

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR FOND DU LAC COUNTY

2011-2015



Highway 45 Wayside Boat Launch

Fond du Lac County
Planning & Parks Department
July 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
 SECTION 1: FOND DU LAC COUNTY	
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY	2
GEOGRAPHY	2
GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	2
WATERSHEDS	5
LAND USE AND AGRICULTURE.....	5
POPULATION.....	7
 AVAILABLE NATURAL RESOURCES.....	
LAKES.....	9
STREAMS	9
WETLANDS	9
WOODLANDS	9
HILLS, ESCARPMENTS.....	10
 STATE RECREATION AREAS.....	
KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST	10
HORICON NATIONAL WILD LIFE REFUGE	11
ELDORADO MARSH.....	11
OTHER STATE LAND	11
ICE AGE RESERVE	11
 MUNICIPAL RECREATION FACILITIES.....	
 COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	
FAIRGROUNDS	14
GOTTFRIED PRAIRIE & ARBORETUM	14
ROLLING MEADOWS GOLF COURSE.....	15
CALVARY MARSH	15
COLUMBIA PARK.....	15
HOBBS WOODS NATURE AREA	15
HIGHWAY 45 WAYSIDE PARK	16
HIGHWAY 49 WAYSIDE PARK	16
NORTHWOODS PARK.....	16

RIGGS COUNTY PARK.....	16
RAUBE HISTORICAL SITE	16
ROOSEVELT COUNTY PARK	16
SHAGINAPPI NATURAL AREA PARK.....	17
VETERANS PARK	17
WAUPUN COUNTY PARK	17
WOLF LAKE COUNTY PARK.....	17
COUNTY RECREATIONAL TRAILS.....	21
COUNTY SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM.....	21
EISENBahn STATE PARK TRAIL.....	21
NORTHWESTERN TRAIL.....	22
MASCOUTIN VALLEY STATE PARK TRAIL.....	22
PEEBLES TRAIL	22
PRAIRIE TRAIL.....	22
WILD GOOSE STATE PARK TRAIL.....	22
 SECTION 2: THE PLANNING PROCESS	
THE PLANNING PROCESS	23
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	28
 SECTION 3 RECREATION DEMAND AND NEEDS	
RECREATION DEMAND AND NEEDS	29
 SECTION 4: PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS	
COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	31
ACQUISITION.....	31
DEVELOPMENT BY FACILITY.....	32
COLUMBIA PARK.....	32
HIGHWAY 45 WAYSIDE	32
WAUPUN PARK.....	32
RIGGS COUNTY PARK.....	32
HOBBS WOODS NATURAL AREA	32
SHAGINAPPI NATURAL AREA PARK.....	33
NORTHWOODS PARK.....	33
WILD GOOSE STATE PARK TRAIL.....	33
MASCOUTIN VALLEY STATE PARK TRAIL.....	33

PEEBLES TRAIL	33
EISENBAHN STATE PARK TRAIL.....	34
STATE ROAD PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLE FACILITIES	34
GOTTFRIED ARBORETUM.....	34

SECTION 5: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	34
APPENDIX -1.....	37

**UW-EXTENSION EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE
AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
OF THE
FOND DU LAC COUNTY BOARD**

**SHERRY L. BEHNKE
CHAIR**

**JAMES D. KISER
VICE-CHAIR**

STEVEN A. ABEL

THEODORE J. EISCHEID

MARY JEAN NICHOLSON

Introduction

This Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan for Fond du Lac County is an update of the plan adopted in 2006. This Plan will serve Fond du Lac County as a guide in recreation and park development and will enable the County to participate in State and Federal recreation grant programs, which require such a plan as a prerequisite.

Upon adoption by the Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors, this revised recreation plan will continue in use as a guide in recreation and park planning and development, and will enable Fond du Lac County to maintain eligibility for Federal and State recreation grants. A capital improvement plan for county parks is also incorporated into this document for 2011-2015.

SECTION 1: FOND DU LAC COUNTY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Geography

Fond du Lac County is located in east central Wisconsin at the southern end of Lake Winnebago. The total land area of the County is 724 square miles or 463,360 acres. The County is divided into 21 civil towns, 9 villages and 3 cities. Refer to Map 1 on the next page.

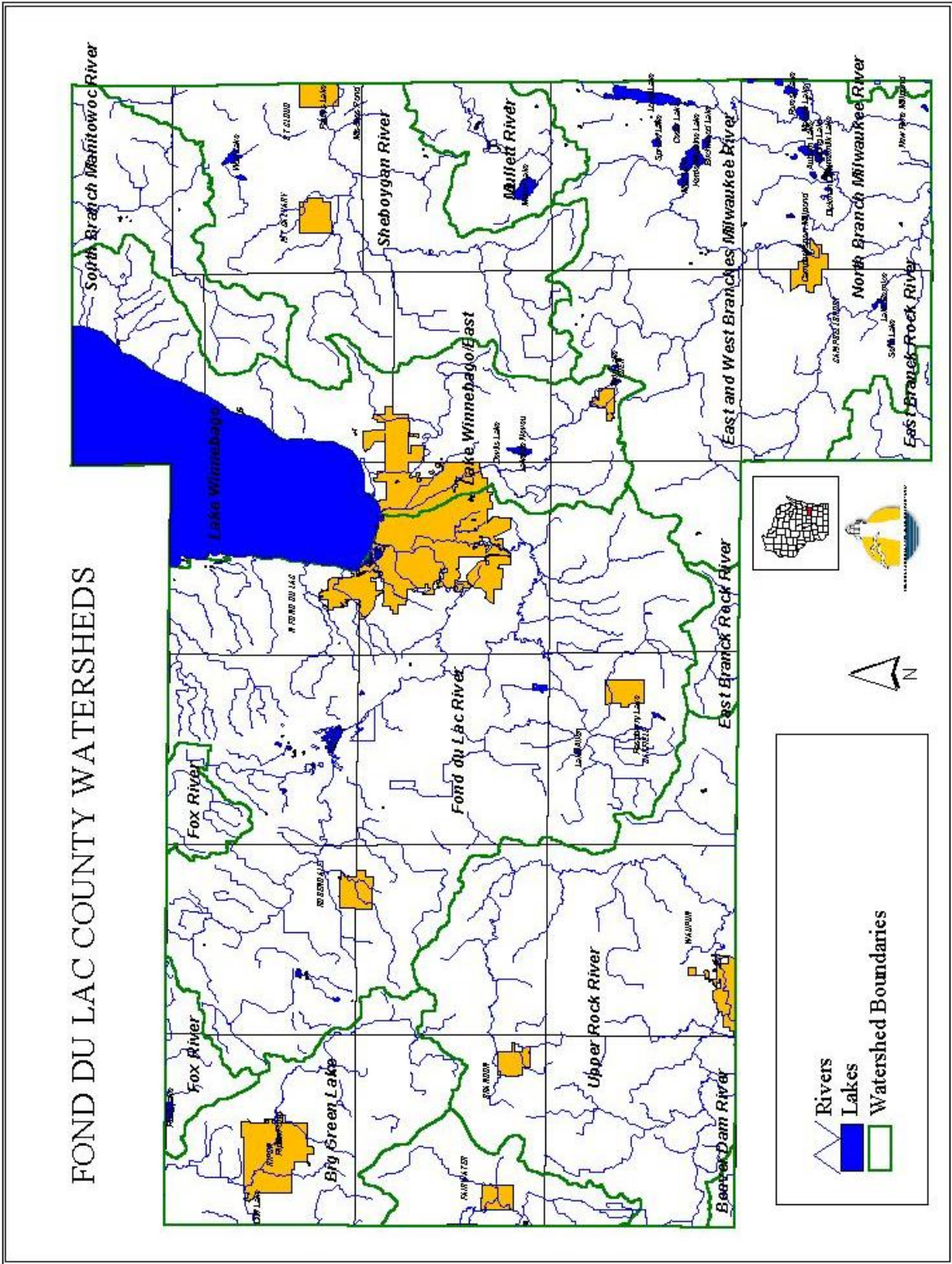
A total of 101,633 people live in Fond du Lac County, according to the 2010 U.S. Census of Population. About two-thirds of the population lives in the cities and villages; the City of Fond du Lac alone contains over 43,000 people. The other third of the population is scattered throughout the 21 unincorporated towns, with some concentrations along Lake Winnebago and near the City of Fond du Lac in the Towns of Auburn, Empire, Fond du Lac, Friendship and Taycheedah.

Most growth in population is expected to occur within the cities and villages. The majority of the County is expected to retain much of its rural character, although growth is expected in the Towns of Auburn, Ashford, Empire, Fond du Lac, Friendship and Taycheedah.

Geology and Topography

There are two main types of bedrock under Fond du Lac County: the older crystalline rock such as granite and the younger sedimentary rocks such as dolomite, sandstone and shale. In some places, this bedrock appears at the surface, as does the dolomite of the Niagara Escarpment and the sandstone and granite at the eastern edge of the County. In most parts of the County, however, the bedrock is covered with unconsolidated overburden consisting of sand, gravel and clay. The Pleistocene Glaciers last seen in Wisconsin about 10,000 years ago left this overburden. This overburden ranges in thickness from several feet to several hundred feet. In some places, this overburden is well sorted; for example, the several hundred feet of clay deposited by the glacial lakes or the sand and gravel found in kames and eskers.

