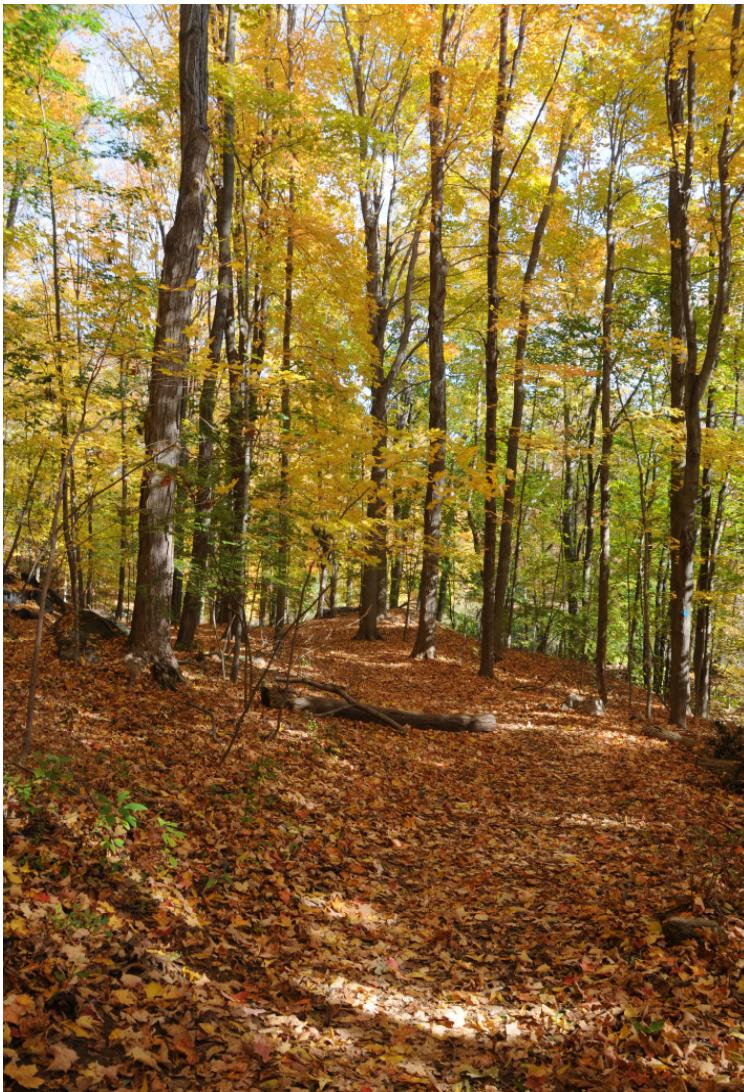


Oconto County

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



2022 – 2026

Oconto County...

“Live, Work, Play – Bay to Nicolet”

Monty Brink Department Head
Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department, Oconto County



Prepared with the assistance and resources of the University of Wisconsin – Madison Division of
Extension, Oconto County:
Dale W. Mohr County Resource Development Agent



RESOLUTION R2022-02-01

To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

Re: Adoption of the Oconto County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)

WHEREAS, the County of Oconto, State of Wisconsin, has endorsed the development of a County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Oconto County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan encompasses a general outline and plan for the recreational development of the County; and

WHEREAS, this plan has been reviewed by the Oconto County Forestry Department which has recommended the adoption thereof.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Oconto County Board that the Oconto County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2022-2026 be adopted as the approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the County.

Submitted this 24th day of February, 2022.

By: FOREST, PARKS & RECREATION/LAND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUB-COMMITTEE

Gregory Sekela, Chair
Al Stranz
Judith Buhrandt
Robert Pott
Tim Cole

Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 02.09.2022 - BLE

Adopted by an electronic vote: 28 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant

STATE OF WISCONSIN

COUNTY OF OCONTO

I, Kim Pytleski, do hereby certify that the above is true and correct copy of the original now on file in the office of the County Clerk and that it was adopted by the Oconto County Board of Supervisors on this date. DATE: 02/24/2022 Kim Pytleski, County Clerk

Oconto County

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Oconto County
301 Washington Street
Oconto, WI 54153

5 Year Plan

Plan Preparation Team:

Forest, Parks & Recreation/ Land Information Systems Committee

Gregory Sekela, Committee CHAIR
Al Stranz
Judith Buhrandt
Robert Pott
Tim Cole

Land and Water Resources Forest, Parks & Recreation Division

Monty Brink, Forest & Park Administrator

UW-Madison – Division of Extension

Dale Mohr, Community Development Educator



Impetus for the Plan

FOREWORD

Outdoor recreation remains an important part of our daily lives. The increasing demand for outdoor recreation has local governments balancing the need to improve existing facilities while planning for additional facilities all the while ensuring compatibility with the natural surroundings.

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is designed to assure that adequate park, open space and recreational resources are available for both present and future residents and visitors of Oconto County. Access to outdoor recreation (both motorized and non-motorized) is an important element of community health and wellness. Parks, trails, walking paths and lake access facilities provide convenient, safe and attractive spaces for people to access and use the great outdoors. Time spent outdoors is connected with a number of health factors, including improved physical and mental (socialistic) health and better connects citizens within the communities and promotes an appreciation for the natural environment.

Mission Statements

"The mission of the Oconto County Parks Department is to provide recreational opportunities by developing, managing, and programming all park lands and trails, also, to promote an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the natural resources."

"Oconto County Board of Supervisors ensures reasonable services while providing oversight to each Department and the county's resources so that residents and visitors can have a great place to Live, Work, and Play from the shores of Green Bay to the Nicolet National Forest."

Oconto County Vision Statements

- Oconto County's welcoming environment makes it the ideal destination for living, working and playing in near-north Wisconsin.
- Oconto County's commitment to highways, public safety and mix of urban and rural housing makes it a safe and affordable place to begin; raise a family; be an empty-nester or retire.
- Oconto County's expanding economy and innovative infrastructure offers a growing number of diverse employment opportunities.
- Oconto County's thriving tourism industry takes advantage of its abundant natural resources to provide a diverse recreational opportunities.



- Oconto County's ongoing intergovernmental partnerships preserves its rich natural, agricultural, educational and historical assets.
- Oconto County's continuing investment in infrastructure, personnel and technology will keep it an economic and social leader in Wisconsin.
- Oconto County has a place for all – to live, work and play from the Bay to the Nicolet...

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

In 2020, the County began drafting the update to the County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). This revised plan is a continuation of a long line of county reports which have dealt with outdoor recreational opportunities and their needs. The CORP is in effect for the 2022 – 2026 term and will serve to both guide the recreational management and development of county recreational lands for the next five years while enabling Oconto County to apply for grant funding. The plan, as designed:

1. Evaluates the County's existing parks, park improvements and open spaces.
2. Identifies and recommends active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities to address the needs of all residents.
3. Provides the County with a period of eligibility for cost sharing and matching grant assistance through Federal and State grant programs administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
4. Provides a cost summary for all recommendations, to assist the Forest, Parks & Recreation Department of Oconto County with its Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) efforts.

PLANNING SUMMARY

The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for Oconto County incorporates information from relevant past and present planning efforts. The following list identifies those plans that have addressed socio-economic, natural resource, goals, objectives, policies and potential impacts on Oconto County parks and recreation systems including both motorized and non-motorized trails. In some instances, maps and further descriptions are referenced to these plans.

Local Plans

- Oconto County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035
- Oconto County Groundwater Report 2007.
- Oconto County 2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Vol. #1, 2009, Amended in 2014 to include the Oconto County Farmland Preservation Plan..
- Oconto County CORP Plans adopted in 1972, 1977, 1989, 1994, 2000, 2005.
- Operational Strategy and Plan for Surface Water Management and Protection in Oconto County 2018.

Regional/State Plans

- Bay-Lake RPC Regional Environmental Corridor Report & Brochure 2005.
- "Surface Water Resources of Oconto County" Wisconsin Conservation Department, 1977.
- Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2005 – 2010 (SCORP).
- Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2000 – 2005 (SCORP).



PLANNING PROCESS

This plan represents a revision to the 2006-11 Plan. A detailed analysis and description of the physical landscape, population, and economic characteristics of Oconto County was the first step in developing this plan. The analysis gave an understanding to those participating in the drafting of the plan and its recommendations of the natural environment in which recreation was going to occur and the people that were going to be involved in those activities. Public feedback is a critical element of this plan. On April 28th 2014, a listening session was held by the Oconto Economic Development & Tourism Corporation and UW-Extension to solicit ideas for recreational needs and collaborative improvements to recreation activities within the county. Additionally, a scientific survey of 400 people was completed in 2017 to solicit public perceptions of lakes and recreational activities, the levels of activities conducted, concerns and expectations conducted by Oconto Land and Water Department in collaboration with UW-Extension and UW-Stevens Point. Additionally, Oconto County Departments collaboratively met during a facilitated meeting by UW-Extension to discuss strategies and policies needed to address concerns and questions of residents and visitors to our lakes and recreational lands. The strategies were reviewed by the County Board and adopted unanimously in 2018 as a guiding document. In June of 2021, a community survey was developed soliciting feedback for inclusion into this planning process. More than 300 responses were received. The feedback was reviewed by the Parks and Forestry Department staff and Committee members on September 7, 2021. Additionally public comment was received online from January 4, 2022 through February 1, 2022 and a public comment session on February 1, 2022 to discuss the plan with the County Board adopting the plan by resolution on February 24, 2022.

IMPLEMENTATION/AMENDING PROCESS

As with all plans of this nature, implementation will require capital improvement planning and fiscal resources of the county. Public policies and procedures, and the various regulatory measures which the Oconto County now exercises, should continue to be directed toward providing a variety of recreational facilities and activities for all groups, including the elderly and the handicapped (ADA Americans with Disabilities Act). It must be recognized, however, that implementation is subject to funding, legal, and coordination limitations. The ADA Accessibility Standards apply to places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities, including public transportation facilities. The Access Board provides technical guidance and training on the ADA Standards. The **U.S. Access Board** has issued a guide to the ADA accessibility guidelines for areas which is available at their website: www.access-board.gov.

ADMINISTRATION

County Forestry and Parks Departmental staff should continue to develop park site plans and work collaboratively to prepare and write grants to actively seek funds for projects. This plan should be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for recreation grant funds following the same process as the original. This plan may be amended as necessary to meet community needs and address changing conditions to prolong the effectiveness of this document's original intentions. Plan amendments should require formal approval of the Oconto County Board of



Supervisors after consideration and recommendation from the Forest, Parks & Recreation/Land Information Systems Committee.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Implementation of the CORP can take many forms. Strategies for implementation include regulatory techniques and acquisition techniques.

Regulatory Techniques

- *Zoning*
- *Land Division/Subdivision Control*
- *Official Mapping*
- *Land Management Plans*

Acquisition Techniques

In addition to these regulatory techniques, the county has a number of acquisition techniques that may apply to each potential park acquisition. The acquisition of land is often the most challenging aspect of developing a municipal park system. These include:

- *Fee Simple Acquisition*
The landowner is given a sum of money for all rights to a specific piece of land or property. In Wisconsin, fee simple acquisition is the most common way of acquiring public lands for recreational uses. A land contract may also be used as a form of fee simple acquisition.
- *Purchase of Tax Delinquent Property*
- *Lease or Easement*
- *Land Banking*
- *Conversion of Landfills*
- *Trust for Public Lands*
Private groups or organizations such as the Trust for Public Land or the Nature Conservancy can purchase outdoor recreation lands and hold these lands until a public agency can acquire them.
- *Donation*

POTENTIAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations may be able to provide expertise, volunteers, and funding for the implementation of the CORP:

- *Oconto County Forestry*
- *UW-Extension, UW-Extension Lakes & UW Basin Educators*
- *WDNR-Northern District*
- *Wisconsin Waterfowl Association*
- *River Alliance of Wisconsin*
- *The Conservation Fund*
- *Oconto County Historical Society*
- *Oconto County Tourism*



CONCLUSION

Implementation of the plan will require a coordinated effort by the federal, state, and county government and the many potential funding agencies involved. Implementation of the recommendations set forth in this plan will enhance the existing facilities and ultimately result in a comprehensive outdoor recreation system for the county that can serve the existing population, tourism, and future generations.



Chapter 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY

The following are descriptions of the physical, population and economic characteristics of Oconto County. The Oconto County Volume II: County Resources 20-Year Comprehensive Plan is the primary resource document for this section of the plan and is located on the counties website. As of this planning process, the 2020 US Census has not been completed and due to the Covid-19 global Pandemic is delayed. Therefore, the 2010 US Census along with Population Estimates were utilized. In many instances detailed maps, tables, charts are referenced for further reading. Maps and tables determined to add clarity to this planning document were reproduced within this chapter. It is the intent of this plan to rely on the 20 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan for background information.

HISTORY OF OCONTO COUNTY

The Old Copper Culture people are early inhabitants of Wisconsin in an area that is the ancestral home of the Menominee. The name "Old Copper Culture" is derived from the fact that these people made a variety of bracelets, spear points, fishing hooks, knives, and other ornaments and tools out of copper. They worked the copper by alternating hot and cold hammering, called annealing. They are among the earliest known metal smiths in the world, and the first in North America. Copper tooling in various fashions has been known around the world for 10,000 years, but this is the first instance of its use in this country. The copper was mined in the Lake Superior region during the warmer months and transported south to a tooling or village site.

The Copper People lived in the Middle Archaic period. Carbon 14 tests conducted at the University of Chicago in 1953 placed these people here as far back as 7,510 years ago, between 5,500 and 5,600 BC which predates the ancient Egyptian pyramids. During this period, sustenance was gained by hunting, fishing, and collecting wild foods. Pottery making, mound building and agriculture of the later Woodland period were unknown to the copper industry people in Oconto. They buried their dead here using the natural elevation of the land during a high water period.

The Menominee People (meaning rice eaters) were the first recorded nation to control Oconto County land. They were a people whose main diet centered on the fish and wild rice of the area. The Menominee had a large settlement to the north in what is now Marinette. The city derives its name from a famous Indian woman who developed a large trading post where that city now stands. The two primary forms of transportation for the Menominee people were by canoe or by foot.

The first Europeans to write about being in the area of Oconto County were the French who worked for Canadian Samuel de Champlain. Men were sent from the colony of New France



(Canada), founded in 1608, to learn the languages and customs of the Native Americans and form economic, political and military ties with them. Other Frenchmen to make their presence known in the Oconto County area were Father Allouez and his contemporary, Father Andre. Both these Catholic priests spent many years and endured enormous hardship in an effort to comfort, heal, educate, and sometimes convert members of the local tribes.

France, by 1671, had claimed the Great Lakes area for its own. The region including Oconto County was later claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Virginia immediately after the American Revolution 1776. Ohio won the distinction of claiming the area in 1785, then Indiana, Illinois and finally Michigan each took a turn. The first saw mill in what became Oconto County was built at Pensaukee in 1827 on land leased from the Menominee Indians for \$15 a year and enough board lumber to make caskets. By the early 1830's, George Furwick was the first to purchase land from the government in what is now the City of Oconto. In 1848, Wisconsin achieved statehood, being the last in the Great Lakes Territory to do so. The first elections were held in what is now Oconto on November 4, 1851 to form the boundaries and name this new county separating from Brown County. Oconto City became the county seat at this time. The name "Oconto" was taken from an early Native American settlement named "Oak-a-toe". With the act of Congress that created Oconto County in 1851 from the northern part of Brown County, the white cities and villages officially came into existence and the Indian villages they replaced vanished forever.

By 1850, the U.S. Census listed the county as having a population of 415 described as "wilderness dwellers". The first steam powered circular saw was brought into production by Samuel B. Gilkey in 1853 and the first steamboats began moving along the Oconto River the following spring. Also in 1854, Henry Tourtilotte and his Indian wife and four children came to the Gillett area being the first to build a split level log cabin on what is now First and Main Streets. He was soon followed by Henry Clark and his Indian wife and their three children.

