Sauk County, Wisconsin
Parks Department Annual Report

2018 Mission: To acquire, develop, preserve, 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.

Departmental Program Summary:

Snowmobile: Administration of the State of Wisconsin Trail Program (100% funded)

Camping: Managing the 66 unit campground at White Mound County Park

Park/Forestry Operations: Upkeep of all park property and managing forest resources in the parks:

- White Mound County Park (1,088 acres)
- Lake Redstone County Park (30)
- Douglas Landing (1)
- North End Boat Landing (1)
- Hemlock County Park (72)
- Man Mound Park (2)
- Summer Oaks Boat Landing (6)
- Yellow Thunder Memorial (.5)
- Mirror Lake Dam (.65)
- Community Forest (690)
- Weidman Woods (80, not maintained)

Lake Management: Managing water resources

Fish and Game: Administration of the State of Wisconsin County Conservation Aids Program (50% funded)

Dam Maintenance: Maintenance of County owned dams

- Lake Redstone Dam – County responsible for inspection every 2 years
- Delton (Mirror Lake) Dam – County every 10 years
- Hemlock Dam – County every 10 years
- White Mound Dam – NRCS every 10 years
- Shanahan Dam – NRCS every 10 years
- County N Dam – NRCS every 10 years

Trails: Development and maintenance of multi-use recreational trails

2018 Goals Review

2018 GOALS REVIEW

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2018?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Assure safety of county-owned dams by completing proper inspections, maintenance and improvements. As well as keeping the EAP and IOM updated and active with the personnel named within them.	Yes
Create White Mound County Park master plan with consideration of the entire Sauk County Park system	Budgeted for 2019
To promote Sauk County and increase park usage	Yes
Create a capital improvement maintenance schedule	No, Parks Department did not have the organizational capacity to complete this goal

Changes / Accomplishments:

Snowmobile: The Parks Department is primarily responsible for the financial administration of the grant. Other responsibilities include trail inspections, maintaining an updated development, maintenance and grooming contract, applying for grant funding and obtaining written and verbal permission from all snowmobile trail landowners. Administration of the Snowmobile Grant Program through the Wisconsin DNR allowed the Association of Sauk County Snowmobile Clubs $63,570 to maintain and groom 211.9 miles of snowmobile trails throughout the county. This has increased by $10,595, or $50 per mile since 2017. Sauk County was awarded an additional grant for $106,500 to replace a snowmobile bridge over Honey Creek, in the Town of Prairie du Sac. The Parks Department worked with the GIS Department to accurately map the snowmobile trails, which lead to a more streamlined process of obtaining accurate landowner details and mileage for each snowmobile club.

Camping: To become a more user friendly campground, many updates were made to the campground. Updates included installing LED lights in the showers, removing the previous privacy walls and installing new walls. A total of 4 recycled rubber speedbumps were installed into the ground to encourage a safer camping experience. Several campsites were improved by the Highway Department. Campsites that had a moderate amount of fill were excavated to remove the fill, which was added to campsites that had a low amount. Along with additional gravel, these improvements created a much larger, leveled pad in each campsite.

Park/Forestry Operations: The beach at White Mound County Park was able to stay open during construction of the new building. A canoe was purchased and made available for rental use. A kayak and canoe rack was constructed and installed near the beach area, leading to increased rentals throughout the summer. Park staff also constructed hammock stations throughout the park, allowing park users to enjoy the park through a different method. To offset

the effects of the emerald ash borer tree disease, approximately 18 trees were planted near the beach and new building area. Many existing trees at White Mound County Park were inspected by Park staff and were found to be either hazardous or rotten. The trees were marked accordingly and removal of these trees will occur in early 2019.

Data continued to be collected through a magnetic car counter, positioned along White Mound Drive. The results determined that White Mound County Park receives the most traffic on Saturdays, followed by Thursdays and Fridays. It was also determined that more park users are using the park during the hours of 9:00 AM through 5:00 PM and the busiest month appeared to be October. This data will continue to be used annually, for comparing park usage.

Many trees at Man Mound Park were inspected by Park staff and with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff. The trees were found to be either hazardous or rotten, and were marked accordingly. Removal of these trees will occur with an archeologist and in early 2019.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Compact Funds were made available to the Parks Department. These funds allowed the department to purchase new entrance and interpretive signs and trees for both Man Mound Park and Yellow Thunder Memorial.

The wooden fence at Yellow Thunder was damaged as the result of an automobile accident in early September. The damage will be fixed in 2019.

Lake Management: Staff worked with other Sauk County staff and members of the Lake Redstone Protection District regarding their potential dredging project at Lake Redstone.

Perhaps as a result of allowing gas motors on White Mound Lake, Park staff did not have to harvest weeds on White Mound Lake, a task that consumed a large amount of time.

Lake monitoring for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network continued throughout the year, allowing staff to measure water clarity, collect high quality data and share data with the public to inform them on White Mound Lake.

Fish and Game: A kayak pier was installed south of the beach area at White Mound County Park, and was heavily used throughout the summer.

The County Conservation Aids Grant from 2017 was combined with the 2018 grant, totaling $11,132 for installation of a new pier at the North End Boat Landing. The new pier will replace the existing damaged pier.

