



2022 - 2026



MONROE COUNTY
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



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A Message from the Monroe County Forestry and Parks Administrator

When the updates to Monroe County's 2022-2026 Outdoor Recreation Plan were first being considered early 2020, few could have predicted that the world was beginning to enter a global pandemic. Though this pandemic would, and as this is being written is, affecting the everyday lives of the citizens of Monroe County, it has also illustrated more than ever the importance of having outdoor recreation opportunities available to the public. Citizens and visitors being able to get outdoors has for many been a way that they have been able to cope with the stressors the pandemic has caused. Outdoor recreation aids citizens' physical health, as well as the health of the economy, as high-quality recreation opportunities attract visitors to Monroe County each year. Monroe 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 ideas, 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.

Chad Ziegler

Monroe County Forestry and Parks Administrator

Acknowledgements

The preparation of the Monroe County Outdoor Recreation Plan has been a community effort that has been taken over the last year. Without a variety of groups, both civic and governmental, as well as the participation of the public, this 2022-2026 Monroe County Outdoor Recreation Plan could not have been accomplished. Monroe County would like to thank and acknowledge the following entities for their help and guidance during this process.

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission

Monroe County Forestry and Parks Department

Monroe County Land Conservation Department

Monroe County Land Records Department

Monroe County Board of Supervisors

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee

Monroe County Economic Development and Tourism Committee

The Citizens of Monroe County

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INTRODUCTION

Outdoor Recreation in Monroe County

When the updates to Monroe County's 2022-2026 Outdoor Recreation Plan were first being considered, few could have predicted that the world was just beginning to enter a global pandemic. Though this pandemic would, and as this is being written is, affecting the everyday lives of the citizens of Monroe County, it has also illustrated more than ever the importance of having outdoor recreation opportunities available to the public. Outdoor recreation aids citizens' physical health, as well as the health of the economy, as high-quality recreation opportunities attract visitors to the County each year.

Monroe 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.

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), Recreational Trails Program (RTP), 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.



Lake from Castle Rock



McMullen Park

PRIORITY AREAS:

Monroe County's objective in preparing this Outdoor Recreation Plan is twofold; the 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 overview of existing outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities and also to provide an opportunity to view the entire County for future planning purposes. For a complete list of action items for 2022-2026, please [see page 43](#) for a comprehensive list of implementation priorities.

To accomplish this objective the following goals have been identified:

1. Provide a variety of inclusive outdoor recreation parks and facilities to meet the demand of Monroe County residents and visitors without adversely affecting existing natural and cultural resources.
2. Protect and enhance natural resources and water quality to sustain nature-based and water-related recreation throughout Monroe County.
3. Maintain and improve recreational facilities in a way that is efficient and economically feasible.
4. Encourage partnerships with local municipalities and the private sector to meet the growing public demand for recreational facilities in the face of limited public resources.
5. Coordinate with the Monroe County Economic Development and Tourism Committee to improve public awareness of the County's outdoor recreation facilities and to consider the economic impact of residents and tourists utilizing outdoor recreation facilities.
6. Promote outdoor recreation as a means to better public health and wellness.
7. Increase and improve public access to land and water by identifying opportunities to preserve land that protects natural resources and provides outdoor recreation benefits.
8. Update Monroe County Outdoor Recreation Plan every 5 years to re-evaluate goals and objectives and maintain eligibility for Federal and State grant programs.

The mission of the Monroe County Natural Resources and Extension committee is to manage, conserve, and protect our natural resources. The committee will facilitate wise, sustainable land use and outdoor recreation through information and education while supporting technical and financial assistance to landowners of Monroe County and encourage all residents of Monroe County to be stewards of our natural resources keeping in mind the generations to follow.

The mission of the Monroe County Economic Development and Tourism Committee is to grow Monroe County's economy through the coordination and promotion of its resources.

Both committees recognize the importance of the County's outdoor recreation resources and are supportive of providing and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the County.

County Overview

Monroe County is located in west central Wisconsin, with parts of the western portion within a 30-minute drive of the city of La Crosse. Interstate Highways 90 and 94 share a common roadway between Madison and Tomah, in the eastern part of Monroe County, at which point I-94 connects in a northerly direction to Eau Claire and the Minnesota Twin Cities, and I-90 connects westerly to La Crosse and southern Minnesota. The city of Tomah, and the entire County, use this highway oriented theme in their tourism promotion, "Where the I Divides."

Monroe County is 33.5 miles east-west at its widest part, and about 30.5 miles north-south at the tallest part. It is bordered on the north by Jackson County, the west by La Crosse County, on the south by Vernon County, and the east by Juneau County.

The Landscape

Monroe County lies within two physiographic provinces. That portion of the County to the east and north of U.S. Highway 12 is within the Central Sand Plain which consists generally of lowland with slightly variable relief, periodically spotted with "buttes" and "mesas." The remaining part of the County is located within the Western Upland region, consisting of high ridges and their associated steep-sided valleys, locally known as coulees; the result of thousands of years of water erosion and weathering. The entire County is a part of the Wisconsin Driftless Region, an area that was not covered by ice during glacial periods.

The Central Plain portion of Monroe County is the remnant of the glacial lakebed formed from meltwater, which when receded, left an impervious poorly drained soil. The area now covers approximately 300,000 acres and used to be known as the Great Swamp of central Wisconsin. It covers areas north and east of Tomah in Monroe County, and extends into Juneau, Jackson, and other central Wisconsin counties. It is characterized by marshy, or flat sandy land with red and jack pine and "scrub" oak trees. The major land use is publicly owned wildlife and forestry lands, and human built "flowages" or ponds, for the commercial growing of cranberries. Wisconsin has, in the last several years, held the national lead in cranberry production.

The Western Uplands region in the County is characterized by well-drained ridges and valleys and the County is the headwaters for several regionally important rivers. The headwaters of the La Crosse River rise in the north central part of the county, with the Little La Crosse joining it from the south near Sparta. Coon Creek, which enters into the Mississippi River several miles south of La Crosse, has the headwaters of its main stream in the southwest part of the county and the Kickapoo River rises in the south central portion. The Baraboo River's origin is in the southeast part of the county, and the Lemonweir and its main upper tributary the Little Lemonweir, begin in the marshes of the far northeast corner. The Black River, a state significant drainage system which originates far to the north, forms part of the county's northwestern border. Sand Creek, Clear Creek, and Big Creek drain the northwestern part of the county and flow into the Black River but Sand Creek and Clear Creek leave the county before joining the Black River.

Historically, land use in Monroe County has been directly related to using the resources of the land. From the early settlers in the 1850's to the present, much of the land in the county has been occupied by forest, farms, wetlands, and cranberry marshes. Cranberry growing is a unique agricultural resource and Monroe County is one of the major producing counties in a major cranberry state.
























PROPERTY INVENTORY

Monroe County Owned Parks and Recreation

The outdoor recreation industry is a vital part of the economy, nationwide and in Wisconsin. And as participation increases – an Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Survey found in May 2020 that 81% of Americans spent time outdoors since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 32.5% were participating in outdoor activities for the first time – “it will be increasingly important to support the industry and its partners in our backyard,” says Mary Monroe Brown, director of the Wisconsin Office 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. What follows is an inventory of nature-based recreational activities available in Monroe County owned parks and properties. “Nature-based” is defined in the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as “activities that are related to natural resources and where experiences are enhanced with higher quality natural habitats.”

Maps of outdoor recreation opportunities in Monroe County can be found in [Appendix B](#).

INVENTORY LEGEND:

	ADA Accessible		Playground Area		Historic Marker		Hiking
	Restrooms		Leashed Pet Area		Wildlife Viewing		Biking
	Campground		Boat Launch		Hunting		Snowshoeing
	RV Camping		Paddle Sports		Night Sky Viewing		Horse Trails
	Picnic Area		Swimming Area		Foraging		Snowmobiling
	Shelter		Fishing		ATV/UTV		



Wazeda Lake from Castle Rock

Angelo Wayside County Park

Intersection of Hwy 21 & County Hwy I
Sparta, WI 54656



Angelo Wayside is a day-use park situated along the shores of the Angelo Pond, one mile north of Sparta, Wisconsin in the unincorporated village of Angelo. The wayside has an acre of peaceful green space with a small sheltered seating area and picnic tables to enjoy the lake scenery. It has a boat launch, parking area and portable toilets. There's a mowed path from the entrance road to the La Crosse River to allow access for canoes and kayaks. Commonly seen wildlife include squirrels, Canada Geese and various species of ducks and other birds.



McMullen Memorial County Park

1704 Atlantic Rd
Warrens, WI 54666

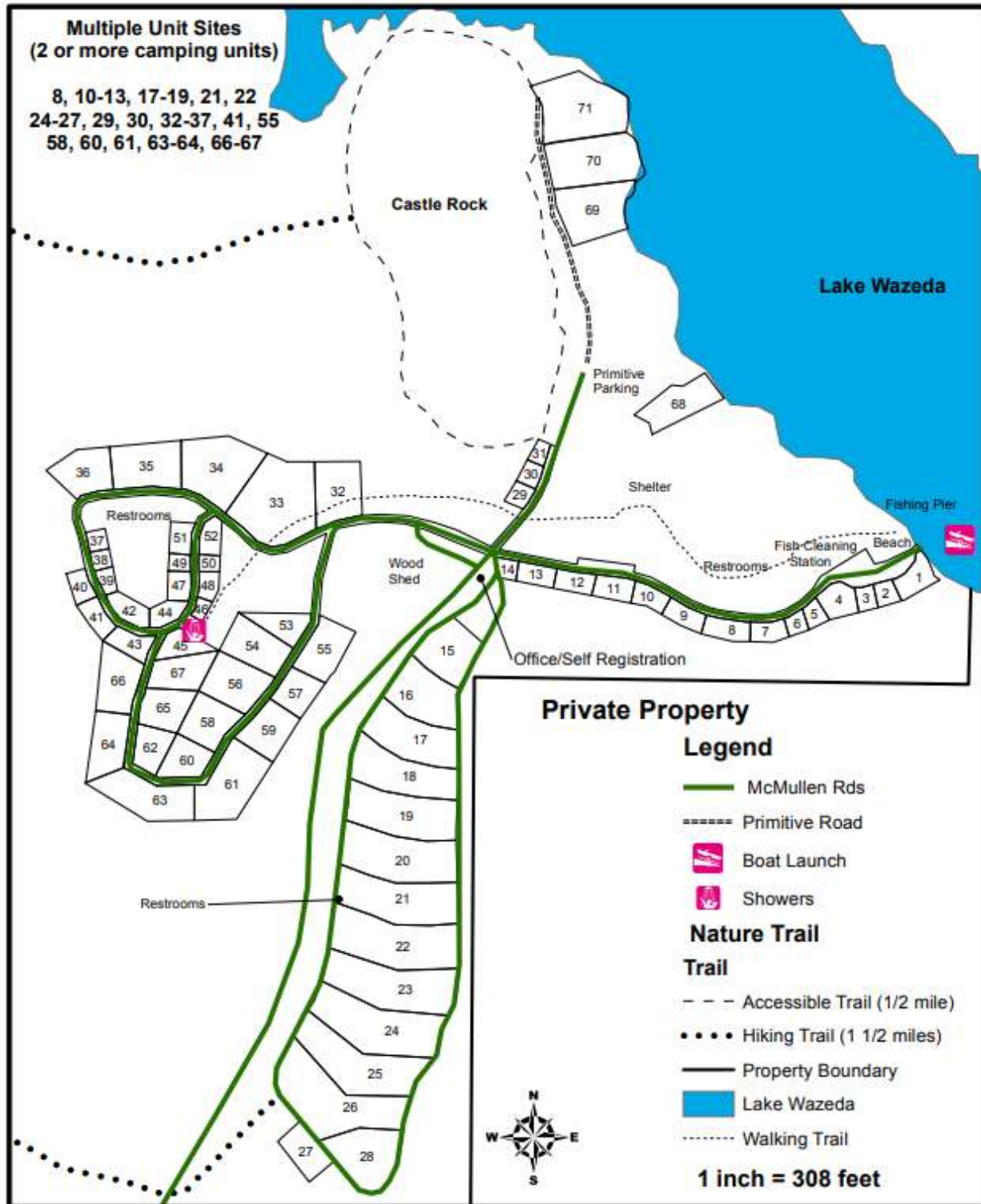


McMullen Memorial County Park is a 60 acre campground and day-use park surrounded by a thousand acres of County Forest Land. The park and campground is situated along the shores of Lake Wazeda, near Warrens, Wisconsin. Commonly seen wildlife include deer, turkeys, rabbits, squirrels, bear, and an occasional wolf.

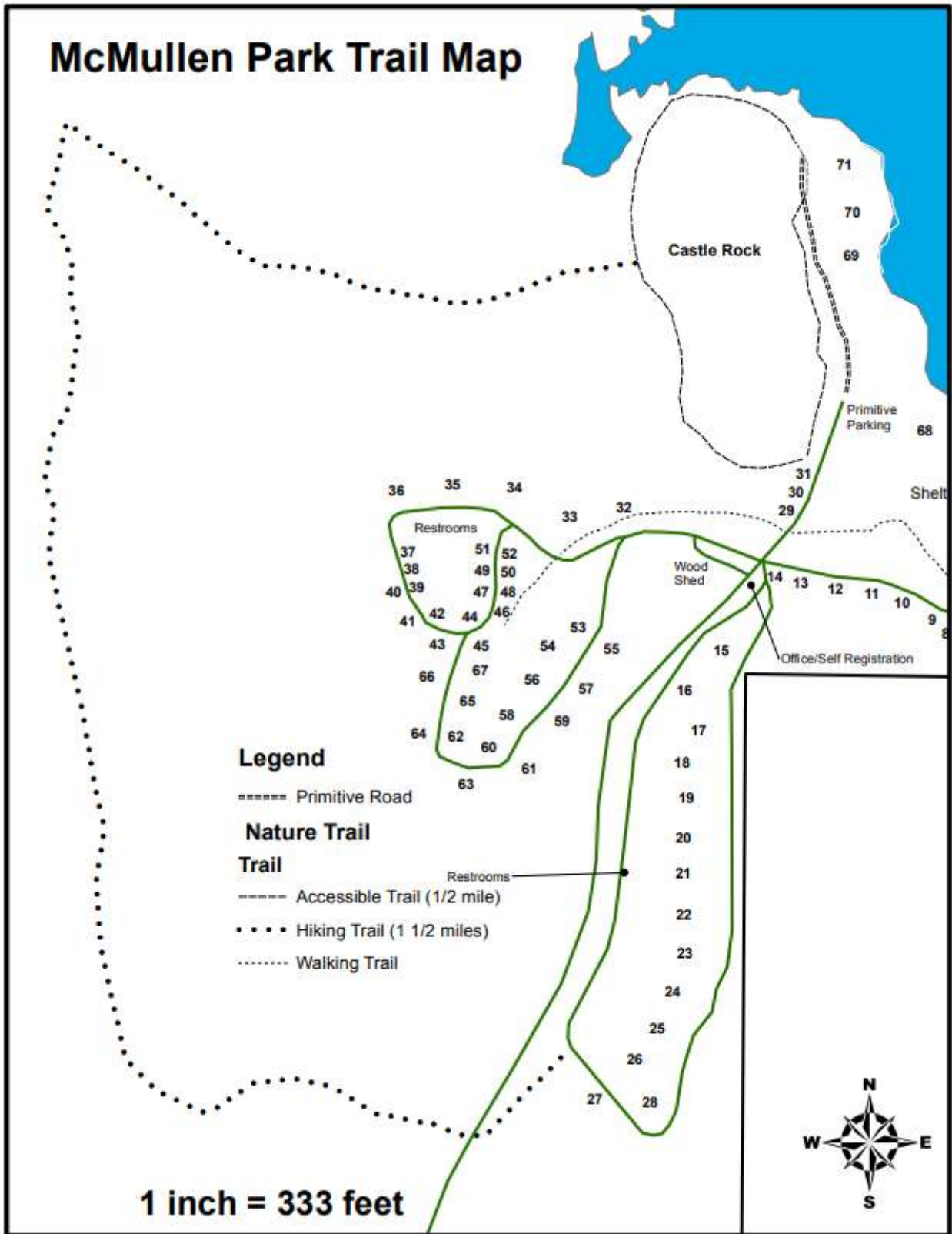
Mc Mullen Park has 67 campsites with water & electric hookups and 4 primitive campsites. The camp sites are spacious, forested sites that allow the campers to get back to nature. The park has a modern shower house/restroom facility, shelter, fish cleaning station, several vault toilets, boat landing (no gasoline powered engines), beach, 2 playgrounds, volleyball, horse shoes, and two hiking trails.



McMullen County Park Map



McMullen Park Trail Map



Monroe County Forest



The Monroe County Forest is 7,442 acres located primarily in the northern part of the county. Collectively, the Town of New Lyme, Town of Lincoln and the Town of Byron contain ninety percent of the County Forest Lands. Most of this land was acquired as tax delinquent lands in the early 1900's; in 1933 the county board approved the entry of County Forest Lands into the Forest Crop Law. These forest lands are predominately either well drained or poorly drained sandy soils with forest cover types of oak, white pine and red pine. The county forest is open to the public for regulated hunting, trapping and fishing, picnicking, hiking, snowmobiling, cross country skiing and wildlife viewing. Commonly seen wildlife include white tailed deer, turkeys, squirrels, grouse, woodcock, timber wolves, black bear, and Canada geese.



Tri-Creek Property

22004 Kingfisher Road
Norwalk, WI 54648



The Tri-Creek Property lies within the Township of Ridgeville, about a mile north of the Village of Norwalk in southern Monroe County. The property is approximately 868 acres with an additional 78 acre private property easement that was acquired by Monroe County for the purpose of constructing flood control structures. Moore Creek, is the main creek that flows approximately 2 miles through the property and is a major tributary of the Kickapoo River. A 23-acre impoundment is maintained by Monroe County and is accessible by a public boat launch on Kermit Avenue or a public access easement at the southwestern corner of the impoundment. The quantity of water resources (springs/seeps, wetlands and creeks) on this property make it a very unique property in the county.

The Tri-Creek Property is used by the Norwalk Rod and Gun Club and is also a popular fishing spot for locals and the Amish communities and is a popular rest stop for trail users from the Elroy-Sparta State Trail. There is also a snowmobile trail that runs through the property and connects to the Elroy-Sparta State Trail. The County is developing the Tri-Creek Land Use Plan which will propose additional outdoor recreation opportunities such as a non-motorized multi-use trail system, better public access, and environmental education opportunities.



Wegner Grotto County Park

7788 Daylight Rd
Sparta, WI 54656



There suddenly appears in the midst of the Monroe County countryside north of Sparta, an unusual sight - a fantastic garden of concrete sculpture decorated with thousands of glittering glass shards. Transforming ordinary materials into an ambitious series of patriotic and religious monuments, Paul and Matilda Wegner created a remarkable "Grotto."



The Wegner Grotto, known locally as the Glass Church, was owned by the Wegner family until purchased by the Kohler Foundation, Inc. in 1986 as part of its commitment to the documentation and preservation of significant outsider art environments and folk architecture. Restoration, funded by the foundation, included extensive structural stabilization and surface repair of the sculptures as well as landscape clearing to reestablish the environment. The site was gifted to Monroe County in September 1987 and is managed through the Monroe County Local History Room.

Restoration and preservation of this fragile site is ongoing. In 2006, the Wegner Grotto Endowment was established to ensure the long-term care and preservation of the Grotto. Generous contributions to the Wegner Grotto Endowment will help in the effort of preserving, maintaining, and enjoying the Wegner Grotto for years to come.

Experience the Artwork at Paul & Matilda Wegner Grotto County Park

OPEN MAY - SEPTEMBER DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS

- No Admission Fee
- Guided Tours available upon reservation



Coming Soon...Wyeville Park *(not official name)*

Wyeville Park (not official name) is a future park development in Monroe County. The County has entered into a purchase option agreement with Hi-Crush Operating, LLC to purchase 11 acres of land and water for public access to a 150 acre lake that is being created through a sand dredging operation. The park will be a day-use park situated along the shores of the lake, one and a half miles north of Wyeville, Wisconsin in the Town of Byron. The wayside will be approximately five acres with a restroom, boat launch, parking area, beach and shelter.

Open Space Properties

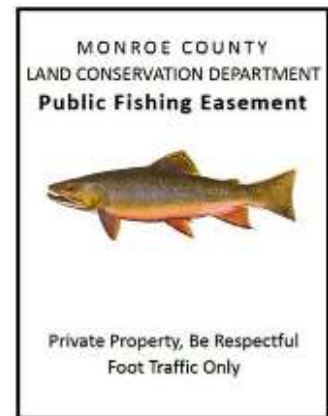
Monroe County acquired several properties along the Little La Crosse River as part of a voluntary buy-out program to remove structures from the flood plain and return the properties to open space. The open space properties will be owned and maintained by Monroe County (or another public entity or conservation organization) and are protected in perpetuity by deed restrictions. The County is developing an Open Space Management Plan that will propose improvements to provide public access to the river, nature-based outdoor recreation, and environmental education opportunities.

County Fishing Easements

The Monroe County Land Conservation Department started a fishing easement program in 1998 with the goal to protect and enhance cold water streams and foster a healthy fishery. The program provides more public access to streams for fishing opportunities. In exchange for the easements, landowners get funding assistance for stream restoration projects and free maintenance.

The easements are located throughout the county and can be located by roadside signage or online on the County's website:

<https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/fishing-easement>



FEDERAL OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Fort McCoy



Fort McCoy, a 60,000 acre military base, is open to hunting of both small game and deer, as the military training schedule allows. All hunters must have an appropriate Wisconsin license for the type of game being hunted. Seasons or bag limits may vary somewhat from the legal season or limits outside the Fort, depending upon the military training schedule and game populations. The Fort has a staff of professional biologists who cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources biologists.



A breakdown of what is available to the public in the Fort McCoy MWR Outdoor Recreation Program (Pine View Recreation Area) can be found below.

