

Resolution No. 24 -14

Resolution to Adopt the 2014-19 Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Lady and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS, Polk County has updated the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the period 2014-2019; and

WHEREAS, said updated plan outlines foreseeable outdoor recreation facility needs of Polk County that can be adequately maintained; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan is necessary as supporting documentation for all county and municipal cost-sharing and grant applications submitted to the State of Wisconsin- Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on June 18, 2014, the Polk County Conservation, Recreation, Development and Education Committee has approved the forwarding of said updated plan to the Polk County Board of Supervisors for adoption.

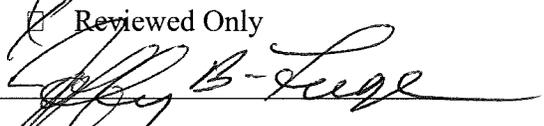
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts and approves the 2014-19 Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan, attached hereto and incorporated herein, as the official policy statement for the development of outdoor recreation programs and facilities in Polk County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan be placed on file for public inspection in the Office of the Polk County Clerk.

Funding Source/ Funding Amount:	Not Applicable.
Date Reviewed as to Appropriations:	Not Applicable
Committee Recommendation as To Appropriation:	Not Applicable
Effective Date:	Upon Passage
Dated Submitted To County Board	July 15, 2014
Submitted By: <i>CPRF</i>	 <i>Dalwood</i> <i>Wig Moutk</i> Dana Frey, County Administrator

Amendment to the Polk County Rec Plan

It is recognized that the Ice Age NST provides some 59 miles of nationally and state designated trail in Polk County for hiking and cross country skiing, and that it is an integral aspect of the county recreational trail network. The Ice Age NST is supported by a triad of the National Park Service (as a unit of the NPS it has a superintendent), the Wisconsin DNR and the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), a non-profit organization with over 3,000 members who provide volunteer support, including thousands of hours of construction and maintenance services, for the Ice Age NST. The IATA Indianhead Chapter, one of its 21 chapters across the state of Wisconsin, is based in Polk County. Some 6.5 miles of the IANST in Polk County are on County Forest Lands. The county considers the trail segments that cross county lands (as well as the rest of the trail in the county) to be of ongoing importance to the recreation plans of the county, and to the integrity of the 1,000 mile trail across Wisconsin that has its western terminus in Interstate Park.

<p>Review By County Administrator:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed Only</p> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Dana Frey, County Administrator</p>	<p>Review By Corporation Counsel:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved as to Form</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed Only</p> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel</p>
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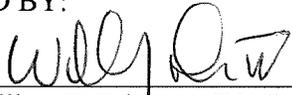
Acknowledgement of County Board Action

Mark As Appropriate:

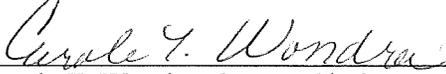
At its regular business meeting on July 15, 2014 the Polk County Board of Supervisors considered and acted on the above resolution, Resolution No. 24-14: Resolution to Adopt the 2014-19 Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan, as follows:

- Adopted by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
- Adopted by majority voice vote. *as amended*
- Defeated by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
- Defeated by majority voice vote
- Action Deferred by Procedural Action, as follows: _____

SIGNED BY:



William F. Johnson, IV, County Board Chairperson

Attest: 

Carole T. Wondra, County Clerk

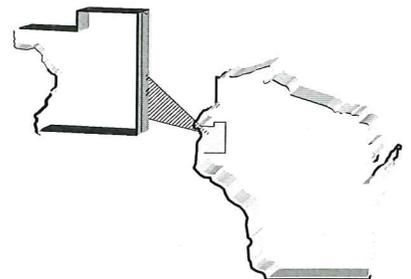
POLK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



2014 – 2019



*Polk County -
Gift of the Glaciers*



**Polk County
Outdoor Recreation Plan
2014-2019**

Polk County Conservation, Development, Recreation and Education (CDRE) Committee:

Kim O'Connell
James Edgell
Dean Johansen
Craig Moriak
Warren Nelson

Dale Wood

Prepared by:

Polk County Forestry and Parks Department
Land Information Department
UW-Extension
CDRE Committee

June, 2014

[Type text]

July 11, 2014

To: Honorable Members of the Polk County Board

RE: Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2104-2019)

The Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan was approved by the Conservation, Development, Recreation and Education Committee at their meeting on June 18th, 2014. Since this meeting however, I have been directed by Deb Peterson, Director of Parks, Forestry, Buildings and Solid Waste to make the following changes to the approved plan:

-Pg 5 Added Goal

Goal: Investigate and establish recreational trail connections. Maintain and rehabilitate existing recreational trails.

✓ -Pg 31 Added Straight Lake Park and Wildlife Area to list

✓ -Pg 41 Straight Lake public access status

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeremy Koslowski

Polk County Forest Administrator/Parks Assistant

ABSTRACT

TITLE: 2014-2019 POLK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
Effective January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2019

SUBJECT: This report assesses the existing recreation system in Polk County, identifies recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating recreation plans, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.

Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids. Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

DATE: June, 2014

AGENCY: Polk County Parks Department
100 Polk County Plaza
Suite 10
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

CONTACT: Debbie Peterson, Director
Polk County Parks, Forestry, Buildings and Solid Waste Department
715-485-9294

I.
**Copy of the adopted resolution approving the comprehensive
outdoor recreation plan**

II. Table of Contents

SECTION III: INTRODUCTION	1
SECTION IV: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	4
SECTION V: DEFINITIONS	8
SECTION VI: PLANNING PROCESS	9
SECTION VII: SUMMARY OF PAST OUTDOOR REC PLANS	10
SECTION VIII: DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION	11
SECTION IX: OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY INVENTORY	25
SECTION X: OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT	47
SECTION XI: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES	56

LIST OF TABLES

1. HISTORICAL POPULATION • 1900 TO 2013	17
2. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY INCORPORATED & UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES	18
3. AGE DISTRIBUTION • 2000 AND 2010	19
4. ACRES IN FARMLAND • 1987 TO 2007.....	20
5. POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY MINOR CIVIL DIVISION • 2000 TO 2030	21
6. EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY • 2005 TO 2010	22
7. RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE CHANGE.....	24
8. CAMPGROUNDS IN POLK COUNTY	29
9. PUBLIC LANDS AVAILABLE FOR HUNTING.....	31
10. NATURE, HIKING, & MULTI-USE TRAILS	32
11. CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS.....	35
12. POLK COUNTY LAKE SUPPLY.....	40
13. LAKES OF 100 ACRES OR MORE.....	41
14. STREAMS IN POLK COUNTY.....	42
15. MOST SUITABLE BOATING & WATER SKIING LAKES	43
16. NUMBER OF LAKES CONTAINING VARIOUS FISH SPECIES.....	43
17. BEACH SUPPLY & ACREAGE	44
18. REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	45

LIST OF MAPS

1.	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	11
2.	WATER RESOURCES	14
3.	LAND COVER.....	16
4.	POPULATION	18
5.	POPULATION & OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES DISTRIBUTION.....	27
6.	OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES IN POLK COUNTY.....	28
7.	BICYCLING CONDITIONS FOR POLK COUNTY.....	34
8.	SNOWMOBILE TRAILS.....	37
9.	POLK COUNTY'S PARK FACILITIES	57

III. INTRODUCTION

The official Polk County Vision Statement is to:

“Improve the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in Polk County.”

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

PLAN PURPOSE

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

Essential to this planning process is the development of the Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Plan is intended to serve as a guide for the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities in Polk County. It is an update of the *2009-2013 Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan* and insures the continuation of an orderly procedure to identify and evaluate the need for additional or improved recreation facilities. The Plan will also provide the Polk County Board, Polk County Conservation, Development, Recreation and Education (CDRE) Committee and other local decision-making agencies and organizations with:

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

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

For instance, adoption of this plan by the Polk County Board, and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space

Program (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP). Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with Polk County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Polk County applies on their behalf.

Non-profit conservation organizations (NCOs) are eligible to participate in the Knowles–Nelson Stewardship Program under the Urban Green Space and Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks programs. NCOs may adopt or carry out recommendations from a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan of the local unit of government in which the NCO project is located or use their land management plans that are required for participation in the stewardship programs.

Statutory Basis

This Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) was prepared pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program. This section serves to “promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain, and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreation facilities and services...”

Submission of this adopted ORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the county and local units of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids for outdoor recreation (Chapter NR 50.06(4), Wisconsin administrative code).

Plan Components

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for Polk County, and all of its municipalities. Background information on Polk County was compiled to develop an understanding of the environmental and social characteristics of the county and their meaning for outdoor recreation. An inventory of existing recreational facilities exists in Section IX of this plan. The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2019. A combination of public input assessments and site visits were utilized to define recreational and open space needs. Goals and objectives were created to guide the direction of recreational planning efforts within Polk County.

Provisions for Updating

An essential characteristic of any planning program is that it be on going and flexible. Periodic updating of the plan is necessary for continued refinement and course correction in the planning program. Some of the planning recommendations will not be accomplished within this five year plan period, and additional recommendations may be added as new recreational activities come into demand or the status of existing facilities change. Review the plan recommendations and action programs on an annual basis or more often if deemed necessary. At the time of this review process the town boards, city and village councils, school districts, and other interested parties

may be notified to request input. Obtain the following information for consideration in updating the plan:

1. Improvements needed to existing facilities.
2. Demand for new facilities.
3. Potential projects to fulfill this demand, and project sponsor.

The Polk County Parks, Forestry, Buildings & Solid Waste Departmental review of this information and evaluation will determine the need for proposed projects based on standards and priorities as outlined in this plan.

Updating the entire plan every five years is necessary to assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the county and to maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

IV. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following sections of this plan demonstrate the increasing demand for outdoor recreational facilities in Polk County. With increases in population, development, and resource use come the risks of damage, depletion, and even destruction of our natural resource base. In light of these conditions and trends, this section provides general recommendations for the conservation, use, and improvement of our recreational system.

POLK COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT MISSION:

To develop, maintain and preserve our park, lake access, and trail systems that will meet the needs of our citizens and future generations; preserve and protect the county's open space, water, historical, natural and economic resources and provide recreation and tourism opportunities that are designed to enhance Polk County residents' quality of life.

The above mission will be accomplished in the context of the County government's overall mission statement:

'The mission of Polk County Government is to serve and represent the public with integrity.'

POLK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS

This outdoor recreation plan for Polk County is designed to provide an achievable program for meeting the county's outdoor recreation needs. Agreement on basic goals is necessary to establish the general direction for developing this program. The overall program recommendations later in this section, the activity-specific recommendations in Section IX, and the facility-specific recommendation should all support the following goals.

- Goal:** Provide a variety of recreational facilities and activities for persons of all ages and abilities in a manner which balances recreation and conservation values, while taking advantage of tourism opportunities:
- Goal:** Promote greater awareness of the parks, trails and natural areas that enhance appreciation of our rural community.
- Goal:** Through the coordinated efforts of private and public recreation interests, protect the resources upon which our recreational activities depend in an efficient and cost-feasible manner.
- Goal:** Involve and engage the public in the development, maintenance, and improvement of our outdoor recreation resources and facilities through volunteerism, advocacy, and friends groups.

Goal: Investigate and establish recreational trail connections. maintain & rehabilitate existing recreational trails

OVERALL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations, as well as those found within Sections IX and XI, are based on generally accepted program activities. The scope of these recommendations is large and may be beyond the immediate financial capability of the county. All recommendations are not intended for implementation during the five-year planning horizon, nor are the recommendations prioritized.

Implementation of plan recommendations will be contingent upon county priorities, feasibility, and available resources and opportunities (e.g., grants, partnerships, available land, staff resources).

However, there are several areas in which the county government is the only agency in the fortunate position of being able to act before many problems develop. Action can be taken in these areas before patterns of use and development are fixed to such an extent that pressures make change almost impossible.

Programmatic Actions

1. **Balancing Demands.** Meeting the recreation demands of county residents should be given preference over demands originating from outside the county, though potential economic and tourism benefits should be considered in decision-making. Care will be taken to balance and provide for both passive and active recreational needs.
2. **Coordination with Private Enterprise.** Polk County will not unduly compete with, but will cooperate with private enterprise in the provision of its outdoor recreation amenities. Private enterprise is better suited to provide many specialized facilities to the public (e.g., golf clubs, marinas). Polk County should continue to provide a leadership role in the protection of our natural resources to ensure commercial recreation interests do not deplete or unduly threaten the quality natural resources upon which we all depend.
3. **Program Development.** With increasing population, the demand for and use of county park facilities is also increasing. Greater operational funding may be required to prevent deterioration of existing facilities, while additional new facilities will be needed in the future. However, in developing a recreation program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the county can afford or is willing to pay. Planned recreational system improvements should be prioritized and integrated into a county multi-year capital improvements program, subject to annual review.
4. **Leverage Available Resources.** Polk County should take full advantage of state and federal financial and technical aid programs in meeting recreational needs. The county's outdoor recreation plan should be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for grant funding. Partnerships with local communities, private enterprise, land owners, and other interested parties should be promoted and fully explored in order to maximize all available resources.

When opportunities arise, work with Polk County Historical Society to integrate sites, events, and materials of historical interest into recreational programming.

4. **Public Outreach.** Polk County Parks Department will continue to publish and distribute informational materials on the county's outdoor recreation amenities through the county website, frequently updated brochures, periodic press releases to local media, and working in conjunction with the Polk County Information Center. In addition, the County has completed an interactive recreational viewer for users to access information about all County recreational opportunities at: <https://www.co.polk.wi.us/recreationviewer/>

Land Use Actions

1. **Coordination with Other Plans.** It is imperative that outdoor recreational programs are consistent with other planning efforts and related regulations, including the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Polk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, soil and water conservation plans, and applicable state and federal plans. Planning and official mapping can be used to protect valued resources and potential future park sites while mitigating potential land use conflicts. As part of the subdivision review process, encourage the dedication of open spaces and/or public park lands and encourage subdivision design which prevents the fragmentation of resources.
2. **Scenic Preservation.** The county's rural scenic quality is a core component of maintaining a quality outdoor recreation experience. Applicable regulations should be enforced to prevent unsightly visual intrusions. Quarry sites should be reclaimed and restored once extraction operations are terminated. Past county outdoor recreation plans have recommended the development of a scenic easement preservation program to protect those key areas offering these greatest visual enjoyment.
3. **Waterfront Protection.** Continue to enforce applicable county regulations which mitigate water use conflicts and protect our surface water resources. Classify the county's lakes and integrate related regulatory measures into applicable ordinances. If possible, a minimum of 10% of the shore of a particular lake or impoundment should be preserved in wild state. Continue to require the dedication of public access to surface waters as part of waterfront development proposals. Prevent development in floodplain areas and promote programs which prevent streambank erosion. Work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, lake associations and lake districts to protect water quality and coordinate water-related recreational activities.

POLK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Polk County and most of its municipalities have developed their unique municipal comprehensive land use plans. As part of the county's planning effort, a series of focus group meetings were held around the county to obtain input on issues facing the county and the desired vision for the county's future. Some comments from these meetings include:

- Different areas of Polk County are facing different growth-related issues.

- The county needs to protect our natural resources, lakes, shorelands, and contiguous areas of forests and wildlife habitat.
- Tourism and nature-based tourism are growing in importance.
- The county has many recreational opportunities.

V. DEFINITIONS

ADLP- Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

CDRE- Polk County Conservation, Development, Recreation and Education Committee

LWCF- Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

NCO- Non-profit Conservation Organization

ORP- Outdoor Recreation Plan

SCORP- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

SWOT- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

UGS- Urban Green Space Program

URGP- Urban Rivers Grant Program

WisDNR- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

VI. PLANNING PROCESS

The Polk County Conservation, Development, Recreation, and Education Committee (CDRE) and Polk County Department of Parks, Forestry, Buildings, and Solid Waste were the primary sources of input for the development of the Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Information about existing facilities and programs and the condition of the facilities was gathered through interviews with the CDRE Committee, Department personnel, and through on-site inspection of the facilities. Additional data was obtained from previous studies and inventories, published documents, and outdoor recreation plans that were completed for Polk County.

The Polk County CDRE Committee will be responsible for providing recommendations to the Polk County Board of Supervisors that ensure that the implementation of the Plan is consistent with the Plan's goals, objectives, and policies.

Plan Amendments

This Plan may be amended as necessary to meet community needs and address changing conditions to prolong the effectiveness of the parent Plan. Plan amendments should require formal approval of the Polk County Board of Supervisors after consideration of an advisory recommendation from the Polk County CDRE Committee.

VII. SUMMARY OF PAST OUTDOOR REC PLANS

Polk County has been involved with outdoor recreation plans since the 1990s when ‘An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Polk County’ was compiled. Later, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission updated several plans up to the year 2013.

Additional plans and laws that affect outdoor recreation in Polk County are referenced below:

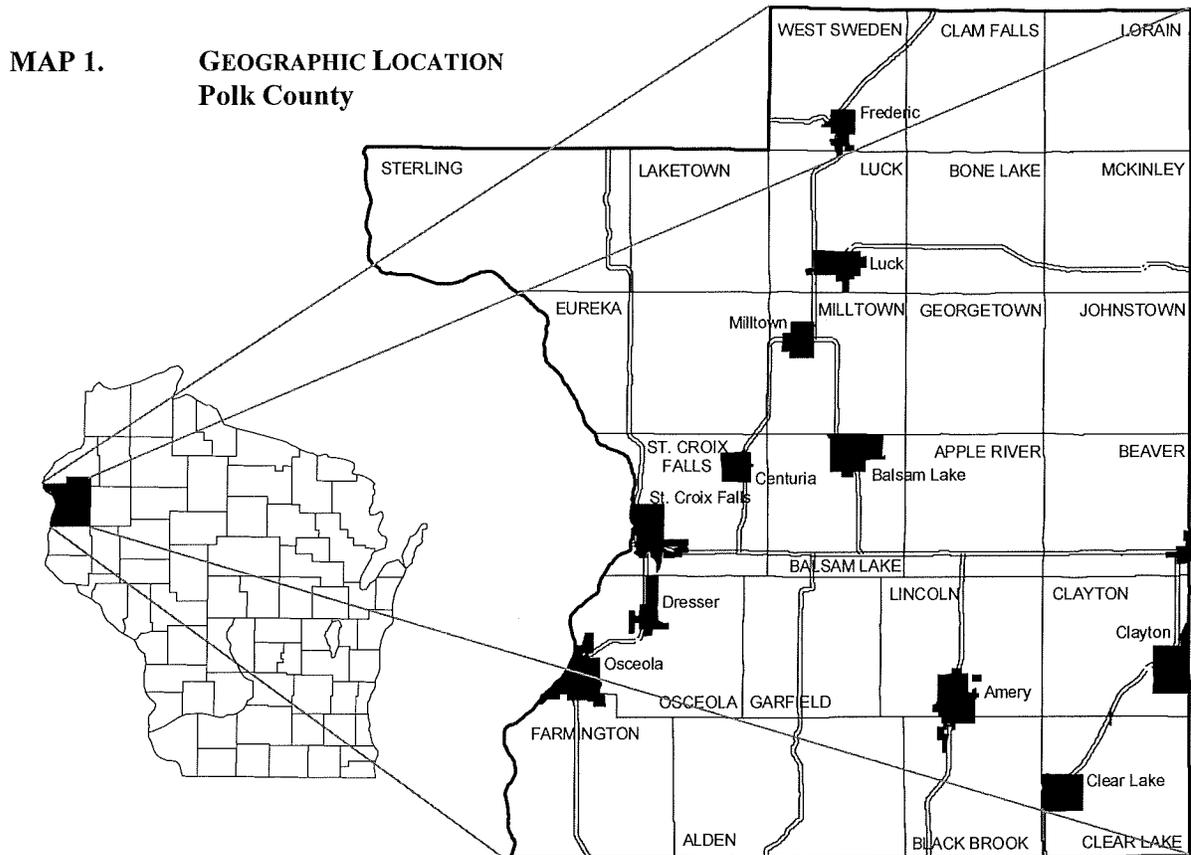
- *Polk County Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2009-2029*
- *Polk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020*
- *Polk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2012-2016*
- *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016*
- *State Trails Network Plan*
- *Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056*
- *Complete Streets Law*

VIII. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION

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

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Polk County is located in west-central Wisconsin along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border (see Map 1). The county has a total area of 619,520 acres, or 968 square miles, of combined land and water area. The county is bordered on the west by the St. Croix River, the north by Burnett County, the east by Barron County and the south by St. Croix County. The Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area borders Polk County to the south and west.