Dam Maintenance: Benchmarks, Emergency Action Plans and Inspection, Operation and Maintenance Plans were created for the White Mound Dam, Shanahan Dam and County N Dam.

As part of the annual maintenance to the Lake Redstone Dam, the Sauk County Sheriff's Department Dive Team dove to inspect the sluice gate. After finding the sluice gate clear of debris, the gate was opened temporarily to confirm successful operation, and was closed shortly

after. The Lake Redstone Dam's inspection was completed, which occurs every two years as mandated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

In mid-August, it was discovered that the water level at Hemlock Slough was abnormally high, which led staff to believe the intake pipe was clogged. The intake pipe was cleared of vegetative debris by the Sauk County Sheriff's Department Dive Team, resulting in the lake level returning to its original state.

Sauk County saw a significant rain event and subsequent flooding in late August through early September. As a result of the storm, damage occurred at both the Hemlock Dam and Lake Redstone Dam. Water overtopped the embankment of the Hemlock Dam, which resulted in erosion of the upstream slope of the embankment. With public health and safety concerns in mind, the Parks Director met with Wisconsin DNR staff at the Hemlock Dam to view the conditions of the dam. The Parks Department received an Administrative Order to Repair or Abandon Hemlock Dam from the Wisconsin DNR. A feasibility study for the Hemlock Dam will be conducted in 2019. The primary damage at the Lake Redstone Dam occurred at the spillway. The stone masonry on the downstream side of the spillway must be repaired and once existent railing at the left abutment must be installed.

Trails: The Sauk County Parks Director met with mountain bike riders about the possibility of creating a mountain bike trail at White Mound County Park. Planning will occur in the creation of a master plan for the park.

Construction of the Badger Unit of the Great Sauk State Trail started in April, with many local organizations and community member donations. The grand opening celebration for the trail was held in October. The Parks Department, along with many local vendors, started selling state trail passes for bicyclists and roller bladers over the age of 16. In July, a trail counter was installed near the fee tube on the trail, allowing the Parks Department to collect and analyze data. The results determined that the Great Sauk State Trail receives the most traffic on Saturdays, followed by Sundays and Thursdays. It was also determined that more trail users are using the trail during the hours of 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and the busiest month appeared to be July. This data will continue to be used annually, for comparing trail usage.

Personnel: Staff changes occurred in 2018, with the start of the Parks Program Coordinator positions.

Outlay: Galbraith Carnahan Architects worked with park staff and the Highway and Parks Committee to create an alternate new building design to the 2017 design, to more closely reflect the budget for the project. Bids for the project were let in February and four bids were received. Friede and Associates was the lowest responsible responsive bidder, which allowed for alternates to be included, such as providing light along the path to the parking lot, an additional 6 feet of space in the community room, installing outdoor electrical outlets and a frost proof yard hydrant adjacent to the parking lot. Construction of the new building started in May and was completed in early December. Creation of an ADA accessible path to the beach and the purchase of a Mobi-Mat provides a more user friendly beach area. The new building project cost an amount significantly under budget.

An ATV was purchased to replace the existing vehicle, and has been used numerous times throughout the Park system and especially along the Great Sauk State Trail. The Parks Department traded in two existing vehicles for a new plow / dump truck.

Statistical Summary:

OUTPUT MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2013 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL
Miles of snowmobile trail maintained	211.9	211.9	211.9	211.9	211.9	211.9
Days snowmobile trail open	N/T	N/T	N/T	25	9	2
Camping revenue	$41,831	$39,865	$44,517	$52,313	$54,337	$57,148
Entrance fee revenue	$63,222	$61,335	$64,970	$86,040	$86,464	$80,242
Parks/Properties maintained	10	11	11	11	11	11
Boat landings maintained	6	6	6	6	6	6
Acres of land maintained	2,010	2,011	2,011	2,011	2,011	2,011
Volunteers	N/T	N/T	N/T	20	25	12
Shelter reservations	N/T	N/T	N/T	20	20	18
Special event permits	3	1	2	5	3	3
Annual passes given to Sauk Co. veterans	0	0	0	200	206	325
Kayak rental revenue	N/T	N/T	N/T	$192	$432	$534
Vehicles utilizing the parks in October	N/T	N/T	N/T	4,072	2,411	2,885
Acres of lake maintained	104	104	104	104	104	104
Projects funded by CCA Grants	1	1	0	1	1	1
Emergency Action Plans updated	2	2	3	3	3	6
Emergency Action Plan meetings	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	2	1
Miles of hiking trails maintained at White Mound	7.49	7.85	7.85	7.85	7.85	7.85
Miles of biking trails maintained	0	0	0	0	5.16	11.92
Miles of horse trails maintained	9.46	9.46	9.46	9.46	9.46	9.46

OUTCOME AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2013 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL
Dam compliance with the State of Wisconsin DNR	N/T	N/T	N/T	Yes	Yes	Yes
Funding amount awarded from the County Conservation Aids Grant Program	$4,000	$3,000	$0	$2,100	$2,435	$3,131
Secchi Depth Readings April	N/T	N/T	N/T	8.5'	8.25'	4'
May	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	12'	10'
June	N/T	N/T	N/T	8.5'	15'	4.2'
July	5'	7.25'	N/T	N/T	12'	4'
Aug.	3.5'	5'	N/T	N/T	4'	4'