



# JOINT MEETING OF MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AND PARK COMMISSION AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at **1:30 pm**

**Meeting Location:** Conference Room #3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

**Forestry Committee Members** – Arnold Schlei (Chairman), Rick Seefeldt (Vice-Chairman), James Bove

**Park Commission Members** - Gary Gisselman (President), Jacob Langenhahn (Vice-President)

Commissioners: Connie Conrad, John Durham, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, Dennis Smith

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

**Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Mission Statement** - *To provide a park and forest recreation system that will meet the needs of our current and future generations, preserve and protect the County's open space, water, historical, cultural, and natural resources; and provide recreation opportunities that are designed to enhance the County's quality of life.*

**Forestry/Recreation Committee Mission Statement** – *The Forestry/Recreation Committee shall have the responsibility to manage and protect the County Forest on a sustainable basis for ecological, economic, educational, recreational, and research needs of present and future generations.*

## Agenda Items

1. Call to Order – Forestry/Recreation Committee
2. Call to Order – Park Commission
3. Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes
4. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports - None
5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. 2020-2025 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Discussion on the 2020-2025 County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update with Consultant
6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None
7. Announcements- None
8. Adjourn – Forestry/Recreation Committee
9. Adjourn – Park Commission

Signed  /s/ Jamie Polley  
Presiding Officer or Her Designee

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail [infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.

FAXED TO DAILY HERALD

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

(Email/Fax City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group)

Date 02/26/2019 Time 3:45 pm

By Jodi Luebbe

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

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**To:** Marathon County Parks and Forestry Commission Members  
**From:** Andrew Bremer, AICP, Senior Planner  
**Subject:** March 5, 2019 Joint Parks and Forestry Commission Meeting – CORP Update Kickoff  
**Date:** February 20, 2019

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MSA and the Parks Department have begun the process to update the County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. MSA will be attending your joint March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to kick-off the project. At the meeting we intend to review the following items:

1. Project Schedule. A copy of the project schedule is included in your packet.
2. Draft On-Line Community Survey. A pdf copy of the survey developed by MSA and Department Staff is included in your packet.
3. Community Survey Outreach Activities. A pdf copy of potential outreach activities Department Staff may conduct and associated timelines is included in your packet.
4. Plan to Play April 30<sup>th</sup> Public Involvement Meeting. We'll discuss the general logistics and plan for this future meeting.
5. Proposed Action Plan from the 2007-2012 CORP. Department Staff have reviewed the list of actions from the prior CORP and have included notes regarding those prior recommendations that have either been (1) completed, (2) not completed but should likely be carried forward into the next plan, and (3) those prior recommendations that were not completed and should likely not be carried forward into the next plan. Since our time on the 5<sup>th</sup> is limited we do not intend to go through this document in detail. We have included this information in your packet so that you can refresh yourself with the recommendations of the last plan and to inform responses to item #6 below. Future meetings can be used to discuss uncompleted projects to carry forward.
6. Review Park/Forestry Commissioner Survey. Following the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting Director Polley will provide an email to the commission members that contains a link to a take an on-line survey. This survey is intended just for Park/Forestry Commission members and is not a public survey. The purpose of the survey is to gather your initial thoughts and opinions regarding issues and opportunities at each County park and desired improvements. The information you provide will supplement the feedback we receive through the public survey, public involvement meeting, etc. In short, it serves as an opportunity to tell us your initial thoughts on desired improvements at each park as we begin this project. Please complete this survey by April 14<sup>th</sup>. Note you should also plan to take the public survey as well.



## Project Schedule (Last updated 02-18-2019)

The following is a draft timeline for completion of the plan and approval process. This schedule is subject to change.





## Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

### Introduction

**Marathon County is updating its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). This plan serves to guide the continual improvement of the County's parks, forest units, trails and recreational facilities. The CORP also maintains the County's eligibility for state and federal grants for park improvements. The County realizes the importance and benefits of parks, forest units, trail and recreational facilities and is committed to meeting the needs of its residents and visitors. The County encourages all teenagers and adults within your household to each individually complete this survey. By participating in this 10 - 15 minute survey you are helping to shape the future of Marathon County parks and trails!**

1. On a scale of 0-100, how important do you think the County's parks, forest units, trails, and recreational facilities are to the quality of life in the County?

0 100

2. On a scale of 0-100, how satisfied are you with the County's current variety of park, forest unit, trail and recreational facilities?

0 100

3. On a scale of 0-100, how satisfied are you with the quality of the County's park, forest unit, trail and recreational facilities?