Polk County is comprised of all or parts of 36 civil divisions, consisting of 24 towns, 10 villages, and 2 cities. This includes the Village of Turtle Lake that lies almost exclusively in Barron County. The Village of Balsam Lake, population 1,075, is the county seat. The largest community is the City of Amery that has 2,919 people.

The climate of Polk County is classified as mid-latitude continental. Warm humid summers and cold snowy winters are the main characteristics. The average monthly temperature ranges from 15 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 73 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Annual precipitation averages 32 inches, with approximately two-thirds of this occurring as rain. Seasonal snowfall ranges from 12 to 75 inches.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

Local areas of Polk County are part of larger geographic structures sharing some common characteristics or connections. Physically, the county is part of the "Central Plain" and "Western Upland" physiographic regions of Wisconsin. The Central Plain region extends southeasterly from northern Polk County to south-central Wisconsin and then northeasterly to Marinette County and the Michigan border. The Western Upland region extends parallel to the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers from Polk County to the Illinois border and to the east for 30 to 75 miles.

Surface Geology

The surface geology of Polk County is primarily the result of glacial deposition over bedrock. The modern landscape was most strongly influenced by the glaciers that invaded the county from about 25,000 to 15,000 years ago from the north and northwest and by a glacier that moved into the county from the west about 12,300 years ago. Since the last period of glacial activity, the landscape has been further sculpted by naturally occurring and man-induced erosion and drainage activity.

During the last major glacial advance, the Wisconsin stage, ice covered all of Polk County except the southeast corner. This glacial activity has left thick glacial deposits that form the primary geologic characteristics of the county.

Landforms produced by glacial activity include a diverse landscape ranging from broad, nearly level glacial outwash plains to rough, broken glacial moraines and areas of pitted outwash. The moraines are rough and broken, having abrupt hills and short, steep ridges near depressions, many of which have no outlets. Between the moraines, the landscape is more nearly level, especially in the central part of the county. Large outwash plains, formed from material carried and deposited by glacial melt water, are mostly level or undulating but in some areas are also pitted with depressions. Lakes, ponds, and bogs are common in the depressions in the moraines and areas of pitted outwash.

The most conspicuous glacial features of Polk County are two terminal moraines which extend from the southwest to the northeast. Terminal moraines mark the furthest advance of a lobe of glacial ice. Moraines are generally rough hills with numerous undrained depressions. These depressions, or kettles, were caused by voids left when ice blocks buried in the drift melted.

Many of these kettles in Polk County are presently small lakes or swamps. The eastern-most terminal moraine extends from New Richmond through Clear Lake and on to Turtle Lake. The other terminal moraine extends from a point east of St. Croix Falls to the northeast corner of the county, near Indian Creek. Between these moraines, the surface is gently rolling to level with poorly developed drainage and many lakes.

The land southeast of the eastern terminal moraine is covered with drift from earlier glacial activity. Because this drift is older, it has been thinned out and leveled off by erosion over a longer period of time. Subsequently, this area is characterized by slopes that are long and gentle, and well developed drainage. The northwestern portion of the county is level sand and gravel deposits. This area, which is mostly forested, is known as the "Pine Barrens." Throughout the eastern part of the county are scattered small areas of nearly level and gently sloping glacial lacustrine plains. This area was formed through the sedimentation of old glacial lakes. The St. Croix River Valley, along the western extreme of the county, was a major glacial drainage way as the glaciers melted and receded.

Topography

Generally, the topography of Polk County is moderately rolling, becoming increasingly more rugged in the western portion of the county, particularly in the St. Croix River valley. Surface features have been formed or modified by two distinct periods of glaciation. Pitted glacial outwash covers much of the county, resulting in many lakes, wetlands, and areas of uneven topography. A series of glacial end moraines traverse the county from southwest to northeast. The area between the moraines is quite level and much of the county's best agricultural land is found here.

A band of trap rock (an intrusive igneous rock) is exposed at several points between Dresser and the Clam Falls area. Exposed dolomite limestone is found in the southwest part of the county, and the exposed sandstone bedrock in the area known as The Dalles of the St. Croix is largely responsible for the scenic beauty in this area.

Local relief in Polk County is over 600 feet, ranging from 680 feet above mean sea level at the St. Croix River on the county's western extreme to over 1,400 feet in the north-central and eastern areas.

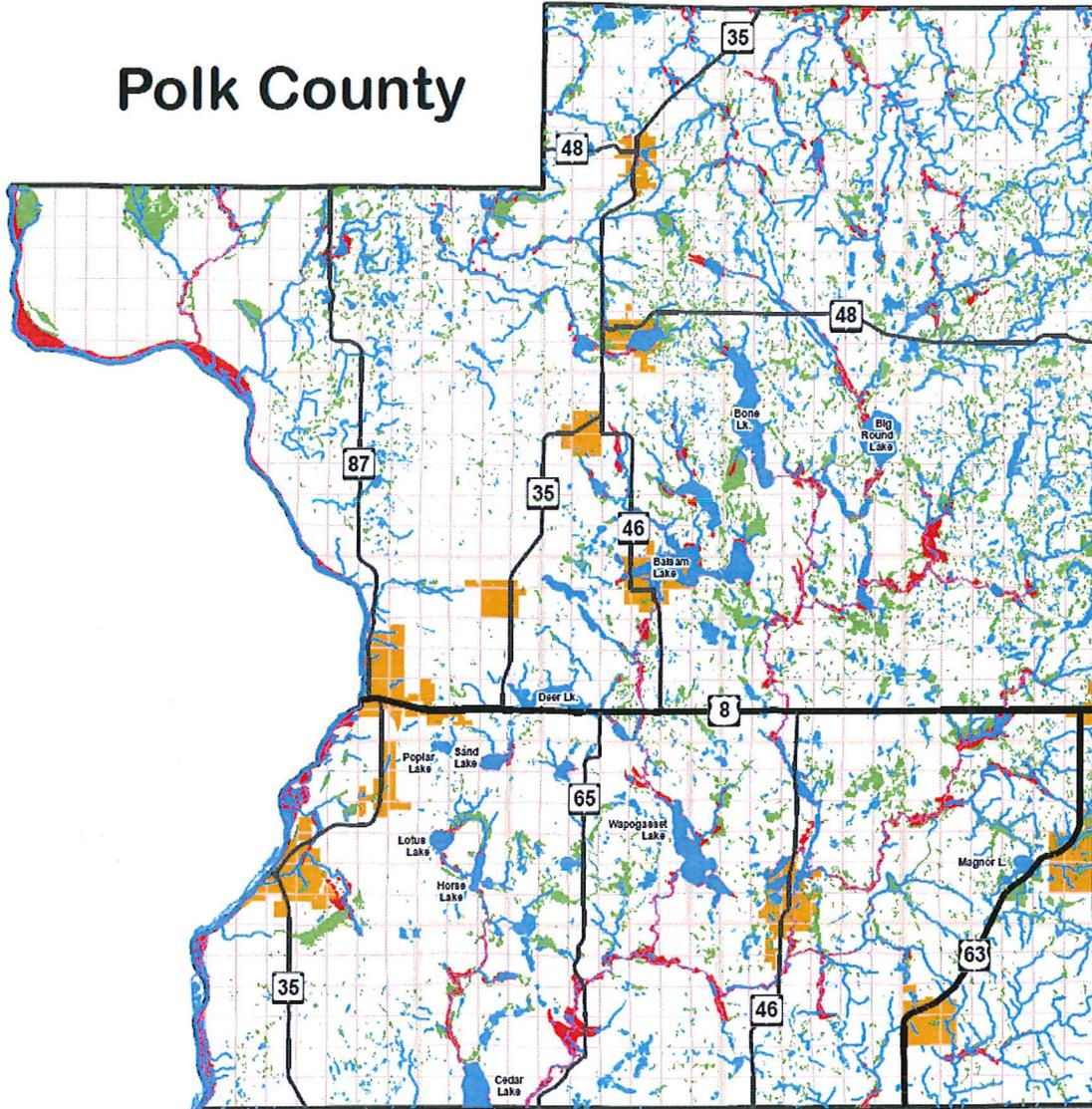
Hydrology

Polk County has a total surface water area of 22,626 acres consisting of 437 lakes (20,900 acres) and about 200 miles of rivers and streams. These surface water resources of Polk County are shown in Map 2.

Polk County is almost entirely within the St. Croix River Basin, with the exception of a small part of the southeast corner of the county lying within the Chippewa River Basin. The St. Croix River is the county's most significant surface water feature, bordering the county along the length of its western border. The River has been designated by Congress as the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

MAP 2.

Polk County



Logo Courtesy of:
Polk County Tourism

WATER RESOURCES

-  River and Streams
-  Lakes and Rivers
-  Floodplain (100 Year)
-  Wetlands

Sources: FEMA and WisDNR 2010



Miles



Prepared by: County of Polk, Wisconsin, Department of Land Information, Division of Geographic Information Systems

Natural Resources

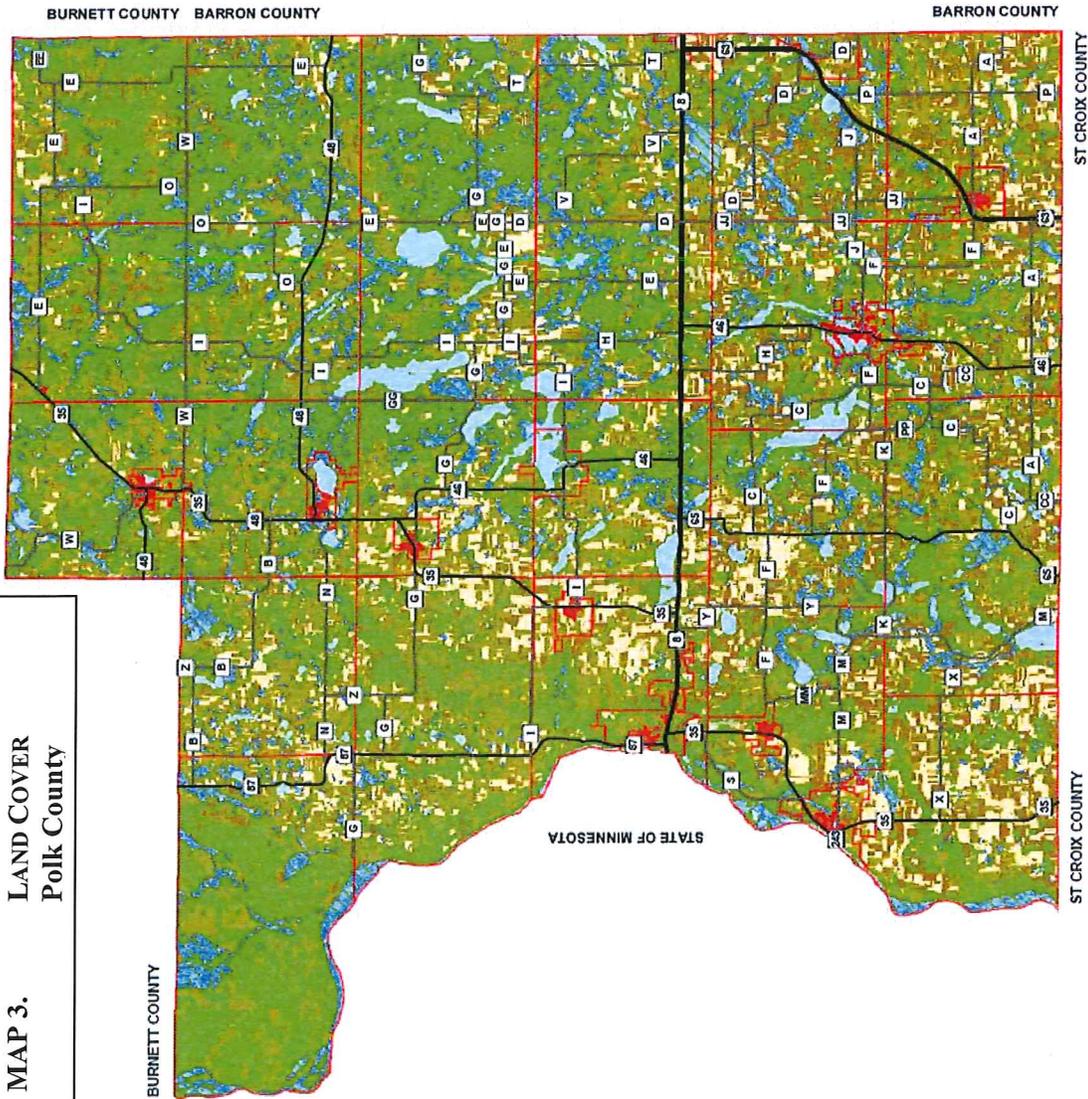
Polk County has a total area of 619,520 acres (including almost 23,000 acres of lakes and streams). While agriculture predominates the county's landscape, forest lands are the second most extensive land cover in the county, see Map 3. Assessed forest acreage increased by roughly 15,000 acres, or over 23 square miles, between 1990 and 2007, which is an eleven percent increase. In 2007, the combined assessed acres in forestland amounted to 154,024 acres or thirty-one percent of the total assessed acreage for the county. Much of the growth in forested acreage can probably be attributed to agricultural land being enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program as certain aspects of the program encourage tree planting. There also has likely been a conversion of some marginal farmland and other open lands to forest over the years.

The above assessed forest acreage does not include the public natural resources lands owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Polk County or a town. The largest concentration of these public lands are located in the Town of Sterling with 19,023 acres in 2003. The Town of Lorain had 5,469 acres of public natural resource lands in 2003, closely followed by the Town of Johnstown with 4,129 acres. The following towns had between 1,100 and 2,600 acres of public resource lands in 2003: McKinley, Bone Lake, Clam Falls, Osceola, Beaver, and Farmington.

The forests of Polk County are predominantly of the Northern Forest type of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees. Northwest Polk County also has unique oak and Pine Barrens found on out washed sands. The forests of the county have a high potential for a multitude of forest-based recreation activities. The addition of more organized recreational developments on the county's public lands is also possible if desired or needed in the future.

A variety of wildlife can be found throughout Polk County. Species include black bear, whitetail deer, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, beaver, fox, ruffed grouse, pheasant, muskrat, snowshoe hare, and to a lesser extent, mink and otter. In addition, the county's 22,626 acres of lakes and 200 miles of rivers and streams hold variety of game fish, such as Muskie, northern, walleye, bass, catfish, and pan fish. There are approximately 90 miles of trout streams in the county with varied size and bag limits, so as not to jeopardize the existence of the resource.

MAP 3.
LAND COVER
Polk County



LAND COVER

Polk County
Wisconsin



LAND COVER

- BARREN
- FORAGE
- FOREST
- GRASSLAND/SHRUBS
- OPEN WATER
- ROW CROPS
- URBAN
- WETLAND

- US HIGHWAY SHIELD
- STATE HIGHWAY SHIELD
- COUNTY ROAD SHIELD
- US HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD



Created by:
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Geographic Information System
100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 130
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Phone: 715.485.5245
www.doa.wisconsin.gov

This drawing is the result of a compilation and reproduction of land records as they appear in various Polk County Offices. The drawing should be used for reference purposes only. Polk County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the 2010 Wisconsin Department of Administration and the US Census, the population of Polk County is 44,205. This is a 2,886 person, or 7.0% increase, from 2000 (see Table 1), less than half the growth rate of the 1990s. In fact, during the 1990s, Polk County was the eighth fastest growing county in the State of Wisconsin based on percentage of population change. Eighty-eight percent of the county's population increase during the 1990s was from the net in-migration of new residents.

TABLE 1.
HISTORIC POPULATION • 1900 TO 2008
Polk County

Year	Population	Numerical Change	Percent Change
1900	17,801	--	--
1910	21,367	3,566	20.0
1920	26,870	5,503	25.8
1930	26,567	-303	-1.1
1940	26,197	-370	-1.4
1950	24,944	-1,253	-4.8
1960	24,968	24	0.1
1970	26,666	1,698	6.8
1980	32,351	5,685	21.3
1990	34,773	2,422	7.5
2000	41,319	6,546	18.8
2010	44,205	2,886	7.0
2013	44,213	8	0

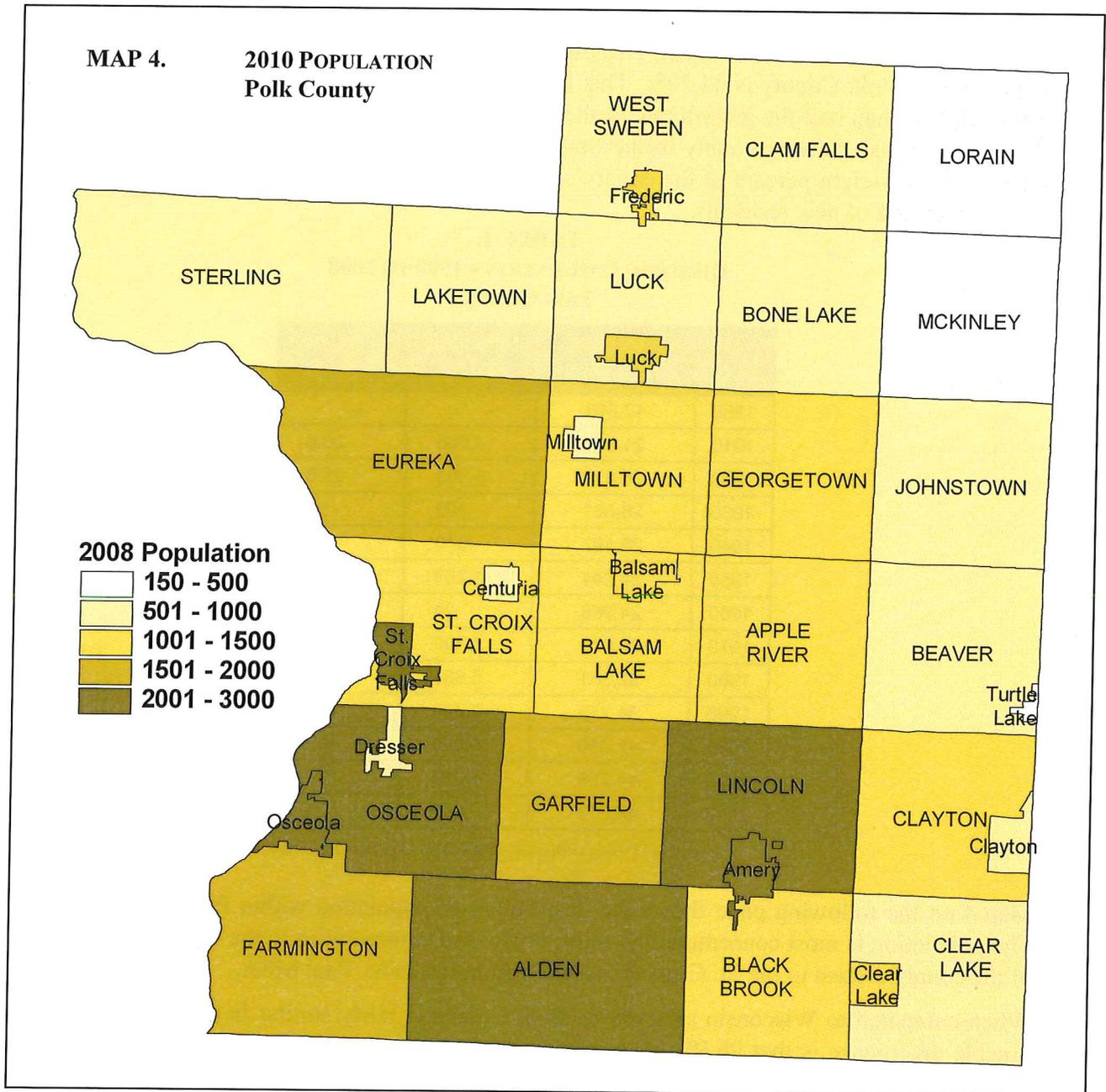
source: U.S. Census Bureau, WisDOA 2013 preliminary estimate

Map 4 on the following page shows the distribution of population within Polk County in 2010. The population is most concentrated in those towns and communities in the southwestern portion of the county closest to the St. Croix River and Minneapolis/St. Paul MSA.

