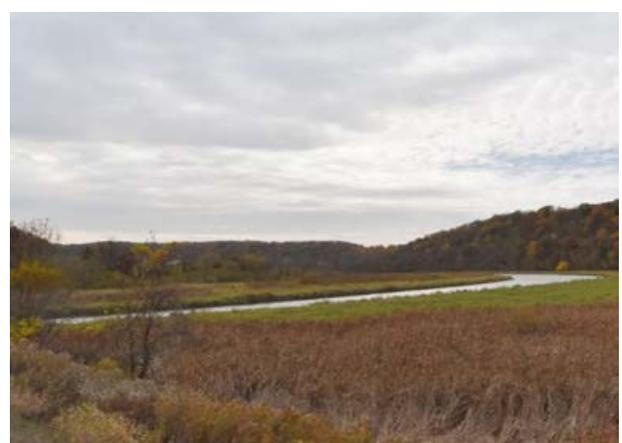


Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Grant County, WI

May 18th , 2021



PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY



RESOLUTION NO. 33-20.....

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN MEMBERS,

WHEREAS, Grant County has recognized the need for a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan based upon an inventory of outdoor recreation facilities and natural resources within the municipalities, Grant County, and Southwest Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the development of the plan will serve as a guide for making future decisions related to outdoor recreation in Grant County and through its adoption will make the county eligible to participate in state and federal recreation aid programs; and

WHEREAS this comprehensive outdoor recreation plan has been prepared for the Grant County Board of Supervisors by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, this recreation plan is based on sound planning principles and long-range goals and objectives for the county's recreational development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for Grant County hereby go on record to adopt the Grant County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as the county's guide for future outdoor recreation improvements and development;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Grant County Board of Supervisors requests the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide eligibility to Grant County for participation in the state and federal cost-sharing programs for an additional five-year period.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2021

GRANT COUNTY
Robert C Keeney
Robert Keeney, Board Chair
Tonya White
Tonya White, Clerk

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed by the Grant County Board of Supervisors at the regular meeting thereof held on this 18th day of May, 2021.

Tonya White
Tonya White, Clerk

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Introduction

The county, by virtue of this plan, has placed itself in a position of leadership among all providers of recreation in the county. It's most basic responsibility will be to lead a program that protects public and private investment, insures wise use of natural resources, and provides its citizens and their guests with the most fulfilling recreation experiences possible. As such, the county will serve as the coordinator and facilitator of partners and projects geared towards creating and maintaining recreation opportunities in the county.

Grant County is very conducive to outdoor recreation. It's topography, low population density and location from populated cities makes it a popular spot. The county also has a long tradition as a recreational area. However, Grant County's role in providing and promoting the development of outdoor recreational opportunities is varied because of its intermediate position between federal, state, town and municipal governments. In addition, private enterprise which is becoming an emerging market often provides recreation opportunities similar to those offered by the county.

This plan will consider the contributions of all providers of recreation, evaluate these contributions in relation to demands for them, and develop recommendations for action to satisfy recreational deficiencies identified by this study. Both quantity and quality of opportunities are considered and have direct bearing on decisions for specific recommendations. The county will not be responsible for implementing all recommendations. Many, in fact, will be aimed at other units of government and private enterprise.

Parks can serve a limited neighborhood area, the entire community, and the region as a whole. They provides outdoor recreation for both residents and visitors. **Open spaces** are not limited to parks but also include greenbelts, wetlands, scenic overlooks, and floodplains. Open space can also serve many functions for a community in addition to recreation, such as:

- Preservation of scenic and natural resources
- Flood management
- Protecting the area's water resources
- Preserving prime agricultural land
- Limiting development that may occur
- Buffering incompatible land uses
- Structuring the community environment

Image 1: Baseball field at Kiel, WI



Plan Purpose

This plan is an update of the Grant County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 2010 – 2015. The purpose of this plan is to guide the development and improvement of the county's outdoor recreation facilities over the next five years in order to meet the recreational needs and growing demands of the county.

Policy decisions made by the Grant County Board of Supervisors for park programs and improvement shall be guided by the goals, objectives, findings, and recommendations of this adopted plan. Actual public policy decisions or choices are contingent on funding sources, new opportunities and ideas, changing growth patterns, budget priorities as well as changing county needs and desires. For this reason, the plan should be reviewed annually, and a detailed update such as this should be completed every five years. Updating the plan every five years is also a requirement of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for a jurisdiction such as Grant County to stay eligible for matching government funds for parkland acquisition and facility improvements. But just as importantly, Grant County needs to set a course of action for continued improvement of its parks and outdoor recreational system.

Image 2: North view of the Platte River from Highway 35 in Grant County, WI



Goals and Objectives

This plan is designed to provide a feasible program for meeting the recreational needs of Grant County. Agreement upon basic goals and objectives is necessary to set the general direction for developing this program. Four goals related to recreational and resource protection are outlined below. The goals point toward final ends while the eight objective statements are more directly related to achieving those ends through specific actions.

Goals

- To preserve the county's open space resources and to protect them from visual blight and degradation of quality.
- To provide quality parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of county residents.
- To provide opportunities for nonresident recreational activity to an extent compatible with preserving irreplaceable resources.
- To identify and preserve sites having scientific, historic, or archaeological significance.

Objectives

- To use multiple approaches to resource protection, including acquisition and easements.
- To combine resource protection with park and recreation development, where feasible, through multi-purpose projects.
- To coordinate the county's recreation program with the programs of other levels of government and with private enterprise in order to achieve maximum public benefit.
- To provide areas and facilities for those activities specified in the plan as a county responsibility.
- To develop a coordinated system of river access points emphasizing resource-based recreation areas.
- To maintain the quality of recreational experiences offered within the county by adhering to the standards contained in the plan.
- To encourage quality development of privately owned recreation facilities, particularly for nonresident-oriented activities.
- To maintain the county's eligibility to participate in federal and state financial and technical aid programs having recreation planning requirements.

Image 3: South view of the Platte River from Highway 35 in Grant County, WI



Recommendations for Improving Recreation Facilities

The following recommendations for improvement by the Grant County Agricultural Extension Committee follow the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (Appendix B). These recommendations will be completed based on availability of county funding and grants.

Blue River:

- (1) Upgrade the pit toilet to ADA standards.
- (2) Implement a fee structure at the boat launch site – this may be a parking permit for vehicles with trailers.
- (3) Placement of signage that corresponds with the fee structure, i.e., cost of parking permit, fines levied if not in compliance, correct use of boat landings, etc.
- (4) Use the new fees as revenue to offset maintenance costs at the park.

McCartney:

- (1) Upgrade the pit toilet to ADA standards.

Banfield Bridge:

- (1) Upgrade the pit toilet to ADA standards.
- (2) Pave the entrance road into the Banfield Boat Landing, after first increasing the base under the surface.

Woodman:

- (1) Provide some parking adjacent to CTH K in the popular trout fishing area.
- (2) Pave the entrance road into the Woodman Boat Landing, after first increasing the base under the surface.
- (3) Implement a fee structure at the boat launch site – this may be a parking permit for vehicles with trailers.
- (4) Placement of signage that corresponds with the fee structure, i.e., cost of parking permit, fines levied if not in compliance, correct use of boat landings, etc.
- (5) Use the new fees as revenue to offset maintenance costs at the park.

Millville:

- (1) Implement a fee structure at the boat launch site – this may be a parking permit for vehicles with trailers.
- (2) Placement of signage that corresponds with the fee structure, i.e., cost of parking permit, fines levied if not in compliance, correct use of boat landings, etc.
- (3) Use the new fees as revenue to offset maintenance costs at the park.

Applicable to all parks and recreational facilities:

- (1) Continue to upgrade the parks (public accesses) the county owns along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Bring all facilities up to ADA standards over the next five to ten years.

Additional recreation needs/recommendations:

- (1) Consider including paved shoulders as part of future road reconstruction projects to allow safer passing of slower moving vehicles which would benefit ATV/UTV, bicycle, and farm implement traffic.
- (2) Extend the Sanders Creek Trail in Boscobel to connect to the Boscobel Bluffs Trail east of town.
- (3) Use the University of Wisconsin Platteville engineering students for any future park project(s). SWWRPC should help guide the process in pairing Grant County with a suitable team.

Plan Process

This section of the report will give a brief description of the sequences of events that will be taking place during the development of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). It will also describe the process that can be used to amend the plan.

Description of Process

Grant County has had an Outdoor Recreation Plan since 1979. However, there is always a need to evaluate progress and update the plan to meet the future goals for recreation in this county. Therefore, the Grant County Agricultural and Extension Committee (the agency currently responsible for park and recreational development in Grant County) met to discuss what had been done since the last plan. After the Committee understood what had been accomplished in the past, they looked to the future. Results from the Grant County Agricultural Extension Committee meeting were shared with the Grant County Highway Department (the department responsible for maintaining park and recreational amenities in Grant County). Feedback from the Grant County Highway Department were compiled and added to the project recommendations proposed by the Grant County Agricultural Extension Committee which are detailed as follows:

- Continue to upgrade the parks (public accesses) the county owns along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Bring all facilities up to ADA standards over the next five to ten years.
- Implement a fee structure at each of the boat launch sites on the Wisconsin River – this may be a parking permit for vehicles with trailers. All the county-owned boat launch sites on the Mississippi River currently have this fee structure already in place.
- Placement of signage that corresponds with the fee structure, i.e., cost of parking permit, fines levied if not in compliance, correct use of boat landings, etc.
- Use the new fees as revenue to offset maintenance costs at the parks.
- Upgrade the toilets and make them ADA accessible over the next five to ten years. Specifically, the pit toilets should be upgraded to new style vault toilets.
- Pave the entrance road into the Woodman Boat Landing, after first increasing the base under the surface.
- Pave the entrance road into the Banfield Boat Landing, after first increasing the base under the surface.
- Provide some parking adjacent to CTH K, in the Woodman area, a popular trout fishing area.
- Consider including paved shoulders as part of future road reconstruction projects to allow safer passing of slower moving vehicles which would benefit ATV/UTV, bicycle, and farm implement traffic.
- Extend the Sanders Creek Trail in Boscobel to connect to the Boscobel Bluffs Trail east of town.
- Use the University of Wisconsin Platteville engineering students for any future park project(s). SWWRPC should help guide the process in pairing Grant County with a suitable team.

The Grant County Agricultural Extension Committee listed their top five priorities as:

- ❖ Implement a fee structure at each of the boat launch sites on the Wisconsin River – this may be a parking permit for vehicles with trailers.
- ❖ Use the new fee's as revenue to offset maintenance costs at the parks.
- ❖ Pave the entrance road into the Woodman Boat Landing, after first increasing the base under the surface.
- ❖ Pave the entrance road into the Banfield Boat Landing, after first increasing the base under the surface.
- ❖ Consider including paved shoulders as part of future road reconstruction projects to allow safer passing of slower moving vehicles which would benefit ATV/UTV, bicycle, and farm implement traffic.

The Agricultural and Extension Committee used these priorities as talking points in an invitation to the general public to attend and participate in the planning process. The Committee with assistance from the Southwest Wisconsin Regional

Planning Commission (SWWRPC) then developed a preliminary draft of the updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, based on the recommendation of the Committee, the Highway Department, and the general public.

The updated report was reproduced in draft form and copies given to members of the Agricultural and Extension Committee for their review and comment. After suggesting any minor revisions to the planning document, the Agricultural and Extension Committee were then asked to endorse the draft Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as their guide for future decisions related to park development in Grant County. The Agricultural and Extension Committee reviewed a proposed resolution to be taken to the Grant County Board of Supervisors regarding adoption of the planning document. Following this meeting the Agricultural and Extension Committee produced the final report and provided copies to all County Board members for their review and comments. The County Board was also given a copy of the proposed resolution recommending adoption of the plan as the county's official park and recreation plan for the next five year period. Upon adoption, the plan will be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requesting recertification for participation in the state's park and recreation cost sharing programs.

Amending the Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision makers. Amendments must follow the same process as when the original plan was prepared. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the original plan.

The following steps will ensure any new amendment is approved with respect to state statues and to the citizens of Grant County:

1. **Initial meetings/framing the amendment:** Depending on the size and scope of the amendment, the Agricultural and Extension Committee will meet several times to discuss the proposed amendment.
2. **Opportunity for Public Input:** A public forum should be provided with ample time for the community to know about the proposed changes to the plan. Then a public meeting should be held so the community can understand the need for amendment and have an opportunity to provide direct feedback on the proposed changes.
3. **Draft Amendment:** The Agricultural and Extension Committee develop a draft amendment that still captures the need for the amendment and feedback from the public.
4. **Amendment Adoption:** At an official public meeting, with 30 days of notice, the County Board will vote to approve the plan amendment with the recommendation of the Agricultural and Extension Committee.
5. **WIDNR Approval:** The board action on the plan amendment should be sent in writing to the WIDNR for recertification of the county's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with the new changes. The plan amendment will not be effective until a letter is received from DNR indicating their approval.

