A PLAN FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN

2014 - 2020

Zoning & Conservation Committee

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INTRODUCTION

On a nationwide scale, recreational activity is expected to triple over the next 50 years, growing more than twice as fast as our nation's population. With this increase, there will be a significant demand on our natural resources. Since tourism and recreation constitute the state's fastest growing industry bringing in millions of dollars annually, we must carefully plan for future growth and development. The purpose of this plan is to investigate Sawyer County's existing outdoor recreational resources, study population trends, anticipate future demands, and develop guidelines and recommendations for public outdoor recreation facilities. These comments and suggestions are intended as guides for the County and its municipalities.

OBJECTIVES

- Meet existing as well as the foreseeable future recreational needs of Sawyer County residents and visitors.

- Maintain quality recreation areas while protecting Sawyer County's natural and scenic resources, and reducing user conflicts.

- Provide and improve the aesthetic and environmental values of the county's resources through acquisition, easements, zoning and other legislation, and to provide educational programs.

- Identify and preserve sites having scientific, historic, architectural or archeological significance.

- Consider this plan a program for development of year-round recreational facilities which will provide opportunities for all citizens and visitors.

- Encourage the efforts of municipalities to provide "community" recreation facilities such as ball fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, etc.

- Encourage private development of quality recreational areas.

- Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities whenever feasible and environmentally possible.

- Develop coordinated countywide recreational trail systems.

- Consider acquisition of railroad corridor land for the development of a multi-use trail system.

BACKGROUND

Sawyer County represents the heart of northwest Wisconsin's "northwoods." The county is located in the lake and forest region of the state, approximately 70 miles from Superior/Duluth and 100 miles from Eau Claire. Major industries are tourism and forestry with wood related manufacturing providing significant economic impacts.

REGIONAL RECREATIONAL AREAS

There are no major population centers within 50 miles, or an hour drive, of the county. Sawyer County attracts vacationers from all over the Midwest, receiving a large percentage of visitors from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Chicago urban centers, and Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

The proximity of the St. Croix-Namekagon National Scenic Riverway, Chequamegon National Forest, Chippewa Flowage, American Birkebeiner ski trail, and Apostle Islands National Lakeshore all contribute to the vacation destination nature of Sawyer County.

The Namekagon River portion of St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, which includes the river from the Bayfield County line south of Cable to just west of Hayward, also has significant regional impact. The purpose behind the National Scenic Riverway designation is to preserve the river and its immediate watersheds in a near primitive condition, and to protect and make it accessible for public outdoor recreation use, with trails and recreation facilities.

The Chequamegon National Forest which includes portions of Sawyer County and much of Northern Wisconsin is a significant regional resource. Activities include: hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, biking, picnicking, and other nature-based activities.

The Chippewa Flowage, located in the center of the county, is 17,000 acres in size. One of the vast wilderness water resources in the Midwest, the “Big Chip” is Sawyer County's most famous. The “Flowage”, known for its world record musky fishing, is also one of the greatest fishery resources in the state.

The American Birkebeiner Trail, located between Hayward and Cable, is a regional cross-country skiing recreation area. The annual Birkebeiner ski race in February attracts some 15,000 skiers and spectators to the Hayward area.

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has a great impact on people in the region. Since it was set aside for preservation and public recreation in 1970, it has been a popular place for regional people and people from throughout the United States to visit. Camping, fishing, picnicking, boat docking facilities, trail systems, scuba diving, sailing, and ocean kayaking and interpretive areas are all a part of the Islands.

POPULATION

Sawyer County, the 5th largest county in land area in the state, had a 2012 population of 16,581 which is approximately .3 percent of the total state population.

Overall, Sawyer County population trends do not reflect recreational activity in the county, as substantial recreation use comes from second-home owners. Based on 2010 census data, 50.6% of homes within the county are designated as seasonal or for recreational use.

POPULATION TRENDS IN SAWYER COUNTY (1980-2010)

MUNICIPALITY	1980 CENSUS	1990 CENSUS	2000 CENSUS	2010 CENSUS	CHANGE 1980-2010	PERCENT CHANGE
Town of Bass Lake	1,288	1,717	2,244	2483	1,195	48
Town of Couderay	394	386	469	479	85	18
Town of Draper	242	208	171	208	-34	-16
Town of Edgewater	441	509	586	640	199	31
Town of Hayward	2,331	3,017	3,279	3,601	1,270	35
Town of Hunter	594	557	765	841	247	29
Town of Lenroot	926	966	1,165	1,349	423	31
Town of Meadowbrook	202	192	146	155	-47	-30
Town of Meteor	105	111	170	183	78	43
Town of Ojibwa	264	250	267	327	63	19
Town of Radisson	394	412	465	480	86	18
Town of Round Lake	786	727	962	1,115	329	30
Town of Sand Lake	768	821	774	885	117	13
Town of Spider Lake	331	362	391	419	88	21
Town of Weirgor	386	356	370	424	38	9
Town of Winter	704	801	969	1,135	431	38
Village of Couderay	114	92	96	94	-20	-21
Village of Exeland	219	180	212	206	-13	-6
Village of Radisson	280	237	222	218	-62	-28
Village of Winter	376	383	344	353	-32	-9
City of Hayward	1,698	1,897	2,129	2,340	642	27

HISTORY

Sawyer County lies on several of the major water highways used by the travelers of early inland America. The first known white visitors to the county were French fur-traders who wintered near Lac Courte Oreilles in 1659. The Ottawa Indians, close relatives of the Ojibwas, were native to Sawyer County at that time. The chief water trails used by them were the Chippewa and Namekagon Rivers. These two river systems were connected by a two and one-half mile portage near Lac Courte Oreilles.

The upper Namekagon River led to the Lake Superior region to the north. The downstream traveler on the Namekagon could go west and southwest unhindered by portages by using the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers. Travelers going south, east and northeast used the Chippewa River and its tributary, the Flambeau River. Missionaries followed the fur-traders in exploring the area. In 1745, the Ojibwa Indians moved south from Lake Superior to join and, ultimately occupy, the region that would come to be Sawyer County. In 1784 a fur trading post was established at the Namekagon River at the portage to Lac Courte Oreilles and the Chippewa River.