When compared to Wisconsin as a whole, Polk County is fairly similar in demographics. One notable divergence is that 96.8% of its population is white (non-Hispanic), compared to a state average of 86.2%.¹ The county is also quite rural as a whole, with 48.4 persons per square mile in 2010, less than half the state average number of persons per square mile of 105.

For the first time, in the 1960s, the percentage urban residents surpassed the percentage rural farm residents (see Table 2), with rural non-farm residents surpassing rural farm residents about 1970. The number of rural farm residents continued to decrease, constituting only 5.6 percent of the county's population in 2000, a decrease from 43.3 percent in 1960. Since 1960, the urban population has overall remained quite stable as a proportion of the overall population, while the percentage of the total, non-farming population choosing rural living has increased tremendously.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. State and County Quick Facts – Polk County, Wisconsin. <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55/55095.html>>.



**TABLE 2.
Population Distribution by Incorporated and Unincorporated Communities • 1950 to 2010
Polk County**

Area	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Incorporated	8,085	8,916	9,933	11,704	12,888	14,829	15,269
Unincorporated	16,859	16,052	16,733	20,647	21,885	26,490	28,843
% Incorporated	32.4	35.7	37.2	36.2	37.1	35.9	34.6

source: U.S. Census Bureau, WisDOA Demographic Services 2013

Table 3 below compares the age and sex distribution of Polk County in 2000 and 2010. Population increased in every age group except 0-4, 20-24, and 25-34 between 1980 and 2000. The middle-age groups (35-60) increased substantially during this timeframe, with a very large population increase of over 100 percent in the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups. In 2000, the median age of Polk County residents was 38.7 years, an increase from 31.4 years from 1980. It is clear that the national trend of an aging population is reflected in Polk County. Large numbers of people will be achieving retirement age over the next 20 years and may impact the type of recreational amenities offered.

TABLE 3.
AGE DISTRIBUTION • 2010
Polk County

Age Group	Males	Females	Total	% Change from 2000
0-14	4,341	4,121	8,462	-3%
15-19	1,534	1,442	2,976	-5%
20-24	968	933	1,901	6%
25-29	1,158	1,121	2,279	9%
30-34	1,239	1,188	2,427	-5%
35-39	1,274	1,304	2,578	-23%
40-44	1,560	1,460	3,020	-12%
45-54	3,668	3,622	7,290	23%
55-64	3,197	3,011	6,208	52%
65-74	1,907	1,943	3,850	24%
75-84	990	1,226	2,216	0%
85+	341	657	998	9%
Total	22,177	22,028	44,205	7%

SOURCE: OFFICE OF HEALTH INFORMATICS, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Limited information is available on the handicapped population in Polk County. In 2000, census data was collected on non-institutionalized persons, ages five years old and older, having self-care or mobility limitations, or other disability. In 2010, 4,999 Polk County non-institutionalized residents were classified as having a disability, many with multiple disabilities. The following distribution of disability types was reported for civilian, non-institutionalized residents ages five and older:

sensory disabilities (e.g., blindness, deafness):	5.9% of the population
physical disabilities (e.g., impaired walking or lifting):	5.6%
mental disabilities (e.g., impaired learning):	3.9%
self-care disabilities (e.g., difficulty dressing or bathing):	2.3%

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

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) population projections are, by state statute, the official population projections for Wisconsin. As shown in Table 5 on the following page, WisDOA projections predict a 30.3 percent increase in the Polk County population (about 12,506 more residents) between 2000 and 2040. The percentage increases within the towns are anticipated to be a bit higher on average than the villages and cities. The largest rates of increase are expected in the Towns of Beaver, Eureka, Farmington, Garfield, and Osceola, and the Village of Dresser.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Polk County is predominantly rural in nature, with agriculture as the primary land use. In 2007, there were 115 more farms in Polk County than in 1987. The average farm size decreased from 215 acres in 1987 to 183 acres in 2007. Along those lines, the median farm size in 2002 was 120 acres and in 2007 that figure dropped to 83 acres. The amount of acreage in farmland in Polk County has fluctuated around the 50% mark of total acreage in the county, as reflected in Table 4 below.

From 1987 to 2007, the number of farms increased by 7.3 percent and average farm size decreased 31 percent. This data shows that Polk County is experiencing a significant increase in small farms. From 1987 – 2007 Polk County more than doubled the number of farms under 50 acres, 237 to 484. It needs to be noted that the U.S. Census Bureau defines “farm” as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold during the census year. Of the 1,582 farms in Polk County, 776 (49 percent) had sales under \$2,500.

TABLE 4.
ACRES IN FARMLAND • 1987 TO 2007
Polk County

	1987	1992	1997	2002	2007
Acres	315,416	282,639	301,736	292,860	288,994
Percent of County Land Area	51.6%	46.2%	49.3%	47.9%	47.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

**TABLE 5.
POLK COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY MINOR CIVIL DIVISION • 2000 TO 2030**

Municipality	2000 Census	2010 Census	1/1/2013 Estimate	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	Change 2000-2040	% Change 2000-2040
T Alden	2,615	2,786	2,796	2,815	3,035	3,250	3,420	3,495	3,475	860	32.9%
T Apple River	1,067	1,146	1,151	1,160	1,260	1,350	1,430	1,470	1,470	403	37.8%
T Balsam Lake	1,384	1,411	1,406	1,405	1,505	1,590	1,660	1,680	1,660	276	19.9%
T Beaver	753	835	835	845	930	1,015	1,085	1,125	1,140	387	51.4%
T Black Brook	1,208	1,325	1,337	1,350	1,470	1,590	1,685	1,740	1,745	537	44.5%
T Bone Lake	710	717	723	725	785	840	885	910	905	195	27.5%
T Clam Falls	547	596	599	600	635	675	700	710	700	153	28.0%
T Clayton	912	975	984	990	1,070	1,145	1,210	1,240	1,235	323	35.4%
T Clear Lake	800	899	905	910	990	1,060	1,125	1,155	1,155	355	44.4%
T Eureka	1,338	1,649	1,654	1,675	1,840	2,000	2,140	2,220	2,240	902	67.4%
T Farmington	1,625	1,836	1,842	1,865	2,030	2,195	2,335	2,410	2,425	800	49.2%
T Garfield	1,443	1,692	1,692	1,715	1,880	2,035	2,175	2,250	2,270	827	57.3%
T Georgetown	1,004	977	983	985	1,050	1,110	1,155	1,170	1,155	151	15.0%
T Johnstown	520	534	533	535	570	605	630	640	635	115	22.1%
T Laketown	918	961	967	965	1,030	1,085	1,130	1,140	1,120	202	22.0%
T Lincoln	2,304	2,208	2,183	2,170	2,270	2,355	2,410	2,395	2,325	21	0.9%
T Lorain	328	284	279	275	280	285	285	280	265	- 63	-19.2%
T Luck	881	930	919	915	960	1,005	1,030	1,030	1,005	124	14.1%
T McKinley	328	347	350	350	375	395	415	420	415	87	26.5%
T Milltown	1,146	1,226	1,227	1,235	1,325	1,415	1,490	1,520	1,510	364	31.8%
T Osceola	2,085	2,855	2,856	2,915	3,235	3,545	3,825	3,995	4,055	1,970	94.5%
T St. Croix Falls	1,119	1,165	1,168	1,170	1,245	1,315	1,370	1,385	1,370	251	22.4%
T Sterling	724	790	780	780	835	885	925	940	930	206	28.5%
T West Sweden	731	699	695	685	715	740	750	740	715	- 16	-2.2%
V Balsam Lake	950	1,009	1,002	1,005	1,070	1,135	1,185	1,200	1,185	235	24.7%
V Centuria	865	948	931	930	985	1,035	1,070	1,075	1,055	190	22.0%
V Clayton	507	571	573	575	625	670	710	730	730	223	44.0%
V Clear Lake	1,051	1,070	1,068	1,065	1,130	1,185	1,225	1,235	1,210	159	15.1%
V Dresser	732	895	896	910	1,000	1,085	1,160	1,205	1,215	483	66.0%
V Frederic	1,262	1,137	1,133	1,115	1,155	1,180	1,190	1,165	1,110	- 152	-12.0%
V Luck	1,210	1,119	1,090	1,070	1,100	1,115	1,120	1,085	1,030	- 180	-14.9%
V Milltown	888	917	917	915	975	1,030	1,070	1,085	1,070	182	20.5%
V Osceola	2,421	2,568	2,594	2,615	2,820	3,020	3,185	3,255	3,245	824	34.0%
V Turtle Lake	65	93	93	90	95	95	95	90	85	20	30.8%
C Amery	2,845	2,902	2,924	2,930	3,120	3,295	3,425	3,460	3,410	565	19.9%
C St. Croix Falls	2,033	2,133	2,128	2,135	2,285	2,430	2,540	2,585	2,560	527	25.9%
Totals	41,319	44,205	44,213	44,390	47,680	50,760	53,240	54,230	53,82	12,506	30.3%

source: U.S. Census Bureau & Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, 2013.
Projections are Pre-Release Version for Research and Analysis Only.

*Portion of Turtle Lake located in Polk County only.

Shown in Table 6 is the employment by industry in Polk County from 2005 to 2010. Education and health, which recently overtook manufacturing to become the largest industry of employment in the county, gained only 13 jobs from 2009 to 2010. Education services by itself actually lost a handful of jobs from 2009 to 2010, healthcare was responsible for the gains. Manufacturing, the second largest industry in the county, lost 125 jobs from 2009 to 2010. In fact, according to recent statistics, Polk County has lost manufacturing jobs every year since the recession began in 2007. While most manufacturing sectors lost jobs from 2009 to 2010, food manufacturing and wood product manufacturing actually gained. Trade, transportation and utilities, Polk's third largest industry of employment, lost 93 jobs from 2009 to 2010. Most of the losses appear to be in retail trade, which has the highest concentration of employment within this sector.

TABLE 6.
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY • 2005 TO 2010
Polk County Residents

Industry	2010	2007	2005	Difference '05-'10	% Change '05-'10
Natural Resources	231	195	191	40	20.9%
Construction	439	701	794	-355	-44.7%
Manufacturing	3,436	4,037	3,922	-486	-12.4%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	2,569	2,747	2,642	-73	-2.8%
Financial Activities	489	515	520	-31	-6.0%
Education & Health	3,961	3,684	3,636	325	8.9%
Information	N/A	293	319	N/A	N/A
Leisure & Hospitality	1,298	1,414	1,552	-254	-16.4%
Professional & Business Services	892	764	733	159	21.7%
Other Services	256	260	250	6	2.4%
Public Administration	706	653	622	84	13.5%
All Industries	3,152	3,091	3,157	-5	21.2%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Between 2005-2009, about 60.1 percent of the workers living in the county worked within Polk County. Over 23 percent commuted to either Chisago, Washington, Ramsey, or Hennepin Counties in Minnesota. Almost 40 percent of Polk County's residents work outside the county. This is a fairly high level of outcommute, which partly reflects the in-migration of new residents during recent decades. The statewide average indicates 28 percent of workers commute out of the county in which they reside.

The 2009 per capita personal income in the county of \$30,980 was 78% of the state average. The median household income in 2008-2012 in Polk County was \$49,595, also below the statewide average. 21% of Polk County households earned less than \$25,000 per year, 51% earned between \$25,000 and \$74,999, and 28% earned \$75,000 or more.

LAND USE TRENDS

Polk County is located northeast of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, and is contiguous to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Census Bureau defines a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as a county or counties with a central city of at least 50,000 people, a total population over 100,000 people, and significant social and economic ties which exist between the central city and any outlying counties that are included. Based on that definition, St. Croix County became part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA in 1980 and Pierce County in 1990. Consequently, even though Polk County is not currently a part of the MSA, it is apparent that the influence of the metro area is spreading, and that Polk County is becoming more economically and socially interconnected to the MSA.

In 2014, the assessed residential acreage in the unincorporated areas of the county was 43,461, or 94.6 percent of the total assessed residential acreage in the county. This is down from 98.5 percent in 1987. However, the assessed residential acreage increase in unincorporated areas from 1987 to 2014 was 24,311 acres or a 127 percent increase. That is a 5.3 percent annual increase.

The Towns of Alden, Farmington, Eureka, Osceola, Milltown, Lincoln, and St. Croix Falls had significant residential acreage (4,541, 3,063, 2,977, 2,808, 2,719, 2,650 and 2,386, respectively) in 2014. All of these towns are generally in the western part of the county in proximity to Minnesota or St. Croix County and State Highways 35, 65 and 87, and account for nearly 46 percent of the assessed residential acreage in the county. From 1987 to 2014 the Town of Alden (3,202) had the greatest absolute increase in assessed residential acres, followed by the Towns of Farmington (2,229), Eureka (1,883), and Milltown (1,774). Regarding assessed residential acreage percentage increases between 1987 and 2014, the Town of Clear Lake (410 percent) had the greatest increase, followed by the Towns of Lorain (379 percent), Farmington (267 percent), and Alden (239 percent). These communities have grown in residential acreage at an average rate of close to 10 percent per year since 1987. Ten other towns that have at least doubled their residential acreage between 1987 and 2014, as seen in Table 7.

The cities and villages in Polk County also saw dramatic growth in residential land. Since many communities had reporting discrepancies during the period and the assessment data are inconclusive for 1987, comparisons between 1998 and 2007 follow for incorporated areas. While the Village of Frederic saw a sevenfold increase in assessed residential acreage between 1998 and 2007, the Villages of Osceola (269 percent) and Balsam Lake (251 percent) at least tripled theirs and the Villages of Luck (159 percent), Dresser (126 percent) and Milltown (107 percent) at least doubled theirs. The other cities and villages experienced significant increases in residential land. This growth is expected to continue, noting that a substantial percentage of the county's housing units are seasonal or recreational use. Further, this development will continue to put pressure on the shores of lakes, rivers and streams, and their associated floodplains.

Though residential development has been increasing dramatically, agricultural uses in 2014 still constituted approximately 45 percent of all assessed acreage in the unincorporated areas of the county. Nineteen of Polk County's twenty-four towns have more than a third of their assessed land assessed as agriculture and agricultural forest. Nine towns have at least half of their assessed land assessed as agriculture and agricultural forest. It is clear that agriculture is a significant activity in Polk County. However, assessed agricultural land decreased by 26.2

percent between 1997 and 2014. Those towns that have lower agricultural acreage generally have at least one of the following factors present; higher non-farm acres, higher forested acres, significant surface water acres, or other significant natural resource lands

As discussed previously, forest lands was the next predominant land use in Polk County and has been slowly increasing. Larger areas of forest, grasslands, and barrens are found in the Town Sterling to the northwest and the east-northeast portion of the county. Undeveloped lands often associated with very large lot or estate residential development, increased by 96.2 percent between 1997 and 2007, and totaled 14.6 percent of the assessed lands in the county in 2007. As expected, large amounts of commercial and industrial land occurs in the villages and cities. Incorporated communities also generally have a greater percentage and concentration of residential uses.

**TABLE 7.
RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE CHANGE**

Municipality	Total Acres			87-14 Percent	98-14 Percent	Total Change '87-'14
	1987	1998	2014	Change	Change	
T Alden	1,339	3,025	4,541	239.1%	50.1%	3,202
T Apple River	1,212	1,409	2,102	73.4%	49.2%	890
T Balsam Lake	883	1,195	1,985	124.8%	66.1%	1,102
T Beaver	567	1,094	1,093	92.8%	-0.1%	526
T Black Brook	637	1,345	1,796	181.9%	33.5%	1,159
T Bone Lake	560	856	958	71.1%	11.9%	398
T Clam Falls	349	393	770	120.6%	95.9%	421
T Clayton	560	897	1,283	129.1%	43.0%	723
T Clear Lake	231	806	1,178	410.0%	46.2%	947
T Eureka	1,095	1,191	2,978	172.0%	150.0%	1,883
T Farmington	835	1,888	3,064	266.9%	62.3%	2,229
T Garfield	611	1,414	1,708	179.5%	20.8%	1,097
T Georgetown	984	1,345	1,809	83.8%	34.5%	825
T Johnstown	593	789	995	67.8%	26.1%	402
T Laketown	537	1,182	1,405	161.6%	18.9%	868
T Lincoln	1,168	1,536	2,650	126.9%	72.5%	1,482
T Lorain	155	708	743	379.4%	4.9%	588
T Luck	616	699	1,592	158.4%	127.8%	976
T McKinley	406	490	650	60.1%	32.7%	244
T Milltown	945	2,070	2,719	187.7%	31.4%	1,774
T Osceola	1,567	2,678	2,809	79.3%	4.9%	1,242
T Saint Croix Falls	1,218	1,998	1,405	15.4%	-29.7%	187
T Sterling	1,419	2,272	2,386	68.1%	5.0%	967
T West Sweden	643	749	841	30.8%	12.3%	198
V Balsam Lake	38	113	389	924.3%	244.4%	351
V Centuria	72	109	237	229.6%	117.7%	165
V Clayton	20	44	59	192.5%	33.0%	39
V Clear Lake	NA	125	166	NA	33.1%	--
V Dresser	NA	19	56	NA	192.9%	--
V Frederic	NA	16	349	NA	2083.0%	--
V Luck	23	61	336	1359.9%	450.5%	313
V Milltown	25	60	140	459.8%	133.3%	115
V Osceola	20	72	258	1189.7%	258.3%	238
V Turtle Lake	0	0	3	NA	NA	--
C Amery	NA	NA	166	NA	NA	--
C St. Croix Falls	91	188	282	209.7%	49.9%	191
COUNTY TOTAL	19,419	32,836	46,589	139.9	29.5	27,170

Source: WI Dept of Revenue and Polk County Assessment Records

IX. OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY INVENTORY

This section provides a brief inventory of the different land- and water-based recreational activities in Polk County, as well as related recommendations for each activity based on the previous needs assessment and program goals.

Since local municipalities are not included in the scope of this plan, the recreational facilities owned by towns, villages, and cities are generally not included in this section.

Map 5 on page 28 shows the locations of the county and state parks in Polk County, as well as the State trails, different public lands, golf courses, and boat accesses. This map will be frequently referred to in the remainder of this report.

The Recreational Viewer is located on the Polk County website (<https://www.co.polk.wi.us/recreationviewer/>) and provides information on all recreational opportunities in Polk County.

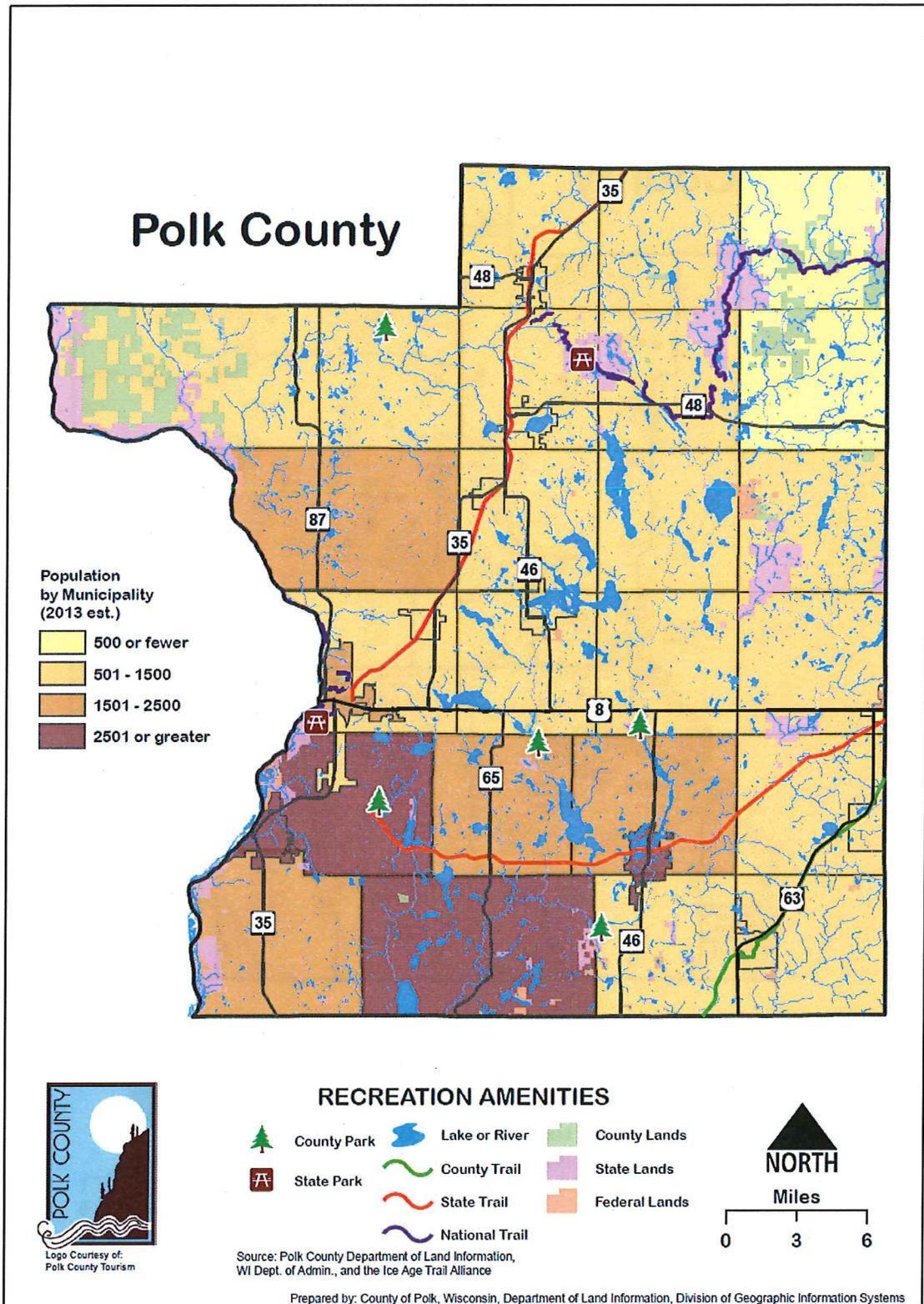
Implementation of plan recommendations will be contingent upon county priorities, feasibility, and available resources and opportunities (e.g., grants, partnerships, available land, staff resources).