0 100

\* 4. Which of the following amenities would you like to be added, improved, or expanded either by public, non-profit or private entities within the County? Mark up to 7 preferences.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amphitheatre/outdoor stage                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf driving range                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Park parking lots                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery/Trap shooting range                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking trails  | <input type="checkbox"/> Park signage/directional signage                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATV/UTV trails   | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical markers                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickle ball courts                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ball diamonds  | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoe pits   | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground equipment (2-5 year olds)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball courts  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting areas  | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground equipment (5-12 year olds)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird and wildlife habitat                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating/Hockey (outdoor)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> River & shoreline restoration                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating facilities                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating/Hockey (indoor)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrooms  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bocce ball courts  | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor athletic complex (for multiple programs/sports) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock climbing walls                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BMX course   | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor pool  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ropes courses/zip lines                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping areas  | <input type="checkbox"/> La Crosse fields                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand volleyball courts                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping support facilities (showers, dump station, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighted Athletic Fields                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelters   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/Kayak facilities                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighted Trails   | <input type="checkbox"/> Site furnishings (benches, tables, grills, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Skiing trails                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking trails                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding facilities                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf course   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature playgrounds                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding hill                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog park   | <input type="checkbox"/> On-road bicycle facilities                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobile trails                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian Trails  | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor education/Nature center                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festival facilities                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor fitness course/equipment                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer fields                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing facilities                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor pool   | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash pad                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football fields  | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor wedding venue spaces                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaga pits  | <input type="checkbox"/> Paved trails   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail signage                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf course  | <input type="checkbox"/> Park landscaping/Trees                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Water trails                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                                   |   |   |

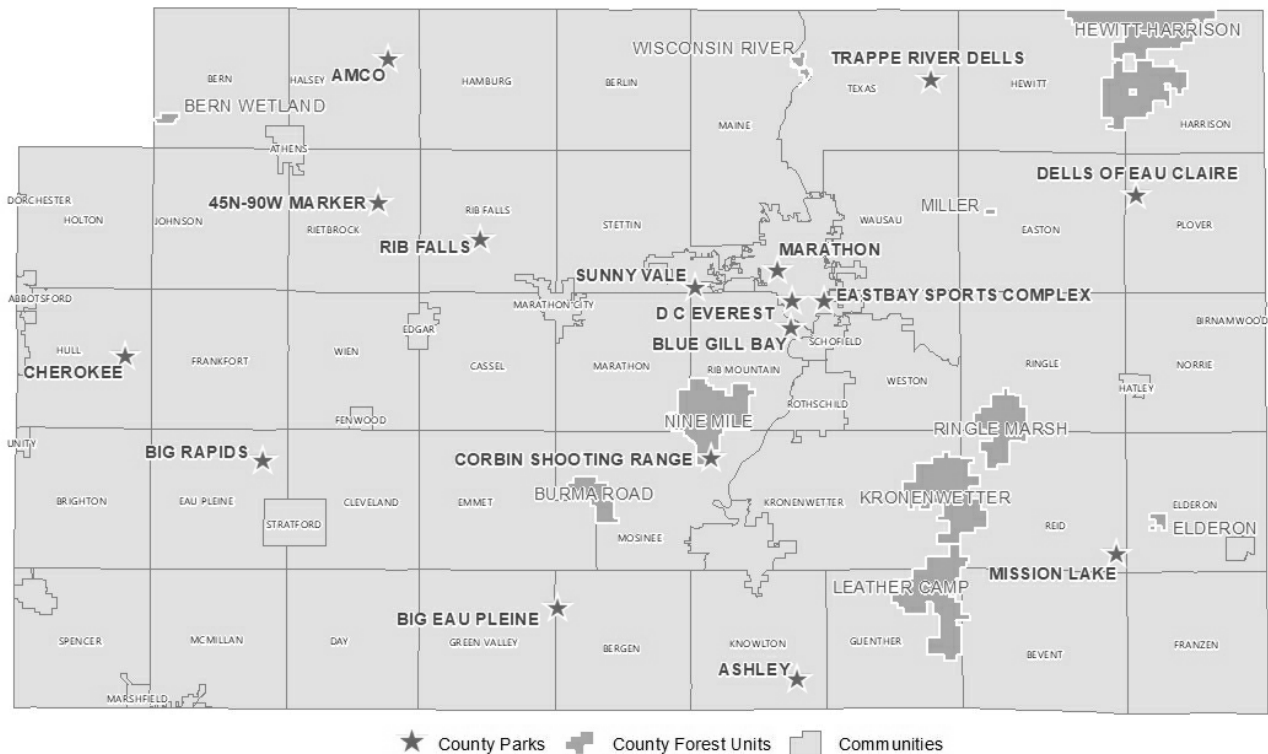


Wausau & Marathon County  
**Parks, Recreation  
& Forestry**

Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Park, Forest Unit & Trail Usage

Map of County Parks & Forest Units for Reference



5. Over the past 12 months did you visit or use a County Park or Forest Unit?

- Yes
- No



Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Park, Forest Unit & Trail Usage

6. If you indicated you did NOT visit or use County parks, forest units, or trails in Question 5 please tell us why? Check all that apply.

