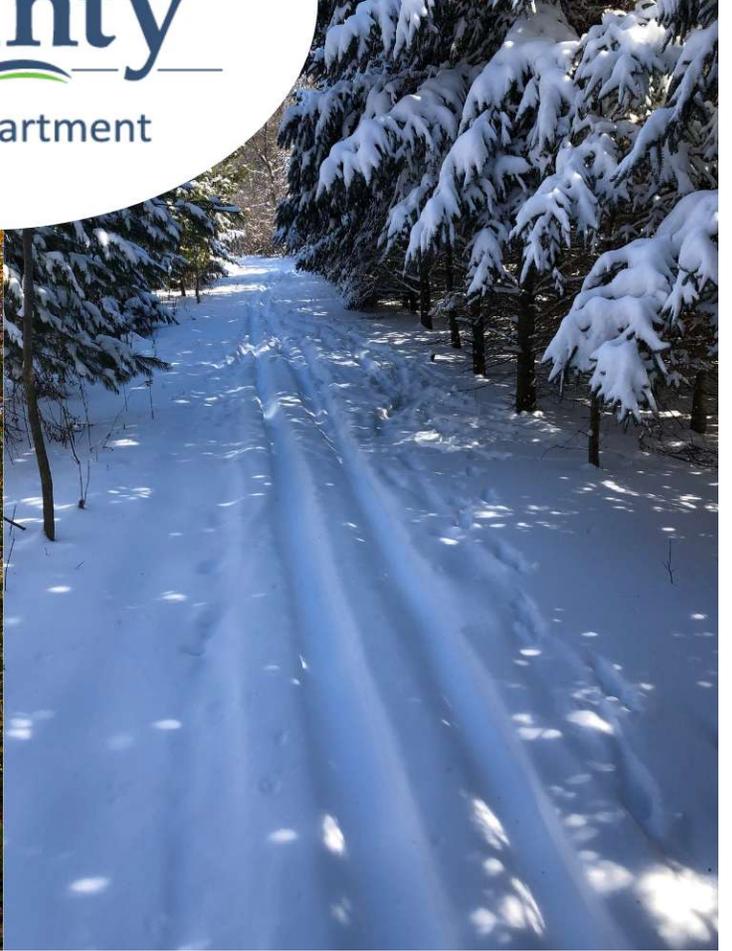
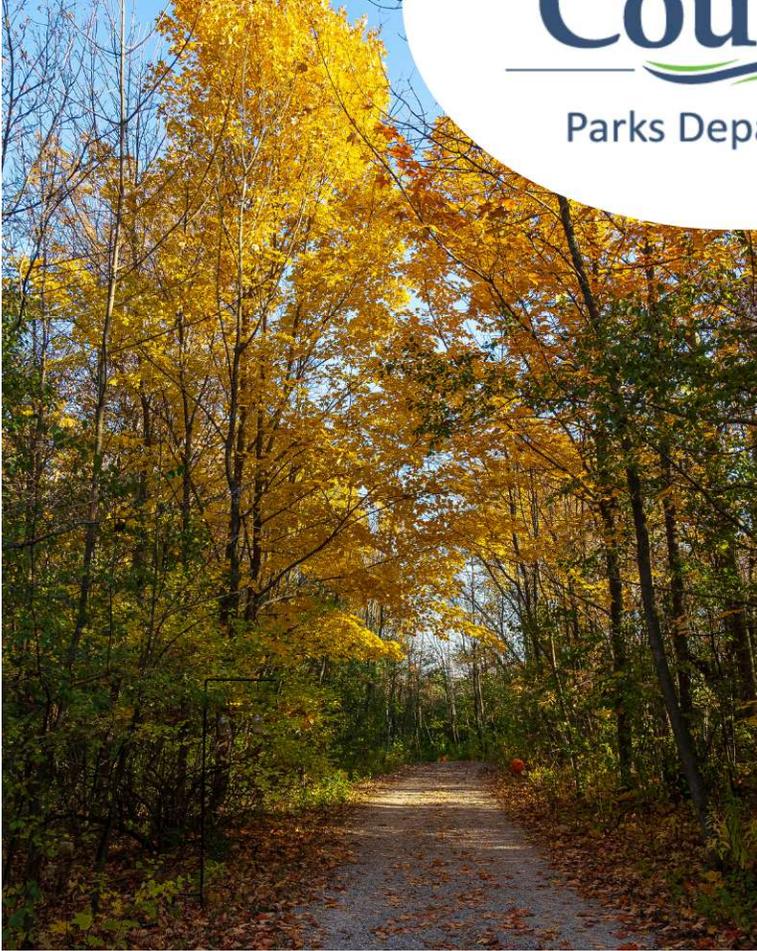


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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW – A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Outdoor recreation facilities and numerous natural resources provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for residents of Calumet County. Picnicking, camping, boating, biking, swimming, fishing, hunting, golfing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and even spelunking are just some of the recreational activities enjoyed by local residents. Despite the variety of recreation opportunities, the number of locations where many of these activities can be enjoyed is limited. In Calumet County, the primary responsibility for providing open space and recreational facilities has traditionally rested with the state, county and local units of government because the number of private recreational providers has been virtually nonexistent. Calumet County, in particular, accepts its responsibility to provide recreational opportunities and conserve its natural resources because these features strengthen the quality of life for our citizens.

As increasing amounts of leisure time have become available, new or long-dormant recreational pursuits have emerged, resulting in increased demand for facilities to accommodate these and other long-standing recreational activities. In some parts of Wisconsin, recreational facilities are expected to not only provide opportunities for local residents, they are also developed with the intent of attracting tourism dollars into the local economy. For smaller rural areas like Calumet County, recreational and cultural resources and facilities, both public and private, can make a big contribution to their economic health and often make tourism one of the area's most important industries.

With its solid agricultural and industrial base, Calumet County traditionally has been less dependent on tourism dollars than many of its counterparts. In recent years, however, county leaders have come to recognize that a well-rounded and coordinated system of parks and recreational facilities and ancillary attractions can help draw visitors and visitor-dollars into the local economy. For example, according to the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, travelers spent \$36.3 million in Calumet County in 2022 just in direct visitor spending. The total economic impact for Calumet County was \$68 million in 2022.

Protecting and promoting Calumet County's natural and cultural resources is essential, however, to developing the county's image as a tourism destination. As other long time tourist destinations have found, it is to the advantage of the county, its municipalities, and private enterprise to work together to increase the economic impact of tourism through appropriate recreational development and promotion.

The county's strong ethnic heritage and rural character provide an excellent complement to its recreational resources. Both heritage tourism and agri-tourism have opened new markets in attracting visitors to many areas and Calumet County is in a stronger position than most to capitalize on this combination. Building on these resources and at the same time providing a diversity of recreational opportunities to encourage return visits can be an effective three-pronged approach to realizing the county's potential as a tourism destination.

Thus, although the focus of Calumet County's park system remains to provide active and passive recreational opportunities for its residents, the county is well poised to use this plan as a springboard to attract new visitors from outside its borders. The county's location in the center of six urbanized counties; its relative proximity to the Milwaukee, Chicago, and Madison urban areas; Lake Winnebago, its world-renowned sturgeon and walleye fisheries, and highly scenic shoreline; High Cliff State Park, one of the state's busiest; and dramatic multi-seasonal panoramas of Lake Winnebago from High Cliff and other locations on top of "the ledge" provide excellent starting points for attracting visitor-dollars into local economies. In addition, although the proximity of some of its most scenic areas to nearby urban centers have created development pressures, the adoption of exclusive agricultural/farmland preservation zoning by some of the towns in the outlying rural areas has been an effective tool in protecting the attractiveness of the county's pastoral landscape.

An interest in creating a countywide system of greenways has begun to surface. On a broader scale, efforts to create greenways, protect important open space areas, and set aside land for new parks has taken on increased importance, particularly in rapidly urbanizing portions of the county. Unless steps are taken to protect these resources, increased demand for recreation in these areas will not be able to be accommodated. While greenways are universally recognized as "quality of life" indicators, their ability to accommodate a variety of linear recreational activities and link recreational sites with each other and nearby communities is equally important.

PURPOSE

Like earlier plans prepared in 1976, 1987, 1995, 2005 and 2011, the primary purpose of this updated version of the *Calumet County Outdoor Recreation Plan* is to help preserve the county's natural environment and at the same time allow residents and visitors alike to play, learn, enjoy and live in harmony with it. While many county and local recreation needs identified in earlier plans have been met over the years, some still exist, others have changed and, in some cases, new needs and opportunities have arisen. Identifying these changing recreational trends and presenting recommendations to address them will ensure that Calumet County can continue to provide a wide variety of recreational facilities for residents and visitors to enjoy.

