BARRON COUNTY

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2019 - 2024

WORKING DRAFT 5/14/19

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BARRON COUNTY, WI

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NOTE: As of 5/14/19, this is a working draft. Additional changes may be made as the draft document is reviewed and in response to comments received from Committees or Boards prior to adoption.

BARRON COUNTY

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2019 – 2024

BARRON COUNTY MISSION STATEMENT

"To enhance life by providing services in a fiscally progressive manner through leadership, collaboration and innovation, that is responsive to all Barron County citizens."

VISION

"A sustainable, vibrant community."

prepared by:

Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department

with assistance by:
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Adopted by the Barron County Board - month, day, year

WORKING DRAFT 5/14/19

Resolution of Adoption

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SECTION I: PROCESS & GOALS

Introduction

Broadly defined, recreation is an activity or experience undertaken solely for the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it. Although recreational preferences may vary from individual to individual, recreation occupies a necessary and significant place in every person's life. It is important to provide a variety of parks and outdoor recreational facilities to offer opportunities for participation in a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits.

A primary purpose of this plan is to provide direction for the programming, maintenance, and improvement of existing recreation facilities in Barron County, while guiding the acquisition and development of land to satisfy the outdoor recreational needs of the current and projected population of the County.

Planning Process

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

This Plan serves as a guide for the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities in Barron County. It is an update of the 1989 to 1994 Barron County Outdoor Recreation Plan, and ensures the continuation of an orderly procedure to identify and evaluate the need for additional or improved recreation facilities.

The Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department took the lead role in managing the development of this plan with direction from an organized Steering Committee and facilitation support from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC).

The Steering Committee served as the advisory group for the plan update and had representation from various County departments including:

- County Administration
- Maintenance/Parks & Recreation
- Soil & Water Conservation
- Land Services
- Sheriff's Office/Trails

The plan update process began in December of 2018 and involved steering committee planning and strategy meetings, development of an online survey, interviews with stakeholders, and intensive data collection efforts summarized here.

PROJECT TIMELINE

DECEMBER 2018

» Form steering committee to guide plan update and review materials.

» Update physical/demographic data and maps.

MEETING 1 - discuss process and approach, identify goals and opportunities, park inventory, web-based survey.

JANUARY 2019

» Review and identify changes to 1994 plan.

» Collect GIS data from Barron County.

» Collect photos/maps/ etc.

» Update park inventory/facilities data.

FEBRUARY 2019

» Interviews with stakeholders.

» Review of related plans for integration.

» Develop updated recommendations and action plan/prioritize.

» Summarize survey results.

» Compile full draft plan for review.

MARCH 2019

MEETING 2 - presentation of draft plan to steering committee. Note changes, gaps, additional information.

» Finalize recommended edits/changes per steering committee review.

» Consult with WDNR to ensure draft plan meets prerequisite requirements.

APRIL 2019

» Finalize draft for Steering Committee approval.

» Present document at a public hearing.

MAY 2019

» Submit final draft to County Board for adoption (provide model resolution for consideration).

» Submit adopted plan to WDNR for acceptance.

» Project completion.

B. PROCESS FOR ADOPTION

The final draft 2019-2024 Barron County Outdoor Recreation Plan will be adopted by the Barron County Board of Supervisors during properly noticed public meetings, which will provide additional opportunities for public input on the local recreational amenities, goals, and recommendations discussed in this document.

C. AMENDING THE PLAN

The Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department will be responsible for providing recommendations to the Barron County Board to ensure implementation of the plan is consistent with the plan's goals, objectives, and policies.

Conditions, needs, opportunities, and recreational interests change. This plan may be amended as necessary to address changing conditions and any amendments should require formal approval of the Barron County Board of Supervisors after consideration of an advisory recommendation from the Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

Any adopted plan revisions or amendments should be sent to the region's Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Community Services Specialist. Furthermore, the plan should be updated every five years to maintain grant eligibility for certain WDNR grant funding as discussed later in Section V.

SUMMARY OF PAST COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING

This plan represents a significant update to the previous Barron County Outdoor Recreation Plan completed in 1989. This effort illustrates the County's desire to promote several new or expanded recreation opportunities throughout the County that are the result of continuous planning and development that has taken place over the last several years.

Maintaining this plan up-to-date will help ensure that park facilities are included in planning and budgetary actions within the County, and will help continue the success and momentum of the Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

Goals & Objectives

Goals may be defined as general statements of desirable ends, while objectives are measurable statements of those goals. Objectives are not always specific, but should always be in harmony with stated goals. As community desires and needs change, goals and objectives must remain flexible to reflect the changing values and priorities of the community.

The following goals and objectives represent the ends that a community may adopt to provide a sound basis for future outdoor recreation planning decisions. In addition, the outdoor recreation plan shall serve to meet the varied recreation needs of residents and visitors while at the same time protecting, conserving, and enhancing the County's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

A. GOALS

- Provide adequate facilities so that a quality recreation experience may be enjoyed by all.
- Provide a planned system of parks and recreation areas that offer a diversity of recreational opportunities.
- Preserve sufficient, high-quality, open-space lands for the protection of sustaining natural resources.
- Provide a mix of affordable, quality outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and amenities.

B. OBJECTIVES

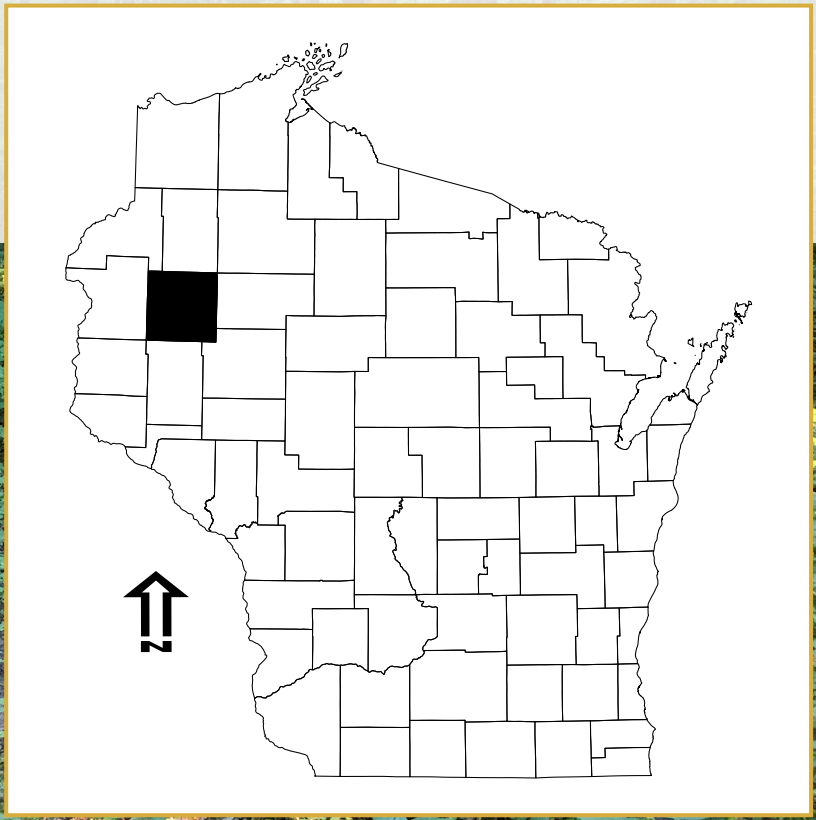
- The public sector should provide general-use outdoor recreation sites sufficient in size and number to meet the active and passive recreation demands of the resident population.
- To provide opportunities for all residents to enjoy the County's parks, natural resources, and recreation areas.
- To preserve and protect land uses adjacent to existing community parks and playgrounds. Consider acquisition of properties adjacent to existing parks as opportunities arise.
- To coordinate the community's recreation program with the programs of other levels of government and with private enterprise to ensure maximum public benefit.
- To engage in long-term planning and strategic planning to fund parks, forests, and recreation in the County.
- To provide access to, and adequate parking for, the use of natural resources.
- To protect scenic values by controlling signage and other unsightly land uses and practices.
- To be aware of demographic trends and provide for the recreation needs of an aging population or those with access and mobility concerns regarding County park facilities.
- To provide for the periodic review and updating of the County outdoor recreation plan so that it will reflect the changing needs of the community's residents.
- To coordinate tourism initiatives with local villages and cities to implement cooperative marketing efforts for outdoor recreation.

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF THE PLANNING AREA

Leisure time is an important component of people's lifestyles and quality of life, whether they live in urban centers or sparsely populated rural regions of the country. Compared to a century ago, shorter working hours, more disposable income, earlier retirement, and longer life spans have led to an increased demand for leisure-time activities, including outdoor recreation.

As more and more people participate in outdoor activities, the economic value of recreational facilities increases, along with pressures on these facilities that may endanger the environmental qualities that residents and non-residents are attracted to in the first place. Consequently, there is a need to provide for increasing recreational demand while at the same time seeking to protect natural resources for future generations.

Figure 1: *Statewide Context Map of Barron County, Wisconsin.*



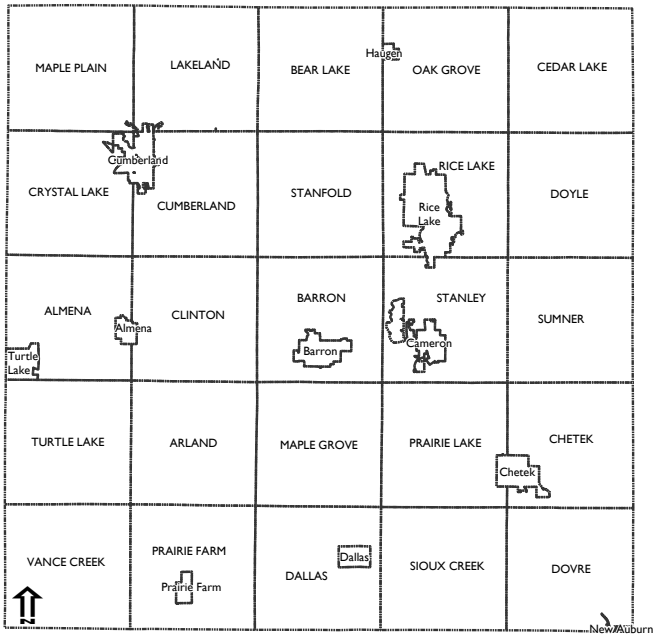
Physical Characteristics of the Planning Area

A. PHYSICAL SETTING

Barron County is located in north west-central Wisconsin. The County has a total surface area of approximately 863 square miles of combined land and water area. The County is bordered by Polk County to the west; Washburn County to the north; Rusk and Chippewa Counties to the east; and Dunn County to the south.

Barron County is comprised of all or parts of 36 civil divisions, consisting of 25 towns, 7 villages and 4 cities. The City of Barron, population 3,388, is the County seat and the largest community is the City of Rice Lake, with 8,599 residents.

Figure 2: *Barron County Minor Civil Divisions.*

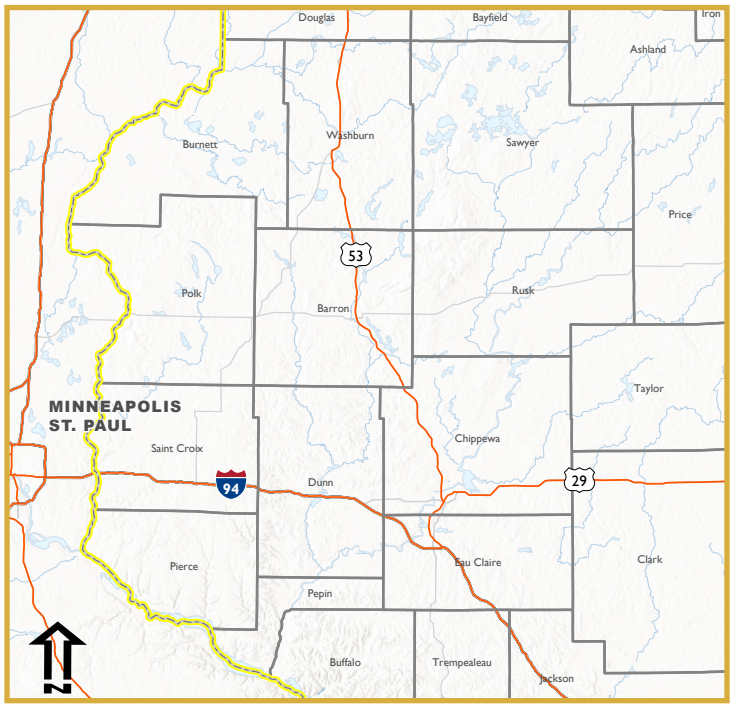


B. GEOGRAPHY

Generally, the topography of Barron County is moderately rolling, becoming increasingly more rugged in the extreme western, north-western, extreme eastern (Blue Hills), and southern portions of the County. Surface features have been formed or modified by two distinct periods of glaciation. Pitted glacial out-wash covers portions of the County resulting in many lakes, wetlands, and areas of uneven topography.

A series of glacial end moraines rim the County on the western, north-western, northern, and eastern portions of the County. The area between the end moraines is quite level, and much of the County's best agricultural land is found here.

Figure 3: *Regional Context Map.*



C. GENERAL LAND COVER

In 2010, the County had an overall population density of 53.2 persons per square mile, which is much less than the State of Wisconsin density of 105 persons per square mile.

Between 2012 and 2017, Barron County experienced an increase of 234 improved, assessed parcels or an average increase of 35 to 45 parcels per year. By far, the majority of these improvements (over 3 times as many) occurred on residential-assessed parcels.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, 473,130 acres were assessed for property tax purposes in 2017. This leaves about 96,204 acres of non-taxable lands, which includes government-owned properties, certain charities and non-profit institutions, some utilities, and surface waters. The largest part of this non-taxed acreage is the nearly 38,000 acres of public resource lands, mostly in County forest.

Land Cover	% of Total
Urban/Developed	2.9%
Agriculture	32.2%
Grassland	19.7%
Forest	33.5%
Open Water	2.7%
Wetland	8.6%
Barren	.09%
Shrubland	.01%

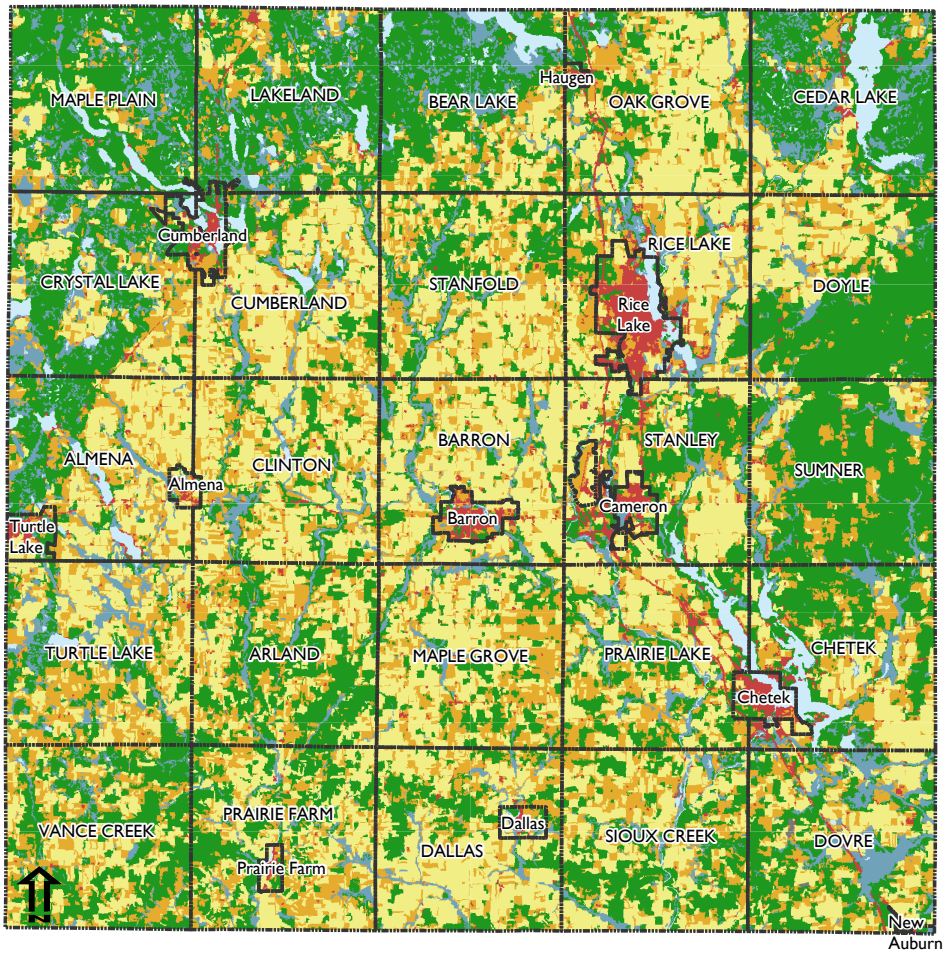


Figure 4: *Wiscland 2.0 Land Cover Map of Barron County, WI. Data developed in 2015 by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.*

D. HYDROLOGY

Barron County is comprised of all or parts of thirteen watersheds—eight watersheds from the Lower Chippewa River Basin and small portions of five watersheds from the St. Croix River Basin.
The County ranks 15th in the State of Wisconsin in total surface water area, with approximately 3.4% or nearly 17,800 acres, covered by water.

Barron County has a total surface water area of 18,551 acres, including 369 lakes. Surface waters are generally characterized as healthy, however many are suffering from the results of the soil erosion in the form of sedimentation. The native soils of the area contain a high level of phosphorous that creates a situation of reduced habitat and high weed growth levels in the lakes and streams. To help minimize water quality impacts through human and natural processes, the County is highly active with soil conservation efforts on the land to protect the waters of Barron County.

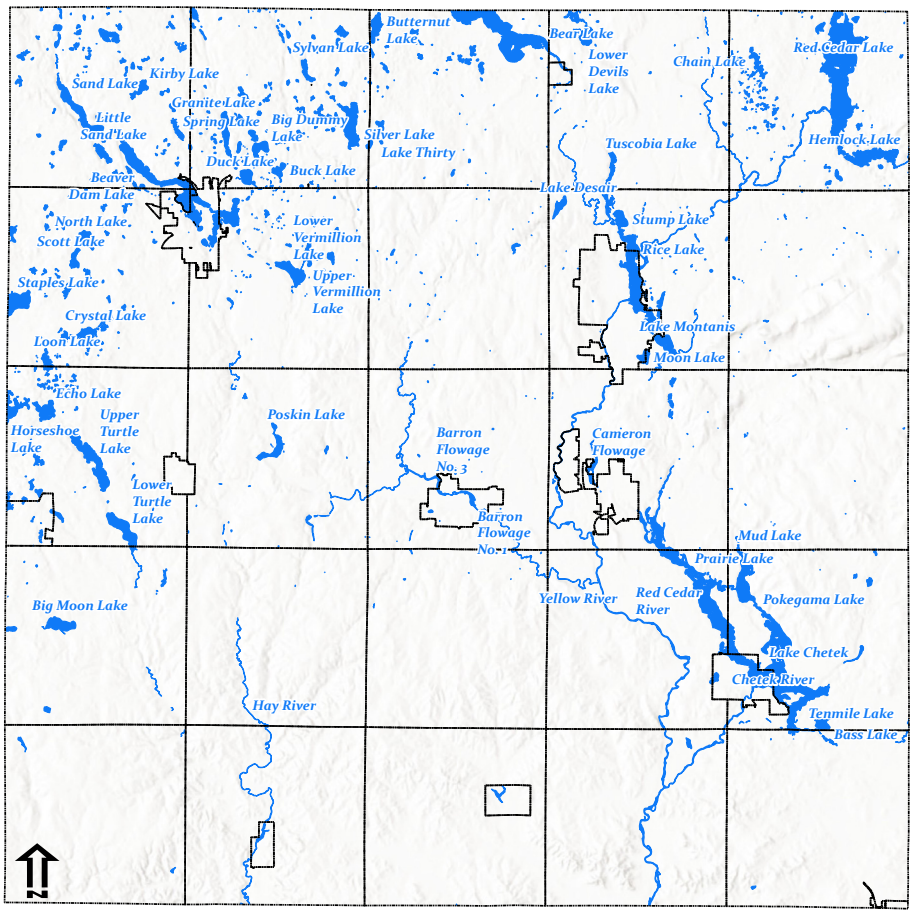


Figure 5: *Surface Water Map of Barron County, WI. Data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 24k Hydro Water Bodies (Open Water) dataset.*

E. NATURAL RESOURCES

Barron County has a diversity of landscapes and wildlife. The County is partially located on what is referred to as the 'Tension Zone', a climatic and habitat delineation within the State of Wisconsin where southern farmland meets northern forest. In this Zone there are plants and animals representing both the Northern Mixed Forest and the Southern Broad-leaf Forest as well as wildlife in the agricultural environment.

> Groundwater in Barron County is generally of high quality, abundant, and easily obtained, and there are many high capacity wells for irrigation in the County.

A large portion of northern and eastern areas of the County are forested in large tracts of County and private land. The predominate forest type is northern hardwoods consisting of Northern Red Oak, Sugar and Red Maple, and Aspen. The remaining areas of the County are farmland with numerous small woodlots, many of which are managed for timber production, however there are still substantial amounts of pasturing in other ones.

The unique geographic location provides the County with productive wildlife habitats. The northern forests of the County provide for wildlife species including the eastern timber wolf, black bear, bobcat and fisher. Wildlife in the southern farmland areas include the ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, cottontail rabbit and gray and fox squirrel. The wetlands in the County provide habitat for fish, waterfowl, reptiles and other birds of prey. Grasslands, while not a large component of the land area, provide home to a variety of grassland birds.

