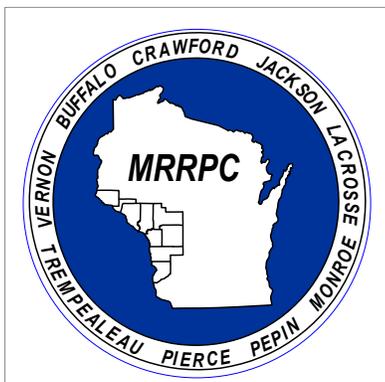
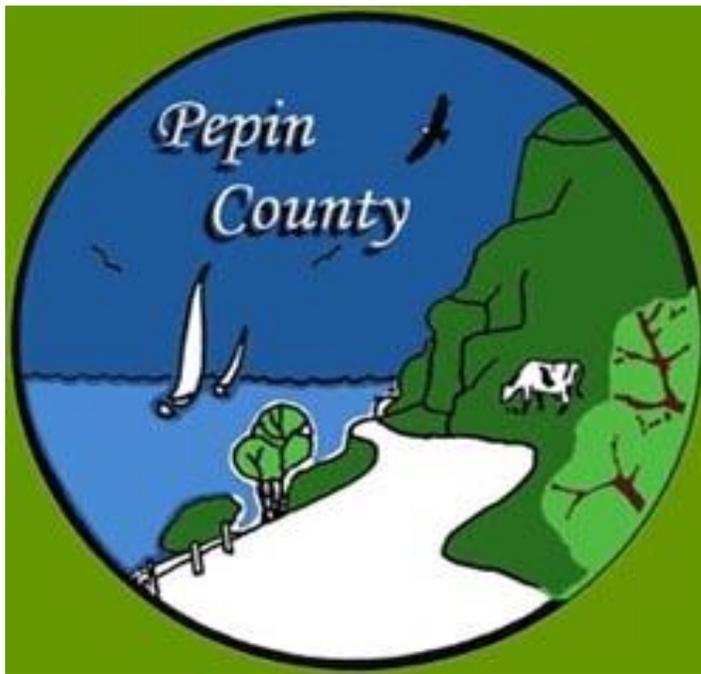




PEPIN COUNTY

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

2015 – 2019



Prepared by:
Mississippi River
Regional Planning
Commission



RESOLUTION NO. 10-15
ADOPTING OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the County of Pepin, has participated in a county-wide Outdoor Recreation Planning Program covering both unincorporated and incorporated areas of Pepin County, and

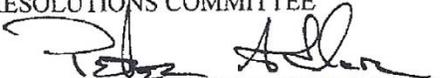
WHEREAS, said planning program has been conducted by Pepin County through the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission in conjunction with the Pepin County Land Conservation Department, Pepin County Land Management Department, and Pepin County Economic Development Office, and

WHEREAS, said planning document reflects community and county recreation needs in light of goals, objectives, and generally accepted recreation planning standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Pepin does hereby adopt the Pepin County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2015-2019 as its guide to future recreation facility improvements in the County of Pepin.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE


Peter Adler


Jim Dawson


Dwight Jelle


James Kraft

State of Wisconsin)
County of Pepin)

I, Marcia R. Bauer, Pepin County Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 10 -15 is a true and correct copy of the Resolution as adopted by the Pepin County Board of Supervisors on March 18, 2015.

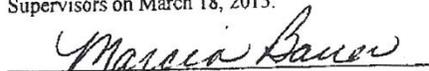

Marcia R. Bauer, Pepin County Clerk

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INTRODUCTION

Outdoor recreation aids citizens' physical health, as well as the health of the economy, as high-quality recreation opportunities attracts visitors to the county each year. Pepin County recognizes the need for a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. County, City, Village, and Town officials as well as concerned citizens are aware of the need for local outdoor recreation facilities and are also aware that the needs vary within the county and change with time. This plan is intended to serve as a guide to the county and its municipal subdivisions in the development of specific recreation programs and long-range objectives. The plan is also intended to assist in local government's budgetary considerations when planning for the maintenance and further development of recreation facilities. The recommendations and proposals found within this plan are aimed at the continued preservation, acquisition, development, and improvements of the area's outdoor recreation facilities. It is local government's responsibility to periodically further investigate and seriously consider the recommendations cited within this plan that provide for the orderly growth, development, and maintenance of the area's outdoor recreation resources.



Playground at Tarrant Park in City of Durand

This plan is also intended to assure the county's and municipalities' eligibility to participate in the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS), and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP). The existence of a recreation plan will also assist the county and communities with their overall planning and development efforts for which financial assistance is also available from other federal and state programs designed to assist in the development of viable communities. The provision of adequate recreation facilities is a goal that concurs with the national emphasis on improving the quality of life in our communities and preserving a balanced environment.

OBJECTIVE AND GOALS

Pepin County's objective in preparing this Outdoor Recreation Plan is twofold; this first is to provide an orderly framework for guiding future development of the County's own recreation properties; and the second is to provide a single source document in which the individual community plans can be brought together to provide a county-wide inventory of existing outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities and also to provide an opportunity to view the entire county for future planning purposes.

To accomplish this objective the following goals have been identified:

1. Maintain an outdoor recreation program that protects the natural environment and responds to the outdoor recreational needs of the residents and visitors of the county.
2. Formulate an action plan to meet the needs or public demands for outdoor recreation facilities in the county and municipalities.
3. Have a program that enables the county and municipalities to continually maintain and improve their recreation programs in a way that is economically feasible and environmentally sound.
4. Encourage the private sector to provide certain quality services and facilities for outdoor recreation purposes.
5. Consider the impact on the local economy of the many visitors and tourists in the area who utilize the county and municipal outdoor recreation facilities.
6. Establish a policy of reevaluating goals and objectives and project plans when necessary.
7. Maintain eligibility for Federal and State grant programs.

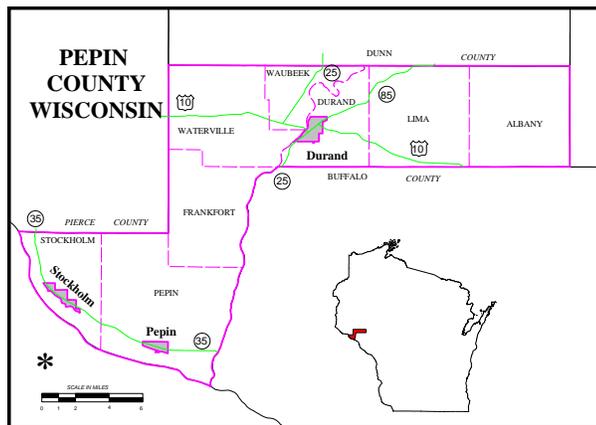
PLANNING PROCESS

The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission coordinated and prepared this Outdoor Recreation Plan, with assistance from the Pepin County Development Office, Land Management Office and Land Conservation & Parks. All towns, the villages of Pepin and Stockholm along with the city of Durand were sent information pertaining to the updating process and asked for their input. The County and each municipality will adopt the Plan before it is effective in that jurisdiction.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTY

Pepin County is located in west central Wisconsin along the Mississippi and Chippewa Rivers. The western portion of the county is a little more than an hour drive from downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. Other larger areas of population nearby are Eau Claire (30 miles northeast of Durand) and La Crosse (80 miles southeast of Durand).

The county's three incorporated communities and eight towns had 2014 estimated population of 7,445. The largest city is Durand with an estimated 2014 population of 1,919. On a north to south line the county is 19.3 miles at its longest portion, and 24 miles long at its longest east to west line. Most of the county's northern border is Dunn County, while the remaining northern border as well as a portion of the western border is with Pierce County. The southwestern border of the county is Lake Pepin. The majority of the county's eastern border is the Chippewa River and Buffalo County and the remaining eastern border is a six-mile stretch adjacent to Eau Claire County. Finally, the southern border of the panhandle lies on Buffalo County.



THE LANDSCAPE

The county contains 161,300 gross acres, of this total 12,617 are water and 148,683 acres are land. These lands are located within the state's Western Upland geographical province. The total land area of the county is 232.3 square miles, which makes it the second smallest county in the State.

"A smaller part is in the lower lying central plain of the State and extends along the Chippewa River into the central part of the county. In general, the western upland is a plateau, capped with limestone, in which streams have cut deep, steep-sided valleys. The terrain is some of the most rugged in the state. In contrast, the central plain, which is generally north and east of Durand, consists of smooth to

undulating uplands and areas of sandy and gravelly outwash underlain by eroded, weak Cambrian sandstone. The most striking topographic features in the county are along the Mississippi, Chippewa, and Eau Galle Rivers, which are the major streams that drain the county. The great trench, or gorge, of the Mississippi River, is bounded on both sides by steep bluffs that rise 300 to 500 feet above the level of the stream. The valley bottom along the lower reaches of the Chippewa River in Pepin County is deep and wide. In most places this valley is bounded by uplands that rise abruptly to a height between 200 and 400 feet or more above the sandy flood plain of the river.

Lake Pepin, along the southwestern boundary of the county, was formed after a large amount of detritus, or outwash, had accumulated and made a dam at the point where the Chippewa River flows into the Mississippi River. Floods laid down this outwash during the glacial periods. It was too coarse, and there was too great an amount of it, to be carried away by the Mississippi River. Consequently, it formed a dam on the north side of the Mississippi River and forced the main current of that river to flow on the opposite side of the flood plain from where it originally flowed. In time, a comparatively still body of water formed behind the dam.



Lake Pepin

Besides the Mississippi, Chippewa, and Eau Galle Rivers, other streams that drain the county are Bear, Arkansaw, and Plum Creeks, which flow into the Chippewa River. In addition, Bogus, and Lost Creeks flow south into Lake Pepin."¹

The rolling hills and flat valley bottoms make farming a profitable and important factor in Pepin County. Farm production is one of the largest sources of revenue for the county. According to the 2007 Wisconsin Census of

¹Thomas, Delbert D. Soil Survey Of Pepin County, Wisconsin. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 1964

Agriculture Pepin County had 503 farms with a total of 108,426 acres in agriculture. This indicates that 72.9% of land within Pepin County is used for agricultural purposes.



Farm land and rolling hills

Pepin County has important surface water resources. Unlike most counties in the western upland there is a massive fresh water Riverine Lake called Lake Pepin. Lake Pepin is the second largest lake in Wisconsin at 27,813 acres. Lake Pepin provides fishing, boating, and recreational opportunities for Pepin as well as other Counties. The Chippewa River provides recreational, fishing, and boating conveniences. There is a concentration of fishing and hunting resources along the Chippewa at the Tiffany Wildlife Area.

The county's land and water resources provide habitat for wildlife. Deer, squirrels, rabbits, wild turkey, and raccoons are abundant throughout the county in their respective habitats. Pheasants are stocked into the county in order to exist at their present state. The Mississippi Flyway gives abundant numbers of waterfowl, depending on the time of the year in relation to the hunting season. Pepin County also has over 18 miles of trout streams.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The proximity of the county to the Minnesota "Twin Cities" has a direct influence on Pepin County's economy, population characteristics, and land use patterns. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development publishes county workforce profiles for every county in the State. The 2011 Pepin County Workforce Profile estimates 3,702 Pepin County residents were employed. Of those employed 557 traveled outside the State for employment and another 1,188 worked in other Wisconsin counties. The counties where the most Pepin County residents traveled for employment were Eau Claire, Buffalo, Dunn and Pierce Counties. The County employing the largest number of Pepin County residents is Pepin County itself,

where 1,957 residents were employed. In comparison 2006-2010 American Community Survey estimates showed 634 people traveled into Pepin County for employment. The three leading counties from which residents traveled into Pepin County for employment were Buffalo County with 254 residents, Dunn County with 141 residents and Pierce County with 99 residents.

The 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) show a Median Household Income for Pepin County of \$48,717 or 93 percent of the State Median Household Income of \$52,374. The 2000 Census reported a 1999 Pepin County Median Household Income of \$37,609, which was 85.88 percent of the State Median Household income of \$43,791. The Town of Durand in 1999 had the highest median household income at \$49,375 and the City of Durand had the lowest at \$30,064.

Pepin County, according to 2010 U.S. Census Figures, had a median age of 44.1. This is an increase of 5.4 years since the 2000 Census and is higher than the median age of the State, which was 38.5, and the Nation, which was 37.2. The County's percentage of population 65 years and older was 17.9%, this figure is also higher than the State's percentage which, was 13.8% and the Nation's which was 13.1%. On the other end of the age scale the percentage of the county's population that is under the age of 20 was 25.1%, which is lower than the State's 26.4% and the Nation's 26.9%.

According to the 2010 Census, Pepin County has slightly less than 38 percent of its population living in incorporated communities. This percentage has remained fairly constant for the last 40 years. In 1970 the County had 40.29% of its population living in incorporated communities. The percentage for the 1980 and 1990 Census were 40.67%, and 41.72% respectively. The City of Durand is the largest incorporated community with a 2010 Census population of 1,931. (See Table 1 and Map 1 for County population data).

In 2000 the leading employment sectors in the County were Educational, Health and Social Services (21.3%), Manufacturing (17.1%), and Retail Trade (11.2%). The 2007-2011 American Community Survey estimates show the leading employment sectors in the County as Educational Services, Health Care and Social Assistance (20.8%), Manufacturing (14.4%) and Retail Trade (11.7%). Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Mining was a prominent industry sector in 1990 accounting for 17.9 % of all workers in industry in Pepin County. By the 2000 Census this sector employed 10.7% of the workers. The 2007-2011 ACS estimates showed employment of 10.9% for this sector, relatively unchanged.