As they advanced and withdrew, the various stages of the glacier left deposits, which in combination with the bedrock formation, form the major topographic feature of the County. Glacial moraines and other deposition features such as drumlins, kames and eskers form the hills and valleys of the eastern half of the County. The Niagara Escarpment forms the high ridge, which runs just east of Lake Winnebago and swings southwest past Oakfield. The low, flat area around Lake Winnebago was the bed of a large glacial lake. The gently rolling topography of the western part of the County is mostly ground moraine, and the ridges and outcrops near Ripon and Fairwater are bedrock controlled. Lake Winnebago and the Horicon Marsh are part of a long broad valley carved by a lobe of the glacier in the relatively soft shale bedrock previously found there.



Watersheds

According to the Soil Conservation Service, there are seventeen major watershed areas in Fond du Lac County, draining into ten river systems. Only one major river, the Fond du Lac River, is located completely within the County; the other rivers flow out of the County. The major watersheds are delineated on Map 2, and are listed along with their size in acres in Table 1 below:

Table 1 Major Watersheds of Fond du Lac County

Watershed	Acreage
Milwaukee River, West Branch	20,560
Milwaukee River, Main Branch	53,500
Milwaukee River, East Branch	10,280
Milwaukee River, North Branch	411
Sheboygan River	50,990
Manitowoc River	18,500
Mullet River	12,336
Grand River	13,673
Silver Creek	31,663
Rush Creek	2,755
Fox River	8,779
Fond du Lac River, East Branch	75,700
Fond du Lac River, West Branch	63,593
Upper Rock River	62,002
Rock River, East Branch	9,889
East Shore Lake Winnebago	12,028
West Shore Lake Winnebago	23,233
Total Acreage	469,892

Source: Fond du Lac County Farmland Preservation Plan, 1980

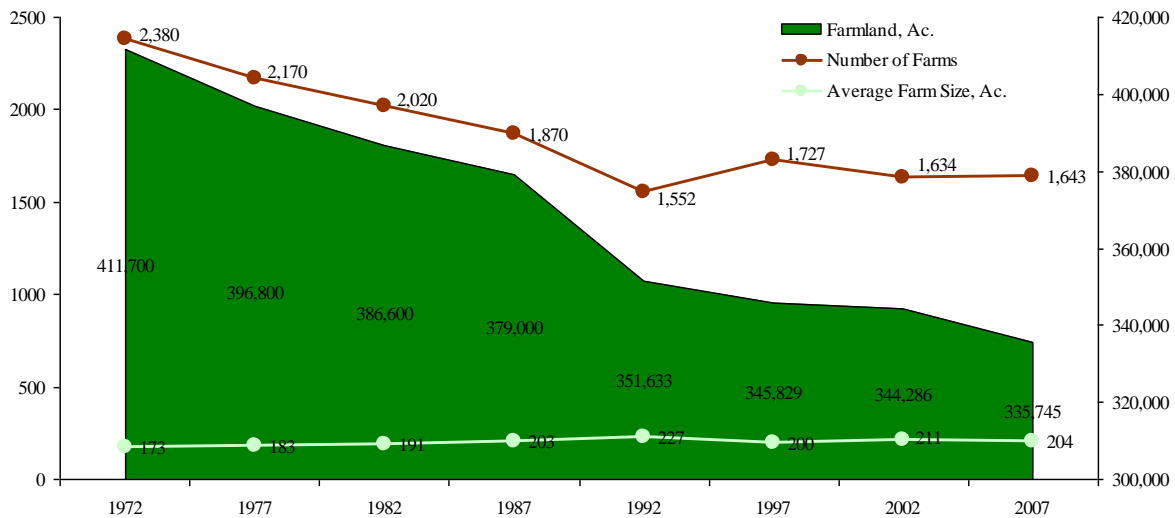
The Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Milwaukee Rivers begin in the eastern part of the County and flow eastward to Lake Michigan. These three rivers and their tributaries drain just over a third of the County. The Fond du Lac River, flowing to Lake Winnebago, drains the central third of the County. The headwaters of the Rock River lie over a sub-continental divide in the southwestern part of the County, and drain southward into the Mississippi River.

Land Use and Agriculture

Agriculture is the major land use in Fond du Lac County. Data from the 2007 Census of Agriculture show that approximately 73 percent of the total land area in the County (about 335,745 out of 463,360 acres) is in farms. This figure is down from 344,286 for about a 2.5 percent loss of farmland in a five-year period. All “land in farms” is not productive cropland, because wetlands and woodlands that are owned by farmers are included in that acreage, but it is a revealing statistic.

According to the 1974 Census of Agriculture, about 83 percent of the land in Fond du Lac County was in farms. By 1992, land in farms dropped to 76 percent. The number of farms has declined by more than half between 1974 and 1997, from 2,186 farms to 934 farms. Some of these apparent changes are due to differences in classifications between the years, but the decrease of land in farms is also attributable to urbanization, and the decrease in the number of farms is partially explained by the increase in average farm size. The following chart graphs the trends of farm size and the number of farms in Fond du Lac County for the 1974 to 2007 period. Over the 35-year period more than 118 square miles or the equivalent of about 3 townships worth of agricultural land was lost to development.

Figure 1 Trends in Farms and Farmland, 1974-2007, Fond du Lac County



Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA, 2010

Population

The 2000 U.S. Census population count for Fond du Lac County was 97,296. Decennial growth in population reached a peak in 1960 with a 12.6% increase. County population trends have generally been in line with state trends. Table 2 below illustrates population growth since 1950.

Table 2 Population Growth, 1950-2010 Fond du Lac County

Year	County	% Change	State	% Change
1950	67,829	8.8%	3,434,575	9.5%
1960	76,085	12.2%	3,951,777	15.1%
1970	84,567	11.1%	4,417,821	11.8%
1980	88,964	5.2%	4,705,767	6.5%
1990	90,083	1.3%	4,891,769	4.0%
2000	97,296	8.0%	5,254,930	7.4%
2010	101,633	4.5%	5,686,986	8.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Figure 2 Population by Age Group, 1950-2010, Fond du Lac County

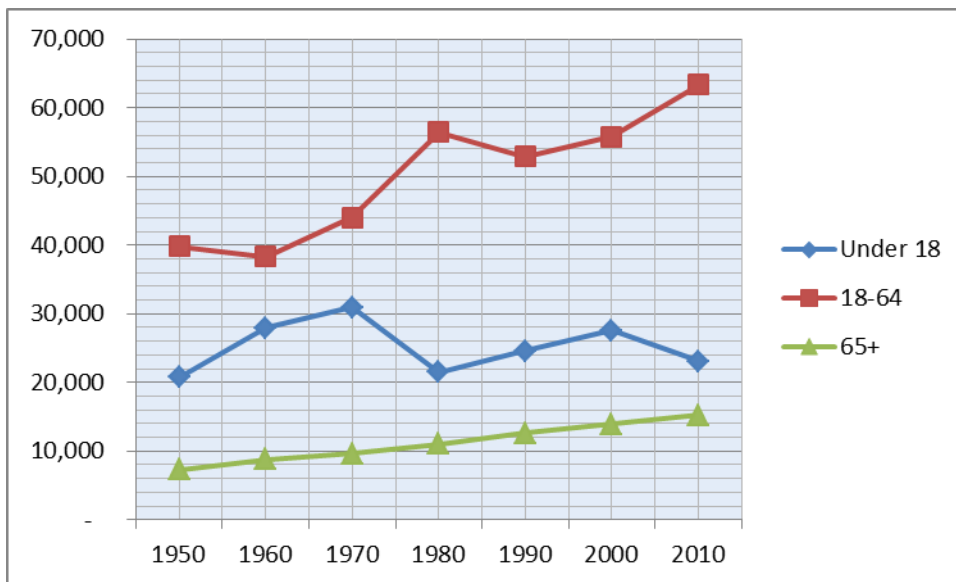


Figure 2 illustrates the age trend of County residents. For outdoor recreation purposes it is often said that the under 18 and over 64 age groups benefit most from outdoor recreation opportunities in any given community. Figure 2 shows a gradual trend toward an aging population and a

stable population of persons under age 18. As persons in the 19-64 age group grow older there will likely be an increasing number of persons of retirement age in the county. Outdoor recreation opportunities for retirement age persons may need special consideration as the County plans for and provides parks and open space in the coming decades.

Census figures for 1990 show the County population as 65% urban and 35% rural. Urban is defined as all persons living in residences within incorporated cities and villages and within towns of 2,500 or more inhabitants. The 1990 census shows a large shift away from rural to urban areas within the County. This shift reversed a three-decade trend of rural areas increasing in population at a greater rate than urban areas of the County. However, in 2000, the shift in growth moved back to rural areas of the County and the percentage of persons in urban areas dropped as more people are building homes outside of urbanized areas of Fond du Lac County.

