

2020-2024

MARATHON COUNTY

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Staff

Jamie Polley, *Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry*
Jon Daniels
Dan Fiorenza
Greg Freix
Tom Lovlien
David Patridge
Blaine Peterson
Karyn Powers
Andrew Sims
Robert Stephens

Marathon County Park Commission

Gary Gisselman, *President / Council Member*
Connie Conrad, *Citizen Member*
John Durham, *County Supervisor*
Allen Opall, *County Supervisor*
Pat Peckham, *Council Member*
Rick Seefeldt, *County Supervisor*
Dennis Smith, *Council Member*

Prepared by:

This document was prepared by MSA Professional Services, Inc. with assistance from County staff and the Park Commission.



RESOLUTION R- 66 -19

ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED
COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR MARATHON COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a plan intended to guide the continual improvement of park, forest, and trail systems within Marathon County (the County) and assists with the maintenance of the County's eligibility for State and Federal park and recreation grants; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a support document and component of the County's Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has a short-term horizon (5 years) and is in need of periodic updating and revision; and

WHEREAS, the planning process for this plan update began with a review of the accomplishments resulting from the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan adopted in 2007 and we learned that there were many accomplishments that directly resulted from that plan including the purchasing of additional park and forest land, improving existing facilities, repurposing a landfill to a high quality sports complex, and constructing additional trails to further connect residents and visitors to County parks and forests; and

WHEREAS, the planning process that supports this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update has been inclusive including a community survey, public involvement meeting, public input period, and a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission has taken a leadership role in developing specific recommendations for each of the parks in Marathon County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt the attached updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry will provide oversight and leadership for the implementation of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2019.

MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Allen Galt *Rick Sedell* *Chris R. ...*
Patricia ... *John ...* *Jan ...*
Janice D. ...

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Sara Guild *JB ...*
Alle ... *Paul ...*
Kelly ... *RJ ...*

Signed this 17th day of December, 2019, pursuant to Wis. Stats., §59.12(1).

By: *Craig McEwen*
County Board Chair
Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair

Fiscal Note: Adoption of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update in and of itself will not result in any expenditure of County funds. The action items all have fiscal implications which will be considered and reported during the term of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

CONTENT

07 INTRODUCTION
1.1 Plan Purpose
1.2 Planning Process
1.3 The Role of Parks,
Recreation & Trails

11 ABOUT Marathon County
2.1 Local & Regional
Context
2.2 Transportation &
Circulation
2.3 Demographics
2.4 Physical Character &
Environmental
Resources
2.5 Existing Land Use &
Zoning
2.6 Future Land Use Plans
2.7 County-Owned Facilities
& Existing Recreation
Programs
2.8 Local Park and
Recreation Lands
2.9 Regional Parks and
Recreational Facilities

**27 MISSION, GOALS, POLICIES &
STRATEGIES**
3.1 Mission Statement
3.2 Goals, Policies &
Strategies

**33 ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND
DEMANDS**
4.1 Quantitative
Analysis
4.2 Geographic Analysis
4.3 Qualitative Analysis
4.4 Regional & State
Insights

47 RECOMMENDATIONS
5.1 Existing Park
Facilities
5.2 New or Expanded
Park Facilities
5.3 Trail Improvements
5.4 Ongoing
Recommendations

111 IMPLEMENTATION
6.1 Tools & Mechanisms to
Fund Implementation
6.2 Anticipated Funding
Requirements
6.3 System Staffing Requirements
6.4 Plan Adoption &
Amendments
6.5 Action Plan

A SURVEY SUMMARY

**B OPEN SPACE
CLASSIFICATIONS/
FACILITY GUIDELINES**

**C PARKS AND RECREATION
MAPS**

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE

Parks, recreation, trails, and forests are important elements in the quality of life for all communities. Not only do parks, forests and trails provide a safe and healthy place to recreate, they also serve to beautify, protect the natural environment and influence the patterns of development in and around the community.

Marathon County realizes the importance and benefits its parks, forests and trail systems have on the County's character and quality of life and is committed to providing for the recreational needs of current and future residents. This plan intends to guide the continual improvement of the County's park, forest and trail systems to maintain its eligibility for State and Federal park and recreation grants. This plan envisions a connected system of parks, forests, and trails throughout Marathon County, related to the County's natural resources, geography and neighborhoods.

The plan is also intended to be a support document and component of Marathon County's Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan, as well as align Marathon County with local and State initiatives to promote outdoor recreation. This plan along with the County's other long-range plans and development-related ordinances, will be used to implement and promote its parks and recreation program.

Specifically the plan provides:

- Information regarding demographic trends
- An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities,
- An analysis of parkland and recreational needs and demands,
- General policy direction regarding park, forest, open space, bicycle, and pedestrian facility planning and maintenance,
- Recommendations for improving existing park, bicycle and pedestrian facilities,
- Recommendations for new park, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and
- Implementation strategies.

This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and discussions will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

CORP & GRANT FUNDING

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship) in 1989. Named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders, Warren Knowles (Governor 1965-1971) and Gaylord Nelson (Governor 1959-1963, U.S. Senator 1964-1981), the purpose of the program is to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The conservation and recreation goals of the Stewardship Program are achieved through the acquisition of land and easements, development of recreational facilities, and restoration of wildlife habitat.

The Stewardship grant program is the most widely used recreational grant program in the state. Eligibility for the program requires that a community maintain a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP), updated every five years, and that the project for which grant funding is sought is described in the CORP. Many other similar state and federal recreational grant programs have similar requirements or have shown a tendency to favor those grant applications which are supported through previous community planning efforts.

PROJECT MILESTONES

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

Recreation, bicycle, and pedestrian planning are essential components of long-range community planning in Marathon County. Currently Marathon County has a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) that was adopted in 2007. In 2019, the County contracted with MSA Professional Services, Inc. to assist with an update to the 2007-2012 plan. Preparation and adoption of the plan occurred over a nine month period. Assistance with the development of this plan was provided by County Staff and the Park Commission.

Early in the planning process Marathon County facilitated an online community survey to gather citizen feedback on desired public park, trail and recreational facilities. The process also included a public involvement meeting (PIM) with targeted invites sent to leaders of various youth and adult recreation organizations across the County, and all local parks directors and local park commission members across the County. This meeting was held to obtain input from the public and surrounding communities on desired park and recreation improvements (Refer to Appendix A for survey results and a summary of the public involvement meeting). A public hearing was also held prior to plan adoption.

It is the County's intention to update this plan every five years, in part to remain eligible for park and recreation grants (see side bar on previous page), and as best practice to ensure that the plan remains relevant to the County's needs.

This plan was developed following the Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans of the 2019-2023 Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) created by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The plan content and format have been tailored to fit the needs of Marathon County.

1.3 THE ROLE OF PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS

Proper planning is essential for the County's parks, open space and trail systems to continue to meet the recreation needs of the residents of the county, as well as to continue to preserve valuable natural areas. Whether the County is experiencing a bear or bull period of economic growth, it is important to remember the many benefits that the County's park and recreational facilities provide.

MARCH 2019

- Park Commission Meeting - Project Kickoff and Survey Development
- Community Survey

APRIL 2019

- Community Survey
- Park Commission - Park Tours
- Public Involvement Meeting (PIM)

JUNE-JULY 2019

- Plan Development

AUGUST 2019

- Park Commission Meeting to Review Draft Plan

SEPTEMBER 2019

- Plan Finalized

OCTOBER 2019

- Park Commission Meeting #3 - Plan Review
- Public Review/Comment Period

NOVEMBER 2019

- Park Commission - Discussion

DECEMBER 2019

- Park Commission - Recommendation
- Environmental Resources Committee Recommendation
- County Board - Plan Adoption

INTRODUCTION

Community Image

Parks provide opportunities for formal and informal social gatherings. Community festivals, organized recreational events, or chance meetings between residents at parks, all provide opportunities for residents to socialize with people they might not otherwise meet. In addition, having excellent park and recreation facilities can be a source of pride. These factors contribute to the image of the County as a great place to live, work, stay and play.

Community Health

With the rising national trend in obesity, especially among children, the County's park, recreational and trail facilities play a vital role in maintaining and improving the health of residents in the community and aiding in the physical development of children. Parks also provide sanctuaries and places for residents to mentally recharge.

Ecological Health

While parks, forests and trails provide opportunities to improve the health of residents, they also contribute to the greater ecological health of the County. Parks are often tied together with environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, or significant woodlands which can include trails. These areas provide food and shelter for local wildlife and natural stormwater retention. Individual parks can provide important "rooms" of natural resource activity; however, they become even more functional when they can be linked together by environmental corridors, or "hallways." Wildlife, plants, and water all depend on the ability to move freely within the environment from room to room.

Economic Prosperity

The State of Wisconsin Department of Tourism states on their website "outdoor tourism is a key driver of Wisconsin's tourism economy." The Governor has established the Office of Outdoor Recreation to promote the importance of outdoor recreation in the State. The Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce's Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan highlights the diverse menu of outdoor recreation assets in Marathon County, unlike any other community in Wisconsin, as a key element to attracting and retaining businesses and talent. Leisure time is an important component of everyone's lifestyle and increasingly people are

choosing locations to live based on quality-of-life amenities such as recreational amenities. The ability to retain or attract new residents has direct economic benefits to the County. Studies have also concluded that property values generally increase the closer residential lots are to a park facility.

Parks and recreation also contribute to economic development. According to a study completed by the National Recreation and Parks Association and George Mason University, 72% of the 70 communities studied use parks and rec images in their economic development materials. The study notes that parks and recreation contribute to economic development through:

- **Business attraction:** Park and recreation agencies strengthen product development and enhance "curb appeal".
- **Business retention and expansion:** Active engagement with companies/workers can influence business expansion decisions and attract new residents.
- **Talent attraction:** Many business owners first learn about places as a visitor/tourist. Positive park/recreation experiences influence this¹.

In addition, if a park system is designed with connections to regional destinations, it can serve to bring in additional visitors. This additional tourism can be a significant benefit to local businesses. The County's plan will align with local and State plans to promote outdoor recreation in Marathon County.

Connections

Connecting parks and recreational facilities to each other and the general population via trails is important to encourage safe, alternative modes of transportation. The County desires to be pedestrian and bicycle friendly, especially in highly trafficked locations. The County also desires to be connected to other communities and regional facilities. This allows for residents to travel safely to locations outside of Marathon County and it also invites nearby communities in. Dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trails improve the comfort of users, open up new travel options, reduce automobile traffic, increase recreation and exercise and help create more livable communities overall.

1. <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2018/june/recognizing-parks-and-recreations-role-in-economic-development/>

Chapter 2

ABOUT MARATHON COUNTY

ABOUT MARATHON COUNTY

2.1 LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

Marathon County is located in central Wisconsin. It is bordered on the north by Langlade, Lincoln and Taylor Counties; on the west by Clark County; on the south by Wood and Portage Counties; and on the east by Shawano County.



2.2 TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION

I-39/USH 51 is the major highway that runs north-south through Marathon County and provides a connection to Ironwood in northern Wisconsin and Beloit in southern Wisconsin. WIS 29 is the major east-west highway that runs through Marathon County, connecting to Green Bay on the eastern edge of the state and River Falls on the western edge of the state. The major freeway interchange in Marathon County is where USH 51 and WIS 29 intersect in the Wausau metro area.

The Wausau MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan recommends bicycle routes in the metro area. Outside of the Wausau area, several bicycle and pedestrian trails can be found, with more recommended for implementation by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission. Planning for bicycle routes is an on-going effort and the long-term goal is to provide bicycle route connections throughout the County. Pedestrian connectivity is often a lower priority due to vehicles being the primary mode of transportation for much of the public.

In Marathon County, the only fixed route transit service is found in the City of Wausau. Metro Ride also provides para-transit service to persons who, due to disability, are unable to use the fixed route bus system.

2.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

This section describes some of the historic demographic trends for Marathon County as it pertains to population, age composition, housing, and school enrollment. This includes data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) which is reported as a

rolling average over a 5-year period. Because ACS data are only estimates and contain a margin of error, they may not always represent conditions as accurately as Census data. However, data is generally more reliable at the county and state levels. The 2018 population estimate and population projections are from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA).

Population

The most recent population estimate for the County is 135,922 for year 2018 (WI DOA). From year 1980 to 2018, the population of Marathon County grew by 22.2%, just below the percentage growth in the State (23.6%).

According to WDOA population projections, the County is expected to add an additional 16,868 residents between 2018 and 2040. This represents a 12.4% increase over a 22 year period, or 0.53% annual growth. This projection is similar to the growth projected for Winnebago County (13.6%) and the State (11.6%). New park lands and facilities will be necessary to continue meeting the demands of new neighborhoods.

Age Composition

Age composition is an important consideration in park and recreational planning as needs and desires of individuals will vary based on their interests and physical abilities. The table on the right summarizes the age composition of the County's population from

Table 2.1 Population History & Projections

Source: US Census, 2018 WI DOA Estimates, 2020-2040 WI DOA Projections

Population History & Projections								
	Marathon County	Eau Claire County	Fond du Lac County	Rock County	Sheboygan County	Washington County	Winnebago County	Wisconsin
1970	97,457	67,219	84,567	131,970	96,660	63,839	129,946	4,417,821
1980	111,270	78,805	88,964	139,420	100,935	84,848	131,772	4,705,642
1990	115,400	86,183	90,083	139,510	103,877	86,238	140,320	4,891,769
2000	125,834	93,142	97,296	152,307	112,646	117,493	156,763	5,363,715
2010	134,063	98,736	101,633	160,331	115,507	131,887	166,994	5,686,986
2018	135,922	102,816	104,035	160,349	115,924	135,970	170,025	5,816,231
Projections								
2020	142,200	104,095	105,755	169,130	119,890	144,140	177,050	6,005,080
2025	146,595	106,750	108,485	174,500	123,400	152,810	183,230	6,203,850
2030	150,130	109,005	110,590	179,360	126,160	160,280	188,680	6,375,910
2035	152,120	110,400	111,040	182,170	126,830	163,490	191,710	6,476,270
2040	152,790	111,610	110,250	182,860	125,160	163,890	193,130	6,491,635
Change								
1980-2018	24,652	24,011	15,071	20,929	14,989	51,122	38,253	1,110,589
2018-2040	16,868	8,794	6,215	22,511	9,236	27,920	23,105	675,404
Percent Growth								
1980-2018	22.2%	30.5%	16.9%	15.0%	14.9%	60.3%	29.0%	23.6%
2018-2040	12.4%	8.6%	6.0%	14.0%	8.0%	20.5%	13.6%	11.6%

2017 (ACS). Approximately 25.4% of the population is considered youth (<20 years old) which is below the 2000 Census count (29.6%). Approximately 23.0% of the population is considered at retirement age (>60 years old), which is higher than the 2000 Census count of 16.7%. This number is projected to grow as Baby Boomers continue to age. Similar trends are being seen across the nation. The median age of the County has risen from 36.3 in year 2000 to 40.7 in 2013-2017 estimates, which is above the State median (39.2).

Housing

Based on 2013-2017 ACS estimates, there are approximately 54,820 households in the County, 28.7% of which include at least one child under 18 years old. The total number of households was up 7,118 since the year 2000; however, the number of households with at least one child under 18 years old declined from 35.5% of all households in year 2000. The average household size is 2.44 individuals, down from 2.6 in the year 2000. This decrease follows national trends (and other communities across the

Table 2.2 Age By Range

Age by Range		
Age	Total	Percentage
0-9	16,967	12.5%
10-19	17,511	12.9%
20-29	15,582	11.5%
30-39	16,321	12.1%
40-49	17,735	13.1%
50-59	20,321	15.0%
60-69	16,114	12.0%
70-79	8,549	6.4%
80+	6,193	4.6%
Median	40.7	

ABOUT MARATHON COUNTY

State) which show decreases in average household size attributed to smaller family sizes, increases in life expectancy, and increases in single parent households.

In total there were approximately 58,817 housing units in the County based on 2013-2017 estimates; 54,820 occupied housing units plus an additional 3,997 vacant units. Of the occupied units, 39,911 (72.8%) are owner-occupied with the remaining 14,909 (27.2%) renter-occupied.

Schools Districts

The County is covered by the following school districts:

- Abbotsford
- Antigo
- Athens
- Auburndale
- Colby
- D.C. Everest
- Edgar
- Marathon
- Marshfield
- Medford
- Merrill
- Mosinee
- Rosholt
- Spencer
- Stratford
- Wausau
- Wittenberg-Birnamwood

The combined 2018-2019 enrollment for these districts was 36,222 students.

2.4 PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Lakes and Ponds

There are 202 lakes with a total surface area of 26,303 acres in Marathon County. Seepage lakes are the most common, with 68 percent of the lakes falling into this

Table 2.3 Housing Statistics

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey

Marathon County Housing Statistics		
Households		
2000		47,702
2010		53,176
2013-2017 ACS		54,820
Average Household Size		
2000		2.6
2010		2.49
2013-2017 ACS		2.44
% of Households with individuals under 18		
2000		35.5%
2010		31.5%
2013-2017 ACS		28.7%

category. Spring lakes are the next most common lake type comprising 17 percent of the lakes in Marathon County. Drained lakes account for 9 percent of the lakes in the county. Drainage lakes are the least common lake type with only 6% of the lakes in this classification, however, they account for 71% of the lake acreage. The Big Eau Pleine Reservoir is the largest body of water with 6,830 acres. This reservoir and several granite quarries are deeper than any of the natural lakes in the county. The main public access to the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir is at Big Eau Pleine County Park. Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company maintains a boat launch on the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir and there are a few privately owned launches open to the public. The Eau Pleine Reservoir has a maximum depth of 46 feet. Fish include Muskellunge, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye.

Rivers and Streams

The Wisconsin River flows south through the county, with its major tributaries flowing to it from the east and west. The Wisconsin River's major tributaries include the Trappe, Rib, Eau Claire, Little Eau Claire, Plover, Eau Pleine, and Little Eau Pleine Rivers. There are 256 streams in the County comprising 3,748 acres of surface water.

Natural Vegetation

Most wetland resources within the county are wooded. Certain wetlands are important for nesting waterfowl and spawning fish, especially northern pike. The

Mead and the McMillan Wildlife Areas are the most extensive wetland regions in the county.

Forests/Hardwoods

Forests are a prevalent feature of Marathon County, and although much land was cleared for crop production in centuries prior, forested lands still comprise 37% of the County’s total land area. Within a forest transition ecological landscape, the County’s forest units possess unique characteristics dependent upon their location such as drumlins, ground moraines, and steep river-basin terrain.

Wildlife

There is a wide variety of wildlife in Marathon County, particularly due to Mead and McMillan Wildlife areas and abundant streams, lakes and the Wisconsin River. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources maintains a Natural Heritage Inventory which locates and documents rare species and natural communities, including federally threatened and endangered species. A comprehensive list can be found through the WDNR’s Natural Heritage Inventory (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/>).

The Mead and McMillan Wildlife Areas are managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for wildlife, especially waterfowl. The flowages in these wildlife areas were developed for waterfowl and provide nesting sites for several species of puddle ducks as well as resting and feeding areas for migratory waterfowl.

Small mammals are plentiful, including beaver, otter, muskrat, fox, coyote, black bear, fisher, mink, raccoon, woodchuck, squirrel, skunk and rabbit. The County also offers hunting enthusiasts an excellent opportunity to pursue big game as well. The most popular species hunted is undoubtedly white tail deer. Both bow and gun season draw a large number of hunters to the county. This is due to the fact that most private and public hunting lands are available to the County’s population base.

The cold water stream fishery is dominated by brook and brown trout. The majority of the streams in the Plover River watershed have brook and brown trout populations as do most of the streams and spring ponds in the southeastern part of the county. The

Table 2.4 Marathon County Park and Forest Unit Acreage

County Parks	3873.3
Amco Park	38.5
Ashley Park	155.1
Big Eau Pleine Park	2050.6
Big Rapids Park	28.9
Bluegill Bay Park	75.1
Brokaw Park	74.2
Cherokee Park	65.5
Courthouse Square	0.4
D.C. Everest Park	6.2
Dells of the Eau Claire Park	266.5
Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Park	100.4
Eastbay Sports Complex	66.6
Edgar-Fenwood Trail	-
Marathon Park	79.3
Mission Lake Park	114.3
Mountain-Bay Trail	-
Reitbrock Geographical Marker	0.9
Rib Falls Park	308.4
Sunny Vale Park	363.2
Sunny Vale Softball Complex	(incl. above)
Trappe River Dells Park	79.3

Forest Units	30474.3
Bern Wetland	269.0
Burma Road	1480.0
Elderon	280.0
Hewitt-Harrison	9633.0
Kronenwetter	5176.0
Leather Camp	5248.0
Miller	79.7
Nine-Mile	4897.6
Ringle Marsh	3108.0
Wisconsin River	303.0

majority of the warm water streams in the county support primarily forage type fish populations, except for larger rivers which have muskellunge, northern pike, largemouth bass, small mouth bass, walleye, carp and panfish.

Walleye is a very popular warm water game fish, but it is found in very few Marathon County lakes. Lake DuBay, the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, and the Wisconsin River sustain the majority of the county’s walleye fishery. Northern pike are found in most of the large lakes and streams and support a large share of the warm water game fishery. Panfish are common

ABOUT MARATHON COUNTY

throughout the county, inhabiting 75 percent of lake and 77 percent of stream acreage. Forage fish are found in many small, shallow lakes which are not suitable for game fish due to winter kill. One use of these fish is live trapping for sale as bait. Carp are found in the lower reaches of both the Big Eau Pleine and Wisconsin River and in the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, Lake DuBay, Mosinee Flowage and Lake Wausau.

Rib Mountain

Rib Mountain is the most prominent remnant of the County's pre-glacial landscape. Peaking at 1,941 feet above sea level, Rib Mountain is the tallest point in Marathon County. The Mountain is also the location of Rib Mountain State Park, a 1,182-acre park with a 405-acre ski area that receives over 400,000 visitors on an annual basis. The park has a long history, established in 1927 and initially developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

2.5 EXISTING LAND USE AND ZONING

According to the United States Census Bureau, the County has a total area of 1,545 square miles of land and 31 square miles of water. Using 2013-2017 ACS estimates, the population density of Marathon County is 88 inhabitants per square mile.

Agriculture is the dominant land use type in Marathon County, accounting for over 43 percent of the total land area. This is followed by woodlands with 38 percent. Overall, the amount of land developed with residential, commercial or industrial land uses is relatively small, combined about six percent of the land area, and is generally focused in cities and villages. Of the developed land use types, residential land uses account for the vast majority of acreage, but still only represent about 4.7 percent of the land area in the entire County. While the Wausau metropolitan area continues to expand, Marathon County remains predominantly rural in character. Refer to Figure 2.2, the County's Existing Land Use Map.

2.6 FUTURE LAND USE PLANS

The future growth of the County is guided by the Marathon County Comprehensive Plan (2016). The towns, villages and cities that comprise Marathon County each prepare a local comprehensive plan which includes creation of a future land use map. Together these maps create the County Future Land Use Plan. The current plan sets forth the desired development pattern for the County over the comprehensive planning period. The plan also gives guidance to accommodate projected population, household, and employment growth; the projected land needed to serve residential, business, and industrial uses in the County; and the County's agricultural and natural resource base. Refer to Figure 2.3.

2.7 COUNTY-OWNED FACILITIES & EXISTING RECREATION PROGRAMS

County-Owned Parks

The Park Commission oversees the County's 18 park facilities totaling 3,800 acres. The parks are administered and maintained by the Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry (PRF) Department. The PRF Department partners with the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the administration and maintenance of two hiking/biking trails: the McMillian Marsh Trail and Mountain-Bay State Park Trail.

County Forest Lands

The County's 10 forest units (totaling 30,474 acres) are managed by the Marathon County Forestry and Recreation Committee of the County Board. The Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has a 15-year County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan which provides guidance on land acquisition and forest boundary management, timber management, wildlife habitat and game management, biodiversity management, public information and education, forest administration, budgets and intergovernmental relationships, watershed management, tourism and staffing and personnel management.

Figure 2.1 2018 Existing Parks, Forest Units, and Trails, and Other Recreational Lands

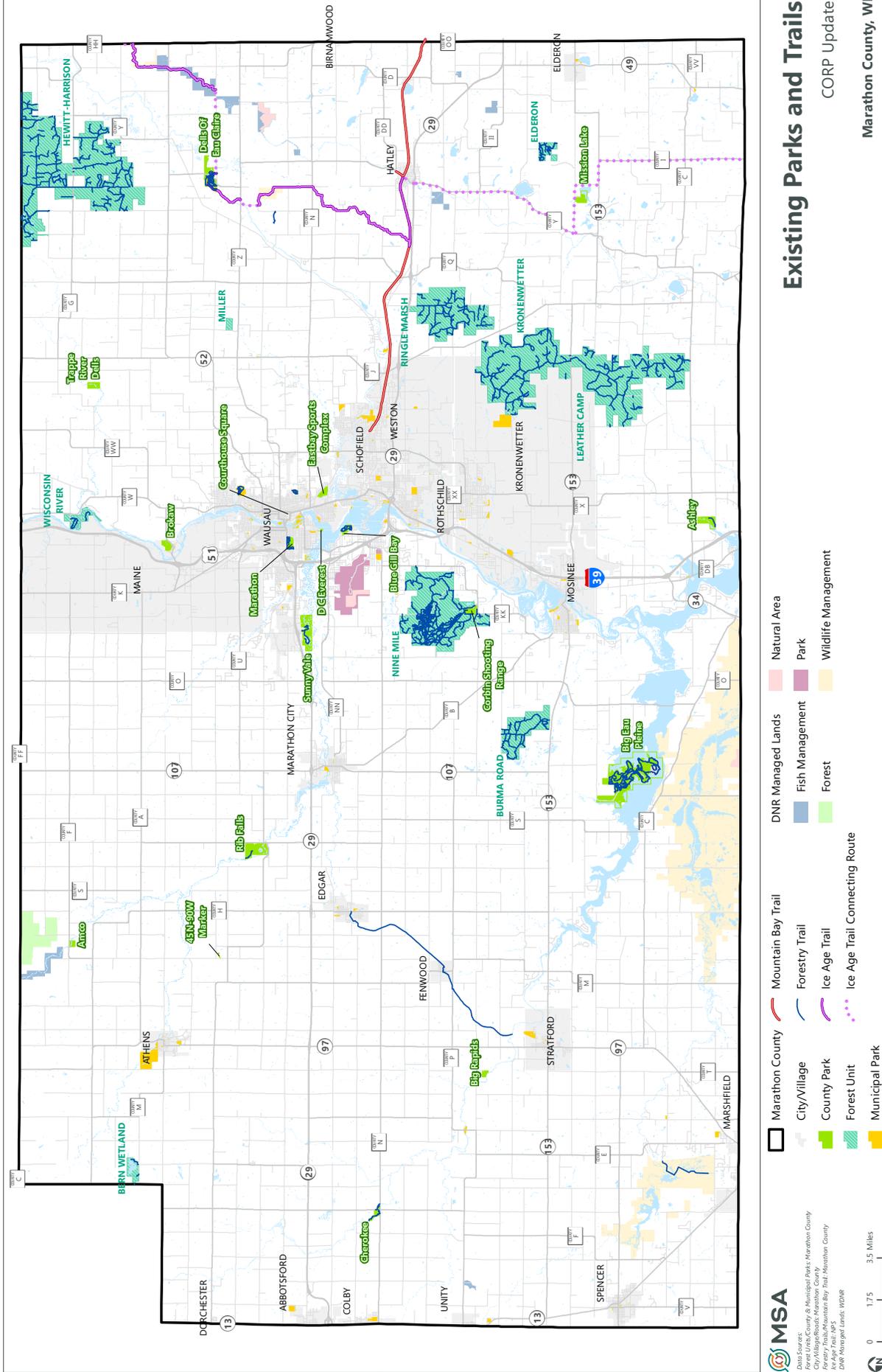


Figure 2.5 Marathon County Park Amenities

Park/Facility	Location	Acres	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Beach	Boat Landings	Camping	Fishing	Lake/Pond/River	Nature Center	Open Area	Picnic Area	Pier	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Shelter/Pavilion	Sports Field/Area	Swimming	Tennis Court	Trail	Volleyball Court	Cross Country Ski Trail	Disc Golf	Mountain Bike Trail	Other - Splash Pad
County Parks		3,873.3																							
Amco Park	379 CTH F, Athe	38.5						X	X		X	X		X	X	X									
Ashley Park	Creek Road,	155.1						X			X									X			X		
Big Eau Pleine Park	3301 Eau Pleine	2,050.6			X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X			X		
Big Rapids Park	Rapids Street,	28.9						X	X		X	X		X	X	X				X					
Bluegill Bay Park	3800 Bluegill Av	75.1				X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				X					
Brokaw Park		74.2																							
Cherokee Park	Colby	65.5						X	X		X	X		X	X	X				X					
Courthouse Square	500 Forest Stree	0.4									X														
D.C. Everest Park	Avenue,	6.2				X		X	X		X	X	X		X										
Dells of the Eau Claire Park	P2150 CTH Y, A	266.5			X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X				X					
Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Park	Road, Mosinee	100.4													X	X									
Eastbay Sports Complex	Street	66.6																							
Edgar-Fenwood Trail		-																							
Marathon Park	Avenue,	79.3	X	X			X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Mission Lake Park	Park Road,	114.3			X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X				X	X				
Mountain-Bay Trail	Municipal	-							X		X	X			X	X				X					
Reitbrock Geographical Marker	Road, Athens	0.9									X														
Rib Falls Park	Edgar	308.4						X	X		X	X		X	X	X				X					
Sunny Vale Park	Avenue,	363.2			X			X	X		X	X			X	X				X					
Sunny Vale Softball Complex	Avenue,	-	X								X	X			X	X									
Trappe River Dells Park		79.3									X	X			X	X									

Figure 2.2 Marathon County Existing Land Use Map (2015)

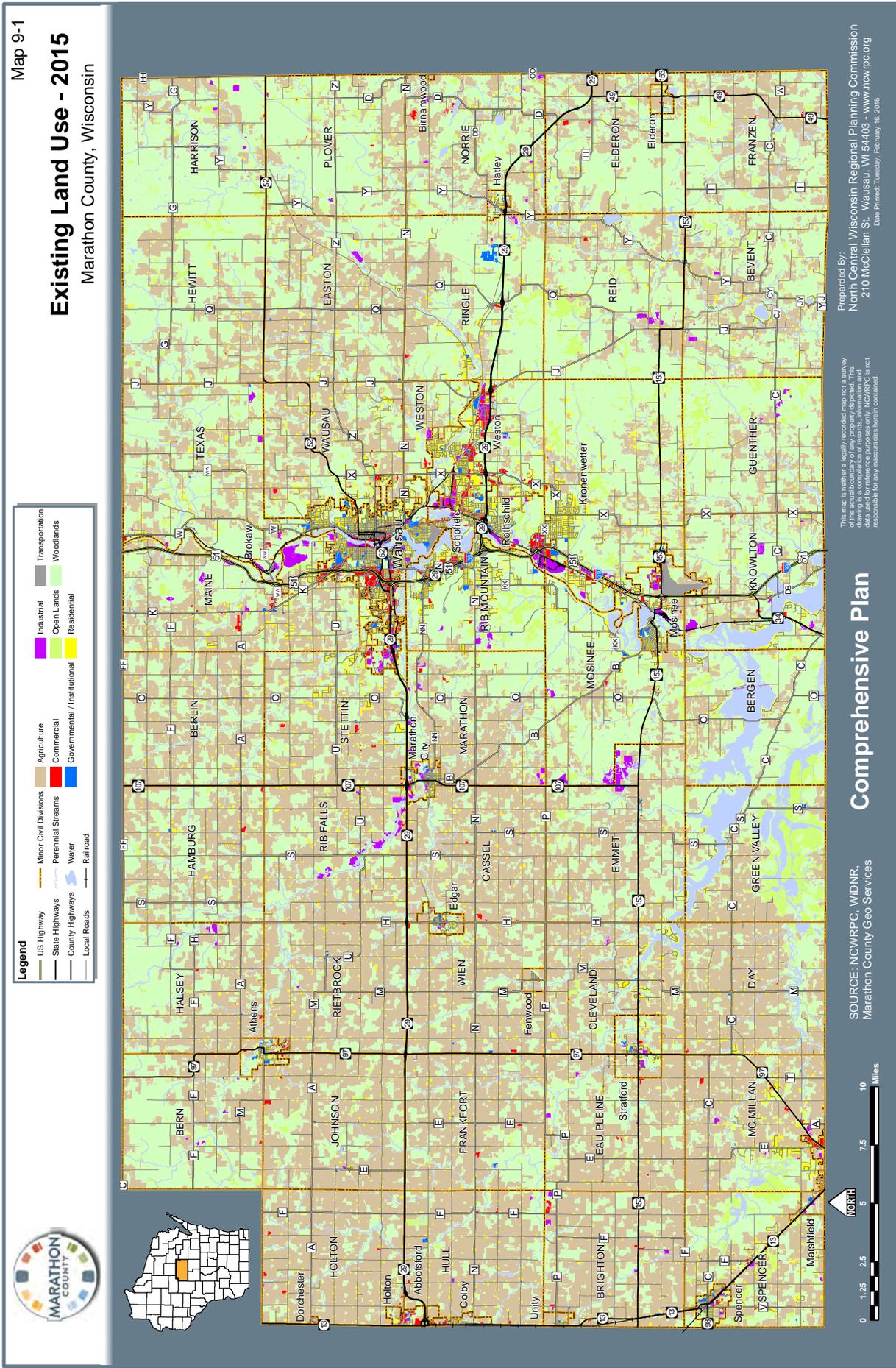
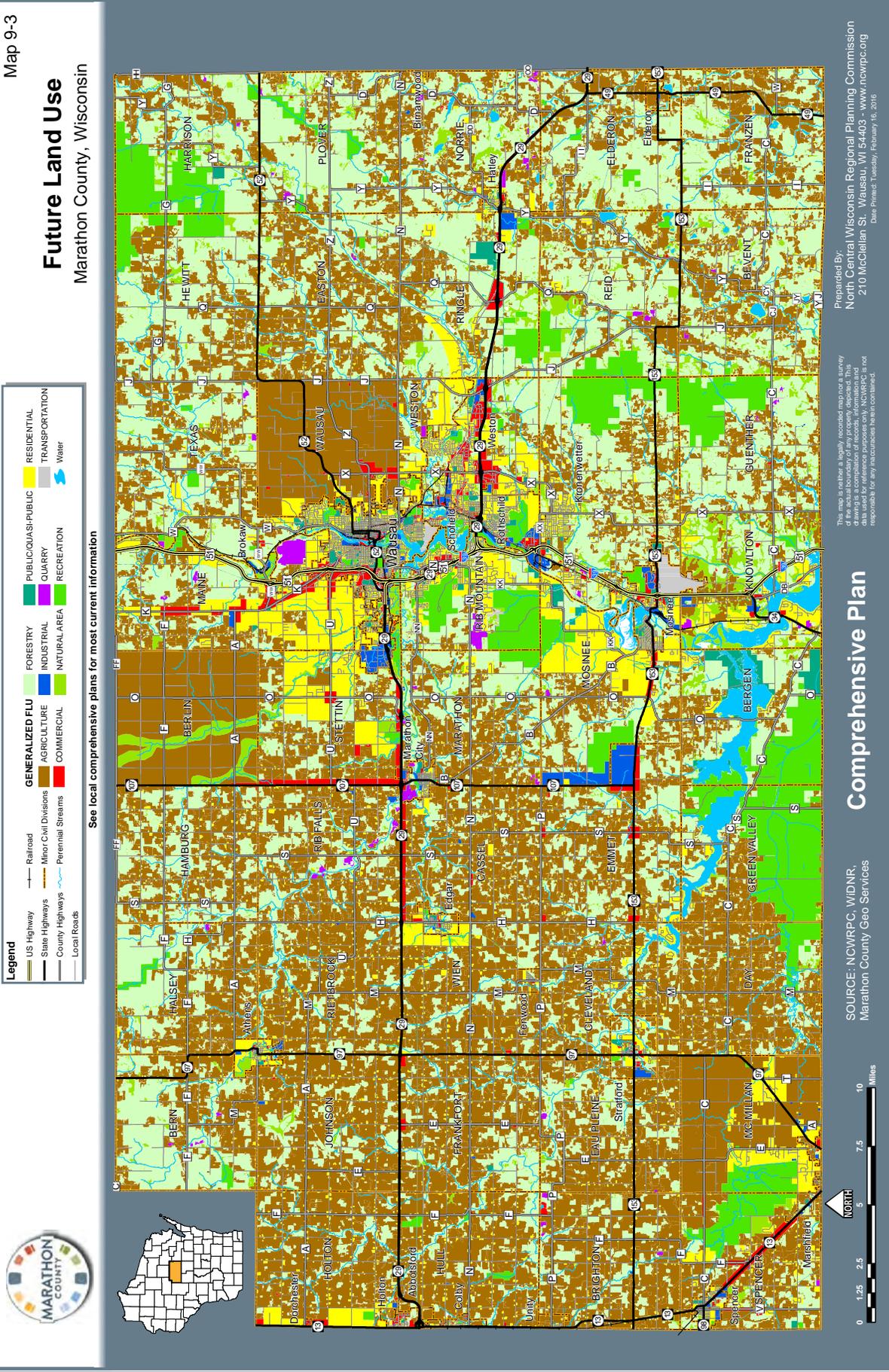


Figure 2.3 2018 Future Land Use Map

Figure 2.3 Marathon County Future Land Use Map (2016)

Source: Marathon County



County forest land provides timber and wildlife management as well as places for residents to recreate. State Statute 28.11 allows the following activities on County Forest Lands:

- Sustainable timber harvests
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Trapping
- Berry Picking
- Nature Study
- Bird Watching
- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Picnicking
- Off-trail snowshoeing
- Off-trail cross-country skiing

Undesignated camping is also allowed by permit in all County forests. Beyond that, the County has discretion about other uses it allows at each forest unit. Examples of some of these uses include:

- **ATV/UTV:** Burma Road Forest
- **Trails that require a permit or fee:** Nine Mile Forest for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking and organized trail running (Ragnar, High School Cross County)
- **Equestrian riding:** Nine Mile, Kronenwetter and Leathercamp Forest
- **Snowmobiling:** allowed on all forest units on designated trails

The County occasionally reviews requests for allowing additional types of recreational activities on County land. The Forestry and Recreation Committee looks at each individual request in terms of how it would impact other users and the natural resource as a whole. The Committee then either determines if the use would be appropriate for the forest unit, and if not, it typically offers an alternative forest unit or county park where the activity would be more appropriate.

County Park and Forest Classification

The County's park and forest system is classified by the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), developed

by the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, categorizes parks by their natural character and the degree to which they are developed. Broadly described, these are:

Primitive (P)

Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human induced restrictions and controls. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.

Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SP)

Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural appearing environment of moderate-to- large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is not permitted.

Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)

Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural appearing environment of moderate-to- large size. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is permitted.

Roaded Natural (RN)

Area is characterized by predominantly natural appearing environments with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of people. Such evidences usually harmonize with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be low to moderate, but with evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities.

Roaded Modified (RM)

Roaded modified setting falls between Roaded Natural and Rural. This setting exhibits more extensive resource modification and use than Roaded Natural.

Rural (R)

Area is characterized by substantially modified natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are to enhance specific recreation activities and to maintain vegetative cover and soil. Sights and sounds of humans are readily evident, and the

ABOUT MARATHON COUNTY

interaction between users is often moderate to high. A considerable number of facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Facilities are often provided for special activities. Moderate densities are provided far away from developed sites. Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking are available.

Urban (U)

Area is characterized by a substantially urbanized environment, although the background may have natural appearing elements. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices are to enhance specific recreation activities. Vegetative cover is often exotic and manicured. Sights and sounds of humans on site are predominant. Large numbers of users can be expected, both on site and in nearby areas. Facilities for highly intensified motor use and parking are available with forms of mass transit often available to carry people throughout the site.

The ROS system also recommends activities and levels of development for each park classification that will not negatively impact or degrade the environment or social quality of the park land. Appendix B contains a more detailed description of the ROS system. Included in the description is a charge that identifies appropriate settings and suitable activities for the range of setting categories within the ROS system. This charge provides the general basis for selecting suitable activities for a given site or environment.

Table 2.5 (page 18) lists each County park, acreage, and amenities. The location of each park is shown on the Existing Parks and Trails map on page 17 (Figure 2.1). See Chapter 5 for additional information and recommendations for each park.

Trails

Figure 2.1 (page 17) also provides an overview of existing trails in the County. Additional recommendations regarding these facilities are described under Chapter 5 of this plan.

Recreation Programming

The Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department offers a wide variety of programming throughout the year for youth, adults and families. Programming includes swim lessons, festivals, tennis lessons, special events (drive-in

movie, camping, bird walks, disc golf, and shooting). For current offerings visit: <http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/ParksRecreationForestry/OtherPrograms/RecreationGuide.aspx>

Figures 2.6 through 2.9 display participation rates for select recreation offerings, special events and pass sales. Splash pad and train ride usage have decreased around 20% since 2014. Participation rates in the Children's festival has remained relatively stable over the past five years, only fluctuating 100-200 participants annually. Family Movie Night and the Haunted Train Ride started in 2018 and are still too new for trends to be identified. For year round passes, all passes have seen an increase over the past five years, with the exception of annual state trail and daily state trail passes at a -20% and -10% decrease respectively. For seasonal passes, all passes have had a decrease in sales over the past five years: annual Nine Mile XC ski passes (-42%), daily Nine Mile XC ski passes (-23%), annual Nine Mile snowshoe passes (-41%) and daily nine mile snowshoe passes (-47%).

2.8 LOCAL PARK AND RECREATION LANDS

Municipalities

Several of Marathon County's municipalities have park systems that provide recreational facilities for community residents. These municipal park systems are geared primarily to serve residents within a limited service radius (generally, 1/3 mile for neighborhood parks and 1.5 miles for community parks). They provide active and passive recreation facilities, and meet many basic recreational needs. Municipal parks complement the County park system, and municipalities should continue to develop them. Municipal parks usually do not serve the needs of rural residents and do not contain many of the unique cultural or natural features of County parks (rivers, lakes, fairgrounds, campgrounds and cross-country skiing). Table 2.6 summarizes the amount of park and recreation land maintained by selected municipalities in Marathon County (communities with an adopted Comprehensive Plan and/or CORP).

Figure 2.6 Participation Totals for Splash Pad and Train Ride

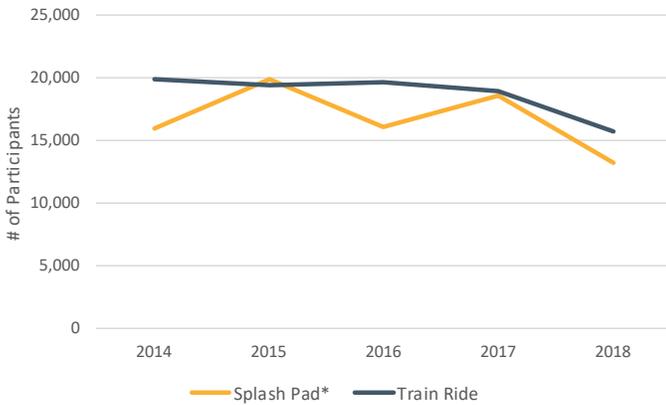


Figure 2.7 Year Round Daily and Annual Passes

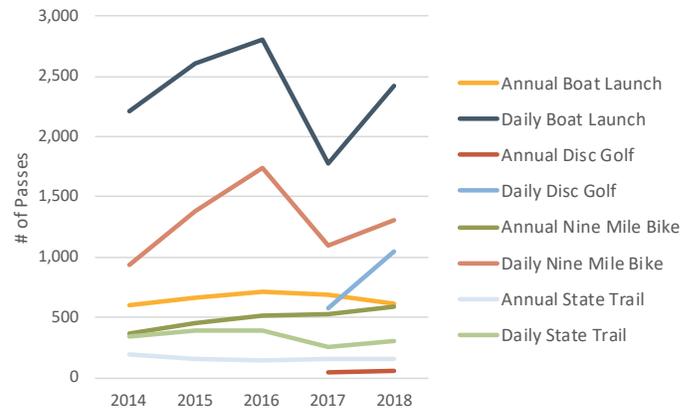


Figure 2.8 Participation Totals for Special Events

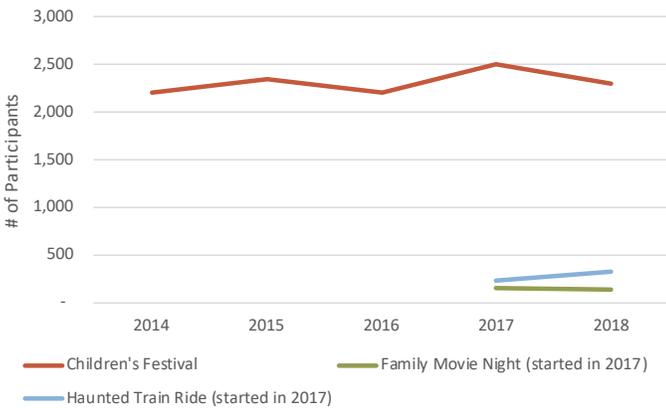
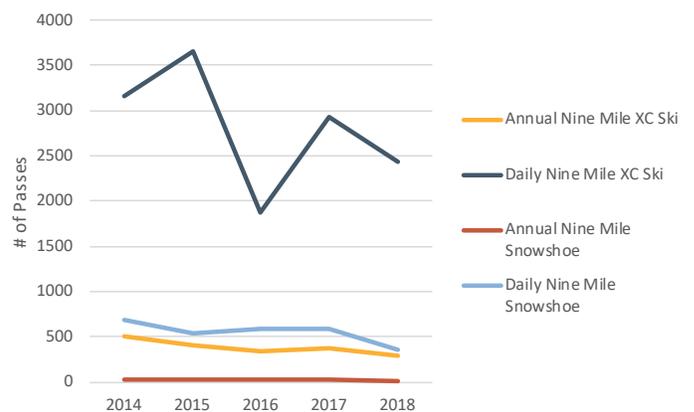


Figure 2.9 Seasonal Passes



Schools

Schools can also fulfill local park needs in communities as they provide many of the same facilities found in neighborhood parks, such as playground equipment and athletic fields. Similar to local parks, these usually do not serve the needs of rural residents and don't have the natural features found in County parks.

2.9 REGIONAL PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Marathon County is in the eastern portion of the WDNR's West Central Region and is well-served by regional parks and open spaces. There are several other park and recreational facilities within close proximity to Marathon County in public ownership. The following list provides the most significant facilities within the region that residents most likely would use. It is not an exhaustive list, but provides a variety of recreational activities.

Rib Mountain State Park

Rib Mountain State Park is a 1,182-acre state park located on Rib Mountain in central Marathon County.

Table 2.6 Local Park and Recreation Lands

Local Park and Recreation Lands		Total Acreage
	Municipality	
Cities	Schofield*	20.4
	Wausau*	241.8
Villages	Hatley**	17.8
	Kronenwetter*	43.0
	Marathon City**	30.0
	Rothschild*	92.0
	Spencer*	11.4
	Stratford*	75.0
Towns	Rib Mountain*	67.0
	Spencer**	17.2
	Texas**	130.0

* Local park system only

**Parks and all land classified as "Outdoor Recreation" (public parks and forests, trails, ball fields, golf courses, playgrounds, campgrounds, shooting ranges, etc.)

ABOUT MARATHON COUNTY

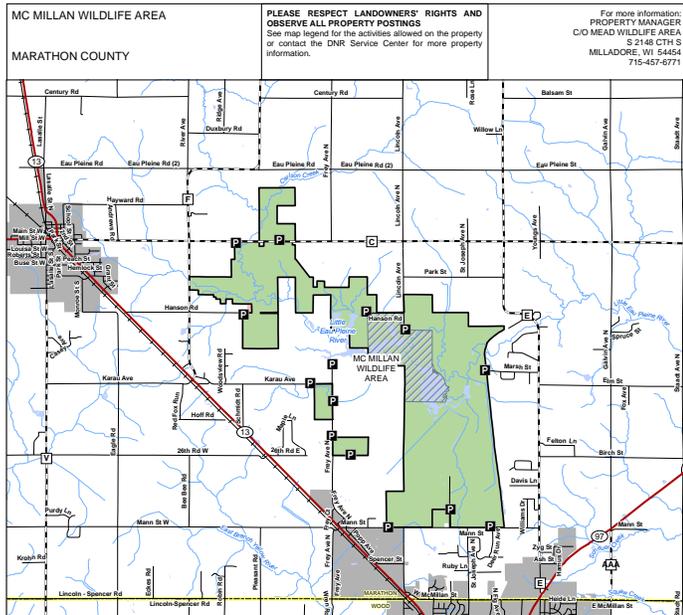
The Park is a premier day-use facility with picnicking, hiking trails and a reservable amphitheater. The top of the 60-foot observation tower offers spectacular views of the Wausau area and Wisconsin River. The privately owned and operated Granite Peak Ski Area is on the north face of the mountain and offers downhill skiing and snowboarding during winter. Rib Mountain State Park is popular with tourists and out-of-state skiers as well as County residents.

McMillan Marsh

The McMillan Marsh is an approximately 6,500-acre state Wildlife Management Area located in southwest Marathon County, one mile north of the city limits of Marshfield. Marathon County owns 1,720 acres of this Wildlife Management Area which is leased to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on a 99-year lease. Marathon County Parks, in cooperation the WDNR administer and maintains a 5 mile hiking/biking trail. The State DNR manages the McMillan Marsh for wildlife habitat and recreation.

Ice Age Trail

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a 1,000 mile footpath that runs through Wisconsin and runs through the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, adjacent to Marathon County. The trail highlights the State's Ice Age landscapes. The connection to this trail is a great amenity for the community. Within Marathon County the Ice Age Trail runs from the intersection of CTH HH and CTH N on the Marathon County/Langlade County border through the Village of Hatley in the south.



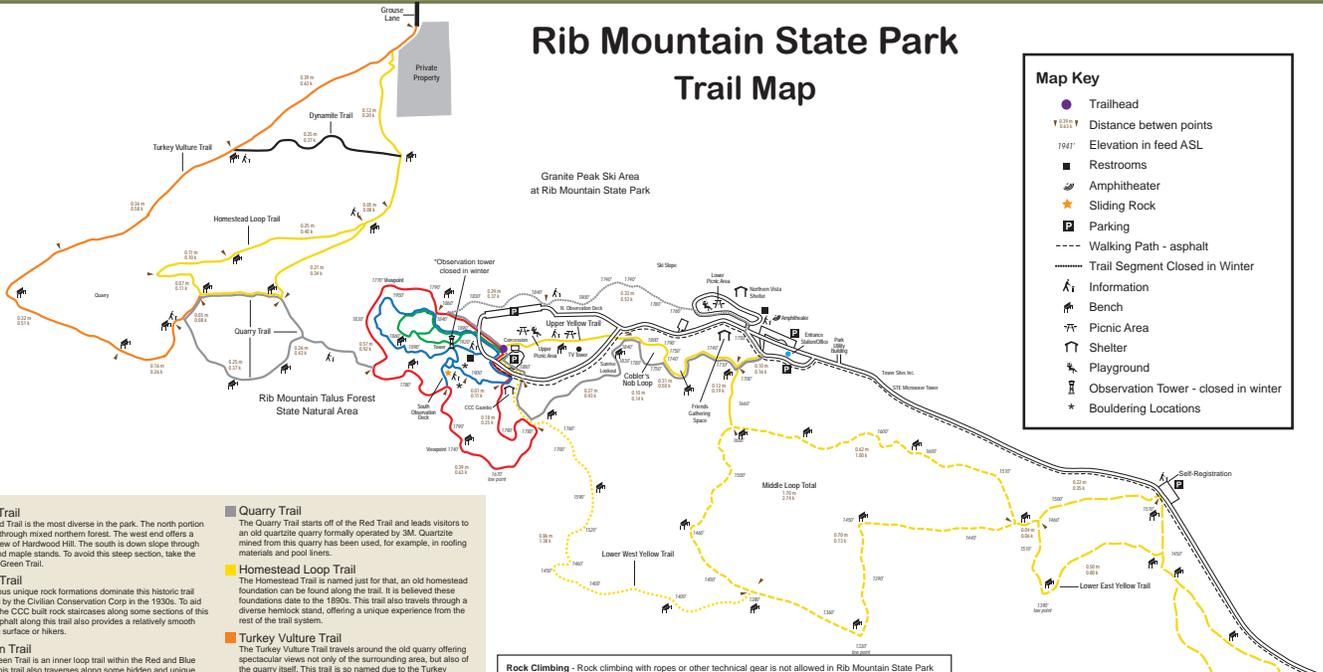
Mountain-Bay State Trail

The Mountain-Bay State Trail is an 83-mile trail running from the Village of Weston in Marathon County, passing through Shawano County and ending in the Village of Howard in Brown County. The trail right-of-way, the former Chicago Northwestern Railroad right-of-way, is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources except for the western 3.5 miles which is owned by the Village of Weston. The respective counties through which the trail passes are responsible for operation and maintenance of the trail. Marathon County manages approximately 17 miles of the Mountain-Bay Trail from within the County boundaries. The trail consists of a crushed limestone trail tread placed over existing railroad ballast. A picnic area is located along the trail at the Eau Claire River. Allowed uses of the trail in Marathon County include bicycling and hiking during non-snow cover periods and snowmobiling during snow cover periods.

Rib Mountain State Park Trail Map

Map Key

- Trailhead
- Distance between points
- 1947' Elevation in feet ASL
- Restrooms
- Amphitheater
- ★ Sliding Rock
- Parking
- Walking Path - asphalt
- Trail Segment Closed in Winter
- Information
- Bench
- Picnic Area
- Shelter
- Playground
- Observation Tower - closed in winter
- * Bouldering Locations



- Red Trail**
The Red Trail is the most diverse in the park. The north portion travels through mixed northern forest. The west end offers a great view of Hardwood Hill. The south is down slope through birch and maple stands. To avoid this steep section, take the gentler Green Trail.
- Blue Trail**
Numerous unique rock formations dominate this historic trail created by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the 1930s. To aid travel, the CCC built rock staircases along some sections of this trail. Asphalt along this trail also provides a relatively smooth walking surface or hikers.
- Green Trail**
The Green Trail is an inner loop trail within the Red and Blue Trail. This trail also traverses along some hidden and unique quartzite rock formations. The Civilian Conservation Corp built this trail in the 1930s along with the Red and Blue Trails by hand.
- Yellow Trail**
The Yellow Trail, the most physically demanding in the park, travels down the south slope through a highly aesthetic mature maple forest. This trail is wide, covered with woodchips and serves as an excellent snowshoe route in winter. Expect some deep breathing with traveling uplope.
- Gray Trail**
The Gray Trail traverses both the north and south slopes of the park. This trail offers a relatively short walk to all of the main features of the park, including the 89' observation tower. The northern portion of the trail is closed during the downhill ski season.
- Quarry Trail**
The Quarry Trail starts off of the Red Trail and leads visitors to an old quartzite quarry formerly operated by 3M. Quarzite mined from this quarry has been used, for example, in roofing materials and pool liners.
- Hornstead Loop Trail**
The Hornstead Trail is named just for that, an old hornstead foundation can be found along the trail. It is believed these foundations date to the 1890s. The trail also travels through a diverse hemlock stand, offering a unique experience from the rest of the trail system.
- Turkey Vulture Trail**
The Turkey Vulture Trail travels around the old quarry offering spectacular views not only of the surrounding area, but also of the quarry itself. This trail is so named due to the Turkey Vultures that roost along the quarry walls during the summer season.
- Dynamite Trail**
So named because of the former location of a dynamite storage facility at the western edge of the trail. The dynamite storage facility was used by 3M to store dynamite for use in nearby mining operations.

Rock Climbing - Rock climbing with ropes or other technical gear is not allowed in Rib Mountain State Park and violators are subject to arrest and prosecution. However, "scrambling" (moving over rock surfaces without ropes or technical gear) and "bouldering" (a form of rock climbing that is performed without the use of equipment except bouldering mats to prevent injuries from falls) is allowed. There are two areas designated for bouldering. These areas are just to the south of the observation tower and are marked by signs.

The Department of Natural Resources DNR has long recognized rock climbing as a recreational activity. In 2003 through 2005, the DNR developed a long-range plan for Rib Mountain State Park. During this process, rock climbing and other activities were studied. We met with rock climbers about the potential for technical climbing in the old quarry site in the park. The department and climbers mutually agreed not to allow technical climbing there due to the fractured rock.

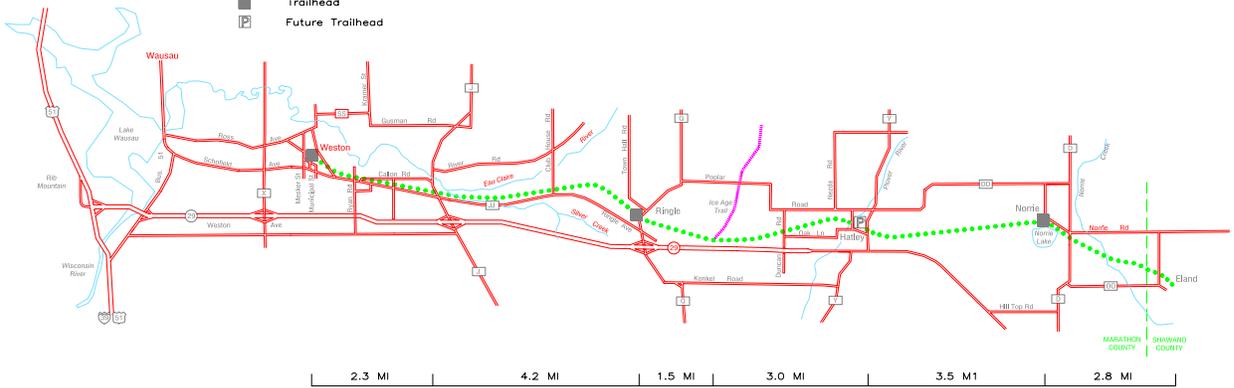
During the same planning process an area was designated as the Rib Mountain Talus Forest State Natural Area (SNA). This area contains the park's highest concentration of rare plants. There are several areas of quartzite talus (piles of broken rocks), some with arctician seeps. These areas provide micro-habitats for many rare plants and animals. The SNA designation provides a new set of guidelines on climbing. The DNR's "Rock Climbing Policy for DNR-Managed Properties" prohibits rock climbing in SNAs. A copy of the policy is available at the park office.



Mountain-Bay Trail Marathon County Section

Key

- Mountain-Bay Trail
- Ice Age Trail
- Paved Road
- Trailhead
- Future Trailhead

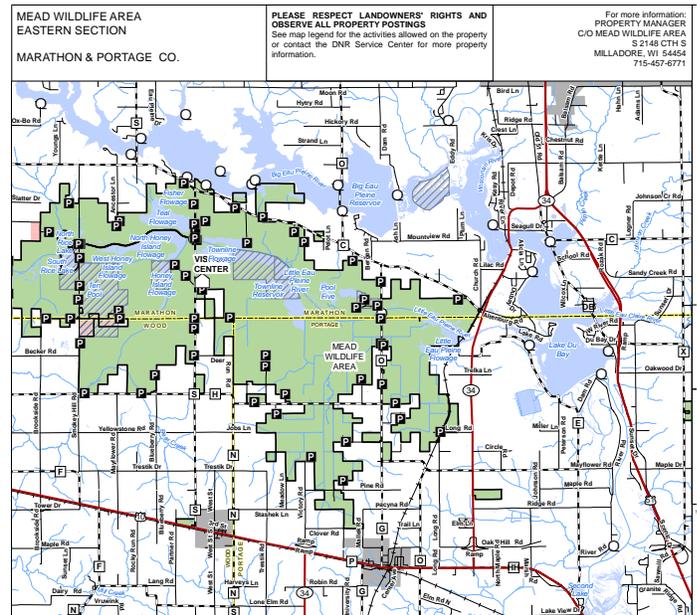
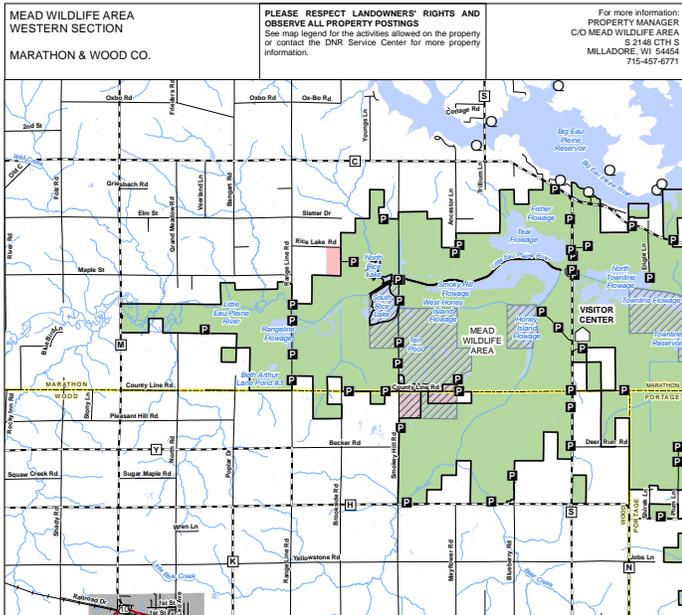
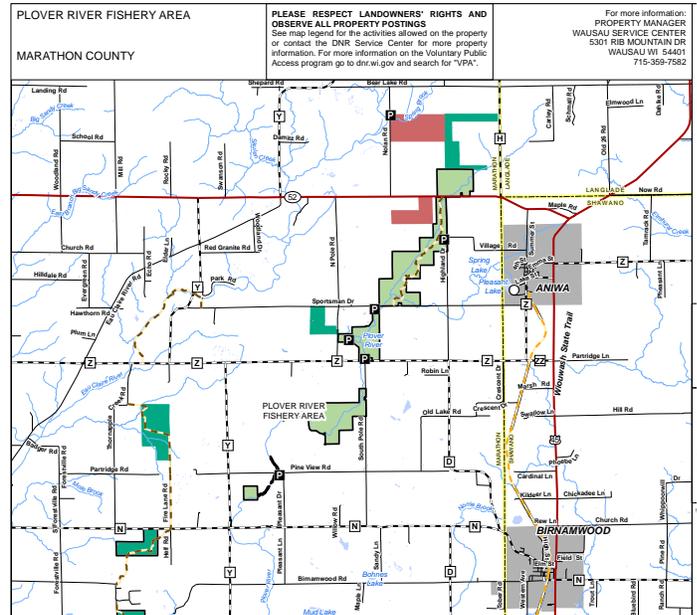


- 2.3 Mi WESTON
Weston Municipal Center
Parking
Info/Trail Passes
Gas & Food 1/2 Mi West
- CALLON CTH J
- 4.2 Mi RINGLE CTH O
Parking
Tavern
- 1.5 Mi ICE AGE TRAIL
Foot Traffic Only
Ringle CC
Ski Trail
- 3.0 Mi HATLEY CTH V
Parking
Restaurant
Hardware
Tavern
- 3.5 Mi NORRIS CTH D
Parking
Picnic Area
Toilets
Swimming Beach
Camping 2 Mi North
- 2.8 Mi ELAND
HWY 45
Parking
Toilets
Tavern

ABOUT MARATHON COUNTY

Plover River Public Fishing Grounds

The Plover River Public Fishing Grounds consist of approximately 1,500 acres of state-owned land along the Plover River in eastern Marathon County. This land is used to provide public access for fishing along the river.



Mead Wildlife Area

The Mead Wildlife Area is an over 33,000-acre public hunting and fishing area in southern Marathon County, northwest Portage County, and northeast Wood County and around 16,000 acres of the wildlife area is situated in Marathon County. The Mead Wildlife Area contains some limited recreation facilities, such as picnic areas, in addition to parking lots and access trails.

Chapter 3

MISSION, GOALS, POLICIES & STRATEGIES

MISSION, GOALS, POLICIES & STRATEGIES

3.1 PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work, and play.

3.2 GOALS, POLICIES & STRATEGIES

Goals are a general statement about a desired future outcome. Goals provide the big idea and direction but do not indicate how they will be achieved.

Policies are rules of conduct to be used to achieve the goals of the plan. They are intended to be used regularly to guide County decisions.

Strategies are specific activities or actions that the County should pursue, sometimes in coordination with other local or state government agencies, private landowners, or non-governmental agencies to achieve the stated goals.



Goal 1 - Provide an adequate and suitable park and forest land base for the outdoor recreational needs of our citizens.

Policies

1. Maintain a level of service of at least 250 gross acres of park and forest land per 1,000 residents and 26 gross acres of parkland (excluding County Forest Units) per 1,000 residents.
2. Ensure that all residents of the County are within at least a 20-minute drive time of a County Park or a 20-minute drive time of a County Forest.
3. Ensure that all land acquisitions have public access or will have public access in the future.

Strategies

- A. Identify and acquire by deed, lease or easement lands needed to meet current demands and future needs based on population projections, recreational trends, demographics, local and county land use plans:
 1. General County outdoor space needs for active recreation including campgrounds, boat and canoe launches, trails for bicycling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, ATV riding, horseback riding, beaches, play areas, play equipment, hunting, fishing, and other possibilities as identified in the County park and County forest definition.
 2. Special use needs suitable for County parks and/or County forests including dog trails, target shooting, archery, open sports facilities, model airplane field, golf, alpine skiing, water parks, arenas, fairgrounds, expo center, exhibition buildings, ice rinks, curling rinks, and company picnics.
- B. Identify and acquire by deed, lease, or easement lands needed to create a county-wide, multi-use, multi-seasonal trail system.
- C. Propose land acquisition to consolidate ownership within established County forest boundaries and provide for public recreation. Acquisition of other

unique or special areas will be pursued within the guidelines of the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Each County forest unit has acreage to be acquired.

- D. Target acquisition of an average of 320 combined acres of park, forest, or trail lands per year by December 31, 2022.
- E. Except in the cases of special use parks, County parks shall provide opportunities for both active and passive recreational use for all users.

Goal 2 - Protect the County’s natural, historic and cultural resources.

Policies

- I. The County will maintain and utilize land use regulations to protect natural, historic and cultural resources.

Strategies

- A. Maintain a shoreline stabilization program in areas subject to erosion from waves, current or recreational use.
- B. Coordinate with other agencies and municipalities to protect parks and forest units from encroachment or degradation by conflicting land use or activities on adjacent lands.
- C. Facility design, construction and operations should protect the natural resources. Potentially adverse impacts will be mitigated to the extent possible, while providing recreational opportunities in natural appearing settings.
- D. Protect environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas from “active” recreation development.
- E. Protect lands that are scientifically, historically, or environmentally significant by purchase, lease or easement.

COMPLYING WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services, including parks. On September 15, 2010 the Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2010 Standards included new provisions for accessible design for recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fishing and golf facilities. Similar to when the original 1991 ADA Standards were adopted for public buildings, a community is required to complete a self-evaluation of their recreational facilities for ADA compliance by March 15, 2012. Those communities with 50 or more full or part-time employees are also required to develop a Transition Plan, which identifies what corrective work will be completed, when it will be completed, and the individual responsible for the corrective work. Any new recreational facilities designed, constructed, or shaped after March 15, 2012 are subject to the 2010 Standards. Any alteration (not simple maintenance, but something that changes the way the site is used) must make the element altered accessible and must create an accessible path of travel through the site or facility to that element.