In 1855, the first road between the cities of Green Bay and Menominee began construction, northward. On March 11 of 1869 Oconto was chartered as a city by an Act of Legislature. Lumbering gave way to homestead farming, and in particular, dairying, in the later half of the 1800's. Oconto County was an important reason why Wisconsin's rose to the stature of "Dairy Capitol of the World". Tracks for the train line between Green Bay and Menominee were being laid in 1871, but faced a major setback when the huge "Peshtigo Fire" burned nearly every foot of track along the route. The first Christian Science Church was built in 1886. In 1879, the final boundaries were set for present day Oconto County with the inclusion of Town of How and Underhill from Shawano County.



Source: Adapted from Rita Neustifter, 1998; and The Copper Culture People Oconto Historical Society, 2010.

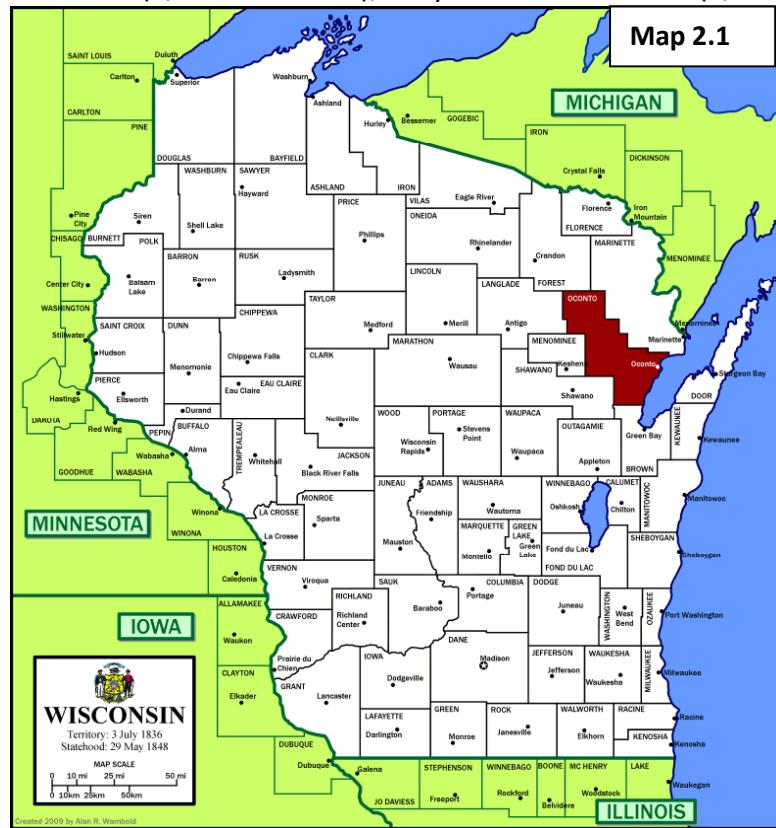


GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

Oconto County, encompassing an area of approximately 1,016 square miles, or 650,766 acres, is located in Northeast Wisconsin. Oconto County, as of the 2020 Census, had 38,965 residents. The county has a total of 28 municipalities comprised of 23 towns and five incorporated communities: City of Oconto (4,513 residents); City of Oconto Falls (2,891 residents); City of Gillett (1,386 residents); Village of Lena (564 residents); and the Village of Suring (544 residents). Oconto County is bordered by Marinette and Forest counties to the North, Menominee and Shawano Counties to the West, Brown County to the South, and the Bay of Green Bay of Lake Michigan to the east. **Map 2.1** provides a location of Oconto County in Wisconsin.

Climate

The climate in and around Oconto is typical of Northern Wisconsin. It is classified as continental climate with harsh cold winters, heavy snowfall, and warm humid summers. The average annual rainfall is approximately thirty-one inches with the maximum occurring during June and July, and the minimum during January and February. The growing season averages approximately 150 days. The weather conditions are favorable for many outdoor recreational activities including the intense watercraft and snowmobiles and non-motorized activities such as equestrian trails/hiking trails, ball fields and parks.



PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

Natural resources are often a defining feature for local communities. Therefore, it is important that communities plan appropriately in order to preserve their important natural features. The following text describes the types and locations of Oconto County's many resources and briefly discusses the importance of them when planning for the county.

Geology

Quaternary (glacial/surface) and bedrock geology characterize the terrestrial appearance and function of the county. Glacial geology refers primarily to the effects continental glaciations have had on the land over thousands of years, and to a lesser extent, the surface effects of more recent erosion and deposition activities. Bedrock geology refers to the much older, solid rock layers that lie beneath glacial sediments.



Bedrock Geology

The bedrock underlying Oconto County is made up of seven distinct types from three geologic eras. As a result, the county can be split into three distinct regions based on the age of the bedrock.

1. Bedrock in the Northern Highland Region, which lies in the northwestern portion of the county, is made up primarily of granite and mixtures of igneous and metamorphic rocks that are Precambrian (600 million years ago based upon science) in their origin.
2. To the southeast of the Precambrian formation is the Central Plain Region. This region is characterized by the Cambrian (between 570 and 500 million years ago based upon science) group which consists of a variety of sandstones.
3. As the bedrock continues southeast, the formations found are of the Ordovician Era (between 488 and 443 million years ago based upon science). This region is known as the Eastern Ridges and Lowlands. These formations include the Prairie du Chien group consisting of dolomite, the Saint Peter sandstone and the Platteville-Galena group consisting of dolomite and limestone.

In addition to these distinct regions, along the northern border of Oconto county, is a narrow formation of quartzite, slate and iron.

Glacial/Surface Geology

During the glacial period, Oconto County was completely covered by a sheet ice known as the Green Bay Lobe of the Labrador Ice Sheet. This sheet of ice was responsible for shaping the surface features that can be seen today throughout the County. The glacial drift in Oconto County consists primarily of clayey till. Glaciofluvial sediments in the form of an outwash plain, comprised of lake silt and clay, are located in areas adjacent to major water features and through the central portion of the county. The soils may be less than five feet thick in some areas and up to 200 feet in depth above the bedrock. Map 2.2 shows the Pleistocene Geology across the county.

Bedrock has not presented any significant development problems in the past but may impact development when found near the surface.

Conclusion: Bedrock has not presented any significant development problems in the past. However, bedrock may impact development when found near the surface. Bedrock near the surface may hinder excavation therefore considerably increasing the cost of construction of recreational facilities. In addition, conventional on-site septic systems cannot function properly where bedrock is near the surface.



Topography

Glacial events occurring in Wisconsin, along with the type of underlying bedrock, have split Oconto County into three distinct regions.

1. **The Northern Highlands Region** of Oconto County, which includes Mountain, Doty, Lakewood, Riverview, Townsend and parts of Brazeau, was once a mountainous area. Centuries of erosion and smothering have removed the mountains, leaving behind a number of outcrops which can be seen in the Town of Mountain and the Town of Riverview near Crooked Lake. Some of the highest elevations in the state can be observed in this region as well. Thunder Mountain, located near the Oconto County-Marinette County border, rises 1,375 feet above sea level. McCaslin Mountain, located near the junction of Forest, Marinette and Oconto Counties, has been measured at 1,625 feet above sea level.
2. **The Central Plain Region** of Oconto County includes Gillett, Maple Valley, Spruce, Underhill and portions of Brazeau. This area is covered by a hilly, undulating end moraine. A series of low ridges can also be found in the northeastern part of the central region.
3. In southeast Oconto County the end moraine of the Central Plain Region eventually merges with the **Eastern Ridges and Lowlands Region** of the county with a broad, undulating ground moraine that slopes to the east. The entire ground moraine encompasses a number of depressions and basins and is scattered with lake and outwash plains.

Soils

Northern Oconto, which is considered part of the Northern Highlands Region, is generally comprised of Menahga-Rousseau, Padus-Pena, and Lennan-Keweenaw soils that are well drained and nearly level to very steep. The Padus-Pena soils are the most commonly found type in the Northern Highlands.



Onaway-Solona-Seelyeville soils comprise the majority of the soils in the Central Plains Region located in the central portion of Oconto County. These soils are nearly level to very steep, well drained to somewhat poorly drained or very poorly drained, loamy and mucky soils on uplands.

Solona-Onaway-Iosco is the predominate soil of the Eastern Ridges and Lowlands of eastern Oconto County. These soils are nearly level to gently sloping, well drained to somewhat poorly drained, loamy and sandy soils on uplands.



Watersheds

Oconto County consists of ten watersheds which are part of the larger Lake Michigan Basin. Each of these watersheds drain indirectly into Lake Michigan through Green Bay.

Priority and Non-Priority Watersheds

Both point and non-point source pollution continues to have a tremendous impact on Wisconsin's watersheds. While rules can easily be put into place to regulate point source pollution, it is much more difficult to control nonpoint source pollution.

As a way to protect the state's watersheds from nonpoint source pollution, the Wisconsin Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement Program (NPS Program) was created in 1978 by the State Legislature and is managed by the WDNR. This program selected priority watersheds based on numerous factors, including but not limited to, the potential for unique species to respond positively to nonpoint source controls and sensitivity to phosphorus loading. The program has provided financial and technical assistance to landowners and local governments to reduce nonpoint source pollution by addressing land management activities that contribute to urban and rural runoff.

Table 2.1 lists each of the watersheds within Oconto County as well as their designation through the NPS program (as of February 2007).

Table 2.1: Oconto County Watersheds

Classification	Watershed
Priority Watersheds	Little River Watershed
	Middle Peshtigo River and Thunder Rivers Watershed
	Pensaukee River Watershed
Non-Priority Watersheds	Little Peshtigo River Watershed
	Lower North Branch Oconto River Watershed
	Lower Oconto River Watershed
	Lower Peshtigo River Watershed
	South Branch Oconto River Watershed
	Suamico and Little Suamico River Watershed
	Upper Peshtigo River Watershed

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2007; Oconto County 20 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2014.



Surface Water

The surface waters in Oconto County primarily flow southeast to the bay of Green Bay. The major river systems within the county consist of the Little Suamico, Oconto, Little and Pensaukee Rivers. Oconto County has many lakes and streams that provide an abundant supply of surface water. The surface waters of the county provide quality habitat for waterfowl and wildlife in addition to recreational opportunities.

Oconto County has some 200 named lakes totaling approximately 10,486 acres and 179 unnamed lakes totaling approximately 567 acres. Additionally, the county contains approximately 1,073 miles of streams which cover around 12,814 surface acres. **Tables 2.2 and 2.3** list the major surface water features in Oconto County including lakes and ponds greater than 100 surface acres and the major rivers and their tributaries. **Maps 2.3 and 2.4** notes their locations within the county. (Inset: Chain Lake & Wescott Lake)



Table 2.2: Oconto County Lakes and Ponds Greater than 100 Surface Acres

Name	Location	Map 2.3 Number
Anderson Lake	T30N, R17E, Section 3	1
Archibald Lake	T32N, R15E, Section 2	2
Bass Lake	T32N, R15E, Section 4	3
Berry Lake	T28N, R17E, Section 19	4
Boot Lake	T32N, R15E, Section 9	5
Boulder Lake	T31N, R15E, Section 21	6
Christie Lake	T28N, R18E, Section 19	7
Chute Pond	T31N, R16E, Section 36	8
Crooked Lake	T32N, R17E, Section 22	9
Horn Lake	T33N, R15E, Section 21	10
Kelly Lake	T29N, R19E, Section 6	11
Lake John	T33N, R16E, Section 16	12
Leigh Flowage	T30N, R19E, Section 30	13
Townsend Flowage	T33N, R15E, Section 22	14
Machickanee Flowage	T28N, R20E, Section 34	15
Maiden Lake	T32N, R16E, Section 7	16
Oconto Falls Pond	T28N, R19E, Section 26	17
Pay Lake	T32N, R16E, Section 10	18
Pickerel Lake	T33N, R15E, Section 11	19
Reservoir Pond and Explosion Lake	T33N, R15E, Section 28	20
Upper Wheeler Pond	T33N, R15E, Section 15	21
Waubee Lake	T33N, R16E, Section 13	22
Wheeler Lake	T33N, R16E, Section 22	23
White Potato Lake	T31N, R18E, Section 23	24

Source: "Surface Water Resources of Oconto County" Wisconsin Conservation Department, 1977



Table 2.3: Oconto County Major Rivers

Name	Location	Map 2.4 Number
First South Branch Oconto River	T31N, R16E, Section 31	25
Kelly Brook	T29N, R20E, Section 12	26
Little River	T28N, R21E, Section 30	27
Little Suamico River	T26N, R21E, Section 29	28
North Branch Little River	T28N, R21E, Section 30	29
North Branch Oconto River	T29N, R17E, Section 12	30
Oconto River	T29N, R22E, Section 16	31
Pensaukee River	T27N, R21E, Section 12	32
Peshtigo Brook	T29N, R17E, Section 12	33
South Branch Oconto River	T29N, R17E, Section 12	34

Source: "Surface Water Resources of Oconto County" Wisconsin Conservation Department, 1966.

Wisconsin's Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters

Wisconsin's "Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Water Program" was designated by the state to maintain water quality in Wisconsin's cleanest waters. Within Oconto County there are nine named bodies of water that are classified as Outstanding Resource Waters and an additional 34 that are classified as Exceptional Resource Waters. A complete list of these waters can be found in Appendix A of *Volume II: Oconto County 20 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. In addition, Oconto County contains 68 unnamed creeks that are also classified as Exceptional Resource Waters.

Shoreland

Oconto County contains approximately 25 miles of Lake Michigan and Green Bay shoreline. Shoreland are viewed as valuable environmental resources both in rural and urbanized areas. Even though development within shoreland areas is generally permitted (including those for recreational purposes), specific design techniques must be taken into consideration when doing so. Oconto County Planning & Zoning Department provides guidance.

Wetlands

Because of their importance, there are strict regulations regarding wetlands. Oconto County contains approximately 140,000 acres of wetlands. Prominent wetlands in the county include Christie Lake, Morgan Marsh, Jamison Marsh, Lena Swamp, Wolf Marsh, Brazeau Swamp, Peshtigo Brook Wetlands, County Line Swamp, West Shore Rivers Wetlands, Wesco Creek Swamp, and others adjoining the many lakes and streams of the county.



Coastal Wetlands

Oconto County has a number of extensive wetland complexes, with the majority being located within 25 miles of the Green Bay shoreline. Wetlands located within close proximity to the coast provide rich habitat for plants and animals and greatly influence the larger ecosystem processes of the Great Lakes Ecosystem. As transition zones between land and water, coastal wetlands are often rich in species diversity and provide critical habitat for migratory and nesting birds, spawning fish, and rare plants.

The WDNR has identified ecologically Significant Coastal Wetlands along Lake Michigan as a way to guide future planning efforts. The Oconto Marsh, County Line Swamp, Pensaukee River Wetland Complex, Charles Pond, and Mud Creek Wetland are all designated Significant Coastal Wetlands.

Woodlands

There are some 396,843 acres of woodlands within Oconto County including Federal, State, County and Private Ownerships. When planning future recreational development, it is important to keep in mind that woodlands provide aesthetic views, wildlife habitat, and offer multiple recreational choices. Woodlands also maintain watershed cover, provide shade, serve as a windbreak, help reduce soil erosion, act as a noise barrier, and screen unsightly developments.

- Upland woodlands and lowland woodlands (i.e., woodlands within wetlands) comprise a total of 396,843 acres. Upland woodlands constitute approximately 268,143 acres and the lowland woodlands cover another 128,699 acres of land.
- A large percentage of Oconto County is covered by forests. In addition to the privately held forests, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest consists of some 138,000 acres, while the Oconto County Forest comprises approximately another 43,345 acres.