Image 4: Wyalusing State Park in Grant County, WI



Summary of State, Regional and Local Planning Efforts

Image 4: Lookout view of the Wyalusing State Park in Grant County, WI



Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

“Our effectiveness in meeting future recreation needs will be shaped by many factors including the shifting demographics of our population, the quality of habitats and the impacts from invasive species and changing climate conditions, our ability to improve the compatibility between and among recreation participants, and sustainable financial resources. Parks and nature preserves, wildlife areas and refuges, and forests and trails connect people to the natural environment. These places, from small neighborhood parks to the large national, state and county forests, are the stages on which we enjoy the outdoors, improve our health, protect our air and water, and provide a large economic boost, particularly to our rural areas. – Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan

The 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), provides recommendations to guide public outdoor recreation policy, planning decisions, the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund money, and other WIDNR administered grant programs.

High-quality outdoor recreation experiences available in Wisconsin contribute to our exceptional quality of life; reflected in sustained economic growth and in outdoor recreation traditions passed down through generations. From community river walks to expansive public forests, public recreation lands and facilities enhance our lives, draw millions of visitors, and support businesses large and small. The economic, social, and health benefits of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin far outweigh the investment.

To support the development of SCORP, a statewide survey of Wisconsin residents was conducted regarding outdoor recreation participation and frequency, as well as opinions about future needs. In addition, WIDNR undertook an assessment of recreation opportunities and needs in each region of the state. Together, these supporting documents show that an estimated 95% of Wisconsin adults participated in some type of outdoor recreation in the past year. Activities in which residents most frequently engaged tend to be those that require little preparation or travel time and can provide a high-quality experience in a limited amount of time. Examples include hiking and walking on trails, fishing, bicycling, dog walking, and bird/wildlife watching.

SCORP goals include:

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

Additionally, the SCORP highlights regional recreational demands that supports Grant County’s priorities for its location in the Mississippi River Corridor Region. The top ten (10) most frequently identified recreation opportunities, needed in the Mississippi River Corridor Region, based on public input gathered during the SCORP Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA) process include:

- More hiking/walking/running trails
- More natural surface (dirt) bicycling trails
- More paved bicycling trails
- More rustic/quiet campgrounds (pit toilets, no electricity or generators)
- More public shore access to lakes & streams
- More local parks and playgrounds
- More horseback trails
- More wildlife watching decks or platforms
- More developed campgrounds (electric hook-ups, flush toilets, showers)
- More trails/routes for motorized recreation (ATVs, UTVs, off-road motorcycles, etc.)

Regional Planning Efforts

In 2010, SWWRPC initiated a regional visioning and planning project titled “Grow Southwest Wisconsin” as part of the Sustainable Communities program of the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Environmental Protection Agency. Goal 3 of the Culture and Creativity element is to “Attract people from outside Southwestern Wisconsin through regional branding and marketing,” with Strategy 3.5.2 recommending that the region’s leaders “Connect the marketing of arts and culture opportunities with recreational trails such as bike and ATV.” Goal 2 of the Transportation element also recognizes the importance of prioritizing safety in all transportation projects with Strategy 2.2.1 recommending the needs of all users in road construction projects. Strategy 2.2.3 of the same goal also recommends adhering to or exceeding the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Summary of Previous Outdoor Recreation Plan

Grant County’s previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was completed in 2010 by the Grant County Parks Committee, with technical assistance from the Grant County University Extension and the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This plan focused primarily on upgrading the parks/public accesses the county owns along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and bringing all facilities up to ADA standards. Recommendations in the 2010 plan which have since been implemented include:

- Erection of new signs at various sites, including the one at Wyalusing that has Bud Biefer’s name added to it.
- New boat ramp has been placed at Wyalusing. There are some issues with the new ramp in that it cannot be put into service when the level of the Mississippi is high. The parking lot and entrance road at Wyalusing Beach/Boat Ramp has been repaved.
- The dock at O’Leary’s becoming out of line with the boat ramp has been corrected but it is a temporary measure and will need to be realigned every season.

Description of the Planning Region

Social characteristics of Grant County

According to the 2019 US Census Estimates, Grant County has a population of 51,733 residents, which is up 4.3% from the 2000 US Census count. Grant County’s racial composition is largely homogenous; 96.4% of the county’s population being white. The remaining 3.6% is split between the “Black”, “Asian”, “American Indian and Alaska Native” and “Some other race alone” categories. Grant County’s lack of racial diversity is standard for the southwestern Wisconsin region, and lags behind the state average, with 85% white and a 15% split of other races, black being the highest at 6%.

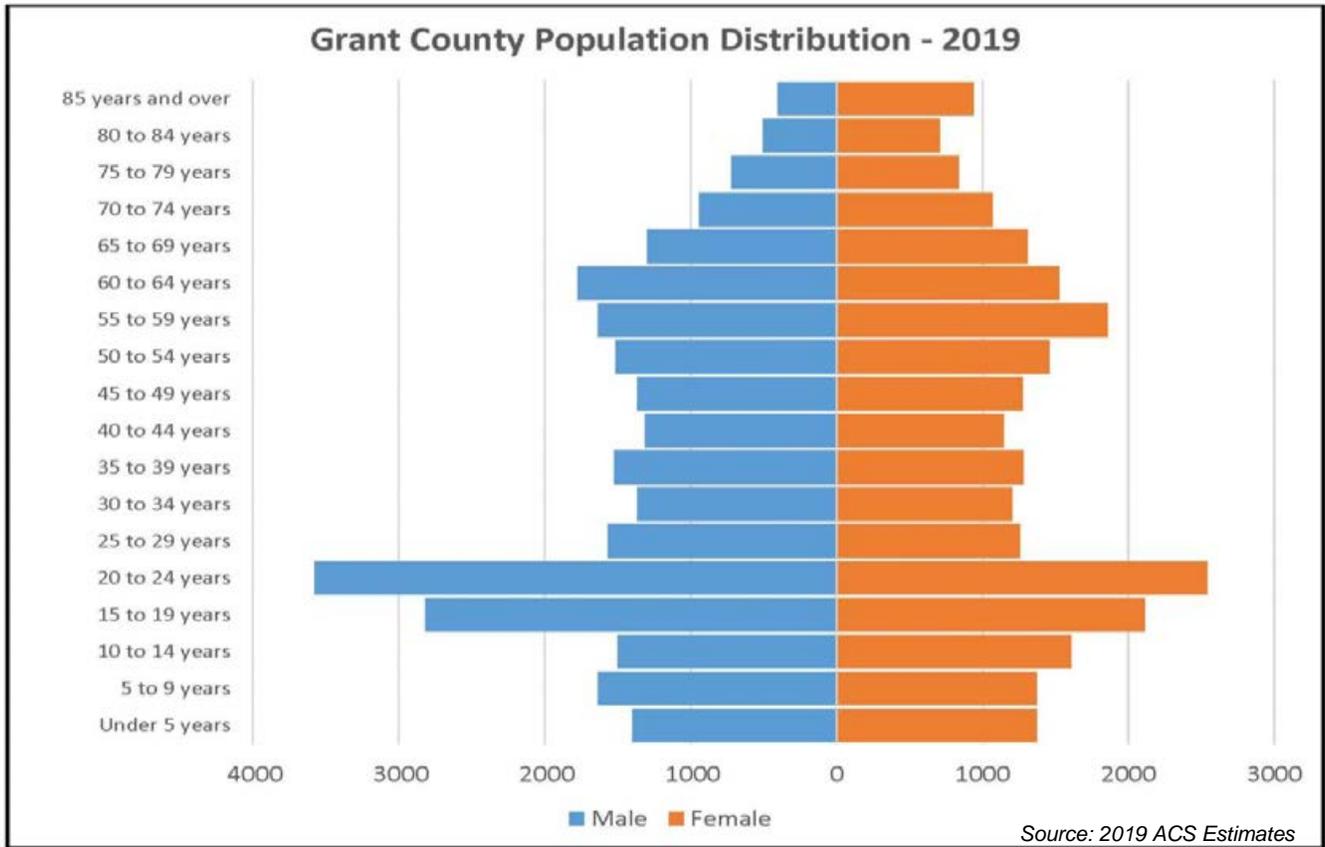
Grant County maintains a median age of 36, similar to many communities in southwestern Wisconsin. Table 1 illustrates that roughly 56% of the county is between 20 and 64 years old. This wide working-age base helps ground the county economically and provides stability. However, the relatively small youth population means the county will likely struggle with sustainable long term growth.

Table 1: Grant County Age Cohorts

Age Cohorts	2000 Census	2010 Census	2019 Estimates		
Under 5 years	2576	2989	2771	2019 Total Youth Population 13,818	26.7% of 2019 population
5 to 9 years	3162	3025	3005		
10 to 14 years	3666	2907	3108		
15 to 19 years	4824	4741	4934		
20 to 24 years	4805	5914	6118	2019 Total working-age population 29,184	56.4% of 2019 population
25 to 29 years	2541	2785	2824		
30 to 34 years	2649	2599	2567		
35 to 39 years	3389	2480	2807		
40 to 44 years	3707	2740	2455		
45 to 49 years	3400	3383	2643		
50 to 54 years	2861	3684	2973		
55 to 59 years	2272	3304	3496		
60 to 64 years	2160	2683	3301	2019 retired-age population 8,731	16.9% of 2019 population
65 to 69 years	1936	2059	2606		
70 to 74 years	1822	1858	2013		
75 to 79 years	1558	1535	1557		
80 to 84 years	1134	1234	1211		
85 years and over	1135	1288	1344		
Total Population	49597	51208	51733		

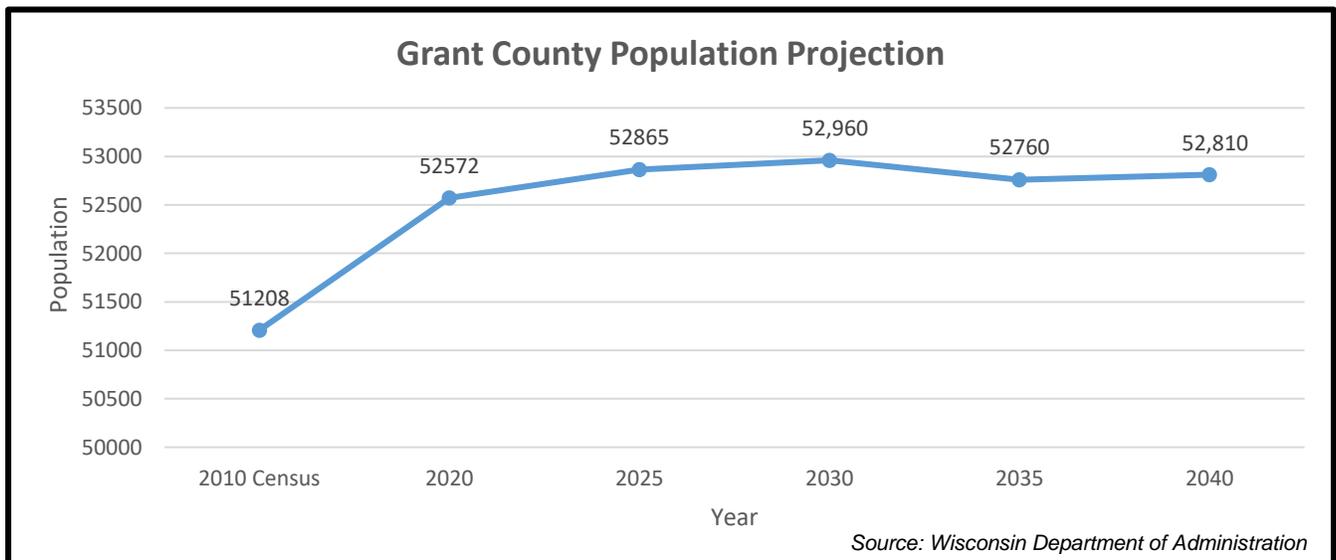
Figure 1 is a population pyramid showing a snapshot of Grant County’s population taken from the 2019 US Census Estimates. As mentioned previously, the largest portion of the pyramid is the “working-age” population between 20 and 64 years. The middle section of the pyramid is bloated and the top and bottom are narrow. Without in-migration to the county, the population will likely decline in the future.

