



# Marquette County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Amended: April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Marquette County Parks and Rural Planning Committee**

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Gerald Hebert  
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**ROLL CALL - COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MARQUETTE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

ROLL CALL

May 17, 2016 Session Resolution No. 21-2016

	YES	NO
<b>SUPERVISORS</b>		
Banicki	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borzick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breitenbach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buchholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floeter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gibeaut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goldsmith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Krentz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raddatz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sanders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skolarz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snyder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thalacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE  
COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
PLAN FOR MARQUETTE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Marquette County is interested in providing adequate park and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors and protecting the county's unique natural history and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, Marquette County has had an outdoor recreation plan since 1999 and renewed in 2009, and

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan must be up to date with State requirements for the County to be eligible for State administered programs, grant opportunities and cost sharing aid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Marquette County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan be adopted on this date and remain effective for a total of five years.

ADOPTED ☒  
DEFEATED ☐

<u>VOTE TALLY</u>	
YES	<u>16</u>
NO	<u>0</u>
ABSENT	<u>1</u>
ABSTAIN	<u>0</u>

INTRODUCED BY:

*Bob Miller*  
*James R. Salmer*

Committee Recommendation:  
Parks & Rural Planning

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
                                  ) SS  
County of Marquette )

I, Gary L. Sorensen, County Clerk of Marquette County, Wisconsin do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed by the Marquette County Board of Supervisors on this date.

5-17-2016 *Gary L. Sorensen*  
Date Gary L. Sorensen, County Clerk

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# Chapter One:

Introduction & Purpose

## **INTRODUCTION**

Parks, natural areas, and other recreational amenities are an important part of life in Marquette County. Although there are a wide variety of elements that comprise a community and define its quality of life, such as employment opportunities, supply and quality of housing, retail locations, governmental services, local schools, cultural and social opportunities, and a quality natural environment, parks and recreational opportunities are one of the only functions of government that visitors and residents of Marquette County can experience and utilize on a regular basis, improving their mental and physical wellbeing. Additionally, the County's parks and open spaces enhance the natural environment, help shape the pattern of development, add to the aesthetic appeal of the County and offer residents and visitors areas for recreation, relaxation, and physical fitness.

Outdoor recreation facilities and numerous natural resources provide a wide range of recreational opportunities in Marquette County. Hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, bird watching, camping, picnicking, hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, ATVing and sight-seeing are just some of the more popular recreational activities. Recreationalists participate in a greater number of activities than their parents of a generation ago and their needs have become more specialized. They tend to place greater emphasis on having a "quality or unique recreational experience" however individually perceived. This often translates into the public's desire for more diverse, often more elaborate, and generally better maintained recreational facilities.

In recent years, local officials have also come to realize that County parks and other recreational resources contribute to local economies as well as providing recreational opportunities. This is particularly true in counties such as Marquette, where abundant natural resources with a unique history attract numerous visitors. Within the past few years, Marquette County has made significant strides in developing its County park facilities and completing an update to the County's 2009-2015 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is a key implementation effort of the County's 2015 Comprehensive Plan update.

The CORP will serve to guide development of the County's parks and recreational amenities for the next five years, and enable Marquette County to apply for grant funds from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The Plan, as designed:

- Evaluates the County's existing parks, park improvements and recreational trails
- Identifies appropriate level of service standards for park lands and recreation facilities
- Identifies and recommends active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities to address the needs of all residents
- Provides the County with a period of eligibility for cost sharing and matching grant assistance through federal and State grant programs administered by the WDNR, and
- Provides a cost summary and timeline for all recommendations, to assist the County with budgetary planning

## **HISTORY OF RECREATIONAL PLANNING**

Marquette County has a history of preparing and maintaining a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. These plans have served to identify and monitor changing recreation needs and provide recommendations for land acquisition and facility development. Marquette County worked with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to prepare a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 1999; Marquette County University of Wisconsin-Extension staff updated this Plan in 2009.

Additionally, the County's Outdoor Recreation Plans have enabled the County to participate in the federally funded Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Program, State of Wisconsin's Stewardship Program and other past and present funding programs administered by the WDNR. Over the years Marquette County had been the recipient of \$681,000 from these funding sources while its municipalities and other special districts have collectively received \$1,124,000 to assist in the acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities, preservation of natural resources and wildlife habitat, and similar projects. Since many of these programs provide matching funds, in most cases effectively doubling the local funding commitment for undertaking these projects, their contribution cannot be overestimated.

## **PLANNING PROCESS**

To ensure that the County's Outdoor Recreation Plan reflected the wishes of its residents; Marquette County has historically relied extensively on the input of a citizens' advisory committee. The County's earlier outdoor recreation plans, prepared in 1999 and 2009, benefited from this input as existing park and recreation facilities were inventoried, countywide park and recreation needs identified, and recommendations for meeting these needs presented.

In May 2015, the Marquette County Parks and Rural Planning Committee created an Ad-Hoc Committee to oversee the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) update process. The CORP Ad-Hoc Committee was comprised of representatives from the County's Parks and Rural Planning Committee, a representative from the County Health Department, and representatives from the City of Montello and Village of Westfield.

The Ad-Hoc Committee conducted the following activities to engage the public and local communities in the Outdoor Recreation Plan update process:

- Ad-Hoc Committee Work Sessions. The Ad-Hoc Committee met five times during the planning process to discuss recreational needs within the County, potential improvements to County managed facilities, and an improvement timeline.
- Communication with local municipalities. Local municipalities were invited to participate in the County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation planning process by including their municipally managed park and recreation sites within the County's plan and by making recommendations on types of recreation to be accommodated within the County.
- A public hearing on the updated Outdoor Recreation Plan. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Parks and Rural Planning Committee held a public hearing to gather input on the updated Marquette County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

In 2016, Marquette County completed an update of the County's 2005 Comprehensive Plan in conformance with section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. This process required the input of the public and local governments in crafting goals and objectives for the Natural and Cultural Resources Elements. The County's Comprehensive Plan, in combination with the Marquette County Land and Water Management Plan, set forth a vision and goals for the development and preservation of natural resources in the County. This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation is more focused on the recreational aspects of the culture and natural resources in Marquette County.

The purpose of updating the County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was to provide a working document for the Land Conservation Department, Parks and Rural Planning Committee and the Marquette County Board, that could be used to develop a course of action for developing and managing Marquette County's park and recreation facilities over the next five years.

Like its predecessors, this version of the Marquette County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan seeks to help preserve the County's natural environment while at the same time encouraging residents and visitors to play, learn, enjoy and live in harmony with the cultural and natural resources found within the County. In addition to setting forth new recommendations based on present needs, Marquette County's Outdoor Recreation Plan will reestablish the County's eligibility for participation in DNR-administered State and federal funding programs for parks and recreation.

The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan will need to be updated at least once every five years to maintain eligibility for grant programs available through the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Ideally, the update should coincide with the update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. The next logical time to update both documents may be after release of the 2020 U.S. Census data.

# Chapter Two:

County Demographics

## A. POPULATION

Marquette County is located in the central portion of Wisconsin. The southern boundary of the County is less than fifty miles north of Madison and the northern boundary of the County is approximately 90 miles south of Wausau. The County's population has grown steadily during the past three decades, as depicted below in Table 2.1, increasing from 8,865 residents in 1970 to an estimated 15,399 residents in 2014, a 58% increase. As depicted below in Table 2.1 Marquette County's population is projected to peak in 2030 with an estimated 17,325 residents, but is then projected to decrease to 17,015 residents in 2040. The County's growth rate of 10% between 2010 and 2040 is comparable to the anticipated 11.7% growth for the State of Wisconsin during this interval.

**TABLE 2.1: COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL POPULATION**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014*	2020*	2030*	2040*
<b>CITY</b>									
Montello	1,082	1,273	1,329	1,397	1,495	1,485	1,550	1,605	1,550
<b>TOWNS</b>									
Buffalo	487	745	792	1,085	1,221	1,233	1,335	1,475	1,500
Crystal Lake	248	332	400	513	484	486	505	530	510
Douglas	603	764	684	768	725	724	735	745	695
Harris	429	657	715	729	790	789	840	890	870
Mecan	397	599	541	726	686	690	725	760	740
Montello	531	640	940	1,043	1,033	1,033	1,075	1,115	1,065
Moundville	399	470	457	574	552	555	570	590	565
Neshkoro	217	370	489	595	561	554	570	575	540
Newton	320	460	470	550	547	543	570	595	575
Oxford	385	720	637	859	885	887	950	1,020	1,010
Packwaukee	668	998	1,135	1,297	1,416	1,412	1,510	1,615	1,595
Shields	384	419	408	456	550	547	595	655	665
Springfield	322	501	480	628	830	833	920	1,030	1,055
Westfield	343	538	520	689	866	875	960	1,075	1,105
<b>VILLAGES</b>									
Endeavor	328	335	316	440	468	462	490	520	510
Neshkoro	385	386	384	453	434	429	440	445	415
Oxford	453	432	499	536	607	603	645	685	680
Westfield	884	1,033	1,125	1,217	1,254	1,259	1,330	1,400	1,370
<b>MARQUETTE COUNTY</b>	8,865	11,672	12,321	14,555	15,404	15,399	16,315	17,325	17,015

*Population estimate and projections from the Wisconsin Department of Administration*

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970-2014 and the Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2015*

The City of Montello is the largest municipality in the County, with a year 2014 estimated population of 1,485 residents, the Village of Westfield, towns of Packwaukee, Buffalo, and Montello all have populations in excess of 1,000 residents. The most populous areas of the County are near the City of Montello and Village of Westfield. Areas with scenic beauty and surface water have tended to draw incoming residents to Marquette County. This trend is expected to continue with the Towns of Buffalo and Packwaukee being projected to be the most populous communities in 2030.

Marquette County has a large seasonal population; the 2010 U.S. Census reported that nearly a quarter of the County's housing stock is used on a seasonal basis. This large seasonal population is an important consideration when planning the County's open space and recreational needs.

Marquette County is also within an hour's drive to Madison and the Wisconsin Dells areas, within two hours of Milwaukee and attracts a sizable number of visitors from the Chicago metropolitan area. These facts suggest that on a typical summer weekend, many of the recreationalists in Marquette County are visitors from other communities.

## I. Population by Age

The breakdown of Marquette County's population by age group in Table 2.2 reveals a disproportionately high percentage in the over 65 age group and a disproportionately low percentage in the 25-44 age cohort. This is reflected in the County's median age of 48 years, which is almost a decade older than the State's median age of 38.5.

The population of Marquette County's incorporated areas tends to be younger than the population residing in the Towns. The average median age in the incorporated areas in 2010 was 40.7, with the Village of Westfield being the youngest community with a median age of 36.8.

**TABLE 2.2: COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE COHORT**

MARQUETTE COUNTY			STATE OF WISCONSIN	
Age	Number	%	Number	%
Under 5	801	5.2	358,443	6.3
5 to 14	1,719	11.1	744,544	13.1
15 to 24	1,541	10	785,761	13.8
25 to 44	3,049	19.8	1,447,360	25.4
45 to 54	2,655	17.2	873,753	15.4
55 to 64	2,393	15.6	699,811	12.3
Over 65	3,246	21.1	777,314	13.7
TOTAL	15,404	100%	5,686,986	100%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010*

Marquette County's aging population influences the recommendations found within this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and further prioritizes the development of accessible recreational opportunities within the County. Additionally, a priority of the 2015 Marquette County Comprehensive Plan update was to attract and retain younger residents, providing family oriented recreational amenities is a necessary component in accomplishing this.

## II. Ethnicity

As part of the 2010 U.S. Census, most of Marquette County residents reported, "White" as their only race (96.9%); followed by "Hispanic or Latino" (2.5%). "Black or African American," "Asian," "American Indian," and "Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander" made up the remaining 1% of the population. Hispanics or Latinos continue to be the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in Marquette County over the past decade, from 215 people in 2000 to 391 people in 2010, an increase of almost 55%.

## **B. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY**

Marquette County had a total of 3,653 jobs in 2013. The County's job base is centered in the education, health, and manufacturing industries. According to the State's Department of Workforce Development (WisDWD), manufacturing is the largest industry segment within the County.