Wildlife and their Habitat

Wildlife habitat can be defined as areas that provide the arrangement of food, water, cover and space required to meet the biological needs of an animal. Different wildlife species have different requirements and these requirements vary over the course of a year. Also, different plants provide fruit and food in different seasons. Maintaining a variety of habitats generally benefits a much desired diverse wildlife. Woodlands, wetlands, floodplains and the water features within the county provide habitat for many species of wildlife. White-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, turkey, grouse, pheasant, gray/red/fox squirrel, black bear, wolf, coyote, fox, muskrat, snowshoe and cotton tailed rabbit, mink, otter, and chipmunks are some of the more well-known species found in Oconto County. The inland surface waters and those of the bay of Green Bay provide habitat for fish such as walleye, bass, catfish, pan fish, sturgeon, trout, sucker, musky, northern, carp as well as migratory fowl that frequent the area.



Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Oconto County has over 133 rare mammals, birds, fish, turtles, reptiles, butterflies, invertebrates, plants, and communities occur within the county, including three federally listed species. Oconto County also has 33 state endangered or threatened species and one species of special concern **Table 2.4**.

Table 2.4: State and Federal Threatened or Endangered Species in Oconto County

Species Classification	Common Name	State Listing	Federal Listing
Bird	Bald Eagle	Special Concern	Threatened
Bird	Common Tern	Endangered	
Bird	Forster's Tern	Endangered	
Bird	Loggerhead Shrike	Endangered	
Bird	Piping Plover	Endangered	Endangered
Bird	Red-necked Grebe	Endangered	
Bird	Red-Shouldered Hawk	Threatened	
Bird	Yellow Rail	Threatened	
Butterfly	Karner Blue Butterfly	Endangered	Endangered
Butterfly	Northern Blue Butterfly	Endangered	
Butterfly	Swamp Metalmark	Endangered	
Fish	Greater Redhorse	Threatened	
Fish	Longear Sunfish	Threatened	
Fish	Redfin Shiner	Threatened	
Herptile	Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake	Endangered	Future Candidate
Herptile	Western Ribbon Snake	Endangered	
Invertebrate	Pygmy Snaketail	Threatened	
Invertebrate	Slippershell Mussel	Threatened	
Mammal	Timber Wolf	Threatened	Threatened
Plant	Bog Bluegrass	Threatened	
Plant	Braun's Holly-Fern	Threatened	
Plant	Dwarf Huckleberry	Endangered	
Plant	Dwarf Milkweed	Threatened	
Plant	Fairy Slipper	Threatened	
Plant	Hart-Leaved Foam-Flower	Endangered	
Plant	Little Goblin Moonwort	Endangered	
Plant	Marsh Valerian	Threatened	
Plant	Pale Green Orchid	Threatened	
Plant	Ram's-Head Lady's-Slipper	Threatened	
Plant	Round-Leaved Orchid	Threatened	
Plant	Seaside Crowfoot	Threatened	
Turtle	Blanding's Turtle	Threatened	
Turtle	Wood Turtle	Threatened	

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2006.



Significant Natural Areas

A number of sites located within the county may be considered significant natural features. These areas may be designated as WDNR State Natural Areas, State Wildlife and Fishery Areas, Significant Coastal Wetlands, Land Legacy Places; or be included in the "Natural Areas Inventory," conducted by the Scientific Areas Preservation Council of the WDNR. Definitions of these designations are in *Volume II: 20 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2014*.

Natural Areas Inventory

The "Natural Areas Inventory" (NAI) was conducted in 1976 and updated in 1980 under the direction of the Scientific Areas Preservation Council (SAPC) of the WDNR to identify natural areas along Wisconsin's Lake Michigan and Lake Superior coasts. The SAPC defined the NAI sites as "tract[s] of land or water so little modified by man's activity or sufficiently recovered that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-settlement landscape". The SAPC identified NAI sites independently of the State Natural Areas program; as a result, some sites fall under both programs **Table 2.5**.

Table 2.5: Significant Natural Areas, Oconto County

Significant Natural Area	Designation				
	State Natural Area	State Wildlife and Fishery Area	Significant Coastal Wetland	Land Legacy Place	Natural Area Inventory
Barney Creek	X				
Battle Creek Hemlocks	X				
Bonita Country	X				
Brazeau Swamp				X	
Camp Five Lake	X				
Cathedral Pines	X				
Charles Pond	X		X		
Charles Pond Unit - Green Bay West Shores		X			X
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests				X	
Copper Culture Cemetery					X
County Line Swamp			X		X
Diamond Roof	X				
Forbes Springs	X				
Glocke Lake	X				
Hagar Mountain	X				



LaFave Swamp	X				
Mud Creek Wetland			X		
Nelligan Lake	X				
North Branch Bottoms	X				
Oconto County Forest					X
Oconto Marsh			X	X	
Oconto Marsh Unit - Green Bay West Shores		X			X
Oconto River				X	
Oconto River (South-Branch) Fishery Area		X			
Pecor Point Unit - Green Bay West Shores		X			X
Pensaukee Lacustrine Forest					X
Pensaukee River Wetland Complex			X		
Pensaukee Unit - Green Bay West Shores		X			X
Peshtigo Brook Wildlife Area		X			
Peshtigo Harbor Unit - Green Bay West Shores		X			X
Priest Rock	X				
Rush Point Unit - Green Bay West Shores		X			X
Snow Falls Creek	X				
South Branch Beech Grove	X				
Suamico, Little Suamico and Pensaukee Rivers				X	
Sunrise Lake	X				
Tar Dam Pines	X				
Thunder Mountain	X				
Thunder River Swamp	X				
Tibbett Suamico Unit - Green Bay West Shores		X			X
Waupee Lake Swamp	X				
West Shore Green Bay Wetlands				X	

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2006.



Environmental Corridors

When considering future recreational development, it is important to understand that environmental corridors serve many purposes such as protecting local water quality; serving as buffers between different land uses; used as a means of controlling, moderating, and storing floodwaters while providing nutrient and sediment filtration; and providing fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. **Map 2.5** contains the environmental corridors of Oconto County as defined by the *20 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan* with the following criteria:

1. Navigable waters with a 75-foot setback
2. Wetlands with a 50-foot buffer
3. 100-year FEMA floodplains; and
4. Steep slopes (12 percent or greater)

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources are typically sites, structures, features and/or objects of some importance to a culture or community for scientific, aesthetic, traditional, educational, religious, archaeological, architectural or historic reasons and may be incorporated into a community's recreational systems.

Historic and Archeological Sites

Table 2.6 is a listing of sites in the county that appear on the National Register of Historic Places as well as those that were identified by the Oconto County Historical Society as important historical and archeological sites.

Preservation of historical and archeological sites located within the county can be important in retaining the character of the area. These sites help to educate the public about the history of the county while also providing tourism and recreation opportunities.

Table 2.6 Historic Places in Oconto County.

Name	Location	Structure Age
National Register of Historic Places		
Arndt's Pensaukee Mill	Town of Pensaukee	1827
Beyer Home Museum	City of Oconto	1868
Boulder Lake Site	Town of Doty	
John G. Campbell House	City of Oconto	1892
Chute Pond Dam	Town of Mountain	
Citizens State Bank Building	City of Gillett	ca 1904
First Church of Christ, Scientist	City of Oconto	1886
Holt and Balcom Logging Camp No.1	Town of Lakewood	1880
Holt-Balcom Lumber Company Office	City of Oconto	1854



Huff Jones House	City of Oconto	1851
Daniel E. Krause Stone Barn	Town of Chase	1903
Mathey Building	Village of Lena	1916
Mountain Fire Lookout Tower	Town of Riverview	
Mountain School	Town of Mountain	1908
Oconto Main Post Office	City of Oconto	1922
Oconto County Courthouse	City of Oconto	ca 1877 & 1891
Oconto Site: Copper Culture State Park	City of Oconto	3000 - 4000 BC
Governor Edward Scofield House	City of Oconto	1869
Smyth Road Bridge	Town of Lakewood	
St. Mark's Episcopal Guild Hall and Vicarage	City of Oconto	1866 & 1871
St. Peter's and St. Joseph's Catholic Churches	City of Oconto	1899/1870
Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter	Town of Mountain	
West Main Street Historic District	City of Oconto	1860 - 1929
White Potato Lake Garden Beds Site	Town of Brazeau	ca 1200 - 1600 AD

Other Oconto County Historic and Archeological Sites

Allouez Historical Marker	City of Oconto	
Arndt's Little Suamico Sawmill Complex	Town of Little Suamico	ca 1835
Bedora Mound Group	Town of Brazeau	ca 100 AD
E.A. Taylor's Pensaukee Stage Coach Stop and Hotel	Town of Pensaukee	ca 1855 & ca 1871
Fire Lookout Tower	Town of Mountain	1934
Fort Howard to Menominee Road	Town of Pensaukee	1855
Gardner's Sawmill and Grand Hotel	Town of Pensaukee	ca 1850 and 1872
Green Lake Picnic Ground Shelter	Town of Mountain	1937
Grosse Family Cemetery	Town of Little Suamico	ca 1850
Hauser Dental Office (former Bank Building)	City of Gillett	ca 1904
Indian School and Farm	Town of Stiles	ca 1870
Lena Museum and Log Cabin	Village of Lena	
Living Oak Trail Marker Tree	Oak Orchard	



Mercier Hotel	City of Oconto Falls	1895
Mountain CCC Camp	Town of Mountain	1930s
Mountain Log House	Town of Mountain	ca 1880
Murphy Saw Mill	Town of Lakewood	
Oconto Falls Tissue	City of Oconto Falls	1845
Paxkinano Village Site	Town of Oconto	
Spruce Elementary School	Town of Spruce	
St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Cemetery	Town of Spruce	1892
Stiles Dam and Iron Bridge	Town of Stiles	ca 1925 & ca 1920
Suzie's Hill and Rapids	City of Oconto	
Swamp Hotel	Town of Little River	ca 1912
Thomaston Fishing Settlement	Town of Little River	ca 1855 - 1871
Volk's Family Cemetery	City of Oconto Falls	ca 1855

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, 2006; Oconto County Historical Society, 2006; and Oconto County Planning, 2014.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

YEAR – ROUND & SEASONAL

An important element of a Comprehensive inventory and assessment of the county's past and current demographic data. Observing historic changes in population characteristics enables a community to track past growth patterns as well as reasonably predict future trends. Over time, these population characteristics directly influence Oconto County's recreational facility capacities.

Historical Population Trends

Figure 2.1 illustrates the fluctuation in population Oconto County has experienced during the past century. Oconto County's highest population level of 39,567 in 2010 reflected a 90 percent or 18,693 person increase since 1900. The largest periods of population expansion in the county occurred between 1900 and 1910 and between 1990 and 2000 with increases of 23 and 18 percent, respectively. In contrast, the county experienced sizable losses in population leading up to the 1930, 1950, and 1960 U.S. Census counts when the local farming industry was struggling and more people elected to relocate to metropolitan areas, like the City of Green Bay, to live and work. The fastest growth rates are

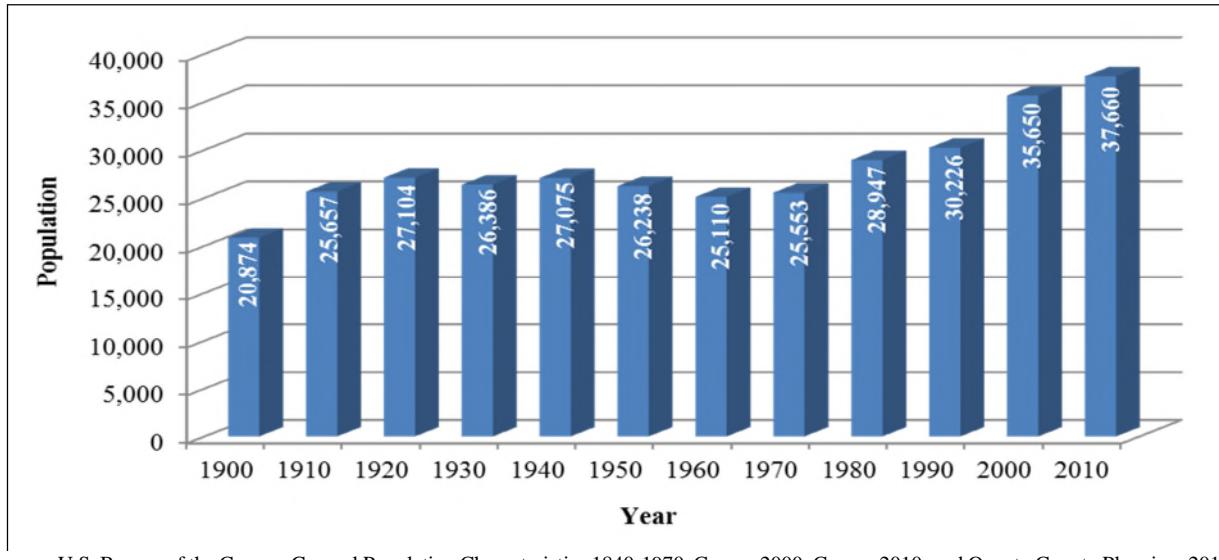
Outdoor Recreation Plan is the following

Due to the global pandemic and delay in the U.S. Census, this plan relies on 2010 Census counts and subsequent Official Estimates for projecting recreational use along with a County-wide User Preference Survey conducted in 2021.

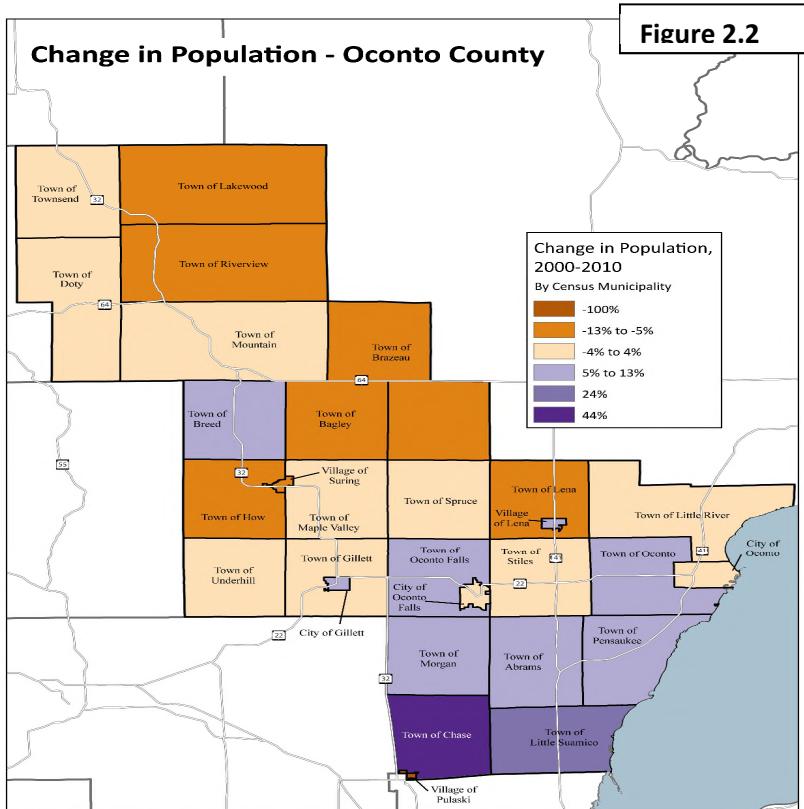


mostly in the towns. **Figure 2.2** details the change in population throughout the county from 2000-2010 while **Figure 2.3** details the population density within the county in 2010. Largest numeric gains were in Chase (923) and Little Suamico (922). Together they accounted for 90% of the population gain over the decade. Little Suamico town is now the largest municipality within the county.