Figure 1: Grant County Population Pyramid



These findings are consistent with information from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WIDOA), which is believed to provide a more accurate reflection of population growth estimates. The Wisconsin DOA estimates are based on the prior census and analysis of contemporary data including housing units, dormitory and institutional populations, automobile registrations, and other indicators of population change. According to the DOA, Grant County’s population will increase slightly from 2020 to 2030, after which it will decline from 2030 to 2040 as illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Grant County Population Projection



Economy

The economy of Grant County is driven by businesses within the “Education and Hospitals (Local Government)”, “Education and Hospitals (State Government)”, and “Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals” industries. In some instances, when an individual may be out of work, or underemployed, or individuals that are self-employed, existing unemployment counts may not include them. This indicates that the relatively low unemployment rate of Grant County (2.7%) may actually be higher than reported. Approximately 15.2% of the population is below the poverty level. The median household income for people living in the county is \$54,800.

Physical Characteristics of Grant County

Location

Grant County, approximately 1,183 square miles in area, is the most southwestern county in Wisconsin. Grant County is in the tri-state area of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, and is crossed by travelers commuting to Madison from a number of eastern Iowan cities, and by residents of northern Illinois traveling to La Crosse, Wisconsin or the Twin Cities area in Minnesota. Figure 3 shows some recreational opportunities in Grant County. The county is well-positioned to provide residents with a variety of recreation activities, including Wyalusing State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, O’Leary’s Lake Recreational Area, Snow Bottom State Natural Area, among others. Within 50 miles, residents can utilize Yellowstone Lake State Park, Blackhawk Memorial Park, Governor Dodge State Park, Blackhawk Lake Recreational Area, Badfish Creek State Wildlife Area, and more. County recreation facilities also include 8 county owned public accesses along the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. Many also utilize the numerous smaller rivers and streams. This makes outdoor recreation a large part of the local economy. The locations of all public access lands and state parks in Grant County can be found at the following websites:

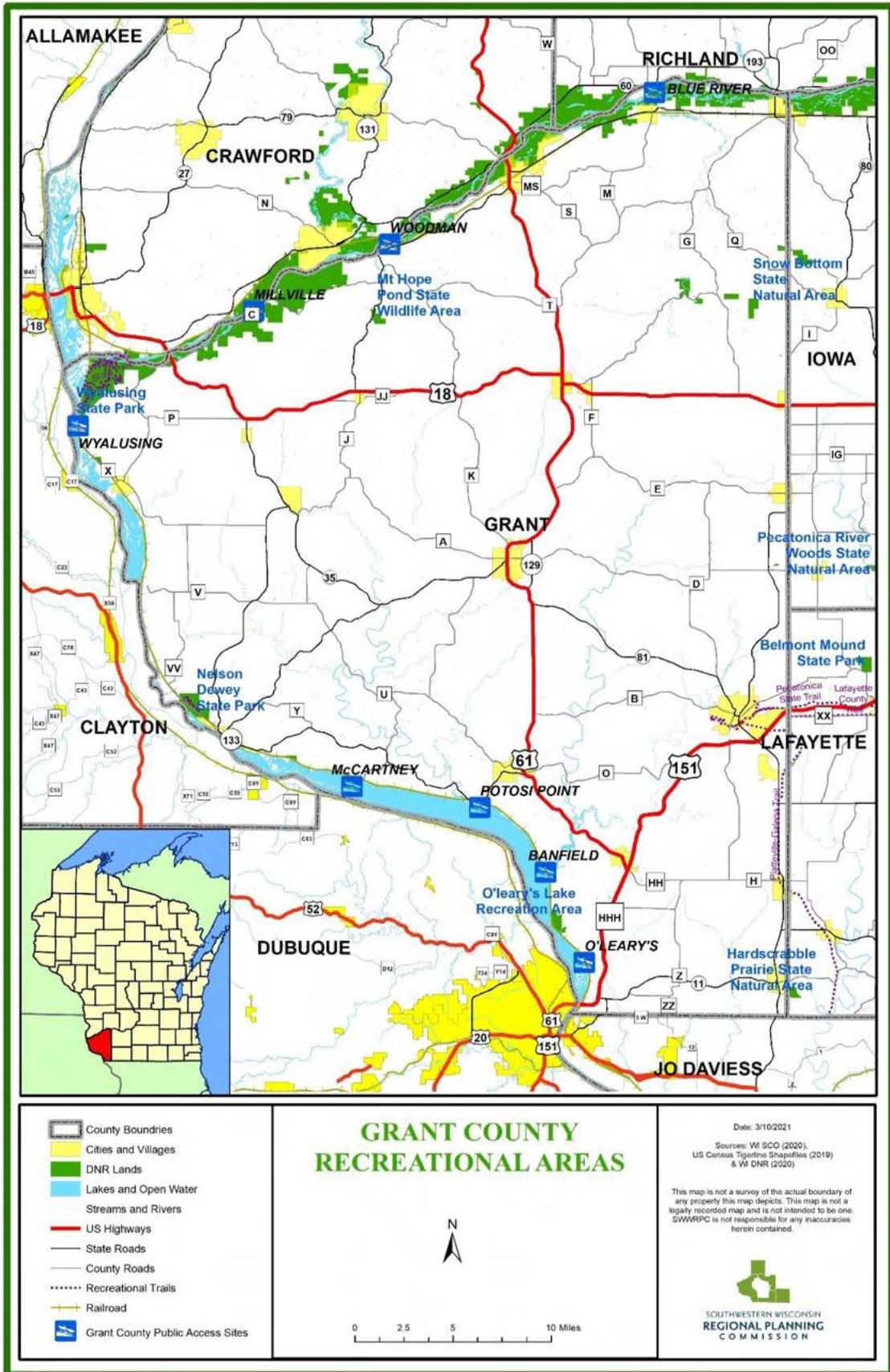
Grant County’s Public Access Lands PDF:

https://embed.widencdn.net/pdf/plus/widnr/btxe5czufo/LF0076_grant.pdf?u=6c5niw

Wisconsin’s Public Access Lands Web Map:

https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/H5/?Viewer=Public_Access_Lands

Figure 3: Recreation Opportunities in Grant County



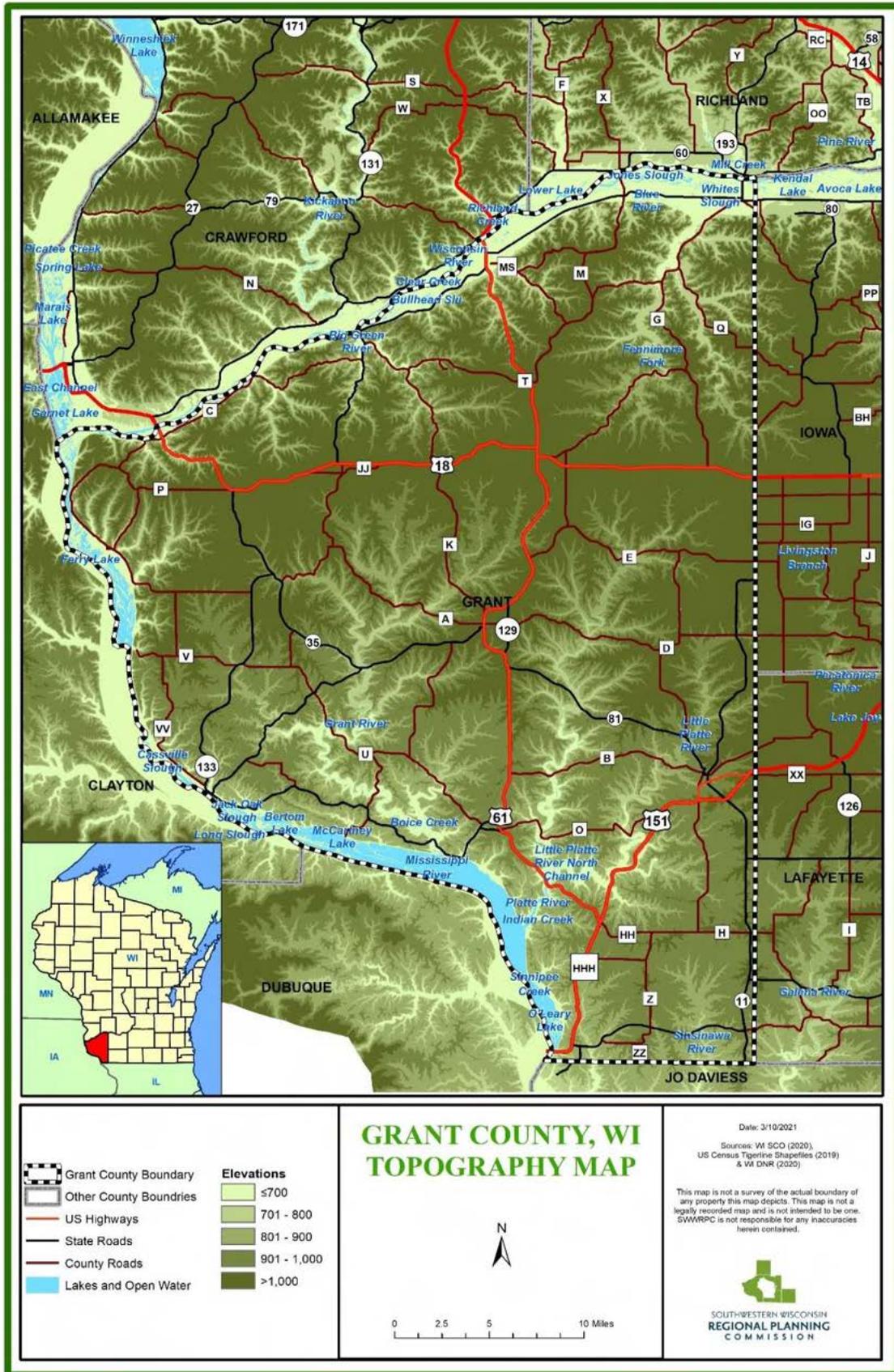
Topography

Grant County is located entirely within the Western Upland. The Western Upland is a geographical region covering much of the western half of Wisconsin. It stretches from southern Polk County in the north to the state border with Illinois in the south, and from Rock County in the east to the Mississippi River in the west. Wisconsin's Western Upland is a rugged, hilly region deeply dissected by rivers and streams. The area is characterized by rocky outcroppings and numerous small caves, as well as sharp and frequent changes in altitude. The average elevation in the region is between 900 to 1,200 feet above sea level, where the area immediately adjacent to the highland averages 600 to 900 feet in elevation. Aside from the Upland itself, the strongest topographic features of the region are the trenches of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and their numerous branches. One of the most dominant topographic features of the region is Military Ridge. The Ridge is the divide between the north flowing tributaries of the Wisconsin River and the south flowing tributaries to the Rock and Mississippi Rivers. It has also been important to the regions history.

The entire region, with the exception of the eastern half of Green County and a small portion of southeast Lafayette County, is characterized by rugged, steep-walled valleys and high relief. The region is referred to as the Driftless Area which preserves a large sample of what the rest of Wisconsin, as well as the northern and eastern United States were like before the Glacial Period.

Figure 4 is a topographic map for Grant County, a prime example of the topography of the Driftless Region.

Figure 4: Grant County Topographic Features



Climate

Grant County's climate is continental and typical of the central areas of a continent in the middle latitudes. Winters are relatively cold and snowy with extended periods of rain during the spring and autumn and intermittent periods of hot humid summer weather. Air temperatures within the county are subject to large seasonal change and yearly variations. Precipitation in the county for the six-month period from April through September may range in intensity and duration from showers to destructive thunderstorms. The snow fall average for Grant County is about 40 inches annually which has risen in the past few decades. Prevailing winds are westerly in winter and southerly in summer.

Soils

Throughout the Driftless area, the work of weathering has continued since long before the Glacial Period and has produced a deep mantle of residual soil. This forms a notable contrast to the remainder of the state, where the continental glacier scraped away nearly all the residual soil and left a sheet of transported soil. Generally, the soils of the region have been classified as the Grayish-Brown Unglaciaded Silt Loam, hilly or steep. These soils were formed from parent materials reflecting native vegetation such as prairie, oak-hickory, oak/maple forest, and oak savanna. Their basic materials include clay residue from weathered limestone, weathered sandstone, loess and stream-laid sand and gravel. The latter occurs in valleys of large streams, while the first three are wide spread. The entire southwest Wisconsin region is covered with a thick blanket of loess (windblown silt and sand). Over most of the region the loess is largely silt and is two to three feet thick. In addition, some sandy areas along the Wisconsin River have active moving sand dunes.

