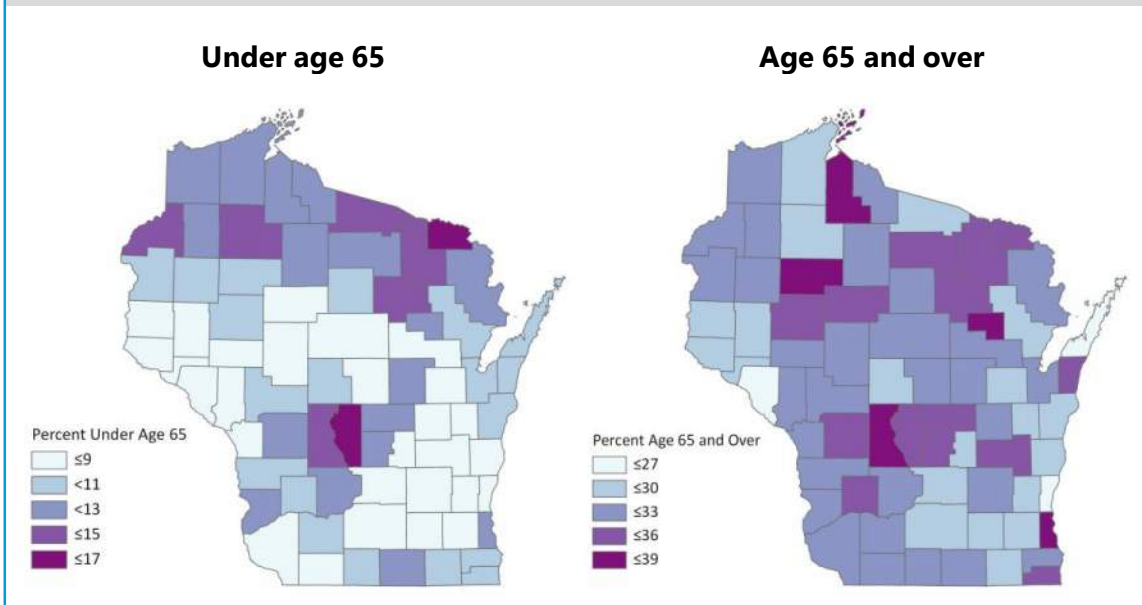


Table 5: Wisconsin resident participation rates of grouped nature-based recreation activities²⁵

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

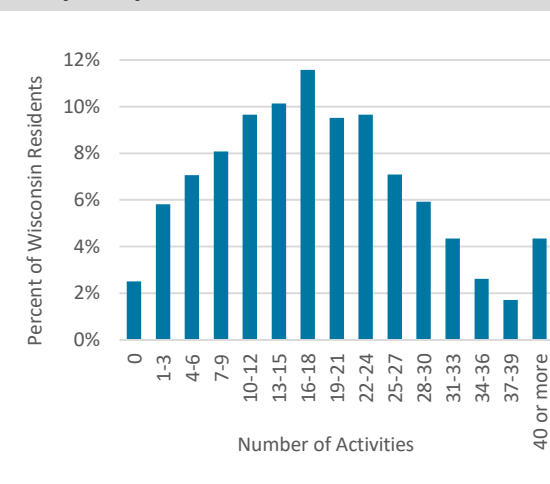
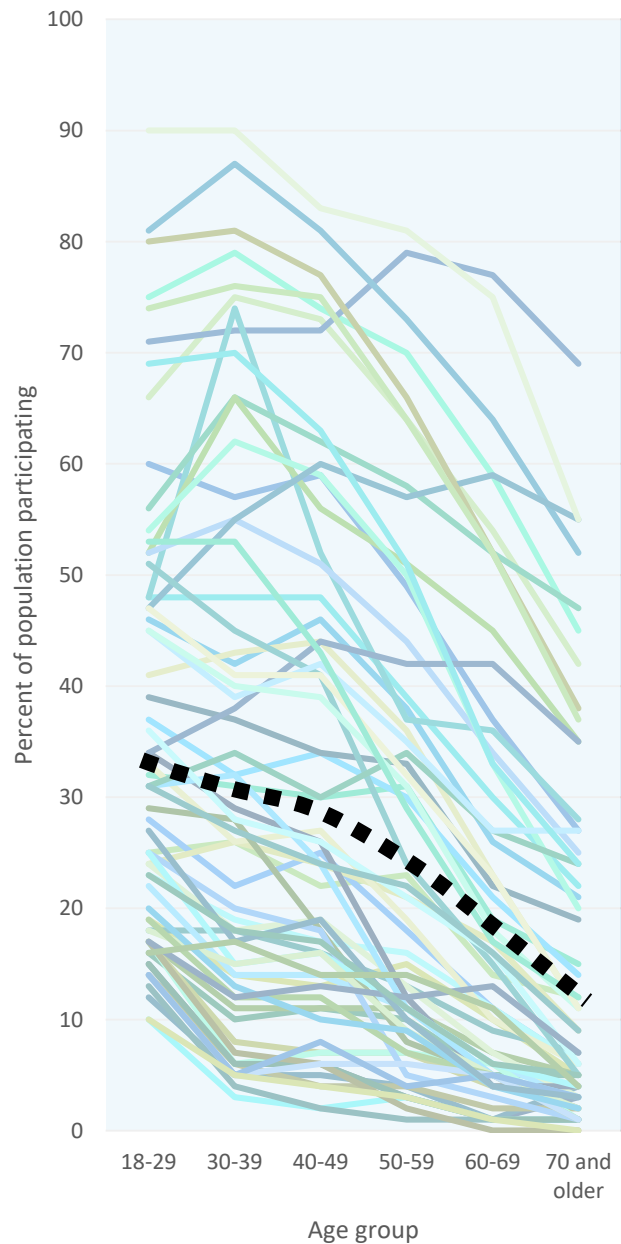


Figure 13: Wisconsin resident participation in outdoor recreation activities, by age group²⁵



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/streams
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

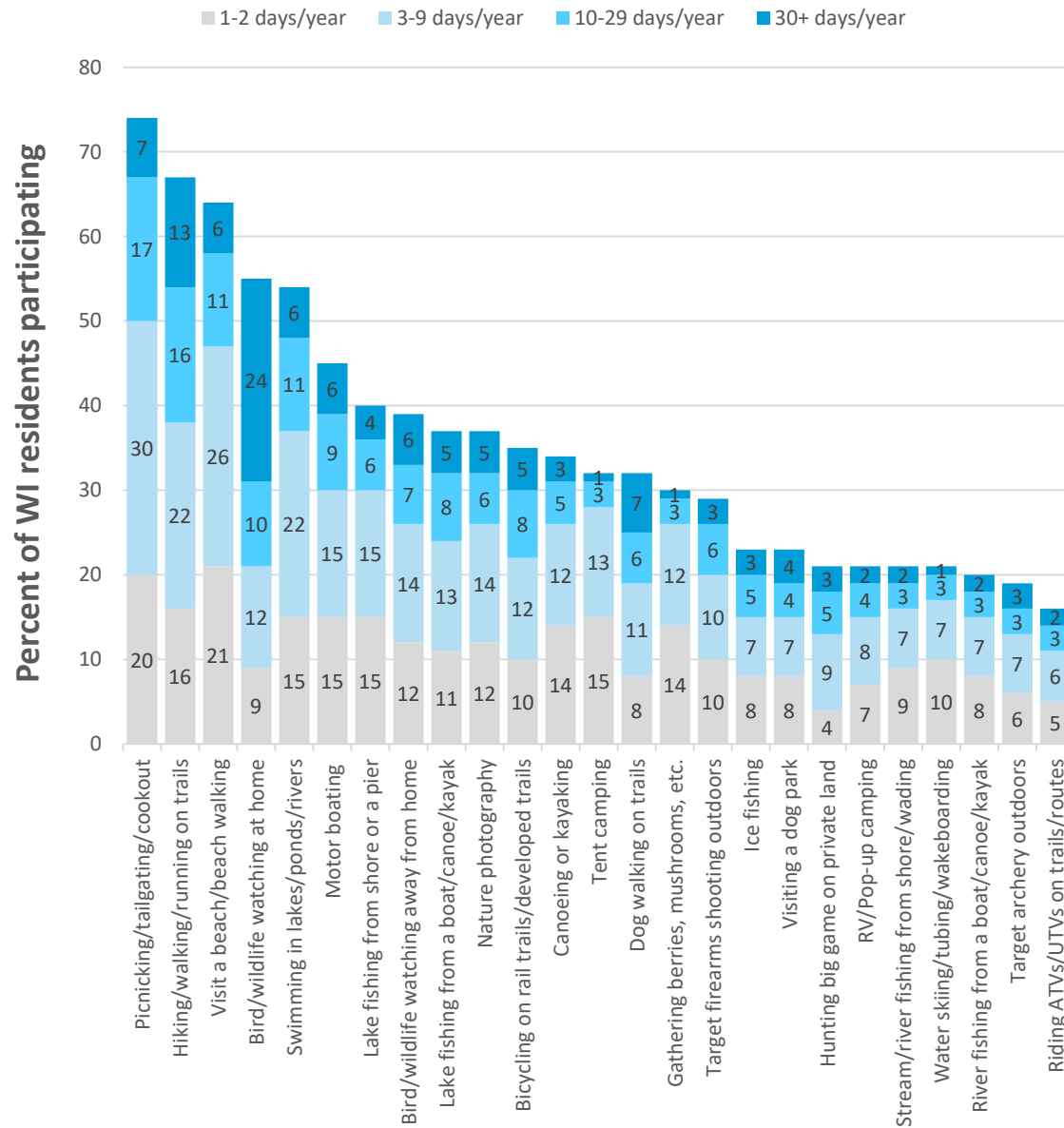
Of course, frequency of participation can be independent of passion for an activity. That is, people’s favorite outdoor activities are not necessarily those in which they participate most frequently.

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.

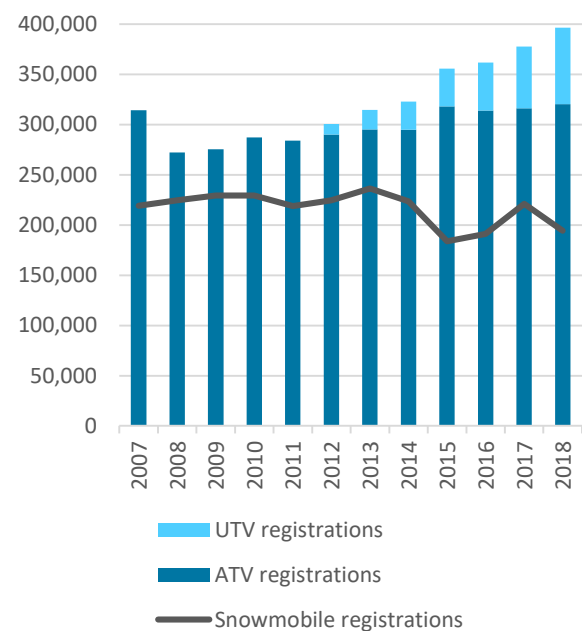
Most kids, unfortunately, don't get this type of exposure to the outdoors or the benefits. Surveys reveal children are not spending enough time outdoors. "I don't think it's just an issue for children. People are not spending much time outdoors, which means they're not taking their children outside either. 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.

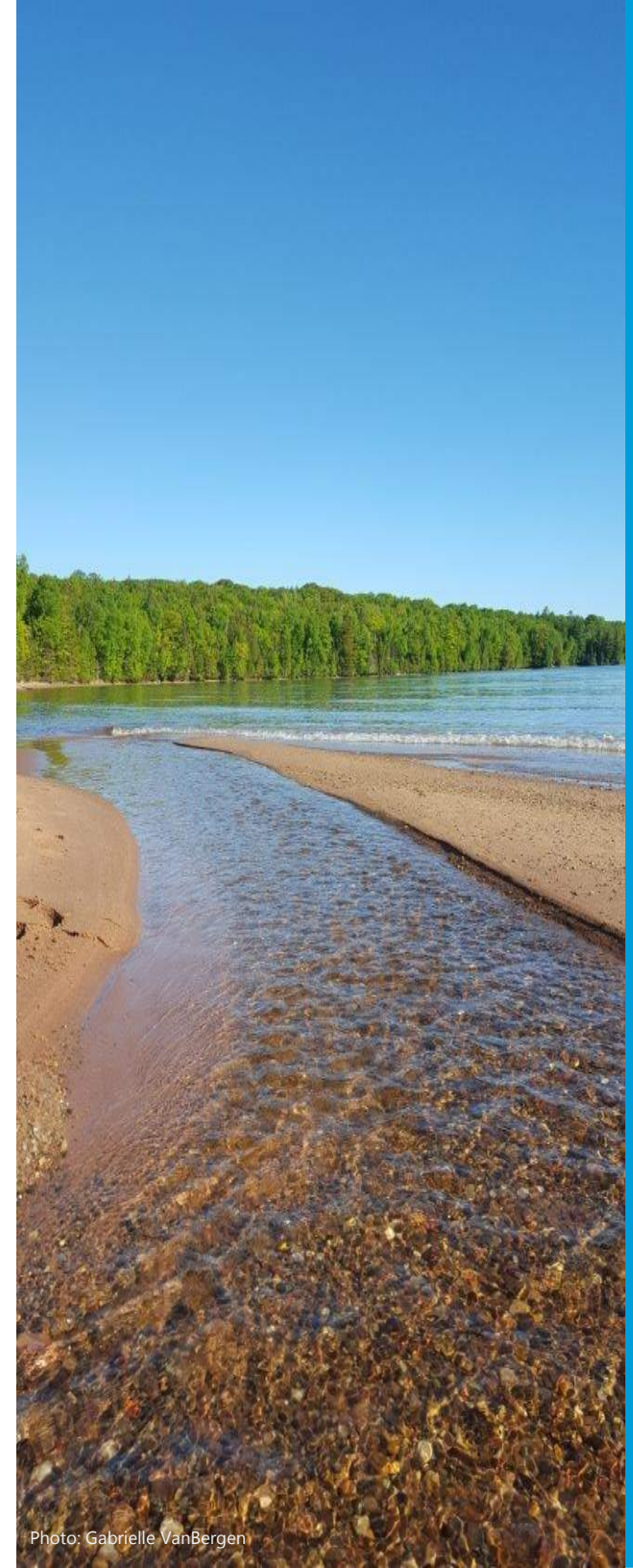
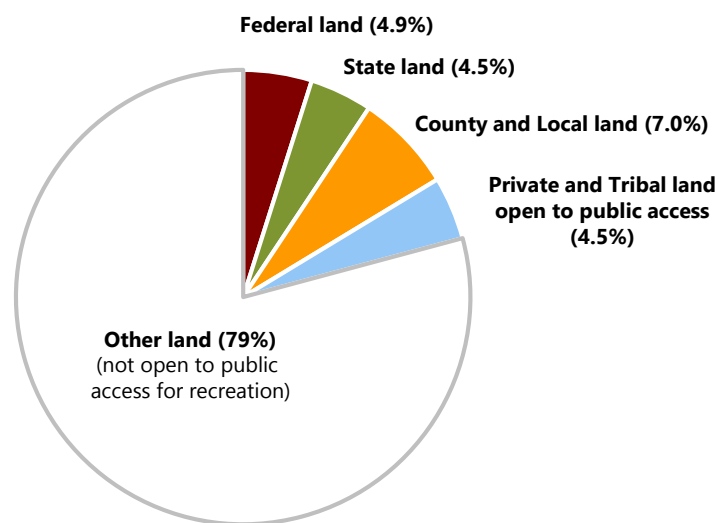


Photo: Gabrielle VanBergen

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

<i>Public Ownership</i>		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 <i>public</i> 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.



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

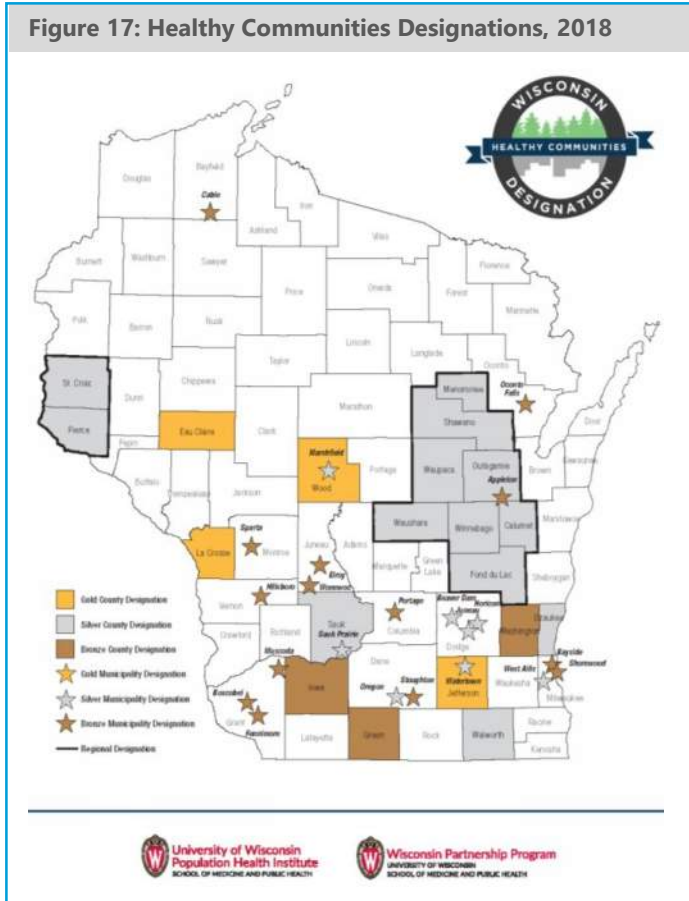
This new program encourages achievements in health improvement in Wisconsin by recognizing communities that focus multiple, connected efforts – including health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment – to improve the health of their residents. The program’s 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

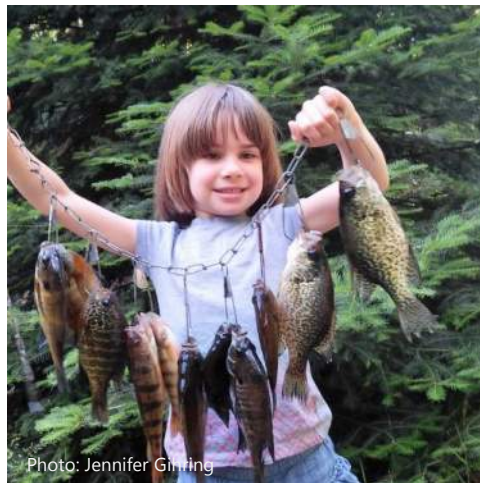


Photo: Jennifer Gilling

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 – bicycling 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

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 Oneida Indian Tribe		Abbotsford	Janesville	Platteville	Allouez	Deerfield	Lone Rock	Stockholm	Allouez	Pleasant Spring	Algoma School Dist.	Ondossagon School Dist.
State agencies Department of Natural Resources Department of Transportation University of Wisconsin		Adams	Jefferson	Plymouth	Alma Center	Deforest	Luxemburg	Stoddard	Angelica	Richmond	Arbor Vitae Woodruff Park Comm.	Oregon School Dist.
		Algoma	Juneau	Port Washington	Aniwa	Dickeyville	Lyndon Station	Strum	Armstrong Creek	Shelby	Arkansaw Joint School Dist. No 1	Pepin School Dist.
		Alma	Kaukauna	Portage	Arena	Dorchester	Maribel	Suring	Bass Lake	Sheldon	Bayfield School Dist.	Phillips School Dist.
Counties		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.
		Appleton	Kiel	Reedsburg	Ashwaubenon	Edgar	Mishicot	Tigerton	Bellevue	Sullivan	Bloomer School Dist.	Potosi-Tennyson Park Commission
		Arcadia	La Crosse	Rhineland	Athens	Eleva	Montfort	Trempealeau	Bone Lake	Troy	Bowler School Dist.	Prentice School Dist.
		Ashland	Ladysmith	Rice Lake	Auburndale	Elk Mound	Monticello	Turtle Lake	Brussels	Wabeno	Butternut School Dist.	Princeton School Dist.
		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.	Cottacon 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	Maion	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	Sawyer	Stanley	Black Earth	Fredonia	Oregon	Whiting	Florence		Elk Mound Area School Dist.	Stanley-Boyd Area Schools
		Dane	Shawano	Star Prairie	Bloomington	Friendship	Orfordville	Wilton	Genesee		Elkhart Lake School Dist.	Sun Prairie School Dist.
		Dodge	Sheboygan	Stevens Point	Blue Mounds	Friesland	Pardeeville	Winneconne	Gilmanton		Flambeau School Dist.	Thorp School Dist.
		Door	St. Croix	Stoughton	Bonduel	Gays Mills	Pepin	Wittenberg	Gordon		Florence School Dist.	Turtle Lake School Dist.
		Douglas	Taylor	Sturgeon Bay	Bowler	Germantown	Plainfield	Woodville	Grant		Germantown Junction School Dist.	Unity School Dist.
		Dunn	Trempealeau	Sun Prairie	Boyceville	Gilman	Plover		Green Lake		Glidden School Dist.	Verona Area School Dist.
		Eau Claire	Vernon	Superior	Brandon	Glenbeulah	Poplar		Greenfield		Greendale School Dist.	Wabeno Joint School Dist. No 1
		Florence	Vilas	Tomahawk	Brownsville	Tomah	Port Edwards		Greenville		Hazel Green School Dist.	Washburn School District
		Fond du Lac	Washburn	Two Rivers	Butler	Grantsburg	Prentice		Harrison		Holmen Public Schools	Whitnall School Dist.
		Forest	Washington	Verona	Cambria	Greendale	Randolph		Holland		Hudson School Dist.	Wild Rose School Dist.
		Green Lake	Waukesha	Viroqua	Camp Douglas	Gresham	Redgranite		Iron River		La Crosse School Dist.	Wilmot Union High School Dist.
		Iron	Waupaca	Washburn	Campbellsport	Hammond	Roberts		Ixonia		Ladysmith-Hawkins School Dist.	Wisconsin Dells School Dist.
		Jackson	Waushara	Watertown	Casco	Hancock	Rosendale		Jacobs		Lake Holcombe School Dist.	Wrightstown Comm. School Dist.
		Jefferson	Winnebago	Waukesha	Cassville	Hatley	Rothschild		Knight		Lake Tomahawk Parks Committee	
		Juneau	Wood	Wausau	Cazenovia	Highland	Ruddolph		Kronenwetter		Lodi School Dist.	
		Kenosha		Wauwatosa	Cecil	Hollandale	Sauk City		Lafayette		Luck School Dist.	
		Kewaunee		West Bend	Cedar Grove	Hortonville	Saukville		Lebanon		Markesan Joint School Dist.	
		La Crosse		Westby	Clayton	Howard	Scandinavia		Liberty Grove		Marshall School Dist.	
		Lafayette		Whitehall	Clear Lake	Howards Grove	Sharon		Liberty Grove		McFarland School Dist.	
		Langlade		Whitewater	Fond du Lac	Hustler	Sherwood		Lima		Menomonie School Dist.	
		Lincoln		Wisconsin Dells	Fort Atkinson	Iola	Shorewood		Menasha		Monona Grove School Dist.	
		Manitowoc		Wisconsin Rapids	Galesville	Oconomowoc	Sister Bay		Merton		Monroe School Dist.	
		Marathon			Glenwood City	Oconto	Slinger		Middleton		Montello School Dist.	
		Marinette			Grand Chute	Oconto Falls	Soldiers Grove		Minocqua		Mt. Horeb Joint School Dist. No 6	
		Marquette			Green Bay	Omro			Mt. Pleasant		Muskego-Norway School Dist.	
		Milwaukee			Green Lake	Onalaska	Somerset		Norway		N. Fond Du Lac School Dist.	
		Oconto			Hartford	Oshkosh	Spring Green		Oakdale		Nekoosa School Dist.	
		Oneida			Hillsboro	Osseo	Spring Valley		Onalaska		New Auburn School Dist.	
		Outagamie			Hudson	Park Falls	St. Cloud		Oregon		New Richmond School Dist.	
		Ozaukee			Hurley	Peshtigo	St. Nazianz		Oulu		Northwood School Dist.	
		Pepin			Independence	Pewaukee	Stockbridge		Pewaukee		Onalaska School Dist.	

2019-2023

Wisconsin

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



DNR publication number: LF 114.2 (2019)

APPENDIX 4.8.2.2-1

Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2016-2020



IRON COUNTY

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2016-2020



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This plan was prepared by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, under the guidance and direction of the Iron County Outdoor Recreation Planning Committee.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan rewrite is to investigate Iron County's existing outdoor recreation resources, anticipate future demands and to identify recommendations for county-administered outdoor recreation facilities. Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) maintains eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands. Preparation of this plan will be conducted in accordance with guidance found in Wisconsin Statute 23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

The Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan was developed over a seven-month period from July of 2015 through January of 2016. During plan development, the Iron County Outdoor Recreation Planning Committee convened three times, on September 16th, October 28th and December 29th, 2015. Meeting Agendas and sign-in sheets are included in **Appendix A**. In order to solicit public feedback on recreation issues within Iron County, an online outdoor recreation survey was developed in July of 2015. The survey became active on August 8th, 2015 and remained active for a period of 30 days. Survey results are included in **Appendix B**.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN INTEGRATION

At the time of the development of this Outdoor Recreation Plan, Iron County was engaged in a process to revise its long-range comprehensive plan. The Iron County *Asset Based Community Development Plan (ABCD)* will replace the 2008 Comprehensive Plan as the county's official framework for future growth, development and investment in Iron County. This plan will serve as an addendum to the ABCD plan and will also serve to inform and guide recreation-based strategies within the ABCD process.

VISIONING FRAMEWORK

Iron County prepared a number of goals and objectives to address the outdoor recreational needs of the residents. The goals and objectives are intended to assist the County Board and other community leaders in implementing actions deemed important and in the best interest of the County. It is imperative that the goals and objectives in this plan are implemented.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL

The Outdoor Recreation Plan shall serve to meet their varied recreation needs of Iron County residents and visitors while at the same time protecting, conserving, and enhancing the County's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

FACILITIES

OBJECTIVE 1.0:

Provide high quality recreation facilities for all users.

Policy 1.1

Improve and maintain existing facilities.

Policy 1.2

Develop new recreational facilities that will expand recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors.

Policy 1.3

Park and recreation facilities shall provide opportunities for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.

Policy 1.4

Develop, improve and maintain recreational facilities according to the Americans with Disabilities Act standard.

Policy 1.5

Encourage communities and local school districts to cooperate in the development of community recreational and playground facilities.

Policy 1.6

Measure the economic impacts provided by high quality recreation facilities in Iron County.

Policy 1.7

Include an educational component with recreational facilities, where appropriate.

OPPORTUNITIES

OBJECTIVE 2.0:

Provide a network of parks and recreation areas that offer a diversity of high quality recreational opportunities.

Policy 2.1

Explore alternatives to expand recreational opportunities and programs throughout Iron County.

Policy 2.2

Expand recreational opportunities by proactively developing partnerships with public agencies and private entities.

Policy 2.3

Ensure balance of use, enjoyment and separation where appropriate between motorized and non-motorized modes of recreation.

Policy 2.4

Encourage/coordinate the multiple uses of recreational land, areas or facilities.

Policy 2.5

Measure the economic impacts of recreational opportunities and programs in Iron County

Policy 2.6

Include an educational component with outdoor recreational opportunities and programs, where appropriate.

RESOURCES**OBJECTIVE 3.0:**

Protect, conserve and enhance natural, historical, and cultural resources.

Policy 3.1

Minimize recreational impacts to natural, scenic and historical resources.

Policy 3.2

Provide an appropriate level of access to publicly-owned areas unique in natural, historical or cultural resources.

Policy 3.3

Partner with communities, area school districts and other organizations to achieve a high level of educational benefits from the county's unique natural, historical and cultural resources.

Policy 3.4

Promote economic sustainability through natural, historical, and cultural resources protection.

PROMOTION**OBJECTIVE 4.0**

Promote outdoor recreation in Iron County.

Policy 4.1

Improve funding opportunities for outdoor recreation

Policy 4.2

Focus on developing and maintaining partnerships to promote outdoor recreation in Iron County.

Action: *Partner with communities and school districts to promote outdoor recreation in Iron County.*

Policy 4.3

Improve public access to data and information about outdoor recreation in Iron County.

Policy 4.4

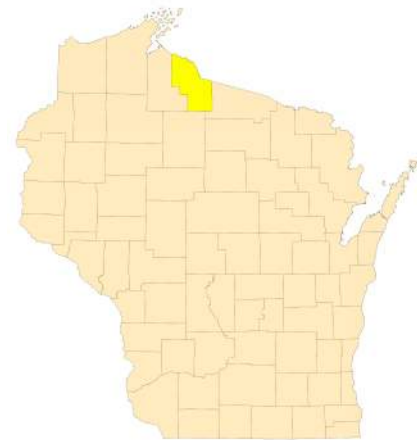
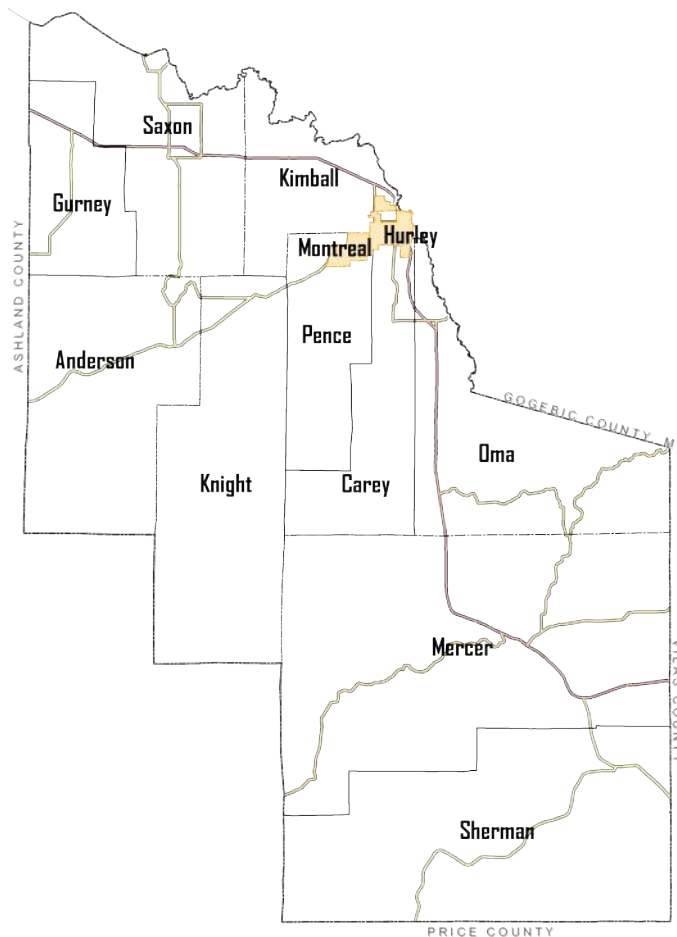
Promotional efforts should include an educational component, where appropriate.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

PHYSICAL SETTING

Iron County is located in northern Wisconsin and borders the south shore of Lake Superior and the Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan. Iron County borders the counties of Ashland, Price, and Vilas in Wisconsin, and Gogebic County in Michigan. Iron County is 757.23 square miles in size and had a 2015 estimated population of 6,297. Local units of government within Iron County include ten civil towns and two cities. The City of Hurley is the largest municipality in the county and is the county seat.



2015 Population: 6,297

Median Age: 52.6 Years

Land Area: 757.23 mi²

Water Area: 162.01mi²

Percent Public: 52.6%

Percent Private: 47.4 %

County Forest: 174,159 Acres

State Land: 84,310 Acres

**Private Lands Open to
Public Recreation:** 64,205
Acres

Public Land Per Capita: 37
Acres/person
(Statewide 1.2 Acres/Person)

Number of Lakes: 494

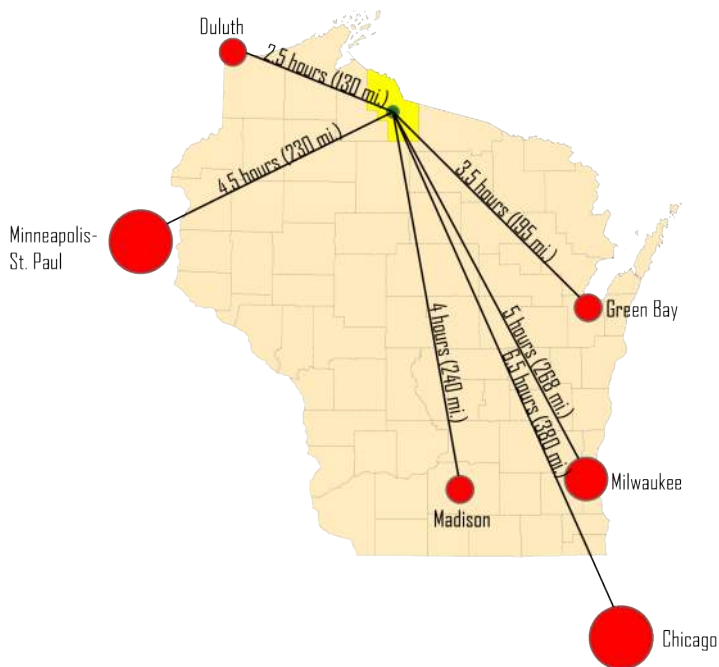
Miles of Shoreline: 740

Miles of Streams: 633

Miles of Trout Streams: 304

**Direct Visitor Spending
(2014):**
\$19 million (64th of 72 Counties)

**Tourism Employment
(2014):**
264



Situated in the remote northern tier of Wisconsin, Iron County is one of the least densely populated counties in the state. Iron County is generally 4 or more hours, by vehicle, to major regional population centers.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Since the creation of Iron County from Ashland and Oneida Counties in 1893, the county's population has been quite erratic. The population increased the most in the ten years from 1910 to 1920, gaining 1,955 people, and sustained its greatest loss from 1940 to 1950, losing 1,335 residents. Recent data suggests the county's population has stabilized.