Pine View Campground

- 170 campsites
- 17 cabins
- Equipment Rentals **Must have Military ID (active, reserve, retired, civilian employee) to take equipment off-site
- Variety of campers – general public can use within Pine View Campground
- Supercookers (large propane grills)
- Tents and Canopies
- Variety of boats (Pontoons and fishing boats)
- Mountain Bikes, Peddle Carts
- Various other recreation items
- Playgrounds
- Pavilions and event area
- Outdoor sports (Volleyball, Basketball, Horseshoes, Shuffleboard)
- Watersports (paddleboards, Canoes, Kayaks, Peddle Boats)
- Beach with swimming area

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area

- Tubing and Ski/Snowboarding
- Cross Country and Snowshoeing Trails
- Rental Equipment
- Quick service snack bar
- Ten Point Pub (full service bar operation)
- Summer Activities on Weekends/Holidays (Bouncy Castles, Cornhole, Volleyball, etc)

Paintball and Laser Tag

- Located within Whitetail Ridge
- Multiple ranges (recreational and competitive)
- Tournaments scheduled throughout the summer
- Sportsman’s Range (trying to rejuvenate this program)
- Rifle and Handgun Ranges
- Skeet and Trap
- Competitions and Leagues planned in the future

Fort McCoy is currently focusing on the Whitetail Ridge Ski Area and growing their year round offerings to potentially include Summer Tubing, Downhill Mountain Biking, and other events when the ski/tubing area isn’t open.



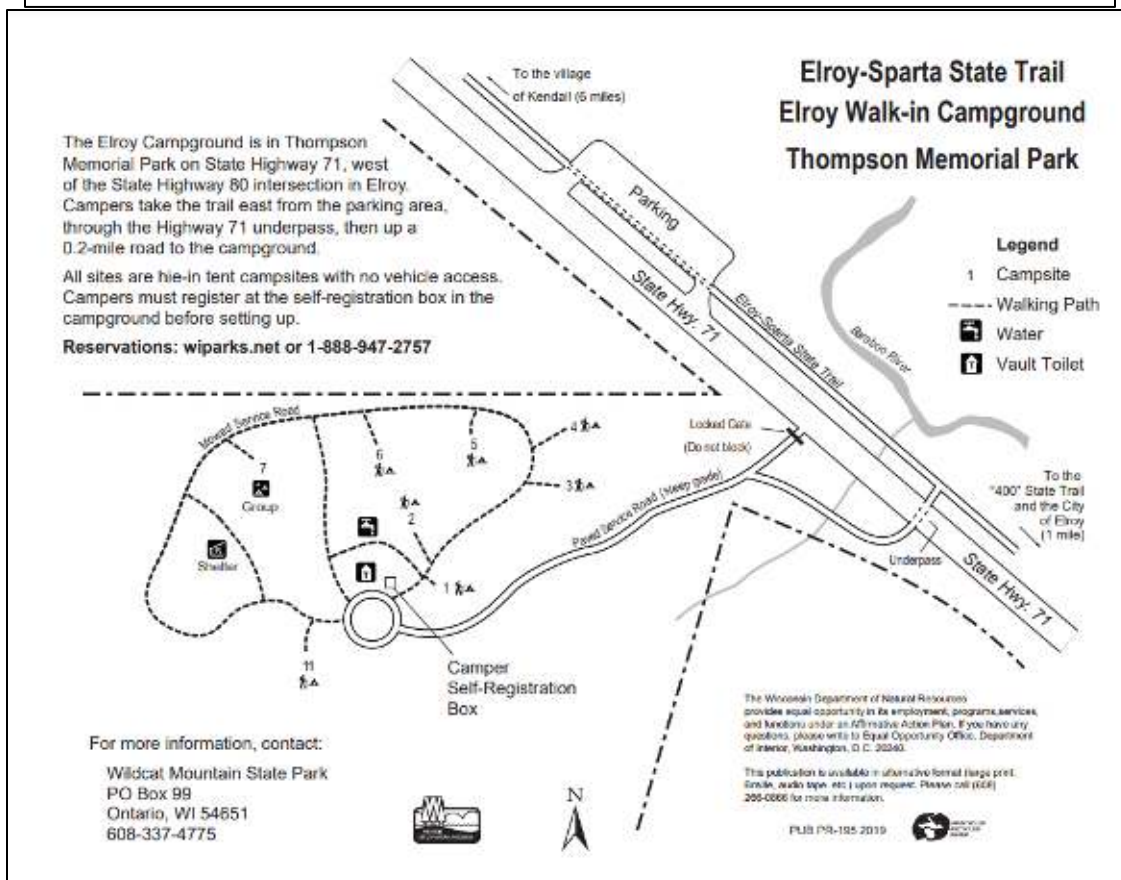
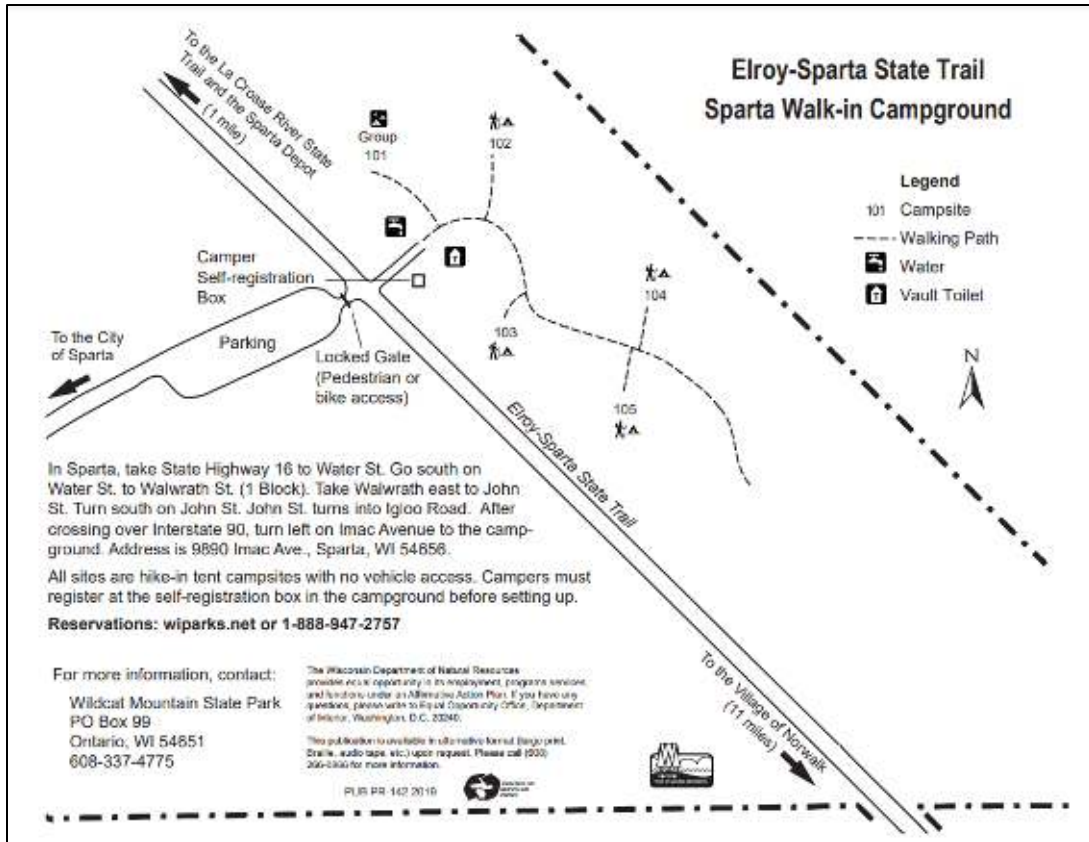
STATE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Elroy-Sparta State Trail



Considered the first rail-to-trail in the United States, the Elroy-Sparta State Trail remains one of the most popular trails in the country. With three rock tunnels and five small towns along its 32.5-mile route, the trail is a favorite Wisconsin bicycling destination. Traveling between Sparta and Elroy, the trail stretches through the communities of Norwalk, Wilton and Kendall, passing by wetlands, prairies, farmland and unglaciated areas.





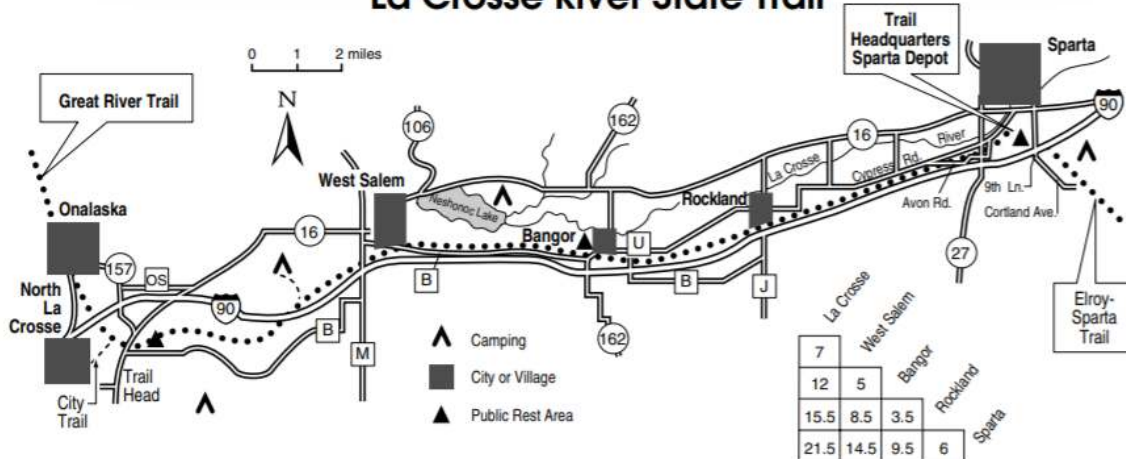
La Crosse River State Trail



The 22-mile La Crosse River State Trail has been developed from the abandoned Chicago and Northwestern Railroad between Sparta and La Crosse. The trail is open to walkers and bicyclists spring through fall and snowmobiles in winter. Packed-limestone screenings provide a smooth surface for bicycling. Mileage markers are posted every half mile on the 7-mile section between La Crosse and West Salem. The La Crosse River Trail is the connector of the Elroy-Sparta Trail and Great River Trail.



La Crosse River State Trail



Mill Bluff State Park



Part of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, Mill Bluff State Park offers a spectacular view of picturesque rock formations. Campsites, picnic areas, a shelter, hiking trails, and a swimming pond can all be found at this park just outside Camp Douglas. There are no bike trails at the park, but Juneau County's 15-mile-long Omaha Bike Trail can be reached from the park via County Highway W to County Highway C into Camp Douglas. The Omaha bike trail also connects to the Elroy-Sparta State Trail and 400 State Trail in Elroy.

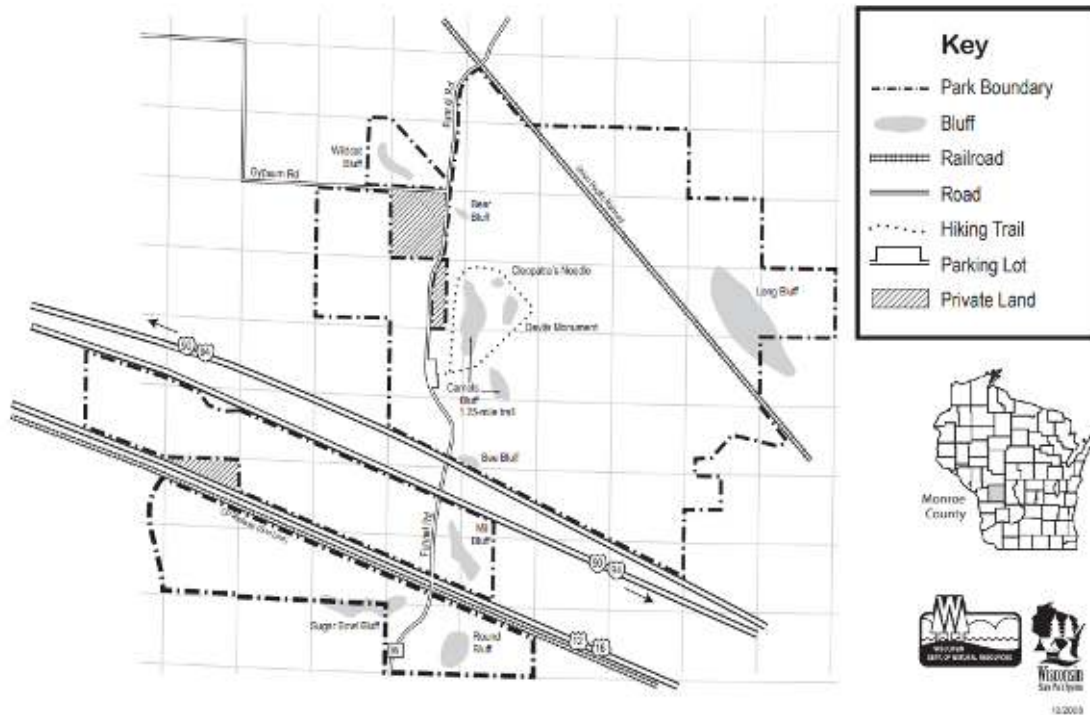


There are more than two miles of hiking trails at Mill Bluff offering views of the park's mesas, buttes, and pinnacles. Stairs lead to the top of Mill Bluff. Pets are permitted on the hiking trails and in campsites when on an 8-foot leash. Pets are not permitted on the nature trail or in the picnic and swimming areas. The nature trail begins at the far end of the east picnic area. This 0.4-mile-long trail is self-guiding. Hikers will learn about wildlife, trees, wildflowers and geology. Part of this trail is accessible for people with disabilities. A historical marker describes the geological features of the area. Pets are not permitted on the nature trail. In the mid-1930s, the Work Progress Administration (WPA) built 223 stone steps that lead to the top of Mill Bluff, where an observation deck on the north end offers an excellent view of the park and the surrounding area.

There are two picnic areas east and west of Funnel Road. Each has a shelter, picnic tables, grills, water, toilets, and parking. A pond with 2.5 acres of clear cool water from underground springs and 250 feet of white sand beach is available for public swimming. Changing stalls are also available. While Mill Bluff State Park is not staffed during the winter months, the park is still open. Visitors will often hike, snowshoe or cross-country ski in areas they are familiar with on marked trail systems. Trails are not groomed or maintained for winter use.



Mill Bluff State Park



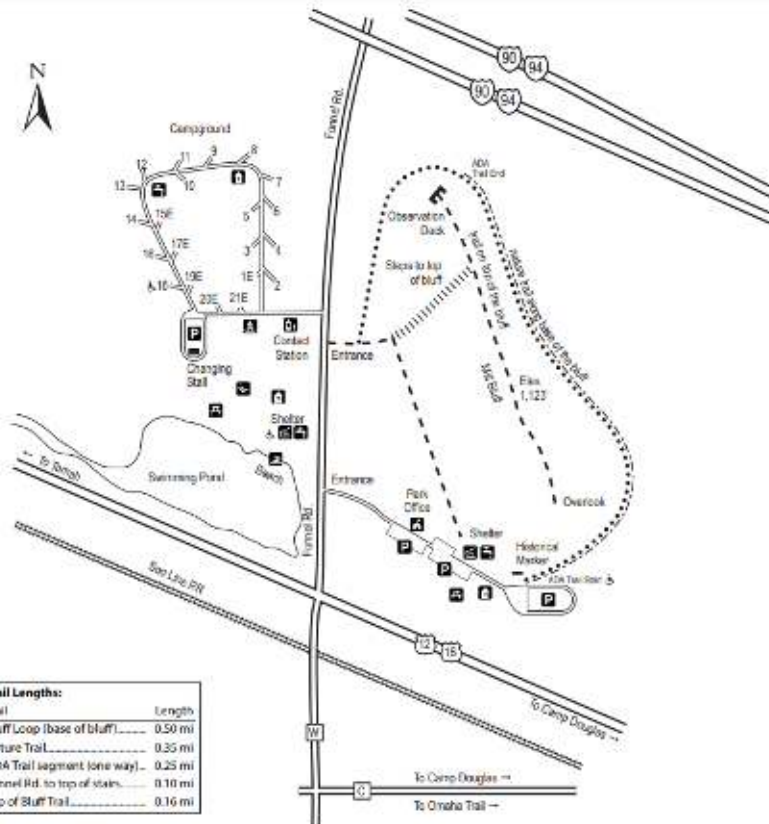
Mill Bluff State Park

A guide to the entrances to the campground, beach, shelters, overlook, office and picnic areas

Key

- Railroad
- Road
- Parking
- Hiking Trail
- Nature Trail
- ADA Trail segment of nature trail
- Vault Toilets
- Picnic Area
- Park Office
- Accessible
- Electric Campsite
- Water
- Playground
- Firewood

Trail	Length
Bluff Loop (base of bluff)	0.50 mi
Nature Trail	0.35 mi
ADA Trail segment (one way)	0.25 mi
Funnel Rd. to top of stairs	0.10 mi
Top of Bluff Trail	0.16 mi



State Lands

There are several State hunting areas in Monroe County. The largest area, 15,000 acres, is located in the northeastern corner of the county, as well as parts of neighboring Juneau and Jackson Counties. County forest lands, and a federal refuge adjoin the state refuge in these other counties, making an area of public lands in the Central Wisconsin Marsh of well over 100,000 acres open for hunting, and general hiking and nature study. There are five other State hunting areas, comprised of several parcels of land totaling about 2,700 acres.

Meadow Valley Wildlife Area

Meadow Valley Wildlife Area is a 58,000-acre property in central Wisconsin between Necedah and Babcock, about two hours north of Madison. It is 25 miles southwest of Wisconsin Rapids and 20 miles north of Mauston. Access can also be found 1 mile west of Babcock on Highway X. Meadow Valley Wildlife Area is attractive to hunters and trappers because of its remote landscape. In addition to excellent hunting, the size and diversity of the property provides opportunities for hiking, berry picking, bird watching and observing wildlife in a natural setting. Other public uses include photography, fishing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling (restricted to marked trails). Canoeing and boating are allowed; however, no motors are permitted on any waters within MVWA.

Monroe County Flowage

Monroe County Flowage is a 263 acre lake located within the Meadow Valley Wildlife Area in Monroe County. It has a maximum depth of 8 feet. Visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing. Fish include Panfish, Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike.

State Natural Areas

State Natural Areas (SNAs) are areas that are being preserved by the DNR to protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape. The DNR has designated 687 State Natural Areas encompassing 406,000 acres in the State; Monroe County has six of these designated sites within its boundaries. All six are open to the public year-round unless otherwise noted at the State Natural Area site. The following are allowable and prohibited activities. In general, the activities listed below are allowed on all DNR-owned SNA lands. Exceptions to this list of public uses, such as SNAs closed to hunting, are posted with signs on site.

Allowable activities:

- Hiking
- Fishing
- Cross country skiing
- Hunting
- Trapping
- Scientific research (permit remit required)
- Outdoor education
- Wild edibles
- Pets
- Wildlife viewing

Prohibited activities:

- Horseback riding
- Rock climbing

- Vehicles, including bicycles, ATVs, aircraft, and snowmobiles except on trails and roadways designated for their use
- Collecting of animals, non-edible fungi, rocks, minerals, fossils, archaeological artifacts, soil, downed wood, or any other natural material, alive or dead. Collecting for scientific research requires a permit issued by the DNR
- Collecting of plants including seeds, roots or other non-edible parts of herbaceous plants such as wildflowers or grasses
- Camping and campfires
- Geocaching

Eureka Maple Woods

Eureka Maple Woods lies on a steep, north-facing slope above Timber Coulee Creek, a tributary of Coon Creek. The forest is dominated by small to medium sized sugar maple and basswood, along with red oak, yellow birch, white ash and red elm. Large trees are uncommon. However, the herbaceous flora is exceptionally rich, containing such uncommon plants as squirrel corn, twinleaf, Goldie's fern, narrow-leaved spleenwort, walking fern, leafcup, and adam and eve orchid. Common mesic ground layer species are abundant, providing a tremendous springtime floral display. The shrub layer is also diverse with witch hazel, leatherwood, hazelnut, bladdernut, viburnums, and dogwoods. Bird species include several species sensitive to forest fragmentation such as ovenbird, yellow-throated vireo, American redstart, blue-gray gnatcatcher, and wood thrush. Soils are Norden loams thinly covering the steep slopes. Eureka Maple Woods is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1989.

Fort McCoy

Fort McCoy consists of two distinct sites: Silver Creek and Clear Creek. Both creeks are spring-fed, headwater riparian communities in pristine condition. Silver Creek is a fast, cold, hard water stream fed by two major springs that emanate from sandstone caves and seepages along its length. Sedges dominate the open areas along the creek with speckled alder and winterberry. Many rare and unique species are found here, including *Cladonia dimorphoclada*, a lichen previously unknown in this region. Clear Creek is a soft, alkaline stream with a sandy bottom. The narrow creek is fed by numerous seepages and numerous rare species occur within the area including an extensive population of Massachusetts fern (*Thelypteris simulata*). Fort McCoy SNA previously included a Barrens component. However, this unit was decommissioned in 2020. Fort McCoy is owned by the U.S Department of Defense and was designated a State Natural Area in 1990.

La Crosse River Trail Prairies

The La Crosse River Trail Prairie is situated in the Western Coulees and Ridges ecoregion of Wisconsin and features stretches of dry-mesic to dry prairie in a former railroad right-of-way. The long, linear remnants lie on a sandy terrace of the La Crosse River and are indicative of the once vast prairie and savanna complex that covered this portion of the state. The prairie flora is diverse with big and little blue-stem, Indian grass, and switch grass dominating. The drier Monroe County remnant includes species such as white wild indigo, cream wild indigo, white and purple prairie clover, lead-plant, prairie bush-clover, plains larkspur, pasqueflower, prairie coreopsis, stiff cinquefoil, sky blue and silky aster, thimbleweed, and more. The La Crosse County segment is more mesic with a different assemblage of species including heath aster, compass plant, stiff and showy goldenrod, and New Jersey tea. A few wet pockets also exist with cat-tail, sedges, prairie cord grass, cup plant and Canada milk-vetch. Scattered along the right-of-way are young bur oak openings and small sand blows being stabilized by false heather. The La Crosse River Trail Prairie is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1983.

