

White Mound County Park Master Property Plan 2022-2042



SAUK COUNTY
PARKS + RECREATION

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View of night sky from the shores of White Mound Lake



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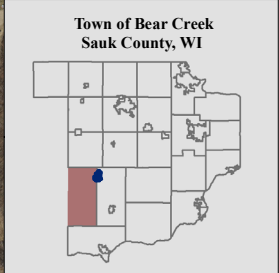
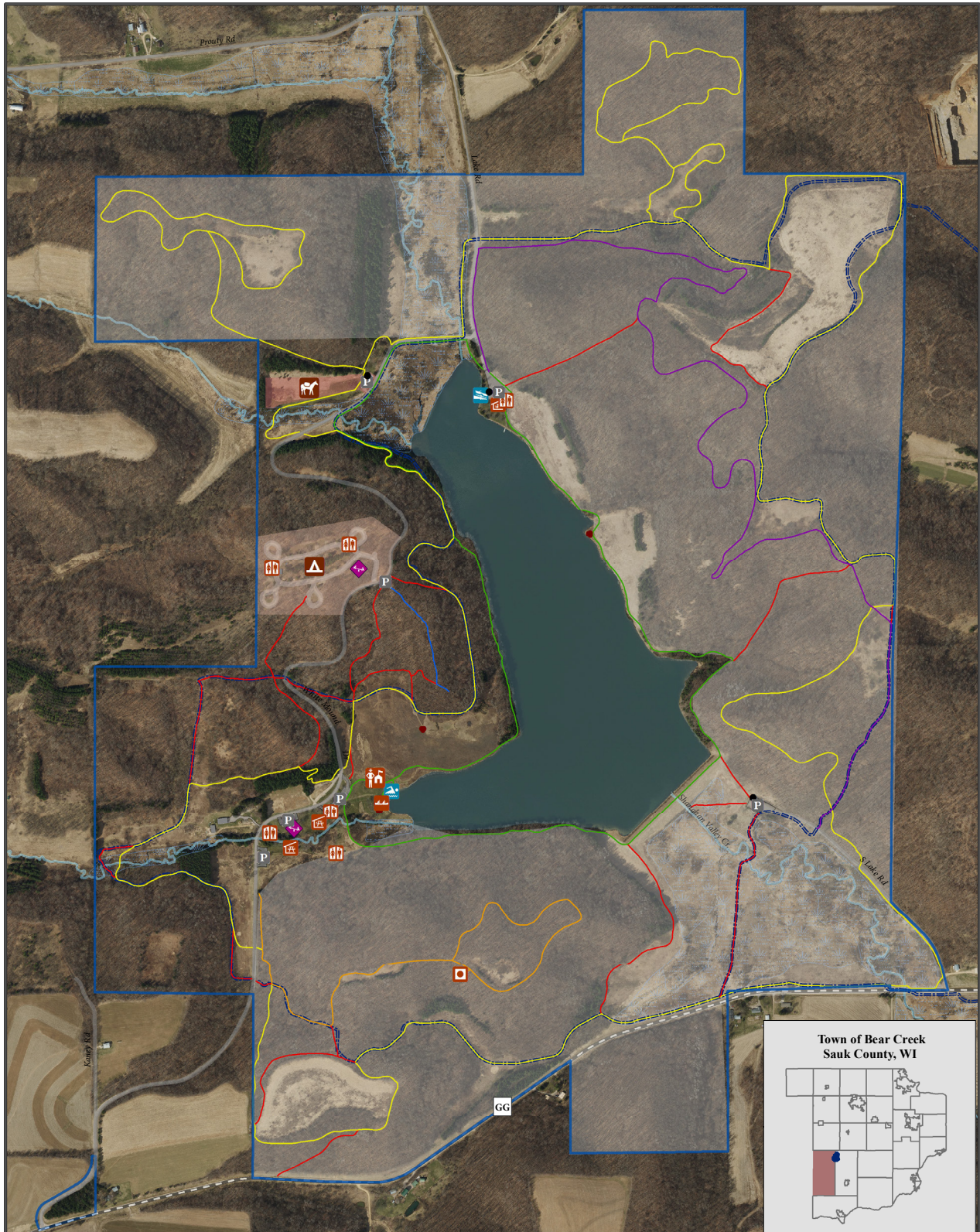
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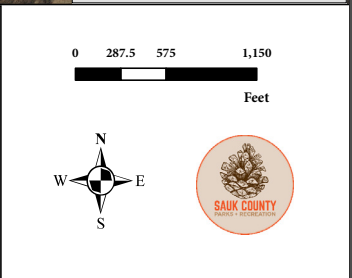
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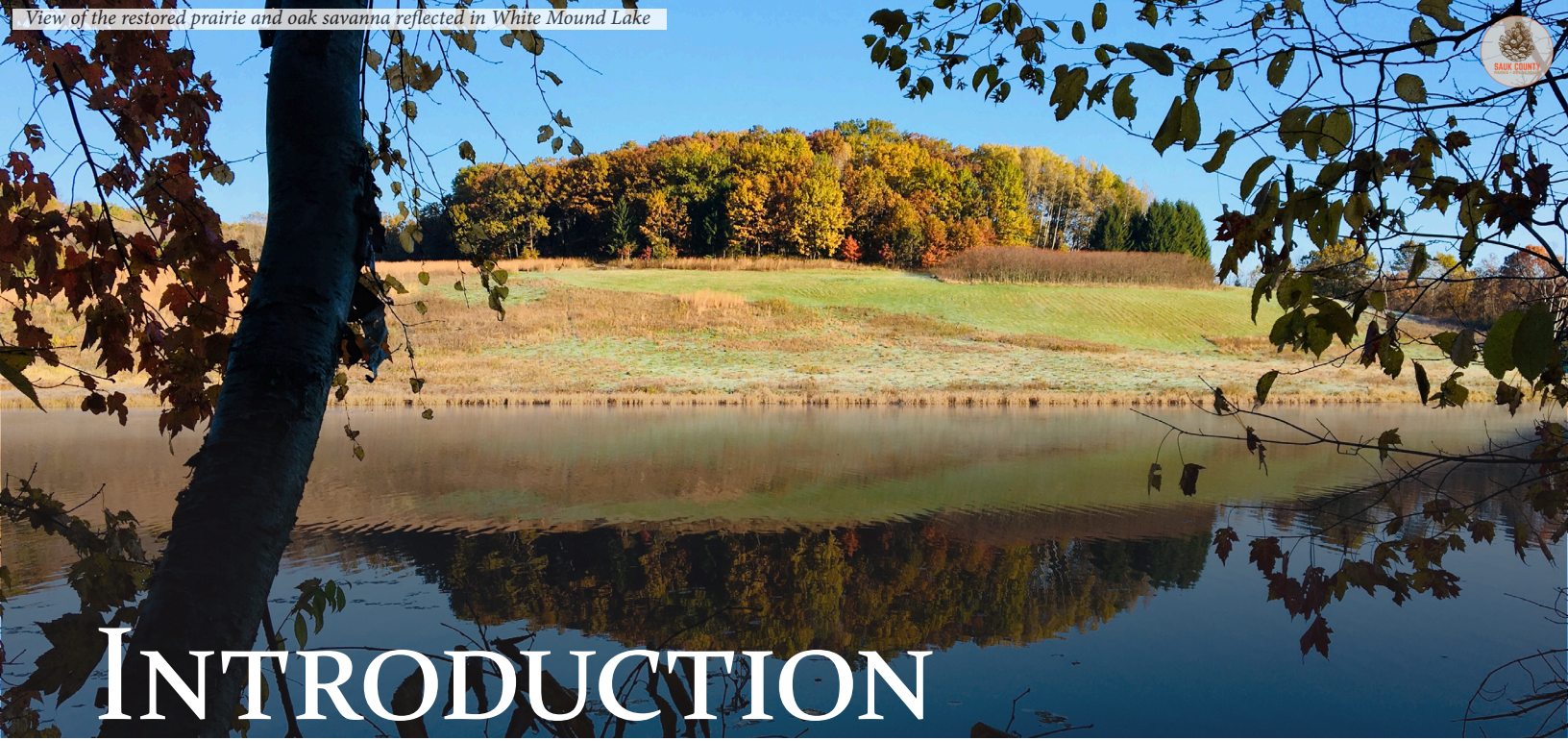
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White Mound County Park Overview Map



| Legend | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Park Boundary | Hunting Area |
| Roads | Park Amenities |
| Private-Named | Park Office |
| County | Campground |
| Town | Horse Campground & Trail Parking |
| Stream | Beach |
| Wetlands | Boat Launch |
| Hunting Area | Shelter |
| Park Office | Restroom |
| Campground | Equipment Rental |
| Horse Campground & Trail Parking | Historic Lime Kiln |
| Beach | Playground |
| | Hammock Post |
| | Pay Station |
| | Parking |
| | Trails & Paths |
| | Horse Trail |
| | Kiln Trail |
| | Lake Trail |
| | Ridge Trail |
| | Walking Path |
| | Willie Walsh Nature Trail |
| | Snowmobile |





INTRODUCTION

Background

Located within the Towns of Bear Creek and Franklin in Southwestern Sauk County, White Mound County Park is a key property within the Sauk County Parks and Recreation System. As the County's largest park, visitors are able to engage in a diverse array of recreational activities while enjoying the solitude of the Park's rare undeveloped setting. Featuring 46 campsites, the 104-acre White Mound Lake, 15.9 miles of trails, multiple picnic shelters, horse camping and an ADA-accessible beach, White Mound County Park offers visitors a unique mix of activities that accommodate users of all skills and backgrounds. With a steadily growing number of visitors, White Mound County Park has proved to be an important asset within the diverse recreational opportunities available in Sauk County.

In an effort to enhance and protect White Mound County Park's natural environment while continuing to provide the Park's celebrated recreational opportunities, Sauk County has developed the following master plan to guide the future of the property. The master planning process has been designed for community involvement that emphasizes the need for a park that reflects the desires of both new and longtime users. Additionally, the Plan is intended to expand upon the principles laid out in the Sauk County 2020-2024 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Primary priorities throughout the planning process include: natural resource management, outdoor recreation opportunities, safety and accessibility, land acquisition and creating a unique destination.

Property History

The origin of the White Mound County Park property can be traced back to German settlers in the 19th Century and the founding of the Franklin Township by German immigrants in 1855 (De Laruelle, 2004). A small community known as White Mound emerged soon after in the northern end of the township. The name of the community itself may have originated from nearby white limestone rocks (Dearborn, n.d.). Now a ghost town, the community at one point contained a church, cheese factory, store, blacksmith and saloon (Dearborn, n.d.). When White Mound County Park was established in 1968, it was named for this community due to the park's close proximity to the original community. An abandoned limestone kiln dating back to the village can still be found in the southern portion of the Park.

White Mound County Park was initially dedicated as a park in 1968, with the formation of White Mound Lake occurring in 1970 following the construction of the Honey Creek Dam #3. Sauk County managed the property between changes in ownership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources before it was officially transferred to Sauk County in 2017. Since then, park staff have worked to maintain the park's undeveloped natural appearance while improving existing features. In 2018, the Prairie Smoke Terrace was constructed along the shore of White Mound Lake. Designed to unobtrusively blend with the Park's rural environment while providing dramatic views of White Mound Lake, the Prairie Smoke Terrace serves as a community event space and central office for Sauk County Parks and Recreation.

Ice hanging off the boughs of a spruce tree



Sun streaming through trees onto leaf littered roadway



Purpose

The White Mound County Park Master Plan establishes and articulates a consistent vision for the future management, maintenance, improvement and possible expansion for the Park while ensuring that the unique natural environment of the area is preserved. Additionally, this plan expands upon the vision and principles laid out in the Sauk County 2020-2024 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.



Historic photo of White Mound Community



PROPERTY INVENTORY

As the largest park in the Sauk County Parks and Recreation System, it is important to recognize both the natural resources and constructed elements that make up White Mound County Park. The following section summarizes the many resources and amenities that are located within the Park, and examines the current activities and opportunities that are allowed within the Park.

Location

White Mound County Park is located within the Towns of Bear Creek and Franklin. Known for its rural location, the closest population center to the Park is the community of Hillpoint - approximately 5.5 miles away. Additionally, the Park is conveniently located less than an hour away from the Madison metropolitan area. With close proximity to the Park from Wisconsin State Highway 23, the site is readily accessible by automobile. Surrounding land uses are primarily agricultural in nature; forestry and mining uses are also present.

Habitats & Environment

Forest

Encompassing approximately 70% of the Park, forest cover is both the most abundant and one of the most cherished resources in White Mound County Park. The dominant cover type is defined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as Central Hardwood. Encompassing over three quarters of the forest canopy, these stands are dominated by maples and oaks in addition to other species. Other major cover types include Red Oak and Northern Pin Oak / Black Oak. These cover types are characterized by containing more than 50% of their namesake species. A minor number of conifer-dominated stands are present.

Oak Savanna

Originally one of the dominant ecosystems within the American Midwest, the oak savanna is among the most prized ecological communities for its natural beauty and suitability as a vibrant wildlife habitat. A healthy oak savanna in Wisconsin can provide habitat for over 100 species of birds, such as red-headed woodpeckers in addition to other wildlife like white-tailed deer and mourning cloak butterflies.

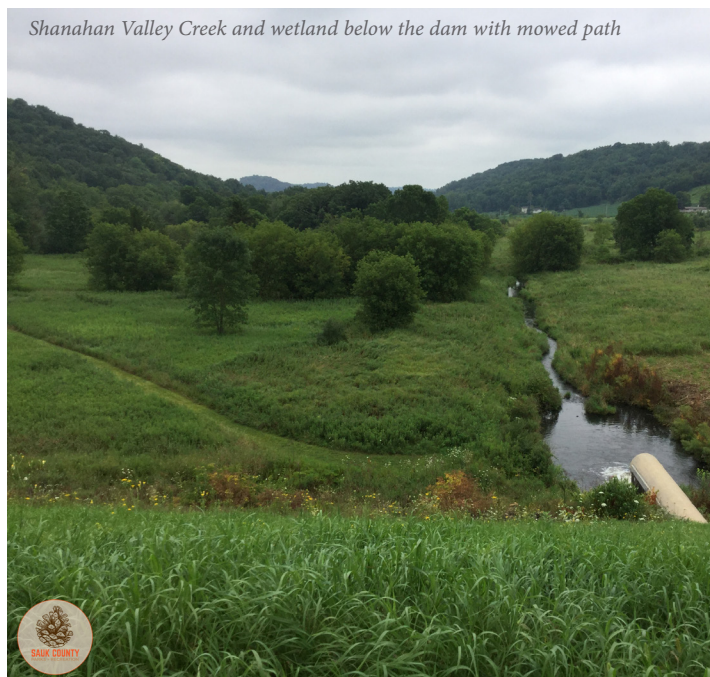
While Wisconsin was once covered in more than 5.5 million acres of oak savanna, it is estimated that less than 0.01% of its original extent remains. Much of this can be attributed to the suppression of traditional indigenous burning techniques by settlers in the 19th and 20th centuries. Likewise, new roads and infrastructure provided new firebreaks, limiting the spread of natural fires. As a result, the oak savanna ecosystem became increasingly rare.

Given the history and rarity of the oak savanna, Sauk County is proud to maintain a restored oak savanna just north of the Prairie Smoke Terrace in White Mound County Park. Encompassing approximately 16.5 acres, the oak savanna provides a vibrant habitat for wildlife in addition to scenic views from the Park's trails. To maintain the oak savanna, Sauk County carries out occasional prescribed burns. With persistent maintenance and occasional

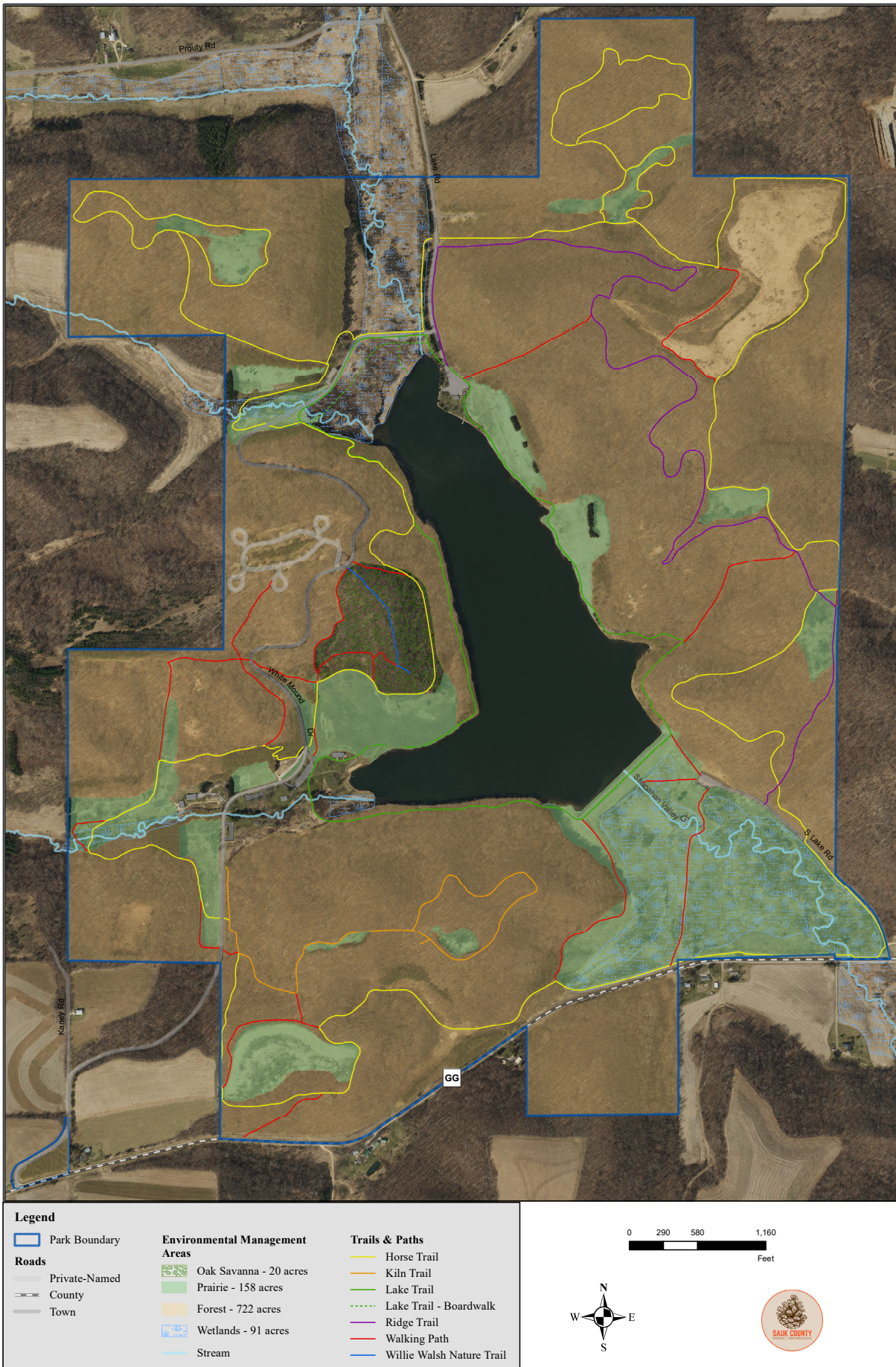
burning, the oak savanna in White Mound County Park will continue to improve in quality while providing valuable ecosystem services.

