

2008 Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

1.0 Introduction

Parks and Open Spaces

Well-managed parks and open spaces provide immeasurable benefits. They offer a variety of recreation opportunities that promote physical, social and emotional well-being. Parks and open spaces afford relief from urban stresses while providing areas for habitat protection and enhancement. In Sauk County, outdoor recreation is a major source of tourism income. Parks and open spaces have been, and continue to be part of our National, State and local heritage.

Purpose of Plan

The purpose of Sauk County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is to identify strengths and needs of Sauk County's parks, related facilities and outdoor recreation opportunities. Sauk County's CORP is further intended to maintain County eligibility to apply for and receive grants and aid moneys. The CORP analysis is the foundation for acquisition and development of outdoor parks and recreational facilities that are to be designated for public use. The Sauk County CORP can be more than just a useful tool for the Sauk County Parks and Recreation Department as well as other municipalities. It offers a vision for the future, sets the course for the recreational future our grandchildren will inherit, and identifies the means to achieve these objectives. The CORP will also serve as part of the required elements of the Sauk County *Comprehensive Plan*, to be developed in 2008 and 2009.

Sauk County's Park and Recreation Department Mission

"It is the mission of the Sauk County Parks and Recreation Department to acquire, develop, protect and maintain our parks and facilities for all citizens and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities that contribute to the well being of individuals and families."

Overview of the Plan and the Planning Process

The most recent CORP was completed in 2002. This 2008 Plan includes a review of 2002 CORP to monitor progress (See Section 2.3). The Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report and other pertinent planning processes and plans will be recognized and incorporated. An update of the natural and cultural resources, parks and recreation inventories and analysis of municipal, county, state and federal lands follows. Goals, objectives and policies have been developed based on the inventory and analysis, and the public participation process.

Local public input came from two main sources, a public survey and 10 meetings of a Recreational Stakeholder Advisory Committee appointed by the Sauk County Transportation and Parks Committee, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors oversight committee for the

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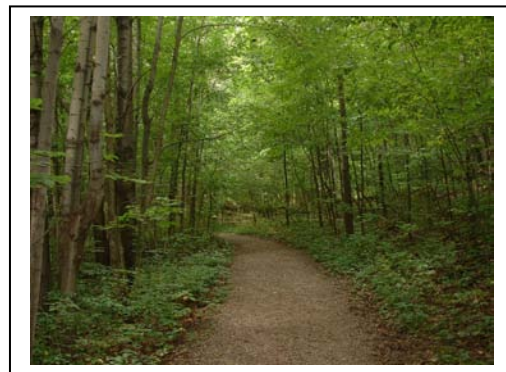
Parks and Recreation Department. The public input survey consists of twenty-four questions designed to generate insight as to public recreational needs and concerns. The Advisory Committee, comprised of citizens from throughout the county who represent a wide variety of outdoor recreation interests, spent nearly two years reviewing and discussing the results of the survey, drafting goals and policies to address issues raised by survey respondents, and overseeing the development of the Plan document.

1.1 The CORP Vision

The CORP Advisory Committee developed a Vision statement, goals, objectives and policies. A vision statement identifies how the various outdoor recreation components will look, function and connect. This vision serves a grounding point for future decisions. The Vision Statement approved by the Committee for the 2008 Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Plan is displayed below.

CORP Vision Statement:

Sauk County's citizens and visitors will enjoy a broad range of affordable and accessible recreational opportunities that reflect a diversity of outdoor interests and experiences, which are enhanced by a network of regional connections between natural, agricultural and cultural resources. Outdoor recreational opportunities will be characterized by robust public and private partnerships that embrace careful stewardship of parks, forests, open spaces, cultural features and natural areas to enhance Sauk County's position as a destination for eco-tourism in Wisconsin and beyond.



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1.2 Goals, Objectives and Policies

Using the vision statement, resource inventories and the public survey responses, the Advisory Committee developed a set of Goals, Objectives, and Policies. *Goals* are broad, advisory statements that express general public priorities about how the County should approach the development, maintenance and preservation of outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities. *Goals* are based on key issues and opportunities. The Committee identified the following *preliminary goal statements* early in the planning process:

PRELIMINARY GOAL STATEMENTS

1. *View public land as an asset*
2. *Develop support for increased funding*
3. *Identify needs & promote acquisition of additional park space*
4. *Promote partnerships for funding, development and management*
5. *Identify use trends and provide facilities as needed*
6. *Actively promote educational programs and seminars to enhance/cultivate awareness and enjoyment*
7. *Encourage use of “Green Building”, low impact development*
8. *Promote Natural Resources stewardship*
9. *Inform public about their role in preserving/protecting Natural and Recreational resources*
10. *Less trash in parks*
11. *More recreational opportunities*
12. *Quality recreational resources*
13. *Connectivity*
14. *Expanded use of Baraboo and Wisconsin Rivers*
15. *Reach critical mass of green business*
16. *Quantify economic impact of natural resources and recreation*

Through its subsequent meetings, the Committee refined these statements into a more manageable set of **Goals**, each prefaced by a **Finding** of current conditions and supported by specific **Objectives and Policy Recommendations**, both for the Parks Department operations in general and for the specific County parks and recreation properties. The Committee defined the term “*Objectives*” as referring to future directions that are more specific than goals. Objectives should be measurable, but that is sometimes not easy to do. However, objectives are intended to be attainable through policies and implementation activities. Finally, “*Policies*” are defined as the rules, courses of action or programs used to ensure Plan implementation and to accomplish the Goals and Objectives.

The complete breakdown of Goals, Objectives and Policies for the 2008 County Outdoor Recreation Plan are described in the following pages.

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1.2.1 Parks and Recreation Program Goals, Objectives and Recommendations

Goal #1: Preserve and enhance the recreational lands and facilities that we currently have and continue to expand outdoor recreational resources available for citizens and visitors as both populations continue to grow.

***Finding:** Sauk County currently enjoys an array of high quality recreational resources and facilities. Normal wear and tear will take their toll on these properties even under current use levels. Sauk County's population is expected to increase over the next twenty years, as is the number of visitors to Sauk County. Demand for additional types of recreational opportunities reflects evolving demographic and societal trends as populations age and recreational interests change. These factors will significantly intensify the pressures on existing facilities, and create demand for new ones.*

Objectives:

1. Ensure that outdoor recreational opportunities are accessible and affordable for people of all financial means and physical abilities.
2. Incorporate diversity into park activities and become adaptable to new recreational trends.
3. Enhance inter-connectivity of parks, open spaces and trails throughout Sauk County, with special emphasis on linking major recreational properties such as the 400 Trail, the Ice Age Trail, State and County Parks and public lands, the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, the Upper and Lower Wisconsin River corridor and the Baraboo River corridor.
4. Support the development of existing and new public and private facilities that contribute to and enhance the public recreational resources available in Sauk County.
5. View public lands and their current and potential uses as an asset to Sauk County.

Recommendations:

1. Utilize this CORP assessment of needs and uses of parks and open space facilities and other county-owned lands to address identify unmet locational needs, develop new recreational use opportunities and effectively coordinate their creation.
2. Work collaboratively with other partners to plan for and improve recreational opportunities, such as trail connections, using local comprehensive plans and the County comprehensive plan.
3. When zoning/development applications are made for the creation or expansion of recreational facilities, notice shall be made of such application and any pending public hearings to the Sauk County Parks and Recreation Department for review and input.

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4. Staff shall stay current with trends through active participation in WPRO and by attending conferences, workshops and regional meetings.
5. Work with Sauk County Historical Society to identify and incorporate cultural and historic sites.
6. Incorporate local recreational facility-use planning efforts into the CORP and work to implement.
7. Seek grants and other funding to establish trails and other park facilities, e.g.:
 - User fees Levy dollars
 - Additional federal funding
 - Stewardship Fund
 - CC Aids and other State Aids
 - Timber Sales
 - Donations
 - Fund Raisers
8. Protect current departmental funding and consider increases for operations.
9. Carefully consider opportunities to retain or purchase additional lands for recreational purposes.
10. Dedicate a portion of funds obtained from the sale of county properties for purchasing additional recreational lands.
11. Promote volunteerism to assist with parks operation and expansion, and cooperate with “friends groups” to identify, promote and facilitate recreational activities.
12. Work to establish bike lanes on state and county roads, such as State Road 60, or on routes identified in the Sauk County Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element as part of new Scenic Byway design and development.
13. Foster coordination between local units of government and neighboring counties to attain maximum advantage from local parks and recreational development.
14. Segregate designated forestry funding for maintenance and improvement of recreational facilities and land management.

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Goal #2: Promote and improve management of natural resources by encouraging stewardship of public park facilities, forests and open spaces as well as private lands, to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.

***Finding:** Recreational uses in Sauk County, as well as its economic health and vitality, are increasingly natural resource-based, e.g. hiking, bird-watching, fishing and boating, requiring that land and water resources be protected and maintained through active and well-designed stewardship programs. To enhance the total visitor experience, the Parks and Recreation department should build capacity beyond meeting immediate visitor needs and facility maintenance toward improving the health of the natural communities, and adjust management operations to adopt sustainable practices. Attractive and well-managed private lands that surround or abut public recreational resource lands can significantly enhance the health of the environment and the public enjoyment of the commonly held forests, lakes and streams and public facilities.*

Objectives:

1. Protect and preserve critical cultural and historical sites, natural features and dark skies as contributing components of rural tourism and of residents' quality of life.
2. Incorporate stewardship practices into the active management plans for parklands and other open spaces.
3. Encourage construction techniques that promote and demonstrate the principles of sustainability in the development of new park and open space facilities.
4. Encourage public and private businesses to become certified as "Travel Green" businesses in Sauk County and work to cooperatively promote them.
5. Enhance opportunities for "Travel Green Wisconsin" tourism in Sauk County.
6. Enhance public awareness of the connection between outdoor recreational opportunities and natural resources protection.

Recommendations:

1. Actively promote educational programs and seminars to enhance/cultivate awareness of the important connection between natural resources and outdoor recreational/tourism opportunities. For example, Earth Day, Youth Days and YEPS.
2. Work with SCDC and UWEX to analyze and quantify the economic impact of natural resource preservation and outdoor recreation in Sauk County.

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3. Support UWEX, SCDC and Chamber of Commerce efforts to encourage both non-profit organizations and private businesses to become certified as “Travel Green” businesses through the Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism. Work cooperatively to promote them through web links, brochure distribution, word-of-mouth, etc.
4. Utilize state / federal stewardship programs and guidelines for land management, e.g. for County Forest Program.
5. Coordinate with Lake and River Protection organizations to ensure viability of parks on water, e.g. the Lake Redstone Association.
6. Coordinate with Sauk County Historical Society and the Ho Chunk Nation to enhance the interpretation and recognition of Man Mound Park, and to investigate the potential for park expansion.
7. Develop consistent management plans and policies for parks to implement stewardship practices. Use the WDNR model.
8. Increase development of interpretive trails and programming.
9. Utilize UWEX or other specialists during design phase of land and facility development projects to incorporate sustainable design components.
10. Incorporate LEED certification into facility development.
11. Manage public forests to receive sustainable forestry certification.
12. Strengthen the cooperation between Parks and Recreation and the other forestry, land and water resource management functions of County government.

Goal #3: Enhance coordination of outdoor recreation activities and the development of new facilities while effectively promoting the opportunities that exist throughout Sauk County.

***Finding:** Public recreation and parks programs exist at every level, from federal to state, county and local units of government. School districts, private organizations and property owners also manage lands and facilities for recreation, much of which is available for public use. Sauk County can leverage the availability of its recreational lands and facilities to serve more people more efficiently through collaborative partnerships with other providers and area organizations to share resources and to educate the public about recreational opportunities in and around Sauk County.*

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Objectives:

1. Promote Sauk County as a “Travel Green” tourist area in Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest.
2. Enhance awareness of existing and planned recreational opportunities through increased marketing initiatives and educational outreach.
3. Provide leadership and coordination among local communities and organizations with regard to the planning or creation of new local or county recreational facilities.
4. Develop support for increased funding for the expansion or development of recreational facilities.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage the increased recreational use of the Baraboo and Wisconsin Rivers.
2. Enhance awareness of natural resource protection and outdoor recreational use through the distribution of publications and pamphlets as well as the offering of workshops and seminars.
3. Encourage communities to develop “consortium approaches”, i.e. partnerships with organizations offering complimentary capabilities and resources, when planning for and developing community or regional recreational facilities.
4. Collaborate with area Chambers of Commerce and the Dell’s Convention Bureau to promote outdoor recreational opportunities throughout Sauk County.
5. Encourage bi-annual or quarterly meetings with state, county and local parks and recreation departments to increase cooperation and coordination of the planning for and development of recreational facilities.
6. Collaborate with other county departments such as planning and conservation to convey relevant news and information and promote recreational opportunities through the County website.
7. Emphasize recreational “interests” over departmental information in the website and newsletter promotions.
8. Publish a Sauk County recreational map, similar to Portage County’s recreation map.
9. Incorporate information from existing recreational use maps, e.g. the Snowmobile Trail map, into a County recreation website, with interactive data. Reference the website URL on the Sauk County map published bi-annually by UWEX.

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1.2.2 Specific Management Goals and Policies for Sauk County Properties

White Mound

White Mound Park is Sauk County's largest County-owned park, covering 1,100 acres located just west of State Road 23 between Reedsburg and Spring Green. The park surrounds the 104-acre White Mound Lake. The park is named after a long-vanished village that was located south of the current park, which took its name from the formations of white dolomite limestone characteristic of the area. An abandoned limestone kiln can still be seen in the park. The park offers camping, boating, swimming, picnic and equestrian opportunities, and a full array of related facilities, including wheelchair accessible restrooms. The headquarters of the Sauk County Parks and Recreation Department is located at White Mound Park.

- Develop an integrated recreational use and natural resource management plan to improve stewardship and land management, including,
 - Fishery improvements
 - Water quality monitoring
 - Lake improvement planning
- Provide more interpretive signs.
- Continue to work on water quality improvement through implementation of best management practices and acquisition.
- Develop Forest Management Plan through WDNR (inventory completed in 2006).
- Maintain and improve existing facilities.

County Forests – Spring Green

The Sauk County Forest covers 663 acres of mainly mixed pine trees. It is located along U.S. Highway 14 between Spring Green and Lone Rock. No facilities are provided.

- Preserve as open space with a variety of recreational uses consistent with current land uses and forestry management objectives.
- Generate a recreational use and management plan, including recommendations identified in the recreation plan public opinion survey, consistent with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) restrictions.
- Continue to treat disease and manage for forest health.
- Continue forestry research: experimental plot protected.
- Strengthen connections with the contiguous open space resources.
- Expand forest uses and management.
- Develop trails throughout, as appropriate without negatively impacting natural resources.

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Health Care Center

The Sauk County Health Care Center is located south of Reedsburg along State Road 23. It remains in Sauk County ownership from its past role as the County Home and Asylum. The facility located on the property is now operated as a skilled nursing home and much of the farmland and pasture is rented for agriculture. The parcel consists of 565 acres. This is divided between 264 acres of cropland, 54 acres of pasture, 60 acres of woodlands, 26 acres of bottomland streambank corridor, 16 acres that was previously used as a clay borrow site, an 82 acre restored wetland and prairie area and approximately 55 acres that is still used for the Health Care functions consisting of buildings, parking lots, houses and a sewage treatment facility. The farmed lands are located on good productive soils and farmed under a conservation plan. Woodland is managed under a forest management plan. The restored wetland and prairie habitats are managed for wildlife production. All lands are open to public access for hunting, fishing hiking, wildlife observation, and other uses. The restored wetland and prairie habitats were established with the long- range goal of use as an educational site, and a fishery easement was purchased by the DNR to provide public access.

- Continue wetland and prairie restoration.
- Continue demonstration of conservation practices.
- Showcase possibilities include stream restoration/management, research facility (could include UW Madison), interpretative trails, bird watching.
- Strengthen partnerships among Parks/LCD/UW Extension.
- Develop public fishing access, camping, paved and unpaved hiking & biking trails, to address those needs prominently identified by responses to the CORP public opinion survey.
- Maintain scenic vistas.
- Develop site plan for integrating recreational/conservation/research uses.
- Maintain as a large parcel of public land.
- Develop a recreational trail connection with other public lands and “400” trail.
- Integrate future recreational use planning with comprehensive reuse plan for the facility.

Sauk County Landfill

The Sauk County Landfill covers 340 acres in the Town of Excelsior at E8795 Evergreen Lane, in the north range of the Baraboo Hills. The site includes mostly oak and pine forest and sand prairie, and is contiguous with at least 3,600 acres of privately owned forest. The property includes two closed landfills and associated structures, and a firearms qualification shooting range maintained by the Sauk County Officers Range Association. Groundwater contamination emanating from the original fourteen-acre unlined landfill has resulted in the site being added in 1989 to the National Priorities List (NPL “Superfund”) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Groundwater monitoring continues at 34 well sites on the property and four sites on private land, and although contamination remains, levels appear to be dropping, and are within safe drinking water standards. Landfill gas is collected and piped to an electrical generation “ micro-turbines” located on site.

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- Integrate the relevant elements of the existing closure plan, with current county uses, e.g. the shooting range and methane recapture, and potential future recreational uses in a comprehensive facility management plan.
- Continue ongoing restoration of the unique vegetation and fauna.
- Continue to monitor potential groundwater contamination.
- Recommend additional purchases to provide and improve access.
- Determine connective potential to Reedsburg school forest and UW Jack Pine Barrens.
- Explore potential for renewable energy research/education.
- Develop a greenhouse facility.
- Encourage collaboration with area organizations and agencies to make better use of volunteer labor, e.g. the use of work release prisoners as labor resource.

Lake Redstone County Park

Lake Redstone Park covers 29 acres in northwest Sauk County, north of State Road 33 and County Road V, off Lake Redstone Drive. A county-controlled dam forms the 670 acre Lake Redstone, which offers spillway falls, a public beach, an octagon shelter, playground, restroom facilities, snowmobile trail and a scenic trail with fishing access. A boat landing and launch pier are located at the north end of the Lake, just off County Road F. Wheelchair access is provided.

- Implement improvements such as flush toilets and a concession stand.
- Explore the possibility of contracting for commercial vendor management.
- Enhance/recognize public use potential.
- Improve the Douglas Canoe landing on the Baraboo River.
- Coordinate with Lake District to improve water quality.

Hemlock Park

Hemlock Park covers 80 acres located just west of LaValle on Dutch Hollow Road, and directly adjacent to the 400 State Recreational Trail. The park offers a boat landing, playground, picnic area and accessible fishing pier. Wheelchair accessible restroom facilities are provided.

- Provide connection from the “400” trail with primitive camping available.
- Continue trail maintenance.
- Protect or acquire adjacent private land to provide room for camping facilities and to improve access control.

Man Mound Park

Man Mound Park covers two acres located 4.5 miles northeast of Baraboo on Man Mound Road. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its rare man-shaped prehistoric effigy mound. The park offers picnic tables, grills and playground equipment.

- Currently shared owner with Sauk County Historical Society. Coordinate with SCHS regarding the maintenance/management program.
- Maintain current uses with picnic tables/grill currently available.

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- Consult with the Sauk County Historical Society and the Ho-Chunk Nation to determine need for shelter and potential increase in use of MMP.
- Develop and install interpretive signage.
- Protect area north of Man Mound Road (legs).
- Provide bike lane to park.
- Commemorate Park Dedication and Canfield survey anniversaries.
- Improve directional signage.
- Investigate the potential purchase of adjacent historic schoolhouse to determine potential increase of historical value.

Mirror Lake Dam (the Delton Dam) –

- Prepare flood plain and dam breach analysis.
- Identify and implement necessary dam repairs.

Baraboo River

The Baraboo River flows approximately 100 miles from its headwaters near Hillsboro to its confluence with the Wisconsin River south of Portage. It is one of the larger Wisconsin River tributaries, encompassing 650 square miles, or about 415,000 acres, as it drains central and northern Sauk County. Through its course, the Baraboo drops over 150 feet in elevation. However, forty-five feet of that gradient occurs in a four to five mile stretch of the river through the City of Baraboo. From the mid- to late nineteenth century five dams were the life and economic engine that drove the local economy, powering grist, lumber, and other essential milling enterprises. As of 2002, all five dams have been removed through collaboration between the WDNR, UWEX, the Wisconsin River Alliance, the City of Baraboo and others. Since that time, three-quarters of a mile of high-quality riffle habitat, rare in southern Wisconsin rivers, has been restored through the City of Baraboo to its free-flowing condition, and pre-settlement populations of fish and other aquatic species are returning.

- Develop comprehensive Recreation and Community use plan.
- Improve the Douglas Park canoe landing.
- Develop Golf Course road canoe landing.
- Provide leadership to coordinate planning and recreational management.
- Research river planning grant program.
- Pursue WDNR water trail funding for management and improvement of the recreational resource.

Wiedman Woods (the Dellona “Badlands”)

Wiedman Woods covers 80 acres in north-central Sauk County, in the Town of Dellona. The property occupies a prominent upland oak forest, commonly known as “the Badlands”. The property is not currently accessible to the public.

- Document and respect the Wiedman family’s intent for the use of the property.
- Dedicate Wiedman Woods as a State Natural Area.
- Pursue action to establish a connection between the W.W. property and nearby WDNR lands.

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1.3 Amending the Plan

Situations may arise that were not identified in this CORP; therefore, it is important that the plan can be amended when necessary. An addition to the plan would begin with the proposed amendment being placed on the agenda of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors oversight committee for a public discussion, and that public input be solicited. Committee approval of the proposed amendment would then be submitted as a resolution supporting adoption by the County Board. Upon County Board adoption, the Plan amendment would be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for approval, and incorporation into the County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

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2.0 Recreational and Open Space Reviews

2.1 Summary of *The Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WLLR)*

The Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WLLR) is an inventory of places to meet Wisconsin's future conservation and recreation needs. The report shows that the demand for outdoor recreation will continue to exceed the supply. Changes in population, education and economic status, land ownership as well as habitat fragmentation create resource and recreation protection challenges. Constructing and maintaining outdoor recreation facilities must be done with care in order to protect our resources and land legacies, while at the same time alleviating the overcrowding of existing facilities as well as reducing conflicts between motorized and non-motorized uses of a given area. The WLLR is an extensive report that identifies Land Legacy areas and potential methods to protect such. Specific references are incorporated into many sections of this plan.

2.2 Summary of 'The 2005-2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan' (SCORP)

'The 2005-2010 Wisconsin *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*' (SCORP) is a comprehensive report supplying information regarding recreation supply and demand, participation rates and trends as well as goals and actions recommendations for implementation. Sauk County, along with the counties of Richland, Columbia, Dodge, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Lafayette, Green and Rock, is in SCORP planning region number 2, known as the "Southern Gateway". The Southern Gateway contains a wider variety of ecological landscapes as well as recreation opportunities.

SCORP has 8 statewide goals along with actions and recommendations for local outdoor recreation plans. The goals are

- 1) Protect, restore, and enhance WI natural resources for outdoor recreation
- 2) Continue to improve and develop WI outdoor recreation facilities
- 3) Understand and manage the growing issues of WI outdoor recreation conflicts
- 4) Continue to provide WI outdoor recreation education and programming
- 5) Continue to provide and enhance public access to WI recreational lands and waters
- 6) Understand the threats and opportunities of WI's developing urban areas and areas of rapid population growth.
- 7) Maintain and enhance funding opportunities of WI outdoor recreation.
- 8) Promote WI outdoor recreation as a means to better health and wellness for state citizens

The full listing of objectives may be found in Appendix A. Other specific SCORP references are incorporated into many sections of this plan.

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2.3 Summary of the 2002 Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Table 2-1: 1997- 2002 Sauk County Outdoor Recreation Plan Implementation Objectives

1997-2002 CORP		
Location	Project	Completion Date
White Mound County Park	Improve boat ramp and include handicap fishing pier.	Boat ramp: 1998 Fishing Pier: 2002
	Riprap shoreline in needed areas.	1998
	Improve beach quality.	Phased out beach
	Remove diving platform and replace with a floating raft.	2001 Raft was not installed
	Improve trails.	Ongoing
	Resurface parking lots and campground drive.	1997
	Improve playground equipment.	1999
Redstone County Park	Improve playground equipment.	2003
Man Mound County Park	Improve playground equipment.	-
Parks and Recreation Department	Create storage for Maintenance equipment.	1998
Baraboo River	Create a recreational corridor	Dams removed over time period
2002-2007 CORP		
Location	Project	Completion Date
White Mound County Park	Make necessary improvements recommended by USDA / NRCS	2004
	Improve camping facilities at horse campground.	New hitching posts - 2005
Baraboo Range	Purchase property development rights	Ongoing
Baraboo River	Create a recreational resource	Nothing completed
"400" State Trail	Connect Hemlock Park with the state trail and create camping facilities for bicyclists.	Nothing completed
Mirror Lake Dam	Provide improved access and improve erosion control.	Nothing completed
Town of Dellona	Construct a drive, erect a sign, and a gate to restrict traffic at Harvey Weidman's donation.	Nothing completed
Redstone Beach	Improve entrance aesthetics	Removed gates - 2005
Lake Wisconsin	Explore the possibility of developing a new boat landing.	Nothing completed
Parks Department	Create a Ranger position	2007
Man Mound County Park	Construct a picnic shelter.	Nothing completed
Redstone Beach	Install a new play structure	2005
Snowmobile Trails	Maintain trails.	Ongoing
County Forest (Code CO2 on Map _____)	Combat the annosum tree fungus	Ongoing

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2.4 Accessibility

The Sauk County Parks and Recreation Department provides outdoor recreation for a wide range of the population. To make the parks accessible to the population with physical disabilities, Sauk County hired a consultant to complete a Comprehensive Transition Plan for handicap accessibility. The plan was adapted for the Parks and Recreation Department. Implementation of the plan was completed in 1997.

Wheelchair accessible bathrooms were installed. Six accessible toilets were constructed throughout the park system, one at Hemlock Park, Redstone Park, Redstone Boat Landing and three at White Mound Park (one near a picnic shelter, one in the campground, and one at the boat landing). An accessible shower building was constructed in the campground of White Mound Park in 1996. A path leading from the accessible toilet to the shelter was constructed at White Mound Park in 1997. At the same time, two RV pads were paved in the White Mound Campground next to the accessible toilet for use by handicapped users.

Handicap designated parking was added to Redstone Boat Landing and Redstone Park. A paved path leading from an accessible toilet to an accessible fishing pier at Hemlock Park was constructed in 1996. Changes to the Parks and Recreation department office at White Mound Park were made in 1997 to improve accessibility. A wheelchair accessible fishing pier and paved path was installed at White Mound Lake in 2004.

2.5 Standards and Descriptions

Overall, open space requirements are based on a set of official guidelines provided by the State based on geographical distribution. The information provides the Parks and Recreation Department with a quick and easy reference that will encompass 5 years.

2.6 The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Open Space Classification System

The *National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)* has endorsed a park and open space classification system that is more suitable to an urban parks system than to Sauk County's rural parks. *NRPA's* standards have been included (below) in the plan as one reasonable beginning reference when determining general needs of a community or county, despite the difficulty of applying the categories wholesale to the rural parks of Sauk County.