Mill Bluff

Mill Bluff State Natural Area features a number of spectacular Cambrian sandstone mesas, buttes, and pinnacles that rise above the level bed of an extinct glacial lake. Long Bluff, Ragged Rock, Wildcat Bluff, Bear Bluff, Devil's Monument, Camel's Bluff, Mill Bluff, and Round Bluff are all included within the site. Many of the area bluffs contain 6-12 inches long petroglyphs (rock carvings) that are shaped like bird tracks. Similar to the petroglyphs found 25 miles east in Roche-A-Cri State Park, they date back to Upper Mississippi Indian culture about 400 years ago. The dominant plant community is a xeric forest composed primarily of Hill's oak, Jack pine, red pine, white pine, and white oak. Associated trees include big-tooth aspen, black cherry, red oak, paper birch, and red maple. Many of the sandstone outcroppings contain large red pine. On Long Bluff, the dominance of different trees varies according to aspect with oak and pine more prevalent on the western and southern exposures while red maple is more common on the east side of the bluff, especially on the lower slopes. Low shrubs including early low blueberry, huckleberry, sweet gale, plus bracken fern and Pennsylvania sedge characterize the groundlayer. A few prairie and barrens plant species are present especially on the flats at the base of the bluff's west end. Plants include big blue-stem, little blue-stem, Indian grass, wild lupine, lyre-leaved rock cress, bird's-foot violet, and common rock-rose. Birds include turkey vulture, wood thrush, rufous-sided towhee, eastern wood pewee, ovenbird, yellow-throated vireo and clay-colored and vesper sparrows. Mill Bluff is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 2002.

Portland Maples

Portland Maples features two small, but ecologically significant, tracts of southern mesic forest -- a community type that was once wide-spread in this region of Wisconsin. The northeast-facing slope supports a forest dominated by sugar maple. Also present are basswood, red oak, yellowbud hickory, and white ash. The subcanopy consists of sugar maple, ironwood, and eastern hop-hornbeam. The sparse shrub layer contains elderberry, bladdernut, leatherwood, and hazelnut while the groundlayer contains such species as goldenseal, narrow-leaved spleenwort, and Goldie's fern. Other species include lady, rattlesnake and walking ferns, wild leek, bishop's-cap, red baneberry, nodding wake-robin, wild sarsaparilla, bloodroot, and great water-leaf. Along the creek is a floodplain forest of cottonwood, black willow, and American elm along with mesic forest species including black maple. Birds include scarlet tanager and ovenbird. Portland Maples is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 2002.

Sand Creek Pines

The primary feature of Sand Creek Pines is the undeveloped mile-long corridor containing Sand Creek, a cold, fast, sandy bottom soft water stream that supports native brook trout. An alder thicket borders the stream with fen-like seepages along its banks with angelica, purple avens, swamp aster, common rush, and skunk cabbage. Beds of Canadian waterweed are common in the stream. White pine is dominant on the north-facing slopes with red pine locally abundant as naturally occurring groves. Jack pine, oaks, and red maple are also present. The level uplands away from the stream are a mix of overgrown Jack pine-oak barrens with red cedar, pine plantations, and old field. The understory is dense with prickly-ash, and hazelnut. Scattered prairie species are found in areas with an open understory with such plants as prairie dropseed, Indian grass, prairie larkspur, lead-plant, smooth blue aster, short green milkweed, cream wild indigo, and sand evening-primrose. The feeder creek, Cascade Creek, has a 10-foot high cascading sandstone waterfall. The forest is more mesic here with second-growth red maple, basswood, bitternut hickory, and herbs such as maidenhair fern, yellow blue-bead-lily, and bishop's cap. Two rare plants are present on the steep sandy bluffs on the north side of Sand Creek. Also present are big blue-

stem, poverty grass, butterfly weed, showy goldenrod, field goldenrod, hairy goldenrod, and bracken fern. Sand Creek Pines is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 2002.

State Fishery Areas

The state's first land purchase for conservation occurred in 1876 when 40 acres were purchased south of Madison for the Nevin Fish Hatchery. More recently fishery projects that meet both habitat and public use need have broadened in scope to include lands adjacent to streams and lakes. These lands protect the watershed, and provide for compatible recreational uses such as hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Fishery areas along streams, rivers, and lakes protect water quality by reducing erosion and run-off and improve habitat and fishing opportunities. Monroe County has 14 State Fishery Areas in the County. They include: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lands/FisheriesAreas/county.html#MONROE>

- Big Creek Fishery Area
- Cataract Pond Public Access
- Coon Creek Fishery Area
- Farmers Valley Creek
- Kickapoo River Fishery Area
- La Crosse Area Comprehensive Fishery Area
- La Crosse River Fishery Area
- Little La Crosse River
- Mill Creek Fishery Area
- Pinnacle Rock Pond
- Rathbone Creek
- Rullands Coulee Creek
- Sand Creek Stream Bank Protection
- Soper Creek
- Spencer Creek

Mississippi Valley Conservancy

Wilton Hemlocks

This 89.14-acre property is Mississippi Valley Conservancy's first nature preserve in Monroe County. It is located at 25690 Hwy 131 in Wilton. The site was protected for its nearly half-mile stretch of the meandering Kickapoo River, diverse sedge meadows and forested seeps, alder thickets, hemlock relict, and oak forest.

Hemlock relict is considered an ecological gem that is unique to this area and is considered an imperiled habitat worldwide. Hemlock trees 150 to 200 years old grow above the river, which is flanked by conifer-clad sandstone cliffs, springs and seeps. Wilton Hemlocks is one of the Conservancy's best sites for early spring wildflowers, with the woodlands carpeted in pink spring beauties and false mermaid weed, and the wetlands with marsh marigold, swamp saxifrage, and skunk cabbage. The bird-life is exceptional and is within one of the "priority blocks" within the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas.

The Wilton Hemlocks property was generously donated to the Conservancy by Eric and Inese Epstein for education, research and multi-faceted opportunities for enjoyment of the natural world for future generations to enjoy. The property is open to the public for hiking, bird-watching, nature photography, fishing, canoeing, and snow-shoeing.

School Properties and Quasi-Public Facilities

Four public school districts own a total of 400 acres of forestland in Monroe County, primarily for the purpose of biology and conservation education. In addition Monroe County owns approximately 100 acres classed as "Community Forest", primarily as a demonstration or outdoor education classroom. There are 10 acres in the Town of Lincoln owned by the Boy Scouts also classed as a community forest. Hunting is not the primary purpose on any of these parcels, and depending upon individual school or other owners' policy, may not be permitted at all. Before entering these lands for hunting permission must be received.

There are eight known "rod and gun", or sportsmen clubs headquartered in Monroe County, and five of them own land totaling 194.5 acres. One of the main purposes of these clubs is to provide hunting land for their members. Non-members must not assume these lands are open for general public hunting, but rather should ask the individual club to determine entry privileges. A map of rod and gun club location can be found in [Appendix B](#).

RECREATIONAL DEMAND

Statewide

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 several 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.

According to the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (<https://recreationroundtable.org/impact/>):

“The outdoor recreation industry does more than bring joy to millions of Americans: It helps drive our economy. In 2018, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) included outdoor recreation in its calculations of U.S. GDP for the very first time—a significant step that formally recognizes the critical role the industry plays in supporting economic growth in the United States. In addition, the BEA found that the outdoor recreation industry is growing rapidly, eclipsing the average increase in overall U.S. GDP. Outdoor recreation is also a major generator of quality American jobs in industries ranging from manufacturing to retail to tourism. These jobs can be found from coast to coast and play a critical role in the economic health of local and state economies.”

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. The County’s median age increased 1.5 years since 2010. As people age, recreation activities they participate in may change. The changes in family structure (an increase in single parent families) also changes recreation choices.



Whitetail Ridge Ski Area

POPULAR RECREATION
ACTIVITIES IN WHICH
RESPONDENTS TO THE STATE
SURVEY PARTICIPATE

Bicycling – paved trails

Bicycling – mountain biking,
single track

Bicycling – winter/fat tire

Camping – tent

Canoeing/kayaking

Cross-country
skiing/snowshoeing

***Fishing – from a boat, canoe, or
kayak***

Fishing – from shore

***Harvesting berries, mushrooms,
etc.***

***Hiking, walking, running on
trails***

Swimming

Wildlife/bird watching

For guidance on the demand for recreational outdoor activities, a review of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023 was conducted. During the development of SCORP, numerous Wisconsin residents were questioned as to how often they participate in various recreation activities. Data is collected at 8 regional levels; Monroe County lies in the Mississippi River Corridor. The box to the left indicates the most popular recreation activities in the State with activities bolded and italicized indicating the top activities in the Mississippi River Corridor Region.

Favorite Places to Visit Based on Public Input

Of the people providing input, the majority (67%) selected the quality of trails as one of the top four most important factors in determining their favorite property to visit. This is expected, given that many respondents noted their participation in a variety of motorized and non-motorized activities. The following were the next three important factors to determine favorable places to visit:

1. Desire to be in a quiet place
2. Maps, signs, or information about the property
3. The quality of the habitat

Wisconsinites have historically participated in outdoor recreation at higher rates than the national average. The table to the left shows participation rates of Wisconsin residents for general groupings of nature-based recreation activities. For

comparison, 46% of Wisconsin residents participated in ball sports (golf, tennis, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, and handball).

77% of respondents to the SCORP believe more outdoor recreational opportunities are needed in the Mississippi River Corridor Region. The opportunity that was most frequently selected as needed in the Mississippi River Corridor Region was more trails for hiking, walking, or running, which was selected by nearly half of respondents.

The Mississippi River Corridor Region is a unique setting lending itself well to various types of outdoor recreation. Trout fishermen are drawn from throughout the Midwest to the many streams draining to the Mississippi River. These same rivers attract paddlers and bluffs are attractive to mountain bikers. The area provides exceptional habitat for many game species, especially deer and turkey. The river is a migratory bird flyway which attracts waterfowl hunters during the fall migration as countless birds make their way south. The bluffs are also home to rare plant species and natural communities. With the abundance of nature, this area offers countless avenues to be explored.

Communities in this region are partnering with local citizen groups, raising funds, and developing parks, trails, and accesses to waterways, attracting visitors year-round. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) was enacted by Congress in 1965 “to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States” through outdoor recreation. From 1965 to 2017, Monroe County has been awarded \$295,229 by LWCF and has been used for 20 projects.

According to Spending Potential Index, based on Esri forecast for 2021 and 2026, Monroe County residents spend more money per year on playground equipment, payments on boats/trailers/RVs, and water sports equipment than the national average. The MPI (Market potential Index), which measures the likelihood of adult spending behaviors based on purchasing patterns, is another indicator used by Esri to predict spending patterns in a region from 2021 to 2026. Based on these projections, Monroe County residents participate approximately 50% more in freshwater fishing, rifle and shotgun hunting, and motorcycling than the national average.

Statewide Needs

Based on the 2019-2023 SCORP, the Mississippi River Corridor Region rates recreational activities as high, medium, or low relative to needs of the region. The groupings are as follows:

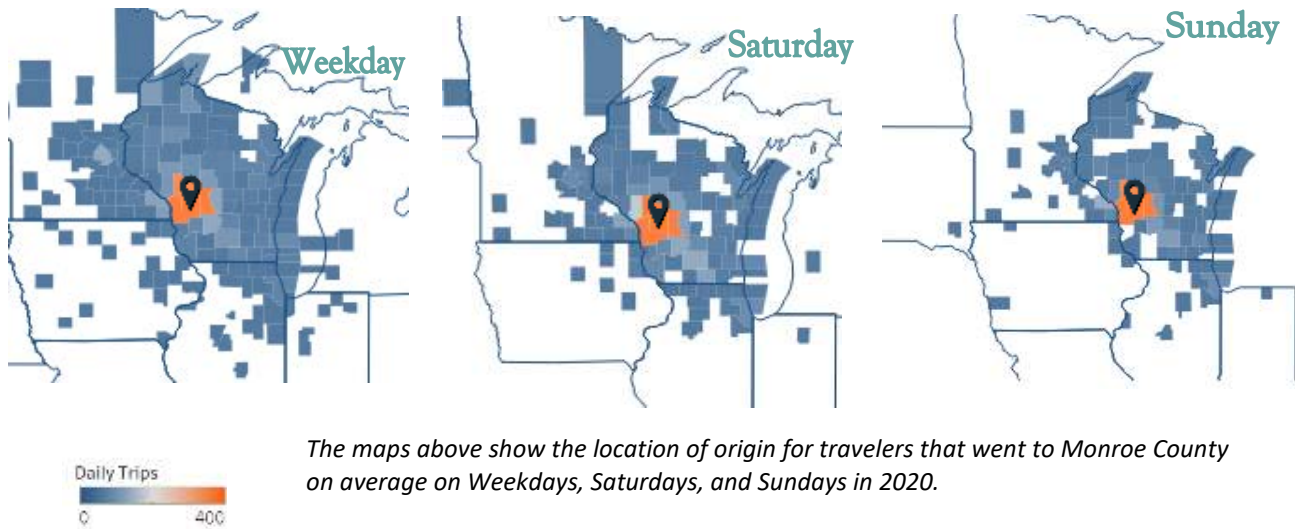
Future Recreation Needs – High	Future Recreation Needs – Medium	Future Recreation Needs – Low
Bicycling – touring/road riding	ATV/UTV riding	Dog sledding/ skijoring
Bicycling – mountain/off road	Bicycling – fat tire/snow	Dog training
Bird or wildlife watching	Fishing – lake from shore	Dog Trialing
Camping – developed	Fishing – ice fishing	Geocaching
Camping – primitive	Four-wheel vehicle driving	Off-highway motorcycle riding
Canoeing or kayaking	Horseback riding	Rock climbing
Cross Country Skiing	Horse cart driving	Sailing, windsurfing, rowing, etc.
Dog Walking	Hunting – migratory birds	Snowmobiling
Fishing – lake from vessel	Hunting – small game	Scuba diving/snorkeling
Fishing – river from vessel	Hunting – turkey	Whitewater rafting
Fishing – stream or shore wading	Motorboating (waterski, tubing)	
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	Swimming in lakes and rivers	
Hiking, walking, trail running	Target shooting – archery	
Hunting – big game	Target shooting – firearms	
Nature photography	Trapping	
Nature based education programs		
Picnicking		
Snowshoeing		
Visit a beach, beach walking		

Travel Patterns

Cambridge Systematics, Inc. partnered with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) in 2020 to analyze travel patterns in our region. Based on this study, on a weekday in Monroe

County there is an average of 37,000 trips per day from a home location to a non-work location. These non-work locations can relate to outdoor recreation and errands a typical family may take on a given day. On Saturdays this number jumps to an average of 44,000 trips and 22,000 on Sundays. Approximately 40% of these trips were over 10 miles in length. 20% of these trips were over 25 miles in length. The peak travel times were from 10 am to 3 pm on weekdays and weekends.

Saturday and Sunday Travel Patterns, 2020



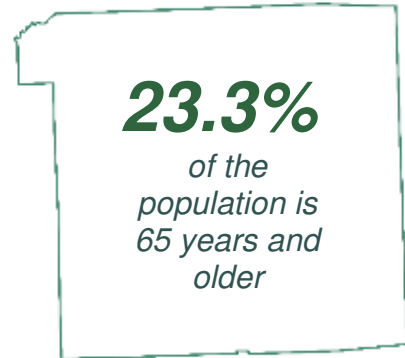
The maps above show the location of origin for travelers that went to Monroe County on average on Weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays in 2020.

Based on this sample analysis, we see a high proportion of individuals traveling to Monroe County residing in surrounding counties. Weekdays see the highest disbursement of visitors from surrounding areas for non-work-related travel. Sundays have the least disbursed number of visitors traveling to the County with a smaller area of origin.

POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHICS, EDUCATION, & ECONOMY

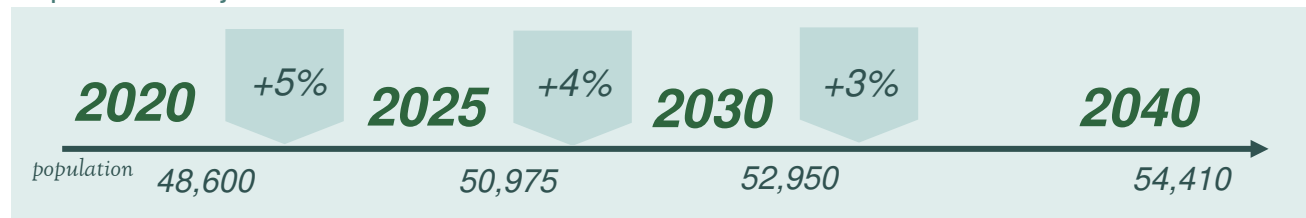
Population

The population of Monroe County has increased 11.9% between 2000 and 2019. The 2000 Decennial Census recorded a population of 40,896, an 11.6 percent increase from 1990. Projections made by the Wisconsin Department of Administration indicate that the County will continue to grow and will increase 5% from the 2020 population by the year 2030. The projected growth in population will place more demands on outdoor recreation facilities and increases the need for an updated outdoor recreation plan. The population is split evenly between people living in incorporated communities and unincorporated towns.

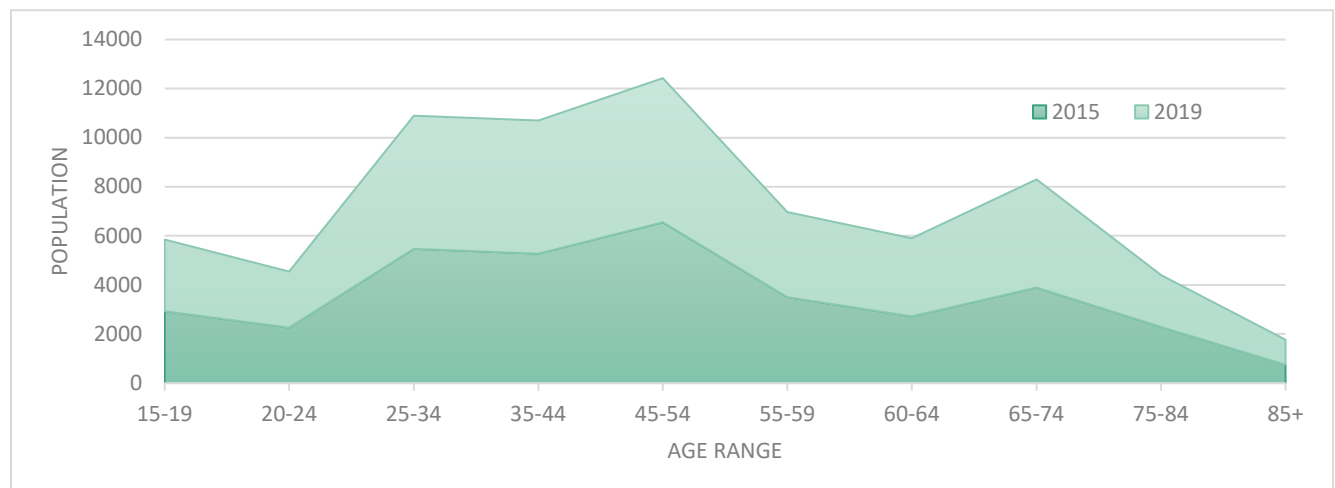


Monroe County, according to the 2015 American Community Survey 5 year estimates, had a median age of 38.3 in 2010, 39.3 in 2015, and 39.9 in 2019. This is an increase of 1.6 years since 2000. The County's percentage of population 65 years and older in 2019 was 23.3%, this figure is higher than the State's percentage which, was 13.8% and the Nation's which was 13.1%. Both of these figures indicate a trend of the County has an aging population which will change the outdoor recreation needs and demands for the County.

Population Projections:

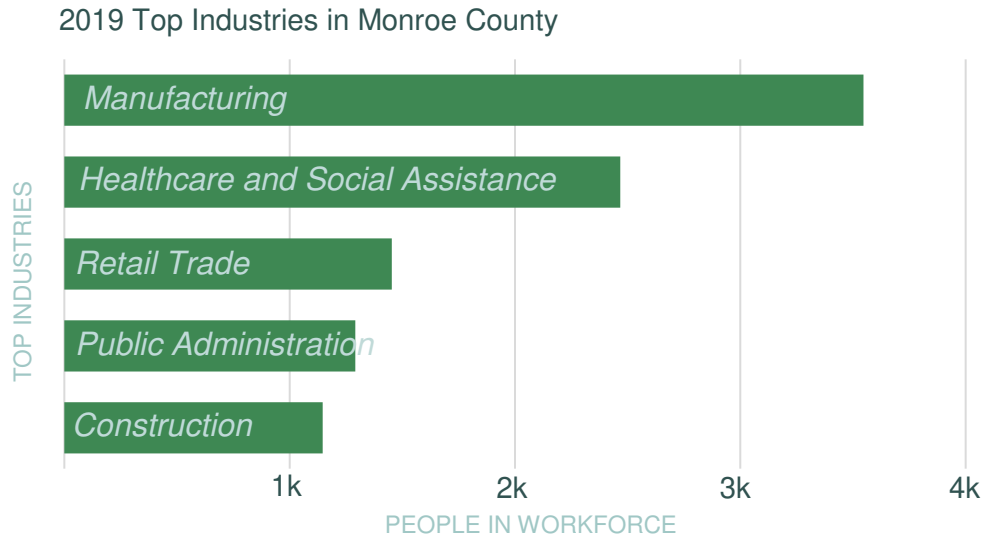


Monroe County's Age Distribution:



Household Income

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimate Monroe County's median household income was \$59,587. This amount is 3.6% lower than the state's average of \$61,747 and 5.5% lower than the National average of \$62,843. The Town of New Lyme had the highest median household income at \$96,111 and the Town of Scott had the lowest at \$33,750. Of the 35 Towns, Villages and Cities within the County 14 had a lower median household income than the County average and 21 had a higher income.



Rural/Urban Distribution

According to the 2010 Census, Monroe County had 57.7% of its population living in rural areas and 42.3% living in urban clusters. This movement of people will have an impact on the access and number of public lands for recreation purposes. The small lot urban dweller, whether it is a city of 2,000 or a village of 200, 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. As more people move to the incorporated communities and rural areas 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,



Sparta Fishing

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.