There are some fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails or swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. A good rule of thumb for the County to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience anymore difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but the County does.

The New England ADA Center is a good resource to use and offers checklists to evaluate accessibility at existing park facilities. The fillable checklist forms can be found here: <http://www.adachecklist.org/checklist.html#rec>

Goal 3 - Maintain all park and forest facilities according to recognized and acceptable community standards.

Policies

- 1. Whenever possible, all park sites and experiences will be made accessible to all potential users, in conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). See side bar for more information.

Strategies

- A. Each County park should have high-quality base facilities that include:
 - 1. Paved or graded access roads
 - 2. Paved or graded parking lots
 - 3. Toilets and restrooms
 - 4. Open play areas
 - 5. Trail systems
 - 6. Picnic facilities
 - 7. Safe drinking water
 - 8. Defined access to rivers and lakes for fishing and boating (where applicable)
 - 9. Wayfinding and on-site signage
 - 10. Accessibility for all users
- B. Fund the replacement of old and deteriorating facilities in all parks and forests and provide for non-recurring maintenance needs, repairs, and replacements. Consult the recommendations within this plan on an annual basis when updating the County's Capital Improvement Plan and Annual Budget.
- C. Maintain a park and forest system that is sustainable with respect to annual maintenance and operation costs and servicing capabilities of the community.
- D. Provide the support facilities and personnel necessary to carry out suitable maintenance and cleaning for all park and forest facilities.

- E. Annually inspect all facilities for safety and maintenance needs.
- F. Extend cellular call and data service to County Parks and Forest Units when available.

Goal 4 - Recognize and utilize selected County park and forest facilities to generate revenues from users.

Policies

- 1. Charge reasonable fees for providing special facilities, a special service, and/or for which registration or reservations are required. Examples include camping, skiing, highly developed trails, reserveable shelters, firewood, boat launching, target shooting, building rentals, and storage.

Strategies

- A. Use park and forest facilities to promote the tourism industry.
- B. Utilize special park and forest facility fees to offset the costs of park and forest operations.
- C. Use parks and forests to encourage business and industry development by providing for their employee's recreational needs.
- D. Integrate parks and forest information with other tourism promotion groups, e.g., Chambers of Commerce, etc.
- E. Consider for expansion those recreation services which are principally in demand by tourists (campgrounds, water sports, downhill and cross-country skiing, tournament shooting, mountain biking, traveling athletics/youth sports, destination walking/hiking, etc.) and provide adequate staffing to effectively manage and maintain services and facilities.

Goal 5 - Promote outdoor recreation by providing information, education and interpretive services to the public concerning natural resources, park and forest recreation facilities and programs in Marathon County.

Policies

- 1. The Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department will emphasize their role

in promoting outdoor recreation and providing information to the public about County recreational amenities and to ensure compliance with County parkland rules, regulations and fees.

Strategies

- A. Provide wayfinding signage for county parks and forest units along major county highways to guide the public to park and forest recreation facilities.
- B. Provide entrance signs, park/forest mapping, trail signs, compliance, educational and interpretive signs within County parks and forest units as needed.
- C. Provide educational, interpretive, and interactive information regarding parks and forests via brochures, websites, location based mobile applications, etc.
- D. Provide educational and interpretive programs at parks and forests with outstanding natural or historic features or campgrounds.
- E. Support and/or provide environmental education study areas.
- F. Continually update maps, brochures, websites and apps that describe park and forest recreation facilities, fees, policies, and barrier free access.
- G. Make park and forest recreation data available to other distribution services such as map and travel-guide publishers, Chambers of Commerce, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, etc.
- H. Make information available at heavily trafficked government offices, parks, recreation sites and other public information distribution points.
- I. Provide public information services at public recreation and leisure events such as fairs and trade shows.
- J. Provide public notification of County park and forest recreation facility and program operational information including rules, regulations, hours and seasons of operation, event schedules, fees, public meetings, etc.

Goal 6 - Cooperate with all units of government, service organizations, and special interest groups to meet recreational needs.

Policies

1. The Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department will participate in the development or review of state and local CORPs to ensure the policies and recommendations in those plans are consistent, compatible and complementary to the policies and recommendations within the County CORP.

Strategies

- A. Encourage municipalities to require developers to dedicate parkland or pay fees-in-lieu of.
- B. Encourage municipalities to prepare and update local CORPs every 5 years to assess how current demand and future park and recreation needs are being met.
- C. Recognize and promote opportunities for joint land acquisition and/or facility development on a cost-sharing basis.
- D. Transfer ownership or management of lands and facilities that do not meet the objectives of County parks and forests to appropriate jurisdictions.
- E. Assist with county-wide land use and conservancy planning including providing technical assistance to citizens, municipalities, and other providers of public recreation.
- F. Utilize volunteers / friends of parks groups to assist in maintenance, providing programming, and any other potential volunteer activities.
- G. Participate in the efforts and initiatives of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce to promote outdoor recreation and positively impact the economic prosperity of Marathon County.

This page left intentionally blank.

Chapter 4

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND DEMANDS

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS & DEMANDS

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the County’s existing park and forest facilities satisfy current needs. The adequacy of the County’s existing park and forest systems are evaluated using the following methods:

- **Quantitative Analysis** - a comparison of existing parkland acreage and population projections versus the County’s park service policy.
- **Geographic Analysis** - an analysis of the geographic distribution of park and forest facilities in the County.
- **Qualitative Analysis** - a summary of public input regarding County parks and recreational facilities gathered through the community survey and public involvement meeting.
- **Regional & State Insights** - a summary of the demand trends in recreational amenities at the regional and state level.

4.1 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

An analysis of existing park and forest land area is provided to determine if the recreational needs of residents are being met. This analysis is limited to an evaluation of park and forest land, and does not include off-road trails not located in parks or forests. Per Chapter 3, the County’s policy is to provide a service level of at least 250 acres per 1,000 residents. This standard is used to calculate anticipated parkland demand for Marathon County.

Currently the County is providing approximately 33,970 acres of parks and county forests land. Table 4.1 summarizes the current and projected supply and demand for total park and county forest acreage based on County population and a service level of 250 acres per 1,000 residents in combined Parks and Forest Units. Currently the County has a deficit of 11 acres of Park and Forest land. If no new land is added, by 2030 there will be a 4,060 acre deficit. Per Chapter 3, and the County Strategic Plan, the County has a stated strategy to add 320 acres of park and forest land per year. Adding this amount of acreage would offset the projected deficit by year 2030.

Table 4.1 Total Parks and Forest Acreage Surplus/Deficit

Total Acreage Surplus/Deficit (in acres)				
Year	2018	2020	2025	2030
Population	135,922	142,200	146,595	150,130
Parks and County Forest Units				
Total Supply (acres)	34,348	34,348	34,348	34,348
Demand (250 acres/1,000)	33,981	35,550	36,649	37,533
Surplus (250 acres/1,000)	367	-1,202	-2,301	-3,185
Surplus (adding 320 acre/year)	367	-562	-61	655
All Parkland (excluding County Forest Units)				
Total Supply (acres)	3,873	3,873	3,873	3,873
Demand (26 acres/1,000)	3,534	3,697	3,811	3,903
Surplus (26 acres/1,000)	339	176	62	-30

Since approximately 89% of County’s park and recreation land is forest, which is used less actively than parks, Table 4.1 also summarizes current and projected supply and demand for parkland only. In 2007 the County had roughly 26 acres of total parkland per 1,000 residents. Assuming this level of service is maintained, the County currently has a surplus of 266 acres of parkland; however, by year 2030 there will be a deficit of 170 acres if no new parkland is added.

Table 4.2 provides a comparison of parkland acreage for Marathon County and six peer counties. Peer counties were chosen based on their similar population to Marathon County and other similar characteristics, including access to federal highways. Table 4.3 offers the same comparison but for adjacent counties, and vary widely in population and level of service.

In conclusion, if the County desires to maintain at least the level of service it was providing in 2007 (~250 acres of park and forest land per 1,000 residents) then additional land acquisition will be necessary

Table 4.2 Comparison of Park Statistics to Peer Counties

Park Comparison to Comparable Counties (excludes forests)				
	Number of Parks	Total Park Acres	2018 Population	Acres Per 1,000 Residents
Marathon County	19	3,800	135,922	28
Eau Claire County	7	931	102,816	9
Fond du Lac County	15	1,213	104,035	12
Rock County	19	935	160,349	6
Sheboygan County	7	6,852	115,924	59
Washington County	15	1,511	135,970	11
Winnebago County	15	788	170,025	5

to keep pace with projected population increases. The County's strategy of adding 320 additional acres per year will be sufficient to erase the existing 2018 estimated deficit and account for the projected population by 2030. While the analysis in Table 4.1 may illustrate a larger 2018 surplus in parkland only, it should be kept in mind that County parks offer a wider amount of recreational amenities, and therefore, are more highly used than County Forests (as supported by results for the survey, see section 4.3). It is not the County's stated policy to provide at least 26 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, this is merely the level of service that was provided in 2007. Given County parks are used more frequently, and for more diverse uses, the County may want to consider allocating a greater share of the desired additional 320 acres of park and forest land acquisition per year to active uses.

Table 4.3 Comparison of Park Statistics to Adjacent Counties

Park Comparison to Adjacent Counties (excludes forests)				
	Number of Parks	Total Park Acres	2018 Population	Acres Per 1,000 Residents
Taylor County	4	437	20,746	21
Lincoln County	8	407	28,862	14
Langlade County	2	79	20,131	4
Shawano County	8	304	41,655	7
Waupaca County	12	166	52,217	3
Portage County	17	1,848	71,038	26
Wood County	8	3,015	74,817	40
Clark County	16	3,287	34,743	95

Figure 4.1.1 Park and Forest Unit Service Area Map (20 Minute Drive Time)

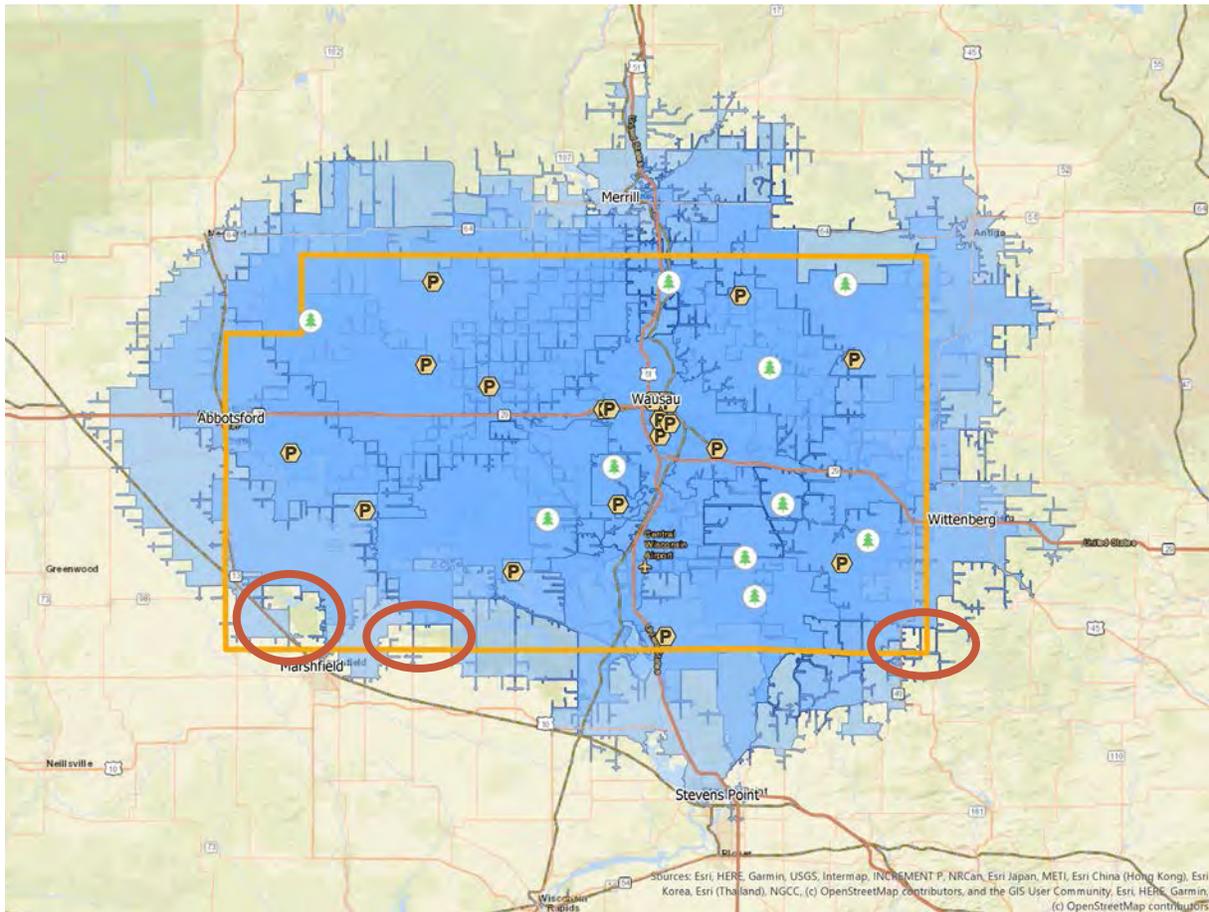


Figure 4.1 Park and Forest Unit Service Area Map (20 Minute Drive Time)

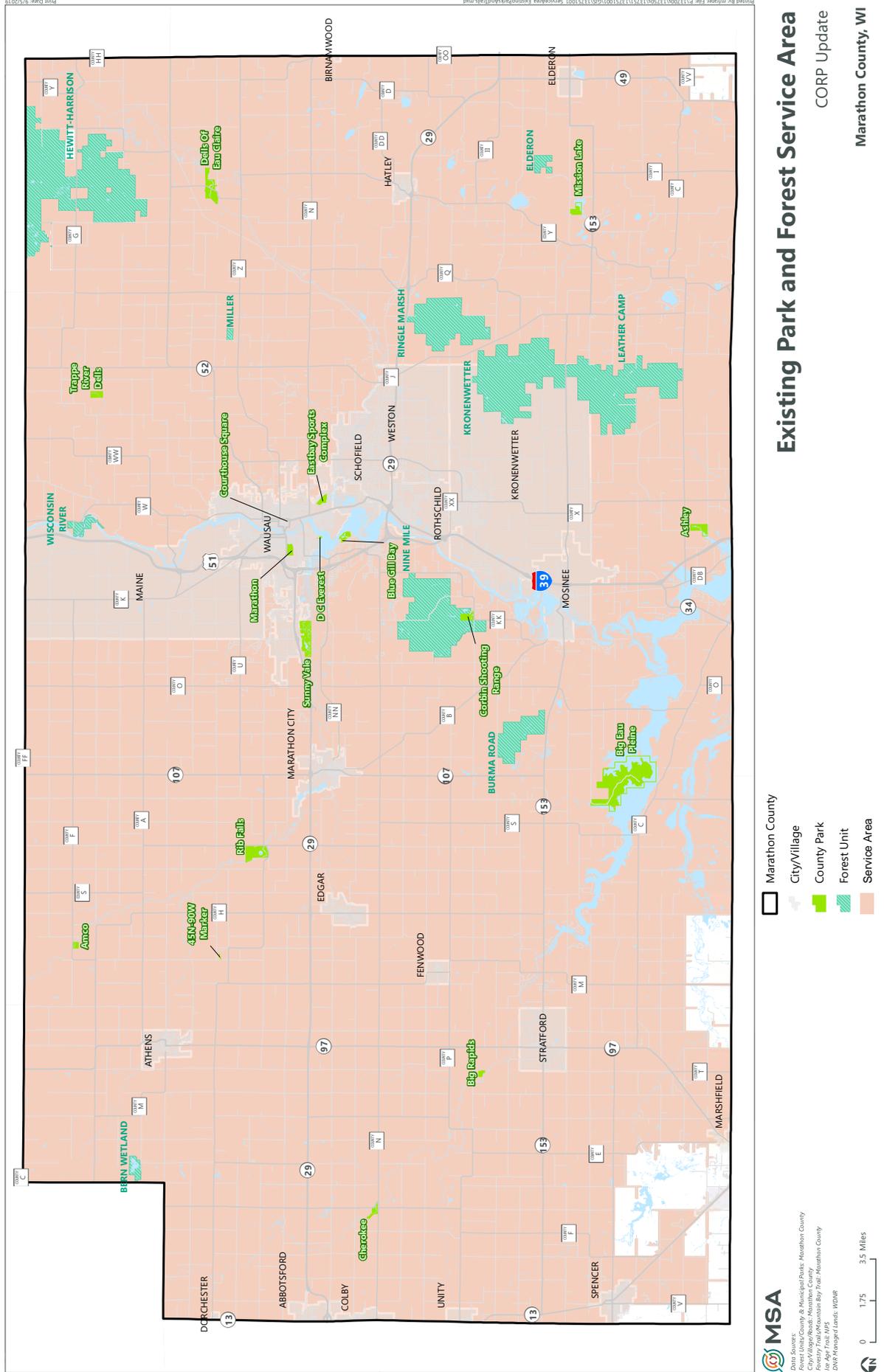


Figure 4.2 Park Service Area Map (20 Minute Drive Time)

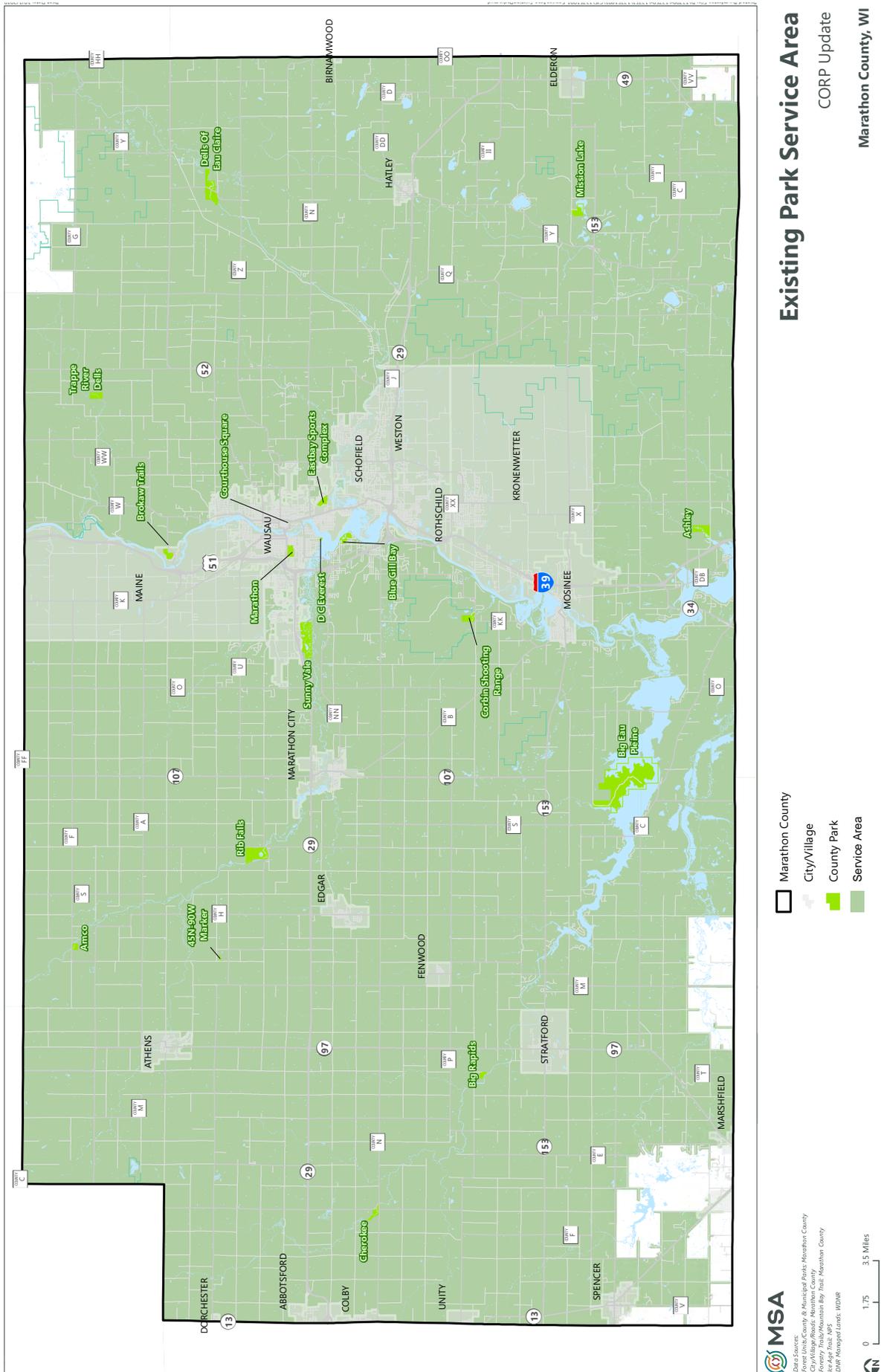
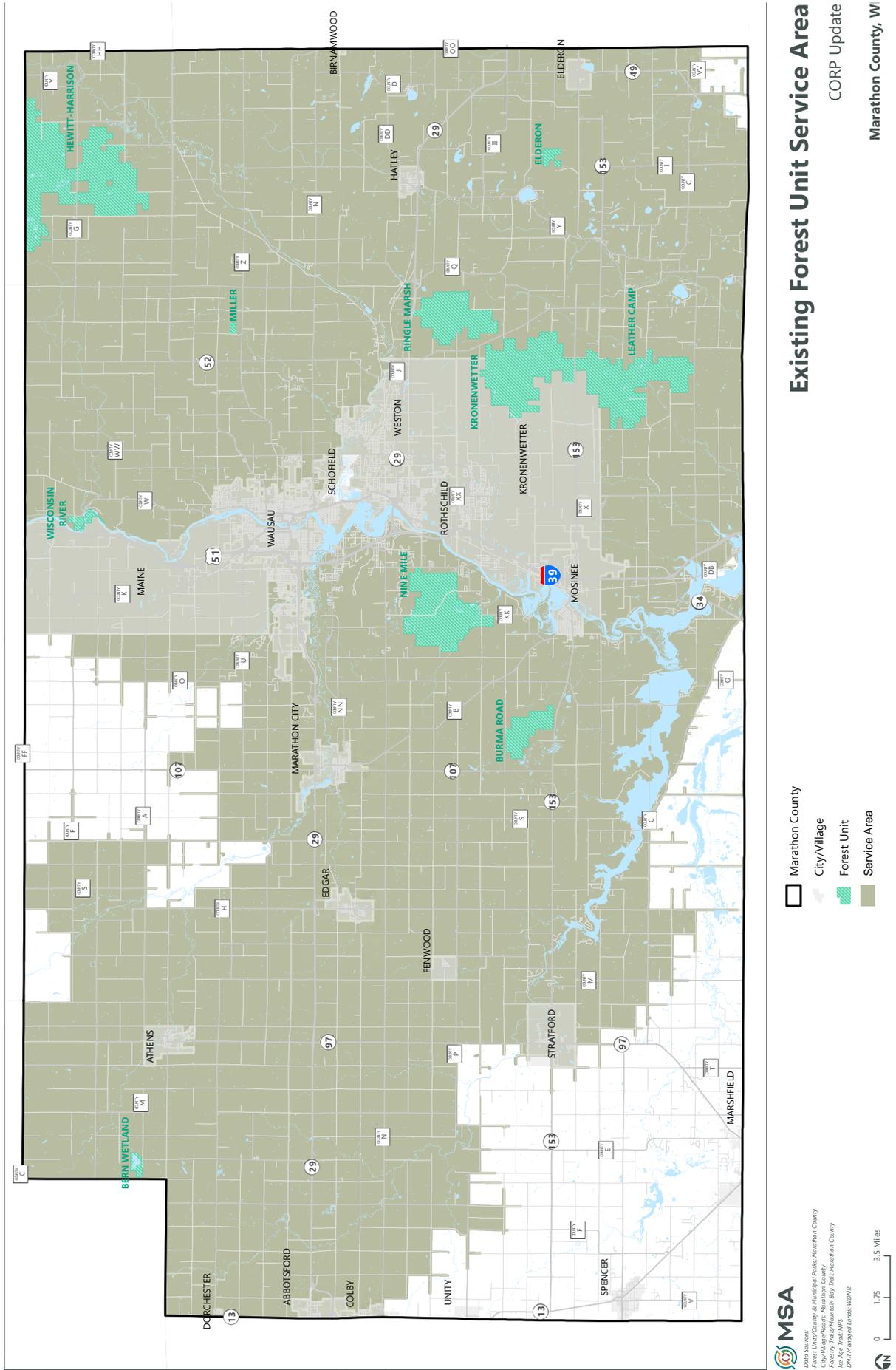


Figure 4.3 Forest Unit Service Area Map (20 Minute Drive Time)



4.2 GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The location of parks and forest units in relation to the County's residents is an important indicator of how well existing facilities are dispersed. Most County parks are located in areas with distinctive natural features and provide nature oriented passive outdoor recreation. County parks are generally larger than municipal parks and often provide for recreational amenities that require greater acreage (e.g. camping, etc.). County parks are generally not intended to meet daily resident needs; therefore, providing a service level that places all residents within a 1/4 to 1-mile service radius, as is typical in a municipality, is not appropriate. Per Chapter 3, the County has a general policy to have all residents within a 20-minute drive time of either a County park or forest unit. The Park and Forest Unit Service Areas map (Figure 4.1) illustrates that all but a few areas of the County are currently served by a County park or forest within a 20-minute drive time.

When looking at the service areas for parks only (Figure 4.2), almost all areas of the County are currently within a 20 minute drive time of at least one County park. However, the size of the park and type of amenities offered at each location should also be considered when analyzing service areas. For example, the north central portion of the County is served by Trappe River Dells Park; however, this is an undeveloped park, which means that many residents in this portion of the County have to travel further than 20 minutes to have access to a County park. Table 4.4 provides a summary of some of the major recreational amenities found at each County park.

When looking at service areas for forest units only (Figure 4.3), the majority of the southwest corner of the County is outside the service area, as well as a portion of the north central County. However, this area of the County is where McMillan Marsh Wildlife Area is located. McMillan Marsh is 6,500 acres and managed by the Wisconsin DNR (see Chapter 2 for more details).

Figure 4.2.1 Park Service Area Map (20 Minute Drive Time)

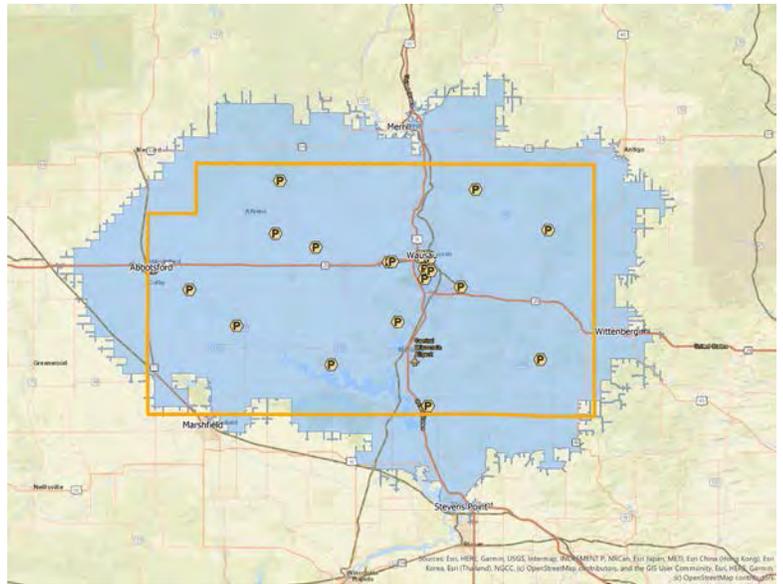


Figure 4.3.1 Forest Unit Service Area Map (20 Minute Drive Time)

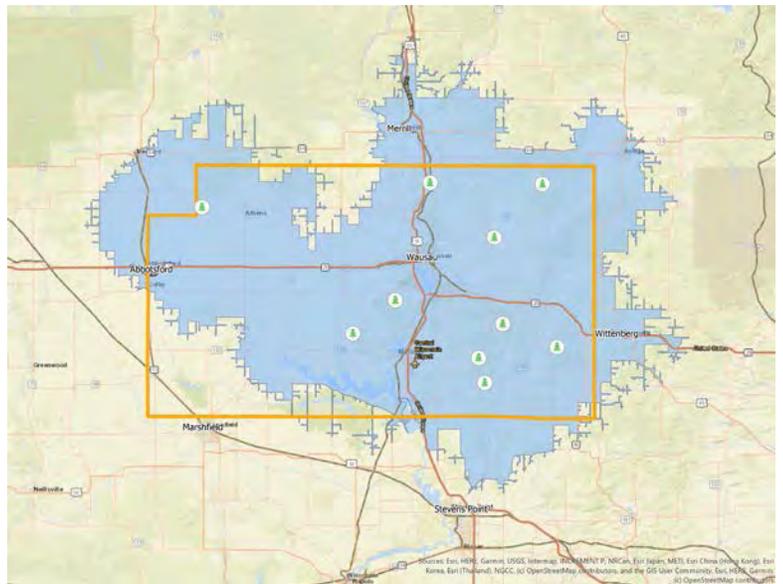


Table 4.4 County Park Amenities

Park/Facility	Location	Acres	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Beach	Boat Landings	Camping	Fishing	Lake/Pond/River	Nature Center	Open Area	Picnic Area	Pier	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Shelter/Pavilion	Sports Field/Area	Swimming	Tennis Court	Trail	Volleyball Court	Cross Country Ski Trail	Disc Golf	Mountain Bike Trail	Other - Splash Pad
County Parks		3,873.3																							
Amco Park	379 CTH F, Ath	38.5						X	X		X	X		X	X	X									
Ashley Park	Creek Road,	155.1						X			X														
Big Eau Pleine Park	3301 Eau Pleine	2,050.6			X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Big Rapids Park	Rapids Street,	28.9						X	X		X	X		X	X	X									
Bluegill Bay Park	3800 Bluegill Av	75.1				X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X				
Brokaw Park		74.2																							
Cherokee Park	Colby	65.5						X	X		X	X		X	X	X				X					
Courthouse Square	500 Forest Stre	0.4									X														
D.C. Everest Park	Avenue,	6.2				X		X	X		X	X	X		X										
Dells of the Eau Claire Park	P2150 CTH Y, A	266.5			X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X					
Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Park	Road, Mosinee	100.4													X	X									
Eastbay Sports Complex	Street	66.6																							
Edgar-Fenwood Trail		-																							
Marathon Park	Avenue,	79.3	X	X			X				X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X				X
Mission Lake Park	Park Road,	114.3			X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
Mountain-Bay Trail	Municipal	-							X		X	X		X	X					X		X			
Reitbrock Geographical Marker	Road, Athens	0.9									X														
Rib Falls Park	Edgar	308.4						X	X		X	X		X	X	X				X					
Sunny Vale Park	Avenue,	363.2			X			X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X				
Sunny Vale Softball Complex	Avenue,	-	X								X	X			X	X	X								
Trappe River Dells Park		79.3																							

Table 4.4 (page 41) shows the profile of the population within a 20 minute drive time of each park and forest unit. The parks with the largest group of prospective users within a 20 minute drive time are metro-area parks Brokaw Park (100,567), Sunny Vale Park (96,013), Marathon Park (95,081), and Bluegill Bay Park (91,914). Forest Units with the largest group of prospective users within the service area include Nine Mile Forest Unit (95,523), Miller Forest Unit (73,222), and Wisconsin River Forest Unit (68,801).

Based on WI DOA population projections, there are ten County park and forest service areas that have a projected increase of less than 500 residents between 2019 and 2024: Bern Wetland, Big Eau Pleine, Big Rapids, Edgar-Fenwood Trail, Hewitt-Harrison, Reitbrock Marker, Amco, Mission Lake, Elderon, and Leather Camp.

The percentage of park and forest users within a 20-minute drive time and 18 years of age or under is between 17-24% and the median age falls between 34.2 and 45.3. Median incomes within the park and forest service areas are between \$51,000 and \$70,000.

In conclusion, almost all County residents are within a 20-minute drive time of a County park or forest unit. There are more 20-minute service gaps for forest units than parks as more forest units are located on the east side of the County. There is generally adequate service coverage for County parks; however, the number and quality of amenities is not equally dispersed amongst all County parks and can therefore result in some residents having a longer drive time.

4.3 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

As part of the planning process, a survey was distributed to gauge resident preferences, opinions, and feedback on the County’s park facilities, forest units, and recreational programs. In total, the survey received 1,194 responses. This is a key component of analyzing recreational needs and demands in the County, and the following is a summary of responses and findings.

Figure 4.4 Park Amenity Distribution

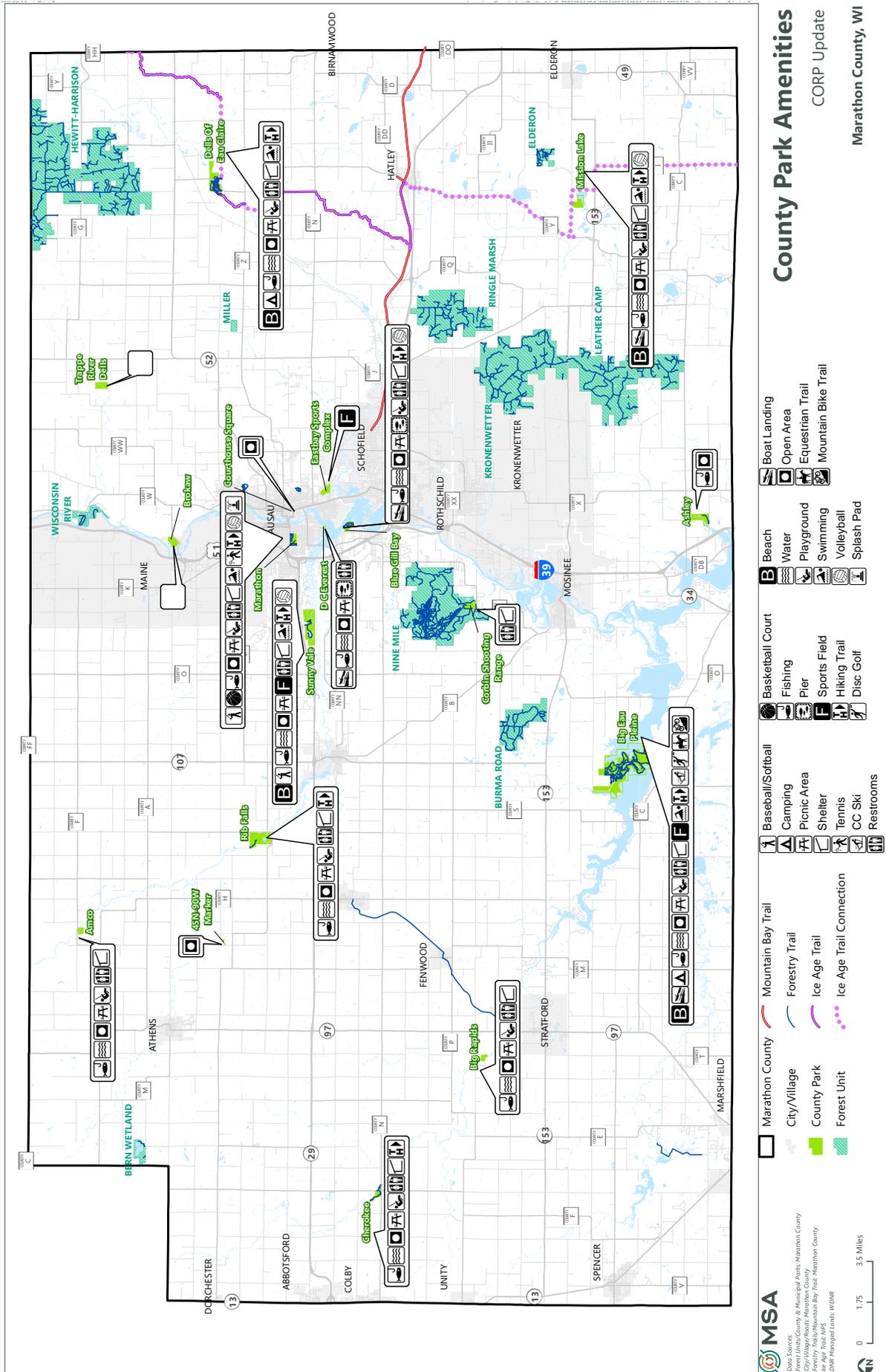


Table 4.4 Profile of Perspective Park Users (within 20 minute drive time)

Profile of Prospective Park Users (within 20 minute drive time)						
County Parks and Forest Units	2019 Population	2024 Projected Population	Projected Population Increase (2019-2024)	2019 Percentage Youth (under age 18)	2019 Median Age	2019 Median Household Income
Brokaw Park (74.2 acres)	100,567	101,917	1,350	22%	40.9	\$ 54,700
Sunny Vale Park (363.2 acres)	96,013	97,793	1,780	22%	40.3	\$ 55,746
Nine-Mile Forest Unit (4,897.6 acres)	95,523	97,354	1,831	22%	40.1	\$ 55,554
Marathon Park (79.3 acres)	95,081	96,867	1,786	22%	40.4	\$ 55,786
Bluegill Bay Park (75.1 acres)	91,914	93,688	1,774	22%	40.1	\$ 55,288
Courthouse Square (0.4 acres)	89,036	90,705	1,669	22%	40.4	\$ 55,217
Sunny Vale Softball Complex (included above)	88,005	89,602	1,597	22%	40.1	\$ 54,586
D.C. Everest Park (6.2 acres)	85,836	87,490	1,654	22%	40.0	\$ 54,596
Eastbay Sports Complex (66.6 acres)	85,603	87,319	1,716	22%	40.0	\$ 55,154
Ashley Park (155.1 acres)	74,261	75,779	1,518	22%	40.0	\$ 56,719
Miller Forest Unit (79.2 acres)	73,222	74,425	1,203	22%	39.9	\$ 51,543
Wisconsin River Forest Unit (305.4 acres)	63,801	64,398	597	21%	40.5	\$ 50,539
Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Park (100.4 acres)	50,540	51,447	907	22%	40.0	\$ 52,730
Trappe River Dells Park (79.3 acres)	48,295	49,284	989	22%	40.1	\$ 52,763
Rib Falls Park (308.4 acres)	42,688	43,271	583	22%	40.7	\$ 53,904
Dells of the Eau Claire Park (266.5 acres)	41,792	42,395	603	17%	34.2	\$ 53,565
Mountain-Bay Trail	41,149	41,922	773	22%	41.3	\$ 60,404
Ringle Marsh Forest Unit (3,079.9 acres)	41,003	41,928	925	22%	40.9	\$ 65,352
Kronenwetter Forest Unit (5,164.7 acres)	38,667	39,604	937	22%	40.9	\$ 66,349
Burma Road Forest Unit (1,469.0 acres)	32,333	32,904	571	21%	43.6	\$ 67,238
Cherokee Park (65.5 acres)	26,401	26,928	527	26%	38.8	\$ 55,582
Edgar-Fenwood Trail	23,050	23,397	347	23%	42.0	\$ 62,099
Bern Wetland Forest Unit (264.9 acres)	18,517	18,775	258	24%	39.5	\$ 52,310
Big Eau Pleine Park (2,050.6 acres)	18,166	18,539	373	22%	42.7	\$ 66,239
Big Rapids Park (28.9 acres)	17,251	17,574	323	24%	41.3	\$ 60,910
Hewitt-Harrison Forest Unit (9,399.7 acres)	17,093	17,150	57	20%	44.2	\$ 51,115
Reitbrock Geographical Marker (0.9 acres)	17,090	17,266	176	23%	41.6	\$ 62,378
Amco Park (38.5 acres)	14,401	14,490	89	24%	41.6	\$ 61,109
Mission Lake Park (114.3 acres)	12,786	12,939	153	20%	44.1	\$ 61,422
Elderon Forest Unit (277.3 acres)	10,089	10,167	78	20%	44.3	\$ 57,779
Leather Camp Forest Unit (5,231.8 acres)	8,448	8,549	101	19%	45.3	\$ 69,502

Importance and Satisfaction

Residents of the County strongly believe that parks, trails, and forest units are important to overall recreation and quality of life – ranking the average importance of the parks, trails, and forest system at 90 out of 100. In total, more than 97% of residents taking the survey had visited a County Park or Forest in the past year.

Average satisfaction remains high, rated greater than 75 out of 100 for both quality and variety of facilities offered in the County, with respondents indicating high

levels of satisfaction in Appearance (93% satisfied or very satisfied), Maintenance (87%), Cleanliness (86%), Safety (94%), and Accessibility (92%). Common reasons for dissatisfaction included availability/state of restrooms (6% of all respondents), improvements for hockey facilities (3% of all respondents), and overall cleanliness (1%).

Safety and Accessibility

94% of respondents indicated that they feel safe when using the County’s parks, trails, and forests. Of the approximately 6% of respondents with safety

concerns, one-quarter cited perception or presence of intoxicated users within parks and forests. Other users shared safety concerns of trail maintenance, as well as perceptions of outdated boards and glass at Marathon Ice Arena.

Other respondents shared a desire for increased accessibility – wheelchair and paved access to playgrounds, more paved trails throughout the system, increased lighting along trails, and accessible kayak and boat launches for disabled users.

General Use - Parks

In order of reported visits, 85% of respondents visited Marathon Park (excluding the Ice Arena) within the past year, 80% visited Dells of Eau Claire, 75% Big Eau Pleine, 68% Bluegill Bay, 42% the Marathon Ice Arena, and 40% the Eastbay Sports Complex. Marathon Park, Eastbay Sports Complex, and Marathon Ice Arena had the most repeat visits of 15 or more times per year.

The least-visited parks among respondents were Ashley Park (< 3% of respondents had visited) and Trappe River Dells (< 6%). The next reported least-visited parks included (in order) Cherokee (10%), Amco (11%), Big Rapids (14%), the Reitbrock Geographic Marker (17%), and Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range (20%).

General Use – Forests

Forest units with the largest number of reported visits in the past year included Nine-Mile (69% of respondents visited at least once) and Wisconsin River (58% of respondents). These two forest units also had, by a significant margin, the largest number of repeat visitors. Respectively, 30% and 23% of respondents visited 6 or more times annually.

The least-visited forest units were Miller (3% visited), Bern Wetland (7%), and Elderon (7%), all with less than 10% of respondents having visited in the prior year.

Activities and Programming

More than 68% of respondents indicated that they

participate in hiking within the system, and more than 60% utilize the system for walking. The next most popular activities include biking (48% of respondents), camping (46%), swimming (41%), canoeing (38%), fishing (36%), picnicking (29%), playground use (27%), and snowshoeing (26%). There are a large variety of activities that users participate in on County parks, trails, and forests, with 25 distinct recreational activities having more than 10% of respondents engaged. Accounting for reported uses and number of respondents, each individual or family utilizes parks, trails, or forests for an average of 7 different recreational activities.

Community preferences for programming differ by age (youth vs adult). For youth, the most needed forms of programming are swim lessons (55%), sports instruction/introduction (40%), and organized sports (28%). For adults, the most needed programmed activities are water fitness (64%), healthy cooking (59%), and pickleball lessons (58%). The largest need for both groups combined are family camping events (75%), community events (69%), and adaptive (special population) programs (61%).

Funding

If given opportunity to direct funding, 57% of survey respondents would spend more on improving the conditions of existing parks or facilities, 51% on protecting lakes and stream corridors, and 50% on adding new facilities to the existing forests and parks. Only 28% and 30% would spend more on acquiring new forest land and park land, respectively. 44% of respondents, however, would approve of spending more to acquire and develop new trails. The vast majority of respondents would continue the same amount of spending or increase spending in most areas.

Nearly 70% of respondents felt that fees were appropriate for value received within the system, 3% felt that fees were underpriced, and an additional 16% were unsure. There were several comments related to camping fees, and the possibility to collect fees at one time for boating, camping, and dumping, or rolling them all into a single appropriate fee charged to all campers.

Other Comments

In addition to survey responses, we received 289 additional comments on Marathon County parks, trails, and forest units at a PIM held on April 30, 2019. Many of these comments reflected potential for improvements identified earlier in the process – running water/flush toilets/showers, hockey facility improvements, and the desire for additional pickleball courts represented nearly 25% of the “other” comments received on 88 specific themes. Other areas reflected in these comments include desire for new/expanded indoor space for sports, namely baseball, lacrosse, soccer, and/or pickleball, more restrooms within the park system, and pursuing opportunities for snowmaking at Nine-Mile county forest during the winter recreation season.

Additional feedback received at the PIM consisted of a Spending Activity, where attendees were given \$1,000 “dollars” and the opportunity to spend it across any of 12 improvement categories. 52% of all “dollars” spent went to expanding/improving non-motorized trails, nearly triple the next-highest category, athletic facilities (19%). Trail emphasis was placed at Nine Mile, mountain biking trails throughout the system of parks and forests, and connecting/expanding trails so the entire system can be better accessed through active modes of transportation. Within the athletic facilities category, 46% of respondents identified the need for increased pickleball facilities, while the rest were evenly split between improvements/expansion of both Eastbay and Marathon Ice Arena.

Finally, the PIM also identified, through a mapping exercise, areas desired for future trail connections within the County (Figure 4.6). Many of these areas focused on connecting the City of Wausau to County parks and forest units through active transportation modes, as well as desire for a rails-to-trails conversion that could connect the current system and Wausau to Marshfield (Fig. 4.6).

Full lists of survey and PIM comments are available in Appendix A.

4.4 REGIONAL & STATE INSIGHTS

Insights from the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2019-2023

The recently updated Wisconsin SCORP features a Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA). The ROA examines existing outdoor-recreation opportunities compared to future opportunities in eight regions throughout Wisconsin. Marathon County is located in the Western Sands region.

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.

The ROA found that residents of the Western Sands Region participate in the following activities at lower rates than the State average:

- Sailing/stand-up paddle boarding
- Downhill skiing/snowboarding
- Visiting a dog park
- Personal water craft - jet ski

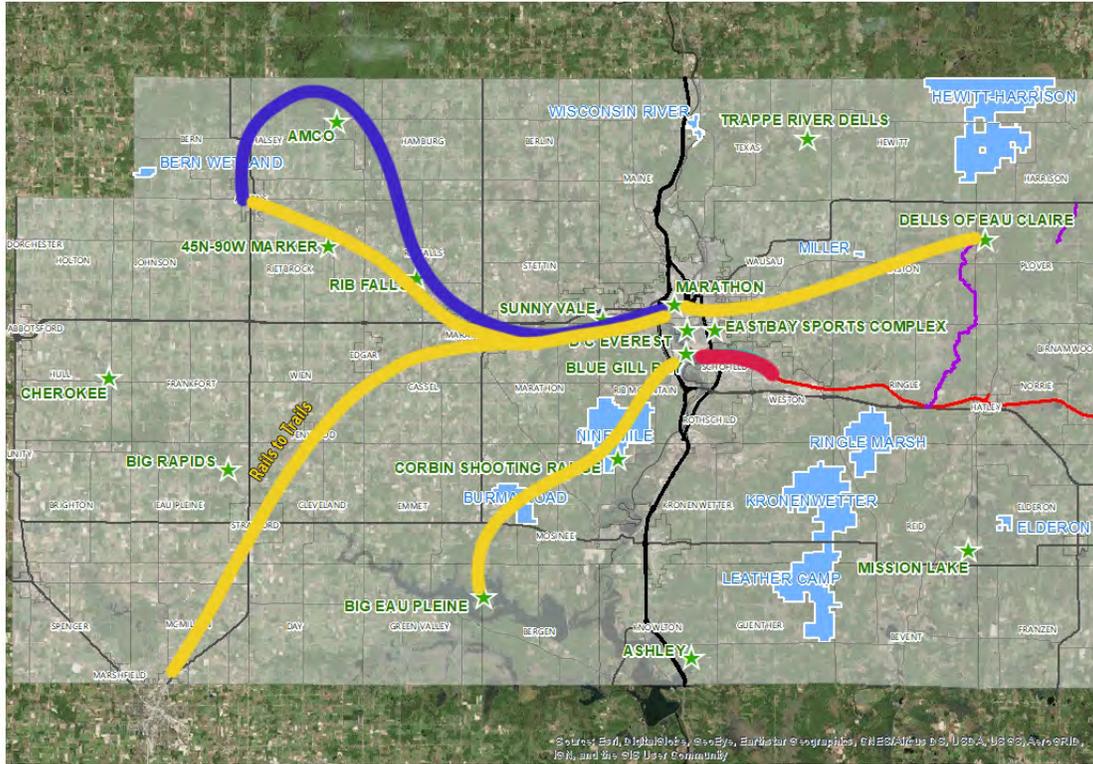
Residents in the region participate at higher rates than the state average in big game hunting.

The most popular places to go in the region are the Ice Age Trail, Black River State Forest, Rib Mountain State Park, Hartman Creek State Park, and the Elroy Sparta State Trail.

Of the people who participated in the ROA, the majority (71%) selected the quality of trails as the most important factor in determining their favorite property to visit. The three next most important factors are the desire to be in a quiet place, good maps, signage or information about properties and quality of habitat.

DESIRED TRAIL CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE SYSTEM

Figure 4.6 Desired Community Trail Connections



★ County Parks + County Forest Units □ Communities — Ice Age Trail — Mountain Bay Trail

Use the map to draw your own future trails or park locations.

The following recreation activities are identified in the SCORP as high priority needs in the 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

Figure 4.7 Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan Planning Areas



This page left intentionally blank.

Chapter 5

RECOMMENDATIONS

This page left intentionally blank.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The quantitative, qualitative, and geographic analysis discussed in Chapter 4 reveals the need for improvements to existing facilities, as well as the acquisition and development of new sites for future recreational use. It should be noted that some of the recommendations may require considerable cooperation with others, including the citizens of Marathon County, local civic and business associations, and State agencies. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

The recommendations of this plan are divided into five major sections: (1) existing park facilities (2) new or expanded park facilities; (3) trail improvements; (4) miscellaneous improvements. For recommendations related to forest units consult the latest copy of the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The timeline for completion of the recommendations is noted within each table of recommendations. High priority items should occur in the next 1-3 years (2022), Medium priority items should occur over the next three to five years (2024) and low priority items may not be completed within the next five years; however, initial planning activities may occur to bring these items closer to completion. Due to budgetary constraints it is unlikely that all of the recommendations within this chapter will be implemented in the next five years. Maintenance and improvement projects will be prioritized on an annual basis by County staff in conjunction with the County's Parks Commission and Forestry and Recreation Committee as part of the County's annual budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

Many of the recommendations regarding locating new park or trail facilities will be coordinated with the sale or donation of land by other parties; therefore, the timing is much more variable. Acquisition projects will be implemented through donation, dedication, purchase, or a combination thereof.

5.1 EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

The following pages contain one- to two-page spreads dedicated to each existing park in Marathon County. Each spread includes general information, facilities (and approximate install dates), and recommendations for improvements to existing parks. Some of the recommendations identified within this section are remnants from the 2007 Marathon County CORP. Other recommendations are drawn from the County's 2021-2024 Capital Improvement Plan which was approved prior to completing this plan. The remaining recommendations reflect staff, commission, public and consultant feedback obtained during the planning process.



AMCO PARK

Park Address: 125773 County Road L (Athens)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: R/RN

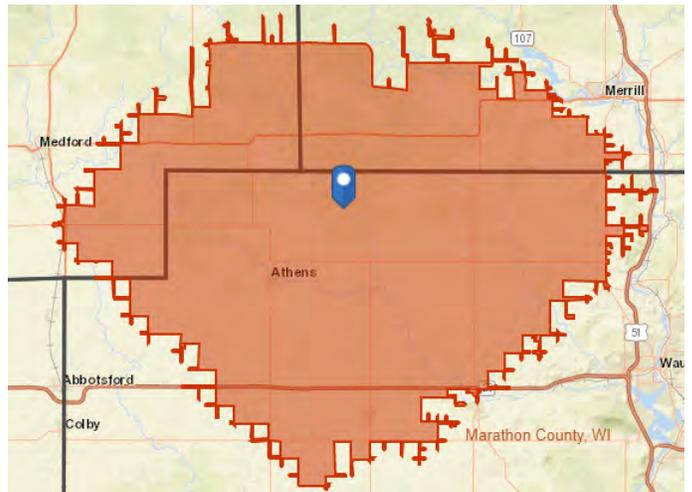
Park Size (gross): 38.5 acres

Park Size (active use): 6 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 14,401

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 5,347

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$61,109



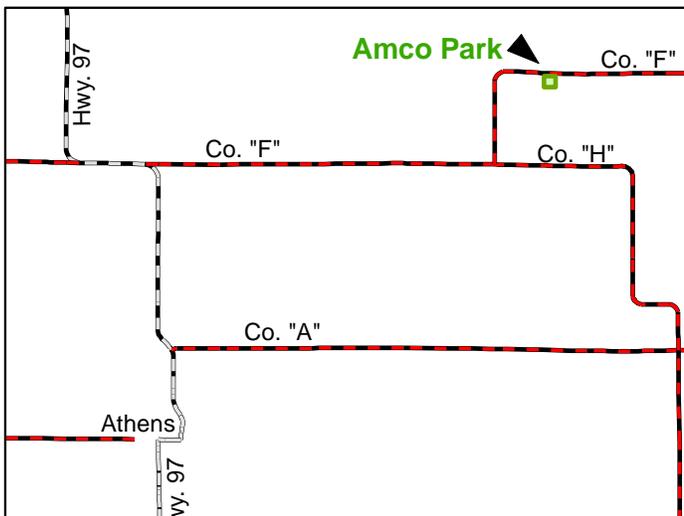
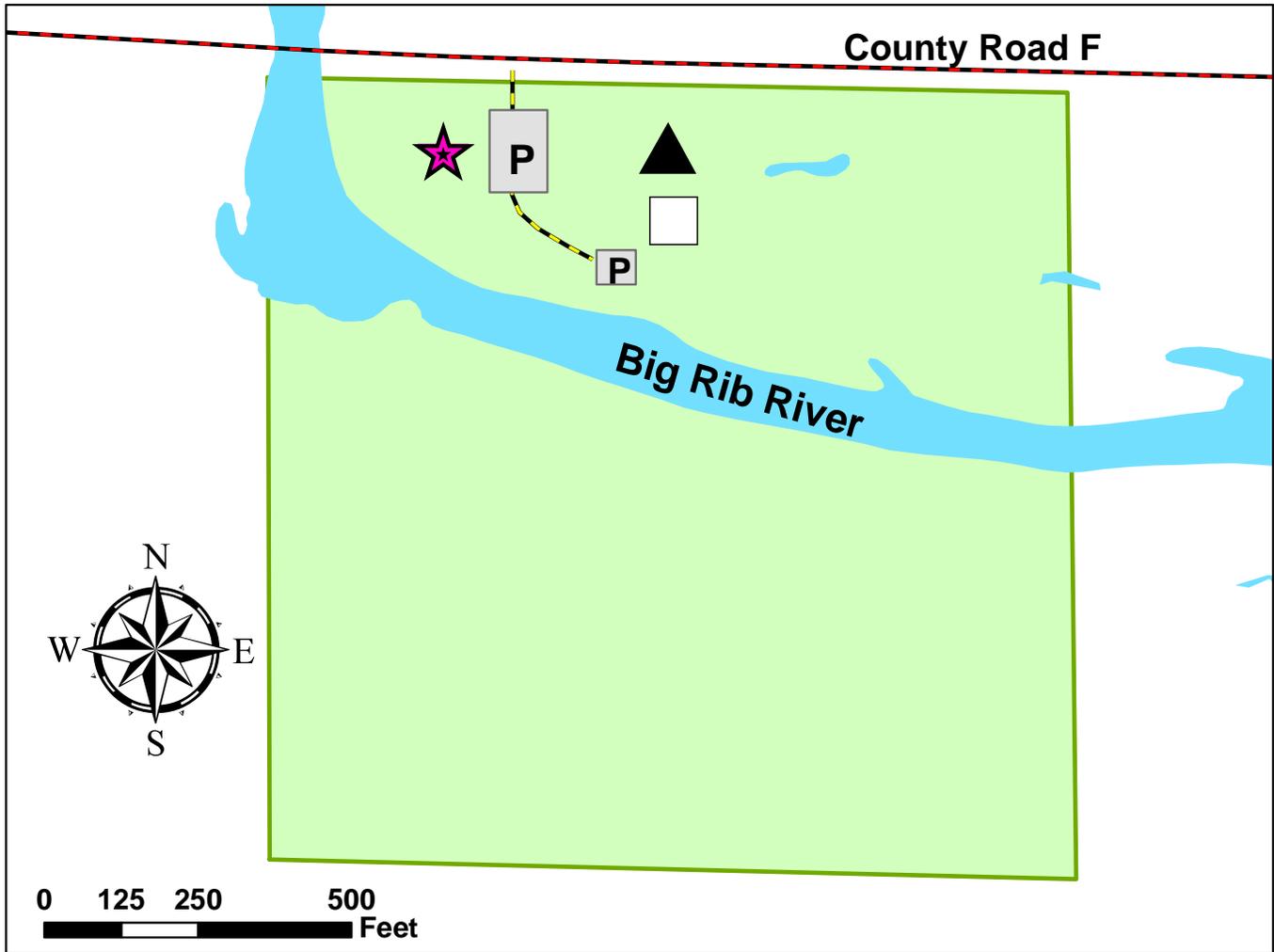
EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Restroom	1976	182	east end of park
Open shelter	1970	468	east end of parking lot
Well shelter	1966	140	south of parking lot
Playground	n/a	2,881	west of parking lot
Granite parking lot (20 spaces)	n/a	n/a	park entrance on CTH F
Granite parking lot (6 spaces)	n/a	1,500	southwest of first parking lot

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Replace restrooms	High (1-3 Years)
Playground replacement	High (1-3 Years)

Amco County Park



Legend

- Park Roads
- P** - Parking
- Open Shelter
- Restroom
- Playground Area**

revised 10/04/2019

ASHLEY PARK

Park Address: 153738 Sandy Creek Road (Mosinee)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: RN

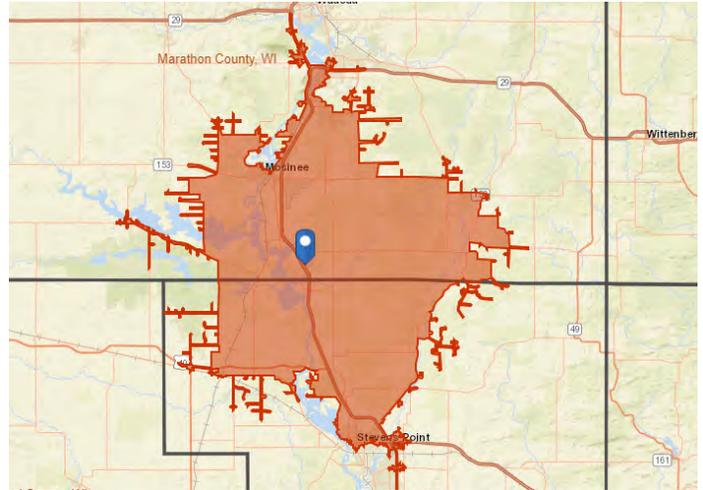
Park Size (gross): 155.1 acres

Park Size (active use): 0 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 42,093

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 16,281

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$56,289



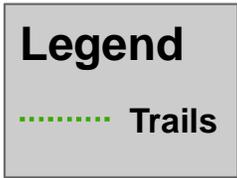
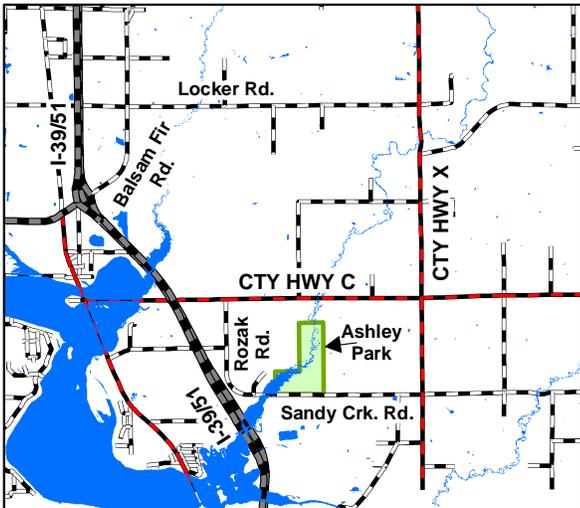
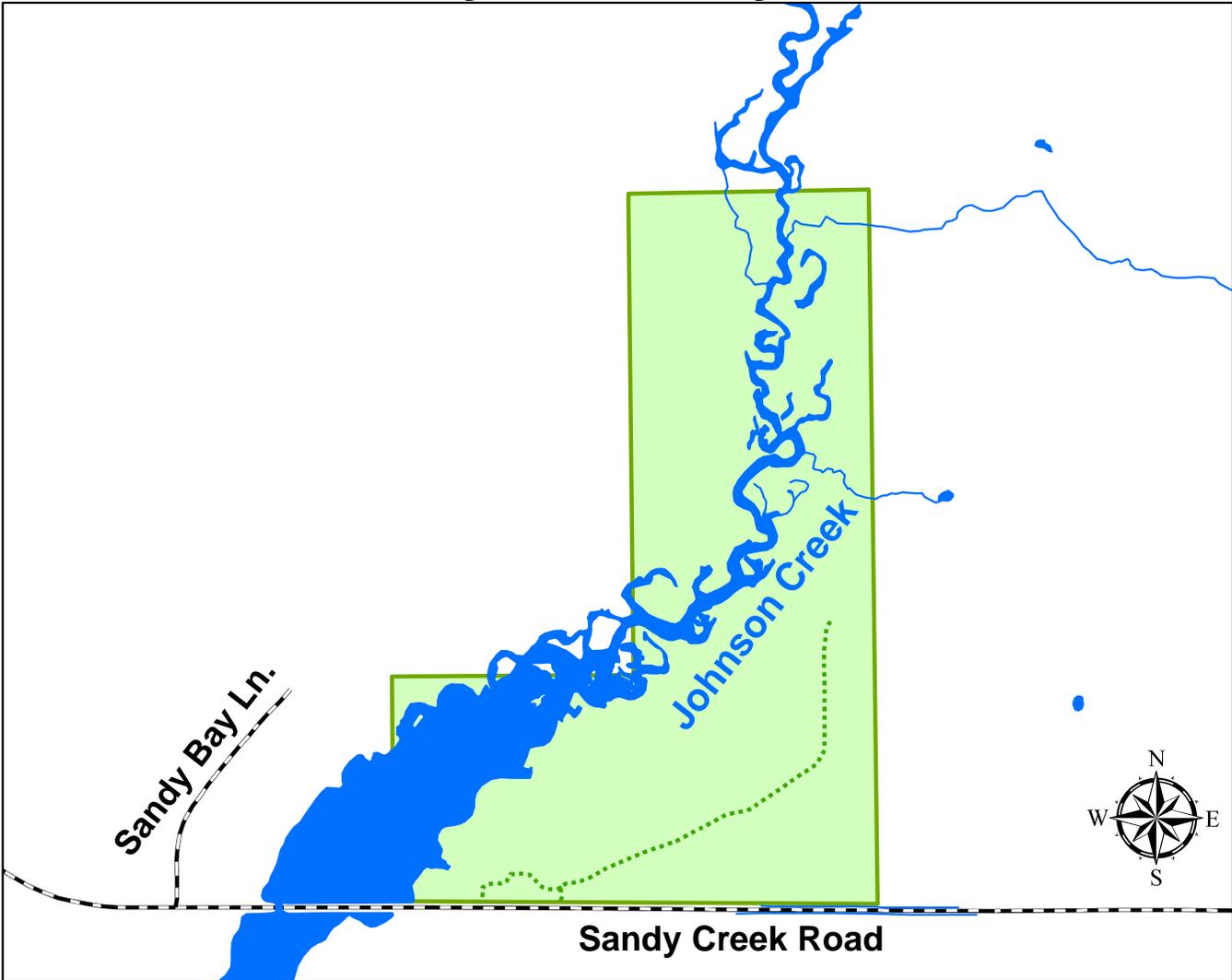
EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
none			

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Develop plan for access to Lake DuBay	Medium (3-5 Years)

Ashley County Park



BIG EAU PLEINE PARK

Park Address: 135695 Eau Pleine Park Road
(Mosinee)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: RM

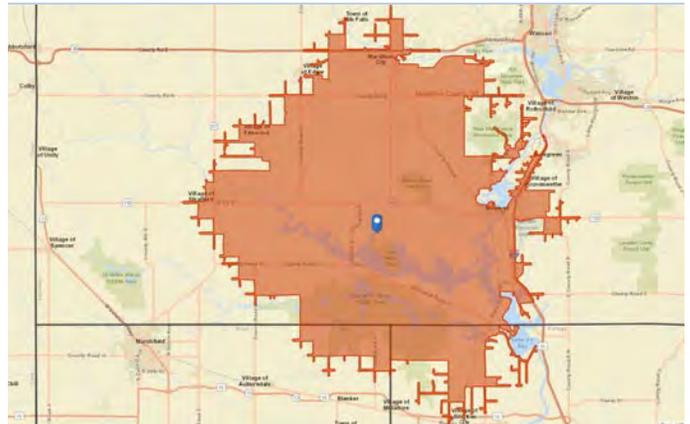
Park Size (gross): 2,050.6 acres

Park Size (active use): 265 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 18,166

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 7,246

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$66,239



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Open shelter	1950	77	Pickerel Bay
Well pump shelter #6	1970	180	Pickerel Bay
Open shelter	1950	180	Fishing Point Picnic Area
Dump station/septic	n/a	n/a	Ranger Station
Well	1985	n/a	Ranger Station
Ranger station	1985	704	across from horse parking
Utility building (well) #1	1972	110	n/a
Open shelter	n/a	77	north of horse parking
Open shelter	n/a	77	north of horse parking
Restroom	n/a	56	north of horse parking
Firewood shelter	1966	280	West Unit Campground
Open shelter	n/a	96	west of Ranger Station
Well	n/a	n/a	West Unit Campground
Electric service	n/a	n/a	West Unit Campground
Restroom	2018	180	West Unit Campground (W7)
Open shelter	n/a	280	West Unit Campground (W39)
Restroom	n/a	180	West Unit Campground (W39)