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Table 2-2: NRPA Park and Open Space Classification System

Mini-Park (Tot Lot)	
Desirable/Typical Size	1 acre or less
Acres/1,000 population	.5-1 acre
Service Area	One-eighth to one-fourth mile
Use	Specialized facilities that serve a concentration of limited population or groups such as senior citizens or young children.
Site Characteristics	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to concentrations of family housing or housing for the elderly.
Neighborhood Park/Playground	
Desirable/Typical Size	1 to 10 acres
Acres/1,000 population	2-3 acres
Service Area	One-fourth to one-half mile radius
Use	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus, ice skating, picnicking, volleyball, etc...
Site Characteristics	Suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhood population; geographically centered with safe walking and bicycle access. May be developed as a joint school/park facility.
Village/Community Park	
Desirable/Typical Size	5-20 acres
Acres/1,000 population	6-8 acres
Service Area	One to two miles
Use	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include acres suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes or large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. May be any combination of the above depending on site suitability and community need.
Site Characteristics	May include natural features, such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easy access by all modes of transportation.
Linear Park	
Desirable/Typical Size	Sufficient width to protect resources and provide maximum use
Acres/1,000 population	No applicable standard
Service Area	Variable
Use	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel or activity such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, fitness trails, cross country skiing, and/or canoeing. May include active play areas.
Site Characteristics	Built or natural corridors such as utility or railroad right-of-ways, bluff lines, vegetation patterns and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as libraries, commercial areas and other park areas.

2.7 Outdoor Recreational Facility Development Standards

Recreation systems are evaluated from a facility viewpoint in addition to an open space viewpoint to determine the amount of facility development needed in each recreation area. Traditional standards for the development of recreational facilities have been expressed in facility units per population ratio, similar to open space standards. Problems related to using traditional facility development standards include their assumptions of the recreational opportunities desired by the resident population.

For example, an examination of the facilities standards may show that a second tennis court is needed based on the community's population. In reality, it is possible that very few people in the community enjoy playing tennis, which may eliminate the need for this type of facility

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altogether. Age, income, and education all contribute to people's recreational preferences, yet facility standards sometimes ignore these variables.

The *National Recreation and Park Association* for years published standards for the amount and types of park and recreation facilities to be provided per capita of population. Typically, the *NRPA* standard called for ten acres of park and recreation land per 1000 residents or 0.010 acres per capita. Since the 1990s *NRPA*, recognizing various local and regional differences, has renounced a "one size fits all" approach and recommends that communities identify their recreational space needs individually. *NRPA* advocates a public process, including open meetings, community surveys, personal conversations with stakeholder representatives and other techniques to establish the existing demand on facilities and to determine future needs.

The *Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* provides a discussion of park and recreation facility design at various scales from neighborhood mini parks to school parks, up to State forests and parklands. It addresses *county parks* design this way:

"Space, Design and Service Area:

The size of a county park should be a minimum of 100 acres. Facilities vary by park; some parks offer active recreation (camping, recreational trails, etc.), while others provide passive recreation (scenic lookouts, picnic areas, beaches, etc.). Most parks provide both active and passive recreation. County parks provide for a regional user group and serve primarily county residents, though special facilities also serve tourists and visitors to the county."

The Wisconsin *SCORP* lists Wisconsin counties in terms of the amount of land within each that is dedicated to conservation and recreation. These lands include all publicly held lands, from federal to local. Sauk County has a total of 29,925 acres in public conservation / recreation ownership, 31st among Wisconsin's 72 counties. Sauk County's estimated 60,673 people in 2007 placed it 29th of 72 counties in population, but its location and interstate highway accessibility requires Sauk County and its public lands to serve a region that includes the Chicago, Milwaukee and Twin Cities metropolitan areas, whose combined population of over 18 million people live within a convenient four-hour drive.

Appendix B shows *SCORP* information related to Park and Recreation Design as well as the list of counties and their allotment of public lands.

3.0 Regional Setting

3.1 Location

Sauk County is located in South-Central Wisconsin, 20 miles northwest of Madison, the state capital. It is about 100 miles northwest of Milwaukee, 173 miles northwest of Chicago, and approximately 250 miles southeast of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

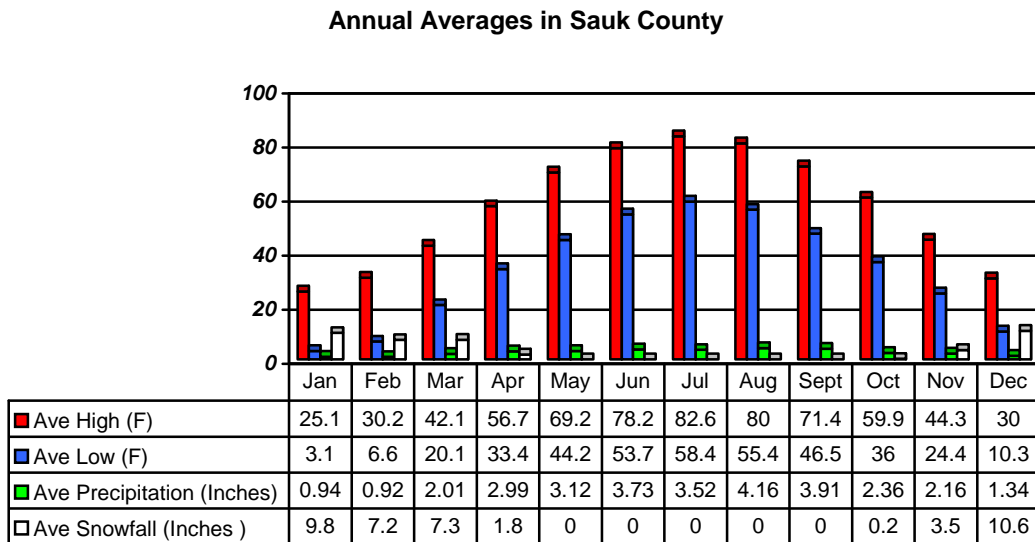
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Sauk County is about 840 square miles in size and consists of 3 cities, 14 villages and 22 towns. The population centers are the communities of Baraboo (county seat), Reedsburg, Prairie du Sac, Sauk City, Spring Green, and Lake Delton.

3.2 Climate

The chart below illustrates how Sauk County exhibits a continental climate where temperature and precipitation vary with each season. Weather systems frequently move in an easterly fashion across the county. There are some micro-climatic variations depending on terrain and proximity to water. Generally, valleys experience freezing temperatures later in the spring and earlier in the fall than do the hillsides, as well as colder temperatures during the winter months than the flats or hilltops. The seasons each provide abundant unique opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Chart 3-1: Annual Temperature and Precipitation Averages in Sauk County



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4.0 Demographic and Economic Characteristics

Sauk County continues to grow in size and population with residential areas growing at relatively high rates. Recreation preferences often vary with age, gender and income levels. In 2006 the Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism reported that Sauk County ranked third in overall tourism spending at \$1.06 billion, falling only behind Milwaukee County at \$1.6 billion and Dane County at \$1.2B. The inviting and varied landscape, natural beauty, and cultural features found in Sauk County are the backbone of a large portion of local tourism and recreation. In order to protect the natural and cultural uniqueness of Sauk County while providing residents and tourists with adequate facilities, it is important to consider the data and trends throughout the decision making process.

4.1 Trends and Projections

Population size and characteristics are very important in determining the size and number of parks and open space offered on a community and county level. Depending on where large population clusters are located is often the determining factor of where parks are located.

The population of Sauk County, as of the 2000 census, is 55,225; the projected population for 2001 was 55,868 (approximately a 1% growth per year). The final 2007 Wisconsin DOA estimate for Sauk County is 60,673, a 9.9% increase over the 2000 census.

Table 4-1: Sauk County Population Projections 2000-2030

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Population	55,225	58,121	60,930	63,520	65,821	68,208	70,185

Source: U.S. Census

Age Composition

Table 4-2: Sauk County Population Distribution by Gender and Trends

Sauk County's largest percentage of population lies between 25 and 54 years of age, with most of those people in their prime family raising years. Trends in housing development coupled with good schools and a desirable location indicate that the County's population will continue to grow.

Description	Population	% Of Population	General Preference of Recreation Activity as outlined in SCORP
Male	27,292	49.40	
Female	27,933	50.60	
Under 5 years	3,567	6.50	
5-9 years	3,856	7.00	
10 to 14 years	4,404	8.00	
15 to 19 years	3,913	7.10	Active recreation and motorized activities
20 to 24 years	2,738	5.00	Active recreation and motorized activities
25 to 34 years	7,101	12.90	Active recreation and motorized activities
35 to 44 years	9,061	16.40	Active recreation and motorized activities
45 to 54 years	7,641	13.80	Quieter and low impact activities
55 to 59 years	2,726	4.90	Quieter and low impact activities
60 to 64 years	2,225	4.00	Quieter and low impact activities
65 to 74 years	3,880	7.00	Quieter and low impact activities
75 to 84 years	2,946	5.30	Quieter and low impact activities
85 and older	1,167	2.10	Quieter and low impact activities
Median age	37.3		

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According to the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, younger generations tend to enjoy more active and motorized activities such as jogging, hiking, downhill skiing and ATV riding. Older generations seem to prefer quieter and low impact activities such as driving tours and wildlife viewing. *SCORP* also indicates that men are more apt to participate in hunting and ice fishing, while women are more apt to participate in visiting a dog park or swim in an outdoor pool.

A chart and supporting text in the *Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WLLR)* shows the number of adults in Wisconsin participating in selected outdoor recreation activities. This data seems to support the findings in *SCORP*, where older generations seem to prefer quieter and low impact activities and younger generations are more apt to enjoy active and motorized activities. Data obtained from the Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism by the Sauk County River Runners ATV Club claims 282,000 ATVs statewide, and an average user age of 40.

Table 4-3: Adult Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities

Activity	Number of Adults	Age Group
Wildlife viewing	over 2,000,000.	Usually 50 and older
Hiking	over 1,500,000.	Usually 40 and younger
Fishing	over 1,500,000.	More men than women
Nature Study/Bird Watching	over 1,500,000.	Usually 50 and older
Motoring Boating	approximately 1,500,000.	Usually 40 and younger
Camping with a tent	over 500,000.	Not listed
Hunting	over 500,000.	More men than women
Off road biking	over 500,000.	Usually 40 and younger
Canoeing	over 500,000.	Not listed
Snowmobiling	approximately 500,000.	Usually 40 and younger
Cross-country skiing	approximately 500,000.	Not Listed
Camping with a RV	approximately 500,000.	Usually 50 and older
ATV riding	approximately 250,000.	Usually 40 and younger

4.2 Ethnic Background

Sauk County is predominately comprised of White/non-Hispanics. For this group, the type of recreational activities enjoyed varies by gender, education and economic status. According to *SCORP*, minority groups also enjoy a variety of outdoor recreation activities, though they tend to utilize nature based educational and family oriented opportunities.

Table 4-4: Sauk County Ethnic Population Distribution and Recreational Preferences

Ethnicity	Population	% Of Population	General Preference of Recreation Activity as outlined in SCORP
White	53775	97.4%	varies
Black, African American	142	0.3%	Nature based educational and family oriented activities
American Indian, Alaska Native	479	0.9%	Nature based educational and family oriented activities
Asian	144	0.3%	Nature based educational and family oriented activities
Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander	9		Nature based educational and family oriented activities
Other	324	0.6%	
Two Or More Races	352	0.6%	

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4.3 Education

The 2000 Census indicates that 17.6 % of Sauk County residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. *SCORP* indicates that the primary recreation activities for those with graduate or professional degrees (5.2%) are nature-based activities such as wildlife viewing, hiking, snow-shoeing. Those with some college or a bachelor's degree (41.6%) seem to participate in a wide variety of activities.

Table 4-5: Sauk County Educational Attainment

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Population 25 years and over	36,701	100 %
Less than 9th grade	2,335	6.4
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,711	10.1
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	13,867	37.8
Some college, no degree	7,699	21
Associate degree	2,629	7.2
Bachelor's degree	4,543	12.4
Graduate or professional degree	1,917	5.2
Percent high school graduate or higher	83.5	(X)
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	17.6	(X)

4.4 Income Levels and Economy

Income levels can influence the type of recreational activities people choose. *SCORP* shows that middle-income families tend to enjoy activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, picnicking and ATV riding. Higher income families will participate in a variety of activities including jogging, hiking and visiting historic homes, an be more apt to participate in activities such as golf, downhill skiing and motor-boating.

Table 4-6: Sauk County Income Distribution

INCOME IN 1999		
Households	21,647	100 %
Less than \$10,000	1,461	6.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,255	5.8
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,890	13.4
\$25,000 to \$34,999	2,987	13.8
\$35,000 to \$49,999	4,552	21
\$50,000 to \$74,999	5,014	23.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,976	9.1
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,019	4.7
\$150,000 to \$199,999	232	1.1
\$200,000 or more	261	1.2
Median household income (dollars)	41,941	(X)

A look at the most recent census data shows that almost 72 % of Sauk County residents are in the labor force, with only 3% unemployed.

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Table 4-7: Sauk County Labor Force Employment Status

Employment Status	Number in Sauk County	Percent in Sauk County
In Labor Force	30,395	71.60%
Armed Forces	21	0.10%
Civilian Labor Force	30,374	71.50%
Employed	29,108	68.50%
Unemployed	1,266	3.00%

Much of Sauk County’s economy is based on agriculture, construction and manufacturing. Although Sauk County’s tourist spending (\$1.06 billion in 2006) relies heavily on the Wisconsin Dells area, which boasts a large number of water parks and tourist attractions, the County’s abundant and unique natural features draw significant numbers of visitors, and remain the basis of Sauk County’s long-term viability as a destination and, more importantly, as a livable community. Tourism accounted for 27,369 full-time equivalent jobs in 2006. Sauk County’s food service and accommodation industry is the county’s second largest employer offering 5,128 positions.

A comprehensive economic analysis might reveal tourism as a tool capable of generating interest in the health and protection of the natural resources that form the basis of the tourism industry and, in fact, of the entire economy. The concept of Civic Tourism promotes view of tourism as “an enabler of healthy place-making, not only as an economic tool.”

Sauk County could maximize its recreational advantage in the fact that tourists spend over a billion dollars a year locally by educating visitors on the value of County’s natural resources and scenic areas, and by setting aside a portion of the tourist revenues to preserve and enhance those assets.

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5.0 Natural and Cultural Resources

The varied and unique topography, geological, land cover and cultural features provide Sauk County with abundant opportunities for outdoor education and recreation opportunities.

5.1 Topography

The highest point in Sauk County has an elevation of approximately 1600 feet and is in the glaciated portion of the Baraboo Range. The lowest elevation in the county is about 700 feet along the Wisconsin River Near Spring Green. The general elevation ranges from 775 to 1,000 feet above sea level.

The western 4/5 of Sauk County, known as the Driftless Area, consists of steep hills and valleys. This unglaciated portion of the county is comprised of deeply dissected bedrock plateaus with relatively narrow ridges and steep sided valleys. The valleys range up to two miles in width and are cut 300-400 feet below the ridge tops.

The eastern 1/5 section of the county was greatly modified by glaciation. This section is now an area of terminal and ground moraines. The terrain is gently undulating to hilly with complex slopes.

The most predominant physical feature in Sauk County is the Baraboo Range. Said to be one of the Earth's "Last Great Places" by the Nature Conservancy, the Range is nationally recognized for its outstanding geology and diverse ecological features. These features make the range a centerpiece for wildlife habitat as well as geology and nature studies.



Another important topographic feature of the county is the outwash terraces. The Spring Green outwash area was formed by the Wisconsin River. It is predominately level and gently sloping except for the low rolling areas formed by wind deposition. The Merrimac outwash terrace has several levels along the banks of Lake Wisconsin, encompassing most of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. The property is identified by several terminal moraines and oak savannah remnants intertwined.

All of Sauk County lies within the drainage basin of the Wisconsin River. Except for some small isolated depressions in the glaciated area, all parts of the county are reached by streams that serve as outlets for drainage waters. Most of the county is well drained. The Baraboo River drains most of the northern part of the county while smaller creeks and streams, such

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as Honey Creek, drain the southern part of the county. Many of the streams are fed by permanent springs, with wetlands generally found in the bottomlands of streams and rivers.

5.2 Land Cover and Land Use

Map 5-1 shows the Land Use and Land Cover in Sauk County.

▪ *Grasslands*

According to the *2007 Sauk County Land and Water Resource Plan*, nearly half of the pre-settlement Sauk County landscape was characterized by the “Oak savannas, mesic and dry prairies”. The Sauk Prairie stretched across 14,000 acres west and northwest of present day villages of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac. The “Wisconsin Desert” covered about 13,000 acres near the present day village of Spring Green on the sand terraces of the Wisconsin River. Two additional prairies included Pleasant Prairie (2,200 acres), located north of the city of Baraboo, and Cassell Prairie (1,200 acres), located along the Wisconsin River between the villages of Sauk City and Spring Green. There were also numerous smaller native prairies through the County. Grassland prairies and savannas today represent less than one-half of one percent of the original prairies in Sauk County.



▪ *Agriculture*

Agricultural lands beyond the steep slopes of the Baraboo Range largely dominate Sauk County. The 2006 Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WLLR) highlights the importance of agricultural lands. Farms provide open space and buffers between development and habitat areas, large blocks of undeveloped land, scenic vistas, as well as corridors that help to facilitate species movement.

Our Farmlands: Issues and opportunities

The WLLR points out that while non-point pollution from agriculture lands is a concern, preserving large tracts of farmland through programs such as Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) can help buffer and protect wetlands, woods, etc. Targeting protection of conservation areas near working farms may help protect family farm owners from being squeezed out by real or anticipated development pressures. Private and public prairie restoration projects, including the restoration of the 7,300 acre former Badger Army Ammunition Plant on the historic Sauk Prairie, offer the potential of “demonstrating the profitability and environmental stewardship of grassland farming using managed grazing

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techniques.” Recreational use of grassland prairie and savanna landscapes include hiking, birdwatching and other wildlife viewing.

▪ *Surface Waters*

In addition to unique land features, surface waters are a determining factor in the success of a recreation area. This is well evidenced in Sauk County by the extensive recreational developments that have emerged around Wisconsin Dells, Lake Delton, Devils Lake, Mirror Lake, Lake Redstone, Dutch Hollow and Lake Wisconsin. In all, Sauk County contains 22 named lakes, along with 49 named and 5 unnamed streams. **Map 5-2** shows the surface waters and associated wetlands in Sauk County.



▪ *Lakes of Sauk County*

Both public and private lakes exist in Sauk County. Depending on size, public access lakes are used for a number of recreational activities including, fishing, boating, tow sports, and swimming. Many of the lakes in Sauk County are not suitable for swimming but offer an array of fishing possibilities. Others offer beaches with roped swimming areas, and excellent opportunities for other water recreation.

A few of the lakes that offer excellent recreational opportunities are man made impoundments with dams. Examples of these are found at White Mound Park, Mirror Lake, Lake Wisconsin, Lake Delton, Lake Virginia, Dutch Hollow, and Lake Redstone.

The Plain - Honey Creek Watershed Project, part of White Mound County Park, is an example of how stream waters can be impounded to create a lake that serves many purposes, including public recreation. This 1,100-acre project on Honey Creek in the Towns of Franklin and Bear Creek created the 104-acre White Mound lake. The lake and surrounding lands, support a variety of popular outdoor summer and winter recreation activities.

Three privately-sponsored impoundments have been constructed in the northwest part of the county. One, the 45 acre Lake Virginia project, is located a few miles east of Reedsburg and adjacent to State Hwy 33. There is public access to this lake for recreational purposes. The second impoundment, the Dutch Hollow project, has approximately 210 acres of recreational water in the Town of Woodland. There are two access points, one in the Town of La Valle and one in the Town of Woodland. The third impoundment, Lake Redstone, contains 600 acres, most of which is in the Town of La Valle. Public boat accesses are on the northern,

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northwestern and southeastern end, while the County maintains a beach and park at the dam site.

Lake Wisconsin, Lake Delton, Lake Redstone, and Mirror Lake are the more established impoundments and have developed shorelines. These lakes provide the county residents and tourists with many recreational opportunities as well as permanent and seasonal home sites. The county's Land Conservation Committee is responsible for providing oversight for the maintenance of Lake Redstone, Hemlock Lake, White Mound Lake and Mirror Lake dams.



The following table lists the named lakes and their size in acres (Devil's Lake is described later in the Plan).

Table 5-1:
Sauk County's Named Lakes

Sauk County Named Lakes	Size (Acres)
Bakkens Pond	14
Blass Lake	34
Cynthia Slough	13
Deacon Thomas Lake	11
Delton Lake	267
Devils Lake	369
Dutch Hollow Lake	210
Hemlock Slough	12
Hill Slough	4
Hutter Slough	10
Jones Slough	5
Lake of the Dells	13
Leland Millpond	14
Long Lake	4
Mirror Lake	137
Norton Slough	9
Redstone Lake	612
Seeley Lake	49
Virginia Lake	35
White Mound Lake	104
Wisconsin Lake	9100
Wood Slough	4
TOTAL	11030

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▪ *Streams and Rivers of Sauk County*

The streams and rivers in Sauk County are often navigable and contain one or more different species of fish. Many of these also pass through lands that are protected by the Nature Conservancy or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Most of the county's smaller streams are slow-flowing and subject to siltation and pollution by agricultural and residential land uses. However, use of soil conservation and best management practices as well as sanitary code enforcement can reduce these impacts.



There are 49 named streams and rivers in Sauk County. The Wisconsin and Baraboo Rivers are the two major recreational waterways in the county. The Wisconsin River, along the northeast and southern border of the county, is home to many of the county's freshwater fish populations as well as offering a wide variety of recreational activities.

▪ *Watersheds*

All of Sauk County's rivers and streams lie within the Lower Wisconsin River Watershed. Two of the more critical watershed districts in Sauk County are the *Narrows Creek/Baraboo River Watershed* and the *Lower Baraboo River Watershed*. Along with all of Sauk County's rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands, these surface water resources offer a broad variety of recreational opportunities for fishing, swimming, paddle sports, and other activities, as well as critical habitat for much of Sauk County's resident and migratory wildlife populations.

The 2007 update of the **Sauk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan** says this about the Narrows Creek/.Baraboo River Watershed:

“The Narrows Creek/Baraboo River Watershed lies entirely within Sauk County. It includes the Baraboo River from the city of Reedsburg to the western edge of the city of Baraboo. The Narrows Creek - Baraboo River Watershed was an active priority watershed project from 1992 to 2005 enabling agreements with to be signed with landowners to address the sources of non-point pollution arising from the farming operations in the watershed. Participation rates within the project were very high with approximately 60% of eligible landowners choosing to participate through the program. Through the cooperation of these participating farmers we were able to meet goals in reduction of soil erosion from cropland, streambank erosion, and phosphorus runoff from barnyards. The success of this project has been an important factor in the improved conditions in the river and helped to allow the removal of the Baraboo River from the WDNR's 303D list.”

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The **Baraboo River**, one of the longest restored free flowing rivers east of the Mississippi River, is host to many rare and endangered plants and animals. Plant species include species typically found much further north. Several headwater creeks contain trout. Considerable stream and stream bank improvements on the Baraboo River has been completed, thus enhancing the stream's health and increasing quality recreation opportunities such as canoeing. The river is considered a **Land Legacy in the WLLR** with the following statistics:

Size	Large
Protection Initiated	Limited
Protection Remaining	Moderate
Conservation Significance	4 Stars
Recreation Potential	4 Stars

The 2007 **Land and Water Resource Management Plan** says also details work accomplished on the Lower Baraboo River watershed:

“Studies have also shown a much improved game fishery in the Baraboo River and some of its branch streams. The river was removed from the DNR 303D listing in 2006 and is seeing steadily increasing use by the public. Several canoe liveries are now operating on the river and the number of canoe and kayak users has increased significantly over the last 10 years. The City of Baraboo has initiated an extensive riverfront revitalization project and other communities along the river are also looking at ways to better use the resource. Fishing in the rapids areas in the city of Baraboo is now a regular occurrence where it was unheard of only five years ago.”

Other priority watershed projects described in the **Land and Water Resource Management Plan** include the Crossman Creek/Little Baraboo River Watershed (which extends north into Juneau County), the Bear Creek Watershed, the Honey Creek Watershed, the Lake Wisconsin Watershed, the Dell Creek Watershed and the Willow Creek Watershed.

The following tables show all the named and unnamed streams and creeks in Sauk County as well as their surface area and length.

Table 5-2: Sauk County’s Unnamed Streams

Location of Sauk County’s Unnamed Streams	Surface Area (Acres)	Length (Miles)
Bear Creek Township	1.09	3
Washington Township	1.21	2
Baraboo Township	0.18	0.5
Greenfield Township	0.3	1.25
Delton Township	0.36	0.75
Total	7549.55	337.12

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Table 5-3: Sauk County's Named Streams

Sauk County Named Streams	Surface Area (acres)	Length (miles)
Babbs Creek	3.72	6.13
Baraboo River (A land legacy)	267.31	63
Bear Creek	7.33	7.2
Beaver Creek	1.35	1.59
Big Creeks	0.15	0.25
Bondy Valley	0.48	1.6
Camels Creek	1.32	1.81
Carr Valley Creek	3.03	5
Cazenovia Branch	3.03	2.5
Copper Creek	2.13	3.2
Crossman Creek	1.97	2.5
Dell Creek	17.82	10.5
Dutch Hollow Creek	0.64	1.5
East Branch of Big Creek	0.97	2
Ela Valle Creek	0.83	2.75
Furnace Creek	1.92	3.95
Gardner Creek	0.09	0.25
Harrison Creek	1.54	7.26
Hay Creek	2.79	5.75
Hillpoint Creek	2.91	4
Honey Creek	45.46	25
Hulburt Creek	4.07	3.5
Jones Valley Creek	0.05	0.3
Leech Creek	7.27	6
Little Baraboo River	23.64	13
Little Bear Creek	2.85	5.6
Mortimer Valley Creek	0.65	1.8
Narrows Creek	44.58	18.5
North Branch of Honey Creek	9.82	9
Otter Creek	2.91	6
Ox Creek	0.39	2.13
Parfrey's Glen Creek	0.53	1.1
Pine Creek	0.85	3.5
Plum Creek	2.91	6
Punkin Hollow Creek	0.18	0.75
Rowley Creek	1.67	2.75
Seeley Creek	13.34	11
Shannahan Valley Creek	1.45	3
Silver Creek	0.79	3.25
Skillet Creek	2.91	6
Smith Hollow Creek	0.24	1
Spring Brook	1.91	1.75
Spring Valley Creek	1.1	2.25
Sugar Grove Valley Creek	1.85	5.1
Twin Creek	4.09	7.5
West Branch of Big Creek	0.61	1
Willow Creek	0.47	1.3
Wilson Creek	3.49	5.75
Wisconsin River	7045	43.05

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▪ *Sauk County's Waters: Issues and opportunities*

Wetlands are a key component of *supporting outdoor recreation activities* such as wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing, as well as enjoying scenic vistas while boating or hiking. Wetlands, which are generally found near many of our lakes and streams, are critical to environmental habitat and health. Wetland communities support the highest abundance of plant and animal life, act as sponges to protect us during floods, as well as filter excessive nutrients from runoff. It is true that while wetlands may be protected from filling or other types of development, they are not well protected from being drained, especially for existing agricultural purposes. Invasive species are an issue affecting wetlands as well.