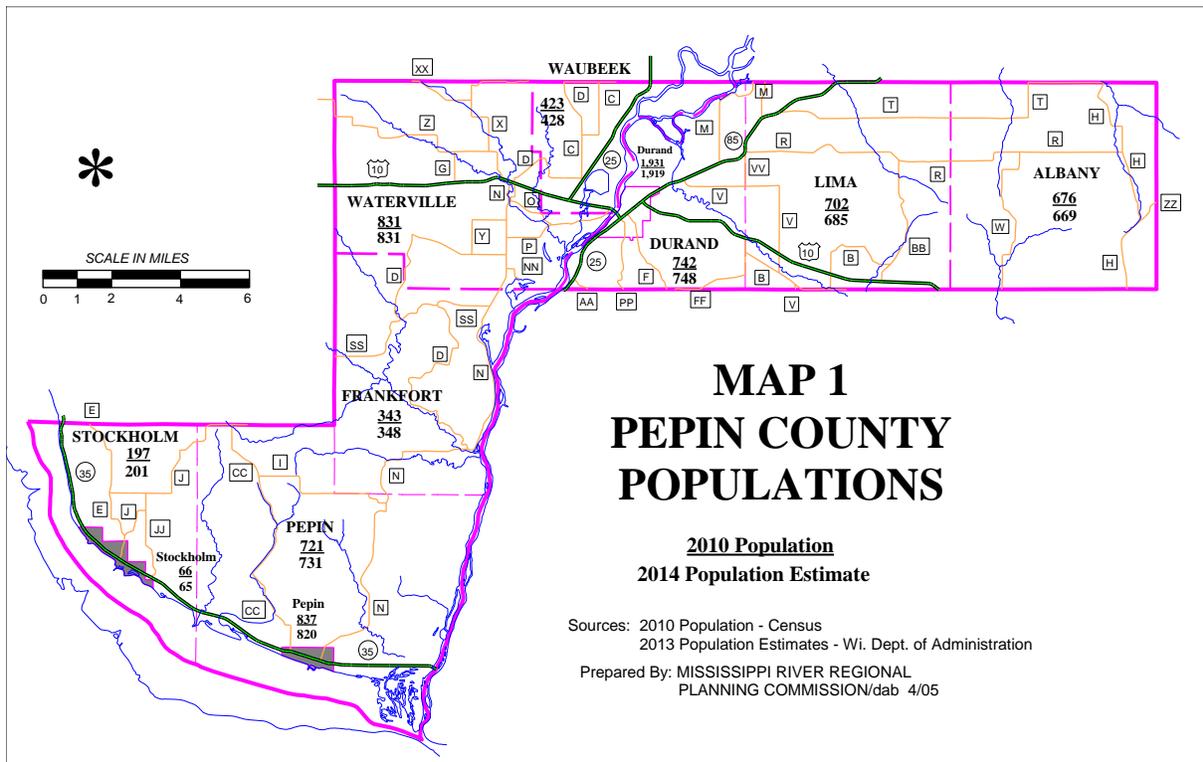
Table 1. Pepin County Population and Population Projections

	Population					% Chg 00-10	2014 ⁽²⁾ Estimate	Population Projections				Prj % Chg 10-30
	1970 ⁽¹⁾	1980 ⁽¹⁾	1990 ⁽¹⁾	2000 ⁽¹⁾	2010 ⁽¹⁾			2015 ⁽³⁾	2020 ⁽³⁾	2025 ⁽³⁾	2030 ⁽³⁾	
Pepin County	7,319	7,477	7,107	7,213	7,469	2.0	7,445	8,142	8,449	8,726	8,937	19.7
T Albany	565	586	507	620	676	19.6	669	856	933	1,009	1,079	59.6
T Durand	501	591	604	694	742	48.1	748	794	836	876	909	22.5
T Frankfort	409	397	322	362	343	-16.1	348	390	403	414	421	22.7
T Lima	679	631	649	716	702	3.4	685	784	817	847	870	23.9
T Pepin	740	749	696	580	721	-2.6	731	684	706	725	739	2.5
T Stockholm	211	168	173	75	197	-6.6	201	187	194	199	205	4.1
T Waterville	1,048	1,075	875	859	831	-20.7	831	871	874	874	866	4.2
T Waubeek	217	239	316	364	423	94.9	428	484	528	570	609	44.0
V Pepin	747	890	873	878	837	12.0	820	1,035	1,087	1,135	1,174	40.3
V Stockholm	99	104	89	97	66	-33.3	65	103	105	107	109	65.2
C Durand	2,103	2,047	2,003	1,968	1,931	-8.2	1,919	1,954	1,966	1,970	1,956	1.3

(1) U.S. Dept. of Commerce-Bureau of the Census; (2) Population Est.-WI Dept. of Admin.-Demographic Services Ctr.; (3) Population Prj.-WI Dept. of Admin.-Demographic Services Ctr.

Declining employment in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Mining industry category will have an impact on the access and amount of private lands for recreation purposes. As more people become employed in other industries and farms are sold off for development, lands previously used for recreation are lost. Many rural residents can find extended outdoor recreation experiences on their own land. Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, hiking, and scenery viewing can all be done on their own property and their dependence upon a

government sponsored recreation facility may be primarily for support of team sports like softball. The small lot urban dweller, whether it is a city of 2,000, a village of 200, or a rural subdivision, does not have the capability to provide a myriad of extensive outdoor recreation experiences on his or her own land and therefore is more dependent upon a public park system which offers a broader range of outdoor opportunities including hunting, hiking, camping, and picnicking.



REVIEW OF RECREATION DEMAND AND FACILITIES

RECREATIONAL DEMAND

For guidance on the demand for recreational outdoor activities a review of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011 – 2016 was conducted. Every five years, Wisconsin publishes a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to serve as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965. For the 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP, the State not only met the requirements of the (LWCF) Act but also reflected on the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, launched in 2010 by President Obama.²

Chapter 2 of the SCORP analyzed demand for outdoor recreation activities by popularity and by setting. The outdoor recreation activities presented in the 2011-2016 SCORP are primarily based on the 2005-2009 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) and Outdoor Industry Foundation (OIF) studies, **Table 2**. The number one outdoor recreation activity identified is **Walking for Pleasure**, with 87.7 percent of the surveyed public engaging in this activity. This is an activity that can be carried out in both urban and rural settings with no special equipment needed and can be enjoyed equally by all ages. The second most popular outdoor activity is **Gardening or landscaping for pleasure**, with 65.4% participating. Other activities ranking at the top were **View/photograph natural scenery** (65.3%); **Attend outdoor sports events** (65.0%); **Family gathering** (63.5%); **Visit nature centers etc.** (63.5%); **View/photograph other wildlife** (57.9%); **Driving for pleasure** (52.8%); **View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.** (52.4%); Sightseeing (50.6%); **Bicycling** (48.7%); **Boating (any type)** (47.3%); **Picnicking** (47.0%); **Visit historic sites** (46.7%); and **Snow/ice activities (any type)** (45.9%). Activities with less than 2% of the population participating are: Orienteering (1.6%); Scuba Diving (1.1%); Windsurfing (1.1%) and Surfing (1.0%).

Chapter 2 looked at 15 year recreation trends. **Table 3** shows projected trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities. The table identifies those activities which will have an increasing demand, a decreasing demand and those which will remain stable.

Chapter 3 discusses the inclusion of health and wellness in outdoor recreation planning. Outdoor activities were identified yielding the greatest health benefits.

Chapter 4 explores current urban offerings of urban recreation across municipalities in Wisconsin when compared to similar peers. Chapter 5 examines public and private holders of recreation land through Wisconsin and the programs that encourage conservation and acquisition of public land and protection and public access of private land.

Chapter 6 lists seven goals, each with a list of actions, designed to encourage the connection of Wisconsin's residents to the great outdoors with their state. The goals are:

1. Assess, understand and adapt to growing recreation tourism demands and preferences.
2. Improve integration of outdoor recreation interests and needs in land use and other relevant planning efforts.
3. Continue to provide and enhance public access to Wisconsin recreation land and waters.
4. Conserve rural landscapes and forests through partnerships and incentives.
5. Address funding challenges associated with managing Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Resources.
6. Promote outdoor recreation as a means of improving public health among Wisconsinites.
7. Establish great urban parks and community green spaces.

As we progress into a new century, events and issues that influence outdoor recreation in the future are changing. Issues, which will influence future outdoor recreation activities, include:

- Land use patterns are shifting,
- Ownership patterns in rural areas are changing,
- Budgets for operation and maintenance of recreation resources are not expected to increase

In addition, the demographics of the county are shifting. Between 1990 and 2010 the County's population increased by 5% and the County's median age increased 11.2% during that same period. As people age the recreation activities they participate in may change. The changes in family structure (an increase in single parent families) also changes recreation choices. Income levels can also determine participation in an outdoor activity.

² Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016 "Chapter 1 - Introduction"

Table 2 Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Participants by Activity (Age 16+)

Rank	Activity	2005-2009 Percent Participating	Number of Participants (1,000s)	Rank	Activity	2005-2009 Percent Participating	Number of Participants (1,000s)
1	Walk for pleasure	87.7	3,947	38	Hunting - any type	22.2	999
2	Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	65.4	2,944	39	Off-highway vehicle driving	19.8	891
3	View/photograph natural scenery	65.3	2,939	40	Trail running	18.6	773
4	Attend outdoor sports events	65.0	2,926	41	Snowmobiling	18.3	824
5	Family gathering	63.5	2,858	42	Big game hunting	18.0	810
6	Visit nature centers, etc.	63.5	2,858	43	Canoeing	17.9	806
7	View/photograph other wildlife	57.9	2,606	44	Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	15.5	698
8	Driving for pleasure	52.8	2,377	45	Boat tours or excursions	13.9	626
9	View/photograph wildflowers, trees,	52.4	2,359	46	Ice skating outdoors	13.5	608
10	Sightseeing	50.6	2,278	47	Ice fishing	13.1	590
11	Bicycling	48.7	2,192	48	Waterskiing	13	585
12	Boating (any type)	47.3	2,129	49	Coldwater fishing	12.8	576
13	Picnicking	47.0	2,115	50	Primitive camping	11.4	513
14	Visit historic sites	46.7	2,102	51	Small game hunting	11.3	509
15	Snow/ice activities (any type)	45.9	2,066	52	Rafting	9.2	414
16	Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	44.7	2,012	53	Cross-country skiing	8.8	396
17	Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	42.8	1,926	54	Horseback riding (any type)	8.7	392
18	Visit a beach	42.3	1,904	55	Tennis outdoors	8.5	383
19	Golf	41.8	1,881	56	Backpacking	7.4	333
20	Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	41.7	1,877	57	Kayaking	7.3	329
21	View/photograph birds	41.7	1,877	58	Rowing	7.2	324
22	Fishing - freshwater	37.4	1,683	59	Downhill skiing	7	315
23	Day hiking	36.7	1,652	60	Horseback riding on trails	6.6	297
24	Motoboating	36.0	1,620	61	Use personal watercraft	6.5	293
25	Visit a farm or agricultural setting	35.3	1,589	62	Snorkeling	6.2	279
26	Swimming in an outdoor pool	34.5	1,553	63	Snowshoeing	6.1	275
27	Visit a wilderness or primitive area	33.7	1,517	64	Migratory bird hunting	4.1	185
28	Warmwater - Fishing	33.2	1,494	65	Sailing	3.9	176
29	Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	32.8	1,476	66	Rock Climbing	3.8	171
30	Soccer outdoors	32.3	1,460	67	Snowboarding	3.7	167
31	Running or jogging	32.1	1,445	68	Mountain climbing	2.7	122
32	Mountain biking (off-road)	30.7	1,382	69	Caving	2.6	117
33	Sledding	28.2	1,269	70	Inline skating	2.5	113
34	View/photograph fish	26.7	1,202	71	Orienteering	1.6	72
35	Developed Camping	25.4	1,143	72	Scuba diving	1.1	50
36	Handball or racquetball outdoors	23.5	1,058	73	Wind surfing	1.1	50
37	Visit other waterside (besides beach)	22.6	1,017	74	Surfing	1	45

Source: Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2011-2016

Table 3 Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities

Increasing Demand ▲	Adventure racing Driving for pleasure Developed/RV camping Kayaking Visit a dog park Soccer outdoors BMX biking Climbing Stand up paddling/paddleboarding Triathlon (on-and off-road) Off-highway vehicle driving Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	Popular as both an individual and a group activity An easy activity for the aging baby boomer generation Baby boomers are a continued driving force for this growth Cheaper entry points have attracted more participants Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas Youth growth is still strong in urban areas X games popularity may be driving this growth Indoor climbing walls have led to an outdoor resurgence A fast growing water sport sweeping the country Varying distance events have allowed for growth Post-recession growth continues The “grow local” concept is taking hold at many levels
Stable Demand —	Walk for pleasure Running or jogging Water parks Motorboating Day hiking Golf Tent camping Snowboarding Trail running View/photograph wildlife Bicycling (road and non-paved) Snowshoeing	Market saturation does not allow for large growth Gen Y replacing the baby boomers for this activity Recession may have caused this growth to slow Still easy access in a water-based state Popular with many generations Time constraints do not allow for growth Continues to be stable, growth is illusive May have peaked after 20 years of growth A stable niche activity with Gen Y An easy activity that spans generations Popular with many generations – access is still key After large growth, this has stabilized
Decreasing Demand ▼	Hunting Inline skating Skateboarding/skate parks Horseback riding on trails Softball Downhill skiing	Continues to struggle with generational loss and private access A large decrease in the last six years, the bottom may be near Gen M is free-skating with longboards Recession impacts have caused this to decrease with no rebound Baby boomers continue to leave this sport Gen Y does not have the numbers to replace aging baby boomers

Source: Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND NEEDS/ACTIONS

Outdoor recreation is an integral part of the fabric of human environment. Over 87% of Wisconsinites enjoy some form of outdoor recreation. Therefore the planning of outdoor recreation facilities is of utmost importance for the development of healthy and viable communities. Three important parts of recreation planning are: (1) Determine the demand for different types of outdoor recreation activity, (2) Inventory the existing facilities which accommodate the various types of outdoor recreation activity, and (3) Evaluate the existing facilities and determine the need for improvements or additions to meet the existing and anticipated recreational demand.

Proactive planning is important to ensure that recreation is accessible to all citizens. One of the greatest challenges is

understanding the ever-changing needs of those participating in outdoor recreation. The 2011-2016 SCORP examines outdoor recreation by recreation setting, the environment in which people recreate. The activities were divided into five groupings:

1. Developed Land
2. Limited Development
3. Water
4. Winter
5. Viewing and Interpretive

1. DEVELOPED LAND ACTIVITIES

Outdoor recreations in developed settings are those activities which use some form of manmade development (such as roads or sidewalks) or involve a high level of social interaction. Developed Land setting outdoor

recreation is the most popular form of recreation, two activities, Walking for Pleasure (87.7% participating), and Gardening/ Landscaping for Pleasure (65.4% participating), are the two most popular forms of recreation in Wisconsin. Other activities in this grouping are Attending outdoor sports events (65%), Family gathering (63.5%), Driving for pleasure (52.8%), Bicycling (48.7%), Picnicking (47%), Yard games (44.7%), Golf (41.8%), Soccer outdoors (32.3%), Running or jogging (32.1%), Developed camping (25.4%), Handball or racquetball outdoors (23.5%), Horseback riding (any type) (8.7%), Tennis outdoors (8.5%), Horseback riding on trails (6.6%), and Inline skating (2.5%).

Driving for Pleasure

Supply and Demand:

The form of outdoor recreation engaged in by 52.8 percent of the state's residents and one that can be enjoyed even when it is not the participant's major purpose is scenic driving, or "sight seeing". Since it occurs while sitting in a fuel consuming vehicle, an environmental purist might not consider it outdoor recreation; yet it is clearly an activity directly dependent upon the beauty of nature and upon facilities with which to view this natural beauty.