Fur trading predominated in the Chippewa Valley until 1839 when a sawmill was constructed down river at what is now Chippewa Falls. From then until its peak, or the period from 1880 to 1890, the white pine and hemlock logging industry supported the economy of the Chippewa Valley in Sawyer County. In the winter of 1889-1890 there were 50 logging camps. Lumbermen estimated that about one-sixth of all the pine timber in the United States west of the Appalachian mountains was growing in the Chippewa River Valley. The western half of what is now Sawyer County was predominately pine. The eastern half was basically a mature hemlock and yellow birch forest.

On March 9, 1883, Sawyer County was created by the state legislature by the separation of Township 41 and 42 from Ashland County and Townships 37 through 40 from Chippewa County.

The first fishing resort in Sawyer County was a stopping place on the way to a logging camp, and it catered only to the lumbermen. About 1892 W. E. Cormick constructed the first actual resort at the same place. A second resort was built by Jake Christy on Lost Land Lake in 1896. Other stopping places for the angler were established at Sand, Round, and Teal Lakes around the same time. As rail transportation lines became established and better roads came into existence, the tourist became common. The Indians and early settlers depended upon fish, wild rice, and maple sugar for survival. The fish and game resource became an economic factor by supporting a growing tourist industry. This has evolved, with more emphasis on natural scenery and more diverse nature-based land activities. In addition, the abundant clean waters in the area continue to attract visitors interested in water-based activities. Our winter-based sports continue to provide year-round opportunities for individuals to enjoy the “northwoods”.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Sawyer County is geographically located in the northern highland province of Wisconsin. It lies a short distance south of the continental divide that separates the St. Lawrence and Mississippi River drainage systems.

The most distinguishing landscape features of Sawyer County are the glacial lakes and man-made impoundments set in hilly conifer and hardwood forests. The landscape personality of Sawyer County could be best summed up as a lake and forest region of northwoods tradition.

SOILS

The soils of Sawyer County are upland and outwash types from glacial drift and are acidic in nature. The sandy soil occurs along the Namekagon River and Lac Courte Oreilles, Round and the Grindstone Lakes regions. Silty and sandy loams are found in the remainder of the county.

CLIMATE

The climate in Sawyer County is classified as continental, a climate type characterized by large seasonal and daily ranges in temperatures caused by alternate high and low pressure systems which move across the continent from west to east. The winters are lengthy with abundant snow and cold temperatures. Summers are relatively short and warm with brief periods of hot, humid weather. Spring and fall are often short with sharp day-to-day temperature changes.

Sawyer County's climate is favorable for a wide variety of recreation throughout the year. Summer days are usually warm and sunny, while nights are cool, a welcome relief for those seeking escape from the heat and humidity of large cities. Days are long in summer with twilight lingering on after sunset. The weather in autumn is often dry, cool, and sunny with several periods of Indian Summer and an extraordinary display of seasonal colors. Winters are early with a good chance of enough snow on the ground for the winter sports enthusiast from early or mid-December into late March. Streams and lakes are often ice covered from late November into April.

LAND USE

Sawyer County encompasses 863,859 acres with the greatest percentage of the county being rural and semi-wilderness in nature. Of the total gross land acres, approximately 37% or about 317,500 acres are in public ownership. In addition, agriculture accounts for 12%, residential land approximately 10.5%, 39% in private forestry/wetlands and commercial/industrial is 1.5% of the total county acreage. Sawyer County has approximately 113,300 acres in county forest lands, 124,600 acres in National Forest and over 70,000 acres in State Forest and State Wildlife acres which all contribute to a significant amount of public lands for numerous recreational pursuits.

EXISTING RECREATION RESOURCES

- ***BOATING***

There are 15 natural lakes and impoundments over 500 acres in size in Sawyer County with a combined total of 40,095 surface acres of water. There is an additional 6,936 acres of surface water in the 25 other lakes between 200 and 500 acres in size. Altogether these 40 bodies of water amount to 85 percent of the lake areas of the county. To the boater and water skier, this is a substantial amount of space although some lakes have local restrictions on speed boating and water skiing. Sail boating on the lakes over 500 acres in size is excellent. Public access is available to most of these waters.

- ***CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING***

There are extensive cross country skiing trails and facilities throughout Sawyer County. The American Birkebeiner Trail includes trails from the north border of Sawyer County to Highway 77, a parallel classic trail to County OO, and loops at the County OO Trail Center. HASTA Trails include the Hospital Trails located to the north and east of the Hayward Hospital and several loops located at Hatchery Creek County Park, and the Hayward Town Park located on county hill road west of Hayward. Other ski trails include the Mukwonago Trail located 18.5 miles east of Hayward on Hwy. 77, the Lost Land Lake Trail located on Upper A, Flambeau Hills located on STH 70 & Hwy W at the east edge of the county, and the 2 mile Turkey Feather Trail in Ojibwa Park. Lighted ski trails are located at the "00" Trail Center and Hatchery Creek County Park. Warming cabins are located at the "00" Trail Center, Hatchery Creek County Park, Mosquito Brook Road and Boedecker Road (Birkie road crossings).

Sawyer County is nationally known for its heritage with the American Birkebeiner world class ski race held every February. Over 12,500 skiers participate in this annual event. The origin of the American Birkebeiner dates back to 1973 when 53 hearty skiers traveled 55 kilometers from Hayward, Wisconsin to Telemark Resort in neighboring Cable. The Birkie exemplifies the true spirit of cross-country skiing and has been instrumental in advancing the popularity and success of the sport as we know it today. (See UNIQUE RESOURCES: AMERICAN BIRKIE TRAIL, CLASSIC TRAIL, AND TRAIL HEADS)

- ***SNOWSHOEING***

Anywhere hiking is permitted in the county snowshoeing is also possible. The CAMBA single track trails at Hatchery Creek Park are a designated snowshoe trail. Mosquito Brook Road and OO trail heads have also been designated and marked as Snowshoe Trails.

- ***FISHERY RESOURCES***

Most of the surface waters in Sawyer County provide excellent fishing opportunities. There

are 294 lakes with a total surface of 53,693 acres that have game and panfish populations. The remaining 204 lakes, with an area of 1,558 acres, have usually only minnow populations. There are also excellent stream trout fishing opportunities available. The Namekagon River offers trophy Brown Trout fishing mainly between Hayward and the Bayfield County line. Most common fish include:

Muskellunge--73 lakes with a total area of 42,393 acres
Walleye--80 lakes with a total area of 45,808 acres
Northern Pike--40 lakes with a total area of 21,043 acres
Largemouth Bass--214 lakes with a total area of 51,981 acres
Smallmouth Bass--46 lakes with a total area of 40,548 acres
Panfish--253 lakes
Trout Streams--56 measuring 180.8 miles

- ***CANOEING/KAYAKING/PADDLE SPORTS***

Sawyer County contains some of the finest paddling rivers in the Midwest. The Flambeau,

Namekagon, Couderay, and Chippewa Rivers all lend themselves to wilderness trips. Access is good and a variety of water can be experienced on all of these rivers. Campsites are available in designated areas. The total combined mileage in the county is 123 miles. The numerous area lakes offer excellent paddling opportunities as well.