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Asphalt parking lot (24 spaces)	n/a	7,800	West Unit Campground (north)
Asphalt parking lot (22 spaces, 2 ADA)	n/a	8,949	West Unit Campground (center)
Asphalt parking lot (12 spaces, 13 boat)	n/a	17,385	West Unit Campground (south)
Restroom	n/a	420	West Unit Campground (beach)
Playground	n/a	n/a	West Unit Campground (beach)
Restroom	1996	180	West Unit Campground (beach)
Grill shelter #17	1965	240	West Unit Campground (beach)
Well pump shelter	1961	180	West Unit Campground (beach)
Enclosed shelter #19	1950	2,432	West Unit Campground (beach)
Open shelter #18	n/a	576	West Unit Campground (beach)
West Unit boat launch pier	n/a	175	West Unit Campground
Asphalt boat parking (12 boat)	n/a	8,000	n/a
Well pump shelter #5	1970	143	Group Campground
Open shelter #21	n/a	768	Group Campground
Restroom	2006	180	Group Campground
Horse barn #23	1972	1,792	South Unit (south of disc golf)
Firewood shelter	1972	280	South Unit Campground
Restrooms (2)	n/a	180	South Unit (north of firewood shelter)
Asphalt boat parking (4 boat)	n/a	3,200	South Unit Campground
Well	1972	180	South Unit (by firewood shelter)
Restroom	2010	180	South Unit (#99)
Restroom	1974	600	South Unit (#63)
Firewood shelter	1966	560	South Unit Campground
Perimeter fence 2-12' double gates	n/a	n/a	South Unit (firewood sales)
Asphalt parking lot (50 spaces, 2 ADA)	n/a	1,100	South Unit (firewood sales)
Open shelter	1979	660	South Unit (picnic area)

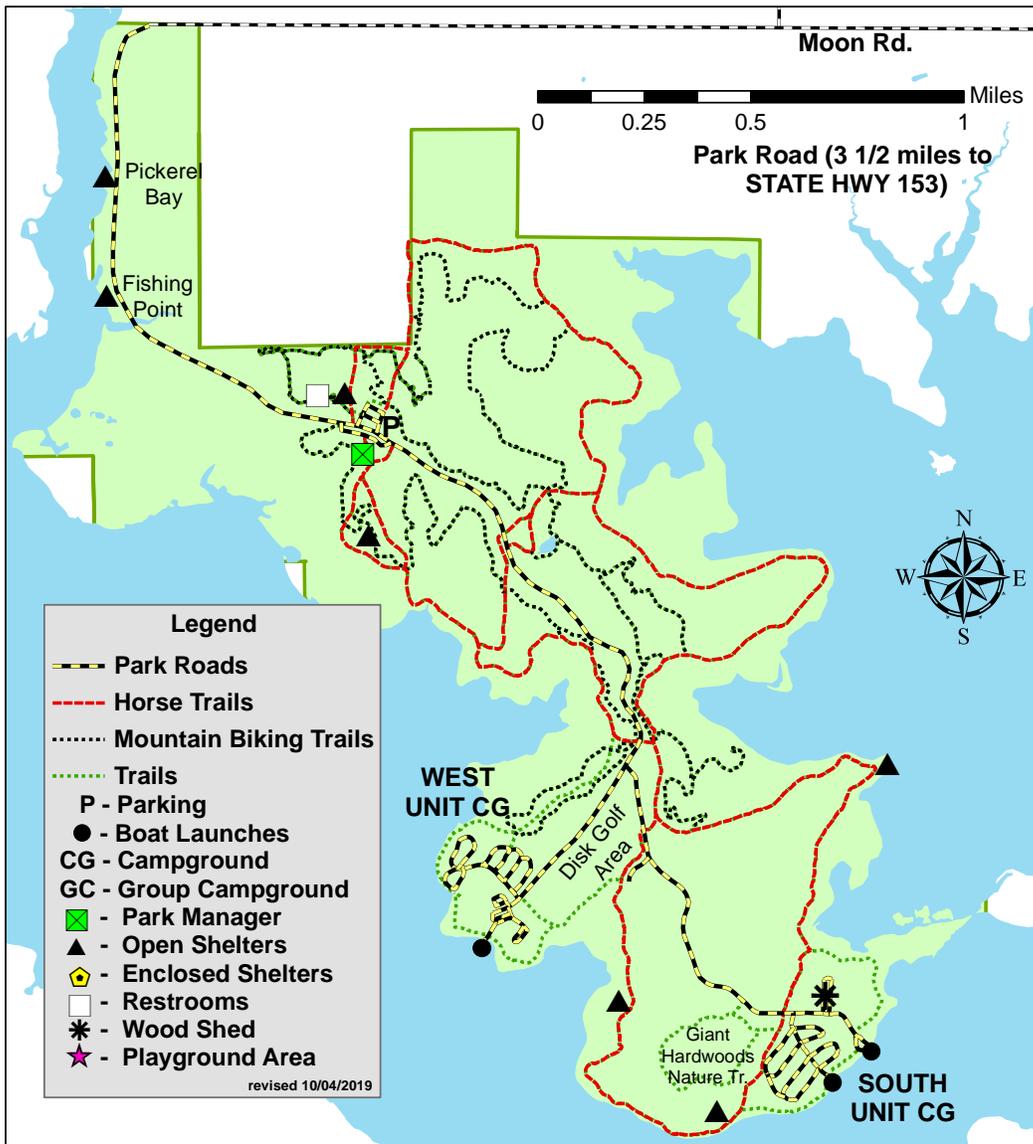
BIG EAU PLEINE PARK (CONTINUED)

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Open shelter #27	n/a	143	South Unit (picnic area)
Well pump #7	n/a	n/a	South Unit (boat launch area)
Restroom	n/a	180	South Unit (boat launch area)
Asphalt boat parking (8 boat, 1 ADA)	n/a	13,020	South Unit (boat launch area)
Boat Launch	n/a	175	South Unit Campground

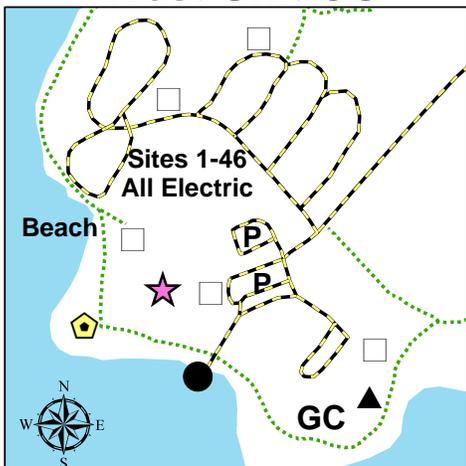
RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Install shower building	Medium (3-5 Years)
Electrical upgrades to current campgrounds	High (1-3 Years)
Designated equestrian camping	Medium (3-5 Years)
Road repairs - main park road	High (1-3 Years)
Disc golf - addition of 9 holes	Low (5+ Years)
Playground replacement	High (1-3 Years)
South unit group campground	Medium (3-5 Years)

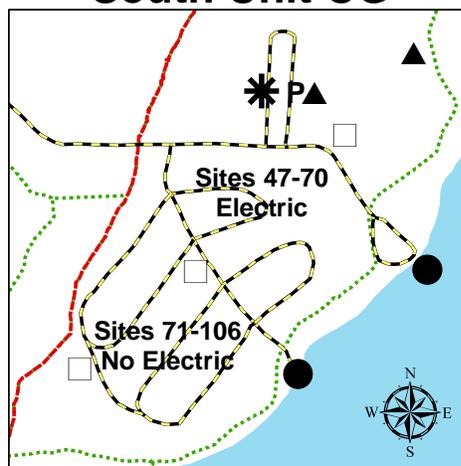
BIG EAU PLEINE COUNTY PARK



West Unit CG



South Unit CG



BIG RAPIDS PARK

Park Address: 217116 Cruze Lane (Stratford)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: R

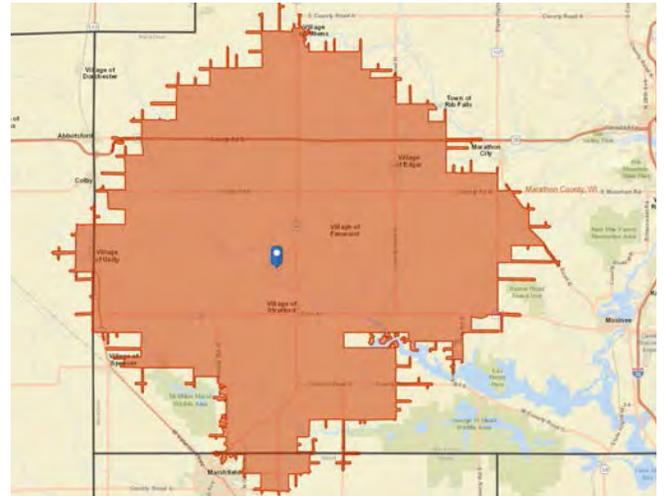
Park Size (gross): 28.9 acres

Park Size (active use): 8 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 17,251

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 6,652

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$60,910



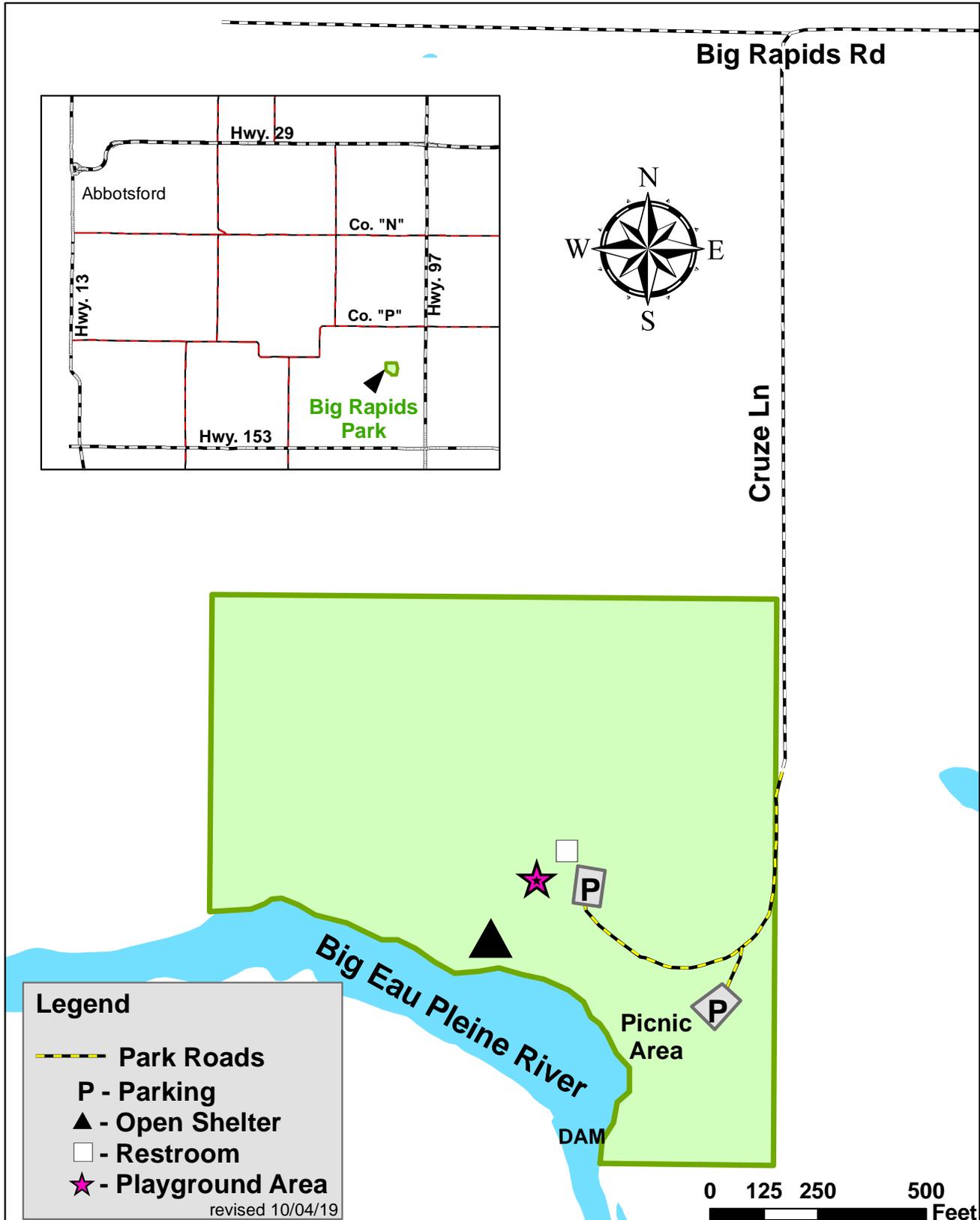
EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Restroom - vault type	1980	174	upper unit NW parking lot
Open shelter	1971	600	upper unit adjacent to river
Playground structures	n/a	3,024	upper unit center
Dam	1965	n/a	river

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Consider dam repair/removal	High (1-3 Years)
Playground replacement	Medium (3-5 Years)

Big Rapids County Park



BLUEGILL BAY PARK

Park Address: 226300 Bluegill Avenue (Wausau)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: U/R

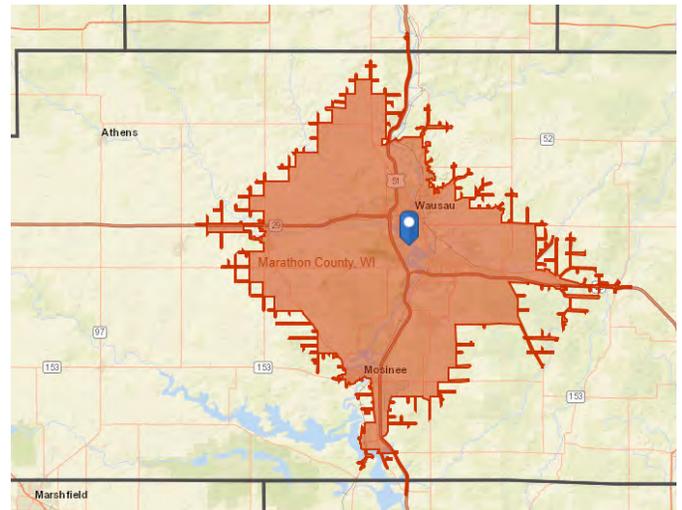
Park Size (gross): 75.1 acres

Park Size (active use): 33 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 91,914

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 37,681

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$55,288



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Boat launch piers (4)	n/a	468	north end of park
Shelter #3	1979	n/a	south of boat launch
Asphalt boat parking (30 boat)	n/a	n/a	north end of park
Asphalt parking (32 spaces, 3 ADA)	2002	7,452	north restroom
Restroom	1988	648	north park entrance
Fishing pier	n/a	127	lagoon, east of south parking
Shelter #6	1969	648	north of south parking
Restroom	1982	200	north of south parking
Playground	n/a	1,408	south parking lot
Asphalt parking (80 spaces, 3 ADA)	n/a	4,032	south lot
Shelter #4	1969	1,440	south of south parking lot

Bluegill Bay County Park



RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Prepare park master plan - to include installing park boundary fence, developing enclosed rentable shelter with amenities, redeveloping for day use recreation, trails, MTB skills course, green space, etc.	Medium (3-5 Years)
Replace playground	Medium (3-5 Years)
Restroom repairs/improvements	High (1-3 Years)

BROKAW PARK

Park Address: 26 County Road WW (Maine)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: P

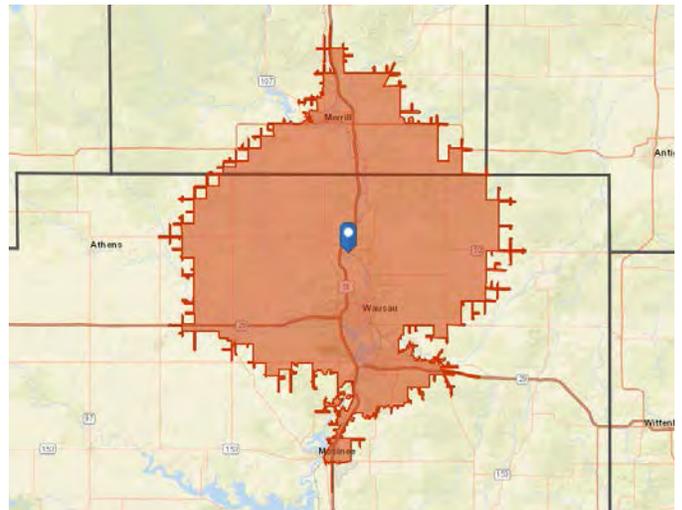
Park Size (gross): 74.2 acres

Park Size (active use): 0 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 100,567

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 41,603

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$54,700



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
none			

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Prepare park master plan	Medium (3-5 Years)
Monitor adjacent land for park expansion	Medium (3-5 Years)



CHEROKEE PARK

Park Address: 108042 County Road N (Colby)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: R/RM

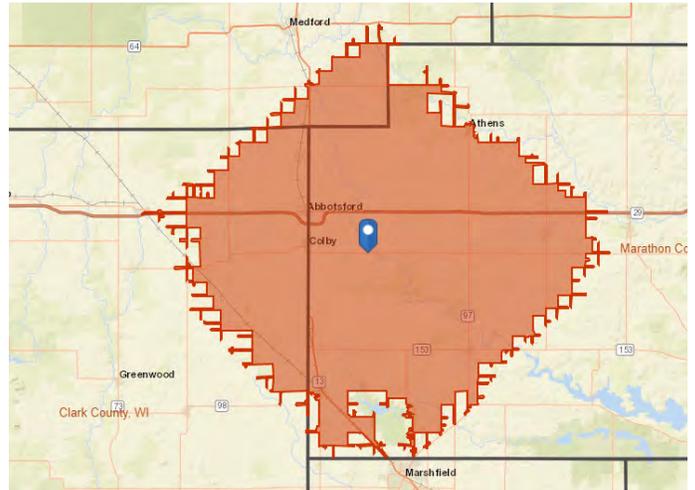
Park Size (gross): 65.5 acres

Park Size (active use): 20 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 26,401

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 9,917

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$55,582



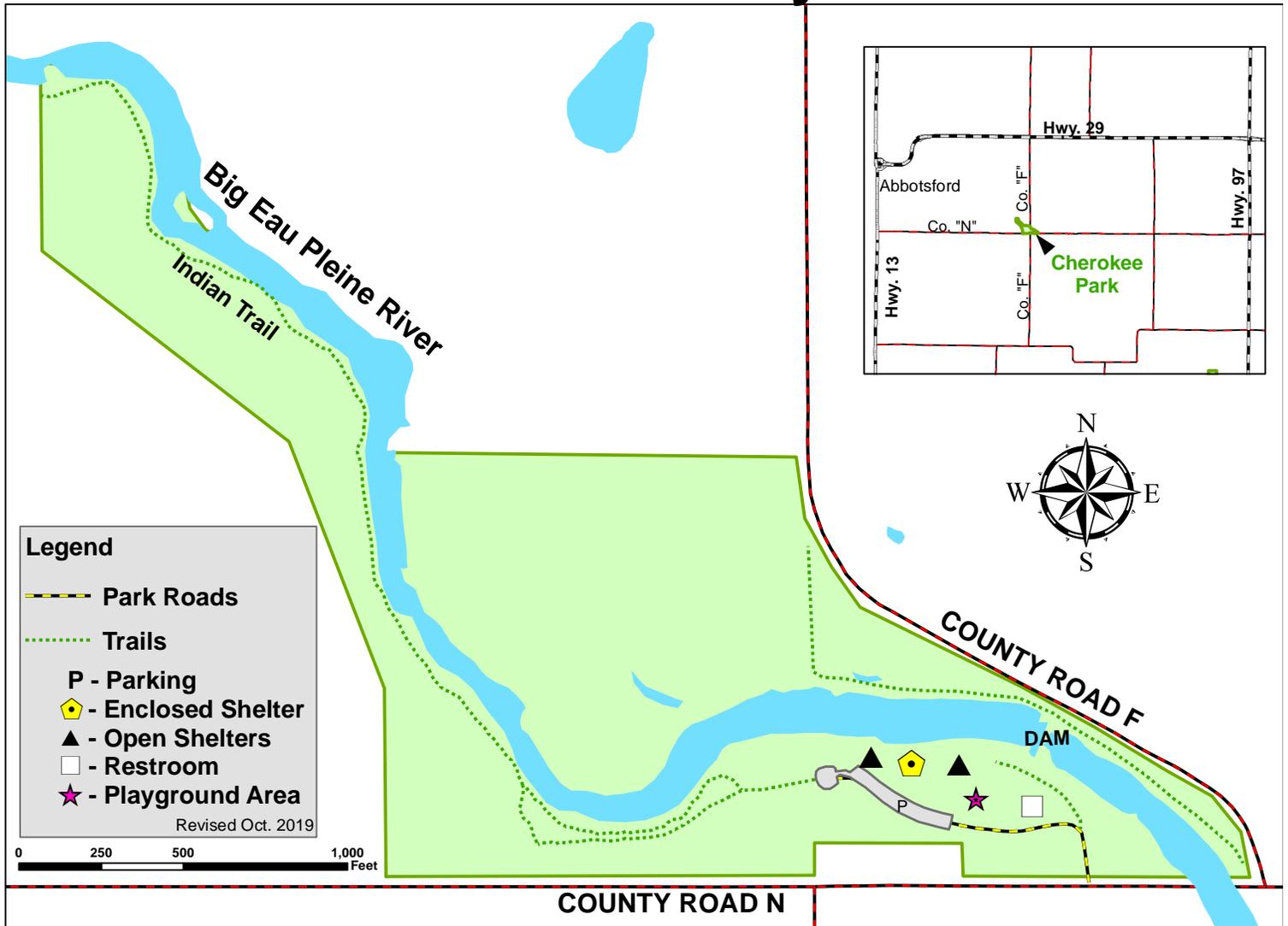
EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Playground	n/a	2,516	east of main shelter
Restroom #5	1970	225	east of playground
Octagon shelter	1955	n/a	east of main shelter
Enclosed shelter #1	1930	3,128	west of playground
Well pump shelter #3	1968	195	adj. to enclosed shelter
Open shelter	1968	336	west of enclosed shelter
Asphalt parking lot (33 spaces)	n/a	7,100	adj. to main park road

RECOMMENDATIONS

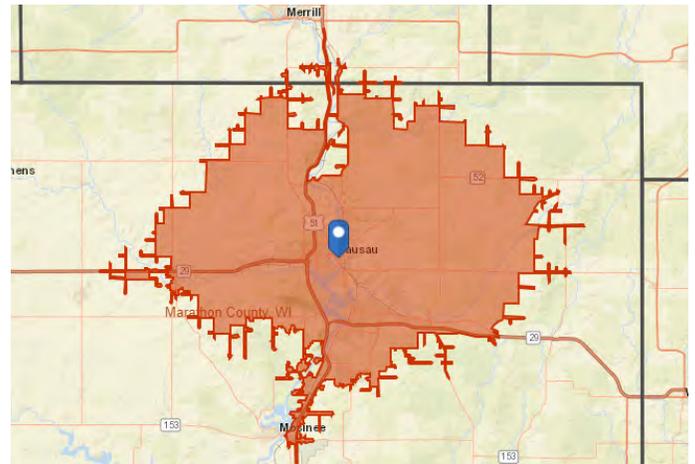
IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Playground replacement	High (1-3 Years)
Restroom replacement/improvements	Medium (3-5 Years)
Add pedestrian access to north side of river	Low (5+ Years)

Cherokee County Park



COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Park Address: 500 Forest Street (Wausau)
Park Type: County Park
ROS Class: U
Park Size (gross): 0.4 acres
Park Size (active use): 0.4 acres
Population (w/in 20 minutes): 38,667
of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 15,277
Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
 \$66,349



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
<i>none</i>			

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)

This page left intentionally blank.

D.C. EVEREST PARK

Park Address: 1800 S 3rd Avenue (Wausau)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: U

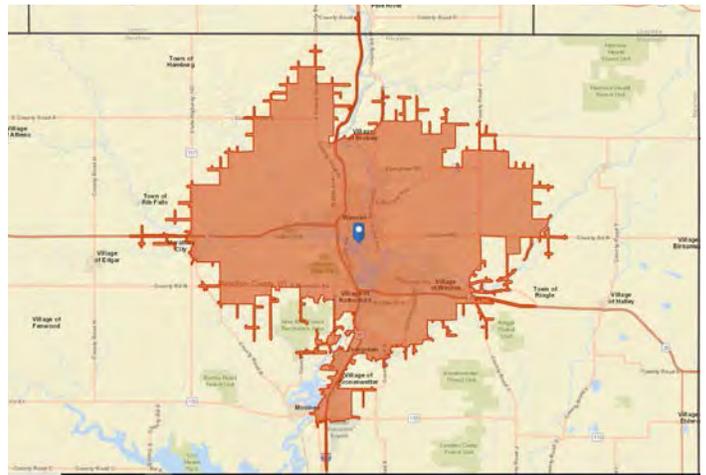
Park Size (gross): 6.2 acres

Park Size (active use): 6.2 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 85,836

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 35,274

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$54,596



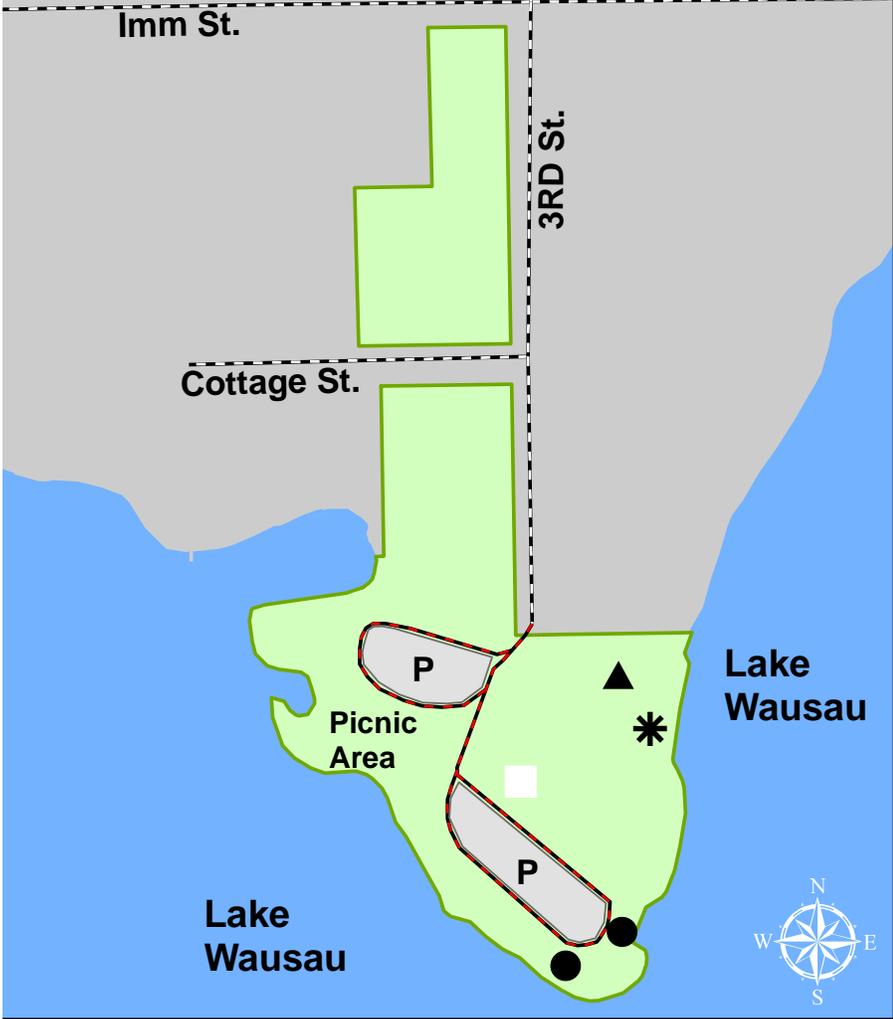
EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Restroom	1986	200	center of park
Concession shelter	1989	468	NE corner of park near river
Bleachers	n/a	n/a	adj. to river for ski show
Parking lighting - entryway & parking	n/a	n/a	n/a
Boat ramps with piers (2)	n/a	n/a	water/river east & south
Fishing pier	n/a	560	south edge of river

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Restroom replacement/improvements	High (1-3 Years)

D.C. Everest County Park

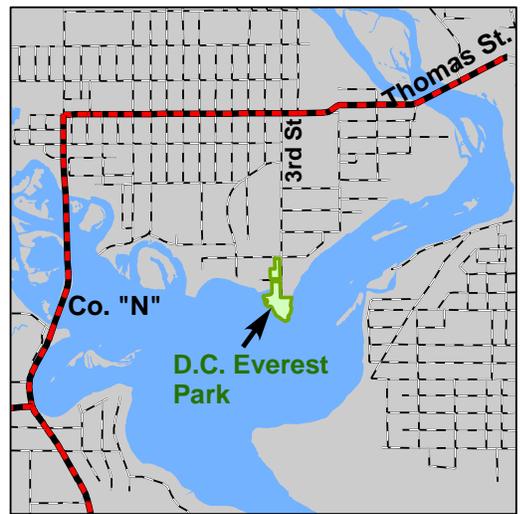


Legend

- Park Roads
- P** - Parking
- Boat Launch
- Open Shelters
- Restroom
- Grand Stands

0 75 150 300 Feet

Revised Oct. 2019



DELLS OF THE EAU CLAIRE PARK

Park Address: 235890 County Road Y (Aniwa)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: R/RN

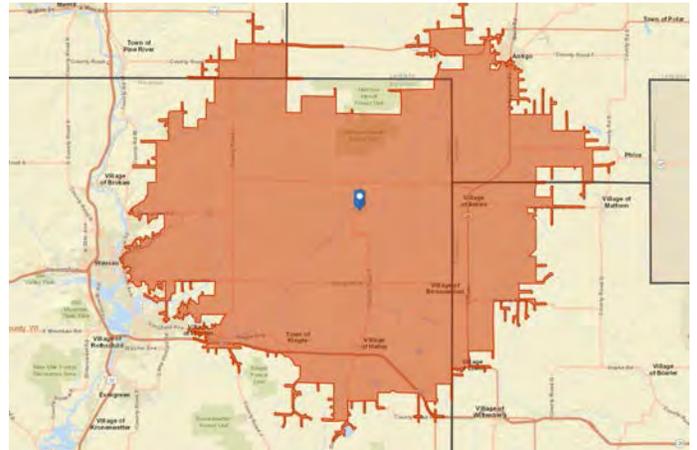
Park Size (gross): 266.5 acres

Park Size (active use): 70 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 41,792

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 16,269

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$53,565



EXISTING FACILITIES

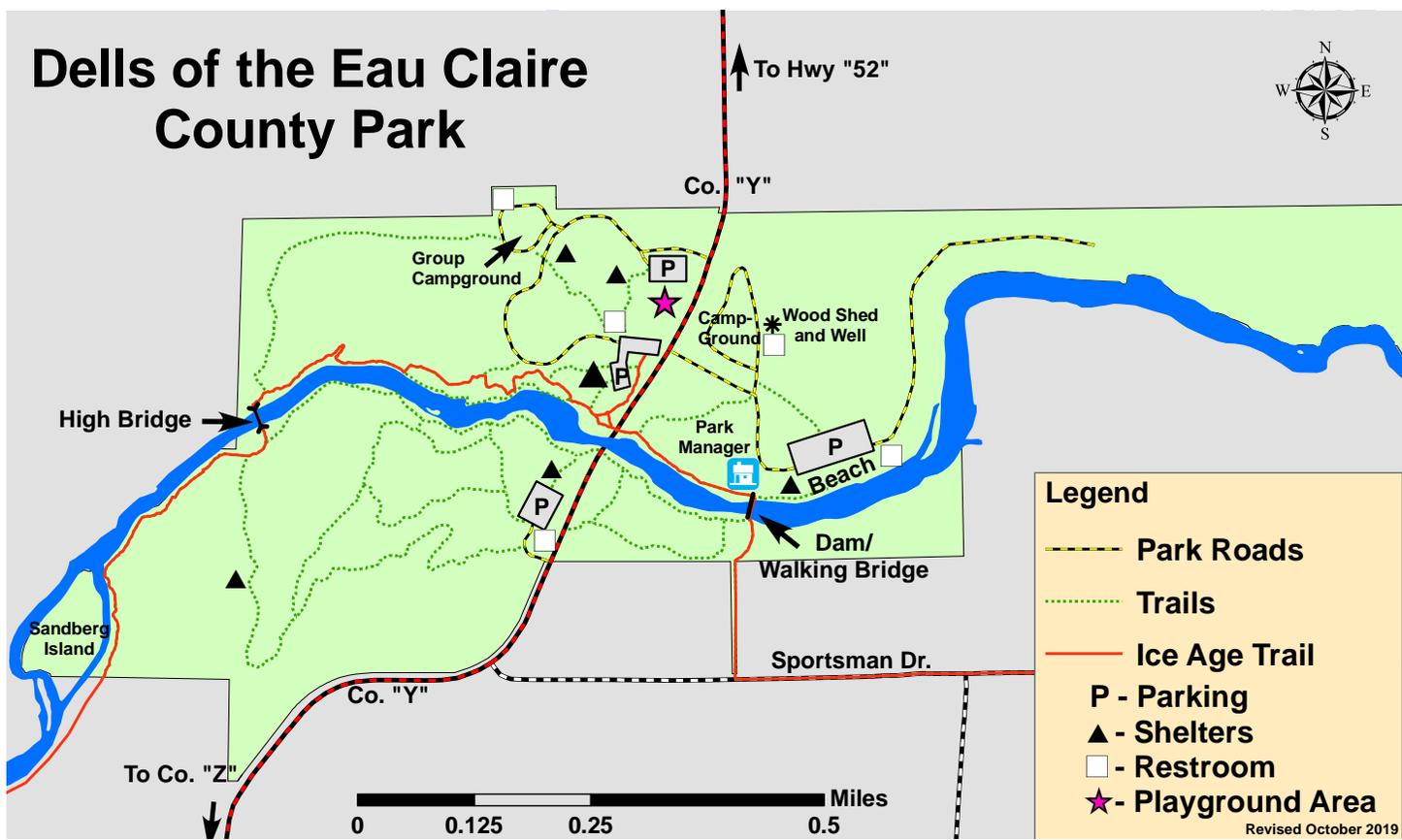
TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Enclosed shelter (Hess House)	n/a	1,914	east of Y, north end of park
Restroom	n/a	250	adj. to beach
Open shelter #13	n/a	630	adj. to beach
Asphalt parking lot (40 spaces, 4 ADA)	n/a	12,650	adj. to beach
Asphalt parking lot (42 spaces)	n/a	12,650	adj. to beach
Enclosed shelter #1	1938	4,675	west of hwy, north of water
Open well pump shelter	1938	165	east of enclosed shelter
Open firewood shelter	n/a	384	north of enclosed shelter
Asphalt parking lot (22 spaces, 1 ADA)	n/a	7,920	east of enclosed shelter
Asphalt parking lot (29 spaces, 2 ADA)	n/a	10,400	south of playground
Restroom	n/a	180	west of playground
Playground	n/a	8,400	NW of enclosed shelter
Asphalt parking lot (5 spaces)	n/a	1,250	west of enclosed shelter
Granite parking lot (25 spaces)	n/a	7,500	NE of group campground
Open shelter	n/a	468	NE of group campground
Open shelter	n/a	468	north of playground, west of Y

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Asphalt parking lot (20 spaces, 2 ADA)	n/a	6,500	north of playground, west of Y
Amphitheater	1955	777	north of group campground
Restroom	1996	200	SW area of group campground
High bridge	1930	1,170	west of Y near west park boundary
Restroom	n/a	105	south of river, west of Y
Granite parking lot (10 spaces)	n/a	3,500	south of river, west of Y
Open shelter	n/a	468	south of river, west of Y
Restroom	1971	180	east of Y, campground
Firewood shed	1938	546	north of campground
Well	1969	n/a	north of campground
Manager's cabin	n/a	957	east of Y, east of campground
Shed	1950	187	adj. to manager's cabin
Dam	1967	n/a	adj. to manager's cabin

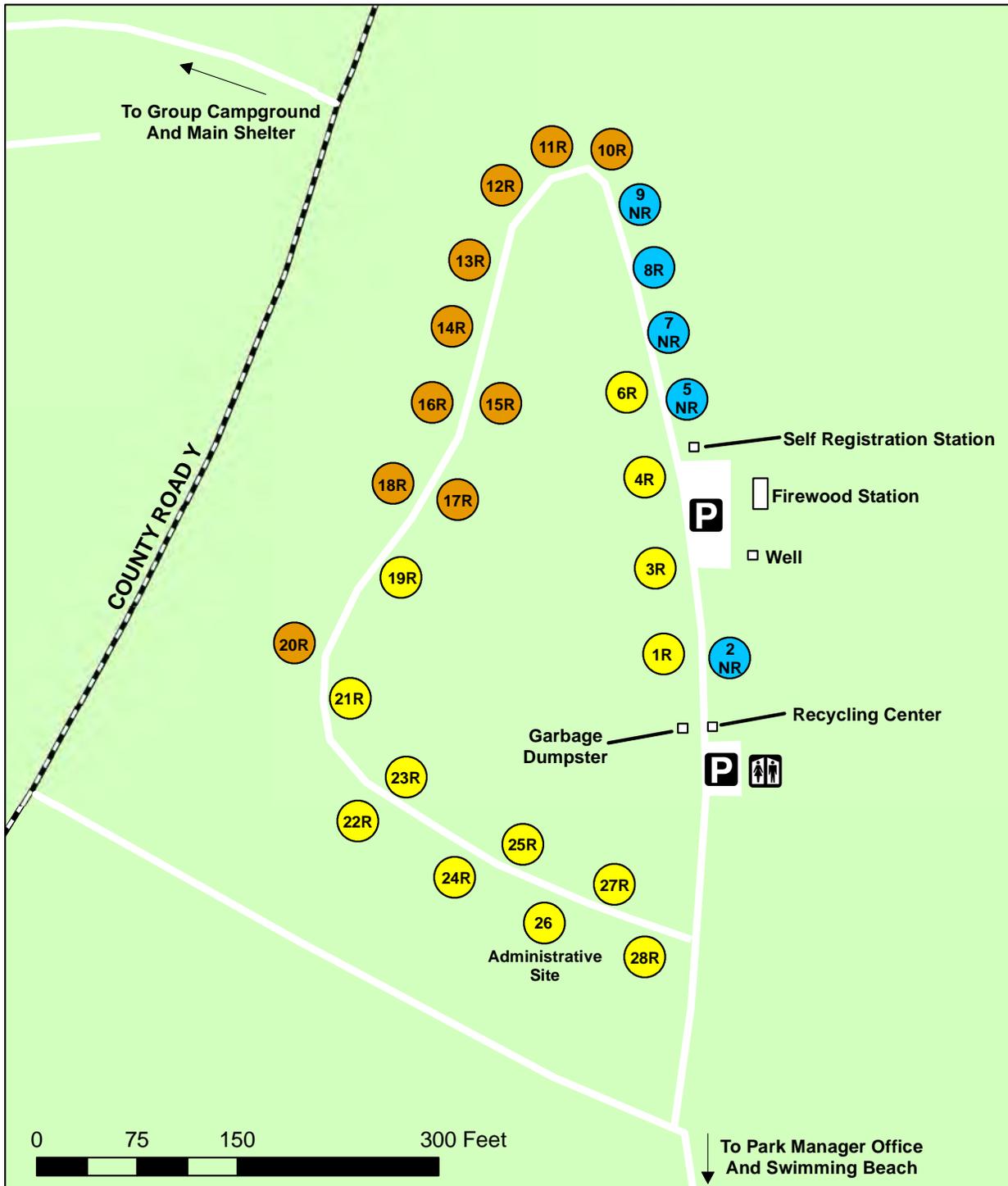
RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Upgrade trail directional signage	Low (5+ Years)
Prepare park master plan - including specific planning for Hess prop. and undeveloped areas	Medium (3-5 Years)
Restroom replacement/improvements	High (1-3 Years)
Playground replacement	High (1-3 Years)
Replace group campground shelter	Medium (3-5 Years)
High bridge repairs	High (1-3 Years)
Campground road renovation	Medium (3-5 Years)

DELLS OF THE EAU CLAIRE PARK (CONTINUED)



Dells of Eau Claire Campground



LEGEND

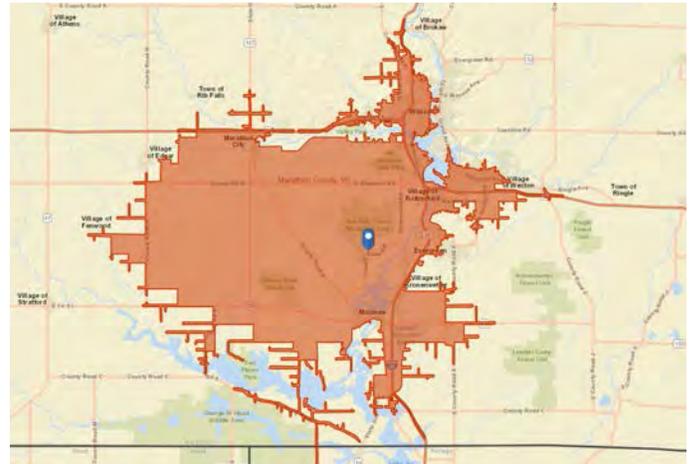
24 Campsite Number	50 AMP Electric Sites	Parking
R Reservable Campsite	30 AMP Electric Sites	Restrooms
NR Non-Reservable Campsite	Non-Electric Sites	



Rev. 01/17/2020

DUANE L. CORBIN SHOOTING RANGE PARK

Park Address: 217980 Rifle Road (Mosinee)
Park Type: County Park
ROS Class: R
Park Size (gross): 100.4 acres
Park Size (active use): 60 acres
Population (w/in 20 minutes): 50,540
of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 21,137
Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
 \$52,730

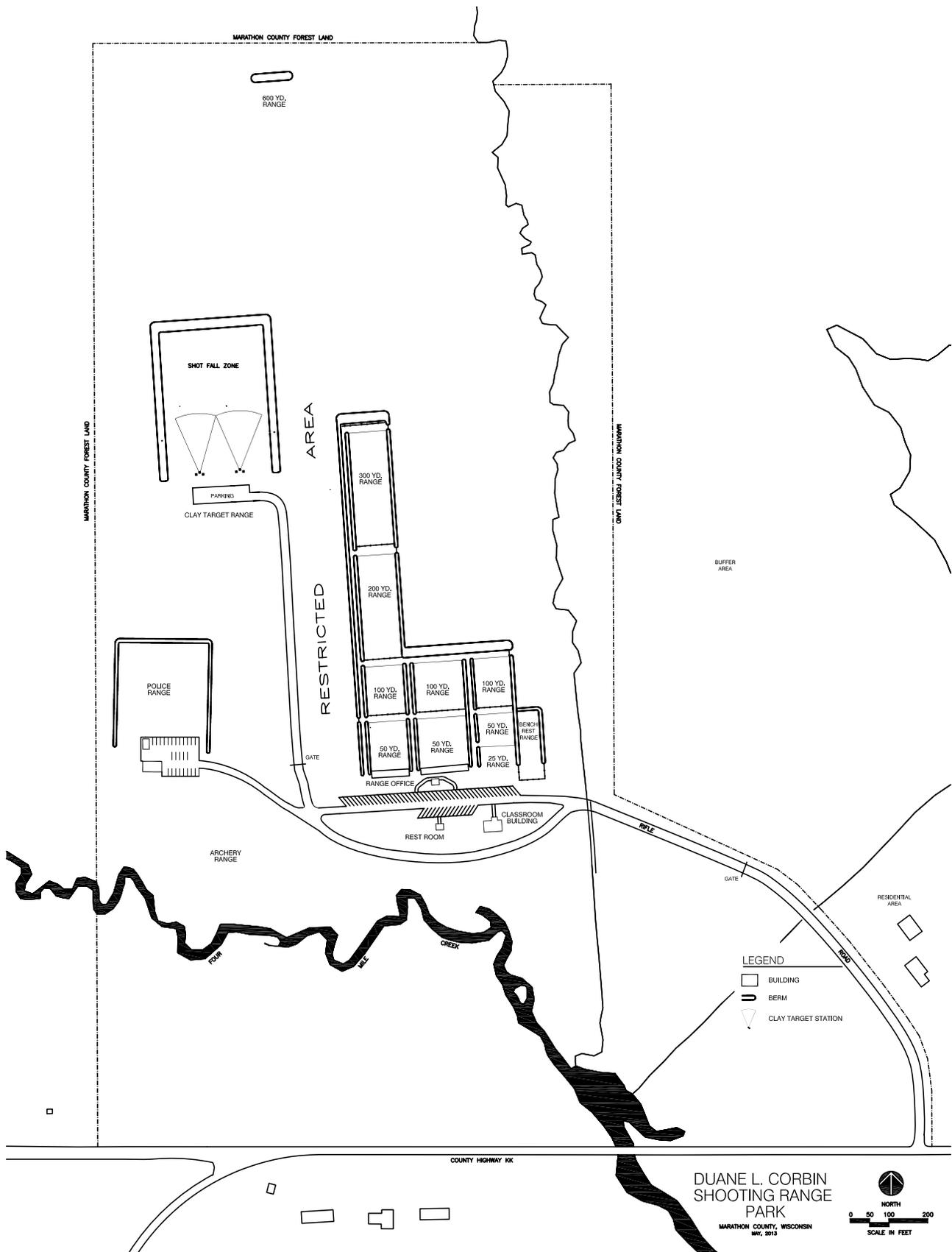


EXISTING FACILITIES

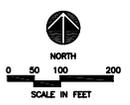
TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Lodge (classroom)	n/a	1,500	n/a
Asphalt parking lot (9 spaces, 1 ADA)	n/a	2,540	n/a
Toilet	1968	672	n/a
Septic with mound	n/a	n/a	n/a
22 shooting benches, 14 covered	n/a	1-6: 1,302 , 7: 141,652	benches 1-22
3 retaining walls	n/a	n/a	benches 15-20
Office	n/a	320	n/a
2 retaining walls	n/a	n/a	benches 7-14
3 retaining walls	n/a	n/a	benches 1-6
600 yard range, 13 benches, 13 covered	n/a	1,785	benches 1-13
Asphalt parking lot (48 spaces, 2 ADA)	n/a	10,720	n/a
600 yard bunker	1967	960	benches 1-13

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Retaining wall replacement/repairs	Medium (3-5 Years)



DUANE L. CORBIN
SHOOTING RANGE
PARK
MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN
MAY, 2013



Eastbay Sports Complex

Park Address: 602 E Kent St (Wausau)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: U

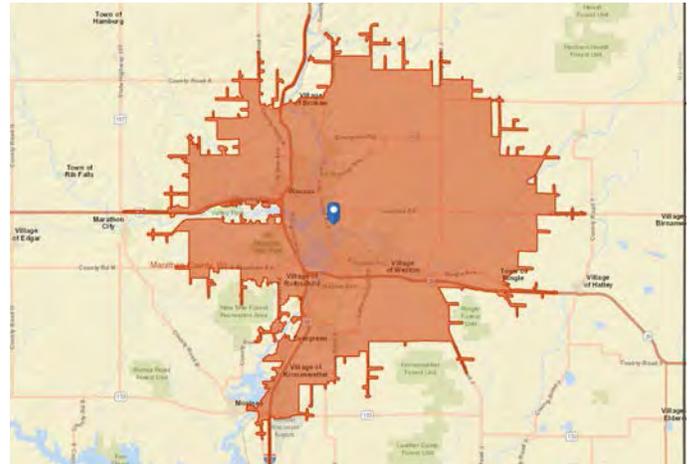
Park Size (gross): 66.6 acres

Park Size (active use): 66.6 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 85,603

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 34,931

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$55,154



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Concessions & restroom	n/a	1,120	north of main lot
Play structure	n/a	4,800	east of concessions
Field lighting	n/a	n/a	championship field
Score board	n/a	152	championship field
Soccer goals	n/a	n/a	all fields
Maintenance & equipment storage	n/a	1,200	north end
Fuel system	n/a	120	north of maint. bldg.
Perimeter fence	n/a	10,680	gates

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Open shelter	High (1-3 Years)
Path connecting South and North parking lots	Medium (3-5 Years)
Blacktop around building	High (1-3 Years)
Lighting (if possible)	Medium (3-5 Years)
Actively pursue additional land acquisition around the complex for expansion of fields and parking	High (1-3 Years)

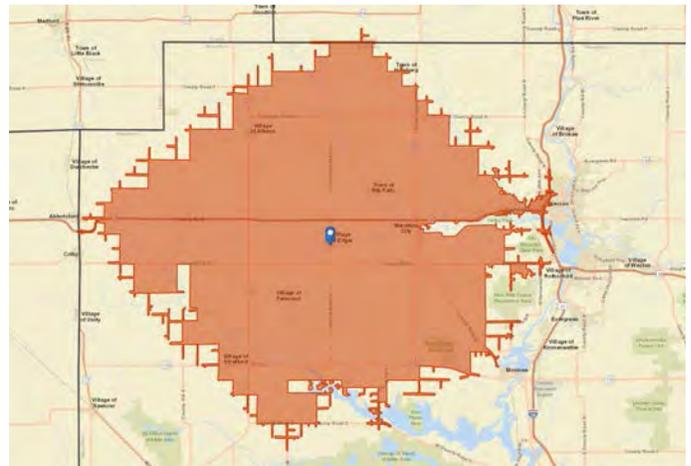
Eastbay

SPORTS COMPLEX



EDGAR-FENWOOD ATV/UTV TRAIL

Park Address: 403 S. 3rd Avenue (Edgar)
Park Type: County Trail
ROS Class: N/A
Park Size (gross): N/A
Park Size (active use): N/A
Population (w/in 20 minutes): 23,050
of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 9,131
Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
 \$62,099

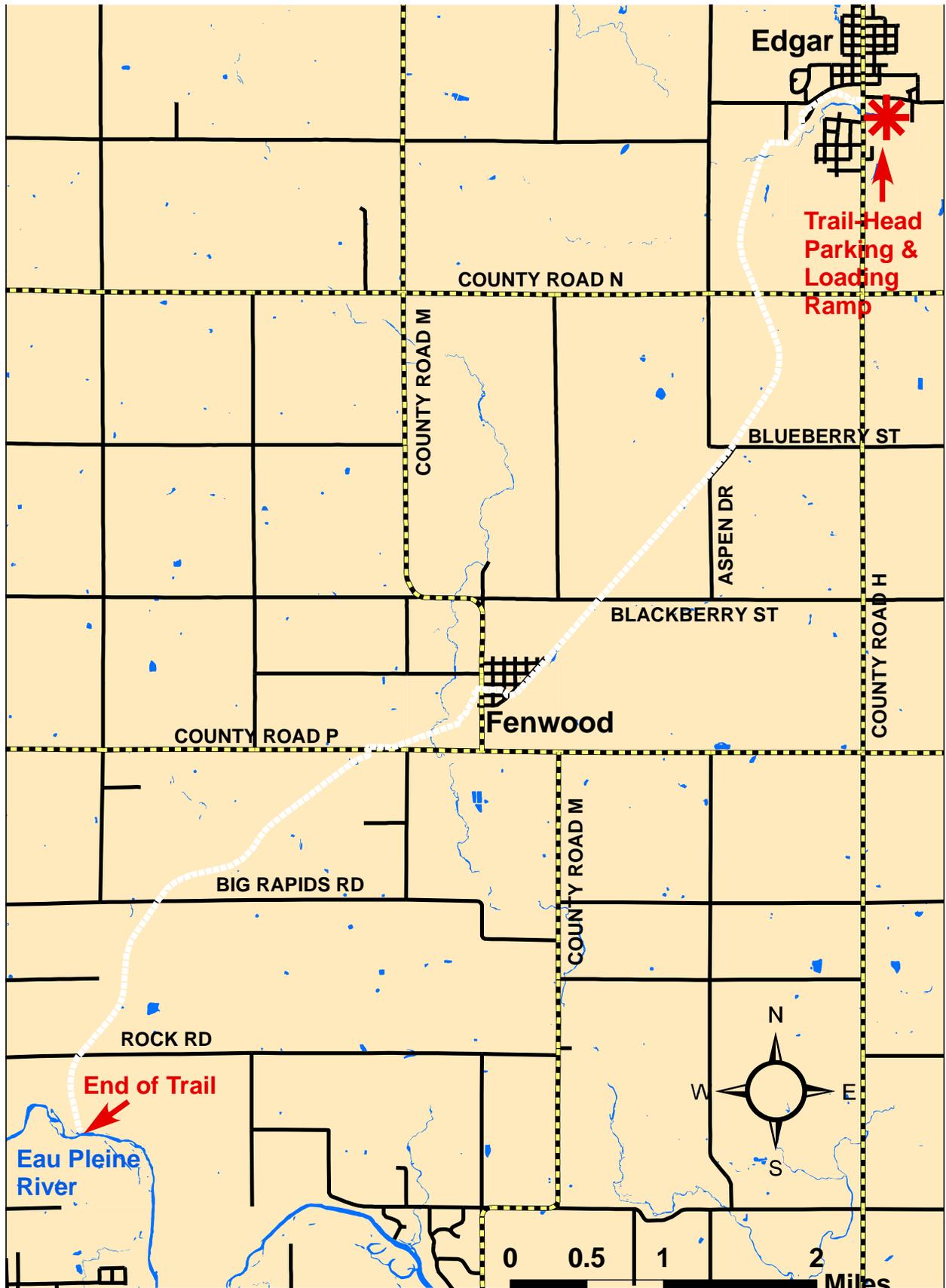


EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Scotch Creek Bridge	n/a	1,500	n/a

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Eau Pleine Bridge addition	Medium (3-5 Years)
ROW acquisition to connect to Stratford	Medium (3-5 Years)
Develop southern trailhead	Low (5+ Years)



MARATHON PARK

Park Address: 1201 Stewart Avenue (Wausau)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: U

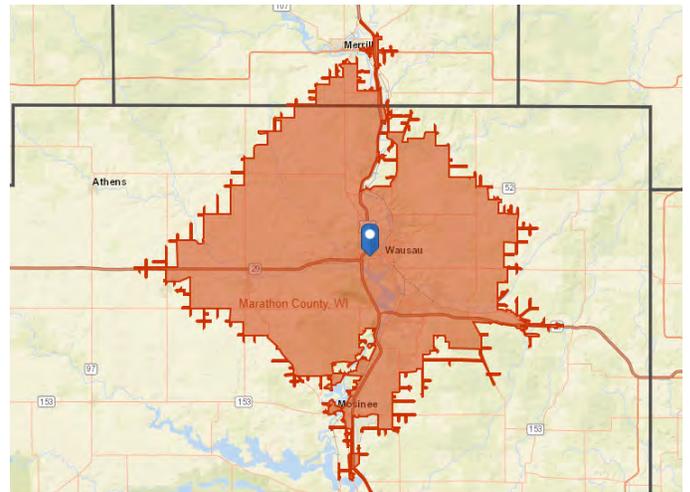
Park Size (gross): 79.3 acres

Park Size (active use): 70 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 95,081

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 38,843

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$55,786



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Junction bathroom	1935	990	north of junction
Junction playground	n/a	1,410	north of junction
Junction	1987	3,200	north of exhibition building
Electrical vault 1	1979	81	east of junction
Electrical vault 2	1987	3,200	east of junction
Big kitchen	1935	3,960	east of junction
Campground electrical	1979	n/a	n/a
Tourist cabin	n/a	2,176	east of campground
Campground shower	n/a	960	east of campground
Picnic shelter	1975	468	west of grandstand
Playground	n/a	2,800	west of grandstand
Midway lights	n/a	n/a	n/a
Roadway lights	n/a	n/a	n/a
West substation	n/a	726	west entrance
Pole barn	1974	3,120	SW of grandstand
Electric substation	2018	100	west of grandstand

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Water boxes (2) 1 RPZ	2018	n/a	west of grandstand
Perimeter fence (2 roller gates, 2 swing gates)	n/a	1,495	grandstand
Grandstand	1920	n/a	center of park
Grandstand restroom (shelter #5)	n/a	3,025	SE of grandstand
Grandstand lighting (7 poles) (9 flood) (16 drop lights)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tennis courts/basketball (1 panel) (8 light poles)	n/a	25,920	west of MPB #1
Food court electric (2 poles) (5 panels)	n/a	n/a	west of tennis courts
Horse arena announcer's booth	n/a	96	west of horse arena
Ticket booth	n/a	121	n/a
Ticket booth	n/a	121	n/a
Stone walls	n/a	n/a	east entrance N
Stone walls	n/a	n/a	east entrance S
Red School House	n/a	864	east end N of EGH
Meeting hall	1968	1,500	north of School House
NE ticketbooth	n/a	100	n/a
Stone walls	n/a	n/a	NE entrance
Iron exterior fence	n/a	n/a	west & north perimeter
Shelter #1	1982	468	north of open shelter
Marquee	n/a	n/a	north entrance
Ticket booth	n/a	100	n/a
Shelter #3 w/ fireplace	n/a	n/a	east of campground
Electric substation	1980	81	north of grandstand
Restrooms	1979	756	midway
Playground	n/a	n/a	north of midway restroom
Shelter #2	n/a	468	north entrance
Playground	n/a	1,764	north entrance

MARATHON PARK (CONTINUED)

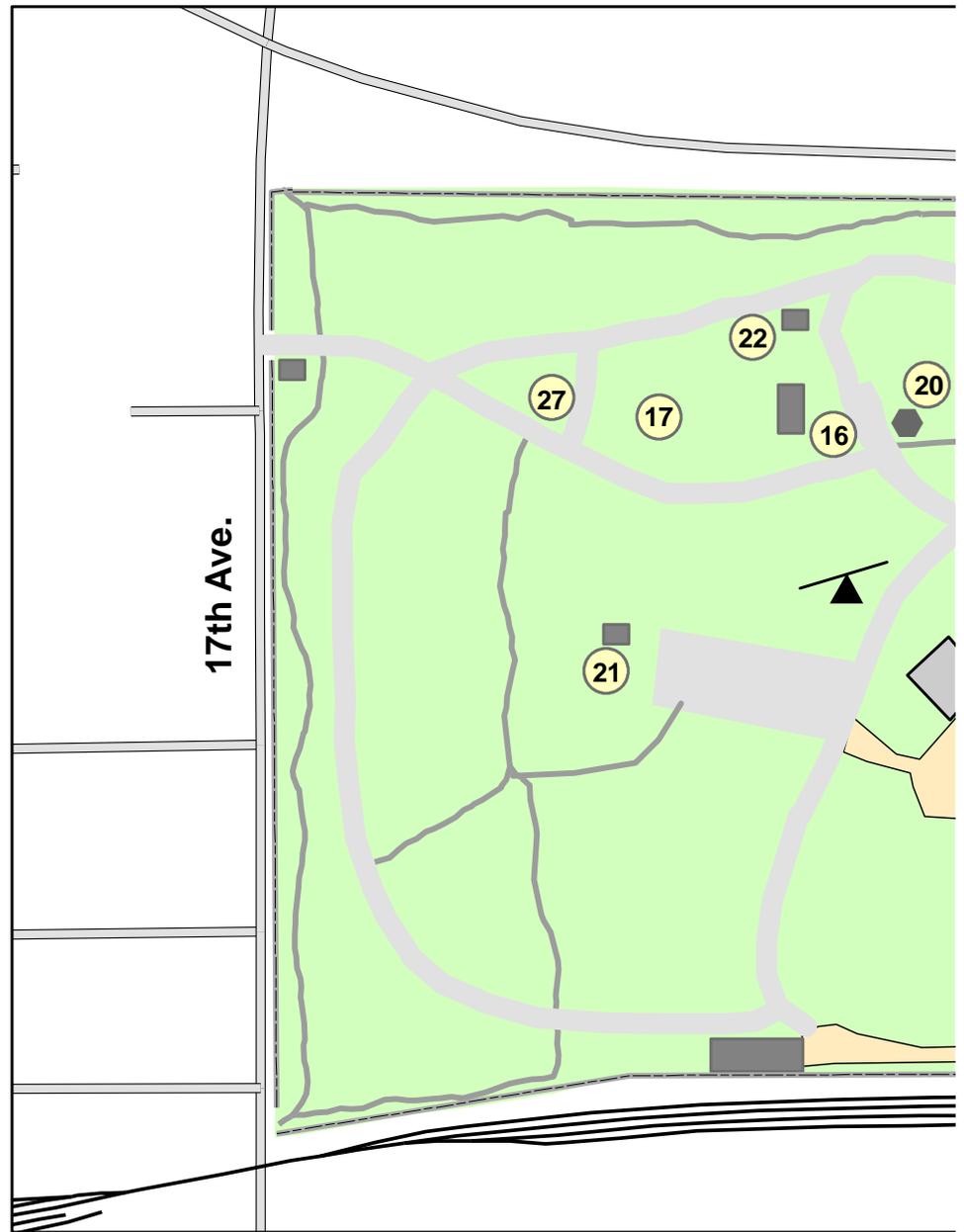
TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Octagon shelter	1932	n/a	west of pool cabin
Vendor camp pads	n/a	250	west of spray pad
Spray pad w/ 8 play features	n/a	n/a	n/a
Train	n/a	n/a	n/a
Train shelter	n/a	672	west of junction
Pool cabin	1935	1,350	north of spray pad
Spray pad mechanical bldg	1989	432	west of spray pad
South perimeter fence	n/a	n/a	south property line
Ice rink shelter	n/a	216	south of horse arena
South entrance ticket booth	n/a	64	south entrances
Horse stables	1965	9,500	southwest corner of park
MPB #1	1973	39,560	south of exhibition building
MPB #2, compressor room	1986	25,800	south of exhibition building
MPB concession, locker rooms, office	n/a	2,835	n/a
Fire suppression room	n/a	176	north of MPB #2
Propane storage	n/a	48	South of MPB #2
Poultry barn	1948	5,850	east of MPB #2
Rabbit barn #3	1948	12,250	east of poultry barn
Judging pavilion	1920	n/a	north of poultry barn
Cattle barn 1	1962	10,000	north of judging pavilion
Cattle barn 2	1920	10,000	north of cattle barn 1
East Gate Hall	1940	14,059	north of cattle barn 2
Exhibition Building	1924	27,600	west of East Gate Hall
Farm Museum	1970	n/a	east side of Exhibition Bldg.
Garage	n/a	700	west side of Exhibition Bldg.
Log shelter	1967	160	east entrance

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Continue rehabilitation of historic structures	High (1-3 Years)
Prepare park master plan	High (1-3 Years)
Replace Campground Playground	High (1-3 Years)
Playground replacement	High (1-3 Years)
Park road repairs	Medium (3-5 Years)
MPB roof replacement/renovation	High (1-3 Years)
MPB sound system	High (1-3 Years)
Campground improvements (electrical)	Medium (3-5 Years)



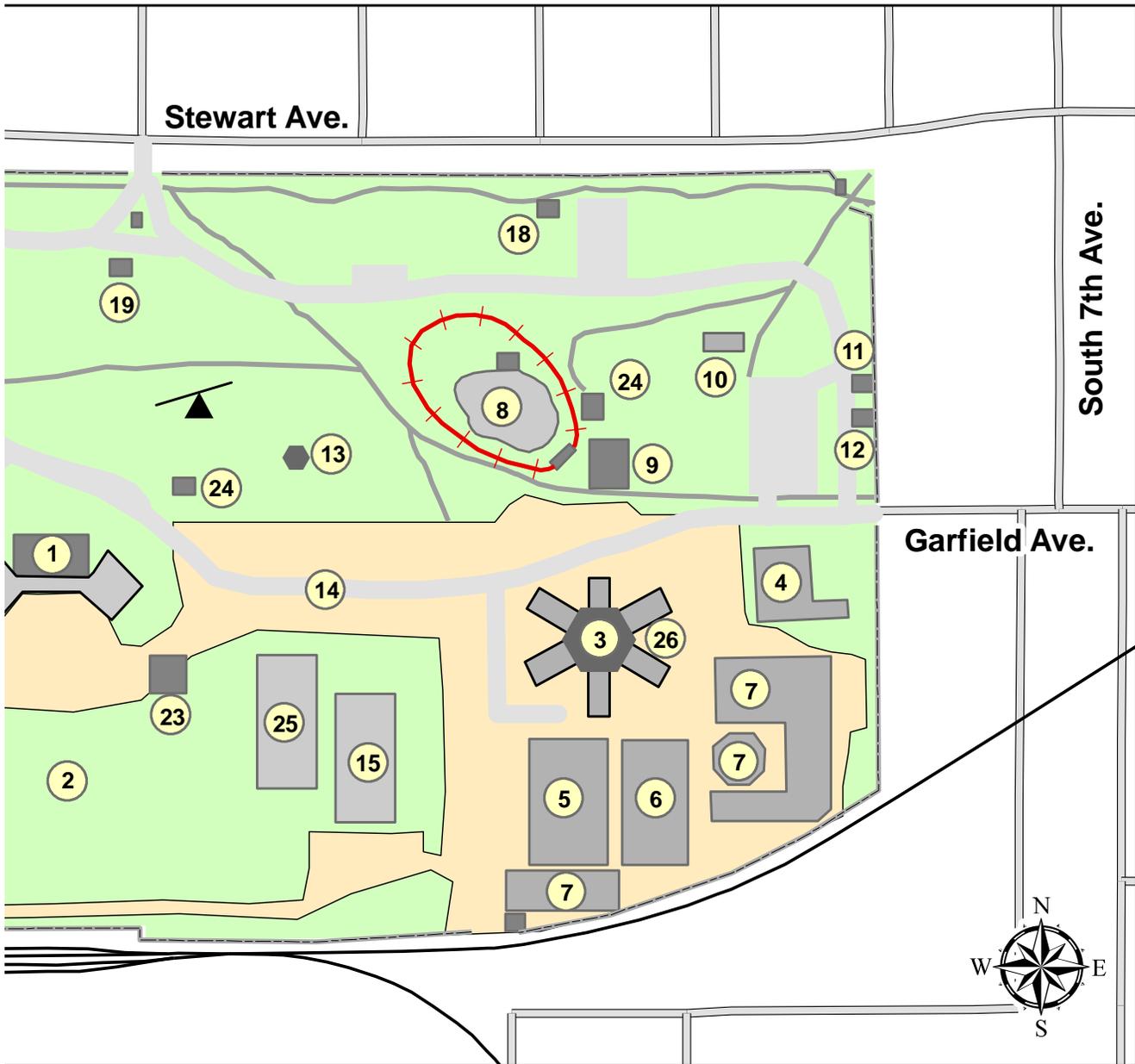
MARATHON PARK (CONTINUED)



Legend

-  Walkways
-  Railroad
-  Fenceline
-  Miniature Train
-  Playground

1. Amphitheater Seating
2. Festival Grounds
3. Exhibition Building
4. East Gate Hall
5. Multipurpose Building 1
6. Multipurpose Building 2
7. Agricultural Buildings



- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8. Splash Pad | 15. Horse Arena | 22. Shower Facility |
| 9. Marathon Junction | 16. Tourist Cabin | 23. Restrooms/Shelter |
| 10. The Big Kitchen | 17. Campground | 24. Restrooms |
| 11. Meeting Hall | 18. Shelter #1 | 25. Basketball/Pickleball Courts |
| 12. Little Red Schoolhouse | 19. Shelter #2 | 26. Farm Museum |
| 13. Bandstand | 20. Shelter #3 | 27. Trailer Dump Station |
| 14. Fair Midway | 21. Shelter #4 | |

October 2019

MISSION LAKE PARK

Park Address: 211017 County Park Road (Hatley)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: R