- Lack of amenities/activities that interest me
- County parks are too far from my home
- Lack of transportation to get to County parks
- I prefer to visit Village or City parks
- Too expensive
- Lack of recreational programs
- Lack of accessible recreation facilities
- Other (please specify)



Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Park, Forest Unit & Trail Usage

7. How often over the past year did you or someone in your household visit or use recreational facilities at the following **County Parks**?

	13 or more visits per year	6-12 visits per year	1-5 visits per year	0 visits in the past year
Amco	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ashley	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Big Eau Pleine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Big Rapids	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bluegill Bay	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cherokee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Corbin Shooting Range	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dells of Eau Claire	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D.C. Everest County	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eastbay Sports Complex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marathon Ice Arena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marathon Junction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marathon Park (other than previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mission Lake	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rib Falls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sunny Vale Softball Complex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sunny Vale Park (other than previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trap River Dells	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
45N -90W Geographic Marker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



8. How often over the past year did you or someone in your household visit or use recreational facilities at the following **County Forest Units**?

	13 or more visits per year	6-12 visits per year	1-5 visits per year	0 visits in the past year
Bern Wetland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Burma Road	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elderon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hewitt-Harrison	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kronenwetter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leather Camp	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Miller	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nine-Mile	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ringle Marsh	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wisconsin River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

### Park, Forest Unit & Trail Usage

9. How often over the past year did you or someone in your household visit or use these other recreational facilities located in the County?

	13 or more visits per year	6-12 visits per year	1-5 visits per year	0 visits in the past year
Big Rib River Fishery Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
George W Mead Wildlife Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Granite Peak	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greenheck Field House	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice Age Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mt. Bay State Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
McMillan Marsh	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plover River Woods State Natural Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rib Mountain State Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Three Lakes Marsh	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Do you or members of your household commonly (an average of at least 4 times per year) drive somewhere outside of Marathon County to use the same specific park, recreational facility or program?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify where you go and for what activities/facilities.



## Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

### Park, Forest Unit & Trail Usage

11. In which of the following recreational activities do you and your family participate at County parks, forest units, and trails?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATV/UTV Riding         | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Tubing/Sledding         | <input type="checkbox"/> Frisbee (Disc) Golf      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biking                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating/Hockey (indoor)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Community/Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating/Hockey (outdoor) | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching          | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickleball                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball/Baseball        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (motorized)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting Range               | <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming               | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Geocaching               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splashpad              | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding             | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Exercise Area        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping                | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling           | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter Rental               |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Skiing   | <input type="checkbox"/> La Crosse                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |   |   |

12. How satisfied are you with the appearance, maintenance, cleanliness, safety and accessibility of Marathon County's parks, forest units and trails?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Appearance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cleanliness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied please tell us why including the specific park:



## Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

### Park, Forest Unit & Trail Funding

13. How do you feel about the current program and facility fees charged directly to you by the Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department?

- Fees are under-priced for the value received
- Fees are acceptable for the value received
- Fees are too high for the value received
- Not sure/not applicable

14. How would you direct future funding for County park, forest unit, trail and recreational facility improvements?

	Spend more	Spend the same	Spend less
Acquiring additional parkland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquiring additional forest land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquire additional land for trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add new facilities to existing parks/forest units	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve condition of existing park facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve condition of existing trail facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting lakes and stream corridors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving recreational programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

### Park, Forest Unit & Trail Improvements

15. Please indicate if you or anyone in your household has the need for each of the recreation programs listed below by indicating Yes or No and Youth, Adult, or Both for each program.

	Yes or No?	Youth, Adult, Both
Open Gym Nights	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Exercise/Fitness	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Pickle Ball Lessons	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tennis Lessons	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Swimming Lessons	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Aid/CPR/AED	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Crafting	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Martial Arts	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Arts and Cultural Exploration	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Walking/Hiking Club	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Bird Watching	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Water Fitness	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Adaptive (special populations) Programs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Gaming	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Sports Instruction/Introduction	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Day Trips by Bus	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Community Events	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Yes or No?

Youth, Adult, Both

Technology Support

Card or Board Game  
Tournaments

Healthing  
Cooking/Grilling

Family Camping Event

Organized Sports

Other (please specify)

16. Please use this space to provide any other comments relating to improving County park, forestry unit, and trail facilities.



## Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

### Respondent Profile

**These questions will help us understand how well the survey responses represent the overall population of the community.**

17. What is your age?

- Under 15  15-19  20-24  25-34  35-44  45-54  55-64  65-74  75 or older

18. Are there any persons living in your home that are under the age of 18?

- Yes  No



19. In which community is your primary residence?

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> City of Abbotsford    | <input type="radio"/> Town of Franzen          | <input type="radio"/> Town of Plover        |
| <input type="radio"/> Village of Athens     | <input type="radio"/> Town of Green Valley     | <input type="radio"/> Town of Reid          |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Bergen        | <input type="radio"/> Town of Guenther         | <input type="radio"/> Town of Rib Falls     |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Berlin        | <input type="radio"/> Town of Halsey           | <input type="radio"/> Town of Rib Mountain  |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Bern          | <input type="radio"/> Town of Hamburg          | <input type="radio"/> Town of Rietbrock     |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Bevent        | <input type="radio"/> Town of Harrison         | <input type="radio"/> Town of Ringle        |
| <input type="radio"/> Village of Birnamwood | <input type="radio"/> Village of Hatley        | <input type="radio"/> Village of Rothschild |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Brighton      | <input type="radio"/> Town of Hewitt           | <input type="radio"/> City of Schofield     |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Cassel        | <input type="radio"/> Town of Holton           | <input type="radio"/> Town of Spencer       |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Cleveland     | <input type="radio"/> Town of Hull             | <input type="radio"/> Village of Spencer    |
| <input type="radio"/> City of Colby         | <input type="radio"/> Town of Johnson          | <input type="radio"/> Town of Stettin       |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Day           | <input type="radio"/> Town of Knowlton         | <input type="radio"/> Village of Stratford  |
| <input type="radio"/> Village of Dorchester | <input type="radio"/> Village of Kronenwetter  | <input type="radio"/> Town of Texas         |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Easton        | <input type="radio"/> Town of McMillan         | <input type="radio"/> Village of Unity      |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Eau Pleine    | <input type="radio"/> Village of Maine         | <input type="radio"/> City of Wausau        |
| <input type="radio"/> Village of Edgar      | <input type="radio"/> Town of Marathon         | <input type="radio"/> Town of Wausau        |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Elderon       | <input type="radio"/> Village of Marathon City | <input type="radio"/> Town of Weston        |
| <input type="radio"/> Village of Elderon    | <input type="radio"/> City of Marshfield       | <input type="radio"/> Village of Weston     |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Emmet         | <input type="radio"/> Town of Mosinee          | <input type="radio"/> Town of Wien          |
| <input type="radio"/> Village of Fenwood    | <input type="radio"/> City of Mosinee          | <input type="radio"/> Not a County Resident |
| <input type="radio"/> Town of Frankford     | <input type="radio"/> Town of Norrie           |   |



Wausau & Marathon County  
**Parks, Recreation  
& Forestry**

## Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Thank you!

**Thank you for helping shape the future of parks and recreation in the Marathon County! If you have any questions about this project please contact Jamie Polley, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director at (715) 261-1550.**

**Mark your calendars! The County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department is holding a "Plan to Play" public meeting on Tuesday April 30 at 6:00PM at the Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Headquarters (300 N. First St.) in the Community Room. The purpose of the meeting is to review the results of this survey and to obtain additional feedback on desired park and recreation improvements within the County's park system. Note, this meeting is not sponsored by the Marathon County Public Library. Check the Announcements page of the Department's website for official meeting confirmation. [www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/ParksRecreationForestry.aspx](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/ParksRecreationForestry.aspx)**

## Marathon County CORP Survey/PIM Outreach Timeline and Activities

Survey Available March 11th - April 14th

<b>Week to be Completed</b>	<b>Outreach Activity</b>	<b>Description of Activities Completed</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
March 11th	Web site links	Add link to the survey on County home web page and Parks Department web page.	
March 11th	Web site announcement RSS Feeds	Post survey info on County and Department Announcement Page	
March 11th	Press Release	Department release to media outlets	
March 11th	Marathon County eNewsletter	Post info from press release	
March 11th	Survey Flyer	Email copy to all Clerks in the County requesting they post the flyer where they post other meeting notices. Request they provide announcements of survey at upcoming meetings	
March 11th	County/Department Social Media Posts	Post info on survey and link on existing social media sites. Parks and other County Departments	
March 11th	Email Database of Recreation Users/Other Department email listservs	Request using email listserv and social media to post info on survey/link	
<b>Week to be Completed</b>	<b>Outreach Activity</b>	<b>Description of Activities Completed</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
March 18th	City Pages Coordination	Social media posts & newspaper advertisement	
March 18th	Library Coordination	Request all public libraries in the County to change the home page of public computers to the survey page OR tape a copy of the survey flyer near computers. Request posting survey info/link via social media.	
March 18th	Local Recreation Department Coordination	Request local recreation directors to make email and social media announcements regarding survey/link	
March 18th	School District Coordination	Request using email listserv and social media to post info on survey/link	
<b>Week to be Completed</b>	<b>Outreach Activity</b>	<b>Description of Activities Completed</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
March 25th	Chamber of Commerce Coordination	Request directors of all County CoC to send email & social media posts regarding survey/link	

