

# Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan

## 2022-2027



Plan completed by the Clark County Forestry & Parks Department with assistance provided by the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

County Adoption: 7/21/22





**CLARK COUNTY  
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
2022 – 2027**

**prepared by:**

**Clark County Forestry & Parks Department  
and the  
Clark County Forestry & Parks Committee**

**with assistance by:**

**West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**

**Adopted by the  
Clark County Board of Supervisors – July 21, 2022**



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## SECTION I

# INTRODUCTION

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Leisure time is an important component of people's lifestyles and quality of life, whether they live in urban centers or sparsely populated rural regions of the country. Compared to a century ago, shorter working hours, more disposable income, earlier retirement, and longer life spans have led to an increased demand for leisure-time activities, including outdoor recreation. As more and more people participate in outdoor activities, the economic value of recreational facilities increase, which increasing pressures on these facilities may endanger the environmental qualities that residents and non-residents are attracted to in the first place. Consequently, there is a need to provide for increasing recreational demand while at the same time protecting natural resources for future generations.

Broadly defined, recreation is an activity or experience undertaken solely for the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it. Although recreational preferences may vary from individual to individual, recreation occupies a necessary and significant place in every person's life. It is important to provide a variety of parks and outdoor recreational facilities to offer opportunities for participation in a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits.

A primary purpose of this plan is to provide direction for the programming, maintenance, and improvement of Clark County's existing parks and recreational trails, while guiding the acquisition and development of land to satisfy the outdoor recreational needs of the current and projected population of the County.

### A. OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING AS A GRANT PREREQUISITE

Wisconsin municipalities are required to maintain an outdoor recreation plan in order to be eligible for certain grant programs available through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, most notably:

- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grants (i.e., Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, Urban Green Space grants, Urban Rivers grants, and Acquisition of Development Rights)
- Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)
- Federal Recreational Trails Act (RTA) funds

Eligible grant projects must support or enhance public outdoor recreation activities. In the past, the focus has been on nature-based outdoor recreation projects, such as land acquisition for parks/trails or the construction of trails, canoe launches, fishing piers, park shelters, campgrounds, picnic areas, and restrooms. However, the LAWCON Program can now also fund active outdoor recreation facilities, such as ballfields and splash pads.

To be eligible for these grant funds, the County or community must have adopted their outdoor recreation plan within the past five years and the plan must meet WDNR standards. Plans older than five years must be updated prior to pursuit of related grant funding. A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is not a prerequisite for the separate WDNR Motorized Stewardship Grants program for ATV & Snowmobile trail aids, which has an April 15th deadline.

## B. PLANNING PROCESS

This Plan serves as a guide for the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities in Clark County and participating local communities. It is an update of the *2016 to 2021 Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan* and ensures the continuation of an orderly procedure to identify and evaluate the need for additional or improved recreation facilities. The Clark County Forestry and Parks Department took the lead role in managing the development of this plan with direction from the County Forestry & Parks Committee and facilitation support from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC). In addition, a web-based survey was used to obtain input from Clark County residents and visitors regarding their use of County park facilities and needed improvements. Where appropriate, information from other County and community plans is integrated into this document.

Each city, village, and town in Clark County were also invited to participate in the plan update. WCWRPC worked with representatives from the participating community in Section VII to inventory and assess their outdoor recreation needs and develop their individual community outdoor recreation plan sections.

The final draft *2022-2027 Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan* was adopted by the County and participating communities during properly noticed public meetings, which provided additional opportunities for public input on the local recreational amenities, goals, and recommendations discussed in this document.

## C. PLAN MAINTENANCE AND AMENDMENTS

The Clark County Forestry and Parks Committee will be responsible for providing recommendations to the Clark County Board that ensure that the implementation of the plan is consistent with the plan's goals, objectives, and policies.

Conditions, needs, opportunities, and recreational interests change. This Plan may be amended as necessary to address changing conditions to prolong the effectiveness of the parent plan. Plan amendments to the first two parts of the plan should require formal approval of the Clark County Board of Supervisors after consideration of an advisory recommendation from the Clark County Forestry & Parks Committee. Participating municipalities may also amend their respective portions of the plan within Section VII by resolution of the municipality. It is recommended that a local amendment be followed by a motion recognizing these changes by the Clark County Forestry & Parks Committee, but is not required. Any adopted plan revisions or amendments should be sent to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Community Services Specialist for the west-central region in Eau Claire.

## SECTION II

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLANNING AREA

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### A. PHYSICAL SETTING

Clark County is located in west-central Wisconsin (see **Figure 1**). Clark County is comprised of all or parts of 45 civil divisions, consisting of 33 towns, five villages and eight cities. The City of Neillsville, with a 2015 estimated population of 2,422, is the largest community in Clark County and is also the County seat.

With 1,215 square miles of surface area, Clark County is the seventh largest county in the State of Wisconsin. The County is bordered to the west by Chippewa and Eau Claire counties, to the south and west by Jackson County, to the east by Wood and Marathon counties, and to the north by Taylor County. A majority of Clark County has gently rolling terrain. The southwestern portion of the County has more hilly terrain. Bedrock is exposed on several occasions, forming mounds. The head water areas of several of the County watersheds are relatively flat with less relief. The contours range from 1,460 feet above sea level near Dorchester to about 900 feet in the southern portion of the County near Lake Arbutus.

**Figure 2** shows the County's many surface waters, wetlands, and floodplains, which are a very important recreational asset. While Clark County has a total surface water area of 1,865 acres in 19 lakes, none of these lakes are natural. In most cases, water levels on these man-made flowages are controlled by dams, which reduces the potential of flooding. The County also has numerous streams which flow into one of three major waterways—Eau Claire River to north and west, Yellow River to the east, and Black River which runs directly through the center of the County.

In addition, between 10 and 15 percent of the total acreage of Clark County are wetlands and not all wetlands have been mapped, especially if less than five acres in size. Wetlands are defined by State Statute as “an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.” Wetlands may be seasonal or permanent and are commonly referred to as swamps, marshes, or bogs. Wetland areas, plants, and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants, replenish groundwater supplies, store floodwaters, and provide important wildlife habitat.

The climate of Clark County is classified as mid-latitude continental, offering residents diverse, seasonal recreational opportunities. Warm, humid summers and cold, snowy winters are the main characteristics. At the NOAA weather station in Neillsville, the average monthly temperature since 1990 ranges from 14.6° Fahrenheit in January to 68.1° Fahrenheit in July. A low temperature of –48° was recorded for January 30, 1951. A high temperature of 106° was recorded on July 24, 1906, and on two dates in July 1936. Annual precipitation averages 31 to 34 inches, with the wettest months of May through September averaging between 3.8 to 4.8 inches. Seasonal snowfall averages 40.6 inches, but can vary dramatically from year to year, with a 73-inch snow depth being the deepest ever recorded in 1901 followed by 44 inches in 1971.

Figure 1. Clark County Geographic Location

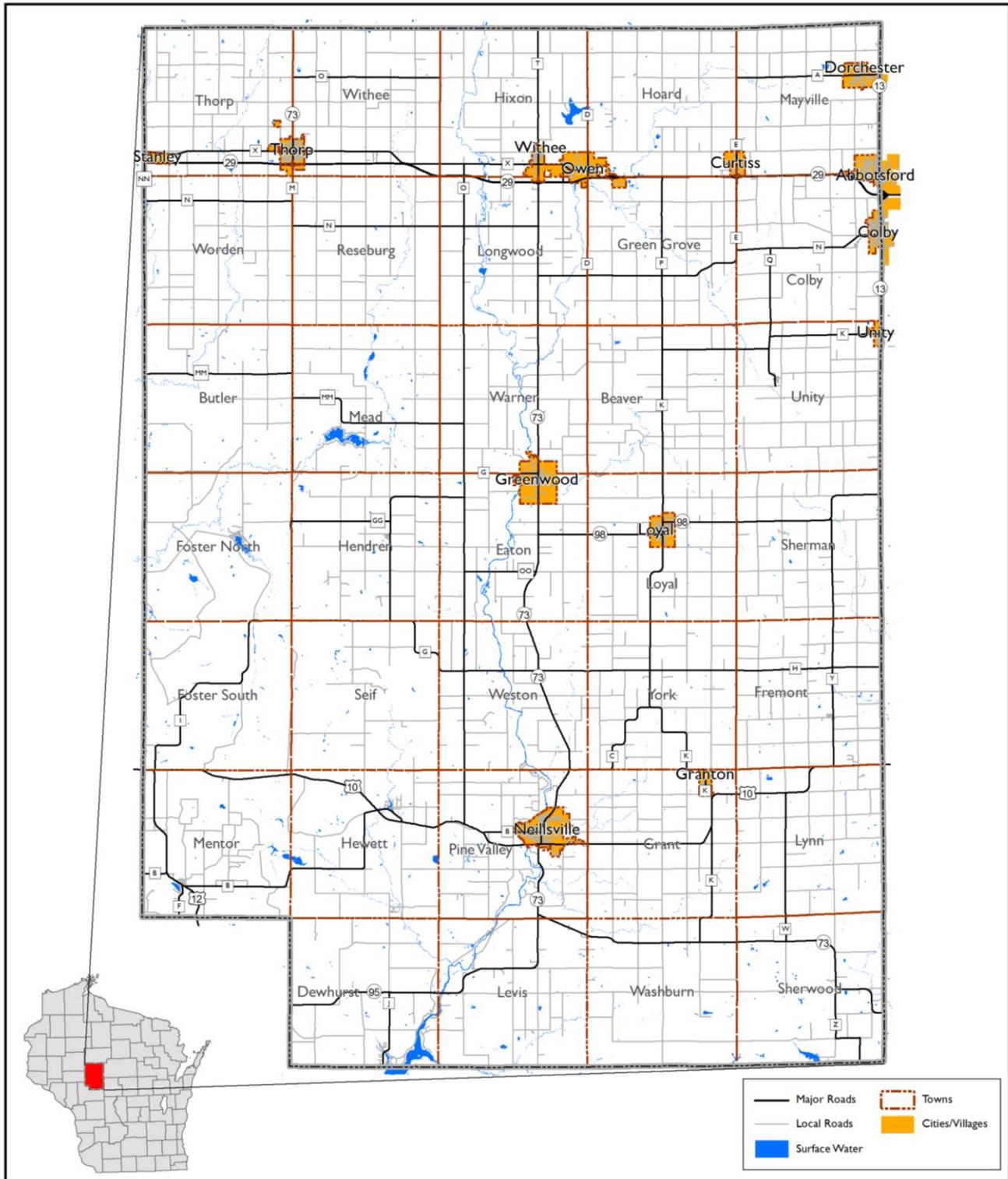
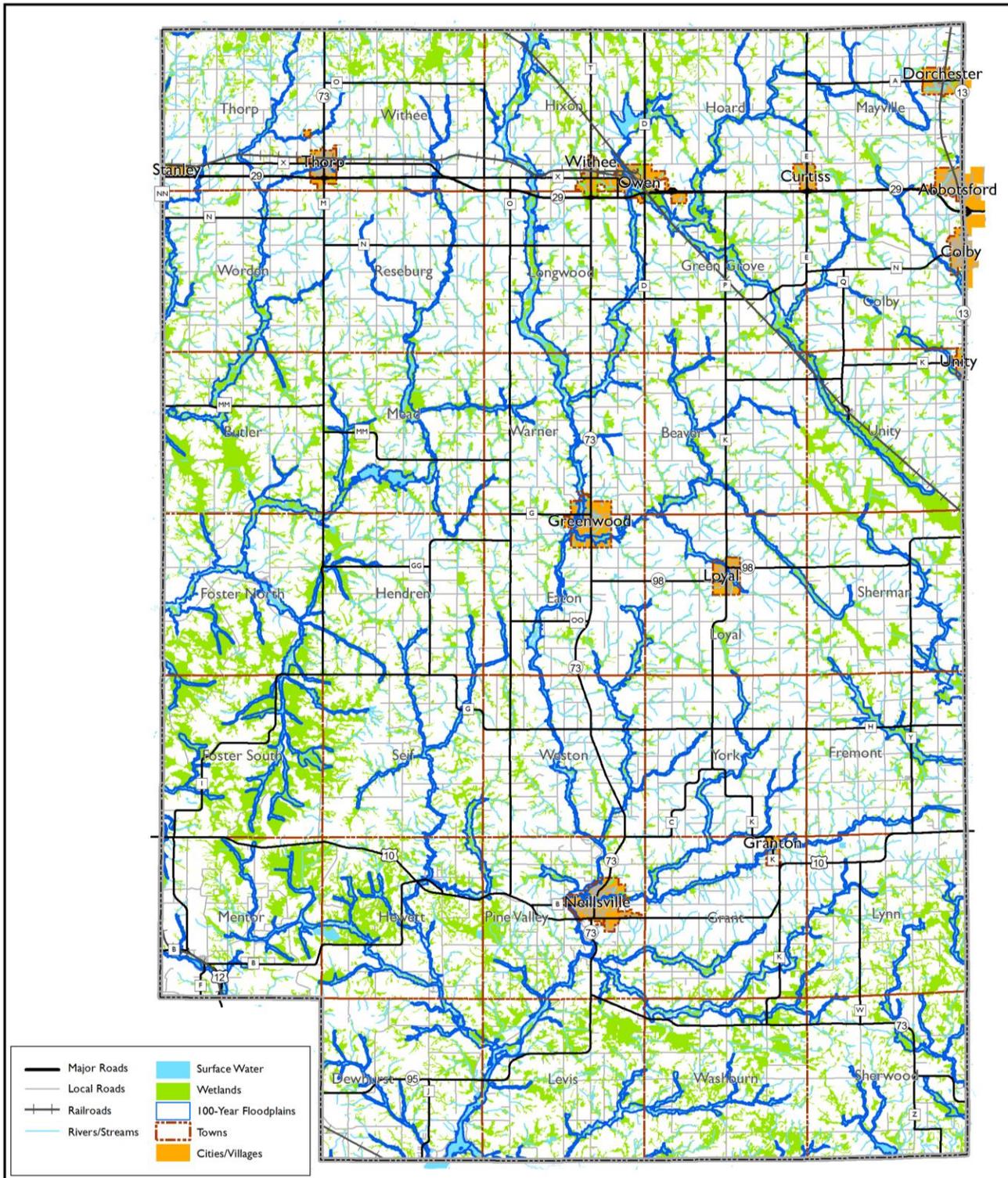


Figure 2. Clark County Surface Waters, Wetlands, and Floodplains



West Central Wisconsin  
Regional Planning Commission

FLOODPLAINS AND WETLANDS

CLARK COUNTY, WI

0 1.25 2.5 5  
Miles

November 10, 2014

Data Sources:  
 MCD: Clark County Land Information & WCWRPC as of 11/2014;  
 Surface Water: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as of 01/2009;  
 Roads: Clark County Land Information & WCWRPC as of 10/2014;  
 Railroads: Wisconsin Department of Transportation as of 10/2010;  
 Floodplains: FEMA Map Service Center as of 02/2010;  
 Wetlands: Wisconsin Department of Transportation as of 04/2006.



Forest and farmlands are the dominant land uses of Clark County. The Clark County Forest was established in 1934 and currently covers over 134,700 acres in the southern and western parts of the County. Aspen is the predominant tree species within the County Forest, followed by oak, pine, and other hardwoods. Most of the forest land in the County, including the County Forest, is managed for recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and/or as a renewable economic resource.

Clark County provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including the following animals, birds, and fur-bearers: White-Tailed Deer, Mink, Muskrat, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-Winged Teal, River Otter, Beaver, American Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, Black Bear, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Cottontail Rabbits, Snowshoe Hare, Gray Squirrel, Fox Squirrel, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Raccoon, Coyote, and Wild Turkey.

A number of endangered, threatened or rare species are found in Clark County. The endangered Karner Blue Butterfly is perhaps the most notable because of the impact its presence will have on management and use of those locations where there are known populations. Bald Eagles are frequently observed, since the County is now a year-round residence for the species. Sightings and track reports of Gray Wolves have been increasing in the County and this species is now well established. Trumpeter Swans, Bobcats, Fishers, Northern Goshawks, Blandings Turtles, Wood Turtles, and Massasauga Rattler are all species of special concern and are known to inhabit Clark County. Just to the south, Elk have been reintroduced in Jackson County.

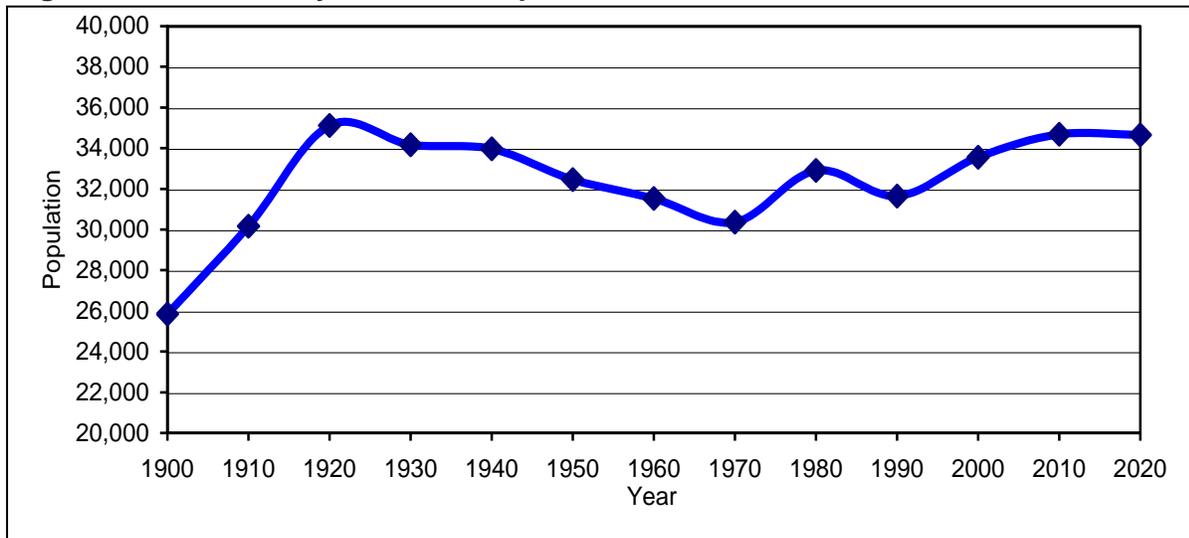
The White-Tailed Deer is the most popular big game animal and thrives in younger open forest areas. The Ruffed Grouse is the top game bird sought. The grouse is associated with the same habitat as the deer. The Gray Squirrel inhabits the more mature oak forests and also receives relatively heavy hunting pressure.

The flowages and streams of the County hold Muskie, Northern Pike, Walleye, bass, and panfish. There are approximately 20 miles of trout streams in the County with various size and catch limits.

## B. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Population distribution, growth, and demographics all influence the demand for outdoor recreational facilities. Clark County had a 2020 population estimate of 34,725, which is an increase since 2000, but 225 fewer persons than the 2010 estimate.

After two decades of significant growth in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Clark County's population decreased steadily until 1970 when it began to rise once again as shown in **Figure 3**. Between 1990 and 2000, the County's population increased by 3,043 residents or 9.6 percent. Even with the population growth of recent years, the 2020 population estimate is still below the County's 1920 population of 35,120.

**Figure 3. Clark County Historical Population — 1900 to 2020**

source: U.S. Census Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Administration

Growth is influenced by a variety of factors, such as proximity to jobs, highway access, availability of farmland, and recreational amenities (e.g., shoreland development). Many of the fastest growing communities during the past forty years were in areas on the eastern parts of the County and located closer to Wausau and Marshfield. Not surprisingly, many of the towns in the western part of the County with large amounts of public forested lands experienced relatively little growth. The exception is a number of towns with lake properties, such as Dewhurst, Mead, and Sherwood, which have experienced relatively higher rates of growth since 2010. This likely reflects seasonal homes being converted to year-round residences, which been a regional trend over the past twenty-five years as retirees choose to move to lakefront and recreational properties.

At approximately 28.7 persons per square mile on average, Clark County is quite rural with about 65 percent of the County's population residing in unincorporated towns. This is much less than the State of Wisconsin density of 107 persons per square mile of land area. While 65% of the County's population is concentrated in the unincorporated towns, the density in these towns drops to 18.8 persons per square mile in comparison to 717 persons per square mile in the incorporated cities and villages. **Figures 4 and 5** on the following pages show the residential development distribution and density in Clark County based on residential parcels with taxable improvements, which largely parallels the population density.

For most of the past forty years, the villages have been the fastest growing municipalities in the County. But over the past decade, the unincorporated towns have been growing fastest and this trend is projected to continue based on the State of Wisconsin official projections. About 44 percent of the County's population is located within 6 miles of State Highway 29 in the northern part of the County, though this area only represents about 30 percent of the County's total area.

Figure 4. Clark County Improved Residential Parcels

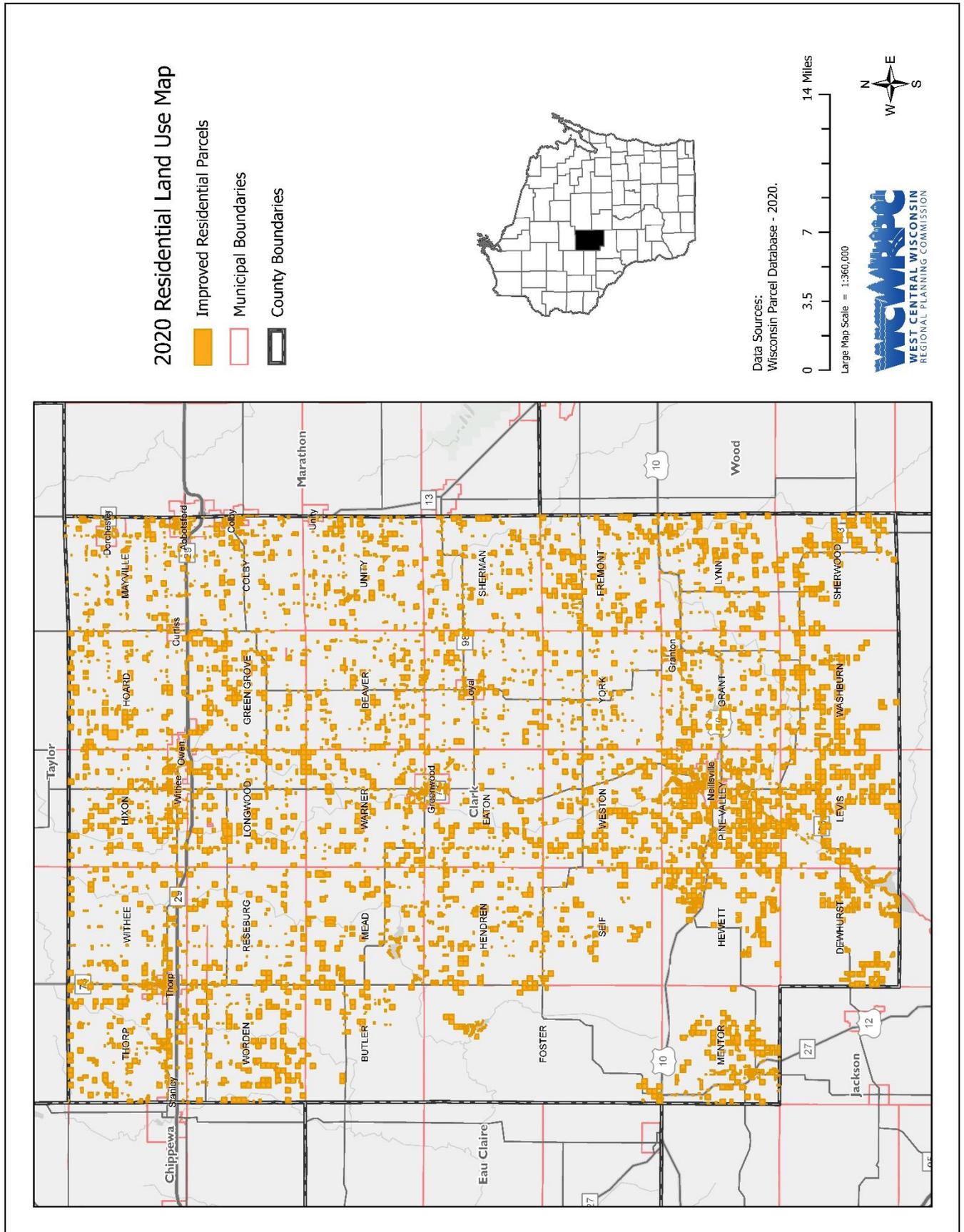
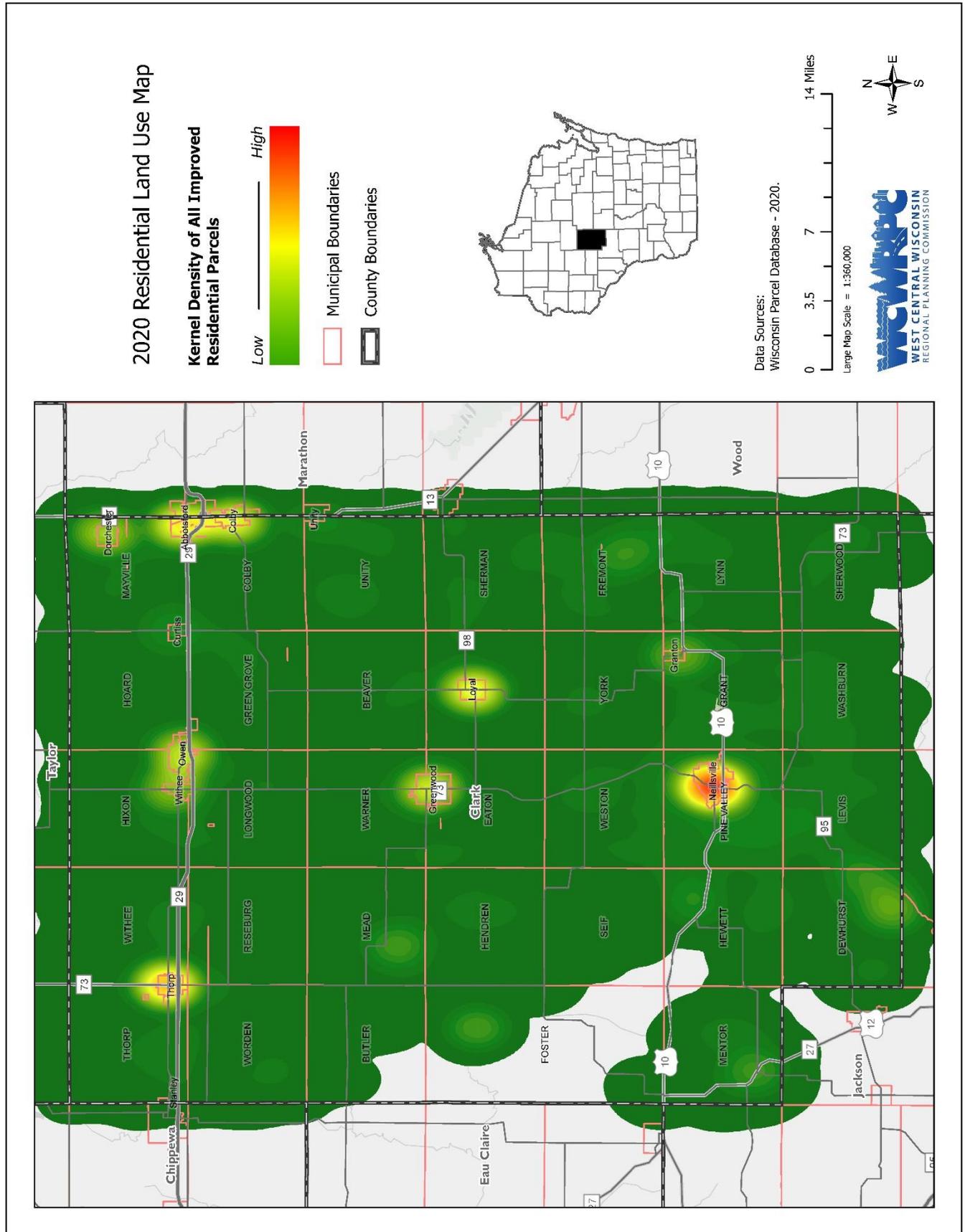


Figure 5. Clark County Residential Density Heat Map



Since 1950, the County's population has grown more from natural increases (births), rather than the in-migration of new residents. In fact, only during the 1970s and 1990s has the County had a positive net migration; in most other years, more residents were leaving the County than moving to it. From April 2010 through January 2014, Clark County had 190 births for everyone 100 deaths.

From 1980 to 2020, the average age of Clark County residents increased seven years to a median age of 37.4 years in 2020, which is below the State of Wisconsin 2020 median age of 39.9 years. According to 2019 estimates, about 37.2 percent of the County's population was below the age of 25, and 16.4 percent was age 65 or older.

Overall, Clark County's population is relatively homogenous, with 92.2 percent of the population in the white, non-Hispanic racial group as of 2020. However, the number of persons of other ethnicities has been growing, in particular those of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, which now constitutes 6.1 percent of the County's population. While the average age of the overall population is 37.4 years, the average age of the Hispanic population is much lower at 18.5 22.2 years. The median age decreased by 3.7 years.

The Abbotsford School District, with a 31.6 percent non-white according to 2019 ACS data, which is among the highest concentration of minority students of any school district in west-central Wisconsin. The adjacent Colby School District has a 23.8 percent non-white enrollment. The far majority of the non-white students in these two districts are Hispanic, with many of their families attracted to the area by food processing employment opportunities. Another notable trend in Wisconsin is the increasing number immigrants, mostly Hispanic, employed in the dairy industry. A 2009 study by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Program on Agricultural Technology Studies found that 40 percent of the State's labor force is immigrants.

Clark County also has sizable Amish and Mennonite populations. While these populations are the primary cause of Clark County's population increases over the past decade, exact numbers are difficult to obtain. One recent national study estimates that Clark County is the 19<sup>th</sup> "most Amish" county in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Local officials have stated that Clark County's Amish population is significantly higher and as much as 30 to 60 percent of the County's total Amish and Mennonite population. According to AmishAmerica.com, Clark County is home to five different Amish communities and fourteen different church districts near Greenwood/Willard, Granton, Loyal, Owen, and Neillsville. A sixth community exists in the Spencer area. According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the County is home to nine Amish schools and three Mennonite schools, but enrollment numbers for many of these schools are not reported. Area residents have stated that the actual number of Amish schools is likely much higher.

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) projects a 23.9 percent increase in the Clark County population between 2010 and 2040, which equals 8,290 more residents. The table on the following page includes population projections by municipality. However, these projections were completed in 2013 and the more recent 2020 population estimates are lagging behind its 2020 projections in most communities and for the County overall.

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<sup>1</sup> Donnermeyer, Anderson, and Cooksey. *The Amish Population: County Estimates and Settlement Patterns*. Journal of Amish and Plan Anabaptist Studies, Volume 1, Issue 1, April 2013.

## Clark County Population Projections • 2010 to 2035

Municipality	Census 2010	Estimated 2020	Projected 2025	Projected 2030	Projected 2035	% Change 2010-2035
<b>Towns</b>						
Beaver	885	879	1,035	1,095	1,150	29.9%
Butler	96	97	100	105	105	9.4%
Colby	874	897	965	1,000	1,025	17.3%
Dewhurst	323	337	390	420	445	37.8%
Eaton	712	716	800	835	865	21.5%
Foster	95	96	110	115	120	26.3%
Fremont	1,265	1,281	1,460	1,540	1,610	27.3%
Grant	916	938	1,025	1,065	1,100	20.1%
Green Grove	756	755	880	935	980	29.6%
Hendren	499	503	535	545	555	11.2%
Hewett	293	297	310	320	320	9.2%
Hixon	808	810	940	995	1,045	29.3%
Hoard	841	833	955	1,000	1,035	23.1%
Levis	492	495	535	555	565	14.8%
Longwood	858	856	1,040	1,120	1,190	38.7%
Loyal	826	832	935	980	1,020	23.5%
Lynn	861	885	990	1,040	1,090	26.6%
Mayville	961	935	1,060	1,105	1,135	18.1%
Mead	321	337	395	425	450	40.2%
Mentor	584	577	660	690	720	23.3%
Pine Valley	1,157	1,160	1,335	1,400	1,460	26.2%
Reseburg	776	784	905	955	1,000	28.9%
Seif	172	167	175	175	175	1.7%
Sherman	882	917	1,040	1,105	1,160	31.5%
Sherwood	220	230	255	265	275	25.0%
Thorp	808	824	960	1,020	1,075	33.0%
Unity	878	888	1,085	1,165	1,240	41.2%
Warner	669	673	770	810	845	26.3%
Washburn	290	285	315	325	335	15.5%
Weston	699	688	780	815	845	20.9%
Withee	966	988	1,145	1,215	1,285	33.0%
Worden	666	705	760	800	830	24.6%
York	886	871	980	1,015	1,045	17.9%
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>22,335</b>	<b>22,536</b>	<b>25,625</b>	<b>26,950</b>	<b>28,095</b>	<b>25.8%</b>
<b>Villages</b>						
Curtiss	216	209	235	245	255	18.1%
Dorchester*	871	852	990	1,040	1,085	24.6%
Granton*	355	350	355	355	355	0.0%
Unity*	139	136	140	140	140	0.7%
Withee	487	500	495	500	500	2.7%
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,280</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>12.9%</b>
<b>Cities</b>						
Abbotsford*	1,616	1,727	1,850	1,950	2,040	26.2%
Colby*	1,354	1,305	1,520	1,595	1,660	22.6%
Greenwood	1,026	1,009	1,085	1,105	1,125	9.6%
Loyal	1,261	1,232	1,350	1,390	1,410	11.8%
Neillsville	2,463	2,362	2,495	2,500	2,485	0.9%
Owen	940	913	1,025	1,060	1,090	16.0%
Stanley*	6	6	5	5	5	-16.7%
Thorp	1,621	1,588	1,835	1,915	1,985	22.5%
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>10,287</b>	<b>10,142</b>	<b>11,165</b>	<b>11,520</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>14.7%</b>
<b>Clark County</b>	<b>34,690</b>	<b>37,255</b>	<b>39,005</b>	<b>40,750</b>	<b>42,230</b>	<b>21.7%</b>

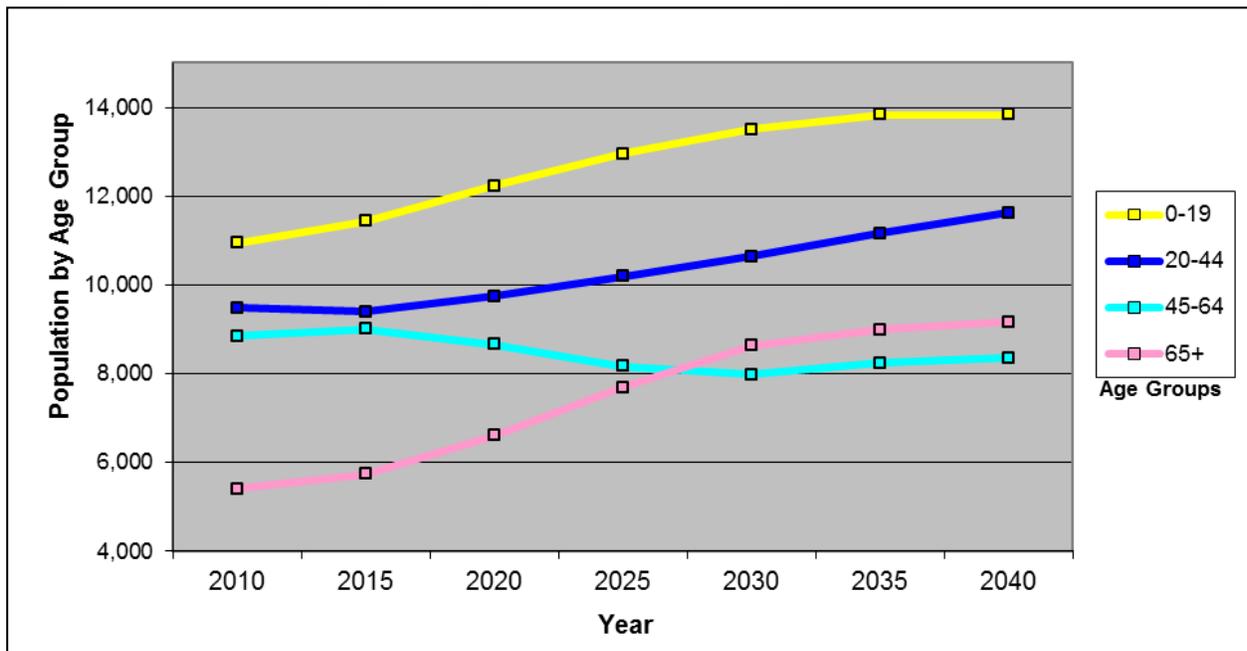
source: U.S. Census Bureau & Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, January 2022

\* Data for that portion of these communities located in Clark County only

Like recent trends, the percentage increases are projected to be highest in many of the towns, with the villages and cities generally growing at a slower pace. The WisDOA population projections are, by State Statute, the official population projections for Wisconsin.

**Figure 6** below shows Clark County’s projected population by age group, reflecting that the baby boomer generation is becoming a larger proportion of the County’s population. However, unlike many other counties in west-central Wisconsin, there is also significant growth projected in the younger age groups. The growth the County’s Amish, Mennonite, and Hispanic populations during the past decade is likely the principal explanation for these trends. The distribution and growth of different age cohorts is important to consider when planning for future recreational facilities.

**Figure 6. Clark County Age Group and Labor Force Projections—2010 to 2040**



source: WCWRPC based on Wisconsin Department of Administration projections, December 2013

Household income can be a barrier to participation in recreational activities. As shown in the table below, the County’s median household income of \$42,777 is significantly below that of the State median.

**Median Household Income, 2010-2019**

	2010	2019	% change
Clark County	\$42,777	\$54,012	26.3%
Wisconsin	\$49,001	\$61,747	26.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 & 2015-2019 American Community Survey

The following additional demographics from the U.S. Census 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) for Clark County can influence broadband affordability and adoption:

- 24.5% of owner-occupied households with a mortgage were spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs, which is considered unaffordable.

- 29.6% of renter households were spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs, which is considered unaffordable.
- 12.1% of the population and 8.2% of families are below the poverty level, compared to 11.3% and 7.2%, respectively, at the State level.
- 17.8% of the population has less than a high school education, compared to 7.8% at the State level.

When planning for recreational facilities, it is also important to consider that 12.1% of the County's population (over 4,100 residents) has a disability according to the U.S. Census 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS). Of those with a disability:

- 42.6% are age 65 or older and 8.8% are less than 18 years old.
- nearly half (47.8% or 1,970 residents) have an ambulatory disability, with serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

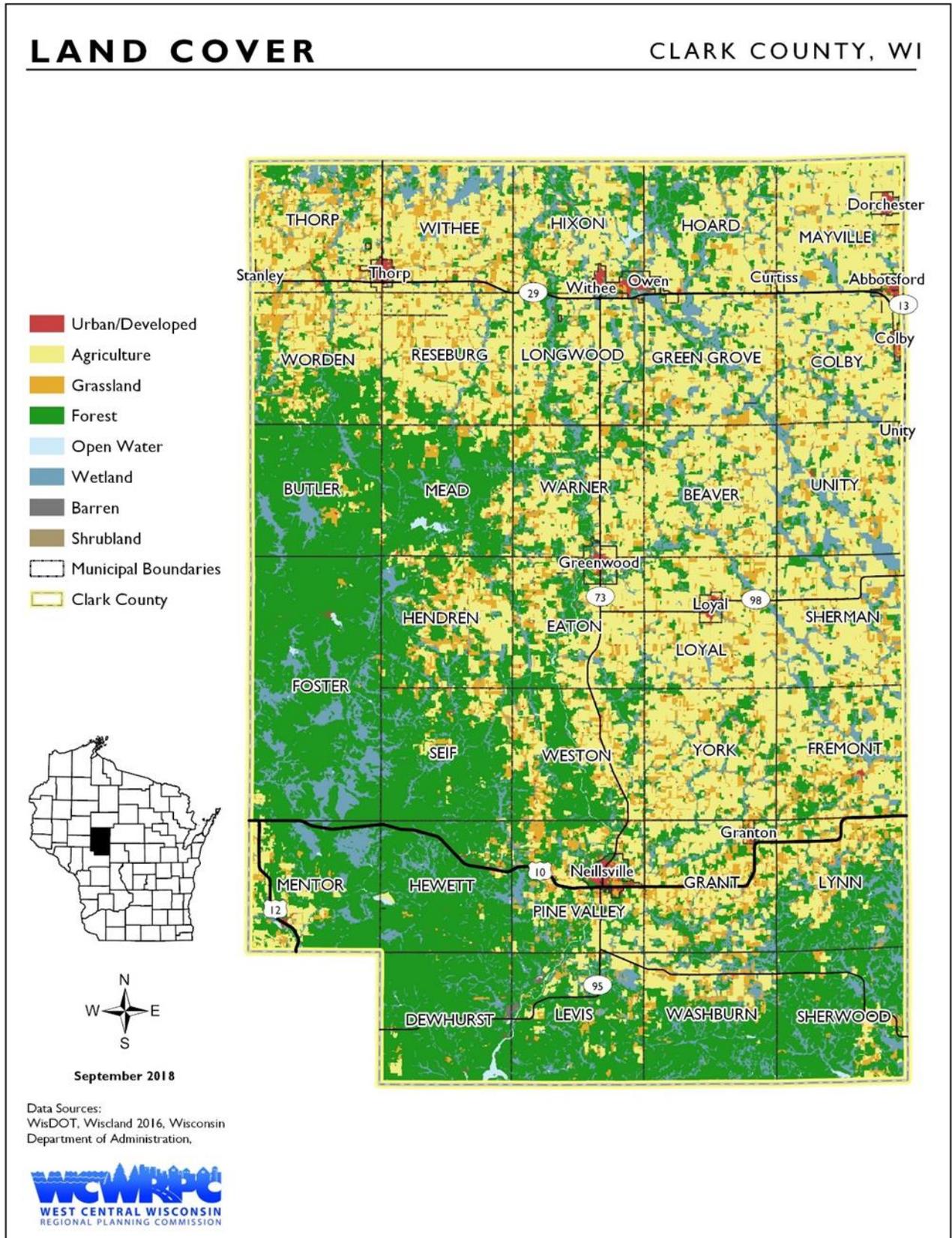
These demographic trends result in a number of potential implications for outdoor recreation planning:

- As the population increases and development occurs, demand for outdoor recreation amenities will also increase.
- The Clark County population is aging and becoming more diverse, therefore the types and locations of amenities that are needed may also be changing.
- The low density of the Clark County population, combined with the higher growth rates in rural areas, creates challenges to providing nearby outdoor recreation amenities for all age groups in an efficient manner.
- Some of the highest growth rates occurred in areas with potential natural recreational amenities, such as rivers, lakes, and forests. However, nearly half (45%) of the County's population is located in the northern part of the County.
- The County's growth has been largely through natural increase, likely resulting in a populace more accustomed to the recreational amenity levels associated with living in a rural community.
- Municipalities have a responsibility to make public recreation accessible to all residents.

## C. LAND USE

**Figure 7** shows the generalize land cover in Clark County. The most common land covers are forest (39%) and agriculture (37%), with a significant amount of wetland areas (11%). Forests and wetlands dominate much of the southern and western parts of the County, which includes the roughly 134,700 acres of County Forest land. Agriculture is the dominant land use elsewhere in the County, with scattered forest lands.

Figure 7. Clark County Land Cover



## D. OUTDOOR RECREATION AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER

According to a 2020 Wisconsin Department of Tourism report, outdoor recreation contributes \$7.8 billion to Wisconsin's gross domestic product, which is larger than mining and farming combined. This sector of the State's economy is also growing faster than the State's overall economy. It is also estimated that outdoor recreation employs 93,000 people in Wisconsin across various sectors, with 9 out of every 100 of these jobs in outdoor recreation manufacturing.<sup>2</sup>

As a rural county with a large amount of public land, outdoor recreation and related tourism is a very important part of Clark County's economy. According to Wisconsin Department of Tourism estimates, in 2019, visitors spent an estimated \$31.9 million in Clark County resulting in 362 jobs, \$7.2 million in labor income, \$56.5 million in business sales, and \$3.2 million in State and local taxes as visitor spending moves through the Clark County economy. Visitor spending included accommodations, food & beverage, retail, entertainment, recreation, and transportation. In 2020, these numbers would dip due to COVID-19. And, while outdoor-recreation is likely the largest component of the County's tourism economy, Clark County also has other important tourism drivers included in these spending numbers, including a strong agricultural tourism sub-sector.

While outdoor recreation is important to tourism, it is also a quality of life asset. Like much of the State, Clark County is experiencing a workforce shortage. The County's many outdoor recreation opportunities, large amounts of public lands, and small-town lifestyle can be an important part of attracting and retaining workforce, which is advantage not available in many areas.

### Clark County Lifestyle Profile

ESRI has used census data, consumer surveys, and other databases to classify geographic areas across the United States into neighborhoods with similar characteristics, purchasing patterns, and lifestyle behaviors.

Within Clark County, 91.3% of resident households fall within three general types of neighborhoods or lifestyle tapestries: Heartland Communities (40.7%), Prairie Living (38.7%) and Salt of the Earth (11.9%). Potentially related to the planning of outdoor recreation facilities, the following behaviors are typical of these three lifestyle tapestries:

- substantial numbers of retirees/older households; well-settled households
- budget-savvy; tend to buy things when they need them, not to be trendy
- when find time to relax, outdoor activities are preferred
- motorcycling, hunting, fishing, boating, camping, and gardening are popular
- walking is the main form of exercise
- many households own a truck and an ATV or UTV
- close-knit communities; joins community clubs
- spending time with family is often the top priority
- somewhat resistant to new technology

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<sup>2</sup> Wisconsin Department of Tourism. *Economic Impact of Wisconsin's Outdoor Economy, 2020.*

It is estimated that the average Clark County household spent the following annually on the following outdoor recreational-related activities and equipment<sup>3</sup>:

docking/landing fees for boats & planes	\$7.03
camp fees	\$25.11
payments on RVs or boats	\$92.16
rental of RVs or boats	\$10.56
exercise equipment & gear	\$53.05
bicycles	\$37.63
camping equipment	\$9.60
hunting & fishing equipment	\$67.11
winter sports equipment	\$3.46
water sports equipment	\$19.78
other sports equipment	\$4.37
rental/repair of recreational/sports equipment	\$1.63
photographic equipment	\$8.53

In fact, this data source further estimated that Clark County residents participated in the following outdoor activities in the last year at rates far above the national average:

- archery
- fresh water fishing
- horseback riding
- hunting with a rifle
- hunting with a shotgun
- motorcycling
- target shooting
- overnight camping trip
- attended State/county fair

With these pieces of information in mind, it is easy to see the importance of recreational activities as an economic driver for the County.

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<sup>3</sup> ESRI Community Analyst. *Recreation Expenditures*, 2021 Forecast derived from the 2018 and 2019 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## SECTION III

## PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

The first step in developing a recreation planning program involves the inventory of the community's existing facilities. This section focuses primarily on parks and outdoor recreational facilities owned and managed by Clark County. However, residents and visitors also have access to a variety of outdoor recreational facilities owned by local communities (cities, villages, & towns), school districts, non-profit groups, and private enterprises.

### A. PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY (SUPPLY)

The table below summarizes the 3,287 acres of parks and recreational facilities owned and managed by Clark County. A more detailed description, inventory, and action plan for each of these sixteen facilities is provided in Section VI.C. In addition to the facilities, Clark County Forest covers over 134,700 acres, which provides a variety of recreational opportunities, including recreational trails, hunting and trapping, hiking, berry picking, forest camping, and wildlife viewing. Figure 8 on the following pages identifies the locations of Clark County-owned recreational facilities.

#### Clark County-Owned Parks and Recreational Facilities

	Park & Recreation Facilities	Size (acres)	Park Type	Key Function, Use, or Role
1	Black River Recreation Area	20	community/regional	fishing/river access
2	Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area	125	specialty	active winter
3	Greenwood County Park & Campground	20	community/regional	camping/group
4	Knobby Ridge	10	regional/specialty	off-road motorcycle
5	Levis Mound Park & Campground	2,520	community/regional	hiking/biking/x-c skiing
6	Mead Lake Scout Camp	2	specialty	scouts/groups
7	North Mead Lake Park & Campground	20	community/regional	camping/lake
8	South Mead Lake Park	6	community/regional	picnic/lake
9	Rock Dam Park & Campground	30	community/regional	camping/lake
10	Russell Memorial Park & Campground	63	regional	camping/lake
11	Snyder Dam Park & Campground	17	community/regional	camping/lake
12	Sherwood Shooting Range	5	specialty	shooting stations
13	Sherwood Park & Campground	26	community/regional	camping/lake
14	Sportsman Lake Recreational Area & Wildlife Refuge	253	regional	fishing
15	Wild Cat Mound Park	130	regional	trails, scenic vista
16	Wild Rock Park & Campground	40	regional/specialty	equestrian

While many of the above parks would technically be classified as community parks due to their relatively small size (<50 acres), most would more appropriately be classified as regional parks since they serve all Clark County, in addition to non-resident visitors. In addition, many are located within or nearby thousands of acres of County Forest lands, which is also available for recreation.