Prairie

Located directly adjacent to the Prairie Smoke Terrace in the southwestern portion of the property, White Mound County Park's restored prairie encompasses approximately 19.2 acres. The restored prairie serves as a valuable habitat for a diverse array of birds and insects throughout the Park. Like the oak savanna, park management conducts prescribed burns when appropriate. Park management provides continued maintenance to ensure that the prairie remains both a diverse habitat and a visually appealing site for park visitors.



White Mound County Park Environmental Management Areas



Water Resources

The primary water feature of White Mound County Park is White Mound Lake. Originally created in 1970 from a dam on Honey Creek to control flooding, White Mound Lake spans 104 acres. The lake has a maximum depth of 26 feet with a mean depth of 11 feet. Due to non-point source pollution in the Honey Creek watershed, the lake's artificial status and generally warm temperature, the lake is eutrophic. As a result, algal blooms are common. Invasive species that have been found within White Mound Lake include Curly-Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water-Milfoil.

Given White Mound Lake's status as a major water resource in the region, Sauk County collaborates with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to monitor the lake's quality. Monitoring is conducted weekly in summer months and every two to three weeks in the spring and fall. Monitoring priority is given towards evaluating the effectiveness of watershed projects and observing changes in water quality. Measured elements include water clarity and general water chemistry.



Paddleboard and paddle on the beach at White Mound Lake

Parking

Parking for White Mound County Park is available in seven parking lots across the property. A total of 134 stalls are available. The majority of parking is located near the Prairie Smoke Terrace in the southwestern portion of the park; a total of three lots serve this area. Additional parking lots are available by the traditional and horse campgrounds, the boat launch and on the southeastern end of the park near the dam.

Current parking capacity can accommodate most levels of park use. However, in the summer, a car counter shows that parking can reach capacity on weekends. Use in the off-season and on weekdays remains low.



Kids snowshoeing along a snowy path

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

ATV/UTV Use

ATV/UTV use is permitted on White Mound Drive. Due to excessive erosion, the park's original ATV/UTV trail was closed to ATV/UTV use in 2020. ATV/UTV use on White Mound Drive was permitted after a Sauk County Highway Committee vote in early 2021, allowing ATV/UTV users to continue using the park.

Camping

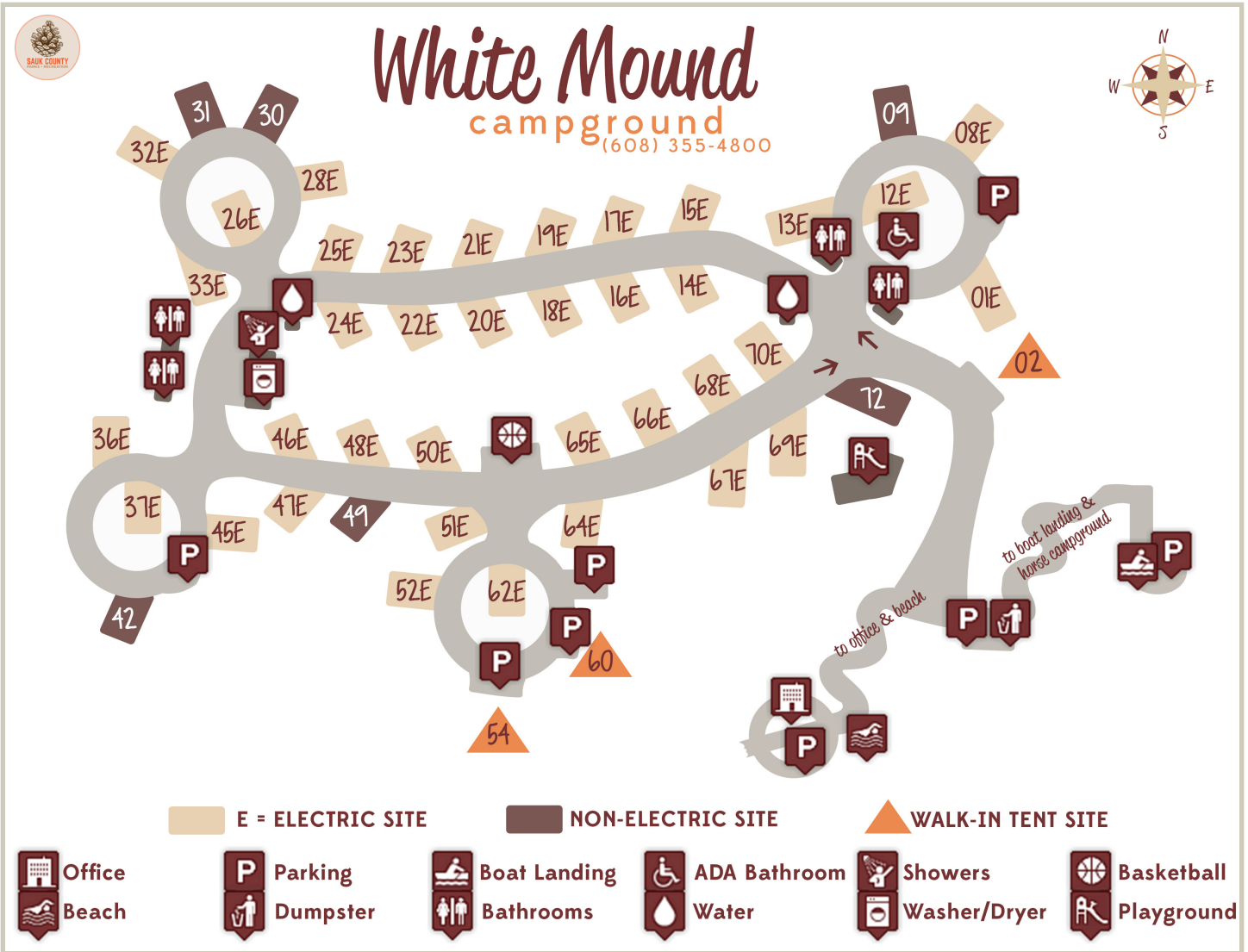
With two unique campgrounds, camping is among the most popular activities at White Mound County Park. Featuring electric, non-electric and horse sites, outdoor recreation enthusiasts of all backgrounds can choose a camping style that suits them. There are currently two campgrounds in the Park: a traditional campground (White Mound Campground) and the Horse Campground.

Located on the western portion of the Park, the White Mound Campground offers 46 campsites for rental. Of these sites, 37 feature electricity. Campsite styles include electric RV, non-electric and walk-in tent. While staying in the campground, visitors have access to showers, pit toilets, a washer and dryer, a basketball court and a playground. The campground is conveniently located within walking distance to several trails, including the Willie Walsh Nature Trail.

Just north of the White Mound Campground lies the White Mound Horse Campground. Featuring ten campsites, this campground provides a unique camping experience for horse owners that has become increasingly rare in recent years. Currently, only six DNR horse campgrounds are available across the state. Unfortunately, the Sauk County Environmental Health Department inspected the campground in 2021 and found that the site was not in compliance with state administrative codes regarding potable water. As a result, securing a variance or renovating the campground is a high priority for Sauk County Parks.

Foraging

When hiking in White Mound County Park, visitors are allowed to forage for wild food resources as outlined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Popular foraged resources in the park include mushrooms, nuts and edible plants.



Hiking

With over 19 miles of trails, White Mound offers a diverse selection of hiking opportunities for visitors. Trail highlights include stunning views of White Mound Lake, access to the varied habitats of White Mound, and topographic change characteristic of the Driftless Region of South-Central and Southwest Wisconsin. White Mound County Park features four named trails.

Lake Trail

An approachable and popular trail, the Lake Trail spans 2.97 miles and allows visitors to travel along the entire lakeshore of White Mound Lake. Throughout the trail, visitors experience both forest and wetland while walking under dramatic hills. Due to the presence of wetlands near the northern end of the lake, trail users must walk alongside White Mound Drive for approximately a 1/4 of a mile. To address this gap, a boardwalk along the wetlands and northern shore of White Mound Lake will be considered.



Kiln Trail

Located in the park's southern half, the Kiln Trail is named for an abandoned limestone kiln found along the path. Featuring steep terrain across 1.11 miles, the Kiln Trail provides an exciting trek for hikers.

Ridge Trail

Newly opened to pedestrians, the Ridge Trail allows visitors to traverse the ridges of the park's hills. Previously an ATV/UTV path, the Ridge Trail was closed to ATV/UTV in 2020 due to excessive erosion.



Willie Walsh Nature Trail

At .24 miles, the Willie Walsh Nature Trail provides a scenic path through the park's restored oak savanna. Visitors are able to see mature open grown oaks, an increasingly rare occurrence in Wisconsin. Close proximity to the White Mound Campground allows campers to quickly reach the trail on foot.

Horseback Riding

Featuring 9.46 miles of horse trails, horseback riders can ride through the many stunning landscapes across White Mound County Park. The horse trails of White Mound County Park allow for the rider to follow a loop that encompasses much of the park, allowing horse riders to engage with the many ecosystems and habitats present throughout the park. Trails are predominately mowed grass and natural surface in appearance, varying in width.



Hunting

During the hunting season, hunters and trappers can utilize many areas of the park for hunting. Common targets include turkeys and white-tailed deer.

Night Sky Viewing

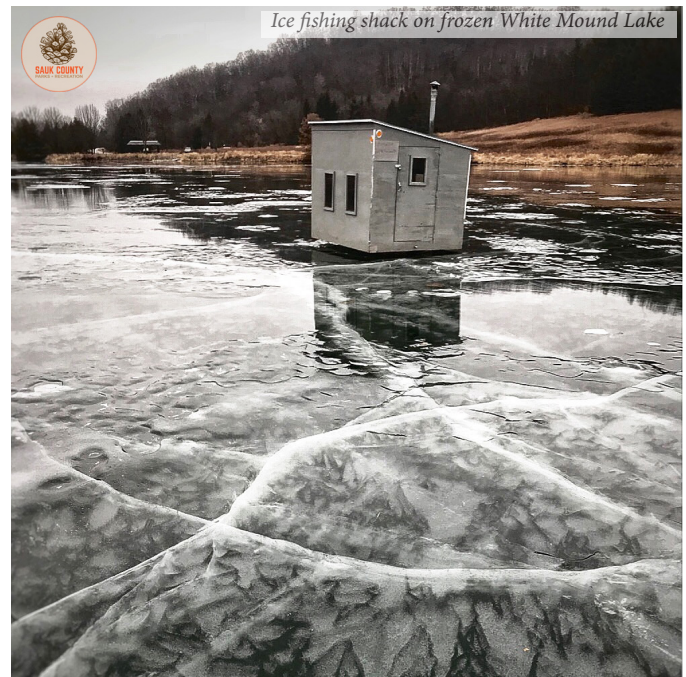
Due to White Mound County Park's deeply rural location, light pollution is minimal when viewing the night sky in the park. As a result, novice to advance astronomers can experience a stunning quality of stargazing. Permission must be given to interested parties to allow for stargazing after park hours. Permission can be attained from staff.

Picnicking and Gathering

Located between many vibrant small communities and less than an hour from the Madison metropolitan area, White Mound County Park has proven a convenient venue for gatherings of many sizes. From beachside picnics to scenic pavilions, visitors are able to experience gathering among a diverse selection of settings. The Prairie Smoke Terrace and all pavilions (except the boat launch pavilion) are available to the general public for reservations. Rental rates vary by facility. Reservations can be made by phone, online, or in person at the park office located in the Prairie Smoke Terrace. Hammocks are available for loan at the Prairie Smoke Terrace for no charge. Hammock posts in groups of three are located in various habitat locations around the lake.

Playground Use

Playgrounds are available in the White Mound Campground and southwest of the Prairie Smoke Terrace. The southwest playground contains a climber, a slide, swings and a climbing wall; the campground playground offers swings, climbing, a slide and activity panels.



Ice fishing shack on frozen White Mound Lake

Snowshoeing

In the winter months, snowshoeing can often be an affordable and approachable way to engage in outdoor recreation. Most trails in White Mound County Park are available for snowshoeing.

Water Access

With the entirety of White Mound Lake falling within park boundaries, White Mound provides a rare opportunity for park users to access a fully undeveloped and uninterrupted Lake. Visitors can relax on the ADA-accessible beach on the southwestern end of the lake, experience lake views from the park's hiking trails, fish from the pier, or engage in motorized and unmotorized



View of night sky from White Mound County Park



boating. To assist visitors with enjoying recreation on the lake, park staff in the Prairie Smoke Terrace offer rentals of paddleboards, double and single kayaks, a canoe and a pedal boat. While White Mound Lake is one of the most cherished resources in the park, the lake's eutrophic status leads to occasional algal blooms. As a result, some water-based recreation is not always feasible.

Wildlife Viewing

With an undeveloped rural location and a diverse set of habitats, White Mound County Park provides a prime location for wildlife viewing. Healthy wetlands and the presence of mature, dying and snag trees create vibrant habitats for birds.

Structures and Facilities

Equipment and Maintenance Building

Located in the southwestern end of the park, the maintenance building houses equipment and supplies for maintenance of the entire County Parks and Recreational facilities. Given the building's relatively small size, staff currently have difficulty storing equipment. This becomes a problem in poor weather conditions, as equipment stored outside due to space constraints become exposed to the elements. With a growing number of parks and increasing visitation rates, it is important that parks staff have the facilities to accommodate a fast-growing parks system.

Prairie Smoke Terrace

Constructed in 2018, the Prairie Smoke Terrace is the most recent addition to White Mound County Park. Doubling as both a central office for parks staff and an

event space, visitors are able to utilize numerous resources within the building. Designed to architecturally blend in with the deep rural landscape of the park, the building boasts an unobtrusive and organic style. When viewed from the lake, the building is designed to appear subdued. However, when inside the Prairie Smoke Terrace, the primary gathering hall of the building features a dramatic view built to showcase White Mound Lake. As a result, the Prairie Smoke Terrace both blends with and enhances the natural resources present in White Mound County Park.

Various services are offered to the public at the Prairie Smoke Terrace. During standard business hours, parks staff offer maps, permit sales and other resources to visitors at the building's entrance. Maps and local artwork provide a sense of place for visitors. Public restrooms are available for use by all visitors during hours of operation. Visitors can also choose to rent out the Prairie Smoke Terrace as an event space, whether for a wedding, graduation party, or other form of gathering. Approximately 64 people can be seated in the Prairie Smoke Terrace's primary gathering hall overlooking the lake, with a maximum capacity of 99. When rented, tables, chairs, a wood stove and a partial kitchen are available for use.

Restroom Facilities

Pit latrines are available for visitor use throughout the park, including in the campground, near the pavilions, at the boat landing and two separate facilities near Shelter #2. Restrooms fully equipped with plumbing are available for visitors to use in the Prairie Smoke Terrace. The restroom facilities southeast of Shelter #2 are currently not open to the public and planned to be removed.



OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS

For many residents of Wisconsin, outdoor recreation is a fundamental part of life. According to the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023 (2019), 95% of Wisconsin residents participate in some form of outdoor recreation (p. 24). The most popular activities (Wisconsin DNR, 2019, p. 24) include hiking (68% of those surveyed), nature observation (66%), boating-related (61%), fishing (49%) and camping (41%) - all activities available for visitors at White Mound County Park. Additionally, the largest increases in Wisconsin outdoor activities are expected to be bird watching, picnicking and hiking (p. 28), all of which are also available to White Mound County Park visitors. As a result, White Mound County Park is well positioned to accommodate the recreational trends and desires of Wisconsin residents.