Generally industrial and commercial development is concentrated in the County's City and Villages, with the City of Montello and the Village of Westfield providing most of the County's commercial and retail development.

As of 2010, the largest private employers in Marquette County included: Brakebush Brothers, Inc. (poultry processing) located in the Town of Westfield along Interstate 39; Gumz Muck Farms LLC (crop farming); Wisconsin Illinois Senior (nursing care); TW Design and Manufacturing LLC (machining shop) located in the City of Montello; Northland Community Services, Inc. (individual and family services); and Arimon Technologies Inc. (electric component manufacturing) in the City of Montello.



# Chapter Three:

Natural Resources

Marquette County is home to a range of unique natural features, cultural resources, and unique wildlife and plant communities. Many of the County's unique natural resources are also sensitive areas not best suited to intensive recreational development.

Most of the land surface of Marquette County was formed by glacial activity. Recessional moraines, drumlins, eskers, and other landforms contrast with large lacustrine basins, creating a landscape with an interesting contrast of rolling hills, numerous small lakes, and large expanses of flat and often wet areas. The western portion of the County is covered by a thick mantle of glacial till referred to as terminal moraine. Within the moraine, glacial lakebeds exist, now reflected in marshland and scattered areas of red clay. The remainder of the County has a shallower mantle of drift, referred to as ground moraine, associated with large tracts of marsh deposits.

The steeper hillsides in Marquette County are typically wooded while large marshes and wetlands occupy the flatter areas. Isolated granite monadnocks, such as the quarry hill in Montello and Observatory Hill, are other important natural and cultural features. These natural features influence the County's land use pattern and directly affect the areas that appeal to and are available for recreationalists.

## A. SURFACE WATER

### I. Lakes

There are 190 lakes in Marquette County totaling over 5,000 acres of surface area, 61 of these lakes are named and included in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources database. Except for several river impoundments, natural lakes in Marquette County tend to be small; only two natural lakes lying entirely within Marquette County exceed 100 acres in area.

The County's largest natural lake, Lake Puckaway (5,014 acres) is primarily located in neighboring counties. Buffalo Lake, an impoundment lake created by the Fox River Dam in Montello is the largest impoundment lake within the County, measuring approximately 12 miles long and 2,179 acres in area. Lakes that are 50 acres and less in area account for greater than 75% of the total number of lakes in Marquette County. Table 3.1 represents an inventory of Marquette County lakes, including summary data by size, depth and type:

**TABLE 3.1: COUNTY LAKES**

LAKE	TYPE	AREA (acres)	DEPTH (feet)	PUBLIC ACCESS
Puckaway	Widening of Fox River	5013.45	5	Yes
Buffalo	Impoundment on Fox River	2178.9	15	Yes
Mason	Impoundment on Big Spring Creek	857.0	10	Yes
Montello	Impoundment on Montello River	286.0	17	Yes
Harrisville	Impoundment on Montello River	245.0	10	Yes
Lawrence	Impoundment of Duck Creek	231.0	12	Yes
Neshkoro	Impoundment of White River and Lunch Creek	208.5	12	Yes
Dates Millpond	Impoundment on French Creek	187.9	6	No
Tuttle	Landlocked in Ground Moraine	150.92	36	Yes
Pleasant	Marl Bottom, Seepage Lake	126.5	30	Yes

Crystal Lake	Spring Fed in Ground Moraine	119.3	60	Limited
Moon	Basin in the Terminal Moraine	84.0	13	Yes
Sharon	Bordering Ground and Terminal Moraines	58.4	30	Yes
Neenah (Oxford Millpond)	Impoundment of Neenah Creek	54.1	15	Limited
Silver	Landlocked in Terminal Moraine	52	10	No
Mud Lake	Marsh Deposits	50.0	4	No
Kilby	Terminal Moraine	50.0	28	Yes
Fenner	Seepage	46.6	19	Yes
Mud Lake (Westfield)	Shallow Seepage	45.0	Unknown	No
Pine	Terminal Moraine	37	30	No
School Section Lake	Landlocked in Terminal Moraine	37	10	No
Mud Lake (N.E. of Montello)	Marsh Deposits in Ground Moraine	34.0	2	No
Emrick Lake	Kettle Lake	32.3	79	No
Emery	Impoundment on Laing Creek	31.5	9	Yes
Ennis	Kettle Lake	28.9	30	Yes
Mulhern	Kettle Lake in Ground Moraine	28.0	32	Yes
Echo (Peters) Lake (2)	Kettle Lake	27.0	18	No
Comstock	Terminal Moraine	25.8	30	Yes
Metcalf	Kettle Lake in Terminal Moraine	24.4	32	No
Twin (East)	Kettle Lake in Terminal Moraine	24	8	Limited
Sadow	Landlocked Kettle Lake	19.2	20	No
Spring (East)	Kettle Lake in Terminal Moraine	17.13	50	No
Ogle Pond	Basin in the Terminal Moraine	16.8	15	No
Swamp	Marshy Depression	16.4	7	No
Twin (West)	Kettle Lake	15	24	No
Madden Lakes (Thompson 2)	Kettle Lake in Ground Moraine	14.8	38	Limited
Imm Lake	Ground Moraine	13.8	12	No
Clearwater	Terminal Moraine	13.6	15	No
Bright	Terminal Moraine	12.8	14	No
Oxford	Landlocked Kettle Lake	11.3	49	Yes
Cotters Lake	Kettle Lake	10.9	30	No
Burnita	Kettle Lake	10.4	8	Yes
Mud Lake (Dagner)	Terminal Moraine	10.2	9	No
Sache Pond	Landlocked in Terminal Moraine	10	6	No
Echo Lake (1)	Kettle Lake	8.5	25	No
Sandy	Landlocked Kettle Lake	8.09	12	No
Needham Pond	Wetland Pond	7.7	8	Limited
Smith	Slough	7.48	13	No

Spring (West)	Kettle Lake	7.03	25	No
Christensen	Spring Fed, Marl Bottom	6.2	11	No
Goodhue	Depression	6.2	16	No
Mud Lake (Harley's)	Terminal Moraine	5.5	6	No
McCall	Kettle Lake	5.2	37	Yes
Little	Kettle Lake	5.0	62	No
Big Pine	Terminal Moraine	4.7	12	No
Mud Lake (Page Creek)	Terminal Moraine	4.6	3	No
Madden Lakes (Thompson 4)	Kettle Lake in Ground Moraine	4.5	18	No
Mud Lake	Unknown	3.6	Unknown	No
Polly	Base of Terminal Moraine	2.82	6	No
Larch	Kettle Lake	2.0	18	No
Madden Lakes (Thompson 3)	Kettle Lake in Ground Moraine	2.0	21	No

Source: Wisconsin DNR Wisconsin Water Search, 2015

## II. Streams

Virtually all of Marquette County drains into the Fox River, one of the County's only major streams. The impounded portion of the River, Buffalo Lake, accommodates powerboat use, while the remaining portions of the River are suitable for small/non-motorized watercraft. Other important streams in Marquette County include the Montello, Mecan and White Rivers, and the Neenah and Lawrence/Westfield Creeks. Smaller streams and lakes throughout the County provide tremendous recreational opportunities for both public and private use. There are more than 27 public boat launch facilities providing access to Marquette County lakes and rivers.

**TABLE 3.2: MARQUETTE COUNTY STREAMS**

STREAM	LENGTH*	DNR CLASSIFICATION	TROUT CLASS
Neenah Creek	38.78	Exceptional Resource Water (portion)	Portions Class I and III
Mecan River	28.97	Outstanding Resource Water (portion)	Portion Class II
Grand River	21		
Klawitter Creek	16.75		Portion Class II
Fox River	16.5		
Chaffee Creek	15.7		Majority Class I
Tagatz	14.99	Outstanding Resource Water	Class I
Montello River	14		
Black Creek	13		
Caves Creek	12.1	Exceptional Resource Water	Class I
French Creek	12		
Lunch Creek	11.6		Class II
O'Keefe Creek	11.32		Portion Class II
Ox Creek	6.29		Portion Class II

Wedde	5.14		Class II
Page Creek	5		
Little Lunch Creek	4		
South Branch Neenah Creek	3.2		
Allen Creek	3		
Lawrence/Westfield Creek	2 miles in County (4.4 total)	Exceptional/Outstanding Water	
Graham Creek	2		
Mad River	2		
Little Pine Creek	0.9		Class I

\*Does not necessarily indicate portion within Marquette County

Source: Wisconsin DNR Wisconsin Water Search, 2015

## B. LAND COVER

Marquette County is a primarily rural County, greater than 30% of the County is forested, 30% is in cropland use, and only 2% of the County is covered with surface water. Additionally, 30% of the County contains hydric or wetland soils. The most extensive wetland systems are found in the northeastern and southwestern portions of the County.

According to the 2009 Marquette County Land and Water Resources Management Plan, approximately one third of the County (95,000 acres) is covered by woodlands. County upland woods contain mostly Oak, Pine and central hardwoods, while the lowlands contain mostly Tamarack, Black Spruce and bottomland hardwoods. The majority of the County is made up of “scrub oak,” which has a low timber value. Forest management in the County can be challenging, as scattered development has led to fragmentation of wooded areas. As of April 2014, there were over 19,459 acres of privately owned forestland in Marquette County enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law (FCL) or Managed Forest Law (MFL) program, both administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

# Chapter Four:

Goals and Objectives for Outdoor Recreation in Marquette  
County

**Goal #1: Develop and maintain a comprehensive system of parks, trails and recreational areas that facilitate a wide range of recreational activities for Marquette County residents and visitors.**

Objectives:

- 1.1 Provide a broad variety of park and recreation facilities including: active and passive recreation; multi-season outdoor uses; multiple use activities; facilities which are accessible to all, including youth, elderly, and handicapped persons.
- 1.2 Use sound planning principals in the design and development of all parks and park facilities. As a part of this objective, ensure that both initial and long term project costs are calculated and considered when contemplating land acquisition and development.
- 1.3 Provide recreation facilities that are identified to be lacking or in short supply.
- 1.4 Identify and establish priorities for acquiring or developing needed recreation areas and facilities.
- 1.5 Encourage maximum and appropriate use of all public recreation lands within the County.
- 1.6 Maintain an appropriate level of public access to rivers, lakes and streams to maximize their potential as recreational resources.
- 1.7 Link major County and community recreational areas and trail systems by utilizing natural watercourses and transportation or utility rights of way.
- 1.8 Continue to provide a high standard of maintenance in the County park system as a way of promoting the County's park and recreation facilities.
- 1.9 Actively seek funding sources to supplement the County's recreation budget in order to maintain a high quality park and recreation system. This includes maintaining eligibility for various federal and State recreation grant-in-aid programs and actively seeking such monies as a principal method of implementing park projects.

**Goal #2: Recognize, promote and support the park system and recreational facilities provided by County villages, towns and the City of Montello as the primary provider of active recreational facilities within Marquette County.**

Objectives:

- 2.1 Encourage cooperation and coordination among local units of government in developing park or recreation facilities to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the public investment in parks and recreation. Consider the development of joint recreation facilities to more equally distribute the financial burden of providing recreational amenities.
- 2.1 Plan, designate and develop non-motorized routes to municipal and County parks and connections to trails and recreational facilities in neighboring jurisdictions.

**Goal #3: Establish Marquette County as a destination for nature and heritage based recreation in South-Central Wisconsin.**

- 3.1 Continue and expand the park system's role in providing environmental, cultural and historic education.
- 3.2 When developing park facilities, actively seek amenities and improvements that fit in the natural environment and provide a nature based recreational experience.
- 3.3 Develop a park and recreational system that protects and enhances Marquette County's unique history and cultural resources.
- 3.4 Recognize the Marquette County Comprehensive Plan and the Land and Water Management Plan as the primary policy documents guiding the preservation and development of the County's natural resources.