Figure 8a. Clark County Parks, Recreational Facilities, and County Forest Lands (north)

COUNTY RECREATION FACILITIES

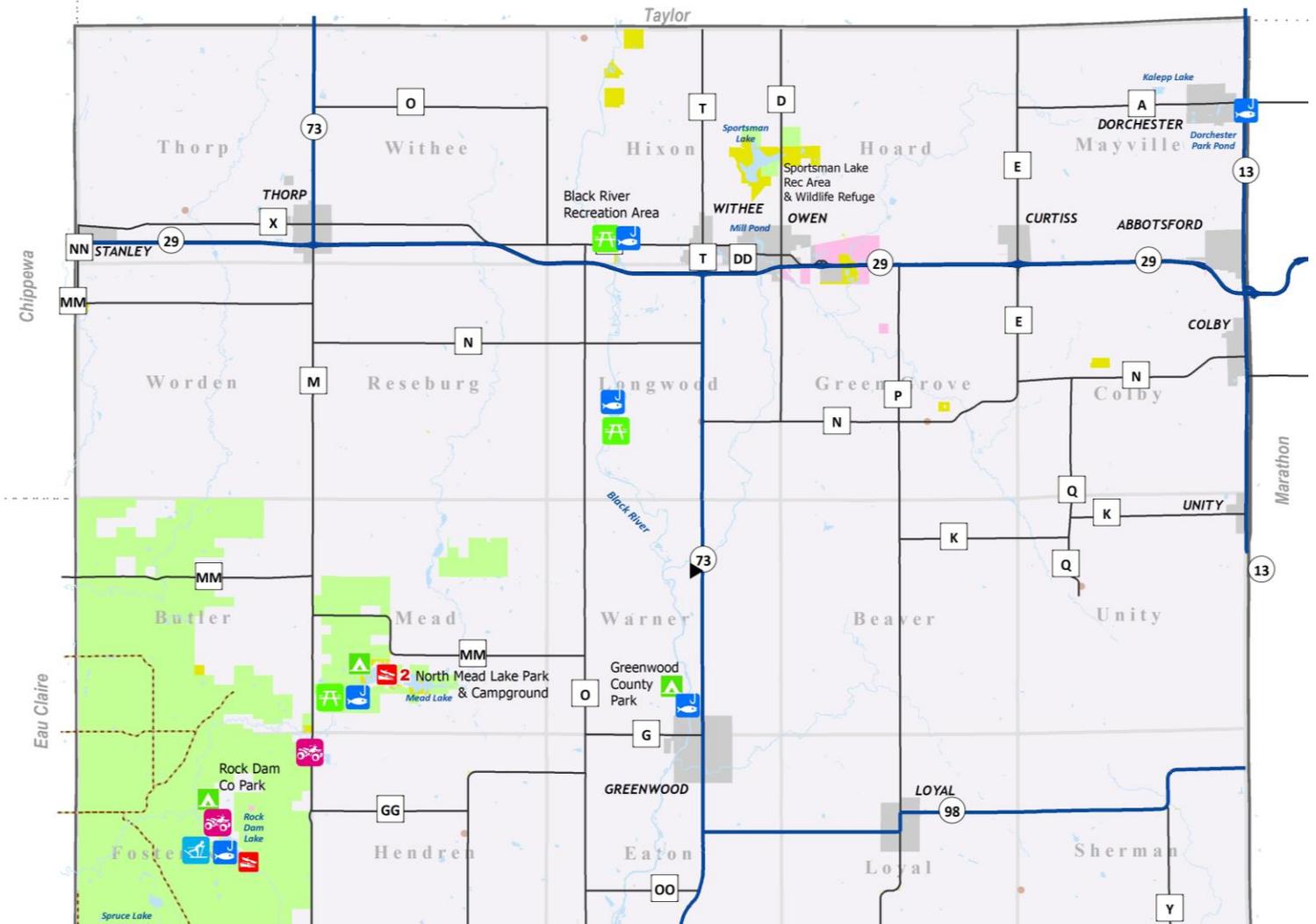
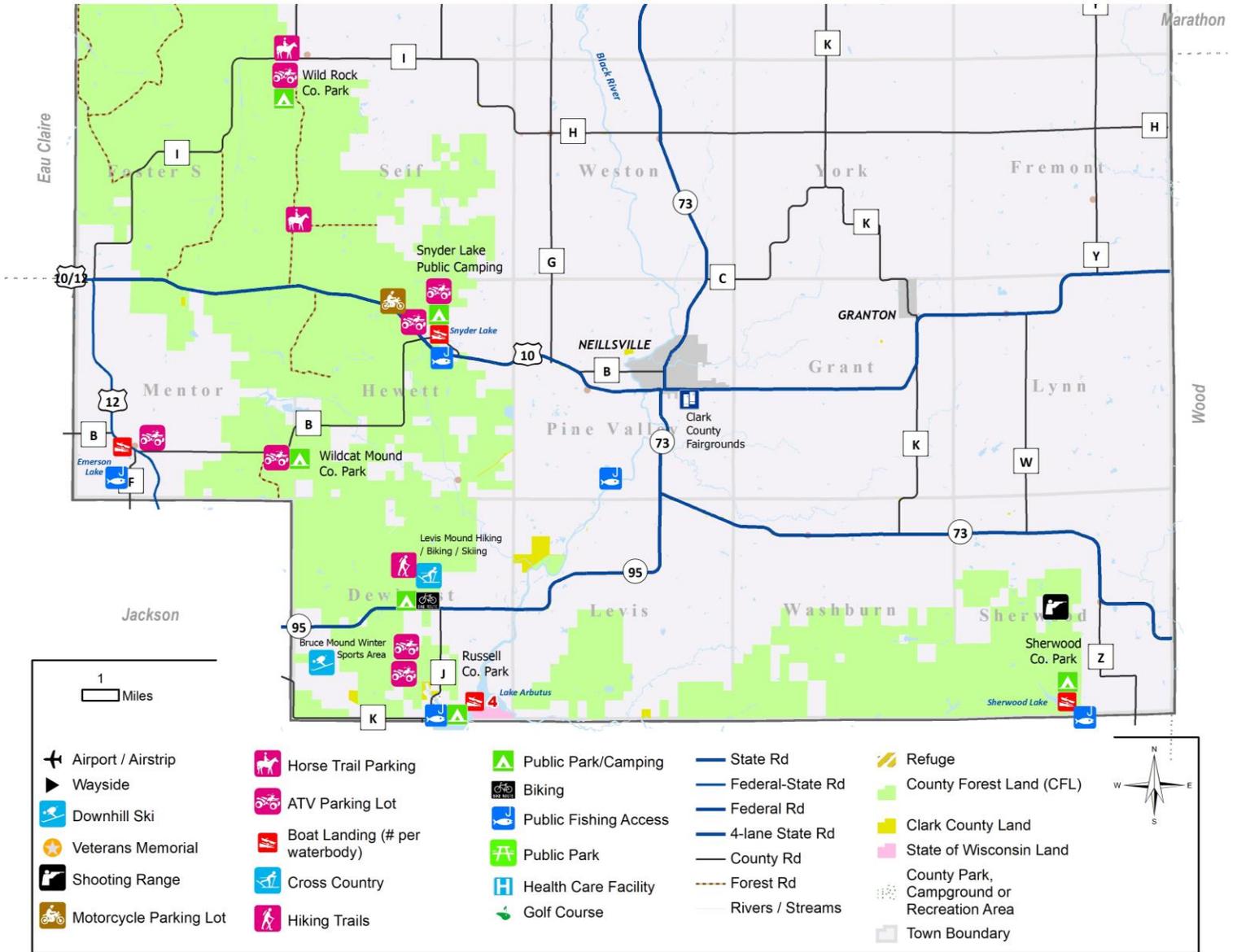


Figure 8b. Clark County Parks, Recreational Facilities, and County Forest Lands (south)



**i. LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES**

**Public Campgrounds**

Clark County owns and operates eight campgrounds (shown in Figure 8) with a total of 563 campsites. These areas offer standard amenities such as restrooms, picnicking, playground, and shelters. Several parks also provide extras such as showers, convenience stores, laundromats, and seasonal trail access. Detailed amenities for each County park are shown in the table below. Camping is allowed by permit throughout the County Forest. Public campgrounds in cities and villages participating in this planning effort are described in Section VII.

**Clark County-Owned Campgrounds and Facilities**

<b>Campgrounds</b>	<b>No. of Camping Sites</b>	<b>Trail Access</b>	<b>Electricity</b>	<b>Showers</b>	<b>Laundry &amp; Concessions</b>	<b>Handicapped Accessible Camping &amp; Shore Fishing</b>
Greenwood	17	No	Yes	No	No	Camping
Levis Mound	8	Yes	No	No	No	Camping
North Mead Lake	74	No	Yes	Yes	No	Camping
Rock Dam	150	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Camping
Russell Memorial	220	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Camping & Fishing
Sherwood	36	No	Yes	No	No	Camping & Fishing
Snyder	50	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Camping & Fishing
Wild Rock	27	Yes	Yes	No	No	Camping

**Picnicking**

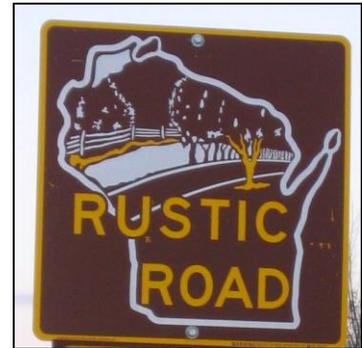
Clark County offers numerous opportunities for picnicking, as shown in Figure 8. County parks are popular places for picnicking and are used both by local residents and visitors to the area. Listed below are the County parks and the picnic facilities at each park.

**Clark County-Owned Park/Picnic Areas and Facilities**

<b>Park/Picnic Areas</b>	<b>No. of 8' Tables</b>	<b>No. of 12' Tables</b>	<b>No. of Grills</b>	<b>Rest Rooms</b>	<b>No. of Shelters</b>	<b>Play Area</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>	<b>Potent. Expand</b>
Greenwood	33	10	19	Vault	2	Yes	Medium	20	No
Knobby Ridge	4	0	0	Vault	0	No	High	10	Yes
Levis Mound	20	0	2	Vault/Conv	1	No	High	2,520	No
North Mead Lake	7	6	8	Vault/Conv	1	Yes	High	20	Yes
South Mead Lake	8	8	12	Vault	1	Yes	High	6	No
Rock Dam	14	5	9	Vault/Conv	3	Yes	High	30	No
Russell Memorial	21	18	15	Vault/Conv	2	Yes	High	63	No
Snyder	14	14	9	Vault/Conv	2	Yes	High	17	Yes
Sherwood	16	5	12	Vault	1	Yes	Medium	26	Yes
Sportsman Lake	1	0	0	-	0	No	Low	n/a	Yes
Wild Rock	9	0	7	Vault	1	Yes	Medium	2	Yes
Wild Cat Mound	9	0	6	Vault	0	No	Medium	9	Yes

### **Sightseeing/Scenic Driving**

Clark County has a well-developed highway system with approximately 2,100 miles of State, County, and local roads. Rolling, wooded hills interspersed with farms, streams, County Forest, lakes, and marshes make the County an attractive place for scenic driving, especially in the fall of the year when autumn colors are in their peak. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation notes approximately 67 miles of roadway that are scenic in nature. Clark County has two road segments in the Rustic Road program. Rustic Road #73 is 2.5 miles long and located in the Town of Green Grove. Rustic Road #76 is 9.0 miles in length and located in the Town of Hewett.



Officially designated Rustic Road sign

Across northern Clark County, the Yellowstone Trail which follows County Highway "X" is a very unique scenic driving experience. The Yellowstone Trail was a very popular trans-continental auto route from 1915 to 1930 and was used for tourists travelling to Yellowstone National Park. The trail provides a shared history for many communities along Highway 29, as well as tourism partnership opportunities today. Various national, State, and local efforts, such as the Highway 29 Community Partnership, have been formed to promote the exploration of the Yellowstone Trail and the communities along its historic path. More information can be found at [www.partner29.com](http://www.partner29.com).

### **Hiking/Nature Trails/Snowshoeing**

Levis Mound is the single largest trail system devoted to hiking opportunities in Clark County. More than 34 miles of scenic trail are provided at Levis. Hiking opportunities also exist at Wild Cat Mound (3 miles) and at Rock Dam Park (4 miles). There are many trails that crisscross the 134,700 acres of County Forest lands in Clark County. The addition of the hunter walking trails and timber roads give Clark County well in excess of 100 miles of trails available for outdoor hiking. Figure 8 shows those County parks with hiking trails.

### **Golf**

Golf is a popular activity of many tourists, as well as the residents of Clark County. There are two private courses in Neillsville and Owen, each having nine holes. Additionally, Loyal High School provides a five-hole practice range next to Loyal Park.

### **Bicycling**

Bicycling is growing in popularity and the increased participation in this activity indicates a need for designated bike routes. WisDOT has assessed the State and County highways based on their suitability for biking throughout Clark County (See **Figure 9**). Many of the County highways in particular are well-suited to biking. While town roads were not explicitly evaluated in WisDOT's analysis, many are likely to provide a safe biking facility, as most rural roads have low traffic volumes and are well maintained, though they may lack paved shoulders. A full description of these road classifications can be found here: <https://wisconsin.gov/Documents/travel/bike/bike-maps/county/legend.pdf>

Figure 9a. Clark County Bicycling Conditions Assessment (North)

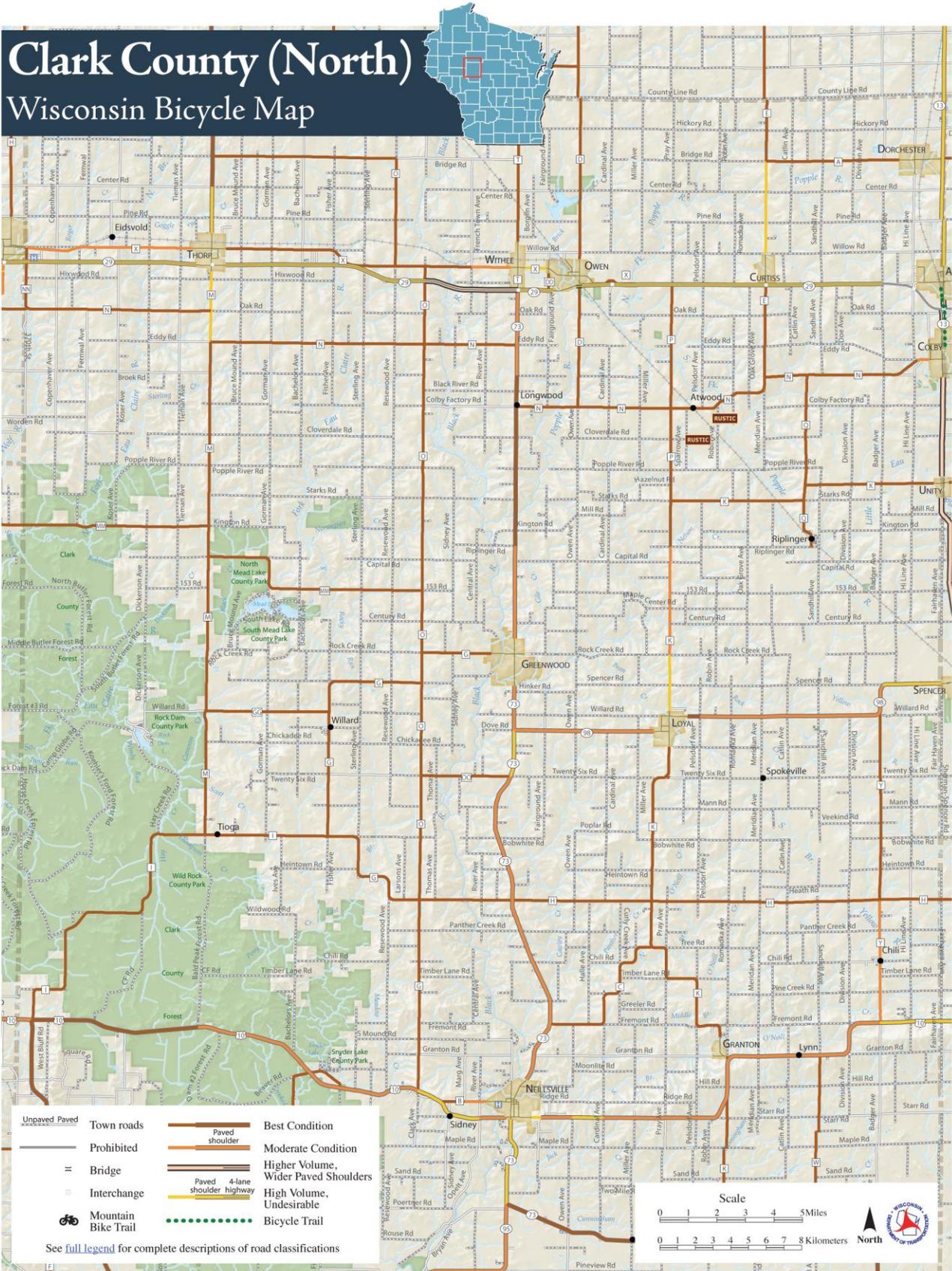
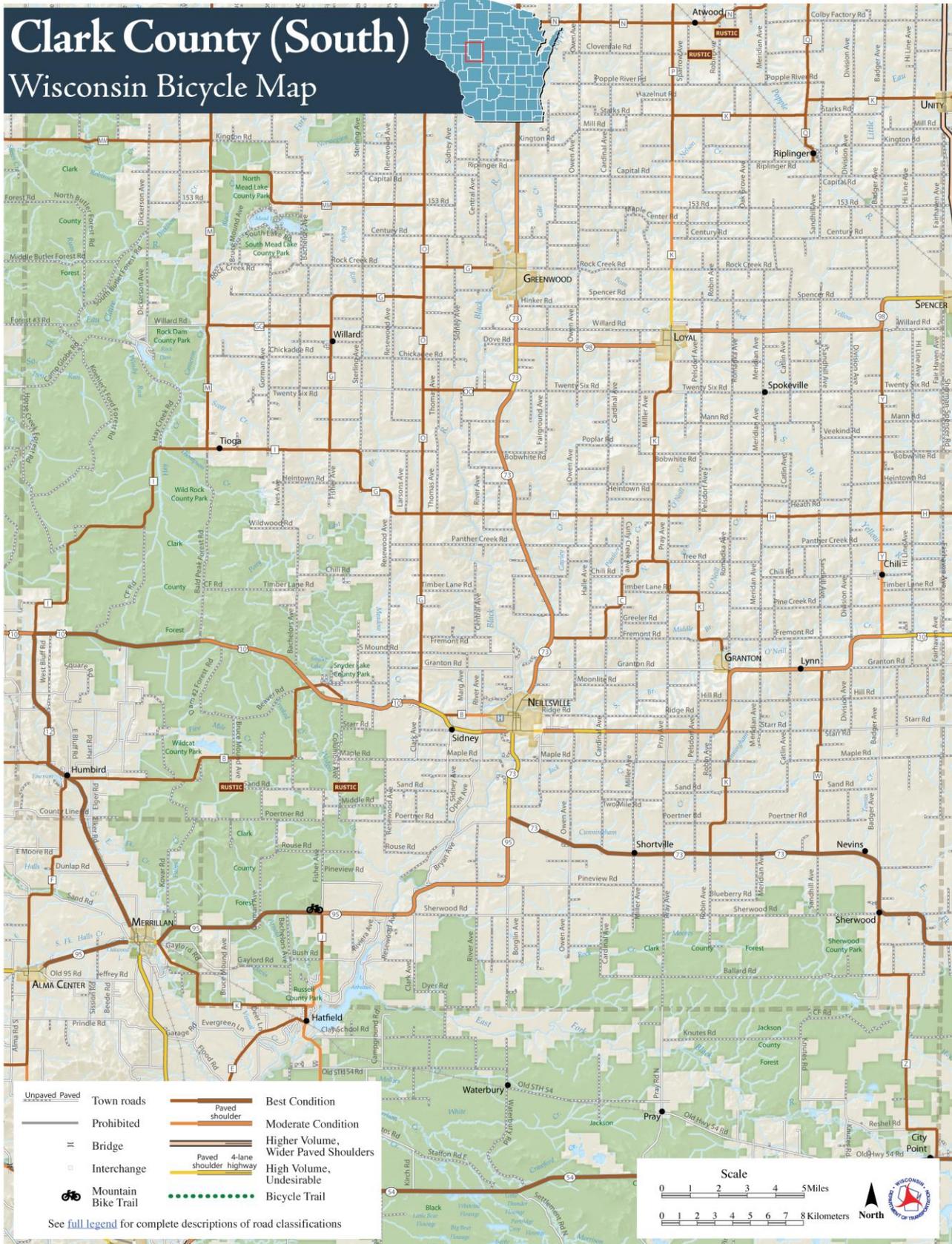


Figure 9b. Clark County Bicycling Conditions Assessment (South)



Another form of bicycling that has seen an increase in popularity in the past few years is off-road bicycling (or mountain/fat tire biking). Most of the over 100 miles of hiking trails within County lands are available for off-road bike use, in addition to the logging access trails.

Levis Mound provides more than 34 miles of designated off-road bicycle trail and provides diverse riding conditions ranging from easy to very difficult trail loops. There is a heated chalet/warming house with flush toilet facilities located at the Fisher Avenue Trailhead. Maintenance and development of Levis Mound continues to be dependent on local volunteers working in cooperation with the County.

### **Horseback Riding**

Clark County Forest land provides unique opportunities for horseback riding. Riding is permitted throughout the 134,700-acre forest, except where signed to the contrary. In addition, Clark County has one designated horseback riding trail system at Wild Rock Park. Wild Rock Park and Campground provides camping, parking, shelter building, drinking water, toilet, and sanitary dump station. The trail is 41 miles long and includes several loops of varying difficulty. Opportunities for expansions at Wild Rock are always being explored, since demand for horseback riding opportunities are increasing.

### **Hunting**

County Forest lands (134,700 acres) and other County-owned lands (Sportsman Lake-1,032 acres), along with many acres of privately owned managed forest lands that are also open to the public for hunting, provide well over 135,000 acres of hunting grounds. Figure 8 shows the County Forest lands within Clark County and County shooting ranges. The most frequently hunted species in the County are White-Tailed Deer, Black Bear, Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Rabbit, and Squirrel. The County Forest is breeding ground for many varied species of big game and small game animals.



### **Downhill Snow Skiing and Tubing**

Clark County provides many opportunities for wintertime activities. Among them is downhill skiing and snow tubing. Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area is a County-owned and maintained facility offering downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and tubing. Bruce Mound terrain includes a 375-foot vertical drop and the longest ski run is 3,000 feet. The ten beginner, intermediate, and expert runs are well groomed and lit for night skiing. The chalet building offers a snack bar and short-order menu items. The ski rental shop has been expanded and is housed in the chalet building. The ticket booth was recently relocated to the parking lot and will be expanded in 2022. Ski Patrol and Ski Instructor programs are in place and operating effectively. A chair lift, T-bars, and a cable tow currently serve the ski hills, while a rope tow is located on the tubing hill. Bruce Mound has been experiencing steady usership.

### **Cross-Country Skiing**

Clark County's premier cross-country ski trail system is Levis Mound. Levis provides more than 15 miles of trail loops, ranging from beginner to very difficult. Levis trails are groomed and maintained for both classical and skating techniques. There is a heated chalet/warming house with flush toilet facilities located at the Fisher Avenue Trailhead. Maintenance and development of Levis Mound continues to be dependent on local volunteers working in cooperation with the County. Several communities also provide cross-country ski trail loops. However, these community trails are not widely advertised and primarily exist for school use and for local residents.

### **Snowmobiling**

Active snowmobile clubs and extensive public lands provide Clark County with more than 376 miles of State-funded snowmobile trails. Of these State-funded trails, 60 miles are County maintained and the remainder is maintained by clubs. These trails link communities and also tie into a region-wide network of trails with adjoining counties. Shown in **Figure 10** are the County and club trails as of January 2021.

### **Off-Road Motorcycling**

Clark County has an extensive off-road motorcycle trail system which is one of a few Wisconsin trail systems designated for off-road motorcycle use. The Knobby Ridge system consists of 17 miles of trails with four interconnecting loops, a youth loop, and an Intensive Use Area. The trailhead provides adequate parking, picnic area, drinking water, and toilet facilities. Ever increasing numbers of off-road motorcycle users will continue to rely on Clark County's trail system to meet their recreational needs. Maintenance and development of Knobby Ridge continues to be dependent on local volunteers working in cooperation with the County.



### **All-Terrain Vehicles**

Clark County has an extensive all-terrain vehicle (ATV) program. Like with snowmobiling, ATV clubs in the County help promote the sport as a safe and enjoyable activity. There are a total of 135 miles of State-funded ATV trails and routes making up the designated County Forest Summer ATV system shown in **Figure 11**.

Active ATV/snowmobile clubs and extensive public lands provide Clark County with more than 190 miles of State-funded winter ATV trails that are shared with snowmobiles. Of these State-funded trails, 135 miles are County maintained and the remainder is maintained by clubs. These trails link communities and also tie into a region-wide network of trails with adjoining counties. Shown in Figure 10 are the snowmobile trails in Clark County as of January 2021.

As shown on Figure 8, there are also several parking lots in the County Forest and throughout the trail system with loading ramps, drinking water, and/or toilet facilities. Access to additional support facilities by ATV's has been much improved in recent years. Four campgrounds now offer immediate ATV trail access, providing for extended stays. Ever increasing numbers of ATV users will continue to rely on Clark County's trail system to meet their recreational needs. During discussions with ATV enthusiasts, there is a very strong preference for the off-road trail experience rather than on-road ATV routes.

## ii. WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES

### Surface Water

Clark County has seven named lakes with an approximate total of 1,741 acres, as listed in the table below. There are a total of 150 named and unnamed streams in Clark County totaling 2,476 surface water acres. These 150 streams total about 593 miles. Approximately 5-10 County Forest flowages comprise about 150 acres of surface water.

**Impoundment Surface Area in Clark County**

Name	Acres	Name	Acres
Arbutus	821	Mead	324
Emerson	35	Sherwood	128
Rock Dam	105	Sportsman's	300
Snyder	28		

### Fishing

Clark County has nearly 4,500 acres of surface water; however, not all are suitable for fishing. Approximately 3,700 acres provide habitat for fish. The game fish found in Clark County waters include muskellunge, walleye, large and smallmouth bass, northern pike, and pan fish. There are approximately 20 miles of trout streams in Clark County and most streams are dependent on restocking programs. Figure 8 shows the primary public fishing access locations on County lands.

### Canoeing and Kayaking

There are approximately 120 miles of canoeable waters in Clark County. The canoeing experience found in Clark County varies by waterway and the time of year. During high water, canoeing can be very treacherous and caution should be taken. On the other hand, during proper conditions, floats on the Black River, East Fork of the Black, North and South Forks of the Eau Claire River, and Popple River, a quality outdoor experience can be provided.

### Water Skiing and Pleasure Boating

For these water-based activities, large bodies of water of 100 acres or greater are preferred. The County has four lakes that have at least 100 surface acres of water. The largest is Arbutus (821 acres), which receives the greatest use, followed by Mead (324 acres), Sherwood (128 acres), and Rock Dam (105 acres). Portions of Rock Dam, Sherwood, and Mead Lakes are not ideal for high speed boating and skiing due to their shallowness and potential use conflicts. Public boat landings, shown in Figure 8, are found on the seven named lakes, with Rock Dam, Arbutus, Mead, and Sherwood providing handicapped access opportunities.

### Swimming

Although there are 4,500 acres of surface water in the County, there is a shortage of quality swimming areas. The problem lies in the quality of the water and the lake bottom structure for development of a swimming beach. Russell Memorial, Rock Dam, Mead Lake, and Sherwood County Parks provide swimming, all at user risk with no lifeguard on duty.

### iii. OTHER PUBLIC PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

While the previous sub-section describing Clark County's recreational supply primarily focuses on County-owned facilities, all cities and villages, and a handful of towns, also provide parks and outdoor recreation facilities for their residents. These smaller community and neighborhood parks typically serve a limited geographic area, but can also attract visitors and tourists. In addition, both Jackson and Eau Claire Counties have significant county forest lands that are adjacent to the Clark County Forest.

School facilities may also be considered an important component of the overall park inventory for Clark County. School facilities are not included in the overall totals for public recreation facilities because they are not accessible to the general public at all times and they are not owned and maintained by a unit of government. However, school facilities with equipment often serve as neighborhood playgrounds.



### Clark County Fairgrounds

While not a public park, the Clark County Fairgrounds & Event Center is an important outdoor recreation asset.

The County Fairgrounds is located on the east side of Neillsville on approximately 40.5 acres owned by Clark County. The Fairgrounds was established in 1872 and has a long history of celebrating the County's agricultural and small town culture. In addition to the annual County Fair, the Fairgrounds hosts many additional events and activities and is available for event rental.

A major Fairgrounds Revitalization Project was initiated in 2017, and fundraising efforts are underway including the relocation/construction of a new Listeman Bandshell, the creation of a family-friendly green space, an expanded horse show arena and a draft horse addition, a new multi-purpose event center, and additional camping improvements.

Figure 10. Clark County Snowmobile Trails

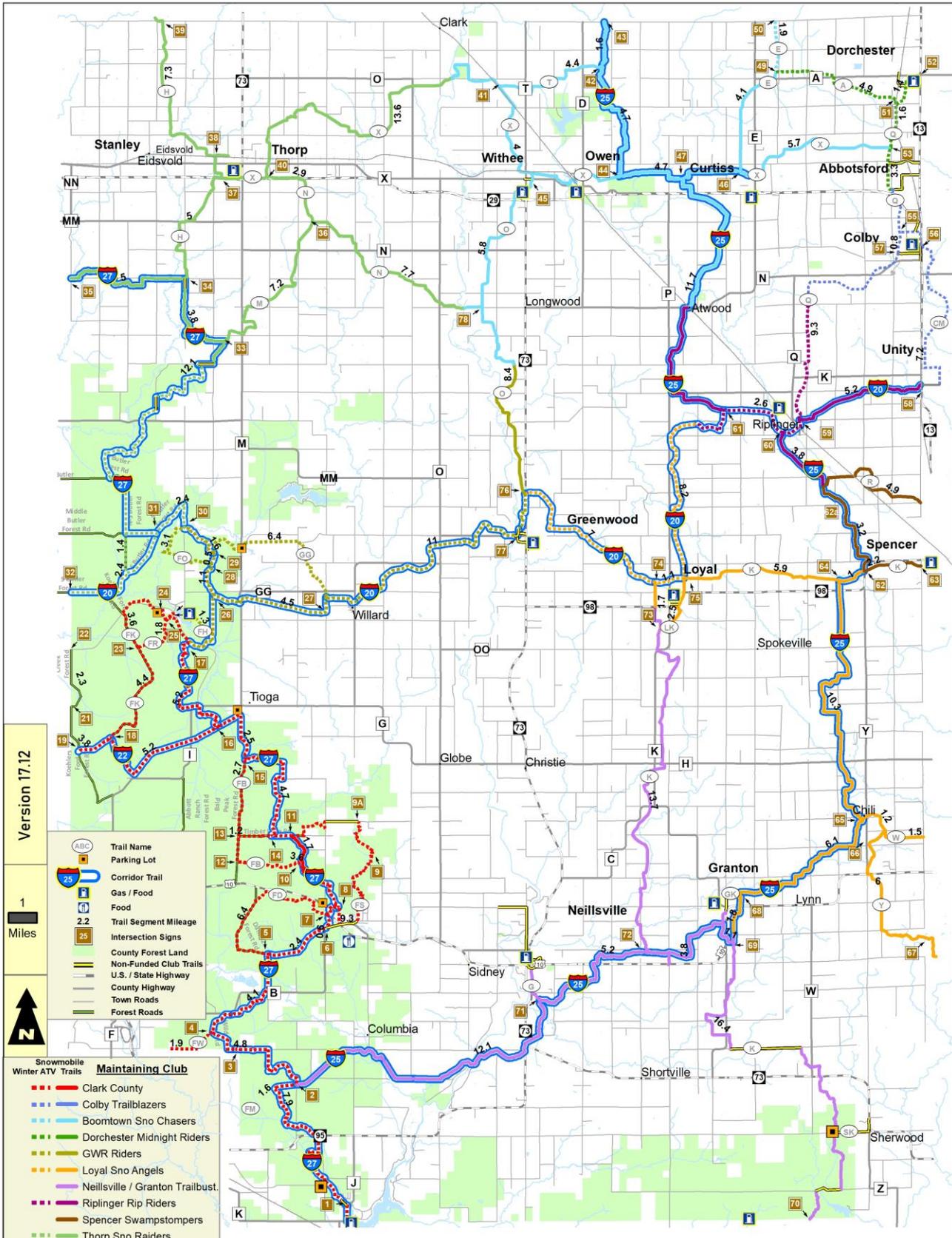
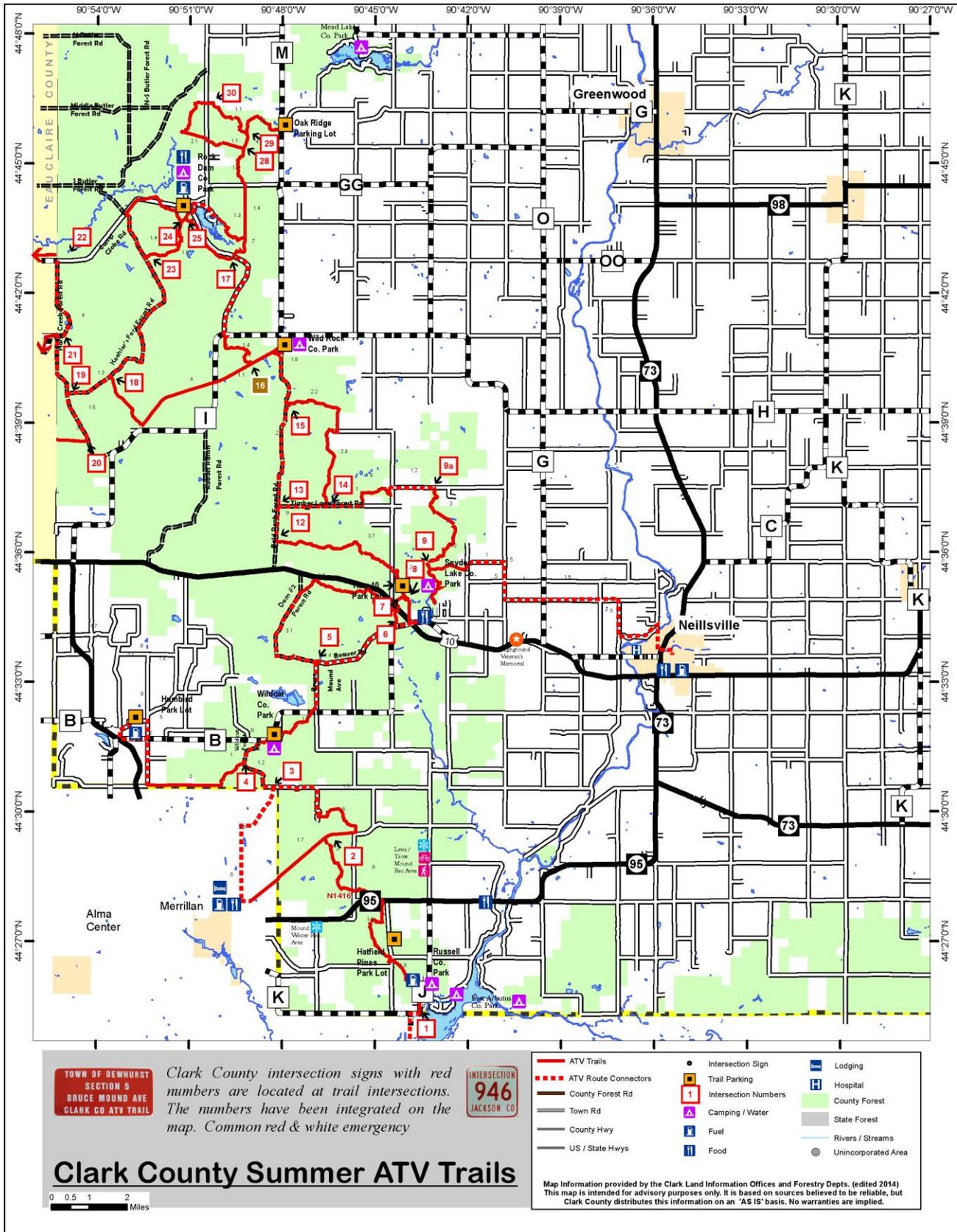


Figure 11. Clark County Summer ATV Trails



#### iv. PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

An additional part of the outdoor recreational mix of Clark County is those facilities owned and maintained by private individuals, non-profit organizations, and businesses. Such facilities are especially important as attractions for visitors and tourists. For example, the Clark County Economic Development Corporation & Tourism Bureau's *2021 Visitors Guide* lists:

- 11 historical sites and museums, plus The Highground Veterans Memorial Park
- 13 dairy and meat shops
- 22 crafters, artisans, and gift/specialty stores, including a strong agricultural tourism presence (e.g., greenhouse/nurseries, cheese, meats)

The Tourism Bureau's website identifies 30 different privately owned lodging options in Clark County, including two campgrounds/RV Parks, six different cabin options, and at least three different resorts. The lodgings most catering to outdoor recreation (e.g., campgrounds, cabins, resorts) are concentrated in the Hatfield, Willard, and Neillsville areas.

Planning for Clark County's entire outdoor recreation system requires consideration of facilities and amenities offered by the County, local communities, school districts, non-profit organizations, and businesses. A strong, efficient system can best be achieved through cooperation and leveraging existing resources to everyone's benefit.



## B. NEARBY FEDERAL & STATE RECREATION FACILITIES

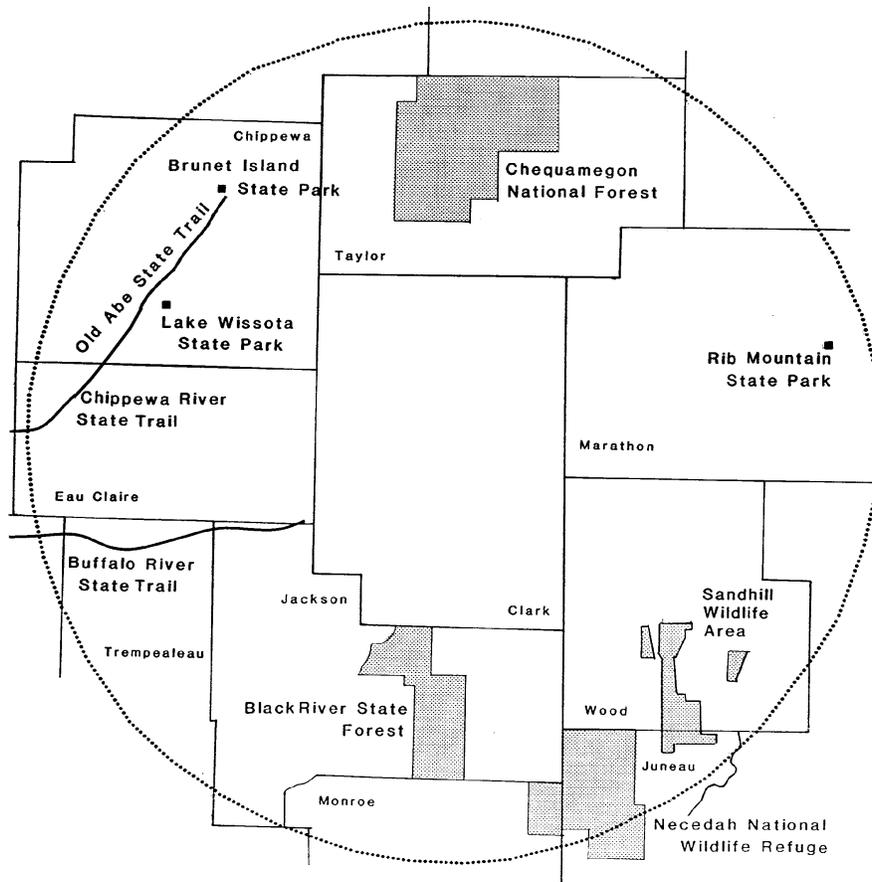
There are seven Federal and State recreation facilities located near or within a 50-mile planning radius of Clark County. They include the Chequamegon National Forest, Brunet Island State Park, Lake Wissota State Park, Rib Mountain State Park, Black River State Forest, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, and Sandhill Wildlife Area. The table below lists the facilities and some recreation possibilities at the sites, while **Figure 12** shows these locations in relation to Clark County.

**Federal and State Recreation Areas within a 50-mile Radius of Clark County**

Recreation Area	Camping	Swimming	Boating	Fishing
Chequamegon National Forest	X	X	X	X
Brunet Island State Park	X	X	X	X
Lake Wissota State park	X	X	X	X
Black River State Forest	X	X	X	X
Rib Mountain State Park	X			
Necedah National Wildlife Refuge				
Sandhill Wildlife Area				

Not included above are three WDNR State Natural Areas—Arbutus Oaks (215 acres), Blue Swamp (560 acres), and Schmidt Maple Woods (86 acres). Most State Natural Areas have few or no public facilities, but are open to a variety of nature-based recreational activities. Blue Swamp is owned by Clark County and part of the Clark County Forest.

**Figure 12.**  
**Federal and State Recreation Areas within a 50-mile Radius of Clark County**



## SECTION IV

## OVERALL RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following primary sources were used to identify outdoor recreation needs or demand for Clark County:

- a) Outdoor recreation trends identified in the *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.
- b) Consideration of any needs, issues, or opportunities identified in other relevant plans.
- c) The 2021 Clark County Outdoor Recreation Survey and the discussion of the survey results with the County Forestry & Parks Committee.
- d) A brief analysis of the distribution of area recreational facilities compared to the County's population.

## A. 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). States are required to complete SCORP's every five years to be eligible for participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) guidelines for outdoor recreation planning encourage local planning efforts to consider the needs, issues, and priorities identified in the SCORP.

The 2019-2023 SCORP recognized Clark County had a relatively large amount of public land (owned by the County), especially when compared to other counties in the southern half of the State. The SCORP also noted:

- Clark County has received 12 Land & Water Conservation Fund grants between 1965 to 2017 totaling \$285,242.
- The Millennial Generation (ages 18-36) spends more time and money on outdoor recreation than the average consumer. This generation seek experiences over material goods, participate in active outdoor pursuits (e.g., hiking, kayaking, mountain biking), are more likely to rent than own, use social media to share experiences, and have pets (especially dogs).

### State of Wisconsin's Goals for Outdoor Recreation



1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation



2. Grow partnerships



3. Provide high-quality experiences



4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits



5. Enhance funding and financial stability

To inform the SCORP, the WDNR completed a Recreational Opportunities Analysis (ROA) in June 2018. The ROA divides the State into eight regions; Clark County is part of the Western Sands Region and received input from over 1,000 individuals regarding the opportunities and needs of the region. The diverse landscape of the Western Sands Region provides outdoor recreation for those looking for a mix of developed recreation facilities. Much of what recreationists look for can all be found here—regional trail networks for various forms of trail use, large properties for migratory bird and larger game hunting, state and county park properties with camping, picnic areas and hiking trails, as well as surface waters for fishing, boating, and canoe/kayak use. The ROA notes that Clark and Jackson counties are especially well known for their motorized recreation opportunities, though Clark has a relatively low number of lakes.

Overall, most participation rates of Western Sands Region residents are consistent with the State average or within five percentage points in variation. Popular activities in the Western Sands region are:

- bicycling (surfaced trails & mountain biking)
- camping (tent & RV/pop-up)
- canoeing/kayaking
- cross-country skiing/snowshoeing
- fishing from boat, canoe, or kayak
- hiking, walking, or running on trails
- horseback riding
- swimming
- wildlife/bird watching

Notable differences in participation between the Western Sands region and State are:

- Residents participate in hunting-big game at higher rates than the State average.
- Residents participate in sailing or stand-up paddle boarding, downhill skiing & snowboarding, visiting a dog park, and jet skiing at lower rates than the State average, though this could be impacted by opportunity.

### **Top 10 Recreation Opportunities Needed in Western Sands Region**

1. More hiking/walking/running trails
2. More natural surface (dirt) biking trails
3. More rustic/quiet campgrounds
4. More horseback trails
5. More paved bicycling trails
6. More trails for motorized recreation
7. More public shore access to lakes & streams
8. More developed campgrounds
9. More local parks & playgrounds
10. More wildlife watching decks or platforms

The ROA also identifies the top recreational opportunities needed in the region, which are identified in the previous box. Four of the top five needs involved trails. Respondents in the Western Sands region identified equestrian trails, motorized recreation trails, and public campsites as a need at a higher rate than the State average, while hiking/walking running trails, bicycling trails, public shooting ranges, and outdoor tennis, handball, & basketball courts were identified less frequently as a need compared to the State average.

## B. OTHER RELEVANT CLARK COUNTY PLANS

The following Clark County plans and programs potentially have implications for recreational planning in Clark County:

**Clark County Eat Right Be Fit Coalition** Clark County Public Health was awarded a grant in 2012 to help create healthier places to live, work, and play. The Coalition is promoting safe and affordable places to walk, play, and be physically active as a means to improving the health of County residents.

**Clark County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land-Use Plan** The Clark County Forestry and Parks Department manages over 134,700 acres of County Forest under the guidance of the recently updated *Clark County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land-Use Plan, 2021-2035*. This plan identifies strategies for the maintenance of a healthy forest while mitigating the impacts of forest fire, disease, excessive development, and invasive species. The County Forest has also been third party certified, reflecting that the County utilizes sustainable forestry practices in the management of County Forest Lands, which adds a credential for the marketing of timber.

**Floodplain and Shoreland Zoning** In order to better protect the residents of Clark County, and to minimize the loss of property, the State of Wisconsin, under Wisconsin Statute 87.30(1), requires counties, cities, and villages to adopt and enforce floodplain zoning. In addition, Wisconsin Administrative Code NR116, Floodplain Management Program, has been promulgated for the protection of property and public investments from the effects of flooding. Development within the floodplain is analyzed through the use of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and site surveys as needed. The State of Wisconsin also requires counties to adopt and enforce shoreland ordinances to protect valuable habitat and water quality. Clark County administers these regulations through its Planning and Zoning Department. While Clark County does not have a traditional land use zoning ordinance, some individual municipalities have adopted zoning.

**Clark County Land and Water Resource Management Plan** Clark County has a very active Land Conservation Department responsible for a variety of educational and enforcement activities to protect the farmlands, waters, and natural resources of the County. The Department developed and implements the *Clark County Land and Water Resource Management Plan*. The Department also provides assistance to the County's lake districts and lake associations, and implements the Clark County Erosion Control Plan which identifies strategies to reduce the impacts of erosion on agricultural lands from stormwater flooding and other activities. The Land Conservation Department, working with the Forestry and Parks Department, is also undertaking efforts to control the spread of invasive plant species through monitoring and education.

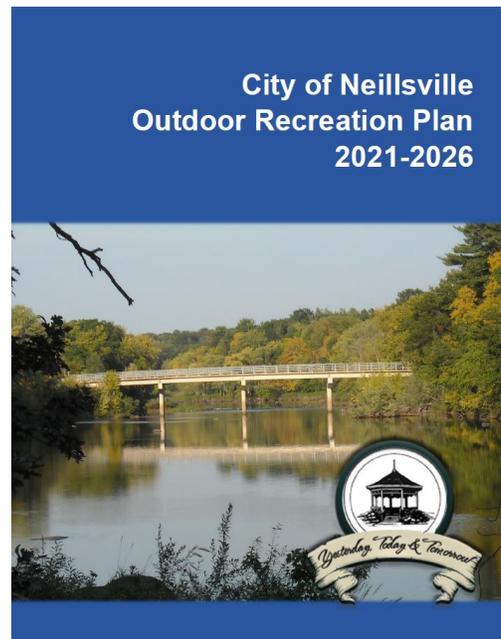
**Emergency and Hazard Mitigation Plans** Clark County Emergency Management Department maintains County-level emergency, hazard mitigation, and disaster response plans and procedures, as well as coordinates emergency services in conjunction with local communities and response personnel. The County partners with Wisconsin DNR on wildfire prevention and response planning and activities. Community wildfire protection plans have been adopted in the Towns of Levis and Foster.

**Economic Development Plans and Initiatives** Recreation is a big part of Clark County’s economy and quality of life. Clark County Economic Development Corporation & Tourism Bureau takes the lead role in County-level economic development and tourism efforts, in corporation with various State, regional, and local agencies and stakeholders, such as WCWRPC and UW-Madison Extension. Local chambers of commerce, improvement corporations, and businesses also have a strong interest in outdoor recreation as an economic driver, to improve the quality of life for residents, and to attract workforce and business investment. Partnerships with local businesses can be an important part enhancing a community’s recreational portfolio, while offer opportunities for cost-sharing and job creation.

### **Other Municipal Outdoor Recreation Plans**

The cities of Neillsville and Stanley adopted their own, separate outdoor recreation plans in 2021 and 2020, respectively, which were created concurrently with community comprehensive planning efforts. The Stanley ORP recognized the importance of connectivity with ATV, snowmobiling, and bicycling routes outside the City. The Neillsville ORP included similar recommendations, in addition to:

- adopting the general policy recommendations within Section VII.B. of the 2016-2021 Clark County ORP;
- supporting the development of a non-motorized walking/biking trail east to Granton and/or Chili as well as exploring the development of a future western extension of the trail with a potential connection to The Highground;
- a recommendation to partner with Clark County to explore grant opportunities for Fairgrounds improvements; and,
- cooperating with Friends of the Black River to improve access to O’Neill Creek and the Black River for canoe landings and related improvements.



**Comprehensive Plans** Clark County has not adopted a comprehensive plan, though many of its cities, villages, and towns have completed comprehensives plans that include recreation-related recommendations. These plans were considered for those municipalities participating in this ORP update.

County and local capital improvement plans and capital budgets are important when budgeting for significant recreational facility improvements. For individual communities, the plans of local school districts should be considered, since school facilities often perform the role of neighborhood parks and playgrounds. To our knowledge, official mapping for recreational facilities has not been used in Clark County.

## C. CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

In late 2021, a web-based public opinion survey was conducted to obtain resident and visitor input on the County's outdoor recreational conditions and needs. A total of 229 responses were received of which about 68% were County residents. This section provides some highlights from the survey; more complete results can be found in Appendix B.

### **Frequency of County Park & Facility Use**

Respondents were asked how often they use each Clark County outdoor recreation facility in a typical year:

#### **Top 5 Most Used County Park Facilities**

1. Russell Memorial Park & Campground (39%)
2. Clark County Forest for uses other ATV/UTV trails (37%)
3. Other ATV/UTV Routes & Trails outside the Clark County Forest (36%)
4. Various Locations - County Boat Landings (35%)
5. ATV/UTV Trails within the Clark County Forest (35%)

#### **Top 5 Least Used County Park Facilities**

1. Knobby Ridge (97%)
2. Sportsman Lake Recreational Area & Wildlife Refuge (96%)
3. Mead Lake Veterans Memorial Scout Camp (95%)
4. Sherwood Shooting Range (95%)
5. Sherwood Park & Campground (94%)

Non-residents were more likely to respond that they frequently used Russell Memorial Park, Levis Mound, and ATV/UTV routes within the County Forest, while other many of the other parks. Some parks, such as Greenwood and the Sherwood Shooting Range, appear to cater primarily to County residents. About 90% of non-residents also rarely or never visited Bruce Mound, perhaps suggesting an opportunity for additional marketing.