Figure 1: Iron County: Population 1990-2010

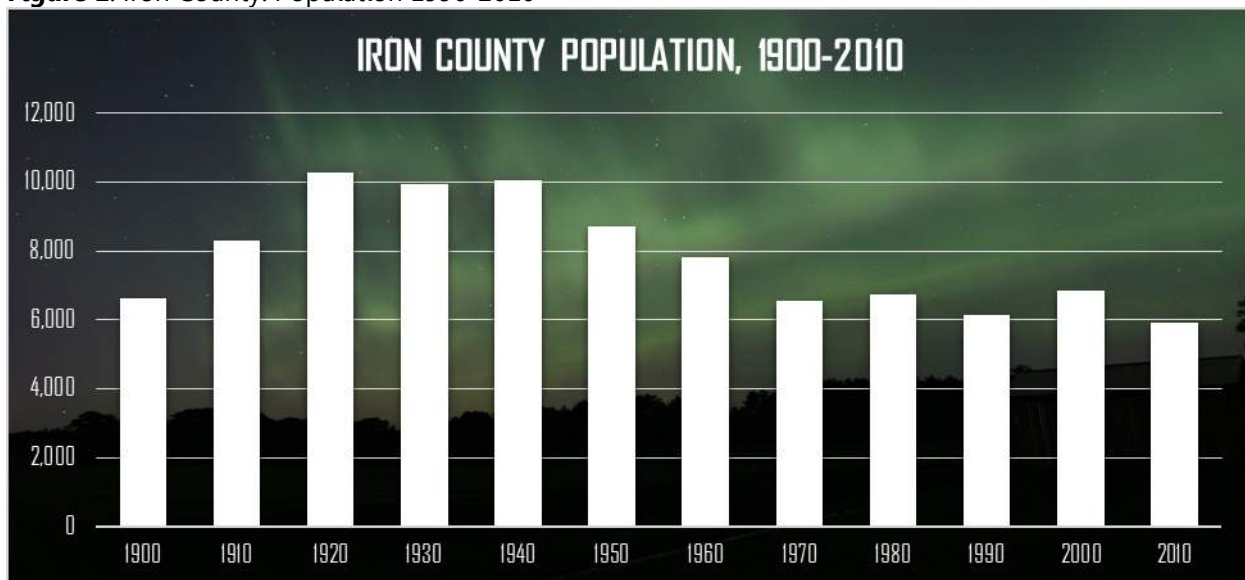
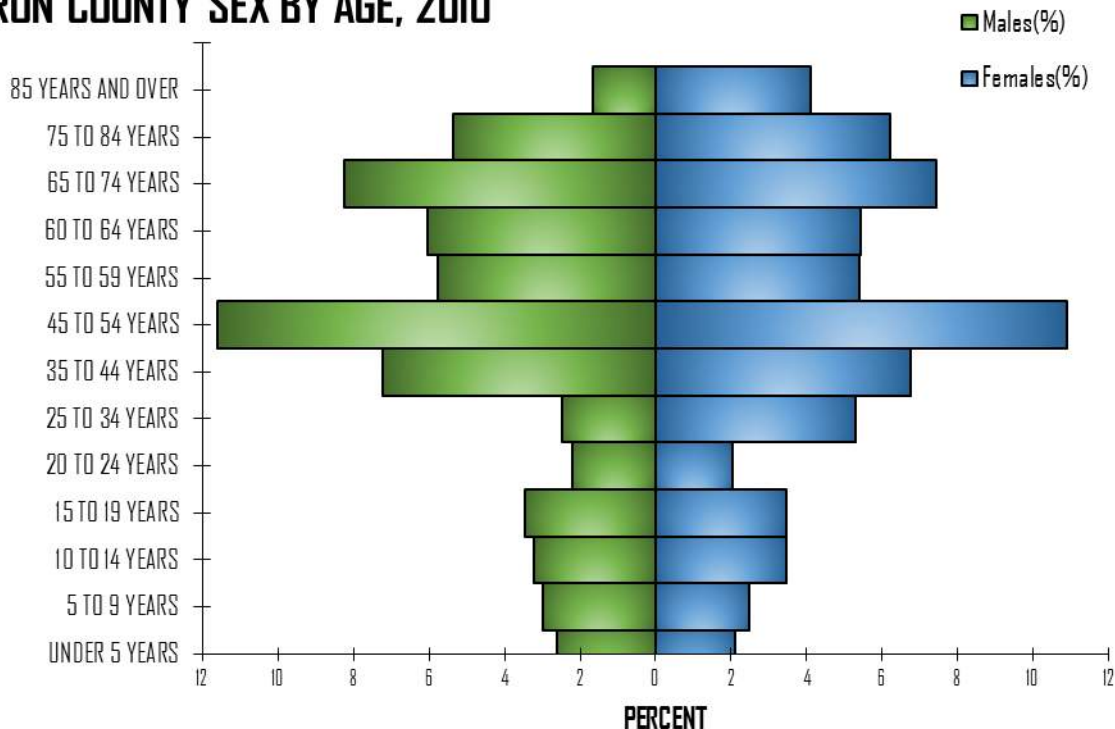


Figure 2: Iron County Population Pyramid

IRON COUNTY SEX BY AGE, 2010



The population distribution of Iron County residents across age classes is reflective of many rural counties in northern Wisconsin. The graphical depiction of sex by age reveals a top-heavy structure, indicative of an aging population. A classic pyramidal shape is indicative of a young, rapidly growing population.

Table 1: Iron County Demographic Change, 2000-2010

Age Category	Absolute Change: 2000-2010	Percent Change: 2000-2010
Under 5	-61	-22.3%
5 to 14	-237	-30.1%
15 to 24	-171	-25.2%
25 to 34	-1241	-73.3%
35 to 44	-439	-40.8%
45 to 54	48	4.9%
55 to 64	170	19.8%
65 to 74	-92	-11.4%
75 to 84	-47	-8.2%
84 and over	50	23.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder

The recreational needs of all Iron County age groups will be represented in this plan. Generally speaking, older residents are interested in more passive recreation, such as enjoying scenic views through the provision of seating and benches that allows for the enjoyment of nature trails and paths. Younger people tend to enjoy more active recreation, such as fishing and fitness trails and motorized recreation. Families often enjoy a broad range of activities such as camping and picnicking as well as motorized recreation.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Table 1.2 shows population projections for Iron County from 2010 to 2030. These projections are based on past and current population trends and are intended to be a baseline guide for county decision makers. The projections indicated that Iron County will experience a slow decline in population over the next 25 years. Although Iron County is “projected” to decline in population over the next 25 years, many feel that the county will actually increase in population like it has over the last decade.

Table 2: Population Projections

Year	Iron County
2020	5,680
2030	5,970
2040	5,420
Absolute Change 2010-2040	-496

Source: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Intergovernmental-Relations/Demographic-Services-Center/Wisconsin-Population-Projections/>

RECREATION AND COUNTY ECONOMICS

In 2015, there were 1,945 jobs in Iron County (EMSI, 2015). A total of 648 (33.3%) jobs fall within the tourism and recreation-related categories of retail trade, accommodation and food services, real estate and rental/leasing, and arts entertainment and recreation. This means that one out of every three jobs in Iron County is either partially or wholly dependent upon tourism and recreation.

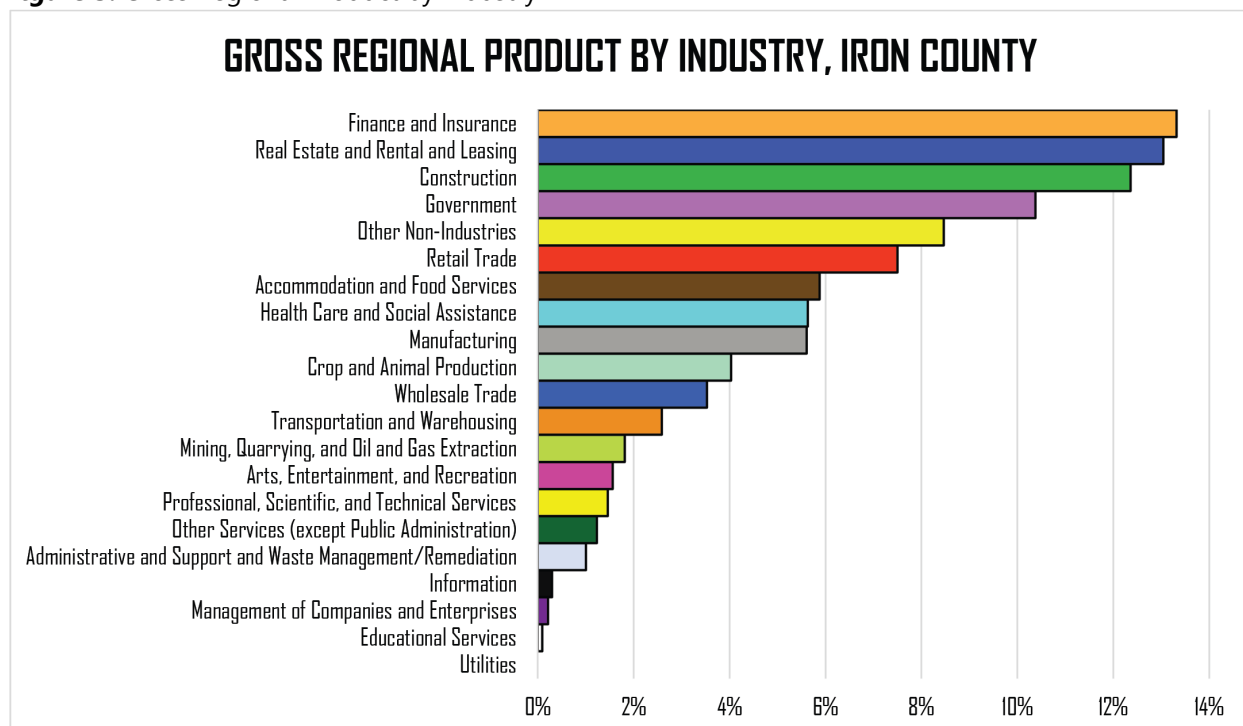
Table 3: Employment by Industry, 2015

Industry	2015 Jobs
Government	347
Retail Trade	261
Accommodation and Food Services	245
Health Care and Social Assistance	231
Construction	210
Manufacturing	183
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	90
Wholesale Trade	60
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	52
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	50
Transportation and Warehousing	49
Other Services (except Public Administration)	42
Finance and Insurance	35
Administrative and Support/Waste Management and Remediation	33
Crop and Animal Production	20
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	16
Information	11
Management of Companies and Enterprises	<10
Educational Services	<10

EMSI, 2015

Gross Regional Product (GRP) is a measurement of total economic output. GRP is defined as the market value of all final goods and services produced by all firms in a regional economy. In 2013, the total GRP for Iron County was \$207.1 million, resulting in \$129 million in earnings, \$15.2 million in taxes on production and \$63 million in property income. The total GRP for tourism-related categories was \$58 million, or 28% of total county GRP.

Figure 3: Gross Regional Product by Industry



According to the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, direct visitor spending was \$19 million in 2014. Total business sales related to recreation and tourism were \$26.1 million, while the total labor income was \$4.7 million. State and local tax revenue generated by tourism was \$2.4 million.

In Iron County, forestry is the largest employer in the county, providing 15.4% of all jobs. Forestry and logging account for \$3.3 million in output and \$1.3 million in value-added economic impacts. Sawmills and wood products provide \$77.7 million in total output and an additional \$18.5 million in value added impacts.

County forests are essential to Wisconsin's forest products industry and economy. Each year, these lands generate anywhere from \$25 to \$30 million in timber revenues for counties and towns. Statewide, approximately 16,000 jobs and \$4.6 billion in forest products production result from the timber harvested from county forests. County forests also provide many recreation and tourism opportunities.

In 2014, Iron County Forest and Parks generated \$3.1 million in revenue. Most of this revenue (82%) was attributable to direct timber harvesting on County Forest lands (stumpage sales). Timber sale acreage on county forest lands has increased significantly

over the past decade, from slight more than 1,000 acres in 2005 to over 4,000 acres in 2014.

Revenues from county forest lands is an important part of the county's annual budget portfolio. Under Wisconsin's Severance Tax Law, 10% of the gross revenue generated by timber sales on County Forest must be paid to towns. These individual payments are based on the acreage of county forest within each town.

ECONOMY

In addition to having one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, Iron County also has some of the lowest incomes in the state. As shown in Table 1.7, annual average wages earned by workers in Iron County in 2007 fell short of the statewide average for all industry sectors. Workers employed in the industry sectors of Manufacturing, Financial Activities, and Professional & Business Services received less than 60 percent of the State of Wisconsin average for workers in those same fields. Workers in the Construction industry sector earned the highest annual wage followed by the Public Administration industry.

Table 4: Annual Average Wages by Industry Division

	Iron County Average Annual Wage	State Average Annual Wage	Percent of State Average
All Industries	\$26,162	\$41,985	62.3%
Construction	\$32,035	\$51,670	62.0%
Education & Health Services	\$33,379	\$43,781	76.2%
Financial Activities	\$21,827	\$58,493	37.3%
Information	ND	\$56,015	NA
Leisure & Hospitality	\$12,868	\$15,221	84.5%
Manufacturing	\$27,968	\$52,413	53.4%
Natural Resources	\$57,579	\$33,047	174.2%
Other Service	ND	\$23,598	NA
Professional & Business Services	\$26,668	\$49,451	53.9%
Public Administration	\$33,011	\$42,198	78.2%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	\$23,361	\$35,946	65.0%

Sources: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development-Iron Co Workforce Profile 2012. ND = Non Disclosable—data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

TOPOGRAPHY

Iron County is divided by the Penokee-Gogebic Range, two parallel ridges running southwesterly from Hurley, that separate the Lake Superior lowlands to the north from the Northern Highland Peneplain to the south. This geologic feature is part of a large regional landscape that extends eastward to the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Ore deposits were mined extensively in these highlands from the 1880's through the 1960's. The northern third of Iron County slopes generally downward from the Penokee Range northward to Lake Superior, forming a large coastal plain. Numerous rivers and streams bisect this area. To the south of the range, the northern rim of the Northern Highland Peneplain begins its gradual rise. This region contains undulating gravelly pitted outwash containing many lakes and wetlands. The highest elevation found in Iron County is approximately 1,877 feet above sea level at the former Pleasant Lake Lookout in Section 34, T44N-R1E in the Town of Knight. The lowest elevation of 603 feet above sea level is found at the Lake Superior coast in the Town of Saxon. Information related to topography was obtained through the United States Geological Survey.

GLACIAL GEOLOGY & SOILS

With the exception of the outcrop areas, all of Iron County is covered with a variety of glacial deposits. Clay deposits cover most of the northern end of the county and ground and end moraine glacial till deposits cover most of the center of the county. Pitted outwash covers the southern part of the county, and outwash is found in narrow areas, primarily stream beds. The clayey deposits consist of mostly clayey till, covered by a thin layer of clayey lake deposits in a few areas. The ground and end moraine till deposits consist of a mixture of sand, gravel, boulders, silt and clay. Most of these deposits in the county have a high proportion of sand except for end moraine deposits in the far northern part of the county which are mostly clayey till.

Soil survey interpretations are provided for specific soil uses. Interpretations for each soil use are based on a set of interpretative soil properties. Soil suitability ratings are usually made on the basis of restrictive soil interpretative properties such as slope, occurrence of internal free water, and texture of surface horizons. A rating of "very limited" indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. A rating of "moderately limited" indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. These limitations can be sometimes be overcome through special designs or planning.

Camp areas require site preparation, such as shaping and leveling the tent and parking areas, stabilizing roads and intensively used areas, and installing sanitary facilities and utility lines. Camp areas are subject to heavy foot traffic and some vehicular traffic. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the ease of developing camp areas and the performance of the areas after development. Slope, stoniness, and depth to bedrock are the main concerns affecting the development of camp areas.

In general, soil limitations for camping areas and trails in Iron County are primarily due to wetness and ponding (wetlands), slope, and sandiness.

BEDROCK GEOLOGY

Iron County is underlain by three general bedrock formations. Sedimentary rocks, which include sandstone, shale and conglomerate, are found under the extreme northwest corner of the county. Under the area along and to the north of the Gogebic Range are lava flows, formed mostly of basalt and crystalline rocks consisting of steeply dipping and complexly faulted layers of slate, iron formation and dolomitic marble. The remainder of the county is underlain by undifferentiated crystalline rocks. Numerous bedrock outcrop areas exist in the county, especially along streams, in the Hurley-Montreal area along the Gogebic Range, in the Saxon Harbor area and in an area west of Mercer. Depths to bedrock vary widely in the county from over 400 feet in the northwest corner to less than 50 feet in and around the Gogebic Range and other areas.

WATER RESOURCES

Water resources are an important component of the natural landscape. These dynamic resources provide many benefits to both humans and wildlife. Lakes, rivers, streams, waterfalls, wetlands and floodplains are part of a natural cycle and provide many outdoor recreational opportunities. These resources not only provide direct recreational opportunities, such as fishing and boating, but they also enhance wildlife habitat that offer wildlife hiking, viewing and hunting activities.

CLIMATE

The climate of Iron County is separated into two general classifications: a *lake modified continental* climate along the Lake Superior shoreline area and a continental climate throughout the rest of the county. The continental climate is generally characterized by hot summers and cold winters. This pattern is modified along the Lake Superior coast by the cold lake waters that serve to moderate summertime temperatures and increase wintertime temperatures. Average temperatures in Iron County range from 13° F in January to 67° F in July. Average temperatures along the lakeshore can be as much as 10-15° cooler in the summer and slightly warmer during the winter months.

Average annual precipitation varies from about 36 inches in the Penokee highlands of north central Iron County, to 32 inches along the lake and in the far southern part of the county. Average annual snowfall ranges from 160 inches at Hurley to 80 inches in the southwestern part of the county. Lake enhanced winter storms produce generally higher snowfalls across northern Iron County, particularly in areas of high elevation.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Land ownership has a significant impact on the natural resource base by influencing development patterns, land use, management, policy, and public use/access.

Table 5: Land Ownership

Total Area	513,169 acres
County*	174,159 acres
Federal	22 acres
State	63,136 acres
Total Public Land	234,092 acres
Total Private	230,582 acres
Surface Water	29,836 acres
Tribal Lands	18,658 acres

Sources: Wisconsin Stewardship GIS Data, *Iron County Forestry

SUPPLY

OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY

Table 6: Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities

	TABLE	TRASH CAN	GRILL	SHELTER	DOCK	LANDING	TOILET	PLAYGROUND	SHOWER	CAMPING	SWIMMING
COUNTY PARKS											
Lake of the Falls	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	32	✓
Schomberg Park	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	14	
Weber Lake	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		11	✓
Saxon Harbor	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	43	✓
Potato River Falls	✓	✓		✓			✓			7	
CITY PARKS											
Al Riccelli Park	✓			✓			✓	✓			
Veteran's Memorial Field		✓					✓				
Cary Road Park							✓	✓			
Albert C. Morzenti Sr. Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓					✓			
Slugger Baron Park	✓							✓			
Gile Park on Gile Flowage	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Dan Young Park								✓			
TOWN PARKS											
Carrow Community Park	✓			✓			✓	✓			✓
Upson Community Park	✓			✓			✓			✓	
Kimball Park	✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	
Kimball Town Baseball Field							✓				
Oma Town Park	✓			✓			✓	✓			✓
STATE CAMPGROUNDS											
Sandy Beach Campgrounds	✓					✓	✓			37	✓
Turtle Flambeau Flowage Islands	✓			✓			✓			✓	
PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS											
Frontier Bar Campgrounds	✓						✓	✓		✓	
Loon Lagoon Campground										✓	

There are many recreational facilities owned and managed by the towns, county and state that are available to residents and visitors of Iron County. In addition to the maintained recreational facilities, county forests and bodies of water also provide countless recreational opportunities. In addition to the campgrounds, the public is allowed to set up and camp on the County Forest for up to two weeks in the same location.

COUNTY PARKS

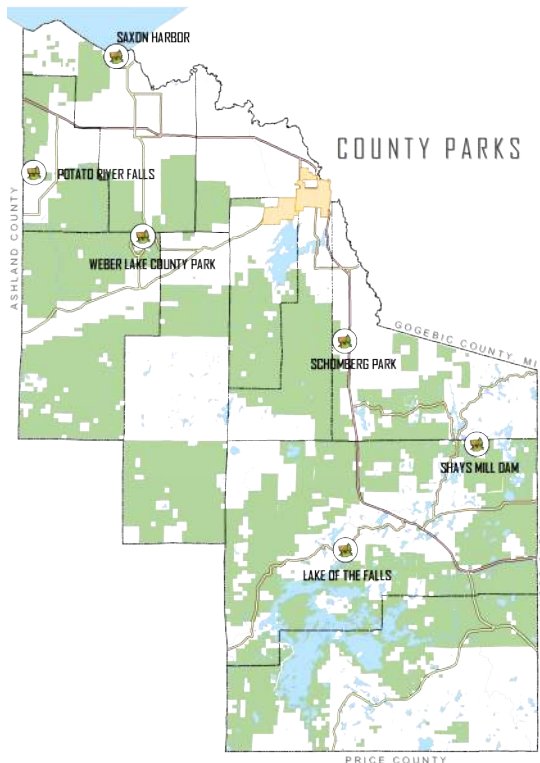


Figure 4: County Parks

Lake of the Falls

A 40-acre county park and campground (32 units) located at the beginning of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, 6 miles west of Mercer on County Road FF. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fire rings, drinking water, restrooms, showers, swimming area, boat ramp, fishing, pavilion, electrical hookups, dumpstation, and a caretaker.

Schomberg Park

A 160-acre county park and campground (14 units) located off Highway 51 in the Town of Oma along Layman's Creek. Facilities include a restrooms and showers, pavilion and picnic area, tables, fire rings, electrical hookups, drinking water, dump station, ATV wash station, ATV trail access. Schomberg Park also has a 1.7 mile snowshoe trail loop with parking available in the winter.

Weber Lake

This County Park and campground (11 units) is located west of Hurley off County Road E in the Town of Anderson. The park consists of ten acres with a picnic area, tables, fire rings, drinking water, pavilion, restrooms, changing rooms, boat ramp, fishing, swimming area and electrical hookups.

Saxon Harbor

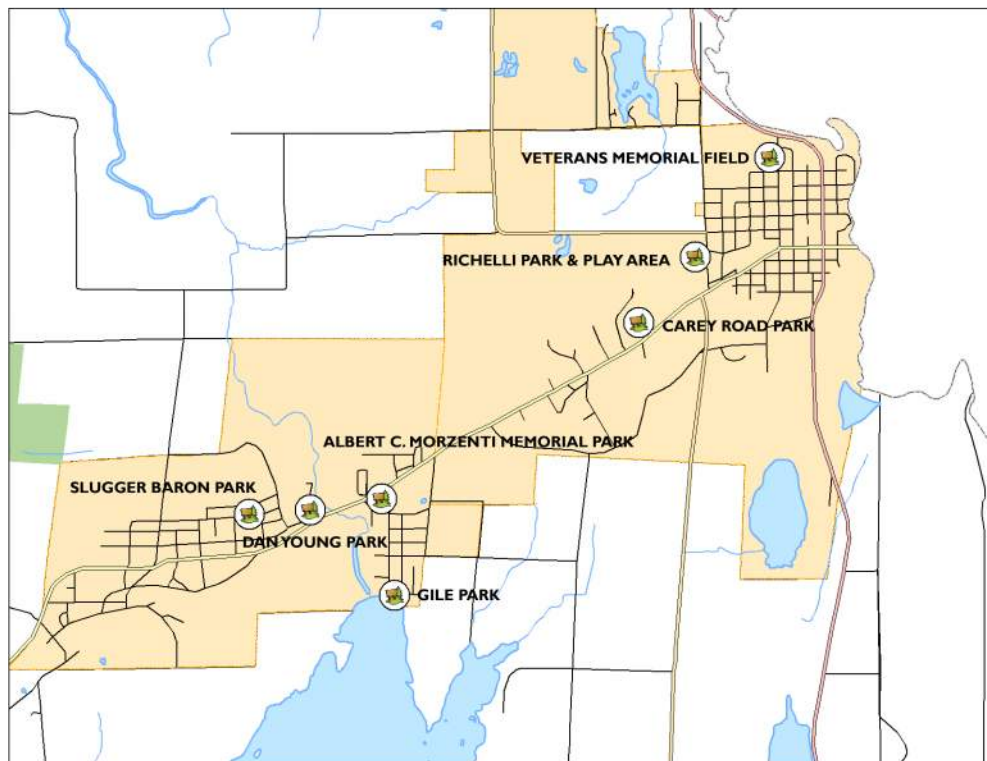
This County Park and campground (43 units) is at Lake Superior, north of U.S. 2 off Highway 122 and County Road A. The Harbor includes 91 slips for boats up to 40 feet long, 12 transient moorings, three boat launches, parking for 50 trailers, gas for sale, boat septic system pump out, water, boat-lift, restroom and shower facilities and dump station. Picnic tables, a pavilion, playground, fire rings, electrical hookup and swimming area are available. ATV trail access. In 2009 a bridge across Oronto Creek and 5 walk-in campsites were built. Each campsite contains a tent pad, fire ring and picnic table.

Potato River Falls

Located two miles west of Highway 169 in the town of Gurney, rustic campsites (7 units) and fire rings are available at Potato River Falls. Hiking/biking trails, restrooms, picnic tables and a pavilion surround the waterfalls and trout fishing possibilities.

CITY PARKS

Figure 5: City Parks



Al Ricelli Park

This five-acre community park is located at 805 Maple Street in the City of Hurley. Facilities include playground equipment, picnic tables, basketball court, pavilion and new restrooms constructed in 2009. Little League fields are located adjacent to Ricelli Park, which includes bleacher seating and a concession stand.

Veteran's Memorial Field

Located on Fifth Avenue in Hurley, Veteran's Memorial Field offers opportunity for various forms of recreation. A football field with two large sets of bleachers offers a location for home football games in the fall accompanied by concession stands, restrooms and locker room facilities. Also at Veteran's Memorial Field, there are newly sealed basketball and tennis courts for public use.

Cary Road Park

This park is located off Highway 77 in the City of Hurley. Facilities include a softball field, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, bocce ball court, playground equipment, combination concession stand/restrooms and a paved walking trail.

Albert C. Morzenti Sr. Memorial Park

This 10-acre park is located on Highway 77 in the City of Montreal. The west fork of the Montreal River flows along this park near the picnic area. Facilities include picnic tables, grills, swing set, trash containers, and a historical marker commemorating the site of the world's deepest iron mine. Montreal baseball fields are adjacent to this park.

Slugger Baron Park

Located on Ohio Avenue in the City of Montreal, this park consists of picnic tables and new playground equipment.

Gile Park of Gile Park Flowage

Gile Park is a park owned by the City of Montreal, located west of Hurley on Hwy 77, left into Gile to Flowage. The park has a picnic area, tables, fireplaces, drinking water, pavilion, restrooms, changing rooms, slide and swings, swimming, boat launching ramps and fishing.

Dan Young Park

Located in the City of Montreal. The park includes a local softball field, swing sets and other play equipment.

TOWN PARKS



Figure 6: Town Parks

Carrow Community Park

This town park is located on County Road J on Grand Portage Lake in Mercer. Facilities include a picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, and restrooms, swimming area, new playground equipment, bike racks, ball field and paved walking track.

Upton Community Park

This town park is maintained by the Town of Anderson, and is located on the Potato River west of Upton. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, restrooms, overnight camping, electrical hookups, waterfall and trout fishing.

Kimball Town Park

The Kimball Town Park west of Hurley and south on Park Road on the Montreal River offers a beautiful view of Kimball Falls. Other facilities include a picnic area, tables, fire rings, pavilion, restrooms, overnight camping, trout and walleye fishing, walking trails, and kayak options.

Kimball Town Baseball field

The Town of Kimball owns a baseball field situated on US Highway 2. This facility includes fences and an outhouse. This field has been neglected over the years and is in need of maintenance before any future use.

Oma Town Park

This town park located on County Road G is found on Pine Lake. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, restrooms, swimming and a playground.

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

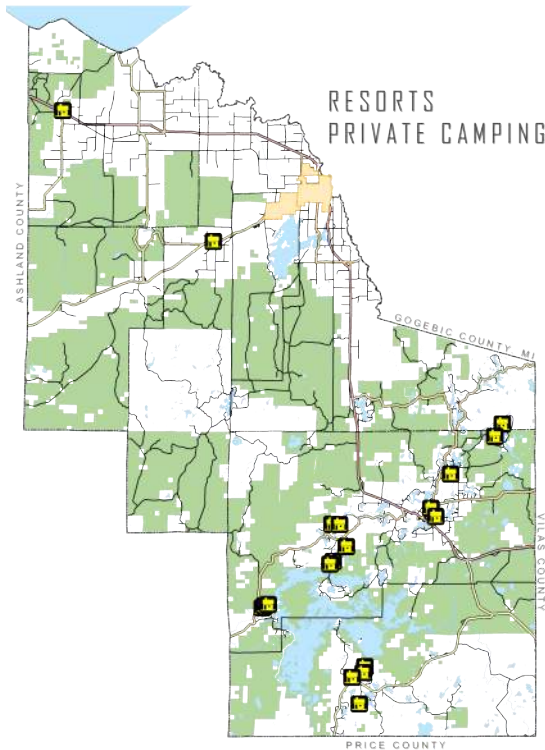


Figure 7: Private Campgrounds

Frontier Bar Campgrounds

Camping options can be found just behind the Frontier Bar in Cedar off Highway 2. Facilities include fireplaces, drinking water, restrooms, picnic area and tables. Sewer, electrical, water, Laundromat and pull thru sites are available to RVs. Easy access to ATV trail 2.

Loon Lagoon Campground

Located two blocks east of Highway 51 in Mercer, Wisconsin, on the outlet of Grand Portage Lake. It is an open, grassy park within walking distance of stores and restaurants. The grounds are centrally located for day trips and fishing in historic Iron County. Camping on Grand Portage Lake can be found at 2580 Margaret St., Mercer.

STATE CAMPGROUNDS



Figure 8: State Resources

Sandy Beach Campgrounds

This state campground is located on Powell Marsh Road in the northeastern corner of the Town of Sherman. Facilities include rustic campsites, toilets, tables, picnic area, fire rings, drinking water, swimming and a boat launch. Maps are available at the Mercer Ranger Station and the Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce or by visiting the DNR web site. (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/turtleflambeau/>) Boat launches are available in several locations.

Turtle Flambeau Flowage Islands

The Turtle Flambeau Flowage offers excellent fishing, canoeing and kayaking opportunities. Six group sites on Big Island are available by reservation only. There is a fee for these sites. Reservations can be made by contacting Reserve America or the WDNR website.

WATERFALLS

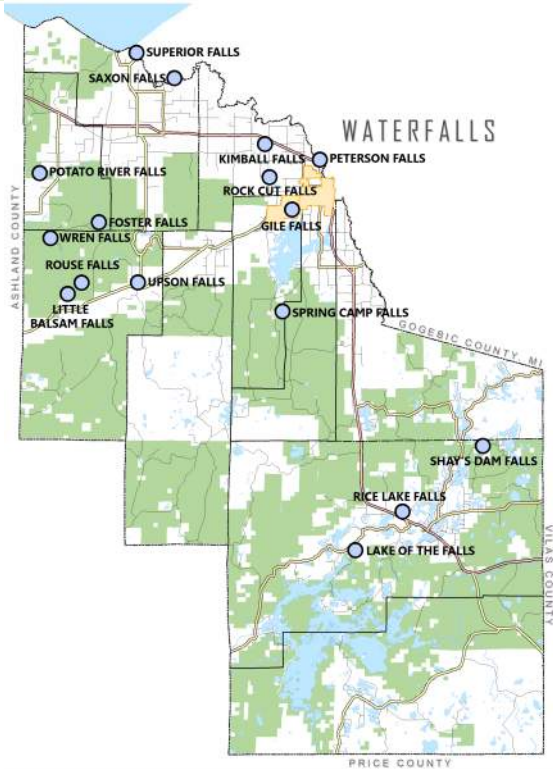


Figure 9: Waterfalls

Superior Falls - 90 feet
Montreal River (Lake Superior/Saxon Area)

Potato River Falls - 90 feet
Potato River (Gurney Area)

Peterson Falls - 35 feet
West Branch Montreal River (Gile Area)

Upson Falls - 18 feet
Potato River (Upson Area)

Gile Falls - 15 feet
West Branch Montreal River (Gile Area)

Shay's Dam Falls - 15 feet
Turtle River (Mercer Area)

Kimball Falls - 10 feet
West Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)

Lake of the Falls - 10 feet
Turtle River (Flambeau Flowage Area)

Rock Cut Falls - 15 feet - (No Public Access)
West Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)

Spring Camp Falls - 20 feet
East Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)

Wren Falls - 15 feet
Tyler Forks River (Gurney Area)

Foster Falls - 25 feet
Potato River (Gurney Area)

Rice Lake Falls - 10 feet
Turtle River (Mercer Area)

Rouse Falls - 15 feet
Rouse Creek (Upson Area)

Little Balsam Falls - 8 feet
Tyler Forks River (Upson Area)

Saxon Falls - 78 feet
Montreal River (Lake Superior/Saxon Area)

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

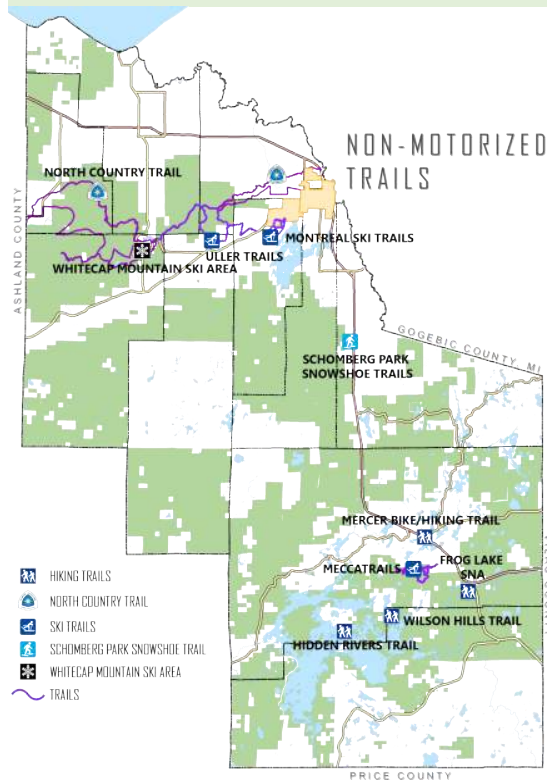


Figure 10: Non-Motorized Trails

Non-motorized recreational facilities in Iron County include scenic hiking and walking trails, off-road biking, cross country ski trails, and canoe routes. What follows is a listing and descriptions of current and proposed non-motorized trails in Iron County.

MECCA Trail

The MECCA (Mercer Cross-Country Association) Trail system is located in the Town of Mercer and consists of hiking, biking and cross-country ski trails. These trails also serve as hunter walking trails in the fall. MECCA grooms 20 km for skiing through the woods and around the Little Turtle Flowage. Most trails are on Iron County Forest and State lands. The club operates a log chalet at the main trailhead 2 miles off Hwy 51 on the south side of Mercer, via Beachway Street.

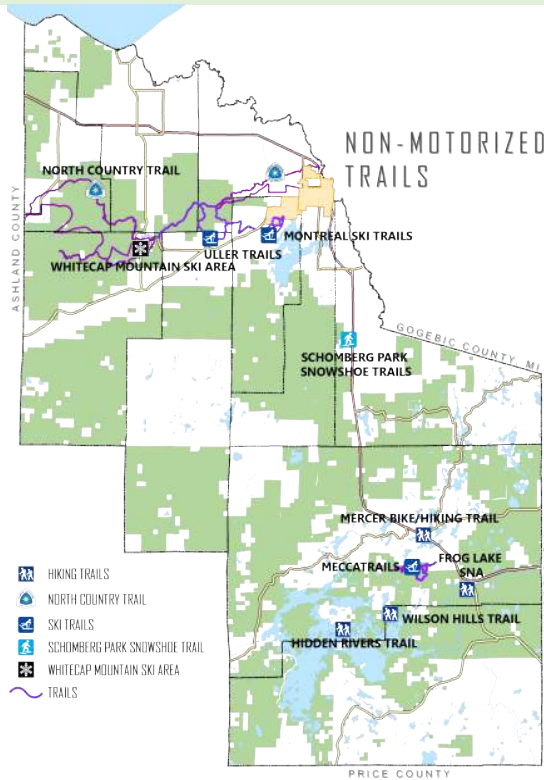
Flambeau Trail

The Flambeau Trail was the key transportation route for Native Americans long before European exploration. Later, the trail hosted voyagers, fur traders and settlers during their journeys throughout the region. The Flambeau Trail crossed the Continental Divide linking the Lake Superior and Mississippi watersheds. Today, the Flambeau Trail is used as an auto tour highlighting historic sites along the trail.

North Country Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail is a premier footpath that stretches more than 4,000 miles to link communities and wilderness areas across seven northern states. Wisconsin has the smallest distance of any of the seven states the North Country Trail crosses, and the second smallest amount of trail developed to date. The trail crosses from Michigan on the US-2 Bridge from Ironwood into Hurley. A few miles west of Hurley, the Uller Trail, a 7-mile trail on Iron County Forest land is also used.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS CONT...



Montreal Nordic Ski Trails

This trail is located in and around the City of Montreal and includes just over nine miles of trails. Eight different sections, each with a very different class (easiest, more difficult, most difficult), meander in and around the city. Interpretive signing describes the mining activity in the area. Penokee Ranger volunteers groom trails.

Uller Trail

The Uller Trail is part of the Nordic Ski Trails system and is located along the Penokee Range from Pence and Iron Belt to Weber Lake. The trail's terrain is hilly and remote and is approximately 19 miles in length. Penokee Ranger volunteers groom the trail.

Pines and Mines Mountain Bike Trail System

This trail system offers 300 miles of marked and mapped mountain biking opportunities in the abundant public lands of Iron County and the nearby Ottawa National Forest.

Hidden Rivers Nature Trail

This interpretive trail is located at Fisherman's Landing on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage in the Town of Mercer. The trail is two miles long and includes signage describing the history and resources of the Flowage.

Downtown Mercer Biking/Walking Trail Project

A paved hiking/biking trail has been constructed along County Road J from Margaret Street to Scheels Road. The Town of Mercer continues working toward the development of pedestrian trails along portions of existing road right-of-ways and adjacent to a segment of abandoned railroad right-of-ways. The proposed trails would provide areas of the community with a safe, walking and biking route to the central business district and would enhance tourism by connecting to neighboring communities such as Manitowish Waters and Winchester.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS CONT...