The WI DNR Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) identifies rare or declining specifies, high-quality or rare natural communities and unique or significant natural features. The NHI for Barron County, updated as of August 2018, identified a variety of rare or endangered specifies, both plant and animal. The four State Natural Areas in Barron County, totaling just over 620 acres, work to manage and protect the rare plants, animals or native landscapes in the County.

Hunting and trapping is allowed in County forests during seasons established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Fish and wildlife resources are generally classified as healthy and both hunting and fishing are popular in the area both for residents and tourists.

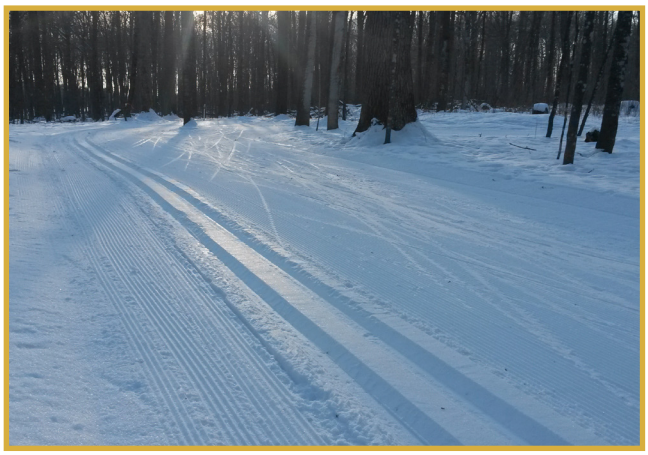


Figure 6: *Rockman's Woods. Barron, WI.*

Figure 7: *Mikana Forest. Cedar Lake, WI.*

Figure 8: *Narrow Gauge Forest. Bear Lake, WI.*

Social Characteristics of the Planning Area

A. POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Barron County had a 2017 population estimate of 45,358, which is slightly less than the 2010 census figure of 45,870. Like much of the larger region, the County's growth rate has slowed significantly over the last two decades and population projections from the Wisconsin Department of Administration estimate a slight population increase for the area over the next twenty years.

The most recent growth rates in the County were highest in the communities of and adjacent to Rice Lake and Cameron, the City of Barron, and in towns with surface waters. However, as new lake-shore development opportunities become fewer in certain areas, development pressures may shift to the lake and river shore-lands of other communities.

Overall, Barron County's population is relatively homogeneous, with around 94 percent of the population in the white, non-Hispanic racial group. The Hispanic or Latino population (1,092 persons) is the County's largest minority population, and is double the Hispanic or Latino population reported by U.S. Census back in 2000. The Black or African American population has also grown significantly over the last two decades, especially in the areas in and around the City of Barron and City of Cumberland. Overall, since 1990, the County has become more racially diverse, which may influence the local demand for outdoor recreation amenities and opportunities.

POPULATION GROWTH

The County's population is expected to increase about 8.5 percent (+3,888 residents) between 2010 and 2040.

Overall, the highest growth is projected for the unincorporated towns, though projected population change varies widely by community. It is notable that Barron County's population is projected to peak in about 2030.

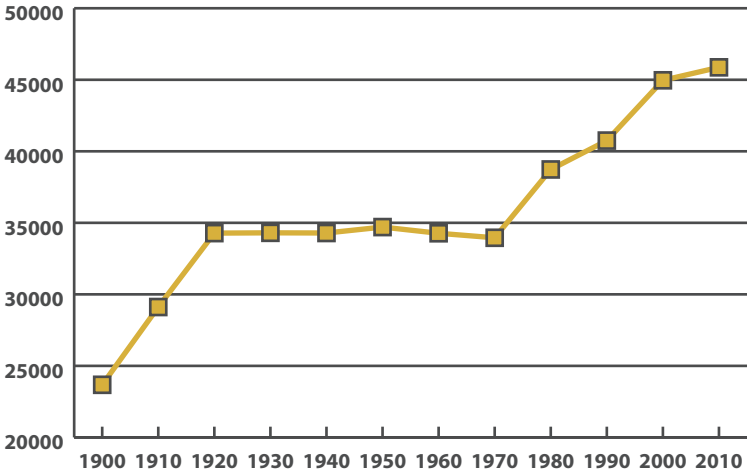


Figure 9: *U.S. Decennial Census Historical Population for Barron County, 1900 to 2010.*

Data Sources: Unless otherwise noted, sources of data in this section are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

At approximately 53.2 persons per square mile on average, Barron County remains quite rural overall, and the percentage of the County's population in unincorporated areas continues to slowly increase. In addition to slow population growth, another important demographic trend is in regards to the aging population in the County. According to estimates by WCWRPC and DOA, the age group of individuals 65 and older in the County will nearly double, making up a significant portion of the overall population in the County by the year 2040 (Figure 10).

These demographic changes and trends are an important source of study to developing a healthy mix of recreation opportunities in the County, and will have serious implications in the type of recreation, facilities, and improvements that are planned for the future.

Food-processing employment opportunities have attracted a sizable Hispanic population to the Cumberland area who actively participate in lake, dam and shore-land fishing throughout the County. There is a sizable Somali population in the City of Barron that utilize City and County recreation facilities for both organized and non-organized soccer leagues. Parts of the County also have a significant Amish population who commonly visit County park facilities on horseback for recreational riding and sightseeing.

There is a slow, but ever-increasing diversity of populations utilizing recreation facilities throughout Barron County. One noted opportunity during this planning process is the ongoing effort to identify potential language or cultural barriers so that minority populations can be active participants in County recreational facilities and/or programs.

AGING IN PLACE

Given the aging population, a growing emphasis for many communities is to consider and advocate for designs that allow for "aging in place." Aging in place is the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably regardless of age, income, or ability level.

But more importantly, seniors and people should have access to the "right places" where they can live in an environment that is pleasurable and safe, and where they feel competent and in control.

This concept is not limited to housing design and construction, but includes housing affordability as well as other planning elements such as transportation options, access to goods and services, and outdoor recreation opportunities. The right place will nurture an "active" lifestyle and discourage social isolation.

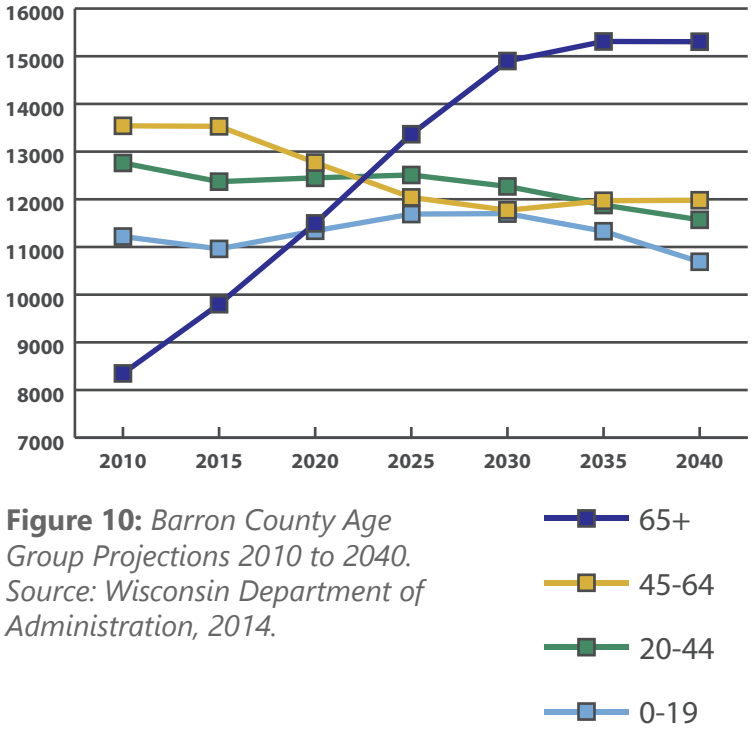


Figure 10: *Barron County Age Group Projections 2010 to 2040. Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2014.*

B. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The economy of a County is an important determining factor driving land use, development, and recreation demand. There are nearly 1,400 payrolled business locations in Barron County, resulting in over 24,000 jobs. From 2010 to 2016, average annual employment in the County increased by 8.4 percent (or +1,671 jobs). This job increase has been in the private sector; governmental jobs decreased by 430 during the same time period.

Like most of the region and the nation, the economy of Barron County has been undergoing additional shifts. Employment in the services sectors have been out-pacing the goods-producing sectors; meanwhile, manufacturing employment has been decreasing. Even so, manufacturing remains the largest industry by employment. The largest private-sector employers include the Jennie-O Turkey Store in Barron, St. Croix Casino in Turtle Lake, Wal-Mart in Rice Lake, and various educational, medical, and governmental services.

Recreation and tourism spending are also an important part of the County's economic profile. The Wisconsin Department of Tourism reported the following tourism facts for 2016:

Figure 11: *Barron County 2016 Tourism Figures.*

2016 Tourism Impacts	
Direct Visitor Spending	$96.6 million
Total Business Spending	$0.93 million
Total Employment	1,433
Total Labor Income	$5.7 million
State & Local Taxes	$11 million

Source: Wisconsin Department of Tourism.

SEASONAL HOMES

Approximately 13.0 percent of the County's total housing supply in 2015 (or 3,143 units) were seasonal, which is a decrease in the number of seasonal units since 2000 (4,211).

While the number of seasonal homes is decreasing, they still account for 72% of all vacant housing in the County.

C. HOUSING

There was a significant difference between the growth in housing units and population between 2000 and 2010. The percent change in the number of housing units in the 2000's was 11.3 percent, compared to population growth of only 2 percent. This can be explained, in part, due to the relatively high percentage of seasonal, recreational housing units in Barron County (e.g., lakefront and riverfront properties, hunting cabins) for which no permanent, resident population is counted.

Barron County has a high number of seasonal homes. Seasonal units are used or intended for use only in certain seasons (e.g., beach cottages and hunting cabins) or for weekend or occasional use throughout the year. Seasonal units may also include quarters used for seasonal workers such as loggers. In the County, there appears to be high turnover in these housing types as younger families take over properties where the previous owner(s) no longer have young children at home to raise.

SECTION III: PARKS & RECREATION INVENTORY

There's something for everyone in Barron County!

The beautiful countryside, with its rolling hills, many lakes and streams, offer plenty of outdoor recreation or a pleasant Sunday driving tour. Golf, fishing, canoeing, camping, skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and over 300 miles of snowmobiling trails and nearly 80 miles of ATV trails offer endless opportunities to enjoy Wisconsin's best!

This section focuses primarily on parks and outdoor recreational facilities owned and managed by Barron County. However, residents and visitors also have access to a variety of outdoor recreational facilities owned by local communities (cities, villages, & towns), school districts, non-profit groups, and private enterprises.

Park Classification System

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) classification system includes standards for five common park types. The NRPA definitions and standards are suggested guidelines for planning purposes and are based on commonly used terminology and the primary intent of each park type.

Although other types of parks can be found in some of Wisconsin's cities and villages, the ones defined here are sufficient to analyze recreation areas within Barron County. It must be kept in mind that each community is unique in its size, demographics, geography, and distribution of population; therefore, the classifications applied in a given community result from a municipality's judgment of how that municipality's parks function in meeting local recreational needs.

Most of the parks owned and operated by Barron County are best classified as community, regional, or specialized parks.

In addition, many are located within or nearby thousands of acres of Barron County Forest Crop Lands available for recreational use.

In small communities, the size and acreage recommendations are less important than the uses and function, since a relatively small park within a smaller community can provide important neighborhood and community recreational functions.

Figure 12: *The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) classification system.*

Park Type	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/ 1,000 pop.	Use and Characteristics
Mini-Park	< 0.25 mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 – 0.5 acres	specialized facilities serving a concentrated population (e.g., apartments, seniors, tots)
Neighborhood Park/Playground	0.25 – 0.5 mile radius up to 5,000 pop.	1 to 5+ acres (see footnote)	1 – 2 acres	intensive recreation area within safe walking distance; may be a school-park facility
Community Park	several communities; w/in 1 hour	5 to 25+ acres	5 – 8 acres	may include both passive & active recreation; easily accessible to neighborhoods served
Regional Park	several communities; w/in 1 hour	50+ acres	5 – 10 acres	contiguous to or encompassing natural resources
Specialized Area	varies; may be regional	varies	varies	provides a specialized function; may include conservancy areas and greenspace

** The NRPA standard for the desirable size of neighborhood parks and playgrounds is actually 15+ acres. However, after consideration that such standards were developed with large, densely populated urban cities in mind, a decision was made to reduce the desirable size to 5+ acres to better reflect the park system and population characteristics of Barron County.*

Outdoor Recreation Inventory (Supply)

Barron County offers over 550 acres of parks, open space, and natural areas available for outdoor recreation activities.

There is an additional 16,264 acres of County Forest Crop Land that provide a range of year-round recreation access.

The table below summarizes the parks and recreational facilities owned by Barron County. A majority of these locations can be identified as Community/Regional parks due to the wide range of amenities and features offered at these locations that are popular tourism destinations for both residents and non-residents in the County.

A more detailed description, inventory, and action plan for each of these facilities is provided in Section III, which identifies key features, planned improvements, management, maintenance responsibilities, or partnership agreements in place.

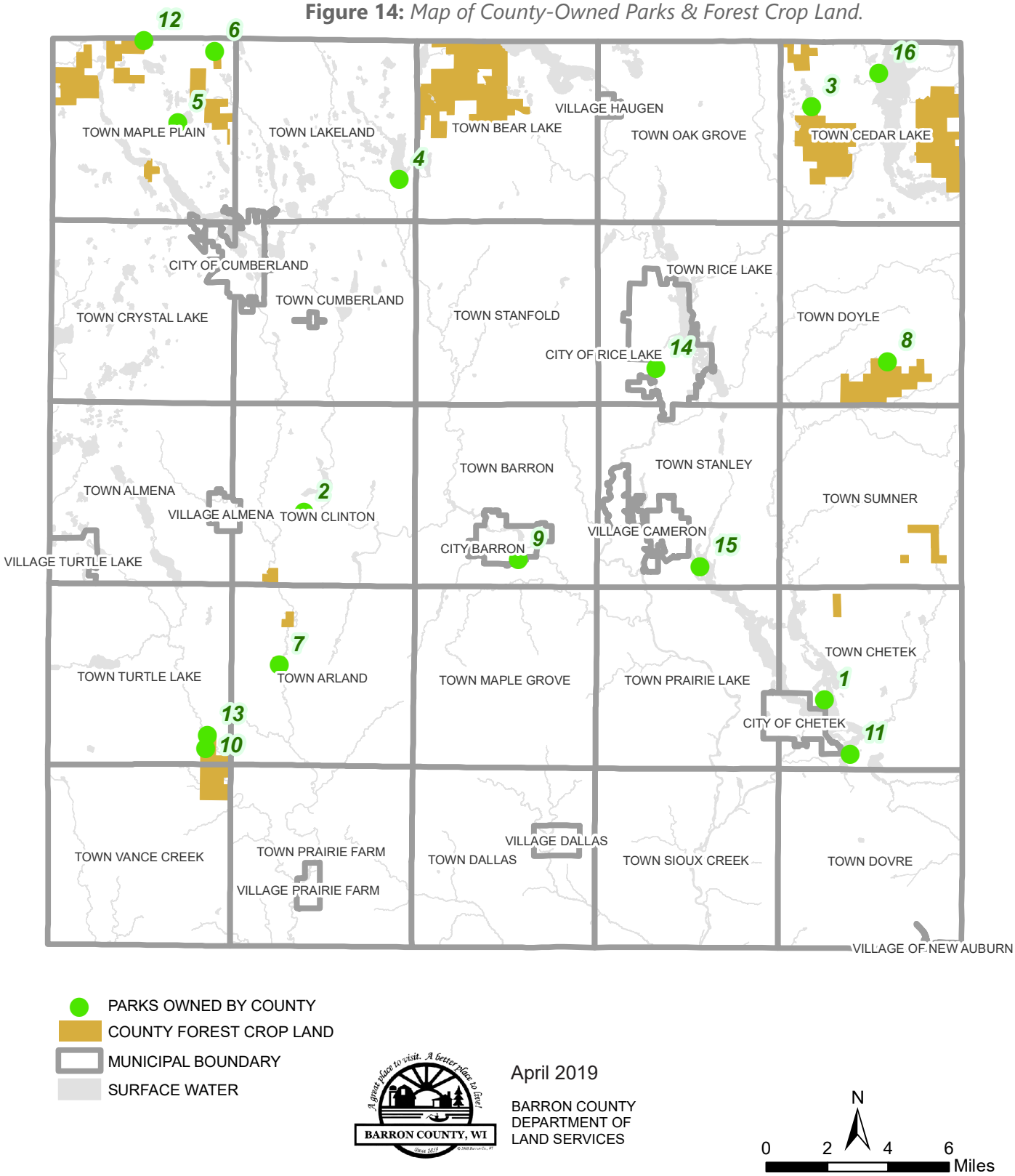
In addition to the facilities below, there are 14 separate management compartments of Barron County Forest Crop Land totaling 16,264 acres. County forest areas provide a variety of recreational opportunities including hiking and mountain biking trails, hunting and trapping, berry picking, forest camping, wildlife viewing, and more. Figure 14 on the following page identifies the locations of County-owned parks and recreational facilites, along with County Forest Crop Land.

Figure 13: *County-Owned Parks & Recreation Facilities.*

Park & Recreation Facilities	Park Type	Key Function(s)
1. Angler's Park	Community	Fishing/Boating
2. Barron County Intensive Use ATV Park	Specialty	ATV Riding
3. Chain Lake/Twin Lake Primitive Campground	Community/Regional	Primitive Camping
4. Grant Park on Silver Lake	Community/Regional	Day-Use Activities
5. Kirby Lake Primitive Campground	Community/Regional	Primitive Camping
6. Maple Plain Shooting Range	Specialty	Public Shooting Range
7. Owen Anderson Shooting Range	Specialty	Public Shooting Range
8. Pipestone Quarry Mountain Bike Area	Community/Regional	Mountain Biking
9. Rockman's Woods Cross Country Skiing	Community/Regional	Skiing/Hiking/Hunting
10. Silver Creek Mountain Bike Area	Community/Regional	Mountain Biking/Hiking
11. Southworth Memorial Park	Community/Regional	Campground
12. Timberland West Ski Trails	Community/Regional	Skiing/Hiking/Hunting
13. Turtle Creek Accessible Fishing Piers	Regional/Specialty	Fishing/River Access
14. University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire - Barron County	Specialty	Disc Golf
15. Veteran's Memorial Park	Community/Regional	Campground
16. Waldo Carlson Park	Community/Regional	Campground

Barron County Public Parks & Forest

Figure 14: *Map of County-Owned Parks & Forest Crop Land.*



PARKS OWNED BY COUNTY
COUNTY FOREST CROP LAND
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
SURFACE WATER

April 2019

BARRON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
LAND SERVICES

N

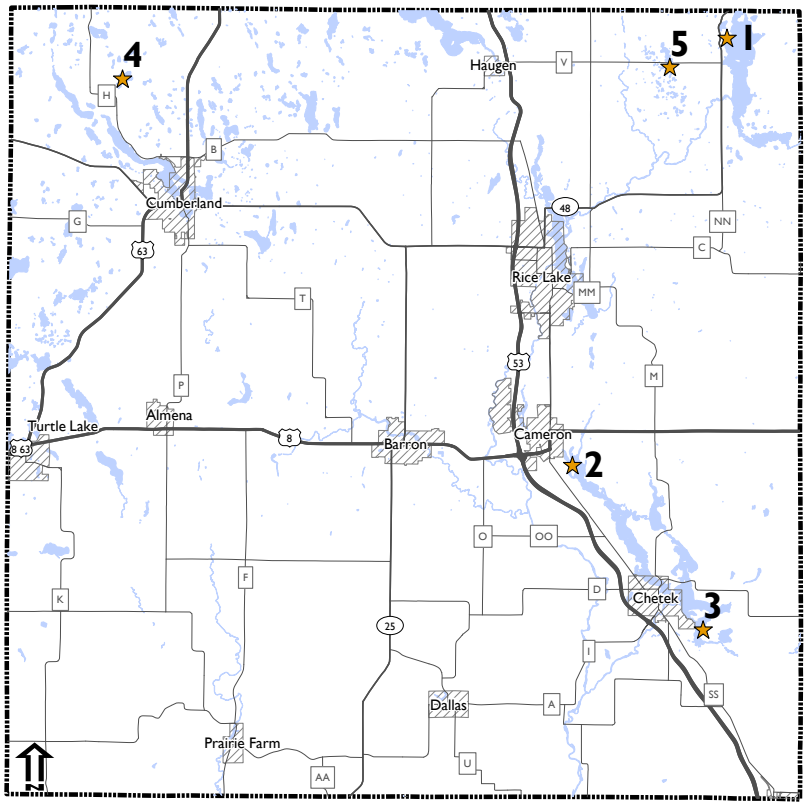
0 2 4 6 Miles

A. PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS

Barron County owns and operates 5 campgrounds with a total of 100 campsites. Three County parks - Southworth Memorial (Ten Mile Lake, Chetek), Waldo Carlson (Red Cedar Lake), and Veteran's Memorial (Prairie Lake, Cameron) - offer standard amenities. These generally include picnic tables, toilets, drinking water, playground equipment, electrical hookups, and lake access for boating and fishing.

Kirby Lake County Park (Kirby Lake, Cumberland) and Twin Lake County Park (Chain Lake, Birchwood) have been developed for primitive camping only, and do not offer facilities other than pit toilets and picnic tables for campers.