- ***BICYCLING-MOUNTAIN BIKING***

There are excellent trail/off-road biking opportunities in Sawyer County on public lands. The Sawyer County Forest and Chequamegon National Forest Lands provide miles of trails along with the Birkebeiner Trail.

The annual Chequamegon-Nicollet Fat Tire Festival is held the second weekend of September, and draws 2,900 mountain bike enthusiasts for the Hayward to Cable race. The race uses a portion of the Birkie trail, fire roads, forest roads and trails for a challenging 40 mile course.

The Trail System developed, built, marked and mapped by The Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA), provides a diverse, beginner to expert variety of Mountain/Off Road biking trails. CAMBA has been designated as the best in the Midwest (by IMBA, International Mountain Bike Association). The CAMBA system includes: the longest single-track in the Midwest, from Hayward to Cable and an "EPIC" trail designated by IMBA. (See UNIQUE RESOURCES: CAMBA Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association).

- ***CAMPING***

There are public camping facilities are located at two Chequamegon National Forest campgrounds (Moose Lake and Black Lake) and the Flambeau River State Forest campground on Connors Lake. Camping is allowed throughout the Sawyer County Forest with a permit. The Chippewa Flowage has eleven public sites maintained by the Department of Natural Resources and one National Forest Service site. The Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway maintains sites on the Namekagon River. Ojibwa Park on Highway 70 has 19 campsites. In addition, Sawyer County is fortunate to have many excellent private campgrounds throughout the county, many of which are located on lakes.

- ***SWIMMING & PICNIC AREAS***

Sawyer County has many lakes which provide excellent sand beaches for swimming. Both developed and undeveloped sites are located in the county.

Developed Public Swimming Areas:
Round Lake Peninsula Beach, Town of Hayward
Smith Lake, Town of Lenroot
Silverthorn Lake, Seeley in the Town of Lenroot
Hayward Beach, City of Hayward
Connors Lake, Flambeau State Forest
Black Lake, Chequamegon National Forest
Moose Lake, Chequamegon National Forest

- ***GOLF COURSES***

In 1997, the Hayward/Cable area was labeled the "Golf Capitol of Wisconsin". There are five 18-hole golf courses (Hayward National Golf Club, Hayward Golf & Tennis Club, Big Fish Golf Club, Wildwood Marshes and Teal Wing Golf Club) and five 9-hole courses (Spider Lake Golf Resort, Roynona Creek, Lakeview, Barker Lake, and Aken's) in Sawyer County open to the public. Course designs provide enjoyment and challenge for avid and amateur golfers alike.

- ***HUNTING***

Sawyer County has large areas open to public hunting. The areas which are available for hunting are County Forest Lands, lands entered under the Forest Crop Law, lands owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and land within the Chequamegon National Forest. Other lands are available for hunting on permission basis from the owner. There are also miles of hunter/walking trails closed to vehicular traffic located on county and national forest lands.

- ***SNOWMOBILING***

Sawyer County has one of the finest snowmobile trail networks in the Midwest. The trail system with over 600 miles of groomed trails, including 335 miles within the County Forest, criss-crosses the county connecting hospitality facilities and trail corridors in adjoining counties.

- ***ATV TRAILS***

Sawyer County allows riding on existing county forest logging roads. There are 95.7 miles of state funded ATV trails for winter use and 80.8 miles designated for summer use. State owned trails include the Tuscobia Trail (51 miles) which runs from the Flambeau River to the western county line and the Dead Horse Connector (38 miles) in the eastern Flambeau Forest. The trail system also connects to 140 miles of trail within the Chequamegon National Forest. Some of the towns and villages also allow ATV's on specific roads.

- ***BICYCLING-TOURING***

There are no marked or signed bike routes for road touring within Sawyer County. There are, however, many paved county and town roads that offer excellent low traffic routes. A map for Sawyer County and adjoining counties is available. The Map includes the routes of various distances, short cuts, connectors, written descriptions and ride highlights. The City of Hayward has completed two designated and separated bike/ped trails around and through the city; a third phase will be completed in 2014. The County has a planned trail and route connecting to the City trail, proceeding along County Hwy B to the junction of County Hwy B and K and connecting to the LCO County B – Round Lake School House Road Trail. Expected completion is 2014-2015. LCO has a planned trail connecting the County trail along County B and Round Lake School House Road to the School at Treplaneir Road. Expected completion 2014-2015. Also the State of Wisconsin has published a state-wide map (separated into regions) designating road and highways as routes for bicycle travel.

- ***NATURE STUDY AND INTERPRETIVE TRAILS***

Marked nature trails are located in the Uhrenholdt Memorial Forest near Seeley, Hatchery Creek Nature Trail, Turkey Feather Trail in Ojibwa Park, Town of Hayward County Hill Recreational Forest, Green Lake/Little Siss non-motorized trail, and the Lynch Creek Waterfowl Area with an overlook platform and interpretive signs. There are also miles of hunter/walking trails and old logging roads which make excellent hiking trails.

➢ *HISTORICAL SITES*

1. First Congregational Church--Hayward--dedicated in 1889 after a fire had destroyed the original church on February 24, 1889.

*2. North Wisconsin Lumber Company Office--Hayward--corporate headquarters of the North Wisconsin Lumber Company in 1888. Restored and converted into a brewery and restaurant. *Placed on the National Register of Historic Places

*3. The Raynor Place--Ojibwa--build around 1875, a stopping place for loggers making river drives on the Chippewa River. *Placed on the National Register of Historic Places

4. Log Cabin--Exeland--ranks as one of the oldest buildings in Sawyer County.

5. Rock Castle Tavern--Weirgor--excellent example of unique stone architecture built around 1930.

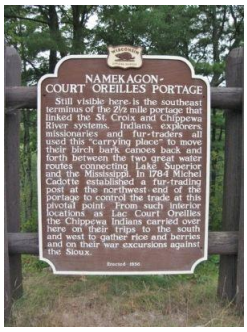
6. Namekagon River--Courte Oreilles Portage--portage between Grindstone Lake and Namekagon River used as early as 1766 by Captain Johnathon Carrier and in 1784 by Michel Cadotte.