The population of Sauk County is expected to grow 26%, from 61,976 to 77,815 by 2040 (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2019, p. 64). Likewise, nearby Dane County is expected to gain over 100,000 people by 2040, resulting in substantial growth in the South-Central Wisconsin area. As a result, there may be a considerable increase in demand for recreation as populations increase.

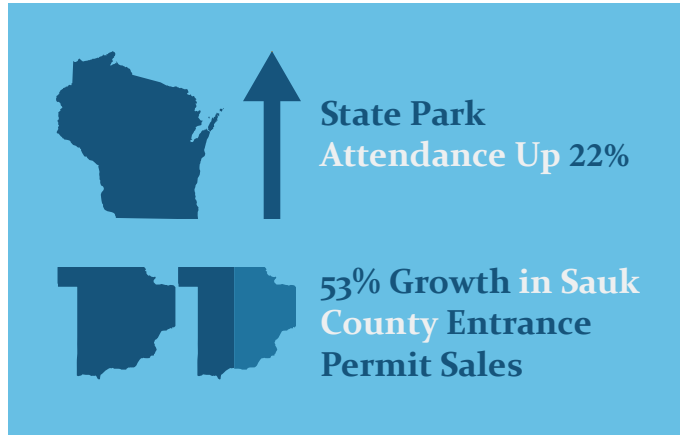
With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, parks and outdoor recreation as a whole saw unprecedented increases in visitation and participation. Wisconsin state parks and trails alone saw a 22% increase in visitation (Bhargaw, 2021), signifying dramatic increases in demand for outdoor recreation across the state. Similarly, permit sales among Sauk County Parks and Recreation properties in 2020 increased 53%, suggesting unprecedented

demands for recreation among Sauk County properties. With similarly high visitation in 2021, this may signify an onset of new outdoor recreation enthusiasts. If these trends persist, White Mound County Park may play a critical role in outdoor recreation for residents both in and out of Sauk County.

Exhibit 1: White Mound County Park Trail Types



Exhibit 2: Park Attendance



PLANNING PROCESS

Planning Overview

The planning process began in June of 2020. All three divisions of the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department (Land Conservation, Parks and Recreation and Planning & Zoning) collaborated throughout the planning process. Early brainstorming and initial inventorying of the property was conducted by staff in July of 2020, allowing for the identification of park features and structures in need of improvement. A work plan outlining the planning process was developed in August of 2020, emphasizing the role of public input. Staff collected initial public input in August and September of 2020, allowing for the selection of priority areas for planning. Utilizing public input, staff presented the finalized priorities and findings from public input to the public in June of 2021. Given that parking constraints and land acquisition were identified as major priorities by both staff and the public, a request for proposals was posted publicly in August 2021 in an effort to receive assistance from a landscape architecture firm in addressing these issues. An ADA accessibility audit and transition plan across all Sauk County Parks and Recreational Facilities was started in July 2021, with White Mound County Park as a major property for analysis. As the largest County Park, the ADA audit was done in conjunction with the master planning process to assist with the prioritization of projects and facility renovations. The audit and transition plan were completed in February of 2022, which highlight a number of projects throughout the Parks System. This finalized planning in January of 2022, with a presentation of the draft master plan to the public in February of 2022.

Public Input













In an effort to enhance the principles laid out in the Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and ensure that future improvements to White Mound County Park are made with the community in mind, extensive attention to public input was given. A public participation plan was created in July of 2020 to ensure that all phases of planning considered the desires of park users and other interested parties. Outlined stages included an initial park visioning survey, a public event to present survey findings and planning priorities, and a final public event to present the draft master plan for comment. Throughout the process, organizations identified as stakeholders were identified and reached out to by staff to collect further input on various interests and concerns. A full list of stakeholders is available in the Appendices.

In September of 2020, Land Resources and Environment Staff began the process of administering the initial park visioning survey. The survey spanned eleven questions with a focus on current park use patterns and desired improvements (See Appendices for the complete survey). Surveys were collected both online and in-person at White Mound County Park. A total of 363 individuals completed the survey, with 319 completed online and 44 in-person. Surveys completed in-person were collected by staff on-site; a drop box available when staff were not present. Individuals surveyed appeared to be primarily local; approximately 66.4% of those surveyed reported residing in Sauk County. The ages of those surveyed were relatively evenly distributed; the average age of those surveyed was 48 years. Multiple patterns were identified from the survey

results. For one, park use appeared to be highly seasonal in nature. Approximately 89.7% of those surveyed reported coming to White Mound County Park at least once in the summer months; in contrast, 57.1% stated that they did not attend at all in the winter. Overall, survey takers appeared to be content with the current state of the park, with 83.1% of those surveyed reporting that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the park. When asked to choose desired park improvements, among the most popular options were the expansion of trails (52.4%), land acquisition and expansion (24.3%) and the general addition of new outdoor recreation opportunities (23.1%). When asked to choose one primary amenity to be added to the park, the most popular response was mountain bike trails (18.8%), with a relatively even spread of choices among the other 56 options. Visitors expressed that if their desired improvements and amenities were to be implemented, over 60% would be willing to travel more than 30 miles to engage with the additions. Such results suggest that White Mound County Park could serve as a destination park to those surveyed if improvements are made.

By analyzing the results of the initial park visioning survey, department staff identified six priority areas for planning: Land Acquisition and Trail Expansion, Natural Resource Management, Outdoor Recreation Opportunities, Safety and Accessibility and Unique Destination. After determining possible goals and objectives for each priority, department staff developed a presentation for the public detailing the proposed priority areas and goals. The presentation was given at a planned public input event on June 15, 2021 at the Prairie Smoke Terrace in White Mound County Park. A month prior to the meeting, department staff promoted the event online and in-person through the delivery of promotional posters to local community centers and businesses throughout Sauk County. Additionally, various stakeholder groups were notified and requested to share event information with group members. On the evening of the meeting, approximately fifty community members attended, many of whom were members of local equestrian groups. Staff gave the presentation on priority areas and goals for approximately 30 minutes, leaving an hour for questions and feedback. The majority of feedback related to reopening or improving the horse campground; while horse campground renovation was already listed as a goal, its importance was elevated in the planning process as a result of the input. Other elements of input included a desire for a disc golf course in addition to concerns with safety.

Usage of Park Amenities by Visitors

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----|
|  | Hiking Trails | 60% |
|  | Beach | 50% |
|  | Picnic Tables | 49% |
|  | Fishing | 33% |
|  | Park Shelters | 33% |
|  | Boat Launch | 29% |
|  | Wildlife Viewing | 28% |
|  | RV Camping | 26% |
|  | Canoe or Kayaks | 24% |
|  | Tent Camping | 22% |
|  | Night Sky Viewing | 19% |
|  | Horse Trails | 13% |

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Relationship to the Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

As part of the Sauk County Parks system, this plan seeks to meet the priorities and objectives of the Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The White Mound County Park Master Plan meets the following priorities and objectives outlined in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan:

Priority: Further Development of the County Park System

Objective: Develop Master Plans for Sauk County Properties

To create a more comprehensive network of parks and better guide the management of Sauk County parks and trails, the creation of master plans for all County-owned properties is required under the Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan directly adheres to this requirement and assists in creating a more complete outdoor recreation system.

Priority: Resource Management and Stewardship

Objective: Community Education

Since its opening in 2019, the Prairie Smoke Terrace in White Mound County Park has served as a vibrant site for educational and interpretive events put on by Sauk County and other organizations. With education and community events as major objectives in this plan, Sauk County envisions the Prairie Smoke Terrace and White Mound County Park as a premier destination for education and community involvement.

Objective: Improved Water Quality

In the Initial Park Visioning Survey conducted in August and September of 2020, 17.5% of survey takers identified improved water quality as a major priority for future park management. Given this community concern and White Mound Lake's status as an impaired body of water, the quality of water in White Mound County Park will likely be the subject of future park improvement projects. The Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified eutrophication and non-point source pollution as major issues that should be addressed in future land use decisions; such issues are present in White Mound County Park and will be taken into consideration.

Priority: Partnerships

Objective: Intersect with Other Units of Government and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

As a major site for outdoor recreation in Sauk County, a number of local organizations are passionate about the activities offered at White Mound County Park. In recognition of the many stakeholders that are passionate about White Mound and other county parks and trails, Sauk County seeks to ensure that interested parties and organizations play a significant role in the park planning process.



Objective: Leverage Recreational and Planning Grants and Other Funding

To achieve the vision of White Mound County Park laid out in this plan, considerable funding will be necessary to ensure that major improvement projects are carried out. By ensuring that the planning process is comprehensive and holistic, new grants and other sources of funding can be secured.

Priority: Economic Development and Tourism

Objective: Promotion, Branding and Marketing

As the largest property in the County Park System, Sauk County seeks to promote the diverse array of activities and experiences available within the park. Additionally, with new opportunities for event spaces and community engagement via the Prairie Smoke Terrace, Sauk County recognizes significant potential for promotion of White Mound County Park as a unique and exciting destination.



Planning Priorities, Goals and Objectives

As part of the Sauk County Parks system, this plan seeks to meet the priorities and objectives of the Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The White Mound County Park Master Plan meets the following priorities and objectives outlined in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan:



Land Acquisition
& Trail Expansion



Natural Resource
Management



Outdoor Recreation
Opportunities



Safety & Accessibility



Unique Destination



Land Acquisition & Trail Expansion

In the Initial Park Visioning Survey, both the expansion of trails and acquisition of land emerged as the most desired park improvements among those surveyed. If enacted, these improvements can create a more vibrant park environment with a more diverse selection of recreational opportunities for visitors.

With 19.43 miles of trails, White Mound County Park's current trail inventory is relatively robust. However, with rapidly increasing park visitation, ensuring that all visitors continue to have access to scenic and uncrowded trails becomes increasingly important. Additionally, to improve the safety and overall user experience of the Lake Trail, trail expansion will be prioritized by planning staff. In current trail conditions, visitors using the Lake Trail must walk for approximately ¼ of a mile along White Mound Drive due to natural limitations in trail terrain. However, this segment can be eliminated by the installation of a boardwalk, allowing visitors to seamlessly traverse the entirety of the trail. A spur trail would also be developed along the boardwalk, leading to an overlook that exhibits pristine wetlands and views of White Mound Lake. Due to the high cost and complexity associated with boardwalks, this will be a long-term trail expansion project.

While a diverse number of outdoor recreation experiences are available to visitors at White Mound County Park, current limitations on space and capacity prevent park staff from being able to implement some desired amenities. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, White Mound County Park received an unprecedented amount of visitor traffic, increasing entrance permits sales by more than 50%. Traffic counters installed near the park entrance showed consistent reaching of parking capacity on weekends during peak seasons. As a result, it is likely that the addition of another park use or amenity may lead to a number of visitors that exceeds the park's carrying capacity. To accommodate this, Sauk County will consider the addition of new park uses based on the feasibility of land acquisition.

Goal 1: Refine and expand upon White Mound County Park's trail system

- ◇ Create a safer and more scenic Lake Trail by eliminating on-road walking portions and creating a boardwalk
- ◇ Evaluate the feasibility of new trails in future land acquisitions

Goal 2: Refine and expand upon White Mound County Park's recreational opportunities

- ◇ Acquire new land to become a part of White Mound County Park
- ◇ Develop additional pervious-surface parking lots as necessary to accommodate new uses
- ◇ Determine the feasibility of developing alternative trail uses on new land acquisitions



Natural Resource Management

With a diverse offering of ecosystems in an undeveloped setting, natural resource management is among the most important planning priorities in White Mound County Park. Effective natural resource management allows the Park to maintain its ecological health and scenic character. Additionally, many of the recreational experiences offered at White Mound County Park are directly tied to the condition of the Park's natural resources.

All future natural resource management decisions will be made with sustainable practices in mind as an effort to preserve the Park's resources for long-term use. Current and future park users can expect White Mound County Park to remain a distinguished destination for outdoor recreation. Focus areas on natural resource management include the management of the site's habitats, water quality and unique night sky.

Goal 1: Maintain and improve upon the quality of the ecosystems and habitats present in White Mound County Park

- ◇ Continue to improve the Oak Savanna present in White Mound County Park through monitoring and occasional burning
- ◇ Ensure that wetlands present in White Mound County Park continue to be healthy
- ◇ Utilize natural vegetation to filter stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces
- ◇ Conduct a managed forest plan to ensure that White Mound County Park maintains its existing tree canopy and healthy vegetative population
- ◇ Ensure that all future harvests are approved by a forester and wildlife biologist and maintain a healthy age distribution among trees to maximize benefits to both flora and fauna

Goal 2: Monitor and improve the water quality of White Mound Lake

- ◇ Collaborate with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in continued lake monitoring
- ◇ Evaluate monitoring results to determine best management practices for water quality
- ◇ Determine strategies to reduce algal blooms and eutrophication

Goal 3: Preserve the distinguished views of the night sky from White Mound County Park

- ◇ Work with the International Dark-Sky Association towards the certification of White Mound County Park as an international dark sky place
- ◇ Streamline White Mound County Park policies to allow easier granting of permission for late night sky viewing
- ◇ Collaborate with surrounding landowners to ensure that the quality of the night sky in White Mound County Park remains pristine and free of excessive light pollution



Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

With a strong selection of permitted uses and park amenities, outdoor recreation is a key driver in the success of White Mound County Park. Visitors can engage in camping, hiking, snowshoeing, boating and many other recreational activities. To ensure that White Mound County Park remains a destination for distinguished outdoor recreation opportunities, current activities will be maintained and improved while new uses are coordinated for future implementation. Potential new developments include an expansion of rustic campsite options, improved access to winter activities and potential new trail uses. In recognition of the decreasing availability of horse campgrounds in Wisconsin, the White Mound County Park horse campground will undergo major renovations to provide users with an unmatched camping experience.

Goal 1: Maintain and improve upon existing park outdoor recreation opportunities

- ◇ Develop additional rustic campsite options for visitors to utilize
- ◇ Continue to maintain trails, campgrounds, restrooms and all other park facilities
- ◇ Remove Shelter #2 and the restrooms southeast of Shelter #2 from White Mound County Park to refine the visitor experience and better manage park wetlands

Goal 2: Renovate and rehabilitate the White Mound horse campground

- ◇ Determine potential funding sources for horse campground rehabilitation
- ◇ Enhance the campground user experience with electricity, water and improved restrooms
- ◇ Construct new camping pads for vehicles and trailers to park on while camping
- ◇ Develop a new, pervious road and turnaround for improved campground ingress and egress

Goal 3: Improve the quality and availability of winter recreation opportunities

- ◇ Continue to promote snowshoeing as a source of recreation in winter months
- ◇ Provide loaner snowshoes in the Prairie Smoke Terrace
- ◇ Evaluate the feasibility of winter fat tire trail use in the Park in the event of land acquisition

Goal 4: Evaluate new trail use options

- ◇ Determine the feasibility of mountain bike trails in the event of new parkland acquisitions
- ◇ Continue to review and evaluate current and future trail use options

Goal 5: Maintain an appropriate level of staff to allow for the full implementation of current and future recreational activities

- ◇ Hire additional limited time employment staff (LTE) during peak months of park use
- ◇ Add additional permanent staff as Sauk County Parks and Recreation continues to expand services



Safety & Accessibility

When planning for and designing parks, it is critical to ensure that all parks are inclusive and welcoming to visitors of all backgrounds and abilities. Sauk County is dedicated to providing accessible and accommodative spaces to all visitors. Currently in White Mound County Park, the Prairie Smoke Terrace, fishing pier and beach are all ADA-accessible. New activities and facilities in White Mound will be designed with accessibility in mind.

Goal 1: Improve accessibility in park facilities and buildings

- ◇ Determine overall park accessibility in a County-wide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) study
- ◇ Ensure that all future facility improvements provide ADA-compliant access
- ◇ Maintain accessibility in current facilities

Goal 2: Increase the number of accessible outdoor recreation opportunities

- ◇ Develop designated ADA-accessible hunting areas
- ◇ Evaluate the feasibility of acquiring an all-terrain wheelchair

Goal 3: Improve park infrastructure

- ◇ Replace and sustain stream crossings that allow for safe access of visitors and efficiency of staff maintenance
- ◇ Construct a new White Mound County Park maintenance building to allow for welding, painting and improved storage space for the benefit of all County Parks System properties.



White Mound Lake frozen in winter with a camper



Unique Destination

With a completely undeveloped lakefront, ecological diversity and exceptional quality of night skies, White Mound County Park provides a unique destination for visitors in South-Central Wisconsin. In recognition of these features, it is the intent of Sauk County to promote White Mound County Park as a distinguished destination for visitors originating both within and outside of Sauk County. Additionally, with the many industries and specialties found in Sauk County, this plan envisions the Prairie Smoke Terrace as a premier event space to highlight talents and goods from across the County. Potential promotional events in this fashion may include local cheese and wine nights, in addition to interpretive and educational events. Such events may assist in establishing White Mound County Park as a premier destination while promoting Sauk County as a whole.