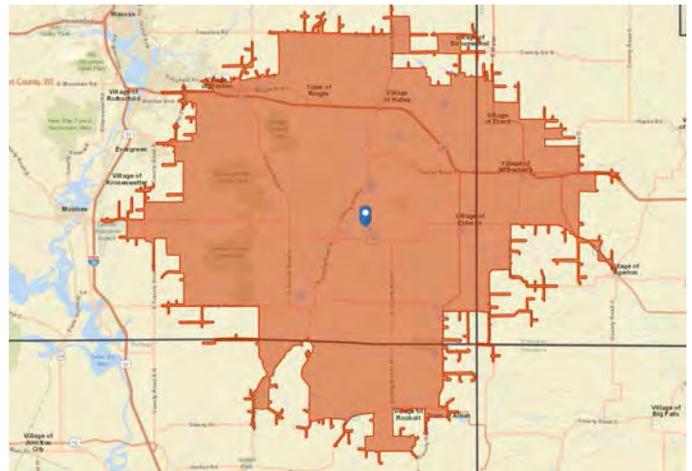
Park Size (gross): 114.3 acres

Park Size (active use): 13 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 12,786

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 5,004

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$61,422



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Asphalt parking lot (53 spaces)	n/a	15,296	west side of north lot
Asphalt parking lot (47 spaces, 3 ADA)	n/a	14,818	west side of south lot
Restroom	1969	180	adjacent to beach
Playground	n/a	2,660	SE of beach restroom
Open shelter	1982	1,998	east of boat launch
Well pump shelter	n/a	165	east of boat launch
Boat launch	n/a	158	SW area of park
Asphalt boat parking (9 boat)	n/a	n/a	boat launch
Restroom	n/a	180	north of boat launch
Asphalt parking lot (58 spaces, 3 ADA)	n/a	27,084	center of park, east of beach
Open shelter	n/a	638	north of boat launch restroom
Open shelter	n/a	638	north end of park

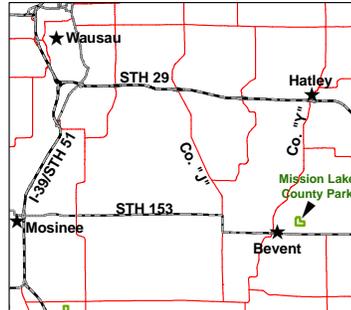
Mission Lake County Park



Legend

- Park Roads
- P - Parking
- - Boat Launch
- ▲ - Open Shelters
- - Restroom
- ★ - Playground Area

Revised October 2019



RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Prepare park master plan	Medium (3-5 Years)
Playground replacement	High (1-3 Years)
Road and parking upgrades	Medium (3-5 Years)

MOUNTAIN-BAY STATE TRAIL

Park Address: Trailhead - Municipal Street (Weston)

Park Type: County-Maintained Trail

ROS Class: N/A

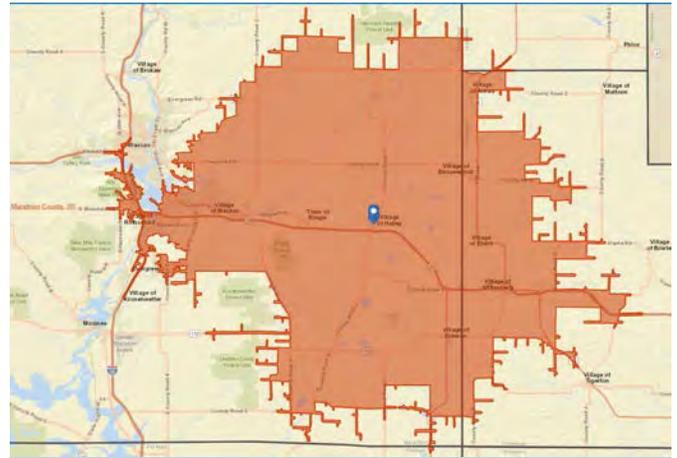
Park Size (gross): N/A

Park Size (active use): N/A

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 41,149

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 16,437

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$60,404



EXISTING FACILITIES

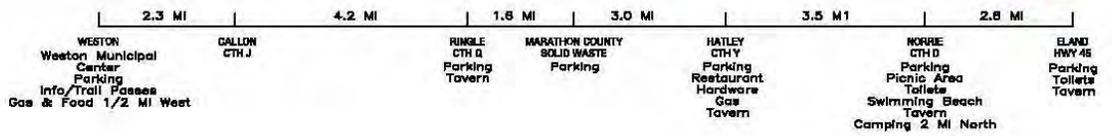
TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Information building/restrooms	n/a	512	trailhead
Open picnic shelter	n/a	270	trailhead east of parking
Bridge	n/a	756	0.4 mi east of CTY J
Open picnic shelter	n/a	168	landfill lot
Bridge	n/a	1,575	1.2 mi east of Duncan at Hatley
Bridge	n/a	168	0.6 mi east of Emonsville Rd
Bridge	n/a	182	1.2 mi east of Emonsville Rd
Bridge	n/a	16,200	1.4 mi east of Emonsville Rd
Restroom	n/a	64	Norrie west of lot
Well shelter	n/a	112	Norrie east of lot

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Provide multimodal link to urban areas	Low (5+ Years)

Mountain-Bay Trail Marathon County Section

- Key**
- ⋯ Mountain-Bay Trail
 - Ice Age Trail
 - Paved Road
 - E Trailhead



REITBROCK GEOGRAPHICAL MARKER

Park Address: 234801 Meridian Road (Athens)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: R

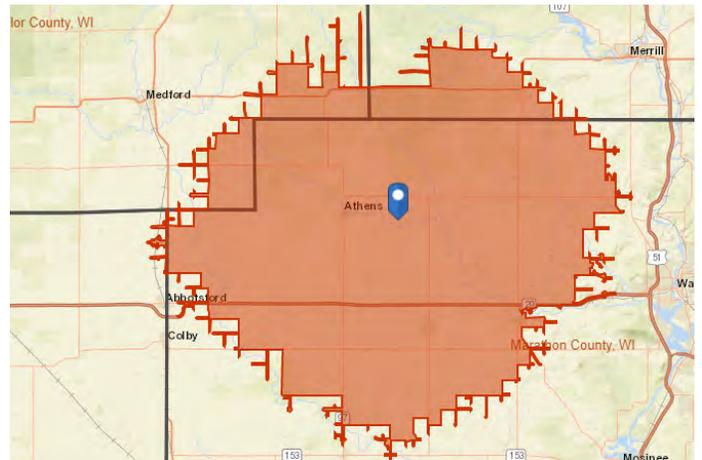
Park Size (gross): 0.9 acres

Park Size (active use): 0.9 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 17,090

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 6,316

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$62,378



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
45x90 monument	2018	113	n/a

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Restrooms	Low (5+ Years)



RIB FALLS PARK

Park Address: 232232 County Road S (Edgar)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: N/A

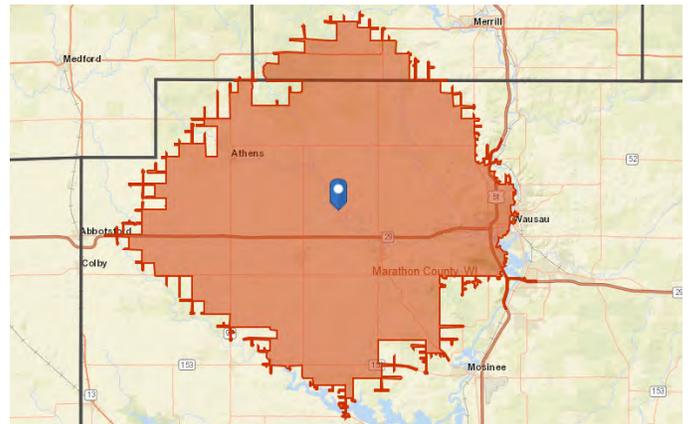
Park Size (gross): 308.4 acres

Park Size (active use): 10 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 42,688

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 17,349

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$53,904



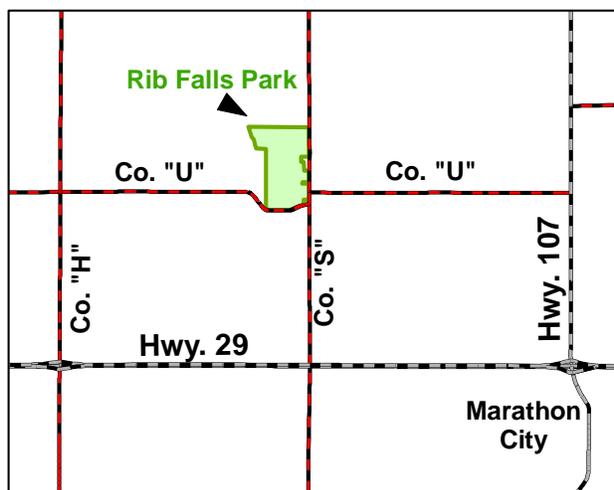
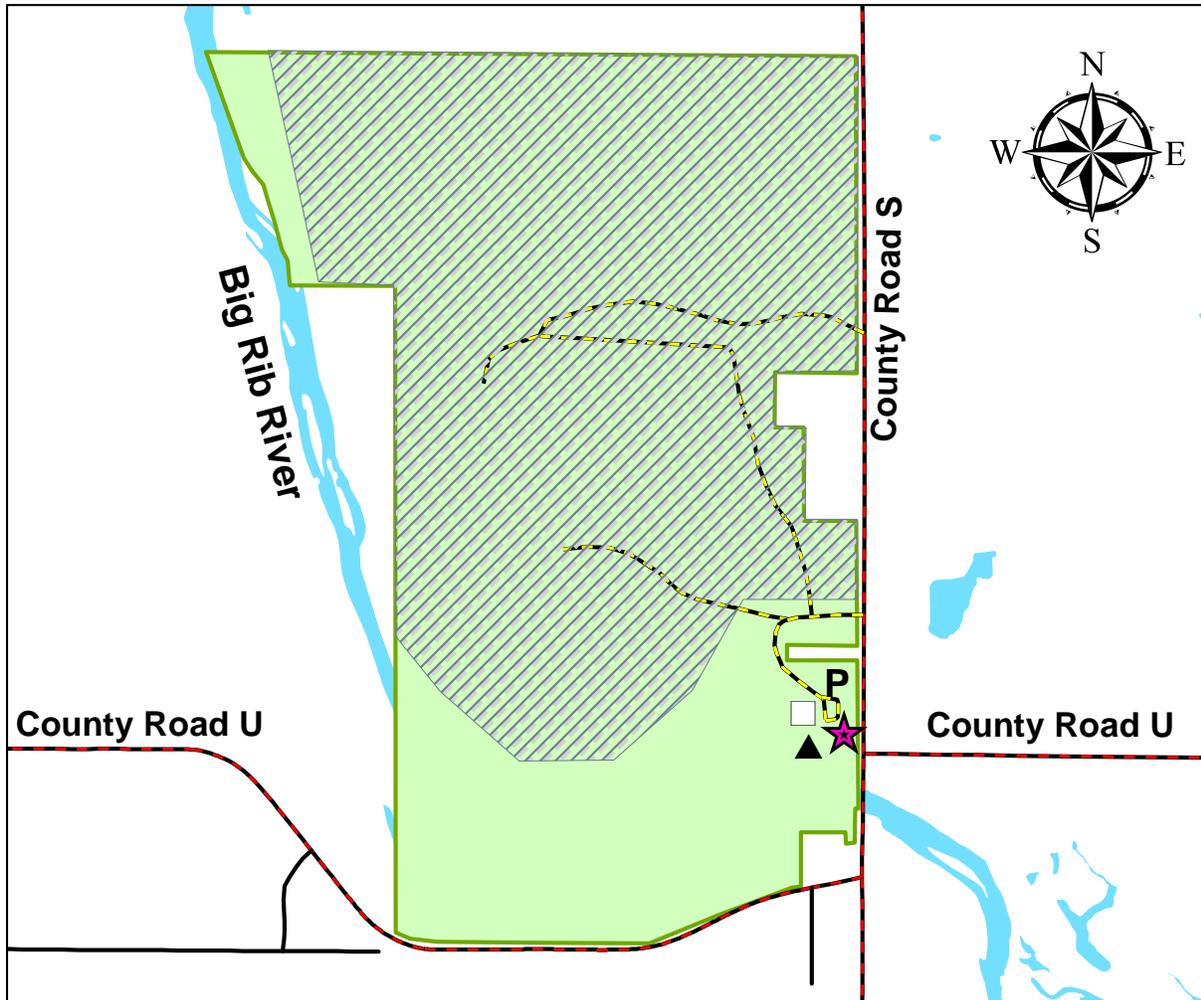
EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Restroom	1991	292	center of park
Open shelter	1990	468	south end of park
Playground	n/a	2,700	south end of park
Dam	n/a	n/a	river

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Develop park master plan	High (1-3 Years)
Playground replacement	High (1-3 Years)
Restroom replacement/improvements	High (1-3 Years)
Dam repair	Medium (3-5 Years)

Rib Falls County Park



Legend

- Park Roads
- P** - Parking
- Restroom
- Playground Area
- Shelter
- Area Restricted-Open Gravel Pit

Revised October 2019



SUNNY VALE PARK

Park Address: 1000 S 72nd Avenue (Wausau)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: R

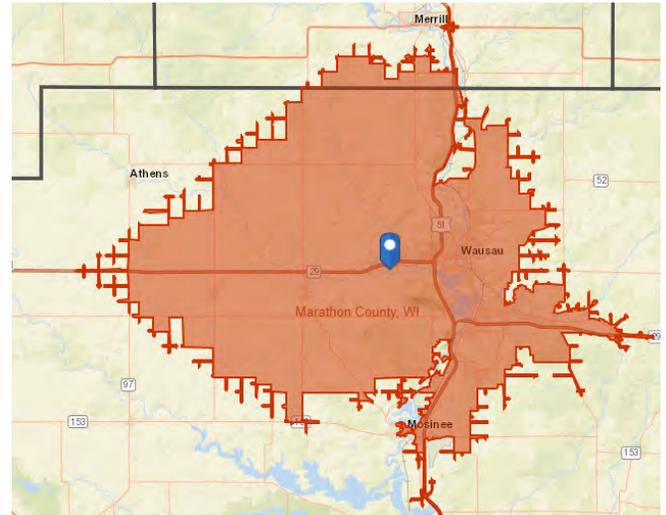
Park Size (gross): 363.2 acres

Park Size (active use): 40 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 96,013

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 39,164

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$55,746

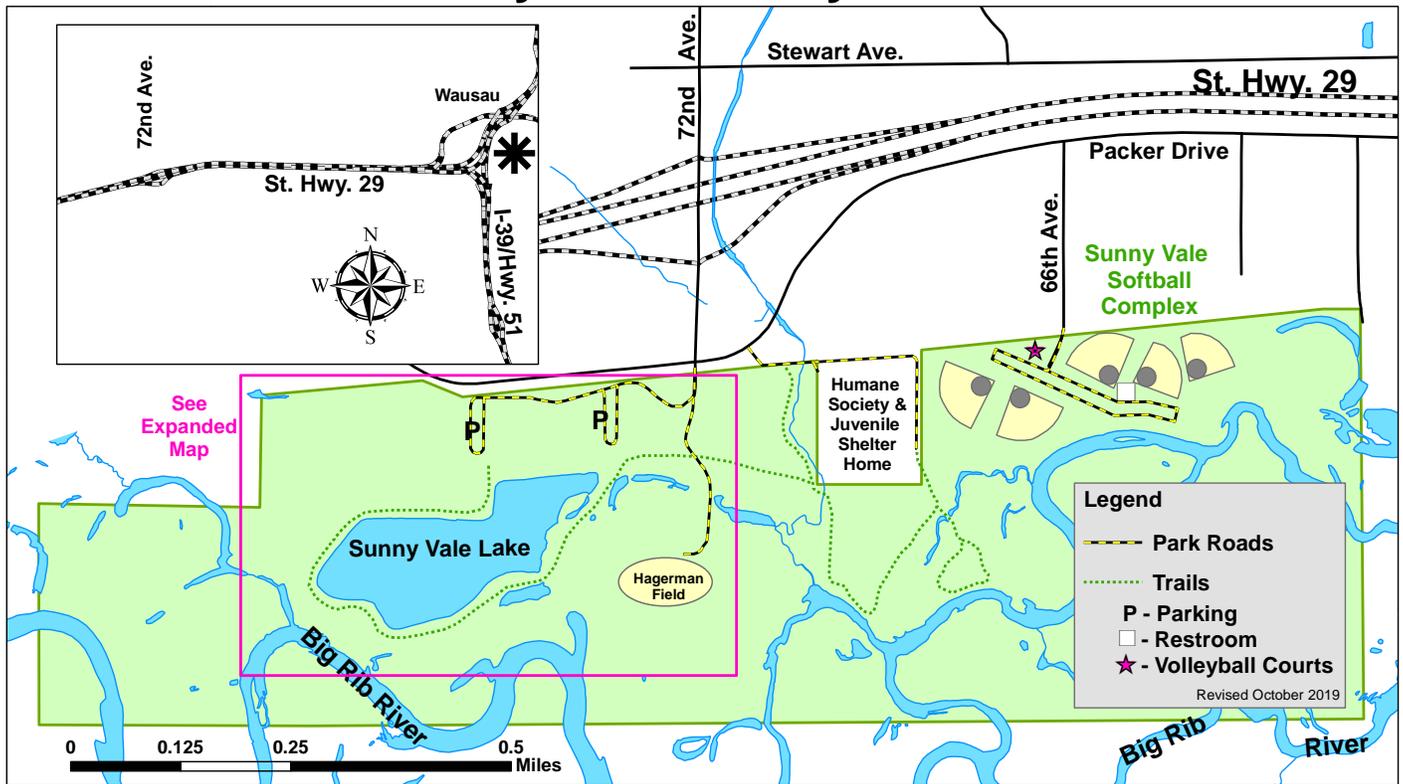


EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Electrical vault	n/a	64	west end of park
Retaining wall	n/a	n/a	north end of lake
Restroom 1	n/a	192	west restroom, north of lake
Restroom 2	n/a	192	east restroom, north of lake
Picnic shelter 1	1975	468	west parking area
Picnic shelter 2	1976	468	east parking lot
Fishing pier	1987; 2012	n/a	east end of lake
RC shelter	n/a	468	RC park
Chain link fence	n/a	n/a	RC park
Bridge	n/a	n/a	n/a



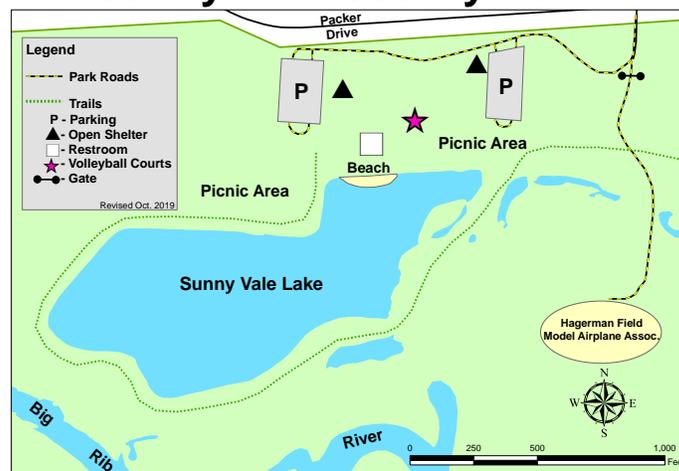
Sunny Vale County Park



RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Trail connection improvements	Medium (3-5 Years)
Wayfinding signage	Medium (3-5 Years)

Sunny Vale County Park



SUNNY VALE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Park Address: 1000 S 66th Avenue (Wausau)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: R

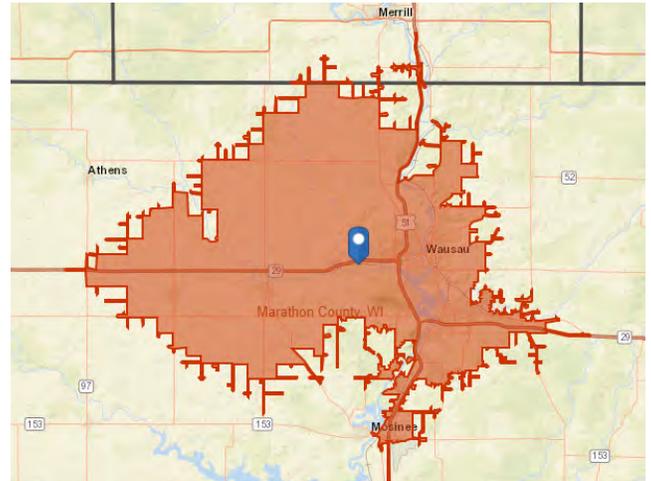
Park Size (gross): 35 acres

Park Size (active use): 35 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 88,005

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 36,145

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$54,586



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
Concessions, restroom, open shelter	1980	2,400	center of park
Open shelter	1981	468	volleyball courts
Maintenance garage	1980	480	east of entrance
Electrical shed	1983	63	between diamonds 1 & 2
Open shelter	1986	468	between diamonds 1 & 2
5 diamonds	n/a	n/a	n/a
10 dugouts (1 w/ press box)	1979	100	n/a
Press box	1983	n/a	n/a
10 bleachers	n/a	n/a	n/a
5 scoreboards	n/a	100	n/a
Fencing	n/a	28,470	n/a
Electrical/storage shed	n/a	280	diamond 5
Electrical shed	n/a	63	between diamond 3 & 4
Open shelter	1986	468	between diamond 3 & 4
Field lighting	n/a	n/a	n/a



RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Total field renovation - including turf infields, underground irrigation, replace backstop and scorer's box, etc.	High (1-3 Years)
Pave parking lots	Low (5+ Years)
Dugout and press box upgrades	Medium (3-5 Years)



TRAPPE RIVER DELLS PARK

Park Address: Town of Texas (no road access)

Park Type: County Park

ROS Class: P

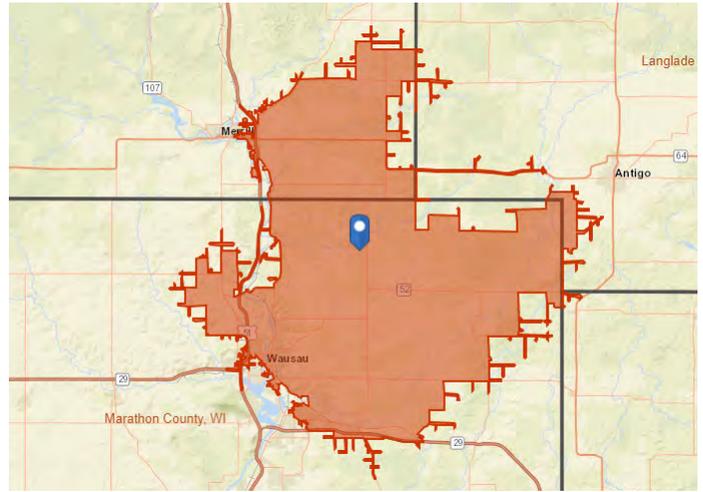
Park Size (gross): 79.3 acres

Park Size (active use): 0 acres

Population (w/in 20 minutes): 48,295

of Households (w/in 20 minutes): 19,481

Household Median Income (w/in 20 minutes):
\$52,763



EXISTING FACILITIES

TYPE	INSTALL YEAR	SQUARE FEET	LOCATION
<i>none</i>			

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Obtain access	Medium (3-5 Years)



RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2 NEW OR EXPANDED PARK FACILITIES

The County should develop new parks in areas that are underserved by existing facilities, where future residential expansion is expected to occur, or where the acquisition of park and open space will advance the goals and policies of this plan or the Marathon County Comprehensive and/or Strategic Plan. While there is currently adequate geographic coverage of County parks, population projections anticipate additional park land requirements in developing and growing areas due to increased demand. The County should also focus on expanding, where possible, existing parks to increase acreage and use.

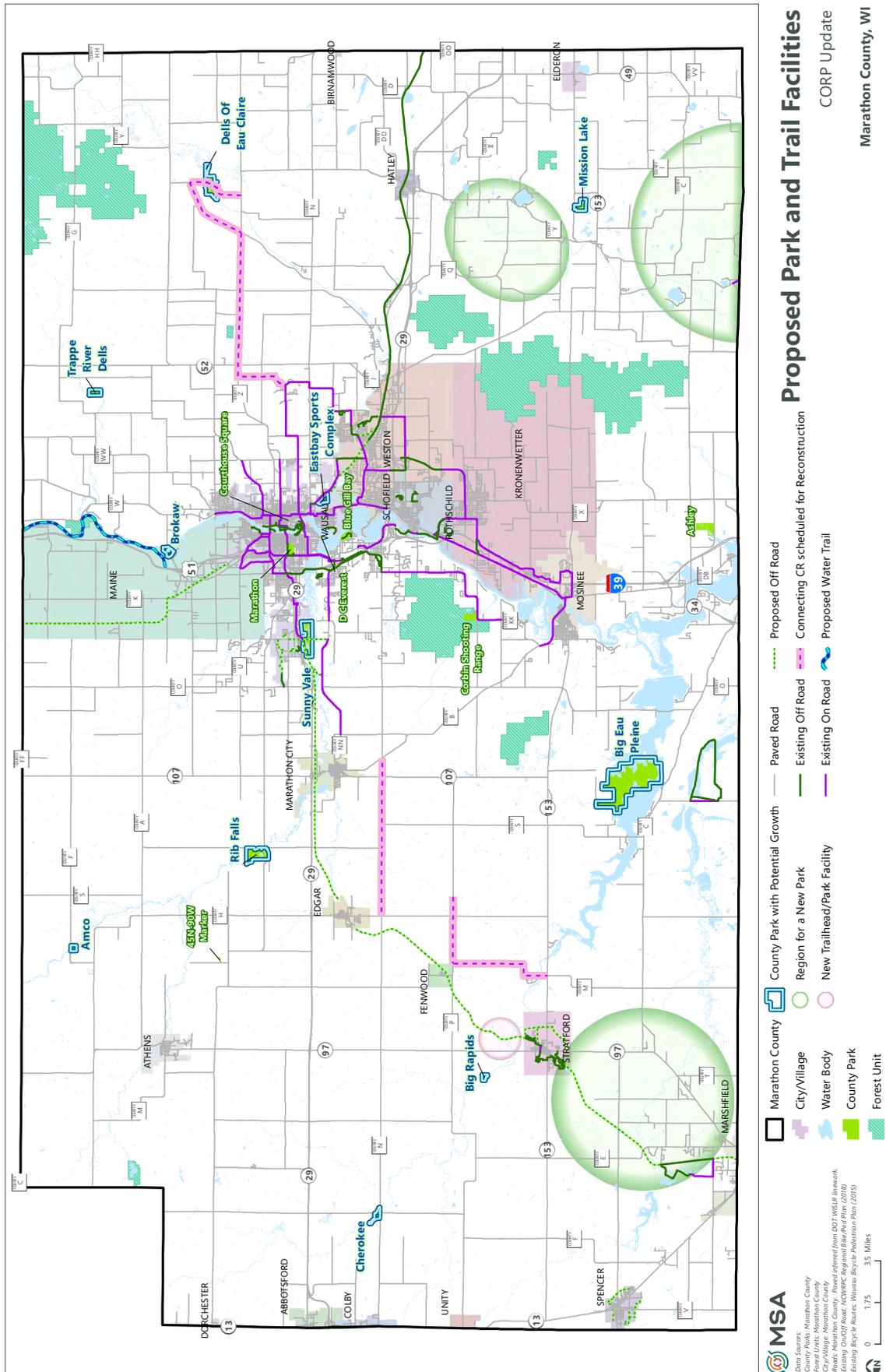
The Potential Parks & Trails Map in Appendix C (Fig. 5.1) identifies the general location for potential new or expanded facilities, based in part on Marathon County's future land use plan (see Section 2.6), public engagement processes that identified general community priority and need, and growth projections for individual municipalities within proposed and existing park service areas. These are large, generalized areas used for planning purposes only, and any site locations listed should indicate demand in that general area, not necessarily at a specific site.

Existing Park Expansion

Public engagement during the formation of this plan indicated strong support for expanding/improving current County Parks. Site acquisitions directly related to the existing park system and identified (prospective) user demands include:

1. Sites surrounding **Eastboy Sports Complex**, both under-utilized and vacant, should be prioritized for additional soccer fields and/or additional parking to increased capacity to expand use. Parcels for consideration include #29128070140897, #29128070140323, although due to the urban nature of the complex, further planning will be required.
2. Consider acquisition of additional parcels to the South and East of **Sunny Vale Park**, such as parcels #270128060010000000, #340628070050010000, #340628070050000000, #340628070020000000, #340628070010000000, #383229070110060000, and #340528070050000000.
3. Woodland parcels contiguous to **Dells of the Eau Claire**, specifically parcels directly east of the existing park boundary toward the Plover River Public Fishing Area. Focus should remain on connectivity, prioritizing parcels #310729100130000000 and 310829100100000000. These parcels should be used for further promotion and development of camping and other recreational activities to take advantage of this unique destination park.
4. Parcels to the east and south of **Mission Lake Park** #323627090090000000 and #323627090100000000 are currently under single-ownership, and offer the opportunity to further both land and water access to prospective users.
5. **Amco Park** should be connected to the Big River State Fishery area to the north through acquisition or easement, specifically parcel #171130040120010000. There is also additional acquisition opportunity for the adjoining 120 acres on the east and south park border.
6. Access needs to be obtained for **Trappe River Dells Park**, either through easement or acquisition. The park is currently landlocked and inaccessible. If access cannot be reasonably obtained, sale of the park may be a desirable option to assist in financing acquisition of land in other areas of the County with better public access. There is also the potential to transition Trappe River to a forest unit, although access would still be deficient. Access could be acquired through extension of Blossom Road and purchase of adjoining parcel #391430080150000000.
7. There is potential for increased access at **Cherokee Park**, connecting from County parcels in the northeasternmost section on both sides of the Big Eau Pleine. This land is woodland under contiguous ownership extending north along the river. Parcels to consider include # 04428021440991, #04428021440992, #04428021440995, and #04428021440999.
8. The eastern shore of the Rib River at parcels #332129050090000000, #332129050050000000 and #332129050120000000 should be added to **Rib Falls Park**. This land located between the park and the Rib River is currently undeveloped

Figure 5.1: Proposed Park and Trail Facilities



RECOMMENDATIONS

woodland, and could significantly increase river access through a trail system for recreational use.

9. Three sites should be added to **Big Eau Pleine**. All three abut the western sections of the park, and although are geographically separated, are under single ownership (by Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company). Addition of these parcels would ensure uninterrupted County use of shoreline and water for users of Big Eau Pleine.
10. **Big Rapids Park** has expansion potential through woodlands to the south and east of the existing site, including parcel #101127030040020000, #101127030130000000, #101127030160000000, and #101227030110000000. Additional land acquisition could allow users to utilize both banks of the Big Eau Pleine river along developed trails.
11. **Brokaw Park** should be actively monitored for expansion opportunity, especially for contiguous parcels and parcels that are within the park but not under County ownership.
12. While not County Parks, additional land should also be acquired within existing Forest Units. Refer to the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for more details. There is land available within every County forest unit to increase total County acreage. This goal should be pursued in addition to identifying additional Forest Units, especially as woodland may become available in the western half of the State.

Park Acquisition/Development

The County should also acquire and develop additional specialty use park or recreation land to meet identified needs such as multi-purpose trails; boat launches on the Wisconsin River Forest Unit and Lake DuBay; kayak launches at Sunny Vale, Rib Falls and Amco; protection of historic/cultural/natural features; and, expanded campground facilities (including equestrian campgrounds). For new park development and acquisition, future land purchase often depends on individual landowners. As such, large areas are identified in this plan that would benefit from increased park service.

As new park and forest lands are acquired by the County, individual master plans should be developed in order to guide development. All individual master plans of the County should be adopted as appendices to this plan in order to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grants.

- A. There are various potential sites along **Lake DuBay** to provide main-lake water access, notably parcels owned by Consolidated Water Power Company (CWPC). The most cost effective way in providing access to Lake DuBay within Marathon County may be through easement or public/private partnership with CWPC to develop a boat launch on their lands. CWPC generally allows public use of their lands, and there is opportunity to further encourage public use and recreational access. Other possibilities include acquisition of lands directly adjacent to Ashley Park, including parcels #243526070050000000 and #243526070020010000 among others.
- B. Land should be acquired and developed along the **Edgar-Fenwood Trail** to provide enhanced park and recreation opportunities in the southwestern edge of the County. There is a woodland with potential for acquisition at the southern end of the trail (north of the Village of Stratford and along the Big Eau Pleine). Park additions in this area would not only increase the use of the trail, but would add park access to prospective users currently under-served by the 20-minute drive time access standards. Parcels #071827040040000000 and #071827040020000000 should be considered for acquisition.
- C. Areas **between Stratford and Marshfield** should be prioritized for parkland acquisition to increase access for prospective users in southwestern Marathon County, as well as to draw users from population centers in neighboring counties. There are several woodland areas near McMillan Marsh State Wildlife Area under private ownership that provide potential for access to the Little Eau Pleine, and increase access to State natural and recreation lands.
- D. Access to parks outside of the Wausau metro should be increased for residents near Schofield

and Weston. Likely sites in this area for potential new parks include areas near **Ringle Marsh Forest Unit** between Weston and Hatley. Site acquisition in this area would serve expanding population centers, and provide potential access to facilities in the west-central portion of the County. Growth projections to 2040 for these municipalities are the largest in the County, and access to additional recreational opportunities should be prioritized in this area.

- E. Additional lands could be acquired for park use in southeastern Marathon County south of Mission Lake Park, likely **north of Rosholt and to the east of Leather Camp Forest Unit**. Parks in these areas would serve the southern Metro (Mosinee, Rothschild, Kronenwetter), as well as attract users from population centers in Portage County. The DNR owns Wetland Habitat in Bevent with adjacent woodland parcels containing potential for park and programming improvements.

Park Amenities, Facilities and Uses

Within the user survey and analysis, needs were identified that would be beneficial uses as added facilities, either to existing or new parks. Principally among these are year-round multi-sport indoor facilities. An indoor multi-sport facility would serve as a regional benefit for lacrosse, hockey, soccer, softball, and other users, as well as have potential to support sport tourism and special event programming.

Additional special facilities include a primitive trail based off-leash dog facility that would serve as a likely expansion to an existing trail system or in development of a new park, creating a paid, revenue-producing facility with destination potential within the metro area. Such a park should be focused on unique natural character, woodland or prairie to attract users interested in hiking as an activity.

Finally, additional amenities should be considered for existing parks in the western portion of the Marathon County system. There is currently an imbalance in access to amenities between the western, central, and eastern parks of the County. Expansion and addition of uses to these parks should be considered under expanded and growing uses and demands in the County.

5.3 TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The County should develop, in conjunction with other agencies, a County-wide trail system that optimizes year-round, multi-use activities including: interpretive, wildlife viewing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling/ATVing, mountain biking, running and walking. Accessible (ADA-compliant) trails are also important throughout the County-wide system.

Off-Road Multi-Use Connections

- There are large sections of railway no longer in use that connect Wausau, Marathon City, Edgar, Fenwood, Stratford, and Marshfield (including the Edgar-Fenwood Trail.) As part of improvements to the park system, Marathon County should highly consider **purchase and conversion of large stretches of abandoned railway** to multi-use paths connecting major communities along this route. Additional regional opportunity exists in connecting/converting a trail north from Maine to Merrill.
- The Mountain Bay State Trail does not connect to established bike infrastructure within the Wausau Metro. Dedicated on-street bike lanes and/or off-street trails (rails to trails) should be added to connect the Mountain Bay State Trail **north from the trailhead along to the larger metro**.
- A trail system should be implemented to connect **Eastbay Sports Complex** to existing bicycle infrastructure on Ross and/or Camp Phillips Roads.
- **Sunny Vale Park** should be connected to the larger Rib River Conservancy and Rib Mountain State Park through off-road trail facilities where possible, integrating into on-road routes where necessary. A **trail through the park connecting to Thornapple Road** can connect Nine Mile.
- **Sunny Vale Park** also serves as a key connection to the southwestern portion of the County, and an existing rail bridge serves as a likely connection to implement a trail that connects to Edgar.

On-Road Trail Connections

On-road bicycle connections should be planned where feasible to connect growing population centers with County recreational assets. This includes direct routes (out and back), as well as recreational loops offering long distance riding opportunities without repeating route sections. These routes should be planned using signage where appropriate (“share the road”, bicycle route, etc.), and highway shoulder widths increased when necessary due to traffic counts. Routes should meet standards of the WI Bicycle Planning Guide (see Appendix B). Within these guidelines, paved shoulders are recommended only for roads with traffic counts greater than 1,000 vehicles per day.



A dedicated Countywide Bike Plan should be authored and reviewed under the oversight of a County Multimodal Transportation Subcommittee to ensure thorough engagement and continuity.

This committee should use the NCWRPC proposed routes as a guide, considering phasing and prioritization of routes. More specifically, the committee should be tasked with identifying safe routes utilizing potential alternative roadways when County Roads are not feasible due to traffic.

The complete map of proposed routes prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission can be found in Appendix C (Fig. 5.2 and 5.3). The MSA Phased Route Recommendations Map (Fig. 5.4) is proposed utilizing the NCWRPC Bicycle Plan and County staff input as a guide, and provides a starting point in discussing connections and alternatives that could serve as likely initial connections for on- and off-road bicycle route development in the greater County.



Figure 5.2: Proposed Bike and Trail Facilities (County)

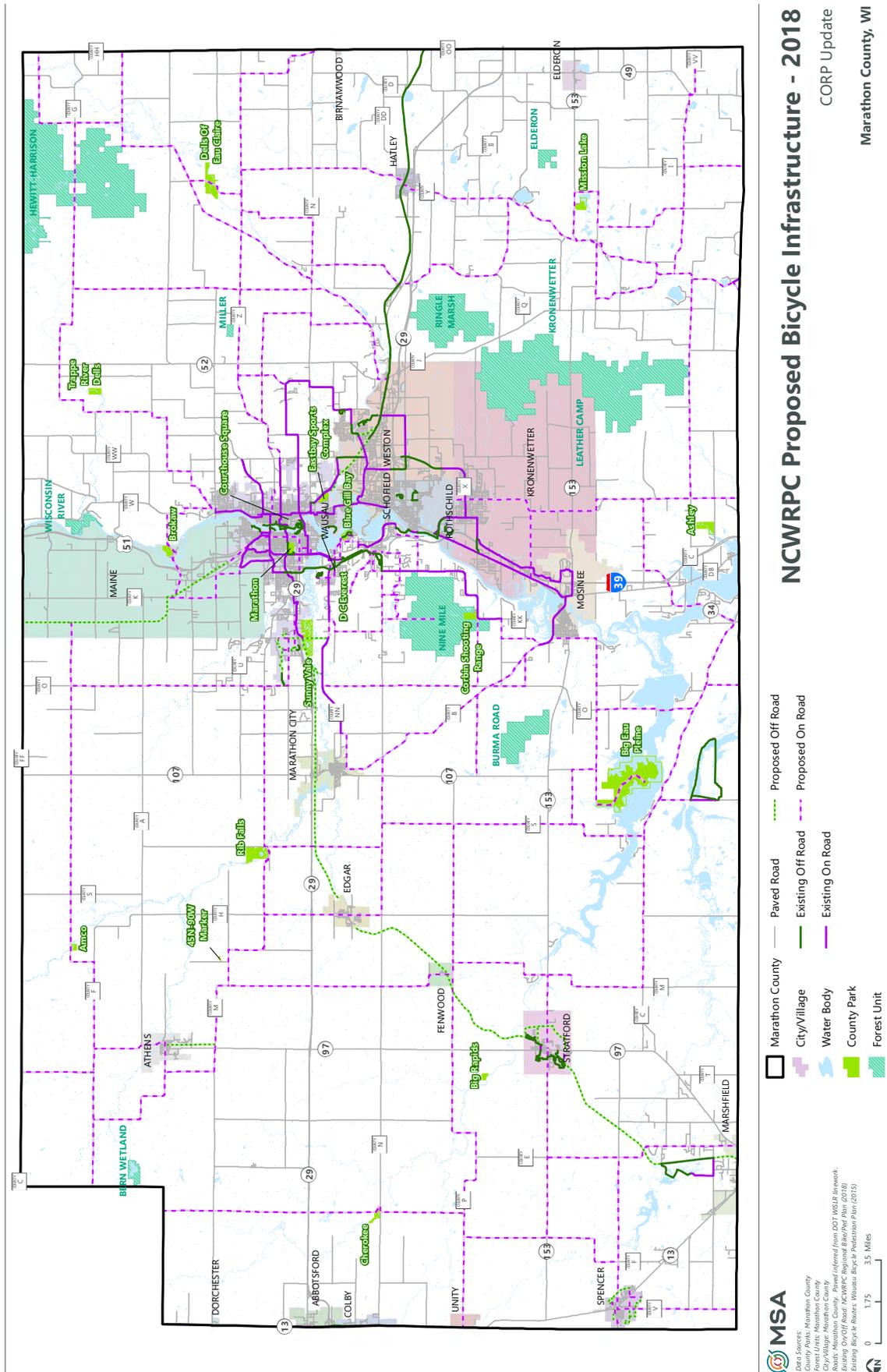


Figure 5.3: NCWRPC & Wausau MPO Proposed Bike and Trail Facilities (Wausau Metro)

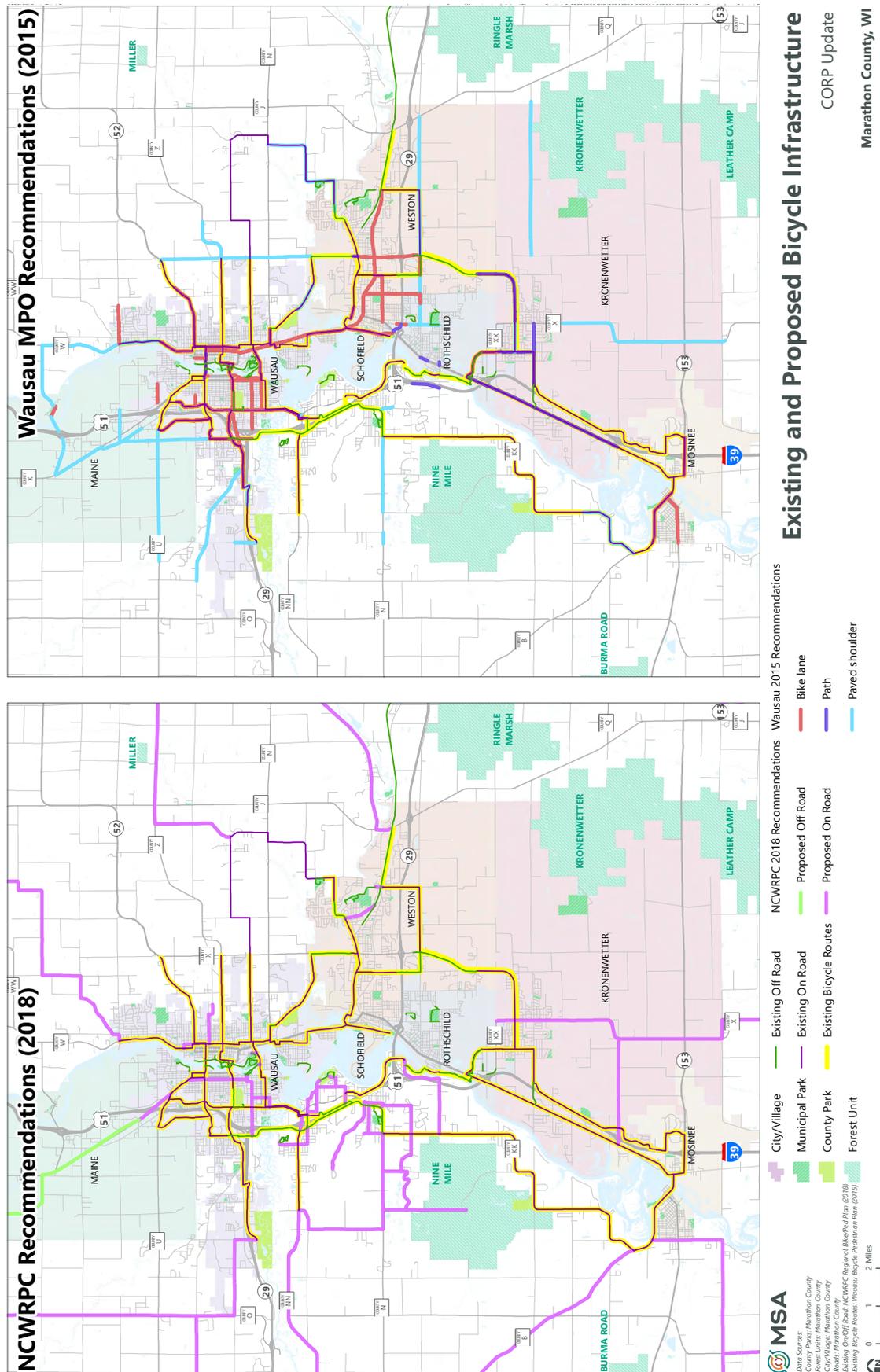
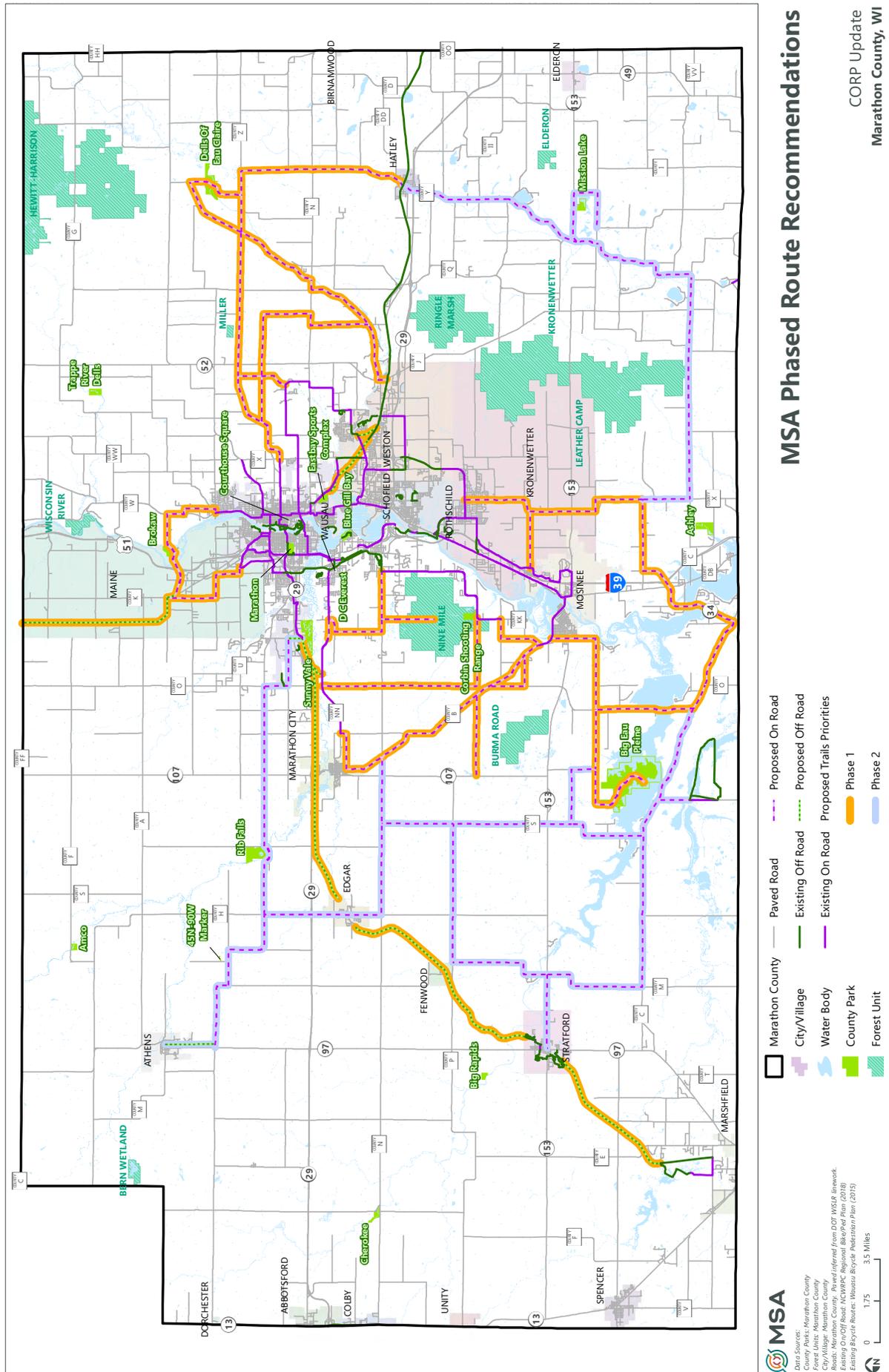


Figure 5.4: MSA Recommended Road and Trail Connections



5.4 ONGOING RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to action recommendations that will guide future facility development and acquisition in the County, these recommendations provide a basis for important updates, environmental protections, user engagement, and access that do not specifically require easement. Many of these recommendations are best programmatic practices the County should implement within the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry agency itself, while other require annual review of trends in use and detail specific classes of users (ADA access, etc.).

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
WATER BASED RECREATION	
Work with other counties to create, maintain, program, and promote continuous water trails for canoes and kayaks that are easily found and accessed.	Medium
Maintain shoreline stabilization programs in areas of heavy recreational use and areas subject to erosion from waves and currents.	Medium
Develop additional water based recreational facilities such as boat launches, water trails, etc. on the Wisconsin River, Lake Wausau, and Lake DuBay.	Low
Develop additional water based recreation facilities including ADA accessible kayak launches, water trails, etc. at Amco, Rib Falls, and Sunny Vale.	Medium
RECREATION PROGRAMMING	
Increase programming and special event marketing tailored to changing demographic trends (pickleball, lacrosse, etc.)	Medium
Align the County’s programming with the County Comprehensive Plan, specifically its health priorities	Medium
Utilize programming to increase opportunities for recreational tourism, attracting repeat visits for unique program offerings.	High
Consider expansion of social media in promoting programming and the Parks system as a whole to engage with potential users who do not actively seek out information, but can be notified of events and opportunities passively.	High
INTERGOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES	
Coordinate closely with local municipalities to assist with beneficial local improvements such as trail connections, on-road facilities, promotion, programming, regional athletic facilities, etc.	High
Partner with NGOs, private landowners, local municipalities, and other County agencies to ensure parks and forest units remain free from encroachment by conflicting development and land uses.	High

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
Work with economic development, tourism, and other regional boards to incorporate the County's recreation system in their materials, and actively work with these groups to refine Parks, Recreation, and Forestry marketing and promotion of outdoor recreation as a contributor to economic prosperity.	High
Explore cost-sharing agreements with local municipalities to lessen acquisition and/or development cost in providing services to residents.	Medium
Create a Countywide Multimodal Transportation Subcommittee to coordinate with Wausau MPO, NCWRPC, local units of government, and advocate groups to develop, plan, and further priorities for on- and off-street Countywide bicycle routes and trails.	Medium
Coordinate with NGOs, local units of government, and the DNR to promote Countywide conservation, recreational, and planning initiatives (Rib Mountain State Park Plan).	High
Promote marketing materials to classrooms in the County, and work to provide assistance in programming for outdoor classrooms, field trips, and other educational curricula that take advantage of the County's unique natural areas.	Low
PARK DEVELOPMENT	
Develop/revise Park Master Plans for individual parks to reflect and meet current and future recreation needs, and annually rank the list of parks in need of master plans/updates based on annual visits and level of development.	High
Update park master plans at a minimum of one per year based on priority.	High
Utilize ADA Audits for existing facilities as a tool to ensure parks and facilities remain accessible for all residents and visitors to the County.	High
Annually review and revise facility use policies and fees for County parks to maximize utilization and appropriate program income.	High
Actively monitor potential sites for acquisition as they become available, with focus on further expanding existing County land and providing connections to key amenities between communities.	Medium
Actively pursue additional land acquisitions for active use parks such as Eastbay and Sunny Vale Softball Complex that will meet the growing needs of athletic users.	High

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY (LOW-MED-HIGH)
COUNTY PROGRAMMING & OPERATIONS	
Ensure wayfinding and signage are standard at all parks and forest units, and integrate technology into the user experience (story maps, GPS digital wayfinding, interpretive apps, etc.).	High
Utilize unique park attributes to market parks and forest units to prospective users from other Counties or outside the individual park or forest unit’s service area.	High
Annually update the County’s Parks and Forests website, maps, and brochures to reflect the most current and relevant information available for prospective users.	High
Partner with agencies and utilize volunteers to provide educational and interpretive programs, trail and signage development, maintenance, etc.	Low
Coordinate or respond to requests for nature programs when possible to drive youth engagement.	Low
Annually report to the Parks Commission and Environmental Resources Committee achievements from this plan, steps taken toward implementation, ranking of parks in need of master plans, and other key acquisitions, developments, or programs.	High



Chapter 6

IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter summarizes tools and mechanisms that the County can use to fund implementation of the park, trail, and open space recommendations discussed in Chapter 5, plan adoption and plan amendments.

6.1 TOOLS AND MECHANISMS TO FUND IMPLEMENTATION

Maintenance and operational expenses of the Wausau and Marathon County's Parks & Recreation Department are generally funded through property taxes and user fees. As the park system grows the need to increase funding to meet the basic maintenance and operational costs also grows. Often there are insufficient funds to undertake major capital improvement projects. There are a wide variety of potential funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs, including acquisition of land and the development of new recreational facilities.

Grant Programs

An important source of funding is grant programs offered by state and federal agencies, especially the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Table 6.1 provides a summary of common state and federal park and recreation grant programs. The table is not an exhaustive list of grant programs, rather those that are typically used by jurisdictions to supplement acquisition and development of park and recreation areas. Other grant programs may exist and information regarding funding details shown in Table 6.1 should be verified prior to seeking grant funding.

Community Fund-raising & Volunteer Groups

Community groups and civic organizations are sometimes willing to organize fundraising efforts to assist with costs, programming, and upkeep. They may also be able to organize volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail creation, maintenance, or playground installations. Local business and corporate support should also be sought. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be rewarded for their support with acknowledgment on a plaque or sign at the site.

501(c)3 Foundation

The County can set up an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial

support for park acquisition and development. An endowment fund is a self-sustaining account, in which assets are invested. The annual disbursement amount of the fund is a set percent of assets, generally smaller than the accrued interest amount, which allows the value of the fund and assets to grow over time. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to provide ongoing donations to the County's park system with the certainty that the money donated will only be used for the advancement of recreation in the community. Gifts to an endowment fund are tax deductible under federal and state law.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

As part of a broader plan to redevelop an area, Cities, Villages, and Towns within the County can use tax increment financing to assist with parkland/trail acquisition and development. There are some limitations to what revenues from a TIF district can be used to pay for (e.g., generally the costs of constructing public buildings cannot be funded with TIF).

Tax Increment Districts are generally created for the purpose of stimulating redevelopment and new public and private investments. Tax increment can however be used for land acquisition and site development, but could not be used for construction of park shelters.

Under state statute 66.1105 a municipality can use tax increment to complete public improvements within a 0.5-mile radius of the TID, so long as the use of the funds supports and benefits the TID. Therefore, it may be possible for the County to work with local municipalities to use TIF increment to pay for trail improvement projects near TIDs that connect County trail and park systems.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Marathon County should work with the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission (Wausau MPO), and WisDOT to include recommendations of this Plan and/or future committees in annual updates of the Transportation Improvement Program, to facilitate access to federal and state funding support. In particular, partner communities should request that "first priority" projects get included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Table 6.1 Park and Recreation Grant Funding Programs

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A non-profit conservation organization that buys land and holds conservation easements. Conservation easements are voluntary agreements between a landowner and an easement holder (NHLT) to protect land by restricting certain uses. Conservation easements are voluntary and permanent. 			
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This fund is used to implement projects that are identified by both the local and the state Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In general, land acquisition, development, and renovation projects for public outdoor recreation purposes are eligible LWCF projects. LWCF does not include the "nature-based outdoor recreation" restriction that the Stewardship Local Assistance Programs do. 	50% local match required	1-May	DNR
Recreational Trails Program Grant			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible projects include: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easement or property for trails. May only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or reference in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the federal LAWCON. 	Up to 50% of the total project costs of a recreational trail project. Payments are reimbursements on costs incurred after project approval.	1-May	DNR
Urban Forestry			
<p>Provides technical service and financial assistance to communities for developing urban forestry programs. Priorities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan; Communities needing worker training; and Communities needing to conduct a street tree inventory. <p>Eligible projects include 1) Undertaking street tree inventories; 2) Training for Village tree workers; 3) Developing urban open space programs; 4) Developing urban forestry plans; 5) Developing a tree ordinance; 6) Developing a public awareness program; and, 7) Tree planting and maintenance</p>	50% local match required. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$25,000.	1-Oct	DNR
Lake Protection and Classification Grants			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to assist lake users, lake communities and local governments as they undertake projects to protect and restore lakes and their ecosystems. Eligible projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of property or a conservation easement Restoration of wetlands Development of local regulations or ordinances Lake classification projects that allow counties to design and implement local land and water management programs that are tailored to specific classes of lakes in response to various development and recreational use pressures (these grants are limited to \$50,000). Lake protection projects recommended in a DNR-approved plan including watershed management, lake restoration, diagnostic feasibility studies, or any other projects that will protect or improve lakes. 	25% local match required. \$200,000 maximum per project.	1-May	DNR
Recreational Boating Facilities Grant			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities. Also includes purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemically treating Eurasian water milfoil. 	50% local match required	Established quarterly	DNR

IMPLEMENTATION

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program			
The Stewardship Program was established in 1989 to preserve Wisconsin’s most significant land and water resources for future generations and to provide the land base and recreational facilities needed for quality outdoor experiences.	50% local match required	1-May	DNR
These goals are achieved by acquiring land and easements for conservation and recreation purposes, developing and improving recreational facilities, and restoring wildlife habitat.			
This is an umbrella program that funds the following grants:			
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposed (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). 			
Urban Green Space (UGS)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land or easements in urban or urbanizing area to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. 			
Urban Rivers (UR)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land on or adjacent to river flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. 			
Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. 			

Parkland Dedication

The County’s General Code includes regulations regarding parkland dedication and requires undeveloped lands within conservation subdivisions to be designated as permanent open space. The County does not have a regulation regarding fees in lieu or park impact fees, which are typically charged by local communities for municipal parkland development.

Comparable communities

Table 6.2 compares Marathon County’s land dedication requirements to comparable counties within the State. Marathon County’s land dedication requirement is similar to Eau Claire County, which requires undeveloped land in Planned Unit Development (PUD) to be reserved for common open space. Fond du Lac County’s requirement is similar but all-inclusive; any land not used for lots or streets should be designated as open space. The entities differ slightly as to who this land should be dedicated to - though all three counties list Towns or homeowners as options for dedication. The other four counties all require land to be reserved for dedication if it is designated in a Comprehensive Plan or if it would be needed to ensure adequate facilities for the population.

When comparing the budgets of other counties to Marathon County, Marathon County has the largest expenses at \$5,425,383. Rock County has the smallest expense amount at \$787,765. Marathon County also has the largest revenue amount at \$3,283,931. Rock County has the smallest revenue amount at \$262,100. When looking specifically at makeup of 2019 revenue of all of the counties, the percentage of Marathon County’s Parks budget that is made up of tax levy is relatively low at 39%. Most of the counties’ parks, open space and recreation are funded 50%-80% by tax levy. Eau Claire County is the only County whose revenues do not include tax levy instead they are made up entirely of federal/state grants, charges and fees.

Washington County’s parks, open space and recreation budget also uses a low percentage of tax levy (17%). The majority of Washington County’s budget is made up of funding from its Park Enterprise Fund. The Park Enterprise Fund is financed in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The intent is that the costs of providing goods or services to the general public can be recovered primarily through user charges and will eventually have little to no reliance on tax levy.

Table 6.2 Summary of Land Dedication Requirements and Budgets in Peer Counties

	Marathon County	Eau Claire County	Fond du Lac County	Rock County	Sheboygan County	Washington County	Winnebago County
Land Dedication Requirements	For Conservation Subdivisions, all land not divided into development shall be designated as permanent open space, protected through a conservation easement held by a Town, recognized land trust or conservancy, or shall be held in common by equal shares by the owners of the developed lots.	For Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), land not being proposed for dwelling units are to be reserved for common open space or recreational uses. Land should be dedicated to a homeowners' association or local governing body. If owned by HOA, County should be named as beneficiary.	County Planning Department could require suitable sites be reserved for parks and open spaces. Reservation shall be for a period of up to three years from date of recording or final plat. Any land not used for lots of streets shall be dedicated to recreation, open space or buffer-area by conveyance to HOA or dedication to town or county.	If land is designated as park land in County, Town or City/Village Comprehensive Plan, it should be dedicated to the public or reserved for acquisition for a general purpose or special purpose district for up to 2 years from final land division approval.	If land is designated for a park, open space, or a school or other public site in a Comprehensive plan, this land shall be reserved by the subdiviver for the designated purpose for up to 3 years.	Land could be required to be dedicated for right-of-ways, parks, school sites, and easements to ensure the public is adequately served by these facilities.	If land is designated as proposed park, playground, public access, open space site or other public land in the County Comprehensive Plan, this land shall either be dedicated to the public or reserved for acquisition for up to 3 years.
Expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: \$4,754,539 2016: \$4,872,241 2017: \$5,062,297 2018: \$5,283,887 2019: \$5,425,383 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: not available 2016: not available 2017: \$1,392,483 2018: \$1,581,630 2019: \$1,547,551 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: not available 2016: not available 2017: not available 2018: \$2,044,937 2019: \$2,003,773 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: \$1,097,595 2016: \$799,677 2017: \$723,153 2018: \$751,218 2019: \$787,765 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: not available 2016: not available 2017: \$2,254,804 2018: \$2,052,379 2019: \$2,092,798 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: \$5,401,704 2016: \$3,409,086 2017: \$2,915,067 2018: \$1,634,752 2019: \$1,345,848 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: not available 2016: not available 2017: not available 2018: \$1,593,574 2019: \$1,664,727
Revenues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: \$2,704,306 2016: \$2,817,373 2017: \$2,924,777 2018: \$3,235,424 2019: \$3,283,931 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: not available 2016: not available 2017: \$1,429,761 2018: \$1,563,877 2019: \$1,553,687 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: 2016: 2017: 2018: \$1,018,822 2019: \$962,479 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: 348,393 2016: \$287,122 2017: \$191,963 2018: \$208,305 2019: \$262,100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: not available 2016: not available 2017: \$1,042,397 2018: \$937,525 2019: \$903,151 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: \$2,601,196 2016: \$1,217,266 2017: \$1,010,574 2018: \$631,411 2019: \$1,120,848 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: not available 2016: not available 2017: not available 2018: \$297,297 2019: \$375,880
Sources of Revenue	For 2019: Tax Levy (\$2,141,452) and Charges & Fees (\$3,283,931)	For 2019: Federal/State Grants (\$226,246) and Charges & Fees (\$1,327,441)	For 2019: Tax Levy (\$1,041,294) and Federal/State Grants and Charges & Fees (\$962,479)	For 2019: Tax Levy (\$525,665) and Federal/State Grants, Sales Tax and Fees (\$262,100)	For 2019: Tax Levy (\$1,106,491), Federal/State Grants (\$435,821) and Charges & Fees (\$551,486)	For 2019: Tax Levy (\$225,000) and Park Enterprise Fund (\$1,120,848).	For 2019: Tax Levy (\$1,288,847), Federal and State Grants (\$60,080), Sale of Equipment (\$4,500) and Charges & Fees (\$311,300)
FTE & PTE Parks & Recreation Employees	• FTE: 44	• FTE: 13:19	• FTE: not available	• FTE: 3:9	• FTE: 14:1	• FTE: 12	• FTE: 7 • PTE: 2
Total Number of Parks	19	7	15	18	7	15	15
Total Park Acreage	3734	931	1213	1100	6852	1511	788
2018 WI DOA Population Estimate	135,922	102,816	104,035	160,349	115,974	135,970	170,025

IMPLEMENTATION

6.2 ANTICIPATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

This plan details the primary goals, objectives, and needs as identified through data analysis and stakeholder engagement. Marathon County is fortunate to have had steady population growth in the past, projecting to continue into the future. However, with growth comes necessary increase in acquisition and expansion in order to maintain the levels of service that ensure County residents have continued recreation opportunities throughout the County.

This section details generalized anticipated levels of funding required for necessary upkeep, renovation, acquisition, and development so that the County can maintain consistent service levels. It does not detail specific costs or funding sources, but rather anticipates a general annualized amount of plan funding required per year to implement plan recommendations. These numbers are generally presented as a range, factoring in projected inflation for the entire scope of recommendations by level of priority.

Land Acquisition

It is a goal of the Department to maintain County park and forest access levels for County residents based on population levels. Within this plan, consistency in levels of access require an average annual acquisition of 320 acres annually to Marathon County's parks and forests system.

Lands identified for acquisition generally have access to woodland, waterways, or unique natural features that have the potential to increase value and therefore purchase price. Over the past five-year period, forest land sales in Marathon County have remained relatively consistent in cost per acre, ranging between \$2,300 and \$2,600 according to the US Department of Agriculture. Actual Forest Unit and Park acquisition per County records has remained more modest year-to-year, with parcel acquisition costs averaging between \$1,700 and \$2,500 per acre. Utilizing actual cost of acquisition and accounting for 2.4% annual cost increase per acre (the average five-year period inflation in USDA woodland sales records), the County would need to budget:

- \$544,000 - \$800,000 for land acquisition in 2020
- \$557,056 - \$819,200 for land acquisition in 2021
- \$570,425 - \$838,861 for land acquisition in 2022
- \$584,116 - \$858,993 for land acquisition in 2023
- \$598,134 - \$879,609 for land acquisition in 2024

Land acquisition is generally funded with assistance through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant, which provides 50% of acquisition costs of land for the County. It is possible that if all land acquisition is funded through this grant, acquisition costs would be halved.

However, this grant program is currently set to lapse as of June 30, 2021. Without financial assistance through this grant program over the five-year period, this would represent an average annual budget allocation of \$570,746 - \$839,333, a figure between 10.5% - 15.5% of the Department's 2019 annual expenses and 26.7% - 39.2% of the budget from tax levy.

Park Planning

Once a site is acquired, a planning process should generally follow that will ensure access, appropriate development, and programming. For larger County Park units of 100+ acres with sustained public involvement, the cost per year of planning required to develop a master plan consisting of trails and a central area can itself have significant cost. However, planning is necessary to thoughtfully design parks through processes of community engagement, preference, and need. This process is key to implementation of long-term development of current and future parks.

Action Plan Priorities

The attached Action Plan details park upkeep and improvement recommendations based on three different priority levels: High, Medium, and Low. High-priority actions identified in this plan should be implemented by 2022, Medium-priority actions by 2025, and Low-priority actions beyond 2025. There are additional needs that may arise, so this Action Plan should be revised with every subsequent CORP.

Ranges of general costs, not including bridge construction/repair or dam repair include:

High-priority Recommendations:

- Budget of \$419,875 - \$573,250 annually to 2023

Medium-priority Recommendations (not including road repairs, parking upgrades, or dam repair):

- Budget of \$355,290 - \$752,290 annually 2023-2025

Low-priority Recommendations (not including parking or bridge construction)

- Budget of \$36,000 to \$105,000

Medium- and low-priority budget recommendations should be used as a baseline. New projects and park requirements will be added with new acquisition, planning, and evaluation of upkeep needs that will increase costs over time.