### **Demand for Recreational Activities**

Respondents were also asked, in their opinion, if the current park and outdoor recreation opportunities in Clark County for 34 different activities are meeting the demands of residents and visitors?:

#### **Top 5 Activities that Meet or Mostly Meet Demand (little or no improvements needed)**

1. Camping (74%)
2. Pleasure Driving & Sightseeing (70%)
3. Picnicking (67%)
4. ATV/ UTV (62%)
5. Canoeing and Kayaking (58%)

### Top 5 Activities Requiring Significant Improvements

1. Swimming (Beach, pool, splash pads) (31%)
2. Nature-based Educational Programs (26%)
3. Dog Parks (19%)
4. Outdoor Archery Range (18%)
5. Outdoor Ice Skating & Hockey (17%)

### Additional Public Comments

The survey included two opportunities for respondents to comment on Clark County's outdoor recreational opportunities and to suggest improvements. The following are some of the most frequently provided feedback:

#### Park Facilities, Amenities, & Programming Comments

- Updates are needed to playground equipment, including for ADA accessibility.
- Campground improvements are also needed, including for larger campers and upgraded electrical service, especially at Russell Memorial Park.
- More bathrooms or bathroom improvements may be needed at some parks.
- Beach/swimming improvements at Snyder Park are needed.
- There is a lack of County parks in some areas of County, especially northeast.
- Water quality issues (e.g., sedimentation, algae, vegetation growth) are impacting fisheries and fishing opportunities.
- The following types of park facilities were most often identified as needed: splash pads, disc golf courses, dog parks, and ice rinks as well as public access to water bodies and related amenities for fishing, swimming, and canoeing/kayaking.
- Offer more group and educational programming, especially for youth.
- Facilities should be accessible regardless of physical ability or income.



WE ARE UPDATING  
CLARK COUNTY'S  
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

## Provide Input for the Future of our Parks

*Help the county understand how residents use the recreational facilities, along with potential opportunities for future parks and improvements.*

SURVEY AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM:  
NOV 18TH - DEC 20TH

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

Contact the Clark County Forestry & Parks  
Department for additional information at  
715-743-5140.

#### Recreational Trails & Routes Comments

- More trail maintenance and grooming is needed.
- Increase the availability of non-motorized trails and amenities for hiking/backpacking, off-road mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and, perhaps, equestrian use. A number of

respondents stated that these uses conflict with motorized trail use, especially ATV/UTVs. A number of more specific options related to specific parks and the locating of such trails and amenities were suggested.

- More ATV/UTV enforcement is needed.
- Restrict ATV/UTV use of trails when trails are groomed/available for snowmobiles.
- The County lacks safe, designated bike routes.

#### Strategic & Operational Comments

- The County and park staff were complemented by many respondents for their amenities, maintenance, and management. “Great Job.” “Thanks for all you do!”
- The recreational opportunities in Clark County are assets that contribute to the economy and quality of life. “You have a lot to be proud of!”
- However, some commented that more effort needs to be made to take advantage of these opportunities. More promotions and marketing of the recreational opportunities in the County is needed, including more maps and information “about exactly what you can do where”, including in the cities and villages.

## D. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES DISTRIBUTION & DEMAND

Another tool used to identify parks and recreation needs for the County considers the amount and types of parkland available in the context of the potential recreation population. This analysis will use the following National Recreation and Park Association’s general service metric:

*The typical park and recreation agency offers one park for every 2,277 residents served, with 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.*

Using the inventory provided previously in Section IV. B., Clark County manages 3,287 acres as public park land at sixteen park facilities. Clark County had a 2020 population of about 34,659 residents, which is projected to increase to 42,230 by 2035. Based on the above NRPA metric:

- Clark County Forestry & Parks should offer 15 to 18.5 parks given its current and projected population. This suggests that the current number of County park facilities (16) is about average for its population.
- Clark County should offer around 418 acres of parkland by 2035. In terms of gross acreage, the County’s current supply of 3,287 acres of public parkland greatly exceeds the minimum service standard of 9.9 acres per 1,000 residents.

However, the additional following factors must also be considered:

- The sixteen parks totaling 3,287 acres only consists of the County parks and does not include WDNR lands, other County Forest lands, and park facilities provided by local communities, school districts, and others. In addition, the timber of the County Forest lands are also managed as an important revenue source for Clark County.

- Despite having abundant park acreage available for public use, much of these lands are maintained in a natural state and is inaccessible for many park users who may have limited mobility or other use factors. As one survey respondent suggests, there is value in “keep[ing] the forest as forest and not a gym.”
- The largest park area, Levis Mound Park & Campground comprises 76% of the total park area (2,520 of the 3,287 acres) and is solely designated for non-motorized trail use which includes hiking, biking, snow-shoeing and cross country skiing.
- Of the sixteen County parks highlighted in this plan, there are only two in the southeast corner of the County with another three parks in the central portion of the County; the remaining eleven are focused in the southwest section of the County.

In summary, Clark County overall has sufficient park acreage to meet local demands, though much of this outdoor recreational acreage is unimproved. As such, the following factors are of greater importance for Clark County and may necessitate the development or improvement of additional park facilities in the future:

- Growing or changing recreational demands by residents and/or visitors are not being met by the use, function, and amenities of existing park facilities. For instance, the survey suggests that there may be an unmet demand for activities and amenities such as splash pads, disc golf, youth and/or educational programs, dog parks, ice rinks, and hiking/non-motorized trails.
- As suggested by a number of survey respondents, the geographic distribution of existing parks and amenities is not convenient for all residents.
- Park amenities or specific uses are overly concentrated in a single area at such levels that use conflicts are created and/or the carry capacity of facilities and the natural environment are being exceeded. The survey comments suggest a number of potential conflicts, most notably between ATV/UTV use and other potential trail users (e.g., snowmobile, equestrian, hiking, biking).



## SECTION V

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



The function of any planning, whether in our personal lives or as a community, is to achieve goals and objectives. Individuals or communities seldom act without implicit goals and objectives; yet plans and actions without goals can often be wasted. This section identifies the County's outdoor recreation goals and objectives as a basis for planning and future decision making for Clark County and the municipalities participating in this planning effort. How each unit of government addresses and interprets these goals and objectives can vary.

Goals may be defined as general statements of desirable ends while objectives are measurable statements of desirable ends. Objectives are more specific and can reflect policy, but at all times they are in harmony with stated goals. A single objective may address multiple goals. As community desires and needs change, so also must its goals and objectives. Goals and objectives

should be continuously refined.

**GOAL 1**

Provide exceptional outdoor recreational facilities so that a fun, quality recreational experience may be enjoyed by everyone year-round.

***Objective 1.1***

Improve and maintain existing facilities in a safe, cost-efficient manner. The maintenance of existing parks and amenities should generally take priority over the creation or expansion of new parks, recreation areas, or amenities. Facility improvements and operations should incorporate low-maintenance approaches that require less worker hours when possible and feasible.

***Objective 1.2***

Clark County shall develop, maintain, and/or encourage regional and specialized outdoor recreational facilities for which a need is demonstrated to the benefit of all of Clark County. Generally, community parks and active outdoor recreational amenities that serve a small geographic area or require a significant amount of regular maintenance and/or high oversight (e.g., splash pads, ice rinks, dog parks) are best provided and maintained by local cities, villages, towns, and community organizations, while Clark County is better positioned to provide nature-based outdoor activities requiring large amounts of acreage.

***Objective 1.3***

The County or its communities may consider the acquisition of land in fee or by easement for needed parks, trails, protection of valued recreational resources, access to recreational resources, or as buffers to prevent use conflicts.

***Objective 1.4***

Clark County and community outdoor recreation systems shall provide safe, accessible recreational opportunities for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, physical ability, or economic status.

***Objective 1.5***

Plan for park operations and facility improvements that consider emerging trends in recreational activities and demand, such as larger camper sites and broadband access.

***Objective 1.6***

As resources allow, create master plans for larger Clark County park facilities (i.e., Russell, Rock Dam) with detailed, long-term improvement, siting, and operational strategies that build upon the recommendations of the County's outdoor recreation plan.

**GOAL 2**

Provide a planned system of parks and recreation areas that offer a diversity of active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities that contribute to a high quality of life, encourages healthy lifestyles, and are an important contributor to Clark County's economy.

***Objective 2.1***

Where appropriate, park and recreation facilities shall be located in areas that are convenient and accessible to the intended service area. Endeavor to improve the availability of outdoor recreation amenities in areas of Clark County that lack such opportunities.

***Objective 2.2***

Coordinate recreational uses, facilities, and nearby land management activities in a manner that enhances recreational uses while mitigating potential use conflicts wherever possible.

***Objective 2.3***

The outdoor recreation system of Clark County and its communities should be linked and provide visible connections to other area destinations when feasible.

***Objective 2.4***

Communities, local school districts, non-profit organizations, area businesses, and other stakeholder groups are encouraged to cooperate and partner in the development, maintenance, programming, and advertising of outdoor recreational facilities and trail systems in Clark County.

***Objective 2.5***

Generally, land acquired for use as parks or recreation areas shall accommodate the greatest variety of recreational activities or address an unmet recreational need consistent with the capabilities of the particular site and its intended function.

***Objective 2.6***

Strive towards making the County's outdoor recreational facilities more financially self-sufficient when appropriate. However, also consider economic development, quality of life, and tourism benefits when evaluating and planning outdoor recreation facilities.

***Objective 2.7***

Through improved marketing, signage/wayfinding, and kiosks, increase resident and visitor awareness of Clark County's outdoor recreational opportunities and agricultural tourism, as well as the related economic, environmental, social, and healthy lifestyle benefits. Clark County's outdoor recreation opportunities should be marketed as an important reason to choose to live, work, and play in the County.

**GOAL 3**

Protect, conserve, enhance, and celebrate Clark County's natural, historical, and cultural resources as part of the County's outdoor recreational system.

***Objective 3.1***

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

***Objective 3.2***

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

***Objective 3.3***

Lakes, rivers, and streams shall be used in a manner compatible with their natural ecosystems. Continue to partner with landowners, lake groups, farmers, and other organizations to reduce sediment- and nutrient-loading and to improve surface water quality for fishing, swimming, and other water-based activities.

***Objective 3.4***

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

***Objective 3.5***

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

***Objective 3.6***

The natural aesthetic and context of County trails, parks, and outdoor recreation areas should be maintained and, when possible, enhanced.

***Objective 3.7***

Increase the availability of natural, historical, and cultural educational information and programming for users of County outdoor recreational facilities.



## SECTION VI

# ACTION PLAN

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This action plan outlines a generalized program for improvement to the outdoor recreation facilities in Clark County and includes the following:

- A. General Policy Recommendations
- B. General Strategy Recommendations
- C. Recommendations for Park Facilities
- D. Recommendations for Recreational Linkages
- E. Outdoor Recreation Funding

This action plan provides a guide for elected officials and their designated boards and committees. Utilization of this document will allow local officials to prioritize and appropriate tax dollars for outdoor recreation facilities in an informed manner and to integrate these recommendations into capital improvements planning efforts. This action plan does not constitute a capital improvement program and certain recommendations may require additional master planning and/or analysis to determine scope and feasibility. This plan is also not intended to inhibit new recreational activities and programming not specifically addressed in this document.

### A. GENERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following policy recommendations are provided as decision-making guidance and build upon the goals and objectives in Section III. These policy recommendations apply to both Clark County and the municipalities participating in this planning effort.

#### *Park Amenities and Design Policies*

1. General Park Safety: For existing and new park areas, safety aspects should be evaluated and considered. All playground equipment should meet the latest safety standards set by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.
2. Beautification and Aesthetics: When improving or developing park facilities, appropriate landscaping and scenic viewsheds should be incorporated into the design to separate incompatible uses, reduce perceived crowding, screen incompatible uses, and enhance the overall beauty of the park. Likewise, the over-commercialization or over-development of nature-based outdoor recreational facilities should not detract from the user's experience. Avoid land use conflicts with adjacent and nearby uses to the extent reasonably possible. When siting activities, such aesthetics can greatly enhance quiet, non-motorized recreational activities, such biking, cross-country skiing, birdwatching, horseback-riding, and canoeing.
3. Placemaking Park Facilities: Apply placemaking concepts to the design, development, and programming of park facilities. Engage community members to create functional "rooms" or spaces within parks, that are then well connected to other such rooms or spaces within the park. Each space should have a critical mass of things to do that are linked to other such spaces. Things to do should include a diverse mix of uses and activities that are accessible, have an attractive comfort and image, and promote sociability.

4. Severe Weather: With the assistance of Clark County Emergency Management and as recommended in the *Clark County All Hazards Mitigation Plan*, campgrounds should have post information with recommended actions for visitors in cases of severe weather or weather warnings. When constructing or replacing park and campground buildings, consider the use of mitigation grant funding for the integration of community safe rooms (storm shelters).
5. Surface Waters, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and Sites of Historic Interest: Recreational uses, activities, and programming should complement and not endanger, harm, or impair surface water quality, wetlands, wildlife habitat, archaeological sites, valued historical sites, and other environmentally sensitive features. Continue to support implementation of the activities identified in the *Clark County Land & Water Resource Management Plan* and other water quality management plans for the County's surface waters. Partner with local historical groups to increase visibility and access to historic sites, especially those within or near County outdoor recreation amenities.
6. Accessibility: Clark County and its communities should support a goal that all park facilities and playground equipment meet the latest safety standards set by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and allow seniors to age in community. It is recommended that parks scheduled for refurbishment be planned to include features that will aid those with disabilities, as discussed in the guidelines later in this section.



### ***Park Acquisition, Development, and Operations Policies***

7. Optimize Use of Existing Facilities: When appropriate and possible, Clark County and its communities should utilize existing parks to expand the recreation opportunities and meet recreation needs. Making parks into multiple-use recreation parks may also increase the chance to be awarded funding through the various State and Federal aid programs.
8. Mini-Parks: Communities should avoid the acquisition or creation of new mini-parks, unless they perform a unique and specialized cultural, environmental, or recreational role (e.g., historic site, trailhead).
9. Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds: Communities should distribute and develop such parks within residential areas to serve nearby neighborhoods conveniently. Topography, man-made physical barriers, distance to other parks, site characteristics, and population distribution should all be considered when identifying potential locations for new parks. Develop these parks with a variety of both passive and active recreational amenities.
10. Community Parks: Communities should upgrade and/or maintain community park facilities in terms of quality and breadth of facilities provided (including parking) and improve the attractiveness of the natural setting through landscaping where needed. When appropriate, integrate nature-based programs that provide educational opportunities for park users. Specialized recreational equipment and facilities that attract residents from throughout the

County are better located in the community or regional parks, rather than in the smaller neighborhood parks. Generally, community parks and regional parks are intended to serve a broader population than neighborhood parks and playgrounds, but may also function as a neighborhood park in some instances.

11. Use of Easements: When appropriate and available, the County and its communities may utilize easements (or official mapping) in order to limit land acquisition costs for proposed neighborhood parks and trails.
12. Park Dedication: Clark County and its communities should require developers to dedicate a reasonable, suitable portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use or a reasonable fee in lieu of dedication for this purpose. This is particularly important for areas experiencing significant residential growth that do not have a neighborhood park or playground.
13. Economic Consideration: As recognized in the plan goals and objectives, the quality of park and outdoor recreational facilities, amenities, and programs play an important role in attracting and retaining residents, and contributes to Clark County's image as a positive place to live, raise a family, or start a new business. These additional benefits should be considered, and if possible, quantified, when considering a new facility. Such considerations may also impact park design and amenities. The County and its communities should continue to look for innovative ways to work with local Chambers, local businesses, and Clark County Economic Development Corporation to co-market its park amenities and the County as a great place to visit, shop, work, play, and live.
14. Operations & Maintenance: Long-term operations and maintenance costs should be part of the planning and decision-making for new park facilities, amenities, and programs, with an emphasis on low- or no-maintenance alternatives. A seasonal schedule for facility maintenance should be maintained. If significant expenditure is required, incorporate larger maintenance projects into the five-year capital improvements plan. The current honor system for collecting user fees for many County facilities is not working. The County should continue to strive for operational self-sufficiency of its recreational facilities.
15. Environmental Education: Environmental education should be an important component of both outdoor recreation planning and park amenities. This will foster an environment where an appreciation of our physical surroundings and the value of our natural resources can flourish.

### ***Plan Coordination Policies***

16. Park System Continuity and Linkages: Planning for new parks and outdoor recreation amenities should occur within the context of the entire park system, the existing/planned bike/pedestrian trail, motorized trail networks, and the development trends of Clark County.
17. Capital Improvement Program: Clark County and its communities should maintain five-year capital improvement programs (CIPs) to further prioritize the outdoor recreation improvements envisioned in this outdoor recreation plan. The project improvements schedule provided in the CIP should take precedence over the schedule and any cost estimates provided in this outdoor recreation plan.

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

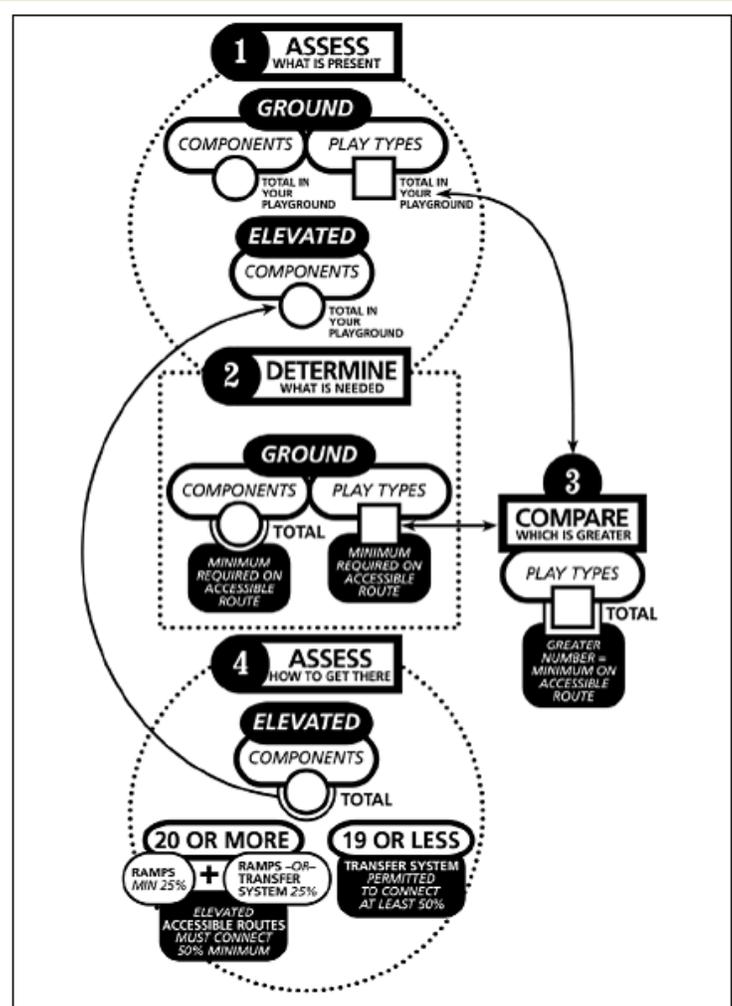
A community's recreational programs and activities play an important part of the life of community. No physical or policy barriers should exist that keep people with disabilities from participating. Clark County and its communities are committed to providing ample recreational options for persons with disabilities, but also recognizes that some trails and non-play areas may not be conducive to such improvements due to topography and other site factors. Currently, not all Clark County and community park facilities, walkways, trails, play equipment, and restrooms are fully accessible for persons with disabilities and comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The County and its community have made progress in improving such facilities and equipment, but there is still more work needed.

**When new recreational facilities or amenities are built, they must comply with ADA standards,** which have specific technical requirements for elements and spaces, such as accessible parking spaces, accessible routes, toilet facilities, public telephones, and spectator seating areas. For elements and spaces without specific technical standards, such as ball fields, the community should use the standards as a guide, providing a reasonable number, but at least one facility, that is accessible and providing an accessible route to the area of play and the spectator areas.

**Alterations to existing recreational facilities and amenities must also comply with ADA standards, even if these facilities pre-date ADA.** However, this should not be considered a legal protection for a community to improve other recreational and communities facilities, while ignoring needed ADA improvements elsewhere. Public entities have a broad legal obligation and responsibility to make their facilities accessible, especially if such changes are "readily achievable" based on ease-of-modification, cost, etc.

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

### Evaluating a Play Area for ADA Accessibility



source: U.S. Access Board, <http://www.access-board.gov/play/guide/part3.htm>

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 play area guidelines apply to alterations made to existing play areas that affect, or could affect, the usability of the play area. Examples include removing a climbing play component and replacing it with a spring rocker, or changing the ground surfacing. Alterations provide an opportunity to improve access to existing play areas. Where play components are altered and the ground surface is not, the ground surface does not have to comply with the ASTM F 1951-99 standard for accessible surfaces unless the cost of providing an accessible surface is less than 20 percent of the cost of the alterations to the play components. If the entire ground surface of an existing play area is replaced, the new ground surface must provide an accessible route to connect the required number and types of play components.

Accessibility standards for trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor-developed areas have now been established by the U.S. Access Board for Federal lands. The Board intends to develop guidelines for non-Federal outdoor sites covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and areas developed with Federal grants and loans covered by the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) through a subsequent rulemaking. Counties and communities would be well served by considering such guidelines during the planning or improvement of their outdoor-developed areas.

The U.S. Access Board has issued a guide to the ADA accessibility guidelines for recreation facilities and a webpage with Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas, which are available at their website: [www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov). The County and its communities may need to obtain professional assistance to address these rules and guidelines.

### **Aging in Community (or Aging in Place)**

Related to accessibility is the concept or goal of “aging in community.” Aging in community is the ability to live in one’s own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably regardless of age, income, or ability level. Given the aging population of Clark County and the region, this concept is increasing in importance.

This concept is not limited to housing design and construction, but should be expanded to encompass the entire community, includes aspects of other plan elements such as parks and recreational facilities, transportation, access to goods and services, social opportunities, and urban design.

18. Public Participation and Strategic Partnerships: It is increasingly necessary to share the financial burden of providing high quality, environmentally sensitive, publicly accessible outdoor recreation opportunities when possible. Efforts should be made to coordinate State, County, city, town, village, and school district recreation programs in order to better serve area residents. Participation by special interest groups, service clubs, and the public will also strengthen the design and development phase of outdoor recreation facilities, amenities, and programs. Clark County and its communities should continue such relationships and explore new opportunities to share the responsibility of providing a diverse, high quality system of parks, trails, and recreation areas, while encouraging public participation and strategic partnerships during the development, programming, and maintenance of the outdoor recreational system.
19. Co-Marketing of Recreational Facilities and Agricultural Tourism: Cooperate with the Clark County Economic Development Corporation & Tourism Bureau, local chambers of commerce, and communities in the marketing of Clark County's outdoor recreational opportunities and agricultural tourism as an important component of local quality of life.
20. Coordinate with Other Plans: Integrate the *Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan* recommendations into other County and community plans, such as the *Clark County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land-Use Plan*, municipal comprehensive plans, and economic development strategies. When appropriate, also integrate recommendations into regional parks and trails plans. Maintain and support implementation of plans and programming that enhance outdoor recreational opportunities and work to mitigate potential use conflicts in Clark County, including those identified previous in Section V.
21. Native American Treaty Rights: Maintain awareness of the Treaty Rights of the Native Americans of Wisconsin to explore opportunities and avoid potential controversies. Past controversy not only surrounds fishing, but hunting, trapping, and timber rights for off-reservation land. The Ho-Chunk Nation, with its governmental offices in Black River Falls, offers an important intergovernmental cooperation opportunity.
22. Plan Evaluation and Updates: Periodically review and update the *Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan* to evaluate progress on plan recommendations and to reflect community growth, changing priorities, and shifts in recreational trends, such as changes in park use and recreational demand. Plan updates should occur at least once every five years in order to maintain eligibility for related grant funding.

### ***General Policies for Selected Recreation Activities***

#### **Fishing**

Clark County and its communities should continue to increase water quality and fish habitat, and access opportunities for all persons. Clark County should continue to maintain County-owned dams for the benefit of water resources for fishing.

#### **Hiking, Walking, and Running**

County roads and trails through County-owned land could be considered a hiking opportunity. Abandoned rail beds, utility corridors, and river corridors could also be developed and incorporated into a trail network. Clark County should continue to maintain the Levis trails system and associated interpretive trail, and continue to evaluate the opportunity to identify locations that are appropriate

for trails and paths. Emphasis should also be placed on avoiding conflicts associated with multi-use trail networks by providing adequate signing and use planning. Recreational linkages are discussed further in Section VI.D.

### **Bicycling**

Clark County and its communities should promote the use of the designated trail system and identified recommended bike routes whenever possible. Since trail development and maintenance is costly, the entities should work with interested local clubs and available State and Federal grants for future trail development. Recreational linkages are discussed further in Section VI.D.

### **Camping**

Camping and visitor numbers increased during the COVID pandemic of 2020-2021. More camping opportunities are needed in the County, as reflected by current overcrowding of existing campsites. In addition, improvements in those amenities (water, toilets, showers, electricity, etc.) associated with modern camping are needed. However, due to limited County funding, significant campground expansion is not likely at this time. Master planning for campground improvements should consider emerging trends. While Clark County focuses on maintenance and improvement of existing campsites and support facilities, other municipal and private campground development should be encouraged.

### **Picnicking**

Clark County should continue to monitor picnicking opportunities and evaluate the placement and distribution of picnicking facilities throughout the County park system, to better provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities. Adding smaller, multiple picnic shelters with related amenities should be the focus.



## **Emerging Campground Trends**

A 2018 presentation by the Gorin+Cohen Group to the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professional identified the following emerging trends in campground design:

- larger sites
- privacy
- water, sewer, & 50-amp electric
- patios
- pull thru sites
- green space
- pet friendly – dog parks, dog washes
- various accommodations - RV sites, cabins, yurts, glamping tents, tents, tree houses, etc.
- unisex bathrooms

The presentation also suggested that each RV site include:

1. Full hookups now include water, sewer, 20/30/50-amp electric, cable television and Wi-Fi or internet.
2. Each site should have a hard surface or pad a minimum of 60'x10' and an attached 10'x20' patio area.
3. Each site should have a picnic table.
4. Low-level lighting at the street.
5. A clearly readable site number sign.
6. A fire ring or charcoal or propane grill.
7. Electric meter.

### **Cross-Country Skiing**

Continued efforts should focus on the Levis Mound trail system; though this trail system is considered one of the premier cross-country ski trail systems in the area. Clark County should monitor their existing parks and cross-country trails to meet the demand of the cross country skiing community. As funding permits, additional support facilities should be considered. This is also a good opportunity to work jointly with private clubs and other municipalities to develop trails in and around the population centers. Providing additional cross-country skiing trails could also provide additional opportunities for hiking, walking, and running activities. Since trail development and maintenance is costly, the County should work with interested local clubs and available State and Federal grants for future trail development.

### **Golf**

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

### **Hunting**

Clark County should continue to support safe hunting practices. Clark County should continue to maintain County Forest flowage dams and water impoundments that have been identified as ecologically beneficial, to the extent that funding resources will allow.

### **Archery and Rifle Ranges**

Clark County's archery and rifle ranges are currently supported and maintained by local clubs. Clark County should continue to work with these local clubs to monitor use and the need for improvements. There are no known archery ranges that are available for use by the non-club member general public. Increasing popularity of archery hunting dictates a need for public range opportunities. The County should explore opportunities to meet the need for archery as an outdoor recreational pursuit.

### **Swimming, Beaches, and Pools**

Clark County should continue to support and maintain their existing swimming facilities, while exploring opportunities for additional swimming areas in the future. Efforts should also focus on weed control, erosion control, beach improvements, and non-point source pollution control in an attempt to improve swimming and water quality conditions. In addition, local communities should evaluate and support other opportunities to further swimming at safe, suitable locations such as community pools and splash pads.

### **Water Skiing/Pleasure Boating**

Clark County should continue to improve water access points where appropriate. "No wake" zones should be established in areas vulnerable to bank erosion.

### **Canoeing/Kayaking**

Clark County should focus on improving water access and available amenities for canoeing,



such as pull-over locations for picnicking and primitive campsites, to improve the canoeing opportunities of the County.

### **Horseback Riding**

Along with new horseback riding trail development to reroute trails off of roads and ATV trails, support facilities such as campsites, staging areas, shelters, parking, and shower/restrooms could be considered. Since trail development and maintenance is costly, the County should work with interested local clubs and available State and Federal grants for future trail development.

### **Snowmobile**

Clark County should continue to work with the State, clubs, and associations to provide an adequate trail system. Continue to discourage UTV use on groomed trails during the snowmobile season.

### **ATVs and UTVs**

ATVs and UTVs are getting larger in size and horsepower, which should be closely monitored to determine if legislative or policy action is needed to limit or control. As related trail development and maintenance costs continue to rise, additional funding avenues need to be explored. Increased enforcement is needed for improper use, such as leaving designated trails. Recreational linkages are discussed further in Section VI.D.

### **Off – Road Motorcycle**

Along with new off-road motorcycle trail development to reroute trails out of sensitive areas, support facilities such as campsites, electricity, shelters, and shower/restrooms are needed. Limited maintenance funding opportunities has put increased responsibility on the local volunteer club and the County. Clark County should continue to work with the State, clubs, and associations to provide an adequate trail system.

## **B. GENERAL STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following on-going, short-term, and long-term strategies are intended to apply to multiple or all of the outdoor recreation facilities operated and maintained by Clark County. These are recommended actions that are more general or system-wide in nature; Clark County is not committed to their implementation. For some strategies, additional discussion and analysis may be needed to determine feasibility prior to implementation. And the exclusion of a strategy or action here does not limit the County's ability to undertake other projects, actions, or policies that support the Plan's goals. For recommendations related to specific parks or linkages, see subsections VI.C. and VI.D., respectively. General recommendations for participating cities and villages are included in Section VII.B.

### ***On-Going Strategies***

1. Consider the ORP goals and objectives (Section III) and general policy recommendations (Section VI.A.) when making decisions on parks and outdoor recreation facilities, improvements, and programming.
2. Generally, facility maintenance and upkeep are Clark County's current priority, rather than the development and expansion of new facilities. Many public park systems are experiencing

increasing user demand that is outpacing maintenance and operations budgets. Deferring park maintenance can increase capital costs over the long term and reduce park use. To address such challenges, low-maintenance and related strategies should be considered such as:

- When constructing or rehabilitating buildings and infrastructure, include long-term operations, safety, maintenance, and replacement costs in decision-making. Energy-efficient equipment and quality materials/designs that are longer lasting and require low-maintenance may have a higher initial cost, but may save money over the long term. For instance, steel roofing tends to be longer lasting and more durable than asphalt shingles, though it is typically more expensive to install.
  - Regularly inventory and inspect park facilities and equipment with a checklist of common triggers (e.g., erosion, dead/overgrown vegetation, excess trash, needed painting/repairs) that may require non-routine maintenance. Adopt predictive maintenance practices, including a schedule that pro-actively addresses such maintenance projects to prevent more costly repairs later and share such projects with volunteer groups who may be able to assist with the work.
  - Maintain a maintenance and replacement plan/schedule for facilities and equipment, giving any issues of safety a higher priority. Prevention saves money and can help avoid replacement. Unplanned and unscheduled jobs will often take significantly more time to perform. And deferring replacement too long can lead to more frequent repairs, delays, and downtime. Strive to minimize travel and avoid unnecessary trips.
  - Install low-maintenance landscaping and plantings appropriate for the soils, including native plants, prairie, and wildflower areas that require less mowing and are drought resistant. Slow growing, drought-resistant fine fescues requiring little mowing or maintenance for lawn areas.
  - Explore opportunities for community service workers, community groups, local schools, or other volunteers to assist with labor-intensive tasks (e.g., picking trash, painting, invasive species control). Encourage the formation of “friends groups” for larger, more popular parks or a system-wide friends group.
  - Consider partnering with municipalities and neighboring counties to explore shared service agreements and/or joint RFPs/contracting for maintenance equipment and activities. Certain maintenance tasks may be more cost-efficient to outsource or contract with a third party, especially if unique skills or equipment is required; in such cases, adopt contract monitoring procedures to ensure maintenance contractors consistently meet required expectations.
  - Evaluating the maintenance time and costs for higher-maintenance activities. Calculate whether certain infrastructure assets justify maintenance costs or if the assets qualify for abandonment/disposal.
3. Many of the park recreation areas have aging signs or kiosks that are in need of replacement or repair.
  4. The County will continue to improve ADA accessibility of park features and amenities, including any specific recommendations in Section VI.C., and will work to seek project funding and support to make these on-going changes as they are needed.

5. Strive for operational self-sufficiency of County parks and recreational facilities, and evaluate scaling back of recreational offerings that do not generate significant revenues or provide other economic benefits to Clark County and its residents.
6. As opportunities arise, partner with local historical societies and history interest groups to preserve historical sites on County lands and to improve parking, access, signage, and related educational efforts for such sites.

#### ***Short-Term Strategies (1-5 years)***

7. Partner with Clark County Economic Development Corporation & Tourism Bureau, local chambers, area communities, and area businesses to increase the promotion of the unique recreational amenities and opportunities and the agricultural tourism of Clark County. Use a mix of online and printed materials and maps to inform residents and visitors of available opportunities. Evaluate the effectiveness of the 2016 Bruce Mound marketing initiative and expand such marketing efforts to other/all County recreational facilities if deemed effective.
8. As needed, partner with park and trail user groups to evaluate potential changes to fee schedules, boat launch fees, methods of fee collection, alternative revenue sources, and cost-sharing opportunities for Clark County parks and recreational facilities.
9. Partner with WDNR, law enforcement, and local communities to increase enforcement of improper use of recreational facilities and lands, including the use of motorized recreational vehicles outside of designated areas/trails, littering, vandalism, and improper use of campfires.
10. Conduct a complete inventory of playground access, equipment, and fall protection. Incorporate recommended improvements into maintenance and improvement budgets as resources allow.

#### ***Longer-Term Strategies (5-10 years)***

11. Consider conducting a meeting with community groups, historical societies, and school districts to discuss volunteer-supported options to increase educational programming and signage within County parks and the County Forest.
12. Encourage communities and other partner organizations to host an educational speaker(s) on ADA and safety requirements and designs for play equipment and outdoor recreation amenities.
13. Continue to assess the potential for new parks or recreation opportunities where there are fewer available parks; such as the eastern portion of the County.
14. Partner with Clark County Economic Development Corporation, UW-Madison Extension, and/or WCWRPC to conduct an economic impact analysis of the value of outdoor recreation and related tourism in Clark County.

## C. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY PARK FACILITIES

While the previous sub-sections identified general policies and strategy recommendation, this sub-section identifies specific features, amenities, improvement needs and opportunities for existing Clark County-owned park facilities. Each recommendation is accompanied by a cost estimate and suggested timeframe. The cost estimates, when available, are a reasonable approximation and will vary based on site-specific characteristics and the final design. The actual timeframes for implementation will also vary based on available resources and other priority needs within the community.

Similar to the previous section, these recommendations are based on desired improvements if resources are available. It may not be feasible for Clark County to complete all of the recommended projects. In some cases, additional planning or analysis may be needed to determine feasibility and these recommendations do not limit the County from undertaking additional projects not included herein.

# 1. Black River Recreation Area

**ADDRESS:** W6591 County Highway X, Withee, WI 54498

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Community/Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Fishing/River Access
	<b>SIZE:</b> 20 acres	<b>USE:</b> Low to Moderate

## PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for fishing, hunting, swimming, picnicking, and canoe/kayak access to the Black River.

## KEY FEATURES

This park is located along County Highway X to the west of Withee. The previous Black River County Park to the south was permanently closed and replaced with the Black River Recreation Area to the north; direct access to the recreation area from State Highway 29 is no longer available.

Since the previous outdoor recreation plan, the canoe landing and fishing access have been improved. The recreation area will be maintained in a semi-developed state.



## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Shoreline fishing
- Picnic shelter
- Canoe/kayak landing

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Improve access and parking	\$10,000	2021-2024
Add picnic shelter and 2 tables	\$ 3,000	2021-2024

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Clark County Forestry & Parks Department with volunteer maintenance support from the local Mennonite community.

Black River Recreation Area



## 2. Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area

**ADDRESS:** N791 Bruce Mound Avenue, Merrilan, WI 54754

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Specialty	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Active Winter
	<b>SIZE:</b> 125 acres	<b>USE:</b> High Seasonal Use

### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for winter recreation activities that include downhill skiing, snowboarding, tubing, and winter family gatherings.

### KEY FEATURES

Bruce Mound was established in 1948 by the Half Moon Ski Club. Clark County has operated Bruce Mound since 1960. Past improvements include the replacement of tow engines, snow-making upgrades, new grooming equipment, ski slope lighting, and parking lot resurfacing.

The winter chalet was demolished and reconstructed in 2007 and a new chairlift installation completed in 2008-2009. These past improvements resulted in a significant increase of visitors to the area with plans to further develop multi-season recreational opportunities. In 2018, a new PistonBully snow groomer was purchased.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

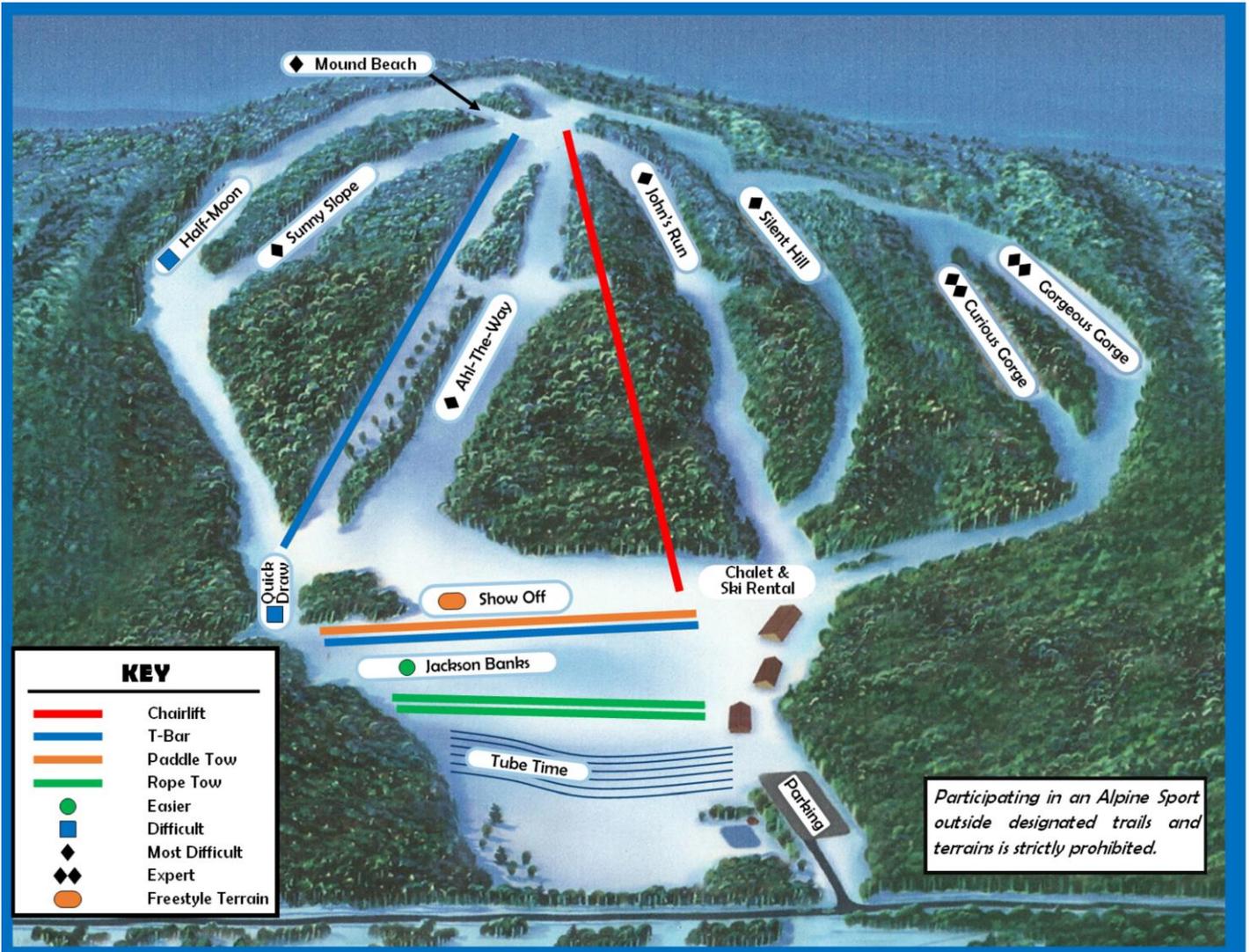
- Lighted trails for night skiing
- Snow making and grooming
- Rest rooms
- 5 Lifts (2 T-bar, 1 chair, 1 rope, 1 handle tow)
- 10 Scenic ski slopes for downhill skiing and snowboarding (2 beginner, 2 intermediate, 6 advanced)
- 5 Tubing runs with rope tow
- Complete rental shop (ski and snowboard)
- Ski instruction and ski school
- Warming chalet with snack bar and short menu items
- 375 foot vertical rise with longest slope measuring 3,000 feet

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Increase marketing efforts through social media & regional advertisements.	\$1,000	2022-2024
Expand square footage of relocated ticket booth.	\$15,000	2022
Create and market off-season use opportunities (events center).	\$1,000	2022-2028
Acquire new snow making equipment.	\$250,000	2023-2028
Replace tow rope with moving sidewalk/"magic carpet".	\$180,000	2023-2028
Explore other limited improvements that compliment the summer use of the Chalet.		

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

The Friends of Bruce Mound help maintain and provide upgrades to the facilities, including funding and installed Snow-Bright Magnetic Induction Lights in the terrain park.

# Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area



### 3. Greenwood County Park & Campground

**ADDRESS:** W5820 Lone Road, Greenwood, WI 54437

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Community/Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Camping/Group
	<b>SIZE:</b> 20 acres	<b>USE:</b> Low to Moderate

**PRIMARY USES**

This area is primarily used for activities such as camping, shore fishing, nature walks, hiking trails and the canoe landing to access Black River.

**KEY FEATURES**

Greenwood County Park and Campground is located on the scenic Black River in the Town of Warner. This open-air park is a popular camping and summer day use area for reunions or family gatherings. Swimming is not promoted at the park, due to the unpredictable water levels/conditions of the Black River.

**FACILITIES & AMENITIES**

- 43 Picnic tables & 15 grills
- 16 Campsites
- Electrical hook-ups
- Fishing access
- Paved roads
- 2 Pavilions
- Picnic areas
- Playground areas
- Vault Restrooms
- Canoe landing with river map

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Renovate and update playground & play equipment.	\$50,000	2022-2023
Improve parking lot, road surface, camping pads, site drainage, & electrical service.	\$20,000	2022-2024
Improve informational kiosk.	\$500	2022-2023
Explore opportunities for additional recreational amenities or activities.		
While the park is well used, revenues collected from park users are low; an evaluation of fee structures and revenue opportunities should be explored in the future.		

**AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING**

This recreation area is maintained by Clark County Forestry & Parks Department.

### Greenwood County Park and Campground

W5820 Lone Road  
Greenwood, WI 54437  
<http://parks.co.clark.wi.us>

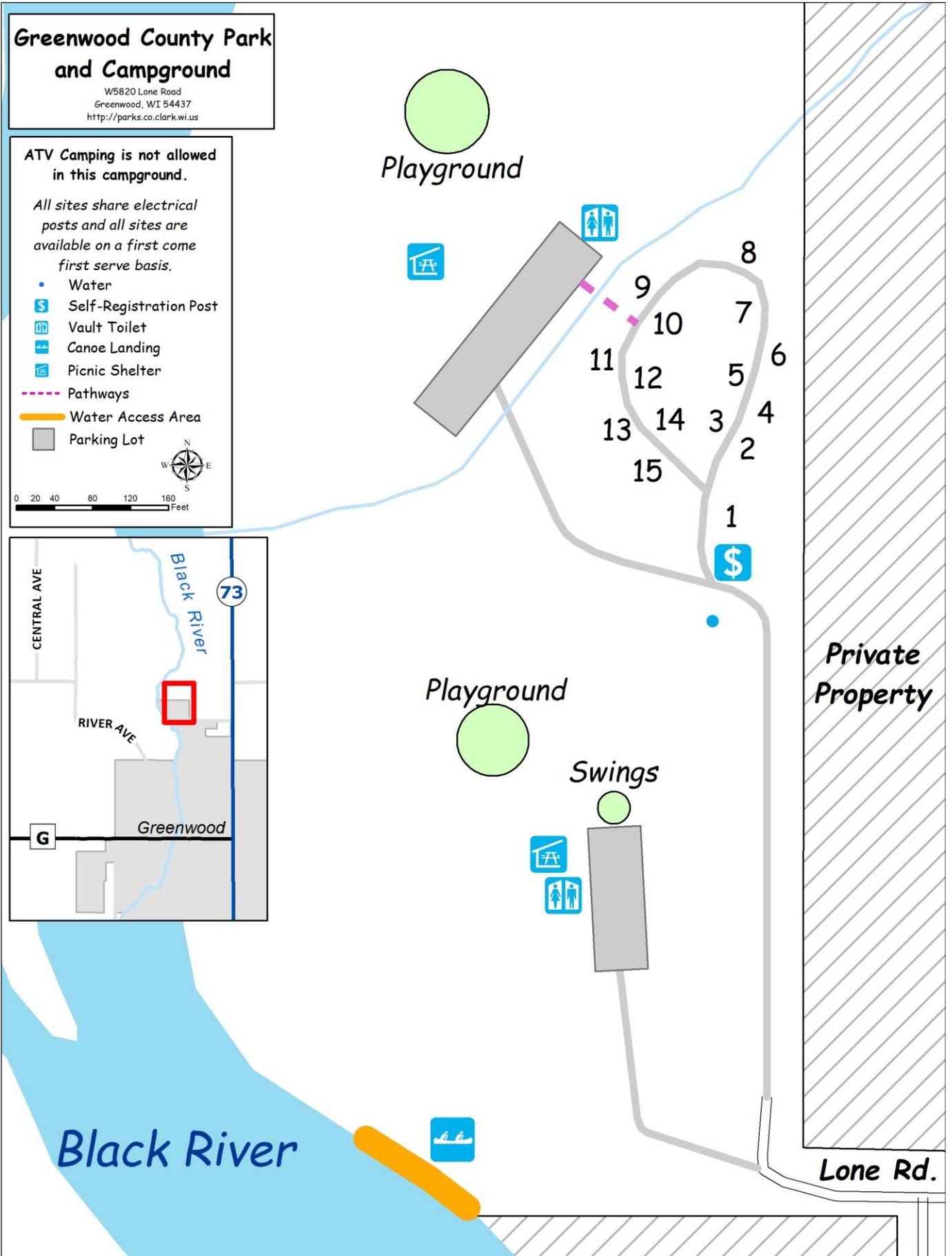
**ATV Camping is not allowed in this campground.**

*All sites share electrical posts and all sites are available on a first come first serve basis.*

- Water
- 💰 Self-Registration Post
- 🚻 Vault Toilet
- 🚣 Canoe Landing
- 🏠 Picnic Shelter
- Pathways
- 🟡 Water Access Area
- 🅓 Parking Lot



0 20 40 80 120 160 Feet



# 4. Knobby Ridge

**ADDRESS:** W8672 US Highway 10, Neillsville, WI 54456

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Regional/Specialty	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Off-Road Motorcycle
	<b>SIZE:</b> 10 acres	<b>USE:</b> Moderate

### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used to access to several miles of off-road motorcycle trails.

### KEY FEATURES

Located in the Towns of Hewett and Seif, Knobby Ridge consists of 16 miles of off-road motorcycle trails with four interconnecting loops and a youth loop.

Knobby Ridge offers several trail options ranging from beginner to advanced, which includes an intensive use area. Trails are not open to other motorized users such as ATV, UTV, auto or snowmobiles.



County Forest camping with electrical service is available on-site. In addition, overnight accommodations are available at nearby County campgrounds.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 4 Picnic tables
- Vault Restrooms
- County Forest camping
- Off-road motorcycle course & intensive use area
- Electricity
- Parking lot
- Maintenance storage shed

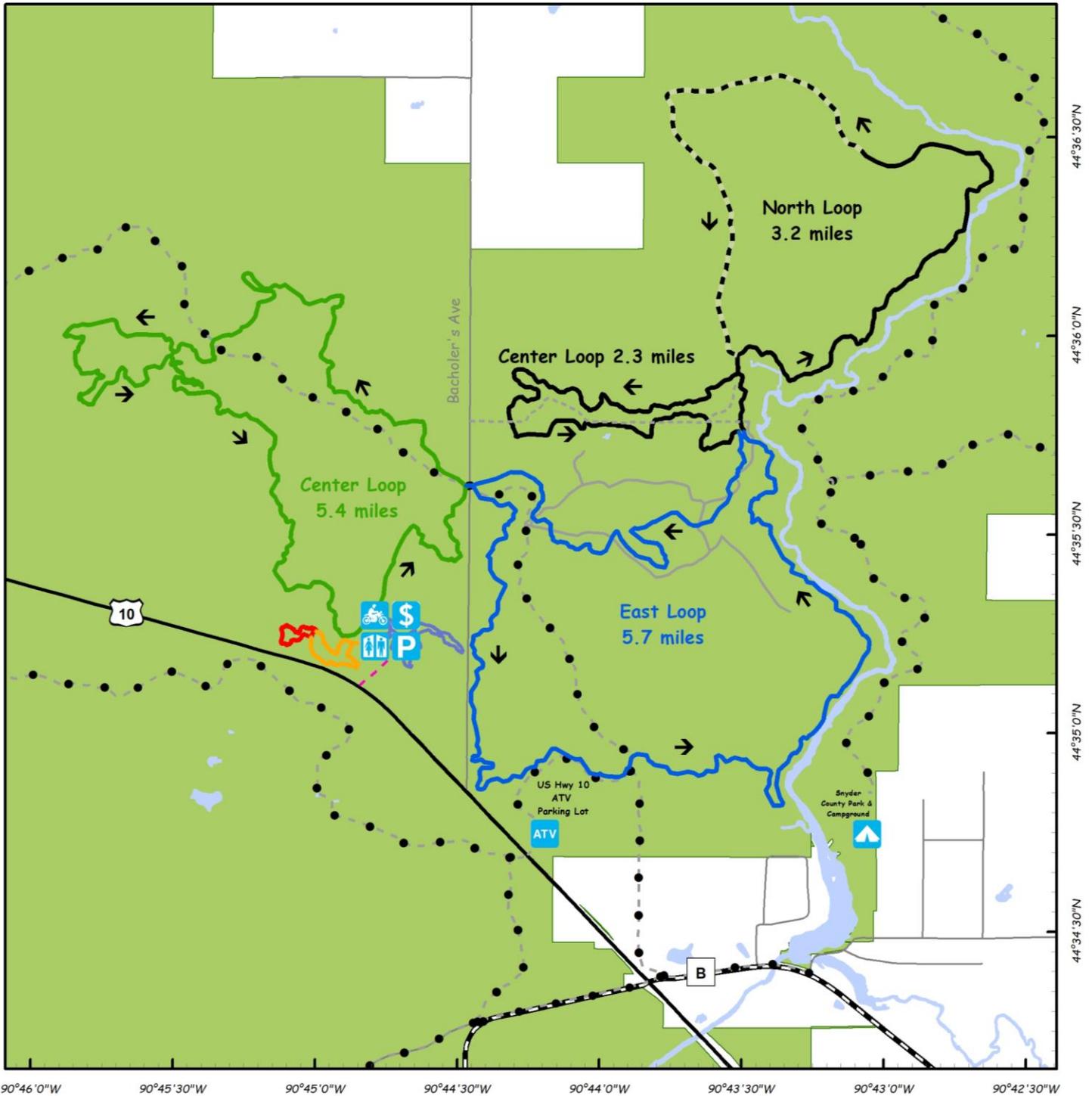
PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
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Improve on-site map and informational kiosk.	\$2,000-\$4,000	2022-2024
Improve and increase promotion of County Forest campground facilities.	\$5,000	2022-2028
Improve and re-open closed trail sections with some re-routing as needed.	\$10,000-\$20,000	2022-2028

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Only street legal motorcycles, driven by licensed operators, are allowed on the ATV trail system. Non-street legal motorcycles may only operate on the designated Knobby Ridge Off Road Motorcycle Trails. The trail system currently maintained via volunteer labor provided by the Midwest Off Road Trail Riders (M.O.T.R).