Figure 15: *Map of County-Owned Public Campgrounds.*



B. PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

The majority of camping facilities in Barron County are provided by private campgrounds. There are dozens of private campgrounds offering over 1,200 campsites around the County. Facilities range from basic to elaborate, and similar to public campgrounds, are heavily used throughout the summer months.

Figure 16: *Amenities Provided at County-Owned Public Campgrounds.*

Name	Camp Sites	Shelter/ Pavilion	Electricity	Showers
1. Waldo Carlson Park	36	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. Veteran's Memorial Park	29	Yes	Yes	Yes
3. Southworth Memorial Park	30	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Kirby Lake Primitive	3	No	No	No
5. Chain Lake/Twin Lake Primitive	2	No	No	No

Barron County hosts an online reservation system for County campgrounds (including Eagle Point Campground). Reservations can be made at https://parks.co.barron.wi.us/parks/

C. PICNICKING

In previous decades, waysides and rest stops along Interstates and State Highways in Wisconsin provided a significant number of picnic opportunities for traveling residents or tourists. Today, picnic areas are often found in combination with other facilities, such as campgrounds, neighborhood parks or community parks, and supplement the range of recreational facilities offered at those sites.

Of the three major providers of picnicking facilities (state, County, and municipalities), municipalities offer the greatest number of facilities and acres devoted to this activity. However, Barron County also provides several picnic amenities at nearly all County owned facilities, and recognizes the importance of these amenities to those recreating at County parks.

Figure 17: *ATV Intensive Use Area. Almena, WI.*

Figure 18: *Silver Lake Grant Park. Cumberland WI.*

D. SIGHTSEEING/SCENIC DRIVING

Barron County has a well-developed highway system. Rolling wooded hills interspersed with farms and lakes make the County an attractive place for scenic driving, especially in the fall when autumn colors are at their best.

The Blue Hills in the northeastern part of the County were once part of a large mountain range. Successive glaciers over geologic time have eroded the mountains down to rounded hills. A panoramic view of the surrounding countryside can be had from the top of these hills.

The Wisconsin Rustic Roads program features three road segments in Barron County that are an excellent opportunity for experiencing the rural, rolling hills of Barron County. The Rustic Roads system in Wisconsin was created by the 1973 State Legislature in an effort to preserve Wisconsin's scenic, lightly traveled country roads for the leisurely enjoyment of bikers, hikers, and motorists. Routes are marked with unique brown and yellow signs and each are numbered with the "R" prefix to avoid confusion with the state highway number.

Figure 19: *Rural County Rd. Barron County, WI.*

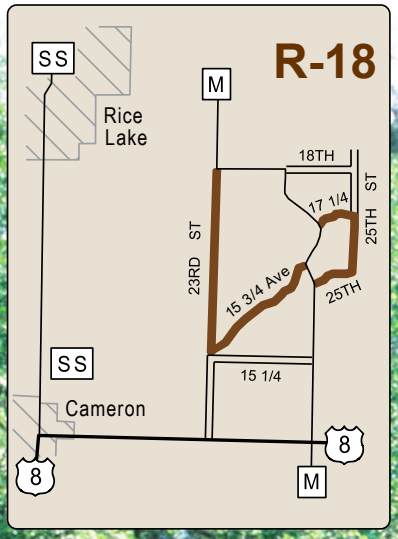
BARRON COUNTY RUSTIC ROADS

R-18

Barron County. 23rd Street, 15¾ Avenue, 25th Street and 17¼ Avenue beginning and ending at County M.

Length: 6.8 miles, paved surface

Dense stands of white oak, aspen and birch trees line this narrow Rustic Road.

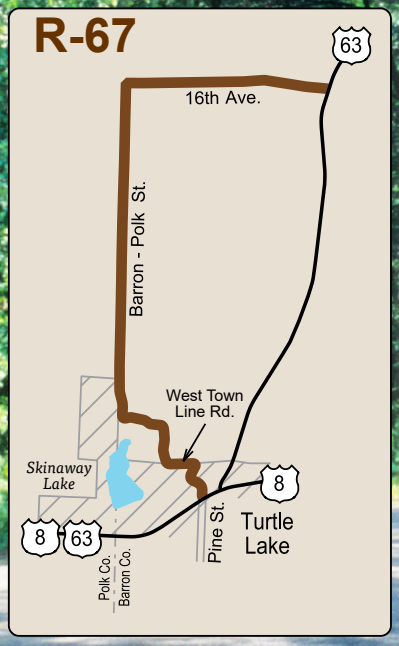


R-67

Barron and Polk counties. Portions of Pine Street, West Town Line Road, Barron-Polk Street and 16th Avenue, forming a loop from US 8 to US 63.

Length: 4.6 miles, paved and gravel portions

Winds through woods and wetlands, along fields and forests, and around the edge of Skinaway Lake. Wildlife and wildflowers abound. This route provides a quiet, picturesque adventure through the northwestern Wisconsin countryside.



R-83

Northwest Wisconsin: Barron County. 13¾–16th Street/ Narrow Gauge Road between County V and 30th Avenue at the Barron and Washburn County line.

Length: 4.6 miles

Surface: Gravel

R-83 is in the town of Bear Lake and is on Narrow Gauge Road, so-called because it follows the route of an old railroad line used in the logging era. The route meanders through the 4,100-acre Barron County Forest and intersects the Ice Age Trail. Narrow Gauge Road passes through diverse terrain with native wildlife and vegetation.

Data Source: The descriptions and illustrations of Barron County Rustic Roads were taken from the 2018 Rustic Roads Guide published by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Photo Credit: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

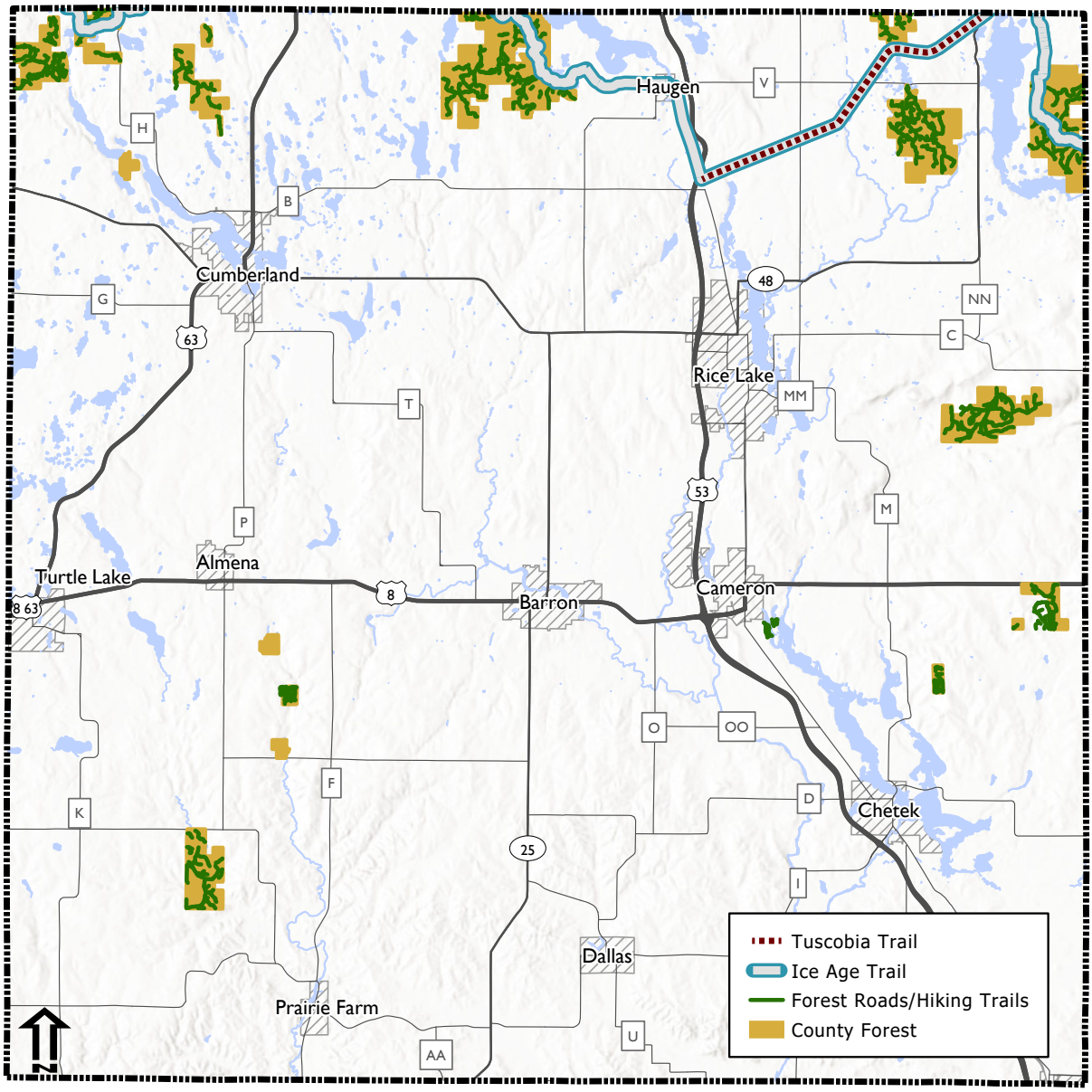
E. HIKING/NATURE TRAILS/ SNOWSHOEING

Barron County offers a variety of opportunities for day hikes, nature walks, and longer cross-country treks. There are several miles of multi-use trails in County forest land, with additional trails offered in individual communities. County forest trails are available for year-round hiking and are scattered throughout the County as shown in Figure 20 below.

A portion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail traverses parts of northern Barron County along a glacial terminal moraine and will ultimately extend from Potawatomi State Park in Door County to Interstate State Park in Polk County.

The state-owned Tuscobia Trail begins in Barron County at HWY SS, three and a half miles north of Rice Lake, and runs 74 miles to STH 13 near Park Falls WI. The trail is on a former railroad corridor and is used primarily by hikers and backpackers in the summer, and snowmobiles in winter.

Figure 20: *Map of State Trails and Forest Multi-Use Trails in Barron County.*



F. BICYCLING

Bicycling is growing in popularity and the increased participation in this activity indicates a need for designated bike routes. In 2015 the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) assessed state and County highways based on their suitability for biking throughout Barron County (Figure 24).

Many of the County highways in particular are well-suited to biking. While town roads were not explicitly evaluated in WisDOT's analysis, many are likely to provide a safe biking facility, as most rural roads have low traffic volumes and are well maintained.

Off-road bicycling (or mountain/fat tire biking) also continues to increase in popularity throughout the County. There are several miles of trails accessible by mountain bike at various skill levels and the Chippewa Off Road Bike Association (CORBA) is a volunteer based organization that works to develop single-track trails for mountain biking in the region. Currently, CORBA has made trail improvements at Pipestone Quarry (7 miles east of Rice Lake), Hiawatha Park (Rice Lake), and Silver Creek Trails (Clayton).

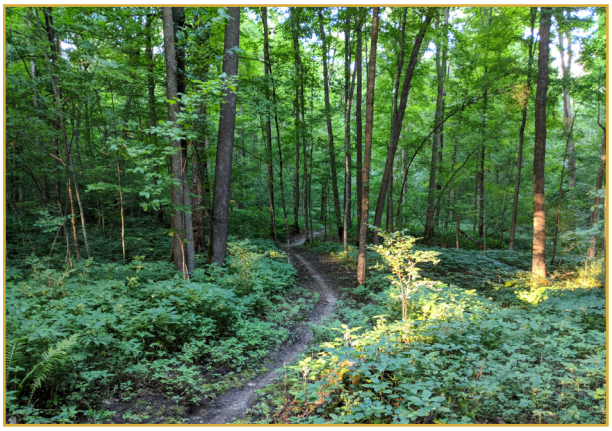


Figure 21: *Silver Creek Mountain Bike Trails. Clayton, WI.*

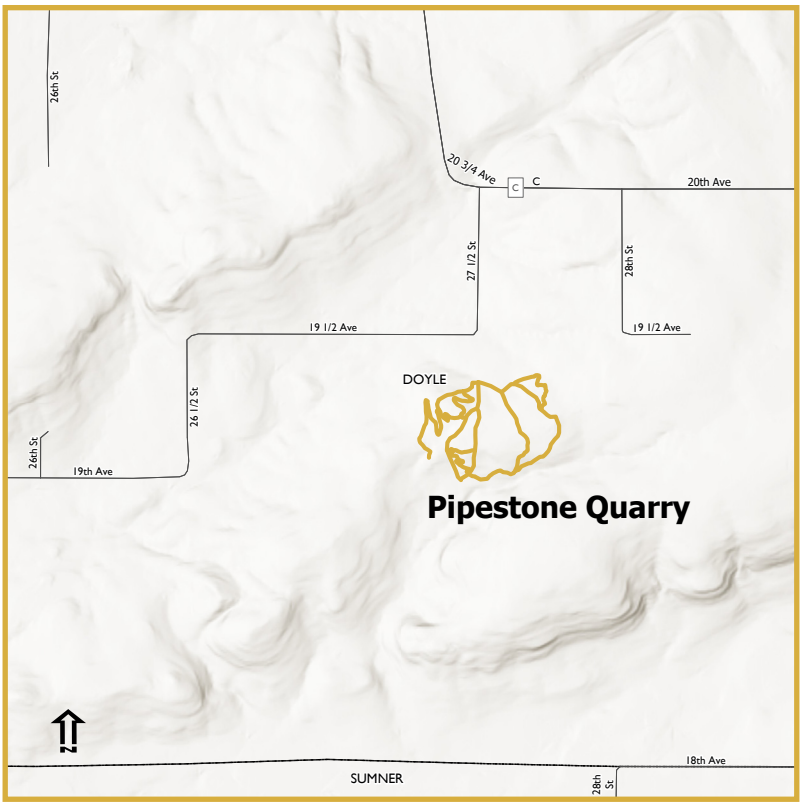
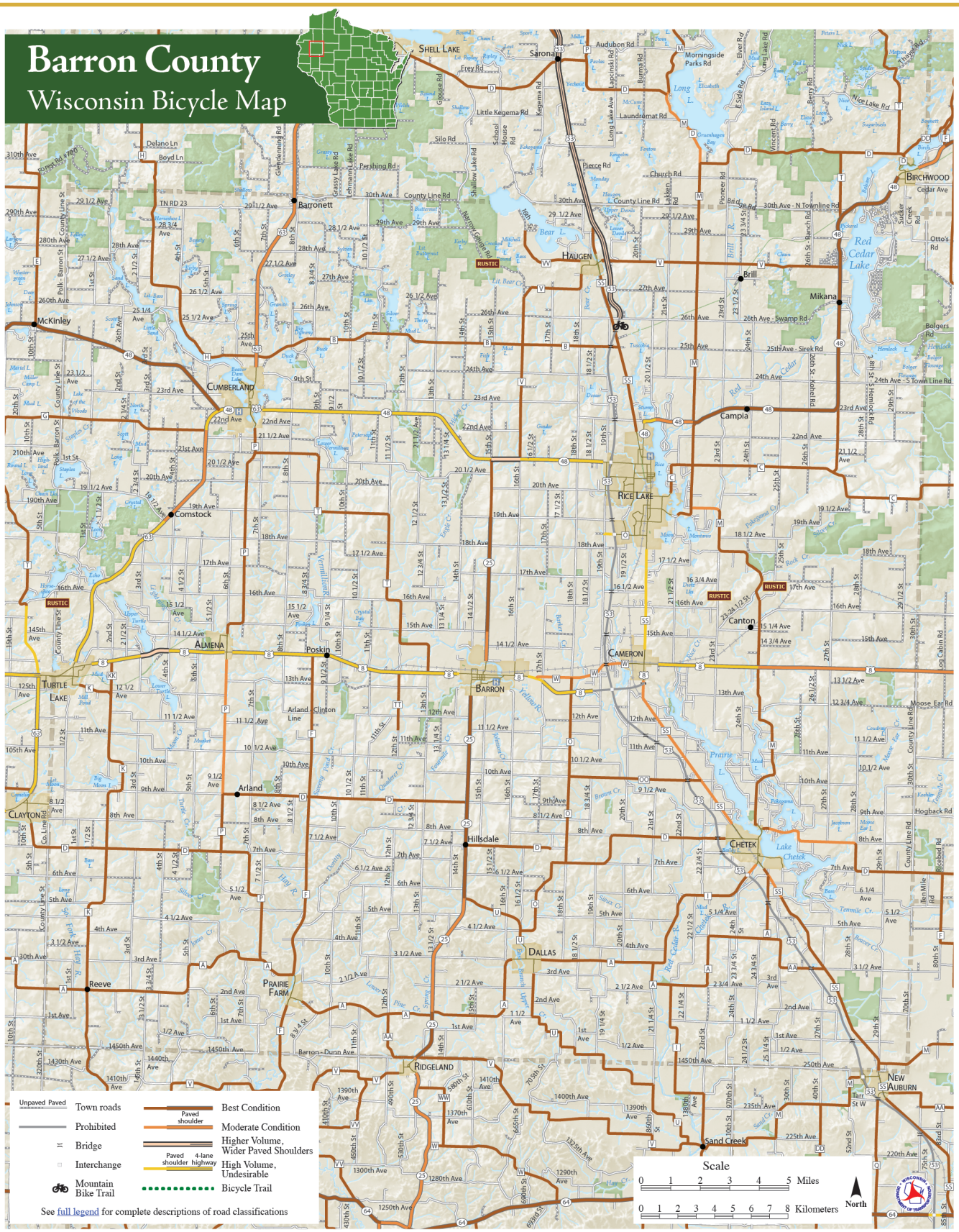


Figure 22: *Pipestone Quarry Mountain Bike Trails. Rice Lake, WI.*

Figure 23: *Silver Creek Mountain Bike Trails. Clayton, WI.*

Figure 24: *Road Cycling Suitability Map. Produced by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 2015.*



G. HUNTING & SHOOTING

With over 112,000 acres of forested land, Barron County provides an excellent opportunity for this recreational activity. In addition, there are an estimated 11,000 acres of marsh and bog, which provide good waterfowl habitat. Much of the hunting is done on private property with additional state properties open to this and several other outdoor recreation activities.

Figure 25: *Nearby State Lands Open to Hunting.*

Property Name
1. Engle Creek Springs Fishery Area
2. Loon Lake Wildlife Area
3. Loon Lake Woods State Natural Area
4. New Auburn Sedge Meadow State Natural Area
5. New Auburn Wildlife Area
6. Rock Creek Felsenmeer State Natural Area
7. Yellow River Fishery Area

H. HORSEBACK RIDING

There are currently 6 miles of horse riding trails in the Narrow Gauge area of Bear Lake Township on County forest land. The trails in this area are managed by the Barron County Horse Trail Association who has worked to improve parking areas and develop a primitive camp system in the forest. There are two trailheads (north and south) that accommodate trailers of various sizes with maps and trail information located at both trailheads.

PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES

The Maple Plain Shooting Range (Town of Maple Plain) has restrooms, new paved parking facilities, and paved paths to open firing stations.

The Owen Anderson Public Shooting Range (Town of Clayton) is more developed with restrooms, paved parking, and paved paths to covered firing stations, new benches, and equipment stands.

Figure 26: *Map of Narrow Gauge Horse Riding Trails. Bear Lake, WI.*

I. CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Barron County has nearly 20 miles of trails available for cross-country skiing. The Barron Area Nordic Trail Association (BANTA) maintains a series of trails in an area of oak and maple forest known locally as Rockman's Woods. This area includes sections owned by Barron County, City of Barron, and the Barron Area School District. There are 4 km of ski trails in the woods, and an additional 2 km in the privately owned fields south of the woods. There is a lighting system on the trails in the woods that operates nightly from dusk to 10 pm.

The area known as Timberland West near Cumberland is managed by the Cumberland Area Ski Association (CASTA). This group also manages Timberland Hills that is just outside Barron County. Timberland Hills and Timberland West are only 1.5 miles apart and together, these sites offer groomed trail systems with lights for night skiing at the Timberland West site (2.5 km).

J. DOWNHILL SKIING

Christie Mountain Ski Area is located 18 miles east of the City of Rice, high in the Blue Hills snow-belt. The resort is a family-oriented downhill ski area that offers a variety of trails and parks for all skill levels and includes a chalet, rental shop and overnight accommodations.

There are 30 ski trails (24 lighted) with 1 double chair lift, 3 rope tows, and one T-Bar. Snow tubing is also a popular activity at the resort along with rock climbing in the summer.