6.3 SYSTEM STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

Realizing the desire of residents for improved and expanded programming and operation of the County parks system, as well as recommendations of this plan, staffing will remain a key consideration in continued maintenance and operations. The community survey (Appendix A) identified ongoing maintenance of the system as something strongly desired within the community, whether in the form of expanded operation (snowmaking, trail creation, etc.) or general upkeep of the system (availability of park staff, cleanliness of the system, trash removal, etc.).

Additional considerations include park improvements and plans that are already planned for and underway. The County currently has un- and under-developed parks within the system that will need to be expanded and developed to keep pace with desired levels of service. As these improvements move forward, additional staff capacity will be needed to administer additions and improvements to an expanded park system.

Additional conversations with staff during the planning process indicated that since the prior CORP, there has been significant increase in the amount of requests from community groups for events and staffing. While

every attempt is made to accommodate all requests, there is not current capacity to meet all inquiries for service. This indicates that there exists a current need for expanded staff capacity to meet current demand, even without accounting for expansion of the system.

As the system expands and the population of the County continues to increase, it should be a high priority of the County to continue to increase services to continue to meet and exceed the needs of residents, especially under consideration of outdoor recreation as a focal point of the County's economic strategy/positioning.

Staffing Trends and Structure

Due to the unique structure of the Department as a combined City/County Department, staffing levels cannot be directly compared to peer counties. As staff serve roles for both park systems, this creates unique opportunity for coordination, collaboration, and flexibility.

Under desire for maintaining levels of service, Department staffing has increased slightly since 2013, increasing from 42 to 43.6 full-time employees and one contracted Sheriff's deputy, although there has been no increase since 2016. There is currently a vacancy in the Assistant Director position, with plans to fill the position in 2020.

Due to the nature of parks systems, many positions are filled through seasonal staff. These staff levels have increased 17.6% for both the City and County since 2014. However, the County share of seasonal hours has increased by 10% compared to 24% for the City. As more programming, upkeep, and maintenance are required on a seasonal basis (snowmaking, campsite maintenance, etc.), more seasonal staff will be required to fill positions, as well as more full-time staff to oversee administration of the system.

In order to continue to provide consistent levels of service under increased park planning, acquisition, and existing park development needs, more full-time staff will be required. In addition to expansion, the Department has a continued need to respond to current system needs in facilities and programs.

IMPLEMENTATION

As facilities and programs expand in alignment with current County plans, the Department will need to add additional staff positions to ensure a consistent and maintained level of service.

To implement all recommendations under this and other plans, the Department will likely need to add 3 full-time staff positions over the next 5-year period. If additional and expanded community programming is identified as a priority need, the Department would also likely need to add 1 additional full-time position in recreational programming to ensure consistent, efficient, and effective implementation of expanded community programs.



6.4 PLAN ADOPTION & AMENDMENTS

This plan is adopted as a complement to the County Comprehensive Plan. As such, procedures for adoption of this plan, and future amendments follow similar Commission Recommendation and County Board approvals highlighted below:

Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation

Marathon County's Park Commission shall meet to review the plan and pass a motion to recommend approval of the plan or plan amendment.

Environmental Resources Committee Recommendation

Marathon County's Environmental Resources Committee shall meet to review the plan and pass a motion to recommend approval of the plan or plan amendment.

Public Hearing

Prior to adopting this plan, or plan amendment, Marathon County may, but is not required to, hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed plan or plan amendment. A notice should be published up to 30 days before a public hearing that contains, at minimum, the following:

- The date, time and location of the hearing.
- A summary of the proposed plan or plan amendment.
- The local government staff who may be contacted for additional information.
- Where to inspect and how to obtain a copy of the proposed plan or amendment before the hearing.

The notice should also provide a method for submitting written comments, and those comments should be read or summarized at the public hearing. The public hearing may be held by either the Parks Commission or County Board. Public Hearings for this plan are considered to be best practice, but are not a requirement of the WDNR.

Plan Adoption

This plan and any future amendments become official County policy when the County Board passes, by a majority vote, a resolution to adopt. The County Board may choose to revise the plan after it has been recommended by the Parks Commission, and after any potential public hearing (optional).

Plan Amendment vs. Plan Update

Amendments can be made at any time, but the County should not amend the plan more than once per year. A common recommended approach is to establish a consistent annual schedule for consideration of minor plan amendments.

This plan should be updated every five years in order to maintain eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Funding. Unlike an amendment, a plan update would revisit the entirety of the plan content and include more robust opportunities for public participation.

6.5 ACTION PLAN

The Parks Commission has prioritized certain recommendations for each existing park in Marathon County. These are explored park by park in Chapter 5. Table 6.3 lists these improvements in a singular list to provide easy access to desired improvements by park. Table 6.4 lists only the high-priority improvements, which are generally improvements with implementation schedules over the next four years (2020-2022). Medium-priority improvements generally should begin implementation between 2023-2025, and low-priority improvements beyond 2025.



Table 6.3 Priority Park Improvements

Park Name	Improvement	Priority	Timeline
Amco	Replace restrooms	High	1-3 Years
Amco	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Ashley	Develop Plan for access to Lake DuBay	Medium	3-5 Years
Big Eau Pleine	Install shower facility	Medium	3-5 Years
Big Eau Pleine	Campground electrical upgrades	High	1-3 Years
Big Eau Pleine	Designated equestrian camping	Medium	3-5 Years
Big Eau Pleine	Road repairs - main park road	High	1-3 Years
Big Eau Pleine	Disc golf - addition of 9 holes	Low	5+ Years
Big Eau Pleine	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Big Eau Pleine	South unit group campground	Medium	3-5 Years
Big Rapids	Dam repair/removal	High	1-3 Years
Big Rapids	Playground replacement	Medium	3-5 Years
Bluegill Bay	Prepare park master plan	Medium	3-5 Years
Bluegill Bay	Replace playground	Medium	3-5 Years
Bluegill Bay	Restroom repair/improvements	High	1-3 Years
Brokaw	Prepare park master plan	Medium	3-5 Years
Brokaw	Monitor adjacent land for park expansion	Medium	3-5 Years
Cherokee	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Cherokee	Restroom replacement/improvements	Medium	3-5 Years
Cherokee	Add pedestrian access to north side of river	Low	5+ Years
DC Everest	Restroom replacement/improvements	High	1-3 Years
Dells of the EC	Upgrade trail directional signage	Low	5+ Years
Dells of the EC	Prepare park master plan	Medium	3-5 Years
Dells of the EC	Restroom replacement/improvements	High	1-3 Years
Dells of the EC	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Dells of the EC	Replace group campground shelter	Medium	3-5 Years
Dells of the EC	High bridge repairs	High	1-3 Years
Dells of the EC	Campground road renovation	Medium	3-5 Years
Duane L. Corbin Range	Retaining wall repair	Medium	3-5 Years
Eastbay	Open shelter	High	1-3 Years
Eastbay	Actively pursue land acq. for expansion	High	1-3 Years

Table 6.3 Priority Park Improvements

Park Name	Improvement	Priority	Timeline
Eastbay	Actively pursue land acq. for expansion	High	1-3 Years
Eastbay	Lights (if possible)	Medium	3-5 Years
Eastbay	Path connecting north and south parking lots	Medium	3-5 Years
Eastbay	Blacktop around building	High	1-3 Years
Edgar-Fenwood ATV/UTV Trail	Eau Pleine bridge addition	Medium	3-5 Years
Edgar-Fenwood ATV/UTV Trail	ROW acquisition to connect to Stratford	Medium	3-5 Years
Edgar-Fenwood ATV/UTV Trail	Develop southern trailhead	Low	5+ Years
Marathon	Continue rehab of historic structures	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Prepare park master plan	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Replace campground playground	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Park road repairs	Medium	3-5 Years
Marathon	MPB roof replacement/renovation	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	MPB sound system	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Campground improvements (electrical)	Medium	3-5 Years
Mission Lake	Prepare park master plan	Medium	3-5 Years
Mission Lake	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Mission Lake	Road and parking upgrades	Medium	3-5 Years
Mountain-Bay	Provide Link to urban areas	Low	5+ Years
Reitbrock	Restrooms	Medium	3-5 Years
Rib Falls	Develop park master plan	High	1-3 Years
Rib Falls	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Rib Falls	Restroom replacement/improvements	High	1-3 Years
Rib Falls	Dam repair	Medium	3-5 Years
Sunny Vale	Trail connection improvements	Medium	3-5 Years
Sunny Vale	Wayfinding signage	Medium	3-5 Years
Sunny Vale SB	Total field renovation	High	1-3 Years
Sunny Vale SB	Pave parking lots	Low	5+ Years
Sunny Vale SB	Dugout and press box upgrades	Medium	3-5 Years
Trappe River	Obtain access	Medium	3-5 Years

Table 6.4 High Priority Park Improvements

Park Name	Improvement	Priority	Timeline
Amco	Replace restrooms	High	1-3 Years
Amco	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Big Eau Pleine	Campground electrical upgrades	High	1-3 Years
Big Eau Pleine	Road repairs - main park road	High	1-3 Years
Big Eau Pleine	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Big Rapids	Dam repair/removal	High	1-3 Years
Bluegill Bay	Restroom repair/improvements	High	1-3 Years
Cherokee	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
DC Everest	Restroom replacement/improvements	High	1-3 Years
Dells of the EC	Restroom replacement/improvements	High	1-3 Years
Dells of the EC	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Dells of the EC	High bridge repairs	High	1-3 Years
Eastbay	Open shelter	High	1-3 Years
Eastbay	Actively pursue land acq. for expansion	High	1-3 Years
Eastbay	Blacktop around building	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Continue rehab of historic structures	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Prepare park master plan	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Replace campground playground	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	MPB roof replacement/renovation	High	1-3 Years
Marathon	MPB sound system	High	1-3 Years
Mission Lake	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Rib Falls	Develop park master plan	High	1-3 Years
Rib Falls	Playground replacement	High	1-3 Years
Rib Falls	Restroom replacement/improvements	High	1-3 Years
Sunny Vale SB	Total field renovation	High	1-3 Years

Table 6.5 Medium Priority Park Improvements

Park Name	Improvement	Priority	Timeline
Ashley	<i>Develop Plan for access to Lake DuBay</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Big Eau Pleine	<i>Install shower facility</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Big Eau Pleine	<i>Designated equestrian camping</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Big Eau Pleine	<i>South unit group campground</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Big Rapids	<i>Playground replacement</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Bluegill Bay	<i>Prepare park master plan</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Bluegill Bay	<i>Replace playground</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Brokaw	<i>Prepare park master plan</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Brokaw	<i>Monitor adjacent land for park expansion</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Cherokee	<i>Restroom replacement/improvements</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Dells of the EC	<i>Prepare park master plan</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Dells of the EC	<i>Replace group campground shelter</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Dells of the EC	<i>Campground road renovation</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Duane L. Corbin Range	<i>Retaining wall repair</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Eastbay	<i>Lights (if possible)</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Eastbay	<i>Path connecting north and south parking lots</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Edgar-Fenwood ATV/UTV Trail	<i>Eau Pleine bridge addition</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Edgar-Fenwood ATV/UTV Trail	<i>ROW acquisition to connect to Stratford</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Marathon	<i>Park road repairs</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Marathon	<i>Campground improvements (electrical)</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Mission Lake	<i>Prepare park master plan</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Mission Lake	<i>Road and parking upgrades</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Reitbrock	<i>Restrooms</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Rib Falls	<i>Dam repair</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Sunny Vale	<i>Trail connection improvements</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Sunny Vale	<i>Wayfinding signage</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Sunny Vale SB	<i>Dugout and press box upgrades</i>	Medium	3-5 Years
Trappe River	<i>Obtain access</i>	Medium	3-5 Years

Table 6.6 Low Priority Park Improvements

Park Name	Improvement	Priority	Timeline
Big Eau Pleine	<i>Disc golf - addition of 9 holes</i>	Low	5+ Years
Cherokee	<i>Add pedestrian access to north side of river</i>	Low	5+ Years
Dells of the EC	<i>Upgrade trail directional signage</i>	Low	5+ Years
Edgar-Fenwood ATV/UTV Trail	<i>Develop southern trailhead</i>	Low	5+ Years
Mountain-Bay	<i>Provide Link to urban areas</i>	Low	5+ Years
Sunny Vale SB	<i>Pave parking lots</i>	Low	5+ Years

This page left intentionally blank.



Wausau & Marathon County
**Parks, Recreation
& Forestry**

APPENDIX A:
SURVEY & APRIL 30, 2019
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
MEETING SUMMARY

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

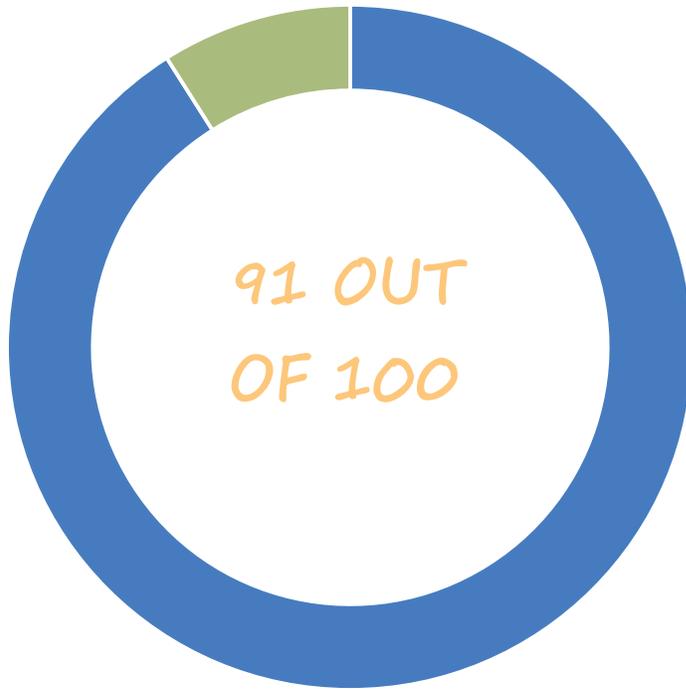
To encourage public involvement in the Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the County created an online public opinion survey. The survey was available April 16 through May 11, 2018 and hosted on Survey Monkey. Hard copies were also available at the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

In total, 1,194 individuals took the survey. Approximately 88% of those who took the survey live in Marathon County, while the additional 12% vacation or recreate within Marathon County. 25% of all respondents live in the City of Wausau, which is slightly less than the City's percentage of the County population (29%). 11% live in the Village of Weston, which equals the Village's percentage of the County population. 11% live in the Town of Rib Mountain, which is greater than the Town's percentage of the County's population (5%). 5% live in the Village of Kronenwetter, which equals the Village's percentage of the County population. The remaining in-County respondents were distributed between other cities, villages, and towns of Marathon County, refer to Q17 on page A-16.

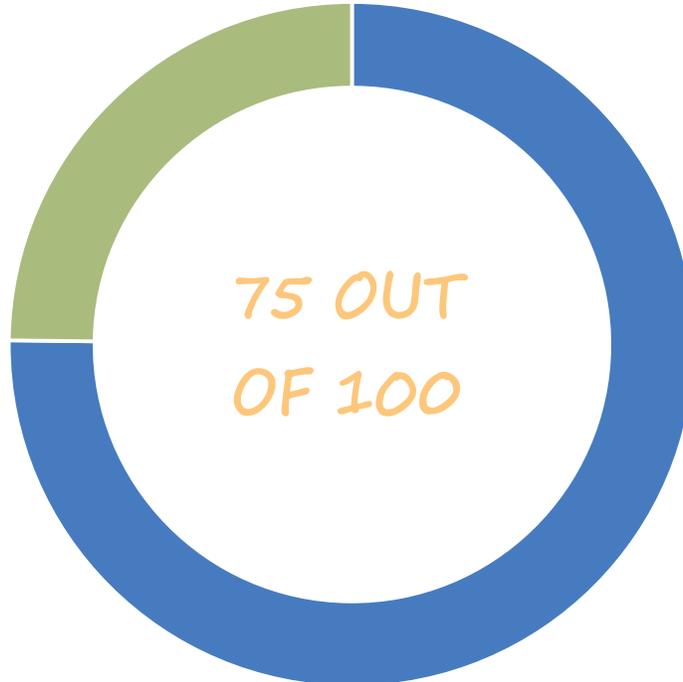
The survey represents a diverse group demographically, though certain groups were under- and over-represented. Generally younger members of the community were under-represented and those categorized as middle-age were over-represented. For instance, those 19 and under represented 0.2% of survey respondents but make up 27.1% of Marathon County residents. Those age 35-54 represented 45.2% of survey respondents but only make up 28.8% of the population of the County. The figure depicting respondents' answers to their corresponding age group compared to 2013-2017 American Community Survey Estimates is shown under question 16 on page A-16.

Responses in this summary include responses for all survey respondents no matter their place of residence, and include comments.

Q1 ON A SCALE OF 0-100, HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK THE COUNTY'S PARKS, FOREST UNITS, TRAILS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE COUNTY? (1,168)



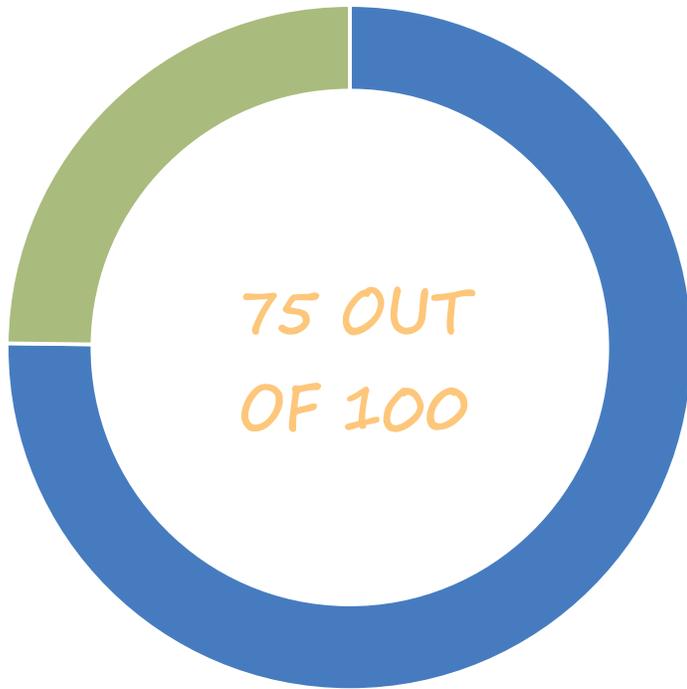
Q2 ON A SCALE OF 0-100, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE COUNTY'S CURRENT VARIETY OF PARKS, FOREST UNITS, TRAILS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES? (1,184)



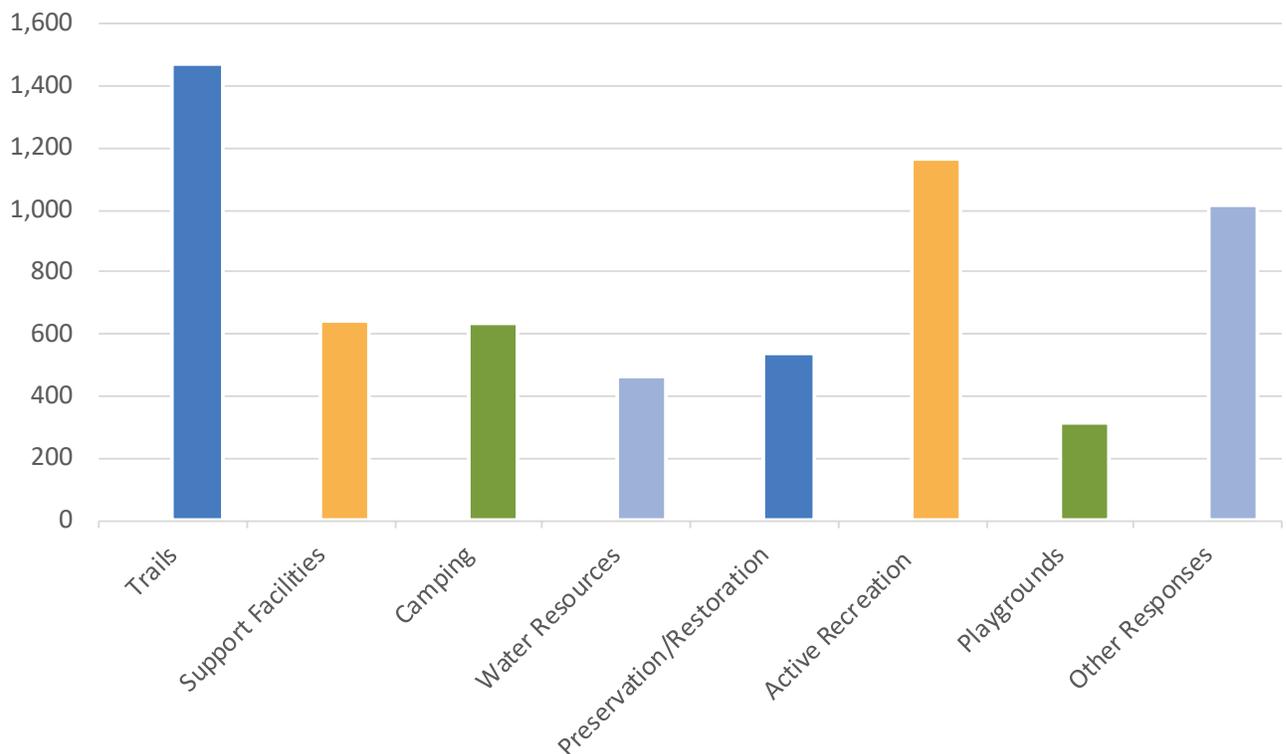
Overall, County parks, forest units, trails, and recreational facilities are valued by residents and visitors, and users believe they are important to quality of life in the County.

There is also overall satisfaction of the variety and quality of offerings that allow for a range of uses and choices in recreational activity.

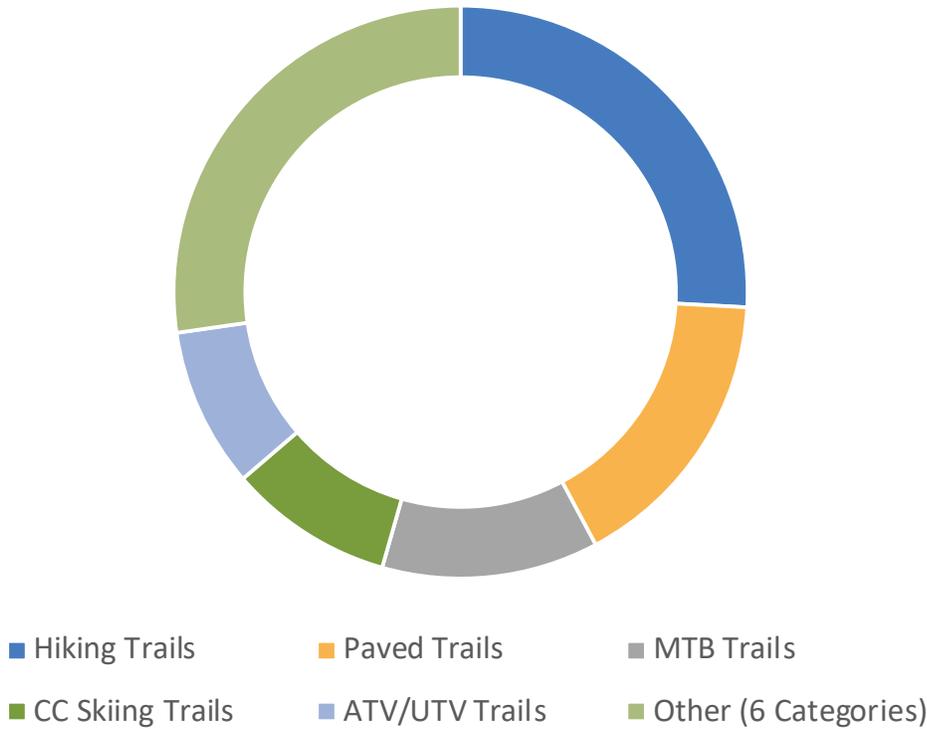
Q3 ON A SCALE OF 1-100, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF THE COUNTY'S PARKS, FOREST UNITS, TRAILS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES? (1,186)



Q4 WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED, IMPROVED, OR EXPANDED BY EITHER PUBLIC, NON-PROFIT, OR PRIVATE ENTITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY? MARK UP TO 7 PREFERENCES (1,122)



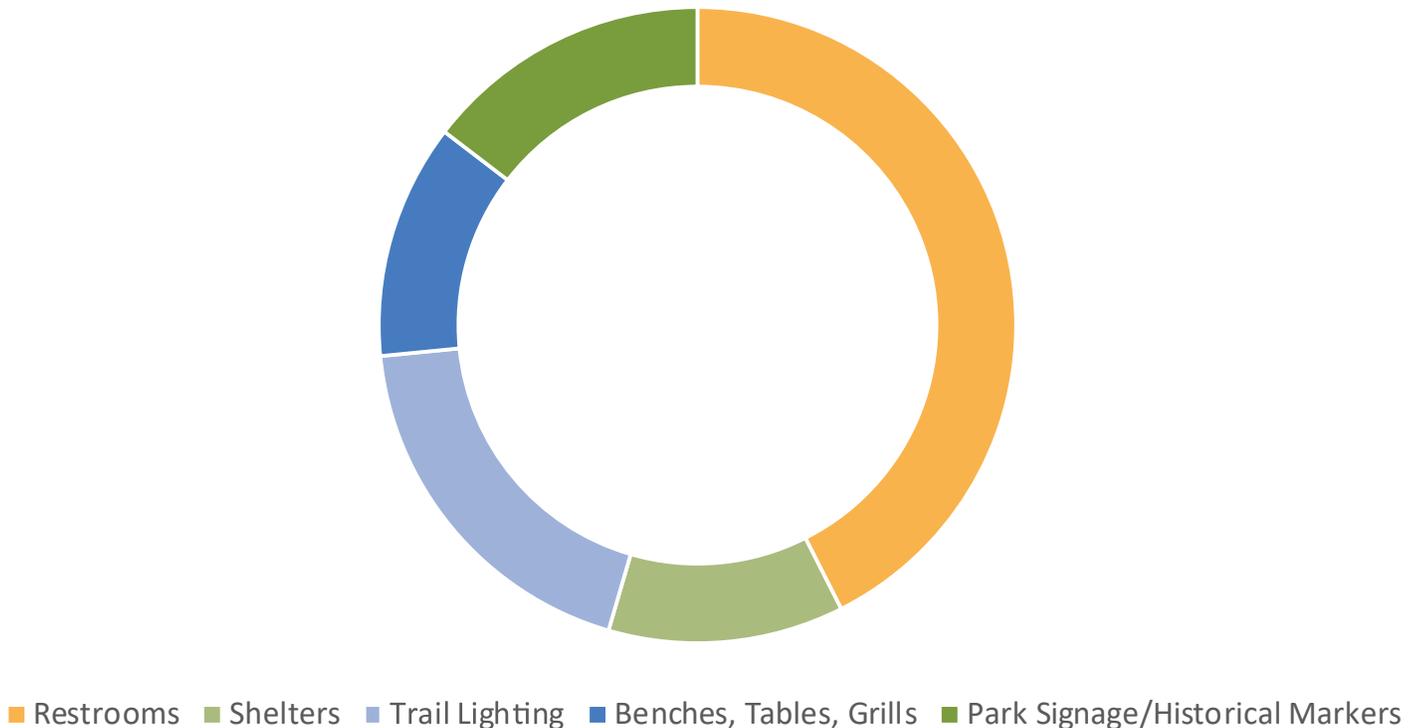
Q4* COMMON RESPONSES WITHIN TRAILS CATEGORY (1,474)



26% of respondents selected hiking trails, 16% paved trails, and 12% mountain bike trails. Cross country skiing and ATV/UTV trails each represented 9% of the total for the category.

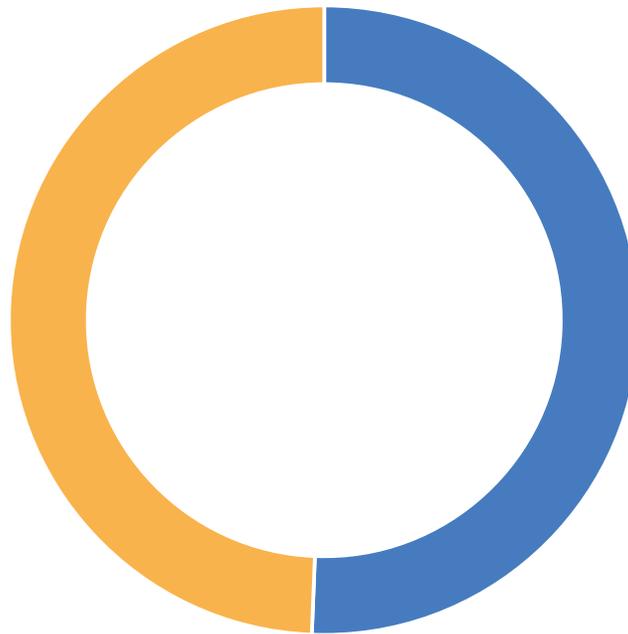
“Other” responses in this category included responses for Trail Lighting (8%), Snowshoeing (7%), Trail Signage (6%), Directional Signage to Parks/Facilities (3%), Snowmobile Trails (2%), and Equestrian Trails (1%).

Q4* COMMON RESPONSES WITHIN SUPPORT FACILITIES CATEGORY (644)



The most common Facilities response was for added/improved restroom facilities (43%), followed by trail lighting (19%), signage/historical markers (15%), with shelters and benches/tables/grills each receiving 12% of the responses.

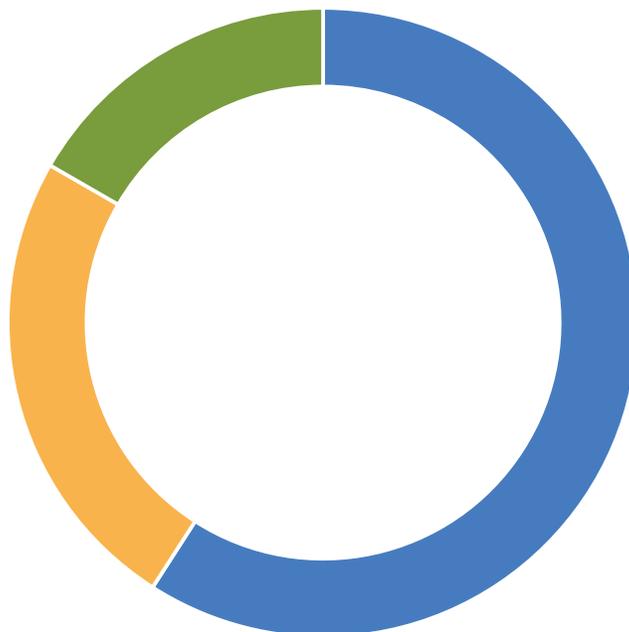
Q4* COMMON RESPONSES WITHIN CAMPING CATEGORY (636)



■ Camping Areas ■ Camping Support Facilities

Responses were evenly split within the camping category, with 51% indicating camping areas (more camping, improvements to campsites), and 49% indicating camping support facilities (restrooms, showers, etc.)

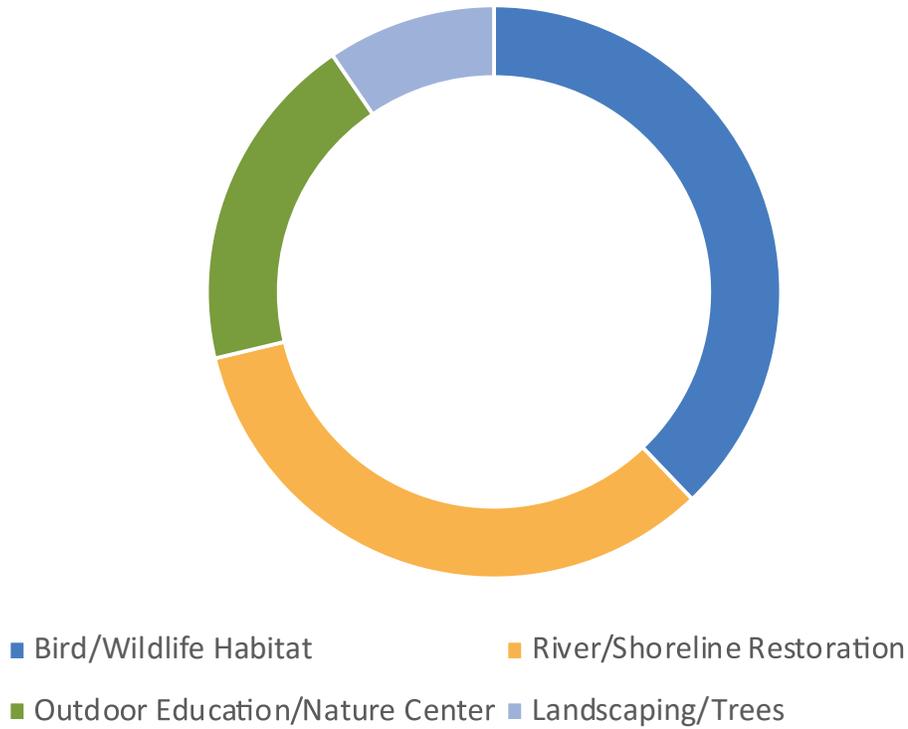
Q4* COMMON RESPONSES WITHIN WATER RESOURCES CATEGORY (462)



■ Canoe/Kayak Facilities ■ Boating Facilities ■ Water Trails

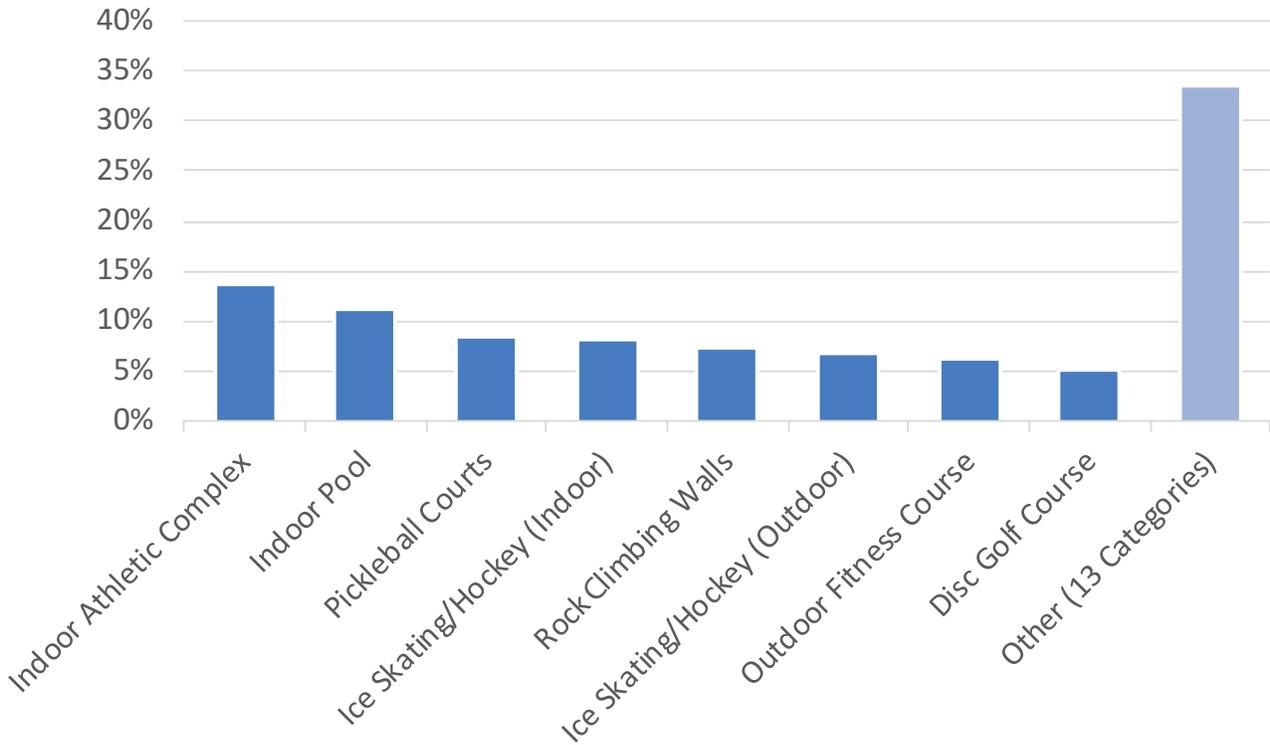
53% of all responses in this category indicated demand for new/improved canoe and kayak facilities, particularly increased number of and access to launches.

Q4* COMMON RESPONSES WITHIN PRESERVATION/RESTORATION CATEGORY (536)



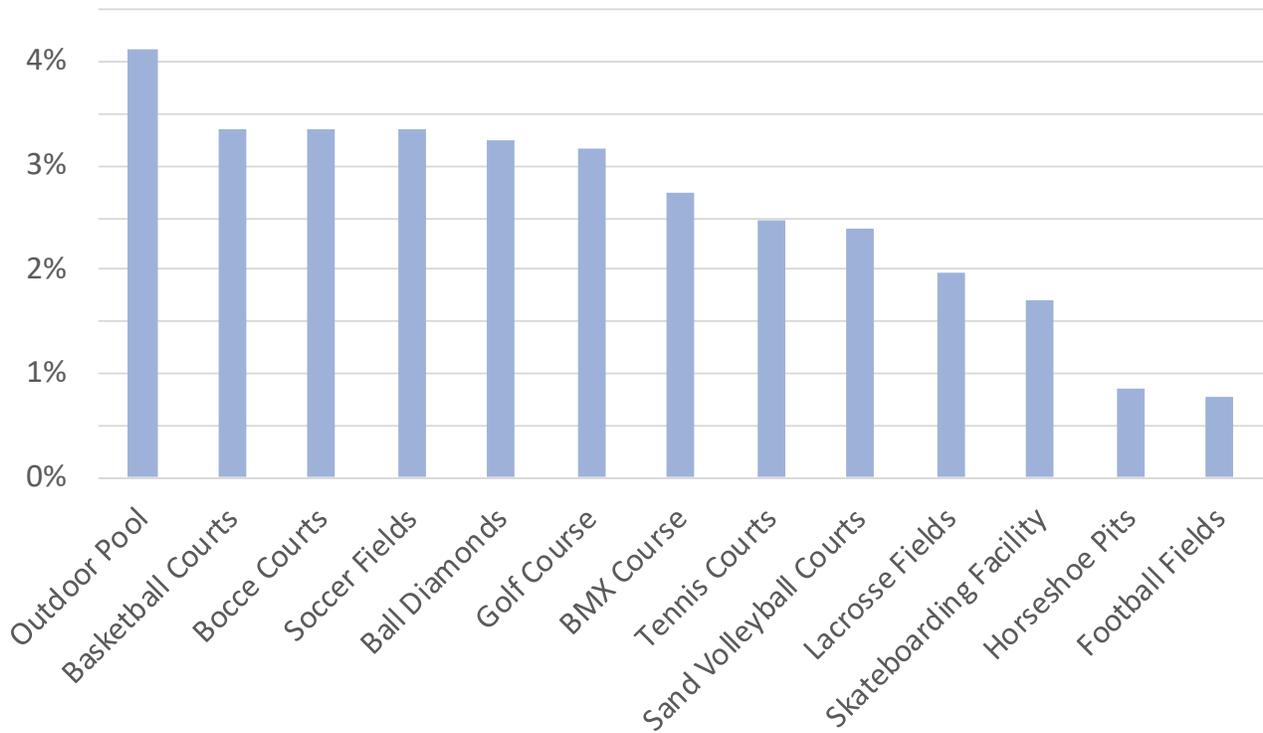
The majority of respondents prioritized bird/wildlife habitat within this category (38%) and river/shoreline restoration (33%).

Q4* COMMON RESPONSES WITHIN ACTIVE RECREATION/FACILITIES CATEGORY (1,167)

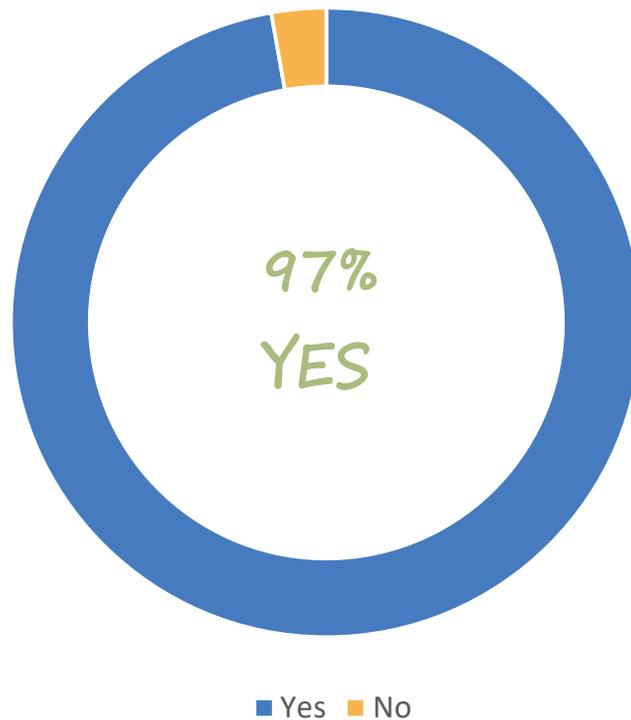


The variety of responses within Active Recreation/Facilities was distributed from 14% for Indoor Multi-sport Athletic Complex to 1% for football fields, and in all accounted for 22 distinct sub-categories.

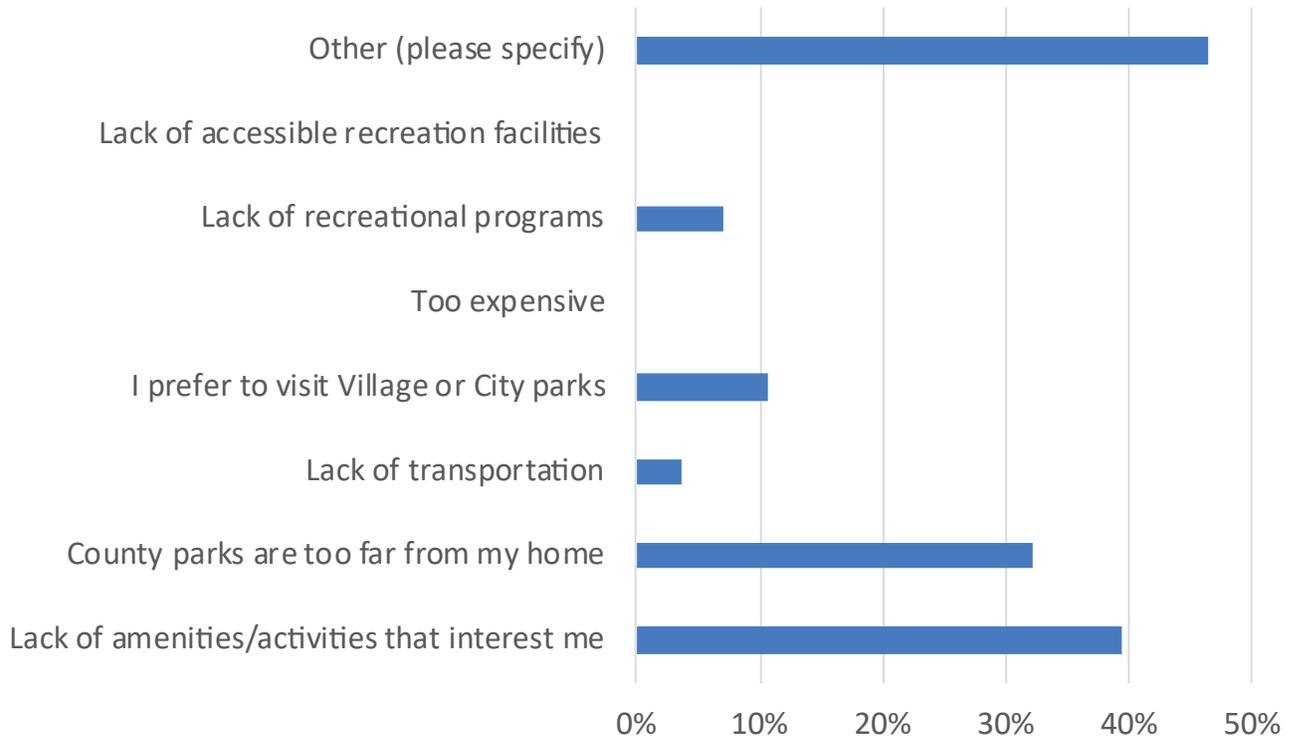
Q4* "OTHER" RESPONSES WITHIN ACTIVE RECREATION/FACILITIES CATEGORY (391)



Q5 OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS DID YOU VISIT OR USE A COUNTY PARK OR FOREST UNIT? (1,108)



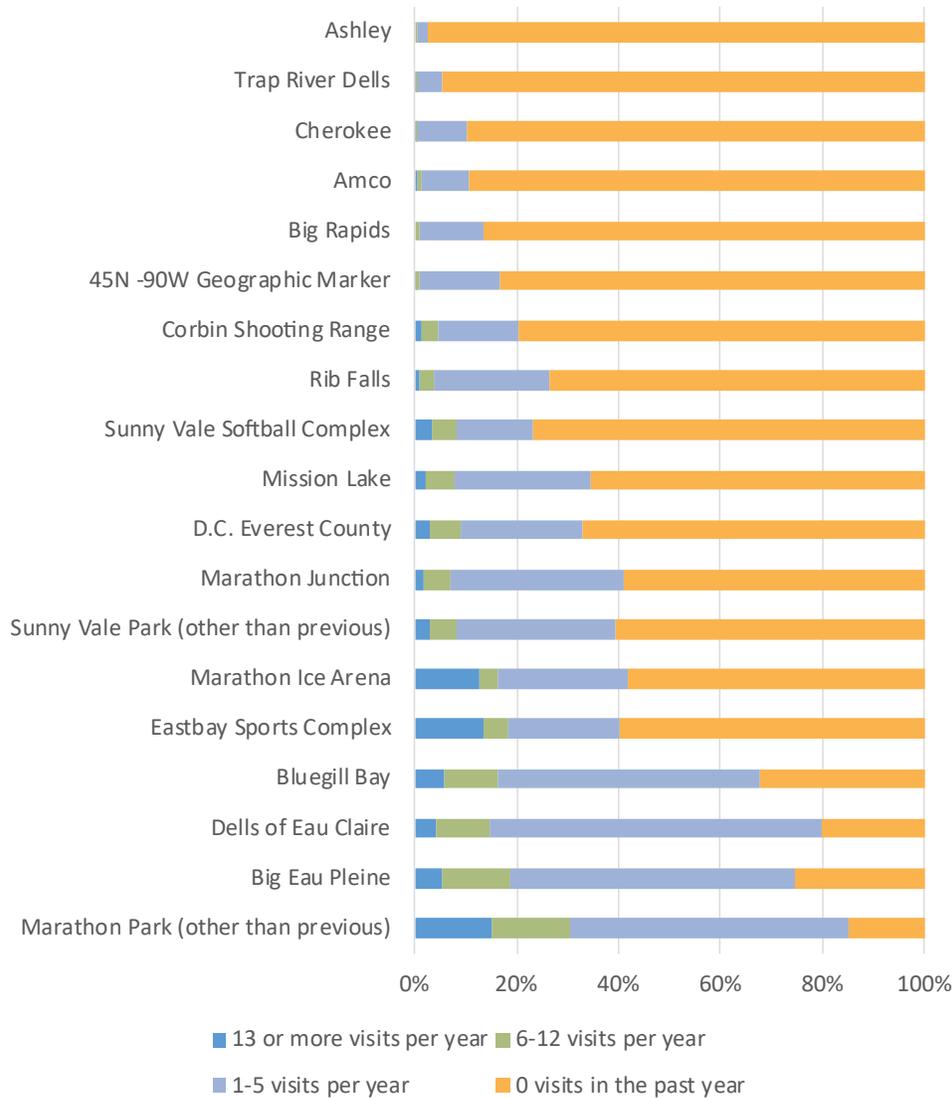
Q6 IF YOU INDICATED YOU DID NOT VISIT OR USE COUNTY PARKS, FOREST UNITS, OR TRAILS, PLEASE TELL US WHY. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY. (28)



Answers from the category of Other include:

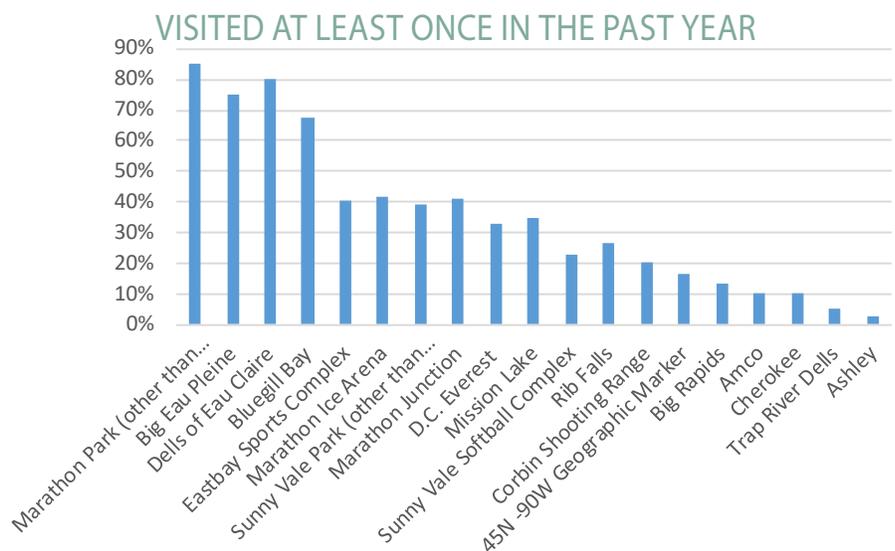
- ◇ No time
- ◇ Road Bicycling is preferred sport - no options at County facilities
- ◇ Need more areas and activities for older adults
- ◇ Lack of good campgrounds
- ◇ Personal Schedule too busy
- ◇ I prefer to stay home and enjoy my yard
- ◇ No time
- ◇ Ice Age Trail hiker
- ◇ No camping sites
- ◇ Unsure exactly what's available / new to town
- ◇ No time
- ◇ New to area
- ◇ Never thought about visiting them, usually go to local park

Q7 HOW OFTEN OVER THE PAST YEAR DID YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD VISIT OR USE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT THE FOLLOWING COUNTY PARKS? (867)

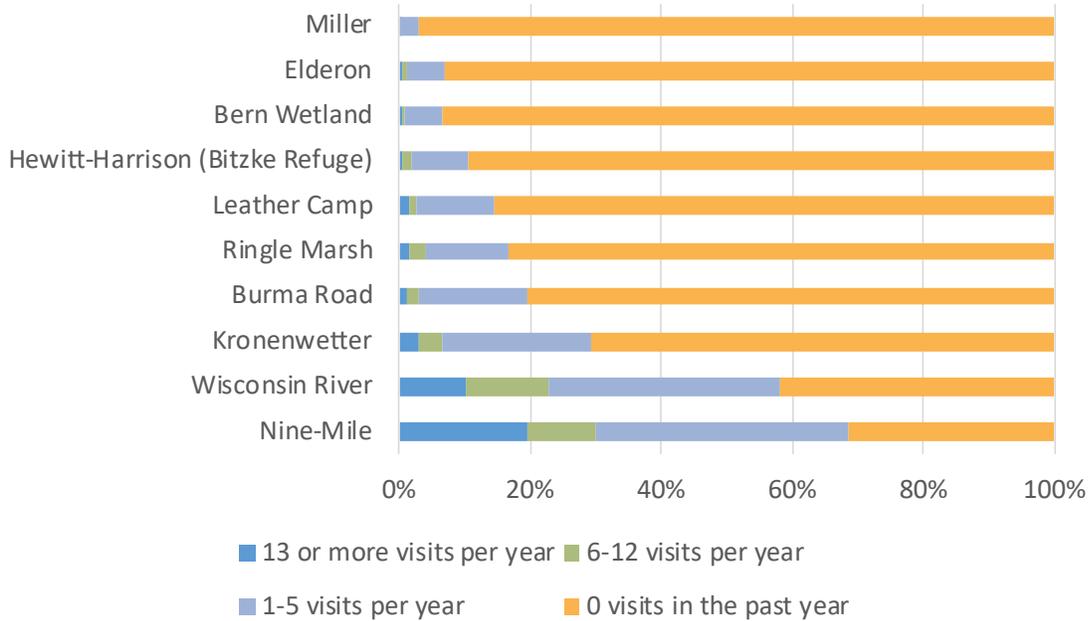


Marathon Park, Dells of Eau Claire, and Big Eau Pleine are the most visited parks within the County system, with each being visited at least once annually by 75% of survey respondents.

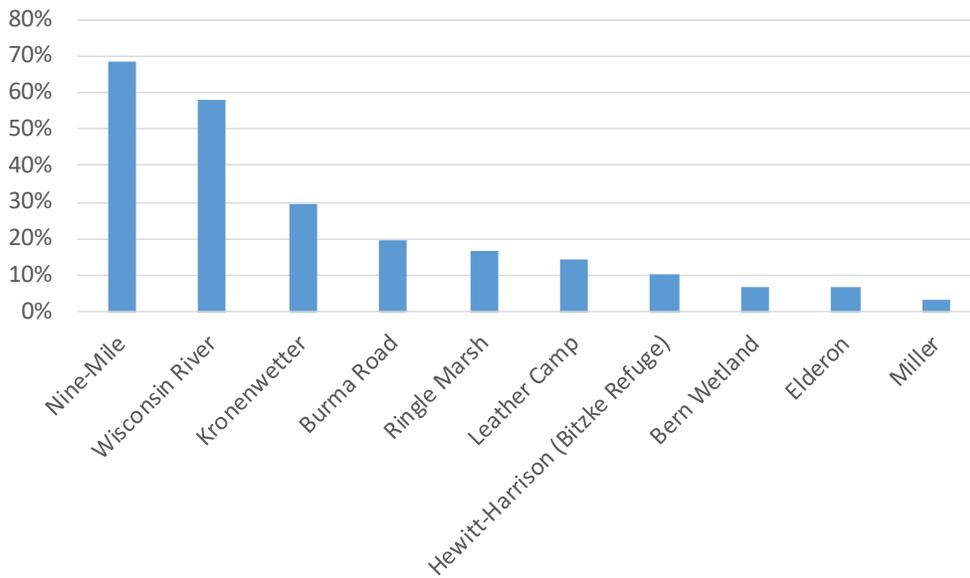
Ashley and Trap River Dells are the only parks in the system which less than 10% of respondents indicated they had visited within the past year.



Q8 HOW OFTEN OVER THE PAST YEAR DID YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD VISIT OR USE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT THE FOLLOWING COUNTY FOREST UNITS? (862)



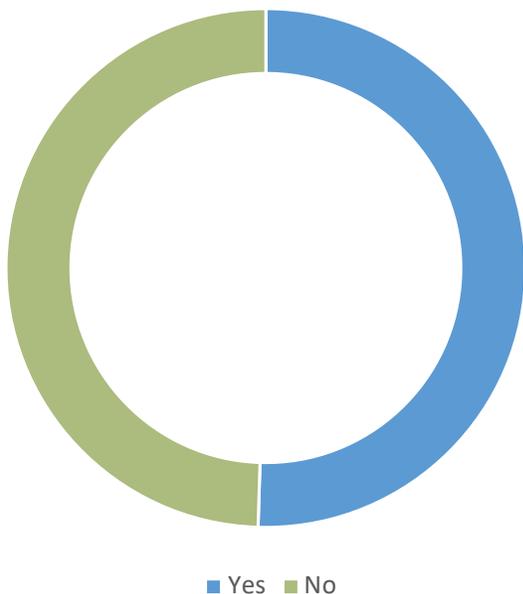
VISITED AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST YEAR



Survey Respondents indicated less overall visits to County Forest Units as opposed to County Parks, however there are forest units within the system that receive large visitor shares.

Nearly 70% of respondents had visited Nine-Mile in the past year (69%), and 58% had visited the Wisconsin River Forest unit.

Q9 DO YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD COMMONLY (AN AVERAGE OF 4 TIMES PER YEAR OR MORE) DRIVE SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE OF MARATHON COUNTY TO USE THE SAME SPECIFIC PARK, RECREATIONAL FACILITY, OR PROGRAM? (1,040)

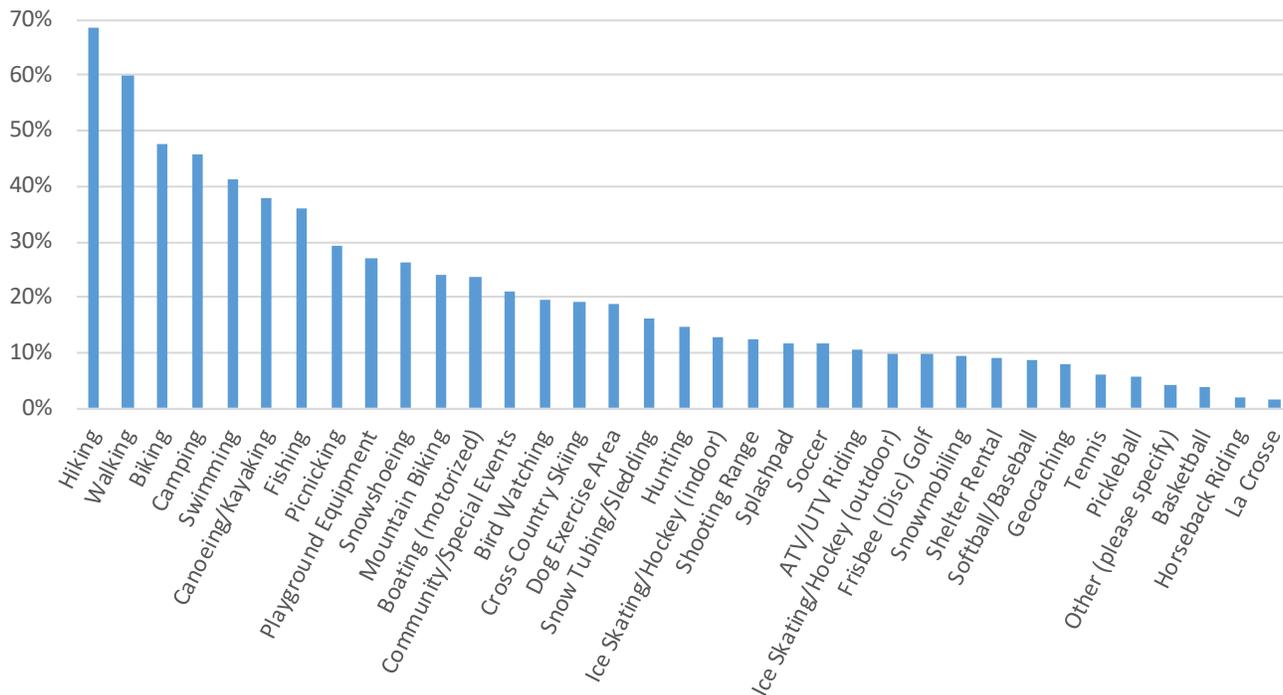


49.5% of respondents indicated they do not commonly drive to a specific location to recreate outside of Marathon County, while 50.5% indicated they do commonly travel to the same location outside of the County.

Common Responses of other parks and facilities:

- ◊ Camping (locations across the State)
- ◊ Hockey Rinks around the State
- ◊ Council Grounds State Park
- ◊ Door County
- ◊ Ice Age Trail
- ◊ Kettle Moraine
- ◊ Minocqua
- ◊ Mountain Biking (across the State)
- ◊ Northern Highlands
- ◊ Portage County Parks
- ◊ Shawano County

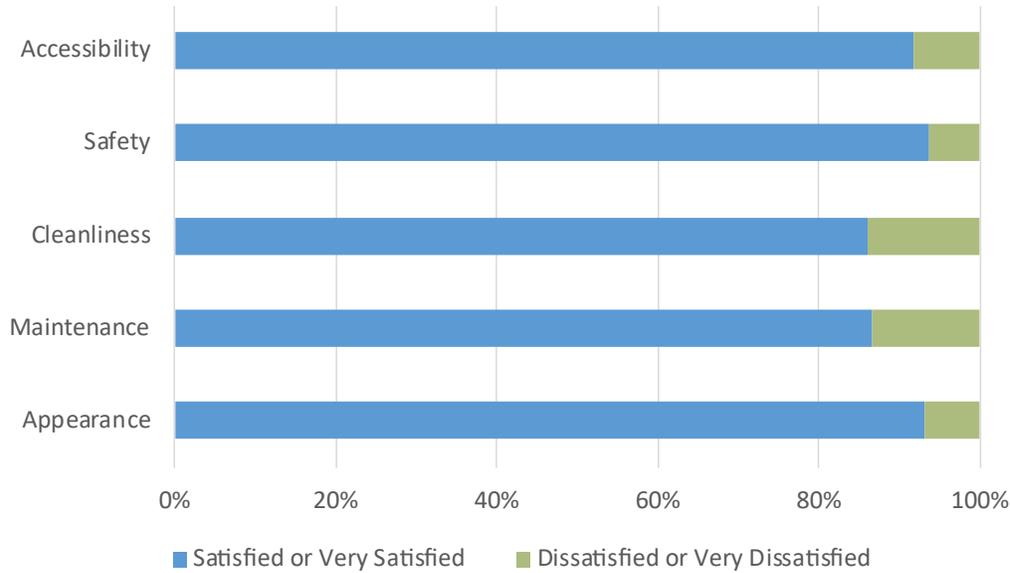
Q10 IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY PARTICIPATE AT COUNTY PARKS, FOREST UNITS, AND TRAILS? (1,041)



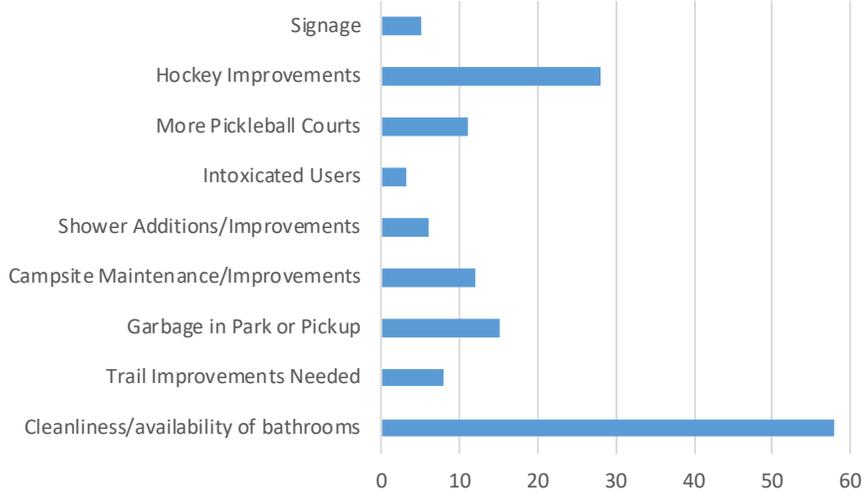
Common Responses for Other:

- ◊ Pickleball
- ◊ Skateboarding
- ◊ Hunting
- ◊ Snow Fat Biking
- ◊ Road Biking (Paved Paths)

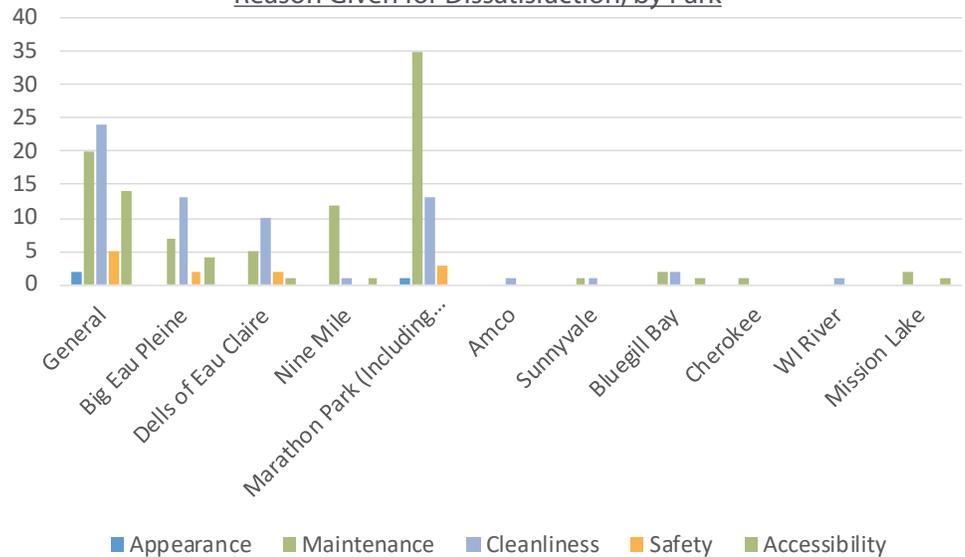
Q11 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE APPEARANCE, MAINTENANCE, CLEANLINESS, SAFETY, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF MARATHON COUNTY'S PARKS, FOREST UNITS, AND TRAILS? (1,043)



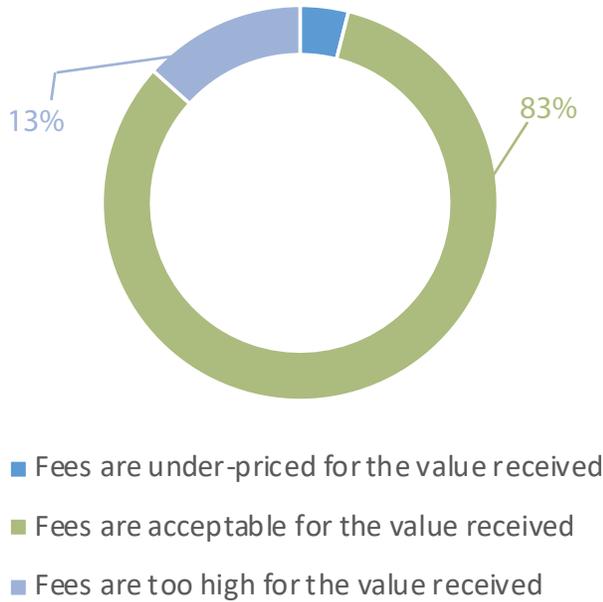
Reason Given for Dissatisfaction



Reason Given for Dissatisfaction, by Park

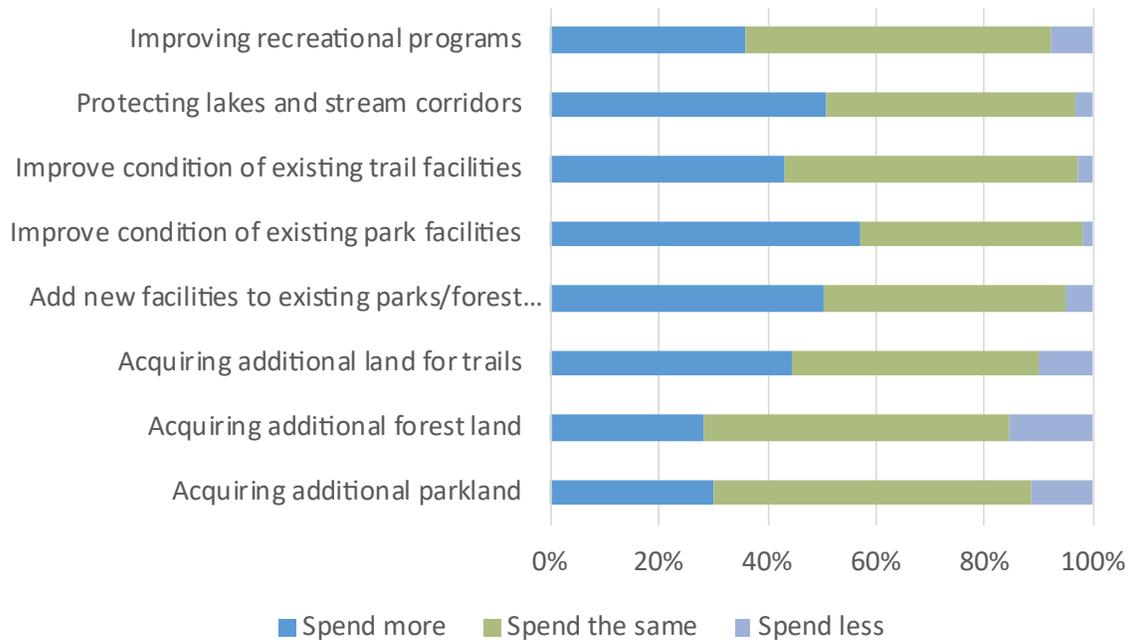


Q12 HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CURRENT PROGRAM AND FACILITY FEES CHARGED DIRECTLY TO YOU BY THE MARATHON COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT? (1,022)



Excluding those who responded as “unsure” (16% of total), a large majority of users believe that fees within the Marathon County park, forest, and trail system are appropriate for the value received from use and activities.