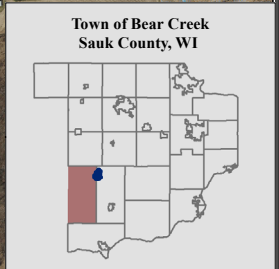
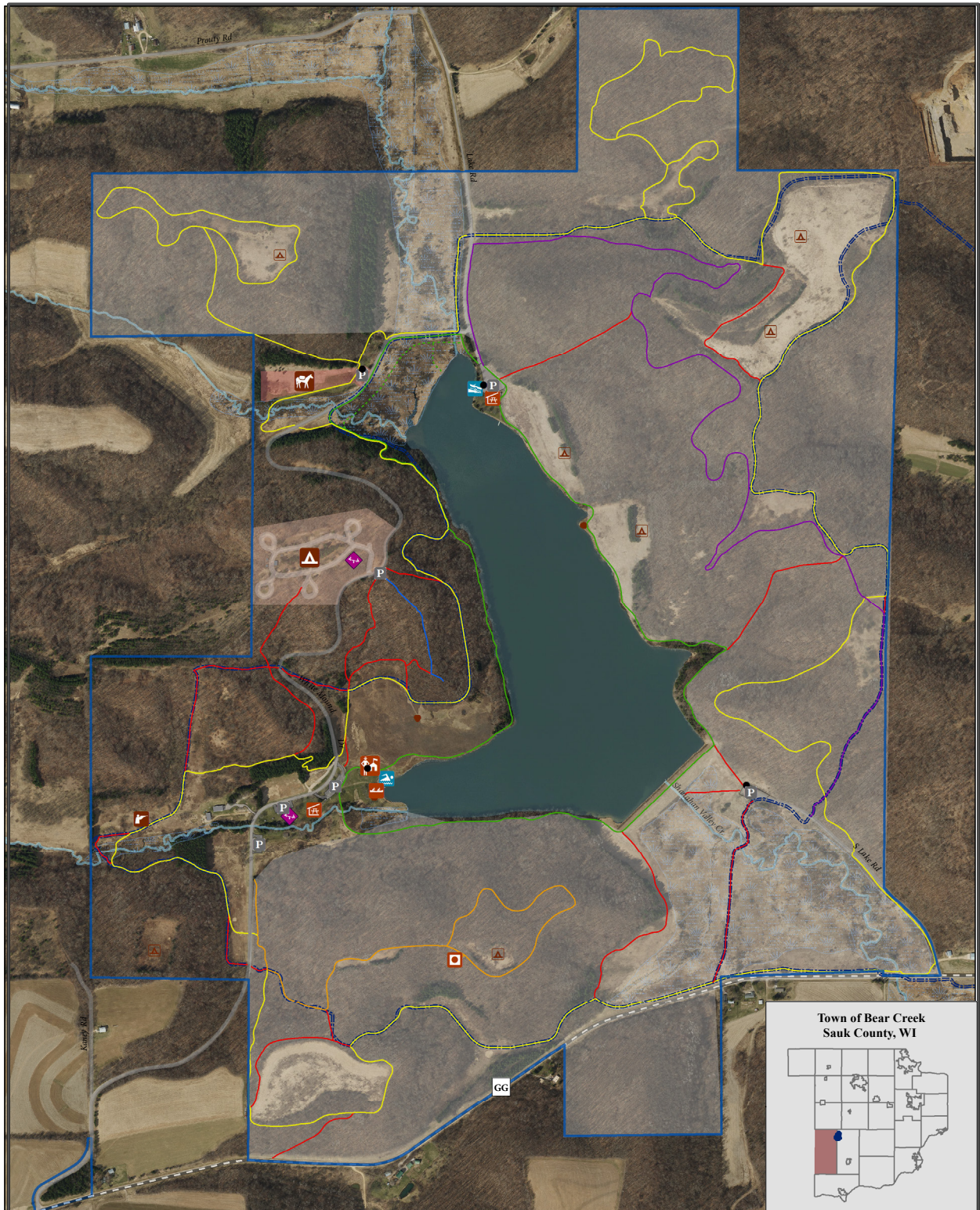
Goal 1: Promote White Mound County Park as a unique destination

- ◇ Engage in outreach to promote the unique activities and features found in White Mound County Park
- ◇ Ensure that signage across the park is consistent with state law and other County Parks to keep visitors and resources safe while providing a sense of place
- ◇ Maintain an undeveloped lakefront with minimal structures.

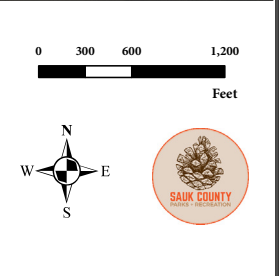
Goal 2: Establish White Mound County Park and the Prairie Smoke Terrace as premier event spaces

- ◇ Collaborate with local businesses and organizations to hold events at the Prairie Smoke Terrace which promote the unique industries and resources that make up Sauk County
- ◇ Continue to host educational and interpretive events at the Prairie Smoke Terrace

White Mound County Park Master Property Plan Overview



| Legend | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Park Boundary | Park Amenities |
| Roads | Park Office |
| Private-Named County | Campground |
| Town | Horse Campground & Trail Parking |
| Stream | Beach |
| Wetlands | Boat Launch |
| Hunting Area | ADA Hunting Area |
| Hunting Area | Shelter |
| | Equipment Rental |
| | Historic Lime Kiln |
| | Rustic Campsite |
| | Playground |
| | Pay Station |
| | Hammock Post |
| | Parking |
| | Trails & Paths |
| | Horse Trail |
| | Kiln Trail |
| | Lake Trail |
| | Lake Trail - Boardwalk |
| | Ridge Trail |
| | Walking Path |
| | Willie Walsh Nature Trail |
| | Snowmobile |





IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of strategic planning goals will take time and resources. Many desired improvements and amenities may require considerable funding; outdoor recreation grants will be pursued. Additionally, many improvements may require a greater number of parks staff in order to fully provide an exceptional visitor experience.

Upon completion of this plan, the Parks and Recreation Service Area of the Land Resources and Environment Department will oversee the implementation of all park amenities. Additionally, the Planning and Zoning Service Area will assist with planning for all major infrastructural improvements.

The following tasks are outlined to implement and achieve the strategic planning initiatives outlined throughout the Master Plan. ‘Immediate’ tasks should be implemented within one year, ‘pending’ tasks should be implemented within 1-5 years and ‘future’ tasks should be implemented as opportunities become available. ‘Ongoing’ tasks do not have defined timelines and will be continuously implemented following the completion of the plan.

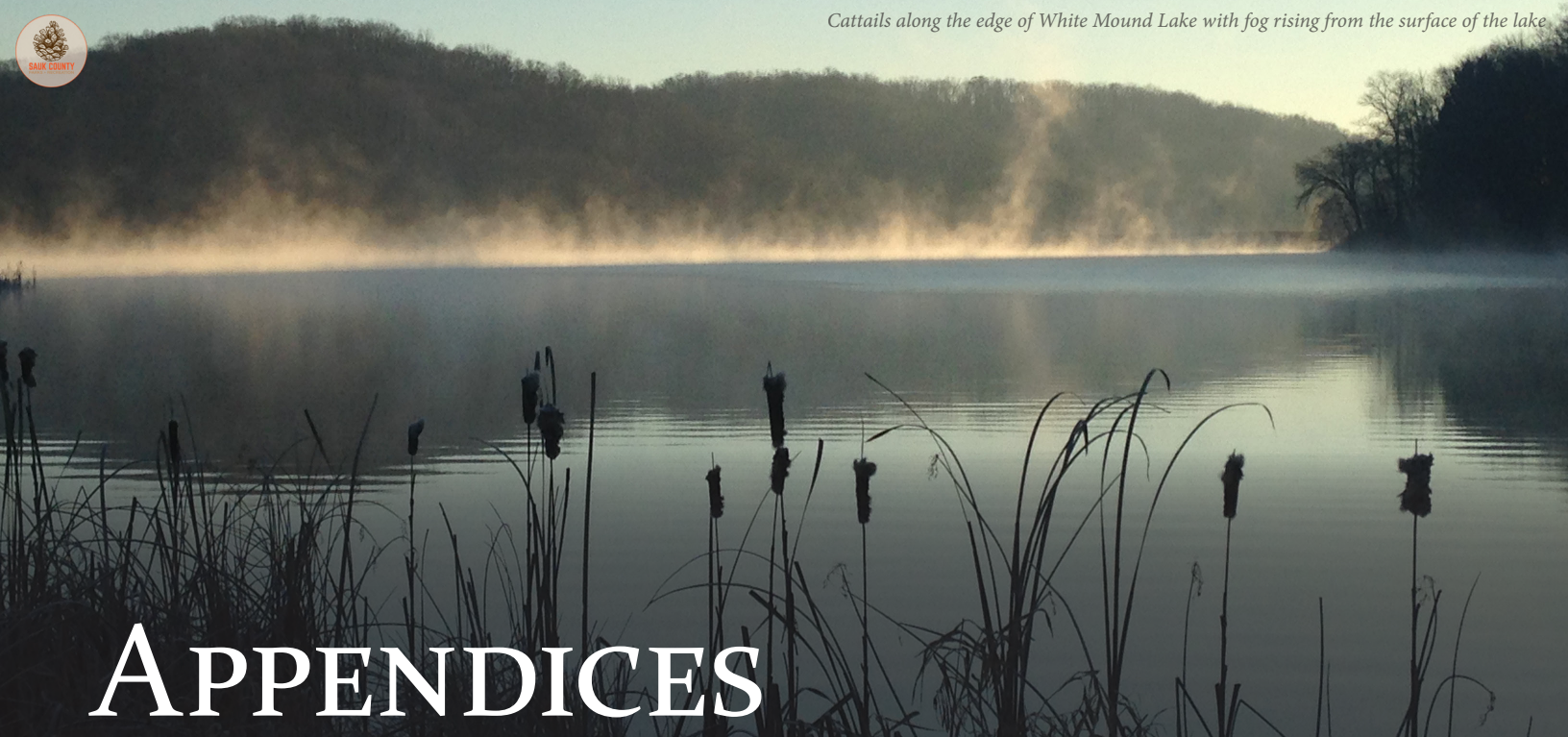
| Task | Priority | Responsible Party | Project Scope | Estimated Cost |
|--|-----------|--|---|----------------|
| Create a Managed Forest Plan | Immediate | Parks and Recreation, Private Forestry Firm, Forester and Wildlife Biologist | Study of Vegetation, Creation of Plan | TBD |
| Renovate and Rehabilitate the Horse Campground | Immediate | Parks and Recreation, Planning and Zoning, Land Conservation | Site Planning, Contractors, Labor, Identification of Site | \$125,000 |
| Construct a New Park Maintenance Building | Immediate | Parks and Recreation | Construction Plans, Labor, Construction | \$750,000 |
| Implement Speed Limit on White Mound Drive | Immediate | Parks and Recreation | Collaboration with Highway | Minimal Cost |

| Task | Priority | Responsible Party | Project Scope | Estimated Cost |
|---|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Replace and Upgrade Footbridge East of Shelter #1 | Immediate | Parks and Recreation | Planning, Labor, Construction | \$58,000 |
| Complete Lake Trail with the Addition of a Quarter-Mile Boardwalk | Pending | Parks and Recreation, Land Conservation, Planning and Zoning | Planning, Floodplain Materials, Contractors, Timeline | \$475,000 |
| Evaluate Feasible Land Acquisitions | Pending | Parks and Recreation, Planning and Zoning | Planning, Studying, Determination of Uses, Acquisition | TBD |
| Remove Shelter #2 and bathrooms | Pending | Parks and Recreation, Planning and Zoning | Contractors, Labor | \$7,000 |
| Develop Three Rustic Campsites | Pending | Parks and Recreation | Planning, Construction | \$10,000 |
| Develop ADA-Accessible Hunting Area | Pending | Parks and Recreation | Planning, Construction | \$3,500 |
| Remove and Replace Footbridge Upstream of South Playground | Pending | Parks and Recreation | Planning, Labor, Construction | \$30,000 |
| Work Towards Designating White Mound County Park as an International Dark Sky Place | Pending | Parks and Recreation, Planning and Zoning, International Dark-Sky Association | Planning, Lighting Analysis and Monitoring, Collaboration, Application | No Cost, Possible Light Changes Necessary |
| Develop Additional Pervious-Surface Parking Lots as Necessary | Future | Parks and Recreation | Planning, Construction | TBD |
| Evaluate the Feasibility of Acquiring an All-Terrain Wheelchair | Future | Parks and Recreation | Feasibility Analysis, Funding Opportunity Selection | \$15,000 |

| Task | Priority | Responsible Party | Project Scope | Estimated Cost |
|---|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Develop additional rustic campsites | Future | Parks and Recreation | Planning, Construction | TBD |
| Improvements as noted in the ADA Audit and Transition Plan | Ongoing | Parks and Recreation | Planning, Construction, Continued Management | TBD |
| Maintain the Health of Prairie and Oak Savanna Ecosystems through Regular Burning | Ongoing | Parks and Recreation | Contractors, Labor | TBD |
| Monitor White Mound Lake Quality to Determine Improvement Strategies | Ongoing | Parks and Recreation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources | Continuous Monitoring, Results Analysis | No Cost, Possible Costs for Improvement Actions |
| Continue Hosting Educational and Interpretive Events at the Prairie Smoke Terrace | Ongoing | Parks and Recreation, Land Conservation | Planning of Activities, Collaboration with Other Groups and Agencies | Variable |
| Evaluate Future Trail Use Options | Ongoing | Parks and Recreation, Planning and Zoning, Land Conservation | Continuous Monitoring | TBD |
| Maintain Park Facilities to be Accessible | Ongoing | Parks and Recreation | Continuous Monitoring | TBD |
| Maintain an Undeveloped Lakefront | Ongoing | Parks and Recreation | Continued Management | No Cost |

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APPENDICES

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Parking and Land Acquisition Study

Completed in partnership with GRAEF
Spring 2022

As part of the White Mound County Park Master Plan process, Sauk County's Land Resources and Environment Department (LRE) partnered with GRAEF to help evaluate parking needs and potential land acquisition based upon both current and future recreational uses within the park.

This study analyzes traffic data, existing parking lot sizes, accessibility, recreational uses, land coverage typologies, habitats, topography, viewsheds, and surrounding property ownership. The analysis was performed based upon input received from the LRE and information collected from the Sauk County Open Data Repository and Tax Parcel database.

The summary below is intended to help inform decisions made by the LRE regarding future improvements and expansion of White Mound County Park and is supplemental to those recommendations included in the Master Plan.

It is imperative that any future improvements consider the park's environmental sensitivity and natural beauty that makes the park such a valuable asset.

Parking Opportunity Overview

The parking areas listed below correlate with the areas identified on the *Proposed Parking, Campsite, and Trailhead Expansion Map*. At the beginning of the study it was identified that the existing parking areas are at or over capacity during peak season (summer and fall) weekend use, but parking during non-weekend days is generally adequate given current park programming and associated demand.

1 Main Lot #1

Located at the southwest corner of White Mound Lake, the Main Lot is the largest and most recently constructed of the existing parking areas. This full bay lot offers 46 striped stalls oriented 90°/perpendicular to a central, two aisle driveway. The lot provides access to a variety of park amenities including the Prairie Smoke Terrace building, White Mound Lake beach, the paddle craft launch area, a picnic area, and trails. While this parking lot regularly fills to capacity during peak events such as a hot summer weekend and weddings, it was determined that expansion is not needed since there are other parking lots nearby that can be used as overflow during



Roadway leading to boat launch parking area and shelter



higher demand occasions and any additional pavement would detract from the area's natural beauty. Alternatives to increasing parking within the Main Lot include the creation of a designated drop-off zone nearest the Prairie Smoke Terrace building for visitors to unpack beach supplies, paddle craft, event guests, before parking in the overflow lots. It is recommended that clearly marked paths are added to provide off-road pedestrian access between those overflow lots and the amenities nearest the Prairie Smoke Terrace building so that visitors are not required to walk along the road to reach their destination. The existing parking lot provides two (2) accessible parking stalls, which meets the requirements outlined in Section 208 of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

2 Overflow/Playground Lot #2

One of two overflow parking areas nearest the Main Lot is the Playground Lot, which provides a half bay of parking with 17 striped stalls oriented 90°/perpendicular along one side of a two aisle driveway. While the lot provides direct access to the playground, it also provides access to the Prairie Smoke Terrace and nearby amenities for those willing and able to walk a short distance (<1,000 ft.). Since the existing lot is currently only a single bay, there is opportunity to double the number of stalls by adding asphalt to the opposite side of the driveway without needing to reconstruct the existing driveway entries. There is approximately 26 feet of open space between White Mound Drive and the existing parking lot driveway. A standard parking depth is 18 feet, which would leave 8 feet of space between the road and the parking lot to allow for a sloped, vegetative buffer. There is currently one (1) accessible parking stall within this lot which meets the requirements outlined in Section 208 of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. If the parking quantity were doubled, another accessible parking stall would be required.

3 Overflow/Shelter Lot #3

The second of two overflow parking lots is primarily used as a picnic area and trailhead, which provides a half bay of parking with 16 striped stalls oriented 90°/

perpendicular along one side of a two aisle driveway. Sized for 16 vehicles, this lot offers indirect access to the Prairie Smoke Terrace and nearby amenities through the use of the existing trail system. Similar to the Playground Lot, the Shelter Lot could be doubled in sized by adding a second bay of parking to the opposite side of the existing two aisle driveway without the need to reconstruct either of the existing driveway entrances. There is approximately 36 feet of space between White Mound Drive and the existing parking lot driveway, which would leave 18 feet of space between the road and the parking lot for a sloped, vegetative buffer. There is currently one (1) accessible parking stall within this lot, which meets the requirements outlined in Section 208 of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. If the parking quantity were doubled, another accessible parking stall would be required.