As mentioned above, projects have been completed and progress has been made in providing a variety of recreational opportunities in Calumet County over the years such as improving Stockbridge and Brothertown Harbors, the addition of a park and more parking space at Brothertown Harbor, the acquisition of a new county park on Becker Lake, the expansion of Calumet County Park, and the continued improvements at Ledge View Nature Center. Similar efforts have likewise been made by communities that surround Calumet County leaving us with a wonderful opportunity to connect resources. As such, this plan has more of a broader, regional scope than some of the proposed projects have. For example, the proposed High Cliff Connection trail will link the local Friendship Trail in Menasha with the State's Friendship Trail and High Cliff State Park. This will connect High Cliff State Park to the urbanized areas of Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

PAST FUNDING

In addition to setting forth new recommendations based on present needs, another important purpose of the adopted county plan is to allow Calumet County to once again participate in the state's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, which provides funding for a variety of park, recreation, environmental and open space preservation purposes. Typically awarded as matching funds, these grants have effectively doubled the local funding commitment for acquisition and development of parkland and other public recreational facilities.

CALUMET COUNTY – A PERSPECTIVE

In the early days when the county was extensively forested, logging flourished. As the timber was removed, wheat farming became the main enterprise, followed by more diversified farming and eventually dairying and cash cropping. While agriculture remains a staple of Calumet County's economy, today's employment base and economic health is strongly tied to manufacturing industries.

Lake Winnebago, at 137,708 acres the largest lake in Wisconsin, and the Niagara Escarpment are Calumet County's two dominant landscape features. The most dramatic example of these features occurs at High Cliff State Park where steep limestone cliffs and hillsides tower over 200 feet above the lake. Highly productive soils derived from glacial activity have resulted in over 60 percent of the county's total area being use for agriculture.

Located in East Central Wisconsin, Calumet County is geographically small at 318.3 square miles, ranking 68th among the state's 72 counties in land area. Chilton, its county seat, is centrally located in the county and is 35 miles south of Green Bay and 80 miles north of Milwaukee.

The county is historically rural; its population in 2020 was 52,442 (Table 2). This is in marked contrast to the combined population of nearly 940,000 residing in the six counties surrounding Calumet County. Each, in fact, has an urban center with a population nearly as large as or larger than the entire population of Calumet County. Appleton, Green Bay, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, and, on the west shore of Lake Winnebago, Oshkosh are these larger communities encircling Chilton at a distance of 25 to 35 miles. While Calumet County's population is small compared to its neighbors, its density of 125 residents per square mile is exceeded by only 15 other Wisconsin counties and is higher than the state's average density of 109 residents.

The county contains 20 local units of government, including seven cities, five villages and eight towns. Ironically, three of the six cities lie mostly in adjacent counties. Chilton, New Holstein and Brillion, each with less than 4,500 residents, are the county's traditional service centers. Kiel, lying mostly in Manitowoc County, is a similar size community. The City of Appleton began annexing land in Calumet County during the 1950s and, today, is the largest City in the county. The Village of Harrison was created in 2013 and is the largest community in Calumet County. Although lying mostly in

neighboring Winnebago County, the City of Menasha’s primary new growth area is also in Calumet County.

POPULATION TRENDS

Over the past two decades, Calumet County’s population has continued to grow rapidly. that of either the East Central region or the State of Wisconsin (Table 1). Between 2000 and 2020, the county grew by 29.1 percent, compared to 9.9 percent growth of the entire state. During the 1990s, the county saw its population increase by 18.5 percent, compared with 9.6 percent for the State. Historically the communities in the northwestern portion of the county – the Village of Harrison, Village of Sherwood, and cities of Appleton and Menasha – were responsible for most of the growth. In recent years, the cities of Brillion, Kiel, and Chilton, as well as, the Town of Brillion have seen an increase in growth.

Table 1

POPULATION TRENDS Calumet County

Jurisdiction	2000	2010	2020	% Change 2000-2020
C. Appleton (pt.)	10,974	11,088	11,304	3%
C. Brillion	2,937	3,148	3,262	11.1%
C. Chilton	3,708	3,933	4,080	10%
C. Kiel (pt.)	321	309	347	8.1%
C. Menasha (pt.)	688	2,209	3,007	337.1%
C. New Holstein	3,301	3,236	3,195	-3.2%
V. Harrison		10,839	12,418	
V. Hilbert	1,089	1,132	1,248	14.6%
V. Potter	223	253	244	-11.5%
V. Sherwood	1,550	2,713	3,271	9.4%
V. Stockbridge	649	636	678	4.5%
T. Brillion	1,438	1,486	1,650	14.7%
T. Brothertown	1,404	1,329	1,328	3.2%
T. Charlestown	789	775	774	-5.4%
T. Chilton	1,130	1,143	1,059	-6.3%
T. Harrison	5,756	0	0	
T. New Holstein	1,457	1,508	1,534	5.3%
T. Rantoul	841	798	740	-12%
T. Stockbridge	1,383	1,456	1,453	5.1%
T. Woodville	993	993	850	-14.40%
<i>Calumet County</i>	<i>40,631</i>	<i>48,971</i>	<i>52,442</i>	<i>29.1%</i>
<i>Wisconsin</i>	<i>5,363,675</i>	<i>5,686,986</i>	<i>5,893,718</i>	<i>9.9%</i>

Source: U.S. Census; and Wisconsin DOA;

*The Town of Harrison was incorporated into the Village of Harrison in 2013.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population projections indicate that Calumet County will grow at a steady rate during the next 20 years. The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) projects that Calumet County will be the second-fastest growing county in Wisconsin. The county's estimated 2040 population represents a 22.4 percent increase over its 2020 population. Three of the municipalities cited above are expected to continue their rapid growth while a number of the communities are expected to experience population declines (Table 2).

Table 2

POPULATION PROJECTIONS Calumet County

Jurisdiction	Census 2020	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	2035 Projection	2040 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
C. Appleton (pt.)	11,304	12,360	12,770	12,910	12,860	1,556	13.8%
C. Brillion	3,262	3,575	3,715	3,775	3,780	518	15.9%
C. Chilton	4,080	4,325	4,455	4,505	4,480	400	9.8%
C. Kiel (pt.)	347	330	335	330	325	-22	-6.3%
C. Menasha (pt.)	3,007	3,185	3,525	3,800	4,000	993	33.0%
C. New Holstein	3,195	3,305	3,315	3,250	3,145	-50	-1.6%
V. Hilbert	1,248	1,195	1,210	1,200	1,175	-73	-5.8%
V. Potter	244	255	255	250	240	-4	-1.6%
V. Sherwood	3,271	3,755	4,155	4,475	4,715	1,444	44.1%
V. Stockbridge	678	655	660	650	630	-48	-7.1%
V. Harrison	12,418	13,190	14,600	15,700	16,550	4,132	33.3%
T. Brillion	1,650	1,650	1,705	1,720	1,715	65	3.9%
T. Brothertown	1,328	1,345	1,340	1,310	1,260	-68	-5.1%
T. Charlestown	774	805	810	795	770	-4	-0.5%
T. Chilton	1,059	1,230	1,260	1,260	1,245	186	17.6%
T. New Holstein	1,534	1,665	1,715	1,725	1,715	181	11.8%
T. Rantoul	740	805	805	785	755	15	2.0%
T. Stockbridge	1,453	1,640	1,700	1,720	1,720	267	18.4%
T. Woodville	850	1,000	1,000	980	945	95	11.2%
<i>Calumet County</i>	52,442	58,010	61,255	63,210	64,210	11,768	22.4%

Source: Wisconsin DOA, 2013 and 2023; Wisconsin DHS, 2015

AGE STRUCTURE

In 2010, nearly seven percent of Calumet County's residents were under 5 years old, and an additional 22 percent were between 5 and 19, 59 percent were between 20 and 65, and the remaining percentage were aged 65 and over (Table 3). According to DOA projections, there will be a shift toward a slightly older population during the next twenty years. Based on the data provided in Table 4 the age group 65 and over will be the

segment of the population experiencing the most growth. The remaining age groups are expected to become smaller overall components of the county's total population.

