



WASHINGTON
EST **COUNTY** 1836
WISCONSIN

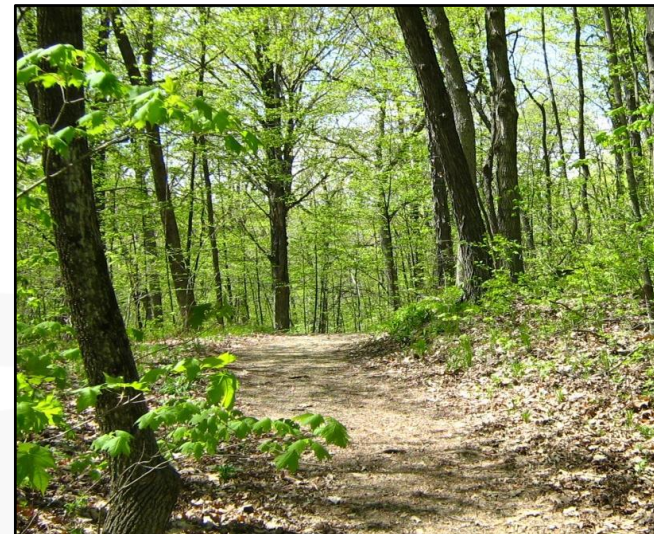
Park and Open Space Plan 2035

POSP as a Guide



- A GUIDE for future park acquisition & development
 - County/Local Gov't/Non-profit conservation orgs/WI DNR
- Provides options for future decision makers
- Justification for acquisitions
- Required for County eligibility on State/Federal grants
- Increase scores on grant applications

Implementation of the plan recommendations will be subject to annual operating budget appropriations, approved capital funding, and/or grant availability.



Public Engagement



Center for Urban Initiatives & Research

WASHINGTON COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS MAIL SURVEY

RESEARCH BRIEF

Author: Melissa Colman, MA
 Title: 2013 Survey
 Date: 10/2013

METHODOLOGY

The Washington County Trail User Survey was administered by Washington County in the fall of 2013. The survey was conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives & Research (CUIR) in cooperation with the Washington County Planning and Public Engagement. The survey gathered information on park and trail use, and opinions on what the park system needs to do to meet the needs of the community.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- 84% of respondents (81%) used the trail more than once in the last year.
- Respondents used the trail for a wide range of activities including walking, jogging, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.
- The most common reason for using the trail was to exercise.
- The most common reason for not using the trail was that it was too far away.

Center for Urban Initiatives & Research

WASHINGTON COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS TELEPHONE SURVEY

RESEARCH BRIEF

Author: Melissa Colman, MA
 Title: 2013 Survey
 Date: 10/2013

METHODOLOGY

The Washington County Telephone Survey was administered by Washington County in the fall of 2013. The survey was conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives & Research (CUIR) in cooperation with the Washington County Planning and Public Engagement. The survey gathered information on park and trail use, and opinions on what the park system needs to do to meet the needs of the community.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- 71% of respondents used the trail more than once in the last year.
- Respondents used the trail for a wide range of activities including walking, jogging, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.
- The most common reason for using the trail was to exercise.
- The most common reason for not using the trail was that it was too far away.

Center for Urban Initiatives & Research

Responses to
Eisenbahn State Trail User Survey
 (Phases 1 & 2)
 Washington County Segment