Both the function (quality) and quantity of wetlands are diminishing. WLLR outlines some protection potential through outreach and technical assistance programs, incentive programs (prop tax reduction), use of CREP, CRP, and WRP programs. Since protecting all wetlands may seem an overwhelming task, the WLLR suggests targeting large sedge meadows and marshes; high-quality cattail and bulrush marshes (shallow and deep), especially adjacent to lakes; wild rice lakes and bogs; Great Lakes wetlands; wetlands for migrating and breeding waterfowl and shorebirds; as well as wetland areas critical to hydrology and water quality. The 2007 **Land and Water Resource Management Plan** addresses wetlands and their importance:

“These different types of wetlands have important functions. They protect shorelines, shelter rare and endangered species of plants and animals, and remove nutrients and pesticides from surface water and groundwater. Some wetlands filter out sediment before it reaches the surface waters of the County. Many wetlands slow the overland flow of water and thus reduce flooding and soil erosion downstream. Currently, wetlands comprise approximately 1 percent of the land area in Sauk County. During early settlement times, wetlands encompassed an estimated 20 percent of the County. The greatest concentrations of prime wetlands consisting of shallow and deep marsh, shrub swamp, and timber swamps are located along the Wisconsin River, Honey Creek, Baraboo River above the city of Reedsburg, and Dell Creek above Mirror Lake. Existing wetlands are declining in quality as well. They are impacted by sediment accumulations and invasive species.”

Clearly, wetlands have importance not only from an ecological perspective, but as major recreational attributes important to Sauk County residents and visitors alike. The WLLR points out that surface water may be a source of drinking water as well as resource for outdoor recreational activities. Some of the most identifiable challenges to protecting water quality include: both point and non-point pollution; finding a balance between the varied uses, particularly motorized and non-motorized uses; and finally, building along shoreland areas.

Protecting shorelands helps to protect some wetlands and native species, and also the quality of water in the water body. An integrated program of landowner incentives, reasonable regulations and permanent land protection efforts affords the most effective combination of strategies to address conservation issues at a watershed level.

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▪ Woodlands

Much of Sauk County is covered with stands of bur, white and black oak. Sugar maple and basswood also make up a large portion of the county's wooded areas. Many of the woodlands in Sauk County are private. The WDNR and The Nature Conservancy manage some areas, allowing hunting on a restricted basis. They also provide a variety of other low-impact public recreational opportunities such as hiking, birding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. As pointed out in the 2007 **Land and Water Resource Management Plan**, "*The forest*



contributes to the county's economy providing wood products and supporting ecotourism."

The Baraboo Hills contain one of the largest contiguous upland hardwood forests in the Midwest. The Baraboo Hills forests are home to incredible diversity, including more than 1,800 plant and animal species, many of which are rare. The Baraboo Hills are the site of two state parks and several State Natural Areas. Devil's Lake State Park / Ice Age National Scientific Reserve attracts over one million visitors each year to Sauk County. Natural Bridge State Park near Leland in the neighboring Town of Honey Creek is the scene of one of the northern hemisphere's most distinctive natural stone arches. The Parfrey's Glen property on the South Range east of Devil's Lake was designated Wisconsin's first State Natural Area and remains a popular regional attraction. Baxter's Hollow, Pine Hollow and several other properties owned by The Nature Conservancy are open to public access for wildlife viewing, birdwatching and, in season, controlled hunting.

Woodlands: Issues and opportunities

According to the WLLR, forests are home to numerous species of trees, shrubs, grasses and animals. Large contiguous tracts are critical for acting as a source of food and cover for many species. Large tracts may be established and/or preserved through creation of connective corridors and the protection of contiguous lands. Forest corridors (e.g. lowlands along riverways) offer ways to connect many types of habitats. While not all forests are necessarily threatened directly by people or human activity, fragmented and absentee private ownership patterns might result in less effective management for enhancing wildlife habitat or to control invasive species. Offering educational outreach efforts to landowners as well as providing management tools and resources are important to manage this resource.

Public/private partnerships designed to achieve well-managed conservation and recreational uses of Sauk County's vast forests will enhance public awareness of their aesthetic, ecological and economic importance.

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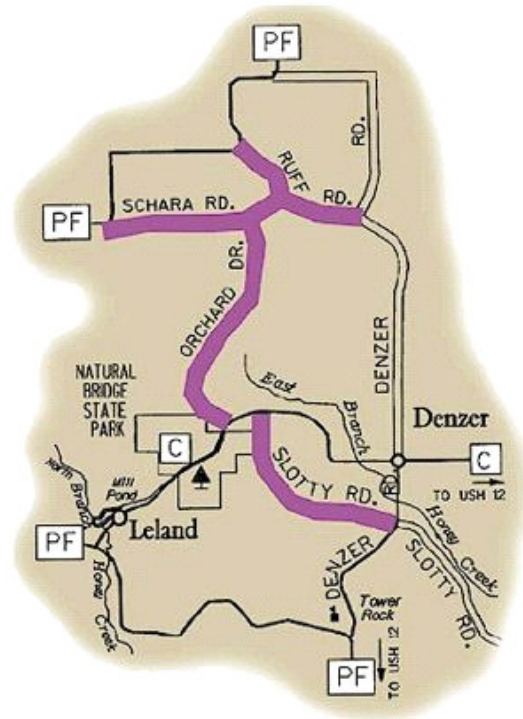
5.3 Cultural Features

Cultural features lend to many types of passive and active recreational opportunities. Many of the rural roads provide hikers, bikers and motorists outstanding vistas of agriculture and other natural features. Historical landmarks and archeological sites provide sightseers and motorists a glimpse of the past. Sauk County is blessed with many cultural points of interest.

- **Rustic Roads**

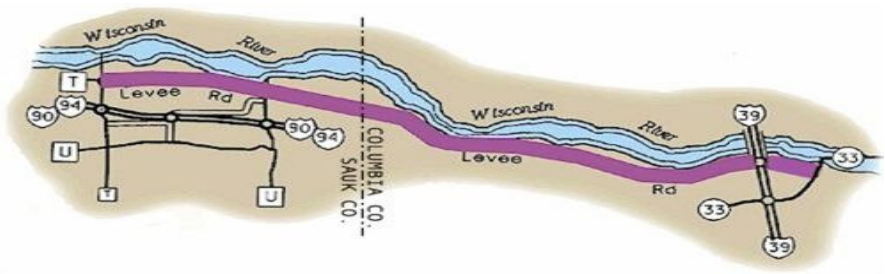
Rustic Roads provide access to those who live along them but also provide bikers, hikers, and motorists an opportunity for leisurely travel through some of Sauk County's most scenic countryside. Rustic Roads offer open agricultural vistas or outstanding natural features such as rugged terrain, native vegetation, and native wildlife. Rustic Roads often aid understanding of the natural and cultural attributes that help define our 'Sense of Place'

In Sauk County, there are two Rustic Roads, #21 and #49. Rustic Road #21 is located between the hamlets of Denzer and Leland in the Township of Honey Creek just off County Highway PF. This 8.6-mile stretch of primarily gravel road follows portions of Schara Road, Ruff Road, Orchard Drive and Slotty Road. Skirting Natural Bridge State Park, this stretch is marked by rugged rolling terrain, stands of oak, maple, basswood and hickory, roadside wildflowers and agriculture vistas.



<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/scenic/rusticroad21.htm>

Rustic Road #49 is a 9.8-mile stretch traversing the paved Levee Road through both Sauk and Columbia Counties. Levee road takes you along the Wisconsin River and passes through the Aldo Leopold Reserve. Hikers, bikers and motorists are treated to outstanding vistas of the Wisconsin River, marshlands and prairies.



<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/scenic/rusticroad49.htm>

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▪ **Areas of Historic Significance**

For the purposes of this plan, areas of historic significance are defined as districts, structures or areas that have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), on the Wisconsin Register of Historic Places (WRHP) or contain a Historical Marker. Areas of historic significance lend mostly to passive recreation opportunities such as sightseeing and driving tours.

The Sauk County Arts, Humanities and Historic Preservation Commission website contains a list of the County's historic and cultural resources, such as the Circus World Museum, the H.H. Bennett Studio and History Center, the Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society and others, including specific area historic resources and historic preservation organizations. The website address is http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/dept/arts/07_cultural_resources_directory.pdf.

Currently, 56 locations in Sauk County have a Historical Marker, are on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or on the Wisconsin Register of Historic Places (WRHP). Appendix E lists Sauk County's Registered Historical Attractions.

6.0 Parks and Open Spaces

Within Sauk County, you will find a number of different parks to meet the needs of residents and non-residents on both regional and local levels. Included are national, state, county and municipal trails, open space areas and parks. These areas facilitate many different activities including fishing, hunting, bicycling, nature enjoyment, and hiking just to name a few. Some parks offer camping facilities while others have athletic fields and courts.

6.1 National Trails and Open Spaces in Sauk County

▪ *The Ice Age National Scenic Trail*

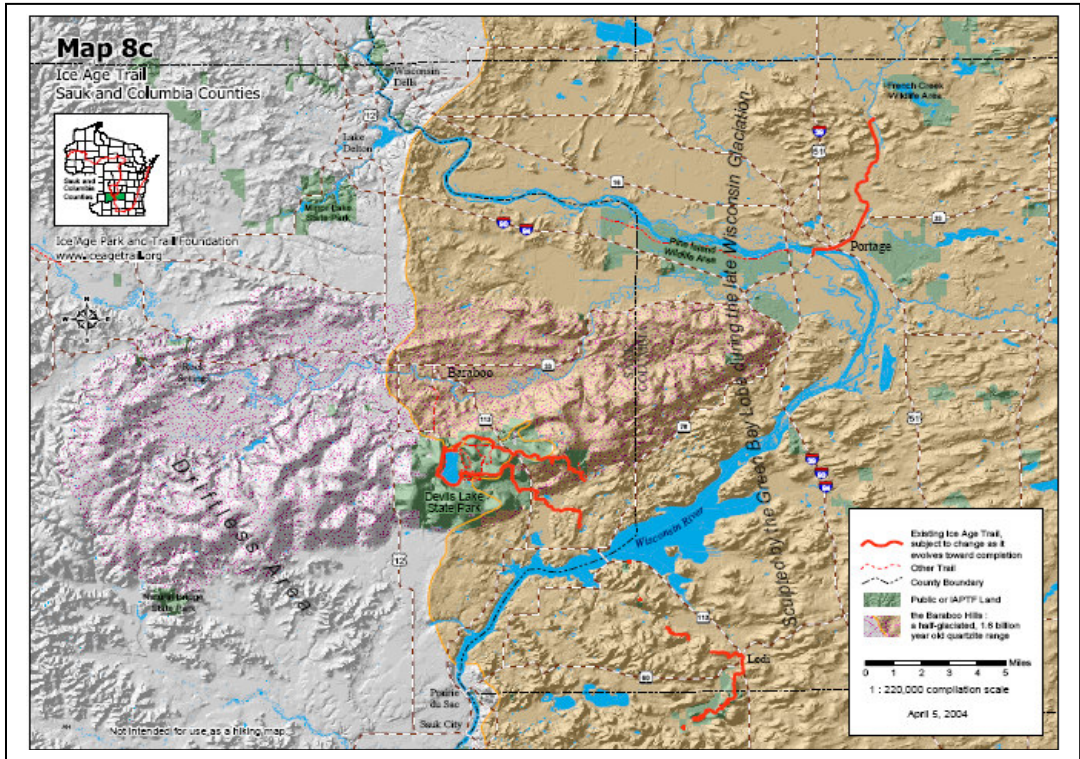
In the 1950's avid hiker Ray Zillmer imagined a 1,200 mile trail connecting the state of Wisconsin's nine-unit Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. In 1958 the Trail Foundation was established to take on the project. Today, the National Park Service has certified more than 300 miles of trail.

The segment with the greatest relief lies in Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County. Here the trail climbs nearly 800 feet in elevation along the Baraboo Range.



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Map 6-1: The Ice Age National Scenic Trail



Throughout the state there are over 250 miles of trail segments that have not yet been certified as official National Ice Age Trail. These segments remain open to the public for their enjoyment.

Current planning processes offer opportunities for establishing links to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail from numerous locations in Sauk County.

▪ **Badger Army Ammunition Plant**

Badger Army Ammunition Plant, labeled FO1 on **Map 6-2** is located in the Towns of Sumpter and Merrimac. Badger Army Ammunition Plant, a land legacy in the *Wisconsin Land Legacy Report*, is approximately 7300 acres with 21 of the 103 present birds species containing critical status. There is great potential to provide connectivity and continuation of grassland and oak forest with the adjacent Land Legacy: Baraboo Hills as well as the conservation areas of Devils Lake State Park, Parfrey’s Glen, and the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. The *Wisconsin Land Legacy Report* gives the following statistics:

Size	Medium
Protection Initiated	Substantial
Protection Remaining	Limited

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Conservation Significance 4 Stars
Recreation Potential 4 Stars

The Badger property is undergoing a disposition process under the direction of the federal General Services Administration. About 1,700 acres of the property has been transferred to the U.S.D.A. on behalf of the U.S. Dairy forage Research Center, primarily for agricultural and dairy forage research purposes. Another 1500 acres has been identified for transfer to the Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation, primarily for bison husbandry and native prairie restoration. The remaining approx. 4,100 acres will likely be conveyed to the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, mainly to provide low-impact recreational opportunities as well as for a variety of ecological restoration and wildlife habitat rehabilitation and related scientific research projects.

The Badger property is located in the shadow of the South Bluff of the Baraboo Range, directly adjacent to Devil’s Lake State Park, and links that internationally renowned resource with the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. It is bisected by the terminal moraine of the last glacier. Nearby to the northeast lies the 8,000-acre Merrimac Preserve of the Riverland Conservancy, shown as PO2 on *Map 6-2*. These factors combine to yield a regional natural and cultural resource of distinct importance. Potential recreational uses at Badger include hiking, bicycling, camping, birdwatching and wildlife viewing, hunting, boating, fishing and swimming from Badger’s locations on the Lake Wisconsin shoreline.

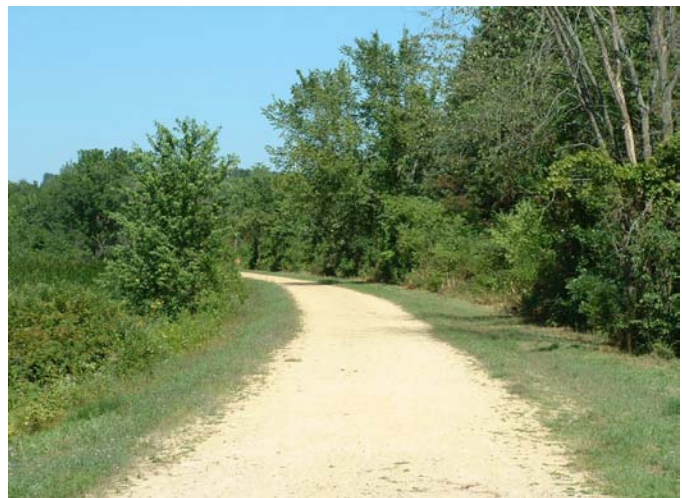
The regional recreational trail potential in this area is unmatched, given the possibility of connecting rails-to-trails projects from Dane County across the Wisconsin River, through the Villages of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac, across the Badger property. This trail could then continue north into Devil’s Lake State Park and beyond to link with the Wisconsin Dells via the Ice Age Trail, and to the “400” State Recreational Trail out of Reedsburg.

6.2 State Parks, Trails and Major State Properties in Sauk County

▪ *The “400” State Trail*

From Elroy to Juneau County, the “400” State Trail is a 22.3-mile trail that provides many Sauk County residents and visitors with recreational opportunities. The trail allows a variety of recreational activities including hiking, horseback riding, bicycle touring and snowmobiling.

The “400” State Trail was developed on an abandoned Chicago-Northwestern Railroad line between Minneapolis/St. Paul and Chicago that could be traveled



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by train in only 400 minutes. The trail runs parallel with the Baraboo River, crossing bridges and beneath tunnels along the way.

▪ *State Parks*

As shown on *Map 6-3*, Sauk County is home to four major state parks offering a full array of recreational possibilities and facilities for people to enjoy their natural surroundings. Sauk County's State Parks attract over one million tourists each year from different parts of the state and the Midwest. Three State Parks: Devil's Lake (Map Code SP1), Natural Bridge (Map Code SP3) and Rocky Arbor (Map Code SP14) are deemed Public Conservation



Areas (PCA) in the *WLLR*. Devil's Lake State Park lies within one Land Legacy, the Baraboo Range, and is directly adjacent to another, the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, which is being converted for public recreational use, education, ecological restoration and research, and agriculture. In addition, Devil's Lake State Park and Mirror Lake State Park (Map Code SP2) contain State Natural Areas (SNA's).

Table 6-1: State Parks in Sauk County

Parks / Map Code	Size (Acres)	Campsites	Description / Amenities	Handicap Accessibility	Location	PCA and SNA's
Devil's Lake State Park SP1	10,500	450	This large park offers a number of different activities including hiking, swimming, fishing, bicycling, picnic facilities, restrooms and hunting with special permit. In the winter months X-ctry ski trails are also available.	Campground with facilities, picnic area and concessions	Located south of Baraboo.	PCA, SNA
Mirror Lake State Park SP2	2,100	146	Mirror Lake offers a boat launch, a fishing pier, a beech, hiking and bicycling.	Campground with facilities, picnic area and concessions	Located in Lake Delton.	SNA
Natural Bridge State Park SP3	530	-	Home to the largest natural bridge in the state. The bridge is made of sand stone, reaching 35 feet in height. Raddatz rock shelter is the oldest documented site of primitive man in the upper-Midwest. The park also offers an interpretive trail, a picnic area and restrooms.	Picnic area	Located 1 mile northeast of Leland on County C.	PCA
Rocky Arbor State Park SP4	231	89	Offers seclusion surrounded by sandstone bluffs and pine trees. Amenities include picnic facilities, hiking trails, restrooms, picnic tables, and grills.	Campground with facilities, picnic area and concessions	Located near Wisconsin Dells	PCA

Table 6-1 above provides details regarding Sauk County's four State Park properties and their unique features.

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6.3 State Natural Areas in Sauk County

State Natural Areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of native natural communities, significant geological formations, and archaeological sites. They harbor natural features essentially unaltered by human-caused disturbances or that have substantially recovered from disturbance over time. SNAs also provide the last refuges in Wisconsin for rare plants and animals. In fact, more than 90% of the plants and 75% of the animals on Wisconsin's [list of endangered and threatened species](#) are protected in SNAs.



Many of the State Natural Areas can be used for hiking and wildlife viewing. Permitted scientific studies also take place in the SNA's. The Department of Natural Resources and the Nature Conservancy manage a large number of the State Natural Areas. State Natural Areas are generally marked with small signs. Only a few of the areas have restricted access.

Sauk County is home to 23 of the states approximately 400 natural areas. **Map 6-3** identifies their locations. Several of these areas are also within Public Conservation Areas (PCA) as listed in the *WLLR*. One, the Spring Green Preserve (Map 6-3 Code SN17), is also part of a Land Legacy in this report. The Spring Green Prairie is host to a diverse set of plants and animals including 14 species of reptiles and unusual invertebrates. The Spring Green Prairie is the only known site in the state to host several types of spiders and insects. The Spring Green Prairie statistics as offered in the *WLLR* are:

Size	Small
Protection Initiated	Substantial
Protection Remaining	limited
Conservation Significance	5 Stars
Recreation Potential	1 Stars

Appendix F summarizes the State Natural Areas in Sauk County. A note has been added to the Management/Significance Column if all or a portion of the SNA is part of a PCA.

▪ ***The Bear Creek Fishery***

Coded as SO1 on **Map 6-3**, the Bear Creek Fishery Area is located along State Highway 130 in the southwestern portion of Sauk County. It includes approximately 750 acres of state-owned lands managed by the DNR. The headwaters of Bear Creek lie in the southwest

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corner of Sauk County. Land cover, according to the **2007 Sauk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan**, is broadleaf deciduous forest, although the predominant land use in the area is dairy farming. Along with some small wetlands, there are five tributaries to Bear Creek. Water quality concerns include sediment loading, barnyard runoff and livestock grazing impacts. WDNR has purchased fishery easements along Bear Creek watershed streams.

▪ *Dell Creek Wildlife Management Area*

Coded as SO2 on **Map 6-3**, Dell Creek Wildlife Management Area is located in both Sauk and Juneau Counties, Dell Creek Wildlife Management Area (DCWMA) includes 2,125 acres of state-owned lands managed by the DNR. The DCWMA lies northwest of Mirror Lake State Park and includes much of the riparian lands and adjacent uplands along the Dell Creek. This area is also listed as a Public Conservation Area in the *WLLR*.

DCWMA boasts a large number of different wildlife species including deer, turkey and grouse. The area is open to hunting for these species as well as a few others. There are also many different types of migratory wildlife in the area that are currently being managed and protected. The DCWMA and Mirror Lake State Park are currently developing a master plan that seeks public involvement to create long-term management strategies for this wildlife area.



▪ *The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway*

Coded as SO3 on **Map 6-3**, The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (LWSR) starts just below the dam in Prairie du Sac and runs all the way to the Mississippi River with a project boundary of nearly 80,000 acres. LWSR is home to a wide variety of recreational activities including canoeing, boating, fishing, swimming and land-based recreation including hunting, trail use, picnicking, camping, nature study and education.



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The LWSR board is made up of nine citizens appointed by the Governor. Each is responsible for administration of the “performance standards”, which provide aesthetic protection along the 92.3-mile corridor.

- ***Pine Island State Wildlife Area***

Coded as SO4 on **Map 6-3**, Pine Island State Wildlife Area (PISWA) is located on Sauk County’s northeastern corner bordering Columbia County. PISWA encompasses approximately 5,200 acres (of which 1,100 acres is located in Sauk County) and is owned and managed by the DNR. PISWA lies directly in the floodplain of the Wisconsin and Baraboo rivers, hosting a number of islands. Principle wildlife includes geese, ducks, turkeys, squirrels, deer, pheasants, ruffed grouse, sandhill cranes and furbearers. Typical local habitat is primarily forest followed by marsh and river.

Wisconsin Land Legacy and Public Conservation Areas (PCA) in Sauk County

Along with the aforementioned Land Legacies and Public Conservation areas, Sauk County is host to others as listed in the *WLLR*. These are:

- ***Wiedmann Woods, or the “Dellona Badlands” (with the nearby public conservation area of the Dell Creek State Wildlife Area)***

Size	Small
Protection Initiated	Limited
Protection Remaining	Moderate
Conservation Significance	2 Stars
Recreation Potential	2 Stars

The Badlands is a hilly area with mature stands of un-fragmented hardwood as well as the headwaters of Dell and Hulbert Creeks. Land acquisition proposals intended to connect this area to the Dell Creek State Wildlife Area have not received broad local support.

- ***Baraboo Hills (with the nearby public conservation areas of Devils Lake State Park and Parfrey’s Glen)***

Size	Large
Protection Initiated	Substantial
Protection Remaining	Substantial
Conservation Significance	5 Stars
Recreation Potential	5 Stars

One of the largest contiguous upland hardwood forests in the Midwest. Home to incredible diversity including more than 1,800 plant and animal species including many rare birds that nest here. Also home to portions of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, waterfalls and scenic

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vistas. Public/private land protection activities in the Baraboo Hills are ongoing as a result of the implementation of the USH 12 Memorandum of Agreement.

6.4 Sauk County Parks

Sauk County Parks provide recreational opportunities for almost every category of enthusiast. The county has eight maintained parks of different sizes and resources.

Sauk County offers historical value at Man Mound, Yellow Thunder and White Mound County Parks. Other County Parks offer fishing, hunting, hiking and a chance to relax in some of the county's most enjoyable and beautiful locations.



Map 6-4: Sauk County Parks and Open Spaces shows the location of each, and the chart on the following page provides a summary of each park.

Please turn to next page

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Table 6-2: Sauk County Parks

Parks / Map Code	Size (acres)	Description / Amenities	Handicap Accessibility	Location
The County Forest Map Code CO2	663	Consists of mostly mixed pines	–	Located between Spring Green and Lone Rock on Hwy 14
Hemlock Park Map Code CP1	80	Boat landing, playground, picnic area and accessible fishing pier.	Restrooms	Located outside of La Valle on Dutch Hollow Road
Lake Redstone Park Map Code CP2	29	Swimming beach, playground and picnic pavilion	Restrooms	Located near La Valle on Douglas Road
Man Mound Park Map Code CP3	2	Listed on the National Register of Historical Places because of its man shaped effigy mound. Picnic tables, grills and playground equipment	–	Located 4.5 miles east of Baraboo on Man Mound Road
The Mirror Lake Boat Landing Map Code CP4	0.5	Canoe launch with access to Mirror Lake	–	Located off South Burrit Avenue in Lake Delton
Redstone Boat Landing Map Code CP5	1	Fishing pier, boat launch and pier	Restrooms	Located on Redstone Lake
White Mound Park Map Code CP7	1,100	The park surrounds the 104-acre White Mound Lake. Camping is available with showers, fire rings, picnic tables, and water provided. A horse campground is provided with horse trail to those who bring their own horses. In addition there is fishing, hunting, a boat ramp, picnic areas, grills, tables, play areas, restrooms, three shelters and trails for nature, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.	Restrooms	Located off Hwy 23 between Reedsburg and Spring Green
Yellow Thunder Park Map Code CP8	0.5	Established in honor of Chief Yellow Thunder. The park includes Chief Yellow Thunder's burial marker and picnic tables	–	Located between Baraboo and Lake Delton on Hwy A.

6.5 Sauk County's Open Spaces

Sauk County's open spaces include the County Fairgrounds on State Road 33 in Baraboo (owned by the Sauk county Agricultural Society), the County Health Care Center located in the Town of Reedsburg at State Road 154 and County Road CH, the County Landfill on Evergreen Lane in the Town of Excelsior, and the County Forest on U.S.H. 14 in the Town of Spring Green.

The overall value of Sauk County's isolated individual public parks and open spaces will be enhanced by thoughtfully integrating them via signed roads, trails, maps and public education, into a network of public spaces offering greater variety and increased utilization.

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6.6 Town, City and Village Parks

All of Sauk County's incorporated municipalities offer outdoor public recreational facilities, as do a few of the unincorporated rural towns. Conditions in each municipality are described below, followed by a series of maps that show the locations of parks in Sauk County's incorporated municipalities.

- **Town of Baraboo**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **City of Baraboo**

The City of Baraboo maintains several parks, many of which are nature oriented with large forested expanses and rivers. Most of City's parks contain picnic tables and shelters. The 26-acre Ochsner Park & Zoo includes park facilities; a large playground area, shelters, grills, a baseball diamond, horseshoe pit and a two-acre zoo. The zoo is home to bears, deer, wolves, monkeys, birds, and other domestic and non-domestic animals. Ochsner is one of the most popular parks in the town because of its family friendly atmosphere.

Located along Highway 123 is Pierce Park. Pierce Park contains four baseball fields, a shelter, concessions, a skating rink and hockey arena. Batting cages and playground equipment are located near the back of the park.

