

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 900

RECREATION

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900 RECREATION

Recreation is an integral part of the management of the Eau Claire County Forest and recreation uses are referenced in most of the previous chapters. Due to the tremendous growth in recreational demands over the duration of the last planning period, this Plan recognizes the importance of more intensive recreational planning and emphasizes its importance with a separate chapter.

905 PLANNING

In addition to this Plan, the Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan also guides the recreation program. This plan is revised every five years and is made part of this Plan. The 2021-2025 County Outdoor recreation Plan includes, but is not limited to, activities on the County Forest. It incorporates snowmobile and ATV plans, campgrounds, parks and boat landings, recreational maintenance and development plans and other recreation surveys and reports.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan, Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), public input, and other local or regional planning documents will be used as resources in recreational planning and development efforts. The responsibility for recreational planning, development and maintenance on the County Forest will rest with the Committee.

910 AUTHORITY

The Eau Claire County Code of Ordinances and s.28.11 Wis. Stats, authorize the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in the mission statement for the County Forest Plan (Chapter 100), which specifically identifies outdoor recreational opportunities. This mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes environmental damage.

Maps of the recreational facilities managed through the Eau Claire County Forest program are appended or referenced in Chapter 1000.

915 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES

The Committee is empowered and shall have responsibility for establishing entrance, camping and other user fees on recreational facilities maintained by the County Forest. Camping, entrance or other fees shall be comparable to fees charged by (similar private facilities, other adjacent counties) and are subject to periodic change by the Committee. Fees, where appropriate, will be utilized to assist in the maintenance of recreational facilities.

Detailed information on park and recreation areas use regulations can be found in the Eau Claire County Code (Chapter 16.30).

920 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide for recreational maintenance or services to the public. An agreement with the Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County for assisting the County with grooming and maintaining county snowmobile trail facilities is an example of this type of agreement.

925 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS FOR ORGANIZED EVENTS

Any event on the Forest, which is advertised to the public, for which a fee is charged, or is otherwise organized as an event, requires a permit or authorization by the Committee. Permits may be issued by the Committee provided the use is consistent with management activities and will not cause resource damage. Appropriate levels of event liability insurance are required.

930 UNDESIGNATED RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

Undesignated recreation includes those informal activities for which the County Generally does not provide a facility or service. These uses include activities such as hunting, fishing, biking, hiking, and others. These uses do not require a permit but must be conducted in compliance with ordinance. The Parks and Forest Director and the

Committee shall periodically review such uses and enact ordinances as necessary to protect from resource damage.

930.1 HUNTING

The entire County Forest is open for regulated hunting, except for areas developed for high public use. The only areas not open for hunting are the county parks, designated waysides, and the Lion's Club Youth Pond area. Discharge of firearms at Tower Ridge Recreational Area is prohibited after the deer rifle season, which includes muzzleloader and any additional doe hunts and/or metro zone hunts. Temporary hunting stands including elevated towers are permissible but must be removed from the forest after use each day. The use of nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other damaging devices is not permitted. No permanent type structures are permitted.

The Eau Claire County Code of Ordinances regulates activities relating to hunting. Refer to Chapter 1000 for a full text of the Ordinance. In general, the following activities are regulated: stands, blinds, motorized use.

930.2 FISHING

All lakes and streams within the forest are available for fishing unless otherwise listed in state regulations. For disabled fishers, the county has accessible fishing piers at Coon Fork and Lake Eau Claire County Parks (both special use areas on the county forest).

930.3 PICNICKING / DAY USE

Picnicking and other day uses, outside of established facilities is allowed. The Eau Claire County Code of Ordinances also regulates day use. In general, the following activities are regulated:

1. All litter, trash or rubbish must be removed
2. Cutting or harvesting vegetation is not permitted
3. Fires may not be left unattended unless the ground is 100% snow covered
4. Others

930.4 DISPERSED CAMPING

A permit is required to camp outside of developed campgrounds on the County Forest.