Table 3

**POPULATION BY AGE COHORT, 2000-2010
Calumet County**

Age Cohort	2000 Number	2000 Percent	2010 Number	2010 Percent
0-4	2,846	7.00	3,418	6.98
5-19	9,773	24.05	10,894	22.25
20-44	14,952	36.80	15,300	31.24
45-64	8,690	21.39	13,734	28.05
65+	4,370	10.76	5,625	11.49
Total	40,631	100.00	48,971	100.00

Source: U.S. Census and WI DOA

Table 4

**POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE COHORT, 2010-2040
Calumet County**

Age Cohort	2010 Actual	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	2035 Projection	2040 Projection
0-4	3,418	3,030	3,400	3,540	3,640	3,680	3,720
5-19	10,894	11,140	11,620	11,790	12,010	12,300	12,220
20-44	15,300	14,820	15,990	16,880	17,990	18,570	18,390
45-64	13,734	14,860	15,450	15,750	15,560	15,180	15,690
65+	5,625	6,465	8,095	10,050	12,055	13,480	14,190
Total	48,971	50,315	54,555	58,010	61,255	63,210	64,210

Source: Wisconsin DOA

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCES

From an economic perspective, the highly productive agricultural soils of Calumet County have likely been its most important natural resource over the years. For the most part, resources more typically associated with recreation and open space uses such as woodlands, surface water, and physiographic features are neither abundant nor universally distributed in the county. Those that exist, however, are significant.

Surface Water

With some 23 miles of shoreline on Lake Winnebago, at 137,708 acres Wisconsin's largest lake, Calumet County residents and visitors alike enjoy ample boating opportunities. Interior portions of the county contain an additional 14 lakes, eight of

which are named, and provide another 153 acres of lake surface area. None of these lakes are large enough to accommodate quality power boating.

The Niagara Escarpment provides the headwaters for the county’s streams. Short watercourses with steep gradients and uncertain flows characterize streams tumbling down the west face of the escarpment toward Lake Winnebago. Most of the streams emanating from the base of the Escarpment are in the form of groundwater fed springs and seeps, otherwise known as groundwater discharge. More gradual gradients are found on the streams flowing eastward toward Lake Michigan. While most of these are too small for significant recreation, several of the larger streams (the Sheboygan, Killsnake, and branches of the Manitowoc rivers) contain northern pike and a variety of other sport species. These streams along with Spring Creek also provide habitat for waterfowl and lowland furbearers, particularly in those segments abutting state wildlife areas. A limited number of stream canoeing opportunities are provided by the major branches of the Manitowoc River.

The majority of the county’s lakes, 10 acres or larger, have public access (Figure 1 and Table 5). Four lakes have ramp access and two are adjacent to roads. Lake Winnebago has 13 well-distributed access points along the Calumet County shoreline, including four protected harbors. Because of the recreational boating capacity of Lake Winnebago, future efforts should focus on increasing parking capacity at these protected sites. Existing access on all other lakes in the county, which are under 50 acres and too small for power boating, is adequate. Access is also available on both north and south branches of the Manitowoc River. The Brillion State Wildlife Area provides walk-in access to the North Branch while the Killsnake Marsh State Wildlife Area and Hobart Park and Leahy Lions Lakeshore Park in Chilton serve the South Branch.

Table 5

SIGNIFICANT LAKES IN CALUMET COUNTY

Lake	Area (acres)	Depth (feet)	Total Shoreline (miles)	Present Access
Becker Lake	35	53	1.0	Boat ramp
Boot Lake	11	16	0.6	Adjacent road
Chilton Millpond	11	7	0.8	Boat ramp
Hayton Pond	17	5	2.1	Adjacent road
Round Lake	11	50	0.6	Boat ramp
Lake Winnebago	137,708	21	85.0	Boat ramps

Woodlands

When settlers first located in Calumet County, they found vast hardwood forest consisting primarily of maple, basswood and elm intermingled with lowland hardwoods. As the timber was harvested and an intensive agricultural economy developed, much of the woodlands were lost. Based on the 2016 Calumet County Existing Land Use Inventory included in the Calumet County Year 2025 Smart Growth Plan, existing woodlands and forest cover comprise 29,682 acres, or 14.5 percent of Calumet County's total acreage. While numerous small woodlots exist throughout the county, the largest blocks of tree cover are associated with large natural resource and wetland areas such as the Brillion State Wildlife Area and the Killsnake State Wildlife Area.

Wetlands

Also based on the 2016 Existing Land Use Inventory, Calumet County has approximately 27,100 acres of wetlands, or about 13.2 percent of the county's land area. Most of the county's wetlands are located in the Killsnake State Wildlife Area.

Physiography

The Niagara Escarpment, known locally as "the ledge," is Calumet County's most impressive geologic feature and is the same formation that extends up the Door Peninsula, under the Great Lakes, across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and southern Ontario, and eventually appears as the rock face of Niagara Falls and the Niagara River gorge. Carolyn's Cavern at Ledge View Nature Center is the largest of several caves in the area, characteristic of the dip slope of its dolomite cap; in all likelihood, other caves yet to be discovered exist in the county.

Glacial activity is responsible for most of the county's other physiographic features. Among these is a major drumlin field located in the south-central portion of the county. Eskers are found north of Brillion and northeast of New Holstein. In addition, end moraines are found in several areas of the county. Each of these contributes to the county's topographic relief.

Manitowoc – Branch River

Originating in a series of vast wetlands on the east side of the Niagara Escarpment, the Manitowoc River flows through a landscape of farm fields and forest before entering Lake Michigan. A key tributary, the Branch River, adds considerable volume. In its upper reaches, the river and its tributaries act as ecological connections between the wetlands that dominate the Killsnake, Brillion, and Collins Marsh State Wildlife Areas. These wildlife areas provide over 15,000 acres of wildlife habitat and associated recreation opportunities. Maintaining the surrounding landscape in agriculture would help ensure that these properties meet their recreation and ecological potential. Further downstream the river bottoms support extensive fish spawning habitat and are important to nesting and migrating waterfowl.

This river system supports several rare aquatic species, including greater redhorse and wood turtles. The river acts as a travel corridor for many species moving from the large wetlands upstream down to the Lake Michigan shore and the large, protected properties of Woodland Dunes and Point Beach State Forest.

Sections of this river system could provide trails for the Ice Age Trail corridor. Canoeing opportunities are best along middle and lower sections of the river. Increased stocking of various strains of steelhead in the late 1980s resulted in an outstanding stream fishery in the spring and fall seasons. At present, anglers are hampered by a lack of access to these rivers. The Manitowoc River has a few public access points, but access on the Branch River is limited to road crossings. Better access on both streams would allow anglers and other users to more fully enjoy these waters.

Niagara Escarpment

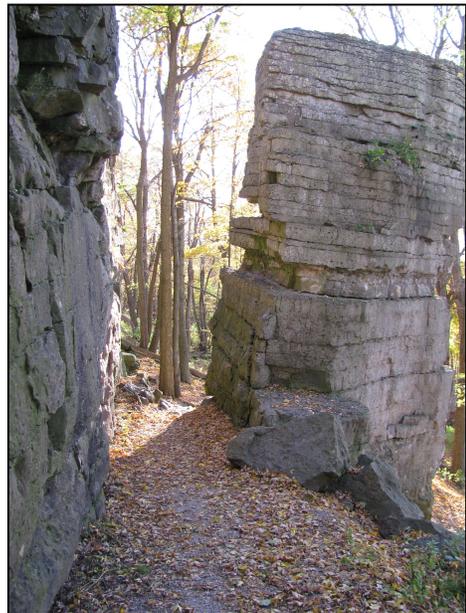
This linear, high ridge provides many of the state's most spectacular views and is the logical means to link many existing protected areas on and near the Escarpment. Ellison Bluff, Red Banks Alvar, Carlsville Bluff, High Cliff State Park, Lake Winnebago and Horicon Ledge are some of the best-known places along the Escarpment in Wisconsin. Given its length and proximity to the Fox River Valley cities, it is one of the most frequently visited features in the state and there is considerable interest in protecting additional areas to meet conservation and recreation needs.

Given the numerous rock outcrops, cliffs, and talus slopes, the Escarpment also harbors some very unusual habitats that in turn support many uncommon species. Pockets of ancient cedar trees, cold springs, and areas where cool air gently flows out of the rocky hillsides are scattered along the Escarpment. These fragile microhabitats support delicate ferns, flowers, and maybe most notably, a diverse array of extraordinary rare snails.

Areas along the Escarpment have relatively thin soil deposits as a result of glacial scouring and little post-glacial deposition. These soil conditions, combined with the fractured nature of the dolomite, can lead to groundwater contamination problems.

DESIGNATED ECOLOGICAL SITES

Appreciation of the unique ecological, geological, archeological, and historical heritage of the county is a significant educational aspect of public outdoor recreation. Outstanding ecological and cultural sites in Calumet County are illustrated in Figure 2. Among these are two sites designated as State Natural Areas.



