

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• Committee On Parks & Forest •

Monday, May 10, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Dial In: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 145 097 9719

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Winnie Parker at Winnie.Parker@co.eau-claire.wi.us at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the public session to make your comments. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person and 30 minutes maximum for the public comment period.

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice
2. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes - **Discussion/Action**
 - a. April 12, 2021
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Timber Sale Bids - **Discussion/action**
5. Approve Timber Sale Extensions - **Discussion/action**
6. Resolution 21-22.006 Designation of Wilderness Areas - **Discussion/Action**
7. Resolution 21-22.012 Adopting the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Land Use Plan - **Discussion/Action**
8. Timber Sale Extensions - **Discussion/Action**
9. Carbon Credits - **Discussion/Action**
10. Memorial Bench request by Dawne Hanson Lake Altoona Park - **Discussion/Action**
11. Fall Tour Date - **Discussion/Action**
12. Director's Report
13. Committee Updates
14. Future Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Meeting – June 14, 2021 at 5 p.m.

15. Adjourn

Prepared by Winnie Parker, Parks & Forest

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710 (FAX) 8391669 or (TDD) 8394735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, April 12, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Present: Kevin Stelljes, Joe Knight, Missy Christopherson, Gary Gibson, Tami Schraufnagel

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison, Jacob Tumm – EC County Forester, Erika Gullerud – Fiscal Associate, Greg Leonard – Land Conservation Manager

Chair Stelljes called the meeting to order at 5pm and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

Verbal roll call was taken by the committee clerk and is noted above under present.

No members of the public were present.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 8, 2021 meeting. Supervisor Knight moved to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes passed unanimously.

Director Josh Pedersen highlighted Chapter 2000 of the 15 Year Plan. Because the focus of this document is the county forest, Lake Altoona Park is not mentioned.

2000-7 The table in this section was derived from the online timber management program, “Timber Base.” The numbers will deviate slightly based on annual changes.

2000-8 Correction made indicating that Lowe’s Creek Trails were broadened to include skate ski trails as well.

2000-10 Wood trails are open to public travel to those with a licensed vehicle. There was an edit made to chapter 700 reflecting road/trail closures.

Page 11 Wildlife Management – Fisheries biologist helped write this section referring to all our bodies of water in the county. Central District Ecologist, Dean Edlin, helped prepare this section. Burns on the state natural areas are managed by the DNR. The natural area on North Fork is not listed here because it is an area on which we have not had active management.

2000-21 As a matter of record, it would be appropriate to add reports done for the county here, like the annual work plan, annual report, and timber forecast model. Even though there is an abundance of natural regeneration happening, it is good to now be on a regular planting schedule.

Wildlife habitat in Eau Claire County is some of the best in the state and does not really get that much attention.

Page 26 Forest Composition – Aspen and oak have increased while pine and jack pine has decreased. See transitions which come from our model as to how the composition compares to the history. There is more jack pine due to the fire regimen. Red pine is a naturally occurring species. Oak historically was here, just not as heavy as it is today.

Chair Stelljes suggested for a future agenda discussion of the pursuit of the acquisition of the canoe landing site on Highway 27 and the canoe rental business as a keystone property along the river.

Chair Stelljes motioned to get an informal review by the DNR, then a formal approval from the county board and, finally, back to the DNR for a final approval before the 15 Year Plan is published. All in favor, none opposed.

NOTE: Thank you for all the work that went into updating the 15 Year Plan.

Forrest Gibeault of Steigerwaldt Land Services presented the opportunities for forest carbon credits. Please see attached slides. Forrest's goal is to help counties like Eau Claire to get into the market.

Joe Knight brought up the fact that one of Eau Claire County's goals is to be carbon neutral by 2050, and wondered if Eau Claire County could partner with surrounding counties to have a larger presence in the market. It is not likely that many, if any, developers will entertain this idea.

Missy Christopherson asked about Eau Claire County hanging onto our own carbon credits to meet our carbon neutrality goals. To offset the cost of that, it is likely developers would have a higher cost. Developers have a certain threshold of credits that need to be met.

Most, if not all, timber harvesting practices in comparable projects have not changed, conducting "business as usual." Some in the program have intentionally left out certain wood types when creating their carbon credit project to allow for conducting "business as usual." Forrest anticipates that Eau Claire County will probably be able to continue as they always have and perhaps also increase northern hardwood enrollments.

Missy Christopherson asked if Forrest had a sense of what we could anticipate with regards to staffing needs. It takes approximately 20-40 staff hours, give or take, to help package this information. The most time is spent considering the footprint for long term goals and setbacks (buffers). The building of summary documentation for forest management with details, which could be pulled from already developed reports, is the first step. This information should be well thought out and assembled in such a way that represents the goals of the county.

Kevin Stelljes asked for a "good rule of thumb" for the magnitude of this opportunity. Base ground biomass 100/ton(+or-) range does not necessarily equate credits for sale. A conservative estimation is \$50/acre total net return in 40 years. This is highly conservative. They want quotes to over produce rather than under produce. Greater than 1 million but less than 5 million. A 40-thousand-acre productive forest is a very meaningful project. This is significant enough to be worth a developer's time. Most importantly, a carbon developer is going to be looking for a commitment from the county if they are going to put all the preliminary work into a project. Projects take 12-18 months to get to the market.

Spring Timber Sales. Jake Tumm and Kyle Johnson presented seven (7) new sales and three (3) previously opened sales. #1-21, 2-21, 3-21, 4-21, 5-21, 6-21, 7-21, 3-20, 10-20, 14-19.

#1-21 We are leaving seed trees in this area, taking 2/3rd out and leaving 1/3rd. This area will be replanted with white spruce which is native to Wisconsin.

#2-21 One part of this area has never been thinned while another part has been thinned three (3) times. We can do a product comparison here. When we go to replant, we will use red pine in the area next to Goat Ranch Road to replant after clear cutting and the area near Horse Creek Road will get a first thinning.

#3-21 This is another big sale which has two sections that can be accessed off two ATV trails.

#4-21 There is a stand of pine along the trail that did not sell the last go around. There are two (2) to three (3) different age pines with an oak area that did not sell before. We will clear cut this and it will come back to oak. Kevin Stelljes had a thought to get a group like the Boy Scouts to make sparse bunk houses using the local wood.

#5-21 There is quite a bit of aspen here, a larger stand broken up into smaller sections to have various age ranges of trees. The plan is to leave oak 10" and over for a visual barrier and wildlife habitat. It will regenerate to aspen. In 2015 an access road north of Chaney Road was improved due to funds from a Ruffed Grouse Grant. Currently there is a cable up across the access, but there is a plan to put up a gate to allow for only walking access.

#6-21 This sale is largely a thinning. It is coded as aspen but is mostly a pine plantation and natural white pine that has not been treated. It is a larger 50-acre sale of oak regeneration. Kevin Stelljes expressed concern about this being mainly "wild" right now and how adding a culvert for access would impact the current state of the naturalness of the land? To create better access, the plan is to have a permanent culvert added with the supervision, oversight, and approval of the DNR. This is the least invasive to the creek and is not an environmental "trade off" when done appropriately. This would require a Chapter 30 permit and the cost is minimal to the county (about \$303 for the permit itself plus supplies and county employee labor). This solution has minimal cost to the county and minimal impact to the forest.

#7-21 This sale has a tough access point on Black Creek. It is jack pine regeneration after a clear cut with aerial seeding in a few years. We plan to release seed in a few years to the white oak region.

#3-20 No change on this sale.

#10-20 Third (3rd) time this sale is open for bids. There is not much to harvest to make it lucrative.

#14-19 This is a very small sale with an access road off H.

All contracts are for two (2) years.

Tami Schraufnagel moves to put all sales up for bid. All in favor, none opposed.

Transfer of sale #1800-1, 1806-1, and 1835-1. Dan Nelson, owner/operator of DMS Forestry passed away. We have been willing to work with Dan's wife to wrap up his affairs. After consulting with Chauncey Effensen from counsel, it was suggested that we close out these three (3) sales and allow Krizan Logging to take them over. Because these bids were already offered to the public it is not necessary, according to Chauncey, to do this again if Krizan is willing to take the bids as written. Joe Knight motioned to approve the transfer of these three (3) sales as written. All approved, none opposed. Tami Schraufnagel expressed appreciation for the humanity given and expressed in helping DMS in this situation.

Resolution 20-21.128 Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program – After some discussion it was decided that Joe Knight will add examples to the fact sheet of things more than land acquisition, for instance the chalet, and bike trails which shows other diverse uses. Gary Gibson moved to accept the motion as is and modify the fact sheet only. All in favor, none opposed.

Willett Woods Old Growth Management Area Proposal. After discussion about whether or not we honor Bruce Willett by making this a wilderness area it was decided to forward this onto the Advisory Committee to research and make a suggestion to the Committee. There is no objection to honor Bruce Willett, it is just a matter of how best to do so. We would like to get this accomplished before the family has a memorial for Bruce sometime this summer. The Advisory Committee will have until the end of May to report to the Committee during the June meeting. The family has been informed already of our intent to honor Bruce. Joe moved to send this to the Advisory Committee and report back to the Committee in June. All in favor, none opposed.

Gary Gibson reported on the 1930's history of a Federal Government Works Project and Public Works Projects to build dams which provided work after the Great Depression. Kevin inquired as to the cost of the project. The Lake Eau Claire Association is looking for donations toward their \$5,000 goal to raise money to place a plaque in the area commemorating the rich history of the Altoona Dam. While we are not generally opposed to donating to this project, more information is needed, for instance, is there a working model? And what is the actual cost? Josh Pedersen indicated that the Parks and Forest Department would have some say as to the type of sign and its location.


Director's report – No comments.

Committee Updates – No comments.

The next meeting date was set for May 10, 2021, at 5:00 PM virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Winnie Parker
Committee Clerk
Administrative Specialist III – Parks & Forest

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST - May 5th, 2021 bid opening

TRT 1-21				5	Name -->	Walters Logging	shunk Forestry	byers forestry	Strzok Logging	Walters Logging	Martins Forestry					
Product	Tns	Cord	MBF	Minimum												
Oak Saw			33		\$	400.00	\$	250.00	\$	355.00	\$	415.00	\$	400.00	\$	226.00
Mx Saw			1		\$	400.00	\$	250.00	\$	355.00	\$	300.00	\$	400.00	\$	226.00
Oak Bolts		95			\$	70.00	\$	40.00	\$	80.00	\$	44.00	\$	70.00	\$	102.60
Mx Bolts		10			\$	70.00	\$	40.00	\$	80.00	\$	34.00	\$	70.00	\$	102.60
Aspen Bolts		3			\$	70.00	\$	40.00	\$	19.10	\$	34.00	\$	70.00	\$	14.60
Oak Pulp	420				\$	9.09	\$	5.45	\$	8.50	\$	16.00	\$	9.09	\$	7.70
Spruce Pulp	215				\$	19.00	\$	22.22	\$	14.50	\$	12.00	\$	19.00	\$	15.50
MX Pulp	95				\$	6.25	\$	10.86	\$	8.50	\$	14.00	\$	6.25	\$	7.70
Aspen Pulp	20				\$	8.88	\$	10.22	\$	8.50	\$	14.00	\$	8.88	\$	6.50
Totals	750	108	34	\$17,819.30	\$	29,834.15	\$	21,122.40	\$	28,192.30	\$	29,527.00	\$	29,834.15	\$	25,928.80

TRT 2-21				4	Name -->	Kron Forest Products	Byers Forestry	Strzok	Martins Forestry	Kron Forest Products						
Product	Tns	Cord	MBF	Minimum												
Red Pine	1800				\$	30.00	\$	27.78	\$	29.56	\$	25.50	\$	30.00		
Oak	6				\$	1.00	\$	5.00	\$	14.00	\$	5.50	\$	1.00		
Totals	1806		0	\$35,672.40	\$	54,006.00	\$	50,034.00	\$	53,292.00	\$	45,933.00	\$	54,006.00	\$	-

TRT 3-21				5	Name -->	Northwest Hdwds	Country Forest Products	Syrzczuk	Strzok	Northwest Hdwds	Flannel Fleet Logging					
Product	Tns	Cord	MBF	Minimum												
White Oak			158		\$	575.00	\$	610.00	\$	506.25	\$	375.00	\$	575.00	\$	375.00
Red Oak			33		\$	525.00	\$	350.00	\$	506.25	\$	375.00	\$	525.00	\$	300.00
Black Oak			33		\$	250.00	\$	350.00	\$	390.00	\$	375.00	\$	250.00	\$	140.00
Red Maple			40		\$	400.00	\$	375.00	\$	390.00	\$	375.00	\$	400.00	\$	180.00
White Pine			9.5		\$	150.00	\$	75.00	\$	125.00	\$	100.00	\$	150.00	\$	120.00
Oak		350			\$	70.00	\$	60.00	\$	80.00	\$	20.00	\$	70.00	\$	30.00
Red Maple		260			\$	70.00	\$	60.00	\$	80.00	\$	20.00	\$	70.00	\$	30.00
Aspen		48			\$	70.00	\$	55.00	\$	70.00	\$	20.00	\$	70.00	\$	12.00
Oak	2344				\$	6.00	\$	5.00	\$	6.00	\$	8.00	\$	6.00	\$	7.00
Red Maple	2500				\$	6.00	\$	5.00	\$	6.00	\$	8.00	\$	6.00	\$	7.00
White Pine	75				\$	6.00	\$	2.00	\$	8.00	\$	8.00	\$	6.00	\$	10.00
Aspen	190				\$	6.00	\$	10.00	\$	8.00	\$	8.00	\$	6.00	\$	30.00
Totals	5109	658	273.5	\$134,242.80	\$	210,564.00	\$	200,702.50	\$	209,695.25	\$	153,982.00	\$	210,564.00	\$	141,344.00

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST - May 5th, 2021 bid opening

TRT 4-21				3	Name -->	Martins Forestry	Shunk Forestry	Martins Forestry	Kron Forest Products							
Product	Tns	Cord	MBF	Minimum												
White Pine			15.5		\$	192.00	\$	130.00	\$	192.00	\$	120.00				
Mx Hdwd			4		\$	355.00	\$	200.00	\$	355.00	\$	150.00				
Black Oak			20		\$	355.00	\$	200.00	\$	355.00	\$	150.00				
Red Pine		105			\$	39.80	\$	55.00	\$	39.80	\$	58.50				
Red Pine	560				\$	17.70	\$	12.20	\$	17.70	\$	26.00				
White Pine	315				\$	17.70	\$	12.20	\$	17.70	\$	15.00				
Jack Pine	105				\$	17.70	\$	12.20	\$	17.70	\$	15.00				
Mx Hdwd	340				\$	8.80	\$	7.00	\$	8.80	\$	7.00				
Black Oak	410				\$	8.60	\$	7.00	\$	8.60	\$	7.00				
Totals	1730	105	39.5	\$24,168.50	\$	39,539.00	\$	29,796.00	\$	39,539.00	\$	37,712.50	\$	-	\$	-

TRT 5-21				4	Name -->	Lake States Timber	Thlusty Logging	Shunk Forestry	Flannel Fleet Logging	Lake States Timber						
Product	Tns	Cord	MBF	Minimum					incomplete							
Mx Hdwd			2		\$	200.00	\$	305.00	\$	250.00	\$	200.00				
Oak			2		\$	200.00	\$	305.00	\$	250.00	\$	200.00				
Aspen		140			\$	20.00	\$	31.00	\$	40.00	\$	16.00	\$	20.00		
Mx Hdwd		40			\$	20.00	\$	55.00	\$	40.00	\$	12.00	\$	20.00		
Oak		30			\$	20.00	\$	55.00	\$	40.00	\$	15.00	\$	20.00		
Aspen	1800				\$	20.00	\$	13.57	\$	5.55	\$	13.00	\$	20.00		
Mx Hdwd	550				\$	5.00	\$	11.53	\$	5.55	\$	7.00	\$	5.00		
White Pine	30				\$	8.75	\$	14.00	\$	5.55	\$	8.00	\$	8.75		
Oak	70				\$	5.00	\$	12.00	\$	5.55	\$	4.50	\$	5.00		
Totals	2450	210	4	\$21,144.00	\$	44,362.50	\$	41,437.50	\$	22,997.50	\$	30,975.00	\$	44,362.50	\$	-

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST - May 5th, 2021 bid opening

TRT 6-21				1	Name -->	Martins Forestry	Martins Forestry					
Product	Tns	Cord	MBF	Minimum								
Oak			154		\$	195.00	\$	195.00				
White Pine			77		\$	30.00	\$	30.00				
Oak		171			\$	88.80	\$	88.80				
Red Pine		154			\$	12.80	\$	12.80				
Red Maple		17			\$	88.80	\$	88.80				
Aspen		6			\$	4.10	\$	4.10				
Oak	1143				\$	5.00	\$	5.00				
Red Maple	470				\$	5.00	\$	5.00				
Aspen	100				\$	1.80	\$	1.80				
White Pine	840				\$	5.70	\$	5.70				
Red Pine	780				\$	5.70	\$	5.70				
Jack Pine	20				\$	5.70	\$	5.70				
Totals	3353	348	231	\$67,559.10	\$	68,623.20	\$	68,623.20	\$	-	\$	-

2
3 TO AMEND SECTION 16.02.030 A. 3. AND B. 7. OF THE CODE: DESIGNATION OF
4 WILDERNESS AREAS

5
6 The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Eau Claire does ordain as follows:

7
8 SECTION 1. That paragraph 3. of Subsection A. and paragraph 7. of Subsection B. of
9 Section 16.02.030 of the code be amended to read:

10
11 3. "~~Hathaway Creek~~ Bruce Willett Wilderness Area", 98 acres more or less
12 including the SWNE and the NWSE lying North of County Road G, and the S1/2 of the NWNE,
13 the SW1/4 of the NENE, and the W1/2 of the SENE lying North of County Road G, all in Section
14 12, T26N, R6W in the town of Bridge Creek.

15
16
17 7. The minimum recommended size of 3,000 acres for designation of Wilson,
18 Horse Creek and ~~Hathaway Creek~~ Bruce Willett Wilderness Areas is hereby waived.

19
20
21 I hereby certify that the foregoing
22 correctly represents the action taken
23 By the undersigned Committee on
24 May 10, 2020 by a vote of ____
25 for, and ____ against.

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29 _____
30 Kevin Stelljes, Chair
31 Committee on Parks and Forest
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FACT SHEET FILE NO 21-22.06
CREATING THE BRUCE WILLETT WILDERNESS AREA

Bruce Willett was a once in a generation leader who combined foresight, passion, and political skill to enhance conservation efforts in Eau Claire County. Willett, who was a former County Board Chair and longtime County Board Supervisor, passed away on January 8, 2021 at the age of 94.

As a County Board Supervisor, he was an ardent and dedicated member of the County Parks and Forest Committee, the Land Conservation Commission, Beaver Creek Reserve Board, and a founding member of the Land Stewardship Program. He was at the center of the creation of the Guettinger Woods area, the non-metallic mining moratorium to allow code updates and was involved in most every issue concerning the protection and enjoyment of our natural resources. His enthusiasm for conservation was a hallmark of his character and an inspiration for others to serve in public office.

Within the Eau Claire County Forest, there are three designated “Wilderness Areas,” representing less than 1% of the 52,000 acres of County Forest. The designation of “Wilderness Area” protects these parts of the forest from logging, roads, and motorized disturbances. The purpose of such a designation is to preserve certain areas of the Forest with a high historic authenticity.

In 1996 Willett initiated and championed the creation of these Wilderness Areas. The professional forestry community, including County staff and DNR foresters initially opposed Willett’s effort. Yet he worked with these parties to identify and ultimately create the Wilderness Areas for the purpose of promoting the preservation and natural evolution of unmanaged, old growth forest. He was a visionary in this regard.

Twenty-five years later, the County has pledged to achieve a state of “carbon neutrality” by the year 2050. Carbon sequestration in the 52,000 acre County Forest will play a major role in achieving this goal. Further, the Wisconsin DNR recently published “Carbon in Wisconsin Forests” which describes present conditions and future strategies to increase carbon sequestration. The document states: “Older forest systems with large trees generally store more carbon than young forests and should be well represented on the landscape.”

The Hathaway Creek Wilderness area, named after Hathaway Creek, is approximately 98 acres of forest adjacent to County Highway “G” in the Town of Bridge Creek. This ordinance proposes renaming the “Hathaway Creek Wilderness Area” to the “Bruce Willett Wilderness Area” in honor of Bruce’s lifelong dedication to the environment and his decades of support to the Eau Claire County Forest. A memorial honoring Bruce Willett would be placed in the parking area near the Wilderness Area.

The cost of renaming the Hathaway Creek Wilderness Area, to the Bruce Willett Wilderness Area will be negligible, and will easily be funded from the current Parks and Forest budget.

Kevin Stelljes
Chair, Parks and Forest Committee

2
3 ADOPTING THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN-

4
5 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has lands enrolled as County Forest pursuant to Wis.
6 Stat. § 28.11; and

7
8 WHEREAS, Subsection (5)(a) of said statute requires that a Comprehensive County
9 Forest Land Use Plan be prepared by the County Forestry Committee with said Plan to
10 encompass a 15-year period with subsequent plan revisions to be completed at 15-year intervals
11 thereafter; and

12
13 WHEREAS, said Plan is required to contain land use designations, forest protection,
14 annual allowable timber harvests, recreational development, land acquisition, fish and game
15 management activities, roads, silvicultural operations, an inventory of the County Forest
16 documented with maps, records and priorities and a listing of management activities needed
17 during said plan period; and

18
19 WHEREAS, this Plan also highlights incorporation of third-party forest certification, an
20 access management plan, the County Forest boundary, protection of unique natural resources,
21 integrated resource management and implementation of geographical information system
22 technology; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the county's goals, objectives, policies and operating procedures with
25 respect to implementation of said Plan are enumerated in the Plan; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Subsection (5)(a) of the above-referenced statute requires that said Plan be
28 approved by the County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Natural Resources; and

29
30 WHEREAS, said Plan is a dynamic document to be revised by amendment as approved
31 by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors as changing conditions require.

32
33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Eau Claire County Board of
34 Supervisors, in consideration of the contents of said Plan hereby approves it and directs the Parks
35 and Forest Director to forward an official copy of the Plan to the Wisconsin Department of
36 Natural Resources for their approval.

37
38
39 I hereby certify that the foregoing
40 correctly represents the action of the
41 Committee on Parks and Forest on
42 May ____, 2021, by a vote of ____ for, and ____
43 against.

44
45
46 _____
47 Kevin Stelljes, Chair
48 Committee on Parks & Forest
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FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 21-22/012

Passage of this resolution will formally adopt the 2021-2035 Eau Claire County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Section 28.11 of Wisconsin Statutes requires Eau Claire County to develop and revise a fifteen (15) year comprehensive county forest land use plan. The plan is used by the County to set goals, objectives, policies, and operating procedures for management of the Eau Claire County Forest. The plan addresses several key components including land use designations, land acquisition, forest protection, annual allowable timber harvests, recreational developments, fish and game management activities, roads and access, and silvicultural operations.

The Parks and Forest Committee has approved the plan and it updates the previous plan, from 2005-2020. A formal planning process, involving significant input from stakeholder groups and the general public, was conducted to guide the development of the plan. The plan will be systematically applied by the Parks and Forest Department to pursue program objectives outlined in the plan, by implementing activities scheduled through the Department's annual work planning and budget process.

This plan needs to be approved by the County Board consistent with the mandates of Sec. 28.11, Wis. Stats.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact to Eau Claire County by passage of this resolution. If the plan is not adopted, as required under Section 28.11 (5) (a), Wis. Stats, the County will be ineligible for the County Forest Administrator Grant and the Wildlife Habitat Management Grant. These two grant programs annually contribute around \$54,000 of revenue to the County. Failure to adopt the plan would also deem the County ineligible for Sustainable Forestry Grants, Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants, or interest free Forestry Aid Loans, until a Comprehensive Plan is approved. The Parks and Forest Department consistently utilizes the Sustainable Forestry Grant program and has also used the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grants program in the past to help cost share on County Forest land acquisition projects.

Respectfully Submitted,



Josh Pedersen
Parks and Forest Director



**Eau Claire County Forest
Comprehensive Land Use
Plan
2021-2035**

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

**STATEWIDE TEMPLATE
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Rev: 5/18/2021

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COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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100 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Eau Claire County Forest is to manage, conserve and protect natural resources on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. These resources, such as those provided by the County Forest, are the base for addressing the ecological and socioeconomic needs of society.

County Forest resources should be protected from natural catastrophes such as fire, insect, and disease outbreaks, and from human threats such as encroachment, over-utilization, environmental degradation, and excessive development. While managed for environmental needs including watershed protection, protection and maintenance of biotic diversity, these same resources must also be managed and provide for sociological needs, including the production of raw materials for wood-using industries that provide a wide variety of products fulfilling consumer demands, and provisions for recreational opportunities.

**105 GOAL OF THE COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
(Hereafter referred to as the “Plan”)**

To administer the County Forest program consistent with the mission statement and the purpose and direction of the County Forest Law as stated in s. 28.11, Wis. Stats., giving consideration to input from citizens and groups. The purpose of the County Forest Law being:

“ ... to provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the County Forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.”

110 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN POLICY

This plan shall incorporate or reference all official County Forest policies, pertinent county regulations, planning documents and the needs and actions for the period 2021 through 2035.

This plan is the authority for management on county forest lands enrolled under Wisconsin County Forest Law s.28.11. This plan may be encompassed within required local planning efforts.

110.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING OBJECTIVES

Management planning shall be used to establish objectives, policies, procedures, rules, and regulations, and to promote an efficient and orderly program of development and management of the County Forest in the interest of:

1. Determining needs and priorities.
2. Achieving goals set forth in the mission statement of this plan.
3. Satisfying the statutory requirements of s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
4. Satisfying requirements for participation in various state and federal aid programs.
5. Providing broad long-term and detailed short-term guidelines for actions.

110.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

Section 28.11, Wis. Stats., places the responsibility for the plan development on the Committee with technical assistance from the Department and other agencies. The County Forest Administrator will take the lead at the committee's request. During development of the plan public participation should be utilized to provide for public participation throughout the planning process. Public participation and inputs into the plan should consider s. 28.11, Wis. Stats., which governs the County Forest program and provides the sideboards to which this plan must adhere.

Eau Claire County’s public participation process originally included a series of meetings with the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Citizens Advisory Committee to review draft chapters prior to being approved. And a series of three (3) in-person open house forums were scheduled for the months of June and July 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all in person meetings have been canceled.

A modified public participation process will still include a review of draft chapters by the Parks and Forest Citizens Advisory committee, review and approval from the Parks and Forest Committee, and then a 30-day period for open public comment once the draft chapters have been placed on the Eau Claire County government website.

110.3 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

Comments received should be given consideration during plan development. The Committee will then present the plan to the County Board for their approval. Following County Board approval, the plan will then be forwarded to the Department for approval of the plan by the DNR is required by s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

110.4 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

Each member of the County Board will have access to a copy of the plan at the time of initial review and approval. Updated official copies will be maintained by the Forest Administrator and available electronically.

Plan and future amendments will be: Electronic versions of the plan or plan amendments or electronic links to the documents will be distributed to the following:

1. Department of Natural Resources - Liaison and County Forest & Public Lands Specialist.
2. Executive Director- Wisconsin County Forest Association.

110.5 UPDATING THE PLAN

Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the plan by amendment as required. Amendments to the plan will require approval by both the County Board and

the Department of Natural Resources as stated in s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats. Changes to official County Forest Blocking map require County Board approval. The annual county board approved work plan, budget, and annual accomplishment report are appended to the plan and do not require official DNR approval. In addition, changes to Chapters 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 do not require a plan amendment or official DNR approval, except for the official County Forest Blocking map.

110.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING

The development of this plan and any future amendments to this plan will include considerations, and if warranted, participation in other local and regional planning efforts.

115 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING

The Committee will utilize procedure as set forth in the Department of Natural Resources Public Forest Lands Handbook no. 2460.5. Silviculture Guidance supported by Wisconsin's forestry community and Silvicultural Guidance Team may be referenced in forest management activities WisFIRS will be utilized as the primary tool for forest management planning decisions. Additional resources such as forest habitat type classification, soil surveys, and DNR's Best Management Practices for Water Quality guidelines may be utilized in management decisions.

115.1 FOREST CERTIFICATION GROUP ADMINISTRATION

As the certification group manager, the Department of Natural Resources will be responsible for overall administration of third-party certification efforts. The DNR County Forest & Public Lands Specialist will work in close cooperation with the Wisconsin County Forests Association in coordinating this effort. The group manager's responsibilities will include:

- Record keeping of certification
- Coordinating communication with the certification auditing firms
- Reporting and payment of fees
- Processing new entries and departures from the groups

- Internal compliance monitoring
- Dispute resolution

Detail on the certification group administration is maintained in the Public Forest Lands Handbook.

115.2 FOREST CERTIFICATION

Eau Claire County's Commitment to Sustainable Forestry

Our county forests provide a vital contribution to the State and the world by providing economic, environmental, and social benefits important to our quality of life. Eau Claire County believes that accomplishing such sustainable forestry practices requires a commitment and partnership from all the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

Eau Claire County's Commitment

Within the scope of the Wisconsin County Forest Law and the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Eau Claire County will implement forestry practices that promote forest sustainability and multiple use of the forest. In the management of the forest that will include the sustainable harvest of forest products, the protection of special sites, wildlife, plants, water quality and aesthetics.

All forestland owners have a responsibility to provide sound forest stewardship. Eau Claire County will work in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other natural resources groups / agencies in providing sustainable forestry information to those landowners and individuals impacting forest sustainability in Wisconsin. We will support research efforts to improve the health, productivity, and management of forestlands both internally and through cooperative efforts. In managing the Eau Claire County Forest a spectrum of forestry practices will be employed to achieve our sustainable forestry objective. Both intensive and more extensive forest management techniques will be used to provide for wildlife, forest products, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, aesthetics, and ecosystem maintenance.

In keeping with this responsibility Eau Claire County is committed to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

120 COUNTY AUTHORITY

The County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan is the official County Forest authority. The Parks and Forest Committee of the County Board review the regulations governing the use of the County Forest. Eau Claire County staff, law enforcement, and corporation counsel help to enforce the use and regulations of the County Forest.

120.1 ORDINANCES

The county ordinances that apply to the administration and management of the Eau Claire County Forest can be found in Chapter 16.30. In addition, the following will be considered in planning process.

- Zoning ordinance
- Floodplain - Shoreland Zoning ordinance
- Motorized recreation ordinance

125 HISTORY

125.1 STATEWIDE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

In 1927, the State Legislature passed the Forest Crop Law, authorizing counties to create county forests. An opinion of the Attorney General with reference to the Forest Crop Law stated that the counties would be exempt from the owner's share of annual tax. In 1929 the law was amended to create the County Forest Reserve Law. In 1963, several major revisions were made, creating the County Forest Law s28.11. The most notable change was the creation of a permanent program of forests that would be managed in accordance with a 10 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan developed by the county, with the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources. Several grants and loans were created and remain available to counties to compensate for public uses of these county forest lands as stipulated in s28.11. To fulfill additional statutory obligations acreage share payments to towns are currently \$.30/acre, and towns with county forest land receive a minimum of 10% of the

stumpage revenue from their respective County Forest each year. Eau Claire County provides payments to towns of 15% of stumpage revenue currently. This payment amount will be reviewed on every five-year basis, beginning in 2021. In 2020, thirty counties in Wisconsin owned approximately 2.4 million acres entered under the County Forest Law.

At one time, the eastern side of Eau Claire County was covered with significant stands of large white pine mixed with hardwoods on the uplands, and bottomland hardwoods along the river floodplains. From 1860 to about 1910, these forests provided raw material for a thriving lumber industry. The need to supply lumber for a growing nation, and the lack of sound forest management, resulted in overharvest of the forests and degradation of the landscape. Pine and other logging slash provided fuel for large wildfires. Immigrants rushed to these newly cleared lands, hungry for a place to farm and build their lives. But in just a few years, the settlers left the light, droughty sand to seek their fortunes elsewhere. The land was left barren and tax delinquent. The Wisconsin County Forest program originated with the taking of these tax delinquent lands.

By 1933, Eau Claire County had acquired over 30,000 acres of tax delinquent lands in the county. On May 3, 1933, the County Board adopted a resolution to establish the Eau Claire County Forest “since establishment of county forests offers the best opportunity to make these lands once more productive”. The resolution directed the mapping of forest boundaries for those lands which were “better in forestry than agriculture”, and later resulted in a listing of legal descriptions of county forest reserves. On May 10, 1934, the County Board adopted the Forestry Ordinance. This action granted specific powers relative to the establishment, management, protection, and extension of County Forests. The ordinance authorized exchange of lands for the “purpose of blocking out county owned forest lands” and registered the official original county forest map. In 1952 a Policy Statement was developed giving the Forestry and Zoning Committee power to purchase land within the forest boundary. In following years, the County has acquired land either by tax deed, outright purchase, trade, or donation.

Early phases of development of the county forests consisted largely of investment of planting open areas. Much of the early planting was done by hand using Works Projects

Administration (W.P.A.) labor. Most of these plantations have been harvested 2-3 times easily repaying the initial investment, providing fiber to forest industry and income to Eau Claire County. Many of these plantations are now saw timber size of significant quality and value to the county.

The first timber sale on record for the Eau Claire County Forest was in 1942. Two sales totaling 78 cords generated \$176 in revenue for the county. As of January 30, 2020, there were 52,712 acres in the Eau Claire County Forest.

125.2 WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION

Eau Claire County is a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association, Inc. (WCFA). This Association was incorporated on May 15, 1968 under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes, without stock and not for profit. The WCFA Board of Directors is composed of fifteen delegates elected from County Forestry Committees who are members of the Association and two members at large.

WCFA provides a forum for consideration of issues and policy that are common to all the county committees responsible for their respective County Forest programs, including those programs encompassed under s. 28.11 and chapter 77, Wis. Stats. WCFA also provides leadership and counsel to County Forest administrators and forestry committees through regular meetings and active committees on legislative and recreational issues. WCFA develops and implements a strategic plan. The organization's mission statement is as follows:

Wisconsin County Forests Association provides leadership uniting the interests of the world's largest county forest program while ensuring long term forest health and sustainability.

125.3 TRENDS

The values and uses of the Eau Claire County Forest contribute significantly to fulfilling many of society's ecological and socioeconomic needs now and in the future. Changing trends will impact the values and uses of the Forest in coming years.

- Wisconsin's forests are naturally changing due to forest succession. Most of the County Forest acreage statewide is a result of regeneration or planting from the early to mid-1900's. Mid to late successional northern hardwood forests are replacing the early successional aspen-birch, oak, and jack pine forests of the 1940's through the 1970's.
- The aspen cover type is key habitat for many of the state's premier game species including deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and woodcock. The county forest system currently has 15% of the State's public land base and 24% of the aspen resource.
- Concern over timber management practices will likely continue to increase as more individuals and groups demand greater involvement in forestry decisions. Practices such as clearcutting and even-aged management will continue to be controversial. Efforts to educate the public on the merits of these sound forest management techniques will continue.
- Climate change may impact future forest composition, forest productivity, some habitats may disappear or shift northwards, and fire activity may increase due to shifting climates. These some of the climate change impacts that Eau Claire County will monitor in the coming years.
- Eau Claire County may experience funding problems as municipalities are being required to provide more services with less money. Potential losses of revenue from decreased shared revenues and resistance to tax increases may make county timber revenues increasingly important to the finances of county governments. This is complicated by increasing public pressure to reduce timber harvests on county forests.
- Increasing knowledge about a wider variety of species and their habitat needs is leading to a growing list of threatened and endangered species. This could lead to

improvements in managing the forest and mitigating impacts to these species.

Mitigating measures have the potential to impede recreational and forest management activities. Refer to Chapter 800 (840) for specifics on this subject.

- Invasive exotic species pose an ever-increasing threat to the County Forest. Some species such as Gypsy moth, Asian long-horned beetle, garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle have all gained a foothold in Wisconsin's forests. Refer to Chapter 600 for specifics on this subject.

125.4 PROTECTING THE PUBLIC RESOURCE

As stated in State Statute 28.11 (1), the county forest program enables and encourages “the planned development and management of the county forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple-use to assure maximum public benefits to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.”

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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200 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Objectives

1. To comply with and implement the provisions of the County Forestry Ordinance.
2. To administer and manage the County Forest in accordance with s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
3. To cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies and organizations in the interest of furthering the optimum management of the forest on a sustainable basis.
4. To provide adequate financial support for the program by using county designated revenues and appropriations, along with funds available from federal and state sources.
5. To maintain an adequate system of accounts, records and reports for the orderly administration of the forest and evaluation of program needs and implementation.
6. To facilitate the administration of the forest by authorizing personnel, equipment, and facilities necessary to assist the Committee and the administrator in carrying out their duties.

205 ROLES

Eau Claire County utilizes the County Administrator form of county government. The County Administrator's office provides executive management and oversight to all operations of Eau Claire County government. The County Administrator is the county's chief administrative officer, develops and executes the annual budget and ensures that policies and procedures adopted by the county board are carried out. With oversight of all county operations, the County Administrator emphasizes fiscal and program accountability of services offered to Eau Claire County taxpayers.

The County and the Department have a mutual interest in administration of the County Forest. It shall be the policy of the County Board through the Parks and Forest Committee to cooperate with county and Department personnel in carrying out the program on the county forest. The County/Department roles are further defined in the Public Forest Lands Handbook, 2460.5.

205.1 COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Powers of the Eau Claire County Board, relative to the management of county forest lands are defined in s.28.11(3) and additional authority may include:

- Annual Budget and Work Plan
- Grants/Loans
- Land acquisitions

205.1.1 Parks and Forest Committee

The Board of Supervisors assigns the administration of the County Forest to the Parks and Forest Committee as detailed below.

1. Preparation of an annual work plan and budget for the ensuing calendar year to be presented for the Board's approval.
2. Establishment and maintenance of the facilities necessary to conduct forest operations.
3. Negotiations for and acquisition of lands necessary to further the objectives of the county forest.
4. Review and approval of all proposed recreation projects on the county forest lands.
5. Cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources on all matters pertaining to natural resource management on the county forest.
6. Participation in all other activities involved in the execution and administration of forestry operations in the county forest program.
7. Employ personnel to administer and implement the county forest program.
8. Hold committee meetings as necessary to carry out the above duties.
9. The committee will work with the Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator to encourage forestry practices that help the county meet its goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.

205.1.2 Parks and Forest Director

1. The Parks and Forest Director will act as the agent of the committee and will carry out its orders, as well as execute assignments outlined in the

comprehensive plan, and an annual plan, all within the framework outlined in s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.

2. The Parks and Forest Director will prepare an agenda for and will be present at all Parks and Forest Committee meetings.
3. The Parks and Forest Director will serve as the Director of the Parks and Forest Department in coordinating the programs of work of staff members and other matters as directed by the Committee.
4. The Parks and Forest Director will supervise the timber sale program, tree planting, site preparation, timber stand improvement, road and firebreak construction and maintenance, land acquisition, entry and withdrawal of county forest lands, trespass investigations, and long and short-term planning, all within the restrictions of s. 28.11 Wis. Stats.

205.2 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The role of the Department in the County Forest program is to:

1. Encourage technically sound management of the County Forest resources.
2. Protect the public rights, benefits, and investments in County Forest lands.
3. Administer state compensation to the county for the public rights, benefits and privileges the county forest lands provide as required by s. 28.11- (8) Wis. Stats.
4. Provide County Forest assistance consistent with those identified per the [Public Forest Lands Handbook](#).

205.2.1 Division of Forestry

It is the function of this Division to:

1. Certify and make forest aid payments (variable acreage and project loans) to the county and audit county expenditures of the forestry fund account pursuant to s. 28.11(8)(b), Wis. Stats.
2. Certify and make acreage payments to towns pursuant to s. 28.11(8)(a), Wis. Stats.
3. Maintain and certify County Forest acreage by township, and audit distribution of severance share payments (s. 28.11(9) Wis. Stats.) made annually by the

counties.

4. Collect severance share payments of not less than twenty percent of actual stumpage sales value on timber cut from the County Forest pursuant to s. 28.11(9)(a), Wis. Stats.
5. Administer various aids and grants pertaining, but not limited to, the County Forest program.
6. Assist with development and implementation of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
7. Interpret and administer the laws and regulations set forth by the Legislature and the Natural Resources Board.
8. Review and approve or deny applications for withdrawal and entry of lands into the County Forest Law program.
9. Approve annual work plans.
10. Audit programmatic and financials (Every 5 years).

205.2.2 Local Office

Field representatives of the Department are available to provide technical advice and assistance to the county in natural resources management. This assistance includes, but is not limited to the following:

205.2.2.1 Forest Management

The forester designated by the Department to serve as Liaison to the Committee will provide technical assistance in managing the resources of the county forest. The forester's duties include the following, but not limited to:

1. Attend all Committee meetings and any county board meetings as requested.
2. Assist in establishing, inspecting, and administering timber sales in cooperation with county forest personnel.
3. Process timber sale approvals, cutting notices and reports.
4. Maintain for the Department a record of forest management accomplishments, forms, and maps.
5. Assist in preparation of projects, plans, and estimates.

6. Provide assistance to the Committee in the preparation of the annual budget, annual work plan and the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
7. Assist in County Forest timber theft and larceny investigations.
8. Organize and prepare minutes of annual partnership meeting as required in the [Public Forest Lands Handbook](#).

205.2.2.2 Other DNR Program Functions

1. Fire Management - Maintain a system of communications, equipment, and trained personnel to prevent and suppress forest fires, assist with prescribed burns: and enforce forest fire related laws.
2. Forest Pest Control - Provide technical services for prevention, detection, and suppression of forest pests in the district.
3. Wildlife Management - Conduct surveys of wildlife populations, habitat, and public use. Wildlife personnel use this information when providing technical assistance on long term ecosystem planning as well as wildlife habitat management, habitat improvement and wildlife health. Attend committee meetings as requested.
4. Fisheries Management - Maintain the quality of the fishery resource in the waters of the Forest to produce a balanced return to the angler, consistent with sound management principles.
5. Fire Management - Maintain a system of communications, equipment, and trained personnel to prevent and suppress forest fires, assist with prescribed burns: and enforce forest fire related laws.
6. Forest Pest Control - Provide technical services for prevention, detection, and suppression of forest pests in the district.
7. Wildlife Management - Conduct surveys of wildlife populations, habitat, and public use. Wildlife personnel use this information when providing technical assistance on long term ecosystem planning as well as wildlife habitat management, habitat improvement and wildlife health. Attend committee meetings as requested.
8. Fisheries Management - Maintain the quality of the fishery resource in

the waters of the Forest to produce a balanced return to the angler, consistent with sound management principles.

9. Law Enforcement - Enforce state natural resource laws and regulations and assist in the enforcement of county and federal natural resource laws and ordinances.
10. Environmental Protection - Enforce and provide technical assistance in matters related to water and shore land management, pollution detection and waste disposal.
11. Endangered Resources - Provide technical expertise on rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural community surveys, identification, and management. Assist other DNR functions and the county in identifying local and landscape level issues.

210 COOPERATION

To meet the obligation of the county to the public in accordance with s.28.11, it is in the best interest of Eau Claire County to cooperate with public agencies, non-profit organizations, tribal nations and others.

215 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

An annual budget shall be prepared by the Committee. This budget shall contain county, state, private, non-profit, and federal funds needed to carry out the forestry, park, and recreation program on the forest.

215.1 REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS

The following procedure will apply in crediting income from the forest:

215.1.1 General Fund

All monies received from the sale of timber stumpage, cut forest products, fees and use permits, sale of building materials, sale of surplus materials and equipment, fire or other damage collections, or other revenue received by the committee, shall be deposited in the Eau Claire County General fund; except revenue from surplus items sold which were originally funded with state aid shall be credited to the state aid forestry account. All

severance taxes incurred as result of such sales shall be segregated into a separate account from timber sales income and paid as required by statute.

215.1.2 County Parks and Forest Fund

Funds based on the annual work plan are budgeted and deposited in the County Parks and Forest budget accounts by the County Board annually.

215.2 OUTSIDE SOURCES OF REVENUE

215.2.1 State Funds

In addition to other state funds that may subsequently become available for county use, the following state funding sources will be used where appropriate in administration of the Forest:

1. Variable Acreage Share Loan (s. 28.11(8)(b)1., Wis. Stats.). The county may apply for variable acreage share loans in the amount of up to fifty cents per acre of regular entry County Forest land by December 31. Payment is made to the county on or before March 31st of each year and deposited in the State Forest Aid fund. Application is made by County Board Resolution.
2. Project loans (s. 28.11(8)(b)2., Wis. Stats.) are available to undertake acquisition and development projects of an "economically productive nature". Fish and game projects or recreation projects do not qualify. Application is made by County Board Resolution.
3. County Forest Administration Grant Program (s. 28.11-(5m) Wis. Stats). Annual grants are available to fund up to 50% of the salary and fringe benefits of a professional forester in the position of county forest administrator or assistant county forest administration. Benefits may not exceed 40% of salary. Application is made by Forest Administrator along with approved Annual Work Plan by January 31, with payment by April 15th of each year.
4. Sustainable County Forest Grants. Annual grants made for short-term unanticipated projects that promote sustainable forestry. Details are contained

in s. NR 47.75, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

5. County Fish and Game Projects s. 23.09(12), Wis. Stats.).
6. Wildlife Habitat Development Grant (s. 23.09(17m), Wis.Stats).
7. County Forest Road Aids funds are available for each designated mile of County Forest road. The certification is done on an annual basis.
8. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program:

215.2.2 Federal funds and programs

In addition to others that may be available, the following funds and programs will be used where practical:

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LAWCON) This fund provides up to 50% matching grants for the acquisition, development, and renovation of local parks.
2. Resource Conservation and Development (Technical Services).
3. Pittman-Robertson fund. This fund provides for wildlife management and habitat improvement.
4. Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson) fund. This fund provides financing for fish management projects administered by DNR.
5. Federal Endangered Species fund. This fund provides cost sharing and grants for surveys, monitoring and management programs that conserve a threatened or endangered species. Contact the DNR Natural Heritage Conservation for information.

215.2.3 Other Funds

Other potential funding sources are groups such as Ducks Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, local sportsman's clubs, service organizations, etc.

The Committee will consider donations, endowments, and other gifts, whether real estate, equipment, or cash. The county corporation counsel may be consulted to ascertain whether

such gifts benefit the county.

215.3 COUNTY EXPENDITURES

All purchases and expenditures shall comply with County purchasing policy and state statutes.

220 COUNTY RECORDS

The Parks and Forest Director will keep concise and orderly records and accounts of all revenue received, expenditures incurred and accomplishments resulting from the operations of the forestry department. A job description, time and expense report, and training record will be kept on each employee.

220.1 ACCOUNTS

All accounts and bookkeeping procedures will be created by the central finance department and the Parks and Forest Director and Administrative Assistants will follow those procedures.

220.1.1 State Aid Forestry Account

Variable acreage share loans (s. 28.11(8)(b)1., Wis. Stats.), project loan funds (s. 28.11(8)(b) (2.)Wis. Stats.), and sustainable forestry grants (s. 28.11(5r), Wis. Stats., and s. NR 47.75, Wis. Adm. Code) that are distributed by the DNR are deposited in this account. Expenditures of variable acreage share funds from this account are restricted to the purchase, development, preservation, and maintenance of the county forest. Expenditure of project loan funds are governed by the conditions of project approval. Sustainable Forestry grants from this account must be spent specific to the approved project. Revenue received from the sale of equipment purchased with State Aid Account money must be redeposited in the State Aid Account.

220.1.2 County Parks and Forest Budget Accounts

This fund is budgeted annually, and unused portions lapse to the general fund on January 1st, unless authorized to be carried over by county board action.

220.1.3 Account Numbers

County Parks and Forest accounts include those for parks and recreation, forestry, trails, and State Aid Forestry funds. Account numbers are not listed within this document, as they frequently change and require constant update.

220.2 TIMBER SALES

220.2.1 Active Files

Active timber sale files (hardcopy or e-copy), at a minimum, should contain or reference the following items:

1. Timber sale cutting notice and report (Form 2460-1)
2. Timber sale narrative (Form 2460-1A)
3. Contract and all addendums
4. Timber sale map
5. Ledger account of scale
6. Timber sale inspection journal / notes
7. Pertinent correspondence
8. Liability insurance
9. FISTA training
10. Financial assurance (performance bonds, ILC, etc....)
11. Field scale sheets
12. Lock box tickets (if applicable)

220.2.2 Closed Files

Once sales have been completed and audited by DNR only the following items need to be maintained in the file as a permanent record:

1. Timber sale notice and cutting report
2. Contract and addendums
3. Timber sale map
4. Pertinent correspondence
5. Financial ledger/summary

225 PERSONNEL

The Parks and Forest Director shall have authorization to organize the workload of the forestry department employees and contractors. Personnel of the forestry department will be governed by the work policies as set forth by the county, and their respective work policies.

225.1 COUNTY FOREST STAFF

The following positions are essential for the operation of the Forest: The permanent employees of the Parks and Forest Department currently are: Parks and Forest Director, Parks and Forest Supervisor, Administrative Specialist III, (2) Foresters, Maintenance Technician- Lead, (2) Maintenance Technicians, and (2) Park Rangers. Other labor is hired on a seasonal basis. It is projected there may be a need for at least one additional full-time staff person in the department within the next 15- year period, such as a Recreation Officer due to increased public demand on recreational areas. A Recreation Officer position could be funded by allocating a percentage of park entrance fees to be dedicated towards their salary.

225.2 HIRING PERSONNEL

All hiring of permanent personnel will be approved by the Parks and Forest Director, having been accounted for in the annual work plan and budget. Seasonal help and short-term labor for special projects will be recruited and hired by the Supervisor.

225.3 OTHER SOURCES OF LABOR

The Parks and Forest Director will consider supplemental resources that can be utilized on the forest, following county procurement policy.

225.4 TRAINING

The Parks and Forest Director will be responsible for scheduling and providing appropriate training to keep staff current with safety requirements, BMP's, silviculture, pesticides, new technologies, and other training appropriate to manage the Eau Claire County Forest. A training record will be retained for each employee identifying the course name, content, and date of attendance.

230 EQUIPMENT

All equipment and supplies will be coordinated by the Parks and Forest Director. The Parks and Forest Director will be responsible for locating equipment, considering the most economical alternatives of buying, borrowing, renting, or constructing. The Parks and Forest Director will also be responsible for maintaining an inventory, to be updated annually, of equipment under his/her jurisdiction. Any parks and forest department employee may purchase equipment and supplies when he / she has prior approval from the Parks and Forest Director or the Parks and Forest Supervisor. Equipment shall be purchased by competitive bidding as per county policy.

230.1 FACILITIES

Maintenance of the facilities is assigned to the Parks and Forest Director and includes the following:

1. Administrative office space - Provided in the Eau Claire County Agriculture and Resource Center, 227 1st St. W., Altoona, WI 54720.
2. Parks and Forest shop building - located north of Augusta on CTH "SD". Two storage buildings are used to store vehicles and equipment used in operation of the parks and forest program. The shop building is partially heated and is used for construction, maintenance, and repair of County Forest equipment and facilities.
3. *Parks within the County Forest boundary:*
Big Falls Park- located on CTH "K" and CTH "Q", Town of Seymour has pit toilets, picnic tables, grills, and a hand pump for drinking water.
Coon Fork Park- located on CTH "CF", Town of Bridge Creek has campsites -

some electrified, beaches, shower buildings/flush toilets, pit toilets, picnic tables, grills, boat/canoe rentals, boat landings, hiking/nature/cross-country ski, mountain bike trails, disabled/accessible fishing pier, playgrounds, picnic shelter, water pumps, dumping station, volleyball court, and hand pumps for drinking water.

Harstad Park- located on CTH “HHH”, Town of Lincoln has primitive self-registration campsites, ball diamond, large picnic shelter, playground, canoe landing, volleyball court, picnic tables, pit toilets, grills, and a hand pump for drinking water.

Lake Eau Claire Park - located on CTH “SD”, Town of Bridge Creek has a ball diamond, clubhouse, picnic shelters including a grilling pit shelter, disabled/accessible fishing pier, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, picnic tables, grills, pit toilets, and a hand pump for water.

L. L. Phillips Park - located on CTH “QQ”, Town of Seymour has a picnic shelter, nature trail, pit toilets, and a hand pump for drinking water.

Parks outside of the County Forest boundary

Lake Altoona Park - located north of Altoona, Town of Washington on the south shore of Lake Altoona, has a large beach, changing rooms, flush toilets, picnic tables, grills, clubhouse, boat landing/sailboard launch/jet ski mooring, playgrounds including one disabled accessible, nature trail, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, and picnic shelter.

Lowes Creek Park- located 1.5 miles south of the City of Eau Claire off South Lowes Creek Road or off Lorch Avenue through the Expo Center. Amenities included a reservable picnic shelter, pit toilets, trout stream access, parcours fitness course, mountain bike, dog walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country ski trails.

4. Day Use Areas – Coon Fork Park Day Use, L. L. Phillips Park, Lowes Creek Park, which have recreation trails, picnic tables, and toilets.
5. Waysides and Special Use areas include boat and canoe landings, Lake Eau Claire beach, Tower Ridge ski area and disc golf course, Evergreen and Lowes Creek ski trails, mountain bike, snowshoe, snowmobile, ATV, and horseback

riding trails, Lions Youth Pond, Eau Claire Rifle Club Range, and other scattered waysides for a total of 27 as designated in the County Code.

6. The Eau Claire County Expo Center is also managed by the department featuring the exhibit hall, horse arena, multi-use buildings, and 20 acres of grounds.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 300

DESCRIPTION OF FOREST AND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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300 DESCRIPTION OF FOREST

300.1 COUNTY FOREST OWNERSHIP

The County Forest is composed of 84 management compartments ranging in size from 34 acres to nearly 1600 acres. Within the county forest boundaries approximately 80 percent of the land is county owned with most of the remaining 20 percent in small private holdings. A map of these compartments can be found in the Appendix.

300.2 NATURAL FEATURES

300.2.1 Topography

Eau Claire County is in the west central part of the state at about 91 degrees West, 45 degrees North. It is rectangular in shape, being 18 miles from north to south (T25 N to T27N) and 36 miles from east to west (R5W to R10W), a total of 655 square miles. It is comprised of thirteen civil townships having an area of 419,200 acres. The Eau Claire County Forest lies primarily within the Western Coulee and Ridges physiographic region. Small areas in the southeastern and northeastern part of the county lie within the Central Sand Plains and Forest Transition physiographic regions, respectively. The topography of the forest and surrounding area is primarily highly eroded, driftless area and relatively extensive forested landscape. There are no natural lakes in the Western Coulee and Ridges physiographic region, but impoundments are not uncommon. Elevations range from 1,290 to 890 feet above sea level. The terrain ranges from hilly to flat.

300.2.2 Geography

With its approximate 419,200 acres, Eau Claire County is the 45th largest county in Wisconsin. Approximately 50 percent of the land in the county is classified as forestland. The County Forest, approximately 52,712 acres, is the 15th largest County Forest in the state.

The great majority of the forest (75%) is in the eastern one-half of the county. The remaining portions are found along the Eau Claire River between Augusta and Eau Claire in the northern one-half of the county. Chapter 1000 contains maps showing the location of the County Forest.

300.2.3 Geology and Soils

The soils of the Eau Claire County Forest are dry sands and sandy loams over sandstone residuum. Extensive areas of sandy loams are found in the county. Sandy and loamy soils are found in broad flats and along small streams. The Eau Claire River basin is carved through sandstone and transports large amounts of silt and sand. The river was formed by glacial melt waters from the north and deposited alluvial soils in the basin. Menahga sand is the most common soil type. Small areas of glacial till are found in the northeastern part of the county in Wilson and Ludington townships. The glacial till deposits are heavier soils which developed more northern forest type habitat types. These habitat types provide management options different than the rest of the county forest with the dry to moderately dry sandy soils. Detailed soils information is available from the USDA Web Soil Survey (websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov).

300.2.4 Ecological Landscapes

Ecological Landscapes are regions in Wisconsin containing similar ecology and management opportunities. Each landscape can present unique management opportunities and challenges. These landscapes are essentially based on the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFUE) (Cleland et al. 1997). More information on the 16 Ecological Landscapes defined within Wisconsin is available at: [Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin - Wisconsin DNR](#). The Eau Claire County Forest lies within the Central Sand Plains and Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscapes.

Central Sands Plains - Located in central Wisconsin, around a relatively level, sandy, glacial lake plain. This landscape makes up most of the Eau Claire County Forest lands east of Highway 27.

Western Coulee and Ridges – Found in southwest Eau Claire County primarily and much of the private lands in the county. There are small sections of county forest lands west of Highway 27 that display characteristics of this landscape.

300.2.5 Vegetative Cover Types

Approximately 86% of the Eau Claire County Forest land base is forested. Forested uplands are comprised of primarily mixed hardwood, aspen, oak, red pine, white pine, and jack pine while bottomland hardwoods occupy the forested lowlands. The remainder is classified as non-forested, including types such as open water, wetlands, rights-of-way, grass openings, shrubs, and bogs.

FORESTED COMMUNITIES

Forested cover types are made up of a variety of size classes and structure (canopy, layers, ground vegetation, dead and downed material, and inclusions). Forested communities on the Eau Claire County Forest cover approximately 86% of the Forest.

Forest cover types associated with the County Forest in order of prevalence (% of forested acres) are:

Oak (32.0%) - Dominated by red, white, northern pin, and/or black oak and associated with other hardwoods.

Aspen (17.3%) - Dominated by quaking and big tooth aspen often with red maple and paper birch associated.

Jack Pine (8.4%) - More than 50% jack pine.

Red Pine (7.7%) - More than 50% red pine.

White Pine (10.0%) - More than 50% white pine.

Bottomland hardwoods (5.2%)-Typically floodplain species including silver maple, river birch, elm, cottonwood, and green ash. Includes swamp hardwoods and noncommercial swamp hardwood acres.

Red Maple (4.0%) - More than 50% red maple. Often with aspen and white birch.

Northern Hardwoods (0.0%)- Consisting of a mixture of upland hardwood species including sugar maple, yellow birch, basswood, ash, and red maple.

Tamarack (0.01%) - More than 50% swamp conifer species with tamarack predominating. Percentage includes swamp conifers, swamp hardwoods, and non-commercial swamp.

White Birch (0.04%) - Consisting of a majority white birch. Often found in combination with aspen and red maple.

NON-FORESTED COMMUNITIES

Non-forested communities within the Eau Claire County Forest cover approximately 12.4% of the forest. In broad categories, they are uplands (28%), wetlands (57%), and water (15%).

Non-forested habitats are important components of management within the County Forest. Upland and wetland non-forest types provide important habitat for distinct groups of species.

Upland Non-Forest

Upland Non-Forest areas of the County Forest include:

Grass openings – consists of upland grasses (brome, quack, bluegrass, timothy, big and little bluestem, and Indian grass).

Prairie - ground cover predominantly of prairie plants (Culver's root, lead plant, lupine, big & little bluestem, black eyed susan, coneflower, phlox, goldenrod, puccoon, blazing star, bergamot, coreopsis, fleabane, New Jersey tea, rock cress, spurge, and yarrow.) Herbaceous vegetation - ground cover predominated by herbaceous species with bracken fern, sweet clover, ragweed, stinging nettle, upland aster, goldenrod, blackberries/ raspberries, and prairie dock being common.

Shrub openings - primarily upland sites less than 10% stocked with tree species but having 50% or more of the area stocked with taller growing, persistent shrubs. This includes, but is not limited to, shrubs such as hazel, gray dogwood, juneberry, sumac, chokecherry, and prickly ash.

Rock outcrops and sandbanks - rock outcrops and bedrock material.

Wetlands

Wisconsin State Statutes define a wetland as “an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation, and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.” Wetland communities are a complex association of plants and animals, soils and water levels having special natural values. These fragile systems may rapidly degrade under incompatible uses and unskilled management. Wetlands provide functional values including shoreline and flood protection, groundwater recharge, water quality protection, and animal and plant habitat. It is Eau Claire County policy to preserve, protect, and

manage the wetlands under its jurisdiction in a manner that recognizes the natural values of wetlands and their importance in the environment. The County will:

- Recognize wetland values in management plans, taking reasonable steps to minimize harmful effects.
- Cooperate with the DNR in wetland inventories and in preparation of essential wetland information.
- Maintain control of vital wetlands under its jurisdiction when to relinquish such control would risk substantial site alteration and subsequent degradation of wetland values vital to the area and the state.
- Minimize adverse changes in the quality/quantity of the water flow to nourish wetlands.
- Cooperate with local, state, and national agencies and citizens to increase understanding of the importance of wetlands and the need for land and water stewardship in guiding development decisions.
- Cooperate with the DNR in wetland management activities that would enhance the quality and diversity of wetlands in the county and the region.

Wetlands are the transitional habitats between upland and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or where the land is covered by shallow water.

Wetland types present include:

Lowland brush – wetlands along or adjacent to waterways where water is present most of the year, but periodic drying allows vegetation to establish, primarily tag alder/ willow.

Deep marshes - wetlands characterized by emergent vegetation such as cattails and pickerel weed and floating leaved plants such as white and yellow water lily and watershield. Water depths of 6 feet are typically found on deep marshes.

Shallow marshes - wetlands characterized by persistent emergent vegetation such as cattails and pickerelweed, etc., and water depths to 1.5 feet.

Sedge meadow - wetlands characterized by sedges and cattails. Surface water depths to 6 inches in winter and early spring, and exposed saturated soil surface in summer.

300.2.6 Fish and Wildlife

Wisconsin supports over 650 different types of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish as well as millions of invertebrates. Management of county forest lands and the biotic communities they support provide a mix of habitat types and ages for a wide range of wildlife species. Each species, or interacting group of species, do best under different conditions.

County forest lands provide a full range of habitats from open grasslands/barrens to mature forests, from bogs to forested wetlands, from spring ponds to lake shorelines. County forest staffs work closely with WDNR fish and wildlife managers and conservation organizations to identify and manage critical habitat for breeding, migrating, and wintering fish and wildlife.

The Eau Claire County Forest is habitat for wildlife common to Wisconsin. No comprehensive survey has been conducted to identify or inventory the fauna occurring on the Forest. It is desirable to conduct a fauna inventory in the next 15 years, with the committee exploring different options for funding.

Numerous species of songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals frequent the forest. Each species, or interacting group of species, do best under different conditions, ranging from recently disturbed ground to old growth. A diversity of plant communities is key to providing a niche for a variety of wildlife species. Deer, bear, fox, coyote, fisher, waterfowl, ruffed grouse, turkey, wolves, mustelids, rabbits, beaver and other rodents, and woodcock are common in the forest. A species of note is the Karner Blue Butterfly (a federally listed endangered species) for which the county has a habitat conservation plan. Aspen, jack pine and scrub oak are maintained as early successional species while white pine, better quality oak and red maple create diversity and allow for a mosaic of habitats across the county forest.

Permanently sodded, grassy openings within the forest, many originating from old log landings, camps, old burns, or frost pockets also provide forest wildlife habitat. An effort is being made to maintain and improve the quality and, in some cases, the quantity of openings.

300.2.7 Rare and Endangered Resources

A review of the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) indicates the presence of a few rare species, natural communities, and unique natural features on the Eau Claire County Forest. All land disturbing projects will include an evaluation phase, to determine whether an NHI screening is required.

The Natural Heritage Inventory Database is the most comprehensive source of rare species data for Wisconsin. These data are used for a variety of purposes including research, land management, state land master planning, community planning, conservation planning and review of public and private activities across the state, The NHI Portal is currently available to DNR staff and County Forest staff who hold a data sharing license.

The Wisconsin Historical Preservation Database is the most comprehensive source of cultural resources for Wisconsin. These data are used for a variety of purposes including research, land management, state land master planning, community planning, conservation planning and review of public and private activities across the state, The Wisconsin Historical Preservation Database is currently available to DNR staff and County Forest staff.

300.2.8 Water

Eau Claire County has 12 named lakes and flowages and 673 miles of streams. Of this total, 161 miles are classified as trout streams.

Within the County Forest boundaries there is a variety of fishery resources. Approximately two named and nine unnamed lakes have all or portions of their shoreline under county ownership. In addition, the county owns frontage on over 18 named trout streams.

Eau Claire County also has three streams which are classified as Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters including:

- Beaver Creek
- Hay Creek
- Sevenmile Creek

Note: An entire listing of the outstanding and exceptional resource waters can be found in Wisconsin Admin. Code NR102.10 and 102.11.

300.3 CULTURAL FACTORS

300.3.1 Economy

The importance of the County Forests to Wisconsin's economic health continues to rise.

County Forests sustain over 60,000 full-time jobs derived from logging, trucking, paper production, manufactured building materials, and lumber. Many other jobs are created in such businesses as the expanding printing industry and are located far from the forested northland. County Forests contribute to the 24-billion-dollar forest industry in Wisconsin.

In addition, the lands managed by these 30 counties provide an important recreation resource to complement our state's valuable tourism industry. Tourists spend valuable money at local businesses. By providing 2.4 million acres of public recreation land, we bring tourists to our state. As population increases and public access to privately owned forestland decreases, the need for accessible lands unquestionably will assume an ever more important role. More information on the economic impact of the County Forest program can be found at <https://www.wisconsincountyforests.com/>

Production of forest products and spin-off industries derived from the recreational opportunities on the Forest and the forest products it produces are vitally important to Eau Claire County's economic well-being. Forest industry is the #20 ranked employer in the County. Tourism is ranked #1. This information can be found at the following link: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestbusinesses/factsheets.html>.

300.3.2 Education and Research

Education and research continue to be critical components in making decisions that affect our natural resources. As public needs and demands of our forest and its products increase, we must be prepared to assure that sound decisions result. To this end, Eau Claire County encourages and supports research efforts that relate to the forest, and educational opportunities that will promote a better understanding of forest communities and management. The committee will review the community outreach engagements by the department on a periodic basis.

300.4 OTHER PUBLIC LANDS OWNERSHIP

Eau Claire County Forest shares a common boundary with Clark County Forest. Roads and trails are connected without interruption between the public lands providing for a more enjoyable experience for the user groups. Eau Claire County Forest will continue to form and build on these relationships with other adjacent public lands in the best interest of the public.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 400 OBJECTIVE

The purpose of Chapter 400 is to identify policy and procedures relating to:

1. The acquisition of land to be enrolled in County Forest pursuant to s. 28.11(4)(b), Wis. Stats. or other lands possessing special or unique values areas that are not suited primarily for timber production to be entered under s. 28.11(4)(c), Wis. Stats., special use classification.
2. The acquisition of lands throughout the county for the purpose of future trading for priority parcels to be enrolled in County Forest pursuant to s. 28.11(4)(b), Wis. Stats.
3. The acquisition of land interests such as conservation easements, first right of refusal, or other land rights of the benefit to county forests.
4. Location, identification, and protection of county forest ownership boundaries.

400 COUNTY FOREST OWNERSHIP

Most of the County Forest lands throughout the State were previously in private ownership and came under public ownership in a substantially degraded condition, by way of real estate tax delinquency and subsequent tax deed to Counties. Continued attempts to sell much of the degraded tax deeded lands were unsuccessful. In response to the lack of demand from private owners, counties worked in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies to restore these lands into productive forests and recreational assets. (“The County Forests of Wisconsin”, WI Conservation Dept., 1938)

Over time, counties have realized benefits from continuing to retain select tax deeded land, acquiring select land from willing sellers by purchase, trade, or gift, and the continual protection of county forest ownership boundaries.

405 LAND OWNERSHIP GOALS

It is the goal of Eau Claire County to acquire land from willing landowners for fair prices established pursuant to Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices or other method approved by the County. See section 420 for criteria on how to achieve these goals.

410 COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING

Since the beginning of the County Forest Program in the State of Wisconsin, counties established boundaries for the purpose of distinguishing between lands that were best suited for forestry and lands best suited for agricultural production. This boundary became referred to as a “Blocking Boundary” and provided public information, assisted long-term planning, and guided management decisions.

In the early stages of the development of County Forests, counties commonly traded tax deed parcels that were located outside of the Blocking Boundary for the remaining privately-owned parcels within the Blocking Boundary. A primary purpose for these trades was to promote agricultural economic development by assisting farmers with obtaining the most productive agricultural lands available in each County.

Blocking Boundaries are dynamic and should be evaluated on a routine basis to evaluate adequacy relative to the current priorities. Forestry staff will notify the Committee as parcels become available within the Blocking Boundary.

County Forest Blocking Boundaries are established by Committee and by subsequent approval of the Eau Claire County Board. A map of the official boundaries is found in the Appendix.

415 PRIVATE INHOLDINGS

Eau Claire County recognizes that extensive private landholdings lie within the forest boundaries. The County will respect the rights of the private landowners who are its neighbors. The County may approach private landowners with proposals for land purchases or trades but will not coerce landowners to sell or trade. It would not be the intent of Eau Claire County Forest to pursue properties through condemnation. The committee may also elect to have the Land Stewardship subcommittee help with evaluation of potential county forest acquisition projects.

Eau Claire County may wish to list priority properties to be pursued as they become available.

420 ACQUISITION OF LAND WITHIN THE COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING BOUNDARY

The land within the blocking boundary includes private land as well as land owned by Eau Claire County and other government entities. It is not the deliberate intent of Eau Claire County to acquire all lands within the blocking boundary.

Determination of a parcel's value to the County and the State of Wisconsin shall be made by the Committee in consultation with the County Parks and Forest Director.

Certain lands are of higher priority for acquisition due to:

1. Bordering water including the Eau Claire River, its tributaries, and lakes within or bordering the County Forest boundary.
2. The land gives access to County Forest or County park land.
3. The land lies within or borders the County Forest boundary.
4. The land has unique, exceptional, or natural features and value.
5. The land is completely surrounded by County park and forest land.
6. Acquisition of the land would enhance potential recreational value.
7. Acquisition of the land would help control development in other areas.
8. The acquisition includes trade, bargain sale, donation, or tax delinquent land.
9. The land qualifies for cost sharing funds.

425 ACQUISITION OF LAND OUTSIDE THE COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING BOUNDARY

Counties may consider acquisition of lands outside the blocking boundary in instances where:

1. Land becomes available to the County which possess values consistent with the priority criteria listed above and is eligible to be enrolled as County Forest Special Use under s. 28.11(4)(c) Wis. Stats.

2. Land becomes available to the County that, if acquired by the County, will facilitate a fair trade or other transaction resulting in county ownership of land within the county forest blocking boundary.

430 ACQUISITION OF LAND RIGHTS

In addition to acquiring fee simple land ownership, Counties may find it advantageous to acquire other interests in private or public lands within the blocking boundary such as:

1. Conservation easements for such purposes as:
 - A. Limiting residential density.
 - B. Managing runoff that affects county land.
 - C. Achieving greater silvicultural consistency, pest management, invasive species control, research, or other on adjacent private lands.
2. First right of refusal.
3. Flowage easements.
4. Ingress and egress easements for county management purposes

435 METHODS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR ACQUISITION LAND TITLE OR RIGHTS

Acquisition may be by outright purchase or trade based on competent appraisal of the value or values involved, or by gift, bequest, or action to foreclose tax liens. The County Parks and Forest Director will be the agent of the Committee in making first contact with potential sellers and in carrying on acquisition activities.

If the County Parks and Forest Director determines that a land or land rights acquisition is in the best interest of the County, in consideration of the factors described above, the County Parks and Forest Director shall present a recommendation to the Committee. Upon approval of the Committee, an authorizing resolution shall be forwarded for consideration by the County Board.

County Board authorization is required for execution of any legal instruments that bind the

county to acquiring title or other land rights. If any legal documents are signed by an agent(s) of the county, prior to County Board authorization, said legal documents must include an explicit contingency requiring County Board approval.

440 FINANCING

The County Parks and Forest Director shall propose financing options as part of any recommendations to acquire forwarded to the Committee. Typical funding sources include:

1. Fund balance that has resulted from previous county forest withdrawal proceedings.
2. Funds appropriated through the County's capital budgeting procedure.
3. Grants and Loans, including:
 - A. Loans
 - i. County Forest Project Loans ([s. 28.11\(8\)\(b\)\(2\)](#), [Wis. Stats](#))
 - ii. Variable Acreage Share Loans ([s. 28.11\(8\)\(b\)\(1\)](#), [Wis. Stats](#))
 - iii. Board of Commissioners of Public Lands State Trust Fund Loan Program ([s. 24.61\(3\)\(a\)\(2\)](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - B. Grants
 - i. Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program ([s. 23.0953](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - ii. County Forest Stewardship Subprogram ([s. 23.0953](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - iii. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Subprogram ([s. 23.09\(20\)](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - iv. Lake Protection ([s. 281.68](#) [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - v. River Protection ([s. 281.70](#) [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - vi. County Forest Wildlife Habitat ([s. 20.370\(5\)\(as\)](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - vii. County Forest Fish and Game Projects ([s. 23.09\(12\)](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - viii. ATV/UTV Trail Aids ([s. 23.33\(9\)](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - ix. Snowmobile Trail Aids ([s. 23.09\(26\)](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))
 - x. Federal Funding ([s.20.370\(5\)\(cy\)](#), [Wis. Stats.](#))

445 ENTRY OF LANDS

Lands to be entered under the regular classification of the County Forest Law must be suitable for forestry purposes and be within the County Forest blocking boundary. Lands designated for classification as County Forest -Special Use need not be contained within the

county forest blocking boundary nor suitable primarily for timber but they must be suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation or other multiple-use purposes.

445.1 TIME OF ENTRY

Application for entry of newly acquired lands under the County Forest Law will be made as soon as possible. Applications for entry will be prepared with the assistance of the DNR Forestry Liaison. The County Parks and Forest Director will secure the signatures of the proper county officials and transmit the application to DNR's County Forest & Public Lands Specialist.

450 WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS FROM COUNTY FORESTLAW

Lands within the County Forest blocking boundary will not normally be considered for withdrawal from the County Forest Law. Applications for the purchase of these lands by the private sector will be discouraged by the committee unless a greater public benefit can be demonstrated. If, in the opinion of the committee and county board, the land will be put to better and higher use and will benefit people of the county and State to a greater extent by being withdrawn from the County Forest Law program, the County should follow the withdrawal procedure as outlined by the [Public Lands Handbook](#). The legal means by which counties may apply for withdrawal of lands from County Forest status is provided by s. 28.11, Wis. Stats. Initially the County Parks and Forest Director notifies the DNR Forestry Liaison Forester of the County Forestry Committee meeting at which the proposed withdrawal will be considered. At that meeting DNR personnel and the County will discuss the proposed withdrawal and, if approved by the County Forestry Committee, the withdrawal will be recommended by the Committee by resolution to the County Board. If approved by the Board by the necessary 2/3 majority, the application is prepared by the county and submitted to the appropriate DNR designee. The DNR may ask for additional information from the County. Pending the results of any investigatory hearings deemed advisable, the DNR will act on the withdrawal application. If the application is denied, the County may appeal as provided in s. 28.11(11)(a)4., Wis. Stats.