Permits are available from the County Forestry Office or online at <https://www.eccountyparks.com>. In general, the following activities are regulated:

Overnight camping may be permitted in the county forest for a charge of \$10 for a period not to exceed 14 nights in succession. Between September 15 and December 15, after camping 14 nights in succession, the camper may renew the camping permit for one additional 14-night period for an additional fee of \$10. Thereafter, the camping unit must be removed from the county forest for at least one night before the camping party is eligible to return. Any camper or campers who violate the rules and regulations of this chapter or of good conduct, including cutting or defacing timber, carelessness with fire, violation of game, fish and litter regulations shall be subject to ejection from the county forest and subject to the penalties provided by ordinances and state law.

930.5 MOTORIZED TRAVEL

The Eau Claire County Code of Ordinances regulates motorized uses on the County Forest. The full text of these regulations is included in Chapter 700. In general, the following regulations apply to motorized travel outside of a developed recreational trail system.

1. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on a trail designated closed with a gate, earthen berm, sign, or other closure
2. Two-wheeled motorized travel (motorcycles, mini bikes, dirt bikes) is not permitted unless the machine is street legal and operating on a County Forest Road (gas tax)
3. Other regulated items
4. Electronic bikes are not considered as motorized vehicles for the purpose of this plan.

930.6 OTHER USES

Other uses of the County Forest are permitted provided they are not specifically addressed with the County Code of Ordinances. Mountain Biking, Horseback riding, and other non-motorized uses are currently not regulated. The County Board may, at any

time, enact ordinances to protect the forest should damage begin to occur.

935 DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS/USES

Designated recreation includes those uses for which the County provides a trail or facility. The Eau Claire County Forest has developed sites and areas to accommodate a fairly high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other recreation activities that are not compatible with the intent of the developed facilities.

The Committee and Parks and Forest Department has noted a marked increase in demand for recreation facilities. Eau Claire County may attempt to develop additional facilities and will maintain its currently developed facilities.

935.1 CAMPGROUNDS

935.1.1 Coon Fork Park

Coon Fork County Park is located north east of Augusta, on County Road CF. The park facilities include 108 campsites, electricity, hand pumps, shower house, 3 pit toilets, beach, fishing pier, boat landing, sanitary dump station, ice and firewood sales from May 1 thru September 15, canoe, kayak, paddle and rowboat rentals and mountain bike and ski trails nearby. The facility is fee based for camping and day use.

935.1.2 Harstad Park

Harstad County Park is located on Highway HHH, between Augusta and Fall Creek. The park facilities include 27 primitive campsites, picnic area, playground and ball diamond, hand pump for drinking water, pit toilets, large reservable picnic shelter, and canoe landing. The facility is fee based for camping and day use.

935.2 YOUTH CAMP

The former Lion's Club Youth Camp is located along County Road QQ, in the town of Seymour. This area is available as a group campsite and can be reserved by contacting the Parks and Forest office. The facilities include large group shelter, grills, and close access to canoe landing on the Eau Claire River.

935.3 PICNIC / DAY USE AREAS

Picnic areas open to the public include:

Coon Fork Lake Park Day Use Area – 1 medium shelter available for rent.

L.L. Phillips Park– Shelter has been removed, plans of building new shelter in the future.

Harstad Park– 1 large shelter available for rent.

Lake Eau Claire Park– 5 small shelters available for rent.

Lake Altoona Park– 1 medium shelter available for rent.

Tower Ridge Cabin – 1 large shelter for rent.

935.4 SWIMMING AREAS / BEACHES

Designated swimming areas include:

- a. Coon Fork Lake Park – 2 beaches in day use area, 1 beach in campground.
- b. Lake Altoona Park (outside County Forest boundary) – 1 beach in park.
- c. Lake Eau Claire – 1 beach on County Road “ND”, on the north shore of the lake.

935.5 BOAT LANDINGS

As a result of the wide distribution of lakes, streams, rivers, and other surface waters on the Forest, water access may be planned, developed, or restricted as a component of the overall Forest access management plan. Several boat landings, canoe landings, and adjacent roads currently provide water access on the Forest primarily for recreational activities. In addition, these water access points also provide water supply points for fire apparatus working to suppress forest fires or nearby structural fires.

The existing water access points will be maintained to provide a place to launch a small fishing boat or canoe. Not all watercrafts will be able to use these access points. These landings are built for public use and not for private boat mooring sites. Mooring or storing boats for longer than 24 hours is prohibited.