Flora and Fauna

Grant County includes both the "Southwest Savanna" and "Western Coulee and Ridges" ecological landscapes in Wisconsin. Both landscapes were once dominated by fire-dependent natural communities of Prairie, Oak Savanna, Oak Woodland and Oak Forest. They are now predominately dominated by agriculture, however, remnants of the former natural communities do exist but typically in small low-quality pieces. Three-percent of the land in the Western Coulee and Ridges eco-region are in public ownership so care for the public lands are important. The Western Coulee and Ridges eco-region also includes high quality streams. On the other hand, less than one-percent of the land in the Southwest Savanna eco-region are in public ownership. The WIDNR believes the Southwest Savanna landscape offers the best opportunity in the state for large scale grassland management and restoration. The Southwest Savanna ecosystem also has high quality streams, and so making buffer zones adjacent to them is very important.

Threats from invasive plant species have been increasing and control of them should be considered in both ecosystems. Invasive plants reduce opportunities for recreation, increase chances for erosion, decrease habitat, and lessen the aesthetics of areas. Some of these invasive plants include: Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*), Common teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*), Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), Tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), White mulberry (*Morus alba*), Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). Any plant that is dominating an area could be considered as invasive.

Common trees of the area historically would include fire tolerant Oaks, Shagbark Hickory and Hazelnut undergrowth. In ravines and near waterways would have been Maple, Basswood dominated. However, due to mesophication, woodlands are becoming dominated by other low-quality tree species and stocking rates are much higher today than historical standards.

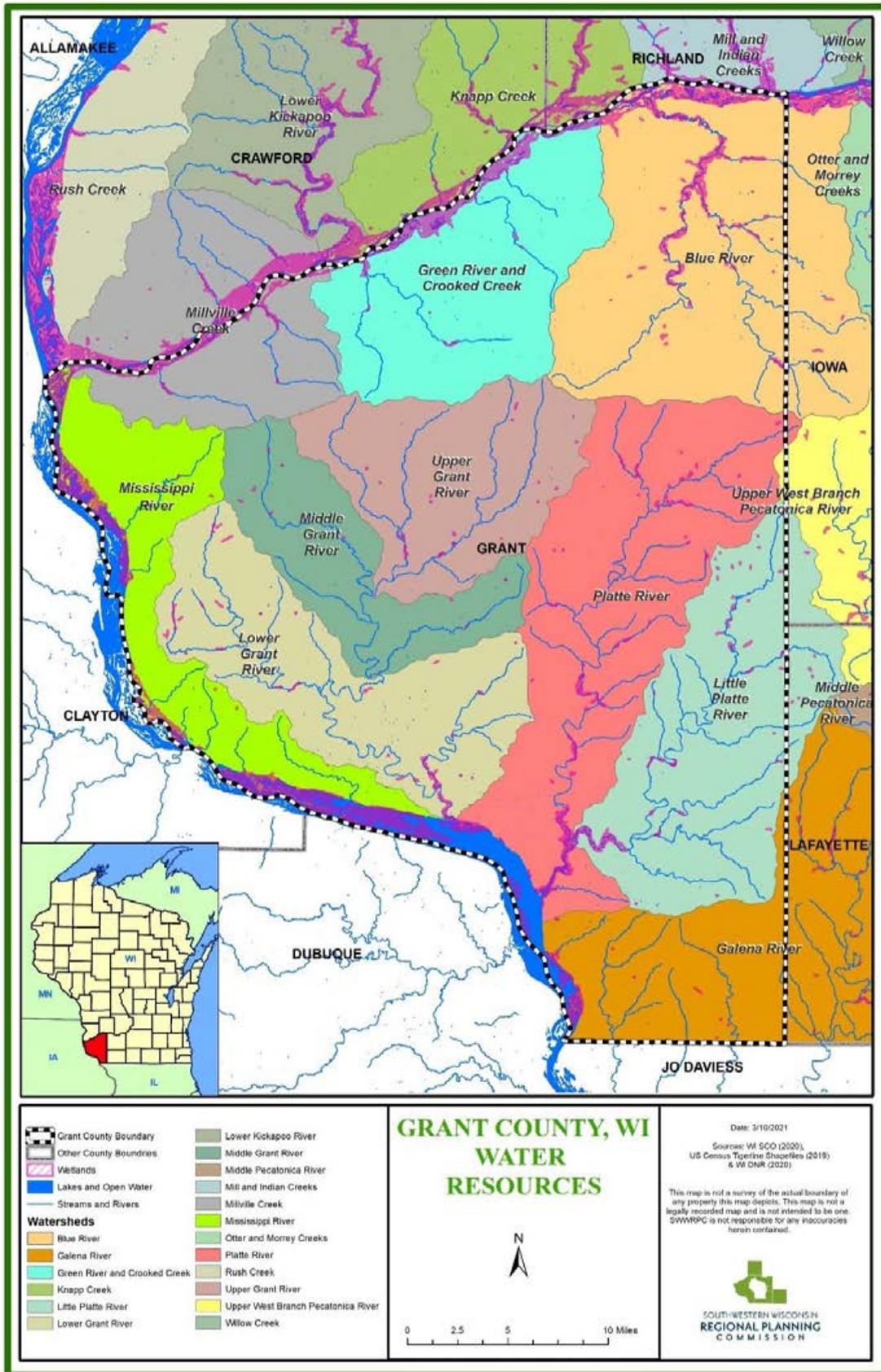
Both landscapes contain public lands which provide abundant recreation opportunities with some of the most popular being surface trail bicycling, paddle sports, fishing and hiking, and walking or running on trails. The cold and cool water streams are also vital to recreation opportunities and their protection and enhancement should be imperative to any land use decision. Warm water streams with small mouth bass populations should also be prioritized.

Water Resources

The county contains, or borders on, 224 streams and 36 back water lakes having 25,434 and 2,673 acres of surface water, respectively. None of the lakes are natural in the sense that each was created by the natural or artificial diversion or impoundment of a stream. The Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers are the largest contributors to lake and stream acreages and, accordingly, sustain the largest amount of recreation activity. Other streams of greater than average recreational value are the Blue, Grant, Little Platte, Platte, and Big Green Rivers. Fishing, boating, canoeing, swimming, water-skiing, hunting, and trapping are the principal recreational uses of Grant County waters. Surface waters, because of their aesthetic qualities, are also important to other activities.

All of the streams of the county are affected by man-caused pollutants to one degree or another. Few, however, have been abused to the point that they are no longer capable of serving the recreationist. Major sources of surface water degradation in Grant County are runoff from hog and cattle feed lots and siltation and soil erosion. Much of the adverse damage is caused during heavy rainfall events. Other deterrents to recreation are related to a lack of public access to some waters, private encroachment on shorelines, and flooding. Additional references to the county's waters, their use and potential, will be made in subsequent sections of the plan.

Figure 5: Grant County's Water Resources



Fish and Game

A variety of fish species are available in Grant County, and it is difficult to say that one species is more popular than others. Trout rank high in popularity due to the presence of many fine trout streams. Figure 6 shows the trout streams in Grant County. Grant County has a total of 144.8 miles of trout water. The majority of the trout water in Grant County is Class II. Class I Trout Water is water that has a reproducing population of trout that will maintain a fishable population without stocking. Class II Trout Water is water that is adequate to maintain a fishable population of trout including carryover trout if a stocking program is carried on. Class III Trout Water include waters that are marginal trout habitat with no natural reproduction occurring and require annual stocking of trout to provide trout fishing.

Other fish of importance to the recreationist in Grant County include largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegills, catfish, northern pike, and walleye. Oxbow lakes of the Wisconsin River, Mississippi River sloughs, and the county's larger streams support the bulk of the warm water fishery.

Grant County hunters have a wide variety of game to pursue. The white tailed deer, which is most abundant in the northern part of the county, is the most sought after game species. Other popular game species include squirrel, woodcock, pheasant, ruffed grouse, raccoon, rabbit, and waterfowl. Muskrat, mink and beaver inhabit marshes along the rivers and are of special interest to trappers.

Both uplands and wetlands provide habitat for numerous smaller mammals and a very wide variety of birdlife. Although these segments of the county's wildlife population may not always be of interest to hunters, they are of interest to people engaged in nature study, hiking and sightseeing.

Since being reintroduced to the state in the 1970's, wild turkeys can now be found in every county in Wisconsin. Grant County's topography provides ideal habitat and hunting during spring and fall seasons which has grown substantially over the past years.

Further discussions of fish and game and their relationship to recreational activities are contained in later sections of this plan.

Land Use

It is estimated that approximately 87 percent of Grant County's land area is used for agricultural purposes. This agricultural land (over 650,000 acres) is composed of cropland, pasture, woodland, and farm structures. The remaining acreage (slightly less than 100,000 acres) is devoted to community developments, transportation routes, parks, wildlife reserves, and many forms of other municipal improvements. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owns and manages approximately 18,883 acres of recreational land within Grant County including a great deal of land located along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

The amount of land specifically devoted to recreational purposes is minor in relationship to the total land area of Grant County. However, it is recognized that a considerable amount of farm acreage is used for extensive forms of recreation, like hunting, hiking, nature study, and snowmobiling. These activities seldom require elaborate recreation facilities or a financial investment of consequence.

Forestry is also a land use that has a positive impact on recreation. It is estimated that about 27 percent of the land area of the county is forest covered. Forests complement numerous outdoor recreation activities, like sightseeing, nature study, and hunting, and provide visual variety to the agricultural landscape. They also protect the soils and water supplies of the county.

Recent population trends and the influx of new business into Grant County are expected to reduce the amount of land dedicated to agrarian and forestry purposes and to recreation in general. Land lost to growth may be less than significant quantitatively. Nevertheless, growth must be controlled because of its cumulative effects and because it may occur on properties best suited to other purposes.

Standards for Park and Recreation Planning

The standards system is a method of assessing an area's outdoor recreation needs. The National Recreation and Park Association developed standards to provide a scale against which the existing recreation system can be measured. Standards can be used to create guidelines for future needs. Typically, standards link park acreage to the area's population, or link the number of recreation facilities to the population. In addition, service area standards are also used to determine recreational needs.

Recreation Open Space Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has endorsed a park and open space classification system which will serve as a guide throughout much of this plan. These standards pertain only to parks, recreation lands, and other open spaces discussed in this plan. Standards can be a good starting point or reference when determining a county's outdoor recreation land and facility needs. However, each county's needs are different based on such factors as the county's demographic profile and what types of facilities and outdoor recreation priorities the citizenry deem important. Resident input in the form of surveys and/or public hearings are also important when recreation and park planners look at future development and/or preservation of public lands.

NRPA's standards have been modified to more accurately define park, recreation land and open spaces within Grant County. For example, NRPA recommends that a County Park have a desirable size of 15+ acres. In Grant County, most parks of this nature are in the 5 to 100+ acres range. This has been noted in the definition section below. All parks, recreation lands and open space under the jurisdiction of Grant County have been assigned one primary classification or code using the following titles and abbreviations: (CP) County Park; (LP) Linear Park; (SU) Special Use Area.

- CP: County Park
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 5 to 100+ acres
 - Service Area: 1 – 15 miles.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Area of diverse environmental quality. This may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting or picnicking. It may be any combination of the above depending upon site suitability and community need.
 - Site Characteristics: May include natural features, such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. The site has easy access by all modes of transportation.
- SU: Special Use Area
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Variable depending on type of facility.
 - Service Area: Entire County, or part of the county.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservancies, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, and downhill ski areas. Also includes plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, or parkways.
 - Site Characteristics: Located within the county.
- LP: Linear Park
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Sufficient width to protect resources and to provide maximum use.
 - Service Area: No applicable standard.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel or activity such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, fitness trails/skiing and canoeing. May include active play areas.

- Site Characteristics: Built on natural corridors such as utility or railroad right-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.

Recreational Facility Development Standards

Standards for the development of recreation facilities, similar to open space standards are expressed in facility units per population ratio. The purpose of evaluating a recreation system is to determine the amount of needed facilities in each recreation area.

Recreation facility development standards serve as an excellent resource guide when local officials are developing a new park or are upgrading an existing recreation area. These standards provide recommendations regarding space requirements for various recreation activities. They also provide recommendations regarding size and dimensions for each activity, the best orientation to avoid sunlight in the eyes, a recommended service radius for each activity, and other criteria to be considered when locating a recreation facility/activity.