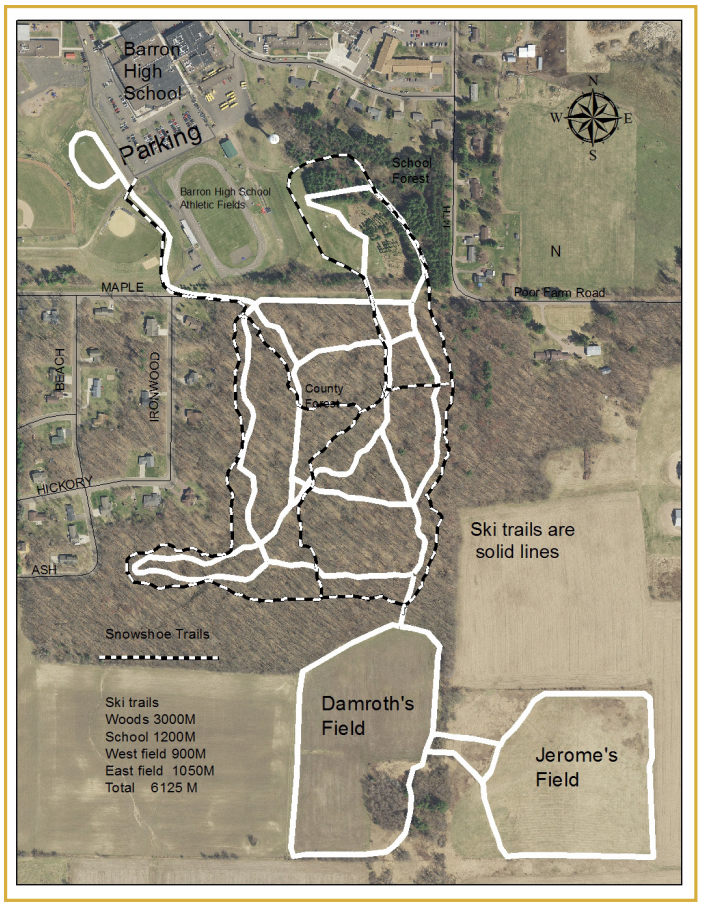


Figure 27: *Rockman's Woods Trail Map.*

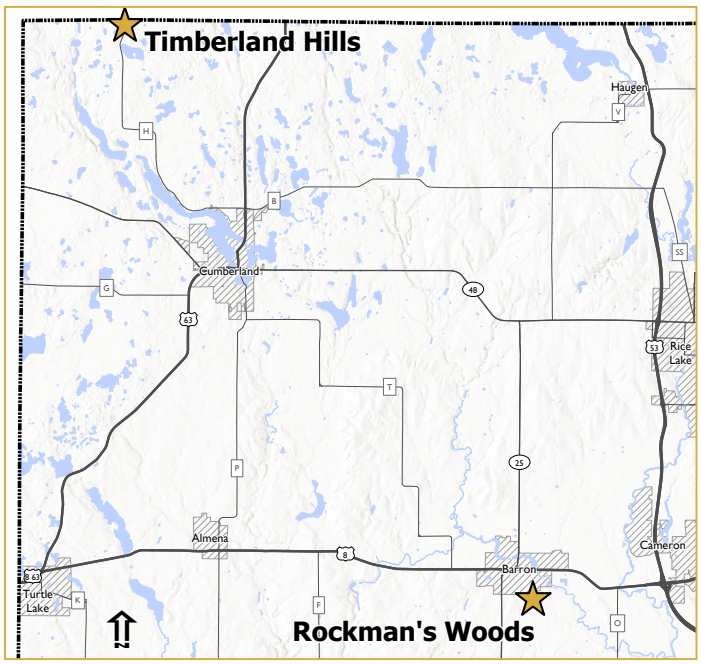


Figure 28: *Developed Areas for Cross-Country Skiing.*

K. SNOWMOBILING

Large tracts of public lands and good climatic conditions provide for ample snowmobiling opportunities. Private lands are also extensively used for this activity. There are more than 309 miles of designated snowmobile trails, which are signed and groomed according to state standards. There are also several miles of trails that are developed and maintained by active snowmobile clubs throughout the County.

The Cat Tail trail is a popular 8 mile segment that originates in Almena and continues west into Polk County to Amery (approximately 22 miles). The Wild Rivers Trail is also popular route. This 9 mile segment originates in Rice Lake, continuing north through Washburn and Douglas Counties to Solon Springs (a total of 62 miles).

Although not marked or designated as snowmobile trails, there are several unimproved roads and trails throughout the County that provide additional miles of trails open to public snowmobiling. Riders are encouraged to check with local clubs or County staff regarding any areas that are not marked or designated as official trails.

Figure 29: *ATV Intensive Use Area. Almena, WI.*

GOALS & FUTURE PROJECTS

Many snowmobile and ATV users expressed interest in expanding the current trail systems, improving access and linkages between Barron and Rusk County, and identifying opportunities to expand parking facilities at trailheads for residents and visitors using trail networks in Barron County.

L. ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

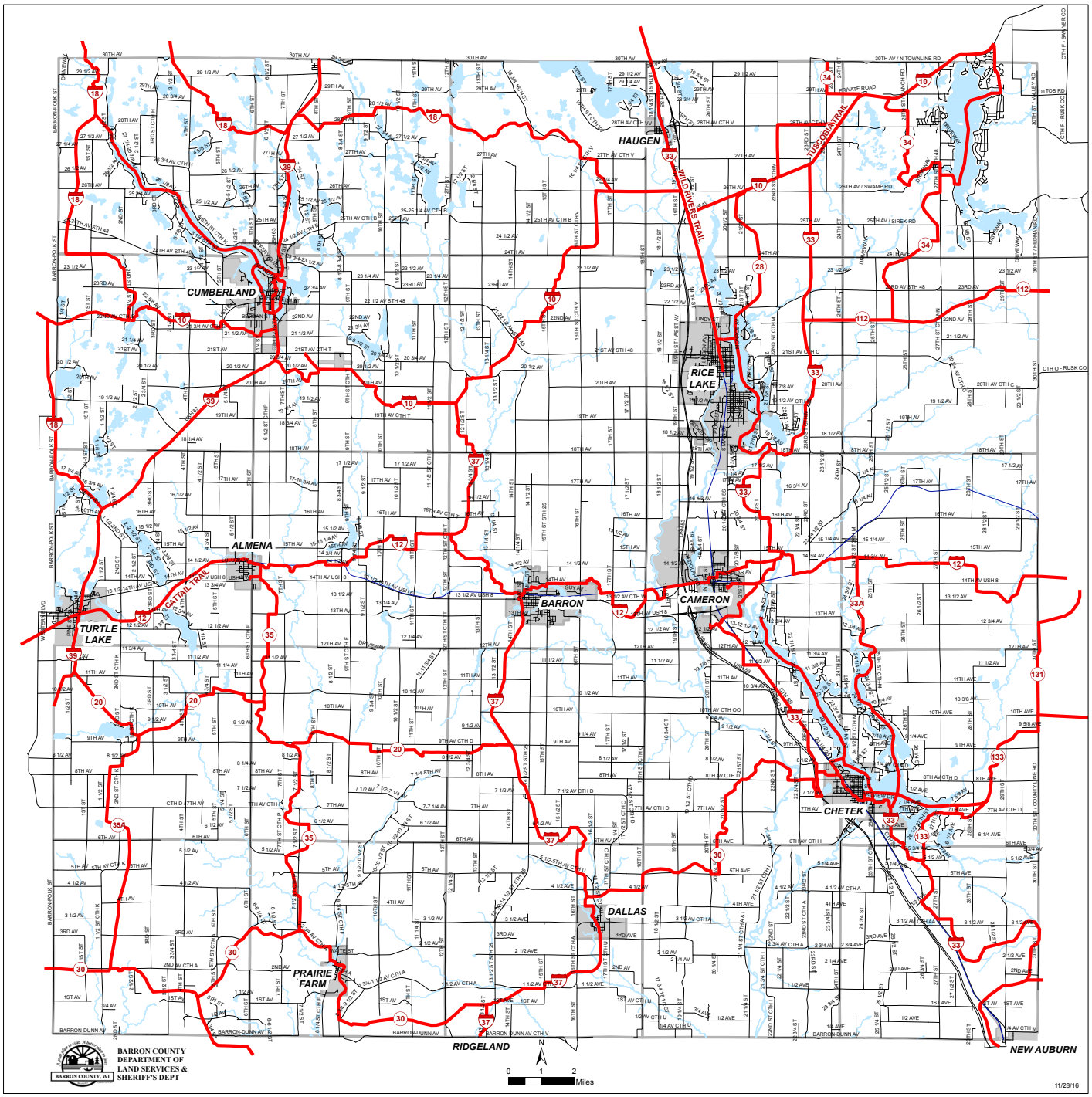
Barron County has an extensive all-terrain vehicle (ATV) program. Like with snowmobiling, ATV clubs in the County help promote the sport as a safe and enjoyable activity. There are a total of 79 miles of ATV trails and routes in the County Forest Summer ATV system.

The Cat Tail Trail Extension is a popular 16 mile segment that originates in Almena and continues east to Cameron. Three miles east of Almena there is a 40-acre intensive use area for ATV's (playground). This facility also has a 3-acre parking lot, with a loading/unloading ramp, large shelter, picnic tables, and permanent restrooms.

Clubs actively meet and plan for trail maintenance and improvements. Members donate significant time to maintain trails and apply for external funding or grants to help fund the purchase of equipment or to provide additional trail amenities.

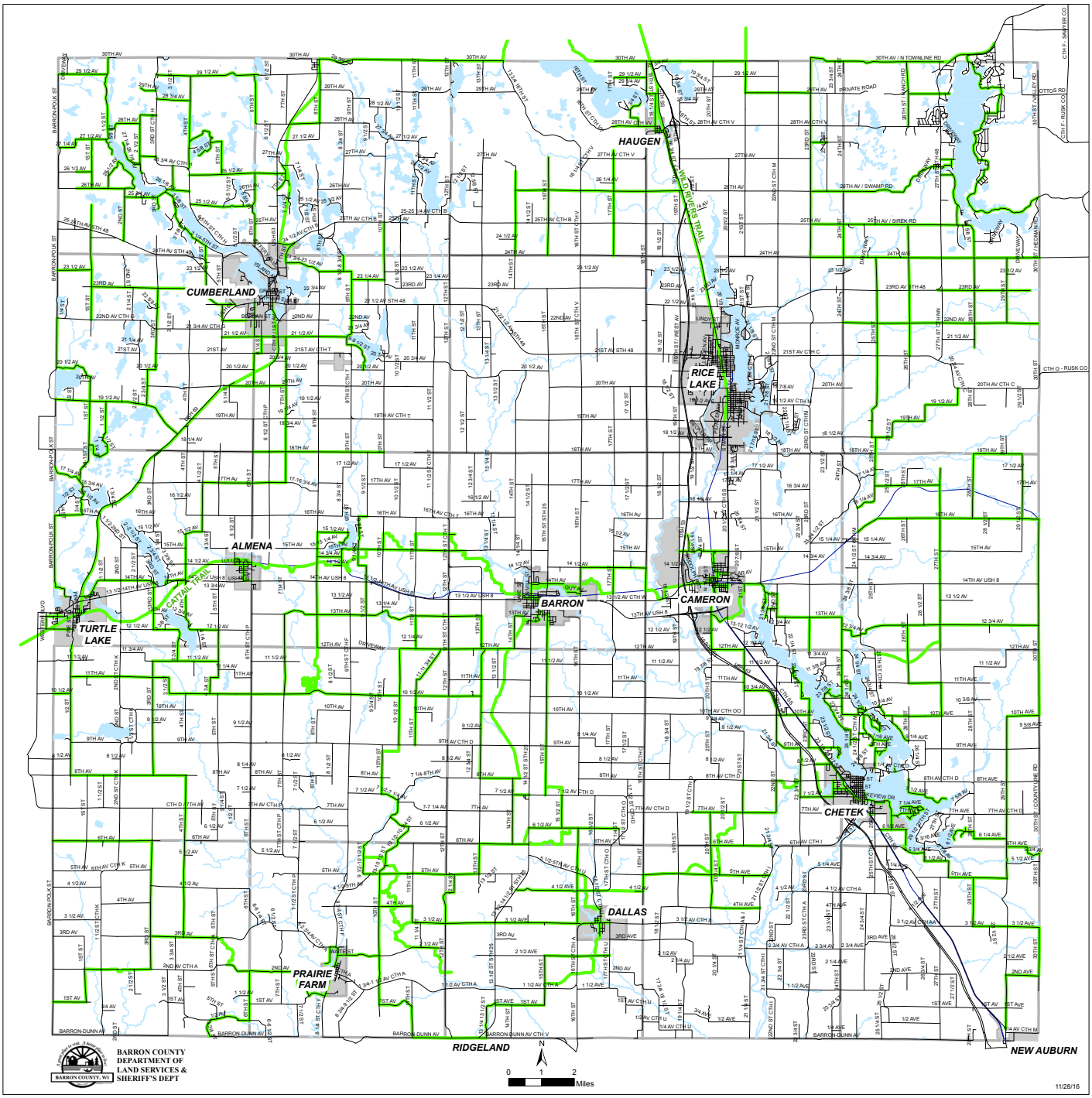
Barron County Snowmobile Trails

Figure 30: *Map of Barron County Snowmobile Trails.*



Barron County ATV Trails

Figure 31: *Map of Barron County ATV Trails.*



M. FISHING & LAKE ACCESS

Barron County has 369 lakes and 469 miles of streams and rivers which provide excellent fishing opportunities for residents and non-residents alike. Forty-nine of the 369 lakes are 50 acres or more in size, and there are 93 mapped lake access points in the County shown in Figure 35.

Public access is available at all but a few of the larger lakes and commercial facilities. Amenities such as gasoline, bait, boat rental, and more can be found on most of the larger lakes and the most common game fish species caught in County area waters includes northern pike, walleye, bass, muskellunge, and panfish.

The County maintains several public boat landings at many of their park facilities along with a number of fishing piers that are accessible to everyone. Shore fishing from County owned dams is also a popular recreation activity at the following locations:

- **Mikana Dam** - Headwaters of the Red Cedar River. Located in Mikana, this area has a picnic area with a toilet and playground equipment. Shore fishing is done both above and below the dam and for a few hundred feet downstream on the north side of the stream .
- **Rice Lake Dam** - There is a picnic area at this location. Most of the shore fishing is done from the newly improved railroad trestle upstream of the dam. Access below the dam is difficult.
- **Chetek Dam** - Fishing is done from the structure itself in addition to areas below the dam.
- **Haugen Dam** - This area is primarily used as a spring fishing spot below the dam.

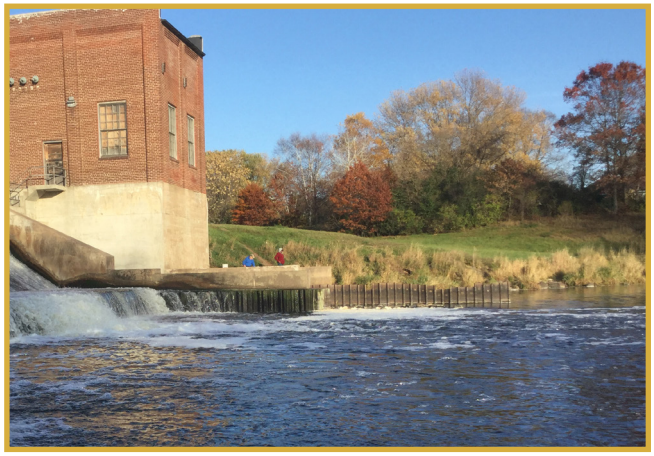


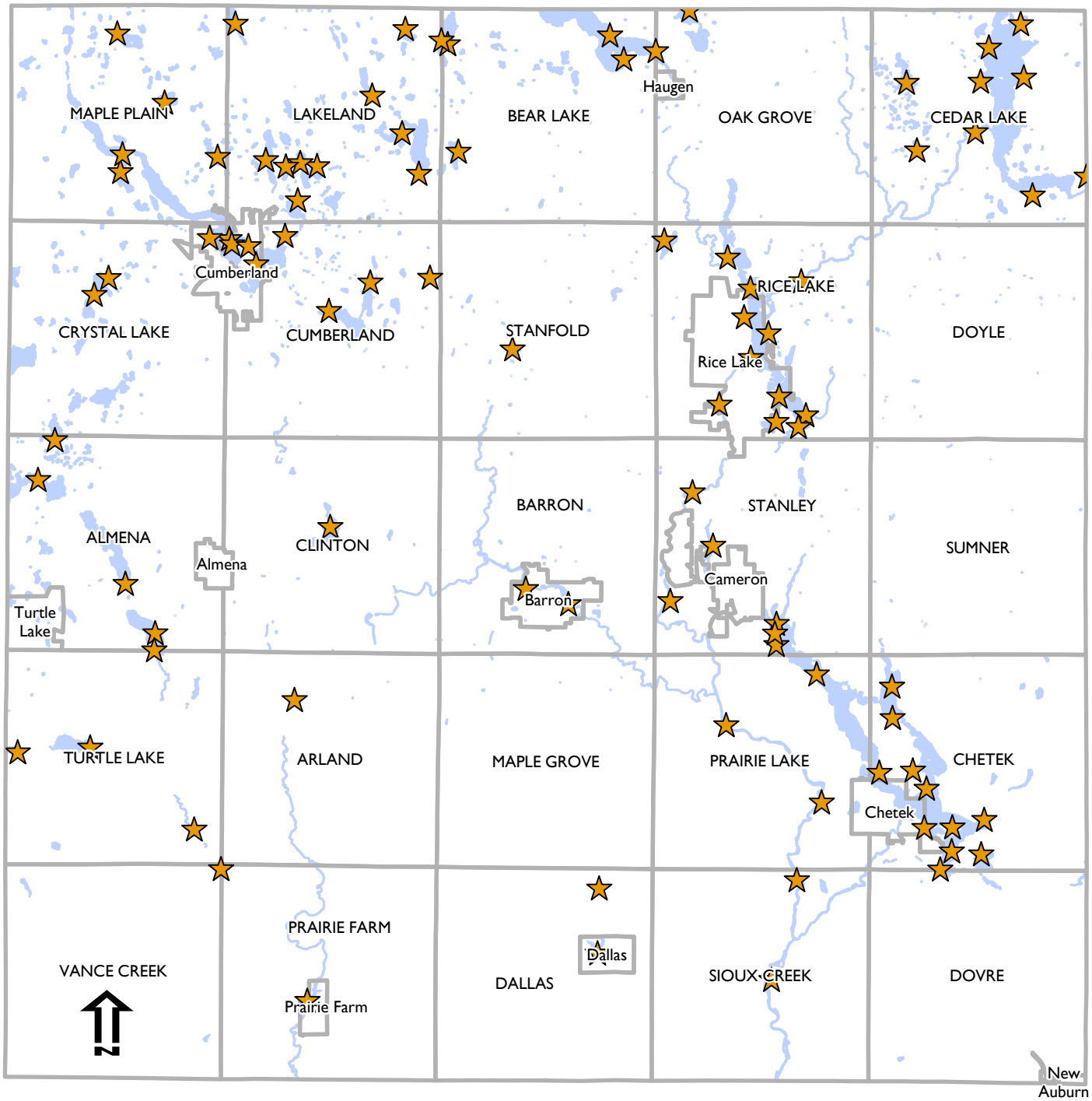
Figure 32: *Chetek Dam.*

Figure 33: *Mikana Dam.*

Figure 34: *Haugen Dam.*

Barron County Lake Access Points

Figure 35: *Public Lake Access Points in Barron County, WI. Visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources online for more detailed information about lake access points and amenities offered at these locations.*



N. TROUT STREAMS

There are 366 miles of warm-water creeks and streams and 103 miles of cold-water habitat suitable for trout. Leading fishing streams for brook and brown trout are the Yellow River and its tributaries and Upper Pine Creek. There are over 229 miles of Class I - III trout waters in Barron County that provide excellent stream and river fishing opportunities. See Figure 38 for a map of all trout waters in Barron County.

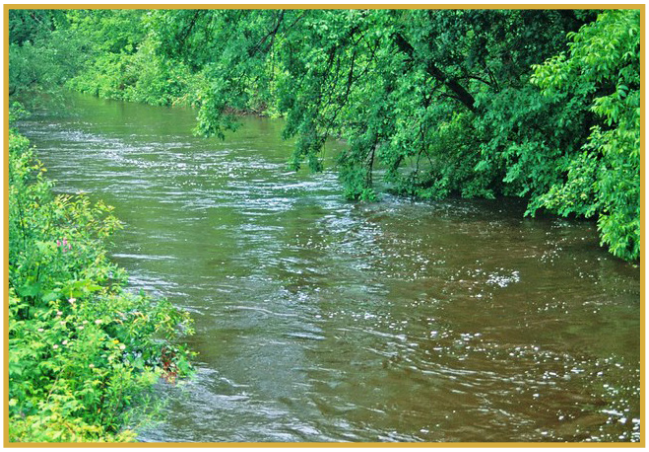


Figure 36: *Yellow River. WDNR Photo.*

O. SWIMMING

While there are many lakes throughout the County that are amenable to swimming, County beaches are not improved areas for swimming. Grant Park at Silver Lake is the only public beach in the County, and several municipalities in the County have indoor/outdoor pools accessible to the public.

Many resorts also have private beaches and undesignated swim areas exist throughout the County. However, these areas were not inventoried because they are generally inaccessible to the general public and like County swim areas, most do not have lifeguards on duty.