The following public boat access sites have been developed on the Eau Claire County Forest and are open to public use:

935.5.1 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by Eau Claire County Parks and Forest

1. Coon Fork Lake Park (2)
2. Lake Eau Claire Park (3)
3. Upstream from Lake Altoona on the Eau Claire River (1)

935.5.2 Undeveloped Water Access Points

Other undeveloped water access points for canoes and boats currently exist on the Forest. These are used routinely to hand launch boats or canoes but have not been developed for boat trailer launching. These sites are not routinely maintained and may be closed if erosion damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access may be reviewed and approved by the Director.

935.6 RIFLE RANGE

Designated shooting ranges allowing for public use of rifle, bow, pistol, etc. are permitted on County Forest lands subject to County Board approval. If the range is operated by an organization other than the county, a written land use agreement, including proof of insurance, will be required. A provision for use by the public will be included in the agreement. Current range facilities include the Eau Claire National Rifle Club Range on County Road “QQ” in the Town of Seymour, and the law enforcement range off Kopljen Road in the Town of Lincoln. The Rifle Club range is open to public use on a periodic basis. The law enforcement range is not open to the public.

940 DESIGNATED RECREATION TRAILS

Designated recreation trails are those for which the County provides a designated trail and/or facility. The County currently provides trail systems that accommodate a high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other activities on these trails that are not compatible with the intent of the development.

Whenever possible, multiple uses of various trail systems are encouraged and are subject to policy review of the Committee. Wherever possible, attempts will be made to avoid user conflicts. Recreational users, however, will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future of the County Forest. Trail systems are identified in Chapter 1000.

940.1 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

The Eau Claire County Forest is a multiple use forest. Non-motorized recreation trails are a legitimate use of the forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight natural features present on the Forest, should minimize damage, and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape.

It shall be the policy of the Committee to consider opportunities for the following non-motorized recreation trails on the County Forest:

940.1.1 Hiking Trails

All the County Forest is open to hiking or foot travel unless marked with signs closing an area. Evergreen and Tower Ridge Ski Trails are open to hiking in the off-ski season.

L.L. Phillips Trail

This 1.2-mile walking trail in L.L. Phillips County Park on the Eau Claire River meanders through a pine plantation and stands of aspen, spruce, and oak, past an ox bow lake, and Seven Mile Creek offering a brochure-guided tour to nature lovers.

Beaver Creek Reserve Nature Trails

Miles of scenic trails gives visitors the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Eau Claire River Valley and possibly catch a glimpse of some of its inhabitants like deer, bear, beaver, wild turkey, golden winged warblers, a tufted titmouse, a lady slipper or jack-in- the-pulpit. The self-guided interpretive trails, wildlife/photography blind, butterfly garden feeding stations and boardwalks are designed to enhance every outdoor experience.

940.1.2 Mountain Bike/Fat Tire/Bicycle Trails

Undesignated Bicycle Trails

If not gated, bermed, or posted to prohibit travel, all trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for recreational bicycle use. Mountain biking is not allowed on designated cross-country ski trails.

Designated Bicycle Trails

Shepherds Crook Mountain Bike Trail

This seven- mile bike trail near Coon Fork Park day area provides access on the west side of Coon Fork Pine Barrens State Natural Area and county forest land. Along the trail are pine barrens, a wetland, small lake, white pine, aspen, and oak stands. Half of this trail is open for motor vehicle access to private land. Half of the trail is gated to prohibit motor vehicles.

Lowes Creek Park Mountain Bike Trail

This trail at Lowes Creek Park totals approximately 5 miles and utilizes the hiking, ski, and fitness trails. Trail access is from the parking lot off South Lowes Creek Road

Rustic Road Mountain Bike Trail

This five-mile bike route/trail leaves Coon Fork campground and follows Rustic Road to the east, then Black Creek Town Road to the south, then CTH M east, then North Center Road to the north past a gate and onto County forest land along a trail that comes into the day park at Coon Fork from the south.

940.1.3 Equestrian Trails

Undesignated Horseback Riding Trails

The Eau Claire County Code of Ordinances does not allow a person to ride or possess a horse in any park, wayside, or special use area except in designated places. All county forestland, trails, and roads are open for horseback trail riding except for all or parts of certain cross-country ski trails.