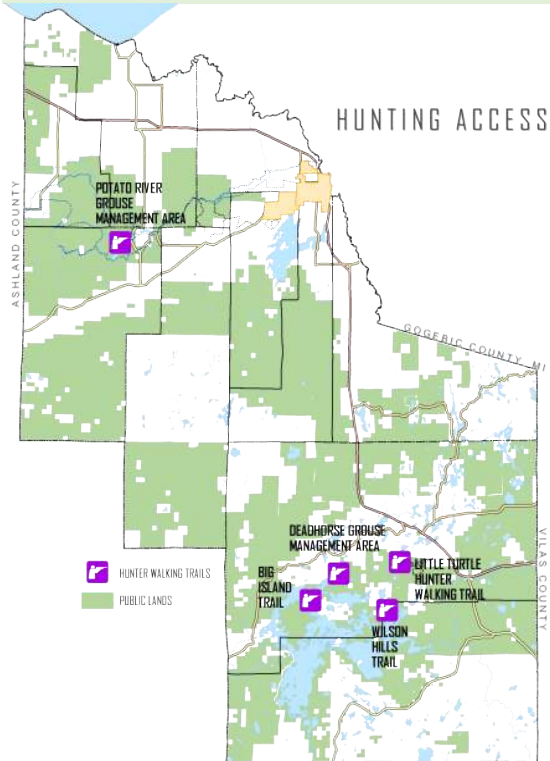


Figure 11: Hunting Access

Schomberg Park Snowshoe Trail

Two loops totaling 1.7 miles of snowshoe trail has been developed and marked in cooperation between the Iron County Forestry Department and the Iron County Economic Development Committee. Future plans include interpretive signing by the Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department and expansion of the trail. This trail may also be used as a hiking trail in the summer.

Hunter Walking Trails

The Iron County Forestry Department has received a grant from the Ruffed Grouse Society to map and print hunting trails throughout Iron County on the County Forest. This project began in 2009 and continues on.

Deadhorse Trail

This hunter walking trail is located off of Popko Circle West in the Town of Mercer. The trail includes interpretive and informational signs about grouse habitat management and a deer/hare enclosure. It is managed in cooperation with the Ruffed Grouse Society.

MOTORIZED TRAILS

ATV Trails

Iron County boasts Wisconsin's largest ATV system starting in the Hurley area, with more than 250 miles of trails and routes to take riders deep into the heart of Iron County. Along the routes, motorists will find a variety of pit stops offering food, beverages, gas, lodging and scenic outlooks. For maps on Iron County's ATV trails, contact the Iron County Development Zone Council or the Hurley and Mercer Chamber of Commerce.

The Iron County Forestry Department, along with the Iron County ATV Association and Mercer Dusty Loons, maintains 118 miles of ATV trails throughout the County. The Forestry Department also contracts with the White Thunder Riders and Mercer SnoGoers to maintain 165 miles of winter ATV trails.

Snowmobile Trails

Over 300 miles of well-groomed, uncrowded snowmobile trails traverse Iron County. Unmatched beauty, with a unique microclimate, along with the most reliable snow in the Midwest guarantees Iron County snow even when other areas are without hence Governor Doyle's designation of Iron County as the Snow Capital of Wisconsin in 2009.

Iron County's snowmobile trails connect and incorporate many of the county's historic communities, transportation corridors, mining and lumbering sites, as well as plenty of forests and lakes. As with the ATV trail system, varieties of establishments offer food, beverages, gas and lodging along the journey. Experienced riders may visit scenic outlooks.

The Iron County Forestry Department contracts with the White Thunder Riders and the Mercer SnoGoers to maintain 303 miles of snowmobile trails throughout the County.

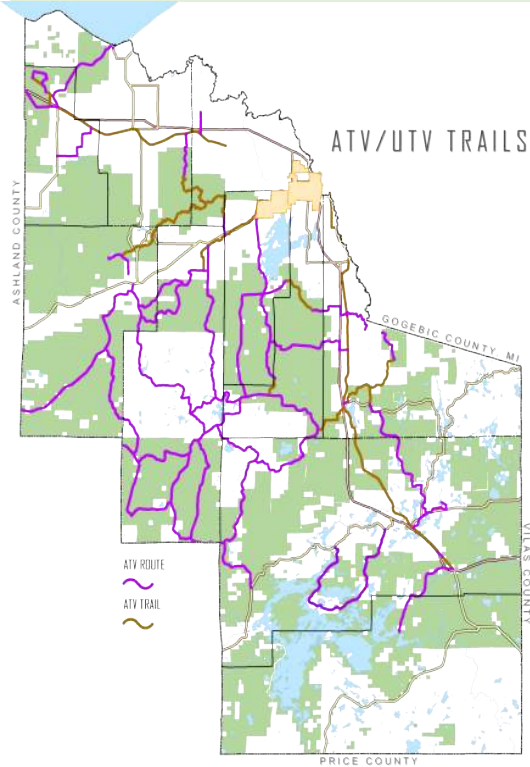


Figure 12: ATV/UTV Trails

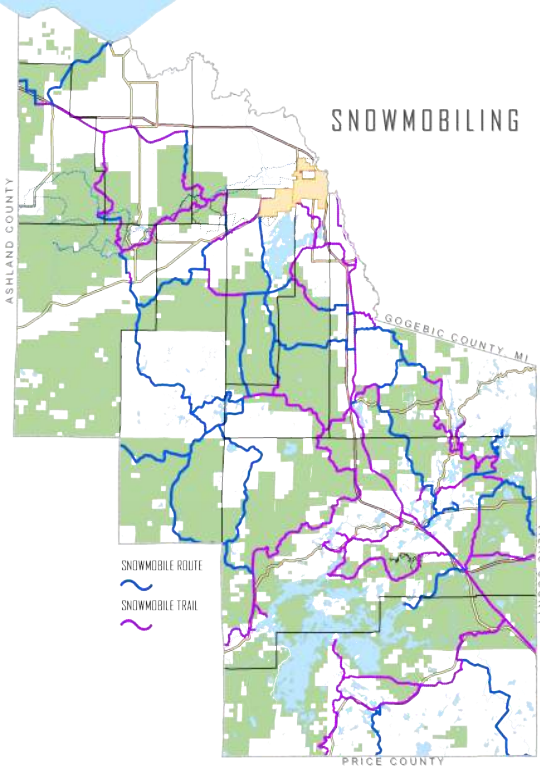


Figure 13: Snowmobile Trails

FISHING

Boat Landings

There are a number of boat landings found within Iron County. Many are county and state owned, offering access to spectacular lakes as large as Lake Superior and as small as Lake Obadash. The number of landings located at each lake is listed. Depending on the lake, landings may be paved or rustic and vary from powerboat use to canoe.

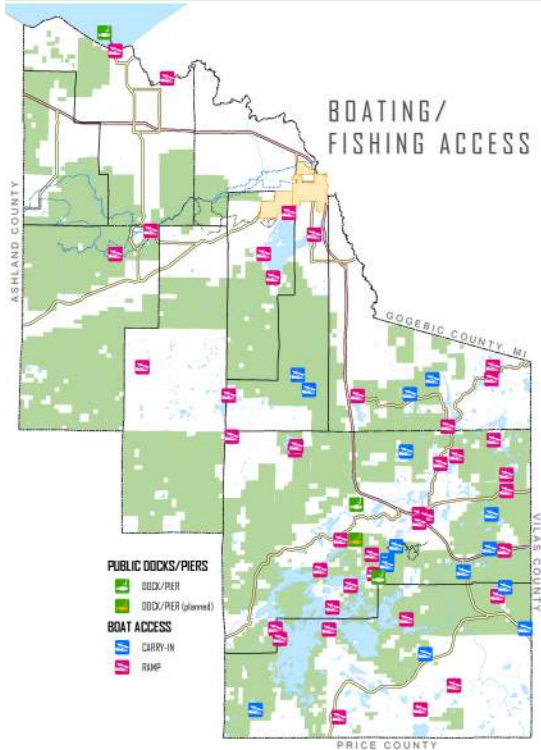


Figure 14: Boating/Fishing Access

Table 7: Iron County Lakes with Public Boating Access

Lake	Lake	Lake
Bass Lake	Lake Obadash	Randall Lake
Bearskull Lake	Lake of the Falls	Sandy Beach Lake
Beaver Lake	Lake One	Saskatoon Lake
Brandis Lake	Lake Six	Saxon Falls
Cedar Lake	Little Moose	Saxon Harbor
Deer Lake	L. Turtle Flowage	Shay's Dam
Deer Tail Lake	Long Lake	Shirley Lake
Du Page Lake	McDermott Lake	Spider Lake
Echo Lake	Mercer Lake	Tamarack Lake
Fisher Lake	Moose Lake	Trude Lake
Fox Lake	Mud Lake	Turtle Flambeau
Gile Flowage	North Bass Lake	Twin Lakes
Grand Portage Lake	One Man Lake	Upson Lake
Hewitt Lake	Owl Lake	Weber Lake
Island Lake	Pike Lake	Wilson Lake
Lake Evelyn	Pine Lake	
Lake O'Brien	Plunkett Lake	

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2016. Statewide inventory of public boat access and fishing sites. *Note: Public access data may not be complete and additional access points may exist.*

BICYCLING

Bike Routes

The Wisconsin State Bike Map, published and distributed through the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, identifies and classifies state and county roads in terms of their bicycling conditions. The bicycle map for Iron County can be accessed on the WisDOT web site at <http://wisconsindot.gov/Documents/travel/bike/bike-maps/county/iron.pdf>

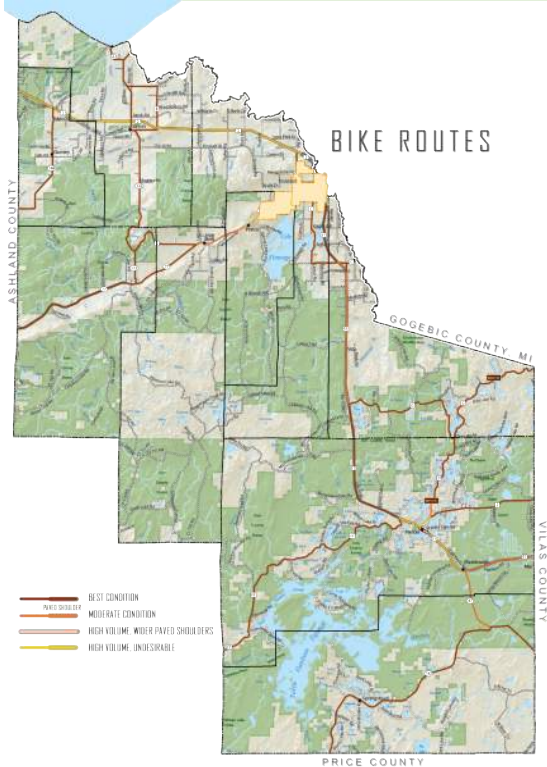


Figure 15: Bike Routes

GOLF

Eagle Bluff Golf Club

Public, 18-hole golf course located in Hurley. The course features 5,870 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 70.

Skye Golf Course

The 18-hole "Whitecap Skye" course at the Skye Golf in the Whitecap Mountains facility in Upson, features 5,320 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 70.

Tahoe Lynx Golf Course

This 9-hole public golf course in Mercer opened in 1994 and measures 2606 yards from the longest tees. The course features 3 sets of tees for different skill levels.

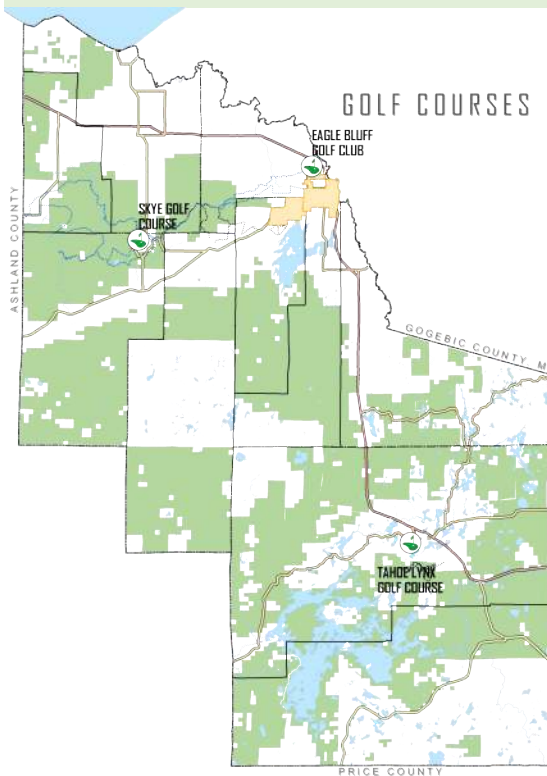


Figure 16: Golf Courses

SCENIC SITES/POINTS OF INTEREST

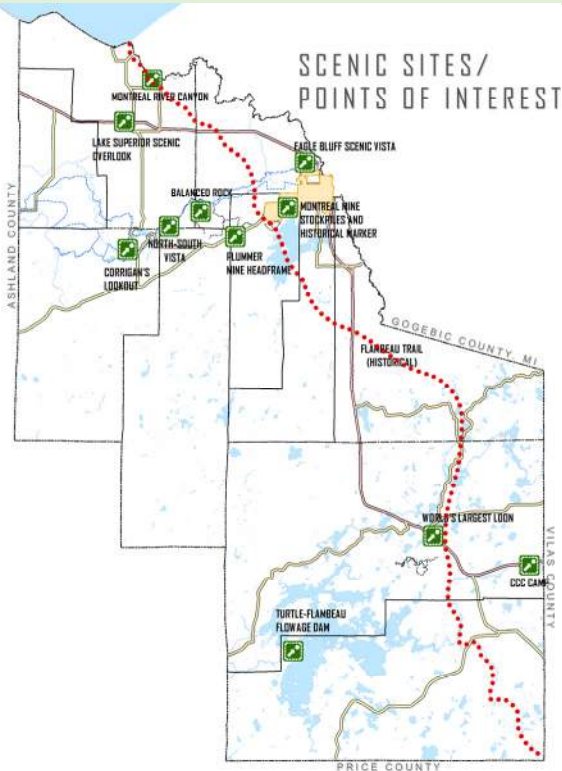
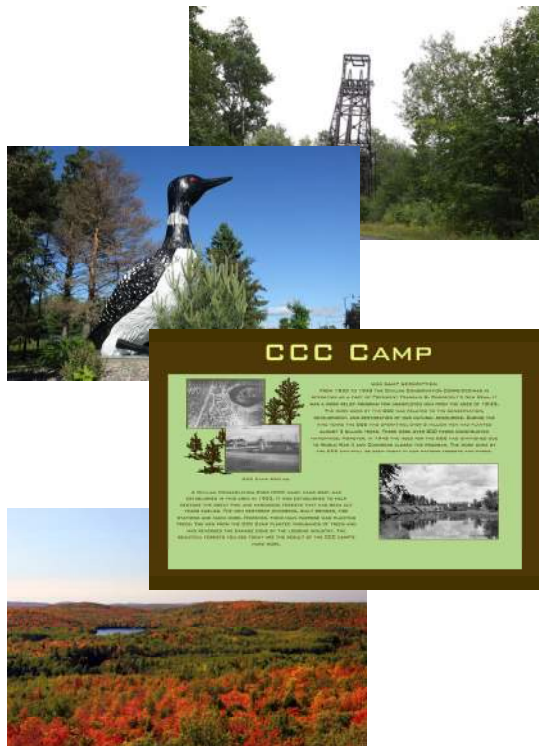


Figure 17: Scenic Sites/Points of Interest



Montreal River Canyon

Scenic and remote canyon on the Montreal River in northern Iron County. The canyon's contains high sheer rock walls straddle whitewater rapids (class II – class V) and boulder gardens which make this a destination for adventurous whitewater rafters. Located on private property.

Lake Superior Scenic Overlook

WisDOT overlook and rest area along US Highway 2.

Corrigan's Lookout

Rock outcrop overlooking Upson Lake and the Penokee Hills. Located on Iron County Forest lands, near Upson.

North-South Vista

Scenic views of the Penokee Hills landscape. ATV & snowmobile access via Trail 6.

Balanced Rock

Natural geologic feature located near the midpoint of the Uller Trail. ATV & snowmobile access via Trail 6.

Plummer Mine Headframe

The Plummer Mine Headframe is the last standing headframe in Wisconsin, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Eagle Bluff Scenic Vista

A spectacular vista of two states and Lake Superior. South of U.S. 2 on County D at the Eagle Bluff Golf Club, one mile west of Hurley.

Montreal Mine Stockpiles and Historical Marker

Neat white frame houses, gently curving streets, and gracious landscaping mark the City of Montreal—the only planned mining company town in Wisconsin.

World's Largest Loon

Statue of Claire d'Loon", the world's largest loon, in front of the Mercer Chamber of Commerce.

Turtle-Flambeau Dam

Dam constructed in 1926 on the Flambeau River which created the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage.

Flambeau Trail

Historical travel trade route trips from La Pointe, on Madeline Island, to Lac du Flambeau, 90 miles to the south.

CCC Camp (Mercer Trail)

Historical site of former Civilian Conservation Corp camp 660 established along the Manitowish River in the Town of Mercer.

PUBLIC ACCESS LANDS

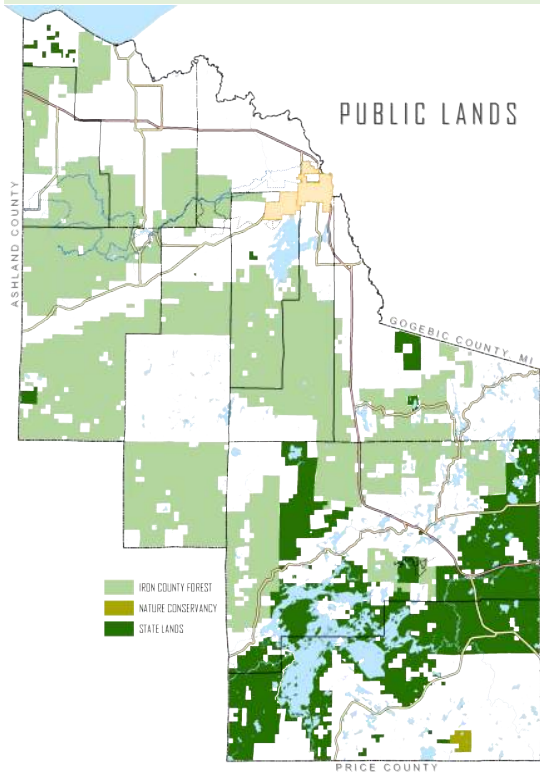


Figure 18: Public Lands

Iron County Forest

Encompassing over 174,000 acres, the Iron County Forest is an actively managed, working forest that provides tremendous recreational opportunities, jobs and timber products.

State Forest

The State of Wisconsin owns and manages over 84,000 acres of public access lands in Iron County, including the 35,500 acre Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area.

Nature Conservancy Lands

The Bass Lake Preserve in southern Iron County contains a diversity of trees, including aspen, sugar and red maple, yellow and white birch. This area was designated as a State Natural Area in 1986.

Forest Tax Law

Approximately 64,000 acres of privately-owned lands enrolled in Wisconsin's Forest Tax Law programs are open to public access and recreation. These programs encourage sustainable forest management on private lands by providing a property tax incentive to landowners. Two different forest tax law programs currently exist: the Managed Forest Law (MFL) and the Forest Crop Law (FCL).

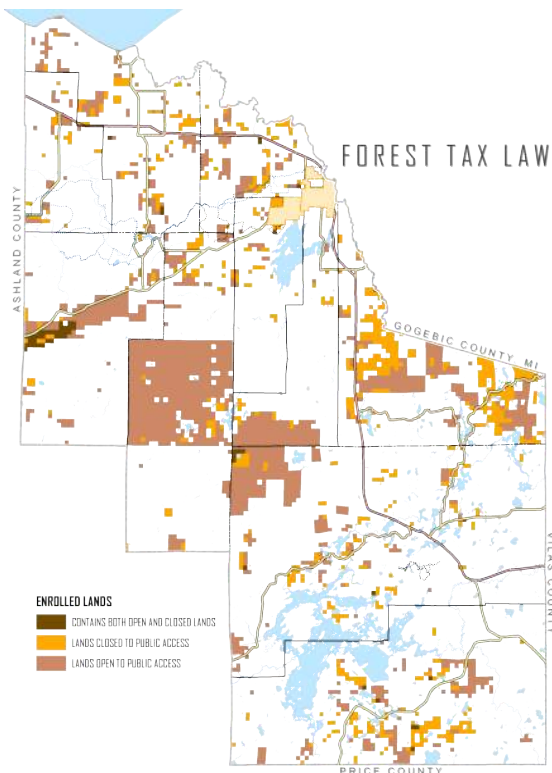


Figure 19: Forest Tax Law Lands

STATE OWNED AND MANAGED PROPERTIES

Underwood State Wildlife Area (SWA)

Located in the Town of Oma, the Underwood State Wildlife Area is a 1,600 acre state-owned tract managed primarily for wildlife species such as ruffed grouse, deer, woodcock, bears, and wolves. Habitat types found within this area include forested uplands and cedar swamps.

Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area (SWA)

This SWA encompasses portions of Ashland and Iron Counties. Within Iron County, the Wildlife Area is found within the Town of Sherman and a small portion of the Town of Mercer. The total acreage of this SWA is 13,424 acres, with 7,412 acres in Iron County. This SWA provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife species including ruffed grouse, deer, woodcock, bears, loons, waterfowl, beavers, otters, fishers, coyotes, bobcat, muskrats, ospreys, eagles, and timber wolves.

Moose Lake State Natural Area (SNA)

The Moose Lake SNA encompasses 1,113 acres within the Town of Mercer. This area contains a high quality forest with several patches of old-growth hemlock forest. This SNA also contains rare plants and an important warbler breeding area. Frog Lake and Pines State Natural Area (SNA) This 192-acre SNA located in the Town of Mercer features an undisturbed wilderness lake surrounded by old-growth northern dry-mesic forest in a large lowland bordering the Manitowish River. This SNA is located entirely within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest.

Bass Lake Preserve State Natural Area (SNA)

This 30-acre preserve is located within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sherman. This property features a wilderness type lake, conifer swamp and bog and northern hardwoods forest.

Lake Evelyn State Natural Area (SNA)

The Lake Evelyn State Natural Area encompasses 26 acres in Section 23, T44N R3E, in the Town of Oma. This SNA features an undeveloped soft-water seepage lake surrounded by wetlands and upland forest.

Caroline Lake State Natural Area (SNA)

The Caroline Lake SNA is located in T44N-R1W, Section 19, in the Town of Anderson. This SNA encompasses 518 total acres of northern hardwoods, conifer, wetland, and mixed forest. Caroline lake also forms the headwaters of the Bad River and contains unique plant communities and forested wetlands.

Springstead Muskeg State Natural Area (SNA)

The Springstead Muskeg SNA is a large peatland featuring an extensive undisturbed bog located at the headwaters area of the South Fork of the Flambeau River. This SNA encompasses 200 acres in Section 28 of the Town of Sherman.

Powell Marsh Wildlife Area (SWA)

This SWA lies within the boundary of the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest on the western edge of the Town of Sherman. Since 1980, management activities in this SWA have focused on enhancing habitat for waterfowl and sharp-tailed grouse. Total acreage of this SWA within Iron County is approximately 105 acres.

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage State Natural Area (SNA)

This 3,145 SNA is found in the Towns of Mercer and Sherman in Iron County. The Flowage was created in 1926 by the inundation of lowland wetlands and contains numerous unique and varied plant and animal communities.

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

The Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area contains several thousand state-owned acres of water and miles of undeveloped shoreline. The Flowage itself is a 19,000-acre reservoir with 212 miles of predominantly wilderness shoreline. This area is a popular recreation destination for those seeking fishing and wilderness camping experiences. This area includes the once separate Boot Lake State Wildlife Area.

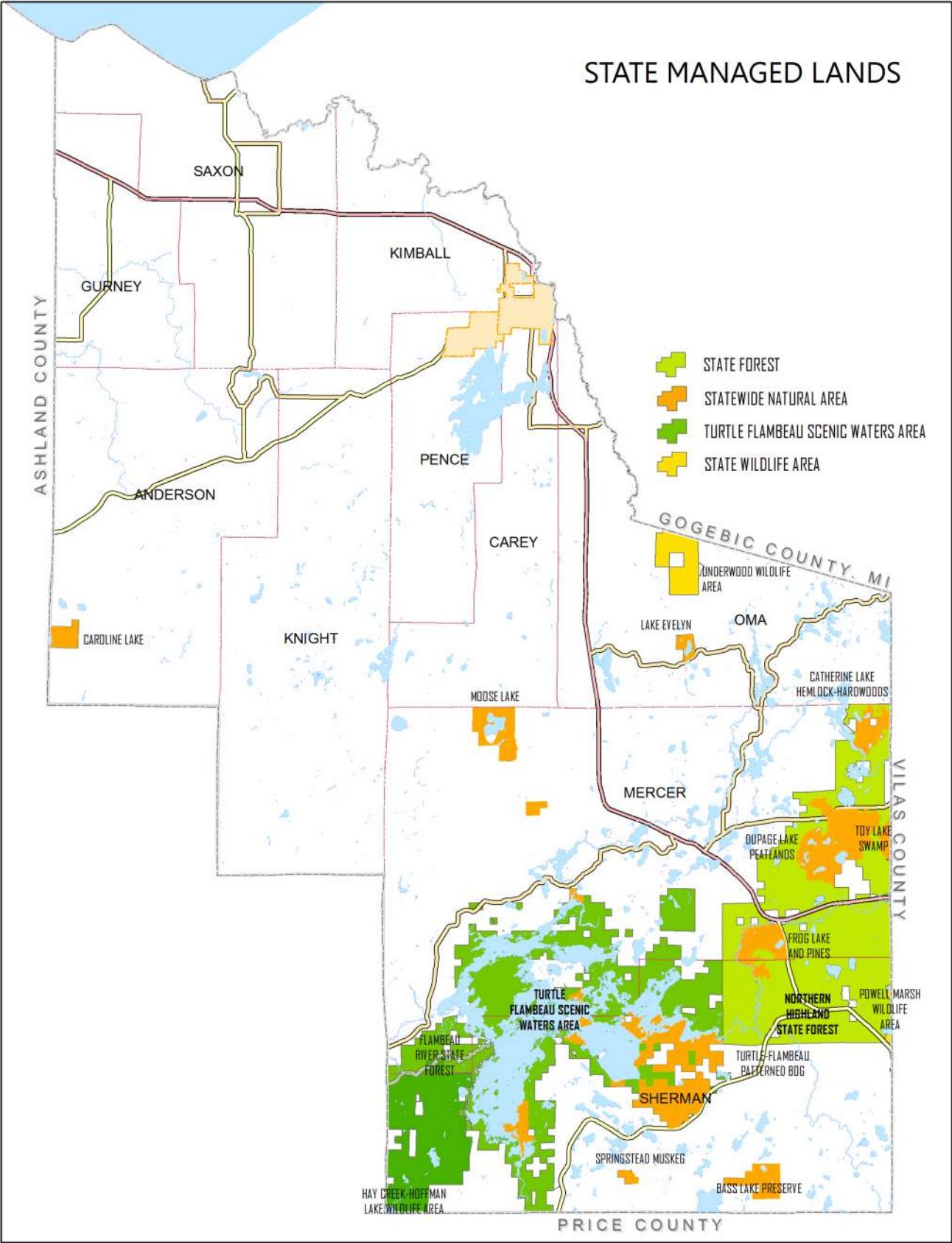
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest

This state forest was established in 1925 to protect the streamflow at the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Flambeau and Manitowish Rivers. The NHAL State Forest is the largest in Wisconsin, encompassing over 222,000 acres in Vilas, Oneida and Iron Counties. Within Iron County there are approximately 30,000 acres of land within the NHAL State Forest.

Flambeau River State Forest

The Flambeau River State Forest was established in 1930. This forest occupies a total of 90,000 acres of land surrounding the North and South Forks of the Flambeau River. Within Iron County, this forest occupies about 335 total acres.

STATE MANAGED LANDS



WAYSIDES/PICNIC AREAS

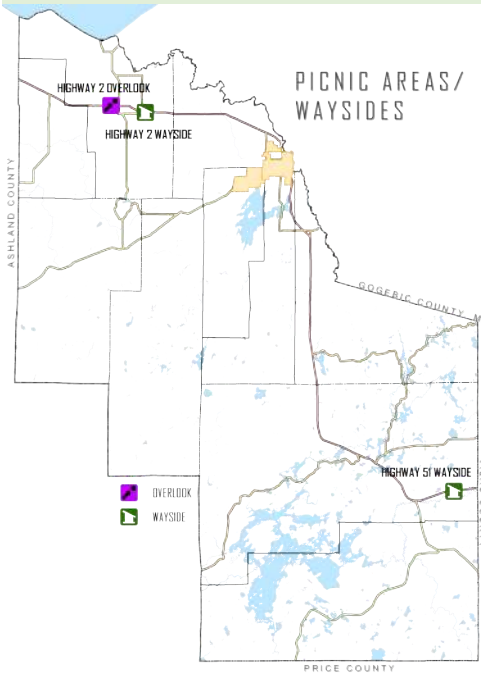


Figure 20: Picnic Areas/Waysides

Highway 2 Overlook (Apostle Islands)

WisDOT overlook along US Highway 2 in the Town of Saxon. No facilities.

Highway 2 Wayside

WisDOT wayside along US Highway 2 in the Town of Saxon. Interpretive signage and limited day-use facilities are present.

Highway 51 Wayside

WisDOT wayside along US Highway 51 in the Town of Mercer.

LOCAL EVENTS/FESTIVALS



Figure 21: Public Events

Iron County Fair

The Iron County Fair is one of the best small county fairs in Wisconsin. Located in the town of Saxon, the fair offers a multitude of activities for every age. Activities include, agricultural exhibits, animals, rides, food, entertainment, midway rides and games, and other fun.

Paavo Nurmi Marathon

Named for the Finnish winner of nine Olympic gold medals in the 1920s, this marathon draws about 300 participants annually. It starts in Upson, WI and finishes in downtown Hurley. It was established in 1969 and is considered to be the oldest running marathon in Wisconsin.

Loon Day

An annual art & craft show in Mercer with more than 250 exhibitors. Loon calling contest (trophies awarded), food, music, dancing, demonstrations, sidewalk and bake sales, face painting for kids and a flea market

Snowmobile Olympus (Ironwood, MI)

One of the premier snowmobile oval races in all of North America.

SISU Ski Fest (Ironwood, MI)

XC Ski races and snowshoe events, held annually.

Festivale Italiano

Annual family fun event held in Hurley celebrating Italian heritage.

Heritage Festival

Two weeks of events to celebrate Iron County's rich cultural heritage. Held annually.

Musky Fishing Challenge

A catch and release musky fishing tournament that allows the use of both artificial and live bait. Held annually in Mercer

Lupine Junefest

Annual festival held in Mercer, featuring bike/hike tours, live music, arts/crafts, silent auction, photography, informational booth and classic car show.

CanYak Fishing Tournament

Fishing, Trade Show, Demos, and Live Music. Held in Mercer

Saxon Harbor Fishing Tournament

Annual spring fishing tournament on Lake Superior.

SHOOTING RANGES



Figure 22: Shooting Ranges

Northwood's Shooting Range

The Northwood's Shooting Range is maintained by the Northwood's Wildlife & Wetlands Club and is open to the public from April 1 to November 30. The range is located five miles south of Mercer, just off Hwy 51 on Range Road. The facility includes a 200-yard rifle and 100-yard pistol range and field course. Shooting events are held weekly throughout the summer.

The Knight Shooting Range

The Knight Shooting Range is a rifle only range. It is located on Snake Track Road, two miles southwest of Iron Belt. This range is open to the public, and shooting benches and target backstops are provided.

Pence Archery Range

The village of Pence now has an archery Range on the north side of Hwy77. Practice targets and a field range are provided.

PADDLESPTS



Figure 23: Paddlesports

Inland Lakes and Streams

Iron County has 217 named inland lakes along with 277 smaller, unnamed lakes totaling 29,902 acres of surface water. The county also has 724 miles of perennial streams.

Turtle River Trail

The 27-mile Turtle River Trail connects 17 different lakes. There are many put-in and take-out possibilities on the Turtle River offering a wide variety of trips

Bear River

This trip is tranquil and unspoiled by development. Only one low hazard rapids, better described as a "riffle," will be encountered at the second bridge crossing. The usual put-in is below the outlet of Flambeau Lake. This makes for a 25-mile paddle to the Murray's landing take-out.

Manitowish River

This 20-mile route is a continuation of the popular Manitowish trip that begins at High Lake (Vilas County) at the river's origin on County Road B east of Presque Isle.

Gile Flowage

Gile Flowage, a 3,380-acre lake in northern Iron County, is the last large underdeveloped "Laurentian Shield" lake in Wisconsin. Most of the shoreline is ancient exposed bedrock and the flowage is dotted with bedrock islands reminiscent of the Boundary Waters and Quetico canoe- country region of northern Minnesota.

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

The Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area encompasses over 38,000 acres with its star attraction being the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. A voluntary quiet area has been established on approximately the eastern one-fifth of the Flowage.

Montreal River – West Branch

Expert-only paddle route which includes high hazard Class V rapids, dams and inaccessible canyon-like areas.

Lake Superior Water Trail (LSWT)

The LSWT is a network of mapped access points and recreational resources along Wisconsin's Lake Superior south shore. The water trail provides a framework for a wealth of environmental, historical, and cultural experiences accessible along the Lake Superior coastline.

RUSTIC ROADS

Rustic Road 100

A 13.5 mile designated Rustic Road extending from County Highway G from the Michigan/Wisconsin border, continuing south along County Highway H to Mercer. This route along part of the historic Flambeau Trail is Wisconsin's 100th designated Rustic Road.



Figure 24: Rustic Roads

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To ensure that the needs of the public are served by this plan, a significant amount of time has been expressed gaining public input into the plan development. Gaining public input and support is a critical element to assessing the needs, development and implementation of this outdoor recreation plan.



















RECREATION NEEDS STANDARDS

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identify standards for designing recreation facilities. The NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a “core” system of parklands, with a total of **6.25 to 10.5 acres** of developed open space per **1,000 population**. The size and amount of “adjunct” parklands will vary from community to community, but must be taken into account when considering a total, well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas.

While not classified as parks *per se*, public lands including county and state forestlands provide many of the same park functions in terms of providing open space for a wide range of outdoor activities. Using the NRFA definition, Iron County would need between 37.0 and 59.1 acres of parks to satisfy the demands of county residents. Considering that Iron County has more than 230,000 acres of public recreation land available, the resource is more than sufficient to meet current and projected demands for residents and visitors alike.

PUBLIC INPUT ASSESSMENT

An online survey was developed requesting information from the public regarding their personal interest in the development and maintenance of outdoor recreation in Iron County. On August 6th, 2015, a press release was also submitted and published in the Ironwood Daily Globe and Iron County Miner. Social media was also used to distribute the survey link and solicit comments. The online survey became active on August 8th, 2015 and remained active for a period of 30 days. A total of 654 unique responses were recorded. A letter was mailed to city and town elected officials on September 22nd, 2015, requesting community input in the recreation plan (see appendix). A similar letter of was sent to the following key recreation stakeholders, school districts and interest groups in Iron County.

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Bad River Tribal Council |  Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts |
|  Eagle Bluff Golf Course |  Iron County Recreation Council |
|  Fat Tire Bike Club |  Iron County UW-Extension |
|  Friends of the Gile Flowage |  Lac Du Flambeau Tribal Council |
|  Frontier Campground |  Loon Lagoon |
|  Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce |  MECCA Ski Club |
|  Hurley School District |  Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce |
|  Iron County ATV Association |  Mercer Dusty Loons |
|  Iron County Development Zone |  Mercer School District |

- ✚ Mercer SnoGoers
- ✚ North Country National Scenic Trail
- ✚ North Country Trail Association
- ✚ Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest
- ✚ Penokee Rangers

- ✚ Saxon Harbor Boating Club
- ✚ Turtle Flambeau Flowage Association
- ✚ White Thunder Riders
- ✚ WhiteCap Kayak
- ✚ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

Recreation Uses

In terms of user participation, hiking, fishing, boating, kayaking and snowshoeing were among the most popular recreational activities identified by survey respondents. Summer sports participation rates exceeded winter participation rates by a margin of greater than 2:1.