Q13 HOW WOULD YOU DIRECT FUTURE FUNDING FOR COUNTY PARK, FOREST UNIT, TRAIL, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS? (1,010)



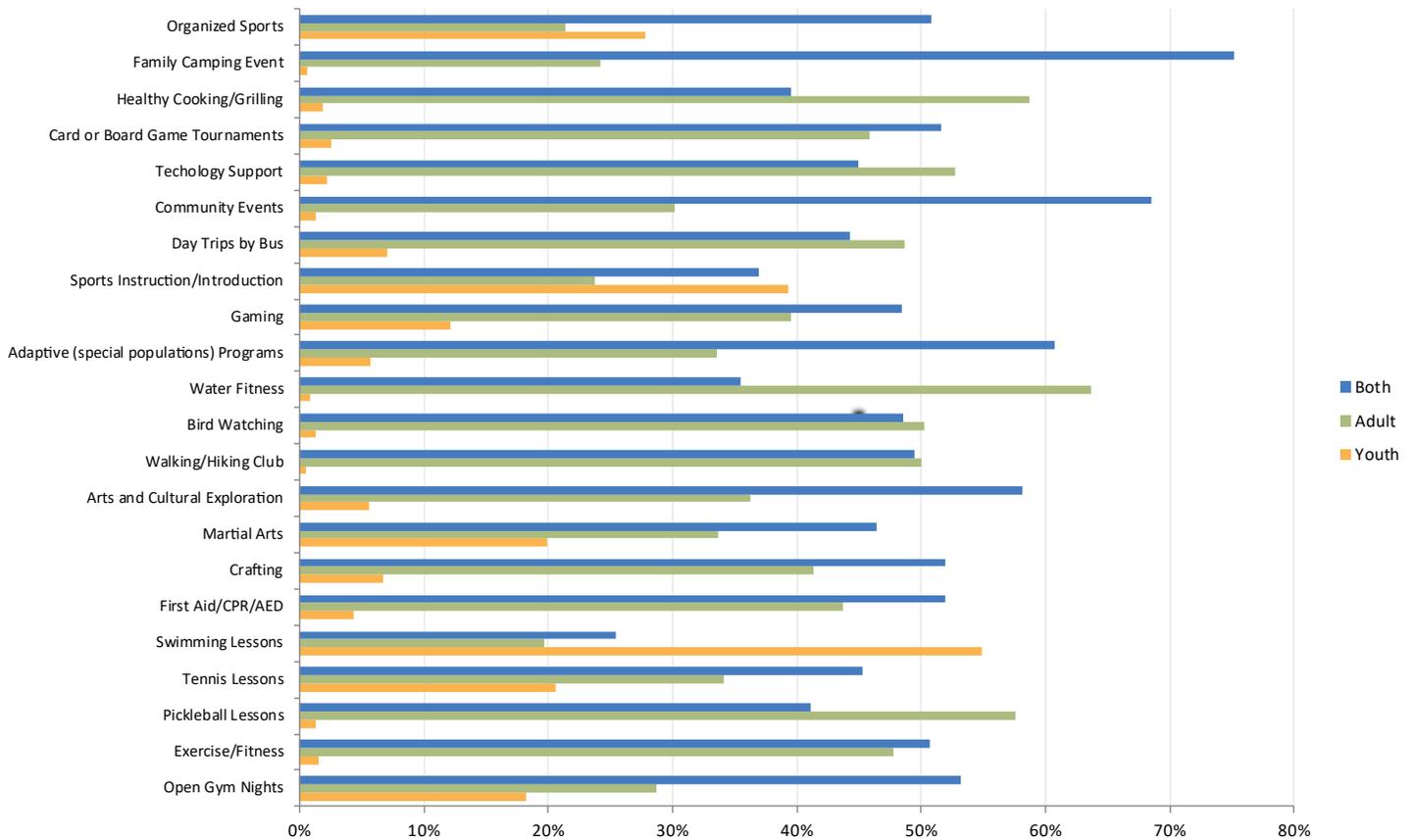
Overall, respondents would prioritize their own spending toward improvements of the existing park, forest, and trail system as their top priority from the list, followed by protecting lakes and stream corridors, and adding new facilities to existing parks and forests. Less than 2% of respondents (1.97%) would spend less on improving the current existing park facilities.

Only 7.2% of the votes cast within all categories were for less spending, indicating support for maintaining and improving the County outdoor recreation system. Within the spend more responses, acquiring additional land for forest units or parks received the least priority among the eight categories.

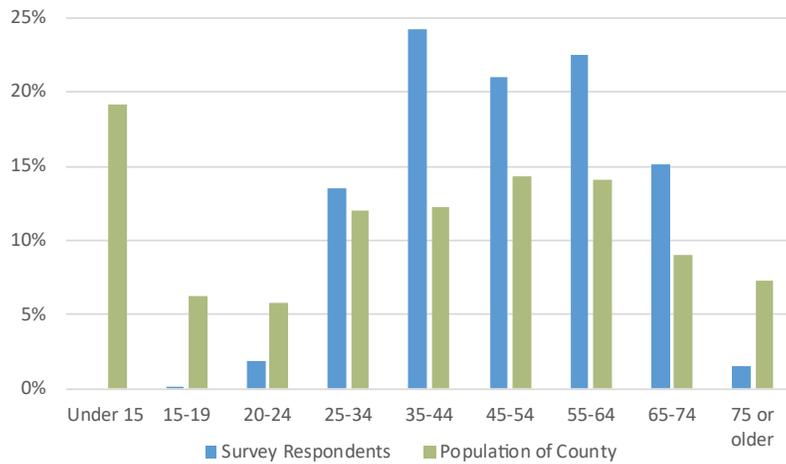
Q14 PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS THE NEED FOR EACH OF THE RECREATION PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW (843)



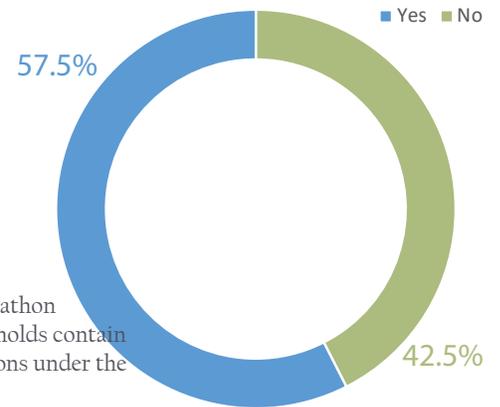
Q14 PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS THE NEED FOR EACH OF THE RECREATION PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW, INDICATING YOUTH, ADULT OR BOTH (843)



Q16 WHAT IS YOUR AGE? (989)

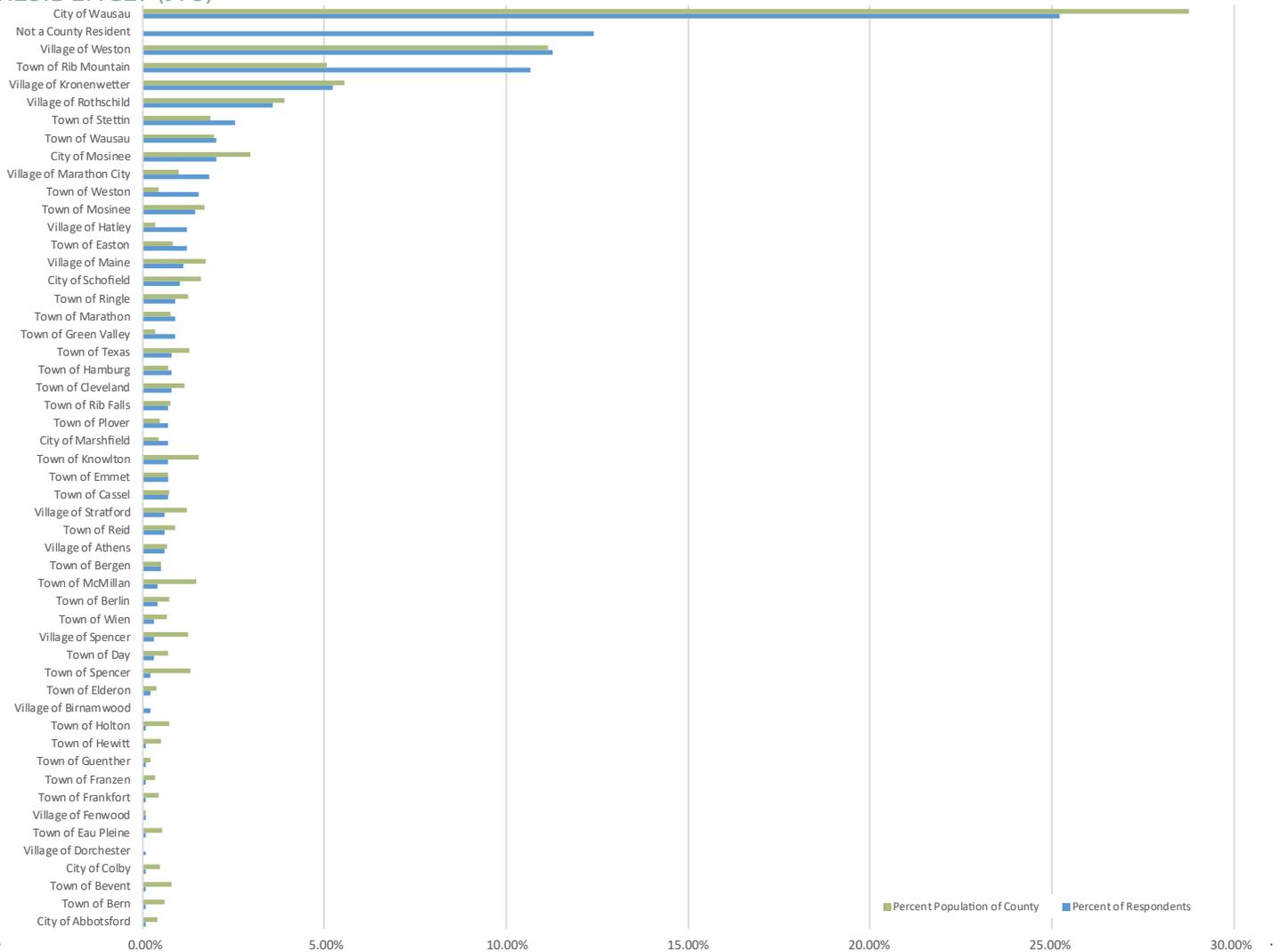


Q17 ARE THERE ANY PERSONS LIVING IN YOUR HOME THAT ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 18? (981)

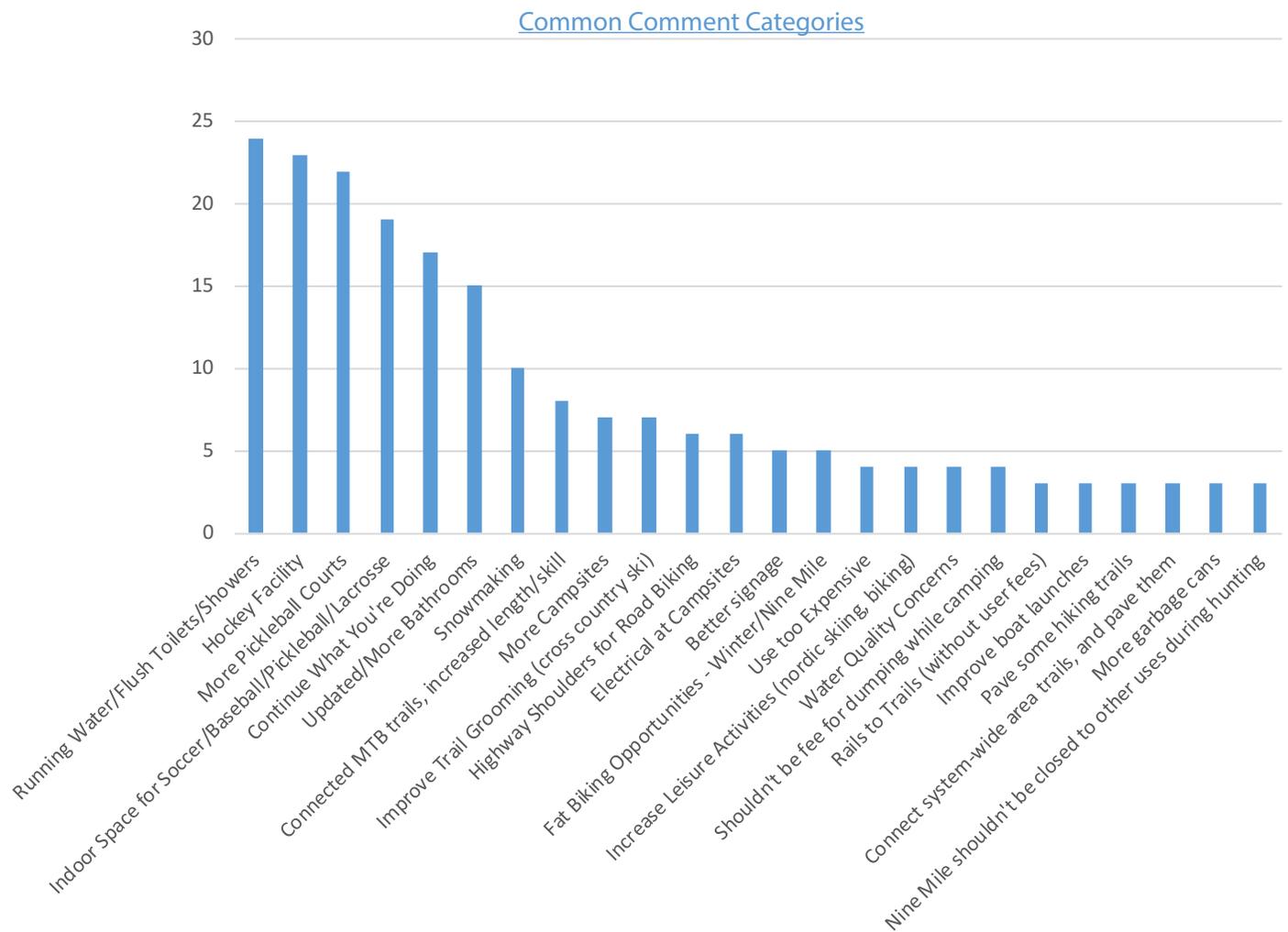


27% of all Marathon County households contain 1 or more persons under the age of 18.

Q18 IN WHAT COMMUNITY IS YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE? (975)



Q15 PLEASE PROVIDE ANY OTHER COMMENTS (OPEN-ENDED) (289)



Q15* FULL COMMENTS (289)

- ◊ Snow making at 9 mile
- ◊ Limit motorized vehicles - such as ATVs
- ◊ We need shoulders on county highways that have lots of traffic and that are good bike routes and connections.
- ◊ more camping sites at all county parks are needed -
- ◊ The pricing for the park facilities has rose significantly. We used to book these park facilities for activities like a birthday party to get our families to utilize the parks and to be outside. However, we can no longer afford the current pricing structures of these facilities, which is unfortunate.
- ◊ New bathrooms bluegill park, more equipment at parks that target older kids 8-12 year old range!
- ◊ Make Seating available for families inside marathon park hockey rink spent far to many night and weekends there and no where to

- sit for eating or to sit between games. Updated concessions stand definitely need more room in this one. Same as above 3rd rink at marathon park
- ◊ We would benefit from off road bike trails connecting communities along rivers or rail trails. Marathon City, Athens, Edgar etc.
- ◊ With the growing Pickleball players, we need more courts. With only 3 courts,we sometimes have as many as 30 to 40 players
- ◊ more sites available with water and electric.
- ◊ Indoor sports facility would allow typically outdoor sports (ie, soccer and baseball) to practice indoors when the weather/outside field conditions are not conducive to practicing outside. There is limited indoor space right now, and the athletes are negatively impacted by this shortage
- ◊ Love the parks for walking the

- dog, exercise, etc. They're some of the best features of Marathon Co. quality of life!!
- ◊ Keep up the good work.
- ◊ There is a need for additional park personnel and oversite
- ◊ Some non- technical (not mountain bike) free county bike trails might be nice. Any old rail beds around?
- ◊ I should get a free pass for mountain bay trail for the amount of time I spend cleaning it up.
- ◊ 1. Increase miles for mountain biking. Need at least 1 trail system with 20+ miles in length to attract people to come and move/travel here.
- ◊ 2. Reduced fees for X-C skiing and snowshoeing
- ◊ 3. Allow fat biking on snow shoe trails at 9 mile
- ◊ 4. Better signage for cross country skiing
- ◊ Blue Gill park needs more re-

- streams - preferably modernized.
- ◊ We are avid XC skiers. The quality of the grooming at Nine Mile could be improved. The desk staff is great, but the overall appearance of atmosphere of the Chalet could be improved as well. Winter Park in Minocqua could be a model for what we could/ should have here in a much more populated area with a much bigger draw. Food concessions should certainly be considered and an equipment outlet could do very well here, especially considering the lack of local quality access to XC ski equipment. Thanks
- ◊ I feel the county parks are very good. I think the charge for cross country skiing at 9 mile is too much. The sled hill is marvelous.
- ◊ See comments on Question 13. Maybe more groups, young and old have trail or park clean ups.
- ◊ We're lucky in this County

- ◊ Please consider improvements to “life-long” sporting activities like Nordic Skiing and Biking. These typically are participants that continue to invest in these activities for much of their able lives. These are also activities that people from outside the area will travel here for if you provide the value and experience.
- ◊ The camping area at Dells of the Eau Claire should have a dump station, where are the campers disposing of their waste water?
- ◊ Some parks would be greatly improved with the addition of running water and flush toilets, but I am aware it may attract more unwanted use and adds additional maintenance and up keep costs
- ◊ Add more mileage to 9-Mile mountain bike trails, and don't cut as much time off for hunting. Very few hunters use the area, there is so much other better hunting land available for them. Another thought is when there is logging at 9-Mile, mark some trees right next to the trails for the loggers to leave behind rather than a complete clear-cut.
- ◊ flush toilets restrooms and showers
- ◊ Running water to sites and showers at the DEC n the Big Eau Pleine campgrounds. Spend some money Marathon County n get it done. Thanks
- ◊ Stop being a catch all to everyone. Stay with maintaining outdoor nature sites and create more public access. Stop trying to be social activities catch all. You are not good at it and you waste money trying to do it.
- ◊ Man-made snow under the lights at 9 Mile would provide more days/hours for people to get off the couch and into the great outdoors burning calories and being rejuvenated so they are ready for whatever life brings next.
- ◊ I do not live in the county so I only use camping in Marathon Park which influences my answers or lack of answers.
- ◊ Upgrade your camping electrical!!!!!!!!!!!!!! AMPS NEED TO BE UPGRADED TO 50..... you barely have 30 amps on five sites combined FIX IT !!!!!!!
- ◊ Charging separate fees for camping, boat launch, and dump station is ridiculous - when camping, one fee should cover it
- all. Also, the firewood policy is nonsense - since there is no known way to actually stop the emerald ash borer, and firewood can be transported all over for private land use, not allowing firewood to be brought into the campground does nothing but punish the campers.
- ◊ Better bathrooms
- ◊ Please continue to have staff drive and observe campsite areas for safety concerns and for observing rules are respected by campers. thanks
- ◊ Full hook up sites in eau claire dells
- ◊ See previous comments regarding lake water quality
- ◊ more camping sites that accept reservations, able to cancel reservations on line.
- ◊ Keep clean, policed, and managed.
- ◊ Showers at campgrounds
- ◊ Add shower facilities to the Big Eau Pleine Campground.
- ◊ Campground should be first come first serve and be able to get them out at camp parks not just going through computers because not all of us have computers to able to do that for campgrounds and campers
- ◊ Shower facilities at campgrounds, even if pay to use.
- ◊ More opportunities for volunteers.
- ◊ More activities and spaces for people to spend time outside-
- Marathon County has a beautiful system of parks that we are lucky to have. People are eager to be outside enjoying our beautiful state.
- ◊ With Pickleball growing more popular daily, more courts are needed and would draw visitors to our area for tournaments, etc.
- ◊ Overall, quite please with the quantity and quality of Parks and forest lands available in the county. We are lucky to have such treasures. It is important to keep multiple use forest units for timber production, recreation, hunting and the general public's use. Less people can afford their own land and it is important for people to recreate and be in the outdoors so they appreciate and support natural resource conservation.
- ◊ Continue to offer the diversity of facilities and programs and adapt facilities and programs to keep current with trends...and the needs of the upcoming generations.
- ◊ Take care of and improve what we already have!
- ◊ Trail signage at Dells of the Eau Claire is sadly lacking. At least add some Ice-Age-Trail-style slashes or markers on trees.
- ◊ Indoor facility.
- ◊ Keep publishing in the information you do because it's great. Will be buried in more online to get information for the summer programs for adults and grandchildren under five. Thank you for making out the survey hope you get some great answers
- ◊ Limit new trail and building/facilities to absolute necessity! Leave the forests to be forests, not trails, buildings and concrete slabs with 'trees between' like Rib Mountain!
- ◊ Would like to see additional Pickleball courts
- ◊ extend the pave trail from Ryan street to camp Phillips road in the village of Weston.
- ◊ Add additional 6 Pickleball court in Marathon park.
- ◊ Establishing greenway corridors to connect park and forest areas would be awesome.
- ◊ The amazing outdoor access to places like Nine Mile are the reason we live in Marathon County.
- ◊ Appreciate the renewed efforts to improve the premier hiking experience on the Ice Age Trail along the Ringle segment. I hope the future will provide opportunities to reduce the amount of road walk miles.
- ◊ Snow making for cross country skiing
- ◊ Continue to build and connect road bike trails across the county. The improvements made over recent years have been fantastic and people from other areas are taking notice!
- ◊ I would like to see more bike trails for both mountain bike and leisure. I would like to see more county forest campgrounds with electric facilities.
- ◊ The recreational activities listed in question 13 are currently available throughout our community whether through the YMCA or other various organizations. I would prefer to see funding used to enhance/improve the parks in Marsthon County rather than support programs.
- ◊ Please extend the mountain bike season at 9 mile into November.
- ◊ Indoor pickleball facility for winter/bad weather days. Improve tennis courts at Marathon Park and tennis/pickleball courts at other tennis court locations. Unsure what conditions are like at the Oak Island tennis courts.
- ◊ Additional facilities for hosting trail based events outside of Nine Mile
- ◊ How about a permanent orienteering course?
- ◊ We could use another sheet of ice for hockey, total of 3. We could use one sheet to be an all year round facility. The other builds could become a field for indoor soccer on inline skating when the ice is out. The location could be moved in the park so not interfere with fair.
- ◊ Marathon County has the potential to be a cycling destination on par with the CAMBA system and Marquette, MI. More mountain bike trails, bicycle friendly routes to trailheads, and more cycling paths are needed to achieve this and the ROI would be significant.
- ◊ A permanent space to hold practices and play the sport of roller derby would be so beneficial to the county and could expand the sport to youths if there was dedicated space for it. Please consider it.
- ◊ See previous, please improve the Rink 1 & 2 “barns”
- ◊ Marathon park needs a new or updated indoor hockey venue.
- ◊ Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation. We need a indoor facility to support this growing sport with up to at least 8 courts.
- ◊ Eliminate or drastically reduce the launch fees for boaters. The fees for the landings in Marathon County are as high or higher than landings in Brown, Oconto, Marinette and other counties with landings and facilities that are substantially bigger and have significantly more amenities (large public bathrooms, 6-8 lane boat launches with docks, fish cleaning houses, etc.). The Marathon County boat landings have had no major improvements for many years yet the boaters are the only ones that

have to pay a daily fee to use the majority of the parks. Other activities (frisbee golf in particular) have had significant improvements over the years and can use their portion of the parks for free everyday.

◊ Another inconvenience for the paying boaters is the trailer-only parking. Several times a week or more, non-trailer vehicles are parked in these areas with no consequence. Even after contacting the Parks Dept and Wausau PD numerous times, few if any, parking citations are written. On summer nights during baseball season it is common to have no available trailer parking stalls at a couple landings due to the additional vehicles attending the games. These vehicles are not paying a daily use fee and the boaters have to sometimes park a long distance away and still are charged a launch fee.

◊ Also, please put a street light up near the boat launch at Memorial Park. Trying to launch or land a boat there after dark is difficult with no lighting or painted lines for guidance. This again only affects the paying boaters.

◊ Feel Marathon Park would be an excellent park for Christmas lights

◊ Survey covers the important suggestions.

◊ Really, really need more pickle ball courts.

◊ Return ice rink to review, it's a disgrace that it left, there were people there ALL the time in weekends, kids, moms, families, teenagers, hockey, figure, pleasure skating, it was "Norman Rockwellian" unlike what the was buildings an grounds guy said, just a shame low down n dirty, how long will the bike polo fad last? And they have hockey boards????!!!! Wtf, a lso lacrosse is one word it's not like the Wisconsin city.

◊ More Pickleball Courts. 3 courts for 50 players doesn't

◊ work very well, standing and waiting isn't much fun.

◊ Thanks to the Park's Department offering a lot of 'invisible' support which contributes so much to quality of life in wider Wausau area.

◊ I am a pickball player, so I use the Marathon Park courts pretty much every day when weather permits.

◊ Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US. We are missing out on drawing commerce to Wausau due to lack of facility development. We are woefully behind other communities of similar size.

◊ We desperately need indoor soccer space. Right now, soccer families travel outside of our region to play soccer during winter. Lots of tournaments are in green bay, private coaching and practices in green bay. Lots of money is leaving the area. We have no place in Wausau for indoor soccer besides gyms which isn't the same.

◊ Hockey and Lacrosse-two of the fastest growing sports are under emphasized and need new facilities!

◊ We need more pickle ball courts -- it is the fastest growing sport in the country. Great exercise for all ages. Way too much obesity in the country.

◊ I think the marathon skating facilities could use some major updating

◊ Year round ice arena is needed in Wausau

◊ Mararthon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry has always done a great job.

◊ Please add more outdoor skating. Our family was super disappointed that the Thom field rink wasn't put in this year!

◊ Find away to get some more money to come into the state, to improve on the parks and the facilities we have already. Getting them up to date so the all people and families can enjoy them. So that families know that their children are safe when using the equipment. Get bathrooms up to date so they are not so gross

◊ We do not want to pay more in taxes for any expansions

◊ Snow-making at Nine Mile would be beneficial for reliable snow throughout the winter.

◊ Continue to improve signage and gateways to facilities

◊ We need access to ice year round. The fact that our hockey players in wausau have to travel to other rinks to play spring and summer hockey is embarrassing and puts our players at a disadvantage.

◊ Wausau really needs indoor fields for soccer and lacrosse. We are at a competitive disadvantage

from a youth sports perspective. Teams will pay for rental and there is significant revenue opportunities with winter tournaments and leagues.

◊ One area of safety concern for the sport of ice hockey is the current status of the hockey board and glass at Marathon Park. It is my understanding that these are 40+ years old and it is time for an upgrade. The current technology in the new/newer board will provide a better more safe environment for the users of the facility.

◊ Geese are becoming a bigger problem every year and more needs to be done to keep them from taking over.

◊ It would be nice to see if the area could support a facility like the new community center in Marinette, WI to replace the ice facilities at Marathon Park.

◊ I think users fees should be charged for the horseback riders for maintenance of the trails.

Electricity at the BEP should be updated as well as trail signage.

◊ Indoor soccer facility would help preserve fields and give the teams a place to practice.

◊ Please plan/approve an indoor soccer facility

◊ love marathon county parks system. would like to volunteer to help with maintenance

◊ An indoor facility with a turf surface would be an excellent addition to the Wausau area, and likely a space that would be utilized often.

◊ Please help to continue to grow and encourage the MC Sports - Baseball, Basketball, Football and especially Soccer. The Eastbay Fields are well known and respected around the state for the playing surfaces and overall facilities.

◊ Thank you for keeping lands accessible for the public to enjoy shorelands and landscape views. We like to keep land natural for wildlife and native plants also.

◊ Could use an indoor sports facility for soccer as the weather often does not cooperate in the early spring and later fall. Hard to scramble and hold practices last minute- hard to find gym space/time. East bay closes early and opens late with regards to soccer season. But it is a beautiful complex!

◊ ● Maintain Mountain Bay Trail

◊ ● Get a big dog park in the Wausau area with plenty of space and trails, tree covered. The one in Rib Mountain is too tiny and the one in Weston is just ugly, but big enough.

◊ ● The biggest need for the Wausau area at this time is a large indoor athletic facility with turf that could be used for multiple sports. I know our soccer club would use it multiple times weekly over the winter months for practices, skills sessions and I could foresee hosting a weekend tournament or two, bringing families from other areas to the Wausau area to eat, shop and stay.

◊ The second area that could use improvement is outdoor activities for the pre-teen/teenage age group, such as rock climbing opportunities, or a ropes course, a larger waterpark, mini-golf, etc. It would be nice for the kids who don't need direct supervision anymore to have a safe and fun spot to meet up with friends and enjoy outdoor activities.

◊ Lastly, I would love to see additional bathrooms (at the north end of the park) and parking at the Eastbay Sports Complex. Another play area or obstacle course, even if it's small, at the north end of the complex would be nice as well.

As a parent with small children, it would be nice to be able to watch my older child's soccer game while keeping an eye on the younger kids at the playground, which isn't realistic from the north side of the complex based on where the current play area is!

◊ Indoor soccer facility

◊ winter is long in Wausau. we need a large indoor clear span facility for sports like soccer, tennis, la crosse, football, climbing wall, golf driving range. the building should include a second story bar and restaurant for the parents to view the sports while the children play below.

◊ Due to Wisconsin weather, it would be very beneficial to have an indoor sports complex for spring soccer and baseball games/practices. A larger venue for festivals and concerts would be nice. (400 Block is great too)

◊ We really need an indoor

complex for a growing soccer population. My son had to skip from gym to gym all winter and playing on gym floors is not ideal. If we want to complete at the highest level with team say from Iowa that are outside 5 weeks before us we really need to invest in a winter indoor venue.

- ◊ I think the park/rec/forestry department is doing a great job by involving the community in decision making. The budget needs to be increased so more can be done for maintenance, upgrades and acquiring more land for people to enjoy.

- ◊ I would think that more improvements to the ice rink would be in the future. The rink is old, needs more space. We have a re great program here but or facility does not show. You have done great with the soccer fields and more improvements and add on's are great.

- ◊ Fat biking at 9mile would certainty be a plus!

- ◊ remove geese from all parks
- ◊ Excellent work on mountain biking trails in past 3 years. Would like to continue to move towards IMBA ride center. Ski trail grooming improved at 9 Mile the past few years.

- ◊ My main concern is the water quality

- ◊ The community has a significant need for an indoor sports facility. And more fields at Eastbay. We are very lucky to have such a great parks system.

- ◊ We need to take advantage of all the waterways we have in the county. More trails along the water, similar to the Dells of the Eau Claire. Also, more readily available lists of safe, family friendly kayaking stretches on those rivers along with more access to those spots would help.

- ◊ I don't hunt, but many people do, and I want to continue supporting them. We need more public hunting land, and I'd suggest expanding mainly the Kronenwetter Forest Unit, along with all other forest units that the County Board Committee that oversees parks and forests would agree with.

- ◊ 2. We need a large park within the Wausau urban area. I came from Milwaukee County, and Dretzka Park is a large park that

also has a golf course in it. I'm not saying we need another golf course that the County creates, but this amount of land could be used for golfing, baseball, soccer, or whatever fields come into high demand. This Dretzka Park sized parcel exists in the Village of Kronenwetter to the northeast of the CTH X and CTH XX intersection. WRIG owns the land directly to the east of the parcels I'm thinking of. We could call this Bender Park, because the people who own most of this land have the last name of Bender. It could also be called Cedar Creek Park.

- ◊ 3. Consider cooperating with Everest School District to have their Kronenwetter school forest building open to the public on at least Saturdays from April through August. And I mean open like the Mead Wildlife Visitor's Center is open, with an interpreter staffing the building, and maybe regularly scheduled walks or talks during that day.

- ◊ 4. We need to buy all the former railroad right-of-way for a shared use trail between Wausau and Marshfield, and traveling through Marathon City, Edgar, and Stratford. The shared uses should include walking, bicycling, and snowmobiling, but could also probably accommodate ATVs (UTVs may be too wide.). Once we have this as a trail, then it should become a state trail.

- ◊ expand the Corbin range to 1000 yds, and extending 300 yd range to 400

- ◊ I've hosted law enforcement training w attendees from around the State of WI. Everyone loves shooting here. The Trap Range has to be closed to conduct shoots or training on the 600 yd range. I feel the trap range should be relocated to avoid conflicts w the 600 yd range. It would be a win win for Trap shooters & 600 yd range use

- ◊ water levels and algae in Big Eau Pleine

- ◊ Snow making at 9-Mile would lengthen the cross country ski season and bring in users and revenue from outside Marathon county.

- ◊ Handicap water access

- ◊ Need a better skills park area for mountain biking, and improve the skatepark at oak island

- ◊ See previous comments

- ◊ Pickleball is the most popular sport to impact the public in 20 years. It keeps all populations healthy, active, and HAPPY. We would love to have a Highway 29 Challenge pitting clubs from Eau Claire, Wausau, and Green Bay. Alas, our outdoor facilities are currently inadequate.

- ◊ I believe that building and maintaining great parks will do more for attracting people to them than spending money on programs to try and bring them there.

- ◊ More MTB trails on rib mountain.

- ◊ Indoor swimming and recreation is required.

- ◊ More changing rooms and cleaner restrooms please.

- ◊ Love our parks and enjoy them all year round. Well maintained and safety all around.

- ◊ Would like there to be more bathrooms.

- ◊ clean showers at campgrounds big eau plaine

- ◊ Improve boat launch esp BEP

- ◊ Paved hiking trails

- ◊ Perhaps give equestrian's options to circle around in a park by connecting trails instead on riding up and back on the same trail.

- ◊ Like at Eau Plene. Do the same at Leathercamp and Kronenwetter.
- ◊ Marathon park needs to be policed more as it seems to be a hang out for drug users.

- ◊ The county needs to take a more active role in promoting, expanding, and maintaining what the systems it does have. As a mountain biker Nine Mile, and Sylvan are prime examples of sites that get to maintenance and very little (to none) active promotion. Granite Peak is also largely a wasted resource in the warm months. Very much in stark contrast to how other counties and states manage their resources.

- ◊ Possibly keep adding to and connecting blacktop, non-motorized trail systems in and around the Wausau area. It's wonderful when you can access many areas with these trails without using streets and roads.

- ◊ Thank you for take the public opinion into consideration while moving forward with the choices.

- ◊ Showers and or hand sanitizer

- ◊ We are big snowmobile and atv/sxs riders. Would like to see more roads and areas opened to

ride ATVs and sxs' in the summer. Green valley needs to open don't more so we can connect to eau Pleine township and west toward auburndale.

- ◊ Mountain bike trails other than nine mile. Too much time and effort is put into those trails and they're still pretty piss poor boring trails. Places like sylvan draw more excitement and willingness to travel to from all over the state

- ◊ The creation of more bike trails has been nice. I would like to see more camping facilities especially near the bike trails

- ◊ The mountain bikes trails are awesome, should make more.

- ◊ More hiking trails as well

- ◊ More pickleball courts needed

- ◊ The more we invest in outdoor space where families and individuals can get out and enjoy themselves the stronger and more attractive the community becomes.

- ◊ I think there are plenty of opportunities for Parks & Forestry recreation in Marathon County. Opportunities have come a long way over the past 10 years and not many new programs are needed to accommodate our community. Just promote the programs currently in place not all of the community may be aware of the programs that currently exist

- ◊ Re-iterating the need for an updated space for skateboarding. Merrill is making a big push to build quality park that will be attracting many people to their town. I feel like Wausau is being left behind. All the additions to mountain biking in the area have been amazing, please continue on that path. Roads are in need of safety updates for bikes.

- ◊ Fat bike trails at Nine Mile need to happen. It can and will work with XC skiers and snowshoers.

- ◊ Look at other organizations that allow both to work together such as the Noquemnon Trail networks Marquette, MI.

- ◊ Furthermore, there was no skiable snow at Nine Mile until late January. Plenty of great biking to be had if it weren't for the risk of a huge fine.

- ◊ More gravity mountain bike trails!

- ◊ Most of the parks I visit could use a bit of updating, recycle bins, fresh paint. But in general I think

the parks are awesome, and diverse. Our parks dept does a good job keeping them from looking shabby.

◊ There seemed to be a need for groomer maintenance/repair at Nine Mile County forest in the later part of the ski season. Artificial snow making may also help Wausau to become a cross-country ski destination for people from out of town.

◊ we think these programs are outdated and are not relevant or needed in in todays environment.

◊ Consider flush toilets/showers at campgrounds. Build additional campground/sites leaving foliage between site. Great parks already!

◊ I live in the far SW part of the County. Their is not much very close to us. I would like to see more with McMillan Marsh, maybe easier Kayak access. Bike trail is nice but not open after Sept. 1. I know that would have to be worked out with the DNR. Thanks!

◊ Allow more access for bow and rifle hunting to forest units.

◊ mile markers and signs.

◊ ATV Trails

◊ Western side of Marathon county gets little attention.

◊ NEW bike and walking trails must be kept separate! even the new trail by WOW is too narrow to accommodate more than one family at a time. WOW must be held to the same standards as other businesses and move their nasty dumpsters (WASTE on the WALTER?) to behind enclosures. Also the new parking spaces at WOW along the new park equipment are way too narrow to park and allow access to the car seats when trying to get the children out

◊ Please do a better job during winter and post winter snow melting phase in Marathon Park.

◊ Strongly encourage the addition of Pickleball courts. It's the fastest growing sport in the country. Several areas around us (eagle river, three lakes, sayner) have provided very nice facilities.

◊ Having better parking would make areas more accessible, especially plowing parking areas in winter. It's so hard to get out for winter activities with no where to park.

◊ The county really needs to spend more on our facilities. We

are falling behind.

◊ Would be really great if there was camping at those of the Eau Claire away from the county road that is a major detractor And I probably would not camp there again although we love that park

◊ We should have areas for people to do low impact sports and recreation. There is too much money spent on maintaining specific sport facilities and most people cannot afford to do those sports. (Hockey, figure skating, cross country skiing). We should support life long sports with low impact to the environment

◊ Fee for dumping waste at is not acceptable at the Big Eau Pleine park since there are no flush toilets available & it is normally included with reg. at other parks.

◊ Sunnyvale softball complex rental fee is craziness.

◊ Big Eau Pleine needs showers and flush toilets

◊ Snow making for XC ski

◊ Paved trail for dryland training

◊ Do it

◊ Garbage cans to collect the trash.

◊ Better, and more bathrooms.

◊ Add more Pickleball courts

◊ Add shuffleboard courts

◊ Seriously need additional pickleball courts for all age groups expanding interest in the game

◊ some attention to deer population control

◊ A pickleball complex would be an excellent draw for the Wausau area.

◊ Our county is lacking in outdoor pickleball facilities. In comparison to other counties we are lagging way behind. We need about 9 outdoor courts at least to hold tournaments that will draw others to come here. It is an amazing sport for all ages. We have only three at Marathon Park that are in good shape. Lots of waiting to play on them.

◊ Concerts on the 400 block are nice but could be rotated to other parks

◊ Ice Rink and facility is quite frankly embarrassing. I have a photo of a home tournament of over 45 people sitting on the floor of the "lobby" with lunch purchased elsewhere. No tables, no chairs and the floor is dirty always. Not to mention the leaking roof. I realize the rink is indeed a ice rink

but rink one is ridiculously cold.

Rink two heats nicely but the cage or fencing doesn't allow fans to see the whole game. What wouldn't I change about this facility would be the question to assure a much shorter answer.

◊ At some point we need to have a pickleball facility to provide for the growing number of players and to host tournaments and social play, other cities in Wisconsin have done great things in this area and though the Wausau pickleball association was one of the leaders in the state five years ago, we have taken a back seat due to lack of facilities. Marathon Park facilities are very nice but lack the court space for growth as they are at present.

◊ Add more Pickleball courts

◊ Please add more opportunities to play hockey and lacrosse to make it more accessible to more people! Thank you!

◊ We need to update the local hockey facility. Adding the Riverwolves has placed a strain on the arena. And, with empowerment of girls to hockey, there needs to be a place to skate.

◊ In addition, Pickleball has taken off, and is much more relevant than tennis. Let's get money and space allocated for it.

◊ Hockey is such a big part of our community, I feel that this area needs to be addressed as we don't have enough room and ice time for our youth.

◊ Marathon Park should be allowed to have camp fires while camping!

◊ Pave Marathon Park parking lot

◊ Baseball complex

◊ I would love to see Wausau have a new multi-field baseball complex, a BMX track, and especially a new or improved Ice hockey arena.

◊ Keep up the good work

◊ Integrate Fat Tire biking at 9 mile. Too much area to not take advantage. County is losing out on \$\$.

◊ Lack of swimming area on river. Lake Wausau needs nicer beach or swim areas. Bluegill Park perfect for this.

◊ Walking and bike trail systems rather than county highways.

◊ Acquire land and green space. Expand 9 mile

◊ I'd like to see the county accept

the old railroad bridge west of Sunnyvale and make a connection from Sunnyvale to County NN as a paved bike and hiking trail. This would provide a good route to bike to the village of marathon

◊ I think there should be running water at facilities that have campgrounds.

◊ garbage cans

◊ ranger at big eau plaine has made our experience (7 camper units) so bad we not be returning for our annual week long camping trip that we have done for the last 10 years, we are done with him, you wont replace him so we replaced you, really a campsite in this day and age with no running water and no shower facility how sanitary is that.

◊ My biggest gripe is with the bathrooms at Mission Lake park that I stated earlier.

◊ The landings at Eau Pleine Park are nice, but the park attendants I've encountered in the past have not been so friendly. Even when I've already paid and have a lading sticker or pass, they've given me the third degree. Had one guy practically chase me into the lake to ask if I had a pass, instead of looking at the sticker on my trailer.

◊ Also, if you're paying to camp at Eau Pleine. Why doesn't that include a pass to use the boat landing? Just seems like an extra cash grab to me. I know a number of people who have stopped camping there for this reason.

◊ Disappointed in grooming at Nine Mile

◊ Need more parks & camping options

◊ Year round ice at marathon park

◊ Don't care just don't take the rights of people away...meaning don't ban smoking from them

◊ don't ban dogs don't ban alcohol

◊ Year round indoor ice arena is a must! If marathon park does not improve you will continue to loose out on money and people.

◊ Year round ice arena!

◊ Great spaces, well cared for, good staff. Keep up the good work!

◊ I left spending recommendations blank, as I do not know what is currently allocated where, but we LOVE the trails through wooded areas and along rivers. Our favorite spots are ones where

regulations regarding usage are relaxed and we can fish/walk/let the dog run/swim, etc.

- ◊ Power and lights in the restrooms
- ◊ There is a very rude male worker at the Big Eau Pleine on weekends. I believe he said he was a manager. Not a people person at all.
- ◊ Thanks for ALL you do to provide Marathon County residents and visitors with FREE and low-cost recreation opportunities to get out and get active. It's our own fault if we don't make time to take advantage of all you offer us.
- ◊ Firewood more accessible.
- ◊ It would be greatly appreciate if shower and flush toilets were installed. I bet they would pay for themselves very quickly.
- ◊ Many of the above mentioned programs sound fun and entertaining, and I may attend one if offered, but they are not "needed."
- ◊ Pave our bike trails. We would use them more instead of going elsewhere. AND, hook them up to other trails
- ◊ Snow making equipment at Nine Mile.
- ◊ Make Wausau a mountain bike destination location by connecting more recreational areas the county has unique geology to attract users. Make Wausau a paddling destination with water trails on the Wisconsin, Rib River Eau Pleine and Eau Claire rivers. Connect municipalities with trails and create longer connected routes. Add facilities to underutilized forest units. Add more Nordic skiing locations.
- ◊ I don't understand why Mountain bikers need to pay a trail fee. Local Mountain bike club maintains all of the trails and the building isn't open/staffed at all in summer. If mountain bikers pay a trail fee, shouldn't hikers, hunters, horse riders, etc pay a trail fee as well? Also I don't see the need to close the trails during hunting season. No other surrounding counties close trails during hunting season. I love to hunt, but isn't it supposed to be multi-use? I also think fat biking should be allowed on the singletrack at 9 mile during winter (Multi-use).

Works great at other locations example-WinMan trails up in Winchester, WI. Thanks!

- ◊ It would be meaningful for myself and my family if more time were put into grooming Nine Mile Ski Trails. The current groomer is ok but not attentive more grooming all of the trails regularly when the snow conditions allow. If possible we would appreciate a groomer who would take their time and groom all of the trails (including the alps section of Nine Mile) when conditions allow. I appreciate what the county does for the community and all of the work that is put into making everything run. Our family is very happy to have the bike path on county road R and appreciate the continued push in the community to make the roads more bike and pedestrian friendly. It is important for my family to be active and these resources afford us a better chance to attune to that. Thank you for allowing a space to add suggestions!
- ◊ Dump station fees should be included in the campsite rental. This is how all other county campgrounds are setup.
- ◊ I've always wished for an expansion to the Nine Mile chalet and for that it to be open year-round. An opportunity for an indoor break during MTB would be appreciated, especially for the youth MTB group and race team practices. There are still needs for meeting as a group, normal bathroom, changing clothes, refilling water, cooling down and an escape from the heat. Lack of chalet personally shortens our visit to Nine Mile during the "off" months.
- ◊ Would love to see more of a paved trail for XC ski training during "off" months. My child's ski team practices on streets in Rib Mountain in the dark, and it's a HUGE safety issue.
- ◊ Grooming nine mile for xc skiing
- ◊ Clean cob webs from shelter flush toilets
- ◊ Lighting in camp ground toilets.
- ◊ As I said previously showers would be nice at Big Eau Pleine county park

- ◊ Add showers to Big Eau Pleine
- ◊ NA
- ◊ Would be great to have (1) paved trails for roller skiing and (2) snow making at Nine Mile
- ◊ Water & dumping at Dells of Eau Claire
- ◊ Some of these facilities I was not aware of until this survey.
- ◊ Add sewer hook ups to RV and trailer camping sites
- ◊ Big Eau bathrooms could be a bit more welcoming-come mid-season they are pretty gross.
- ◊ We need multiple dog parks!
- ◊ We usually get a lake site, when we camp at Eau Pleine. The rate per night has raised from \$17 to \$20, & this year our site will be \$22 per night. I hope the rates don't raise again. Thank you.
- ◊ Forgot to mention we also frequent Veterans Memorial Park - Jack Lake. Great county park. Wish there was something similar in Marathon county
- ◊ Add 30amp electric to all camping sites.
- ◊ showers at the Eau Pleine campground would be wonderful
- ◊ Big eau pleine is beautiful. Would like to see group camping for large campers like 5th wheels. Showers facilities would be nice too. Holding tanks could be installed to accommodate the showers.
- ◊ More modern
- ◊ Cleaner restrooms
- ◊ Nine Mile Forest needs to be marketed more. It could become a larger drawing card for our community. The new signage on South Mountain Road is helpful, and having a specific person overseeing the cross country skiing aspects is also very important.
- ◊ Have workers who groom xc trails to learn how to ski so they can groom educated, or hire skiers to groom.
- ◊ Increased opportunities for more use of Nine Mile
- ◊ less hunting
- ◊ Would be nice if the bathrooms could be updated, in the middle of a hot summer the pit toilets get really nasty stinky
- ◊ We like using the county parks for camping - cause they are wooded and you are not on top of each other...Some upgrades

would make it great.

- ◊ I would appreciate having more lighted trails at 9 mile.
- ◊ Clean up what you have.
- ◊ Thank you to all the park employees who work so hard!!!
- ◊ Would like to see improvements at County Camp grounds in regards to electricity and amenities. Wood sales should be all day with an honor system like other surrounding counties.
- ◊ Would love to see more single track MTB areas, like maybe in Brokaw.
- ◊ Facilities are, overall, quite nice, however pit toilets seem to be emptied with less frequency than they had in the past.
- ◊ Aside from that, more trails would be a great asset to the county and to the region.
- ◊ improve their reservation policy
- ◊ With the climate changing, adding snow making to 9-mile makes sense. This could be a destination for skiers for early season
- ◊ As a previous resident of Marathon County, we now visit for approximately 3 weeks per year & camp at Marathon County Park. We love the accessibility to all that we want to do & people to see. That being said, the restrooms in the campground are atrocious. I think Marathon County has a gold mine in that particular campground, & if updated, could only approve its quality.
- ◊ Pools are awesome...staff could use better supervision.
- ◊ I feel that the cost of camping should also include the cost of the dump sites. Most campgrounds if you camp at their facility for \$21 a night you don't pay extra for dumping. I feel that Marathon county parks are a little unfair in that aspect
- ◊ I would like to see the development of linear trails to take advantage of our scenic river and biking systems already in place. Pickleball courts are also at a premium
- ◊ None at this point.
- ◊ Help the Ice Age Trail Alliance to acquire land to complete the trail.
- ◊ Would be nice to have more trails in Forestry units.

- ◊ We love the parks around town especially the Airport Park. We would love to see a splash pad in the Weston area so we don't have to go all the way to Marathon Park.
- ◊ I truly believe that a city and county are only as desirable as their amenities. The city of Wausau has done a good job dedicating money to the improvement or parks and creation of new ones. I believe the county and other municipalities should follow suit and make their amenities desirable.
- ◊ Our neighborhood park Pleasantview park desperately needs updated equipment!
- ◊ I would like to see indoor plumbing/showers at Dells of the EC. Some shelters need a new roof.
- ◊ Paved road biking trails would be awesome. They can be used all year round whether it is biking/running/walking as well as winter sports for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. We have the old railroad tracks that township's just gave back to landowners for pennies. Buy them back and make a safe place for people to enjoy the outdoors and bring business to the area.
- ◊ Live eau pleine park. Gem!
- ◊ Atv trails would be great
- ◊ Spend more money cleaning up the lakes and rivers around the area. Also restock some of them as they are too heavily fished
- ◊ Improve your boat landings
- ◊ There is a tremendous need for some sort of County facility in the southwestern part of the County.



Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

Other Open-Ended Comments

Q4 Which of the following amenities would you like to be added, improved, or expanded either by public, non-profit or private entities within the County?

- ◊ Paved shoulders for biking and walking on busy county roads
- ◊ Bike trails/shoulders on busy roads
- ◊ Paved shoulders for biking
- ◊ Paved shoulders on county roads for bike routes
- ◊ beach/swimming areas
- ◊ Marathon park could really use a 3rd rink would be nice to have ice available year round!!
- ◊ water and electric on sites.
- ◊ Restrooms open during all season; bike trails suitable for senior riders and families, not technical single track but in wooded areas; especially at base of Rib Mountain; a trail to Merrill and Marathon along the Wisconsin and Rib Rivers; I make many trips to the Boulder Junction area trails. Update signage along the paved trail at Cedar Creek; need culverts under flooded areas on Eau Pleine trail and separate horse trails since bike hike trails suffer much damage from horses on wet trails. Keep some restrooms open in winter. Thank you!!!
- ◊ Safer commuter routes
- ◊ Kayak/canoe launches
- ◊ Outdoor tai chi for seniors, 3 times/week
- ◊ vending at more sites so seniors can rest and watch pickleball, tennis, etc. easier.
- ◊ Would love a place at dells of Eau Claire to either tube or kayak to the beach
- ◊ Snow for ski trails
- ◊ Snowmaking is needed on 9 Mile Cross Country Ski Trails
- ◊ no other
- ◊ Need motion sensor lights that go on when entering the bathrooms. Scary at night using a flashlight. It's very dark in the restroom at night and personal safety is stressful for me. I worry that someone could be hiding in the bathroom upon entering the dark restrooms.
- ◊ water hookup for camping
- ◊ Big Eau Pleine beach water quality
- ◊ Mountain bike trails to utilize granite peak
- ◊ work with the State on allowing snowmobiles the use of walking paths during winter months
- ◊ Shower facility at Big Eau Pleine Park
- ◊ Paved bicycle trails and a trail system like the Green Circle trail in Stevens Point
- ◊ Off-highway Motorcycle trails or motorcycle access to ATV trailers
- ◊ SAFE bike paths - HWY U is not safe for drivers nor bikers - too busy and too many hills (blindspots).
- ◊ dog sledding trail, Large multipurpose building for indoor sports such a dog shows, horse show, etc., trails set up for visually impaired hiking/snowshoeing, smaller size multi purpose building for dog training, etc.
- ◊ Native vegetation with signage, pollinator gardens, rain gardens, shoreland restorations, signage for common invasive species like buckthorn and garlic mustard. Educational signage for not only plants, but for animals as well or geographical features to give people the ability to better appreciate our natural resources.
- ◊ Off road motorcycle trails,
- ◊ I would really like to see Handicap Hunting season in the Big Eau Pleine Park
- ◊ In general, make retro-fit the community to make it more walk, bike & running friendly. Connect sidewalks, make sure traffic lights have walk signals, and open public bathrooms in a timely manner.
- ◊ more lighted ski trails
- ◊ Bike parks (urban)
- ◊ Roller skating (inline & quad) facilities (indoor and year round)
- ◊ Indoor pickleball courts
- ◊ Additional indoor complex could provide for MANY needs, all year round
- ◊ Indoor soccer complex is badly needed
- ◊ Bicycle paths
- ◊ handicap playground
- ◊ Ice arena parking lot- blacktop
- ◊ Indoor and outdoor Lacross complexes
- ◊ Swimming Beach
- ◊ indoor play structures for children ages 1-10
- ◊ Indoor Soccer facility
- ◊ Eliminate geese. They have taken over a large number of our beautiful parks. Aggressive behavior & grounds unwalkable due to mess. This is an awful problem.
- ◊ More ATV trails.
- ◊ turf futsal courts
- ◊ Indoor complex, Indoor complex, Indoor complex :-)
- ◊ New Hockey Arena
- ◊ Water quality of the Big Eau Pleine
- ◊ rollerskating/rollerblading
- ◊ Duane Corbin Range
- ◊ Duane Corbin Shooting Range Park. Extend the 600 yd range to 1000 yd. Move the trap shooting area so as not to conflict with the current 600 yd range & future 1000 yd range. Lengthen the 300 yard range to 400 yds. I've hosted WDNR officials interested in expanding State ranges. I suggested they follow the Marathon Co range w pits concept due to its efficiency & safety
- ◊ Public beach/swimming area
- ◊ Maintenance needs 50% improvement
- ◊ Fishing area/spots
- ◊ swimming beaches
- ◊ Better access to public hunting land perhaps limited at use. As we get older many places we used to hunt are not accessible. Also consider we are losing paper land.
- ◊ skateboard facilities
- ◊ Extra emphasis on the skatepark, Oak Island is in need of an update.
- ◊ E-bike accessible trails
- ◊ More and Better Grouse/Woodcock Hunting Areas
- ◊ Improved boat docks and parking esp at Big Eau Pleine Park. And showers. That is all time favorite county park
- ◊ Oak Island has a great skate park. but it could use a clean up! Also a sign that stated if you aren't skating keep off
- ◊ Outdoor beer garden (with food) like the Milwaukee Park system runs during the summer
- ◊ Ice Age Trail improvements
- ◊ Wster quality
- ◊ Better bike trails in city
- ◊ Playgrounds/green space in neighborhoods that aren't within walking distance of one
- ◊ Over all park maintenance; snow removal, water control on sidewalks/overall park, better quality sidewalks and dog feces removal.
- ◊ picnic areas
- ◊ Horse camping areas
- ◊ Meditation/Yoga classes offered over the lunch hour
- ◊ Replacing the sand on the playground with something like soft tiles or flooring that's usually made out of recycled rubber.
- ◊ Skatepark
- ◊ snowmaking for xc ski
- ◊ paved parking lot at marathon park ice arena
- ◊ replace the unused tennis courts with pickleball courts
- ◊ Paved parking lots and roads
- ◊ Snow bike trails at 9mile
- ◊ Fix eau pleine park road
- ◊ Blacktop around Marathon park hockey rinks
- ◊ Additional boat launch and parking Bluegill Park
- ◊ Chirstmas lights
- ◊ Less ATV usage in Forest Units
- ◊ More geocaches
- ◊ Year round ice at marathon park ice rink
- ◊ Have Park access all year around
- ◊ offer group fitness classes, add more garbage cans & ashtrays so people can dispose of their dog waste and garbage rather than leave it on the ground
- ◊ Allow skjoring at 9 Mile. The oval set in the snowmobile parking lot this season is ample and quick to groom. Perfect!
- ◊ Year round ice arena, we are failing youth hockey in our area big time.
- ◊ Running trails
- ◊ Shovelboard
- ◊ Snowmaking capabilities at Nine Mile County Park
- ◊ We would really like a dump station and a place to get water. The sites are beautiful and spacious.
- ◊ Flush toilets showers
- ◊ snow making at Nine Mile
- ◊ RV type camping sites with sewer hook ups

- ◊ wifi access in campgrounds
- ◊ Snow making capability at 9 mile ski trails
- ◊ 30amp electric at all campsites
- ◊ Showers at big eau pleine
- ◊ Beach
- ◊ More on road biking lanes, man made snow for cross country skiing
- ◊ Clean bathrooms
- ◊ I would like the reservations standard to be assessed. Many weekends I'm told there isn't any available sites, but, when I drive through there are several unoccupied sites.
- ◊ Showers are very important to our family.
- ◊ Clean what you have now
- ◊ Snow making at 9-mile
- ◊ Flush toilets
- ◊ Eau Plaine county park needs updated electric on West side
- ◊ benches
- ◊ More handicap accessible areas
- ◊ Beer Garden
- ◊ Road biking trails
- ◊ Road biking paved trails
- ◊ Outdoor Pool for Adults (21+ with a bar)
- ◊ Jeep trails
- ◊ Indoor winter playground

Q6 If you indicated you did NOT visit or use County parks, forest units or trails in Q5 please tell us why?

- ◊ No time unfortunately
- ◊ Road bicycling is my sport and go and return to my house.
- ◊ Need more areas and activities for older adults
- ◊ Total lack of good camp grounds
- ◊ Personal schedule to busy
- ◊ I prefer to stay home and enjoy my yard
- ◊ No time
- ◊ Ice Age Trail Hiker
- ◊ No camping sites
- ◊ Unsure on what's exactly available in the town and I moved here a year ago
- ◊ No time
- ◊ new to area
- ◊ I never thought about visiting them. We usually go to our local park.

Q9 Do you or members of your household commonly (average of 4 times per year) drive somewhere outside of Marathon County to use the same specific park, recreational facility or program?

- ◊ Nose lake trail. Birkie trail, abr, bikr trails in point, iola country ski washburne sk trail
- ◊ Veterans Memorial Park (Jack Lake)
- ◊ Green Circle Trail, Bearskin Trail. Hiking and biking.
- ◊ Hickory ridge trails to mountain bike
- ◊ Winter Park-skate skiing
- ◊ Boulder junction paved bike trails.
- ◊ I meet a friend half way between here and Madison to hike, run, and snowshoe. We meet near Wautoma - WI Dells. Example: Roche Cri, Red Granite, etc.
- ◊ State and County Parks in Door County for hiking
- ◊ county campgrounds
- ◊ "Boulder Junction area, camping, swimming and fishing.
- ◊ Wolf River area Nicolet National forest, camping, swimming and fishing.
- ◊ Three Lakes area camping, swimming and fishing."
- ◊ Standing Rocks, Portage Co. Parks. Washburn Lake, Oneida Co. Parks
- ◊ "All over for hockey, outdoor water parks,
- ◊ "
- ◊ When children were younger -10 years ago, we did soccer out of the county and went to fields in other counties.
- ◊ other counties camping and atv facilities.
- ◊ Green Circle biking, Boulter Junction biking, Levi's Mound hiking, IAT segments everywhere hiking snowshoeing, BWCAW, Porkies hiking/snow shoeing ski, WinMan trails, SHT hiking, canoeing out of the county, Sylvania Wilderness hiking canoeing, Gartzke snowhoeing.
- ◊ "Schmeekle -- Stevens Point (Portage Co)
- ◊ Council Grounds -- Merrill (Lincoln)"
- ◊ Mead wildlife center
- ◊ Marinette County, Green

- Bay, Upper Peninsula for trails, wildlife, etc.
- ◊ Underdown, Levis mounds, standing rocks, Winman, Copper Harbor/Marquette MI
- ◊ Eagan, MN parks and trails
- ◊ Paved bike trails in Vilas County, WDNR boat and kayak launches in Vilas County.
- ◊ Council grounds Merrill as well as too many to list in Oneida county.
- ◊ Solberg county park,camping and picnics .Lake Emily county park fdr camping and walks.
- ◊ Council Grounds SP & other state parks
- ◊ Cycling, hiking and XX skiing trails, various locations
- ◊ "State and County parks,camping,
- ◊ camping or fishing
- ◊ A lot of parks in the statewe like Geocaching and many, many geocaches are in local, county, state and Federal Parks and also on state and county trails. West Bend has a weekend Mega Event in August in their town park and surrounding parks and recreational areas in the area.
- ◊ Lake Emily, or Jordan
- ◊ Vilas county for biking kayaking and camping. Prairie Dells mountain biking.
- ◊ Camping fishing
- ◊ "Marion Lake National Park, Watersmeet Mich.
- ◊ Lake of the Falls. Mercer, Wi
- ◊ Lake Wisota, Hartman Creek, Lake Emily. "
- ◊ Crystal Lake & bike trails- Vilas County
- ◊ Camba mountain bike trails; Birkie ski trail; WinMan; Levis.
- ◊ Waupaca county
- ◊ Mountain biking, cross country skiing, hiking, kayaking
- ◊ state parks for camping
- ◊ Wood County
- ◊ Langlade county camping atving Clark county camping atving Wood county camping Oneida County camping atving Lincoln county camping atving
- ◊ State camp grounds
- ◊ Cross-Country Ski Trails with man-made snow on them - Lapham Peak Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest
- ◊ Door county peninsula state park and the crystal lake/trout

- lake paved bike trail
- ◊ Langlade County- Veterans Memorial Park
- ◊ We don't live in Marathon County, so we go to many State Parks.
- ◊ Merrick State Park - Camping
- ◊ Dubay county campground
- ◊ Peninsula state park, camping
- ◊ Lake Dexter
- ◊ Door county
- ◊ In the U.P. with my daughter's family.
- ◊ Portage County Parks
- ◊ Camping, kayaking, swimming, hiking, biking
- ◊ Kettle Moraine skiing and swimming
- ◊ "Camping
- ◊ Lake Dubay county park-camping and boating
- ◊ Camping in other counties
- ◊ Several campgrounds along Oconto county ATV trail system.
- ◊ lynn anns camground, big st. germain WI, biking boating, paddle boarding, camping. Big arbor vitae campground, Arbor vitae, wi boating, biking, paddle boarding, camping 50 miles of paved bike trails
- ◊ Wood County camp grounds.
- ◊ All over the state for camping
- ◊ camping
- ◊ "Veterans Memorial Park. They raised the prices so much a family can no longer afford to go there more than a couple of days. They have a lot of good things in the park. dump station , water , showers and flush toilets but then the price goes way up. After all you are camping and don't need all this.
- ◊ We like to try all campgrounds door County Shawano mountain all over
- ◊ Camping at DuBay or Northern Highland American State Forest
- ◊ Camping Lake DuBay
- ◊ Camping in surrounding counties
- ◊ Minocqua to camp hike and visit the wild life park
- ◊ Bond Falls in the UP. Devil's Lake State, Pewit's Nest, Willow River, etc
- ◊ Mayflower lake rv park. Birnamwood
- ◊ Camping all over the midwest
- ◊ "WI River, camping, fishing, boating, tubing.

- ◊ Other County Parks for the above reasons”
- ◊ We are avid pickleball players and have travelled to communities both north and south of Wausau to use their courts. Also, when grandchildren visit we go to play areas at parks that offer things for them.
- ◊ I cross country ski outside of the county frequently. It would be nice to have some more trails at county units, they don't need to be the level of nine-mile, just have the trail groomed for both types of skiing a few times each year so we don't have to break trail every time.
- ◊ Bicycle trails in the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest, Portage County, and other counties. Cross country ski areas in other counties with snow. Kayaking on lakes in Northern WI.
- ◊ Nicolet National Forest, hiking, camping
- ◊ Off Highway motorcycle trails (for a dual sport street legal/ emissions compliant motorcycle.Marathon County should at least allow those types of motorcycles on ATV trails.. ...they don't cause any more noise or erosion than ATVs
- ◊ Underdown - mountain biking
- ◊ LaCrosse field
- ◊ Lake DuBay
- ◊ Rapids-Point
- ◊ “Cultural activities the Hmong holiday.
- ◊ To see grandchildren play soccer or hockey inside.”
- ◊ Mead Wildlife Area - Hunting and Meeting Facility.
- ◊ Florida, pickle ball
- ◊ As the Oak Island skate park is in horrible condition, we drive to literally any other one in the state and it's guaranteed to be a ton better than our Wausau one. What you're doing for mountain biking trails is amazing (we love Sylvan Hill!), but you're completely disregarding the skate park. We are lucky to have Central Board Shop right on the 400 block, but it's a bit embarrassing to then have Oak Island as the only local skate park. Skateboarding is such an amazing, positive sport for

people to get in, kids especially, it's disappointing that Marathon County completely disregards this. I know so many kids, now adults, who would not have had a safe, encouraging group of friends without the community and comradery skateboarding offers. Please fix Oak Island up or build a new, safe skatepark! Oak Island is in such bad shape it's dangerous!