4 Boat Launch Lot #4

The first three parking areas that were evaluated focused primarily on the largest collection of program uses on the southwest side of the lake. Based on traffic data and site observation, the second busiest area of the park is at the boat launch located on the north end of the lake. This parking lot includes space for ten stalls for vehicles with trailers and five stalls for standard size vehicles. The spaces within this parking lot are currently striped and designated for their appropriate use.

Identified in the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's *Facilities Development Manual*, there should be no more than one vehicle-trailer stall per ten acres of water. Using this recommendation, the current number of vehicle-trailer stalls is adequate based on White Mound Lake's size of 104 acres. There is currently enough space for (1) accessible standard sized vehicle parking stall and (1) accessible vehicle-trailer stall within this lot which would meet the requirements outlined in Section 208 of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

The White Mound County Park Master Plan is proposing two rustic campsites along the northeast shoreline of

White Mound Lake and two along a ridgeline at the northeast corner of the park. The Boat Landing Lot is the closet parking area to these four campsites. The users of these campsites would likely occupy parking stalls for several consecutive days at a time, thereby reducing the number of stalls available for boat launch and lake users. Assuming at least one and no more than two cars for each campsite, the existing parking area would need to expand to accommodate between four and eight additional standard size vehicle stalls (or between 650 and 1,300 square feet) designated for rustic campsite users.

In addition to the parkings stalls needed for rustic campsite users, it is recommended that two more stalls be added to the existing five standard size vehicle stalls to accommodate visitors that use the boat launch area as a trailhead. So in whole, the Boat Launch Lot will need to expand by between six and ten standard size parking stalls to be flexible enough to accommodate future uses and users identified in the Master Plan.

A detailed parking lot site design should be conducted by a licensed Landscape Architect or Civil Engineer to determine the most efficient layout for the expanded parking lot. The expansion should consider its proximity to White Mound Lake and incorporate stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to intercept and filter stormwater before it enters the Lake.

5 Willie Walsh Nature Trail Lot #5

The Willie Walsh Nature Trail is located on a ridgeline along the west side of the park, near the campground entrance road. This trailhead offers access to several hiking routes as well as a spectacular overlook view of White Mound Lake and the valley below. There are currently two unmarked parking spaces with limited ability to expand due to steep topography within the area. Any expansion would require substantial slope stabilization and earth retention through the installation of retaining walls which are likely cost prohibitive for the level of expansion made. Overflow parking along the shoulder of the campground entrance road is possible, but any negative impact upon the area's natural beauty and visitor's camping experience should be carefully considered. While expanding direct access to the overlook trail is enticing, there are alternative, less intrusive options that allow trail users to access the overlook from larger and more manageable parking areas.

6 Equestrian Campground Lot #6

One of the unique features of White Mound County Park is that it has a dedicated equestrian campground and trail network. One of only a few in the state of Wisconsin, the LRE wants to improve upon the park's equestrian camping and trail riding experience. Some of the improvements

include expanded campsite areas, potable drinking sources for the horses, truck and trailer parking at each campsite, and a renovated overflow parking area for both passenger vehicles and day use adventurers.

The existing parking includes 15 standard vehicle parking stalls; one of which is accessible. During the campground renovation, a new entry drive and parking area will be constructed. It is recommended that the new parking area include 20 standard vehicle parking stalls to accommodate daytime park users and a new rustic campsite located just north of the equestrian area. Currently, many of the existing users to this lot include vehicles with horse trailers that directly impact the amount of day users who can use this parking area.

7 Lakeside Trailhead Lot #7

Serving as a pull off area from White Mound Drive, this area does not currently function as a conventional parking area. Unstriped and triangular in shape, this paved area can fit approximately five standard size vehicles, but could be expanded to accommodate 16 stalls (including one accessible stall) without encroaching upon the adjacent wetland. The Master Plan proposes an interpretive boardwalk through the wetland to provide a safer off-road trail connection while elevating visitor's experience within this area. The Master Plan also envisions a bird blind or observation deck within the wetland which would be accessible from a trailhead located adjacent to the reconfigured parking lot. The addition of these amenities would likely increase demand for parking within this area of the park.

Similar to the Boat Launch Lot, a detailed site design should be produced by a licensed Landscape Architect or Civil Engineer to determine the most efficient layout for this parking lot while considering the ecological sensitivity associated with its proximity to the existing wetland.

8 Lower Dam Lot #8

An often underutilized parking area, the Lower Dam Lot offers a large amount of parking that would benefit many users of White Mound County Park. While disconnected from some of the more popular uses of the park, this lot is located near the southeast corner of the lake and provides access to the park's entire northeastern trail system.

Because this is a gravel lot, the exact number of parking spaces is difficult to calculate, but it is estimated that there are approximately 18 spaces in total. With improvements to other parking areas, it is recommended that this lot remain in its current condition with no expansion needed in the foreseeable future. It is recommended that a wayfinding strategy be developed to increase visitor's

awareness of this parking lot as it is not accessible from White Mound Drive. This area has great potential to be used for day hikers, recreational fishers, mountain bikers as well as hunters accessing the northeast corner of the property.

Future Programming Needs

There are several future programming elements identified in the Master Plan that would require new, improved and/or expanded infrastructure. These areas are diagrammatically illustrated on the *Proposed Parking, Campsite, and Trailhead Expansion Map* but their exact size and configuration are not yet determined. Some of these uses may require the acquisition of neighboring lands as detailed in the Land Acquisition Overview.

A potential future campsite area proposed in the southwest corner of the park is one area that may require land acquisition and new infrastructure. Without knowing the exact size of the campground, conventional campsites typically include two parking spaces. If the campground intends to have bathrooms and/or showers, anywhere from five to ten spaces should be provided adjacent to those facilities. Typically there is one space for each shower unit, in addition to having a single space per bathroom. For example, a bathroom building with five unisex shower units would have five spaces for the showers and an additional two for the restrooms (one for mens and one for womens) for a total of seven spaces. Depending on the overall size of the campground, it may be beneficial to accommodate additional parking for larger groups via overflow areas. These overflow areas



Parking lot located near playground and shelter

help reduce the demand on other parking lots within the park. These overflow areas can range in size from five to ten spaces depending on if they are located near popular park destinations or trails.

In the event that a mountain bike course is added as highlighted in the Master Plan, accommodating the amount of anticipated vehicles will be vital to the success of the course. Traditionally, the mountain bike community consists of day trippers who will arrive in an automobile. These users will require a large amount of parking, and the more popular the course becomes, the more parking that will be needed. While some mountain bikers will overnight camp within the park, it should be assumed that there will be higher turnover within the parking rather than someone who parks and rides down from a campsite. Comparatively, other successful bike courses around Wisconsin see anywhere from 30-50 users at a time. If the park ever hosts a race, there will be a higher demand for overnight parking.

With White Mound County Park just over an hour drive from Madison, it is safe to assume that a mountain bike course has the potential to pull anywhere from 15-25 daily users during peak season. To accommodate this influx in visitors, a dedicated 25-30 space parking lot is recommended and should be combined with a new trailhead. Combining uses helps to justify the expansion and will help with future growth as the number of overall users increase.

Lastly, it was mentioned by County staff that there is a desire to create an ADA accessible hunting blind to allow people of all physical abilities to hunt. While an ADA blind has not yet been constructed or located within the park, the intent is to have it be accessible from the maintenance sheds found along the west side of White Mound Drive. To help make this blind as successful as possible, the recommendation is to provide one or two dedicated parking spaces at the maintenance sheds for hunters to park and access the blind. Barrier free access between the parking area and blind is necessary for it to be considered ADA compliant. Because this area is currently located within the “no hunting” portion of the park, proper signage and safety measures would be needed to ensure the safety of all park visitors.

While this study provides a high level assessment and recommendations for parking facilities within White Mound County Park, site specific design and engineering will be necessary to appropriately size and configure any proposed improvements to ensure successful implementation. Sauk County’s LRE shall determine priority improvements and facilitate the implementation of those improvements.

Land Acquisition Overview

The land acquisition study consisted of an evaluation of properties surrounding White Mound County Park to determine where the park could expand upon both existing and future recreational uses. Properties were prioritized based upon their proximity to existing park amenities, land coverage typologies, habitat, topography, viewsheds, zoning, assessed values and size. This physical analysis was supplemented with input County Staff received during the White Mound County Park Master Plan public engagement process.

While assessed value was a consideration, it does not necessarily reflect fair market value and was only used as an order of magnitude cost comparison amongst individual parcels. The Sauk County Tax Parcel database states that Managed Forest Land (MFL), Private Forest Crop (PFC), and Agricultural land values are not included in the total Estimated Fair Market Value (EFMV) and land classified Undeveloped and Agricultural Forest is assessed at 50% of market value. Doubling the assessed value then dividing by the average assessment ratio will determine the EFMV of these land classifications.

There are currently no land acquisitions proposed, and the following prioritization is for planning purposes only.

Priority Level 1

Parcel A

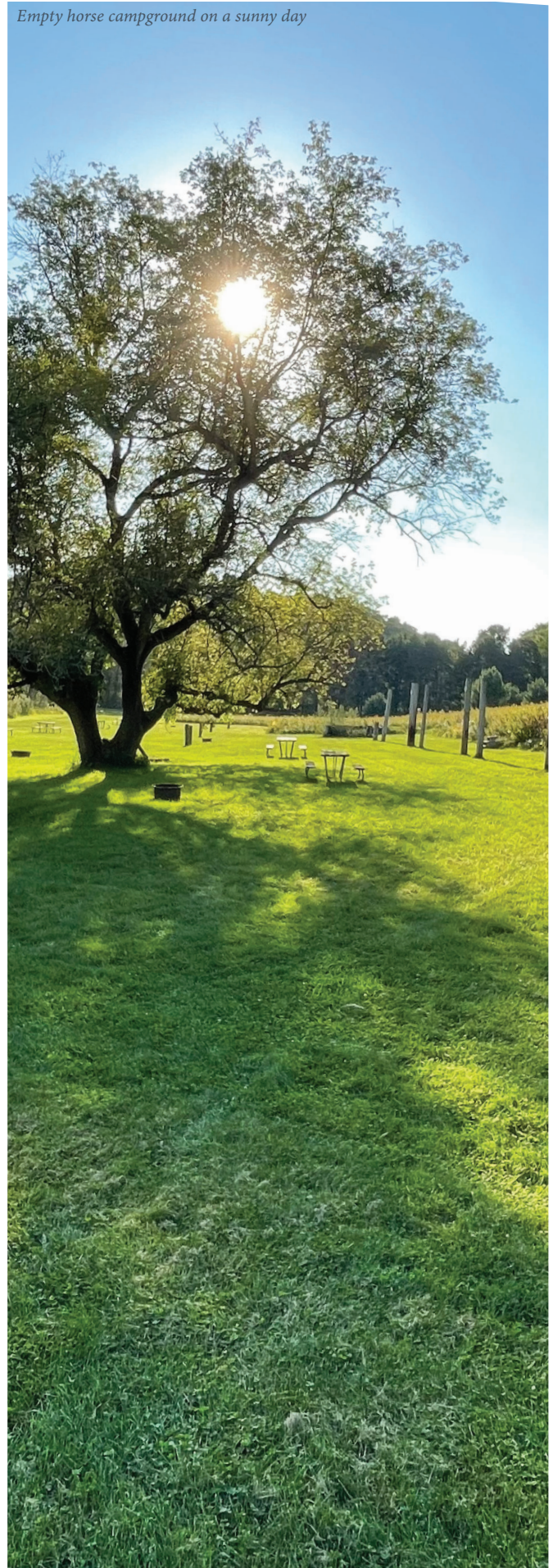
Owner: James and Cynthia Andrews

Size: 29.78 acres

Assessed Value: \$12,000

Parcel A, as identified on the *Proposed Land Acquisition Map*, offers a great opportunity for future park expansion. Located along White Mound Drive and Highway GG, acquiring Parcel A would provide opportunity for vehicular access to the southwest corner of the park. This area has been identified as a future campsite location because its exposed location along a ridgeline offers panoramic views of the park. The west side of Parcel A borders a section of White Mound Drive with flatter terrain, making vehicular access to the southwest corner of the park much more feasible. Park land adjacent to White Mound Drive north of Parcel A is too steep for vehicular access, but could function as a new mountain bike trailhead. Because this area contains a large unforested open space, future infrastructure improvements to support a new campground would be more economical and physically feasible compared to steeper, forested portions of the park.

Empty horse campground on a sunny day





White Mound Campground with recreational vehicles parked at multiple sites

Parcel C

Owner: Jon P. Keller ALC
 Size: 40.00 acres
 Assessed Value: \$114,700

Parcel C provides another opportunity for campground expansion in response to the park’s growing popularity. The southern portion of Parcel C is located along the same ridgeline as the existing campground. Infrastructure currently in place to support the existing campground could be easily expanded to support more campsites within Parcel C. Based on aerial photography provided by the County, this area does not appear to contain any existing structures or supporting infrastructure in place by the current Owner, thereby making it arguably more feasible to acquire.

Parcel H

Owner: Kevin Moore
 Size: 19.00 acres
 Assessed Value: \$54,400

Located on the north side of White Mound Drive, Parcel H would provide another opportunity for campground expansion. Kaney Road is owned by the Town of Bear Creek and provides access from White Mound Drive to a private shed on the parcel. While the existing shed could prove land acquisition more challenging, the existing road could be used for future campground access and a trailhead for mountain bike users.

Priority Level 2

Parcel B

Owner: Roderic Pulvermacher
 Size: 1.38 acres
 Assessed Value: \$101,400

Located at the corner of White Mound Drive and Highway GG, Parcel B would allow greater control over the park entry experience by improving visibility and way-finding for first time visitors of the park.

Parcel D

Owner: Shanahan Farm Trust
 Size: 40.00 acres
 Assessed Value: \$6,500

Located just west of the existing equestrian area, acquiring Parcel D would provide an opportunity to expand upon that popular and unique recreational activity. Through the master planning process, it was determined that the existing equestrian facilities have fallen into disrepair and are in need of substantial improvements before they can be used again by park visitors. County Staff have made it a priority to complete these improvements during the 2022 season. Upgrades include improved vehicular and trailer access, potable water stations for the horses, general site utility upgrades, and an updated day use parking area.

The acquisition of parcel D would add approximately 40 acres to the park and would increase the land area for equestrian related programs within the park. This expansion will be reassessed once facility renovations are complete and the demand for additional equestrian programming is more clearly determined.

Priority Level 3

Parcel E

Owner: Gilbert Burmester & Scott Construction Inc.
 Size: 136.76 acres
 Assessed Value: \$600,700

Located to the northeast of White Mound County Park is a tract of land approximately 137 acres in size. Currently mined by Scott Construction, there have been brief discussions with County Staff about the possibility for this land to become part of the park once mining operations conclude. According to the construction company, there is approximately 10 more years of material to be extracted from the site.

The acquisition of this land is particularly intriguing to the County, as it will greatly increase programmatic



Willie Walsh Nature Trail in summer

uses within the park, help to preserve and conserve land resources, and create additional access points to the park from the northeast side. Long range plans in acquiring this land would create an opportunity to offer advanced mountain bike recreation as well as rock climbing. Acquiring this land could also expand the amount of huntable land within the park.

Parcel F

Owner: Whitemound Foresters LLC
 Size: 120.00 acres
 Assessed Value: \$391,000

Another property evaluated for acquisition includes the 120 acres along the eastern border of the park. Much of the land found within Parcel F is forested and would add to the acreage available for hunting within the park. In addition, this area's undulating topography would provide opportunities to expand upon the park's trail system. If acquired, the long term vision for this land is to maximize conservation of native woodland habitat used for outdoor recreation, thereby expanding upon the park's role in being a steward of natural resources.

Parcel G

Owner: James & Phyllis Jukes
 Size: 20.00 acres
 Assessed Value: \$80,000

In an effort to increase physical access to White Mound County Park, the acquisition of Parcel G would create a direct connection to already publicly owned land and State Highway 23. Unfortunately, this access may be limited to pedestrian use as it is over a functioning dam and there may be load restrictions. A study should be conducted to evaluate the structural integrity of the dam and the feasibility of vehicular access over it. In the meantime, the current intent is to create a trailhead to provide access to the easternmost areas of the park via this land acquisition. As part of this parcel acquisition, it is important to consider limitations associated with current parcel zoning. While newly acquired land would be rezoned for the park,

the existing parcel owned by James & Phyllis Jukes would need to remain at least 35 acres in size so only partial acquisition of this parcel is possible.