7. Sawyer County Historical Museum-Highway B in the City of Hayward.

8. Cameron Dam –Site of John Deitz standoff with Sate and local law enforcement.

9. Battle of Horsefly – historical marker at the Moose Lake Bridge over the West Fork of the Chippewa River (County Road S & Moose Lake Road).

10. McCormick House –Hayward-- built in 1887 for Robert Laird McCormick and his family. McCormick, and his partners, A.J. Hayward and Frederic Weyerheueser, established the North Wisconsin Lumber Company in Sawyer County.



UNIQUE RESOURCES

- ***AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER TRAIL, CLASSIC TRAIL, AND TRAIL HEADS***

  The 50K Birkie Trail and 54K Birkie Classic Trail are groomed and maintained year round by the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation.

  Trailheads are located at:

  "00" in Seeley*
  Mosquito Brook Road
  Hatchery Park in Hayward*
  Gravel Pit **
  Birkie Ridge**

  *Lighted sections for night-time skiing are located at "00" and Hatchery Park.
  ** Planned for construction in 2015

  The Birkie and Birkie Classic Trails are maintained by the ABSF year around. The trails are groomed for both skating and classic skiing throughout the winter. The Birkie Trail spans 2 counties (Sawyer and Bayfield) and plays host to over a dozen events including north America's largest ski race the American Birkebeiner and the 23K Kortelopet.

  In 2013 the American Birkebeiner now includes a week long variety of events including:

  1) American Birkebeiner Freestyle(50Km)

  2) American Birkebeiner Classic (54Km)

  Additionally, the Birkie Trial now hosts a variety of non-Birkie week events including

  1) Chequamegon Fat Tire 40

  2) Birkie Ski Open Track Tour

  3) Birkie Trail Marathon and Trek

  4) Hayward Lion's Pre-Birkie

  5) Seeley Hills Classic

- ***MOTORIZED TRAILS*** Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance

  Sawyer County is a destination known for exemplary ATV and snowmobile trails. The Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance (SCSAA) is the world's largest single owner of trail grooming equipment, maintaining over 600 miles of groomed trails. The SCSAA is a non-profit corporation made up of eleven individual snowmobile and ATV clubs located throughout the County.

- ***CAMBA TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS***

The Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization created in 1993 to develop and maintain an area-wide network of off-road bike trails. Since that time the CAMBA trails have earned a national reputation as a destination mountain bike trail system. CAMBA continues to add and make improvements to the system.

Trails include over 80 miles of purpose-built single track and upwards of 300 miles of other mapped and marked trail routes. The CAMBA trails in Sawyer County also include the longest continuous single track in the Midwest that runs over 30 miles from Hayward to Cable.

CAMBA trails are of varied distances and designed to accommodate riders of all ability levels. Trails are organized into clusters located in six small towns around the region, each with 20 to 40 miles of trail. CAMBA publishes an area-wide overview map covering an area of 1,600 square miles. Specific cluster maps are published for the purpose of navigating the trails. Each cluster has one or more designated trailhead, a parking area, and a kiosk with an overview map, information, and map dispenser. Several trailheads provide access to shelter, restrooms, and water. Trail markings includes frequent reassurance markers, "you are here" markers, GPS coordinates, and letter/number landmark references to aid in route finding.

Trail clusters in Sawyer County include: Hayward Cluster - with trailheads at Hatchery Creek Park, Mosquito Brook Road, and Gravel Pit Road. Seeley Cluster – with trailheads at County Highway OO and Camp 38 Road.

Events:
The Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival is one of the largest events of its kind in the country. With over 3,000 racers, the 40 mile off-road race starts in downtown Hayward and runs over the American Birkebeiner Trail, woods roads and snowmobile trails as it winds its way to Cable.

CAMBA sponsors the Fat Tire Tour on the Friday afternoon of the Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival. This casual tour explores various trails around the CAMBA system. Other CAMBA events occur periodically and are posted on the CAMBA website, www.cambatrails.org.

In addition to the Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival, mountain bike events sponsored by other area organizations include: Cable Area Off-Road Classic, Mt. Borah Epic, Chequamegon 100, and Seeley Lions Pre-Fat, with other new events being created on a regular basis.

- ***CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE***

Located in the center of the county, the "Flowage," 17,000 acres in size, is one of the vast wilderness water resources in the Midwest and is Sawyer County's most famous. The Chippewa Flowage, known for its world record musky fishing, is also one of the greatest fishery resources in the state.

The relatively undeveloped shoreline and northwoods wilderness environment of the flowage dictate a continued preservation and protection policy for this unique area. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, National Forest Service and Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe own lands around the flowage and have an agreement to manage this unique resource.

- ***CHEQUAMEGON NATIONAL FOREST***

Sawyer County contains over 120,000 acres of land within the boundaries of the Chequamegon National Forest. This vast area of public land is located in the northeast portion of the county and is almost free of development except for some resorts and summer homes on Teal, Ghost, Lost Land, Moose, and Clam Lake. Two National Forest campgrounds are located in Sawyer County: Moose Lake and Black Lake units.

- ***FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST***

The State of Wisconsin owns and administers the Flambeau River State Forest located in the southeastern portion of the county. The north and south forks of the Flambeau River flow through the State Forest. This section of the Flambeau is one of the most wild and scenic canoeing streams in the Midwest. The 30 unit campground operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the Flambeau River State Forest is located on Connors Lake. There is also a boat ramp, picnic area and swimming beach at Connors Lake. The Flambeau River State Forest, containing some 87,774 acres of land in portions of Sawyer, Price, and Rusk counties, is the second largest state forest in Wisconsin. Approximately 80 percent of the Flambeau River State Forest is in Sawyer County.

- ***NAMEKAGON RIVER-ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY***

The Namekagon River was designated by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to preserve in a natural condition the free-flowing rivers of high scenic and recreational value. The entire length of the Namekagon, from its source in Lake Namekagon in Bayfield County including its 19.4 miles in Sawyer County to its confluence with the St. Croix River, is included in the Act. The Riverway is administered by the National Park Service and includes numerous developed access points and canoe camping sites.