Escarpment in High Cliff State Park

High Cliff Escarpment State Natural Area

A State Natural Area, High Cliff Escarpment occupies only a small portion (125 acres) of High Cliff State Park. Included in the site's boundary is slightly more than a mile of the wooded slope of the northwesterly facing escarpment and a woodland area above the escarpment. The site features both shaded and exposed cliff habitats, talus slopes that support wet-mesic vegetation species, the littoral zone of Lake Winnebago, and outstanding examples of conical and effigy mounds, which are found in the upper woodland area. Compatible uses include research, group use, individual nature study and hiking. A network of hiking trails is found in the northern portion of the natural area; best access into the area is from park trails that originate in the campground.

Stockbridge Ledge Woods State Natural Area

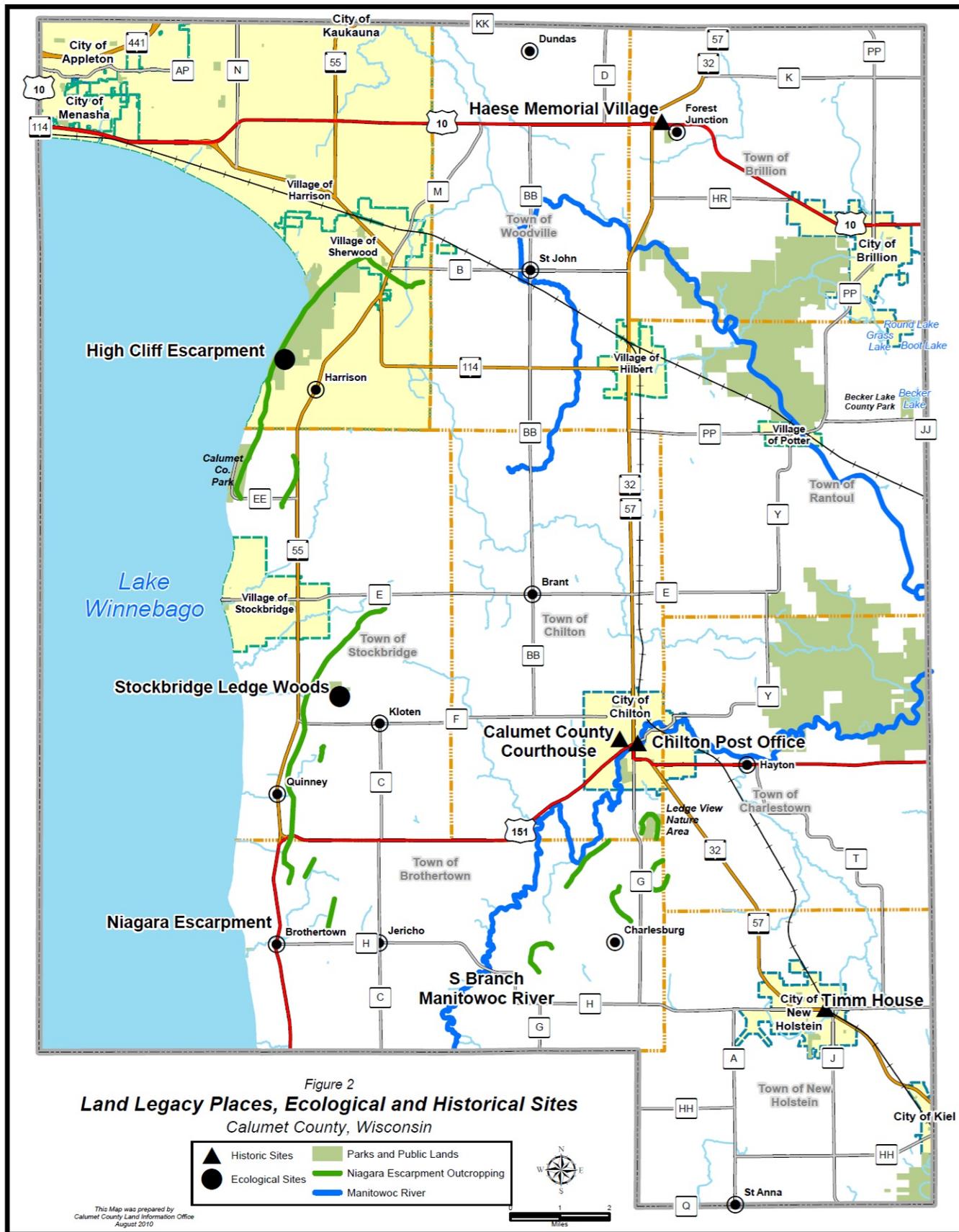
Designated as a State Natural Area in 2002, this 35-acre parcel is located south of Stockbridge on the east side of Ledge Road near its intersection with CTH F, this DNR-owned site contains a southern mesic forest of statewide significance. Dominant species of the impressive old growth forest include sugar maple, American beech, and basswood. A good diversity of tree size classes and understory herbs along with numerous savanna grasses and forbs is found on the site. The site also offers a scenic view of Lake Winnebago.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Historic Sites

Calumet County contains ten sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Chilton Post Office and the Calumet County Courthouse in Chilton, the Timm House in New Holstein, the Indian Effigy Mounds in Calumet County Park, and the Stockbridge Indian Cemetery in the Town of Stockbridge. Five other sites contain prehistoric remnant and their location are kept confidential by the State Historical Society to prevent their possible destruction by souvenir hunters. In addition to these sites, a number of other historic buildings and sites also exist in the county. Most of these are private structures concentrated in Chilton, New Holstein and Brillion. Archeological sites dating from earlier Native American cultures also are scattered throughout the county. While Haese Village was once operated as a museum and there are several other museums in the county, such as those in Chilton, New Holstein, Brillion, and the General Store at High Cliff State Park, the tourism potential of the aforementioned sites is generally not being realized at the present time.

Figure 2 - NATURAL RESOURCES, ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES



EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Nearly 13,000 acres of publicly owned land – about 6.4 percent of the county’s total land area – are available for outdoor recreational activities in Calumet County (Table 6 and Figure 3). The Department of Natural Resources is the largest public landowner in Calumet County with 11,670 acres, about 90 percent of the public land holdings. County parks and locally owned public areas comprise the remaining acreage.

State Facilities

High Cliff State Park. Located near Sherwood in the northwest portion of the county, High Cliff State Park encompasses 1,187 acres. High Cliff is consistently one of the most visited Wisconsin State Parks. Deriving its name from the limestone cliff of the Niagara Escarpment, which towers up to 223 feet above the surface of Lake Winnebago, High Cliff State park is the only state-owned recreational area on Wisconsin’s largest lake.

A 40-foot observation tower allows viewers to get above the tree line to enjoy panoramic views of the lake and distant communities and countryside up to 30 miles away. Other popular park activities include boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, bird watching, rock climbing and camping. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling are winter activities at the park. In addition to the observation tower, other major facilities include a marina with over 100 slips and four launching ramps, a swimming beach with bathhouse, 32.5 miles of trails, picnic areas, two shelters, a 112-unit campground and an area for group camping. Concessions are available at the marina, which is operated by a private vendor. Historical features include an abandoned limestone quarry, old lime kilns, a restored general store, Indian effigy mounds, and a 12-foot statue of Chief Red Bird, which overlooks Lake Winnebago. Part of the park is designated as a state natural area. Small seasonal waterfalls can also be found in the park. High Cliff Golf Course, adjacent to the park, is privately owned but available for use by the public.

Brillion State Wildlife Area. Encompassing approximately 4,800 acres, the Brillion State Wildlife Area lies between Brillion, Potter, and Hilbert. The site provides habitat for waterfowl, lowland furbearers and upland game species. The Brillion Nature Center occupies a portion of the site.

Killsnake Marsh State Wildlife Area. About 4,224 acres, of the 7,000-acre Killsnake Marsh State Wildlife Area is located in eastern Calumet County east of Chilton. The remaining portion lies in adjacent Manitowoc County. The area provides prime deer habitat and, along the Killsnake River, habitat exists for waterfowl and lowland furbearers.

Kiel Marsh State Wildlife Area. The Kiel Marsh State Wildlife Area south of Kiel is located at the common boundaries of Calumet, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan counties. About 335 acres of the 843-acre site lies in Calumet County. The Sheboygan River, the area’s major feature, provides habitat for waterfowl, lowland furbearers, and some upland game species.