450.1 WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

The purpose of this section is to provide general information in formulating and processing applications for withdrawal of County Forest lands under s.28.11(11) Wis. Stats. and Ch. NR 48, Wis. Adm. Code. The legal means by which counties may apply for withdrawal of lands from county forests is provided by s.28.11(11)(a) Wis. Stats. This section states in part: “The County Board shall first refer the resolution to the county forestry committee which shall consult with an authorized representative of the department in formulating its withdrawal proposal.” Section. 28.11(11)(a) Wis.Stats. also states: “The county board shall not take final action thereon until 90 days after such referral or until the report thereon of the forest committee has filed with the board.”

Consequently, if the county board takes final action on a withdrawal application without referring it to the County Forestry Committee, the application is not valid. On the other hand, if the County Forestry Committee does not report to the county board within 90 days after receipt of the referral, the Board may act upon the application without a Committee recommendation.

455 LAND SURVEYING

The importance of survey corner monumentation is recognized in the interest of avoiding the problems of trespass both by and against the County, facilitating the settlement of those cases which would occur, and aiding in the proper transfer of property.

455.1 LEGAL SURVEYING

Of prime importance are the forest boundaries and property lines in common with other owners. All such surveying shall be under the supervision of a registered surveyor. When the office of the county surveyor is not staffed, the committee will comply with the provisions of Chapter 59, Wisconsin Statutes by hiring registered surveyors to perform the necessary running of property lines. Section corners, one-quarter corners and forty corners (1/16 corners) will be reestablished where needed and Certified Land Corner Restoration

forms filled out in duplicate as time permits, under the direction of registered land surveyor.

455.2 LOCATION OF LINES BY OTHER THAN LEGAL SURVEY

Forestry personnel who are not registered surveyors may, with all possible prudence, establish lines for forest management purposes including those necessary for ordinary management activities such as timber sales and road / trail locations using available equipment including, but not limited to, air photos, quadrangles, county surveyor's records and known corners. In the absence of known corners, lines abutting other ownership may be established by mutual agreement to avert trespass claims. At a minimum, notify the adjoining landowner(s) of the management boundary in writing. This documentation should be retained in the timber sale file.

455.3 PRESERVATION OF LANDMARKS, MONUMENTS, AND CORNER POSTS

Section 59.74, Wis. Stats., provides:

1. Penalties for destruction of landmarks, monuments and corner posts established by government survey, the county surveyor or a surveyor or public record.
2. A procedure for notification of intent to destroy such surveying evidence and referencing prior to destruction.
3. The assignment of enforcement responsibility to the Department of Natural Resources, District Attorneys, and professional land surveyors.

All personnel with land management responsibilities are directed to:

1. Make a reasonable search for the above-mentioned surveying evidence prior to implementing any soil moving or cover type manipulation projects, including timber sales, that could result in covering, destruction or removal of such evidence.
2. In the event such evidence is found:
 - A. If practical, redesign the project so that the evidence will not be disturbed or
 - B. If destruction is unavoidable, notify the county surveyor at least 30 days prior to destruction giving the legal description of the monument and the reason for destruction or other obliteration
3. If reasonable search fails to uncover survey evidence in the suspected vicinity,

conduct an additional search if he / she sees fit.

4. In order to further reduce the possibility of inadvertent destruction of invaluable survey evidence:
 - A. Each forester with county forest responsibilities should discuss with county administrators the need for including adequate protective clauses in easements, rights-of-way, timber sale contracts, and other agreements that might result in destruction of monuments.
 - B. Personnel advising landowners regarding forestry or other land management practices should alert such owners to possible monument destruction that may be caused by them.
 - C. Any instances of potential or accomplished obliteration of survey monumentation discovered during field operations should be brought to the county surveyor's attention.

460 TERMS OF LAND SALE OR TRADE

All sale or trading of county lands within the forest boundaries shall be subject to terms established between the Parks and Forest Committee and the party which will receive land from the County.

460.1 VALUES AND ACREAGE OF LAND SALE/TRADES

1. For outright land sales, the sale price shall not be less than twice the appraised value of the land being sold.
2. For land trades, the acreage received shall not be less than twice the acreage traded. The appraised value of the land received shall not be less than twice the appraised value of the land being traded.
3. Combinations of land and cash may be considered, but the 2:1 ratio described above will be observed. An example would be a 1:1 land trade, plus the appraised cash value or the land being traded. Other similar combinations are possible.
4. Transactions at less than a 2:1 land/value ratio can be considered, but only when there is exceptional advantage to the County in terms of land value, blocking, etc.

460.2 ASSOCIATED COST

All costs such as appraisals, legal surveys, abstracts, title insurance, transfer fees, recording fees, notices, etc. shall be borne by the party initiating the land transaction. Withdrawal applications shall clearly state the person or entity responsible for such costs.

460.3 PUBLIC HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS

The public right of ingress and egress for the purpose of hunting and fishing shall be retained whenever lands are sold or traded. Retention of these rights shall be included on the deed to the land. Exceptions may be made to this policy only in cases of mutual benefit, or for reasons of public health, safety, or welfare. Any proposed exceptions must be opened to public comment at the public meeting required for land sale/trade proposals and must be specifically approved by the Board of Supervisors as part of the resolution to sell or trade the land. These public rights are not subject to sale, trade, repurchase, barter, loan or rent.

460.4 MINERAL RIGHTS

The County shall retain mineral rights on all lands sold or traded and will not accept lands in trade unless accompanied by all rights of ownership, including mineral rights. Exceptions will be allowed only in unusual circumstances, upon explicit approval of the County Board following a recommendation by the Parks and Forest Committee.

460.5 DEED RESTRICTIONS

All land sales and trades must be accompanied by a deed restriction, approved by the Board of Supervisors, which identifies the specific uses, reservations, and other conditions attached to the lands being released from public ownership. The restriction shall include a reversion clause whereby ownership of the land shall revert, without compensation, to the County if terms of the restriction are not observed.

Eau Claire County may wish to obtain deed restriction for first right of refusal if the property is ever sold.

460.6 LAND ACQUISITION ACCOUNT

All monetary proceeds from the sale of lands enrolled in the County Forest Law shall be deposited in a non-lapsing account of the General Fund known as the County Forest Land Acquisition Account. The account shall be used only for the acquisition of other lands for addition to the County Forest. Lands acquired from this fund shall be immediately applied for entry into County Forest under provisions of the s. 28.11 Wis. Stats.

465 PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCES

The instrument used for property right conveyance shall be the one which relinquishes the least amount of County control over public land. All property right conveyances will be made on a case-by-case basis. Examples are listed below:

- A. Easements: An easement is a permanent right that entitles the easement owner to use of the land of another for a special purpose not inconsistent with the general property rights of the owner. Easements run with the land and do not expire. They may be appropriate for public utilities, such as gas, electric and communication uses, and public road rights-of-way.

Easements shall not be used for access to private lands unless there is exceptional advantage to the County Forest, and unless the easement further promotes the purposes of the County Forest program. The committee may consider easement requests on a case-by-case basis. The County Forest Administrator will consult with DNR's County Forest & Public Lands Specialist on these cases.

- B. Lease: A lease is a written document which grants use of real property and/or improvements to another party for a specified period of time, for monetary or

other consideration. Specific County Forest Law provisions regarding leases can be found in ss. 28.11(3)(i) and (j), Wis. Stats. Leases on County Forest lands shall be negotiated for the shortest possible period of time and in no case shall they exceed ninety-nine years.

- C. Permit: A permit is a written document conferring a right, power, or privilege to do a particular act or series of acts on land of another without possessing any interest therein. A permit can be revoked with cause and cannot be assigned to other parties. A permit, unlike an easement, does not imply an interest in the land and is not transferred with the land. Permits issued on County Forest lands shall be issued for the shortest possible period of time and in no case shall they exceed ninety-nine years.

Permits shall be the preferred property rights conveyance for private driveways and most other activities dealing with the private individuals using County Forest lands. Access permits for driveways are good for a ten-year period of time. Driveway permits will also expire when the land changes ownership. A prospective new property owner may receive a driveway permit in advance of completing a property purchase. Advance permits will not become effective until the new property purchase is recorded by the Register of Deeds office. The County will retain the right to revoke a driveway permit with cause. "Cause" can include, but is not limited to, violation of permit terms, misuse of County land, damage to County property, and noncompliance with County ordinances.

- D. Agreement: An agreement is a written document executed by two or more persons or entities expressing a mutual and common purpose. An agreement details the responsibilities, obligations, conditions, liabilities, etc. of all parties concerned and would be an appropriate instrument for dealing with activities such as public school forests, flowages, gravel crushing operations, and concessions. Agreements shall be effective for the shortest possible time.

465.1 TERMS OF PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCES

Any agreement, license, permit, lease, or easement must contain at least the following information, requirements, and terms. More restrictions may be added as needed to protect the interests of the public.

- A. Location by legal description
- B. Permitted uses under the conveyance
- C. Fee for the use of the land
- D. Expiration date
- E. Right of the County to cancel or suspend the conveyed rights with cause
- F. Requirement for restitution to original condition upon expiration or cancellation of the conveyance.

465.2 PROCEDURES FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCE

Proposals to use County Forest lands for private purposes without purchasing the land may be approved depending on the nature of the proposal and its consistency with the purpose of the forest. The following steps are required to consider property rights conveyance to a second party:

1. All proposals must be filed with the Parks and Forest Department on the appropriate form with the required processing fee and supportive documentation. Municipalities, other units of government, and public utilities may be exempted from the processing fee by the Parks and Forest Committee.
2. If the proposal can be addressed through a permit or agreement, then a report shall be presented at a regular meeting of the Parks and Forest Committee. The Committee shall consult with the DNR Liaison on the matter. The Committee may then approve, deny, or modify the proposal.
3. If the proposal is approved, the Parks and Forest Committee shall apply to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to enter the land under the County Forest Law.

470 TAX DEED LAND

Occasionally tax delinquent lands revert to the County. The lands may lie within the County Forest boundaries and may be added to the County Forest lands. The following procedure shall be observed as in Eau Claire County Code 4.20.140:

- A. Any tax deeded lands taken pursuant to this chapter shall, subject only to the privilege afforded to former owners in 4.20.100, be reserved for examination by the committee on Parks and Forest as to the advisability or retaining said lands in county ownership as forest and park lands under the following conditions only:
 - 1. Where such lands abut or adjoin or are partially or wholly contained within the county conservancy district; or
 - 2. Where such lands abut or adjoin any existing or unimproved county park or are suitable for park purposes.
- B. The committee on Parks and Forest shall report its finding to the county board.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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500 LAND USE

500.1 OBJECTIVES

1. To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, utilize, and sustain the resources of the County Forest.
2. To identify regulated management activities, land uses and special resource areas.
3. To layout proper permits needed for certain activities on the County Forest.

505 TIMBER SALES

Historically, Eau Claire County has determined regulated cutting of timber is essential to the goals and objectives of this plan. Timber harvesting will be conducted to achieve a sustainable harvest level. Harvest areas will be distributed in the forest to accommodate such needs as biodiversity, wildlife, aesthetics, watershed protection and other biological needs. WisFIRS will be used for planning all timber harvests activities on the County Forest. All sales will be established, administered, and reported in accordance with the DNR Timber Sale Handbook (2461). All sales on the forest are to be advertised for public bidding, with the exception of small sales with an estimated value of \$3000 or less or sales that would qualify under a salvage provision (s. 28.11(6)(c), Wis. Stats.). These sales may be sold direct without advertising.

505.1 FIELD PREPARATION OF TIMBER SALES

The County and the DNR will cooperate to locate, designate, and prepare harvest areas for sale. The Parks and Forest Director and DNR Liaison forester shall jointly be responsible to see that the field work on sales is accomplished. Director and Liaison will also jointly be responsible for ensuring that all proper documentation for each timber sale is properly filled out and routed for signatures.

505.2 ADVERTISING FOR BIDS

After field work is completed and necessary reports receive DNR approval, the sale administrator shall prepare a sale prospectus and make it available to interested loggers. Under s.28.11(6)(b) Wis. Stats, timber sale advertisements, at a minimum, will be by

classified ad in a newspaper having general circulation in the county and available on the county website www.co.eau-claire.wi.us. Ads shall be run once each week for two consecutive weeks, the last being at least one week prior to the bid opening. The department maintains an active list of bidders, who are each mailed a copy of the sale prospectus for each bid offering. A longer advance time will be given when feasible. Sealed bid sales will generally be offered in spring and fall, or as needed.

505.3 PROSPECTUS

The following minimum information will be made available to prospective bidders:

1. Species to be harvested and estimated volume
2. Minimum acceptable bid
3. Maps of sale areas
4. Special contract provisions
5. Procedures for bidding
6. Bid forms
7. Timber sales bond and advance stumpage schedule

505.4 METHOD OF BIDDING

Bids will be reviewed, and/or approved, by the Parks and Forest Committee. A sealed envelope showing tract number or advertised number and marked "sealed bid" shall be submitted on County Forest bid forms by the bidder for each tract bid on, and shall contain:

1. The bid price per unit of species product. The total value of the timber sale bid shall be indicated on both scaled and lump sum bids. The total bid value must meet or exceed the minimum acceptable bid value, as documented in the 2460.
2. A minimum of 10 % of the bid value of each tract or \$250 (whichever is greater) must accompany the bid as a bid bond, payable to Eau Claire County Treasurer.
3. Training "Certificate of Completion" for FISTA Training Standard.

505.5 AWARDING SALES

1. The high bidder is normally awarded the sale contract; however, the committee

reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the bid offer most advantageous to the county. Grounds for rejecting bids may include without limit:

- A. Non-compliance with County Forest contract requirements.
 - B. Delinquent financial obligations.
 - C. Unsatisfactory past performances.
 - D. Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability. Evaluation criteria on timber sales will be price and documented ability to satisfactorily complete the contract. Factors to be assessed may include proposed equipment and operation, references, proof of financial stability, past performance and documented training completed. The award of contract to the successful bidder shall be based upon the bid determined most advantageous to the County.
2. Tie bids may be settled by toss of a coin if both parties are agreeable; otherwise the bids on that tract will be rejected and the sale re-advertised.
 3. Timber sales that do not sell via required advertised procedures are eligible for direct sale to responsible buyers, or can be advertised additional times. Direct sales may be sold at the minimum advertised or appraised value, whichever is less. (See DNR [Timber Sale Handbook](#)).

505.6 SALE CONTRACTS

1. Contracts will be prepared with copies provided to the logger with the original filed in the Parks and Forest Director's office.
2. Contracts are to be signed by the successful bidder within 30 days of the sale or before cutting begins, whichever occurs first, with payment being made according to the County Timber Sale Bond and Advance Stumpage Payment Schedule. Failure to sign the contract within 30 days may result in forfeiture of the bid bond.

505.7 TIMBER SALE PERFORMANCE BOND

1. The performance bond will be equal to 25% of the total estimated bid value up to \$15,000, except no bond will be less than \$3,000. Surety bonds or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank which is a member of the Federal Reserve System

or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may be used in lieu of cash as a performance bond on sales. The letter of credit or surety bond must be in effect for a period of time equal to the term of the contract, plus a sufficient time to allow for possible extension(s) and for closeout of the contract after cutting is completed.

2. The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond.

505.8 CONTRACT PROVISIONS

All timber sale contracts will be on the form approved by the committee and all provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the timber sale map will be attached and become a part of the contract. The county will not execute the contract until after the county receives proof of worker's compensation and the federal identification number of the logger. The following items are essential contract provisions that should be covered in each contract.

505.8.1 Contract Number and Contract Name

Every contract shall have a unique numerical number and depending on county policies/procedures shall have a unique name.

505.8.2 Contract Parties

Contracts must have Name, Address, and other contact information of the Purchaser.

505.8.3 Duration and Extension of Contracts

- A. All Contracts will be issued for not less 6 months nor more than 24 months, unless otherwise stated on advertisement and/or contracts. Contracts will be dated to expire on January 1st or July 1st. Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.
- B. A one-year extension, if deemed necessary by the seller, may be granted at a 5% increase stumpage rate from the original contract. Each successive extension will have a progressive and compounded increase in stumpage

rates. (5% the first extension and 10% each extension thereafter).

Extension	Increase
1st	5%
2nd	10%
3 rd +	10%

- C. The maximum time duration of a timber sale Contract, including extensions, shall be 4 years. Extension beyond this period of time shall be considered by the committee only in the event of special justification. Special stumpage rate adjustments may be made.
- D. If Purchasers do not wish to have Contracts renewed or extended and do not finish the sale prior to expiration, appropriate penalties may be assessed.
- E. The contractor may request a Contract release due to severe physical or financial disability. The committee shall determine whether a release shall be granted and may withhold all or a portion of the bond deposit for damages or performance.

505.8.4 Termination of Contract by Seller

Contracts should have a termination clause. This is a protection to the county for breach of contract by the Purchaser.

- Per contract (page 6 in contract):
 - 15. The County reserves the right to order the Purchaser to temporarily terminate activities under this contract in the event of a manmade or natural disaster which has threatened or engulfed the area in which the sale is located, or in general, when conditions warrant such action. The County shall allow the Purchaser to resume activities hereunder upon notification.
 - 16. Upon written notice by the County, all operations of the Purchaser shall be suspended if, in the opinion of the County, the Purchaser is not in compliance with the conditions of the contract.
 - 17. The County, upon consultation with the DNR Forester, shall be the sole judge of contract conditions compliance. Once the County has ordered that operations of the Purchaser be suspended, the same may not be resumed without written authorization.

505.8.5 Performance Bond, Damages, Future Contracts

This section of the contract is to identify the dollar amount and the duration of the performance bond. Also covered under this section of the contract are items to which the performance bond may be used to cover damages. This section also addresses County powers should damages exceed the performance bond amount.

Examples of damages include:

- A. Undesignated timber removed
- B. Removal of timber without payment
- C. Damage to residual timber, roads, or other infrastructure
- D. Restoration of sale area
- E. Costs associated with resale of uncut timber
- F. Other costs

505.8.6 Title to Timber

It is mutually understood and agreed upon by the parties hereto that as and for security of the entire amount of money due and owing under this contract, the title to and ownership of all standing timber situated upon the sale location as set forth shall remain in the County and, furthermore, that the County shall have a lien upon all timber harvested from the described location under the terms of contract, which lien shall apply against timber stored by the Purchaser and/or upon the proceeds which result therefrom. Said lien shall be and remain in the County until all payments required of the Purchaser under this Contract shall have been made and until the Purchaser shall have completed all other responsibilities called for under contract.

505.8.7 Payment Schedule

All contracts shall have a payment schedule that will layout the responsibilities of the seller and the purchaser for payments under the contract. This schedule will vary based on sale type (lump sum v. scale sale). Depending upon Purchaser's credit status, tickets may have to be purchased in advance. Purchasers in good credit standing will be billed monthly.

505.8.8 Utilization Specifications

Utilization standards will be specified on individual contacts to provide maximum utilization of all merchantable timber and will be based on the scaling standards in 505.3.13(a)

Typical standards are the following:

- A. Softwood Saw: 9" DIB small end and larger
- B. Hardwood Saw: 10" DIB small end and larger
- C. Hardwood Bolts: 8" DIB
- D. Pulpwood all species: 4" DIB
- E. Other considerations: Contracts with no log volume and containing a separate bolt volume/price, all species of bolts will be required to be separated at 8" and above DIB at small end.

505.8.9 Training Requirement

Logging contractor and sale operators are to be compliant with the Wisconsin Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Training Standard as adopted by the Wisconsin SFI® Implementation Committee. Valid documentation of compliance with the Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance training standards must be on file with the County before cutting operations begin and during all operations.

505.8.10 BMPs, Roads, Landings

- A. The contractor will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas across non-county ownership property unless secured by forester when established.
- B. The contractor will be responsible for securing permission to conduct logging activities within town, county, or state road rights-of-way (e.g., decking, skidding).
- C. Parks and Forest personnel will approve the layout of all woods trails and make other necessary special provisions within the sale contract.
- D. Skidding, decking, or other logging activity is not allowed within 33 feet of the centerline of County Forest roads, recreation trails, or ditches unless approved by the Parks and Forest Director or designee. These areas will be kept free from logging debris. County forest access trails will be maintained by the logger and be left in good as or better than the original condition at the close of the sale. County personnel will inspect access trails to insure minimal resource damage from the logging operation. If intersections are modified or created between logging tracts and County or Town roads, County or Town personnel must be notified prior to construction.
- E. A timber sale contractor may request permission to gate a timber sale access trail. The Director or designee may grant a gate permit to prohibit motorized traffic only by installation of a cable or gate. Whenever a timber sale access is blocked, a blaze board will be installed on the gate.

505.8.11 Soil Disturbance and Rutting

Goals:

The County's goals for the management of soil disturbances are to:

- i. Minimize inadvertent soil disturbances and potential adverse impacts to soil productivity, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resources.
- ii. Maintain trails and related structures to intended design standards.
- iii. Combine professional level expertise and operator experience in the formation of

- on-the-ground decisions.
- iv. Provide a protocol for identifying and responding to maintenance needs.

These goals and the interim guidelines are consistent with [Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines and Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices \(BMP's\) for Water Quality Field Manual](#).

The Purchaser shall comply with all recommended BMPs for Water Quality guidelines as described in “*Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*” published by the DNR, publication Pub-FR-093, unless specifically provided otherwise below. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the County if not possessed by the Purchaser.

Purchaser's certification in Wisconsin BMP training or equivalent through a FISTA-coordinated BMP workshop is also required.

505.8.11.1 Application of Soil Disturbance Guidelines

These guidelines apply to timber sales on county lands and to the county forest road system. These guidelines do not apply to intentional soil disturbances, such as mechanical site preparation or plowed firebreak construction. They are not applicable to soil disturbances caused by recreational users of recreational trails. In those situations, please refer to Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Water Quality, Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines, relevant handbooks, and other appropriate reference documents.

505.8.11.2 Management Expectation for Soil Disturbances

Soil disturbances, (soil compaction, rutting, etc.) may occur and be identified through two mechanisms – either as part of a timber sale contract on County lands or as part of county forest trail inventory and maintenance. These guidelines apply in both situations.

505.8.11.3 Timber Sales

Our management expectation is that all steps and precautions, including implementation of BMP's will be taken to avoid and minimize soil disturbances. If a timber sale has soil disturbances below the excessive threshold, then the expectation is that the contractor will evaluate the disturbance and determine what actions, if any are needed to repair or mitigate the effects of the soil disturbance.

If a timber sale has soil disturbances that exceed the excessive threshold, the expectation is that the contractor will contact the forester (or vice versa) and together they will evaluate the disturbance and determine what actions, if any, are needed to repair or mitigate the effects of the soil disturbance. The forester will meet on-site with the timber sale contractor and equipment operators. The forester and contractor will consider management goals and objectives, weather, site conditions, availability of equipment and other factors when evaluating repair and mitigation options.

Prior to closing a sale, the forester will ensure that any soil disturbances that may have occurred are properly addressed.

505.8.11.4 County Forest Trail System

Our management expectation is that all steps and precautions, including implementation of BMP's will be taken to avoid and minimize soil disturbances. If soil disturbances are found on a forest trail, county forest staff will inventory the disturbance and evaluate what actions, if any, are needed to repair or mitigate the effects of the soil disturbance. County forest staff will use the county forest trail inventory to prioritize and develop plans to address soil disturbances. If a forest trail is being used in association with a timber sale, then the forester should be notified to help determine who is responsible for making repairs.

505.8.11.5 Excessive Soil Disturbance Determinations

A soil disturbance is "excessive" if it has exceeded the threshold (see Table 1). An area with an excessive soil disturbance requires special attention

from a forester (if part of a timber sale) or from county forest staff (if part of the county forest trail system). Excessive soil disturbances require special attention to evaluate the effect of the soil disturbance and to develop repair options or mitigation recommendations. Classifying a soil disturbance as “excessive” does not mandate closing a timber sale or a forest trail; however, actions should be taken, as appropriate, to minimize further soil disturbances.

Table 1. Interim Threshold for Soil Disturbances

<u>County Forest Infrastructure</u>	Soil Disturbance is excessive if:
Trails, Landing, Skid Trails, and General Harvest Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gully or rut is 6” deep or more and is resulting in channelized flow to a wetland, stream, or lake.
Trails, Landing, and Primary Skid Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a riparian management zone (RMZ) or wetland, a gully or rut is 6” deep or more and 100’ long or more. • In an upland area (outside of RMZ), a gully or rut is 10” deep or more and 66’ long or more.
Secondary Skid Trails and General Harvest Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully or rut is 6” deep or more and 100’ long or more.

Note: The depth is to be measured from the original soil surface to the bottom of the depression. If individual lug depressions are visible, the depth would be measured to the lesser for the two depths (the “top” of the lug). The length is measured from the start of the “too deep” section to the end of the “too deep” section. Measurements are not cumulative.

Definitions and Terms

A gully is an erosion channel cut into the soil along a line of water flow.

A rut is an elongated depression caused by dragging logs or by wheels or tracks of harvesting machinery, equipment, or other vehicles. Ruts are often exacerbated by

erosion from uncontrolled storm water runoff.

A primary skid trail is used for three or more passes. A secondary skid trail is used for one or two passes.

505.8.12 Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance

All contracts should require proof of insurance. The proof of insurance shall be kept in the sale folder and must cover the entire operation period of the contract.

505.8.13 Scaling and Conversion Factors

All wood is to be scaled by a County employee before being removed from sale area, unless the ticket system is used, or the sale is a lump sum. No firewood, hand peeled, or machine peel aspen can be hauled from the sale area using the mill ticket system.

Cordwood Weight-Tons/Cord	
Species	Weight
Red Pine	4500
Jack Pine	4250
White Pine	4200
All Oak	5500
White Birch	4800
Mx Hardwood	4600
Aspen	4500
Basswood	3850
Spruce	4000

Whole Tree Chip-Ton/Cord	
Species	Weight/Cord
Mx Hardwood	2.93 ton/cord
Aspen	2.93 ton/cord
All Oak	3.58 ton/cord
Red Pine	2.93 ton/cord
Jack Pine	2.77 ton/cord
White Pine	2.73 ton/cord

505.8.14 Forest Certification

The area encompassed by this timber sale is certified to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council® SCS-FM/COC-00083G FSC 100% and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® NSF-SFI-FM-1Y943 SFI 100%.

505.8.15 Other Contract Conditions for Consideration

Utilization Requirements:

- a. All trees containing one pulp stick with a 3-1/2" minimum top diameter shall be utilized.
- b. Other conditions:
 - No heavy equipment track/wheel activity will be allowed within 15 feet of wetlands.
 - In regeneration harvest areas, 50% of the trees within 15 feet of a wetland may be harvested. Favor longer lived species such as oak, pine, and maple.
 - In selective harvest areas, harvest trees as marked. Leave any marked trees that cannot be harvested within the 15-foot equipment limitation.
 - Equipment travel is not permitted in the bottom of drainage ways or immediately adjacent to wetlands. This may require advanced planning and may exclude some areas from harvest.
 - All snags (including down, large trees) will be left undisturbed unless they present an immediate safety hazard.

Slash Disposal:

All slash must be in direct contact with the ground during the cutting operation. Slash piles shall not exceed two (2) feet in height and should be displaced uniformly along the forest floor. No slash is allowed in streams, ditches, roads, swamps, trails or across blue paint lines. Do not pile slash into drainage areas where runoff may wash slash into streams, lakes, or wetlands.

Debris Disposal:

Any debris or material not natural to the land shall be properly disposed of as it is generated. Purchaser will be subject to penalty for littering on logging sites.

Stump Height:

- a. Maximum - shall not exceed stump diameter or five (5) inches above ground level, whichever is greater.
- b. Minimum - on log sales, do not cut below the paint mark on the stump.

Independent Contractor Status:

It is agreed by and between the parties hereto that at all times and for all purposes within the scope of this contract, the relationship of the Purchaser to the County shall be that of an independent contractor and not that of an employee. No statement contained in this contract shall be construed so as to find either the Purchaser or any of his or her employees, agents, or officers, to be an employee of the County, and the Purchaser shall not be entitled to any of the rights, benefits, or privileges of County employees, unless expressly stated to the contrary herein.

Indemnification:

The Purchaser hereby understands that they shall indemnify the County against any personal injuries or property damages and resultant losses which he/she or any of his/her employees or agents may sustain due to the condition of the land.

505.8.16 Attachments to Contract

Any and all attachments to this Contract shall be made a part of this Contract and be fully complied with, including:

- Addendum #1 FIN and Workers Comp Insurance Coverage
- Addendum #2 Release of Liability
- Addendum #3 Mill Scale Ticket System for Pulpwood Scaling
- Addendum #4 Subcontractors Acknowledgement of Responsibility
- Addendum #5 Prepay Haul Ticket System
- Timbersale Map

505.9 TIMBER SALE RESTRICTIONS

1. To minimize resource damage, the types of logging equipment, methods, and times of operation used on sale areas may be restricted by the county.
2. Special restrictions may be required in accordance with county aesthetic policy, if applicable.
3. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect roads, minimize recreation use conflicts, benefit wildlife management, avoid endangered resources concerns, minimize insect and disease problems, or to assist in fire protection.

505.10 TIMBER SALE ROADS

1. The contractor will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas across private or other non-county ownership.
2. The contractor will be responsible for securing permission to conduct logging activities within town, county, or state road rights-of-way (e.g., decking, skidding)
3. Forestry personnel will approve the lay-out of all roads and make other necessary special provisions within the sale contract.

4. Skidding, decking, or other logging activity is not allowed on County Forest roads or ditches unless approved by the County Parks and Forest. These areas will be kept free from logging debris. County Forest access roads will be maintained by the logger and be left in good as original condition at the close of the sale. Roads will be inspected by county personnel to insure minimal resource damage.
5. A timber sale purchaser may request permission to gate a timber sale access road. The sale administrator may grant a gate permit to prohibit only motorized traffic.

505.11 SUPERVISING SALES

Sale inspections will be performed periodically by County and / or DNR Forestry personnel, as requested, with corresponding notations in the sales record.

505.12 FOREST PRODUCTS ACCOUNTABILITY

505.12.1 Scaling Merchantability

1. Sawlogs will be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C. log rule. A log is defined as:
 - *9" diameter or larger inside bark (d.i.b.) at 8' in length (plus trim) for softwood*
 - *10" diameter or larger inside bark (d.i.b.) small end at 8' in length for hardwood*
 - *Minimum net scale of 50% of the gross scale of the log*
2. The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4' x 4' x 8' of unpeeled wood. Peeled wood will be converted to the standard cord by adding 12.5% for sap-peeled and adding 25% for machine-peeled wood to the gross volume of wood measured. A pulpwood tree contains at least one (1) 8' stick, to a minimum top diameter as defined in the contract.
3. The DNR [Timber Sale Handbook](#) will be used as a guide in determining the conversion rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips, weight- scaled wood or other types of forest products that are not already listed on the Eau Claire County Forest listed conversion factors.

505.12.2 Utilization Standards

Utilization standards will be specified on individual contracts to provide maximum utilization of all merchantable timber and will be based on the scaling standards noted in 505.12.1(1).

505.12.3 Methods of Accountability

Wood harvested from the sale area must be accounted for and payment made in accordance with existing policy and procedure. One or more of the following may be used on an individual sale:

1. The ticket system uses serialized three-part tickets. The white copy will be placed in the site box prior to truck departure. The yellow copy is to be returned to the County with accompanying mill statement. The pink copy is to be retained by the Purchaser. Mill scale will be accepted for volume determination.
2. Parks and Forest or DNR personnel may also scale wood on the landing. This method will always be used for saw logs and may be used for pulpwood if the ticket system is not used. Payment for wood products scaled is normally due within 30 days of billing.
3. Lump sum sales may also be utilized and divided into cutting units when practical. Payment for a cutting unit must be received in full before any cutting begins in that unit.
4. An interest charge of 18% annual percentage rate (1.5% monthly) will be added to all account balances more than 30 days past the billing date.

505.13 SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCT PERMITS

1. A written permit for harvesting fuelwood for personal use must be purchased for a specific area designated on the permit.
2. Fuel-wood permit areas will be initially offered for sale by sealed bids. After the bids are awarded, unsold permit areas will be offered for direct sale for the

minimum bid price. A maximum of one permit can be sold to per household per firewood season.

3. Written permits may be issued for special forest products for community or personal use, with fees established by the Parks & Forest Committee.

510 TIMBER THEFT

All cases of alleged timber theft on the County Forest shall be investigated and resolved promptly. An allegation of theft by cutting and /or removing timber from the County Forest does not alleviate the County from payment under s. 28.11 (9) Wis. Stats. The County will collect damages pursuant to s. 26.05 Wis. Stats. and may also pursue criminal charges under s. 943.20 Wis. Stats. and /or seek civil damages.

510.1 TIMBER THEFT INVESTIGATION

The following procedure should be used in all cases of alleged timber theft:

1. Determination of Theft
 - A. Gathering facts - The County, through its sheriff's department and along with assistance of the DNR liaison, rangers, and wardens, will ascertain the facts pertinent to the alleged theft, including determination of the damages to the County. Legal counsel representing the county should be involved in all aspects of investigation. Property involved in the alleged theft may be seized pursuant to s. 26.064 Wis. Stats. for use as evidence.
 - B. Boundary determination - If property boundaries are involved, the County shall conduct a legal survey of the boundary in question.

515 ENCROACHMENTS

The County will actively investigate all suspected cases of encroachments on the County Forest. To ensure the integrity and continuity of the County Forest land, all cases will be dealt with promptly and in a consistent manner. The following procedures will be used in all cases of suspected encroachments:

1. The County will establish property boundaries; if necessary, a legal survey will be conducted.

2. The County will gather all facts.
3. The Committee, in consultation with the Parks and Forest Director, county legal counsel, and the DNR, will decide as to the disposition of the case.
 - A. All above ground encroachments that are movable will be removed from county property.
 - B. Permanent type facilities, such as homes, garages, and septic systems shall be addressed individually and commonly be removed but may be handled by a land use agreement in rare situations. For example, when the encroachment will be removed within a short and defined time period (e.g. septic system needs replacing, dilapidated structure needs to be rebuilt and relocated) may be removed or handled by a land use agreement. Sale or transfer of the encroachment should remain an option depending on the circumstances involved and the viability of an adverse possession claim (s. 893.29 Wis. Stats.).
 - C. Provisions in the land use agreement, if that option is pursued, may include granting the encroacher permission to encroach on the County Forest lands with the following stipulations: no other encroachments will be allowed; the permit is non-transferable; the County must be notified once encroachment is terminated; County continues full ownership and control of property; permittee agrees to waive any rights to any future declaration of ownership or interest in the encroached county property; County reserves the right to cancel the permit and the permit is to be filed in the office of the County Forestry Department and all fees related to the land use permit shall be paid by the permittee.
 - D. A copy of the actual Land Use Agreement can be found in Chapter 1000, 1010.4.

520 SPECIAL USES

1. Recognizing the vast potential for a variety of special uses of the County Forest by governmental units, businesses, organizations or individuals, the committee may designate specified areas for special uses. Specific management methods are to be considered on these areas. Uses must be consistent with the intent and purposes of the County Forest Law.
2. All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest lands will require a permit authorized by the Committee.
3. A list of existing special use areas can be found the Appendix.

520.1 SAND AND GRAVEL

Sand and gravel pits located on the County Forest may be used only by units of government or contractors performing public works. Use of existing pits and the opening of new pits by other than the County Parks and Forest Department will require Committee approval and be authorized by permit only. The condition of such permits may include, but are not be limited to:

1. Requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any public highway
2. Severing trees from the stump
3. Disposition of brush and dirt spoil by leveling or hauling away
4. Sloping to prevent steep banks
5. Filing with the forestry office an annual written report of gravel and sand removed

Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the Committee or County Parks and Forest Director. The Committee may set fees for materials removed. Other non- metalliferous materials will be dealt with on an individual basis.

All active, nonmetallic sites greater than one acre in size, including those on the County Forest, are also subject to the provisions of the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program, Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code. The County Forestry Department shall work with the local permit coordinator (often county or local zoning office) in obtaining the necessary

permits for nonmetallic mining operations.

Sand and gravel may, under some circumstances, be leased to private contractors for private use. In these situations, the land must be withdrawn from the County Forest Law until sand/gravel removal and reclamation of the site is completed. Upon completion of reclamation to the satisfaction of the County and the State, the lands shall be reapplied for entry under the County Forest Law.

520.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING, AND MINING

1. The Committee may investigate all mineral exploration, prospecting, and mining requests as they are received.
2. The DNR shall be notified of all requests as they become known in accordance with s. 28.11(3)(i) and (j) and with DNR Manual Code 2712.1 or other codes which may be subsequently adopted.

The [Public Lands Handbook](#) should be referenced for more detailed procedure.

520.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS

The use of County Forest lands for sanitary landfills will not be allowed unless the lands involved are withdrawn from the County Forest Law.

520.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

Military maneuvers on County Forest lands will be considered under a lease or written land use agreement. Upon receipt of a written request from the military the Committee, other necessary County staff, Military, and DNR representatives will discuss the issue at a public Committee meeting. After the needs have been outlined, the site shall be field checked, DNR input and consistency with the County Forest Law sought, and town officials advised. Depending on the scope of the project, a public hearing may be appropriate. If all aspects and concerns are addressed and agreed to, a legal instrument will be drafted. The matter will then be brought back to a Committee meeting for final input and approval. The [Public Forest Lands Handbook](#) will be used for further direction in this matter.

520.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Easements for public utilities may be considered by the Committee. Underground installations will be encouraged. The following main provisions shall be included in any County Board resolution granting permission for construction of any utility transmission line:

1. Utility may be billed for merchantable forest products and existing timber reproduction.
2. Utility may be billed for land removed from production due to right-of-way clearing for losses of future income and multiple use benefits.
3. Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited “primarily for timber production or, that is no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes” (s. 28.11(4)(c) Wis. Stats) may need to be withdrawn from county forest law designation. The utility shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking of the County Forest.
4. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground lines to minimize disturbance to the County Forest and native plants and animals.
5. Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner approved by the Committee. Timber cut must be reported to the DNR on form 2460-1.
6. Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a map of not less than 1 inch /mile scale, 90 days in advance of proposed construction.
7. Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns shall be addressed in any proposal.
8. An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.

520.6 ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND

The Department has determined that granting a private easement across county forest

lands is not consistent with the County Forest Law program. This determination is based on an Attorney General opinion (*OAG-08-10*). Easement grants to individuals are generally determined to be an exclusive right on a publicly owned asset. Counties are generally restricted from granting easements on County Forest lands unless the easement helps to achieve the purposes of the County Forest Law program.

520.6.1 Temporary Access

Requests for temporary access across County Forest Lands will be reviewed for any potential conflicts with management activities or public access. If impacts are minimal, access for short term needs will be permitted by access agreements or letters of authorization. Temporary access is generally for activities such as access to maintain utilities (rail, powerline, etc.) or for logging access on private lands. The recipient of temporary access is required to restore the roadway to at least its prior condition and to expand coverage of any performance deposits or liability insurance to cover the use of the County road.

520.6.2 Access Agreements

Requests for access to private lands may be made by private parties to build or improve access roads through the County Forest. Access agreements will be considered on a case-by-case basis and with the understanding that the County is not legally obligated to provide access to private lands.

A fee of \$200 will be assessed by the Committee for access permits. The Committee may elect to increase renewals or waive these fees in cases of agreement renewals or in cases of existing roads or driveways.

Access across County Forest lands must be demonstrated by the applicant as the route of last resort, including evidence of an offer of fair compensation for access across other private lands. The following stipulations will be included in access agreements:

- A. No legal easement will be granted, just permission to cross county lands.

- B. Permit is non-transferable. New landowners must apply to continue the land use agreement.
- C. Access improvements and upgrading must be approved and will be supervised by the Parks and Forest staff. Prior notification of three (3) days is required before work starts.
- D. All wood cut from county forestland is the property of Eau Claire County.
- E. Access must be open to the public and no gate may be erected on county land.
- F. The County continues full ownership of the improved access; however, it shall not be liable for maintenance or upkeep of the access.
- G. Permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the access on county land as a result of this "Access Permit". The access permit is granted upon the signature and any fees being charged by Eau Claire County.
- H. A fee is charged for an access permit.
- I. Standard Land Use Agreement Access permit is included as an exhibit in Chapter 1000, 1010.4.

520.6.3 Prescriptive Easements

Historical access points and driveways may meet the legal requirements of prescriptive use. A prescriptive use easement does not generally trigger a need to withdraw lands from the County Forest program unless the public is excluded from motorized travel on the subject road. Any potential claims of prescriptive easement across County Forest lands must be reviewed by legal counsel in order to determine legal validity and possible legal defense or standing.

520.6.4 Other Types of Access

Complex issues of private access needs may arise in the future. Any proposals to grant an easement across County Forest must help achieve the purposes of the County Forest Law and meet a standard of better and higher public use. Easements to private parties will

require withdrawal from County Forest Law and are to be discussed with the Department prior to initiating any proposals.

520.7 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES

If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the Committee may consider a land use agreement for access across County Forest. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These agreements should consider the inclusions mentioned below:

1. The permit is non-transferrable.
2. The County retains full ownership of the utility corridor; however, it shall not be liable for maintenance, upkeep, or other damages associated with the utility service.
3. The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the utility corridor on County land for administrative costs as a result of this Land Use Agreement – Utility permit. This agreement is granted upon the signature and any fees being received by Eau Claire County.
4. The fee for such a land use agreement would be set by the Parks and Forest Director with approval from the Parks and Forest Committee.

520.8 COMMUNICATION TOWERS

The siting of communication towers on the Eau Claire County Forest will be considered by the Committee on a limited basis. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to the following conditions:

1. It must be demonstrated that the site is the most practical location for such a tower.
2. Land selected for such a tower is no longer suitable for continued entry in the County Forest program. According to section 28.11(4), Wis. Stats, any accompanying lands needed for tower support wires that inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes may also need to be withdrawn from County Forest Law. Withdrawal is subject to

approval by both County Board and DNR.

3. A request to withdraw lands from County Forest Law by a private communication company shall follow withdrawal protocol.
4. The fee for such a land use agreement would be set by the Parks and Forest Director with approval from the Parks and Forest Committee.
5. Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed under 520.5 (Items 1-8).

520.9 OTHER

Other types of special uses of the County Forest may be considered by the Committee. Regulations governing these uses will be developed on an individual basis. These may include, but are not limited to research, independent study, and scientific areas.

525 TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS

Ordinance No. 136-08, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Eau Claire on April 21, 1992 , authorizes Eau Claire County to require permits for gathering miscellaneous forest products on County land by Native American treaty rights participants. The ordinance, Section 16.10 of the General Code of Eau Claire County, adopts language of, and complies with, the Federal District Court decision and states as follows:

1. Any treaty rights participant interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, maple sap, lodge poles, boughs, marsh hay or other miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in County ordinances) from County land shall obtain a County gathering permit from the County forestry office. The County shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than 14 days after receipt of the request. The gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be gathered, the volume of material to be gathered, and conditions of the gathering of the material necessary for conservation of the timber and miscellaneous forest products on the County land, or for public health or safety.

2. The County may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on county property under this section unless: (a) the gathering is inconsistent with the management plan for the property, (b) the gathering will conflict with the pre-existing rights of a permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property, including a contractor of the County or, (c) is otherwise inconsistent with conservation or public health or safety. See subchapter IV, Ch.NR13, Wis. Adm. Code.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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600 PROTECTION

OBJECTIVE

To protect and manage the resources of the forest from preventable losses resulting from fire, insects, diseases, and other destructive elements including those caused by people.

Protective methods shall include proper silvicultural methods.

The DNR provides statewide technical guidance that will be used to inform local decisions. This guidance will be referenced to make decisions at the county level.

605 FIRE CONTROL

Damage to the forest caused by uncontrolled fire can create an important challenge in the management of the forest. Loss of resource values caused by fire will be minimized through organized prevention, detection, and suppression methods. Maintaining a healthy forest is key to fire management. The DNR is responsible for all matters relating to the prevention, detection, and suppression of forest fires outside the limits of incorporated villages and cities, as stated in s.26.11(1), Wis. Stats. The DNR works cooperatively with local fire departments in all fire control efforts. Eau Claire County Forest is part of the Intensive Forest Fire Protection Area. The Fire Management Handbook No. 4325.1 and the Area Operations Plan shall serve as the guidelines for fire control activities.

605.1 COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Pursuant to s. 26.11(4) and s. 28.11(4)(f), Wis. Stats., and of the Eau Claire County Forest Ordinance, the county may cooperate with the DNR in the interest of fire prevention, detection, and suppression on the County Forest. This is accomplished through agreements authorizing the DNR to use County Forest land or to utilize county personnel and equipment for fire protection activities.

605.1.1 Personnel

County Forest personnel, upon request from the DNR, shall be made available for forest fire control efforts within the county in accordance with an established memorandum of understanding (MOU). The DNR is responsible for training and directing the activities of

county personnel in accordance with the rules identified in the Fire Management Handbook, No. 4325.1.

605.1.2 Equipment

County Forest equipment, upon request and as identified in the MOU, shall be available for forest fire control suppression. During periods of high fire hazard, all County Forest vehicles and/or crews should be equipped with one or more backpack cans, axes or shovels, appropriate personal protective equipment, mobile communication, and any other equipment deemed essential by the MOU. All hand tools shall be maintained and provided by the DNR.

605.1.3 Fire Detection

Fire detection is the responsibility of the DNR. County Forestry personnel may assist and report any wildfires to the DNR, local Fire Department or 911 Dispatch.

605.1.4 Forest Fire Prevention

DNR fire control personnel are authorized by the county to place fire prevention signs at recreational areas and other strategic locations within the forest. The County conducts and controls all operations (including harvesting) on the forest in a manner designed to prevent forest fires. The use of the county forest and the Department will coordinate during high fire danger periods to impose any necessary restrictions. These restrictions may include, but are not limited to, recreation and logging.

605.2 DEBRIS BURNING

Unauthorized burning of debris will not be permitted on County Forest Lands pursuant to s. 26.12(5), Wis. Stats.

605.3 CAMPING FIRES

Adequate fire rings will be provided at Coon Fork and Harstad campgrounds. During periods of high fire danger, use of campfires may be restricted. While campfires are allowed on the County Forest, it is unlawful to leave any fire unattended. On a DNR designated red flag day, it is unlawful to start or use any fire.

605.4 PRESCRIBED BURNING

All prescribed burning on County Forest lands will follow the DNR recommendations. See Prescribed Burn Handbook No. 4360.5 for details. Prescribed fire may be an effective management tool on the County Forest.

605.5 COUNTY FOREST FIRE HAZARD AREAS

The DNR places primary emphasis will be placed on fire control efforts in pine areas. Maps of these areas are available at the local DNR field office. The County will cooperate with DNR Fire Control in providing for firebreaks or access ways. Existing access roads, firebreaks and water access points will be maintained as deemed necessary. Secondary emphasis will be placed on hardwood areas with no firebreaks developed or maintained. However, access roads will be maintained as defined in Chapter 700 of this plan.

610 CONTROL OF FOREST PESTS & PATHOGENS

610.1 DETECTION

Damage to the forest caused by insects, other pests and diseases can adversely affect management of the forest resources. Losses to resource values impacted by forest pests will be minimized through integrated pest management methods, with emphasis on silvicultural prescriptions (timber sales). The detection and control of pest problems will be accomplished by county and DNR personnel in cooperation with other agencies.

610.2 PEST SURVEYS

Pest surveys are conducted under the direction of the DNR's forest health specialists. The County may cooperate by providing personnel and equipment to assist in these operations.

610.3 SPECIFIC PESTS AND PATHOGENS OF CONCERN

Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows:

“The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”

The integrated pest management control and methodology shall be determined jointly by the County Parks and Forest Director, and DNR liaison forester in consultation with the DNR district Forest Health Specialist. Suppression of forest pests may include the following:

1. Silvicultural prescriptions, including timber sales
2. Biological control
3. Chemical control

610.3.1 Specific Pests of Interest

610.3.1.1 Gypsy Moth

Gypsy Moth, *Lymantria dispar*, was introduced pest has moved westward from the northeastern United States since the early 1900's. It reached eastern Wisconsin and has been in some counties since 1988. Despite suppression efforts, it is continuing to progress westerly.

Eau Claire County Forest's strategy to combat this defoliating insect is silvicultural techniques to maintain and improve forest vigor. Suppression spraying with insecticides may be considered in high use recreation areas. Biological controls may be available to help reduce outbreak frequency.

The gypsy moth's rate of spread is variable, tending to be faster in drier landscapes, under drought conditions, and where land area is contiguous forests with >50% of basal area in preferred tree species. These preferred species include oak, aspen, and birch.

The presence of threatened or endangered species in these areas may impact both the type of treatment and the decision to apply suppression tactics. The intent is not to eradicate, but rather to reduce populations so tree mortality is maintained at tolerable levels. The DNR's local gypsy moth coordinator and entomologist will be available for consultation on control tactics and possible quarantine procedures. DATCP is the agency responsible for quarantine procedures for wood products from infested counties.

The Eau Claire County Forest's threshold levels for suppression will be as follows: (Note: The first two bullets meet standards for the DNR Gypsy Moth Suppression program.)

- 20 acres in size and of a compact and regular shape (minimum eligible size for aerial spraying through the state suppression program) OR high use, developed recreation areas.
- 500 egg masses per acre based on 1/40th acre (18.6 ft. radius) plots.

Current Situation

On the Eau Claire County Forest, the first catches occurred along the eastern boundary in 1999. The 2004 survey data shows from 1–10 moths/trap on the western half of the forest and 10-100 moths/trap on the eastern half. When the average number of moths/trap exceeds 100, consider doing egg mass surveys to predict defoliation the following spring. Egg mass surveys should be done when the average number of moths/trap exceeds 300.

The Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator, in Eau Claire, WI for the West Central Region is responsible for coordinating data collection and appropriate measures to slow the influx of Gypsy Moths into the county. This includes surveys and appropriate spraying.

Landscape and Regional Considerations

The Eau Claire County Forest is located on soils ideally suited for species (oak and aspen) preferred by the gypsy moth. These soils also support some non-preferred species such as the white, red, and jack pine. From a landscape scale perspective, maintaining the oak, aspen, white birch, and tamarack on this forest would be beneficial.

Property-level Considerations

Active management to maintain oak and aspen is a goal for forest management on the Eau Claire County Forest. Currently (2021) there are 16,365 acres of oak (32% of the forest), 8,812 acres of aspen (17%), and 19 acres of white birch (0.1%). Maintaining the quality and abundance of these resources is important at the property and regional levels.

Silvicultural treatments can be used to reduce defoliation and mortality.

Treatments to consider include release of seedling and sapling stands; thinning and improvement cutting; salvage, pre-salvage, and sanitation; altering species composition, and stand regeneration through natural or artificial means.

Biological Controls can help slow development of outbreaks and contribute to their collapse. Once established, natural enemies will maintain themselves without further attention. Three gypsy moth specific natural enemies are currently established in Wisconsin and are available for redistribution from the gypsy moth program.

Suppression Sprays are used to prevent or minimize defoliation when an outbreak threatens and the anticipated levels of defoliation and/or mortality are not tolerable. The Committee will make every effort to notify the public on its department Facebook page when an aerial treatment is scheduled by DATCP.

Physical Controls (oiling or removing egg masses, barrier bands, burlap collection bands) can effectively limit defoliation within small areas. In high use areas, they can be educational tools demonstrating gypsy moth management is occurring on the property.

610.3.1.2 Jack Pine Budworm

Jack pine budworm, *Choristoneura pinus*, is a native needle-feeding caterpillar that is generally considered the most significant pest of jack pine. Red, Scotch, and white

pine, and spruce, can also be defoliated and suffer top-kill and mortality by jack pine budworm. Vigorous, young jack pine stands are less likely to be damaged during outbreaks. The most vigorous stands are well stocked, evenly spaced, fairly uniform in height, and less than 45 years old. Stands older than 45 years that are growing on very sandy sites and suffering from drought or other stresses are very vulnerable to damage. Tree mortality and top kill are more likely to occur in these stands. In addition, stressed stands are more susceptible to attack by Ips bark beetle. Mortality from Ips can occur for 2-3 years after the jack pine budworm outbreak collapses. This mortality and top kill create fuel for intense wildfires.

It will be Eau Claire county's strategy to harvest at the appropriate rotation age, maintain high stand densities (without overcrowding), and use good site selection for jack pine. This will be an effort to help avoid budworm-caused tree mortality and reduce the threat of damaging wildfires while still providing suitable conditions for jack pine regeneration. Prompt salvage following an outbreak will also help reduce the possibility of wildfire. Esthetic strips and/or islands should not be used. Leaving these esthetic strips/islands can prolong the outbreak by giving the budworm areas for breeding. Use of insecticides is not warranted in combating this forest pest on the County Forest.

610.3.1.3 Oak Wilt

Oak wilt, *Bretziella fagacearum*, is a destructive disease of oak trees. It is responsible for the death of thousands of oak trees in forests, woodlots, and home landscapes each year. Oak wilt is caused by a fungus that invades and impairs the tree's water conducting system, resulting in branch wilting and tree death. Trees in both the red oak group and white oak group are affected. There is no known cure once a tree has oak wilt. Prevention of new oak wilt infection centers is the best management option and involves avoiding injury to healthy trees and removing dead or diseased trees. Counties should use the [Oak Harvesting Guidelines to Reduce the Risk of Introduction and Spread of Oak Wilt](#) for management guidance. If pruning is necessary or damage is incurred during the

growing season, e.g., through construction activities or storms, the wounds should be painted immediately with wound paint.

It is Eau Claire County's policy to remove infected trees. Once chipped or debarked, the materials shall be covered with plastic for a period of six months to kill the fungus and any insects in the material. A vibratory plow, or similar implement, may be used to sever root grafts on isolated pockets where feasible. Timber harvest of oak will be restricted between April 15 and August 1.

610.3.1.4 Forest Tent Caterpillar

Forest tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria*, can be found throughout the United States and Canada wherever hardwoods grow. The favored hosts in Wisconsin are aspen and oak. This native insect causes region-wide outbreaks at intervals from 10 to 15 years; outbreaks usually last 2 - 5 years in the Lake States. Severe and repeated defoliation can lead to dieback and/or reduced growth of affected trees, which in some instances may be significant. Populations are often controlled by natural enemies, helping the population crash. Aerial spraying of insecticides can be an option for control as well. It will be Eau Claire County's strategy to employ sound silvicultural practices to combat this cyclic pest.

610.3.1.5 Two-lined Chestnut Borer

The two-lined chestnut borer, *Agrilus bilineatus*, is a common secondary pest in trees which have been severely defoliated several years in a row. Oaks that are under stress from drought and/or defoliation by insects such as gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), fall cankerworm (*Alsophila pomataria*), and forest tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) can be infested and killed by two-lined chestnut borer. Prevention of two-lined chestnut borer through sound silvicultural practices is the best management option. Postponing management activities in stressed stands for two years after severe drought and/or defoliation have ended will provide time for trees to recover and reduce their susceptibility to two-lined chestnut borer attack. Infestations should be salvaged promptly. Eau Claire County will strive to maintain healthy trees through sound silvicultural practices to

discourage infestation.

610.3.1.6 Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, was accidentally introduced to North America from Asia in 2002. Emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations in Wisconsin have resulted in widespread mortality to *Fraxinus* species including green, white, and black ash. It is expected that 99% of the ash trees in Wisconsin will die. Ash comprises a significant component in the northern hardwood timber type and can be found in nearly pure stands in some lowland areas. Adult EAB beetles feed on foliage but it is the larvae that cause mortality by feeding on the phloem and outer sapwood of the ash trees.

The [Emerald Ash Borer Silviculture Guidelines](#) are available to help resource managers make informed stand-level decisions to manage forests that are not yet infested by EAB, as well as implement salvage harvests and rehabilitation in stands that have already been impacted by EAB.

It is Eau Claire County's policy to follow the Emerald Ash Borer Silviculture Guidelines.

610.3.1.7 HRD

Heterobasidion root disease (HRD, previously called annosum root rot), is caused by the fungus, *Heterobasidion irregulare*. It is a serious disease that causes pine and spruce mortality in Wisconsin, but over 200 woody species have been reported as hosts. Red and white pine trees are most commonly affected in plantation-grown stands subjected to thinning. The disease was first confirmed in Wisconsin in 1993 and has since been found in several counties throughout Wisconsin. Diseased trees, including overstory trees and understory seedlings and saplings, will show fading, thin crowns with tufted foliage, and eventual mortality. Currently there are no curative treatments to eliminate the HRD pathogen from a stand once it is infested, so preventing disease introduction is the best approach.

Infection most often occurs when HRD spores land and germinate on a freshly cut stump. The pathogen then grows into the root tissue and progresses underground from tree to tree through root contact. As the pathogen spreads, and trees decline and die, an ever-expanding pocket of mortality is formed. HRD fruit bodies, or conks, may be found at the base of dead trees and old stumps. Fruit bodies are most commonly observed in the fall but can be found any time of the year.

[Guidelines for stump treatment to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of Heterobasidion root disease in Wisconsin](#) should be used by the county forests. The HRD guidelines are designed to help property managers and landowners determine whether the preventive pesticide treatment should be used to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of HRD at the time of harvest in a pine and/or spruce stand.

It is Eau Claire County’s policy to follow the “Guidelines for stump treatment to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of Heterobasidion root disease in Wisconsin.”

610.3.2 Funding

The County Forest will make all reasonable efforts to secure funding for control efforts, through county funds, or other state, federal or private funding sources.

610.3.3 Special Projects

The County may cooperate with other agencies in forest pest research.

610.4 DEER BROWSE

Forest regeneration and reproduction is critical to sustain both timber production and wildlife habitat and the overall health of the deer herd. As a keystone species, deer can affect forest regeneration, long-term forest production, and forest sustainability.

This is a concern for all interested in forest production and trying to balance deer numbers with habitat.

Eau Claire County Forest may monitor herbivory impacts during forest reconnaissance.

Six deer exclosure plots were identified and fenced off in 2016. These plots will continue to be monitored for deer browse annually. The early findings from these plots have shown deer browse activity to be heaviest on the Oak species.

610.5 INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Invasive plants can cause significant negative impacts to the forest. Invasive species can displace native plants and hinder the forest regeneration efforts. Preventing them from dominating habitats is critical to the long-term health of the forest. There are a number of invasive plant species in varying densities on the County Forest. Some warrant immediate and continual treatment efforts while others may be allowed to remain due to extent and financial ability to control them. The County will continue to train staff in invasive species identification as well as attempt to secure funding sources to control them as much as is practical. Invasive plants on the forest should be documented as well as potential response to new infestations. It shall be Eau Claire County's policy to focus invasive species control measures on highly productive aspen and oak sites, that present battles that can be won through control measures that feature a cost benefit analysis favorable based on stand rotation.

610.5.1 Funding and Partnerships

Grant opportunities for invasive species control funding can be found on the [Financial Assistance webpage](#) of the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council. The number of grants for local governments and county forest is limited, especially for terrestrial invasive plant control. Some grants, such as the Department of Natural Resources' [turkey stamp program](#), support invasive plant control as part of larger efforts to promote certain outcomes and might be applicable.

The Department of Natural Resources promotes the formation of Cooperative

Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) through its [Weed Management Area – Private Forest Grant Program](#). While activities funded by this grant are restricted to non-industrial private forests, CISMAs are encouraged to partner with other groups in their area and some can provide technical support to county forests. The CISMA's of Wisconsin can be found on this [map](#).

610.5.2 Best Management Practices

In 2009, the Department of Natural Resources and many stakeholder groups approved a series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for minimizing the spread of forest invasive plants. The full text of the [BMPs](#) is found on the Wisconsin Council on Forestry website. Voluntary use of the BMPs during forestry stewardship activities reduces the spread of invasive plants that can impede forest regeneration in county forests.

BMPs used before, during and after a harvest promote forest regeneration. Reasonable efforts to clean vehicles, equipment, footwear, and other clothing helps reduce the spread of seeds and plant fragments to un-infested forests. Planning the sequence and timing of stewardship activities to reduce contact with invasive plants during forestry operations is another helpful strategy. Similarly, controlling populations of invasive plants before logging reduces the risk of spreading them. Follow-up monitoring of disturbed stands can detect populations of invasive plants while they are still small and more easily managed.

610.5.3 Current Plant Invasives

610.5.3.1 Buckthorn

Two species of invasive buckthorn impact Wisconsin's forests. Common buckthorn, *Frangula cathartica*, is more often found growing on well- drained soils while glossy buckthorn, *Frangula alnus*, favors wetter soils. Both species grow in shade or sun, quickly form dense, even-aged thickets that shade out understory plants, including tree seedlings, and hinder forest regeneration. Their dark colored fruits are eaten by birds who disperse them long distances.

Both buckthorns green-up before native plants and remain green after the natives drop their leaves.

Buckthorn can be controlled by taking advantage of the longer period in which they retain their leaves. Foliar applications of herbicide applied when buckthorn has leaves and the natives are leafless will minimize damage to native plants. Other control options include mowing the shrubs and then treating re-sprouts with foliar herbicide, basal bark herbicide applications, and cut stump herbicide applications.

610.5.3.2 Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an herbaceous, biennial, native to Europe. During the first year a basal rosette of only leaves develops. The second year, several stems from 1 – 4 feet tall grow from the basal rosette. The leaves have a distinct garlic fragrance when crushed. From the stems grow several small white flowers. Each plant can produce 100's of tiny seeds inside long, narrow capsules. Garlic mustard can quickly colonize disturbed forests as it often follows corridors such as game trails or man-made roads/paths. As garlic mustard spreads, it quickly displaces native plants and is known to radiate chemicals into the soil that disrupt associations between mycorrhizal fungi and native plants. Small populations can be hand pulled, while larger populations are better controlled with prescribed fire and/or herbicide. All pulled plant materials should be bagged and removed from the forest as seeds have been known to mature on dead plants left on site. Treatment should be repeated until the seed bank is depleted, which takes multiple years. Garlic mustard sites should be monitored annually, until no plants are discovered for several years.

610.5.3.3 Spotted Knapweed

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) is an herbaceous, short-lived perennial native to Eurasia that can grow 2 – 4 feet tall. This plant first appears as a basal rosette of somewhat silvery leaves and may persist this way for several years before developing pink-purple flowers on long spreading stems. The flowers

are thistle-like with many petals and stiff bracts. Knapweed invades dry-upland areas including disturbed sites such as forest trails and openings. The roots exude an allelopathic chemical which inhibits establishment of other plants, hindering forest regeneration. Small populations can be hand pulled provided the entire tap root is removed. Gloves, long sleeves, and pants should be worn when handling this plant as it may cause skin irritation. Chemical control should be applied directly to plants or broadcast across large areas of infestation. Biological control is also available as part of an integrated pest management plan.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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ROADS AND ACCESS

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700 ACCESS CONTROL AND HISTORY

Resource management, protection activities, recreational uses, and other public uses on the Eau Claire County Forest require several different types of access. Since the Forest is large and diverse, a broad network of access opportunities has developed over the years. A combination of geography, soils, vegetation, surface waters, seasons of the year, presence/absence of roads or trails, ownership of adjoining lands, and public regulations interact to control access to any part of the Forest.

Many of the existing roads and trails were originally developed as logging roads, forest fire protection lanes, or trails used to reach popular hunting and fishing areas. The locations and standards for these earlier roads were not routinely established by county personnel, nor were they maintained on a regular basis.

Over the years, the road density and frequency of vehicle use on the Forest has increased in response to an expanding number of motorized recreational vehicles and to provide access for our harvest program. Often, different uses have occurred on the same trails with minimal conflicts. But the diverse demands for, and uses of, the County Forest have reached the point where integrated access management planning is needed.

User conflict between groups: e.g., snowmobiling versus cross-country skiing; hunting on foot versus use of vehicles for access to game populations.

Safety: e.g., pleasure riding of horses on the same trail with ATV vehicle traffic, or hiking.

Erosion: soils eroding due to use, or over-use by vehicles without routine maintenance.

Damage to access: rutted or impassable roads requiring costly repair by the county or other specific user groups (e.g., snowmobile/atv club).

Litter: depositing garbage and waste on the Forest.

Over-utilization of a resource, e.g., reduced availability of trophy-sized deer, excessive harvest of ruffed grouse along trails, overharvest of bobcat.

Crowding: e.g., complaints from hunters about intensified competition for traditional hunting areas because of better access.

Fires: e.g., increased exposure of the resource to forest fire occurrence.

Endangered species management: e.g., high road densities conflict with timber wolf recovery, eagle, and osprey nest disturbance.

Invasive species: e.g., introduction of invasive exotic species along travel routes.

Developmental trends: e.g., preservation of the County Forest solitude by limiting access versus development of high intensity use by additional roads and unlimited access.

Road placement: e.g., some roads should be closed for improper location and evaluated for replacement.

705 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

1. Provide direction to the committee and resource managers to maintain a network of roads and trails on the County Forest. This will meet the needs for resource management and protection activities, as well as provide public access for recreation opportunities.
2. Identify the distribution, density, and types of roads and uses of roads and trails needed to establish a safe and efficient transportation and recreation system that complements the economic, environmental, and social interest in the County Forest.
3. Identify the existing and future County Forest roads eligible for transportation aids under s.86.315(1), Wis. Stats.
4. Identify areas on the County Forest where the access is limited or restricted.
5. Identify the provisions and criteria that will be policy when addressing management issues on the County Forest.

710 ROADS

Eau Claire County Parks and Forest staff will oversee the construction and maintenance of all roads within the County Forest. These roads may be constructed and maintained by the county. The specifications for road construction and maintenance will vary with the

frequency, duration, and planned use of each road. Three major types of roads occur on the Forest: permanent primary roads; permanent secondary roads, and temporary roads.

New road establishment should consider information identifying areas with sensitive soils or severe slopes that have the potential for adverse water quality impacts from land management practices. County staff can work with local DNR Forest Hydrologists to develop site-specific measures where appropriate and to follow all required permitting processes when applicable.

The forest should have enough roads to provide sufficient access, without degrading water resources, while still maintaining recreational experience. Program evaluation of road infrastructure will continuously occur.

710.1 PERMANENT PRIMARY FOREST ROADS (County Forest Roads)

These roads are the primary roads accessing the County Forest. They are designed, constructed, and maintained for year-round use. These roads serve as essential access corridors for multiple use management. Some of these roads are graveled and routinely graded. Vehicle use may be restricted at various times of the year to minimize physical damage to the road or for safety reasons.

Forest roads in this category qualify for the County Forest Road Aids program. Qualifying roads in this program must meet minimum design standards set by WI Statute Section 86.315 (4) (a) and 86.315 (3) and administered by WI DOT. A yearly aid payment is used to maintain and improve these certified public roads. The following table lists the roads currently certified under s. 86.31(1), Wis. Stats. Also included are roads proposed for addition once improvements meet statute requirements.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY CURRENT WDOT CERTIFIED

TOWNSHIP	SECTION	LENGTH (MI)	ROAD NAME/COMMENTS
Wilson	Sec. 25 27N R5W	.95	Forest Road #1
Wilson & Bridge Creek	Sec. 36 27N R5W Sec. 1 26N R5W	.50 .49	Forest Road #2
Bridge Creek	Sec. 13 26N R5W	1.01	Forest Road #3
Bridge Creek & Fairchild	Sec. 36 26N R5W Sec. 3 25N R5W	.79 1.01	Forest Road #4
Fairchild	Sec. 14 25N R5W	1.3	Forest Road #5
Bridge Creek	Sec. 16 26N R5W	1.0	Canoe Landing Forest Road
Fairchild	Sec. 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 25N R5W	5.34	Black Creek Forest Road
Bridge Creek	Sec. 10, 11,14 26N R5W	2.32	East Channey Forest Road
Lincoln & Seymour	Sec. 19 27N R7W Sec. 24 27N R8W Sec. 13 27N R8W	1.01	*Big Falls South
Seymour	Sec. 20 27N R8W	.42	*Highline Forest Road
Bridge Creek	Sec. 10,11 26N R6W	1.6	*Connector Forest Road
TOTAL		17.96	

* Indicates existing roads that will be improved during the next fifteen years.

These permanent primary roads will be maintained and remain open to public use. Grading will be conducted on an as needed basis during the summer months. Brushing and mowing will be evaluated and done on an annual basis. Wintertime plowing will only be done in the event of an active timber sale being done needing use of the road. All roads that also serve as winter snowmobile trails will not be plowed unless access is needed for trucks. If plowing is done, there will be an effort to leave enough snow to allow the safe travel of snowmobiles.

710.2 PERMANENT SECONDARY ROADS

These roads often serve a variety of uses including forest management, fire protection, and recreation. These roads are maintained as part of a permanent road system but are often narrower than permanent primary roads and are built and maintained to lower standards. Some of these roads are designed for use only when the ground is frozen or firm.

Some roads in this category are in areas on the Forest where motor vehicle use is limited or restricted. In these instances, the roads will be blocked and/or signed as restricted.

In instances where motorized traffic is restricted, vehicle access will only be authorized for planned management activities, fire protection, and in cases where motorized handicapped access has been approved. Foot traffic is allowed on all roads.

710.3 TEMPORARY ROADS

Many of the roads on the Forest fall into this classification. These roads are designed and constructed for short-term use for a specific project, often for timber harvest access. These roads are used only for a short duration and when the activity is done, the temporary road is closed. These roads are naturally or artificially revegetated and closed by use of earthen berms/bunkers or other physical barriers. In some cases, roads are completely closed with slash and debris to prevent future use and to encourage natural regeneration of trees.

Temporary roads on existing and past sales will be considered for closure. Reasons will include protection of perpetually wet soils, human safety, and prevention of illegal dumping.

The need for new temporary roads will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Road locations will be included in designing timber harvests. Consideration will be given to the objectives within each County Forest unit, existing road density, potential use, and soil type.

710.4 STATE, COUNTY, TOWN DRIVEWAY PERMITS

710.4.1 State Highways

Wisconsin DOT generally requires permits for permanent and temporary driveways on state highways. The County should track and retain permit records and work with local DOT officials for access.

710.4.2 County Highways

Where access is needed crossing a county highway, a new driveway permit is needed and can be issued through the Eau Claire County Highway Department.

710.4.3 Town Roads

New driveways off from town roads are allowable, only after first contacting the township with jurisdictional authority.

710.5 UTILITIES

Crossing any pipeline, utility line, or railroad in areas that are not designated crossings will require a permit from the utility owner.

710.6 CULVERTS

In many cases culverts are needed in all three classifications of roads that are on the County Forest when dealing with drainages, wetlands, and stream crossings. Some of these are temporarily placed culverts that are used during a specific project then removed, while others are permanent structures.

In all instances, culverts should be placed according to required DNR permitting procedures and should follow BMP's for culverts that can be found in chapters 4 and 5 of the WI BMP's for Water Quality PUB FR-093 2010.

Routine maintenance of these structures should also be completed to make sure structures are adequately working. The county may want to consider documenting the location of culverts on the forest and provide a list of the culverts that should be routinely checked.

715 RESTRICTED ACCESS AREAS

In addition to providing trails for motorized vehicle use, the Forest may also provide and designate areas where motorized equipment is not permitted unless authorized by the Committee. The principal intent of these areas is to prevent environmental damage to sensitive areas, protect historical or archeological sites, protect endangered and threatened species, provide for human safety, and provide areas for quiet, secluded recreation. The following areas have been designated as restricted access areas on the Eau Claire County Forest: Coon Fork Barrens State Natural Area, Hathaway Creek Wilderness Area, Pea Creek Sedge Meadow State Natural Area, Horse Creek Wilderness Area, South Fork Barrens State Natural Area, and Wilson Wilderness Area.

It is a goal of the Committee to develop a detailed access plan that maps all access roads and determine criteria for restricted versus unrestricted access on those roads and forest trails.

720 WILD LAKES

The surface waters encompassed under the wild lakes designation include those restricted use areas that are not open to any gasoline-powered vehicles, watercraft, or snowmobiles except when snow covered. In general, all or most of the shorelines of these lakes and streams are owned by Eau Claire County. Counties may request that townships, under authority of s. 30.77 (3) Wis. Stats., establish regulations restricting motorized use on these surface waters. Canoes, kayaks, and boats propelled by wind, oars, or electric motors are permitted. Gasoline or diesel-powered equipment is not permitted. The intent of these restrictions is to protect the aquatic resources of these lakes but still allow human access. On the Eau Claire County Forest Coon Fork Lake is designated as a “Wild Lake”.

725 ROAD CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY

The layout and construction of any new road or trail situated on the County Forest shall adhere to *Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality* (PUB-FR-093-95). This access management plan addresses the need and diversity level of forest roads and trails within the County Forest. The BMP Manual provides guidelines for road construction. Soil disturbance activities in highly erodible soil areas may require mitigating measures

more than those currently listed in the Best Management Practices manual PUB-FR-093-2010. Wider buffers, sediment control structures and water diversion techniques will be used as appropriate in these sensitive areas.

730 SIGNS

Signs on the County Forest will be used discreetly to perform and function with minimal disruption to the multiple uses of the Forest. Private signs promoting personal, commercial, or political objectives will not be permitted. Signs erected by the county for management purposes or by non-profit recreational trail groups will be as follows:

1. Informational Type Signs
 - A. Interpretive Signs - to educate the public about forest management practices.
 - B. Public Land Signs - to identify the land as Eau Claire County Forest property.
 - C. Trail Markers - to provide direction and safety to trail users.
 - D. Scientific, Historical or Geological Markers - to identify points of interest.
 - E. Recreational Facility Markers - to identify park entrances, etc.
 - F. Directional Markers.
2. Regulatory Type Signs - to regulate the use of the Forest in specific areas.

730.1 SIGNING STANDARDS

To assure that signs will serve a purpose without damaging aesthetics, the following standards will be maintained:

1. All signs will be mounted on treated wood posts, Carsonite posts, angle iron, or steel backed wooden posts. No permanent signs will be nailed into living trees.
2. Routed wood signs may be used wherever practical. Fiberboard or painted metal signs, when used, will be of neat appearance.