Table 3 Population by Urban & Rural Residence, 1960-2000, Fond du Lac County

Year	Urban Pop.	% Urban	% Change	Rural Pop.	% Rural	% Change	Total Pop.
1960	43,517	57.96%		31,568	42.04%		75,085
1970	48,319	57.14%	11.03%	36,248	42.86%	14.83%	84,567
1980	49,511	55.65%	2.47%	39,453	44.35%	8.84%	88,964
1990	58,397	64.83%	17.95%	31,685	35.17%	-19.69%	90,082
2000	60,225	61.90%	3.13%	37,071	38.10%	17.00%	97,296

Source: Census of Population, No. of Inhabitants, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1980-2000

Table 4 Population Projections by Urban/Rural

Unit of Government	1970 Census	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000RPC	2010 RPC	2020 RPC
All Cities & Villages	54,495	55,817	58,404	64,465	68,586	72,509
All Towns	30,072	33,147	31,679	32,968	34,799	36,358
Fond du Lac Co.	84,567	88,964	90,083	97,433	103,385	108,867
Per cent Urban	64.4%	62.7%	64.8%	66.2%	66.3%	66.6%

Source: U.S. Census & East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 2004.

Table 4 shows population projections for incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County, roughly corresponding to growth in urban and rural areas within the County. The ECWRPC projection shows an increasing urban trend in the County. This trend has long-term implications for parkland and facilities for the County, cities and villages in the County, and for those towns with increasing populations and population densities.

AVAILABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

Existing natural resources within Fond du Lac County provide a variety of recreational opportunities. These resources include lakes, streams, wetlands, woodlands and some rolling hills and escarpments. Much of the County is agricultural land, which provides open space and some wildlife habitat but little recreational opportunity to non-landowners.

Lakes

There are 48 lakes in Fond du Lac County, most of which have public access. Lake Winnebago is by far the largest of these lakes, and provides outstanding opportunities for fishing and water sports. Public access to Lake Winnebago is adequate, but not well developed outside of the City of Fond du Lac.

Other lakes include Rush, Long, Kettle Moraine, Wolf, and Mauthe. All have public access and are well used for recreational purposes. Of the major lakes in the County, only Lake DeNevue and Mullet Lake are not readily accessible to the public.

Streams

There are about 50 streams and rivers within Fond du Lac County, but most are small, slow and shallow. The longest sections of stream are the Milwaukee River, the Rock River and the Fond du Lac River.

Fishing is poor in most of the local streams, although some trout do exist at the headwaters of the East Branch of the Milwaukee River in the Kettle Moraine area, and in Parsons Creek before its confluence with the East Branch of the Fond du Lac River.

Wetlands

Wetlands, many of them associated with streams and lakes, are a valuable recreational and environmental resource in Fond du Lac County. According to the WDNR 2007 Wetland Inventory, there are approximately 70,000 acres of wetlands in the county. About 15% of the land area of the county is wetlands. Several large wetland areas, described in the next section, are publicly owned and are easily accessible. Most of the smaller wetland areas are located on private land and are not open to the public. Both large and small wetland areas do however, continue to function as assets to the environment in that they provide wildlife and waterfowl habitat, fish spawning areas, and help maintain surface water quality by filtering runoff.

Woodlands

Woodlands once covered between 40 and 80 percent of Fond du Lac County, and now make up between 10 and 30 percent of the land cover. Areas where woodlands still exist are areas of public ownership such as the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, or areas that have physical characteristics that make them poor farmland. Areas of high bedrock, some wet soils, steep slopes and similar terrain that did not make good farmland have been left in trees and now comprise a valuable asset to the environment.

Woodlands, even small ones on farms, are a valuable resource in this highly agricultural county. They provide wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion, help to cleanse the air, and provide recreational opportunities. Both the State and the County provide recreational facilities that are wooded and easily accessible to the public.

Hills, Escarpments

Much of the terrain of Fond du Lac County, particularly the central and western parts, is nearly flat to gently rolling. Only in the eastern part of Fond du Lac County, with its drumlin fields and the Niagara Escarpment, and in the Ripon area, are hills available for such winter sports as sledding and skiing. The only public sledding hills in Fond du Lac are man-made and are located at Buttermilk Park, the UW Fond du Lac Campus and Adelaide Park. No public downhill ski areas exist in the entire county.

The Niagara Escarpment, which curves through Fond du Lac County for about fifteen miles, is the most significant relief found in Fond du Lac County. Only two small parts of it however, are publicly owned. The Oakfield Ledge State Natural Area and the Town of Taycheedah's Kiekhaefer Park are the only public lands that offer recreational opportunities on the Escarpment.

STATE RECREATION AREAS

The State of Wisconsin owns some of the most significant recreational resources available in Fond du Lac County. Although not under the purview of the County Recreation Plan, these resources must be taken into account.

Kettle Moraine State Forest

Kettle Moraine State Forest, located in the southeastern part of Fond du Lac County, is a 10,582-acre portion of the 27,725-acre northern unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Made up of geological formations caused by retreating glaciers, the forest is managed for forestry and outdoor recreation. Textbook examples of glacial landforms are scattered throughout the forest, such as drumlins, kames, eskers and kettles. Botanically, the forest is quite diversified with nearly sixty species of trees present, together with numerous shrubs, wild flowers, ferns and other plant life. There are nearly 40 mammal species ranging from the white-tailed deer to the small mammals. Birds are seen everywhere, especially during the spring and fall migrations. Some of the higher ridges and eskers provide excellent viewing areas.

The major recreational developments within the forest are located at Mauthe Lake south of New Prospect, and at Long Lake north of Dundee. Both have excellent camping and hiking facilities. Mauthe Lake offers electricity, trailer sites, tent camping, fireplaces, picnic tables, sanitary facilities and drinking water, while Long Lake offers all of the above except electricity. Hiking trails and cross-country ski trails are available in several parts of the Kettle Moraine.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

Horicon Marsh lies in northern Dodge and southern Fond du Lac Counties, at the junction of the east and west branches of the Rock River.

The Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (north 1/3 of marsh) is managed by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area (south 2/3 of marsh) is managed by Wisconsin DNR. Often referred to as the “Everglades of the North”, the 31,000-acre marsh is one of the best known wetlands in the Midwest.

The marsh provides habitat for up to three hundred fifty varieties of birds including herons, egrets, and numerous songbirds. Deer and other small game animals are numerous. In the fall, hundreds of thousands of geese stop at the marsh while migrating south from Canada. Because of the geese, the marsh has become a major tourist attraction. Goose and duck hunters also frequent the area.

Eldorado Marsh

Eldorado Marsh is located five miles west of the City of Fond du Lac, and consists of over 6,000 acres of State-owned land. A trail runs through the center of the marsh, permitting the visitor to observe wildlife at close range. Deer, waterfowl, raccoons, muskrats, rabbits, songbirds and other wildlife are common. This marsh is heavily used by sportsmen hunting deer, geese, ducks and pheasant, and is also used for hiking and bird-watching.

Other State Land

Several other State recreation areas also exist in Fond du Lac County, including parts of the Mullet Creek Wildlife Area and the Brandon Marsh. These areas are managed by DNR staff to provide waterfowl and wildlife habitat, and provide sportsmen with public hunting land. Also, the Oakfield Ledge Natural Area provides a study area along the Niagara Escarpment. The Glacial Habitat Restoration Area covers the western nine townships of Fond du Lac County. The goal of this DNR program is to provide a variety of habitats for upland birds and wetland waterfowl, eventually including as many as 4,082 acres in these nine townships. Most of this land is open to public hunting and passive recreation.

Ice Age Reserve

Kettle Moraine State Forest is actually a unit of the Ice Age Reserve. The Reserve is also part of the Statewide Ice Age Trail System, which connects geologic points of interest created or exposed by glacial action. The Federal Ice Age Interpretive Center, located just south of Dundee in the Town of Osceola, contains educational displays regarding glacial action and landforms.

MUNICIPAL RECREATION FACILITIES

As part of the inventory of available recreational facilities in Fond du Lac County, it is important to consider the many facilities provided by the individual municipalities. These municipalities provide most of the parks in Fond du Lac County, and the municipal parks fill an important role in the provision of active recreation areas such as baseball diamonds, tennis and basketball courts, swimming pools, and playgrounds. School facilities also provide important recreational opportunities.

There are 126 city, village and town parks or playgrounds available throughout Fond du Lac County totaling about 1,920 acres of land.