# Chapter Five:

## Recreational Land and Facility Needs



## A. RECREATIONAL LAND DEMAND

To determine how much land is needed to meet recreational demand, it is necessary to identify surpluses and deficiencies in open-space acreage for both active and passive recreational activities and to determine how well various public and private providers are fulfilling their responsibilities in providing recreation land. The location of parks is also important when determining how well each area of the County is served. Finally, an analysis of specific recreation facilities available in the County is needed to determine which facilities are not available or in short supply. Based on this analysis, needs for any new County parks or additional recreation facilities can be identified.

Acreage and service area standards help identify park land needs, while specific activity standards help identify facility needs. It should be noted, however, that in addition to activity standards, emphasis is placed on what local residents believe recreational facility needs are in the County. In other words, local citizen participation is an important part of the needs analysis.

To provide a generalized determination of the overall need for park and recreation land, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has established the following guidelines:

To meet COUNTY / REGIONAL open space needs, 100 acres of park and recreation land should be provided for every 1,000 residents. This acreage should be comprised of:

- 70 acres of passive recreational open space per 1,000 capita (This includes national, state, county, and school forests, state wildlife and fisheries areas, state natural areas, etc.)
- 30 acres of active recreational open space per 1,000 capita (This includes state and county parks, public golf courses, campgrounds, swimming areas, etc.)

Applying these standards to Marquette County's 2010 resident and seasonal population estimates indicate a demand for 2,396 total acres of recreation land, comprised of 1,525 acres for passive use and 653 for active use. When applied to the County's population projections, land demand peaks to 2,630 acres in 2030 (Table 5.1), with a total increase of 149 acres for passive recreation, and 64 acres for active recreation.

**TABLE 5.1: RECREATIONAL LAND DEMAND**

YEAR	POPULATION		DEMAND (in acres)		
	Resident	Seasonal*	Passive	Active	Total
2010	15,404	6,378	1,525	653	2,178
2020	16,315	6,435**	1,592	683	2,275
2030	17,325	6,586**	1,674	717	2,391
2040	17,015	6,194**	1,625	696	2,321

\*Seasonal population represents the number of vacant structures identified within the U.S. Census multiplied by the County's average household size

\*\*Seasonal population and household size is projected at the same rate as the resident population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey, State of Wisconsin DOA 2015

## B. RECREATIONAL LAND PROVIDED

Table 5.2 below, provides a summary of park and recreation land in Marquette County. The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources manages the vast majority of the land available for public recreation in Marquette County. The majority of this land is relatively undeveloped and available for hiking, wildlife appreciation, hunting, trapping, fishing, and small watercraft use.

Marquette County owns and manages over 180-acres for passive recreation. John Muir Memorial Park is the largest park in the County's system, constituting 166 acres. The remaining 14 acres of Marquette County managed recreational land is primarily comprised of boat launch facilities and water access points within the highway right-of-ways.

**Passive Recreation** is an activity that does not require prepared facilities. Wildlife viewing, hiking, hunting, and swimming are examples of passive recreational activities.

**Active Recreation** is a structured activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment. Active recreational activities include: baseball, soccer, golf, and skiing.

Marquette County's towns, villages, and the City of Montello provide the only active recreational land within the County. The largest of these sites is Pioneer Park in the Village of Westfield and City Park in Montello. These sites are community parks providing a full range of active recreation amenities including ball fields, play equipment, and picnic areas.

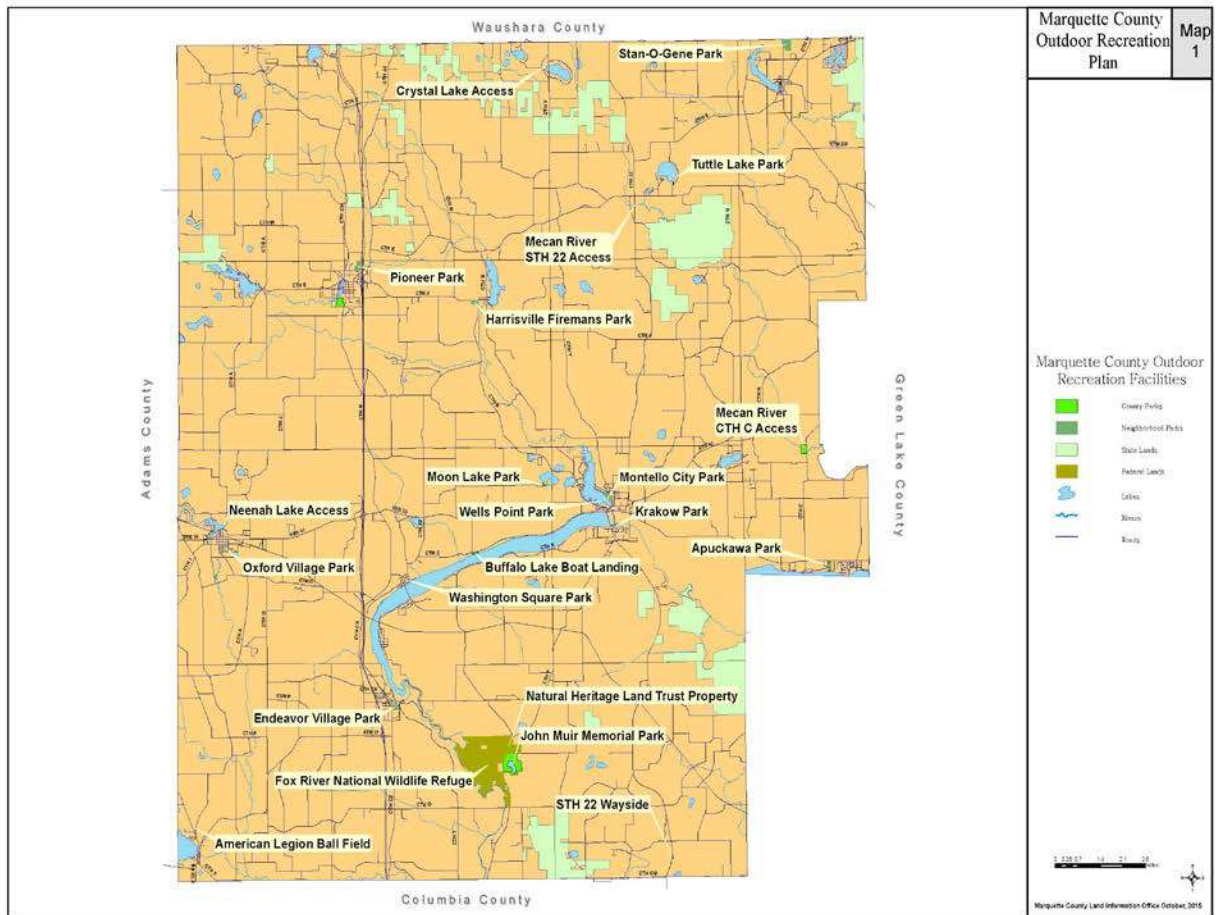
**TABLE 5.2: MARQUETTE COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION LAND**

	PASSIVE ACRES	ACTIVE ACRES
<b>FEDERAL</b>	1,054	0
<b>STATE</b>	13,382	0
<b>LAND TRUST LANDS*</b>	198	0
<b>MARQUETTE COUNTY</b>		
John Muir County Park	166	0
Buffalo Lake Access	3	0
Moon (Birch) Lake Access	2	0
Tuttle Lake Access	0.5	0
Crystal Lake Access	0.5	0
Nennah Lake Access	0.5	0
Lake Puckaway Access	7.9	0
New County Park in Montello (with DNR Land)	20	6
<b>MARQUETTE COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>200.4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MUNICIPALITIES**</b>		
Pioneer Park (V. Westfield)	0	35.4
Lion's Park (V. Endeavor)	0	10
Village Park (V. Oxford)	0	7.5
Harrisville's Fireman's Park (T. Harrisville)	0	6.2
Montello City Park (C. Montello)	0	22
Stan-O-Gene Park	69	30
<b>MUNICIPAL TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>111.1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,903</b>	<b>123.1</b>

*\*This only includes Land Trust lands available for public recreation*

*\*\*This is not a comprehensive listing of the municipally owned facilities in Marquette County, however, it reflect sites that greater than 5-acres in area*

MAP 1: Marquette County Outdoor Recreation Facilities



## C. RECREATIONAL LAND NEEDS

Recreational land need is determined by analyzing the land available in a community for active and passive recreation versus the amount of land demanded by the community. According to national standards for the provision of recreational land and Marquette County's projected population, Marquette County has a need for 1,593 acres of passive recreation land and 683 acres for active recreation in 2020.

**Table 5.3: Recreation Land Needs**

YEAR	DEMAND (in acres)			SUPPLY (In acres)			SURPLUS OR DEFICENCY	
	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active
2010	1,525	653	2,178	14,903	117	15,021	13,378	-536
2020	1,592	683	2,275	14,903	117	15,021	13,311	-566
2030	1,674	717	2,391	14,903	117	15,021	13,229	-600
2040	1,625	696	2,321	14,903	117	15,021	13,278	-579

As depicted in Table 5.3, there are currently 14,883 acres available in Marquette County for passive recreation, constituting a surplus supply of 13,358 acres. In stark contrast only 111 acres are provided for active recreation constituting a shortage of 542 acres provided for active recreation in Marquette County.

The shortage of active recreational land in Marquette County is particularly concerning due to several other factors, including a lack of linear recreational trails and a relatively low County Health ranking. Active recreational facilities could help decrease the County's obesity rate, which in 2015 was higher than the State and National percentages, while also increasing the overall County wellbeing.

## D. RECREATION LAND LOCATIONAL NEED

**Greater Community Parks** typically range from 50-500 acres in area and provide a range of recreational opportunities such as hiking trails, picnic areas, swimming, boat access, camping, and play equipment. They generally serve residents within a 7-12 mile radius from the site.

Additionally, facilities that are difficult to access or are not easily accessible by non-motorized transportation may not serve the County as well as facilities served by major arterials with appropriate accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Map 2: Greater Community and Community Park Service Area, depicts the location of Greater Community and Community Parks in Marquette County, along with a buffer depicting a three mile

The location of recreational areas is almost equally important as the amount and type of facilities provided. Parks and recreational facilities located far from population centers and residents' homes may deter potential recreationalists and see little use.

**Community Parks** typically range from 5-20 acres in area and serve a 3-5 mile radius. They provide a range of recreational opportunities including: large play structures, game courts, ball fields, trails, and picnic areas. Pioneer Park in the Village of Westfield is an excellent example of a Community Park.

radius and a five mile radius from the Parks.

John Muir Memorial Park is the only facility in Marquette County fitting the definition of a Greater Community Park. Although John Muir Memorial Park does not contain the infrastructure typically associated with a Greater Community Park, the cultural and historic significance of the Site makes it a destination serving the entirety of Marquette County and beyond.