1. Hiking (Top annual participation)
2. Fishing
3. Snowshoeing
4. Boating
5. Kayaking
6. Cross Country Skiing
7. Road Biking
8. Camping
9. ATVing/UTVing
10. Other water sports
11. Mountain Biking
12. Playgrounds
13. Other
14. Snowmobiling
15. Downhill Skiing
16. Horseback Riding (Lowest annual participation)

Key "other" identified recreational uses included hunting/nature activities, running, motorcycling, driving (touring), watersports (SUP, canoe, swimming) and organized sports.

Facilities Demand

In terms of county-owned and managed facilities, the most visited/used facilities identified in the survey include Saxon Harbor, boat landings, Lake of the Falls County Park and the Potato River Falls. Developed county parks also tended to receive much higher usage/visitation rates than minimally developed or primitive sites. The most popular boat landings included those on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, Gile Flowage and Lake of the Falls.

Local waterfalls, Montreal Trails, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and the Gile Flowage were the most popular non-county-owned or managed facilities or resources in Iron County.

Facilities Satisfaction

In terms of overall satisfaction with the condition of county-owned and managed facilities, 86 percent of survey respondents said they were either very or somewhat satisfied.

Public Water Access

More than 90 percent of survey respondents indicated that Iron County currently has adequate public water access. Less than 10 percent of respondents stated that there are additional needs for public water access in the county. When asked where additional public access was needed, respondents identified the following:

1. Turtle Flambeau Flowage and many smaller lakes
2. Saxon Harbor
3. Lake of the Falls
4. Rice Lake, Echo Lake
5. Fox Lake, Pike Lake
6. Boot lake, Springstead Lake
7. Sturgeon Bay
8. French Lake and Boot Lake
9. Gile Flowage
10. Tyler's Forks
11. Lake Superior
12. Build canoe and kayak accesses to Iron County rivers along roadsides.
13. Bad River
14. Turtle Flambeau Flowage
15. Island Lake. Crystal Lake (Oma)
16. Montreal River

When asked what improvements were needed at public boat landings and water access points, survey respondents indicated issues related to bathrooms, general maintenance, addition/repair or improvement of docks, piers and slips, concerns with the condition of the boat landing itself and parking.

Campgrounds

The majority of survey respondents (71.6%) felt that the number of campground facilities in Iron County was adequate. Nearly a quarter of respondents felt that improvements are needed to existing facilities. Improvements needed most frequently cited included improving/expanding facilities, providing more utilities such as electric and Internet access and general maintenance concerns. When asked where additional camping facilities are needed, respondents listed the following (in priority order):

1. Gile Flowage
2. Hurley Area
3. Remote
4. Saxon Harbor
5. Turtle-Flambeau Flowage
6. Mercer Area
7. Penokee Hills
8. Waterfalls
9. Lake Superior
10. Lake of the Falls

When asked what general concerns they had about county-owned campgrounds, survey respondents most often cited issues related to the camping experience (noise, privacy, visual), need for expanding opportunities (adding additional sites, backcountry opportunities, adding trails, etc.) and the condition of existing facilities (cleanliness, parking, restrooms).

Snowmobile Trails

Nearly 90 percent of survey respondents felt that Iron County has an adequate number of miles of snowmobile trails. A small proportion of respondents (15%) felt that specific improvements were needed to existing trails. The need for additional signage was the most frequently expressed concern, followed by trail maintenance, expanding trails into new areas and grooming.

ATV/UTV Trails

Nearly 80 percent of survey respondents felt that Iron County has an adequate number of ATV/UTV trail miles. Nearly 17 percent indicated that specific trail improvements are needed. The most frequently expressed improvements needed included better signage, trail maintenance (rock removal, widening) and a need for grading to fix rough trails. When asked to provide other concerns regarding ATV/UTV trails, respondents cited adding or expanding trails and allowing multi-use on exiting trails (motorcycles), among other concerns.

Ski Trails

Nearly 64 percent of survey respondents felt that Iron County has an adequate number of kilometers of cross-country ski trails. Nearly 10 percent of respondents indicated that improvements were needed to existing trails, while roughly one-third of respondents indicated more trails were needed. Cited improvements needed include better/more frequent grooming, better signage and general trail maintenance. When asked to provide other concerns regarding ski trails, respondents cited the need to expand trails and develop new trails, improve trail promotion and adding additional facilities, among the previously cited concerns.

Expanding Recreational Opportunities

Survey respondents were asked to identify recreational opportunities which the county should explore or investigate for possible future development. The most cited opportunity was the expansion of biking across the county, including the development new of trails for both mountain and road biking (paved). Another highly cited activity was the expansion of walking/hiking opportunities, including the development of new hiking/walking trails. Increasing opportunities for dual sport motorcycling was also highly cited. This activity involves motorcycles that are designed for both on and off-road use, which are currently not-permitted on the ATV/UTV trail system. A number of other recreational opportunities were identified including development and/or expansion of:

1. ATV/UTV
2. Other Recreation (swimming, dogsledding, jeep trails, etc.)
3. XC Skiing
4. Motorcycling
5. Horse Trails
6. Non-motorized Recreation
7. Nature/Birding
8. Disc Golf
9. Camping
10. Snowshoe
11. Shooting Range
12. Snowmobile
13. Zip line
14. Hunting
15. Canoe/Kayak
16. Boating
17. Improving Recreation Access

Biking/Walking

Most survey respondents (63.1 percent) indicated that they would bike/walk more frequently if there were biking/walking trails in Iron County. Slightly over 15 percent indicated that they would bike/walk the same as they currently do and 21.5 percent stated they would not use biking/walking trails.

COMMUNITY INPUT

TOWN & MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION ASSETS (2010-2015 PLANNING SUMMARY)

MCD	PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES			
	NAME	TYPE	AMENITIES AVAILABLE	IMPROVEMENTS MADE (LAST 5 YEARS)
TOWNS				
TOWN OF ANDERSON	Upton Town Park	Campground	Picnic Tables, Pit Toilets, Grills, Electric, Drinking Water	Picnic Tables, Added (1) Toilet, Painted
TOWN OF KIMBALL	Kimball Town Park	Park	Picnic Tables, Pit Toilets, Handicap Toilet, Grills, Fire Pits, Basketball Court, Playground Equipment, Handicap Fishing Deck, Pavilion, Electrical Power, Walk-in Accessible	
	Softball/Volleyball Field	Field Area		
TOWN OF MERCER	W.S. Carrow Park	Park	Basketball courts, Baseball diamond, beach, grills, picnic tables, volleyball area, pavilion with water and electricity, restrooms, snack shack, playground, tennis court, paved walking oval, paved ADA walking path to beach, beach shelter.	Second basketball court, native plantings on eroding hill, new pier at beach
	ATV & Snowmobile Trails	Trails	Cleared and maintained trails, mapping	Trail extensions and modifications
	Boat Landing	Other	Upgraded and maintained, Handicapped fishing deck on Mercer Lake	Add and upgrade, as needed

MCD	PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES			
	NAME	TYPE	AMENITIES AVAILABLE	IMPROVEMENTS MADE (LAST 5 YEARS)
TOWN OF OMA	Oma Town Park	Park, Boat Landing	Boat Landing on Pine Lake, swimming, Pier, Open space, Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Grills Playground, Paved Parking, Pit Toilets	New roofing on Pavilion, renovated pit toilets, new pier at boat landing, refurbished picnic tables
	Oma Community Forest	80 acres of undisturbed woodland recreation area	Unimproved road access adjacent to US Hwy 51	None
TOWN OF SAXON	Iron Horse Trail	Trail	None	None
TOWN OF SHERMAN	Snowmobile Trail	Trail	None	none
CITIES				
CITY OF MONTREAL	Gile Park/Gile Flowage	Park	Pavilion, Toilets, Picnic Tables, Playground, Beach, Boat Launch/Dock	None
	Slugger Baron Park	Park	Playground, Picnic Tables, Basketball Court	
	West End Ball Field	Ball Field/Park	Baseball Field, Basketball Court, Playground	
	City Hall Ball Field	Park/Playground	Baseball Field, Tennis Court	
CITY OF HURLEY	Riccelli Park	Park	Tables, Pavilion, Grills, Playground, Flushable Restrooms	Add swings, Repair merry-go-round, Remove dead trees
	Cary Road Ball Park	Park	Tables, Grills, Playground, Bocce Ball Courts, Volley Ball Courts, Walking Trail, Restrooms, Drinking Water	
	Eagle Bluff Golf Course	18 Hole Golf Course	Club House, Cart Rentals, Storage Sheds	

PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES				
MCD	NAME	TYPE	AMENITIES AVAILABLE	IMPROVEMENTS MADE (LAST 5 YEARS)
	Little League Field	Ball Field/Park	2 Baseball Diamonds, Electronic Scoreboards, Concession Buildings, Restrooms	
	Range Trail	Non-Motorized Trail	Tables, Bike Rack, Information Board	

**TOWN & MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION ASSETS PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS
2016-2020**

FUTURE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED FROM JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2020. (SUCH AS PLANNED TRAILS OR OTHER NEW RECREATION SITES).	
TOWNS	
TOWN OF ANDERSON	New construction of vault toilets in campground
TOWN OF KIMBALL	Interstate and Peterson Falls viewing area. Plan to provide a parking area and hiking trails.
TOWN OF MERCER	Trails: Install concrete walk/bike trail from school to Carow Park, Complete 7-mile non-motorized trail to Vilas County line, Install ballards into existing walk/bike trail along US Hwy 51, Initiate grant applications for funding for non-motorized trail with along County Hwy J from Carow Park to County line, or along, County Hwy H from County Hwy J to County Hwy G, or along County Hwy FF. Carow Park: Redoing the tennis courts, new posts for new cyclone fence, remove basketball casings and install new basketball equipment and supports, upgrade grills, Remodel bathroom facilities. With improved town road improvements, add additional property to Lake of the Falls Park
TOWN OF OMA	Residents of Oma have not communicated a desire for the Town to make significant expansions to the existing recreation sites beyond maintenance and general upkeep. The Oma Community Forest is an 80 acre parcel located 1.5 miles south of Schomberg Park along US Hwy 51. No established motorized trails are nearby. This area is a completely undisturbed upland forest that is available for recreation. Access is via a short unimproved road. No amenities are available. The timber is managed by the Iron County Forestry Department and due for logging in 2030. With grant funding and inter-governmental cooperation with Iron County Forestry and Parks Department, this area has potential to support quiet-outdoor recreation.
TOWN OF SAXON	Would like Iron Horse Trail to be paved between 122 & B.
TOWN OF SHERMAN	Biking/hiking/cross country ski trails. (Possibly various locations. Some residents have expressed significant interest in such a trail alongside the Flowage Road in Springstead). Possible outdoor skating rink in Winter.
CITIES	
CITY OF MONTREAL	Work with local groups to get walking/biking trail to Montreal's west end.
CITY OF HURLEY	We want to expand the non-motorized trail to meet Cary Road Park and someday to Montreal Wisconsin. Add another trail head park with all amenities.

TOWN & MUNICIPAL INPUT ON COUNTYWIDE AND LOCAL RECREATIONAL PLANNING ISSUES

MCD	WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RECREATIONAL ISSUES FACING IRON COUNTY?	HOW SHOULD THE COUNTY RECREATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BE SATISFIED?	WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RECREATIONAL ISSUES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?	HOW SHOULD THE LOCAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BE SATISFIED?
TOWN OF MERCER	<p>Focus on improving all silent sport recreational opportunities along with improved PR and mapping</p> <p>Improved signage and mapping for outdoor recreational areas</p> <p>Funding for all trails: motorized and non-motorized</p>	<p>Grant awards, Use organizations and governmental entities to focus on improving all of the above.</p>	<p>Same as countywide</p>	<p>Again with governmental bodies and organizations working in union to address all of the above. Funding and participation are imperative.</p>
TOWN OF OMA	<p>Signage to existing trails, waterfalls, and hiking areas.</p> <p>Non-motorized winter recreation with maintained trails and available parking</p>	<p>Install better signage to existing recreation areas. Example: It is very difficult to find the trailhead at Saxon Falls. Many examples of this throughout the county. Iron County has numerous areas that can be used for quiet outdoor winter recreation. After a timber sale on county land the logging contractors build wonderful roads that could be maintained as non-motorized snowshoe trails, especially in select-cut timberlands. For minimal investment in trailhead parking areas (that are plowed in the winter), signage, and trail maps there could be miles of quiet outdoor recreation on county land.</p>	<p>The Town of Oma, being centrally located between Hurley and Mercer, does not have any identifiable recreational issues. The main concern for the community is the overall economic health of Iron County. Having a comprehensive county-wide balance between motorized and non-motorized recreational areas is key to the long term economic stability of the county.</p>	

CITY OF MONTREAL	Maintenance of existing facilities/amenities and creation of new opportunities	Work with governing bodies, community and volunteers to maintain and create recreational facilities to the best that can be done		
CITY OF HURLEY	Expand trail system, both non-motorized and motorized. Showers and restrooms at Lake of the Falls Campground. Flushable toilets and showers at Weber Lake	Apply for grant money to cover costs	Non-Motorized trail access	Apply for any type of grant available
TOWN OF SHERMAN	Communication to outlying communities far from Hurley (e.g.: Springstead has postal service out of Park Falls, a different county, so residents don't receive information about iron County activities, including the Iron County Fair.) Size of county	Provide information to the Park Falls Miner...have mailings go to residents in Springstead/Town of Sherman, which much of it is out of Park Falls post office	Ability to pay for staff to maintain trails, parks, activity areas	County funding and reimbursement for staffing of and maintenance of new recreational spots
TOWN OF KIMBALL	Speed limit for both snowmobiles and ATVs Getting routes and trails off of roads			

CLUB/ORGANIZATIONAL INPUT

WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RECREATIONAL ISSUES FACING IRON COUNTY?				
CLUB/ORG.	ISSUE 1	ISSUE 2	ISSUE 3	HOW SHOULD RECREATION ISSUES BE STAISFIED?
HURLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	An alternate trail route, for recreational vehicles, needs to be determined from Hurley to Saxon through Kimball.	Lack of funding for Silent Sports to maintain trail use in winter. (Example: cross country trails)		Meeting with the town board members in Kimball to resolve trail route issues.
IRON COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION ENTHUSIASTS (ICORE)	Lack of non-motorized trails (hiking and biking), both regional trails connecting communities and trail systems/loops.	Poor non-motorized access to water bodies (lakes, rivers, waterfalls)	Poorly maintained non-motorized trails (signage, mapping, parking, grooming, plowing)	
LOONY PADDLERS	Lack of toilets at boat landings	Difficulty of finding description of hiking trails	Lack of scenic hiking trails	<p>Portable toilets would help protect our likes and the landowners adjacent to the boat landings and rid us of unsightly toilet paper debris.</p> <p>The county could focus on the development of silent sport trails in the lake-rich southern third on public lands bordering streams and lakes. Volunteers might be recruited to help with clearing and maintaining walking trails.</p> <p>A silent sports trail map, similar to the Vilas County piece, could be developed, to include trails both on county, state and federal lands.</p>

WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RECREATIONAL ISSUES FACING IRON COUNTY?

CLUB/ORG.	ISSUE 1	ISSUE 2	ISSUE 3	HOW SHOULD RECREATION ISSUES BE STAISFIED?
MERCER DUSTY LOONS	ATV/UTV Trails-Combo Trails.	Hunting - DNR problem/wolves.	Fishing - DNR problem/Regulation takes too long.	Need to help fight the state land now used by motorized vehicles. Get active on State Laws.
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MERCER	ATV trails too narrow and bumpy.	People are not considerate on trails.	Speed limits on trails are too high.	Grade the trails every two years or less. Have someone check the trails and fix washboards. Lower speed limit especially at night. Enforce trails better. Have volunteer groups teach people about trail rules and being considerate.
WHITE THUNDER RIDERS	Shortage of funding to adequately maintain/rehab ATV trails.	Distance in/development of a long range strategic trail plan for the county.	Finding ways to promote Iron County as a year round "Destination" for recreation.	Pursue grants to leverage funds to supplement state funds and hire a consultant to assist with plan development.

CLUB/ORGANIZATIONAL RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

	DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS AT COUNTY MANAGED FACILITY OR TRAILS		NEW RECREATION FACILITIES OR TRAILS DESIRED AND FUNDING SOURCES	
CLUB/ORG.	FACILITY OR TRAIL	IMPROVEMENT NEEDED	NEW FACILITIES OR TRAILS	FUNDING SOURCES
HURLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ATV/UTV Snowmobile Trails	Improved Signage	Trails to Saxon Harbor providing better access for recreational vehicles	Grants, private funds, fundraisers, etc.
IRON COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION ENTHUSIASTS (ICORE)	Gateway Regional Trail Trails to Waterfalls ULLER	Extend from Hurley to Montreal. Signage, mapping, parking and plowing of trailheads. Improve trail maintenance, parking and grooming.	Create backcountry experiences, such as campgrounds and cabins along lakes and trails. Provide enhanced access to scenic views, provide parking, signage, maintenance and mapping. Connect Hurley and Mercer with non-motorized hiking and biking trails. Enhance non-motorized access to lakes and streams. Develop brochures for birding opportunities.	
MERCER DUSTY LOONS		Open up County Road FF for ATV/UTV use from Popko circle to Swamp Creek Rd. to make a loop to Hurley and Mercer	ATV/UTV in Mercer	Combo trails on some of our state land. Put our state land to better use by more than tree huggers. If we get to use state land we would build our own trails.
LOONY PADDLERS	Schomberg Park	Improve the snowshoe trail so that it is easier to negotiate in the non-snow season, too.	Walking/snowshoe trails along streams or lakeshores.	

		DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS AT COUNTY MANAGED FACILITY OR TRAILS		NEW RECREATION FACILITIES OR TRAILS DESIRED AND FUNDING SOURCES	
CLUB/ORG.	FACILITY OR TRAIL	IMPROVEMENT NEEDED	NEW FACILITIES OR TRAILS	FUNDING SOURCES	
WHITE THUNDER RIDERS	<p>Keep up with rehabilitation and maintenance of ATV trails as they get blown out.</p> <p>Better signage to points of interest (falls, overlooks, etc.) from snowmobile and ATV trails.</p> <p>Designate more sites/areas for dispersed camping opportunities. Especially near natural attractions.</p>	<p>Hurley to Ashland motorized trail.</p> <p>Outhouse at B-47 crash site memorial.</p>	<p>Finding ways to promote Iron County as a year round "destination" for recreation.</p>	<p>Grants, state funding, county recreation budget</p>	
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MERCER	<p>The Railroad Grade.</p> <p>Trail by Cranberry Inn.</p> <p>Trail from Mercer to Cramer Lake Rd.</p> <p>Lake of the Falls Walking Trail.</p>	<p>Grade it, add gravel, widen in spots.</p> <p>Rocky rough, riding sideways needs to be fixed.</p> <p>Roots sticking up in trail need removed.</p> <p>Has poison ivy everywhere around trail.</p>	<p>Mountain bike trails around Mercer</p>		

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Findings from the surveys of Iron County citizens, recreation users and outdoor recreation interest groups clearly show a high level of interest in outdoor recreation in Iron County, as well as the need to invest in the development, improvement and maintenance of facilities.

With finite resources available for outdoor recreation, it is critical to prioritize needs across the county. However, funding alone is not the answer. Active partnerships are also essential to meeting the outdoor recreation needs of county residents and visitors. At the core of the county's parks and recreation system are local, state and nonprofit agencies and organizations which can provide the resources and support that will be necessary to continue to grow and maintain the recreation system.

The Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan Steering Committee, with input from the county's outdoor recreation stakeholders and communities, has identified one overall goal and four supporting objectives which serve as the vision to guide the management and development of Iron County's outdoor recreation base over the next five years. The plan's goals and objectives are implemented through a series of related policies, which guide future decision-making, and specific programs and actions which identify the priorities and outcomes for the next 5-year planning cycle.

IRON COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Iron County Forestry Department (ICF) will continue maintenance of existing facilities. Iron County Forestry will increase promotion of recreation opportunities on the Iron County Forest via website, social media, Chambers, maps & brochures. ICF will also explore opportunities to promote outdoor recreation through outreach with local schools. ICF will also continue to assess the need to offer WIFI at the campgrounds as it becomes available. Funding for these activities continue to come from user fees set and assessed by the Forestry Committee annually, grant opportunities when applicable and Iron County.

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
COUNTY PARKS			
Lake of the Falls	Install drain field for Side 3 restroom/shower building.	\$20,000	County Park Budget
	Construct and install dock at boat landing on Side 1	\$5,000	Grant Funding via WDNR Conservation Aids
	Explore new water supply and add electrical service to sites for Side 2. Install parking area for boaters and day use on Side 1	Est. \$7,000	To Be Determined
	Assess the need for campground expansion and additional restroom/shower buildings, plan & build if needed.	To Be Determined	Grant funding from WDNR Recreational Boating, Stewardship, Xcel Energy or any other eligible opportunities.
Schomberg Park	Plant trees within campground	Est. \$750	To Be Determined
Weber Lake	Continue to assess the need for flush toilet/showers. Work in partnership with an organized friends or interest group for additional upgrades within the park.	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Saxon Harbor	Install floating docks and sidewalk to complete remaining south side of north basin	2016 - \$165,000	2016 Saxon Harbor Budget
	Engineer, plan and install floating docks and sidewalk throughout the remainder of north basin. Engineer, plan and construct new parking lot on north side of north basin	Est. for north side of north basin & parking lot \$500,000	WDNR Rec. Boating, Forestry/Saxon Harbor Budget
	Repair transient docking wall on east side.	To Be Determined	Seek grant funding through, USACE, Coastal Management, WDNR Recreational Boating, Conservation Aids, or Stewardship, or any other eligible opportunities. Seek matching funds contribution in cooperation with Saxon Harbor Boating Club.
	Overstory removal to open up campsites 39-43. Upgrade beach access. Continue improvements of Harbor and Campground in partnership from Saxon Harbor Boating Club.	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
Potato River Falls	Additional signage on Hwy 169 and trails within park. Tree and brush removal around viewing platforms.	Est. signing & brushing \$3,000	Unknown
	Seek and construct better viewing areas and trails where needed.	Unknown	Unknown
Waterfalls	Continue maintenance of trails and viewing areas. Increase signage in cooperation with Iron Co Development.	Unknown	Unknown
NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS			
MECCA	Continue to work in cooperation with MECCA Ski Club in maintaining the MECCA trails by assisting in grant funding opportunities.	Unknown	Grant Funding Opportunities
	Explore mountain bike trail opportunities within the trail system, assist with development and funding opportunities.	Unknown	Grant Funding Opportunities
Uller Trail	Continue to work with Penokee Rangers in maintaining the Uller Trail by providing some labor and equipment and continue to seek grant funding opportunities.	Unknown	Grant Funding Opportunities
	Assist in installing bridges over small creeks.	\$9,600	Funding already secured from WDNR-RTA funds
	Explore options for mountain bike, snowshoe and fat bike use in partnership with organized interest groups. Consider adding loops of trail so trail users can begin & end at the same point.	Unknown	Unknown
North Country Trail	Continued cooperation with the North Country Trail Association in expansion of certified portions of NCT. Assist in the development of a walking bridge over Tyler Forks at Wren Falls.	Unknown	Funding sources from North Country Trail.
Schomberg Park Snowshoe Trail	Continue maintenance. Install footbridges over drainages. Explore opportunities to utilize trails for Fat Bikes (winter use).	Unknown	Unknown

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
Hunter walking trails	Continue to maintain the Potato River Grouse Management Area in Saxon/Upson. Continue to improve and develop additional hunting opportunities in cooperation with Ruffed Grouse Society and other interest groups. These trails may also be an opportunity for winter Fat Bike and snowshoeing use.	Unknown	Unknown
Other Projects/Activities	Work with organized interest group to assess the need for mountain bike trails and fat tire bike trails (winter use). Help to plan and develop a trail system within Iron County Forest.	Unknown	Assist in seeking grant funding from WDNR and other sources
	Work with interested groups to continue expansion of Gateway Trail.	Unknown	Assist in seeking grant funding from WDNR, Coastal Management, WDOT and any other sources.
	Work with organized interest group to assess the need for horseback riding trails on County Forest. Help to plan and develop a trail system.	Unknown	Assist in seeking grant funding from WDNR and other sources.
	Promote wilderness/rustic camping on County Forest Land.	Unknown	Unknown
	Assess locations of scenic/historic sites throughout the County Forest, their accessibility, create and promote them as destinations for recreation enthusiasts.	Unknown	Unknown
	Cooperate with interest groups and Chambers on special events and races with the use of County Forest for resources and event locations.	Unknown	Unknown

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
MOTORIZED TRAILS			
ATV/UTV Trails	Continue maintenance of existing ATV trails in cooperation with the Iron County ATV Association, Mercer Dusty Loons, Mercer Sno-Goers and White Thunder Riders by providing grant administration, labor, equipment and supplies.	Unknown	Funding from WDNR ATV/UTV maintenance and development grants.
	Develop a plan and work to implement to provide improved signage throughout the system.	Unknown	Funding from WDNR ATV/UTV Maintenance grants.
	Provide trail location assistance, easement acquisition, engineering and development, construction, funding opportunities and administration of required ATV trail relocations with priority of placement on public lands where possible.	Unknown	Unknown
	Continue assessment of existing trails and bridges and assist clubs in engineering, construction, funding opportunities and administration of rehab projects needed on existing ATV trails.	Unknown	Unknown
	Assess the need and feasibility of additional ATV trails throughout the County with first priority of placement on public lands. Assist in grant opportunities through WDNR, construction and maintenance on any new trails due to expansion. Clubs will continue to seek feasible ATV trail opportunities considering economic need, soil conditions and social issues. Easements for new trails will be sought from private landowners by club members.	Unknown	Grant opportunities through WDNR, construction and maintenance on any new trails due to expansion.

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
ATV/UTV Trails	Assess the feasibility of corridor expansion to Ashland County into Mellen and Bad River and Vilas County to Lac Du Flambeau. Continue to cooperate with non-motorized groups to assess the feasibility of acquiring Canadian National railroad grade from Hurley to Mellen. Provide engineering and development where needed.	Unknown	Funding opportunities to be sought from WDNR, Coastal Management and other sources.
	Trail 15 relocation from Trail 77 to Cary Mine will be constructed in 2016.	\$27,760	Funding secured by WDNR ATV & Snowmobile grants, total cost.
	New decking and railings to be constructed on Layman's Creek Bridge (Oma)	\$8,696	Funding secured from WDNR Snowmobile & ATV Program.
	Arrowhead Bridge (Mercer)	\$12,206 on Trail 17 in 2016	Funding secured from WDNR Snowmobile & ATV Program.
	Search for a trail location on County Forest Property for ATV and Snowmobile use to get riders from the Island Lake area to Ashland County trails with minimal use of road routes in cooperation with ATV and Snowmobile Clubs.	To be determined	WDNR ATV and Snowmobile Grant Funds
Snowmobile Trails	Continue maintenance of existing snowmobile trails in cooperation with the Mercer Sno-Goers and White Thunder Riders by providing grant administration, labor, equipment and supplies.	Unknown	Funding from WDNR Snowmobile grants.
	Develop a plan and work to implement to provide improved signage throughout the trail system.	Unknown	Funding from WDNR Snowmobile Maintenance grants.
	Provide trail location, engineering, development, construction, easement acquisition and funding opportunities and administration of required Snowmobile trail relocations with priority of placement on public lands where possible.	Unknown	Unknown

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
Snowmobile Trails	Continue to assessment of trails and bridges and assist clubs in engineering, construction, funding opportunities and administration of rehab projects, including trails and bridges, needed on existing Snowmobile trails.	Unknown	Unknown
	Assess the need and feasibility of additional Snowmobile trails throughout the County with first priority of placement on public lands. Assist in grant opportunities through WDNR, construction and maintenance on any new trails due to expansion or relocation. Clubs will continue to seek feasible Snowmobile trail opportunities considering economic need and social issues. Easements for new trails will be sought from private landowners by club members.	Unknown	Assist in grant opportunities through WDNR
	Assess the feasibility of corridor expansion to Ashland County into Mellen and Bad River. Continue to cooperate with non-motorized groups to assess the feasibility of acquiring Canadian National railroad grade from Hurley to Mellen. Provide engineering and development where needed.	Unknown	Funding opportunities from WDNR, Coastal Management and other sources.
	Trail 15 relocation from Trail 77 to Cary Mine will be constructed in 2016.	\$27,760	Funding secured by WDNR ATV & Snowmobile grants
	New decking and railings to be constructed on Layman's Creek Bridge (Oma)	\$8,696	Funding secured from WDNR Snowmobile & ATV Program.
	Arrowhead Bridge (Mercer)	\$12,206 on Trail 17 in 2016	Funding secured from WDNR Snowmobile & ATV Program.
	Construction of 180' bridge over wetland on Trail 17 on NHAL property between Hwy 51 intersection and Sandy Beach.	Partial funding (\$29,000) Total project estimate \$84,000.	Partial funding received from WDNR Snowmobile grants and remaining funding will continue to be applied for through the WDNR Snowmobile program.

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
Snowmobile Trails	Search for a trail location on County Forest Property for ATV and Snowmobile use to get riders from the Island Lake area to Ashland County trails with minimal use of road routes in cooperation with ATV and Snowmobile Clubs.	To be determined	WDNR ATV and Snowmobile Grant Funds
BOAT LANDINGS			
Boat Landings	Continue to monitor, maintain and repair Iron County owned boat landings throughout the County.	Unknown	Seek funding through WDNR Recreational Boating and Conservation Aids or other sources when needed.
	Install dock at Lake of the Falls boat landing.	\$5,000	Funding secured through WDNR Conservation Aids with local match
NON-COUNTY MANAGED FACILITIES			
Non-County Managed Facilities	Economic Development and Chambers will continue water route mapping for paddlers. Promote and make materials available.	Unknown	Unknown

APPENDIX A

PLANNING PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Meeting

Forestry Conference Room, 607 3rd Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534.

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

6:00 PM

1. Call meeting to order
2. Discuss process, timeline, meeting schedule
3. Discuss outdoor recreation survey
4. Discuss community outdoor recreation plan questionnaire
5. Discuss data needs for plan update
6. Public comment
7. Adjourn

Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Meeting 2

Forestry Conference Room, 607 3rd Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534.

Wednesday, October 28th, 2015

4:00 PM

1. Call meeting to order
2. Outdoor recreation survey update. Review community and organizational questionnaires.
3. Set goals, objectives and policies for outdoor recreation.
4. Review recreational facilities and opportunities mapping.
5. Public comment
6. Adjourn

Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Meeting 3

Forestry Conference Room, 607 3rd Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534.

Wednesday, December 9th, 2015

4:00 PM

1. Call meeting to order
2. Review community and organizational questionnaires/response summaries
3. Develop outdoor recreation implementation strategies
4. Public comment
5. Adjourn



Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan - October 28, 2015

Name	Affiliation	Phone	Email Address
Kelly Klein	Iron Co. Recreation	715/561-2822	kelly@ironcountyrrecreation.com
Eric Peterson	Iron Co Forest Admin	561-2697	10Admin@ironcountyforest.org
Lynsey Erickson	Iron Co Rec Council	561-4834	LDERICKSON@ironcountyrrecreation.com
Tara Hall	Iron Co Forestry	561-2697	Tara@ironcountyrforestry.org
Lous Bergman	Iron Co Zoning	561-5414	ZoningAdmin@ironcountyrrecreation.com

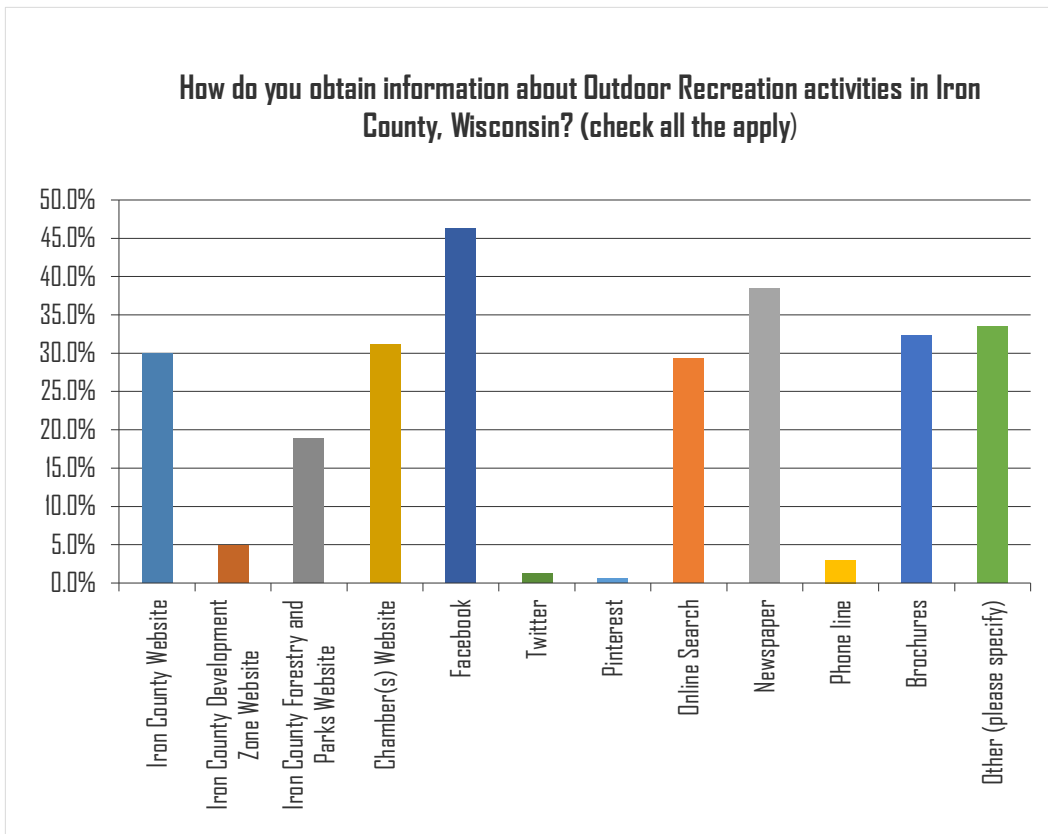
Name	Affiliation
JASON LAUMANN (CFAC)	NWAPC
LARRY ERICKSON	Ice Rec Council
Kelly Klein	Iron Co Econ Dev
Will Andersen	Iron County UW - Extension
Jara Kral	Iron County Forestry
Lous Berkey	Iron Co zoning
Terry Dakota	citizen
Pete Santini	Iron County APV

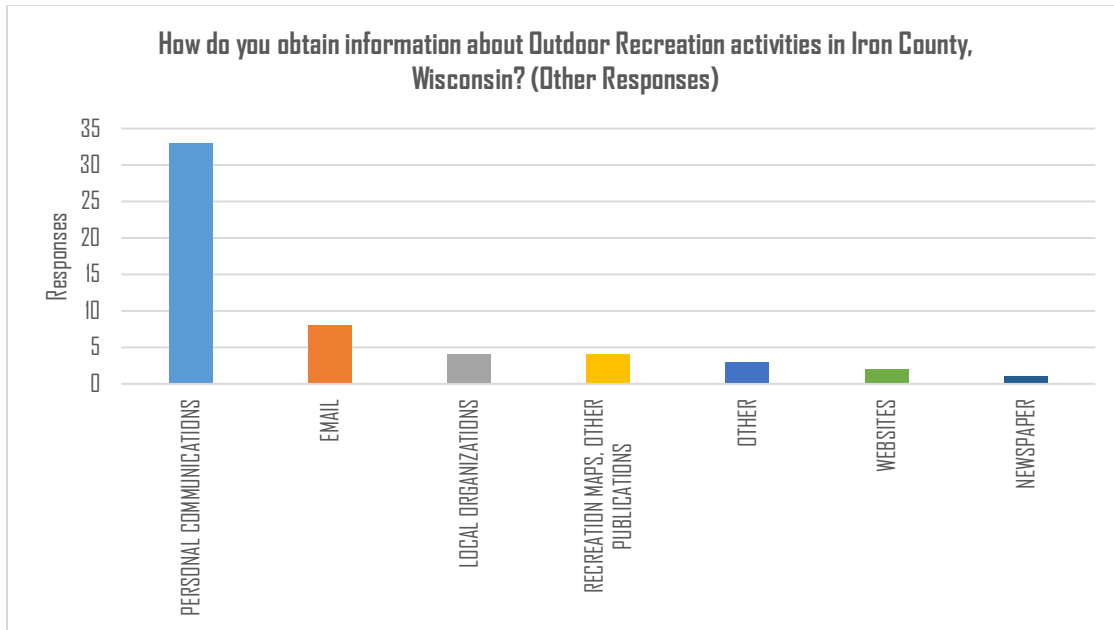
APPENDIX B

RECREATION USER SURVEY RESULTS

Q1. How do you obtain information about Outdoor Recreation activities in Iron County, Wisconsin? (check all the apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Iron County Website	29.9%	49
Iron County Development Zone Website	4.9%	8
Iron County Forestry and Parks Website	18.9%	31
Chamber(s) Website	31.1%	51
Facebook	46.3%	76
Twitter	1.2%	2
Pinterest	0.6%	1
Online Search	29.3%	48
Newspaper	38.4%	63
Phone line	3.0%	5
Brochures	32.3%	53
Other (please specify)	33.5%	55

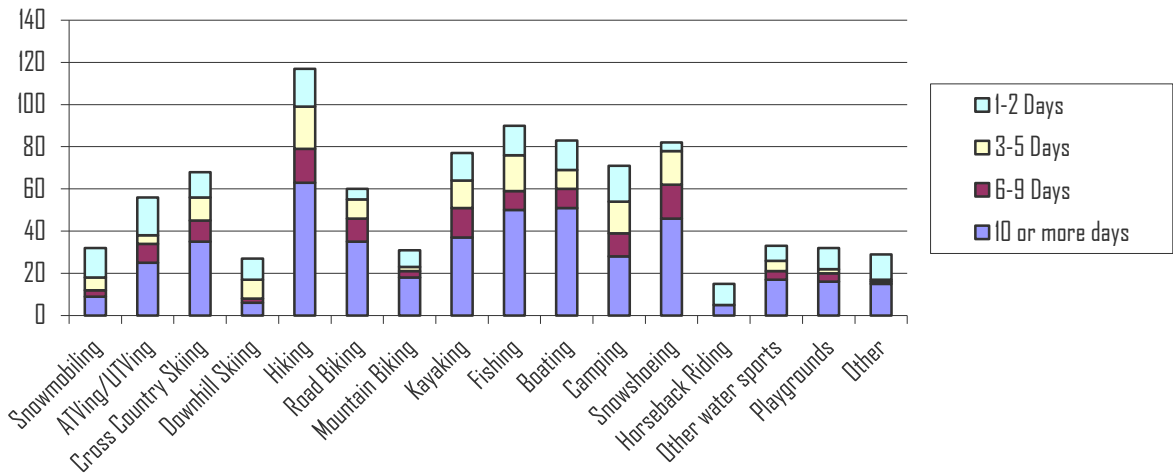




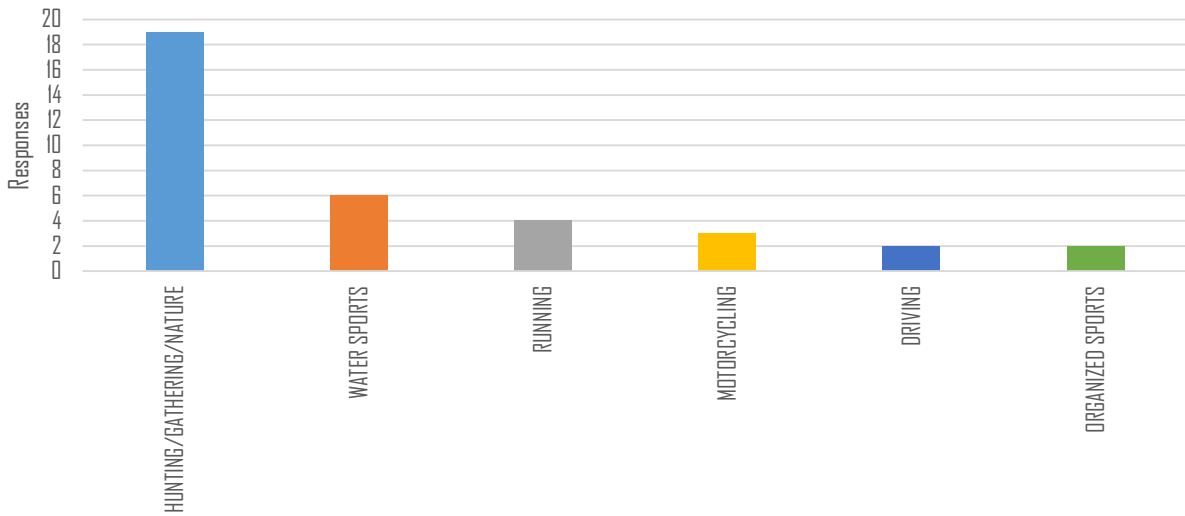
Q2. How many days have you participated in the following Outdoor Recreation activities in Iron County, Wisconsin in the past 12 months?