- **Town of Bear Creek**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Dellona**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Delton**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Excelsior**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Franklin**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Fairfield**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Freedom**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Greenfield**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

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- **Town of Honey Creek**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities

- **Town of Ironton**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Village of Ironton**

The Village of Ironton has one park. Village Park offers a playground and picnic tables.

- **Village of Lake Delton**

The Village of Lake Delton currently owns and operates three community parks, and two public boat launches. Ralf Hines Memorial Park is located next to the Lake Delton Grade School. The park has many facilities including a picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, playground equipment tennis courts and restrooms.

Captain Bob's Park also features many of these amenities including vending and baseball diamonds.

Kaminski Park is specifically reserved for adult softball. Kaminski Park is located off County Road A.

- **Town of La Valle**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities

- **Village of La Valle**

The Village of La Valle maintains two community owned facilities; Village Park and Veterans Park. Village Park provides a playground, picnic tables, restrooms and a baseball diamond.

- **Village of Lime Ridge**

The Village of Lime Ridge has one park and is located between the Towns of Ironton and Washington. Lime Ridge Memorial Park contains new playground equipment, picnic tables, and a basketball court.

- **Village of Loganville**

The Village of Loganville provides a local ballpark.

- **Town of Merrimac**

The Town of Merrimac provides 18 points of public access to area lakes. An 8.5-acre parcel of land by Weigand's Bay on Lake Wisconsin, was purchased in 2003 in conjunction with a 3-acre parcel purchased by the Wisconsin DNR. Combined, the land makes up 12 acres of land and 1,000 feet of shoreline. This land adjoins a 5-acre lakeside parcel to be transferred

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from the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant to the WDNR, that will also allow public lake access. Access to hiking, fishing and boating will be provided by the Town. In 2004, The Natural Heritage Land Trust recognized the Town of Merrimac with a Stewardship Award.

- **Village of Merrimac**

River Park and Merrimac Ballpark are located within the Village of Merrimac

- **Village of North Freedom**

The Village of North Freedom has two parks. Veterans Memorial and Village Park have baseball diamonds, shelters, a playground and restrooms.

- **Village of Plain**

The Village of Plain has one municipal park. The park includes a swimming pool, pavilion, restrooms, a playground, tennis courts, a basketball court and a baseball diamond.

- **Town of Prairie du Sac**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities. The Town supports the Sauk Prairie Community Recreation Department.

- **Village of Prairie du Sac**

The Village of Prairie du Sac has 11 publicly owned parks. Florence Park was acquired through park dedications by developers of local subdivisions. The park has a volleyball court, a shelter, playground equipment and portable restrooms.

Marion Park receives the highest usage. The park is 4.5 acres and was donated to the Village June 18, 1894.

Veterans Memorial Park is the only park that provides campsites. The park also has a boat launch, pavilions, and portable restrooms. Veterans Memorial Park is located along side the Wisconsin River.

The Village of Prairie du Sac along with the Village of Sauk City, the towns of Prairie du Sac, Sumpter and the Town of Roxbury in Dane County collaborate with the Sauk Prairie School district to coordinate area youth and adult recreation programs, and the use and operation of several recreational facilities in the area through the Sauk Prairie Community Recreation Department.

- **Town of Reedsburg**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities. However, the Town does own a section of open space provided as a Wayside. Located along State Highway 23, the Wayside offers stunning views of rural landscapes. The space is slightly smaller than 5 acres and has a shelter and restrooms.

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- **City of Reedsburg**

The City of Reedsburg offers 14 parks with a large variety of recreational activities available including picnic areas, sports fields, fishing, tennis, and hiking. The largest of the parks is Webb Park, located at 535 N. Webb. Webb Park provides users with shelters, restrooms, picnic areas, a playground and fishing. Reedsburg also offers a public swimming pool, hockey rink, the Smith Conservancy and the Roger Poppo Nature Center.

- **Village of Rock Springs**

The Village of Rock Springs has three parks. Fireman's park is the only park with facilities. A softball field, concession stand, shelter and restrooms are located in the park.

- **Village of Sauk City**

The Village of Sauk City has 5 publicly funded parks. They offer walking trails, pavilions, soccer fields, lighted tennis courts, a lighted baseball field and stadium, a playground and an excellent chance to enjoy the natural beauty of the Sauk City area. Augie Derleth Park offers access to the Wisconsin River. The Village supports the Sauk Prairie Community Recreation Department.

- **Town of Spring Green**

The Town of Spring Green provides Lauden Park, located on Long Lake. Lauden Park provides a shelter and picnic tables. McKenna Park has a boat landing.

- **Village of Spring Green**

The Village of Spring Green provides two large parks, one in the north section of the Village and one in the Southern portion. Also, located in the Village is a short 9-hole municipal golf course.

Located on Daley Street, the largest and oldest park in the community is North Park. The park has an array of facilities including a ball diamond, swimming pool, tennis courts, two picnic shelters and playground equipment.

- **Town of Sumpter**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities. The Town supports the Sauk Prairie Community Recreation Department.

- **Town of Troy**

There are currently no parks located in the Town of Troy. However, Witwen Wayside is located on County Highway E, just south of the County Highway O intersection.

- **Town of Washington**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Westfield**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

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- **Village of West Baraboo**

The Village has no publicly owned park facilities.

- **Town of Winfield**

The Town has one small public park located adjacent to the Town Hall the intersection of County Road K and County Road F.

- **City of Wisconsin Dells**

The City of Wisconsin Dells offers Bowman Park as well as an indoor recreational facility.

- **Town of Woodland**

The Town has no publicly owned park facilities.

Table 6-3 below identifies the municipal parks in Sauk County.

Please continue to next page...

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Table 6-3: Municipal Parks in Sauk County

Municipal Parks within Sauk County's Cities and Villages Map Code	Baseball Fields	Basketball Court	Benches	Dog area	Fishing	Horseshoes	Ice Hockey	Ice Skating	Picnic grills	Picnic tables	Playground	Restrooms	Sand Volleyball	Shelter	Skateboarding	Sledding	Soccer	Softball Field	Swimming Pool	Viewing Telescope	Tennis Courts	Zoo	Walking Trails
Baraboo Parks																							
Attridge Park (CIP1)		x			x					x		x	x										
Broadway park (CIP2)	x				x							x						x					
Campbell Park (CIP3)										x	x	x		x	x				x		x		
City of Baraboo Forest (CIO1)																							
Deppe (CIP4)				x	x					x				x									
Dog Park (CIP5)																							
Mary Hoppe Felts (CIP10)		x								x	x		x	x									
Langer (CIP7)	x						x	x		x	x			x				x					
Marry Roundtree (CIP6)	x				x					x		x		x									
Ochsner (CIP8)	x				x	x			x	x	x	x		x		x		x				x	
Pierce (CIP9)	x						x	x		x	x	x		x			x	x					
Ritzenthaler (CIP11)		x								x	x			x									
Steinhorst (CIP12)											x	x		x		x	x						
Weber (CIP13)		x								x	x			x									
Reedsburg Parks																							
Anastone (CIP14)	x	x						x		x	x	x		x									
City (CIP15)									x	x	x	x		x									
Ernstmeyer											x												
Huntington (CIP16)		x								x	x			x									
Nineteenth Street Park (CIP18)																							
Nishan (CIP19)	x						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x				
North		x								x	x	x		x		x							
Lions Park (CIP17)																							
Oak (CIP20)	x	x						x		x	x	x		x								x	
Plenke'a Pond (CIP21)																							
Ramsey (CIP22)	x	x								x	x	x		x									
Roloff											x												
Skate Park															x								
Smith Conservancy (CIP23)																							x
South (CIP25)					x					x		x		x									
Webb (CIP26)					x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x					x		x		x
South Willow (CIP22)										x	x	x		x									

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Municipal Parks within Sauk County's Cities and Villages	Baseball Fields	Basketball Court	Benches	Dog area	Fishing	Horseshoes	Ice Hockey	Ice Skating	Picnic grills	Picnic tables	Playground	Restrooms	Sand Volleyball	Shelter	Skateboarding	Sledding	Soccer	Softball Field	Swimming Pool	Viewing Telescope	Tennis Courts	Zoo	Walking Trails
Ironton																							
Ironton Park (VP1)											x												
Village Park (VP2)																							
Lake Delton																							
Captain Bob's (VP6)										x	x	x		x				x					
Ralph Hines Memorial (VP8)								x	x	x	x			x							x		
Kaminski (VP7)												x						x					
Boat Launch (VP5)																							
Lavalle																							
Lavalle Ball (VP4)	x	x								x	x	x		x					x				
Veterans Park (VP3)																							
Lime Ridge																							
Lime Ridge Memorial Park (VP9)										x	x			x									
Loganville																							
Loganville Community Park (VP10)	x									x	x	x		x									
Loganville Village Park (VP11)																							
Merrimac																							
River Park (VP13)						x				x	x	x		x									
Ball Park (VP12)	x											x											
North Freedom																							
Village Park (VP15)	x	x			x					x	x	x		x									
Veterans Memorial Park (VP14)																							
Plain																							
Plain Community Park (VO16)	x	x								x	x	x									x		
Prairie du Sac																							
VFW Park (VP27)					x	x				x	x	x		x									
Fireman's Park (VP22)										x													
Aquatic Center (VP18)																							
Alice Graff Park (VP17)										x					x								
Florence (VP23)											x	x	x	x									
Marion Park (VP25)	x										x	x					x	x					
Eagle Overlook (VP20)			x																		x		
Elsing Park (VP21)																							
George Blanchord Park (VP24)												x											
Graff Park (VP15)											x												
Walter Doll Park (VP28)			x																				
Park (VP26)																							
Washington Square Park (VP29)						x					x												
Rock Springs																							
Fireman's Park (VP30)	x									x	x	x											
Jody Kay Busser Memorial											x		x										
Wieman Park			x		x																		x

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Municipal Parks within Sauk County's Cities and Villages	Baseball Fields	Basketball Court	Benches	Dog area	Fishing	Horseshoes	Ice Hockey	Ice Skating	Picnic grills	Picnic tables	Playground	Restrooms	Sand Volleyball	Shelter	Skateboarding	Sledding	Soccer	Softball Field	Swimming Pool	Viewing Telescope	Tennis Courts	Zoo	Walking Trails
Sauk City																							
Meyer Oak Grove (VP34)																							x
Playground Park											x												
Jaycees Ball Park (VP32)																							
Junge Park (VP33)										x			x	x									
River Trail			x																				x
August Derleth (VP19)					x					x				x			x						
Free Thinkers Park (VP31)																							
Spring Green																							
North Park (VP35)	x								x	x	x	x		x					x				
South Park (VP36)	x								x	x	x	x		x	x			x					

6.7 Private Conservation Areas in Sauk County

- The International Crane Foundation (PO1) property is a 224 acre tract of rolling forested hills and open restored prairie in the NE and NW ¼ of Section 2, T 12N, R. 6E., Town of Fairfield. The property is the home of a diverse population of wild cranes, kept in captivity for research, breeding and ultimately for release. The Foundation offers educational programs and exhibits that are open to the public.
- The Riverland Conservancy's Merrimac Preserve (PO2) property is more than 1,800 acres of forest, prairie, savanna, wetlands and streams in parts of Sections 3, 4, 27, 28, 33, and 34, T.11N. R7E., Town of Merrimac. The land, once owned by the Alliant Energy Corporation, was dedicated to conservation uses in the 1990s under the ownership of a non-profit organization, the Riverland Conservancy. The preserve provides an integral wildlife corridor between the Baraboo Bluffs and the Wisconsin River.
- The Sand County Foundation holds approximately 2,000 acres of Wisconsin River frontage, marsh, woodland and prairie in Sections 32, 33 and 34, T.12 and 13N., R. 7E., Town of Fairfield. Known as the Leopold Memorial Reserve, the land, which is managed by several private landowners as well as Sand County Foundation, surrounds the Aldo Leopold Shack and is maintained for landowner enjoyment, support of peer-reviewed quality research, long-term monitoring of savannas and grasslands, understanding of floodplain ecology, and support of incentive-based effort to improve the deer herd and its habitat.

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- The Aldo Leopold Foundation (PO3) owns about 1,500 acres in the Town of Fairfield, T. 13N., R 7E, Sections 33 and 34, surrounding Aldo Leopold's original 140 a farm, home of the world-famous "Shack" where Leopold observed and wrote about the natural world.
- The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit conservation organization that has been actively conserving land in Sauk County since the early 1960s. Currently the Nature Conservancy owns 8,999 acres at 14 preserves in the Hills, including:

[Baxter's Hollow](#) (4,942 acres)

[Hemlock Draw](#) (837 acres)

Morgan Hone Preserve (79 acres)

Pine Hollow (337 acres)

The Conservancy has helped protect over 10,000 acres in the Hills. This figure includes lands owned and managed by the Conservancy, conservation easements, government co-ops and assists.

6.8 School Districts and Other Educational Institutions

The Baraboo School District

The Baraboo School Forest is 34.4 acres of pine forest now owned by the City of Baraboo, located on USH 12 at Terrytown Road.

The School District of Reedsburg

- The Hartje Center is a 128-acre multi-use conservation area located in Sections 28 and 29, Town of Winfield, northwest of Reedsburg. It features pine and upland hardwood forest, open space recreation areas, trails, a marsh-wetland and stream complex, shelters, sanitary facilities and parking.
- The Reedsburg School Forest, in Section 21 of the Town of Excelsior, is a dry oak forest and sand barren; numerous additional sand blows in Section 22, with old jack pine forest and quartzite conglomerate. It is adjoined by the Excelsior Township Pine Barrens.

The Sauk Prairie School District maintains several area recreational facilities through its Sauk Prairie Community Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Villages of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac, and the surrounding rural townships of Prairie du Sac and Sumpter in Sauk County and Roxbury in Dane County.

The University of Wisconsin Regents

- The Van Zelst Pine Barrens adjacent to the Reedsburg School Forest land sand barrens in the SE ¼, Section 21, and part of the NE ¼, SW ¼, Section 21, Town of

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Excelsior. The Van Zelst Barrens is a sand barren remote from Wisconsin River terraces, with Little Bluestem and jack pine, as noted in original land survey.

- Baraboo Range forest, a forty-acre parcel in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, in the Town of Honey Creek, is part of a vast contiguous canopy of upland hardwood forest.
- Ableman's Gorge site, a six-acre parcel of forested bluff overlooking the Baraboo River, in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, Town of Excelsior, just north of the Village of Rock Springs.
- Loddes Bluff, eight acres on the historic Loddes Bluff southwest of the Village of Sauk City, in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 17, Town of Prairie du Sac, on State Highway 60. This site is restricted.
- Bear Creek Cave is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3 and is classified as the most extensive cave in Sauk County.

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7.0 Overview of Sauk County's Recreational Opportunities

7.1 Campgrounds in Sauk County

Campgrounds in Sauk County are both publicly and privately owned hosting a number of facilities to both tent campers and RV campers. Of the counties 31 campgrounds most offer electricity. Other amenities included at many campgrounds include shelters, beaches and hiking trails. In the table below, campgrounds located in Sauk County are listed with featured amenities.



Table 7-1: Sauk County Campgrounds

Campground	Public/Private	Total Campsites	No. Electric	Picnic Tables
All Seasons	Private	100	-	-
American World	Private	53	53	-
Baraboo Hills	Private	144	70	144
Bob's Riverside	Private	100	70	100
Bonanza Campground	Private	138	118	160
Camp Delton Club	Private	341 Private owned + 9 Guest sites	ALL	0
Country Roads RV	Private	100	100	
Dell-Boo	Private	137	118	160
Devil's Head	Private	0	0	0
Devil's Lake	Public	406	121	~550
Double K-D Ranch	Private	105	75	105
Dutch Hollow Lake	Private	35	31	35
Erickson Tepee Park CG	Private	123	45	123
Fox Hill RV Park	Private	50+	50	100
Green Valley	Private	45	18	28
KOA Campground	Private	140	40	140
Lighthouse Rock	Private	96	70	98
Merry Mac's	Private	170	62	170
Mirror Lake	Public	140	30	250
Nordic Pines	Private	140	35	140
Pioneer Park	Private		Members Only	
Red Oak	Private	120	34	120
Rocky Arbor	Public	89	18	120
Sherwood Forest	Private	190	125	190
Tepee	Private	125	-	-
Tuck-Away Farm	Private	75	65	125
Valley RV	Private	42	42	-
Wheeler's Campground	Private	135	65	135
White Mound	Public	70	29	155
Christmas Mountain Village	Private	90	90	200
Yogi Bear's	Private	399 (100 econ)	152	400

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7.2 Golf Courses in Sauk County

Sauk County offers a number of different opportunities for golfers. Many of the courses offer clubhouse facilities and course features designed for the less experienced golfer. Many of the local courses are also very reasonably priced. Two golf courses in Sauk County are publicly owned, Spring Green Municipal Golf Course and Westbrook Hills in Plain are privately owned.



Table 7-2: Sauk County Golf Courses

Course	Holes	Location
Baraboo Country Club	18	Baraboo
Christmas Mountain	27	Lake Delton
Reedsburg Country Club	18	Reedsburg
Spring Green Municipal (VO2)	9	Spring Green
Trappers Turn Golf Club	27	Wisconsin Dells
Westbrook Hills (VO1)	9	Plain
Wilderness Resort	18	Lake Delton
Fairfield Hills	9	Baraboo
Devil's Head	27	Merrimac
Spring Brook	9	Wisconsin Dells
Coldwater Canyon	18	Wisconsin Dells
Pine Crest	9	Wisconsin Dells

7.3 Hunting in Sauk County

Privately owned lands provide nearly all of the hunting opportunities in Sauk County. Beyond the following listings there are restricted access hunting opportunities offered by The Nature Conservancy.

Table 7-3: Sauk County's Public Hunting Grounds

Public Use Hunting Land	Size (acres)
Devil's Lake State Park (SP1)	5,872
Bear Creek Fishery Area (SO1)	412
Mirror Lake State Park (SP2)	1,025
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Bakken's Unit (SO3)	1,800
Dell Creek (SO2)	1,900
White Mound Park (CP7)	870

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7.4 Skiing in Sauk County

There are several areas with cross-country ski trails (see Parks and Campgrounds sections). Sauk County also has two downhill ski lodges, Christmas Mountain in Wisconsin Dells and Devil’s Head Lodge near Merrimac.

Table 7-4: Sauk County Ski Facilities

Ski Resort	Number of Lifts	Number of Runs	Expert (%)	Intermediate (%)	Beginner (%)	Vertical Drop (ft)	Longest Run (miles)
Christmas Mountain	2 double chairs, 3 surface lifts	7	20%	40%	40%	250	1
Devil's Head	3 quad chairs, 1 triple, 6 double, 6 surface	36	30%	40%	30%	500	1.5

7.5 Fishing in Sauk County

Surface water resources in Sauk County are probably better suited to fishing than other water-related activities. The Wisconsin River offers the County’s greatest variety of fish species and greatest opportunity to fish. Other lakes and streams receive varying amounts of local fishing pressure.



Trout fishing is not outstanding in Sauk County. All of the county’s surveyed trout waters require annual stocking to maintain fishable trout populations. However, some progress in restoring fish habitat and improved water quality on endangered streams has been made by stream bank improvement projects sponsored by local sportsmen’s groups, the Baraboo River Canoe Club, the Sauk County Land Conservation Department, and the DNR.

7.6 Paddlesports in Sauk County

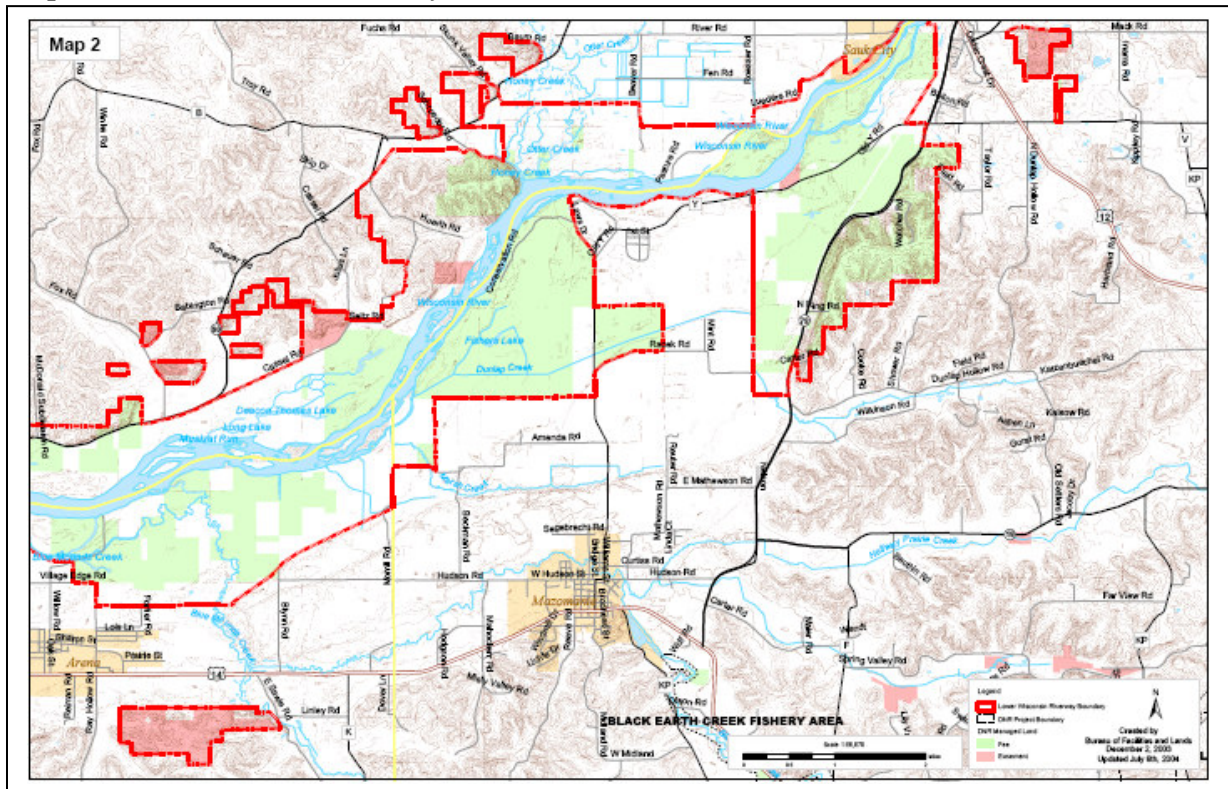
Both the Wisconsin and Baraboo Rivers are suitable for paddling in Sauk County.

- The Baraboo River flows over 45 miles in Sauk County, including many areas with spectacular beauty, such as Ableman’s Gorge. Following the recent dam removals on the Baraboo River, many hazards and logjams have arisen, increasing river maintenance needs. As the river reestablishes its channel, this need should diminish. The following University Extension sponsored webpage shows a map of the Baraboo River canoe trail:

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- <http://cityofbaraboo.com/vertical/Sites/{D06131C5-F452-44C7-954E-97BD998BCA20}/uploads/{739DE75E-3CB8-4D89-B4FA-F4DD6973223E}.PDF>
- The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (LWSR) stretches along approximately 60 miles of Sauk County shoreline from the Upper Dells to Lone Rock. Motorized watercraft may create hazards for canoes in the Upper and Lower Dells. Below the Dells area, the river is peaceful and shows little evidence of human influence, except for the Lake Wisconsin impoundment, which also has a high amount of motorboat traffic. Below the Prairie du Sac dam the river flows wild for 95 miles through Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (LWSR) to its confluence with the Mississippi. The LWSR is widely known for peaceful and scenic canoe trips, sandbar camping, and for its occasionally formidable south winds! It is an excellent river for the canoeing enthusiast. However, the Wisconsin River is big water, and deceptively calm. Caution is warranted, particularly when crossing wide areas like Lake Wisconsin.

Map 7-1: The LWSR - Sauk City to Arena Reach



7.7 Sauk County Boat Launches

Surface waters with boat launches afford citizens and tourists the opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreational activities including sail boating, waterskiing, canoeing and fishing. Some cities and villages maintain boat launches within their corporate limits, e.g. the Sauk City launch to the Wisconsin River, located south of the USH 12 bridge. The following table summarizes the type of boat launch found in each Township.

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Table 7-5: Sauk County Boat Launches

Boat Launches	Boat / Canoe Launch Location
Baraboo	Canoe launch located near hatchery Rd and Rock Hill Rd. Canoe launch located near Hwy 12 and 33 in Baraboo on Baraboo River Boat launch located at the North end of Devil's Lake
Bear Creek	None
Dellona	None
Delton	Boat launch located off of Hwy A on Indian Trails Parkway on the Wisconsin River Boat launch on Mirror Lake in Mirror Lake State Park Canoe launch located on Mirror Lake off of S. Burrit St. Near Mirror Lake Dam Boat Launch located on the south end of Lake Delton
Franklin	Boat launch located on the north end of White Mound Lake of White Mound Dr.
Freedom	Boat launch located on Seeley Creek near Cox Rd. Boat Launch located north of Hwy W in North Freedom
Greenfield	Boat launch located off Hwy 113 on the Baraboo River Boat launch located off Hwy W on the Baraboo River
Honeycreek	Boat launch located off Hwy C in Leland on Leland Millpond
Ironton	None
La Valle	Boat launch located off North Dutch Hollow Rd on the north end of Dutch Hollow Lake Canoe launch located off North Dutch Hollow Rd in Hemlock County Park Boat launch located on Main St. in La Valle on the Baraboo River Boat launch located off of Fox Ct. on Lake Redstone Boat launch located off of Section 11 Rd on Lake Redstone Boat Launch located off of Cty F on the north end of Lake Redstone
Merrimac	Boat launch near Summer Oaks Resort off Kilpatrick Pt On Lake Wisconsin Boat launch located off of Hwy 78 and 113 on Lake Wisconsin Boat launch located off of Hwy 78 and 113 on Lake Wisconsin in Merrimac Boat launch located off of Hwy 78 on Lake Wisconsin
Prairie du Sac	Canoe launch located off of Ferry Bluff Road Boat launch located off of Hwy 78 on the Wisconsin River Canoe launch located off of Lueders Road on the Wisconsin River.
Reedsburg	Boat launch located off of Lake Virginia Rd on Lake Virginia Canoe launch located off of Hwy 136 on Rock Springs on the Baraboo River
Spring Green	Boat launch located off of Hwy 130 near Lone Rock on the Wisconsin River Canoe launch located off of Hwy 23 on the Wisconsin River
Sumpter	Boat launch located on Devil's Lake in Devils Lake State Park
Troy	None
Washington	None
Westfield	None
Winfield	None
Woodland	Boat launch located off of West Dutch Hollow Rd on Dutch Hollow Lake

7.8 Bicycling in Sauk County

There are hundreds of hard surface state, county, and town roads available for bicycles to use in Sauk County.

Sauk County's greatest bicycling treasure is the "400" Trail. The "400" Trail is named for the Chicago-Northwestern passenger train that ran on this grade. The train traveled the 400 miles between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul in 400 minutes. The trail is a popular starting point leading to other state trails. Wetlands, sand bluffs, rolling croplands and

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pastures are just a few of the sights visitors will enjoy on the “400” Trail. The 22-mile trail between Elroy and Reedsburg offers beautiful scenery, bountiful wildlife, and friendly small town hospitality. The Villages of Union Center, Wonewoc and La Valle are located along the trail and invite visitors to explore their shops, restaurants, and recreational facilities. Packed limestone screenings and bridges with planked floors provide a smooth riding surface. A unique feature of the “400” Trail is a seven mile horse trail which parallels the trail between Wonewoc and La Valle. The Baraboo River parallels the entire length of the trail.