AVAILABILITY OF COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

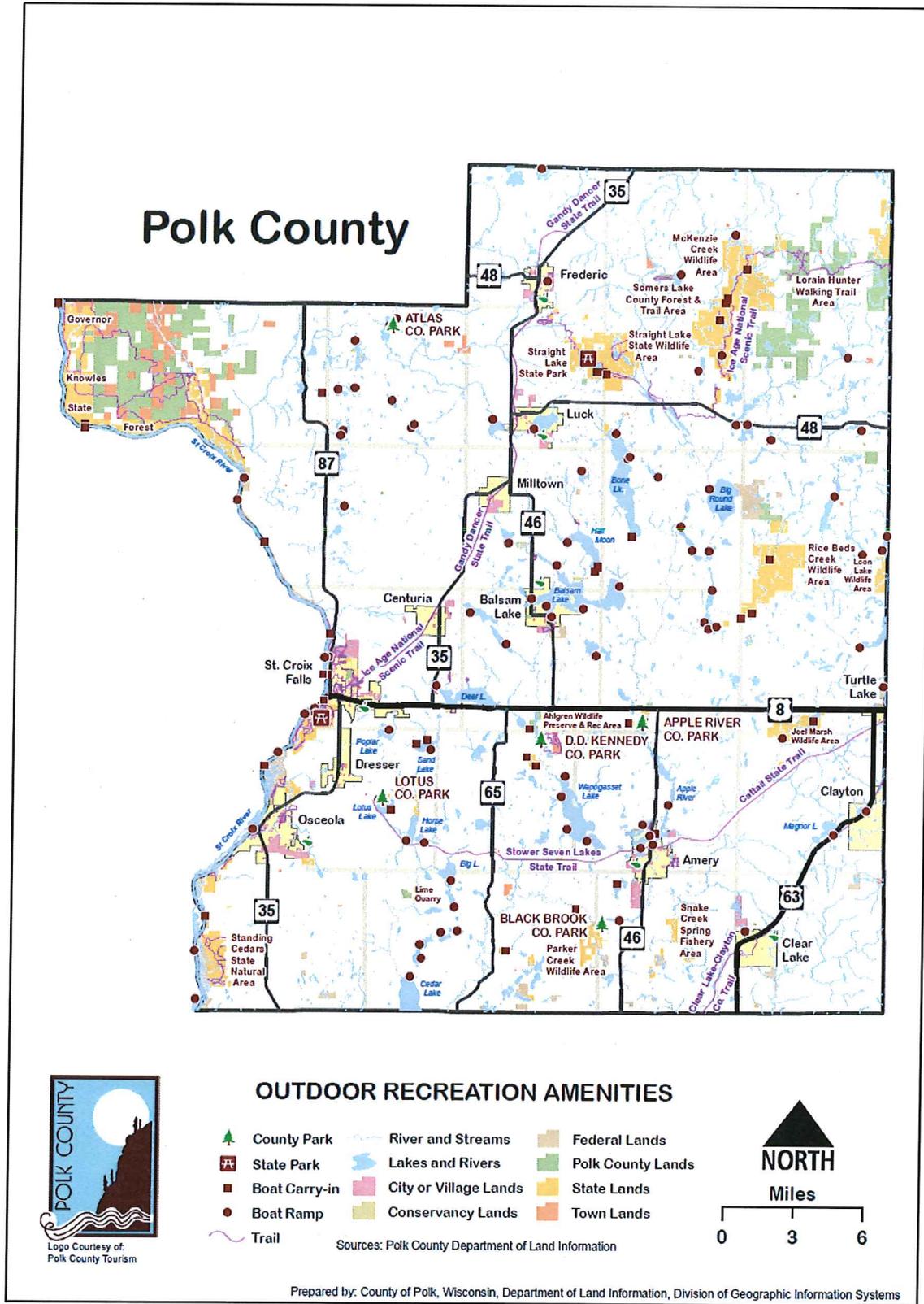
Map 5 on the next page provides a general reference to the availability of the county, state, and federal outdoor recreation lands and trails in relation to the county's population. Whereas, Map 6 on the following page, lists all of the recreational amenities within Polk County. Six of the county's nine recreational facilities are located in the southern half of the county which generally has a higher number of residents per community and has been experiencing more growth. However, the map also shows a general lack trail systems connecting the communities of southwestern Polk County, with the exception of the Stower Seven Lakes State trail. There are currently no State off-road trail connections to the south into St. Croix County.

As expected, the public and private forest lands are more concentrated in the more sparsely populated areas.

**MAP 5.
POPULATION & OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AMENITIES
DISTRIBUTION**



MAP 6.
Outdoor Recreation Amenities in Polk County



LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

Public and Private Campgrounds

Polk County has a total of 23 licensed public, private, and group campgrounds, with a total of 838 sites and 21 tourist boarding cabins. This is an increase in the number of campgrounds and sites since 1998, but still lower than the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The campgrounds of Polk County vary in quality from site to site; but in general, most sites include picnic tables, toilet facilities, playground equipment, and lake or stream access for swimming, boating and fishing. A limited number of campgrounds specialize in group events and activities.

The majority of Polk County campgrounds are privately owned. Most of the campgrounds are relatively small, with the largest campground in Polk County licensed for 93 sites.

**TABLE 8 CAMPGROUNDS
Polk County**

Campgrounds	1986	1991	1998	2004
<i>Total Campgrounds:</i> Establishments	32	28	17	23
Number of Sites	1,065	937	645	838
Average Sites	33.3	33.5	37.9	36.4

Source: Recreation Resources Center, UW-Extension

Campground Recommendations

The major concerns with public and private campgrounds are the number of available sites and the quality of these sites. It is recommended that the county not compete with developed campgrounds, but create primitive campgrounds (e.g., on the Atlas and Lotus Lake sites).

The camping section (520.4.4) of the Polk County Forest Comprehensive Land-Use Plan should be amended to prohibit camping in high-use and high-visibility areas. The Parks Director should continue to monitor the conditions and standards of the public campgrounds, just as the Zoning Administrator, in concert with the Department of Health and Social Services, monitors the private campgrounds.

Picnicking

In Polk County, both public and private picnic areas are available. Picnicking areas are provided by local, county, state and private sources. The majority of the picnic areas are publicly owned.

Picnicking Recommendations

Polk County's picnicking inventory indicates that although sufficient acreage exists to contain the number of tables indicated by the demand section, there are presently not enough tables located on that acreage for larger events (e.g. family reunions). The major emphasis on this activity then should be to increase the number of tables on the existing sites. This method of attacking the substandard number of tables, however, should not preclude the inclusion of a picnic area in conjunction with other recreational activity when it is indicated.

It is recommended that support facilities (e.g., shelters, playground equipment) be increased for county parks. Material selection and construction should be carefully considered since such facilities and picnic tables have been subject to vandalism in the past. It is also recommended that for the south central and southwest portions of the county, additional public picnicking facilities be developed. Also, a day-use park with a swimming facility should be developed in the southwestern section of the county.

Hunting & Shooting Ranges

Polk County provides very good hunting opportunities. There are approximately 54,711 acres of public land available for hunting (see Table 9 & Map 6). The game species most prevalent in these areas are deer, squirrel, fox, raccoon, ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and some pheasants. There are also six shooting ranges in Polk County, all run by private clubs: Balsam Lake Rod & Gun Club, Fox Creek Gun Club, Osceola Gun Club, Cushing Rifle Club, Richardsons/Clayton Gun Club, South Fork Sporting Club, and Amery Club.

Some of the Wisconsin DNR wildlife areas listed in Table 8 includes the lease of private land. In addition, there are thousands of acres of privately owned land open to public hunting under the State Managed Forest Tax Law Programs. The managed forest law and forest crop law lands shown on Map 4 may not all be open for public hunting however. Much of the hunting in Polk County is done on private land, for it is impossible to supply enough public land for all the hunters in the county. In this situation, it is important to encourage land owners to allow hunting on their land and hunters to respect the land owners' rights.

**TABLE 9 PUBLIC LANDS AVAILABLE FOR HUNTING
Polk County**

Area	Acres
DNR – Interstate Park	306
DNR – Garfield Township, hunting and fishing	175
DNR – Land South of Black Brook, hunting and fishing	181
DNR – Snake Creek Fishery Area	200
DNR – St. Croix River State Forest (approximate potential)	6,000
DNR – Rice Beds Creek Wildlife Area	3,101
DNR – McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area	5,497
DNR – Sand Creek Fishery Area (Polk & Burnett County)	1,326
DNR – Loon Lake Wildlife Area (Polk & Barron County)	2,752
DNR – Behning Creek Fishery Area	171
DNR – Balsam Branch Wildlife Area	180
DNR – Joel Marsh Wildlife Area	1,072
DNR – Wagon Landing Springs Fishery Area	67
DNR – Parker Creek Fishery Area	219
DNR – Governor Knowles State Forest (Polk County portion)	abt. 11,000
County Forest – Town of Sterling	10,129
County Forest – Town of Lorain	3,640
County Forest – Town of McKinley	2,636
Sterling Forest -- Town of Sterling	4,767
Clam Falls	139
Apple River	19
Scattered Parks (county or township owned undeveloped land)	1,134
<i>Straight Lake Park + Wildlife Area ****</i>	
TOTAL	abt. 54,711

Source: West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Hiking and Nature Walking

Hiking trails in Polk County are used for casual walking, nature study, bird watching, and hunting.

The most notable trails are located at Apple River County Park, Lotus Lake County Park, Sterling Forest, and Interstate Park. Other trails exist on county forest land and parks (see Table 10 and Map 6), and three miles in Governor Knowles State Forest. The Gandy Dancer Trail and the Amery to Dresser is suitable for hiking/walking. The Ice Age Trail being developed across Wisconsin passes through Polk County, adding approximately 40 miles of hiking trails (see Map 6).

**TABLE 10 NATURE, HIKING & MULTI-USE TRAILS
Polk County**

Area	Miles
1. Apple River County Park	1.00
2. Lotus Lake County Park	1.00
3. Interstate Park	10.00
4. Kennedy Environmental Area	1.50
5. Lorain County Forest	5.00
6. McKenzie Creek	3.00
7. State Multi-Use Trail	15.00
8. Sterling Forest	20.00
9. Garfield Recreation Area	5.00
10. Gandy Dancer Trail	30.00
11. Cattail Trail	17.80
12. Stower Seven Lakes Trail	14.00
TOTAL	131.3

The newly opened Stower Seven Lakes State Trail is a natural westward extension of the Cattail Trail and terminates approximate one mile east of Dresser on 90th Avenue. This county-operated trail has limestone base and has been brushed and graded. It is maintained for hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. Motorized vehicles (e.g., ATVs, snowmobiles) are not allowed.

Hiking and Nature Walking Recommendations

The hiking and nature trails should be designated and included in the Polk County brochure. Designating signs should be placed at their locations. Nature study area should be marked in cooperation with school districts and the Polk County Nature Study Club. Some trail development should be considered in the central and southern portions of Polk County. This could be accomplished, for example, at the Kennedy Recreation Area.

Bicycling

Bicycling is another activity that is increasing in popularity. Two dedicated bike paths are in the county, the Gandy Dancer Trail and the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail are available for bicycling. The 'gandy' is a 50-mile, compacted gravel trail runs from St. Croix Falls in Polk County to Danbury in Burnett County along a former Soo Line Railbed. Future plans call for the Trail to be expanded north to Superior. The 'S7LT' stretches from one mile east of Dresser to Amery, a span of just over 13 miles. This trail is compacted limestone and is open year round.

In addition to trail riding, there are also many miles of scenic county and local roads that are available for bicycle touring. However, riders should be careful since these routes may not be

specifically designed for bicycle use. Information on the most suitable touring routes is available from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (see Map 7).

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

Bicycling Recommendations

Recommendations for bicycling are as follows: (1) designate alternative routes off main highways; (2) include low-cost detailed maps showing routes in the county brochure; (3) designate routes near regionally significant features (e.g., Ice Age Trail); (4) use of rail grades, if surfaced; and, (5) pursue grant funding for the upgrade of the Amery-to-Dresser trail.

Horseback Riding

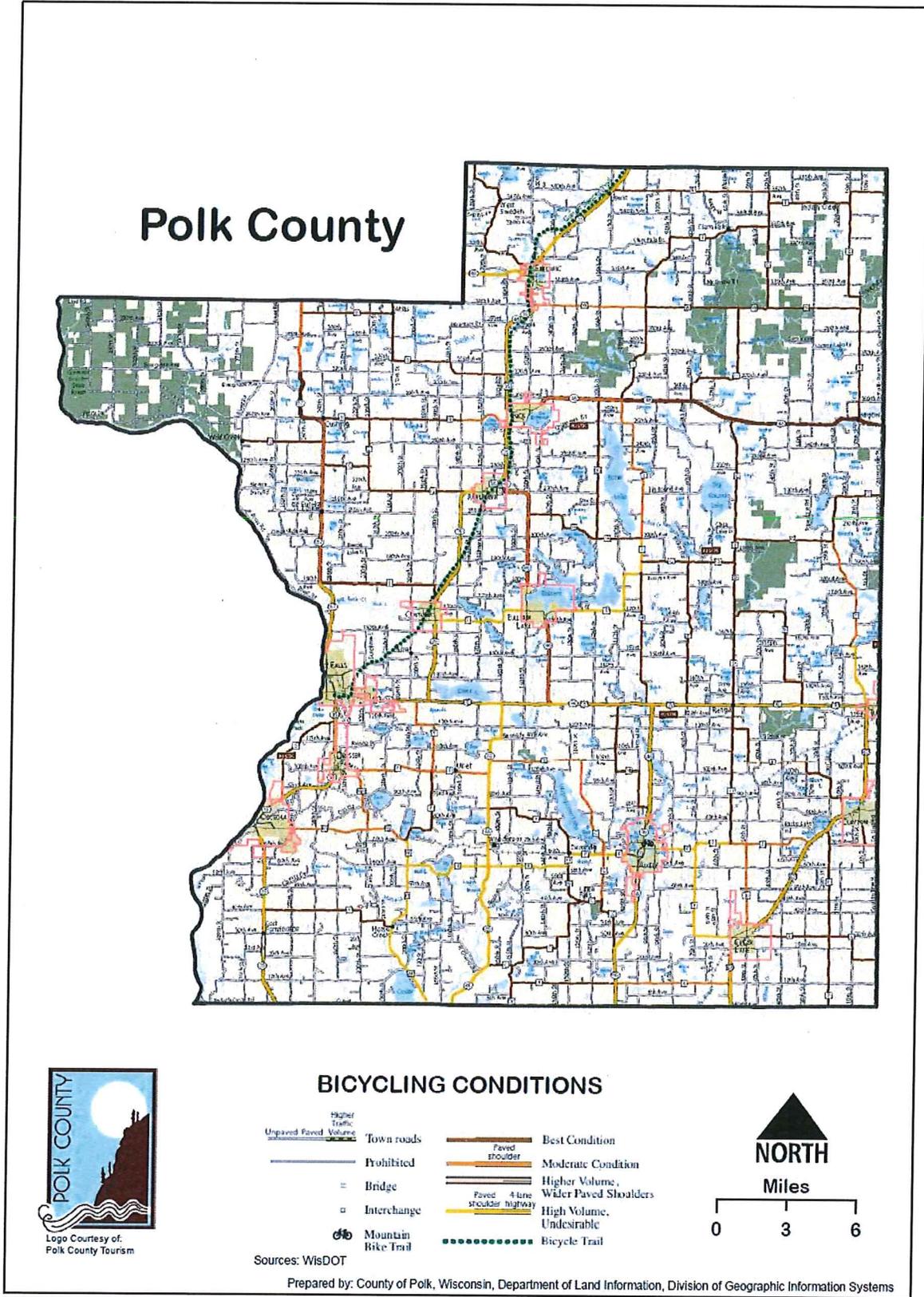
The increased interest in horseback riding in Polk County is evidenced by the ever-growing number of saddle horses seen throughout the county. Most horseback riding is done by horse owners on their own properties. Horseback trail riding now occurs on the multi-purpose 30-mile trail system of Governor Knowles State Park and the Cattail Trail from Joel to the county-line. Private trails are located at the Last Resort Stables and Hunky Dory Farms Resort, which also provides horses for rent and six miles of trails on their own and neighboring lands.

Horseback riding

The future of the horseback riding rental business in Polk County is doubtful. High liability premiums severely hurt horseback riding rental businesses and also precludes the county from attempting to enter this business.

Private businesses, riding clubs, and public agencies should share responsibility for developing and maintaining these riding trails. County involvement should take place only where public recreation lands have riding trail development potential.

MAP 7.
Bicycling Conditions for Polk County



Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding

Trollhaugen is the only downhill ski resort in the county. It is located at Dresser and serves between 1,300 and 1,400 skiers and snowboarders on an average weekend day. There are a total of 22 runs at Trollhaugen.

One characteristics of the downhill skiing enthusiast is the willingness to travel long distances to ski. Therefore, this inventory would not be complete without mentioning the nearby facilities in neighboring counties. Wild Mountain ski area is located in Chisago County, Minnesota, to the west.

Snow Skiing Recommendations

Skiing, an ever-increasing recreational activity, is especially important in Polk County due to the amounts of snow fall and length of the winters. Downhill skiing demand is met by the private sector.

Cross Country Skiing & Snow-Shoeing

Cross country skiing is a recreational activity that is rapidly gaining in popularity. Many areas in the county are available for this use. However, there are six specifically designed trails, including the privately owned Trollhaugen trails, with a total of over 82 miles (see Table 10). Many of these trails may also be available for snowshoeing.

In addition to these, Interstate Park has two miles of snowshoeing trails; and many of the walking trails discussed previously are also available for snowshoeing. A five- mile snowshoeing trail is also available at Somers Lake.

**TABLE 11 CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS
Polk County**

Trails	Miles
1. Balsam Branch	12.0
2. Interstate Park	10.9
3. Village of Luck	5.0
4. Village of Frederic	8.7
5. Cattail Trail	11.7
6. Gandy Dancer	19.7
7. Trollhaugen	1.6
8. Stower 7 Lakes Trail	13.0
TOTAL	82.6

Snowmobile trails and cross country ski trails should not be considered for the same routes because of the conflicting nature of the activities. The level of local interest will be the deciding factor in stimulating more trail development.

Cross-Country Skiing & Snow-Shoeing Recommendations

These trails are basically of two types: the rough, multi-use trails and the groomed, marked, and specifically designated trails. The continuation of current expansion plans is recommended. Communities are encouraged to establish trail systems in or near their vicinities. To improve participation at the Balsam Branch ski area, Polk County has installed lighting at the Balsam Branch ski area.