Table 5 Municipal Recreational Facilities (non-county)*

	Municipality	Number	Acreage	Facilities Available
Cities	Fond du Lac	26	692	Full range of facilities
	Ripon	15	106	Full range of facilities
	Waupun	15	56	Full range of facilities
	Total	56	858	
Villages	Brandon	3	46	Standard
	Campbellsport	7	117	Standard
	Eden	4	28	Standard
	Fairwater	2	9	Baseball & playground
	Mt. Calvary	2	7	Standard
	North Fond du Lac	5	36	Standard & pool
	Oakfield	4	72	Standard
	Rosendale	5	49	Standard
	St. Cloud	3	12	Standard
	Total	36	379	
Towns	Alto	1	1	Basketball, playground
	Ashford	1	32	Basketball, playground
	Auburn	1	51	Basketball, playground
	Byron	0	0	
	Calumet	2	10	Lake access, ball diamonds, shelter
	Eden	1	30	Basketball, playground
	Eldorado	2	6	Baseball
	Empire	0	0	
	Fond du Lac	1	35	Open space, river access
	Forest	2	7	Standard, trail
	Friendship	0	0	
	Lamartine	1	4	Baseball, picnic shelters (2)
	Marshfield	0	0	
	Metomen	0	0	
	Oakfield	0	0	
	Osceola	1	2	Baseball
	Ripon	0	0	
	Rosendale	0	0	
	Springvale	0	0	
	Taycheedah	4	165	Boat landing, open space, ball diamonds
	Waupun	0	0	
	Total	15	355	
		Cities	56	692
	Villages	36	379	
	Towns	15	355	
	Grand Total	77	1,426	

*Includes public and private school facilities and fireman's parks.

"Standard" under the Facilities Available column above includes facilities like baseball, tennis, basketball, playgrounds and picnic areas.

COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Along with the State, local and school district recreational facilities available to the public, there are a number of County-owned and operated facilities. Fond du Lac County operates a public golf course; fairgrounds, thirteen county parks, six recreational trails and a 330-mile snowmobile trail system. All have benefited from considerable improvements during the 1980's and 1990's. These facilities are outlined in Table 6 and described in more detail below. Locations are shown on Map 3.

Fairgrounds

The County Fairgrounds is approximately 90 acres in size and is located in the City of Fond du Lac. Although it is perhaps best known as the site of the annual county fair, the fairgrounds have become a multiple-use recreational facility that is utilized on a year-round basis.

Seven major buildings are available for use at the fairgrounds, with over 66,000 sq. ft. of heated exhibition space available. The Exposition Building is the centerpiece of the fairgrounds, and the Exhibition Building and the Recreation Center are also heavily utilized. Four large barns of varying sizes are also available. A 50,000 square foot ice facility with 2 sheets of ice is available to the public on a limited basis. The project was a joint effort between Blue Line, the City of Fond du Lac and the County.

Aside from the County Fair, the fairgrounds are used year-round for trade shows, auto shows, major company and church picnics, dances, horse shows, dog shows, equipment exhibitions, an ethnic festival and art fair, craft shows and rummage sales, and other events of almost every description.

The fairgrounds are also the site of a municipal water park operated by the City of Fond du Lac. A park is located adjacent to the water park at the north end of the fairgrounds, and includes playground and picnic equipment, and two picnic shelters. A ball diamond, grandstand, horse arena and horseshoe courts are located at the south end of the fairgrounds.

Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum

The Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum, located at the University of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac Campus is composed of 37.5 acres of native prairie, including 55 different kinds of native wildflowers and 6 species of native grasses. A 3.5-acre formal Arboretum contains 250 native trees and 140 native shrubs. These trees have been planted in groupings representing native Wisconsin forest communities. The Arboretum also has an established interpretive trail with 12 signs introducing visitors to the prairie community, as well as benches, picnic tables and a picnic kiosk. The Arboretum is open year-round, free of charge to the general public.

The Arboretum has numerous functions including serving as an outdoor education facility and as an outdoor recreation facility. The Arboretum includes about 0.8 miles of walking trails that weave through the formal arboretum and the prairie areas. These trails connect to city sidewalks and surrounding neighborhoods. Opportunities exist to make additional trail connections between the formal arboretum and a trail through the prairie portion of the Arboretum as well as

trail connections to the Fond du Lac High School and community soccer fields located on the west side of the UW-Fond du Lac Campus and to Moraine Park Technical College.

Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Located at the southwestern edge of the City of Fond du Lac, Rolling Meadows is a 27-hole championship golf course. The course was constructed in the early 70's, and has been improved each year since. In 2005, the course handled 70,000 rounds and operates as a free-standing enterprise fund operation.

Calvary Marsh

Calvary Marsh is located in the northeastern part of the county on the Sheboygan River. The 250-acre property was designated as a public hunting ground in the mid-1960s. The land is a mix of upland hardwood forests and open wetlands. Access is primarily by small boat on the Sheboygan River, though a walking easement may be followed off of CTH CCC along the north bank of the river. The Marsh hardwood forest was selectively harvested in the early 2000s to promote continued growth of native hardwoods covering about 40 acres of the property. The property offers hunting and nature observation opportunities. The Marsh is undeveloped.

Columbia Park

Columbia Park is a 19-acre county park located on Lake Winnebago about ten miles northeast of Fond du Lac. The park contains a modern 40-unit campground with electrical hookups and restrooms, boat and RV sanitary dump stations, a playground, a basketball court, one enclosed and one open-air picnic shelter, and picnic facilities.

Columbia Park is probably best known for its boating facilities. A 4-slip marina is available for annual rentals, along with overnight docking for another 40-50 boats on 900 feet of harbor wall. Six boat launches and parking for 100 cars and trailers are available. A 70-foot observation tower and navigation beacon marks the harbor entrance.

Hobbs Woods Nature Area

Located about three miles south of Fond du Lac, Hobbs Woods is a 60-acre county park devoted to hiking and nature study. Most of the park is thickly wooded, but several acres of prairie, planted in 1979-80, are coming along well. Parsons Creek carves a large ravine through the park, and harbors some naturally reproducing brook trout. About three miles of nature trails, which are keyed to a self-guiding brochure, wind through the park.

The park is quite popular for hiking in the spring, summer and fall and for cross-country skiing during the winter. Recent improvements at Hobbs Woods include an enlargement of the parking lot, and a great deal of work by the former Wisconsin Conservation Corps and parks crews to enhance trout habitat and reduce stream bank erosion in Parsons Creek. Other work has included removal of deadfalls or dead trees, which threaten to fall on trails or restrict the flow of the creek.

Highway 45 Wayside Park

Highway 45 Wayside Park is approximately eight acres in size, and is located on the west shore of Lake Winnebago about three miles north of Fond du Lac. Facilities at the park include parking, toilets, and a picnic shelter, grills and tables and a 4-lane launch and breakwater built in 2005 that provides a harbor of refuge.

Highway 49 Wayside Park

The Wayside was transferred from the Town of Waupun in the early 2000s. This 2-acre park was a State Highway 49 wayside park before ownership was transferred to the Town of Waupun. Today the County maintains the Wayside that offers undeveloped green space, bank fishing on the Rock River and a few picnic tables.

Northwoods Park

Northwoods Park is a largely undeveloped 35-acre woods located on Highway 26 about two miles north of Rosendale. Some hiking trails have been cut in the woods, and a small, gravel parking lot is available.

Riggs County Park

This park is the most recent addition to the County park system. At 300 acres, Riggs County Park is the County's largest park. Purchased in 1998, the park is planned as a largely natural area park with 180 acres of wetlands, 70 acres of native prairie restoration and about 50 acres of active recreation areas. The park includes walking trails, a picnic area, a shelter, an observation deck, a disc-golf course, and a man-made swimming lake. A master plan prepared for the park in 1998-1999 is guiding development of the property.

Raube Historical Site

The Raube site was gifted to Fond du Lac County as a way of preserving a small remnant of Wisconsin's Military Road between Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. The site was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1992. The park is undeveloped except for a small gravel parking area and a State of Wisconsin historical marker.

Roosevelt County Park

Roosevelt Park is a three-acre park on the southeast shore of Lake Winnebago along Winnebago Drive. The long, narrow, park offers about 900 feet of Lake Winnebago shoreline. Facilities at the park include parking, toilets, and picnic tables and grills.

The park is a popular spot during the summer months for sunning, and for unsupervised swimming and wading in Lake Winnebago. Boaters often anchor offshore and wade to the park for picnics. Windsurfing has become a popular activity off the park, because of its location on the windward shore.

Some filling, grading and seeding has been done in recent years to correct drainage problems and expand the useable area of the park. ADA accessibility was addressed in 1994. A lighting system was installed in the park in the early 1990s.

Shaginappi Natural Area Park

Acquired in 1997, this park is the site of a former Boy Scout camp. The park is a natural area of 100 acres of wetlands, lakeshore, woods and prairie. Situated adjacent to Columbia Park, the park shares Calumet Harbor. Pipe Creek winds through the park property. Hiking and skiing trails, a snowmobile trail and the restored lodge are the primary attractions to the park. Due to extensive archeological findings on the site, the park has potential for historical interpretation and a museum.

Veterans Park

Veterans Park is located on Main Street at the corner of Western Avenue in downtown Fond du Lac, on the site of the former county courthouse. The one-acre park is dedicated in honor of all Fond du Lac County Veterans.

The beautifully landscaped park is a popular spot for walking, lunches and admiring the landscaping, or for quiet contemplation. It has become the focal point of Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, of the annual holiday parade and tree lighting, and of several other annual functions.

Waupun County Park

Waupun County Park is the second largest county park at 103 acres. It is located one mile northwest of the City of Waupun, along County Highway MMM.