Monroe County is a rural County and farming is a major part of the landscape. The past 5 decades has seen a decline in the number of farms and the number of acres in farming within the County. In 1970 there were 2,160 farms with a total of 431,000 acres in the County. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, from 2012 to 2017 there was a 19% decline in the number of farms in the County with an 11% reduction in acreage in farms. The number of farms in 2017 was 1,555 which includes 300,659 acres with an average size of 193 acres. The average farm size has increased in acres 10% from 2012.

TOPOGRAPHY, WATER RESOURCES, & CLIMATE



Elroy-Sparta State Trail Snowmobiling

County Overview

Visitors or tourists to Monroe County have long been recognized as an important economic component. Clearly, many of the state and privately owned outdoor recreation facilities have a design capacity to serve nonresident visitors. This same nonresident demand must be considered in local park planning as well because Monroe County has several unique geographic and cultural factors that give the county an important tourist and visitor rate.

Monroe County remains a premier bicycling County, with one of the nation's oldest and more famous "rails to trails" bike trails, the Elroy-Sparta State Trail lying almost entirely within the County, and the newer La Crosse River Trail, having one terminus in the county, at Sparta. This trail system serves tens of thousands of users annually, most of whom are visitors rather than County residents. These people come to the County specifically for a unique outdoor recreation experience and frequently use other outdoor facilities such as local community parks or campgrounds as part of their visit.

Thousands of men and women take their two week military reserve training at Fort McCoy in any year and many return to the county with their families for vacation. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Tomah, Volk Field - another military facility immediately adjacent to Monroe County, and Wildcat Mountain State Park just outside the County, also attract an above average amount of visitors, some of whom come originally or return specifically for the purpose of outdoor recreation. The passage of two Interstate Highways through the county brings a lot of casual or transient visitors, at least some of whom make use of off-highway outdoor recreation facilities.

Landscape

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue 2021 Final Statement of Assessment indicated that there was 582,558 total land acres in Monroe County. Of this amount, 242,659 acres or 42 percent of the total County acreage was assessed as agriculture. The second largest land use



Biking Elroy-Sparta State Trail

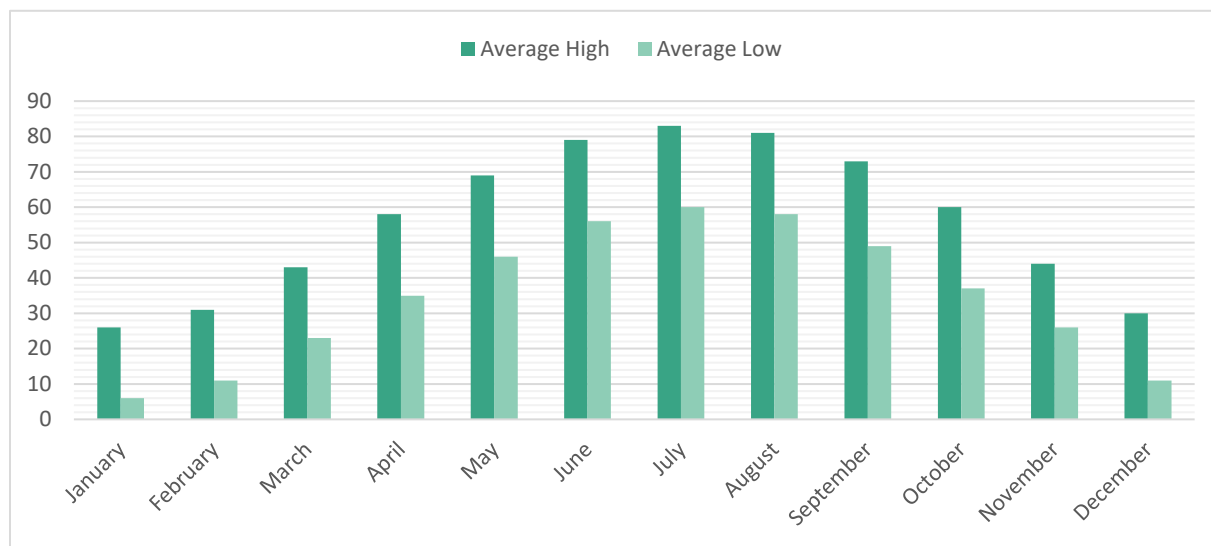
category in the County is Agricultural Forest with 65,132 acres or 11% of the total acreage. The forests of the County are located in a patchwork fashion on the steeper slopes and on lighter soils not suitable for crop fields or pasture. These lands, which are mostly in small private non-industrial holdings, are valuable for the commercial timber crop as well as for wildlife and watershed conservation purposes and their contribution to the overall scenic attributes of the County. 7,442 acres are County Forest land, accounting for 1.2% of land in the County.

Also important are the approximately 532 miles of named and unnamed rivers and streams, about 205 miles of which provide a trout fishery resource. The largely unglaciated topography of Monroe County has not blessed the county with natural non-riverine lakes, but a combination of natural and human created lakes and ponds give about 2,000 acres in this "slack water" resource, with six of the lakes being managed for trout fishery.

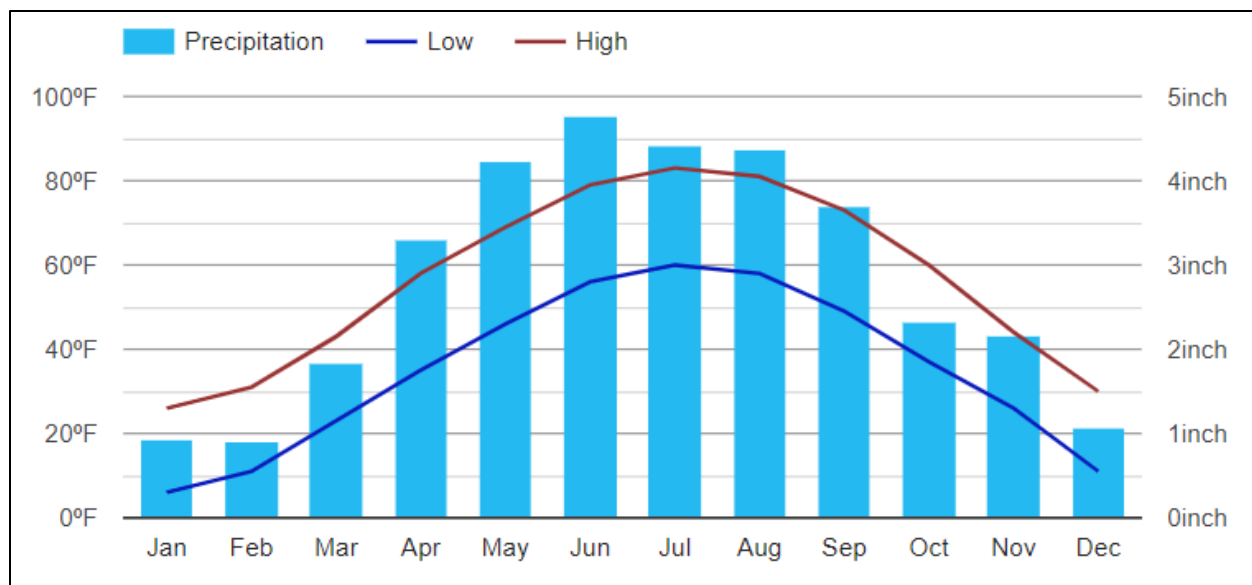
Siltation and continuous water turbidity have affected the quality of facilities and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Many sloughs, ponds, and marshes have filled with silt, resulting in undesirable boat launch sites, hazardous pleasure boating, and decreased habitat for waterfowl and fish. This "non-point" pollution consisting of soil run-off from farms, construction projects, and other disturbed soil; and animal wastes from inadequately protected farms and home septic systems is often not recognized by the public as a significant cause of water quality degradation, especially in urbanized Monroe County.

Point-source pollution is perhaps the better known, and relatively easier controlled situation. Municipal and industrial sewage and storm sewer out-falls sometimes contaminate the river water. This reduces, or prohibits use for swimming, water contact sports, and generally degrades the outdoor recreational experience. Watershed planning and adherence to the plan, will, over time, help make the rivers and lakes of Monroe County cleaner and more enjoyable for outdoor recreation use. Monroe County's land and water resources provide excellent habitat for wildlife resources. Deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, gray and fox squirrels, and waterfowl are the most important game species in Monroe County. Upland game hunting is excellent on wooded, brushy uplands and along wooded and brushy portions of streams and rivers. There are abundant areas, which have excellent waterfowl hunting. Trapping is possible due to the large populations of furbearers. Trout are found in many streams and in three man-made lakes, and the major rivers provide a variety of warm water fish.

Climate and Extreme Weather



Outdoor recreation in Monroe County can be highly dependent on the season. Monroe County has seasonal variations in temperature and precipitation with changing weather patterns. The graphs below show annual precipitation data and monthly average temperatures from the National Weather Service for Sparta, WI. Changes in seasonal patterns leading to more extreme weather events are causing milder winters, hotter summers, and wetter springs. Snow cover is disappearing earlier in the spring causing snow covered areas to shrink in recent years. This early snowmelt can increase risks for flooding and shorten the winter sports season. It can also increase spring rain season leading to soggy ground, impacting trail areas and maintenance. An increase in 90 degree and above days increases the risk of heat-related illnesses while providing an environment favorable to vector-borne diseases carried by ticks and mosquitos. As Monroe County plans for future outdoor recreation needs, the effects of changing weather patterns will be taken into account to sustain local park systems for the future.



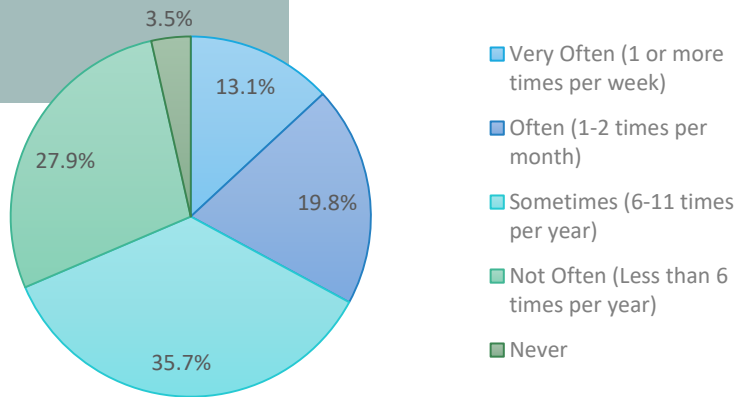
Source: usclimatedata.com

LOCAL PRIORITIES & OBJECTIVES

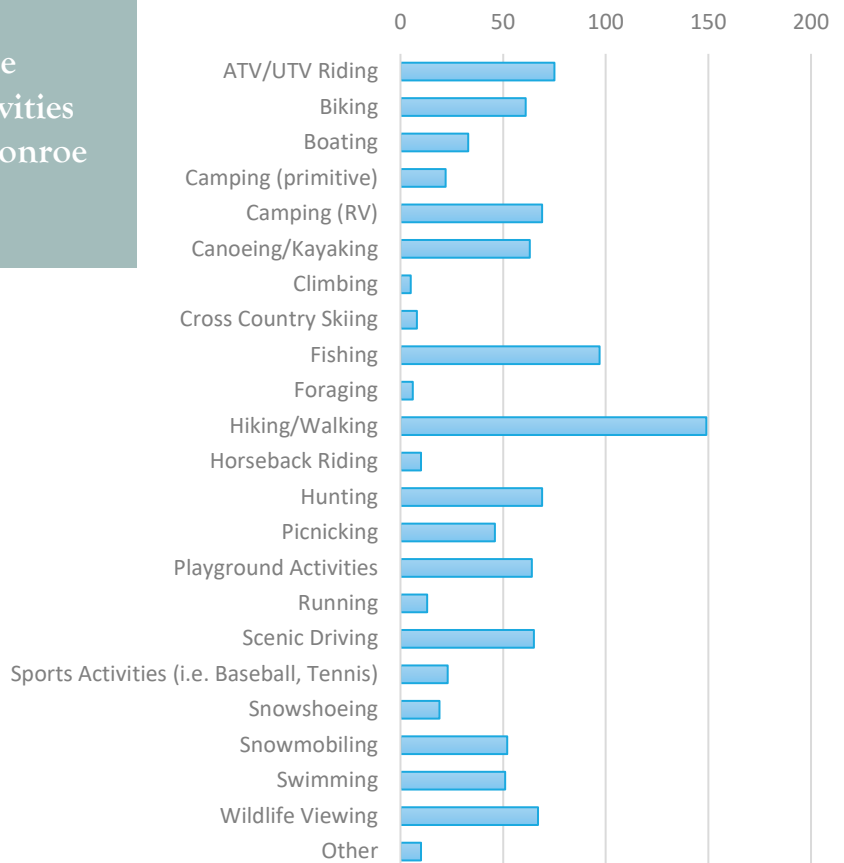
Survey Results

The County prepared a survey during the process of updating its Outdoor Recreation Plan. The survey was made available on the County’s website and shared on social media platforms hosted by Monroe County and Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission. A total of 283 responses were received and the results are shown below.

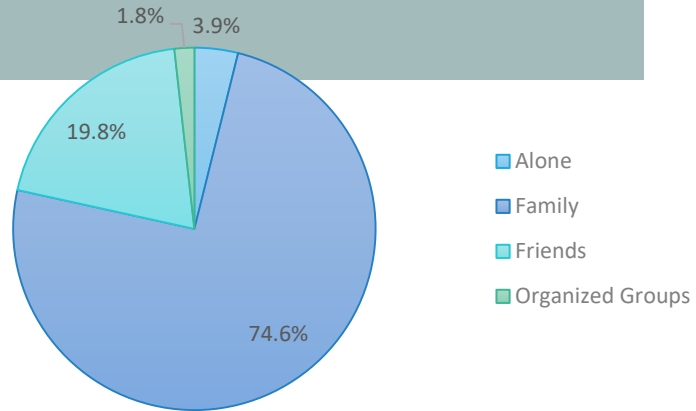
1. How often do you use County Parks or outdoor facilities?



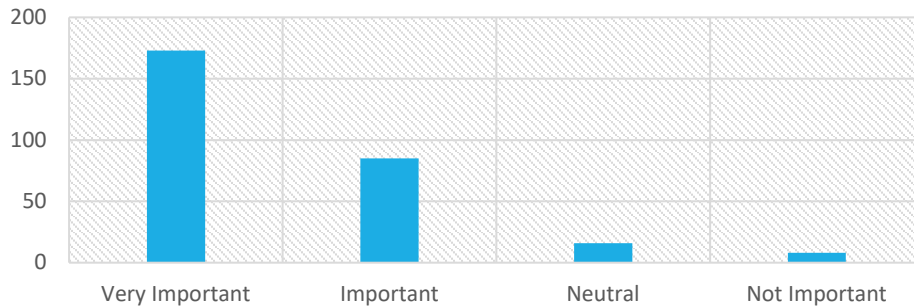
2. What are your top three outdoor recreation activities you participate in in Monroe County?



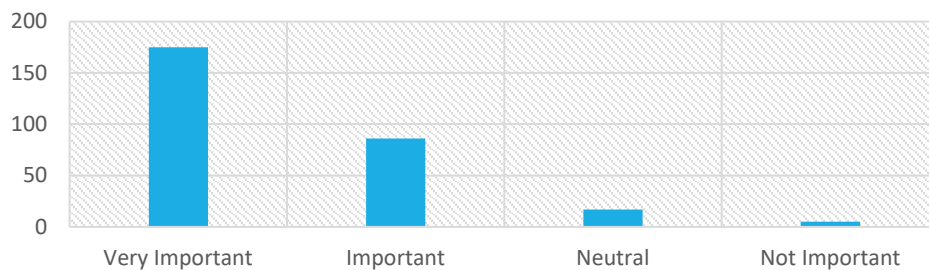
3. Who most often participates with you in outdoor recreation activities?



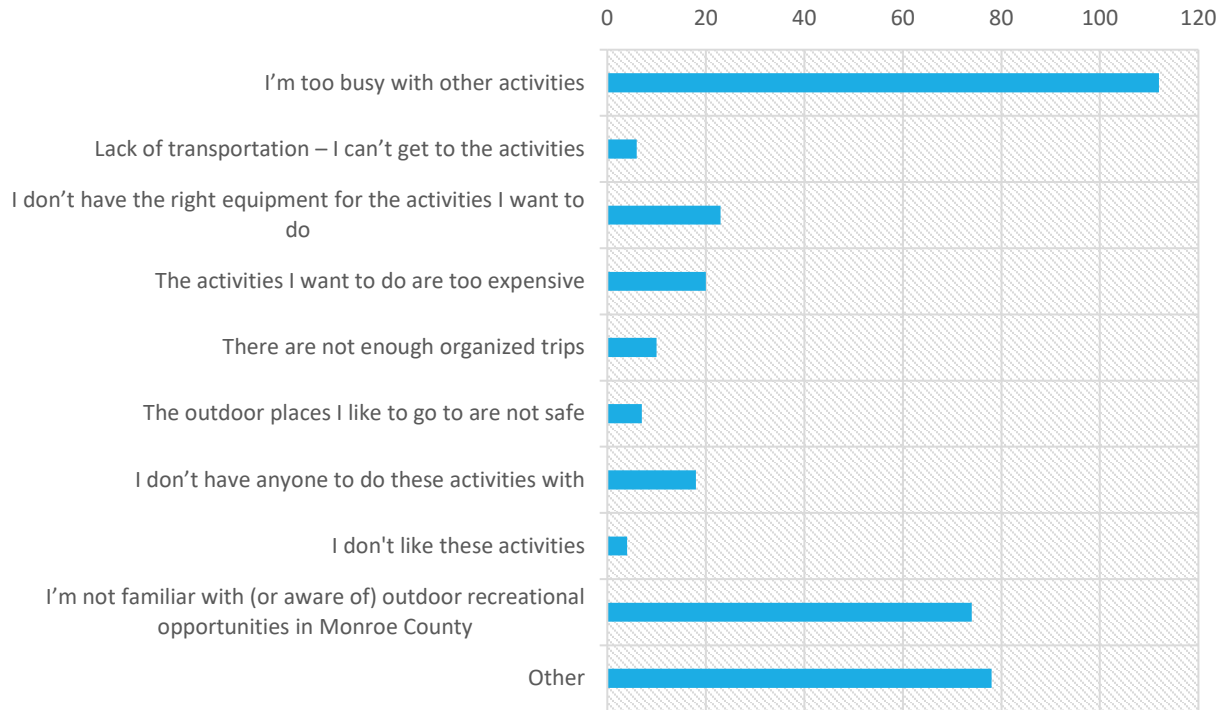
4. Do you think improving outdoor recreational opportunities (i.e. biking trails and routes, canoe/kayak trails, ATV/UTV routes, more public outdoor spaces, etc.) are important to improve the quality of life for County residents and tourists?



5. How important do you feel improving outdoor recreation opportunities are to the future and economy of the County?

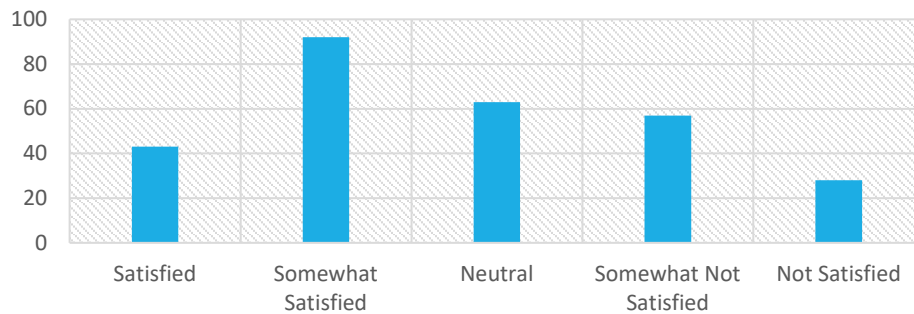


6. If you feel you spend too little time participating in outdoor activities, what keeps you from spending more time?

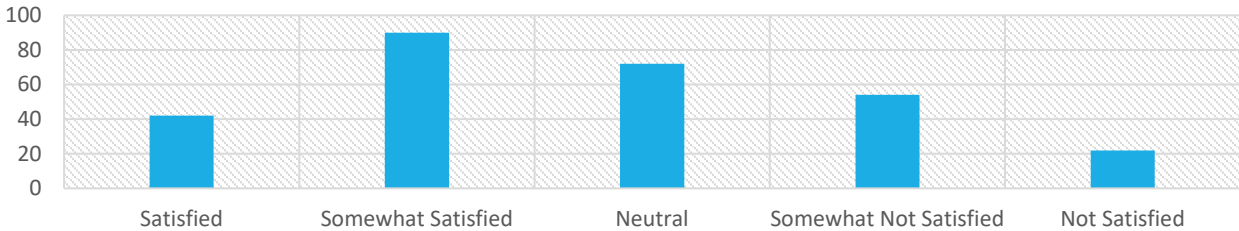


Please tell us how satisfied you are with the following...