Age, income and education all contribute to people's recreational preferences, yet facility standards sometimes ignore these variables. Another problem with using standards is that they have been developed primarily for urban communities and have limited application to rural areas. Despite these problems, facility development standards have a place in recreation planning. County leaders use them to approximate the adequacy of their parks systems.

A listing of the NRPA's park and open space standards and suggested facility development standards can be found in Appendix A of this report. Included in the listing of recreation facility development standards are such activities as baseball, softball, football, field hockey, soccer, volleyball, tennis, badminton, ice hockey, archery range, golf-driving range, and track running.

Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory

To determine what course of action county officials must take to provide comprehensive outdoor recreational opportunities, it is necessary to evaluate the supply of existing areas and facilities. This section of the report provides an inventory of Grant County's recreational facilities. Recreational opportunities in Grant County are provided by the state, county, communities, and private enterprise. For ease of presentation, activities based on land resources are discussed separately from those based on water resources.

Land-Based Activities

Golfing

There are four golf courses in Grant County. They are the Lancaster County Club, Hickory Grove Golf Course located just north of Fennimore, Birchwood Golf and Development located by Kieler, and the Platteville Golf and Country Club. Three are privately owned courses with only minor restrictions on play by the general public. The Lancaster Country Club is owned by the City of Lancaster. Another privately owned, Cole Acres Country Club, is located near the county border just east of Cuba City in Lafayette County and serves the residents of the Cuba City area.

Tennis

There are nine places to play tennis within Grant County. The Wyalusing State Park, Bloomington Middle School, Boscobel Kronshage Park, Cuba City Splinter Park, Dickeyville Community Park, Fennimore Marsden Park, Lancaster High School, Platteville West View Park, and at the University of Wisconsin Platteville. All of these courts are open to the public. These facilities provide outstanding recreational opportunities.

Sightseeing

Few counties in Wisconsin offer greater opportunities for sightseers than does Grant County. The panorama offered by Military Ridge, the waters of two great rivers, wooded hills, rock bluffs and outcroppings, and the sculptured agrarian landscape typifies the county's visual amenities. One of the nation's most scenic highways, the Great River Road, stretches the full length of the county, in a general north-south direction, revealing a full range of the county's natural landscape.

Hiking and Nature Study

Both of these activities can take place without assistance from developed facilities. When facilities are provided however, enjoyment is normally heightened. The only developed public trail systems in the county are located within the two state parks. Wyalusing State Park offers 22.2 miles hiking opportunities. Nelson Dewey State Park offers a walking trail about 2.75 miles in length and a 2-acre nature study area. A list of Grant County's natural preserves can be found at the following link: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lands/NaturalAreas/county.html#Grant>.

Skiing and Snowshoeing

Residents of the county are left to their own ingenuity to satisfy their demands for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Both of these sports have gained some interest in the last couple of years. These activities required neither hills nor deep snow. Only adequate space and light snow cover are necessary. There are approximately 6.9 miles of public cross country ski trails that have been developed in Wyalusing State Park. As interest in this activity increases, the likelihood additional trail establishment can be expected on both public and private lands.

Camping

There are 15 publicly and privately owned campgrounds in Grant County. Most offer a mix of sites to accommodate tents, RV's and group sites along with a combination of options ranging from overnight to seasonal stays. Privately owned Boulder Creek Campground, located north of Bagley, is the largest single contributor of camping units followed by the combined total of two state parks and privately owned River of Lakes Resort, in that order. All the campgrounds provide a quality recreational experience and have support facilities like sanitary facilities, electricity, and drinking water.

Table 2: Campground Inventory of Grant County

Name of Campground	Ownership
Boulder Creek Campground	Private
River of Lakes Resort	Private
Wyalusing State Park	State
Big 'H' Campground	Private
Nelson Dewey State Park	State
Sandy Bottoms-Up	Private
Schleicher's Landing	Private
Whitetail Bluff Campground & Resort	Private
Fennimore RV Park	City of Fennimore
Coconut Cove RV Resort	Private
Rustic Barn Campground & RV Park	Private
Victoria Riverside Park	Village of Muscoda
Mound View Park	City of Platteville
Grant River Recreation Area	Corps of Engineers
Woodman Lake Cabins and RV	Private

Hunting

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR) provides thousands of acres of land for the purpose of hunting and propagating wildlife. Some of these lands are owned by the state and others are leased. Species of game found on this land include ruffed grouse, whitetail deer, rabbit squirrel, turkey and a variety of waterfowl. Public agencies provide acres of land, wetland, and water for public hunting. Most of the land area in public ownership is in the bottomlands of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers and is used primarily as backup land for the propagation and hunting of waterfowl. Considerable hunting in the county takes place on privately-owned lands at the discretion of the landowners. Grant County landowners are generally cooperative with those who ask permission. The species of game sought on private owned lands and public lands are alike. Hunting has a strong tradition in the region and the county is advised to cater to visitors for a pleasant experience.

Picnicking

Picnicking supply is difficult to determine since a picnic table per se does not necessarily reflect the recreational opportunity. Some highway waysides and municipal parks, for example, have picnic tables, but they were omitted from the inventory because they are underutilized or because they lack the support facilities necessary for enjoyable picnicking. Every local park that is mentioned has picnic tables, but the number fluctuates with the use or movement by need or other reasons. The picnic areas considered to have an impact on outdoor recreation on a countywide basis are listed below. Nearly all of the picnic areas inventoried offer recreational opportunities in addition to picnicking.

Table 3: Picnic Area Inventory of Grant County

Name of Area	Ownership
Jay's Lake Landing	Corps of Engineers
Wyalusing State Park	State
Hwy. Wayside (Hickory Grove)	State
Hwy. Wayside (Fennimore Hills)	State
Hwy. Wayside (Leibfried-Potosi)	State
Nelson Dewey State Park	State
Wyalusing Recreation Area	Grant County
Banfield Bridge Recreation Area	Grant County
Millville Recreation Area	Grant County
Woodman Recreation Area	Grant County
Blue River Recreation Area	Grant County
Glen Haven Recreation Area	Town of Glen Haven
McCartney Recreation Area	Town of Waterloo
Boscobel Recreation Area	City of Boscobel
Kronshage Park	City of Boscobel
Fireman's Park	City of Boscobel
Veterans Park	City of Boscobel
VFW Park	City of Cuba City
Legion Park	City of Cuba City
Marsden Park	City of Fennimore
Memorial Park	City of Lancaster
Klondyke Park	City of Lancaster
Ryland Park	City of Lancaster
City Park	City of Platteville
Highland Park	City of Platteville
Sherman Park	City of Platteville
Mound View Park	City of Platteville
Legion Park	City of Platteville
Smith Park	City of Platteville
West View Park	City of Platteville
Valley View Park	City of Platteville
Blue River Village Park	Village of Blue River
Village Wayside	Village of Cassville
Riverside Park	Village of Cassville
Dickeyville Athletic Field	Village of Dickeyville
Community Park	Village of Dickeyville
Village Hall Community Park	Village of Hazel Green
Village Park	Village of Livingston
Village Park	Village of Montfort
Village Park	Village of Mount Hope
Riverside Park	Village of Muscoda
Village Hall Park	Village of Woodman

Bicycling

The Rountree Branch Trail begins where Chestnut Street in Platteville crosses the Rountree Branch stream and continues 2.7 miles to Keystone Parkway. The trail connects trails on the UW-Platteville campus to a trail that will continue to Belmont, Wisconsin. Wyalusing State Parks offers 7.7 miles of mountain biking trails. There are also two private locations for mountain bike riding. One is the Fritz Farm which is located off County Road B on Red Dog Road. The other private mountain bike riding area is the Hirsch Farm, there is a fee for riding on the Hirsch farm trails.

Although there are no designated bicycle trails in Grant County, participants in this activity can also utilize the good primary and secondary highway network in the county. Seventeen (17) of the twenty-eight (28) bike loops designated as part of Cycle Southwest Wisconsin are located all or in part within Grant County. All loops follow paved roads and none are specifically marked for this purpose. Due to the challenging Driftless terrain this is meant to appeal to very experienced riders only. The Wisconsin Rivers Trails Organization (WRTO) is in the process of developing a paved biking/walking trail with the ultimate goal of connecting the City of Boscobel with the Villages of Woodman and Wauzeka. Bicycling, as used herein, refers to a recreational biking experience of more than two hours duration.

Horseback Riding

Grant County has one trail designated specifically for horseback riding. It is located just west of Millville off of County Road C. This is part of the Lower Wisconsin River State Wildlife Area.

Snowmobiling

A Grant County Snowmobile Plan has been developed and will continue to be maintained under the Snowmobile Aids Program. There are currently 387.4 miles of public trails eligible for state funding with an additional 30+ miles of club funded trails. All trails are maintained and groomed by volunteers with the 12 clubs that are members of the Association of Grant County Snowmobile Clubs, Inc. In addition, Grant County has several privately owned or sponsored snowmobile areas. Snowmobiling provides a tourism draw during an otherwise slow period. Figure 7 shows existing snowmobile trails in Grant County.

ATV/UTV Routes

In March 2018, the Grant County Board voted to open all county roads to ATV/UTV traffic. In communities where the city or village is responsible for road care, the route stops at the edge of the city or village unless ATV routes are signed and approved. Figure 8 shows existing ATV/UTV routes in Grant County which include approximately 1,400 miles of county, town, and municipal roads open to ATV/UTV use. Proper signage and access to information is crucial to the expansion of this market.