In recognition of this scenic beauty two types of road segments in the county are specifically recognized and designated for pleasure driving. The Great River Road, a 10 state, one province, scenic/historic Mississippi River Parkway which follows the Mississippi River from its source in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico passes through Pepin County on STH 35 between Buffalo and Pierce County. This road, marked with signs showing the old-fashioned steamboat pilot's wheel, passes through the villages of Stockholm and Pepin. The total mileage of the Great River Road through Pepin County totals more than 14 miles. Along those 14 plus miles there are many things to take advantage of including: scenic overlooks, waysides, parks, campgrounds, boat ramps, marinas, museums, and part of "The World's Longest Rummage Sale" - several river villages in Wisconsin and Minnesota which have open air markets and shops in the summer.

Moreover, the county has several other "Scenic Drives." These roads provide pleasant sight seeing throughout Pepin County while passing through the towns of: Stockholm, Pepin, Frankfort, Waterville, Waubeek, and Durand. These 72 plus miles of "Scenic Drives" allow the motorist to enjoy the sights of Pepin County without leaving

their car. **Map 2** illustrates these scenic drives, waysides, and overlooks.



Rest area along the Great River Road

Needs/Action:

Nonresidents do considerable pleasure driving and sightseeing, which has a favorable impact on the economy. This demand will only exist as long as the resource is maintained. Changes in land use may reduce the desirability of the resource for sightseeing purposes.

Due to the fact that this activity is almost entirely related to the scenic, historic, or natural resource attractions available; it is necessary to maintain the integrity of the attractions to serve the anticipated demand. This will necessitate the protection of these attractions from changes in land use and incompatible uses. The county's various land use and zoning ordinances that together make up the county's environmental protection tools are among the best friends outdoor recreationalists have as they work towards protecting the outdoors.

While the county has over 72 miles of "Scenic Drives" none of these are in the States Rustic Road program. An identification and inventory of especially sensitive or scenic resources could be carried out in the county by citizen committees using Critical Resource Information Program (CRIP) techniques developed by the University of Wisconsin - Institute for Environmental Studies. This survey would help clarify roads to be officially designated as "rustic" or "scenic."

The Rustic Roads program of the Department of Transportation is a good way to achieve this goal. To be officially designated as a rustic road and be eligible for signing and listing in the state brochure, the following criteria for designation should be met:

- Outstanding natural features along its borders such as rugged terrain, native vegetation, native

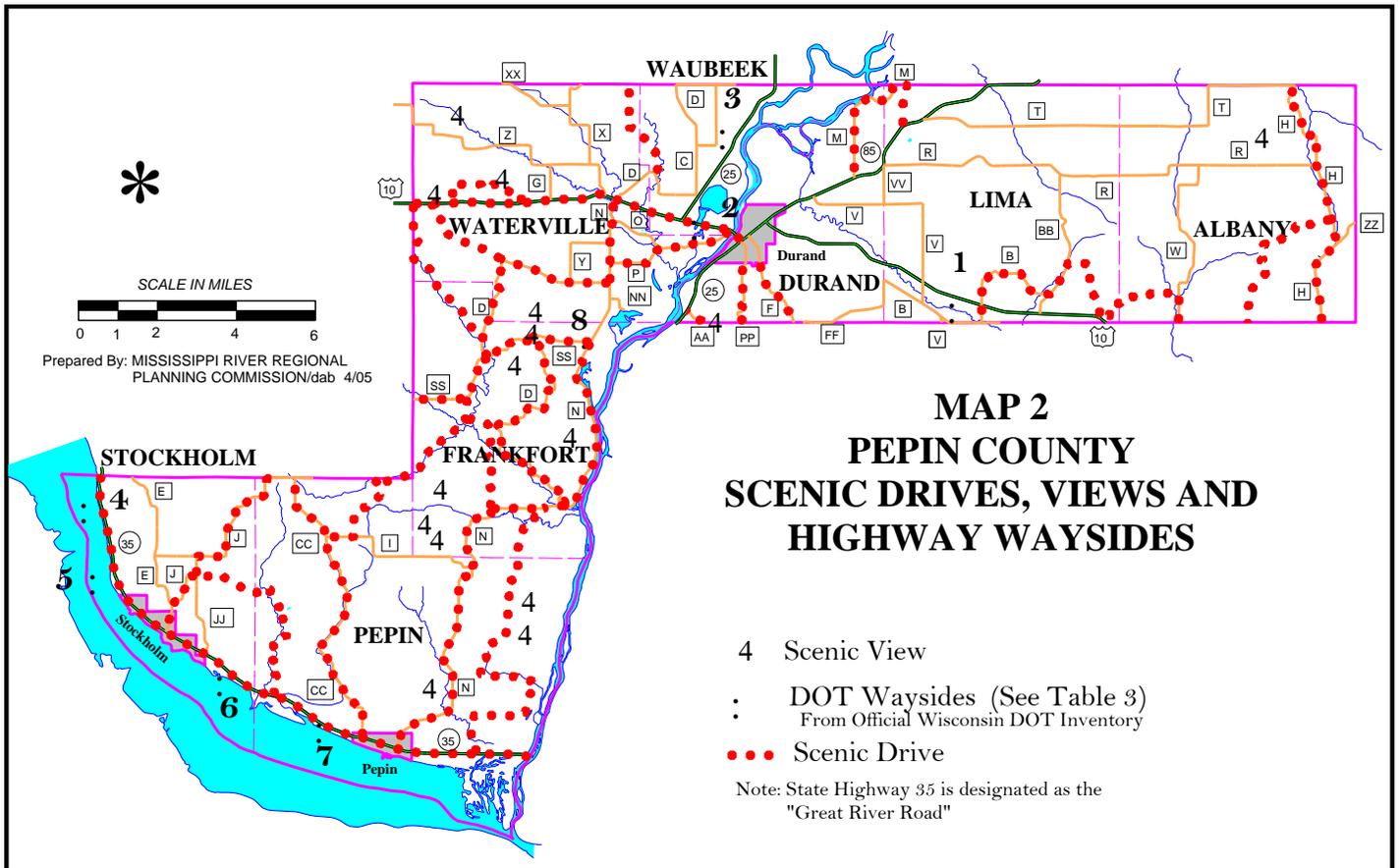
wildlife, or include open areas with agricultural vistas with signing

- Lightly traveled local access road which serves primarily adjacent property owners and motorists, bicyclists and hikers seeking recreational enjoyment of rustic features

- No scheduled or anticipated major improvements that would change the rustic characteristics
- Have a minimum length of two miles and where feasible, be either a loop or connect to major roads at both ends of the route

Table 4 Highway Waysides

Map 2 Loc	Highway Location	Name, Miles, and Direction	Features
1	USH 10	.7 Mile SE Of CTH "V"	4 Picnic Tables, 2 Grills, 15 Car Parking, Water, Toilets, 5.2 Acres In Size
2	USH 10	1 Mile W. Of Durand (Thompson Lake)	Boat ramp (non-motorized boats), Parking Available, One Acre in size
3	STH 25	1.75 Miles SW Of North Co. Line	Scenic Overlook, 4 Picnic Tables, 3 Grills, 41 Car Parking, Water, Toilets, 5 Acres
4	STH 35	2.7 Miles N Of CTH "J" On Lake Pepin	Scenic Overlook, 6 Picnic Tables, 4 Grills, 23 Car Parking, Water, Toilets, 0.8 Acres
5	STH 35	1.8 Miles N. Of CTH "J"	"Maiden Rock" Scenic Overlook, Historical Marker, One Acre In Size
6	STH 35	2.8 Miles N Of Pepin	"Site Of Fort St. Antoine", Scenic Overlook, Historical Marker, 1.2 Acres
7	STH 35	.6 Miles W Of CTH CC At Pepin	Scenic Overlook, 2 Picnic Tables, 12 Car Parking, 5.5 Acres In Size
8	CTH N	Intersection of CTH N and CTH SS	Scenic Overlook, 3 Car Parking, 0.5 Acres



Camping

Supply and Demand:

There are probably few other outdoor recreation experiences where the demands or expectations of the participants vary so widely. Some campers want amenities such as electricity, hot showers, laundry facilities, and amusements like miniature golf and movies. Other campers seek solitude and campfires with their amusement being morning bird song and hiking. Private for profit campgrounds in the county try to meet the expectations of the former group. The expectations of the latter or "wilderness" group can be met at the Tiffany Wildlife Area, since this area provides as close to a wilderness experience as will be found in southern Wisconsin.

In the 2011-2016 SCORP, "Developed Camping" was reported as an activity in which 25.4 percent of the adult respondents engaged in.

There are four facilities that provide camping opportunities within the County, three are municipally owned and operated, and one is privately owned. The camping facilities offer the basic necessities that most campers look for. (See **Map 3**)

Needs/Action:

As we stated earlier, the expectations of campers vary widely. Some prefer camping in communal conditions that others would find intolerable. The generally recognized standards tend to favor the more widely dispersed type of camping, which assumes that there are five campsites per acre. There is also a standard assumption that the average number per campsite is four. Therefore, one acre of campground can accommodate 20 campers per night. Generally the Department of Natural Resources discourages small villages with limited financial resources

from establishing campgrounds in village parks. The continuing maintenance and policing required to operate a quality campground is often beyond the financial ability or long-term commitment of a small local government unit.

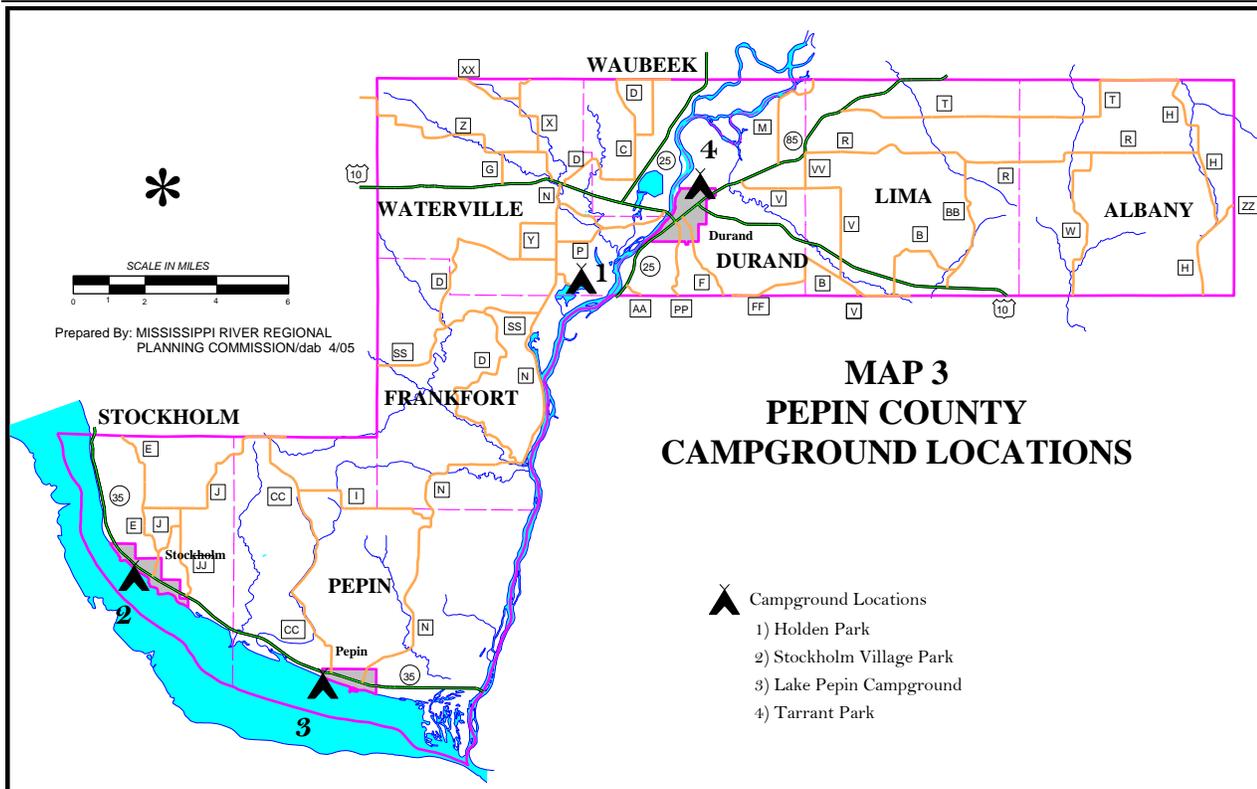


Lake Pepin Campground in Village of Pepin

The primary private campground owners association in the state has been strongly opposed to additional state or county activity in campground establishment or expansion. The commercially operated type of highly structured campground, with commercial amenities, typical of the larger commercial operators, does not appeal to all campers; many prefer the more "wild" atmosphere of a state or county park, especially if the other features of the park are what has drawn the visitor to the area initially. Campgrounds developed or expanded by units of government in Pepin County should not try to imitate the amenities offered at the larger commercial campgrounds. A clean simple camping area, possibly with a trailer pump-out facility and clean toilets will meet the needs of most campers. Based on the availability of piped water, the percolation capability of the soil and the projected number of campsites, a flush-type toilet facility may be necessary.

Table 5 Campgrounds in Pepin County

Map #	Name	Location	Total Camping Sites	Utilities	Facilities	Other Descriptions
1	Holden Park	2 1/2 miles south of Arkansaw	12 sites RV; open tent camping	All sites have electrical hookups	Picnic area, facilities for toilet, & well (non-potable)	County owns. Access to boat ramp.
2	Stockholm Village Park	Village of Stockholm	25 sites RV; open tent camping	15 sites have electrical hookups	Boat ramp, 700' pier, well, toilets, shelter, ball diamond, swimming	Walking distance to shops and eateries.
3	Lake Pepin Campground	On N. Locust St. two blocks N of STH 35	181 sites/with drive thru sites,, R.V. & tent sites	Electric, sewer, & water at RV sites, WiFi	Water, toilets, showers, picnic areas, laundry facilities, weather shelter	Playground apparatus will be installed
4	Tarrant Park	City of Durand, STH 85 and 14th Ave. E.	24 sites with 10 RV/ 14Tent sites	Electric, Water at RV sites	Water, toilets, picnic area, swimming pool, playground, dump station	Located along State Bike Trail



Golf

Supply and Demand:

The 2011-2016 SCORP indicates that 41.8 percent of the population plays golf. This sport has shown remarkable growth in participation, from 10 percent in 1985, to 17 percent recorded in the 1991 SCORP survey, to the current jump to 41.8 percent in 2011. There is one public 9-hole golf course in Pepin County located at the south edge of Durand. The course has been accommodating local needs and is expected to continue doing so. The course is located in the south-central section of the community. The nine-hole course is interesting, challenging and well maintained and provides a locker room, clubhouse, and pro shop. The golf course is privately owned but is open to the public and is an important recreational outlet for many area players. Special events such as men's night and women's night are special attractions sponsored by the club. There is no other golf course in the vicinity, and it is estimated that players come from 35 or more miles away. The course opens in mid April and remains open until November 1st.