The park contains a wooded 42 unit public campground, with electrical hookups, restrooms, and showers. Facilities include playground equipment, three open-air picnic shelters, one enclosed shelter, and a baseball field.

The northeastern 40 acres of the park is a State Scientific Area, with hiking and skiing trails. It is an excellent example of a southern mesic hardwood forest, with red and white oak, maple, and white ash.

Past improvements at Waupun County Park include a reconstruction of the campground on higher ground to eliminate periodic flooding of the campground, construction of a bike/ped path into Waupun, and construction of a new campground bathroom.

Wolf Lake County Park

This four-acre park is located in the northeastern part of Fond du Lac County, about two miles northeast of the Village of Mt. Calvary, along Highway 149. The park is located on Wolf Lake, and includes a boat launch with parking, a sand beach with a designated swimming area, a picnic shelter and picnic facilities, playground equipment, and a bathroom building with beach showers.

The sand beach at Wolf Lake County Park was reconstructed in the 1990s, some new playground equipment was installed, and the boat launch and fishing pier were reconstructed in the late 1980s.

Map 3 County and State Recreational Areas

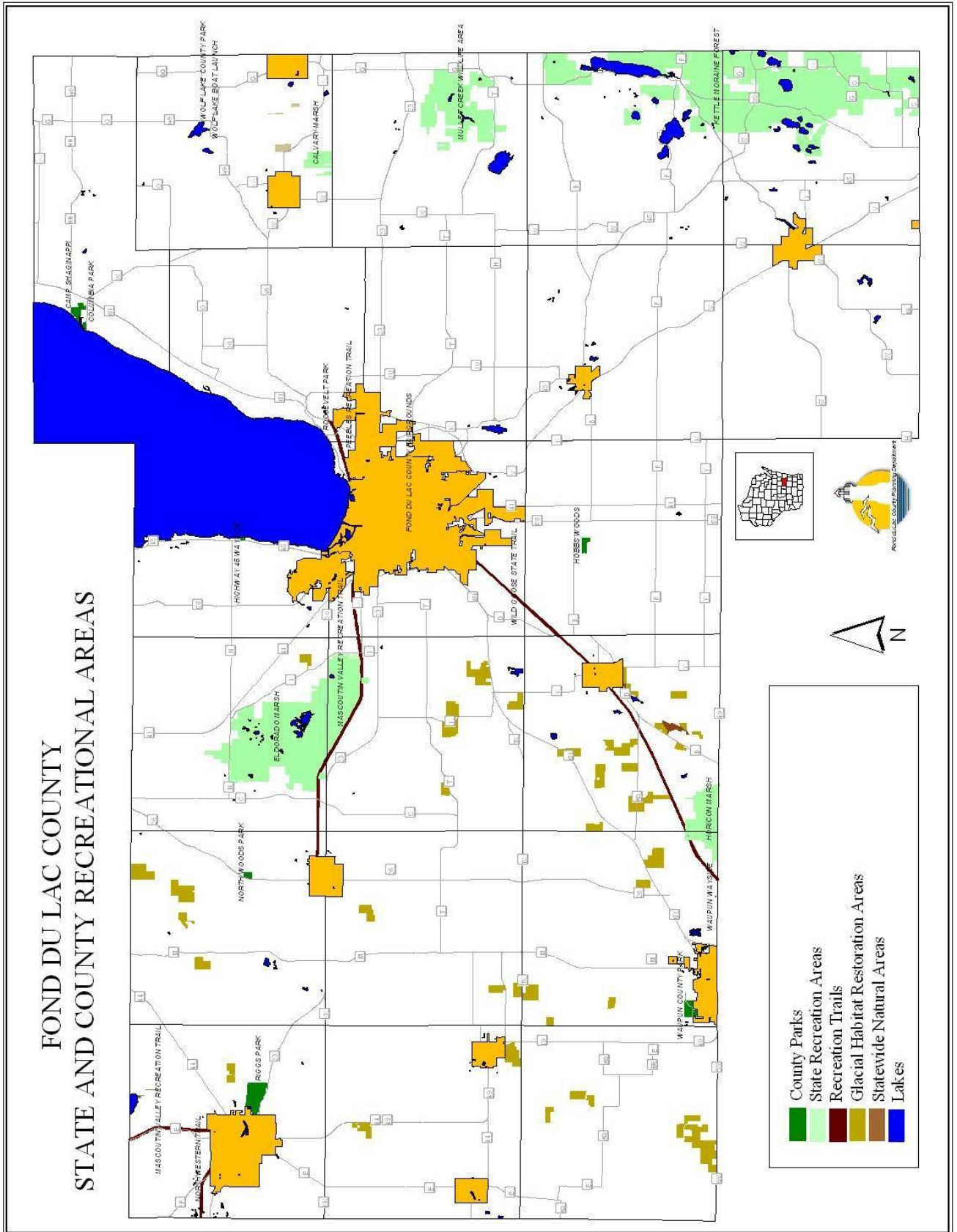


Table 6 County Recreation Facilities

Facility	Mi.	Ac.	Camping	Restrooms	Showers	Sanitary Dump Station	Picnic Tables	Shelters	Hall	Boat Launch	Swimming	Playground	Hiking	Bicycling	Snowmobiling	Equestrian	X-C Skiing
Calvary Marsh		250											x		x		x
Columbia Park		19	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x					
Eisenbahn Trail	12	109															
Fairgrounds(10)		90	x	x		x	x	x									
Highway 45 Wayside		8		x			x	x									
Hobbs Woods		60											x				x
Mascoutin Valley Trail	13	176											x	x	x	x	x
Northwestern Trail	2	20					x						x	x	x		x
Northwoods Park		35											x				x
Peebles Trail	2	22											x	x			x
Prairie Trail	7	17											x	x			
Raube Historical Site		3															
Riggs County Park		300											x				x
Rolling Meadows G. C.		235							x								
Roosevelt Park		3		x			x				x						
Shaginappi Park		100		x					x		x		x	x	x		x
Snowmobile Trails	243														x		
Veteran's Park		1															
Waupun Park		103	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x
Waupun Wayside		2															
Wild Goose Trail	13	191					x						x	x	x		x
Wolf Lake Park		4					x	x		x	x	x					
Total Mi./Ac.	292	1,748															

Source: Fond du Lac County Planning Department, 2013.

COUNTY RECREATION TRAILS

Fond du Lac County planned and developed its first recreation trail in the 1980s. Known then as the Tri-County Trail, this trail was a cooperative effort between Green Lake, Winnebago and Fond du Lac Counties. More recently, the County and neighboring counties along with the DNR established the former Tri-County Trail as the Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail between Fond du Lac and Berlin.

In 1988, in a cooperative agreement with the DNR and Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties, the three parties planned, developed and now maintain the Wild Goose State Park Trail between Fond du Lac and Clyman Junction, some 34 miles long. This multiple use trail was the first of its kind, a State/counties effort. A cooperative agreement with the State gave them purchasing responsibility of the abandoned railroad grade for the location of the trail. The agreement gave the two counties the responsibility to develop and maintain the trail in accordance with State park trail standards.

The Fox Valley Western Railroad between Eden and West Bend was recently acquired by the State. Fond du Lac and Washington Counties partnered with the State to create the Eisenbahn State Park Trail. The Eisenbahn Trail is a multiple use recreation trail similar to the Wild Goose and Mascoutin Valley trails.

The County in recent years has established a number of other local trails on former railroad right-of-ways and along highways. The overall goal of the County's trail program has been to interconnect trails and parks in the County.

County Snowmobile Trail System

Fond du Lac County's snowmobile trail system consists of approximately 243 miles of groomed snowmobile trails on privately owned land. Another 45 miles of State funded trails are located on State and County owned lands. Funded almost completely by the Wisconsin DNR through annual grants, snowmobile trails are groomed and maintained for the most part by local snowmobile clubs. The system includes three trails owned/operated by the DNR/Fond du Lac County, which are described later.

The County's role in most of the system consists of applying for and administering annual DNR snowmobile grants, ensuring compliance with State regulations and guidelines, and planning improvements. Recent improvements have included the addition of 32 miles of trail, including the Mascoutin Valley Trail and the Eisenbahn Trail.

Eisenbahn State Park Trail

This trail is constructed on the abandoned Fox Valley Railroad right of way between Eden and West Bend. The Eisenbahn Trail is a multiple purpose trail similar in construction and uses to the Wild Goose Trail. The Trail connects parks in Eden, Campbellsport, Kewaskum and West Bend. A future trail connection may be made by the WDNR to the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Northwestern Trail

The Northwestern Trail is a short segment of railroad right-of-way located between the City of Ripon and the west county line. It is about two and one-half miles in length. The trail is part of the County snowmobile trail system. It is used for hiking, cycling and running. The rural section is used for snowmobiling. Fond du Lac County and the city signed a 25-year lease with WP & L in 1994 for this trail. Green Lake County is taking steps to extend this trail west into the City of Green Lake along State Highway 23.

Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail

The Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail is a 32-mile State park trail, twenty-two miles of which are located in Fond du Lac County. The trail is surfaced between Berlin and Ripon with limestone screenings, similar to the Wild Goose Trail. The trail is used for hiking, cycling, running and snowmobiling. The Ripon to Rosendale section of the trail is in private ownership, making trail improvements uncertain. The Rosendale to Fond du Lac section of the trail passes through the DNR owned Eldorado Marsh.

Pebbles Trail

The Pebbles Trail is a 5.6-mile segment of abandoned railroad right-of-way and active road right-of-way between Fond du Lac and St. Peter. The trail is utilized for walking, running and bicycling, connecting Fond du Lac and St. Peter.

Prairie Trail

The Prairie Trail is a 7 mile pedestrian/bicycling path along the Highway 151 Fond du Lac Bypass between Martin Road and Winnebago Drive. The trail was designed and built in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and with financial assistance from WisDOT, the WDNR, City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County and the Rotary Clubs of Fond du Lac. The asphalt paved trail is part of a connecting system of trails to link the Wild Goose Trail, the Pebbles Trail and the future Plank Trail that is anticipated to be built between Fond du Lac and Greenbush in Sheboygan County.

Wild Goose State Park Trail

The Wild Goose State Park Trail is maintained and operated by Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties. The trail right-of-way is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Thirteen miles of the 34-mile trail are located in Fond du Lac County. The trail is constructed on a former railroad right-of-way. The trail is surfaced with compacted limestone screenings and includes a trailhead parking lot at Rolling Meadows Drive. The trail was recently extended over US Highway 41 to Pioneer Road, connecting to a future side-path trail on Pioneer Road between Military Road and US Highway 45.

The all-season recreational trail has quickly become a popular trail for bicycle riding and hiking in spring, summer and fall, and snowmobiling in the winter.

SECTION 2: THE PLANNING PROCESS

This Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan for Fond du Lac County was originally written in 1979 and updated each five years through 2000. The Plan served Fond du Lac County as a guide in recreation and park planning and development, and enabled the County to participate in State and Federal recreation grant programs. This updated Plan will continue to serve both functions.

Draft copies of the plan were sent out for review to interested County Board Supervisors and county staff, all thirty-three municipalities in the County, DNR staff, local sportsmen's groups, conservation clubs and other interested parties. Comments and suggestions were solicited from these people and were incorporated into the final draft, which was sent to the County Board for adoption after a public hearing held by the UW-Extension Education, Agriculture and Recreation Committee of the County Board.

A list of the individuals and organizations that received a draft of this Plan follows below:

UW-Extension Education, Agriculture and
Recreation Committee of the County Board

Sherry L. Behnke
1905 Chapman Ave.
North Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Theodore J. Eischeid
638 Boyd St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

James D. Kiser
995 Birch Tree Ln.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Mary Jean Nicholson
371 Liberty St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Steven A. Abel
N5528 Ledgetop Dr.
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Cities

Wayne F. Rollin, Jr.
Community Development Director
City of Fond du Lac
160 S. Macy St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Travis Drake
Engineer/ Director of Public Works
City of Ripon
100 Jackson St.
Ripon, WI 54971

Richard Flynn
Public Works Director
City of Waupun
201 E. Main St.
Waupun, WI 53963

Other Elected Officials

Allen Buechel
County Executive
160 S. Macy St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Martin Farrell
County Board Chairperson
931 Watson St.
Ripon, WI 54971

Villages

Corinne Vande Zande
Brandon Village Clerk
P.O. Box 385
Brandon, WI 53919

Diane Lemke
Campbellsport Village Clerk
P.O. Box 709
Campbellsport, WI 53010

Shelia M. Zook
Eden Village Clerk
P.O. Box 65
Eden, WI 53019

Karen Smit
Fairwater Village Clerk
P.O. Box 15
Fairwater, WI 53931

Mary Merten
Mt. Calvary Village Clerk
970 Calvary St.
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057

Chuck Hornung
NFdL Village Clerk
16 Garfield St.
N. Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Tish Brooks
Oakfield Village Clerk
P.O. Box 98
Oakfield, WI 53065

Doris Tetzlaff
Rosendale Village Clerk
P.O. Box 424
Rosendale, WI 54974

Mary Steffes
St. Cloud Village Clerk
P.O. Box 395
St. Cloud, WI 53079

Towns

Duane Bille
Alto Town Chair
N3753 Radio Rd.
Brandon, WI 53919

Joe Koch
Ashford Town Chair
W3898 Ridge Lane
Campbellsport, WI 53010-2129

Merle Laatsch
Auburn Town Chair
N362 Cty Rd. S
Kewaskum, WI 53040

Bob Simon
Byron Town Chair
W6599 County Road Y
Brownsville, WI 53006

Michael Endries
Calumet Town Chair
W3144 Velvet Beach Rd.
Malone, WI 53049

Gary Miller
Eldorado Town Chair
N7845 Cty Rd. I
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Harold Manske
Town of Fond du Lac Chairman
W4951 Takodah Dr.
Fond du Lac WI 54935-9609

Charles McCourt
Friendship Town Chair
W6402 Subway Rd.
Fond du Lac, WI 54937-9720

John Bord
Marshfield Town Chair
N7700 Dix Rd.
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057

Russell Ratkowski
Oakfield Town Chair
W8162 Schoepke Rd.
Oakfield, WI 53065

Barry VandeBrink
Ripon Town Chair
W13964 Oak Haven Dr.
Ripon, WI 54971

Daniel Dahlke
Springvale Town Chair
N5793 Center Rd.
Brandon, WI 53919

Randy Vande Slunt
Waupun Town Chair
N3335 Savage Road
Waupun, WI 53963

Richard G. Guell
Eden Town Chair
N3059 Happy Rd.
Campbellsport, WI 53080-1626

James Pierquet
Empire Town Chair
W3204 Fourth St Rd.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-1818

Gary Kraus
Town of Forest Chairman
W239 Chickadee Dr.
St. Cloud, WI 53079

Frank Bartzen
Lamartine Town Chair
W8403 Orchard Rd.
Fond du Lac, WI 54937-9425

Jeff Amend
Metomen Town Chair
N7046 Radio Rd.
Ripon, WI 54971

LaVerne Immel
Osceola Town Chair
N4539 Log Cabin Rd.
St. Cloud WI 53079-1704

Kenneth Kamps
Rosendale Town Chair
N9107 Oak Road
Pickett, WI 54964

Jerome Guelig
Taycheedah Town Chair
N8071 W. Ann Randall Dr.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-9570

DNR Staff

Christine Halbur
Community Services Specialist
WDNR NER
1125 N. Military Ave., Box 10448
Green Bay, WI 54301

Gary Hanson
Regional Trails Coordinator
WDNR NER
1125 N. Military Ave., Box 10448
Green Bay, WI 54301

County Staff

Dave Burke
Fairgrounds Manager
160 S. Macy Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Erin Gerred
Director of Administration
160 S. Macy Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Terry Dietzel
Director of Land Information
160 S. Macy Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Sam Tobias
Planning/Parks Director
160 S. Macy Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Civic, Environmental and Conservation Groups

Richard Boehnlein
Riverside Hunting & Fishing Club
906 Fond du Lac Street
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057

Laurel Munger
FdL League of Women Voters
120 5th Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Margie Winter
Fond du Lac Audubon Society
N6786 Hilltop Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Mike Arrowood
Winnebago Land Alliance
549 Forest Avenue
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Diane Beres
Ripon League of Women Voters
916 Thomas Street
Ripon, WI 54971

Marian Sheridan, R.N.
Healthy Fond du Lac 2020
72 West 9th Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Laura DeGolier
Park Watch of Fond du Lac
114 S. Main St. PMB 301
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Kya Schnettler, CHES
Fond du Lac YMCA
90 W. Second Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following statements of goals and objectives were taken, with some modifications, from the original Fond du Lac County Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan, adopted in 1979.

Goal 1

Establish and maintain a countywide system of parks and trails that will meet the needs of Fond du Lac County residents.

Objectives:

1. Continue to cooperate with and assist municipalities and other organizations in recreation planning and development.
2. Provide facilities with a variety of available activities that accommodate the special needs of the elderly and disabled.
3. Acquire and develop park sites and facilities based on recommended standards, community needs, and the existing distribution of parks and other recreational facilities.
4. Provide recreational facilities that fill unmet recreational needs and preserve threatened natural resources and features.
5. Establish a system of interconnecting trails for recreation and alternate transportation that link to each other and to existing parks and public open spaces throughout the County.

Goal 2

Establish and maintain a system of parks and recreational facilities that help to conserve the natural resources and environment of Fond du Lac County, and make them available for recreational use and/or conservation purposes.

Objectives:

1. Consider environmental impacts in locating and developing all types of recreational facilities.
2. Provide buildings and intensive or active recreation uses only in those areas of least environmental sensitivity.
3. Acquire, or assist other agencies to acquire and protect properties that are environmentally sensitive or unique.

Goal 3

Operate and improve the County Parks System, and other county recreational facilities, in an efficient and organized manner.

Objectives:

1. Utilize the recreation plan and the parks capital improvements plan in facility planning and development.
2. Utilize county, State, Federal and private resources to develop and maintain high quality facilities.
3. Utilize, to the fullest extent possible, the skills and energy of county staff and officials in facility planning, development, and operation.