Figure 2.1: Historical Population Levels, Oconto County, 1900-2010



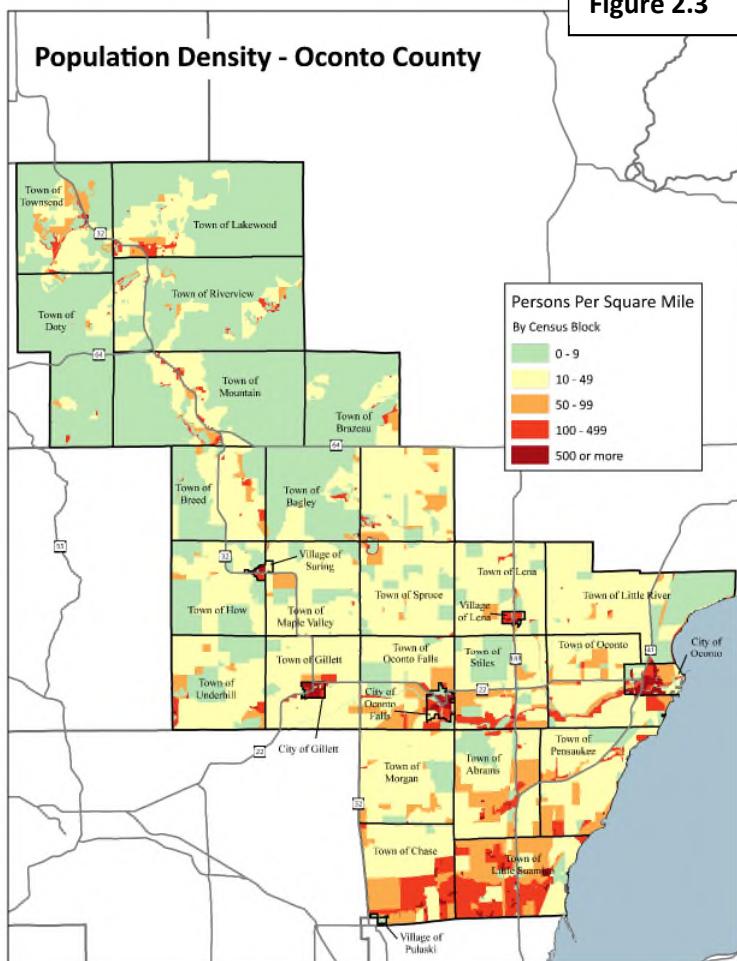
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, General Population Characteristics 1840-1970, Census 2000; Census 2010; and Oconto County Planning, 2014.



Source: Applied Population Laboratory – UW- Madison/Extension; US Census 2010.



Figure 2.3



Source: Applied Population Laboratory – UW- Madison/Extension; US Census 2010.

Population Projections 2015-2020

In 2013, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) Demographic Services Center prepared population projections to the year 2040 for each community and county in the state by utilizing figures from three varying time periods.

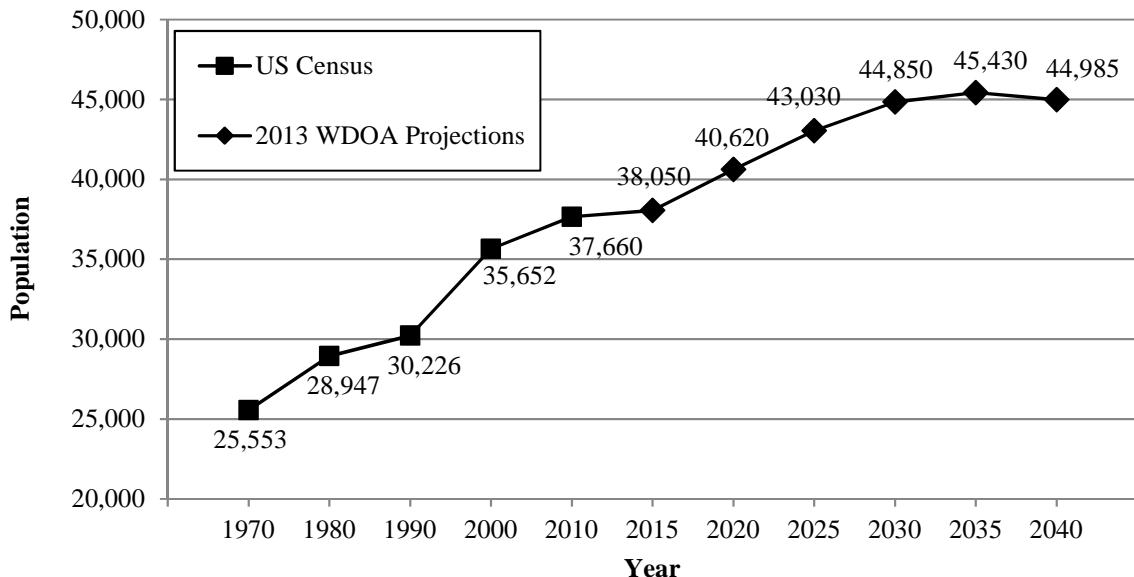
- According to the WDOA formula, Oconto County is projected to have a population peak of 45,430 in 2035. This represents an increase of 7,770 persons, or 20.6 percent, from the 2010 Census count of 37,660 persons.
- WDOA projections show potential population declines for many of the northern counties in the state including Oconto County. For Oconto County WDOA projects that the Oconto County population will begin to decline after 2035. The main reason for this projected



population decrease for many of these northern counties is due to the higher percentages of older residents will be most affected by natural decrease as time progresses.

- For the CORP planning period 2021 – 2026 the population is projected by WDOA to be 40,620 or an increase of 2,570 persons from 2015 estimates.

Figure 2.4: Population Trends and Projections, Oconto County, 1970 -2040



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, 1970 - 2010; Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Population Projections, 2013; and Oconto County Planning, 2014.

Seasonal Population & Projection

In 2010, the county had an estimated 17,001 additional people in the county considered seasonal residents. A large majority of those individuals maintain seasonal homes in the northern part of the county. By 2020, it is estimated that there were an additional 1,393 seasonal population increase from the 2015 figure. The Oconto County Planning Department estimates a future seasonal population as displayed within the *Comprehensive Land Use Plan* Vol II, (Table 6.6) to increase to some 19,479 or 403 person increase.

Table 2.7: Seasonal Population & Projections WDOA

Seasonal Population and Projections 2000 - 2025			
Year	Households	Persons Per Household	Population
2000	4,837	2.52	12,189
2010	7,025	2.42	17,001
2015	7,307	2.42	17,683



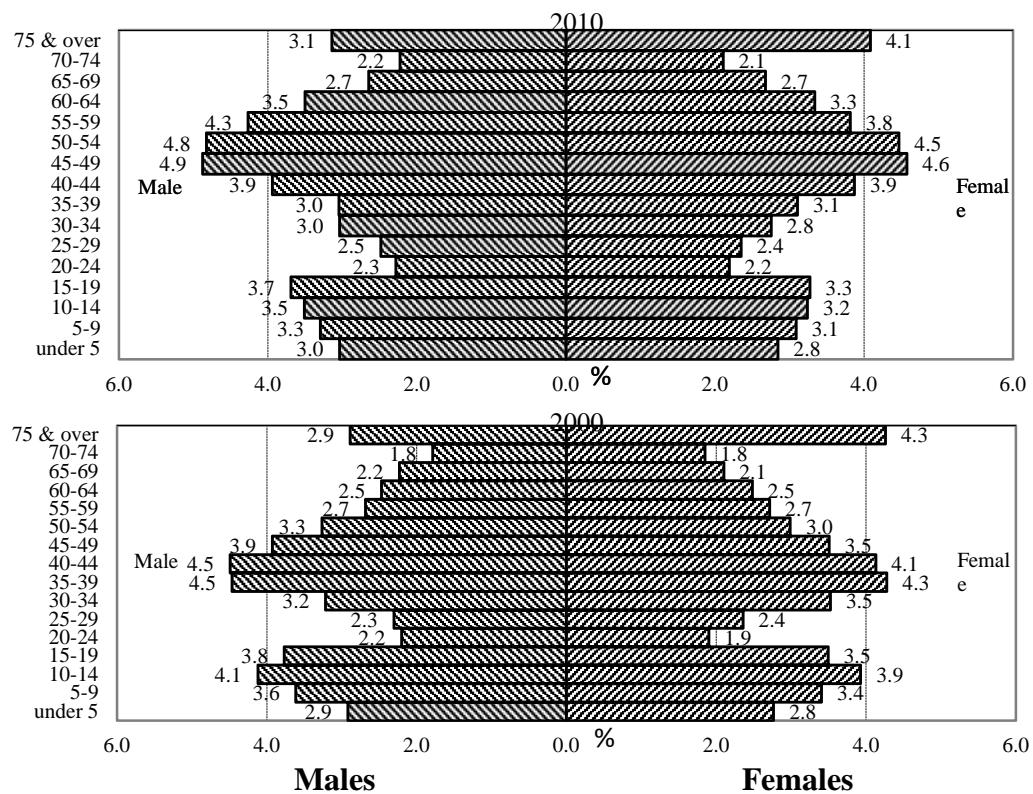
2020	7,883	2.42	19,076
2025*	8,049	2.42	19,479

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, 1970 - 2010; Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Population Projections, 2013; and Oconto County Planning, 2014.

Age and Gender Distribution

From 1980 to 2010, the county's population had several shifts in its age distribution with a general trend towards older age groups. The last two decades as represented in Population Pyramids (**Figure 2.5**) show movement as the decrease in the number of individuals between the ages of 20 and 34.

Figure 2.5: Population Pyramids, Oconto County, 2000 and 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing SF-1; 2010 Census of Population and Housing SF-1; and Oconto County Planning, 2014.

Working Age, School Age, and Retirement Age

- The working age group (16-64) accounted for nearly 80.6 percent of the county's total population in 2010.
- In 2010, approximately 19 percent of the county's total population was school age (5-17), while the retirement age group (65+) consisted of 16 percent of the county's population.

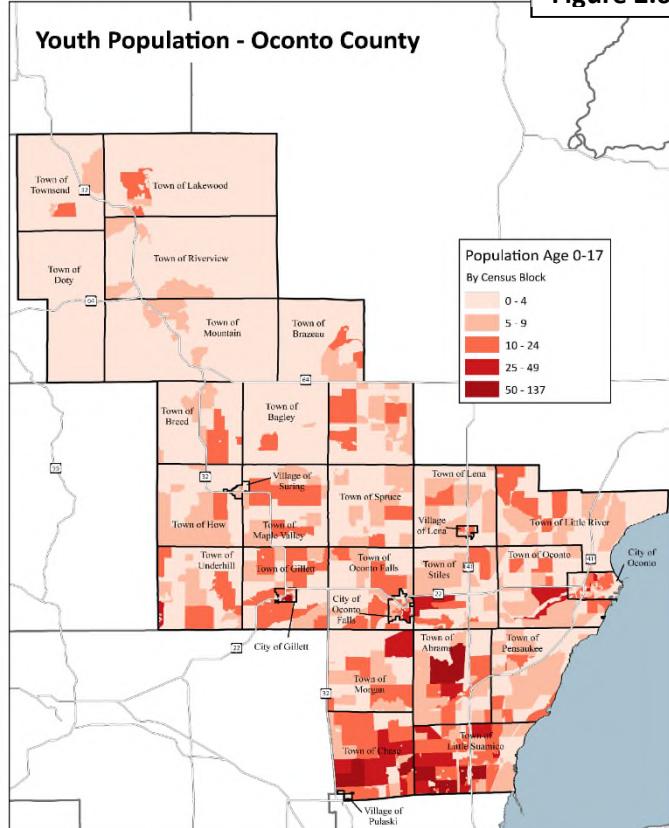


- Trends observed in the county as a whole are very similar to those observed throughout the State of Wisconsin. Youth population is heaviest near the Brown County Boarder. The senior population is scattered throughout the county **Figure 2.6 & 2.7.**

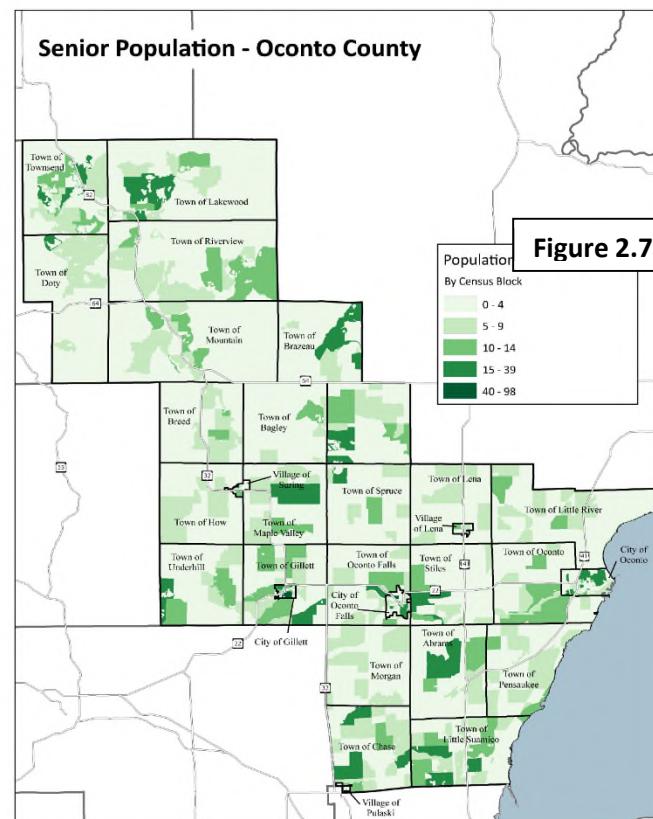
Net Migration by Age

Many counties in Wisconsin would show this exodus of young people as seen in **Figure 2.8**. People head off to school, to the city for jobs, or a different lifestyle. Oconto has had significant in-migration of people of young working age of 30-39. At the oldest age groups, it appears that people tend to leave the county – maybe to retire, maybe to seek better health care in more urban areas or maybe to move to be near their children. For whatever reason, the oldest age group is not aging in place.

Figure 2.6



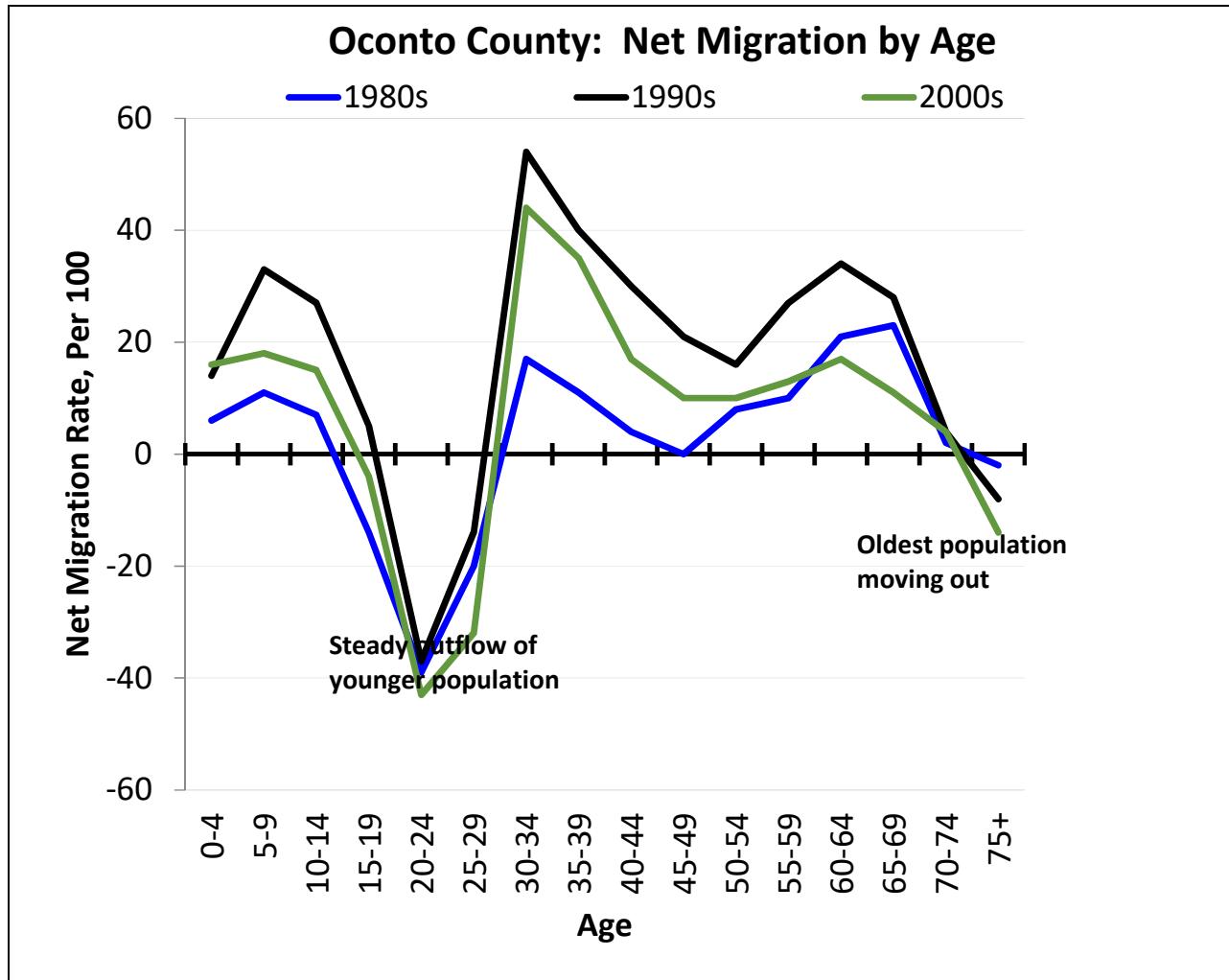
Source: Applied Population Laboratory – UW-Madison/Extension; US Census 2010.