Tennis

Supply and Demand:

Tennis is both a participatory and spectator sport, which gained great popularity in the late 70's and early 80's. Many small communities constructed tennis courts in their village parks. It is not an activity, which has been traditionally associated with such other outdoor recreation activities as hunting and fishing, but the Federal Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Fund has funded many of the courts and has also funded major rehabilitation of existing facilities. Tennis has an 8.5% participation rate according to the 2011-2016 SCORP. Demand is varied from community to community based upon local interest and programs. Based on the population in the Western District, there is a shortage of tennis courts, but only slight increase in tennis participation is anticipated. Communities should evaluate residents' desire for tennis courts versus the other park activities. Existing courts should be maintained to insure a quality-playing surface.

There are currently three courts in Pepin County:

- 1) **Wayne Field**-located in Durand has eight lighted tennis courts.
- 2) **St. Mary's School**-located in Durand has two unlighted courts.
- 3) **Pepin School**-located in Pepin has two unlighted courts.

Needs and Action:

Tennis is the type of outdoor activity usually associated with urban parks. The individual communities must evaluate their own residents' desire for tennis courts versus the other park activities. Existing courts should be maintained and rehabilitated as necessary to insure a quality playing surface.



Tennis courts in City of Durand

Picnicking

Supply and Demand:

Picnicking implies that people are traveling to a predetermined location to eat a meal in an outdoor location. It may be the major purpose of the outing or it may just be auxiliary to camping or a ball game. Many areas with picnic tables located along highways are used for resting more often than picnicking. Some picnic areas, especially in village or city parks, are often used for large family gatherings or reunions which last for several hours, while some highway rest stops are used almost exclusively by travelers for just a few minutes. Picnicking ranked as the thirteenth most popular outdoor recreation activity with 47 percent participation rate. Roadside parks and some city waysides provide picnic tables, which are used primarily by transients or visitors to the area. Also, private and public camping areas include picnic tables, but these are used primarily by campers. The specific number of tables varies from year to year, even during the season.

There are several picnicking facilities in the County and all appear to be meeting the needs of County residents and visitors to the area. Occasionally the facilities are full, especially on Sunday afternoons during the summer months, due to group picnics and family gatherings. Pepin County has eight designated picnicking areas. These areas are:

- 1) **Tarrant Park:** This is a facility with 30 picnic tables. There are also three open shelters equipped with electricity, for picnic purposes. The park itself has a swimming pool and bathhouse facilities with toilets, a softball field with a concession stand, bleachers, and toilets. There is also playground equipment, hillside slide, two volleyball nets, two sets of horseshoe pits, large charcoal grills and toilet facilities. Tarrant Park is owned and operated by the City of Durand and is a trailhead to the Chippewa River State Trail.
- 2) **Stockholm Village Park:** The park is equipped with 20 picnic tables, some with outdoor grills nearby, located around the park. An open-air shelter is also provided with ample room for large groups. A sheltered barbecue pit is located in proximity to the picnic shelter. A water pump and sanitary facilities are located nearby. Stockholm Village Park is owned and operated by the Village of Stockholm.
- 3) **Roadside Parks:** Small roadside picnic areas; some with facilities. The Department of Transportation controls the waysides. There are eight in the county.
- 4) **Silver Birch/Holden Parks:** Lake front park with public boat ramp; water (non-potable); privy toilets; shooting range and several picnic tables. These parks are owned and operated by Pepin County.
- 5) **Laura Ingalls Wilder Park:** This park is along the Great River Road in the Village of Pepin; three shelters; running water; modern toilet facilities and playground equipment. Laura Ingalls Wilder Park is owned and operated by the Village of Pepin.
- 6) **Arkansaw Creek Park:** This is a creek-side park stretching for 1/4 mile along the Arkansaw Creek. There is an open shelter, a large pavilion with a deck overlooking the creek, playground equipment, toilets, footbridges across the creek, and an amphitheater. Arkansaw Creek Park is owned and operated by Pepin County.
- 7) **Shoefly (Ella) Boat Landing:** A small privately maintained wayside on the banks of the Chippewa River. The wayside has a small open shelter, toilets, a couple picnic tables, and a boat ramp available to the public free of charge. This park is privately owned, operated by Pepin County under lease.
- 8) **Memorial Park:** This park is located in downtown Durand. There are 2 open shelters, modern toilets, basketball court, 2 sets of horseshoe pits,

playground equipment, 12 picnic tables, 10 park benches, 2 charcoal grills, and a band shell.

- 9) **Sportsmen Landing:** This landing, located just east of the marina, is owned by the Sportsmen Club, but leased by the Village of Pepin, and is free for use by the public. It has a cement launch ramp, a courtesy dock, a large picnic pavilion with electricity, restrooms and fish-cleaning facility, and a large paved area for vehicle and trailer parking.
- 10) **Chippewa View Park & River Walk:** This park is located along Durand's downtown riverfront. It has a walkway along the river and picnic tables and park benches. The park is owned and operated by the City of Durand.
- 11) **Dead Lake:** Located along the backwater of the Chippewa River. It is privately owned and operated by Arkansaw Fur, Fish and Game. An open pavilion, picnic tables and a boat ramp can be found here.

Needs/Action:

The theoretical "standard" for measuring the use of picnic areas assumes each picnic "event" involves four people and the turnover rate per table is one and one-half. This means that each picnic table provided for the public accommodates six people per day. Although this seems very low especially when you consider that many people

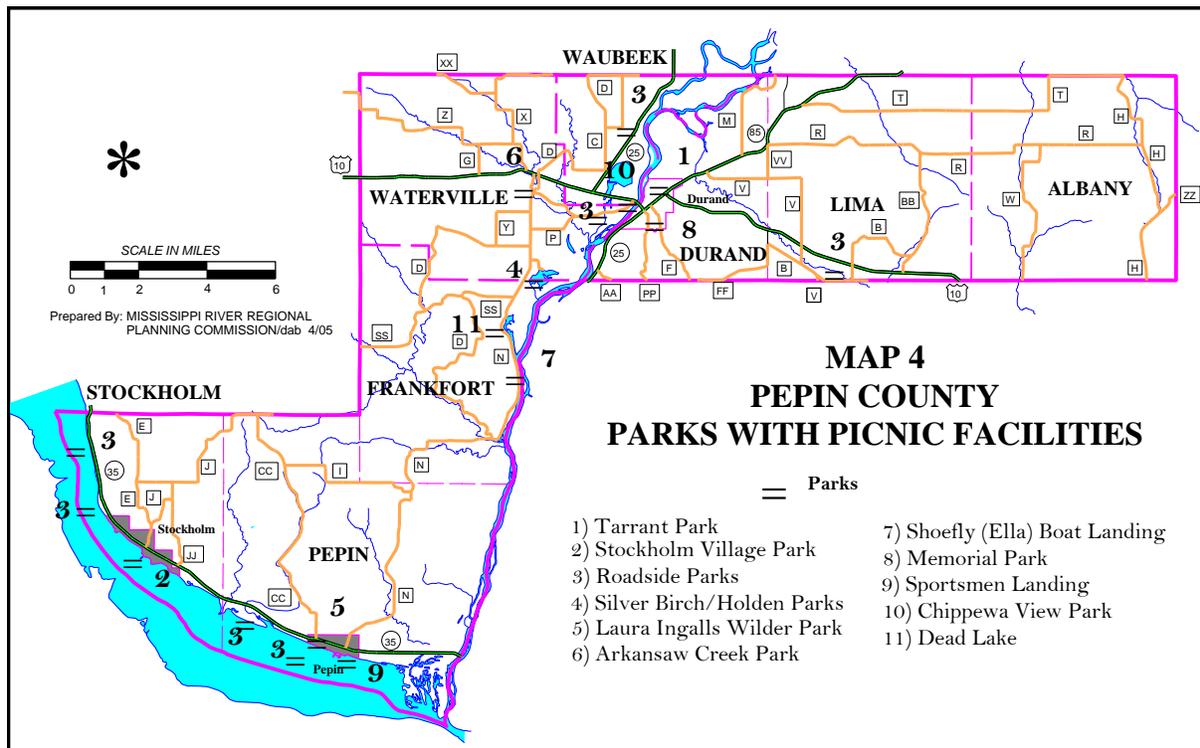
that may sit at a table on a given day at a busy highway rest area, they are also averaging in all day long family parties. Since no projected demand figures exist, no theoretical number of tables to meet the potential demand can be stated. Picnic areas that exist as part of a broader outdoor recreation experience or that are located in a pleasant environment are more apt to be used than a table in a small park or one haphazardly located.



Arkansaw Creek Park

Each community can observe the pressure for picnic tables at its own parks and determine if additional units should be added. As with most types of demands, the peak period is only a small portion of the total time; but picnic tables, especially if added to nearby existing tables, are a relatively inexpensive outdoor recreation device.

Map 4 shows the location of all picnic parks in the county.



Playground Activities

Supply and Demand:

Public parks are an essential component of the outdoor recreation structure including the variety of playground activities offered. The 2011-2016 SCORP provided state participation rates for the following: Attend outdoor sports events (65%); Yard games, e.g. horseshoes (44.7%); Soccer outdoors (32.3%); Handball or racquetball outdoors (23.5%); and Tennis outdoors (8.5%). It should be noted that the 2011-2016 shows participation rates for people 16 years old and older.

The term "Playground Activities" as used here refers to playground facilities including ballfields, swings, slides, tot areas, general-purpose recreation fields, and other facilities that provide for outdoor games or activities. The picnicking facilities discussed above and shown on **Map 4** also include facilities for game activities. The municipal park facilities of Durand (*Tarrant and Memorial Parks*) contain playground equipment, softball field, and open space areas for other outdoor activities such as Frisbee throwing, kite flying, touch football, and related activities. Playground facilities are also available at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Park in the Village of Pepin. However, there are no ballfields or other cleared areas to accommodate ball playing or similar activities. The Stockholm Village Park provides in addition to picnicking facilities, playground equipment and a recreation field for ball games. To better accommodate ball playing, the field should be improved. This is discussed in the "Action" program section.

The City and Village School Districts maintain play areas adjacent to their facilities. The Durand Public Schools have a 17-acre athletic field, which is open to public use with the approval of the Durand Unified School Board. The athletic field has tennis courts, track, baseball, and football fields. Adjacent to the Durand Grade School is a park with playground apparatus and a ballfield. There is also a playground adjacent to St. Mary's Grade School, which is open for public use. However, the amount of playground equipment available at the parochial school is limited.

The Pepin School District also maintains play areas adjacent to the public school in Pepin. The facilities include some benches and an athletic field for baseball, softball, and football. Because of the limited size of the area, the facility is not totally adequate for extensive usage as an athletic facility. Additional land and equipment is needed to adequately respond to the needs of Village residents. Recommendations for this are discussed in the "Action" program section.

The Arkansaw Middle School has playground equipment adjacent to its school. Included in the adjacent facilities is a large ballfield that is used both during the school season and summer months.

Needs/Action:

Playgrounds can range from simple to elaborate. One of the fairly recent innovations has been the development of multiple play apparatus. Although this equipment is expensive to purchase and install, it offers more imaginative play opportunities than simple swings, slides, and teeter-totters. These multiple purpose type play structures have been constructed of wood. There are some advantages to wood in that it has a more aesthetic, natural, appearance, especially when used at a more rustic park or campground. Some recreational experts dislike wood structures however as they are expensive to install and to keep maintained. Although newer wood treatment techniques have extended the life of the wood, plastic "boards" made from recycled plastic bottles is easily workable like wood and looks much like wood, many experts say that the overall maintenance costs are higher. The newer, top quality, metal apparatus is coated with vinyl material, which makes it safer to touch on extreme hot or cold days. Any community planning to develop or expand its playground apparatus should consult with experts at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, or other recreational departments for an update on the latest technology.

The ground cover under playground apparatus is often neglected in small village or town parks. A sand base, with wood chips or pea gravel laid on top of permeable landscape fabric will keep the area free of mud and dust, and help protect children from serious injury if they fall off the apparatus. All weather rubber pads can be used to provide wheelchair access.

Installation of playground equipment, while a primary responsibility of the municipality; operating the park is also a good project for community civic groups. Individual community park plans present additional information on specific needs and actions regarding playgrounds, and the appendix contains information on apparatus safety considerations.

Trail Activities

Providing "trails" can accommodate many of the most popular outdoor recreational activities. Activities such as wildlife watching or bird watching can be enjoyed through the use of trails, in addition to the more traditional trail

activities such as walking and bicycling. Trails serve a multitude of recreational activities, although bicycle trails can also serve as legitimate transportation facilities. With the exception of snowmobile and cross-country ski trails, which are treated separately, trails are definite features existing on the ground, and are maintained in order to keep them serviceable. Hiking, walking, nature walking, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicle, and bicycle trails are considered together in this section. **Map 6** shows significant walking trails, and bicycling suitability of the public road system.

Supply and Demand:

Bicycle Trails - Bicycling is an outdoor recreation pursuit, which involves about 48 percent, according to 2005-2009 participation data in the 2011-2016 SCORP. Bicycling has gained recognition as an adult recreational pursuit, and, with properly planned bicycle paths and routes, bicycling can be a legitimate form of transportation for adults. Bicycling also is a legitimate transportation mode for children, as well as an important recreational outlet for children.

The Chippewa River State Trail runs 30 miles from downtown Durand to downtown Eau Claire, with a connection to the Red Cedar State Trail. The trail begins at Tarrant Park in the City of Durand and travels six miles northeast to the junction of the Red Cedar State Trail. The surface is 10 feet wide and is paved in Pepin County. Passes are not required on the portion of the trail operated by Pepin County but bikers and in-line skaters must have a trail pass for state operated portions of the trail. A one-mile extension south from Tarrant Park provides access to the Durand central business district.