3. Signs placed on snowmobile/ATV trails must conform to state standards.
4. All authorized signs shall be protected by ordinance from being damaged, defaced, obstructed, removed, or possessed by unauthorized persons.
5. All unauthorized signs will be removed by the Parks and Forest staff. No compensation will be afforded for loss or damage to signs during removal. Individuals erecting unauthorized signs may be prosecuted under s. 943.13(3), Wis. Stats.

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800 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

To introduce and communicate to the public, the County Board of Supervisors, and to the Wisconsin DNR, the integrated resource approach that forestry, wildlife, and other natural resource staff will use on the Eau Claire County Forest during this planning period.

805 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Integrated Resource Management is defined as: "the simultaneous consideration of ecological, physical, economic, and social aspects of lands, waters and resources in developing and implementing multiple-use, sustained yield management" (Helms, 1998).

This balance of ecological, economic, and social factors is the framework within which the Eau Claire County Forest is managed.

The working definition of Integrated Resource Management means, in large part, keeping natural communities of plants and animals and their environments healthy and productive so people can enjoy and benefit from them now and in the future.

The remainder of this chapter is written to help communicate how the Forest is managed on an integrated resource approach.

810 SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

"the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations" NR 44.03(12) Wis. Adm. Code and s.28.04(1)(e), Wis. Stats.

For the purpose of this chapter, sustainable forestry will be interpreted as the management of the Forest to meet the needs of the present without knowingly compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (economic, social, and ecological) by practicing a land stewardship ethic which integrates the

growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, and wildlife and fish habitat. This process is dynamic, and changes as we learn from past management.

810.1 TOOLS IN INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

810.1.1 Compartment Recon

The County will support and utilize the compartment reconnaissance procedures as set forth by the DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook 2460.5. WisFIRS serves as the database for housing recon information.

810.1.2 Forest Habitat Classification System

The Forest Habitat Classification System (*A Guide to Forest Communities and Habitat Types of Southern Wisconsin Second Edition; Kotar, et al.*) is a natural classification system for forest communities and the sites on which they develop. It utilizes systematic interpretation of natural vegetation with emphasis on understory species.

810.1.3 Soil Surveys

Forestry staff's knowledge of forest ecology and their experience across the landscape can assist in associating forest habitat types and site indices with soil type information. These associations can be beneficial in determining management prescriptions for specific sites. WisFIRS contains soil survey data, and this information can also be found on the NRCS website-based soil survey.

810.1.4 Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin

The Wisconsin DNR uses Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (WDNR Handbook 1805.1) which is an ecological land classification system based on the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU). Ecological landscapes distinguish land areas different from one another in ecological characteristics. A combination of physical and biological factors including climate, geology, topography, soils, water, and vegetation are used. They provide a useful tool and insight into ecosystem management. Land areas identified and mapped in this manner are known as

ecological units.

Generally accepted silvicultural systems are prescribed on a stand level scale, in recognition of the position within an ecological landscape.

810.1.5 Integrated Pest Management

“The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”

The Committee has the authority to approve and direct the use of pesticides and other reasonable alternatives in an integrated pest management program on the Forest. Refer to Chapter 600 (610.3) for more detailed discussion and integrated pest management strategies.

810.1.6 Best Management Practices for Water Quality

The most practical and cost-effective method to assure that forestry operations do not adversely affect water quality on the Eau Claire County Forest is to utilize "best management practices" (BMP's) as described in *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Publication number FR-093.*

Eau Claire County will use BMP's on the Forest with the understanding that the application of BMP's may be modified for specific site conditions with guidance from a forester or other natural resource professional. Modifications will provide equal or greater water quality protection or have no impact on water quality. Any deviation from BMP's will be documented in the timber sale be available for review by the Committee. Areas with highly erodible soil types, proximity to streams or lakes, or steep slopes may require mitigating measures in excess of those outlined in the manual. All Eau Claire County employees practicing forestry will receive BMP training. Additionally, Eau Claire County will encourage BMP training of all logging contractors that operate on County timber sales.

810.1.7 Prescribed Fire

Prescribed burning on the County Forest may play an important role in management. Many of the plant communities present today are the result of wildfires.

As the needs are presented to regenerate or maintain timber types or other plant communities, the Committee will examine the costs and benefits of each opportunity. Increased regulations, the county's cost of completing the burn, and the risk of breakouts and uncontrolled fires will have to be considered with any benefits of vegetation management through prescribed burning.

All prescribed burning will be done in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes 26.12, 26.14, and the DNR Prescribed Burn Handbook 4360.5 and in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources per section 605.5 of this plan.

810.1.8 Outside Expertise, Studies and Survey

Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest will be sought from agencies or individuals, who have the best capability and technical expertise, including, but not limited to:

- Water Resources: WDNR
- Wildlife Resources: WDNR
- Soil Resources: NRCS
- Mineral Resources: WDNR
- Wetland Resources: WDNR, Army Corps of Engineers, County Zoning
- Navigable Streams: WDNR, Army Corps of Engineers, County Zoning
- Floodplains: County Zoning
- Cultural Resources: WDNR, State Historical Society
- Entomology / Pathology: WDNR
- Endangered Resources: WDNR
- Forestry: Cooperative Field Trials, see [WDNR website](#)
- Other subjects as needed

810.1.9 Local Silvicultural Field Trials

To date, numerous field trials have been completed or are ongoing on the Eau Claire County Forest. These trials include:

- **UWSP Crop Tree Release Project**
Apply newly developed crown release guidelines by Dr. Demchik et. al (unpublished at beginning of project in 2016) to field sites that can be revisited. Marked by UWSP students and Dr. Demchik.
- **UWSP DMAP Project**
Work with UWSP to develop a DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program) area with educational signs for the public.
- **Oak Shelterwood Prescribed Burn and Regeneration Monitoring**
2 red oak stands consisting of 45 acres that regeneration is being monitored before and after prescribed burns, using the DNR's Forest Regeneration Monitoring (FRM) program.
- **Santala Experimental Pine Plantation**
1 acre of unmanaged red pine plantation. At final harvest of the stand, the volume from the unmanaged acre will be scaled separately and used for educational purposes. The stand will be replanted and 1 acre will be left unmanaged.
- **Aerial seeding of Jack Pine**
Site prep the stand being seeded by disc trenching, then aerial seed jack pine, rather than hand seed or planting seedlings.
- **Deer Exclosures**
There are six deer exclosures located on the County Forest. They are located in clearcuts and shelterwoods to show the effects of deer browse.
- **Floodplain silviculture**
Use of different silvicultural techniques in floodplains. Thinning, group selection, patch clearcuts, and conversion to uneven age management.

815 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS TO REDUCE LOSS

815.1 RISK FACTORS

815.1.1 Wind

Wind damage on the forest will be evaluated as quickly as possible after the event. If accessible, the timber will be salvage by whatever means practical. Large acreages may be set up as single timber sales. Smaller areas may be incorporated into an existing sale if the contractor agrees. Wind damage trees could be used for firewood sales within County Campgrounds as well.

815.1.2 Flooding

In the past flooding has not been a major issue on Eau Claire County forest, but that may change if we continue to receive above average annual precipitation. It may be necessary to harvest stands earlier in their rotation age in order salvage flooded timber, while also looking at other regeneration options if certain areas continue to flood on a regular basis.

815.1.3 Fire

Within Eau Claire County there are large blocks of contiguous forest land; this land is prone to catastrophic fires under the right environmental conditions. A vast network of county forest roads, woods roads and recreational trails are present throughout the county. These travel ways will serve as access for fire suppression equipment, while also serving as firebreaks. All DNR forestry staff have at least basic wildland suppression training and carry suppression equipment on their trucks during dry conditions. The Wisconsin DNR has the primary wildfire suppression duties on virtually all Eau Claire County forest lands. However, DNR works and relies heavily on several partnering volunteer fire departments as well to complete these suppression tasks. The DNR has 4 fire suppression staff and equipment stationed out of the Augusta Ranger Station.

Equipment includes but is not limited to one Type 6 engine, one Type 8 Engine, two Type 4 Engines with tractor plows, one UTV and a surplus of wildland hose, pumps and hand tools.

815.1.4 Climate Change and Sustainability

Eau Claire County recognizes the science of human caused climate change. The County has pledged to achieve “carbon neutrality” by the year 2050.

Management of the Eau Claire County Forest plays a very significant role in achieving carbon neutrality. The Department will use best practices to reduce carbon emissions and to increase carbon sequestration. These best practices are evolving with state, national and global research. The department will actively seek the latest science to evaluate implementation at a local level. Such activities will likely include:

- Use of lower emission vehicles by staff
- Requiring some yet to be determined emission standards for forest harvest machinery
- Evaluation forest age vs. carbon sequestration, and using increased sequestration as a criterion for determining harvest schedules
- Evaluating harvest debris practices that may increase sequestration
- Evaluating and favoring species which may increase sequestration
- Evaluating and favoring species that may be optimal for longer/warmer growing seasons and large rain events
- Preventing the introduction and establishment of invasive plant species

The Department will designate a member of staff to be the Department’s lead in continuing to stay abreast of evolving research on these topics and for recommending trials or at scale implementation new practices. This person is expected to devote some portion of work time for continuing education, seminars, and academic research. The Department also expects that the DNR would provide an annual briefing to the Department and oversight committee on these topics. The Department will work closely with the Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator to achieve carbon neutrality goals.

815.1.5 Timber Markets

Markets for raw forest products are highly variable and can change quickly. In the time it takes to establish, advertise, and then harvest a sale the markets have likely changed several times. The Eau Claire County Forest will strive to provide a variety of species at different age classes during bid openings. This approach will provide contractors with diverse products for the quickly changing marketplace. The Eau Claire County Forest will work on having an up to date and accurate schedule of its forest harvesting practices. This will allow for stands that are not currently marketable to be scheduled on a later date, while limiting loss of production.

820 PLANT COMMUNITIES MANAGEMENT

Eau Claire County recognizes the importance of maintaining the diversity of the forest under an ecosystem approach. The process involved in making management decisions to encourage or not encourage specific species or communities is complex. It includes an understanding of:

- Objectives of the County
- Integration of landforms, soils, climate, and vegetative factors
- Habitat classification
- Past, present, and future desired condition
- Surrounding ownership patterns and general objectives
- Wildlife habitat and other values
- Social needs

820.1 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES/TREATMENTS

Silviculture is the art and science of controlling forest composition, structure, and growth to maintain and enhance the forest's utility for any purpose. These practices are based on research and general silviculture knowledge of the species being managed. The goal is to encourage vigor within all developmental stages of forest stands, managed in an even aged or uneven aged system. The application of silviculture to a diverse forest needs a unified, systematic approach. The DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5) and DNR Silvicultural Guidance will be used as guidelines for management practices used on

the County Forest.

820.1.1 Natural Regeneration

Where feasible, natural regeneration will be encouraged using silvicultural methods that promote regrowth and recruitment of the forest. In general, the particular silvicultural method chosen will depend on the biological functions of the target species or forest type.

820.1.1.1 Clearcutting/Coppice

Clearcutting is a silvicultural method used to regenerate shade intolerant species. Complete, or nearly complete removal of the forest canopy will stimulate the regeneration and growth of species such as aspen, jack pine and white birch. This method is also used as a final rotation removal in species such as red oak, red pine and others. Tree retention guidelines are followed when prescribing clearcut or coppice cuts.

820.1.1.2 Shelterwood / Seed Tree

Shelterwood harvest is a method used to regenerate mid-shade tolerant and shade tolerant species. Partial canopies stimulate regeneration, enhance growth, and can provide seed source. Canopies are eventually removed. This method is used for white birch, white pine, red oak, and northern hardwood (when managing even aged).

820.1.1.3 All Aged Regeneration Harvests

All aged regeneration harvests are used in shade tolerant species. Gaps in the forest canopy allow regeneration to occur throughout the stand. Over time, multiple entries into the stand will create multiple age class structure with the intent of creating a fully regulated stand. All aged regeneration harvests may be prescribed in the form of single tree selection, group selection or patch selection. This method is used in northern hardwood and occasionally in swamp hardwoods (when managing for all aged)

820.1.1.4 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning may be utilized as a tool to promote regeneration. Several forest types in Eau Claire County are ecologically tied to fire. Burning may create seeding conditions or release regeneration from competing vegetation. Prescribed fire may be used for regeneration of red oak, jack pine or white pine.

820.1.1.5 Soil Scarification

Scarification is a technique used to prepare a seedbed beneath forest stands scheduled for harvest and regeneration. This mechanical disturbance that exposes bare mineral seedbeds and creates conditions necessary for regeneration of pine species. Disturbance that mixes seed into duff and soil layers creates optimal conditions for regeneration of oak, white birch, fir, and others. Eau Claire County utilizes root rakes, straight blades, and anchor chains for soil scarification.

820.1.1.6 Other

Other natural regeneration techniques may be considered where necessary and appropriate. New methods for natural regeneration are continually tested for effectiveness.

820.1.2 Artificial Regeneration

When natural regeneration fails, or when tree species present do not coincide with management objectives for the site, artificial means will be employed to establish a desirable stand of trees. Artificial regeneration on a site usually requires some form of site preparation followed by seeding or planting.

820.1.2.1 Mechanical Site Preparation

Mechanical site preparation includes the use of soil disturbance equipment such as a disc, roller chopper, patch scarifier, disk trencher or V-plow prior to tree planting or seeding. These types of equipment are used to reduce logging debris to a smaller size, incorporate debris into the soil, clear brush and debris from the site, and to reduce competition from other vegetation.

820.1.2.2 Chemical Site Preparation

Herbicide application can be an effective means of controlling unwanted vegetation to establish seedlings or plantations. It should be used sparingly and in situations where mechanical treatment is not expected to provide the level of vegetative control needed. Chemical will be applied in strict accordance with label recommendations, requirements, and under the oversight of a certified applicator. Herbicides will normally be applied with motorized, ground-based equipment, hand applications, or aurally. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared and kept on file.

820.1.2.3 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning for site preparation can be used to reduce logging debris, clear the site, reduce competing vegetation, and to release nutrients into the soil.

820.1.2.4 Tree Planting / Seeding

Both machine and/or hand planting/seeding will be utilized to insure adequate regeneration. The selection of species will be determined according to the specific management objectives and capabilities of each site. Planting or seeding will primarily occur in areas where natural regeneration is inadequate or conflicts with the management goals of the site. Eau Claire County will make all reasonable efforts to source seeds/seedlings from local genetics.

820.1.3 Intermediate Treatments

Intermediate treatments are those practices used to enhance the health and vigor of a forest stand. In general, intermediate treatments are applied to forest stands managed as even aged.

820.1.3.1 Mechanical Release

Mechanical release is the removal of competing vegetation by means other than herbicide or fire. Mechanical may include releasing young pine plantations from competing vegetation using chain saws or other hand-held equipment; or mowing

to release regeneration.

820.1.3.2 Chemical Release

Chemical Release is the removal of competing vegetation from desirable trees using herbicides. It should be used sparingly and in situations where mechanical treatment is not expected to provide the level of vegetative control needed.

Chemical will be applied in strict accordance with label recommendations, requirements and under the oversight of a certified applicator. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared and kept on file.

820.1.3.3 Non-Commercial Thinning (TSI)

In general, most thinning needs are accomplished through commercial harvest operations. Non-commercial thinning may be considered if the individual site requirements, funding and/or available labor make it desirable.

820.1.3.4 Thinning / Intermediate Cuts

Management of some even aged forest types necessitates the use of commercial thinning, also known as intermediate harvests, to maintain forest health and vigor. Thinning is generally prescribed in forest types such as red pine, red oak, and in cases of even aged hardwood management. Thinning may be prescribed on other even aged types as appropriate and where feasible. Intermediate harvests include prescriptions for residual densities, marking priorities, spacing, crown closure, diameter distribution, or other measurements.

820.1.3.5 Pruning

Pruning is the removal of limbs from lower sections of trees to increase log quality. Major pruning efforts were conducted in the past, but it is not generally recognized as economically viable on the forest.

820.2 SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTIONS

820.2.1 Even-Aged Management

A forest stand composed of trees having relatively small differences in age. Typical

cutting practices include clear cutting, shelterwood cutting and seed-tree cutting. Even aged management is generally required to manage shade intolerant, early successional forest types.

820.2.1.1 Aspen

These are types where aspen trees comprise of more than 50% of the stems. On the forest, aspen types may be dominated by quaking or big tooth aspen or a combination of both. Aspen stands contain a wide variety of associated hardwood and conifer species.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	PVHa, PVGy
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	None
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	50
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural
<u>Natural Harvest method:</u>	Coppice
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Early successional related species
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production / bolts <u>Insect disease</u>
<u>considerations:</u>	<i>Hypoxylon</i> and other cankers
<u>Trends:</u>	General declines on statewide acreage
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Retain/increase acreages where possible

820.2.1.2 Jack Pine

These are types where jack pine makes up more than 50% of the stems. Common associates in Eau Claire County are pin oak, red pine, white pine, aspen, and white birch.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	PVGy, PVHa
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	None
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	50
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural or artificial
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Clearcutting
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Early successional related species
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Bud worm
<u>Trends:</u>	Steady declines on statewide average
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Maintain/increase acreages where possible

820.2.1.3 Red Pine

Red pine comprises 50% or more of the stems. In mixed pine stands, red pine is predominant. In Eau Claire County common associated species include white pine, jack pine, aspen, and oak.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	PVGY, PVHa, PVRh
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	Thinning
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	70
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Artificial
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Clearcut
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Shelter and thermal cover
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production, bolts/saw and utility poles
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Pocket decline & Heterobasidion Root Rot
<u>Trends:</u>	Steady
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Maintain or increase acreage where possible

820.2.1.4 White Pine

These are types where white pine makes up more than 50% of the stems. Common associates in Eau Claire County are red pine, jack pine, aspen, white birch, red maple, red oak, northern pin oak, black oak, and white oak.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intermediate
<u>Habitats:</u>	PVGy, PVHa, PVRh
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	Thinning
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	100
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Seed tree, Shelterwood, Overstory removal
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Cavity trees, thermal cover & super-canopy features
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber, bolts sawtimber/cabin logs
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Blister rust and tip weevil
<u>Trends:</u>	Increasing
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Maintain

820.2.1.5 Oak Species

These are types where oak makes up more than 50% of the stems. The 5 common upland oak species in Eau Claire County are northern red oak, white oak, bur oak, black oak, and northern pin oak.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	PVGY, PVHa, PVRh
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	Thinning
<u>Red Oak median rotation age:</u>	120
<u>N.Pin/Black oak median rotation age:</u>	90
<u>White oak median rotation age:</u>	140
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Clearcut, coppice shelterwood, overstory removal
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Food, cavity, nesting
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production, bolts and sawtimber
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Oak wilt, two-lined chestnut borer, gypsy moth, deer herbivory
<u>Trends:</u>	Significant decline statewide
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Maintain/increase acreages where possible

820.2.1.6 Red Maple

These are types where red maple makes up more than 50% of the stems. Common associates in Eau Claire County are white pine, paper birch, aspen, ash, cherry, and oak.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intermediate
<u>Habitats:</u>	PVGY, PVHA, PVRh
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	Thinning
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	70
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Coppice, clearcut, overstory removal
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Food, nesting and cover
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production, bolts, sawtimber
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	White rot, frost damage, flooding
<u>Trends:</u>	Increasing significantly
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Decrease acreages in better soils/convert to more desired species

820.2.2 Uneven-Aged Management

A forest stand composed of trees in various age and size classes. The typical cutting practice is selection cutting, where individual trees are removed from the stand.

Regeneration is continually occurring after the stand is cut. Uneven-aged management is generally used to manage shade tolerant forest types.

820.2.2.1 White Pine

These are stands dominated by shade tolerant and mid-shade tolerant species. In Eau Claire County, white pine stands are typically associated with a minor red maple and/or oak component. Although white pine is typically managed on an even-aged basis it can also be managed using uneven-aged techniques such as single tree selection and group selection harvests.

820.3 LOCALLY UNCOMMON TREES / FOREST TYPES

The presence or lack of a particular tree species is dependent on land capability, climate, natural range, natural or human disturbance and many other factors. The following trees and types are considered uncommon on the Eau Claire County Forest and likely across the general region. These trees may be left as reserves in even aged management prescriptions, or in thinnings and all aged regeneration harvests.

820.3.1 American Elm (*Ulmus americana.*) is scarce primarily due to Dutch elm disease. Healthy looking elm may be left uncut in hope that they may continue on the landscape as potential resistant seed sources.

820.3.2 Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) is declining due to butternut canker. Healthy individuals that appear to be canker free will be reserved in the forest as potential resistant seed sources.

820.3.3 Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is a highly preferred deer and small mammal browse species. Regeneration is difficult and remnant stands will be retained to provide seed sources for future management activities

820.4 FOREST TYPES REQUIRING INTENSIVE EFFORT TO REGENERATE

There are certain forest types within the County Forest that are difficult to regenerate. In many cases, this difficulty may be related to the exclusion of fire from the landscape, deer herbivory or other factors. The following list itemizes forest types with difficult regeneration and County management goals:

820.4.1 Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Northern red oak is a shade intolerant to mid tolerant species found in primarily even aged stands. Northern red oak appears to require disturbance to regenerate, and herbivory appears to be a limiting factor on regeneration success. The County is committed to retain as much of the existing acreage of northern red oak as possible. Regeneration efforts will focus on timing soil scarification with good acorn crops and shelterwood harvests. Regeneration may require prescribed burning to release seedlings from competing vegetation.

820.4.2 Jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*)

Jack pine is a shade intolerant species found in primarily even aged stands. It requires disturbance to regenerate, historically by fire, and by scarification or logging disturbance. The County is committed to retain as much of the existing acreage of jack pine as possible and increase acreage when the opportunity is there. Regeneration efforts will focus on mechanical and chemical site prep, prescribed burning, and artificial regeneration/seeding.

820.5 INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES OF CONCERN

Invasive plants can cause significant damage to the forest. Invasive species can displace native plants and hinder the forest regeneration efforts. Preventing them from dominating forest understories is critical to the long-term health of the forest. There are a few invasive plant species in varying densities on the County Forest. Some warrant immediate and continual treatment efforts while others may be allowed to remain due to extent and financial ability to control them. The County will continue to train staff in invasive species identification as well as attempt to secure funding sources to control them as much as is practical.

- Buckthorn
- Honeysuckle
- Spotted Knapweed
- Leafy Spurge
- Garlic Mustard

820.6 LEGALLY PROTECTED AND SPECIAL CONCERN PLANT SPECIES

There are plants in Wisconsin that are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the State Endangered Species Law, or both. On County Forest, no one may cut, root up, sever, injure, destroy, remove, transport, or carry away a listed plant without a valid endangered or threatened species permit. There is an exemption on public lands for forestry, agriculture, and utility activities under state law. The County will, however, make reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to endangered or threatened plants during the course of forestry/silviculture activities (typically identified in the timber sale narrative).

The Wisconsin Department Natural Resources Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation tracks information on legally protected plants with the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) program. The NHI program also tracks Special Concern Species, which are those for which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected, but not yet proven. The main purpose of this category is to focus attention on certain species before they become threatened or endangered.

The County has access to this data under a license agreement and is committed to reviewing this database for endangered resources that may occur within proposed land disturbing project areas.

820.7 TREE RETENTION GUIDELINES

820.7.1 Even aged rotations

Retain three or more, preferably large, snags per acre if available. Retain reserve trees and/or patches at 5 to 15 percent crown cover or stand area, including large vigorous trees, mast trees, and cavity trees. Retention can be reduced in specific situation below 5% or increased above 15%, but needs to be documented, and what the expected impacts are. Reserve trees and patches are not cut during stand rotation. Harvesting may occur in the future or may be foregone to achieve other benefits. Reserve tree retention is recommended for stands larger than 10 acres. Trees retained can be scattered uniformly throughout a stand or irregularly dispersed, as single trees, groups, and patches. Retention

in aggregated patches (0.1 to two acres) generally provides the most benefits. The general recommended strategy is to retain irregularly distributed patches along with scattered groups and individuals. Patches retained can satisfy multiple benefits. For example, at stand rotation, an unharvested buffer along a stream may satisfy Forestry BMPs for Water Quality and reserve tree retention recommendations.

820.7.2 Even aged intermediate treatments

Retain 3 or more snags per acre, if available. Retain 3 or more cavity trees per acre. Retain 3 or more large mast trees per acre. Management may include timber harvesting or passive retention. Consider leaving 3 or more trees per acre to develop into large, old trees and complete their natural life span. These trees may also satisfy cavity and mast recommendations. They will often become large snags and coarse woody debris.

820.7.3 Uneven aged systems

Retain 3 or more snags per acre, if available. Retain 3 or more cavity trees per acre. Retain 3 or more large mast trees per acre. Consider leaving 3 or more trees per acre to develop into large, old trees and complete their natural life span. These trees may also satisfy cavity and mast recommendations. They will often become large snags and coarse woody debris.

820.7.4 Early successional species

In cases where these recommendations for retention are not applied, then sound reasons and expected impacts of deviation should be documented. i.e. aspen, jack pine.

820.8 BIOMASS HARVESTING GUIDELINES

Eau Claire County will use Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines Field Manual on the Forest with the understanding that the application of the guidelines may be modified for specific site conditions with guidance from a forester or other natural resource professional.

825 ANIMAL SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Eau Claire County Forest provides a wide range of wildlife habitats from open grasslands/barrens to mature forests, from bogs to forested wetlands, from spring ponds to lake shorelines. A primary goal of wildlife management on the Eau Claire County Forest is to provide a diversity of healthy ecosystems necessary to sustain and enhance native wildlife populations. This forest will be managed primarily to provide habitats for a suite of species rather than focusing on a specific species, with exceptions made for Federal or State Listed Endangered or Threatened Species.

825.1 TECHNICAL PLANNING

Management of wildlife populations on the Eau Claire County Forest falls under the jurisdiction of the DNR. Planning may be a cooperative effort of the County Forest staff, DNR liaison forester and wildlife manager in formulating management plans and utilizing forest and wildlife management techniques to accomplish desired forest and wildlife management goals.

825.2 GUIDELINES

DNR operational handbooks including the Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5), manual codes and guidance documents are important references and guidelines to utilize in fish and wildlife planning efforts.

825.3 INVENTORY

Habitat needs will be determined by analysis of forest reconnaissance information. Population estimates will be conducted periodically by DNR wildlife, endangered resources personnel, and other trained cooperators. Currently, Department Wildlife staff conduct the following surveys on or adjacent to the Eau Claire County Forest:

- Biotic Inventories
- Summer deer observations
- Brood surveys
- Furbearer tracking

- Frog and Toad Surveys
- Bat Monitoring
- Bear bait surveys
- Snapshot Wisconsin

825.4 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR WILDLIFE

The following areas of focus are identified for achieving plan objects and for benefit of wildlife.

825.4.1 General Management Policies

Forest management practices may be modified to benefit wildlife and diversity. The following will be considered when planning for management activities:

- Even-aged regeneration harvests (clearcuts) should vary in size and shape and include retention considerations.
- A diversity of stand age, size, and species.
- Mast-bearing trees and shrubs, cavity trees, and an adequate number and variety of snags.
- Cull trees (future snag or den trees) not interfering with specific high value trees.
- Timber types, habitat conditions and impacts on affected wildlife.
- Access management.
- Best management practices for water quality (BMP's).
- Invasive Species Management

825.5 IMPORTANCE OF HABITATS

Important habitat types are those cover types known to be of importance to certain native wildlife and whose absence would make that wildlife significantly less abundant. These shortages may be on a local or broader scale. The following habitat types can be considered important:

825.5.1 Non-forested wetlands

The Eau Claire County Forest contains 6,002 acres of non-forested wetland types providing a variety of habitats for common, rare, and endangered species. Emergent wetland, sedge meadow, muskeg bog and deep marsh provide habitat for species such as wood turtle, black tern, American bittern, and numerous other species.

825.5.2 Aquatic habitats

The Eau Claire County Forest includes open water habitats that are permanently flooded lands below the deep-water boundary of wetlands. Presence of these aquatic habitats within a forested landscape greatly increases the number of wildlife species. Open water provides habitat for species such as wood duck, boreal chorus frog, water shrew and many other species reliant on water related resources.

825.5.3 Riparian and other non-managed areas

Undisturbed shoreline and riparian areas present on the forest and provide habitat for species such as red shouldered hawk, green frog, and woodland jumping mouse.

825.5.4 Early successional forests

Management of aspen, white birch, jack pine and other shade intolerant species creates habitat for a large suite of wildlife species that benefit from early successional forests. On the Eau Claire County Forest there are currently 13,127 acres of these forest types present. This is a key habitat used for recreational hunting activities providing conditions favorable for American woodcock, ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, and non-game species such as golden-winged warbler, Kirkland's warbler, and black-billed cuckoo.

825.5.5 Conifers

Conifers, whether jack pine, white pine, spruce, fir, or other types appear to be an important habitat for several wildlife species. The Eau Claire County Forest currently has 13,330 acres of coniferous habitat. Connecticut warbler, red crossbill, northern flying squirrel, and many others utilize conifer types. Jack pine areas can be managed to provide temporary barrens habitat providing habitat for Kirtland's warbler and other barren related species.

825.5.6 Oak management

Oak is an important mast producing food source on the forest, providing acorns for a wide variety of game and non-game species. The Eau Claire County Forest has 16,464 acres of oak habitat. It is considered a critical resource to retain on the landscape for both its timber and wildlife value, providing habitat for species such as scarlet tanager, wood thrush, red headed woodpecker, and black bear.

825.5.7 Uneven/all aged management

Management of uneven aged stands provides for multi-storied canopies, diverse age structure and potentially older forest characters. The Eau Claire County Forest has 73 acres being managed under an all-aged management system. Species such as Canada warbler, little brown bat, black throated blue warbler, and many others benefit from these forest type, in addition, numerous amphibian and reptiles utilize these forest types.

825.5.8 Large forest blocks

Large blocks of County Forest provide habitat for numerous interior species. Gray wolf, black throated blue warbler, Canada warbler and least flycatcher are a few examples of animals that rely on these large blocks.

825.5.9 Grasslands, openings, upland brush

Wildlife openings, grass rights-of-way, natural openings, upland brush, and other upland open habitats provide for diversity and unique habitats benefitting pollinators, numerous species including upland plover and whip-poor-will. The Eau Claire County Forest currently has 192 acres identified as open grassland or upland brush habitat.

825.5.10 Barrens

Extensive and diverse community of variable composition and structure. Sandy uplands with variations of open woodlands with jack pine, oak, open savanna, and brush prairie. Jack pine dominates the area with red pine, white pine, black oak, and bur oak often present. The Eau Claire County Forest has 700 acres identified as barrens.

825.6 INTENSIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

825.6.1 Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan / Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

In addition to species listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern within the NHI database, the Department also maintains a statewide list of species of greatest conservation need.

This list includes species that have low or declining populations and may need conservation action. The list includes birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects that are:

- Already listed as threatened or endangered
- At risk due to threats
- Rare due to small or declining populations
- Showing declining trends in habitat or populations

The WWAP working list can provide information on how management activities may impact, or in many cases benefit species of greatest conservation need. More information is available on the WWAP website:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/actionplan.html>.

825.7 FISH AND WATERS MANAGEMENT

Public waters shall be managed to provide for optimum natural fish production, an opportunity for quality recreation, and a healthy balanced aquatic ecosystem. Emphasis will also be placed on land-use practices that benefit the aquatic community.

Management of County Forest lands will attempt to preserve and/or improve fish habitat and water quality.

825.7.1 Technical Planning and Surveys

Management of all waters within the County Forest is the responsibility of the DNR. Technical assistance will be provided by the local fisheries biologist. Studies and management will be conducted in the manner described in DNR Fish Management

Handbook 3605.9. Water and Population Surveys fall under the jurisdiction of the

Department and will be conducted as needed by fisheries biologists.

825.7.2 Special Projects

The Lake Eau Claire Lake Association have installed tree drops, nearshore cribs and offshore cribs to help improve the fishery. These annual projects have continued to help support the fishery and provide habitat for panfish and walleye populations. The Committee encourages volunteer related practices and endeavors.

825.7.3 Shoreland Zoning

All the shoreland areas within Eau Claire County are governed by Eau Claire County Chapter 20, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. If a proposed project is within 300 feet of a river, creek, or stream, or within 1000 feet of a lake, pond, or flowage there may be restrictions for the development.

825.7.4 Access and development

Access and development of County Forest waters will be limited to those activities consistent with the above water management policies. See Chapter 740 also for further information on water access.

825.7.5 Important Water Resources

Management activities adjacent to these water resources, or in areas with sensitive soils or severe slopes, should consider measures above and beyond the customary BMP practices. County staff may work with the local DNR water resources staff to develop site-specific measures where appropriate. An inventory of water resources can be obtained from DNR Water staff for the County.

830 EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES, UNIQUE AREAS

830.1 HCVF FOR FSC® AND DUAL CERTIFIED COUNTIES

The DNR established criteria for establishing High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) on state lands is found below. For the purpose of this plan, the county recognizes this criterion for identifying HCVFs on county land. This does not preclude the county from identifying other unique areas that do not meet the definition of HCVFs.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TimberSales/documents/DNRLandsHCVFSelectionCriteriaFinal.pdf>

HIGH CONSERVATION AREAS

- Forest areas containing globally, regionally, or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values including RTE species.
- Forest areas containing globally, regionally, or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems.
- Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection). **Wisconsin does not have known locations meeting this criterion.**
- Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health of indigenous communities) **Wisconsin does not have known locations meeting this criterion.**
- Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (e.g. areas of cultural, ecological, economic, or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

The HCVFs on Eau Claire County Forest are the following:

Eau Claire County recognizes four HCVFs on the Eau Claire County Forest. These areas are also designated as Wisconsin State Natural Areas (SNAs). Areas recognized as HCVFs are: Canoe Landing Prairie, Coon Fork Barrens, Pea Creek Sedge Meadow, and the South Fork Barrens. Management plans have been prepared for each SNA. Each SNA was designated to protect areas of special character or natural communities. Each of the SNAs has a memorandum of understanding by and between Eau Claire County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources. The importance of the

Wisconsin State Natural Areas has been recognized on the County Forest by cooperating with the Department staff in designating and managing 1,311 acres of the County forest for five SNA sites, of which one does not meet the HCVF designation (North Fork Eau Claire River).

Canoe Landing Prairie (44 acres)

Canoe Landing Prairie has been confirmed as HCVF Category 1.2 by NHC Ecologist Dean Edlin. It contains globally imperiled oak/pine barrens and the federally threatened Karner blue butterfly.

The Canoe Landing Prairie is a dry grassland community dominated by little bluestem, junegrass, and panic grass. Common herbaceous species include flowering spurge, frostweed, common bush-clover, false-heather, long-bearded hawkweed, horsebalm, and spiderwort. The surrounding landscape contains overgrown barrens, with oaks and jack pine. Oak grubs in the prairie indicate that it, too, was barrens in the past. The site provides habitat for a variety of grassland animals.

An active mowing and burning cycle have been implemented on the property to manage the vegetation and native grasses with much success. Continued mowing and burning is expected in the next 15 years.

Coon Fork Barrens (580 acres)

Coon Fork Barrens has been confirmed as HCVF Category 1.2 by NHC Ecologist Dean Edlin. It contains globally imperiled oak/pine barrens and the federally threatened Karner blue butterfly.

Coon Fork Barrens features an extensive and diverse barrens community of variable composition and structure located between Coon Fork and Pea Creek, two Eau Claire River tributaries. The gently rolling to flat sandy uplands support a barrens which varies from open woodlands with jack pine and oak to open savanna and brush prairie. Jack pine dominates the area with occasional red pine and Hill's, black, white and bur oaks are present as mainly grub trees. Some areas of vegetation are health-like with species including bracken fern, sweet gale, early

low blueberry, American hazelnut, and Pennsylvania sedge. Other patches feature a rich sand prairie and savanna flora including big and little bluestem, junegrass, western sunflower, prairie coreopsis, wild lupine, lance-leaved loosestrife, sky-blue aster, prairie goldenrod, rough blazing-star, and cylindrical blazing-star. Additionally, the rich, moist low terraces and steep slopes along the creeks support species of white and red pine, and red maple. The barrens are critical habitat for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*), which is common throughout the area. Wisconsin supports the largest and most widespread Karner blue butterfly population in the world, a disturbance-dependent species adapted to barrens and other early successional habitats that has been extirpated from much of its historic range. Thus, the protection and management of areas such as Coon Fork Barrens is critical to its continued survival. The property is managed on a mowing/burning cycle to manage the vegetation and grasses Coon Fork Barrens was designated as a State Natural Area in 1996.

Pea Creek Sedge Meadow (200 acres)

Pea Creek Sedge Meadow has been confirmed as HCVF Category 1.1 by NHC Ecologist Dean Edlin. It contains a Central Poor Fen (G3/4) with an EO rank of A.

Pea Creek Sedge Meadow features a large, undisturbed acid meadow that is the headwaters of Pea Creek, a tributary of the Eau Claire River. Dominant plants include few-seeded sedge, beaked sedge, tussock sedge, blue-joint grass, bog birch, and leather-leaf over a patchy cover of sphagnum. Other characteristic herbs and shrubs are steplebush, bog willow, swamp candles, march fern, wild iris, swamp loosestrife, northern bog goldenrod, and swamp dewberry. The meadow is more open along the edges and becomes brushy toward the center. Patches of tamarack are also present, mostly near the eastern margins of the wetland. A tall shrub zone of speckled alder, black chokeberry, mountain holly, and common winterberry occupies a portion of the upland-wetland interface.

Several small stands of white pine-red maple forest are present along the edges of the meadow while uplands are mostly sandy and mostly second-growth white pine, oak, aspen, and birch. Notable birds include sedge wren (*Cistothorus plantensis*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), and sandhill crane. Management for the property consists of maintaining the earthen dam, keeping it free of woody stems and maintaining steady water level in the meadow. Pea Creek Sedge Meadow was designated as a State Natural Area in 1996.

South Fork Barrens (120 acres)

South Fork Barrens has been confirmed as HCVF Category 1.2 by NHC Ecologist Dean Edlin. It contains globally imperiled oak/pine barrens and the federally threatened Karner blue butterfly.

South Fork Barrens features a jack pine-oak barrens situated on the rolling uplands and steep south-facing bluff above the south fork of the Eau Claire River. The barrens are dominated by jack pine with burr oak, Hill's oak, and red pine with early low blueberry and American hazelnut common in the understory. Numerous prairie grasses and forbs are scattered through the area and include big and little blue-stem, junegrass, lupine, blue toadflax, lance-leaved loosestrife, butterfly milkweed, flowering spurge, bastard toadflax, field woodworm, lyre-leaved rock cress, and smooth blue aster. The federally endangered Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) is found here, attracted to the wild lupine that is found throughout the barrens. Wild lupine is the only known larval food plant of the Karner blue butterfly and is, therefore, closely tied to the butterfly's ecology and distribution. Active management including prescribed burning and stopping encroachment of woody species will ensure the long-term viability of the wild lupine population and the Karner blue butterfly that depends upon it for survival. South Fork Barrens was designated as a State Natural Area in 1996.

830.2 AREAS RECOGNIZED BY STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

830.2.1 State Natural Areas

One State Natural Area exists on the county forest that is not considered HCVF.

North Fork Eau Claire River (367 acres)

The North Fork of the Eau Claire River encompasses a 3-mile stretch of river that is of very high quality and has a wild, natural character. The northernmost 2-mile stretch of river is bordered by sandstone cliffs and steep terraces harboring unusual plants. The lower portion of the corridor is bordered by sedge meadow, river oxbows, and small area of oak savanna. No active management prescriptions are present for this State Natural Area.

830.2.2 State Scientific Areas

State Scientific Areas are a previous designation given to “State Natural Area” and are currently analogous to “State Natural Area”.

830.2.3 Endangered species habitats (Karner Blue Butterfly, Kirtland’s Warbler, etc.)

Pine barrens, Sand prairie, Central poor fen, Central sands pine oak forest, Karner blue butterfly high potential range. In addition to these unique natural communities, rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species exist in the Eau Claire County Forest.

830.2.4 Rare communities

Pine barrens, sand prairie, central poor fen, central sands pine oak forest, Karner blue butterfly high potential range.

830.3 AREAS RECOGNIZED BY COUNTY OR LOCALLY

Eau Claire County may contain areas that are locally considered exceptional or unique. Some are recognized by other agencies, while others are designated only within this Plan. These resources may include wild rivers, lakes, natural areas, geological features, or historical/archeological sites.

830.3.1 Forests with Old Growth Characteristics

There are three wilderness areas in the county forest will be managed as old growth. No active management will be done in these areas and the existing cover types will succeed into an old growth state. Walking paths for educational and recreational purposes may be allowed at the discretion of the Parks and Forest Committee. These three Wilderness Areas are Hathaway Creek, Horse Creek, and Wilson Wilderness Areas.

Hathaway Creek Wilderness Area: 64 Acres of white pine, red maple, tamarack, lowland brush, and creek bottom.

Horse Creek Wilderness Area: 232 acres of white pine, oak, red maple, and lowland. Wilson Wilderness Area: 160 acres of white pine, mixed hardwood and oak along Hay Creek.

Browns Creek Pines: A 10-acre stand of mature white pine lies on the terrace above Brown Creek. This stand represents a rare natural feature- a white pine stand growing on soils more conducive to jack pine and northern pin oak. The Menahga Sands have poor nutrient availability and seldom grow large trees. This white pine, however, is thriving with great growth and a ground layer that contains many species more typical of a richer soil site. In addition, with the stand lying near the crest of the slope above Brown Creek, it can provide an excellent buffer for water quality. The site is managed as an old forest with periodic thinning so trees will attain large diameter before a final harvest regenerates the stand at biological maturity.

830.3.2 Wildlife Sites

Kelly Road Ruffed Grouse Management Area – This area is adjacent to the Augusta Wildlife area in the town of Bridge Creek. Providing a large area where management emphasis is on creating habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock, and other upland birds. Management will create an age class diversity and habitat beneficial to ruffed grouse and woodcock. Access roads will allow timber harvesting to create age stratification and access for hunters. Active management of the resource to maintain habitat is the goal in these areas.

Simes Creek Ruffed Grouse Management Area - This area is in the town of Wilson, with road access from Forest Road 1 and Highway H. The area was created in 2015, with a

goal like the Kelly Road area, to manage and create habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock, and other upland birds. Access roads have been installed providing access for future timber harvests, as well as providing hunter access trails. These areas will serve as examples of actively managing for ruffed grouse and woodcock both of which have experienced cycles of decline over the past decade or so.

830.3.3 Savannas, Barrens, etc

Coon Fork Barrens

South Fork Barrens

Canoe Landing Prairie

General management of these three barren sites is described under 830.1 of this plan.

830.3.4 Geological Features of Significance

Complex Precambrian rocks, including gneiss, amphibolites and granites are exposed along the Eau Claire River and its tributaries, with the grandest exposure being Big Falls County Park. The rock formations at Big Falls make this a popular park and tourist destination.

830.3.5 Waterfalls and Wild Lakes

Certain stretches of the Eau Claire River contain small waterfalls and rapids that are unique to the county. The most prominent areas are found at Big Falls County Park and Hamilton Falls in the Town of Wilson.

The surface waters encompassed under the wild lakes designation include those restricted use areas that are not open to any gasoline or diesel-powered vehicles, watercraft, or snowmobiles except when snow covered. In general, all or most of the shorelines of these lakes and streams are owned by Eau Claire County. Canoes, kayaks, and boats propelled by wind, oars, or electric motors are permitted. The intent of these restrictions is to protect the aquatic resources of these lakes but still allow access. On Eau Claire County Forest Coon Fork Lake is designated as a “Wild Lake”.

830.3.6 Unique Forest Types, Benchmark Stands, etc

There are two experimental pine plantations on the forest. Both are easily accessible to the public and demonstrate the effects of managed v. unmanaged pine plantations. The Al Santala Experimental Pine Plantation is located on Goat Ranch Road/ Rustic Road # R-45. This plantation has been managed using accepted pine management activities except for approximately 1 acre. The result is a side-by-side comparison of the effects of management and no management in pine plantations. Measurements are taken periodically in the stand which tracks the differences between the parts of the stand. The managed side is thinned regularly on the same schedule as the other pine plantations on the forest.

The L.L. Phillips Experimental Pine Plantation is near the intersection of CTH L and CTH QQ in L.L. Phillips County Park next to the pavilion. This is 1 acre which has been left unmanaged while the rest of the plantation has been thinned regularly on a standard thinning schedule.

830.3.7 Endangered or Threatened Species Habitat

Pine barrens, Sand prairie, Central poor fen, Central sands pine oak forest, Karner blue butterfly high potential range. In addition to these unique natural communities, rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species exist in the Eau Claire County Forest.

830.4 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

830.4.1 Landmarks

Special landmarks on the county forest include Hamilton Falls, Big Falls, Knights Pool, and the Eisberner Memorial.

Hamilton Falls is a unique waterfall on the north fork of the Eau Claire River, located in the Town of Wilson. It is a popular fishing hole and launch site for canoes and kayaks.

Big Falls is the most unique and grand waterfall on the Eau Claire River in the County. This is also site to a popular county park. Day use activities here include picnicking, canoe and kayaking, swimming, fishing, and hiking trails. Big Falls has some of the most unique geological features in the county and is a popular spot for UW-Eau Claire geology students to study and observe the different rock formations.

Knights Pool, located on the north fork of the Eau Claire river is a popular fishing hole. Anglers seeking musky and small mouth bass have been frequenting this location for years. It can be easily accessed from the bridge crossing the Eau Clarie River on Channey Road.

The Donald L Eisberner Memorial Forest and Canoe Landing which lies on the corner of Chaney Road and Canoe Landing Road in the heart of Eau Claire County Forest.

The site is dedicated to Don Eisberner who lost his life at this spot on April 24, 1982 as a firefighter for the Department of Natural Resources. This site serves both as a memorial to Don Eisberner and a powerful forest fire prevention message to the community and forest visitors.

Don Eisberner, 48, was a 30-year veteran of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He Attended grade school at Humbird, Wisconsin, and graduated in 1951 from Fairchild High School. He was hired on March 17, 1952 as a lookout tower man and forest fire fighter and equipment operator, Don worked on cooperative efforts to improve forestry and wildlife programs.

During his career as a forest fire control assistant with the Fairchild Ranger Station, he proved exceptional service to the citizens of Wisconsin, protecting them and their land from fire and teaching youth about fire prevention as Smokey Bear. Don was involved with the local union chapter and was an active member of the community. He was a dedicated husband and father of seven children.

The forest and canoe landing site is dedicated to Don Eisberner who lost his life in 1982, while fighting a 274-acre forest fire that started from an unattended campfire. He was one of the first fire fighters to arrive at the scene of the fire. The fire spread to dry grass and into a young pine plantation. With a sudden wind shift, the fire turned and trapped Don and his tractor plow unit. The weekend fire conditions had been rated as

extremely hazardous. Ironically, in 1994 a second fire escaped an unattended campfire at the canoe landing burning an even larger area.

835 AESTHETICS

Public perception of forestry has changed over the last planning period and in general it appears that the public is much more accepting of the visual impact of sound forestry. In response to this, aesthetic management planning is intended to be much more simplified in this Plan.

835.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT

Aesthetic management techniques may be applied in areas of high visibility or high public use. Altered management, visual screens, slash disposal, conversion to other species, no cut zones or other methods may be employed, depending on the circumstances of the specific site.

835.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

Aesthetic Management Zones include areas where there may be high levels of public presence because of scenic attraction, or some use of the area that would be enhanced by special timber management practices.

835.2.1 Aesthetic Management Zone Definitions

Zone A

Areas where there is intensive public pressure because of scenic attraction, or some use of area that would be enhanced by scenic timber management practices.

Zone B

Any area of the forest where the public use is such that no one value at all times can be considered primary, but where, because of the intensity and variety of use, scenic attractiveness must be maintained.

Zone C

Includes all parts of the forest not included in Zones A, B, or special use areas. Any significant public presence in this zone is likely to occur only as a result of a

specific use of the forest.

835.2.2 Aesthetic Management Zone Examples

Zone A

- 1- Parks and recreation areas, including access routes
- 2- Lakes and rivers with significant value for boating, swimming, or fishing.
- 3- Highways or roads with heavy use.
- 4- Roads with medium use where the majority of the traffic is unrelated to the forest or is the specific purpose of enjoying scenery.

Zone A areas of the County Forest are:

Big Falls Park
Coon Fork Lake Park
Harstad Park
Lake Eau Claire Park
L.L. Phillips Park
Tower Ridge Recreation Area
Eau Claire River (north and south forks to Lake Altoona)
Highway 27 corridor
CTH “QQ”, “CF”, “L”, “H”, “SD”, “ND”, Rustic Road R-45
Waysides

Zone B

- 1- Roads with light to medium use where the majority of the traffic is a result of some use of the forest other than for scenic beauty.
- 2- Lake or streams that do not have significant value for boating or fishing.

Zone B areas of the County Forest are:

Channey Road
CTH “QQ”, “NL”, “M”, “G”, “GG”, “K”, “SS”
Pea Creek
Black Creek
Coon Creek
Hay Creek
Horse Creek

Muskrat Creek
7, 9 Mile Creeks

Zone C

All areas not included in Zone A, B, or special use areas.

835.2.3 Aesthetic Management Zone Boundaries

Zone A Boundaries

Park or recreation areas the zone boundaries must include all of the area within the effective visible horizon, not to exceed 1,000 feet, as determined from any location within the recreation area. It should also include all adjacent areas that receive a considerable amount of use as a result of the recreation area.

Travel corridors will be the boundaries effective visible horizon in a leaf-off condition as determined from the traveled part of the zone.

Zone B Boundaries

The zone boundaries will be the effective visible horizon, not to exceed 1,000 feet, which shall be determined at periods of heavy use, from the part of the zone where the use occurs.

Zone C Boundaries

All areas not included in Zones A, B, or special use areas.

835.2.4 Aesthetic Management Zone Management

Zone A Management

Manage primarily for scenic value. This will mainly involve adaptations of normal timber cutting practices and may require additional expenditures.

Zone B Management

Manage for maximum timber production but apply strict slash disposal requirements for any timber harvests. By the use of signs, the management practices may be explained to the public as they are carried out.

Zone C Management

Manage primarily for timber production except in areas which have greater value for other multiple use purposes. Natural opportunities to maintain or enhance diversity or scenic quality should be considered.

835.2.5 Aesthetic Management Zone Permitted Uses

Zone A Permitted Uses

- 1- Timber harvesting and thinning operations will normally be permitted only during periods of least public use.
- 2- Timber management in this zone will be done in a manner so as to provide the greatest scenic potential for public enjoyment.
- 3- County directional signs, conforming to established standards, may be permitted at road intersections.
- 4- County informational and recreational signs conforming to approved standards are permitted.
- 5- All tree and shrub planting will be done by hand or modified machine planting methods. The trees will be spaced at random to present a natural appearance.
- 6- All slash will be lopped, or removed from sight, if visible from the used part of the zone.
- 7- New access roads will be permitted if they join the main road at right angles. All such access roads will be, when possible, curved so that no clear line of sight will be created from the main road to the exterior boundary of the zone.

Zone B Permitted Uses

All land management activities are permissible but should be exercised with sensitivity to aesthetics. Examples: Timber sales may employ lopping and scattering of slash, rehabilitation of roads and landings, erosion control and prevention, and irregular harvest lines to mitigate aesthetic impact.

Zone C Permitted Uses

All land management activities consistent with the goals of the forest.

840 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

The County will make efforts to evaluate surrounding landscapes while managing the County Forest. The County will strive to provide management that compliments the landscapes, but also try to provide for resources or forest types that are lacking or declining within surrounding landscapes.

840.1 CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

For the purposes of this plan, biological diversity will be interpreted to reference the variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur. Forest management activities on the Eau Claire County Forest enhance biological diversity by managing for a wide variety of habitat types, age structures and by attempting to perpetuate and protect declining forest types.

840.2 HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

For the purposes of this plan, habitat fragmentation is interpreted as conversion of forests to land uses other than forestry. Lands enrolled in the County Forest Law help protect against habitat fragmentation. A continued program of encouraging land acquisition within the forest blocking boundary is intended to decrease the conversion of forest land to other uses.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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REV: 5/18/2021

CHAPTER 900

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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.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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Rev: 5/18/2021

CHAPTER 1000

APPENDIX

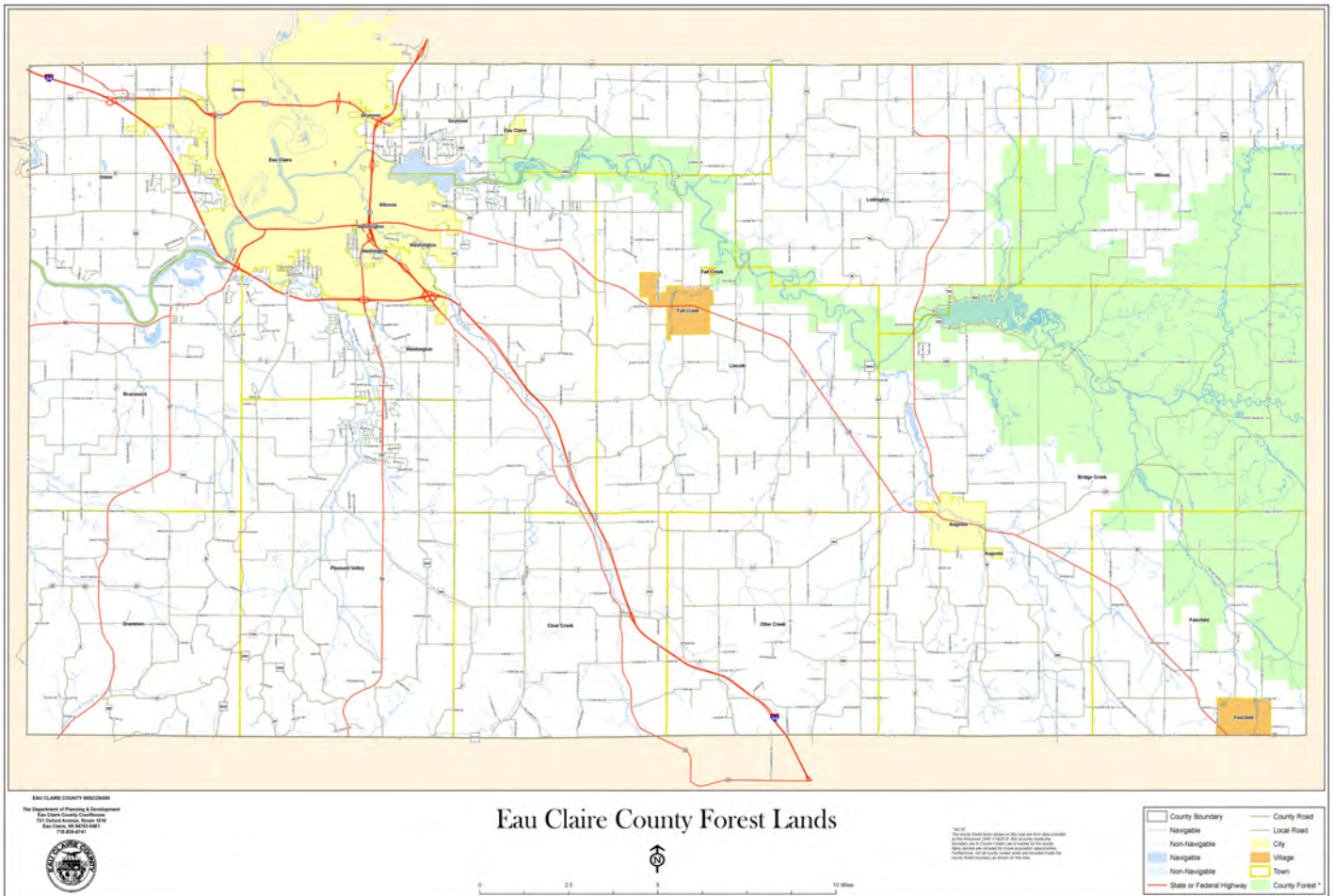
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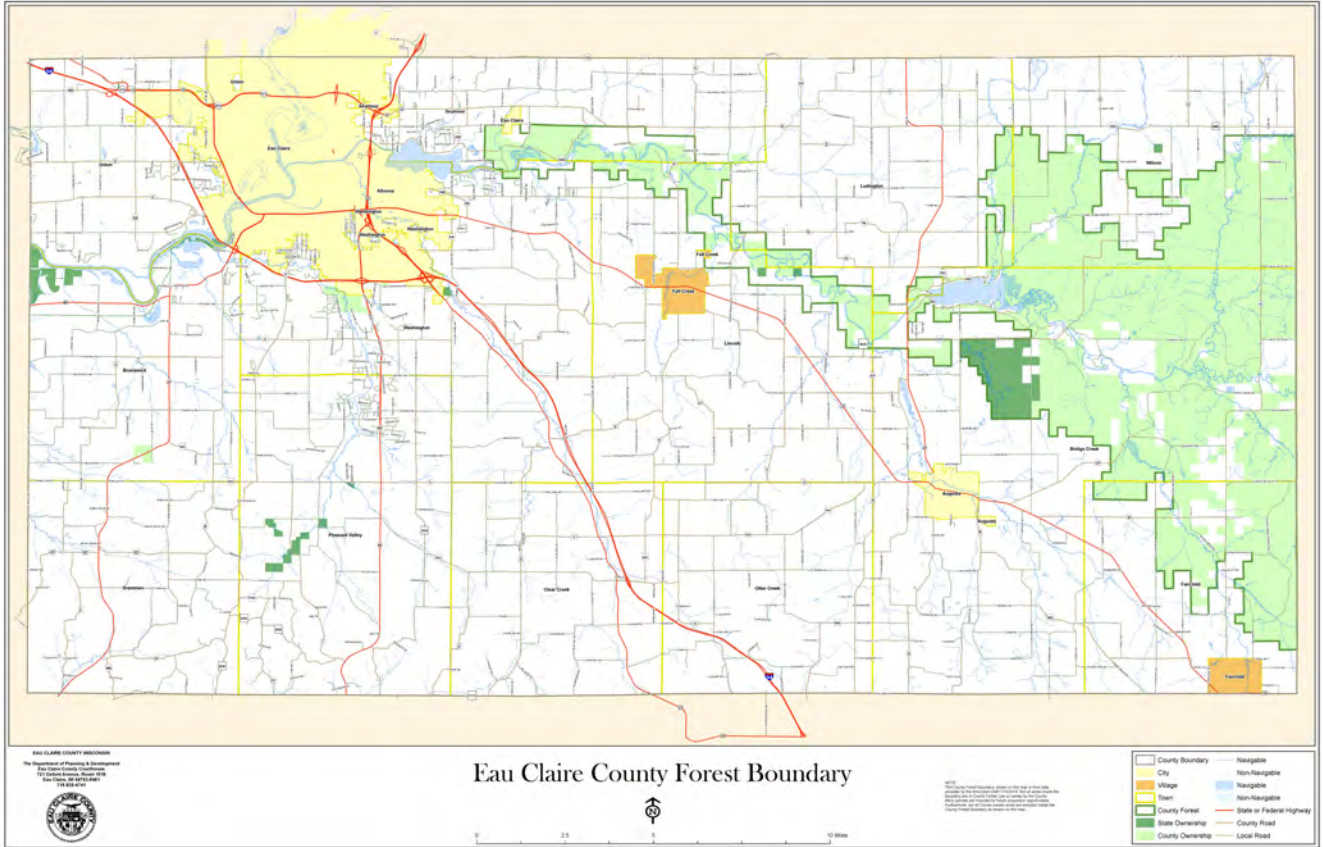
1000 RESOURCE MAPS AND TABLES

“*” Indicates Mandatory inclusions.

1000.1 MAP OF COUNTY FOREST LOCATION *



1000.2 OFFICAL COUNTY FOREST BOUNDARY MAP *



1005 LAWS AND ORDINANCES

1005.1 COUNTY FOREST LAW (s. 28.11, Wis. Stats) *

28.11 ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTY FORESTS

28.11(1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the county forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple-use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.

28.11(2) DEFINED. "County forests" include all county lands entered under and participating under ch. 77 on October 2, 1963, and all county lands designated as county forests by the county board or the forestry committee and entered under the county forest law and designated as "county forest lands" or "county special-use lands" as hereinafter provided.

28.11(3) POWERS OF COUNTY BOARD. The county board of any such county may:

28.11(3)(a) Enact an ordinance designating a committee to have charge of the county forests and specifying the powers, duties, procedures and functions of such committee. The members of such committee shall be appointed pursuant to s. 59.13 and may include well-qualified residents of the county who are not members of the county board.

28.11(3)(b) Establish regulations for the use of the county forests by the public and to provide penalties for their enforcement.

28.11(3)(c) Appropriate funds for the purchase, development, protection and maintenance of such forests and to exchange other county-owned lands for the purpose of consolidating and blocking county forest holdings.

28.11(3)(d) Enter into cooperative agreements with the department for protection of county forests from fire.

28.11(3)(e) Establish aesthetic management zones along roads and waters and enter into long-term cooperative leases and agreements with the department and other state agencies or federal agencies for the use of the county forests for natural resources research.

28.11(3)(f) Establish transplant nurseries for growing seedlings, from the state forest nurseries, to larger size for planting in county forests, but no ornamental or landscape stock shall be produced in such nurseries.

28.11(3)(g) Establish forest plantations and engage in silviculture, forest management and timber sales.

28.11(3)(h) Engage in other projects designed to achieve optimum development of the forest.

28.11(3)(i) Enter into leases or agreements, for terms not exceeding 10 years, to explore and prospect for ore, minerals, gas or oil upon any county forest lands. These leases or agreements shall contain proper covenants to safeguard the public interests in the lands involved and to guard against trespass and waste. The county board shall require proper security to ensure that the person engaged in exploration or prospecting fully informs the county of every discovery of ore, minerals, gas or oil and restores the land surface to an acceptable condition and value if no discovery of valuable deposit is made or if county forest lands are not withdrawn from entry under this section. Before a lease or agreement under this paragraph is effective, approval of the lease or agreement by the department is required. If the department finds that the proposed lease or agreement fully complies with the law and contains the proper safeguards, it shall approve the lease or agreement.

28.11(3)(j) Enter into leases for the extraction of valuable deposits of ore, minerals, gas or oil upon any county forest land. If the extraction can be accomplished without permanently affecting the surface of the land, extraction leases may be entered into and extraction may occur while the land remains county forest lands. If the extraction cannot be accomplished without permanently affecting the surface of the land, extraction may not commence until the land is withdrawn as county forest land. Before an extraction lease under this paragraph is effective, approval of the lease by the department is required.

28.11(3)(k) Establish energy conservation projects which permit individual members of the public to remove up to 10 standard cords of wood without charge from county forest lands for individual home heating purposes. The county board shall limit removal of wood for energy conservation projects to wood that is unsuitable for commercial sale. The county board may require a permit to remove wood for energy conservation projects and may charge a fee for the permit to administer projects established under this paragraph. A county board shall restrict participation in projects established under this paragraph to residents, as defined under s. 29.001 (69), but may not restrict participation to residents of the county. No timber sale contract is required for wood removed under this paragraph.

28.11(4) ENTRY OF COUNTY FOREST LANDS

28.11(4)(a) A county may file with the department an application for entry of county-owned land under this section. Such application shall include the description of the land and a statement of the purposes for which the lands are best suited. Upon the filing of such application the department shall investigate the same and it may conduct a public hearing thereon if it deems it advisable to do so at such time and place as it sees fit.

28.11(4)(b) If after such investigation the department finds that the lands constitute a well blocked county forest unit or that they block in with other established county forest lands and are otherwise suitable for the purposes of this section it shall make an order of entry designating such

lands as county forest lands. All county lands entered under and participating under ch. 77 on October 2, 1963 shall be designated "county forest lands" without further order of entry.

28.11(4)(c) If the department finds that the lands are not suited primarily for timber production and do not otherwise qualify for entry under par. (b) but that they are suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation and other multiple-use purposes it shall make an order of entry designating such lands as "county special-use lands".

28.11(4)(d) A copy of the order of entry shall be filed with the county clerk and the county forestry committee, and the order shall also be recorded with the register of deeds.

28.11(4)(e) From and after the filing of such order of entry, the lands therein described shall be "county forest lands" or "county special-use lands", as the case may be, and shall so remain until withdrawn as hereinafter provided.

28.11(4)(f) The department may construct and use forest fire lookout towers, telephone lines and fire lanes or other forest protection structures on any lands entered under this section and the county clerk of such county shall execute any easement on or over such lands which the department may require for forest protection. The general public shall enjoy the privilege of entering such lands for the purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping and other recreation pursuits subject to such regulation and restrictions as may be established by lawful authority.

28.11(5) (5) MANAGEMENT.

28.11(5)(a) On or before December 31, 2005, a comprehensive county forest land use plan shall be prepared for a 15-year period by the county forestry committee with the assistance of technical personnel from the department and other interested agencies, and shall be approved by the county board and the department. The plan shall include land use designations, land acquisition, forest protection, annual allowable timber harvests, recreational developments, fish and wildlife management activities, roads, silvicultural operations and operating policies and procedures; it shall include a complete inventory of the county forest and shall be documented with maps, records and priorities showing in detail the various projects to be undertaken during the plan period. The plan may include an application for aids under s. 23.09 (17m). The application will be considered an annual application for these aids during the 15-year period of the plan. The initial plan may be revised as changing conditions require. Upon the expiration of the initial 15-year plan period, and upon expiration of each subsequent 15-year plan period, the plan shall be revised and shall be in effect for another 15-year period. If a plan under this paragraph is not revised upon expiration of the 15-year plan period, or if a plan under s. 28.11 (5) (a), 2003 stats., is not revised on or before December 31, 2005, that plan shall remain in effect until such time as that plan is revised and the revised plan takes effect.

28.11(5)(b) An annual work plan and budget based upon the comprehensive plan shall be prepared by the county forestry committee with the assistance of a forester of the department. The plan shall include a schedule of compartments to be harvested and a listing by location of management projects for the forthcoming year. In addition, the plan shall include other multiple-use projects where appropriate. A budget, listing estimated expenditures for work projects,

administration and protection of the forest, shall accompany the annual plan both to be submitted to the county board for approval at the November meeting.

28.11(5m) COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATION GRANTS.

28.11(5m)(a) The department may make grants, from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bw), to counties having lands entered under sub. (4) to fund all of the following for one professional forester in the position of county forest administrator or assistant county forest administrator:

28.11(5m)(a)1. Up to 50 percent of the forester's salary.

28.11(5m)(a)2. Up to 50 percent of the forester's fringe benefits, except that the fringe benefits may not exceed 40 percent of the forester's salary.

28.11(5m)(am) The department may make grants, from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bw), to counties having lands entered under sub. (4) to fund up to 50 percent of the costs of a county's annual dues to a nonprofit organization that provides leadership and counsel to that county's forest administrator and that functions as an organizational liaison to the department. The total amount that the department may award in grants under this paragraph in any fiscal year may not exceed \$50,000.

28.11(5m)(b) The department may not make a grant under this subsection for a year for which the department has not approved the annual work plan that was approved by the county board under sub. (5) (b). The department may not base the amount of a county's grant on the acreage of the county's forest land.

28.11(5m)(c) The department may choose not to make a grant to a county under this subsection if the county board for that county is more than one year delinquent in approving a comprehensive county forest land use plan or revised plan under sub. (5) (a).

28.11(5r) Sustainable forestry grants.

28.11(5r)(a) In this subsection, "sustainable forestry" has the meaning given in s. 28.04 (1) (e).

28.11(5r)(b) The department may make grants, from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bw), to counties having lands entered under sub. (4) to fund the cost of activities designed to improve sustainable forestry on the lands.

28.11(5r)(c) The department may choose not to make a grant to a county under this subsection if the county board for that county is more than one year delinquent in approving a comprehensive county forest land use plan or revised plan under sub. (5) (a).

28.11(6) TIMBER SALES AND CULTURAL CUTTINGS.

28.11(6)(a) Limitations. The county forestry committee is authorized to sell merchantable timber designated in timber sale contracts and products removed in cultural or salvage cuttings. All timber sales shall be based on tree scale or on the scale, measure or count of the cut products; the Scribner

Decimal C log rule shall be used in log scaling. All cuttings shall be limited to trees marked or designated for cutting by qualified personnel recognized as such by the department.

28.11(6)(b) PROCEDURES.

28.11(6)(b)1. Any timber sale with an estimated value of \$3,000 or more shall be by sealed bid or public sale after publication of a classified advertisement announcing the sale in a newspaper having general circulation in the county in which the timber to be sold is located. Any timber sale with an estimated value below \$3,000 may be made without prior advertising. Any timber sale with an estimated value of \$3,000 or more requires approval of the secretary.

28.11(6)(b)2. Timber sales shall be subject to presale appraisals by qualified personnel recognized as such by the department to establish minimum sales value. Appraisal methods and procedures shall be approved by the department.

28.11(6)(b)3. No merchantable wood products may be cut on any lands entered under this section unless a cutting notice on forms furnished by the department is filed with and approved by the department. Any unauthorized cutting shall render the county liable to the state in an amount equal to double the stumpage value of the cut products which amount shall be paid by the county to the state. If the county does not pay the amount of such penalty to the state, the department may withhold such amount from future state contributions to the county.

28.11(6)(b)4. Within 90 days after completion of any cutting operation, including timber trespass, but not more than 2 years after filing the cutting notice, the county shall transmit to the department on forms furnished by the department, a report of merchantable wood products cut. The department may conduct any investigations on timber cutting operations that it considers to be advisable, including the holding of public hearings on the timber cutting operations, and may assess severance share payments accordingly.

28.11(6)(c) Exception. Paragraph (b) 1. does not apply to any sale of timber that has been damaged by fire, snow, hail, ice, insects, disease, or wind. Timber damaged in that manner that is located in a county forest may be sold by the county forestry committee for that county on such terms and in such manner as the committee determines is in the best interest of the county.

28.11(7) County forest credit. The department shall set up an account for each county showing the lands entered; the sums previously paid under s. 28.14, 1961 stats.; the sums hereafter paid under this section; the sums previously received in the form of four-fifths severance tax collected pursuant to s. 77.06 (5), 1961 stats.; the sums received as forestry fund severance share under this section; and the sums previously reimbursed to the state on withdrawn lands pursuant to s. 28.12 (4), 1961 stats. Whenever the forestry fund account of any county shows an overpayment of such severance tax or severance share as of June 30 of any year, the department shall return such overpayment to the county. All severance taxes previously paid by any county and deposited in the general fund shall be credited to the forestry fund account of the county. If such credit exceeds the balance due to the forestry fund account from such county, the overpayment shall be credited to the county and applied in lieu of future severance shares due to the state until the county account is balanced.

28.11(8) STATE CONTRIBUTION.

28.11(8)(a) (a) Acreage payments. As soon after April 20 of each year as feasible, the department shall pay to each town treasurer 30 cents per acre, based on the acreage of such lands as of the preceding June 30, as a grant out of the appropriation made by s. 20.370 (5) (bv) on each acre of county lands entered under this section.

28.11(8)(b) FORESTRY FUND ACCOUNT.

28.11(8)(b)1. A county having established and maintaining a county forest under this section is eligible to receive from the state from the appropriations under s. 20.370 (5) (bq) and (bs) an annual payment as a noninterest bearing loan to be used for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest lands and the payment shall be credited to a county account to be known as the county forestry aid fund. A county board may, by a resolution adopted during the year and transmitted to the department by December 31, request to receive a payment of not more than 50 cents for each acre of land entered and designated as "county forest land". The department shall review the request and approve the request if the request is found to be consistent with the comprehensive county forest land use plan. If any lands purchased from the fund are sold, the county shall restore the purchase price to the county forestry aid fund. The department shall pay to the county the amount due to it on or before March 31 of each year, based on the acreage of the lands as of the preceding June 30. If the amounts in the appropriations under s. 20.370 (5) (bq) and (bs) are not sufficient to pay all of the amounts approved by the department under this subdivision, the department shall pay eligible counties on a prorated basis.

28.11(8)(b)2. The department may allot additional interest free forestry aid loans on a project basis to individual counties to permit the counties to undertake meritorious and economically productive forestry operations, including land acquisitions. These additional aids may not be used for the construction of recreational facilities or for fish and game management projects. Application shall be made in the manner and on forms prescribed by the department and specify the purpose for which the additional aids will be used. The department shall make an investigation as it deems necessary to satisfy itself that the project is feasible, desirable and consistent with the comprehensive plan. If the department so finds, it may make allotments in such amounts as it determines to be reasonable and proper and charge the allotments to the forestry fund account of the county. These allotments shall be credited by the county to the county forestry aid fund. After determining the loans as required under subd. 1., the department shall make the remainder of the amounts appropriated under s. 20.370 (5) (bq) and (bs) for that fiscal year available for loans under this subdivision. The department shall also make loans under this subdivision from the appropriations under s. 20.370 (5) (bt) and (bu).

28.11(8)(b)3. All payments made under this paragraph shall be known as the "forestry fund account".

28.11(9) COUNTY FOREST SEVERANCE SHARE.

28.11(9)(a) Except as provided under pars. (b) and (c), on timber cut from lands entered as "county forest lands" the county shall pay a severance share of not less than 20 percent of the actual

stumpage sales value of the timber. A higher rate of payment may be applied when agreed upon by the department and the county. When cutting is done by the county and timber is not sold or is sold as cut forest products the severance share shall be 20 percent of the severance tax schedule in effect under s. 77.06 (2).

28.11(9)(ag) The severance share paid by a county to the state shall be credited to the forestry fund account of the county and shall be divided into 2 payments as follows:

28.11(9)(ag)1. An acreage loan severance share payment that is equal to the product of multiplying the amount of the severance share paid by the county by the percentage of the balance due in the forestry fund account of the county that is attributable to loans made under sub. (8) (b) 1.

28.11(9)(ag)2. A project loan severance share payment that is equal to the product of multiplying the amount of the severance share paid by the county by the percentage of the balance due that is attributable to loans made under sub. (8) (b) 2.

28.11(9)(am) The acreage loan severance share payments shall be deposited in the conservation fund and credited to the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bq), and the project loan severance share payments shall be deposited in the conservation fund and credited to the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bu).

28.11(9)(ar)1. Notwithstanding s. 20.001 (3) (c), if the sum of the unencumbered balances in the appropriations under s. 20.370 (5) (bq), (bt) and (bu) exceeds \$400,000 on June 30 of any fiscal year, the amount in excess of \$400,000 shall lapse from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bq) to the conservation fund, except as provided in subd. 2.

28.11(9)(ar)2. Notwithstanding s. 20.001 (3) (c), if the amount in the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bq) is insufficient for the amount that must lapse under subd. 1., the remainder that is necessary for the lapse shall lapse from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bu).