Designated Horseback Riding Trails

There are designated horseback riding trails on a portion of the hiking and ski trails at Tower Ridge Recreation Area, off from Hamilton Falls trail, and off CTH G in the Town of Bridge Creek known as the Backwater Trail Area.

940.1.4 Ski Trails

Undesignated Cross-Country Ski Trails

All trails on county forestland, except snowmobile trails, are open for cross-country skiing. Cross-country skiing on groomed snowmobile trails is not permitted due to safety concerns.

Designated Cross-Country Ski Trails

Eau Claire County maintains and regularly grooms ski trails on the forest at Tower Ridge Recreation Area, Coon Fork Recreation Area, and Evergreen Ski Trail. Tower Ridge is in the Town of Seymour off CTH L, while Coon Fork and Evergreen Ski Trails are in the Town of Bridge Creek off CTH CF. Motorized vehicle use is not permitted on these trail systems without authorization.

940.1.5 Snowshoe Trails

There are designated snowshoe trails on county land. These include Lowes Creek Park and Tower Ridge Recreation Area (adjacent to, but separate from the cross-

country ski trails at these two ski areas), and at the Guettinger Woods and Wildlife Area on Sandberg Road, off CTH 37, in the Town of Brunswick approximately 7 miles south of the City of Eau Claire.

940.1.6 Future non-motorized trail systems

The development of additional non-motorized trail systems will include careful consideration of public demand, analysis of user conflicts and potential damage to the natural resource. Trail system development should comply with the Outdoor Recreation Plan goals and be referenced in SCORP or other regional planning documents.

Non-motorized trail systems generally are not supported by statewide grant programs. The County may require proof of an organized club, or user group, with the ability to assist with maintenance and support of the trail and associated facilities. Appropriate trail passes, or other user fees, may be implemented as indicated in Section 905.

940.2 MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

940.2.1 Designated Snowmobile Trails

Designated snowmobile trails are those recognized by the Committee as the official trails within the County. The Parks and Forest Department manages the snowmobile trail system in Eau Claire County. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance, and insurance obligations between the County and local clubs. The County contracts with the Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County for snowmobile trail maintenance:

The Eau Claire County Code and the Road and Access Plan regulate snowmobile trails. A summary of rules and regulations relating to snowmobile trails is as follows:

- a. Snowmobile trails are closed to cars and trucks from December 1st. through March 31st.

- b. The Parks and Forest Director will make determinations to officially open and close snowmobile trails based on snow and maintenance conditions.
- c. Snowmobile trails used for logging access during snowmobile season will be posted with signs warning users of activity.
- d. Insert rules/regulations as appropriate.

Eau Claire County recognizes the following categories of snowmobile trail:

940.2.1.1 Trail Types

The County recognizes several different classifications of snowmobile trail:

State Funded Trails – these are state approved and funded trail miles on designated trails that are part of a statewide network of trail systems. Snowmobile registration fees and gas tax allotments fund grants that support maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of these trails. There are approximately 181 miles of funded trails in Eau Claire County, with approximately 30 miles on County Forest Lands.

Unfunded Trails – these are segments of trail that meet the eligibility requirements for a funded trail system but have not been included in the grant system due to restrictions on available funding. There are approximately 2 miles of unfunded trails in Eau Claire County, with 0 miles on County Forest lands.

Local/Club Trails – these are trails that are not funded by State maintenance grants and may or may not be groomed by local clubs. These trails may not meet eligibility requirements of a funded trail and may dead end at local businesses. There are 0 miles of club trails in Eau Claire County.

940.2.1.2 Trail Maintenance

Eau Claire County contracts with the Eau Claire County Snowmobile Association to groom the funded snowmobile trail system. The County periodically assists with mowing, grading or other trail maintenance projects as needed.

The County shall inspect and monitor bridges and other infrastructure on the trail system and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace or rehabilitate as needed.

940.2.1.3 Future Snowmobile Trails

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over any trail development proposals on Eau Claire County Forest land. It is recommended that future trails be considered only after careful consideration of costs, benefits and impacts and as part of a larger planning effort.

Proposals to relocate trails or to adjust the existing trail system will be encouraged where there are concerns of public safety or environmental damage. Unfunded and club trails should be evaluated for maintenance funding application.

940.2.2 Designated ATV Trails

Designated ATV Trails exist in the eastern end of the county, east of HWY 27. Currently, there are a total of 30 miles of ATV trails and routes. These state funded trails run both in the summer and winter months.