Final Survey Report

PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS
 October / November 2014

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2035

SUMMARY REPORT

December 17, 2014

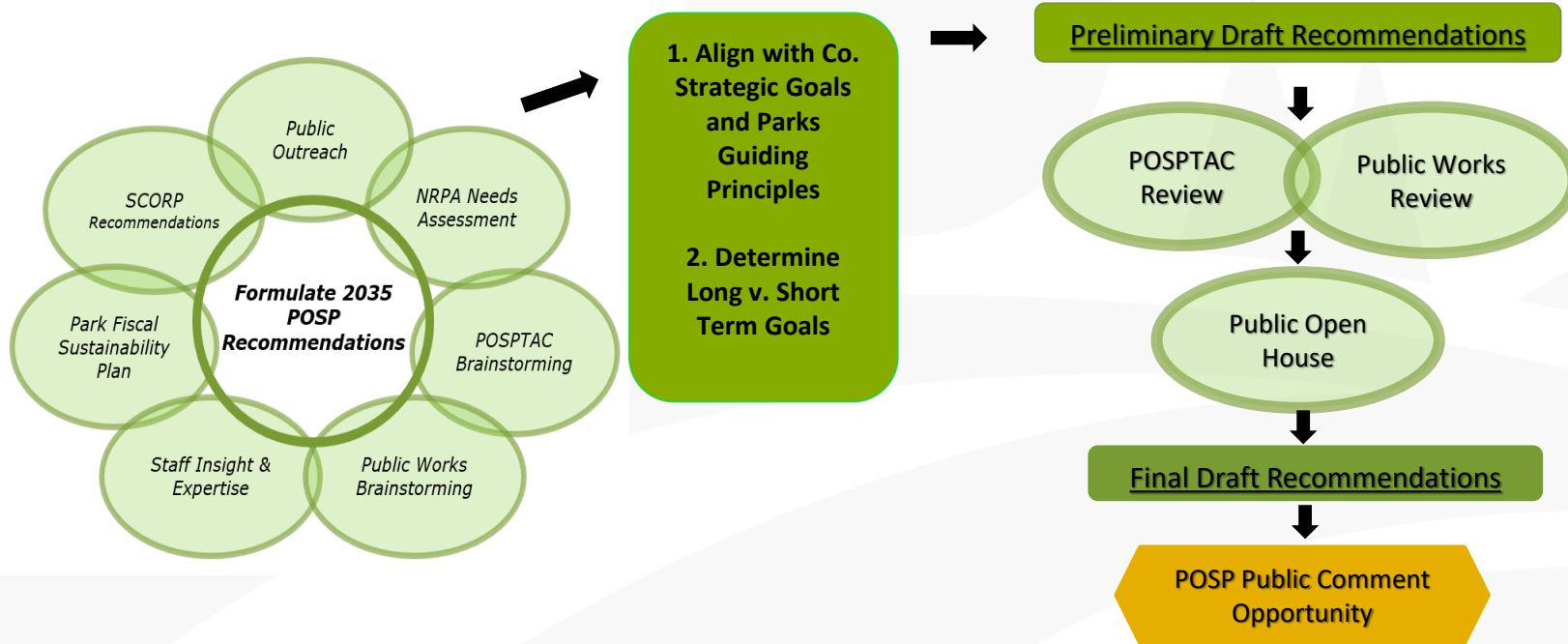
Washington County 2013 Park System Online Survey Report
 May 2014

Washington County Park System "Something for Everyone"



- Two focus groups
- Visioning workshops
- Youth workshops
- Survey of the Wash. Co. Bo.
- Public Open House on 1/14/2020
- Public comment period ended 4/14/2020

Recommendation Development



Recommendations – 8 Sections



- Open Space Preservation Element
- Outdoor Recreation Element
- Lake and River Access
- Bikeway and Trail Network
- Accessibility
- Stewardship
- Maintenance
- Organizational Improvements



Recommendations – Lizard Mound



On February 12, 2020, the Washington County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to convey Lizard Mound County Park, formerly Lizard Mound State Park to the State of Wisconsin for anticipated ownership and continued stewardship by the Milwaukee Audubon Society.

Recommendations for Lizard Mound remain in the POSP and will be provided to Milwaukee Audubon Society upon conveyance of property:

- Acquisition of almost seven acres to protect:
 - Lizard Mound Woods Natural Area (NA-3)
 - Two additional effigy mounds adjacent & east of park

Open Space Preservation Element



Ownership	Existing ^b (acres)	Plan (acres)	Planned Change (acres)	Estimated Acquisition Cost ^c
State of Wisconsin	12,704	20,868	8,164	\$ 46,331,100
Washington County ^d	600	812	212	1,659,000
Local Government ^e	2,641	3,961	1,320	6,265,000
Nonprofit Conservation Organization.....	1,220	6,484	5,264	24,653,900
Compatible Private Recreation Use	2,793	2,793	--	--
State of Wisconsin and Nonprofit Conservation Organization Easements.....	1,324	1,324	--	--
Total	21,282	36,242	14,960	\$ 78,909,000