Bicycles are considered vehicles by state statute, and have a legal right to operate on any public roadway except where specifically prohibited, such as on the Interstate highway system or other freeways, or on some bridges. Common sense however indicates not all bicyclists feel comfortable, or are competent to ride in certain traffic conditions, just as some motorists feel uncomfortable in heavy or fast traffic conditions. The Department of Transportation (DOT), with input from county highway and district DOT staff have examined several variables, with traffic volume (Average Daily Traffic-ADT) and roadway and shoulder width being the major ones, to classify all state and county roads in unincorporated areas as having “Best”, “Moderate”, or “Undesirable” conditions for bicycling. In cooperation with the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (BFW) four maps, which together cover the entire state, have been published and are available for public sale. The state and county

road bicycle suitability based on these criteria is shown in Map 6. Town roads were not evaluated, but generally the low traffic volumes on these roads would be favorable to bicyclists; but in most of western Wisconsin, including Pepin County, the limited sight distances and lack of shoulders on Town roads would be factors making them less suitable for slow moving bicyclists. On the Great River Road, STH 35, there is a five-foot shoulder from the east Pepin County line at the Chippewa River to the Village of Pepin. From Pepin to the Village of Maiden Rock there is an eight-foot shoulder. Although traffic volumes on STH 35 are heavy, the wider paved shoulders provided may present a bicycling opportunity to the experienced cyclist. U.S. Highway 10 and State Highways 25 and 85 are considered “Undesirable Conditions for Bicycling”. These highways experience heavy volumes of faster moving traffic and have either no shoulder or very narrow shoulders for safe bicycling. See Map 5.



Chippewa River State Trail marker in City of Durand

Horseback Riding - Horseback riding on a trail does not have a lot of participation Statewide. According to the 2011-2016 SCORP horseback riding on a trail had a 6.6% participation rate at the State level, and Horseback Riding (any type) had an 8.7 % participation rate.

There are no developed bridle trails, rodeos, dude ranches, or riding stables in Pepin County. There is one saddle club, the Pepin Trailblazers Saddle Club, which owns a small arena near the Village of Pepin. The club sponsors a couple arena shows and six or seven trails rides each year. All trail rides are through private property and over rural roads.

All-Terrain Vehicle Trails – The 2011-2016 SCORP off highway vehicle driving has a participation rate of 19.8%; however, The Department of Natural Resources has reported that all-terrain vehicle and utility terrain vehicle

riding is a rapidly growing sport in Wisconsin since 2014. The Pepin County ATV/UTV Club is exploring the possibility of creating ATV/UTV routes. Currently there are no trails developed for all-terrain vehicles in the County.

As was pointed out in the "bicycling" section, the use of ATV's on fragile soil areas can be environmentally destructive.

Arkansaw Cycle Park – The Cycle Park is located on 350 acres along CTH D in Arkansaw. It has a 1 ¼ + mile long track along with open riding. The track is open to motor cycles and ATV's. There is open riding every day (weather and track conditions permitting) excluding race days. The park hosts a variety of events and is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. except it closes at 4:00 p.m. on days before events for practice.

Needs/Action:

Across the state, Pepin County being no exception, the demand for more trails, especially for walking, hiking, and bicycling, continues to increase. Particularly with bicycling, which allows the user to cover considerable distance in a relatively short time, the need now is to develop links to various bits and pieces of trail segments. The trail connection between Durand and Red Cedar, and that point's existing connections to Eau Claire and Menomonie, is a good example of this regional trail planning. Bicycle access between Durand south to the Great River Road should be considered. The Department of Natural Resources has expressed interest in acquiring the Xcel Energy rail grade if they choose to dispose of it. The continued use of the rails by the motor speeder club and development of a bicycle trail is an issue that would be considered by DNR. The old highway roadbed could be developed into a bicycle trail. Both of these possibilities are decisions to be made by DNR in a public context. Both of these routes would be primarily in Buffalo County; however Pepin County residents would benefit by their close proximity to the County. Pepin County may wish to consider a bicycle link between Durand and the Mississippi River lying wholly within Pepin County. Currently the Wisconsin State Bike Map depicts CTHs P and N as being either "Best" or "Moderate" conditions for bicycling. The weak link in this route is the USH 10 Chippewa River Bridge, which is shown as "undesirable" conditions for bicycling due to lack of shoulder and high traffic volume. The best alternative for a direct Durand-Mississippi River

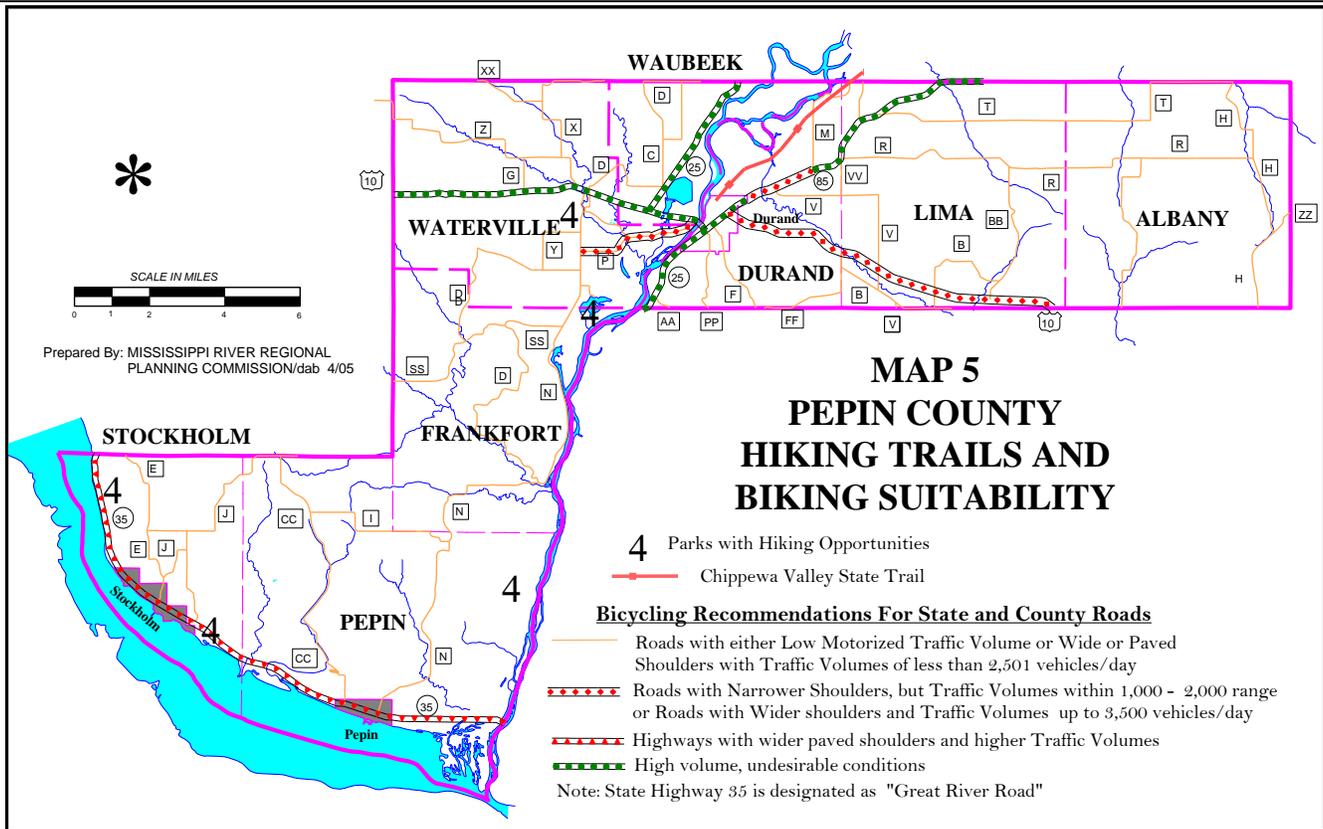
route would appear to be a bicycle trail through the Tiffany Wildlife area. When the USH 10 bridge was replaced, design considerations were made for bicycles, snowmobiles and pedestrian traffic. Extension of the biking provision between the west bridge approach and CTH P are desirable. The publication of the DOT/BFW "Wisconsin State Bike Map" is a valuable tool to plan possible bicycle road routes and tours.

Bicycle and pedestrian safety education efforts should continue, not only in schools, but also in forums for adults. Both motorists and bicyclists need to be aware of each other's rights and responsibilities. Future highway work should consider widening shoulders, especially on selected county roads, to accommodate bicyclists and also to prolong pavement life by reducing the broken pavement edging that occurs when shoulders are too narrow.

Rail Motor Speeder - A unique recreational opportunity is provided on approximately ten miles of rail right-of-way from Durand south, extending into Buffalo County almost to STH 35. The rail right-of-way (ROW) had old, poor condition ties and rails at the time it was purchased by Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy has entered into an annual lease agreement with a hobbyist club of rail motor speeder owners, to allow their operation, under club control, on this right-of-way. The club has rehabilitated the track adequate for its needs from Durand to within a couple miles of STH 35 on the south. This includes tie and rail replacement, and bridge and drainage structure repairs. During the spring, summer, and fall the club members operate singly or in groups two or three nights a week. During the annual Durand Fun Fest in June the club offers rides to the public on the speeder cars. This provides many people the opportunity to enter into the quasi-wilderness atmosphere of the "Tiffany Bottoms" area where many may not be able to travel on foot. Since the visits are conducted along the narrow right-of-way corridor they are relatively unobtrusive to the resource.

Needs/Action:

The rail section car hobby club, which leases the Xcel Energy rail line, is planning to extend their track rehabilitation south to STH 35. There are few opportunities anywhere for private owners to operate these unique historical vehicles on serviceable track, which has no other rail traffic, and, once out of the city, virtually no road crossings.



2. LIMITED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Limited Development activities take place in undeveloped, or primitive sites and general involve hiking, camping, or some form of hunting. Activities in this group are: Day hiking (36.7%), Visit a wilderness or primitive area (33.7%), Mountain biking (30.7%), Hunting-any type (22.2%), Big game hunting (18.0%), Small game hunting (11.3%), Primitive camping (11.4%), Migratory bird hunting (4.1%), Backpacking (7.4%), Rock climbing (3.8%), Mountain climbing (2.7%), Caving (2.6%) and Orienteering (1.6%). Following is an inventory of the land based and limited development activities in Pepin County.

Walking for pleasure is the number one most participated in outdoor recreation activity with a participation rate of 87.7%. This activity can be enjoyed by all ages and can be done anywhere from a marked trail to your local neighborhood. Hiking/Walking trails through forest/brush land, marshes, or a combination of these areas serve as nature trails for bird watching and nature observation. Nature Study/ Bird Watching is engaged in by approximately 46 percent of the population. Hiking and bicycling both have participation rates of 48% and jogging's participation rate is 7 percent. Cross-country skiing is a

sport in which fourteen percent of the state's population engages, and twelve percent engage in off-road vehicles known as ORV's or ATV's.

Supply and Demand:

Hiking and Walking Trails - Outdoor recreation planners define "hiking" as a walking trip of more than four hours (*usually 8 miles*) duration. Often times camping facilities are associated with this type of long distance hiking trail. A "walk" is any foot travel for pleasure of less duration than a hike and may include a rugged terrain interpretive nature trail two or three miles long, or a paved surface a few hundred feet in length from a parking lot to a scenic overlook.

The Tiffany Wildlife Area, located along both sides of the Chippewa River in Pepin and Buffalo Counties, has two primarily north-south trails reaching through all or most of the property. An old vehicular road bed lies entirely within Buffalo County between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) boat ramp on STH 35 at the Chippewa River and a parking lot on STH 25 just north of Thibodeau Road about one mile south of the Pepin County line. This trail is kept mowed and brushed but parts are through low wet areas and at least one stream needs to be forded. A

railroad grade extends north-south through the area from Durand to STH 35, approximately 13 miles. Xcel Energy purchased the former Milwaukee Railroad right-of-way between Trevino Junction on the south at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks and Red Cedar junction north of Durand. This purchase was to provide rail access to a proposed nuclear power plant at Tyrone, in Dunn County. Although plans for this, or any fossil fueled plant at the site, remain in the far future, the power company does not wish to relinquish its access right-of-way. Approximately two miles just south of Durand are in Pepin County, and the remainder is in Buffalo County, on the east side of the Chippewa River. In addition to these two trails, there are numerous opportunities to wander freely throughout the area. Numerous wetlands and meandering stream channels make travel in any one direction for a long distance a challenge.

Round Hill – Round Hill is located three miles south of Durand on the west side of the Chippewa River. The site was originally intended to be a city named Onaway. The city never materialized and later was a scheduled stop for River Steamers, as well as a common overnight lodging stop for lumberjacks. In 1916 the land was purchased to establish a retirement home for aged priests. In 1931 the land was rented by a group of priests and brothers from the Society of Mary, which established a school under the name of Maryhill. This religious work continued until 1942 when the priests moved to Galesville. In 1949 a private family acquired the property. In 2000 the Catholic Church acquired the property to honor its historical importance to the church and to preserve its natural beauty. Round Hill is part of the Lower Chippewa River region. Visitors are welcome to this walk-in site, and it is accessible by vehicle, bike or canoe. Activities include: Day retreats; Youth activities; Outdoor Adventure Trips; Outdoor Masses; Field Trips; and Nature Studies.

Hunting

Supply and Demand:

Hunting and consumptive uses of natural resources in general, has come under increasing criticism from an urban population that is removed from the land; yet true sportsmen hunters are sensitive to environmental issues and have, through license fees and personal financial and labor contributions, improved land cover conditions so that all people, hunters and non-hunters alike, may enjoy wildlife observation. This of course cannot ignore the fact that some persons carrying firearms in the field, by their actions, cause public condemnation for their behavior, which threatens, continued public support for all hunting activities.

The state's white tail deer population continues to increase and this can cause several problems: (1) Increased highway accidents, (2) Increased conflict with agricultural crops and ornamental plantings, (3) Increased potential for deer disease (i.e. Chronic Wasting Disease) and human disease (i.e. Lymes), (4) Possibility of long term native habitat destruction by over feeding.

One of the factors standing in the way of hunting, and deer hunting in particular, are lack of land open to hunting. Statewide, hunting remains a popular sport as indicated by the 22.2 percent participation rate reported in the 2011 – 2016 SCORP. The relatively small size of real property parcel ownerships may deter hunting in Pepin County.