Source: Applied Population Laboratory – UW- Madison/Extension; US Census 2010.



Figure 2.8: Net Migration By Age 1980, 1990, 2000



Source: Applied Population Laboratory – UW- Madison/Extension; US Census 2010.

Median Age

Table 2.7 displays the gradual increase of median age for Oconto County and the State of Wisconsin from 1970 to 2010. The county's median age has risen from 30.8 years in 1970 to 43.7 years in 2010. This increase in median age provides further proof that the population of Oconto County is aging. This trend of an increasing median age should be considered when planning for the future recreation needs of the county as an aging population generally demands additional services and alternative recreational opportunities than a younger age group.



Table 2.7: Median Age, Oconto County and State of Wisconsin, 1970-2010

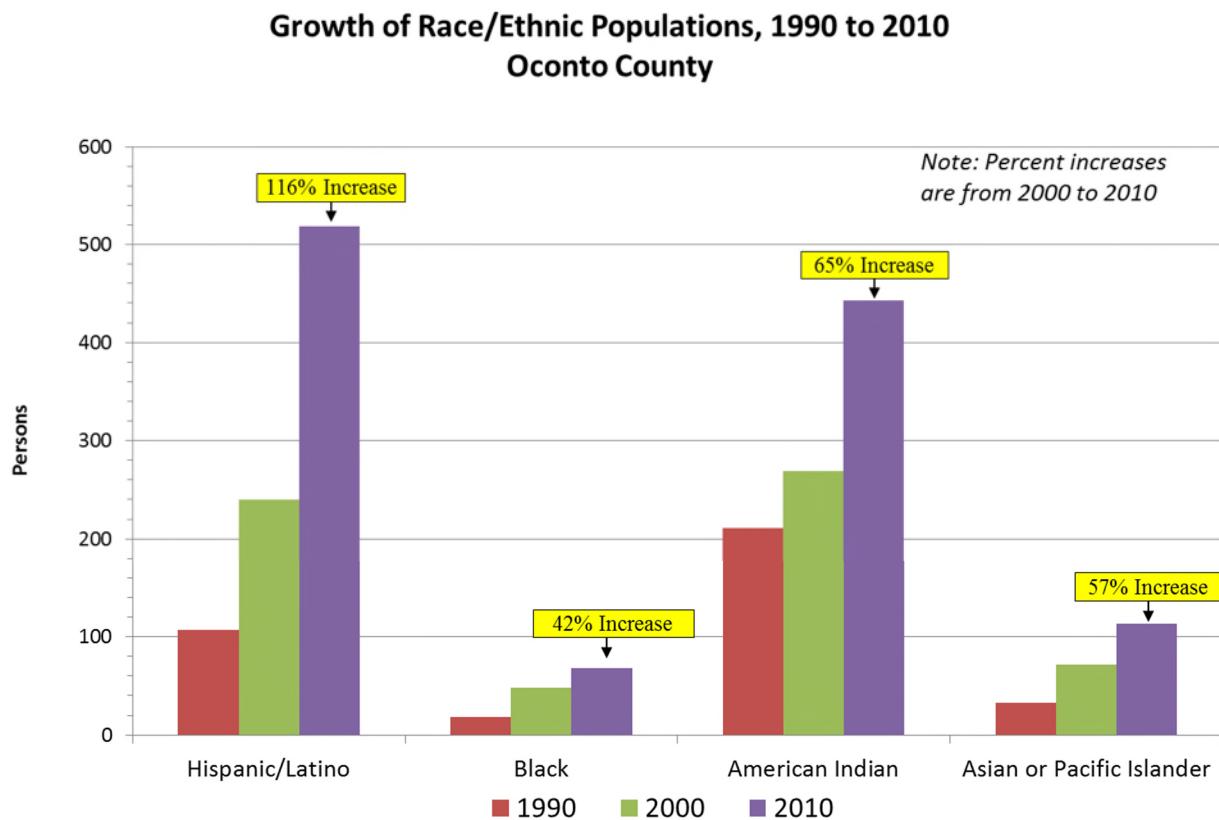
Geographic Location	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Oconto County	30.8	31.3	35.0	38.8	43.7
Wisconsin	27.2	29.4	32.9	36.0	38.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, General Population Characteristics, Wisconsin, 1970, Tables 33, 35; 1980 Table 14; 1990 STF 1A, General Profile; Census 2000; Census 2010; and Oconto County Planning, 2014.

Ethnic Background

Historically, Oconto County is made up of numerous ethnic backgrounds, primary from Europe. The largest of the ethnic groups is German, Irish, French, and Belgium. The recent decades has shown that the county is gradually diversifying in race. **Figure 2.9** details the fastest growing segment of the population, similar to the rest of the state of Wisconsin.

Figure 2.9: Race and Ethnic Growth



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey



ECONOMY

Oconto is a rural community with agriculture as the predominant land use. The recent agriculture study shows that there are more cows than people within the county. Agriculture is an important economic element within Oconto County. It includes hundreds of family-owned farms as well as agriculture related businesses and industries that provide equipment, services and other products farmers need to process, market and deliver food to consumers. The production, sales and processing of Oconto County's farm products generate employment, economic activity, income and tax revenue. In 2018, Oconto County ranked ninth in the state and in the top 100 for Christmas tree and woody shrub production. Oconto County also ranked twenty-second in the state and in the top one hundred nationally for dairy production.

Table 2.8 shows employment by major industry group for Oconto County. The county's labor force increased by an estimated 1,754 workers, or 9.5 percent, from 2000 to 2012. The number of unemployed Oconto County residents has fluctuated from 682 or 3.5 percent in 2000, 2019, and again in 2021 compared to 1,479 or 7.4 percent in 2013 & 2020. In 2000, 29 percent of employed county residents worked in manufacturing followed by educational, health and social services at 15 percent. In 2012, 22.7 percent of employed county residents worked in manufacturing followed by educational, health and social services at 19.4 percent. The remaining percent of the employed population was evenly distributed among the other 11 industries. These percentages are similar to those of the state. Manufacturing remains the economic engine for the county though it is slipping.

Table 2.8: Employed Persons by Industry Group, Oconto County and State of Wisconsin, 2000

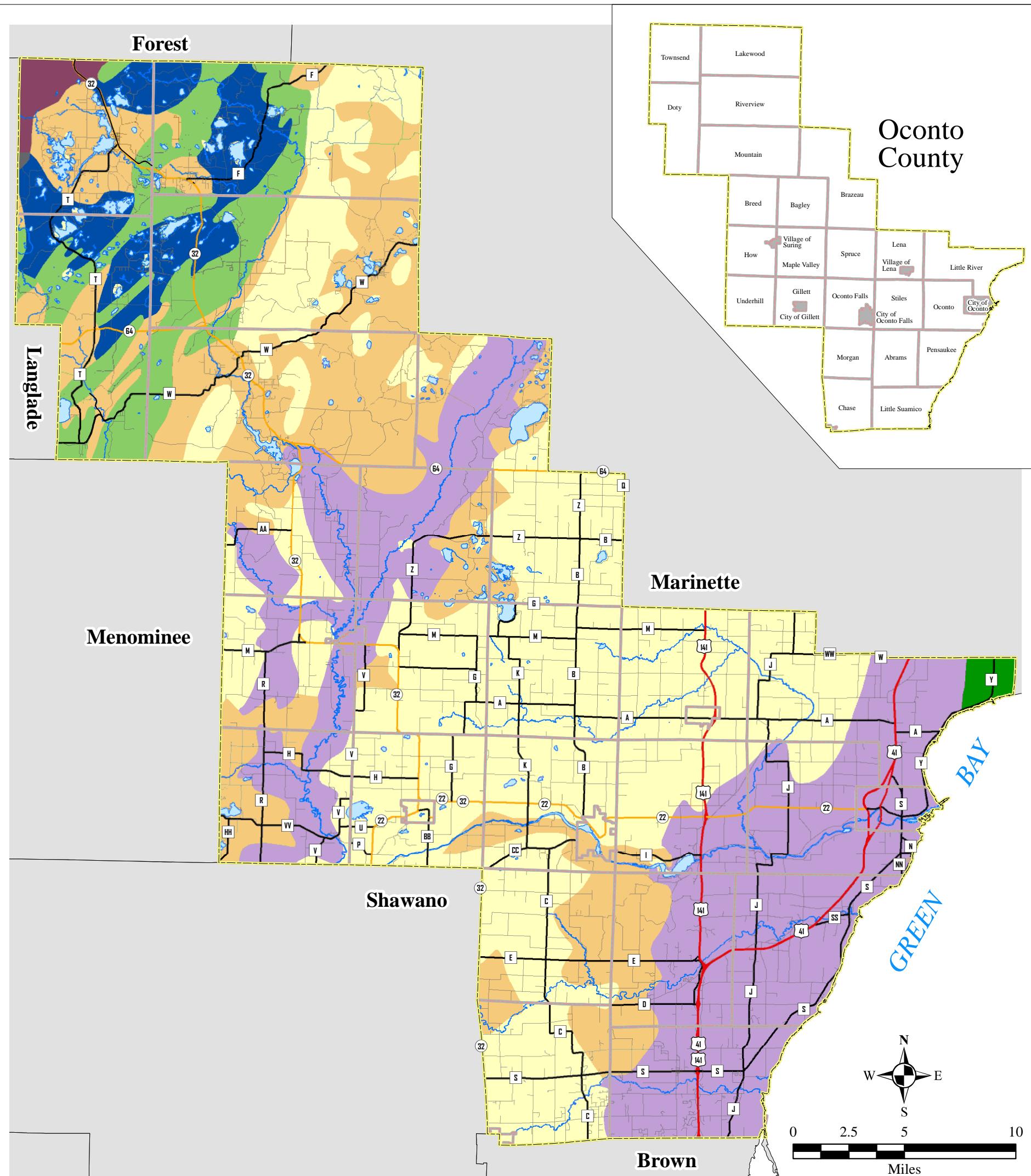
Industry	Oconto County		Wisconsin	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agricultural, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1,112	6.3	75,418	2.8
Construction	1,346	7.6	161,625	5.9
Manufacturing	5,126	29.0	606,845	22.2
Wholesale trade	463	2.6	87,979	3.2
Retail trade	1,517	8.6	317,881	11.6
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	1,263	7.1	123,657	4.5
Information	210	1.2	60,142	2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	733	4.1	168,060	6.1
Professional, scientific, administrative, and waste management	730	4.1	179,503	6.6
Educational, health, and social services	2,723	15.4	548,111	20.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food service	1,286	7.3	198,528	7.3
Other services (except public administration)	640	3.6	111,028	4.1
Public administration	531	3.0	96,148	3.5
Total	17,680	100.0	2,734,925	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, DP-3; and Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, 2006.



Pleistocene Geology

Oconto County, Wisconsin



Base Map Features

- ~~ Railroad
- ~~ Federal Highway
- ~~ State Highway
- ~~ County Highway
- ~~ Local Roads
- ☒ Township Boundary
- ☒ City/Village Boundary
- ☒ County Boundary
- ☒ Lakes and Rivers

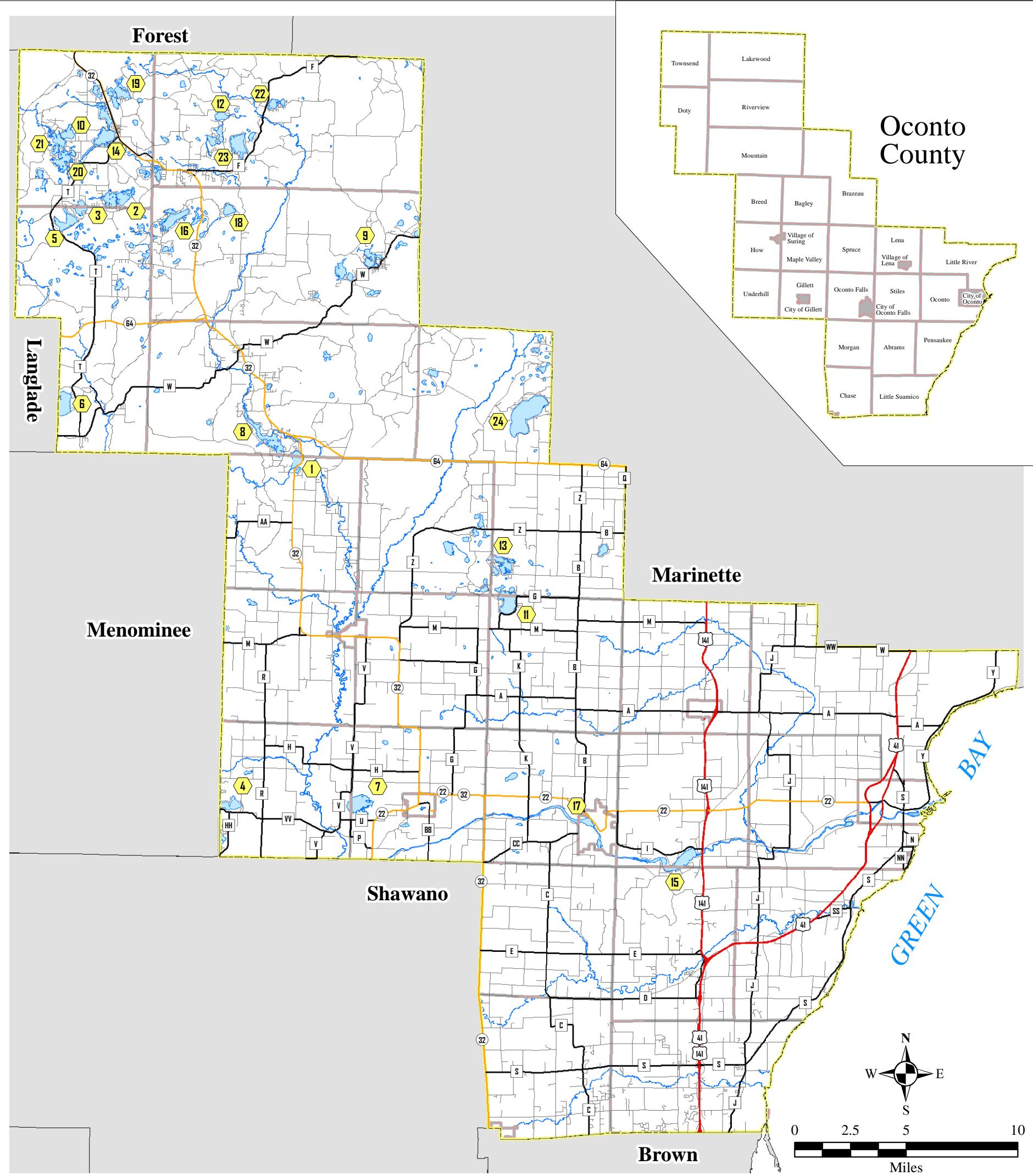
Calcareous Sandy Loamy Till	Lake Silt and Clay
Clayey Till	Noncalcareous Sandy Loamy Till
Ice-Contact Sand and Gravel	Outwash Sand and Gravel
Lake Sand	

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. This map contains a compilation of records, information, and data to be used for reference purposes only. Oconto County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained. Please contact the Oconto County Planning & Zoning Office at 920.834.6827 with any questions.