- Includes PEC, INRA & DNR Project Boundaries
- 212 acres:
 - Lizard Mound (6)
 - Yahr (26)
 - Heritage Trails (95)
 - Glacier Hills (13)
 - Proposed Site A (71)

Open Space Preservation

Protection of Natural Area and Critical Species Habitat Sites

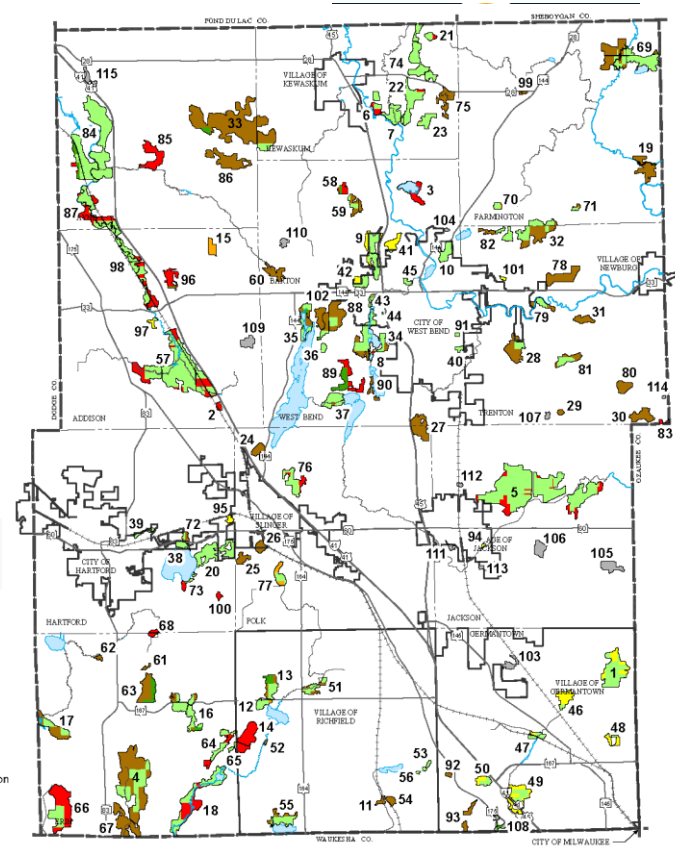
- 95 NA Sites
 - 8- NA-1 of State Significance
 - 29 – NA- 2 of Regional Significance
 - 58 – NA-3 of Local Significance
- 20 CSH Sites (rare, threatened or endangered species)
- Plan recommends protection of NA and CSH as occur within existing Co parks or as part of future acquisitions – 6 sites:
 - Glacier Hills Park Bogs and Upland Woodlands (NA-2)
 - St. Anthony Beech Woods (NA-2)
 - Sandy Knoll Swamp (NA-2)
 - Lizard Mound Woods (NA-3)
 - Heritage Trails Bog (NA-3)
 - Sandy Knoll Wetlands (NA-3)

Existing Public Interest Ownership of Open Space Lands Within Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

- Federal, State, County Local, NonProfit Conservation Organization, School or Other Public District, or Compatible Private Outdoor Recreation or Open Space Sites
- Lands Under Conservation Easement

Proposed Public Interest Ownership of Open Space Lands Within Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites





- State
- County
- City, Village, Town, or Special Purpose District
- Nonprofit Conservation Organization
- Open Space Lands to be Protected by Public Land Use Regulation



Outdoor Recreation Element

Recommendations are intended to meet the need for park sites and facilities through the year 2035