March 25th	Local Recreation Clubs/Association Coordination <a href="http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/ParksRecreationForestry/OtherPrograms/WausauAreaRecreationContacts.aspx">http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/ParksRecreationForestry/OtherPrograms/WausauAreaRecreationContacts.aspx</a>	Request directors/leaders of various recreation clubs, associations, etc. make email and social media posts	
March 25th	Parks Department Facebook	Repost survey info	
<b>Week to be Completed</b>	<b>Outreach Activity</b>	<b>Description of Activities Completed</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
April 1st	Election Boards	County could provide a poster board of the survey flyer to Clerks for display during election	
April 1st	Grocery Store Staffers	County could provide and request grocery stores around the county include 1/3 slips of paper regarding the survey/link with customer bags	
<b>Week to be Completed</b>	<b>Outreach Activity</b>	<b>Description of Activities Completed</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
April 8th	Repeat previous social media postings and email database of recreation users	Repeat any previous email/social media postings regarding last call for survey completion and update on PIM date/time	

Other Potential Activities???

Department Youtube Video

Attend Local Community Meetings: Focus on those with existing Parks Commissions during survey window then others extending into May

County Events going on March 11-April 14

Survey prize

Pay for ads in local papers

Place a check mark by any recommendations that were completed since 2008.  
Circle any recommendations that were not completed yet and should be carried forward in the updated plan.  
Cross out any recommendations that were not completed and should not be carried forward in the updated plan.

Marathon County

Proposed Action Plan

**XIII. PROPOSED ACTION PLAN**

**Introduction**

The action plan of a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan consists of a series of actions that, when implemented, will meet existing and future recreational needs of the county identified in the needs analysis, while maintaining the quality of the environment. An Action Plan is typically divided into two categories: (1) County-wide recommendations; and (2) Specific capital improvements. The county-wide recommendations can be implemented by the county, local municipalities, school districts, or nonprofit conservation corporations. Capital improvements to individual parks or forest recreation areas are usually implemented by the agency that has jurisdiction over that particular unit.

County-wide recommendations consist of actions that affect the entire county. These recommendations include: staffing recommendations, policy and administration recommendations, land acquisition recommendations, and programs that affect the entire recreation system (such as maintenance policy and revenue policy).

Capital improvements are defined as improvements that have a value over \$25,000 and a service life of more than seven years. Capital improvements include any buildings or land, regardless of value, and all new programs with an initial cost of more than \$25,000. Examples of capital improvements include structures, roads, trails, land, etc.

The capital improvement program for each park or forest recreation area is a combination of several types of projects. Generally speaking, capital improvements are ranked in the following manner:

1. Improvements to existing facilities:
  - A. Correct health and safety hazards.
  - B. Upgrade deficient facilities.
  - C. Modernize outdated facilities.
2. Install facilities as deemed appropriate through community response (public hearing, survey results).
3. Install new facilities as deemed necessary by the Park or Forestry Department.
4. Install new facilities as deemed necessary through comparison to community standard and NRPA park and recreation standards.

CIP

Specifically, improvements to existing facilities will rank the highest in the capital improvements program, while new facilities are usually ranked lower, according to their relative need in the park or forest recreation area. Improvements that correct health and/or safety hazards are always the highest priority. Improvements that are deemed necessary through comparison to park and recreation standards only are usually ranked the lower.

County-wide Improvements

I. WATER BASED RECREATION

- A. Develop Lake Management Plans for Lake Wausau, Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, and Lake DuBay. These should address the specific needs and problems of each water body. The plans also should identify specific jurisdictional obligations and duties as noted in parentheses.
  1. Boating use regulations (Lake District, DNR, Marathon County or adjoining municipality or township).
  2. Safety/enforcement regulations (Lake District, Sheriff's Department, or DNR).
  3. Regulation of access permits (Lake District, Marathon County or adjoining municipality, DNR).
  4. Water quality monitoring (DNR/Reservoir Operator).
  5. Fish stocking program (DNR).
  6. Beach/swimming regulations (Local Park Jurisdiction, County Health).
  7. Future park developments (Lake District, Marathon County, DNR, adjoining municipality).
- B. Develop specific management plans for other Marathon County lakes and river corridors, including the Wisconsin River, Big Rib River, and Eau Claire River. These plans will be similar in scope and management to the lake management plans developed for Lake Wausau, Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, and Lake DuBay, but generally on a smaller scale. (Marathon County, adjoining municipality or township.)
- C. Develop additional water based recreational facilities on the Wisconsin River, Lake Wausau, and Lake DuBay. (Marathon County, adjoining municipality or township.)