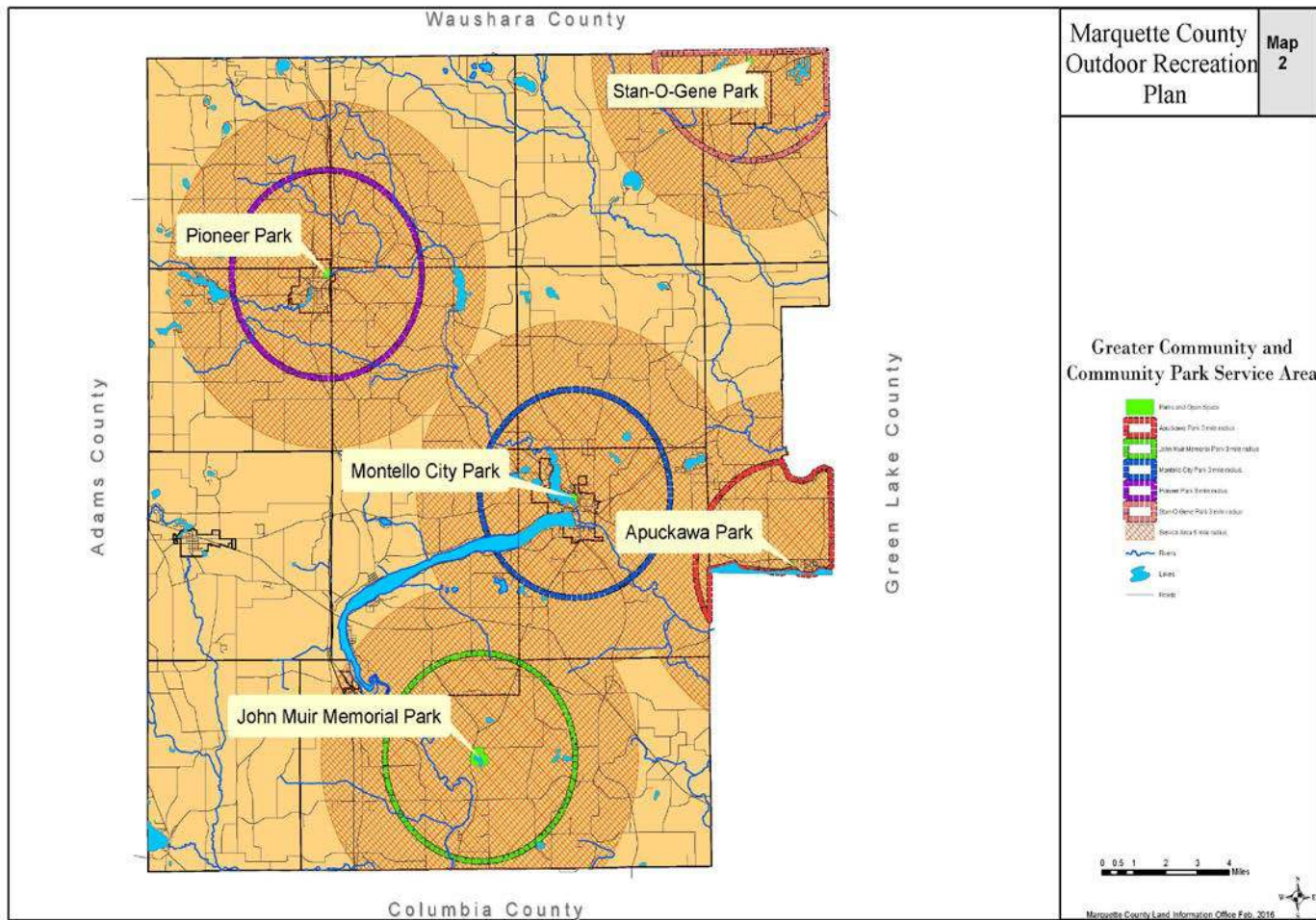
**Neighborhood Parks** typically range from 3-10 acres in area and serve the immediate neighborhood or community. They often provide ball fields, play equipment, and picnic areas. Washington Square Park in Packwaukee is an excellent example of a Neighborhood Park.

In Marquette County, there are four Community Parks: City Park in Montello, Pioneer Park in Westfield, Stan-O-Gene Park in Neshkoro and Apuckawa Park east of Montello on Lake Puckaway. Apuckawa Park does not meet the strict definition of a Community Park, however, the County believes its historic and scenic location on Lake Puckaway makes it a site that serves a geographical area greater than the immediate vicinity. As detailed in Chapter 6,

Marquette County has outlined several improvements to Apuckawa Park that would further establish its role as a Community Park.

Although there are other municipal park facilities in Packwaukee, Harrisville, and Oxford, these are smaller in scale and serve the specific municipality or immediate geographic area and are classified as neighborhood parks.

MAP 2: COUNTY AND COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREA



# Chapter Six:

Publically Owned Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## **A. FEDERALLY OWNED LAND IN MARQUETTE COUNTY**

The Fox River National Wildlife Refuge is the only federally owned recreational site in Marquette County. The Wildlife Refuge encompasses 1,054-acres along County Trunk Highway F in the Town of Buffalo directly across from John Muir Memorial Park. The Fox River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1979 with the express intent of providing habitat for the Greater Sandhill Crane. The Fox River National Wildlife Refuge is closed to the public, with the exception of licensed deer hunters during archery and gun hunting seasons.

## **B. STATE MANAGED RECREATIONAL LAND IN MARQUETTE COUNTY**

According to the *Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2011-2016)*, the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) manages a total of 13,382-acres in Marquette County. This includes 7,137-acres of Wildlife Area, 4,498-acres of Fishery Area, and 1,746-acres of Natural Area. It should be noted that the majority of the land managed by the WDNR has limited recreation development potential due to the presence of wetland or hydric soils or other environmentally sensitive features. Due to these characteristics, the majority of these sites should remain in their undeveloped, natural state.

### **I. State of Wisconsin Fishery and Wildlife Areas**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources manages the following Fishery and Wildlife areas within Marquette County:

- Andrew Krakow Public Access and Fishery Area is located in the City of Montello on Buffalo Lake. The Site was refurbished in 2014 and includes a dual boat launch, two fishing piers, a fish passageway into Buffalo Lake, a canoe portage, picnic benches and chairs in honor of fallen Conservation Officer Andy Krakow. This area is currently managed by Marquette County.
- Caves Creek Fishery Area contains Caves Creek, a high quality trout stream that supports natural brook trout reproduction. The Fishery is 823 acres in area and is located northwest of the Village of Westfield. The Area is comprised of six non-contiguous areas with parking provided at four of the parcels. The Caves Creek Fishery Area accommodates numerous passive outdoor recreation activities including canoeing, fishing, wildlife appreciation, hunting, trapping, hiking, and snowshoeing.
- Germania Wildlife Area, a 2,400-acre WDNR owned property located approximately 5 miles west of the Village of Neshkoro. The Germania Wildlife Area consists of open marsh/wet meadow, tamarack swamp, upland prairie and shrub-carr. The Germania Wet Prairie State Natural Area is located within the Wildlife Area. The Germania Wildlife Area accommodates numerous passive recreation activities including fishing, wildlife appreciation, hunting, trapping, hiking, snowshoeing, a scenic driving route, and snowmobiling.
- Grand River Lock and Dam is a WDNR Fishery area on the Upper Fox River and is located southeast of the City of Montello, in the Town of Montello. The Grand River Lock and Dam is comprised of two boat launch above the former dam on the Upper Fox River and one boat launch on the Grand River. Ample off-street parking, portable toilet, and an ADA compliant pathway and fishing pier are also found on site.
- Grand River Marsh Wildlife Area, a 7,000-acre WDNR owned property, primarily located in neighboring Green Lake County near Lake Puckaway. A small portion of the property is located in Marquette County between Fur Drive and County Road B. The Area consists of open marsh/emergent cattail wetland, upland prairie/oak savannah and shrub carr/wet meadow and provides passive recreational activities.
- John A Lawton Fishery Area is located on either side of County Trunk Highway Z in the Town of Newton. The Fishery Area is approximately 200-acres in size and is comprised of



approximately 50% upland prairie and 50% swamp hardwoods. The Fishery accommodates passive recreational activities including hunting, trapping, hiking, snowshoeing, and wildlife appreciation.

- Lawrence Creek Fish and Wildlife Area, located in the Town of Westfield in northwestern Marquette County, the Area provides a venue for numerous passive recreational uses including nature appreciation, cross-county skiing, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. The Fish and Wildlife Area surrounds Lawrence Creek and its headwaters, with a portion of the area located in neighboring Adams County.

## II. State Natural Areas

In addition to the parcels of land owned by the State of Wisconsin in Marquette County described above, the State Natural Areas program designates areas of particular natural significance within the County. These areas may be part of greater Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) land holdings or individual sites. The WDNR State Natural Areas program protects outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape, significant geological formations and archeological sites. These areas provide opportunities for research and education, preservation of genetic and biological diversity and provide some of the last habitat for rare plants and animals. There are 11 areas in Marquette County designated by the State of Wisconsin as State Natural Areas. The WDNR owned sites generally accommodate nature appreciation, fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing on unimproved trails, hunting and trapping.



- Comstock Bog-Meadow, a 537-acre site featuring a large quaking sedge meadow marsh. The Area is owned by the WDNR and is located north of Montello on Highway 22.
- French Creek North, a 1,439-acre site including a large wetland complex comprised of southern sedge meadow, calcareous fen, rich tamarack swamp, shrub-carr, emergent marsh, and springs. The French Creek North State Natural Area is owned by the WDNR and is located in the Town of Buffalo between 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Road. The French Creek North State Natural Area provides space for nature appreciation, hiking, fishing, cross-country skiing on un-groomed trails, hunting and trapping.
- Germania Wet Prairie, a 95-acre diverse wet to wet-mesic prairie within the Germania Marsh Wildlife area.
- Lawrence Creek, a 288-acre cold hard water trout stream located within the Lawrence Creek Wildlife area within the Town of Springfield.
- Mecan River Pine-Oak Forest, a 141-acre area within the Mecan River Fishery Area in the Town of Crystal Lake. The Area is owned by the WDNR and contains the only known old-growth white pine/black oak forest in the Central Sand Hills Ecological Landscape.
- John Muir Memorial Park, the State Natural Area encompasses 27-acres of land, primarily surrounding Ennis Lake, of the Marquette County owned facility.
- Observatory Hill, a 175-acre site containing Observatory Hill, an isolated outcropping of porphyritic rhyolite that rises 300-feet above the surrounding area. The Area is owned by the WDNR and features a designated hiking trail leading to the summit. The Site is located near the terminus of Gillette Avenue, in the Town of Buffalo south of the City of Montello.

- Page Creek Marsh, a 643-acre wetland preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy on the south shore of Buffalo Lake in the Town of Packwaukee.
- Summerton Bog, a 428-acre site owned by the Nature Conservancy containing a glacial lakebed with muck and peat soils. The Area is located in the Town of Oxford south of Freedom Road.
- Upper Fox Headwaters, two separate areas in northern Marquette County constituting 195 acres and comprised of the three district units of the Upper Fox Headwaters: Zinke Lake, Upper Chaffee Creek Meadow, and Caves Creek.
- Wedde Creek Savanna, owned by the WDNR and located in the Mecan River Fishery Area, this 38-acre natural area provides a premier example of a Black Oak Savannah.

## C. COUNTY OWNED PARK AND RECREATION SITES

Marquette County owns seven signed and maintained recreational facilities; additionally the County has two potential recreation sites that are currently unmaintained or unsigned.

**TABLE 5.1: MARQUETTE COUNTY OWNED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

PROPERTY	ADDRESS	SIZE	TOILET	LANDING	TRAIL	PARKING	SWIMMING	FISHING
John Muir Memorial Park	N1424 CTH F	166	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Apuckawa Park	W599 Toepper Dr.	7.9	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Tuttle Lake Park	N7821 Tuttle Lake Rd.	0.5	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Moon/Birch Lake Access	N4194 Fern Ave.	2	✓	✓		✓		✓
Buffalo Lake Boat Landing	W5091 CTH C	3	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Mecan River Highway C Access	CTH C @ Mecan River Bridge	19.5		✓		✓		
Mecan River Highway 22 Access*	Highway 22	In R.O.W.		✓		✓		✓
Neenah Lake Access*	CTH A N. of Oxford	0.5						✓
Highway 22 Wayside	Highway 22	1.6	✓			✓		
Crystal Lake Access*		0.5		✓				✓
New Montello County Park/Andrew Krakow Area	Highway 22	26		✓		✓		✓

*\*Currently either unmapped and/ or not maintained*

Following is an overview of each site maintained by Marquette County, including a description of available amenities, potential areas for improvement, and a brief summary of the natural and/or historic features that are present on the site.

### **John Muir Memorial Park**

**LOCATION:** John Muir Memorial Park is located in the south central portion of Marquette County on CTH F, about eight miles south of the City of Montello in the Town of Buffalo.

**ACREAGE:** 166 acres

**ADDRESS:** N1424 CTH F

**HISTORIC AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** The Park is the site of the boyhood home of renowned American naturalist John Muir, who is widely recognized as the “Father of our National Park System.” Much of Muir’s philosophy on conservation and land ethic was shaped by his experiences on this land and Ennis (Muir) Lake, which is enclosed within the Park’s boundary. While serving the passive recreational needs of County residents, John Muir Memorial Park is a regional and Statewide attraction for tourists seeking to visit the boyhood home of John Muir.

The Park has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service and a portion of the Park has been designated a State Natural Area by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Two miles of the Ice Age Trail are formally designated within the Park’s boundary, at the time of drafting of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2016; this was the only formally designated segment of the Trail within Marquette County.