Over 110 miles of bike trails are accessible from Sauk County to other counties. Roads in Sauk County that have widened shoulders are: CTH A , CTH B , CTH H , CTH P , CTH W (USH 12 to CTH PF), CTH DL (STH 113 to STH78) . There are no dedicated bike lanes on the County road system at this time. Future bike lane opportunities include the construction of the USH 12 bypass from Lake Delton to Terrytown Road, and after 2015, the West Baraboo bypass from Terrytown Road to Ski Hi Road. Also, after 2010, State Road 78 from north of Prairie du Sac to the Village of Merrimac will be rebuilt. Thirteen County Road paving projects are scheduled between 2008 and 2013. Those not currently configured with a bike lane could be widened to accommodate bicycle transportation.

The potential for linking bicycle trails from Dane County across the Wisconsin River to Sauk City offers the intriguing possibility of constructing a trail through the Villages of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac, north through the Badger Army Ammunition Plant property, into Devil’s Lake State Park, and then north toward both Lake Delton and Reedsburg and the 400 Trail. *Map 7-2: Modes of Transportation Recreation in Sauk County* shows current and potential bike trail links throughout Sauk County, along with links and conditions for other modes of recreational transportation.

7.9 Horseback Riding in Sauk County

Horseback riding opportunities in Sauk County are limited to mostly private facilities. However, there are two public horseback riding areas. The “400” Trail offers a seven mile stretch which lies between Wonewoc and La Valle. White Mound County Park also offers riding trails including horse campgrounds.

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Table 7-6: Equestrian Facilities in Sauk County

Horseback Riding	Miles of Trail	Horse Rental
400 Trail	7	No
Beaver Springs Riding Stable	3	Yes
Canyon Creek Riding Stable	4	Yes
Hilltop Riding Stable	3.5	Yes
Lazy M Riding Stable	3.5	Yes
White Mound County Park	7	No

7.10 Snowmobiling in Sauk County

Sauk County has 202 miles of self-funded snowmobile trails, several miles of club trails, and 14 miles of the “400” State Recreation Trail. The Snowmobile Program is administered by the Sauk County Parks Department and the Association of Sauk County Snowmobile Clubs, Inc., performs the maintenance.

There are eleven snowmobile clubs who belong to the Association of Sauk County Snowmobile Clubs Inc., they are:

- Baraboo River Runners
- Blackhawk Trailblazers
- Hillcrest Riders
- Hillsboro Trail Blazers
- Honey Creek Snowmobile Club
- Merrimac Snowbusters
- Redstone Riders
- Reedsburg Snowmobilers
- Rock Springs Snow Drifters
- White Mound Sno-Cats

7.11 All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Riding in Sauk County

Sauk County has ten miles of ATV trails on private land. Access requires a club membership. There are three ATV clubs:

- Wisconsin River Runners – Lone Rock
- The Sauk Ridge Runners
- Lake Wisconsin ATV Club

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8.0 Recreational Needs Assessment

Although Sauk County clearly enjoys an abundance of recreational facilities and outdoor opportunities, a careful assessment of these assets is needed to determine where gaps remain in serving important recreational needs for Sauk County residents and visitors.

The inventory of Sauk County's recreational assets so far presented in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides the first element of the needs assessment. By identifying what Sauk County currently has "on line", then comparing those assets (and their current conditions) with currently accepted national standards, state outdoor recreation supply and demand analysis, and the survey of local recreational preferences, future improvement needs can be determined and prioritized.

As mentioned in Section 2.6, the National Parks and Recreation Association has modified its policy recommending application of a population-based calculation to determine the amount of recreational open space and developed facilities needed in a given community. Current practice emphasizes local determination based upon a public participation process. Sauk County has adopted that approach, including a the use of a public opinion survey, a citizen advisory committee representative of area recreational interests, and a series of open public meetings scheduled for the purpose of obtaining public input as to the current level of recreational offerings and to identify locally important recreational needs.

Along with the public participation component, Sauk County has incorporated data and analysis from the Wisconsin *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, related to the provision of recreational opportunities in the Southern Gateway region of the state, which includes Sauk County and its neighbors. Excerpts from that analysis follow below.

Throughout the CORP, reference has been made to the Sauk County Comprehensive Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey. The assessment of need will look at specific questions from the survey and County residents' responses, to identify local preferences. Another source of public input that the Plan mentions is the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which breaks down the state into recreational supply and demand regions, placing Sauk County in the "Southern Gateway". The assessment will review specific questions and citizen responses to identify aspects of the regional recreational demand that could be reasonably addressed by improvements to Sauk County's Parks and Recreation program.

8.1 Sauk County Comprehensive Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

In the fall of 2006 Sauk County mailed a twenty-four question public opinion survey out to 804 residents of the County. One-hundred and fifty-eight completed surveys were returned, a response rate of about 19.6%. Questions attempted to measure the ages and numbers of household members, to assess where responders went for vacations, how best to raise funds for outdoor recreation improvements, and to reveal a variety of other public attitudes toward

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outdoor recreation and the current availability of opportunities in Sauk County. The survey and responses are included in Appendix C. Households responding to the survey reported a total of 320 adult (age 19 and above) household members represented. Most respondents (34%) reported that vacations are spent within the local community, and another 28% responded that State Parks are a destination of choice. County parks served another 19%, while only 10% go out of state. Sixty-six percent reported that they do use the parks in Sauk County, but another 38% said they lack the time. Conversely, 78% reported a willingness to travel more and hour or more for recreation. Responders revealed how often they visit County and State parks and natural areas, trails and other properties, including area lakes and rivers. Virtually all categories get some use, and many are used often. But more often, respondents said they never visit a recreational site in Sauk County.

Seventy-four percent of respondents don't regularly ride a bicycle, and most respondents have not biked the "400" trail. Over 50% of respondents agree or strongly agree that "active" recreational uses (skate parks, basketball courts, etc.) are important. Over 84% agree or strongly agree that both active and passive recreational uses (trails, natural areas, fishing access) are important. Sauk County respondents ranked "walking" first out of thirty-eight possible recreational activities, followed by "fishing", with "nature/wildlife viewing" at number three. Fourth is "boating". "Picnicking and camping" sharing the fifth spot, then "hiking", "swimming" and "canoe/kayaking" at numbers six–nine. "Hunting" and "bicycle touring" shared the tenth most popular choice. "Snowmobiling", "ATV use" and "skateboarding" had the most significant "negative" ratings, meaning respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that these uses are important.

Respondents' comments on the question "Do you feel there is need for more or any certain kind of outdoor recreation activity?" ranged from entirely negative (no more need at all) to supportive of a broad variety of activities, from equestrian areas to ice-skating opportunities. Historical value, natural beauty, accessibility, cleanliness and quiet, and safety all rated as important recreation attributes. When participants were asked to select the five most needed public recreation facilities, the clear favorite response was "River/lake access to boat, fish or swim", followed closely by "Natural areas". Respondents then chose "Public fishing areas", "Covered group picnic shelters", "Paved walking and biking paths" and "Unpaved trails for walking or jogging" in nearly equal numbers. Other relatively popular choices included "Bird watching/wildlife observation sites" and "Public hunting areas". In general, the activities commonly referred to as "passive recreation" are the preferred choices. Other respondents emphasized the features that need to be improved, such as cleaning up lake weeds, clearing rivers of debris, improving trash collection at boat landings, and improving water quality. In general, a desire for better lake and river water quality, and the need to provide clean parks and restroom facilities are often mentioned in these responses.

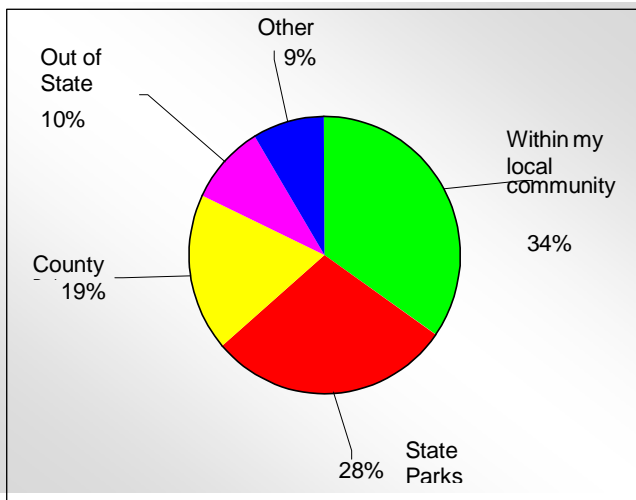
Respondents strongly agree with current policies regarding pets and vehicular traffic in County parks. Current camping reservations policy is also strongly supported by more than half of the respondents, although twenty-six percent had no opinion on the subject indicating they hadn't used the reservation service. Some respondents had suggestions for improving the reservations system.

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Respondents provided a broad range of comments for improvements to the County’s provision of public recreation opportunities, some positive and others less so. Specific needs identified include ATV trails and roads open to ATV uses (or alternately, Sustainable ATV use of public lands), better promotion of the County parks, communication and public education about sustainability and resource conservation, more walking trails, organized activities for young and old, boat ramps and related parking, pavilions for family gatherings, new bike trails and better maintenance of existing ones, skateboard facilities, affordable swimming pools, hiking trails and dog parks, public hunting areas, free access for county residents and seniors, maps, more campgrounds and cheaper camp sites, commercial development convenient to boat access areas, portable toilets near soccer fields and tennis courts, nature trails and a wildlife center, restrooms and waysides along the “400” trail, access to public waters, equestrian trails, and wheelchair access to parks and walking areas. Most of these recommendations reflect preferences similar to those expressed in the previous responses to specific questions.

Chart 8-1, below, illustrates the breakdown of Sauk County residents’ recreational uses.

Chart 8-1: Sauk County Residents’ Recreational Use



The Sauk County survey asked participants to rank thirty-eight possible recreational activities in their order of importance. The types of activities that residents feel are important were similar to the needs found in SCORP, with walking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, hiking, boating driving for pleasure and bicycling in the top 15 responses of both the SCORP recreational demand analysis and the Sauk County survey.

Table 8-1, Sauk County Recreational Needs ranks the participants responses, below.

Please continue to next page

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Table 8-1: Sauk County Recreational Needs

Question 11. The following activities are important.	Strongly Agree	Agree
A. Walking	98	50
C. Fishing	86	47
LL. Nature/Wildlife Viewing	75	55
L. Boating	72	57
O. Picnicking	65	61
B. Camping	64	62
I. Hiking	60	63
K. Swimming	58	64
F. Hunting	57	37
M. Canoeing/Kayaking	51	61
G. Driving for Pleasure	40	50
J. Bicycle Touring	39	55
E. Dog Walking	31	44
R. Cross-country Skiing	31	61
W. Sledding Tubing	31	67
DD. Backpacking	30	53
S. Running	29	56
H. Golf	26	39
Z. Mountain Biking	25	43
FF. Ice Skating	24	60
BB. Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding	23	37
D. Snowmobiling	22	49
JJ. Rock Climbing	21	44
T. Football	20	44
N. ATV Use	19	36
Y. Volleyball	19	58
Q. Baseball	18	51
X. Softball	18	57
EE. Horseback Riding	18	49
GG. Water Skiing	18	54
KK. Scuba Diving	18	43
P. Basketball	17	51
II. Snowshoeing	16	56
U. Rollerblading	15	32
V. Soccer	15	39
CC. Tennis	14	54
HH. Hockey	13	43
AA. Skateboarding	11	29

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Surveys often solicit open-ended comments from respondents. Results are typically mixed and difficult to evaluate, but the opportunity to express an opinion is valuable to the participant and frequently yields interesting results.

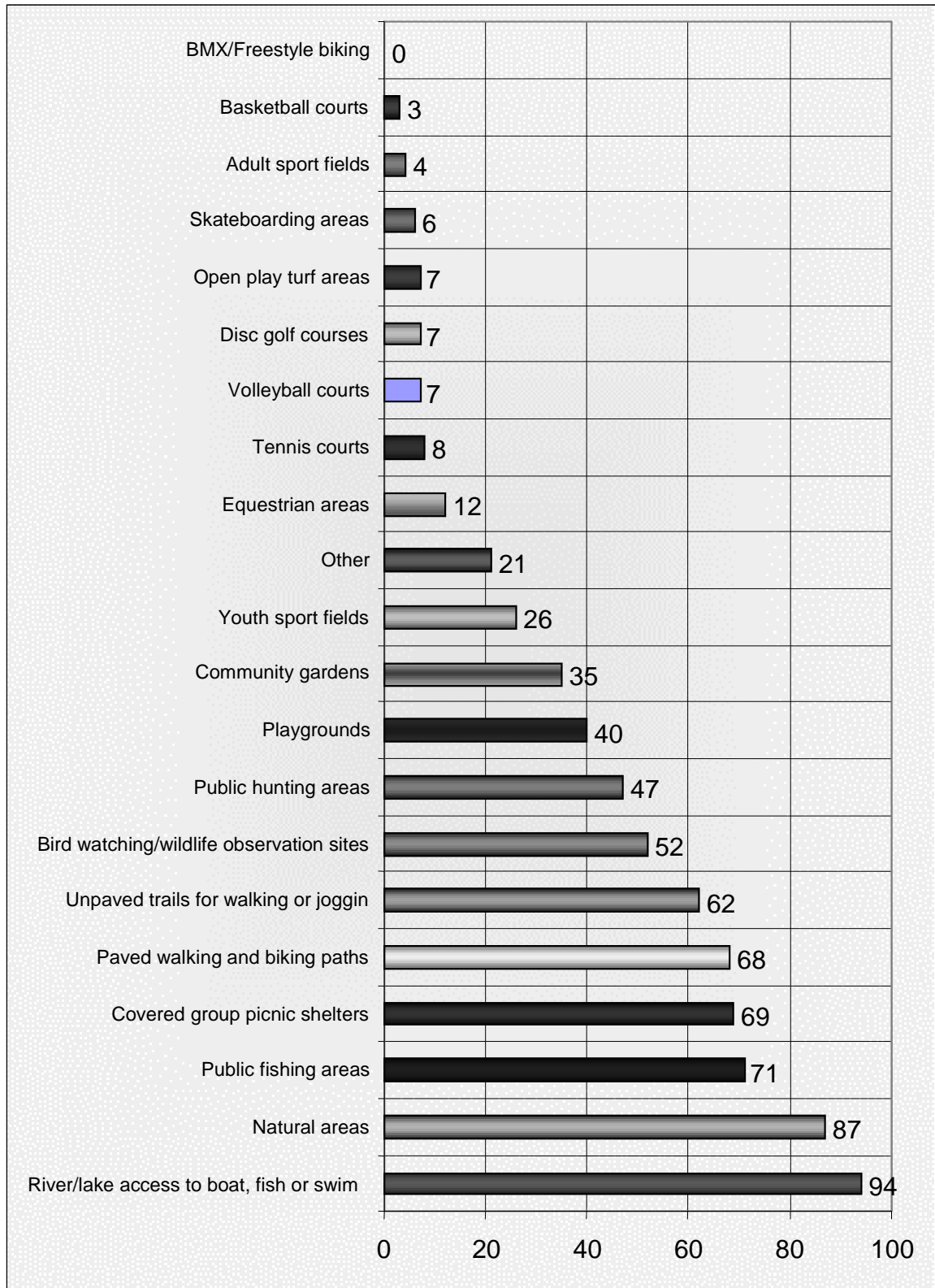
Question 12 of the Sauk County Recreation Survey asks, “Do you feel there is need for more of any certain kind of outdoor recreation activity?” Respondents identified the following recreational issues and opportunities.

1. There is no more need for any kind of outdoor activity *
2. Need more equestrian areas.
3. Need more ATV trails and public highways open to ATV uses. *
4. Need snowmobile trails to open at first snow.
5. Marina's should sell boat gas all weekend all the way from the Dam to Lake Wisconsin.
6. Need to have summer "outdoor" basketball league for elementary to middle school aged kids
7. There is already plenty of outdoor activities. *
8. Need more "non-road" bike trails.
9. Need anything to engage kids in physical activity.
10. Need paved bike, rollerblading and walking trails.
11. Need opportunities for ice-skating.
12. The county should not be responsible for funding all activities, users should pay. *
13. Need more hunting, fishing, camping areas. *
14. Need more land for fishing and hunting.
15. Need cleaner public waters for swimming.
16. Need more cost efficient parks.
17. Need more historical sites and picnicking for families.
18. Things are pretty well balanced.
19. Need nature walk areas where plants and surrounding features are identified.
20. Need wheelchair accessible paths for hiking and beach/waterfront activities.
21. Need nature/wildlife viewing areas.
22. Need to sustain and grown natural areas and protect from invasive use & development.
23. Need 4-Wheeler trails.

Question 14 of the Sauk County Recreation Survey asked respondents to identify the recreational facilities most needed in Sauk County. The graph below describes their responses. Access to rivers and lakes, places to hike and ride bicycles, family gathering places and quiet natural areas appear as the recreational features most desired by respondents. Competitive athletic and active sports facilities are the least in demand. Possibly, those areas are already sufficiently provided for by local parks and school districts.

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Question 14. From the list below, pick 5 public recreation facilities most needed in Sauk County.



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8.2 The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Another source of guidance the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The 2005-2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2005. As explained in the Plan's introduction by governor Jim Doyle, it is intended to provide "comprehensive up-to-date information on the status of statewide and regional recreation, as well as information about recreation supply and demand, participation rates and trends, and a discussion of outdoor recreation goals and actions for their implementation." The Wisconsin SCORP is available online at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/planning/SCORP>.

Chapter One of the SCORP details Wisconsin's Natural Amenities, Population Changes, and Recreational Destinations. Chapter Two discusses Wisconsin's Outdoor Recreation Demand and Uses. In this discussion is a description of the regional differences in Wisconsin's outdoor recreation landscape. Sauk County is identified as belonging to the "Southern Gateways" region, which also includes Dane County and its neighbors, along with Richland and Lafayette Counties in southwest Wisconsin. These SCORP regions are more clearly defined in Chapter Five. The Southern Gateways Region is described below.

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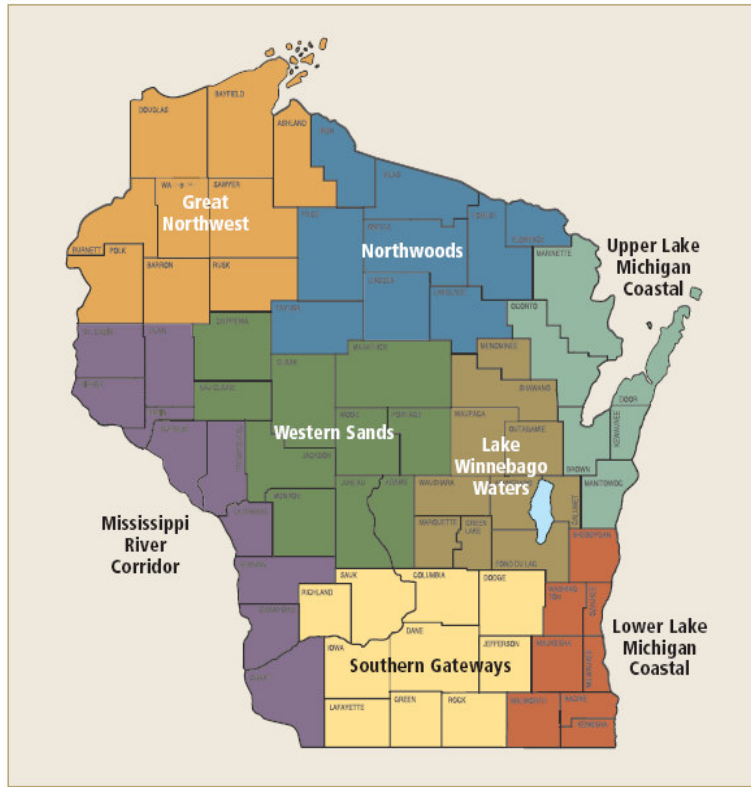
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Map 8-1: Wisconsin SCORP Planning Regions

**Wisconsin SCORP
Planning Regions**

Southern Gateways:

The Southern Gateways Region is located in the south-central part of the state and encompasses Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, and Sauk Counties. From the rolling green hills of the southern parts of the region, to the centrally-located Wisconsin River, and the marshy areas of eastern portions, this region contains a variety of environments, the combination of which provide a wide array of recreational opportunities. The Southern Gateways also has a number of important geologic features. Devils Lake State Park, a craggy glacial lake surrounded by high cliffs and scenic overlooks, is one of the most popular recreation areas in the region. The Baraboo Hills, located in one of the few portions of the state that remained unglaciated in the past Ice Age, is a spectacular geologic resource with many unique rock formations, cliffs, waterfalls, and a high diversity of plant and animal species. The central presence of Madison impacts much of the Southern Gateways Region. Rapid suburban development within the greater Madison metropolitan area has made areas of Dane County among the fastest growing in the state. As urban populations increase, so too does the demand for traditionally urban-based recreation such as dog parks and developed sports facilities. These resources will continue to impact future recreation supply and demand.



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▪ **Factors Influencing Recreational Demand**

The Wisconsin SCORP points out that demographic trends have changed recreational preferences from the active pursuits favored by adolescents and young adults, such as “downhill skiing, personal watercraft use and mountain biking” to those identified by the aging baby boomer population, such as “walking, bird watching and gardening.” On the other hand, young people today show preference for new forms of active outdoor recreation such as “geocaching, disc golf, kayaking, snowboarding and paintball.” Limits to recreational participation include lack of time and the cost of travel and equipment, leading to a need for “high-quality, low-cost local forms of recreation.”

Although a broad range of recreational lands and facilities are supplied by both public (Federal, tribal, state and local government) and private (land trusts and conservation organizations, scouting groups, and private campground owners) providers, statewide shortages remain in facilities such as dog parks, ice-skating rinks, boat launches, nature trails, biking trails, park shelters, picnic areas, snowmobile and ATV trails. Maintenance and upgrades of existing facilities, and the continuing need for environmental preservation are also cited in the SCORP as statewide concerns.

Among reasons presented in the SCORP to improve Wisconsin’s supply of recreation is the health of the population. The Plan cites relevant scientific literature supporting the claim that a high quality recreational environment is directly related to improvements in public health, particularly in controlling obesity. Sharing recreational experiences also supports strong families and a sense of community. The SCORP provides some demographic analysis of the various regions identified, and predicts growing population in the Southern Gateway region, along with increased demand for a greater supply and diversity of recreational opportunities.

Age, income and education levels also impact recreational demand. Sauk County falls in the middle group in terms of median age (37-39 years) and education levels (16-22% with a college degree). The Southern Gateway region as a whole enjoys a median income of \$46,588. Sauk County, according to the 2000 Census, had a 1999 median income of \$41,941, while Wisconsin’s 1999 median income was \$52,911. Ethnicity, gender and the urbanization of the community are additional factors in determining recreational preferences. In the Southern Gateway Region, ethnic populations account for about 9% of the total. Family gatherings and nature-based recreation activities are more often preferred among non-white ethnic populations. With regard to gender, hunting, ice-fishing and paintball were activities “far more popular with men”, while females clearly preferred outdoor swimming, among other activities.

In 2000, over 67% of the Southern Gateway population lived in urban areas. The number of housing units in the Southern Gateway Region grew by over 8% between 2000 and 2004 (according to WDOA estimates), a reflection of growth in single parent families and in seasonal homes. Increased urbanization implies that land previously available for open space and recreational uses like hunting and off-road vehicle uses has been converted to new

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housing. Urban populations also support a “wider range” of recreational activities as the larger population participates in a greater variety of activities.

▪ **Non-Metro Recreation Counties and the Southern Gateway Region**

Recent research cited in the Wisconsin SCORP classifies Sauk County as a “Non-Metro Recreation County”, characterized by “high levels of tourism, recreation, entertainment and seasonal housing.” Nearly all such counties are in the far northern tier of Wisconsin Counties, traditionally associated with recreational uses. Non-Metro Recreation Counties typically have large areas of undeveloped land available for recreational uses and/or development. They also enjoy “natural amenities such as clean lakes, large forested areas, and recreational facilities (campgrounds for example)”.

As the SCORP concludes, “Non-Metro Recreation Counties are generally considered to be vacation destinations, and are therefore important to the overall state economy. Yet these counties have value beyond what they provide in tourist dollars. As natural amenity-rich areas they provide large areas of land for outdoor recreating, land that is important in an ever-developing statewide landscape.” An additional factor in the critical importance of Sauk County as one of the few Southern Gateway counties classified as a “Non-Metro Recreation County” is its proximity to the population center of Dane County and the other seventeen million people living within a half-day drive. Continued growth in population and housing development can be expected in Sauk County, both increasing demand for recreational activities and putting pressure on the supply of land available to satisfy those recreational use demands.

Chapter 2 of the SCORP analyzes recreational demand in the state, and in particular the Southern Gateway Region. It also discusses barriers to participation. The demand analysis relied on a combination of survey research methods. Wisconsin residents participate in a broad variety of recreational activities, partly because of Wisconsin’s “abundant recreational resources”, and partly due to its “four-season” climate, which allows for “recreating in every season.”

Preferences for all of Wisconsin were tabulated, as well as those specific to the various geographical regions. Recreational demand preferences for the Southern Gateway Region are displayed below in *Table 8.2 Recreational Demand in the SG*. Not all pertain to specifically to Sauk County, but these Southern Gateway Region preferences can be compared with those identified in the Sauk County CORP Survey. In addition, the SCORP identifies issues related to the supply of recreational facilities and activities.

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Table 8-2: Recreational Demand in the SG

▪ **Southern Gateway Issues**

In the Southern Gateway counties, several activities were scored by demand and summarized in the chart to the right. “Walking for pleasure” (89%) and “Family gathering” (79.9%) appear closest to a universally popular category of activities.