P. WATER SKIING/BOATING

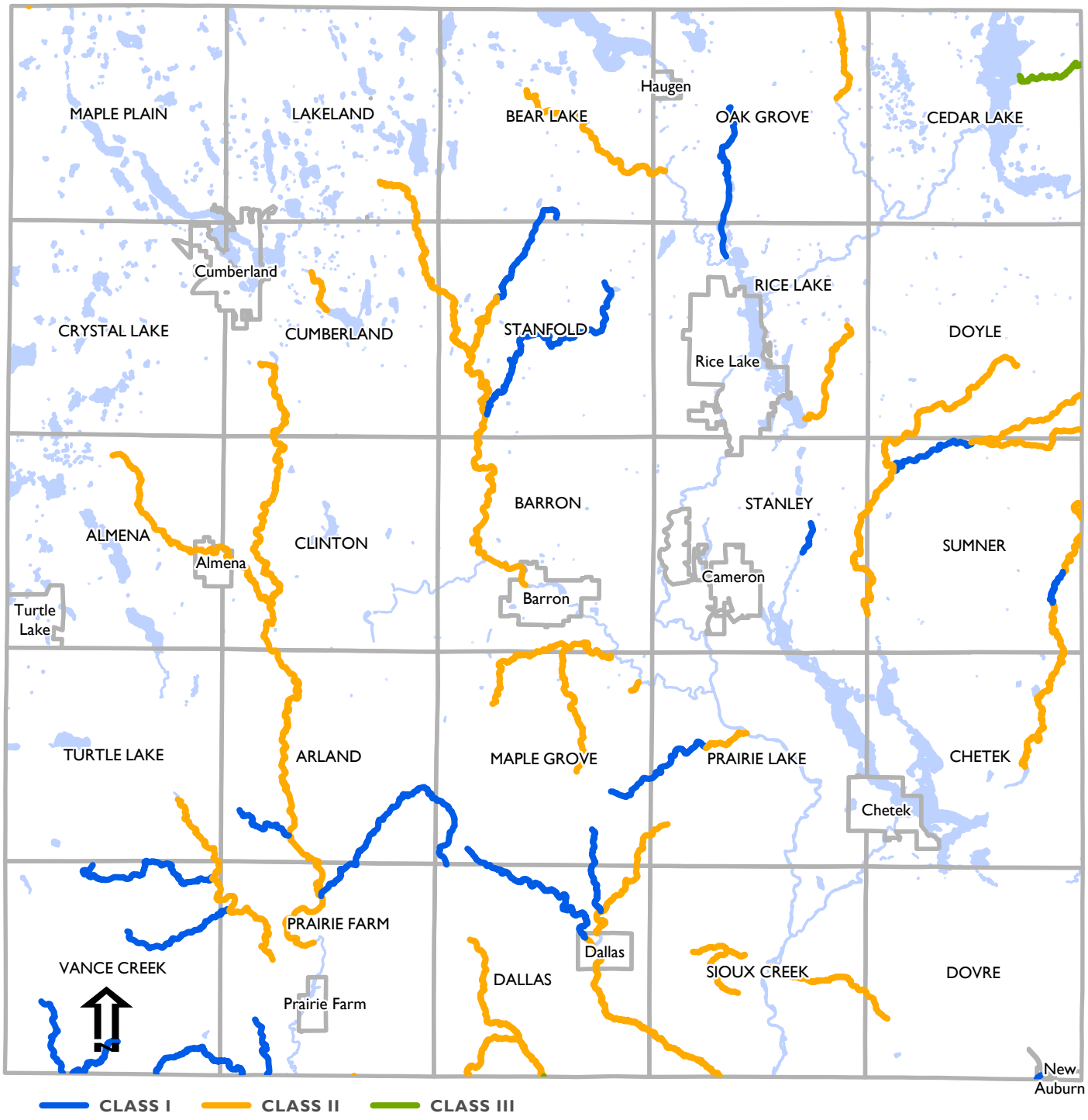
A lake of 100 acres is the smallest size recommended for major boating activities. Barron County has 32 natural lakes and impoundments (a total of 13,413 acres) of 100 acres or more. There are 17 major water bodies with boat landings scattered all over the County.

Figure 37: *Pontoon Docked. WDNR Photo.*

For the larger and more heavily used lakes in the County, parking tends to be the greatest problem along with access to restrooms or additional facilities in the larger chain-of-lakes. User conflicts also arise between water skiing/pleasure boaters, anglers, and non-motorized boaters during peak summer holiday use on several of the more heavily used lakes such as Silver Lake and Beaver Dam Lake.

Barron County Trout Streams

Figure 38: *Trout Streams in Barron County, WI. Visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources online for more detailed information about trout stream classifications and locations.*



Q. TUBING/CANOEING/KAYAKING

Tubing is a popular outdoor recreation activity on the Red Cedar River between Rice Lake and Cameron. Several businesses offer canoe, kayak, and tube rentals along with shuttle services to and from drop off locations along the river.

There are 50 stream miles in Barron County well-suited for canoeing which is identified by rivers and streams with an average width of 40 feet or more. Of these, 40 miles are located along the Red Cedar River. Canoeing is possible on the Red Cedar, Hay, Chetek, Yellow, and Vermillion Rivers.

Other streams can be floated under certain conditions. However, the inventory was restricted to those rivers and streams with an average width of 40 feet or more (see Figure 40 for river access points). Although the County's rivers offer little challenge to white water canoeists, family and leisure time canoeists find them scenic and enjoyable.

Figure 39: *Johnson Landing. Barron, WI.*

RED CEDAR RIVER ACCESS POINTS & TRIBUTARY ROUTES IN BARRON County

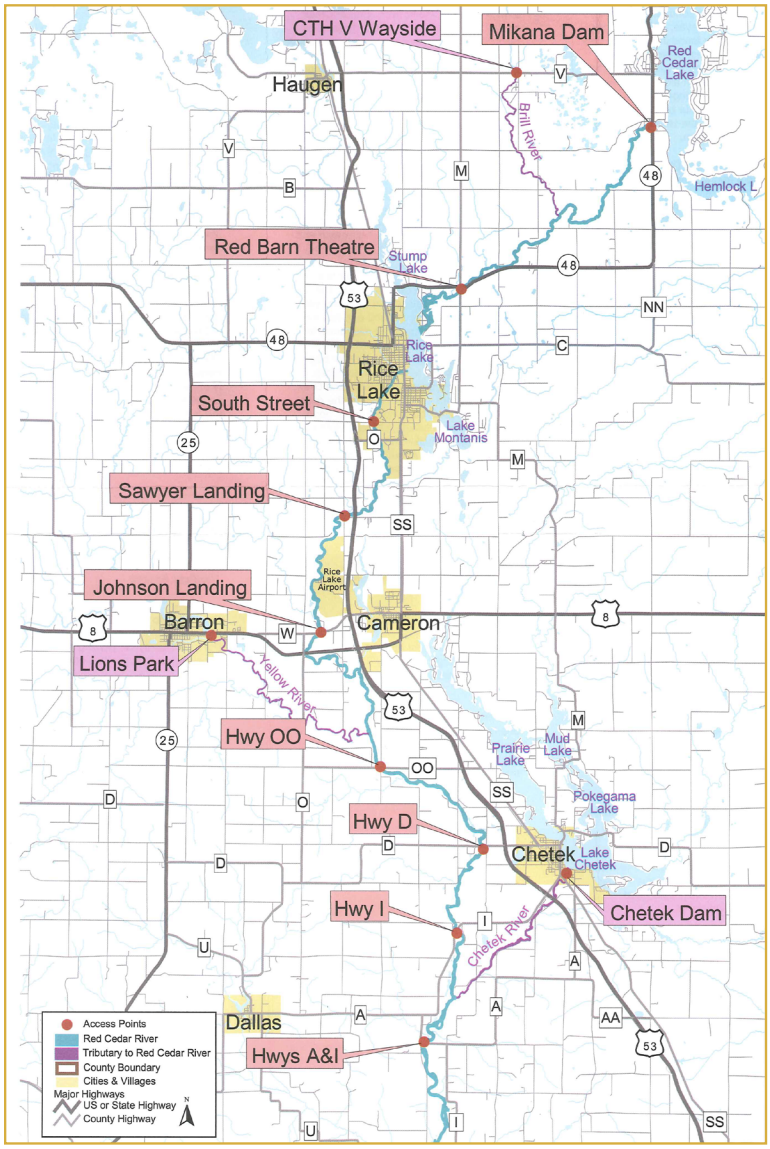


Figure 40: *Map of access points for the Red Cedar River. Detailed river fishing and boating information can be found online at:* ***www.barronCountywi.gov.***

Other Parks & Outdoor Recreation Facilities

A. MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

While the previous sub-section describing Barron County's recreational supply primarily focuses on County-owned facilities, all cities and villages, and a handful of towns, also provide parks and outdoor recreation facilities for their residents. These community and neighborhood parks typically serve a limited geographic area, but can attract a lot of visitors and tourists.

School facilities are also an important component of the overall park inventory for Barron County. School facilities are not included in the overall totals for public recreation facilities because they are not accessible to the general public at all times, and they are not owned and maintained by a unit of government. However, school facilities with equipment often serve as neighborhood playgrounds, and are an important component of the overall recreation supply in the County.

B. GOLF COURSES

This study identified 8 public golf courses in Barron County. All courses are well maintained and have adequate support facilities which include water, clubhouse, pro shop, and refreshment center.

Figure 41: *List of golf courses; small location map (right).*

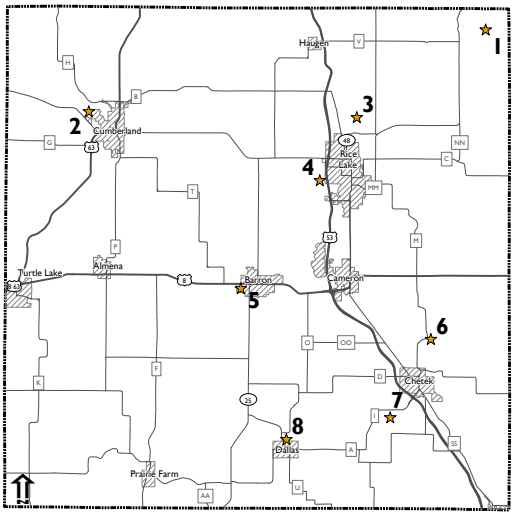
Golf Course Name	No. of Holes
1. Tagalong Golf Course (Cedar Lake)	18
2. Cumberland Golf Club (Cumberland)	18
3. Lynndale's Golf Course (Rice Lake)	9
4. Turtleback Golf Course (Rice Lake)	18
5. Rolling Oaks Golf Club (Barron)	18
6. Sunset View Golf Course (Chetek)	9
7. Sioux Creek Golf Course (Chetek)	9
8. Pine Crest Golf Course (Dallas)	9

C. SPECIALIZED OR PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES

An important resource in the mix of recreation opportunities in Barron County includes those facilities owned and maintained by private individuals, non-profit organizations, and businesses. Such facilities are especially important as attractions for visitors and tourists. In Barron County these facilities are generally categorized by the following:

- Campgrounds
- Nature Centers & Parks
- Museums & Historical Sites
- Agritourism, Farm Tours, & Food Production
- Theatres

Planning for Barron County's entire outdoor recreation system requires consideration of facilities and amenities offered by the County, local communities, school districts, non-profit organizations, and businesses. A strong, efficient system can best be achieved through cooperation and leveraging existing resources to everyone's benefit.

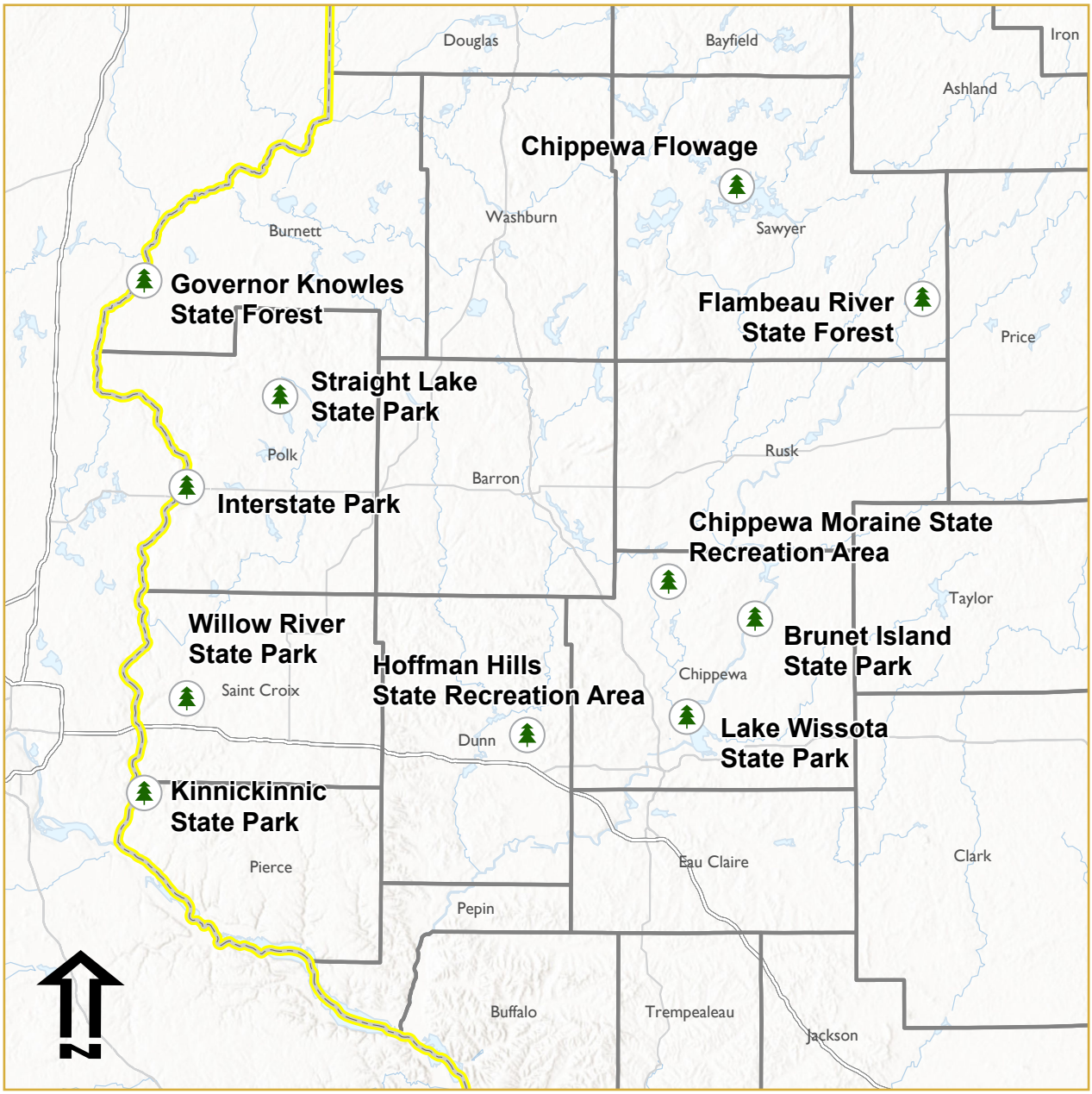


D. NEARBY FEDERAL & STATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Federal recreational facilities located within a 50-mile planning radius of Barron County include the National Ice Age Trail, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and Eau Galle Federal Reservoir (maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers).

Depending on where residents live in Barron County, there are also several Wisconsin State Parks within 50 miles along rural scenic routes and highways. These nearby state lands are open to a variety of outdoor recreation activities and detailed activities for each location can be found online at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website - www.dnr.wi.gov.

Figure 42: *Map of nearby Wisconsin State Park, Forest, or Recreation Area.*



Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

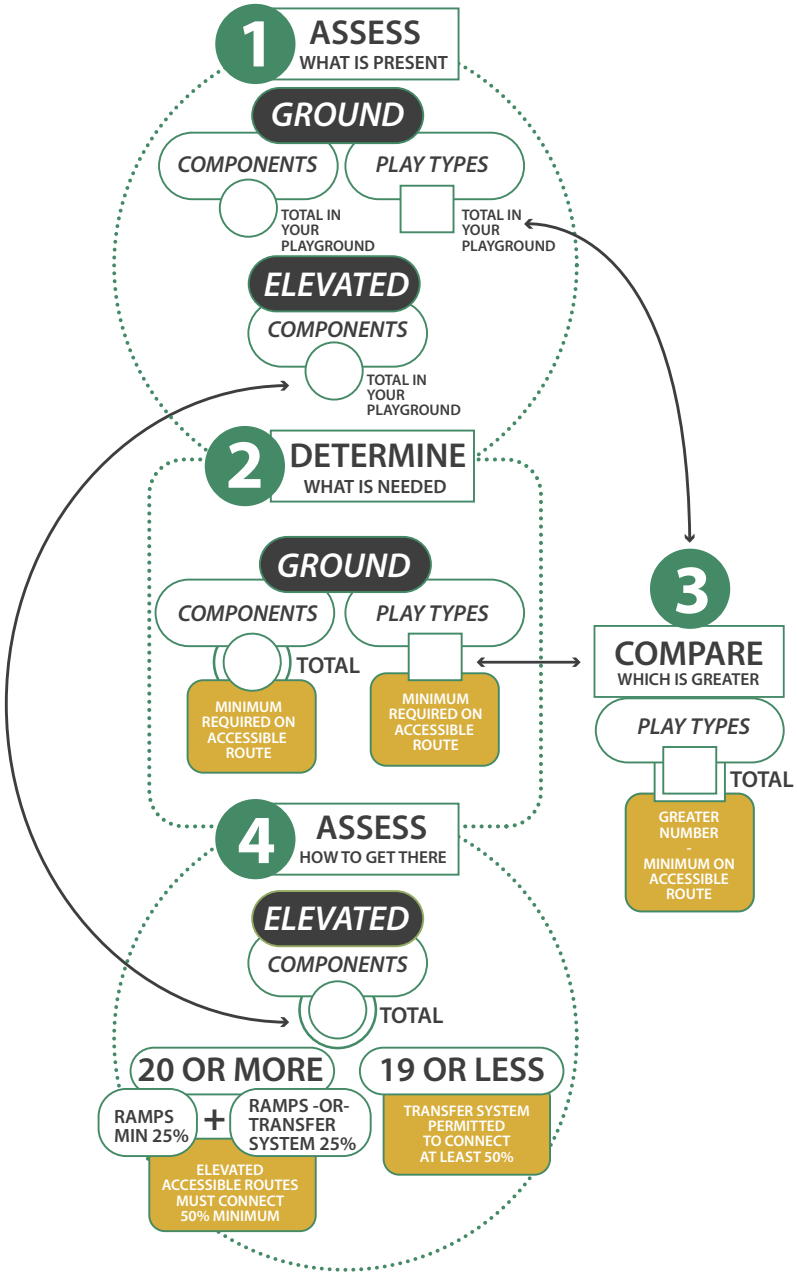
A community's recreational programs and activities play an important part of the life of community. No physical or policy barriers should exist that keep people with disabilities from participating. Barron County and its communities are committed to providing ample recreational options for persons with disabilities, but also recognize that some trails and non-play areas may not be conducive to such improvements due to topography and other site factors.

Currently, not all Barron County and community park facilities, walkways, trails, play equipment, and restrooms are fully accessible for persons with disabilities and comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The County has made progress in improving such facilities and equipment, but there is still more work needed.

As can be seen in Figure 43, ADA design guidelines for park and playground accessibility contain many details and can be complicated. These guidelines include details such as surface types, surface widths, slopes, handrails, and transfer stations.

The U.S. Access Board has issued a guide to the ADA accessibility guidelines for play areas which is available at their website: www.access-board.gov. The County may be required to obtain professional assistance in meeting these guidelines but otherwise makes a concerted effort to mitigate or eliminate access and mobility concerns within County park facilities.

Figure 43: *ADA Guidelines for Park & Playground Accessibility.*



SECTION IV: OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TOP OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE

- Quality of Life to Retain & Attract New Residents
- Tourism & Economic Development
- Meeting Recreation Demands & Needs of Residents
- Increase Knowledge of County Parks & Facilities
- Offering Wilderness Experiences Close to Home
- Maintaining a Diverse Park System to Avoid Overcrowding
- Recognizing County Investment in Park Facilities
- Identify & Pursue Grant Funding for Future Projects or Improvements

Public Input Assessment

A. ONLINE SURVEY

At the kick-off meeting for the plan update in early December 2018, the steering committee agreed to work with WCWRPC to develop and distribute an online survey; open to anyone with recreation interests in Barron County. The survey consisted of four questions and was primarily distributed by the steering committee, with help from Barron County Tourism and the Barron County Economic Development Corporation.

Survey participation was requested via e-mail, Facebook, and through notices or links posted at various County websites. The survey focused on use of County recreational facilities and offered participants an opportunity to provide input for future improvements. Questions from the web-based survey include:

- Participant zip code (where they reside)
- Participant ranking of access to areas or facilities for 33 different outdoor recreation activities in Barron County (where they recreate and how)
- Request for comments regarding specific examples where significant improvements are needed to improve access to outdoor recreation activities in the County
- How often participants use any or all of the 29 County parks/areas listed in the survey

Respondents helped identify recreation opportunities and demands while also providing input on ways to make significant improvements to the County's recreation facilities and opportunities.