Answer Options	1-2 Days	3-5 Days	6-9 Days	10 or more days	Response Count
Snowmobiling	14	6	3	9	32
ATVing/UTVing	18	4	9	25	56
Cross Country Skiing	12	11	10	35	68
Downhill Skiing	10	9	2	6	27
Hiking	18	20	16	63	117
Road Biking	5	9	11	35	60
Mountain Biking	8	2	3	18	31
Kayaking	13	13	14	37	77
Fishing	14	17	9	50	90
Boating	14	9	9	51	83
Camping	17	15	11	28	71
Snowshoeing	4	16	16	46	82
Horseback Riding	10	0	0	5	15
Other water sports	7	5	4	17	33
Playgrounds	10	2	4	16	32
Other	12	1	1	15	29
Please Specify Other Activity					41

How many days have you participated in the following Outdoor Recreation activities in Iron County, Wisconsin in the past 12 months?

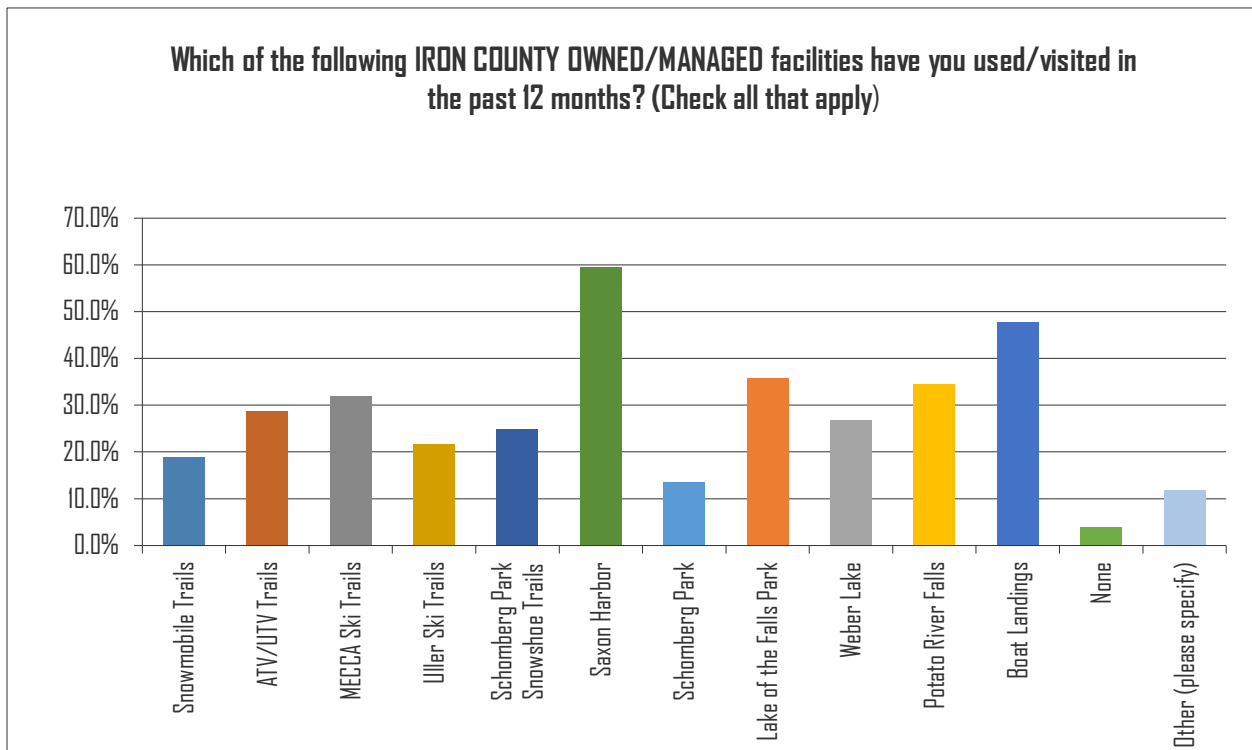


How many days have you participated in the following Outdoor Recreation activities in Iron County, Wisconsin in the past 12 months? (Other Activities Identified)



Q3. Which of the following IRON COUNTY OWNED/MANAGED facilities have you used/visited in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Snowmobile Trails	19.0%	29
ATV/UTV Trails	28.8%	44
MECCA Ski Trails	32.0%	49
Uller Ski Trails	21.6%	33
Schomberg Park Snowshoe Trails	24.8%	38
Saxon Harbor	59.5%	91
Schomberg Park	13.7%	21
Lake of the Falls Park	35.9%	55
Weber Lake	26.8%	41
Potato River Falls	34.6%	53
Boat Landings	47.7%	73
None	3.9%	6
Other (please specify)	11.8%	18

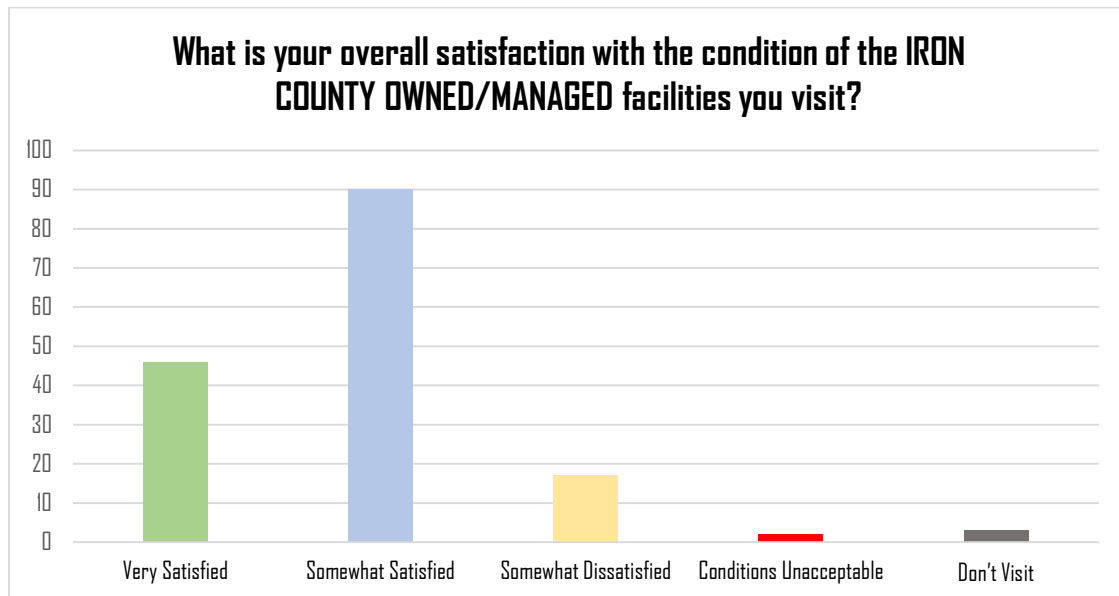


- biking county roads
- Corrigan's lookout, other waterfalls, walking on woods roads away from motorized vehicles
- County land off Moore Park Road.
- Forest land
- Gold Mine, Wren Falls

- County Forest Trails.
- Iron County Forest - hunting
- Montreal Ski Trails
- Natural settings
- Penokee hills (2)
- Rouse Falls, Tyler Forks, Foster Falls, Wren Falls, OBrien Lake
- Several other falls
- Utilized ATV trails for biking and running
- Waterfall hikes, need better facilities at falls
- Waterfall tours; Corrigan's Look-out
- Wilderness areas
- Wren Falls, Foster Falls, gold Mine, Tyler Forks, Upson Park, Corrigan's Lookout

Q4. What is your overall satisfaction with the condition of the IRON COUNTY OWNED/MANAGED facilities you visit?

Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Conditions Unacceptable	Don't Visit	Rating Average	Response Count
	46	90	17	2	3	1.90	158
Comments							22



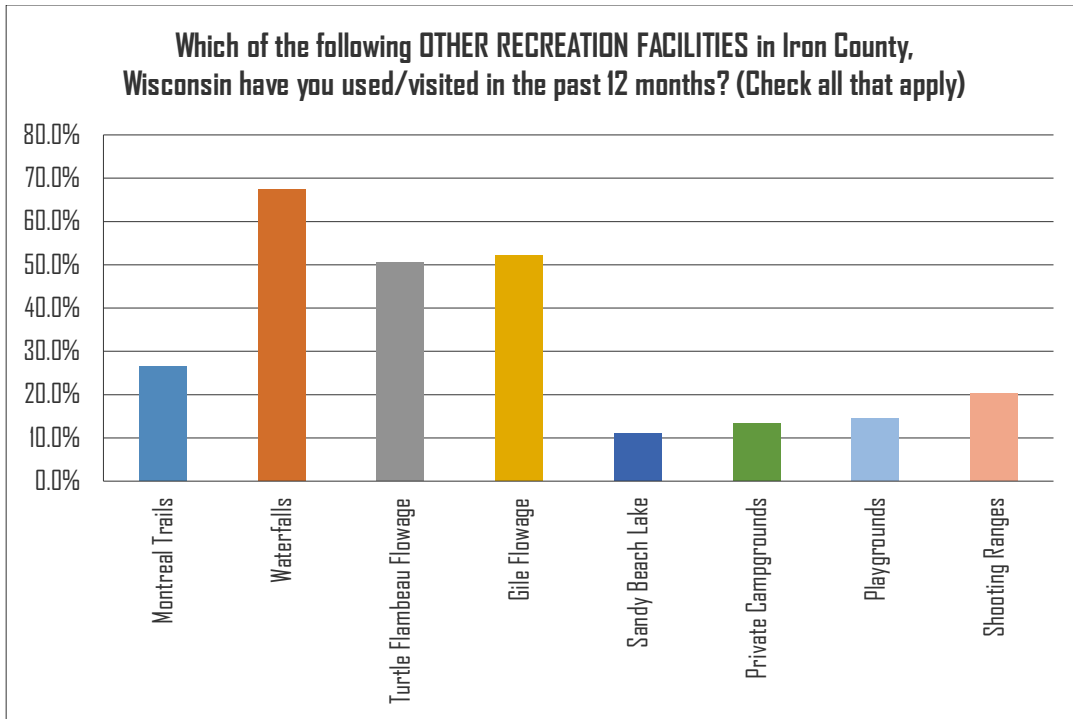
COMMENTS

- ATV's ruin the common snowmobile/ATV trails
- Beautiful natural setting. Great fishing.
- I think it would be wonderful to have more silent sports trails--i.e. for hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc.
- I ATV up there two years ago. I thought the trail system was poor. I ATV Jackson, Clark, Marinette, Forest, Florence and Landglade Counties every year. Iron County trail system is poor compared to them.
- I love the wilderness and the quiet places, the clear clean waters and lands. Tend to be out and about vs. visiting facilities so if Iron County manages by keeping the area wild, free of industry and polluters, I'll be very, very happy
- Many facilities need maintenance

- Silent sports trails could be better taken care of
- Some boat launch docks (where present) could be replaced, would be nice to have docks at more launches
- Some places not clearly marked, no info on sites at the sites
- Tend to be silent sports, family recreation with picnic, or stopping to eat in town
- The Saxon Harbor boating club is full of very friendly and helpful people I have ever met and the marina and camp grounds are number 1 in our books.
- There are many hiking trails in which ATV's have rutted them up so badly it's difficult to hike. It's really discouraging!
- Toilets at the Sportsman Boat Landing
- Too bad you trashed all the forests at the waterfalls. NO longer too inviting
- Too much focus on motorized vehicle users. If you created some shelters and even pit toilets for other users you would recognize how many visit the area and likely increase the number of visitors. Even improve some of the trails to the scenic views with walking access board walks across wet areas to Corrigan's and smaller water falls.
- Trails are too improved!
- Uller ski trails could use some work but very beautiful
- Very satisfied as long as Iron County leaves these areas as natural as possible.
- We need more options for a family to ride bikes on. Something like the trail in Ironwood that extends west through iron county (2).
- We need more toilet facilities at boat landings - Porta-potties or latrines.
- What we have is very well maintained...however we need additional facilities for parking etc. at waterfalls

Q5. Which of the following OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES in Iron County, Wisconsin have you used/visited in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Montreal Trails	26.5%	157
Waterfalls	67.4%	399
Turtle Flambeau Flowage	50.5%	299
Gile Flowage	52.2%	309
Sandy Beach Lake	11.0%	65
Private Campgrounds	13.3%	79
Playgrounds	14.4%	85
Shooting Ranges	20.3%	120



Q6. Which Iron County boat landings have you used in the past 12 months?

Answer Options

Response Count

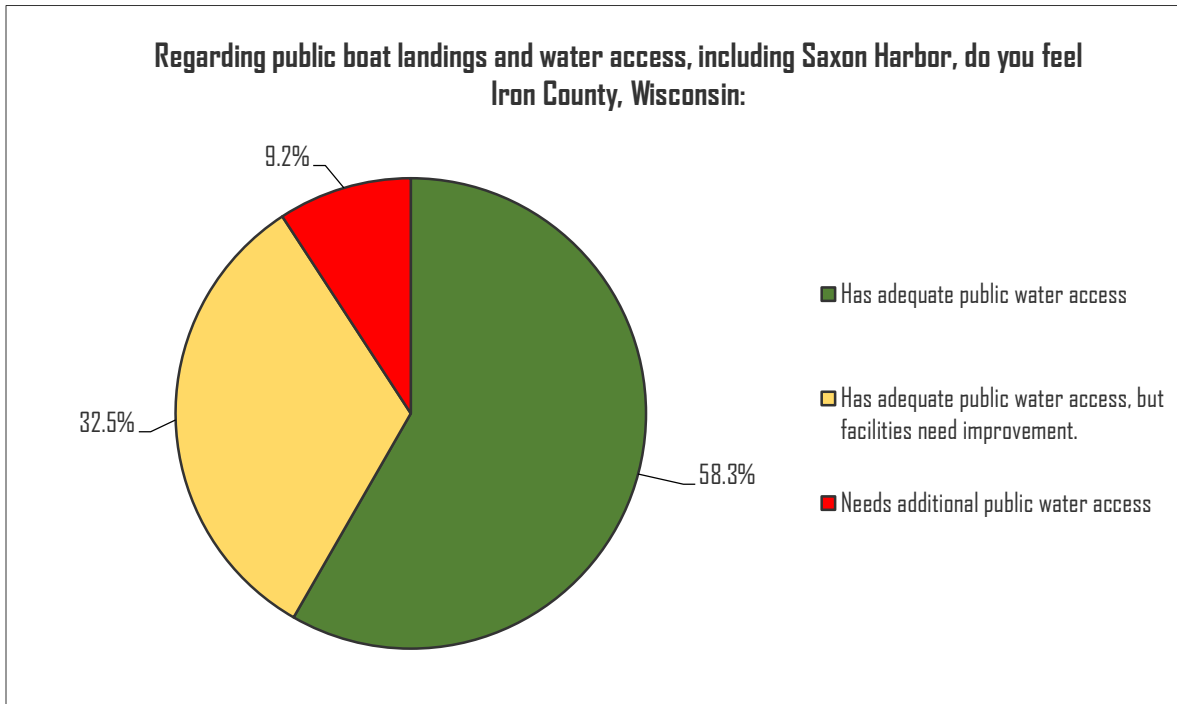
365

Turtle Flambeau Flowage	17	Long	2
Fisherman	16	Moose	2
Sportsman	14	Obadash	2
Gile Flowage	13	O'Brien,	2
Murray	10	Oma	2
Lake of the Falls	6	pence	2
Fischer	6	Pike	2
Robinson	6	PRIVATE	2
Turtle Flambeau Flowage	6	Springstead	2
CTH C	5	Spider	2
Manitowish	5	Sucker	2
Shay's	5	Upton	2
Springstead	5	Beaver	1
Bass	4	Brandt	1
Oxbo	4	Brant	1
Portage	4	Caroline	1
Saxon	4	Deer	1

Trude	4	Hewitt	1
Spring Camp	3	Pine	1
Cedar	3	Sturgeon	1
Echo	3	Lake of the Falls	1
Hole	3	Mcdermott	1
Turtle Flambeau Flowage	3	Mill	1
Mercer	3	Montreal	1
Owl	3	Pleasant	1
Pine	3	Plunkett	1
Ruggers	3	Randall	1
Sturgeon	3	Rapids	1
Turtle	3	Rice	1
Weber	3	Sandy	1
Bear	2	Sherman	1
Bearskull,	2	Spring	1
Evelyn	2	Tank	1
Island	2		

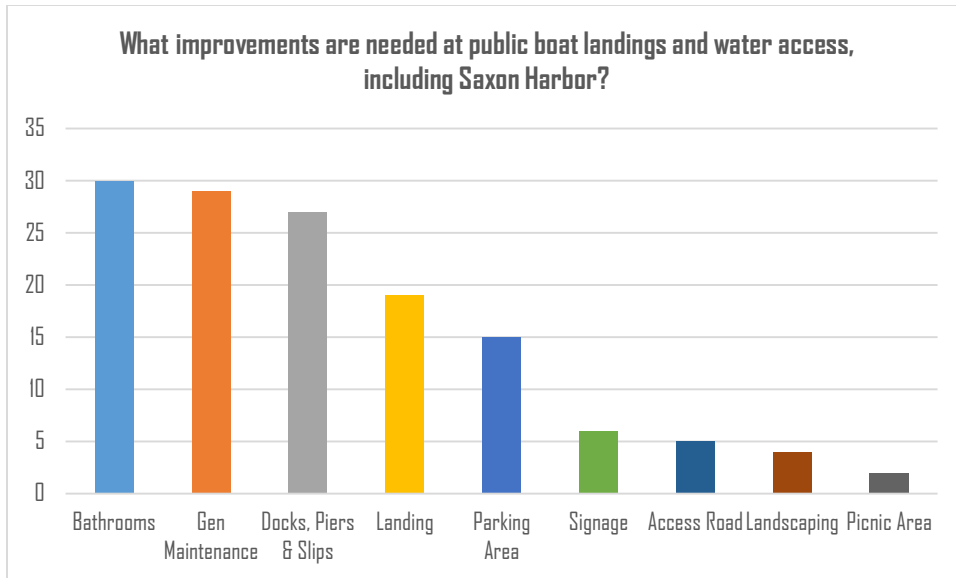
Q7. Regarding public boat landings and water access, including Saxon Harbor, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has adequate public water access	58.3%	267
Has adequate public water access, but facilities need improvement.	32.5%	149
Needs additional public water access	9.2%	42



Q8. What improvements are needed at public boat landings and water access, including Saxon Harbor?

Answer Options	Response Count
	110



Q9. Where is additional public water access needed? (please list lakes and rivers)

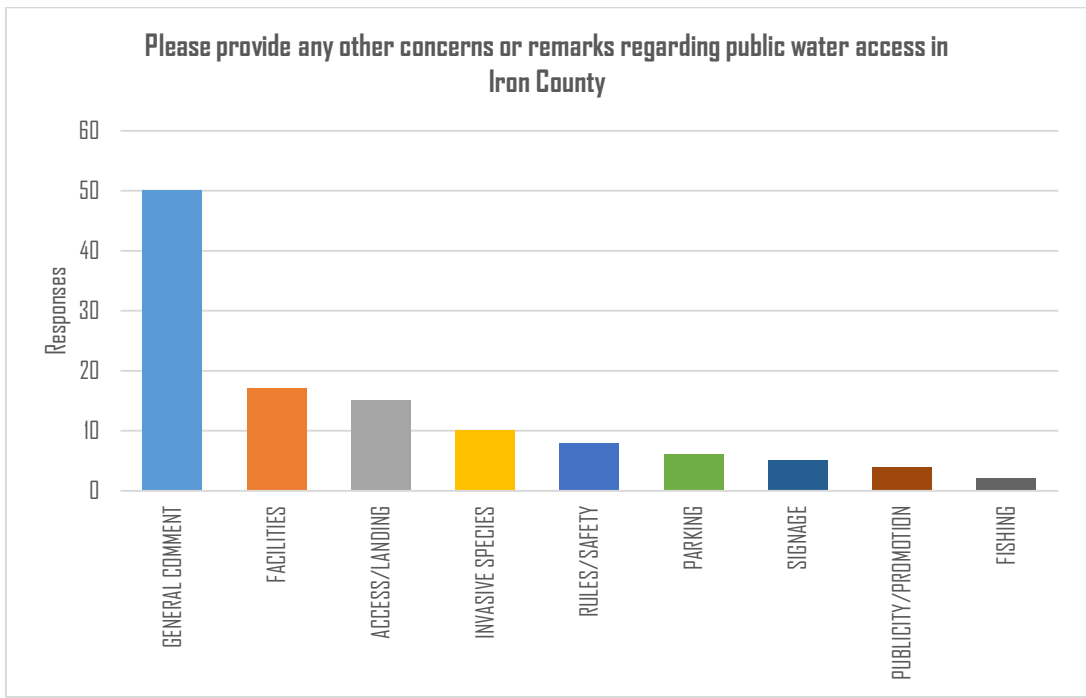
Answer Options	Response Count
	21

- Turtle Flambeau Flowage and many smaller lakes
- Saxon Harbor
- Lake of the Falls
- Rice Lake, Echo Lake
- Saxon Harbor
- Fox Lake, Pike Lake
- Boot lake, Springsteen Lake
- Sturgeon Bay
- French Lake and Boot Lake
- Gile Flowage
- Tyler's Forks
- Lake Superior

- Build canoe and kayak accesses to Iron County rivers along roadsides.
- Bad River
- Turtle Flambeau Flowage
- Island Lake. Crystal Lake.(Oma)
- Montreal River

Q10. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding public water access in Iron County.

Answer Options	Response Count
	120

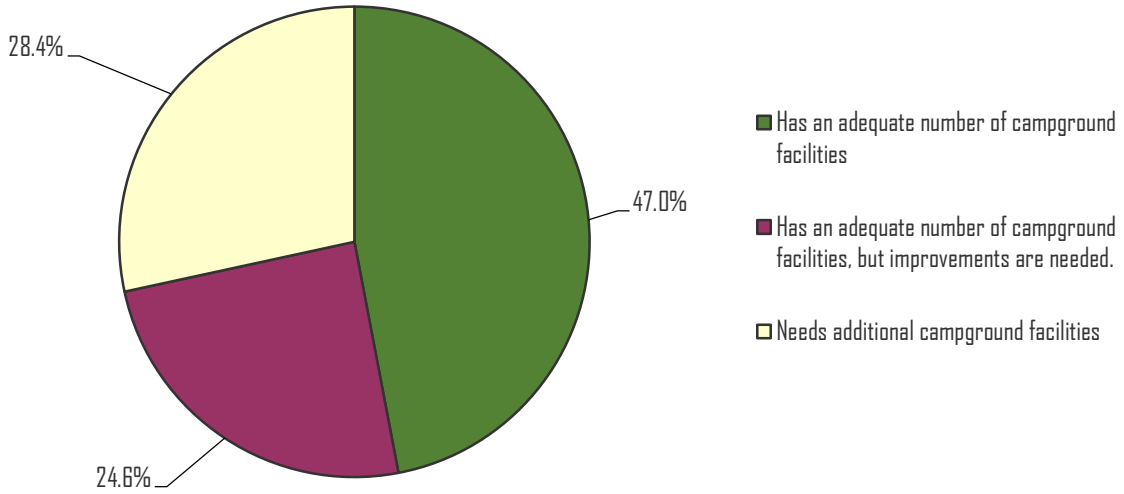


*25 location-specific comments

Q11. Regarding Iron County Campgrounds, including Saxon Harbor, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:

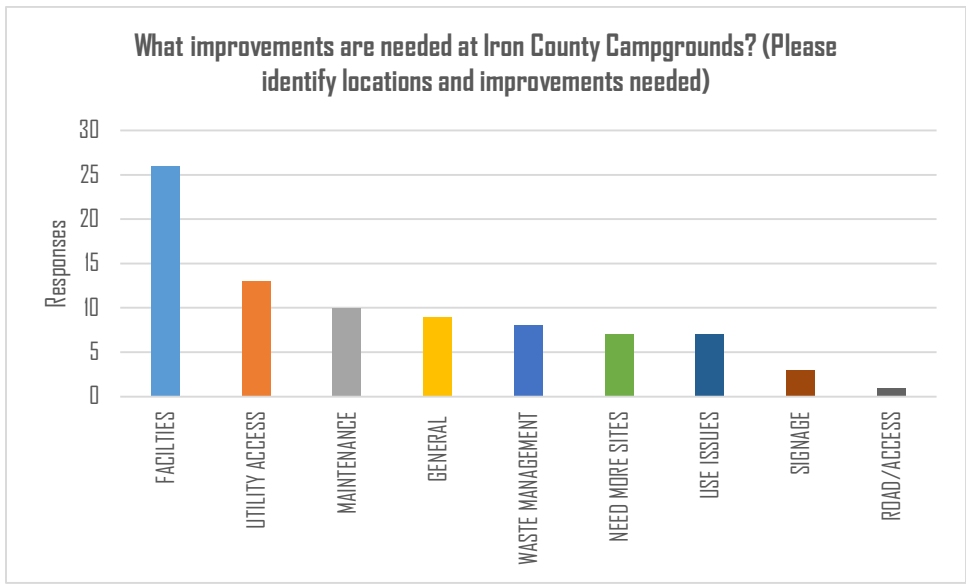
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has an adequate number of campground facilities	47.0%	218
Has an adequate number of campground facilities, but improvements are needed.	24.6%	114
Needs additional campground facilities	28.4%	132
<i>answered question</i>		464
<i>skipped question</i>		193

Regarding Iron County Campgrounds, including Saxon Harbor, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:



Q12. What improvements are needed at Iron County Campgrounds? (Please identify locations and improvements needed)

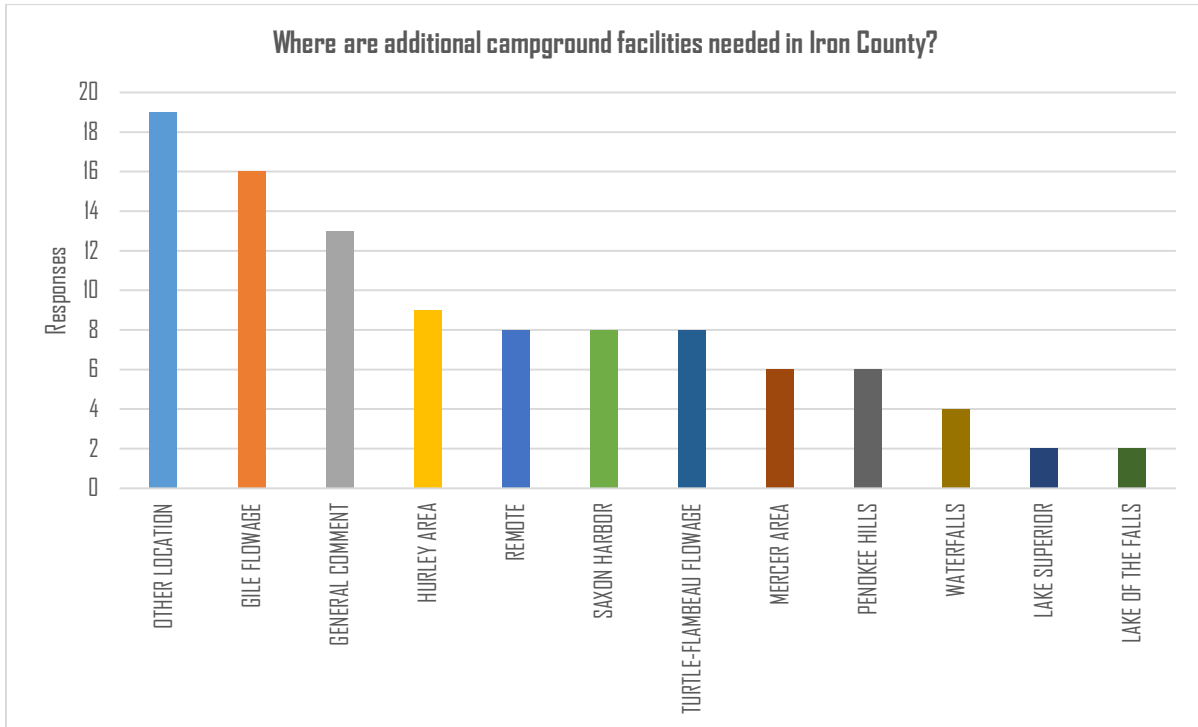
Answer Options	Response Count
	72



*23 location-specific comments

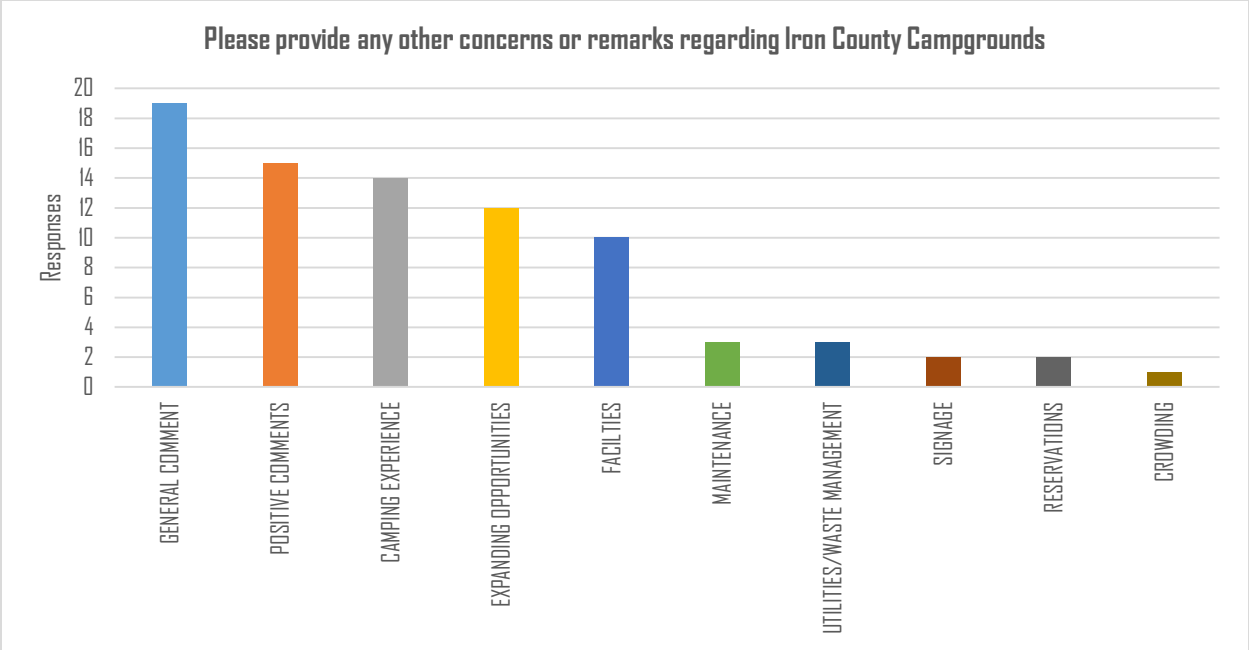
Q13. Where are additional campground facilities needed in Iron County?