Friendship State Trail. Calumet County converted an abandoned railroad corridor that runs approximately east-west along USH 10 between Forest Junction and Brillion into a four-mile, crushed limestone, multi-use trail. The trail runs to Horn Park located near the west side of Brillion. Within the City of Brillion the trail runs adjacent to city streets and on sidewalks. In Forest Junction, the trail connects to the Fox River State Trail.

Fox River State Trail. Similar to the Friendship State Trail, the Fox River State Trail is a limestone, multi-use trail, which is also located in an abandoned railroad corridor. The trail runs east of STH 32/57 from Green Bay to Ott Road, north of Hilbert, for approximately 26 miles. The trail can be used for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. No motorized vehicles are permitted during the hiking, biking, and horseback riding season. In winter, this trail is part of the Calumet County Snowmobile Trail system and snowmobiles are permitted.

Table 6

**PUBLIC LANDS AVAILABLE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION
Calumet County**

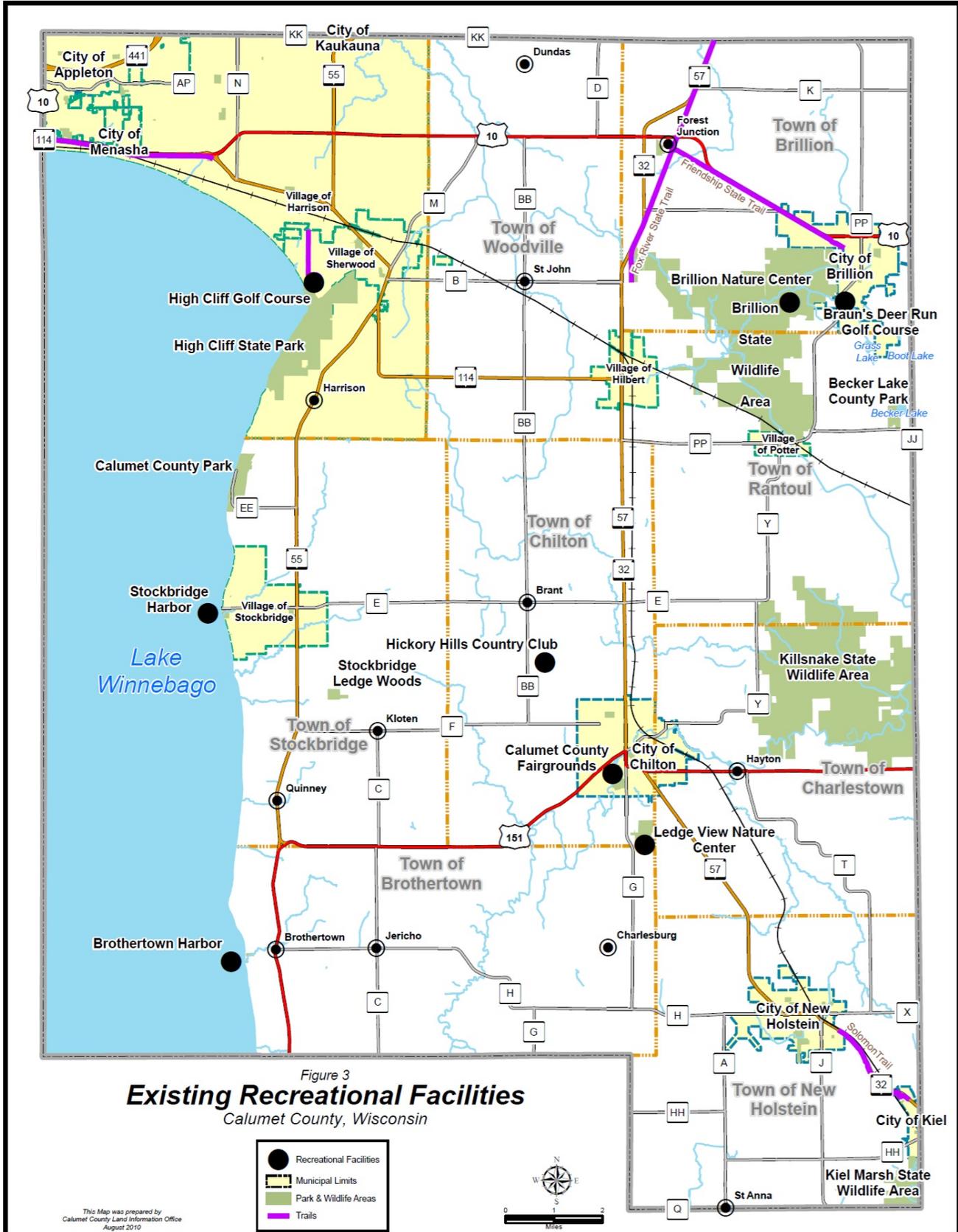
	Total Acres in Calumet County
State-owned Land	
-High Cliff State Park	1,091
-Brillion State Wildlife Area	4,860
-Killsnake Marsh State Wildlife Area	5,308*
-Kiel Marsh Wildlife Area	352*
-Stockbridge Ledge Woods SNA	43
Subtotal:	11,654
County-owned Land	
-Calumet County Park	234
-Becker Lake County Park	75
-Ledge View Nature Center	106
-Stockbridge Harbor**	14
-Calumet County Fairgrounds	56
-Brothertown Harbor**	2
-Brothertown County Park	8
Subtotal:	495
Municipal Park Lands (Incorporated)	407
Municipal Park Lands (Unincorporated)	25
School District Lands	375
Subtotal:	807
TOTAL:	12,956

Source: Calumet County Planning Department

* Estimated area in Calumet County

** Leased from DNR

Figure 3 - EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



County Facilities

Calumet County Park. Located north of Stockbridge on the east shore of Lake Winnebago, this 234-acre site is one of the largest county parks in East Central Wisconsin. Along with Lake Winnebago and the forested hillsides and uplands of the Niagara Escarpment, the site features Indian effigy mounds, which are listed on the state and national historical places, and a post civil war brickyard. The park provides opportunities for year-



round recreational activities for 350,000 annual park visitors. Facilities include a lake side picnic area, playground equipment, campground and related camping amenities, modern boat launch facility and winter access to the lake, a tube hill, a sled hill, hiking, bridge and mountain bike trails, and cross-country ski trails. The campground has 82 sites total, consisting of 12 water and electric, 63 electric, 5 nonelectric, and 2 camping cabins. The trails take park visitors up the Niagara Escarpment through mature deciduous forests and upland fields. The county snowmobile trail system also passes through the park. Other park amenities include two enclosed shelters, a modern bath house facility, the Parks Department office and concession stand, maintenance facilities and a caretaker's house.

Calumet County has undertaken many improvements in the park since completion of its last outdoor recreational plan. These improvements include: upgraded RV camping pads



and sites; addition of water and electric to basic campsites in the north end; expansion of the south end campground with 8 new water and electric campsites; expansion and installation of playground equipment; construction of two new park maintenance sheds; replanting of trees through Calumet County Park.

Ledge View Nature Center. Located about one mile south of Chilton, this 106-acre county facility features an interpretive center, three caves, observation tower and arboretum. This site is devoted entirely to nature study and attracts more than 30,000 visitors annually.

The interpretive center is open for scheduled groups throughout the year. The center contains informative displays relating to the site's natural features and flora and fauna native to the Calumet County area. Year-round environmental programs are coordinated

by nature center staff. A variety of activities are offered, among them programs for geology, winter ecology, snowshoeing, maple syrup collecting, adult workshops, school groups, and guided tours of the caves.

Some 2 ½ miles of nature hiking trails, groomed cross-country ski trails and snowshoe activities enable visitors to enjoy the site's variety of plant communities, ranging from shaded ledges offering homes for many wildflowers and ferns to sunny upland fields and a restored prairie. Other features on the site include a 60 foot high observation tower, an arboretum featuring many of Wisconsin's native plant and tree species, an amphitheater, a "fun trail" designed for children, an exhibit housing a bird of prey, a picnic area, a Food Wise garden, a maple syrup shack, and a maintenance/storage building.



Exploring the caves at Ledge View Nature Center

Since completion of the last outdoor recreation plan in 2011, the Calumet County Parks Department staff as well as volunteers from the Friends of Ledge View Nature Center have made many improvements to the park. The Carolyn's Caverns system has continued to be expanded as well as improvements to the entrances and exits of the cave system. The arboretum trail has been expanded to showcase over 160 different species of trees and wildflowers. The addition of a new storage shed was much needed to house maintenance, cave, and program supplies and equipment.