CPZ or DNR

Should this be just a description not task?

II. RECREATION LAND ACQUISITION/DISPOSAL

- ~~A.~~ Transfer ownership and control of some County parks to other jurisdictions.

~~X~~ D.C. Everest Park (To City of Wausau).

B. Transfer ownership and control of other recreational lands to the County park system.

1. Park foundation land in Town of Easton (80 acres).

C. Provide additional active/passive use park land to serve developed areas not currently served by County parks and to meet current and future recreation needs.

1. Lake DuBay area - ~~Sell or exchange Ashley Park to~~ acquire land on the main body of Lake DuBay with better water based recreation potential.

D. Acquire and develop additional specialty use park or recreational land to meet identified needs.

- 4. Regional sports facilities such as soccer.
- 2. Multi-purpose trails (private/public sector) *w/ river forest unit*
- 3. Boat launches on the Wisconsin River and Lake DuBay.
- 4. Historic/cultural/natural features (public sector).
- ~~5. ATV (private/public sector).~~
- 6. Horse ~~trails~~ *campgrounds*

*want to see what Sunel says*

E. Acquire additional land for existing County parks.

*incase it comes up.*

1. Rib River Conservancy 220 acres  
Lands adjoining the Rib River between Sunny Vale County Park and Lake Wausau.

2. Dells of the Eau Claire ~~60-120~~ acres  
Lands adjacent to the Eau Claire River extending east of the existing park including NE ¼, SE ¼ Sec. 7 and NW ¼ SW ¼ Sec. 8 of T29N-R10E.

3. Mission Lake 5 acres  
High land overlooking the lake and wetland adjacent to the south boundary of the park in the NE ¼, SW ¼ Sec. 36, T27N-R9E. *church property?*

4. Trappe River Dells 8-16 acres *land locked - can we sell it?*  
Acquire ½ to 1 mile of 66' wide road R.O.W. for park access

*Review deed restrnd*

*\* dig deeper  
Review what has been purchased  
Some purchased some not  
need to plot out during review*

3. Cherokee 30 acres  
 Woodland adjoining the park on both sides of the Big Eau Pleine River in the N 1/2, SE 1/4, Sec. 14, T28N-R2E.

6. Rib Falls 20 acres  
 Land between the park and the Rib River in the E 1/2, SW 1/4, Sec. 21, T29N-R5E.

7. Wisconsin River Forest Unit 50 acres  
 43 acres adjacent to the parks primarily in SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 11, T30N, R7E. 6 acres for road access to the 182 acres of park west of the Wisconsin River. About 1 acre between the east park boundary and the railroad R.O.W. in NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 13, T30N-R7E.

*06/07 recorded*

8. D.C. Everest 5 acres  
 Acquire Govt. lots 2 and 6 lying north of the park, east of S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and south of Imm Street.

9. Big Eau Pleine 14 acres  
 Acquire inholdings along the west shore of the park in the following areas in T26N-R5E  
*WI Valley Impr. Co.*

- NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 2
- NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 11
- SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 12

10. Sunny Vale 53 acres  
 Acquire land between the south park boundary and the Big Rib River in Section 6 of T28N-R7E and Section 1 of T28N-R6E.

F. Acquire land and/or easements for new trails.

1. Wausau to Merrill Wisconsin River Trail 60 acres - *need to identify exact location*

G. Dispose of land.

1. Wisconsin River Forest Unit 2 acres  
 (Requires DNR Approval)  
 Dispose of land east of County Hwy W in SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 13, T30N-R7E.  
*trade for #7 ↑ 1 acre*



*← This is within county but land owned by municipalities*

III. EAU CLAIRE RIVER CORRIDOR CONSERVANCY/RIB RIVER CORRIDOR CONSERVANCY/UPPER WISCONSIN RIVER CORRIDOR CONSERVANCY - ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION

*Coordinate between cities? Wausau + Schofield*

A. Develop and adopt policy and guidelines for identifying, acquiring, preserving, and appropriately developing environmentally, historically/culturally significant land.

B. Participate with other public and private agencies in the creation of a county-wide conservancy plan.

IV. PARK DEVELOPMENT

A. Develop/revise park master plans for individual parks to meet current and future recreation needs.

B. *cancel* Review and revise, as appropriate, the facility use policy for County parks to maximize utilization and return on investment for groups that use the parks for specialized recreational and athletic events.