Snowshoeing, by virtue of the sport, does not require any sort of trail system; all that is needed is open space. Encouragement of this sport would simply require designating certain county lands as open to snowshoeing. Skate touring, the sport of skating from lake to lake, is somewhat limited in northern Wisconsin due to the considerable snowfall.

Snowmobiling

Polk County residents registered 3468 snowmobiles for 2008, an increase of 359 registrations since 1998. There are 373 miles of snowmobile trails in the county; excluding club trails (see Map 8). Many of these trails are connected to other counties as part of the statewide trail system and serve enthusiasts State-wide.

Snowmobiling Recommendations

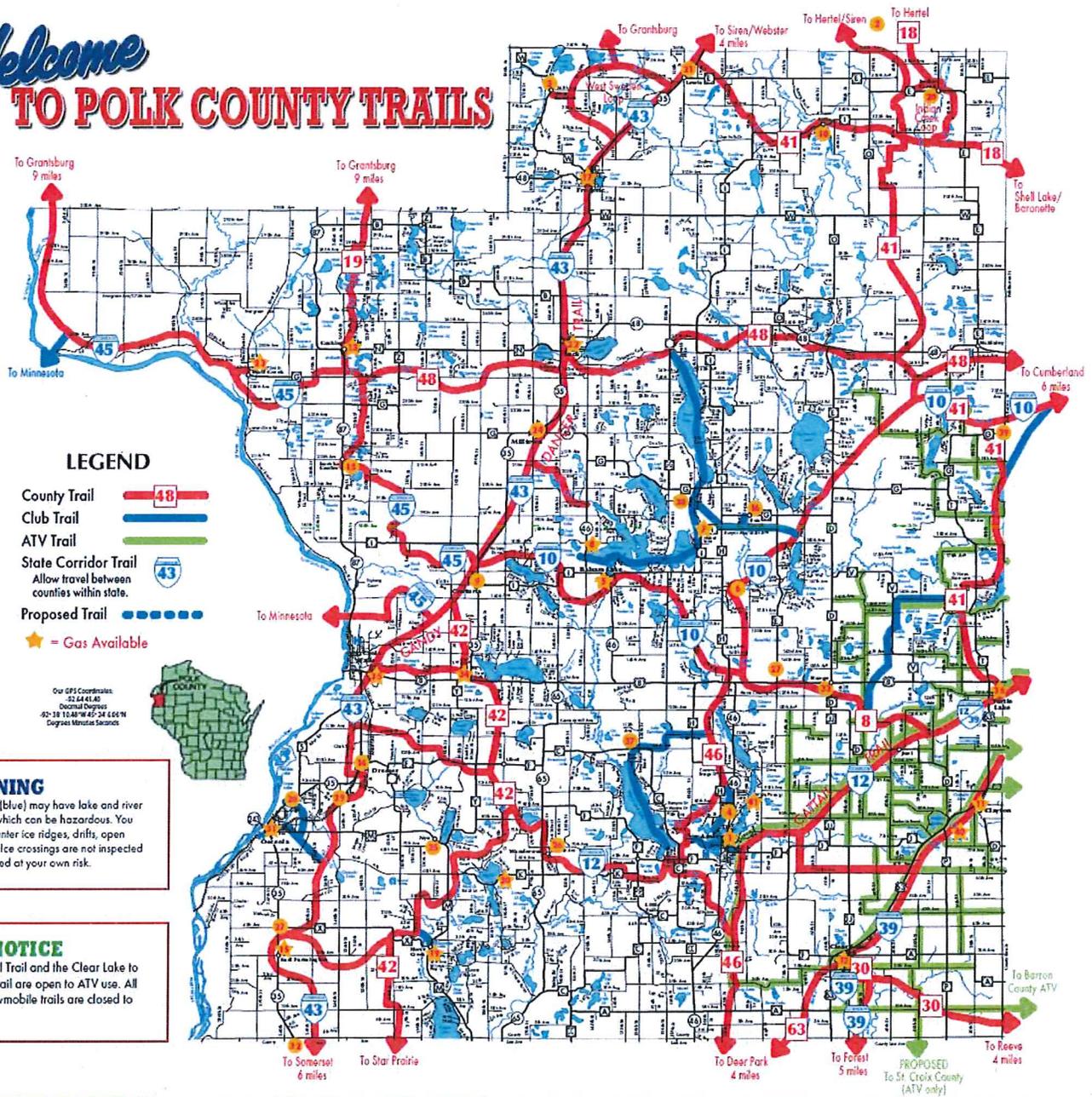
Polk County pursues an active and ambitious snowmobile trail development program. It is recommended that the county continue to maintain the existing trail system as well as develop the proposed trail system shown on Map 8. Whenever compatible with soil and topography conditions and present land use, snowmobile trails should be developed on a multi-use basis. Utilization for multiple activities would justify future development which should include shelters and sanitary facilities. All new trails must be well marked, designed for safety, and long enough to provide variety and challenge.

The priorities for development of the Polk County snowmobile trail system were formulated by state program priorities and local desires. The criteria used for prioritizing future development are as follows:

1. To complete all point-to-point trails which give access to all population centers and support facilities.
2. To provide tie-ins with adjoining county systems.
3. To develop scenic trail loops within the county.

**MAP 8. SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
Polk County**

Welcome
TO POLK COUNTY TRAILS



WARNING
Club trails (blue) may have lake and river crossings which can be hazardous. You may encounter ice ridges, drifts, open water, etc. Ice crossings are not inspected and are used at your own risk.

ATV NOTICE
The Cattail Trail and the Clear Lake to Clayton Trail are open to ATV use. All other snowmobile trails are closed to ATVs.

ATV Trails & Trail Bikes

For 2008, there are 5,127 ATVs registered in Polk County. The following is a brief summary of the ATV trails found in Polk County:

1. *Sterling Trail*. This is a seven-mile trail with a picnic area, restroom and parking area at the trailhead. The trail is open to ATVs June 1st to November 15th.
2. *Cattail Trail*. This 11.8-mile trail open to ATVs year-round.
3. *Clayton/Clear Lake*. This eleven-mile multi-use trail is open year-round for ATV and motorcycle use and for snowmobile use during snow cover.

ATV and Trail Bike Recommendations

There is a notable lack of sufficient trails or a “play area” for ATV use in the county. It may be possible that some existing or planned snowmobile trails could also be used for ATV use, or the county should consider dedicating an area or additional trail system for ATV use. Care should be taken in identifying such areas or trails in order to minimize any negative environmental impacts or use conflicts.

Polk County has designated some areas for trail bike/ATV usage. The county should continue to assess the needs of this activity and plan accordingly.

Sightseeing & Pleasure Driving

Polk County is fortunate in having a well-developed system of highways with a landscape which is very appealing to motorists. Rolling fields, lakes, farms and woodlands are prevalent. U.S. Highway 8 is the major east-west artery and is located in the lower third of the county. U.S. Highway 63 runs through the southeast corner of the county. Important routes that connect north and south Polk County are State Highways 35, 46, and 87. All of these routes receive heavy use by vacationers and commuters.

In the past, local units of government have not deliberately provided any major opportunities for sightseers and pleasure drivers. However, this trend is on the verge of reversing. Some communities have established wayside areas, while others have improved or are planning to improve their community park systems to accommodate visitors. Some communities have erected signs on main roads directing travelers to local parks and extending a welcome to use them. Efforts by Wisconsin's Department of Transportation to accommodate sightseers have been more direct. Waysides with water, toilets, and picnic areas are maintained on major state highways.

Several scenic routes have been identified for Polk County. These routes are part of the Rustic Road program sponsored by the DOT. The routes are listed below:

1. RUSTIC ROAD 28

Location: Polk County. Mains Crossing (old Highway 8), beginning at the intersection of County Highway H then extending east to County Highway D.

Length: 5.2 miles

2. RUSTIC ROAD 41

Location: Polk County. Clara Lake Road between County E and County G.

Length: 2.3 miles

3. RUSTIC ROAD 67

Location: Barron/Polk Counties. Portions of Pine Road, 13 3/4 Avenue, West County Line Road and 16th Avenue, forming a loop from US 8 to US 63.

Length: 4.6 miles

4. RUSTIC ROAD 93

Location: Polk County. Chippewa Trail from 145th Street to County GG.

Length: 2.8 miles

5. RUSTIC ROAD 101

Location: Polk County. County S forming a loop off WIS 35 between Osceola and St. Croix Falls.

Length: 4.3 miles

6. RUSTIC ROAD 103

Location: St. Croix and Polk counties. Portions of 230th Avenue, Marine Road, County Line Avenue and Polk/St. Croix Road through the Town of Somerset in St. Croix County and the Town of Farmington in Polk County.

Length: 2.8 miles

Sightseeing and Pleasure Driving Recommendations

Both of these activities can be made more pleasurable by specific and normally low-cost programs sponsored by the county. Some of the programs have been mentioned in the preceding section of the action program. In addition to these, it is recommended that marked tour routes be established to guide motorists through the most scenic and interesting areas of the county. Tour routes should also pass places where people can find rest, food, and entertainment.

WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES

Water Resources

Polk County has extensive and high-quality surface water resources (see Map 2). They provide abundant water-related recreation opportunities for the local citizens as well as for numerous non-resident visitors. The county has over 473 lakes and 200 miles of streams. The total surface water area of the county is 23,619.8 acres. The lake surface represents 21,893.7 acres, while 1,726.1 acres are in stream surface.

Of the 473 lakes, there are 232 named lakes and 241 unnamed lakes. Of the 232 named lakes, there are 91 with public access, though not all have a boat ramp (see Table 12). Table 13 on the following page lists the Polk County lakes of 100 acres or greater. There are 89.9 miles of trout streams. Of these, 26.4 miles are Class I (see Table 14).

TABLE 11. POLK COUNTY LAKE SUPPLY

	Number	% With Public Access	Total Acres	% Acres w/ Public Access
Named Inland Lakes	232	39	22,303	82%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Wisconsin Lakes, 2001.

Water-Based Activities Recommendations

With the increasing demand for resorts and second homes, it is suggested that a minimum of 10% of the remaining shore of the major lakes in the county be preserved in a wild state. Ample surface water acreage exists for both boating and waterskiing in the county.

**TABLE 13. LAKES OF 100 ACRES OR MORE
Polk County**

Lake	Acreage	Maximum Depth	Public Access
Antler (Pine)	101	22	X
Apple River Flowage	639	18	X
Balsam	2,054	37	X
Bass (T36N, R5W, S31)	138	19	-
Bear	160	n.a.	-
Bear Trap	241	25	X
Big	259	24	X
Big Butternut	378	19	X
Big Round	1,015	17	X
Blake	217	14	X
Blom (Bloom)	208	13	-
Bone (T35N, R16W, S06)	1,781	43	X
Cedar	1,107	28	X
Church Pine	107	45	X
Clam Falls Flowage	137	14	X
Deer (T34N, R17W, S29)	807	46	X
Diamond	126	15	X
Elbow	233	8	-
Freedom No. 2	106	4	-
Garfield (Big Horseshoe)	120	8	-
Glenton (Rice S20, T35, R17)	128	10	X
Half Moon	579	60	X
Horse	228	11	X
Horseshoe (T34N, R14W, S06)	377	57	X
Indianhead Flowage	776	57	X
Largon	129	10	X
Little Butternut	189	23	X
Long (T34N, R17W, S06)	272	17	X
Long Trade	153	13	X
Lotus (T33N, R18W, S21)	246	15	X
Loveless (Bass)	141	20	X
Magnor (Richardson)	231	26	X
North (North White Ash)	119	9	X
North Twin	135	27	X
Pike	159	33	X
Pine (T36N, R16W, S24)	153	53	-
Pipe	290	68	X
Poplar	125	34	X
Sand	187	58	X
Somers	101	12	X
Staples	305	17	X
Straight	107	12	-
Wapogasset	1,186	32	X
White Ash	153	9	X
Wild Goose	182	12	X
<i>Straight Lake</i>			X
TOTALS	16,585		36

Sources: Department of Natural Resources, *Wisconsin Lakes, 2001*

Canoeing

Excellent canoeing water exists in Polk County. The four major canoeing areas are the Apple River with 42 miles, the Trade River with 5 miles, the St. Croix with 39 miles, and Wolf Creek with 5 miles. There are canoe campsites and landings on the Apple and St. Croix Rivers.

Of course, other waters in the county are capable of floating a canoe; but only the rivers listed have the width, adequate water levels, stream movement, scenic quality and attendant features to provide a high-quality canoeing experience.

TABLE 14
STREAMS IN POLK COUNTY

Streams	Miles
Class I	26.4
Class II	51.9
Class III	11.6
Trout Streams	89.9
Non-Trout Streams	110.1
TOTAL	200.0

Source: West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Canoeing Recommendations

The use of rivers and streams by canoeists depends not only on water conditions, but upon the quality of the surrounding lands. Therefore, efforts should be taken to prevent excessive stream bank development that would detract from an enjoyable canoeing experience. In order to enhance the Polk County canoe waterways and thus expand their usage, the following recommendations are made:

1. It is recommended that the county acquire easements at selected points along the riverway (the Apple River, for example) to establish comfort stations, pullover stops and possibly wilderness campsites.
2. It is further recommended that easements or purchases be made to enable canoe portages around various impediments or unnavigable sections.
3. High priority should be placed upon acquiring land around Little Falls (the two rapids section) by a public agency for public usage.

Water Skiing & Boating

These two distinct outdoor recreation activities are discussed together because they have similar spatial requirements and are frequently carried on simultaneously during a single recreation occasion. The lakes that are most suitable for water skiing are those which have 200+ acres of surface water and are free from most obstacles (see Table 15).

The twelve lakes listed in Table 15 have a total acreage of 9,925 acres, and all have public access boat ramps. Boating opportunities can be found on any lake in Table 14 with boat ramps, in addition to numerous additional lakes with boat ramps less than 100 acres in size.

**TABLE 15 MOST SUITABLE BOATING & WATER SKIING LAKES
Polk County**

Lakes	Acres	Lakes	Acres
Balsam Lake	2,054	Half Moon Lake	579
Bear Trap Lake	241	Long Lake	272
Big Butternut Lake	378	Magnor Lake	231
Big Round Lake	1,015	Pipe Lake	281
Bone Lake	1,781	Wapogasset Lake	1,186
Cedar Lake	1,100		
Deer Lake	807	TOTAL	9,925

Sources: Department of Natural Resources, *Wisconsin Lakes, 2001*

Fishing

The surface waters of Polk County provide excellent fishing opportunities. Above-average trout and walleye fishing are available, along with good-quality northern pike, largemouth bass and bluegill fishing. Some lake sturgeon fishing is also available on the St. Croix River and Clam River.

Trout fishing is available in 36 streams (89.9 miles). The most notable streams include McKenzie Creek, Sand Creek, Parker Creek, Clam River, Trade River, Wolf Creek, Cowan Creek, and Cold Creek. The various species of fish found in Polk County's lakes are summarized in Table 16.

**TABLE 16 NUMBER OF LAKES CONTAINING VARIOUS FISH SPECIES
Polk County**

Type of Fish	Number of Lakes	Type of Fish	Number of Lakes
Bass (LM/SM)	121/2	Pan Fish	122
Musky	11	Trout	8
Northern Pike	99	Walleye	29

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, *Wisconsin Lakes, 2001*.

Fishing Recommendations

Some counties in Wisconsin and in other states have designated certain trout streams/ rivers as fly fishing only. These waterways are usually semi-wild with naturally reproducing trout populations. This feature adds another recreational dimension to the county and attracts certain clients from throughout the state.

Swimming

Most of the major lakes and rivers in Polk County have public swimming beaches. The existing supply of public beaches is currently nine. The acreage of these beaches is estimated to be 14.6 acres at the present time (see Table 17).

**TABLE 17 BEACH SUPPLY & ACREAGE
Polk County**

Beaches	Number of Toilet Units	Acres	Bath House Units
1. Balsam Lake	1	1.0	1
2. Big Butternut	1	.5	-
3. Bone Lake, North End	1	.3	-
4. Clear Lake	-	.5	-
5. Half Moon Lake	-	1.0	-
6. Interstate, Lake of the Dells	1	1.0	1
7. Interstate, St. Croix River	1	2.0	-
8. Magnor Lake	1	1.3	1
9. Sand Lake	1	7.0	-
TOTAL	7	14.6	3

Source: West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Swimming Recommendations

It is recommended that existing beach facilities be modernized, for example, by upgrading toilets, bath houses and piers. The existing beaches, combined with the pool facilities at Frederic, Osceola, Unity, Dalles House, and Turtle Lake, have addressed the demand for swimming amenities identified in past Polk County Outdoor Recreational Plans from the county's perspective.

ADJACENT FEDERAL & STATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Polk County has no national parks or forests. However, within a 50-mile radius of Balsam Lake, there are 29 county parks, four state parks (Willow River, St. Croix, William O'Brien, and Kinnickinnic), and also the multi-state Interstate Park (see Map 6 and Table 18). Polk County also is included in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Project, and the St. Croix River has Federal Wild and Scenic River status.

**TABLE 18 REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (STATE PARKS AND FORESTS)
Polk County**

State Park	Camping	Swimming	Boat Landing	Fishing
1. Minnesota Interstate	X	X	X	X
2. St. Croix	X	X	X	X
3. William O'Brien	X	X	X	X
4. Willow River	X	X	X	X
5. Kinnickinnic				X

Source: West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Polk County is committed to providing persons with disabilities access to park amenities. All parks proposed or scheduled for refurbishment should include features that will aid handicapped people.

Most county park facilities are handicapped-accessible and in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Big Butternut Lake, Bone Lake and Lake O’The Dalles (Thaxter), have wheelchair-accessible piers, as does the county-owned Kennedy Environmental Area. Even with these accessible facilities, the options to handicapped individuals are limited; and many existing park facilities are older and require improvements to ramps, paths, water bubblers, camping sites, etc, in order to increase accessibility. This Outdoor Recreation Plan update recognizes these needs.

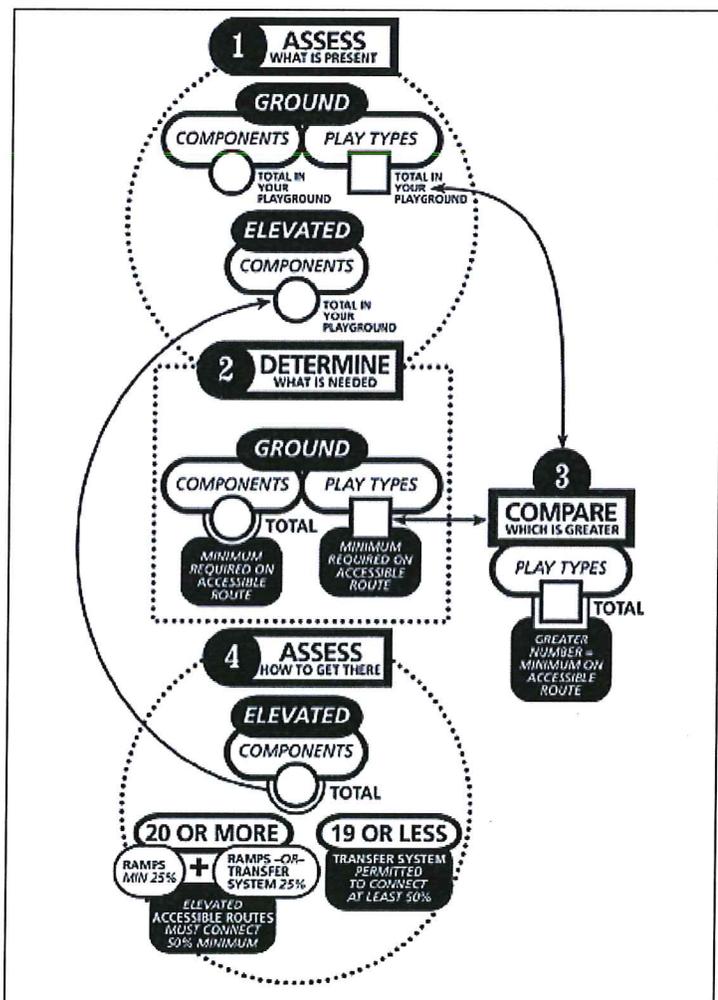
As can be seen in the diagram to the right, ADA design guidelines for park and playground accessibility contain many details and can be complicated.