28.11(9)(b) No severance share payment is required if there is no balance due in the forestry fund account of the county. A severance share payment shall not exceed the balance due in the forestry fund account of the county.

28.11(9)(c) No severance share payment is required for wood removed from county forest lands for energy conservation projects established under sub. (3) (k).

28.11(9)(d) Of the gross receipts from all timber sales on the county forests 10 percent shall be paid annually by the county to the towns having county forest lands on the basis of acreage of such lands in the towns.

28.11(11) WITHDRAWALS.

28.11(11)(a)1. The county board may by resolution adopted by not less than two-thirds of its membership make application to the department to withdraw lands entered under this section. The county board shall first refer the resolution to the county forestry committee, which shall consult

with an authorized representative of the department in formulating its withdrawal proposal. The county board shall not take final action on the application until 90 days after referral of the application to the forestry committee or until the report of the forestry committee regarding the application has been filed with the board. The application shall include the land description, a statement of the reasons for withdrawal, and any restrictions or other conditions of use attached to the land proposed for withdrawal.

28.11(11)(a)2. Upon the filing of an application to withdraw lands under subd. 1., the department shall investigate the application. During the course of its investigation the department shall make an examination of the character of the land, the volume of timber, improvements, and any other special values. In the case of withdrawal for the purpose of sale to any purchaser other than the state or a local unit of government, the department shall establish a minimum value on the lands to be withdrawn. In making its investigation the department shall give full weight and consideration to the purposes and principles set forth in sub. (1), and it shall also weigh and consider the benefits to the people of the state as a whole, as well as to the county, from the proposed use against the benefits accruing to the people of the state as a whole and to the county under the continued entry of the lands to be withdrawn. The department may conduct a public hearing on the application, if it considers it advisable, at a time and place that it determines, except that if the county requests a public hearing in writing, the department shall hold a public hearing.

28.11(11)(a)3. If the department finds that the benefits after withdrawal of the lands described in the application under subd. 2. outweigh the benefits under continued entry of the lands and that the lands will be put to a better and higher use, it shall make an order withdrawing the lands from entry; otherwise it shall deny the application.

28.11(11)(a)4. If the application is denied, the county board may, by resolution adopted by not less than two-thirds of its membership, appeal to a review committee. The department shall submit the findings of its investigation and of any hearing on a proposed withdrawal to the committee, which shall be composed of the following members:

- a. One member appointed by the county board submitting the application for withdrawal.
- b. One member who is appointed by the governor, who is from another county that has land enrolled under the county forest law, and who shall be chairperson of the review committee.
- c. One member appointed by the department.
- d. One member appointed by the University of Wisconsin from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.
- e. One member to be selected by unanimous vote of the appointed members or, if the appointed members fail to achieve unanimity, by the governor.

28.11(11)(a)5. 5. The review committee appointed under subd. 4. shall, by majority vote within 60 days after receiving the findings of the department, do one of the following:

a. Approve the application for withdrawal if it finds the proposed use to be of a greater benefit considering all losses and benefits to the people of the state as a whole, as well as to the people of the county.

b. Provisionally deny the application for withdrawal giving specific reasons why it finds the proposal deficient and making any suggestions for revising the application to reduce the conflict of the proposed use with the public interest.

28.11(11)(a)6. If the committee approves a withdrawal under subd. 5., it shall notify the county board of its approval stating, as necessary, specific procedures to be followed by the county relating to the withdrawal. The county board may then by a resolution approved by not less than two-thirds of its membership, withdraw the lands from the county forest law and shall send copies of this resolution to the department and to the county register of deeds who shall record the resolution.

28.11(11)(a)7. If the committee provisionally denies the proposed withdrawal under subd. 5., it may consider an amended application for withdrawal upon presentation of the application and supporting information, or it may require additional investigation of the amended application by the department before reconsidering the application. Any additional investigation shall include additional public hearings if requested by the county, the department, or the committee.

28.11(11)(b) If the application is approved the county shall reimburse the state the amounts previously paid to the county pursuant to sub. (8) (b) which reimbursement shall be credited to the county forestry fund account; except that the department may waive all or part of such reimbursement if it finds that the lands are withdrawn for a higher public use or that the amount of such reimbursement is unreasonable when compared to the value of the land. If the department has waived any portion of such reimbursement and if at any subsequent time the land ceases to be used for the purpose designated in the application for withdrawal, the full amount of reimbursement due the forestry fund account on the lands withdrawn shall immediately become due and payable to the department and shall be credited to the forestry fund account, unless the department finds and determines that the lands will continue to be put to another higher public use in which case payments of such reimbursement may be deferred by the department so long as the lands are devoted to a higher public use. If payment is not made prior to the time of the next forestry aid payment to the county, forestry aid payments in an amount to be determined by the department shall be withheld until the amount due the forestry fund account is reimbursed.

28.11(12) ENFORCEMENT. If at any time it appears to the department that the lands are not being managed in accordance with this section it shall so advise the county forestry committee and the county clerk. If the condition persists the department may proceed against the persons responsible for such noncompliance under s. 30.03 (4).

28.11(13) REVIEW. All orders of the department made under this section may be reviewed under ss. 227.52 to 227.58.

28.11 History: 1971 c. 215; 1975 c. 39 s. 734; 1975 c. 342; 1977 c. 29; 1979 c. 34 ss. 723 to 725, 2102 (39) (a); 1983 a. 27; 1983 a. 192 s. 304; 1983 a. 424 ss. 2 to 5; 1985 a. 29 ss. 655ce to 655cg,

3202 (39); 1985 a. 182 s. 57; 1987 a. 27; 1989 a. 31, 79; 1993 a. 16, 184, 301; 1995 a. 27, 201; 1997 a. 237, 248; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16, 103; 2003 a. 242; 2005 a. 48; 2007 a. 20.

28.11 Cross-reference: See also ch. NR 48 and ss. NR 1.24, 47.60 to 47.75, and 302.03, Wis. adm. code.

A county forest withdrawal appeal review committee under sub. (11) (a) is not a state agency whose decisions are reviewable under ch. 227. *Allen v. Juneau County*, 98 Wis. 2d 103, 295 N.W.2d 218 (Ct. App. 1980).

County boards cannot sell or exchange county forest lands without first withdrawing them from the county forest program under sub. (11). 66 Atty. Gen. 109.

Conservation easements and restrictive covenants are permissible in county forests as long as they are consistent with and do not interfere with the purposes of county forests and the management plans properly developed for them under the county forest law. OAG 08-10.

1005.2 COUNTY ORDINANCES

1005.2.1 County Forestry Ordinance *

Title 16

PUBLIC LANDS AND FOREST

Chapters:

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- [16.02](#) County Forest
- [16.10](#) Gathering of Forest Products By Treaty Rights Participants
- [16.18](#) Sale and Transfer of Minerals from County Lands
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II. EAU CLAIRE COUNTY EXPOSITION CENTER

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I. COUNTY FOREST

Chapter 16.02

COUNTY FOREST

Sections:

- [16.02.020](#) Restrictions on timber and pulp cutting--Eau Claire County Forest.
- [16.02.030](#) Designation of Wilderness Areas. (Ord. 154-2, Sec. 29 & 30, 2010)

16.02.020 Restrictions on timber and pulp cutting-Eau Claire County Forest. No clearcutting of timber, pulpwood or firewood shall be allowed from a zone extending for three hundred feet of the ordinary high water mark, or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater on either side of the Eau Claire River in the county forest. The zone shall be measured from the banks of the river, as determined from its normal high water elevation. Thinning of timber, pulpwood, or firewood within this zone shall be allowed only pursuant to 16.30.520 D. and 20.07.002 of the Shoreland Zoning Code. Cutting shall only be permitted for the purpose of erosion control, disease control, or aesthetic enhancement. This prohibition shall apply to the Eau Claire River, as well as its north and south forks. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 3, 2017; Ord. 154-2, Sec. 30, 2010; Ord.140-34, Sec.1, 1996; Ord. 132-71 Sec.1, 1988, Ord.79-80/75 Sec.2, 1979).

16.02.030 Designation of Wilderness Areas.

A. Wilderness Areas described. The following areas within the boundaries of the Eau Claire County Forest shall be established as Wilderness Areas as referenced in the Eau Claire County Forest 10-Year Plan.

1. "Wilson Wilderness Area", 160 acres more or less including the NENW, SWNW, SENW, and SWNE, all in Section 14, T27N, R6W in the Town of Wilson.

2. "Horse Creek Wilderness Area", 232 acres more or less including SWNW, SENW, SWNE and the SENE all lying South of Horse Creek Road and the NWSW, the NESW, the NWSE, and the NESE, all in Section 21, T26N, R5W in the Town of Bridge Creek.

3. "Hathaway Creek Wilderness Area", 98 acres more or less including the SWNE and the NWSE lying North of County Road G, and the S1/2 of the NWNE, the SW1/4 of the NENE, and the W1/2 of the SENE lying North of County Road G, all in Section 12, T26N, R6W in the town of Bridge Creek.

B. Restrictions. The following restrictions shall apply to Wilderness Areas.

1. No timber harvesting or other manipulation of vegetation shall be permitted.

2. Only such protective activities as are necessary to protect the values to be preserved shall be permitted.

3. No motors of any type or mountain bikes shall be permitted at any time, except as needed for necessary restoration and maintenance by the parks and forest department, or for protection as mentioned in 2.

4. There shall be no permanent roads or structures.

5. No utility or other easements, or mineral exploration or extraction shall be permitted.

6. Any requests for walking paths for educational and recreational purposes shall be referred to the committee on parks and forest for its recommendation, with final approval or disapproval being granted by the county board.

7. The minimum recommended size of 3,000 acres for designation of Wilson, Horse Creek and Hathaway Creek Wilderness Areas is hereby waived. (Ord.140-121, 1997)

(Ord. 161-30, Sec. 1, 2017; Ord. 154-2, Sec. 31, 2010; Ord.131-03, Sec.1, 1997; Ord. 133-22 Sec.2, 1989; Ord.141-85, 1998; Res. (part) and Sec.7(A)(4) of Ord. dated July 28, 1958).

Chapter 16.10

GATHERING OF FOREST PRODUCTS BY TREATY RIGHTS PARTICIPANTS

Sections:

<u>16.10.001</u>	Purpose.
<u>16.10.010</u>	Permit required.
<u>16.10.020</u>	Application and processing.
<u>16.10.030</u>	Conditions in permit.
<u>16.10.040</u>	Denial of gathering permit.
<u>16.10.050</u>	Penalty.
<u>16.10.060</u>	Conflicts.

16.10.001 Purpose. To establish a permitting process enabling members of the Wisconsin bands of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians the right to exercise the gathering of miscellaneous forest products on county forest lands within the ceded territory. The county forest lands within the ceded territory include all lands lying north of the south fork of the Eau Claire River. (Ord. 136-08, 1992)

16.10.010 Permit required. Any treaty rights participant interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, maple sap, lodge poles, boughs, marsh hay, or other miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in county ordinances), from Eau Claire County owned land shall obtain a county gathering permit from the county parks and forest office prior to the exercise of said gathering rights. (Ord. 136-08, 1992)

16.10.020 Application and processing. The parks and forest director shall prepare an appropriate application requesting pertinent information from all treaty rights participants who seek to gather miscellaneous forest products on county forest lands. Said application shall be available upon request. Those treaty rights participants who seek to gather miscellaneous forest products shall provide proper identification and present a valid tribal membership card upon submitting an application with the county. Upon receipt of an application, the county shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than 14 days after receipt of said application. Said response shall either grant or deny the request. Should the request be denied, the reasons for said denial shall be set forth in the response of the county including the basis for said denial with specific reference to the limitations set forth in 16.10.040. Any application which is incompletely or incorrectly prepared shall be returned within said 14 days to the applicant with specific directions as to which portion or portions of said applications are defective. (Ord. 136-08, 1992)

16.10.030 Conditions in permit. The gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be gathered, the volume of the material to be gathered, and any additional conditions on the gathering of the material necessary for conservation of timber or miscellaneous forest products on county land, or for public health and safety. Treaty rights participants gathering miscellaneous forest products on county land may not be assisted in the gathering by any person other than another treaty rights participant. Treaty rights participants may not permit any person other than another treaty rights participant to tend or operate equipment involved in the gathering. (Ord.136-08, 1992)

16.10.040 Denial of gathering permit. The county may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on Eau Claire County property under the terms of this ordinance unless:

- A. The gathering is inconsistent with the forest management plan for said property;
- B. The gathering will conflict with pre-existing rights of a permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property, including a contractor of the county; or
- C. Is otherwise inconsistent with conservation or public health or safety. (Ord. 136-08, 1992)

16.10.050 Penalty. Any person gathering miscellaneous forest products without first obtaining a gathering permit shall be subject to all existing penalties provided for in county ordinances, including trespass and timber theft charges. Any person who possesses a gathering permit, and gathers beyond the authority granted in the permit, or who causes damage to the timber or miscellaneous forest products on county land, shall be assessed a forfeiture of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200 for the first offense and not less than \$75 nor more than \$300 for every subsequent offense with 12 months of the first offense. (Ord. 136-08, 1992)

16.10.060 Conflicts. Any and all ordinances or resolutions of Eau Claire County, or any portion of said ordinances or resolutions to the contrary or in derogation of the above sections, are hereby repealed only insofar as any conflict exists. (Ord. 136-08, 1992)

Chapter 16.18

SALE AND TRANSFER OF MINERALS FROM COUNTY LANDS

Sections:

- [16.18.010](#) Purpose.
- [16.18.020](#) Definitions.
- [16.18.030](#) Administration of sales and transfers for mining purposes.
- [16.18.040](#) Execution of agreements.
- [16.18.050](#) Surety bonds for transfers.

16.18.010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter shall be to establish a uniform procedure for the sale or transfer of county lands containing mineral deposits, as well as for the sale of minerals therefrom. (Ord. 277-78 Sec.1 (part), 1978).

16.18.020 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Minerals" means metalliferous and nonmetalliferous ores, including mineral aggregates such as stone, sand and gravel.
- B. "Mining" means all or part of the process of mining minerals, including exploration, drilling, extraction, agglomeration, bonification, construction of road and production of mining refuse.
- C. "Transfer" means leases, easements and exploration contracts of and for any interests in lands or mineral rights held by the county. (Ord. 277-78 Sec.1 (part), 1978).0

16.18.030 Administration of sales and transfers for mining purposes.

A. The transfer by mineral lease or sale of county owned land for mining purposes, and the sale of any minerals or mineral rights therefrom as for mining purposes shall be under the jurisdiction of the department of planning and development. The committee on planning and development and the department shall recommend to the board whether the sale or transfer is in the best interests of the county and the terms and conditions thereof. No such sale or transfer shall be negotiated at less than an adequate consideration based upon fair market value of the interest in question.

- B. The powers cited in A. shall be subject to the following limitations:
 - 1. No sale or transfer of any interest for mining purposes shall be made with respect to any county land dedicated to a particular public use or held pursuant to a public trust;
 - 2. Where the sale or transfer of any interest for mining purposes may affect the status of county lands under Wisconsin's forest crop law, said committee shall consult with the committee on parks and forest before reaching any determination thereupon;

3. All such sales and transfers shall comply with Chapter 18.28 and all other relevant laws and county ordinances. (Ord. 154-2, Sec. 32, 2010; Ord. 126-3 Secs.7 & 8, 1982; Ord. 277-78 Sec.1 (part), 1978).

16.18.040 Execution of agreements. Any contract or other agreement for the sale or transfer of county lands or the transfer of any interest therein shall be evidenced by a deed or lease authorized by the board and duly executed by the county clerk. (Ord. 277-78 Sec.1 (part), 1978).

16.18.050 Surety bonds for transfers. No sale or transfer shall be granted without the transferee posting with the department a bond of sufficient sureties to cover potential damage to county property as recommended by the committee on planning and development. (Ord. 126-3 Sec.9, 1982; Ord. 277-78 Sec.1 (part), 1978).

Chapter 16.19

FIREWOOD SALES

Sections:

16.19.001	Purpose.
16.19.010	Permit system.
16.19.020	Designation of permit limitations, wood collection areas.
16.19.030	Fee establishment.
16.19.040	Permit form.

16.19.001 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter shall be to establish a policy for the sale of firewood from county forest and parks property. (Ord. 81-82/228 Sec.1 (part), 1981.)

16.19.010 Permit system.

A. Each person who desires to purchase downed or standing trees in forests or parks for firewood must acquire a permit for that purpose from the parks and forest director.

B. The issuance and use of permits shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. No more than 1 permit shall be issued per household, per year.
2. Not more than 25 full cords of wood may be cut under 1 permit and, within that limitation, each permit shall contain a designation of the total amount of wood which can be collected.

3. Permits are not transferable.

4. Wood cut shall be used for personal firewood needs only and may not be resold.

5. Firewood may be collected only in the area designated on the permit.

6. The permit holder must collect the firewood within the time period stated on the permit. Upon the expiration date of the permit, all rights are to be revoked.

7. Fees paid are nonrefundable.

8. The parks and forest director reserves the right to cancel or revoke permits, and the use of permits will be suspended during periods of emergency burning restrictions.

9. The permit holder shall personally or in conjunction with members of his or her household collect the firewood under the permit. The permit holder must have the permit in his or her possession when harvesting firewood under the permit system.

10. No firewood exceeding 8 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length may be hauled.

11. Permit holders shall hold the county harmless from any injuries or property damage which they might incur in the process of wood collection and shall be held responsible for any damage to county property which they cause while operating under their permits.

C. Use of a permit for purposes other than for the collection of firewood or intentional misuse thereof in violation of the provisions of this chapter or the face of the permit subjects the holder to criminal or civil prosecution by the county under applicable laws. In the case of criminal violations, the corporation counsel shall refer complaints to the district attorney. In the event of civil prosecution, a forfeiture of \$75.00 shall be assessed for each violation of this chapter, together with costs and the value of firewood removed from county property. (Ord. 136-111, Sec.1-2, 1993; Ord. 131-16 Secs. 3-5, 1987; Ord. 130-38 Sec.1, 1986; Ord. 126-52 Sec.1, 1982; Ord. 81-82/228 Sec.1 (part), 1981).

16.19.020 Designation of permit limitations, wood collection areas. The parks and forest, director or forester shall designate the areas of standing and downed timber from which firewood may be removed under a permit issued under 16.19.010. (Ord. 161-30, Sec. 2, 2017; Ord. 131-16 Sec.6, 1987; Ord. 81-82/228 Sec.1 (part), 1981).

16.19.030 Fee establishment. Firewood permit fees shall be in accord with Wisconsin DNR standards for establishing appraised stumpage prices on a per cord basis. The miscellaneous firewood permit fee is set at \$25.00. One year firewood permit extensions shall be available for a flat fee of \$20.00. There shall be no more than 2 extensions issued for each permit. (Ord. 153-23, Sec. 10, 2009; Ord 150-28, Sec. 13, 2006; Ord. 136-111, Sec.3, 1993).

16.19.040 Permit form. Firewood permits shall be prepared on a standard form by the parks and forest director and approved by the corporation counsel and the committee on parks and forest. (Ord. 131-16 Sec.7, 1987; Ord. 81-82/228 Sec.1 (part), 1981).

Chapter 16.30

PARKS AND FOREST

Sections:

<u>16.30.001</u>	Purpose.
<u>16.30.002</u>	Scope.
<u>16.30.005</u>	Definitions.
<u>16.30.010</u>	Designation of park, special use area and wayside boundaries and lands subject to this chapter.
<u>16.30.020</u>	Designation of county forest.
<u>16.30.030</u>	Park use regulations.
<u>16.30.040</u>	Fees and charges.
<u>16.30.050</u>	Emergency rulemaking authority.
<u>16.30.060</u>	Permit issuance.
<u>16.30.070</u>	Installation, public utilities and private construction.
<u>16.30.080</u>	Peddling and soliciting.
<u>16.30.090</u>	Personal conduct.
<u>16.30.100</u>	Property of others.
<u>16.30.120</u>	Destruction and entry.
<u>16.30.130</u>	Cleaning and refuse.
<u>16.30.140</u>	Vehicular traffic.
<u>16.30.150</u>	Parking of vehicles and watercraft.
<u>16.30.160</u>	Fires.
<u>16.30.170</u>	Fireworks, rockets, explosive devices.
<u>16.30.180</u>	Firearms.
<u>16.30.190</u>	Pets.
<u>16.30.200</u>	Horses.
<u>16.30.210</u>	Hunting and trapping.
<u>16.30.220</u>	Athletics.
<u>16.30.230</u>	Boundary buoy.
<u>16.30.240</u>	Swimming regulations.
<u>16.30.250</u>	Beach athletics.
<u>16.30.260</u>	Bathing dress.
<u>16.30.300</u>	Campground regulations.
<u>16.30.500</u>	County forest law administration.
<u>16.30.510</u>	Forest financing.
<u>16.30.520</u>	County forest use regulations.
<u>16.30.530</u>	Chemical pesticide use restrictions.
<u>16.30.600</u>	Enforcement against violations.

16.30.001 Purpose. This chapter shall prescribe rules and regulations for the establishment, protection, development and management of county parks and forest so as to provide a sustained yield of forest products for commercial use and the associated benefits of soil and water conservation, scenic value, recreational benefit and fish and game resources; all in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources. (Ord. 154-2, Sec. 34, 2010; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.002 Scope. Except as provided otherwise herein, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to all lands, structures, and property owned, leased or administered by Eau Claire County for forest, park, wayside and special use purposes under the management, supervision and control of the committee. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981)

16.30.005 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter:

- A. "All-Terrain Vehicle" shall be defined pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 340.01(2g).
- B. "Campground" means any tract of land designated by the county exclusively for camping purposes.
- C. "Camping" means the use of any shelter such as a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, bed roll or sleeping bag for temporary residence or sleeping purposes.
- D. "Camping party" means any individual, family, unorganized group, or juvenile group occupying a campsite.
- E. "Camping season" means that period from May 15 to September 15 at Harstad Park and May 1 to September 15 at Coon Fork.
- F. "Camping unit" means a single shelter used for camping by a camping party, except those used exclusively for dining purposes.
- G. "Campsite" means a portion of a campground, which is designated for use by a camping unit.
- H. "Canoe campground" means a campground along a waterway for use by persons traveling by water.
- I. "Closed shelter" means any building or structure capable of being closed to public access and reserved for public or private group activities.
- J. "Committee" means the committee on parks and forest.
- K. "County forest" means all lands owned or leased by the county that are managed under Wis. Stat. ch. 28.
- L. "Department" means the county parks and forest department.
- M. "DNR" means Department of Natural Resources.
- N. "Emergency" means a state of exigency, which requires that immediate action be taken to protect life or property.
- O. "Family" means a parent or parents with their unmarried children and not more than two lineal relatives or two guests.
- P. "Group campground" means a campground, which is designated for use by organizational groups
- Q. "Independent camping unit" means a camping unit, which contains at minimum, a water storage facility and toilet facility that discharges to a liquid waste holding tank that is an integral part of the unit or to a sewage disposal system.
- R. "Juvenile group" means a group composed of juvenile members of an established organization and under the leadership of at least one competent, mature adult for each ten juveniles in the group.

S. "Park" includes all lands and water heretofore and hereafter acquired by the county for park or recreational purposes and placed under the jurisdiction of the committee and includes parks on county land managed under Wis. Stat. § 28.

T. "Person" includes any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, and association of persons, both singular and plural.

U. "Primitive campground" means a campground or area with minimal or no improvements, where camping may be permitted, accessible by hiking or by watercraft.

V. "Special use area and wayside" includes all lands and waters, other than parks, heretofore and hereafter acquired by the county for special recreational or other purposes.

W. "Unorganized group" means a camping party composed of a group of five or less persons.

X. "Trail, All-Terrain Vehicle" shall be defined pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code NR 64.02(3).

Y. "Trail, Hybrid (Troute)" shall be defined pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code NR 64.02(9m).

Z. "Utility-Terrain Vehicle" shall be defined pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 23.33 (1)(ng).

AA. "Winter season" means the period from December 1 to April 1 annually.

BB. "Watercraft" includes boats, jet skis, canoes, kayaks and inflatable rafts exceeding 6 feet in length. (Ord. 162-8, Secs. 1. & 2., 2018; Ord. 157-48, Secs. 1. & 2., 2014; Ord. 145-89, Secs. 1&2, 2002; Ord. 145-30, 2001; Ord.142-48 Sec.3, 1999; Ord. 134-03 Sec.44, 1990; Ord. 132-75 Secs.1&2, 1989, Ord. 129-81 Sec.2, 1986; Ord. 128-26 Sec.1, 1984; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.010 Designation of park, special use area and wayside boundaries and lands subject to this chapter.

A. The boundaries of all parks, special use areas and waysides shall be designated by the board which shall maintain a legal description of each such parcel in the department office.

B. The parks subject to this chapter are:

1. Lake Altoona Park;
2. L. L. Phillips Park;
3. Big Falls Park;
4. Harstad Park;
5. Lake Eau Claire Park;
6. Coon Fork Park;
7. Lowes Creek Park.

C. The special use areas subject to this chapter are:

1. Tower Ridge Recreation Area;
2. Lion's Club Youth Pond Area;
3. Eau Claire National Rifle Club Range;
4. Countywide Snowmobile Trail;
5. Fairchild All-Terrain Vehicle Trail/Route Corridor;
6. Channey Road Hybrid Trail from ATV trail intersection #19 to ATV trail intersection #15;
7. Hamilton Falls River Hybrid Trail in T26N, R5W, and T27N, R5W designated by Hybrid Trail Signs;
8. Forest Road 3 Hybrid Trail from CTH H to ATV trail intersection #16;
9. County forest ATV trail system as shown on ATV trail map maintained by the parks and forest office.

10. Evergreen Ski Trail;
 11. Guettinger Woods and Wildlife Area;
 12. Connector County Forest Road Snowmobile Route;
 13. Big Falls Special Use Area.
- D. The waysides subject to this chapter are:
1. Donald L. Eisberner Memorial Forest and Canoe Landing;
 2. Lake Eau Claire South Access No. 1;
 3. Lake Eau Claire North Access No. 1;
 4. Lake Eau Claire North Access No. 2;
 5. Lake Altoona Dam Wayside;
 6. Lake Eau Claire South Access No. 2;
 7. "K" Bridge Wayside;
 8. Hamilton Falls Wayside and Canoe Landing;
 9. Lake Eau Claire North Beach;
 10. Lake Eau Claire Public Outlots;
 11. Lake Altoona East Access (Highline Boat Landing);
 12. American Legion Canoe Landing;
 13. Trouble Water Bridge Canoe Landing;
 14. Computer #026-1046-02, PIN #18026-2-270518-110-0001, formerly N860 CTH "G";
 15. Computer #002-1037-04. PIN #18002-2-260518-430-0003, formerly E23720 Whippoorwill Private Road;
 16. Computer #002-1313-03, PIN #18002-2-260603-240-2010, formerly S4671 ND Place;
 17. Computer #020-1214-01, PIN #18020-2-270819-210-2008, formerly 6589 North Shore Drive;
 18. Computer #020-1133-07, PIN #18020-2-270914-420-0004, formerly 606 Rork Court;
 19. Computer #024-2007-02, PIN #18024-2-270820-240-2010, formerly 7848 Elayne Drive;
 20. Computer #024-2135-09, PIN #18024-2-27820-220-2036, formerly 7440 Lakeview Drive;
 21. Computer #022-1105-06-010, PIN#18022-2-271034-002-0006, formerly 2507 Silvermine Drive;
 22. Computer #004-1119-07, PIN #18004-2-271036-003-0003, formerly W2976 Jopke Road;
 23. Computer #004-1039-05, PIN #18004-2-261010-120-0003, formerly W4505 STH "85";
 24. Computer #004-1017-05, PIN #18004-2-261003-001-0002, formerly W4464 & W4494 Porterville Road;
 25. Computer #004-1131-02, PIN #18004-2-261003-001-2000, formerly W4261 Porterville Road;
 26. Computer #004-1130-05, PIN #18004-2-261003-110-2002, formerly W4133 Porterville Road. (Ord. 162-8, Sec. 3, 2018; Ord. 156-19, Sec. 1, 2012; Ord. 149-045, Sec. 1 2005; Ord. 147-98, 2004; Ord. 0147-32, 2003; Ord. 146-41, Sec. 5, 2002; Ord. 143-114, Sec. 1, 2000; Ord.140-34, Sec.2, 1996; Ord. 136-111, Sec. 5, 1993; Ord. 136-79, 1992; Ord. 132-75 Sec.3, 1989; Ord. 128-26 Sec.2, 3, 1984; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.020 Designation of county forest. All county-owned lands now held or hereafter acquired for forestry purposes, established and designated as county forest shall be shown on an official county forest map to be maintained in the department office and shall be entered as county forest lands pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 28.11(4). In addition thereto, the official county forest map shall designate the boundaries of a well-blocked county forest. It is the intent of the board to acquire lands within, or bordering, the county forest boundaries, as they become available and upon a determination by the committee that county ownership of the land is beneficial to the residents of Eau Claire County and of the state. (Ord. 154-2, 2010, Sec. 36; Ord. 128-75 Sec.1, 1985; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.030 Park use regulations.

A. All parks, special use areas and waysides shall be open to the public throughout the year during the hours between 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. each day. No person may enter or be on such lands outside of those hours except for campers in or those who are in route to designated campgrounds, persons transporting watercraft to and from designated boat landings or those in attendance at functions being held at the Lake Eau Claire clubhouses, for which reservations have been obtained. The Lake Eau Claire clubhouses and park premises shall, under all circumstances, be vacated no later than 12:00 midnight. For purposes of this subsection, the time shall be computed under Wis. Stat. §§ 175.09 and 175.095, whichever is applicable.

B. The facilities in all parks, special use areas and waysides shall be maintained by the department during the camping season, as defined at 16.30.005 E. Outside of that season the only facilities that will be maintained by the department shall be access roads to winter recreation areas and those of the Tower Ridge, Lowes Creek, Coon Fork, and Evergreen Ski Areas and the Countywide Snowmobile Trail.

C. Camping and the use of camping facilities shall be in accord with 16.30.300.

D. It shall be unlawful to use or possess any glass containers in Big Falls Park or Tower Ridge Recreation Area excluding the Chalet.

E. No refunds shall be given for camping, shelter, or clubhouse reservations except as designated under 16.30.040 C.

F. The park season for Lake Altoona Park shall be May 15 through October 15. The park season for Lake Eau Claire Park shall be May 15 through October 15. (Ord. 156-23, Sec. 1, 2012; Ord. 146-41, Sec. 6, 2002; Ord.141-28, Sec.1, 1997; Ord.140-45, 1996; Ord. 136-111, Sec.6,7,8, 1993; Ord. 128-26 Sec.4, 5, 6, 1984; Ord. 126-52 Sec.2, 1982; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.040 Fees and charges.

A. Fee Administration. It is unlawful for any person to use any facility, shelter or area for which a fee or charge has been established by ordinance without payment of the fee or charge or for failure to properly display a recreation entrance pass on the inside lower left hand corner of the vehicle windshield. Annual passes must be adhered upon receipt to the vehicle windshield only with the pass adhesive and will not be considered valid if not adhered or if adhered with tape or other methods. Motorcycles shall have the annual pass affixed to the windshield or, if no windshield, to a front fork. The committee on parks and forest or parks and forest director, if time does not allow for committee action, shall have authorization to waive vehicle entrance fees for volunteers performing work or training that would benefit the citizens of Eau Claire County.

B. Fees. The following fees shall be charged, unless otherwise specified:

General Usage Fees

Recreation Area Entrance Fee per motor vehicle	\$5.00 daily or \$30.00 annually
Additional Annual Entrance Stickers	\$10.00 for same household
Required at boat launches, county parks, Evergreen ski trail, Lake Eau Claire beach and Tower Ridge Recreation area (from April 1 to December 1) including disc golf area. Buses for non-school related functions \$6.00 daily fee, buses for school related functions exempt from fees. A registered camper shall be granted up to two free vehicle passes per site for the duration of the camping.	
Replacement Annual Entrance Sticker	\$10.00
Boat Dealers/commercial Watercraft launch permit	\$50.00/annually
Rental of tree planting machine	\$20.00/1,000 trees planted with \$40.00 minimum charge.
Permit for Driveway off County Forest Roads	\$35.00
Special Event Participation Fee	\$3.00 per person \$2.00 per person for nonprofit and government organization events
Special Transportation Permit	\$30.00
Lion's Group Camp	\$40/night with a maximum of 6 nights

Coon Fork County Park Fees

Picnic Shelter	\$20.00/reservation, with a maximum of 10 vehicle passes issued per reservation.
Camping	\$17.00/night off lake \$85.00/week off lake \$20.00/night on lake \$100.00/week on lake (7 nights for price of 5) \$10.00/night--off season nonelectrical \$15.00/night--off season electrical
Section D. Campsites with 50 amp electric, water	\$27.00/night \$145/week
Camping Electricity	\$ 5.00/night (no discount for week long camping.)
Campground Reservation	\$10.00
Reservation transfer	\$ 5.00
Paddle boat, canoe and row boat rental	\$ 6.00/hour
Sewage Dumping Station	\$10.00/use for non-registered campers or travelers
Firewood Sold in Campgrounds	\$ 6.00/bundle

Harstad County Park Fees

Camping	\$ 15.00/night \$ 75.00/week
Picnic Shelter	\$ 10.00/night—off season \$ 25.00/reservation

Lake Altoona County Park Fees

Clubhouse	\$115.00/reservation Monday – Thursday \$165.00/reservation on Friday, Saturday, Sunday & holidays.
Picnic Shelter (with electricity)	\$80.00
Reservation Changes-Clubhouse And Picnic Shelter	\$10.00

Lake Eau Claire County Park Fees

Clubhouse	\$60.00/reservation Monday - Thursday and \$90.00/reservation Friday, Saturday, Sunday & holidays plus \$25.00/hour for each hour after five hours. An additional \$25.00/hour charge for reservations extending between 11:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
Clubhouse Porch	\$45.00/reservation plus \$5.00/hour for each hour after five hours.
Alcohol Surcharge for Clubhouse and Porch Reservations	\$25.00 surcharge shall be charged for each reservation when alcoholic beverages are served.
Picnic Shelters with electricity Small	\$25.00/reservation plus \$5.00/hour for each hour after five hours.
Large	\$50.00 for first 5 hours plus \$10.00/hr. thereafter.
Picnic Shelter with grilling pit	\$45.00/reservation plus \$10.00/hour for each hour after five hours.

Lowes Creek Park

Picnic Shelter	\$20.00 per day/reservation
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Tower Ridge Recreation Area Fees

Vehicle Pass (winter use) vehicles	\$6.00/day or \$60.00 seasonal fee for first vehicle and \$40.00 per vehicle for additional registered to same household.
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All Parks Winter Season Pass	\$ 75.00 seasonal fee for first vehicle and \$50.00 per vehicle for additional vehicles
Chalet April 1 to November 30	\$ 90/day Monday–Thursday \$120/day Friday –Sunday and holidays (one reservation per weekend) \$200 key deposit \$ 70 cleaning deposit
Alcohol Surcharge	\$ 25 surcharge shall be charged for each reservation when alcoholic beverages are served.
Disc golf vendor	\$25.00 per vendor per event.

Miscellaneous Firewood Permit \$25.00

C. Reservation fee policy. The clubhouse and shelter reservation fees shall be required in advance. An 80% refund will be granted if a reservation is canceled 60 days or more in advance of the reservation, a 50% refund for 30-59 days in advance, and no refund for cancellation of less than 30 days unless the reservation period is rebooked by another party resulting in a 50% refund. Groups of 250 or more are required to reserve the clubhouse in addition to reserving picnic shelters. Picnic shelters have a maximum capacity of 100 people. A camping reservation refund will be granted if cancelled at least 14 days prior to the first night of the camping period; however, the reservation fee will be retained. (Ord. 161-27, Sec. 7, 2017; Ord. 160-20, Sec. 1, 2016; Ord. 158-3, Sec. 1-2, 2014; Ord. 156-25, Sec. 10, 2012; Ord. 155-29, Sec. 1, 2011; Ord. 155-28, Sec. 1, 2011; Ord. 155-22, Sec.18, 2011; Ord. 154-17, Sec. 9, 2010; Ord. 154-6, Sec. 1, 2010; Ord. 153-23, Sec. 11, 2009; Ord 153-16, Sec. 1, 2009; Ord 152-50, Sec. 1, 2009; Ord. 152-41, Sec. 1, 2008; Ord. 152-30, Sec. 14, 2008; Ord. 151-44, Sec. 1, 2008; Ord. 151-32, Sec. 22, 2007; Ord. 150-28, Sec. 14, 2006; Ord. 150-21, Sec. 1, 2006; Ord 149-050, Sec. 1, 2005; Ord. 149-051, Sec 1, 2005; Ord. 149-038 Sec. 9, 2005; Ord. 149-023; Sec. 1, 2005; Ord. 148-58, 2004; Ord. 148-102, Sec. 17, 2004; Ord. 148-02, 2004; Ord. 147-77, 2003; Ord. 147-60, 2003; Ord. 147-09, 2003; Ord. 146-48, 2002; Ord. 146-13, 2002; Ord. 146-12, 2002; Ord. 145-89; Sec. 3, 2002; Ord. 145-79, 2001; Ord. 145-61, 2001; Ord. 144-55, 2000; Ord. 143-69, 1999; Ord.142-53; Ord.141-110, 1998; Ord.141-79; Ord.141-38, Sec.2, 1997; Ord.140-76; Ord.140-34, Sec.3-4, 1996; Ord. 139-72, 1995; Ord.38-69; Ord. 137-101, 1994; Ord. 136-62, 1992; Ord. 135-48; Ord. 134-91, Sec.1, 1991; Ord.135-18 Sec.1, 1991; Ord. 134-74, 1991; Ord. 134-52, 1990; Ord. 133-58, Ord. 132-95 Sec.1, 1989; Ord. 131-96 Sec.1, Ord. 131-74 Sec.1, 1988; Ord. 131-16 Sec.9, 1987; Ord. 128-64 Sec.1, 1984; Ord. 126-59 Sec.3, 1983; Ord. 81-82/317 Sec.3, 1981; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981;).

16.30.050 Emergency rulemaking authority. In the event of a natural or manmade disaster or emergency which necessitates, in the public interest, that all or a part of any land subject to this chapter be closed or restricted to public access the committee shall have the power to close such lands or restrict their use or provide for emergency timber sales exempted from 2.04.475 B. 3. Any actions under this section shall be subject to board review and approval at its next scheduled meeting. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.060 Permit issuance. All permits which are issued by the parks and forest director or other authorized department personnel shall be subject to all of the provisions of the code of general ordinances. (Ord.140-34, Sec.5, 1996; Ord. 131-16 Sec.10, 1987; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.070 Installation, public utilities and private construction. The location of all public and private utilities, structures, lines and pipes within any park, wayside or special use area shall be subject to the control of the committee, and their construction, erection, repair, or relocation shall be undertaken only after written consent thereto is received from the committee and the board. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.080 Peddling and soliciting. It is unlawful for any person to peddle or solicit business of any nature, to distribute handbills or other advertising matter, or to post signs, posters, or decorations on any lands or structures under the jurisdiction of the committee, for any purposes whatsoever, unless first authorized by the committee or its duly authorized agent. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.090 Personal conduct.

A. It is unlawful for any person to engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct under circumstances in which such conduct tends to cause or provoke a disturbance. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981; Ord. 134-91 Sec.1, 1991).

16.30.100 Property of others. It is unlawful for any person to disturb, destroy, vandalize, damage, or remove the property or personal effects of others in parks, waysides, or special use areas. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.120 Destruction and entry.

A. Destruction, Defacement or Removal. It is unlawful for any person to disturb, vandalize, damage, deface, remove, or destroy any trees, shrubs, plants, rock, gravel, sand, dirt, or other natural material, to carve, paint or mark, on any rocks, archeological or geological features, signs, walls or structures, to drive nails into trees, or to move, injure, or deface in any manner any structure, including buildings, signs, fences, tables, or other county property except with the approval of the committee. This prohibition shall not include the picking of edible fruits, nuts and fungi.

B. Trespass and Tampering. It is unlawful for any person to enter any buildings, installation, or area which may be under construction, locked or closed to public use and/or to tamper with, use or damage any water control structure, dam or culvert, or to enter or be upon any building, installation, or area after the posted closing time, or before the posted opening time, or contrary to other posted notices in any park, wayside, or special use area. (Ord.142-84 Sec.4, 1999; Ord.141-38 Sec.3; Ord.141-08 Sec.1, 1997; Ord.140-34 Sec.6-7, 1996; Ord.80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.130 Cleaning and refuse.

A. Washing. The washing of cars, persons, pets, cooking utensils or clothing, as well as the cleaning of fish and game, is prohibited in all of the lakes and streams, or any picnic grounds, playgrounds, recreation areas, boat landings, parking lots or roadways; or within 50 feet of any pump, fountain, or drinking water outlet in any park, wayside or special use area.

B. Refuse.

1. It is unlawful for any person to dispose of any garbage, sewage, bottles, cans, paper, or other waste material, in any manner except by placing the same in receptacles provided for such purposes, or to dump any refuse in any park, wayside or special use area.

2. Charcoal residue shall not be discarded onto any grounds, nor into any containers other than those designated for such purpose.

3. It is unlawful for any person to dispose of any personal household garbage in any county refuse container in any park, wayside, or special use area. (Ord.141-38 Sec.4, 1997; Ord.136-111 Sec.9, 1993; Ord.80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.140 Vehicular traffic.

A. No person shall operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of 10 mph or contrary to official traffic signs in any park, wayside, or special use area.

B. No person shall operate any vehicle in any park, wayside or special use area in a manner contrary to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 346.62.

C. It is unlawful to operate or park any vehicle on other than established roads and parking areas. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, ski trails, hiking trails, snowmobile trails, beach areas, playgrounds and picnic areas within the lands subject to the committee's jurisdiction. Bicycles shall be allowed on the Lowes Creek Park Ski Trail year round providing there is minimal impact on the ski trail with the parks & forest director or designee having authority to close the trails to bicycles if deemed necessary.

D. By order of the town board of Bridge Creek, except for electric trolling motors, it is unlawful for any person to operate any motor-driven boat on Coon Fork Lake in accord with Wis. Stat. § 30.77.

E. It is unlawful to operate any snowmobile or other snow vehicle in any area or upon any trail in any park, wayside or special use area, except in areas or upon trails which have been specifically posted by the department for utilization of snowmobiles or other snow vehicles. Snowmobiling is not allowed on any county authorized snowmobile trails when trails are closed for use or contrary to posted notice.

F. It is unlawful to operate any unlicensed motor bicycle or motor vehicle, as defined at Wis. Stat. § 340.01, in any park, wayside or special use area or for any person to operate a motorcycle without a valid operator's permit, except that all-terrain vehicles and utility-terrain vehicles registered with the State of Wisconsin may operate on trails or routes so designated by county board action.

G. That all state-funded ATV trails/routes in the county shall be closed annually from March 15 to May 15, and all state-funded UTV trails/routes in the county shall be closed from December 1 to May 15. (Ord. 161-30, Sec. 4, 2017; Ord. 158-28, Sec. 1, 2015; Ord. 157-48, Sec. 3, 2014; Ord. 154-2, Sec. 37, 2010; Ord. 149-55, 2006; Ord. 143-114, Sec. 2, 2000; Ord. 142-84 Sec. 5, 1999; Ord. 136-111 Sec. 10-12, 1993; Ord. 133-35 Sec. 1, Ord. 132-75 Sec. 4, 1989, Ord. 128-76 Sec. 1, 1985; Ord. 128-26 Sec. 7, 1984; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec. 2 (part), 1981).

16.30.150 Parking of vehicles and watercraft. It is unlawful for any person to park, stop, or leave standing whether attended or unattended, any vehicle or watercraft in any manner which is:

A. Blocking, obstructing or limiting the use of any road, trail, parking lot, boat landing, waterway or winter sport facility; or

B. Outside of any area provided for such purpose; or

C. Contrary to posted notice; or

D. In any park area between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and the following 6:00 a.m., except that vehicles or watercraft owned by registered campers residing in adjacent campgrounds and vehicles at designated boat landings used to transport watercraft are permitted at any time.

E. Parking in designated handicap stall without proper permit.
(Ord. 136-111 Sec. 13, 1993; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec. 2 (part), 1981)

16.30.160 Fires. It is unlawful within any park, wayside or special use area for any person to start, tend or maintain any fire or to burn any refuse, except at designated fireplaces, fire rings or grills, unless otherwise posted and it is also unlawful for any person to leave unattended or abandon any fire, to discard any matches, cigarettes, cigars, pipe ashes or embers without first extinguishing

them. It is unlawful to have a bonfire or campfire in any upright cooking grill. (Ord.131-16 Sec.11, 1987; Ord.80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.170 Fireworks, rockets, explosive devices. It is unlawful for any person to possess, fire, discharge, explode or set off any squib, cracker or other explosive or pyrotechnic device containing powder or other combustible or explosive material within the boundaries of any park, wayside or special use areas, except by permission of the committee or its duly authorized agent. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.180 Firearms.

A. It is unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession or under his or her control in any park, wayside or special use area any firearm or airgun as defined in Wis. Stat. § 939.22(2) unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, or any bow, crossbow or slingshot, unless it is unstrung and enclosed in a carrying case except as otherwise allowed by Wis. Stat. § 941.23. This prohibition shall not apply to the Donald L. Eisberner Memorial Forest and Canoe Landing, Hamilton Falls Wayside and Canoe Landing, and The Countywide Snowmobile Trail, Tower Ridge and Evergreen Ski Areas or the Eau Claire National Rifle Club Range during established state hunting seasons. Discharge of firearms at Tower Ridge at any time after the deer rifle season is prohibited.

B. The department shall post and close to skiing the Tower Ridge and Evergreen Ski trails during the gun deer hunting season, with the exception that skiing at Tower Ridge shall be allowed from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Ord. 155-13, Sec. 8, 2011; Ord. 146-41, Sec. 7, 2002; Ord. 145-31, 2001; Ord.141-08, Sec.2, 1997; Ord.140-34, Sec.8, 1996; Ord. 136-11, Secs.14-15, 1993; Ord. 128-26 Sec.8, 1984; Ord. 81-82/406 Sec.4, 1982; Ord. 81-82/308 Sec.1, 1981; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.190 Pets. It is unlawful for any person to allow pet animals to enter any public building, bathing beach, picnic ground or playground within any park, wayside or special use area, or to allow them to run at large at any time in parks, waysides or special use areas, or otherwise contrary to posting. Subject to the conditions expressed such animals shall be permitted upon lands under the control of the committee, provided that they are kept on a leash no longer than 8 feet and under the owner's control at all times. Persons shall not allow their pet animals to deprive or disrupt the enjoyment or use of any area by other persons. Pets are not allowed on any designated cross-country ski and snowmobile trails during the winter season. (Ord.142-84 Sec. 6, 1999; Ord. 136-111, Sec.16; Ord. 128-26 Sec.9, 1984; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.200 Horses. It is unlawful for any person to ride or possess a horse in any park, wayside or special use area except in designated places. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.210 Hunting and trapping. It is unlawful for any person to take, catch, kill, hunt, trap, pursue, or otherwise capture any wild animals or birds in any park, wayside or special use area, with the express exception that hunting or trapping shall be allowed during established state seasons at the Donald L. Eisberner Memorial Forest and Canoe Landing, Hamilton Falls Wayside, Evergreen Ski Areas, Countywide Snowmobile Trail and Big Falls Special Use Area except trapping at Tower Ridge. Trapping on county forest land lying East of County Trunk L and North of County Trunk QQ, including Tower Ridge Recreation Area will be allowed from November 1, through December 15 and in that area body grip traps must be 50% or more submerged in water or at least 5 feet above the surface of the ground or snow. (Ord. 156-19, Sec. 2, 2012; Ord. 151-48, Sec. 1, 2008; Ord. 136-111, Sec.17; Ord. 128-26 Sec.10, 1984; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.220 Athletics. It is unlawful for any person to play or practice baseball, golf, tennis, archery or other games or sports upon or within any park, wayside or special use area, except upon ballfields, tennis courts, archery ranges or appropriate athletic grounds or driving ranges established by the committee, unless such activity in the opinion of the authorized agent does not create any use problems for other purposes for which the area is provided. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.230 Boundary buoy.

A. It is unlawful to swim beyond, disturb, vandalize or damage a bathing beach boundary buoy, dam marker buoy or other markers or buoys in any swimming area, adjacent to any dam, or in any other such marked area in any park, wayside or special use area.

B. It is unlawful to use any boat or jet ski within 100 feet of the designated swimming area at Lake Altoona Park. No watercraft are allowed inside designated swim areas. (Ord.142-84 Sec.7, 1999; Ord.140-34, Sec.9, 1996; Ord. 137-109, Sec. 6, 1994; Ord. 136-111, Sec.18 1993; Ord. 131-16 Sec.12, 1987; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.240 Swimming regulations. Designated sites shall be maintained at Lake Altoona Park, Coon Fork Lake Park and upon the north shore of Lake Eau Claire for public swimming. It is unlawful for any person to:

A. Swim, wade or bathe within 50 feet of any boat landing; or

B. Use or possess any glass containers on designated beach sites.

C. Swim, wade, or bathe at any designated swimming site 15 minutes after sundown.

D. The use of paddles and oars is prohibited inside designated swim areas. (Ord.142-84 Sec.8, 1999; Ord.140-34, Sec.10-11, 1996; Ord. 131-26 Secs.1-3, 1987; Ord. 128-26 Sec.11, 1984; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.250 Beach athletics. Except in locations designated for such purposes by the department, it is unlawful for any person to engage in any athletic game or sport or in any activity upon any beach or in the water when, in the opinion of the authorized agent in charge, injury or inconvenience to others shall result therefrom. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.260 Bathing dress. It is unlawful for any person to change clothing except in a beachhouse or other enclosed place. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

16.30.300 Campground regulations.

A. Permitted Camping. During the camping season, camping shall be allowed only at designated campsites in the campgrounds at Coon Fork Lake and Harstad parks.

B. Camping Limit. No person shall camp and no camping unit shall remain in a campground for a period in excess of fourteen nights in succession. Thereafter, the camping unit must be removed from the property for at least one night before the camping party is eligible to return.

C. Campsite Occupancy. It is unlawful for more than one camping party to occupy a single campsite, except that up to 10 members of a juvenile group and up to 2 adult chaperones may occupy a campsite, using any number of tents on properties which do not have a designated group

campground area. In loop D campsite occupancy will be restricted to only independent camping units. Not more than one recreational trailer, motor home, or pickup camper may occupy a campsite. Campsite occupancy is not required at any specific time during the registration period. Campsites designated as barrier free will be held for occupancy by handicapped individuals until all other sites are sold at which time the barrier free sites will be available on a first-come first-serve basis to anyone.

D. Campsite Changes. No registered camping party shall move from its assigned campsite to another campsite in a designated campground without prior approval of the ranger.

E. Campsite Registration. Campers shall register with the park ranger before setting up camp at Coon Fork Lake and Harstad park unless otherwise posted. Registration for a campsite must be made by a member of the camping party. One person per campsite may register for a maximum of two sites. Under no circumstances will refunds be granted.

F. Camping Permit Expiration. All camping permits expire at 3:00 p.m. on the last day of the permit period.

G. Campsite Entry Hours. No camping party shall set up or take down its camping unit between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and the following 6:00 a.m. except with authorization of the park ranger or in case of an emergency.

H. Campsite Parking. No person may park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each campsite. No person may park more than 2 motor vehicles, except that as many as 5 motorcycles or 3 motorcycles and 1 car or truck are permitted in the parking area of any campsite.

I. Campsite Use. Except for campground reservations available for some campsites at Coon Fork Park, campsite use shall be on a first-come first-serve basis.

J. Camping Violations. The violation of any law or county ordinance by any member of a camping party shall constitute cause for revocation of the camping permit for the campsite in question.

K. Campground Hours. With the exception of registered campers, no person shall be allowed in the campground areas above designated between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and the following 6:00 a.m. except in case of an emergency.

L. Campground Reservations. Campground reservations are available for some select campsites at Coon Fork Park. The department will provide applications for reserving campsites. Any falsification or inaccuracy of the application will subject the applicant and camping party to rejection from the park. (Ord. 161-30, Sec. 5, 2017; Ord. 151-47, Sec. 1, 2008; Ord. 145-89, Sec. 4, 2002; Ord. 141-38, Sec. 5, 1997; Ord. 140-34, Sec. 12, 1996; Ord. 136-111, Secs. 19-22, 1993; Ord. 128-26 Secs. 12-16, 1984; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec. 2(part), 1981).

16.30.500 County forest law administration. Upon approval of applications by the board for entry of lands under Wis. Stat. § 28.11(4), the county clerk shall, after verifying county ownership of the listed lands, execute the applications and forward them to the DNR within the prescribed time limits for each year's applications. Withdrawal of lands so entered shall be perfected in the manner prescribed by Wis. Stat. § 28.11(11), upon adoption of a resolution via a 2/3 vote of the membership of the board. No deed to any county forest land shall be issued prior to recording by the county of an order of withdrawal with the register of deeds. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec. 2 (part), 1981).

16.30.510 Forest financing. All allotments from the DNR to the county under Wis. Stat. § 28.11(8)(b), for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest, shall be deposited in the segregated state forest aid fund by the county treasurer. (Ord. 80-81/457 Sec. 2, (part), 1981).

16.30.520 County forest use regulations.

A. Recreational Use.

1. 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.

2. The dumping of rubbish, debris, dirt, stone, or any other materials shall be prohibited on all county forest lands. Visitors, including berry pickers, hunters, fishermen and tourists are forbidden to leave litter anywhere in the forest or in its lakes or streams. It shall be unlawful to dispose of any personal household garbage in any department refuse receptacle on county forest land.

3. It is unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession or under his or her control in any county forest any firearm or airgun as defined in Wis. Stat. § 939.22(2), or any bow, crossbow or slingshot in contravention of state law.

4. It is unlawful to construct, occupy or use any elevated scaffold or other elevated device on county forest lands other than portable tree stands or to cause damage to trees on county forest lands by the placement, erection or removal of tree stands or other means of gaining access to trees. Portable tree stands shall be removed at the end of each day's hunting hours. Any structure found to be in violation of this section shall be subject to confiscation and disposal by the county.

5. It is unlawful to operate a vehicle for recreational use or other purposes in such a manner as to cause soil erosion, or other damage to county forest.

6. It is unlawful to operate any unauthorized motor vehicle or bicycle on roads or trails which are gated, beamed, or posted to prohibit travel.

7. It is unlawful for any person to abandon or leave any fires unattended, to discard any matches, cigarettes, cigars, pipe ashes, or any embers without first extinguishing them.

8. It is unlawful for any person to start or to possess any fires on a DNR designated red flag day including, but not limited to, campfires, use of cooking grills, smoking or cigarettes or pipe in the open. This prohibition includes all county owned land.

9. It is unlawful to cross-country ski or operate sled dogs on any authorized snowmobile trail on county land.

10. It is unlawful to operate any motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, utility-terrain vehicle, or any unlicensed motor vehicle on county forest land, except upon areas so designated by the county.

11. It is unlawful for any person to disturb, vandalize, damage, deface, remove, cut, or destroy any trees, shrubs, plants, rock, gravel, sand, dirt, or other natural material, to carve, paint or mark on any rocks, archeological or geological features, signs, walls, or structures, to drive nails into trees, or to move, injure, or deface in any manner any structures including buildings, signs, fences, tables, or other county property except with the approval of the committee or designee. This prohibition shall not include the picking of edible fruits, nuts, and fungi.

12. The department may authorize by permit persons with physical disabilities to use a motorized vehicle as a mode of personal conveyance. A permit is not required for disabled persons using a motorized wheel chair.

13. On joint use trails where both all terrain vehicle (ATV) use and snowmobile use are allowed simultaneously, whenever the trails are closed to snowmobile use due to insufficient snow depth, the same trails shall also be closed to all terrain vehicle (ATV) use.

14. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm at any time in the sand and gravel pit areas (approximately six acres of county forest land) referenced in the Order for Judgement in Case No. 07CV550, in the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 19, T27N, R7W (near the Big Falls South Forest Road entrance), and along both sides of the Big Falls South Forest Road from CTH K to the Big Falls south park boundary within a distance of 50 (fifty) feet either side of the centerline of the road, and that said areas shall be signed accordingly per the Order for Judgement.

D. Timber Cutting.

1. Cultural cuttings shall include thinnings, release cuttings, sanitation cuttings and improvement cuttings to remove trees of inferior species, form, or condition for the purpose of stand improvement. All cultural cuttings in the county forest shall be approved by the committee, in accordance with the county forest management plan, and in cooperation with the staff of the DNR. Materials cut in such operations by county crews may be used by parks and forest department or given to other county agencies for their use, or sold, as the committee shall determine. When given, or sold, to other public agencies, the latter shall pay the county a sum not less than prevailing average stumpage rates.

2. Salvage cuttings shall include the cutting of timber damaged by fire, storm, insect or disease. Salvage cutting shall be done under the procedure specified for cultural cutting or for commercial cutting, as the committee may decide.

3. Commercial cuttings shall include all cuttings where stumpage is sold under contract in which the primary objective of the cutting is the marketing of the timber products, including logs, ties, poles, posts, pulpwood, piling, Christmas trees and boughs, or other forest products.

a. Timber sales shall be managed in accord with 2.04.475 B. 3.

b. Contract specifications for each cutting operation pertaining to payment and financial responsibility of the bidder shall be determined by the committee in consultation with the parks and forest director and the DNR forester.

c. After approval of any sales by the committee, a notice of intention to cut shall be prepared under Wis. Stat. § 28.11(6)(b)(3), and DNR rules. Cutting operations shall not be started until cutting notice approval is received by the DNR.

d. All timber sales shall conform with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 28.11, and shall follow the procedure as provided for in the DNR Timber Sales Handbook 2461.

e. Payment for forest products shall be made promptly after billing. Prepayment and other payment arrangements may be arranged with the approval of the committee.

E. Access to landlocked private land. It is unlawful for any person to cross county forest land to access landlocked private land without a county forest access permit. The permit fee is \$500 for 10 years. (161-30, Sec. 6, 2017; Ord. 160-006, Sec. 1, 2016; Ord. 158-3, Sec. 2, 2014; Ord. 157-48, Sec. 4, 2014; Ord. 152-4, Sec. 38 & 39, 2010; Ord. 153-33, Sec. 1, 2010; Ord. 153-32, Sec. 1, 2010; Ord. 152-30, Sec. 15, 2008; Ord. 142-84 Sec.9, 1999; Ord. 141-38, Sec.6, 1997; Ord. 140-34, Sec.12-15, 1996; Ord. 136-111, Sec. 23-26, 1993; Ord. 133-35, Sec.2, 1989; Ord. 131-16 Sec.13, 1987; Ord. 128-26 Sec.17, 18, 1984.

16.30.530 Chemical pesticide use restrictions

A. The aerial application of chemical pesticides on any lands designated as county parks, waysides, special use areas or forest may be authorized only by the committee on parks and forest. (Ord. 158-13, Sec. 2, 2014)

16.30.600 Enforcement against violations.

A. Citation Enforcement of Ordinances. Department personnel so authorized at 1.50.030 B. may issue citations for violations of this chapter committed in their presence or for which they have reasonable cause to believe have been committed and they shall, at all times, have the right to enter upon the premises of any county park, wayside or special use area, or forest, inclusive of such portion of the grounds, buildings, structures or enclosures thereof which may be leased or set aside for private or exclusive use of any individual or group use thereof under the provisions of this chapter and any rules and regulations enacted hereunder. In so entering upon the premises above described, department personnel may use reasonable and necessary force to protect and promote the county's land and resources and the public peace. Department personnel authorized to issue citations under this chapter may issue a violation notice to recover the cost of any and all posted fees in accordance with a violation notice fee schedule as approved by the committee.

B. Corporation Counsel Duties. It shall be the responsibility of the corporation counsel to prosecute all civil violations, which arise under this chapter. Whenever evidence of unlawful cutting on county forest lands is discovered, the department shall recommend to the corporation counsel that a civil suit should be brought to recover damages as provided by Wis. Stat. § 26.09. Similarly, civil suits shall be brought against parties responsible for forest fire damage under Wis. Stat. § 26.21.

C. Criminal Action. Whenever an arrest has been made for unlawful cutting on county forest lands the district attorney shall take appropriate action under Wis. Stat. ch. 26.

D. Seizure. Whenever forest products are found and are known to have been unlawfully severed from county forest lands, the sheriff shall on satisfactory evidence seize such materials pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 26.06, for such use by the county as the board may determine.

E. Penalties. Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$250.00 together with costs of action, and in default of payment thereof, to imprisonment in the county jail until such forfeiture and costs be paid, but not for more than 30 days, or until otherwise discharged pursuant to law. (Ord. 146-21, 2002; Ord. 137-109, Sec. 7, 1994; Ord. 80-81/457 Sec.2 (part), 1981).

Chapter 16.33

EXPOSITION CENTER RENTAL POLICY

Sections:

<u>16.33.001</u>	Purpose.
<u>16.33.005</u>	Definitions.
<u>16.33.007</u>	Administration and promotion.
<u>16.33.015</u>	Rental rates for nonprofit and government organizations
<u>16.33.020</u>	Rental rates for private, other organizations and individuals.
<u>16.33.025</u>	Utility services.
<u>16.33.030</u>	Payment of rent and deposits.
<u>16.33.060</u>	Lease agreements--Form and execution.
<u>16.33.100</u>	Use of alcoholic beverages.

16.33.001 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter shall be to establish a uniform policy for the rental of facilities located at the Eau Claire County Exposition Center. (Ord.141.04, Sec.3, 1997; Ord. 127-43 Sec.1(part), 1983).

16.33.005 Definitions.

A. "Dry storage" means the placement, for purposes of protection from the elements, of items of personal property.

B. "Nonprofit organizations" means an organization described in I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code which is exempt from federal income tax under I.R.C.§ 501(a) of said code. (Ord. 132-92 Sec.1, 1989, Ord. 127-43 Sec.1(part), 1983).

16.33.007 Administration and promotion.

A. The parks and forest department under the auspices of the county administrator shall administer this chapter. (Ord. 16-13, Sec. 3; Ord. 143-106, Sec. 3,2000; Ord.142-26 Sec.2, 1998; Ord.141.04 Sec.4, 1997; Ord.134-03 Sec.45, 1990; Ord.132-92 Sec.2, 1989, Ord. 127-43 Sec.1(part), 1983).

16.33.015 Rental rates for nonprofit and government organizations.

A. Nonprofit and government organizations shall be allowed a 20% discount for all regular rental rates for buildings, grounds and equipment. (Ord 152-30, Sec.16, 2008; Ord. 151-32, Sec. 23, 2007; Ord. 151-005, Sec. 1, 2007; Ord 150-28, Sec. 15, 2006; Ord. 146-60, Sec. 1, 2002; Ord. 146-55, Sec. 1, 2002; Ord. 146-54, Sec. 1, 2002; Ord. 146-26, Sec. 1, 2002; Ord. 146-02, Sec. 12, 2002; Ord. 145-60, Sec. 1, 2001; Ord. 145-46, Sec. 1, 2001; Ord. 144-80, Secs. 1&2, 2001; Ord. 144-32, Sec. 1, 2000; Ord. 143-06 Sec. 2, 1999; Ord. 141-04 Sec.6; Ord.140-110, Sec.2, 1997; Ord. 139.69, Sec.2, 1995; Ord. 132-92 Sec.4, 1989).

16.33.020 Rental rates for private, other organizations and individuals.

A. Private, other organizations and individuals shall be charged the following daily rental rates for exposition center facilities. Daily is to mean a 24 hour period or any portion thereof. One-half the daily rate will be charged for set-up and take down per day.

Exhibit building A (66'x 200')	\$ 450.00
Stall set-up	
Half barn set-up (minimum)	\$ 125.00
Full barn set-up	\$ 250.00
Exhibit building C-D (66'x135')	\$ 350.00
Pen set-up	
Half barn set-up (minimum)	\$ 75.00
Full barn set-up	\$ 150.00
Exhibit building E (66'x 240')	\$ 700.00
Exhibit building E -Exhibit area (66'x 160')	\$ 550.00
Exhibit building E – Meeting room viewing area	\$ 55.00
Exhibit building E – Meeting room	\$ 75.00
Exhibit building E – Both meeting rooms	\$ 125.00
Exhibit building E kitchen only	\$ 175.00
Non-electric campsite/day	\$ 20.00
Electric campsite/day	\$ 25.00
Agility arena	\$ 75.00
Horse arena	\$ 165.00
Milk house	\$ 130.00
Concession Stand	\$ 120.00
Picnic pavilion/event	\$ 55.00
Grounds rental/day – All outdoor space (no buildings)	\$ 500.00
All buildings and ground/day (excludes camping)	\$2500.00
Independent food stand/day (with electricity)	\$ 100.00
Outside catering/day	\$ 100.00
Bleachers/unit/event	\$ 50.00
Off grounds/unit – (3 days)	\$ 75.00
Replacement cost/unit	Actual Cost
Tables/each/event	\$ 6.00
Off grounds/each/event (limited use)	\$ 10.00
Replacement cost/each	Actual Cost
Chairs/each/event	\$.50
Off grounds/each event (limited use)	\$ 2.00
Replacement cost/each	Actual Cost

Stages/section/day (4'x 8'x 2')	\$ 25.00
Off grounds/section/event	\$ 50.00
Wireless microphones/each/event	\$ 50.00
Replacement cost	Actual Cost
Portable PA system/each/event	\$ 75.00
Replacement cost	Actual Cost
P.A. System/event	\$ 75.00
On site personnel/person/hour (requested during event)	\$ 22.00
Skid Steer/operator/hour	\$ 75.00
Key deposit/each	\$ 10.00
Garbage removal (excessive)	Actual Cost
Event holder responsible for removal of excessive amount of trash.	
Extra ordinary setup/clean-up/person/hour	\$ 50.00
B. Dry storage shall be at the following rate per building per season subject to a minimum \$50.00 per contract charge:	
Exhibit building A/per square foot (66' x 200')	\$ 1.30
Exhibit building C-D/per square foot (66'x 135')	\$ 1.30
C. Meeting room equipment rentals.	
Flip chart w/markers/each/event	\$ 20.00
Replacement cost	Actual Cost
TV/VCR/event	\$ 25.00
Replacement cost	Actual Cost
100 cup coffee urn (w/o coffee)/event	\$ 15.00
Replacement cost	Actual Cost
Electric Roaster/each/event	\$ 15.00
Replacement cost	Actual Cost
D. Miscellaneous Equipment Rentals.	
Fire Extinguishers/each (tents)	\$ 18.00
Replacement value	Actual Cost
E. Special Services.	
Storage or removal of personal property	\$ 25.00
Snow removal or other services	\$ 40.00/hr

(Ord. 160-13, Sec. 5, 2016; Ord. 157-33, Sec. 1, 2014; Ord. 156-39, Sec. 1, 2013; Ord. 155-12, Sec. 1, 2011; Ord. 153-23, Sec. 12, 2009; Ord. 152-30, Sec. 17, 2008; Ord. 151-32, Sec. 24, 2007; Ord. 151-005, Sec. 2, 2007; Ord 150-28, Sec. 16, 2006; Ord. 147-58, Sec. 1, 2003; Ord. 146-60, Sec. 2, 2002; Ord. 146-55, Sec. 2, 2002; Ord. 146-54, Sec. 2, 2002; Ord. 146-26, Sec. 2, 2002; Ord. 146-02, Sec. 13, 2002; Ord. 145-60, Sec. 2, 2001; Ord. 145-46, Sec. 2, 2001; Ord. 144-80, Secs. 3&4, 2001; Ord. 144-32, Sec. 2, 2000; Ord.143-06 Sec.3, 1999; Ord.141-04 Sec.7; Ord.140-110, Sec.3, 1997; Ord.139-69, Sec.3, 1995; Ord.132-92 Sec.5, 1989, Ord.129-29 Secs.1&2, 1985; Ord.128-41 Sec.2, 1984; Ord.127-43 Sec.1(part), 1983).

16.33.025 Utility services. All rates for facility rentals are inclusive of utility charges, except for the charges adopted by the commission. The county shall not provide any heat, water, electricity or other utility services with respect to any dry storage. (Ord. 147-105, 2004; Ord.139-69, Sec.4, 1995; Ord. 136-61, 1992; Ord. 127-43 Sec.1(part), 1983).

16.33.030 Payment of rent and deposits.

A. A security deposit of 20% of total contract cost, \$100.00 minimum is due within 30 days of the writing of the contract. Within 90 days of the event, one-half of the total rental fee is due, with the remaining balance due 30 days prior to the event. Any cancellation will result in forfeiture of the security deposit. Cancellations between 90 days and 30 days will result in forfeiture of the 50% rental fee paid, unless fully re-rented. Cancellations of 30 days or less will result in loss of all rental fees, unless fully re-rented. Rental of the facility less than 30 days from the event requires full rent and security deposit at the time the contract is written. The required certificate of insurance must be provided at least one week prior to the event.

B. Rental amounts and security deposits shall be payable to the Eau Claire County treasurer and delivered to the parks and forest office. The treasurer shall deposit all receipts in the revenue account designated by the finance director. (Ord.160-13, Sec. 6, 2016; Ord. 155-12, Sec. 4, 2011; Ord. 148-36, 2004; Ord. 146-55, Sec. 5, 2002; Ord. 145-60, Sec. 3, 2001; Ord.141-04 Sec.8, 1997; Ord.139-20, 1995; Ord.134-03 Sec.46, 1990; Ord.127-43 Sec.l(part), 1983).

(Ord. 156-39, Sec. 2, 2013) (Repealed 16.33.040: Ord. 160-13, 2016; Ord. 155-12, Sec. 5, 2011; Ord 150-28, Sec. 19, 2006; Ord.141-04 Sec.9 1997; Ord.139-69 Sec.5, 1995; Ord.127-43, Sec.l(part), 1983).

16.33.060 Lease agreements--Form and execution.

A. All leases and agreements for facilities at the Eau Claire County Exposition Center shall be in writing and approved as to form by the corporation counsel. Agreements for more than one year shall be executed by the county administrator and approved by the county board.

B. All leases and agreements shall be subject to all county ordinances in effect at the time of execution and shall limit county liability exposure in all areas. No lease or agreement may be for more than one year.

C. Any lease or agreement not in conformity with this chapter at the time of adoption thereof is validated. Any renewals thereof shall be in conformity with this chapter unless otherwise authorized by the county board. (Ord. 160-13, Sec. 8, 2016; Ord. 143-106, Sec. 4, 2000; Ord.141-04 Sec.10, 1997; Ord.136-83 Sec. 3, 1992; Ord.127-43 Sec.1(part), 1983).

16.33.100 Use of alcoholic beverages. The use of all alcoholic or fermented malt beverages on the exposition center premises shall be in accord with Wis. Stat. ch. 125, 9.80.020 and ordinances of the City of Eau Claire. The Special Class "B" Retailer's License to Sell Fermented Malt Beverages at Picnics or Gatherings must be presented to the exposition center director prior to any sale of alcoholic or fermented malt beverages on the exposition center premises. (Ord. 156-38, Sec. 13, 2013; Ord.141-04 Sec.11, 1997; Ord.139-69, Sec.6, 1995; Ord.133-49, 1989; Ord.127-43 Sec. 1 (part), 1983).

1005.2.2 County ATV Ordinance *

ATV use is regulated under Eau Claire County code 16.30.005, 16.30.010, 16.30.140, and 16.30.520 attached in 1005.2.1.

Title 20

SHORELAND PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT

Chapters:

20.01	<u>Statutory Authorization, Finding of Fact, Statement of Purpose and Title</u>
20.02	<u>General Provisions</u>
20.03	<u>Shoreland-Wetland District</u>
20.04	<u>Land Division Review and Sanitary Regulations</u>
20.05	<u>Minimum Lot Size</u>
20.06	<u>Building Setbacks</u>
20.07	<u>Vegetation</u>
20.08	<u>Filling, Grading, Lagooning, Dredging, Ditching and Excavating</u>
20.09	<u>Impervious Surfaces</u>
20.10	<u>Height</u>
20.11	<u>Nonconforming Uses and Structures</u>
20.12	<u>Structures Authorized by Variance</u>
20.13	<u>Mitigation</u>
20.14	<u>Administrative Provisions</u>
20.15	<u>Definitions</u>

Chapter 20.01

STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDING OF FACT, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND
TITLE

Sections:

20.01.001	Statutory Authorization.
20.01.002	Finding of Fact.
20.01.003	Purpose and Intent.
20.01.004	Title.

20.01.001 Statutory authorization. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authorization in Wis. Stat. § 59.692, to effectuate the policies and purpose(s) outlined in Wis. Stat. § 281.31. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.01.002 Finding of fact. Uncontrolled use of the shorelands and pollution of the navigable waters of Eau Claire County will adversely affect the public health, safety, convenience, and general welfare and impair the tax base. The legislature of Wisconsin has delegated responsibility to the counties to further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions; prevent and control water pollution; protect spawning grounds, fish and aquatic life; control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; and to preserve shore cover and natural beauty. This responsibility is hereby recognized by Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.01.003 Purpose and intent. This ordinance has been established for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, convenience and welfare, and to promote and protect the public trust in navigable waters. Further, this ordinance has been established to: (Wis. Admin. Code Ch. § NR 115.01).

A. Further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions and prevent and control water pollution through:

1. Limiting structures to those areas where soil and geological conditions will provide a safe foundation.
2. Establishing minimum lot sizes to provide adequate area for private on-site waste treatment systems.
3. Controlling filling and grading to prevent soil erosion problems.
4. Limiting impervious surfaces to control runoff which carries pollutants.

B. Protect spawning grounds, fish and aquatic life through:

1. Preserving wetlands and other fish and aquatic habitat.
2. Regulating pollution sources.
3. Controlling shoreline alterations, dredging and lagooning.

- C. Control building sites, placement of structures and land uses through:
 - 1. Prohibiting certain uses detrimental to the shoreland-wetlands.
 - 2. Setting minimum lot sizes and widths.
 - 3. Setting minimum building setbacks from waterways.
 - 4. Setting the maximum height of near shore structures.
 - D. Preserve and restore shoreland vegetation and natural scenic beauty through:
 - 1. Restricting the removal of natural shoreland cover.
 - 2. Preventing shoreline encroachment by structures.
 - 3. Controlling shoreland excavation and other earth moving activities.
 - 4. Regulating the use and placement of boathouses and other structures.
- (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.01.004 Title. Shoreland Overlay Protection Ordinance for Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.02

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Sections:

<u>20.02.001</u>	Areas to be regulated.
<u>20.02.002</u>	Shoreland-wetland maps.
<u>20.02.003</u>	Compliance.
<u>20.02.004</u>	Municipalities and state agencies regulated.
<u>20.02.005</u>	Abrogation and greater restrictions.
<u>20.02.006</u>	Interpretation.
<u>20.02.007</u>	Severability.
<u>20.02.008</u>	General shoreland standards.