**NATURAL FEATURES:** Ennis Lake, a 30-acre spring and seepage fed lake with a marl bottom and maximum depth of 30-feet is entirely encompassed within the Park’s boundary. The Park is home to a diversity of plant communities including rich fen, sedge meadow, bog, shrub-carr, sand blow and wet-mesic prairie.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT:** Due to the historical and cultural significance of the Park, it is the County’s intent to honor the legacy of John Muir by maintaining the site in its undeveloped natural state while still accommodating visitors seeking a peaceful passive recreation experience.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Hiking, Bird Watching, Nature Appreciation, Non-Motorized Boating, Fishing, Snowshoeing and Geocaching

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Picnic Shelter, Improved Trail, Interpretive Trail, Pit Toilet, Improved Parking Area, Small Watercraft Boat Ramp, and Historical Marker

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:**

- Lack of potable water at site
- Trail signage has faded and is difficult to read
- 15X25 Picnic Shelter is too small to adequately cover picnic tables

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:**

- ✓ Construction of well
- ✓ Sign replacement

- ✓ Picnic shelter expansion



*Aerial View of John Muir Memorial Park*





*Hiking Trail*



*Picnic Tables and Shelter*



*Pit Toilet*



*Boat Launch and Fishing Pier*



*Picnic Shelter*

## **Apuckawa/Lake Puckaway Park**

**LOCATION:** Apuckawa Park is located in the east-central portion of Marquette County in the Town of Mecan. The Park is on the north shore of Lake Puckaway and is approximately 8 miles east of the City of Montello.

**ACREAGE:** Approximately 7.9 acres

**ADDRESS:** W599 Toepper Drive

**HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Lake Puckaway was an important site for local Native Americans, providing hunting and fishing opportunities. The name Puckaway is believed to mean wild rice beds and early explorers recorded the name as Puckawa, Apuckawa, and Puckaway in various diaries and maps.

**NATURAL FEATURES:** Apuckawa Park provides the only public access to Lake Puckaway within Marquette County and the only public access on the north shore of the Lake. Lake Puckaway is a 5,039-acre lake constituting a shallow widening of the Fox River. The Purple Martin and 40 other bird species have been observed at this Park.

**OVERVIEW:** The Apuckawa Birding and Nature Trail is located at the Park. The 0.4 mile improved trail contains interpretative signage and an information brochure helps guide and inform hikers on natural features and wildlife found along the trail and within the Park. Boat launch activities are supported on the site by a pier, boat ramp, and ample trailer parking.

The Apuckawa Loop Bike Route is adjacent to the site on Fox Court.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Hiking, Bird Watching, Nature Appreciation, Boating, Fishing, and Picnicking

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Picnic Tables, Improved Interpretive Trail, Pit Toilet, Improved Parking Area, Boat Ramp, and Pier

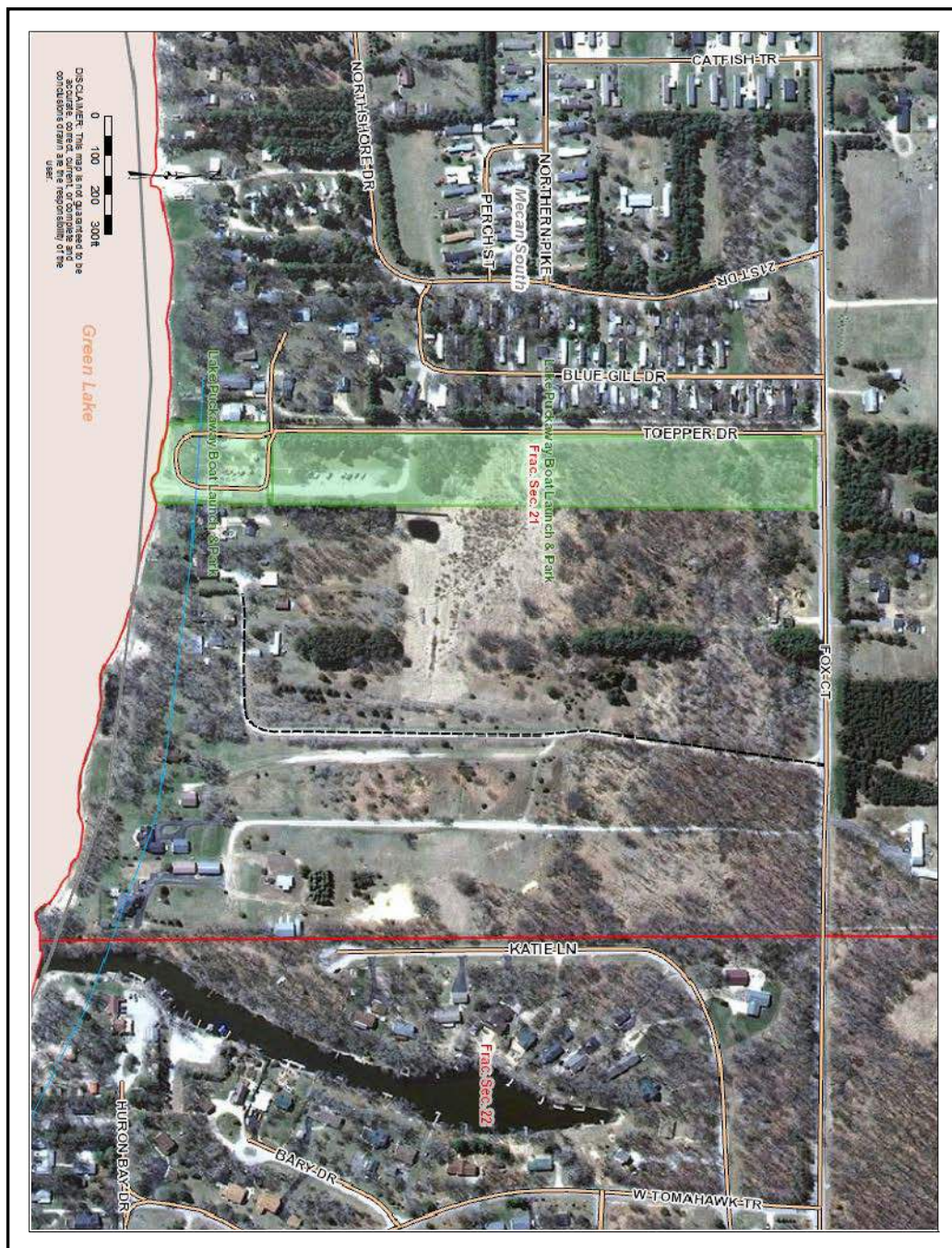
### **PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:**

- The boat ramp area is too shallow, making launching boats difficult or impossible
- Limited Park size
- Lack of facilities designed for children

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Apuckawa Park is a truly scenic Park that currently primarily provides boater access to Lake Puckaway. Marquette County seeks to increase the diversity of recreationalists using the site by completing the following projects:

- ✓ Reconstruction of the boat ramp and pier to facilitate lake access
- ✓ Examine potential land acquisition, particularly to the east
- ✓ Construction of a nature based play area
- ✓ Examine making the Apuckawa Birding and Nature Trail ADA compliant, which would make it the only ADA compliant nature trail within Marquette County
- ✓ Make well accessible to the general public





*Aerial View of Apuckama Park*





*View of the Park from Lake Puckaway*



*Apuckawa Nature Trail Trailhead*



*Pier*





*Southern Portion of the Park*



*Kiosk*



*Path*

## **Tuttle Lake Park**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Crystal Lake on the south shore of Tuttle Lake, Tuttle Lake Park provides public access to Tuttle Lake. The Park includes ample improved parking, the only publically owned sandy beach in Marquette County, boat ramp, and pit toilet. The Tuttle Lake Trek, of the County's designated bike routes, is located along the southern park boundary, making Tuttle Lake Park a logical starting point or rest stop along the bike route.

**ACREAGE:** 0.5 acres

**ADDRESS:** N7821 Tuttle Lake Road

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Park primarily provides access to Tuttle Lake, a 151-acre landlocked basin in the ground moraine. The lake provides habitat for largemouth bass, panfish and northern pike and has a maximum depth of 36-feet.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Swimming and Boating

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Pit Toilet, Improved Parking Area, Boat Ramp, and Pier

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Parking area is unmarked making parking difficult and leading to unnecessary congestion, the gravel boat landing presents traction and maintenance concerns, and the shallow depth of the boat ramp area impedes launch activities.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Given the limited size of Tuttle Lake Park, future development of the site should support existing recreational activities. The following would enhance the public's use of the site:

- ✓ Obtain a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource to dredge boat launch area
- ✓ Reconstruct boat ramp
- ✓ Install curbs and other infrastructure to designate parking areas
- ✓ Install well
- ✓ Install park bench to provide a rest area for cyclists on the Tuttle Lake Trek





*Aerial View of Tuttle Lake Park*



*Tuttle Lake Swimming Area and Pier*



*Entrance and Parking Area*



*Pier and Swimming Beach*





*Bike Route on Tuttle Lake Road*



*Pit Toilet*



*Southern Portion of the Park*

## **Moon (Birch) Lake Park**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Packwaukee on the south shore of Moon Lake, Moon Lake Park provides Marquette County's only public access to Moon Lake. The Park includes ample improved parking, boat ramp, and pit toilet.

**ACREAGE:** 2.0 acres

**ADDRESS:** N4194 Fern Avenue

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Park primarily provides access to Moon Lake, a 73-acre landlocked basin in the terminal moraine. The lake has a maximum depth of 13-feet provides habitat for largemouth bass, panfish and waterfowl.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Fishing and Non-Motorized Boating

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Pit Toilet, Improved Parking Area, and Pier

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Driveway and parking area are in need of maintenance

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Further development of Moon Lake Park is limited due to the Park's size and steeper slopes to the west. However, the following improvements will increase access to the site:

- ✓ Grade and re-gravel parking and boat launch areas
- ✓ Establish Park Boundaries



*Aerial View of Moon Lake Park*





*Pier and Boat Launch*



*Pit Toilet*



*Western Portion of the Site*

## **Buffalo Lake Boat Launch**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Packwaukee on the north shore of Buffalo Lake. The Park includes ample improved parking, boat ramp, pit toilet, and an improved trail along the shoreland.

**ACREAGE:** 3.0 acres

**ADDRESS:** W5091 CTH C

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Park primarily provides access to Buffalo Lake, a 2,179-acre widening of the Fox River. The Lake has a maximum depth of 15-feet and offers the best potential for recreational boating in the County.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Hiking, Fishing and Boating

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Pit Toilet, Improved Parking Area, Pier, Boat Ramp and Improved Hiking Trail with historical railroad kiosk at trailhead.

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** The County has an informal agreement with the area Lake District to allow parking of weed harvesters on the property. At the time of writing this Plan, there were two large harvesters routinely parked on the property. The harvesters are large in size, potentially impeding use of the boat launch while also detracting from the natural beauty of the Site.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** The Buffalo Lake Boat Launch site is well developed for its size and adequately serves recreationalists accessing the site, however, the following improvements would enhance their recreational experience:

- ✓ Work with the Lake District to minimize the impact of weed harvesters on the site
- ✓ Install Well
- ✓ Examine Land Acquisition to the west
- ✓ Construct Lake overlook on the nature trail





*Aerial View of Buffalo Lake Boat Launch*



*Trail*



*Trail Signage*



*Boat Launch and Pier*



## Mecan River Access at CTH C

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Mekan east of the City of Montello on the Mekan River, the site provides access to the Mekan River and an ample improved parking area.