These guidelines include details such as surface types, surface widths, slopes, handrails, and transfer stations. At least one of each type of ground-level play component that is present in the play area must be on an accessible route. However, the number and variety of ground-level play components required to be on an accessible route is also determined by the number of elevated components provided in the play area.

The U.S. Access Board has issued a guide to the ADA accessibility guidelines for play areas which is available at their website: www.access-board.gov.

Municipalities may be required to obtain professional assistance in meeting these guidelines.

Evaluating a Play Area for ADA Accessibility



source: U.S. Access Board, <http://www.access-board.gov/>

X. OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Demand/Needs Assessment section is intended to assess the relative importance that particular outdoor recreation activities have within Polk County. Determining the recreation needs in an area is an important step in the development, improvement, and maintenance of a parks and recreation system. The needs in this section are discussed in the context of Polk County as a whole, though the findings may be pertinent to local outdoor recreation planning efforts as well.

Recreational needs within Polk County have been identified with input from: 1) Citizen Committees –informally and formally; 2) Departmental SWOT analysis; 3) a review of past plans – including the Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016; and 4) Facility Assessment (SECTION XI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES).

In order to assess residential perception of the County’s park and recreational facilities and identify common behavior relating to parks and recreation a public survey is periodically administered. A typical survey is focused on issues of accessibility, park-use and recreation activities. Below is a list of sample questions.

Addressing accessibility:

1. Is there a park near your residence?
2. Which parks do you use?
3. Why do you visit these parks?
4. How do you get to the park?
5. In your opinion, are the public spaces in your area adequately maintained?

Addressing User-ship and recreation activity:

1. What form of recreation do you participate in most often?
2. When seeking recreation, what is your choice activity?
3. What recreational facilities do you most often use?
4. Demographic related questions

FACILITY ASSESSMENT

Every spring, County staff visit all recreational sites to conduct an assessment of all properties. Since the 1960’s, an accepted practice has been to adopt a uniform national land standard, such as 10 acres per 1000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation cannot be universal for a park. A standard land measure is only useful for specific facilities like determining how much land is needed for a specific use like a baseball diamond. The number of baseball diamonds and other facilities are not the same among similar sized communities nationally. The basis of this revised approach to park and recreation standards is to create a level of service as defined by the customers’ needs rather than an arbitrary standard. The level of service is generated locally for each type of park, trail, or public access to a water body.

Public input is collected in multiple ways and the needs for a particular park, trail, or public access to a water body are determined. When specific facilities are needed, then facility standards are used to design the facility and budget for the necessary land, materials, and labor to satisfy that need. A needs driven and facilities based park planning approach presents the current demand for park and recreation opportunities. The size of a park site is determined by the number of facilities needed to satisfy the active recreation demand within the service area of each park.

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

1. Physical geography. Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, and aesthetic buffers.
2. Park facilities. What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use?
3. Buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses? How much land is needed for future expansion? Maybe a park will not expand within 2-years, but within 10-20 years expansion may be imminent. When the opportunity to buy land exists, then reaction must be swift to seize the opportunity. A park growth boundary should be created for this reason.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

Polk County Parks Department staff continuously receives public input from users about its Parks and forest resources. Valuable input for this report came from these interactions.

Formal Public Input

In order to gauge perception of park lands and operations within the County, the Polk County Property Committee participated in a group process facilitated by County staff. The Polk County Property Committee is comprised of five elected County Board Supervisors, including the County Board Chair, each of whom represents constituents that reflect a wide variety of opinions regarding recreational policy and issues. On March 10, 2014, this Citizen Committee participated in a needs assessment process and provided input toward the following topics:

1. Review of Current Goals
2. Recreational Service and Program Delivery
3. Review of Marketing Tools
4. Review of Hours of Operations
5. Specific Recreational Needs/Opportunities in the next five years

This public meeting was facilitated by the Polk County Planner utilizing the nominal group process. Listed below are highlights from that public meeting:

Topic #1: Review of Current Goals

(Questions: What is missing, outdated, needing more emphasis? Other?)

Discussion Responses:

- Are we still a nature-based rural community?
- Increased development south of Hwy 8 especially due to new Stillwater bridge is a big issue
- Committee feels that more inputs/priority/funding/emphasis should be given to parks and recreational opportunities
- Polk County might be coming up short on accommodating for future recreation needs
- Facility improvements and updates
- Facility changes
- Funding

The above issues are covered adequately by goal statements. However, these topics could be emphasized often and clearly in the entire plan, so they come through loud and clear.

In current plan, update the language in goal #2 with the following language: Promote greater awareness of the parks, trails and natural areas that enhance appreciation for our nature-based rural community, as well as the social, health, economic, and ecological benefits of our outdoor recreation and natural resource assets; with this language: Promote greater awareness of parks, etc. that enhance appreciation of our rural community.

Topic #2: Recreation Service & Program Delivery

(Questions: What are your opinions on the current recreation services, programs & opportunities? Strengths/weaknesses/doing well/not well & why? What is being used/what is being avoided? Why?)

Discussion Responses:

- Doing well with what we have to work with.
- Very diverse & well done
- Good at “primitive” type camping, maybe more “modern” facilities are needed
- Strong trails (Gandy Dancer Trail, Stower 7 Lakes Trail, snowmobile trails)

Topic #3: Review of Brochures & Marketing

(Informational and Questions: Review paper materials presentations, web presence (including Recreation Viewer on county website), other? What have you heard good or bad about the above? What changes would you recommend?)

Discussion Responses:

- Good distribution for paper brochures
- Pike Lake needs labeling on Stower Trail Map
- Better distribution of materials where people who need these materials (hotels, restaurants, etc.)

- Get our web-page updated for utilizing recreation info in trip planning for tourists (Apps or mobile webpages?)
- Current brochures look good & complete for current funding levels
- Other entities like the Ice Age Trail and Tourism Center have good online and paper presence

Topic #4: Review of Hours of Operation

(Information and Questions: Hours set by ordinance: currently 6:00am – 11:00pm, have you heard or any constituents mentioned a change to this policy?)

Discussion Responses:

- Parks closed at above times but campgrounds are open
- Staffing & enforcement issues for problems
- Difficult to get regulations enforced
- Committee sees no issue with the current hours of operation

Topic #5: Specific needs or desired opportunities for the next 5 years for outdoor recreation in Polk County?

- Need better or more modern camping facilities
- Keep up with demand
- Future of Veterans Memorial @ Country Dam & its impact
- Improvements to Gandy Dancer Trail surface
 - Maybe a set amount of resurfacing annually
 - Funding is an issue for this
 - DNR – work with them or funding since it is a state trail

SWOT Analysis

On June 18, 2012 the Polk County Parks, Forestry, Buildings & Solid Waste Department conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Weaknesses analysis to assess the internal and external environment in which the department current exists. This exercise was conducted with County Board of Supervisors, Polk County Property Committee, County Staff and citizens. Commonly known as an SWOT, this exercise is an environmental scan or overall view of the department. A SWOT analysis can provide clues to developing effective departmental strategies that build on strengths and takes advantage of opportunities, while it overcomes or minimizes the effects of weaknesses and threats.

SWOT Purpose:

- Useful in clarifying the conditions within, which the department operates
- Lays the foundation for identifying department issues and effective strategies
- Supplies an overall systems view of the department and the factors that affect it

Outcomes:

- Lists of external opportunities and threats
- Brainstorm specific strategies that take advantage of opportunities
- Brainstorm specific strategies to minimize or overcome each threat
- Thoughtful discussion w/ governing committee concerning SWOT (external environment) and their implications to the department

EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

Question: What are some outside factors or situations that are affecting this department in a favorable way?

Benefits of Recycling

- Recycled products more valuable
- Waterman supply contract or relationship
- Increased public awareness & acceptance of recycling
- Recycling awareness
- Establish recycling awareness in communities
- Education is leading people to be more aware of recycling opportunities

Political Capital

- Money – budget
- Strong political support

Future Markets/Ingenuity

- Product development for forest products

Recreational Services

- Favorable public attitude toward outdoor activities
- More public demand for services (i.e. parks, aging{GAM})
- Meeting needs of tourists
- Preserve & improve parks
- The economy is causing people to take vacations closer to the cities (home) – benefit to Polk County Recreation
- Economy: People staying close to home and using local parks
- Greater demand for recreation
- Trails (bike especially) being used more as result of better awareness of healthy life style

Human Capital

- Training
- Motivation
- Staff – experience

Building Operations

- Improved efficiencies can be used to lower the cost of building operation
- The idea of monitoring energy use in buildings – a relatively new idea

- Energy conservation

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Question: What can we do to take advantage of each opportunity?

- Increase marketing of the recreation opportunities
- Take advantage of grant opportunities for energy efficiencies
- Market and promote recycling at the community and event level
- Prioritize retention of employees-find non-monetary rewards
- Be more involved at the state legislative level. Have representation on the WCA sub-committees
- Stay current on topics of product development and prepare to engage in the commerce that results
- Cultivate an engaged, educated work force
- Strive to increase efficiencies in building management
- Seek partners to make the public more aware of county recreational services
- Cultivate political support for department heads
- Champion the good work of the recycling center
- Reduce land and water contamination
- Lead & educate “Green” thinking
- Build infrastructure now
- Bring parks and tourism council together
- Hold idea forums w/ employees
- Involve inventor groups
- Encourage compromise rather than polarization
- Promote County museum
- Promote! Polk County tourism products
- Budget efficiently
- Effective use of county website
- Recreational services – Maintain what we have
- Building opportunities – Establish building specific energy goals
- Recycling benefits – investigate Multi-County cooperation
- Human capital – develop a well-presented personnel policies & procedures
- Political capital – work with state Legislators & County Officials to be heard

EXTERNAL THREATS

Question: What are some outside factors or situations that are affecting this department in a negative way?

Population Changes

- Aging demographics
- Cost of commuting = reduce population
- Shrinking of already small towns

Constraints

- Difficult to work with “For Profit” recreation
- Lack of local markets (forest products)

Workforce Reduction

- Reduced staffing
- Employee losses
- Loss of employee benefits
- Budget cuts reducing staff

Money

- Less government mantra
- Lack of \$\$ for programs that use county buildings (Endeavors)
- Budget cuts
- Uncertain economic future
- Uncertain revenue & taxes
- The cost of energy increases budgets
- Economic support for building maintenance (the lack of)

Cost of recycling

- Increased regulations
- Big companies (i.e. Waste Management)
- Markets determining the revenue for the recycling center
- Political realms may try to eliminate or reduce recycling grants
- Political climate that threatens support of solid lasting programs

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Question: What can we do to minimize or overcome each threat?

- Cost of recycling – Push employees to research & evaluate new markets, ideas, processes & products
- Money – Look at obsolete regulations & remove
- Workforce reduction – critically evaluate job & paperwork details
- Constraints – Look for public/private collaborations/ Work with Trollhaugen on succession issues & collaboration
- Population changes – research & find really good population mega & county trends
- Consolidate departments when possible
- Promote retirement package to encourage people to relocate
- Work with city governments to promote retail, recreation
- Population – encourage people to buy locally
- Recycling – seek efficiencies in handling & marketing recycled products and procedures
- Workforce – create incentives for innovators who solve problems
- Money – Seek efficiencies in providing county services
- Educate cost/benefits of recycling
- Increase sales tax revenue
- Communicate “Shop Local” mentality
- Start a Friends Groups
- Upgrade Nursing home
- Employee retention a priority//succession plan for department heads
- Market Polk County as a good place to live

- Increase the volume of recyclables
- Auction the leasing rights to Frac sand now for future operation on county lands

STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

Assessing the outdoor recreation needs of Wisconsin's residents and visitors is a major component of the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*. Outdoor recreation is a very broad concept. Activities range from shooting buckets to shooting bears, from just relaxing to rock climbing, or from solitary hiking to trekking at the State Fair. With many, often competing interests, it is necessary to assess the needs, plans, and issues involving outdoor recreation in the region.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources guidelines for outdoor recreation planning encourage local planning efforts to consider the needs, issues, and priorities identified in the SCORP. The 2011-2016 SCORP identified the following trends in Wisconsin outdoor recreation activities.

Increasing Demand 	Adventure racing	Popular as both an individual and a group activity.
	Driving for pleasure	An easy activity for the aging baby boomer generation.
	Developed/RV camping	Baby boomers are a continued driving force for this growth.
	Kayaking	Cheaper entry points have attracted more participants.
	Visit a dog park	Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas.
	Soccer outdoors	Youth growth is still strong in urban areas.
	BMX biking	X Games popularity may be driving this growth.
	Climbing	Indoor climbing walls have led to an outdoor resurgence.
	Stand up paddling/paddleboarding	A fast growing water sport sweeping the country.
	Triathlon (on- and off-road)	Varying distance events have allowed for growth.
	Off-highway vehicle driving	Post recession growth continues.
	Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	The "grow local" concept is taking hold at many levels.
	Stable Demand 	Walk for pleasure
Running or jogging		Gen Y is replacing the baby boomers for this activity.
Water parks		Recession may have caused this growth to slow.
Motorboating		Still easy access in a water-based state.
Day hiking		Popular with many generations.
Golf		Time constraints do not allow for growth.
Tent camping		Continues to be stable, but growth is illusive.
Snowboarding		May have peaked after 20 years of growth.
Trail running		A stable niche activity with Gen Y.
View/photograph wildlife		An easy activity that spans generations.
Bicycling (road and non-paved)		Popular with many generations – access is still key.
Snowshoeing		After large growth, this has stabilized.
Decreasing Demand 	Hunting	Continues to struggle with generational loss and private access.
	Inline skating	A large decrease in the last six years, the bottom may be near.
	Skateboarding/skate parks	Gen M is free-skating with longboards.
	Horseback riding on trails	Recession impacts have caused this to decrease with no rebound.
	Softball	Baby boomers continue to leave this sport.
	Downhill skiing	Gen Y does not have the numbers to replace aging baby boomers.

While by no means a complete analysis, these issues should foster future discussions between recreation providers about how to better serve various recreation interests. By identifying issues of statewide and regional significance, county and local outdoor recreation providers can better identify individual roles for providing high quality recreation resources, and for continually improving the recreational opportunities offered to our citizens, now and into the future.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Capital improvements to parks/facility are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park/facility. Capital improvements are designed and funded individually through segregated County funds. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities. Routine maintenance does not appreciably increase the value or usefulness of the park/facility, and is traditionally funded through the Department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, however, is usually considered a capital improvement item. For example, upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor lavatory would be considered routine maintenance.

Implementation of plan recommendations will be contingent upon county priorities, feasibility, and available resources and opportunities (e.g., grants, partnerships, available land, staff resources).

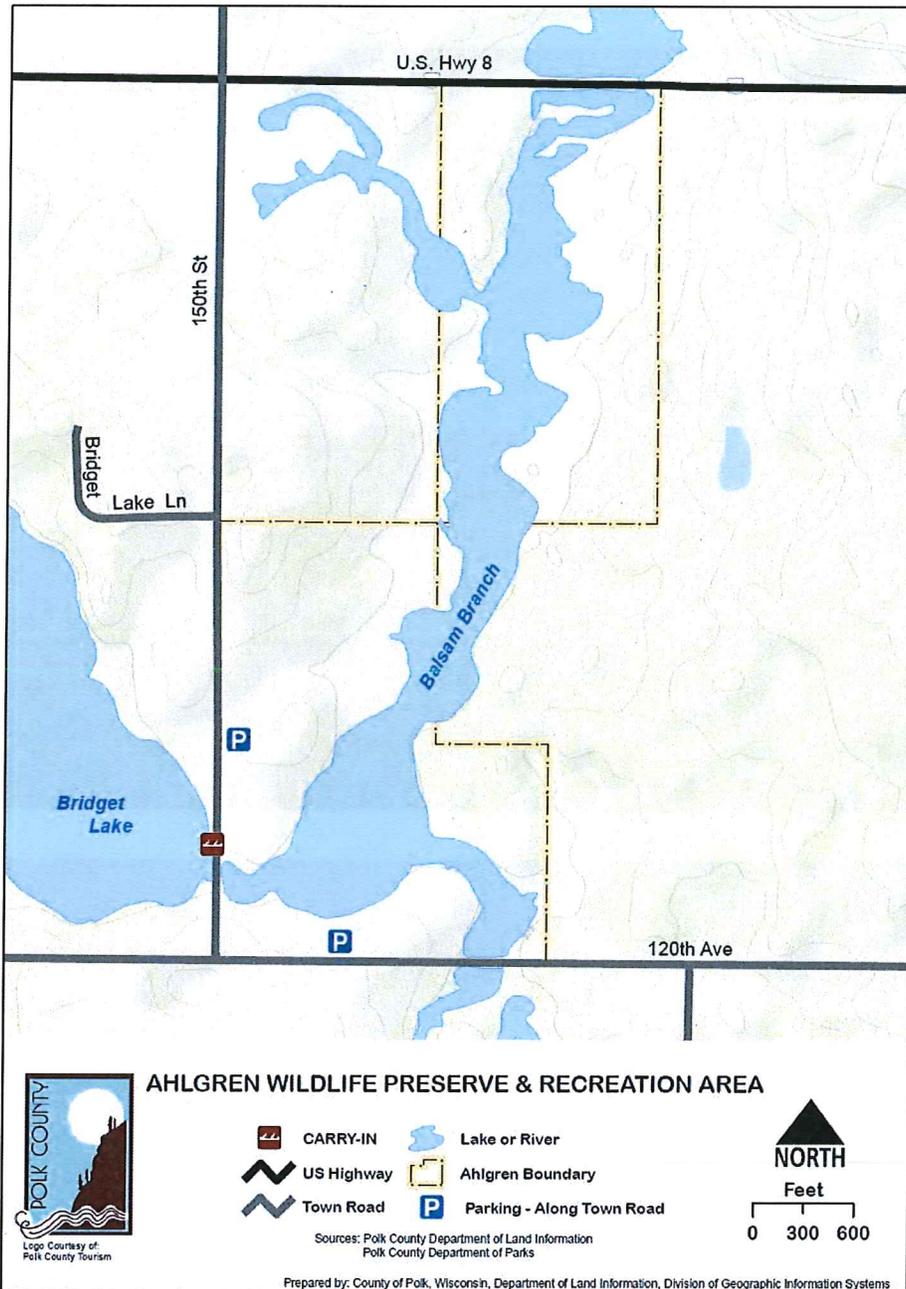
The capital improvement framework for each facility is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the facility. Capital improvements are ranked as follows:

1. Improvements to existing facilities:
 - a) To correct health and safety hazards
 - b) To update deficient facilities
 - c) To modernize adequate but outdated facilities
2. Installation of facilities as deemed necessary through citizen participation.
3. Development of new facilities as found necessary through comparison to park and recreation standards.