20.02.001 Areas to regulated. Areas regulated by this ordinance shall include all the lands (referred to herein as shorelands) in the unincorporated areas of Eau Claire County which are:

A. Within one thousand (1,000) feet of the ordinary high-water mark of navigable lakes, ponds or flowages. Lakes, ponds or flowages in Eau Claire County shall be presumed to be navigable if they are listed in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) publication FH-800 2009 “Wisconsin Lakes” book available electronically at the following web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakebook/wilakes2009bma.pdf> or are shown on United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps (1:24,000 scale), or other zoning base maps. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.03 (8)).

B. Within three hundred (300) feet of the ordinary high-water mark of navigable rivers or streams, or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater. Rivers and streams in Eau Claire County shall be presumed to be navigable if they are designated as perennial waterways or intermittent waterways on United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps (1:24,000). Flood hazard boundary maps, flood insurance rate maps, flood boundary-floodway maps, county soil survey maps or other existing county floodplain zoning maps shall be used to delineate floodplain areas. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.03 (8)).

C. The provisions of this chapter apply to regulation of the use and development of unincorporated shoreland areas. Unless specifically exempted by law, all cities, villages, towns, counties and, when Wis. Stat. § 13.48 (13) applies, state agencies are required to comply with, and obtain all necessary permits under, local shoreland ordinances. The construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair of state highways and bridges carried out under the direction and supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is not subject to local shoreland zoning ordinances if Wis. Stat. § 30.2022 applies. Shoreland zoning requirements in annexed or incorporated areas are provided in Wis. Stat. § 61.353 and Wis. Stat. § 62.233. (Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.02).

D. Determinations of navigability and ordinary high-water mark location shall initially be made by the Land Use Manager. When questions arise, the Land Use Manager shall contact the appropriate office of the WDNR for a final determination of navigability or ordinary high-water mark. The county may work with surveyors with regard to Wis. Stat. § 59.692 (1h).

E. Under Wis. Stat. § 281.31(2m), notwithstanding any other provision of law or administrative rule promulgated thereunder, this shoreland zoning ordinance does not apply to:

1. Lands adjacent to farm drainage ditches if:
 - a. Such lands are not adjacent to a natural navigable stream or river;
 - b. Those parts of such drainage ditches adjacent to such lands were not navigable streams before ditching; and
2. Lands adjacent to artificially constructed drainage ditches, ponds or storm water retention basins that are not hydrologically connected to a natural navigable water body.

F. Comprehensive / General Zoning [Wis. Stat. § 59.69] and Regulation of Matters that are Not Shoreland Zoning Standards [Wis. Stat. § 59.692 (1d)(b)].

1. In any town where the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance is effective:

a. The Eau Claire County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, TITLE 18 is incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

b. The provisions of the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance apply and may be enforced in “shorelands” to the extent that its provisions do not regulate a “shoreland zoning standard” as specified in Wis. Stat. §§ 59.692(1)(c) & (1d).

2. In any town where the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance is not in effect, the regulation of matters that are not shoreland zoning standards consistent with Wis. Stat. §§ 59.692(1)(c) & (1d) is as follows:

- a. Setback Requirements and Related Restrictions.
 - i. Road. No structure shall be placed within a road right-of-way or easement.
 - ii. Property / Parcel Boundaries. No structure shall be placed across a parcel boundary.

iii. Wetland. No structure shall be placed closer than the provisions of chapter 17.06.085 Protective Areas A. 2. allow.

iv. Height. No structure located 75 feet or further from the ordinary high-water mark shall be taller than 35 feet. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.02.002 Shoreland-wetland maps. The most recent version of the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory as depicted on the WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer is made part of this ordinance. The maps can be viewed at:
<http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/SL/Viewer.html?Viewer=SWDV&runWorkflow=Wetland>
(Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.02.003 Compliance. The use of any land; the size, shape and placement of lots; the use, size, type and location of structures on lots; the installation and maintenance of water supply and waste disposal facilities; the filling, grading, lagooning, and dredging of any lands; the cutting of shoreland vegetation; and the subdivision of lots shall be in full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable local, state or federal regulations. Buildings and other structures shall require a permit unless otherwise expressly excluded by a provision of this ordinance. Property owners, builders and contractors are responsible for compliance with the terms of this ordinance. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.02.004 Municipalities and state agencies regulated. Unless specifically exempted by law, all cities, villages, towns, and counties are required to comply with this ordinance and obtain all necessary permits. State agencies are required to comply when Wis. Stat. §13.48(13) applies. The construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of state highways and bridges by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation are exempt when Wis. Stat. § 30.2022 applies. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.02.005 Abrogation and greater restrictions.

A. The provisions of this ordinance supersede any provisions in a county zoning ordinance that solely relate to shorelands. In other words if a zoning standard only applies to lands that lie within the shoreland and applies because the lands are in shoreland, then this ordinance supersedes those provisions. However, where an ordinance adopted under a statute other than Wis. Stat. § 59.692 does not solely relate to shorelands and is more restrictive than this ordinance, for example a floodplain ordinance, that ordinance shall continue in full force and effect to the extent of the greater restrictions. (See Wis. Stat. § 59.692 (5)).

B. Wis. Stat. § 59.692, and Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 115.

1. Wis. Stat. § 59.692, and Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 115, are incorporated herein by reference.

2. A particular provision of this ordinance does not apply and may not be enforced if said provision is inconsistent with Wis. Stat. § 59.692 and/or Wis. Admin Code Ch. NR 115. In such situations, the state statute or administrative code provision controls, but only to the extent of the inconsistency.

C. If an existing town ordinance relating to shorelands is more restrictive than this ordinance or any amendments thereto, the town ordinance continues in all respects to the extent of the greater restrictions but not otherwise.

D. This ordinance may establish standards to regulate matters that are not regulated in Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 115, but that further the purposes of shoreland zoning as described in 20.01.003 of this ordinance.

E. This ordinance shall not require approval or be subject to disapproval by any town or town board.

F. This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate or impair any existing deed restrictions, covenants or easements. However, where this ordinance imposes greater restrictions, the provisions of this ordinance shall prevail.

G. Eau Claire County may not establish shoreland zoning standards that requires any of the following:

1. Approval to install or maintain outdoor lighting in shorelands, impose any fee or mitigation requirement to install or maintain outdoor lighting in shorelands, or otherwise prohibits or regulates outdoor lighting in shorelands if the lighting is designed or intended for residential use.

2. Require any inspection or upgrade of a structure before the sale or other transfer of the structure may be made.

H. Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1t), the county may not commence an enforcement action against a person who owns a building or structure that is in violation of this ordinance if the person can establish that the building or structure has been in place for more than 10 years.

I. The construction and maintenance of a facility is considered to satisfy the requirements of a shoreland zoning ordinance if:

1. The WDNR has issued all required permits or approvals authorizing the construction or maintenance under Wis. Stats. §§ 30, 31, 281, or 283. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.02.006 Interpretation. The provisions of this ordinance shall be liberally construed in favor of the county and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other powers granted by Wisconsin Statutes. Where a provision of this ordinance is required by statute and a standard in Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 115, and where the ordinance provision is unclear, the provision shall be interpreted in light of the statute and Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 115, standards in effect on the date of the adoption of this ordinance or in effect on the date of the most recent text amendment to this ordinance. (See Wis. Stat. § 59.69 (13)). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.02.007 Severability. If any portion of this ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.02.008 General shoreland standards. The following provisions of this chapter apply to the shoreland jurisdictional area as defined by 20.02.001 A. and B.

A. Agriculture Fence:

1. Agriculture fences consisting of post and wire require no setback from the property line and can be constructed up to the OHWM;

2. Property must be actively used for agriculture pasturing of livestock on one side of the fence;

3. Maximum height of 4 feet from the adjacent grade within 75 feet from the OHWM.

B. Reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities.

1. The department may issue a special permit that waives specific requirements of this ordinance if it is determined that the requested accommodation:
 - a. Is necessary to afford accommodations of persons with disabilities equal housing opportunities or equal access to public accommodations as required by provisions of federal and state law;
 - b. Is the minimum accommodation that will give persons with disabilities adequate relief; and
 - c. Will not unreasonably undermine the basic purposes of this ordinance.
2. If the department issues a special permit that waives specified zoning provisions pursuant to this section, the permit will include a condition that the structure authorized by the permit (such as an entrance ramp) shall be removed not more than 30 days after the handicapped or disabled person vacates the property or the structure ceases to be a public accommodation.
3. The special permit will not become effective until the property owner records a deed restriction with the register of deeds setting forth the condition that the structure authorized by the permit shall be removed as required in subpar. b. above.
4. If the department denies a permit requesting an accommodation under this subsection, the denial may be appealed to the board of land use appeals pursuant to 20.14.004.

C. Livestock facilities housing animals, manure storage areas, barnyards, or feedlots shall meet the following requirements:

1. Such facility shall be 300 feet or more from the ordinary high water mark;
- or
2. May be located 100 to 300 feet from the ordinary high water mark, provided that:
 - a. A plan for manure storage, barnyard and feedlot drainage that effectively prevents pollutants from entering the water be reviewed by the land conservation commission or its designee and implemented before use of the facility begins;
 - b. The area between the facility and the water shall be fenced to prevent access to the water by animals. The fenced area shall parallel the water in both directions for a sufficient distance to prevent concentration of animals or manure or destruction of ground cover that would result in an increased probability for pollutants to reach the water;
 - c. Construction and location of these facilities will be by permit issued by the department. The department shall inspect the facility before it is put to use to determine that the site and facility meet all requirements of this subtitle;
 - d. All existing and future barnyards, feedlots or manure storage areas located within the shoreland area are subject to periodic inspection and review for possible pollution of water bodies. Waste collection and disposal systems may be required to prevent pollutants from reaching the water.

D. Sawdust Storage. Sawdust storage shall be at least 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark of navigable waters.

E. Dumps and Sanitary Landfills. Dumps, sanitary landfills, junkyards, and salvage yards are prohibited within the shoreland protection overlay district. (Ord. 162-015, Sec. 1, 2018; Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.03

SHORELAND-WETLAND DISTRICT.

Sections:

20.03.001	Designation.
20.03.002	Purpose.
20.03.003	Permitted Uses.
20.03.004	Prohibited Uses.
20.03.005	Rezoning of Lands in the Shoreland-Wetland District.

20.03.001 Designation. This district shall include all shorelands within the jurisdiction of this ordinance which are designated as wetlands on the most recent version of the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory as depicted on the WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer.

A. Locating shoreland-wetland boundaries. Where an apparent discrepancy exists between the shoreland-wetland district boundary shown on the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory and actual field conditions, the county shall contact the WDNR to determine if the map is in error. If the WDNR determines that a particular area was incorrectly mapped as wetland or meets the wetland definition but was not shown as wetland on the map, the county shall have the authority to immediately grant or deny a shoreland permit in accordance with the applicable regulations based on the WDNR determination as to whether the area is wetland. In order to correct wetland mapping errors on the official zoning map, an official zoning map amendment must be initiated within a reasonable period of time. (See Wis. Admin. § NR 115.04 (b) 2.). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.03.002 Purpose. This district is created to maintain safe and healthful conditions, to prevent water pollution, to protect fish spawning grounds and wildlife habitat, to preserve shore cover and natural beauty and to control building and development in wetlands whenever possible. When development is permitted in a wetland, the development should occur in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts upon the wetland. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.03.003 Permitted uses. The following uses shall be allowed, subject to general shoreland zoning regulations contained in this ordinance, the provisions of Wis. Stat. chs. 30 and 31, and Wis. Stat. § 281.36, and the provisions of other applicable local, state and federal laws: (See Wis. Admin. § NR 115.04 (3)).

A. Activities and uses which do not require the issuance of a shoreland permit, but which must be carried out without any filling, flooding, draining, dredging, ditching, tiling or excavating:

1. Hiking, fishing, trapping, hunting, swimming, and boating;
2. The harvesting of wild crops, such as marsh hay, ferns, moss, wild rice, berries, tree fruits, and tree seeds, in a manner that is not injurious to the natural reproduction of such crops;

3. The pasturing of livestock;
4. The cultivation of agricultural crops;
5. The practice of silviculture, including the planting, thinning, and harvesting of timber; and
6. The construction or maintenance of duck blinds.

B. Uses which do not require the issuance of a shoreland permit and which may include limited filling, flooding, draining, dredging, ditching, tiling, or excavating but only to the extent specifically provided below:

1. Temporary water level stabilization measures necessary to alleviate abnormally wet or dry conditions that would have an adverse impact on silvicultural activities if not corrected;
2. The cultivation of cranberries including flooding, dike and dam construction or ditching necessary for the growing and harvesting of cranberries,
3. The maintenance and repair of existing agricultural drainage systems including ditching, tiling, dredging, excavating and filling necessary to maintain the level of drainage required to continue the existing agricultural use. This includes the minimum filling necessary for disposal of dredged spoil adjacent to the drainage system provided that dredged spoil is placed on existing spoil banks where possible;
4. The construction or maintenance of fences for the pasturing of livestock, including limited excavating and filling necessary for such construction or maintenance;
5. The construction or maintenance of piers, docks or walkways built on pilings, including limited excavating and filling necessary for such construction and maintenance; and
6. The maintenance, repair, replacement or reconstruction of existing town and county highways and bridges, including limited excavating and filling necessary for such maintenance, repair, replacement or reconstruction.

C. Uses which require the issuance of a conditional use permit and which may include limited filling, flooding, draining, dredging, ditching, tiling or excavating, but only to the extent specifically provided below:

1. The construction and maintenance of roads which are necessary to conduct silvicultural activities or agricultural cultivation, provided that:
 - a. The road cannot as a practical matter be located outside the wetland;
 - b. The road is designed and constructed to minimize adverse impact upon the natural functions of the wetland enumerated in 20.03.005 B.;
 - c. The road is designed and constructed with the minimum cross-sectional area practical to serve the intended use; and
 - d. Road construction activities are carried out in the immediate area of the roadbed only.
2. The construction or maintenance of nonresidential buildings, provided that:
 - a. The building is essential for and used solely in conjunction with the raising of waterfowl, minnows or other wetland or aquatic animals; or some other use permitted in the shoreland-wetland district;

b. The building cannot, as a practical matter, be located outside the wetland;

c. Such building is not designed for human habitation and does not exceed 500 square feet in floor area; and

d. Only limited filling or excavating necessary to provide structural support for the building is authorized.

3. The establishment of public and private parks and recreation areas, natural and outdoor education areas, historic and scientific areas, wildlife refuges, game bird and animal farms, fur animal farms, fish hatcheries, and public boat launching ramps and attendant access roads, provided that:

a. Any private development is used exclusively for the permitted use and the applicant has received a permit or license under Wis. Stat. ch. 29, where applicable;

b. Filling or excavating necessary for the construction or maintenance of public boat launching ramps or attendant access roads is allowed only where such construction or maintenance meets the criteria in 20.03.003 C. 1.; and

c. Ditching, excavating, dredging, or dike and dam construction in public and private parks and recreation areas, natural and outdoor education areas, historic and scientific areas, wildlife refuges, game bird and animal farms, fur animal farms, and fish hatcheries is allowed only for the purpose of improving wildlife habitat and to otherwise enhance wetland values.

4. The construction or maintenance of electric, gas, telephone, water and sewer transmission and distribution facilities, by public utilities and cooperative associations organized for the purpose of producing or furnishing heat, light, power or water to their members and the construction or maintenance of railroad lines provided that:

a. The transmission and distribution facilities and railroad lines cannot, as a practical matter, be located outside the wetland;

b. Such construction or maintenance is done in a manner designed to minimize adverse impact upon the natural functions of the wetland enumerated in 20.03.005 B. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.03.004 Prohibited uses. Any use not listed in 20.03.003 A., B. and C. is prohibited, unless the wetland or portion of the wetland has been rezoned by amendment of this ordinance in accordance with 20.03.005 of this ordinance and Wis. Stat. § 59.69(5)(e). (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.04 (4)). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.03.005 Rezoning of land in Shoreland-Wetland District.

A. For all proposed text and map amendments to the shoreland-wetland provisions of this ordinance, the appropriate office with the WDNR shall be provided with the following:

1. A copy of every petition for a text or map amendment to the shoreland-wetland provisions of this ordinance, within 5 days of the filing of such petition with the county clerk. Such petition shall include a copy of the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory map adopted as part of this ordinance describing any proposed rezoning of a shoreland-wetland;

2. Written notice of the public hearing to be held on a proposed amendment at least 10 days prior to such hearing;

3. A copy of the county zoning agency's findings and recommendations on each proposed amendment within 10 days after the submission of those findings and recommendations to the county board; and

4. Written notice of the county board's decision on the proposed amendment within 10 days after it is issued.(See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.04(2)).

B. A wetland, or a portion thereof, in the shoreland-wetland district shall not be rezoned if the proposed rezoning may result in a significant adverse impact upon any of the following:

1. Storm and flood water storage capacity;

2. Maintenance of dry season stream flow, the discharge of groundwater to a wetland, the recharge of groundwater from a wetland to another area, or the flow of groundwater through a wetland;

3. Filtering or storage of sediments, nutrients, heavy metals or organic compounds that would otherwise drain into navigable waters;

4. Shoreline protection against soil erosion;

5. Fish spawning, breeding, nursery or feeding grounds;

6. Wildlife habitat; or

7. Wetlands both within the boundary of designated areas of special natural resource interest and those wetlands which are in proximity to or have a direct hydrologic connection to such designated areas as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 103.04, which can be accessed at the following web site: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr103.pdf>.

C. If the Department Natural Resources notifies the county zoning agency that a proposed text or map amendment to the shoreland-wetland provisions of this ordinance may have a significant adverse impact upon any of the criteria listed in 20.3.005 B. of this ordinance, that amendment, if approved by the county board, shall contain the following provision:

"This amendment shall not take effect until more than 30 days have elapsed after written notice of the county board's approval of this amendment is mailed to the WDNR. During that 30-day period the WDNR may notify the county board that it will adopt a superseding shoreland ordinance for the county under Wis. Stat. § 59.692(6). If the WDNR does so notify the county board, the effect of this amendment shall be stayed until the Wis. Stat. § 59.692(6), adoption procedure is completed or otherwise terminated." (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.04

LAND DIVISION REVIEW AND SANITARY REGULATIONS.

Sections:

[20.04.001](#) Land division review

[20.04.002](#) Sanitary regulations

20.04.001 Land review. Eau Claire County has enacted local subdivision regulations under Wis. Stat. § 236.45. (See Eau Claire County Subdivision Control Ordinance). The Eau Claire County Subdivision Control Ordinance, Subtitle III of Title 18, applies to shorelands without regard to Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1d)(a), and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. § NR 115.05, (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (2)). In such review all of the following factors shall be considered:

- A. Hazards to the health, safety or welfare of future residents.
- B. Proper relationship to adjoining areas.
- C. Public access to navigable waters, as required by law.
- D. Adequate storm water drainage facilities.
- E. Conformity to state law and administrative code provisions.

(Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.04.002 Sanitary regulations. The county shall adopt sanitary regulations for the protection of health and the preservation and enhancement of water quality. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (3)).

A. Where public water supply systems are not available, private well construction shall be required to conform to Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 812.

B. Where a public sewage collection and treatment system is not available, design and construction of private on-site waste treatment system shall, prior to July 1, 1980, be required to comply with Wis. Admin Code Ch. SPS 383, and after June 30, 1980 be governed by a private sewage system ordinance adopted by the county under Wis. Stat. § 59.70(5). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.05

MINIMUM LOT SIZE.

Sections:

20.05.001	Purpose.
20.05.002	Sewered lots.
20.05.003	Unsewered lots.
20.05.004	Substandard lots.
20.05.005	Other substandard lots.

20.05.001 Purpose. Minimum lot sizes in the shoreland area shall be established to afford protection against danger to health, safety and welfare, and protection against pollution of the adjacent body of water. In calculating the minimum area or width of a lot, the beds of navigable waters shall not be included. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(a)). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.05.002 Sewered lots. Minimum area and width for each lot. The minimum lot area shall be 10,000 square feet and the minimum average lot width shall be 65 feet. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(a)1).

A. The width shall be calculated by averaging measurements at the following 3 locations:

1. The ordinary high water mark.
2. The building setback line.
3. One other location on the lot within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.05.003 Unsewered lots. Minimum area and width for each lot. The minimum lot area shall be 20,000 square feet. and the minimum average lot width shall be 100 feet. (See Wis. Admin. § NR 115.05 (1)(a)2).

A. The width shall be calculated by averaging measurements at the following 3 locations:

1. The ordinary high water mark.
2. The building setback line.
3. One other location on the lot within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.05.004 Substandard lots. A legally created lot or parcel that met minimum area and minimum average width requirements when created, but does not meet current lot size requirements, may be used as a building site if all of the following apply: (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(a) 3).

- A. The substandard lot or parcel was never reconfigured or combined with another lot or parcel by plat, survey, or consolidation by the owner into one property tax parcel.
- B. The substandard lot or parcel has never been developed with one or more of its structures placed partly upon an adjacent lot or parcel.
- C. The substandard lot or parcel is developed to comply with all other ordinance requirements. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.05.005 Other substandard lots. Except for lots which meet the requirements of 20.05.004 a shoreland permit for the improvement of a lot having lesser dimensions than those stated in 20.05.002 and 20.05.003 can only be used if a variance is granted by the Eau Claire County Board of Land Use Appeals. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.06

BUILDING SETBACKS

Sections:

- [20.06.001](#) Shoreland Setbacks.
- [20.06.002](#) Reduced principal structure setback.
- [20.06.003](#) Floodplain structures.

20.06.001 Shoreland setbacks. Permitted building setbacks shall be established to conform to health, safety and welfare requirements, preserve natural beauty, reduce flood hazards and avoid water pollution. Unless exempt under 20.06.001(1), or reduced under 20.06.002, a setback of 75 feet from the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable water to the nearest part of a building or structure shall be required for all buildings and structures. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(b)1).

A. Exempt structures. All of the following structures are exempt from the shoreland setback standards in 20.06.001: (See Wis. Admin. Code §NR 115.05 (1)(b)1m).

1. Existing boathouses, constructed before the effective date of this ordinance, located entirely above the ordinary high water mark and entirely within the access and viewing corridor that do not contain plumbing and are not used for human habitation. The roof of a boathouse may be used as a deck provided that:

- a. The boathouse has a flat roof.
- b. The roof has no side walls or screens.
- c. The roof may have a railing that meets the Department of Safety and Professional Services standards. (See Wis. Stat. § 59.692 (1k)(a) (6)).

2. Boathouses, constructed after the effective date of this ordinance, located entirely above the ordinary high water mark and entirely within the access and viewing corridor that do not contain plumbing and are not used for human habitation.

a. The construction or placement of boathouses below the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable waters shall be prohibited.

b. Boathouses shall be designed and constructed solely for the storage of boats and related equipment.

c. One boathouse is permitted on a lot as an accessory structure.

d. The boathouse shall be setback ten feet from the ordinary high water mark.

e. Boathouses shall be constructed in conformity with local floodplain zoning standards.

f. Boathouses shall not exceed one story, with a maximum side wall height of ten feet.

g. The maximum square footage of a boathouse shall be 364 square feet, measured outside wall to outside wall, and a maximum width parallel to the shoreline of 14 feet.

h. Boathouse roofs shall have a pitched roof that is no flatter than 4/12 pitch, and shall not be designed or used as decks, observation platforms or for other similar uses.

i. Earth toned color shall be required for all exterior surfaces of a boathouse.

j. The main door shall face the water.

k. The side yard setback for a boat house is 5 feet.

l. Patio doors, fireplaces and other features inconsistent with the use of the structure exclusively as a boathouse are not permitted.

3. Open-sided and screened structures such as gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses in the shoreland setback area that satisfy the requirements in Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v):

a. The part of the structure that is nearest to the water is located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary-high water mark.

b. The floor area of all the structures in the shoreland setback area will not exceed 200 square feet.

c. The structure that is the subject of the request for special zoning permission has no sides or has open or screened sides.

d. The county must approve a plan that will be implemented by the owner of the property to preserve or establish a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70% of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest to the water.

4. A fishing raft for which the WDNR has issued a permit under Wis. Stat. § 30.126.

5. Broadcast signal receivers, including satellite dishes or antennas that are one meter or less in diameter and satellite earth station antennas that are 2 meters or less in diameter.

6. Utility transmission and distribution lines, poles, towers, water towers, pumping stations, well pump house covers, private on-site wastewater treatment systems that comply with Wis. Admin. Code Ch. SPS 383, and other utility structures that have no feasible alternative location outside of the minimum setback and that employ best management practices to infiltrate or otherwise control storm water runoff from the structure.

7. Walkways, stairways or rail systems that are necessary to provide pedestrian access to the shoreline and are a maximum of 60-inches in width.

8. Devices or systems used to treat runoff from impervious surfaces.

B. Existing exempt structures. Existing exempt structures may be maintained, repaired, replaced, restored, rebuilt and remodeled provided the activity does not expand the footprint and does not go beyond the three-dimensional building envelope of the existing structure. Counties may allow expansion of a structure beyond the existing footprint if the expansion is necessary to comply with applicable state or federal requirements. (See Wis. Stat. § 59.692 (1k)(a)2m). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.06.002 Reduced principal structure setback. A setback less than the 75 feet required setback from the ordinary high water mark shall be permitted for a proposed principal structure and shall be determined as follows: (See Wis. Stat. § 59.692 (1n))

A. Where there are existing principal structures in both directions, the setback shall equal the average of the distances the two existing principal structures are set back from the ordinary high water mark provided all of the following are met:

1. Both of the existing principal structures are located on adjacent lots to the proposed principal structure.

2. Both of the existing principal structures are located within 250 feet of the proposed principal structure and are the closest structure.

3. Both of the existing principal structures are located less than 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark.

4. The average setback shall not be reduced to less than 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark of any navigable water.

B. Where there is an existing principal structure in only one direction, the setback shall equal the average of the distances of the existing principal structure set back from the ordinary high water mark and the required setback of 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark provided all of the following are met:

1. The existing principal structure is located on an adjacent lot to the proposed principal structure.

2. The existing principal structure is located within 250 feet of the proposed principal structure and is the closest structure.

3. The existing principal structure is located less than 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark.

4. The average setback shall not be reduced to less than 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark of any navigable water. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.06.003 Floodplain structures. Buildings and structures to be constructed or placed in a floodplain shall be required to comply with the County's floodplain zoning ordinance. (See Wis. Admin. §Code NR 115.05 (1)(b)2). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.07

VEGETATION.

Sections:

- [20.07.001](#) Purpose.
- [20.07.002](#) Activities allowed within a vegetative buffer zone.
- [20.07.003](#) Cutting more than 35 feet inland.

20.07.001 Purpose. To protect natural scenic beauty, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality, a county shall regulate removal of vegetation in shoreland areas, consistent with the following: The county shall establish ordinance standards that consider sound forestry and soil conservation practices, as well as the effect of vegetation removal on water quality, including soil erosion, and the flow of effluents, sediments and nutrients. (See Wis. Admin. §NR 115.05 (1)(c)1). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.07.002 Activities allowed within a vegetative buffer zone. To protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty, and to promote preservation and restoration of native vegetation, the county ordinance shall designate land that extends from the ordinary high water mark to a minimum of 35 feet inland as a vegetative buffer zone and prohibit removal of vegetation in the vegetative buffer zone except as follows: (See Wis. Admin Code § NR 115.05(1)(c)2).

- A. Routine maintenance of vegetation is allowed.
- B. Removal of vegetation within the vegetative buffer zone to manage exotic or invasive species, dead diseased or damaged vegetation, vegetation that must be removed to control disease, or vegetation creating an imminent safety hazard, provided that any vegetation removed be replaced by replanting in the same area as soon as practicable.
- C. Removal of trees and shrubs in the vegetative buffer zone to create access and viewing corridors is allowed. The access or viewing corridor may be up to 35% of the shoreline frontage. The access or viewing corridor may run contiguously for the entire maximum width of shoreline frontage owned.
- D. Timber harvest is allowed on a parcel with 10 or more acres of forested land, provided that the vegetative removal activity is consistent and follows “generally accepted forestry management practices” as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 1.25 (2) (b), and described in WDNR publication “Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines” (publication FR-226).

E. The department may authorize by permit additional vegetation management activities in the vegetative buffer zone. The permit issued under this subdivision paragraph shall require that all management activities comply with detailed plans approved by the department and designed to control erosion by limiting sedimentation into the waterbody, to improve the plant community by replanting in the same area, and to maintain and monitor the newly restored area. The permit also shall require an enforceable restriction to preserve the newly restored area. (Ord. 162-15, Sec. 2, 2018; Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.07.003 Cutting more than 35 feet inland. From the inland edge of the 35 foot area to the outer limits of the shoreland, the cutting of vegetation shall be allowed when accomplished using accepted forest management and soil conservation practices which protect water quality. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.08

FILLING, GRADING, LAGOONING, DREDGING, DITCHING AND EXCAVATING.

Sections:

<u>20.08.001</u>	Filling, Grading, Lagooning, Dredging, Ditching and Excavating.
<u>20.08.002</u>	General Standards.
<u>20.08.003</u>	Permit Required.
<u>20.08.004</u>	Permit Conditions.

20.08.001 Filling grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching and excavating. Filling, grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching and excavating may be permitted only in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.04, the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 30, and other state and federal laws where applicable, and only if done in a manner designed to minimize erosion, sedimentation and impairment of fish and wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty. (See Wis. Admin. Code NR 115.05 (1)(d)). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.08.002 General standards. Filling, grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching or excavating which does not require a permit under 20.08.003 may be permitted in the shoreland area provided that:

A. It is not done within the vegetative buffer zone unless necessary for establishing or expanding the vegetative buffer.

B. It is done in a manner designed to minimize erosion, sedimentation and impairment of fish and wildlife habitat.

C. Filling, grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching or excavating in a shoreland-wetland district meets the requirements of 20.03.003 B. and 20.03.003 C. of this ordinance.

D. All applicable federal, state and local authority is obtained in addition to a permit under this ordinance.

E. Any fill placed in the shoreland area is protected against erosion by the use of riprap, vegetative cover or a bulkhead. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.08.003 Permit required. Except as provided in 20.08.002, a permit is required:

A. For any filling or grading of any area which is within 300 feet landward of the ordinary high water mark of navigable water and which has surface drainage toward the water and on which there is either:

1. Any filling or grading on slopes of more than 20%.
2. Filling or grading of more than 1,000 square feet on slopes of 12%-20%.
3. Filling or grading of more than 2,000 square feet on slopes less than 12%.

B. For any construction or dredging commenced on any artificial waterway, canal, ditch, lagoon, pond, lake or similar waterway which is within 300 feet landward of the ordinary high water mark of a navigable body of water or where the purpose is the ultimate connection with a navigable body of water.

C. Permits required under this section, may consider items listed under 17.05.100 B. of the County Code to protect the site against erosion. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.08.004 Permit conditions. In granting a permit under 20.08.003, the County shall attach the following conditions, where appropriate, in addition to those provisions specified in 20.13.002 or 20.13.004.

A. If bare ground must be exposed, it shall be exposed for as short a time as feasible.

B. Temporary ground cover (such as mulch or jute netting) shall be used and permanent vegetative cover shall be established.

C. Diversion berms or bales, silting basins, terraces, filter fabric fencing, and other methods deemed acceptable by the County shall be used to prevent erosion.

D. Lagoons shall be constructed to avoid fish trap conditions.

E. Fill shall be stabilized according to accepted engineering standards.

F. Filling shall comply with any local floodplain zoning ordinance and shall not restrict a floodway or destroy the flood storage capacity of a floodplain.

G. Channels or artificial watercourses shall be constructed with side slopes of two (2) units horizontal distance to one (1) unit vertical or flatter which shall be promptly vegetated, unless bulkheads or riprap are provided. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.9

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE STANDARDS.

Sections:

20.09.001	Purpose
20.09.002	Calculation of percentage of impervious surfaces
20.09.003	General impervious standard
20.09.004	Impervious surface standard for highly developed shorelines
20.09.005	Maximum impervious surface standard
20.09.006	Treated impervious surfaces
20.09.007	Existing Impervious surfaces

20.09.001 Purpose. Establish impervious surface standards to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to protect against pollution of navigable waters. County impervious surface standards shall apply to the construction, reconstruction, expansion, replacement or relocation of any impervious surface on a riparian lot or parcel and any nonriparian lot or parcel that is located entirely within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable waterway. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.09.002 Calculation of percentage of impervious surface. Percentage of impervious surface shall be calculated by dividing the surface area of the existing and proposed impervious surfaces on the portion of a lot or parcel that is within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark by the total surface area of that lot or parcel, and multiplied by 100. Impervious surfaces described in 20.09.006 shall be excluded from the calculation of impervious surface on the lot or parcel. If an outlot lies between the ordinary high water mark and the developable lot or parcel and both are in common ownership, the lot or parcel and the outlot shall be considered one lot or parcel for the purposes of calculating the percentage of impervious surface. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(e)1). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.09.003 General impervious surface standard. Except as otherwise allowed in 20.09.004 through 20.09.006, the county shall allow up to 15% impervious surface on the portion of a lot or parcel that is within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(e)2). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.09.004 Impervious surface standard for highly developed shorelines. The county at its discretion may adopt an ordinance for highly developed shorelines allowing up to 30% for residential land use and up to 40% for commercial, industrial or business land uses for lands that meet one of the following standards: (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(e)2m, and Wis. Stat. 59.692 (1k)(am)2).

A. The highly developed shoreline is identified as an Urbanized Area or Urban Cluster in the 2010 US Census or has a commercial, industrial, or business land use as of January 31, 2013.

B. After conducting a hearing and receiving approval by the WDNR, the county has mapped additional areas of highly developed shorelines that are at least 500 feet in length and meet one of the following criteria:

1. The majority of the lots are developed with more than 30% of impervious surface area.
2. Located on a lake served by a sewerage system as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 110.03(30).
3. The majority of the lots contain less than 20,000 square feet in area. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.09.005 Maximum impervious surface standard. A property may exceed the impervious surface standard under 20.09.003 or 20.09.004 provided the following standards are met: (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(e)3).

A. For properties where the general impervious surface standard applies under 20.09.003, a property owner may have more than 15% impervious surface but not more than 30% impervious surface on the portion of a lot or parcel that is within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark.

B. For properties on shorelands where the impervious surface standard for highly developed shorelines applies under 20.9.4, a property owner may have more than 30% impervious surface but not more than 40% impervious surface for residential land uses. For commercial, industrial or business land uses a property owner may have more than 40% impervious surface but not more than 60% impervious surface.

C. For properties that exceed the standard under 20.09.003 or 20.09.004 but do not exceed the maximum standard under 20.09.005 A. or 20.09.005 B., a shoreland permit can be issued for development with a mitigation plan that meets the standards found in 20.13. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.09.006 Treated impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces that can be documented to demonstrate they meet either of the following standards shall be excluded from the impervious surface calculations under 20.09.002: (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(1)(e)3m, and Wis. Stat. 59.692(1k)(am)1.

A. The impervious surface is treated by devices such as storm water ponds, constructed wetlands, infiltration basins, rain gardens, bio-swales or other engineered systems.

B. The runoff from the impervious surface discharges to an internally drained pervious area that retains the runoff on or off the parcel and allows infiltration into the soil.

C. To qualify for the statutory exemption, property owners shall submit a complete shoreland permit application that is reviewed and approved by the department. The application shall include:

1. The required runoff volume of the impervious surface (IS) must use a rainfall depth derived from the current NOAA National Weather Service Precipitation Frequency Data Server (PFDS) 2 year 24 hour rainfall event;

2. A calculation showing how much runoff is coming from the impervious surface area. The calculation of the runoff volume to treat or infiltrate is the area of the impervious surface (IS) multiplied by the runoff depth (2.80 inch or 0.23 feet);

Example: (1,000 square feet IS) x (0.23 ft. runoff depth) = 230 cubic feet (total volume to infiltrate/treat).

3. Documentation by a professional engineer that the runoff from the impervious surface is being treated by devices such as storm water pond, rain gardens other engineered system to standards, and for storm volumes exceeding the PFDS 2 year 24 hour rainfall event will require a stable outlet; or documentation that the runoff from the impervious surface discharges to an internally drained pervious area that retains the runoff on or off the parcel and allows infiltration into the soil;

4. Documentation that all applicable storm water BMP technical standards are met;

5. An implementation schedule and enforceable obligation on the property owner to establish and maintain the treatment system, treatment devices, or internally drained area. The enforceable obligations shall be evidenced by an instrument recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds prior to the issuance of the permit.

Note: The provisions in this subsection are an exemption from the impervious surface standards and as such should be read and construed narrowly. As such, a property owner is entitled to this exemption only when the runoff from the impervious surface is being treated by a sufficient (appropriately sized) treatment system, treatment device or internally drained. Property owners that can demonstrate that the runoff from an impervious surface is being treated consistent with this subsection will be considered pervious for the purposes of implementing the impervious surface standards in this ordinance. If a property owner or subsequent property owner fails to maintain the treatment system, treatment device or internally drained area, the impervious surface is no longer exempt. (Ord. 161-7, Sec. 3, 2017; Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.09.007 Existing impervious surfaces. For existing impervious surfaces that were lawfully placed when constructed but that do not comply with the impervious surface standard in 20.09.003 or the maximum impervious surface standard in 20.09.005, the property owner may do any of the following: (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(e)4).

- A. Maintain and repair the existing impervious surfaces;
- B. Replace existing impervious surfaces with similar surfaces within the existing building envelope; or
- C. Relocate or modify an existing impervious surface with similar or different impervious surface, provided that the relocation or modification does not result in an increase in the percentage of impervious surface that existed on the effective date of the county shoreland ordinance, and the impervious surface meets the applicable setback requirements in 20.06.001 or 20.06.002. A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.10

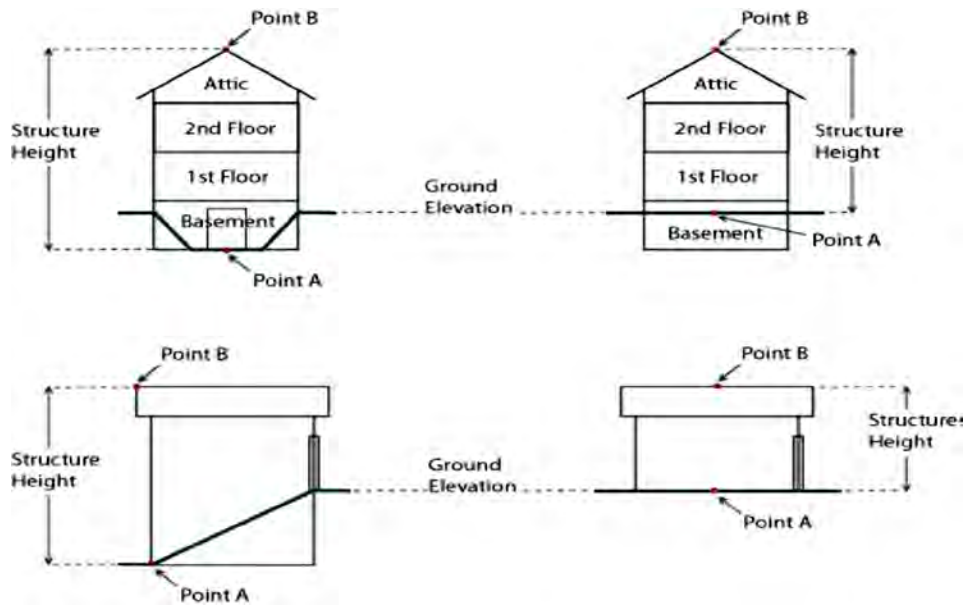
HEIGHT

Sections:

- [20.10.001](#) Structure Height
- [20.10.002](#) Structure Height Measurement

20.10.001 Height. To protect and preserve wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty, on or after February 1, 2010, a county may not permit any construction that results in a structure taller than 35 feet in the shoreland overlay protection district. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(1)(f)). A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.10.002 Structure height measurement. Structure height is the measurement of the vertical line segment starting at the lowest point of any exposed wall and its intersect with the ground (Point A in the following diagram) to a line horizontal to the highest point of a structure (Point B in the following diagram), unless specified under other sections of this code. A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)



Chapter 20.11

NONCONFORMING USES AND STRUCTURES.

Sections:

<u>20.11.001</u>	Discontinued nonconforming use.
<u>20.11.002</u>	Maintenance, repair, replacement or vertical expansion of nonconforming structures.
<u>20.11.003</u>	Lateral expansion of nonconforming principal structure within the setback.
<u>20.11.004</u>	Expansion of nonconforming principal structures beyond the setback.
<u>20.11.005</u>	Relocation of nonconforming principal structures.

20.11.001 Discontinued nonconforming use. If a nonconforming use is discontinued for a period of 12 months, any future use of the building, structure or property shall conform to the ordinance. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(1)(g)3). A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.11.002 Maintenance, repair, replacement or vertical expansion of nonconforming structures. An existing structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but that does not comply with the required shoreland setback may be maintained, repaired, replaced, restored, rebuilt or remodeled if the activity does not expand the footprint of the nonconforming structure. Further, an existing structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but that does not comply with the required shoreland setback may be vertically expanded unless the vertical expansion would extend more than 35 feet above grade level. Counties may allow expansion of a structure beyond the existing footprint if the expansion is necessary to comply with applicable state or federal requirements. (See Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1k)(a)2,4 and (b)). A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.11.003 Lateral expansion of nonconforming principal structures within the setback. An existing principal structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but that does not comply with the required building setback per 20.06.001 may be expanded laterally, provided that all of the following requirements are met: (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(1)(g)5).

A. The use of the structure has not been discontinued for a period of 12 months or more if a nonconforming use.

B. The existing principal structure is at least 35 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.

C. Lateral expansions are limited to a maximum of 200 square feet over the life of the structure. No portion of the expansion may be any closer to the ordinary high-water mark than the closest point of the existing principal structure.

D. The county shall issue a shoreland permit that requires a mitigation plan that shall be approved by the county and implemented by the property owner by the date specified in the permit. The mitigation plan shall meet the standards found in 20.13.

- E. All other provisions of the shoreland ordinance shall be met. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.11.004 Expansion of a nonconforming principal structure beyond setback. An existing principal structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but that does not comply with the required building setback under 20.06.001 may be expanded horizontally, landward, or vertically provided that the expanded area meets the building setback requirements per 20.06.001 and that all other provisions of the shoreland ordinance are met. A mitigation plan is not required solely for expansion under this paragraph, but may be required per 20.09.005. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(1)(g)5m). A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.11.005 Relocation of nonconforming principal structures. An existing principal structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but that does not comply with the required building setback per 20.06.001 may be relocated on the property provided all of the following requirements are met: (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(1)(g)6).

- A. The use of the structure has not been discontinued for a period of 12 months or more if a nonconforming use.
- B. The existing principal structure is at least 35 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
- C. No portion of the relocated structure is located any closer to the ordinary high-water mark than the closest point of the existing principal structure.
- D. The county determines that no other location is available on the property to build a principal structure of a comparable size to the structure proposed for relocation that will result in compliance with the shoreland setback requirement per 20.06.001.
- E. The county shall issue a shoreland permit that requires a mitigation plan that shall be approved by the county and implemented by the property owner by the date specified in the permit. The mitigation plan shall meet the standards found in 20.13, and include enforceable obligations of the property owner to establish or maintain measures that the county determines are adequate to offset the impacts of the permitted relocation on water quality, near-shore aquatic habitat, upland wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty. The mitigation measures shall be proportional to the amount and impacts of the relocated structure being permitted. The obligations of the property owner under the mitigation plan shall be evidenced by an instrument recorded in the office of the County Register of Deeds.
- F. All other provisions of the shoreland ordinance shall be met. A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.12

MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, REPLACEMENT OR VERTICAL EXPANSION OF STRUCTURES THAT WERE AUTHORIZED BY VARIANCE.

Sections:

[20.12.001](#) Maintenance, repair, replacement, or vertical expansion of structures that were authorized by variance. A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.12.001 Maintenance, repair, replacement, or vertical expansion of structures that were authorized by variance. A structure of which any part has been authorized to be located within the shoreland setback area by a variance granted before July 13, 2015 may be maintained, repaired, replaced, restored, rebuilt or remodeled if the activity does not expand the footprint of the authorized structure. Additionally, the structure may be vertically expanded unless the vertical expansion would extend more than 35 feet above grade level. Counties may allow expansion of a structure beyond the existing footprint if the expansion is necessary to comply with applicable state or federal requirements. (See Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1k)(a)2. and (a)4). A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.13

MITIGATION

Sections:

[20.13.001](#) Mitigation

20.13.001 Mitigation. When the county issues a shoreland permit requiring mitigation under 20.09.005 C., 20.11.003 D. and 20.11.005 E. the property owner must submit a complete shoreland permit application that is reviewed and approved by the county. The application shall include the following: (See Wis. Admin. Code §§ NR 115.05 (1)(e)3, (g)5, (g)6).

A. A site plan which is designed and implemented to restore natural functions lost through development and human activities. The site plan shall include a scaled plot plan of the lot, including the following information:

1. Location of all existing and proposed structures, including paths, stairways, retaining walls, decks, patios, vegetative cover, etc. with accurate distances shown between the structures and all property lines.

2. Location of any areas of existing and proposed land disturbance.
 3. Location of septic and well facilities.
 4. Location of the viewing and access corridor.
 5. Location of parking areas and driveways.
 6. Location of ordinary high-water mark and any wetland areas.
 7. Maps showing the existing and proposed topography and slope of the property.
 8. Impervious surface calculations.
 9. A minimum of four photos of the property. These photos shall include a photo taken from the water, along the shoreline and from the principal structure. If necessary, the department may require additional photos and/or a site inspection of the property.
 10. Properties which include flood hazard areas shall be required to submit documentation showing the base flood elevation and its location on the property.
- B. Mitigation plans shall include enforceable obligations of the property owner to establish and/or maintain measures that the county determines adequate to offset the impacts of the proposal on water quality, near-shore aquatic habitat, upland wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty.
- C. The obligations of the property owner under the mitigation plan shall be evidenced by an instrument recorded in the office of the register if deeds.
- D. For the purposes of administration, and in order to meet the requirements of this chapter:
1. Mitigation plans submitted to the department shall meet the requirement specified in appendix "A" of this code, which is on file with the department. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.14

ADMINISTRATION

Sections:

20.14.001	Administrative provisions
20.14.002	Shoreland permits
20.14.003	Conditional use permits
20.14.004	Variances
20.14.005	Board of land use appeals
20.14.006	Fees
20.14.007	Changes and amendments
20.14.008	Enforcement and penalties

20.14.001 Administrative provisions. The following administrative shoreland provisions are adopted by Eau Claire County: (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (4)).

- A. The appointment of an administrator and such additional staff as the workload may require.

B. The creation of a zoning agency as authorized by Wis. Stat. § 59.69, a board of land use appeals as authorized by Wis. Stat. § 59.694, and a county planning agency as defined in Wis. Stat. § 236.02(3), and required by Wis. Stat. § 59.692(3).

C. A system of permits for all new construction, development, reconstruction, structural alteration or moving of buildings and structures. A copy of applications shall be required to be filed in the office of the county Land Use Manager, unless prohibited by Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1k).

D. Regular inspection of permitted work in progress to insure conformity of the finished structures with the terms of the ordinance.

E. A variance procedure which authorizes the board of land use appeals to grant such variance from the terms of the ordinance as will not be contrary to the public interest where, owing to special conditions and the adoption of the shoreland zoning ordinance, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship as long as the granting of a variance does not have the effect of granting or increasing any use of property which is prohibited in that zoning district by the shoreland zoning ordinance.

F. A conditional use procedure for uses presenting special problems.

G. The county shall keep a complete record of all proceedings before the board of adjustment and the Committee on Planning and Development.

H. Written notice to the appropriate office of the WDNR at least 10 days prior to any hearing on a proposed variance, special exception or conditional use permit, appeal for a map or text interpretation, map or text amendment, and copies of all proposed land divisions submitted to the county for review under 20.04.

I. Submission to the appropriate office of the WDNR, within 10 days after grant or denial, copies of any decision on a variance, special exception or conditional use permit, or appeal for a map or text interpretation, and any decision to amend a map or text of an ordinance.

J. Development and maintenance of an official map of all mapped zoning district boundaries, amendments, and recordings.

K. The establishment of appropriate penalties for violations of various provisions of the ordinance, including forfeitures. Compliance with the ordinance shall be enforceable by the use of injunctions to prevent or abate a violation, as provided in Wis. Stat. § 59.69 (11).

L. Pursuing the prosecution of violations of the shoreland ordinance.

M. Shoreland wetland map amendments according to Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.04. Every petition for a shoreland-wetland map amendment filed with the county clerk shall be referred to the county zoning agency. A copy of each petition shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR within 5 days of the filing of the petition with the county clerk. Written notice of the public hearing to be held on a proposed amendment shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR at least 10 days prior to the hearing. A copy of the county board's decision on each proposed amendment shall be forwarded to the appropriate office of the WDNR within 10 days after the decision is issued. A. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.14.002 Shoreland permits.

A. When required. A system of permits for all new construction, development, reconstruction, structural alteration, or moving of buildings and structures is hereby established. A copy of all applications shall be required to be filed in the office of the county land use manager. Regular inspection of permitted work in progress shall be required to insure conformity of the finished structures with the terms of the ordinance. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(4)).

1. A shoreland land use permit is required for: all new construction, including additions; development; ditching, dredging, excavating, filling, grading, or lagooning; moving of buildings or structures; reconstruction; or structural alteration.

2. A mitigation permit or permits shall be required as described in 20.09.005 C., 20.11.003 D. and 20.11.005 E.

3. An impervious surface authorization permit shall be required in order to have surfaces designated as treated surfaces, as described in 20.09.006, or to exceed impervious surface ratio allowances.

B. Application. An application for a shoreland permit shall be made to the Land Use Manager upon forms furnished by the department and shall include the following information:

1. Name and address of applicant and property owner.

2. Legal description of the property and type of proposed use.

3. A to scale drawing of the dimensions of the lot and location of all existing and proposed structures and impervious surfaces relative to the lot lines, center line of abutting highways and the ordinary high-water mark of any abutting waterways.

4. Location and description of any existing private water supply or sewage system or notification of plans for any such installation.

5. Plans for appropriate mitigation when required.

6. Payment of the appropriate fee.

7. Additional information required by the Land Use Manager.

C. Application acceptance. The land use manager will determine whether a complete application has been submitted and, no later than ten (10) business days after the application is submitted, notify the applicant in writing about the determination of completeness.

1. If the land use manager determines that the application is incomplete, the notice will state the reason for the determination and information necessary to make the application complete.

2. If the land use manager determines that the application is complete, s/he will provide to the applicant a notice of complete application, unless s/he has already issued the permit.

3. Once the applicant receives notice of an incomplete application, the applicant must submit the information requested by the land use manager within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days. If the additional information is submitted within this time period, the land use manager shall re-initiate the process for a determination of completeness, and notify the applicant within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the additional information whether the application is complete or incomplete.

4. If the applicant fails to submit the information requested by the land use manager within one hundred and eighty (180) days, the land use manager will send a letter to the applicant, informing the applicant that unless the information is received within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the letter, a decision will be issued that the application has expired for lack of the information necessary to complete review and processing. The decision shall be sent to the applicant, and will also state that the County will take no further action on the application.

5. The land use manager will make a final decision on an application within thirty (30) calendar days of the notice of complete application.

6. The applicant will submit as requested by the land use manager, at any time during the review process, additional information the land use manager finds to be reasonably necessary for review of the application.

7. If the applicant makes any material additions or alterations to the project for which the application has been submitted, any calendar day time limit begins anew.

D. Expiration of a shoreland permit. Shoreland permits are valid for two years to complete the construction. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.14.003 Conditional use permits.

A. Application for a conditional use permit. Any use listed as a conditional use in this ordinance shall be permitted only after an application has been submitted to the Land Use Manager and a conditional use permit has been granted by the Committee. To secure information upon which to base its determination, the Committee may require the applicant to furnish, in addition to the information required for a zoning permit, the following information:

1. A plan of the area showing surface contours, soil types, ordinary high-water marks, ground water conditions, subsurface geology and vegetative cover.

2. Location of buildings, parking areas, traffic access, driveways, walkways, piers, open space and landscaping.

3. Plans of buildings, sewage disposal facilities, water supply systems and arrangement of operations.

4. Specifications for areas of proposed filling, grading, lagooning or dredging.

5. Other pertinent information necessary to determine if the proposed use meets the requirements of this ordinance.

6. Rationale for why the proposed special exception meets all of the special exception criteria listed in the ordinance.

B. Notice, public hearing and decision. Before deciding whether to grant or deny an application for a conditional use permit, the board of land use appeals shall hold a public hearing. Notice of such public hearing, specifying the time, place and matters to come before the Committee, shall be given as a Class 2 notice under Wis. Stat. ch. 985. Such notice shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR at least 10 days prior to the hearing. The Committee shall state in writing the grounds for granting or denying a conditional use permit.

C. Standards applicable to all conditional use permits. In deciding a conditional use permit, the Committee shall evaluate the effect of the proposed use upon:

1. The maintenance of safe and healthful conditions.

2. The prevention and control of water pollution including sedimentation.

3. Compliance with local floodplain zoning ordinances and opportunity for damage to adjacent properties due to altered surface water drainage.

4. The erosion potential of the site based upon degree and direction of slope, soil type and vegetative cover.

5. The location of the site with respect to existing or future access roads.

6. The need of the proposed use for a shoreland location.

7. Its compatibility with uses on adjacent land.

8. The amount of liquid and solid wastes to be generated and the adequacy of the proposed disposal systems.

9. Location factors under which:
- a. Domestic uses shall be generally preferred;
 - b. Uses not inherently a source of pollution within an area shall be preferred over uses that are or may be a pollution source; and
 - c. Use locations within an area tending to minimize the possibility of pollution shall be preferred over use locations tending to increase that possibility. Additional standards such as parking, noise, etc. maybe refer to the applicable part of their ordinance.

D. Conditions attached to conditional use permits. Such conditions may include specifications for, without limitation because of specific enumeration: type of shore cover; specific sewage disposal and water supply facilities; landscaping and planting screens; period of operation; operational control; sureties; deed restrictions; location of piers, docks, parking and signs; and type of construction. Upon consideration of the factors listed above, the Committee shall attach such conditions, in addition to those required elsewhere in this ordinance, as are necessary to further the purposes of this ordinance. Violations of any of these conditions shall be deemed a violation of this ordinance. In granting a conditional use permit, the Committee may not impose conditions which are more restrictive than any of the specific standards in the ordinance. Where the ordinance is silent as to the extent of restriction, the board may impose any reasonable permit conditions to affect the purpose of this ordinance.

E. Recording. When a conditional use permit is approved, an appropriate record shall be made of the land use and structures permitted. Such permit shall be applicable solely to the structures, use and property so described. A copy of any decision on a conditional use permit shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR within 10 days after it is granted or denied.

F. Revocation of conditional use permit. If, in the opinion of the department or a member of the committee, the terms of a conditional use permit have been violated, or that the use is substantially detrimental to persons or property in the shoreland overlay protection district, the committee shall hold a public hearing on the revocation of the permit. If, upon written findings of fact that the terms of the permit have been violated, the committee may revoke, modify or leave the permit unchanged. The permit holder and/or the property owner shall be responsible for the fees associated with the revocation hearing. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.14.004 Variances.

A. Variance criteria to be met. The board of land use appeals may grant upon appeal a variance from the standards of this ordinance where an applicant convincingly demonstrates that:

1. Literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship on the applicant;
2. The hardship is due to special conditions unique to the property;
3. The request is not contrary to the public interest; and
4. The request represents the minimum relief necessary to relieve unnecessary burdens.

B. Notice, public, hearing and decision. Before deciding on an application for a variance, the board of land use appeals shall hold a public hearing. Notice of such hearing specifying the time, place and matters of concern, shall be given a Class 2 notice under Wis. Stat. § 985. Such notice shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR at least 10 days prior to the hearing. The board shall state in writing the reasons for granting or refusing a variance and shall provide a copy of such decision to the appropriate office of the WDNR within 10 days of the decision. (See Wis. Stat. § 59.694(6)). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.14.005 Board of land use appeals. The county executive, county administrator or chair of the county board shall appoint a board of land use appeals consisting of 3 or 5 members under Wis. Stat. § 59.694, The county board shall adopt such rules for the conduct of the business of the board of land use appeals as required by Wis. Stat. § 59.694(3).

A. Powers and duties.

1. The board of land use appeals shall adopt such additional rules as it deems necessary and may exercise all of the powers conferred on such boards by Wis. Stat. § 59.694.

2. It shall hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement or administration of this ordinance.

3. It shall hear and decide applications for conditional use permits pursuant to 20.13.003.

4. It may grant a variance from the dimensional standards of this ordinance pursuant to 20.13.004.

5. In granting a variance, the board may not impose conditions which are more restrictive than any of the specific standards in the ordinance. Where the ordinance is silent as to the extent of restriction, the board may impose any reasonable permit conditions to affect the purpose of this ordinance.

B. Appeals to the board. Appeals to the board of land use appeals may be made by any person aggrieved or by an officer, department, or board of the county affected by any decision of the Land Use Manager or other administrative officer. Such appeal shall be made within 30 days, as provided by the rules of the board, by filing with the officer whose decision is in question, and with the board of land use appeals, a notice of appeal specifying the reasons for the appeal. The Land Use Manager or other officer whose decision is in question shall promptly transmit to the board all the papers constituting the record concerning the matter appealed.

C. Hearing appeals and applications for variances and conditional use permits.

1. The board of adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for a hearing on the appeal or application. The board shall give public notice thereof by publishing a Class 2 notice under Wis. Stat. § 985, specifying the date, time and place of the hearing and the matters to come before the board. Notice shall be mailed to the parties in interest. Written notice shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR at least 10 days prior to hearings on proposed shoreland variances, conditional uses, and appeals for map or text interpretations.

2. A decision regarding the appeal or application shall be made as soon as practical. Copies of all decisions on shoreland variances, conditional uses, and appeals for map or text interpretations shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR within 10 days after they are granted or denied.

3. The final disposition of an appeal or application to the board of land use appeals shall be in the form of a written resolution or order signed by the chairman and secretary of the board. The final disposition of an appeal or application to the board of land use appeals shall be in the form of a written decision document signed by the chairman and secretary of the board. The decision document shall either; affirm, deny, vary or modify the appeal and list the specific reasons for the determination.

4. At the public hearing, any party may appear in person or by agent or by attorney. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.14.006 Fees. A. Application and review fees under this ordinance shall be in accordance with the following:

A. The department will, except where another provision of this ordinance prohibits doing so, charge a fee for permits, approvals, or determinations.

B. The permit, approval, or determination fee must accompany the application or request. Otherwise, the application will not be considered complete and the request will not be considered.

C. Fees charged for permits, approvals, or determinations will be as determined by the Eau Claire County General User Fees Schedule, established by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors.

D. If the applicant applies for a permit or requests an approval after a project is begun or after it is completed, the department will charge an amount equal to twice the amount of the fee that it would have charged under this section. Subsequent violations shall be subject to the fees specified in the Eau Claire County Citation Code.

E. The department will only refund a permit, approval, or determination fee when approved by the Director of Planning and Development.

F. Multiple fees may be applicable, and will be charged, to a project. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.14.007 Changes and amendments. The county board may from time to time, alter, supplement or change the regulations contained in this ordinance in accordance with the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 59.69(5)(e), Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115, and this ordinance where applicable.

A. Amendments. Amendments to this ordinance may be made on petition of any interested party as provided in Wis. Stat. § 59.69(5).

B. Shoreland wetland map amendments. Every petition for a shoreland-wetland map amendment filed with the county clerk shall be referred to the county zoning agency. A copy of each petition shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR within 5 days of the filing of the petition with the county clerk. Written notice of the public hearing to be held on a proposed amendment shall be provided to the appropriate office of the Department Natural Resources at least 10 days prior to the hearing. A copy of the county board's decision on each proposed amendment shall be provided to the appropriate office of the WDNR within 10 days after the decision is issued. (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.04). (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

20.14.008 Enforcement and penalties. Any development, any building or structure constructed, moved or structurally altered, or any use established after the effective date of this ordinance in violation of the provisions of this ordinance, by any person, firm, association, corporation (including building contractors or their agents) shall be deemed a violation. The Land Use Manager or the county zoning agency shall refer violations to corporation counsel who shall expeditiously prosecute violations. Any person, firm, association or corporation who violates or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a forfeiture of fifty (\$50.00) dollars per offense, together with the applicable costs, penalties, and assessments. Each day which the violation exists shall constitute a separate offense. Every violation of this ordinance is a public nuisance and the creation thereof may be enjoined and the maintenance thereof may be abated pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.69(11). (See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(4)(j)).

A. Penalty. Any person, firm or corporation, including those doing work for others, who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to a forfeiture of fifty (\$50.00) dollars per offense, together with the applicable costs, penalties, and assessments. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a distinct and separate violation of this Ordinance and as such, forfeitures shall apply accordingly. The Land Use Manager shall refer violations to the Corporation Counsel who shall prosecute violations.

B. Injunction. Any use or action which violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to a court injunction prohibiting such violation.

C. Responsibility for compliance. It shall be the responsibility of the applicants as well as their agent or other persons acting on their behalf to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance. Any person, firm or corporation, causing a violation or refusing to comply with any provision of this Ordinance will be notified in writing of such violation by the County Land Use Manager or his designated Zoning Deputy. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a distinct and separate violation of this ordinance and, as such, forfeitures shall apply accordingly. Every violation of this ordinance is a public nuisance and the creation thereof may be enjoined and the maintenance thereof may be abated pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.69(11).

D. Suspension of permit. Whenever the Land Use Manager, or his designated Zoning Deputy determines there are reasonable grounds for believing there is a violation of any provision of this Ordinance, the Land Use Manager or his designated Zoning Deputy shall give notice to the owner of record as hereinafter provided. Such notice shall be in writing and shall include a statement of the reason for the suspension of the permit. It shall allow 30 days for the performance of any act it requires. If work cannot be completed in the 30 day period, an extension may be granted if reason of hardship prevail and can be verified. Such notice or order shall be deemed to have been properly served upon such owner or agent when a copy thereof has been sent by registered mail to owner's last known address or when the owner has been served by such notice by any method authorized by the laws of Wisconsin. The owner of record has the right to appeal any decision by the Land Use Manager or his designated Zoning Deputy to the Board of Land Use Appeals for a variance from the strict rule of the Ordinance within 30 days of receipt of a notice or order.

E. Emergency conditions. Whenever the Land Use Manager finds that an emergency exists such as sudden, unexpected occurrences or combinations thereof, unforeseen conditions or circumstances at the time beyond one's control, adverse weather conditions, meeting a timetable which requires immediate action to protect the public health, safety and welfare, the Land Use Manager may, without notice or hearing, issue an order citing the existence of such emergency and may require that such action be taken as may be deemed necessary to meet the emergency. The Land Use Manager shall notify the Chairperson of the Committee within 24 hours of such situations. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Ordinance such order shall become effective immediately. Any person to whom such order is directed shall comply therewith immediately. Appeals or challenges to emergency orders may be brought after emergency conditions have ceased, to the Board of Land Use Appeals. (Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

Chapter 20.15

DEFINITIONS

Sections:

20.15.001 Definitions

20.15.001 Definitions. For the purpose of administering and enforcing this ordinance, the terms or words used herein shall be interpreted as follows: Words used in the present tense include the future; words in the singular number include the plural number; and words in the plural number include the singular number. The word "shall" is mandatory, not permissive. All distances unless otherwise specified shall be measured horizontally. All measured distances shall be to the nearest integral foot or meter and increments of one-half or more of a foot or meter shall cause the next highest foot or meter to be applied. The following terms used in this ordinance mean:

- A. "Access and viewing corridor" means a strip of vegetated land that allows safe pedestrian access to the shore through the vegetative buffer zone.
- B. "Alteration" means an enhancement, upgrading or substantial change or modifications other than an addition or repair to a dwelling or to electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning and other systems within a structure.
- C. "Bed and breakfast establishment" means any place of lodging that provides 8 or fewer rooms for rent for more than 10 nights in a 12 month period, is owner-occupied and in which the only meal served to guest is breakfast.
- D. "Boathouse" means a permanent structure used for the storage of watercraft and associated materials and includes all structures which are totally enclosed, have roofs or walls or any combination of these structural parts.

E. “Building envelope” means the three dimensional space within which a structure is built.

F. “Campground” means any parcel of land which is designed, maintained, intended or used for the purpose of providing sites for nonpermanent overnight use by 4 or more camping units, or which is advertised or represented as a camping area.

G. “Committee” means the Eau Claire County Committee on Planning and Development.

H. "Conditional use" means a use which is permitted by this ordinance provided that certain conditions specified in the ordinance are met and that a permit is granted by the committee.

I. "County zoning agency" means that committee or commission created or designated by the county board under Wis. Stat. § 59.69(2)(a), to act in all matters pertaining to county planning and zoning.

J. "Department" means the department of planning and development.

K. “Drainage system” means one or more artificial ditches, tile drains or similar devices which collects surface runoff or groundwater and convey it to a point of discharge.

L. “Existing development pattern” means that principal structures exist within 250 feet of a proposed principal structure in both directions along the shoreline.

M. "Floodplain" means the land which has been or may be hereafter covered by flood water during the regional flood. The floodplain includes the floodway and the flood fringe as those terms are defined in Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 116.

N. "Facility" means any property or equipment of a public utility, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01 (5), or a cooperative association organized under Wis. Stat. ch. § 185. Code for the purpose of producing or furnishing heat, light, or power to its members only, that is used for the transmission, delivery, or furnishing of natural gas, heat, light, or power.

O. “Footprint” means the land area covered by a structure at ground level measured on a horizontal plane. The footprint of a residence or building includes the horizontal plane bounded by the furthest exterior wall and eave if present, projected to natural grade. For structures without walls (decks, stairways, patios, carports) – a single horizontal plane bounded by the furthest portion of the structure projected to natural grade. Note: For the purposes of replacing or reconstructing a nonconforming building with walls, the footprint shall not be expanded by enclosing the area that is located within the horizontal plane from the exterior wall to the eaves projected to natural grade. This constitutes a lateral expansion under Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 115 and would need to follow Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05 (1)(g)5.

P. “Generally accepted forestry management practices” means forestry management practices that promote sound management of a forest. Generally accepted forestry management practices include those practices contained in the most recent version of the WDNR publication known as Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines and identified as PUB FR-226.

Q. “Impervious surface” means an area that releases as runoff all or a majority of the precipitation that falls on it. “Impervious surface” excludes frozen soil but includes rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and streets unless specifically designed, constructed, and maintained to be pervious. Roadways as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(54), or sidewalks as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(58) are not considered impervious surfaces.

R. “Land Use Manager” means the employee of the county officially designated to administer this chapter or an agent designated by the Director of the Eau Claire County Department of Planning and Development.

S. "Lot" means a parcel of land, legally created, which is occupied or designed to provide space for one principal structure and approved uses, including the open spaces required by this subtitle. A lot includes all contiguous property under one owner and may consist of multiple deeds, abstracts, and tax statements.

T. "Lot of record" means a lot which has been legally created prior to the effective date of Title 18.

U. "Mitigation" means balancing measures that are designed, implemented and function to restore natural functions and values that are otherwise lost through development and human activities.

V. "Navigable waters" means Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, all natural inland lakes within Wisconsin and all streams, ponds, sloughs, flowages and other waters within the territorial limits of this state, including the Wisconsin portion of boundary waters, which are navigable under the laws of this state. Under Wis. Stat. § 281.31(2m), notwithstanding any other provision of law or administrative rule promulgated thereunder, shoreland ordinances required under Wis. Stat. § 59.692, Stats, and Wis. Admin. Code. ch. NR 115, do not apply to lands adjacent to:

1. Farm drainage ditches where such lands are not adjacent to a natural navigable stream or river and such lands were not navigable streams before ditching; and
2. Artificially constructed drainage ditches, ponds or storm water retention basins that are not hydrologically connected to a natural navigable water body

W. "Ordinary high-water mark" means the point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of surface water is so continuous as to leave a distinctive mark such as by erosion, destruction or prevention of terrestrial vegetation, predominance of aquatic vegetation, or other easily recognized characteristics.

X. "Previously developed" means a lot or parcel that was developed with a structure legally placed upon it.

Y. "Regional flood" means a flood determined to be representative of large floods known to have generally occurred in Wisconsin and which may be expected to occur on a particular stream because of like physical characteristics, once in every 100 years.

Z. "Routine maintenance of vegetation" means normally accepted horticultural practices that do not result in the loss of any layer of existing vegetation and do not require earth disturbance.

AA. "Shoreland" means lands within the following distances from the ordinary highwater mark of navigable waters: 1,000 feet from a lake, pond or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater.

BB. "Shoreland setback" also known as the "Shoreland setback area" in Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1)(bn), means an area in a shoreland that is within a certain distance of the ordinary high-water mark in which the construction or placement of structures has been limited or prohibited under an ordinance enacted under Wis. Stat. §59.692.

CC. "Shoreland-wetland district" means a zoning district, created as a part of a county zoning ordinance, comprised of shorelands that are designated as wetlands on the Wisconsin wetland inventory maps prepared by the WDNR.

DD. "Structural alteration" means any change in the supporting members of a building such as bearing walls, columns, rafters, beams, girders, footings and piles.

EE. "Structure" means a principal structure or any accessory structure including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, walkway, patio, deck, retaining wall, porch or fire pit.

FF. "Tourist Rooming House" means all lodging places and tourist cabins and cottages as regulated by the department of health and human services pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 72, other than hotels and motels, in which sleeping accommodations are offered for pay to tourists or transients. It does not include private boarding or rooming houses not accommodating tourists or transients, or bed and breakfast establishments regulated under Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 73.

GG. "Unnecessary hardship" means that circumstance where special conditions, which were not self-created, affect a particular property and make strict conformity with restrictions governing area, setbacks, frontage, height or density unnecessarily burdensome or unreasonable in light of the purposes of this ordinance.

HH. "Variance" means an authorization granted by the board of land use appeals to construct, alter or use a building or structure in a manner that deviates from the dimensional standards of this ordinance.

II. "WDNR" means the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

JJ. "Wetlands" means those areas where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which have soils indicative of wet conditions. (Ord. 161-7, Sec. 4, 2017; Ord. 160-23, Sec. 22, 2017)

APPENDIX A

SHORELAND ACTIVITIES WHICH REQUIRE A MITIGATION PLAN

A. When Impervious Surface (IS) limits fall within the below % ranges: (20.09.005)
Percent IS requiring mitigation

General Standard Shorelines	Highly Developed Shorelines (Residential)	Highly Developed Shorelines (Commercial)
15% - 30 %	>30 % - 40 %	> 40 % - 60 %

- A variance is required when the above IS % limits are exceeded.
- The repair, replacement, or relocation of existing IS does not require mitigation.

B. A lateral expansion of a principal structure that is legal nonconforming to shore or wetland setback (200 sq. ft. max. allowed). (20.11.003)

C. The relocation of a principal structure that is legal nonconforming to shore setback. Relocation is only available when no other more conforming location is available to accommodate a similar sized structure. (20.11.005)

In order to make the above improvements to nonconforming structures, the following must be met:

- The existing principal structure must be located at least 35 ft. from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of a navigable waterway and wetland.
- No portion of the addition or relocated structure may be closer to the shore than the existing structure.

Required Mitigation Practices - The Point System

Property owners must achieve a certain number of mitigation points in order to construct improvements that require mitigation in accordance with this appendix. Property owners are able to choose a range of practices, with each practice being worth a pre-determined number of points, to achieve the total number of points required for the proposed project.

Mitigation Points are cumulative. For example: A site with a code compliant shoreline protection area twice as deep as required would get 1 point for the extra buffer area, as well as 2 points for the standard code compliant vegetation protection area, for a total of 3 points.

Mitigation Point Requirements

A. Five (5) mitigation points are required when Impervious Surface (IS) limits fall within the below % ranges:

General Standard Shorelines	Highly Developed Shorelines (Residential)	Highly Developed Shorelines (Commercial)
15% - 30 %	>30 % - 40 %	> 40 % - 60 %

B. Four (4) mitigation points are required for a lateral expansion of a principal structure that is legal nonconforming to shore or wetland setback (200 sq. ft. max. allowed).

C. Four (4) mitigation points are required for the relocation of a principal structure that is legal nonconforming to shore setback. Relocation is only available when no other more conforming location is available to accommodate a similar sized structure.