- ◊ Bay Beach in Green Bay. Amusement Rides
- ◊ Horse trails outside Marathon County
- ◊ Between the spring and summer months my family and I travel to outside counties as far as Eagle River, WI to use indoor hockey arenas. We spend a ton of money to do this and what love to stay in our own community and have other counties visit us and make us money.
- ◊ Hartman Creek State Park for camping, hiking, and kayaking on the chain-of-lakes. Devils Lake State Park for hiking.
- ◊ Hiking, cc skiing, trails
- ◊ We are a hockey family, and routinely go to other communities to play hockey at their rink.
- ◊ Stevens Point Green Circle and Skatepark
- ◊ Rhinelander
- ◊ Merrill-council grounds for swimming and hiking
- ◊ Hike the Ice Age Trail
- ◊ Otter Lake, Stanley, WI. Camping, boating, swimming, fishing, canoe, kayak & paddle boarding.
- ◊ cross country skiing Minocqua Michigan
- ◊ I drive out to Levis Mounds near Neillsville for the mountain-biking trails as often as I get a day off in the Summer. Nine Mile and Sylvan Hill in Wausau are good biking but they can't hold a candle to Levis Mounds.
- ◊ Hurley, Mercer, boulder junction. Camping bike riding kayaking utv trails
- ◊ Hiking
- ◊ Go to various locations North for X-country ski trail options especially the classic only trails in the Rhinelander area
- ◊ The paved bike trails in the Boulder Junction area.

- ◊ Several state parks, Levi's mounds, mountain bike trails and camping
- ◊ Shawano county park
- swimming
- ◊ “Just A Game Fieldhouse (Wisconsin Dells) - basketball
- ◊ Lighted Baseball Fields (Plover, Marshfield, Pulaski) - baseball”
- ◊ Prairie Dell's/ Underdown
- ◊ Ice Age Trail hiking & snowshoeing, kayaking
- ◊ Various mountain bike trails or bike parks: Levis Mounds, WinMan Trails, CAMBA Trails,
- ◊ Clark, Chippewa and Eau Claire counties mostly for mountain bikes and UTVs
- ◊ Bay Beach amusement park
- ◊ “Winn-Man Mtn bike trails and Copper Harbor Mtn bike trails
- ◊ tomahawk- pickleball
- ◊ All over Wisconsin to visit parks with biking and hiking trails; especially those with developed facilities (chalets with bathrooms, water, bike wash, etc)
- ◊ Levis Mounds Trail, CAMBA trail system in Hayward/Cable
- ◊ I go to Portage and Wood Counties to roller skate (practice and play roller derby) and disc golf.
- ◊ when traveling
- ◊ North highland american legion State park
- ◊ We camp at state parks, in particular Northern-Highland American Legion State Park at Crystal Lake area. We like to bike, hike, and swim in this area.
- ◊ “Boating in Minocqua. I am not a resident of Marathon County.
- ◊ We never went to a park until we took up pickleball; we travel elsewhere to play
- ◊ Piss off that's my business
- ◊ Eau Claire, Green Bay, Oshkosh and West Bend/ All Pickleball.
- ◊ “Waupaca Mountain Bike Trails
- ◊ Boulder Junction Area paved trails
- ◊ Lake Nokomis, Lake Dubay, Lake Minocqua for watersports
- ◊ Gleason, Long Lake area, Ice Age Trail
- ◊ Pickleball- Eau Claire, Green

Bay, Oshkosh, Rhinelander

- ◊ Grouse hunting north
- ◊ We travel out of Marathon County frequently for disc golf. We go to Standing Rocks and Yulga near Stevens Point, Wilderness near Montello, and several other courses in the Madison area.
- ◊ Harrison Hills ATV trail.
- ◊ County parks in Marinette, Shawano, and many other counties. also, several State parks all over the state monthly sometimes weekly
- ◊ Hockey Program...area rinks
- ◊ Na
- ◊ “Hockey rinks and soccer complexes. Our hockey rink is one of the most dated in the state. Marathon county needs an indoor soccer facility with turf.
- ◊ I have had 5 kids in soccer and hockey from youth to college. The east bay complex is awesome. Greenheck has an excellent rink. Marathon county is poor compared to almost all I have been to over the past 25 years. “
- ◊ Up north
- ◊ Indoor Ice Hockey
- ◊ Hockey rinks
- ◊ “Underdown- ski -hike pick berries -bike- hunt
- ◊ Newwood -hike - hunt - pick berries -bike
- ◊ 3 Eagle - ski hike -bike
- ◊ Big Lake state forest, camp, swim, bike on paved trails
- ◊ Washburn Lake ski trails Onieda co.
- ◊ Rib Lake area ski trails”
- ◊ Tomahawk area - camping
- ◊ Peninsula state park- biking and hiking
- ◊ Wisconsin River Road, HWY 35, along the Mississippi. Great scenery, possible sighting of barges, Lake Pepin, etc.
- ◊ Ice arenas in other counties
- ◊ Northern Highlands
- ◊ Soccer complexes for children's soccer games
- ◊ We travel to go to other ice arenas after the MP ice arenas are out
- ◊ Devil's lake
- ◊ Memorial Park, Tomahawk summer concerts and ski shows
- ◊ “Several hockey arenas around the state
- ◊ Several soccer fields around

the state

- ◊ Several LAX fields around the state”
- ◊ Traveled Route 66 and Florida
- ◊ Green Circle, Portage County
- ◊ Portage and Langlade Counties - Campgrounds since they have reservable sites and with showers, better set-up than Marathon County campgrounds
- ◊ Camp Bike Hike State Parks
- ◊ “Wittenberg indoor pool
- ◊ “
- ◊ Wildwood (zoo) and Griese (soccer and trails) parks in Marshfield. Also, Hamus and Weber parks for trails in Marshfield. McMillan Marsh trails. Boat launches in Stevens Point and at Lake DuBay, also Minocqua and Lake Winnebago.
- ◊ Scheels Park in Appleton for Soccer Tournaments. The two indoor soccer facilities in Milwaukee/Waukesha.
- ◊ Camping to Porcupine Mountain area in the UP of Michigan, Bayfield and Madiline Island.
- ◊ Soccer
- ◊ Marshfield wild wood zoo
- ◊ Bird watching in Merrill Council Grounds, Tech School in Rhinelander for talks on canoeing, birding, hiking.
- ◊ Door county
- ◊ Appleton and Milwaukee for indoor turf soccer games.
- ◊ Other county parks, soccer complex, indoor facilities, fishing areas
- ◊ Indoor soccer complexes
- ◊ Milwaukee, Madison, Oshkosh, Appleton areas several times per month to indoor soccer facilities. Both hard and turf facilities.
- ◊ Soccer tournament/games
- ◊ bird watching areas
- ◊ Council Grounds. Camping
- ◊ Milwaukee for indoor soccer complex
- ◊ Soccer tournaments throughout the state
- ◊ Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, Willow Flowage, Chippewa Flowage-camping, fishing, boating
- ◊ Taylor and Lincoln county forests: Hunting, kayaking, biking
- ◊ Go to Shawano to go to their beach

- ◊ Door County, Waupaca
- ◊ Copper Falls
- ◊ Hockey Rinks
- ◊ To camp in facilities that have electrical hooks available. Many time this is not an option in Marathon County Campgrounds
- ◊ Yes - due to the limited number of outdoor pickleball courts in Marathon County, on a weekly basis I have to travel to Rhinelander, Eagle River, Three Lakes, Green Bay, Madison or Eau Claire to play. It is unfortunately that I can't call the Wausau area my home “club”, but is a reality when you simply three courts or a 40' X 50' area to service such huge demand.
- ◊ Portage County
- ◊ “WINMAN mountain bike and ski trails are awesome
- ◊ several other mountain bike and ski trails due to lack of snow”
- ◊ Various soccer facilities
- ◊ Kayaking.
- ◊ Stevens Point and Minocqua for their kayak launch points.
- ◊ “Shore fishing off of a municipal pier in Minocqua on the island.
- ◊ Biking in Vilas County on the paved bicycle trails out of Boulder Junction.”
- ◊ Door county Washington Island school house beach Bailey harbor ridges
- ◊ “Wolf River at Langlade WI for kayaking.
- ◊ Keweenaw for camping, mtn biking & kayaking.
- ◊ Nicolet Forest for mtn biking.”
- ◊ glacier woods golf course
- ◊ Clear lake, copper falls
- ◊ Camping on lake chippewa in hayward to go fishing and mountain biking
- ◊ LAKE DUBAY ON THE PORTAGE COUNTY SIDE
- ◊ Copper falls, clear lake, Norrie lake,
- ◊ I travel to Green Bay, Oshkosh, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Falls to compete in pickleball tournaments at outdoor courts.
- ◊ Black river falls state forest - group camp site
- ◊ Portage County campgrounds. Northern WI bike trails.
- ◊ “Horse riding
- ◊ Hiking
- ◊ Camping “

- ◊ For skateparks or hiking. Stevens point skatepark and the long walking trails there are great. Our river are could expand into a great path throughout the rest of the city and if it had a beautiful skatepark on it like stevens point it would be a great addition.
- ◊ upland bird hunting
- ◊ Standing rocks county park, portage county
- ◊ Children's museums
- ◊ “mountain biking
- ◊ hiking”
- ◊ Lakewood Cross Country Ski Trails, Lakewood WI
- ◊ Camping recreation
- ◊ Levis Mound, by Neillsville, WI for hiking and mountain biking.
- ◊ Merrill under downs, Marquette MI, Rhinelander trails. Mountain biking trails.
- ◊ We take kayaks down the Plover river in Portage County
- ◊ clean showers at campgrounds
- ◊ Green circle trail for hiking and biking. Iverson Park for kayaking.
- ◊ Have gone to the Underdown and Wiouwash State Trail/ Mountain Bay Trail for horseback riding.
- ◊ “Standing Rocks, Plover, mountain biking
- ◊ Underdown, Merrill, Mountain biking
- ◊ Levis Mound, Neillsville, mountain biking”
- ◊ Yes, bike, ski and hiking trails.
- ◊ I dont live in Marathon County, so going there is for vacation. Your parks are great and worth the drive up from Adams County.
- ◊ Birkie Trail for Nordic walking/Nordic skiing; ABR in Ironwood MI for Nordic skiing
- ◊ Underdown. Washburn. Levis Mounds
- ◊ WinMann, Manitowish Waters. Bike trails in Boulder Junction and Manitowish areas.
- ◊ Willow Flowage, Wood Lake and Camp 8 in Taylor County to camp and fish. The cost to use these facilities is less expensive and allows for family bonding time in which camping should be about. God has given us natural resources and humans have the strong responsibility to maintain

- a healthy environment. More campsites with REASONABLE fees should be available in Marathon County.
- ◊ Portage County Parks standing rocks, disc golf, cross country ski.
- ◊ Mountain bike trails
- ◊ Mountain biking
- ◊ Many state park campgrounds, Levi's mounds, Madison area single track trails and paved bike paths, jack lake
- ◊ “Winman trails for Trail running, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing
- ◊ Copper harbor, mountain biking
- ◊ Neillsville - mountain biking
- ◊ Cable- cross country skiing “
- ◊ “Underdown Rec Area, Lincoln County for MTB, hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and camping.
- ◊ Veterans Memorial Park, Langlade County for MTB and cross country skiing.
- ◊ Rausch Preserve, Taylor County for cross county skiing .
- ◊ Many others...”
- ◊ stevens point skateboard park, sturgeon bay skateboard park
- ◊ Winman bike trail, Paved Vilas County bike trail. Green circle trail in Stevens Point
- ◊ Usually biking trails such as the Boulder Junction area trails or other state trails. Cross-country ski trails in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.
- ◊ Sawyer county forest and Oneida county forest for mountain biking and Xc skiing
- ◊ Copper Falls
- ◊ Standing Rocks, Jack Lake, Hartmann Creek
- ◊ Stevens Point Skatepark, They have a great skatepark right along their river and walking path.
- ◊ Gravity mountain biking
- ◊ Wolf River, Waupaca Chain of Lakes
- ◊ Mountain bike
- ◊ We frequently drive to Minocqua Winter Park for better snow conditions for cross country skiing. We also frequent the outdoor skating rinks in other counties since the outdoor rink closer to our house stopped receiving funding 2 to 3 years

- ago.
- ◊ camping north wisconsin
 - ◊ “Mountain bike trails all over state.
 - ◊ Wi Dells Devils Lake State Park
 - ◊ state camping in northern highland forest/utv in iron cty and Lincoln cty/camping and fishing out of state
 - ◊ Dane County Parks and State Parks and Forests throughout the state
 - ◊ Lincoln County Forest for Grouse/Woodcock Hunting
 - ◊ Camping, fishing, kayaking
 - ◊ Council Grounds State Park
 - ◊ Bear skin bike trail, Minoqua. I walk and run on the trail. I do not bike. We also kayak and or paddle board on E. Horsehead lake.
 - ◊ Merrill and Tomahawk: sports facilities
 - ◊ State and county parks in numerous counties. Hiking, biking, snowshoeing, kayaking, boating, camping
 - ◊ copper falls for hiking, devils lake for hiking
 - ◊ Lincoln, portage and Wood Counties for bow and rifle hunting.
 - ◊ ATV trails
 - ◊ Boating
 - ◊ Pottenwell, Castle Rock
 - ◊ There is only one place in Marathon County to go 4-Wheeling. We go almost every week into Clark county. We would use a trail in Marathon county if there were one. We don't like going to Clark county but we have no other choice.
 - ◊ Council Grounds in Lincoln County. Peninsula State Park in Door County and Koehler
 - ◊ Devils Lake - Swimming, hiking, camping
 - ◊ Green Circle - Stevens Point
 - ◊ Kenosha county lakeshore
 - ◊ MONDEAUX DAM: MY FAMILY RESIDES IN THE AREA, AND WE HAVE A CABIN THERE. SWIMMING, FISHING, HIKING, HUNTING, BOATING, ETC
 - ◊ lake Emily county park portage county
 - ◊ We travel all winter to warmer destinations and are passionate about Pickleball. We always seek out communities
- where pickleball is available and have played at spectacular facilities that are provided by city or county parks. Wausau/ Marathon County could benefit by providing additional Pickleball facilities for health and wellness as well as revenue from the possibility of providing tournaments.
- ◊ Waupaca for kayaking
 - ◊ Shawano co, use small parks for getting together with friends/ family for a couple of hours - just sitting at picnic tables
 - ◊ We travel north for UTV trails
 - ◊ Ice Age Trail in Lincoln County - Grandfather Falls Segment and Turtle Rock Segment
 - ◊ Horseback riding and camping. Hiking.
 - ◊ Door county: camping, orchards, restaurants, shopping, etc (Potowatomi SP and Peninsula SP)
 - ◊ Tomahawk parks
 - ◊ Active Backyard Retreat (ABR) at Ironwood, Michigan, for cross country skiing & snowshoeing. Green Circle in Stevens Point for biking.
 - ◊ Door county parks both county and state. Harrison Beach state park. Trails, beaches, overlooks, and picnic facilities.
 - ◊ Lake Dubay county park, camping
 - ◊ Council Grounds State Park - camping, fishing in a better part of the river, hiking
 - ◊ Camping and softball areas.
 - ◊ Clark and Wood County for camping
 - ◊ Porcupine Mountains, hiking, camping, yurts, rustic cabins, sight seeing, music festival, etc.
 - ◊ Portage and Langlade county parks for camping
 - ◊ “Bay Beach-Brown County Pamperin Park-Brown County”
 - ◊ Oshkosh YMCA ice arena & pool
 - ◊ ECDells and Rib Mtn
 - ◊ Lakewood Cross Country Ski Trails in Lakewood WI
 - ◊ Shawano County for snowshoeing and camping. Postage county parks for camping.
 - ◊ Door county, fishing and seeing parks.
- ◊ Pickleball in Oneida county
 - ◊ Stevens point tennis courts
 - ◊ “Minocqua Winter Park
 - ◊ ABR
 - ◊ Birkiebeiner trails”
 - ◊ ice Age National Scenic Trail - especially in Marathon & Lincoln counties.
 - ◊ Boating and camping portage, vilas, Oneida, Lincoln counties. Atv Lincoln, Langlade, and Oneida mainly.
 - ◊ Pelican lake
 - ◊ Rhinelander or tomahawk to play pickleball
 - ◊ Hockey
 - ◊ Clear lake
 - ◊ Grandad's Bluff-hiking, sightseeing
 - ◊ For hockey we visit many other facilities, there are not many in worse condition inside and outside (parking lot) or lack of general things like tables and chairs then Marathon a park Ice Arena.
 - ◊ Merrill ice rink for open skate
 - ◊ “Pickleball in Allenton, Westbend and Germantown
 - ◊ “Indoor rock climbing
 - ◊ Ice skating
 - ◊ Beach
 - ◊ Kayaking
 - ◊ Ultimate frisbee”
 - ◊ Camping
 - ◊ We travel to DC Everest ice area to play hockey and ice skate year round.
 - ◊ Dexterville Park for camping. Minocqua for camping.
 - ◊ “Multiple Ice arena's- hockey
 - ◊ Wisconsin Rapids- CW BMX
 - ◊ Rhinelander- Hodag BMX”
 - ◊ Campgrounds and hockey rink
 - ◊ “Greenheck Field house for ice skating.
 - ◊ Crystal lake and plum lake”
 - ◊ cycling paved Trail system between boulder junction, manitowish, sayner. Kayaking at lakes up north
 - ◊ Northern Highland State Park. Paved biking trail connector systems. ATV usage. Mountain Biking and hiking. Camping
 - ◊ Lincoln country rifle range
 - ◊ All the way to mashfield to see the lights, why not have that ere La crosse as lights also.
 - ◊ camping
 - ◊ I frequently fish both up north in Vilas / Onieda County areas and use their boating
- and camping facilities. I have also used quite a few Portage County boat landings as well. Specifically the Lake DuBay landing. Since it is very near my home.
- ◊ “ABR, Winman, Winterpark, Razorback Ridges, Washburn Lakes, Three Lakes, Birkebeiner trails, Rhinelander trails, Northwoods golf course, Greenwood Hills golf course, Seeley Hills, Timm's Hill.
 - ◊ All for cross country skiing when Nine Mile is closed or has bad conditions.”
 - ◊ Mountain Bike/Hike trails in Lincoln County (Underdown)
 - ◊ “CW BMX in Wisconsin Rapids
 - ◊ Multiple ice hockey rinks all over Wisconsin/Minnesota
 - ◊ State parks geocaching
 - ◊ Green circle.
 - ◊ Buffalo lake campground for camping/fishing/swimming/ hiking/kayaking
 - ◊ Birkebeiner Ski Trail
 - ◊ Sawyer, Bayfield and Onieda counties have cross country ski trails that allow dogs for skijoring
 - ◊ Four wheeling
 - ◊ Year round ice arena
 - ◊ Mosinee, Weston, Stevens point, every other hockey arena open year round.
 - ◊ Sorry, we just moved here a year ago and I can't remember all the names, but we love all the parks and biking trails in Stevens Point in particular.
 - ◊ County parks in Portage County, state parks throughout state
 - ◊ Portage county parks and Shawano county campground
 - ◊ Underdown Trails
 - ◊ Camping
 - ◊ Pickleball
 - ◊ Camping at South Wood County Park, Dexter Park, Lake Emily, Hartman Creek
 - ◊ Minocqua Winterpark, xc ski, Raven Trails, Minocqua, hike/ xc ski
 - ◊ We have camped at Lake Dubay County park and at Crystal Lake State Park and Merrill Consel Grounds.
 - ◊ Wildcat mountain, camping
 - ◊ UP or Winter Park
 - ◊ Camping

- ◊ Wood County Parks, Dexter, North Wood County. State Parks, Wisconsin, Willow River, Council Grounds, and Federal park, High Ridge Campground
- ◊ Lake DuBay Park and Landing for boating.
- ◊ Snowshoeing at multiple parks in and around St Germain/Sayner/ Star lake. Gartzke flowage. Harrison hills. Biking all over the state where there are paved trails.
- ◊ Wood Lake - fishing
- ◊ Shawano county private camping
- ◊ Various other Mountain bike and Cross country trail systems.
- ◊ Up north, I don't know all of the names, but a LOT of stuff up there.
- ◊ paved bike trails in Vilas and Oneida counties. Ski center and trails in Portage, Vilas, Oneida, Oconto, Iron counties
- ◊ camping
- ◊ "Use paved trails in Manitowish, Boulder Junction Area for biking
- ◊ Use Ski Trails at Minocqua Winter Park and WinMan near Winchester/Manitowish for skiing"
- ◊ Hiking, Devils Lake, Door County
- ◊ Iola Winter Sports winter trails
- ◊ Fishing in the Bittersweet Wild Lakes Area
- ◊ Rib Mountain Area
- ◊ "Veterans Memorial Park
- ◊ campgrounds
- ◊ Council grounds and other county camp grounds
- ◊ North wood county
- ◊ "Dells
- ◊ Councils grounds "
- ◊ We camp in several different state parks, county parks and private camp grounds
- ◊ Mountain biking
- ◊ We drive to Stevens Point to use the green circle bike loop/ trail
- ◊ Camping Oneida Co
- ◊ Yes - outside the county for early season cross-country skiing due to lack of snow here
- ◊ Camping-Woodruff, Marshfield
- ◊ Northwood County and Dexter Campgrounds. Camping trips and bike riding.
- ◊ all over WI.
- ◊ Deer Trail park campground
- ◊ Nordic skiing on man mad snow or good early/late snow conditions
- ◊ RV camping with sewer, electric and water hook ups
- ◊ Lincoln/Oneida UTV/ATV Trails
- ◊ "ATV trails Langlade county
- ◊ Camping "
- ◊ campgrounds
- ◊ "When family members visit we try to attend some of these parks
- ◊ "Portage County parks and Door County Parks
- ◊ Wood Lake Campground
- ◊ Lincoln, oneida , portage counties
- ◊ Northern Highlands camping, biking, boating, swimming, fishing
- ◊ Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. We go to campgrounds in this state forest, in Minocqua, Boulder Junction, Sayner, & near Eagle River,
- ◊ Castle rock county park, Maidstones for camping
- ◊ Chippewa county park (pine point) for camping
- ◊ Camping, at different places in wis.
- ◊ wood county, Dexterville county park for camping. Clark county, Snyder county park camping n ATVing. Langlade county Veterans Memorial Park, camping n hiking
- ◊ "North wood county to camp where there are showers. Water is not good there.
- ◊ Snider by neillsville for the 4 wheeler trails. "
- ◊ Camping, hiking and biking.
- ◊ Nicolet National Forest, hiking
- ◊ Conover WI camping
- ◊ Peninsula State Park-biking. Boulder Junction bike trails. Birkebeiner cross country ski trails. Pishtigo River - canoeing. Muscoda, WI River - canoeing.
- ◊ Camping at Lake Emily in portage county
- ◊ Lake DuBay County Park to camp, kayak, bicycle
- ◊ cross country skiing trail Minoqua, ABR, Rhineland, Houghton, MI, door county for biking and skiing
- ◊ South wood Co. Park
- Camping
- ◊ "Winter Park, Minocqua xc skiing
- ◊ ABR Hurley Ironwood"
- ◊ Camping and atv
- ◊ Shawano County
- ◊ Camping
- ◊ Underdowns, Watersmeet, mi for fishing
- ◊ "North of Wausau for cross country skiing
- ◊ Allover Wisconsin for paddling and bicycling "
- ◊ Goose island for fishing and camping,
- ◊ Wood County camping
- ◊ We go to to Lake Farm County Park
- ◊ "Biking, hiking, boating, golfing
- ◊ We use the biking and hiking trails up north, Bear Skin Trail, Boulder Junction and St. Germain area
- ◊ Boating on Lake Nokomis
- ◊ Golfing in Tomahawk area"
- ◊ Wood county
- ◊ State parks and other county parks for camping and hockey
- ◊ "Hartman Creek, Underdown/ Prairie Dells, Standing Rocks, Win Man, and various other mountain biking facilities.
- ◊ Underdown for xc skiing."
- ◊ Dexterville - County Campground, Dane County - Mendota Campground, Clark County - Schneider Campground
- ◊ Many. Levis Trow Mound. CAMBA Trails. Underdown/ Prairie Dells trails. State parks/ county parks in Door County.
- ◊ mostly cross country skiing in early season when ours is closed due to hunting or lack of snow.
- ◊ Dubay county campground
- ◊ Camping
- ◊ Ski areas in Wisconsin and UP. Hayward area ski trails, winter Park, rib falls, Washburn ski area
- ◊ Hartman Creek
- ◊ Portage county camping
- ◊ "Mostly camping
- ◊ Waupaca
- ◊ Postage
- ◊ Vilas
- ◊ Iowa"
- ◊ Up by boulder junction, paved bicycle trails
- ◊ North Wood County Park
- ◊ Camping at Portage County Park
- ◊ Camping in Wood county
- ◊ Summer months for camping
- ◊ "Bike trails
- ◊ sugar camp disc course, standing rock disc course, others disc courses in Rhineland area
- ◊ veterans campgrounds Langlade co. camping, swimming, fishing, and hiking.
- ◊ Milwaukee, Green Bay for skate parks and bike trails.
- ◊ Crystal Lake in the Northern Highland forest area and we use the extensive biking trails in that area as well. We snowshoe and ski in the Minocqua area.
- ◊ Peninsula Park in Door County, Devil's Lake both for camping, hiking, swimming, kayaking, biking.
- ◊ Camping
- ◊ Timms Hill, Boulder Junction area parks, Door county parks
- ◊ Mostly or birdwatching, but that is because of certain habitats, not what the parks offer.
- ◊ "North Shore municipal public Camp Grounds, Two Harbors, Mn.
- ◊ . . . Houghton, Mi. municipal Camp Grounds also"
- ◊ Camp Luther, Three Lakes WI - summer camps
- ◊ Mead
- ◊ We often visit Council Grounds State Park in Merrill. It is well kept and offers great boat landings.
- ◊ Oneida/Tomahawk snowmobile and atv/utv trail system
- ◊ Camping
- ◊ Waupaca for boating, trails and biking
- ◊ Landmarks and Hiking trails
- ◊ Parks in Stevens Point area
- ◊ Wood County
- ◊ Iverson park, bucholt park, Stevens point
- ◊ Snowmobile trails
- ◊ Paved bike trails from Chippewa Falls to Cornell. Also paved bike trails in Boulder Junction area.
- ◊ Dells area, Minocqua area
- ◊ "Stevens point, horseback riding
- ◊ Waushara County, horse camping"
- ◊ Devils lake state park for hiking and the ability to do more than hike at the park.

- ◊ Chippewa River State Park Trail, we go there for the paved road biking trails. It is a wonderful thing with people running/walking and mountain/road biking on these trails. The best part is everyone feels safe because you are separated from the vehicle traffic on streets. I currently live in marathon and have almost been ran over by semi trucks and other vehicles due to the lack of room on the shoulder of roads. My wife actually refuses to bike on the county highways due to the lack of safety. I road bike with many other people and all of them say the same thing. We constantly take trips elsewhere with nice paved trails to exercise and enjoy each others company. We have old train track areas that could be used for this sole purpose. For I is almost perfectly flat and is a perfect area away from normal vehicle traffic for safety. Many other counties have areas like this, this year we will be going down to the Madison area to try out their paved trails and enjoy an extended weekend road biking. We have old train tracks that run between marathon and edgar we should repurpose this space for good use. The only park I use is the Eau Plaine for the disc golf course.
- ◊ Clear lake woodruff
- ◊ Council grounds merrill
- ◊ Kettle Moraine for hiking and up by Saynor for the great paved biking trails
- ◊ Harrison ATV trails
- ◊ Pamperin Park, Green Bay Wi
- ◊ Wyalusing State Park - camping, hiking, etc.
- ◊ “Stevens Point, K.A.S.H. Park,
- ◊ Stevens Point, Iverson Park
- ◊ Stevens Point, Sculpture Park”
- ◊ Minoqua area parks
- ◊ Devils Lake
- ◊ other counties to camp
- ◊ Clark county for camping
- ◊ Manitowish Waters/Boulder junction bike path
- ◊ Will travel every other weekend. To mountain bike trails within 5 hrs
- ◊ We go camping usually at Rivers Edge Campground because of the pond and nice camping area.

Q10 In which of the following recreational activities do you and your family participate at County parks, forest units, and trails?

- ◊ Enjoying scenery and nature.
- ◊ pickleball
- ◊ Letterboxing
- ◊ no other
- ◊ Just started camping last year after camping years ago. Now taking grandchildren.
- ◊ stand up paddle boards
- ◊ Camping
- ◊ It’s nice weather I like to be outside
- ◊ Skateboarding. Please fix Oak Island or build a new skate park!!
- ◊ None
- ◊ Roller derby
- ◊ Pickleball
- ◊ Berry Picking - some county forest lands could be maintained to promote better picking
- ◊ Trail running
- ◊ Soccer
- ◊ Volleyball
- ◊ skateboarding/rollerblading
- ◊ I’d love to see jojos jungle take off and start construction ASAP
- ◊ pickleball
- ◊ Skateboarding wasn’t an option. Any time of safe activity areas for our youth and safe trails are great.
- ◊ Skateboarding
- ◊ Hiking
- ◊ Grouse/Woodcock Hunting
- ◊ use of the grill
- ◊ Will do more when toddlers get older
- ◊ Pokémon GO events
- ◊ Relaxing - enjoying the view
- ◊ Rock hunting
- ◊ Snowshoeing
- ◊ scuba diving
- ◊ Hockey
- ◊ Pokemon Go
- ◊ feel unsafe hiking at sunnyvale with the male stalkers watching all the time
- ◊ Wisconsin Valley Fair at Marathon Park
- ◊ We are from Texas so we don’t get to Wisconsin too often
- ◊ Snow fat biking
- ◊ 7
- ◊ Roller skiing on highway “R” paved trail.
- ◊ Rock climbing
- ◊ Hiding painted rocks
- ◊ Road biking (paved paths)
- ◊ Nature photography
- ◊ Skatepark

Q11 How satisfied are you with the appearance, maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and accessibility of Marathon County’s parks, forest units, and trails?

- ◊ It seems the parks have been overgrown and unkept this past year or two.
- ◊ The bathrooms often need cleaning.
- ◊ At BEP: downed trees, horse damage and manure, with pooled water on trails much of the year so travel goes around the mud and damages more of the sides of the trail. Some small drainage culverts would help a lot.
- ◊ Not too impressed w/ maintenance of Mountain Bay trail, too many ruts & could use more grooming & trimming. I pick up more branches etc. than county employees do in the area of trail where I live near Hatley.
- ◊ Accessibility is an issue at most of the parks.
- ◊ “Often, maps and posters at trailheads are often faded even torn. Sometimes garbage cans are not emptied or they’re are not enough of them.
- ◊ The Dells of the Eau Claire is a beautiful park and also has a wonderful campground and swim area . We love to go hiking there and have shared it with many of our friends and family. Have also used the campground and enjoyed that too. Bathrooms at campground and swimming beach were very clean . But the restrooms at the park were awful! You could smell them before you even got close , the garbage cans were full and the bathroom wasn’t clean . I realize this is a very busy part but I don’t think it was cleaned for a few weeks last summer . “
- ◊ “Maintenance: 9-mile ski grooming can improve/extend season
- ◊ Cleanliness: BEP pit toilets, wind-blown garbage in woods
- ◊ Safety: BEP, intoxicated visitors/foul language does not support family-friendly atmosphere.
- ◊ Accessibility: 9-mile land-use season/dates don’t align with best-use activities. No need to

hunt there with other better-suited areas available. This would allow this unit to have silent-sport focus/enhancements that would provide great income opportunities. “

- ◊ It would be helpful to have a form or number to call if problems are found- ie. if when biking a tree is over a trail, so issues can be addressed earlier.
- ◊ Generally satisfied, however Marathon Park has issues with maintenance, cleanliness at times (ice arena, park bathrooms). We don’t have special accessibility issues but I could see where some parks wouldn’t be very user friendly to young and old needing mobility assistance (wheelchairs, walkers, etc.). e.g. no paved paths for them to even just be nearer to play areas if they are going with a group or family, even if they can’t, or wouldn’t need, to participate in the playground (because it’s not an all-inclusive play area, or if they are a grandparent just wanting to sit and watch).
- ◊ I feel fatbiking should be allowed at Nine-Mile Forest, on the singletrack/snowshoe trails. Fatbikers and snowshoers coexist very well at other facilities throughout the state (WinMan and Washburn, for example), and cause no noticeable damage to XC ski trails when they cross.
- ◊ I just don’t feel that the areas are kept up nicely.. they seem messy and things aren’t fixed or cleaned up
- ◊ big eau pleine - would like to see flush toilet restrooms and showers
- ◊ Just need more camping availability
- ◊ The bathroom at Eau Claire Dells is disgusting the one by playground. A dump station n running water would be nice in camping area this park has had so little improvement in so many years. Come on Marathon County dooo something with it . The trails n waterfalls are beautiful so many visitors come to see it .
- ◊ Not enough daily clean up. To many county employees just driving and or sitting around Instead of active work efforts

- ◊ Would enjoy better bathrooms
- ◊ Showers at Marathon Park need to be cleaner at the floor/ lower levels where mold acquires
- ◊ The grooming at nine mile was variable at times, even when their was plenty of snow late in the winter. I think more collaboration between the ski club and groomers would be helpful.
- ◊ The bathrooms at the dells and Eau Pleine are terrible. We often go to Dubai because of the bathrooms and on site dump station.
- ◊ Would like available bottled water stations or possible areas to purchase additional ice for coolers.
- ◊ Bathrooms very yucky. Mold in showers (men's & womens
- ◊ The water at the beach at big eau Plains was very nasty, smelly, chunky. I did not even want to kayak there, much less let my kids swim in it. This is a shame because we absolutely love everything else about that park. For this reason alone, we will not have our large group camp there this year...first time in 7 years we are going elsewhere.
- ◊ At the Dells of Eau Claire park last year there was a huge ground wasp nest next to the play area, making it really unsafe for the children to play especially children that are younger and lower to the ground.
- ◊ Big eau pleine, camping the electricity goes out. Boat landing needs some work done.
- ◊ BigEau Pleine bathrooms camping sites need repair
- ◊ I have stayed at Dells of Eau Claire park numerous times where the electricity has failed due to inadequate power supply for the number of sites. The bathroom/shower facilities also had some repair issues.
- ◊ "Eau Claire dells I would like water access and dumping but not if the price goes way up. We are a family with a limited budget and love to camp. It is the cheapest vacation for a family with children that you could have and so good for families. If price goes to high they can no longer do that.
- ◊ The park rangers could be more friendlier not just come in and ride around and leave
- ◊ More areas that provide a decent shower house and electricity. WIFI options are things we've noticed in the other places we camp.
- ◊ Restroom cleanliness is extremely poor
- ◊ We had an experience of nearby campers at the site of Dells of Eau Claire getting drunk, belligerent and threatening towards other nearby campers. There was no site person there and we had no cell reception. It was a scary experience especially since we were there with our 5 year old daughter.
- ◊ "Marathon Park needs:
- ◊ -New, better and more restroom facilities (it's an inconvient walk way over to current ONE SET available)
- ◊ -Blacktopped parking lots and pathways to pickleball courts"
- ◊ Pickleball is not always available and gets closed far earlier than park events take place. Due to park usage and when the event is over, there can be garbage that needs to be cleaned up.
- ◊ They are to the level I hope for, not overly maintained but not in poor shape either.
- ◊ There will always be places that are not accessible to wheelchairs and the county should continue to be INCLUSIVE for all disabilities and adapt facilities to accommodate all. Thank you for making the county facilities as accessible as possible!
- ◊ Marathon Park Multi Purpose building (hockey rink) Lobby is often dirty in appearance (the floors) and there is very few places for people to sit and wait for their kids to finish practice. Things have improved some since the RiverWolves came in but there is still very limited seating for people to wait. I strongly encourage the county to consider purchasing multiple tables/chairs for families to sit at while waiting. Thank you!
- ◊ marathon park courts.
- ◊ As stated above, Oak Island is embarrassing and actually dangerous because it's in such disrepair. Fix it or build a new one! Wausau is big enough that a new skate park would absolutely be utilized. We're lucky to have Central Board Shop, but there's then no where safe to go anymore in Marathon County to actually skateboard.
- ◊ The hockey arena boards are completely unsafe- during games I have seen classmates almost fall onto the ice. The leaking water is also a safety hazard in lobby area of the ice arena. I also feel the parking lot could use some more road base to avoid the many pot holes.
- ◊ The hockey rink at Marathon Park has been neglected for years, and even with the recent improvements, remains well behind our neighboring communities. We need new boards and some more investment into the facility. We also could use a longer ice season, as our program is growing very rapidly and ice time is becoming very scarce to spread around among our various teams.
- ◊ It is frustrating when the bathrooms aren't open. People are active in all types of weather—not just mid-June through August. Our family often has to stop what we are doing and leave early for a bathroom need.
- ◊ Not a complaint, but I want it to be noted: Mission Lake facilities are maintained incredibly well. Thank you!
- ◊ Tennis/pickleball courts are in poor condition.
- ◊ too little experience to rate.
- ◊ I would say necessarily dissatisfied but I think there is an opportunity to spruce things up.
- ◊ The facilities at Big Eau Pleine are run down
- ◊ Specifically, Marathon Park. Buildings are in disrepair, roof leaks, parking lot is a swampy hole all winter and is only better when it is covered in ice and snow to level the parking lot out. The rink itself all winter has little cleaning, inc floors, bathrooms. Hockey boards are old, heaters rarely turn on and mostly blow cold and dusty air.
- ◊ No nearly enough pickleball courts in Marathon Park. If you drive to smaller cities such as Eagle River or Tomahawk; you will find six or more courts available during the summer.
- ◊ The hockey rink at Marathon Park needs an upgrade. We need more lobby area, tables set up for people to eat, and a general make-over. It is out-dated and unappealing. There is hardly room to move around especially when a tournament is being held.
- ◊ Primarily concerned with Marathon Park. Feel the park is underutilized and safety of the rink is below average. Overall space could be improved.
- ◊ "The Pickleball courts are in OK repair.
- ◊ I have never seen anyone play tennis anymore; need to convert tennis courts to Pickleball courts...
- ◊ Fastest growing sport in USA. For small investment Marathon park could be the Pickleball center of WI!"
- ◊ We have to pick up the trash from the basketball courts and empty the trash cans
- ◊ Maintenance on existing tennis and Pickleball courts is sub par. Investments not being protected.
- ◊ Only speaking for the Marathon Park Ice facility-needs updates!!! Even the simple things like a properly stocked First Aid kit.
- ◊ Marathon park ice rinks- Leaky roofs.
- ◊ Things are not very well maintained or taken care of
- ◊ "just would like to see a playground for disabled children - ie JoJo's Jungle
- ◊ I think Wausau is ready for a dedicated and expanded ice arena to support our youth hockey programs. We continue to travel outside of our area to find ice time and pay for clinics that could be offered locally. A paved parking lot or better graded lot would also be a positive addition.
- ◊ Marathon park ice arena is very outdated. The gravel drive and parking area turns into a mud pit in the thaw and icy slushy mess in snow.
- ◊ Older facilities appear

neglected and crumbling (specifically asphalted trails within Marathon Park)

- ◊ Na
- ◊ Rib mtn pit toilets are scary
- ◊ Up keep and maintain needs to be held to a higher standards. Depending on what parks people are working and if and when you can find them. Is when things sometimes get done or you get what you need. Plus the staff isn't always the friendliest when you need questions answers. Plus the update of bathroom at many parks is quite gross. We need to update for safety reasons the rink at Marathon Park for the safety of the players too. That is before someone really gets hurt. More lightning in some areas of the parks as a whole would be good too, for the safety of people using or in the park.
- ◊ No
- ◊ Marathon park specifically, then parking lot is horrible. Especially during the winter
- ◊ "All areas need to be evaluated for invasive species and a plan to control them. 9 Mile- locust trees.
- ◊ Need to make urban bike and walking paths more connected and accessible.
- ◊ Some grooming money at 9 Mile needs to be re-allocated to High Use days (weekends) and to do more of the grooming in the late evening so that the trails have more time to freeze up before the skiers come in the morning. Skiers quickly degrade the trails when grooming is being done the same time as when skiers are using the trails. "
- ◊ Many parks do not have accessible garbage canisters along walking paths or near shelters.
- ◊ A lot of parks in the area are overrun by geese and their poop is everywhere. Its hard to enjoy parks that are covered in poop. Plus some of the geese can be very aggressive and will often chase or try to attack you.
- ◊ I would love to see prettier parks with more flower gardens and lighted trails. I thank you for all your good work. I do love the parks!
- ◊ All of the parks other than

Marathon Park would rank very high in the above categories. I would rank Marathon Park low based on our use of the facility during youth and high school hockey seasons. I think the staff and parks department as a whole has done all they can with the aging facility. I ranks towards the worst arenas and facilities in the state for skating and hockey. The parking lot is always a mess with ice, slush and potholes. The building itself is maintained ok, but it's not an attractive venue.

- ◊ Amco with no cell service is very dangerous if in a life threatening situation someone need assistance. I'd also like to see that park kept a bit cleaner.
- ◊ However, the BEP campground needs some updating in some areas especially with the intense summer usage.
- ◊ bluegill park, eliminate the geese.
- ◊ No buses near to the forest units and trails.
- ◊ Geese population is ruining Bluegill, Eagles Club and Rookery Park. Boat launch at Bluegill, need another and more trailer parking. Do we have any sandy beaches anymore?
- ◊ "Sylvan Hill Park: trees are falling over the trails and aren't taken care off. Littering everywhere around the shelters.
- ◊ The grass gets so long at the parks in the summer. Often times my kids can't even play soccer because the ball doesn't roll in the grass.
- ◊ Bathrooms
- ◊ The Sunnysvale Softball complex has not been updated in many years.
- ◊ Airport park bathrooms dirty.
- ◊ The walking trail along the river - area near library/ underpass. Lots of homeless people, sometimes harassing.
- ◊ The hockey rink was dirty, leaking water, not well lighted.
- ◊ Marathon Park Facilities could use an update!
- ◊ need to control geese in all parks that they are currently present in
- ◊ Maintenance of the ball diamonds are some of the worst I have ever seen.
- ◊ As far as safety, lighting major

trails would make them safer for all users.

- ◊ The Marathon Park Rink parking lot and rink are a black eye on our community
- ◊ Given the shortage of pickleball courts, we try to play on available tennis courts, but they are in such poor condition both at 3M and Marathon Park, that they are a safety hazard. For some odd reason, the trash is never emptied from the cans around the three pickleball courts at Marathon Park.
- ◊ There are few easily accessible kayak launch points and there are no readily available lists of kayak friendly places to launch a kayak. Kayaking is getting more and more popular and it serves as a draw for many people. At least a couple times a years I plan kayak day trips with out of town friends to locations outside Marathon County.
- ◊ The paved walking trails in Marathon Park need to be raised out of the water when the snow melts in spring. Maybe rain gardens need to be created to drain the water.
- ◊ "I'm really excited to see Jojos jungle inclusive and accessible playground go in at brockmeyer
- ◊ I hope the city and county will get behind that to start the project ASAP. It is a significant need in our area.
- ◊ I'd love to see something even more expansive modeled after the Hammil Family Play Zoo in Chicago come to the area. We could be a local destination "
- ◊ dog droppings often found at these facilities.
- ◊ Handicap accessible kayak launches at lake Wausau behind the old Drott, hwy J, Ross Ave so that my parent can go with us
- ◊ MOST CLEANLINESS ISSUES INVOLVE THE RESTROOMS AND LIKELY NOT DUE TO STAFF BUT RATHER IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE MISUSING THE FACILITIES AND PARKS.
- ◊ Handicap kayak landings, Ross Ave, hwy j, lake Wausau behind old Drott building, off hwy n and eau claire river road
- ◊ Our pickleball club members regularly empty the garbage

near the courts because of the smell and the hornets and the overflow.

- ◊ Most of the forest trails are clean, but the closer you get to urban areas I feel like not much effort is made to keep it clean.
- ◊ The park's buildings at Marathon Park are simply dingy. There are so many great assets, but they have not been maintained well.
- ◊ Maintence and upkeep of park buildings(roofs, rockwork and etc.) and restrooms leave a lot to be desired. Also beach grooming and park grass mowing areas need be started in some cases or more attention to grass areas in other areas. Fees in campground could be increased slightly, and offer boat launch fee(additional charge) along with campground fee at time of registration. Launch fee would have to be as long as camp fee. Could reduce charge one day(Some way a reduction of cost) if paid with camp registration. At least 2/3,s of park fees should stay with the park generated from for its continued improvement. General revenue funds may be needed to bring the parks back to where they were ten years ago, and bring them up to standards expect this year and into the future.
- ◊ "Year after year the quality of the XC ski trail grooming at Nine Mile gets worse.
- ◊ County should look into snow making at Nine Mile or partner with the Wausau Nordic Ski Club to put in snow making on part of the lighted trails. "
- ◊ clean showers at campgrounds big eau plaine
- ◊ Marathon park, found drug needles. This park needs to be patrolled by police more.
- ◊ Nine Mile; county does no trail maintenance.
- ◊ I am greatly dissatisfied that Nine Mile is closed to mountain biking for half of the year. All of the users should be able to use it year round peacefully with each other.
- ◊ Low cost camping is not available. I grew up camping every weekend throughout the state. Fees have deterred me

from utilizing the parks and my 3 children are not as excited about the outdoors as it is not routine. Frankly, after paying for the campsite and firewood, you are paying half, if not more than half of a hotel stay. What person would choose to sleep outdoors with mosquitoes, chance the weather, and then wake up to make your own breakfast when they could sleep in a climate controlled environment and have a breakfast buffet waiting for them when they wake up? ME! But it has gotten more expensive and have not given my children the opportunities and have instilled the passion for the outdoors as my parents have due to the cost.

- ◊ I think bathrooms, conditions and smell are typically not the best at the park facilities. Not just Marathon co, but everywhere in this country.
- ◊ Park by sturgeon eddy - found syringes
- ◊ Pit toilets are often smelly and fail to have fly control. The pit toilets at Dells of the Eau Claire campground have been overflowing.
- ◊ Bathrooms
- ◊ The bathrooms at the DC Everest Park are too dark and unclean. The ones at sunnyvale park are also dark and unclean.
- ◊ I walk in a lot of the parks and I am always amazed at the amount of garbage that is left on the ground, whether its plastic bottles, papers or the people who do not pick up after their dogs especially when its on the main path you are walking on. There are signs posted in most parks that you are suppose to pick up after your pet. Don't see it happening much.
- ◊ I wish there is an easier way to find the parks. Maybe advertising.
- ◊ Marathon park ice arena outdated.
- ◊ "The city of Wausau has a beautiful river through it, most places the river can not be seen since the trees and brush are not trimmed. IF parks can trim every tree along the roads every year then branches can be trimmed up along the river. I know

there is an issue with shoreland protection, but the brush can be thinned and trimmed up 8 feet. the bike path along Wausau chemical, barker island and oak and fern island are overgrown. Barker island is dangerous with the crowd that hangs out in there.

- ◊ some urinals at Cherokee or Dells of Eau Claire have not been scrubbed for years!...appears just rinsed with chemicals..
- ◊ Bike trail on the fern or oak island has a bridge on the south side with steps still. also the trails on the island are so narrow, can not ride when anyone is walking on them"
- ◊ "Mainly Marathon Park is the problem.
- ◊ Please do a better job in snow removal next winter in Marathon Park! Please take care of the icy side walks in Marathon Park during the winter, at least add dirt or salt (if I fall again this winter in your park, I will sue the city for thousands \$\$\$). Please do a better job in clearing the sidewalks of HUGE puddles or water during winter-melt, it prevents access to certain areas of the park. Please clean dog poop from the side walks and side grass areas or at least discourage pet owners from letting their dogs poop anywhere. That is all many of us ask.
- ◊ PLEASE keep the prostitution out of the park.
- ◊ Thank you but at same time; whoever is reading this won't give a shit anyways because they aren't being paid enough to care,
- ◊ Concern citizen of Wausau, WI
- ◊ Trash, cigarette butts and broken glass at Marathon park and Blue Gill Bay.
- ◊ The road into the Big Eau Plane park needs serious work to get it back in shape. Major potholes & broken pavement.
- ◊ Most are good accept for the Camping areas. Very dirty, no flushing toilets or showers.
- ◊ Looking at the map, I realize that our usage of Marathon County Park systems is primarily limited to Nine Mile, Dells of Eau Claire and Marathon Park. We

have some exploring to do!

- ◊ More lighting for evening hours
- ◊ Would LOVE snowmaking at Nine Mile to allow for accessibility for training and fun as early as December!
- ◊ It would be nice to have paved parking area for ice arena. This is the only place we have gone recently that does not have a paved parking area.
- ◊ We have had to clean our rented space at Marathon, Machmueller, and Sandy Meadow parks.
- ◊ "Cracks on tennis courts. Some courts have torn or non-regulation height nets.
- ◊ There is a lack of tennis & Pickleball courts in the area. "
- ◊ Bluegill Park is heavily used but often needs lawn care, trail maintenance, garbage clean-up bathroom maintenance, upgrade to play equipment. The new fishing platform is a great addition but most of the remainder of the park looks forgotten
- ◊ Restrooms at Cherokee need upgrading, also perhaps, at the Dells.
- ◊ Hockey rink is beginning to fall apart. Its brings a TON of people to the community. People would rather go to dc Everest
- ◊ Some parks like bluegill boat launch has no bathrooms. Paying to use a launch and can't even put a portable John out is annoying.
- ◊ Marathon Park Ice Arena parking lot is terrible!!! pot holes, more ice than the rink itself. needs to be paved
- ◊ Marathons parks Ice Arena is dirty, leaking roof and broken bleachers and benches. No tables and chairs for visiting teams or home teams to sit and eat or relax in between games. Restroom always smells horrible. Facility is small and could be so much better and clean.
- ◊ "Not enough pickleball courts. Long waits to play
- ◊ Marathon park- Pickleball courts are too few- we have 30 or more people showing up and can only have 12 playing at a time. The tennis courts could be used for Pickleball, but they are

in such bad shape that they are unsafe. The pickleball players are often cleaning the garbage from the basketball courts and have had to take the garbage out for the entire season. So much more could be done with that area.

- ◊ "hiking trails not marked at all, very difficult to follow.
- ◊ downed trees on trails, have been there for years
- ◊ send staff to trail building seminars so they know what they are doing
- ◊ Marathon Park Ice Arena has roof that leaks and nothing and I mean nothing gets done about it.
- ◊ FIX IT ALREADY!!"
- ◊ Issues at Big Eau Pliene Park camping. Highly monitored during the day for every silly thing. After 10pm it is no place to take a family...Loud music, yelling, domestic fights.
- ◊ The parks are not up to date. We have 3 hockey players in our home and the marathon ice rink is very poor compared to others around us. Could use more seating. HEAT. Be open all year round. Paved parking lots. The park equipment is getting out dated and is very dirty most the time.
- ◊ Marathon parks parking lots are horrific for pot holes and lighting of the parking lots in the parking lot by the horse showing area is very limited. A lot of old buildings could be taken down and replaced with modern facilities that don't leak water through the roofs, would generate year round income due to ice year round. Same with an indoor pool like what The Grand Lodge Cedar Creek has.
- ◊ Potholes in marathon park are horrible
- ◊ "Marathon Park Ice arena:
- ◊ Would like to see an updated facility. The lobby area has very poor set up for families/skaters to hang out between games etc. Our family has been to a ton of rinks and ours by far has the poorest lobby situation. It would also be nice to have a paved parking lot. And year round ice! "
- ◊ Marathon Park parking lot in the winter was horrible as far as plowing snow. Cars getting stuck everywhere

- ◊ Marathon park ice arena in the winter time always has pot holes everywhere is ice over throughout the parking lots. The guys who work there do the best they can but during peek hours they are running the rink and cannot take care of the lot. There has been multiple times when people have fallen with kids with the sliperey conditions. I we got to other rinks and they don't have this problem cause there parking lot is paved. Paving the road will make it easier for the workers and safer for the familes entering the rink.
- ◊ "Bluegill Park great but too congested with limited boat launching and parking.
- ◊ Geese are destroying the local parks. Bluegill, DC Everest Eagles Club. Cannot walk or bike through due to excrement all over the place. Very unsafe. It's a problem all over not just Marathon County."
- ◊ Lots of garbage at WI River unit
- ◊ The bathrooms are dirty and old with holes in the ground marked with yellow tape that was falling down and missing my daughter cold have stepped in it when she was running in the grass at bluegill park . Very dangerous.
- ◊ "really in this day and age a drop pit toilet, no showers, why would I stay there when other clouny parks have free showers, you are fooling yourself if you think people are not showering, they are usign campers and letting it run on ground, think I want to camp in someone elses waste?
- ◊ The Mission Lake park needs a bathroom closer to the landing. Trying to find it and even get to it after dusk or before dawn can be a bit unsafe with all the tree roots and uneven ground.
- ◊ Signage in some areas is out of date - little or no maintenance given to assist in trails. Volunteers given all resposibility in most cases.
- ◊ Marathon Park Ice Arena- we need a better facility for MCYH and year round Ice!
- ◊ Bathrooms 90% of time are unclean.
- ◊ Marathon Park Ice Rink could use some cleaning and updating
- ◊ Parking can be an issue at the big eau planne
- ◊ Marathon Park has alot of Pot Holes
- ◊ We found a lot of trash around the Dell's of the eau Clare park from teenagers hanging around the rapids in the late evening. Picked up ourselves.
- ◊ "Buckthorn is taking over at a number of areas, I'm particularly concerned about Bluegill.
- ◊ While all days aren't bad there are many instances when the trail grooming at nine-mile is not up to the level of other area trails."
- ◊ Stop clear cutting all the county forests!
- ◊ Need a year round ice arena. Loosing out on money and people
- ◊ Things seem to be becoming worn down.
- ◊ Trail signage at Eagle Claire Dells needs to be improved.
- ◊ Only listed dissatisfaction because of serious concerns about river pollution at Big Eau Pleins....afraid to let kids swim there now because of it. Also concerned about safety at Marathon Park for camping. Would like to camp there, but rarely see any safety patrols, so avoid going. I love both places, but feel their quality is less than previously. Also, I have never heard of most of the other locations....
- ◊ Eau Plaine water was terribly green.
- ◊ Many county forest area lack facilities to recreate and are underutilized for recreation. Parks have aged facilities and need upgrading. Snow making at 9 mile would enhance the park as a destination.
- ◊ Power outage at Eau Claire
- ◊ Cross Country trail grooming at 9 mile county forest this year seemed worse than years past. Sometimes no grooming would occur for days after snowstorm. Outer trails were groomed much less frequently than inner trails.
- ◊ Just a note. Rain damage from last year resulted in the response of satisfied only. Repairs were not yet done when we arrived.
- ◊ Safety - a lot of trails could use more lighting
- ◊ Too often ski grooming equipment breaks down and the quality of skiing is diminished more than at other outside of county sites
- ◊ Big Eau Plain campground. The ranger needs to relax and use a little common sense. People camp in groups and congregate at one campsite. Rules need to be a guidance as long everyone is safe. He is rude and not friendly.
- ◊ 9 Mile when compared with other Ski facilities like Iola Winter Sports Center, Minocqua Winter Park, ABR, and WinMan is not "consistently" groomed to the standards of the locations mentioned. Sometimes it's groomed well, sometimes it is groomed poorly, and sometimes not at all. This impacts our business. When there is not consistent standards met, people will go elsewhere where they know what to expect.
- ◊ Big Eau Pleine Park- Bathrooms are usually dirty, fire rings not cleaned out, Picnic tables not repaired
- ◊ Shelters could be cleaner and cob webs be removed
- ◊ Would love more electric camp sites
- ◊ We stay at the Big Eau Pleine county park. It is a great park but the only problem we run into with friends coming along is they need showers and pit toilets kind of scare them. So showers would be nice.
- ◊ Look at making single track trails one way and also not allowing runners or walkers on single track trails
- ◊ Marathon Park needs their Campground facilities cleaned a lot better. Spider webs in the bathroom and showers. Sites needed better cleaning after camper leaves.
- ◊ Wash outs on trails, not wheel chair friendly
- ◊ "Nine mile bathrooms should be cleaner and/or renovated.
- ◊ Trail conditions at nine mile we're poor this year due to inadequate grooming"
- ◊ Need wifi and cellular service is very limited.
- ◊ The grooming at the 9 mile cross country ski trails was not good a majority of the season. It improved in late February but before that it was not very good.
- ◊ Bad pavement (blacktop) at Big Eau Pleine, in and out!
- ◊ I have been camping at Eau Claire Dells, & the bathroom in the campground, wasn't very clean. The bathroom at the west campground of Eau Pleine, was excellent.
- ◊ Dells of the Eau Claire. Shouldn't charge for electric since the breaker continually blows and campers spend more time resetting the breaker til it blows an hour later
- ◊ The bathroom at the Eau Claire Dells by playground area is horrible.
- ◊ The Nine Mile Forest shelter needs to be updated. Last summer's improvements helped, but a new paint job and some additional decorations would greatly improve the facilities. Also, it's time to have a vending machine there for hungry folks. Often the front desk people are busy and can't be asked to serve as food sellers as well as ticket sales people.
- ◊ The eau plaine west side. Bathrooms stunk no water in the tanks to cover feces or deoterizers in the water. Not well managed at all and maintained. Summer of 2018. Been there other years and it wasnt bad
- ◊ Mowing/ trimming/ grooming at Nine Mile
- ◊ We camp at Big Eau Pleine and the website to reserve sites at the beginning of year is a mess. This is the weekend we have a bunch of people camping and it was hard to get sites together cause the site keep crashing. The electric last year kept going out in the west unit. You need to upgrade and have at least a shower / fush toliet building at each campground - you can still have some pit potties - they are always clean.
- ◊ Trail maintenance in the winter is consistently poor
- ◊ "The restrooms we're filthy. The door locks were broken. Very little signage on where the R. V. Dump, or fresh water

was, after the restroom locks were fixed no one was given the combination etc. etc

- ◊ Camping at Dells of the Eau Claire last summer - restrooms needed to be serviced.
- ◊ Bathrooms not always clean.
- ◊ 9 Mile needs more winter skiing and summer mountain biking signage. But thus is true no matter where the facility is, there is always a lack of signage.
- ◊ “Dells of Eau Claire - lack of updated electrical grid. Had spotty electricity over the hot holiday weekend. Pit toilets were not clean. Wood fire sales were at bad times of day.
- ◊ Eau Pleine - lack of updated electrical grid. Had spotty electricity over the hot holiday weekend. Flush toilets and showers would be a huge improvement. Pit toilets were not clean. Wood fire sales were at bad times of day.
- ◊ Everything needs updating, picnic tables, grills, shelters, etc.
- ◊ Grooming at 9-mile is still below average compared to the rest of the state. Very disappointing
- ◊ Restrooms at Big Eau Pleine seem to always be in need of attention such as sweeping, knocking down webs, mopping the floor and maintenance addressing odor.
- ◊ Big explains - some of the restrooms are terrible
- ◊ I wish the forest units had more signs for the trails because I have to look at my Google Maps to know if I am still within the area and what trail I am on. Also, boardwalks would be great for Spring and Winter time when they aren't accessible because of the mud/snow.
- ◊ Electric needs to be updated at Big Eau Plaine West unit. Last year we were camping with friends and 3 out of the 4 sites we had lost power for over 16 hours
- ◊ Not enough benches or playground equipment in all areas.
- ◊ The toilet facilities at the eau plane Park Beach have been horrendous forever the smell is atrocious as you leave the parking lot and walk past.

- ◊ Bathrooms should be updated at all parks - running water and flush toilets, we'd stay longer if bathrooms were clean.
- ◊ The restrooms could use better ventilation.
- ◊ Garbage left at parks by user. Not necessarily fault of the park.
- ◊ Thee grass is unkept in parts of the park, making it unassessible to use those areas, parking lots are dirty and filled with trash.
- ◊ As always litter could be better. Install cameras and fine those who are stupid enough to litter.
- ◊ Many places are hard for handicap with difficulties walking.
- ◊ “Bathrooms at eau pleune park
- ◊ Playground equipment in Marathon Park is old and beat-up. We love biking with the family from Weston and using MCP as a destination. The whole park/area could use a facelift to be much more than just the fair grounds and spot for community activities. With it's accessibility to all of the nearby employers and schools it could use new equipment, a better trail and a cleaner/more modern appearance (like Doepke park in Rib Mtn)
- ◊ Would love more stroller friendly trails!
- ◊ Accessibility: it would be nice for all kids to have access to local parks including those in wheel chairs or those with special needs. Not all playgrounds in the area are equipped to meet everyone's needs.
- ◊ At mission lake there will be no pens or papers for filling out for payment sometimes and no toilet paper in the restroom
- ◊ “Big Eau Pleine should not allow horses on trails when wet. Even disc golf gets closed.
- ◊ Disc golf fees are too high... do not exist in other parks (?) this discourages new users to the sport.
- ◊ Events should pay fees....senior rate?!”

Q14 Please indicate if you or anyone in your household has the need for each of the recreation programs listed below by indicating Yes or No and Youth, Adult, or Both for each program? (Other)

- ◊ Foraging hikes/instructors
- ◊ Geocaching events , like CITO Events...Cache In, Trash Out . People look for geocaches and pick all garbage
- ◊ +
- ◊ croquet or bocce tournaments/ lessons
- ◊ I need/use both mountain bike and XC ski, but both are well-served by existing clubs.
- ◊ Stick to providing public access to nature areas. Others in the cominities can provide social services
- ◊ More Days of Nordic skiing - Adult - Man-made snow would help to provide this.
- ◊ We are not in Marathon County.
- ◊ none
- ◊ Have gathering for kids to meet others and do games together. Have popcorn to hand out or icecream social would like to see a few tables or benches that are permanently set up near Beach area to sit at.
- ◊ We would love to have more and well maintained pickleball courts. Other communities are offering many options but would love to have them right here. And great way to keep population active and invite tourism.
- ◊ Pickleball
- ◊ more cycling events
- ◊ Add more pickleball courts to Marathon Park and other recreation facilities (Rothschild, Weston). Too many people that have to wait for a court!
- ◊ All activities are needed in this area. We just need to find more qualified teachers and facilities.
- ◊ Skate boarding competitions. Central Board Shop is amazing for this but we need a new or improved skate park!
- ◊ cross country ski lessons
- ◊ Road biking
- ◊ Roller derby, both youth and adults
- ◊ Nice to add footsal and

other such winter/indoor opportunities

- ◊ woodworking shop
- ◊ I don't understand...nobody NEEDS any of these, poorly worded question
- ◊ Indoor Soccer facility
- ◊ Indoor soccer facility
- ◊ Feel free to create a list of programs, and then have outside vendors provide the instructors, and then charge a fee for each participant to cover the instructor's time. Similar to Grebe's Chef Center cooking classes. Grebe's provides the space, finds local chefs, and participants pay a fee for the materials and chef time.
- ◊ Handicap kayak facilities
- ◊ Horse back riding (Adult)
- ◊ LOL, wtf even is this!?!? this is the worst survey I've ever seen. “Adaptive (special populations) Programs”, is anybody going to know what this is?? What kinda of value do you think you are gathering from a complete disorganized cluster of a survey like this? srrrssly. Also recreation is not a need.
- ◊ Didn't know that marathon has all of these programs available.
- ◊ Na
- ◊ Mountain biking lessons-adult
- ◊ Bike safety and repair
- ◊ n
- ◊ Allabove answered for adults only
- ◊ Tennis & Pickleball tournaments
- ◊ Pickleball Tournaments
- ◊ Horseback riding
- ◊ are these not programs run by the city and not the county
- ◊ I VERY much appreciate spaces I am allowed to let my dog off leash (obviously under the proviso that it is a safe and well trained dog).
- ◊ Family sand volleyball
- ◊ Classes for sports officiating
- ◊ Bad question, too difficult
- ◊ NA
- ◊ Add a fill all option for questions like these
- ◊ Adults only camping
- ◊ Dog Park
- ◊ I think Marathon County is ready for a Bike Festival. It should be family friendly as well as for hard-core folks. A parade,

- ice cream, designated dedicated bike route, and a family friendly concert at the end of the day.
- ◊ not a big fan of organized activities
 - ◊ Paved road biking trails



Wausau & Marathon County
**Parks, Recreation
& Forestry**

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING RESULTS

APRIL 30, 2019 PIM RESULTS

To encourage public involvement in the Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the County also hosted a public involvement meeting on April 30, 2019. The involvement meeting took place in three parts:

First, attendees were given the opportunity to review maps of parks, forest units, and trails adding comments coded to specific locations within the County park and forest system. These comments were classified by three different questions, allowing participants to categorize their type of comment by location. Categories included General or Specific Improvements within Existing Parks and Forest Units, Areas where New Parks or Forest Units are Desired, and Areas where New Trails or Paved Shoulders are Desired. Participants were also invited to share their Big Ideas for Parks, Recreation, and Forestry via the comment form.

The second section of the involvement meeting allowed for participants to mark on a trail map desired connections, additions, and/or extensions of trails within the County system.

Finally, attendees participated in a spending activity that allowed choice of where they would personally spend money within the park, forest, and trail system based on category of use or improvement. If desired, they also had the opportunity to further categorize investment by writing directly specific activities, locations, or uses the “money” would go towards within that category.

Responses and analysis in this summary include responses from all PIM attendees.