- ***STATE NATURAL AREAS WITHIN SAWYER COUNTY***

State natural areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. Sawyer County's 16 state natural areas are valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity and for providing benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide some of the last refuges for rare plants and animals.

1) Flambeau River Hardwood Forest
2) Lake of the Pines Conifer-Hardwoods
3) Kissick Alkaline Bog Lake
4) Upper Brunet River
5) Snoose Creek
6) No-name Lake
7) Ghost Lake
8) Wilson Lake
9) Moose River Cedar Hills
10) Spring Brook Drumlins
11) Thornapple Hemlocks
12) Lake Helane
13) Oxbo Pines
14) Hanson Lake Wetlands
15) Swamp Lake
16) Bass Lake Peatlands

(more information can be found at http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/)

RECOMMENDATIONS

COUNTY FACILITIES

➢ ***AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER TRAIL***

The primary focus of development and improvements will be for year-round recreational use as well as providing support for annual events.

Hatchery Creek Park

A former DNR fish hatchery, Hatchery Creek Park was established as the first county park in 1984. Hatchery Creek Park has become a focal point for many events including the Chequamegon Fat Tire mountain bike race and associated half marathon, American Birkebeiner cross-country ski race, and regional high school cross-country track meets. These events bring thousands of participants and spectators from around the world to the area each year.

In addition to large, competitive events the park hosts many smaller, private functions and provides opportunities for outdoor education and recreation. Recreation opportunities include cross-country ski trails with lights for night skiing, trout fishing, picnicking and a nature trail for hiking. Mountain bikers access the Birkebeiner trail from the Hatchery Park trailhead. Located at Hatchery Creek Park, the Hatchery Creek Trail Head provides convenient access to the southern portion of the Birkie trail within a short distance of Hayward.

Existing Facilities:

- Paved parking area and trailhead on the southern portion of Sawyer County forest lands
- Restrooms
- Heated log pavilion/shelter with picnic tables
- Trash receptacles
- Fire ring and benches
- Picnic tables and grills
- Trail Information sign/map
- Lighted ski loops
- Nature/educational hiking trail

Recommendations:

- Increase opportunities for multi-season use
- Improve nature/educational hiking trail signs
- Native Plant display garden near shelter building
- Pump Track
- Recycling receptacle

Mosquito Brook Trailhead
Existing facilities:
- Ample parking area
- Restrooms

Recommendations:
- Upgrade and improve restroom facilities

Boedecker Road Trailhead
Existing facilities:
- Parking area
- Warming hut

Recommendations:
- Restroom facilities
- Trailhead
- Informational kiosk
- Shelter Building
- Water and Electricity

Birkie Ridge Trailhead
Existing facilities:
- Parking area

Recommendations:
- Trailhead
- Shelter building
- Restroom facilities
- Picnic area
- Information kiosk & signs
- Water and Electricity

CTH OO Trail Center
CTH OO Trail Center provides facilities near the mid-point of the trail. This access is used by mountain bikes, recreational skiers and hikers/walkers.

Existing facilities:
- Lighted ski loop
- Parking area
- Shelter
- Restrooms
- Groomer maintenance storage building

Recommendations:
- Upgrade groomer maintenance building
- Upgrade restrooms

Seeley Fire Tower

The location of the now removed Seeley Fire Tower provides a unique vista south across miles of the Sawyer County forest lands. This site is within a few hundred yards of the trail and is used as a stopping point by hikers, mountain bikers and snowmobilers.

Recommendations:
- Develop an elevated overlook limited to non-motorized summer access and winter snowmobile access.
- Maintain overlook viewing access
- Information kiosk/sign

➢ ***NELSON LAKE WAYSIDE***

Former Department of Transportation wayside located on State Highway 27 North, adjacent to the County-owned Totogatic Dam that forms Nelson Lake and immediately upstream from the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources, Totagatic Wildlife Area.

Existing Facilities:
- Paved parking area
- Native Plant Display Area
- Picnic tables and grills
- Restrooms (pit toilets)
- Boat Landing
- Nature trail
- Historical marker

Recommendations:
- Handicap fishing pier
- Electricity
- Picnic Pavillion
- Upgrade restrooms
- Replace hand pump
- Expand native plant display area
- Upgrade information kiosk
- Upgrade existing stairway.
- Replace deteriorating fencing/railing
- Picnic table pads (concrete or pea gravel)

- ***EAGLE'S LANDING PARK***

  A 1.42 acre park and landing on the Namekagon River, which is accessible from Airport Road. Improvements will emphasize the natural setting and aesthetics of the Namekagon River and improve wildlife and shoreline habitat.

  Existing Facilities:
  - Gravel parking area
  - Artesian well
  - Handicap accessible restroom
  - Wildlife viewing benches
  - Picnic Area
  - Path/walkway to river access
  - Pier used for river access

  Recommendations:
  - Shelter/Pavilion

- ***SAWYER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS***

  A 10.65 acre site adjacent to the County Highway Shop on CTH B. The fairgrounds are available to organizations for events and storage of County equipment.

  Existing Facilities:
  - Pavilion
  - Exhibit Hall
  - Large Animal Barn
  - Hog/Sheep Barn
  - Poultry Barn
  - Milking Parlour
  - Motocross Track
  - Grandstand
  - 4-H Building/Ice Cream Booth
  - Large parking area

  Recommendations:
  -Upper parking lot safety/security fencing
  - Surface improvement for walkways and road
  - Insulate & install HVAC system in Exhibit Hall
  - Bleachers (Portable for 4-H Auction & Events)
  - Bleachers on hillside for grandstand events
  - Outdoor public bathrooms
  - Storage building for fair equipment

- ***BOAT LANDINGS***

- Nelson Lake Dam Boat Landing, developed
- Nelson Lake Tag Alder Landing, developed
- Weirgor Lake, 100 foot walk-in landing
- Price Dam Landing, Lake Winter, developed
- Windfall Lake, adjacent to County highway, developed
- Spring Lake, adjacent to County highway, developed
- Tiger Cat Flowage, adjacent to Town road near County-owned dam, developed
- Deer Lake, adjacent to Town road near County-owned dam, developed
- Winter Dam, Chippewa Flowage, developed

TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- ***TOWN OF BASS LAKE***

Existing Facilities:

- Town Hall Park located on County Road K in Northwoods Beach.
  - Open pavilion, picnic area, grills, restroom and playground equipment

- Spring Lake Boat Ramp – Cement ramp and dock with limited parking located at the junction of Williams Road and County Road E.