# Knobby Ridge



## 5. Levis/Trow Mound Recreation Area

**ADDRESS:** N1589 Fisher Avenue, Neillsville, WI 54456

**PARK TYPE:** Community/Regional

**KEY FUNCTION:**

Hiking/Biking

**SIZE:** 2,520 acres

**USE:** High

### PRIMARY USES

This primary active recreational uses for this area are mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking, which is an unique, niche role within the County’s park system. Two trailheads with parking, restrooms, and self-registration posts are located on the east and southeast side of the recreation area. The main eastern trailhead is Levis Mound Park & Campground; a chalet rental and campground amenities for multi-day use are available at this location.

### KEY FEATURES

**Recreational Area:** Non-motorized trail system featuring sandstone bluffs and mounds. The area is managed to protect the natural environment and wildlife habitat.

**Trailhead Campground:** Non-electric campsites and a shower bathroom. Premier camping opportunities just 5 miles away at Russell Memorial Park.

**Mountain Biking:** Trails ranging from beginner to advanced with 24 miles of single track.

**Hiking:** 41 miles of hiking trails.

**Cross-Country Skiing:** 17 miles of groomed ski trails and an additional 24 miles of backcountry routes.

**Snow Shoeing:** Permitted on all single-track hiking and biking trails within the park area.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 8 Campsites (non-electric)
- 20 Picnic tables & 2 Grills
- Flush restrooms (ADA accessible)
- 2 Showers (seasonal)
- Storage/maintenance building
- Drinking water
- Maintenance storage shed
- Mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, & snowshoeing trails
- Self-guided interpretive trail

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

#### COST ESTIMATE

#### TIME FRAME

Rehabilitation/improve informational kiosk.

\$4,000-\$6,000

2022-2024

Consider additional camping opportunities, potentially with related amenities (e.g., playground equipment, facility improvements).

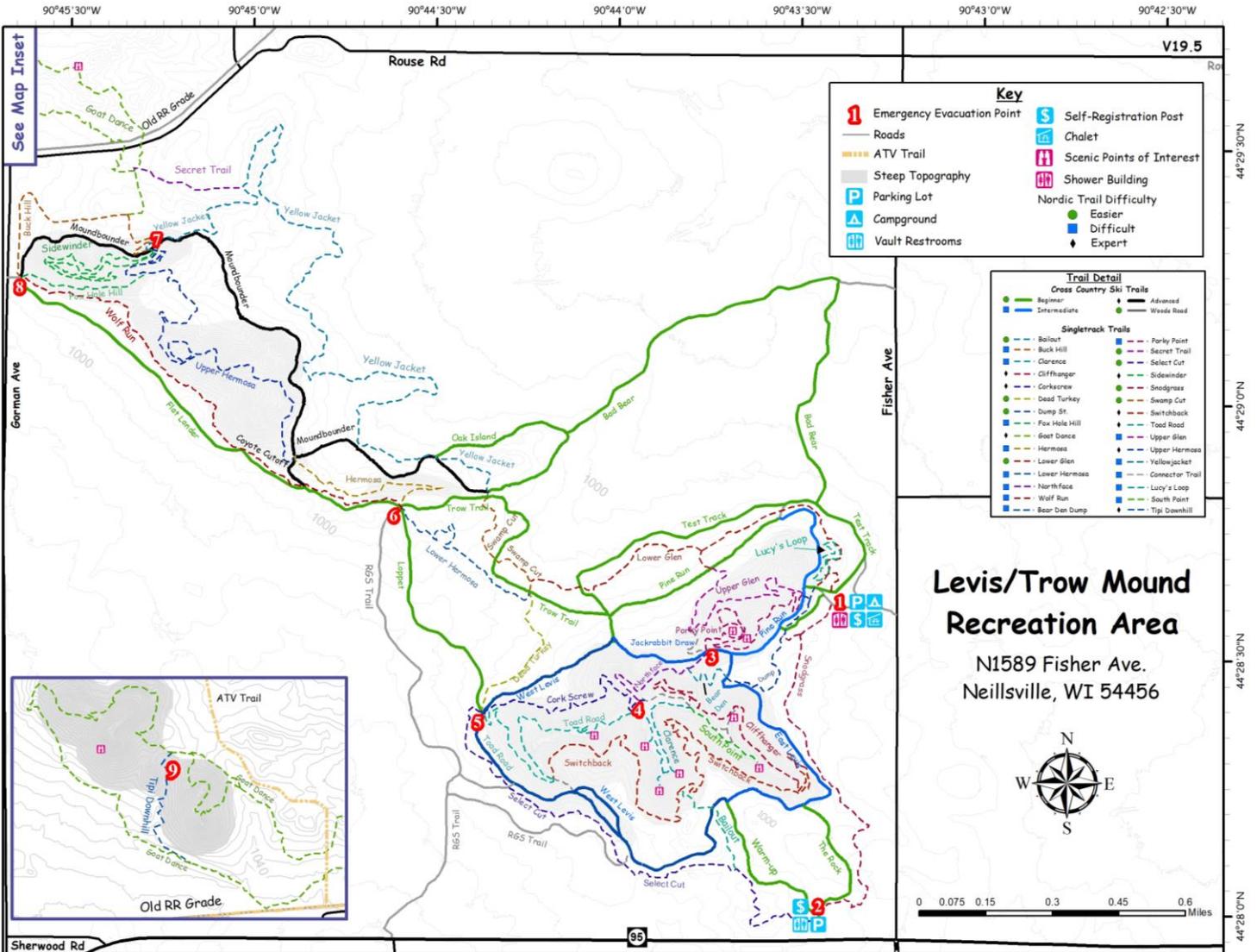
cost not known

2024-2028

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

The Levis and Trow Mound Trail is maintained by the Neillsville Area Trail Association and administered by the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department. User fees support the trail system and are required for cross country skiing, mountain biking, and camping. Season passes are also available.

# Levis/Trow Mound Recreation Area



## 6. Mead Lake Scout Camp

**ADDRESS:** W9179 Scout Road, Greenwood, WI 54437

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Specialty	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Scouts/Groups
	<b>SIZE:</b> 2 acres	<b>USE:</b> Moderate

### PRIMARY USES

Located on the northwest end of Mead Lake, this area is primarily used for youth scout camp-related activities that include camping, hiking, and fishing.

### KEY FEATURES

The Veterans Memorial Scout Camp is a camping and recreation area on Mead Lake that has been set aside for ongoing use by Wisconsin scout groups. This camp, with very limited improvements, provides an opportunity to craft premier outdoor experiences for groups by use of its location, amenities, and the natural environment. Camping and use of the 2-acre area is free for all scout groups.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Large camping area (non-electric)
- 1 Outhouse restroom
- 1 Fire pit
- 1 Shelter
- 3 miles to firewood, drinking water, showers, beach, and boat landing
- 1/4-mile walk to playground, day-use area, Mead Lake Dam, and fishing pier
- Other nearby parks and recreation areas

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

### COST ESTIMATE

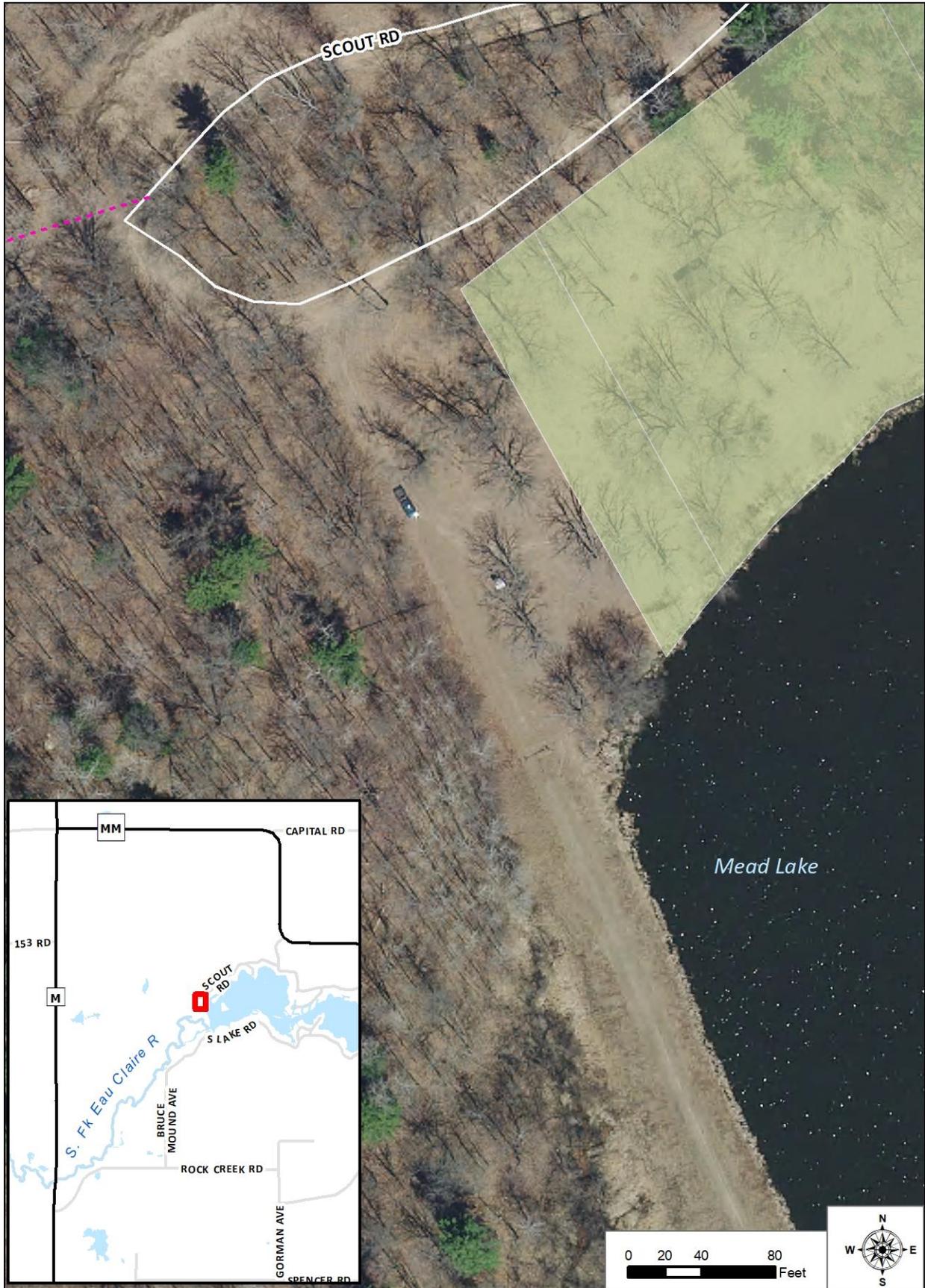
### TIME FRAME

No current or future plans other than regular maintenance of public facilities.

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Developed by the Listeman Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, and Clark County Forestry & Parks Department; scout groups currently use this area at no cost. Maintained by the Clark County Forestry & Parks Department.

# Mead Lake Scout Camp



# 7. Mead Lake Park & Campground

**ADDRESS:** W8771 N. Lake Road, Greenwood, WI 54493

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Community/Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Camping/Lake
	<b>SIZE:</b> 20 acres	<b>USE:</b> Moderate to High

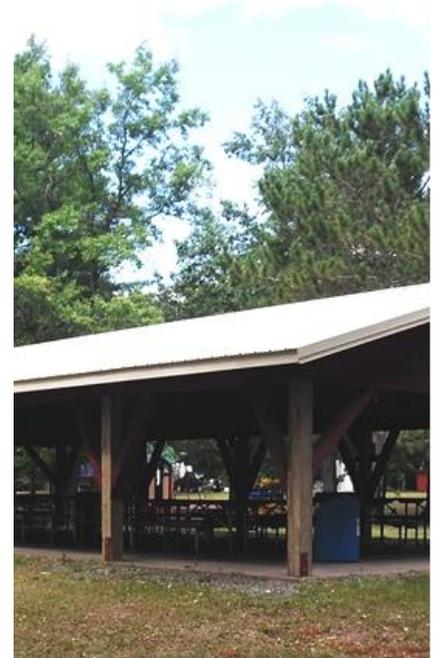
## PRIMARY USES

Located on the north side of Mead Lake, this area is primarily used for camping, fishing, boating, and family gatherings.

## KEY FEATURES

Located in the Town of Mead off of County Road M, Mead Lake County Park is a remote, quiet park that offers a family-camping atmosphere. Mead Lake is the second largest lake in Clark County and provides some of the most diverse fishing opportunities within the County as well as water skiing and pleasure boating. A variety of campground sites are available in wooded areas, near the lake, or in the open grassy areas. There are also two public boat landings that serve area visitors and campground users.

Past improvements to this area include improved ADA accessibility, shower building construction, playground equipment replacement, electricity upgrades, hard surface pathways, and boat landing ramp addition.



## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 71 Campsites
- Picnic areas w/ 13 Picnic tables, 8 Grills, & 1 Shelter
- Playground area
- Shower house (ADA accessible)
- Flush toilets & Sanitary dump station
- Electricity
- Drinking water
- Boat landing w/ pier (ADA accessible)
- Fishing access
- Firewood & ice available
- Beach/swimming (no lifeguard)
- Paved roads

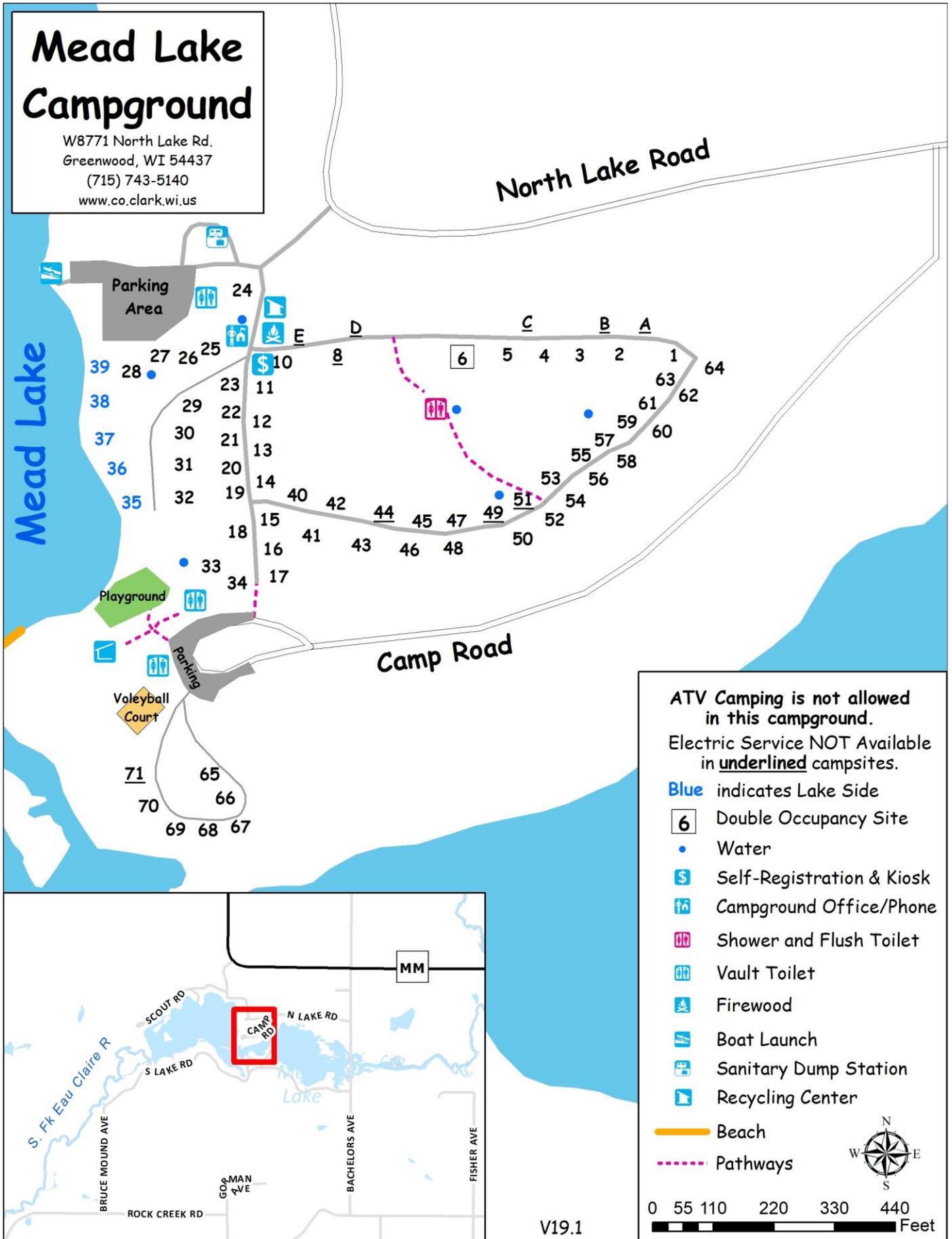
PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Shoreline stabilization.	\$10,000-\$15,000	2022-2026
Install satellite toilet/privacy screen & improve security lighting.	\$10,000-\$20,000	2022-2028
Improve electrical service & campsites/pads to allow for larger campers and RVs.	\$20,000-\$40,000	2023-2028
Continue to improve ADA accessibility of park facilities and playground.	\$15,000-\$20,000	2023-2028
Some road improvements/paving may be needed in the future.		undetermined

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department.

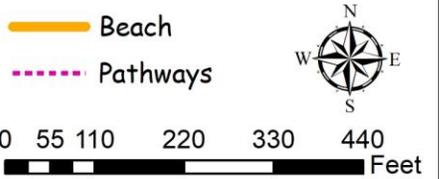
# Mead Lake Campground

W8771 North Lake Rd.  
Greenwood, WI 54437  
(715) 743-5140  
www.co.clark.wi.us



ATV Camping is not allowed in this campground.  
Electric Service NOT Available in underlined campsites.

- Blue** indicates Lake Side
- 6** Double Occupancy Site
- Water
- \$** Self-Registration & Kiosk
- ☎** Campground Office/Phone
- 🚿** Shower and Flush Toilet
- 🚻** Vault Toilet
- 🪵** Firewood
- 🚤** Boat Launch
- 🗑️** Sanitary Dump Station
- ♻️** Recycling Center



V19.1

# 8. South Mead Lake Park

**ADDRESS:** W9176 South Lake Road, Greenwood, WI 54493

**PARK TYPE:** Community

**KEY FUNCTION:**

Picnic/Lake

**SIZE:** 6 acres

**USE:** Moderate to High

## PRIMARY USES

Some of the primary uses of this area include recreation on Mead Lake, along with day use, play areas and picnic amenities.

## KEY FEATURES

South Mead Lake Park is another popular spot for reunions or just to get away for a day. There is no boat launch in the park, but a public boat launch can be accessed just south of the park off of South Lake Rd. Shore fishing is also a popular activity and the park features an ADA accessible fishing pier.



## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 16 Picnic tables & 2 Grills
- Shelter for group gatherings
- Playground
- Fishing pier (ADA accessible)
- Drinking water
- Vault rest rooms
- Nearby boat ramp

## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

### COST ESTIMATE

### TIME FRAME

Update and maintain informational kiosks.	\$500	2022-2024
Improve pavilion for small gatherings and add amenities.	\$2,000-\$5,000	2023-2028
Continue to improve ADA accessibility of park facilities and playground.	\$15,000-\$20,000	2023-2028

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department. Informational signs are provided in conjunction with the Clark County Land Conservation Department.

# South Mead Lake Park



# 9. Rock Dam Park & Campground

**ADDRESS:** WI10666 Camp Globe Road, Willard, WI 54493

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Community/Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Camping/Lake
	<b>SIZE:</b> 30 acres	<b>USE:</b> High

### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for camping, lake recreation on Rock Dam Lake, and access to nearby ATV trails.

### KEY FEATURES

One of Clark County’s most used parks, Rock Dam offers modern camping and many recreation choices for multi-season outdoor experiences. Direct access to the ATV trails from campsites provides a unique camp-and-ride opportunity.

Rock Dam Lake offers substantial opportunity for water-based recreation (e.g., fishing, water skiing, pleasure boating) with a boat landing at the campground. Rock Dam’s day-use area and beach are also popular destinations during the hot summer months.

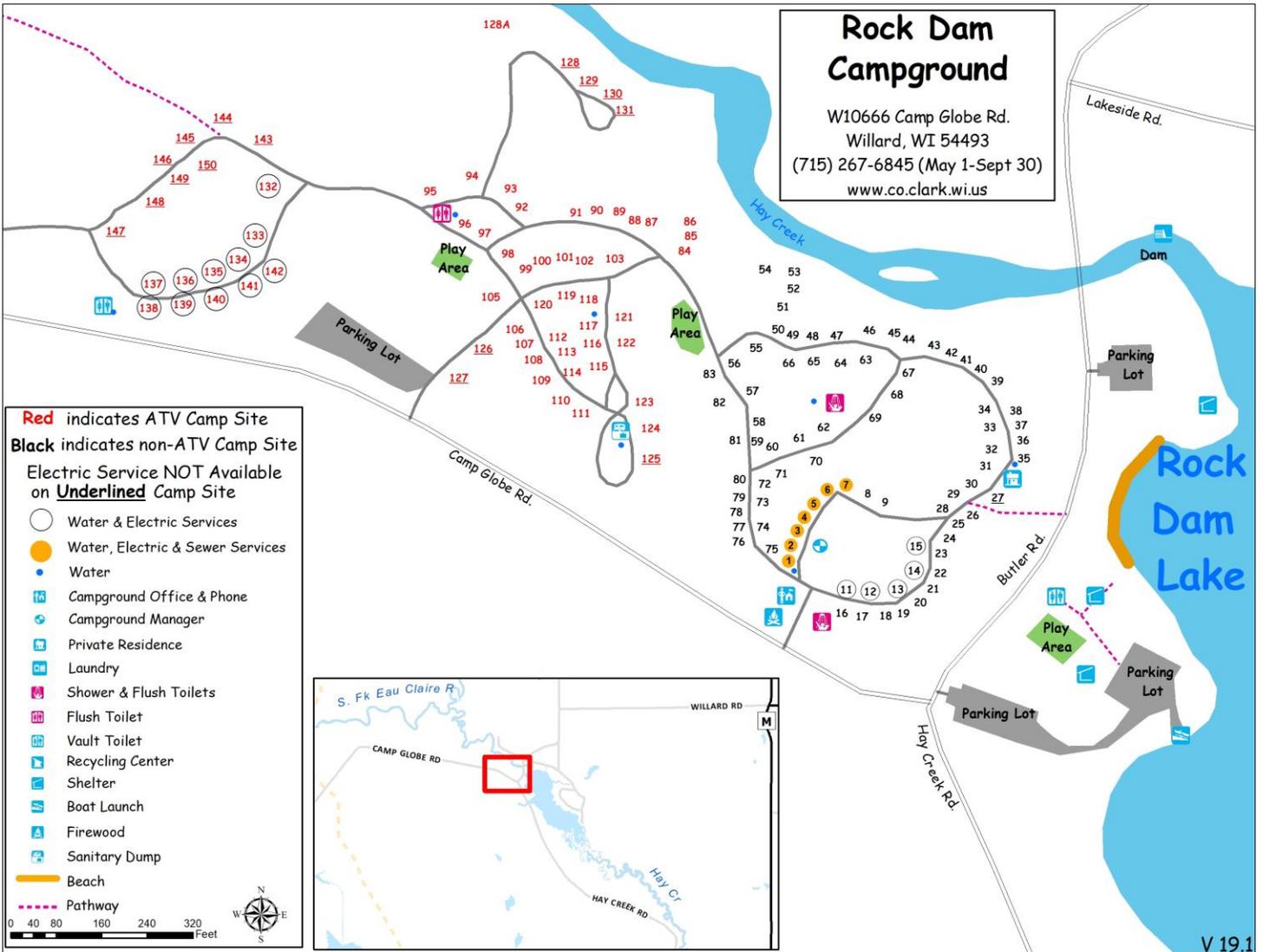
### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 19 Picnic tables & 9 Grills
- 3 Shelters for group gatherings (ADA accessible)
- 2 Playgrounds
- 150 Campsites, w/ water & electric services
- Rock Dam House
- Boat landing & dock (ADA accessible)
- Beach/Swimming (no lifeguard)
- Drinking water; 2 Wells improved in 2021
- 3 Vault & 2 flush rest rooms (ADA accessible)
- Sanitary dump station
- Coin-operated showers
- ATV trail access
- Camp store; firewood & ice available
- Recycling center and dumpsters

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Improve dock and boat landing.	\$70,000-\$80,000	2022-2024
Rehabilitate hiking and/or multi-use trails as well as a hiking trailhead near Site I44 for connectivity into County Forest.	<\$1,000	2022-2024
Improve pavilion access and add amenities (e.g., electrical, serving tables, lighting, curtain panels)	\$10,000-\$15,000	2022-2024
Improve electrical service & campsites/pads to allow for larger campers and RVs.	\$40,000-\$50,000	2023-2028
Continue to improve ADA accessibility of park facilities and playground.	\$15,000-\$20,000	2023-2028

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

The Rock Dam Lake Association hosts events at the park and Clark County maintains a yearly lease for the Rock Dam House. Continue to partner with the Association for improvements to the area.



# 10. Russell Memorial Park & Campground

**ADDRESS:** W8180 County Highway J, Merrillan, WI 54754

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Camping/Lake
	<b>SIZE:</b> 63 acres	<b>USE:</b> High

## PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for camping, lake recreation, and access to nearby ATV trails.

## KEY FEATURES

Russell Memorial Park is Clark County’s largest and most popular campground and park. It is a premier destination offering water frontage, ATV trail access, full RV hookups, and seasonal camping opportunities.

Lake Arbutus consists of 821 acres of surface water and is touted as the best fishery in Clark County. Four convenient boat landings offer ample opportunity for boating and other water-based recreation (e.g., water skiing, fishing, pleasure boating).

Russell Park is also close to the Levis Mound Recreation Area. Levis is often referred to as the best mountain-bike trail system in the Midwest. In addition to mountain-bike opportunities, Levis offers exceptional hiking trails and breathtaking scenery. Recently installed new basketball court. Introduced a boat landing fee as recommended in the previous outdoor recreation plan.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 39 Picnic tables & 15 Grills
- 2 Shelters for group gatherings (ADA accessible)
- 2 Playgrounds & Basketball court
- 205 Campsites, w/ water & electric services
- WiFi available for purchase at every campsite
- Boat landing & dock (ADA accessible)
- Beach/Swimming (ADA accessible; no lifeguard)
- 1 Vault & 6 flush rest rooms (ADA accessible)
- Sanitary dump station
- Showers
- Coin-operated laundry
- ATV trail access
- Camp store; firewood & ice available
- Recycling center and dumpsters

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Shoreline stabilization.	\$20,000	2022-2024
Improve electrical service & campsites for larger campers and RVs.	\$60,000-\$70,000	2022-2028
Continue to improve ADA accessibility of park facilities and playground.	\$15,000-\$20,000	2022-2028

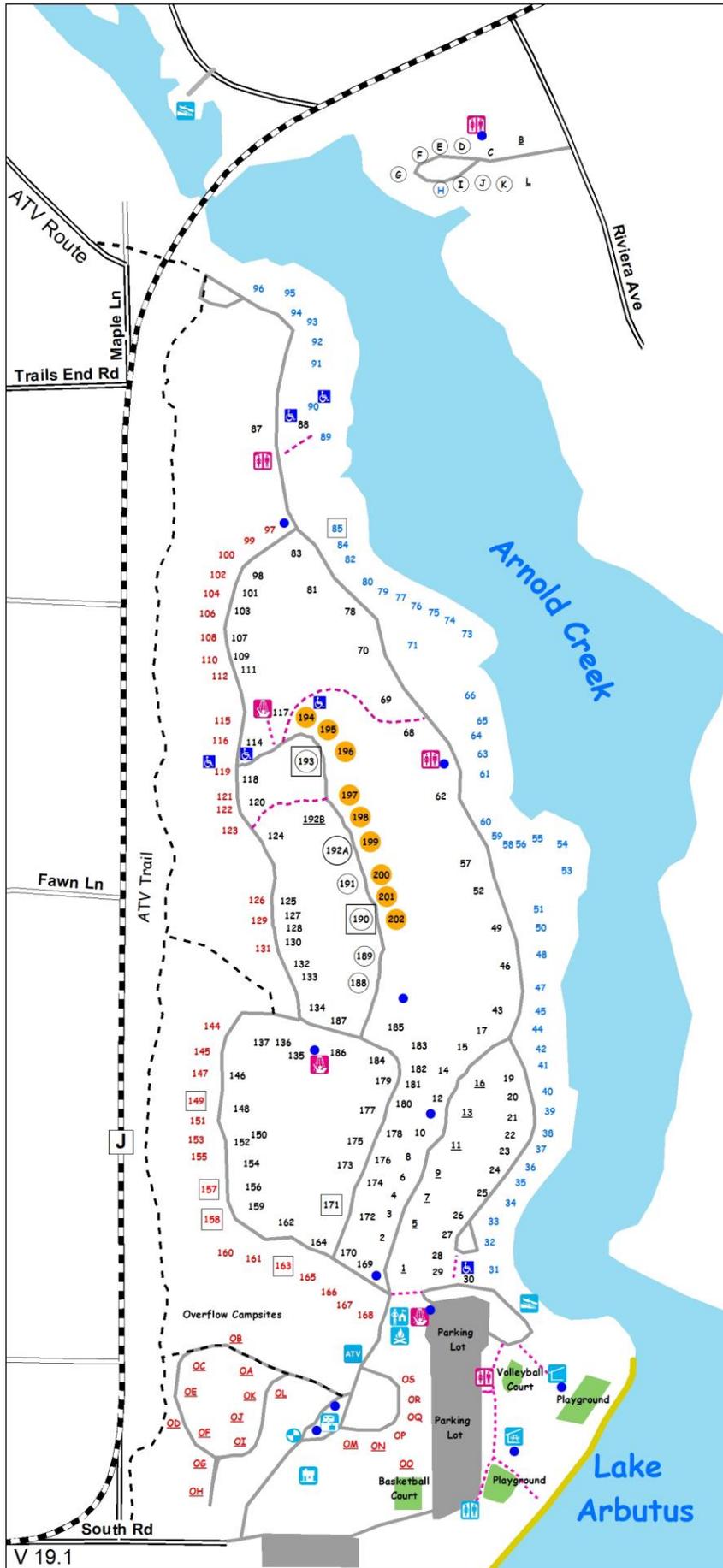
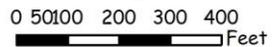
## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Clark County maintains a concessions lease with a vendor at the camp store for ice-cream and limited food sales.

# Russell Memorial Park & Campground

W8180 South Road  
 Merrillan, WI 54754  
 (715) 333-7948 (May 1- Sept 30)  
 www.co.clark.wi.us

- Red** indicates ATV Campsites
- Blue** indicates Lake Side & non-ATV Campsites
- Black** indicates non-ATV Campsites
- Electric Service NOT Available on UNDERLINED
- Electric, Water & Sewer Service
- Electric & Water Service
- Double Occupancy Site
- Handicap Accessible Site
- Water
- Flush Toilet
- Shower and Flush Toilet
- Vault Toilet
- Boat Landing
- Small Shelter
- Large Shelter
- Recycling Center
- Firewood
- Campground Manager
- Campground Office/Store
- Sanitary Dumpstation
- ATV Parking Area
- Beach
- Campground Road
- ATV Trail
- Pathway



# 11. Snyder Dam Park & Campground

**ADDRESS:** W8046 Arndt Road, Neillsville, WI 54456

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Community/Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Camping/Lake
	<b>SIZE:</b> 17 acres	<b>USE:</b> High

## PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for camping, picnicking, lake recreation on Snyder Lake, and access to 140 miles of nearby ATV trails.

## KEY FEATURES

Located in the Town of Hewett, the area offers a peaceful and relaxing setting and a quality family-recreational experience.

The park and campground is located on the 28-acre Snyder Lake. Snyder is a “no-wake” lake, offering a slower-paced, water-recreation experience.



Recent improvements to Snyder Park and Campground include additional campsites, a heated shower building, and overflow camping for large groups. These additions allow for extended camping stays and multi-seasonal use. Since the last outdoor recreation plan, the beach area has been removed as an amenity and there are no current plans to restore the beach.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 28 Picnic tables & 9 Grills
- 2 Shelters for group gatherings (ADA accessible)
- 4 Campsites with electricity
- Playground
- Boat Landing & shore fishing
- 4 Vault & 1 flush rest rooms (ADA accessible)
- Sanitary dump station
- Shower house (ADA accessible)
- Firewood & ice available
- ATV trail access

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Continue to improve ADA accessibility of park facilities and playground.	\$15,000-\$20,000	2022-2028
Continue with storm damage rehabilitation (e.g., repairs, plantings).	\$10,000-\$15,000	2022-2024
Enhance & repair dump station.	\$30,000-\$50,000	2023-2028

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department.

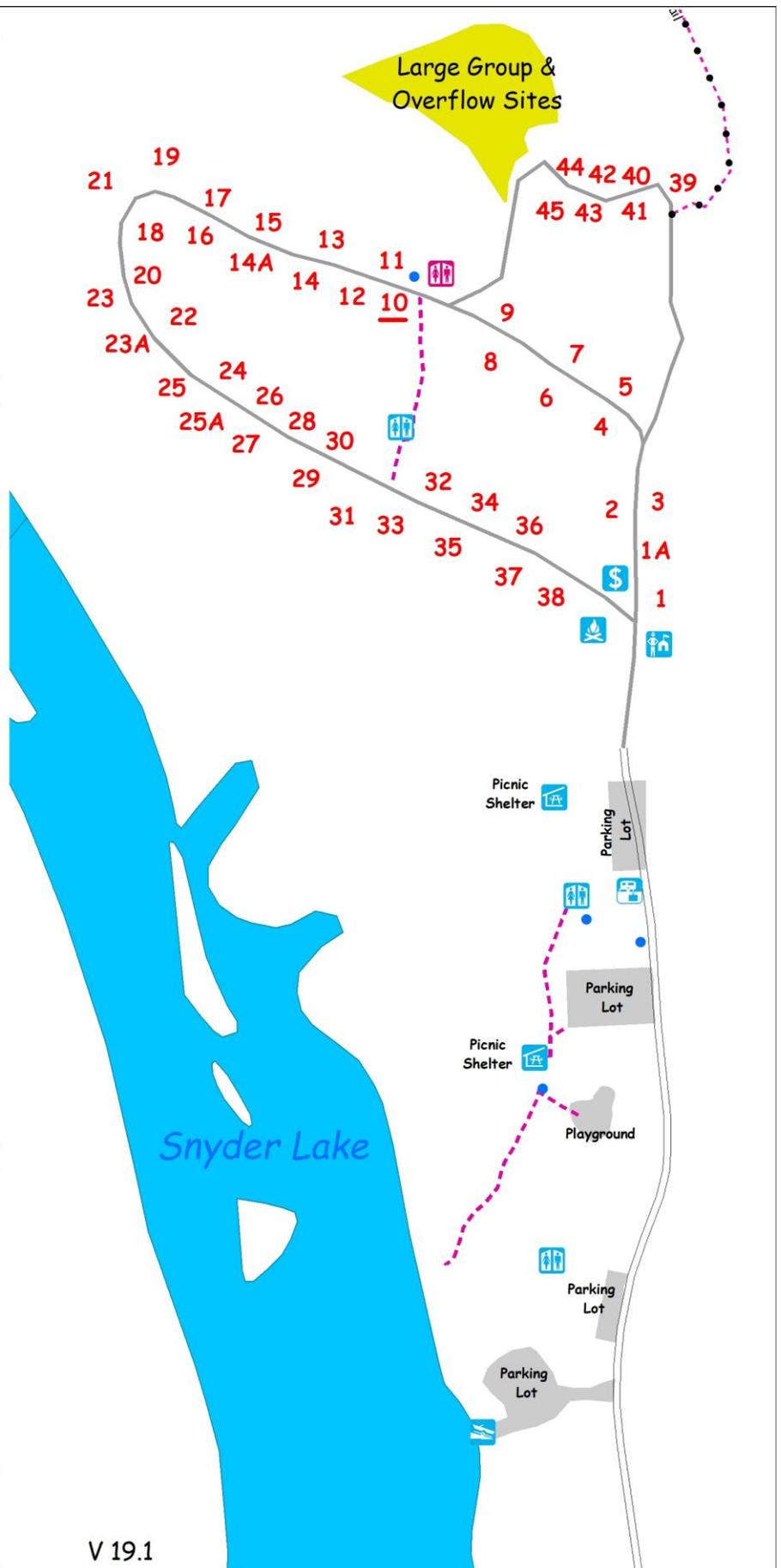
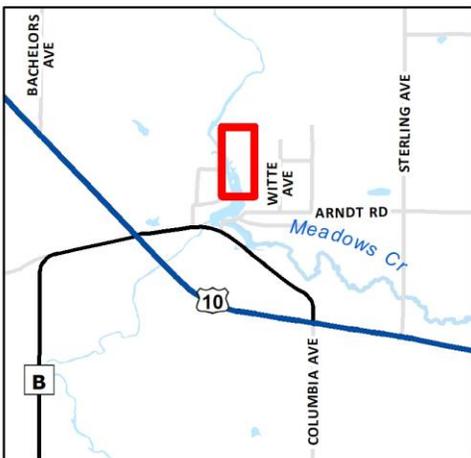
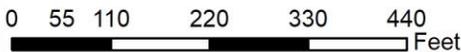
# Snyder Park & Campground

W8046 Arndt. Rd  
 Neillsville, WI 54456  
 (715) 743-5140  
 www.co.clark.wi.us

## All Sites Available for ATV Camping

Electric Service NOT Available on Underlined Sites.

-  Campground Office
-  Water
-  Self Registration Post
-  Shower and Flush Toilet
-  Vault Toilet
-  Firewood
-  Boat Launch
-  Sanitary Dump Station
-  Pathways
-  ATV Trail



V 19.1

# 12. Sherwood Shooting Range

**ADDRESS:** WI 1387 Sherwood Road, Granton, WI 54436

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Specialty	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Shooting Stations
	<b>SIZE:</b> 5 acres	<b>USE:</b> Moderate

### PRIMARY USES

Allowable activities at the shooting range include rifle, hand-gun, trap, and sporting clay shooting sports.

### KEY FEATURES

This outdoor public shooting range is located on south side of Sherwood Road in the Town of Sherwood.

The range features three ADA-accessible shooting stations for rifle and hand-gun that were completed in 2015. There is an improved gravel parking area for vehicles and shooting hours are posted at the range.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 3 Shooting Stations (ADA accessible)
- Gravel parking area

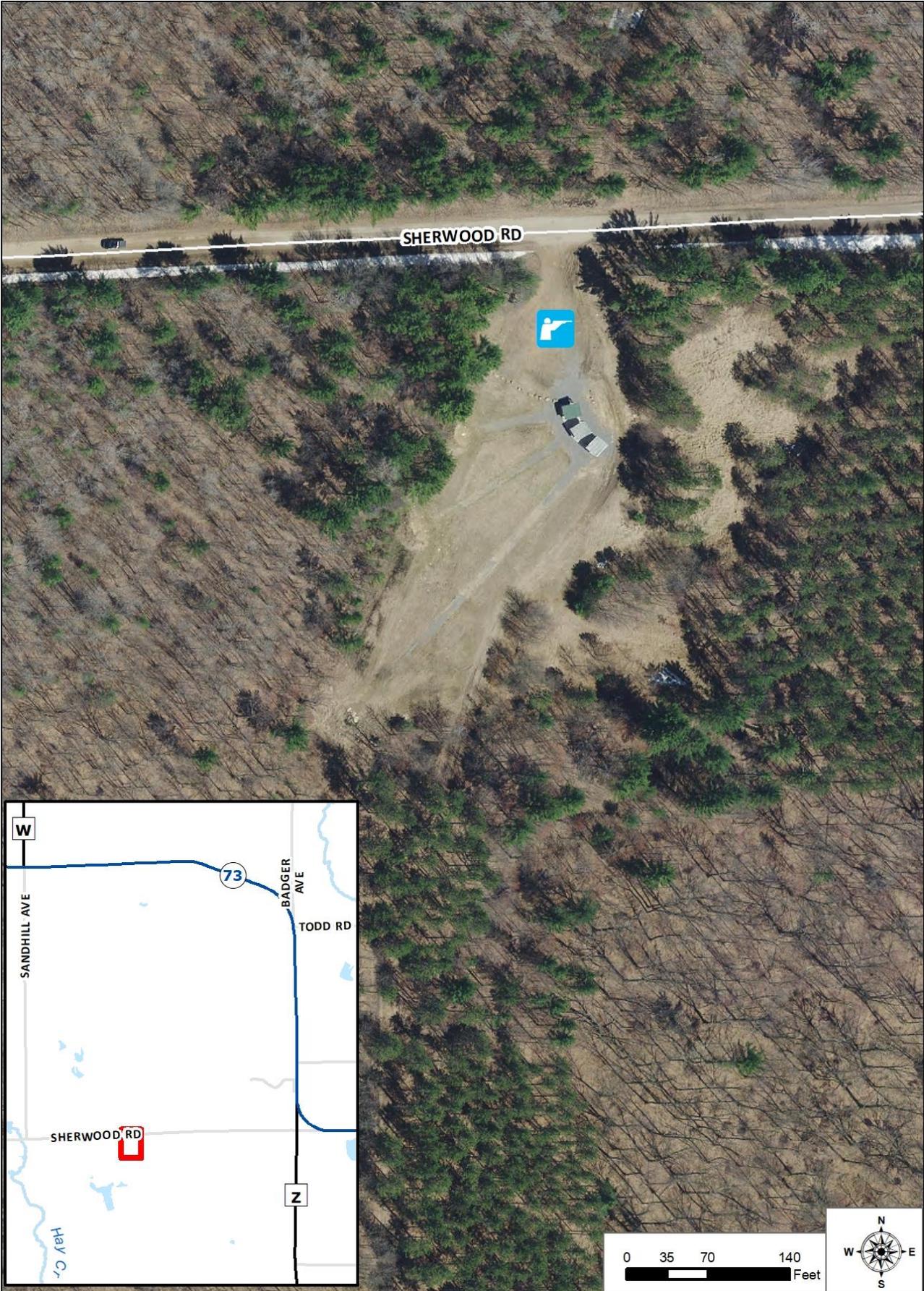
PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
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There are no current improvement plans for Sherwood Shooting Range other than regular maintenance.

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

The shooting range is maintained by volunteer labor provided by the Southern Clark County Sportsman’s Club.

# Sherwood Shooting Range



# 13. Sherwood Park & Campground

**ADDRESS:** W1251 Dyer Road, Pittsville, WI 54466

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Community/Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Camping/Lake
	<b>SIZE:</b> 26 acres	<b>USE:</b> Moderate

## PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for camping and fishing, and is the only County Park with a disc-golf course.

## KEY FEATURES

Sherwood Park and Campground is located in the Town of Sherwood off of State Highway 73 and Dyer Road. The recreation area is remote, quiet, and offers a wooded, family-camping atmosphere.

Due to a dam failure at Sherwood Lake, water levels were temporarily drawn down in 2014 resulting in stream-like flows, but water levels have since been restored. Related recent improvements include dredging of the lake, fish restocking, repairs to the boat launch, and basketball court renovation.

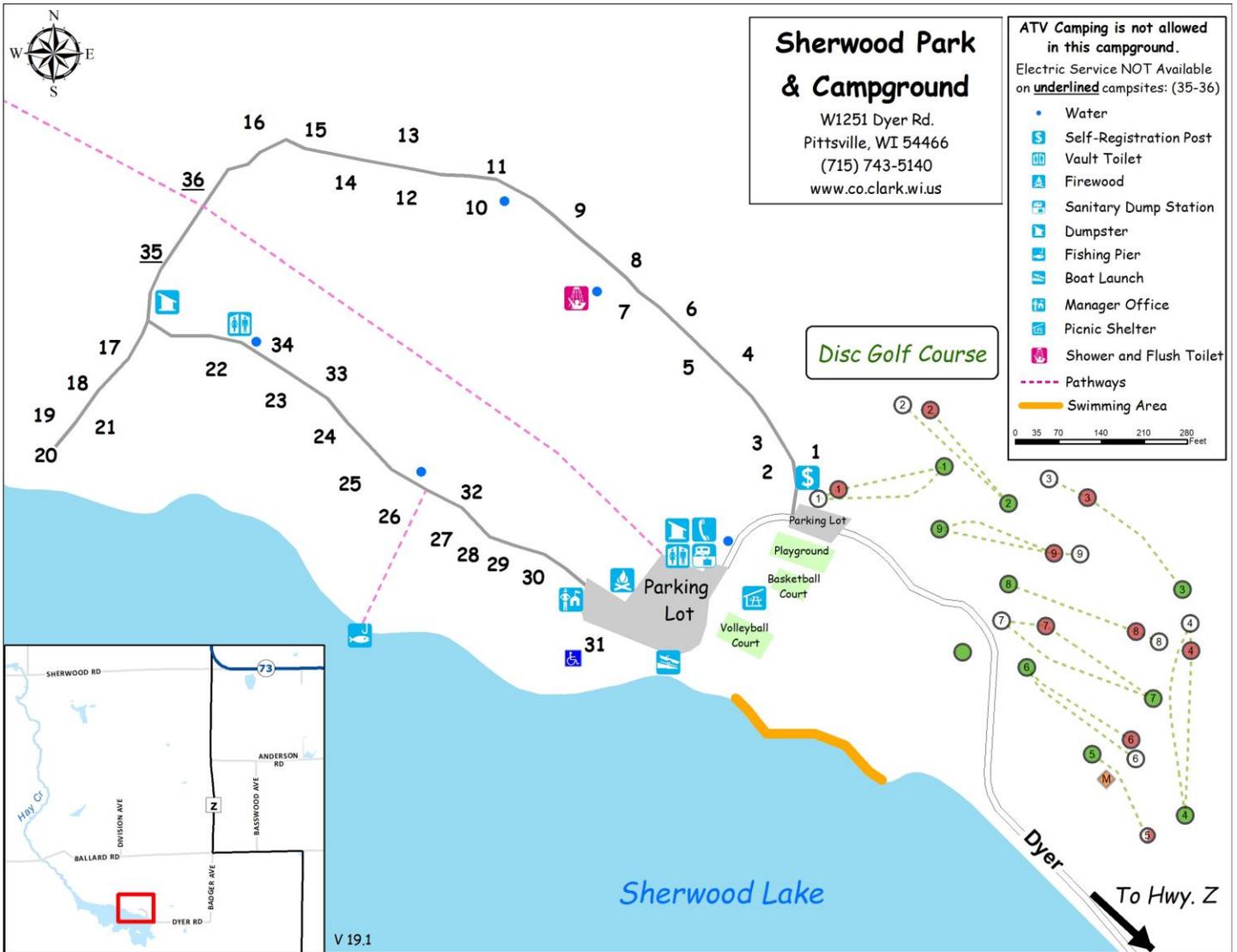
## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 21 Picnic tables & 12 Grills
- 1 Shelter for group gatherings (ADA accessible)
- 36 Campsites with electricity
- Playground & Basketball court (1/3-court)
- Boat landing & dock (ADA accessible)
- Shore fishing
- Disc golf course (9 holes)
- Beach/swimming (no lifeguard)
- 3 Vault rest rooms (2 ADA accessible)
- Sanitary dump station
- Shower house w/ flush toilets
- Firewood & ice available

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Add a picnic shelter.	\$2,000-\$4,000	2022-2023
Continue to improve ADA accessibility of park facilities and playground.	\$15,000-\$20,000	2022-2028

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department.



# 14. Sportsman Lake Recreational Area & Wildlife Refuge

**ADDRESS:** W5202 Pine Road, Owen, WI 54498;

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Fishing
	<b>SIZE:</b> 1,300 acres	<b>USE:</b> Moderate

### PRIMARY USES

This area is largely maintained in a rustic, unimproved state and is primarily used for fishing, hunting, walking, and birdwatching. A portion of the area is leased cropland, with the proceeds used to help maintain the dam and spillway.

### KEY FEATURES

Sportsman Lake is a 253-acre lake with a maximum depth of 12 feet that was constructed in 1976 for flood control. The Lake is widely used by residents of northern Clark County since it is easily accessible and is the only impoundment in the area that supports a fishery. As a shallow lake with a relatively large amount of aquatic woody vegetation and submerged tree stumps, the Lake offers good fishing, but is not conducive to many other watersports, such as waterskiing or jet skiing. Sport fishing opportunities include Panfish, Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike. Visitors have access to the Lake from a public boat landing as well as two fishing piers—one located about 400 feet south of the boat landing and another immediately adjacent to the south side of Center Road on the north side of the Lake. A new boat dock was installed at the boat landing in 2021; this is a portable dock that is removed in the winter months.