Top issues for the Southern Gateway include:

- 1) Budget constraints on park and recreation programs
- 2) Increased competition for natural resources
- 3) Increasing ATV usage and associated impacts
- 4) Increasing multiple-use recreation conflicts
- 5) Lack of maintenance of parks and recreation areas
- 6) Lack of park and recreation staff
- 7) Overcrowding
- 8) Poor water quality impairing recreation
- 9) Protecting silent sport areas

The top needs for the Southern Gateway include:

- 1) More ATV areas
- 2) More biking trails
- 3) More camping opportunities
- 4) More canoeing opportunities
- 5) More cross-country skiing opportunities
- 6) More hiking trails
- 7) More horse trails

Activity	Southern Gateways demand by %
Walk for pleasure	88.6%
Family gathering	79.9%
Picnicking	62.5%
Driving for pleasure	62.1%
Bicycling	53.5%
Boating	48.5%
Visit a beach	43.4%
Swimming in lakes streams	42.7%
Snow/Ice activities	40.8%
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	39.9%
Swimming in an outdoor pool	38.6%
Day hiking	38.0%
Visit outdoor theme/water park	37.9%
Freshwater fishing	35.1%
Warm water fishing	33.3%
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	32.9%
Running or jogging	32.1%
Motor boating	32.0%
Developed camping	31.4%
Mountain biking	30.9%
Visit other waterside (non-beach)	26.4%
Canoeing	24.6%
Golf	22.6%
Nature-based educational programming	22.6%
Ice-skating outdoors	19.9%
Primitive camping	18.3%
Drive off-road	17.1%
Target shooting	17.0%
Tennis outdoors	16.4%
Hunting (any type)	16.0%
Off-road driving with an ATV	15.2%
Visit a dog park to walk a pet	14.5%
Rafting	13.2%
Big game hunting	12.8%
Off-road 4-wheel driving (SUV)	11.6%
Small game hunting	11.1%
Coldwater fishing	11.0%
Snowmobiling	10.1%

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▪ Visitor Demand

The Wisconsin SCORP attempted to characterize recreational demand from non-Wisconsin residents. Most of these visitors from the Chicago area and the Twin Cities choose the northern counties and locations on Lakes Michigan and Superior as their vacation destinations. Fewer visit the Southern Gateway Region. But as any summer visitor to Devil’s Lake State Park knows, Illinois and Minnesota are well-represented among the license plates on display in the campgrounds and beach parking areas. SCORP researchers asked visitors from Chicago and the Twin Cities to identify the types activities they participate in when in the Southern Gateway Counties. As the table below shows, both groups like to camp, sightsee, picnic and hike.

Table 8-3: Urban Visitor Demand

Activity ranking	Chicago	Twin Cities
1	Downhill Skiing	Sightseeing
2	Sightseeing	Bird watching
3	Picnicking	Hiking
4	Camping	Picnicking
5	Hiking	Camping

Also noted in the SCORP are perceived recreation supply shortages in the Southern Gateway Counties. These have been divided into nature based and developed setting categories. In both categories, access to water, with or without boats seems to be in shortage.

Table 8-4: Recreational Supply Shortages

Recreation Supply Shortages in the Southern Gateways	
Nature Based	Developed Settings
Backcountry/walk-in camping	Boat launches - trailerable
Boat launches - carry -in	Camps - educational
Natural areas	Dog Parks
Parks	Ice Skating rinks
Public water access	Nature Centers
Trails - hiking	Picnic areas
Trails - horseback riding	Sailboat clubs/rentals
	Tennis Courts
	Tennis programs
	Trails - bicycle

The SCORP provides an interesting and valuable picture of recreational supply and demand in Wisconsin, and offers some pertinent analysis that is relevant to Sauk County as one of the Non-Metro Recreational Counties in the Southern Gateway Region. Comparison of the SCORP findings with data gathered by Sauk County from its residents can help sharpen our focus on specific County needs, while maintaining the larger regional perspective.

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9.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX

A

SCORP statewide goals, actions and recommendations

- 1) Protect, restore, and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources for outdoor recreation
 - a. Continue to provide protection to lakes, rivers and streams to improve aquatic habitat, water quality and fisheries.
 - b. Continue to provide programs and funding for access to industrial forestry lands for outdoor recreation activities.
 - c. Continue to implement and invasive species control program on Wisconsin lands and waters.
 - d. Increase protection to wetlands, thereby benefiting the ecological and recreational resources of the state.
 - e. Continue to provide funding and assistance for the restoration of native prairies and grassland ecosystems.
 - f. Continue to support and fund the Smart Growth Planning process to help stop the fragmentation of open spaces while also allowing for development.

- 2) Continue to improve and develop Wisconsin's outdoor recreation facilities
 - a. Continue to maintain and renovate outdoor recreation facilities for future generations.
 - b. Provide for continued development and enhancements of urban outdoor recreation facilities such as soccer fields and playground equipments.
 - c. Provide for expansion of the following trail systems: hiking, biking horse, and water.
 - d. Enhance and upgrade signage and maps for all outdoor recreation at all levels of government.
 - e. Support publicly funded programs that provide financial assistance for the actions listed above.

- 3) Understand and manage the growing issues of Wisconsin's outdoor recreation conflicts
 - a. Proactively plan for increased user conflict and provide for increased recreation uses consistent with the state growth in population.
 - b. Develop public and private management tools for addressing user conflicts.
 - c. Increase funding for outdoor recreation law enforcement authorities to the nationwide average so that they may better enforce outdoor rules and regulations.
 - d. Examine and understand Wisconsin capacity for local and stat recreation growth according to the state's natural resource base.
 - e. Designate more public land for recreational user to better meet the increasing demand for outdoor recreation.
 - f. Examine options such as private landowner incentive programs, which would allow public access to private lands.

- 4) Continue to provide Wisconsin's outdoor recreation education and programming
 - a. Provide funding and support for joint outdoor recreation programs between schools, government and communities.
 - b. Provide funding and support for more outdoor recreation skills courses
 - c. Develop programs that begin to address the state's diversifying urban populations.
 - d. Develop and support programs that bring nature-based experiences close to home for urban, low-income youth.
 - e. Provide more sources in environmental education and ethics.

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- 5) Continue to provide and enhance public access to Wisconsin's recreational lands and waters
 - a. Develop a statewide interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points across the state.
 - b. Continue to acquire and develop boating access sites to meet public boating needs.
 - c. Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities and opportunities available with a given region.
 - d. Continue to increase public access to Wisconsin waterways.
 - e. Continue to improve disabled accessibility for outdoor recreation facilities and promote the development of facilities using universal design standards.

- 6) Understand the threats and opportunities of Wisconsin's developing urban areas and areas of rapid population growth.
 - a. Continue to protect prime recreation lands with publicly funded programs such as the Stewardship 2000 Program.
 - b. Develop trail networks that offer easy access from urban/suburban areas to rural areas.
 - c. Encourage communities to develop park and open space plans that allow for balanced growth while also providing land and facilities for outdoor recreation
 - d. Continue to develop and provide active outdoor sports facilities such as soccer fields and tennis courts.
 - e. Continue to provide and expand community and neighborhood parks for multiple forms of outdoor recreation.

- 7) Maintain and enhance funding opportunities of Wisconsin's outdoor recreation.
 - a. Renew the Warren Knowles – Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 200 Program.
 - b. Encourage all local governments to develop park and recreation plans for participation in state and federal cost share programs.
 - c. Provide more cost share opportunities for local governments to acquire, develop, and maintain recreational lands and facilities.
 - d. Increase Wisconsin State Parks funding to nationwide average.
 - e. Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among multiple government agencies.
 - f. Increase revenue-generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.
 - g. Explore the option of an exercise tax on outdoor recreational equipment to help fund park and recreation developments.

- 8) Promote Wisconsin's outdoor recreation as a means to better health and wellness for state citizens
 - a. Encourage individuals, workplaces, community groups, and schools to become physically active by promoting programs such as the Governor's Wisconsin Challenge program.
 - b. Develop a "Get Fit with Wisconsin" campaign for public lands and waters that touts the health benefits of recreation and reaches a wider audience of potential users.
 - c. Educate the public about the health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.
 - d. Integrate opportunities and incentives for exercise during the workday – giving employees 30 minutes a day for exercise, providing exercise equipment and changing rooms, etc.
 - e. Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.

APPENDIX

B

Park and Recreation Designs

THIS SECTION IS PRESENTED IN THE INTEREST OF ASSISTING PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS. A RECREATION SYSTEM IS COMPOSED OF MANY DIFFERENT COMPONENTS, THE COMBINATION OF WHICH PROVIDE FACILITIES AND LANDSCAPES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION. MANY ENTITIES ARE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF RECREATIONAL AREAS AND FACILITIES FOR A COMMUNITY OR REGION. FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THESE ENTITIES SHOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY AND SERVE A PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHIC AREA OR RECREATIONAL NEED. FOR THIS PLAN, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR SERVICE AREAS. THEY ARE DESCRIBED AS THE FOLLOWING:

- MINI PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- COMMUNITY PARK
- SPECIAL USE PARK
- SCHOOL PARK
- COUNTY PARK
- STATE PARK
- STATE FOREST

Mini Park

1. Definition Summary:

A play lot or playground provides space for parental supervised recreation of toddlers and young children within a neighborhood, or as part of a larger neighborhood or community park and urban center, including retail shopping areas.

2. Size Objectives:

0.5 to 1.5 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally within a neighborhood of a half mile radius or population of 2,000-3,000. Mini parks may be included in parks that serve a larger population or service area.

4. Location Objectives:

Located in protected areas with separation from street traffic and high visibility; serving local neighborhoods and adjoining schools, libraries, or police and fire facilities.

- *Population Ratio to Acreage:* .25 to 0.5 acre per 1,000 population to achieve a park unit size that serves 2,000 to 3,000 people.

5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The size of a play lot or playground may range from as small as 2,500 sq. ft. to 1.5 acres.⁹ Amenities offered by these facilities generally include sand play areas, play apparatus, play equipment, and other special child-oriented features. The service radius for these parks in terms of distance from population served is limited to less than a quarter mile, or within a super block space, unless the playground is incorporated into a larger park.

6. Orientation:

Small geographic areas, sub-neighborhoods, or neighborhoods, when combined with a larger park unit. Serves youth ranging in age from toddler to 12 years, with adult supervision. Playgrounds also serve important needs in city business districts and inner city areas where a mix of commercial and recreation activity is desired.

7. Function:

Provides outdoor play experiences for youth under parental supervision. Generates neighborhood communication and provides diversion from work and domestic chores. Promotes neighborhood solidarity.

⁹Stand-alone play lots require more land area than play lots incorporated into larger parks.

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B

APPENDIX B: Park and Recreation Designs

Neighborhood Park

1. Definition Summary:

A neighborhood park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located. It is considered an extension of neighborhood residents' "out-of-yard" and outdoor use area.

2. Size Objectives:

5 to 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally a one mile radius, but actually defined by collector street patterns which form the limits of a neighborhood or recreation service area. Population served may range from 2,000 up to 5,000.

4. Location Objectives:

Centrally located for equitable pedestrian access within a definable neighborhood service area. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary, middle school or high school, fire station, or library, if possible.

5. Program Objectives:

Compatible with the neighborhood setting and park site constraints. Generally includes the following facilities, which are determined with public input as to use and activities:

- a. Parking for 10 to 20 vehicles.
 - 1) On-street parking is acceptable if negative impact to residential units can be mitigated. On-site parking is preferable as a planning objective.
 - 2) Bike racks with Class II trail connections where possible.
- b. Restrooms
 - 1) Men's restroom with 2 water closets, 2 urinals, 2 lavatories.
 - 2) Women's restroom with 3 water closets and 2 lavatories.
 - 3) Utility and minimum park janitorial storage space.
- c. Tot lot/children's play area
- d. Family event/group picnic facility
- e. Informal family picnic area with benches and tables
- f. Unstructured turf grass play area/play or practice field for children, young adults, and families.
- g. Sport facilities—compatible with neighborhood setting and park site constraints.
 - 1) Basketball—half court, full court, or tri-court configuration
 - 2) Volleyball area
 - 3) Softball field/soccer practice or game overlay
 - 4) Other features as needs or site conditions allow

6. Orientation:

Serves all age groups, with an emphasis on youth and families in neighborhood settings.

7. Function:

To provide a combination of active recreation and passive activities, both outdoor and indoor facilities, and special features as required or needed.

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

A minimum size of 5 to 25 acres with amenities including sports facilities, picnic areas, swim facilities, cultural activities, arts, crafts, and individual passive activities. The park should primarily serve a defined neighborhood area population of 2,000-5,000. Distance from this neighborhood will vary depending on urban development pattern, zoning, and densities in the respective neighborhoods being served. Efforts should be made to allow easy pedestrian access to the park.

Community Park

1. Definition Summary:

A community park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for a defined service area, the entire city, or significant geographic segment of the city's population.

2. Size Objectives:

Usually more than 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally a 2 to 5 mile radius within the city and adjacent neighborhoods outside of city limits.

4. Location Objectives:

Centrally located if planned to serve a particular geographic segment of the city. Located adjoining or immediately adjacent to a collector street providing community-wide vehicular access, thereby reducing neighborhood traffic impacts. Connected with Class II on-street and/or off-street community trail and bike lane system. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary, middle, or high school if possible.

5. Program Objectives:

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands. The following facilities may be compatible with community setting and park site constraints:

- a. Off-street parking calculated to satisfy demand of park and recreation activities provided. Includes

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APPENDIX B: Park and Recreation Designs



bike racks and a public transit station at the site as well as both on-site and street parking.

- b. Restrooms designed to accommodate the level of park and recreation activities provided and the number of people served. Restrooms should be located within a reasonable walking distance from children's play equipment and other high-use areas.
- c. Community recreation center
- d. Park maintenance and equipment storage building
- e. Tot lot/children's play area
- f. Group picnic shelters
- g. Family picnic facilities
- h. Sport/recreation facility fulfilling the overall city demand

Appropriate program elements include:

- 1) Community pool/water feature
- 2) Soccer fields
- 3) Softball, little league baseball, junior pony league baseball
- 4) Football
- 5) Roller hockey/skateboard area
- 6) Tennis courts
- 7) Basketball courts
- 8) Amphitheater/performing arts center
- 9) Volleyball (indoor and outdoor)
- 10) Jogging trails
- 11) Other facilities as desired and as permitted under park site plan
- 12) Concessions (food and beverage)

6. Orientation:

Multi-purpose service area or community-wide recreation resource serving most or all of the population.

7. Function:

Provides opportunities for a diverse mix of indoor and outdoor recreation, including walking and bicycling, outdoor performances, various programmed and non-programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The minimum space for a community park is 15 acres. Facilities typically provide for some sports activities, though emphasis is on passive cultural and community centers with recreational programming and organized activities. The community park may serve populations within a 2 to 5 mile radius, a scope

that would allow residents of other communities to use the park as well.

Special Use Park

1. Definition Summary:

A special use park is often designed as a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. A special use park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource.

2. Size Objective:

The actual size of a special use park is determined by land availability and facility/market demand for special uses or recreation programs.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Community or area-wide and determined by the type of recreation program, special events or use activities.

4. Location Objectives:

Determined by the property opportunity, service area and size objectives.

5. Program Objectives:

Special use parks require facility programming that is user- or market-driven and based on community needs or economic and service principles for public and private partnerships. The magnitude and type of special use facilities may include:

- a. Water play park
- b. Amphitheater
- c. Festival/swap meet/farmers market
- d. League/individual sports complex
- e. Fitness/entertainment center
- f. Skateboard/in-line hockey park
- g. Recreation programs and classes

6. Orientation:

Provides recreation programming, sports and special event attractions and activities for all age groups.

7. Function:

Special events, fairs, festivals, expositions, symposiums, sports, community gatherings, ethnic/cultural celebrations, plays and numerous other recreational programs and activities.

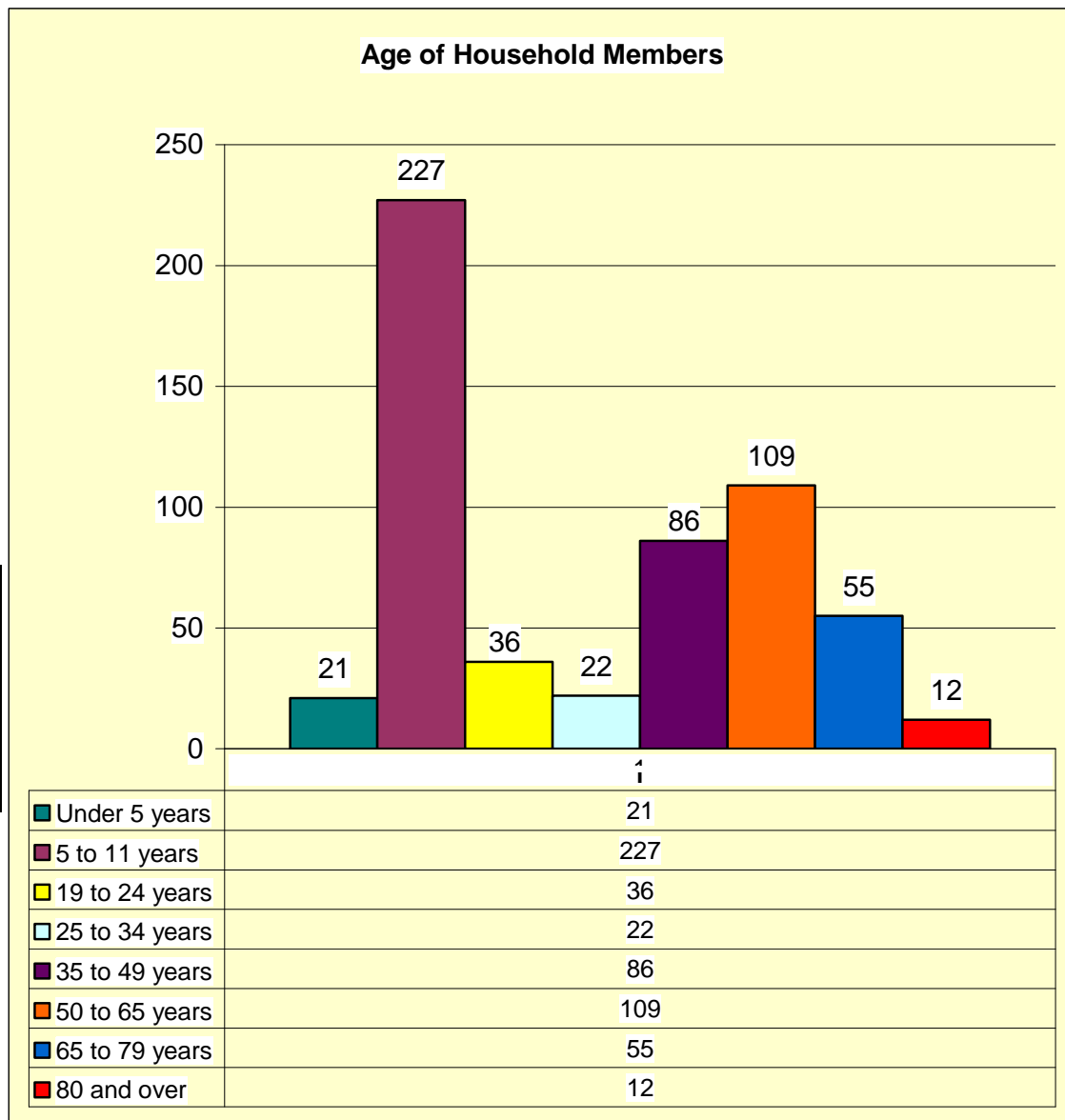
8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The minimum size for special parks varies depending on intended use and programming.



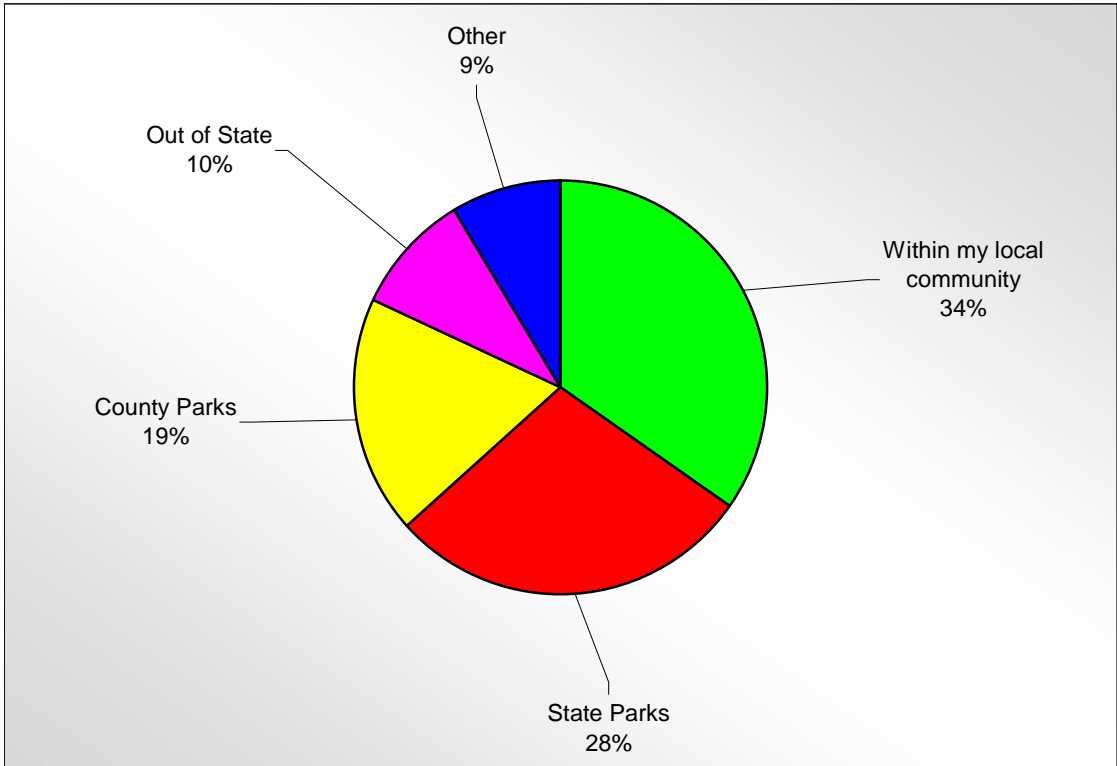
2006 Parks and Open Space Survey of Sauk County Residents

Question 1: List the number of household members in each category:

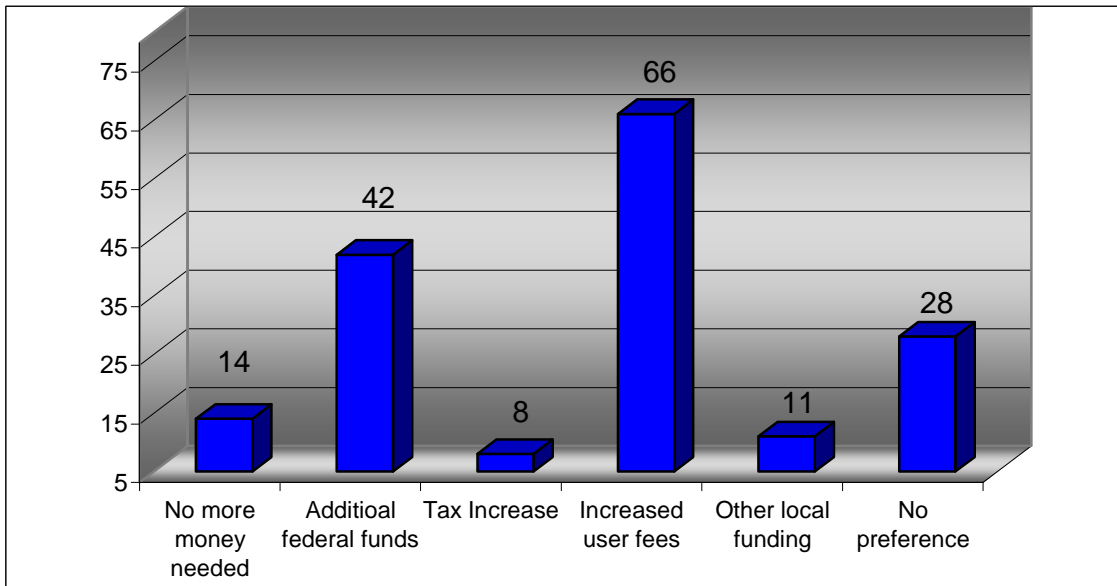


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Question 2. Where do you go most frequently for recreation?

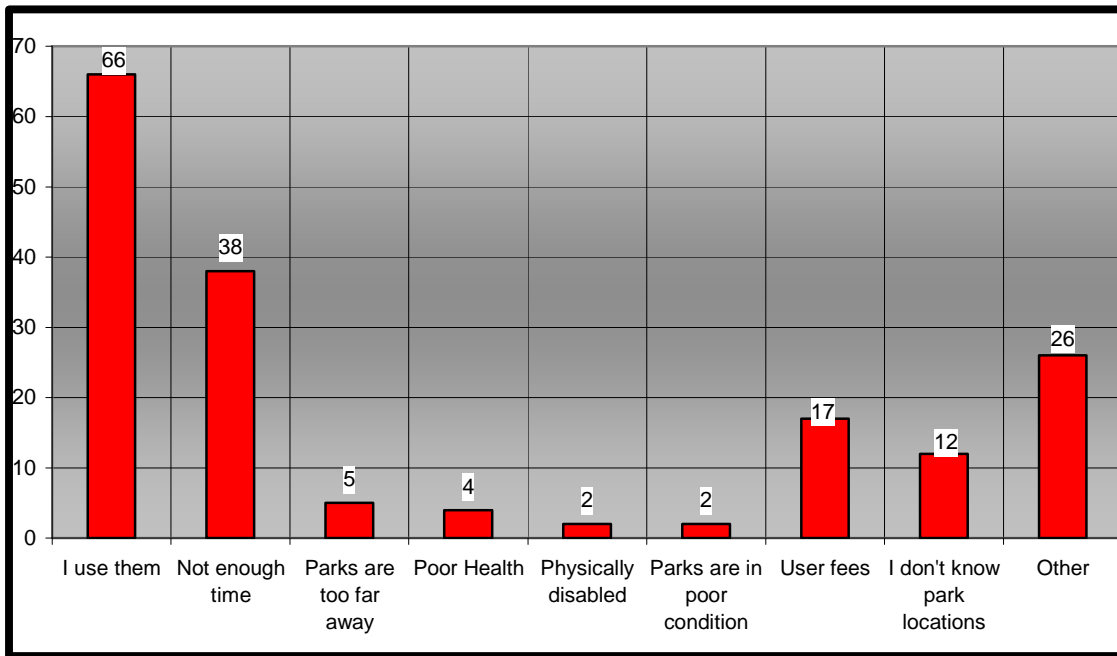


Question 3. If the public sector is to raise money for the development or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities, how should they do it?

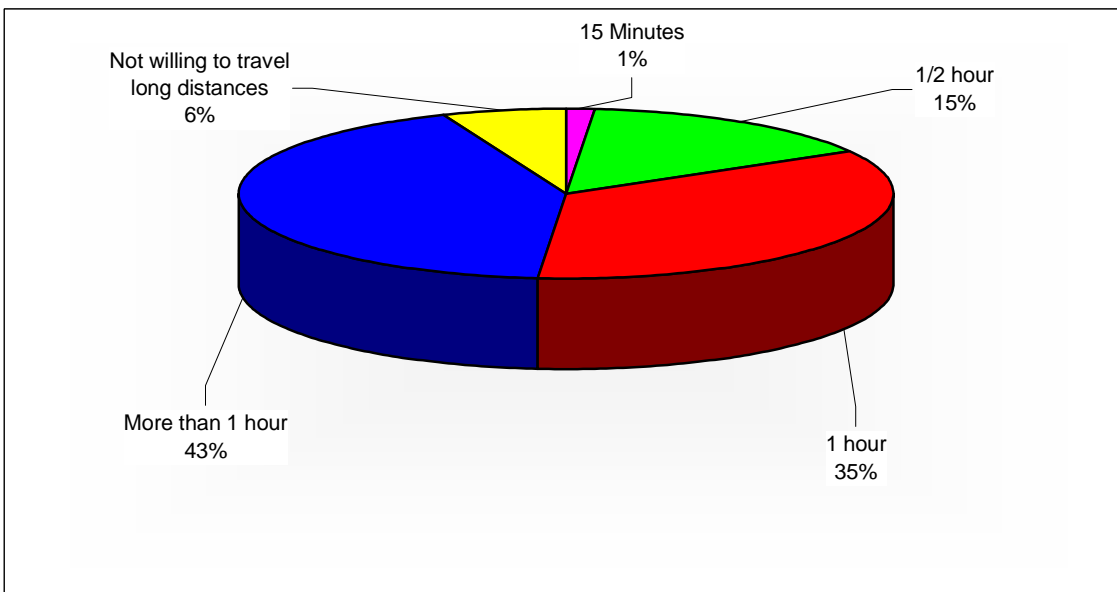


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Question 4. What are the primary reason(s) that you DO NOT use the parks available in Sauk County?