Source: USGS, 2001; Oconto County Planning, 2022.

Major Lakes and Ponds

Oconto County, Wisconsin



Base Map Features

- ~~ Railroad
- ~~ Federal Highway
- ~~ State Highway
- ~~ County Highway
- ~~ Local Roads
- ~~ Township Boundary
- ~~ City/Village Boundary
- ~~ County Boundary
- ~~ Lakes and Rivers



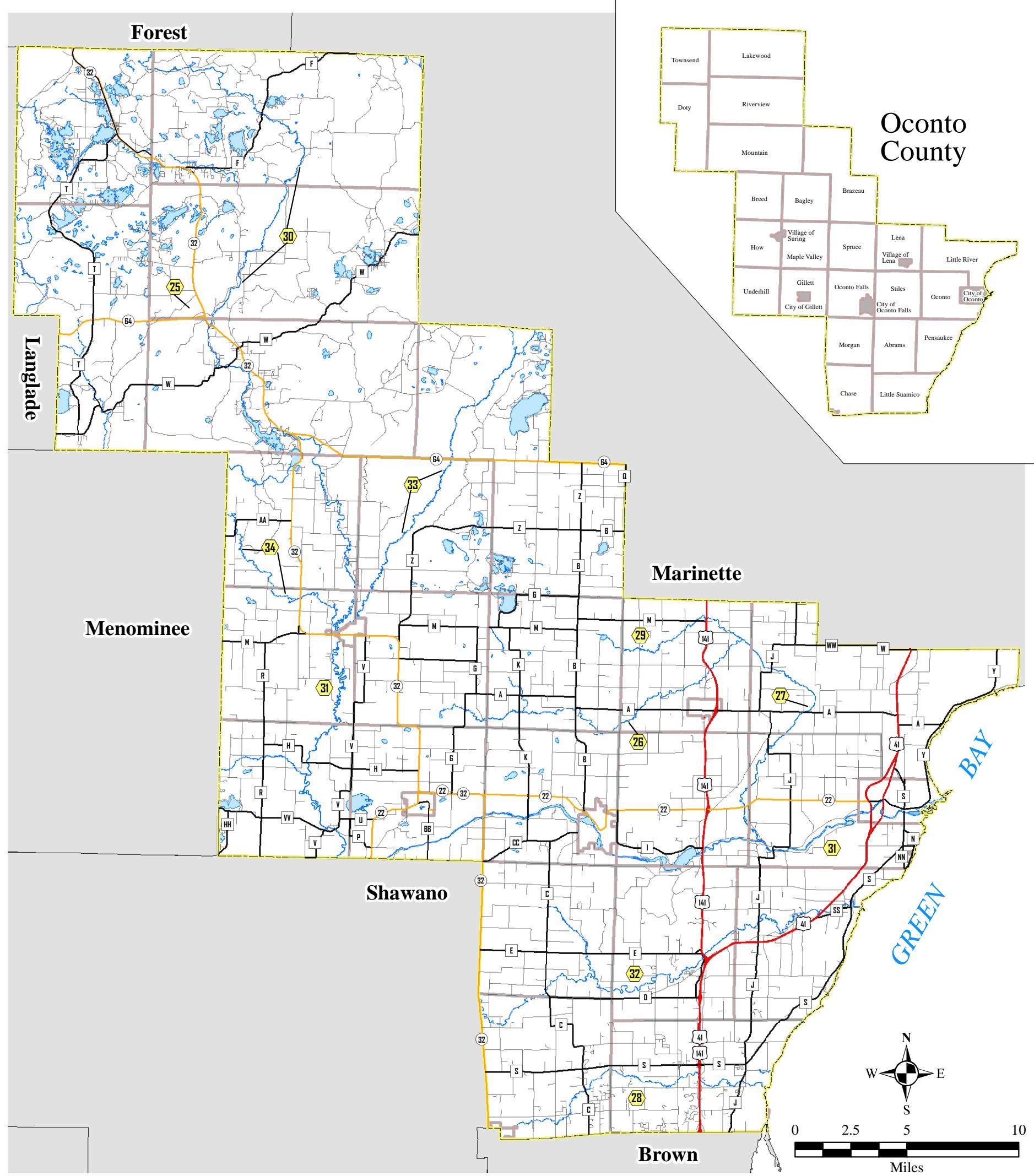
Note: Numbers Refer to Table 5.2 in Text

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Source: WDNR, 1977; Oconto County Planning, 2022.

Major Rivers and Creeks

Oconto County, Wisconsin



Base Map Features

- ↗ Railroad
- ↗ Federal Highway
- ↗ State Highway
- ↗ County Highway
- ↗ Local Roads
- +
- County Boundary
- +
- Lakes and Rivers
- +
- Township Boundary
- +
- City/Village Boundary
- +
- County Boundary
- +
- Lakes and Rivers



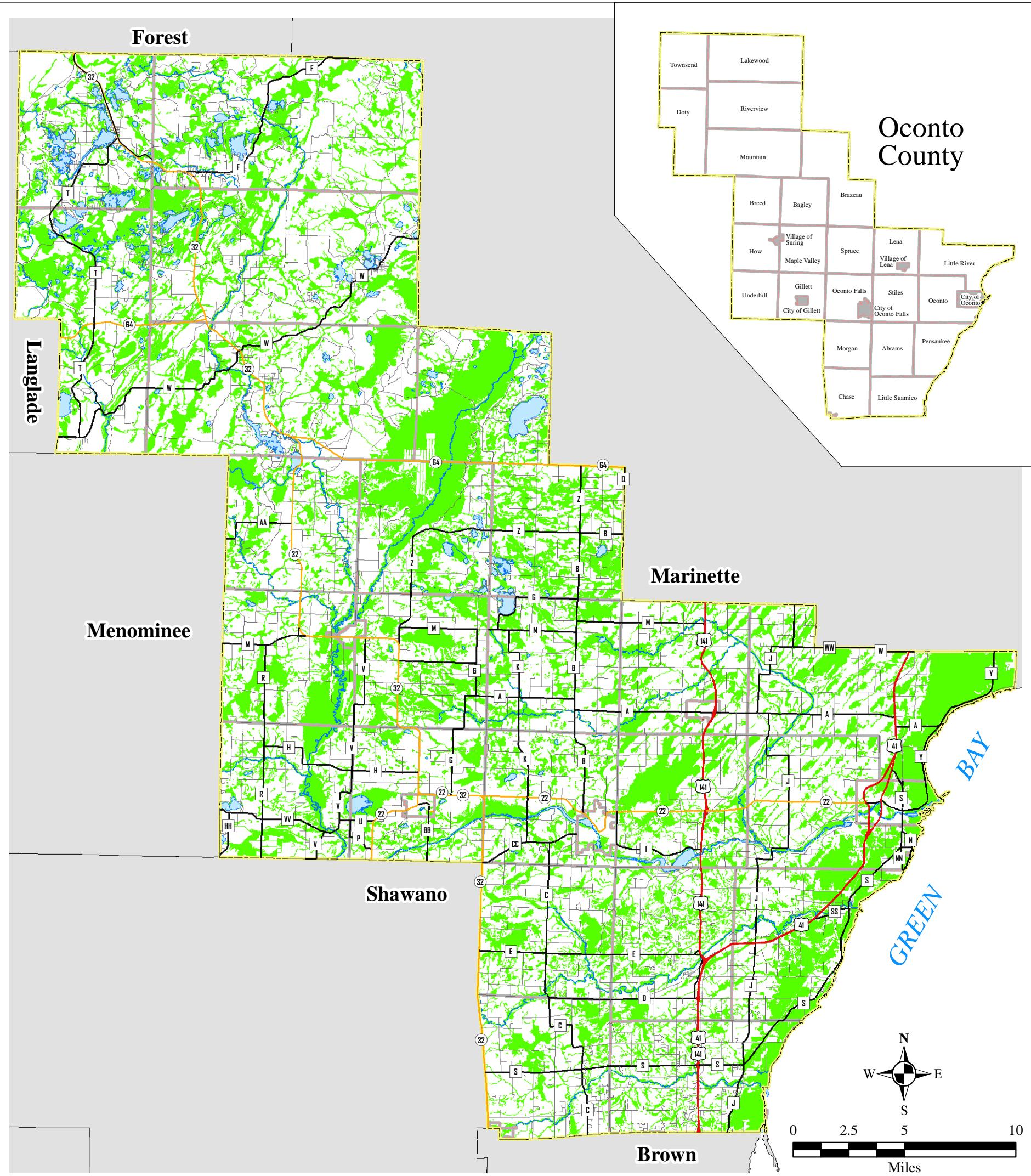
1 Note: Numbers Refer to Table 2.3 in Text

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Source: WDNR, 1977; Oconto County Planning, 2022.

Environmental Corridors

Oconto County, Wisconsin



Base Map Features

- ~~ Railroad
- ~~ Federal Highway
- ~~ State Highway
- ~~ County Highway
- ~~ Local Roads
- County Boundary
- City/Village Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Lakes and Rivers

Environmental Corridors

- Wetlands
- 100 - Year Floodplains
- Steep Slope 12% or Greater
- 75-Foot Buffer of Surface Water

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Source: WDNR, 2006; FEMA, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1998; NRCS, 2004; Oconto County Planning, 2022.

Chapter 3

GUIDELINES FOR COUNTY RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

PARK & RECREATION GUIDANCE

For deploying resources, planning, and decision-making related to outdoor recreation Oconto County should use the following guidelines to the extent that financial and human resources permit.

Goal 1: To assure sufficient park space to meet the needs of present and future populations.

Objectives:

- A. To determine the "Use Capacity" of existing park space.
- B. To formulate recommendations for the quality and quantity of park and recreation land needs.
- C. Protect and improve the natural and aesthetic value of Oconto County's resources through acquisition, easement, tax incentives, zoning, special designations or legislation.
- D. Encourage quality development of privately owned recreation facilities.

Goal 2: Design parks to balance the capacity of park areas with the needs of the individual and group recreational user.

Objectives:

- A. Inventory existing park and recreational areas to determine the amount and types of present use.
- B. Utilize this plan's anticipated population changes for the present and future recreational needs assessment.
- C. To make sure that there are adequate park and recreational facilities for the full population, including the handicapped.
- D. Recommend the acquisition and development, redevelopment of parks and facilities or the selling of parklands according to population demands and anticipated recreational program use.
- E. Recognize that people use the same facilities for different reasons. At the same time, parks should be designed to allow multiple activities to take place at the same time without detracting from the enjoyment of any individual activities.



Goal 3: Sensitive development of the natural environment for present and future parks and open spaces while protecting the resources upon which the County's recreational activities depend in an efficient and cost-effective manner

Objectives:

- A. Consider the effects of user activities and enhance the natural, environmental features of the parks.
- B. Design parks with an emphasis on aesthetics and natural features.
- C. Encourage quality development of privately owned recreation facilities.
- D. Plan and operate outdoor recreation areas to minimize disturbances of existing natural life.
- E. Identify and preserve areas and sites that have significant scenic, historical, archaeological, and natural characteristics.

Goal 4: Set priorities for the capital improvements of the parks.

Objectives:

- A. Use the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as guidance for preparation of budgets for park improvements.
- B. Strive to develop and maintain recreational facilities that are accessible (compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act) and which aim to meet the unique needs of disabled citizens.
- C. Recommend the appropriate capital improvements.

Goal 5: Maximize efforts to reduce the cost of park operations and maintenance.

Objectives:

- A. Support coordinated efforts of private and public recreation interests.
- B. Conduct site analysis of existing parks to determine representative maintenance and operation problems, which could be corrected by redesign or re-development.
- C. Interview appropriate personnel to identify excessive maintenance problems of each park, boat ramp and trail.
- D. Utilize existing greenways and environmental corridors as part of the permanent open space for passive recreation uses, such as nature walking paths



- E. Recommend planning considerations for present and future parks that will reduce maintenance.
- F. Recognize that parks may be used after hours and for anti-social behavior. This means to consider designs that best provide safety and security 24 hours a day.



Chapter 4

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of this plan are divided between those of a general, county-wide or regional nature and recommendations of improvements for specific sites.

The following issues and recommendations of a nature should be undertaken in the next 5 years

- ★ SIGNAGE – Improve signage to county parks/forest and other recreational sites
- ★ PRIMITIVE CAMPSITES – System should be upgraded
- ★ ATV CAMPGROUND – Develop an ATV campground on county owned property on Torsci Lane.
- ★ ATV TRAIL EXTENSION – Recommend and develop ATV use on the county recreational trail from Townsend northward to connect to Forest County. The main benefit of this is to connect other trails in the region, contributing to a very high quality recreational facility this connecting three existing trails.
- ★ ATHLETIC FIELDS/ORGANIZED SPORTS – Given the increase in population in the county south of Hwy 22 pressure of the development of additional areas for organized sports is likely to occur in southeastern towns – through not exclusively. Many towns are conducting land use plans, establishing recreational goals the town level with which the county may choose to collaborate.



BB Park

Park Location & Access

BB Park is located at 5277 County Road BB in the Town of Gillett - 2.5 miles south of the City Gillett.

Features & Amenities

- 1 Boat landing on the Oconto River
- 1 Blacktop launch and parking lot
- 1 Cement walking/fishing area
- 1 Small shelter
- 1 One (1) Grill
- 1 Eight (8) picnic tables
- 1 Vaulted Bathroom



Recommendation

- n Expand parking lot
- n New pavilion
- n Up-grade bathroom
- n Continue to maintain the park and ensure that park equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained park facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the park serves.

- n Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the park.
- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall park system budget.



Chute Pond Park & Campground

Park Location & Access

Chute Pond Park and Campground is located in the Town of Mountain 1 mile north of the intersection of State HWY 32 & 64.

Features & Amenities

- 1 74 electric camp sites with picnic tables and fire rings - 1 Group site for 5 campers
- 1 Dump station
- 1 Five (5) Vaulted Toilets
- 1 Two (2) Full restroom facilities with showers
- 1 Beach
- 1 Three (3) boat landings - West Shore (Field House)
- 1 South Shore and East Shore (Seasonal Campground)
- 1 Trailer parking and visitor parking
- 1 Playground equipment
- 1 Hiking Trails
- 1 Lots of fishing access
- 1 Seasonal Campground
- 1 35 Seasonal Sites
- 1 Boat landing - East Shore
- 1 Dock for seasonal campground

Park Character

Chute Pond Park and Campground, which sits on 167 acres nestled on a historic 418 acre lake, boasts of many park amenities. You can launch your boat from one of several Chute Pond boat launches or trailer it to one of the many lakes in the area. Your family can enjoy a leisurely afternoon at the beach swimming, walking the hiking trails, fishing or sliding down slippery rock.



Recommendation

- | Additional group site at CP Campground and seasonal sites CP Seasonal Campground
- | Make sites ATV accessible at CP Campground & CP Seasonal Campground
- | Bathroom at the Riverside sites at Chute Pond
- | New well at the Riverside sites at Chute Pond
- | Power up-grades at Chute Pond
- | Continue to maintain the park and ensure that park equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- | Providing safe and maintained park facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the park serves.
- | Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the park.
- | Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall park system budget.



Couillardville Park

Park Location & Access

Couillardville Park is located at 3921 County Road A in the Town of Oconto - 8 miles southwest of the City Oconto.