Part of the land to the east of the reservoir and County Highway “D” is designated as a wildlife refuge and the entire Lake is located within the Chequamegon Flyway. This provides excellent opportunities for both nature viewing and bird watching of waterfowl and songbirds.

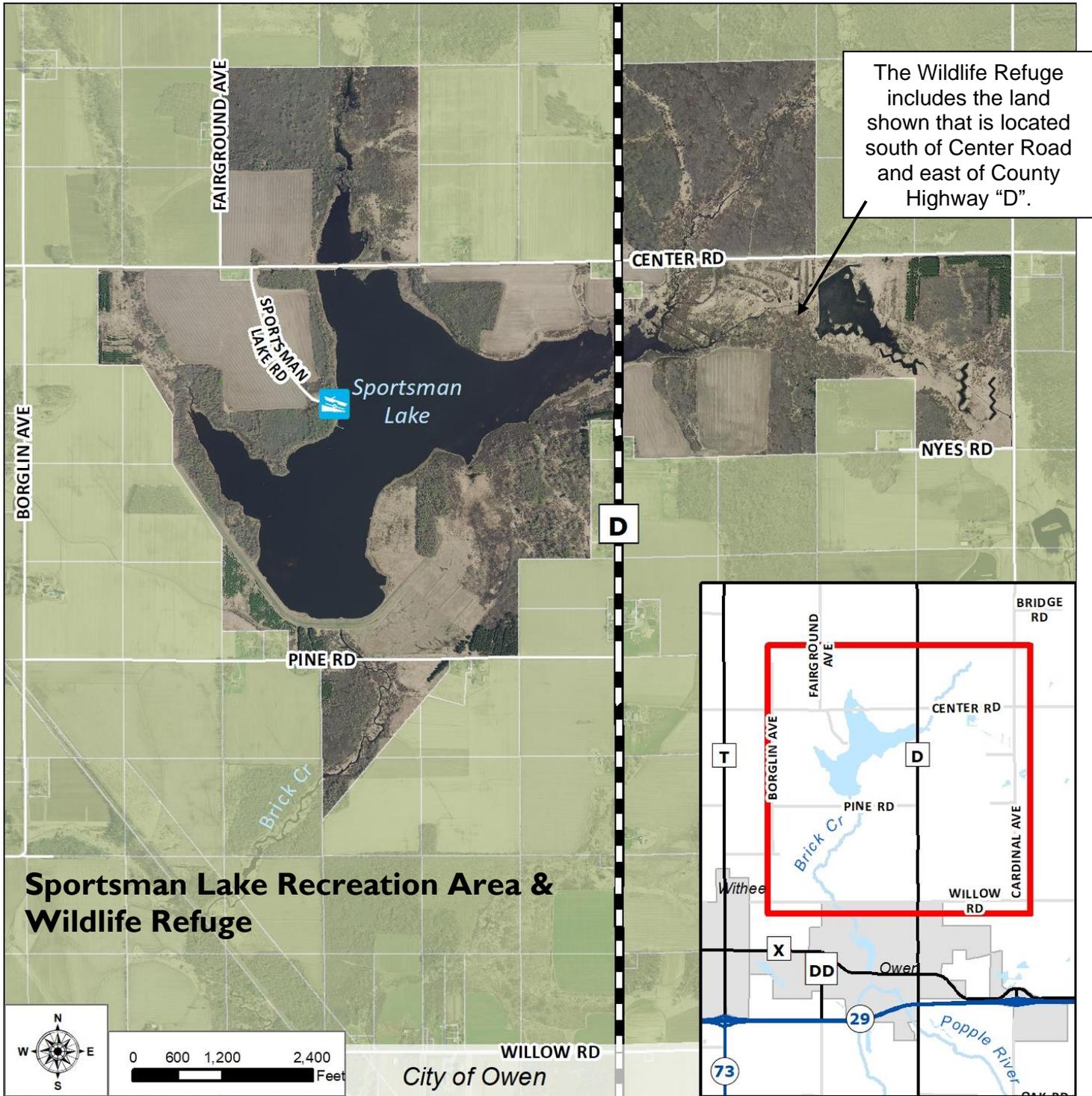
### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 1 Boat landing with portable dock
- 2 fishing piers
- Unimproved trails for hiking/walking & off-road biking
- A small pull-off on the south side of the area (off Pine Road) may be used for walking/hiking along the dam berm and wildlife viewing.

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Consider ADA-accessibility improvements at one or both fishing piers	\$3,000-\$8,000	2024-2028
Work with County Forestry & Parks to explore the creation of an improved walking trail along the west side of the Lake connecting the boat landing to the west-side fishing pier and berm.	\$25,000-\$40,000	2025-2035

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Sportsman Lake is managed by the Clark County Land Conservation Department. West Central Wisconsin Fur, Fin, & Feather has provided significant support to the Lake including helping to fund the fishing piers and fish stocking. The proceeds from the County's sale of land along State Highway 29 near the Black River Recreation Area has been placed into a fund to finance recreational maintenance and improvement projects at the Sportsmen's Lake.



# 15. Wildcat Park

**ADDRESS:** W9841 County Highway B, Humbird, WI 54746

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Regional	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Trails/Scenic Vista
	<b>SIZE:</b> 130 acres	<b>USE:</b> Moderate

## PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for hiking, sightseeing, wilderness camping, and access to nearby ATV trails and the County Forest for hunting. There are no designated hiking trails available. Relative to many of other County parks, it is envisioned that Wildcat Park will have limited improvements and offer a less developed atmosphere.

## KEY FEATURES

Wild Cat Mound is a scenic feature located on Wild Cat Forest Road in the Town of Mentor. The park is associated with a Cambrian Sandstone mound that offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area for visitors on foot, horseback, ATV or snowmobile.

Recent improvements include the construction of an accessible vault toilet building, park road surfacing, and landscaping.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

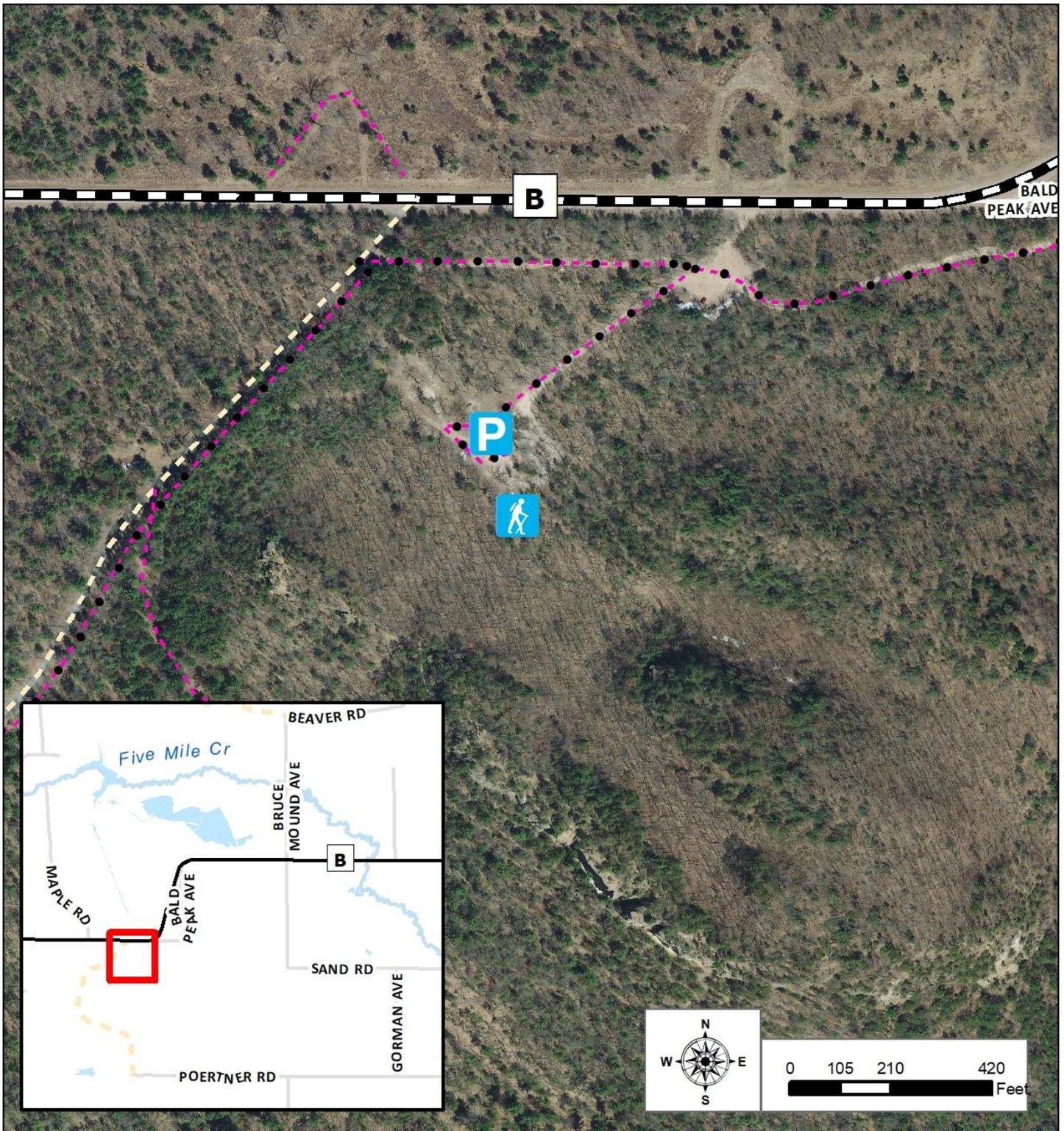
- 9 Picnic tables & 6 Grills
- Forest camping; some fire rings.
- Access to ATV/snowmobile trails
- 1 Vault restroom (ADA accessible)
- Drinking water

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Repair and improve informational kiosk.	\$1,000	2022-2026
Improve camping pads and picnic areas (no electric planned).	\$3,000	2023-2028

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department.

# Wildcat Park



# 16. Wild Rock Park & Campground

**ADDRESS:** N7171 Bald Peak Avenue, Willard, WI 54493

<b>PARK TYPE:</b> Community	<b>KEY FUNCTION:</b>	Horseback Riding
	<b>SIZE:</b> 40 acres	<b>USE:</b> Moderate to High



### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for horseback riding, camping, and access to ATV and snowmobile trails.

### KEY FEATURES

Located in Towns of Seif and Foster, Wild Rock Campground and Park is the main trailhead for a 39-mile horse trail system.

The trail system utilizes County Forest lands to access various terrain ranging from easy to difficult. Area visitors will also find access to designated ATV/UTV and snowmobile trails.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 9 Picnic tables & 7 Grills
- 1 Pavilion for group gatherings (ADA accessible)
- 1 Warming shelter
- 25 Campsites with electricity
- Playground
- Drinking water
- Horse challenge area
- Loading ramp
- Manure bunker/disposal facilities
- Hitching posts/picket lines
- 2 Vault restrooms (ADA accessible)
- Sanitary dump station

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Investigate improving the potable water (e.g., treatment, well improvements or replacement).	\$3,000-\$6,000	2022-2024
Improve electrical service & campsites for larger campers and RVs.	\$20,000-\$30,000	2023-2024
Continue to improve ADA accessibility of park facilities and playground.	\$15,000-\$20,000	2022-2028

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department, with volunteers from the Circle T Saddle Club (based in Thorp) maintaining the equestrian trails.

# Wild Rock Campground

N7171 Bald Peak Ave  
 Willard, WI 54493  
 (715) 743-5140  
[www.co.clark.wi.us](http://www.co.clark.wi.us)

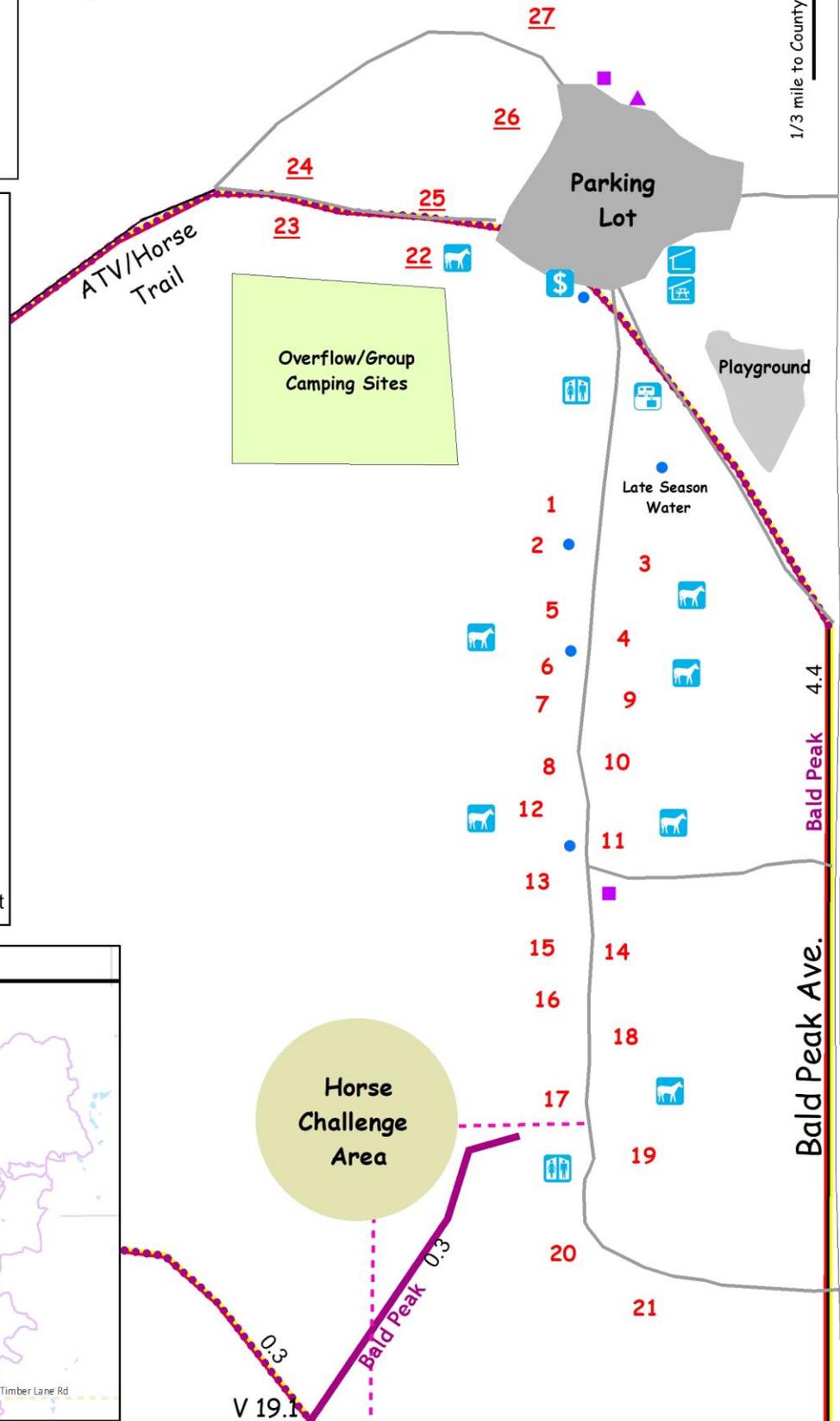
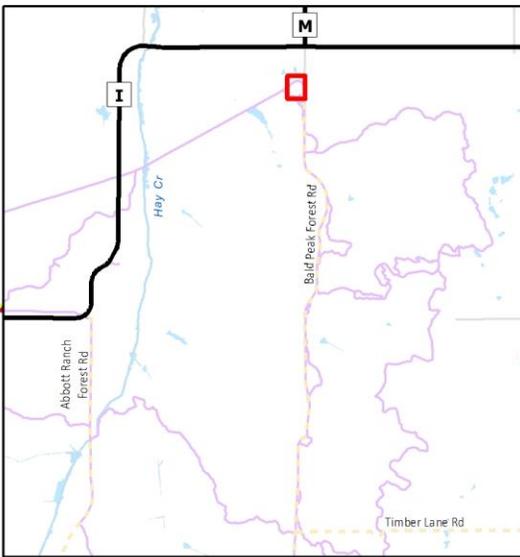
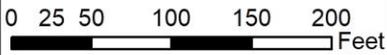


1/3 mile to County Highway I

## ATV Camping Welcome on All Sites

Electric Service NOT Available in underlined campsites: (22-27)

- Water
- Loading Ramp
- Manure Bunker
- Picket Line
- Picnic Shelter
- Registration Tube
- Sanitary Dump
- Warming Shelter
- Vault Toilet
- Horse Trail
- ATV/Horse Trail



## D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL LINKAGES

Improving the County's pedestrian, bicycle, ATV, and snowmobile linkages has been a major theme during the update of this plan. In addition to the trail-related recommendations specific to those parks in the previous section, the following are some additional recommendations for improving recreational linkages and connections within the Clark County. The following recommendations may be advanced by Clark County or by its cities, villages, or towns.



1. **SIGNAGE/WAYFINDING** – Signage on County trails should complement, not detract from, the experience of users, while not providing additional maintenance burden for County staff. Work with businesses and trail user groups to establish a general wayfinding (directional signage) strategy for County trails. Develop, advertise, and enforce clear rules regarding the placement of unapproved signs and vandalism with penalties that deter potential violators. Repair/replace and maintain existing County-owned directional signage and informational kiosks. (short-term/ongoing)
2. **ATV/UTV** – When feasible and possible, preference should be given to maintaining the off-road trail network versus on-road routes. (ongoing)
3. **HIKING/BACKPACKING** – Explore opportunities for expanded hiking trails as well as additional backpacking sites, non-motorized primitive sites, or remote, walk-in only campsites. Increase the marketing of existing such opportunities. (short- to long-term)
4. **WALKING/BIKING** – A number of Clark County municipalities have expressed interest in improving regional walking and biking connections between municipalities and other destinations. These communities are encouraged to discuss interest and demand for the development of a County or regional bike and pedestrian plan. (short- to long-term)

## E. OUTDOOR RECREATION FUNDING

Clark County and its communities will continue to identify and leverage a mix of funding resources and partnership support from a wide variety of potential sources for outdoor recreation improvements and maintenance.

### **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program**

For larger projects, Stewardship grant dollars from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (e.g. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program) or related Federal sources (e.g., Recreational Trails Act, Land & Water Conservation Fund) have long been key to major park and recreational trail improvements in Wisconsin communities. Due to the application, administration, and reporting requirements for most Federal and State grant programs, such funding programs are best suited for larger projects. All WDNR Stewardship grants have a 50% local match. This local cost share can come from donations (cash, materials, services), in-kind labor from volunteers or municipal staff, and some Federal grants.

In the past, the focus of these Stewardship grant programs have been on nature-based outdoor recreation projects, such as land acquisition for parks/trails or the construction of trails, canoe launches, fishing piers, park shelters, campgrounds, picnic areas, and restrooms. However, the Land & Water Conservation Fund Program can now also fund active outdoor recreation facilities, such as ballfields and splash pads. Playground equipment as a standalone project is not WDNR grant eligible. However, playground equipment may be grant eligible if it is not too big of a part of a larger park (or campground) development or redevelopment project. Income-generating facilities (e.g., concession stands) are also not generally eligible for these grants. Planting and landscaping is eligible as long as it not just solely for restoration value (e.g., removing buckthorn) or it is not too extravagant (e.g., a large, very expensive fountain, an artificial river). Stormwater management, such as rain gardens and bioswales, and stream restoration projects are also eligible. However, landscaping may be a more competitive grant project if it is part of a larger development or redevelopment project.

### **Other WDNR Grant Programs for Local Governments**

- The **Motorized Stewardship Grants** program provides ATV & Snowmobile trail aids, including funds to acquire, insure, develop and maintain ATV/UTV trails, areas and route. Snowmobile trail grants are available to counties and tribes to apply for funding to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment.
- The **Recreational Boating Facilities Grants** program can fund a variety of boating-related projects including ramps and service docks to gain access to the water, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, navigation aids and dredging waterway channels.
- WDNR has a variety of additional grant programs for resource management that are indirectly related to recreation, such as Surface Water Grants, Municipal Dam Grant Program, and various forestry-related grants.

### **Other Funding Sources**

Many private foundations also fund parks and other outdoor recreational facility improvements and programming. Foundation grants are often well suited for smaller projects and typically have fewer application and reporting requirements compared to government grant programs. However, many foundations will only provide grants to non-profit organizations; a community may need to partner with a local non-profit to tap into such dollars. Many foundations focus on specific types of projects or certain geographic areas. For example, the American Academy of Dermatology awards grants for installing permanent shade structures at pools and playgrounds, so communities may need to perform some research to find grant opportunities that meet specific needs. [Foundationcenter.org](http://Foundationcenter.org) is a good place to start such a search. For playgrounds, KaBoom! is a popular source of private grant dollars, with Good Sports a potential source of sports equipment funding.

Additional Federal, State, and foundation grant dollars are available depending on the nature of the activity (e.g., arts or educational programming, boat ramps, community gardens) or attributes unique to the site (e.g., historic preservation, resource conservation, acquisition of floodplain properties, brownfield remediation). For example, many outdoor sports have national organizations that provide funding for their sport, such as the U.S. Soccer Foundation.

Local government financial resources for parks and outdoor recreation potentially include standard operating budgets and general fund dollars; capital improvements budgets; loans, bonding, and notes; user fees; tax increment financing; and developer impact fees/exactions and contributions. The most appropriate mix of such funding sources for future, major outdoor recreation projects should be incorporated into a five-year capital improvements plan, if possible.

Donations of volunteer time, dollars, or property from local residents, businesses, recreational groups, non-profits, and other service organizations are becoming increasingly important. It is not unusual for a certain local organization, club, or non-profit to take the lead in developing and/or maintain a recreational facility or program (or part thereof). Often, the time and donations of these local partners can be used as a grant match to leverage other grant sources. Local businesses that are subsidiaries or local places of business for a larger organization (e.g., financial institutions, chain retailers) or are part of a larger professional association (e.g., realtors association, medical) may also have access to grant programs. Such partnerships are crucial to a robust, strong parks and recreation system, which improves the quality of life for the entire community.

## SECTION VII.

### COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

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Providing a complete, efficient outdoor recreational system that meets the diverse needs of all Clark County residents requires partnerships and intergovernmental cooperation. As stated previously in Objective 1.2, community parks and outdoor recreational amenities that serve a smaller geographic area are best provided and maintained by local cities, villages, towns, and community organizations.

This section contains the outdoor recreation plans for the six Clark County cities and village that agreed to participate in this planning effort—Abbotsford, Colby, Loyal, Owen, Thorp, and Withee. The cities of Neillsville and Stanley have recently updated their own, stand-alone outdoor recreation plans. During the planning process, each municipality was responsible to complete an inventory of the community’s outdoor recreation facilities, assess current and future demand and needs, and identify recommendations to guide park system improvements.

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

#### A. PARK NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

In order to assess the needs that exist in the local communities, the plan establishes a park area standard—a general rule for the provision of park area for a given population. It is important to note that this standard is merely a guide to be used as a decision-making tool for planning purposes. In some areas, local demands may be more or less based on the desires of the local citizenry and the function, location, or amenities of each facility. Such park standards must be further supplemented with local information and evaluated in the context of local circumstances.

##### Park Standards

The population ratio method is a widely used method of determining minimum requirements for outdoor recreation. **The National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) has identified the following metrics for communities with less than 20,000 residents, which applies to all cities and villages participating in this outdoor recreation plan update:**

- median of one park for every 1,231 residents and
- 12 public park acres for every 1,000 residents.

This metric can be used to help assess whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve the outdoor recreational needs of residents. Such standards should be viewed as a guide and they address minimum, not maximum goals.

Ideally, the parkland acreage would be distributed among the parks as outlined in the NRPA classification system below:

Park Type	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 pop.	Use and Characteristics
Mini-Park	< 0.25 mile radius	1 ac or less	0.25 – 0.5 acres	specialized facilities serving a concentrated population (e.g., apartments, seniors, tots)
Neighborhood Park/Playground	0.25 – 0.5 mile radius up to 5,000 pop.	1 to 5+ acres (see footnote) <sup>4</sup>	1 – 2 acres	intensive recreation area within safe walking distance; may be a school-park facility
Community Park	1-2 mile radius	5 to 25+ acres	5 – 8 acres	may include both passive & active recreation; easily accessible to neighborhoods served
Regional Park	several communities; w/in 1 hour	200+ acres	5 – 10 acres	contiguous to or encompassing natural resources
Specialized Area	varies; may be regional	varies	varies	located in the community; may include conservancy areas and greenspace

This technique is accomplished by assigning an acreage requirement for various classifications of parks for each 1,000 persons in a community. Preferably, this acreage should be distributed throughout the community so that residential areas, various age groups, and activity needs are served in the best possible manner. However, the total population size of each Clark County community must also be considered since some communities have few residents than a single neighborhood in a larger urban area.

Additional explanation of the above NRPA standards for different park types can be found in **Appendix C**. The NRPA definitions and standards are suggested guidelines for planning purposes and are based on commonly used terminology and the primary intent of each park type. Although other types of parks can be found in some of Wisconsin's communities, the ones defined here are sufficient to analyze recreation areas in Clark County. For purposes of this plan, most park facilities owned by Clark County can be classified as **community or regional parks** due to their relatively larger sizes, user groups, and relationship to County Forest lands. Some County-owned facilities, such the Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area, may be better classified as specialized areas. The smaller parks and playgrounds, with more limited service areas, are more typically found within the cities, villages, and towns.

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<sup>4</sup> The NRPA standards for the desirable size of Neighborhood Parks/Playgrounds and Community Parks are 15+ and 25+ acres, respectively. However, after consideration that such standards were developed with large, densely populated urban cities in mind, a decision was made to reduce the desirable sizes of these park types to better reflect the park system, park functions, and population characteristics of smaller, rural communities in west-central Wisconsin.

Comparisons of park definitions, areas, and services should not be made among the State's municipalities. Each community is unique in its size, demographics, geography, and distribution of population; therefore, the classifications applied in a given community result from a community's judgment of how that community's parks function in meeting local and nonresident recreation needs. In small communities, such as those in Clark County, the size and acreage recommendations are less important than the uses and function, since a relatively small park within a smaller community can provide important neighborhood and community recreational functions.

Application of population ratio standards typically does not include school properties, golf courses, undeveloped or vacant land, or public areas and open spaces not developed for public recreational use. The above standards also do not provide insight into the appropriate mix of amenities to be offered at the recreational facilities (e.g., playground equipment, picnic tables, court games, trails).

In short, while the above guidelines are helpful for evaluating outdoor recreation demand in Clark County's communities, it is more important that the types of parks and the mix of recreational amenities be evaluated, discussed, and determined locally based on local needs.

### **Structure of the Community Outdoor Recreation Plans**

Each individual community outdoor recreation plan includes three main sub-sections for those municipalities that participated in this planning effort:

1. The first section, entitled **SUPPLY**, is an inventory of the existing community outdoor recreation facilities. The inventory includes the identification of the park and recreation areas, an estimate of the acreage of the area, and a brief analysis and description of the amenities and types of recreation activities that are supported by the area.
2. The second section, **DEMAND/NEEDS**, examines three factors to determine the need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities:
  - i. **Space Needs**—Whether or not there is adequate land or open space to serve the needs of the population based on 20-year population forecasts and the previous NRPA metrics for number of parks and parkland acreage per capita. School and private recreational facilities are not included in these calculations.
  - ii. **Service Needs**—Whether or not outdoor recreational sites are accessible and adequately located to serve the needs of the community.
  - iii. **Activity/Amenity Needs**—Whether or not the existing, available parklands allow for a specific, desired recreational activity or amenity.
3. The final section, **RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION PLAN**, provides the recommendations and action plan to satisfy the community needs. The recommendations tend to be more general, while the action plan provides guidance for specific, actionable outdoor recreation improvements for each city.

## B. GENERAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

The community action program is made up of two major sections. This first section is the general recommendations for the participating communities in the County, which is followed by the outdoor recreation plans specific to each individual community.

### General Recommendations

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

- **Consistency with the Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan.** This document should be considered as a whole. The individual community plans in the next subsections are part of this overall plan. The background and inventory information (Section II and III) and overall needs assessment (Section IV) are relevant to recreational decision-making for Clark County's communities. And the recreational linkages and outdoor recreation funding sources discussed in Sections VI D.&E.) are important to Clark County's cities, villages, and towns. By adopting this outdoor recreation plan, the participating communities are not only adopting this section (Section VII), but are also adopting the overall goals and objectives (Section V) and general policy recommendations (Section VI.A.) as their own.
- **Municipal/School District Cooperation.** Promote continued and increasing cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting community recreational needs. With good planning, cooperation may take the form of cost sharing for land acquisition, facility development, and/or programming/maintenance. Intergovernmental agreements for public use of existing school facilities during non-school hours may also be needed.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance.** With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), local governments must ensure that all programs and facilities, including parks and other recreational offerings, are accessible to people with disabilities. To determine compliance with ADA regulations, it is recommended that communities conduct an evaluation of the accessibility of its services, programs, and facilities, and prepare a transition plan describing how compliance will be achieved.

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

- **Service/Social Group Involvement.** Involve organized groups in needed park and recreation development, educational efforts, and programming, including development of competitive sports areas and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service and social groups have been an active participant in the development of recreation facilities. Due to public funding limitations, the involvement of service, social, and non-profit groups is essential.
- **Citizen Participation/Committee Creation.** Municipalities are strongly encouraged to establish a park and recreation committee or board that can oversee or guide park planning,

development, operation, maintenance, administration, and program activities. The committee may act as a liaison with other municipalities, the County, and State agencies regarding park and recreation matters. The committee should be composed of citizens as well as elected officials. Municipalities should actively seek citizen input into the planning and development of new park and recreation facilities.

- **Future Park Planning.** In areas where growth is expected, communities should make provisions to incorporate the park areas with expected development. One such method would be to encourage new developments to include dedicated park area within each neighborhood. This would provide the communities with a system of convenient and accessible neighborhood parks. Another method would be to partner with landowners to utilize easements in order to limit land acquisition costs for neighborhood parks or trail systems. When appropriate, integrate parks and recreational issues and plans into other community plans (e.g., comprehensive plans, development plans).
- **Aid Programs.** Take advantage of State and Federal financial and technical aid programs designed to assist communities in meeting recreational needs, and maintain community eligibility for such programs as discussed in Section VI.E.
- **Capital Improvements Schedule.** As recommended in Section VI.A., community officials are encouraged to develop a five-year capital improvements schedule for recreation that reflects the implementation proposals made in this plan and the priorities they place on them. While it is unlikely that all of the recommendations offered by this plan would be undertaken within the next five-to-ten years, recognition of the increasing demands for recreation space and facilities may require action. To be functional, the capital improvements program should be flexible and be subject to annual review.

## C. CITY OF OWEN OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

### SUPPLY

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the City of Owen as shown on **Figure 13** at the end of this section.

#### Mini-Parks

##### VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

.25 ACRE

Situated on the southwest corner of the Millpond along County Road X, this park is a place for meditation and reflection. The series of flags overlooks the concrete and brick memorial to our veterans past, present and future. The site includes an old cannon that is on loan from the Department of Defense. The sitting area offers a great view of the pond and you can hear the rushing waters as they flow over the adjacent dam.



Veterans Park amenities:

- Benches
- Fishing
- Shade trees and manicured grass

##### KERRY PARK (ORANGE AND BLUE)

.5 ACRE

Kerry Park is located on the corner of Ash and 4<sup>th</sup> St. It is a neighborhood playground and contains several pieces of playground equipment. The location among the apartment complexes and residential area makes it a perfect fit for our growing families. There are benches and picnic tables available for parents to enjoy while children play.

Kerry Park amenities:

- Playground
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Manicured grass

##### FREMONT PARK

.75 ACRE

This park is the site of the former Fremont Hotel that welcomed visitors to Owen as they got off the trains. The site has been preserved as a park given that its triangular shape and proximity to the railroad line makes it difficult to develop. Recent improvements to the park include the addition of a pavilion, tables, benches, and plantings in various places. A partnership with the library made several recent updates possible including the addition of Wi-Fi equipment for visitors to connect to

the internet with their mobile devices. These improvements have led to residents referring to this location as Wi-Fi Park.

Fremont Park amenities include:

- Pavilion
- Tables and benches
- Wi-Fi internet access

### **Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds**

Given the community's size, Owen does not have facilities that meet the strict use and size definitions of a neighborhood park or playground. All Owen parks serve nearby residents and nearly all of the City's residents live within 1-mile of at least one of the City's mini-parks or community parks.

### **Community Parks**

#### **MILLPOND PARK**

10 ACRES

Situated adjacent to the Historic Owen Lumber Company Millpond, this park is long and narrow allowing for many relaxing views. The park has heated restrooms, concession area, a band pavilion that doubles as a private party area and an open-air pavilion that is the home of the seasonal Farmers Market. The Popple River Trail runs the length of the park (see Popple River Trail). There is a warming hut that welcomes ice skaters who want to warm up from skating on the Millpond. The former railroad bridge on the north end of the park provides additional sitting and fishing spaces. The park is also the site of the annual Owen Junior Fair and the O-W Lions annual Ice Fishing Contest. The blacktop surfaces were recently improved and there are several additional park updates planned for the next five years to keep the park in good condition due to its popularity and frequent use by the community.



Millpond Park amenities:

- Playground equipment
- Volleyball pits
- Shade trees and manicured grass
- Fishing access
- Fishing Pier adjacent to picnic area
- Popple River Trail access and parking
- Heated restrooms open year round

- Picnic areas that are covered and have plenty of picnic tables. Available to be reserved for private parties
- Concession area with kitchen that can also be rented for private parties or fundraisers
- Warming shed with views of the ice rink so parents can watch in comfort

#### CROWLEY PARK AND CAMPGROUND

20 ACRES

Located in the center of Owen along the Popple River and the railroad tracks, Crowley Park is an important part of the community due to its historical aspect as well as it's abundance of nature. The large open field is the site of the former athletic field for the Old Owen High School and the ballfield was recently updated with additional planned improvements over the next several years including construction of a dog park. The campground features 11 sites with electric and water hookups and serves as the trailhead of the Popple River Trail that is a popular amenity for residents and visitors to the area (see Popple River Trail).

Crowley Park amenities:

- Bathroom facilities
- Camping with electric and water
- Popple River Trailhead
- Fishing
- Exploring

#### **Specialty Outdoor Recreation Facilities**

##### POPPLER RIVER TRAIL/OWEN-WITHEE BIKE TRAIL

approx. 4 MILES

The Popple River Trail is a non-motorized trail that begins at the Crowley Park Campground, winds it's way along the Popple River and Britt Creek to the Millpond Park. From there it hugs the millpond to the railroad bridge where it crosses the pond. It continues to Lehn St and a small distance to the Owen-Withee Bike Trail. The O-W Bike Trail starts at Mauels Dairy and continues on County Road X past the O-W Schools and on to Withee. The trail is a popular amenity in the City and an outstanding way for families to safely enjoy the outdoors without worrying about traffic. The natural beauty that is accessible along the trail is breathtaking and one of Owen-Withee's greatest assets.

Popple River Trail/Owen-Withee Bike Trail amenities:

- Paved trail for multiple uses
- Benches and sitting areas
- Nature viewing areas
- Fishing spots are plenty
- Handicapped accessibility to fishing and most areas of the trail

**MEADOWVIEW GOLF COURSE**

A beautiful, member-owned 9-hole course located right in the City of Owen. The course is open to the public and works with the O-W Schools to provide lessons for our youth.

**Public School Facilities**

**OWEN-WITHEE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

20+/- ACRES

Owen-Withee School, located on the city’s west side near the border with Withee, offers excellent recreation opportunities. The developed 15 acres of the school grounds includes the school buildings, football field, track, 2 baseball/softball diamonds, playground areas and open space for additional field sports. An additional 10 acres of wooded area lies to the south of the school and is dedicated as the school forest. A memorial garden has been established on the northeast corner of the property near the Owen-Withee Bike Trail.

**DEMAND/NEEDS**

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 1 park for every 1,231 residents and at least 12 public park acres for every 1,000 residents.

According to the population figures shown in the table below, the 2020 U.S. Census population for Owen is 916 persons. The population change from 2020 to 2040 shows an expected increase of 184 persons, or +20 percent.

The total land area devoted to outdoor recreation within the City of Owen is approximately 31.5 acres. It should be noted that this total does not include the Popple River Trail and Owen-Withee Bike Trail or the O-W School property.

Currently, 31.5 acres exceeds the desired amount of park acreage for the population according to the national park standard. Although the population for the community is projected to increase by the year 2040, existing park acreage should continue to meet the needs of the community based on the standard, unless existing lands do not allow for a specific recreational activity. As such, the City should continue to regularly monitor population change, community-member interest, and recreational trends in order to evaluate future park needs.

**Park and Recreation Area Need • City of Owen**

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Total Existing Acreage	Surplus/ Deficit Acres
2020	916	11	31.5	+20.5
2025	1,025	12.3	31.5	+19.2
2030	1,060	12.7	31.5	+18.8
2035	1,090	13.1	31.5	+18.4
2040	1,100	13.2	31.5	+18.3

*Source: U.S. Census 2020 Population Estimate and Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Municipal Population Projections 2025-2040 (12/10/13)*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop and maintain Owen's outdoor recreation and park system in a manner that meets the needs and intent of its residents.
2. Continue to develop outdoor recreational activities for our community with an emphasis on youth and family-oriented activities that also meets ADA standards to ensure safe and open access to all.
3. The City would also like to adopt equipment standards for future park related improvements or upgrades. This is to encourage greater consistency and appearance of items such as lighting posts, benches, trash can housings, flag poles, etc. This will help to enhance community identity and cohesion between park facilities throughout the City.
4. Work to improve signage and wayfinding throughout the community to help identify park and trail locations or amenities.
5. **Popple River Trail/O-W Bike Trail** connector to the school is a new priority along with a safe pedestrian crossing across Highway X. The trail is the one thing that connects our main city parks with the rest. Continued donations of benches, picnic tables and other sponsored amenities will be a key part of many physical improvements to come. Trails should encourage social and natural interaction, not just be a way to convey people from one point to another.
6. **Millpond Park** is the main park for events. Continued improvements to the concession area as well as the band and open-air pavilion are central to its appeal to the public. The continued maintenance and improvement of the park is important to our community events that depend on the facility to bring in people and activities. Due to the size and scope of future improvements needed at the Dam and surrounding the pond, the City will seek to identify State and Federal funding assistance for improvements that encourage and support dam structure safety, water and fishing access, water quality, and recreation amenities.
7. **Crowley Park and Campground** needs to identify a system to collect campsite fees. Ideas include working with local service stations to accept deposits for keys to electrical hookups/boxes to guarantee payment and return of lockbox keys by campsite users. Surveillance upgrades are also needed to reduce vandalism. A dog park is anticipated to be developed at the park behind the ballfield and the City will work with volunteers and community organizations to help develop and maintain facilities to reduce the burden and costs to the municipality.
8. **Kerry Park (Orange and Blue)** needs updated playground equipment and a restroom facility.
9. Improving snowmobile routes through the city is important for safety and enjoyment. The City will work with clubs to maintain trail access and signage to support snowmobile opportunities in order to connect to County trails and support continued trail use.
10. Implement the recommendations in the following action plan as resources and community priorities allow.

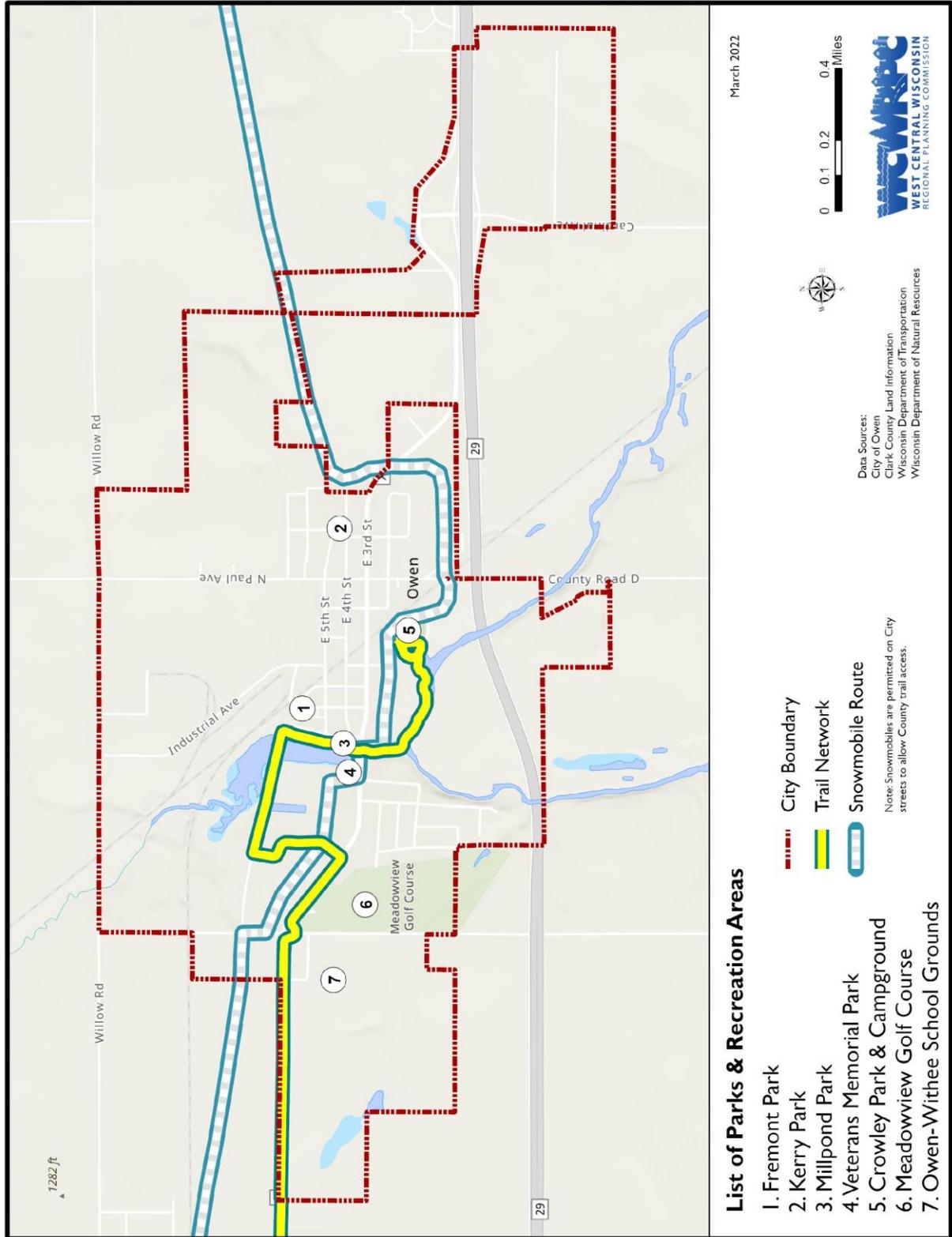
## ACTION PLAN

Facility	Action Items	Cost Estimate	Time Frame
<b>Millpond Park</b>	Dam improvements and rip rap installation are needed to improve dam structure and assist with shoreline erosion	\$500K+	Phased using various funding sources and grant programs/resources.
	Band pavilion updates and improvements	\$2,000	1-3 years
	Bathroom improvements	\$1000	1-3 years
	Concession lighting updates	\$1000	1-3 years
	Fishing pier light/pole updates	\$3,000	3-5 years
	Move smaller playground back from roadway	Committee/volunteers	1-3 years
	Walking bridge improvements (piers in water need to be replaced)	\$5,000	3-5 years
<b>Crowley Park and Campground</b>	Replace ball field light poles/lights	\$50,000	5+ years
	Replace campsite posts/numbers	Committee/Volunteers	1-3 years
	Explore group camping area for campsite 11	Committee/Volunteers	1-3 years
	Replace campsite pads (new gravel and widening)	\$2,000	1-3 years
	New water spickets and fire pits at campsites	Committee/Volunteers	1-3 years
	Install lock boxes for water and electrical hookups	\$1,000	1-3 years
	Dog park behind ball field	\$25,000	1-3 years
	Mosquito abatement	\$500	Ongoing
	Clean up brush and overgrowth	Committee/Volunteers	Ongoing
	Walking trail is eroded and needs improvements along with long-term bank stabilization adjacent to Popple River	\$10,000	5+ years
<b>Popple River Trail to Owen-Withee Bike Trail Connector</b>	Maintenance of bridges, blacktop, and fill to support trail surface improvements	\$50,000	Ongoing
	Explore installation of new lights, benches, garbage receptacles	\$5,000	1-3 years

	Connector trail, needs some base work and paving from the Millpond to Lehnen St. which is approx. 2,000 feet	40,000	2-3 years
	Lighting. Replace existing lights with efficient and possibly solar lights. Install lighting along Popple River Trail.	5,000-20,000	3-5 years
	Trail bed resurfacing.	15,000	2-4 years
	Benches, fishing areas, viewing areas	2,000-10,000	1-5 years
	Picnic Tables and benches, additional seating and picnic tables needed	3,000	2-5 years
<b>Kerry Park (Orange and Blue Park)</b>	Playground Equipment, replace aging playground equipment with newer, safer equipment.	20,000-25,000	2-5 years
	Picnic Tables and benches, additional seating	3,000	2-5 years
	Restroom facility, construct new restroom facility	10,000-20,000	3-5 years
<b>Veterans' Memorial Park</b>	Bench and picnic tables, Add more benches and sitting areas.	1,000	5 years
	Garden and monument, Maintenance and possibly additions to the memorial garden.	1,000-5,000	1-5 years
<b>Fremont Park</b>	Fencing, A fence along the railroad right of way to keep young children from approaching the train tracks.	4,000	4-5 years
	Viewing pavilion, small gazebo or similar	6,000	4-5 years
<b>Historic Depot</b>	Repairs and updates will need to be made.	15,000-75,000	2-5 years
<b>Britt Creek Overlook and Access Trail (Proposed)</b>	Build a short trail from Harding Street to Britt Creek approximately 200' long by 10' wide. Overlook deck or viewing area to be determined.	8,000-10,000	5 years +

The development of a recreational trails, fishing areas, and associated amenities as contemplated above, including any property/easement acquisition, may be excellent candidates for grant assistance from the WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship local assistance grant program. Foundation grant dollars may be available to assist with some of the ADA accessibility improvements contemplated. Please see Section VI. E., which discusses outdoor recreation funding in more detail.

Figure 13. City of Owen Parks and Recreation Areas



## D. CITY OF THORP OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

### SUPPLY

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the City of Thorp as shown on Figure 14 at the end of this section.

#### Mini-Parks

GARRISON PARK 0.1 ACRES

This is a downtown pocket park that features a walkway, benches, and a gazebo.

VETERANS PARK 0.25 ACRES

Veterans Park is located on South Washington Street adjacent to McGrogan Creek. A Veteran's Memorial monument, consisting of an army tank and flag display, was installed by American Legion Post #118. In 2002 a Liberty Elm was planted at the park in memorial of the 9/11 terror attacks.

#### Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds

KEATING PARK 1.8 ACRES

Keating Park is located in the northeast part of the city on North Boardman Street. It is classified as a neighborhood park. Facilities at the park include picnic tables, playground equipment and a full-size, lighted basketball court. Water and sewer were added to accommodate future development of a new pavilion and restroom facility.

#### Community Parks

CONWAY PARK 12 ACRES

Conway Park is located in the southwestern corner of the city on South Adams Street. It is 12 acres with approximately one-half of it wooded. There is a granite nature trail through the wooded area that is used for biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing as well as a playground area with a basketball court on the northeastern section which includes a play structure. The park also has a covered pavilion with picnic tables and a Porta Potty. This park is classified as a community park with the primary purpose as a passive recreational area.

NORTHSIDE PARK 11.1 ACRES

The Northside Ball Park is located at the northern city limits on North Washington Street (STH 73.) A multi-use ball diamond covers the northwestern portion of the park with ample parking for spectators. The high school, American Legion, Babe Ruth, Little League and other community teams utilize this diamond. The southeastern portion of the park features a clay tractor/truck pull area with a judging stand to the northwest of the track. On the west side of the track there are three large pavilions, one small pavilion, and lighted volleyball courts. There is also playground equipment for children at the park. There are flush toilet facilities located in the southwestern corner of the park. The central area of the park is open to allow the park's use for activities such as June Dairy Days, the Lions Demolition Derby, the Thorp Area Chamber of Commerce Fireworks Extravaganza, Music in the Park, and much more. There are also four rudimentary campsites available for rent.

**YELLOWSTONE TRAIL PARK****5.5 ACRES**

Located in the Central part of town on East Stanley Street (CTH X) Yellowstone Trail Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities for all residents of the Thorp area. It is defined as a community park that also serves neighborhood park needs. The park receives heavy usage during the spring and summer months for family and company gatherings.



The park features a Christmas Village with lighted walking path in the winter and additional facilities at the park include a lighted and fenced, dual-purpose tennis and basketball court, a lighted skating rink and hockey rink, a warming house with an attached pavilion (24' x 48'), flush restrooms, a picnic table area with approximately 30 picnic tables under a second larger pavilion, two lighted regulation sand volleyball courts located adjacent to the warming house, horseshoe pits near the large pavilion, a historic windmill is located within the park, there is also a large playground area with swings, slides, a merry-go-round, and other climbing devices.

Improvements have been added to Yellowstone Trail Park such as a crushed granite biking and walking path that has been developed along traffic paths in the park as well as the landscaping of the banks of McGrogan Creek to prevent erosion.

**Specialty Outdoor Recreation Facilities****THORP AQUATIC CENTER**

The Thorp Aquatic Center is located in the southeastern part of town on South Conway Street and is a major attraction within our community. The pool and cabana provide several hours of use and remains open seven days a week for open swimming. The pool also offers morning water aerobics and swimming lessons.

**THORP AQUATIC CENTER-ADJACENT GREENSPACE****8.1 ACRES**

This park features a large green space adjacent to the Thorp Aquatic Center where, in 1993, the Centennial Grove was planted in the southeastern corner. It is marked by a granite stone with a time capsule buried beside it. A crushed granite path runs through the park and as part of the beautification process the Thorp Lions club donated a pergola to the park. Several new improvements are being considered for this park by the City of Thorp's Parks and Recreation Committee that have the potential to develop this greenspace into a community park.

**THORP TRAP RANGE (known as Goggle Eye Trap Club)****20 ACRES**

The site of the trap range is northwest of the city, on property owned by the city, but leased to the trap club on an extended term basis. The trap club building and facilities are open to the public and available to rent. They include a clubhouse, three trap houses, and shooting stations. Lights have been installed to permit night shooting.