**ACREAGE:** 19.5 acres

**ADDRESS:** CTH C

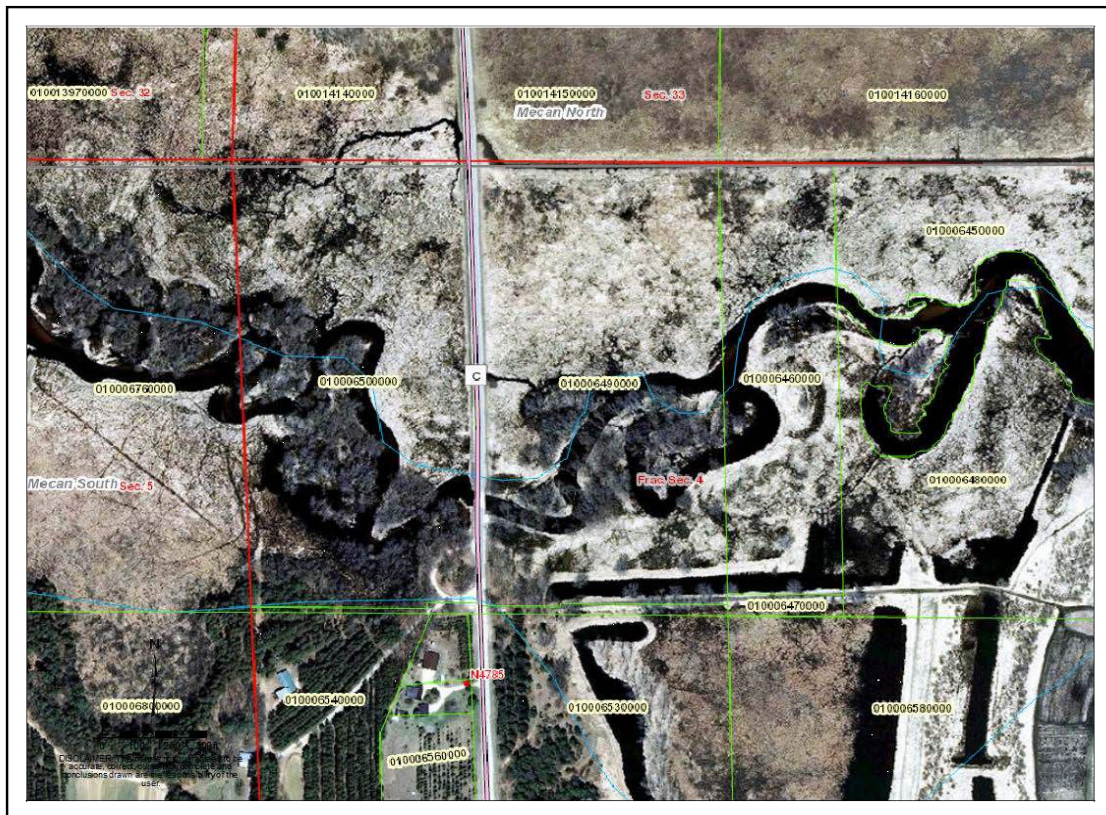
**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Park primarily provides access to the Mekan River, a Class II Trout Stream.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Fishing, Small Craft Boating

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Off-Street Parking, Groomed River Access

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** The Site, although relatively large in area, is mainly comprised of wetland and shoreland that preclude further development.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** This Site provides quality canoe and kayak access to the Mecan River; however, Marquette County will continue to evaluate future improvements to facilitate small craft access to the River, including sand or gravel near water's edge.



*Aerial View of Mekan River Access*





*Unimproved River Access*



*River Access*

**Mecan**



*View West at Main River Access*

**River Access at**



*View North at Main River Access*



## State Highway 22

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Crystal Lake on State Highway 22 on the Highway's crossing of the Mekan River, the site provides limited small craft access to the Mekan River. This Site will be improved in 2018 by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation as part of reconstruction of State Highway 22. Planned improvements include vehicle turnaround, paved parking areas and improved walk in canoe and kayak access.

**ACREAGE:** In right of way

**ADDRESS:** State Highway 22

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Site provides access to the Mekan River, a Class II Trout Stream.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Fishing and Small Craft Boating

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Off-street parking for three vehicles, canoe and kayak access to the Mekan River

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Limited site area. The lease agreement with the Department of Transportation specifies that the Site can only be utilized for access to the Mekan River.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to better control access in the shoreland area.



*Aerial View of Mekan River Highway 22 Access*



*View of the Mecan River from Boat Launch*



*Parking Area and Boat Ramp (2015)*



## Neenah Lake Access

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Oxford on County Trunk Highway A just outside of the Village of Oxford, this Site provides unimproved access to Neenah Lake.

**ACREAGE:** 0.5 acres

**ADDRESS:** CTH A

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Site provides access to Neenah Lake, a 54-acre impoundment of Neenah Creek.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Fishing, Small Craft Boating

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Off-Street Parking

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Limited site area

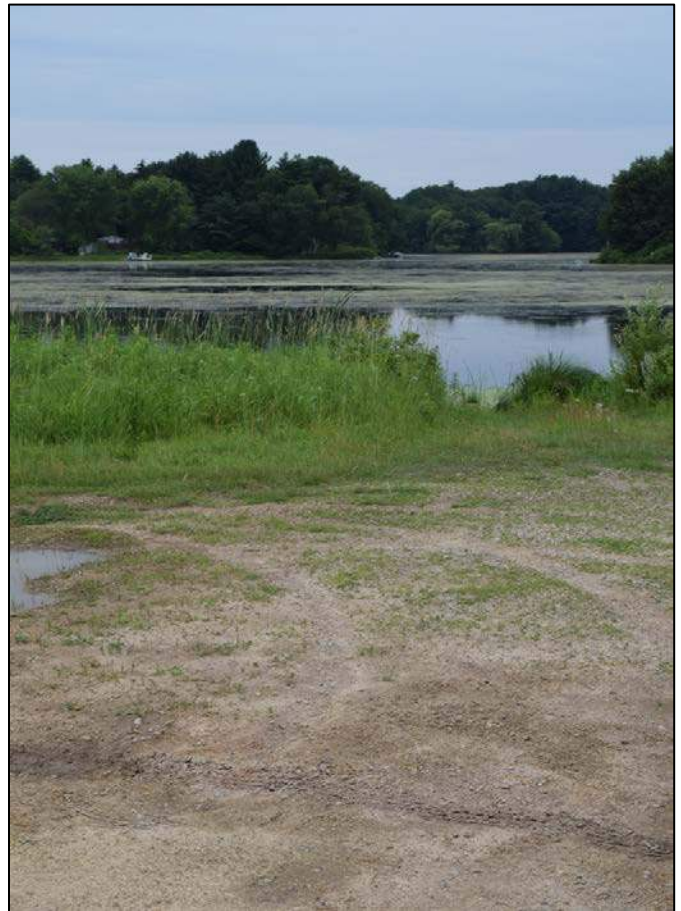
**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** The Village of Oxford also maintains a boat launch on Neenah Lake, given the relatively small size of Neenah Lake the County seeks to avoid duplication of services. The Site's proximity to the Village of Oxford presents an opportunity for the County to develop an ADA compliant fishing site close to the one of Marquette County's population centers.



*Aerial View of Neenah Lake Access*



*Neenah Lake Access*



*Neenah Lake Access*



## **State Highway 22 Wayside**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Buffalo in southern Marquette County, this site provides traditional wayside accommodations on State Highway 22, including improved parking area, picnic tables, shelter, and a pit toilet. This Site is also on the John Muir Nature and History Route. The Route consists of a map and smart phone application describing 21 sites within Marquette County that highlight John Muir's legacy.

**ACREAGE:** 1.6 acres

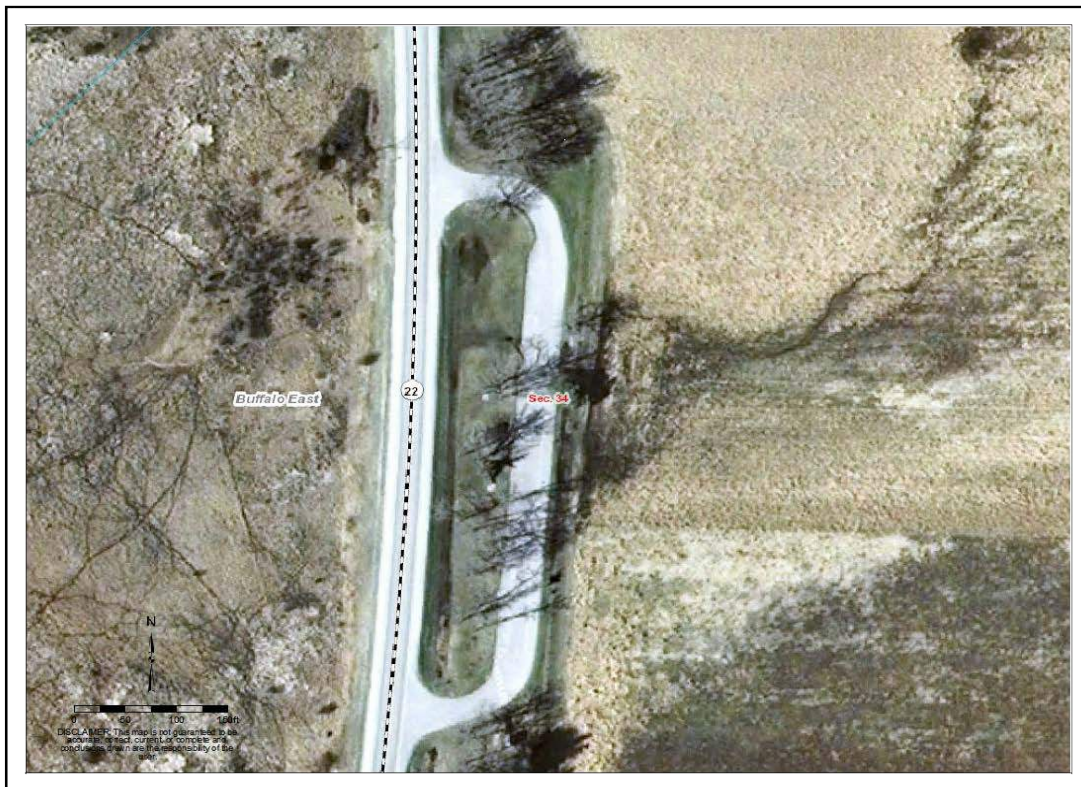
**ADDRESS:** STH 22

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Picnicking and Rest Area

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Improved Off-Street Parking, Picnic Shelter, Pit Toilet, and Historical Marker

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** None

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Install an informational kiosk and educational signage on the prairie landscape surrounding the Site.



*Aerial View of Highway 22 Wayside*



*Shelter and Benches*



*Historical Marker*



*Parking Area and Toilet*



## Crystal Lake Access

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Crystal Lake on the northwestern boundary of Crystal Lake. This Site provides the only public access to Crystal Lake in Marquette County. The Site is relatively unimproved.

**ACREAGE:** 0.5 acres

**ADDRESS:**

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Site provides access to Crystal Lake, a 119-acre spring fed lake in the ground moraine.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Walk in access to Crystal Lake

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Unimproved site

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Limited signage makes the site difficult to locate and small site area impedes development of the site.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Add signage to help identify the Site and improve the trail accessing Crystal Lake.



*Crystal Lake Access*

## **Marquette Park on The Mont L'eau River**

**OVERVIEW:** In early 2016, a property owner donated a 2.9-acre parcel to Marquette County for development of a new park. Marquette County was also able to enter into a long-term lease agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on an adjoining 14.8-parcel. Additionally, Marquette County and the WDNR have entered into a long-term lease of the Andrew Krakow Public Access and Fishery Area, which is adjacent to the other leased DNR property. These three properties total approximately 26 acres in area.

**ACREAGE:** 26 acres

**ADDRESS:** Undeveloped, adjacent to the Fox River in the City of Montello

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Site is adjacent to the Fox River.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Undeveloped

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Unimproved site

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Unimproved Site

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Collaborate with the City of Montello and other interested organizations to develop a plan for the future use of the property. Preliminary ideas have included a gazebo that could be used to host small events and weddings, benches to enjoy scenic views of the Fox River, facilities to assist paddlers on the River, boardwalks, and walking paths. The master park plan should also attempt to connect the undeveloped properties with the Andrew Krakow Public Access and Fishery Area to create a space that is a seamless extension of the existing recreational development.



## **A. Recreation Sites Owned by Marquette County Municipalities and Other Organizations**

As part of the 2016 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) update process, Marquette County offered area municipalities the opportunity to include their recreational sites within the Plan. The Towns of Douglas and Packwaukee and the Villages of Westfield and Oxford asked to include their sites within Marquette County's CORP. The following section provides an overview, summary of existing amenities and potential improvements to these facilities. The end of this Section provides a brief overview of other municipally owned recreation sites in Marquette County.