Features & Amenities

- 1 Access to the Oconto River
- 1 Grill
- 1 Picnic Table
- 1 Historical Marker



Recommendation

- Continue to maintain the park and ensure that park equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- Providing safe and maintained park facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the park serves.
- Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the park.
- Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall park system budget.



D.E. Hall Park

Park Location & Access

D.E. Hall Park is located in the Town of Little River six miles from the City of Oconto and 2 miles south of North Bay Shore Park and Campground on Cty Y.



Features & Amenities

- 1 boat launch lane

Park Character

D.E. Hall Park is situated on approximately 3.19 acres on the Bay of Green Bay.



Recommendation

- n Improve gravel road
- n Improve boat landing
- n Continue to maintain the park and ensure that park equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained park facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the park serves.

§ Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the park.

- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall park system budget.



Grange Park

Park Location & Access

Grange Park is located at 3921 County Road A in the Town of Little River - 9 miles northwest of the City Oconto and 4 miles east of Lena.

Features & Amenities

- n Access to the Little River off County Road A
- n Pavilion
- n Grill
- n Bathrooms



Recommendation

- n Electricity at the pavilion
- n Lighting near the bathroom
- n Continue to maintain the park and ensure that park equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained park facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the park serves.
- n Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the park.
- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall park system budget.



Iron Bridge Access

Park Location & Access

Iron Bridge Asscess located off Landing Lane on CFR 109 in the Town of Stiles - six miles East of the City of Oconto Falls and 10 miles west of the City of Oconto.



Features & Amenities

- 1 Boat landing on the Oconto River below the Stiles Dam
- 1 Blacktop launch and parking lot
- 1 Accessible Fishing
- 1 Old Iron Bridge over Oconto River
- 1 Vaulted Bathroom

Park Character

Iron Bridge is located on approximately 2.6 acres in the Town of Stiles.

Recommendation



- Black top & stripe parking lot.
- Continue to maintain the boat launch and ensure that launch equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- Providing safe and maintained launch facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the launch serves.
- Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the launch.
- Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall boat launch system budget.



Machickanee Boat Landing

Boat Landing Location & Access

Machickanee Boat Landing is located at the end of Landing Lane in the Town of Stiles - six miles East of the City of Oconto Falls and 10 miles west of the City of Oconto.

Features & Amenities

- n Newly expanded 2 lane boat launch and parking
- n Bathrooms
- n Shore Fishing/Walkway/Pier
- n Automated Pay Station

Boat Landing Character

Machickanee Boat Launch is on .32 acres owned by Oconto County and the parking lot is on .40 acres owned by Oconto Electric Cooperative in the Town of Stiles.



Recommendation

- n Replace privacy fence
- n Up grade the bathroom
- n Continue to maintain the boat launch and ensure that launch equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained launch facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the launch serves.
- n Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the launch.
- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall boat launch system budget.



North Bay Shore Park and Campground

Park Location & Access

North Bay Shore Park is located in the Town of Little River about 8 miles north of Oconto, WI or 7 miles south of Peshtigo, WI. Park access is located off County Highway Y and Bay Shore Road.



Features & Amenities

- 1 34 electric camp sites with picnic tables and fire rings - 24 sites with water and black top pads
- 1 One (1) Group site for 4-8 camping units
- 1 Automated Pay Station for self registrations and annual & daily launch fees
- 1 Dump station
- 1 Three (3) Vaulted Toilets
- 1 One (1) Full restroom facilities with showers
- 1 Boat landing with 6 launch lanes and 3 piers
- 1 Fish Cleaning Station
- 1 Trailer parking and visitor parking
- 1 Playground equipment
- 1 Basketball court, Volleyball court, and Horseshoe pit
- 1 Fishing access on break wall and pier

Park Character

North Bay Shore Park and Campground is situated on approximately 41 acres. Located next to the Bay of Green Bay, the park has a natural character with open views of surrounding areas. The amenities provided at the park are programmed toward boating and fishing opportunities.



Recommendation

- § Splash Pad
- n Develop more sites
- n Continue to maintain the park and ensure that park equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained park facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the park serves.
- n Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the park.
- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall park system budget.



North River Road Access

Park Location & Access

North River Road access is located at 4011 North River Rd in the Town of Oconto on the Oconto River. Six miles West of the City of Oconto.



Features & Amenities

- 1 Boat Landing on the Oconto River
- 1 Blacktop road and parking lot

Access Character

North River Road Access is located on approximately 1.19 acres in the Town of Oconto.

Recommendation

- n Black top & Stripe the upper parking lot
- n Repair or replace the seawall
- n Continue to maintain the access and ensure that the access is safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained access facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the access serves.
- n Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the access.
- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall system budget.



Patzer Park

Park Location & Access

Patzer Park is located at 12913 County Road H in the Town of Underhill - 6.5 miles west of the City Gillett.



Features & Amenities

- Boat landing on the Oconto River
- Blacktop launch and parking lot
- Accessible bathroom
- Accessible fishing/walkway



Recommendation

- n Develop primitive canoe camping sites along the river. Downstream from the launch.
- n Continue to maintain the park and ensure that park equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained park facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the park serves.
- n Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the park.
- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall park system budget.



Pensaukee Boat Landing

Boat Landing Location & Access

Pensaukee Boat Landing is located at the end of Lower State Road in the Town of Pensaukee.



Features & Amenities

- 1 Boat launch and blacktop parking lot
- 1 Floating launch pier
- 1 Flush bathrooms
- 1 Shore line restoration
- 1 Automated Pay Station

Boat Landing Character

Pensaukee Boat Launch is on 1.21 acres owned by the DNR. The DNR leases the boat launch to Oconto County who is in charge of developing and maintaining the boat landing.



Recommendation

- Look for means to add parking areas
- Continue to maintain the boat launch and ensure that launch equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- Providing safe and maintained launch facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the launch serves.
- Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the launch.
- Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall boat launch system budget.



Pioneer Park

Park Location & Access

Pioneer Park is located on Pioneer Park Road in the Town of Stiles - six miles East of the City of Oconto Falls and 10 miles west of the City of Oconto.

Features & Amenities

- 1 Small fishing pond
- 1 There are 2 primitive camping sites
- 1 Fire Pits
- 1 Picnic Area

Park Character

Pioneer Park is located on approximately 47 acres in the Town of Stiles.



Recommendation

- n Campsites
- n Bathrooms
- n Water
- n Handicapped accessible sensory path
- n Clean out pond and stock with fish
- n Create a sensory park similar to Barhausen's Sensory Woods in Brown County.
- n Continue to maintain the park and ensure that park equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained park facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the park serves.
- n Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the park.
- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall park system budget.



Access Areas

Anderson Lake Access

Anderson Lake Access is located off State Hwy 32 in the Town of Breed.

Features & Amenities

- 1 Boat landing on Anderson Lake
- 1 Blacktop launch and parking lot
- 1 Vaulted Bathroom



Recommendations

- n Dredge launch
- n New dock
- n Resurface parking lot

Balcom Lake Access

Balcom Lake Access is located off Balcom Lake in the Town of Oconto Falls

Features & Amenities

- 1 Identification Sign
- 1 Walking Path

Christie Lake Access

Christie Lake Access is located in the Town of Underhill

Recommendations

- n Transfer to the Town of Underhill

Cooley Lake Access

Cooley Lake Access is located off Cooley Lake Lane in the Town of Bagley.

Features & Amenities

- 1 Accessible walkway and fishing area to Cooley Lake



Mountain Highway Shop Access

The Mountain Highway Shop Access is located directly behind the highway shop on Hwy 32.

Features & Amenities

- 1 Fishing pier on Town Creek

Kassander Access

The Kassander Access is located off Section 4 Lane in the Town of Mountain.

Recommendation

- 1 Gravel parking lot
- 1 Walkway to the North Branch of the Oconto River

Underwood Lake Access

Underwood Lake Access is located off Marl Lake Road in the Town of Bagley.

Features & Amenities

- 1 Parking area
- 1 Small boat launch



Recommendation

- n Continue to maintain the boat launch and ensure that launch equipment and facilities are safe and well kept.
- n Providing safe and maintained launch facilities is critical to the viability of the facilities themselves as well surrounding neighborhood the launch serves.
- n Seek out ways to reduce maintenance costs associated with upkeep of the launch.
- n Reducing maintenance costs is consistent with the overall recommendations of this assessment which identify these costs as one of the most significant expenditures overall boat launch system budget.



Recreational Trails

Nicolet State Trail (Managed by Oconto County)

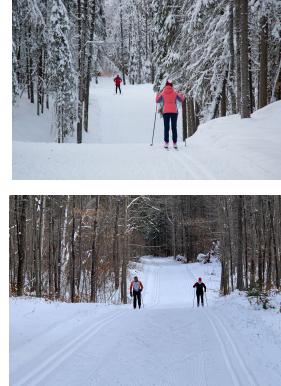
This county-operated trail meanders for more than 89 miles through the Nicolet National Forest in northeastern Wisconsin. The trail follows the same corridor built by railroad companies in the late 19th century to open up Wisconsin's pine and hardwood forests for the timber industry. The Nicolet State Trail runs through several small communities from Gillett in Oconto County to the Michigan state line.

Machickanee Cross Country Ski Trail

The Machickanee Cross Country Ski Trails are located in the Machickanee Forest Unit. The trails lead through a series of forest types, including red pine plantations, coniferous swamps, oak ridges, and birch and aspen stands. They undulate through topography ranging from creek bottoms to ridge tops. Numerous hills and curves of various slopes and lengths make this course a challenge for the intermediate to advanced skiers. The Machickanee Cross Country Ski Trails also include a beginner loop that can be enjoyed by skiers of all ability levels.

Current Features

- 1 Two (2) parking areas
- 1 Special Use Permit to local club
- 1 Ten (10) miles of trail
- 1 Bathroom



Recommended Improvements

- 1 Better Signage
- 1 Designate as hiking trails
- 1 Develop 200 feet on new Cross Country Ski trail to avoid steep wet area and expense of a new bridge

Machickanee Horse Trail

The Machickanee Horse Trails are located in the Machickanee Forest Unit. There are 25+ miles of clearly marked horse trails in the Machickanee Forest.

Current Features

- 1 Two (2) parking areas
- 1 Special Use Permit to local club
- 1 Twenty five (25) miles of 10' wide trail
- 1 Pit toilet at Timberline parking lot
- 1 Primitive camping sites



Oconto River State Trail

This 8-mile trail passes through the forests and farms of Oconto County between the communities of Oconto and Stiles Junction. Outside of Oconto, the trail parallels the Oconto River. The river has a long history of human activity, dating back 6,000 years to the early Native Americans who lived along the river, to the fur trading and logging operations of the last few centuries, to present-day recreation activities such as canoeing and kayaking.



Snowmobile & ATV/UTV Trails

Oconto County Snowmobile & ATV/UTV trail system is a fully interconnected scenic riding trail system. Convenient trail heads have been strategically placed throughout the County. Trail heads are located near Hwy 32/64 intersection, just East of Chute Pond, in Gillett at Zippel Park, Suring near the Village Hall, and Lakewood on Hwy 32. The Nicolet State Recreational Trail starts in Gillett and runs north to connect numerous trails systems.

Current Features

- 1 Miles of Snowmobile, ATV/UTV and Troute Trails
- 1 Five (5) Trail Heads
- 1 Bathrooms

Recommended Improvements

- 1 Continue to seek funding for improvements and work to create and maintain safe riding trails.
- 1 Continue to work with clubs to maintain safe riding trails
- 1 Develop an ATV campground on Torsci Lane.
- 1 Develop and Improve primitive camping sites along the trail
- 1 Improve additional parking sites



Oconto County Forest Units

How Unit

Town of How

Machickanee Unit

Towns of Abrams, Morgan and Stiles

- 1 Cross Country Ski Trails
- 1 Snowmobile Trails
- 1 Horse Trails
- 1 Walking/Hiking Trails
- 1 Shooting Range
- 1 Primitive Camping
- 1 All access to this area is controlled because of abuse

Recommended Improvements

- 1 Create better primitive camping sites
- 1 Develop better parking, signage and maps

South Bay Shore Unit

Towns of Oconto and Pensaukee

- 1 All access to this area is controlled because it is very low. The road and trail get damaged from use.
- 1 Oconto River State Trail

Recommended Improvements

- 1 Develop better parking, signage and maps

South Branch Unit

Towns of Bagley & Breed

- 1 Ruffed Grouse Management Unit
- 1 Nicolet State Recreational Trail
- 1 ATV Trail
- 1 Weso Flowage
- 1 South Branch of Oconto River

Recommended Improvements

- 1 Develop better parking, signage and maps
- 1 Replace Weso Dam
- 1 Plant wild rice as a form of vegetation and food source
- 1 Continue to work with local sportsmans clubs and the Ruffed Grouse Society

North Peshtigo Brook Unit (Charles Fleishman Memorial)

Town of Brazeau

- 1 ATV Trail
- 1 Bass Lake
- 1 Brazeau Swamp
- 1 Butler Rock Look Out
- 1 Holt Lake
- 1 Indian Mounds
- 1 Kobus Lake
- 1 Lost Lake
- 1 Marsh Lake
- 1 Perch Lake
- 1 Peshtigo Brook
- 1 Ranch Lake
- 1 Reader Lake
- 1 White Potato Lake

Recommended Improvements

- 1 Ranch Lake Campground, Boat Landing
- 1 More primitive camping sites off White Potato (DeBaker)
- 1 Close access as necessary

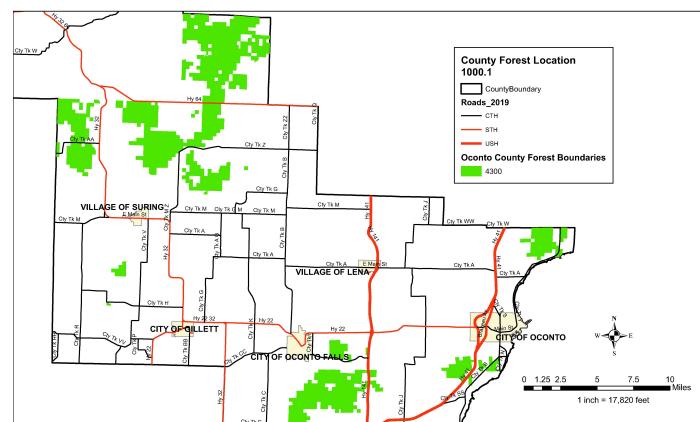
South Peshtigo Brook Unit

Towns of Bagley and Breed

- 1 Cooley Lake walkway & fishing
- 1 ATV Trail
- 1 Bridge over Peshtigo River
- 1 Wolf Marsh

Recommended Improvements

- 1 Close Access as becomes necessary
- 1 Develop better parking, signage and maps



Chapter 5

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULES FOR PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following implementation schedules represent the top priority recommendations to be acted upon in throughout the next five years.