1. Hockey.
2. Figure skating.
3. Curling.
4. Racing.
5. Rodeos.
6. Circuses.
7. Fairs.
8. Group picnics.
9. Company picnics.
10. Expositions.
11. Shooting sports.
12. Disc golf.

*In progress*

C. ~~Develop Wisconsin River Forest Unit Park.~~

*move under forests*

V. TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

(A.) Develop, in conjunction with ~~the County Forestry Department and~~ other agencies, a county-wide trail system plan that optimizes year-round/coordinated multi-purpose trail development and maintenance.

- ~~1. ATV trails. (private)~~
- ~~2. Bridle trail.~~
- 3. Interpretive trails.
- 4. Barrier free trails to hiking trails.
- 5. Cross-country skiing trails.
- 6. Snowmobile trails/ATV
- 7. Mountain bike trail.
- ~~8. Lighted trails.~~
- 9. Hunter/walking trails.

(B.) Develop operations plans for County trail systems.

- 1. Trails may be user supported where practical.

*Might be complete?*

Coordinate with other public agencies and private groups to complete the Marathon County segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

(D.) Develop extensions to the Mountain-Bay State Park Trail that will connect the trail to the urban areas of Wausau, Schofield, Rothschild, Rib Mountain, and Kronenwetter.

(E.) Develop Wausau to Merrill Wisconsin River biking/pedestrian trail.

(F.) Develop the following metro area biking/pedestrian trails

On Road Projects:

- 1. North Bridge and associated roadways (Decatur to Evergreen)
- 2. 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Hospital to CTH K)
- 3. Rib Mountain Bike Route (McCleary to Eagle)
- 4. Fox Glove and Azalea (Bike Bridge Path to CTH KK)
- 5. Rothschild Streets (River Park to Military Rd.)
- 6. ~~Margaret and Alderson (Cedar Creek to Weston Avenue)~~
- 7. Weston Avenue and Ryan Road (Alderson to Mountain Bay Trail)

*To be revised w/ MSA's help*  
*all trails need to be revised*

Off Road Projects:

- 8. McCleary Bridge
- 9. Hwy 51 Rib Mt Scenic Easement (Eagle to Morning Glory)
- 10. ✓ Trillium Lane CTH N to Military Avenue
- 11. ✓ WI River Bike/Pedestrian Bridge
- 12. ✓ WI River/Cedar Creek Trail (Military to Margaret)
- 13. Eau Claire River Crossing (Ross Avenue)

Wide Shoulders:

- 14. CTH KK (CTH N to Mosinee)
- 15. CTH NN (Rib Mtn Drive to Ski Hill)

Areas To Look At:

- Weston to Wausau Connections (Northwestern Ave./Rail Corridor)
- East Side Routes (CTH X)
- Inter-Urban Connections (Wausau to Schofield to Rothschild)
- Trail Heading North along WI River

*Advise*

VI. COUNTY FORESTS

A. County Forest Programming and Operations

Proposed actions are based on issues identified through public meetings and staff input.

1. Regulation and enforcement.

The <sup>PRF</sup> Forestry Department will coordinate enforcement of regulations with the Park Department for: *for*;

- a. ATV use.
- b. Illegal trash dumping.
- c. Mountain bike use.
- d. Equestrian use.
- e. Hunting regulations.  
*Tree stands, trail cameras + ground blinds*

Policy Statements?

2. Coordinated planning.

The Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department will coordinate its land purchases with other agencies to develop green corridors. The Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department will also assist with county-wide land use and conservancy planning.

3. Recreation development.

a. Facility access and maintenance.

The Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department will develop adequate road access and appropriate parking support facilities desired by the public. This may include paved access roads and parking. ~~The Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department will plow outlying parking lots for winter access, particularly in the Burma Road and Kronenwetter Forest Units.~~

b. User fees, trail development, and conflicts.

The Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department will propose user fees to support active recreation maintenance. The department will also consult with the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee on new developments and potential user conflicts.

B. County Forest Land Acquisition / park land Acquisition

The Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department will propose land acquisition to consolidate ownership within established county forest boundaries and provide for public recreation. Acquisition of other unique or special areas will be pursued within the guidelines of the County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Each County forest unit has acreage to be acquired. The acquisition target is 200 acres per year for the duration of this plan. 120 park

update

Improvement Program for Individual Parks

County Parks

I. Amco Park

~~A. Pave road and parking lot.~~

~~B. Construct trails.~~

A. Restrooms

Should be paving

II. Ashley Park

- ~~A. No improvements pending potential sale or exchange. - potentially transfer to County forest Special Use~~

III. Big Eau Pleine Park

- ~~A. Install shower building.~~
- ~~B. Relocate ranger station.~~
- ~~C. Reconstruct campgrounds to meet current needs. electric~~
- ~~D. Prepare Land Management Plan. <sup>Master</sup>~~
- ~~E. Expand trail system.~~
- ~~F. Develop new mountain biking trails.~~

IV. Big Rapids Park

- ~~A. Pave internal roads and parking lots.~~
- ~~B. Bridge evaluation/repair~~
- ~~C. Dam repair/replace~~

V. Bluegill Bay Park

- ~~A. Prepare Master Plan~~
- The master plan may include items such as:
  - ~~✓ Dredge lagoon and replace all culverts with bridges. - complete~~
  - Install park boundary fence.
  - Develop enclosed rentable shelter with associated amenities.
  - Move park nursery and redevelop for day use recreation.