Figure 7: Snowmobile Trails in Grant County

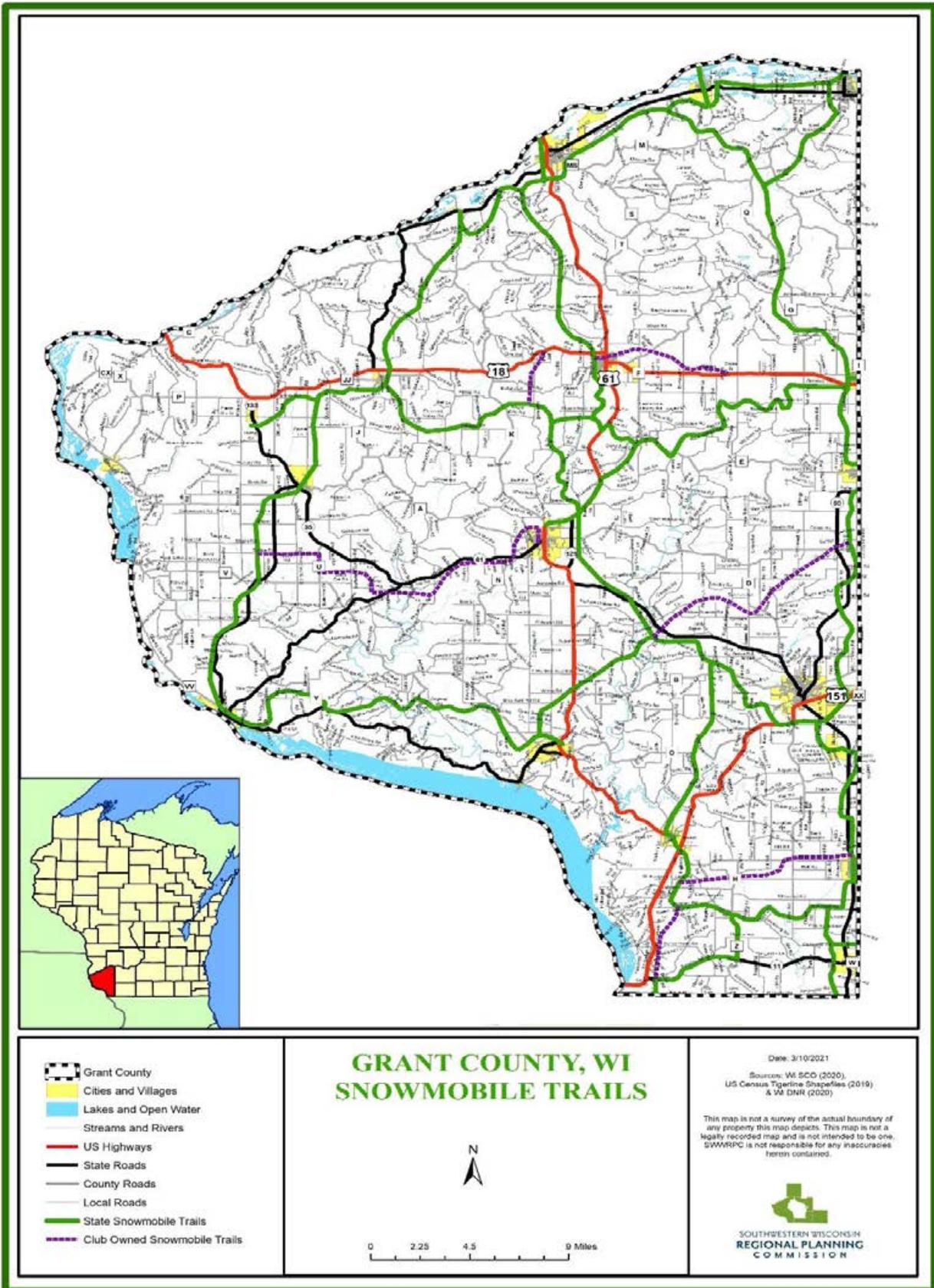
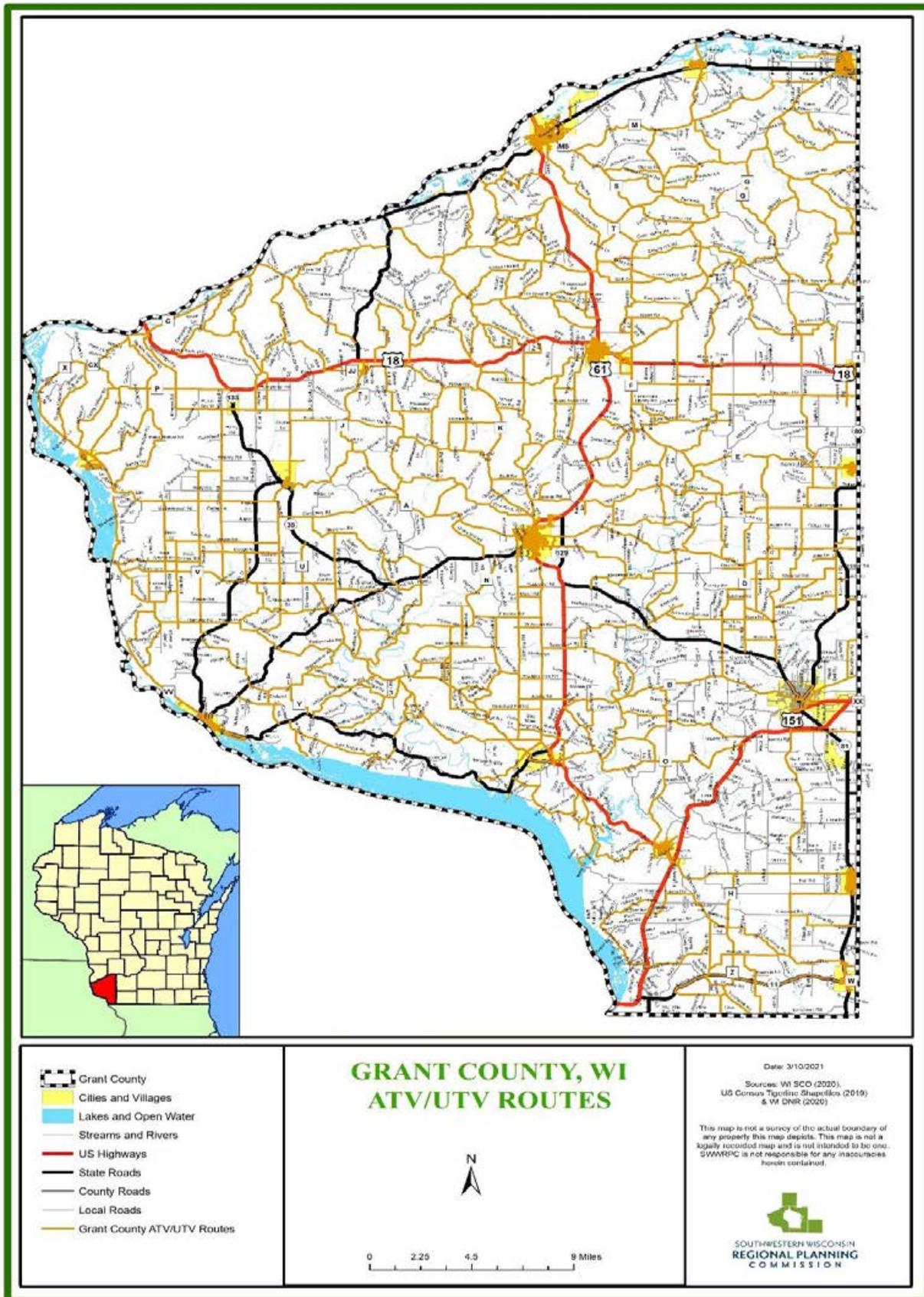


Figure 8: ATV/UTV Trails in Grant County



Water-Based Activities

Fishing

The State of Wisconsin has overall responsibility for managing fishery resources. It shares with the county and other units of government responsibility for providing public access to the resources and for adoption and enforcement of measures that will protect the resources from degradation.

Grant County has approximately 28,000 acres of fishable surface waters, including those waters of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers within the boundaries of the County. Fishing opportunities, accordingly, are abundant and diversified, which explains the popularity of fishing among county residents and their guests. Located between the Mississippi River and the Wisconsin River, Grant County provides the highest premium fishing spots in the Midwest. The Mississippi River is known for its excellent panfish, large and smallmouth bass, walleye, northern, sauger and all species of catfish. In the Wisconsin River, anglers vie for northern, blue gills, smallmouth bass, catfish, walleye, sturgeon and sauger. Common to both rivers are the "rough fish" - sheephead, carp, redhorse and gar. Today there are 13 public access fishing areas in Grant County, as well as numerous miles of secluded trout and bass streams.

Boating and Water-Skiing

The Mississippi River and associated lakes offer the best opportunities for these activities. Motorized boating and water-skiing require large areas of unobstructed and deep water. The Wisconsin River, for example, is not recommended for high speed boating because of the abundance of floating debris it carries, its shifting bottom profile and is generally too shallow. The boat launch sites on the Mississippi River should be able to be utilized by water skiers and their boats.

Canoeing and Kayaking

The Wisconsin, Grant, and Platte Rivers are the best canoeing and kayaking waters in the County. Combined, they provide approximately 100 miles of canoeing and kayaking opportunities and reveal a full measure of Grant County's diverse scenery. In addition, both the Big Green and the Blue Rivers can be canoed or kayaked for a short distance above their confluence with the Wisconsin River.

Mississippi River waters are not included in the inventory of canoeing or kayaking waters because they do not offer the same sense of water movement nor do they offer canoeists or kayakers a close association with two shorelines at the same time, as the smaller rivers do. This is not to imply that canoeing or kayaking on the river and its numerous sloughs is not an enjoyable experience, as it is on the backwaters of the Mississippi River at Glenn Lake Slough in Wyalusing State Park.

Other streams can be canoed or kayaked at certain times of the year and along limited stretches of their lower reaches. For the most part, however, they provide very limited opportunities for enjoyable canoeing and kayaking. They are not included in the inventory for this reason.

Swimming

Supervised swimming pools provide most of the swimming opportunities in Grant County. Public pools are located in Boscobel, Cassville, Fennimore, Lancaster, Montfort, and Platteville. In addition to the pools, there is one public beach located at the County owned Wyalusing Park. The beach at Wyalusing is exceptional in terms of complementary improvements, but is subjected to low quality Mississippi River water.

County Owned Parks

County recreation facilities include 8 county owned public access sites on both the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. The location of all county owned public access sites can be found on Figure 3 (Page 11). Three sites are on the Wisconsin River and four sites are on the Mississippi River. The last site is located on the Platte River and accesses the Mississippi. These sites are:

- **Blue River:** Highway T at the Wisconsin River Bridge north of Blue River. Pit restroom, picnic table, grill and boat launch.
- **Woodman:** Off Highway 133, 2 ½ miles west of Woodman. Pit restroom, picnic table, grill and boat launch on the Wisconsin River.
- **Millville:** Off Highway C, west of Millville. Pit restroom, handicap fishing access, picnic tables, grill canoe and boat launch on the Wisconsin River.
- **Wyalusing:** Off Highway X in the town of Wyalusing. Shelter, hydrant, pit restroom, picnic tables, grills, sand beach and boat launch on the Mississippi River.
- **McCartney:** At the west end of Highway N. Pit restroom, picnic tables, grill and boat launch on the Mississippi.
- **Potosi:** Off Highway 133 at the south end of Potosi. Boat launch on the Mississippi River. (No pit restrooms) rustic.
- **O'Leary's Lake:** Eagle Point Road, off Highway 61 south of Kieler. Pit restroom, boat launch on the Mississippi River.
- **Banfield Bridge:** Indian Creek Road, off Highway 61 west of Dickeyville. Picnic tables, boat launch on the Platte River with access to the Mississippi River. (No restroom)

Historic Sites

Sites, events, and other mementos of historic interest are important components of a community or county recreation program. Throughout southwestern Wisconsin, intensive efforts have been made to protect areas of outstanding historical importance. Areas (and sites) of this level of importance already identified include:

- John J. Blaine residence in Boscobel.
- Nelson Dewey homestead near Cassville.
- James Gates Percival gravesite in Hazel Green.
- Nelson Dewey gravesite in Lancaster.
- Emanuel Episcopal Church in Lancaster.
- Patrick Kinney house, as designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, in Lancaster.
- The Grant County Courthouse in Lancaster.
- Rountree Hall in Platteville.
- Beebe House in Platteville.
- Ballantine House in Bloomington.
- The Bevin Mine in Platteville.
- St. John's Mine in Potosi.
- Memorial to Marquette and Joliet near Wyalusing.
- Mitchell-Rountree House in Platteville.
- University of Wisconsin-Platteville campus and associated structures.
- Osceola Copper Culture Site near Potosi.
- Preston Rock Shelter in the Town of Wingville.
- Indian Mounds at Wyalusing and Nelson-Dewey State Parks.
- Point of Beginning Historical Marker south of Hazel Green on State Hwy. 84.
- Denniston House (hotel) in Cassville.
- Old Military Road Historical Marker near Patch Grove on U.S. Highway 18.
- Gideon Historical Marker south of Boscobel on U.S. Highway 61.

Scientific and Natural Areas

State natural areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. Encompassing 406,000 acres on lands owned by the state and its many partners, including land trusts, local and county governments, and private citizens, Wisconsin's natural areas are valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity and for providing benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide some of the last refuges for rare plants and animals. There are 12 registered scientific areas in Grant County. The following descriptions are provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR):

Wyalusing Hardwood Forest

Location: Within Wyalusing State Park, Grant County. T6N-R6W, Section 16. 200 acres.

Major Features: Wyalusing Hardwood Forest occupies the steep sides and top of a ridge just east of the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers and contains four major southern forest types illustrating John Curtis' classic concept of a vegetation continuum. The wooded bluffs rise more than 400 feet above the Wisconsin River and provide a variety of exposures over different bedrock types including Prairie du Chien and Platteville-Galena dolomites and St. Peter sandstone. The major soil types, Fayette and Seaton silt loams, developed in loess. The river bottoms have wet-mesic forest dominated by silver maple. Upslope there are areas of mesic, dry-mesic, and dry forest. The ground layer species are equally diverse, changing in composition with change in microclimate. Nesting birds are characteristic of locations much farther south. Rare birds include cerulean (*Dendroica cerulea*), prothonotary (*Protonotaria citrea*) and Kentucky warblers (*Oporornis formosus*), Acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*), and Louisiana waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*). The forest was dedicated to Dr. John T. Curtis in May 1966. Wyalusing Hardwood Forest is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1952.

Dewey Heights Prairie

Location: Within Nelson Dewey State Park, Grant County. T3N-R5W, Section 18. T3N-R6W, Section 13. 27 acres.

Major Features: Dewey Heights Prairie rests atop a southwest-facing bluff between 800-870 feet high overlooking the Mississippi River. The cap rock is Ordovician-age dolomite covered only partially by thin soil with exposed cap rocks, ledges and cliffs. A dry, limey prairie dominated by big and little blue-stem, side-oats grama, hairy grama, June grass, Indian grass, and needle grass occupies the steep slopes. There is also a diversity of native prairie forbs from spring blooming pasque flower, wood betony, and shooting star to summer blooming butterfly weed and compass plant and asters and goldenrods in the fall. Other species include marble-seed, golden alexanders, false toadflax, smooth cliff brake, germander, and false boneset. Two rare plants grow here; the state-threatened prairie Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum plantagineum*) and cliff goldenrod (*Solidago sciaphila*). The site is also home to numerous rare animals including lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), and grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), numerous reptiles including the prairie ring-necked snake (*Diadophis punctatus*), and seven Lepidopterans including the Ottoe skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*) and columbine dusky-wing (*Erynnis lucilius*). Dewey Heights Prairie is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1952.