Major Parks

-  State
-  County
-  Local
-  Proposed Other County

Other Parks and Outdoor Recreation Sites

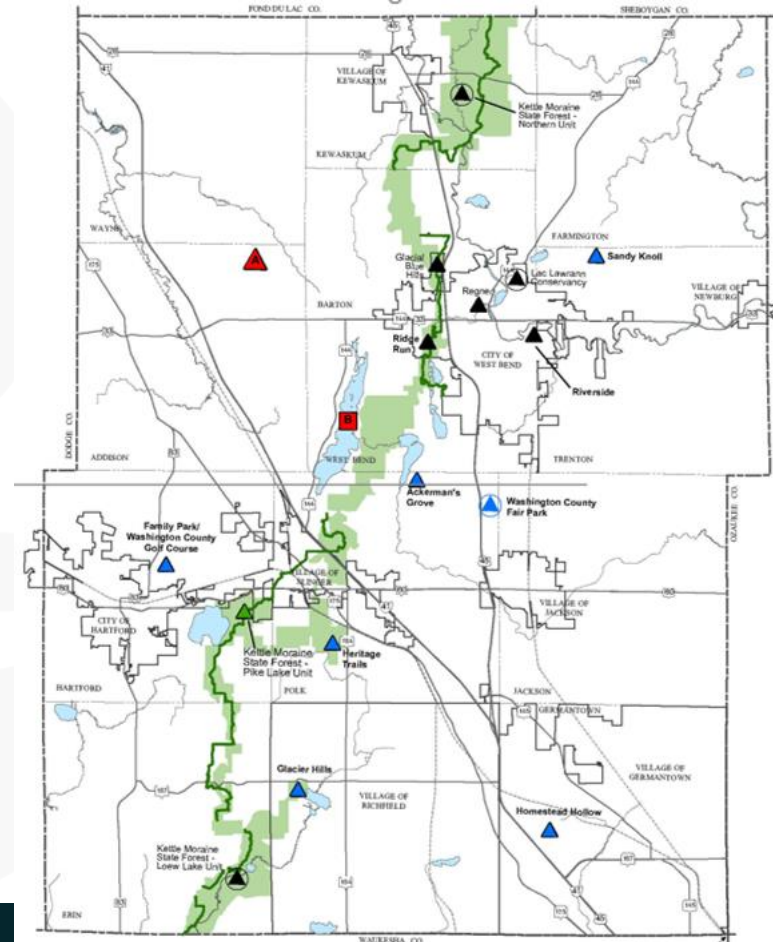
-  Proposed County
-  Special Outdoor Recreation Site
-  Washington County Fair Park

Recreation Corridors

-  Existing Ice Age Trail
-  Ice Age Trail Corridor

Note: The Ice Age Trail corridor is an area within which the Ice Age Trail may pass in the future, based on a 1992 planning process. Only willing landowners participate in the completion of the Ice Age Trail.

Source: Ice Age Trail Alliance, Washington County, and SEWRPC



Outdoor Recreation Element



- **Ackerman's Grove County Park**
 - Currently 67 acres – no acquisition recommended
 - Recommend County provide overnight cabins, lookout tower and large multi-use event venue space
- **Family Park/Washington County Golf Course**
 - Currently 283 acres – no acquisition recommended
 - No recommendations for land acquisition or facility development
 - Family Park is pending possible sale
- **Homestead Hollow County Park**
 - Consists of 105 acres – no acquisition recommended
 - Recommend that County provide:
 - Complete renovation of reservable barn & enclosed picnic shelters
 - Upgrade playground
 - Update trail signage & maps
 - Provide a rental house/lodge



Outdoor Recreation Element



- **Sandy Knoll County Park**

- Currently 257 acres – no acquisition recommended
- Recommend County provide:
 - Expanded disc golf course
 - Update trail signage & maps
 - Tent/camping cabin overnight camping

- **Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex**

- Currently 40 acres – no acquisition recommended – pending possible sale

- **Lizard Mound County Park**

- Currently 31 acres
- Plan recommends acquisition of six acres of land to protect the remainder of Lizard Mounds Natural Area (NA-3) and two additional effigy mounds adjacent to the east boundary of the park
- Recommendation will be provided to Milwaukee Audubon Society upon conveyance