2022 Work Plan

- ★ New pavilion at BB Park
- ★ Bathroom at the Riverside sites at Chute Pond
- ★ New well at the Riverside sites at Chute Pond
- ★ Repair or replace the seawall at North River Road Access
- ★ Create a handicapped accessible sensory path at Pioneer Park
- ★ New dock at Anderson Lake Access
- ★ Transfer Christie Lake Access to the Town of Underhill
- ★ Gravel Parking Lot at the Kassander Access
- ★ Walkway to the North Branch of the Oconto River at the Kassander Access

2023 Work Plan

- ★ Install an automated pay station at BB Park
- ★ Up-grade bathroom at BB Park
- ★ Make sites ATV accessible at CP Campground & CP Seasonal Campground
- ★ Develop primitive canoe camping sites along the river. Downstream from the launch at Patzer Park
- ★ Add a bathroom and well at Pioneer Park
- ★ Clean out the pond and stock with fish at Pioneer Park

2024 Work Plan

- ★ Additional group site at CP Campground and seasonal sites CP Seasonal Campground
- ★ Improve gravel road and boat landing at DE Hall Park
- ★ Black top & stripe parking lot at Iron Bridge Access
- ★ Black top & stripe the upper parking lot at North River Road Access
- ★ Expand parking lot at BB Park
- ★ Create a sensory park similar to Barhausen's Sensory Woods in Brown County at Pioneer Park



2025 Work Plan

- ★ Electricity at the pavilion at Grange Park
- ★ Lighting near or at the bathroom at Grange Park
- ★ Splash pad at NBS
- ★ Develop more sites at NBS
- ★ Look for means to expand parking at Pensaukee Boat Landing
- ★ Develop campsites at Pioneer Park

2026 Work Plan

- ★ Power up-grades at Chute Pond
- ★ Replace privacy fence at MBL
- ★ Upgrade the bathroom at MBL
- ★ Dredge launch at Anderson Lake Access
- ★ Resurface parking lot at Anderson Lake Access



Chapter 6

TOWN AND VILLAGE PROJECTS

**TOWN OF LAKEWOOD
171810 TWIN PINES ROAD
PO BOX 40
LAKEWOOD, WI 54138**

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Park Improvements at Lakewood Memorial Park

PROJECTED COST - \$250,000

This includes the addition of pickle ball/tennis courts, fencing, excavation, blacktopping and fill, swings for the park and bleachers for the ball field.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Biking Trails

PROJECTED COST - \$750,000

Various trails throughout the Lakewood area, not limited to town properties but possibly to include County & Federal lands. Cost will vary depending on the material used.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Purchase the Fish Hatchery – 019-16160193B

PROJECTED COST – 1,000,000

The property is not currently for sale, but if it became available, the Town would like to pursue the purchase.



**TOWN OF LITTLE SUAMICO
6964A COUNTY ROAD S
SOBIESKI, WI 54171**

**PROJECT AND LOCATION – Park Pavilion – 1017 County Road J
PROJECTED COST - \$300,000**

**PROJECT AND LOCATION – Park Upgrades – 1017 County Road J
PROJECTED COST - \$27,500**

Upgrade the basketball and tennis court with blacktop and erecting a fence around the tennis court.



**TOWN OF MOUNTAIN
13503 WELLER RD
PO BOX 95
MOUNTAN, WI 54149**

The Town of Mountain's outdoor recreational areas have fallen into disrepair over the years. Mountain has two playgrounds that have early 20th Century playground equipment with deteriorating swing seats in some areas, metal slides that are rusting/separating and can really scorch the skin and rotting basketball hoops. The basketball hoop at the Community Center is in the parking lot and the fishing bridge at the Fireman's Park is not level, the I beams are sliding and the decking boards are deteriorating. The Fisherman's Park pond is filling with algae and weeds.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Fireman's Park & Old Town Park

PROJECTED COST -

Create a combined recreational area encompassing the two parks. The parks are separated by the ATV Trail. Enhancements and upgrades to the parks include:

- Clean Up the pond at Fireman's Park to allow safe fishing from the shore. This will enhance the fishing experience for everyone
- Repair the walkway bridge on the north end of Fireman's Park. The I beams need stabilization and the decking needs repair
- Remove the poplar trees and over growth that separates the Fireman's Park area to the area west of Town Creek. Create a picnic area for families to enjoy both sides of the creek.
- Level the ground around the public outhouses, the cement is sinking and not level.
- Build a small pavilion at the Old Town Park with benches and picnic tables.
- Remove/Replace the basketball hoop at the Old Town Park on the North end or replace it with a playground equipment.
- Grade and level the play area at the Old Town Park.
- Remove the early 20th Century playground equipment, which is in good shape, from the Community Center and install it at the Old Town Park. The playground equipment is the Town's original school playground equipment. It can still be used to provide a historical perspective to the area.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Historic Green Lake Park and Picnic Shelter

PROJECTED COST -

Mountains Historical Society entered into an Historic Agreement with the US Forest Services in 2023, after the Oconto County comprehensive park plan was adopted. The Park will require ongoing maintenance and restoration efforts to provide a safe site for recreation at the park, boat landing, beach and picnic shelter. The Park continues to need the following:

- Restoration of the Historic Picnic Shelter that is on the National Registry of Historic Places.
- Installation of a split Cedar fence at the entrance of the park on the south end of the park.
- Installation of electricity for the park at the north end of the park by the picnic shelter.
- Restoration of the parking lot at the north entrance of the park.
- Annual maintenance of the park.



**TOWN OF TOWNSEND
16564 ELM ST
PO BOX 227
TOWNSEND, WI 54175**

PROJECT AND LOCATION –Bathroom Facility – Grove Street

PROJECTED COST - \$7,000

New bathroom facility at the Grove Street ballpark. The existing bathrooms are dilapidated and have exceeded their useful life.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Playground Equipment – Grove Street

PROJECTED COST – 6,000

New playground equipment at the Grove Street ballpark.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Roll Down Sides – Oughton Park

PROJECTED COST – \$8,000

Roll down slides or curtains on the Oughton Park Shelter.



**VILLAGE OF LENA
117 E. MAIN STREET
LENA, WI 54139**

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Park – 22 acres on the southwest corner of US 141 and County Road A

PROJECTED COST - \$940,000.00

The park project would be built out over three phases as follows with timelines subject to change pending financing.

PHASE ONE

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Baseball Diamonds and Gravel Parking Lot

PROJECTED COST – \$200,000



Build two baseball diamonds to meet the demand of the Lena Youth Baseball Organization's growing program. There are over 120 kids (or about 25% of the Village's population) under the age of 12 currently enrolled in the baseball program. The only baseball diamonds in the community are at Lena High School, where the high school teams practice and play. The youth baseball teams temporarily play and practice on the high school football field and a large grassy area behind a local church. This must be completed before spring 2024.

PHASE TWO

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Concession Stand/Community Shelter and Playground Equipment

PROJECTED COST – \$340,000

The park project also includes a future concession stand/community shelter and inclusive playground equipment. A dual purpose building will allow for the sale of concessions during baseball games as a fundraiser to maintain the diamonds and baseball organization. It will also provide a space that families or corporations can rent for family reunions, birthday parties or company picnics. Playground equipment will be installed to provide a safe space for families with a variety of physical abilities to play and learn. Completed by fall of 2026



PHASE TWO

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Land Purchase, Walking Trails, Band Shelter and Public Art

PROJECTED COST – \$400,000

Purchase about eight acres of hardwoods just south of the proposed baseball diamonds to create walking trails. Educational signage will provide valuable information on the history of the area and fun facts about local wild and plant life. This phase also includes cultural amenities such as a band shelter and art sculptures. Completed by summer 2027



**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
PO BOX 70/500 N CHESTNUT AVE
OCONTO FALLS, WI 54154**

**Outdoor Park and Recreation Project City of Oconto Falls. Total Projected Cost
\$272,000.00**

The City of Oconto Falls Park & Recreation Committee requested input from City residents on Park & Recreation Projects the residents would like to see in the City. Top responses included upgraded ADA accessible bathrooms at the Westside Beach and new Playground equipment at Memorial Field.

Project #1

PROJECT AND LOCATION-New ADA Bathrooms at Westside Beach, 410 N Flatley Ave., Oconto Falls, WI 54154



Modular ADA Bathroom installed at Westside Beach. Order for delivery modular bathroom that is ADA accessible. Current bathroom has pit style toilets. The modular building will be mounted on concrete pad, cost also include the electrical wiring and plumbing. The new facility will provide improved bathroom access for all ages and abilities. The Westside Beach is used by families throughout Oconto County and the Northeast Wisconsin region for swimming, recreation, boating.

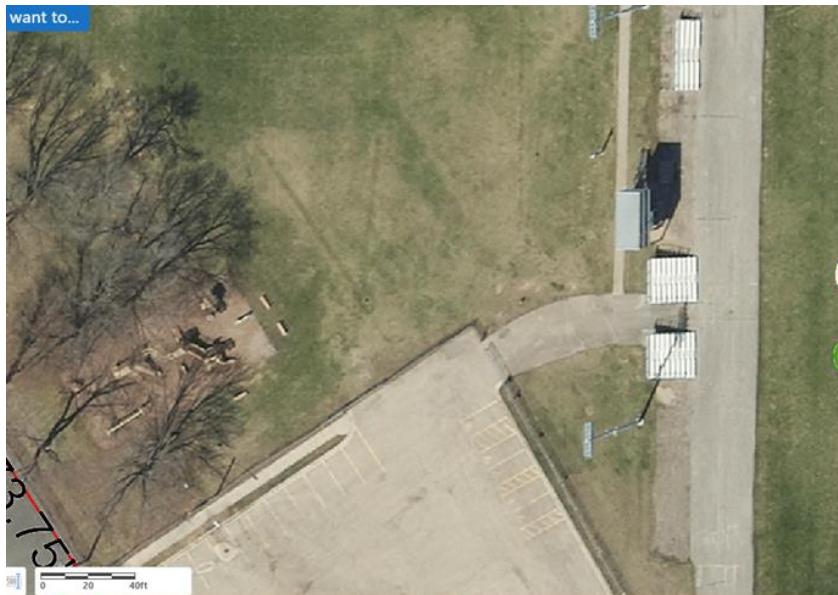
PROJECTED COST-\$149,000 PROJECTED TIMELINE: 2025-2026



Project #2

PROJECT AND LOCATION-New Playground Equipment at Memorial Field. 531 E Central Ave., Oconto Falls, WI 54154. Current playground equipment is deteriorated condition. The new equipment is designed for Children 5-12 that includes sensory devices, four slides and swing set.

PROJECTED COST-\$133,000 **PROJECTED TIMELINE: 2025-2026**



McFarland

McFarland is an exciting PowerScape play system designed for children ages 5-12. This unit qualifies for National Demonstration Site (NDS) status, signifying its endorsement of exemplary design and implementation practices that stakeholders can reference for data collection purposes. The structure features our Xcelerator, sensory panels, musical instruments, four slides, and a swing set for additional play value; making McFarland an irresistible playground destination for kids.



**TOWN OF LITTLE SUAMICO
6964A COUNTY ROAD S
SOBIESKI, WI 54171**

**PROJECT AND LOCATION – Park Pavilion – 1017 County Road J
PROJECTED COST - \$300,000**

**PROJECT AND LOCATION – Park Upgrades – 1017 County Road J
PROJECTED COST - \$27,500**

Upgrade the basketball and tennis court with blacktop and erecting a fence around the tennis court.



**TOWN OF MOUNTAIN
13503 WELLER RD
PO BOX 95
MOUNTAN, WI 54149**

The Town of Mountain's outdoor recreational areas have fallen into disrepair over the years. Mountain has two playgrounds that have early 20th Century playground equipment with deteriorating swing seats in some areas, metal slides that are rusting/separating and can really scorch the skin and rotting basketball hoops. The basketball hoop at the Community Center is in the parking lot and the fishing bridge at the Fireman's Park is not level, the I beams are sliding and the decking boards are deteriorating. The Fisherman's Park pond is filling with algae and weeds.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Fireman's Park & Old Town Park

PROJECTED COST -

Create a combined recreational area encompassing the two parks. The parks are separated by the ATV Trail. Enhancements and upgrades to the parks include:

- Clean Up the pond at Fireman's Park to allow safe fishing from the shore. This will enhance the fishing experience for everyone
- Repair the walkway bridge on the north end of Fireman's Park. The I beams need stabilization and the decking needs repair
- Remove the poplar trees and over growth that separates the Fireman's Park area to the area west of Town Creek. Create a picnic area for families to enjoy both sides of the creek.
- Level the ground around the public outhouses, the cement is sinking and not level.
- Build a small pavilion at the Old Town Park with benches and picnic tables.
- Remove/Replace the basketball hoop at the Old Town Park on the North end or replace it with a playground equipment.
- Grade and level the play area at the Old Town Park.
- Remove the early 20th Century playground equipment, which is in good shape, from the Community Center and install it at the Old Town Park. The playground equipment is the Town's original school playground equipment. It can still be used to provide a historical perspective to the area.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Historic Green Lake Park and Picnic Shelter

PROJECTED COST -

Mountains Historical Society entered into an Historic Agreement with the US Forest Services in 2023, after the Oconto County comprehensive park plan was adopted. The Park will require ongoing maintenance and restoration efforts to provide a safe site for recreation at the park, boat landing, beach and picnic shelter. The Park continues to need the following:

- Restoration of the Historic Picnic Shelter that is on the National Registry of Historic Places.
- Installation of a split Cedar fence at the entrance of the park on the south end of the park.
- Installation of electricity for the park at the north end of the park by the picnic shelter.
- Restoration of the parking lot at the north entrance of the park.
- Annual maintenance of the park.



**TOWN OF TOWNSEND
16564 ELM ST
PO BOX 227
TOWNSEND, WI 54175**

PROJECT AND LOCATION –Bathroom Facility – Grove Street

PROJECTED COST - \$7,000

New bathroom facility at the Grove Street ballpark. The existing bathrooms are dilapidated and have exceeded their useful life.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Playground Equipment – Grove Street

PROJECTED COST – 6,000

New playground equipment at the Grove Street ballpark.

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Roll Down Sides – Oughton Park

PROJECTED COST – \$8,000

Roll down slides or curtains on the Oughton Park Shelter.



**VILLAGE OF LENA
117 E. MAIN STREET
LENA, WI 54139**

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Park – 22 acres on the southwest corner of US 141 and County Road A

PROJECTED COST - \$940,000.00

The park project would be built out over three phases as follows with timelines subject to change pending financing.

PHASE ONE

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Baseball Diamonds and Gravel Parking Lot

PROJECTED COST – \$200,000



Build two baseball diamonds to meet the demand of the Lena Youth Baseball Organization's growing program. There are over 120 kids (or about 25% of the Village's population) under the age of 12 currently enrolled in the baseball program. The only baseball diamonds in the community are at Lena High School, where the high school teams practice and play. The youth baseball teams temporarily play and practice on the high school football field and a large grassy area behind a local church. This must be completed before spring 2024.

PHASE TWO

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Concession Stand/Community Shelter and

Playground Equipment

PROJECTED COST – \$340,000

The park project also includes a future concession stand/community shelter and inclusive playground equipment. A dual purpose building will allow for the sale of concessions during baseball games as a fundraiser to maintain the diamonds and baseball organization. It will also provide a space that families or corporations can rent for family reunions, birthday parties or company picnics. Playground equipment will be installed to provide a safe space for families with a variety of physical abilities to play and learn. Completed by fall of 2026



PHASE THREE

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Land Purchase, Walking Trails, Band Shelter and Public Art

PROJECTED COST – \$400,000

Purchase about eight acres of hardwoods just south of the proposed baseball diamonds to create walking trails. Educational signage will provide valuable information on the history of the area and fun facts about local wild and plant life. This phase also includes cultural amenities such as a band shelter and art sculptures. Completed by summer 2027



**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
PO BOX 70/500 N CHESTNUT AVE
OCONTO FALLS, WI 54154**

**Outdoor Park and Recreation Project City of Oconto Falls. Total Projected Cost
\$272,000.00**

The City of Oconto Falls Park & Recreation Committee requested input from City residents on Park & Recreation Projects the residents would like to see in the City. Top responses included upgraded ADA accessible bathrooms at the Westside Beach and new Playground equipment at Memorial Field.

Project #1

PROJECT AND LOCATION-New ADA Bathrooms at Westside Beach, 410 N Flatley Ave., Oconto Falls, WI 54154



Modular ADA Bathroom installed at Westside Beach. Order for delivery modular bathroom that is ADA accessible. Current bathroom has pit style toilets. The modular building will be mounted on concrete pad, cost also include the electrical wiring and plumbing. The new facility will provide improved bathroom access for all ages and abilities. The Westside Beach is used by families throughout Oconto County and the Northeast Wisconsin region for swimming, recreation, boating.

PROJECTED COST-\$149,000 PROJECTED TIMELINE: 2025-2026



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PROJECTED COST-\$133,000 **PROJECTED TIMELINE: 2025-2026**



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