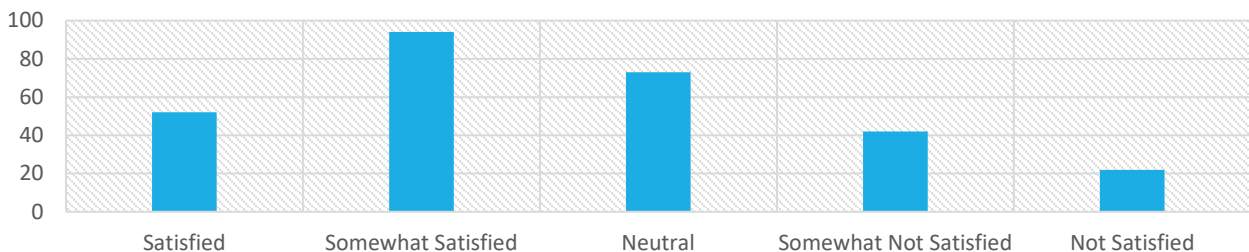
7. The number of outdoor parks/facilities available in Monroe County



8. The quality of outdoor parks/facilities available



9. The maintenance of outdoor parks/facilities available



10. Comments on the number, quality, and maintenance of parks available.

**does not include all comments (available upon request)*

- *Any more parks might be harder to maintain the quality of the parks.*
- *Need more opportunities, choices, variety for the teenage group & toddler aged.*
- *Would like to see more on the East side of the county.*
- *The parks/playgrounds seem to be outdated and the La Crosse River had a lot of logs/trees to navigate when kayaking. Also, they river was not very well marked with where to exit at Amundson park.*
- *I'd like to see better access to canoeing and kayaking, especially below the dam in Angelo. It's a great area to get on the river but access is somewhat limited for launching etc.*
- *Need to offer more areas for hiking/snowshoeing and maintain trails and facilities such as restrooms, small shelters, trash disposal, interpretive signage/centers and putting the media effort to the public about these recreational resources.*
- *There's simply not enough parks in Monroe County.*

11. Include your priorities for future county/outdoor facility improvements (listed from highest to lowest priority).

HIGH	Multi-Purpose Trails Support Facilities (bathrooms, picnic shelters, snack bars, etc...) Handicapped Accessibility Watershed Planning Public Swimming Areas Mapping (interactive online and paper)
MEDIUM	Playgrounds for Small Children Canoe/Kayak Launches Wayfinding Signage Environmental Education/Outdoor Classroom Acquire undeveloped Land
LOW	Public Fishing Areas Boat Launches Improved Camping (RV, Tent) Wildlife Viewing Primitive Camping Sports Facilities (i.e. Baseball and Soccer Fields) Public Hunting

12. Please comment on any additional high priority items not listed above.
**does not include all comments (available upon request)*

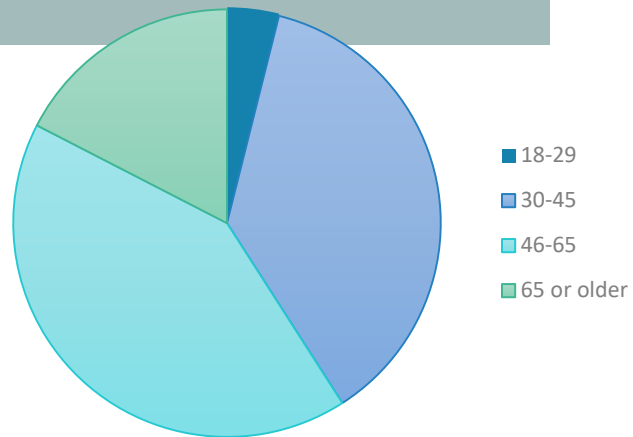
- *An indoor pool in Sparta or Tomah is needed. I wish we would get a YMCA or build something like the Lunda Center in Black River.*
- *More (if there is even any) disc golf in Monroe County*
- *Outdoor drive-in, roller-skating rink, arcades, petting zoo, shopping centers, etc..*
- *ATV and UTV trails system would tremendously boost the local economy.*

13. If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in Monroe County, what would it be? DREAM BIG! We want your best project ideas.

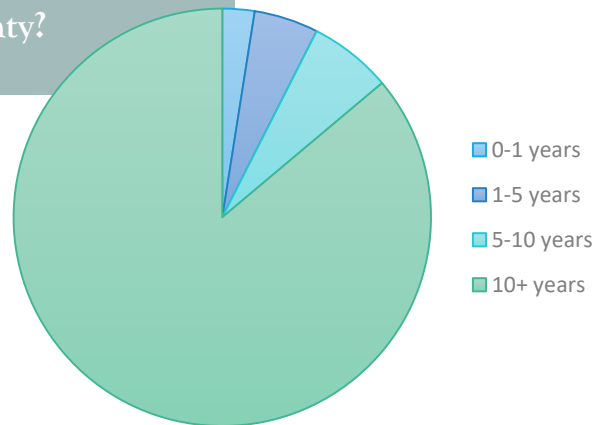
**does not include all comments (available upon request)*

- *Clean sandy beach with swimming facilities, picnic and play ground areas and seasonal snack bar. Public toilet and shower facilities. Hiking trails with look outs.*
- *Because it's part of the Driftless Area, Monroe County has a lot of very beautiful, rolling land. I know much of it is privately owned, but it would be fantastic if the county could establish a large park where people could go on extensive hikes...not just quick hikes over one or two hills, but long hikes over bluffs and down into valleys. Some of the best outdoor experiences I've had in Wisconsin include parks with extensive hiking trails. I'm thinking Governor Dodge State Park, Hixon Park in La Crosse, Perrot State Park, and so on. Even better, these parks/trails could connect to biking trails and riverways, and allow visitors multi-faceted experiences.*
- *A family-friendly campground near a body of water. County run so it's not super expensive. Activities available for kids like swimming and fishing, mosquito control. Lots of trees and sites are not close together. Swimming pool and showers.*
- *I would create a huge lake with a great fishing opportunities that had primitive and non- primitives sites available on it right on the water. It would have a camp store and a place to fuel of boats on it as well right on the shore next to the water.*
- *Bike trail from Tomah to Sparta and Tomah to Wilton basically creating a loop.*
- *Collaboration: It isn't realistic for the county to run/operate/maintain by itself. How can we leverage local partnerships to promote and improve the quality of life for our citizens? Can Matthews sponsor playground equipment? Toro sponsor maintenance tools, etc? I think any upgrades in the county would be big draws for local businesses.*
- *Areas/shelter for families to have organized family parties, graduation parties, wedding reception etc. similar to that in Myrick park Lacrosse. A large playground with updated equipment. and maybe a few smaller ones scattered through out the city. A nice outdoor ice skating rink*
- *A mountain biking trail system would be amazing and a perfect fit for the "bicycling capital of America"! Our school could have a mountain bike club for the kids like many other districts do. The closest trails are In Lacrosse. A network of hiking/skiing trails (many could be multi-use like at Levis Mound near Hatfield) would also be amazing, in addition to a bunch of paved biking/rollerblading/walking trails. The youth in Sparta absolutely need more healthy recreational options.*
- *There are communities around the country creating parks and park equipment geared toward older kids/adults. If you do an internet search for them, they are usually referred to as Ninja Warrior parks. I think it would be great to have something like that for the people in the Sparta area.*

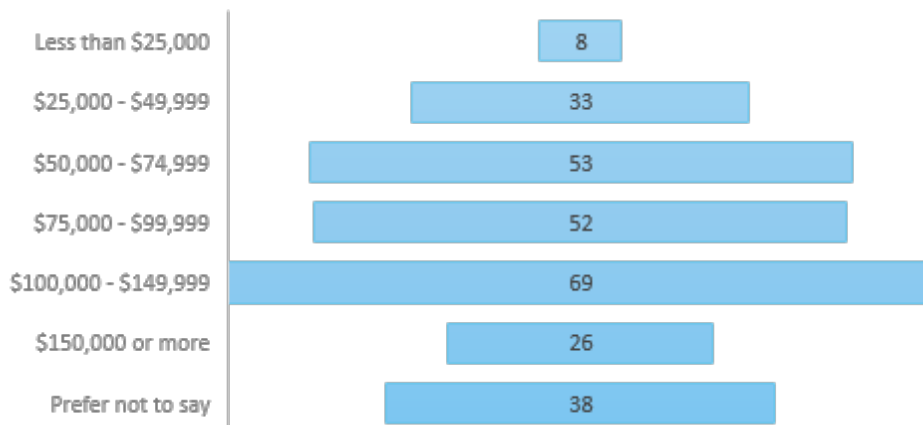
14. Which best describes the age group to which you belong?



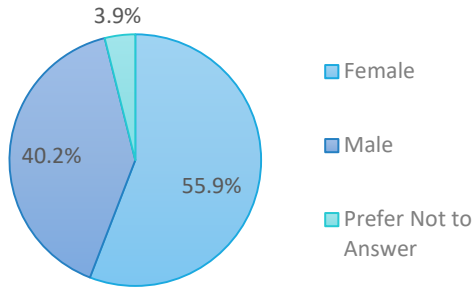
15. Which best describes the number of years you have resided in Monroe County?



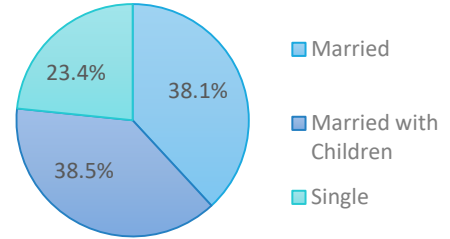
16. What is your total household income?



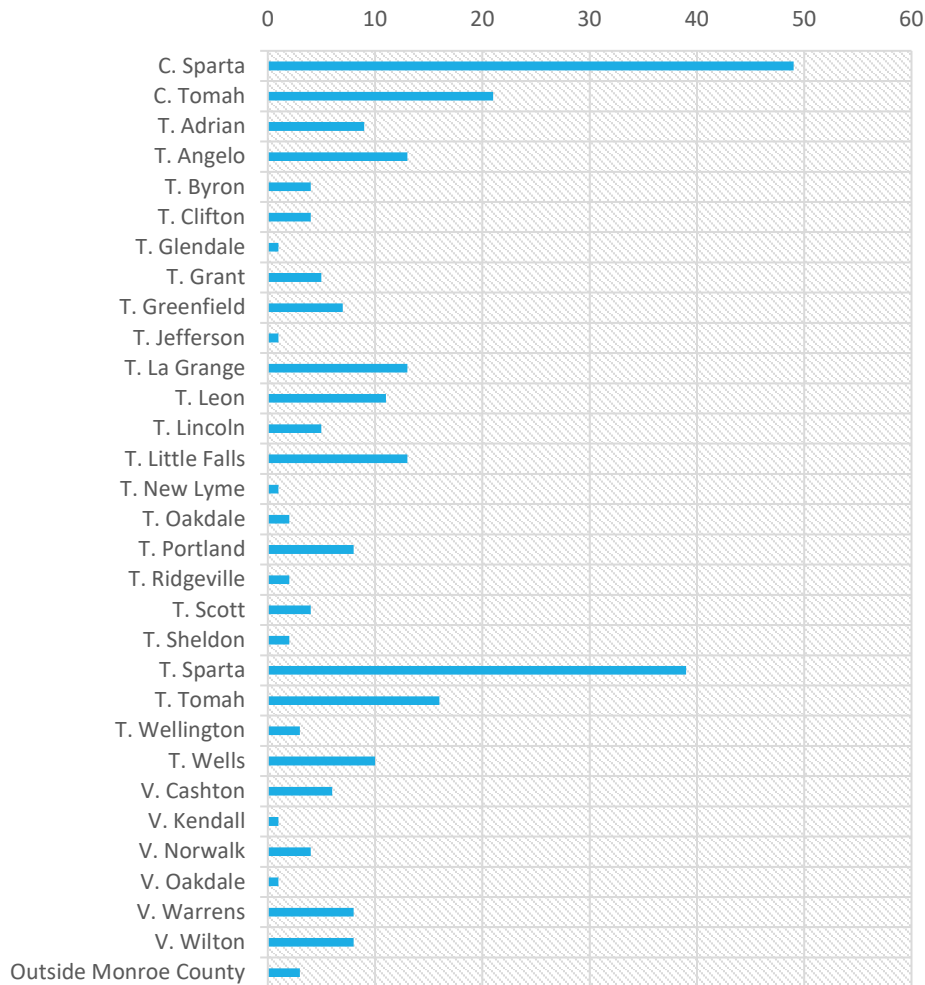
17. What is your gender?



18. What is your marital status?



19. In which Monroe County municipality do you live in?



20. *For municipal officials* What projects or improvements in outdoor recreation are you hoping to see in your community in the next 5 years (*please include the name of your community*) ?

City of Tomah:

- As an official from the city of Tomah, something I've always admired about the city of Sparta is how it's incorporated walking and biking into its layout. I know it's because the city is much more compact and has the Elroy-Sparta Trail, but it's much easier to walk/bike from one end of Sparta to the other, than walk/bike from one end of Tomah to the other.
- Often, I see people walking to the northern businesses in Tomah on foot, which is extremely dangerous because they're walking on the shoulder of ALT I-94/Superior Avenue. Tomah has a great trail system south of Veterans Avenue, but almost nothing north of Veterans. It's like the northern half of the city is completely disconnected from the southern half, and only available to those who drive.
- I know there has been talk of adding more trails. I only hope the city tries to connect the northern section of Tomah to the southern ("downtown") section.
- Town of Portland:
 - Develop a second park
- Town of Wellington:
 - More emphasis on bike trail interconnecting villages - improvements and repair for weather issues. Seems to be slow to complete.
- Village of Wilton:
 - River Walk enhancement and link to Elroy-Sparta Trail
 - Amphitheater in Village Park
 - Ball Park pavilion with bathroom facilities
 - Swimming pool revitalization

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

Monroe County's Priorities, Objectives, and Action Items for 2022-2026

These priorities, objectives, and action items were developed over a year long process of discussion and collaboration with diverse stakeholders of Monroe County. Priority has been given to projects that it is believed both have the ability to receive funding, having public support, and most importantly will improve the outdoor recreation opportunities of the citizens of Monroe County and encourage those from outside the County to discover what we have to offer. These objectives will focus on lands that Monroe County owns itself, and on ways that Monroe County can partner with municipalities, local, state, federal, and other government agencies partners to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. Monroe County municipal priorities can be found in [Appendix C](#).

Property	Action and Objective Items
<i>Angelo Wayside Park</i>	
	Construct a restroom facility and shelter.
	Facilitate the development of a canoe kayak launch on the La Crosse River.
<i>McMullen Memorial County Park</i>	
	Construct an additional restroom and shower facility.
	Add additional camp sites with water and electrical infrastructure.
	Replace playground equipment (east and west play areas).
	Remodel the west shower building.
	Construct a shelter, consider an enclosed shelter with large doors that can accommodate weather conditions.
<i>Monroe County Forest</i>	
	Develop non-motorized, multi-use trails near high use areas.
	Connect County Forest land to Wyeville Park: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acquisition 2) Trail development (multi-use, non-motorized, or snowmobile) 3) Bridge development
	Identify species and locations that could benefit from wildlife habitat improvement projects.
	Develop and carry out habitat improvement projects. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ruffed grouse 2) Karner Blue butterflies 3) Other species, as needed
<i>Open Space Properties</i>	
	Develop walking paths, boat launches, picnic sites, and parking areas.
	Identify passive nature-based recreation opportunities.
	Improve public access to the river.
	Seek partnership to provide environmental education programs.
	Install interpretive signage.
<i>Tri-Creek Property</i>	
	Identify outdoor recreation opportunities.
	Improve public access to property by improving parking areas and providing signage.
	Seek partnership to provide environmental education programs.
	Develop non-motorized, multi-use trails.
	Install interpretive signage.
<i>Wyeville Park</i>	
	Develop a boat launch, restroom facility, parking area, shelter and swimming area.
	Construct and place fish habitat in the lake and stock it with fish.
	Acquire additional land in the Town of Byron:

	<p>1) Land surrounding "Wyeville Lake"</p> <p>2) Land near or adjacent to County Forest Land</p>
	Construct a shower building and camp sites; consider RV sites and tent sites.
	Develop non-motorized, multi-use trails.
County-Wide	
	Facilitate the development of canoe/kayak launches and parking areas throughout the county on bodies of water that have the potential to support them. Work to keep waterways open for navigation.
	Enhance currently existing and create new opportunities for the public to have access to public fishing opportunities through the Monroe County Land Conservation Department's fishing easement program or other programs.
	Enhance currently existing and create new multi-purpose trails throughout the County, with an emphasis on being able to connect segments of trails from different areas of the County and to connect different parks and outdoor recreation opportunities to each other. These include walking/hiking, snowmobile, ATV, biking, and other trails.
	Continue collaboration with local snowmobile and ATV clubs to ensure a robust trail system is maintained.
	Encourage and strengthen local and regional partnerships to enhance currently existing and create new outdoor recreation opportunities.
	Collaborate with conservation organizations to increase environmental education opportunities.
	Improve handicap accessibility of the County's outdoor recreation opportunities.
	Encourage and support local producers that provide agricultural tourism opportunities.
	Promote and support programs that place lands under public easements or conservation easements that protect natural resources and provide outdoor recreation benefits. Educate landowners about eligibility requirements and benefits of programs.
	Protect and enhance the natural landscape, water quality and rural character of the County for both the health of the environment and our citizens. Increase the resiliency of the county's assets to weather the challenges of climate change.
	Improve the County's GIS mapping of outdoor recreation opportunities and provide online maps for the public to utilize. Coordinate with Monroe County's Economic Development and Tourism Committee to distribute promotional materials for outdoor recreation and tourism.
	Closely examine and inventory County owned properties, how they are currently being used, and assess if there are outdoor recreation opportunities that could be developed or enhanced on them based on goals of the County's outdoor recreation plan.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Monroe County Forestry and Parks Administrator and Land Use Planner worked with Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) to develop this plan. Together they created a survey to solicit public input on outdoor recreation facilities and activities offered in Monroe County. These surveys were posted on the MRRPC's website, Monroe County Website, and local social media outlets.

Information from the survey was taken to develop local priorities and objectives for the future planning of Monroe County outdoor recreation facilities. The list of priorities and objectives will be referenced frequently by County staff to secure funding for projects.

The County's Forestry and Parks Administrator and Land Use Planner will coordinate with the County's Natural Resources and Extension Committee and Monroe County Economic Development and Tourism Committee to ensure that this plan will be reviewed and updated every 5 years to keep Monroe County's outdoor recreation inventory and implementation priorities current.

Municipalities will be given the opportunity to update local municipal plans and adopt the County plan once the County planning process is completed.

Summary of Previous Outdoor Recreation and Other Plans

The following plans intersect with and have contributed to the Monroe County Outdoor Recreation Plan. The most recent County Outdoor Recreation Plan was completed in 2017, with updated inventory of County-owned land and infrastructure improvements. Unlike 2017 plan, the current version of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan does not include a descriptive inventory of activities based on land, water, developed, and undeveloped properties.

The following plans intersect with and have contributed to the Monroe County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Monroe County Comprehensive Plan - 2010

The Monroe County included goals and an action plan for natural resources. They are provided below:

- Goal: (G4.12) Provide ample opportunities for outdoor recreation for all residents of Monroe County.
 - Objective: (O4.9) Expand recreational opportunities and access to public open space in the southern portion of Monroe County.
 - Objective: (O4.10) Improve access for people with physical handicaps to county forest lands and encourage other clubs/organizations to improve handicap access to other recreation facilities.
 - Policy: (P4.7) Pursue opportunities to increase handicap accessible trails and parking on county forest land.
 - Policy: (P4.8) Promote Monroe County as a handicap accessible recreation destination, and increase awareness of handicap accessible facilities (including Cataract Pond, the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail, McMullen Park, and other county recreation facilities).
 - Policy: (P4.9) Permanently protect and provide recreational opportunities on the existing 760 acres of county-owned land in the Town of Ridgeville.
 - Policy: (P4.10) Evaluate the feasibility of providing passive recreation opportunities at the current landfill once it is closed and capped.

Monroe County Land and Water Resource Management Plan – 2018

The Monroe County included major resource concerns in Monroe County. They include:

- Soil Erosion
- Surface and Groundwater Quality
- Development
- Invasive Plant Species
- Management of privately owned forest land and stream restoration.
- Destruction and/or degradation of wetlands.

Goals included in the plan relevant to the Outdoor Recreation Plan include:

- Goal 1: Reduce sediment delivery to surface waters.
- Goal 2: Reduce phosphorus runoff to surface waters.
- Goal 5: Improve the cold water fishery and access to streams in Monroe County.

Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019-2023

In 2018, the Emergency Management Department updated the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is a comprehensive assessment of natural and man-made disasters that could pose a threat to Monroe County. The assessment includes risks, emergency response plans, and strategies for mitigation, as well as an inventory of critical facilities and services in the County.

- Action: Encourage periodic cutting of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land per program requirements

APPENDIX A

Grant Opportunities

Funding Programs: Funding for recreational development can come from several sources both public and private. Most funding for this type of development comes from public local funds. Primarily, local funds come from a number of sources including the sale of bonds, allocations from the local tax base, and donations from individuals and organizations. Non-local funding can come from a number of sources, either in the form of a grant or a loan. Currently, the DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Rural Development (RDA) provide competitive funding relating to outdoor recreation.

The Wisconsin Waterways Commission is a good source of funding for acquiring and improving those amenities that primarily benefit recreational boaters in the state. Boat ramps, launches, parking lots, restrooms, and other boating related improvements can be 50% funded under this quarterly grant program administered by the WDNR.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is a main source of funding for outdoor recreation facilities. The Stewardship Program, administered by the DNR, is a fund designed to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, protect land sensitive to environmental degradation, conserve and restore wildlife habitat and protect water quality. As a prerequisite to the following WDNR funding programs, applicants must first submit a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, such as this plan, or a master plan that has been approved by resolution by a local governing unit, or a plan of a higher unit of government. Applicants submitting qualifying comprehensive outdoor recreation plans or master plans may receive eligibility to apply for funding for up to five years. The DNR's priority for funding is land acquisition, followed by facility development. Outdoor recreation grant programs currently administered by the DNR include:

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program: provides funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquisition, insurance, development, and maintenance of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes.

ATV Enforcement Patrol: provides grants to County sheriffs for all-terrain vehicle patrols.

County Conservation Aids: provides funds to counties or recognized Indian tribes to carry out fish or wildlife management projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitat or fishing and hunting opportunities.

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration: provides funding for sport fish restoration and boating access including the construction of boat landings and fishing piers.

Recreational Boating Facilities Program: provides funds to local units of government and qualified lake associations for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities.

The program also provides financial assistance for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational boating facilities, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, purchase of navigation 58 aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemical treatment of Eurasian water milfoil.

Recreational Trails Program: provides funds for motorized and non-motorized recreation trail rehabilitation, trail maintenance, trail development, and trail acquisition.

Snowmobile Trail Aids: provide funds to maintain trail systems that provide passage through a County and connections with adjacent counties.

County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols: provide funds for County snowmobile patrols functioning as a law enforcement unit for the enforcement of Ch. 350, Wis. Stats.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Stewardship: provides funding to acquire land, rights in land, and develop public outdoor recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Urban Rivers Stewardship Local Assistance: provides funds for the acquisition of land in urban areas. Projects focus on providing access for the greatest number of potential users and providing the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Urban Greenspace Stewardship Local Assistance: provides funds for the acquisition of land in and around urban areas. Projects focus on providing access for the greatest number of potential users and providing the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): provides financial assistance to state agencies, counties, villages, towns, school districts, cities, and Indian tribes for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement grants for approved state and local projects. Competition for LWCF funds is on a statewide basis.