Goal 4

Promote Fond du Lac County parks, open spaces and recreation trails to gain maximum utilization and appreciation of these facilities.

Objectives:

1. Promote county parks, open spaces and recreation trails through other county departments, the Fond du Lac Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau and the State of Wisconsin.
2. Prepare and distribute promotional materials with the locations and descriptions of county parks, open spaces and trails.
3. Work in cooperation with Healthy Fond du Lac County 2020 to promote a greater awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities in Fond du Lac County and encourage children and their parents to take advantage of healthy outdoor recreation opportunities in the county.

SECTION 3: RECREATION DEMAND AND NEEDS

Recreational demand and needs can be calculated utilizing the system of recreation standards developed by the National Recreational and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA has developed standards to be used as a guide in determining present and future demand for both total park acreage and for facility type. In other words, the standards can be used to help determine whether enough total recreational *acreage* is available for the needs of the citizens of Fond du Lac County, and also to determine whether the proper *facilities* are available in sufficient quantities.

Utilizing the NRPA acreage standards, based on the population of Fond du Lac County and on population projections, Table 7 provides acreage standards for the present and the near-term future within the County. We can see in Table 7 that there is no unmet *acreage* needs for recreational purposes in the year 2000 and beyond. This assumes that population projections for

the County are accurate. Several recent purchases, most notably Shaginappi Park and Riggs County Park, filled the acreage need documented in the 1995 recreation plan.

Table 7 Present/Projected Recreational Demand and Needs (acres)

Year	Population	Low End Demand	High End Demand	Existing Acres	Low End Need*	High End Need*
1980	88,964	1,334	1,779	1,299	-35	-480
1985	90,012	1,350	1,800	1,299	-51	-501
1990	91,000	1,365	1,820	1,520	155	-300
1995	96,432	1,446	1,929	1,671	225	-258
2000	98,018	1,470	1,960	2,515	1,045	555
2010	103,385	1,550	2,066	2,515	965	449
2020	108,867	1,633	2,177	2,485	852	308

*Unmet Need (acres) calculated from top of demand range.

Sources: Demographic Services Center, Wisconsin Population Projections, Estimates, 1999. NRPA standards abstracted from draft DNR Guidelines for Development of Local Outdoor Recreation Plans.

Notes: Demand calculated based on NRPA standard of approximately 15-20 acres recreational space demand per 1000 population. Excludes State and Federal regional parks, etc.

Existing acreage includes county, municipal, and school district recreational facilities, but does not include Rolling Meadows Golf Course, the Fairgrounds outside the park, Kiekhaefer Park, or Supples Marsh, which are unique facilities outside the standards.

Based on Table 7, there is no need in Fond du Lac County for additional park acres of outdoor recreation space in the next seven to ten years. However, geographic distribution and to some extent terrain and landform types are also factors in parkland need. Future acquisitions in Fond du Lac County should be made with an eye toward filling geographical gaps, especially near population centers of the County and where recreation trails may be located on abandoned railroad right-of-ways.

The Fond du Lac County Outdoor Recreation and Open Space plan for many years has included a goal of ledge preservation through County purchase of a high quality segment of the Escarpment and surrounding land. This effort should go forward despite any short term park land surplus.

Also worth noting is the recent successful effort to designate the Niagara Escarpment as a unique natural resource in Wisconsin. Niagara Escarpment enthusiasts successfully lobbied the Legislature and the Governor during 2011 to place a special designation on the Escarpment to help steer Wisconsin Stewardship grant dollars toward this unique and disappearing geographic feature on Wisconsin's landscape. In addition, the 2005-2010 SCORP lists Wisconsin's Niagara

as a Wisconsin Land Legacy Area. The original designation of Land Legacy Area came from a multi-year, statewide effort to identify Wisconsin's unique and endangered lands.

SECTION 4: PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The recommendations contained in this section are based on the information contained in the first three sections of this recreation plan, and on recommendations of citizens, elected officials and other agencies. Recommendations are made regarding land acquisition and development. These recommendations will, of course, have to be approved by the County Board individually before they are implemented.

Acquisition

Acquisitions listed in this section are recommended for consideration within the next five to ten years, and are not listed in any particular order or priority.

1. Purchase land to enlarge Hobbs Woods. The 60-acre park has become so popular, especially given its location near Fond du Lac that it is over-utilized. The park attracts users because of its natural beauty, quiet forested setting, and Parsons Creek. As use has gotten quite heavy, however, the park has at times become overcrowded, which harms the park physically, and spoils the recreational experience for the user.
2. Purchase additional parkland near Fond du Lac, as well as land on the Niagara Escarpment that includes examples of the unique microenvironments found within the cliff faces along some areas of the Escarpment. The Oakfield Ledge State Natural Area is an excellent example of the Escarpment that includes such unique features. The escarpment is gradually being lost to private development. Given the urban growth being experienced in Fond du Lac, and in the surrounding towns of Empire, Friendship, Fond du Lac and Taycheedah, the need exists in a geographic sense for one additional county park. Existing county facilities in the Fond du Lac area are heavily utilized and in some cases already overcrowded. Sites along the Escarpment that offer examples of the unique features including cliff faces, caves, and similar microclimates should be sought out with an eye toward acquisition.
3. Support municipal efforts throughout the County to provide waterfront parkland, parkways and trails to improve access to rivers, streams, and lakes for water based outdoor recreation. Past examples include a riverside trail in the Campbellsport Village Park and the wetlands walkway in the Brandon Village Park.
4. Expand the existing network of recreation trails in Fond du Lac County. The County is in a unique position to partner with the State and with local communities to develop a countywide network of multiple-purpose, year round recreation trails. Current examples include connection of the Wild Goose State Park Trail with the Prairie Trail along the US 151 bypass in Fond du Lac and to the Peebles Trail between Fond du Lac and St. Peter. Specific trail links that the County should encourage include the following:
 - Extension of the Eisenbahn State Park Trail from Eden into the City of Fond du Lac including a connection to the Prairie Trail.

- Extension of the Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail from Rolling Meadows Drive over Highway 41 into the City of Fond du Lac.
- Extension of the Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail through the City of Ripon to Murray Park.
- Completion of the Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail between Ripon and Rosendale.
- Work with Dodge County and State/Federal land managers of the Horicon Marsh to plan for the eventual construction of a multiple purpose recreation trail system that fully encircles the Horicon Marsh. Completion of such a trail system around the Marsh will provide an additional attraction for tourists visiting the area as well as an amenity for area residents.
- Support an extension of the Wild Goose Trail to the City of Waupun.
- Support WisDOT efforts to provide paved shoulder on rural road reconstruction projects within Fond du Lac County. Paved shoulders in rural areas provide both transportation and recreation alternatives for local residents often providing them a safe route to less traveled, nearby town roads and county highways.
- Support creation of a pedestrian & bicycling trail loop in and around Fond du Lac. Portions of a trail loop exist with the Peebles Trail, the Prairie Trail and the Pioneer Road side-path. Planning for and constructing the completion of this loop in the city will provide walkers, runners and bicyclists with a great opportunity for both recreation and transportation use of the loop trail.

Development by Facility

Columbia Park

A fish cleaning station with a grinder connected to the sanitary sewer should be constructed in the next five years. Fishing is a big activity at the park for visiting fisherman and for campers. Disposal of fish waste during the summer months is an ongoing problem at the park.

Highway 45 Wayside

Early experience with a new breakwater and boat launch lanes seems to indicate that this new boating facility will frequently fill with silt as the result of storms from the south and southeast, making the facility unusable. Monitor this situation and prepare for the addition of breakwater to protect the launch lanes from southerly storms.

Waupun Park

The County and City must work together to extend a walking and cycling path from the neighboring city to the park along C.T.H. MMM from south of the park. City residents use this route for daily walks to and through the park. A path would be a useful addition, better connecting the park to the city and many of the users of Waupun Park.

Riggs County Park

Monitor use of the park and add one additional piece of playground equipment in the established play area at the Douglas Street entrance. Reconstruct and downsize the asphalt parking lot near the east end of the park.

Hobbs Woods Natural Area

If additional land is purchased for the expansion of Hobbs Woods, new walking trails must be designed and built. Trails worn in along Parson's Creek must be abandoned and the stream

banks restored. Parking must continue to be limited to avoid overcrowding in the park. If land along Parsons Creek is acquired, there may be opportunities to make further stream and water quality improvements that benefit trout stocked in the stream.

Shaginappi Natural Area Park

This natural area park is scheduled for minimal improvements. Pit toilets in the park must be renovated or replaced and eventually, running water and flush toilets must be provided to comply with town sanitary district requirements. Connect the Lodge to the sanitary sewer system.

A natural history museum operated out of the lodge with a volunteer, non-profit organization should be explored. The park's location on Lake Winnebago and the rich archeological sites in the park make a museum a natural addition to the park.

Complete a selective timber harvest of the pine plantations found on the north and south ends of the park.