Survey Respondents 429

Of the current outdoor recreation opportunities and demands in the County, the majority of respondents feel that the following facilities are doing a good job meeting demand, and do not require significant improvements:

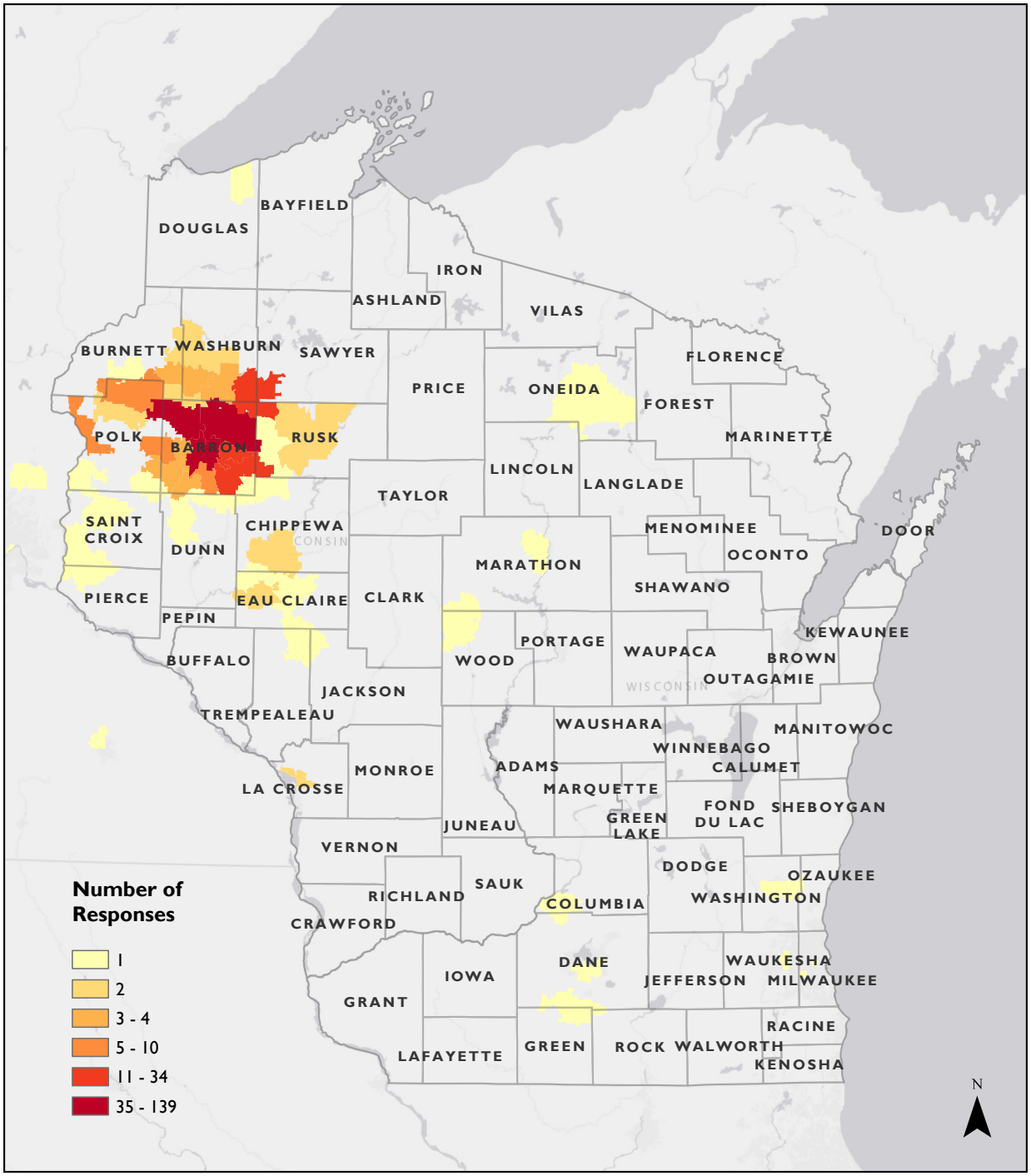
- **Golfing (59%)**
- **Lake fishing from boat (55%)**
- **Pleasure driving & sightseeing (56%)**
- **Motorboat, water-skiing & jet-skiing (52%)**

Areas where respondents identified the need for significant improvements include the following recreation activities:

- **Mountain biking (27%)**
- **Swimming – beach, pool, splash pad (27%)**
- **Nature-based educational programs (28%)**
- **Road cycling (26%)**
- **Hiking & Backpacking (23%)**
- **Cross-country skiing (23%)**
- **Snowshoeing (20%)**

Map of Barron County Survey Participation

Figure 44: *Map of survey responses by Zip Code.*



WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE
BARRON COUNTY, WI

Data Sources:
WCWRPC, Survey Moneky,
Wisconsin Department of Administration

While many of the respondents identified infrequent use for many of the facilities listed in the survey, **County boat landings were the most often used facility,** with 48% of respondents identifying frequent use of these facilities. Bike routes and trails, including the Ice-Age Trail and Tuscobia Trails were also ranked high for frequent use by respondents at 35%.

Upon review of the comments provided by respondents, many commented on the lack of awareness or information regarding Barron County recreational amenities. Respondents also commented on the economic and tourism potential of proper marketing and outreach of County facilities to individuals living outside the County, with specific references to the Twin Cities area of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Upon initial meetings with Barron County, this lack of information for recreation opportunities and facilities was expressed as a known concern among the steering committee throughout this project. Barron County was referred to having many "hidden gems" that provide excellent year-round recreation opportunities.

Barron County has made many significant improvements to facilities referenced in this document over the last several years, along with the work of a large network of clubs, volunteers, and other nonprofits. There is a lot of momentum in the County to continue to develop and maintain recreation opportunities, along with the need for proper marketing and outreach of existing opportunities, that will help ensure an adequate mix of recreation opportunities for current and future generations.

Comments on Significant Improvements Needed

- Added bike trails/bike lanes and road improvements for bike-friendly roads. More opportunities for silent sports, including trails suitable for families, walkers, and runners without the presence of motors.
- Improved ATV connections and more trails and streets opened-up for access to ATV/UTV travel.
- Addition of disc golf courses.
- Swimming options, including an outdoor pool.
- More hiking trails and mountain bike trails.
- Nature-oriented programming.
- Pickleball courts and other senior-oriented recreation opportunities.

B. STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

Assessing the outdoor recreation needs of Wisconsin's residents and visitors is a major component of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). SCORPs are intended to evaluate outdoor recreation supply, demand, trends, and issues. They are used to set forth ideas about recreation's future role in the state and serve as the blueprint by providing broad guidance to governments at all levels, communities, businesses and organizations on recreation needs and opportunities.

States are required to complete SCORPs every five years to be eligible for participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program. Describing the supply and demand for outdoor recreation in the state as well as describing the criteria and system to distribute LWCF funds are required components of the SCORP. States have the flexibility to incorporate other topics in their SCORP that will help provide a better understanding of the needs and priorities unique to their outdoor recreation resources.

Primary actions for the 2019-2023 Wisconsin SCORP include:

- collect data on Wisconsinites' participation in outdoor recreation;
- conduct initial research on the efficacy and costs of different techniques to gather data on visitors (e.g., numbers, activities pursued, visitation patterns and satisfaction) to public lands;
- update data on the supply of outdoor recreation opportunities, with a focus on properties open to the public for nature-based outdoor recreation; and
- develop priorities for future recreation funding.

State of Wisconsin's Goals for Outdoor Recreation

1. **Boost participation in outdoor recreation**
2. **Grow partnerships**
3. **Provide high-quality experiences**
4. **Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits**
5. **Enhance funding and financial stability**

Regional Recreation Needs Identified in the Great Northwest

- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- ATV/UTV riding
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Fishing
- Four-wheel vehicle driving
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Hunting - big game
- Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
- Off-highway motorcycle riding
- Swimming in lakes and rivers

C. RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES ANALYSIS (ROA)

In June of 2018, The Department of Natural Resources released the Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA). This document compiles information and public input throughout the state regarding:

- Current recreation opportunities
- Existing gaps and needs
- Department-managed properties that may be well-suited to help address these needs

The ROA divides the state in eight regions; the same regions identified and used in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP). Barron County is part of the Great Northwest Region and received input from over 1,300 individuals regarding the opportunities and needs of the region. Some of the highlights from this report for the Great Northwest Region include:

- Hiking/walking/running trails
- Bicycle trails - both paved and natural surface
- Camping - rustic/quiet campgrounds
- Public shore access to lakes and streams

In Barron County, efforts have been made to improve recreation opportunities in these very same areas. The County continues to work with stakeholders and resource professionals to identify and expand existing recreation opportunities in the areas listed above, and plans to continue improving and enhancing those recreation opportunities for its residents and visitors.

Description of the Great Northwest Region

The Great Northwest Region has been an outdoor recreation destination, particularly for those in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro Area, for decades. With over 2 million acres of public lands the region hosts a diverse set of long distance and loop trails, as well as plentiful hiking, hunting and motorized riding opportunities to escape into the wilderness.

Top activities that ROA input form respondents participate in include:

» Bicycling – paved trails

» Bicycling – mountain biking, single track

» Camping – tent

» Canoeing/kayaking

» Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing

» Fishing – from a boat, canoe or kayak

» Fishing – from shore

» Harvesting berries, mushrooms, etc.

» Hiking, walking and running on trails

» Swimming

» Wildlife/bird watching

D. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES DISTRIBUTION & DEMAND

Another tool used to identify parks and recreation needs for the County considers the amount and types of parkland available in the context of the potential recreation population. This plan uses the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) general service standard of 10 acres of public recreation land per 1,000 residents.

Using the inventory provided previously in Section III, Barron County manages 550 acres of public park land and open space. Additionally, Barron County offers an additional 16,264 acres of County forest with recreation access and potential for future improvements.

With the 2017 population of about 45,358 the NRPA service standard above recommends at least 453 acres of public park land for current County residents. In terms of gross park acreage, the County's supply of 550 acres of public park land exceeds the minimum service standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents, even for any anticipated projected population growth over the next several decades.

Despite having sufficient park land available for outdoor recreation based on the County's current and projected population, many of the existing park facilities are not solely used by County residents alone. Over time, there may be need to seek additional park acreage to meet future recreation demands. While Barron County will not actively seek to acquire land in a competitive manner, the County is amenable to the purchase of land that meets the goals and objectives of the County outdoor recreation plan and/or the County's approved Forestry Plan.

Important Future Considerations

Despite having abundant park land available for County residents, many County-owned facilities are popular recreation destinations for non-residents in the region. As these outdoor recreation areas grow in regional use and popularity, it may be necessary to consider new or expanded park areas to help relieve pressure on existing recreation facilities.

Fortunately, the County has access to over 16,264 of County Forest Crop Land that may help with new or expanded outdoor recreation opportunities to meet public demand. Based on the assessment of current recreational facilities and demands in the County, the following factors are of greater importance with regards to the development or improvement of additional park facilities in the future:

- **Growing or changing recreational demands by residents and/or visitors are not being met with existing park facilities.**
- **The geographic distribution of existing parks does not provide sufficient access for all residents.**
- **Park amenities or specific uses are overly concentrated in a single area at such levels that use conflicts are created and/or the carry capacity of facilities and the natural environment are being exceeded.**

SECTION V: OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The previous section of this plan identifies several general recommendations for the future outdoor recreation planning in Barron County. By way of public survey and detailed input from County officials or boards involved in recreation planning, **bicycle and cycling** facilities appear to be in highest demand for new or expanded facilities.

Also highly correlated, are demands for greater access to nature through the following activities that could be improved in Barron County over the next one to five years:

- ***Hiking, Walking, & Running Trails***
- ***ATV Trails & Access***
- ***Canoeing/kayaking***
- ***Fishing – from a boat, canoe or kayak***
- ***Swimming (including lakes & rivers)***
- ***Wildlife/bird watching***
- ***Cross Country Skiing***
- ***Snowshoeing***

Detailed Park Inventory Forms, Improvements, & Action Plan

While previous sections of this plan identify general policies, long-term goals, and public input for enhancing County recreation opportunities, this section of the plan identifies specific features, amenities, improvement needs, and opportunities for existing facilities either owned, managed, or considered for capital investment by Barron County.

Each park facility and the accompanying recommendations include cost estimates, potential partnerships, maintenance responsibilities, and suggested time frames for improvements. The cost estimates are a reasonable approximation and will vary based on site-specific characteristics and final design. The exact time-frame for implementation will also vary based on available resources, partnership opportunities, and other priority needs within the County when considering potential future improvements.

The inventory forms included here serve both as an outreach tool for marketing existing recreation facilities in the County, while also serving as a capital improvement plan for County park facilities. Consolidation of park information in this manner helps simplify future facility improvements, recognize accomplishments over time, and identify changes for future Outdoor Recreation Plan updates.

The map on the following (Figure 45) page shows the general location of these park facilities and each park is numbered, corresponding to its number on the detailed park inventory forms in this section.

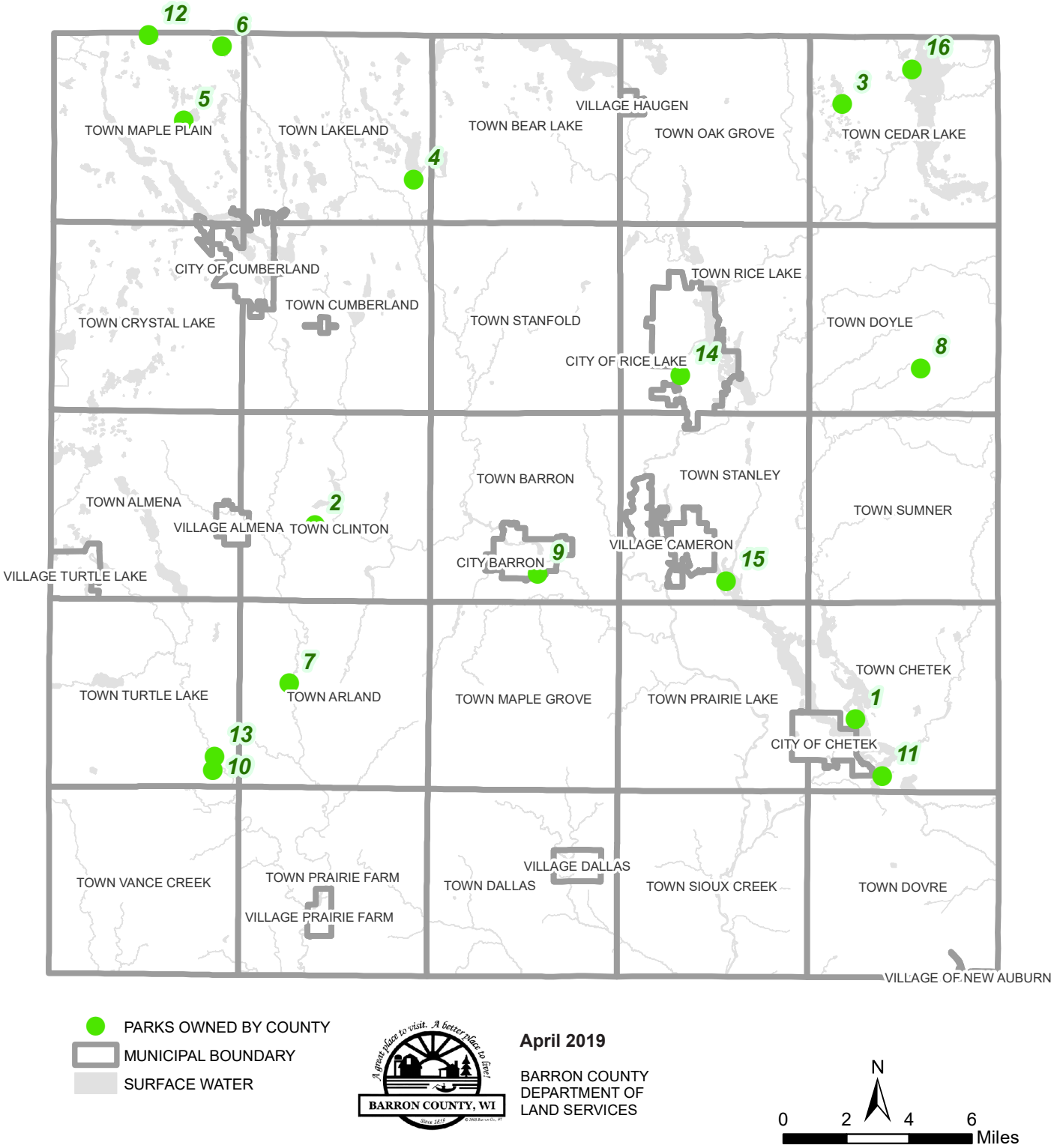
FACILITIES INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

1. Angler's Park at Pokegama
2. Barron County Intensive Use ATV Park
3. Chain Lake/ Twin Lake Primitive Campground
4. Grant County Park on Silver Lake
5. Kirby Lake Primitive Campground
6. Maple Plain Public Shooting Range
7. Owen Anderson Public Shooting Range
8. Pipestone Quarry Mountain Bike Area
9. Rockman's Woods
10. Silver Creek Mountain Bike Trails
11. Southworth Memorial Park
12. Timberland West
13. Turtle Creek Fishing Piers
14. University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire - Barron County
15. Veteran's Memorial Park Campground
16. Waldo Carlson Park

PLEASE NOTE: *This section does not guarantee that all listed improvements will be made, but helps identify future priorities for County owned facilities as citizen demand and funding is made available through allocation, grants, or partnership opportunities.*

Map of Barron County Parks

Figure 45: *Map of County-Owned Parks. Numbered to correlate with detailed park forms in this plan section.*



1. ANGLER'S PARK AT POKEGAMA

ADDRESS: 2546 8 1/4 Ave. CTH D, Chetek, WI 54728

PARK TYPE: Community	**KEY FUNCTION:** Fishing/Boating

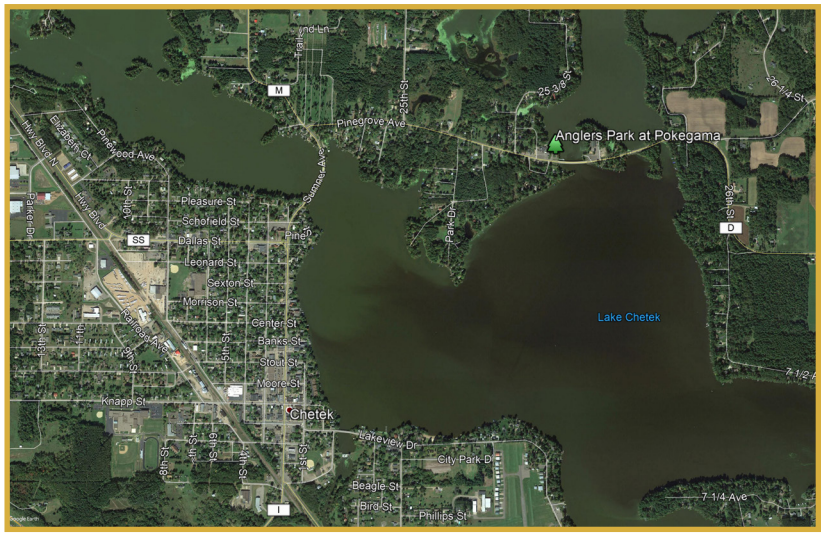
PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for day-use access to the boat launch and ADA accessible fishing pier at Pokegama Lake.

KEY FEATURES

The park is located on the southwest shore of the 433-acre Pokegama Lake, just off County Road D in Chetek.

The lake has a maximum depth of 19 feet and visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing which includes restroom facilities. Boating ordinances identify slow-no-wake areas and fish include Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Boat launch
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Accessible fishing pier

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Additional grading for improved water access.	$25,000	1-3 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

2. BARRON COUNTY INTENSIVE USE ATV PARK

ADDRESS: 849 14 ½ Ave., Almena, WI 54805

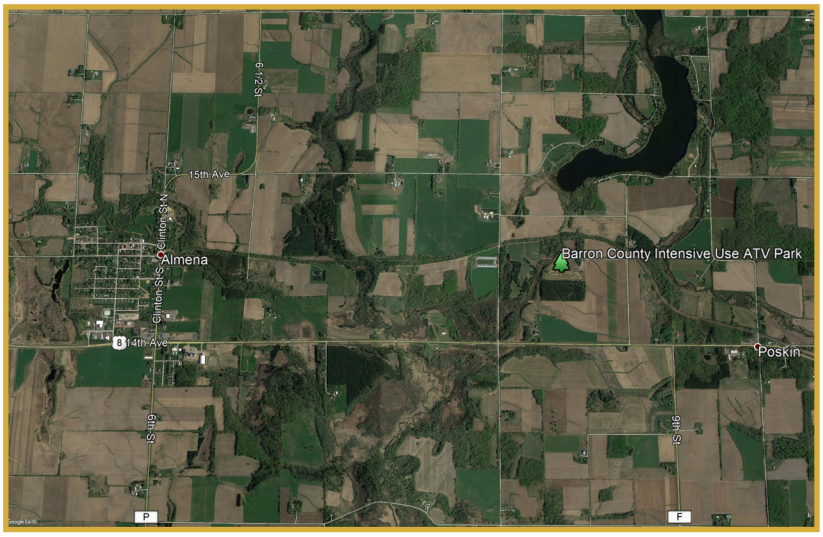
PARK TYPE: Specialty	**KEY FUNCTION:** ATV Riding

PRIMARY USES

This park facility was developed for day-use ATV riding (no dirt bikes) and is a popular recreation area in warm weather conditions.

KEY FEATURES

The park is located three miles east of Almena and features a 3-acre parking lot with a loading/unloading ramp, large shelter, picnic tables, and permanent restrooms.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion w/picnic tables
- Charcoal grill
- Restrooms
- Semi-improved parking lot
- Fences and trail signage
- Tot Lot riding area
- Built and natural riding features

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
No planned improvements for this facility.	NA	NA

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is sponsored and maintained by the Dusty Trail Finders ATV Club, Inc. Barron County also provides additional maintenance and basic improvements.

3. CHAIN LAKE/TWIN LAKE PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND

ADDRESS: 6.25 miles east of Haugen on County V

PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Primitive Camping

PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for primitive camping, boating, fishing, hiking, and other passive recreation.

KEY FEATURES

The park is located on the western bank of Chain/Twin Lake and features non-reservable, walk-in tent campsites. Camping is free and boating ordinances identify non-motorized & electric motors only.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- **2 primitive campsites**
- **Picnic tables**
- **Fire rings**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
No planned improvements for this facility.	NA	NA

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

4. SILVER LAKE GRANT PARK

ADDRESS: 1148 25-25 ¼ Ave. CTH B, Cumberland, WI 54829

PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Day-Use Activities

PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for day-use recreation featuring a boat ramp, picnic shelter, playground, volleyball, swimming, and bathroom facilities.