Rural Development Administration (USDA - Rural Development)

The USDA provides a loan program, which provides Community Facility Project Loans to applicants with areas of less than 20,000 people, for the purpose of constructing, enlarging, or improving community facilities for health care, public safety, or public services. These loans should be secured with bonds or notes pledging taxes, assessments, or revenues.

There are many Rural Development programs that are different areas of community development that could provide loans, or possibly grants, if criteria are met for income and utility rates, for facilities in the communities that are smaller in size.

Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Wisconsin Department of Transportation

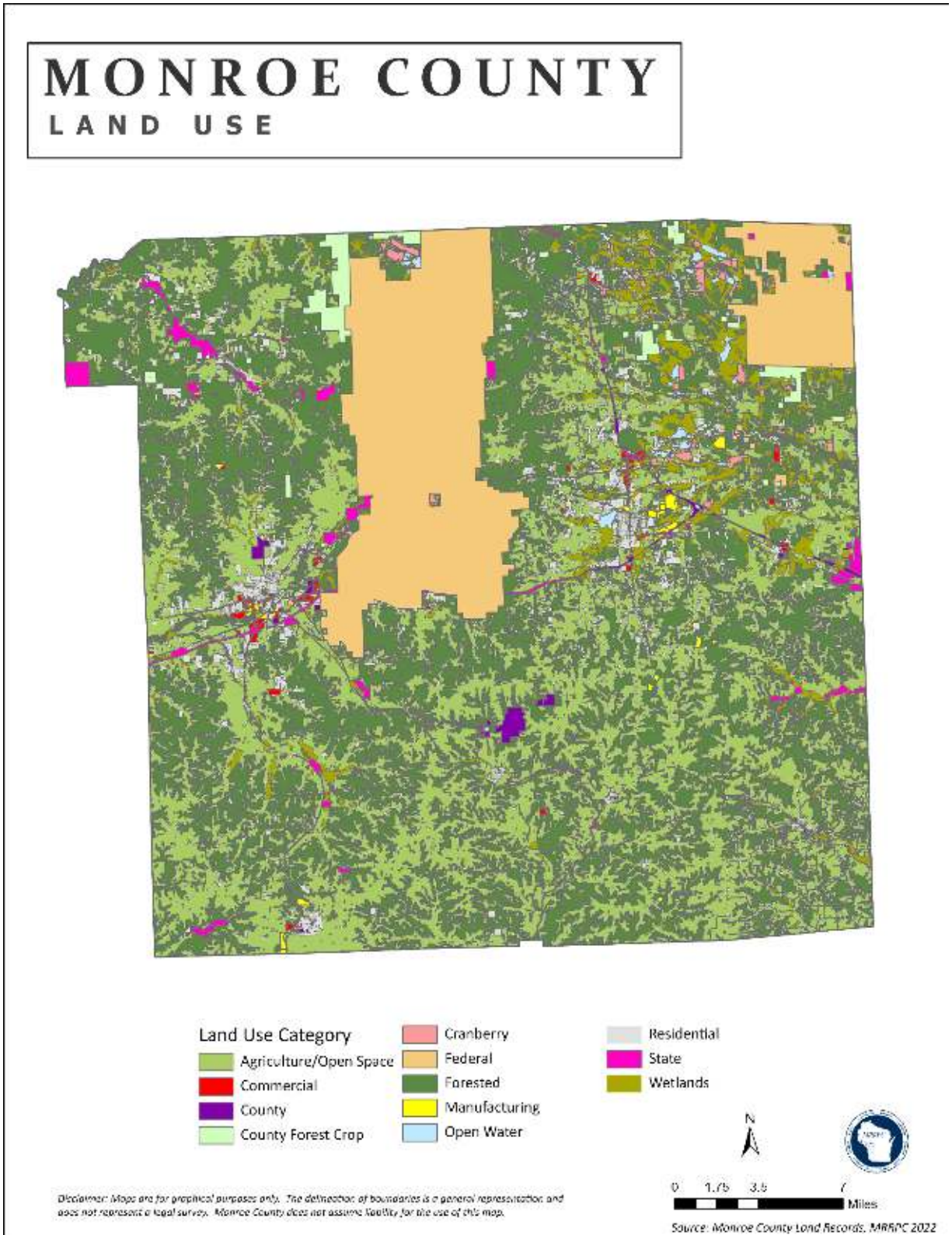
This program provides funds for non-traditional projects within programs called the Safe Routes to School Program, Transportation Enhancements, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program. The TAP program provides up to 80 percent reimbursement grants for approved projects that target transportation-oriented pedestrian and bicycle planning and construction projects.

Community Development Block Grant, Department of Administration

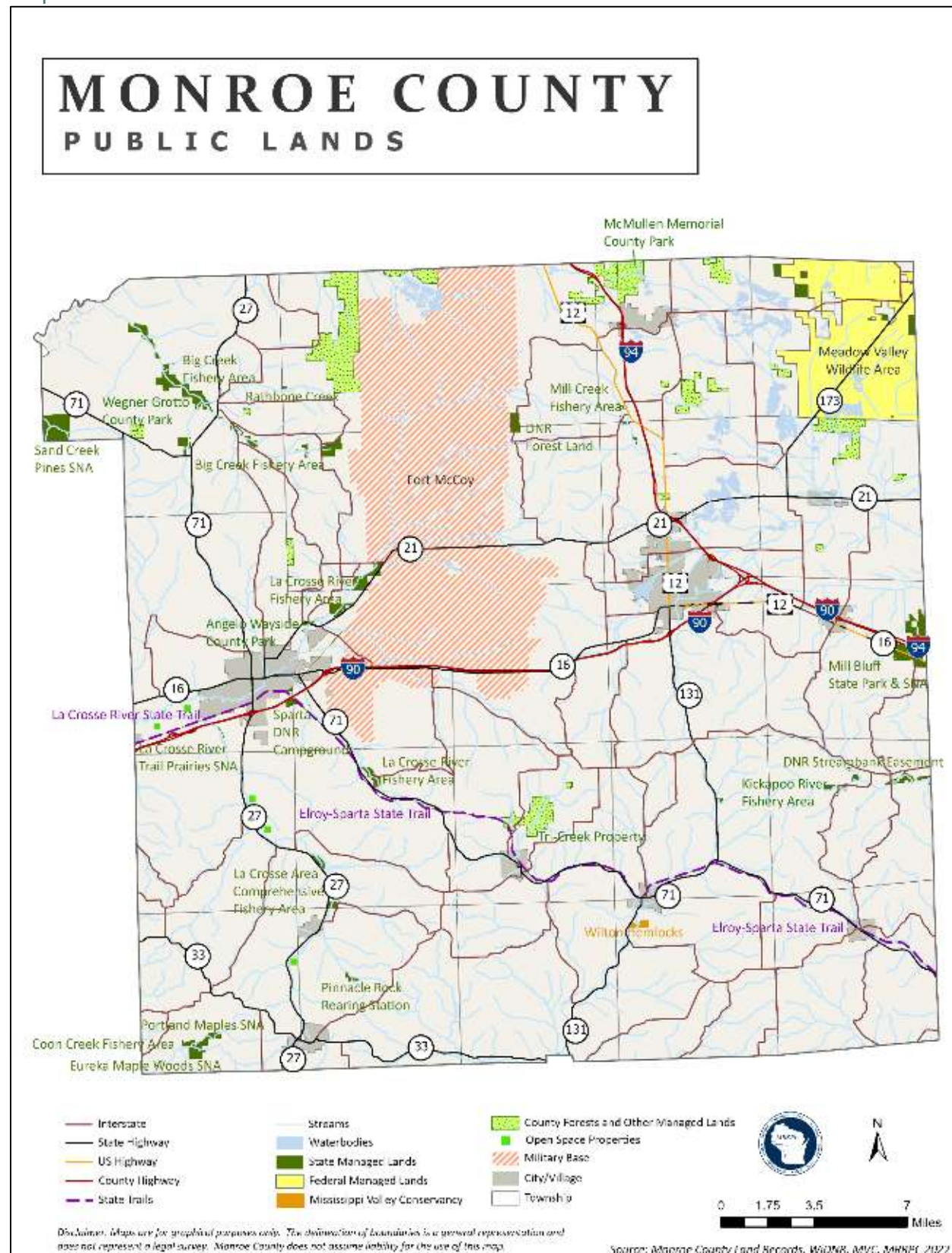
This program funds support infrastructure and facility projects for communities. Examples of eligible projects include improvements, repairs, or expansions of streets, drainage systems, water and sewer systems, sidewalks, and community centers.