Stockbridge Harbor. Located on Lake Winnebago on STH E west of the Village of Stockbridge, this 14-acre facility includes six launch/landing lanes, 15 bulkheads for temporary mooring, ample parking for boats and trailers, modern toilet facility, small concession area, picnic area and access for off shore fishing. The harbor is sized for the construction of 58 additional slips.



Harbor Fest at Stockbridge Harbor

This modern boat launch facility was constructed with funds from the Wisconsin Waterways Commission and Calumet County. The \$2 million facility was completed in late 2002. The facility now provides an additional winter and summer access to the lake and a safe harbor of refuge for up to 150 boats. An ancient Native American village was also discovered on the site. This site has been preserved and is an interpretive area describing what was there.

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Becker Lake County Park. Located on the shore of Becker Lake in the Town of Rantoul, this 75 acre park is the newest in the Calumet County Parks System. This park is primarily used for hiking, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing. As park of an agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Calumet County Parks has converted Becker Lake from farmland to park land. This restoration includes the reintroduction of prairie and wetlands to encourage wildlife. In recent years county naturalists have begun using the lake for kayaking programs, where visitors are guided around the lake, and observe the bird and animal species found in this habitat. Some wetland ecology programs have also been offered at this site, utilizing Becker Lake’s natural wetland setting.



Brothertown Harbor. At 2-acres, Brothertown Harbor, located on Lake Winnebago approximately eight miles south of Stockbridge, has been operated and maintained by the Calumet County Parks Department since 2005. Since the Calumet County Parks Department began overseeing the maintenance of Brothertown Harbor, numerous improvements have been made. In 2016, 7.71 acres of land adjacent to the harbor were purchased. Recently a new parking lot was added was built and paved. In the future a park area will be added.



Other Facilities of Countywide Significance

Calumet County Fairgrounds. The Calumet County Fairgrounds is adjacent to Hobart Park in the southwest portion of Chilton. The fairgrounds is maintained by the Calumet County Agricultural Association. Fairground facilities include a grandstand and arena, livestock and exhibition buildings, a pavilion, a number of concessions buildings and a half mile dirt track. Park facilities include playground equipment, picnic facilities, concession stand, band shell, a lighted softball field, drinking water and toilets.

Brillion Nature Center. The Brillion Nature Center consists of a 40-acre parcel of land located within the Brillion State Wildlife Area. The Brillion Nature Center is operated by the Brillion Nature Center Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization that utilizes private funding to support its mission of providing environmental education and quality outdoor experiences. The site includes a self-guided nature trail, other hiking trails and cross-country ski trails, a picnic area and historic sites. Improvements include a prairie restoration, boardwalk with observation deck overlooking the marsh, the conversion of an old barn into a nature center and display building, and a sugar shack. Among the site’s historic features are a restored lime kiln, a shack once used for Boy Scout outings, and the foundation of an old sugar shack.

Linear Recreational Facilities

Forms of recreation in which participants may travel great distances before reaching their destinations (which may be their origin) have become increasingly popular. Pleasure driving and touring have been joined by bicycling, hiking/backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling as activities pursued by growing numbers of recreationalists. To varying extents, opportunities to partake in these activities exist in Calumet County.



Snowmobiling in Calumet County

Snowmobile Trails. Calumet County snowmobile clubs maintain over 152 miles of public snowmobile trail. The county's trail network and interconnecting privately-maintained club trails are readily accessible to all portions of the county and link up with trails of surrounding counties as part of a statewide system. When snow conditions are favorable, the Calumet County Parks Department coordinates opening trails with private clubs through the Calumet County Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee. Most public trails are easements across private property.

Cross-Country Skiing. Groomed cross-country ski trails are available at High Cliff State Park (4 miles), Calumet County Park (4 miles), Ledge View Nature Center (2 ½ miles), and Becker Lake County Park (1.5 miles). In addition, about six miles of ungroomed cross-country ski trails exist at Brillion Nature Center.

Bicycle Routes. Highly scenic low volume rural roads provide abundant opportunities for bicycling and bike touring in Calumet County. There is a published bike route for county roads done by the WI DOT. This was made in 2020.

Bridle Trails. An 8.5-mile long bridle trail is available at High Cliff State Park. Horseback riding is also allowed along the Friendship State Trail and the Fox River State Trail from Ott Rd, north of Hilbert, to Greenleaf, WI.

Recreational Trails. Public recreational trails can provide off-road recreational opportunities for a variety of recreational activities including hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and/or snowmobiling. Although a number of hiking trails exist at High Cliff, the three county parks, and the Brillion Nature Center, the trails are contained within the property boundary and serve little linkage function with nearby communities or other recreational sites. Abandoned railroad rights-of-way, utility corridors, and environmental corridors are often ideally suited for creating a trail system which links together key areas of the county. The "Recommendations" section of this plan identifies several linkages that the county supports.

Another recreation trail is the *Solomon Trail* that connects New Holstein and Kiel. This alternate transportation trail is about four miles long and is paved. The trail is used for biking, in-line skating, and hiking.

Local Facilities. State and county parks and recreational facilities are complemented by numerous local parks and public and private school sites. Collectively, these sites are effective in expanding the range of recreational opportunities available to Calumet County residents, providing facilities not typically found in state and county parks and recreational areas. Well over 60 percent of the county's population is within walking distance of one or more of these local sites. It is estimated that these local park and school sites encompass over 800 acres.

Quasi-Public Facilities. Quasi-public recreational facilities are privately owned recreation lands that are available for public use. In Calumet County, the major quasi-public facilities include golf courses and forest cropland. The county also contains a number of privately owned or leased parcels used by area sportsmen's clubs. In addition, there are establishments along the Lake Winnebago shoreline that depend heavily on trade from boaters and fishermen, providing recreation-related services such as bait sales, launching, boat storage and camping.

Golf Courses. Three public golf courses are located in Calumet County. Braun's Deer Run Golf Course, located in Brillion, offers a 9-hole course. Hickory Hills Country Club, located north of Chilton, and High Cliff Golf Course, located west of Sherwood, each feature 18 holes.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

In order for Calumet County to develop its recommendations and a relevant 5-year action plan for parks and recreation, the county must determine what its outdoor recreational demands and needs are.

2025-2030 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

The 2025-2030 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state.

The main goals of this SCORP are based on providing equal opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation, ensuring the sustainability of recreation opportunities, and expanding the collaborative partnerships in recreation.

The SCORP was compiled using a combination of data from mailed and online surveys to Wisconsin residents, as well as input from a panel of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff and the SCORP Advisory Committee. As a result, the following areas were identified as having the highest participation rates throughout the state: Walking/Hiking/Running (on paved or unpaved trails), Swimming in lakes, ponds, or rivers, wildlife watching/Nature photography, Picnicking, Fishing, Motorboating, and

Visiting a nature center. These recreational activities all had at least a 40% or higher estimated participating rate, with Walking/Hiking/Running leading the way with an estimated 68% participation rate.

One of the survey areas also covered activities that Wisconsinites have participated in the past but have not recently participated in. The top activities listed included camping-tent, fishing, visiting a nature center, bicycling, picnicking, camping-RV/pop-up/van, and motorboating.

Another area of the survey asked participants about recreational activities that they have heard of and are also interested in participating in. The top activities listed included managing land (e.g. restoring habitats, building trails), bicycling-ebike, snowshoeing, and camping-RV/pop-up/van.

While by no means is the SCORP a complete analysis, these issues and usage trends should foster future discussion between recreation providers about how to better serve various recreation interests. By identifying issues of statewide and regional significance, county and local outdoor recreation providers can better identify individual roles for providing high quality recreation resources, and for continually improving the recreational opportunities offered to our citizens, now and into the future.

YEAR 2025 CALUMET COUNTY SMART GROWTH PLAN

In May 2007, Calumet County adopted its Year 2025 Smart Growth Plan. This plan was amended in February 2012 and December 2016. Outdoor recreation and natural resources are addressed in both Chapters 4 and 5 of the plan. The “Recommendations” section of this plan has been developed to be consistent with the goals, objective, policies and recommendations of the county’s smart growth plan.

LAND NEEDS

Past Calumet County Outdoor Recreational Plans have included quantitative methods for determining recreational land needs. A national guideline often used is a comparative of open space acreage to population that being ten acres of open space per 1,000 residents. Table 7 illustrates the amount of public open space that would be needed under this analysis.