**TUCKER JAMES MEMORIAL DOG PARK** 2.0 ACRES

This park is located east of town on East Stanley Street (CTH X) and is designed to be a dog park. Improvements by members of the community includes a walkway and bench. The entire area is fenced and a small parking lot was recently added. Many more improvements for this park are being considered and donations are being actively collected.

**Public School Facilities****THORP CATHOLIC SCHOOL** 5.6 ACRES

This private school for grades 1-8 owns and maintains a recreation area that serves as a neighborhood park on the eastern edge of the city. Two large play fields, one on the north and one on the south side of School Street provide opportunity for field sports. The north field has a backstop for softball. In addition to the play fields, there is a surfaced basketball court and playground equipment.

**THORP PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT** 40.0 ACRES

The Thorp Public School District is located in the southeastern corner of the city and owns and maintains a large area for its recreational and athletic programs. These facilities can be used by the public at large and are therefore classified as a community park. The total acreage including the building site is approximately 40 acres. At the Thorp Public School District there is one official football field, one practice football field, four softball fields, a seasonal archery range, three basketball hoops, playground equipment, and a six lane, one-fourth mile blacktop track.

**Additional Recreational Activities**

The City of Thorp offers a variety of additional activities not affiliated with a park. These activities include:

- Adult sand volleyball and softball leagues
- Youth baseball
- Yoga at Thorp Public Library
- Youth softball
- Water aerobics at FairBridge Inn & Suites
- Park Rentals for private events
- Exercise classes held at Thorp High School.
- Ice Skating
- Flag football
- Hockey
- Youth tackle football

**DEMAND/NEEDS**

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 1 park for every 1,231 residents and at least 12 public park acres for every 1,000 residents.

According to the population figures shown in the table below, the 2020 U.S. Census population for Thorp is 1,795 persons. The population change from 2020 to 2040 shows an expected increase of 230 persons, or +13 percent.

**Park and Recreation Area Need • City of Thorp**

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Total Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficit Acres
2020	1,795	21.5	41	+19.5
2025	1,835	22	41	+19.0
2030	1,915	22.9	41	+18.1
2035	1,985	23.8	41	+17.2
2040	2,020	24.2	41	+16.8

*Source: U.S. Census 2020 Population Estimate and Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Municipal Population Projections 2025-2040 (12/10/13)*

The total land area devoted to outdoor recreation in Thorp, not including the school and private facilities and excluding the trap range, is 40.85 acres. Currently, this number greatly exceeds the desired amount of park acreage for the population according to the national park standard, unless existing lands do not allow for a specific recreational activity or existing parks do not meet the recreational needs of a specific area (e.g., lack of a small neighborhood park or playground in a new residential area). Although the population for the community is projected to increase by the year 2035, existing park acreage should continue to meet the needs of the community based on the standard. However, the city should continue to regularly monitor population change to evaluate future park needs.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Develop and maintain Thorp’s outdoor recreation and park system in a manner that follows the intent of general recommendations in Section VII. B.
2. A **campground** could be established within the City to increase tourism.
3. Continue the development and blacktopping of the **biking and walking trail**, which would be a major asset to the City of Thorp.
4. It is important that local school officials and the city continue to coordinate the development and use of neighborhood and community recreation facilities.
5. In order of priority, the City of Thorp desires that the following additional recreational programming be offered: (i) a **community band** and (ii) **more adult recreational activities**.
6. Implement the recommendations in the following action plan as resources and community priorities allow.



**ACTION PLAN**

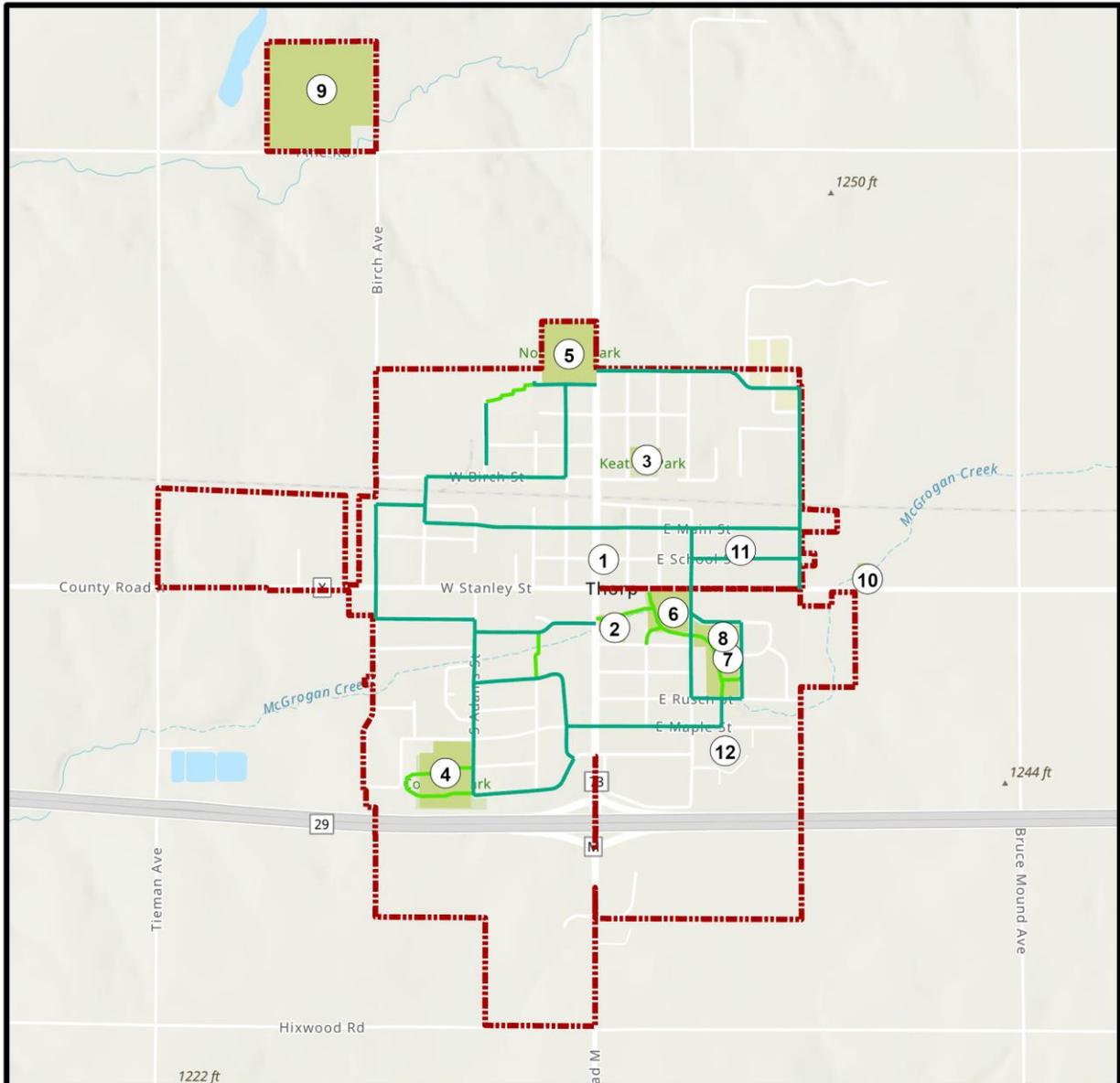
Facility	Action Items	Cost Estimate	Time Frame
<b>Keating Park</b>	Develop a small shelter.	\$10,000	2023
	Build permanent bathrooms.	\$50,000	2025+
<b>Conway Park</b>	Develop a system of identification within the wooded area.	\$1,000	2022-2023
	Develop off-street parking.	\$25,000	2025+
	Build a permanent bathroom.	\$50,000	2025+
<b>Northside Park</b>	Add a concession stand w/restrooms	\$250,000	2025+
	Add additional camping area.	\$250,000	2025+
<b>Yellowstone Trail Park</b>	Enhance volleyball courts.	\$10,000	2021-2023
	Create shade near play structure.	\$10,000	2023-2025
	Replace bridge.	\$30,000	2023-2025
<b>Thorp Aquatic Center and Adjacent Green Space</b>	Add picnic tables to park.	\$20,000	2022-2023

The City of Thorp maintains a capital improvements plan that incorporates its major capital expenses for its parks and outdoor recreation facilities. This plan includes the following additional future projects:

- installation of new picnic tables (\$20,000)
- recycling program (\$2,000)
- hockey boards (\$7,500)

The development of a recreational trails/interpretive signage, camping areas, and ADA-accessible restroom facilities as contemplated by the City of Thorp may be excellent candidates for grant assistance from the WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship local assistance grant program. Please see Section VI. E., which discusses outdoor recreation funding in more detail.

Figure 14. City of Thorp Parks and Recreation Areas



**List of Parks & Recreation Areas**

March 2022

- |                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Garrison Park          | 7. Thorp Aquatic Center            |
| 2. Veterans Park          | 8. Thorp Aquatic Center Greenspace |
| 3. Keating Park           | 9. Thorp Trap Range                |
| 4. Conway Park            | 10. Tucker James Memorial Dog Park |
| 5. Northside Park         | 11. Thorp Catholic School          |
| 6. Yellowstone Trail Park | 12. Thorp Public School District   |

- |             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Bike Routes | Parks                  |
| Bike Trails | City of Thorp Boundary |



Data Sources:  
 City of Thorp  
 Clark County Land Information  
 Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



**E. CITY OF ABBOTSFORD OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN****SUPPLY**

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the City of Abbotsford as shown on Figure 15 at the end of this section.

**Community Parks****RED ARROW PARK COMPLEX**

11.8 ACRES

Red Arrow Park is a large multi-use recreation area located in the western part of Abbotsford, just south of the high school. The park has several recreation amenities that have been updated recently which includes new playground equipment and an addition to the enclosed heated shelter. The shelter has a complete kitchen with bathroom facilities and is available year-round for large family gatherings with seating inside and dozens of additional outdoor picnic tables to expand capacity during the summer. There are additional picnic tables and freestanding outdoor grills throughout the park with large shade trees and manicured grass throughout the park that make it a popular recreation and picnic location. The park is equipped with both volleyball and basketball courts and a 9-hole disc golf course.



The park includes a well-developed ballfield with lighting, newly updated brick and chain link fencing, and a new concession stand and scoreboard. The ballfield is equipped with team dugouts, bleachers for spectators, and restrooms. There are also bike racks on site and ample parking along the street.

Red Arrow Park amenities:

- Large, enclosed, four season shelter with full kitchen and restrooms and a recent addition to expand capacity.
- Ballfield with lights, dugouts, bleachers, and restrooms. New fencing around the field along with a new concession stand and new scoreboard
- New playground equipment
- Volleyball and basketball courts
- 9-hole disc golf course
- Picnic tables and freestanding grills
- Manicured grass and shade trees

**JACK NIKOLAY FIELD**

7.5 ACRES

This ballpark is located directly west of the high school. The Abbotsford School District owns the property, but the City is responsible for maintenance which allows for full and open access by the public. It has one fenced practice field and a fenced and lighted playing field. There are bleachers, an announcer's booth and scoreboard. It also has a 22' x 40' shelter with an attached 22' x 35' building housing restrooms and a concession stand. Adjacent to the shelter is a large play area filled with sand and a few pieces of play equipment. Abbotsford High School plays softball games on the field. Additionally, all summer little league and pop Warner baseball games are played here. Also, numerous softball summer leagues use the two fields.

Jack Nikolay Field amenities:

- Fenced practice field
- Fenced and lighted playing field with scoreboard
- Bleachers and announcer's booth
- Shelter and concessions with restroom facilities
- Playground equipment

**SHORTNER PARK NORTH**

10 ACRES

Shortner Park North is located a quarter mile north of the City of Abbotsford in the Town of Holton. This specialized recreation facility has two picnic pavilions, shade trees, and manicured grass providing access to two small fishing ponds.



Shortner Park North amenities:

- Picnic pavilions, tables, and freestanding grills
- Two small ponds
- Shade trees and manicured grass

**SHORTNER PARK SOUTH**

10 ACRES

Shortner Park South is located in the northeast corner of the City of Abbotsford. This recreation area includes an enclosed shelter that was recently improved with the addition of new siding and doors. The shelter has restroom facilities and is unheated and available only during the summer. The park has a playground with nearby shade trees, picnic tables, freestanding grills, and manicured grass throughout the play area. In the winter, the park provides access to a sledding hill and there is also a small depression that can be used for ice skating.

Shortner Park South amenities:

- Enclosed shelter with restrooms (summer use)
- Playground
- Picnic tables and freestanding grills
- Shade trees and manicured grass

- Sledding hill
- Ice rink

### SCHILLING PARK

23 ACRES

Schilling Park is the City's newest parkland in the northwest portion of Abbotsford. This recreation area was developed to serve seven new apartment complexes recently constructed as housing for workers and families associated with Abbyland Foods. The area features a fishing pond, soccer field, playground, and walking trail throughout the apartment complexes. The area is still being developed and several recreation improvements are anticipated over the next ten years.



Schilling Park amenities:

- Fishing pond
- Soccer field
- Playground
- Walking trail

### Neighborhood Parks

#### TRIBUNE-PHONOGRAPH PARK

.75 ACRE

This small neighborhood park strip is located just off West Elm Street in downtown Abbotsford. The recreation area includes a paved path/sidewalk allowing ADA access through the park. There are also benches, picnic tables, swings, and shade trees and manicured grass throughout the entire park strip.

Tribune-Phonograph Park amenities include:

- Picnic tables and benches
- Swings
- Shade trees and manicured grass

#### H.K. CHRISTENSEN PARK

1 ACRE

This small neighborhood park is located in the east/center of Abbotsford, directly adjacent to Fifth Street. This recreation area includes manicured grass with a large open area in the center that is often used for children's soccer. The open space is surrounded by a small gazebo and pavilion with picnic tables to the east and several pieces of recreation equipment including slides and swings along the southern edge of the park. Along the western edge of the park adjacent to the street are several raised garden beds that can be rented as community gardens and act as a buffer between the open space and Fifth Street.

H.K. Christensen Park amenities:

- Gazebo

- Picnic pavilion and tables
- Benches
- Recreation equipment (slides, swings)
- Raised planting beds
- Large open space with manicured grass

#### FIRST STREET PARK

1 ACRE

This small neighborhood park is located in the north/center of Abbotsford, directly adjacent to First Street. This park is comprised entirely of open space with manicured grass and a small backstop in the northeast corner.

First Street Park amenities:

- Open space
- Manicured grass
- Backstop

#### CENTER FIELD PARK

2 ACRES

This small neighborhood park is located in the center of Abbotsford, across the street from the public safety building. This park is comprised of playground equipment and a new dog park.

City park amenities:

- Open space
- Playground equipment
- Dog park



Additionally, most of all the railroad track spurs have been removed around the city, adding extensive trails for walking and snowmobiling.

## DEMAND/NEEDS

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 1 park for every 1,231 residents and at least 12 public park acres for every 1,000 residents.

According to population figures shown below, the 2020 U.S. Census population for Abbotsford is 2,275 persons. Population projections developed in 2013 underestimated growth in the City and anticipated future growth is likely to be higher than the estimates shown below (2025-20240). The total land area devoted to outdoor recreation in Abbotsford is approximately 67.05 acres which

supports a population of over 5,500 residents using the current park acreage standard. However, the city should continue to regularly monitor population change and the location of new development to evaluate future park needs.

#### Park and Recreation Area Need • City of Abbotsford

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Total Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficit Acres
2020	2,275	27.3	67	+39.7
2025	1,850	22.2	67	+44.8
2030	1,950	23.4	67	+43.6
2035	2,040	24.5	67	+42.5
2040	2,095	25.1	67	+41.9

Source: U.S. Census 2020 Population Estimate and Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Municipal Population Projections 2025-2040 (12/10/13)

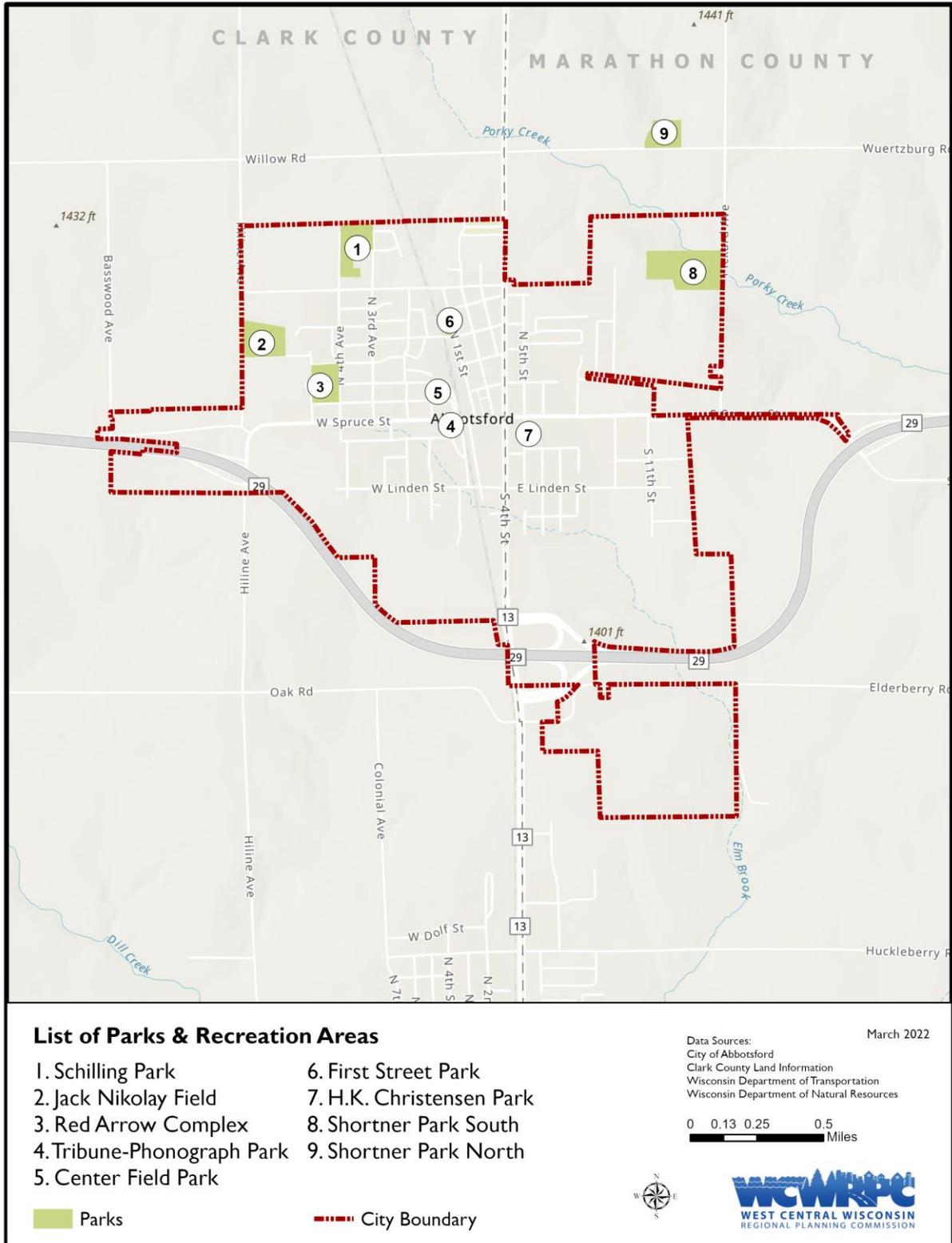
## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue to devote resources to maintain and improve the existing parks and open space areas.
2. Use parks and open space as buffers between incompatible land uses, as delineators or constraints on urban development, or as necessary complementary uses for other land development.
3. Establish walkways and trail systems.
4. Encourage the use of school/park combined facilities.
5. Acquire recreation land to satisfy current and future park needs.
6. With the continued increase of minority population workforce in the City, work to develop inclusive recreation amenities and improvements, including multi-lingual marketing and/or signage to help remove communication barriers for non-English speaking households or residents in the City.
7. Implement the recommendations in the following action plan as resources and community priorities allow.

## ACTION PLAN

Facility	Action Items	Cost Estimate	Time Frame
<b>Red Arrow Park Complex</b>	Concession stand and score booth	\$300K	1-3 years
	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
<b>Shortner Park North</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
<b>Shortner Park South</b>	Replacing playground equipment	\$30-\$40K	3-5 years
	Insulating/heating shelter	\$10K	3-5 years
	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
<b>Tribune-Phonograph Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
<b>Christensen Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Replacing playground equipment	\$10-\$20K	3-5 years
<b>Schilling Park</b>	Shelter with modern restrooms/community center	\$400K	3-5 years
	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Pickleball courts (2)	\$75K	1-3 years
	Basketball courts (2)	\$75K	1-3 years
<b>Center Field Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	New Dog Park	\$4,000	1-3 years

**Figure 15. City of Abbotsford Parks and Recreation Areas**



## F. CITY OF COLBY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

### SUPPLY

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the City of Colby as shown on **Figure 16** at the end of this section.

#### Community Parks

The City of Colby leases approximately 6.1 acres of land from the Wisconsin Central Limited Railroad with runs north/south through the City. This land is developed into three separate small parks that basically run the length of the city and adds an attractive green strip between the most urbanized areas. The city also owns land on South East Street that is developed with three ball fields, concession stand, park shelter, one picnic shelter and playground equipment. The city also owns another piece of property on South Sixth Street that has been recently developed into a winter recreation area with playground equipment.

#### CENTRAL PARK

5.18 ACRES

This park lies between the Wisconsin Central Limited Railroad and First Street from Broadway Street to North Street and is divided into three sections by Clark Street and Spence Street. This park, located in the middle of Colby, features a basketball court, one tennis court, play equipment and sandboxes. There are three large shelters and two small shelters with picnic tables. The south section of the park features a Historical Marker that designates Colby as the “Home of Colby Cheese”.

Central Park amenities:

- Picnic shelters and tables
- Basketball court
- Tennis court
- Play equipment
- Sandboxes
- Historical marker
- Shade trees and manicured grass



#### EAST STREET BALLPARK

20 ACRES

This park is located in the southeast section of Colby in a residential area. This area has three ball fields with back stops, dugouts, score boards and an announcer’s stand. The park also hosts a concession stand with restrooms, sandbox, play equipment and one large and another small picnic shelter. A large off-street parking lot and picnic area make a perfect setting for summer leagues for children and adults alike.

East Street Ballpark amenities:

- Ball fields with dugouts
- Bleachers

- Scoreboards
- Announcer stand
- Concessions
- Restrooms
- Picnic shelters
- Sandbox
- Play equipment
- Shade trees and manicured grass

**SOUTH SIXTH STREET PARK (DALTON'S PARK)****5.2 ACRES**

This park is located on the west side of town. Colby's newest park features play equipment and a picnic shelter. It has a ball field area and a large hill for sledding with several recent additions and improvements including a concession area, restrooms, lighted volleyball court with two nets, sandbox, basketball court, soccer nets and a small parking lot.

**South Sixth Street Park amenities:**

- Parking lot
- Playground equipment
- Picnic shelter
- Soccer field
- Sledding hill
- Concession area
- Restrooms
- Lighted volleyball court (2 nets)
- Sandbox
- Basketball court

**DEMAND/NEEDS**

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 1 park for every 1,231 residents and at least 12 public park acres for every 1,000 residents.

According to population figures shown below, the 2020 U.S. Census population for Colby is 1,952 persons. Population projections developed in 2013 underestimated growth in the City and anticipated future growth is likely to be higher than the estimates shown below (2025-20240). The total land area devoted to outdoor recreation in Colby is approximately 30.4 acres which supports a population of over

2,500 residents using the current park acreage standard. However, the city should continue to regularly monitor population change and the location of new development to evaluate future park needs.

**Park and Recreation Area Need • City of Colby**

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Total Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficit Acres
2020	1,952	23	30.4	+7.4
2025	1,520	18	30.4	+12.4
2030	1,595	19	30.4	+11.4
2035	1,660	20	30.4	+10.4
2040	1,700	20	30.4	+10.4

*Source: U.S. Census 2020 Population Estimate and Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Municipal Population Projections 2025-2040 (12/10/13)*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

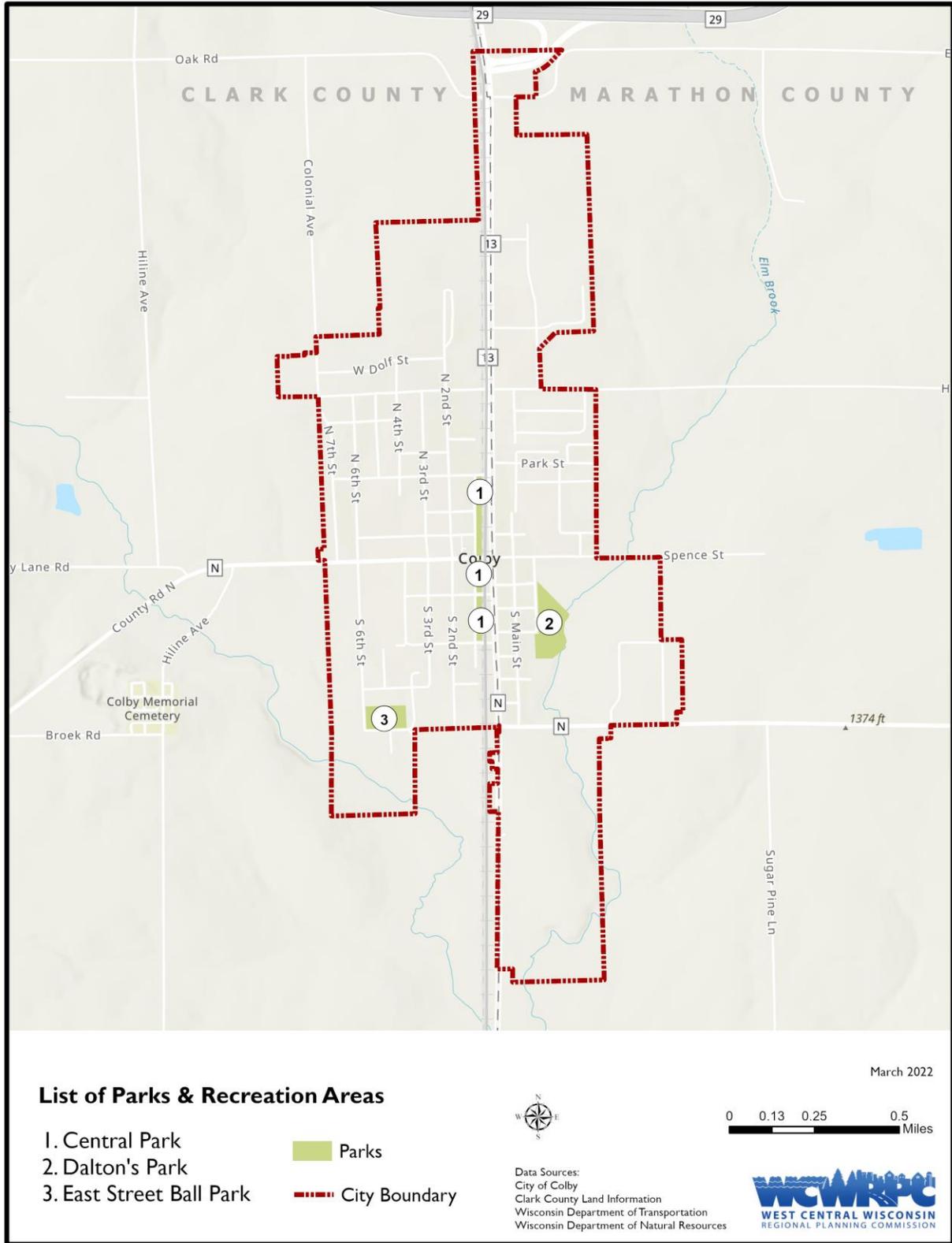
1. Continue to devote resources to maintain and improve the existing parks and open space areas.
2. Use parks and open space as buffers between incompatible land uses, as delineators or constraints on urban development, or as necessary complementary uses for other land development.
3. Establish walkways and trail systems.
4. Encourage the use of school/park combined facilities.
5. Acquire recreation land to satisfy current and future park needs.



## ACTION PLAN

Facility	Action Items	Cost Estimate	Time Frame
<b>Central Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Fencing between Clark & Spence	\$15K	1-3 years
<b>East Street Ballpark</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Lighting	\$50K	1-3 years
	Concession/Shelter/modern restrooms	\$100K	5+ years
<b>South Sixth Street - Dalton's Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Parking lot paving	\$20K	1-3 years
	Bleachers and pads	\$15K	1-3 years
<b>Community</b>	Work with developer to create a new neighborhood park and walking trail as part of anticipated residential development (extending Community Drive north to Kwik Trip), which includes senior housing.	\$250K	3-5 years
	Dog park, based on interest and volunteers available to support operation and maintenance.	undetermined; volunteer supported	5+ years

Figure 16. City of Colby Parks and Recreation Areas



## G. VILLAGE OF WITHEE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

### SUPPLY

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Village of Withee as shown on **Figure 17** at the end of this section.

#### Community Parks

##### WITHEE BALL PARK

20 ACRES

The Withee Ball Park is owned by the village and is located east of Stockwell Street. The Lion's Club, combined with additional outside funding completed several upgrades and additions to the park recently. This includes all new concrete and construction of a lean-to for inclement weather, new playground equipment and restrooms. For the ball field, new dugouts were constructed along with new lights and fencing. The ball field hosts a lot of tournaments and youth baseball throughout the summer and the park is heavily used outside of competitive play.

Withee Ball Park amenities:

- Lean-to shelter
- Restrooms
- Playground equipment
- Ball field with dugouts
- Manicured grass



##### WITHEE LION'S PARK

3 ACRES

The Lion's Park is nestled between the Canadian National railroad line and Front Street in the northwest area of the Village. The park land is owned by the railroad and despite efforts to purchase the land, the community is only able to secure a five-year renewable lease with Canadian National. The area features several pieces of playground equipment in good condition that is periodically upgraded through generous funding from the Lion's Club. The Club also recently funded re-construction and expansion of the picnic shelter. There is a gazebo in need of repair and tennis courts that are in disrepair. There are plans to construct new combined tennis/basketball courts to improve the play surfaces and also provide secure fencing around the courts to prevent balls from rolling into a nearby pond. The site once had horseshoe pits that were removed, however there is renewed interest in re-installing the horseshoe pits for recreational play. The sand volleyball courts are a popular feature in the park that is heavily used and hosts amateur league play on Sunday nights throughout the summer.

Withee Lion's Park amenities:

- Gazebo
- Picnic shelter
- Playground equipment

- Shade trees and manicured grass
- Volleyball court
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts



**BIKE & WALKING TRAIL**

This surfaced bike and walking trail is an off-road facility located in the south right-of-way of County Highway “X” (Mill St.) from its intersection with County Highway “T” (Division St.) then east to the City of Owen where the trail continues under Owen’s jurisdiction. A bench/sitting area is currently offered. The trail receives heavy use during the non-summer months, in large part due to its connecting role between the Village of Withee and City of Owen. The blacktop is aging and there are plans to work with the City of Owen to repave the surface and make similar improvements to ensure the trail is open and functional to people of all abilities.

**DEMAND/NEEDS**

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 1 park for every 1,231 residents and at least 12 public park acres for every 1,000 residents.

According to the population figures shown below, the 2020 U.S. Census population for Withee is 506 persons. Population projections developed in 2013 underestimated growth in the Village and anticipated future growth is likely to be higher than the estimates shown below (2025-20240). The total land area devoted to outdoor recreation in Withee is approximately 23 acres which supports a population of over 1,900 residents using the current park acreage standard. However, the Village should continue to regularly monitor population change and the location of new development to evaluate future park needs.

**Park and Recreation Area Need • Village of Withee**

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Total Existing Acreage	Surplus/ Deficit Acres
2020	506	6.1	23	+16.9
2025	495	5.9	23	+17.1
2030	500	6	23	+17
2035	500	6	23	+17
2040	495	5.9	23	+17.1

*Source: U.S. Census 2020 Population Estimate and Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Municipal Population Projections 2025-2040 (12/10/13)*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following park improvements are recommended for the Village of Withee:

- Pursue grant funding and partnership support during development as opportunities allow.

- Explore linkages between the Ball Park property and the existing bike/walking trail to the south. One possibility is constructing a sidewalk or trail along the east side of Stockwell Street within the right-of-way.
- Continue to work cooperatively with the City of Owen on the planning and maintenance of the trail system.
- Should the Village desire to implement a outdoor recreation project not identified in the Action Plan that is eligible for Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program or related grant funding, the Village should consider amending the plan to include the project.

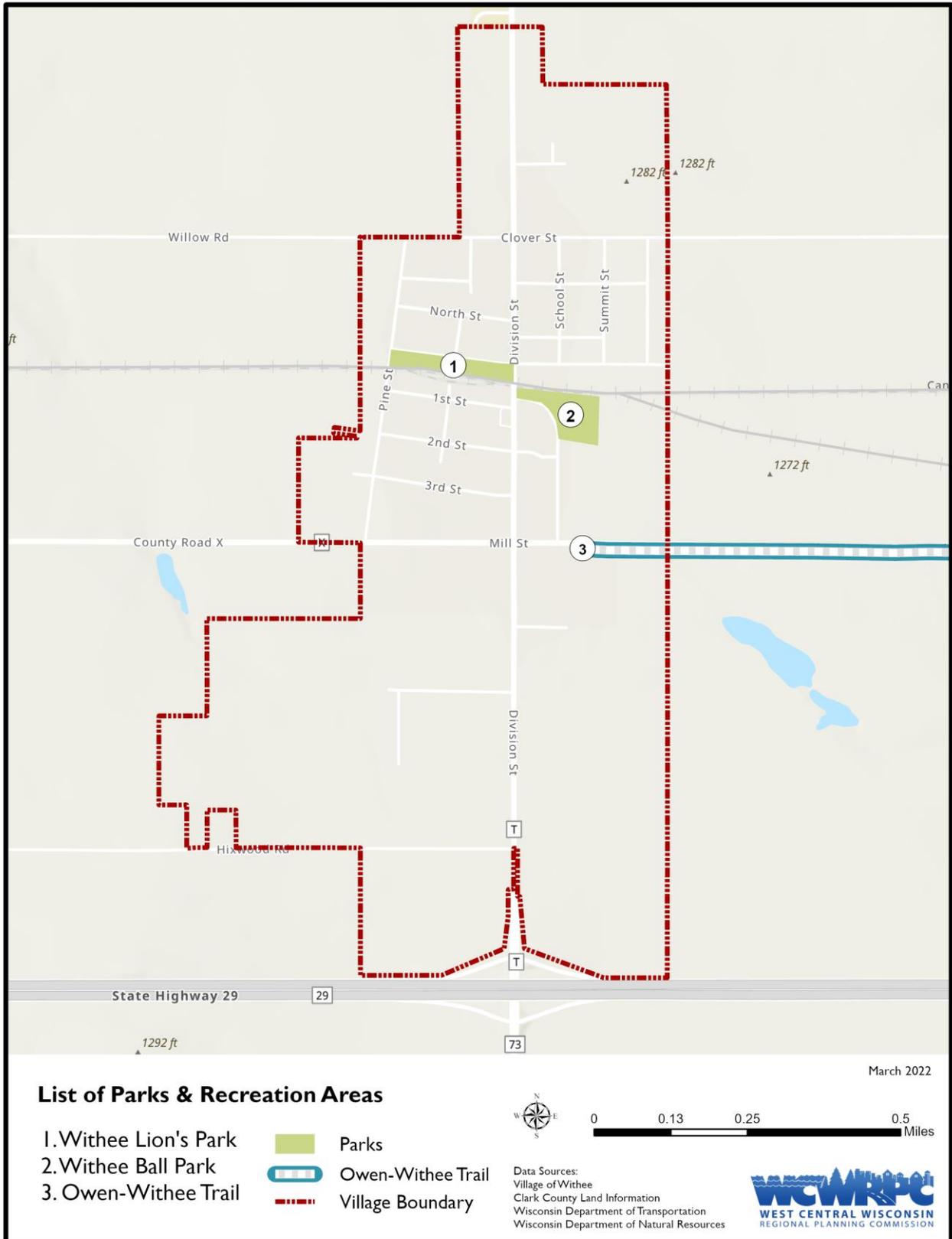
### ACTION PLAN

The following actions will be explored and considered by the Village as resources allow. The cost estimates and time frames are general estimates, which are subject to change.

Facility	Action Items	Cost Estimate	Time Frame
<b>Withee Ball Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Consider the development of a campground behind the Ball Park.	\$50,000-\$150,000	5+ years
<b>Withee Lion’s Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Explore the development of a dog park on the west end of the Lion’s Park.	\$15,000-\$30,000	3-5+ years
<b>Bike &amp; Walking Trail</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	As discussed in the recommendations, explore the potential construction of a bike/walking trail along the east side of Stockwell Street, which would extend the existing trail to the Ball Park.	\$25,000-\$45,000	3-5+ years



Figure 17. Village of Withee Parks & Recreation Areas



## H. CITY OF LOYAL OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

### SUPPLY

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the City of Loyal as shown on **Figure 18** at the end of this section.

#### Community Parks

##### LOYAL WESTSIDE PARK

30 ACRES

This is a joint City/County park, which provides Loyal and the surrounding community with a ballpark, volleyball area, horseshoe pits, and playground areas. Users have access to tables, grills, restrooms, and two shelters available for reunions and large picnics. There are several acres of open space, manicured grass and shade trees scattered throughout and the area features a six-hole golf course along the eastern edge of the park.

Recent improvements to the park space include a new scoreboard, installation of a disc golf course in the western portion of the park, and additional tree plantings at the park entrance. A Veterans Memorial was also constructed at the park entrance with bricks, flags, and planters for flowers in the summer.



Loyal Westside Park amenities:

- Parking
- Ballpark and scoreboard
- Volleyball
- Horseshoe pits
- Playground areas/equipment
- Picnic shelters and tables
- Restrooms
- Grills and picnic tables
- Disc golf
- Veterans Memorial
- Large open space areas with manicured grass and shade trees

**LEGION PARK**

4.5 ACRES

This park is situated on the east side of the Legion Pond and Bear Creek. There is a shelter and grills with tables available for picnics or family gatherings. Swimming is not allowed in the pond but fishing at the pond is a favorite past time for young and old alike. There are also several play structures including swings, slides, and manicured grass throughout the park.



City park amenities include:

- Picnic pavilion, tables and grills
- Shoreline fishing access on Legion Pond
- Playground equipment
- Manicured grass
- Open space

**Neighborhood Parks****PURPLE PARK**

0.43 ACRES

This is a small neighborhood park and rest area adjacent to Main Street in the south/central area of the City. The parkland features playground equipment and swings, picnic tables, benches, and manicured grass with large shade trees covering much of the park space.



City park amenities include:

- Playground with swings
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Manicured grass and shade trees

**School Facilities****LOYAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

5.35 ACRES

The recreation grounds are located between the school building and the 9-hole golf course at Westside Park. The site includes playground equipment, shelter, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball field, and large areas of open space with manicured grass and shade trees.

School recreation amenities include:

- Ballfield
- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Playground equipment
- Shelter
- Manicured grass and shade trees

**Private Facilities****LOYAL SPORTSMAN'S CLUB**

15.2 ACRES

This is a small community non-profit gun range and sports club located in the southeastern portion of the City of Loyal. The organization acts primarily as a trap shooting club with summer leagues and competition shooting. Additional events are hosted at various times throughout the year that are open to the public with facilities that are available for reserved private parties upon request.

**DEMAND/NEEDS**

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 1 park for every 1,231 residents and at least 12 public park acres for every 1,000 residents.

According to the population figures shown in the table below, the 2020 U.S. Census population for Loyal is 1,203 persons. The population change from 2020 to 2040 shows an expected increase of 202 persons, or +17 percent.

The total land area devoted to public outdoor recreation in Loyal is approximately 35 acres, not including the Loyal Sportsman's Club and the School. Currently, this exceeds the desired amount of park acreage for the population according to the national park standard. Although the population for the community is projected to increase by the year 2040, existing park acreage should continue to meet the needs of the community based on the standard. However, the city should continue to regularly monitor population change and the location of new development to evaluate future park needs.

**Park and Recreation Area Need • City of Loyal**

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Total Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficit Acres
2020	1,203	14.4	35	+20.6
2025	1,350	16.2	35	+18.8
2030	1,390	16.7	35	+18.3
2035	1,410	16.9	35	+18.1
2040	1,405	16.8	35	+18.2

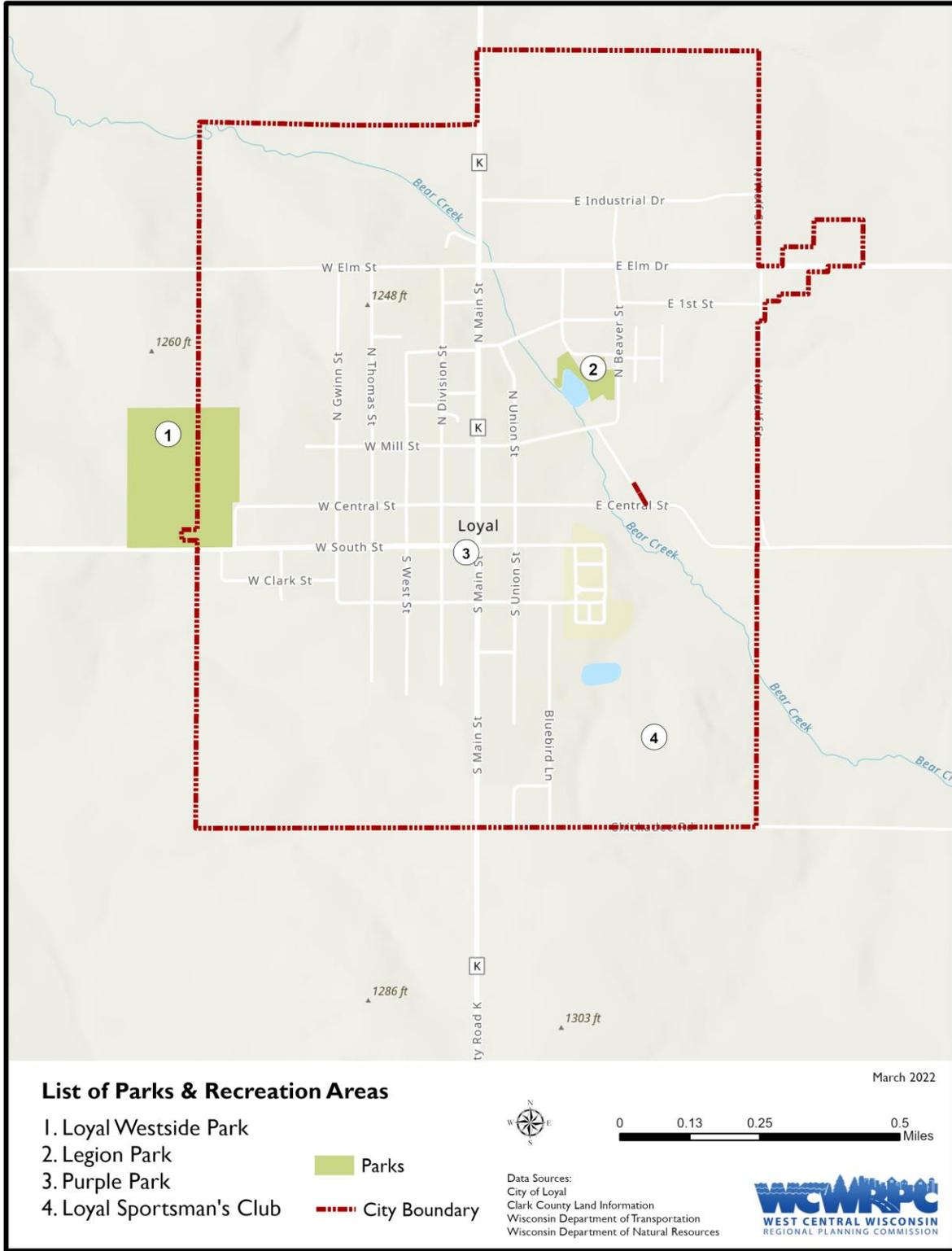
Source: U.S. Census 2020 Population Estimate and Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Municipal Population Projections 2025-2040 (12/10/13)

**ACTION PLAN**

Facility	Action Items	Cost Estimate	Time Frame
<b>Loyal Westside Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Update playground equipment and surface	\$60,000	2023-2033
	Develop aquatic splash pad recreation area	\$420,000	2022-2025
	Repair fencing around ball field	\$30,000	2022-2027
<b>Legion Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Improve/update playground facilities	\$50,000	2023-2033
	Add ADA accessible fishing pier	\$20,000	2023-2027
<b>Purple Park</b>	General maintenance and upkeep	\$500-\$1,000	Ongoing
	Improve/update playground facilities	\$50,000	2023-2033

<b>Loyal Public Schools</b>	Multi-sport athletic facility	\$18,000,000	2025-2035
	Develop new tennis courts	\$20,000	2023-2027
	Repair fence for ballfields	\$30,000	2023-2027
<b>Community</b>	Develop a paved walking trail around the perimeter of the City of Loyal	\$30,000-\$50,000	2022-2025

Figure 18. City of Loyal Parks & Recreation Areas



**APPENDIX A**

**ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS**

	<b>Type/Number</b>	<b>Resolution 19-7-22</b>			
	<b>Title</b>	<b>Approving the Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2022-2027</b>			
	<b>Overview/Synopsis</b>	To approve the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for Clark County			
	<b>Submitted By</b>	Forestry and Parks Committee			
	<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	Revenues: none Expenses: none			
	<b>Review (Initial &amp; Date)</b>	Legal	{N 8/1/22	Finance	lfd 7/25/2022

1 WHEREAS, Clark County, through the Clark County Forestry and Parks Committee  
2 and the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department, in cooperation with West  
3 Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has developed and updated  
4 comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the County; and,

5  
6 WHEREAS, this plan identifies available outdoor recreation facilities and foreseeable  
7 outdoor recreation demand for Clark County; and,

8  
9 WHEREAS, this plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for  
10 improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within Clark County; and,

11  
12 WHEREAS, municipalities are required to have a comprehensive outdoor recreation  
13 plan on file with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to be  
14 eligible for certain State and Federal cost-sharing financial aids for the development  
15 or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities; and,

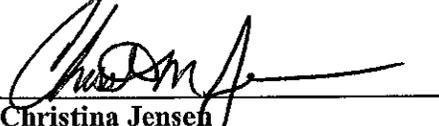
16  
17 WHEREAS, the cities of Abbotsford, Colby, Loyal, Owen and Thorp and the village  
18 of Withee participated in the plan update and the plan includes a section specific to  
19 the outdoor recreational supply, demand, recommendations, and action plans of each  
20 participating community;

21  
22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clark County Board of  
23 Supervisors hereby adopts the *Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2022-2027* as  
24 the official local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for Clark County.

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Clark County recognizes that each city and  
27 village participating in this plan update may make changes to their respective  
28 community-specific section of the plan without County Board approval, if such  
29 changes are specific to their community and do not impact or conflict with the  
30 remaining plan sections.

Committee/Board/Supervisor Action	
Committee/Board/Supervisor Name:	Forestry and Parks Committee
Result:	Approved June 14, 2022
Mover:	Waichulis
Seconder:	Wilcox
Ayes:	Wilcox, Bower, Krause, Waichulis & Zank

Nayes:	None
Absent:	None

Clark County Board of Supervisors Action	
Vote Required:	Majority
Result:	Adopted 07/21/2022
Type of Vote:	Roll Call: 28 yes, 0 no
Mover:	Zank
Seconder:	Wilcox
Ayes:	Brodhagen, Molitor, Schindler, Wilcox, Klabon, Waichulis, Zank, Kodl, Thielman, Kolzow, Jalling, Tyznik, Bower, Krempasky, Ashbeck, Hendrickson, C. Rueth, W. Rueth, Haselow, Krause Jr., Rollins, Smagacz, Boon, Trunkel, Gerhardt, Bakker, Garbisch, Neville
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Sebesta
<p><b>I, Christina M. Jensen, Clerk for Clark County, hereby certify that Resolution 19-7-22 was adopted by the Clark County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on July 21, 2022.</b></p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;">  <p><b>Christina Jensen</b> Clark County Clerk Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"> <p><b>SEAL</b></p> </div> </div>	

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE  
CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2022-2027  
AS THE OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR THE CITY OF OWEN

WHEREAS, Clark County, through the Clark County Forestry and Parks Committee and the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department, in cooperation with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has developed an updated comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Owen participated in the plan update; and,

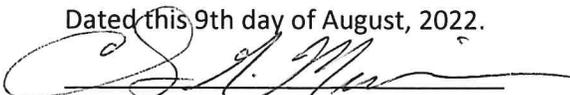
WHEREAS, the plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation needs for the City of Owen; and,

WHEREAS, the plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within the City of Owen; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to have a community outdoor recreation plan on file with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to be eligible for certain State and Federal cost-sharing financial aids for the development or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Owen City Council hereby adopts the Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2022-2027 as the official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the City of Owen.

Dated this 9th day of August, 2022.

  
Charles Milliren, Mayor

  
Tracy Rau, Clerk-Treasurer



300 W. Prospect St.  
PO Box 334, Thorp, WI 54771  
Phone: (715) 669-5371  
Fax: (715) 669-5044  
www.cityofthorp.com



**RESOLUTION 2022-06-01  
Resolution To Adopt The  
Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2022-2027  
As the Official Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan  
For the City of Thorp**

WHEREAS Clark County, through the Clark County Forestry and Parks Committee and the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department, in cooperation with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has developed an updated comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the Country: and,

WHEREAS the City of Thorp participated in the plan updated: and,

WHEREAS the plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation needs for the City of Thorp: and,

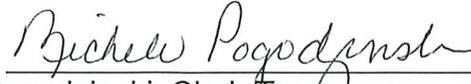
WHEREAS the plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for improving the recreation facilities and opportunities within the City of Thorp: and,

WHEREAS municipalities are required to have a community outdoor recreation plan on file with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to be eligible for certain State and Federal cost-sharing financial aids for the development or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thorp City Council hereby adopts the Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2022-2027 as the official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the City of Thorp.