APPENDIX B: MAPS

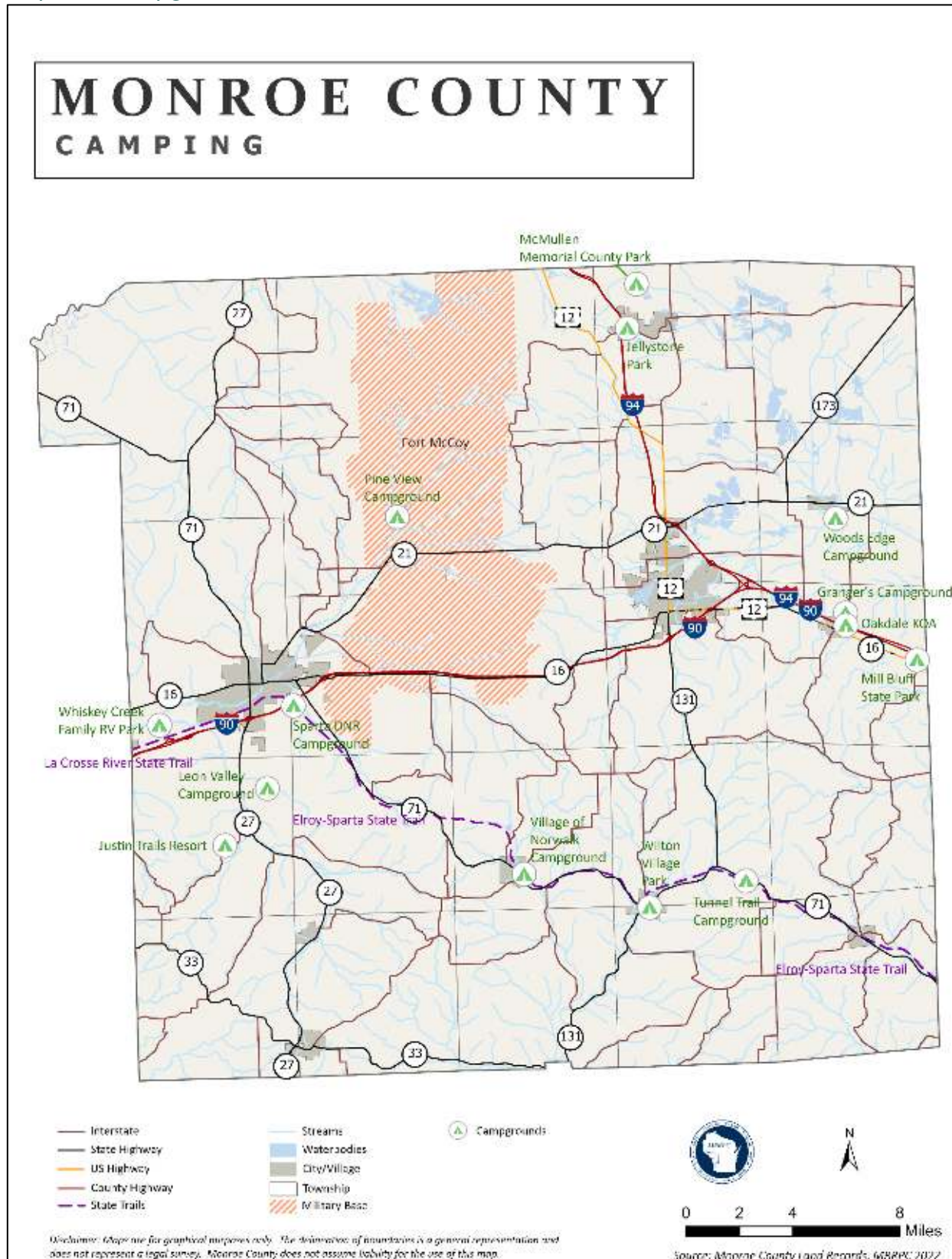
Map B-1 Land Cover



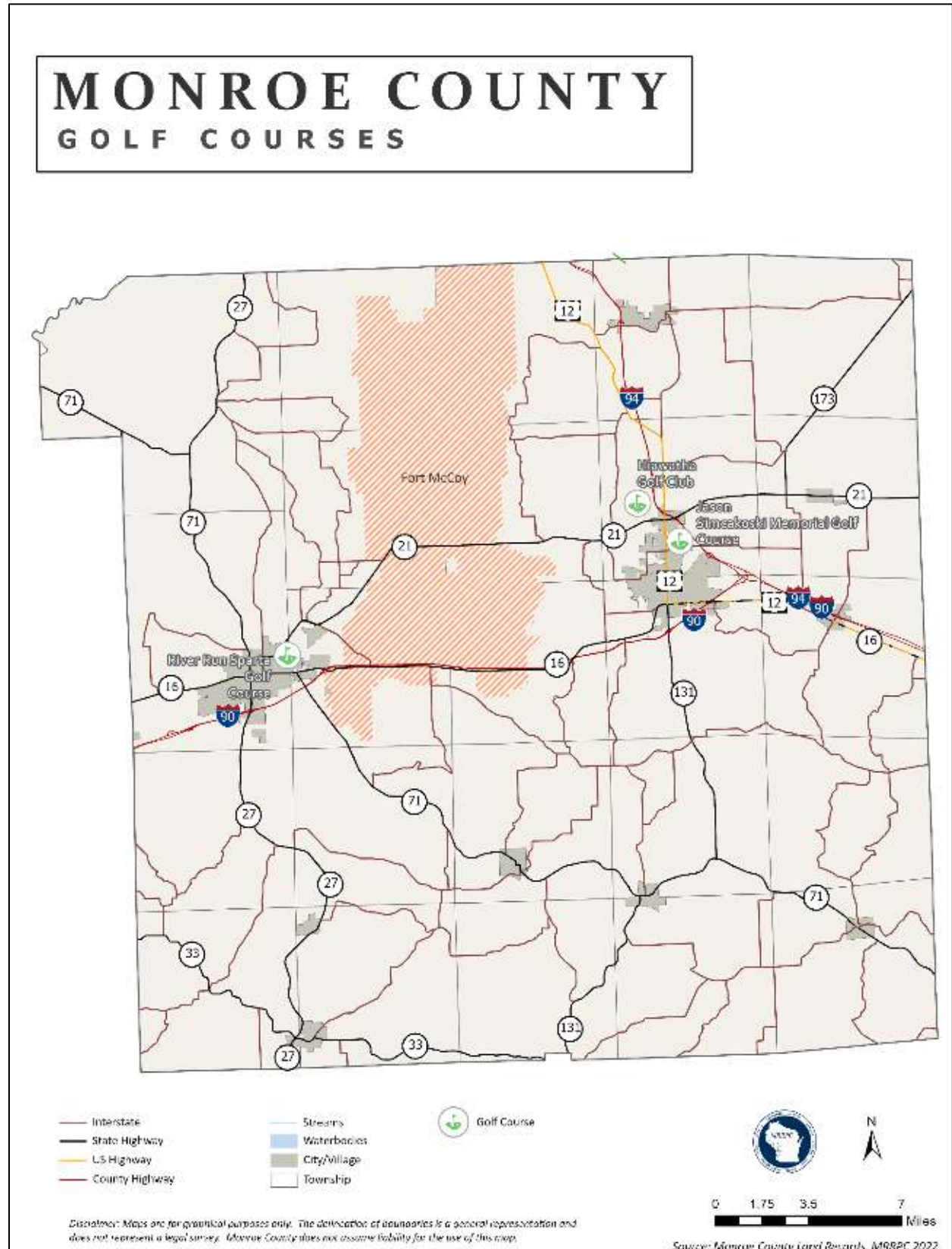
Map B-2 Public Lands Overview



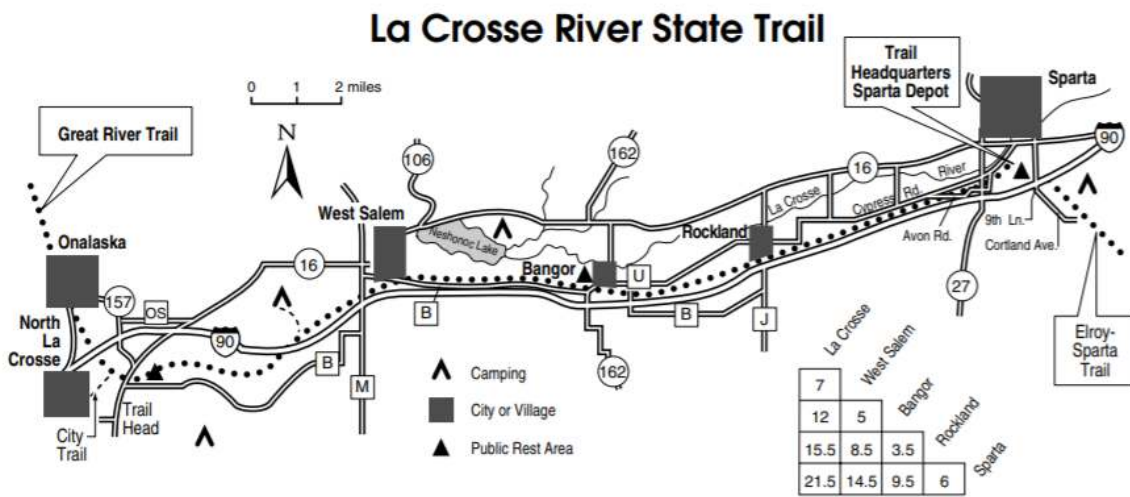
Map B-3 Campgrounds



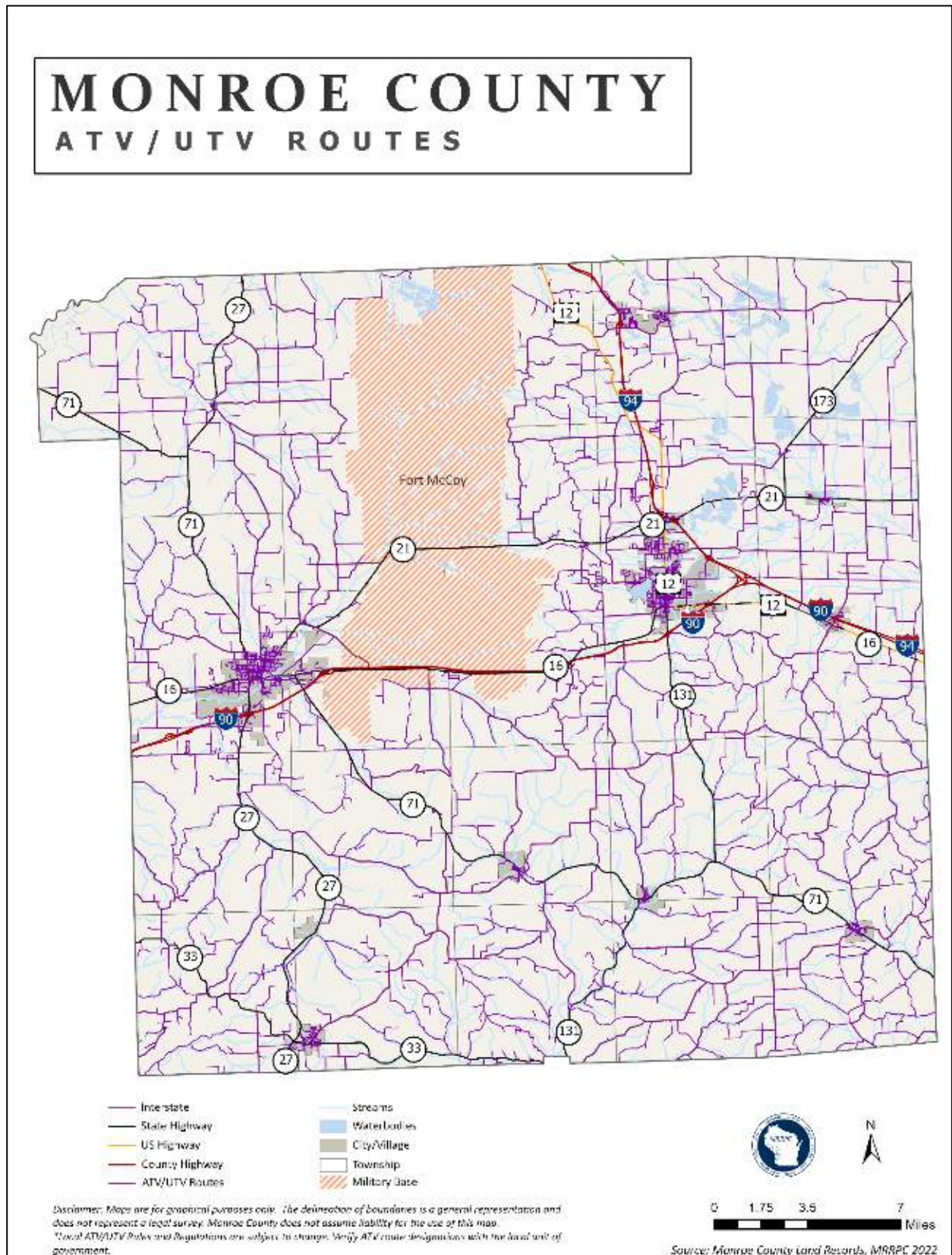
Map B-4 Golf Courses



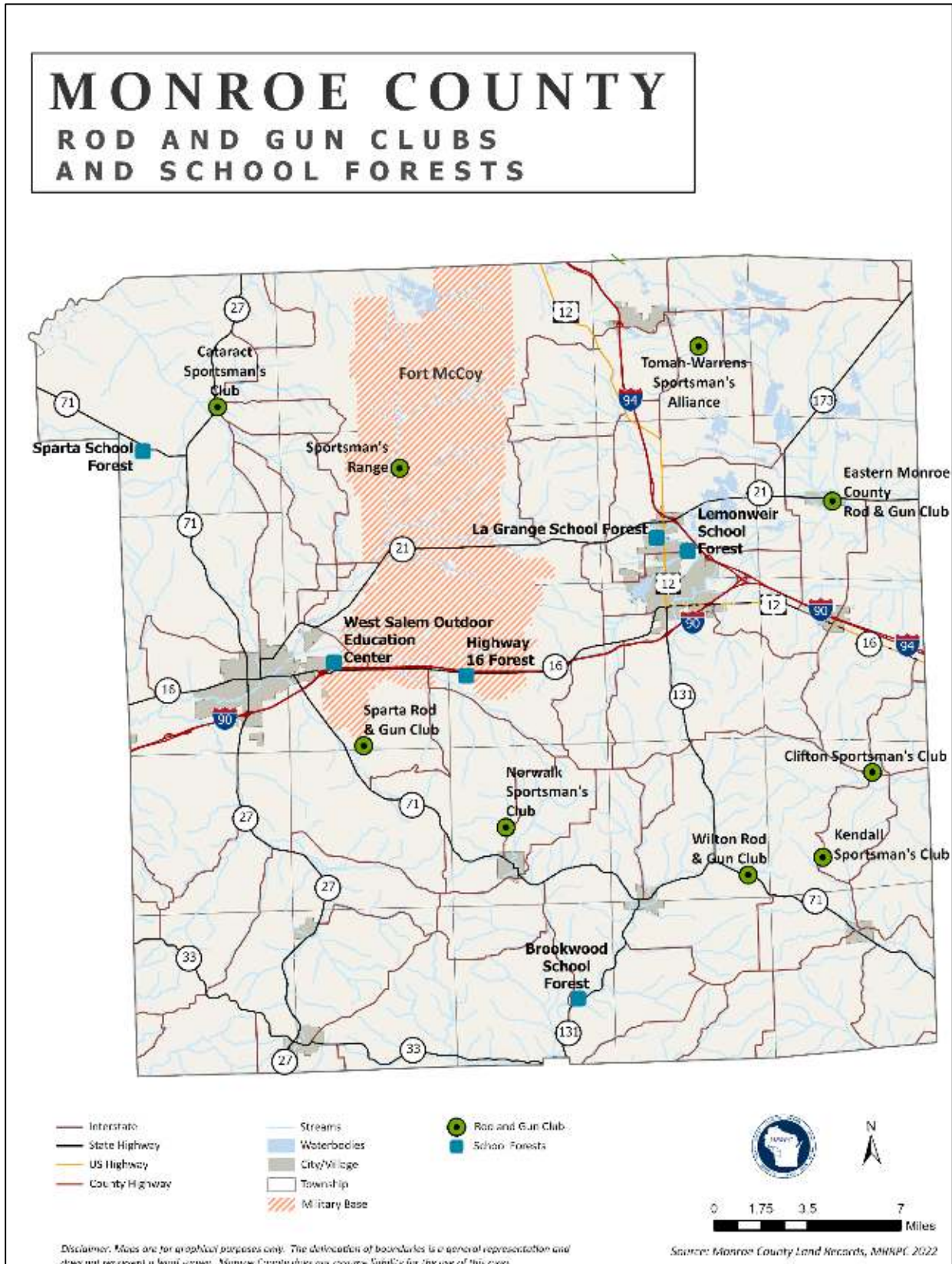
Map B-5 Biking and Hiking Trails



Map B-6 ATV/UTV Routes



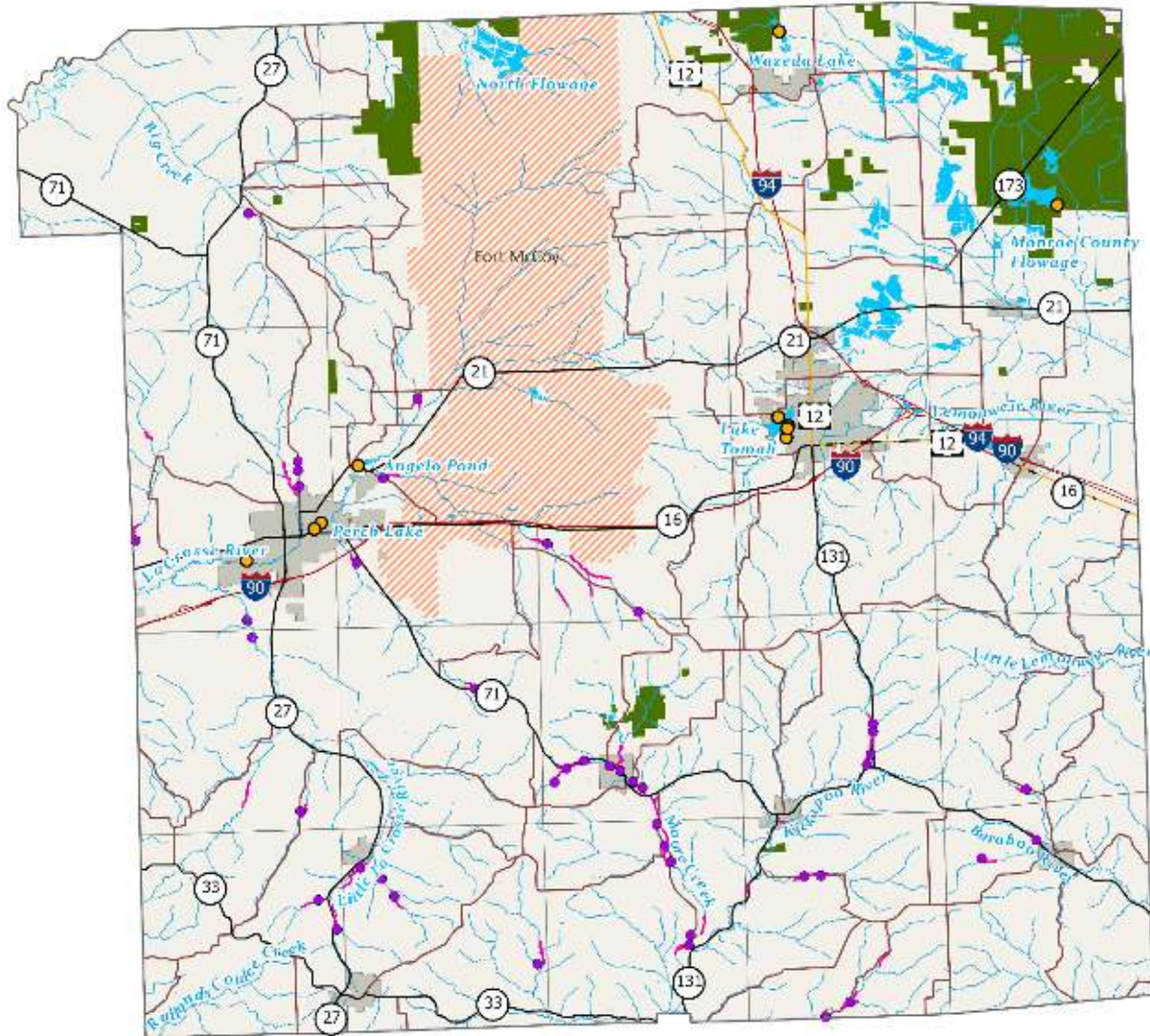
Map B-7 Rod and Gun Clubs and School Forests



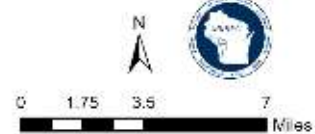
Map B-8 Recreational Water Activities

MONROE COUNTY

PUBLIC ACCESS TO WATERWAYS



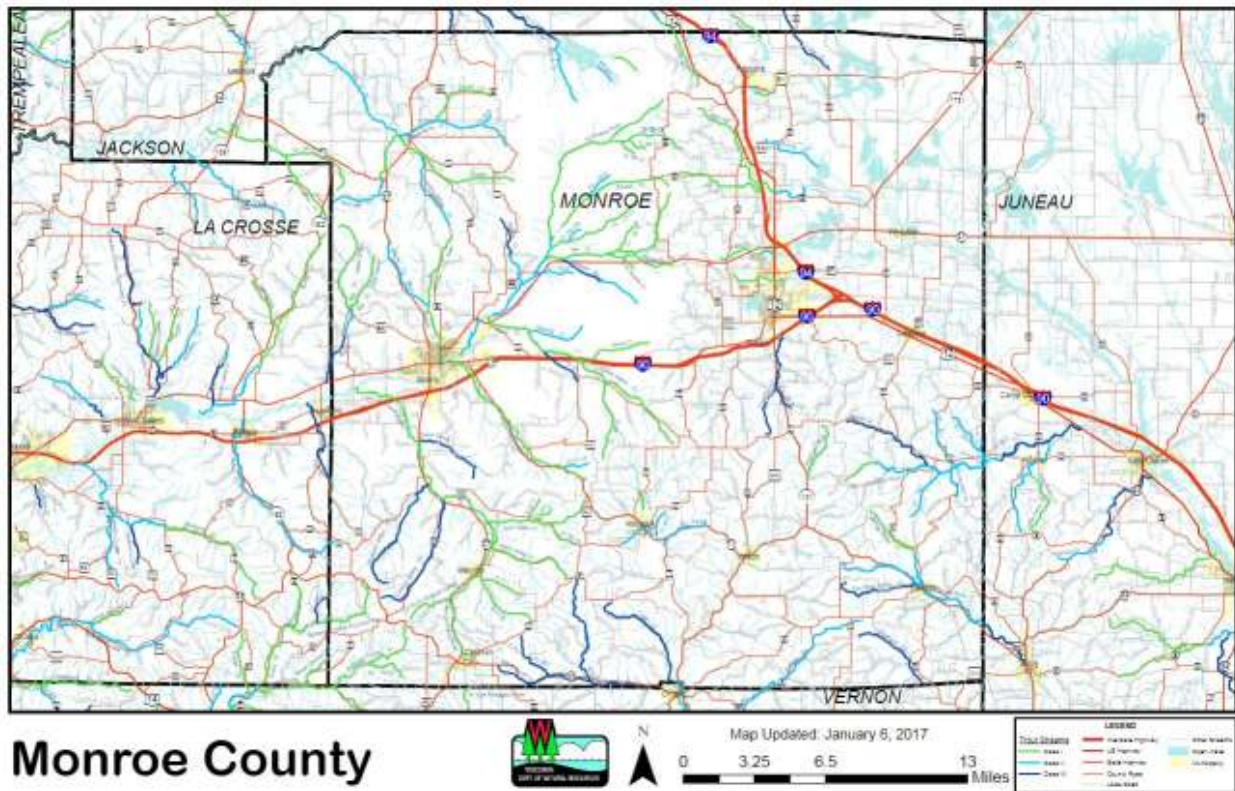
- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| — Interstate | — Streams | ■ City/Village |
| — State Highway | ■ Waterbodies | □ Township |
| — US Highway | ■ Public Lands | ● Public Boating Access |
| — County Highway | ▨ Military Base | ● Fishing Easement Access Point |
| — State Trails | | — Fishing Easement |



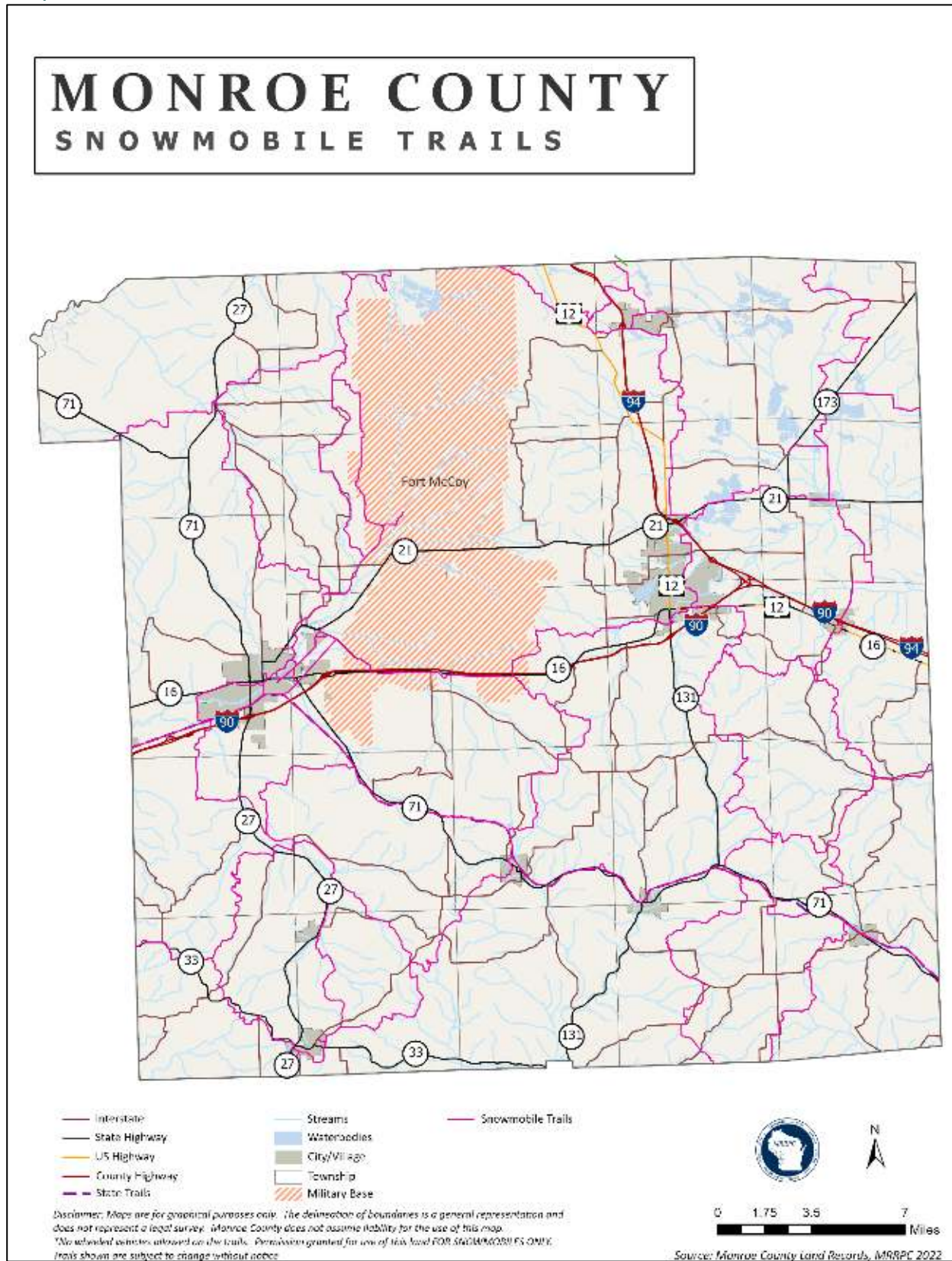
Disclaimer: Maps are for graphical purposes only. The delineation of boundaries is a general representation and does not represent a legal survey. Monroe County does not assume liability for the use of this map.