Northwoods Park

Expand the walking trail system within the park. Complete a timber evaluation and conduct a timber harvest designed to sustain the hardwoods forest. Identify and eliminate invasive species of plants within the park.

Wild Goose State Park Trail

Construct a trailhead parking area on State Highway 49 adjacent to the Horicon Marsh. The Highway 49 parking area should include picnic tables and a well for drinking water and a direct connection to the trail. Support an extension of the Wild Goose Trail to the City of Waupun. Support the extension of a multiple use trail along Pioneer Road and Martin Road to provide a connection to the Prairie Trail. Work with the city to establish a 12-15 mile loop trail within Fond du Lac using a combination of existing trails and surface streets designated for trail use.

Continue working on the elimination of invasive species, especially within the Oakfield Prairie State Natural Area portion of the trail.

Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail

The Mascoutin Valley Trail is another multiple-purpose recreation trail that is a cooperative effort between Fond du Lac County, neighboring counties and the DNR. The trail is built on an abandoned railroad right-of-way and extends from Berlin to Fond du Lac by way of Ripon, Rosendale and Eldorado. Development of the trail is complete between Ripon and Berlin. The Ripon to Rosendale section must still be purchased and developed. The trail is owned by the State between Rosendale and Fond du Lac.

Construction of a trail parking lot at State Highway 26 in Rosendale should be completed in the next 5 years. A small parcel of land adjacent to the trail on the east side of Rosendale would make a good trailside park. In Ripon, support construction of a three-quarter mile linking trail between the Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail at Eureka Street and the Northwestern Trail. The trail link might extend west from Eureka Street along the municipal boundary to Meade Street and then south to the Northwestern Trail. With plans by Green Lake County for a side path along Highway 23 from Green Lake to CTH PP, the Ripon link is another small step toward a continuous bicycle & pedestrian path between Green Lake and Sheboygan.

Continue working on the elimination of invasive species, especially within the Eldorado Marsh portion of the trail.

Peebles Trail

The pedestrian bridge over Taycheedah Creek must be replaced in the next five years to provide a full, 10-foot trail surface over the creek. The existing bridge is near the end of its useful life. The County should monitor trail traffic and trail surface wear with an eye toward resurfacing the trail or surfacing it with asphalt pavement.

Continue working on the elimination of invasive species within the trail right of way.

Eisenbahn State Park Trail

The Fox Valley Western Railroad line between Eden and West Bend is owned by the State of Wisconsin. This 25-mile long corridor passes through the Kettle Moraine terrain of southeastern Fond du Lac and Washington Counties.

The County and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources must begin planning for the eventual extension of the trail to Fond du Lac. Connections with the Prairie Trail must be made and thought should be given to locations for trailhead parking and connections to streets in Fond du Lac.

Identify areas infested with invasive species and work toward elimination of invasive species.

State Road Pedestrian-Bicycle Facilities

Support Wisconsin Department of Transportation efforts to provide paved shoulders on state road projects within Fond du Lac County. Paved shoulders provide both transportation alternatives and recreation opportunities for nearby residents and others, often providing safe routes to less traveled local roads. The most recent WisDOT example of this type of project is on State Road 151 between CTH WH at Peebles to the north county line north of Calumetville. WisDOT proposes to include 5-foot paved shoulders for the reconstruction of this section of road.

Gottfried Arboretum

Establish trail links to the soccer field complex on the west side of the UW Fond du Lac Campus, to the Moraine Park Technical College campus, and to the Fond du Lac High School. Connect the formal arboretum trails with the walking trail through the prairie in the former Campus Drive roadway. Widen and improve the formal arboretum trails to assure that they meet State and Federal accessibility standards.

SECTION 5: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This capital improvement plan is an exercise to plan and schedule capital improvements for county parks and trails over the next five-year period. It is important to note that actual annual expenditures and priorities will, of course, be set during the annual budget process, utilizing the normal interactive process between County Board Committees, the County Executive, the County Board as a whole and county staff. It is hoped that this capital improvement plan will serve as a useful tool in the decision-making process during each of the next five county budgets.

Many of the projects listed in this CIP are grant eligible under a number of State and Federal outdoor recreation grant programs. The Federal Land and Water Conservation Program and the Gaylord-Nelson Stewardship Program are both reliable sources for land acquisition grants and all of the land acquisition projects listed in this CIP qualify and would be competitive in these grant programs. Grants under these programs are typically 50/50 matching grants. In addition to the grant programs mentioned above, there are a number of other State and Federal grant programs administered by the WDNR, WisDOT and the U.S. Department of the Interior that offer funding, from 50/50 to as much as 100/0 grant/local funds for development projects. Development projects listed in this CIP all fall within one or more of the various grants eligibility requirements from these State and Federal agencies.

Parks Capital Improvements Plan 2011-2015

	Project Cost	Potential Grant Funding	County Levy
2011 County Park Projects			
Niagara Escarpment land acquisition	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Riggs County Park historic house renovation	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Year Total	\$205,000	\$100,000	\$105,000
2012 County Park Projects			
Niagara Escarpment land acquisition	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Riggs County Park rebuild east parking lot	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Year Total	\$325,000	\$150,000	\$175,000
2013 County Park Projects			
Replace Peebles Trail bridge	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Resurface Peebles Trail, limestone	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Year Total	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
2014 County Park Projects			
Replace Northwestern Trail bridge	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Shaginappi Park sewer connection	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Shaginappi Park bathroom	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Year Total	\$175,000	\$75,000	\$100,000
2015 County Park Projects			
Riggs County Park swimming pond	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
Columbia Park fish cleaning station	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$32,500
Mascoutin Valley Trail parking lot construction	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Plank Trail construction	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Year Total	\$1,775,000	\$142,500	\$1,632,500
Five Year Total	\$2,600,000	\$527,500	\$2,072,500

APPENDIX 1

POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS, FOND DU LAC COUNTY, 1990-2020

Unit of Government	1990 Census	Change	2000 Census	Change	2010 Census	Change	2020 RPC
C. Fond du Lac	37,755	14.62%	43,273	-0.58%	43,021	9.74%	47,210
C. Ripon	7,241	6.01%	7,676	0.74%	7,733	5.12%	8,129
C. Waupun (pt.)	2,758	21.79%	3,359	3.48%	3,476	7.36%	3,732
V. Brandon	872	5.39%	919	-4.35%	879	7.96%	949
V. Campbellsport	1,732	12.82%	1,954	3.17%	2,016	4.12%	2,099
V. Eden	610	22.79%	749	16.82%	875	10.63%	968
V. Fairwater	302	19.54%	361	2.77%	371	7.28%	398
V. Mt. Calvary	558	71.86%	959	-20.54%	762	31.10%	999
V. N. Fond du Lac	4,302	11.11%	4,780	4.90%	5,014	6.02%	5,316
V. Oakfield	1,003	2.49%	1,028	4.57%	1,075	-1.77%	1,056
V. Rosendale	777	26.51%	983	8.14%	1,063	8.47%	1,153
V. St. Cloud	494	1.82%	503	-5.17%	477	4.82%	500
T. Alto	1,145	-2.88%	1,112	-6.03%	1,045	5.17%	1,099
T. Ashford	1,598	16.27%	1,858	-5.97%	1,747	18.43%	2,069
T. Auburn	1,791	23.79%	2,217	6.09%	2,352	8.89%	2,561
T. Byron	1,634	-1.71%	1,606	1.74%	1,634	2.20%	1,670
T. Calumet	1,444	6.23%	1,534	-4.17%	1,470	6.46%	1,565
T. Eden	1,037	-5.11%	984	4.47%	1,028	-7.98%	946
T. Eldorado	1,409	6.25%	1,497	-2.34%	1,462	7.59%	1,573
T. Empire	2,485	11.27%	2,765	1.16%	2,797	9.72%	3,069
T. Fond du Lac	2,310	1.17%	2,337	29.01%	3,015	-10.45%	2,700
T. Forest	1,094	4.66%	1,145	-5.68%	1,080	11.57%	1,205
T. Friendship	2,210	13.44%	2,507	6.70%	2,675	2.13%	2,732
T. Lamartine	1,607	4.42%	1,678	3.52%	1,737	0.63%	1,748
T. Marshfield	1,130	-0.09%	1,129	0.80%	1,138	-1.41%	1,122
T. Metomen	685	6.13%	727	1.93%	741	0.54%	745
T. Oakfield	822	-5.84%	774	-9.17%	703	7.25%	754
T. Osceola	1,588	17.76%	1,870	-0.27%	1,865	11.31%	2,076
T. Ripon	1,419	-0.28%	1,415	-1.06%	1,400	3.43%	1,448
T. Rosendale	770	3.38%	796	-12.69%	695	18.13%	821
T. Springvale	750	-2.00%	735	-3.81%	707	2.55%	725
T. Taycheedah	3,383	13.80%	3,850	9.22%	4,205	1.24%	4,257
T. Waupun	1,368	4.24%	1,426	-3.58%	1,375	7.13%	1,473
Fond du Lac Co.	90,083	11.57%	100,506	1.12%	101,633	7.12%	108,867

Source: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, October 2004. US Census 1990-2010.