Blue River Cactus and Dunes

Location: Grant County. T8N-R1W, Section 6 SE¼. 130 acres.

Major Features: Blue River Sand Barrens features one of the largest and best examples of this harsh and arid ecological community in Wisconsin. Sand barrens are upland communities that develop on unstable alluvial sands along rivers such as the Mississippi and Wisconsin. They are partly or perhaps wholly anthropogenic in origin, occurring on sites historically disturbed by plowing or grazing. The flat, sandy areas resemble dry prairies, but contain actively moving sand dunes, and dunes stabilized by a thin forest cover of black and Hill's oak. "Blowouts", large, unvegetated depressions in the sand surface and eroded by wind, are scattered throughout. Early dune and blowout colonizers include false heather, bearberry and sedges while species such as three-awn grass, June grass, rough blazing-star, hoary puccoon, sand cress and prickly pear cactus are common in the barrens. Sizeable populations of two rare species, prairie fame-flower (*Talinum rugospermum*), and poppy mallow (*Callirhoe triangulata*) are found here. Invertebrate life includes unusual species and an abundance of ant lions. Reptiles are a very prevalent component of the barrens fauna and include six-lined racerunner, hognose snake, and blue racer. Many turtles use the sandy dunes for nesting. Additional animal life includes vesper sparrow, Franklin's ground squirrel, and numerous nocturnal rodents. Blue River Sand Barrens is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1968.

Wyalusing Walnut Forest

Location: Within Wyalusing State Park, Grant County. T6N-R6W, Sections 17, 18. 140 acres.

Major Features: Wyalusing Walnut Forest lies on the north face of a steep, 500 foot-high bluff overlooking the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. It features a continuum of forest types from wet, floodplain forest of silver maple and cottonwood at the bluff's base to dry oak woods with white and black oak at its summit. The mid-slope and rich soils around the cliff base are forested with southern mesic forest of red oak, sugar maple, hackberry, butternut, and a high number of black walnuts. Two areas contain nearly pure stands of black walnut. On the vertical cliffs above the Wisconsin River are a variety of species including Canada yew, Sullivant's cool-wort, and jeweled shooting-star (*Dodecatheon amethystinum*), a rare Driftless Area plant. Spring wildflowers abound with large populations of such uncommon species as dragon sage-wort (*Artemisia dranunculus*), narrow-leaved spleenwort (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*), and Goldie's fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*). The site supports numerous rare animals and a diverse avifauna with over 250 species recorded, including state-threatened species red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), Acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*), cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), and Kentucky warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). Wyalusing Walnut Forest is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1971.

Ipswich Prairie

Location: Lafayette and Grant Counties. T3N-R1E, Sections 30, 31. T3N-R1W, Section 36. 20 acres.

Major Features: Ipswich Prairie protects the largest remnant of deep-soil mesic prairie that once occurred in southwestern Wisconsin. This long, narrow stretch of mesic to dry-mesic prairie borders an old railroad right-of-way on the gently rolling topography of Wisconsin's Driftless Area. Historically, the occasional railroad fires caused by passing trains unintentionally preserved the prairie. Today, the prairie is maintained by regularly prescribed burning and brushing and the site contains a moderately rich prairie flora with over 125 species. Some of the common species include big blue-stem, Indian grass, needle grass, lead-plant, rattlesnake master, stiff coreopsis, and rough blazing-star. Other species include blue-eyed grass, pale spike lobelia, downy gentian, wood lily, and two state-threatened plants: wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*) and prairie thistle (*Cirsium hillii*). The prairie supports numerous colonies of mound building ant, *Formica cinerea*. Animal species of concern include Franklin's ground squirrel, bobolink, dickcissel, grasshopper sparrow, and western meadowlark. Ipswich Prairie is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1985.

Adiantum Woods

Location: Grant County. T7N-R5W, Sections 24 SE¼, 25 N½NE¼. 30 acres.

Adiantum Woods features a rich, dry-mesic forest situated on a steep north-facing slope that rises from the south bank of the Wisconsin River. The canopy is composed of white and red oak, basswood, yellowbud hickory, black cherry, sugar maple, and big tooth aspen. Eastern hop-hornbean and ironwood are present in the subcanopy. The shrub layer consists of witchhazel, gray dogwood, ninebark, hazelnut and poison ivy. The understory is rich in herbaceous species with lopseed, tick-trefoil, bloodroot, sweet cicely, maidenhair, interrupted, and rattlesnake ferns, yellow lady's slipper, showy orchis, wild sarsaparilla, red and white baneberry, and poke milkweed. Limestone outcrops near the top of the slope harbor populations of smooth cliff brake, bulblet bladder fern, and slender lip fern. Moving upslope, a transition or continuum of vegetation is evident as the forest community shifts from mesic to dry-mesic and finally to dry forest. Adiantum Woods is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1991.

Woodman Lake Sand Prairie and Dead Lake

Location: Within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Grant County. T7N-R4W, Sections 1, 11, 12. 205 acres.

Woodman Sand Prairie and Dead Lake features a dry sand prairie and sand barrens with several blowouts and dunes and Dead Lake, a shallow, seepage lake. The 17-acre lake has a maximum depth of only three feet and is considered to be deep marsh wetland with excellent habitat for muskrat, beaver, mink, and puddle ducks. In the sand prairie and barrens, dominant vegetation includes big blue-stem, few-flowered panic grass, Muhlenberg's bracted sedge, rough false pennyroyal, Virginia dwarf-dandelion, and wormwood. Lichens and mosses are abundant and include such species as British soldier and reindeer lichens (*Cladonia*). Also present are white wild indigo, American figwort, racemed milkwort, whorled milkweed, flowering spurge, and round-headed bush-clover. The rare clustered poppy mallow (*Callirhoe triangulata*) can be found in the surrounding area. Several blowouts and smaller dunes are present with the larger blowouts being stabilized by false heather and dwarf spike moss. The northwest portion of the area is of special interest due to the proximity of the rich Dead Lake Marsh. The marsh edge is quite dramatic as it grades rapidly from a wetland dominated by steeplebush and sedges to a sand blow all within a few feet. This feature makes the site good turtle habitat and many use the blowouts for nesting. The big sand tiger beetle is also found here. Woodman Sand Prairie and Dead Lake is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1991.

Snow Bottom

Location: Grant County. T7N-R1W, Sections 27, 28, 30, 34, 35. 633 acres.

Snow Bottom State Natural Area features a diverse and spectacular landscape encompassing the most significant remaining pine relicts in Wisconsin, as well as many other important and uncommon native plant communities including fen and springs, southern dry-mesic forest and oak woodland, riparian areas, and geological features. Located on the scattered sandstone outcrops are the pine relicts-- isolated stands of white and red pine with occasional jack pine. Understory plant species include numerous evergreen and ericaceous species such as blueberry, huckleberry, pipsissewa, and partridgeberry. Red oak dominates the dry-mesic forest with white oak, sugar maple, basswood, and red maple and the herbaceous understory is diverse with jack-in-the-pulpit, enchanter's nightshade, large-flowered bellwort, interrupted fern, lady fern, tick-trefoils, and hog peanut. To the detriment of the oaks, more mesophytic, shade-tolerant tree species are becoming established under current management practices and fire suppression. Also present is a diverse wetland of calcareous fen and springs that supports numerous calciphitic plants such as shrubby cinquefoil, grass-of-parnassus, Kalm's lobelia, Ohio goldenrod, boneset, and swamp thistle. Snow Bottom is owned jointly by the DNR and private landowners and was designated a State Natural Area in 1992.

Blue River Bluffs

Location: Grant County. T8N-R2W, Sections 9, 10, 11, 15, 16. 394 acres.

Located in the Driftless Area of southwest Wisconsin, Blue River Bluffs features a complex of dry prairies and oak savannas situated on sand terraces above the floodplain of the lower Wisconsin River. The high quality prairies on the steep bluff faces are rich in species diversity and vary from dry open prairie to areas overgrown with shrubs due to fire suppression. Common grasses include Indian grass, little blue-stem, needle grass, and June grass. Showy forbs growing here are pasque flower, lead-plant, death camas, whorled milkweed, silky aster, butterfly milkweed, goat's-rue, spiderwort, groundcherry, and New Jersey tea. The savannas surrounding the prairie openings occupy the bluff tops and the lower elevations of the sand terraces. Numerous open grown oaks are scattered throughout the area with black, white, red, and bur oaks present. Six rare plants have been located at this site including the state threatened prairie Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum plantagineum*) and cream gentian (*Gentiana alba*), the state endangered pale false foxglove (*Agalinis skinneriana*), and three special concern species Richardson sedge (*Carex richardsonii*), cleft phlox (*Phlox bifida*), and upland boneset (*Eupatorium sessilifolium* var *brittonianum*). The savanna understory is recovering with the application of prescribed fire. Blue River Bluffs is owned by the DNR and was designated a state natural area in 1996.

Cassville Bluffs-Roe Unit

Location: Grant County. T3N-R5W, Sections 26, 35. 244 acres.

Cassville Bluffs features a rare expanse of undeveloped bluff and sand terrace overlooking the Mississippi River that supports linear strips of dry prairie and rare chinquapin oak savanna. Extremely important and unique to this high quality natural area are the uplands, which remain connected to the river bottoms below and are not separated by any roads or highways. Currently, Wisconsin has only one mile of protected river front property that has no highway between the bluffs and Mississippi River. One of the rarest savanna types in Wisconsin, the chinquapin oak savanna is dominated by chinquapin oak with some bur oak and contains a diverse, intact groundlayer. The dry prairie is also diverse dominated by side oats grama with little blue-stem, Indian grass, needle grass, big blue-stem, and *Panicum* grasses. Prairie forbs include flowering spurge, western sunflower, cylindrical blazing-star, compass plant, lead-plant, and short green milkweed. The site also harbors the rare jeweled shooting-star (*Dodecatheon amethystinum*) and there are scattered dolomite outcroppings several meters high that support numerous fern species including rusty woodsia and smooth cliffbrake. Along the bluff is an older growth forest that is an important roosting site for the federally threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The bluffs are also important habitat for rare animals. Numerous agricultural and old fields will be restored to native habitat in the future. Cassville Bluffs is owned jointly by the DNR and the Mississippi Valley Conservancy and was designated a State Natural Area in 2002.

Borah Creek Prairie

Location: Grant County. T5N-R3W, Section 2. 140 acres.

Borah Creek Prairie contains dry-prairie remnants that support the state's third largest population of the federally-threatened prairie bush-clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*). Over 500 plants have been recorded in past surveys. The prairie bush-clover is considered a Midwest endemic species – a plant that is only found in the tallgrass prairie region of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. Borah Creek Prairie is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's federal recovery program which seeks to recover populations of prairie bush-clover by protecting and expanding both existing and potential habitat in Wisconsin. In fact, the prairie contains the largest amount of suitable habitat for this plant in the state. Located in the rolling topography of the Driftless Area, the site supports small patches of higher quality prairie within a matrix of surrogate grassland and is bisected by an intermittent stream. Although grazed historically, a diversity of native plants can still be found here. Dominant grasses include big and little bluestem, Indian grass, side-oats grama, and prairie dropseed.

Some of the forbs present are pasque-flower, cream wild indigo, rattlesnake master, rough blazing star, yellow coneflower, bird's-foot violet, downy gentian, and hoary puccoon. In addition to the prairie bush-clover, other rare plants include woolly milkweed, prairie Indian plantain, Hill's thistle, wild quinine, and prairie turnip. Grassland birds using the area include upland sandpiper, eastern kingbird, brown thrasher, dickcissel, eastern meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow, and bell's vireo. Borah Creek Prairie was acquired by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was designated a State Natural Area in 2009.

Gasner Hollow Prairie

Location: Grant County. T5N-R6W, Sections 6, 7, 8. 140 acres.