On May 28, 2014 staff and representatives from Land Information Department and UW-Extension conducted a site assessment of recreational facilities throughout Polk County. Results of the site assessment are contained in this section. This assessment included an inventory and specific development, renovation, and improvement recommendations for the following Polk County's nine park facilities:

- Ahlgren Wildlife Preserve
- Apple River Park
- Atlas Park
- Balsam Branch Ski Area
- Black Brook Park
- D.D. Kennedy Environmental Area
- Lotus Park
- Sterling Trailhead
- Somers Lake

AHLGREN WILDLIFE PRESERVE

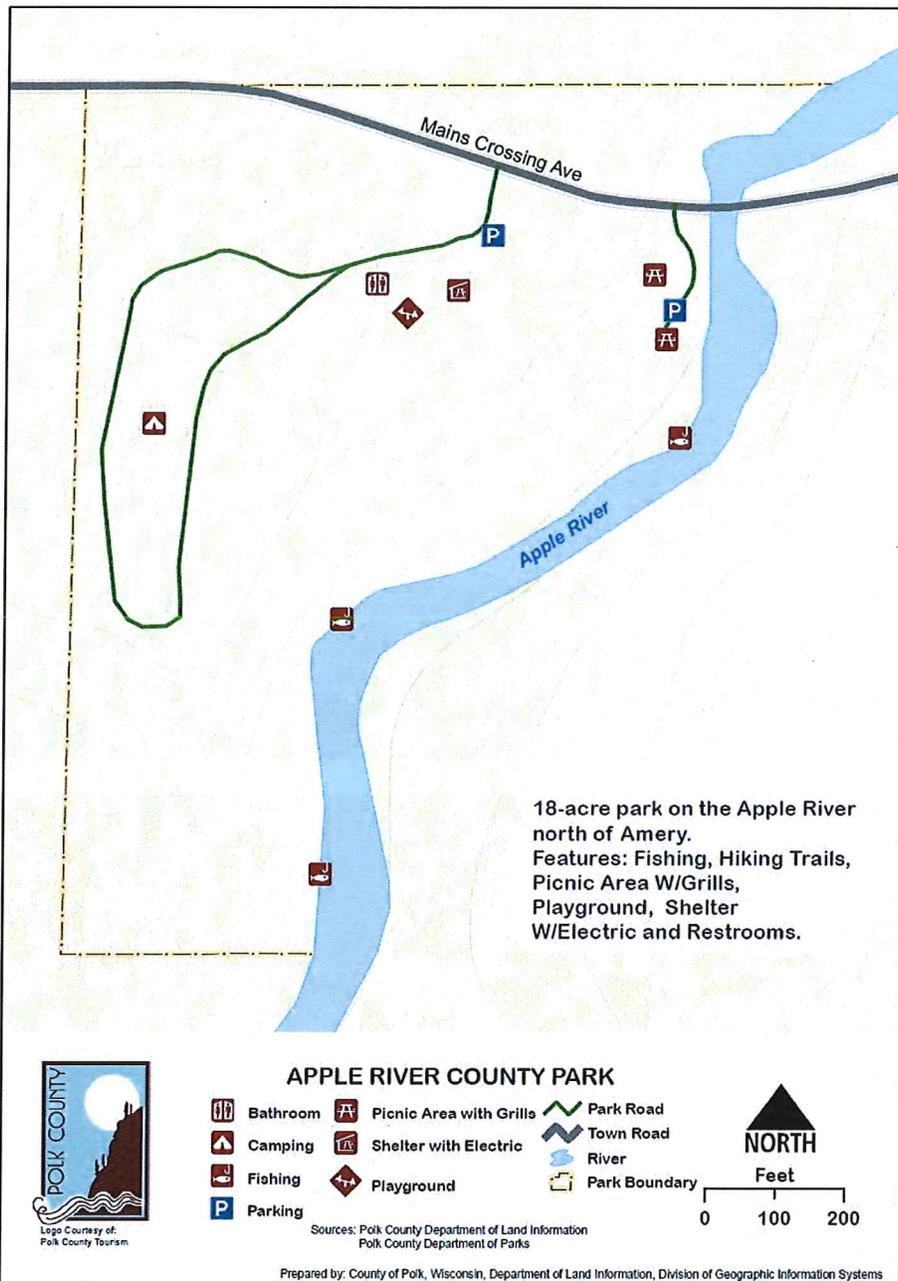


RECOMMENDATIONS AHLGREN WILDLIFE PRESERVE	COST ESTIMATE	Time Frame
Install new 3-panel Kiosk	\$750	2015
Design and develop trail network	\$5,000	2016
Design and build Pavilion/Bathrooms	\$50 -90,000	2018

AHLGREN WILDLIFE PRESERVE



APPLE RIVER PARK



RECOMMENDATIONS APPLE RIVER PARK	COST ESTIMATE	Time Frame
New 3-panel Kiosk	\$750	2015
Renovate camp sites with new picnic tables	\$3,000	2015
Update existing playground equipment	\$10,000	2016
Design and develop 9-Hole Disc Golf Course	\$6,000	2016

APPLE RIVER PARK



APPLE RIVER PARK



ATLAS PARK AND BOAT LANDING

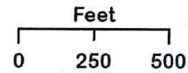
Located in the northern part of the county on County Road B.
 Comprised of three land areas along the Trade and Long Trade River.
 Features: Fishing, Boat Access, Ball Field, Walkway, Picnic Area W/Grills,
 Playground, Shelter W/Electric and Restrooms.
 Shelter Reservation Fee: \$40.00 per day



Logo Courtesy of Polk County Tourism

ATLAS COUNTY PARK

- Ball Field
- Fishing
- Trail
- Bathroom
- Parking
- Lake or River
- Boat Landing
- Picnic Area with Grills
- Park Boundary
- Dam
- Shelter with Electric

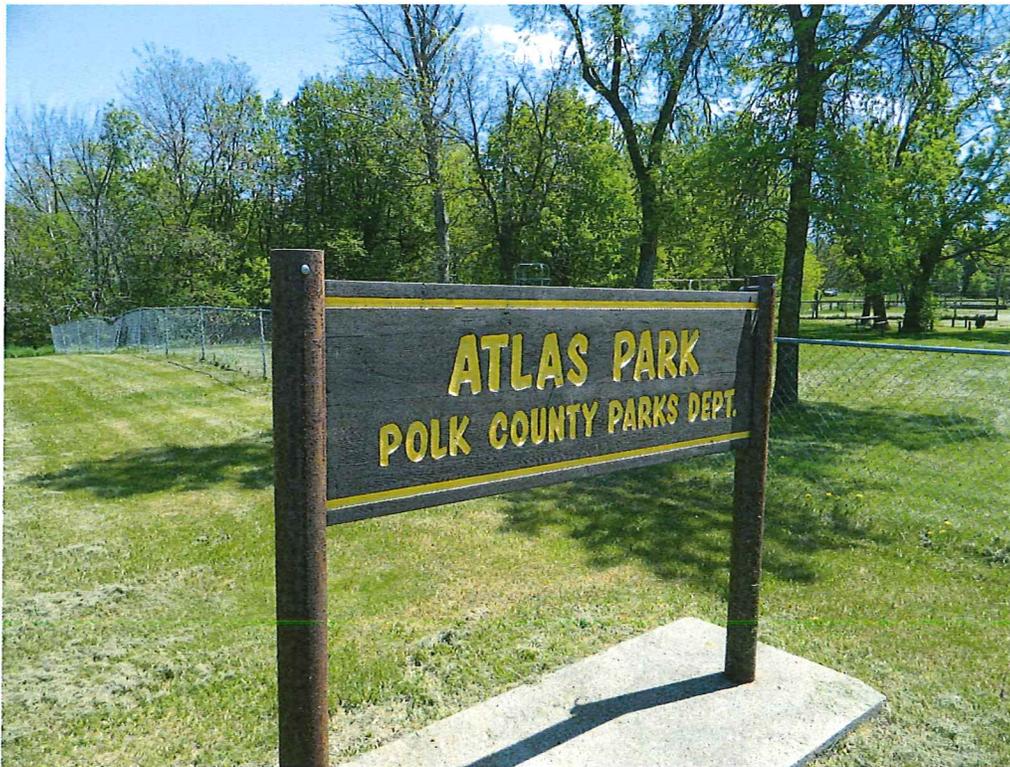


Sources: Polk County Department of Land Information
 Polk County Department of Parks

Prepared by: County of Polk, Wisconsin, Department of Land Information, Division of Geographic Information Systems

RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
ATLAS PARK & BOAT LANDING		
New 3-panel Kiosk	\$750	2015
New restrooms	\$25,000	2016
Repair north road to ball field	\$2,500	2015
New roof on Pavilion	\$12,000	2017

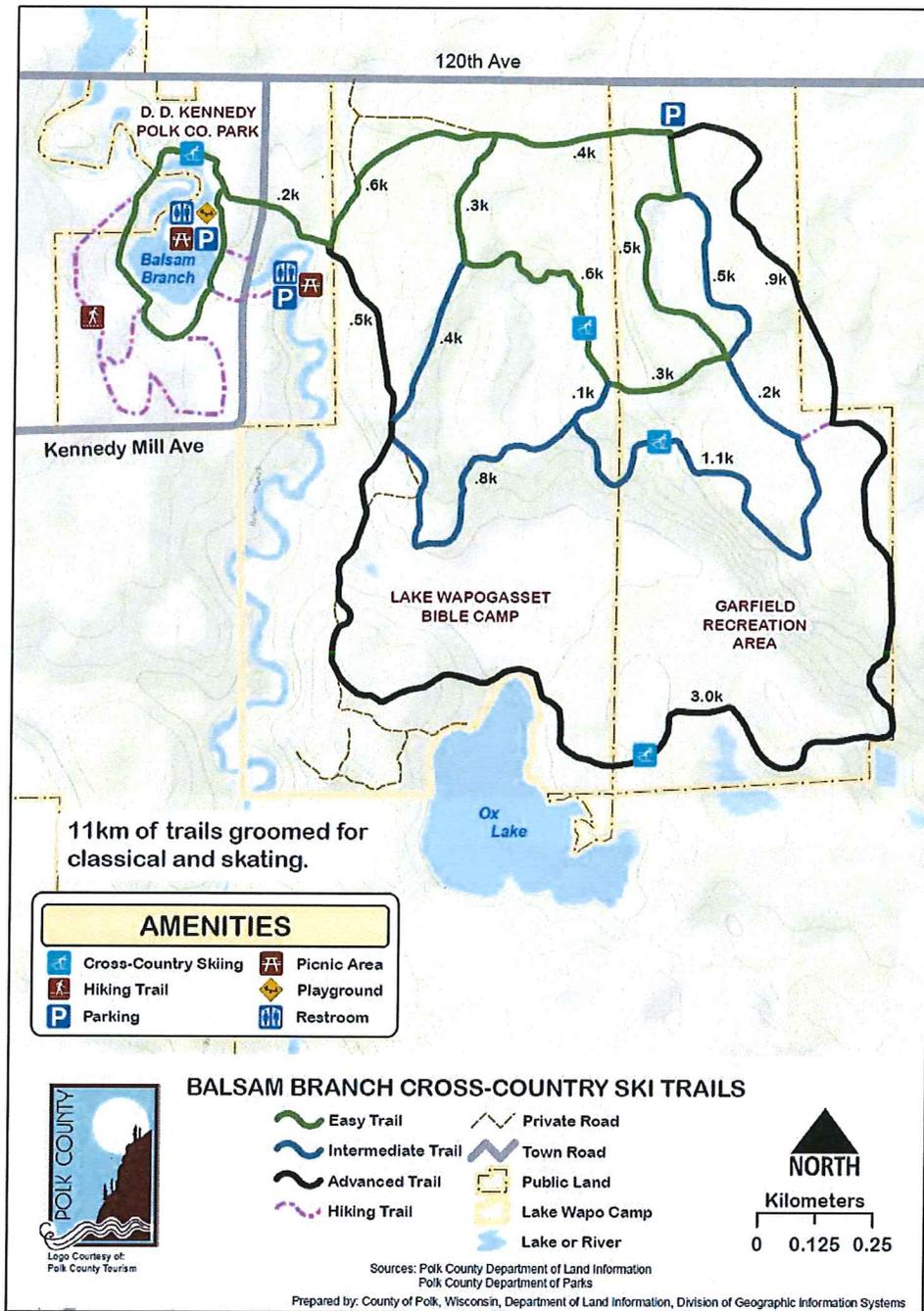
ATLAS PARK AND BOAT LANDING



ATLAS PARK AND BOAT LANDING



BALSAM BRANCH SKI TRAILS

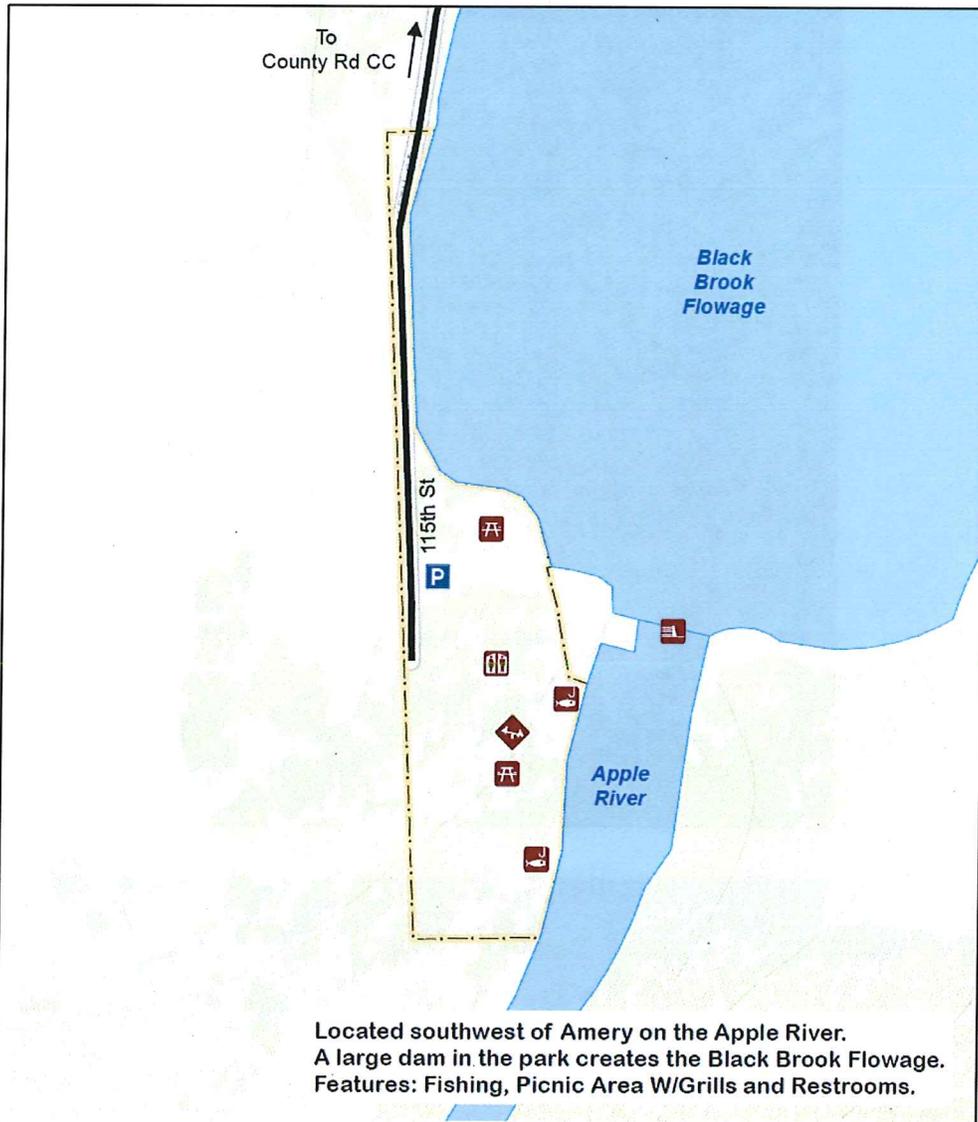


RECOMMENDATIONS BALSAM BRANCH SKI AREA	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Install 10K timing shed	\$15,000	2014

BALSAM BRANCH SKI TRAILS



BLACK BROOK PARK



Located southwest of Amery on the Apple River. A large dam in the park creates the Black Brook Flowage. Features: Fishing, Picnic Area W/Grills and Restrooms.



Logo Courtesy of: Polk County Tourism

BLACK BROOK COUNTY PARK

-  Bathroom
-  Dam
-  Fishing
-  Playground
-  Parking
-  Picnic Area with Grills
-  Town Road
-  Lake or River
-  Park Boundary

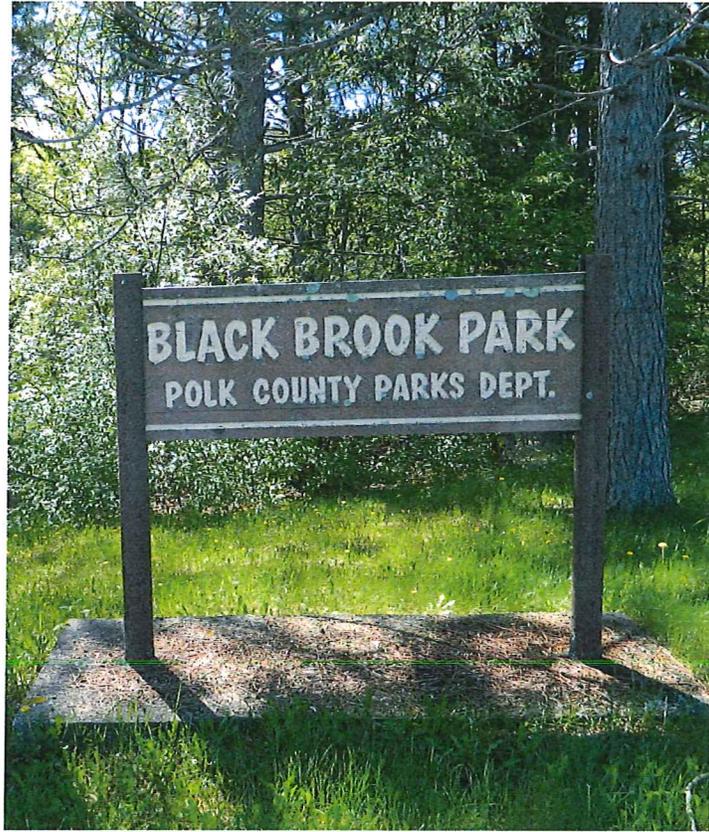


Sources: Polk County Department of Land Information
Polk County Department of Parks

Prepared by: County of Polk, Wisconsin, Department of Land Information, Division of Geographic Information Systems

RECOMMENDATIONS BLACK BROOK	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
New 3-panel Kiosk	\$750	2015
Install erosion measures	\$3,000	2015
Survey and identify boundaries	\$500	2016
Add fishing dock	\$5,000	2017
Tree and brush clearing	\$5,000	2018

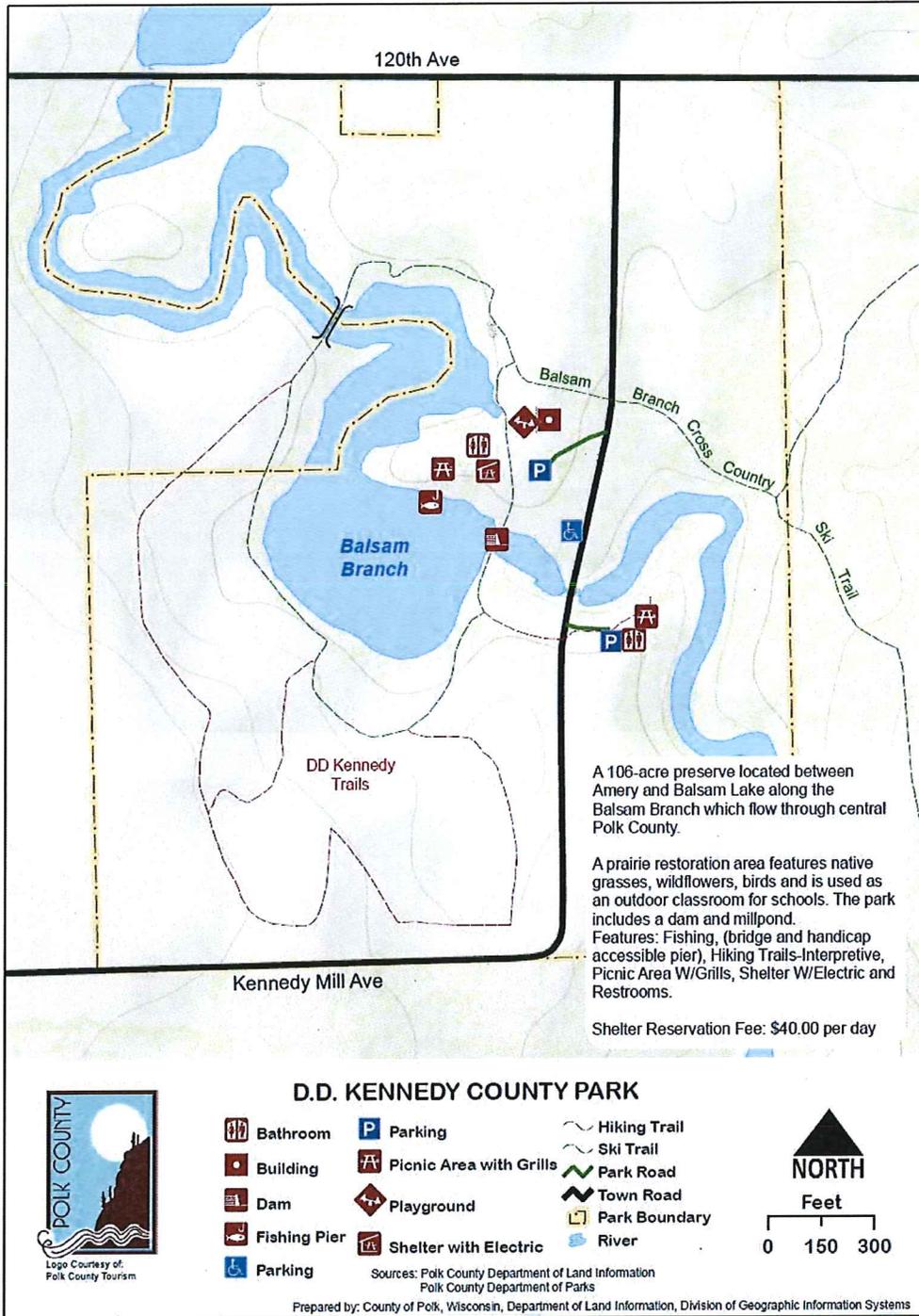
BLACK BROOK PARK



BLACK BROOK PARK



D.D. KENNEDY ENVIRONMENTAL AREA



RECOMMENDATIONS KENNEDY PARK	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
New 3-panel Kiosks (2)	\$2,000	2015
Redesign and resurface entryway	\$7,500	2016
Install new roof on pavilion	\$8,000	2014
Repave trail network	\$25,000	2019