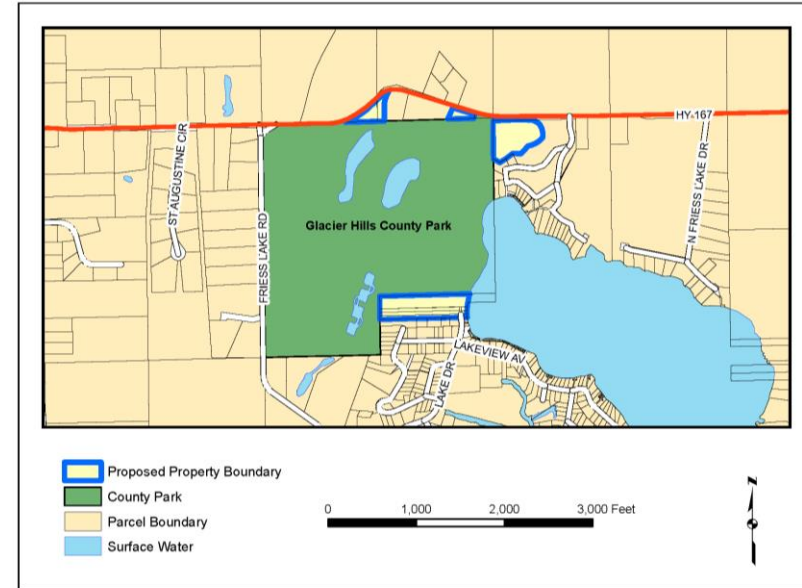


Outdoor Recreation Element



Glacier Hills County Park

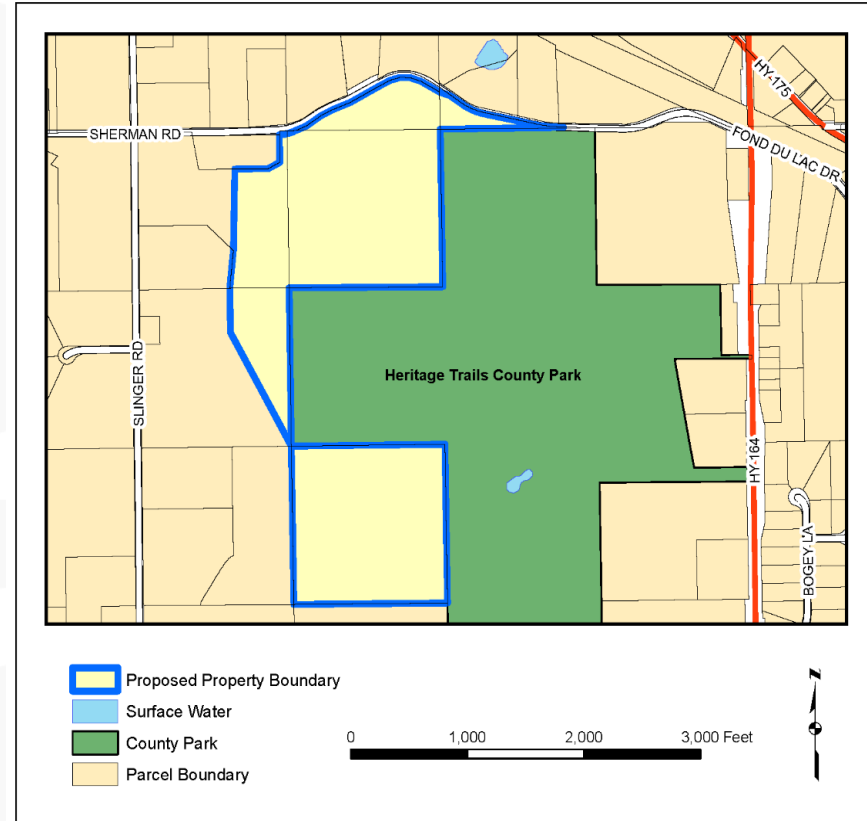
- Currently 140 acres
- Recommend acquisition of an additional 15 acres north and south of the park
 - North - recommend County preserve the Glacier Hills Park Bogs & Upland Woods (NA-2) & maintain in its natural state
 - South – recommend acquire land with substantial financial assistance from other organizations and /or government entities to expand lakefront recreational opportunities including a boat launch, beach, sand volleyball court and an event space
- Recommend improve lakefront amenities including ADA accessible access, swimming area with piers and a fishing pier
- Recommend other additional amenities including a lookout tower, amphitheater, playground upgrade and updated trail signage and maps



Outdoor Recreation Element

Heritage Trails County Park

- Currently 234 acres
- Recommend acquisition of an additional 109 acres to protect the Heritage Trails Bog Natural Area (NA-3) and adjacent primary environmental corridor
- Recommend the County provide:
 - Upgraded restroom
 - Large formal shelter
 - Update trail signage & maps
 - Expand the disc golf course
 - Additional hiking trails and boardwalk
 - Mountain bike trails