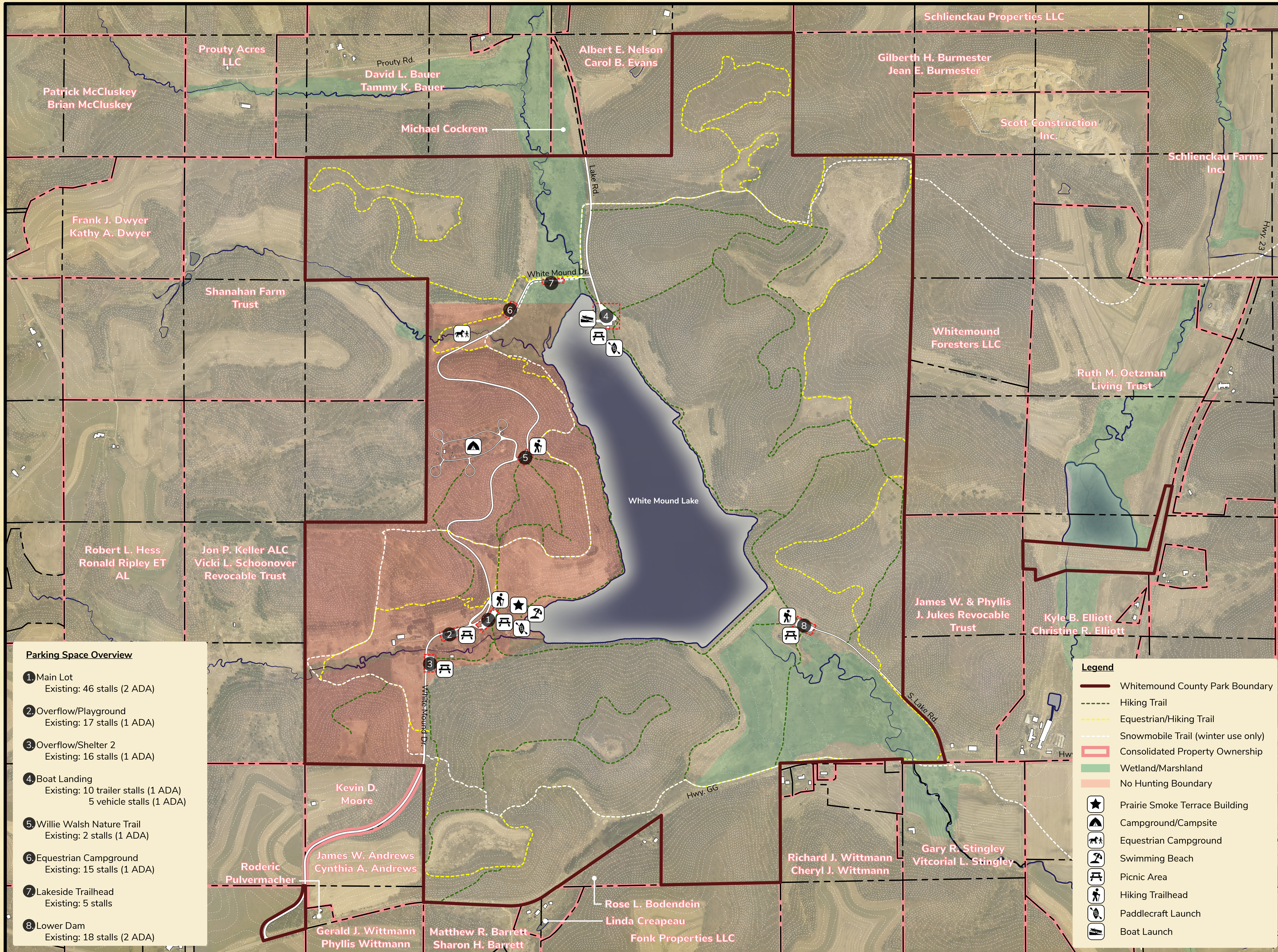


Prairie Smoke Terrace with oak savanna in background

White Mound County Park

Sauk County, Wisconsin

Existing Conditions Map



Parking Space Overview

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Main Lot | Existing: 46 stalls (2 ADA) |
| 2 | Overflow/Playground | Existing: 17 stalls (1 ADA) |
| 3 | Overflow/Shelter 2 | Existing: 16 stalls (1 ADA) |
| 4 | Boat Landing | Existing: 10 trailer stalls (1 ADA) 5 vehicle stalls (1 ADA) |
| 5 | Willie Walsh Nature Trail | Existing: 2 stalls (1 ADA) |
| 6 | Equestrian Campground | Existing: 15 stalls (1 ADA) |
| 7 | Lakeside Trailhead | Existing: 5 stalls |
| 8 | Lower Dam | Existing: 18 stalls (2 ADA) |

Legend

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| | Whitemound County Park Boundary |
| | Hiking Trail |
| | Equestrian/Hiking Trail |
| | Snowmobile Trail (winter use only) |
| | Consolidated Property Ownership |
| | Wetland/Marshland |
| | No Hunting Boundary |
| | Prairie Smoke Terrace Building |
| | Campground/Campsite |
| | Equestrian Campground |
| | Swimming Beach |
| | Picnic Area |
| | Hiking Trailhead |
| | Paddlecraft Launch |
| | Boat Launch |

0' 500' 1000'

Scale: 1" = 500'

March 10, 2022

White Mound
County Park
Sauk County, Wisconsin

Proposed Parking, Campsite
and Trailhead Expansion Map
+
Proposed Land Acquisition
Map

Land Acquisition Overview

- Priority Level 1
- Priority Level 2
- Priority Level 3

Priority Level 1 Properties

- A** Owner: James and Cynthia Andrews
Size: 29.78 acres
Assessed Value: \$12,000
- C** Owner: Jon P. Keller ALC
Size: 40.00 acres
Assessed Value: \$114,700
- H** Owner: Kevin Moore
Size: 19.00 acres
Assessed Value: \$54,400

Priority Level 2 Properties

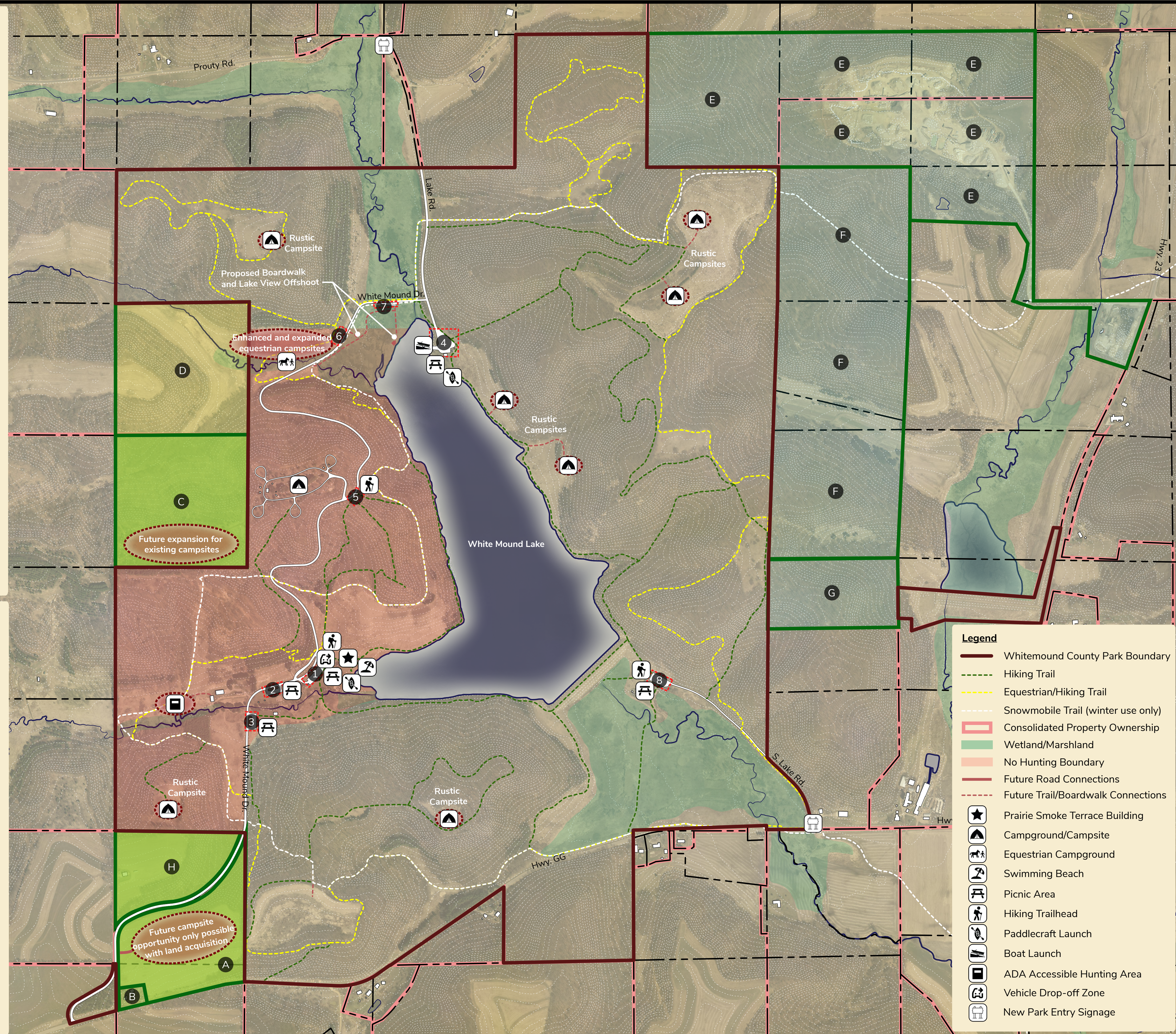
- B** Owner: Roderic Pulvermacher
Size: 1.38 acres
Assessed Value: \$101,400
- D** Owner: Shanahan Farm Trust
Size: 40.00 acres
Assessed Value: \$6,500

Priority Level 3 Properties

- E** Owner: Gilbert Burmester & Scott Construction Inc.
Size: 136.76 acres
Assessed Value: \$600,700
- F** Owner: Whitemound Foresters LLC
Size: 120.00 acres
Assessed Value: \$391,000
- G** Owner: James & Phyllis Jukes
Size: 20.00 acres
Assessed Value: \$80,000

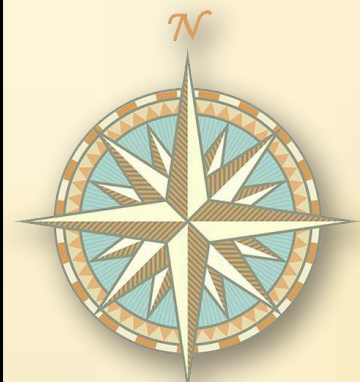
Parking Space Overview

- 1** Main Lot
Existing: 46 stalls (2 ADA)
Proposed: **0 additional stalls**
- 2** Overflow/Playground
Existing: 17 stalls (1 ADA)
Proposed: **10 additional stalls**
- 3** Overflow/Shelter 2
Existing: 16 stalls (1 ADA)
Proposed: **9 additional stalls**
- 4** Boat Landing
Existing: 10 trailer stalls (1 ADA)
5 vehicle stalls (1 ADA)
Proposed: **10 additional stalls**
- 5** Willie Walsh Nature Trail
Existing: 2 stalls (1 ADA)
Proposed: **0 additional stalls**
- 6** Equestrian Campground
Existing: 15 stalls (1 ADA)
Proposed: **5 additional stalls**
- 7** Lakeside Trailhead
Existing: 5 stalls
Proposed: **11 additional stalls**
- 8** Lower Dam
Existing: 18 stalls (2 ADA)
Proposed: **0 additional stalls**



Legend

- Whitemound County Park Boundary
- Hiking Trail
- Equestrian/Hiking Trail
- Snowmobile Trail (winter use only)
- Consolidated Property Ownership
- Wetland/Marshland
- No Hunting Boundary
- Future Road Connections
- Future Trail/Boardwalk Connections
- ★ Prairie Smoke Terrace Building
- ⛺ Campground/Campsite
- 🐎 Equestrian Campground
- 🏊 Swimming Beach
- 🍃 Picnic Area
- 🚶 Hiking Trailhead
- 🚤 Paddlecraft Launch
- 🚤 Boat Launch
- ♿ ADA Accessible Hunting Area
- 🚗 Vehicle Drop-off Zone
- 📍 New Park Entry Signage



0' 500' 1000'

Scale: 1" = 500'



March 10, 2022

Appendix: Additional Property Maps

White Mound County Park Office & Beach Area



White Mound County Park Campground



| Legend | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Park Boundary | Campground | Park Office | Firewood | Trails & Paths |
| Roads | ADA Electric | Campground | Dump Station | Horse Trail |
| Private-Named | Electric | Beach | Dumpster | Lake Trail |
| Town | Non-electric | Restroom | Playground | Walking Path |
| Hunting Area | Walk-in Tent | ADA Restroom | Basketball | Willie Walsh Nature Trail |
| Hunting Area | | Showers | Water | Snowmobile |
| | | Washer/Dryer | Pay Station | |
| | | | Hammock Post | |
| | | | Parking | |

0 75 150 300
Feet

White Mound County Park Boat Launch



Appendix: Stakeholder List

| Category | Organization |
|--|--|
| Astronomers | Iowa County Astronomers |
| | La Crosse Area Astronomical Society |
| | Rockford Amateur Astronomers, Inc. |
| | Driftless Stargazing |
| ATV Clubs | WI River Runners ATV Club |
| | Baraboo Bluffs ATV/UTV |
| | Sauk Ridge Runners |
| Conservancy and Wildlife Groups | Aldo Leopold Foundation |
| | Driftless Area Land Conservancy |
| | International Crane Foundation |
| | Madison Audubon |
| | Riverland Conservancy |
| | Sand County Foundation |
| | The Nature Conservancy |
| | Ice Age Trail Alliance |
| Disc Golf Groups | Disconsin |
| | Baraboo Lions Disc Golf |
| Government | Ho Chunk Nation |
| | Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources |
| | Sauk County Sheriff's Department |
| | Local municipalities |
| Horse Riders | Wisconsin Interscholastic Horsemanship Association |
| | Baraboo River Equine Assisted Therapies (BREATHE) |
| Lake Protection Groups | Lake Redstone Protection District Board Members |
| | Dutch Hollow Lake Association |
| | Lake Virginia Management District |
| Library/Community Centers | Ruth Culver Community Library |
| | Spring Green Community Library |
| | Sauk City Public Library |
| | Kraemer Library and Community Center |
| Mountain Bike Clubs | Blackhawk Composite Mountain Bike Club |
| | Wisconsin High School Cycling League Team |
| | Capital Off Road Pathfinders |
| | Tumbled Rock Fat Tire |
| Other Park Departments | City of Baraboo Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department |
| | City of Reedsburg Parks and Recreation |
| | Sauk Prairie Community Recreation Department |
| | Spring Green Parks and Recreation Committee |
| | Wisconsin Dells/ Lake Delton Parks and Recreation |
| Rod and Gun Clubs | Sauk Prairie Trap and Skeet Club |
| | Reedsburg Outdoor Club |
| | Circus City Sportsmen |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Rod and Gun Clubs | Honey Creek Rod and Gun Club |
| | Delton Sportsman's Club |
| | La Valle Sportsman Club |
| | North Freedom Rod, Gun, & Archery Club |
| | Spring Green Rod and Gun Club |
| | Rush Creek Sportsman's Club |
| School Districts | Baraboo School District |
| | Reedsburg Area School District |
| | Sauk Prairie Area School District |
| | River Valley School District |
| | Wisconsin Dells School District |
| | Weston School District |
| Snowmobile Clubs | Association of Sauk County Snowmobile Clubs, Inc. |

Appendix: Public Input

Visioning Survey Poster

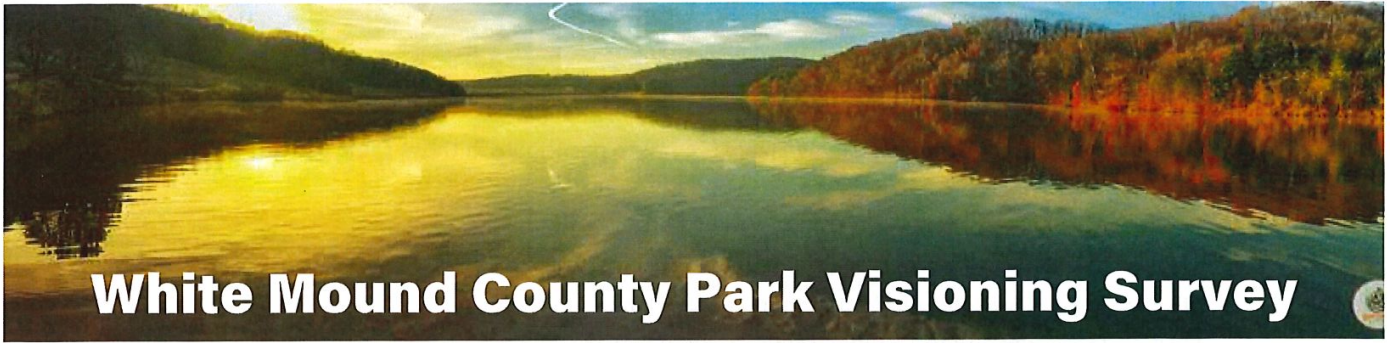
WHITE MOUND COUNTY PARK VISIONING SURVEY



Use the QR
Code above
or visit us on
Facebook!



**SHARE YOUR
OPINIONS** | **IMPROVE
WHITE MOUND**



White Mound County Park Visioning Survey

The County is currently working on the White Mound Property Master Plan in which property maintenance, enhancements and priorities will be established for the next twenty years. A property master plan lays the foundation for building updates, environmental stewardship, expansions, and much more. Please take a few minutes to give us feedback on current use and how the Park may better serve the community.

1. Have you visited White Mound County Park Before?

- Yes
- No

2. How often do you visit White Mound County Park?

Mark only one per row.

| | Daily | A few times per week | Once or twice during this season | Not at all during this season |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Winter | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Spring | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Summer | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fall | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with White Mound County Park?

Mark only one.