Ayes: 3      Nays: 2      Absent: 2

Approved:   
Rich Wnek, Mayor

Attested:   
Michele Pogodzinski, Clerk-Treasurer

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-3**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE  
*CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2022-2027*  
AS THE OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR THE CITY OF ABBOTSFORD**

WHEREAS, Clark County, through the Clark County Forestry and Parks Committee and the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department, in cooperation with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has developed an updated comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Abbotsford participated in the plan update; and,

WHEREAS, the plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation needs for the City of Abbotsford; and,

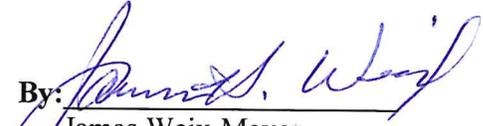
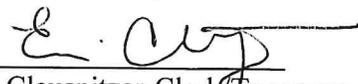
WHEREAS, the plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within the City of Abbotsford; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to have a community outdoor recreation plan on file with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to be eligible for certain State and Federal cost-sharing financial aids for the development or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Abbotsford City Council hereby adopts the *Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2022-2027* as the official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the City of Abbotsford.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

City of Abbotsford

By:   
James Weix-Mayor  
Attest:   
Erin Clausnitzer-Clerk/Treasurer

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE  
*CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2022-2027*  
AS THE OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR THE CITY OF COLBY**

WHEREAS, Clark County, through the Clark County Forestry and Parks Committee and the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department, in cooperation with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has developed an updated comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Colby participated in the plan update; and,

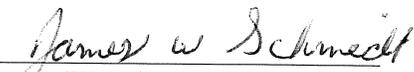
WHEREAS, the plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation needs for the City of Colby; and,

WHEREAS, the plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within the City of Colby; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to have a community outdoor recreation plan on file with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to be eligible for certain State and Federal cost-sharing financial aids for the development or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colby City Council hereby adopts the *Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2022-2027* as the official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the City of Colby.

Dated this 7th day of June, 2022.

Signed:   
James W Schmidt, Mayor

Attest:   
Connie L Gurtner, Clerk

**RESOLUTION No. #03-05-22**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE  
*CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2022-2027*  
AS THE OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR THE VILLAGE OF WITHEE**

WHEREAS, Clark County, through the Clark County Forestry and Parks Committee and the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department, in cooperation with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has developed an updated comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Withee participated in the plan update; and,

WHEREAS, the plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation needs for the Village of Withee; and,

WHEREAS, the plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within the Village of Withee; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to have a community outdoor recreation plan on file with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to be eligible for certain State and Federal cost-sharing financial aids for the development or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Withee Village Board hereby adopts the *Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2022-2027* as the official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the Village of Withee.

Dated this 9th day of May, 2022.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a legal meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

  
Everett Lindgren  
Village President

Attest:   
Ellen Niemi  
Village Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 04

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE  
*CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2022-2027*  
AS THE OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR THE CITY OF LOYAL

WHEREAS, Clark County, through the Clark County Forestry and Parks Committee and the Clark County Forestry and Parks Department, in cooperation with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has developed an updated comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Loyal participated in the plan update; and,

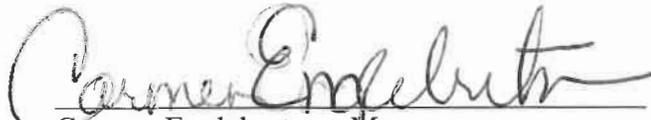
WHEREAS, the plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation needs for the City of Loyal; and,

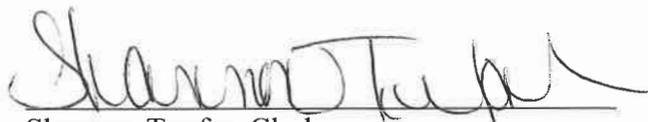
WHEREAS, the plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within the City of Loyal; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to have a community outdoor recreation plan on file with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to be eligible for certain State and Federal cost-sharing financial aids for the development or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Loyal City Council hereby adopts the *Clark County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2022-2027* as the official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the City of Loyal.

Dated this 17th day of MAY, 2022.

  
Carmen Englebretson, Mayor

  
Shannon Toufar, Clerk

## APPENDIX B

# CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

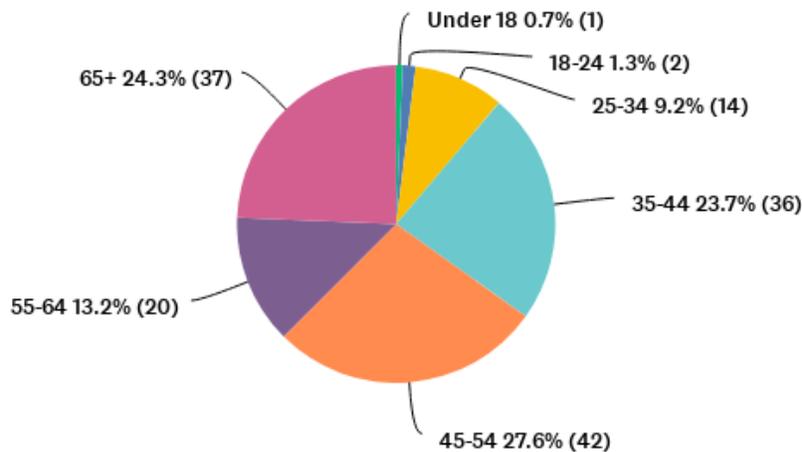
### Methodology

To obtain resident and visitor input on the County’s outdoor recreational conditions and needs, a web-based community opinion survey was performed utilizing SurveyMonkey. At its November 9, 2021, meeting, the Clark County Forestry & Parks Committee discussed the survey format and questions. The Committee recognized that a web-based survey would limit participation to those with access to the internet and would not be a “scientific survey”, but it is a cost-efficient approach that would still provide valuable insights for updating the Plan’s objectives and recommendations. The Committee also felt that the survey response rate would be more valuable if it was kept short with a limited number of questions.

The survey’s availability was advertised through a press release to County media outlets, through email lists, and social media. Responses were collected from November 17 through December 21, 2021. A total of 229 individual responses were received from 210 IP addresses.

### About the Survey Participants

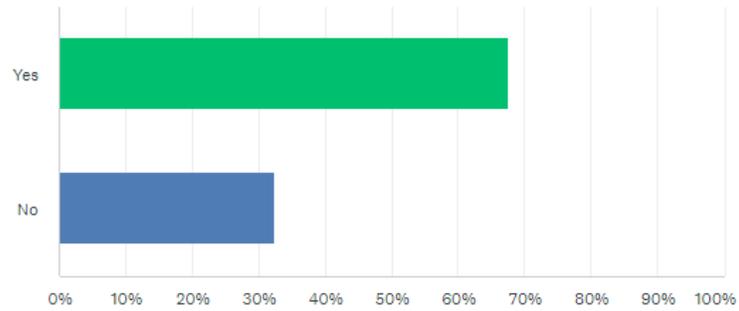
Based on the responses received, the respondents tended to be older, with 65.1% over the age of 44. The majority (56.6%) of respondents did not have children under the age of 18 residing in their household. However, one-third of respondents did not answer these questions.



## Place of Residence of Respondents

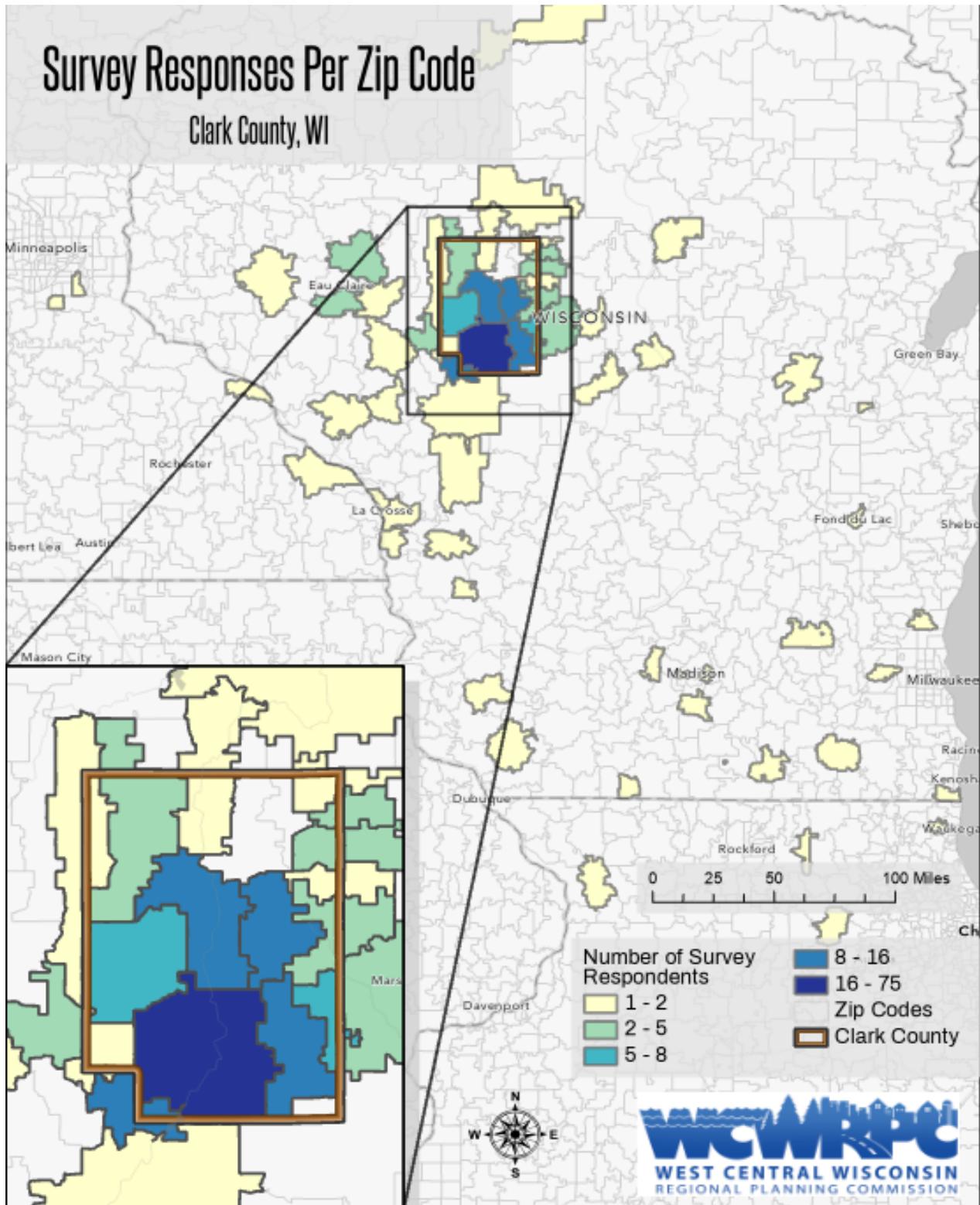
Are you a Clark County resident?

Answered: 228 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	67.54%	154
▼ No	32.46%	74
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>228</b>

As reflected on the map below, about one-third of all responses (75) came from the Neillsville zip code. It should also be noted that there is one response not shown on the map, which was located in southwest Montana.



## **Frequency of County Park & Facility Use**

Respondents were asked how often they use each Clark County outdoor recreation facility in a typical year. City, village, and town parks were excluded. 205 respondents answered the question and 23 skipped.

### **Top 5 Most Used Facilities**

6. Russell Memorial Park & Campground (39%)
7. Clark County Forest for uses other ATV/UTV trails (37%)
8. Other ATV/UTV Routes & Trails outside the Clark County Forest (36%)
9. Various Locations - County Boat Landings (35%)
10. ATV/UTV Trails within the Clark County Forest (35%)

### **Top 5 Least Used Facilities**

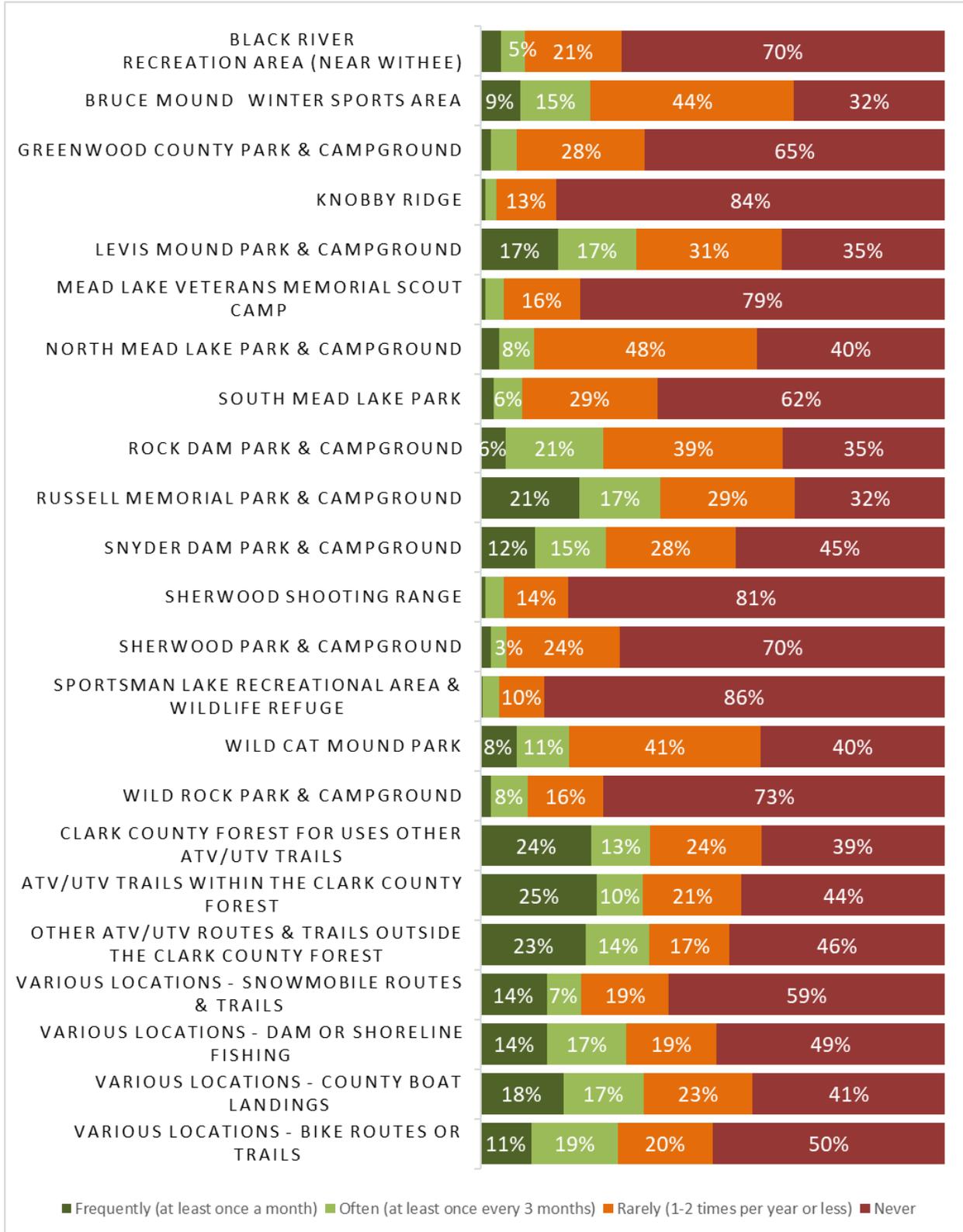
6. Knobby Ridge (97%)
7. Sportsman Lake Recreational Area & Wildlife Refuge (96%)
8. Mead Lake Veterans Memorial Scout Camp (95%)
9. Sherwood Shooting Range (95%)
10. Sherwood Park & Campground (94%)

Non-residents were more likely to respond that they frequently used Russell Memorial Park, Levis Mound, and ATV/UTV routes within the County Forest, while some other parks, such as Greenwood and the Sherwood Shooting Range, appear to cater primarily to County residents. About 90% of non-residents also rarely or never visited Bruce Mound, perhaps suggesting an opportunity for additional marketing.

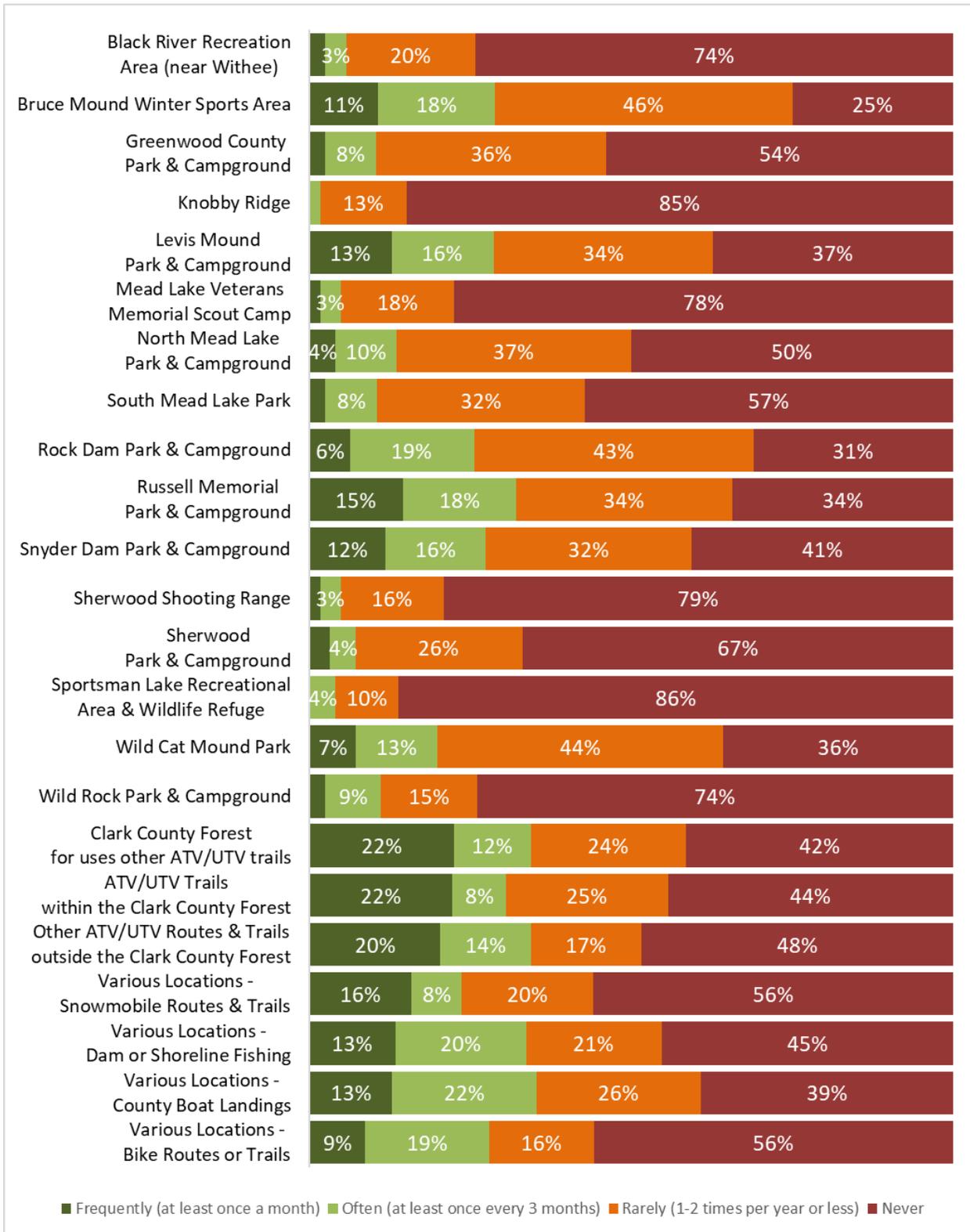
Facility use among respondents under 45 compared to those over 45 was similar for most facilities. The responses suggest that Rock Dam and Wild Cat may be slightly more popular for those under 45, while snowmobile trail use was slightly more popular among respondents over 45.

Facility use among respondents with and without children was also similar for most facilities. The most notable difference was that shoreline/dam site fishing was significantly more popular among respondents with children. Snyder Park and Russell Park were also more popular for those with children.

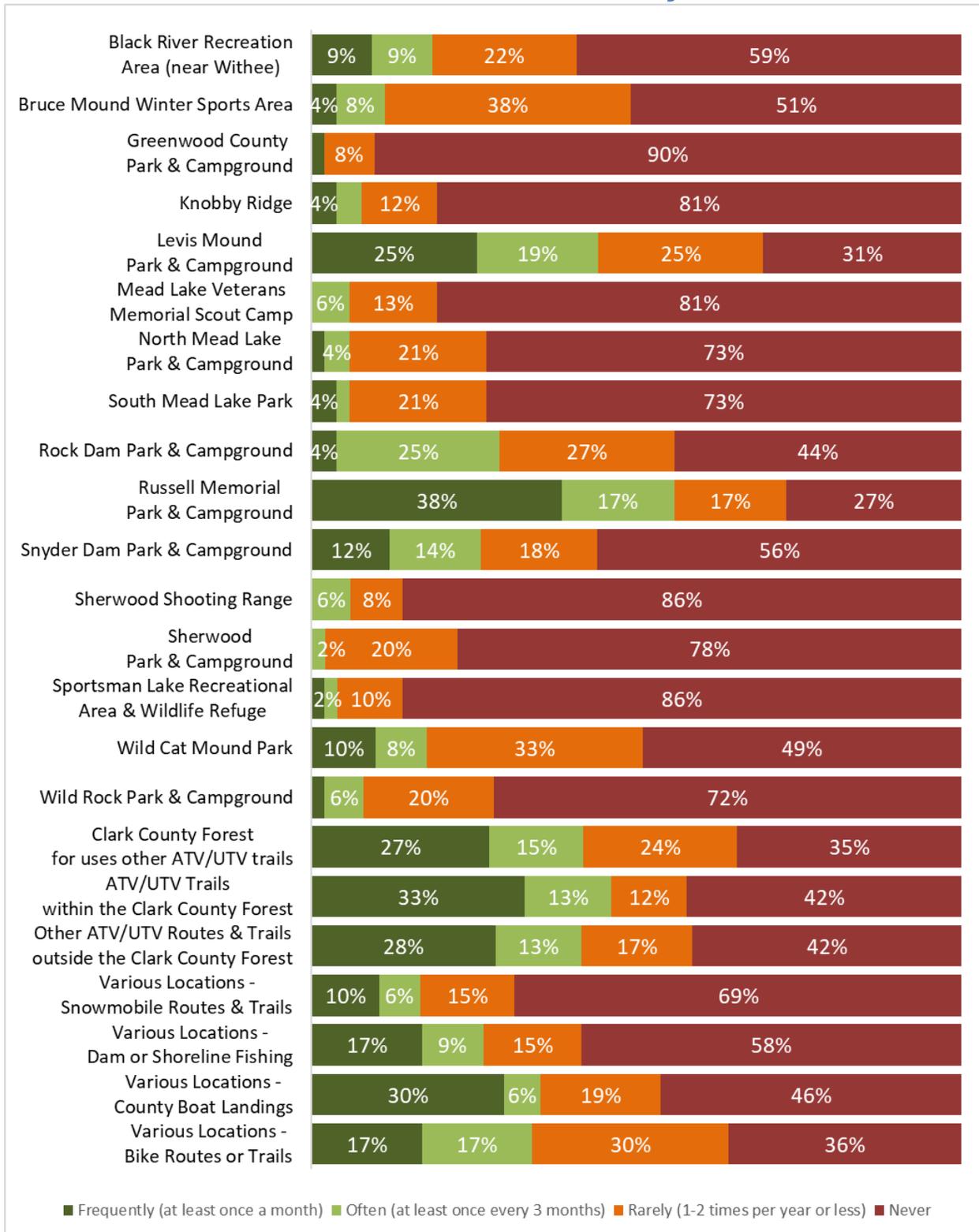
All Responses – Facility Use



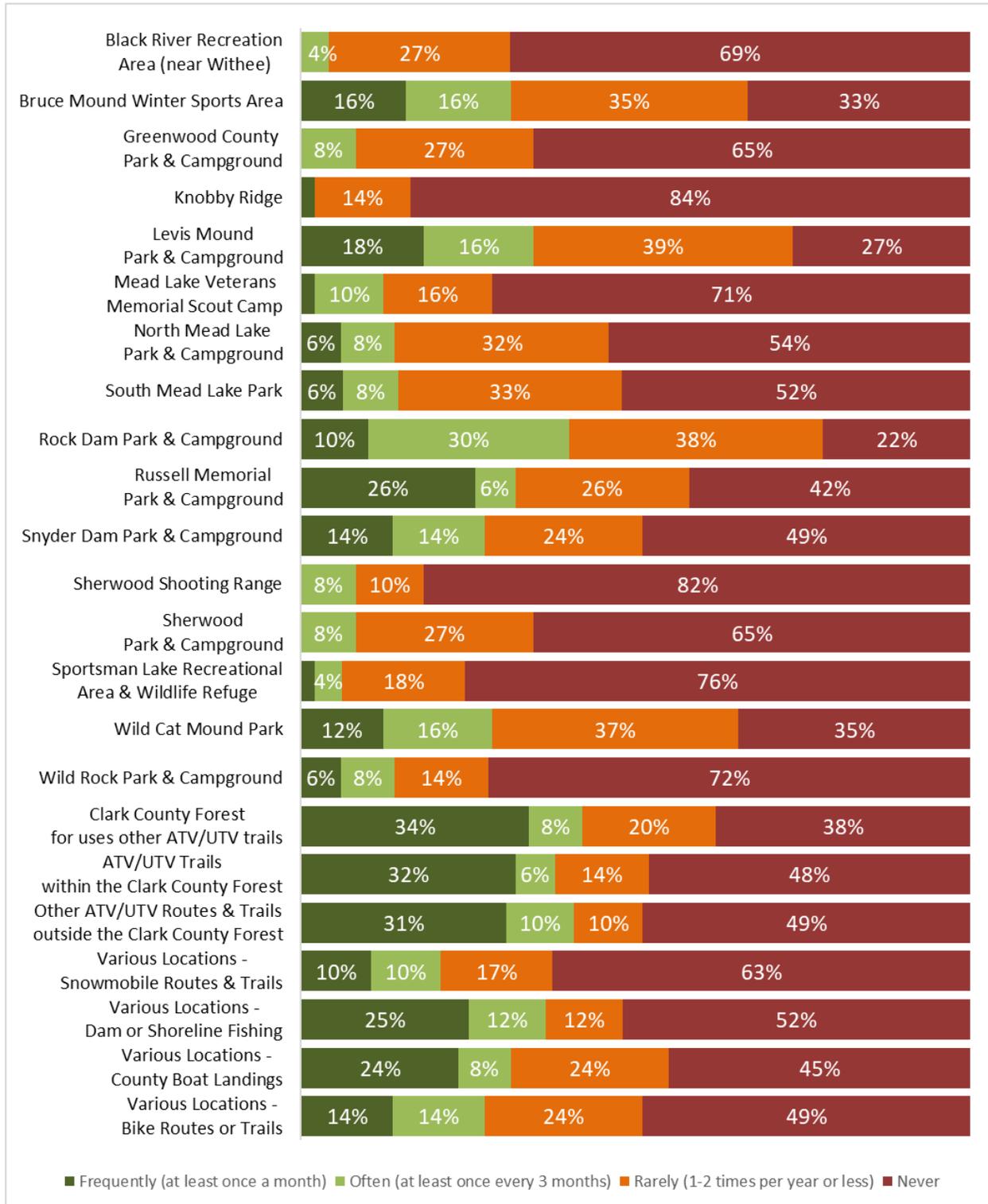
Resident – Facility Use



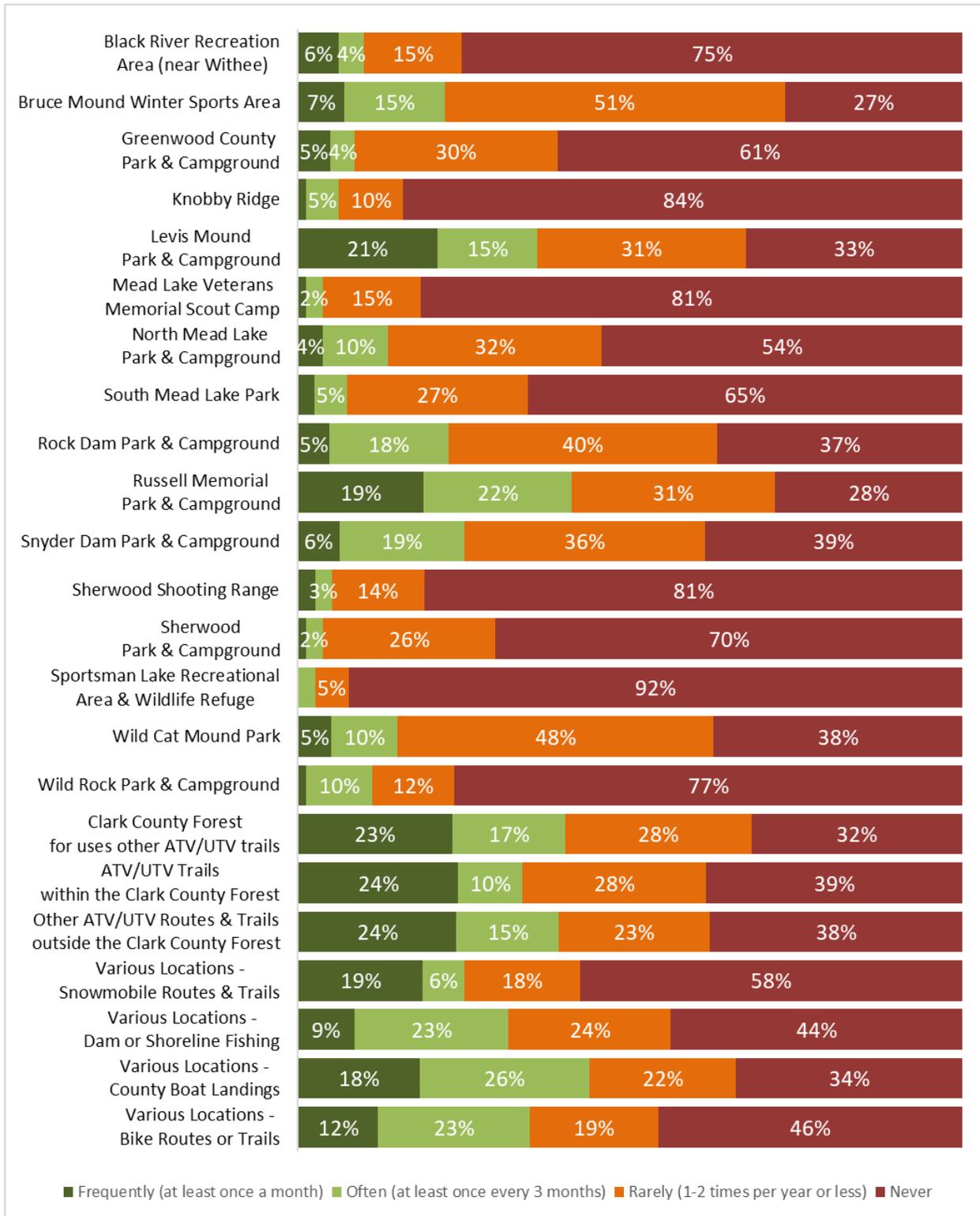
Non-Resident – Facility Use



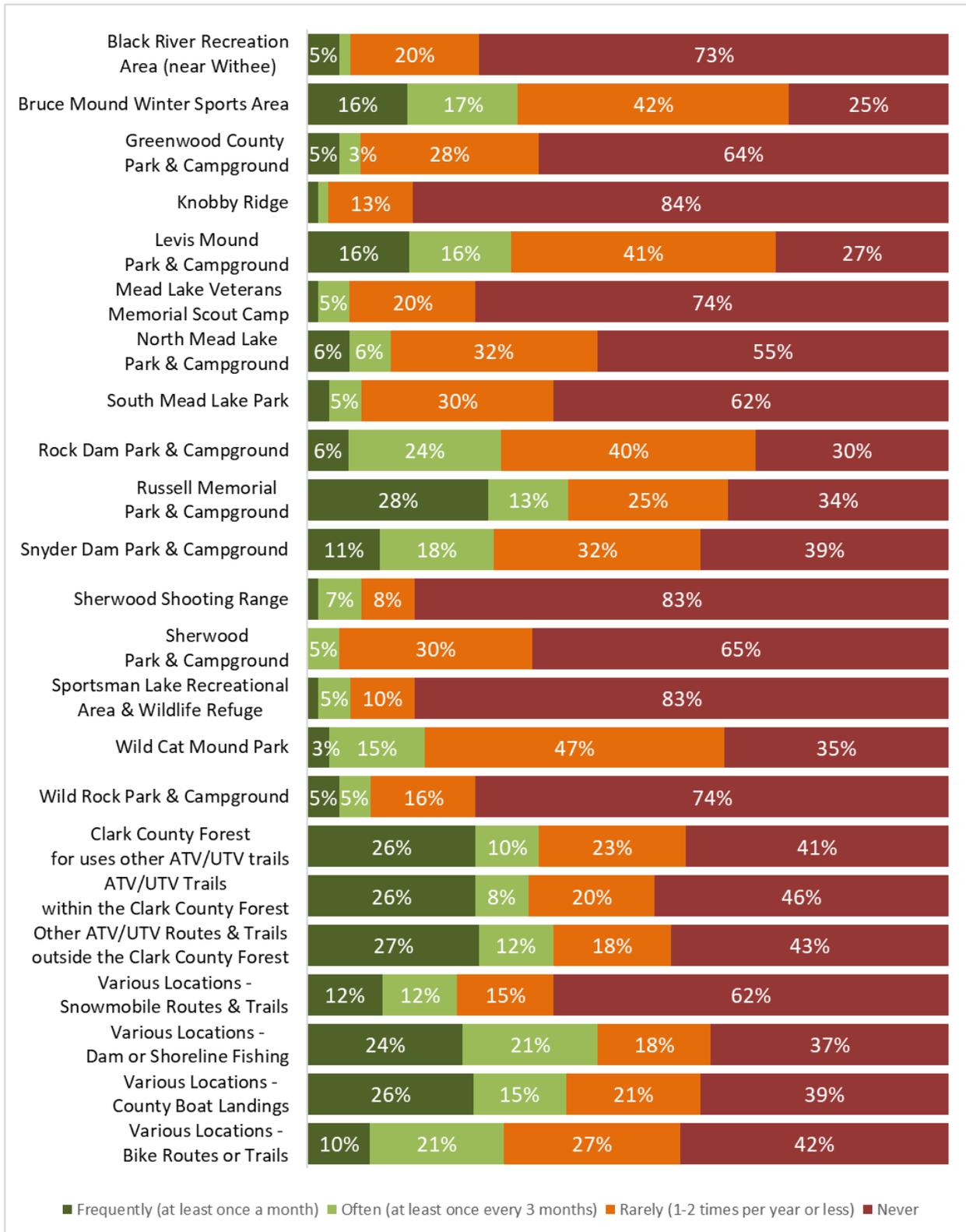
Responses by Age Group (Under 45) – Facility Use



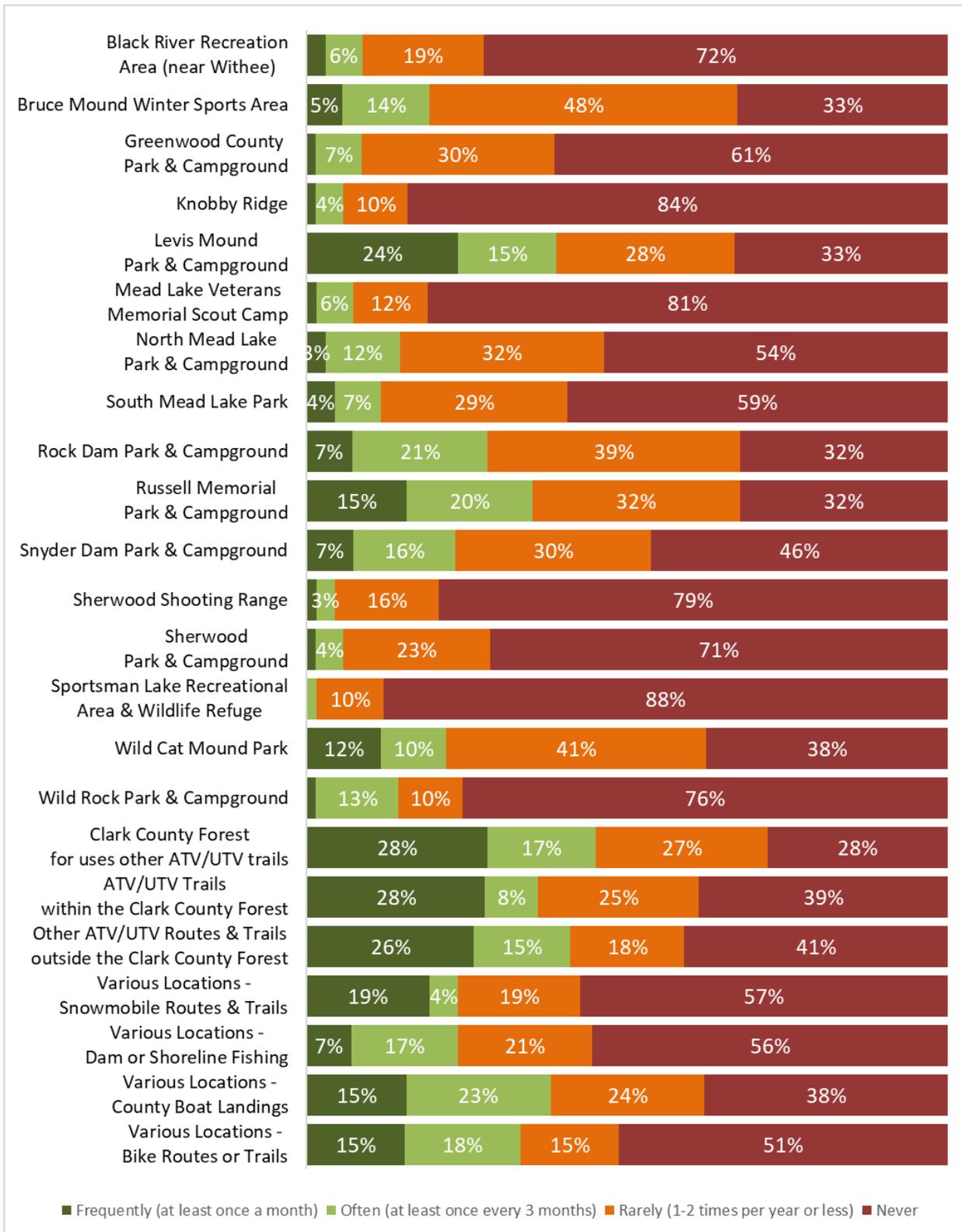
Responses by Age Group (Over 45) – Facility Use



Households with Children under 18 – Facility Use



Households w/o Children under 18 – Facility Use



## **Demand for Recreational Activities**

Respondents were asked, in their opinion, are the current park and outdoor recreation opportunities in Clark County for 34 different activities meeting the demands of residents and visitors? 156 respondents answered the question and 72 skipped.

### **Top 5 Activities that Meet or Mostly Meet Demand (little or no improvements needed)**

6. Camping (74%)
7. Pleasure Driving & Sightseeing (70%)
8. Picnicking (67%)
9. ATV/ UTV (62%)
10. Canoeing and Kayaking (58%)

### **Top 5 Activities that have Little or No Demand (no improvements needed)**

1. Soccer Fields (9%)
2. Tennis & Pickleball (9%)
3. Road Cycling (Non-motorized) (8%)
4. Disc/ Frisbee Golf (8%)
5. Dog Parks (8%)

### **Top 5 Activities Requiring Significant Improvements**

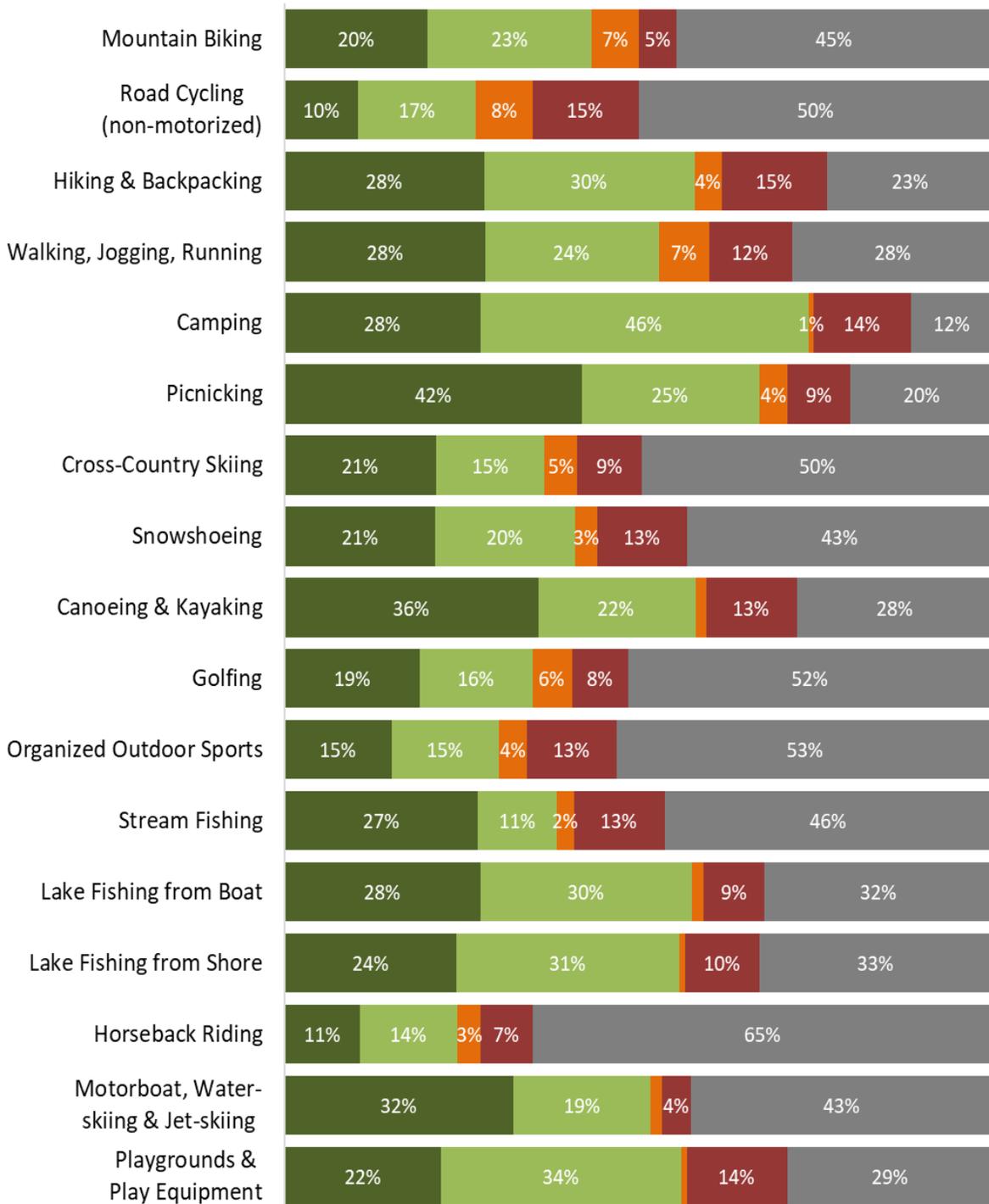
6. Swimming (Beach, pool, splash pads) (31%)
7. Nature-based Educational Programs (26%)
8. Dog Parks (19%)
9. Outdoor Archery Range (18%)
10. Outdoor Ice Skating & Hockey (17%)

Overall, 62% of the responses to this question were “no opinion”. When considering the results of the survey, the category of “no opinion” could be combined with the “Little or No Demand” category.

Caution is advised when comparing the resident vs non-resident charts. While the data shows all question categories, it does not show the total numbers of each category of responses. Residents had a far higher average response rate than the non-resident respondents. For instance, only three non-residents provided an opinion regarding soccer fields, so without the “no opinion” results it would suggest that 67% of non-residents believe that major improvements to soccer fields are needed. Demand for soccer fields among non-residents is significantly lower, given that over 90% of non-residents answering this question actually had “no opinion.”

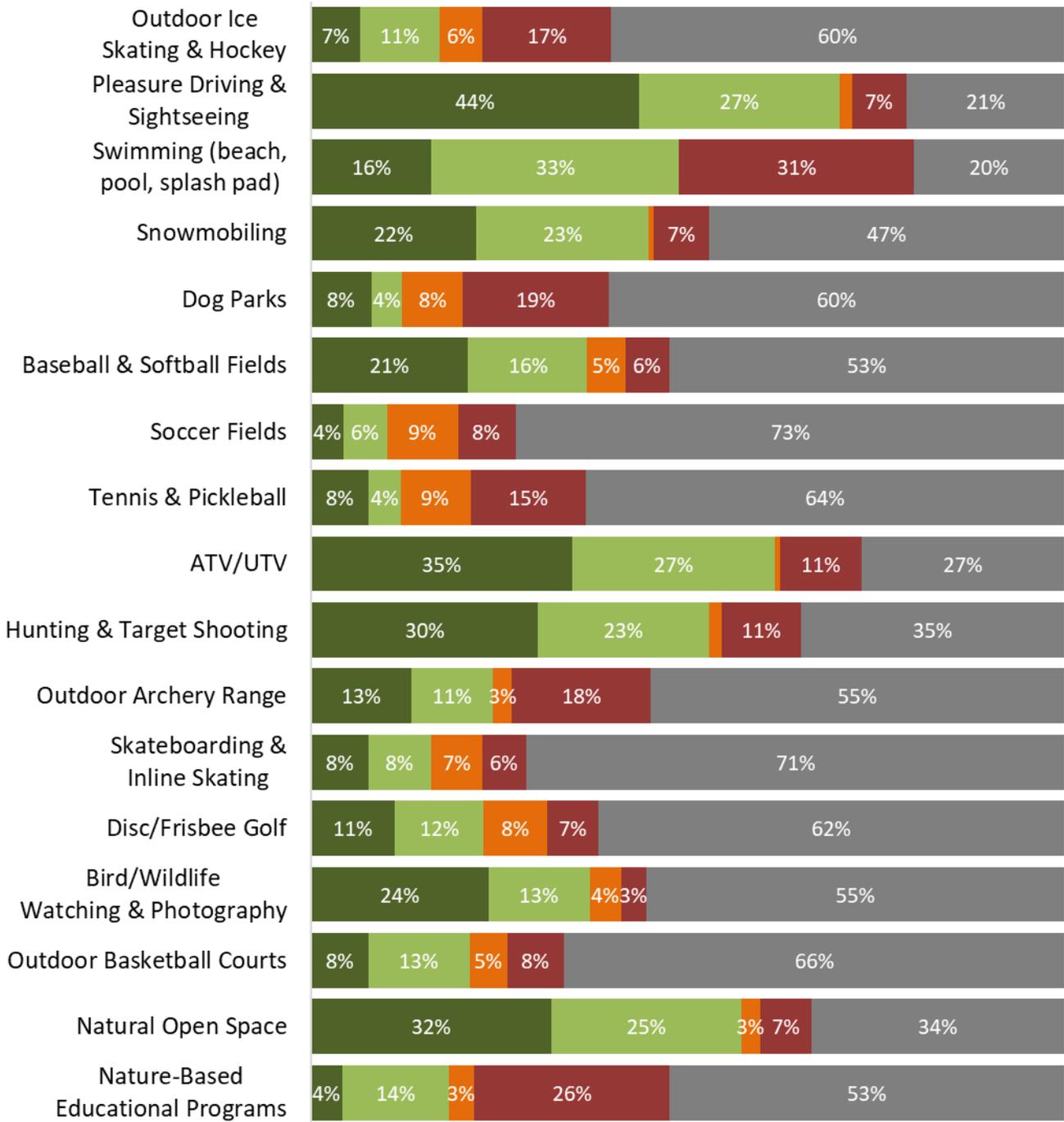
Some interesting comparisons can be made between residents and non-residents for ATV/ UTV activity. 5% of residents felt their needs were not being met while only 27% of non-residents felt their needs were not met. With improvements to ATV/ UTV facilities, there may be an increased attraction for people to travel to Clark County for this activity type.