- Grindstone Shallows Park – Boat landing, pavilion, picnic area, grills, restrooms and rustic natural trail located in Northwoods Beach on Poplar Avenue.

- LCO Drive Boat Ramp – Cement ramp with dock and limited parking located on LCO Drive in Northwoods Beach.

- Windigo Boat Landing – Cement boat ramp with dock, gazebo, view shed, large paved parking area, picnic area, grills and restroom located on Highline Road.

- Durphee Boat Landing – Cement ramp with limited parking located on County Road KK.

- Harvey Park – Rustic walkway with benches at LCO shoreline with limited parking located on Circle Drive at the end of County Road KK.

- Grindstone View Shed – Benches located a junction of Post Avenue and Poplar Avenue in Northwoods Beach.

Recommendations:
- Designated Trails
- Town Acreage for Field Sports

- ***TOWN OF DRAPER***

<u>Loretta/Draper Municipal Park</u>
Existing Facilities:
- Pavilion
- Picnic area
- Restrooms
- Ball field

Recommendations:
- Bleachers should be repaired or replaced
- Add new backstop, line fence and outfield fencing to the ball field
- Repair or remove the dugouts

- ***TOWN OF HAYWARD***

The Town of Hayward maintains a lake access and swimming area on Peninsula Road and boat landing with parking on Linden Road. Both sites are on the west side of Round Lake.

<u>County Hill Recreational Forest</u>
A year-round park for non-motorized recreation located on County Hill Road adjacent to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources Kissick Swamp Wildlife Area.

Existing Facilities:

- Picnic/Warming Shelter
- Handicap Accessible Restroom
- Gravel parking area
- Sliding Hill
- Natural lake
- Trail system for hiking, hunter walking trail, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing

Recommendations:
- Signage
- Develop interpretive trail for forest management practices and native trees and vegetation
- Benches
- Power to Shelter building
- Trail Lighting
- Develop Kozniesky Pond area
- Gravel Pit reclamation for skating rink

<u>Other Recommendations:</u>
- Bike trails to tie into County and City of Hayward trail systems
- Continuation of Town bike trail to Town Forest
- Solar power for Town transfer station

- ***TOWN OF LENROOT***

The Town of Lenroot owns and maintains two recreation facilities and a boat landing. The recreation facilities are located at Seeley on Silverthorn Lake and on Smith Lake with the boat landing on Nelson Lake.

Eytcheson Park

This park is located on the east end of Smith Lake.

Existing Facilities:
- Boat landing and parking
- Undeveloped swimming beach
- Restrooms
- Small picnic area
- Pavilion

Silverthorn Lake Park

This is an excellent community facility and receives substantial use from both residents and visitors.

Existing Facilities:
- Swimming beach
- Shelter
- Restrooms
- Tennis court
- Playground equipment
- Baseball field

Recommendations:
- Recondition tennis court
- Upgrade playground equipment
- Paint dugouts
- Barrier free restrooms should be added to the park

Lenroot Wilderness Area

Located north off of Seeley Fire Lane – a Hemlock & Cedar forest preserve part of the Sawyer County Forest.

Recommendations:
- Sign or marker

- ***TOWN OF METEOR***

Existing Facilities:
- Softball field
- Sand volleyball court
- Paved court area
- Picnic pavilion with grill and tables

Recommendations:
- Continue development of recreation center at Town Hall.

- ***TOWN OF OJIBWA***

Ojibwa Park

The Town of Ojibwa owns and maintains the former Ojibwa State Park. The Town has a 4 member park committee who oversees maintenance/ management of the Ojibwa Park. The Park provides access for snowmobilers and ATVs to the Tuscobia State Trail, as well as a campground. The Turkey Feather Trail is a one mile marked hiking trail on the north side of Highway 70 in Ojibwa Park. A two mile ski loop starts at the Turkey Feather Trailhead.

Existing Facilities:
- Restrooms
- Picnic areas & large grill
- Sixteen camper sites and three tent sites
- Drinking water
- RV waste station
- Shelter building
- Playground equipment for pre-school to age 10
- Turkey Feather Trail – hiking & skiing

Recommendations:
-Develop/install shower unit in campground

Baird Community Park

Located on the north side of the Chippewa River in the Village.

Existing Facilities:
- Picnic tables
- Grills
- Restrooms
- Ball Field with dugouts
- Concession stand
- Canoe access to the river

Recommendations:
- Replace concrete floor in shelter
- Roll grounds in ball park outfield

Ojibwa Park-Canoe Access
A small parking area adjacent to the Ojibwa Park that provides scenic access and a canoe take-out point on the north side of the Chippewa River.

Existing Facilities:
- Picnic area
- Improved canoe access point
- Gravel parking area

➢ ***TOWN OF ROUND LAKE***
The Town of Round Lake utilizes the Town Hall located on CTH A for Town meetings and annual functions. Hall/Community Building is also used by multiple lake and property associations for meetings and informational forums.

Existing Facilities:
- Parking area
- Non-motorized boat launch
- Scenic area with fishing access (West Fork Chippewa River)
- Battle of the Horsefly historical site/marker

Recommendations:
- Develop picnic facilities including grills and tables, pavilion, and landscaping.
- Restrooms
- Drinking water
- Hiking/Snowshoe trail development on 40 acres of town property adjacent to Town Hall.
- Develop water access/swim/picnic area, possibly in conjunction with adjacent Towns.

➢ ***TOWN OF SAND LAKE***
Recreation facilities in the Town of Sand Lake are provided primarily for Stone Lake area residents, visitors and tourists.

Stone Lake Lions Park
The park is located on STH 70

Existing Facilities:
- Softball field with improved fencing and players benches
- Pavilion. With adjoining serving area (roll serving doors and picnic tables
- Picnic areas with tables and grilles
- Fire Pit

- Playground Equipment
- Equipment Storage Building and Garage
- Restrooms (Pit Toilets)
- Basketball court
- Pickle Ball court
- Volley Ball court

Recommendations:
- Add Horseshoe courts
- Provide a water source to the park
- Paint the existing Pit toilets
- Build Restrooms with running water and sewer.

Stone Lake Elementary School

Previously the Stone Lake Elementary school building, the building and lot is now owned by the Stone Lake Cranberry Fest, Inc. and used as a community park.