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

4. Which park amenities or available activities have you used?

Check all that apply.

- Park Shelters
- Hammocks
- Canoes or Kayaks
- Beach
- Picnic Tables
- Snowmobile Trails
- Hiking Trails
- Hunting/Trapping
- Boat Launch
- Horse Trails
- Snowshoe Trails
- Night-sky Viewing
- Tent Camping
- Ice Fishing
- Other _____
- RV Camping
- Wildlife Viewing

5. From the above list of amenities, which activity was the primary purpose of your visit?

6. Considering the activities you participate in at White Mound, and in particular your primary reason for visiting, how many substitute locations are available for you to participate in those same activities?

Mark only one.

- I have no substitutes for White Mound County Park.
- I have one or two substitutes for White Mound County Park.
- I have a few substitutes for White Mound County Park.
- I have many substitutes for White Mound County Park.

7. What should the top priorities be for future park maintenance and improvements?

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Expansion of trails | <input type="radio"/> Renovation of existing facilities |
| <input type="radio"/> Land acquisition and park expansion | <input type="radio"/> Water quality |
| <input type="radio"/> Alternative camping options | <input type="radio"/> Improved Accessibility |
| <input type="radio"/> Expansion of the Oak Savannah | <input type="radio"/> Additional outdoor recreation activities |
| <input type="radio"/> Educational Events | <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ |

8. How could the park be improved or which amenities would you like to see added to the park?

9. How far would you travel to recreate in White Mound County Park if your suggested improvements or amenities were added?

Mark only one.

- 1 - 10 Miles
- 11-20 Miles
- 21-30 Miles
- 31-40 Miles
- 41-50 Miles
- More than 50 miles.

10. What is your age?

Mark only one.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 19 and under | <input type="radio"/> 50 - 59 |
| <input type="radio"/> 20 - 29 | <input type="radio"/> 60 - 69 |
| <input type="radio"/> 30 - 39 | <input type="radio"/> 70 or older |
| <input type="radio"/> 40 - 49 | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer |

11. What is your zip code?

Survey Results

| Question 1: Have you visited White Mound County Park Before?* | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | # of yes | % of responses | % of total |
| Online | 319 | 92% | 80% |
| In Person | 44 | 86% | 11% |
| Total Responses | 363 | | 91% |

**Note: People may have marked no on in-person surveys if it was their first visit.*

| Question 2: How often do you visit White Mound County Park? | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Season | # of responses | % of total | # of responses | % of total | # of responses | % of total | # of responses | % of total |
| | Daily | | A few times per week | | Once or twice during the season | | Not at all | |
| Winter | 0 | 0% | 17 | 4.3% | 142 | 35.6% | 228 | 57.1% |
| Spring | 0 | 0% | 39 | 9.8% | 253 | 63.4% | 95 | 23.8% |
| Summer | 3 | 0.8% | 81 | 20.3% | 271 | 67.9% | 41 | 10.3% |
| Fall | 0 | 0% | 54 | 13.5% | 262 | 65.7% | 74 | 18.5% |

| Question 3: Overall, how satisfied are you with White Mound County Park? | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | # of responses | % of responses | % total |
| Very Satisfied | 159 | 40.5% | 39.8% |
| Satisfied | 175 | 44.5% | 43.9% |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 49 | 12.5% | 12.3% |
| Dissatisfied | 7 | 1.8% | 1.8% |
| Very Dissatisfied | 3 | 0.8% | 0.8% |
| Total | 393 | | 98.5% |

| Question 4: Which park amenities or available activities have you used? | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Park Amenity or Activity | # of responses | % of total |
| Hiking Trails | 239 | 59.9% |
| Beach | 201 | 50.4% |
| Picnic Tables | 197 | 49.4% |
| Fishing | 133 | 33.3% |
| Park Shelters | 131 | 32.8% |
| Boat Launch | 115 | 28.8% |
| Wildlife Viewing | 113 | 28.3% |
| RV Camping | 102 | 25.6% |
| Canoe or Kayaks | 97 | 24.3% |
| Tent Camping | 86 | 21.6% |
| Night-sky Viewing | 77 | 19.3% |
| Horse Trails | 50 | 12.5% |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Ice Fishing | 46 | 11.5% |
| Snowmobile Trails | 27 | 6.8% |
| Hammocks | 26 | 6.5% |
| Park Amenity or Activity | # of responses | % of total |
| Snowshoe Trails | 25 | 6.3% |
| Hunting/Trapping | 16 | 4.0% |
| Other: | | |
| ATV Trails | 25 | 6.3% |
| Biking | 4 | 1% |
| Horse Camping | 4 | 1% |
| Fishing Pier | 4 | 1% |
| Children's Park | 3 | 0.8% |
| Foraging | 2 | 0.5% |
| Geocaching | 1 | 0.3% |
| Road | 1 | 0.3% |
| Astrophotography | 1 | 0.3% |

| Question 5: From the above list of amenities, which activity was the primary purpose of your visit?* | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Amenity or Activity | # of responses | % of total |
| Camping (general) | 96 | 24.1% |
| Hiking Trails | 68 | 17% |
| Beach | 61 | 15.3% |
| Fishing | 42 | 10.5% |
| Horse Trails | 20 | 5% |
| RV Camping | 20 | 5% |
| Canoes or Kayaks | 20 | 5% |
| Night-sky Viewing | 17 | 4.3% |
| Tent Camping | 9 | 2.3% |
| Snowmobile Trails | 5 | 1.3% |
| Boat Launch | 4 | 1% |
| Picnic Tables | 4 | 1% |
| Ice Fishing | 4 | 1% |
| Hunting/Trapping | 3 | 0.8% |
| Wildlife Viewing | 3 | 0.8% |
| Hammocks | 2 | 0.5% |
| Park Shelters | 0 | 0% |
| Snowshoe Trails | 0 | 0% |
| Other: | | |
| ATV Trails | 20 | 5% |
| Horse Camping | 8 | 2% |
| Biking | 5 | 1.3% |
| Relaxing | 3 | 0.8% |
| Children's Park | 1 | 0.3% |
| Geocaching | 1 | 0.3% |
| Foraging | 1 | 0.3% |

Question 6: Considering the activities you participate in at White Mound, and in particular your primary reason for visiting, how many substitute locations are available for you to participate in those same activities?

| | # of responses | % of total |
|---|----------------|------------|
| I have no substitutes for White Mound | 59 | 14.8% |
| I have one or two substitutes for White Mound | 111 | 27.8% |
| I have a few substitutes for White Mound | 124 | 31.1% |
| I have many substitutes for White Mound | 85 | 21.3% |
| Total | 379 | 95% |

Question 7: What should the top priorities be for park maintenance and improvements?

| | # of responses | % of total |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Expansion of trails | 209 | 52.4% |
| Land acquisition and park expansion | 97 | 24.3% |
| Additional outdoor recreation activities | 92 | 23.1% |
| Water Quality | 70 | 17.5% |
| Renovation of existing facilities | 60 | 15% |
| Alternative camping options | 58 | 14.5% |
| Educational events | 44 | 11% |
| Expansion of the oak savanna | 43 | 10.8% |
| Improved accessibility | 18 | 4.5% |
| Other: | | |
| Mountain bike trails | 28 | 7% |
| Preservation of the night-sky | 8 | 2% |
| Flush toilets or bathroom improvements | 7 | 1.8% |
| Disc golf course | 7 | 1.8% |
| Improvements to the horse campground | 6 | 1.5% |
| ATV/UTV Trails | 5 | 1.3% |
| Nothing, leave as is | 5 | 1.3% |
| More electric campsites | 4 | 1% |
| Restock fish | 4 | 1% |
| Improved beach area | 3 | 0.8% |
| Pet Areas | 3 | 0.8% |
| Increased signage | 2 | 0.5% |
| Water at campsites | 2 | 0.5% |
| Horse trails | 1 | 0.3% |
| Historic White Mound Village | 1 | 0.3% |
| Increased shade | 1 | 0.3% |
| Historic management plans | 1 | 0.3% |
| Increased tent camping | 1 | 0.3% |
| Kid activities | 1 | 0.3% |
| More docks or fishing piers | 1 | 0.3% |
| Volunteer events | 1 | 0.3% |
| Removal of gas motors | 1 | 0.3% |
| Bounce Pillow | 1 | 0.3% |

| Question 8: How could the park be improved or which amenities would you like to see added to the park? | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | # of responses | % of total |
| Mountain bike trails | 75 | 18.8% |
| ATV/UTV trails | 27 | 6.8% |
| Electric and water access at the horse campground | 20 | 5% |
| Disc golf | 17 | 4.3% |
| Improved beach size | 16 | 4% |
| Flush toilets or bathroom improvements | 16 | 4% |
| Leave as is | 15 | 3.8% |
| Water Quality | 15 | 3.8% |
| More Camping | 11 | 2.8% |
| Expansion of trails | 9 | 2.3% |
| Preservation of night-sky | 9 | 2.3% |
| Increased shade and privacy shrubs | 8 | 2% |
| Restock Fish | 7 | 1.8% |
| Rustic Camping | 6 | 1.5% |
| Campsites with water access | 6 | 1.5% |
| More electric campsites | 5 | 1.3% |
| Fishing docks | 5 | 1.3% |
| Camp store with bait | 4 | 1% |
| Increased signage/maps on trails | 4 | 1% |
| More RV campsites | 4 | 1% |
| ATV/UTV access on road | 4 | 1% |
| Cross country ski trails | 4 | 1% |
| Habitat Management Plans | 4 | 1% |
| More rental equipment | 4 | 1% |
| Lake weed control | 4 | 1% |
| Dog friendly beach area | 3 | 0.8% |
| Updated trail maps | 3 | 0.8% |
| Slide | 3 | 0.8% |
| Kid play areas | 3 | 0.8% |
| Trail maintenance | 2 | 0.5% |
| Upgraded camping | 2 | 0.5% |
| Horse trail expansion | 2 | 0.5% |
| WiFi access | 2 | 0.5% |
| Water trampoline | 2 | 0.5% |
| Diving platform | 2 | 0.5% |
| Snowmobile trails | 2 | 0.5% |
| Bike camping | 2 | 0.5% |
| Campground clearance | 2 | 0.5% |
| Kayak launch pad | 2 | 0.5% |
| ATV camping | 2 | 0.5% |
| Beach camping | 2 | 0.5% |
| Education events | 2 | 0.5% |
| High elevation spot for night-sky viewing | 2 | 0.5% |
| More park shelters or tables | 2 | 0.5% |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Designated Dark-sky Park | 2 | 0.5% |
| No large gatherings | 1 | 0.3% |
| Astronomy events | 1 | 0.3% |
| Increased parking | 1 | 0.3% |
| Group campsite | 1 | 0.3% |
| Hammock stands at campsites | 1 | 0.3% |
| Fire pits with cooking grates | 1 | 0.3% |
| Trail from campground to beach | 1 | 0.3% |
| Boat launch light | 1 | 0.3% |
| Beach shower | 1 | 0.3% |
| Cabins | 1 | 0.3% |
| Trash cans | 1 | 0.3% |
| Handicap accessibility bathrooms | 1 | 0.3% |
| Boardwalk | 1 | 0.3% |
| Total: | 356 | 89.2% |
| | | |

Question 8: Comments

| |
|---|
| Mountain Bike trails, Improved beach size, Camping that has more rustic feel rather than a field with an electric hook up. |
| Adding mountain bike trails would be great. I would visit at least weekly then. |
| The Ridge Trail needs as much care and upkeep as the Lake Trail. Trail going from boat ramp to Ridge Trail needs to be restored. |
| Mountain bike trails |
| I would like single track mountain bike trails. All the trails I have to go to are in Dane county. I know there are people in Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Richland Center that are looking for trail to ride. This park is a great central location for our youth mountain bike team that now trains in sauk prairie and Baraboo. |
| Single-track Mountain bike trails |
| Single track mountain biking trails |
| Mountain bike trails |
| Bike trails |
| Biking trails |
| Biking trails |
| Flush toilets in campground and create dedicated dog friendly beach area. |
| 1) Restock the Lake! The fishing is no where near as great as it used to be. Despite this, I continue to fish although most times it is poor fishing. Please please please consider this! 2) Create more TENT only camp sites. It seems as though these last few year the park has drifted away from tent sites almost completely. Us tent campers need more tent only options! |
| It would be great to have mountain bike trails available at the park. I would be more motivated to spend an entire weekend at the park if mountain bike trails were available. |
| Bigger beach |
| Electrical and water for the horse camping area. And sewage for the evening camping. Bait avail onsite to purchase. |
| Mountain bike(summer) and/or fat biking(winter) |
| Our family is seeking Mountain Bike Trails! |
| Mountain biking trails would be awesome |
| More ATV trails |
| Updated trail maps |
| The water was pretty stinky and full of clumpy, smelly algae when we visited in July. It made the beach unusable for our family. |
| Mountain Bike Trails |
| Make beach bigger and less scummy |
| More rest rooms |

| |
|--|
| Camp store |
| Flush toilets/bath house: more electric campsites |
| More camping |
| Mountain bike trails |
| Mountain bike trails |
| Sites with water |
| Mountain bike single track trails |
| Upgrade camping |
| Mountain bike trails |
| More trails for hiking, more availability for activities like snowshoeing, kayaking etc. |
| I'd look forward to sites with water hook up and showers down at the lake for immediate rinse. |
| Larger beach area & cleaner water at the beach area. The water gets quite scummy & is kinda gross at times |
| Mountain bike trails |
| Single track trails for bikes |
| Mountain bike trails |
| There is a big unmet demand for mountain bike trails and a nice trail system would be a big draw. See the John Muir state Park or minooka park near Milwaukee and their huge increase in users and revenue for reference. |
| Mountain Biking |
| EXPAND ATV TRAILS AND ACCESS |
| Bigger beach. More horse trails. |
| More fishing docks |
| Mountain bike trails, or allowing mountain bikes to use the current trails and fat tire bikes in the winter |
| More horse trail, more camping |
| Water at the camp sites |
| Add some off road biking/gravel trails |
| Better trail maintenance, better maps on the trails, maybe color coding segments would help a lot |
| Mountain biking trails |
| Addition of Mountain bike trails |
| Mountain bike trails |
| WiFi accessibility |
| Posted signs of trails and maps. We came to hike but weren't sure how long Trails were or where we were going to end up. |
| The addition of mountain biking trails would make white mound a top level destination for me |
| Single track mountain bike trails |
| Additional campsites - New young trees- shrubs planted in the campground area to replace the older trees that are failing -a concession or small offering of camping basics for sale (eggs, bread, etc) during summer - stock more fish in lake to improve fishing |
| Having large events like weddings where everyone stays in the campground is completely unacceptable for a place that has quiet hours that prohibit vehicle traffic after 10. A recent stay of mine was exactly the opposite of the quiet getaway that was expected. Either be a small quiet campground or be Devil's Lake, not both. Water quality takes a major turn for the worse toward the beach. No fish to speak of with an extremely unpleasant odor. |
| Mountain Bike Trails |
| Mountain Bike trails |
| Keep light pollution down as much as possible |
| Mountain bike single track |
| Additional astronomy themed speakers or events |
| Keeping the night sky darkened |
| Adding biking trails for mountain bikes. More private campsites. |
| More fishing piers |
| Please add Single-track Mountain Bike Trails |

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| Water, sand was not that clean when we were there. |
| Flush toilets in campground |
| I am the co-director for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Cycling League. We have teams in the area that would definitely take advantage of building, maintaining, and utilizing more mountain bike trails. Please check out our website www.wisconsinmtb.org Any questions, please call me |
| Mountain Bike Trails |
| Keep as is; it's a gem |
| Single track mountain bike trail |
| Mountain bike trails and rustic camping |
| I would love to see primitive/hammock camping. |
| More secluded camp sites closer to the lake. |
| Access to camping by ATV. More ATV Trails |
| Please add mountain or cyclocross trails. |
| Ventilation for pit toilets by boat ramp |
| Mountain bike single track |
| Adding single track mountain bike trails would greatly improve park participation |
| Additional camping. It seems like the campground is always full! |
| It would be great to have a direct, easy trail from the campground to the beach (I know, it's a big hill), OR have campsites closer to the beach. |
| More education activities/presentations |
| Open observing site higher in altitude away from lake. Boat launch site is partially blocked to east by hills and can be fogged out often. |
| Maintain and improve the dark sky. Thank you! |
| Mountain bike single track trails! There are very few in the area and bring many visitors to the park. Mountain bikers are traditionally very interested in trail maintenance and treating parks and trails respectfully. |
| Bike trails |
| Keep the lights off around the boat launch at night. Continue to protect the dark night skies for all to enjoy |
| More hiking trails. |
| Park staffing/leadership could be improved. Maintenance of the facilities they already have so it's not wasted and replaced prematurely - again. Overspending and wasteful spending. |
| Restrooms by boat landing with running water.. |
| Algae growth on the lake |
| Stock more fish |
| Closer parking for the beach it is a long distance for my disabled gf to travel from the current lot down to the beach on crutches she has been on them for 8 years. We live close by and she would like to be able to take our daughter there more often to swim but this stops her |
| A light by the boat launch would be very helpful |
| Larger beach area |
| Keep welcoming stargazers! |
| Named trails with trail map (with sign of the map by the parking lot near the building), bigger sand beach area |
| Lights out area for dark sky, dedicated observatory. Good support for camping via tent, showers in line with mirror lake and devil's lake amenities when camping there. |
| Shade options closer to beach - trees or picnic shelters |
| An outdoor shower or rinse area, more shaded parking, beach shade umbrellas |
| I think sauk county has done great job of improving the park the last few years. |
| Love this park |
| More picnic shelters and tables |
| I love the park just as it is |
| Land management for threatened bird species, yellow-throated warbler, Kentucky warbler, etc. |