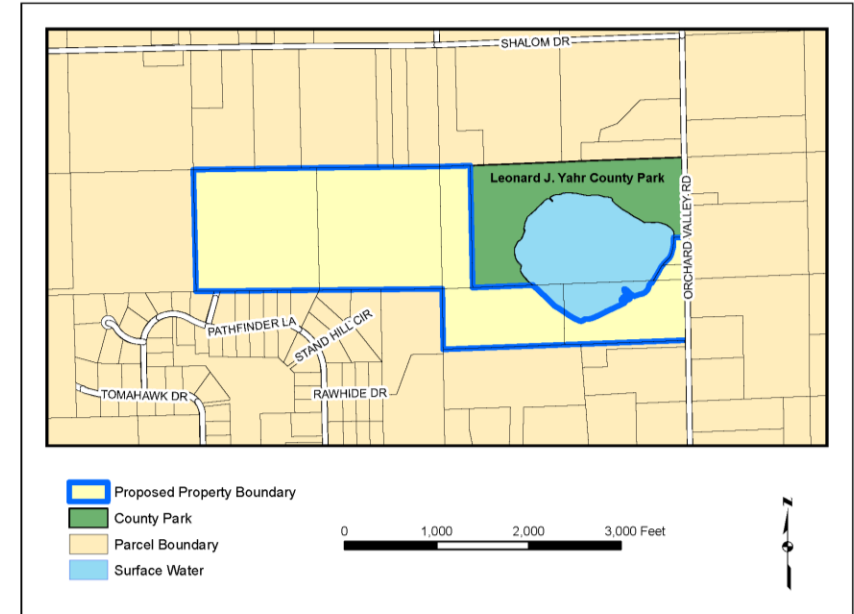


Outdoor Recreation Element



Leonard J. Yahr County Park

- Currently 38 acres
- Recommend acquisition of an additional 134 acres:
 - 90 acres west of property to provide additional recreational opportunities including tent camping
 - 44 acres south to provide multi-use event venue space, tent and camping cabin camping, and an ADA accessible paved lake trail



Outdoor Recreation Element



Proposed County Park A

- Recommend the County acquire a 120-acre park site in NW portion of County, to include St. Anthony Beech Woods Natural Area (NA-2)
- Recommend the County provide:
 - Formal picnic areas
 - Necessary support facilities
 - Playground
 - Playfields
 - Nature trails



Outdoor Recreation Element



Proposed County Park B

- Recommend the County acquire a new park site on Big Cedar Lake
- Recommend the County provide:
 - Formal picnic areas
 - Playground
 - Fishing Pier
 - Swimming Beach
 - Necessary support facilities



Outdoor Recreation Element



Plan does not recommend land acquisition or facility developments for the following special use parks:

- Goeden Park
- Henschke Hillside Lake Access
- Isadore and Lorraine Spaeth Park

Planned bikeway and trail network facilities are located along or near these sites. It is recommended that the County consider additional appropriate facilities at these sites at such time that planned bike trails are constructed.



Outdoor Recreation Element



Other County Acquisition Recommendations

- At such time that private outdoor recreation areas (as identified in Appendix B of the Plan) are for sale, the County should consider, on a case by case basis, possible acquisition or partnership potential with other local governments or non-profit conservation organizations provided an acceptable return on investment (ROI) is feasible.
- At such time that non-metallic mining sites are ready for reclamation or sale, Washington County should consider, on a case by case basis, the possible acquisition or partnership potential with other local governments or non-profit conservation organizations provided an acceptable return on investment (ROI) is feasible.



Lake and River Access



Boat access sites, both public and nonpublic, provide opportunities for individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water related recreation activities as motor boating, waterskiing, fishing, and canoeing/kayaking. The Plan recommends:

- Public boat access sites at Lake Five and Lucas Lake be expanded or acquired and developed as appropriate by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- A public boat access site at Barton Pond be developed as appropriate by the City of West Bend
- Public canoe/kayak access points with parking should be provided on major streams every 10 miles in Washington County
- As lakeshore property, either developed or undeveloped, becomes available in the years ahead, Washington County, local government or non-profit conservation organization should evaluate the recreational potential and partnership capacity for acquisition.