Existing Facilities:
- Playground Equipment , 2 groupings

Recommendations:
- Move one grouping of Playground equipment to Lions Park (Replacement) or Lions Hall (New Play Area)

➢ ***TOWN OF WINTER***

Archery Range – Lagoon Road

Existing Facilities:
- Pavilion
- Small storage shed
- Parking
- Porta-potty (owned by archery club)

Recommendations:
- Expand facility to include rifle and pistol range
- Expand parking area to accommodate approximately 20 vehicles and/or trailers
- Develop recreational vehicle operation training area for youth lessons/certifications
- Plant a buffer of trees
- Provide a water source to the area
- Provide restroom facilities
- Provide playground equipment
- Develop a picnic area with shelter, tables and grills
- Provide electricity to site

Lake Winter Boat Landing – Tower Road (NE side of lake)

Existing Facilities:
- Seasonal boat dock
- Handicap accessible fishing dock
- Parking area

Recommendations:
- Develop playground area with shelter and equipment
- Provide electricity to picnic area
- Provide picnic tables
- Provide water source
- Provide restroom facilities

VILLAGE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

➢ ***VILLAGE OF COUDERAY***

The recreation facilities are provided within the village located on the Couderay River.

Ed Anderson Recreation Area

Existing Facilities:
- Two ball fields
- Playground equipment
- New pavilion
- Picnic area
- Restrooms

Recommendations:
- New barrier free restrooms should be added
- New chain-link backstops on both fields
- New line fencing on both fields
- Picnic area with tables and grills could be developed along the river within the park
- Acquire Eddy Creek Park from the County and improve

➢ ***VILLAGE OF RADISSON***

Four outdoor recreation areas are located in the village. All town roads are open to ATV and Snowmobiles.

New Project Recommendations:
- Create path and rehabilitation of boat landing/public rest area on Couderay River. Property lies within Town of Radisson and owned by North Central Power.
- Develop biking/walking/rollerblade path to Tuscobia Trail to create a circular recreational path.

Radisson Recreational Park

Existing Facilities:
- Eight campsites with electric & water hookup
- 5 tent sites
- Picnic tables
- Pavilion with electricity & water
- Restrooms
- Playground equipment for preschool
- Volleyball net
- Basketball hoop
- RV waste station
- ATV wash station
- ATV unloading ramp

Recommendations:
- Shower building
- Blacktop parking area

Radisson Ball Park

Existing Facilities:
- Restrooms
- Concession stand
- Ball field

Recommendations:
- Add a chain-link backstop and outfield fence

Village Firehall Park
Located adjacent to the Firehall on the Tuscobia State Trail.

Existing Facilities:
- Pavilion
- Restrooms inside the pavilion
- Basketball court

Recommendations:
-Remodel Village Hall restrooms

Former Radisson Elementary School

Existing Facilities:
- Ball field

- New playground equipment

Recommendations:
- Upgrade existing ball fields for youth leagues

➢ ***VILLAGE OF WINTER***

Excellent outdoor recreation facilities are provided in the village.

Dr. H.A. Smith Park and V.F.W.

Existing Facilities:
- Picnic area
- Ball field
- Pavilion
- Restrooms – barrier free 2006

Recommendations:
- Park signage
- Recondition softball diamond
- Repaving
- Event shelters with electricity
- Construct two ballpark dugouts
- Construct ballpark concession stand

CM Olson Athletic Field

The Winter School District also provides excellent facilities at the school.

Existing Facilities:
- Baseball diamond
- Asphalt track
- Playground equipment

Friends of Tuscobia – Winter Depot Trailhead

Existing Facilities:
- Historic Village of Winter railroad depot near the Tuscobia Trail for use as a multi-use trailhead including ATV, snowmobiles, hiking, and biking.

Recommendations:

- Provide entrance and parking areas to accommodate vehicles and trailers
- Establish picnic area with shelter, tables and grills
- Establish a water source
- Restrooms

- Lighting
- Landscaping
- Fencing
- Signage

➢ ***VILLAGE OF EXELAND***

The Village of Exeland has excellent and well used recreation facilities.

Swan Creek Park

Existing Facilities:

- Shelter.
- Camping.
- Water pump.
- Restrooms.
- Horseshoe pits.
- Little League field.
- Grass open play area with playground equipment.

Recommendations:

- Create a multi-use community recreation facility. A fishing area for children could be developed at the park where the Swan and Weirgor Creeks come together. A small shelter and a stream-side handicap accessible fishing dock could be included.
- Ice skating rink
- Tennis courts
- Bathroom/shower facility for camp area

Exeland Sports Center

Excellent recreation opportunities are available at this facility.

Existing Facilities:

- Rod & Gun Club with a trap and rifle range
- Softball field
- The major facility of the Exeland baseball field
- New restrooms
- Concession stand
- New batting cages & dugouts
- Pavilion
- New sand volleyball court
- Playground equipment
- Open and covered bleachers

CITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- ***CITY OF HAYWARD –***

Hayward, the county seat of Sawyer County, has shown substantial growth in the past thirty years--from a 1980 population of 1,698 to a 2010 census population of 2,340, an increase of 27 percent.

The Town of Hayward, which surrounds the city, increased from 2,331 in 1980 to 3,601 people in the 2010 census. This is an increase of 35 percent. The City and Town of Hayward now have a combined population total just under 6,000.

This dramatic increase has placed increased pressure on existing recreation facilities and created demand for new recreational opportunities. The City of Hayward's existing recreation facilities receive extremely heavy use during high tourist periods. The lack of major picnic open-space play area is evident. The city swimming beach, which is the only public swimming area in Hayward, is now accessible via the biking/walking trail that circumnavigates the city limits.

Hayward functions as a popular service center for area second home residents, and resorts and receives extremely sharp population increases in the summer months. Special events as the Musky Festival, Lumberjack World Championships, Winterfest, Fat Tire Festival and the American Birkebeiner cross-country ski race bring additional thousands of visitors into the area. Hayward is also fortunate to be the home of the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. This facility is located adjacent to the city beach.

The Hayward area presently supports men's and women's summer softball leagues, Little League baseball, a men's city baseball team, youth soccer, logrolling and amateur ice hockey programs. The majority of organized team recreation activities take place at the Hayward Sports Center located adjacent to the Middle School.