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| Adding a paddleboat to rentals in summer and snow shoes and cross country skis in winter |
| Cabins |
| Ventilation for pit toilets by boat ramp |
| Access to stargazers and astronomers to see night sky - all night long in a safe environment |
| Get the park to be an official dark sky site so the dark skies will be protected! |
| More clear horse trail markers |
| More hiking trails |
| Better bathrooms |
| More ATV trails |
| Another observing site not near the lake |
| Becoming a dark sky park would be awesome! |
| Flush toilets |
| Bike trails would be great. Would use the park more often. |
| Better /cleaner beach |
| More water hookups at RV sites. More fish added to the lake for fishing. |
| Stock the lake with walleyes |
| I would like to see the weeds in the lake controlled! They are horrible. |
| Single track mountain biking trails |
| Unsure of any |
| Upgrade facilities in campground |
| Trash cans, better fishing-aerators? |
| Lake clarity |
| Grow bigger fish! ;) |
| I think you are all going a great job here |
| In the horse campground area I would like to see the water hydrant near the bathrooms repaired/replaced, more parking and picnic areas for day riders and a shower house for overnight campers. A small playground in that area would also be nice. |
| Bigger beach, cleaner water |
| The Park is great like it is and I enjoy it maybe some Ski Trails for winter |
| Flush toilets in camping area |
| Camping closer to the lake. |
| Water and electricity in horse campground in that order |
| More hiking trails |
| Water and electric for the horse camp. Do you know how hard it is to carry water to a 1200 pound animal Also carrying a heavy generator to have electricity is a hardship too. Could use horse corrals like Wildcat has also. So much nicer that worrying your animals will get loose. |
| Better toilets |
| UTV trail extended and road use through the park for UTV. |
| It would definitely be more beneficial to have more campsites. Seems difficult to reserve sites recently. |
| Flush toilets in campground |
| A kayak launch pad. For non electric sites a pole to hang a lantern. More bushes between the campsites |
| Wifi in case of bad weather |
| For the horse campers area we would love water, electricity and corrals for the horses so we aren't required to bring our own |
| Improve the water quality of the beach - major attraction that fell short of expectations. |
| Water hookup for RV |
| The lake was too sludgy for my taste. I wanted to stay away from the water touching my skin. |
| Improved natural campsite barriers. Fire pits with cooking grates. |
| More ATV trails |

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| Flush toilets in the campground, additional hiking trails |
| ATV trails |
| ATV routes |
| More UTV trails |
| More UTV and ATV trails |
| Trees could be trimmed slightly to accommodate large campers to pass and not be scraped by the trees |
| More UTV trails |
| Flush toilets in the campground |
| U T V thru park ao cam canp and use beach area |
| UTV/ATV trails |
| Being able to ride my UTV in |
| More UTV trails |
| Longer UTV trail |
| More camp site or camp host to enforce campground rules |
| ATV trails |
| Allow UTV's to drive thru the park on the road system. |
| Additional ATV trails |
| Hammock stands at the camping sites |
| More ATV/UTV trails |
| Expand ATV Trails |
| ATV/UTV trails |
| Enjoy the park the way it is |
| Additional ATV trails |
| Disc golf course |
| I would actually like to see you NOT put flush toilets in the campground. Reasoning... being a county resident and knowing this gem of a campground and it being one of our favorite places to camp, if flush toilets were put in I'm afraid all the reservations would be taken by out of county/state people :(|
| Better clearance in campground |
| ATV & UTV TRAILS |
| More UTV trails |
| More ATV trail |
| More trees added to the campsites for better privacy and a more natural experience. Less lights and dimmer, less obtrusive ones where they are felt necessary in the campground. |
| There should be a dedicated group camping site that can be used to not bother other campers with group activities. |
| Seems like you have made almost all camp sites large camper friendly and forgot about those that tent camp and still need electric sites, all the gravel sites don't leave much choice for tent camping, and it feels like the local people are being pushed out in favor of out of town and state people. Maybe you don't want the local residents anymore |
| Clean up weeds in lake water |
| Flush toilets would be high priority. We love having the showers. |
| Improved birding habitat |
| More campsites, fish stocking, bigger beach, camping sites with electric and water |
| New sinks in shower area /more accessibility for handicapped bathroom |
| Weed control of the lake needs to be In proved. More fishing docks for handicapped people that extends further into the lake. More stable walk way for handicapped people around the dam so older people can use it with their grandchildren. |
| Single track mountain bike trails, bike camping |
| More quite sport activities |
| Mountain bike trails |
| Kiosk at the horse campground/parking area to pay for camping and day rides. |

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| Single track mountain bike trails |
| Mountain bike trails |
| Payment site is needed at horse camp and day parking |
| Adding a payment/donation kiosk to the horse parking area. Access to running water with a hose by the horse day parking would be a huge plus. An occasional “you are here” type sign on the horse trails would be nice, but the horse trails were marked exceptionally well. It would be a really fun perk to have a spot where horses are allowed to go in the lake. Overall this park is a hidden gem for horseback riding! |
| Single track mountain biking trails. |
| Electricity in horse camp ground |
| Electricity in horse camp ground |
| Flush toilets, more electric camp sites (more availability) |
| THIS IS OUR COUNTY PARK,,KEEP THE ILL. TRASH OUT ! |
| I would like to see water at the horse camp area. |
| I would like to see electric at the horse sites. More people would camp. Generators are a pain and loud. Water is available near by I believe but would also be nice closer to sites |
| Water and electric at horse campsites |
| Electric and water at the horse park, |
| Electric Horse Camp Sites |
| UTV trails |
| More snowmobile trails |
| Less weeds at boat launch |
| Continuing to have clear horse trails. Electric at horse camp sites. |
| More shade mini shelter around the beach area |
| Water and electric in horse campground |
| Electric at horse Park |
| Electricity to the horse campsites |
| Electric for horse camp |
| Great park, limit developmental |
| “1. Get rid of the outboard motors and the subsequent aquatic weed removal activities- it is dramatically affecting the wildlife & fish populations on the lake 2. Stop the obsessive weed whipping and constant mowing of every single nook n cranny in the park, the weed and grass cover serve a purpose as food for the butterflies, caterpillars and other creatures. 3. Eliminate the use of Decon,Round-up and other chemicals used to eliminate weeds and unwanted vermin. It poisons wildlife, owls,woodpeckers, and other living creatures in the food chain. 4. Hire knowledgeable personnel who have a background in natural resources and wildlife management and a sense of dedication to this concept.” |
| I have never been to this park. |
| Better marked trails so we don't get lost! |
| More camping spots for RV |
| The lake better taken care of. The beach bigger like it used to be. More tables around the beach for families to use. |
| More beach and more parking by beach |
| Bathrooms |
| Electric in horse camp |
| More UTV/ATV trails incorporate area for camping |
| ATV trails are nicer than horse trails. |
| More quite sport activities |
| Mountain bike trails |
| Mountain bike trails |

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| Mountain bike trails |
| Adding mountain bike trails would draw me to the park. |
| I would visit the park if it had single track mountain bike trails |
| I would visit the park if it had single track mountain bike trails |
| In-Park Mtn trails would greatly increase the number of times my family visits the park |
| Add ski and bike trails |
| MTN biking |
| Single Track Mountain Bike Trail-our whole family would use it. |
| Single track trails for mountain biking |
| Mountain bike trails |
| Add MtB trails |
| Bike trails |
| In-Park Mtb trails would greatly increase the number of times my family visits the park |
| Add ski and bike trails |
| Would visit regularly if mountain biking trails were added to the park |
| Nothing I can think of |
| Mountain biking |
| Our family loves to mountain bike. It may be a great location for single track trails. |
| Mountain Bike Trails - we would camp more often for sure then! |
| Mountain Biking |
| Mountain bike trails |
| It's great! |
| I would love to see a disc golf course at white mound. |
| Disc golf |
| Disc golf! |
| Disc golf course |
| Disc Golf |
| Disc golf! Sport is growing fast and is very popular in Wisconsin. Madison has several courses and almost every day the courses have a group at every hole. Only being an hour from Madison means if it is a decent course then people will certainly make that trip. |
| Disc golf course |
| discgolf |
| Adding a disc golf course |
| Disc Golf |
| Disc golf course |
| A disc golf course |
| A disc golf course |
| Add a disc golf course |
| Disc golf course |
| A disc golf course would suit the property well. |
| I am disappointed in this park in that every 2 years we have a family reunion and reserve AT LEAST 10 sites. Due to Covid, the reunion was canceled. White Mound informed us we could NOT get refunded but had/could use the reservation during this year. It's very hard to find a date that is open during the same year. I feel since it was COVID you could have been more accommodating to us, and given us a credit for next year, or FULL refund. My reservation was made in Jan 2020. I also never did receive my annual park sticker. :(|
| At campsite 8E the picnic table bench is rough. Got 2 splinters and a hole in my jeans! |
| No suggestions for improvement |
| Improved RV camping for larger units, "Don't tell people about it, then they'll come here!" |
| Like it the way it is, maybe a little store |

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| More camp space, no privacy. Love nature walk and benches. Encourage motorcycle & bicycle camping on non-electric sites. Smaller is better and more sustainable. |
| Don't develop the park anymore. |
| Restoring the prairie and oak savanna. What makes the park special is that it is a quiet country swimming hole. Don't put in a splash pad. |
| Better play area for kids |
| Flush toilets @ campground! More sand frontage @ beach |
| Can't think. One of the most beautiful lakes/parks I've been to in WI |
| Diving platform/slide |
| A water trampoline/slide |
| Water trampoline or slide |
| Short-kid friendly hiking trails, shade near beach |
| Larger dock, Cleaner beach |
| Paddle Boats |
| Splash pad, dog swim dock/area |
| Boat rental(s), increased camping/campsites for additional revenue, different types of trails |
| Expansion of ATV Trails |
| More camping, splash pad, upgrade playgrounds, board walk from near horse camp to an ADA dock for fishing/viewing |
| Horse rental for trails, snowmobile trails, volleyball |
| Diving Board |
| Water quality :) |
| Keep quiet and small |
| Tremendous improvement since 2005! Move beach to different location for scum or improve existing |
| More fishing piers (fills quickly on weekends) |
| Very impressed by the specious well cared-for campground, shower and laundry facilities. For sure one of the nicest campgrounds we have been to! |
| We love it! |
| Nothing: For my use of the park everything works great. I have been camping/hunting here for 20+ years. |
| Additional beach area, separate launch area for kayaks, more educational programs, more promoting of available programs, kid fishing area |
| More trails, more accessibility with pets |
| Cross country ski trails - groomed (It'd be sort of simple to do) No gravel at the horse campground |
| This is such a sweet, well-maintained county park, with nice touches, like the laser-cut metal benches. Was virtually empty so don't know what it would be like if it were crowded. |
| Not much. It was great. |
| Appreciate the nice bathroom facilities |
| Mountain Bike trails. You have exceptional terrain to do so. |
| I love this County park - the land, the staff, and the variety of activities one can do there. Even though they are primitive sites, I appreciate the horse camp area. Please charge MORE to camp and ride - and put a payment kiosk at the day ride parking lot!! The improved horse trails are lovely, and make it more safe and beautiful. I love the trail that now goes along the lake with such pretty views of the water through the tree. Just gorgeous! |
| Look out tower |
| Workout equipment, Bar/Band Stand |
| No, leave as is |

Question 9: How far would you travel to recreate in White Mound County Park if your suggested improvements or amenities were added?

| | # of responses | % of total |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1-10 miles | 31 | 7.8% |
| 11-20 miles | 44 | 11% |
| 21-30 miles | 64 | 16% |
| 31-40 miles | 68 | 17% |
| 41-50 miles | 47 | 11.8% |
| More than 50 miles | 127 | 31.8% |
| Total: | 381 | 95.5% |

Question 10: What is your age?

| | # of responses | % of total |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| 19 and under | 8 | 2% |
| 20-29 | 34 | 8.5% |
| 30-39 | 86 | 21.6% |
| 40-49 | 93 | 23.3% |
| 50-59 | 82 | 20.6% |
| 60-69 | 72 | 18% |
| 70 or older | 22 | 5.5% |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 | 0.3% |

Question 11: What is your zipcode?

| | # of responses | % of total |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Baraboo 53913 | 52 | 13% |
| Reedsburg 53959 | 34 | 8.5% |
| Prairie du Sac 53578 | 23 | 5.8% |
| Sauk City 53583 | 24 | 6% |
| North Freedom 53951 | 25 | 6.3% |
| Plain 53577 | 22 | 5.5% |
| Spring Green 53588 | 21 | 5.3% |
| Loganville 53943 | 16 | 4.0% |
| Hillpoint 53937 | 14 | 3.5% |
| La Valle 53941 | 10 | 2.5% |
| 53704 | 7 | 1.8% |
| 53581 | 7 | 1.8% |
| 53562 | 6 | 1.5% |
| 53705 | 6 | 1.5% |
| 53556 | 7 | 1.8% |
| 53533 | 4 | 1% |
| 53528 | 5 | 1.3% |
| 53719 | 3 | 0.8% |
| 53597 | 4 | 1% |
| 53593 | 5 | 1.3% |

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| 53523 | 4 | 1% |
| 53555 | 4 | 1% |
| 53590 | 3 | 0.8% |
| 53901 | 4 | 1% |

Note: Full list of zipcodes was not analyzed but 60% of respondents were from Sauk County





RESOLUTION # 33-2022

Resolution to adopt the 2022-2042 White Mound County Park Master Property Plan as an Appendix to the 2020-2024 Sauk County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Resolution offered by the Land Resources and Environment Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Sauk County, Wisconsin:

BACKGROUND:

The Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department has created the 2022-2042 White Mound County Park Master Property Plan (Appendix A) for the development, future management, enhancement, and expansion of recreational services. As the County's largest park, visitors are able to engage in a diverse array of recreational activities while enjoying the solitude of the Park's rare undeveloped setting. Featuring 46 campsites, the 104- acre White Mound Lake, 15.9 miles of trails, multiple picnic shelters, horse camping, and an ADA-accessible beach, White Mound County Park offers visitors a unique mix of activities that accommodate users of all skills and backgrounds. With a steadily growing number of visitors, White Mound County Park has proved to be an important asset within the diverse recreational opportunities available in Sauk County.

In an effort to enhance and protect White Mound County Park's natural environment while continuing to provide the Park's celebrated recreational opportunities, Sauk County has developed the master plan to guide the future of the property. The master planning process was designed for community involvement that emphasized the need for a park that reflects the desires of both new and longtime users. Additionally, the Plan is intended to expand upon the principles laid out in the Sauk County 2020-2024 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Primary priorities throughout the planning process include: natural resource management, outdoor recreation opportunities, safety and accessibility, land acquisition, and creating a unique destination.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 150-2019 adopting the 2020-2024 Sauk County Outdoor Recreation Plan was approved by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on January 21, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, The four goals, or priorities areas of the CORP are identified as: 1) Further development of the County park system; 2) Resource management and stewardship; 3) Partnerships, and; 4) Economic development and tourism; and,

WHEREAS, The White Mound County Park Master Property Plan intersects with the following priorities and objectives of the Sauk County Outdoor Recreation Plan; priority: further development of the County Park System, objectives: develop master plans for Sauk County properties; priority: resource management and stewardship, objective: community education, and improved water quality; priority: partnerships, objectives: intersect with other units of government and non-government organizations (NGOs), and leverage recreational and planning grants; priority: economic development and tourism, objective: promotion, branding, marketing; and,

WHEREAS, As a part of the master planning process, Resolution No. 87-2021 awarding a contract for a Parking and Land Acquisition Study for White Mound County Park was approved by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on October 19, 2021; and,

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WHEREAS, The Parking and Land Acquisition Study was created as an appendix to the White Mound County Park Master Plan for the expansion of new and existing outdoor recreational opportunities; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, met in regular session, does hereby adopt the 2022-2042 White Mound County Park Master Property Plan attached hereto as Appendix A as an appendix to the 2020-2024 Sauk County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Land Resources and Environment Committee, this 15 day of March, 2022.

Consent Agenda Item: [] YES [] NO

Fiscal Impact: [] None [X] Budgeted Expenditure [] Not Budgeted

Vote Required: Majority = X 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes X No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, *Boyd*, Date: 03.10.2022.

Offered and passage moved by: Land Resources and Environment Committee

Marty Krueger
MARTY KRUEGER, Chair

PETER KINSMAN, Vice Chair

Dennis Polivka
DENNIS POLIVKA

Ross Curry
ROSS CURRY

Rob Nelson
ROB NELSON

Valerie McAuliffe
VALERIE MCAULIFFE

Brandon Lohr
BRANDON LOHR

Randall Puttkamer
RANDALL PUTTKAMER

Fiscal Note: The LRE 2022 Budget includes carryforward funds in the amount of \$25,000 for the

103 components necessary to complete the White Mound County Park Master Plan. The County has
104 also designated \$125,000 in ARPA funds to be allocated for the renovation of the horse
105 campground located within White Mound County Park. Additional improvements and/or
106 acquisition of land would be reviewed in future budget cycles.

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108 MIS Note: No Impact