Answer Options	Response Count
	90



Q14. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding Iron County Campgrounds:

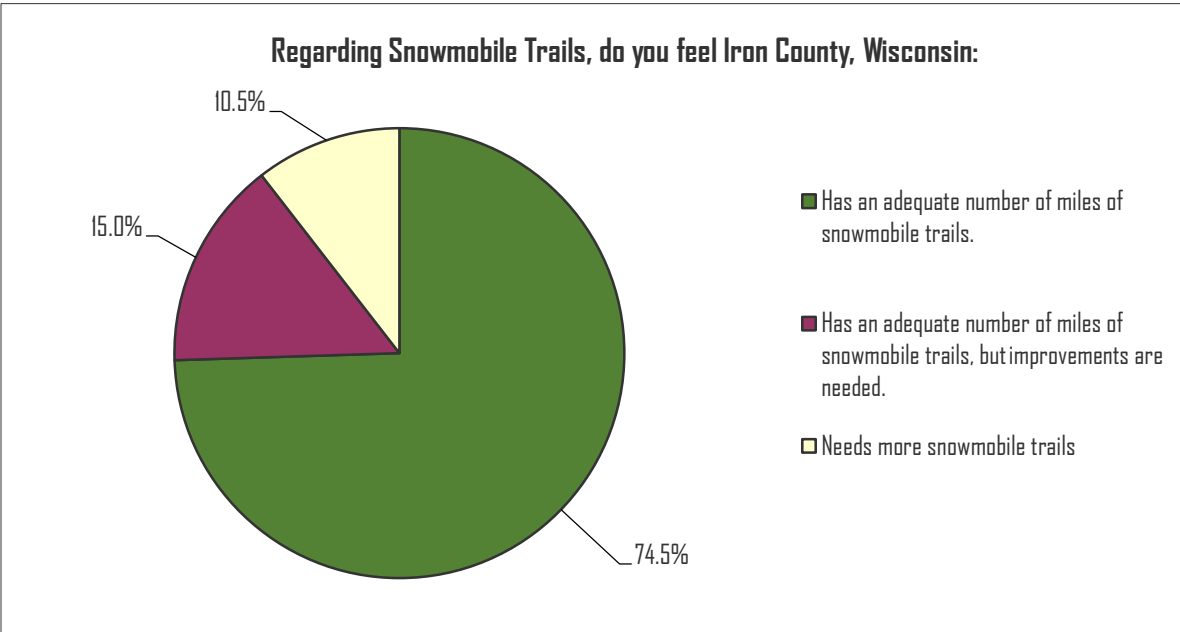
Answer Options	Response Count
	102



*24 location-specific comments

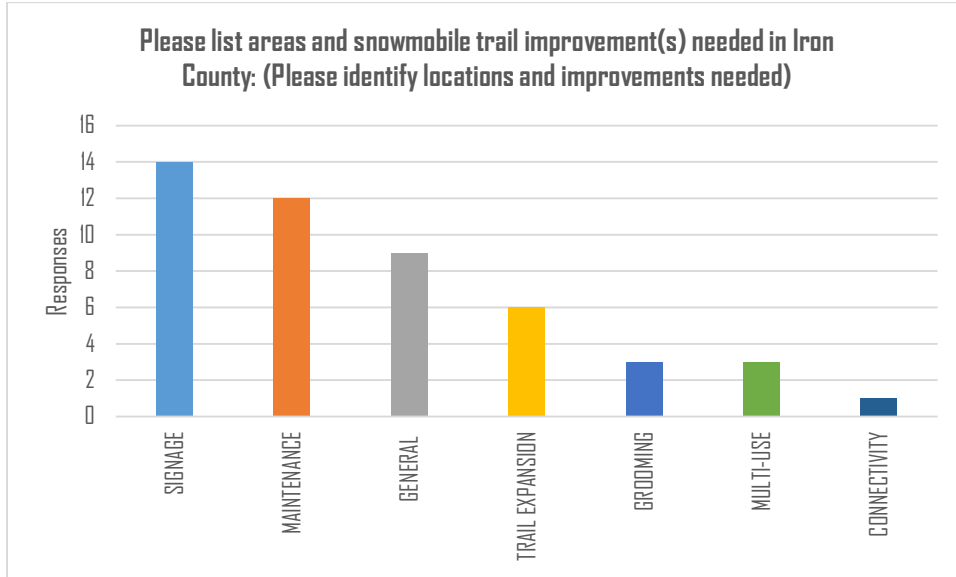
Q15. Regarding Snowmobile Trails, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has an adequate number of miles of snowmobile trails.	74.5%	363
Has an adequate number of miles of snowmobile trails, but improvements are needed.	15.0%	73
Needs more snowmobile trails	10.5%	51



Q16. Please list areas and snowmobile trail improvement(s) needed in Iron County: (Please identify locations and improvements needed)

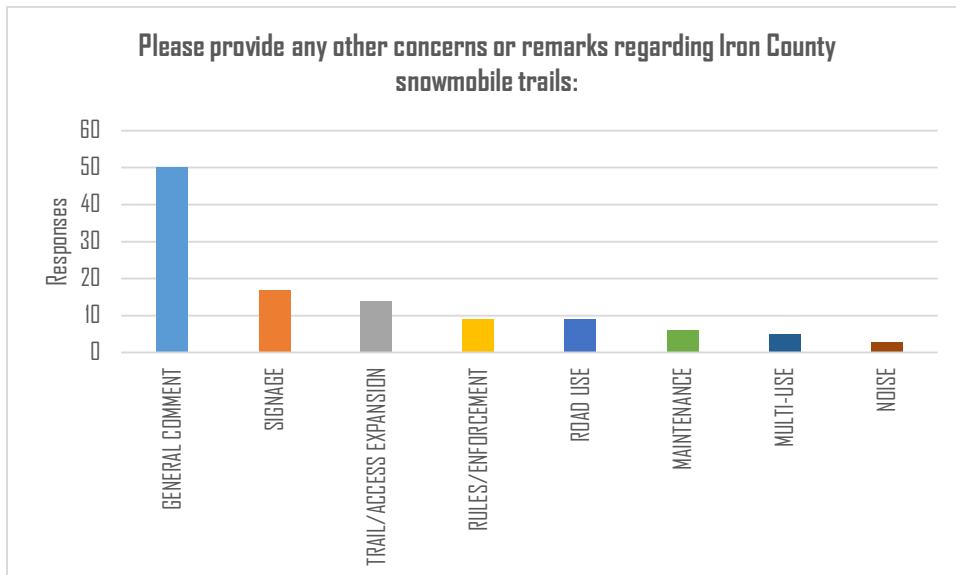
Answer Options	Response Count
	53



*14 location-specific comments

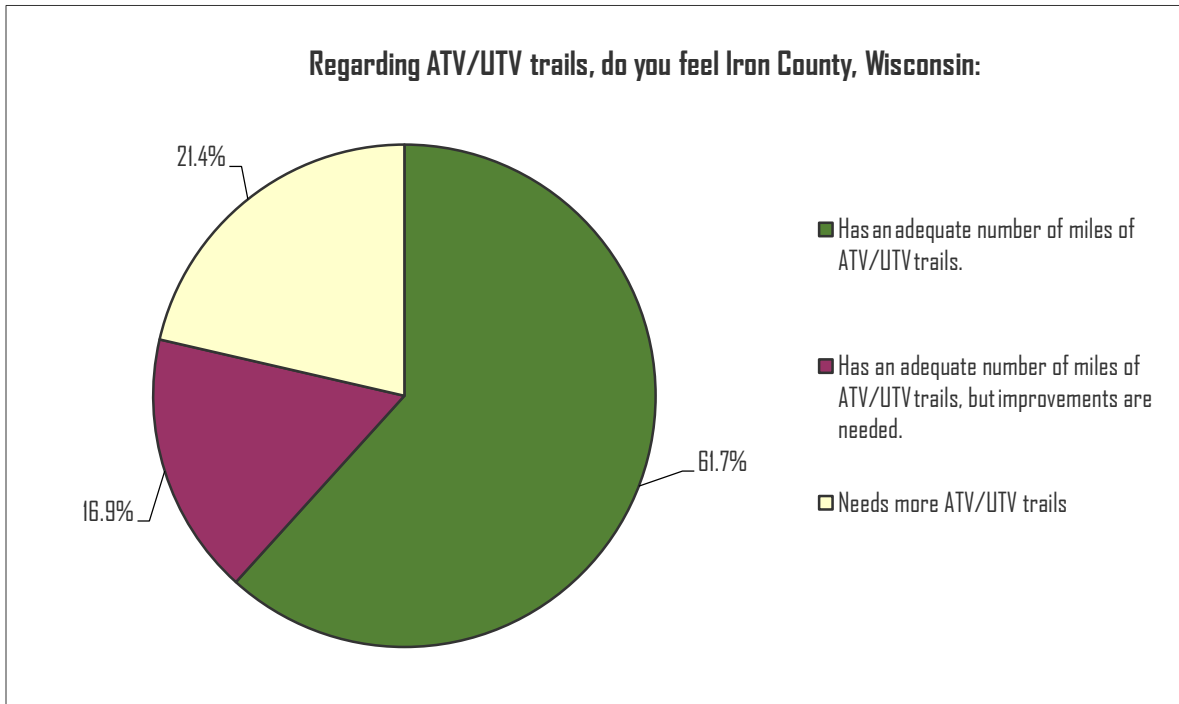
Q17. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding Iron County snowmobile trails:

Answer Options	Response Count
	130

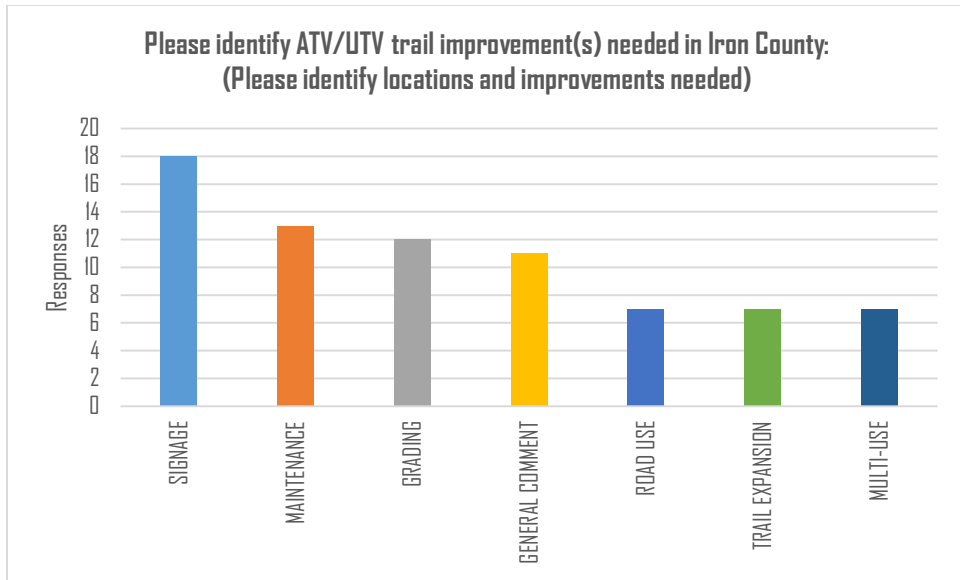


*3 location-specific comments

Q18. Regarding ATV/UTV trails, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has an adequate number of miles of ATV/UTV trails.	61.7%	303
Has an adequate number of miles of ATV/UTV trails, but improvements are needed.	16.9%	83
Needs more ATV/UTV trails	21.4%	105



Q19. Please identify ATV/UTV trail improvement(s) needed in Iron County. (Please identify locations and improvements needed)	
Answer Options	Response Count
	70



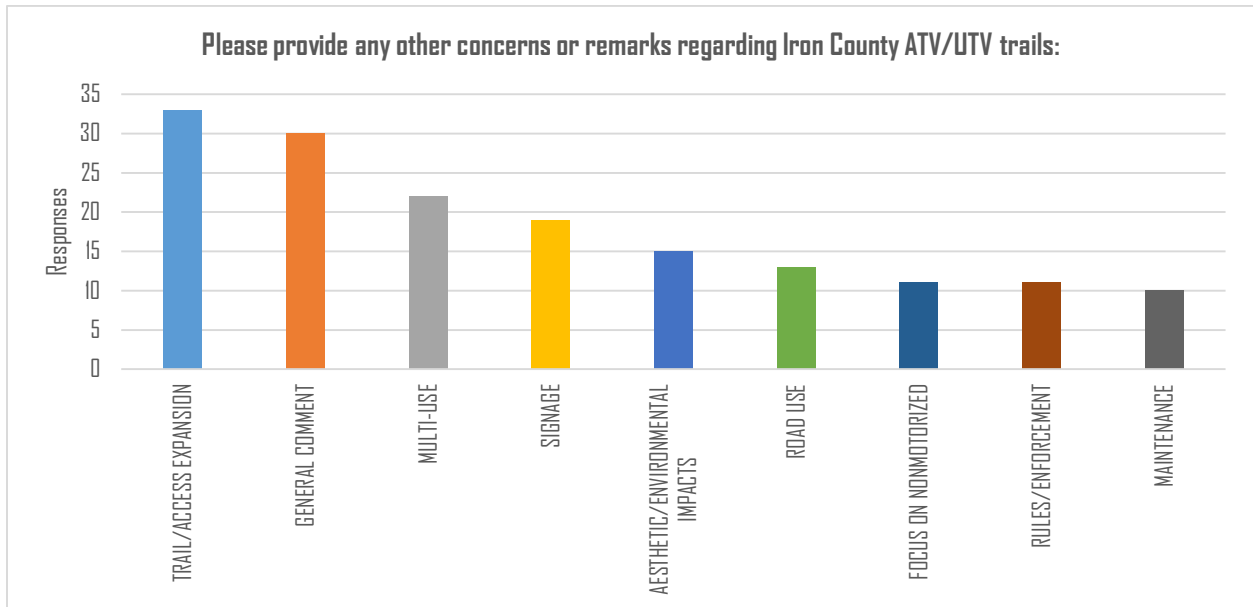
*20 location-specific comments

Q20. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding Iron County ATV/UTV trails:

Answer Options

Response Count

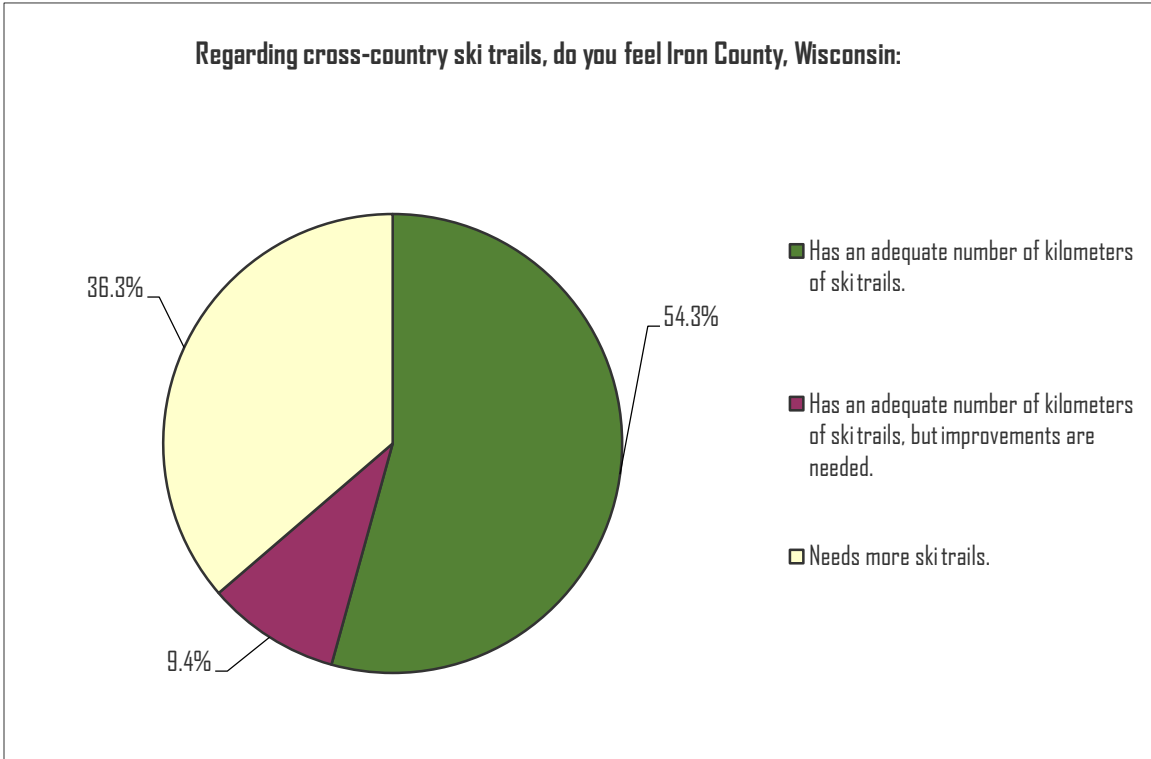
177



*14 location-specific comments

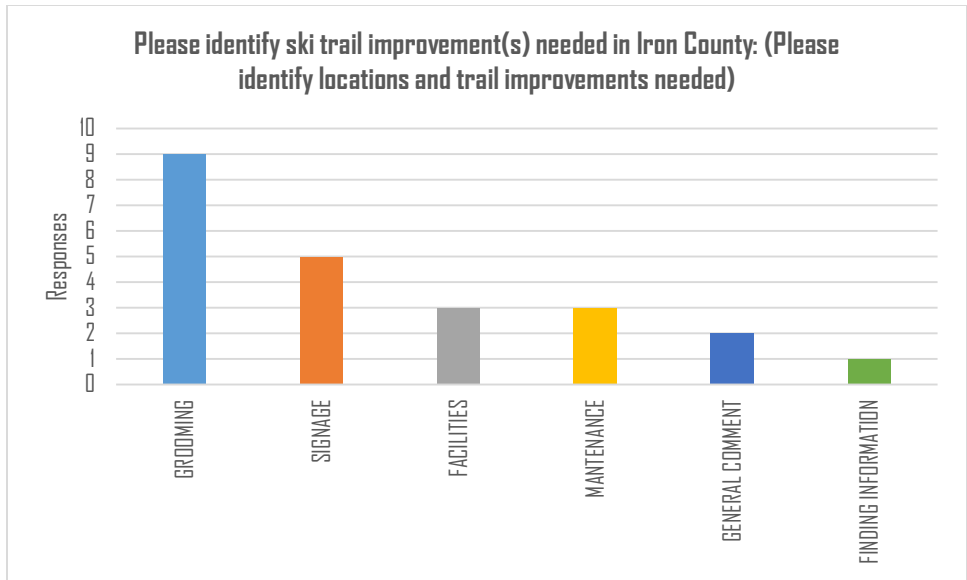
Q21. Regarding cross-country ski trails, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has an adequate number of kilometers of ski trails.	54.3%	196
Has an adequate number of kilometers of ski trails, but improvements are needed.	9.4%	34
Needs more ski trails.	36.3%	131



Q22. Please identify ski trail improvement(s) needed in Iron County: (Please identify locations and trail improvements needed)

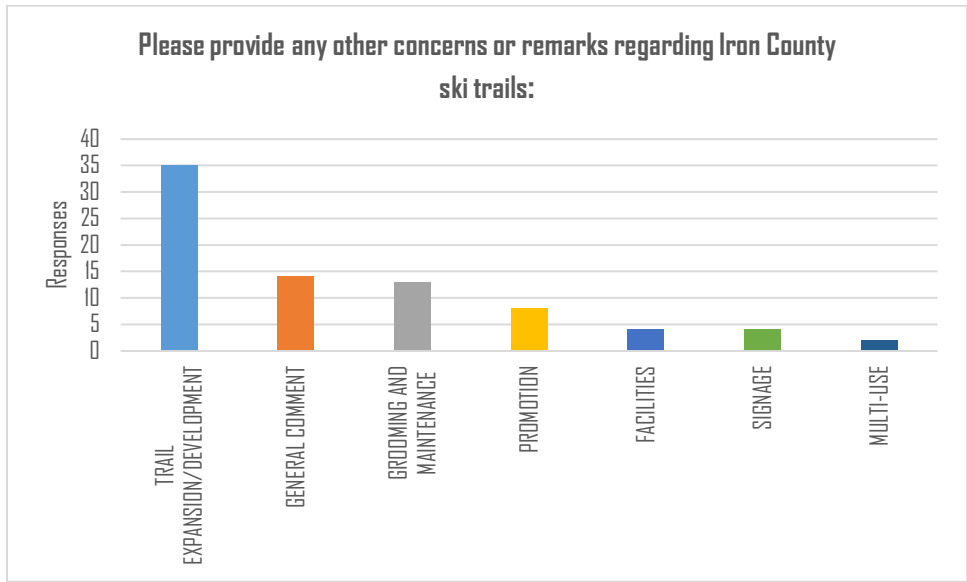
Answer Options	Response Count
	27



*8 location-specific comments

Q23. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding Iron County ski trails:

Answer Options	Response Count
	89

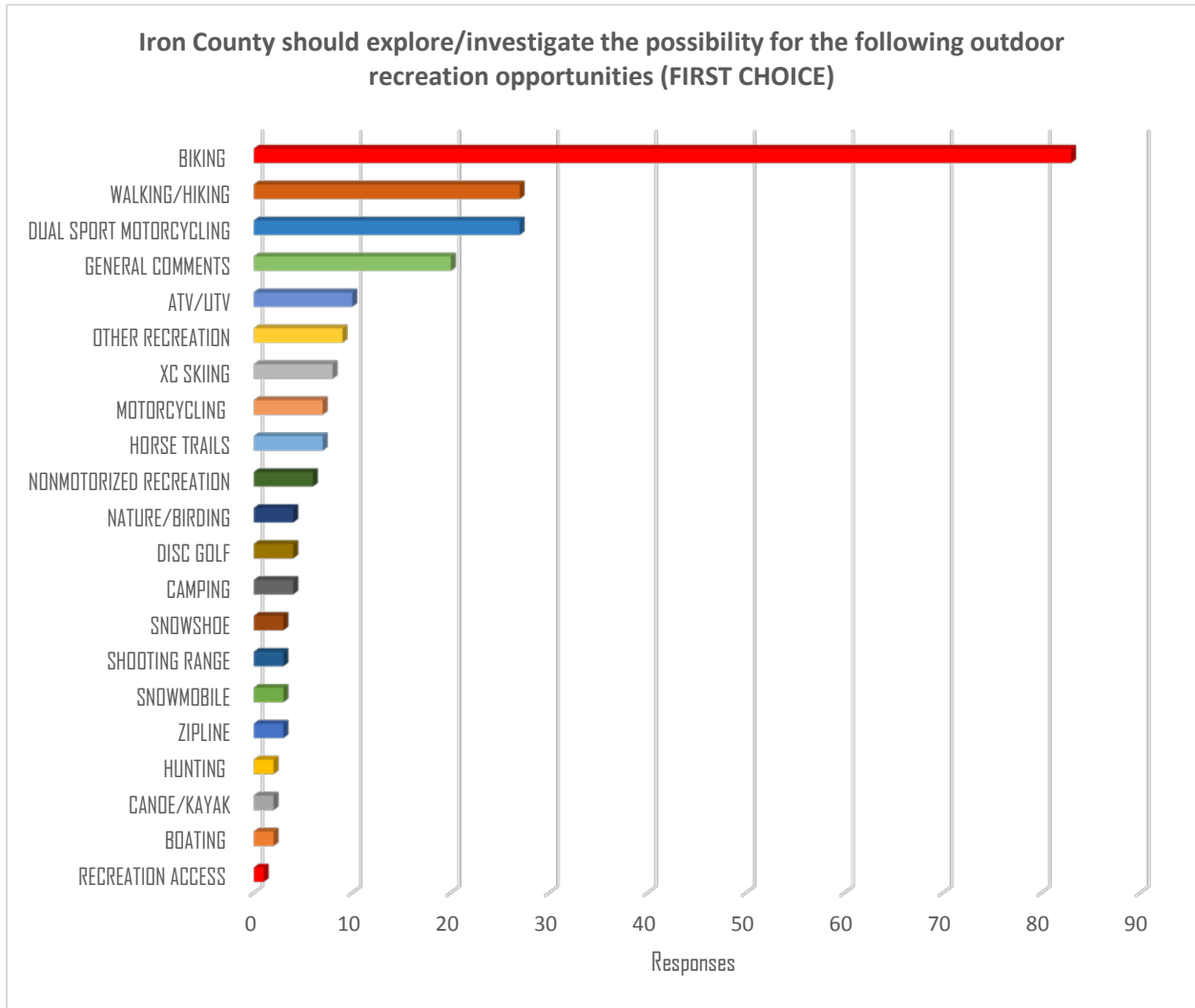


*20 location-specific comments

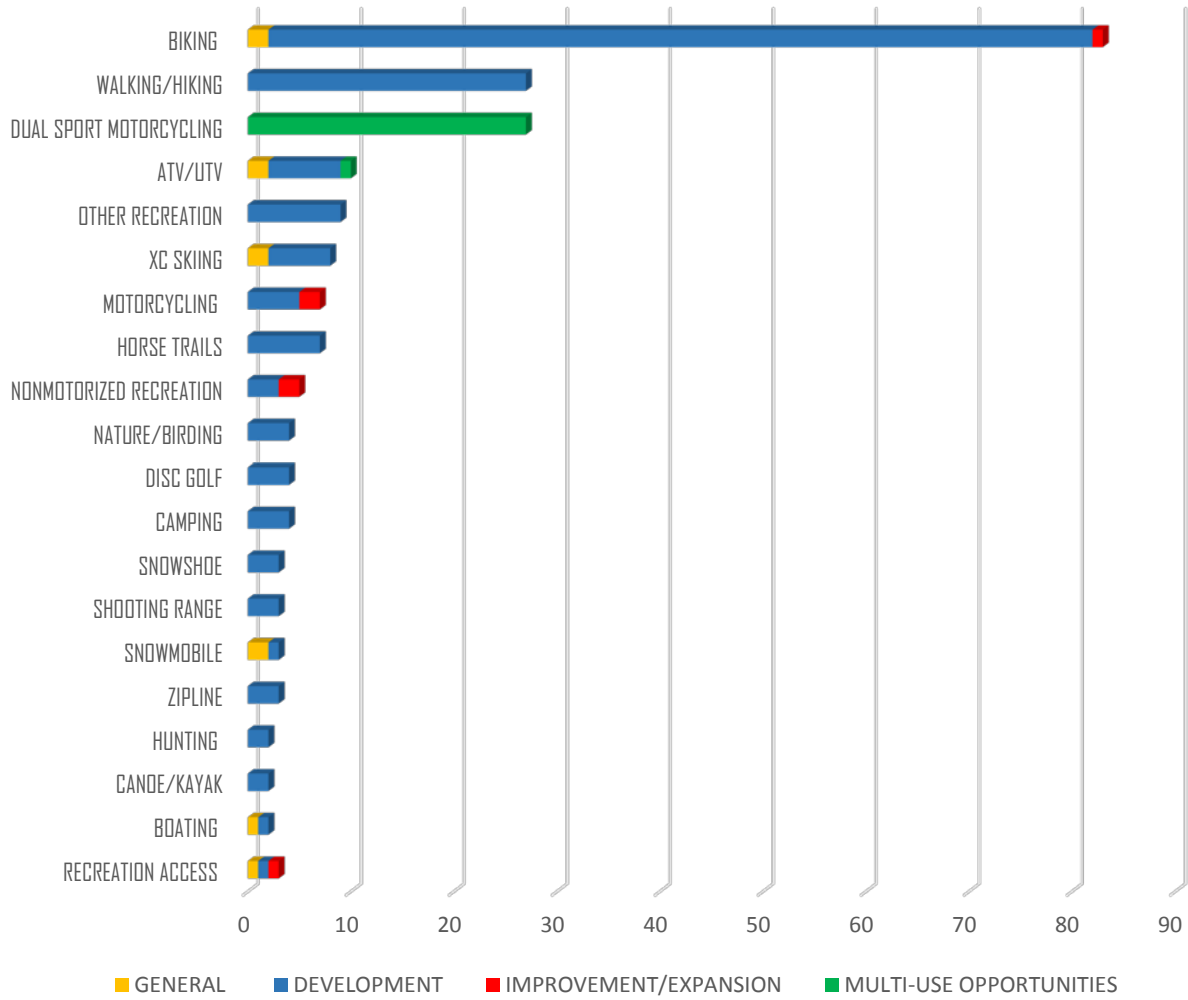
Q24. Iron County should explore/investigate the possibility for the following outdoor recreation opportunities. (please list and include location)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1.	100.0%	220
2.	53.2%	117
3.	31.8%	70
4.	16.4%	36
5.	9.1%	20

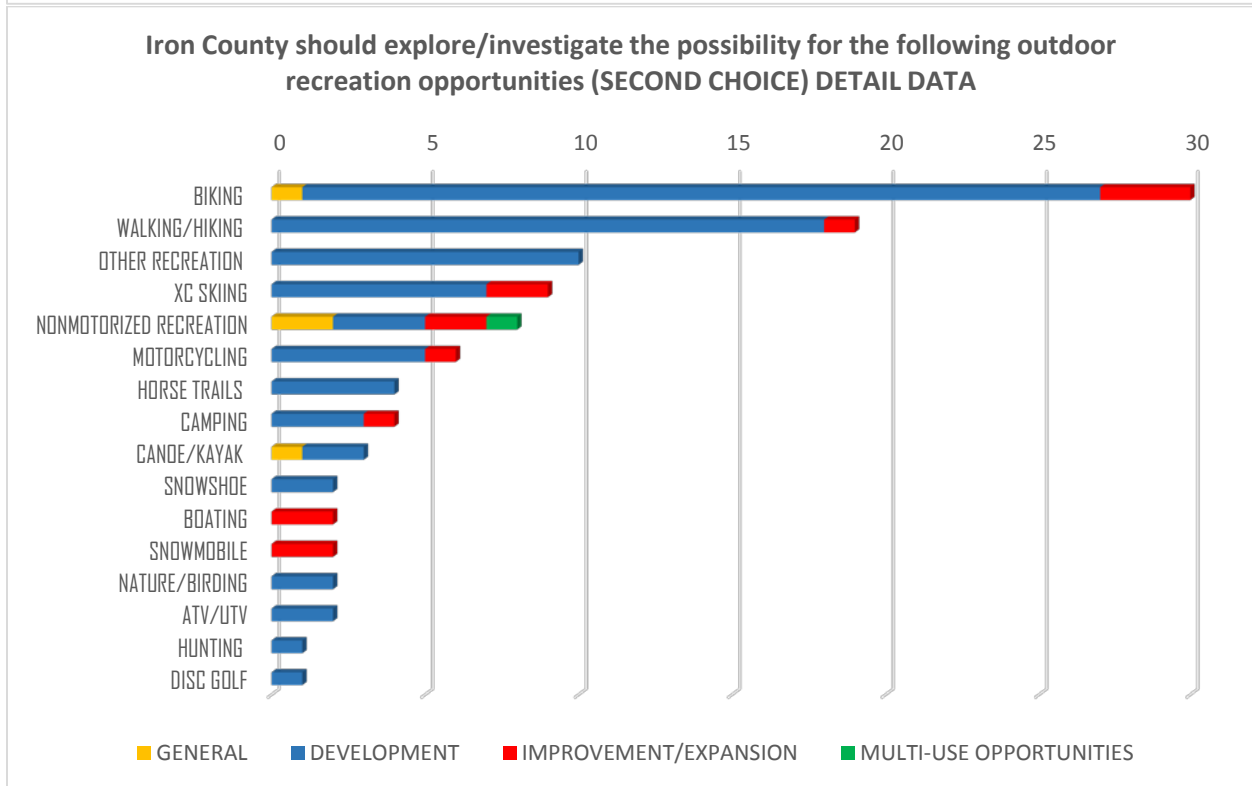
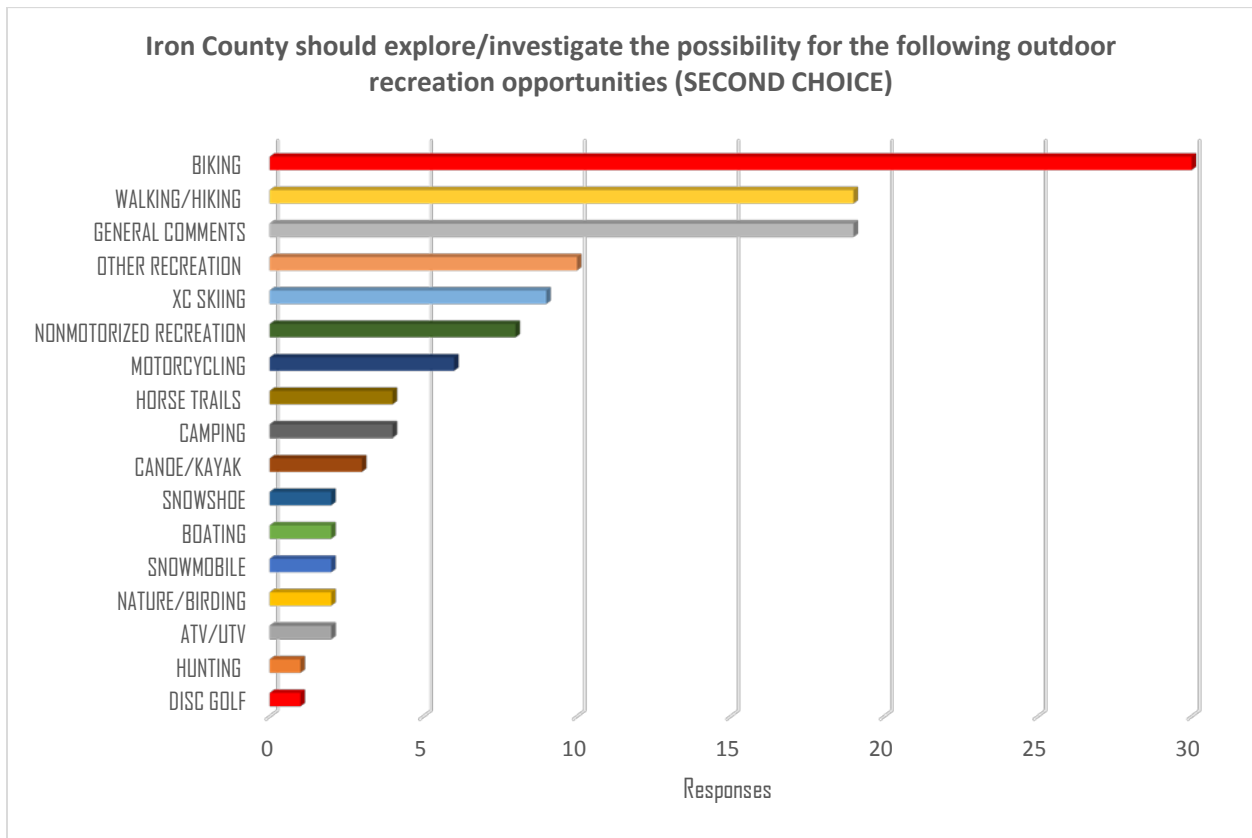
FIRST CHOICE