VI. Cherokee Park

- ~~A. Acquire additional land and install trail on east side of river.~~
- ~~B. Provide bridges over river at north and south ends of park.~~

VII. Dells of the Eau Claire Park

- ~~A. Acquire additional land. Develop a Master plan.~~
- ~~B. Convert main shelter to interpretive center.~~
- ~~C. Relocate campground.~~
- ~~D. Upgrade trails.~~
- ~~E. ✓ Convert "Beach" residence to interim interpretive center and park manager quarters at conclusion of existing occupancy agreement.~~

VIII. Marathon Park

- ~~A. Continue rehabilitation of historic structures.~~
- ~~B. master plan~~

- IX. Mission Lake Park *Master*
  - A. Develop Land Management Plan.
  - B. Acquire additional water frontage land.
  - C. Complete new picnic area with open play space.
  - D.  Develop new hiking trails.
  - E. Construct new reservable shelter.

- X. Rib Falls Parks
  - A. Acquire land.
  - B. Complete lake excavation.
  - C. Finalize development plan for park.

- XI. Shooting Range Park *Special use county forest*  
No pending improvement as Shooting Range is near build out.

- XII. Sunny Vale Park
  - A. Develop Land Management Plan.
  - B. Trail development.
  - C. Canoe launch.
  - D. Realign road system.
  - E. Complete new picnic area.
  - F. Develop campground.

- XIII. Sunny Vale Softball Complex
  - A. Install underground irrigation in ballfields.
  - B. Pave parking lots.
  - C. Construct sixth diamond.

- XIV. Wisconsin River Forest Unit Park *Develop a master Plan include:*
  - A. Prepare Management Plan, including Borrow Pit Plan.
  - B. Install boat launch on east bank of river.
  - C. Install passive recreation facilities.
  - D. Develop multi-purpose trails and historic/interpretative trail.
  - E. Develop artificial lake for swimming.
  - F. Develop swimming and picnic facilities on lake.

- XV. Trappe River Dells Park
  - A. Acquire access to park.
  - B. Prepare Master Plan.

*Forest*

*Master Plan to be updated*

*G. Campground.*

*Keep*

XVI. Mountain-Bay Trail

- A. Provide link to urban area.
- B. Trailhead development.
- C. Prepare Interpretive Plan.

~~XVII. Upper Wisconsin River Trail~~

- ~~A. Land acquisition.~~
- ~~B. Trail development.~~

XVIII. McMillan Marsh Trail

- ~~A. No improvement planned at this time.~~

XIX. Rib River Conservancy

- ~~A. Acquire ownership/easements.~~
- B. Develop master plan.
- C. Develop access points and trails.

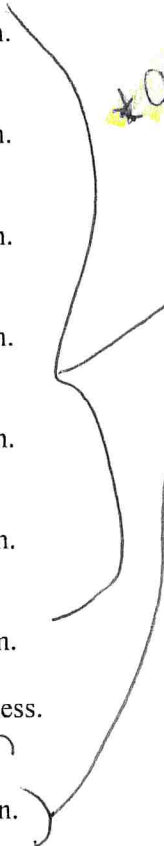
Add Recreation programming  
- marketing  
aligns w/ County Comp Plan, health priorities

Update

Improvement Program for Individual County Forest Units

- I. Bern Wetland
  - A. Acquire land for unit expansion.
- II. Burma Road
  - A. Acquire land for unit expansion.
- III. Elderon Forest Unit
  - A. Acquire land for unit expansion.
- IV. Hewitt-Harrison Forest Unit
  - A. Acquire land for unit expansion.
- V. Kronenwetter Forest Unit
  - A. Acquire land for unit expansion.
- VI. Leather Camp Forest Unit
  - A. Acquire land for unit expansion.
- VII. Nine Mile Forest Unit
  - A. Acquire land for unit expansion.
  - ~~B. Expand lighted trail.~~
  - ~~C. Pave parking lot for winter access.~~
  - ~~D. chalet expansion~~
- VIII. Ringle Marsh
  - A. Acquire land for unit expansion.

\*add to acquire land section



park system plan vs. master plan