Source: Monroe County Land Records, MRRPC 2022

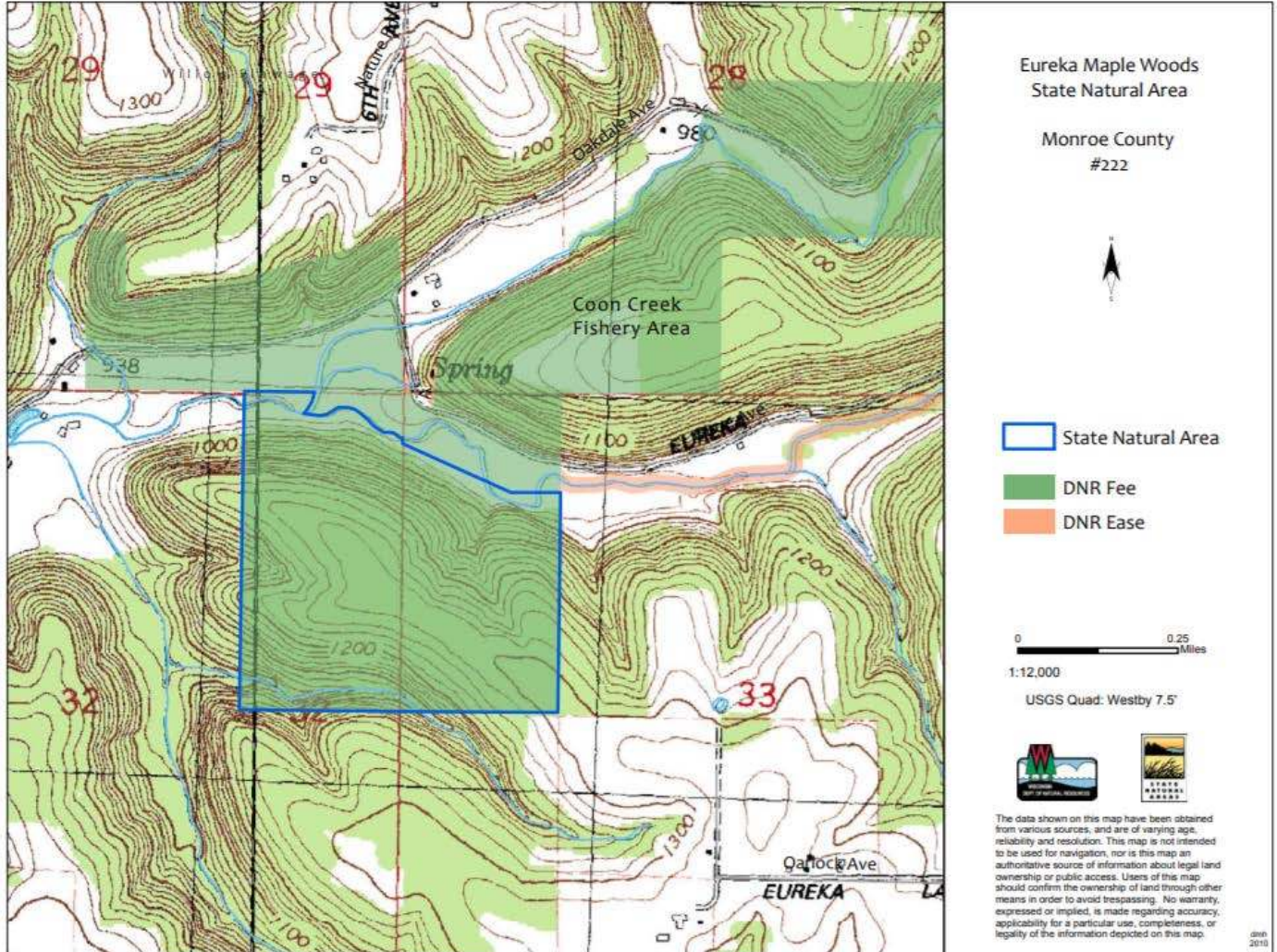
Map B-9 Trout Streams



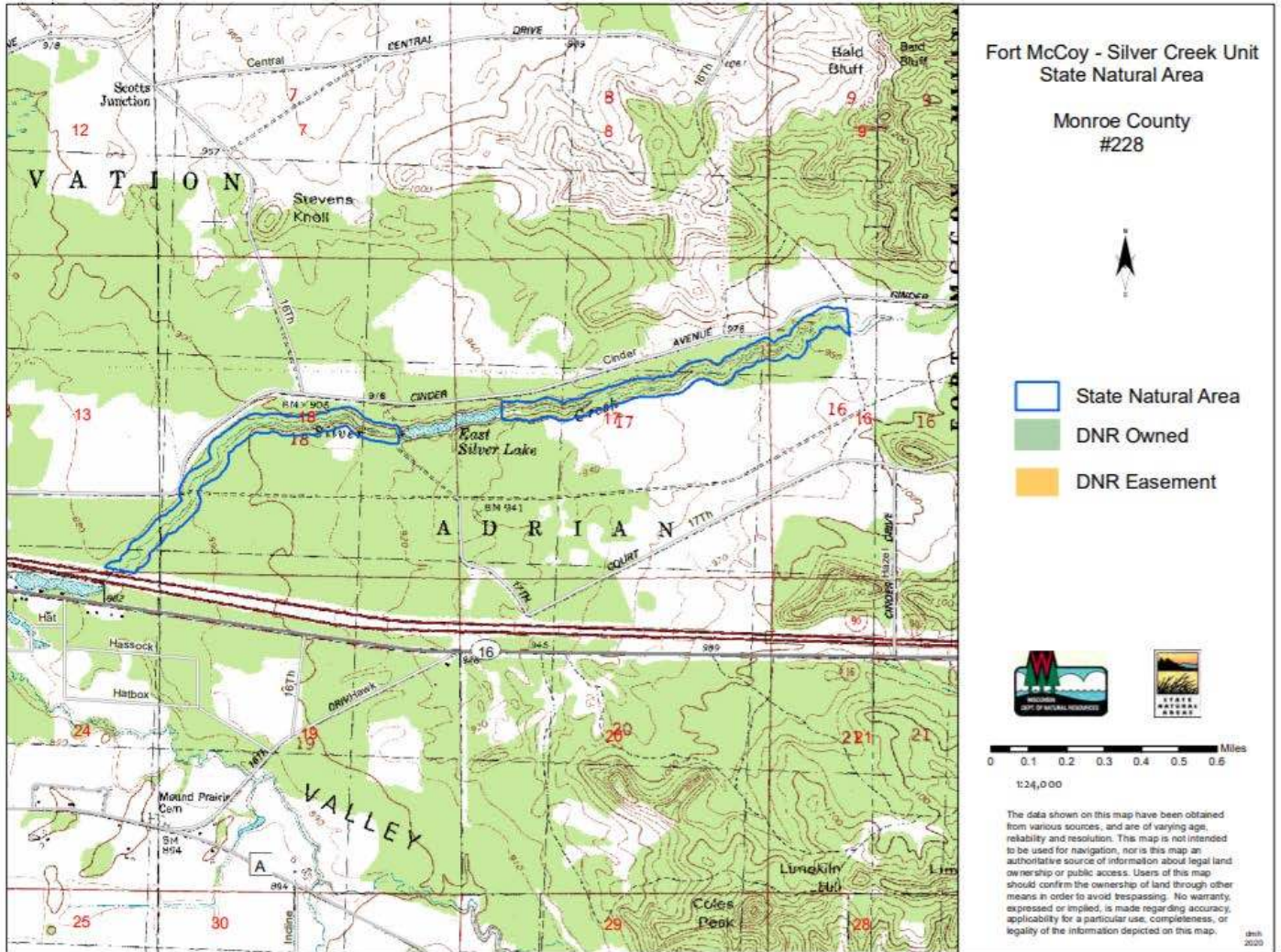
Map B-10 Snowmobile Trails



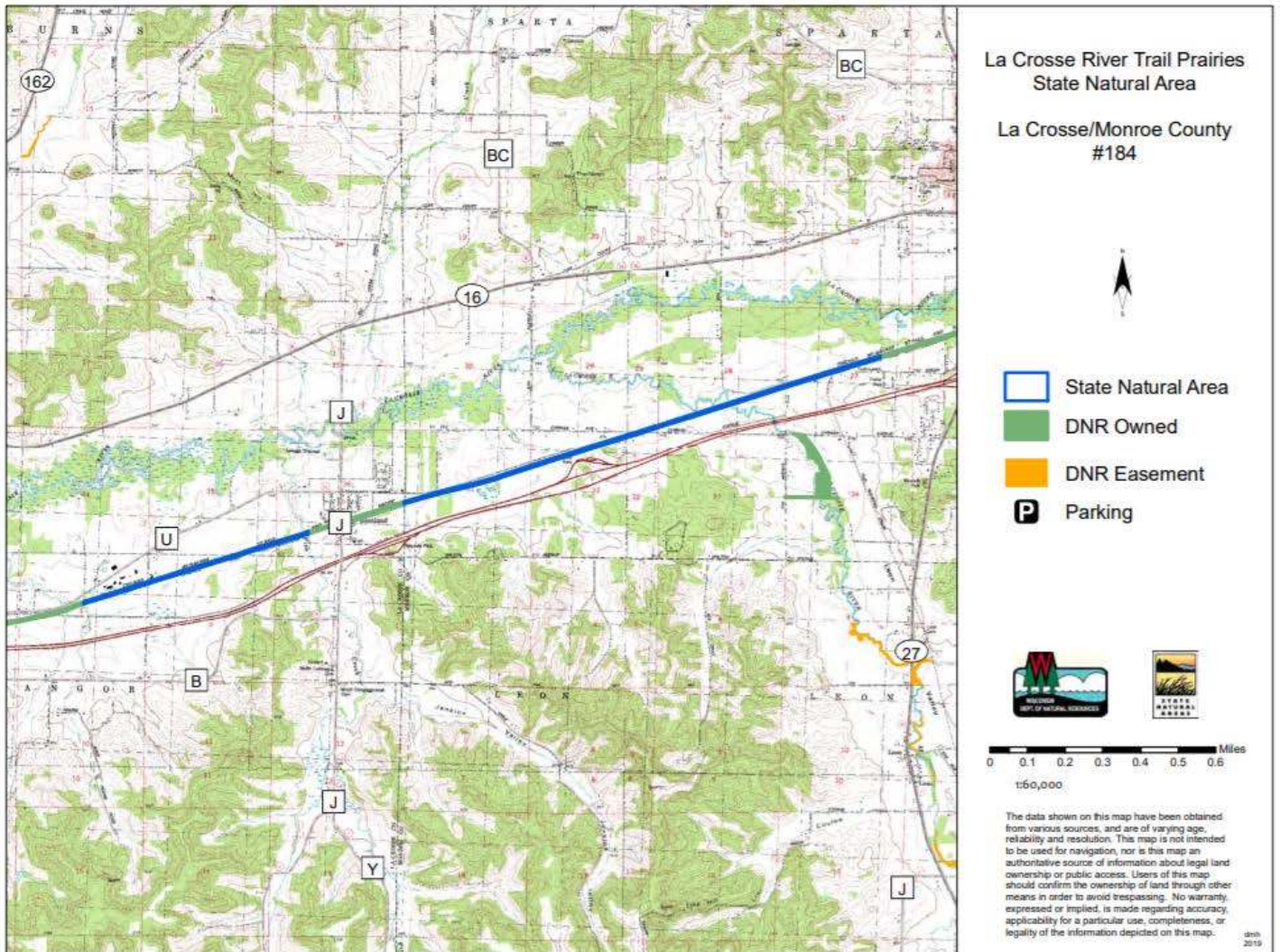
Map B-11 Eureka Maple Woods SNA



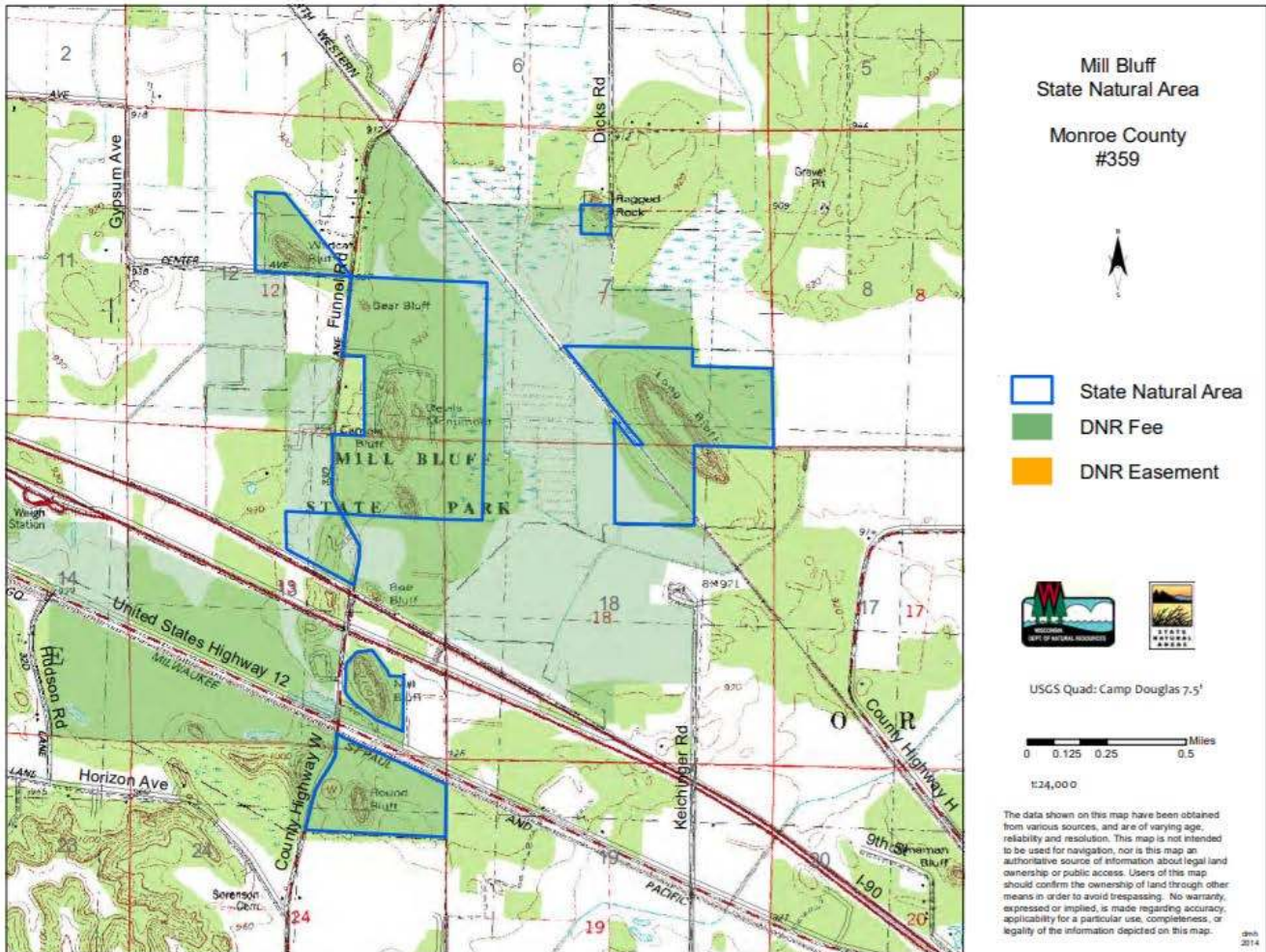
Map B-12 Fort McCoy SNA



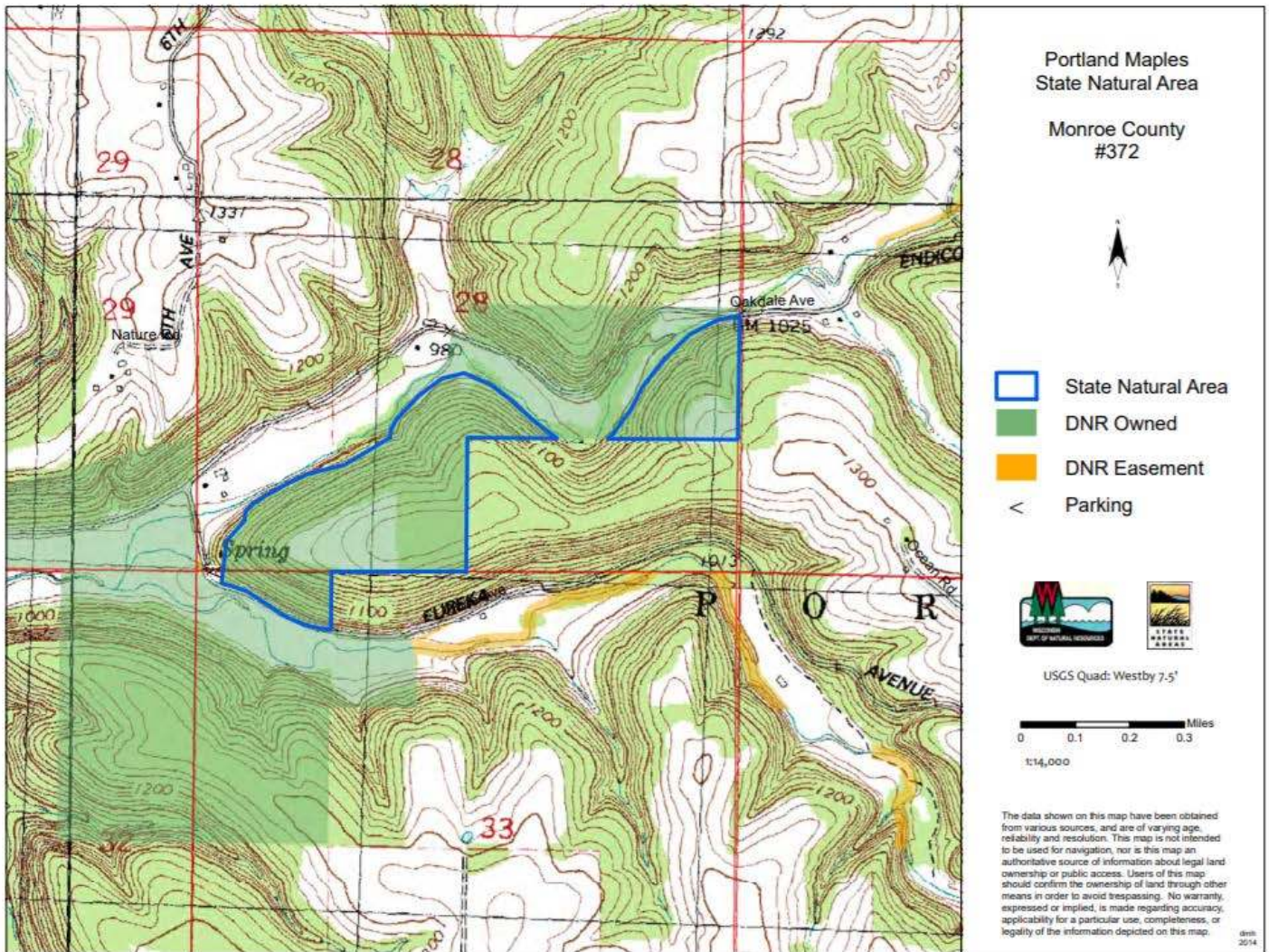
Map B-13 La Crosse River Trail Prairies SNA



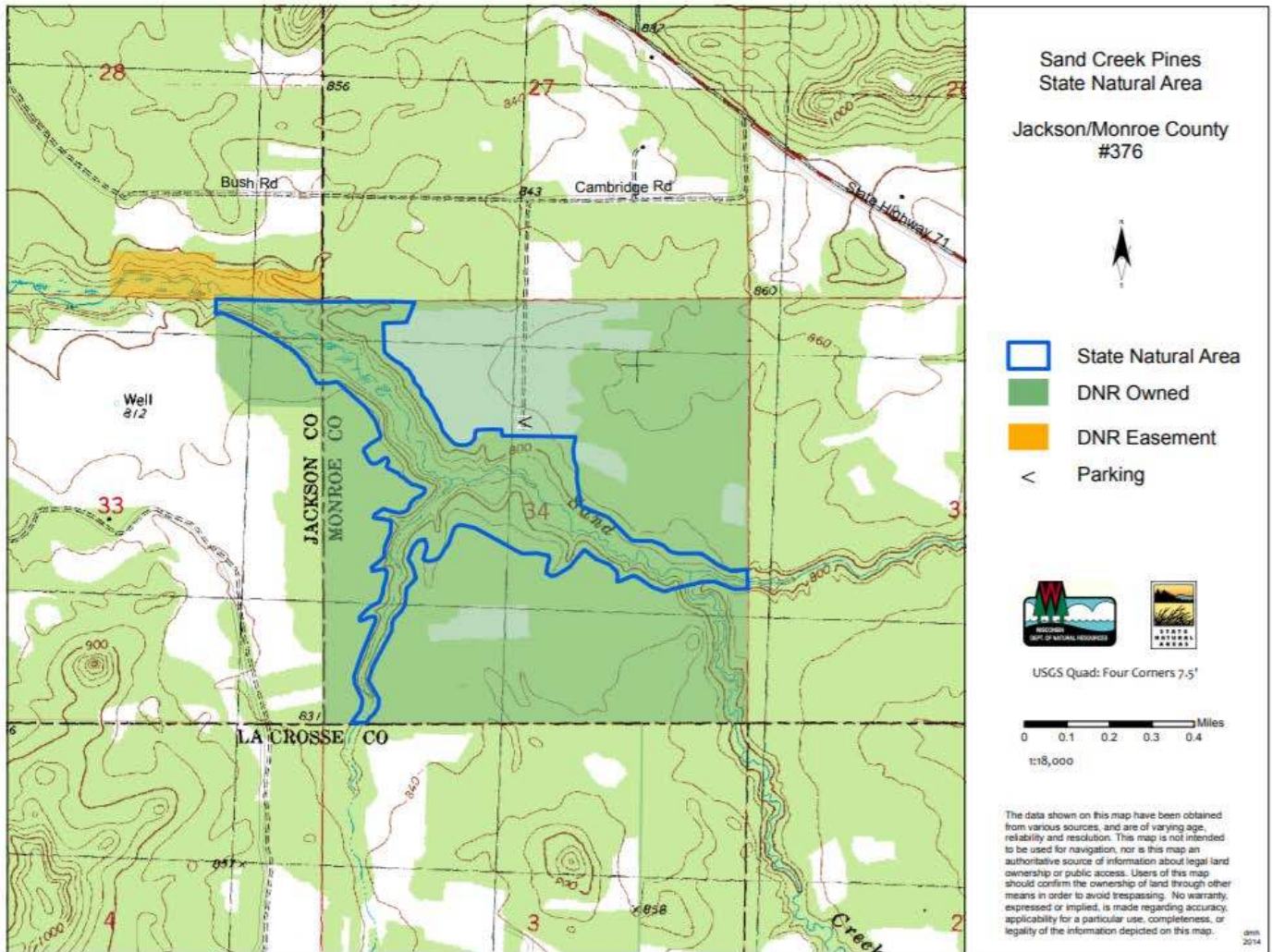
Map B-14 Mill Bluff SNA



Map B-16 Portland Maples SNA



Map B-17 Sand Creek Pines SNA



Wilton Hemlocks





Aerial Source: USDA 2015

0 215 430 860 Feet



Legend

-  Wilton Hemlocks Boundary
-  Parking

Property Address: 25690 Highway 131, Wilton, WI



Monroe Co
Wellington Twp
T15N R1W
Section 5 & 6
INSERT LAT/LON HERE

Appendix C: Monroe County Municipal Priorities

Municipality	Plans for Future Developments and Improvements (Information Given by Municipal Officials)
<i>City of Sparta</i>	
	<p>General improvements to city park facilities (fencing, parking lots, lighting, electrical, restrooms, irrigation)</p> <p>Replacement/Upgrade to all playground equipment city-wide</p> <p>Add baseball/softball fields to open green spaces in parks city-wide</p> <p>Replace infield ball field soil with appropriate field mix (6 fields)</p> <p>Development of Outdoor Pickle Ball Courts</p> <p>Continuation/Expansion of Hiking/Biking Trails in Amundson Park</p> <p>Replace snowmobile/golf bridge on River Run Sparta Golf Course crossing the La Crosse River</p> <p>Paving of the cart/hiking paths at River Run Sparta Golf Course</p> <p>Add additional slide and splash pad area to Sparta Family Aquatics Center</p> <p>Replace fishing pier at Fisherman’s Park</p> <p>Memorial Park improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade playground • Replace bathroom / concession stand • Replace outdoor lighting for ball fields • Replace backstop of Diamond #1 • Replace scoreboard on Diamond #1 <p>Once US Silica is done 10-15 years, development of site</p>
<i>City of Tomah</i>	
	<p>Creation of Southeast Path - 10 foot wide asphalt path, with 2 flashing light crossings (one each at USH 12 and STH 131) (est. cost \$550,000)</p> <p>Creation of North Corridor Path - 10 foot wide asphalt path, using the existing signals at Veteran’s Street (est. cost \$415,000)</p> <p>Chapters 7, 8, and 9 in the City of Tomah’s CORP 2021-2025 shows a detailed outline of park maintenance needs and capital improvement plan</p>
<i>Village of Cashton</i>	
	<p>Village Park new developments and improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large shelter • Lighted walking trail • Skate park • Vegetation/flower area • Splash pad area • Municipal pool • Skating rink • Cabana structures
<i>Village of Kendall</i>	
	<p>Redevelop Glenwood Park to repair flood damage and reinforce park improvements against future flooding. Site improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion control measures to improve site drainage • Fill and site compaction to raise to 100-year flood level • Retaining wall between floodway and flood fringe • Topsoil for park and sod for baseball diamond • Resurfacing and striping of parking lot • Resurfacing and striping of basketball court • Replace playground sand and equipment • Replace volleyball court sand

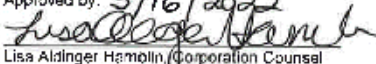
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add walking path • Install baseball diamond lighting and fencing • Construct new pavilion
Village of Melvina	
	No plans at this time.
Village of Norwalk	
	No plans at this time.
Village of Oakdale	
	Expand and improve snowmobiling trails
	Expand and create multi-use trails
Village of Warrens	
	No plans at this time.
Village of Wilton	
	Extending the Wilton River Walk south from Village Campground to Highway 131
	Extending paved path from campground parking area to Wilton River Walk entrance
	Improving tent camping by providing raised sand beds at tent camping sites
	Connecting the Wilton River Walk to the Elroy-Sparta Trail at both West of Wilton (by the Fastrip) and East of Wilton (by the Gooseville bridge)
	Construction of an outdoor amphitheater in the Village park/campground
	Renovation of existing Lions shelter to include service kitchen and public restrooms OR demolishing the existing shelter and customizing it for Food Truck vendors
	Selling existing gazebo pocket park and exchanging it with vacant corner lot at the intersection of Walker and Main Street for high exposure Welcome to Wilton greenspace with directional signage to Elroy-Sparta Trail and Wilton River Walk
	Create a new neighborhood playground on vacant lot # in the Arrowhead Subdivision
	Map and GIS survey Village of Wilton Cemetery
	Improve the Old Whistle Building lot to provide a small dog park with access to the Wilton River Walk
Village of Wyeville	
	No plans at this time.
Town of Leon	
	Community Park - Develop walking paths and expand parking lot.
Additional Community Plans	
	<i>To be updated as needed.</i>

Appendix D: Adoption Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 05-22-01

RESOLUTION APPROVING
THE
MONROE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2022-2026

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Monroe County has participated in a County-wide Outdoor Recreation Planning Program
2 covering the inventory and recommended development of outdoor recreation facilities within Monroe
3 County; and
4
5 **WHEREAS**, this planning program has been conducted through the Mississippi River Regional
6 Planning Commission in conjunction with Monroe County; and
7
8 **WHEREAS**, the plan document reflects community recreation needs in light of goals, objectives and
9 generally accepted recreation planning standards; and
10
11 **WHEREAS**, the action and objective items contained within this plan will now qualify for certain state
12 and federal grant applications; and
13
14 **WHEREAS**, the plan is a dynamic document, therefore future changes may be incorporated into the
15 plan by amendment; and
16
17 **WHEREAS**, this plan has been reviewed and approved by the Monroe County Natural Resources and
18 Extension Committee and is being submitted for approval of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors.
19
20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors that they do
21 hereby approve the Monroe County Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2022–2026.
22
23 Dated this 25th day of May, 2022.
24
25 Offered by the NATURAL RESOURCES and EXTENSION COMMITTEE.
26
27 Purpose: To approve the Monroe County Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2022-2026.
28
29 Fiscal Note: No direct impact on the budget.
30
31 Drafted by Chad Ziegler.

Finance Vote (if required): ____ Yes ____ No ____ Absent	Committee of Jurisdiction Forwarded on: <u>May 11</u> , 20 <u>22</u> VOTE: <u>3</u> Yes <u>0</u> No <u>2</u> Absent
Approved by: <u>5/16/2022</u>  Lisa Aldinger Hamelin, Corporation Counsel	Committee Chair: 