Question 5. What is the longest distance you are willing to travel for recreation?



2008 Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

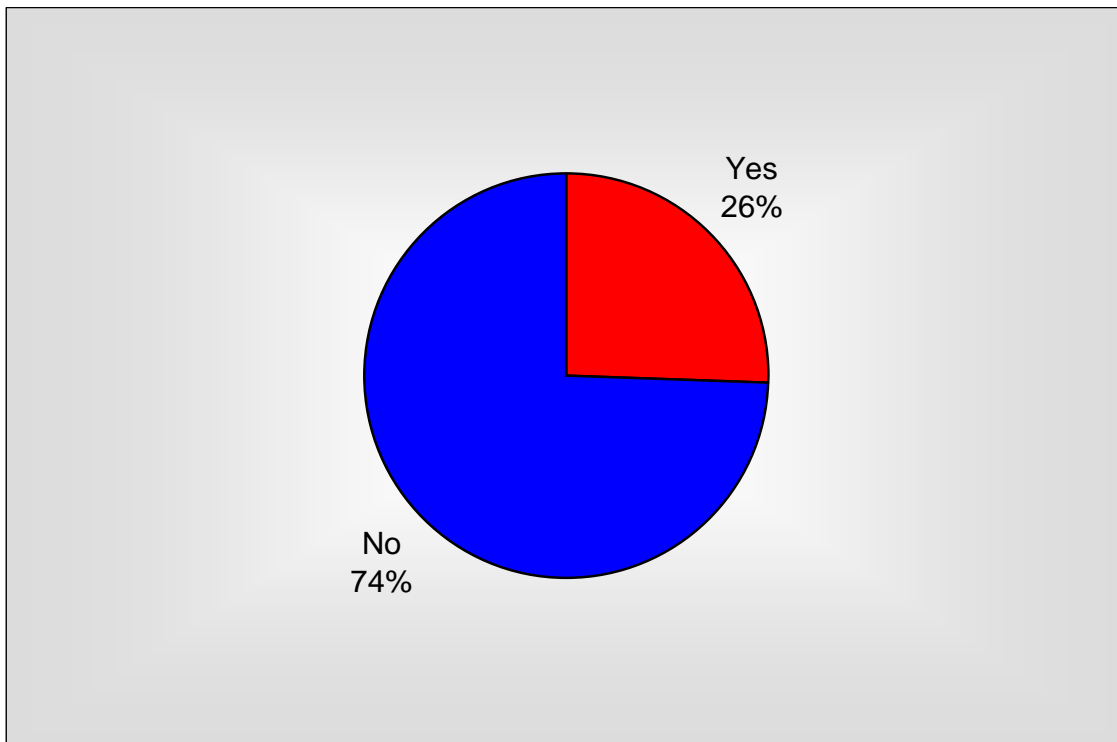
Question 6. Indicate how often you visit each park:					
County Parks:					
White	1	5	30	32	73
Redstone Boat	4	4	29	18	83
Yellow	0	0	0	6	122
Hemlock	0	0	12	14	106
Mirror Lake	2	1	21	16	95
Redstone	2	5	10	17	98
Sauk County	0	1	7	7	120
Man Mound	0	0	3	11	116
Summer Oaks Boat	1	0	4	6	121
State Parks:					
Devils	9	18	54	34	30
Mirror	5	4	31	23	67
Rocky	0	0	3	8	117
Natural	1	0	7	37	85
State Natural Areas:					
Ablemans	0	0	4	9	122
Bakken's	0	1	7	6	125
Baxters	0	2	4	15	115
Dear Creek	0	0	0	1	135
Dells of the Wisconsin	5	2	25	28	84
Durst Rock	0	0	1	5	130
Ferry	0	0	5	17	116
Honey	0	0	9	13	113
Lodde's Mill	0	0	2	4	130
McGilyra	0	0	0	5	130
Pewitt's	0	0	4	5	126
Pine	1	0	0	4	130
Spring Green	0	0	5	4	126
Pine	0	0	1	4	129
Parfrey's	0	1	20	30	88
Koshawag	0	0	0	1	134
Devils Lake Oak	1	1	3	16	117
State Trails & Properties:					
The 400 State	4	3	23	28	77
Dell Creek Wildlife Management	3	0	12	8	109
The Lower Wisconsin State	3	5	19	16	95
Pine Island National Wildlife	1	2	9	10	113
National Park:					
Ice Age National Scenic	3	2	13	17	102

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Question 7. Indicate how often you visit each of the following publicly accessible bodies of water.

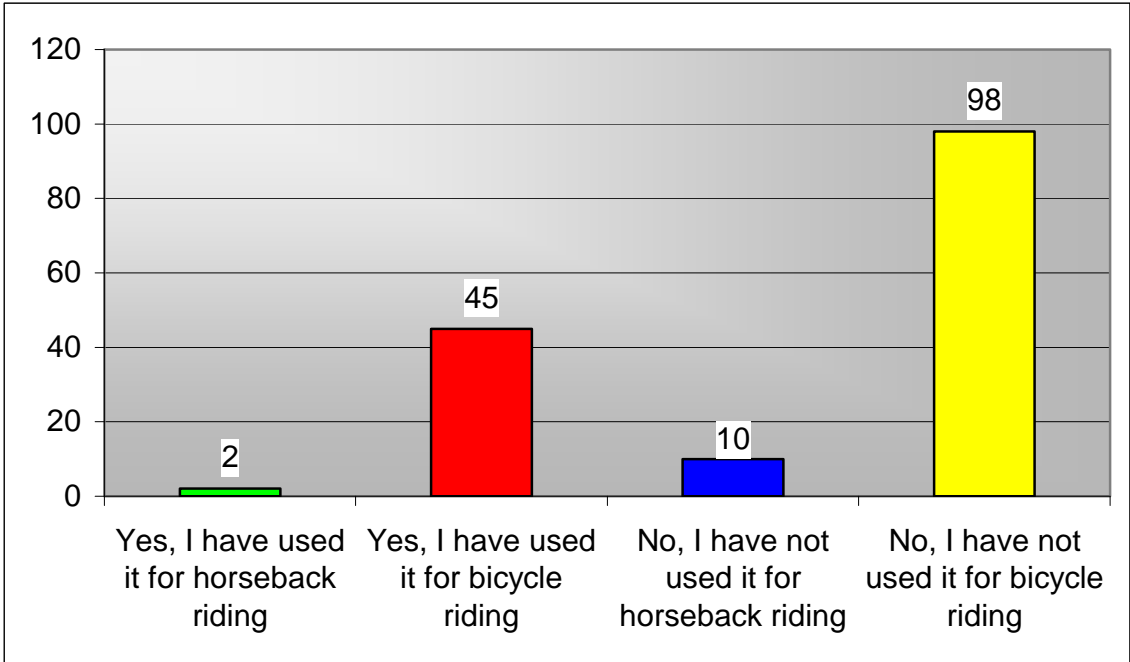
	<u>More than 3 times per month</u>	<u>1-3 times per month</u>	<u>Few times a year</u>	<u>Once a year</u>	<u>Never</u>
Wisconsin River	16	11	57	21	38
Baraboo River	6	5	28	22	70
Lake Wisconsin	11	6	38	23	58
Devils Lake	8	14	43	30	42
Lake Redstone	9	7	39	14	64
Dutch Hollow Lake	4	8	25	16	79
Hemlock Slough	0	2	7	11	106
Seeley Lake	1	2	7	18	95
Mirror Lake	5	2	25	25	73
Leech Lake	0	0	1	3	117
Lake Virginia	1	0	2	7	112
Lake Delton	3	1	22	19	85
Lake Blass	0	0	3	7	112
White Mound Lake	0	5	22	27	80
Lower Narrows	0	1	2	12	109
Honey Creek	1	1	8	12	101

Question 8. Do you ride bicycle on a regular basis?

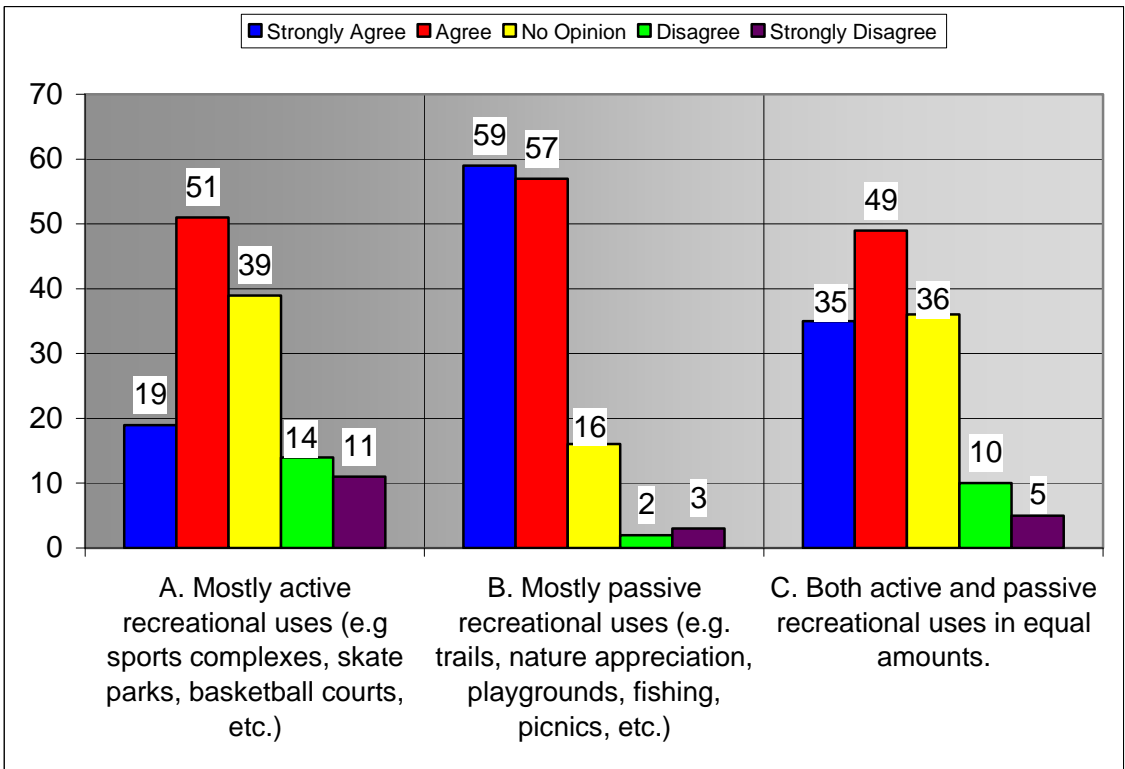


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Question 9. Have you ever used the "400" Trail for bicycle riding or horseback riding? (check all that apply)



Question 10. The following recreational uses are important.



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Question 11. The following activities are important.					
	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Opinion</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>
A. Walking	98	50	2	0	2
B. Camping	64	62	17	2	2
C. Fishing	86	47	9	3	2
D. Snowmobiling	22	49	36	23	12
E. Dog Walking	31	44	43	11	9
F. Hunting	57	37	26	8	10
G. Driving for Pleasure	40	50	31	14	6
H. Golf	26	39	50	16	12
I. Hiking	60	63	17	3	4
J. Bicycle Touring	39	55	39	4	6
K. Swimming	58	64	17	1	3
L. Boating	72	57	10	4	3
M. Canoeing/Kayaking	51	61	20	4	5
N. ATV Use	19	36	34	30	21
O. Picnicking	65	61	15	0	5
P. Basketball	17	51	55	8	10
Q. Baseball	18	51	58	8	8
R. Cross-country Skiing	31	61	39	4	8
S. Running	29	56	45	5	6
T. Football	20	44	53	16	9
U. Rollerblading	15	32	67	15	10
V. Soccer	15	39	64	8	8
W. Sledding Tubing	31	67	34	2	7
X. Softball	18	57	55	5	7
Y. Volleyball	19	58	51	6	7
Z. Mountain Biking	25	43	54	10	5
AA. Skateboarding	11	29	66	20	14
BB. Downhill	23	37	55	13	8
CC. Tennis	14	54	55	8	10
DD. Backpacking	30	53	46	6	6
EE. Horseback Riding	18	49	50	9	10
FF. Ice Skating	24	60	45	3	5
GG. Water Skiing	18	54	42	11	13
HH. Hockey	13	43	58	14	9
II. Snowshoeing	16	56	46	9	7
JJ. Rock Climbing	21	44	54	11	7
KK. Scuba Diving	18	43	57	8	11
LL. Nature/Wildlife Viewing	75	55	15	0	4

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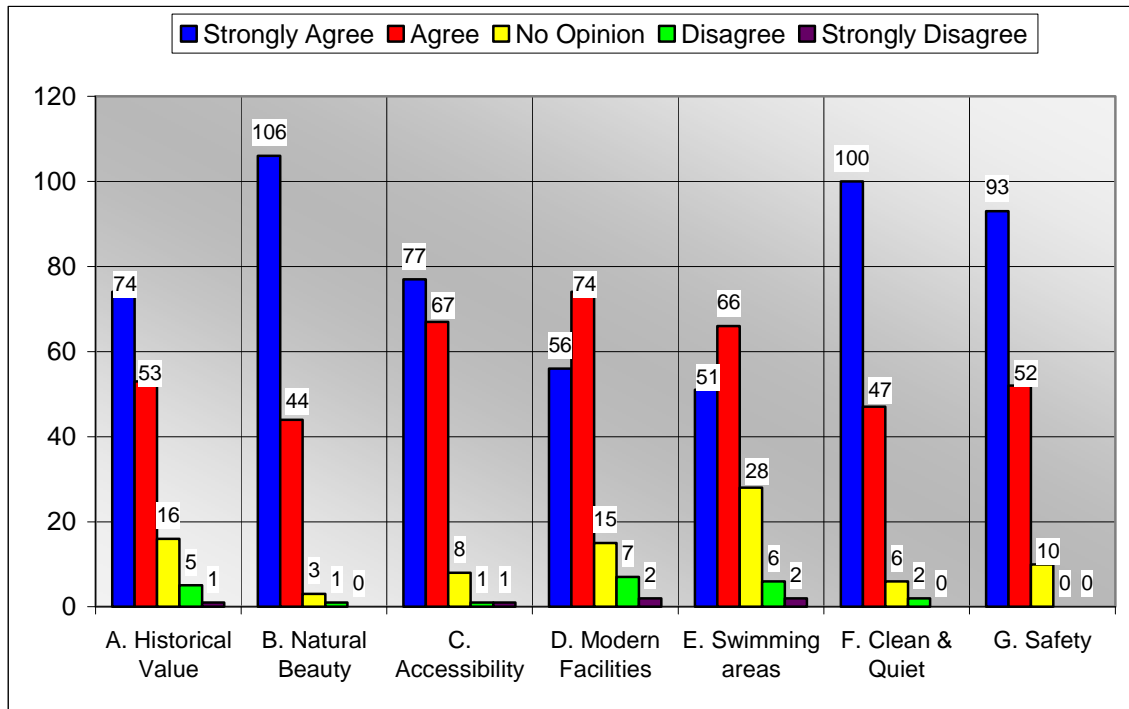
Question 12. Do you feel there is need for more of any certain kind of outdoor recreation activity?

1. There is no more need for any kind of outdoor activity *
2. Need more equestrian areas.
3. Need more ATV trails and public highways open to ATV uses. *
4. Need snowmobile trails to open at first snow.
5. Marina's should sell boat gas all weekend all the way from the Dam to Lake Wisconsin.
6. Need to have summer "outdoor" basketball league for elementary to middle school aged kids
7. There is already plenty of outdoor activities. *
8. Need more "non-road" bike trails.
9. Need anything to engage kids in physical activity.
10. Need paved bike, rollerblading and walking trails.
11. Need opportunities for ice-skating.
12. The county should not be responsible for funding all activities, users should pay. *
13. Need more hunting, fishing, camping areas. *
14. Need more land for fishing and hunting.
15. Need cleaner public waters for swimming.
16. Need more cost efficient parks.
17. Need more historical sites and picnicking for families.
18. Things are pretty well balanced.
19. Need nature walk areas where plants and surrounding features are identified.
20. Need wheelchair accessible paths for hiking and beach/waterfront activities.
21. Need nature/wildlife viewing areas.
22. Need to sustain and grown natural areas and protect from invasive use & development.
23. Need 4-Wheeler trails.

* = comment was made by more than 1 respondent.

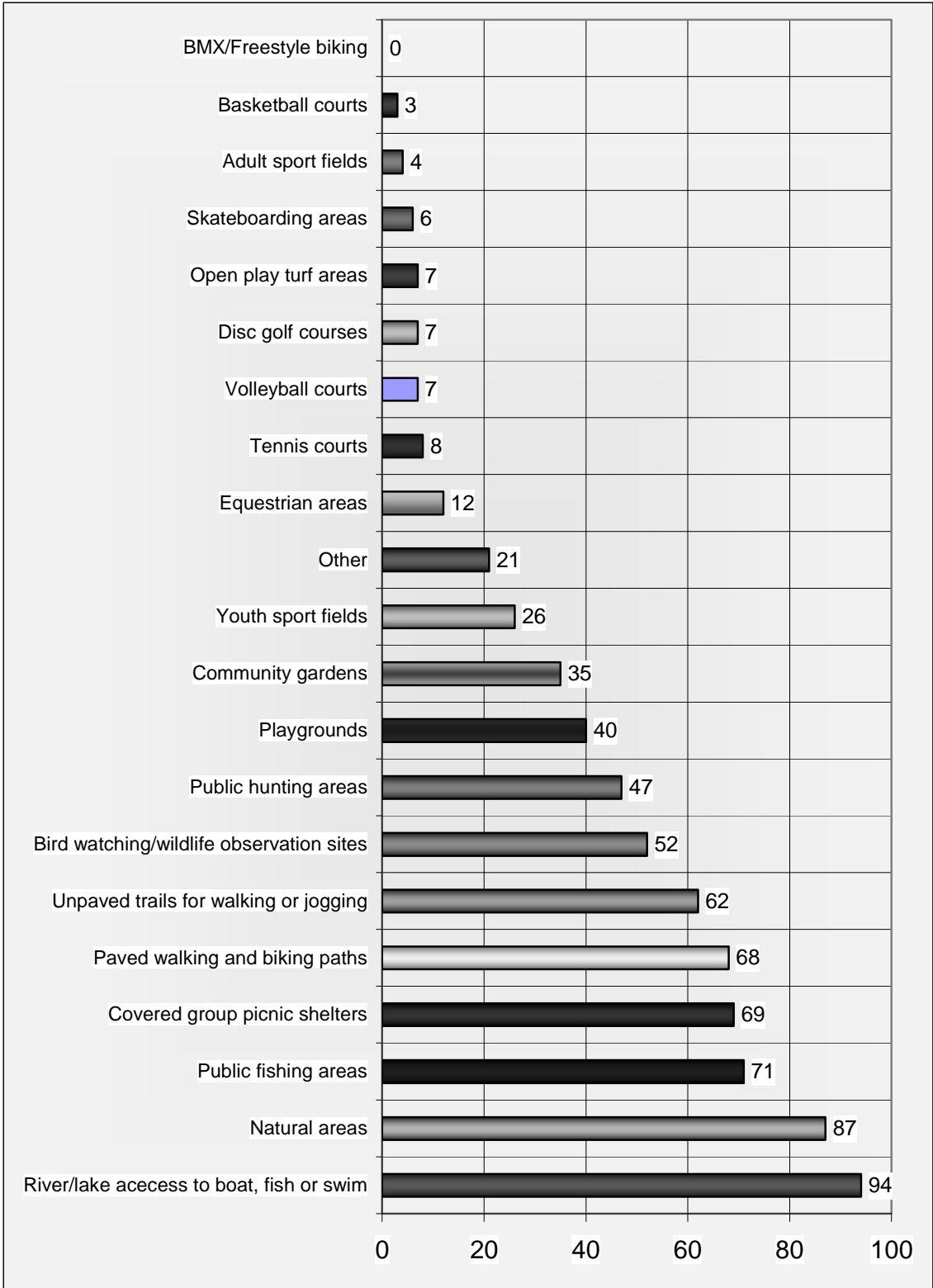
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Question 13. The following attributes are important.



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Question 14. From the list below, pick 5 public recreation facilities most needed in Sauk County.



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Question 15. In terms of County Parks, the following features are well maintained.

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
A. Restrooms, trash collection & picnic	22	77	35	10	1
B. Sport courts	10	40	88	2	1
C. Playground safety	17	58	63	3	0
D. Parking lots and roadways	23	77	40	3	0
E. Tree Care	21	73	47	2	0
F. Turf care and mowing	19	76	43	4	0
G. Shrub and flower beds	17	64	56	5	0
H. Sport fields	13	45	80	2	0
I. Lakes	22	68	38	12	2
J. Rivers	22	66	44	9	0
K. Hiking/ Walking / Biking trails	18	78	44	3	0

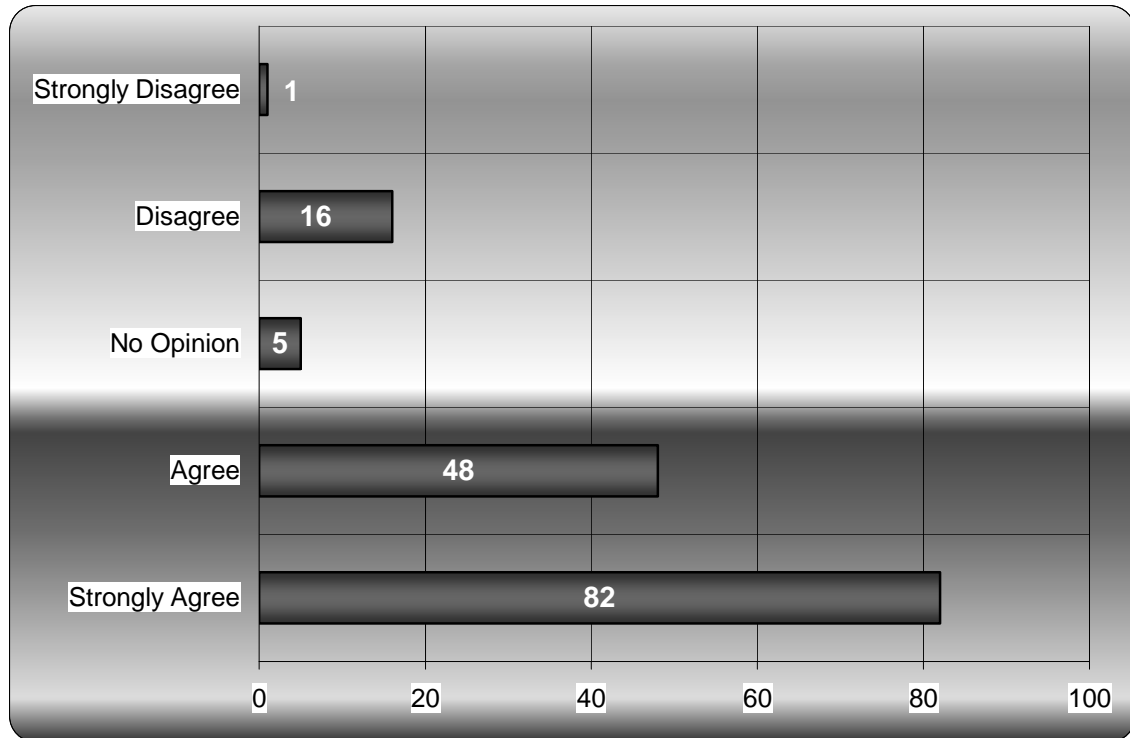
Question 16. If you answered "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree", what improvements would you like to see?

1. The weeds in some of the lakes are so bad, kids can't fish in them.
2. River needs a lot of help with trees and debris.
3. Need to improve the trash collection at the boat landings.
4. Need to improve the water quality.
5. Need newer equipment to maintain parks with.
6. Lake Redstone beach and parking lot is unkempt.
7. White mound needs better water quality, it is too scummy and full of weeds. *
8. Garbage cans need to be dumped more often.
9. Need more user friendly parks.
10. Clean up the waters and the areas around them. *
11. Need community facilities at boat access areas, such as gas, food, convenience stores instead of the government controlling all the shorelines.
12. Need better tennis courts.
13. Mow parks more often and plant shade trees around the childrens playgrounds.
14. Hemlock park needs better care.
15. All parks need restroom improvements, baby changing tables & water fountains.
16. Need more picnic tables & fewer pit toilets.
17. Public restrooms & changing rooms are very dirty.
18. Lots of complaints about cleanliness of Lake Redstone Beach public facilities.
19. Improve the water quality in lakes and invest in watershed projects.
20. Need more access & cleaner areas.

* = comment was made by more than 1 respondent.

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Question 17. Pets are allowed with certain restrictions including; pets must be under the owners control and have a leash of six feet or less and pets are not allowed in the beach area or in the water. Do you agree with these County Park policies?



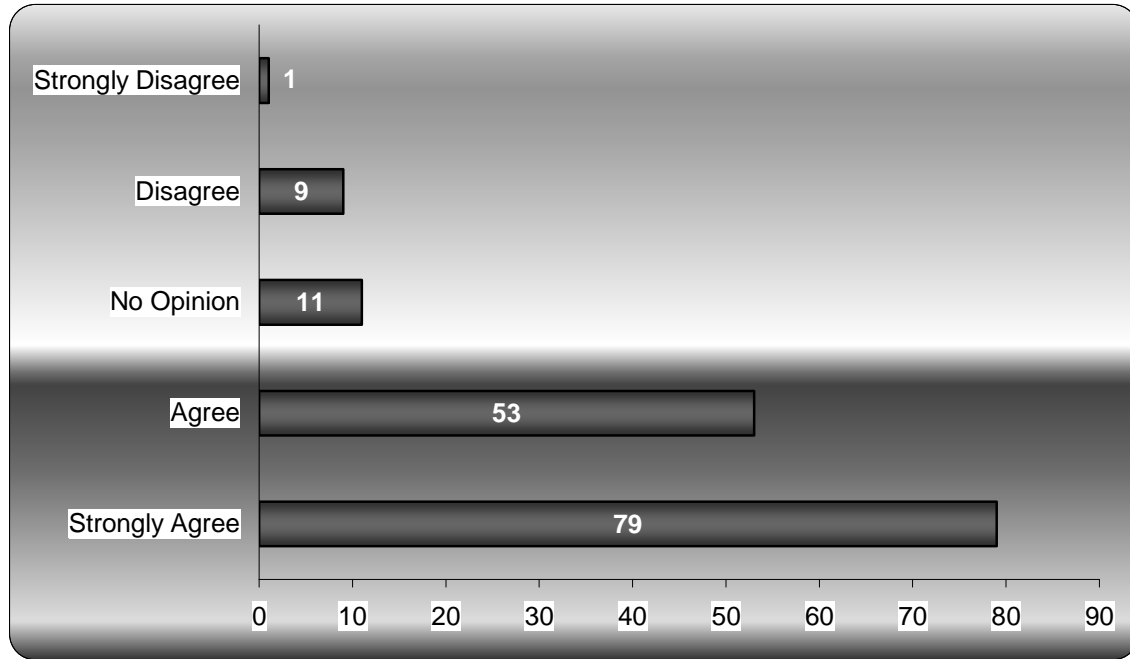
Question 18. If you answered "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" what changes would you like to see?