Hayward Community School District

Hayward Primary School

Existing Facilities:
- Ball fields
- New playground equipment
- Gymnasium
- Soccer field
- Paved parking.

Recommendations:
- Upgrade ball fields (new backstops)

Hayward Intermediate School

Existing Facilities:
- Access to paved fitness trail
- New playground equipment
- Gymnasium
- Paved parking

Hayward Middle School

Existing Facilities:
- Shares outdoor fields with Sports Center and High School
- Large gymnasium
- Paved parking
- Football field
- Sand volleyball court

Hayward Senior High School

Existing Facilities:
- Baseball fields
- Softball fields
- Track facility
- Football field
- Soccer fields
- 4 tennis courts
- Auditorium
- Access to paved fitness trail

Recommendations:
- Upgrade tennis courts

Erik and Randy Lawry Skate Park
Excellent skateboard and rollerblade park (44,167 sq ft.). Located adjacent to the High School and Middle School. Open to the public.

Hayward Sports Center
This 28 acre sports complex is on land owned by the City of Hayward but is administered by the Hayward Sports Center Board of Directors and provides recreation opportunities for Sawyer County and area residents, and visitors.

Existing Facilities:
- 28,000 sq. ft. indoor arena providing ice hockey, meetings, concession, restrooms, and year round activities
- Softball field with restrooms
- 3 Little League fields with concession and storage
- Playground equipment

Recommendations:
- Bury overhead electric lines
- Develop swim park

Dog Park (formerly Nyman Park)
A 9.2-acre parcel located along Smith Lake Creek on the north side of the city with 77,700 sq. ft. of mowed area.

Existing Facilities:
- Vehicle parking area
- Designated area for unleashed dogs
- Walking trail for leashed dogs

Smith Creek

Recommendations:
- Develop a plan to address problems and utilize the potential of the creek.

Upper Shues Pond
This area is adjacent to the Senior Citizens Center.

Existing Facilities:
- Benches
- Trails (.3 miles)

Recommendations:
- Develop a picnic area with a small pavilion

Pedestrian/Bike Trail
Year-round, paved fitness trail originates near the City Beach, continues through the business park, past the school campuses and down Nyman Ave, continuing past the Sherman & Ruth Weiss public library, and ends at the city limits on Highway 77 near Walmart/Slumberland. The trail provides access to the Middle School, Sports Center, Intermediate School, and Primary School locations, as well as the public library.

Recommendations:
- Complete bike/walking trail and work with adjacent townships to make a regional trail.
- Utilize the trail corridor for the Tree City/Bird City initiative

Jaycees Tot Lot

This small playground and ice skating rink is located at the corner of Wisconsin and Fourth Street in the City of Hayward (34,956 sq. ft.).

Existing Facilities:
- Playground equipment
- Outdoor skating rink

Recommendation:
- Additional lighting

City Beach

Existing Facilities (121,000 sq. ft.):
- Swimming beach
- Restrooms
- Open shelter
- Basketball court
- Boat ramp
- Accessible Pier
- Picnic area with tables and grills
- Playground with a variety of equipment

Recommendations:
- Define parking for boat access

Shues Pond

This attractive area provides beautiful inter-city open space (90,000 sq. ft.). The annual "Lure of the Lights" display is held here. The pond is used by a variety of wildlife, and many residents enjoy viewing the wildlife while having lunch.

Existing Facilities:
- Gazebo
- Picnic tables
- Flag pole
- Playground equipment

Recommendations:
- Plant a pollinator garden to attract birds and butterflies.
- Utilize the area for the Tree City/Bird City initiative

<u>Library Nature Park</u>

Existing Facilities:

- Nature park
- Walking trails
- Viewing pier
- Bridge
- Informational kiosks
- Plant identification signs
- Outdoor amphitheater/classroom

Recommendations:
- Upgrade/improve/maintain outdoor amphitheater
- Conserve and restore the wetland and upland areas
- Invasive species control
- Reforestation/habitat management

SUMMARY

Sawyer County has a diverse natural resource base providing a variety of recreational opportunities. Many of the opportunities take place on public lands such as Sawyer County Forest, Chequamegon National Forest, State of Wisconsin lands managed by the DNR, and the Namekagon River National Scenic Riverway. The area offers many nationally recognized recreational events.

Sawyer County has a unique group of citizens who, through volunteer efforts, are able to make things happen, and provide unique recreational opportunities and world class recreation events. The county's role is that of managing and maintaining its vast county forest system as a viable multi-use recreation base as well as providing quality forest products. The municipalities in the county must continue to provide and maintain community based recreation facilities that have made Sawyer County one of the most livable areas in the Midwest.

APPENDIX A - FINANCIAL AIDS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program

This is a federal program administered in all states that encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. Grants cover 50 percent of eligible project costs.

Eligible applicants

Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, school districts or other state political subdivisions are eligible to apply for grants for acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Eligible projects

- Land acquisition or development projects that will provide opportunities for public outdoor recreation.
- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and reservoirs that will provide water based outdoor recreation.
- Property that provides special recreation opportunities, such as floodplains, wetlands and areas adjacent to scenic highways.
- Natural areas and outstanding scenic areas, where the objective is to preserve the scenic or natural values, including wildlife areas and areas of physical or biological importance. These areas shall be open to the general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the areas will not be seriously impaired or lost.
- Land or development within urban areas for day use picnic areas.
- Land or development of nature-based outdoor recreation trails.
- Development of basic outdoor recreation facilities.
- Renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities which are in danger of being lost for public use.

Ineligible project examples

- A project that is not supported by a local comprehensive outdoor recreational plan.
- Acquisition and development of golf courses.
- A project where storm water management is the primary purpose.
- Motorized recreation trails.
- Lands that include cell towers.
- Land that will be used for non-outdoor public recreation purposes.

Deadlines and funding cycles

- Submit completed applications by **May 1** of each year to:

  Lavane Hessler
  Local government grant manager
  Department of Natural Resources
  P.O. Box 7921
  Madison WI 53707-7921
  608-267-0497

- Department of Natural Resources regional staff review and rate eligible projects in **early June**.
- Final project listing is compiled in **July** with projects ranking the highest selected for grants to the extent funds are available.
- Final selected projects will be reviewed and approved by the National Park Service prior to the sponsor receiving an agreement with the DNR.

Application materials

Because these grants are often coupled with grants from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, LWCF grant application materials appear in the same booklet as Stewardship Local Assistance grant application materials.