### **I. City of Montello**

Located at the terminus of State Highways 22 and 23 on the Fox River, the City of Montello is the largest incorporated community in Marquette County. The City maintains approximately 62 acres of parkland including:

#### **a. Montello City Park**

**OVERVIEW:** Montello City Park, a Community Park, is the largest and most frequently used park within the City.

**ACREAGE:** 22 acres

**ADDRESS:** The Park is located along the east shore of Lake Montello along Doty Street (CTH Y).

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Active recreation, picnicking, larger family gatherings

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Lighted ball fields, play equipment, picnic facilities, a public swimming beach, volleyball courts, basketball court, two picnic shelters, pavilion, restroom facilities, concession area, and off-street parking

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Aging playground equipment, swimming is hampered weeds, pavilion stage has been removed, and parking is limited at peak use times. There is a lack of ADA compliant infrastructure at the Park.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Replace playground equipment, reestablish swimming beach, replace pavilion stage, construct ADA compliant restroom facilities and fishing pier, install basketball court lighting, install bat house enclosures, and increase off-street parking area.

#### **b. Wells Point Park**

**OVERVIEW:** Wells Point Park is a small neighborhood park on the south shore of Lake Montello. It is also the site of the City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July firework display.

**ACREAGE:** 2.4 acres

**ADDRESS:** The Park is located off Underwood Avenue.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Picnicking and fishing

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Picnic shelter, shore fishing access

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Electricity is not available on site.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Provide electrical service at the picnic shelter.

## II. Village of Westfield

The Village of Westfield is located in northwest Marquette County along Interstate 39 and is the second most populous incorporated area in the County. The Village maintains five parks totaling approximately 40 acres in area. The Village of Westfield has established a level of service goal to have all Village residents within a 10-minute walk from a neighborhood park. The Village is also interested in facilitating canoeing and kayaking activities within the Village of Westfield. One method the Village has identified to accomplish this would be through development of a new waterfront park in the downtown area which would provide paddler access to Westfield Creek.

### a. Pioneer Park

**OVERVIEW:** Pioneer Park is a 35.4-acre Community Park, providing a wide range of recreational activities for residents of the Village, adjacent towns and visitors. Pioneer Park is also the start point for the Northwest Passage Bike Route.



**ADDRESS:** 316 East Pioneer Park Road, Westfield, WI 53964

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Active recreation, picnicking and larger family gatherings

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Horseshoe pits, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, trap shooting range, larger play equipment, three picnic shelters, ball fields, concession stand, ample off-street parking and walking trails

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** None

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

**PRIORITIES:** Pioneer Park is one of the few community parks in Marquette

County; the following improvement would help ensure that it continues to meet a variety of the community's recreational needs:

- ✓ Installation of a splash pad or other water based recreational feature for children
- ✓ Create a detailed development plan to identify the desired range of uses, costs and logical phasing

### b. Dewar's Park

**OVERVIEW:** Dewar's Park is a small half acre undeveloped site, west of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street bridge adjacent to the Westfield Mill Pond.

**ADDRESS:** 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Westfield, WI 53964

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Site primarily provides access to Westfield Pond, an impoundment of Westfield Creek.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Fishing

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Limited off-street parking

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Dewar's Park is small in area and natural features prohibit intensive development of the Site, however, the Village of Westfield is interested in creating a plan to guide future development of the Park.



### **III. Town of Douglas**

#### **a. Town of Douglas Lake Mason Boat Landing**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Douglas at the very southwest corner of Marquette County, this site provides access to Mason Lake.

**ADDRESS:** At the intersection of Park Street and CTH A

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Site primarily provides access to Mason Lake, an 882-acre lake with a maximum depth of 9-feet.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Boat launch activities, fishing

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Concrete boat ramp, dock, and off-street parking available at the Fire Station, across CTH A

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** None

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** The site provides the only public boat launch on Mason Lake within Marquette County. Completion of the following projects will ensure continued adequate public access:

- ✓ Replace dock, potentially with an ADA compliant structure
- ✓ Reconstruct boat ramp approach

#### **b. American Legion Ball Field**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in in the Town of Douglas, north of Briggsville, just north of the intersection of First Road and CTH A. Although not technically a public facility, this site is included within this Plan because it is generally available for public use and functions as a neighborhood park for residents of the Briggsville area.

**ADDRESS:** N665 CTH A Briggsville, WI 53920

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Ball field

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Picnic shelter, restrooms, ball field, play equipment

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** None

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** This privately owned park provides some of the only public active recreation area in unincorporated Marquette County. The following improvements are intended to increase the diversity and availability of the site:

- ✓ Reconstruct restroom facility using accessible design features
- ✓ Install ball field lighting to increase availability of the Site

### **IV. Village of Oxford**

#### **a. Village of Oxford Park**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in in the Village of Oxford, the 7.3-acre Park provides the only public active recreation available within the Village.

**ADDRESS:** 237 E Chauncey Street Oxford, WI 53952

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Baseball, Tennis, Basketball and Picnicking

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Two picnic shelters, Bleachers, Ball Fields, Tennis and Basketball Courts, Concession Stands, Bleachers, Storage Building, Parking Area and Score Booth

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** The site is lacking in accessible design features.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** The following improvements could enhance use of the Park and increase the diversity of recreationalists:

- ✓ Remodel restrooms and picnic shelters to be ADA compliant
- ✓ Reconstruct concession stand foundation

- ✓ Reroof larger picnic shelter

## **V. Town of Packwaukee**

### **a. Washington Square Park**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in in the unincorporated Village of Packwaukee, the approximately 2.5-acre Park encompasses the Packwaukee Town Hall and library while also including ball fields and other active recreation amenities.

**ADDRESS:** N3511 State Street Packwaukee, WI 53953

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Picnicking, municipal building visitors, and active recreation

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Picnic Shelter, Volleyball and Basketball courts, and Limited Off-Street Parking.

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Inadequate play equipment for children visiting the library or picnicking at the Park and limited off-street parking.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** The following improvements would facilitate recreationalists' use of the Park:

- ✓ Develop additional parking area
- ✓ Expand and replace playground equipment

### **b. Hollenbeck/Town of Packwaukee Boat Launch**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in in the Town of Packwaukee, this approximately 1/3-acre Site provides access to the Fox River.

**ADDRESS:** N2861 Lake Shore Drive Packwaukee, WI 53953

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Site primarily provides access to Buffalo Lake, a 2,179-acre widening of the Fox River. The lake has a maximum depth of 15-feet and offers the best potential for recreational boating in the County.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Boat launch activities

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Boat Ramp, Parking Area, and Pier

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Lack of facilities for boat washing and fish cleaning, limited off-street parking

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** The following improvements would facilitate recreational boaters use of the Site:

- ✓ Install electricity and well
- ✓ Construct fish cleaning and boat washing stations

### **c. Town of Packwaukee Lot on Lake Shore Drive**

**OVERVIEW:** A slightly greater than 1/4-acre undeveloped parcel located in the Town of Packwaukee

**ADDRESS:** N2697 Lake Shore Drive Packwaukee, WI 53953

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Parcel is adjacent to Buffalo Lake, a 2,179-acre widening of the Fox River. The lake has a maximum depth of 15-feet and offers the best potential for recreational boating in the County.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Not applicable

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** None

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** The property is currently undeveloped.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** Examine potential recreational use of the Parcel. Historically, this parcel has provided swimming access to Buffalo Lake.



**d. Town of Packwaukee Freedom Boat Launch**

**OVERVIEW:** Located in the Town of Packwaukee on Freedom Road, this 240' by 120' site provides access to the east side of Buffalo Lake. The Site is also included in the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Water Trail Master Plan Gap Analysis of Public Access Points – Phase 1 report.

**ADDRESS:** W5902 Freedom Road Packwaukee, WI 53953

**NATURAL FEATURES:** This Parcel is adjacent to Buffalo Lake, a 2,179-acre widening of the Fox River. The lake has a maximum depth of 15-feet and offers the best potential for recreational boating in the County.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES:** Recreational boating

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Accessible Pit Toilet, Ample Paved Parking, Boat Ramp, and Dock

**PROBLEMS/DEFICIENCIES:** Lack of facilities for boat washing and fish cleaning

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:** The following improvements would facilitate recreational boaters use of the Site:

- ✓ Install electricity and well
- ✓ Construct fish cleaning and boat washing stations

**VI. Town of Harris**

**a. Harrisville Firemen's Park**

The 6.2-acre Harrisville Firemen's Park is located on either side of County Trunk Highway B at its intersection with County Trunk Highway J in the unincorporated Village of Harrisville. The site contains a lighted ball field, three volleyball courts, concession stand, play equipment, restrooms, picnic shelter and off-street parking.

**b. William Lange Park**

Located in Harrisville on the southern shore of Harris Pond, this park provides a picnic shelter, benches, fishing pier, small beach and off street parking.

**VII. Village of Neshkoro**

**Stan-O-Gene Park**

Located in the northern portion of the Village of Neshkoro on the northern County line, Stan-O-Gene Park is a large community park providing a variety of opportunities for recreation. Comprised of nearly 100-acres in area, Stan-O-Gene Park contains the Neshkoro Pines Nature and Hiking Trail, two ball fields, pavilion, play equipment, horseshoe pits, restroom facilities, baseball and volleyball courts, and picnic facilities.

**VIII. Natural Heritage Land Trust**

In late 2015, the Natural Heritage Land Trust acquired a 198-acre parcel located on the north side of John Muir Memorial Park. The parcel includes 38-acres of the original 320-acre farm settled by Daniel Muir. The Natural Heritage Land Trust intends to donate 120-acres west of CTH F to the US Fish and Wildlife Service as an addition to the Fox River National Wildlife Refuge and the eastern 78-acres has been donated to the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

## **B. Linear Recreation**

Following State trends, linear recreation, both motorized and non-motorized, has increased in popularity within Marquette County. A greater proportion of County residents and visitors are interested in ATV riding, snowmobiling, bicycling, cross-country skiing, trail running, hiking, snowshoeing and horseback riding. Unfortunately, there is limited dedicated infrastructure for these activities to occur within Marquette County.

### **I. Snowmobile Trails**

There are approximately 100 miles of snowmobile trails in Marquette County. The County's trail network and 60 miles of interconnecting privately maintained club trails are readily accessible to most portions of Marquette County and connect to trails in surrounding counties. The trails are generally located on privately owned land with verbal agreements for seasonal easements obtained from each landowner. Each snowmobile trail is approved annually by DNR, enabling it to receive \$250 per mile for annual trail maintenance. Eligible trail maintenance activities include grooming, signing, brushing, excavating/bulldozing to improve or reroute trail segments, dragging plowed fields, and bridge and other trail-related repairs.

### **II. ATV Routes**

Marquette County and area municipalities have also designated an On-Road ATV Route through the County. Between 2011 and 2014, Marquette County, local municipalities and the Marquette County ATV Club identified, designated and appropriately signed over 300 miles of County and municipal roads as an on-road ATV Route. Located on existing roads, the ATV Route connects population centers and links to ATV routes and trails in adjoining counties.

Another way to facilitate ATV recreation in Marquette County would be development of a designated ATV Park. ATV parks typically encompass a minimum of 15 miles of trails and provide a variety of trail types (challenge tracks and loops). Ideally, an ATV park would connect to the existing ATV route and be located in close proximity to lodging, retail and other services. Depending on the size of the parcel acquired, an ATV park could also contain camping sites and related facilities.

### **III. Rustic Roads**

The segment of 14th Road in the Town of Buffalo, between CTHs O and CM, is enrolled in the Rustic Roads program. This program was created by the Wisconsin State legislature in 1973 to help citizens and local units of government preserve scenic, lightly traveled roads for the leisurely enjoyment of bikers, hikers, and motorists. Featuring open agricultural vistas against a backdrop of wooded hills, 14<sup>th</sup> Road provides the traveler with a canopy of hardwood forests and cottonwood trees, along with views of century old farms and remnant prairie areas. The road's scenic qualities are protected by agreement with bordering property owners and by controlling roadside maintenance practices so that wildflowers and other native flora are allowed to extend to the edge of the pavement. There are many other roads with the potential to be designated as Rustic Roads within Marquette County.