Mitigation Schedule

Mitigation Type	Number of Points Awarded for Mitigation
A. Removal of a Non-Compliant POWTS (septic system)	3 points
B. Removal of improvements within 75 ft. of the OHWM and replace with vegetation. Examples: beaches, boathouse approaches, fire pits, fountains, impervious surfaces	1 point, 0-250 square feet, 2 points, 251-500 square feet, 3 points, 501 square feet and greater. (credit is not provided if removal is required as part of another accredited mitigation type)
C. Maintain existing or establish new native vegetative buffer adjacent to a navigable waterway (OHWM extended 35' landward)	3 points
D. Increase depth of existing compliant shoreland buffer	1 point for every 15 foot increase (max. 3 points)
E. Remove existing retaining walls located within 75 ft. of OHWM and replace with vegetation (low impact landscaping approach)	1 point per 25 lineal ft. of wall
F. Removal of seawall/riprap and replacement with natural, nonstructural stabilization materials	4 points for entire shoreline (for shorelines with greater than 100 feet of lineal shoreline) 2 points for 50 feet of lineal shoreline
G. Removal of Existing Shore lighting with installation of Downcast Shore Lighting	1 point
H. Increasing setback of structures from OHWM	1 point per 5' of increased setback beyond required (max. 4 points)
I. Decrease width of access & viewing corridor below 35%	1 point = 25 % view corridor 2 points = 15% view corridor (max. 2 points)
J. Passive restoration (natural recovery) of a compliant shoreland buffer	2 point
K. Installation of a rain garden or other engineered system designed to capture and treat/infiltrate storm water runoff	3 points for system designed and implemented to result in no net increase in storm water runoff. 5 points for systems designed and implemented to result in "0" storm water runoff.
L. Maintain existing or establish new shoreline habitat (fallen trees or fish sticks)	2 points per tree cluster as specified in the DNR Best Practices Manual
M. Alternative method approved by Department staff	Based on proposal

*See below for detailed explanation of mitigation items. (Ord. 162-015, Sec. 3, 2018)

APPENDIX A

DETAILED EXPLANATIONS OF MITIGATION ITEMS

The benefits of mitigation of the following:

- Provides water quality benefits by treating and reducing runoff;
- Containing erosion and controlling sediment;
- Provide natural scenic beauty;
- Provide aquatic and diverse wildlife habitat;
- Restores natural topography;
- Improve and preserve water quality by offsetting the impacts associated with surface runoff; and
- Restore natural shoreline vegetation to promote natural landscapes

- A. **Removal of a Non-Compliant POWTS** – Documentation indicating that a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) on the lot or parcel has failed and must show that the POWTS has caused or resulted in one or more of the following conditions (outlined in Wisconsin Chapter 145): 1. The discharge of sewage into surface water or groundwater. 2. The introduction of sewage into zones of saturation which adversely affects the operation of a private on-site wastewater treatment system. 3. The discharge of sewage to a drain tile or into zones of bedrock. 4. The discharge of sewage to the surface of the ground. 5. The failure to accept sewage discharges and back up of sewage into the structure served by the private on-site wastewater treatment system.
- B. **Removal of improvements within 75 feet of the OHWM and replace with vegetation** – Removal of improvements such as, beaches, boathouse approaches, fire pits, fountains, impervious surfaces, unless there is a specific exemption in the code for such a structure.
- C. **Maintain existing or establish new native vegetative buffer adjacent to a navigable waterway (OHWM extended to 35 feet landward).** – A written and approved shoreline restoration plan which restores all of the natural functions of the shoreline vegetation protection area in accordance with the standards contained in NRCS Standard 643 A and Wisconsin Biology Technical Note #1 - Shoreland Habitat and the provisions of this code, or verification that existing vegetation meets these standards. The department shall review the restoration plan or verify that existing vegetation is adequate to meet these requirements.
- D. **Increase depth of existing compliant shoreland buffer** – The depth of an existing shoreland buffer may be increased beyond 35 feet through active restoration, passive restoration, or by maintaining existing vegetation already present in acceptable densities. Shoreland buffers may include a cleared view and access corridor. A written and approved shoreline restoration plan which restores all of the natural functions of the shoreline vegetation protection area in accordance with the standards contained in NRCS Standard 643 A and Wisconsin Biology Technical Note #1 - Shoreland Habitat and this code, or verification that existing vegetation meets these standards. The department shall review the plan or verify that existing vegetation is adequate to meet these requirements.

- E. **Remove existing retaining walls located within 75 feet of the OHWM and replace with vegetation (low impact landscaping)** – Remove retaining wall and develop a plan to replace it. The restoration plan shall include a grading, vegetation and erosion control plan.
- F. **Remove of seawall/riprap and replacement with natural, nonstructural stabilization materials** – Provide a plan and a copy of the WDNR permit for the removal of the seawall/riprap structures and replacement with natural, nonstructural stabilization materials.
- G. **Removal of existing shore lighting with installation of downcast shore lighting** – Replace existing shore lighting with downcast or shielded shore lighting to eliminate light pollution at the property line. Light fixtures that are shielded on four sides and illuminate downward toward the earth will meet this mitigation practice.
- H. **Increase setback of structures from the OHWM** – Increase structure beyond minimum required by Title 20.
- I. **Decrease width of access & viewing corridor below 35 %** - Submit a vegetation, management and erosion plan to reduce the viewing corridor less than 35 %. The management plan shall indicate how invasive species are control.

NOTE: The remaining access and viewing corridor from the developed portion of the site to the water's edge can be maintained or established.

- J. **Passive restoration (natural recovery) of a compliant shoreland buffer** - Passive restoration of a shoreland buffer involves restricting mowing, raking, and trimming and allowing natural regeneration of the landscape to occur from the ordinary high water mark to a point that is at least 35 feet inland. A passive shoreland buffer may only serve as the restoration if tree, shrub and ground cover layers are already present in acceptable densities and the site is suited for natural regeneration. A compliant shoreland buffer should contain three distinct layers including a native tree canopy, shrub layer, and groundcover layer, except for closed canopy forest types such as pine and hemlock. Shoreland buffers may include a cleared view and access corridor. Passive restoration is not applicable on landscapes containing large concentrations of invasive species or in areas mainly vegetated with turf grasses.
- K. **Installation of a rain garden or other engineered system designed to capture and treat/infiltrate storm water runoff** - A rain garden is a shallow depression landscaped with suitable native vegetation, engineered and designed to capture and infiltrate storm water. The rain garden must be located outside of the shoreland buffer, designed to conform to property constraints, and located a reasonable distance to septic systems, building foundations, and lot lines. A rain garden should capture and infiltrate the runoff volume for a minimum of a 10 year, 5 minute rain event. Rain gardens are not suitable on land containing impermeable soil types or steep slopes.

An engineered system maybe designed to capture and treat/infiltrate storm water runoff. Engineered systems are not allowed in the shoreland buffer, unless there are no other feasible locations on the lot. Examples of a engineered systems include, but are not limited to, rain gardens, infiltration trenches, chambers, or dry wells, internally drained areas, pervious pavement, grass swales, and a plan that will result in no net increase in runoff from the site within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark. The plan shall be designed to handle the storm water from the current NOAA National Weather Service Precipitation Frequency Data Server (PFDS) 2-year 24 hour rainfall event for Eau Claire County and shall include all engineered calculations to support the design, and in compliance with the “Controlling Runoff and Erosion from your Waterfront Property-A Guide for Landowners” copyright 2008 by Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department, available on both the Eau Claire County and Wisconsin DNR websites.

An engineered system designed that will result construction storm water retention plan which will result in no runoff from any impervious surface on the site within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark. The department shall review the plan to determine adequacy. This plan shall be designed to handle the storm water from a one year storm as designated by NRCS for Eau Claire County, and in compliance with the “Controlling Runoff and Erosion from your Waterfront Property-A Guide for Landowners” copyright 2008 by Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department, available on both the Eau Claire County and Wisconsin DNR websites.

- L. **Maintain Existing or Establish New Shoreline Habitat (fallen trees or fish sticks)** – Develop a shoreland habitat plan in compliance with the standards set forth per the DNR Best Practices Manual for Fish Sticks.

- M. **Alternative Method Approved by The Department** - Applicant must demonstrate a connection between the proposed mitigation and the intent/purpose of the mitigation requirements of the Eau Claire Shoreland Protection and Overlay Ordinance. For example, an applicant could provide engineering information showing that the proposal could accomplish the same outcome as one of the mitigation strategies outlined. Points would be awarded in line with the comparable mitigation points.

(Ord. 162-015, Sec. 4, 2018)

1010 PERMITS, USE AGREEMENTS, POLICIES AND CONTRACTS

1010.1 TIMBER SALE CONTRACT *

The Committee on Parks & Forest accepted the bid you submitted at our December 10, 2020 timber sale bid opening. The following information pertains to this sale

1. **Contract # _____ Tract # _____ Total Sale Value \$ _____ Expiration Date: 1/1/2023**
Please use the contract (not the tract) number when relating to payments and correspondences.
2. A performance bond equal to 25% OR \$3,000 minimum/\$15,000 maximum of the total sale value will be held by the department until the sale is completed. The performance bond may be either letter of credit from an approved financial lending institution or a check for the entire 25% (\$3,000 minimum/\$15,000 maximum) bond. The letter of credit must extend 90 days beyond the expiration date of your contract. Letters-of-credit issued with an expiration date other than listed below will be returned to the issuing institution for amending. A separate letter-of-credit is required for each sale that you are awarded. Upon receipt of the letter of credit, your check for the 10% bid bond will be returned with your signed contract. The amount required for the total performance bond is:
(25% of sale) \$ Letter of Credit Expiration date: 4/1/2023
OR bid bond \$ (check #) + \$ = \$
3. Verification of Training Certificate – Provide a copy of a current certificate from FISTA.
4. You must return your signed timber sale contract, Verification of Training certificate, and letter of credit if applicable **within 30 days, or by January 18, 2020.** Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of 10% bid bond and the sale sold to the next highest bidder. The contract pages listed below must be signed.
 - a. Page 7 - sign and date.
 - b. Page 8 – Addendum #1 (Federal Identification Numbers and Workers Compensation Coverage) - sign and date. **Your Federal ID number and proof of workers compensation insurance must be submitted to our office at the time of contract signing.**
 - c. Page 9 – Addendum #2 (Release of Liability) - notarized **by a Notary Public unless signed in the presence of a parks & forest staff person**, and dated.
 - d. Page 10 - Addendum #3 (Mill Scale Ticket System for Pulpwood Scaling) - if you are using the mill scale ticket system, you are required to indicate the mills you will be using along with the species to be delivered to that particular mill. **All mills must be pre-approved by department staff.**
 - e. Page 11 - Addendum #4 (Subcontractors Acknowledgement of Responsibility) – if applicable, the entire form must be completed, signed and dated by both the contractor and subcontractor. **This must be submitted to our office before the subcontractor can perform any work on the sale.**
 - f. Page 12- Addendum #5 (Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department Prepay Haul Ticket System) – if applicable, form must be signed and dated.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 715-839-4783 or Jake Tumm, Forester at 715-839-7277.

Sincerely,

Winnie Parker
Administrative Specialist III

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY TIMBER SALES AGREEMENT CONTRACT _____

Eau Claire County hereinafter referred to as the "County" and _____ hereinafter referred to as the "Purchaser," hereby agree as follows:

WHEREAS, the County is engaged in the administration of county forest lands under the concept of multiple-use management; and
WHEREAS, Section 28.11(6), Wisconsin Statutes authorizes the County to sell merchantable timber designated in timber sale contracts; and

WHEREAS; the Purchaser has been approved for tract # _____;

NOW, THEREFORE, the County and the Purchaser enter into the following contract:

WITNESSETH:

- A. All logging contractors must provide to the County a copy of the certificate of completion for meeting SFI and FSC standards.
- B. The Purchaser, in consideration of the promise of the County specified at C., below, hereby promises to pay to the County the total value of all of the timber which Purchaser cuts as determined upon the basis of the price per volume per species multiplied by the actual scaled volume as determined in accord with D., below. Prior to cutting any timber covered under this contract, the Purchaser shall pay to the County the sum of \$_____ that constitutes 25% of the total sale value or \$3,000 minimum/ \$15,000 maximum of the total sale value as a performance bond. The County will retain the performance bond until all provisions of the contract are met. The bond, or portion of the bond, will be returned within thirty (30) days after the provisions are met. All letters of credit must be valid ninety (90) days past the contract expiration date. Purchaser may be required to forfeit other performance bonds held by the County if damages exceed the amount of the performance bond for this contract. Pre-paid haul tickets may be required if the purchaser has carried a delinquent balance exceeding \$10,000 for 60 days or more. Haul ticket prices will be calculated prior to sale start up by the sale administrator.
- C. The County hereby promises, in accord with D. below, to sell to the Purchaser the standing timber specified therein.
- D. The following terms and conditions shall govern the sale of timber under this contract:
 1. Location of Sale:
 2. **Instructions on Measuring or Scaling:**

All wood is to be scaled by a County employee before being removed from sale area unless the ticket system is used or the sale is a lump sum. No firewood, hand peeled, or machine peel aspen is allowed to be hauled from the sale area using the mill ticket system.

Sales containing log volumes: Sawlogs will be scaled by staff and not allowed to be hauled using the mill ticket system unless pre-approved by forester. Logs shall be yarded for scaling. Small ends of logs are to be piled in the same direction. **Log decks shall be no higher than six (6) feet in height.** If random length logs are cut, the log length shall be marked on small end with a lumber crayon or decked in separate piles by length. Scribner Decimal "C" log scale is used. All logs and bolts 50% or more sound are merchantable.

Sales containing pulp volumes: Pulp must be piled no less than one (1) cord. A cord is a pile containing 128 cubic feet of unpeeled wood. A pulpwood tree contains at least one (1) 100" stick, to the minimum top diameter. Minimum amounts of wood to be scaled at one time will be ten (10) cords, 4,500 board feet, or a combination thereof.

Hand-peeled aspen will have 12.5% volume added to the field scale. Machine peeled wood will have 25% added to the scale.

DNR Timber Sale Handbook will be used in determining the conversion rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips or other forest products. The cordwood weight and whole tree chip conversion factors below will be used for billing purposes:

CORDWOOD WEIGHT- TONS/CORD		WHOLE TREE CHIP- POUNDS/ CORD	
Species	Weight	Species	Weight
Red Pine	4500	Mx Hardwood	2.93 tons/cord
Jack Pine	4250	Aspen	2.93 tons/cord
White Pine	4200	All Oak	3.58 tons/cord
All Oak	5500	Red Pine	2.93 tons/cord
White Birch	4800	Jack Pine	2.77 tons/cord
Mx Hardwood	4600	White Pine	2.73 tons/cord
Aspen	4500		

3. Utilization Requirements:

- a. All trees containing one pulp stick with a 3-1/2" minimum top diameter shall be utilized.
- b. Other conditions:
 - No heavy equipment track/wheel activity will be allowed within 15 feet of wetlands.
 - In regeneration harvest areas, 50% of the trees within 15 feet of a wetland may be harvested. Favor longer lived species such as oak, pine, and maple.
 - In selective harvest areas, harvest trees as marked. Leave any marked trees that cannot be harvested within the 15-foot equipment limitation.
 - Equipment travel is not permitted in the bottom of drainage ways or immediately adjacent to wetlands. This may require advanced planning and may exclude some areas from harvest.
 - All snags (including down, large trees) will be left undisturbed unless they present an immediate safety hazard.

4. **Slash Disposal:** All slash must be in direct contact with the ground during the cutting operation. Slash piles shall not exceed two (2) feet in height and should be displaced uniformly along the forest floor. No slash is allowed in streams, ditches, roads, swamps, trails or across blue paint lines. Do not pile slash into drainage areas where runoff may wash slash into streams, lakes or wetlands.

5. **Debris Disposal:** Any debris or material not natural to the land shall be properly disposed of as it is generated. Purchaser will be subject to penalty for littering on logging sites.

6. Stump Height:

- a. Maximum - shall not exceed stump diameter or five (5) inches above ground level, whichever is greater.
- b. Minimum - on log sales, do not cut below the paint mark on the stump.

7. Minimum Required Top Diameter:

- a. Pine logs - 9" inside bark.
- b. Hardwood logs – 10" inside bark
- c. Hardwood bolts – 8" inside bark
- d. Pulpwood - 4"
- e. Other considerations: On contracts with no log volume and containing a separate bolt volume/price, all species of bolts will be required to be separated 8" (DIB) and above.

8. **On-site Meeting/Pre-Sale Checklist:** Required between County and Purchaser prior to any cutting to approve decking areas and logging trails, and complete pre-sale checklist. County is to be notified no less than twenty-four (24) hours before cutting is to begin. The County will not do any trail building and/or make any other improvements. Wood may not be piled within thirty- three feet (33') of a public road. To minimize resource damage, the County will restrict the types of logging equipment, methods, and times of operation used on sale areas. Damage to residual trees will not be tolerated and a penalty may be assigned.

9. **Valuation Standards:** **Date of Sale:** December 14, 2020

SPECIES	PRODUCT	ESTIMATED VOLUME	BID PRICE	TOTAL VALUE
			TOTAL	

10. **Schedule of Payments:** The billing cycle runs from the first day of the month to the last day of the month. Payments are due the last day of the following month. Abuse of credit may require prepayment.

11. **Interest:** An interest charge of 18% annual percentage rate (1.5% monthly) will be added to all account balances past due.

- E. **Certified Wood:** The area encompassed by this timber sale is certified to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council® SCS-FM/COC-00083G FSC 100% and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® NSF-SFI-FM-1Y943 SFI 100%. Forest products from this sale may be delivered to the mills FSC 100% and SFI 100% only if the contractor hauling the forest products is chain-of-custody (COC) certified or covered under a COC certificate from the destination mill. The purchaser is responsible for maintaining COC after leaving the sale area.
- F. **Title to Timber:** It is mutually understood and agreed upon by the parties hereto that as and for security of the entire amount of money due and owing under this contract, the title to and ownership of all standing timber situated upon the sale location as set forth at D. shall remain in the County and, furthermore, that the County shall have a lien upon all timber harvested from the described location under the terms of this contract, which lien shall apply against timber stored by the Purchaser and/or upon the proceeds which result therefrom. Said lien shall be and remain in the County until all payments required of the Purchaser under this Contract shall have been made and until the Purchaser shall have completed all other responsibilities called for under this contract.
- F. **Independent Contractor Status:** It is agreed by and between the parties hereto that at all times and for all purposes within the scope of this contract, the relationship of the Purchaser to the County shall be that of an independent contractor and not that of an employee. No statement contained in this contract shall be construed so as to find either the Purchaser or any of his or her employees, agents or officers, to be an employee of the County, and the Purchaser shall not be entitled to any of the rights, benefits, or privileges of County employees, unless expressly stated to the contrary herein.
- G. **Time of Performance:** The Purchaser hereby understands that this contract, subject to other terms and conditions herein expressed which affect the commencement date, shall be in effect as of _____ and shall expire the first day of _____. In the event that the Purchaser shall have failed or refused to comply with the terms of this contract to the extent that he/she has not completed his/her performance hereunder as of the expiration date, unless an extension is duly granted to the Purchaser by the County in writing, all performance hereunder shall cease and all monies due and owing under this contract shall be subject to a demand for immediate payment. Thereupon the Purchaser shall forfeit all rights to timber remaining at the designated sale location.
- H. **Additional Terms and Conditions:** The County and the Purchaser hereby agree that the following terms and conditions shall control this contract. *Rearranged section to group topics and put reference to rutting guidelines above the guidelines.*
 - 1. **OSHA Compliance - Hazard Trees:** Purchaser is responsible to comply with, and assure compliance by all employees or subcontractors with, all Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements for the health and safety of Purchaser’s employees, including provisions relating to hazard trees. In addition, the purchaser agrees to notify, and obtain agreement from, the Seller if the Purchaser intends to modify performance required under this Contract for the purpose of compliance with OSHA requirements.

2. All forest products must be removed from the sale area within twelve (12) months of being piled on landing.
3. All merchantable timber marked or designated in the sale location covered by this contract shall be cut, whether or not the quantity of such material is more or less than the estimate set forth at D. 9. above.
4. Painted trees that are used to designate property boundaries (blue paint), timber sale area boundaries (red paint), research and inventory (white paint) and trails (aluminum paint) are not to be cut unless specified on a timber sale map. If the previously mentioned trees are cut, the purchaser shall be subject to the county's damages listed in H. 5. b.
5. If timber or other forest products not specifically described in this contract or designated by the County for cutting are cut, damaged, or removed by the Purchaser, the County may pursue any and all remedies for the unlawful use of the County's property and the cutting, damage, or removal of property without consent, including the seeking of criminal or civil charges for theft, timber theft or criminal damage to property in addition to its contract remedies for breach.
 - a. The County's damages upon the Purchaser's failure to perform this contract include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Retention of all or part of the performance bond.
 - ii. The Purchaser's bid value of timber not cut and removed under this contract.
 - iii. Charge double the stumpage rate, as an extra assessment, as determined by the County, for timber cut, removed, or damaged without authorization under or in violation of this Contract.
 - iv. All costs for sale area cleanup, restoration, or completion of performance not completed by the Purchaser.
 - v. All costs for resale of timber not cut and removed as required under this contract.
 - vi. Suspension of the contract, with possible referral to the District Attorney for prosecution.
 - vii. Cancellation of other timber contracts with the County.
 - viii. Banned from future purchase of County timber sales.
 - b. Additional damage provisions:
 6. The Purchaser shall do all in his/her power to cooperate with the DNR Fire Protection to prevent and suppress forest fires. Purchaser shall dispose of brush as directed in compliance with all state laws regarding timber slash disposal.
 7. Purchaser shall apply Cellu-Treat (or equivalent) fungicide to all conifer stumps within 24 hours of tree cutting. Purchaser shall apply Cellu-Treat (or equivalent) according to product label directions. County will provide the Cellu-Treat (or equivalent) product and dye. County will also provide the purchaser with a backpack sprayer if needed. Application of Cellu-Treat (or equivalent) is not required from December 1 to March 31. The county reserves the discretion to deviate from guidelines if conditions warrant.
 8. All roadways and trails shall be maintained free from brush, pulp and logs resulting from the Purchaser's activities under this contract. The County must approve of additional roads and trails before being created or utilized.
 9. No slash, logging debris, or machinery operation is to be outside the sale boundary, unless approved by the County.
 10. No machinery shall be operated in lakes or streams.
 11. To minimize resource damage, the County will restrict and enforce the types of logging equipment, methods, and times of operation used on sale areas.
 12. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect roads, minimize recreation use conflicts such as on ski trails and snowmobile trails, benefit wildlife management, and minimize insect and disease problems or to assist in fire protection.
13. Best Management Practices (BMPs) requirements and other Guidelines:
 - a. The purchaser shall comply with all recommended BMPs for Water Quality guidelines as described in "*Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*" published by the DNR, publication Pub-FR-093, unless specifically provided otherwise below. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the County if not possessed by the Purchaser. Purchaser's certification in Wisconsin BMP training or equivalent through a FISTA-coordinated BMP workshop is also required.
 - b. The purchaser shall comply with all recommended Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species as described in "*Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species*" published by the DNR, publication Pub-FR-444-09, unless specifically provided otherwise below. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the County if not possessed by the Purchaser. The publication can also be found at the Council of Forestry website at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/forestry>.
 - c. The purchaser shall comply with all General Guidelines as described in "*Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines*" published by the DNR, publication Pub-FR-435-09, unless specifically provided otherwise below. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the County if not possessed by the Purchaser. The publication can also be found at the Council on Forestry websites at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/biomass/>

14. When excessive rutting occurs based on the Eau Claire County Forest Rutting Policy, the County has the right to suspend the sale until such time the Purchaser restores the damaged area, or retain all or part of the performance bond and terminate the sale.

Eau Claire County Forest Rutting Policy

The county's goals for the management of soil disturbances are to:

- Minimize inadvertent soil disturbances and potential adverse impacts to soil productivity, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resources.
- Maintain trails and related structures to intended design standards.
- Combine professional level expertise and operator experience in the formation of on-the-ground decisions.
- Provide a protocol for identifying and responding to maintenance needs.

These goals and the guidelines are consistent with Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines and Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Water Quality Field Manual (see H. 13.)

Application of Soil Disturbance Guidelines

These guidelines apply to timber sales on county lands and to the county forest road system. These guidelines do not apply to intentional soil disturbances, such as mechanical site preparation or plowed firebreak construction. They are not applicable to soil disturbances caused by recreational users of recreational trails. In those situations, please refer to Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Water Quality, Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines, relevant handbooks, and other appropriate reference documents.

Management Expectation for Soil Disturbances

Soil disturbances (soil compaction, rutting, etc.) may occur and be identified either as part of a timber sale contract on County lands or as part of county forest trail inventory and maintenance. These guidelines apply in both situations.

Timber Sales

The management expectation is that all steps and precautions, including implementation of BMP's, will be taken to avoid and minimize soil disturbances. If a timber sale has soil disturbances below the excessive threshold, then the expectation is that the contractor will evaluate the disturbance and determine what actions, if any are needed to repair or mitigate the effects of the soil disturbance.

If a timber sale has soil disturbances that exceed the excessive threshold, the expectation is the contractor will contact the forester (or vice versa) and together they will evaluate the disturbance and determine what actions, if any, are needed to repair or mitigate the effects of the soil disturbance. The forester will meet on-site with the timber sale contractor and equipment operators. The forester and contractor will consider management goals and objectives, weather, site conditions, availability of equipment and other factors when evaluating repair and mitigation options. Prior to closing a sale, the forester will ensure that any soil disturbances that may have occurred are properly addressed.

County Forest Trail System

The management expectation is that all steps and precautions, including implementation of BMP's, will be taken to avoid and minimize soil disturbances. If soil disturbances are found on a forest trail, county forest staff will inventory the disturbance and evaluate what actions, if any, are needed to repair or mitigate the effects of the soil disturbance. County forest staff will use the county forest trail inventory to prioritize and develop plans to address soil disturbances. If a forest trail is being used in association with a timber sale, then the forester should be notified to help determine who is responsible for making repairs.

Excessive Soil Disturbance Determinations

A soil disturbance is "excessive" if it has exceeded the threshold (see Table 1). An area with an excessive soil disturbance requires special attention from a forester (if part of a timber sale) or from county forest staff (if part of the county forest trail system). Excessive soil disturbances require special attention to evaluate the effect of the soil disturbance and to develop repair options or mitigation recommendations. Classifying a soil disturbance as "excessive" does not mandate closing a timber sale or a forest trail; however, actions should be taken, as appropriate, to minimize further soil disturbances.

Table 1. Interim Threshold for Soil Disturbances.

County Forest Infrastructure	Soil Disturbance is excessive if:
Trails, Landing, Skid Trails, and General Harvest Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gully or rut is 6" deep or more and is resulting in channelized flow to a wetland, stream, or lake.
Trails, Landing, and Primary Skid Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a riparian management zone (RMZ) or wetland, a gully or rut is 6" deep or more and 100' long or more. • In an upland area (outside of RMZ), a gully or rut is 10" deep or more and 66' long or more.
Secondary Skid Trails and General Harvest Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully or rut is 6" deep or more and 100' long or more.

Note: The depth is to be measured from the original soil surface to the bottom of the depression. If individual lug depressions are visible, the depth would be measured to the lesser for the two depths (the "top" of the lug).
The length is measured from the start of the "too deep" section to the end of the "too deep" section. Measurements are not cumulative.

Definitions and Terms

A **gully** is an erosion channel cut into the soil along a line of water flow.

A **rut** is an elongated depression caused by dragging logs or by wheels or tracks of harvesting machinery, equipment or other vehicles. Ruts are often exacerbated by erosion from uncontrolled storm water runoff.

A **primary skid trail** is used for three or more passes.

A **secondary skid trail** is used for one or two passes.

15. The County reserves the right to order the Purchaser to temporarily terminate activities under this contract in the event of a manmade or natural disaster which has threatened or engulfed the area in which the sale is located or, in general, when conditions warrant such action. The County shall allow the Purchaser to resume activities hereunder upon notification.
16. Upon written notice by the County, all operations of the Purchaser shall be suspended if, in the opinion of the County, the Purchaser is not in compliance with the conditions of this contract.
17. The County, upon consultation with the DNR forester, shall be the sole judge of contract conditions compliance. Once the County has ordered that operations of the Purchaser be suspended, the same may not be resumed without written authorization.
18. **Restricted Cutting Dates and Conditions:**
 - a. Red Pine Plantations: Due to Bark Beetle: cutting, skidding, and piling are not allowed between **May 1 and August 1**. Exceptions may be granted if the pulpwood is removed from the plantation within twenty-one (21) days of being cut.
 - b. Hardwood Thinning Areas or Cut Aspen Only Areas: Due to oak wilt concerns hardwood pulp may not be cut, skid, or piled during restriction dates determined by forester based on the DNR oak wilt guidelines as stated on the map page attached to this contract. Permission may be given for aspen peeling on an individual basis. Contact County for further information.
 - c. Designated jack pine tracts and oak clear-cut tracts may also be subject to oak wilt restrictions.
19. **Timber Sale Extension Policy:** If the Committee on Parks and Forest grants Purchaser an extension on this contract, stumpage increases shall be reflected in the following manner:
 - a. 1st Extension - 5% Increase
 - b. 2nd Extension and any extensions thereafter - 10% Increase
 - c. The maximum length for contracts including extensions will be **four years** per County Forest 15-Year Plan. Extensions beyond this may be considered in the event of justification and stumpage adjustments may be made
20. **Lump Sum Policy:** Performance Bond is 10% of sale value or \$250, whichever is greater. Twenty-five (25) percent of sale value is to be paid at contract signing and the 75% balance is to be paid before the start of cutting.
21. There shall be no modifications to this contract, except in writing, executed with the same formality as this instrument and mutually agreed upon by the parties.
22. It is hereby agreed by the parties that there shall be no assignment or transfer of this contract, nor of any interest contained herein, except as agreed upon by the parties, and upon the submission of a fully completed and signed subcontractor form to the County.

23. **Notices:** Required notices under the terms of this contract or otherwise deemed advisable shall be provided as follows: Upon the County, in writing delivered personally or by certified mail upon Josh Pedersen, Director, Parks and Forest Department, Eau Claire County, 227 1st Street West, Altoona, WI 54720; upon the Purchaser, in writing delivered personally or by certified mail upon:

Logger's Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

24. This contract constitutes the entirety of the contract between the parties hereto regarding the subject matter hereof, prior written or oral agreements or understanding notwithstanding.

25. **Governing Law, Jurisdiction and Venue.** This contract shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, without giving effect to any choice or conflict of laws provision or rule, whether of the State of Wisconsin or any other jurisdiction, that would cause the application of laws of any jurisdiction other than those of the State of Wisconsin. The parties hereby irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the state courts of the State of Wisconsin for the purpose of any suit, action or other proceeding arising out of or based upon this contract. Venue for all proceedings arising out of this agreement, or breach thereof, shall be held in Eau Claire County Circuit Court, Eau Claire County, WI.

26. **Indemnification:**The Purchaser hereby understands that they shall indemnify the County against any personal injuries or property damages and resultant losses which he/she or any of his/her employees or agents may sustain due to the condition of the land.

27. **Addendums and Additional Agreements:** Attached and fully incorporated into the terms and conditions of this contract are the following addendums and additional agreements:

1. Addendum #1: Federal Identification Number and Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage
2. Addendum #2: Release of Liability
3. Addendum #3: Mill Scale Ticket System
4. Addendum #4: Subcontractor Form
5. Addendum #5: Prepay Haul Ticket System

CONTRACT PURCHASER (S):

Signature

Print Name

Date

Signature

Print Name

Date

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PARKS & FOREST DEPARTMENT:

Department Personnel Signature

Print Name

Date

(Rev 02/16)

ADDENDUM #1:
Federal Identification Number and Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage

- A. The undersigned purchaser shall submit his federal identification number to the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department at the time of signing this contract.
- B. The undersigned purchaser shall also submit a Certificate of Insurance verifying the existence of Workers Compensation coverage on all employees at the time of signing this contract. It is required that the employer provides Workers Compensation coverage for all employees who perform any work under this contract. Workers Compensation coverage is required of all employees. Workers Compensation coverage is not required of independent contractors, as to themselves, when they do not have any employees and as long as the following criteria are met. The independent contractor must:
1. Maintain a separate business.
 2. Obtain a federal employer identification number.
 3. Operate under specific contracts.
 4. Be responsible for operating expenses under the contracts.
 5. Be responsible for satisfactory performance of the work under the contract.
 6. Be paid per contract, per job, by commission or by competitive bid.
 7. Be subject to profit or loss in performing the work under the contracts.
 8. Have recurring business liabilities and obligations.
 9. Be in a position to succeed or fail if business expenses exceed income.

Wisconsin Statutes Section 102.07(8)

- C. The undersigned purchaser shall execute the attached notarized release of liability at the time of signing this contract.

Contract Purchaser Signature

Date

ADDENDUM #2:
Release of Liability

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I/We, the undersigned, in consideration of my/our contract with the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department, in the performance of, but not limited to, felling, cutting, skidding, and/or hauling of timber products, do hereby hold Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department harmless from prosecution for personal injury and/or other damages suffered in the performance of these services.

I/We are independent contractors with respect to providing goods and/or services and with respect to my/our contract with Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department. No employer-employee relationship exists by virtue of said contract.

I/We have Workers Compensation coverage for all employees. If I/We do not have Workers Compensation coverage on myself/ourselves, it is due to the fact that I am/we are an independent contractor under Section 102.07(8) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

I/We have read and fully understand this contract and acknowledge receiving a copy of said contract.

Contract Purchaser Signature

Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Notary Public, State of Wisconsin

My commission expires _____, 20_____.

ADDENDUM #3
The Mill Scale Ticket System for Pulpwood Scaling

Loggers using the "Mill Scale" ticket system must have mills pre-approved by County staff. The following are guidelines for use of a mill scale ticket system for pulpwood scaling:

1. Depending upon Purchaser's credit status, tickets may have to be purchased in advance. Purchasers in good credit standing will be billed monthly.
2. The Purchaser is held accountable for all tickets issued to him. Unused prepaid tickets can be returned to the department and be credited to another contract or refunded.
3. The Purchaser is responsible for assuring that his hauler has the appropriate tickets in his truck. As a condition of the sale contract, the Purchaser agrees that his trucker may be checked by department employees for compliance while en route from sale area to the mill.
4. The truck driver completes the ticket thoroughly as he leaves the sale area and deposits the top copy in the lock box. When he reaches the destination mill, the driver gives the second copy of the ticket to the scaler, which the scaler attaches to a copy of the scale slip and returns to the Parks and Forest Department. The third copy of the ticket is the Purchaser's copy.
5. Failure to deposit a ticket in the lock box for each truckload of unscaled wood will be considered a breach of contract and subject to a double stumpage penalty or other penalty deemed appropriate by the department.
6. Department employees must scale all wood not being hauled to an approved participating mill before removal from scale area.

Mills to Be Pre-Approved for This Contract: Please indicate the mill(s) that you intend to use for scaling pulpwood.

Mill	_____
Address/City/State	_____
Species of Wood	_____
Mill	_____
Address/City/State	_____
Species of Wood	_____
Mill	_____
Address/City/State	_____
Species of Wood	_____
Mill	_____
Address/City/State	_____
Species of Wood	_____

(PURCHASER)

DATE

ADDENDUM #4

Subcontractors Acknowledgment of Responsibility

Timber Sale Contract Number: _____

Contractor: Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Subcontractor: Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Workers Compensation Insurance Provider:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Policy Number: _____

The subcontractor, _____, by signing this agreement acknowledges and fully agrees to comply with all of the terms and conditions of the above referenced timber sale contract. Further, said subcontractor agrees to provide to the county the following documents: a certificate of insurance showing that it has obtained and has in effect, a current workers compensation insurance policy for itself and all of its employees; and a certificate of insurance for general liability purposes, in an amount not less than _____. The subcontractor will maintain all of the previously mentioned insurance policies, including its workers compensation insurance policy, in full force and effect during the entire period that it performs any work under the above reference timber sale contract.

The contractor, _____, by signing this document, acknowledges and agrees that it retains full responsibility for all of its obligations, including payment for any timber cut, and for all costs or penalties imposed by the county as the result of damage caused by the failure of the subcontractor to perform under the terms of the above reference timber sale contract. The contractor, by entering into an agreement with the subcontractor has not in any way altered its contractual relationship with Eau Claire County and is still bound by all of the terms and conditions of the above referenced timber sale contract. In no instance will the subcontractor be allowed to perform any work under the timber sale contract until such time as the county gives approval. Eau Claire County will continue to hold the performance bond of the contractor until such time as all of the obligations of the contractor under the timber sale contract have been fully and completely satisfied.

Subcontractor

Date

Contractor

Date

ADDENDUM #5:
Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department Prepay Haul Ticket System

1. Purchaser buys tickets based on an average load size and average price/ton of all species. Purchaser may buy any number of tickets. Full payment is required at time of purchase.
2. Tickets are sold for the contract specified on the ticket and shall not be used for any other contract.
3. Purchaser is held accountable for all tickets purchased. Upon completion of the contract, unused tickets shall be returned to the seller for full credit. Credit will not be given for lost or missing tickets.
4. Lock boxes will be placed at a convenient location onsite.
5. Each time a load of timber leaves the sale area, the ticket must be clearly and completely filled out.
 - a. The top portion (white) shall be deposited into the lock box. Tickets not completely inserted will be considered the same as failure to deposit tickets.
 - b. The middle portion (yellow) must remain in possession of the person transporting the load, until the load reaches the mill. The driver then gives this copy to the scaler. The mill returns this portion, along with the scale slip to this department.
 - c. The bottom (pink) copy is the Purchaser's copy.
6. Failure by either the Purchaser, Purchaser's employee, officer, agent, trucker, or designee to deposit a ticket in the lock box each time a load of timber is removed from the sale areas will be considered a breach of contract. Contract may be canceled, bond forfeited, double stumpage charged, or other action taken.
7. Trucks may be stopped at any time to ascertain that a ticket has been deposited for a load.

Contract Purchaser Signature

Date

1010.2 TIMBER SALE EXTENSION / RENEWAL POLICY *

A. All contracts will be issued for not less than 24 months, unless otherwise stated on advertisement and/or contracts. Contracts will be dated to expire on January 1st or July 1st. Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.

B. A one-year extension, if deemed necessary by the seller, may be granted at a 5% increase. Each successive extension will have a progressive increase in stumpage rates. (5% the first extension and 10% each extension thereafter).

C. The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract, including extensions, shall be 4 years. Extension beyond this period of time shall be considered by the committee only in the event of special justification. Special stumpage rate adjustments may be made.

D. If purchasers do not wish to have contracts renewed or extended and do not finish the sale prior to expiration, appropriate penalties may be assessed.

E. The contractor may request a contract release due to severe physical or financial disability. The committee shall determine whether a release shall be granted and may withhold all or a portion of the bond deposit for damages.

1010.3 FIREWOOD PERMIT

FIREWOOD PERMIT

(FOR HOME CONSUMPTION ONLY)

_____/_____/_____
NAME HOME PHONE WORK PHONE

_____/_____/_____/_____
ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

_____/_____/_____/_____
PERMIT AREA LOCATION DATE ISSUED EXPIRATION DATE

NO OF STANDARD (FULL) CORDS TO BE CUT: _____

PRICE PER CORD \$ _____

TOTAL PERMIT FEE \$ _____ RECEIPT # _____

AMOUNT OF CASH BOND \$ _____ CHECK # _____

BALANCE DUE ON PERMIT \$ _____ DATE PAID _____

1. Wood cut must be used for PERSONAL FIREWOOD NEEDS OR THE FIREWOOD PERMIT HOLDER ONLY AND MAY NOT BE RESOLD. Firewood permits are NOT TRANSFERABLE AND PAYMENT IS NOT REFUNDABLE. No more than one permit per household will be issued within the same firewood permit year.
2. Only wood designated on the permit area listed above may be harvested. This may include one of the following management prescriptions in permit area: (1) cut marked trees, downed wood dead or alive, and species designated for harvest (e.g. Aspen, white birch) or 2) Cut all trees in permit area. If you have any questions regarding what wood can be cut, please contact the Parks & Forest Department at (715) 839-4783 or (715) 286-2681.
3. This permit grants limited permission to go on the county land specified above and to remove wood in the manner subject to the conditions and restrictions as stated either herein or on the firewood area map. Permit holder is responsible for knowing whether or not he/she is on county property. Refer to the firewood lot map for the specific location of the permit area. It is recommended you inspect the firewood permit area before purchasing it.
4. The permit holder must cut and remove the firewood before the expiration date stated on this permit. Upon expiration of the permit, all rights are to be revoked. All wood not removed by the expiration date becomes the property of Eau Claire County. At the discretion of the county, firewood permits may be extended for one-year at an additional cost if requested by August 15 of each year.
5. Wood may not be hauled in lengths greater than four feet if the diameter exceeds eight inches.
6. Access conditions to firewood lots are weather dependent and not guaranteed by the county at any specific time. Permit holder agrees to not operate during soft ground conditions so as to cause excessive ruts. Permit holder understands that he/she may be held responsible for damage and repair costs to any county property that he/she may cause while operating under this permit.
7. Permit holder MUST BE PRESENT WHERE AND WHENEVER CUTTING OCCURS, but may have helpers to harvest the wood. The permit holder must carry the permit while the firewood is being harvested. The Department may be checking for this permit and identification while cutting.
8. The Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department may immediately cancel or revoke this permit by giving oral or written notice. All firewood permits will terminate during emergency burning regulations pursuant to Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 30.05, and upon breach of any condition or restriction of this permit. No refunds will be given on any permits.
9. Permit holder acknowledges Wisconsin Statutes 895.52 as applicable for releasing the county of any responsibility for liability. There is no liability on the county's behalf.
10. Permit holder agrees to hold Eau Claire County harmless for any injury or property damage incurred while operating under the limits of this permit.
11. Other conditions: _____
12. Upon violation of any condition or restriction of this permit, the permit holder or his agent will be subject to criminal or civil prosecution by the county under applicable laws.

I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ALL OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS:

_____/_____
SIGNATURE OF PERMIT HOLDER DATE

_____/_____
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED DEPT. PERSONNEL DATE

(This permit is NOT valid unless signed)

ACCESS PERMIT

Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department
227 1st St W, Altoona, WI 54720
(715) 839-4738

This access permit is entered into by and between Eau Claire County, hereinafter referred to as "County" and _____, hereinafter referred to as "Permittee", for the sole purpose of obtaining ingress and egress to permittee's land across the following described County owned forest land:

Legal Description – (See attached map)

This permit shall be in effect for a _____ period, commencing the _____ day of _____, 202____, and ending the _____ day of _____, 202____.

The permittee shall pay the County _____ Dollars (\$_____). This permit may be extended in the future on the same terms and conditions, or upon other conditions mutually agreed upon by the County and Permittee.

Both the County and Permittee agree and understand that this permit is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to this permit taking effect, the Permittee shall submit for approval by the County, a plan describing any construction and/or maintenance upon the above described property. No deviations from this plan will be allowed without the prior written approval of the County.
2. Any planned improvements or upgrading to the property must be approved in advance by the County. The Permittee must provide prior notification of ten (10) working days prior to the time any work begins.
3. The County, at any time, with sixty (60) days advance written notice to Permittee, reserves the right to cancel this permit, if the County determines that the Permittee violated the terms and conditions set forth in this access permit.
4. This permit is not transferable.
5. The access width of the trail shall not be wider than _____ feet.
6. No cutting or trimming of trees shall be done without the prior written approval of the County. All wood cut is the property of Eau Claire County.
7. Any wood products approved for cutting shall be cut and piled by species in 100 inch lengths cut to a 4" top diameter.
8. Present and future forest management, timber sales, timber stand improvement, reforestation or other forest or recreational activity shall be of a high priority to the County and in no way shall be hindered by Permittee or this agreement.
9. All stumps, slash, waste material, and other debris resulting from the permitted land use shall be disposed of by Permittee as directed by the County.
10. The Permittee shall maintain the area under this permit in a safe and environmentally sound condition at all times, causing no obstruction to free and uninhibited use by the public.
11. No gates, signs, or other articles of the Permittee will be allowed on the County's land.
12. This land use agreement does not extend to the Permittee any permission to use County forest land for personal use or to store equipment, lumber, or other miscellaneous items.
13. Permittee understands and agrees that the access remains the property of the County and agrees to waive any rights of ownership or interest in the road or access way on County land. However, Permittee also understands that the County shall not be liable for any maintenance or upkeep of the access way/road.

14. This permit does not give the Permittee, its members or agents, any rights pertaining to hunting or trapping; said rights remain under the control of the County.
15. The permit will be null and void if use of the access way/road ceases at any point for two (2) or more consecutive years.
16. Should the general intended use for which this permit was granted be changed or altered, this permit shall be automatically null and void by action of the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Committee. The intended use is _____.
17. Permittee acknowledges and states by his/her signature below that no other private access into his/her property can be gained.
18. Use of the permitted access by harvesting equipment is allowed for county timber sales adjacent to the access permitted. Maintenance needed resulting from harvesting activity will be the responsibility of the timber sale purchased and be required in the contract.

The Permittee agrees to protect, indemnify, and hold harmless the County, its agents and employees, from and against all claims, demands, suits, liability and expense, by reason of loss or damage to any property or bodily injury to any person whatsoever, that may arise from the construction and placement of objects on the described land and from the maintenance or use of the described land, and the Permittee shall defend the County in any such action or claim upon request of the County.

(Permittee)

(Date)

Parks & Forest Director

(Date)

1010.5 CAMPING POLICY / PERMIT

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.

1010.6 TREE STAND POLICY

It is unlawful to construct, occupy or use any elevated scaffold or other elevated device on county forest lands other than portable tree stands or to cause damage to trees on county forest lands by the placement, erection or removal of tree stands or other means of gaining access to trees. Portable tree stands shall be removed at the end of each day's hunting hours. Any structure found to be in violation of this section shall be subject to confiscation and disposal by the county.

1010.7 OTHER

1015 FACILITIES AND REPORTS

1015.1 RECREATIONAL INVENTORY *

SECTION 2 RECREATION SUPPLY

Residents of Eau Claire County are fortunate to have convenient access to a wide variety of outdoor recreational facilities. These facilities are provided and maintained by the County, local communities, the private sector, schools and other organizations. An inventory of existing facilities is necessary to determine if current recreational needs are being adequately met. To promote some consistency with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the various facilities are grouped into five (5) different resource types:

- Developed Land
- Limited Development
- Water-Based Activities
- Snow/Ice-Based Activities
- Viewing/Interpretative Activities

DEVELOPED LAND ACTIVITIES

When most individuals think of outdoor recreation, it usually involves some form of manmade development, such as road, trails, athletic fields, picnic areas, and campgrounds. Developed outdoor recreational settings tend to offer a wide mix of activities that may appeal to a broader number of individuals. In fact, more Wisconsin residents participate in walking for pleasure (87.7%) and gardening/landscaping for pleasure (65.4%) than any other activity identified within the SCORP. Family gathering and bicycling are also two of the most popular recreational activities in Wisconsin, both considered as Developed Land activities. This section will review facilities and opportunities for Developed Land recreational activities in Eau Claire County as they exist today.

CAMPGROUNDS

Eau Claire County has seen a growth in the number of campsites from 230 to 392 over the last ten years, an increase of over 70%. Campsites are available at ten different locations, including three public campgrounds and seven private campgrounds. The following is a discussion concerning both the public and private campgrounds in Eau Claire County. Table 8 lists all of the campgrounds and the number of campsites available at each. Map 3 shows the location of these campgrounds.



Public Campgrounds

Eau Claire County owns and operates three campgrounds with a total of 180 campsites. Coon Fork County Park offers 57 sites with electricity and 51 sites without, for a total of 108 sites. Sixty-four of the sites can be reserved. There is no electricity available at the 27 sites located at Harstad County Park. Both park campgrounds cater to families, with access to water and playground facilities. Camping is also available at the Eau Claire County Expo Center, with 45 total sites available.

Private Campgrounds

The number of private campsites has increased from 178 sites in 2006 to a total of 212 sites available in 2015, an increase of over 19%. Some of these campgrounds have other amenities such as recreation rooms and laundry facilities.

**Table 8
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

<u>Public Campgrounds:</u>	<u>Number Of Sites</u>
1. Coon Fork County Park (839-4738)	108
2. Harstad County Park (839-4738)	27
3. Eau Claire County Exposition Center (839-3755)	45
Subtotal	180
<u>Private Campgrounds:</u>	
1. Woodland Campground, Rt. 1, Augusta (286-2112)	30
2. Sandy Hill Campground, E21100 County Road ND, Augusta (286-2495)	28
3. Trail's Edge Campground, State Road 27, Augusta (286-5050)	27
4. Le Mere's Landing and Campground, S8095 Bartig Road, Augusta	35
5. The Longshot Campground, 644 E. Main, Fairchild (533-0699)	10
6. Little Creek Campground, 627 Tioga Road, Fairchild (533-8594)	32
7. Black Creek Lodge, S13231 County Road H, Fairchild (313-0906)	50
Subtotal	212
Total	392

In addition, Country Jam, Inc., which operates an annual four-day country music festival, maintains a 1,200 site campground in the Town of Union, known as Whispering Pines. This campground is available only for those attending the festival and is not otherwise open to the public.

There are many excellent camping options just outside Eau Claire County as well. Lake Wissota State Park is about 10 miles north of the County, Brunet Island State Park is about 30 miles north, the Chequamegon National Forest is about 50 miles northeast and the Black River State Forest is about 50 miles southeast of the County.

HIKING/WALKING TRAILS

Marked trails for walking, nature study, serious hiking, fitness or multiple uses continue to remain popular. About 7.2 miles of marked trails specifically for nature study are found in the County. Coon Fork County Park, L.L. Phillips County Park, and Beaver Creek Reserve have self-guided nature trails used most often by grade school students for nature study classes (Table 9). County forest roads, although not specifically marked for hiking, can be used for that purpose. In addition, Carson Park in the City of Eau Claire has 1.5 miles of hiking trails.

**Table 9
SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAILS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Guettinger Woods	.8
Beaver Creek Reserve	1.2
L.L. Phillips County Park	1.2
Coon Fork County Park	1.5
Putnam Park	<u>2.5</u>
TOTAL:	7.2



Trails specifically used for fitness, or Par Courses, involve a series of stations in which calisthenics are performed. Lowes Creek County Park, Carson Park, Beaver Creek Reserve, and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire have excellent fitness trails.

For serious hiking, the Wisconsin Ice Age Trail winds its way across the State just to the north and east of Eau Claire County. See Map 4 – Ice Age Trail Chippewa Moraine Segment. Other hiking opportunities are available on County forest roads and on over thirty miles of cross-country ski trails.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and several municipalities in the area have worked together to develop what has come to be known as the Chippewa Valley Trail System, which is a multi-modal trail for walking and bicycling uses. When this trail system is fully completed it will provide an off road alignment biking and hiking trail that will connect Menomonie, Durand, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and Cornell with a total length of approximately 75 miles. The City of Eau Claire and the DNR have cooperated to develop the Chippewa River Trail component of the system, which runs from downtown Eau Claire to downtown Durand and connecting with the south end of the Red Cedar Trail along the way; 11 miles are located in Eau Claire County. Eau Claire has also completed part of the “Urban Trail,” running from Birch Street north to Eddy Lane in the City for approximately 2 miles. Plans call for linking this trail with the Chippewa River Trail downtown and extending it north to Chippewa Falls. The last 11 miles of the Old Abe Trail, the northern portion of the Chippewa Valley Trail System, has already been completed to Cornell.

BICYCLING

Although most casual bicyclists limit their activity to short rides on city streets, more and more cyclists are taking to the open road on longer, more demanding trips. Bike trails are not often separated from motor vehicle traffic, because of the great expense involved in constructing separate trails. Bike routes are normally found on lightly traveled paved roads.

Eau Claire County is fortunate to have a separate trail dedicated to cycling and pedestrian use. As noted above in the Hiking/Walking Trails segment of this plan, the Chippewa River State Trail originates at a trailhead in the downtown of Eau Claire and extends to the City of Durand at the south end. The 30-mile trail is hard-surfaced all the way to Durand with a combination of asphalt and asphalt emulsion with approximately 11 miles of the trail located in Eau Claire County. It also connects to the Red Cedar Trail and the City of Menomonie, which is a packed limestone trail. Collectively, the Chippewa River State Trail and Red Cedar Trail form the western part of the Chippewa Valley Trail System, which is approximately 45 miles long.

The City of Eau Claire has recently completed part of the “Urban Trail”, which connects to the downtown segment of the Chippewa River State Trail and extends into Chippewa County to 40th Avenue. Plans call for extending this trail north to Chippewa Falls. Also, 2 miles of the Urban trail have been developed in the City of Eau Claire along with another 4-mile segment that runs along the north side of Clairemont Avenue from the Chippewa River to 10th Street in Altoona. When the “Urban Trail” and Old Abe Trail are complete, cyclists will be able to ride from Menomonie or Durand, through Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls to Cornell for a total length of roughly 75 miles.

Other trail segments also exist around the City of Eau Claire region. The trail along the east side of Hwy 93 in the City of Eau Claire and the Town of Washington adds approximately 4 miles of paved surface. Additionally, a branch connector extends along County Road Q (Olson Drive), east to Peterson Avenue and west, across North Crossing (Highway 312), to Old Wells Road. Branches of this 4-mile trail extend into the neighborhoods immediately adjacent. This trail also connects to the “Urban Trail” via Marquette Street. With the improvements on the Hastings Way corridor, 2 miles of bike and multi-use paths have been added that permit travel along either side of Business 53 (So. Hastings Way) from Clairemont Avenue (US Highway 12) to Birch Street, and to the “Urban Trail”. Significant improvements have been made that promote interconnectivity of the various trail segments in and around the City of Eau Claire metropolitan area.

In addition to dedicated trails, there are other bicycle routes in the County. Notable routes are on County Road QQ (North Shore Drive) in the Town of Seymour, which is 3.5 miles long, and along Spooner Avenue in the City of Altoona, which is about 1 mile long. Several County Highways also have paved shoulders that are used by bicycling enthusiasts, including County Road B, County Road F, County Road AF, parts of County Road K, part of County Road Q, County Road SS, and County Road II. Most town roads in the County are lightly traveled and are also suitable for cycling. The Wisconsin Division of Tourism produces a map of recommended bicycling routes throughout Wisconsin including some in Eau Claire County.

For off-road bicycling enthusiasts, a 17-mile off-road trail network in Lowes Creek Park is available for use by mountain bikes, cross-country skiing, and walking or running. Please refer to Map 6 – Lowes Creek Park. In addition, Otter Creek Park in Altoona offers 3 miles of off-road multi-use trails. Finally, Northwest Park, adjacent to North Crossing (State Highway 312) in the northwest area of the City of Eau Claire, offers another 5 miles of off-road biking opportunities for residents and visitors. Collectively, 25 miles of off-road bicycling trails are available in the Eau Claire metropolitan area within Eau Claire County.

In summary, there are more than 30 miles of dedicated right-of-ways intended for use by bicycles in Eau Claire County (an increase of roughly 80% in recent years), 25 miles of mountain biking trails, and about 135 miles of roads recommended by the Wisconsin Division of Tourism as suitable cycling routes. Map 5 illustrates the location of these trails in Eau Claire County.

FIELD SPORTS AND PLAYGROUNDS

In many parks throughout the County, open space has been set aside for field sports. In many cases the space has been improved for activities such as softball, volleyball, or horseshoes. Soccer fields are located at UW-Eau Claire as well as at both North and Memorial High Schools. The City of Eau Claire offers 18 holes of disc golf at Mount Simon Park, and two 18-hole disc golf courses are provided at the County's Tower Ridge Recreation Area. Unimproved open park space is also used for football, Frisbee, croquet, soccer and other field sports. Some of the available facilities are listed in Table 10.



Lake Altoona County Park, Photo: Matt Michels

Table 10
FIELD SPORTS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

<u>Park</u>	<u>Soft- ball</u>	<u>Horse- shoes</u>	<u>Volley- ball</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Basket- ball</u>	<u>Play- ground</u>	<u>Other</u>
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FACILITIES:							
Harstad County Park	1	1	1	0	0	1	Open Space
Coon Fork County Park	0	2	2	0	1	3	Open Space
Lake Altoona County Park	0	2	2	0	0	3	Open Space
Lake Eau Claire County Park	1	4	2	0	0	2	Open Space
Beaver Creek Reserve	1	1	1	0	1	0	Archery, Fitness Course
Expo Center	1	0	0	0	0	0	
TOWN OF SEYMOUR FACILITIES:							
Seymour Recreation Park (Seymour)	4	0	1	2	1	1	Two Baseball Diamonds, Outdoor Ice Skating Rink
TOWN OF WASHINGTON FACILITIES:							
Little League Ball Diamonds & Conservancy Area (Washington)	1	0	0	0	0	0	Open Space, Two Baseball Diamonds
Town of Washington Little League Field	0	0	0	0	0	0	Three Baseball Diamonds
TOWN OF WILSON FACILITIES:							
Town of Wilson Memorial Park	1	0	0	0	0	1	Open Space, Pavilion
VILLAGE OF FAIRCHILD FACILITIES:							
Foster Park (Fairchild)	0	0	0	1	1	1	Open Space, Outdoor Ice Rink
Olson Memorial Park (Fairchild)	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Fairchild Elementary School	1	0	0	0	2	1	Open Space
Chat-A-While Park	0	0	0	0	1	0	Open Space
Rod and Gun Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	Open Space, beach, boat dock, Archery range
VILLAGE OF FALL CREEK FACILITIES:							
Keller Park (Fall Creek)	1	4	2	2	1	1	Open Space, Outdoor Skating Rink, soccer fields
Fall Creek Schools	1	0	0	0	3	1	Open Space, Outdoor Skating Rink, one baseball diamond
Crystal Creek Park	0	0	0	0	0	1	Open Space
CITY OF ALTOONA FACILITIES:							
Cinder City Park	3	0	0	0	0	1	1 Baseball Field, 1 Youth Ball Field, Community Building Used For Ice Skating & Hockey in Winter; Two Shuffle Boards
Altoona City Park (10 th Street Park)	1	0	0	5	1	2	Open Space, Rec. Building, Outdoor Ice Skating Rink
Highland Park	0	0	0	1	1	1	Open Space
St. Mary's Elementary	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Altoona High School	0	0	0	0	1	0	Open Space, Running Track
Altoona Middle School	0	0	2	0	0	0	Baseball Field, Four Tether Ball Poles, Paved Area
Pedersen Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	1	Paved Area, Sledding Hill
Devney Park	0	0	0	1	1	1	Open Space, Lighted Ball Field, Pavilion, Rec. Building

**Table 10 (Cont.)
FIELD SPORTS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

<u>Park</u>	<u>Soft- ball</u>	<u>Horse- shoes</u>	<u>Volley- ball</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Basket- ball</u>	<u>Play- ground</u>	<u>Other</u>
CITY OF AUGUSTA FACILITIES:							
Memorial Field	1	0	0	3	1	0	Football, Open Space Ice Skating Rink
North Side Park	0	6	0	0	0	1	Open Space, picnic area
Augusta Community Center	1	0	0	0	1	1	Open Space
Fourth Ward Jaycee Park	0	0	0	0	0	1	Open Space
Augusta High/Grade School	2	0	0	0	3	1	Open Space
Lion's Club Park	1	0	2	0	0	1	Open Space
N. Stone Street by Bridge	0	0	0	0	1	0	Ice Skating Rink
CITY OF EAU CLAIRE FACILITIES:							
Carson Park (Eau Claire)	2	15	1	3	0	1	Open Space, Football and Baseball Stadium
Mt. Simon Park (Eau Claire)	1	0	2	0	0	1	Open Space, Archery, Frisbee Golf, Two Baseball Fields
Owen Park (Eau Claire)	0	0	0	2	0	1	Open Space, Bandshell
Bollinger Fields/ University Athletic Complex	5	0	0	0	0	0	Three Soccer Fields, One Rugby Field, One Baseball Diamond
Kessler Field (Eau Claire)	1	0	0	0	1	1	Open Space, Outdoor Ice Skating Rink
North High School Athletic Complex (Eau Claire)	3	0	0	8	2	0	One Soccer Field, Three Football Fields, Track, Three Baseball Fields
Memorial High School Athletic Complex (Eau Claire)	2	0	0	7	0	0	One Soccer Field, Two Football Fields, Track, Two Baseball Fields
Delong & South Middle School Athletic Complex (Eau Claire)	4	0	0	14	0	0	One Soccer Field, Two Football Fields At Each School, Track At Each School, Three Baseball Fields At South, Three Baseball Fields And Archery Range at Delong
Mitscher Park	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Neighborhood Playgrounds & Parks, Other School Properties, Other Community Parks, and Special Areas In The City of Eau Claire	14	0	1	2	60	35	Two Baseball Fields, Eleven Ice Skating Rinks at 8 sites
TOTAL:	56	35	19	51	86	69	

ATV TRAILS AND RIDING

Another emerging recreational opportunity in Eau Claire County is ATV trail riding. A 30-mile trail network is provided in the eastern portion of the County, connecting the City of Augusta and Village of Fairchild to the Clark County and Buffalo River Trails in neighboring counties primarily through county forest lands. In addition to the trail system, several public roads are also designated routes in this vicinity as well, with the requirement to operate on the extreme right side of the roadway. Given the increases in popularity of this activity, additional recreation-oriented businesses have emerged in the Fairchild area. According to the SCORP, ATV riding (i.e. off-road vehicle driving) continues to see steady growth with an increase of roughly 75% in the last 15 years according to Tables 23 and 26.

GOLF

The locations of the six golf courses in Eau Claire County are shown on Map 7. All courses in the County are privately owned, with one course limited to use by club members and guests (see Table 11). There are eight additional golf courses located within 25 miles of Eau Claire, as follows: Timber Terrace Golf Course in Chippewa Falls, Lake Wissota Golf near Chippewa Falls, Lake Hallie Golf in Lake Hallie, Ojibwa Country Club in Chippewa Falls, Whispering Pines in Cadott, the Osseo Country Club, Whitetail Course near Colfax and The Valley near Mondovi.



Mill Run Golf Course, Photo: Matt Michels

Table 11 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY GOLF COURSES				
<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>No. Holes</u>	<u>Par</u>
1. Eau Claire County Club (Altoona)*	836-8420	163	18	71
2. Hickory Hills Golf Course (Pleasant Valley)	878-4543	100	18	63
3. Pine Meadows Golf Course (Eau Claire)	832-6011	16	9	27
4. Mill Run Golf Course (Eau Claire)	834-1766	330		
Hidden Creek at Mill Run			18	70/71
Wild Ridge at Mill Run			18	72
5. Princeton Valley Golf Course (Eau Claire)	834-3334	<u>140</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>36</u>
	TOTAL:	749	90	

* Members and guests only

PICNICKING

Villages and cities provide the greatest number of facilities and acres for picnicking; the County also provides extensive picnicking facilities. Community parks are popular places for picnicking and are used by both municipal residents and visitors to the area. The inventory distinguishes between waysides, which offer a few tables and no other type of recreation, and picnic areas. Picnic areas are often found in combination with other facilities such as campgrounds and community parks, and supplement the range of recreational facilities offered at that site. Table 12 summarizes existing waysides, while Table 13 lists facilities at public picnic areas.

Table 12 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY WAYSIDES – 2015				
<u>Wayside</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>No. of Tables</u>	<u>No. of Toilets</u>	<u>Grills</u>
1. Cooley Lake - State Road 85	NW-NE, Sect. 10, T26N-R10W	5	yes	2
2. State Road 93	NW-NW, Sect. 34, T25N-R9W	1	no	0
3. Highline Boat Landing	NW-NE, Sect. 20, T27N-R8W	1	no	0
4. County Road ND Boat Landing	SW-NW, Sect. 3, T26N-R6W	1	yes	0
5. County Road SD West Boat Landing	SE-SE, Sect. 5, T26N-R6W	0	yes	0
6. County Road SD East Boat Landing	NW-NW, Sect. 11, T26N-R6W	1	yes	0
7. County Road ND Wayside	SW-NW Sect. 3, T26N-R6W	2	no	0
8. Lake Eau Claire Beach	SW-NW Sect. 3, T26N-R6W	<u>2</u>	yes	<u>1</u>
	Total:	13		3

**Table 13
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PICNIC AREAS**

<u>Community Facilities:</u>	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of
	<u>Tables</u>	<u>Grills</u>	<u>Shelters</u>	<u>Restrooms</u>
1. Altoona City Park (Altoona)	10	2	1	4
2. Cinder City Park (Altoona)	20	0	2	2
3. Highland Park (Altoona)	1	0	0	0
4. Lake Front Park (Altoona)	8	4	0	1
5. Devney Park (Altoona)	10	0	1	2
6. Augusta Lions Club Park (Augusta)	14	1	1	2
7. Augusta Community Center (Augusta)	0	0	0	2
8. North Side Park (Augusta)	19	6	3	2
9. Bridge Creek Overlook, Hwy 27 (Augusta)	3	2	1	0
10. Fourth Ward Jaycee Park (Augusta)	4	2	1	1
11. Lincoln Street Park (Augusta)	0	0	0	0
12. Augusta Memorial Field (Augusta)	17	0	1	1
13. North Stone Street (Augusta)	2	0	1	0
14. Ron Olson Memorial Park (Fairchild)	1	0	1	1
15. Foster Park (Fairchild)	5	2	1	2
16. Rod & Gun Club Park (Fairchild)	0	1	0	2
17. Chat-A-While Park (Fairchild)	1	0	1	0
18. Randall Park (Fall Creek)	2	2	4	1
19. Keller Park (Fall Creek)	27	3	3	2
20. Fall Creek Valley Memorial Park	4	1	2	1
21. Seymour Recreation Park (T/Seymour)	11	0	2	1
22. Lions Youth Camp (T/Seymour)	10	2	1	1
23. Sherman Creek Park (T/Union)	4	3	1	2
24. Memorial Park (T/Wilson)	6	0	1	2
25. City of Eau Claire facilities	<u>314</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>21</u>
SUBTOTAL:	493	81	42	53
 <u>County Facilities:</u>				
1. Big Falls County Park	5	2	0	2
2. Coon Fork County Park	25	17	1	4
3. Harstad County Park	15	5	1	2
4. L.L. Phillips County Park	2	0	1	1
5. Lake Altoona County Park	58 (12 indoors)	22	2	2
6. Lake Eau Claire County Park	55 (22 indoors)	21	8	3
7. Lowes Creek County Park	4	1	1	1
8. Tower Ridge Ski Cabin	5 (3 indoors)	0	0	1
9. Tower Ridge Disc Golf	2	0	0	1
10. Lake Eau Claire outlots	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
SUBTOTAL:	177	69	14	21
TOTAL:	<u>670</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>74</u>

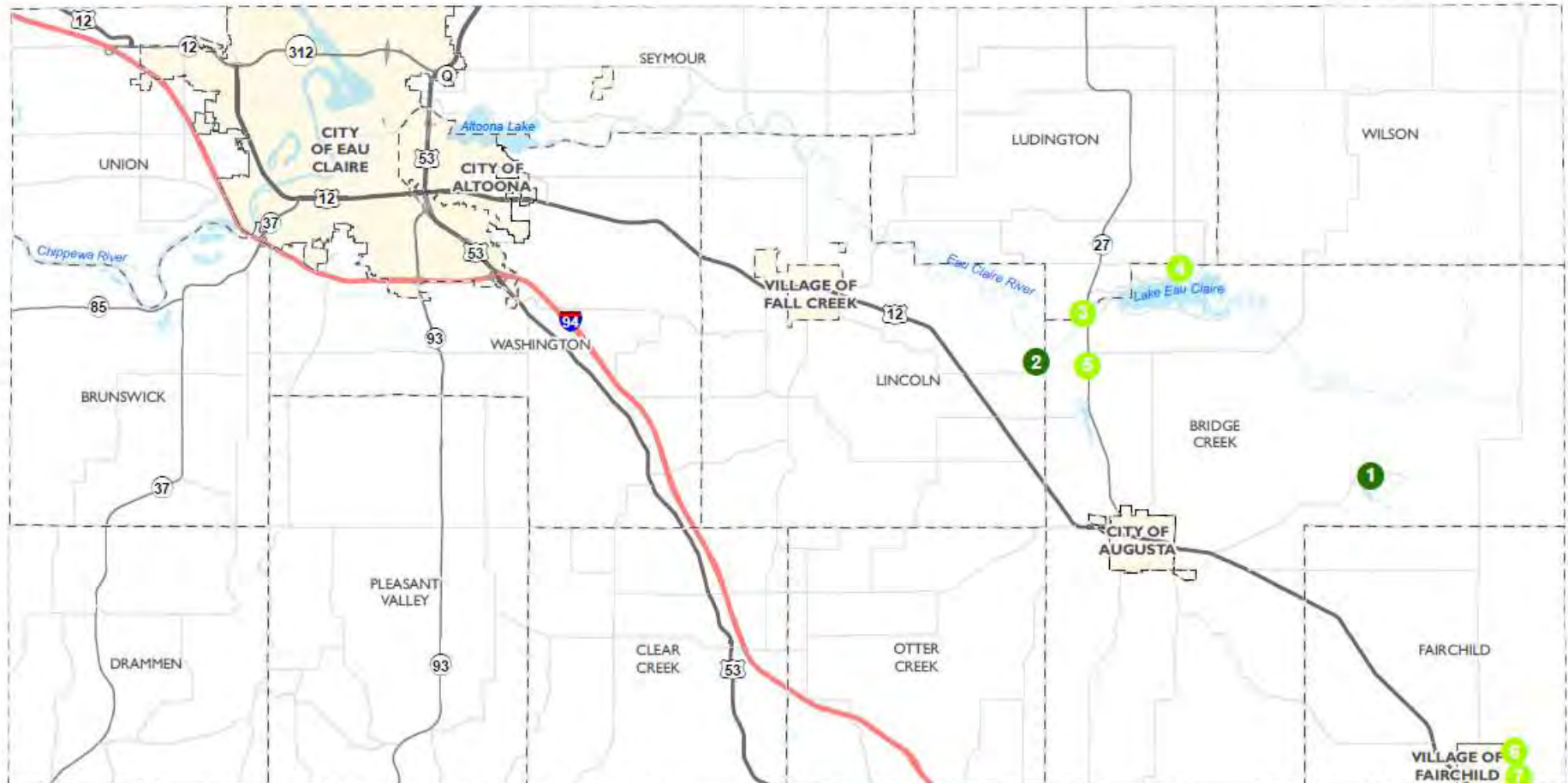
HORSEBACK RIDING

The County Forest Land is open to horseback riding. There are two designated riding trails at this time: one is located on part of the Tower Ridge Ski Trail (approximately 12.0 miles) and Backwater Trails off County Road G in the Town of Bridge Creek (approximately 10.3 miles). In addition, several privately-owned riding stables are found in the County. Map 8 depicts the publicly designated trail system at Tower Ridge. Several survey respondents and members of the Stakeholder Committee felt that improved equestrian facilities are needed, especially at Tower Ridge Recreation Area, where many horse trails are located. As a result of this input, a number of improvements are planned for Tower Ridge, including horse watering facilities and manure pit facilities.