D.D. KENNEDY ENVIRONMENTAL AREA



D.D. KENNEDY ENVIRONMENTAL AREA



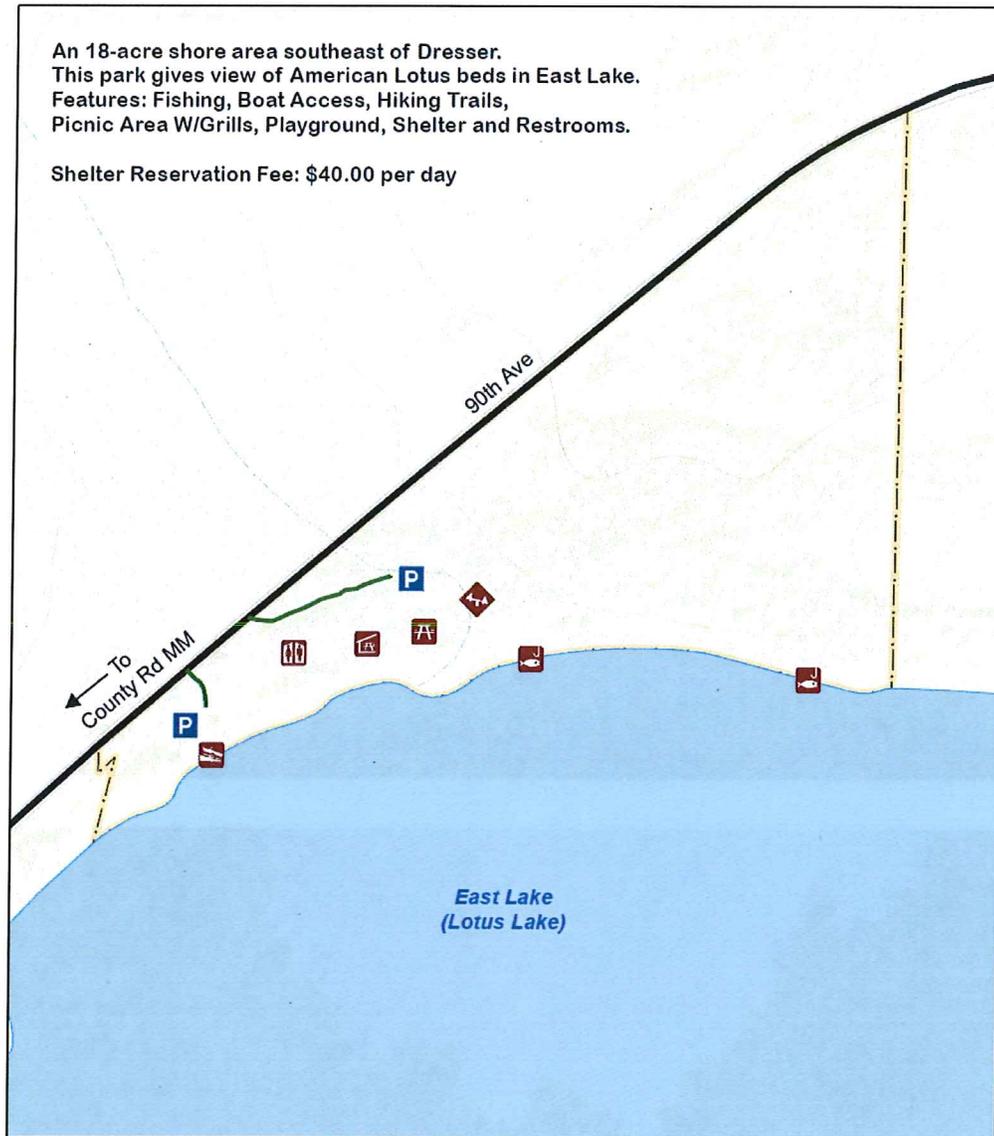
D.D. KENNEDY ENVIRONMENTAL AREA



LOTUS LAKE PARK AND BOAT LANDING

An 18-acre shore area southeast of Dresser.
 This park gives view of American Lotus beds in East Lake.
 Features: Fishing, Boat Access, Hiking Trails,
 Picnic Area W/Grills, Playground, Shelter and Restrooms.

Shelter Reservation Fee: \$40.00 per day





Logo Courtesy of:
Polk County Tourism

LOTUS COUNTY PARK

Bathroom	Picnic Area	Park Road
Boat Landing	Playground	Town Road
Fishing	Shelter with Electric	Lake
Parking		Park Boundary



NORTH

Feet



Sources: Polk County Department of Land Information
Polk County Department of Parks

Prepared by: County of Polk, Wisconsin, Department of Land Information, Division of Geographic Information Systems

RECOMMENDATIONS LOTUS LAKE PARK & BOAT LANDING	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
New 3-panel Kiosk	\$750	2015
Improve access to Stower Trail	\$15,000	2017
Expand trail network	\$1,500	2019

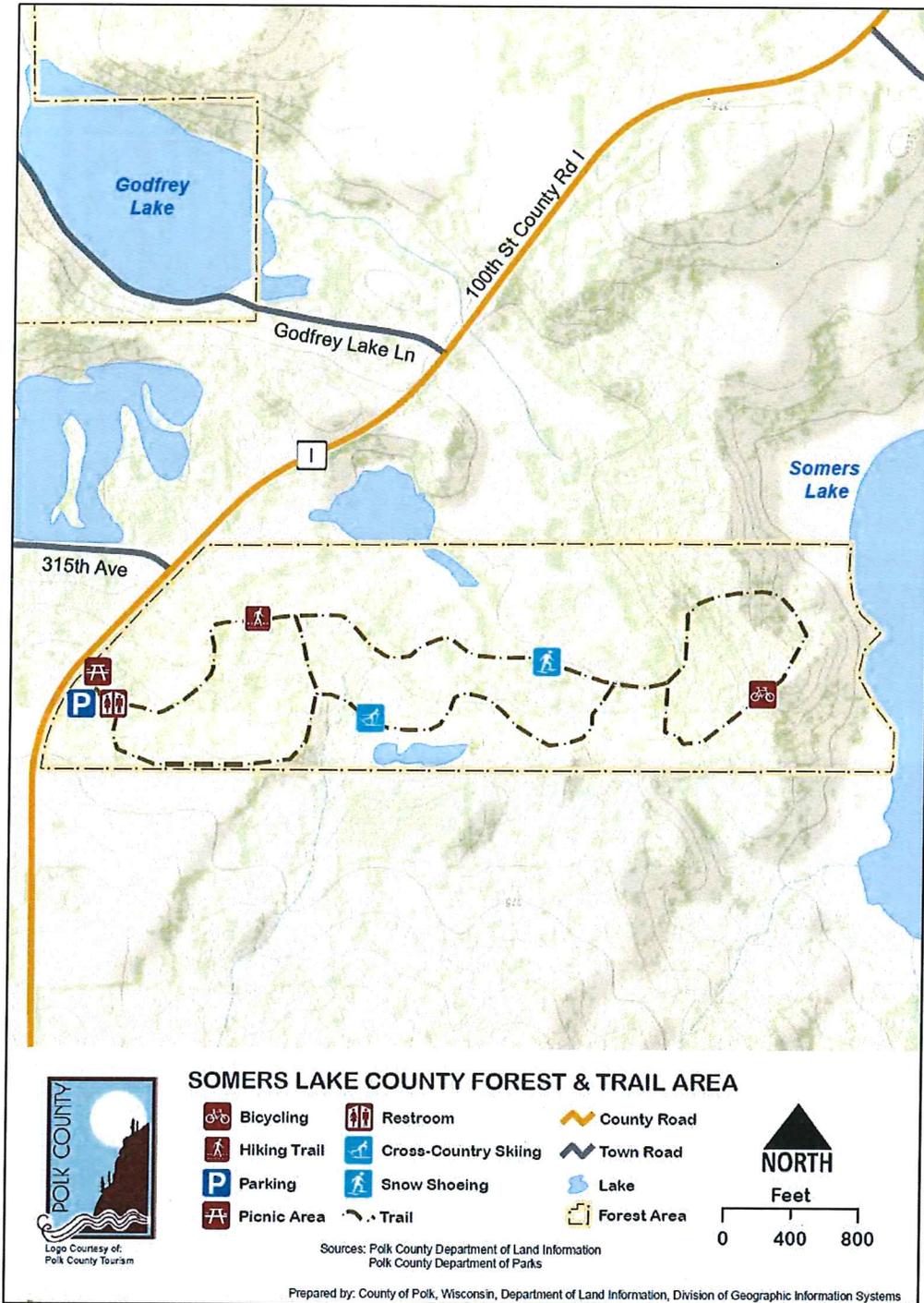
LOTUS LAKE PARK AND BOAT LANDING



LOTUS LAKE PARK AND BOAT LANDING



SOMERS LAKE TRAIL

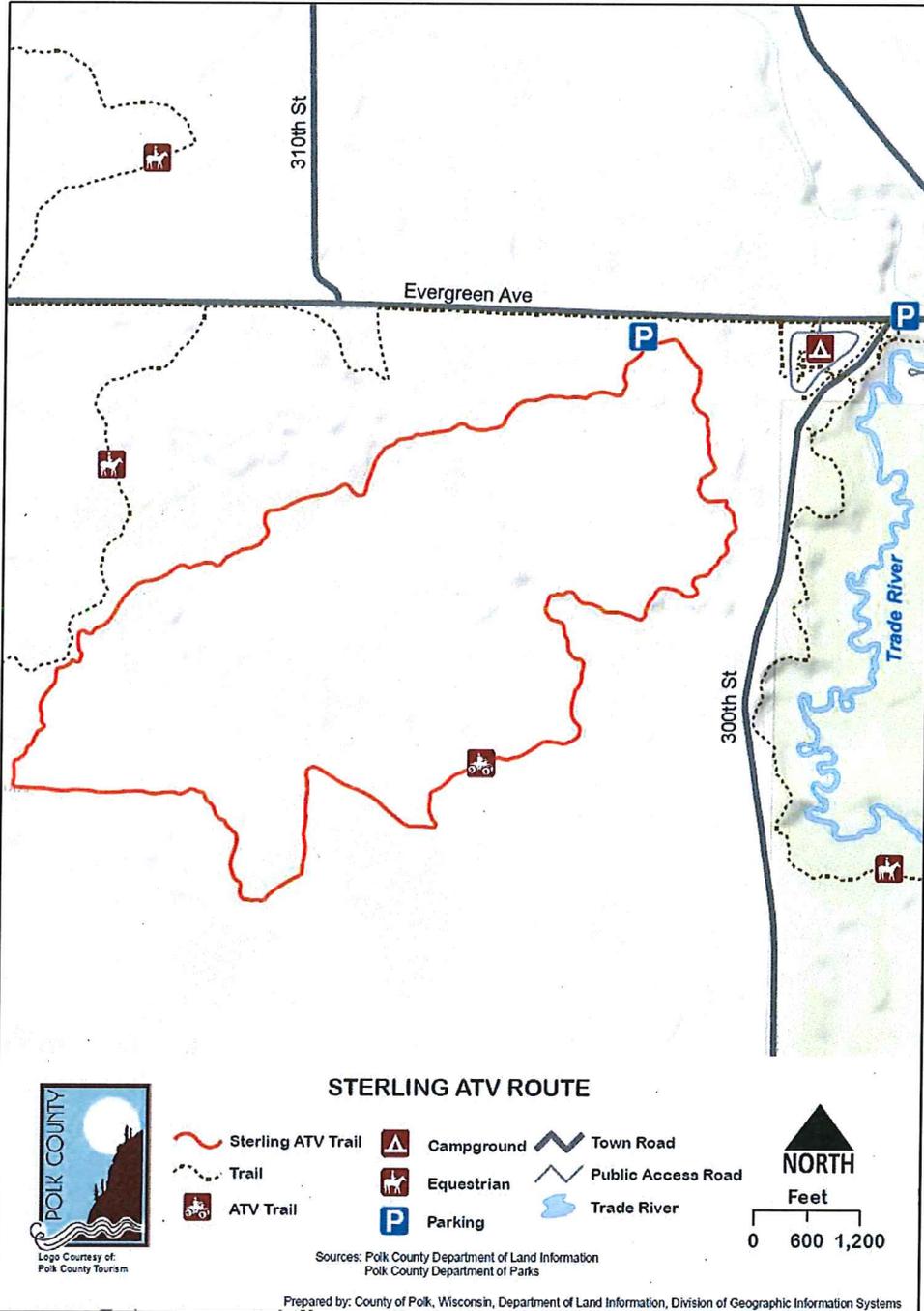


RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOMERS LAKE	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
New 3-panel Kiosk	\$750	2015
Tree and brush clearing	\$1,000	2016

SOMERS LAKE TRAIL



STERLING ATV TRAILHEAD



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STERLING ATV TRAIL	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
New 3-panel Kiosk	\$750	2015
Install small pavilion	\$50,000	2018
Two-directional road signage	\$350	2018
Surface parking lot	\$10,000	2019

STERLING ATV TRAILHEAD



County Facility Accomplishments

The following is a list of projects that were implemented from the 2008-2013 Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan:

APPLE RIVER PARK

Project:	Date Completed
Repair service road to campsites	2011
Renovate camp sites with five (5) electrical hook-ups	2012
Updated playground equipment (new slide)	2012

ATLAS PARK AND BOAT LANDING

Project:	Date Completed
Expand Trail Network	2006
Prairie Signage	2006

BALSAM BRANCH SKI TRAILS

Project:	Date Completed
Lighting	2011
New Kiosk	2013

BLACK BROOK PARK

Project:	Date Completed
Brush Clearing	2013

D.D. KENNEDY ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

Project:	Date Completed
New fishing dock	2005
Painted restrooms	2012

LOTUS LAKE PARK AND BOAT LANDING

Project:	Date Completed
Replaced playground equipment (new slide)	2012
New roof on pavilion	2013
New restrooms	2014

SOMERS LAKE TRAIL

Project:	Date Completed
Restoration of trail network	2007

STERLING ATV TRAILHEAD

Project:	Date Completed
Trail restoration	2014

Funding

The Polk County Outdoor Recreational Plan serves as guiding document for the County Forestry and Parks Department when developing its annual budget and for Capital Improvement Planning. Whenever applicable, Polk County will apply for grants to financially subsidize projects and recommendations listed in the Outdoor Recreational Plan. Below is a list of Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs Administered by the WDNR that Polk County will consider:

- *All Terrain Vehicle Trails*
- *ATV Enforcement Patrol*
- *County Conservation Aids*
- *Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance*
- *Programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks*
- *Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance*
- *Programs: Urban Green Space*
- *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)*
- *Recreational Trails Program*
- *Snowmobile Trail Aids*

Insert Resol. 22-14

Chairman Johnson called to the floor, Resolution No. 22-14, Resolution to Grant a Zoning District Change and to Amend Zoning District Map for the Town of Osceola. Motion (Jepsen/O'Connell) to approve. Chairman called for a motion to amend Resolution 22-14 as requested and supplied to the board members prior to the board meeting. Motion (O'Connell/Schmidt) to amend Resolution 22-14 as follows: After Line 15: insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Article VII, Para. E. of the Polk County Comprehensive Land Use Ordinance, the Polk County Board of Supervisors finds the following:

1. Town of Osceola approved rezoning.
2. There was no opposition from neighbors.
3. Owners wanted rezone to revert back to Agricultural when business is dissolved or property is sold.
4. Adequate public facilities to serve the development are present or will be provided. The Geyer's are using an existing shop/garage on the property for the repair shop. They will be accessing the property from the town road.
5. These facilities will not be an unreasonable burden to local government Geyer's property is located off a town road and owners are already conducting business currently.
6. The land is suitable for development. Town of Osceola approved a Conditional rezone to have a repair shop on this property.
7. Development will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas. Marine business with approximately one acre that is over 300 feet from Osceola Creek. Structure already exists on the property that will be used for the repair shop."

Motion to approve Resolution 22-14 as amended, carried by unanimous voice vote.
Resolution adopted.

Insert Resol. 24-14

Chairman Johnson called to the floor, Resolution No.24-14, Resolution to Adopt the 2014-19 Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Motion (Jepsen/O'Connell) to approve Resolution 24-14. Chairman Johnson addressed the resolution and explained the need for an amendment to Resolution 24-14 as distributed prior to the board meeting. Motion to amend Resolution 24-14, page 32 of the Recreation Plan, as follows:

"It is recognized that the Ice Age NST provides some 59 miles of nationally and state designated trail in Polk County for hiking and cross country skiing, and that it is an integral aspect of the county recreational trail network. The Ice Age NST is supported by a triad of the National Park Service (as a unit of the NPS it has a superintendent), the Wisconsin DNR and the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), a non-profit organization with over

August 19, 2014

3,000 members who provide volunteer support, including thousands of hours of construction and maintenance services, for the Ice Age NST. The IATA Indianhead Chapter, one of its 21 chapters across the state of Wisconsin, is based in Polk County. Some 6.5 miles of the IANST in Polk County are on County Forest Lands. The county considers the trail segments that cross county lands (as well as the rest of the trail in the county) to be of ongoing importance to the recreation plans of the county, and to the integrity of the 1,000 mile trail across Wisconsin that has its western terminus in Interstate Park.

Motion to approve Resolution 24-14 as amended carried, by unanimous voice vote.
Resolution adopted.

Insert Resol. 25-14

Chairman Johnson called to the floor, Resolution No. 25-14, Resolution to Authorize Intergovernmental Agreement to Create and Operate Regional Drug Enforcement Unit – St. Croix Valley Drug Task Force. Motion (Luke/Caspersen) to approve Resolution 25-14. Supr. Luke addressed the resolution. Motion to approve Resolution 25-14 carried, by unanimous voice vote. Resolution adopted.

Insert Resol. 26-14

Chairman Johnson called to the floor, Resolution No. 26-14, Resolution to Create Highway Utility Plowing Fee. Motion (Caspersen/O'Connell) to approve Resolution 26.14. Administrator Frey addressed the resolution. Motion to approve Resolution 26-14 carried, by unanimous voice vote. Resolution adopted.

Insert Resol. 27-14

Chairman Johnson called to the floor, Resolution No. 27-14, Resolution to Adopt Draft Master Fee Schedule for 2015 Budget Proposal. Motion (Hallberg/O'Connell) to approve Resolution 27-14. Administrator Frey addressed the resolution. Administrator explained one amendment that would need to be made to the Fee Schedule as presented. Motion (Schmidt/Demulling) to amend Resolution No. 27-14 as follows: Page 6 of the fee schedule, under Public Health:

Strike "School Nursing (1st 12 hours exempt in 2011 and 2012) and insert "School Nursing (1st 12 hours exempt in 2015 and thereafter)"

Motion to amend Resolution No. 27-14 Fee Schedule carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to approve Resolution 27-14 as amended carried, by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution adopted.

Insert Resol. 28-14

Chairman Johnson called to the floor, Resolution No. 28-14, Resolution to Disallow Claims for Compensation and Reimbursement of Supervisors Appointed to Serve as PILRD Board Commissioners Under Section 33.28, Wis. Stats. Motion (O'Connell/Edgell) to approve. Motion (Schmidt/Jepsen) to table Resolution 28-14. Chairman Johnson received a request for point of order by Supr. Sample on whether the motion to table was in order. Chairman Johnson declared that the motion to lay on the table was in order. Motion (Sample/O'Connell) to appeal ruling of the Chair's declaration. Chairman declared the

August 19, 2014