Table 7

CALUMET COUNTY QUANTITATIVE OPEN SPACE DEMAND (ACRES)

Year	Population	Demand (10 acres per 1000 residents)
2015	50,315	503.15
2020	54,555	545.55
2025	58,010	580.10
2030	61,255	612.55
2035	63,210	632.10
2040	64,210	642.10

Source: Based on DOA Population Projections, 2013

According to this methodology, the county, both currently and in the future, is not meeting the land needs for outdoor recreation with 495 acres (Table 6) of public land. To meet this guideline, the county would need to acquire an additional 147.1 acres of outdoor recreational land by 2040. One thing to note with this form of analysis is that it does not take into consideration municipal park lands.

Based on the 2020 census data included in Tables 1 and 2, almost 82% of Calumet County’s population resides within the county’s incorporated communities. Several of these communities strive to provide the national standard of ten acres of open space for every 1000 residents as well. The result is an additional 432 acres (Table 6) of municipal park land being provided. When that open space along with the county-owned open space is totaled together, 927 acres of open space exists, which exceeds the 2040 land needs assessment of 642.10.

Traditionally, Calumet County has provided passive, natural resource based open space whereas the municipalities provide more active open space opportunities. This creates a well rounded balance of uses within Calumet County without unnecessary duplication of uses and expense. It is not realistic to use this methodology from a county’s perspective since the land need for the majority of the population is being met elsewhere (i.e. cities and villages). Because of this, Calumet County does not believe that this assessment is an appropriate means of determining the outdoor recreational needs of the county.

LOCATIONAL NEEDS

The location of various parks is analyzed to determine how well existing parks serve residents and visitors in different portions of the county. The main concern is that parks are accessible to a majority of residents so that recreational opportunities are equitably distributed. The parks have become primarily resource oriented due to the rich natural resources and land formations in the county. Linear parks are being developed and are included in this plan that would serve a more widespread area throughout the county.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are year-round recreation areas predominantly used for recreational pursuits such as nature study, hiking, bicycling, picnicking, boating, camping, and winter sports. They are usually located in an area of unique environmental quality, such as a river basin, lake or unusual topography. The regional parks in Calumet County include High Cliff State Park, Calumet County Park, Ledge View Nature Center, Stockbridge Harbor, Brothertown Harbor, Friendship State Trail, Fox River State Trail and Becker Lake County Park, which serve residents of the entire county. The northern unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest, Point Beach State Forest and Kohler-Andrae State Parks are three regional parks located within an hour of a portion of Calumet County residents.

County Parks

County parks, such as those in Calumet County, also serve as regional parks. Calumet County's parks provide a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities such as nature study, hiking, bicycling, picnicking, boating, camping, winter sports, swimming, boating access and play equipment.

Traditionally Calumet County has placed greater importance on sites that are resource-oriented rather than concerning itself with a geographic balance of park facilities. County park sites are located in areas high in natural resource values and the primary purpose for obtaining these sites has been to provide the public with an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate their unique scenic, ecological, geological, or historical features; any geographic balance is thus somewhat coincidental and secondary. The county believes that this approach is preferred to obtaining sites with lower resource values merely to ensure that county park facilities are convenient to all county residents.

The role of county parks in this region has shifted from not only serving the local residents but now includes serving a more regional population.

FACILITY NEEDS

The identification of facility needs is segregated into general facilities and site-specific facilities. In assessing general facility needs, it was determined that certain types of recreational opportunities presently are not available or in limited supply in the county. These general needs are not necessarily intended to be provided in the county park system nor is their provision necessarily the sole responsibility of the county or other governmental unit. Among general facility needs identified were:

- A network of multi-use recreational trails to link communities with each other and important destinations such as parks and other attractions. This network would accommodate a combination of bicycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and/or horseback riding as well as other forms of linear recreational activity deemed appropriate for a specific segment. Component elements of this system include:
 - Converted abandoned rail corridors

- Greenways (environmental corridors and other sensitive areas)
 - Scenic low volume rural roads (primarily as on-road bike routes)
- Expand Calumet County Park by land acquisition on the park's perimeter with emphasis placed on the east boundary that can be used primarily for camping expansion.
 - Preserve the Niagara Escarpment through land acquisition, sound conservation practices and consider the possibility of developing a trail or some other type of linear park facility along the escarpment.

In determining site-specific needs, the overall role of the county park system should be to provide facilities which accommodate a variety of active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for family-type outings in a setting which promotes an appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of a natural or semi-natural environment. The level and type of use appropriate for each site, given its natural and physical features and their sensitivity to detrimental modification from development and use, was a key element in identifying site-specific facility needs. In addition, the county park system can also become a focal point for attracting visitors into the region that would stimulate economic activity that is tourism related. The site-specific needs are identified in the Recommendations and Action Program sections.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives are designed to serve as a guide for Calumet County officials as they set about to improve and develop the county's park and recreation system. These goals and objectives, reaffirmed with slight modifications from the county's earlier plans, provide a basis for establishing public policy regarding the acquisition, development and management of park and recreation lands in Calumet County. They address the two components of a park and recreation system – the provision of county park facilities and the preservation of the county's unique natural and cultural resources. The goals are general statements indicating the type of park and recreation system the county would like to provide for local residents and visitors. Objectives are more specific statements of how the goals can be achieved.

GOAL:

To provide all Calumet County residents as well as visitors to the county with a high degree of recreational enjoyment and benefit by using sound planning principals to obtain maximum and efficient use of the county's resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- Continually recognize and identify the recreational needs and priorities of residents of the county.

- To identify and promote a program of acquisition and development of recreational lands designed to meet the present and future needs for open space and recreational facilities.
- To encourage maximum and appropriate use of all existing public recreational lands in the county.
- To encourage the preservation or acquisition of public access to lakes, rivers, and streams with recreational potential.
- To further develop existing recreational lands to their full potential through such action programs as general site improvement, new or improved facilities, or improved access.
- To encourage multiple use of recreational space wherever appropriate and feasible.
- Provide opportunities for all age groups and abilities to enjoy recreational facilities in the county.
- To continue to work with state and federal agencies.
- Encourage the promotion and use of the county recreational facilities.

GOAL:

To preserve, maintain and enhance scarce and valuable natural and cultural resources important to the ecological, sociological, and economic life of Calumet County.

OBJECTIVES:

- To pursue all possible measures to protect air and water quality.
- To promote an awareness of the need to maintain high quality natural areas free from intensive development.
- To preserve the natural vegetative land cover needed to prevent erosion, siltation and flooding and to protect air and water quality.
- Minimize impacts to the physical environment and enhance the character, quality, and livability of the county by preserving the natural environment as an integral part of the development process.
- Support a network of connecting natural areas and open space corridors to allow for the adequate movement of wildlife species.
- To protect and promote the Niagara Escarpment as a valuable natural resource.

- To encourage the preservation of historic and unique archeological sites.
- Support the acquisition of wetlands, woodlands, and floodplains within urban service areas for future park or open space development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for improving Calumet County's recreational system are intended to serve as a guide for the future growth and development of park and recreation land and recreational opportunities in the county. Consistent with the goals and objectives outlined earlier in this document, they are designed to meet the present and future recreational needs of Calumet County residents and visitors while conserving, protecting and enhancing the environmental, historical and cultural resources of the county.

The recommendations parallel the needs identified in the Land Needs Assessment section. The first set of recommendations addresses a range of actions necessary to provide a well-rounded base of recreational opportunities for citizens of Calumet County. The second set of recommendations addresses specific improvements at the county's four existing sites.

GENERAL COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Calumet County should work closely with the Village of Harrison and other governmental entities in the northwestern portion of the county to establish a safe route for bicyclists and pedestrians between the Fox Cities (Menasha and/or Appleton) and High Cliff State Park.
2. Calumet County should support efforts on the expansion of High Cliff State Park and its connection to Calumet County Park. This connection should include the development of a multi-use recreational trail between High Cliff State Park and Calumet County Park.
3. Calumet County should support the development of the Calumet County Interurban Trail, which will connect the Solomon Trail in New Holstein to the Fox River State Trail, which ends just north of Hilbert. The trail will also include an eastern spur, which will pass through the Brillion State Wildlife Area then continue out to Becker Lake. The Interurban Trail should also include a connection between Ledge View Nature Center and the City of Chilton. The Calumet County Interurban Trail would be part of a larger network of trails connecting Chicago to Green Bay. Currently, two gaps exist in an effort to connect Chicago, IL to Green Bay, WI via a multi-use trail network and those are in Calumet and Sheboygan Counties. Sheboygan County is currently planning their portion of the trail.
4. Calumet County should pursue takeover of all land slated for abandonment by state and federal agencies (i.e. abandoned railroad right-of-way).
5. While Calumet County cannot financially support development and maintenance of ATV (all terrain vehicle) trails, the county should support private individuals or

organizations who desire to establish off-road ATV trails in the Potter and Brillion Areas.