Map 3 Campgrounds

CAMPGROUNDS

of Eau Claire County, WI



Public Campgrounds

- 1 - Coon Fork County Park
- 2 - Harstad County Park

Private Campgrounds

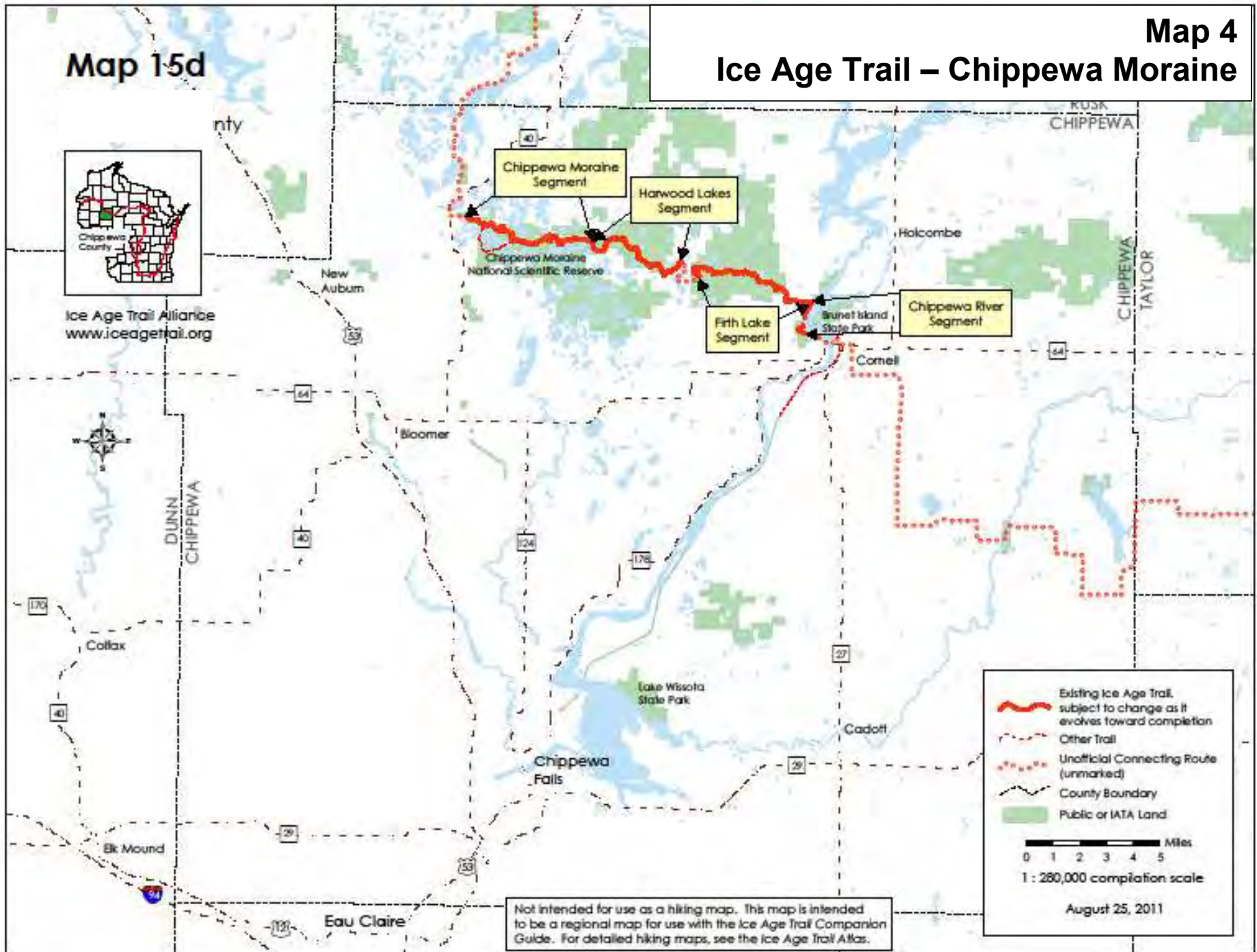
- 3 - Woodland Campground
- 4 - Sandy Hill Campground

- 5 - Trail's Edge

- 6 - Little Creek Campground & Cabins
- 7 - The Longshot

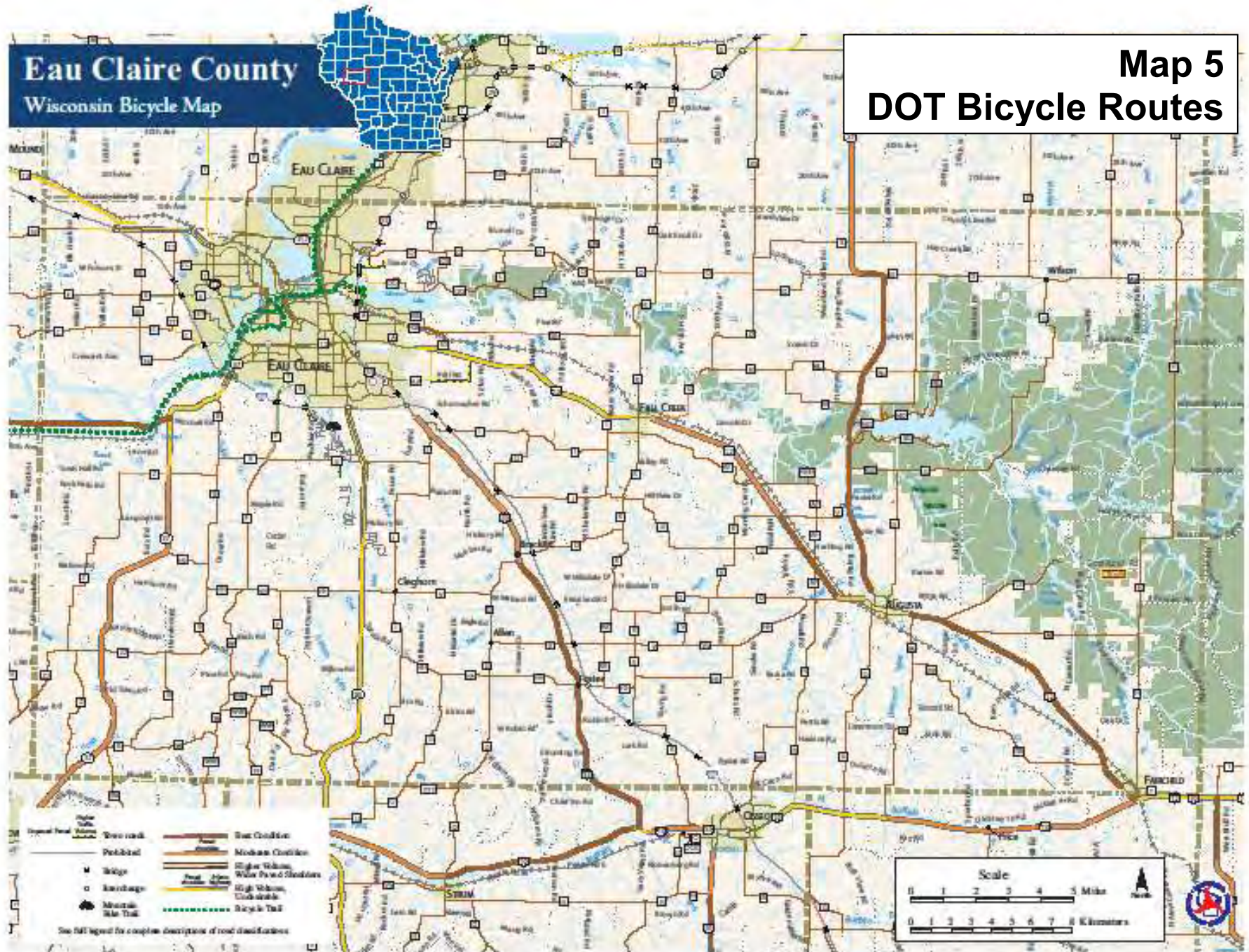
Map 15d

Map 4 Ice Age Trail – Chippewa Moraine



Eau Claire County Wisconsin Bicycle Map

Map 5 DOT Bicycle Routes



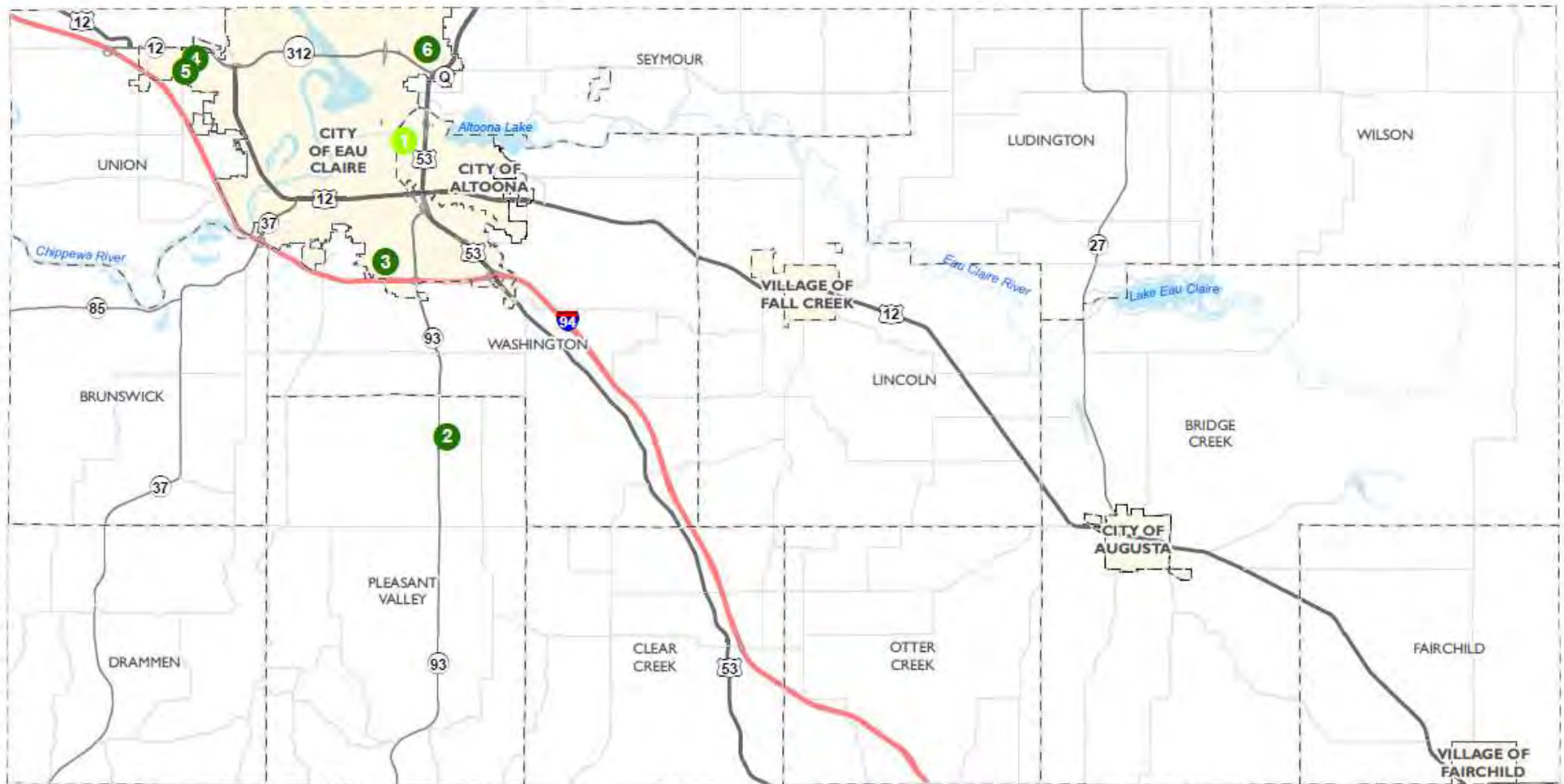
Map 6 Lowes Creek Trail System



Map 7 Golf Courses

GOLF COURSES

of Eau Claire County, WI



Private Golf Courses

- 1 - Eau Claire Golf and Country Club

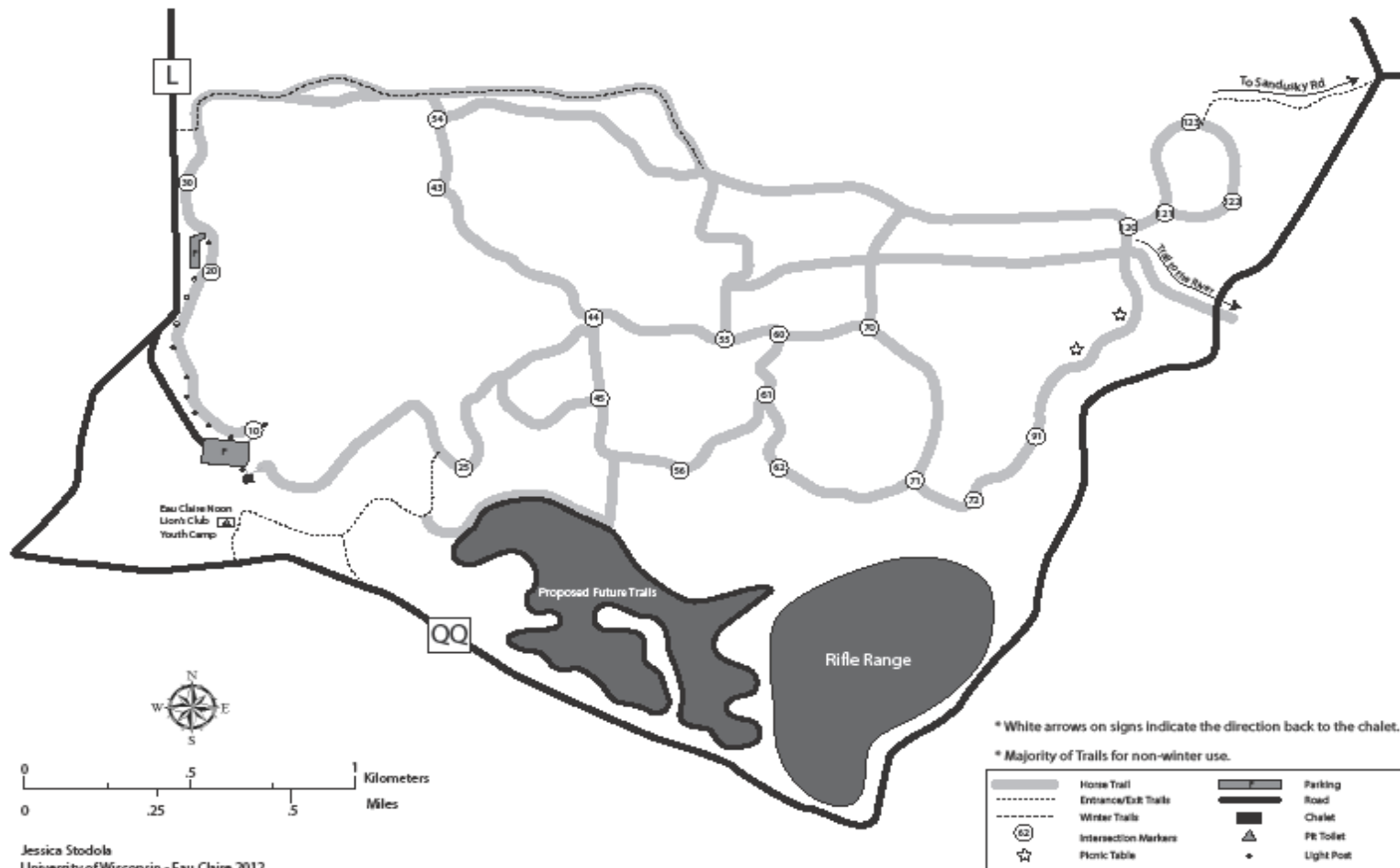
Public Golf Courses

- 2 - Hickory Hills Golf Course
- 3 - Pine Meadow Golf Course
- 4 - Mill Run Golf Course
- 5 - Wild Ridge Golf Course
- 6 - Princeton Valley Golf Course

Map 8 Tower Ridge Horse Trails

Tower Ridge Horse Trails

* Intersection numbers increase with distance from the chalet.



Jessica Stodola
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire 2012

LIMITED DEVELOPMENT

Outdoor recreation activities which tend to occur in open spaces that may be owned by a government agency or non-profit organization and are available to the general public are considered “Limited Development” activities. These activities require very limited or no man-made developments to facilitate usage as the typical participant wants to experience pristine natural surroundings. Common activities in this recreation type include hiking, primitive camping, or some form of hunting.

HUNTING AND SHOOTING

Most hunting in Eau Claire County is for deer, but other game hunting such as bear, squirrels, ducks, and grouse are also quite popular. Much of the hunting is done on private property. A total of about 55,232 acres of public forest land are located in the County, most of which is available for hunting. Target shooting and plinking are allowed in almost all areas of the county forest. The County Forest covers 52,344 acres while one state hunting area covers 2,118 acres. More details on regulations can be obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Area Office at 1-888-936-7463. Publicly-owned or leased hunting lands are shown on Map 9 and summarized in Table 14.

Table 14 PUBLIC LAND OPEN FOR HUNTING - 2015	
<u>Public Hunting Area</u>	<u>Approximate Acres</u>
State-owned: Augusta Wildlife Area	2,118
State-owned: Lowes Creek Fish/Land Properties	370
County-owned: County Forest	<u>52,344</u>
TOTAL:	54,832



Aside from public areas for actual pursuit of game, hunters can take advantage of several ranges to practice shooting skills. Bow hunters can practice at Rod & Gun Club Park in Fairchild. In addition, private sportsmen clubs allow members to practice firearm shooting precision. The Eau Claire National Rifle Club maintains a 16-point range in the Town of Seymour. Table 15 describes the location of these facilities.

Table 15 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SHOOTING AND ARCHERY RANGES	
<u>Range</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Fairchild Rod and Gun Club Park	W. Park Road, Fairchild
2. Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club	Schoettl Ave. (SE-NW, Sect 18, T27N, R8W) Seymour
3. Eau Claire National Rifle Club	County Road QQ (SW-SW, Sect. 15, T27N-R8W) Seymour
4. Westgate Sportsman Club	County Road EE (NW-NW, Sect. 35, T27N-R10W) Union
5. Eau Claire Archers Club	Murphy Road, (SE-NW, Sect 32, T27N, R10W) Union

PRIMITIVE CAMPING

For individuals who may want to get off the beaten path or stray away from developed campgrounds, primitive camping opportunities exist in or near Eau Claire County. In addition to the county forest system, Federal recreation facilities located within a 50-mile radius of Eau Claire County include the National Ice Age Trail and Eau Galle Federal Reservoir (maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers). The State of Wisconsin also maintains three state parks, a hiking trail, and a recreation area in nearby counties.

Table 16 FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS						
	<u>Camping</u>	<u>Swimming</u>	<u>Boating</u>	<u>Fishing</u>	<u>Hiking</u>	<u>Off-Road Bicycling</u>
Brunet Island State Park (Cornell)	X	X	X	X	X	
Lake Wissota State Park (Chippewa Falls)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red Cedar State Trail (Menomonie)					X	X
Hoffman Hills Rec.Area (Menomonie)					X	
National Ice Age Trail					X	
Chequamegon National Forest	X	X	X	X		
Eau Galle Dam Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	
Chippewa River Trail					X	X

HIKING AND BACKPACKING

Unlike walking or jogging, which in general requires the establishment of a trail system or the use of roads, hiking or backpacking in this recreational type is based upon the use of unimproved open spaces. The lure for many is the opportunity to get off the beaten path and to “rough it” surrounded by only nature. This activity has started to regain popularity in the United States. Again, please refer to Map 9 to locate the large tracts of land that are publicly-owned and available to the general public for these types of activities.

GEOCACHING AND ORIENTEERING

A relatively new outdoor recreational activity, geocaching first began in 2000 when GPS satellites were opened for public use. The term geocaching comes from “geo”, meaning earth, and “cache”, meaning a hiding place someone would use to temporarily store items and the memory cache in computers. The idea is to locate hidden containers with “treasures” inside in any public place with specific coordinates for others try and find, sort of like a game of hide and seek. Participants then share their experiences on an online forum. One important fact about this activity is that it is indeed outdoors, combining information and technology that you have at your home with hiking or backpacking in the outdoors, to form as an excellent combination of mental and physical activity for participants. According to Geocaching.com, there are an estimated 4-5 million geocachers worldwide and an estimated 1.1 million hidden caches. As you can see, although it is a relatively new activity, geocaching has quickly caught on. More information on this trending outdoor recreational activity can be found by searching the Wisconsin Geocaching Association.

Orienteering is similar to geocaching in that destinations are often referenced in a coordinate system. The difference is that the participants are using topographic maps and compasses rather than GPS units to find hidden caches or destinations. This is exploring in its more primitive form and tends to be more challenging for individuals due to the mental challenge it provides. For competitive individuals who are interested in orienteering, Adventure Racing is a type of endurance racing that typically includes orienteering components. This type of racing has been popularized by modern television programming like the Eco-Challenge, Primal-Quest and more recently the Discovery Channel's Adventure Race. Whether the participant is looking for a more leisurely activity or an endurance test, this type of recreational activity continues to grow in popularity throughout the U.S. Although Eau Claire County does not contain any official courses at this time, more information relating to orienteering or adventure racing may be found by searching the Badger Orienteering Club.

Map 9 Shooting & Archery Ranges

SHOOTING & ARCHERY RANGES of Eau Claire County, WI



Archery Only

- 1 - Eau Claire Archers Inc

Shooting and Archery

- 2 - Westgate Sportsman Club
- 3 - Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club

Shooting Only

- 4 - Eau Claire National Rifle Club

WATER BASED ACTIVITIES

Recreational use of the State’s abundant water resources continues to be a cornerstone of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. Recreational opportunities range from high-speed motor-boating to kayaking; swimming in a lake or stream to floating in a tube or raft; visiting a beach or outdoor swimming pool to walking the shoreline of Lake Michigan; fishing for that trophy trout to catching sunfish with a child; etc. Whatever the activity, you can be sure to find it



Playing in Lake Altoona, Photo: Matt Michels

here in Wisconsin. According to statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, just 3% of the earth’s water is fresh water. However, 2% is locked in polar caps meaning that just 1% of the earth’s reachable freshwater is found in lakes and streams. The Great Lakes account for approximately 20% of this amount. When one considers this information, there is no denying the vast importance that freshwater means to Wisconsin, both environmentally and economically.

BOATING

Pleasure boating and sailing are most common on Dells Pond, Lake Altoona, and Lake Eau Claire. Most pleasure boating is done in conjunction with fishing and waterskiing. On relatively small lakes such as those in Eau Claire County, waterskiing and power-boating can conflict with other users of the lake, including individuals who are fishing, sailing, and canoeing. Half Moon Lake is posted for non-motorized use only. Only electric trolling motors are allowed on Coon Fork Lake. Sedimentation in Lake Eau Claire and Lake Altoona also limits the use of these lakes for waterskiing and power-boating; shallow water can be found on the east end of both lakes. Boat landings on County lakes and rivers are listed in Table 17 and shown on Map 10.

Table 17 PRIMARY EAU CLAIRE COUNTY BOAT LANDINGS	
<u>Boat Landings:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
1. Lake Eau Claire - North	SE-NW, Sect. 3, T26N-R6W
2. Lake Eau Claire - #1 South	SE-SE, Sect. 5, T26N-R6W
3. Lake Eau Claire - #2 South	NW-NW, Sect. 11, T26N-R6W
4. Lake Altoona County Park	SW-NW, Sect. 24, T27N-R9W
5. Highline Boat Landing	NW-NE, Sect. 20, T27N-R8W
6. Coon Fork County Park - Day Side	SE-NW, Sect. 32, T26N-R5W
7. Coon Fork County Park - Campground Side	SE-SW, Sect. 29, T26N-R5W
8. Riverview Park	2900 Block, Riverview Dr., Eau Claire
9. Mt. Simon	Eddy and Addison Avenue, Eau Claire
10. Hobbs Ice Arena	Tenth Ave. & Menomonie St., Eau Claire
11. Carson Park	NW-SW, Sect. 19, T27N-R9W
12. Ferry Street	NE-NW, Sect. 36, T27N-R10W
13. Porterville Road	NW-NE, Sect. 3, T26N-R10W

It is generally recognized that motor-boating is best accommodated on lakes in excess of 100 acres. Because of the limitation for non-motorized boating on Half Moon Lake, the only lakes that are most suitable for motor-boating include Lake Altoona, Lake Eau Claire, and Dells Pond in Eau Claire, for a total of 2,755 acres.

CANOEING & KAYAKING

Canoeing and Kayaking are popular water sports in Eau Claire County. The most popular and scenic routes are found on the Eau Claire River and the Chippewa River, offering nearly 40 river miles of canoeing and kayaking possibilities. Numerous access points on both rivers allow easy entry and exit with parking space for cars and boat trailers. Canoeists and kayakers must portage around dams on the rivers and low water levels can sometime be a problem.



Photo: Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department

The Outdoor Recreation Stakeholder Committee and a number of survey respondents identified improved access to the Eau Claire River as a high priority. An access plan is included in Section 4, which outlines specific parking, access, and signage improvements that are planned along the Eau Claire River to accommodate more convenient and safe access to the river, as well as providing for increased visitation and recreational tourism in the eastern part of Eau Claire County. All access points on both the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers, as well are listed in Table 18 and shown on Map 11.

Table 18
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY RIVER ACCESS POINTS

Map Number	Landing Name	Location	Section, Township, Range
1	Hamilton Falls	North of falls on river	Sec 26, T27N, R5W
2	Eisberner Memorial	End of Canoe Landing Forest Road. Approximately 1 mile south of Channey Road.	Sec 16, T26N, R5W
3	Troubled Waters	North side of river	Sec 12, T26N, R6W
4	Skid Row	End of Highway SD	Sec 11, T26N, R6W
5	North Side	North boat landing at Lake Eau Claire	Sec 3, T26N, R6W
6	South Side	South boat landing at Lake Eau Claire	Sec 5, T26N, R6W
7	Harstad County Park	Follow main entrance road in park to river	Sec 13, T26N, R7W
8	"D" Bridge	SE side of bridge	Sec 33, T27N, R7W
9	"K" Bridge	Off highway on NW side of bridge	Sec 19, T27N, R7W
10	Big Falls	Park area – from north or south side	Sec 13, T27N, R8W
11	Lion's Youth Camp	Just off North Shore Drive (L/QQ)	Sec 16, T27N, R8W
12	Highline	.3 miles south from North Shore Drive on Highline	Sec 20, T27N, R8W
13	Lake Altoona County Park	Boat landing in park	Sec 24, T27N, R9W
14	River Prairie	Below highway 53 bypass	Sec 15, T27N, R9W
19	Hobbs Ice Arena	Behind Hobbs Ice Arena	Sec 30, T27N, R9W
20	Porterville Road	End of Porterville Road	Sec 3, T26N, R10W

There are several tributaries of the Eau Claire River that are also navigable by canoe. Overall there are 14.5 miles of streams in addition to the 40 miles of the Eau Claire and Chippewa River that can be canoed, for a total of 54.5 miles.

FISHING

Fishing is popular on both lakes and streams in Eau Claire County. Table 19 lists the seven lakes that are more than 25 acres in size. Public access is available to all but a few of these lakes; commercial facilities such as gasoline, bait, boat rental, etc., can be found nearby on many of the lakes. Table 19 also identifies the most common game fish species caught.

Table 19 FACILITIES INVENTORY OF LAKES OVER 25 ACRES IN SIZE IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY					
<u>Lake Name</u>	<u>Surface Area Acres</u>	<u>Max. Depth</u>	<u>Public Access</u>	<u>Commercial Facilities Nearby</u>	<u>Fish Species</u>
Lake Altoona	840	25 ft.	boat ramp	yes	Musky, Walleye, Bass, Panfish
Lake Eau Claire	1,118	25 ft.	3 boat ramps	yes	Musky, Bass, Northern, Walleye, Panfish
Coon Fork Flowage	80	20 ft.	2 boat ramps	no	Musky, Bass, Panfish, Perch
Dells Pond (Eau Claire)	727	30 ft.	boat ramp	yes	Musky, Bass, Northern, Walleye, Panfish
Half Moon Lake (Eau Claire)	132	12 ft.	boat ramp	yes	Northern, Bass, Walleye, Panfish
Rodell Millpond (Town of Bridge Creek)	68	7 ft.	private ramp and public carry-in	yes	Panfish, Bass
Elk Creek Lake (Town of Union)	54	n/a	boat ramp	yes	Panfish, Bass
TOTAL:	3,019				

Streams in the County are home to a wide variety of fish. The major rivers with convenient access are the Chippewa and the Eau Claire. Anglers can try for musky, northern pike, walleye, bass, panfish, and rough-fish at nearly any point on these rivers. Smaller streams provide excellent trout fishing. Over 161 miles of trout streams are in the County. Of this total, 25 miles are Class 1, 72 miles are Class 2, and 64 miles are Class 3. Some Class 1 streams are portions of Beaver Creek, Clear Creek, Darrow Creek, Hay Creek and Sevenmile Creek. Improvements to stream banks and habitat have steadily increased the miles of Class 1 streams in the County.



SWIMMING: LAKES & RIVERS

The County maintains six areas designated for swimming (see Table 20 and Map 12). Beaches are located as follows: one at Lake Altoona County Park, three at Coon Fork County Park (one primarily for campers located on the east side of the lake and two for day users on the west side of the lake), and one on the north shore of Lake Eau Claire off of County Road ND. The Big Falls County Park is not officially designated as a beach area, but is a popular destination for swimmers and waders. The County no longer provides lifeguards at any of the swimming beaches.

Table 20 DEVELOPED PUBLIC BEACHES IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY - 2015					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Bath- House</u>	<u>Toilets</u>	<u>Life- Guard</u>	<u>Acres Swim Area</u>	<u>Size in Feet</u>
1. Lake Altoona County Park (Lake Altoona)	yes	yes	no	2.81	175 x 700
2. Coon Fork County Park – Campground (Coon Fork Flowage)	no	yes	no	0.92	200 x 200
3. Coon Fork County Park - Day Side, North Beach (Coon Fork Flowage)	yes	yes	no	1.93	280 x 300
4. Coon Fork County Park - Day Side, South Beach (Coon Fork Flowage)	no	yes	no	0.14	50 x 120
5. Lake Eau Claire (North Shore)	yes	yes	no	0.36	125 x 125
6. Big Falls County Park	yes	yes	no	undesignated	
7. Riverview Park (City of Eau Claire)	yes	yes	no	undesignated	
8. Half Moon Lake (City of Eau Claire)	no	no	no	1.25	160 x 330
TOTAL:				7.41 acres	

One of the main problems with swimming at the designated beaches is periodic poor water quality. Near the end of the summer, algae growth can become excessive. High bacteria counts have also forced temporary closing of beaches in the Eau Claire River watershed, particularly after significant rainfalls. County residents also travel to other beaches just outside the County. The nearest and largest is on Lake Wissota in Chippewa County.

SWIMMING: INDOOR & OUTDOOR POOLS

The Eau Claire Area School District has five swimming pools - one at each of the three middle schools (DeLong, South and North Star) and one at each High School (North and Memorial). All of these pools are the rectangular competitive design type, approximately 36 feet wide by 75 feet long. The pools are used by the City Recreation Department for open swimming and for lessons at various times throughout the year.

The City of Eau Claire owns and operates the Fairfax Swimming Pool, which is a public outdoor swimming pool. The facility includes a shallow pool for children, which is connected to a competition style pool. There is also a separate diving pool with a high and low diving board. The facility is also equipped with a waterslide.

A competition-style indoor swimming pool was constructed by the Augusta Area School District in 1998. The swimming pool serves as a community pool for city residents when not being used for school purposes.

Private indoor pools include the YMCA pool, Gold's Gym, and the pool at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (42 feet by 75 feet with a depth of 12 feet). The YMCA also has a small instructional pool that is 20 feet by 40 feet and only 2 feet deep. The Chaos Indoor Waterpark is located adjacent to Action City, which serves as a year-round entertainment venue for families. In addition, one private county club offers the use of a pool to their members and guests - Eau Claire Country Club. (See Map 13)

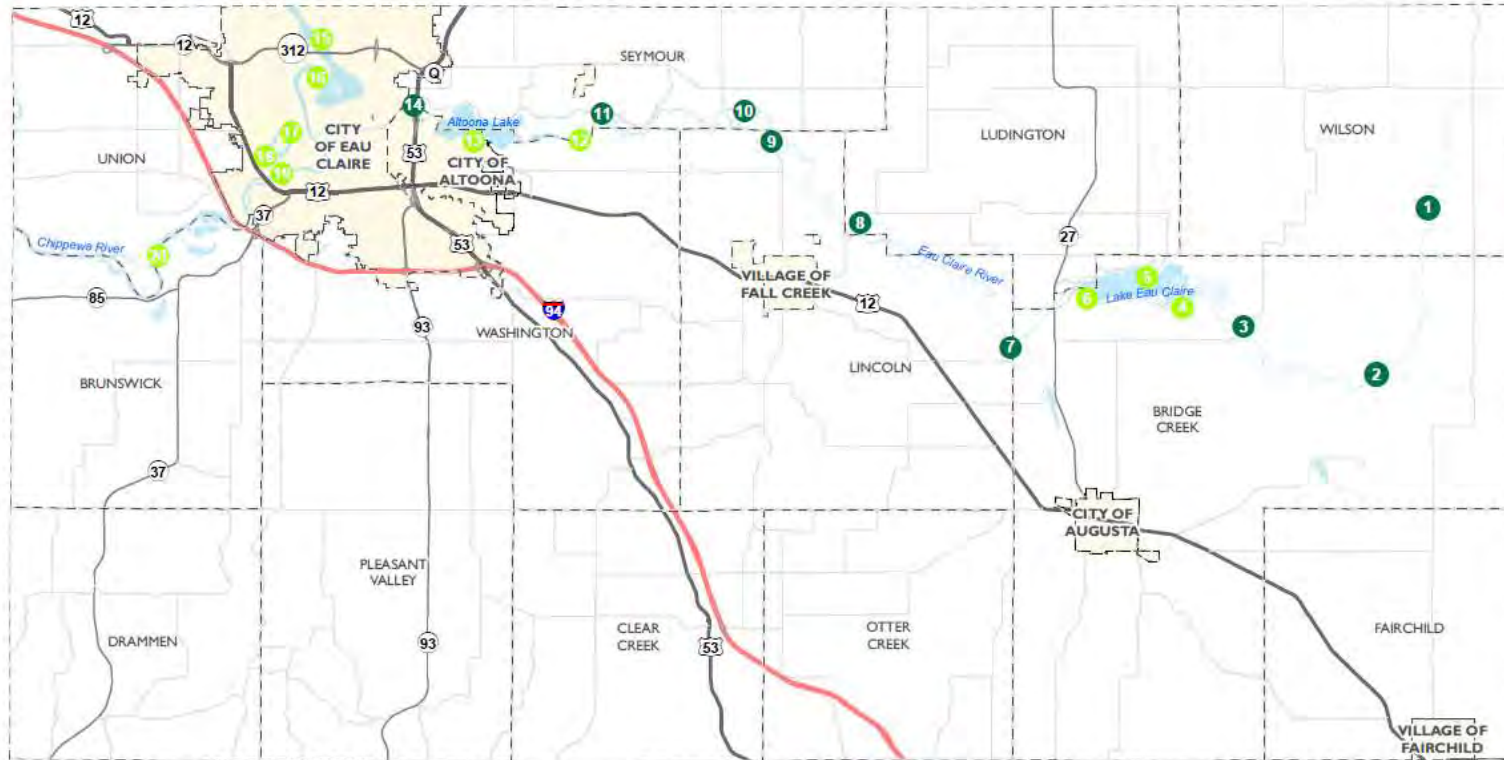


Lake Altoona Beach, Photo: ECC Parks & Forest Dept.

Map 10 River Access Points

RIVER ACCESS POINTS

of Eau Claire County, WI



River Access - Ramp

- 4 - Skid Row
- 5 - Lake Eau Claire - North
- 6 - Lake Eau Claire - South

● 12 - Highline Boat Landing

● 13 - Lake Altoona County Park

● 15 - Riverview Park

● 16 - Mount Simon Park

● 17 - Carson Park - Beach Area

● 18 - Carson Park - Braun's Bay

● 19 - Hobbs Ice Arena

● 20 - Porterville Road

River Access - No Ramp

● 1 - Hamilton Falls Rd

● 2 - Eisberner Memorial

● 3 - Troubled Water

● 7 - Harstad County Park

● 8 - 'D' Bridge

● 9 - 'K' Bridge

● 10 - Big Falls

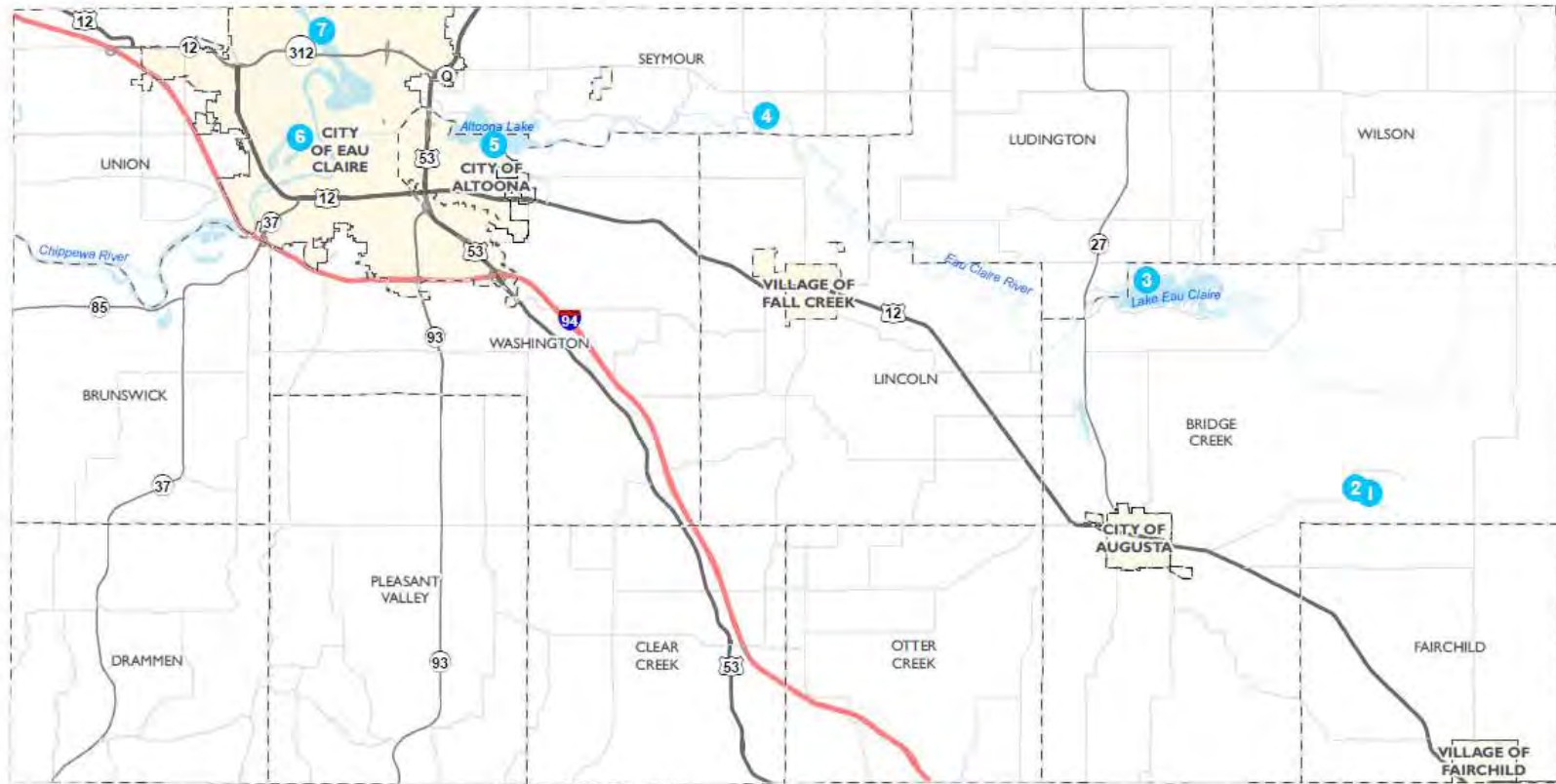
● 11 - Lion's Youth Camp

● 14 - River Prairie

Map 11 Public Natural Swimming Areas

PUBLIC NATURAL SWIMMING AREAS

of Eau Claire County, WI

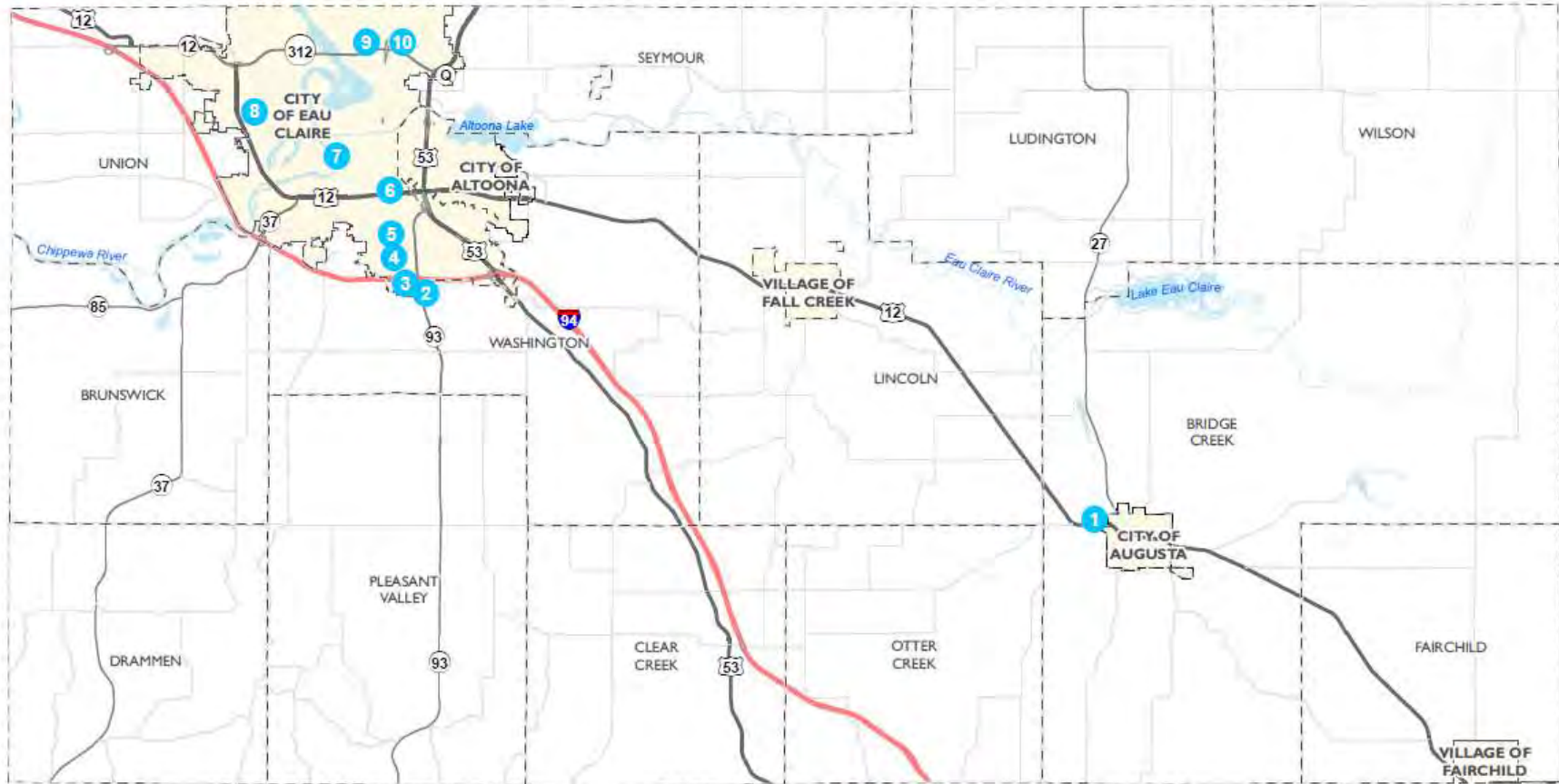


Public Natural Swimming Areas

- 1 - Coon Fork Campground
 - 2 - Coon Fork Day Side - South
- 3 - Lake Eau Claire - North (Is this correct??)
 - 4 - Big Falls County Park
 - 5 - Lake Altoona County Park
- 6 - Half Moon Lake
 - 7 - Riverview Park

PUBLIC & PRIVATE POOLS

of Eau Claire County, WI



Public and Private Pools

- 1 - Augusta School District
- 2 - Gold's Gym (membership required)
- 3 - Chaos Water Park
- 4 - Fairfax Pool
- 5 - South Middle School
- 6 - Memorial High School
- 7 - YMCA (membership required)
- 8 - DeLong Middle School
- 9 - North High School
- 10 - Northstar Middle School

SNOW AND ICE BASED ACTIVITIES

These activities involve some form of frozen water and remain very popular among Wisconsinites with more than 45% of the population participating in some form of snow or ice based recreational activity. Sledding is by far the most popular of these activities, with more than 28% of the state’s population participating according to the SCORP. Snowmobiling continues to gain popularity as the new trails emerge and sled technology improves. Skating and ice fishing are also activities that have seen noticeable gains while downhill skiing continues to see interest wane.

SNOW SKIING

There is only one small downhill ski slope in the County (Mount Washington run by the Flying Eagles Ski Club), however numerous ski areas are located within a two to four hour drive, including all of the facilities in Wisconsin, several in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and in eastern Minnesota. The closest facility is the Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area, located in Clark County about 15 miles south of the Village of Fairchild, which offers a wide range of facilities for winter use including cross-country ski trails, down-hill skiing, snow-tubing and has a snowmobile trail nearby. Other nearby sites include Trollhaugen in Polk County (near Dresser), Hardscrabble in Barron County (near Rice Lake), Christie Mountain in Rusk County (between Rice Lake and Bruce), Sylvan Park and Rib Mountain in Marathon County (near Wausau), Powers Bluff in Wood County (near Wisconsin Rapids), White Tail Ridge in Monroe County (near Sparta), Mt. La Crosse in La Crosse County (near the City of La Crosse) and several facilities in east central Minnesota including Coffee Mill near Wabasha, Welch Village near Welch, and Afton Alps near the Twin Cities.

The County is served by two ski jumping facilities, which host local, national, and international competitions (see Map 14). The Silver Mine Ski Jump, located just southwest of the City of Eau Claire, is the home of the annual *Silver Mine Invitational* event and will host an international FIS ski jumping event in February, 2016. The other ski jumping facility in the area is the Mount Washington Ski Jump, located at the Junction of Menomonie Street and Mt. Washington Avenue in Eau Claire.

Cross-country skiing is an extremely popular recreational activity in the area. Its popularity stems from the fact that it is a relatively low cost sport and it is an excellent aerobic and cardiovascular exercise. The County has several dedicated cross-country ski trails that have been developed on public land. Table 21 lists the public cross-country ski trails and their mileage.

Most cross-country trails are aimed at beginner and intermediate level skiers but both Tower Ridge and Evergreen have more challenging advanced trails as well. Where possible, on both City and County facilities, trails are groomed for both skating and striding. Trails at Tower Ridge, Evergreen and Lowes Creek are groomed for both skating and striding; however, Coon Fork trails and trails at Beaver Creek Reserve are groomed for striding only. Cross-country skis and snowshoes can be rented at the Reserve.

Table 21 CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY	
<u>Trail</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Tower Ridge Ski Area	13.0
2. Lowes Creek County Park	4.9
3. Beaver Creek Reserve	4.0
4. Evergreen County Trail	2.2
5. Coon Fork County Park	3.1
6. Riverview Park-Wells Area (Eau Claire)	3.0
7. Fairfax Park (Eau Claire)	1.2
8. Carson Park (Eau Claire)	<u>2.0</u>
TOTAL:	32.4

SNOWMOBILING

A County-wide system of trails allows snowmobilers to use 181 miles of Department of Natural Resources approved trails (See Map 15). In addition snowmobile clubs maintain many more miles of trails for their own use. The county trails are sponsored by the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department and maintained with help from the Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County under a maintenance agreement. The County-wide trails link to Dunn County to the west, Chippewa County to the north, Clark County to the east, and Trempealeau County to the south. Maps of the snowmobile trails are available at the Eau Claire County Clerk's Office and the Eau Claire County Parks and Recreation Department.



OTHER WINTER ACTIVITIES



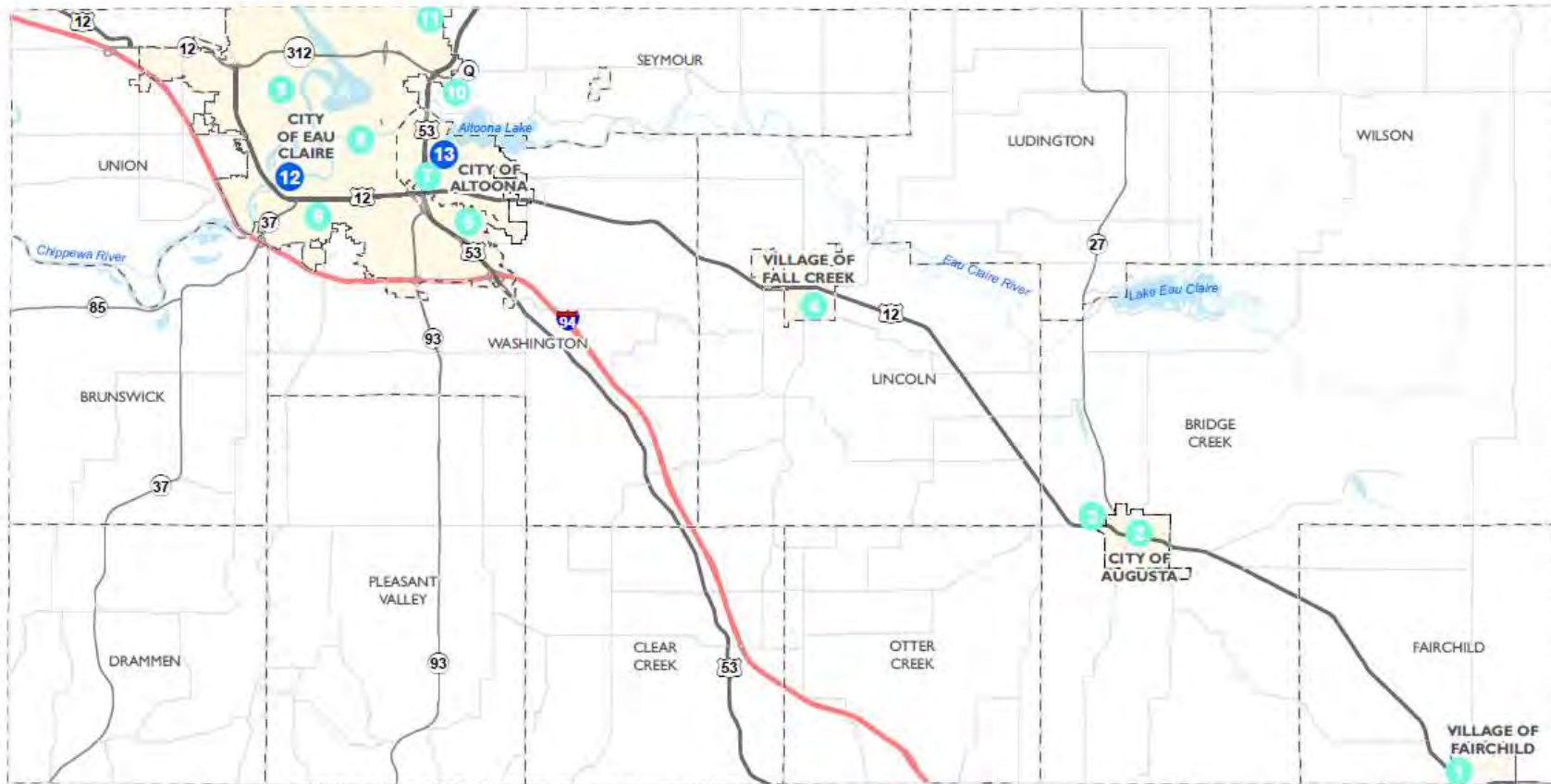
Ice-skating, snowshoeing, sledding, hockey, ice fishing, and similar activities are very common if ice and snow conditions are acceptable. The City of Eau Claire maintains two indoor ice centers and the City of Altoona has an indoor ice center. All three facilities have artificial ice making equipment. In addition, all of the incorporated municipalities (Altoona, Augusta, Eau Claire, Fairchild, and Fall Creek) as well as two of the towns (Seymour and Washington) construct temporary skating rinks during the winter season (See Map 16). A total of 26 rinks, including the 3 indoor rinks, are available for use.

As an alternative to cross-country skiing more people are taking up snowshoeing. Snowshoeing trails and areas open to snowshoeing are available in both County and City parks. Residents are also welcome to snowshoe anywhere in the County Forest. Ice fishing can be done without providing special areas for use. The only official sledding hill is at Oakwood Hills. However, numerous unadvertised and unsupervised sledding hills are popular within the City of Eau Claire including: Pinehurst Hill off of Locust Lane, Forest Hill off of Huebsch Boulevard (also referred to as Seven Bumps), Mt. Simon Park, and the "X"-Hill just off of Starr Avenue near the airport. Looking for more exhilarating tubing rides, travel one hour north to Christie Mountain or one hour west to the Badlands near Hudson. Both courses are open to the public for a fee and offer some great rides and family fun.

Map 13 Ice Skating Facilities

ICE SKATING FACILITIES

of Eau Claire County, WI



Outdoor Rinks

- 1 - Fairchild Rink
- 2 - Former Dam Park Rink
- 3 - Memorial Field Rink

- 4 - Fall Creek Rink
- 5 - Washington Rink
- 6 - Putnam Heights Rink
- 7 - Altoona City Park Rink

- 8 - Boyd School Rink
- 9 - Roosevelt Rink
- 10 - Seymour Rink
- 11 - Pinehurst Rink

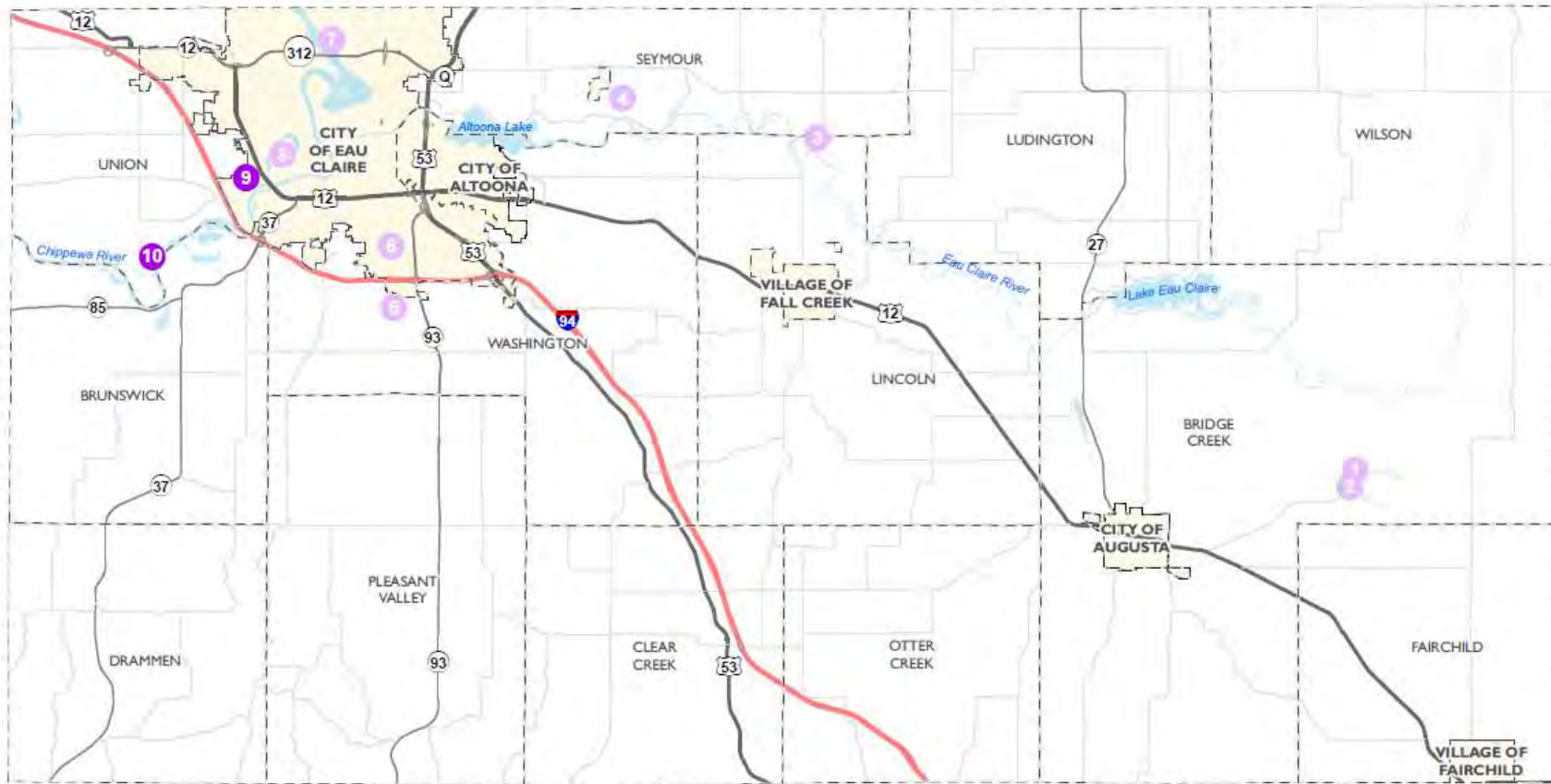
Indoor Rinks

- 12 - Hobbs Ice Center
- 13 - Cinder City Park

SKI FACILITIES

of Eau Claire County, WI

Map 14 Ski Facilities



Cross Country Ski Areas

- 1 - Evergreen Trail
- 2 - Coon Fork Trail

- 3 - Beaver Creek Trail
- 4 - Tower Ridge Trails
- 5 - Lowes Creek

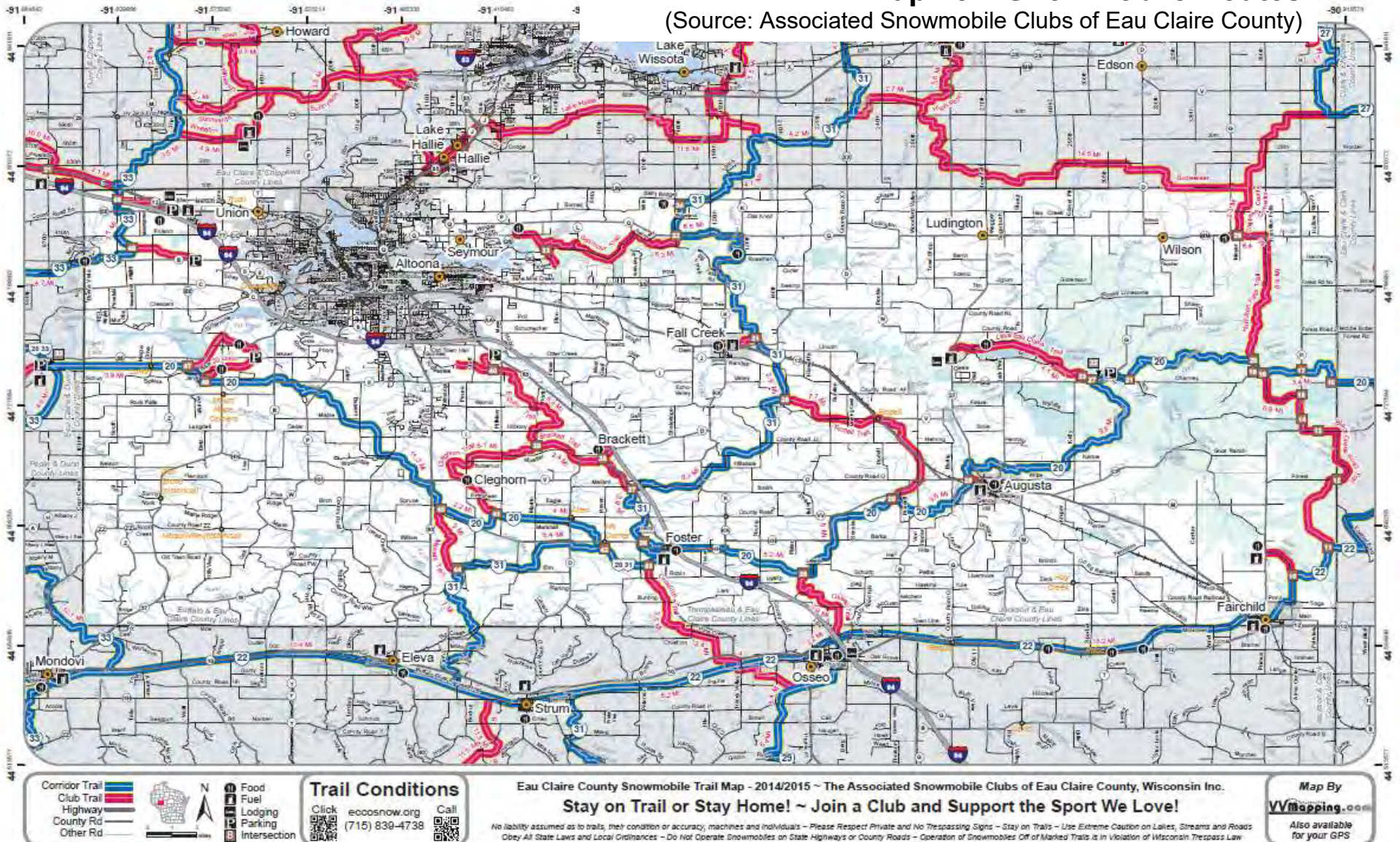
- 6 - Fairfax Park
- 7 - Riverview Park/Wells Area
- 8 - Carson Park

Ski Jump Facilities

- 9 - Mount Washington Ski Jump
- 10 - Silvermine Ski Jump

Map 15 – Snowmobile Routes

(Source: Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County)



VIEWING AND INTERPRETATIVE ACTIVITIES

The definition of outdoor recreation has continued to evolve in recent years to include passive observation or appreciation activities in the outdoors in which physical activity is not the primary objective, but a complementary component of the activity. Attending sporting events, nature centers, photographing wildlife, sightseeing, gathering wild plants and berries for consumption, or visiting historical sites are all examples of activities that individuals may choose to do to recreate and enjoy Wisconsin's outdoors. According to the SCORP, rates of participation in viewing and interpretive activities are higher in Wisconsin than in other states.



**Eau Claire Express game at Carson Park
Photo: Matt Michels**

Due to the nature of these activities, it is difficult to plan for or develop facilities to promote or congregate activities other than sporting event complexes (like Carson Park pictured below). Eau Claire County has therefore not historically invested time or effort into promoting these activities as part of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan. With that being said, the Beaver Creek Reserve provides numerous opportunities for viewing and interpretative activities. Located just east of Big Falls County Park and encompassing approximately 200 acres, the Reserve includes a space observatory, hiking and cross-country ski trails, youth camp, butterfly house, and a science center. The Reserve, along with many of the other amenities already identified within this plan, ensure that the citizens and visitors to Eau Claire County have the necessary amenities to meet the needs of this growing type of outdoor activity. Efforts may be made in the future to map historical sites and other points of interest for individuals who may wish to visit them. The other points of interest may include wild scenery, vegetation, birding areas, etc. Sight-seeing tours, have been used extensively in some parts of the state to encourage motorists to visit and enjoy.




Butterfly Garden - Beaver Creek Reserve

SUMMARY OF EAU CLAIRE COUNTY RECREATIONAL SUPPLY

Table 22 provides a summary of the supply of selected outdoor recreational facilities listed in this Section of the County Plan.

Table 22 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY RECREATION SUPPLY - 2015	
<u>Activity</u>	<u>Supply</u>
Camping	387 campsites, 9 public campgrounds
Picnicking	670 picnic tables, 513 grills, 56 shelters
Golfing	Two 9-hole golf course, five 18-hole courses
Frisbee (Disc) Golf	Three 18-hole courses
Canoeing	54.5 miles of navigable streams, plus lakes and ponds
Public Hunting Lands	54,504 acres, 6 target ranges
Hiking and Nature Trails	19.4 miles of dedicated trails, including 7.2 miles of self-guided nature trails, 11 miles of the Chippewa River State Trail and 2 miles of the Chippewa River State Trail- Lake Hallie; plus County Forest Roads and 32.4 miles of cross-country ski trails that can be used for hiking
Bicycling	31.5 miles of dedicated bicycle trails, including 11 miles of the Chippewa River State Trail, 2 miles of the Chippewa River State Trail – Village of Lake Hallie, 3.5 miles of County Road QQ, and 1 mile along Spooner Avenue in Altoona; plus various bike routes on roads and streets including 37 miles of the North-South Wisconsin Bikeway
Mountain Bicycling	25 miles of off-road trails located at Lowes Creek County Park, Otter Creek Park in Altoona, and Northwest Park adjacent to North Crossing are available for mountain biking
Cross-country Skiing	32.4 miles
Snowmobiling	181 miles
Swimming	5 public beaches with 6.16 acres of beach; 6 pools generally available for public use, including 4 pools owned by the Eau Claire Area School District, the City of Eau Claire's Fairfax Pool, and the Augusta Area School District swimming pool + 4 private pools
Fishing	161 miles of trout streams, 7 lakes over 25 acres each (3,019 total acres)
Boating	2,755 acres of surface water (lakes over 100 acres in size)
Horseback Riding	Approximately 22 miles of dedicated trails
Field Sports and Playgrounds:	
	Softball fields 56 fields
	Baseball fields 28 fields, plus one baseball stadium
	Volleyball Courts 19 courts
	Basketball Courts 86 courts
	Tennis Courts 51 courts
	Horseshoe Courts 35 courts
	Playgrounds 69 playgrounds
	Soccer Fields 15 fields
	Ice Skating Rinks 19 outdoor rinks
ATV Trails	30 miles of trails that connect to the Clark County and the Buffalo River Trails. In addition to the miles of trails, some public roads are also utilized . Trails located in eastern portion of County, east from C. of Augusta into county forests and connecting with V. of Fairchild.

1015.2 STATEMENT OF COUNTY FOREST LOAN *



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources
Report 15
Statement Of County Forest Loan Accounts as of March 05, 2020

Report: 53A
Page: 1 of 1

County	Variable Acreage Share Loans				Project Loans				Balance Owed DNR
	DNR Issued Loans		County Repayments		DNR Issued Loans		County Repayments		
	CY 2020	Tot To Date	CY 2020	Tot To Date	CY 2020	Tot To Date	CY 2020	Tot To Date	
Ashland	0.00	670,445.66	0.00	811,297.11	0.00	1,125,780.74	0.00	984,929.29	0.00
Barron	0.00	122,285.69	0.00	330,972.02	0.00	874,219.80	0.00	665,533.47	0.00
Bayfield	0.00	2,327,946.84	0.00	2,483,671.37	0.00	300,000.00	0.00	144,275.47	0.00
Burnett	0.00	2,511,234.66	0.00	3,183,962.85	0.00	2,013,672.27	0.00	1,084,394.19	256,549.89
Chippewa	0.00	552,019.26	0.00	629,718.24	0.00	161,000.51	0.00	83,301.53	0.00
Clark	0.00	1,161,477.30	0.00	1,206,364.81	0.00	53,000.00	0.00	8,112.49	0.00
Douglas	0.00	1,876,638.45	0.00	1,992,444.05	0.00	529,850.00	0.00	414,044.40	0.00
Eau Claire	0.00	526,533.23	0.00	605,711.20	0.00	126,933.08	0.00	47,755.11	0.00
Florence	0.00	444,068.78	0.00	780,481.72	0.00	1,677,376.82	0.00	1,340,963.88	0.00
Forest	0.00	236,907.91	0.00	221,466.20	0.00	4,750,417.53	0.00	413,691.18	4,352,168.06
Iron	0.00	2,701,711.99	0.00	3,089,529.56	0.00	767,860.74	0.00	380,043.17	0.00
Jackson	0.00	1,876,477.59	0.00	2,371,106.42	0.00	1,200,507.00	0.00	443,378.17	262,500.00
Juneau	0.00	116,824.82	0.00	302,683.28	0.00	1,213,470.63	0.00	751,248.42	276,363.75
Langlade	0.00	555,874.24	0.00	555,874.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lincoln	0.00	590,731.41	0.00	1,027,543.40	0.00	1,220,980.00	0.00	784,168.01	0.00
Marathon	0.00	595,486.56	0.00	504,084.43	0.00	2,545,511.00	0.00	1,378,826.74	1,258,086.39
Marquette	0.00	1,104,208.02	0.00	1,142,208.02	0.00	38,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Monroe	0.00	21,340.37	0.00	49,178.49	0.00	328,770.00	0.00	103,242.53	197,689.35
Oconto	0.00	219,031.59	0.00	380,675.49	0.00	450,000.00	0.00	288,356.10	0.00
Oneida	0.00	1,186,720.14	0.00	1,407,141.62	0.00	439,010.00	0.00	218,588.52	0.00
Polk	0.00	323,941.93	0.00	453,497.43	0.00	840,353.50	0.00	702,566.78	8,231.22
Price	0.00	1,491,622.00	0.00	1,799,816.71	0.00	804,427.48	0.00	496,232.77	0.00
Rusk	0.00	2,147,849.67	0.00	2,098,898.00	0.00	138,950.00	0.00	141,359.88	44,541.79
Sawyer	0.00	1,172,316.95	0.00	1,806,888.73	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	365,428.22	0.00
Taylor	0.00	204,461.52	0.00	224,907.68	0.00	36,398.28	0.00	15,952.12	0.00
Vernon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	978,838.53	0.00	22,516.16	956,322.37
Vilas	0.00	779,307.74	0.00	1,081,984.47	0.00	678,019.42	0.00	375,342.69	0.00
Washburn	0.00	3,312,826.65	0.00	3,719,774.78	0.00	930,724.71	0.00	449,039.40	74,737.18
Wood	0.00	259,901.61	0.00	314,618.91	0.00	77,000.00	0.00	22,282.70	0.00
State Total :	0	29090192.58	0	34576501.23	0	25299072.04	0	12125573.39	7687190.00

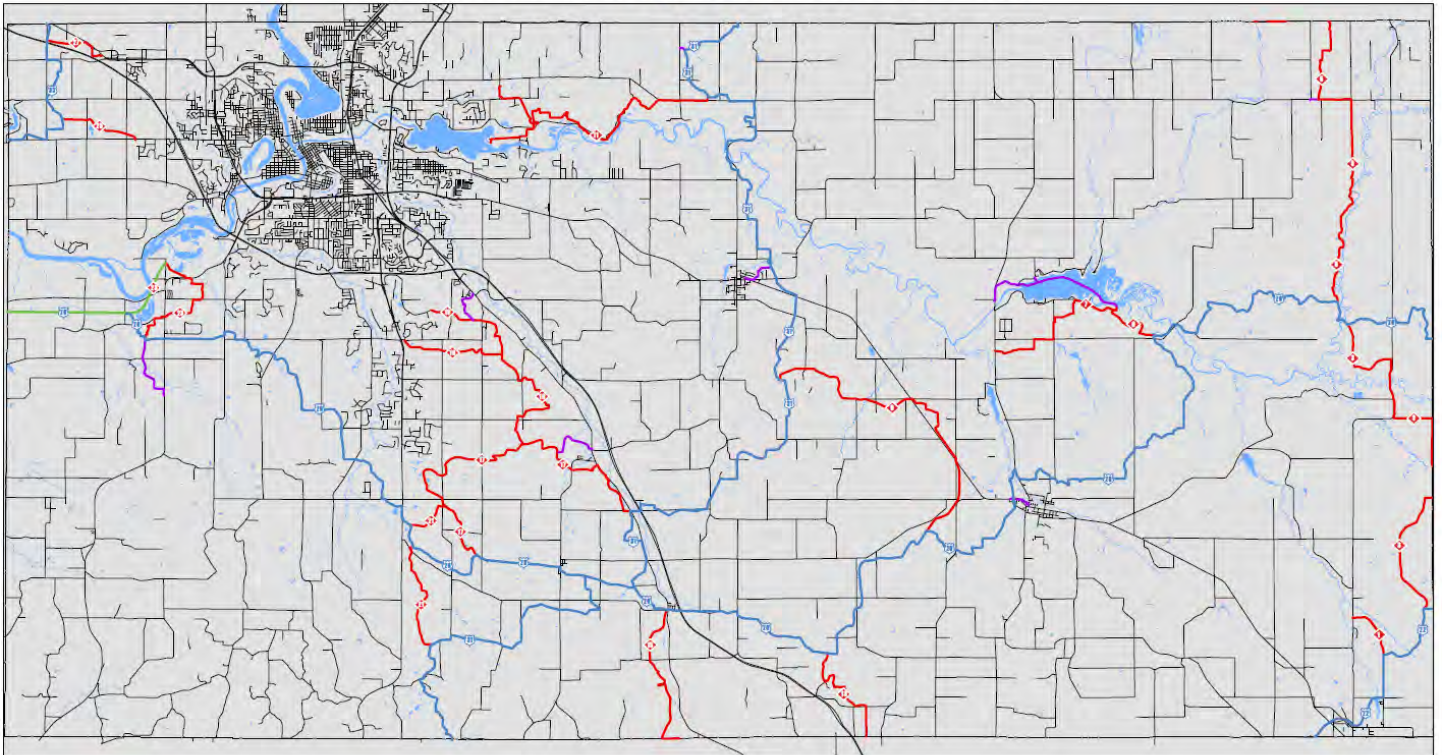
NOTE: Severance Payments " in the mail " OR Otherwise still in Process are not in this Report. This Report is on a Calendar Year basis.