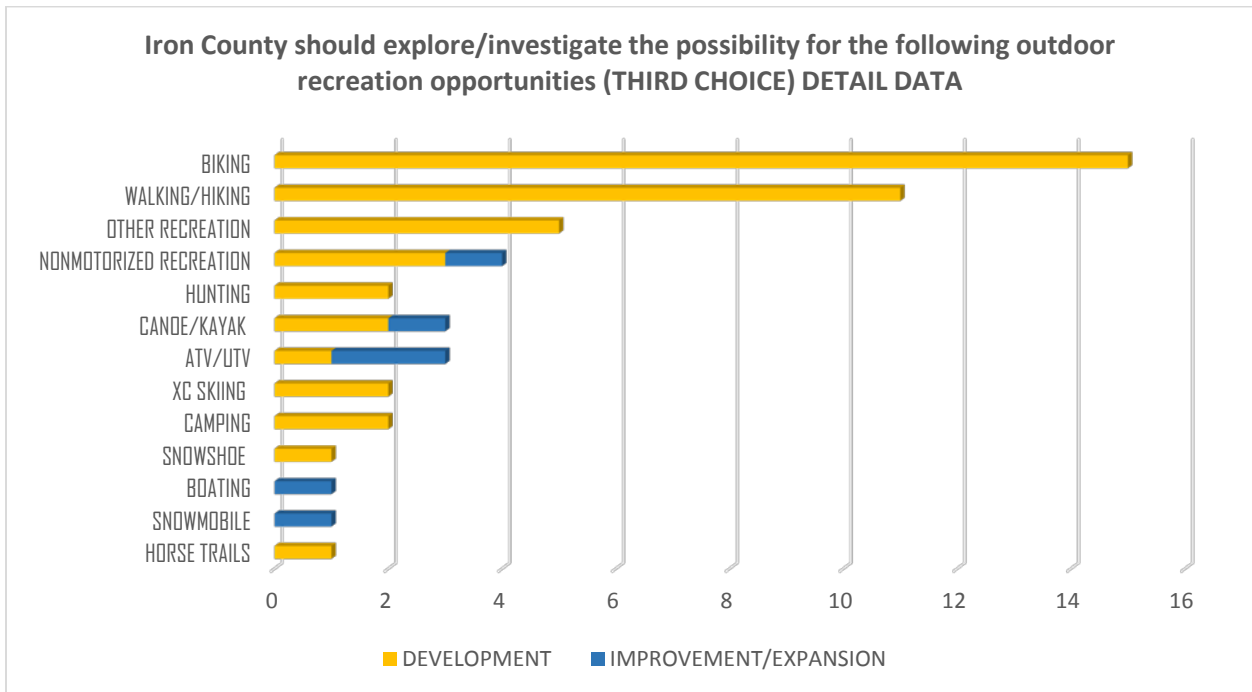
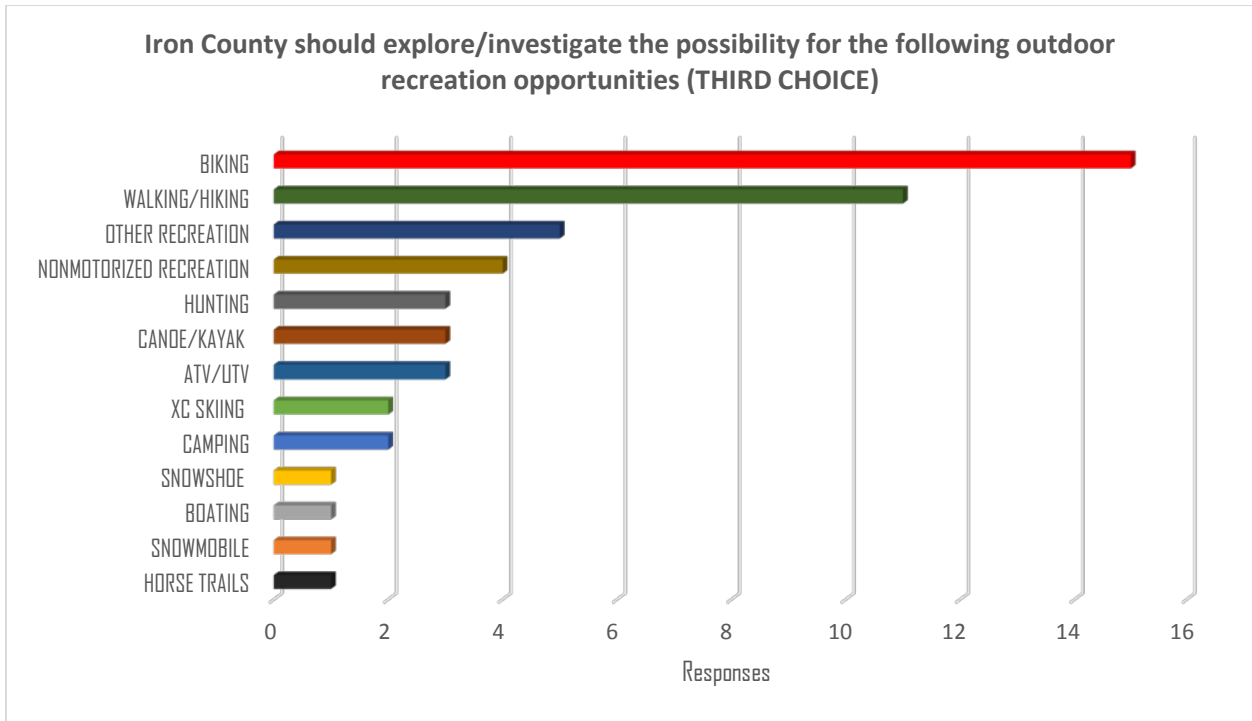
**Iron County should explore/investigate the possibility for the following outdoor recreation opportunities (FIRST CHOICE)
DETAIL DATA**



SECOND CHOICE

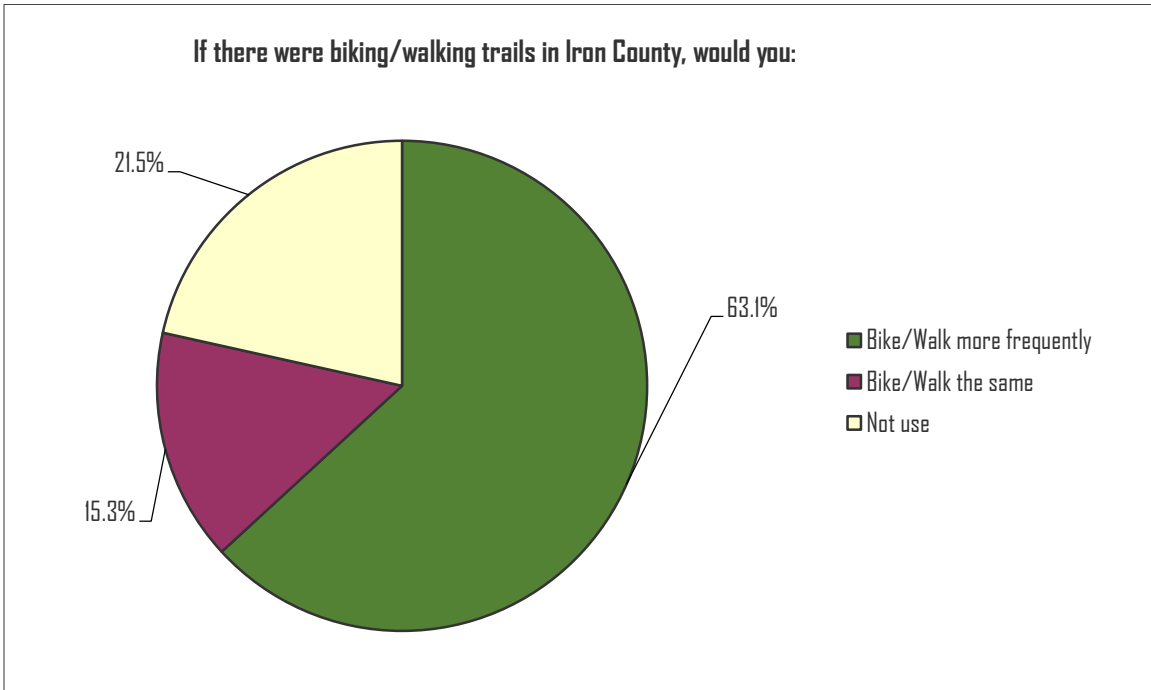


THIRD CHOICE



Q25. If there were biking/walking trails in Iron County, would you:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Bike/Walk more frequently	63.1%	317
Bike/Walk the same	15.3%	77
Not use	21.5%	108
Comments		57



Q26. Please provide any other comments to help us improve Outdoor Recreation opportunities in Iron County, Wisconsin.

Answer Options	Response Count
	127
<i>answered question</i>	127
<i>skipped question</i>	530

RAW DATA

1. Keep up the good work

2. I have been snowmobiling there for 25 and ATVing for 15. My family has been going to Hurley since my mom was a little girl. My family spends 2 weeks a year there and I spend a couple more weeks than that myself. We have dumped 10s of thousands of dollars up there over the years. We are from Neenah. So with all that mine [REDACTED] we thought about looking to spend our money someplace else. Those operating engineer signs rubbed me the wrong way. It said we live here we are not on vacation. Well fine and dandy, but my money was fine over the last 25 years [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] Also did not like seeing people not so concealed carrying in the bars. The atmosphere is not what it used to be. We have been spending more time in the UP, Ashland, and Bayfield because of it. Not so welcoming to tourists any more. I do know many local people and my mom had family that lived there until a few years ago. I am a public employee and those people know it. After all the Scott walker [REDACTED] telling everybody public employees are bad I had people up there tell how bad I was causing all their problems. So there is a motel I used to stay at when by myself that I won't go to anymore and a few bars and restaurants I stay away from. I love the area, but not so much the people anymore.

3. The county needs to work closer with the local communities, especially Mercer, as it has many different recreational opportunities to offer. There should be more cooperation between the county and towns. Maybe quarterly meetings with the county and town board and/or chamber of commerce would help?

4. Revamp the Mercer SnoGoers club.

5. As a whole Iron County is really behind on silent sports. Look at Duluth, Wausau, Marquette, Hayward, Woodruff. They are all thriving from silent sports not power sports. Iron County has the most important resource which is terrain. Use it to make more Mountain Biking trails and cross country ski trails. The payoff will come as this is what the younger generation that spends money looks for today not ATV AND SNOWMOBILE TRAILS.

6. More silent sport areas are needed that don't have to listen to ATV users

7. I am interested in helping with this planning, but Mercer is too far to drive for meetings. Thanks [REDACTED] for keeping me in the loop.

8. Tear down [REDACTED] and place a Paavo Nurmi Finish Line park. Complete with a stage for outdoor live music.

9. We have numerous trails in Iron County, we do not need to create more. I consider the people riding ATVs in summer and snowmobiles in winter on those trails more of a nuisance than a resource for the community. Please work with law enforcement to enforce the laws regarding the noise and speed violations these people commit when they ride their machines.

10. Good idea to do a survey to get ideas from people that actually recreate in the county that they live in

11. Continue public awareness of the facilities available, locations etc...I think if people aren't able to participate in outdoor activities they take pride knowing that there are opportunities available to others where they live. Happy that you are moving forward to provide continued improvements to the recreation here in Iron County. Working with Gagebic County recreation people will help coordinate interests.

12. [REDACTED] get serious about helping the deer herd to recover. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED] an excellent officer--- [REDACTED] very good at providing education and point people in the correct and safe manor. Thank you [REDACTED] for being out there on patrol!

-
14. It would also be nice to have one central location to get information about the trails and conditions, a website with updates and weather, bug conditions etc.
-
15. Advertise more, no one really knows what you all have to offer.
-
16. Better signage and access to our fabulous waterfalls
-
17. Can't people think of outdoor activities on their own without putting the burden of cost on the tax payers?
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Get real jobs in this area that pay good wages with benefits and people will create their own activities without anyone's help!!
-
18. Your snowmobile, ATV, boating and fishing clubs are great.
-
19. Get rid of the wolves. That would greatly help the outdoor experience.
-
20. There is a lot of clean water and biological diversity in Iron County and these could be attractive to a lot of people. Ideally they would be done in a way that would not destroy what attracts people. What is going to happen to Whitecap? I never heard of it before 2013, and it is a beautiful area that could be upgraded and used for retreats for groups and some snowing/ski boarding in the winter. Public transportation from the south to northern Wisconsin needs to be improved.
-
21. I think Iron County does a great job in providing Outdoor Recreation opportunities!
-
22. Need to construct NCT Bridge near Wren Falls.
-
23. Very Nice Area...Will Return again
-
24. Let's make sure we include good publicity and out-reach and make use of every opportunity to include education (EE)
-
25. Build on the great work you have done so far
-
26. Do not accept grants or other funding that places restrictions on land use such as limiting use to "silent sports"
-
27. Please have more paved biking trails because a lot of county roads are used by loggers, trucks etc. too intimidated to ride on these at the same time.
-
28. We have most of the elements to offer a wide variety of vacation options, but vacationers are on their own to find what opportunities exist here. What we're missing is "destination" vacation options. E.g., we have hundreds of miles of hunter walking trails, but most people can't find most of the trails. We have lots of public land (county, town, MFL, etc.), but again there's no simple source saying, "So you're in Mercer...here's exactly how you get to woodlands or waters that are open to the public." We have the ability to create hundreds of miles of hiking/skiing/biking trails and I believe this should be a priority. Such trails can mostly be "rustic" in nature. If they existed, they would be used. The problem is really how to get them started.
-
29. Snowmobiling and ATV numbers continually are declining. The demographic it brings detracts from the natural beauty of the area. Very small minority will trailer up to ATV. A much larger demographic will and do travel up to bike, ski, hike, kayak/canoe and explore the history of the Penokee Range. The mining history of the Montreal and Cary along with the Ottawa are sites that should be developed fully to capitalize on Heritage Tourism. The Montreal Trails are an unbelievable industrial heritage site. The Keweenaw National Historic Park should be a template for developing the Penokee/ Gogebic Range. Making Hurley a hub for non-motorized would vastly improve the quality of life for residents both young and old. 10,000 visitors a day at the Apostle Islands ice caves many who drove through Hurley, but gentleman's clubs attract how many. How about crushed limestone to the Rock Cut. Home owners do not want ATV trails anywhere near their property even if they own an ATV/snowmobile. ATV trails decrease property value while a non-motorized trail increases property values. The geology, topography and history of Iron County is totally unique and rivals anywhere in the Midwest.
-
30. Dual sport and adventure motorcycle access to ATV/UTV trails would raise my visitation to the county for recreation.
-
31. Looking forward to the trail being expanded to tie into the Michigan trail system....
-
32. Love the county. Really would love to see dual-sport motorcycle trail access.
-
33. We have the best waterfalls, lakes, and wild areas in the state. People have no clue. Even locals. Start by appreciating our area. Way too much complaining about [REDACTED] people and [REDACTED] jobs [REDACTED] Drop it and start some positive discussions going.
-

-
34. Adventure motorcycle riding is a growing activity and connecting ATV trails between counties will bring tourism without adding cost. I ride dual sport motorcycles in other counties with my family (wife and 4 daughters) all of which prefer motorcycles but some are forced to ride ATV's due to regulations. We also look for single track riding which is scarce in Wisconsin but easy to build trails with minimal maintenance. We ride year round (ice race, snowmobile) so we travel almost every weekend and spend a lot of money in each place we ride!
-
35. Develop a plan for preserving and mapping the historic Flambeau trail. Develop a usage policy for the North Country Trail. Any bridges built across major rivers should be open to multi use. Other segments should be hiking only
-
36. Whatever improvements are made, if there are not rules that can be enforced, it will be hard to keep the County in its pristine condition.
-
37. The development of dockminiums and/or keyhole lots will reduce the quality of water sports in Iron County and should not be allowed.
-
38. Adding the growing sport of off-road and/or dual sport motorcycles will greatly increase tourism.
-
39. Would really like to see more opportunities for dual sport and adventure motorcycling that involve the existing ATV trail system.
-
40. Please keep the ATV's out of the TFF area. There are plenty of other areas for ATV'ers to go. Thank you.
-
41. Pedestrian/bike links to the regional trail system in Michigan, and to Mercer.
-
42. North Country Trail has some ambitious ideas and is nationally funded we might make mention of it more at the County level, who knows what people want to see, look what happened at the ice caves. We have limited Lake Superior shoreline and may want public access to as much as possible either through federal/state/county efforts. The Whitecap/Weber Lake location could become a key for the future, example Lutsen/Gunflint Trail/Grand Marais MN. Very similar to our situation at Saxon Harbor.
-
43. Maps showing old logging trails would be nice. Haven't found a site showing these. Since this is a snow belt, promote cross country skiing and snowshoeing, not just snowmobiling. Open more trails to back country skiing and hiking.
-
44. Advertise on the [REDACTED] Radio [REDACTED]
-
45. More newer hotel lodging
-
46. Get our hunting back in shape
-
47. I think Iron County is on the right track, but need to put more support into the Silent sports since there is an increasing number of people who are opting for these kind of sports. Most people doing these types of activities are looking for an area to enjoy year round, and Iron County has the area to expand on it.
-
48. More focus on biking trails and silent sports would be a great help to Iron County.
-
49. Waterfalls: perhaps better directions and labeling key. Some are hidden gems, but should they be so difficult to find? Better descriptions of the trails would be nice, too, so varied users can decide appropriate choices. Examples: how hard & long of a walk, wheelchair accessible viewing.
-
50. Let's get ATV access throughout the county
-
51. Recreation in Iron County is great, and with a few improvements, such as those that I listed above, the recreation can be amazing and attract more tourists!
-
52. More 5k running races
-
53. Promote southern Iron County more
-
54. Impeach [REDACTED]. Why do the Vilas County lakes on the chain get to manipulate the water levels at their discretion, leaving wildlife and Iron County taxpayers too high, or too low, below the dam on the Manitowish River?
-
55. Don't try to do something that is against the better judgement for the future or Iron County...stay strong
-
56. Maintain and upkeep what we currently have
-
57. More public information like Minocqua has but smaller scale. Loved their snowman and really cheerful during winter to find a way to embrace the cold and snow!!
-
58. Snowmobile sign and distance to towns or area need to be bigger and reflect for night riding and safety.
-
59. Please read my comments I didn't keep them in any order as this survey is just a little long. Thank you again please consider my comments as productive. I enjoy using and respecting all the work that is required for the subject of this survey. Thank you.
-

-
60. Non-Motorized recreation is the way of the future, and Iron County has virtually limitless opportunities to grow in this direction. 4 season recreation could really help improve the economy, and draw people from all over to enjoy the beautiful resource we have. This sustainable tourism can be realized for generations, and its value should not be underestimated. Now is the time. Act now!
-
61. I would encourage capitalizing on the trail system now coming in from Ironwood, and continue to increase miles of trails, connecting the trail from town to town and linking trails already in existence.
-
62. I understand more and better trails increases revenue, but it also invites trouble. If people want to have paved trails in abundance they should go to Minocqua. I like the serenity of Iron County. The world is running out of darkness. Please leave Iron County the way it is!! [REDACTED]
-
63. I feel that silent sport enthusiasts should pay a fee for trail usage in all of Wisconsin.
-
64. Improve the health outcomes by promoting activities other than riding motorized vehicles from bar to bar, especially an extensive bike trail.
-
65. Connect Mercer with a paved bike path to Manotowich Waters Trails
-
66. Primarily visit during winter months for snowmobiling.
-
67. I've been coming to Iron County for 15 years and it's getting old riding the same ATV trails again and again and again. Some new connector trails between routes would be nice. Additionally, trails like 6 and 8 offer a wide range of scenery and terrain that are very picturesque. More trails like this would enhance the riding experience of Iron County. While the county may not much influence with the local business establishments, I have noticed that local restaurant and bar owners seem much less enthused about tourism than in years past, which means we don't stay as long and don't spend as much as we once did... [REDACTED] is a notable exception which is always welcoming and friendly to ATV riders.
-
68. Please keep the ease of access simple and the cost to use low because timber harvesting and taxes are what the county makes money on. Tourism is what local businesses make money on and if we make it easy and cheap for the tourists to come and stay they will be more apt to spend their dollars at these businesses.
-
69. How about something for motor bikes?
-
70. Silent sport opportunities. Too much emphasis is placed on ATV and snowmobiling. I would like to ride my bike from one end of the country to the other on safe roads and trails. Something like the Bear skin trail in Minocqua. Or the trails in Sparta that connect to each other.
-
71. Biking, Birdwatching and other silent sports are on the rise. We need paths and campgrounds to accommodate them in the future. Don't let our southern counties steal these opportunities from us.
-
72. Your new registration system should be interesting
-
73. White Thunder Riders does an awesome job. Keep maps updated - provide trail updates more frequently via Facebook and chamber web so businesses can advise customers. Update data to digital map providers as future will go electronic - future idea not critical. Monitor signage at junctions what sign refers to what? People turn signs. Extend bike and running lanes. Gile Loop?
-
74. ATV trails could be marked better. In some locations the ATV trails are not really marked. Bayfield County is a good example of well-marked trails.
-
75. I'd like to make campground reservations online.
-
76. Advertise, make your county a destination...not a glimmer.
-
77. Fix up the Plummer Mine area. It's a mess, disgrace, and dangerous. I cannot believe that it is considered an "interpretive" park.
-
78. Non motorize trails for walking and biking
-
79. Update ATV map
-
80. A few more signage or something talking about the history of Iron County, along trails.
-
81. I think there is a missed opportunity in the county and actually the entire state of Wisconsin. Look at Minnesota state and county parks for horse trails and camping. They are all over, there is nothing like it in Wisconsin and Iron County could really draw a huge number of horse campers because of the beauty of the area and the wilderness. It's what horse people want and need in the state. Could be a great draw for the county and tourism.
-
82. Better signs on ATV trails
-

83.	Limit the activities related to the "bar scene". Encourage healthy life choices. Close down the lower block strip clubs. Promote a positive image for Hurley.
84.	More non-motorized trails, including hiking, mountain biking and skiing. This would be good for local residents and also for tourism, business development and job creation.
85.	The entire county needs to be included. At the same time, all opportunities may not exist equally throughout the county. To a large degree it will be based on where the county owns land and who it fits with other local land use. Maybe the county could consider another small campground or two in the Town of Mercer (Deer Lk, Fisher Lk, Spider Lk) where they can't provide ATV trails.
86.	More lifetime aerobic sports opportunities (biking, walking, Nordic skiing). Trails needed and the labor to maintain them.
87.	I have been coming here for over 50 years. I love the quiet and the peace I have found here. Over the years this has changed and I understand that other needs for recreation have to be met, however, noise carries, ATV's can create havoc in the wetlands, public safety on the roads where ATV's can ride has become a worry, When do we say they have enough? When does my voice for quiet and wildlife count. I hope here. Thanks
88.	Iron County has an adequate amount of motorized trails. Some areas of the County are not conducive to ATV use. Sometimes you have to go to the area where your type of recreation is allowed or permitted, not always out your back door.
89.	There should be more resources spent on developing and promoting silent sport opportunities, because they are healthier for our kids and our environment. They are an often overlooked source of revenue, because participants don't "wear" their sport, ie. Helmets or dust, when they walk into a bar or restaurant.
90.	It is very sad to live in such a beautiful area and not be able to bike or walk with children without worrying about the traffic. We have so much to offer with our waterfalls and beautiful area that we should have paved trails to be able to experience this area.
91.	It's critical for county planners to think about the impacts of mountain biking and other biking in our community. Other communities around Iron County are proving the success of investment in mountain biking, and biking/walking trails that connect people to places. We need trails with a purpose. Iron County also has countless, unique outdoor assets in which could be built upon. For example, Whitecap is a gem in the rough. It has potential to be a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts and a great economic driver for our area. I encourage county leaders to think creatively and locally about developing a healthy, vibrant community for all ages.
92.	Promote us as a destination for silent sports.
93.	Change the focus from motorized to non-motorized sports
94.	Get rid of the lower block strip clubs. Have less emphasis on alcohol related events.
95.	Iron County could be a vibrant outdoor recreation area for families if it would understand and recognize the popularity of Silent Sports. This is where the future of outdoor recreation is going. Bicycling, kayaking x-country skiing, snowshoeing and paddle boarding is growing at phenomenal rates. We have already nicely accommodated those people who enjoy motor sports (ATV and snowmobiling). It is time for expanding the opportunities to include a very fast growing population who enjoy Silent Sports. Data supports the fact that the demographics for silent sports enthusiasts is above average wage earners who travel to find solitude and beauty to enjoy the outdoors. Let's attract them to Iron County! Thank you!
96.	Keep the CAFO's and Iron mines OUT. Put moratoriums on BOTH until you can come up with a plan to make it so damn miserable for them to operate that they go away. Tax them. Make them clean the pollutants from the water they use...ie discharging only CLEAN TREATED WATER anywhere in Iron County with a full scale water treatment plant...just like the cities in the area have to. Regulate them to death. They are not needed. Tourism is a major industry. It must be protected as must all waters that flow into Lake Superior.
97.	Natural settings are more preferable to developed sites
98.	Help preserve the Penokee Hills in their current undisturbed by mining and other extraction industries practices.
99.	Iron County is a gateway to connecting recreational opportunities with other counties and the UP of MI. Providing these "links", will bring tourists to our area which will help economically. This area has so much natural beauty that could be tapped into to make coming here more desirable.
100.	Keep it wild and rugged. Pristine wilderness areas are the best thing you have.

-
101. When deciding on trails please keep in mind the welfare of our shorelines, wetlands, wildlife, and water.
-
102. We have such a large county for more expansion for recreation, I think with more effort we all can contribute ideas to increase activities and income for the area residents. The cost and risk of a Mine and Hog factory is much too high, let's keep the area as beautiful, pristine and welcoming as it has always been. As I have always said clean air and water starts HERE!
-
103. You need to start thinking about the impact of activities on the environment more. It is also necessary to fund enforcement of regulations, not just implementing a regulation. This means having more police presence!
-
104. I'd like to see a comprehensive guide to the silent sports activities in Iron County including accurate maps and signage. Also, continue to explore any and all opportunities to expand silent sports in Iron County. Boulder Junction is a perfect example of the economic advantages of bike trails and silent sports activities in a community or region. This is an exciting time for Iron County to take its place as an outdoor recreation haven for the Midwest. The county has great potential for becoming a silent sports mecca, and since silent sports are on the rise, we have a golden opportunity to take advantage of the social climate and our beautiful natural resources.
-
105. Keep it natural
-
106. Rare beauty and wildlife there, but we have had some bad experiences with people running their dogs while we are camping with ours, and with [REDACTED] partying. If you invested in oversight, people will come. Winter misleading availability would be a big deal too.
-
107. Trails to waterfalls, skiing and hiking trails need to be protected from destruction by logging.
-
108. Iron County needs more handicapped accessible camping, fishing piers, etc.
-
109. We bike, and always go into Vilas County, because nothing is here
-
110. We have a very active community and having more outdoor activities such as paved trails will allow people of this community to be more active and healthy. This will also increase tourism and bring money into our area.
-
111. Use Facebook to even let locals know of what we have or what is in the works. Look how successful and popular the Ironwood paved trail is.
-
112. Please do not allow open pit mines in Iron County it will ruin the beauty of the country side.
-
113. Silent sports are really making a comeback and if people have trails to use they will use them. A great example would be the walking trail in Ironwood. It continually has people on it steady running, walking, and biking. If it's there people will use it. We could even use more marked snowshoe trails it's a cheap thing to do and when the trail is marked like Schoenberg Park, it gets a lot of traffic in the winter. Also another great asset would be to have mountain bike trails. The ones in Michigan get used all the time and people from our area go over there to use there's because we don't have marked trails. Please start grooming the rest of the cross country ski trails in Montreal that are marked on the map.
-
114. Keep up the good work, keep the momentum rolling!
-
115. Unfortunately, the deer population has been decimated by a perfect storm of wolves, bears, cougars and [REDACTED] too many permits a few years ago. I have stopped hunting in Wisconsin and have bought a piece of land in Illinois, which is where I now hunt. My neighbor had been coming up for many years to hunt in Iron County, but he also purchased a piece of land in Illinois and will not be coming up here to deer hunt in the future. Most of my neighbors who hunt are very frustrated with the current situation. I am concerned that the decline in hunting opportunities will lead to a decline in the employment and lifestyle opportunities in Iron County. It is important that Iron County find ways to expand and diversify its recreational opportunities to help put its economy on a sustainable and growing footing. The loss of the mine and some other businesses in the county make it imperative that we focus on doing whatever is necessary to enhance recreational tourism.
-
116. Why has there been so much logging around the falls? Seems like we should keep these areas in older forests, which better protect water quality and are generally more attractive to visitors.
-
117. Silent sports are very popular in the county and across the country. Need to promote and provide more trails.
-
118. I am involved with the North Country Trail and was recently involved with building a new backpacking campsite near the Gold Mine. I believe the NCT in Iron County has a great potential to become one of the best backpacking corridors in the Midwest. I have hiked the whole Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin and most of the Superior Hiking Trail in Minnesota. The SHT is a very popular backpacking trail. There is no reason Iron County cannot be like that. The NCT already goes from Wren Falls
-

to Upson Lake. From there it is planned to go north past Foster Falls, Potato Falls and eventually Superior Falls. Plus, to the west it will connect from Wren Falls to Copper Falls State Park. When completed it will be the premiere hiking trail section in Wisconsin. Backpacking campsites are inexpensive to build and attracts people who are real outdoor enthusiasts. Right now, only Newport State Park is the only place in Wisconsin that is well known for backpacking campsites. I just checked their website. They have 13 backpacking campsites and they are 90% reserved for the next two weeks, including completely filled on the weekends.

119. Iron County would benefit from an expansion of their mindset as a motorized recreation area.

120. Outdoor recreation is what we are all about, an incredibly important aspect of our community which will help grow our economy. More events promoting these sports would help--gravel road bike races, kayak events, etc.

121. We have perhaps the most diverse landscapes in the Northwoods, from inland lakes and rivers to Lake Superior and the Penokees. We should work to promote this diversity and the wild country experiences folks can have. Imagine any other county where you could come for a week and see such a variety, from fishing the TFF to hiking the North Country Trail and visiting waterfalls, to Lake Superior's shores at Saxon Harbor. Not to mention paddling the Manitowish River, visiting very remote lakes like Moose Lake, paddling the Flambeau below the TFF Dam.

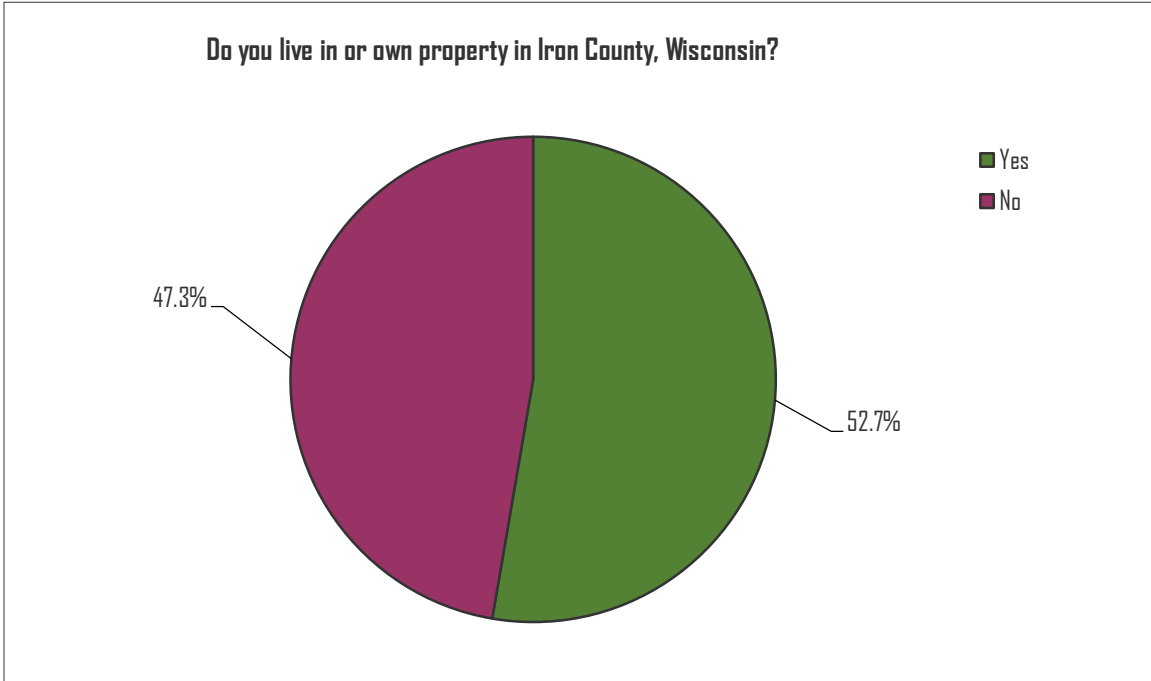
122. You're doing well. Money is tight. More landings and force foresters to make logging roads that are looped or connected to enhance upland hunting opportunities. We have the aspen. Let's use it.

123. The reputation of Hurley as a hard drinking, brawling, strip club place is a major turn off for respectable people and families.

124. I think it would be helpful for Iron County to look at the tourist and economic impact that the CAMBA Mountain Biking Trail system has had on Bayfield, Sawyer and Ashland Counties. There is a big opportunity for development in our area with all the public land.