1. Keep your pets at home. Do not allow pets in County parks. *
2. Owners do not follow guidelines in place now. Need enforcement. *
3. Animals should be left to run loose.
4. Need more dog areas & places to walk, including beaches.
5. Pets should be allowed in the water to swim when out boating. *
6. Need more dog parks.
7. Owners need to clean up after pets. *
8. Dogs should not be allowed in picnic areas.
9. Need free run areas, but pets must be picked up after.
10. A dog park with water area for training is needed.
11. Allow pets on longer leashes and in the water.
12. Some animals like to run with their owners on nice day & shouldn't have regulations on where pets can go if with their owners.
13. Leash length is fine.

* = comment was made by more than 1 respondent

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Question 19. County Park policy does not allow vehicular traffic between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and enforces quiet hours during the same hours. Do you agree with this policy?



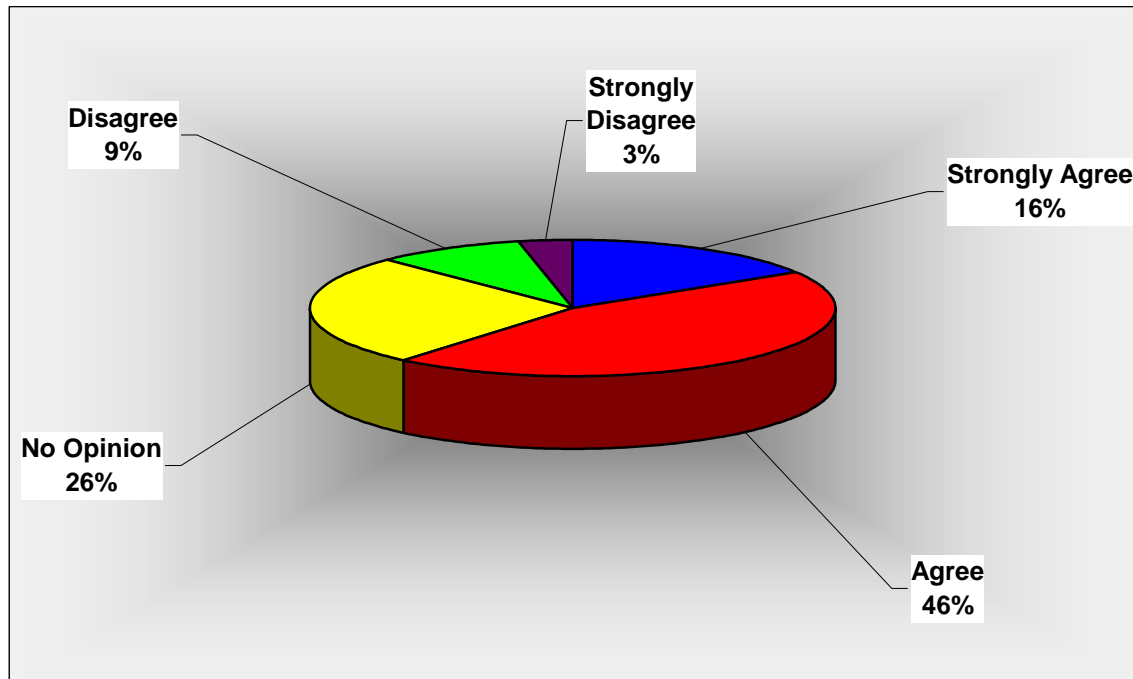
Question 20. If you answered "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" what suggestions do you have?

1. No park closing times.
2. Boat landings should be open 24 hours.
3. We should have "No Ski" times on our lakes at uniform time.
4. Earlier access for hunters.
5. A person should be able to come and go as they please as long as it is in an orderly fashion.
6. Agree with quiet time, but disagree with no vehicle traffic during those times. *
7. Enforcement is needed.
8. We are not children, if we want to stay up and talk until 2 a.m. we should be allowed too, not meet quiet time because of 3 or 4 campers that need to hear a pin drop while they are sleeping this requirement is why we go out of state.
9. Often campers need to return later than 10 pm, there should be exceptions to attend local sponsored activities in the area that may not be finished by 10 pm.
10. If gates lock at 10 pm, what happens in case of emergency?

* = comment was made by more than 1 respondent.

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Question 21. Campsite reservations are made by printing out a reservation form from the Sauk County website and mailing it in with a check made payable to Sauk County Parks. Do you agree with this method?



Question 22. If you answered "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" what suggestions do you have for changing the reservation system?

1. Use emails for reservations.
2. No computers available or older adults are unable to use computer system. *
3. Should have an online reservation form. *
4. Online system should show you what sites are available.
5. Not everyone has a computer or computer access. *
6. Should be able to call and talk to a person to make reservations. *
7. Better reservation/access to system for disabled people at all public lands.
8. Take credit cards over the phone. *
9. Better access & more user friendly website.
10. More choices for less active people.
11. Why force everyone to get a computer?
12. The website is useless. Needs to be redone.
13. Major pain! System does not work properly.

* = comment was made by more than 1 respondent

2008 Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Question 23. What would you like to see improve in terms of existing public recreational opportunities in Sauk County?

- * Clean things up. Garbage, trees from paths/trails.
- * Lower fees for day passes. Would go more often if it were cheaper to use.
- * Park staff does a great job.
- * Need ATV trails. We camp out of Sauk County because of ATV opportunities.
- * Need better advertising. Have never heard of most of the natural areas listed.
- * Need more walking trails, better publicized, more available facilities, not more sports fields.
- * Need an organized ATV system.
- * Need organized activities for young and old.
- * Great opportunities exist in Sauk County, but they have been diminishing and eroding the past 20 years. Would like to see opportunities maintained in sustainable fashion coupled with stronger zoning and smart growth.
- * Need more resources put towards teaching sustainability such as the YEPS programs.
- * Need more parking for Lake Redstone boat ramps.
- * Would like to see another public boat launch site in Merrimac area.
- * Need more pavilions for family gatherings.
- * Need more bike trails and better maintenance of existing ones.
- * My son is a skateboarder in Reedsburg and so are many other young men. They need an improved skate park. The best one is in Warrens, WI and that isn't the greatest. We spend a lot of money on lots of outdoor activities, not enough on skateboard parks in Reedsburg. These users are well behaved, great young men.
- * Need a swimming pool that kids can afford.
- * Need more hiking trails and dog facilities.
- * More public hunting areas.
- * NO FEES FOR SAUK COUNTY RESIDENTS.
- * Maps available.
- * Existing facilities are well cared for and we do not need more.
- * Additional campgrounds.
- * Areas open to ATV use.
- * Camping options with opportunities for commercial development near by & boat access areas.
- * Port-a-potties available at soccer fields and tennis courts.
- * Improve maintenance of wayside on Highway 23 South.
- * Need ample parking.
- * Encourage park use by establishing a "passport" validated at each park to claim a prize.
- * More free days when county residents can use the park with out a sticker.
- * Better grouse hunting opportunities.
- * Need better nature trails and a wildlife center.
- * Need better communication on where and what is offered.
- * More restrooms/waysides along the 400 Trail.
- * More access to public waters.
- * More equestrian trails. Horse people are more safety conscious than others.
- * Open public highways to ATV use.
- * Free park use to seniors over the age of 65.
- * NO ATV TRAILS ON ANY PUBLIC LANDS.
- * Need cheaper campsites.
- * Need more wheelchair and handicapped accessible parks and walking areas.
- * Why do snowmobiles get priority? When we don't have enough snow, why not allow ATV's on trails?

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Question 24. Additional comments.....

- * Parks are fine, we just need to make better use of them.
- * Never heard of some of the places listed for county or state parks.
- * Need restrictions on personal watercraft use.
- * Consider beach volleyball tourney, street basketball or 3 on 3 soccer @ cowchip.
- * Need a guide to list all areas and what they have to offer. Existing information is not satisfactory.
- * Nice survey.
- * Because I am a deputy, I know where all the county parks are at. Need something listing the locations, which may increase the usage. Website only lists White mound.
- * A paved trail should be the #1 priority.
- * White mound park is great.
- * Sauk County and Steve Koenig should be congratulated on a job well done.
- * Parks are fine they way they are. Spend money on more important items.
- * Our parks system is always changing and adapting to new needs. This is good. Perhaps more educational activities in the environmental or history areas would be nice.
- * We are an older couple who likes to walk and bike while enjoying wildlife and quietness. We like to take our grandchildren with us so they learn to enjoy the same. We think that for what we like to do, Sauk County has a lot to offer.
- * Fewer vandals, gates for closure in the evenings.
- * Nicely developed survey.
- * In general you are doing a great job.
- * Your parks and parks management are excellent. Defend it and resist park expansion of expensive facilities & high maintenance items.
- * Rising transportation costs will reduce park utilization and increase park maintenance costs in the future.
- * Charge more for boating day users of our lakes. They ruin our boat landings & pollute the lakes.
- * Need uniform hours for ski and wake-boarders for ALL lakes.
- * Parks and recreational systems are important, but I don't use them enough to do this survey.
- * Its nice to see a survey - suggest this to other county departments.
- * White mound is 30 minutes away, an absolute gemstone and can't compliment the county parks and workers enough.
- * Proud of Wisconsin state and county parks and believe they are quite well managed, but would like to see better enforcement of "no wake" restrictions on Mirror Lake. There is quite a bit of refusal to obey the law and I have never seen anyone stopped, but every time there is speeding I notice serious washing on the very fragile bank.
- * Resist the pressure to allow vehicles such as ATVs to degrade the land and equipment. Resist the pressure to sell property for short term gain.
- * No new tax dollars.
- * Already taxed too high & charged too much for recreational facilities which our tax dollars have already paid for.
- * Need ATV trails.
- * Need high-speed internet placed in County E911 line. Need public support for recreation internet use would be nice for older adults.
- * Bring the lower Wisconsin River to a higher level. It will be safer when it is a lot deeper and logs and rocks are in deeper safer waters. It hasn't been at a proper level in 2 years. Look at geographical and Army Corps reports. It is at a dreadful low level. And public boat launches would become easily accessible. Why should we pay at private locations. We have public landings that become unusable when the lower Wisconsin River is so very low.

Question 24. Additional comments continued.....

- * The park at Mirror Lake Dam is an eyesore. It has not been sandblasted for many years and that gives the message that it is ok to deface this historic setting. We've complained about things, but nothing happens. The historical society put in a great display, but it sits in the middle of graffiti. Not even a sign saying its against the law to deface the cliffs.
- * Sauk County needs to have a stronger voice in keeping the natural area around Lake Delton from this kind of destruction. You only have this little park to look after.
- * Need better marked hiking trails.
- * Get rid of Nature Conservancy.
- * Sauk County has lots of state park lands, but it isn't all easily accessible, and maybe that is ok as wildlife needs their space. County could acquire additional park lands specifically for recreational uses, maybe adjoining existing state lands better than is currently the case.
- * Use "paypal" and online enrollment for reservations, to allow for unplanned, spur of the moment usage.
- * Minimize noise pollution such as cigar boats, jet skis, snowmobiles, etc.
- * Designate a "stop point" for the jet boats tour, as it creates a hazardous wake upon calm shoreline and local property owners land & boats bang the shoreline while they "jet away" like a maniac.
- * Thank you for not eroding the shoreline further, not to mention the taxes you charge for riverland.

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APPENDIX D

Conservation and Recreation Lands in Wisconsin

Table D-1: Conservation and Recreation Lands in Wisconsin • Acres by Ownership • June 30, 2004

County ¹	Federal Government ²	State Forests and Wild Rivers	State Natural and Park Areas	State Fisheries and Wildlife	County Parks and Forests ³	City, Town and Village Parks	Total
Adams	344	—	5,089	8,741	813	9	14,996
Ashland	216,763	756	5,107	6,784	43,041	356	272,807
Barron	—	60	338	6,200	16,468	164	23,230
Bayfield	278,059	49	9,774	10,347	169,353	145	467,727
Brown	—	—	609	2,396	5,807	1,923	10,735
Buffalo	9,374	—	814	12,649	535	57	23,429
Burnett	—	15,157	229	54,420	108,918	24	178,748
Calumet	—	—	1,199	10,592	1,131	353	13,275
Chippewa	—	—	6,574	3,651	33,416	689	44,330
Clark	—	224	—	266	133,660	310	134,460
Columbia	2,846	19	548	20,371	815	349	24,948
Crawford	15,269	6,074	2,341	4,064	579	602	28,929
Dane	1,442	4,147	2,543	14,270	3,205	9,414	35,021
Dodge	20,918	—	216	23,331	1,131	969	46,565
Door	29	—	9,980	3,526	1,281	2,981	17,797
Douglas	—	40,953	3,850	7,598	270,813	434	323,648
Dunn	1,022	—	2,169	11,495	1,183	543	16,412
Eau Claire	—	—	140	2,468	54,714	1,189	58,511
Florence	85,028	5,630	4,980	42	39,973	24	135,677
Fond du Lac	1,706	10,696	507	13,500	1,691	1,152	29,252
Forest	344,008	25	454	3,532	30,877	25	378,921
Grant	6,469	13,629	3,638	534	1,070	555	25,895
Green	—	—	1,457	3,696	487	159	5,799
Green Lake	—	—	343	17,949	747	162	19,201
Iowa	—	8,661	6,694	4,150	381	140	20,026
Iron	—	61,569	2,186	11,660	182,015	21	257,451
Jackson	1,697	67,565	518	7,509	122,868	128	200,285
Jefferson	250	3,553	511	14,136	661	964	20,075
Juneau	79,831	—	4,517	5,763	16,240	298	106,649
Kenosha	—	—	4,838	1,942	2,700	2,204	11,689
Kewaunee	—	—	396	2,428	273	120	3,217

¹ Land in Menominee County that is not privately owned is held by the Menominee Nation.

² Federal lands include national parks, national forests, and lands controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as of June 30, 2002.

³ Includes lands designated as public areas and trust lands not listed separately as of June 30, 2002.

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APPENDIX D: Conservation and Recreation Lands in Wisconsin

County ¹	Federal Government ²	State Forests and Wild Rivers	State Natural and Park Areas	State Fisheries and Wildlife	County Parks and Forests ³	City, Town and Village Parks	Total
La Crosse	12,192	2,972	368	3,805	3,096	2,232	24,665
Lafayette	—	—	1,530	4,048	278	210	6,066
Langlade	32,727	3	307	16,093	131,654	113	180,897
Lincoln	—	1,881	2,797	7,206	102,664	1,317	115,865
Manitowoc	120	2,903	334	6,255	1,052	1,217	11,881
Marathon	—	356	1,695	23,830	34,149	1,080	61,110
Marinette	—	11,951	4,372	10,053	238,730	408	265,514
Marquette	1,185	—	832	10,537	359	172	13,085
Milwaukee	—	237	—	—	16,359	1,585	18,181
Monroe	15,529	—	1,547	3,602	7,317	261	28,256
Oconto	141,498	472	817	5,178	44,974	793	193,732
Oneida	11,184	74,361	2,856	8,385	105,227	279	202,292
Outagamie	35	—	1,224	7,807	2,631	1,680	13,377
Ozaukee	536	—	2,294	237	1,243	1,232	5,542
Peplin	—	—	1,426	3,506	243	24	5,199
Pierce	—	—	1,626	1,433	1,223	147	4,429
Polk	1,085	4,984	2,090	13,198	21,799	512	43,668
Portage	—	—	1,044	28,412	3,349	728	33,533
Price	151,317	9,066	259	9,892	103,403	56	273,993
Racine	—	—	99	3,087	5,484	2,064	10,734
Richland	—	6,170	—	1,598	98	221	8,087
Rock	297	—	91	7,127	3,188	3,566	14,269
Rusk	—	15,202	—	3,273	91,382	4	109,861
St. Croix	302	—	2,955	6,758	8,688	462	19,165
Sauk	4,954	4,620	13,701	4,190	1,498	962	29,925
Sawyer	—	71,828	452	9,095	2,534	575	84,484
Shawano	126,686	—	1,024	13,857	117,927	878	260,372
Sheboygan	108	15,794	924	3,960	1,159	434	22,379
Taylor	123,952	—	249	8,014	18,534	99	150,848
Trempealeau	4,207	58	1,618	4,869	362	127	11,241
Vernon	6,863	52	3,957	1,573	1,538	86	14,069
Vilas	54,536	139,470	726	7,710	49,054	104	251,600
Walworth	—	6,835	1,269	5,866	766	1,020	15,756
Washburn	—	155	745	5,653	149,585	80	156,21
Washington	—	4,548	285	6,737	1,524	1,987	15,081
Waukesha	—	11,612	606	5,008	9,905	6,322	33,453
Waupaca	—	—	1,927	7,552	1,080	650	11,209
Waushara	232	—	622	17,411	1,990	135	20,390
Winnebago	2,118	—	5	9,198	1,784	1,107	14,212
Wood	2,312	173	14	14,955	59,949	612	78,015
State	1,795,030	624,470	141,246	600,978	2,594,625	62,004	5,782,353

¹ Land in Menominee County that is not privately owned is held by the Menominee Nation.

² Federal lands include national parks, national forests, and lands controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as of June 30, 2002.

³ Includes lands designated as public areas and trust lands not listed separately as of June 30, 2002.

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APPENDIX



Sauk County's Registered Historical Attractions

Registered Historic Attractions				
Location / Closest Destination Point	Attraction	Address / Location	Significance / Subject	Historic Registers
Baraboo	Baraboo Public Library	230 4th Ave., Baraboo	Architecture / Engineering, Classical Revival 1900 -1924	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Clark, William, House	320 Walnut St., Baraboo	Architecture / Engineering, Second Empire, Other, 1875-1899	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Gust Brothers' Store	101 Fourth St., Baraboo	Architecture / Engineering, Italianate, 1875-1899	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Historical Marker	Hwy. 33 at County U, 5 miles east of Baraboo	Lower Narrows	Historical Marker
Baraboo	Historical Marker	Hwy. 12, 1.5 miles south of Baraboo	Ringling Brothers Circus	Historical Marker
Baraboo	Manchester Street Bridge	Ochsner Park, Baraboo	Architecture / Engineering, 1875-1899	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Porter, Walworth D., Duplex Residence	221-225 7th St., Baraboo	Architecture / Engineering, Queen Anne, 1875-1899	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Ringling Brothers Circus Headquarters	Bounded roughly by Water, Brian, Lynn, and East Sts., Baraboo	Event, 1875-1899, 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Ringling, Al, Theatre	136 4th Ave., Baraboo	Person, Architecture / Engineering 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Ringling, Albrecht C., House	623 Broadway, Baraboo	Person, Architecture / Engineering 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Ringling, Charles, House	201 8th St., Baraboo	Person, Architecture / Engineering 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Sauk County Courthouse	515 Oak St., Baraboo	Architecture / Engineering, Classical Revival 1900 -1924	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Seven Gables	215 6th St., Baraboo	Architecture / Engineering, Gothic Revival, 1850-1874	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Thompson House Hotel	200 Ash St., Baraboo	Event, Commerce and Trade, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Tuttle, A.G., Estate	N. Elizabeth St., Baraboo	Person, Architecture / Engineering, Gothic Revival, 1850-1874	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Van Orden, Jacob, House	531 4th Ave., Baraboo	Architecture / Engineering, Tudor Revival, 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Baraboo	Man Mound, Man Mound Park	E of Baraboo off WI 33, Baraboo	Prehistoric Effigy Mound with information potential, 1000-500 A.D.	NRHP, WRHP

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Delton	Hulburt Creek Garden Beds	Address Restricted, Delton	Agriculture, Prehistoric, Information Potential, 1499 - 1000 AD	NRHP, WRHP
Denzer	Our Lady of Loretto Roman Catholic Church and Cemetery	Co. Hwy. C, 1 mi. W of Denzer	Architecture / Engineering, Gothic Revival, 1875-1899	NRHP, WRHP
Devil's Lake State Park	Historical Marker	On South Shore Road in Devil's Lake State Park	Civilian Conservation Corps	Historical Marker
Lake Delton	Marshall Memorial Hall	30 Wisconsin Dells Pkwy. S., Lake Delton	Architecture / Engineering, Colonial Revival, Other, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Lake Delton	Peterson, Seth, Cottage	Dell Ave., Lake Delton	Architecture / Engineering, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1950-1974	NRHP, WRHP
Leland	Durst-Bloedau Site	N of Leland, Leland	Prehistoric, Information Potential, 1000-2999 BC, 1000 AD-999 BC, 1499-1000 AD	NRHP, WRHP
Leland	Raddatz Rockshelter	Address Restricted, Leland	Prehistoric, Information Potential, 7000-8999 BC, 3000-4999 BC, 1000-2999 BC, 1000 AD-999 BC	NRHP, WRHP
Merrimac	Merrimac Ferry	WI 113 at the Wisconsin River, Merrimac	Event, Transportation, 1825-1849, 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949, 1950-1974, 1975-2000	NRHP, WRHP
North Freedom	Steam Locomotive #1385	E8948 Diamond Hill Rd., North Freedom	Architecture / Engineering, 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Prairie du Sac	Honey Creek Swiss Rural Historic District	SE of Prairie du Sac, Prairie du Sac	Event, Architecture / Engineering, Agriculture, Architecture, European, Exploration/Settlement, 1825-1849, 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Prairie du Sac	Salem Evangelical Church	Jct. of CR PF and Church Rd.	Event, Architecture/Engineering, Gothic Revival 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Prairie du Sac	Tripp Memorial Library and Hall	565 Water St., Prairie du Sac	Person, 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Central Wisconsin Creamery	312 S. Park St., Reedsburg	Event, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Chicago and North Western Depot	Railroad St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Event, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	City Hotel	125 Main St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Second Empire, 1875-1899	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Corwith, J. W., Livery	121 S. Webb Ave., Reedsburg	Event, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Hackett, Edward M., House	612 E. Main St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Gothic, Other 1875-1899	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Harris, Abner L., House	226 N. Pine St., Reedsburg	Person, Architecture / Engineering Second Empire, 1908, 1873	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Historical Marker	Reedsburg Area Historical Park, 3 mi. E. of Reedsburg	Clare A. Briggs, Cartoonist	Historical Marker
Reedsburg	Main Street Commercial Historic District	Roughly bounded by N. Park, S. Park, N. Walnut, and S. Walnut Sts. on Main, Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Event, 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP

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Reedsburg	Park Street Historic District	On N. Park St. roughly bounded by 6th, Locust, N. Pine and Main Sts., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Perry, Ralph P., House	531 E. Main St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Colonial Revival, 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Reedsburg Brewery	401 N. Walnut St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Event, Romanesque, 1900-1924	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Reedsburg Post Office	215 N. Walnut St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Colonial Revival, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Reedsburg Woolen Mill Office	26 Main St., Reedsburg	Event, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Riggert, William, House	547 S. Park St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Queen Anne, 1875-1899	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Stolte, William, Jr., House	432 S. Walnut St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Queen Anne, Gothic 1875-1900	NRHP, WRHP
Reedsburg	Stolte, William, Sr., House	444 S. Walnut St., Reedsburg	Architecture / Engineering, Queen Anne, 1875-1901	NRHP, WRHP
Rock Springs	Van Hise Rock	WI 136, 0.75 mi. N of WI 154,	Event, Person, Science, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Sauk City	Derleth, August W., House	S10431a Lueders Rd., Sauk City	Person, 1925-1949, 1950-1974	NRHP, WRHP
Sauk City	Freethinkers' Hall	309 Polk St., Sauk City	Person, Event, Architecture / Engineering, Queen Anne, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Sauk City	Historical Marker	Derleth Park, Water Street, Sauk City	August W. Derleth	Historical Marker
Sauk City	Historical Marker	Hwy. 12, 5 miles northwest of Sauk City	The Baraboo Range	Historical Marker
Sauk City	Lachmund Family House	717 Water St., Sauk City	Event, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Sauk City	Sauk City Fire Station	717 John Adams St., Sauk City	Event, Architecture / Engineering, 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Sauk City	Sauk City High School	713 Madison St., Sauk City	Event, Architecture / Engineering, Mission/Spanish Revival, 1900-1924, 1925-1949	NRHP, WRHP
Town of Fairfield	Leopold, Aldo, Shack	Central Wisconsin	Person, Event, 1948, 1935	NRHP, WRHP
Wisconsin Dells	Historical Marker	Hwy. A, 1.5 miles south of Wisconsin Dells	Dawn Manor - Site of Lost City of Newport	Historical Marker
Wisconsin Dells	Historical Marker	Hwy. 16, .1 mile west of Wisconsin Dells	Wisconsin Dells	Historical Marker

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APPENDIX

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Sauk County's Designated State Natural Areas

State Natural Areas of Sauk County				
<i>Natural Areas</i>	<i>Size (acres)</i>	<i>Management / Significance</i>	<i>General Location</i>	<i>Access</i>
Ablemans Gorge	16	This area is used for research / group use and is managed by University of Wisconsin-geology Dept.	Located on Hwy 136 north of Rock springs.	Public
Bakken's Pond	1800	Public hunting and fishing land	Located near Lone Rock	Public
Baxter's Hollow	5000	Large woods managed by the Nature Conservancy	Located off Hwy C near Badger Ordinance Works.	Public
Bear Creek Cave	45	This is the only large cave in the natural area system and is managed by the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum.	Located 5 miles northwest of Plain	Restricted
Dells of Wisconsin River	-	Protected viewshed along the Wisconsin River	Located near Wisconsin Dells	Watercraft Only
Durst Rock Shelter	40	Managed by the Nature Conservancy	Located 1 mile north of Leland	Restricted
Ferry Bluff	159	Managed by Tower Hill State Park. This area is a nesting site for federally threatened bird species.	Located west of Sauk City	Public
Honey Creek	300	Managed by Wisconsin Society of Ornithology	Located 14 miles west of Prairie du Sac	Public

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Lodde's Mill Bluff	15	Managed by the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. The shaded bluff area includes state threatened plant species.	Located 3 miles west of Sauk City	Public
McGilvra Woods	74	Managed by Devil's Lake State Park	Located 4 miles southwest of Baraboo	Public
Pewitt's Nest	36	This is a site for the federally threatened Northern Monkshood.	Located southwest of Baraboo	Public
Pine Hollow	224	Managed by the Nature Conservancy	Located 1.2 miles west of Denzer	Public
Spring Green Reserve	260	Managed by the Nature Conservancy	Located north of Spring Green	Public
Pine Glen, Parfrey's Glen, Koshawago, and Devil's Lake Oak Forest	-	Four natural areas that exist in Devil's Lake State Park	Located in Devil's Lake State Park	Public