940.2.2.1 Trail Types

The County recognizes several different classifications of ATV trail. Maps are appended for reference.

1. Funded Winter ATV Trails – Most of the state funded snowmobile trails on the County Forest are also designated and funded as winter use ATV trails. There are approximately 20 miles of winter funded ATV trail managed by Eau Claire County, with 20 miles on County Forest lands.

2. Funded Summer ATV Trails – these are trail systems funded for only summer winter use. These trails are open from May 15th – March 14th There are

approximately 20 miles of summer use ATV trails managed by the County with 20 miles on the County Forest.

3. Funded Year-Round Trails - these are trail systems funded for both winter and summer use. There are approximately 20 miles of year-round funded ATV trails managed by Eau Claire County with 20 miles on the County Forest.

4. Funded UTV Trails – UTV’s, or side by sides, are allowed on ATV trail systems. Eau Claire County allows for UTV’s on 20 miles of the trail system within the County. These state funded trails are open for traffic May 1 through November 30.

5. Funded Troute/Hybrid Trails – The ATV/UTV program does not allow for full maintenance funding on ATV/UTV trails that are open to highway traffic (cars, trucks, etc.) ATV trails with this dual use that were maintained and funded prior to August 1, 2012 are still funded at 100% of the annual per mile maintenance rate. Hamilton Falls ATV troute (4.15 miles) is the only section of the county forest that is open to both ATV’s and truck traffic. Trails funded after August 1, 2012 allow for partial funding under the following categories:

5a. County Forest Gas Tax Roads – these are gas tax roads used as a connector to trails or services and are funded at a rate determined by the full per mile funding rate, less gas tax funding rate, not to exceed 50% of the full maintenance funding rate. Eau Claire County maintains 3.28 miles of County Forest Road Troutes. This is made of 2.44 miles of Channey Road and .84 miles of Forest Road #3.

5b. Hybrid Trails – these are trails designated as ATV trails, opened after August 1, 2012, that also permit highway vehicle traffic. These are funded at 50% of the annual maintenance funding rate. Eau Claire County maintains 0 miles of Hybrid/Troute trails.

5c. Club Trails – These are trails not funded under the state ATV program. In some cases, these are trails that are maintained and may be added as a funded trail at a future date. Eau Claire County Forest has 0 miles of club trails.

940.2.2.2 ATV Trail Maintenance

For ATV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion.

Eau Claire county maintains existing ATV trails by grading, adding trail surface material, sign replacements, and contracted mowing on an annual basis. Periodic tree removal is needed on certain trails after storms and as preventative maintenance, all this work is done utilizing county parks and forest department staff.

The County shall inspect and monitor trails, bridges and other infrastructure and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace improvements or rehabilitate trail surfaces or bridges as needed.

940.2.2.3 Future ATV Trails

The use and popularity of ATV's and UTV's increased dramatically over the period of the 2006-2020 County Forest Plan. Increased usage of trail systems proved a tremendous need for much higher levels of trail maintenance to manage environmental damages.

Adding ATV trails could be done as part of larger planning effort that incorporates considerations for impact on other users and user groups, how future trail systems

will be maintained, and impact on the natural resources. New ATV trail systems will only be considered with the following framework:

- “Trails should be designed and planned to connect communities”
- “Loop trails will be discouraged unless part of a larger trail system that connects communities”
- “Dead end trails will not be sanctioned as part of the County ATV trail system”
- “Intensive use areas will not be permitted, (or are recommended)”
- “New trails will only be allowed if they fit within an ATV plan established by the Committee”
- “Trails will only be considered on suitable soils and in appropriate locations”

It is critical that trail layout and design is done in such a way as to prevent erosion and soil loss. Trails must be developed sustainably. For the purpose of this plan, sustainability is defined as follows:

Sustainability – For the purpose of ATV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion. Trails should be built with a slight crown and appropriate ditching to allow for adequate and proper water dispersal.

940.2.3 Designated Motorcycle Trails

Eau Claire County does not allow motorcycles on County Forest land per county code. There are no designated motorcycle trails in the County Forest.

940.2.4 Other Designated Motor Vehicle Trails

Other motorized recreational use of the County Forest is prohibited on trails that are blocked with rock, bermed, gated, or signed as closed.