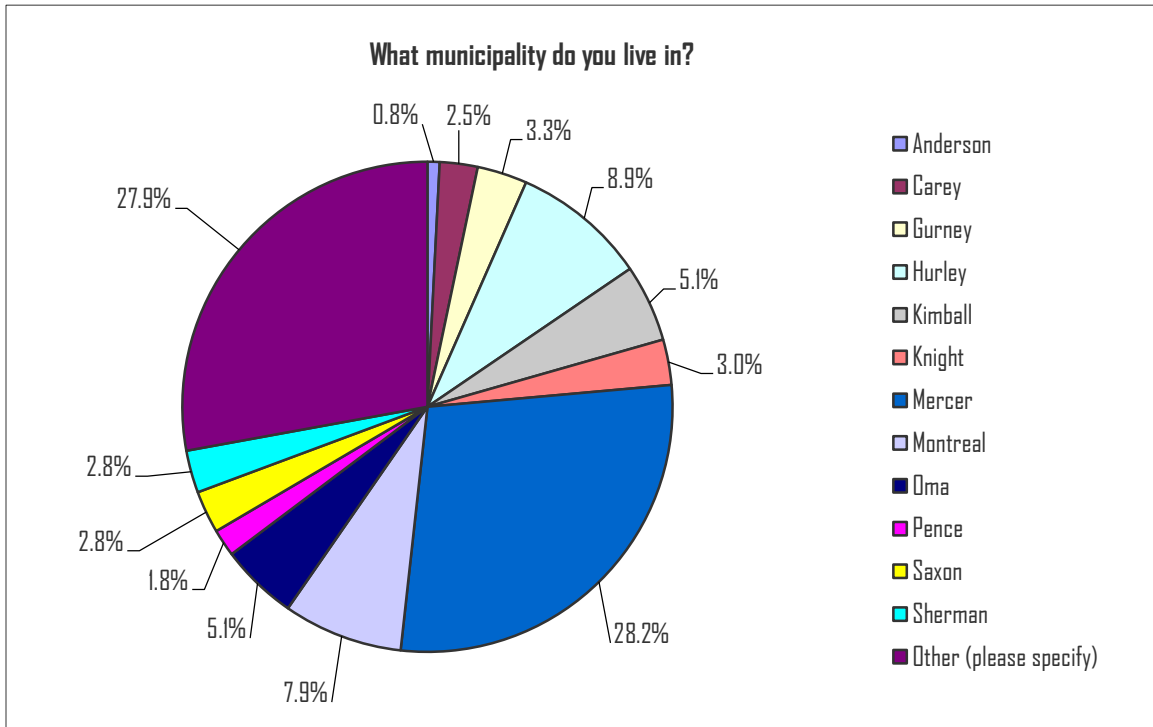
Q27. Do you live in or own property in Iron County, Wisconsin?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	52.7%	294
No	47.3%	264



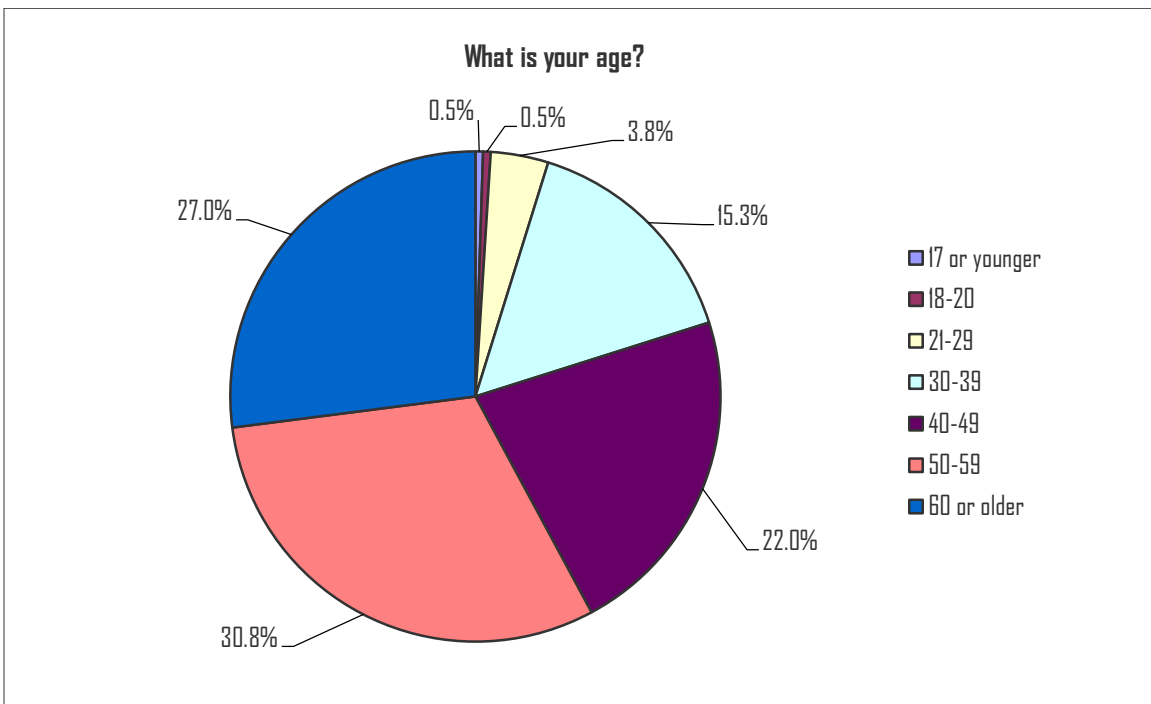
Q28. What municipality do you live in?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Anderson	0.8%	3
Carey	2.5%	10
Gurney	3.3%	13
Hurley	8.9%	35
Kimball	5.1%	20
Knight	3.0%	12
Mercer	28.2%	111
Montreal	7.9%	31
Oma	5.1%	20
Pence	1.8%	7
Saxon	2.8%	11
Sherman	2.8%	11
Other (please specify)	27.9%	110

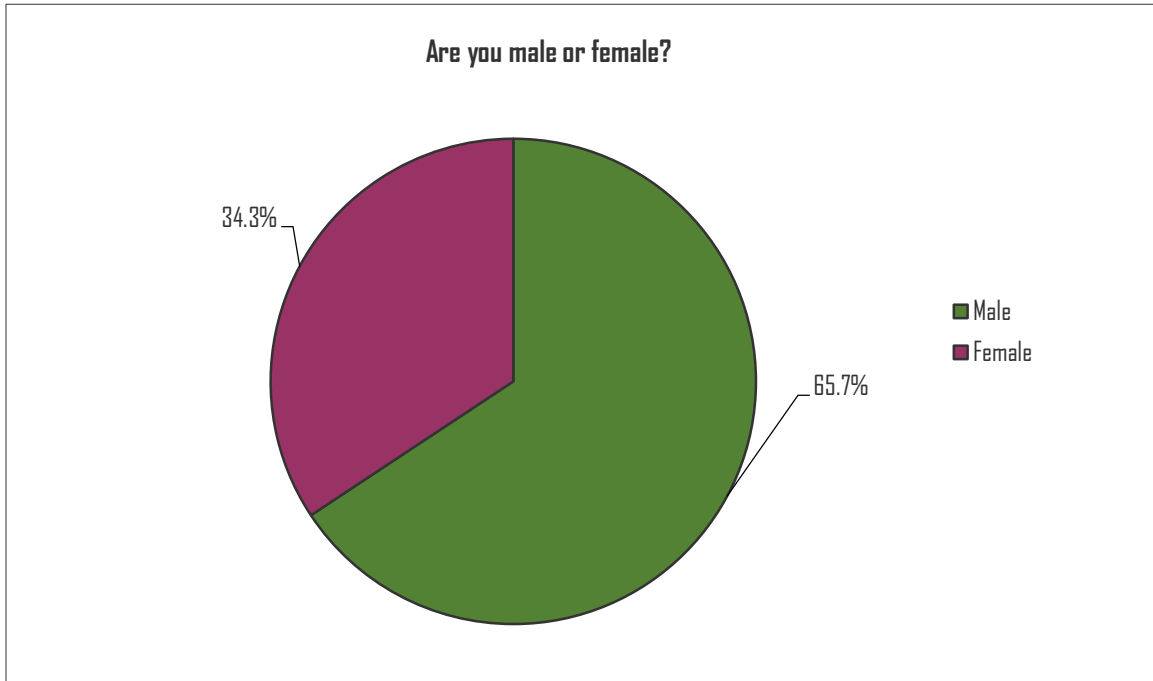


Q29. What is your age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
17 or younger	0.5%	3
18-20	0.5%	3
21-29	3.8%	21
30-39	15.3%	85
40-49	22.0%	122
50-59	30.8%	171
60 or older	27.0%	150



Q30. Are you male or female?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	65.7%	364
Female	34.3%	190



If you would like more information about Iron County Outdoor Recreation opportunities, please provide your name and email or mailing address:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Name	93.1%	134
Address	79.9%	115
Email Address	94.4%	136

APPENDIX 6-1

Questionnaire Consultation

Xcel Energy has retained Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead & Hunt) to assist with the federal relicensing process for the above-referenced Hydroelectric Projects (Projects) located on the Montreal River in northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations, Xcel Energy is preparing a Preliminary Application Document (PAD) that provides the FERC and other entities with existing, relevant, and reasonably available information pertaining to the Projects to help identify issues and related information needs, develop study requests and study plans, and prepare documents analyzing impacts. Xcel Energy previously sent a questionnaire to stakeholders seeking information for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Projects. That questionnaire did not include a request for information regarding the Gile Flowage, which serves as a storage reservoir for both Projects. This PAD Questionnaire is seeking information specific to the **Gile Flowage only** to ensure all existing, relevant, and reasonably available information, that is not in Xcel Energy's possession, is included in the PAD.

1. Information about person completing this questionnaire:

Name: Amira OUN Title: Environmental Engineer
Organization: Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Address: 525 West Alegen street, Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517 342 284 55 41 Email: Ouna@michigan.gov

2. Do you or your organization plan to participate in the 3 to 5 year-long licensing proceeding for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Projects?

Yes No

3. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Gile Flowage?

Yes (Please complete 3a thru 3f) No (Proceed to 4)

a. If yes, check box(es) to indicate the specific resource area(s) that the information relates to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational and land use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and botanical resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare, threatened, and endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> Other resource information |



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
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Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

- b. Briefly describe the information or list available documents:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

All information are available to the licensee by request. EGLE will work with Xcel Energy to obtain any needed information

- c. Where or how can Xcel Energy obtain this information?

Xcel Energy should contact EGLE's office to request any available documents.

- d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for the resource area(s) checked in 3a:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Representative Contact Information

Name: Aminoun Title: _____

Address: 525 W. Allegan St, Lansing, MI, 48933

Phone: 517-284-5541 Email: kohlheppg@michigan.gov

Name: Gary Kohlhepp Title: Supervisor, Lake Michigan Unit

Address: Same as above

Phone: 517-284-5540 Email: kohlheppg@michigan.gov

Questions 3e - 3f are continued on the following page



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
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e. Are you aware of any particular issues pertaining to the specific resource area(s) identified in 3a?
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list specific issues below)

No

Resource Area

Specific Issue

water quality

DO and temperature

Fish

PCBs

Sediments

Bank Erosion

f. Based on the issues identified in 3e, are you aware of any potential studies or information needs associated with the identified issues? (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list below)

No

Potential Studies or Information Needs

DO and temperature monitoring, fish sampling,

Sediments samples,



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
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4. Xcel Energy is investigating the use of the Traditional Licensing Process for these Hydroelectric Projects. Do you support the use of the Traditional Licensing process?

- Yes *(Please describe concerns below)* No

Traditional Licensing Process Concerns

5. Xcel Energy is interested in any additional comments, questions, or information you have regarding the licensing of the Projects. If the additional comments, questions, or information you provide below pertain to a particular question, please indicate the applicable question (such as 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f).

Additional comments, questions, or information

Please return this completed questionnaire to Mead & Hunt using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope **within 30 days of receipt** to allow for follow-up by Xcel or Xcel's representative.

Not responding within 30 days will indicate you are not aware of any existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Projects.

Comments and/or questions may also be sent via email to: Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com

Darrin Johnson

From: Shawn Puzen
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 11:17 AM
To: Oun, Amira (EGLE)
Cc: Darrin Johnson; Miller, Matthew J; Crotty, Scott A; Shawn Puzen
Subject: Your response to the Gile Questionnaire
Attachments: 20191015 EGLE Comments on Gile..pdf

Hi Amira,

Thank you for providing the attached response to the questionnaire for the Gile Flowage.

However, I am looking for more information on your answer to question #4. You answered “No” to question #4 such that it indicates you do not support the use of the Traditional License Process for the Xcel Energy Montreal River facilities.

Although not required in the survey, Xcel Energy would like to hear your concerns about the use of the traditional licensing process. Without a list of your concerns, Xcel Energy will not be able to address your concerns in its request to FERC for approval to use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP).

I am left you two voicemails (October 29, 2019 and today) to attempt to gather more information from you about your concerns.

Unfortunately, I have not received a response. Therefore, I am following up via email to again attempt to document your concerns.

Please provide your concerns as soon as you can. If we do not hear from you with your concerns by EOB Friday, November 29, 2019, we will not be able to document your concerns and address your concerns in the request to use the TLP.

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>

Darrin Johnson

From: Oun, Amira (EGLE) <OunA@michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 9:17 AM
To: Shawn Puzen
Subject: RE: Your response to the Gile Questionnaire

Hi Shawn,

Sorry I missed your calls I was out of my office for training. For Q4 I meant to check yes but somehow I checked No, sorry for the inconvenience.

EGLE is supporting the use of TLP for the Xcel Energy Montreal River facilities.

Amira Oun
Environmental Engineer
Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
517-284-5541 | OunA@Michigan.gov
Follow Us | www.Michigan.gov/EGLEConnect

From: Shawn Puzen <Shawn.Puzen@meadhunt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Oun, Amira (EGLE) <OunA@michigan.gov>
Cc: Darrin Johnson <Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com>; Miller, Matthew J <Matthew.J.Miller@xcelenergy.com>; Crotty, Scott A <scott.a.crotty@xcelenergy.com>; Shawn Puzen <Shawn.Puzen@meadhunt.com>
Subject: Your response to the Gile Questionnaire

Hi Amira,

Thank you for providing the attached response to the questionnaire for the Gile Flowage.

However, I am looking for more information on your answer to question #4. You answered "No" to question #4 such that it indicates you do not support the use of the Traditional License Process for the Xcel Energy Montreal River facilities.

Although not required in the survey, Xcel Energy would like to hear your concerns about the use of the traditional licensing process. Without a list of your concerns, Xcel Energy will not be able to address your concerns in its request to FERC for approval to use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP).

I am left you two voicemails (October 29, 2019 and today) to attempt to gather more information from you about your concerns.

Unfortunately, I have not received a response. Therefore, I am following up via email to again attempt to document your concerns.

Please provide your concerns as soon as you can. If we do not hear from you with your concerns by EOB Friday, November 29, 2019, we will not be able to document your concerns and address your concerns in the request to use the TLP.

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>

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Friends of the Gile Flowage Response

October 15, 2019

Shawn Puzen
Mead & Hunt, Inc.
1702 Lawrence Dr.
DePere, WI 54115

Dear Mr. Puzen:

Please find enclosed a completed PAD Questionnaire from the Friends of the Gile Flowage, Inc. pertaining to Xcel Energy's FERC licensing of the Superior Falls (FERC Project #2587) and Saxon Falls (FERC Project #2610) Hydroelectric facilities.

We appreciate the opportunity for involvement in the process going forward.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our responses or if I can be of any assistance as these projects move forward.

Sincerely,

Cathy Techtmann, President
Friends of the Gile Flowage, Inc.
Box 227, Montreal, WI 54550
Phone: 715.360.6170 (cell), 715.561.2185 (home)
Email: cathyt220@hotmail.com
www.friendsofthegile.org

Xcel Energy has retained Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead & Hunt) to assist with the federal relicensing process for the above-referenced Hydroelectric Projects (Projects) located on the Montreal River in northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations, Xcel Energy is preparing a Preliminary Application Document (PAD) that provides the FERC and other entities with existing, relevant, and reasonably available information pertaining to the Projects to help identify issues and related information needs, develop study requests and study plans, and prepare documents analyzing impacts. Xcel Energy previously sent a questionnaire to stakeholders seeking information for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Projects. That questionnaire did not include a request for information regarding the Gile Flowage, which serves as a storage reservoir for both Projects. This PAD Questionnaire is seeking information specific to the **Gile Flowage only** to ensure all existing, relevant, and reasonably available information, that is not in Xcel Energy's possession, is included in the PAD.

1. Information about person completing this questionnaire:

Name: Cathy Techtmann Title: President
Organization: Friends of the Gile Flowage, Inc.
Address: Box 227
Montreal, WI 54550
Phone: 715-360-6170 (C) Email: CathyT220@hotmail.com
715-561-2185 (H)

2. Do you or your organization plan to participate in the 3 to 5 year-long licensing proceeding for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Projects?

Yes No

3. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Gile Flowage?

Yes (Please complete 3a thru 3f) No (Proceed to 4)

a. If yes, check box(es) to indicate the specific resource area(s) that the information relates to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational and land use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and botanical resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare, threatened, and endangered species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other resource information |

e. Are you aware of any particular issues pertaining to the specific resource area(s) identified in 3a?
 (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list specific issues below) No

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Specific Issue</u>
Fish & Aquatic Resource	Spring water fleas, AIS, habitat needs
Riparian/littoral zone	Shoreline erosion, AIS, ^{reduction of} shoreline buffer zone
Aesthetic Resources	loss of "wilderness" character
Recreation & Land Use & Socio-economic Issues	} increased use by boaters, esp. kayakers, bringing new economic development/tourism opportunities
Tribal Resources	The Gate is within the Ojibwe Ceded Territory
Wildlife/botanical resource	Increasing invasive species
Land management	Support for retaining public ownership of the Watersheds land. High support for "protecting nature"

f. Based on the issues identified in 3e, are you aware of any potential studies or information needs associated with the identified issues? (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list below) No

Potential Studies or Information Needs

Potential studies: Updated studies listed in 3(b) especially a comprehensive plan for the Gate Flowage & its watershed given potential change in Xcel land ownership (90% of 252 public input surveys supported long range planning for the Gate Flowage watershed)

• Plans for maintaining the Flowage's "Northwoods Character" (supported by 84% of respondents).

b. Briefly describe the information or list available documents:

(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Gile Flowage Watershed Comp Plan - Phase I
Gile Flowage Watershed Comp Plan - Phase II
Gile Flowage Adaptive Management Plan
Strategic Plan to Address Spring Water Fees (Gile Flowage)
Be A Friend of the Flowage - AIS Education Plan
History of the Gile Flowage
Town of Pence Comp Plan - 2025
Town of Carey Comp Plan - 2025

c. Where or how can Xcel Energy obtain this information?

via Friends of the Gile Flowage website:
www.friendsofthegile.org
or via request to Friends of the Gile Flowage for
hard copies

d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for the resource area(s) checked in 3a:

(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Representative Contact Information

Name: Cathy Techtman Title: President - Friends of the Gile Flowage
Address: 629 Whiteside St.
Montreal, WI 54550

Phone: 715.561.2185 (H) Email: Cathyt220@hotmail.com
715.360.6170 (C)

Name: Gray Hopp Title: Vice-President - Friends of the Gile Flowage
Address: 1437 S. Lake Ave.
Pulaski, MN 55802

Phone: 218. Email: gray@hopp-us

Questions 3e - 3f are continued on the following page

4. Xcel Energy is investigating the use of the Traditional Licensing Process for these Hydroelectric Projects. Do you support the use of the Traditional Licensing process?

Yes (Please describe concerns below) No

Traditional Licensing Process Concerns

1) Friends of the Gite Flowage wants to be involved & notified of All FERC licensing actions 2) Maximize public involvement by All Gite Flowage users, local governments, Tribes 3) Maximize Stewardship, Conservation values, and water quality protection in All FERC decisions, 4) Contact the Iron County Forester Eric Peterson for All FERC actions and notifications 5) Retain & enhance Flowage's "wilderness" character

5. Xcel Energy is interested in any additional comments, questions, or information you have regarding the licensing of the Projects. If the additional comments, questions, or information you provide below pertain to a particular question, please indicate the applicable question (such as 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f).

Additional comments, questions, or information

Additional Available documents (Copied from 3b):

- Gite Flowage Watershed Project Report: Environmental Information Review & Water Quality Monitoring
- Gite Flowage Littoral Zone Survey
- Spring Water Flea Densities in the Gite Flowage 2004-2008
- UW Extension "Views from the Flowage" Public Use Survey

Please return this completed questionnaire to Mead & Hunt using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope **within 30 days of receipt** to allow for follow-up by Xcel or Xcel's representative.

Not responding within 30 days will indicate you are not aware of any existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Projects.

Comments and/or questions may also be sent via email to: Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

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1. Information about person completing this questionnaire:

Name: Michael SARRI Title: clerk
 Organization: IRON County, Wisconsin
 Address: 300 Taconite Street, Suite 101 Huley WI, 54534
 Phone: 715 561-3375 Email: clerk@ironcountymi.org

2. Do you or your organization plan to participate in the 3 to 5 year-long licensing proceeding for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Projects?

Yes No

3. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Gile Flowage?

Yes (Please complete 3a thru 3f) No (Proceed to 4)

a. If yes, check box(es) to indicate the specific resource area(s) that the information relates to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational and land use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and botanical resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare, threatened, and endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> Other resource information |

Questions 3b – 3f are continued on the following pages

b. Briefly describe the information or list available documents:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Spiny water flea data; aquatic plant information;
lake management plan; boat landing data

c. Where or how can Xcel Energy obtain this information?

contact: Iron County Land & Water Conservation Dept.
607 3rd Ave N
Hurley, WI 54534
715/561-2234

d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for the resource area(s) checked in 3a:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Representative Contact Information

Name: Heather Palmquist Title: County Conservationist / Dept Head
Address: 607 3rd Ave. N
Hurley, WI 54534
Phone: 715/561-2234 Email: lakes@ironcountymi.org

Name: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions 3e – 3f are continued on the following page

e. Are you aware of any particular issues pertaining to the specific resource area(s) identified in 3a?
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list specific issues below) No

Resource Area

Specific Issue

Fish & Aquatic Resources

Aquatic Invasive Species - Spiny Water Flea

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

f. Based on the issues identified in 3e, are you aware of any potential studies or information needs associated with the identified issues? (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list below) No

Potential Studies or Information Needs

There was a study done on spiny water fleas
through the lake management planning process. In 2018,
water fleas were found below the dam on the W. Fork of the Montreal.
Education & Outreach at boat landings would be
highly beneficial on the Gile Flowage; it would help
protect the other lakes in Iron County from spiny
water fleas. It would also protect the Gile from
Eurasian water milfoil found in a nearby lake.



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
 Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
 Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
 Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

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1. Information about person completing this questionnaire:

Name: Elle Gulotty Title: Resource Analyst
 Organization: Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 Address: Norway Field Office
520 West US HWY 2, Norway, MI 49870
 Phone: 906-563-9247 Email: gulotty@michigan.gov

2. Do you or your organization plan to participate in the 3 to 5 year-long licensing proceeding for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Projects?

Yes No

3. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Gile Flowage?

Yes *(Please complete 3a thru 3f)* No *(Proceed to 4)*

a. If yes, check box(es) to indicate the specific resource area(s) that the information relates to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational and land use |
| 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water resources | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and botanical resources | 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic resources |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal resources |
| 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare, threatened, and endangered species | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Other resource information |

Questions 3b – 3f are continued on the following pages



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
 Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
 Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
 Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

- b. Briefly describe the information or list available documents:
 (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

The Gile flowage is a significant resource in the state of Wisconsin, and the operation of the flowage additionally will influence downstream projects at Saxon Falls and Superior Falls (MI/WI).

Additional information should be collected (for a number of the above areas). Recreation (7) multiple reports are currently available online from resource users documenting aesthetic and recreational qualities at Saxon and Superior Falls (7, 8, 10). Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan should provide useful information regarding recreation for Michigan. Similar resources probably exist for Wisconsin. Gogebic County's 5 year plan (2018-2022) includes survey responses regarding recreational use (hiking, kayaking, fishing etc.) Additional resources may be available on the effects of drawing down Gile, or similar impoundments (e.g. Bond Falls) on aquatic resources.

- c. Where or how can Xcel Energy obtain this information? comments noted by subareas in 3.a.

(3,6) Collect aquatic organism data (including fish community inventory of pond and riverine areas), to include endangered, threatened and sensitive species.
 7) Conduct inventory of recreational facilities, provide written descriptions, maps photos and diagrams of locations for resource agency evaluation.
 2) Document water quality. Provide data to allow for impact of proposed project operation on water quality to be determined.
 2) Evaluate current (and proposed, if different) minimum flows in the bypassed reaches, for providing aesthetic, recreation, water quality, and habitat values
 2) Consult records and provide project operations and hydrology information including fluctuation in impoundment elevation, downstream flows, for previous years, as well as normal, high and low water years
 (4,5,6) Conduct a terrestrial and wetland habitat inventory
 (4,5,6) Conduct inventory of wildlife in the riverine and pond areas, including threatened and endangered species
 5-year plans and Michigan's SCORP can be accessed on-line. Additional reports from recreational users can also be found online, but directly engaging with local resource agency staff and stakeholders will be important to serving the public interest in this process.

- d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for the resource area(s) checked in 3a:
 (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Representative Contact Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions 3e – 3f are continued on the following page



**Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire**

e. Are you aware of any particular issues pertaining to the specific resource area(s) identified in 3a?
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list specific issues below)

No

Resource Area

Specific Issue

fish and aquatic resources

 water resources, fish and aquatic resources

 recreational and land use

 aesthetic resources and recreational use

 recreational and land use

drawdown timing, rate, frequency, downstream flows

 operational verification- continuous recording of headwater/downstream flows

 inventory of use, identify recreational needs.

 project operations and nexus to recreational access, safety, and aesthetics

 assessment and use of improvements for recreationists, effect of land use practices on aesthetics and resource protection

 frequent and/or drastic drawdowns/ reservoir fluctuations as noted in the historical operating parameters for this project have a high likelihood of causing resource impacts including erosion, water quality issues, and potential direct impacts to aquatic organisms (plants, fishes, mussels, herptiles, nesting birds, etc).

 see responses for other areas as well

f. Based on the issues identified in 3e, are you aware of any potential studies or information needs associated with the identified issues? (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list below)

No

Potential Studies or Information Needs

(3,6)Collect aquatic organism data (including fish community inventory of pond and riverine areas) including endangered, threatened and sensitive species

 (3)Evaluate potential for organism stranding, stress, and mortality associated with fluctuations in reservoir level across seasons.

 (4,5,6)Conduct a terrestrial and wetland habitat inventory

 (4,5,6)Conduct inventory of wildlife in the riverine and pond areas, including threatened and endangered species

 7) Conduct inventory of recreational facilities, provide written descriptions, maps photos and diagrams of locations for resource agency evaluation.

 7) Conduct assessment of current recreational use and regional trends to identify appropriate options and alternatives for recreational amenities.

 2) Document water quality. Provide data to allow for assessment of impact of proposed project operation

 2) Evaluate current (and proposed, if different) minimum and maximum reservoir elevations and downstream flows for, recreation, water quality, resource protection, aesthetic and habitat values

 2) Consult records and provide project hydrology information including fluctuation in reservoir, downstream flows, for past, including normal, high and low water years

 2) If changes in project operations are proposed, or historical data are lacking, additional studies may be required



**Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
 Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
 Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
 Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire**

4. Xcel Energy is investigating the use of the Traditional Licensing Process for these Hydroelectric Projects. Do you support the use of the Traditional Licensing process?

- Yes *(Please describe concerns below)* No
conditional

Traditional Licensing Process Concerns

We are concerned about timing of scoping meetings- and the ability to have adequate consultation for all facilities

As noted in our previous responses, there is significant interest among many other parties, and we hope they will be included in this process moving forward. In a TLP, the organization and communication of a Licensee may be more critical than other

licensing processes which emphasize more structured timelines and checkins.

5. Xcel Energy is interested in any additional comments, questions, or information you have regarding the licensing of the Projects. If the additional comments, questions, or information you provide below pertain to a particular question, please indicate the applicable question (such as 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f).

Additional comments, questions, or information

If anything is unclear, please reach out via email gulottye@michigan.gov, or phone 906-563-9247 x109
Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Please return this completed questionnaire to Mead & Hunt using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope within 30 days of receipt to allow for follow-up by Xcel or Xcel's representative.

Not responding within 30 days will indicate you are not aware of any existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Projects.

Comments and/or questions may also be sent via email to: Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

Xcel Energy has retained Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead & Hunt) to assist with the federal relicensing process for the above-referenced Hydroelectric Projects (Projects) located on the Montreal River in northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations, Xcel Energy is preparing a Preliminary Application Document (PAD) that provides the FERC and other entities with existing, relevant, and reasonably available information pertaining to the Projects to help identify issues and related information needs, develop study requests and study plans, and prepare documents analyzing impacts. Xcel Energy previously sent a questionnaire to stakeholders seeking information for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Projects. That questionnaire did not include a request for information regarding the Gile Flowage, which serves as a storage reservoir for both Projects. This PAD Questionnaire is seeking information specific to the **Gile Flowage only** to ensure all existing, relevant, and reasonably available information, that is not in Xcel Energy's possession, is included in the PAD.

1. Information about person completing this questionnaire:

Name: Angie Tornes Title: Hydropower Assistance Coord.
Organization: National Park Service
Address: 626 E. Wisconsin Ave, Suite 400
MKE, WI 53202
Phone: 414.297.3603 Email: angie_tornes@nps.gov

2. Do you or your organization plan to participate in the 3 to 5 year-long licensing proceeding for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Projects?

Yes No

3. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Gile Flowage?

Yes (Please complete 3a thru 3f) No (Proceed to 4)

a. If yes, check box(es) to indicate the specific resource area(s) that the information relates to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational and land use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and botanical resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare, threatened, and endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> Other resource information |

Questions 3b - 3f are continued on the following pages

b. Briefly describe the information or list available documents:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

- ① Release of flows for periodic white water boating below Saxon Falls, through Montreal Canyon.
- ② Flows may affect aesthetics at Superior Falls, downstream.

c. Where or how can Xcel Energy obtain this information?

American Whitewater, Montreal River, below Saxon Falls
(website)

d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for the resource area(s) checked in 3a:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Representative Contact Information

Name: Tom O'Keefe Title: Hydroponer Coordinator
Address: American Whitewater
3537 N. 87th St. Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: 425.417.9012 Email: okeefe@americanwhitewater.org

Name: (self) Title: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions 3e - 3f are continued on the following page

e. Are you aware of any particular issues pertaining to the specific resource area(s) identified in 3a?
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list specific issues below) No

Resource Area

Specific Issue

flows, recreational

no formal releases,
at the voluntary
discretion of Xcel
Energy

f. Based on the issues identified in 3e, are you aware of any potential studies or information needs associated with the identified issues? (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list below) No

Potential Studies or Information Needs

Instream Flow Study for Recreation

Recreation Use + need (land-based)

4. Xcel Energy is investigating the use of the Traditional Licensing Process for these Hydroelectric Projects. Do you support the use of the Traditional Licensing process?

Yes (Please describe concerns below) No

Traditional Licensing Process Concerns

The LLP provides more opportunity for collaboration.

5. Xcel Energy is interested in any additional comments, questions, or information you have regarding the licensing of the Projects. If the additional comments, questions, or information you provide below pertain to a particular question, please indicate the applicable question (such as 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f).

Additional comments, questions, or information

North Country Trail (in vicinity of Superior Falls); check if Michigan's Iron Belle Trail is in the vicinity of Gile Florage

Please return this completed questionnaire to Mead & Hunt using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope **within 30 days of receipt** to allow for follow-up by Xcel or Xcel's representative.

Not responding within 30 days will indicate you are not aware of any existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Projects.

Comments and/or questions may also be sent via email to: Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

Xcel Energy has retained Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead & Hunt) to assist with the federal relicensing process for the above-referenced Hydroelectric Projects (Projects) located on the Montreal River in northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations, Xcel Energy is preparing a Preliminary Application Document (PAD) that provides the FERC and other entities with existing, relevant, and reasonably available information pertaining to the Projects to help identify issues and related information needs, develop study requests and study plans, and prepare documents analyzing impacts. Xcel Energy previously sent a questionnaire to stakeholders seeking information for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Projects. That questionnaire did not include a request for information regarding the Gile Flowage, which serves as a storage reservoir for both Projects. This PAD Questionnaire is seeking information specific to the **Gile Flowage only** to ensure all existing, relevant, and reasonably available information, that is not in Xcel Energy's possession, is included in the PAD.

1. Information about person completing this questionnaire:

Name: James Fossum Title: Environmental Consultant
Organization: hydro consultant for the River Alliance of WI
Address: 199 Janet Marie Ln.
Winona, MN
Phone: 507-429-9129 Email: jffio@yahoo.com

2. Do you or your organization plan to participate in the 3 to 5 year-long licensing proceeding for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Projects?

Yes No

3. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Gile Flowage?

Yes (Please complete 3a thru 3f) No (Proceed to 4)

a. If yes, check box(es) to indicate the specific resource area(s) that the information relates to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational and land use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and botanical resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare, threatened, and endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> Other resource information |

Questions 3b - 3f are continued on the following pages

b. Briefly describe the information or list available documents:

(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

I do not have specific information in the vicinity of the hydroprojects but of course the nearest field stations of WI & MI DNRs & field station of the Iron County District Conservation office & Gogebic Co. DCO would be excellent places to obtain environmental information on fisheries, plant, other aquatic life, etc.

c. Where or how can Xcel Energy obtain this information?

Contact field offices of DNR & DCOs.

d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for the resource area(s) checked in 3a:

(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Representative Contact Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions 3e - 3f are continued on the following page

e. Are you aware of any particular issues pertaining to the specific resource area(s) identified in 3a?
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list specific issues below)

No

①

Resource Area

Specific Issue

Gile Flowage Storage Reservoir, info provided indicates that a 15' drawdown is allowed to augment flow downstream. ISSUES/CONCERNS WITH DRAWDOWN

• impacts to fish spawning areas, effects on fishery recruitment.

• impacts of dewatering the littoral zone on wetlands, emergent & submersed plants, macroinvertebra.

②

Downstream of Gile Flowage - Does 10 cfs minimum flow accomplish aquatic resource objectives

③

Explain how the Gile storage reservoir interacts with the SAX falls & Suptall hydro projects to form an operation system; how is it operated daily & seasonally.

④

What is the condition of the recreation use sites

f. Based on the issues identified in 3e, are you aware of any potential studies or information needs associated with the identified issues? (Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Yes (Please list below)

No

Potential Studies or Information Needs

- Update the fish community by conducting a fish survey using WTW & MIBUR accepted techniques
- Conduct a drawdown study; its affects on wildlife shoreline habitat, ^{the} plant community, molluscs.
- identify resource objectives to be accomplished by a minimum flow discharge at the dam; is it adequate?
- Conduct a TFE survey for state & federal listed species
- Conduct a recreational survey to determine needs



**Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
 Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
 Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
 Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire**

4. Xcel Energy is investigating the use of the Traditional Licensing Process for these Hydroelectric Projects. Do you support the use of the Traditional Licensing process?

Yes (Please describe concerns below) No

Traditional Licensing Process Concerns

The RAW has no objections to use of TLP

5. Xcel Energy is interested in any additional comments, questions, or information you have regarding the licensing of the Projects. If the additional comments, questions, or information you provide below pertain to a particular question, please indicate the applicable question (such as 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f).

Additional comments, questions, or information

I wish to be the primary contact to receive all relevant information that M&H generates that is available to the public. I will keep the RAW informed. However, Ms. Allison Werner is the primary contact for the RAW

The RAW will of course provide more input when we review the PAD.

Please return this completed questionnaire to Mead & Hunt using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope within 30 days of receipt to allow for follow-up by Xcel or Xcel's representative.

Not responding within 30 days will indicate you are not aware of any existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Projects.

Comments and/or questions may also be sent via email to: Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com

Thank you
Jim Tossow



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
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Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

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1. Information about person completing this questionnaire:

Name: RONALD ALTONEN Title: CHAIRMAN
 Organization: TOWN OF KIMBALL
 Address: 5910W RANGERS VIEW
HURLEY, WI
 Phone: 71554 2887 Email: RWATWNC@CENTURYLINK

2. Do you or your organization plan to participate in the 3 to 5 year-long licensing proceeding for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Projects?

Yes No

3. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Gile Flowage?

Yes (Please complete 3a thru 3f) No (Proceed to 4)

a. If yes, check box(es) to indicate the specific resource area(s) that the information relates to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational and land use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and botanical resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare, threatened, and endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> Other resource information |

Questions 3b – 3f are continued on the following pages



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
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Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

- b. Briefly describe the information or list available documents:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

- c. Where or how can Xcel Energy obtain this information?

- d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for the resource area(s) checked in 3a:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Representative Contact Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions 3e – 3f are continued on the following page



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
Licensing Preliminary Application Document Information Questionnaire

4. Xcel Energy is investigating the use of the Traditional Licensing Process for these Hydroelectric Projects. Do you support the use of the Traditional Licensing process?

Yes *(Please describe concerns below)* No

Traditional Licensing Process Concerns

5. Xcel Energy is interested in any additional comments, questions, or information you have regarding the licensing of the Projects. If the additional comments, questions, or information you provide below pertain to a particular question, please indicate the applicable question (such as 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f).

Additional comments, questions, or information

Please return this completed questionnaire to Mead & Hunt using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope **within 30 days of receipt** to allow for follow-up by Xcel or Xcel's representative.

Not responding within 30 days will indicate you are not aware of any existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Projects.

Comments and/or questions may also be sent via email to: Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com

Darrin Johnson

From: Shawn Puzen
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 11:59 AM
To: rwatwnc@centurylink.net
Cc: Darrin Johnson; Miller, Matthew J; Shawn Puzen
Subject: A question about your questionnaire Response for the Gile Flowage
Attachments: 20191023 Town of Kimball.pdf

Good Morning Mr. Ahonen,

Thank you very much for completing our questionnaire about information for the Gile Flowage.

On page 4 of 4 you answered “no” to the question #4 “Do you support the use of the Traditional Licensing Process.” The traditional licensing process is being proposed by Xcel Energy and is a process that is geared to smaller hydroelectric projects where there is not a large amount of controversy anticipated.

Therefore Xcel Energy proposed the traditional process.

We are just checking to make sure you answered the question correctly. Your initial answer indicates you do not want Xcel Energy to use the Traditional Licensing Process.

If your original answer stating you do not want Xcel Energy to use the Traditional Licensing Process as they proposed please provide us some information as to why you oppose the original proposal.

If you did not intend to show no support for the use of the traditional licensing process, please also let us know.

Thank you for your time.

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>



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
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1. Information about person completing this questionnaire:

Name: Robert Walesewicz Title: Town Chairman
Organization: Town of Carey
Address: P.O. Box 146 Hurley, WI 54534
Phone: 715.862.0106 Email: rwalesewicz@gmail.com

2. Do you or your organization plan to participate in the 3 to 5 year-long licensing proceeding for the Superior Falls and Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Projects?

Yes If needed No

3. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Gile Flowage?

Yes (Please complete 3a thru 3f) No (Proceed to 4)

a. If yes, check box(es) to indicate the specific resource area(s) that the information relates to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational and land use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and botanical resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare, threatened, and endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> Other resource information |

Questions 3b – 3f are continued on the following pages



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
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Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
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- b. Briefly describe the information or list available documents:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

land in the Town of Carey that touches the high water mark is more valuable increasing our Town valuation. the result is a higher tax base.

- c. Where or how can Xcel Energy obtain this information?

Iron County Court House Treasurers & Register of Deeds

- d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for the resource area(s) checked in 3a:
(Additional information, if any, may be provided on page 4)

Representative Contact Information

Name: Robert W. Plesewicz Title: Chairman

Address: P.O. Box 146

Hudon WI 54534

Phone: 715.862.0106 Email: r.w.plesewicz@gmail.com

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions 3e - 3f are continued on the following page



Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2587
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2610
Montreal River - Iron County, Wisconsin and Gogebic County Michigan
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4. Xcel Energy is investigating the use of the Traditional Licensing Process for these Hydroelectric Projects. Do you support the use of the Traditional Licensing process?

Yes (Please describe concerns below) No

Traditional Licensing Process Concerns

5. Xcel Energy is interested in any additional comments, questions, or information you have regarding the licensing of the Projects. If the additional comments, questions, or information you provide below pertain to a particular question, please indicate the applicable question (such as 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f).

Additional comments, questions, or information

The Town of Carey is the governing body for the east side of the Stouritz - Contact me if you need anything

Please return this completed questionnaire to Mead & Hunt using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope **within 30 days of receipt** to allow for follow-up by Xcel or Xcel's representative.

Not responding within 30 days will indicate you are not aware of any existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or known potential impacts of the Projects.

Comments and/or questions may also be sent via email to: Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com