Although privately owned lands provide most of the hunting opportunities in Pepin County there are also public lands open to hunting. **1)** Lake Pepin Wildlife Area; located on the Mississippi River bluffs in the western part of the county are four non-contiguous parcels of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land totaling about 200 acres. This land was originally acquired to create "Lake Pepin State Park". That project was abandoned but the lands are open to the public and hunting is permitted. **2)** On both sides of the Chippewa River is the DNR's Tiffany Wildlife Area with 3,900 acres in Pepin, and another 8,823 acres in adjacent Buffalo County on the east side of the River. This is one of the largest tracts of public land in a near "wilderness" condition in southern Wisconsin. The Pepin County portion of the Tiffany includes three access points to rustic trails on the state lands at Swede Rambler Lane, Tulip Road and 17th Creek Road. These trails, used primarily by hunters, are mowed and cleared once a year and are open to the public. There is no hunting in the wildlife area during February, March, the first half of April, all of June, July, and August, and the first half of September. Federal lands of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge are adjacent to Pepin County, in Buffalo County, at the mouth of the Chippewa River below the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks. **3)** Pepin County Extensive Wildlife Habitat; Located one mile west of Durand, between CTH P and the west bank of the Chippewa River, are 293 acres of state owned wildlife habitat lands. This parcel is mostly river bottom forest and marshland, with some areas of planted prairie grass. There is one off road parking space, but no other built amenities. **4)** The DNR's Big Swamp Wildlife Area, 800 acres of state-owned land, lies in adjacent Buffalo County and is open to the general public and to licensed hunters during appropriate game seasons. Pepin County should encourage the continuing purchases by the DNR of properties adjacent to existing DNR-owned facilities to improve access to public lands. **5)** The Durand Rod & Gun Club owns 27 acres in the Town of Waubeek. It should not

be assumed that hunting club lands are open to the general public without first checking with the club. 6) The 9-Mile Island State Natural Area has 713.56 acres, of its total 1,374 acres, located in the Town of Waubeek adjacent to Dunn County.

Pepin County Shooting Range - The Pepin County Shooting Range is located 1 mile south of Arkansaw on County Road NN. The shooting range has recently gone through a major renovation with perimeter fencing installed around the entire facility. 25, 35, 50 and 100-yard ranges are available for the shooting enthusiast. Additional ranges may be added in the future. Targets are made available on-site. The newly designed range provides comfortable (some covered) shooting stations, which are handicap accessible and promotes safety for all users. The shooting range is open April through November with an on-site attendant.

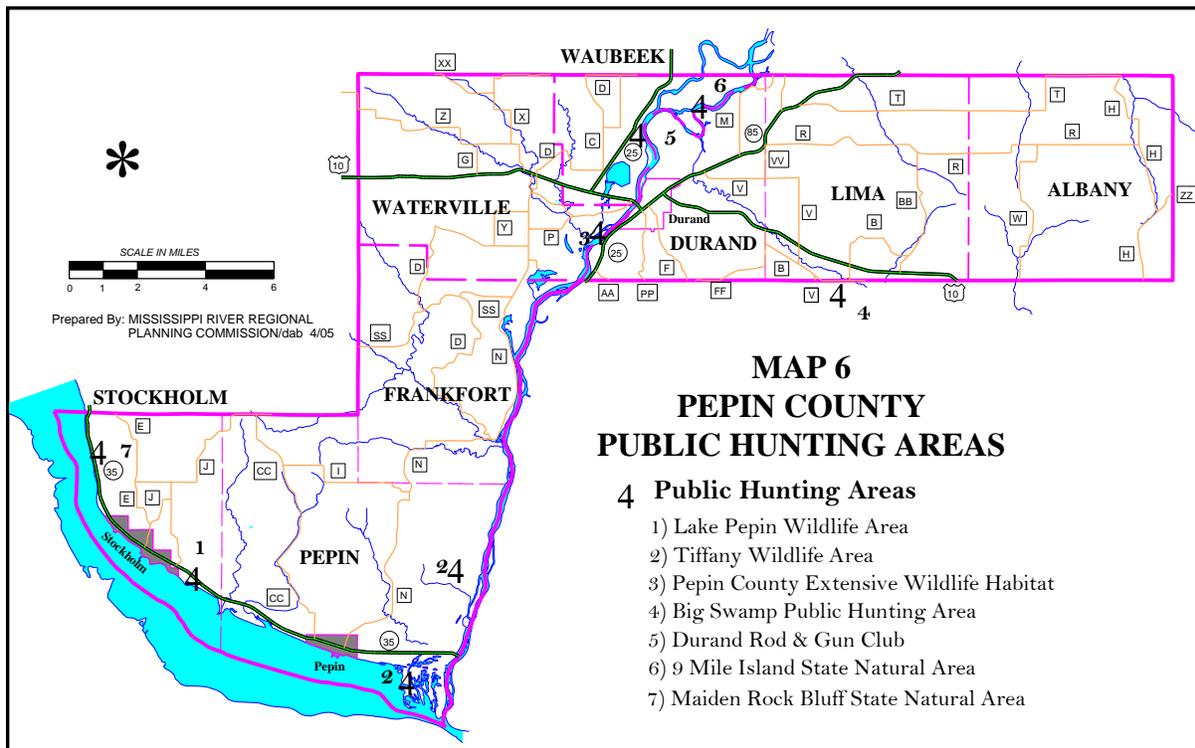
Pepin County Archery Range - The Pepin County Archery Range is located in Holden Park. The range has 18 targets on 3 acres of land; it is open to the public year round and is maintained by the Durand Sportsman’s Club and Arkansaw Fish, Fur and Game. **Map 6** shows public hunting areas.

Needs/Action:

As residences continue to spread into the rural area, pressure on hunting areas will continue to increase. Firing rifles in suburban areas can be intimidating to residents, if not outright dangerous. Public hunting areas, with enough land to allow safe hunting, need to continue to be maintained, and expanded as necessary. Hunter education needs to continue to stress courtesy and respect, both to private landowners, and to the population of non-hunters who hear stories of rude and arrogant hunters who feel they alone understand the ways of nature. The hunters' rule in supporting habitat preservation and environmental responsibility needs to be publicized. Local sportsmen’s clubs should continue to cooperate with state and national conservation organizations and with the Department of Natural Resources in hunter education programs, and in maintaining good relations between hunters and landowners.



Pepin County Shooting Range



3. WATER ACTIVITIES

Water-based outdoor activities are among the most popular recreation activities in Wisconsin. The 2011-2016 SCORP estimates participant rates for the following water activities: Boating, any type (47.3%); Visit a beach (42.3%); Swimming in lakes, streams etc. (41.7%); Freshwater fishing (37.4%); Motorboating (36%); Swimming in an outdoor pool (34.5%); Warm water fishing (33.2%); Visit other waterside, besides beach (22.6%); Canoeing (17.9%); Waterskiing (13.0%); Coldwater fishing (12.8%); Rafting (9.2%); Kayaking (7.3%); Rowing (7.2%); Use personal watercraft (6.5%); Snorkeling (6.2%); Sailing (3.9%); Scuba Diving (1.1%); Windsurfing (1.1%) and Surfing (1%).

Pepin County's rivers, streams and lakes are important recreation assets. The Mississippi River and the Mississippi backwaters, including Lake Pepin, make up the most obvious water resource. Another integral water resource is the Chippewa River and the surrounding Tiffany Wildlife Area. The Mississippi's role in the County's outdoor recreation is important in several aspects. While it provides boating and fishing and scenic opportunities that any water body can provide, the Mississippi provides a powerful historical and cultural presence. The Mississippi River is one of the "world class" natural attractions that Asian and European visitors most often want to see when they visit North America, and the scenic Upper River can provide a unique experience.

There are 25 lakes, not counting Lake Pepin, that cover 270 acres, and 34 permanently flowing streams totaling 116 miles in Pepin County. These figures do not include the Mississippi and its backwaters. Six major named lakes and 21 named streams provide excellent swimming, fishing, boating, canoeing, and an assortment of other water-based activities. Lake Pepin provides opportunity for power boating, sailing and water skiing. Overall, the water quality is gradually improving in Pepin County as soil conservation measures, and other pollution control enforcement, conducted over the years are slowly beginning to show results, especially in the headwaters of some streams. This does not mean these efforts should slacken, but rather should be heartening evidence that eventually the years of attention may be showing some results.

Swimming

Supply and Demand:

In the 2011-2016 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, swimming in lakes and streams had a participation rate of 41.7%, swimming in an outdoor pool 34.5%, and visiting a beach 42.3%.

The only pool with public access in the County is in the City of Durand. The only other designated swimming areas are in the Mississippi River parks in the Villages of Pepin and Stockholm.

Fishing

Supply and Demand:

Fishing and Wisconsin are almost synonymous in many people's minds. The numerous rivers, lakes and streams provide ample opportunities to participate in this activity. Fishing is the 22nd most popular outdoor recreation activity with 37.4% of the population participating in Freshwater fishing. Pepin County being located along the Mississippi River, Chippewa River and Lake Pepin and having numerous public boat landings, offers some of the best fishing opportunities within the Midwest.



Ella Boat Landing

Trout fishing is never the most common type of fishing. However, Trout fishing conjures up images of clean, fast flowing, wilderness brooks. In Pepin County there are about 38 miles designated in one of the three classes used to describe the quality of trout streams, **Table 6**. Class I is the highest quality with a self-sustaining trout fishery. The majority of the trout streams in Pepin County are Class II, which supports some natural reproduction, but needs occasional stocking to keep the level high enough to permit sustained fishing. There are also some Class III streams, which is clean and oxygenated enough to permit sustained, healthy, fishing, but which must be stocked regularly during the season, as trout will not reproduce in this quality of

stream. Annually over 20,000 trout are stocked within the County. Walk-in access to trout streams is often either via easement or at public road crossings, in which case public access may literally be limited to the streambed itself via wading.

Table 6 Pepin County Trout Streams

Name	Start Mile	End Mile	Class	Counties
Arkansas Creek	0	9.01	II	Pepin
Bear Creek	.37	6.62	II	Pepin
Bear Creek	6.61	9.6	III	Pepin
Bogus Creek	0	8.25	II	Pepin
Fall Creek	0	8.24	II	Pepin, Dunn
Little Plum Creek	0	4.67	II	Pepin
Plum Creek	0	7.23	II	Pepin
Plum Creek	7.23	13.25	I	Pierce, Pepin
Creek 9-10	0	.37	I	Pepin
Boyd Springs Creek	0	.15	II	Pepin
Newton Vly Creek	0	4.27	II	Buffalo, Pepin
Creek 1-3	0	0.54	II	Pepin

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Motor Boating/Water Skiing

Supply and Demand:

According to the 2011-2016 SCORP, motor boating is engaged in by 36 percent of the adult resident population in Wisconsin. No restrictions on motor size exist in Pepin County. Boat access ramps and docking sites are abundant in Pepin County:

1. Stockholm Public Landing
2. Deer Island Boat Ramp
3. Pepin Marina
4. Pepin Sportsman's Landing
5. Highway 35 Swinger Slough Landing
6. Ella Boat Landing
7. Dead Lake landing
8. Silver Birch Lake Boat Ramp
9. City of Durand Lower Landing
10. City of Durand Sportsmen's Club Dock
11. City of Durand Upper Landing

Jet Skis or "personal watercraft", and Air Boats are both controversial uses. Only a few crafts operating recklessly or too close to other boaters can adversely affect many users and wildlife habitat. Air Boats are controversial in the fact that they are quite loud and disturb other boaters and fishermen. However both of these uses can be beneficial or even crucial during search and rescue operations

Water skiing is a more established sport, and is dependent upon motorboats for its conduct. It requires a lot of room, and allows little opportunity for other users on the water while skiing is occurring. Lake Pepin, the birthplace of the sport, is popular for skiers, and statewide five percent of the population engages in the sport on state waters.

Canoeing/Kayaking and Sailing

Supply and Demand:

These three water sports are generally low impact activities, although in some parts of the state popular canoeing waters can become very crowded with the resultant adverse impact on the natural environment. In Wisconsin 17.9% of the population considers canoeing a sport in which they participate. Other types of non-motorized watercraft use have fewer followers, Kayaking was listed as having a 7.3% participation rate, and Sailing was listed at only 3.9%. Other types of non-motorized watercraft use have fewer followers with "wind surfing" being the most esoteric with one percent of the population engaging. The broad expanses of Lake Pepin make this water a good sailing, wind-surfing location, but the size and commercial traffic make the Mississippi River in general, including Lake Pepin, less desirable for canoeists. Sailing has a large economic impact in the County. Dan's Marina in the Village of Pepin offers approximately 180 large boat slips, a transient dock and other services. Numerous out of county sailboat owners utilize this marina as their home port. This brings in tourism dollars to the marina, hotels, restaurants, etc. The river backwaters, as well as Dead Lake and Silver Birch Lake are good canoeing and rowing locations. The Eau Galle River and the Chippewa River provide good canoeing opportunities.



Pepin Marina in Village of Pepin

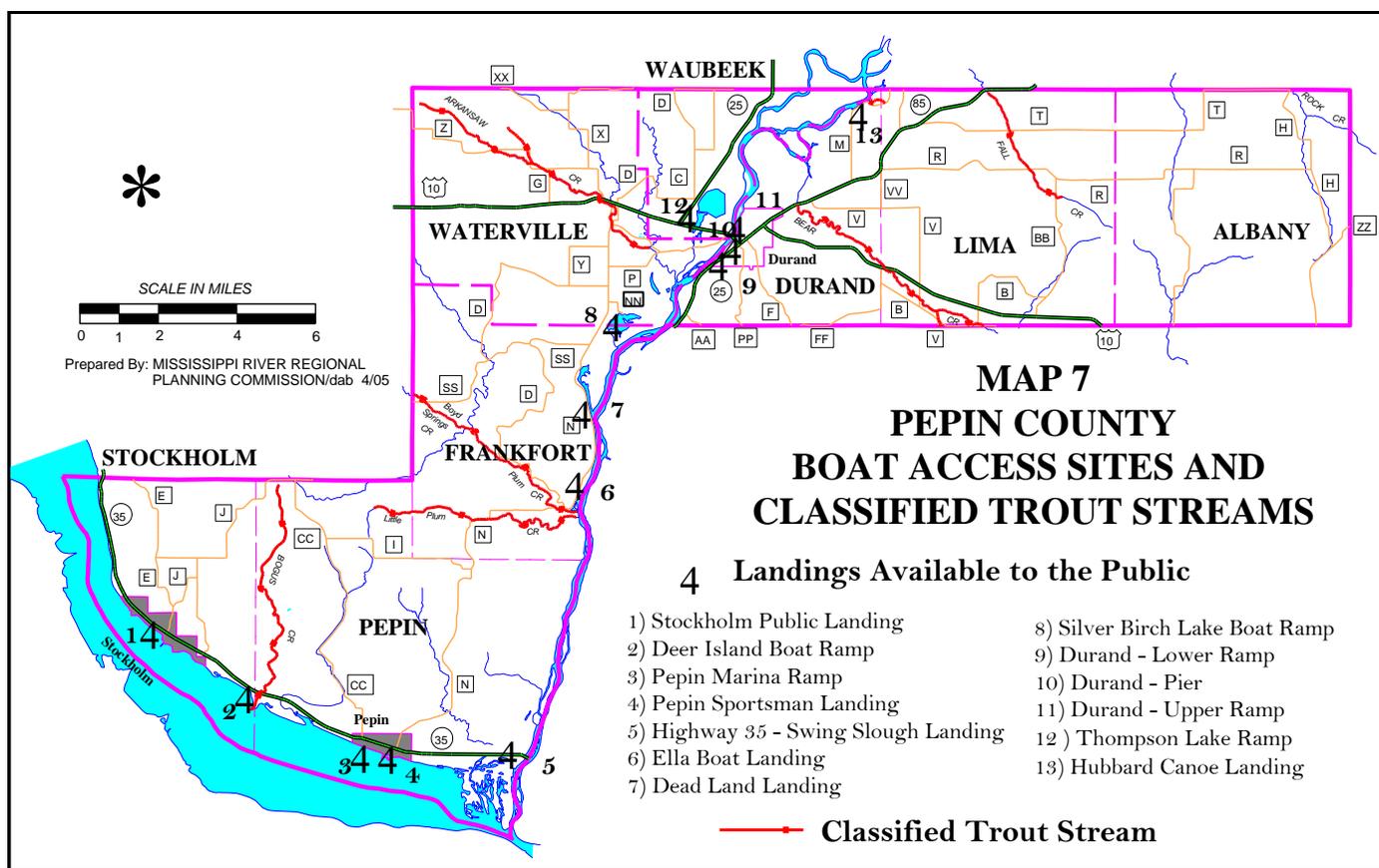
Needs/Action:

Non-point pollution from agricultural and urban uses is a major source of water quality degradation, and is especially serious in tipping the balance to a lower quality class, or removing the resource entirely, in trout streams. Toxic chemicals from industrial and commercial operations, some long since ceased, are the major cause of water quality problems, which require the imposition of consumption limits on river fish. Each individual must take responsibility to insure his or her practices do not contribute to this problem. Things like properly applying chemicals on the lawns and gardens, recycling motor oil, and proper disposal of all home waste will help keep waters clean. Habitat improvement and stream restoration is ongoing

within the county along numerous trout streams should continue and be expanded to enhance this resource.