### **IV. On-Road Bicycle Routes**

The County's highly scenic rural roads provide abundant opportunities for bicycling and bike touring. In recognition of this opportunity, a group comprised of the Citizens Recreation Committee, County Highway Department, and Marquette County Board cooperatively identified and mapped several on-road bike routes within the County in 1999. The ten signed routes provide approximately 140 miles

of bike touring opportunities. The shortest of these routes is the Mekan River Circuit (9 miles) and the longest is the Germania Jaunt (19 miles). No off-road recreational trails for bicyclists are available in the County at the present time.

## **V. Ice Age Trail**

Tracing Wisconsin's rich glacial history, the planned route of the Ice Age Trail passes through Marquette County as it loops through the State some 1,000 miles from Door County to Interstate Park on the St. Croix River. Using a combination of public land, easements, abandoned railroad corridors, and low volume roads, the completed trail will be an exceptional resource for recreationalists. To date, a two-mile long portion of the Ice Age Trail has been designated and improved within John Muir Memorial Park. The remainder of the trail, which awaits finalization and designation, may extend to Montello, Westfield, and north into Waushara County. The Marquette County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance is a volunteer organization actively dedicated to the planning, maintenance, and marketing of trail activities.

## **VI. Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Water Trail**

The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Water Trail is a two-mile wide corridor connecting Prairie du Chien to Green Bay, encompassing portions of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. The Water Trail has been designated by the National Park Service as a National Recreational Trail. The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Committee has designated numerous stops and trips along the corridor, including four boat landings within Marquette County. The Water Trail strives to promote the cultural, historical, recreational and natural resources of this river corridor while facilitating canoeing and kayaking.

# Chapter Seven:

## Recommendations

In addition to the site specific development priorities set forth in Chapter 6, Marquette County has established the following priorities to provide a comprehensive countywide system for outdoor recreation:

### **A. Officially Name and Appropriately Sign County Recreation Sites**

The majority of the park and recreational sites managed by Marquette County have either not been named or are referred to by multiple names by the County, area civic organizations and local residents. This can cause significant confusion when discussing the facilities within the County, and communicating with visitors regarding the sites can be extremely difficult.

The Marquette County Parks and Rural Planning Committee will officially name each of the County managed park and recreational sites and will then inform other County Departments, area organizations, and local governments of the official site name.



*A sign can help identify recreational sites and inform visitors of amenities available at the site*

After officially naming the sites, Marquette County will appropriately sign the properties. Development of a consistent signage program will help alleviate any future confusion regarding the official recreational property name and inform visitors of the variety of amenities available at the site.

### **B. Examine Acquisition and Development of a County Park**

As discussed in Chapter Five: Recreation Needs, Marquette County is lacking in areas for active recreation. Many of the recreational lands owned by the County are either too small in size to provide meaningful active recreation or contain environmentally sensitive lands that prevent further development. Additionally, due to the historical and cultural significance of John Muir Memorial Park, the County does not wish to pursue further development of this site. While Marquette County has appropriately maintained and developed its park and recreation land, it cannot compensate for an insufficient supply of land available for development. Using the geographical needs analysis presented in Chapter 5, the County will examine acquisition and development of a County Park.

County Parks typically range from 50 to 500 acres and provide a wide variety of passive and active recreational opportunities such as hiking trails, picnic areas, swimming, ball fields, boating access and play equipment. County Parks generally serve an area within a 15-30 minute drive from the site.

The County will seek to acquire and develop a park that provides a wide range of recreational amenities including ones not currently publically provided within Marquette County potentially including: cross-country skiing, camping, disc golf course, pet exercise area, archery course, and

mountain bike trails. The exact range of recreational amenities to be developed is dependent on characteristics of the specific site and should be in harmony with the natural features of the area.

Additionally, Marquette County will examine utilizing land acquired through the tax delinquent process as potential recreation land. Often these parcels are small in area, however, if strategically located they might provide rest areas along designated bike routes or space for a neighborhood park.

### **C. Consider Accommodating “Natural Play” in Marquette County**

Currently, Marquette County does not provide any children’s play equipment or features designed specifically for children at the County’s recreational sites. Although playgrounds are found in the County’s incorporated areas, these facilities are under the ownership of either the municipality or school district and not under the jurisdiction of Marquette County. This poses an unaddressed recreational need while also presenting a unique opportunity for Marquette County to provide active recreation for children in a manner that is consistent with the County’s natural and cultural heritage.



*Natural Playgrounds can provide active recreational areas for children, while still being respectful of the County’s Natural and Cultural Resources*

“Natural Play” is the concept of using natural materials in a semi-built setting to create play spaces for children that are harmonious with the natural environment. Natural play areas fit in with the natural landscape making them ideal for a County that prides itself on its natural environment and unique natural resources. Additionally, natural play areas are relatively unique in Central Wisconsin and could help further existing County economic development efforts based on outdoor recreational opportunities found in Marquette County.

Preliminary discussions of the Outdoor Recreation Ad-Hoc Committee indicated support for eventual development of a mini natural play area at the Highway 22 Wayside, potentially including log hopping and informational signage about other natural play opportunities found within the County.

### **D. Pursue and Support Development of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Marquette County**

Unlike many rural counties, there are no dedicated off-road bicycle and pedestrian paths in the County. Development of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan could help identify on-road routes that could safely accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians and potential off-road paths for future development. A Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan would serve two important functions, identifying non-motorized transportation routes and facilitating recreation in the County.

The Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-21) provides funding for a variety of non-motorized transportation projects, including bicycle and pedestrian planning activities.

Marquette County may be a strong candidate for a planning grant due to the County's demographics, current lack of off-road walking and biking facilities, and commitment to existing on-road bike routes.

A Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan would contain an inventory of existing non-motorized transportation infrastructure, existing obstacles to biking, walking, and hiking. Such a plan would also identify new bike and pedestrian routes, improvements to existing routes, and other projects to facilitate non-motorized transportation within the County. Once developed, such a plan would be a basis for grant applications for the development of bike and pedestrian facilities, through both the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should include the following recommendations:

- Increasing the paved shoulder width of all State and County highways designated as a bicycle route by Marquette County. In 1999, Marquette County identified and mapped 10 on-road bike route tours, providing approximately 140 miles of bike touring opportunities.
- Improving bike and pedestrian connectivity between the City and villages.
- In the villages and City, developing sidewalks that connect residential areas and other destinations, establishing and signing/marketing new and existing bicycle routes, and developing trails and connecting them to a wider network of trails in the area.
- Working with the Village and Town of Neshkoro and Waushara County to explore continuation of the Bannerman Trail, which currently ends near the County line.
- Advancing the Ice Age Trail and local connections to it.
- Coordinate with the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway to designate bike routes on either side of the Fox River. These bicycle routes should follow the Fox River through Marquette County and connect to routes and paths in adjoining counties.

#### **E. Coordinate Park Development and Potential Future Land Acquisition with Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway**

In 2015, the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway was in the process of developing a master plan for the historic water corridor. The Plan, once complete, will set guidelines for the development of improvements along the corridor, appropriate spacing of launch facilities and parking areas, and summarize historic and cultural amenities along the Rivers. At the time of adoption of this Outdoor Recreation Plan, the draft Parkway Master Plan did not contain any specific recommendation for any Marquette County Parks or Facilities.

After completion of the report, Marquette County will attempt to coordinate future park and site development with the recommendations contained within the Plan, especially in regards to boat launch improvements and potential development of an ADA accessible launch facility within the County. The Outdoor Recreation Plan Ad-Hoc Committee indicated a preference for "EZ Launch Landing Units" or Accessible Boat Launch facilities to be located within the County's incorporated areas where other services are available to paddlers utilizing the Fox River corridor. The Fox River Water Street access in the City of Montello would be a logical place for development of accessible boat launch facility.



Additionally, as Marquette County examines the possible acquisition and development of a new County park, the County will attempt to locate sites that take advantage of the historic corridor or that can reasonably accommodate non-motorized transportation to the corridor.

**F. Install John Muir Nature and History Route Signage**

In late 2015, a map and smart phone application pinpointing sites directly connected to John Muir and John Muir's time in Marquette County were developed. Several of the sites on the map and app are located on Marquette County owned recreational sites. Marquette County will work with interested individuals to appropriately sign these sites.

# Chapter Eight:

Five Year Plan of Work

## **5 YEAR PLAN OF WORK, 2016-2020**

Priorities for improving park and recreational facilities in Marquette County for the next five years are found below in Table 8.1. The table depicts the Parks and Rural Planning Committee's recommended priority level for each of the projects and the anticipated timeframe for completion. The Parks and Rural Planning Committee recognizes that many of these projects are long term in nature and that priorities may change depending on funding availability. Marquette County will seek grant opportunities where available to supplement limited local funds.

**TABLE 8.1: MARQUETTE COUNTY PLAN OF WORK, 2016-2020**

SITE/PROJECT	PRIORITY LEVEL	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	LONG TERM
<b>John Muir Memorial Park</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Well Installation	High	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Sign replacement	High	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Picnic shelter expansion	Medium		<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Apuckawa Park</b>							
Boat launch reconstruction	High						<input type="checkbox"/>
Well installation	High			<input type="checkbox"/>			
Potential land acquisition	Low						<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction of play amenities	Medium				<input type="checkbox"/>		
ADA trail certification	Medium		<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Tuttle Lake Park</b>							
Dredging permit	Medium					<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reconstruct boat launch							<input type="checkbox"/>
Install parking infrastructure	Medium			<input type="checkbox"/>			
Well installation	Low						<input type="checkbox"/>
Install park bench	Low						<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Moon (Birch) Lake Park</b>							
Boat launch and parking area reconstruction	Medium						<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Buffalo Lake Boat Landing</b>							
Minimize the impact of weed harvesters on the site	High	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Well Installation	Low						<input type="checkbox"/>
Construct Overlook	Medium			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mecan River Highway C Access</b>							
Evaluate paddler access to the Mecan River	Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mecan River Highway 22 Access</b>							
Work with the DNR to monitor erosion	High	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Neenah Lake Access</b>							
Evaluate development of an ADA fishing site	Medium		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Implement necessary ADA improvements	Medium			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Highway 22 Wayside</b>							
John Muir Nature and History Route Signage	High	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Prairie informational signage	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Countywide</b>							
Name & sign all County Parks	High	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Investigate development of a New Park	Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan	Low						<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinate with the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway	High	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**ROLL CALL - COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
MARQUETTE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

ROLL CALL

April 17, 2018 Session Resolution No. 17-2018

<u>SUPERVISORS</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Borzick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buchholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fenner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gibeaut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goldsmith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Krentz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Locke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McGwin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nigbor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
O'Brien	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raddatz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sanders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skolarz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thalacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*adapted by via vote*

*absent*

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2016  
MARQUETTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE  
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Comprehensive Outdoor Plan (CORP) five-year plan was created in 2016.

WHEREAS, for new projects to be eligible for State/Federal Grants, they need to be included in the CORP.

WHEREAS, the proposed Town of Packwaukee, Buffalo Lake Fishing Access Parking Area is a project applying for State/Federal Grants for future acquisition and development of a parking area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, page 57 of the Marquette County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is hereby amended to add the "Town of Packwaukee, Buffalo Lake Fishing Access Parking Area" as a proposed future project.

ADOPTED ☒  
DEFEATED ☐

<u>VOTE TALLY</u>	
YES	<u>16</u>
NO	<u>0</u>
ABSENT	<u>1</u>
ABSTAIN	<u>0</u>

INTRODUCED BY:

*Kathleen McGwin*

*Mike Raddatz*

Committee Recommendation:  
Parks & Rural Planning

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
                                  ) SS  
County of Marquette )

I, Gary L. Sorensen, County Clerk of Marquette County, Wisconsin do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed by the Marquette County Board of Supervisors on this date.

*4-17-2018 Gary L. Sorensen*  
Date Gary L. Sorensen, County Clerk