Gasner Hollow Prairie features a steep, dry lime prairie and oak savanna situated on a southwest facing bluff with exposures of dolomite and sandstone. The savanna is noted for its large component of chinquapin oak, here at the northern limit of its range. Most of the bluff is wooded, with gnarly bur and chinquapin oaks as the canopy dominants. Black and white oak are also present along with a dense shrub layer of hazelnut, gray dogwood, and black raspberry. The limestone rocks and cliffs provide habitat for species such as the smooth cliff brake, walking fern, and slender lip fern that are restricted to calcium rich substrates. The uppermost slopes and the top narrow ridge support a high quality dry prairie with a good assemblage of prairie species including large populations of the state-threatened pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) and prairie Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum plantagineum*). Other rare species include the state-threatened yellow giant hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*), and three special concern species--dragon sagewort (*Artemisia dracunculus*), broad beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*), and amethyst shooting star (*Dodecatheon amethystinum*). Other plants are pasqueflower, butterfly weed, hoary puccoon, side oats grama grass, needle grass, and little blue-stem. A variety of reptiles including the prairie ring snake (*Diadophis punctatus arnyi*) and black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*) are found here and large numbers of migrating birds, especially warblers and raptors, such as bald eagles, use the site. A series of Native American mounds are present on the bluff summit. Gasner Hollow Prairie is owned by private individuals and by the DNR. The site was designated a State Natural Area in 1998.

Capital Improvements Schedule

This section is designed to serve as a guide over the next five years to assist Grant County to charting the course of future park and recreation facility development. The Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS) for the county parks included in Appendix B is located at the back of this plan. It was prepared by the Grant County Agricultural Extension Committee. The CIS not only prioritizes each facility as to which year during the five year period the improvement will take place, it also provides an estimate of what the cost will be for each improvement in 2021 dollars. The CIS includes those facility improvements that will be made to each park to implement the handicap accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is important to realize that the CIS is only a summary of estimated costs based on current year figures. Project costs will be examined more closely when particular improvement plans are being developed. It is recommended that this portion of the plan be updated on an annual basis by the Grant County Agricultural Extension Committee. Changes will be made that reflect changing user trends, citizen interest, the economy and county budget considerations. Before capital improvement projects are undertaken, the Grant County Agricultural Extension Committee members with citizen input will: analyze all proposed projects and determine priorities each year; determine cost estimates for each development project; determine project budgetary limitations and potential funding sources.

The Grant County Agricultural Extension Committee is hopeful that a number of the recommended improvements to the county parks can be carried out with financial assistance from the Department of Natural Resource Stewardship Funds and/or other Federal Park Development funds. At the same time, however, the county recognizes that a considerable investment will also be required at the county level if the recommendations discussed in this plan are ever going to be carried out. The CIS provides a good indication of what level of assistance is going to be required during any particular year in the planning period.

Maintenance and Operations Schedule

The county recognizes the value of having a maintenance and operations schedule for the county parks system. Such a schedule not only evaluates the on-going maintenance responsibilities at the parks, it also considers the implications of the CIS on the county's future operation and maintenance capabilities. All work required in the parks is listed for each year, by season. An attempt is also made to break the list down to individual work items, and below each work item, list the tasks required to complete the work item. The Operation and Maintenance Schedule for Grant County is included in Appendix C.

Appendix A

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE

A. LOCAL/CLOSE TO HOME SPACE:

- M-P: Mini Park (or Tot Lot)
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 1 acre or less.
 - Service Area: 1/8 – 1/4 mile.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: 0.5 – 1.0 acre.
 - Use: Specialized facilities to serve a concentration of limited population or groups such as senior citizens or young children.
 - Site Characteristics: Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to concentrations of family or senior housing.

- NP/P: Neighborhood Park/Playground
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 1 to 10 acres.
 - Service Area: 1/4 – 1/2 mile radius.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: 2 – 3 acres.
 - Use: Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, ice skating, picnicking, volleyball, etc.
 - Site Characteristics: Suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhood population; geographically centered with safe walking and biking access. May be developed as a joint school/park facility.

- C/CP: Community Park
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 10 to 25 acres.
 - Service Area: 1 – 2 miles.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: 6 - 9 acres.
 - Use: Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes or large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. May be any combination of the above depending on site suitability and community need.
 - Site Characteristics: May include natural features such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easy access by all modes of transportation.

B. REGIONAL SPACE:

- Regional/Metropolitan Parks
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 200+ acres
 - Service Area: Several communities, 1 hour driving time.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: 5-10 acres.
 - Use: Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.
 - Site Characteristics: Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.

- Regional Park Reserve
 - Desirable/Typical Size: 1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed.
 - Service Area: Several communities, 1 hour driving time.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable
 - Use: Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development.
 - Site Characteristics: Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna, and topography.

C. SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY:

- SU: Special Use Area
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Variable depending on type of facility.
 - Service Area: Entire Community.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservancies, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, and downhill ski areas. Also includes plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, or parkways.
 - Site Characteristics: Located within the community.

- C: Conservancy
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Sufficient to protect the resource.
 - Service Area: No applicable standard.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.
 - Site Characteristics: Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

- LP: Linear Park
 - Desirable/Typical Size: Sufficient width to protect resources and to provide maximum use.
 - Service Area: No applicable standard.
 - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
 - Use: Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel or activity such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, fitness trails/cross-country skiing and canoeing. May include active play areas.
 - Site Characteristics: Built on natural corridors such as utility or railroad right-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.

NRPA's SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
Badminton	Singles – 17' x 44' Doubles – 20' x 44' width 5' unobstructed area on both sides	1,622 sq. ft.	Long axis north – south	¼ mile usually in school recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access.	1 per 5,000
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	46' – 50' x 84' 50' x 94' 50 x 94 with 5' unobstructed space all sides	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	Long axis north-south	¼- ½ mile. Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood /community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.	1 per 5,000
Handball (3-4 wall)	20' x 40' with a minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum of 20' overhead clearance	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall 1000 sq. ft. for 3-wall	Long axis is north- south. Front wall at north end	15-30 min. travel time. 4-wall usually indoor as part of multipurpose building. 3-2 all usually in park or school setting	1 per 20,000
Ice hockey	Rink 85' x 200' (Min. 85' x 185').	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Long axis is north- south if outdoors	½ - 1 hour travel time. Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multipurpose facility.	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate
Tennis	36' x 78'. 12 ft. clearance on both ends.	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court area (2 acres per complex)	Long axis north-south	¼ - ½ mile, best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood / community park or near school site.	1 court per 2,000
Volleyball	30' x 60'. Minimum of 6' clearance on all sides	Minimum 4,000 sq. ft.	Long axis north-south	½ - 1 mile	1 per 5,000
Field Hockey	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides	Minimum 1.5 A	Fall season – Long axis northwest or southeast. For longer periods north/south.	15-30 minute travel time. Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.	1 per 20,000

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
<p>Baseball</p> <p>1. Official</p> <p>2. Little League</p>	<p>Baselines – 90’ Pitching Dist. – 60.5’ Foul lines – Min. 320’ Center field – 400’ + Baselines – 60’ Pitching distance – 46’</p> <p>Foul lines – 200’ Center field – 200’-250’</p>	<p>3.0-3.85 A min.</p> <p>1.2 A min</p>	<p>Locate home plates so pitcher is not throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run east-northeast.</p>	<p>¼ - ½ Mile. Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.</p>	<p>1 per 5,000</p> <p>Lighted 1 per 30,000</p>
Football	160’ x 360’ with a minimum of 6’ clearance on all sides	Minimum 1.5 A	Same as field hockey	15-30 Min. travel time, Same is field hockey.	1 per 20,000
Soccer	195’ to 225’ x 330’ to 360’ with 10’ minimum clearance on all sides.	1.7-2.1 A.	Same as field hockey	1-2 miles. Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to larger fields.	1 per 20,000
Golf – Driving Range	900’ x 690’ wide Add 12’ width each additional tee	13.5 A for min of 25 tees	Long axis is southwest – northeast with golfer driving northeast.	30-minute travel time. Park or golf course complex, As separate unit may be privately operated.	1 per 50,000
Multiple use court (basketball, tennis, etc.)	120’ x 80’	9,840 sq. ft	Long axis of court with primary use north and south	1-2 miles, in neighborhood or community parks.	1 per 10,000
Archery Range	300’ length x minimum 10’ between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range minimum of 30’, clear space behind targets minimum of 90’ x 45’ with bunker.	Minimum 0.65 A	Archer facing north + or – 45 degrees	30 minutes travel time. Part of a regional/metro complex	1 per 50,000

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
¼ mile running track	Over-all width – 276’ Length – 600’ Track width for 8-4 lanes is 32’	4.3 A.	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest – southeast, with finish line at north end	15-30 minute travel time. Usually part of a high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.	1 per 20,000
Softball	Baselines: 60’ Pitching Dist: 45’ / 40’ women Fast Pitch Field radius from plate: 225’ Slow pitch 275’ (men) 250’ (women).	1.5 – 2.0 A	Same as baseball	¼ - ½ Mile. Slight differences in dimensions for 16” slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.	1 per 5,000 (if also used by youth baseball).
Trails	Well defined head maximum 10’ width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%, Capacity Rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban Trails – 90 hikers/day/mile	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 system per region
Golf Par 3 (18 hole) 9-hole Standard 3.18-hole standard	Average length varies –600 – 2700 yards. Average length 2250 yards. Average length 6500 yards.	50-60 A Minimum of 50 A Minimum 110 A	Majority of holes on north/south axis.	½ - 1 hour travel time 9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day Course may be located in community, district or regional/metro park.	1 per 25,000 1 per 50,000

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
Swimming pools	Teaching – min. 25 yds x 45’ even depth of 3 - 4 ft. Competitive min. 25m x 16m. Min of 25 sq. Ft. water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2 to 1 deck to water	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1-2 A sites, relation to afternoon sun	None, but care must be taken in sitting lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	15 to 30 minute travel time. Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching competitive and recreational purposes with enough to accommodate 1m and 3m Diving boards. Located in community park or school site.	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time)
Beach Areas	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be a 3-4 acre supporting area per acre of beach.	N/A	N/A	½ to 1 hour travel time. Should have a sand bottom with a maximum slope of 5% Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. Locate in Regional/metro parks.	N/A

Appendix B

GRANT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Park	Recommendation	Cost	Year
Blue River	Upgrade the pit toilet to ADA standards.	\$10,000	2022
	Implement a fee structure at the boat launch site.	NA	2022
	Placement of signage that corresponds with the fee structure.	TBD	2022
	Use the new fees as revenue to offset maintenance costs at the park	NA	2022
	Total	TBD	
McCartney	Upgrade the pit toilet to ADA standards.	\$10,000	2022
	Total	\$10,000	
Banfield Bridge	Upgrade the pit toilet to ADA standards.	\$10,000	2022
	Pave the entrance road into the Banfield Boat Landing, after first increasing the base under the surface.	TBD	2023
	Total	TBD	
Woodman	Provide some parking adjacent to CTH K in the popular trout fishing area.	TBD	2023
	Pave the entrance road into the Woodman Boat Landing, after first increasing the base under the surface.	TBD	2023
	Implement a fee structure at the boat launch site.	NA	2022
	Placement of signage that corresponds with the fee structure.	TBD	2022
	Use the new fees as revenue to offset maintenance costs at the park	NA	2022
	Total	TBD	
Millville	Implement a fee structure at the boat launch site.	NA	2022
	Placement of signage that corresponds with the fee structure.	TBD	2022
	Use the new fees as revenue to offset maintenance costs at the park	NA	2022
	Total	TBD	

Park	Recommendation	Cost	Year
Applicable to all parks and recreational facilities	Upgrade all county public accesses along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Bring all facilities up to ADA Standards.	TBD	2026-2031
	Total	TBD	
Additional recreation needs	Consider including paved shoulders as part of future road reconstruction projects to allow safer passing of slower moving vehicles which would benefit ATV/UTV, bicycle, and farm implement traffic.	TBD	as and when
	Extend the Sanders Creek Trail in Boscobel to connect to the Boscobel Bluffs east of town	TBD	2025
	Use UW-Platteville engineering students for any future projects.	TBD	as and when
	Total	TBD	

Appendix C

GRANT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SCHEDULE

The following is an overview of the Grant County Agricultural and Extension Committee annual maintenance and operation schedule, including, task performed and budget amount.

PARK MAINTENANCE AREAS

Blue River

Woodman

Millville

Wyalusing

McCartney

Potosi

Banfield Bridge

O'Leary's Lake

PARKS ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

April – October

All mowing, restroom cleaning and maintenance is completed by the parks foreman and assistant.

Tasks performed:

- Mowing and trimming
- Cleaning and painting
- Cleaning restrooms and shelters
- Equipment inspection and complete all necessary repairs
- Remove garbage and recyclables
- General maintenance
- Small capital improvements