The same land management practices that affect water quality for fishing and swimming impact on canoeing and related water sports.

Canoe access points to streams can be developed at public road crossings relatively easily, although provisions for parking the vehicles must be accommodated. Trespass onto adjoining private lands could also create conflicts, and canoeists in great numbers and trout fishers attempting to share a stream could create conflict.



4. WINTER ACTIVITIES

Snow-and Ice based activities are those that involve some form of frozen water. Winter activities are very popular with Wisconsinites with just over 45% of residents participating in some form of snow or ice activity. The 2011-2016 SCORP estimates participant rates for the following winter activities: Sledding (28.2%), Snowmobiling (18.3%), Ice skating outdoors (13.5%), Ice fishing (13.1%), Cross-

county skiing (8.8%), Downhill skiing (7.0%), Snowshoeing (6.1%), and Snowboarding (3.7%).

Snowmobiles - Snowmobiling is the 41st most popular outdoor recreation pursuit, with 18.3 percent of the population participating. Snowmobile registrations, administered by the Department of Natural Resources, provide a funding source to acquire trail easements and to maintain the trails by grooming and signing. Snowmobile clubs also participate in trail building and maintenance. There are 119.6 miles of interconnected

snowmobile trails maintained in Pepin County by the Pepin County Snowmobile Association. These trails, mostly marked across cooperative private lands are found in all parts of the County and connect to trails in surrounding counties.

Ice Skating

Supply and Demand:

Ice skating outdoors had a 13.5 percent participation rate in the 2011-2016 SCORP. The Village of Pepin clears snow from the ice on Lake Pepin for recreational skating.

5. VIEWING AND INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

The most population viewing an interpretive activity Statewide is viewing or photographing natural scenery with a participation rate of over 65%. The 2011-2016 SCORP estimates participant rates for the following viewing and interpretive activities: Attend outdoor sports events (75%), Visit nature centers (63.5%), View/photograph other wildlife (57.9%), View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc. (52.4%), sightseeing (50.6%), Visit historic sites (46.7%), Gather mushrooms, berries etc. (42.8%), View/photograph birds (41.7%), Visit a farm or agricultural setting (35.3%), Attend outdoor concerts, plays etc. (32.8%), View/photography fish (26.7%), Visit prehistoric/archeological sites (15.5%) and boat tours or excursions (13.9%).

Historical and Cultural Sites

Supply and Demand:

The 2011-2016 SCORP estimates that over half of state residents have gone sightseeing in the past year, while just under half visited historic sites. Scientific or natural areas may never attract as many tourists as water slides or ball games, but tourism is not their primary purpose. The county and communities should support efforts to identify and preserve unique ecological or cultural features within the county. Wisconsin's last wood framed courthouse is located in Durand, Wisconsin. Constructed in 1873-1874 this building served as the Pepin County Courthouse until 1985.

Historical Points of Interest:

Pepin County has numerous historical sites and points of interest:

1. The Maiden Rock, Great River Road west of Stockholm (*State Historical Marker*).
2. Fort St. Antoine State Historical Marker, Great River Road between Stockholm and Pepin.
3. Point-No Point natural optical illusion (*not developed or marked*), Great River Road.
4. Stockholm Institute/Old Post Office Museum, private museum, Stockholm.
5. Merchants' Hotel, Stockholm.
6. J. Ingebretsen's Building, Stockholm.
7. Tarrant, ghost town, County Road A, 8 miles east of Durand.
8. Ryan House, Lima Township.
9. Unincorporated village of Lakeport, location of John McCain Homestead, first house in Pepin County.
10. Pepin Railroad Depot Museum, Great River Road, Pepin.
11. Little House Wayside/Laura Ingalls Wilder Birthsite log cabin replica, County Road CC, six miles north of Pepin.
12. Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum, Great River Road, Pepin.
13. Porcupine, ghost town, County Road SS, Frankfort Township.
14. Little Plum Schoolhouse, County Road N, Frankfort Township.
15. Shoefly, ghost town, (*now called Ella*) County Road along the Chippewa River, Frankfort Township.
16. Old Courthouse and Jail Museum, Durand.
17. Durand Free Library Building, Durand.
18. Pilgrim Congregational Church, Durand.
19. Hotel Durand Building, Durand.
20. First Schoolhouse Building, Durand.
21. George Tarrant House, Durand.
22. Morsbach Brothers Building, Durand.
23. St. John's Lutheran Church, Durand.
24. Vautrot Building, Durand.



Old Courthouse and Jail Museum

Cultural Events:

1. Arkansaw
 - a. Arkansaw Creek Park Days, last weekend in June.
 - b. Pepin County Junior Fair, last weekend in July. Check www.facebook.com/pepincountyfairwi for details.
 - c. Extension Homemakers' Craft and Flea Market, Arkansaw Elementary School, first Sat. in November.
2. Durand
 - a. Durand Funfest, second weekend after Memorial Day.
 - b. Old Courthouse Museum & Jail, 1-4 p.m., Saturdays, end-May through mid October; group tours anytime by appointment.
 - c. Chippewa View Park Christmas Light Display, Thanksgiving to New Years.
 - d. Blues on the Chippewa, 1st weekend in Aug.
 - e. Spring and Fall art tours
 - f. City-wide garage sale, last week in April
3. Pepin
 - a. Ice-fishing Contest, first weekend in February.
 - b. 100 Mile Garage Sale, first weekend in May.
 - c. Fishing Contest, 4th of July weekend.
 - d. Laura Ingalls Wilder Days, Second weekend in September.
 - e. Hometown Holidays, first weekend in December.
4. Stockholm
 - a. Stockholm Art Fair, third Saturday in July.
 - b. Country Christmas, first weekend in December.
 - c. Dog Days, mid-August

Needs/Action:

Communities should recognize the scenic and cultural value of architecture. A building need not have been the home of a famous person to warrant preserving, if its architectural style represents a particular era, or adaptation of form to function.

The early Native American sites currently being studied have the potential to provide an educational opportunity for visitors to learn more about the area's first citizens. After the major research efforts are finished, and arrangements can be made with the landowners, a dignified sensitive display of the site, or sites, could be developed.

Scientific or natural areas may never attract as many tourists as water slides or ball games, but tourism is not their primary purpose. The county and communities should

support efforts to identify and preserve unique ecological or cultural features within the county. A recent study (1998) by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (Great River Road) identifies historical and archaeological features along the Great River Road corridor, and recommends ways each community can emphasize and enhance these features to increase tourism and enhance the local quality of life.

Nature interpretive centers and historical markers help share these treasures with other residents and the traveling public. The County Economic Development Office is making a good start with the series of brochures, which identify these unique features, and those efforts should continue.

The private sector can play a role in the prudent development of many historical sites. These business people must remember that the public's environmental and cultural concern will demand a sensitive quality display of the historical and cultural features.

PUBLIC PARKS AND OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

So far in this recreation plan each activity has been considered individually. Pepin County offers year round recreational opportunities for residents and tourists. The County is famous for being the birthplace of Laura Ingalls Wilder... Hiking, biking, canoeing, and cross country skiing are popular recreation activities in the County. The Chippewa River State Trail, 4 state natural areas, historical sites, and many county parks are recreational assets the county has to offer its residents and visitors alike.

-STATE LANDS-

Tiffany Wildlife Area

Stretching from west side of the Chippewa River opposite Durand on the north, to the mouth of the Chippewa River on the south, this large bottomland and marsh area covers both sides of the Chippewa River in Pepin and Buffalo Counties. The 3,900 acres of state land in Pepin County includes wooded coulees and steep bluffs as well as flood plain forest and open marsh. The 8,300 acres of state land in Buffalo County is mostly flood plain forest and marsh. Most of the immediate river influenced area is in state ownership although there is more private land interspersed on the Pepin County side of the River. This outdoor natural area offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, wilderness camping, boating, and hiking to many citizens

and visitors. The area is managed by the Department of Natural Resources and is one of the most outstanding natural semi-wilderness areas in the state. Much of this wooded hillside, wooded bottomland, and blufftop area was purchased from the Tiffany Lumber Co. in 1946.

The U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service has designated a portion of the Tiffany property in Buffalo County, and the adjacent federal Fish and Wildlife Service property, as a National Natural Landmark because it is the largest single stand of bottom land hardwood forest remaining of the post-glacial forest, once widespread on the exposed northern sandy delta systems.

Lake Pepin Wildlife Area

This property currently consists of four non-contiguous parcels totaling approximately 293 acres of state land along the Mississippi River, within the Village of Stockholm, and south of the village in the Town of Stockholm. The parcels were originally purchased to develop a state park. The park would have included the remnants of the site of Fort St. Antoine, circa 1686, and Bogus Bluff, one mile southeast of Stockholm, which provides a scenic overlook for those who make the climb to the top. The old fort site was not acquired, but the south and part of the west face of Bogus Bluff are in state ownership. This park development never was formalized, but the availability of state land provides informal hiking and hunting opportunities to citizens. Outdoor uses such as hiking, hunting, and camping; could be developed. For beginning development a small formal parking area and a hiking trail to the top of Bogus Bluff could be built.

-STATE NATURAL AREAS-

There are four State Natural Areas located within Pepin County. All four are open to the public year round unless otherwise noted at the State Natural Area site. Collecting of plants, animals, fungi, rocks, minerals, fossils, archaeological artifacts, soil, downed wood, or any other natural material, alive or dead is not permitted in State Natural Areas. However fishing, trapping, and hunting are allowed on most DNR-owned properties in accordance with state regulations.

The following is a brief description of the four State Natural Areas:

Five-Mile Bluff Prairie

This 10-acre site is located within the Tiffany Wildlife Area. The Prairie sits on 300' high river bluffs overlooking the Chippewa and Mississippi Rivers and was designated a State Natural Area in 1969. It is an excellent example of a

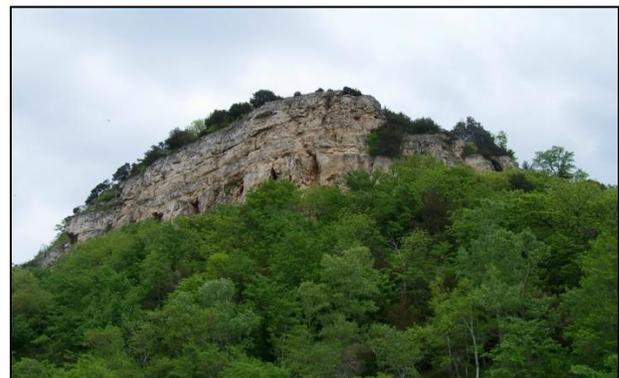
dry prairie. The site contains three small patches of dry, steep-sloped prairie near the top of the bluff, which are otherwise forested.

Nine-Mile Island

Nine Mile Island State Natural Area contains 1,587 acres and is located in Dunn and Pepin Counties. The area is located within an extensive river ecosystem that includes the Chippewa River and Nine Mile Slough and features two high quality native plant communities – oak barrens and floodplain forest. The area has been identified as having an exceptionally diverse fauna with a number of rare species including the largest population of the state-endangered beak grass. Nine Mile Island was designated a State Natural Area in 1990. The main portion of the natural area is accessible by canoe. From the intersection of State Highways 10 and 85 in Durand go northeast on 85 for 2.5 miles, then north on County Road M for 2.1 miles to a carry-in canoe landing.

Maiden Rock Bluff

This is a 248-acre site located high above the Mississippi River overlooking Lake Pepin in the Town of Stockholm, north of the Village of Stockholm. It is one of Wisconsin's premiere limestone cliff faces. Extending for nearly one mile, the 400-foot high bluff is especially noteworthy for the presence of nesting Peregrine falcons, a state-endangered species. The bluff is one of only six bluffs on the Mississippi River where Peregrine falcons are successfully nesting on natural substrate. The open cliff and adjacent narrow band of dry prairie provide habitat for several rare plant species. The rocky bluff provides hunting perches and habitat for a variety of other raptors including the golden eagle, bald eagle and turkey vulture. Maiden Rock Bluff Natural Area also provides important habitat for birds migrating along the Mississippi River flyway. This natural area is owned by the West Wisconsin Land Trust and was designated a State Natural Area in 2004. The surrounding uplands including existing agricultural fields will be restored to prairie with skiing and hiking trails for the public.



Maiden Rock Bluff

Lower Chippewa River

The Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area is located in Buffalo, Dunn and Pepin Counties and was designated a State Natural Area by the DNR in 2002. The State Natural Area is made up of lands scattered throughout a project area of 250,000 acres. State Natural Area signs will identify specific sites, or contact the DNR and request the locations of sites accessible to the public. From Durand sites lie both north and south along the Chippewa River. This natural area features the largest concentration of remaining prairies and savannas in the state. At the time of European settlement Wisconsin had over 7.7 million acres of native prairie but today only about 8,000 acres remain. This extensive project contains over 2,000 acres of prairie, which equals 25% of all known remaining prairie in the entire state. Lying along and interspersed within the river channels are islands of floodplain savanna and forest while the surrounding hillsides contain prairie and savanna. The largest contiguous floodplain forest in the Midwest is located just south of Durand within this natural area.