6. Calumet County should continue to pursue additional miles for the Calumet County Snowmobile Trail Program.
7. Preserve the Niagara Escarpment through sound conservation practices. Adopt policies and practices that would limit or prevent development on or near this natural feature.
8. Calumet County should support the WDNR or other non-profit organizations to acquire land for preservation purposes such as the Stockbridge Ledge Woods, escarpment land for trail or park purposes or other portions of the escarpment deemed valuable for its eco-system and natural features such as waterfalls or man-made amenities such as effigy mounds.
9. Calumet County should support efforts to improve the water quality of and around Becker Lake.
10. Calumet County should support the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network's effort of developing a regional Niagara Escarpment Greenway Plan, which would span from Dodge to Door Counties along Wisconsin's Niagara Escarpment corridor.
11. Calumet County supports the development of a "Friends" of Calumet County Parks organization.
12. Calumet County will explore options for adding a dog park.

CALUMET COUNTY PARK

1. Additional yearly improvements should continue to the campsites to include but not be limited to campsites that can be used by equestrians, electrical and water hookups, shade trees, and RV parking pads.
2. Improve winter recreational opportunities by making improvements to the tube hill to include but not be limited to additional tow lines, improved run-out areas for tubes, tube rental building, and sled hill facility.
3. Upgrade and replace roads as needed.
4. Land acquisition on the park's east, south and north perimeters should be monitored.
5. Replace and add additional playground equipment.
6. Encourage efforts to develop a multi-use recreational trail between High Cliff State Park and Calumet County Park.
7. Build additional campsite cabins.
8. Improve and add additional walking and bike trails.
9. Add open air shelter near bathhouse.
10. Establish a program for the eradication of invasive species.
11. Upgrade existing boat landing.
12. Upgrade existing launch piers.

LEDGE VIEW NATURE CENTER

1. Land acquisition on park perimeter.
2. Cave expansion.
3. Establish a program for the eradication of invasive species.
4. Installation of a second solar panel.
5. Replace the outdoor maple syruping shack.

6. Add and improve educational displays.
7. Improve and add additional walking trails.
8. Add additional parking and improve park access.

BECKER LAKE COUNTY PARK

1. Construct hiking trails within the park.
2. Improve shoreline access.
3. Improve the existing road into the park.
4. Explore the possibility of adding a campground and shelter.
5. Add restrooms and well.
6. Establish a program for the eradication of invasive species.
7. If and when available, acquire and improve the launch on the east shore.

STOCKBRIDGE HARBOR

1. Construct a shelter.
2. Expand existing park lot.
3. Install a boat wash station.
4. Install a fish cleaning station.
5. Maintenance dredge.
6. Rehabilitate existing harbor walls.
7. Add prairie and staircase on north hillside.

BROTHERTOWN HARBOR

1. Land acquisition on the parks perimeter to the south to expand future camping needs and outdoor recreation.
2. Maintenance dredge.
3. Install harbor aeration unit.
4. Install a boat wash station.

FOX RIVER STATE RECREATION TRAIL

1. Extend trail from Ott Road into the Village of Hilbert.
2. Construct parking lot additional parking

ACTION PROGRAM

Priorities for acquisition and development of recreational facilities by Calumet County for the next five years and beyond and their estimated cost as presented in the Capital Improvement Projects for Budget Years 2025-2029.

CALUMET COUNTY TABLE 8 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BUDGET YEAR: 2025 - 2029							
<u>ITEM DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>NARRATIVE JUSTIFICATION</u>	2025 <u>Cost</u>	2026 <u>Cost</u>	2027 <u>Cost</u>	2028 <u>Cost</u>	2029 <u>Cost</u>	TOTAL <u>Cost</u>
CALUMET COUNTY PARK							
CAMPGROUND IMPRVMNTS	Two Basic Campground Cabins	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
CAMPGROUND IMPRVMNTS	Add Additional Campsites on Southend	7,500	-	-	-	-	7,500
CAMPGROUND IMPRVMNTS	Add Water to Existing Campsites	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
Lodge Furnance and A/C	Replace Lodge rental Area Furnance & A/C	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
BATHHOUSE	Replace Bathhouse Exterior Doors & Concrete Sidewalk (36 years old)	32,000	-	-	-	-	32,000
SOLAR GRID	Install Solar Panels to Offset Electrical Cost	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
UPPER PARK ROAD	Mill Existing Asphalt and Pave	48,000	-	-	-	-	48,000
SOUTHEND BATHHOUSE	Add Water Storage Tank, Pump, Blacktop Boat Pressure Washer	60,000	-	-	-	-	60,000
BLACKTOP REPAIR	Repair Damaged Blacktop	-	20,000	-	-	40,000	60,000
TUBE HILL IMPRVMNTS	Tube Hill Reconstruction	-	-	-	325,000	-	325,000
REPLACE PIT TOILETS	Replace aging County Park facilities	-	22,000	22,000	-	22,000	66,000
REPLACE UPPER STORAGE	Replace three Upper Storage Buildings with One	-	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
PLAYGROUND	Replacement Playground Equipment at CCP	-	0	-	-	200,000	200,000

TRAIL MAINTENANCE	Add gravel, signs and culverts on existing trails	-	7,500	-	7,500	-	15,000
OPEN AIR SHELTER	Add Open Air Shelter	-	-	-	40,000	-	40,000
LAND ACQUISITION	Expand park boundaries meeting future needs	-	-	-	-	45,000	45,000
	(Remaining 3 acres of Shannon Property)	-	-	-	-	45,000	45,000
LEDGEVIEW COUNTY PARK							
CAVE EXPANSION	Montgomery Cave Expansion	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
TRAIL MAINTENANCE	Add Trail Screenings	6,000	-	6,000	-	5,000	17,000
PLAYGROUND	Elevated Playground	-	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
		-	75,000	-	-	-	75,000
LANDSCAPE	Landscape Around Building Addition	8,000	-	-	-	-	8,000
BUILDING RENOVATION	Additional Cost for Building Addition ADA Ramp Replacement and Sidewalk	70,000	-	-	-	-	70,000
OFFICE FURNISHINGS & APPLIANCES	Replace Stoves, Refridgerators, Freezers, Add Washer and Dryer and Office Furniture	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
PARKING LOT	Seal and Strip Asphalt Parking Lot	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
REPLACE MAPLE SYRUP BUILDING	Replace Maple Syrup Building & Cookers	80,000	-	-	-	-	80,000
STOCKBRIDGE BOAT HARBOR							
FISH CLEANING STATION	Add Fish Cleaning Station	-	55,000	-	-	-	55,000
		-	55,000	-	-	-	55,000
LANDSCAPE	Add prairie, steps, and fence to steep hillside	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000
		7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000
LAUNCH PIERS	Four Launch Piers need to be Replaced	-	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
		-	40,000	-	-	-	40,000

REPLACE ROOF	Replace Bathroom Roof	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
CAMPGROUND	Rehab existing Campground Sites	-	-	-	-	12,500	12,500
PARKING LOT EXPANSION	Expand parking lot	-	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
		-	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
MAINTENANCE DREDGING	Engineering	9,000	-	-	-	-	9,000
		9,000	-	-	-	-	9,000
MAINTENANCE DREDGING	Harbor improvements	-	200,000	-	-	-	200,000
		-	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
HARBOR WALL	Repair Failing Harbor Wall and Concrete	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000
		40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000
BECKER LAKE							
HIKING TRAIL DEVELOPMENT	Improve park access	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
		-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
SHELTER AND PIER	Add road, shelter and pier	-	-	150,000	-	-	150,000
		-	-	150,000	-	-	150,000
RESTROOMS	Add Pit Toilet Facility	-	14,500	-	-	-	14,500
		-	14,500	-	-	-	14,500
SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT	Improve shoreline access at Becker Lake	-	7,500	-	-	-	7,500
STATE TRAILS (Fox River, Friendship and Snowmobile)							
PARKING LOTS	Add parking lot to Fox River Trail (Center Road)	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
		-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
SNOWMOBILE BRIDGE	Replace Calumet Sno-Trail Bridge	-	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
PARK GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT							
Purchase Park Land	Add additional Park in Southern Calumet County	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
		-	-	900,000	-	-	900,000
Total		<u>513,500</u>	<u>861,000</u>	<u>1,528,000</u>	<u>497,500</u>	<u>369,500</u>	<u>3,769,500</u>

*Grants, gifts, and endowments may be available to help reduce Calumet County's financial commitment to any of these recommendations.