940.3 RECREATION TRAIL PERMITS

940.3.1 Storm Water Discharge

In general, any trail construction or rehabilitation activities that disturb one acre or more of land will require a Storm Water Discharge Permit. There have been instances of inconsistent application of permit requirements statewide. To further define the County's understanding and implementation of permit requirements, the following current acceptable process will be used for determining when a permit is needed.

- The 1-acre threshold will be determined by measuring/estimated new disturbance or disturbance of previously grassed surfaces.
- Periodic grading of impervious or non-grassed trail surfaces is not considered disturbance.
- Restoration of water filtration/diversion devices, such as sediment traps or catch basins is considered maintenance and not disturbance.
- Reconstruction of previously grassed ditch lines as part of trail rehabilitation is considered disturbance.

940.3.2 Chapter 30

Permits are required for bridges or culvert crossings of navigable waterways. These permits will either be classified as general or individual depending on specific site conditions. These permits are not required for culvert or bridge crossings of non-navigable or intermittent streams, nor are they required to install a clear span bridge over wetlands.

940.3.3 Wetland Fill

Permits are required at any time that fill is placed in a wetland. Permits are available to fill small wetlands for recreation trail purposes. Wetland fill must be less than 10,000 square feet and the permit does not require wetland mitigation. Clear span bridge and

boardwalks placed on pilings generally do not require a wetland fill permit. Puncheon style bridges do require a permit.

945 RECREATION PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANTS

945.1 RECREATION AREA FUNDING

Funding for recreation areas is generally fee based. Aid for Development of Local Parks (ADLP) funding is available for facility development or enhancement but there is normally a very high level of completion for these funds.

945.2 RECREATION TRAIL FUNDING

945.2.1 Non-motorized trail systems

At this time, there is very limited access to any grant funds that will assist with non-motorized recreational trail maintenance. Eau Claire County relies on general funds and state aids to help assist with the costs of maintaining and development of non-motorized trail systems, including RTP funds for cross country ski trail maintenance at Tower Ridge Recreation Area.

945.2.2 Motorized trail systems

There are numerous grant programs available to offset motorized trail system costs. Eau Claire County utilizes the following funding sources:

1. Snowmobile Maintenance - \$300/mile
2. ATV Summer Maintenance - \$600/mile
3. ATV Winter Maintenance - \$100/mile
4. UTV Maintenance - \$100/mile
5. ATV Rehabilitation - 100% grants
6. ATV Development - 100% grants

950 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RECREATION PROGRAM

The following are recommended changes that this Plan recognizes as improvements or enhancements to the recreation program.

950.1 Enforcement needs

The need for a recreational patrol officer would be a help to the department. There is currently a long lag time when law enforcement is needed for atv trail patrols and/or help with timber sale enforcement. The potential recreational patrol officer would help aid the department on forestry issues, trail related issues, and overall campground and park safety issues. As users continue to put more pressure on the county forest, a centralized recreation officer would be a foreseeable need for the county as we move ahead.

950.2 Staff needs

Current staffing levels of full-time employees appears to be adequate. As the demand for Parks and Forest service's grow, the need for additional staff members is foreseen. The department would like to consider focusing additional staff members for the purposes of parks management, enforcement of vehicle entrance fees and regulations, and public outreach. If any additions are made to the park system or departmental responsibilities, an analysis would be made at that time to see if additional workers would be necessary for the department.

The amount of seasonal labor is also an area where we could see a need for additional workers if we continue to offer the same number of services and/or more.

950.3 Campgrounds

Current levels of campsites appear to be satisfactory to the public. A concentrated horse campground in the eastern part of the county is a potential need that could be built in the next 15 years. There is also consideration of an atv accessible campground that could connect to the county atv trail system.

950.4 Parks

No new additions to the park system are currently being planned. Any new park dedication would be predicated on the parcel being donated to the county and fulfilling a recreational need that is currently not being fulfilled.

950.5 Trails

Motorized and non-motorized trail developments will be considered by the Parks and Forest Director. Upon recommendation of the director, the proposals can be evaluated by the full Committee. Final decisions will be predicated on impact on the resource, amount of funds available to make the development, and ability to maintain and fund maintenance in the future.