### All Responses – Demand



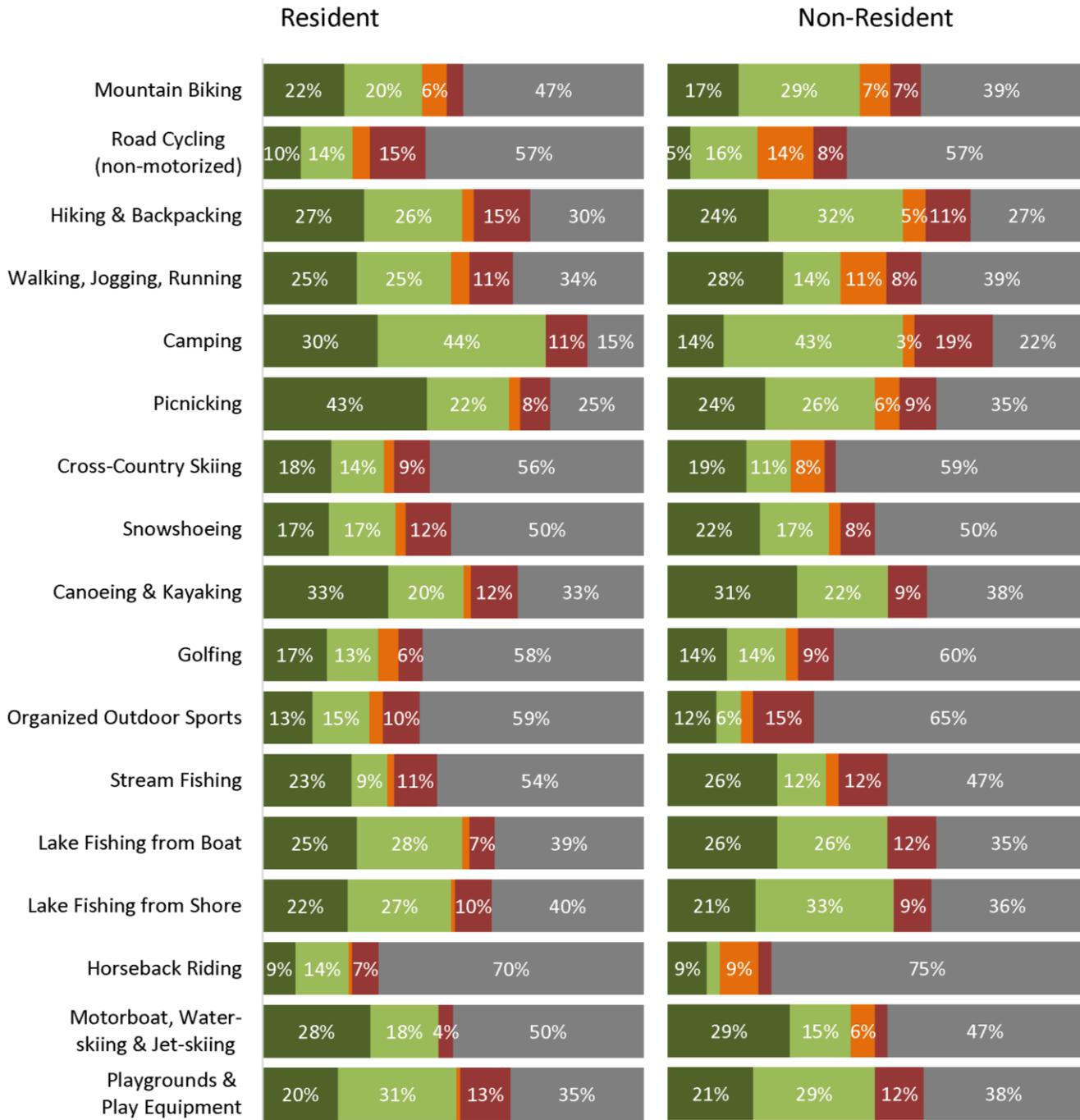
- Meets demand. No significant improvements needed.
- Demand mostly met. Minor improvements needed.
- Little or no demand for this use. No improvements needed.
- Demand not being met. Significant improvements needed.
- No opinion

All Responses – Demand (continued)



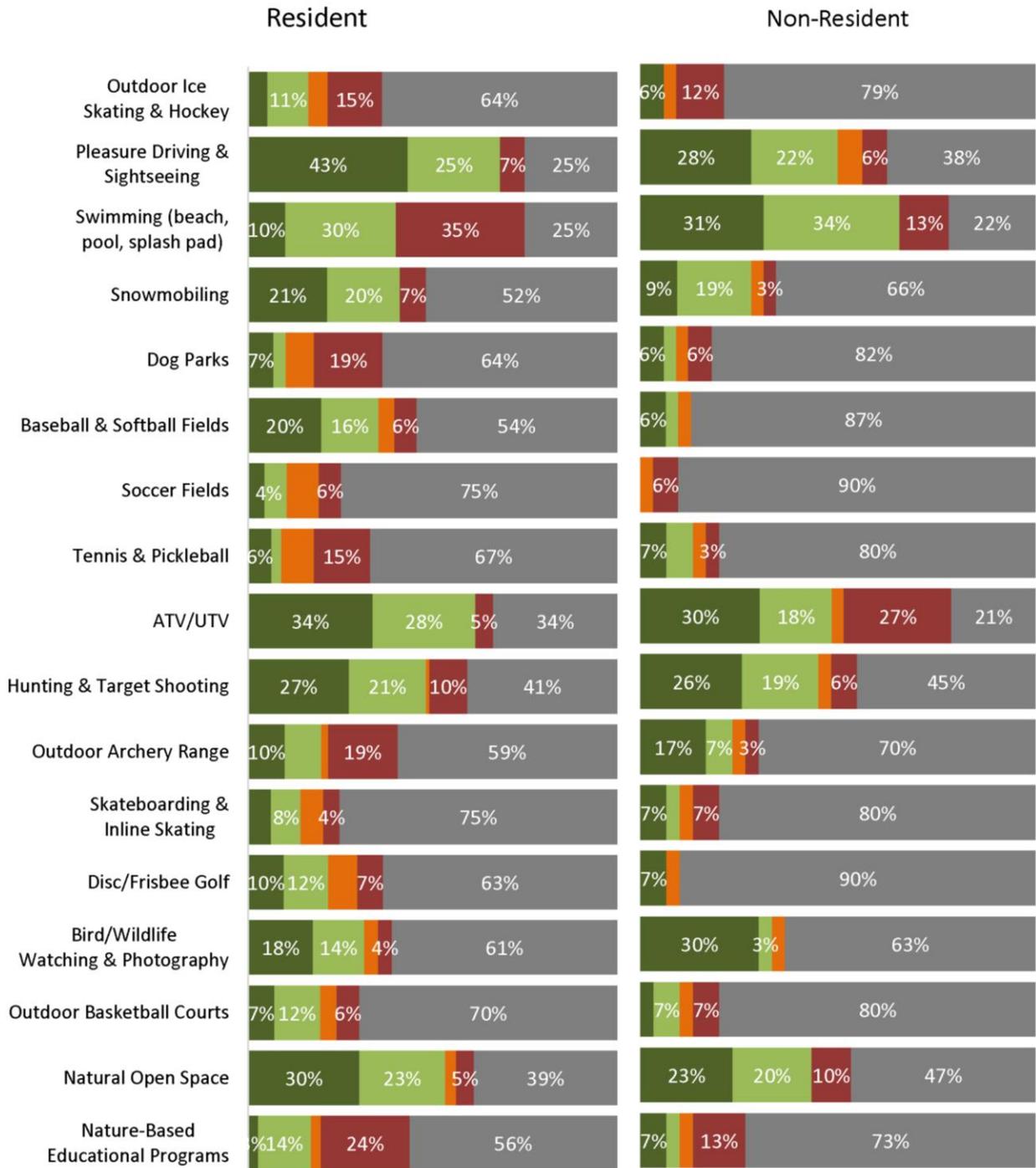
- Meets demand. No significant improvements needed.
- Demand mostly met. Minor improvements needed.
- Little or no demand for this use. No improvements needed.
- Demand not being met. Significant improvements needed.
- No opinion

### Resident vs Non-Resident – Demand



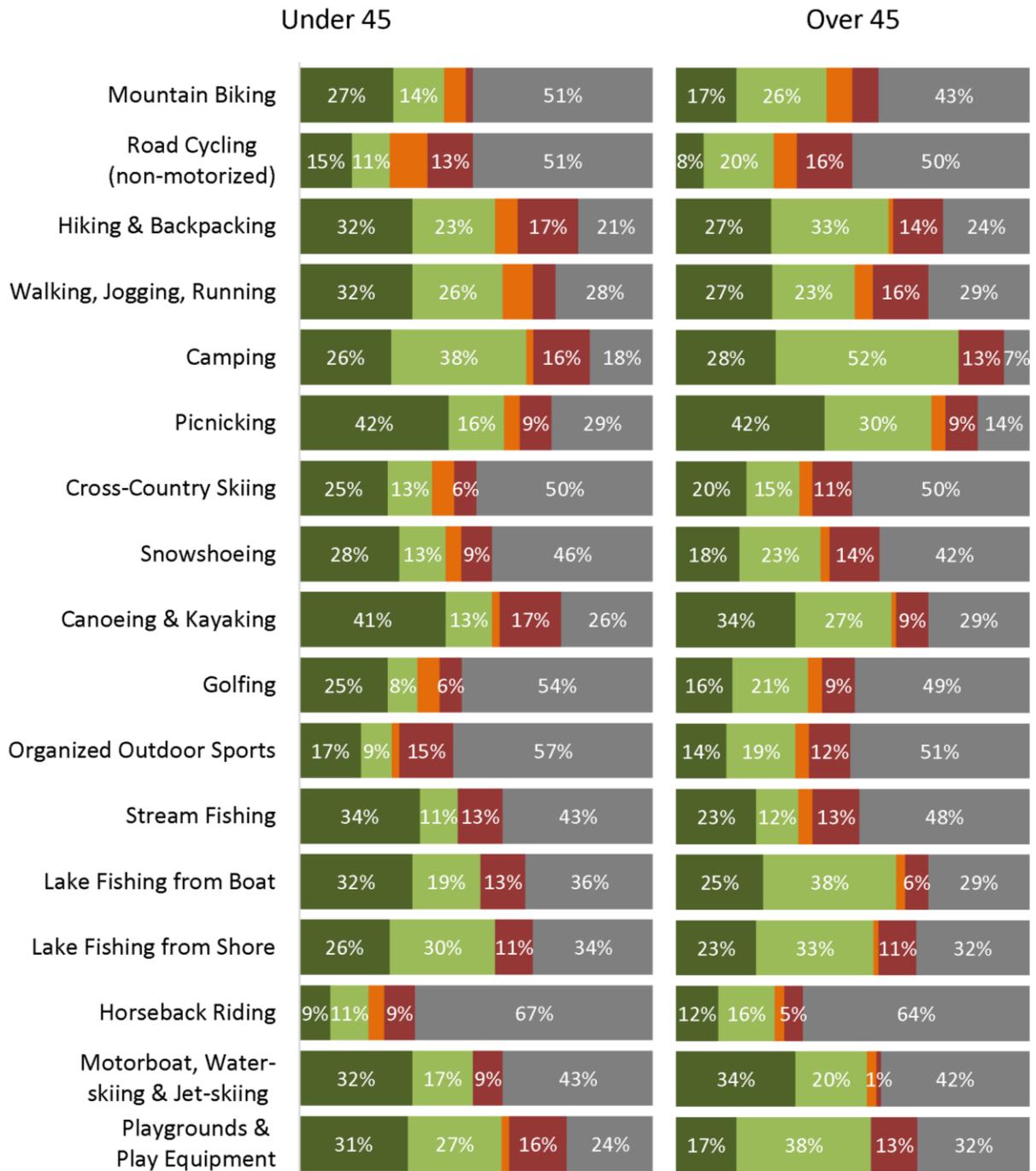
■ Meets demand. No significant improvements needed.     
 ■ Little or no demand for this use. No improvements needed.  
■ Demand mostly met. Minor improvements needed.     
 ■ Demand not being met. Significant improvements needed.  
■ No opinion

Resident vs Non-Resident – Demand (continued)



■ Meets demand. No significant improvements needed.
 ■ Little or no demand for this use. No improvements needed.
 ■ Demand mostly met. Minor improvements needed.
 ■ Demand not being met. Significant improvements needed.
 ■ No opinion

Age – Demand



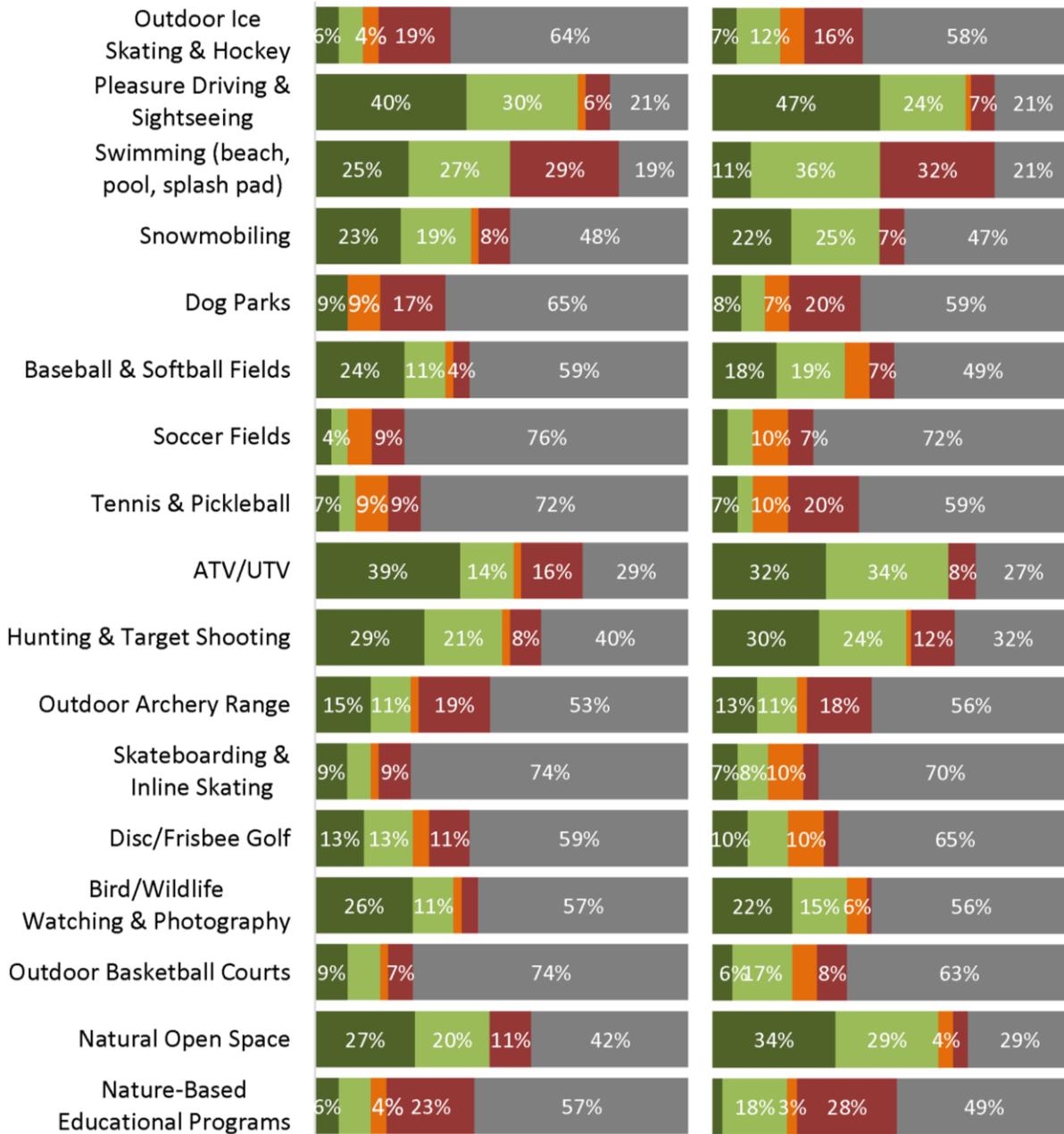
■ Meets demand. No significant improvements needed.
 ■ Little or no demand for this use. No improvements needed.
 ■ Demand not being met. Significant improvements needed.
 ■ No opinion

■ Demand mostly met. Minor improvements needed.

Age – Demand (continued)

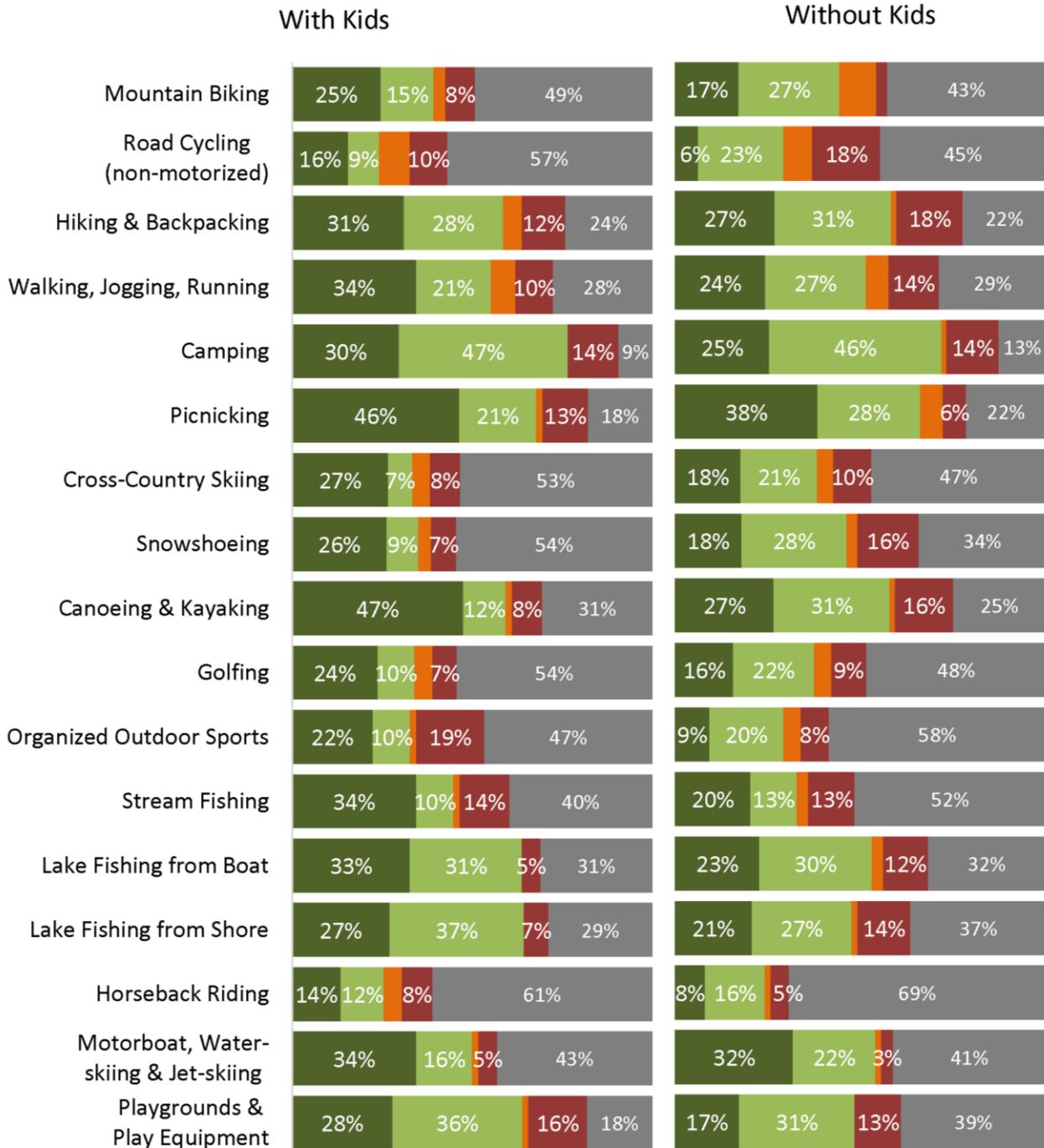
Under 45

Over 45



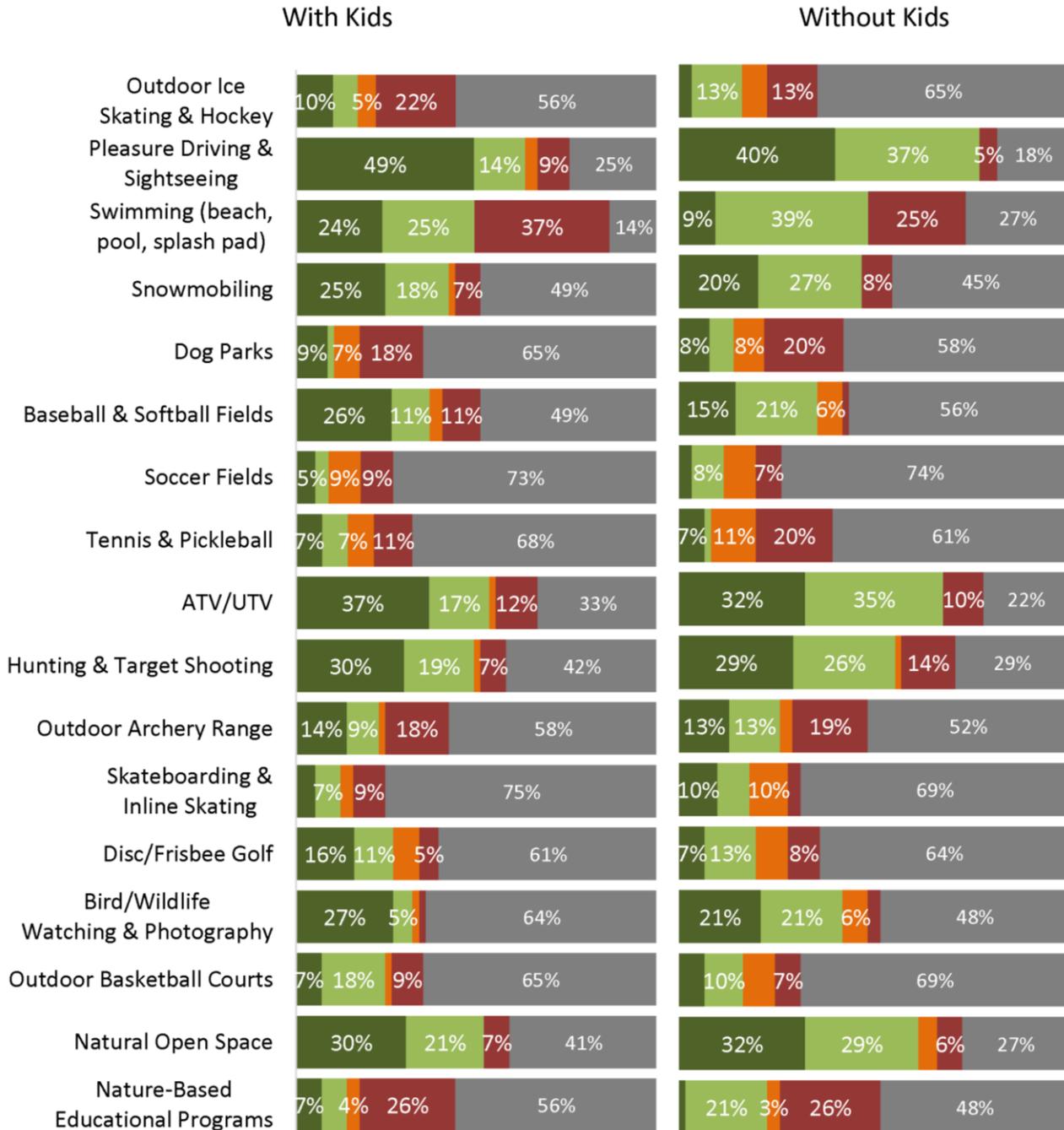
■ Meets demand. No significant improvements needed.
 ■ Little or no demand for this use. No improvements needed.
 ■ Demand mostly met. Minor improvements needed.
 ■ Demand not being met. Significant improvements needed.
 ■ No opinion

## Households with Children under 18 – Demand



■ Meets demand. No significant improvements needed.
 ■ Little or no demand for this use. No improvements needed.
 ■ Demand not being met. Significant improvements needed.
 ■ Demand mostly met. Minor improvements needed.
 ■ No opinion

## Households with Children under 18 – Demand (continued)



■ Meets demand. No significant improvements needed.
 ■ Little or no demand for this use. No improvements needed.
 ■ Demand mostly met. Minor improvements needed.
 ■ Demand not being met. Significant improvements needed.
 ■ No opinion

Respondents that answered “*Demand not met. Significant improvements needed.*” to one or more activities were invited to provide brief comments or suggested improvements. The following are the comments received from 76 respondents. Some comments from individual respondents have been broken-up and placed under different categories.

### **Parks, Camping, & Playgrounds**

- Wild Rock needs improvement & care
- Snyder Lake swimming area could use the beach again.
- Playgrounds need upgrading and Snyder Park Beach should be remodeled so it can be used like it used to be.
- Snyder park could use basketball hoops. They could use those and equipment inside the campground area.
- Snyder Park swimming area makes absolutely no sense that there isn't a sand beach, camping is usually booked full so there should be enough funding for a beach area!!! Very sad for campers to not have a decent area for children to swim
- The electric needs to be upgraded at Russell park
- Russell Memorial Park needs an electricity update
- Electrical upgrades needed at Russell Park. Throughout the past several years we've had multiple power outages due to overloading of the circuits. In addition the 30 amp service provided is outdated as most newer campers are now 50 amp and some require 50 amp service to utilize all of their amenities.
- Playground equipment could be updated, fixed.
- Clark county campgrounds need better management system and stop knit picking everything about a person way of camping and also make campgrounds atv friendly as they can drive golf carts around them people should be able to use there atvs also
- Sherwood has Frisbee Golf but the range is unusable.
- Camping in Clark County is lacking big time, take some trees down, clean them up, have more campgrounds/sites, you'd never get a fifth wheel in them now with all the trees, have full hook ups, put the ATV/UTV riders in a different location when camping...
- Availability and access to parks for residents in NE Clark County is a significant issue. There are NO park options. I recommend expansion of a dog park in NE near Abbotsford/Curtiss area. This will allow people and their dogs to walk and socialize.
- Too much goose poop at the parks. Need to find a way to clean that up - especially in camping areas.
- Some of the campgrounds need infrastructure improvements.
- Camping...Clark County residents need to be given first option to reserve seasonal campsites.
- Russel Memorial park needs to be transformed to meet todays demands for camper size and electrical draw. The park is still operating based on camper specs from the 1980s. Increasing number of days allowed to stay and seasonal opportunities would benefit the park financially.
- Would like to see more updated playgrounds and parks, not just a couple of things. Perhaps a playground for handicap children or special needs.
- we need better parks at the campgrounds and swimming areas.

### **Trails, Routes, Hiking, & Cycling**

- The only place to ride mtb is Levis.
- More access / some additional mountain biking opportunities.
- I mainly use Levis Mound for biking and skiing and appreciate upkeep and as little disruption as possible from logging.
- Trails designated for hikers only and hike-in/backcountry campsites needed.

- Would love to have paved walking, running and biking trails
- Campgrounds and visitors tearing up our ATV trail systems using it as a race track. Couple bad trail accidents. Litter on trails. Very little trail law enforcing.
- In the case of ATV/UTV trails, in places where they are operating on public roads, those trails need to be repositioned to avoid conflicts with other type of 4 wheel drive vehicles.
- Trails are ruff in summer. Need more safety people are trails. People don't obey rules, LOTS of drunk drivers
- Allow horse riders to take over Knobby Ridge and those trails. Expand those trails for horses. Will generate more money and used more than they are currently being used. Biggest complaint heard from the horse community is having to ride so much ATV/UTV trail when camping at Wildrock
- Only know of Levi's mound for cross country skiing - opposite end of county for us.
- Atv trails need stumps removed at edge of trails and also be widened out in areas this is why accidents keep happening!
- The saddest thing for me living in Clark county is how hard it is to find more than a few places to hike, the lack of road biking trails or routes that are safe from traffic, or good places to backpack and camp. We have so many trees but it seems like most trails are focused on ATVs and snowmobiles. Wildcat, Levi's mound etc are great options but I would love to see the local forest made more available for non motorized recreation. If you go on AllTrails or other apps it's just a huge gap.
- Road cycling in lower Clark County can be dangerous. Little to no respect given to dirt road riders and shoulders on other roads don't provide adequate space for more hasty vehicles that simply buzz riders while cars are in the opposing lane. Levis is really the only good place to ride in the county. Which is a shame since we travel to hit bike trails in other parts of the state and see the economic impact they have on the towns they travel through.
- There are no decent bike trails
- More trails in the center of county Bridge improvements
- Trails are not being groomed enough
- all trails are ruff like wash boards need to be graded more often and most trails are sand what can be done ????
- Atv trails should be groomed more often.
- Road cycling - I would love to have biking trails available for longer-distance rides other than having to go on the highway. If you look at the interest in the Rails-to-Trails project and the number of people from this area that participate in the Highground ride every year, I think there would be definitely be enough people interested in a non-motorized biking trail - not to mention the families with young kids that would like a place to go for walks. On the previous page, I saw it listed bike trails as one of Clark County's amenities; I guess I didn't realize there were any bike trails other than mountain biking at Levis Mound. So, the existing trails need to be publicized more. Hiking and backpacking - Levis Mound is a great park and well-maintained, but it would be great if other forest areas in the county could be developed to include hiking trails. I think a lot of folks would take advantage of that.
- My response to ATV/UTV is 100% focused on Off-Highway Motorcycle use. Knobby Ridge is a fantastic place to ride but at 5 miles in length, it really needs more trail added to increase use.
- We would love some hiking/biking trails that are not also atv trails. Maybe there are some we just do not know about. Many of these opportunities I did not know existed in Clark county. The improvement may be better communication about what is available where.
- The cross country ski trails west of rock dam are overgrown and poorly marked. Maintenance is needed badly. Friends tried hiking it this summer and got lost.
- Major work need to be done on the hiking/cross country ski trail that is accessible in the Rock Dam County Campground. Trail marker signs are missing, many areas of the trail is impassable. There is a sign that designates this way to the park & when it is taken it leads you to a non existent trail.

- Horse trails need to be non-motorized only. There is plenty of land to do this like other counties. Look at Wildcat Mountain State Park. Great trails and camping.
- We've been going to Snyder, Levis and Wildcat Mound since the early 1970s. Unfortunately, two out of three of our favorite public parks in Clark Co. are now under almost constant siege from ATV/UTV traffic. At least Levis is only full of relatively silent mountain bikers now. In particular, putting an ATV trail alongside the once-peaceful creek above Snyder Park and through the once-quiet valley south of Wildcat Mound hurt those of us who prefer to move quietly to listen and learn in wild places rather than blunder through under power to the next bar or gas station on the trail. Would it be possible to reroute these two ATV trails to still connect the campgrounds but take them out of earshot of these two beautiful quiet places where folks like us still prefer to hike and canoe? I'm guessing that the ATVers wouldn't care a bit whether their trail skirts that creek or cuts through that valley, but it would make a huge difference to the quality of experience of hikers and canoers. Thanks for your time and consideration.
- Would like to have more road cycling options besides major highways (which have shoulders but dangerous) and county roads (no shoulders) Would be fun to set up back roads that are paved to other outdoor destinations such as campgrounds or Levis, or paved township roads tourist destinations around the county.
- ATV trails are way to bumpy. They need to be smoothed out more often or put more regulations on side by sides. They root up the trails. Trails should be wider if possible. Side by sides take up a good portion of the trails and its a potential problem.
- ATV/UTV use has increased tremendously over the last several years. Continue to improve trail system to make the area a destination.
- No bike trails in the area. Drive to Sparta, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Stevens Point to bike. Closest hiking is CC Forest 30 miles away.
- Clark county snowmobile and atv trails need to be maintained as well as Jackson County. Supposedly money is being given to Bruce Mound (which has not been profitable for years). This is a waste. It should be used to groom and maintain snowmobile trails. Businesses all around Clark county would benefit from this. With limited snow the last few years Bruce Mound needs to go into a different direction. It is an asset to Clark county also. But Clark county needs to look at where tax dollars will benefit the community the most.
- Levis is nice for adventure biking but it would be amazing to see an easier "rails to trails" type trail system in place.
- problem with the snowmobile trails is that Clark County allows ATVs on the trails when they are groomed. ATVs destroy the groomed trails and make them unsafe and difficult to ride on. The simple rule should be that if the trails are groomed ATVs and UTVs should not be allowed on them.
- Would like to see more hiking/biking trails other than in the county forest. Would like to see a rails-to-trails set-up implemented.
- Once the Snowmobile trails are open for snowmobiling, the ATV/UTV usage should be eliminated for the 2-3 month snowmobile period. The ATV/UTV usage carves up the groomed trail and causes safety issues. I believe that 95% of the people on snowmobiles during the short snowmobile season would agree strongly.
- ATV&UTV traffic in and around Russell Park leaves much to be desired. We go to the Jackson County side to camp as ATV& UTV are limited to only certain area of the park.
- Horse riding trails are wet and swampy in areas and at times unpassable and unsafe. County needs to do more bulldozing and have a more active plan to control beavers that dam up and flood trails
- Should let snowmobiles go on all unplowed roads in County Forest

### **Hunting & Shooting**

- There is also no designated archery range.
- Do we have an Archery Range in Clark County?
- I am not aware of any archery ranges near Neillsville.

- To my knowledge CC has no outdoor rifle shooting range. clubs have several ranges if you are a member. I would like to see a rifle range out to 1000 yards if possible. Any distance over 300 yds would be welcome. A staffed facility would also be a plus for range control. Scheduled weapons/training classes would be awesome.

### **Fishing, Swimming, & Water Sports**

- Need an aquatic center or splash pad nearby for younger kids. Rock dam needs improvement on area boats dock as the shoreline is significantly reseeding in the last 10 years.
- We need more resources with accessibility needs built in, such as boat ramps and fishing piers.
- canoe launches on Black River are rough at best.
- With regard to stream fishing and lake fishing from shore, such things as stream bank (erosion control) and increasing sedimentation need to be paid attention to. Annual or bi-annual stream banks and lake shores need to be physically inspected to make improvements where necessary.
- Most lakes are not suitable for swimming- due to too much algae or not enough beach room.
- Fishing areas need more friendly bathrooms! Clean maintained and flushable toilets no one likes to use vault toilets anymore and they are the most unsanitary thing especially in a pandemic! Lakes need trees removed from them and big boulders so you don't have to worry about damage happening to your boat every time you take it out!
- have ski shows again, have ice fishing contests
- no splash pad
- It would be nice to have an out door pool or splash pad available to all residents of Clark County!! smaller beaches need major upkeep.
- Maybe seeing if stocking fish can be done. Fish cribs added
- Swimming needs a clean place to swim
- Public access along the black River for fishing, swimming, kayaking is needed. Historical spots that people have fished are getting posted by new landowners
- Some handicap fishing piers could added and anyone could use them
- Help with the splash pad plans in the Loyal area.
- Please clean the beach at Synder Lake so that it can be enjoyed. It is close to Neillsville and a shame to see in disrepair.
- Continue to support improvements of the kayaking along the Black River. Also, kayak friendly areas at the lakes could be considered.
- Some if the shore fishing spots by Mead were growin up with weeds you couldn't get close enough to cast.

### **Winter Sports, excluding trails/routes**

- Ice rinks in the area are dreadful. I'm not sure why we can't have a pond for casual skating.
- Not much for organized sports or skating rinks.
- Ice Hockey has lakes but hard to get a good safe surface to play on. Would be nice to improve the Neillsville rink and put money into it.
- Lift access at Bruce Mound?
- Also a warming shack that anyone could use if ice skating.

### **Dog Parks**

- Dog parks - there aren't a lot of safe places for people to run their dogs off-leash in the county, but there are a lot of dog owners that would enjoy that.

- Do we have a Dog Park in Clark County?
- Currently there are no dog parks or pickleball courts.
- We have no dog parks
- Would like to see a large fenced in dog park area like the bigger cities have, with some partitions for different dogs types, personalities, if needed.

### **Other Activities & Comments**

- Open Gates and take down the berms so that I can get back in and utilize the Clark county forest
- Some of this may be lack of knowledge, but I'm unaware of a soccer field or archery range.
- no pickleball court.
- There are certain areas of Clark Co. With these, but not spread out and no options in some areas of the county
- More programming is needed to encourage outdoor education for recreation purposes in kids. Non team, non competitive sports. This building recreation skills in kids.
- Disc/frisbee golf - This is a sport with growing popularity and I often see people at Loyal's West Side Park course throughout the summer. This is an area with untapped potential. People come from all over the state to play at Marshfield's Braem Park; could we set up a course here in Clark County and attract people to visit?
- Disc/Frisbee golf in the park needs an upgrade, We have no nature-based programs for kids and if we do they are not known about. Snyder park and the campground need major work. For as busy as it is, it is sad not to see more improvements done to it.
- Tennis courts are definitely needing repair in Neillsville. One court also being used for pickleball. Major surface repair needed
- Need more young kid play areas
- Guided walk with forester/ect for kids.
- Nature Based programs....where do I find this information? Is this advertised? Same with organized outdoor events..advertised?
- There are few or no areas for these activities in the area and the few spots are crowded a lot of times.
- Would like to see more nature education classes for kids in the summertime, maybe some organized ones at the campgrounds on the weekends, organized nature walks at Levis or Wildcat Mound.
- I don't feel there are many county organized group outdoor activities.
- bathrooms are not as clean as they used to, office personal is not out about like it used to be, too many things not taken care of, no security at night, no nightly drive thru's at night,the park is nothing like it used to be.
- Some of the back gravel roads my family and I drive to sight see or to hit some flowages to fish are horrible. Some of said roads are being used as atv routes which I understand the money they bring in is more than joy riders but it would be nice if you could grade them once in awhile. We have a place up there so we are up usually 3 weekends a month. But all in all Clark County to doing an awesome job! Thanks for your work.
- I am taking this for a newspaper article help, but open space is important for the environment. Places like Camp Globe (if retaining buildings), are also of interest to me personally.
- I think disc golf is becoming more popular as time goes on. Need more courses.

## **Other Comments**

63 respondents choose to provide additional comments, concerns, or recommendations that would enhance parks and outdoor recreation in Clark County.

### **Parks, Camping, & Playgrounds**

- Synder park campground needs to be monitored during hunting season or closed for season as bathrooms get used for gutting and deer tags should be checked.
- Make it easier for seasonal campers at Russell memorial campground to keep their websites each year. These campers provide guaranteed revenue.
- Better upkeep of the local campgrounds
- Consider allowing ATV camping @ Sherwood Park as connects to ATV trails & routes.. county losing revenue....
- Fix retaining wall in Russell Park Campground. It's rotting pretty bad. Do not replace with rock!
- I would love full hook ups at Russell Memorial Park.
- Bathrooms at Russell Park could be updated
- Another bathroom at Russel park with showers and the showers should be free (several counties have free showers) Clark County residents should be able to register for the next year a week earlier than others
- Perhaps improving the swimming area at the campgrounds on the north side of the lake to make it bigger & nicer beach area to promote swimming for not only campers.
- The county has done a great job over the past years upgrading facilities at campgrounds; showers, play ground equipment, etc...

### **Trails, Routes, Hiking, & Cycling**

- Nate, The logging operators continue each year to tear up our trails and unnecessarily remove snow, making stretches dangerous. All of their equipment is capable of operating on snow packed groomed trails without having to plow them down to dirt. Our riding season is short enough with limited snow and this just makes riding in Clark Counties forests less attractive and enjoyable. Thanks for listening.
- More single track for motorcycles. Our 35 miles of trails have little impact compared to the atv/utv trails. And we are sober when we ride
- Would love non mountain bike trails developed in the county and make use of the (Black) river for hiking or biking trails as other cities do.
- More mountain bike trail miles please
- It would be great to see more hiking and biking trails through out our county.
- More MTB trails
- Make sure XC trails are always groomed & accessible for beginner skiers. Bad bear was closed for a season due to logging. Need flat trails also besides the hills
- More ATV/UTV signage
- Smooth out the ATV trails.
- Don't forget about those of us who do not use motors or gears in the woods. Please consider the negative impact of noise and dust on other users of prominent local features like creeks and nunataks when deciding on ATV/UTV routes and consider rerouting the most intrusive existing trails.
- Do not increase any more ATV traffic in County Forest. Need to save and maintain the Sherwood and Mead areas that are free from ATV use for those of use that do not want to deal with them.

- One big concern is that the use of ATV's and UTV's on the county snowmobile trails destroy the trail system with ruts. Please give the snowmobilers that 3 month window to enjoy the trails the way they should be for snowmobiling. Thank you
- Let snowmobiles go on all unplowed roads or trails in the county forest like we use to in the 70s and 80s
- We mostly use county land for horseback riding. We ride more often in county forest than on marked horse trails mostly because the wild rock trails are very buggy in summer. More availability of trails in sandy and less buggy areas would help bring more riders to the area in summertime. (Oak Ridge/Rock Dam especially).
- Levis Mound is a spectacular place. I love to mountain bike but I have shared this place with non-bikers. I have hiked here with my wife and kids, taken co-workers here, and taken my Dad and sister here. Levis has a special combination that not many places in the midwest have: beautiful trails with \*views along with quiet and solitude\*. The geography is also unique. The trails offer many options. There are routes for beginners where I take my kids and new riders and there are also more challenging trails that offer technical challenges along with endurance challenges (that is a good thing). The camp ground at the trail head is also welcome. Showers, flush toilets, and a place to camp :-). I biking or walking to the trails directly from my camp site. Besides, the Whipoorwills and owls are always fun to listen too at night. Thank you for making Levis available for mountain biking. I just bought a fat bike so I look forward to getting up there this winter.
- Allow use of atvs on all trails during hunting season, and off trails to transport deer.

### **General Planning & Marketing**

- It seems Clark County is extremely focused on what is already working. There are some real gems in Clark County, but innovation seems to be an issue.
- I currently don't view Clark County as an outdoor recreation destination and I would like to see that change. Whenever I hike, canoe/kayak, camp, etc. it is rarely in Clark County.
- Promote each community and what they have to offer.
- I'd recommend the County look at the map of parks and move toward ease of access for all residents which would improve quality of life and community.
- There needs to be more information and maps on the county website about county parks/recreation areas. Some of the places listed in this survey I had never heard of before and I live in the county. People are often Googling parks and places to go, so there needs to be a strong online presence, including maps and clear driving directions to these parks so people can easily go there. I think Levis Mound in particular could be promoted more; that has fantastic hiking with so many miles of trails and it seems a lot of people aren't aware of it.
- A more thorough guide for all the activity options and exactly where to find them. I've seen vague lists and lists of facilities, but it is hard to find specifics about exactly what you can do where.
- Most of the activities listed in the previous page should be kept around the parks and not let encroach onto the county forest if there is a plan to develop those. Keep the forest as a forest and not a gym
- Continue to market/advertise what we have. I think far too many do not know what is available to them right in their back yard.
- more kid areas to run and do things
- You have a lot to be proud of! I travel from Janesville, WI and enjoy many of days in Clark County enjoying recreation. Hunting, snowshoeing, fat tire biking, ATV/UTV, camping, cross country skiing...keep up the great work and be proud! Perhaps education based recreation website advertisement/facebook page? Thanks for all you do!
- Please always keep the public lands and county forests in public ownership
- Improve forest control/logging plan - the county is ruining our county forests with logging and deforestation
- We have one of the most beautiful, recreational capable county's in the state. The biggest issue I see is outside of the people who live here and the families that have been coming here for generations we are not doing a good job attracting people into Clark county. If you look at the Hayward area and the Revenue

tourism brings into their local area. Or even tomahawk, Phillips area is the same. I would love to see a advertising campaign targeting the fall colors at wildcat. Maybe consider a music fest at Bruce mound. Targeted advertising to encourage use of the bike areas and atving. The agriculture and forestry our country was founded on is no longer viable to grow our county.

### **Other Activities & Comments**

- Overall I think the Campgrounds and Bruce Mound are great and the workers are real courteous and professional.
- Great job. Thanks for the ATV privilege and wonderful parks.
- Start making snow ASAP at Bruce Mound to open earlier and stay open longer
- Expansion of cell service, mostly in the Clark County Forest in the towns of N \$ S Foster and Butler. With the significant increase in use of ATV/UTV trails in summer and snowmobile trails in winter, the ability to call for help/assistance becomes more necessary. Plus there is the large hunter population that frequents this area.
- Not sure of other camp grounds but Rock Dam and Mead lake are well maintained and accommodating!!!
- Kevin Klimpke does a GREAT job at Mead Lake. He seriously should get a raise for all he does.
- Clark county is doing a great job at Levi's Mounds.
- Increased fish structure and fish population at Lake Arbutus.
- Open bruce mound longer during the day or at night. I hear a lot of complaints on this
- Develop horse resources. Other counties have them. Would be nice not to always have to go to another county to ride safely. Under served so under used.
- Love a refrigerated surface for the hockey rink...it is a great facility with unpredictable and inconsistent ice conditions
- It would be nice to see more things for our kids to do in Clark county that we can let them do and not go broke. Bruce mound is so expensive when you have 4 kids. there is nothing else for them to do that is organized and supervised in the outdoors to do with their friends. It would be nice to see the park and swimming area at Snyder fixed up or the park moved into the campground.
- We have great parks and trails available, we just need people ambitious enough to use them
- We have such a beautiful county, but it is strongly based on ATV/UTV's. Would like to see more promotion of silent sports. Also, have some summer activities at Bruce Mound available in combination with Levis events, perhaps. Maybe a fall chairlift event with warm soups available, etc.
- I appreciate the diversity of options available for people with various outdoor interests. Each of us can pursue our interests without impinging upon the activities of others.
- Clark County has excellant outdoor recreation opportunities, we just need to recognize and utilize them better.
- I would love to see some nature/outdoor education opportunities, both in the summer and during the school year for perhaps some field trips!
- hire back old staff, they knew what the park needed and we enjoyed them more then then the staff you have now. the parks is not a place for high school kids to be working. All they did was ride around on that gator. the bathrooms looked the same after they left. they looked in the door and drove away.. you did have one staff member that did a awesome job, named Brook.
- We love to hike Levis n Wildcat and those trails are great! I also hunt up in those areas so walking them leta me know where the deer are throughout the year.
- If not already in existence, displays of geological history and such things as site acknowledgements of old settlements would be interesting.
- I feel that we have adequate facilities and opportunities, but the maintenance and upkeep needs to improve.

- I think you do a very good job with Clark county.
- A program set up for Clark County residents should have 24 hours more time ahead of non-residents to make camping reservations.
- Open up the CC fairground gates as they used to be. Even walkers have to go around the fairgrounds. As it is now Gross Motors is the only one that gets to use the front gate. Do they have special privileges not allowed to others? It looks really suspicious! Why can't the front gates be open to vehicular traffic anymore. It is no more dangerous to exit there than any of the other nearby streets. The entrance off of Fairground is an exit only. Many vehicles enter that way anyway when the gate is open. Some events even bag the "Do Not Enter" Signs, so vehicles can/will enter using that road. The gate issues at the CC fairgrounds are not uniform and the current policies suck!

## APPENDIX C

### PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

In contrast to County, State, and Federal agencies which have quite varied and extensive recreation and resource protection responsibilities, smaller, local governments are most often concerned with meeting local, daily recreation needs. These local community needs can best be met by providing a variety of parks that serve all age groups of the resident population.

The National Recreational and Park Association published guidelines in 1983 which classified different park areas based on use, service area, size, and desirable site characteristics<sup>5</sup>. This classification system has been largely incorporated into this plan utilizing the following selected definitions of types of parks considered most appropriate for the community. The acreage recommendations are less important than the functions for smaller communities, where a relatively small park can provide important neighborhood and community recreational functions. It is also important to note that all of the following types of parks may incorporate sites or features of social, historical, or cultural significance (e.g., historical marker, war memorial, art display, community bulletin board).

#### MINI-PARKS

A mini-park is a small, outdoor recreation area, typically less than 1-acre in size, that offers specialized facilities providing a single use or very limited number of amenities. Mini-parks will also serve a concentrated or limited population, such as very young children or senior citizens. Mini-parks are typically located in very close proximity to high-density residential development, such as a large apartment complex, townhouse development, or specialized housing for the elderly. However, mini-parks might also serve a principal commercial area with workers and shoppers the primary park visitors. Mini-parks can provide active (e.g., limited playground equipment) or passive (e.g., benches, picnic tables) recreation opportunities. Most mini-parks are for daylight use only and must be easily accessible to their target users.

#### Mini-Parks

- < 1 acres
- specialized
- not multi-use
- targeted users

#### Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

- 15+ acres
- passive & active
- multi-use
- serves a specific neighborhood

#### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

Neighborhood parks and playgrounds are suited for intense development areas and should be easily accessible to their neighborhood population by both pedestrian and bike travel. The service area for neighborhood parks and playgrounds is approximately ¼ to ½ mile, with playground service areas potentially being larger. These facilities are typically for daylight use only, though some recreational court games and skating rings may be lighted. A neighborhood park or playground will typically offer a diversity of recreational amenities and is significantly larger than a mini-park. A desirable size for a neighborhood park and playground offering both passive and

<sup>5</sup> Lancaster, Roger A., editor. "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines." National Recreation and Park Association. Alexandria, VA. 1983.

active recreational opportunities in an area of high-density urban residential development is 15+ acres. However, many neighborhood parks and playgrounds may be smaller, especially in smaller cities and villages. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds may also be provided in conjunction with a school district or other such facility.

A neighborhood park provides open space for passive recreation needs to serve a neighborhood. The physical concept generally involves an imaginatively landscaped natural environment with limited facilities for active use. Site development could include sidewalks or trails for strolling, benches, picnicking areas, and a limited amount of play equipment such as a sandbox, swing, slide, etc.

A neighborhood playground provides an area for active intensive play that serves a neighborhood. The physical concept involves a combination of paved and landscaped areas with an imaginative layout of facilities and equipment. This type of park may include some supervised playground program including games, physical skills, and low-level competition primarily for grade school age children. Activities and equipment may include swings, sandboxes, slides, climbers, fitness units, merry-go-round, etc., picnic tables, benches, grills, and parking. The playground may also include a ball field and basketball court primarily used by neighborhood and school children.

### COMMUNITY PARKS

A community park serves several neighborhoods or the entire community and is generally larger (25+ acres) and much more spacious than a neighborhood park or playground. The community park is designed to serve a full range of ages, including teenagers and adults with various recreational activities. Community parks can include play fields, participation sports areas, (baseball/softball fields, typically designed for organized league play), swimming pools, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball, horseshoe area, and shuffleboard area. Often, community park amenities may be unique or large scale (e.g., water parks) not found elsewhere in a community.

Community parks can also include picnic areas, sanitary facilities, shelter facilities, benches, playground equipment, concession buildings, and grills. The physical setting should be a combination of game areas in a natural or landscaped setting, though a community park may also include prominent natural features such as water bodies. The service radius should be 1 to 2 miles allowing both daylight and evening use. Parking should also be provided in a sufficient amount to accommodate the use and character of the park, but the park should be easily accessible to the neighborhoods served.

#### Community Parks

- 25+ acres
- passive & active
- multi-use
- may have unique and large-scale amenities
- serves multiple neighborhoods or all of the community

### REGIONAL PARKS

A regional park not only serves the entire community, but offers amenities which are an attraction to several communities within a one-hour driving time. In a large County, a regional park may function as a County-wide or community park. Regional parks are very large (200+ acres) and serves some or all types of a community's recreation needs. It can provide a wide range of activities for all age groups or it can be very specific (i.e., a zoo). In addition to some of the facilities provided by other types of parks, regional parks typically encompass or are contiguous to natural resources allowing for nature study, hiking and riding trails, marinas, boat launching, pond fishing, and

**Regional Parks**

- 200+ acres
- passive & active; multi-use
- significant natural resources
- may have unique or large-scale amenities and attractions
- serves a very large urban area or several communities

numerous other nature-based activities. Regional parks often also include large, active play areas and game fields (e.g., soccer fields, basketball/volleyball courts) which allow for spectator viewing.

The physical concept of the regional park is generally a natural area imaginatively landscaped and providing picnicking and other passive activities as well as cultural and active needs served by general-purpose buildings and game fields. Regional parks provide a full range of urban area recreation needs and are used

during both daylight and evening hours. Also, because people would more likely drive to a park of this type, parking and sanitary facilities are necessary.

**SPECIALIZED OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS**

Golf courses, outdoor sports complexes, historic sites, conservancy areas, fairgrounds, and floodplains are examples of specialized recreation facilities and open spaces. Depending on the community, certain school facilities may also be considered specialized recreations facilities.

Most of these specialized facilities have limited active recreation value, are not developed as multi-purpose recreation areas, or are not always available for use by the public. Although such areas are often not included in total park acreage calculations for a community, it must be recognized that specialized areas are an important adjunct to a community's outdoor recreation and open space program.