KEY FEATURES

This multi-use day park is located at the southern edge of Silver Lake, a 331-acre lake with a maximum depth of 91 feet. Visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing and public beach. Fish include Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Trout, and Walleye. Visitors can reserve the picnic shelter online through Barron County - Parks Reservations.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Boat ramp & cleaning station
- Picnic shelter/pavilion
- Playground
- Beach
- Volleyball court
- Restrooms
- Vehicle/Trailer parking

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Investigate no-wake buoy options.	$15,000	3-5 yrs
Three season closed pavilion with bathrooms and blacktop improvements.	$250,000	1-3 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

The Silver Lake Association was founded in 1993 and has sponsored shoreline stabilization, restoration, runoff education, and wetland restoration practices on the lake. There are partnership opportunities to assist with the purchase of buoys if swimming is deemed feasible at this site.

5. KIRBY LAKE PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND

ADDRESS: 27 1/4 Ave., Cumberland, WI 54829

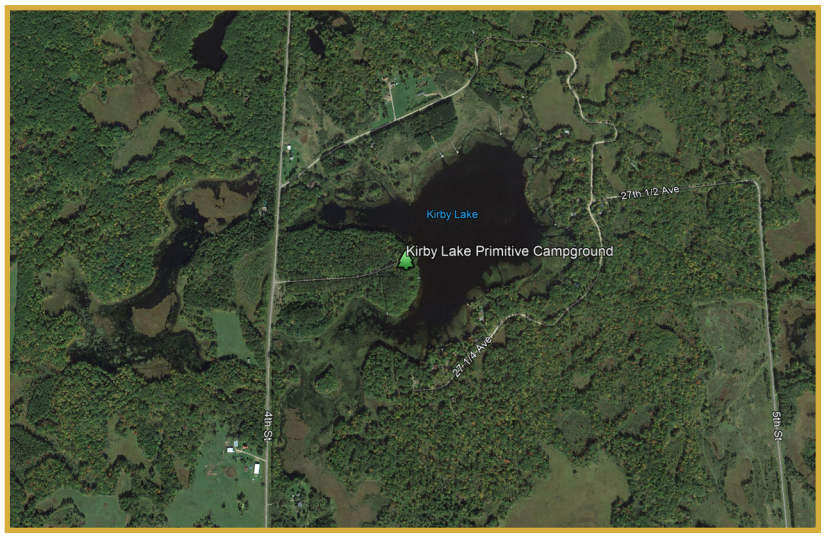
PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Primitive Camping

PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for primitive camping, boating, fishing, hiking, and other passive recreation.

KEY FEATURES

The park is located along the western bank of Kirby Lake and features non-reservable, walk-in tent campsites and a boat ramp. The site also provides convenient access to the nearby Kirby Lake Area East County Forest trails.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- 3 Primitive campsites
- Recently improved road and parking
- Restrooms
- Boat ramp
- Forest trails nearby

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Plans to install ADA accessible restrooms.	$15,000	3-5 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

6. MAPLE PLAIN PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE

ADDRESS: 530 29 1/2 Ave., Barronett, WI 54813

PARK TYPE: Specialty	**KEY FUNCTION:** Public Shooting Range

PRIMARY USES

This is an improved and ADA accessible public range for both rifle and pistol shooting.

KEY FEATURES

The park features several recently updated facilities and amenities to support activities related to rifle sighting, target practice, and recreational shooting. The area includes ranges of 50, 100, and 200 yards, along with a pistol firing range.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Entrance gate
- Paved parking and pathways
- Gun/equipment stands
- Benches
- Concrete firing pads
- Restrooms
- Signage

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Sheltered/covered shooting stations.	$10,000	3-5 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

7. OWEN ANDERSON PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE

ADDRESS: 760 9th Ave. CTH D, Clayton, 54004

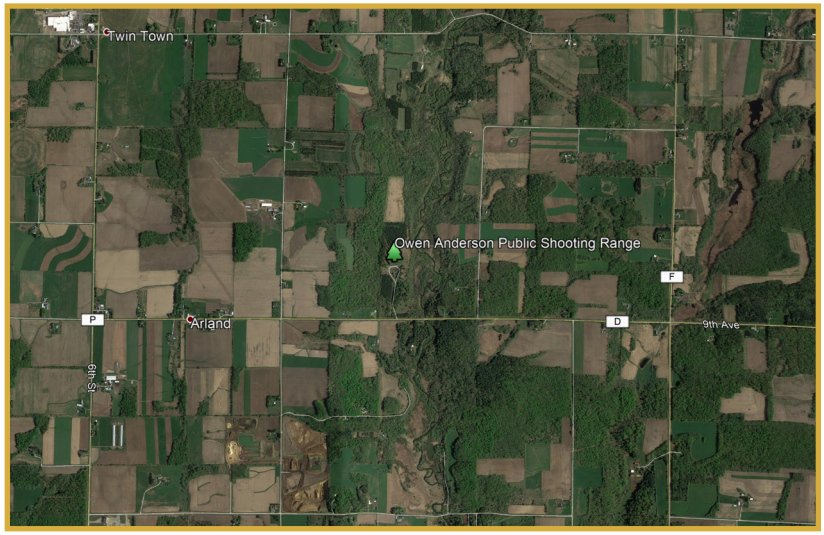
PARK TYPE: Specialty	**KEY FUNCTION:** Public Shooting Range

PRIMARY USES

This is an improved and ADA accessible public range for rifle, pistol, shotgun, and clay shooting.

KEY FEATURES

The park features several recently updated facilities and amenities to support activities related to rifle sighting, target practice, and clay shooting. This range features covered firing stations along with benches, stands, and picnic tables. There are several ranges of varying lengths at the site from distances of 25 feet to 300 yards.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Paved parking and pathways
- Covered firing stations
- Mix of asphalt/ & concrete firing pads
- Gun/equipment stands
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Signage

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
History of vandalism, addition of power for lighting and security cameras.	$25,000	3-5 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Hunter safety classes are held at the range and the recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

8. PIPESTONE QUARRY MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

ADDRESS: 2749 19 1/2 Ave., Rice Lake, WI 54868

PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Mountain Biking

PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for year-round mountain bike and fat-tire bike riding in Doyle County Forest.

KEY FEATURES

Pipestone Quarry is a relatively new trail system located in the Blue Hills of Wisconsin. Existing trails include over 3.5 miles of single track built from old logging roads wandering up and down the rocky hills.

Future trails of a more technical nature are planned to incorporate natural features in the area, including gravity feeds and large rock formations. Helmets are recommended and there are no fees to use the system.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- **Parking area**
- **Trailhead**
- **Restrooms**
- **Trail signage**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
North entrance parking.	$10,000	1-5 yrs
West entrance parking.	$10,000	1-5 yrs
East entrance parking.	$10,000	1-5 yrs
Pit toilets at north trailhead.	$15,000	1-5 yrs
Map/informational kiosk at each entry.	$5,000	1-5 yrs
Small covered picnic pavilion at north entrance.	$15,000	1-5 yrs
Upgrade main forest road connecting northeast entrance and west gate.	$10,000	1-5 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is improved and maintained by the Chippewa Off Road Bike Association. Trail improvements are made on Saturdays from 9am to 12pm and anyone is invited to participate.

9. ROCKMAN'S WOODS TRAILS

ADDRESS: Directly south of Barron High School, Barron, WI 54812

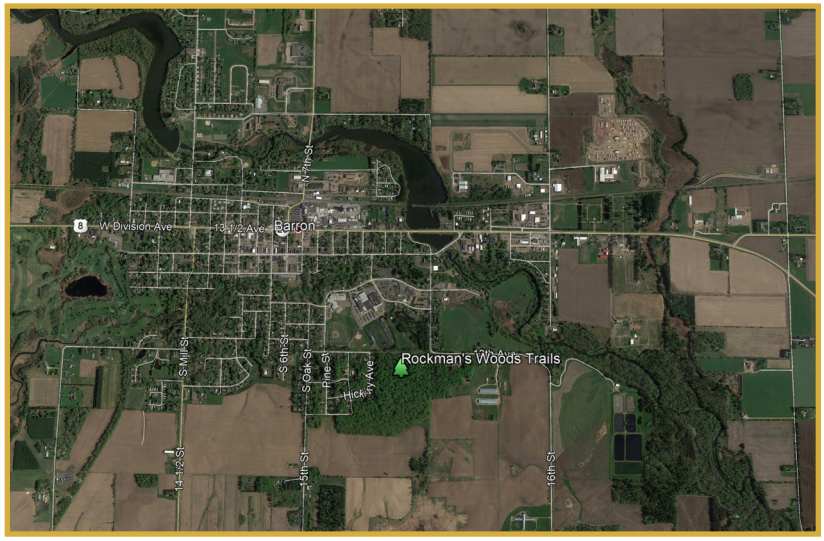
PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Skiing/Hiking/Biking/Hunting

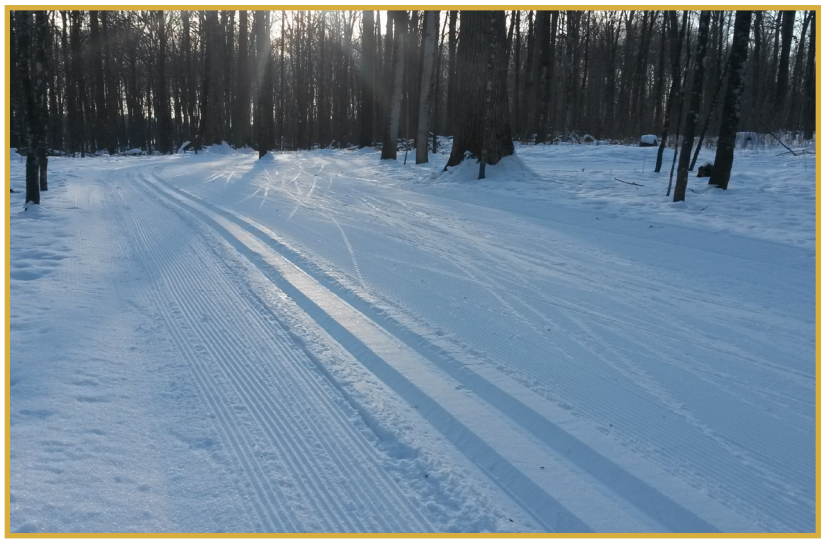
PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for access to trail hiking, walking, snow shoeing, and cross-country skiing.

KEY FEATURES

This area features various trail segments and loops for walking, hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Currently, there is 3.5 km of lighted trails for night-time cross-country skiing, 2 km of unlit ski trails, and 2 miles of snowshoe trails. Volunteers provide grooming of both ski and snowshoe trails and plan to continue adding lights to the trail network for additional access to night-time skiing and snowshoeing opportunities.





FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- **Year-round trail access**
- **Trail lights for night-time winter recreation**
- **Groomed runs/trails**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Construct all weather gravel surface on snowshoe/hiking trail.	$10,000	1-5 yrs
Erosion control and seeding on ski trails.	$5,000	1-5 yrs
Pit toilet at trailhead.	$5,000	1-5 yrs
Kiosk and signage at trailhead.	$1,000	1-5 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Groomed runs are maintained by the Barron Area Nordic Trail Association who also partners with the school district to park grooming equipment in a nearby school maintenance shed.

10. SILVER CREEK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

ADDRESS: 6th Ave. 5th St., Clayton, WI 54004

PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Mountain Biking/Hiking

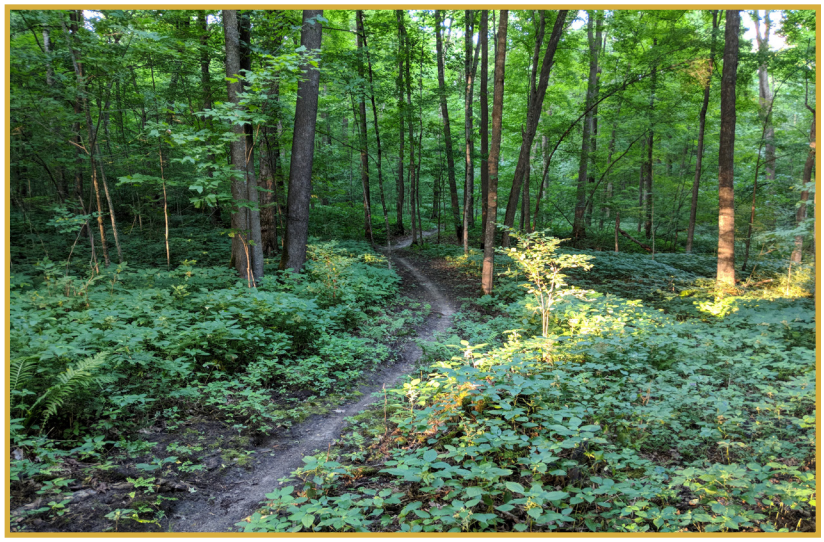
PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for mountain biking, hiking, and snowshoeing.

KEY FEATURES

Silver Creek Trails are located in the nearby 1,200-acre, non-motorized, Barron County Forest - Silver Creek Unit. Trails feature primitive and rugged single-track with technical features over natural rocks and roots.

In 2018, the trails became part of the CORBA trail system (Chippewa Off Road Bike Association), which is one of the largest bicycle user group in Wisconsin. There are currently 8 miles of singletrack and an additional 6 miles of access roads to ride and hike.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- **Trailhead area with signage**
- **8 miles of single-track**
- **6 miles of access roads for riding/hiking**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
West entrance parking area.	$5,000	1-5 yrs
Pit toilets at trailhead.	$5,000	1-5 yrs
Trailhead map and informational kiosk.	$1,000	1-5 yrs
Additional site maintenance/improvements:		
Covered picnic pavilion, trail bridge over Silver Creek, boardwalks in areas with standing water, trail development south of Silver Creek.	$12,000	1-5 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is improved and maintained by the Chippewa Off Road Bike Association (CORBA).

11. SOUTHWORTH MEMORIAL PARK

ADDRESS: 648-650 26 ½ - 27th St., New Auburn, WI 54757

PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Campground

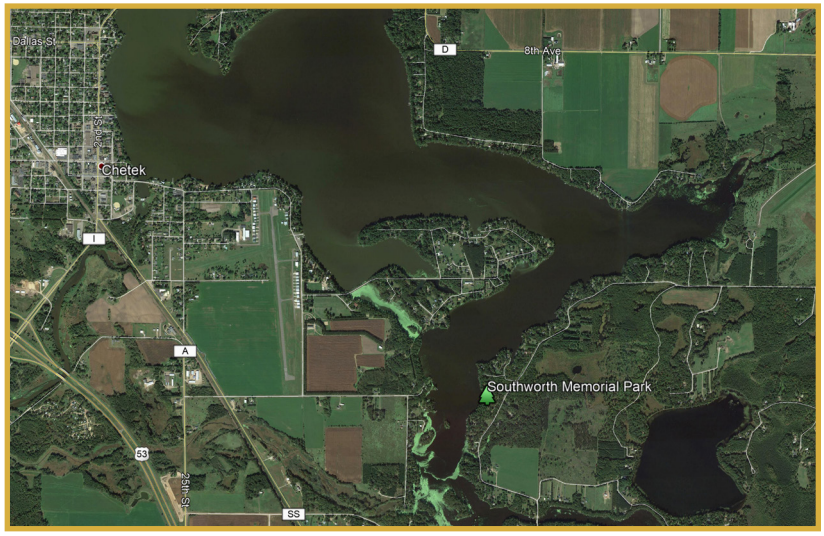
PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for camping, boating, and fishing.

KEY FEATURES

The park is located on the east side of Ten Mile Lake - one of five interconnected lakes in the area. The park has reservable campsites, coin operated showers, a fish cleaning house, a dump station, and several other on-site facilities such as pit toilets, boat landing, boat docks, playground, and enclosed picnic shelter/ pavilion.

The park terrain is mostly flat with several campsites located close to the lake. The park is a popular recreation area and reservations can be made online through Barron County Parks Reservations.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » **30 campsites**
- » **Dump station**
- » **Fish cleaning house**
- » **Restrooms/showers**
- » **Picnic shelter**
- » **Boat ramp/docks**
- » **Caretaker**
- » **Parking/blacktop**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Re-surfacing of blacktop drives where needed.	$50,000	3-5 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

12. TIMBERLAND WEST

ADDRESS: 2992 3rd St. CTH H, Barronett, WI 54813 (1 mile south of Boyd Ln.)

PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Skiing/Hiking/Hunting

PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking. Trails also provide access for hunting and trapping in the area with access to the Ice-Age Trail.

KEY FEATURES

Timberland West is a 2.5 km lighted ski trail located just 1.5 miles south of Timberland Hills on County Highway H. The lighted trail meanders through 500 acres of Barron County forest land and is a beginner-type trail with gently rolling terrain and no large hills.

During the ski season, the lights come on at dusk and stay on until 11:00 PM. The area is also popular as a beginner-level trail system during daylight hours.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- **Warming shed**
- **Trail lights for night-time recreation**
- **Restrooms**
- **Signage**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Construction of welcome building and new warming house.	$20,000	5-10 yrs
New structure for restroom.	$1,000	1-3 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Both Timberland Hills and Timberland West were built and are maintained by the Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA). CASTA procured land usage agreements with both Burnett and Barron Counties to build and maintain the ski trails funded by donations and membership fees.

13. TURTLE CREEK FISHING PIERS

ADDRESS: 523 7th Ave. CTH D, Clayton, WI 54004

PARK TYPE: Regional/Specialty	**KEY FUNCTION:** Fishing/River Access

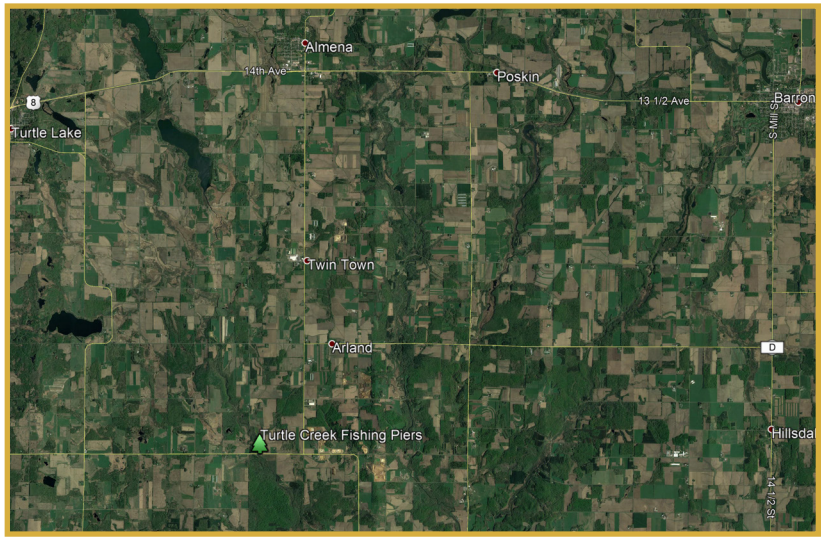
PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for fishing and other nearby passive recreation.

KEY FEATURES

Located in Turtle Lake Township, this County facility offers two ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant fishing piers with access to one of the premier trout streams in western Wisconsin.

Located off of County Road D across from 5 1/4 St., the fishing area offers accessible parking and paved asphalt paths to two fishing piers. Anglers can also venture on foot further downstream for additional opportunities to harvest trout from the creek.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- **Paved parking**
- **Paved paths to both piers**
- **2 easily accessible fishing piers**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
No planned improvements for this facility.	NA	NA

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

14. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE - BARRON COUNTY

ADDRESS: 1800 College Drive, Rice Lake, WI 54868

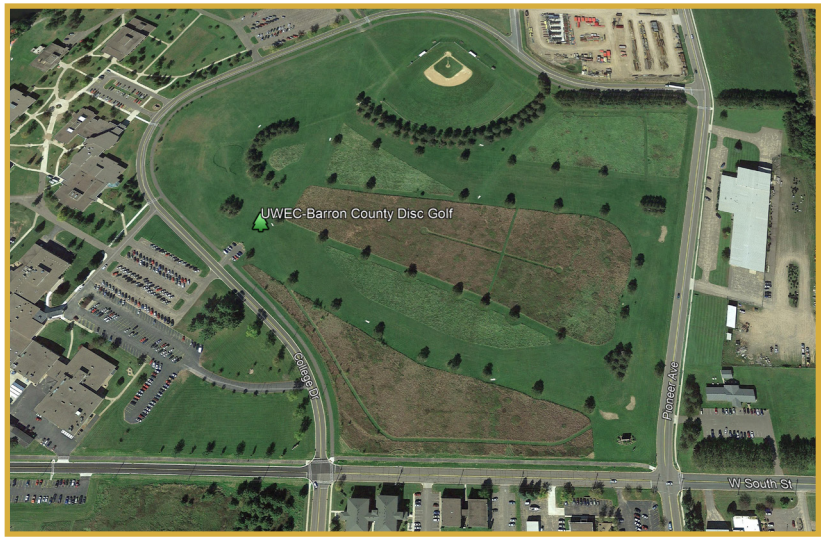
PARK TYPE: Specialty	**KEY FUNCTION:** Disc Golf

PRIMARY USES

This area offers access to an 18-hole disc golf course, hiking on the Cedar Side Walking Trail, and additional open space and passive recreation opportunities.

KEY FEATURES

The disc golf course is located on the UWEC-Barron County campus grounds and is open to anyone to play. Unlike traditional golf courses, disc golf does not limit course play to 18 holes and there are plans to continue adding additional holes to the course as space allows.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Disc golf course
- Open space
- Paved Cedar Side Walking Trail
- Picnic pavilion
- Boardwalks
- Riverview benches
- Restrooms

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Additional trail development along the Red Cedar River.	N/A	Ongoing
Tee pads for each hole, expand holes.	N/A	Ongoing
Improve existing restrooms and consider additional restroom facilities.	$10,000	3-5 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Separate entities with interests/responsibilities at this site include the City of Rice Lake, Barron County, and the University of Wisconsin System. In order to take advantage of recreation opportunities at this site, a cooperative agreement for management and maintenance is recommended.

15. VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

ADDRESS: 2125 13-12 ½ Ave., Cameron, WI 54822

PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Campground

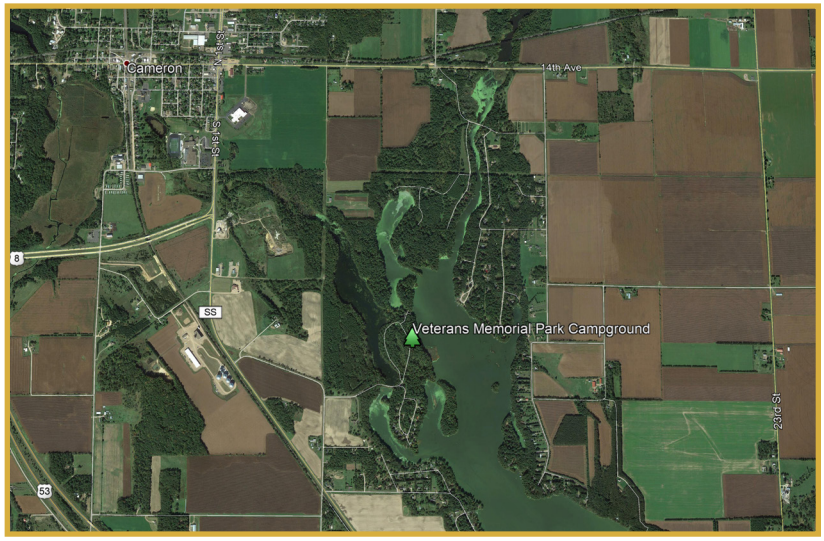
PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for camping, boating, fishing, hiking trails, picnicking, family gatherings, and reunions.

KEY FEATURES

The park is located 2 miles south of Cameron on the western bank of Prairie Lake. The park features several modern amenities and facilities for camping and lake recreation.

Facilities include a coin operated shower, restrooms, playground, picnic shelter, boat landing, fish cleaning house, self-service dumping station, and a caretaker in residence. Hiking trails at this park are also a popular recreation activity.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- **Showers and restrooms**
- **29 campsites**
- **Picnic shelter and tables**
- **Fire pits and charcoal grills**
- **Hiking trails**
- **Playground equipment**
- **Boat landing/dock**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Trail bridge maintenance/improvements and boardwalks.	$20,000	3-5 yrs
New dock planned for 2019 (consider boat docks for individual campsites, site improvements needed).	$200,000	5-10 yrs
RV/ATV campground and sites.	$150,000	5-10 yrs
Removal/treatment of Garlic Mustard invasives.	N/A	Ongoing

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

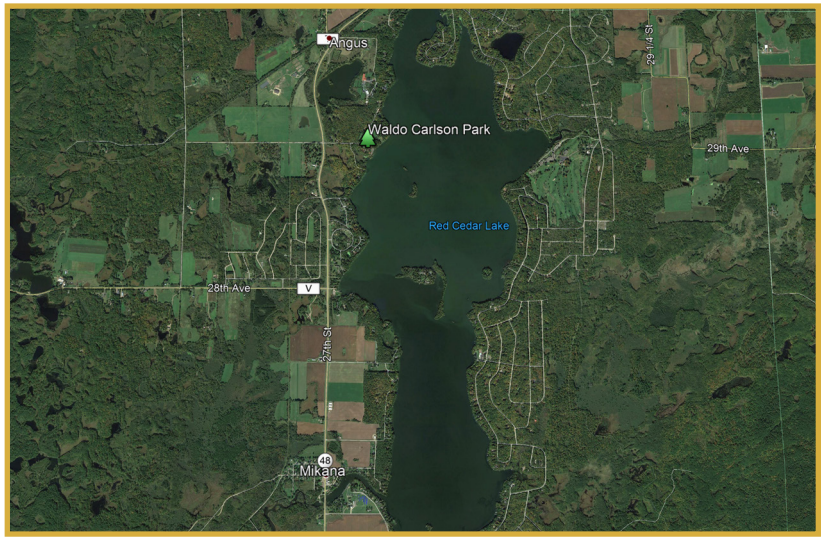
16. WALDO CARLSON PARK

ADDRESS: 2717 29th Ave., Birchwood, WI 54817

PARK TYPE: Community/Regional	**KEY FUNCTION:** Camping

PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for camping, boating, fishing, picnics, family gatherings, and reunions. The park experiences heavy boat traffic in the summer and has the only public restroom on the three-lake chain of Red Cedar Lake, Balsam Lake, and Hemlock Lake.



KEY FEATURES

The park is located 1.5 miles north of Mikana off State HWY 48 on the western bank of Red Cedar Lake. Facilities include coin operated showers, restrooms, playground, picnic shelter, boat landing, fish cleaning house, self-service dumping station, and a caretaker in residence. There is a reservable enclosed pavilion, and the lake is known for its clear, blue water.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- **Showers and restrooms**
- **36 campsites/caretaker in residence**
- **Picnic shelter and tables**
- **Dumping station/fish cleaning house**
- **Playground**
- **Boat landing/docks**

PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Install pit toilet.	$20,000	1-3 yrs

AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This recreation area is maintained by Barron County Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department.

Barron County Forest Recreation Opportunities

Barron County first entered into the Forest Crop Law program in 1940. While the main goal of the County Forest is productive forest management, recreation is an added benefit for the public.

Twelve of the fourteen compartments of the forest are located along the north and east borders of the County. Much of the forest is near the terminal moraine of the last period of glaciation, and as such, many of the areas are kettle moraine with small wetlands and ponds interspersed in a northern hardwood forest of red oak, sugar maple, basswood and aspen.

The Blue Hills region extends into Barron County from the east, and these areas are upland with shallow soils over quartzite bedrock. The topography of the forest and surrounding area is of glacial origin. Elevations range from 1,620 feet above sea level in the eastern part of the County to 1,000 feet in the Southwest.

The County forests have had limited recreational use during their history, with hunting being the most popular over the years. With over 16,000 acres of land in 14 management blocks, there are many opportunities to expand recreational use in these areas.

NAMES OF BARRON COUNTY FOREST COMPARTMENTS

- Arland Section 8
- Bear Lake Area
- Cedar Lake Area
- Cedar Lake Sections 5 & 6
- Chetek Area
- Doyle/Pipestone Quarry
- Kirby Lake Area
- Maple Plain Area
- Mikana Area
- Moose Ear Creek/Sumner Area
- Sand Lake
- Silver Creek/Vance Creek Area
- Waterman Lake Area

John Nolen, a Landscape Architect responsible for the establishment of the Wisconsin State Park System, said the following regarding the purpose of recreating in Wisconsin forests.

"Simple recreation in the open air amid beautiful surroundings contributes to physical and moral health, to a saner and happier life..."

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS & COUNTY FOREST

Of the recreational opportunities listed in the online survey, respondents identified demand not being met and significant improvements needed for the following recreational activities that are compatible uses in County Forest:

- Mountain biking
- Swimming – beach, pool, splash pad
- Nature-based educational programs
- Road cycling
- Hiking & Backpacking
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoeing

HUNTER, WALKING, & HIKING TRAILS

Most gated and/or bermed access roads are signed as hunter walking trails. Originally developed for hunters, these were likely the first recreation venture developed in the County Forest. Now expanded and improved, these trails have been mapped with numbered signs installed to help with navigation.

These trails afford a tremendous supply (over 126 miles) of opportunities for hiking and are currently mowed by County staff on an annual basis. In the future, trails would benefit from increased mowing and maintenance that would require additional staffing and funding.

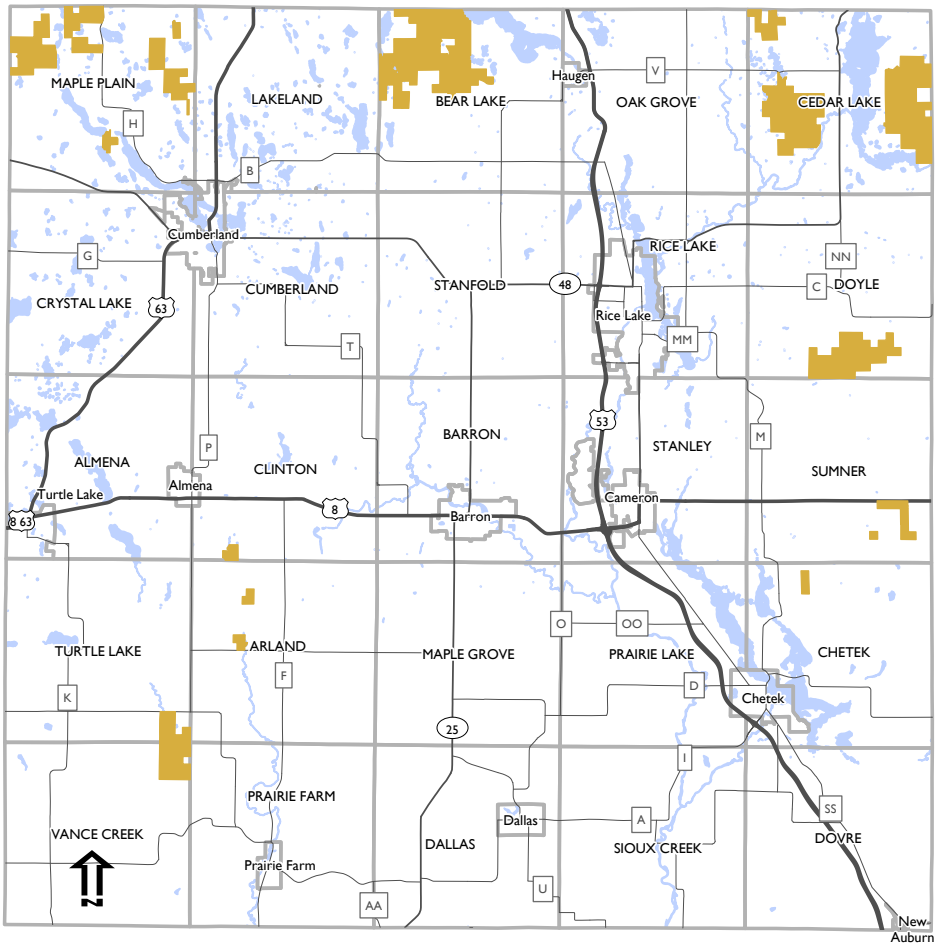


Figure 46: *Map of Barron County Forest Compartments and list of planned improvements in these areas.*

COUNTY FOREST RECOMMENDATIONS

Basic trail and road access improvements as needed.

Repair, replacement, installation of trail bridges as needed.

Maintain forest trail stakes/ marking as needed.

Upgrade main forest road to provide durable gravel access through forest.

ICE AGE TRAIL

The Ice Age Trail crosses County forest in compartments 4, 5, 8, and 11. From the west, the trail enters near the northwest corner of the County and meanders east along the County line to Haugen. It then follows the Wild Rivers and Tuscobia Trails to Birchwood where it turns south in the area east of Red Cedar Lake. The trail is maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers from the Superior Lobe Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

The trail is both a national and state scenic trail and follows the end moraines of the most recent glaciation of Wisconsin. It is intended to provide a high quality rustic walking experience across Wisconsin and the Barron County Forest segments help meet this goal.

DISPERSED CAMPING

This activity is permitted in the County forest and stays are limited to 14 days at a site. Policies for this activity include Leave No Trace, and Pack-It-In, Pack-It-Out. There are future goals to establish designated dispersed sites related to the Ice Age Trail that will be accomplished by trail volunteers.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Chippewa Off Road Biking Association (CORBA) has entered into Memorandums of Understanding with the County for the development of mountain bike trails in the Pipestone and Silver Creek units of Barron County Forest.

Volunteers are constructing trails for use by the public and while the intent of current trail agreements are for biking, hiking and hunting are also compatible and allowable uses of these trails networks.

HORSEBACK RIDING TRAILS

Most trails and roads of the forest system are open for occasional horseback riding by individuals. Organized group rides and/or repeated rides on the same corridor require authorization by Forest Administrator and off-trail riding is not permitted.

Crossings of rivers and streams must take place only at developed crossings. Two riding trails and a horse trailer camping area were established in the Narrow Gauge Compartment in 2010 and maintenance of these areas is the responsibility of the Barron County Horse Trail Association.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

The only dedicated cross country ski trail on County forest land is the Timberland West lighted trail in the Waterman Lakes compartment. This trail is maintained by the Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA). The Ice Age Trail connects through this trail and is designated as a snowshoe trail continuing west for 1.5 miles.

There is also cross country skiing in Rockman's Woods, a forest block owned by Barron County which is not part of the County forest program. This trail is also lighted for winter use and the development and maintenance is performed by BANTA, the Barron Area Nordic Trail Association.

Both of these trails are maintained by volunteers for use by the public and funded through volunteer contributions as described in previous sections of this plan.

Outdoor Recreation Resources & Funding

A. LOCAL RESOURCES

Barron County will continue to identify and leverage a mix of funding resources and partnership support from a wide variety of potential sources for outdoor recreation improvements and maintenance.

County financial resources potentially include standard operating budgets and general fund dollars; capital improvements budgets; loans, bonding, and notes; user fees; and developer impact fees and contributions. Donations of volunteer time, dollars, or property from local residents, businesses, and partner organizations are becoming increasingly important. The successful partnerships with private groups and clubs all over the County demonstrate that Barron County does not have to "do it all" on its own. The most appropriate mix of such funding sources for future outdoor recreation projects should be incorporated into the five-year capital improvements plan.

Wisconsin municipalities are required to maintain an outdoor recreation plan in order to be eligible for certain grant programs available through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The update and adoption of this plan is a prerequisite for grant funding and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (e.g. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program), Federal sources (e.g., Recreational Trails Act, Land & Water Conservation Fund), or foundations have long been key to major park improvements in Wisconsin communities. Additional grant dollars are available depending on the nature of the activity (e.g,, arts or educational programming) or attributes unique to the site (e.g., historic preservation, resource conservation, acquisition of floodplain properties, brownfield remediation).

B. GRANT PROGRAMS

Stewardship Local Assistance, Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Subprogram

Statute/Code: s. 23.09(20), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subch. XII, Wis. Admin. Code

Purpose: The ADLP program helps communities and organizations acquire land for public nature-based outdoor recreation and improve community recreation areas.

Allocation: Funds are allocated on a regional basis, proportional to population. Projects compete against other projects from their region.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs. NCOs may only apply for ADLP grants to support land acquisition projects.

Eligible Projects: Land acquisition and development projects that provide opportunities for nature-based recreation are eligible for ADLP grants.

Funding Priorities: ADLP funding priorities include projects that:

- Support a local CORP;
- Support multiple uses;
- Are of regional/statewide significance;
- Result in a first-of-a-kind facility for the applicant;
- Involve two or more governmental agencies;
- Provide accessible recreation opportunities; and
- Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Stewardship Local Assistance, Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR) Subprogram

Statute/Code: s. 30.277, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subch. XIV, Wis. Admin. Code

Purpose: The purpose of the ADR program is to protect natural, agricultural, and forest lands that provide nature-based outdoor recreation by purchasing development rights and compensating landowners for limited future development on their land.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs. Eligible Projects: ADR grants may only be used to support projects that acquire development rights to support nature-based outdoor recreation.

Funding Priorities: The following types of property are given priority consideration for ADR grant funding:

- Land with water frontage;
- Land that provides a buffer between developed and natural areas;
- Land that connects existing natural resource protection areas;
- Land located within Department project boundaries; and
- Land with other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Stewardship Local Assistance, Urban Green Space (UGS) Subprogram

Statute/Code: s. 23.09(19), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subch. XIII, Wis. Admin. Code

Purpose: The UGS program supports acquisition of land for open natural areas and community gardens within or in close proximity to urban areas.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, NCOs, sanitary districts, and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts.

Eligible Projects: Projects that acquire land within or in proximity to urban areas that provides open space, protects unique natural features, and/or provides opportunities for community gardening are eligible to apply for UGS grants. Development projects are not eligible for UGS grants.

Funding Priorities: UGS funding priorities include acquisition of land that:

- Preserves land on the natural heritage inventory database;
- Implements elements of approved water quality plans or initiatives;
- Has unique natural features;
- Provides linear corridor connecting open natural areas;
- Has water frontage;
- Is of regional or statewide significance;
- Provides area for community gardens; and
- Has other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Stewardship Local Assistance, Urban Rivers (UR) Subprogram

Statute/Code: s. 30.277, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subch. XIV, Wis. Admin. Code

Purpose: The UR program helps restore and preserve the character of urban river corridors through the acquisition and development of land adjacent to rivers.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide. No applicant can receive more than 20% of the UR funds allocated in any fiscal year.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs.

Eligible Projects: Land acquisition and development projects that provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation are eligible for UR grants.

Funding Priorities: UR program funding priorities include projects that:

- Restore river corridors following dam removal;
- Support redevelopment of brownfields;
- Acquire land with unique natural or aesthetic values;
- Acquire land that connects with previous land acquisitions;
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities for diverse urban populations;
- Provide new or expanded access to urban waterways;
- Support local/regional plans; and
- Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Statute/Code: Land and Water Conservation Act (Public Law 88-578); ch. NR 50.06, Wis. Admin. Code

Purpose: The federal LWCF program supports development of high-quality outdoor recreation amenities in local communities.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and school districts. NCOs are not eligible to receive LWCF grants.

Eligible Projects: Generally, all acquisition and development projects that are eligible under the ADLP, UGS, and UR Stewardship subprograms are also eligible for LWCF grants. In addition, projects that provide outdoor recreation facilities that are not exclusively nature-based, such as active sports facilities, are eligible for LWCF grants. Some exceptions apply, such as cases where the applicant intends to meet their match requirement with federal funds. Contact a regional Grant Specialist for details.

Funding Priorities: LWCF funding priorities include projects that:

- Meet the needs of urban areas;
- Provide recreation opportunities for diverse populations;
- Acquire land in areas with limited outdoor recreation facilities;
- Provide multi-use and multi-season facilities;
- Enhance or preserve natural beauty;
- Are proposed by applicants which have financial resources to adequately maintain and operate the project; and
- Have other priority characteristics specified in law/code.

Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
Statute/Code: Public Law 102-240; ch. NR 50.21, Wis. Admin.

Code Purpose: The RTP program provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail uses. RTP grants are to be used on trail projects that further a specific goal or are included in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or a local plan referenced in the SCORP.

Allocation: RTP grant awards may not exceed $200,000 for individual projects submitted in the 2018 application cycle. Two-thirds (2/3) of the total RTP funding will be used for projects at the $200,000 cap and the remaining 1/3 will be used for projects at the $45,000 cap. However, applicants may receive multiple RTP grants for independent projects. Projects compete statewide within three project categories:

Nonmotorized (30%): Projects designed to benefit nonmotorized recreational trail use where motorized use would not be allowed.

Motorized (30%): Projects designed to benefit motorized recreational use; projects may also benefit some nonmotorized uses as long as motorized use is the primary intent.

Diversified (40%): Projects designed to benefit multiple uses; includes projects where motorized use would be permitted, but where motorized use is not the predominant beneficiary. Diversified projects are not required to have motorized use.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies or incorporated organizations are eligible to apply for funds. Incorporated organizations are those that are incorporated under ch. 181, Wis. Stats., whose primary purpose is promoting, encouraging or engaging in outdoor recreation trails activities.

Eligible Projects and Funding Priorities: RTP funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, County or state trail plan included or referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. These include traditional trails as well as water trails recognized by the DNR (see http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/watertrails/ for more information about water trails). Eligible RTP projects, in order of priority, are:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages;
- Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands); and
- Acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities.

Pre-award expenses are not eligible for reimbursement under RTP grants.

Below are examples of projects that are considered maintenance, rehabilitation, development, and acquisition:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages;
- Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands); and
- Acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities.

Plan Conclusion

The outdoor recreation needs and recommendations identified in this plan are the result of significant public input and planning efforts made by the project steering committee. This plan provides guidance to elected officials and their designated boards and committees that will allow local officials to appropriate tax dollars for outdoor recreation facilities in an informed manner, and to integrate these recommendations into the County's capital improvements planning process.

The basis for plan recommendations include field inspection, analysis, public input, and discussions with community officials. It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will be achievable during the next five years, but with an active parks and recreation department, Barron County has made significant investment and improvements to its current park facilities.

All improvements or projects listed in the preceding pages may not be eligible for funding under WisDNR Stewardship Local Assistance or Federal Land & Water Conservation programs, but a truly comprehensive analysis of a community's outdoor recreation facilities means that all areas in need of improvement should be considered for funding.

Barron County will seek to pursue grant funding for the implementation of many of these recommendations. However, partnering with residents, local businesses, special interest groups, and municipalities has also proven to be successful in the past and can significantly help address related costs for future improvements.

Although this plan focuses on the benefits of the park system to residents in Barron County, many of the outdoor recreation facilities included here have an important economic and tourism role by attracting visitors to the region. The quality of park facilities, amenities, and programs also play an important role in attracting and retaining residents, and contributes to the County's image as a vibrant and positive place to live, raise a family, or start a new business.

These additional benefits should be considered, and if possible, quantified, when considering significant park improvements or new facilities. And finally, while several recommendations requiring significant financial investment are identified in this plan, the County identifies that community dynamics and funding priorities are constantly changing. As such, this plan does not attempt to satisfy all recreational needs in Barron County, but instead focuses on providing citizens of the County and their guests with the best recreational program possible.

"I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright."

-Henry David Thoreau