Bikeway and Trail Network



In addition to recommendations in the Bikeway & Trail Network Plan:

- Add a trail connection between Sandy Knoll County Park and Leonard J. Yahr County Park – as roads/Co. highways are reconstructed
- Add a safe bike & pedestrian crossing designed to connect Goeden County Park to Priority Corridor #3 when STH 33 & CTH M intersection planned for reconstruction
- Upon construction of Priority Corridor #2 along CTH P, appropriate facilities should be considered for Spaeth County Park



Accessibility



All development projects and renovations completed in the County parks since 2010 have followed the new 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

- Renovations of older facilities to ADA Standards are gradual due to budgeting challenges
- Table 6.5 of Plan outlines park facility and amenity compliance to ADA Standards and presents a proposed renovation schedule



Stewardship



Natural management plans are currently being developed for each of the County parks. It is recommended that the following stewardship efforts be implemented:

- Park System Operational & Maintenance Plan (currently being developed)
- Natural Resource Management & Restoration Plan for each park
- Natural resource management intern to lead small seasonal crew (implemented in 2019)
- Washington County Parks Volunteer Plan that identifies volunteer opportunities and volunteer sources to assist with stewardship efforts in the parks (currently being developed)



Maintenance



As new amenities are added, additional staffing resources will be vital in keeping expected levels of maintenance.

- Use of volunteers and specialized part-time employees
- Contracting private businesses and consultants
- Collaborative partnerships with private businesses will continue to be explored for maintenance opportunities

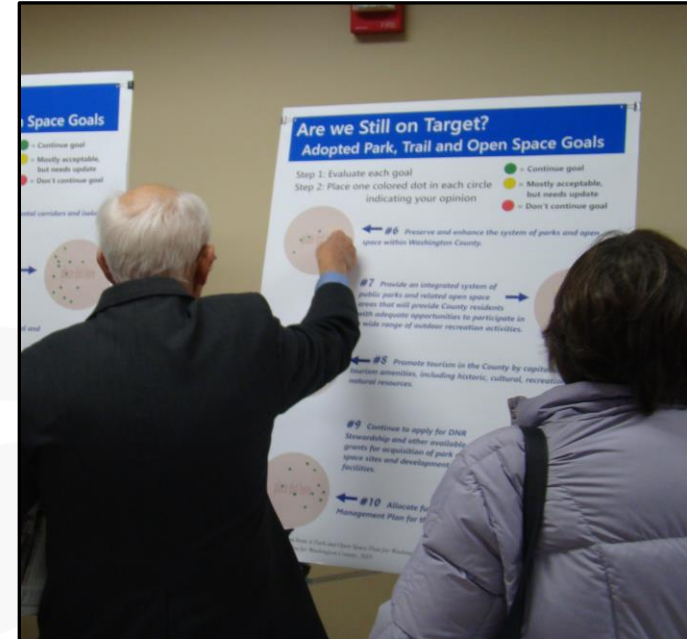


Organizational Improvements



Plan implementation success is dependent on our organizations ability to:

- Foster an evolving and adaptive workforce
- Facilitate public engagement that delivers an understanding of the highest priorities
- Create an environment for strong intergovernmental relations and public-private partnerships
- Brand development and marketing
- Evaluate park user fee
- Pursue sponsorships and naming rights
- Master plan priority parks



Plan Implementation



The Plan recommends Washington County:

- Acquire additional land and develop additional facilities at three existing park sites:
 - Glacier Hills Park
 - Heritage Trails Park
 - Leonard J. Yahr Park
- Develop additional facilities at three existing park sites:
 - Ackerman's Grove Park
 - Homestead Hollow Park
 - Sandy Knoll Park
- Acquire and develop two proposed new County parks



Plan Implementation



Acquisitions Costs of:	Acres	Total Cost
Open Space Lands ^{a,b}	212	\$1,659,000
Park Lands Outside Open Space ^c	166	\$1,245,100
Residential/Commercial/ Transportation Land Use Portions ^d	17	\$930,000
Proposed Development Costs ^e		\$6,678,000
Total	395	\$10,512,100

**A Park and Open Space Plan
for Washington County**
Final Draft - April 2020

Washington County Planning and Parks



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Questions?

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