Prepared by Division of Forestry, March 5, 2020
WI. Department Of Natural Resources

1020 MISCELLANEOUS MAPS AND BROCHURES

1020.1 COUNTY SNOWMOBILE MAP

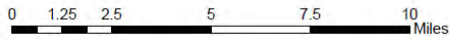
Eau Claire County Snowmobile Trails



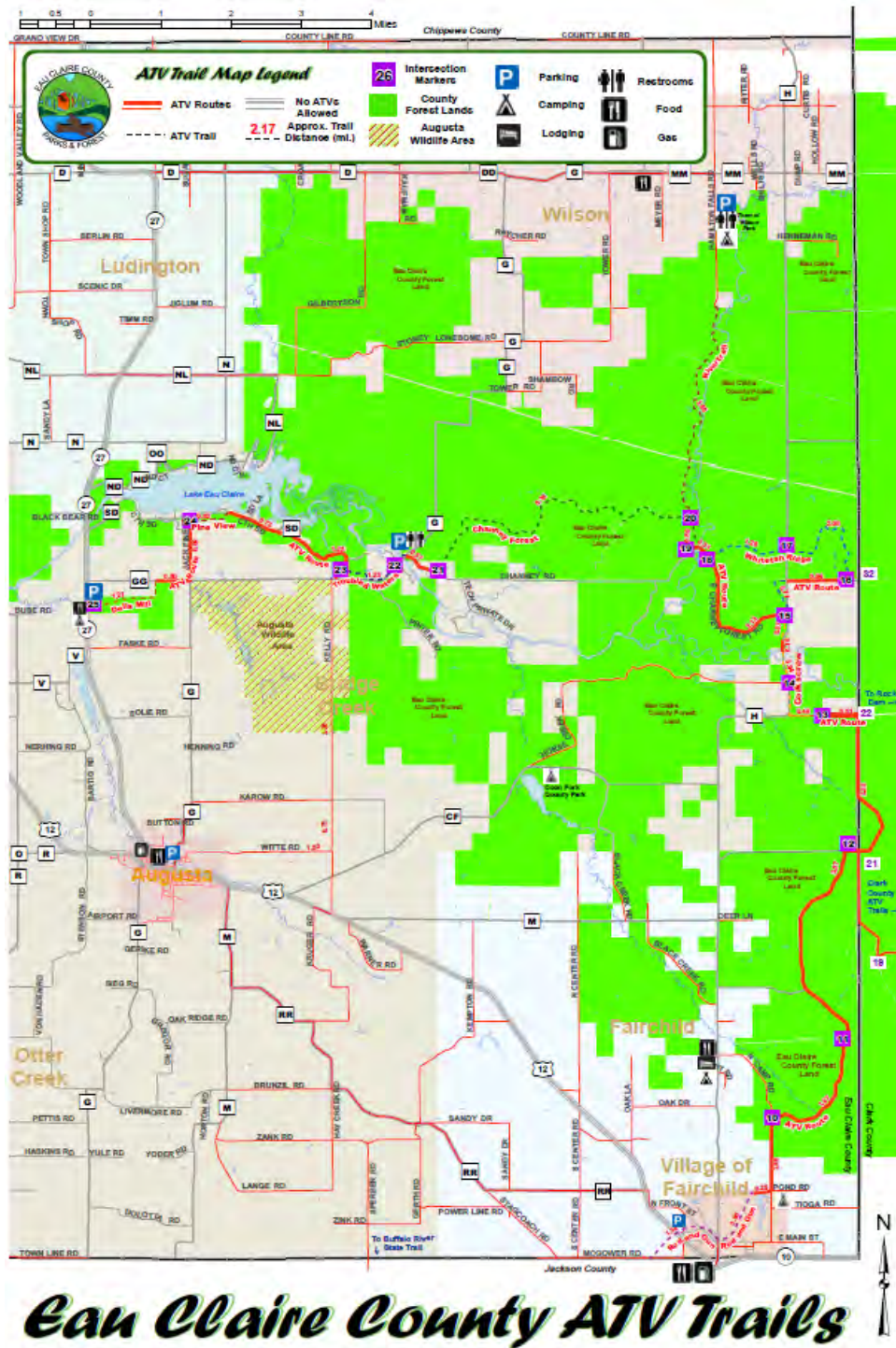
- Eau Claire County Trails
- Chippewa River State Trail
- State Corridor Trails
- Unfunded Club Trails

Trail Lengths (Miles)

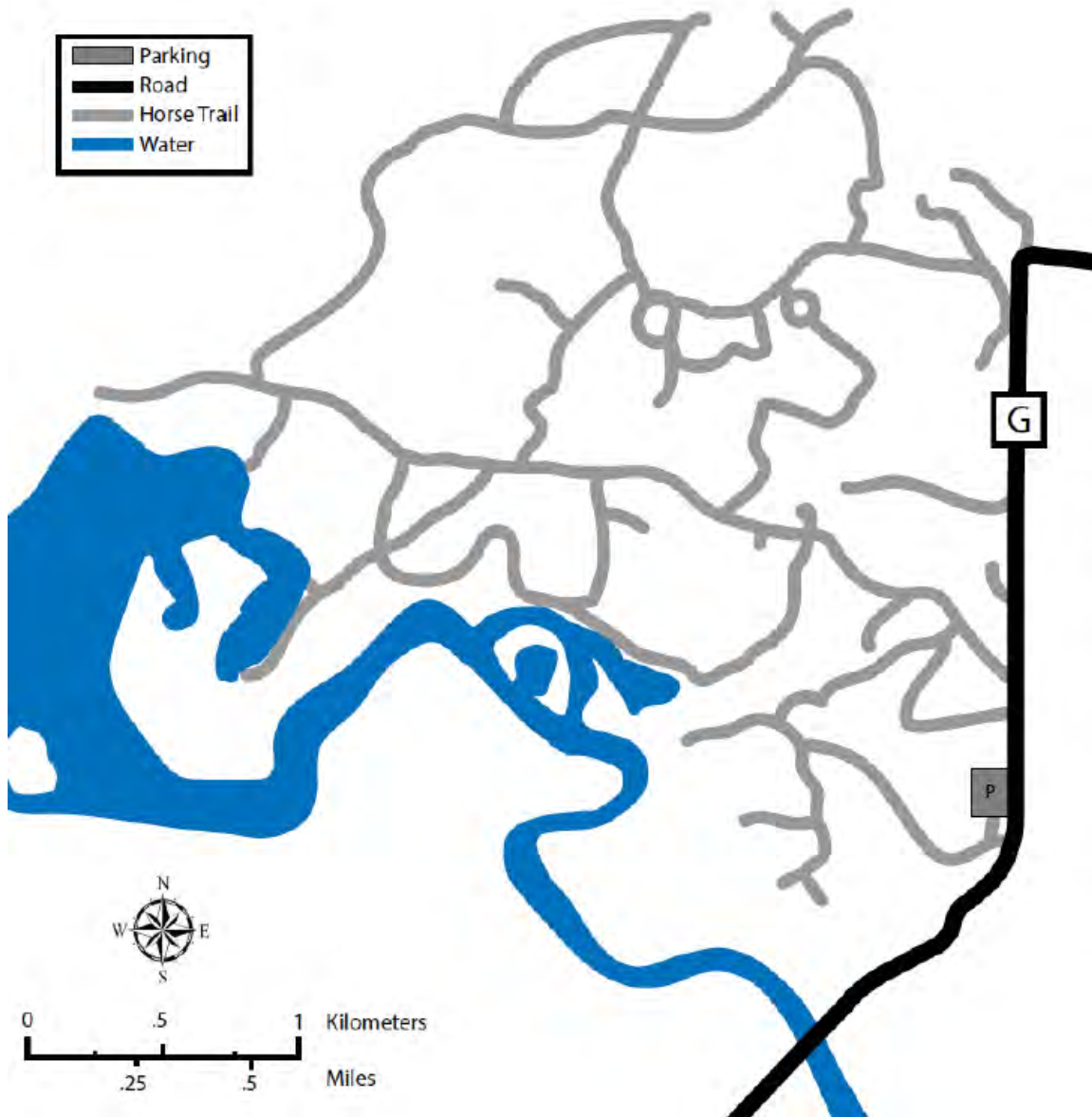
197.31	Total
101.11	Eau Claire County Trails
96.19	State Corridor Trails



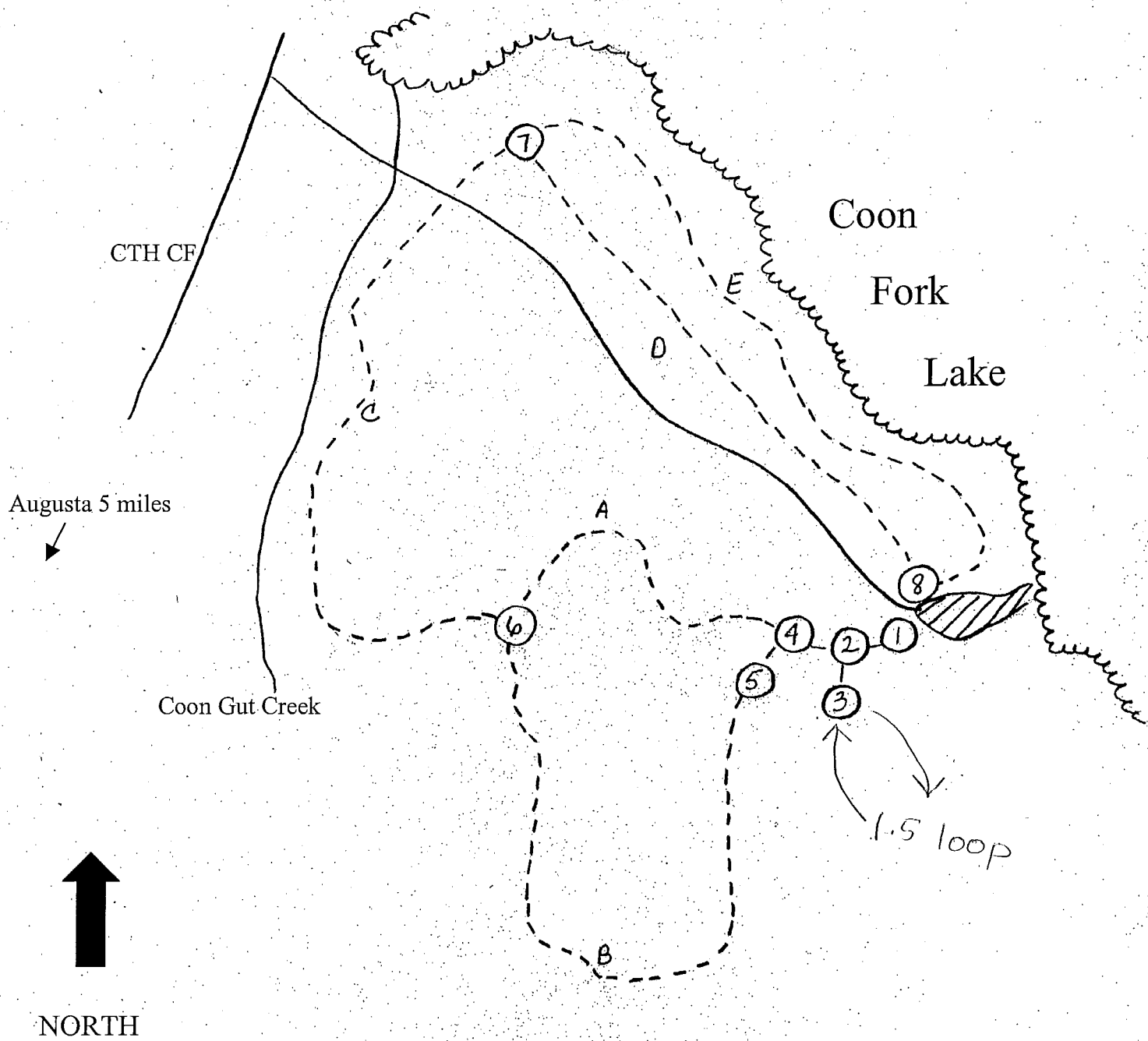
1020.2 COUNTY ATV TRAILS



Backwater Horse Trails



COON FORK LAKE COUNTY PARK SKI TRAIL



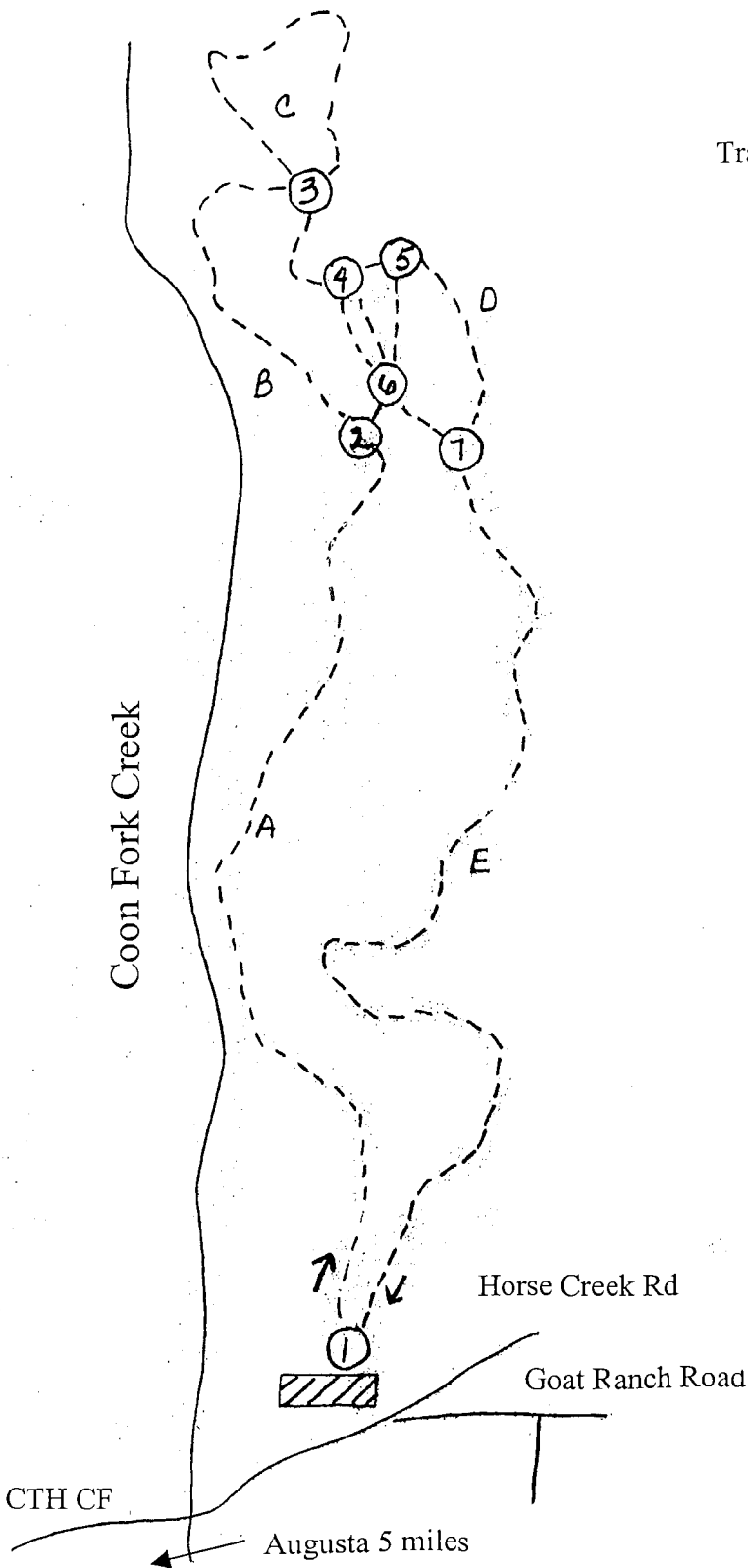
Segment	Kilometers	Miles
A	0.32	0.20
B	0.80	0.50
C	0.64	0.40
D	0.48	0.30
E	0.64	0.40
TOTAL	2.88	1.80

----- Trail

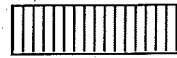
 Trail Head Parking

EVERGREEN SKI TRAIL (Eau Claire County forest)

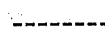
Trail is one-way only!



NORTH



Parking Lot



Trail

Segment	Kilometers	Miles
A	0.90	0.56
B	0.38	0.24
C	0.16	0.10
D	0.20	0.12
E	1.05	0.66
TOTAL	2.69	1.68

Report trail comments to Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department 839-4738



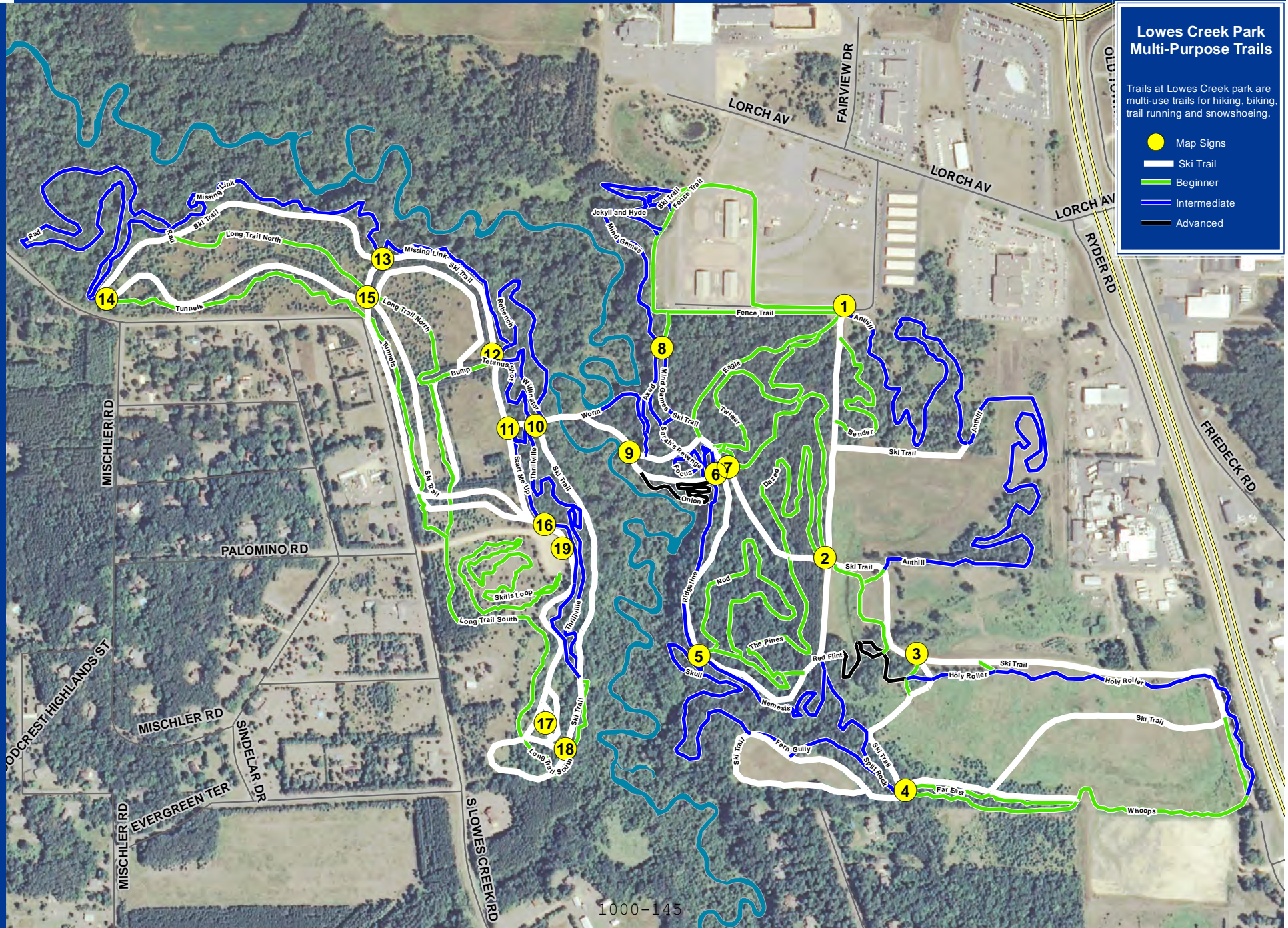
Lowes Creek County Park

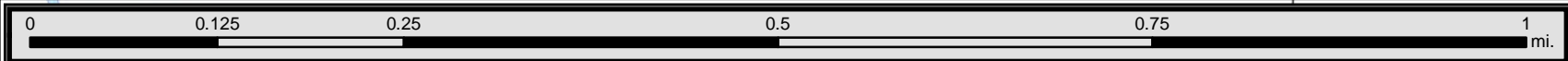


Lowes Creek Park Multi-Purpose Trails

Trails at Lowes Creek park are multi-use trails for hiking, biking, trail running and snowshoeing.

- Map Signs
- Ski Trail
- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced





0.26 Ski Trail Distance in Miles





Snowshoeing is allowed everywhere in the park except on top of Groomed Ski Trail Tracks

Lowes Creek County Park Eau Claire, WI


WINTER TRAILS

Need a copy of this map? Take a picture with your cell phone. Or scan the QR code.

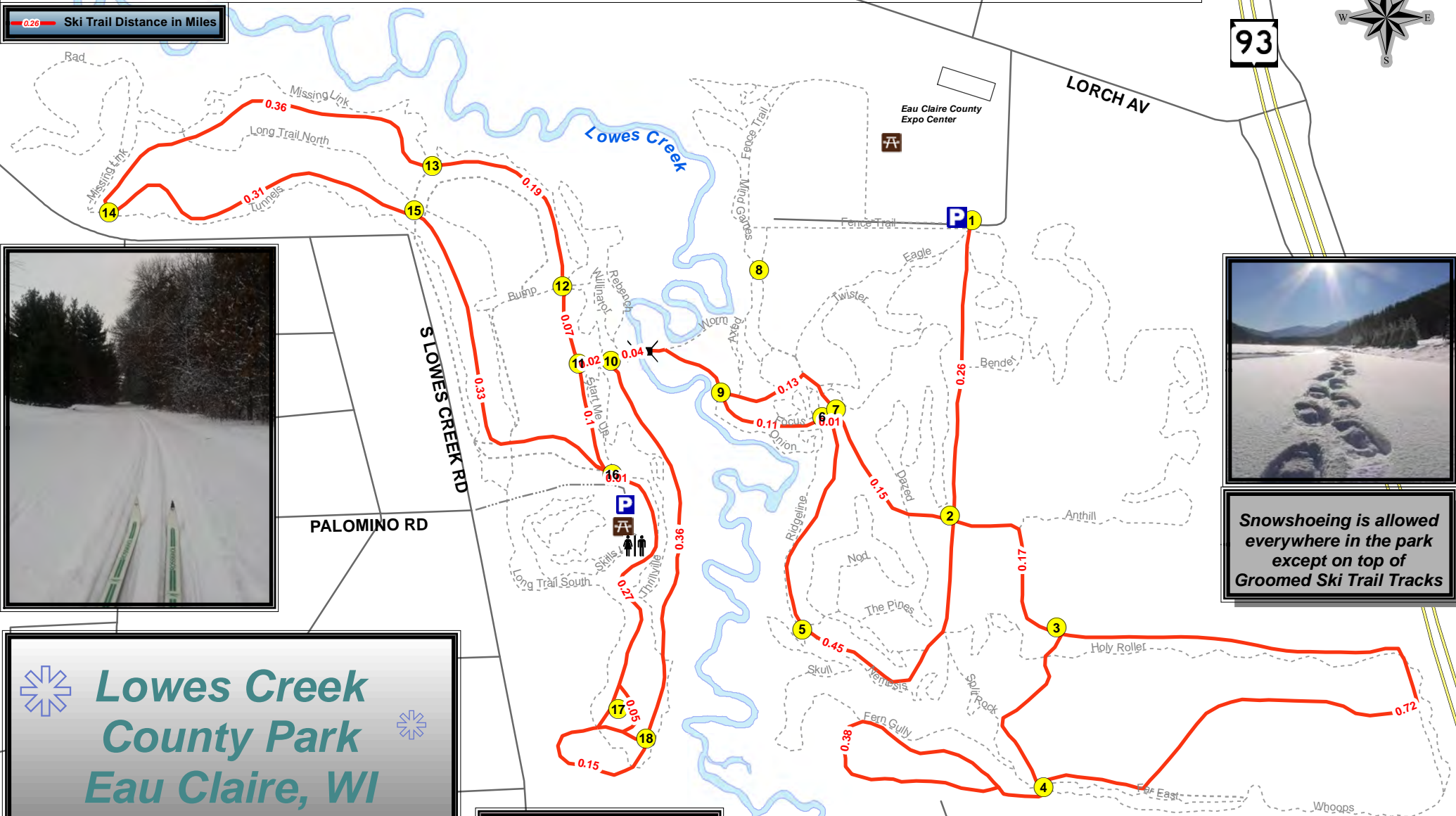


Vehicle entrance passes are required year round. They can be obtained on-site, at Parks & Forestry Office, or at County Clerk's Office.

Questions or Comments Contact:
Eau Claire County Parks and Forestry Office
227 First Street West
Afton, WI 54720
(715) 839-4783



- Ski Trail
- Hiking/Snowshoe Trail
- Bridge
- Trail Map Sign
- Parking
- Toilets
- Picnic Area



Tower Ridge Horse Trails

* Intersection numbers increase with distance from the chalet.

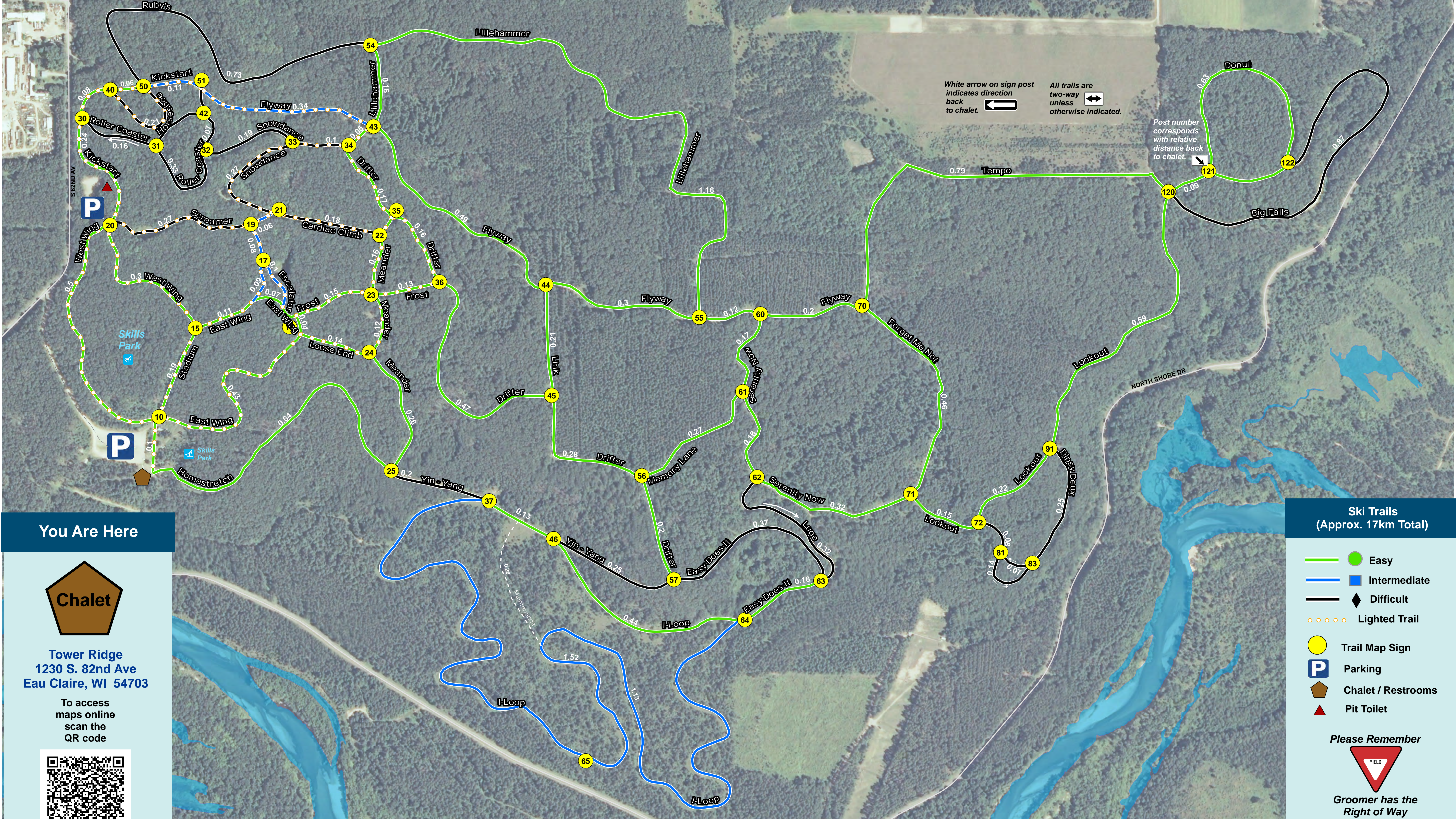


* White arrows on signs indicate the direction back to the chalet.

* Majority of Trails for non-winter use.

	Horse Trail		Parking
	Entrance/Exit Trails		Road
	Winter Trails		Chalet
	Intersection Markers		Pit Toilet
	Picnic Table		Light Post

Tower Ridge Recreation Area

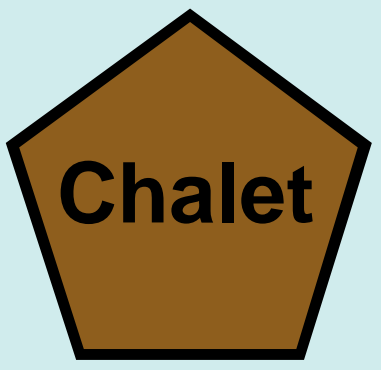


White arrow on sign post indicates direction back to chalet.

All trails are two-way unless otherwise indicated.

Post number corresponds with relative distance back to chalet.

You Are Here



Tower Ridge
1230 S. 82nd Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54703

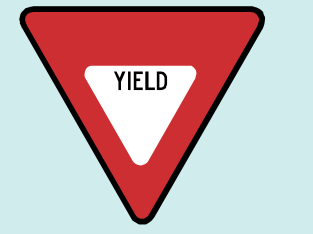
To access maps online scan the QR code



Ski Trails (Approx. 17km Total)

- Easy
- Intermediate
- Difficult
- Lighted Trail
- Trail Map Sign
- Parking
- Chalet / Restrooms
- Pit Toilet

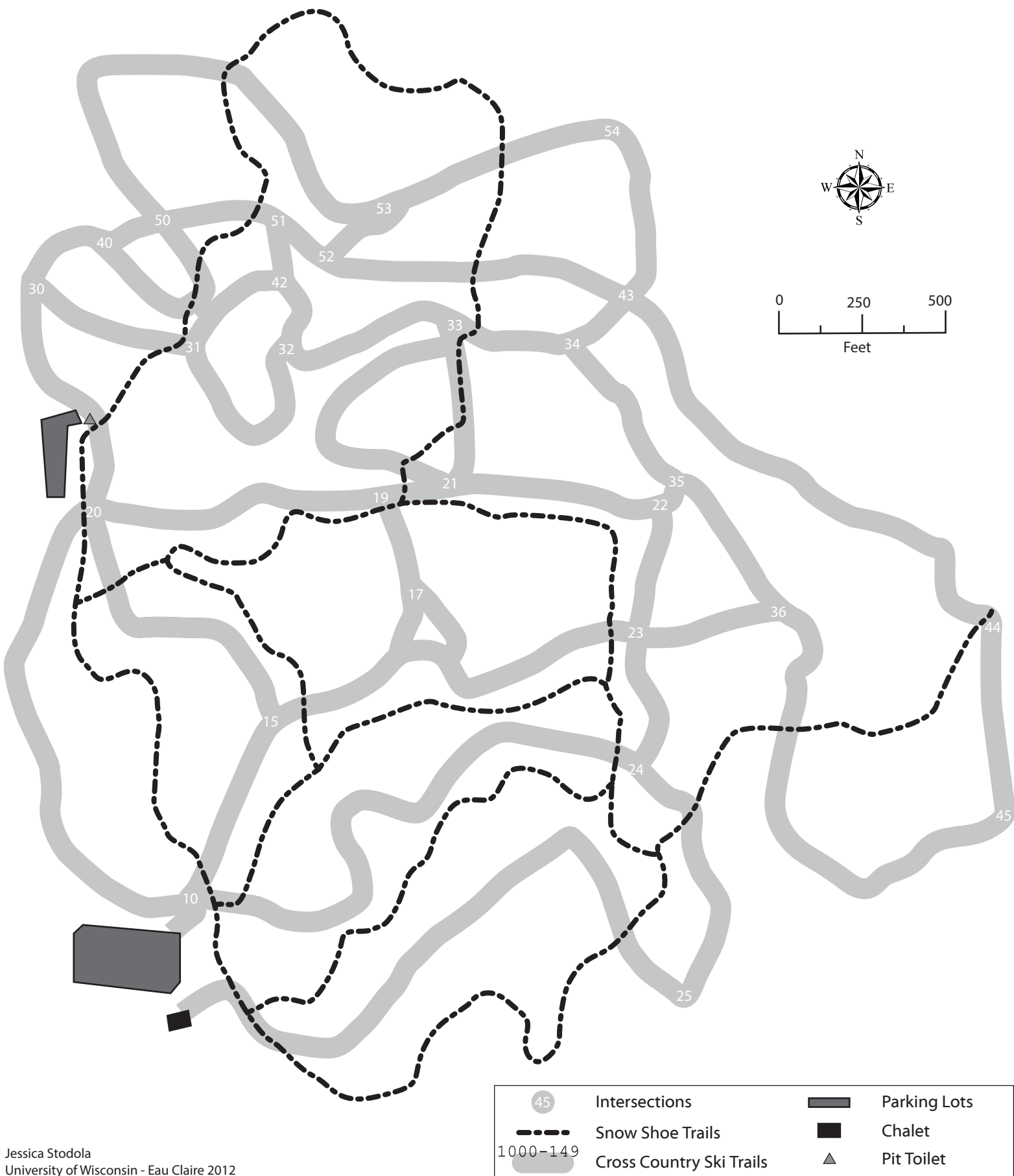
Please Remember



Groomer has the Right of Way

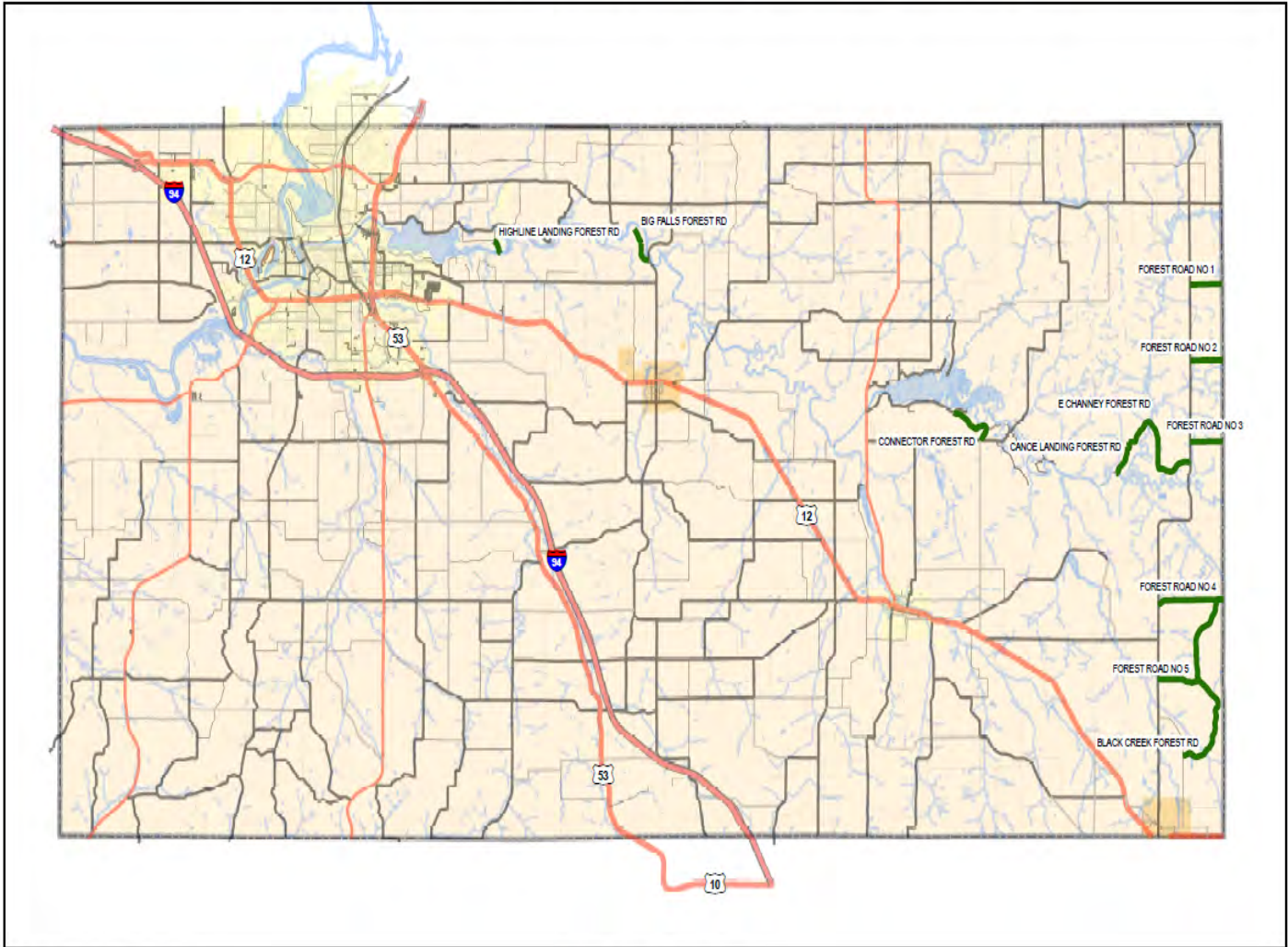
Tower Ridge Snow Shoe Trails

* Intersection numbers increase with distance from the chalet.



	Intersections		Parking Lots
	Snow Shoe Trails		Chalet
	1000-149 Cross Country Ski Trails		Pit Toilet

Eau Claire County Forest Roads

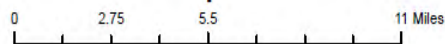


EAU CLAIRE COUNTY WISCONSIN

The Department of Planning & Development
Eau Claire County Courthouse
721 Oxford Avenue, Room 3344
Eau Claire, WI 54703-5481
715-839-4741



Eau Claire County



1020.5 OTHER

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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REV: 5/18/2021

CHAPTER 2000

PLANNING, REPORTS, BUDGET

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2000 NEEDS OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT

Objectives: To provide guidelines which define the optimum level of activities that should be undertaken to achieve full potential benefits from the forest.

Format and Policy:

Needs for the county forest shall be listed without regard to budgetary constraints or other limitations. This list shall identify the forest potential in terms of public benefits, investments or opportunities, and financial returns. Silvicultural needs of the county forest are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The DNR Public Lands Handbook describes procedures for use of this information. Other needs shall be determined by the Committee and the forest administrator, with technical assistance from the DNR and other interested agencies or individuals qualified to provide such assistance.

2005 DETAILED ANNUAL NEEDS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

Annual silvicultural needs are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The printout, referenced in the plan, is available in the County Forest administrator's office. Printout listings include timber harvests, tree planting, and other silvicultural activities. Other unanticipated needs will be addressed in accordance with procedures outlined in this plan. These items will be identified, and plans made for implementation, as part of the annual budget work plan prepared by the administrator and Committee. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and Division of Forestry and forwarded to the DNR as required by statute (s. 28.11(5)(b) and s.28.11(5m)(b), Wis. Stats.

2010 SUMMARY OF FIFTEEN YEAR NEEDS

A schedule giving a summary of silvicultural needs and other needs for the period covered by this plan, appear as an inclusion in this chapter.

A. Equipment Purchases/Replacement and Recreational Development

Eau Claire County utilizes a 5-year outlook on Capital Improvement budgeting. Needs beyond 5 years are difficult to project, as the list can change from year to year. Below is a full breakdown of capital needs anticipated from 2021 to 2026.

Anticipated Year	Project Description	Estimated Cost
2021	Grader Replacement	190,000
2021	Large Equipment Trailer	32,000
2021	Coon Fork Playground Replacement	80,000
2021	Coon Fork Blacktop	65,000
2021	Coon Fork Office Building	175,000
2021	Replacement pickup	30,500
2021	LL Phillips Pavilion	22,000
2021	Materials Bin System Lake Eau Claire	24,000
2021	Parks Maintenance Building Paving	37,000
2021	Ski Trail Groomer	40,000
2022	Black Creek Forest Road Bridge	95,000
2022	Coon Fork Group Campsite Development	245,000
2022	Playground addition Lowes Creek	61,000
2022	Replacement pickup	32,000
2022	Construct steps and lookout Hamilton Falls	28,000
2022	ADA Canoe Launch point Lake Eau Claire	16,000
2023	Replacement pickup	32,500
2023	Replacement Trailer	13,000
2023	60' Bucket Truck	68,000
2023	Track Hoe purchase	88,000
2024	Replace New Holland Tractor	87,000
2024	Replacement pickup	32,500
2024	Black Creek Bridge Coon Fork Hiking Trail	43,000
2024	Woodchipper	26,000
2024	Coon Gut Bridge	54,000
2025	Replacement Skid Steer Expo Center	46,000
2025	Harstad Park Playground Replacement	64,000
2025	New well and Hand pump LL Phillips Park	7,000
2025	Replacement pickup	33,000
2025	Canoe Campsite Development EC River	8,000
2025	Wooden Boardwalk Big Falls	18,000
2025	County Forest Paper company land purchase	300,000
2026	Horse Campground Development	71,000
2026	Improve Canoe landings on county forest	50,000
2026	Replacement Lawnmower	20,000
2026	ADA Canoe Launch point Coon Fork	15,500

B. Roads: Construction and maintenance

As of January 1, 2021, there are 17.94 miles of Gas-Tax County Forest Roads within the county forest area. Section 86.315 (4) (a) Wisconsin Statutes states in part "...the committee designated to administer the county forest program shall, not later than September 15 of every year, file with the department and the county clerk a certified plat of the county forests showing the roads to be open and used for travel as of the succeeding January 1. The certified plat shall show the mileage of the roads for use by the department in making computations of road aids under this section..."; (3) states in part..."County forest roads must meet the minimum design standards under 82.50 (1) (a) 2 and 3 in order to qualify for aids..." This requires at least a 16-foot surface width and a 20-foot roadway width.

In comparison with county forest roads, narrower woods trails on the forest are open to public travel with licensed motor vehicles unless they are gated, posted as closed, or bermed with dirt to restrict access. See Chapter 700 for further discussion on forest access.

There are no immediate plans for construction of additional miles of county forest roads. However, should the need arise, department staff will develop the roads utilizing existing equipment and renting additional equipment if necessary, within budget constraints. Typically, the need for new forest roads would be to improve public access to portions of the county forest that are felt to have inadequate drivable public access. New county forest roads should be constructed only after it is determined that a strong need exists. All new forest roads would be built utilizing blue granite material and consist of a minimum 8" road base. If sufficient staff and/or equipment are not available, new construction could be done under contract by outsourcing. New construction will be subject to following all necessary guidelines including best management practices, construction standards, acquiring any required permits, etc. and shall be located to minimize erosion concerns. Forest fragmentation is another concern that must be analyzed when considering the

impacts of any newly constructed roadway.

Once developed, all county forest roads must be properly maintained within acceptable standards of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to maintain state funding. The department staff will utilize existing or rented equipment in maintaining good crown, ditches, and sufficient surface and roadway widths on the county forest roads. The frequency of maintenance of the county forest roads 16-foot surface width will be dependent on road conditions including wetness, roughness, rutting, snow depth, and other factors. Equipment used for maintaining surface width would typically be a grader or dozer. County forest road roadway width outside the surface width (including ditches and culverts) will be maintained with a brush hog mower, grader, dozer, backhoe, and track hoe. Frequency of maintaining ditches and other areas outside the surface width will be dependent on need. If necessary, rental of equipment and outsourcing the maintenance could be done, depending on the availability of department staff and equipment. The annual county forest road aid payment from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation should be deposited in an account to be used only for that maintenance of the county forest roads. It is recognized that this annual county forest road payment will not cover all the annual maintenance costs. Additional funding will be necessary from the Parks and Forest Department operational budget.

C. Land Acquisition Goals

Overall goal will be to continue blocking of lands within the Eau Claire County Forest where possible by purchase, trade, or donation, as described in Chapter 400. Land acquisition funds acquired from the sale of county land overseen by the Parks & Forest Department should be used for county forest land acquisition. Land acquisition is discussed in Chapter 420. Land acquisition funds are not put into the annual Parks & Forest Department budget. However, there is a balance in the account to be used for that purpose. There is not a specific goal for acres to be acquired annually. Periodically there are parcels of land that become available for the county to consider purchasing or trading for. As these become available, the

Committee on Parks & Forest will determine whether the county should pursue those parcels. Depending on the need, other funding options through the Department of Natural Resource include the Knowles- Nelson Stewardship fund, annual variable acreage share (\$0.00 to \$0.50/acre) and the Project Loan Program.

D. Timber Harvests Projected for the next 15 years

Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) is based on the total acres to be harvested over the next 15 years and then dividing by 15 to determine the number of acres harvested each year. This spreads the harvest out across the planning period and evens out the high and low acre years to produce a steady work need and income to the county. This prevents harvesting more than 7% of the harvest ready acres each year during the planning period. AAC is a tool in practicing sustainable forestry and sound forestry practices on the Eau Claire County Forest.

The AAC is determined by the acres scheduled for harvest. Actual harvest is based on current growth and condition of the stand. Some stands are not ready for harvest at the scheduled time, while others have succeeded toward a different type. The database is updated at that time to reflect changes and the stand is not harvested. This is called “Recon update in lieu of timber sales” and is counted in the harvest acres even though a harvest does not occur. This creates a variable in the number of acres actually harvested in any given year. The numbers below are used in determining the number of harvest acres but do not reflect the actual number of acres that will be harvested in any given year.

YEAR	Oak Thinning	Oak Clearcut	Jack Pine	Red Pine	White Pine	Aspen	Red Maple	Central Hardwoods	Swamp Hardwoods	TOTAL
2021	203	256	60	259	100	150	40	0	0	1068
2022	143	240	23	259	133	141	40	0	0	979
2023	417	224	5	252	145	49	101	0	0	1193
2024	109	102	77	222	117	276	87	0	0	990
2025	230	846	43	306	140	416	59	0	0	2040
2026	133	177	0	231	134	194	59	0	0	928
2027	83	206	65	240	107	73	44	0	0	818
2028	56	127	35	228	171	234	64	0	10	876
2029	26	115	85	94	111	191	47	0	0	669
2030	18	452	156	5	132	667	20	0	0	1450
2031	0	154	67	4	179	178	30	0	0	612
2032	20	123	75	0	112	158	45	0	0	533
2033	0	128	82	9	83	402	58	0	0	762
2034	10	109	16	0	91	213	40	51	0	530
2035	121	222	158	0	87	492	24	10	0	1091
TOTAL	1569	3481	947	2109	1842	3834	758	61	10	14539
AAC*	105	232	63	141	123	256	51	4	1	971

*AAC is the total # of acres scheduled for harvest over a 15-year period divided by 15 to determine the number of acres to harvest annually

	Acres	% of Total Acres Harvests
Even Aged Harvests	637	66%
Thinnings	334	34%
Total Acres/Year	971	100%

Even aged harvests are used to regenerate stands. Seed tree and shelterwood harvests, clearcuts, coppice harvests, and group selection methods are considered even aged harvests. Stands of aspen, red maple, jack pine, and oak are managed using even aged harvests to regenerate the species.

Thinnings are defined as a selective harvest made to reduce stand density of trees primarily to improve growth, enhance forest health, or recover potential mortality. Thinnings are typically conducted in hardwood stands including better quality oak and red and white pine plantations.

- E. Silvicultural activities: pruning, planting, release, etc.
1. Annually seed, plant, or reestablish jack pine, red pine, or hardwood species as recommended by forester or DNR Liaison. NOTE: In 2021 we will be seeding 34 acres of jack pine and planting 25 acres of red pine. In some years there is no need for planting or seeding. It is recommended that an average of 40 acres of jack/red pine be planted or seeded annually. Nickel/acre wildlife funding could be used for species such as jack pine, which are of wildlife benefit.
 2. Annually pre-sale scarify 40 acres of jack pine and oak areas.
- F. Property maintenance: surveying, fire control, insect/disease etc.
1. Surveying
 - a. Annually establish county forest boundaries from private
 - b. Work with county surveyor as needed (boundary disputes, resurveying county forest monuments, blazing, etc.)
 2. Fire Control
 - a. Annually assist DNR fire control during high fire danger by providing dozer and manpower.
 - b. Annual attend fire control training to provide certification.
 3. Insect/Disease
 - a. Annually inspect county forest areas for any insect or disease outbreak.
 - b. Annually work with DNR staff to provide information on outbreaks, (*i.e. budworm, gypsy moth, forest ten caterpillar, oak wilt, red pine pocket decline).
 - c. As needed, establish preventive measures as seen fit by forester, DNR pathologist/entomologist, or parks forest staff.
 - d. As needed, establish timber sales to salvage or prevent further outbreaks.
- G. Recreation (new and maintenance)

- Snowmobile Trails – The County has an agreement with the Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County to maintain the 181 miles of snowmobile trail that crisscrosses the county north to south and east to west linking with trails in adjoining counties. Approximately 12% are on county forestland with the remaining on private land. It is not likely there will be much demand for expanding the trails in the foreseeable future.
- All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails – The County oversees 16.4 miles of trail and approximately 14 miles of ATV routes within county forest boundaries. Currently, there are two known ATV clubs in the county (Augusta and Quad County). The county does not have any current agreements with either of these clubs and maintains the trails and routes with funding assistance from the state ATV funding program. It is anticipated there may be some demand for expanding these trails in the future with the increased number of registered ATV's in the County.
- Cross-country ski trails – The County maintains four ski trails, three of which are on county forestland. These include: Tower Ridge Recreation Area in the town of Seymour; Evergreen Ski Trail in the town of Bridge Creek near Coon Fork Park; Coon Fork Ski Trail within the park boundary; and Lowes Creek Park trails in the town of Washington (outside the forest boundary). Trails at Tower Ridge, Lowes Creek, and Evergreen are groomed for both skate skiing and diagonal striding, while Coon Fork are striding only. It is felt the demand for cross-country skiing is being met within the County by these trails and others on both public and private land.
- Biking: There are many options for bicyclists to enjoy their sport through both road and mountain biking opportunities within the County. Areas on county land open for mountain biking include Lowes Creek County Park (several miles of single and double track trails); Coon Fork Park (one seven- mile trail on county forest north off CTH CF; and one five-mile trail that starts at the campground entrance and utilizes CTH CF, Black Creek Town Road, CTH M, North Center Road, and onto a trail on County forestland linking with the dayside entrance road in the park) and Backwater Trail west of CTH G east of

Lake Eau Claire which is a combination of woods trail open to motor vehicles as well as horses. In addition to these mountain biking opportunities, the area has the Department of Natural Resources' Chippewa River State Trail, an old railroad grade on the west side of Eau Claire. For the road biker, some roads in the country have paved shoulders or biking lanes.

- Hiking: There are numerous opportunities for hiking on county forestland as well as other parkland and public trails that is not county forestland. All cross-country ski trails on the county forest are open for hiking. In addition, mountain bike trails, and all county forestland is open for hiking.
- Horseback riding: There are three designated horseback trails on county forestland. These are at Tower Ridge Recreation Area, Backwater Trails off CTH G east of Lake Eau Claire, and the newly established Hamilton Falls Trails. Trails are signed with blazers that have a horseshoe on them. There appears to be demand for some additional signed horseback trails currently. Horseback camping also appears to be in demand. Presently, the County does not have any horseback campsites developed.
- Disc Golfing: There are two disc golf courses on County forestland. They are located at the Tower Ridge Recreation Area. The County has an agreement with the Chippewa Valley Disc Golf Organization to maintain (2) 18-hole courses and the baskets ("holes") that were donated to the County by the organization. The organization has plans to expand the current course as donated funds become available.
- Canoe and Boat Landings: The County maintains several canoe landings on the Eau Claire River as well as boat landings on Lake Altoona (one in Lake Altoona Park and one under the Highline in the town of Seymour), Lake Eau Claire (one on the north shore and two on the south shore), and Coon Fork lake (one on the dayside and one on the campground side of the park).
- Campsites: There are a total of 135 campsites in the county forest at Coon Fork (108) and Harstad (27) Parks. Coon Fork offers electrified and non-electric sites while Harstad is non-electric only. Harstad is a primitive

campground with self-registration while Coon Fork has staff on hand to register campers as well as flush toilets and showers. Dispersed camping in the county forest is allowed year-round, with the appropriate permit.

- Shelters: There are several opportunities for picnicking on county land. The amenities include 14 picnic shelters, 15 restrooms, 189 picnic tables and 70 grills. Many, but not all of these are in the county forest. There are currently no group camping opportunities on the forest.
- Shooting Ranges: There is currently one existing shooting range on county forestland operated under a Land Use Agreement with the Eau Claire National Rifle Club off CTH Q in the town of Seymour. The public is allowed on the range during specified times and supervised by club members.
- Swimming Beaches: There are three beaches on county forestland. These include one on the north shore of Lake Eau Claire, and two at Coon Fork Park.
- Nature Centers: Beaver Creek Reserve is an environmental education and outdoor recreation center for the County on, county forestland under special use designation. The Reserve is located off CTH K approximately three miles north of the village of Fall Creek.
- Parking areas: There are numerous parking areas throughout the county forestland as well as at the recreation trail heads with fees charged for parking in some of these areas. All county parks, boat landings, Tower Ridge Recreation Area, and Evergreen Ski Trail require vehicle passes to park in them. Either annual or daily passes can be purchased on site at the locations where they are required.

H. Wildlife Management

Hunter Walking Trails: There are several miles of hunter walking trails that were once logging access trails that, after completion of the logging contract were closed to vehicle traffic and seeded to clover and other grasses to benefit wildlife. These trails will again periodically be used for logging access and reseeded after the timber sales are completed.

Flowages: There is one wildlife flowage on the county forest known as the Pea Creek Flowage located east of Black Creek Town Road in Section 33, T26N, R5W. There is a small water drop control structure that dams up approximately 80 acres of water from Pea Creek thereby maintaining the level of the flowage for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Fisheries Management (per Joseph Gerbyshak, Fisheries Biologist for Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Pepin Counties, , DNR)----

Fisheries Management Eau Claire County Forest Waterbodies: 2020-2035

Lake Altoona:

Lake Altoona is a 720-acre impoundment of the Eau Claire River and is a popular fishery that attracts anglers from around the region. Lake Altoona is known for its quality panfish fishery, specifically its excellent yellow perch size structure. The walleye population is very healthy, and Lake Altoona consistently has some of the best walleye natural reproduction in the state which will continue to fuel the fishery for year to come. Musky stocking occurs every other year to diversify fishing opportunities in Lake Altoona and the Eau Claire River upstream.

Lake Altoona is considered a high priority lake and is on a four-year rotation for spring netting/electrofishing surveys. The next survey is scheduled to occur in 2021. Fyke nets will be set right after ice out to monitor the yellow perch and northern pike populations. Electrofishing will occur in May to evaluate the bass, bluegill, and crappie populations. A walleye population estimate will occur every 8 years and it will be conducted in conjunction with the spring surveys, which is scheduled to occur in 2021. Walleye recruitment indexes are conducted annually each fall via an electrofishing survey.

Lake Eau Claire:

Lake Eau Claire is an 870- acre impoundment of the Eau Claire River and has a reputation to produce quality panfish and walleye. Lake Eau Claire has numerous fish habitat improvement projects occur over the past 15 years and they are scheduled to continue. The Lake Eau Claire Lake Association have installed tree drops, nearshore cribs and offshore cribs to help improve the fishery. Musky stocking occurs every other year to provide diverse fishing opportunities in Lake Eau Claire and the Eau Claire River upstream.

Lake Eau Claire is considered a high priority lake and is on a four-year rotation for spring netting/electrofishing surveys. The next survey is scheduled to occur in 2022. Fyke nets will be set right after ice out to monitor the yellow perch and northern pike populations. Electrofishing will occur in May to evaluate the bass, bluegill, and crappie populations. A walleye population estimate will occur every 8 years and it will be conducted in conjunction with the spring surveys which is scheduled to occur in 2022. Walleye recruitment indexes are conducted annually each fall via an electrofishing survey.

Coon Fork Lake:

Coon Fork Lake is a 62-acre impoundment of Black Creek. Coon Fork Lake is scheduled to be surveyed in 2028 and is considered a medium priority lake so it is on a 10-year rotation. The survey will consist of spring electrofishing targeting bass and panfish.

Eau Claire River:

The Eau Clair River is difficult to survey due to its size but is a popular float for anglers. Smallmouth bass and musky are the primary targets for anglers. Musky stocking will occur in Lake Altoona and Eau Claire every other year to continue to provide a diverse fishing opportunity in the Eau Claire River.

Streams:

The Eau Claire County Forest contains several classified trout streams. Many of these streams are class I trout streams located primarily in the County Forest and require little active fisheries management. They are surveyed intermittently. Active management occurs on Bears Grass Creek, a Class II Trout Stream,

which is considered the best brook trout stream in Eau Claire County. Bears Grass Creek is surveyed annually at the CTH V road-stream crossing and more locations throughout the watershed are surveyed every several years. Brook trout stocking occurs on Bears Grass Creek to supplement natural reproduction. The DNR has purchased several easements on Bears Grass Creek over the past five years and hopefully that program will expand in the future in the Bears Grass Creek watershed. Beaver Creek is a Class I trout stream that is supported entirely by natural reproduction. It is surveyed annually at the 140th Ave road- stream crossing and surveyed more intensely every several years. Black Creek and Horse Creek are both Class III trout streams and are scheduled to be declassified in the near future because there are no plans to stock these streams.

Endangered Resources:

- L. Natural Heritage Conservation Project/Assessment Needs on the Eau Claire County Forest (per Dean Edlin, West Central District Ecologist, DNR)

Coon Fork Barrens State Natural Area

The focus is to restore and maintain the rare pine/oak barrens natural community. Four management tools will be used to accomplish this over the next 15 years: exotic species control, prescribed fire, non-commercial TSI, and commercial timber harvest. Exotic species control - DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation will use appropriate herbicide to eradicate known populations of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. Surveys will locate new populations of these species and other invasive exotics. Prescribed fire using low intensity patchy burns to reduce fuel loads, stimulate vegetation, and maintain the oak/pine component. Four burn units have been established with the goal of burning 1 unit every 1-2 years. Non- commercial TSI will focus on control of oak grubs and expansion of small barrens openings. Timber harvest will be consistent with barrens management objectives.

<u>Exotic Species</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Control	Annually
Surveys	Annually
Prescribed Fire	1 per 2 yrs.
Non-commercial TSI and forestry mowing	As needed
Timber Harvest	As needed

South Fork Barrens State Natural Area

The focus is to restore and maintain the rare pine/oak barrens natural community. Four management tools will be used to accomplish this over the next 15 years: exotic species control, prescribed fire, and timber harvest. Exotic species control - DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation will use herbicide to eradicate known populations of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. Surveys will locate new populations of these and other invasive exotics. Prescribed fire of low intensity patchy burns to reduce fuel loads, stimulate vegetation, and maintain the oak/pine component. Non-commercial TSI will focus on maintaining and expanding small barrens openings. Timber harvest will be consistent with barrens management objectives.

<u>Exotic Species</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Control	Annually
Surveys	Annually
Prescribed Fire	1 per 5 years
Non-commercial TSI	As needed
Timber Harvest	As needed

Canoe Landing Prairie State Natural Area

The focus is to restore and maintain the rare pine/oak barrens and sand prairie natural communities found at this site. Three management tools will be used to accomplish this over the next 15 years: exotic species control, prescribed fire, and non-commercial TSI. Exotic species control - DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation will use herbicide to eradicate known populations of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. Surveys will locate new populations of these and other invasive exotics. Prescribed fire of low intensity patchy burns to reduce fuel loads, stimulate vegetation, and maintain the oak/pine component. Two burn units have been established with the goal of burning 1 unit every 2-3 years.

<u>Exotic Species</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Control	Annually
Surveys	Annually
Prescribed Fire	1 per 3 years
Non-commercial TSI and forestry mowing	As needed
Timber Harvest	As needed

Rare Plant, Animal, and Natural Community Surveys

Because the County Forest has not undergone a comprehensive biotic inventory, the need exists to locate rare element occurrences of plants, animals, and natural communities. This information will help guide future management on the County Forest to ensure viability of these resources into the future.

Surveys: As time and funding permits

Other Projects- projects not listed can be added as an addendum to the County Forest plan.

* Project completion and frequency subject to available funding and work plan priorities.

I. Personnel:

There are currently nine full-time employees in the County Parks & Forest Department including the Director, Supervisor, Administrative Specialist III, Forester, Maintenance Technician Lead, (2) Maintenance Technicians, Lake Altoona Park Ranger, and Lake Eau Claire Park Ranger. During summer months, upwards to 17 seasonal employees work in the parks and Eau Claire County Expo Center. The greatest need for an additional position is in a Recreation Officer position to help manage recreation trails year-round. This position could be partially funded through the state's Snowmobile and ATV Trail programs, and the Recreational Boating program.

Note: The "Needs" schedule is put together for planning purposes. The best available information has been used in developing the schedule. It is not intended to be followed without modification. Forests are dynamic and managers must be adaptive to change. Funding and staffing shortfalls may also impact the ability of Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department to fulfill identified needs. Refer to Chapter 2020 – Annual Work Plan and Budget, for reference on progress towards the identified needs in this chapter.

2015 WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To develop an annual work plan and budget that will satisfy the needs specified in Chapter 1000 to the greatest extent feasible, consistent with program priorities established in the Mission Statement.

POLICY

The County Forest program will sustain a level of operation that considers the needs of the forest and the public in accordance with the goals identified in Chapter 100.

2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN ANDBUDGET

Each year an Annual Work Plan and Budget shall be prepared by the forest administrator with assistance from the Committee and the DNR Liaison forester. This plan shall be based upon the detailed annual needs. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and Division of Forestry and forwarded to the DNR as required by Wisconsin statutes s. 28.11(5)(b) and s.28.11(5m)(b). Following County Board approval, a copy is provided to official copyholders of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for inclusion as an amendment in this chapter.

Annual Work plans and Annual Budgets will be appended to this chapter.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To provide a quantifiable means of evaluating progress on both short- and long-term goals on the Eau Claire County Forest.

POLICY

Annual accomplishments will be recorded as a historical record, to assist in future planning, and to provide documentation for both the County, and the County Forest system. This information is invaluable in addressing public, County Board, and other legislative inquiries on the operation of the Forest as well as assessing progress on goals.

2030 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS

A copy of an annual accomplishment report shall be prepared and provided to members of the County Board and to official copyholders of this Plan for inclusion into this chapter.

This report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Timber sale accomplishments including gross and net sale receipts and harvest goals achieved.
2. Timber stand improvements accomplishments.
3. Recreation development and maintenance accomplishments including recreation revenues and expenses.
4. Wildlife management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
5. Fisheries management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
6. Annual timber sale revenue model, projecting predicted timber revenue for the upcoming fiscal year.
7. Other accomplishments identified as “needs” in Chapter 1000.

2035 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2035.1 FOREST PRODUCTS

2035.1.1 Timber

Eau Claire County Forest Timber Sales

Historical Record of Sold Timber Sales by Year					
Year	# of Sales	Acres sold	Sawtimber	Pulpwood	Sale values
			MBF	Cords	
1996	29	1055	43	11,241	\$ 280,967.53
1997	30	1364	69	13,797	\$ 340,474.15
1998	31	1011	185.6	10,167	\$ 306,828.02
1999	27	1005	61.6	9,210	\$ 273,437.25
2000	21	710	173.1	7,068	\$ 254,923.99
2001	21	800	106.4	7,818	\$ 300,907.28
2002	28	1063	371.3	13,049	\$ 502,688.40
2003	25	1015	218	10,835	\$ 412,548.10
2004	25	784	302.5	8,105	\$ 376,360.44
2005	27	823	81.6	9,885	\$ 381,578.60
2006	13	664	354	7,722	\$ 413,075.10
2007	22	1015	466.7	13,461	\$ 601,010.65
2008	25	1104	774.5	15,496	\$ 722,374.10
2009	18	905	789	14,328	\$ 721,948.45
2010	25	976	476	13,681	\$ 667,490.95
2011	16	585	284	8,535	\$ 387,304.00
2012	23	849	613	14,233.01	\$ 885,514.37
2013	23	806	443	12,474.39	\$ 690,045.05
2014	20	750	1,336	17,155.10	\$ 1,563,150.56
2015	17	966	1,426	15,722.18	\$ 1,573,473.45
2016	19	1096	2,117	13,920.10	\$ 1,465,930.00
2017	22	1010	1,538.84	13,861.41	\$ 1,006,757.75
2018	20	1025	1,415	11,991.30	\$ 978,414.40
2019	25	1326	2,372.92	16,475.98	\$ 1,433,583.50
2020	19	759	1,275.67	13,837.75	\$ 780,029.70

2035.2 REFORESTATION

Year	Acres Planted	Trees Planted	Year	Acres Planted	Trees Planted
1996	172	316,000	2009	0	0
1997	132	91,300	2010	0	0
1998	50	49,000	2011	0	0
1999	102	80,000	2012	0	0
2000	50	50,000	2013	0	0
2001	10	10,000	2014	0	0
2002	10	10,000	2015	0	0
2003	5	5,000	2016	88	68,400
2004	0	0	2017	0	0
2005	0	0	2018	35	24,500
2006	0	0	2019	0	0
2007	0	0	2020	0	0
2008	0	0			

2035.3 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Year	Release Oak & Red Pine (Ac)	Pruning (Ac)	Year	Release Oak & Red Pine (Ac)	Pruning (Ac)
1996	143	0	2009	10	0
1997	0	0	2010	32	0
1998	137	5	2011	15	0
1999	66	20	2012	66	0
2000	20	15	2013	59	0
2001	20	15	2014	60	0
2002	25	20	2015	132	0
2003	100	30	2016	136	0
2004	0	0	2017	50	0
2005	0	0	2018	62	0
2006	0	0	2019	25	0
2007	25	0	2020	67	0
2008	55	0			

2035.4 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

2005

Constructed new storage building at Coon Fork Park

Clubhouse at Lake Altoona Park resided

Replaced 4 cement slabs at Lake Eau Claire southeast boat landing

Developed snowmobile trail from Skid Row Landing to Connector Forest Road

2006

Installed flagpole and landscaping at Lake Eau Claire Park

Installed two new trail sections at Tower Ridge

2007

New lights installed in A loop shower building at Coon Fork Park

2008

Installed new playground at Lake Eau Claire Park

Constructed large picnic shelter at Lake Eau Claire Park

2009

East entrance to Lowes Creek Park developed through Expo Center grounds

Widened ski trails on west side of Lowes Creek Park to allow for skate skiing

Addition on concession stand completed at Lake Altoona Park

2010

Mountain bike trail established at Coon Fork Park

Lowes Creek Park cross country ski trails were widened on east side of the park to allow for skate skiing

2011

Rock Falls boat landing and parking lot developed on Chippewa River

Tree planting at Tower Ridge with Heubsch Services group

2012

Online camping reservation system implemented for Coon Fork Park
Our Land campaign was initiated to deal with illegal dumping on county forest land

2013

Lake Altoona Boat Landing and parking lot rebuilt
Built new ATV trail from Channey Road to Forest Road 3

2014

Added Expo Center as a Parks and Forest facility to manage
Bedpost park improvements and fishing pier were installed.
Parks and Forest Facebook page developed.
Installed new snowmobile bridge on Allen trail

2015

Built grooming shed at Tower Ridge
Boat launch approach and pads replaced at Lake Altoona boat launch
Hamilton Falls and Whitetail Ridge ATV trail rehabilitations
Installed new culvert crossing on Pinter Pines snowmobile trail

2016

Installed new playground at Coon Fork Park dayside

Installed horse watering station, hitching wall, and manure bunker at Tower Ridge

Installed new canoe/kayak launch at Harstad Park.
Painted Tower Ridge Chalet, Coon Fork shower buildings, and Lake Eau Claire Clubhouse
New boat dock at Lake Eau Claire north landing
4 new snowmobile bridges installed

2017

Paved driveway at Tower Ridge Recreation Area

Lake Altoona Park master plan developed and approved by county board

Corkscrew ATV trail rehabilitation

Relocation of canoe and kayak launch at Coon Fork Park

2018

Phase 1 of new LED lights on ski trails at Tower Ridge completed

Replaced boat dock at Lake Altoona Park and Coon Fork Park New heated storage building at Lake Eau Claire Park

Installed Borne Learning trail at Lake Altoona Park

Channey Forest ATV trail rehabilitation and graveling

4 new snowmobile bridge replacements on county snowmobile trail system

2019

Phase 2 of new LED lights on ski trails at Tower Ridge completed

New well pump and water line installation at Lake Altoona Park

New bridge on Stelter property on county snowmobile trail system

2020

Phase 3 of new LED lights on ski trails at Tower Ridge completed

Tower Ridge Skills Park completed

New pole shed building completed at Lake Eau Claire Park

2035.5 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Annual wildlife projects consist of mowing and maintaining wildlife openings and trails. Along with the annual mowing of game trails, we have conducted several other wildlife specific projects over the past 15 years including:

- North Center Rd game trail construction
- Kelly Rd tree and shrub plantings and road access construction for hunting opportunities and access
- Hunter walking trail access construction Forest Road 4 to Horse Creek

- Gate installation on sensitive areas
- Pea Creek dike rebuild and wood duck boxes
- Simes Creek grouse management area creation
- Timber sale design for bedding, nesting, and corridor movement for game birds
- Timber sale design for hawks (perch trees)
- Karner Blue Butterfly and other Endangered Species HCP along with burning and fecal management to promote early succession to promote lupine and other nectar plants
- Installation of 6 deer exclosures to monitor herbivory effects on regeneration

2040 MONITORING

2040.1 FOREST TYPES

The table below compares the original acres from the first reconnaissance of County Forest acres in 1976, with the data from 1995, 2006, and present (2021) composition.

Eau Claire County Forest Composition

Forest Type	Original Acres	Original %	1995 Acres	1995%	2006 Acres	2006%	2021 Acres	2021%	Future Acres	Proposed %
Aspen	14,078	28.30%	12,565	24.10%	11,020	21.20%	8,812	17.25%	8,716	17.06%
Bottld. Hdwd	1,403	2.80%	1,747	3.40%	1,952	3.70%	2,649	5.19%	2,603	5.09%
W. Birch	432	0.90%	210	0.40%	50	0.10%	19	0.04%	30	0.06%
Fir-Spruce	0	0.00%	6	0.00%	10	0.00%	6	0.01%	6	0.01%
Red Maple	0	0.00%	438	0.80%	1,575	3.00%	2,054	4.02%	1,778	3.48%
N. Hdwd.	9	0.00%	499	1.00%	169	0.30%	0	0.00%	264	0.52%
Cent. Hdwd	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	539	1.06%	539	1.06%
Misc. Decid	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	73	0.14%	48	0.09%
Misc. Conifer	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	0.00%	2	0.00%
Oak	12,010	24.10%	15,135	29.10%	16,807	32.40%	16,365	32.04%	13,970	27.35%
Scrub Oak	624	1.30%	894	1.70%	631	1.20%	100	0.02%	100	0.20%
Jack pine	9,971	20.00%	7,251	13.90%	5,297	10.20%	4,296	8.41%	4,123	8.07%
Red pine	5,291	10.60%	4288	8.20%	4,366	8.40%	3,943	7.72%	4,113	8.05%
White pine	0	0.00%	3,102	6.00%	3,210	6.20%	5,075	9.94%	7,758	15.19%
Sw. Conifer	143	0.30%	140	0.30%	34	0.10%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Sw. Hdwd.	234	0.50%	22	0.00%	93	0.20%	20	0.04%	20	0.04%
Tamarack	42	0.10%	29	0.10%	87	0.20%	7	0.01%	0	0.00%
Total Forested	44,237	88.80%	46,186	89.00%	45,301	87.60%	43,960	86.00%	44,070	86.30%
Total non-forest	5,584	11.20%	5,714	11.00%	6,597	12.40%	7,113	14.00%	7,003	13.70%
Total Property*	49,821	100.00%	52,040	100.00%	51,868	100.00%	51,073	100.00%	51,073	100.00%

**Total property figures include +/- 1% error. Total current property acreage is 52,712.*

The data shows a decrease in white birch, aspen, northern hardwoods, oak, jack pine, and red pine. Most of the changes are due to natural succession such as jack pine, aspen, and white birch moving from early successional species to later successional species like white pine, which has increased in acres. Recon has also shown a large increase of red maple acres from 2006. Some changes have been due to updates and combining data in the database such as areas where red maple has become dominant in a previously aspen dominate stand. Aspen is still in many of these stands but there are a greater number of red maple stems, so the type is changed to red maple in the database.

2040.2 HARVESTING

The table compares acres determined as needs in the last plan and the actual activity since 2006.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST

ASPEN (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
2006	266	74	81	82
2007	244	18	17	128
2008	268	188	183	4
2009	278	107	23	101
2010	164	134	125	24
2011	55	0	116	202
2012	261	75	15	210
2013	57	119	139	0
2014	81	0	40	75
2015	366	106	106	119
2016	233	264	62	55
2017	236	51	209	0
2018	221	145	116	0
2019	245	187	144	120
2020	249	61	64	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>3224</i>	<i>1529</i>	<i>1440</i>	<i>1120</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>214.9</i>	<i>101.9</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>74.6</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST

Oak (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>1292</i>	<i>548</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>142</i>
<i>2007</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>449</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>289</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>673</i>	<i>568</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>290</i>
<i>2009</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>656</i>	<i>664</i>	<i>420</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>764</i>	<i>442</i>	<i>506</i>	<i>306</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>351</i>	<i>484</i>	<i>259</i>	<i>1119</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>633</i>	<i>540</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>572</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>364</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>406</i>	<i>395</i>	<i>418</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>1311</i>	<i>775</i>	<i>424</i>	<i>394</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>542</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>403</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>532</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>394</i>	<i>99</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>510</i>	<i>705</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>178</i>
<i>2019</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>472</i>	<i>623</i>	<i>580</i>
<i>2020</i>	<i>484</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>9333</i>	<i>6947</i>	<i>6943</i>	<i>5542</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>622.2</i>	<i>463.1</i>	<i>462.8</i>	<i>369.4</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
Red Pine (Acres)

YEAR	NEED	Established	Sold	Closed
2006	594	160	170	156
2007	139	100	140	367
2008	263	105	105	92
2009	193	236	120	159
2010	250	158	270	141
2011	159	257	102	159
2012	440	173	181	168
2013	205	220	293	236
2014	352	217	145	181
2015	539	187	197	299
2016	215	185	265	173
2017	202	139	127	7
2018	191	365	332	139
2019	169	220	272	127
2020	168	117	131	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	4079	2839	2850	2404
<i>Annual Average</i>	271.9	189.2	190	160.2

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
White Pine (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
2006	258	60	66	23
2007	87	11	3	76
2008	54	93	94	14
2009	75	49	31	69
2010	232	20	44	40
2011	6	16	0	50
2012	164	0	16	27
2013	21	55	38	21
2014	3	32	37	16
2015	228	36	20	30
2016	118	100	59	11
2017	102	50	72	5
2018	106	165	102	29
2019	108	109	153	111
2020	114	35	90	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>1676</i>	<i>831</i>	<i>825</i>	<i>522</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>111.7</i>	<i>55.4</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>34.8</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
Jack Pine (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
2006	95	142	21	143
2007	166	214	280	263
2008	116	48	72	36
2009	86	0	48	167
2010	117	31	31	45
2011	72	59	59	99
2012	8	4	4	0
2013	13	8	8	27
2014	52	40	0	32
2015	66	10	50	25
2016	78	116	64	79
2017	72	14	60	10
2018	54	90	10	12
2019	60	55	43	60
2020	58	8	55	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>1113</i>	<i>839</i>	<i>805</i>	<i>998</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>74.2</i>	<i>55.9</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>66.5</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
Red Maple (Acres)

YEAR	NEED	Established	Sold	Closed
2006	104	0	0	17
2007	0	6	6	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	6
2010	132	0	0	0
2011	36	38	38	0
2012	7	0	0	38
2013	28	120	39	0
2014	63	12	93	0
2015	111	23	23	39
2016	62	29	4	12
2017	60	44	69	0
2018	63	44	44	61
2019	57	118	91	30
2020	62	78	89	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	785	512	496	203
<i>Annual Average</i>	52.3	34.1	33.06	13.5

2040.3 RECREATIONAL USE

Since the last 15-year plan, the introduction of UTV's on the county forest has seen a steady increase in the amount of motorized usage on the county forest. As UTV's have become wider, longer, and more powerful, modifications on our trail systems have occurred. This process is anticipated to continue with more manufacturers producing new body styles and makes of machines. This is a use that must be carefully planned for and maintenance should remain a top priority. The placement of gravel trail surfaces has become required to provide properly maintained trails. In addition, some trails have needed to be widened and gates have been installed to restrict access in certain areas.

Another use of the forest that has seen an increase since the last plan has been the demand for canoe and kayak launch points. This was a priority in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Recreation Plan. More people are looking for developed access points, maps, and potential overnight camping sites on the Eau Claire River. This trend is expected to continue.

Other silent sports have seen steady numbers in user groups and trail use including disc golf, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking. Trails have been modified and improved for all these non-motorized uses. With expectations of increased demand in all areas as the population continues to explore the county forest.

2040.4 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS

The High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas on the Eau Claire County Forest are also designated as State Natural Areas. They were designated as HCVF because of unique natural features such as barrens, large white pine, wetland, etc.. Management done on these areas will be consistent with the objectives of each site. Eau Claire County relies on the local ecologist for updates on any changes to the HCVF areas. The local ecologist is also consulted if management is being considered on HCVF areas.

2040.5 ROADS & ACCESS

Primary roads for access to the County Forest were constructed prior to 1995. No new primary roads were planned or built during the last fifteen years. No additional primary forest roads are planned to be constructed unless an unforeseen need develops or if a township abandons a current road that provides access to the County Forest. New large block additions to the County Forest will remain non-motorized as much as possible to meet the growing demand for silent sports.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 3000

Rev: 5/18/2021

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS OF 15 YEAR PLAN/FUTURE AMENDMENT LIST- APPROVED NOVEMBER 9, 2020

- 1- The draft chapters will be brought to the Parks and Forest Committee for approval.
- 2- After approval by the Committee the plan will be available to the public for at least a 30-day comment period. The draft plan will be posted on the Eau Claire County web site.
 - a. Notice of the public comment period will be advertised in the following: Eau Claire County official newspaper, Eau Claire County web site and face book page.
 - b. Notices of the public comment period will be sent to user groups including: Ski Striders, Chippewa Valley Disc Golf Organization, Eau Claire National Rifle Club, Chippewa Valley Trail Riders, and Eau Claire County Snowmobile Association, other groups and individuals who have asked to be notified.
 - c. Have at least one public meeting to answer questions and take comments from the public. The public meeting will be advertised following the policies of Eau Claire County.
 - d. Comments will be accepted by e-mail, regular mail and verbally at the public meeting.
- 3- After the 30-day comment period the comments will be reviewed by the Parks and Forest Committee and any necessary changes to the draft plan will be made by the Committee.
- 4- Once the changes have been made from the comment period and it has been approved by the Committee it will be sent to the DNR for draft plan review.

- 5- After review by the DNR and any necessary changes have been made, the Parks and Forest Committee will have final approval and send to the full County Board.
- 6- County Board Approval of 15-Year Plan.
- 7- Send to DNR for Final Draft Approval.