-COUNTY LANDS-

Silver Birch Lake/Holden Park

This county owned property is actually two separately named parks that are adjacent, and treated as a single property. It is located in the southeastern part of the Town of Waterville on County Highways N and NN, 2.5 miles south of the unincorporated community of Arkansaw. Its facilities include 12 sites for tent or RV camping, all with electrical hookups and fire rings. There are privy toilets and seasonally placed portable toilets available. There are picnic tables, a well (non-potable), steel barbecue grills, swing set, several hundred feet of shoreline on Silver Birch Lake, shore fishing opportunities, and a boat ramp. There is also a shooting range, an archery range and a walking trail linking the camping area in Holden Park to the waterfront area of Silver Birch Lake Park. The entire County owned area is 22 acres, with approximately 4 acres "improved" with the camping, picnic, and boat ramp area. The remainder is native woods, marsh, and meadow.

This park is a scenic area with a natural lake and hills as a backdrop.

Arkansaw Creek Park

This county owned 3-acre park is located along County Highway N in the unincorporated village of Arkansaw. This picturesque park stretches for 1/4 mile along Arkansaw Creek, with scenic sandstone dells along both sides of the creek facing the park. Arkansaw Creek is classified as a Class II trout stream by the Department of Natural Resources. The facilities this fine park offers include one

open picnic shelter, one large enclosed shelter, and a large observation deck overlooking Arkansaw Creek. There is some playground equipment, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, a large barbecue pit, and steel barbecue grills. There are two footbridges that lead across scenic Arkansaw Creek. A natural amphitheater offers the public the ability to engage in outdoor concerts and similar events.

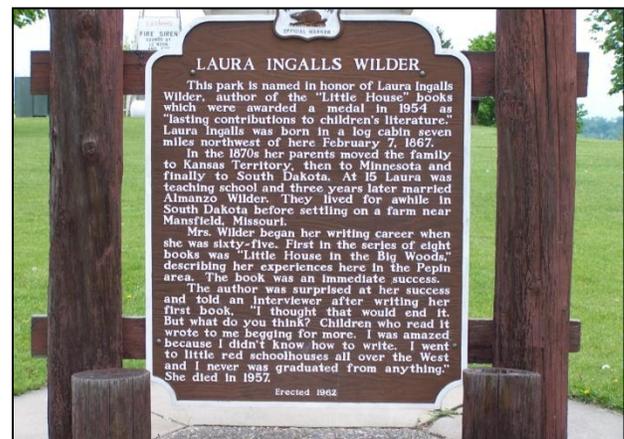
Ella Boat Landing

Located along CTH N, 6 miles south of the community of Arkansaw on the Chippewa River, this 2-acre facility is leased from the private owner by Pepin County. In addition to the boat ramp, there is "informal" overnight camping. The County maintains the facility.

-STATE HISTORICAL MARKERS-

Laura Ingalls Wilder Birth Site

This area is located seven miles from village of Pepin on CTH CC. There is a recently built log cabin representing the type of cabin in which children's book author Laura Ingalls Wilder was born on this site. Facilities included at the site are water and tables for picnicking. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society, Inc owns this site.



Laura Ingalls Wilder Historical marker in Village of Pepin

Maiden Rock Bluff

This Historical Marker is located about one-half mile north of the Village of Stockholm. It is located above the wayside, directly across the highway. The marker summarizes the story of the "Maiden Rock" Indian Legend, which briefly tells the story of a Sioux Indian princess who took her own life rather than marry a brave she didn't love. The cliff - often referred to as "Lover's Leap" - towers some 400 feet above the waters and offers a view for miles of the surrounding countryside. As the legend goes, Winona was the daughter of a tribal chief - Red Wing. The tribe had made an encampment in the latter part of the eighteenth century near the present site of the City of Winona.

Winona fell in love with a man of the Chippewa tribe named White Eagle, but Red Wing rejected White Eagle and insisted his daughter marry a man of her own tribe. Shortly after, the village was moved to the east shore of Lake Pepin. Red Wing decreed that Winona must marry the man he chose and the wedding would be the same day. But Winona, true to White Eagle, slipped away from the tribe and was found atop the cliff singing her death song. Efforts to stop her failed, and according to the story, she plunged some 400 feet from the rock into the waters below. From the legend, the Village of Maiden Rock and the cliff were named. Only parking facilities and Historical Society marker are provided at this site.

Fort St. Antoine

Nicholas Perrot constructed a “fort”, or trading post, here on the shore of Lake Pepin in 1686. Perrot was a French adventurer greatly against the growing British presence on the Upper Mississippi. From Fort St. Antoine, on May 8, 1689, Perrot formally took possession of the entire region west of the Great Lakes in the name of the King of France, Louis XIV. Today a State Historical marker at a DOT wayside marks the remains; however the site is located on private property part way down the hillside below the wayside. Although recent archaeological investigation has confirmed the presence of remains of a wooden structure consistent with the description of Fort St. Antoine, currently there are no firm plans for any acquisition or development. **Map 2** shows the site location.

Old Pepin County Courthouse

Located on Washington Square in downtown Durand. The structure was built in 1873-1874 for \$7,000, this building served as the center of Pepin County government for 105 years (1874-1984; excluding the years 1882-1886 when the county seat was moved to Arkansaw) and is Wisconsin’s last remaining wood-frame courthouse. The courthouse lawn was the scene of a lynching that gained widespread attention. On November 19, 1881 an angry mob hung Ed Maxwell who was accused of killing two lawmen from a tree in the yard.

-FISHERMAN ACCESS AND PARKING-

Stockholm Landing and Pier

Located at the south edge of the Stockholm Village Park, this hard surface boat ramp is free to public use. Located adjacent to the landing is a breakwater pier that extends 750 feet out into Lake Pepin.

Deer Island Boat Ramp

This launch ramp is located on Deer Island approximately three miles up river from the village of Pepin on Deer Island and is accessible via Deer Island Road. The site has a hard surfaced ramp and parking spaces for about 10 vehicles.

Pepin Marina

This marina located in the Village of Pepin is a combination commercial/public facility, owned by the Village and operated by a commercial contractor. It offers approximately 120 large boat slips available on yearly rental, a courtesy dock, and a service building with showers and toilets, which is also available to users of the adjacent municipal beach. There is a concrete launch ramp available free to residents of the village of Pepin, and for a fee to non-residents. Fishing is possible from a pier created by a crushed rock breakwater constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. There is parking space for about 50 vehicles within the marina compound. Public access is allowed to the breakwater.

Pepin Sportsmen's Landing

This facility is located just east of the marina, and provides a cement launch ramp with a paved parking area and a fish cleaning station. This is also owned by the Village, but the water is typically shallower, making it more difficult to launch larger boats from a trailer.

Fisherman's Parking Area

This area, located along STH 35 between the Chippewa River and the village of Pepin, is known as Swinger Slough. It is not formally developed but has parking for several vehicles adjacent to the highway.

City of Durand Boat Ramps

These two sites, both of which are located below the USH 10 bridge, together offer parking for over 16 vehicles with trailers.

Silver Birch Lake Boat Ramp

This area has a hard surface ramp, and some parking for vehicles and trailers.

Dead Lake Boat Ramp

Located off of CTH N along the backwaters of the Chippewa River.

Ella Boat Landing

This small site is located along CTH N on the Chippewa River.



Sportsmen's Landing in Village of Pepin

Stream Access Launch Sites/Parking

Most developed launch sites have parking areas where vehicles can remain overnight. Launch and pickup can be made at nearly any road crossing. Daytime roadside parking is allowed in most places if the vehicle is completely off the traveled portion of the road. Overnight roadside parking is discouraged for safety and security reasons; contact the County Sheriff's Office for information.

-SCHOOL PROPERTIES-

Public Schools

Lands owned by Public School Districts in Pepin County may be treated ambiguously in this plan. In some cases Public School outdoor recreation facilities are specialized in function for school purposes and are not available for general public use. In other cases, School Districts provide facilities that are available for general public use. This latter category of school lands is mentioned as appropriate in the community recreational inventories. When Public School-owned lands are available for general public use, they are also eligible for LAWCON and Wisconsin Stewardship funding provided the school district has adopted the outdoor recreation plan.

-COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION-

The strength of the outdoor recreation program in Pepin County can be gauged by the participation and enthusiasm of numerous local citizen groups and service clubs that create outdoor recreational opportunities and support governmental efforts at improving outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities. Listed below are some of these groups and events that help make outdoor experiences of all kinds.

- Durand Rod and Gun Club - Trap shooting
- Durand Sportsman's Club - River and stream improvements, youth fishing contest, shooting range
- Ducks Unlimited - Habitat improvements
- Lions Clubs - Farmers' Market in the Durand High School parking lot on summer Saturdays
- Arkansaw Fur, Fish, & Game - Park improvements, river & stream improvements
- Durand Improvement Group - Summer Festivals
- Laura Days Committee - Autumn Festival
- City of Durand - Summer swimming lessons
- Pepin Care Community Club
- Stockholm Merchants Association
- Town of Waterville
- Assumption Parish (Round Hill)
- Village of Pepin – swimming lessons, ice skating
- Village of Stockholm – summer festival
- Pepin Sportsmen Club – Fishing contest, Buck hunting contest
- Durand School District – Outdoor recreation curriculum
- Pepin School District – Outdoor recreation curriculum

-"ACTION PLANS"-

Action Item	Priority	Dates to be completed
Silver Birch/Holden Park		
• New Pavilion	High Priority	2015 - 2016
• Walking/hiking/skiing trails	High Priority	2015 - 2016
• Shoreline erosion control	High Priority/Ongoing basis	2015 - 2019
• Weed control in lake	Medium Priority/Ongoing basis	2015 - 2019
• Construct fishing cleaning station	Medium Priority	2016 - 2017
Chippewa River State Trail		
• Develop nature trail narrative plaques	Medium Priority	2015-2016
• Install ¼ mile markers, 14 th Ave. East to Bear Lake Bridge	Medium Priority	2015 - 2016
• Update/maintain/repair existing paving	High Priority	
Recreational Trail Development		
• Develop additional trails (hiking, nature, bridle, biking, railroading, etc.)	High Priority	2015 - 2016
Outdoor Recreation Education		
• Develop an outdoor recreation curriculum, activities and program in the schools	High Priority	2015 - 2016
• Continue/expand Conservation Field Days	Medium Priority/Ongoing	2015 - 2019
Arkansaw Creek Park		
• Install volleyball courts and horseshoe pits	Medium Priority	2015 - 2016
• Continue shoreline stabilization	Medium Priority/Ongoing	2015 - 2016
Ella Boat Landing		
• Add new toilet facilities	High Priority	2015 - 2016
Promote Outdoor Recreation		
• Design new promotional materials for hunting and fishing opportunities	Medium Priority	2016 – 2018
• Develop tour maps for public art galleries	Medium Priority	2016 – 2018
• Develop tour maps for historical points of interest and history museums	Medium Priority	2016 – 2018
• Redesign scenic drives/fall color guide	High Priority	2015 – 2016
• Redesign canoe/kayaking/tubing guide	Medium Priority	2016 – 2017
• Improve signage for State/Local recreational areas	Medium Priority	2016 – 2017
• Improve county website to better showcase the county's recreational opportunities	High Priority	2015 – 2016
• Develop marketing plan for advertising and distribution of county recreational information	High Priority	2015 – 2016
• Develop signage for inlets (access roads) to public hunting & fishing areas	High Priority	2015 - 2016
Dead Lake Boat Landing		
• Add new toilet facilities	High Priority	2015 - 2017
Chippewa River		
• Develop swimming beach, access and parking area	Medium Priority	2016 - 2019

Funding Options

Numerous grant programs for public recreation facilities and areas are available through state and federal offices as well as through private foundations. All the programs are available to counties, cities, villages, towns and recognized Native American tribal units, and in some cases public school districts, and non-profit organizations, if the land owned by them is open to the general public for outdoor recreation. A list and brief description of the programs follows:

Department of Natural Resources Administered Programs

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LAWCON)

The federally funded LAWCON program provides up to 50 percent matching grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Application Deadline: May 1
DNR Contact Phone Number: 608-267-0497

2. Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)

ADLP provides up to 50 percent matching grants to acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas.

Application Deadline: May 1
DNR Contact Phone Number: 608-267-0497

3. Urban Green Space Program (UGS)

UGS provides up to 50 percent matching grants to provide natural space within or near urban areas, protect scenic or ecological features, and, in some specialized cases, to provide for noncommercial gardening.

Application Deadline: May 1
DNR Contact Phone Number: 715-839-3751

4. Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)

This program provides up to 50 percent matching grants to acquire lands, or rights to lands, adjacent to urban rivers, for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or outdoor recreation activities.

Application Deadline: May 1
DNR Contact Phone Number: 715-839-3751

5. Recreation Boating Facilities Program (RBFP)

The RBFP provides funds for developing boat launch ramps, transient service piers or "courtesy docks", breakwaters, dredging, parking lots, sanitary facilities, and other structures that directly support recreational boating activities.

DNR Contact Phone Number: 608-266-5897

6. Urban Forestry Assistance Programs

This federally funded program administered through the DNR gives a 50 percent grant to communities to perform tree inventories, prepare urban forestry planting plans, tree disease and insect control plans, and public education efforts.

Application Deadline: July 1
DNR Contact Phone Number: 715-839-1606

7. Sport Fishing Restoration (SFR)

The program in part provides local communities with funding for public fishing access land acquisition and facilities such as launch ramps and fishing piers.

DNR Contact Phone Number: 715-839-3751

8. County Conservation Aids

This program provides state aids to counties for the primary purpose of improving fish and wildlife habitat on public lands.

DNR Contact Phone Number: 715-839-3751

9. Acquisition Of Development Rights Grants (ADR)

helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation

Application Deadline: May 1
DNR Contact Phone Number: 715-839-3751

Department of Transportation Administered Programs

1. Local Transportation Enhancements Program (TE)

The program provides 80 percent federal funding for activities related to transportation, all of which have direct outdoor recreation relevance (walkways, trails, rest areas, scenic easements, etc.).

DOT Contact Phone Number: 608-785-9043

2. National Scenic Byways Program

Authorizes funding for the development of the scenic byways program. The Great River Road is an example of a National scenic byway.

DOT Contact Phone Number: 608-266-0649

Private Foundations

1. Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc.

This non-profit organization develops, promotes, and funds education, restoration, and management programs related to Wisconsin's natural resources.

Foundation Contact Phone Number: 608-266-1430