RESULTS OF COMMENTS, BY PARK, FOREST UNIT, OR TRAIL (72 COMMENTS)

Comment	Park
Kayak Launch	Amco
Ashley Park - how to find it? Some semblance of trails would be nice.	Ashley Park
Campsites need to be leveled, all slope to the bank-side.	
Big Eau Pleine is very populated with deer leading to forest & habitat degradation. Open it to hunting to decrease deer numbers	Big Eau Pleine
Eau Pleine is set up very nicely	
Blue Gill is overrun with deer and all native plants are degraded. Buckthorn has taken over the aspen. Herd reduction - please!	Blue Gill Bay
Develop Brokaw for Mtn biking	
Add a sign at the parking lot in Brokaw. Develop mountain biking trails in the Brokaw Hills (former cross-country ski area)	Brokaw
Mathey construction land north of Brokaw - new park / mountain biking?	
Burma hiking/snowshoe trails/fat tire	Burma Road
More campsites and amenities	
Add large fire ring, water pump in group campground	Dells of Eau Claire
Improve maps	
More Trails	
Add Parking area	
Link via bike-ped path the conservancy area to an easement heading east.	
Just off the map is a brownfield - could this be redeveloped into fields or parking or artificial turf fields somehow connected to Eastbay?	Eastbay Sports Complex
Could redevelop this area into soccer/sports fields and/or parking to support Eastbay complex	
Could redevelop this area into soccer/sports fields and/or parking to support Eastbay complex	
Could redevelop this area into soccer/sports fields and/or parking to support Eastbay complex	
Promote sections of ice age trail better	Ice Age Trail
Improve trails for Mtn biking	Kronenwetter
Improve trails for Mtn biking	Leather Camp

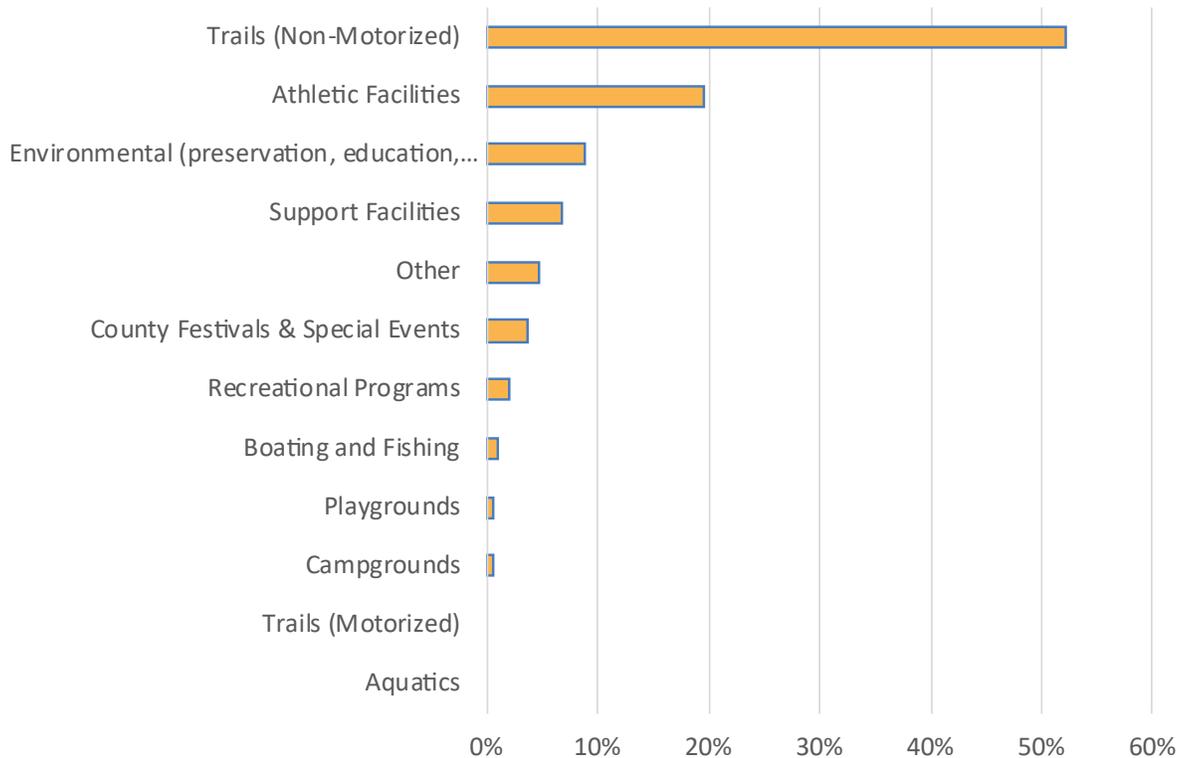
Add 6 pickleball courts	
Add 6 pickleball courts	
Ice arena updates - and focus on booking more "family" events	
Special concert events - hire an agency to book concerts to maximize the investment made here	
Enlarge dog park space in Marathon County.	
More pickleball courts	Marathon Park
Pave parking lot	
Update road signage highlighting events	
Raise the pedestrian paths so they aren't underwater in spring.	
Trails connect, but still lack a complete loop. All the area under the tree canopy should be a loop, not just small western loop.	
Marathon Park needs more pickleball courts. Add 6 courts ASAP.	
Develop biking trails at Mission Lake if not there already	Mission Lake
Allow fat tire biking at Nine Mile in the winter. Extend fall mountain biking, add snowmaking to a limited portion of the trails.	
Need to allow fat tire biking in winter along with the skiers	
Connector from Nine Mile to Rib Mountain S.P. - on snowmobile easement? Matt Block may have concept	
Make Nine Mile an economic draw/destination. Andy is a good first step - notch up the chalet.	
Remove the chains and allow parking here!! (near foxglove)	
More mtb trails / allow mtb during winter	
Make Nine Mile a special use area - make it a park - take it out of enterprise zone so \$ can be put into it.	Nine Mile
Add 4-season event shelter at Nine Mile to better program events and serve users.	
Mosinee Hill easements for trails	
Easement connect Nine Mile to school forest to Trillium Trail to avoid Hwy KK	
Connect Laurel to HWY KK at Nine Mile	
Expand opportunities for use	
Incredible trails, but grooming needs to be improved	
Kayak Launch	Rib Falls Park

Canoe/kayak landing	
Old fat tire trails should be used as snowshoe trails	
Develop biking trails through the woods	
Sunny Vale - develop hiking/biking trails along Rib River utilizing the old railroad & bridge to Marathon City.	
Bike Link from Sunny Vale to Rib Mountain	Sunny Vale
Sunny Vale - RR bridge repaired/improved to tie in with north and south areas for biking and snowmobiling	
Continue trails at Sunny Vale along Rib River to Rib Mountain park trails	
Increase access to Rib River	
Extend Ryan Street to Hwy X	
Athens to Marathon offroad bike trail for a "Marathon Route"	
Trails in Eau Claire River Conservancy should connect to Schofield & Weston	
Trail connecting to NN across Black Bridge	
Extend Municipal St to Hwy X in Weston	
Extend Mountain Bay trail to Kent Street	Trail Connections
Increase length of railroad grade from Fenwood to Edgar	
More trail connections	
Designated bike routes on trails from metro area to Dells, Nine Mile, Burma, Big Eau Pleine	
New multi-use trail on abandoned railway. Could be ATV, bike, and walk.	
Pave shoulders of County Roads	
Establish access to Trappe River Dells via footpath, at least.	Trappe River Dells
Have never heard of Trappe River Dells. How do I access it?	
Canoe/boat landing?	Wisconsin River

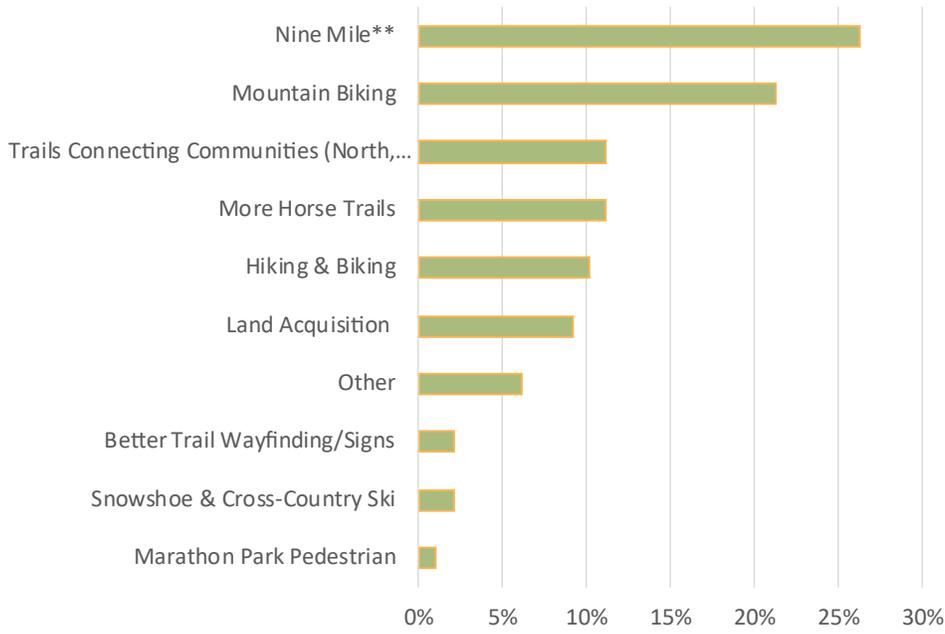
PARKS, FORESTS, AND TRAILS SPENDING ACTIVITY

Meeting participants were provided 10 \$1,000 bills and were given the opportunity to place any combination of the \$10,000 into 12 categories. The majority of participants favored investments in non-motorized trails, followed by athletic facilities, environmental preservation, and support facilities.

PIM Poll Results		
Where would you spend your money?		
Categories	Number	Percent of Total
Athletic Facilities	37	19%
Aquatics	0	0%
Boating and Fishing	2	1%
Campgrounds	1	1%
County Festivals & Special Events	7	4%
Environmental (preservation, education, restoration, etc.)	17	9%
Playgrounds	1	1%
Recreational Programs	4	2%
Support Facilities	13	7%
Trails (Motorized)	0	0%
Trails (Non-Motorized)	99	52%
Other	9	5%
Total	190	100%

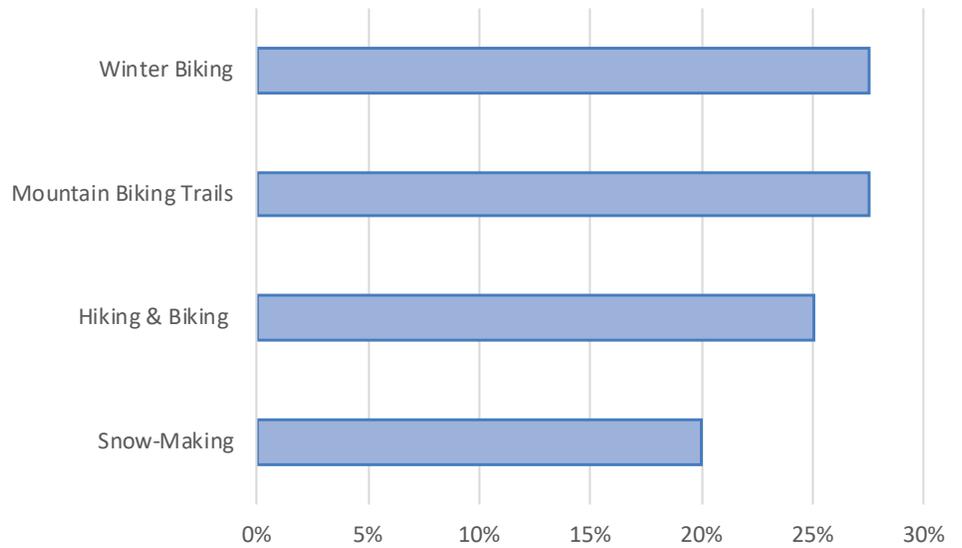


PARKS, FORESTS, AND TRAILS SPENDING ACTIVITY - NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

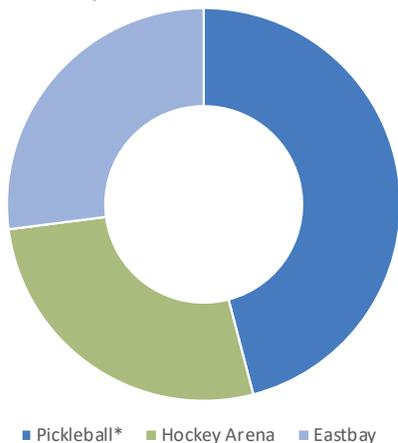


Mentions of Nine Mile were common, and are broken out directly below for specific actions and ideas for recreation improvements at that specific County Forest.

**PARKS, FORESTS, AND TRAILS SPENDING ACTIVITY - ALL MENTIONS OF NINE MILE



PARKS, FORESTS, AND TRAILS SPENDING ACTIVITY - ATHLETIC FACILITIES



* Marathon Park specifically named in 6 responses for increased Pickleball courts

PARKS, FORESTS, AND TRAILS SPENDING ACTIVITY - FULL SUB-CATEGORY RESULTS

PIM Poll Results		
Categories within "Athletic Facilities"		
Sub-Categories	Number	Percent of Total
Pickleball*	17	46%
Hockey Arena	10	27%
Eastbay	10	27%
Total	37	100%

* Marathon Park named in 6 responses

PIM Poll Results		
Categories within "County Festivals & Special Events"		
Sub-Categories	Number	Percent of Total
Bike Festival	3	43%
More Events	1	14%
Other / General Festivals & Events	3	43%
Total	7	100%

PIM Poll Results		
Categories within "Recreational Programs"		
Sub-Categories	Number	Percent of Total
Senior Programs	2	50%
Youth Programs	1	25%
Nature-Focused Programming	1	25%
Total	4	100%

PIM Poll Results		
Categories within "Support Facilities"		
Sub-Categories	Number	Percent of Total
Nine Mile	3	23%
Restrooms	2	15%
Other / General Support Facilities	8	62%
Total	13	100%

PIM Poll Results		
Categories within "Non-Motorized Trails"		
Sub-Categories	Number	Percent of Total
Nine Mile	26	26%
Mountain Biking	21	21%
More Horse Trails	11	11%
Trails Connecting Communities (North, South, & West of Wausau)	11	11%
Hiking & Biking	10	10%
Snowshoe & Cross-Country Ski	2	2%
Better Trail Wayfinding/Signs	2	2%
Marathon Park Pedestrian	1	1%
Land Acquisition	9	9%
Other	6	6%
Total	99	100%

PIM Poll Results		
Specific Activity Mentions at Nine Mile		
Sub-Categories	Number	Percent of Total
Hiking & Biking	10	25%
Mountain Biking Trails	11	28%
Snow-Making	8	20%
Winter Biking	11	28%
Total	40	100%

APPENDIX B:

PARKS & OPEN SPACE

CLASSIFICATIONS/ FACILITY

GUIDELINES

Definitions used in this plan are modifications of definitions found in the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016, Appendix E. They are used to classify the existing parks and recreation system and to guide plans for its future development.

B.1 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS

Community Parks

The community park is intended to serve the active and passive recreational needs of a number of neighborhoods or a medium-sized municipality. Community parks can be thought of as a combination of a neighborhood park and community playfield. However, community parks usually also offer areas for passive recreation use such as wooded areas and walking trails, scenic lookouts, botanical gardens, multiple shelters, grills, and picnic areas. Unique active use facilities may include band shells and aquatic facilities. Off-street parking areas for vehicles and bicycles, permanent restroom facilities, shower facilities, and lighting are common.

Desirable size: 25 or more acres
Acres / 1,000 population: 5.0 to 8.0 acres
Service Area: 2 to 5 mile radius

Special Use Parks

A special use park is often designed as a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. A special use park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource. Certain recreational facilities such as disc golf courses, golf courses, race tracks, municipal pools and waterparks, fishing areas and marinas might be considered special purpose parks. Less active uses may include community gardens or veteran memorials. Special use parks may be combined with community parks. Supporting facilities (off-street parking, restrooms, etc.) will vary based on the user needs.

Desirable size: Varies - depends on function
Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function

Service Area: Varies - depends on function

County Parks

A county park provides a sufficient park and recreation area to meet the needs of county residents. County parks consist of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses, and that accommodates large gatherings, special events, and individual users. County parks offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas.

Desirable size: Minimum 100 acres - smaller for special use

Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function

Service Area: Varies - depends on function

State Parks

A state park, by size, program, and location, provides space for outdoor recreation and education about nature and conservation. These parks serve a significant geographic segment of a state or regional population. State parks aim to preserve, protect, interpret and enhance the scenic and cultural resources of the state.

Desirable size: Minimum 100 acres - smaller for special use

Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function

Service Area: Varies - depends on function

Nature Preserves

Nature preserves may be established to conserve forest lands, marshlands, floodplains, prairies, wildlife habitats, and other areas having cultural, scenic, or natural values. Such areas are usually provided by county, state, or federal governments and have the primary function of wildlife and resource protection. Nature preserves usually include large tracts

of land that are undeveloped or have limited development, although some improvements may be provided which are incidental to the enjoyment of the property. Improvements are usually located in one section on the property so that the area remains largely undeveloped. Improvements may include parking areas, interpretive centers, and restrooms. Hunting may be a primary recreational activity in such areas. Other recreational uses might include backpacking, camping, trail use, picnicking, and bird watching.

Desirable size: Varies - depends on function
Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function
Service Area: Varies - depends on function

Greenbelts

The greenbelt has basically the same characteristics and functions as the preserve; however, a greenbelt may be used to shape urban development. It may be a buffer between an urban area and surrounding rural areas and may connect parks within an urban area.

Desirable size: Varies - generally between 500 - 3,000 acres
Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function
Service Area: 100 mile radius

Waysides, Welcome Centers, and Historical Markers

These are special purpose parks designed to serve motorists. They are important to a tourist industry as a means of providing rest and information. They may include restrooms, picnic areas, shelters, or other facilities needed by motorists. The size and location of special purpose parks depends upon natural features and the functions they are intended to serve. If oriented to motorists, traffic volumes must be considered.

Desirable size: Varies - depends on function
Acres / 1,000 population: Varies - depends on function
Service Area: Varies - depends on function

B.2 PARKS FACILITIES GUIDELINES

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation guidelines. The guidelines on the following pages are from Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. The data from Lancaster should be used in guiding future acquisition and investment.

The Lancaster publication does not include guidelines for all types of park facilities. For example, the guidelines for soccer facilities listed in the table are for regulation sized fields for high school or adult play and do not address youth soccer needs.

The information in the table may be more useful as guidelines for facility sizes and desired orientations than those sections addressing units per population or service radius.

B.3 DETAILED FACILITIES GUIDELINES

This section includes an explanation of how each facility type functions within the bike and pedestrian system as a whole, as well as recommended locational and design criteria. Note: This plan does not advocate specific auto-only travel lane widths. These recommendations are intended to guide the dimensions of bicycle facilities.

Bicycle Lanes

Overview

Bicycle lanes are areas of the road striped off for exclusive use by bicyclists. They are the preferred bicycle facility for urban arterial and higher volume collector streets (generally more than 2,000 vehicles per day). On less-trafficked roads, signage is often utilized instead of separated lanes encouraging users to “share the road.”

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	SPACE NEEDED	SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	UNITS PER POP.	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Basketball						
1. Youth	2400-3036 sq. ft.	46-50'x84'	Long axis north-south	1 per 1,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
2. High School	5040-7280 sq. ft.	50'x84'				
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
Tennis	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north –south	1 court per 2,000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school.
Badminton	1,620 sq. ft.	Singles - 17'x44' Doubles - 20'x44'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
Handball (3-4 wall)	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall. 1,000 sq. ft. for 3-wall.	20'x40' - maximum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting.
Archery Range	Minimum of 0.65 A	300' length x minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90'x45' with bunker.	Archer facing north= or - 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)	Minimum 30 A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.
Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'X60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
Baseball						
1. Official	3.0-3.85 A minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
2. Little League	1.2 A minimum	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'		Lighted 1 per 30,000		
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 A	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance- 46' (min. 40') Women -Fast pitch Radius from Plate – 225' between foul lines Slow Pitch – 275' (men) 250'	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5 A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	SPACE NEEDED	SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	UNITS PER POP.	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Football	Minimum 1.5 A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
Soccer	1.7 – 2.1 A	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 A site.	<i>Teaching</i> - minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 ft.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
		<i>Competitive</i> – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.		(Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)		
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.
¼ Mile Running Track	4.3 A	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-west-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Trails	N/A	Well defined trailhead maximum 10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails - 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails - 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Golf						
1. Par 3 (18 hole)	50-60 A	Average length vary 600-2,700 yd.	Majority of holes on north-south axis	--	½ to 1 hour travel time	18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day.
2. 9-hole standard	Minimum 50 A	Average length –2,250 yards		1 per 25,000		9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day.
3. 18-hole standard	Minimum 110 A	Average length 6,500 yards		1 per 50,000		Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
Golf-driving Range	13.5 A for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis south-west-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.
Disc Golf*	One acre per 2-3 holes. Championship courses can require more than one acre per hole depending on foliage density.	Vary hole configurations for multiple skill levels. Fairways in the woods typically range from 15 ft wide pinch points up to 40 ft wide. Most holes contain at least two sets of tees.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fairways should not cross or be too close to public streets, sidewalks or too near private property or other busy areas where non-players congregate.
Skate Park**						
1. Concrete	1,500 square feet per 10 skateboarders.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
2. Steel Frame	Average size in region is approx. 11,000 sq. ft.					
3. Portable & Wood						

Source: Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association. [militaryridgemap.pdf](#)

*taken from Professional Disc Golf Association Design Guidelines: <http://www.pdga.com/files/PDGA%20Course%20Design%20Guides%20March%202014.pdf>

** taken from Public Skate Park Guide: <http://publicskateparkguide.org/design-and-construction/factors-of-skatepark-design/>

Function

Striping bicycle lanes establishes designated traffic channels that promote an orderly flow by both cyclists and motorists. Bicycle lanes have potential for attracting new bicyclists because of the psychological effect of having space reserved for them.

Unlike off-street paths, bike lanes can be integrated into the street network. They can therefore serve important destinations and take advantage of existing travel patterns.

Locational Criteria

Typically, bicycle lanes are established on local roadways that are 32 feet or wider with no on-street parking. Shared parking/bicycle lanes generally function well where sufficient space is provided and the parking turnover rate is not too high. Rural road requirements are dependent on lane width, shoulder width, and average annual daily traffic.

Signage

Bicycle facilities should be signed and marked in accordance with the AASHTO standards. Appropriately spaced pavement markings and street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes. Signs and pavement markings are especially important at approaches to intersections and at the ends of bicycle lanes.

Below are two examples of signs that may be used in conjunction with bike lanes:



Bicycle Lane Design Criteria:

- Minimum width: 4 feet; 5 feet along arterial street.
- When used alongside a parking lane, should be at least 5 feet wide and located to the traffic side of parking lane.
- Where combined bike lane and on-street parking is provided, minimum combined width should be 11 feet (13 feet where there is substantial parking or turnover of parked cars is high, such as Main St.).
- Lanes painted with a “bicycle” pavement symbol or the words “bike lane” according to AASHTO standards.
- Lanes maintained on a regular basis to remove any sand, gravel and/or debris.

Treatment in Plan

Bicycle lanes are recommended in Marathon County primarily on lower volume roads that have been identified by the NCWRPC and/or the recommended Marathon County Multimodal Transportation subcommittee to provide good recreational routes for regional travel (see Proposed Trails map in Appendix C). Combined parking/bicycle lanes are recommended within the Metro.

Paved Shoulders

Overview

Paved shoulders are not a “bicycle facility” per se, but rather a roadway condition that improves bicycle travel and bicyclist safety.

Function

Paved shoulders function much like a bicycle lane to separate motor vehicle travel from bikes. The use of paved shoulders benefits motorists as well by providing space in an emergency, improving drainage, and supporting traveled portions of the roadway.

Paved Shoulder Design Criteria:

- Minimum width: 4 feet, or 5 feet where traffic speeds exceed 50 mph.
- Stripe separating shoulder from roadway recommended.
- Generally not marked as exclusive bicycle facility.
- Lanes should be maintained on a regular basis to remove any sand, gravel and/or debris.

Locational Criteria

For higher volume streets or highways (generally more than 1,000 vehicles per day) with rural cross-sections (i.e. no curb and gutter), the addition or improvement of paved shoulders is generally the most effective way to accommodate bicyclists. On rural roadways with lower traffic volumes, cyclists can “share” the roadway with motorists without widened shoulders.

Treatment in Plan

This Plan recommends paved shoulders on roadways in the County Five-Year Plan as appropriate, with additional routes and

Signed Bicycle Route Design Criteria:

- Routes are best located on low-stress streets or designated bicycle facilities. Low-stress streets typically are those with traffic volumes less than 2,000 vehicles per day, speed limits less than 30 mph.
- Remove all hazards to bicycle travel, such as unsafe drainage grates, rough railroad crossings, potholes, gravel and debris.
- Direct riders to key destinations, such as schools, parks, and employment centers, and provide distances
- Help riders identify their location along the route.

alternatives to be considered by the proposed Multimodal Transportation subcommittee. See Proposed Trails Map in Appendix C.

Signed Bicycle Routes

Overview

Establishing signed bicycle route designations is a relatively inexpensive and efficient way to guide bicyclists through the existing street network.

Function

The purpose of a signed route system is to provide reasonably direct major routes through the County on streets that most bicyclists will feel comfortable using. Roads that are signed as bike routes may or may not include bicycle lanes or paved shoulders. Off-street paths may also serve as designated routes.

Locational Criteria

Bike routes are located so as to provide access to frequent bicyclist destinations, such as schools, parks and forest units, and employment centers. However, the routes are not designed to link all of these possible destinations. Many other streets are suitable for safe bicycle travel. Therefore actual route selection may be determined more by directness, continuity, aesthetics and personal preference.

Signage

“Share the Road” signs may be used along some routes to warn vehicles of bicycle traffic without necessarily designating the signed roadway as a preferred route. This type of sign is sometimes used on roadways with high levels of bicycle traffic, but relatively hazardous conditions for bicyclists. Caution must be exercised when using “Bike Route” signage along rural roadways, as this may encourage inexperienced riders to travel along routes that are not necessarily suitable for their skill level. Except in rare cases where other alternatives are not available, signs should not be used to designate sidewalks as bikeways.



Treatment in Plan

This Plan recommends signed bicycle routes on many County Roads to facilitate safe movement between existing and planned major destinations, particularly between County Parks and population centers.

The County may in the future wish to designate additional bike routes on other roads and paths than those shown on the Proposed Trails Map in Appendix C, as determined by the recommended Multimodal Transportation subcommittee.



Multi-use Paths

Overview

Bicycle facilities separated from the roadway are often referred to as bike paths or trails. In reality, these paths are typically also open to walkers, runners, and other users. Therefore, “multi-use path” is the proper term for such facilities, and they need to be designed with these various user groups in mind.

Function

Multi-use paths can be significant generators of bicycle use, particularly for less experienced cyclists, for which they provide a safe environment. They provide enjoyable recreation opportunities and, in many cases, desirable commuter routes.



Locational Criteria

The County’s road and sidewalk system provides the best means of accessing various destinations, but multi-use paths can enhance the primary on-road bikeway system. Multi-use paths are most effective when used to provide regional recreational loops, bikeway system continuity, linkages to on-street routes, and/or short cuts where no adequate on-street facilities are available. Railroad rights-of-way, linear parks, river and creek corridors, lakes and dead-end streets provide good opportunities for construction of paths.

Signage

Signs like those on the left placed at high-traffic trail crossings or trailheads identify and draw attention to the path and help to promote trail use. System maps at trailheads and smaller signs placed along the path identifying destinations to be reached by the path and their distances are extremely helpful for path users.

On lengthy off-street paths, quarter-mile markers assist users in identifying their exact location on the trails, particularly helpful in emergency situations. In areas with heavy use, it may be appropriate to include signage to separate pedestrians and bicycle traffic.

Treatment in Plan

This Plan recommends off-street multi-use paths in select locations, both in connecting existing off-street paths to the road network and in rails-to-trails connections between major communities. The paths are used in this Plan to bridge access between major destinations for riders of all abilities. Trailheads can be an important component of the path system as well.

Trailheads

Overview and Function

Trailheads can provide visible access points to major off-street paths in the system. They generally provide a parking area, locational and directional maps or other information about the trail system. Some might contain restroom facilities, picnic tables or benches for snacks or breaks.

Locational Criteria

Trailheads should be sited with easy and direct access to the trail system. The trailhead should be located on a good road system, to provide easy access. Trailheads can be a benefit to the local economy, bringing visitors into areas that the community wishes to promote. Therefore, they should be located in areas that have easy access to services for trail users, such as food, drinks, and bike rentals or repairs.

Treatment in Plan

This Plan does not recommend specific bicycle trailhead locations, rather connectivity among existing routes and destinations. The County should plan trailheads as a component of new trail development in all off-street corridors.

Wisconsin Bicycle Facility Design Handbook Guidelines for Bicycle Route Continuity

Overview

This handbook identifies a range of possible facilities, including facilities for rural state highways, county roads, and other on- and off-street paths. Bicycle Route designation, route selection, and other possible infrastructure additions should utilize this handbook to provide a safe range of options for prospective users.

Bicycle Route Designation - WisDOT

Bicycle Routes on a variety of roadways work to provide continuity to other bicycle facilities, identify common routes, assist in wayfinding, promote safety, and may be chosen because it runs parallel to a major roadway that has not yet been treated with paved shoulders, bike lanes, or wide curb lanes.

Continuity

Bike route signs may also be used on streets with bike lanes, as well as on shared use paths. This is especially important for wayfinding purposes if a single bikeway transitions from one type to another throughout a the County. For example, if a particular segment or route of bikeway consists of a shared use path, then continues to a set of bike lanes, then finishes as a shared roadway, it

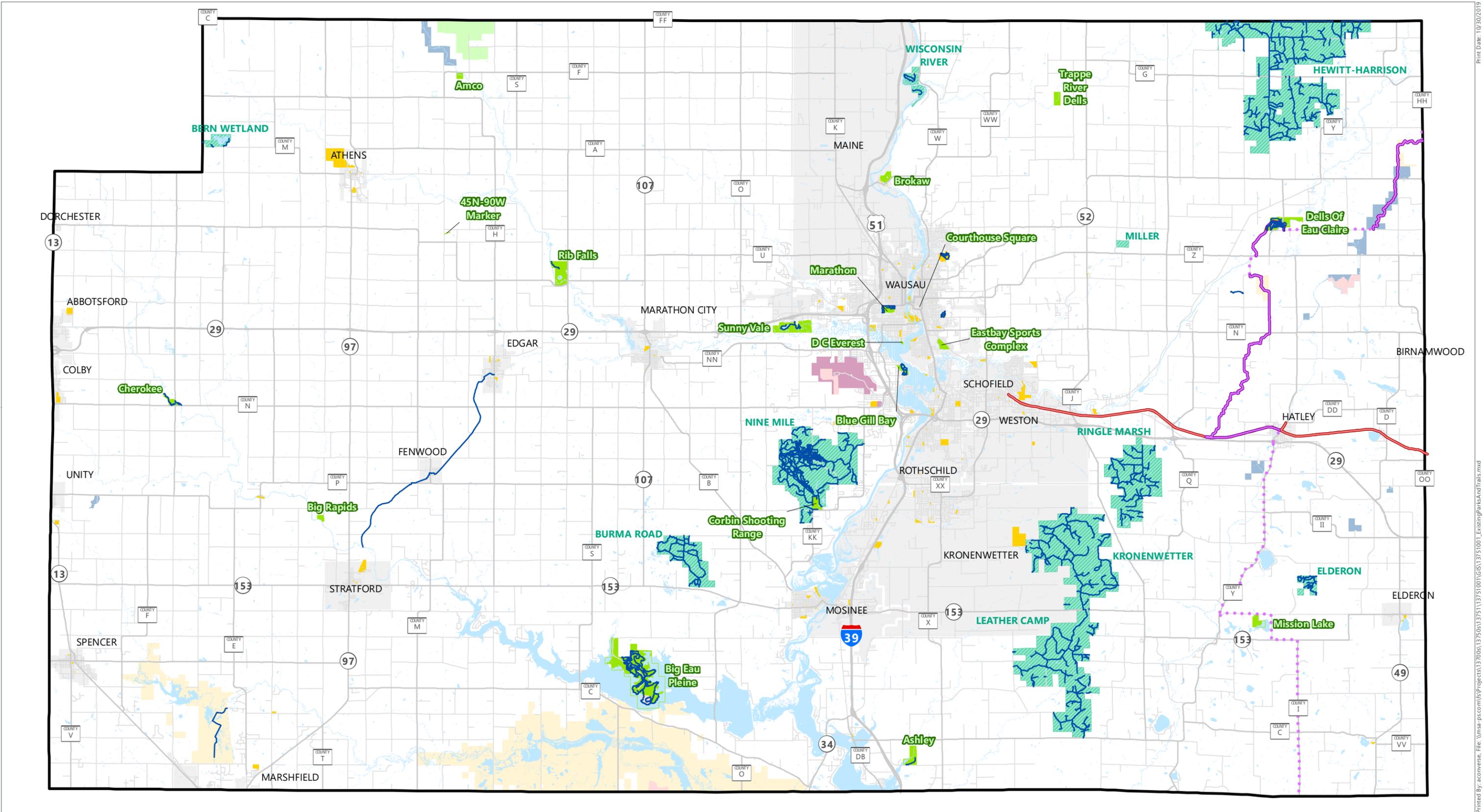
may be advantageous to use bike route signs to tie in all 3 bikeway types together and aid bicyclists in finding their way.

Criteria for Route Selection

There are examples in Wisconsin where bike route signage has been inappropriately used and does not support a real purpose. The following criteria should be considered prior to signing a route:

- ◇ The route provides through and direct travel from one destination to another;
- ◇ The route connects discontinuous segments of shared use paths, bike lanes, and/or bike routes;
- ◇ An effort has been made, if necessary, to adjust traffic control devices to give greater priority to bicyclists on the route, as opposed to other parallel streets. This could include placement of bicycle-sensitive loop detectors where bicyclists stop at signals.

APPENDIX C: SUPPORTING MAPS



Printed By: aconverse; File: \\nasr-ps.com\GIS\Projects\13700\13750\13751\13751001\GIS\13751001_ExistingParksAndTrails.mxd



Data Sources:
 Forest Units/County & Municipal Parks: Marathon County
 City/Village/Roads: Marathon County
 Forestry Trails/Mountain Bay Trail: Marathon County
 Ice Age Trail: NPS
 DNR Managed Lands: WDNR

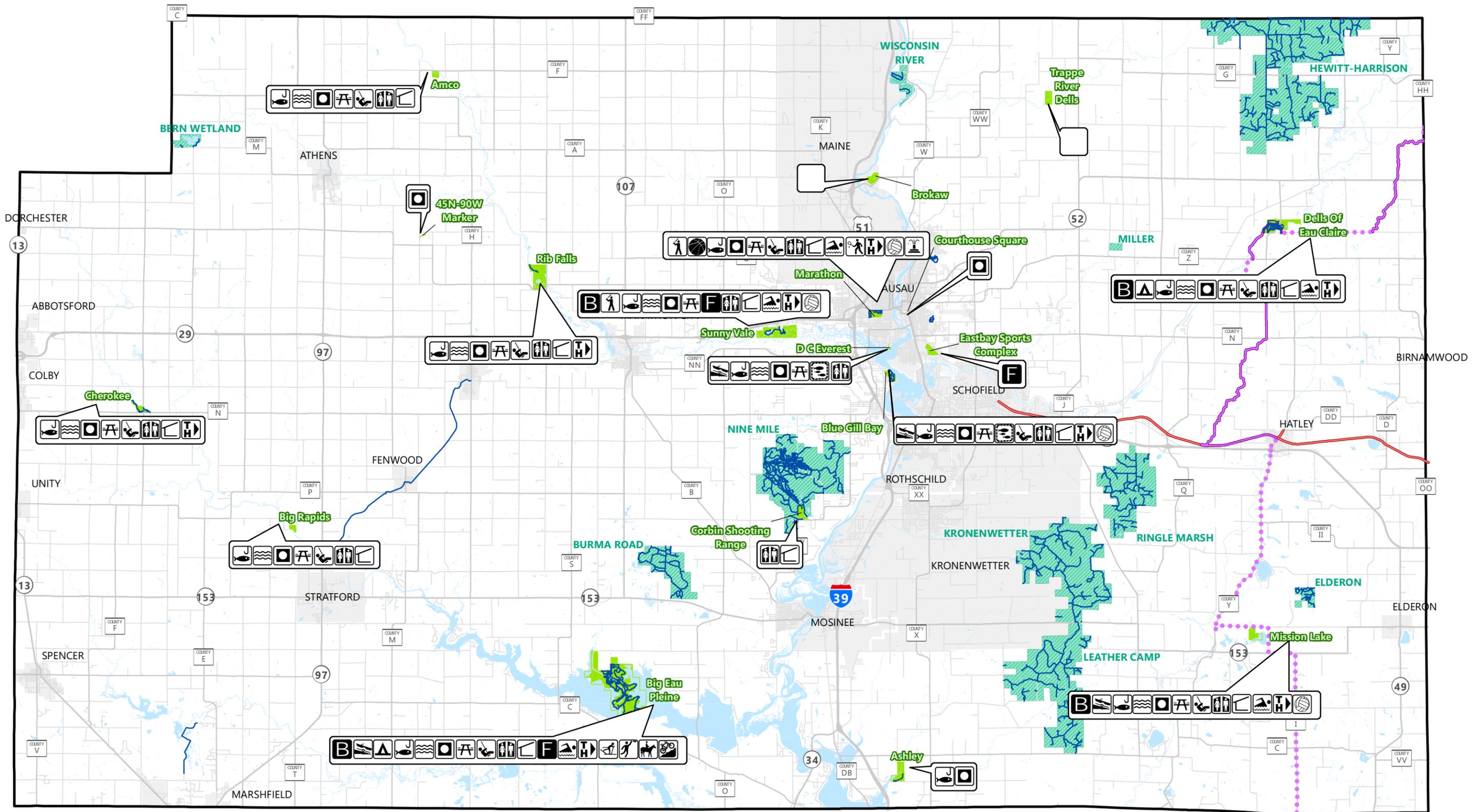
- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Marathon County | Mountain Bay Trail | DNR Managed Lands | Natural Area |
| City/Village | Forestry Trail | Fish Management | Park |
| County Park | Ice Age Trail | Forest | Wildlife Management |
| Forest Unit | Ice Age Trail Connecting Route | | |
| Municipal Park | | | |

Existing Parks and Trails

CORP Update

Marathon County, WI





MSA
 Data Sources:
 Forest Units/County & Municipal Parks: Marathon County
 City/Village/Roads: Marathon County
 Forestry Trails/Mountain Bay Trail: Marathon County
 Ice Age Trail: NPS
 DNR Managed Lands: WDNR

- Marathon County
- City/Village
- County Park
- Forest Unit
- Mountain Bay Trail
- Forestry Trail
- Ice Age Trail
- Ice Age Trail Connection

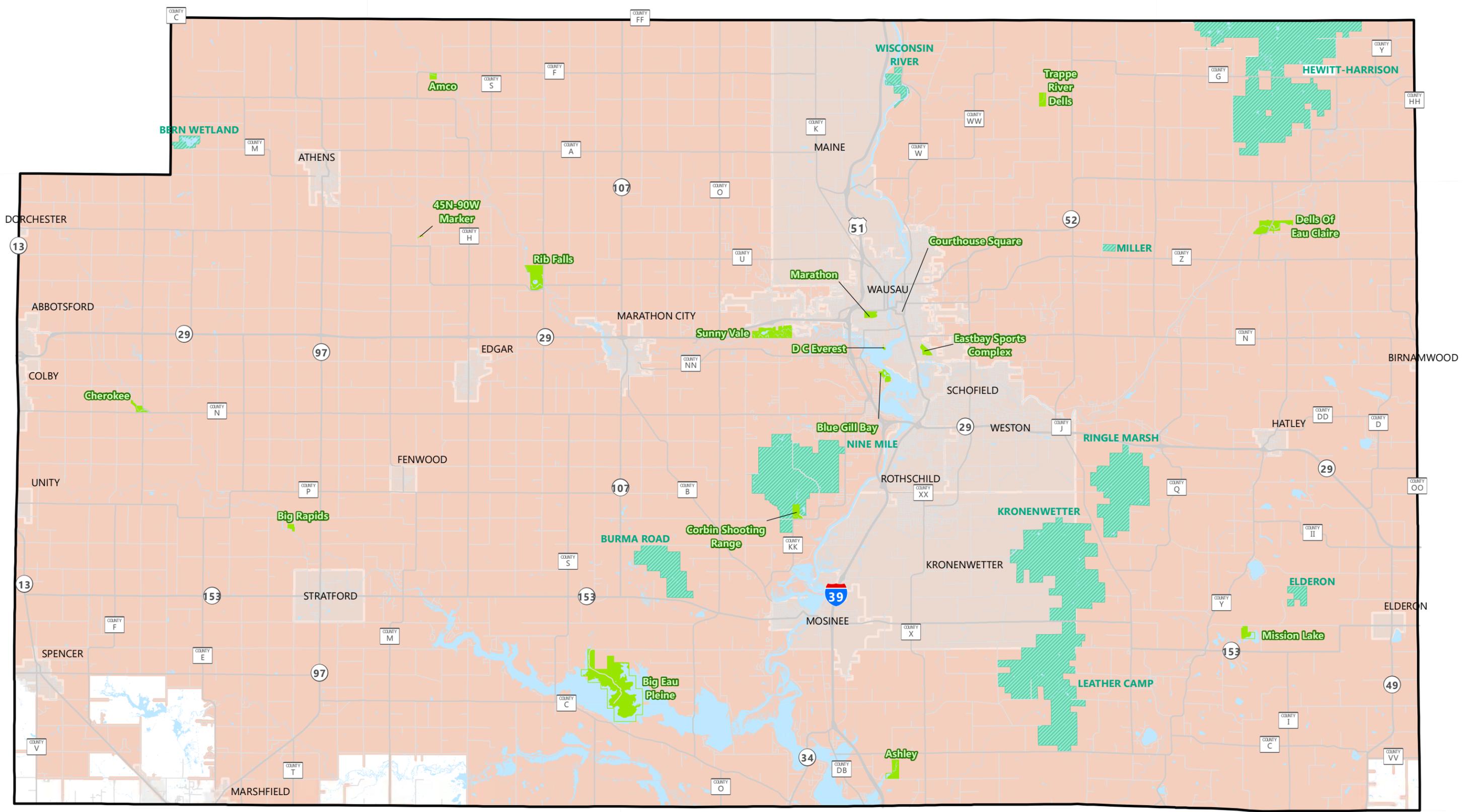
- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Baseball/Softball | Basketball Court | Beach | Boat Landing |
| Camping | Fishing | Water | Open Area |
| Picnic Area | Pier | Playground | Equestrian Trail |
| Shelter | Sports Field | Swimming | Mountain Bike Trail |
| Tennis | Hiking Trail | Volleyball | |
| CC Ski | Disc Golf | Splash Pad | |
| Restrooms | | | |

County Park Amenities

CORP Update

Marathon County, WI





MSA
Data Sources:
Forest Units/County & Municipal Parks: Marathon County
City/Village/Roads: Marathon County
Forestry Trails/Mountain Bay Trail: Marathon County
Ice Age Trail: NPS
DNR Managed Lands: WDNR

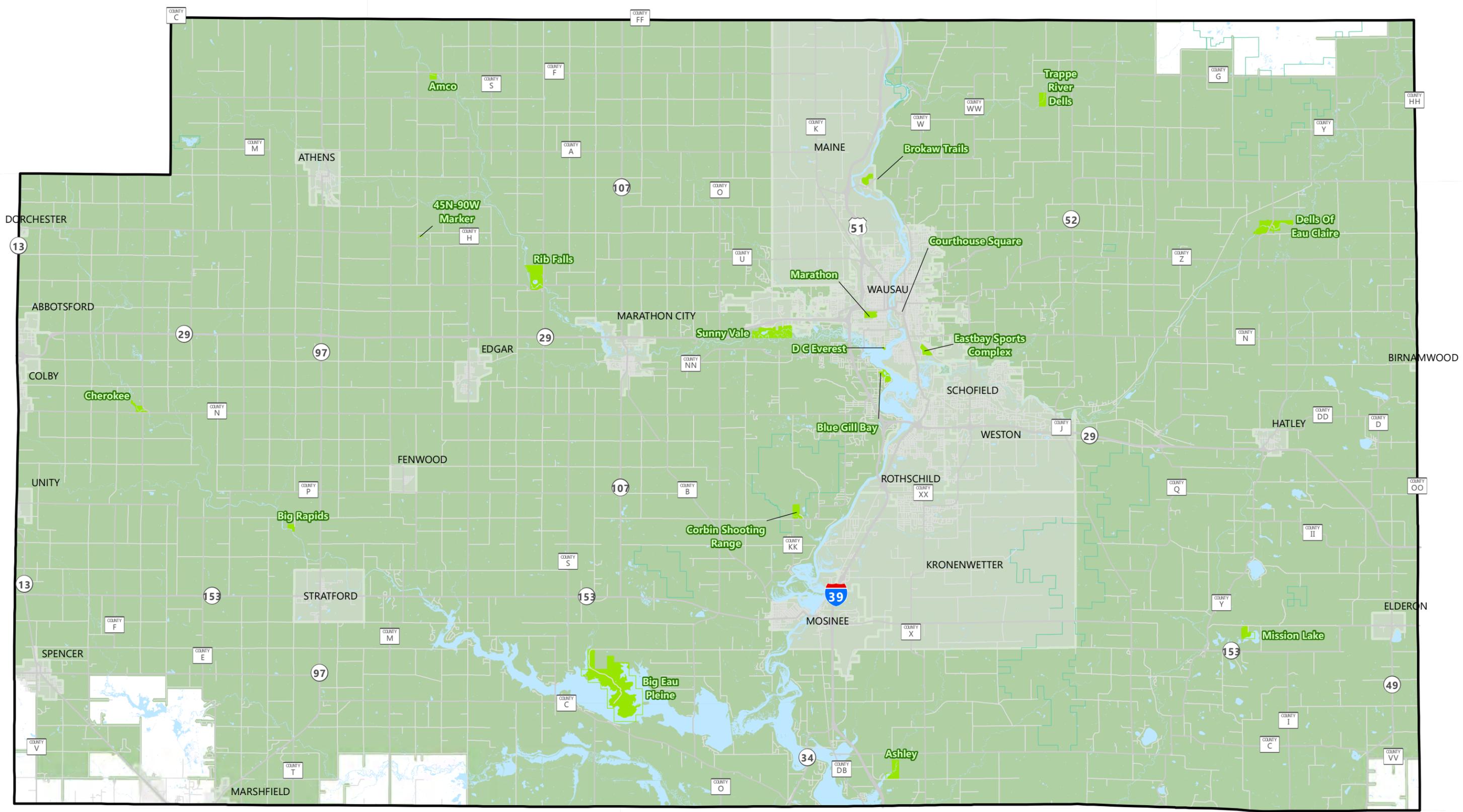
-  Marathon County
-  City/Village
-  County Park
-  Forest Unit
-  Service Area

Existing Park and Forest Service Area

CORP Update

Marathon County, WI





MSA
Data Sources:
Forest Units/County & Municipal Parks: Marathon County
City/Village/Roads: Marathon County
Forestry Trails/Mountain Bay Trail: Marathon County
Ice Age Trail: NPS
DNR Managed Lands: WDNR

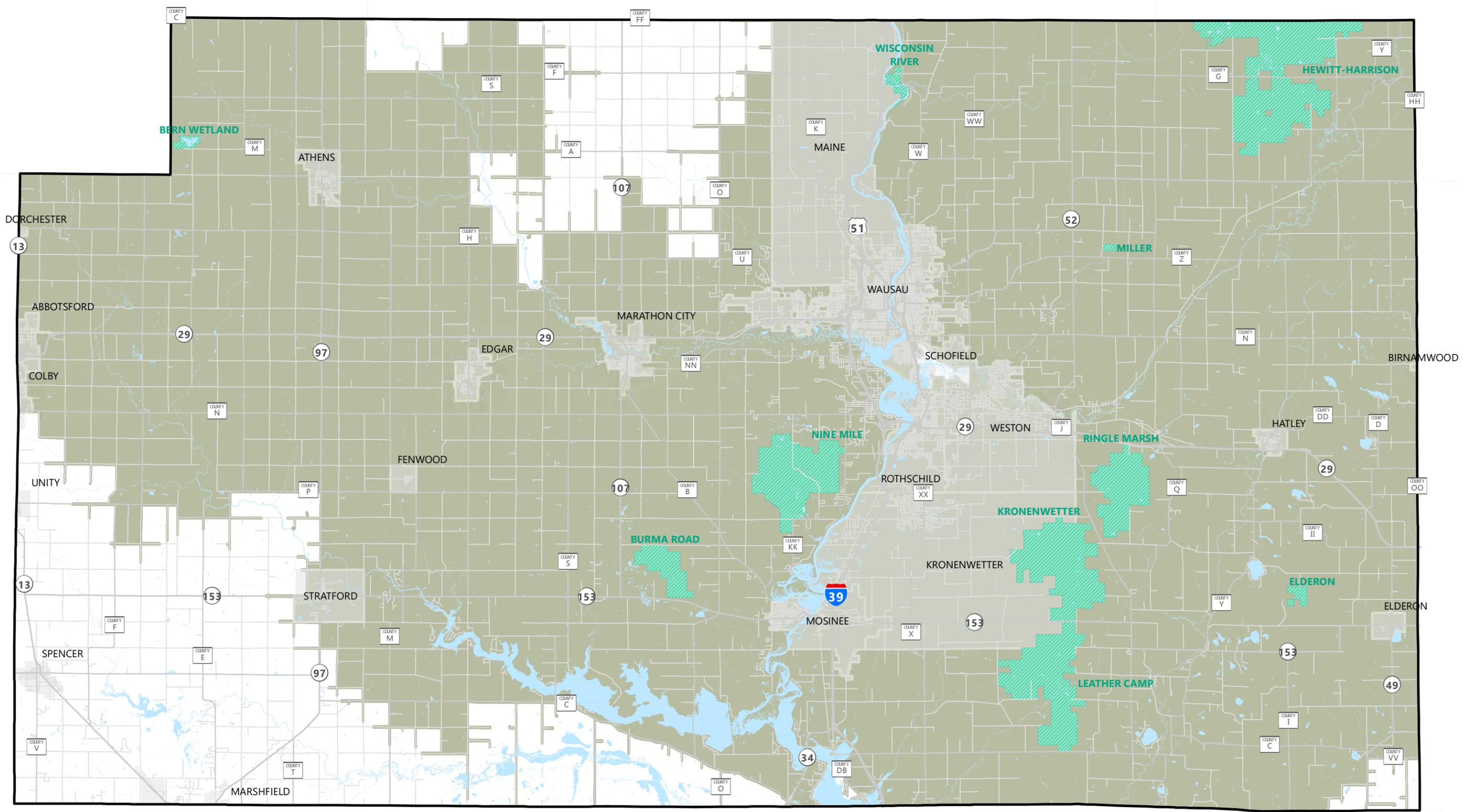


-  Marathon County
-  City/Village
-  County Park
-  Service Area

Existing Park Service Area

CORP Update

Marathon County, WI



MSA
 Data Sources:
 Forest Units/County & Municipal Parks: Marathon County
 City/Village/Roads: Marathon County
 Forestry Trails/Mountain Bay Trail: Marathon County
 Ice Age Trail: NPS
 DNR Managed Lands: WDNR

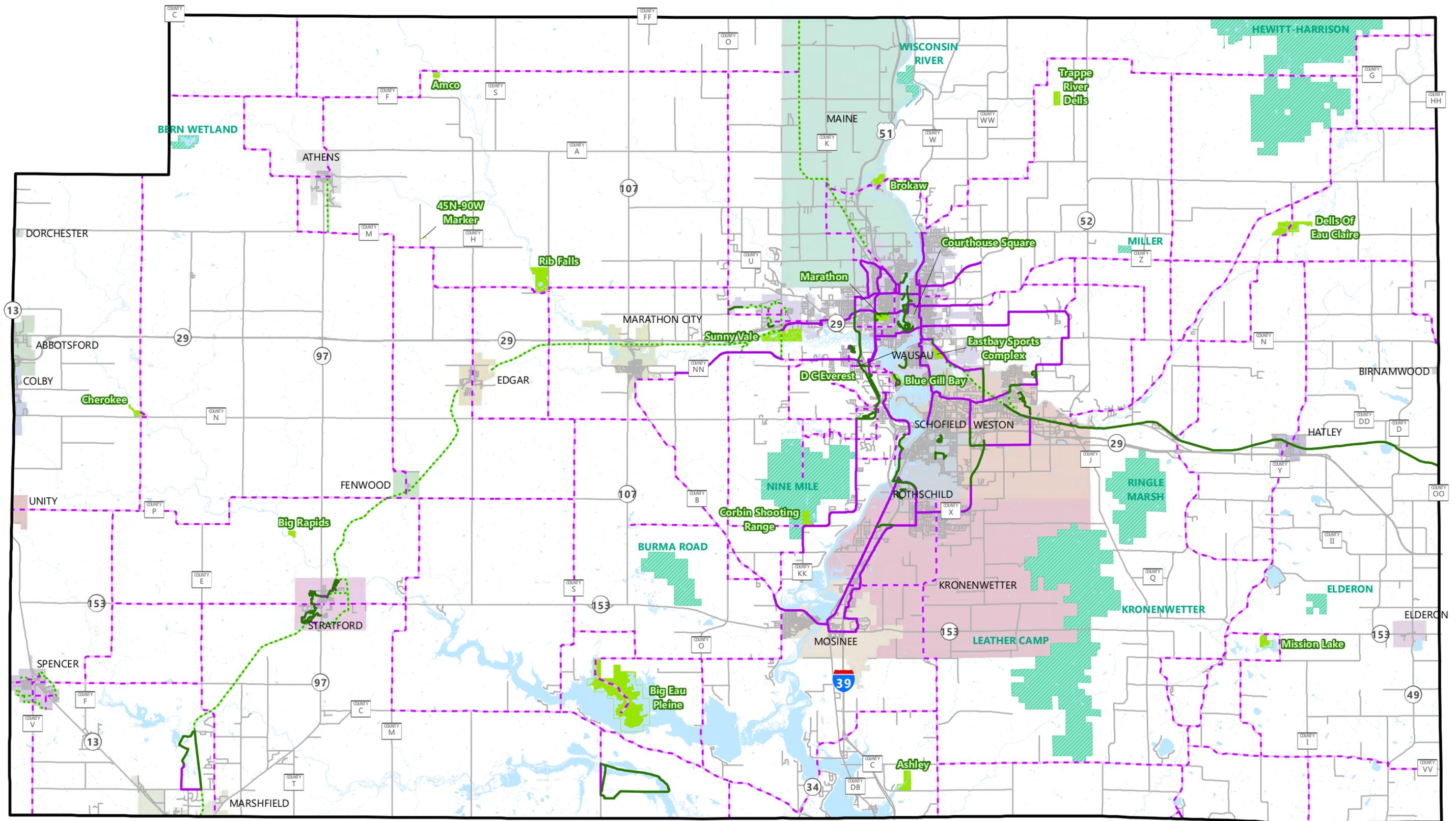


-  Marathon County
-  City/Village
-  Forest Unit
-  Service Area

Existing Forest Unit Service Area

CORP Update

Marathon County, WI



MSA

Data Sources:
 County Parks: Marathon County
 Forest Units: Marathon County
 City/Village: Marathon County
 Roads: Marathon County. Paved inferred from DOT WISLR linework.
 Existing On/Off Road: NCWRPC Regional Bike/Ped Plan (2018)
 Existing Bicycle Routes: Wausau Bicycle Pedestrian Plan (2015)

0 1.75 3.5 Miles

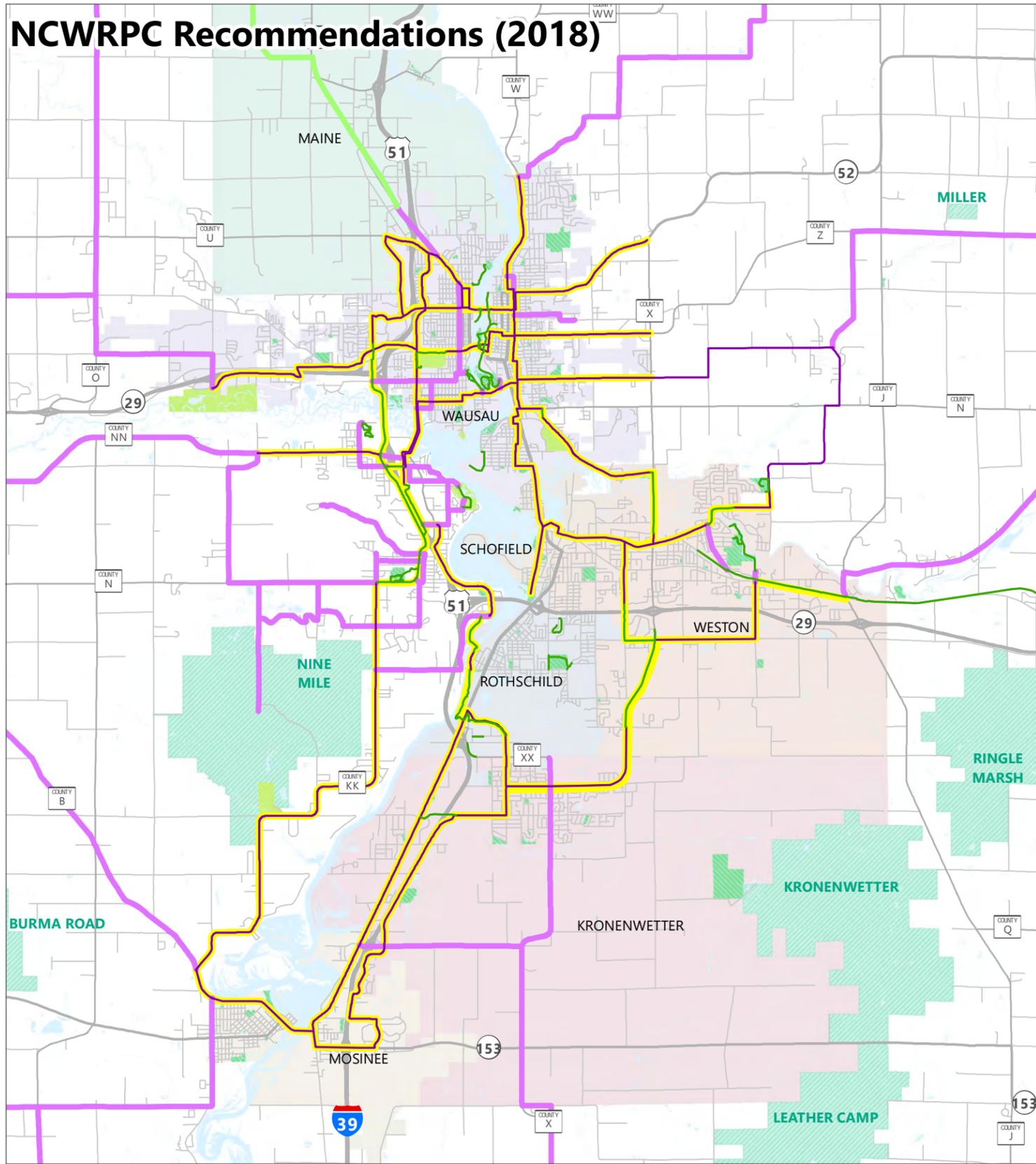
	Marathon County		Paved Road		Proposed Off Road
	City/Village		Existing Off Road		Proposed On Road
	Water Body		Existing On Road		
	County Park				
	Forest Unit				

NCWRPC Proposed Bicycle Infrastructure - 2018

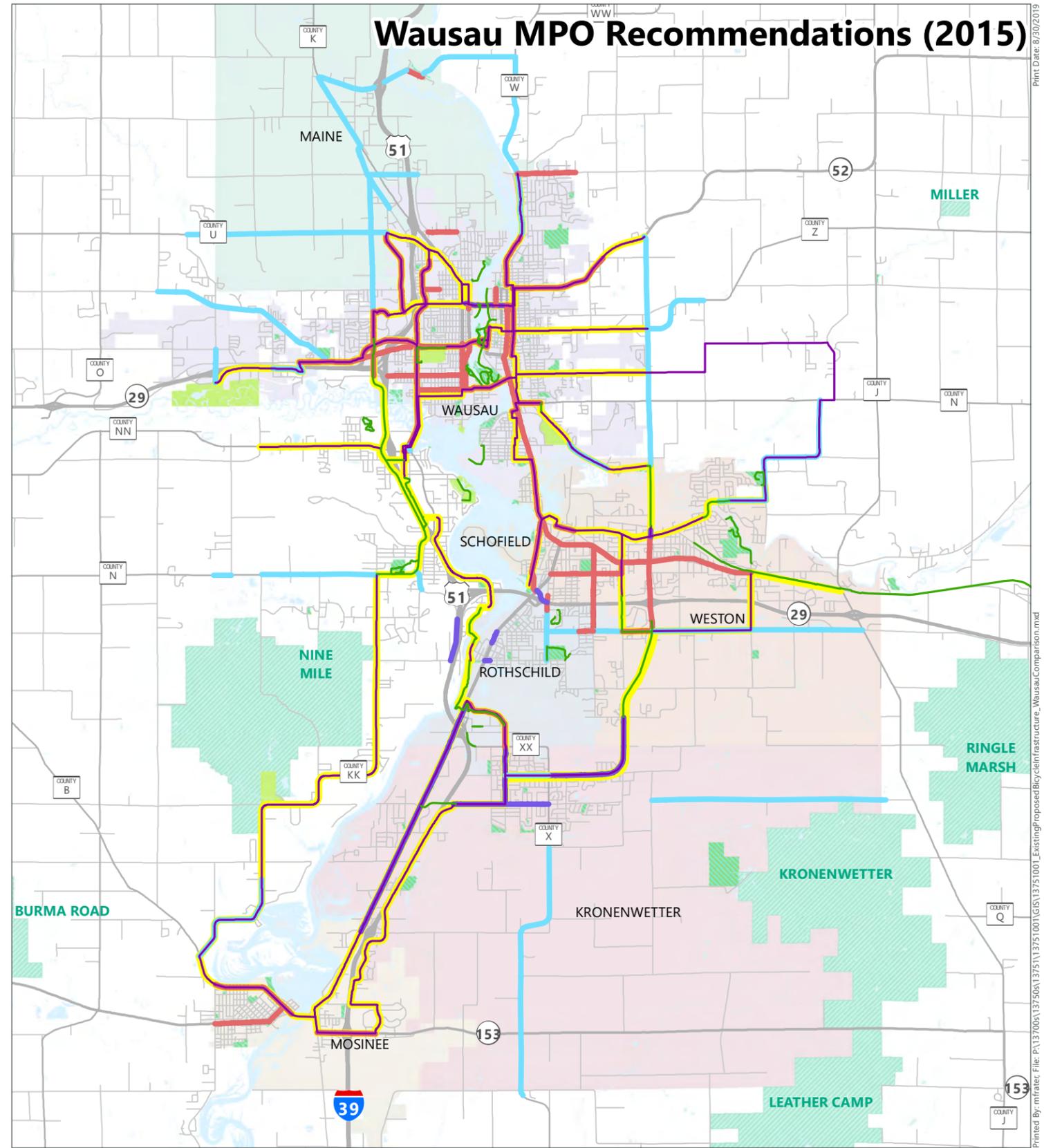
CORP Update

Marathon County, WI

NCWRPC Recommendations (2018)



Wausau MPO Recommendations (2015)



MSA
 Data Sources:
 County Parks: Marathon County
 Forest Units: Marathon County
 City/Village: Marathon County
 Roads: Marathon County
 Existing On/Off Road: NCWRPC Regional Bike/Ped Plan (2018)
 Existing Bicycle Routes: Wausau Bicycle Pedestrian Plan (2015)

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| City/Village | Existing Off Road | NCWRPC 2018 Recommendations | Wausau 2015 Recommendations |
| Municipal Park | Existing On Road | Proposed Off Road | Bike lane |
| County Park | Existing Bicycle Routes | Proposed On Road | Path |
| Forest Unit | | | Paved shoulder |

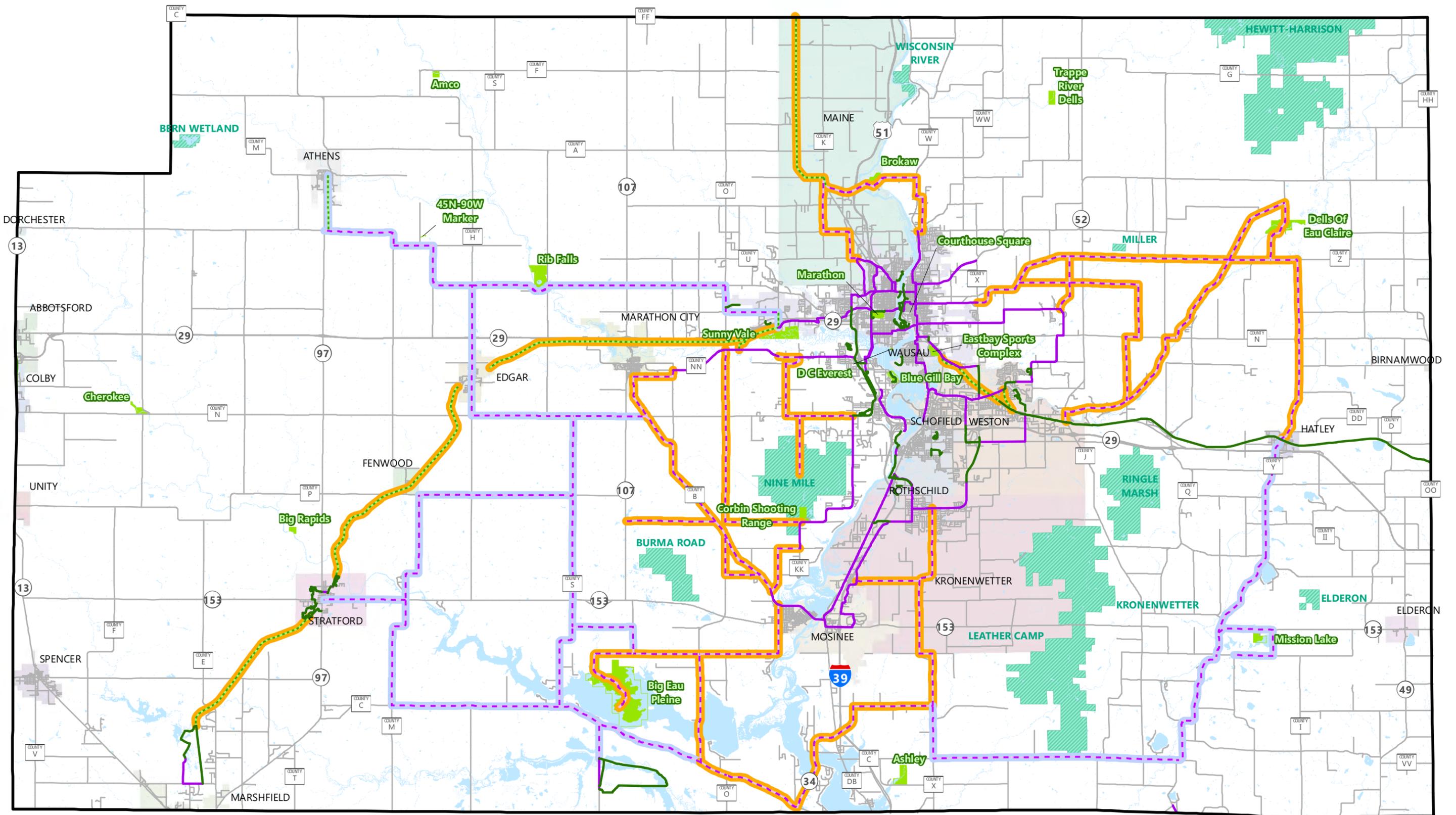


Existing and Proposed Bicycle Infrastructure

CORP Update

Marathon County, WI

Print Date: 8/30/2019
 Printed By: mfrater; File: P:\137009\13750A\137511\3751001\GIS\13751001_ExistingProposedBicycleInfrastructure_WausauComparison.mxd



MSA

Data Sources:
 County Parks: Marathon County
 Forest Units: Marathon County
 City/Village: Marathon County
 Roads: Marathon County. Paved inferred from DOT WISLR linework.
 Existing On/Off Road: NCWRPC Regional Bike/Ped Plan (2018)
 Existing Bicycle Routes: Wausau Bicycle Pedestrian Plan (2015)

0 1.75 3.5 Miles

Marathon County	Paved Road	Proposed On Road
City/Village	Existing Off Road	Proposed Off Road
Water Body	Existing On Road	Proposed Trails Priorities
County Park	Phase 1	Phase 2
Forest Unit		

MSA Phased Route Recommendations

CORP Update
Marathon County, WI