

Chapter 4:

COUNTY MAINTAINED RECREATION FACILITIES

4.1 Introduction

This chapter is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreational facilities that are managed by the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department. Developed recreation areas that the County maintains or owns are listed and described by type:

- 4.2. County Parks & Recreation Areas
- 4.3. County Forest
- 4.4. Special Use Recreational Areas

4.2 County Parks & Recreation Areas

The following county parks and recreation areas are shown on **Map 2** and are maintained by the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department. Any recreation areas of the county forest that do not act as county parks are listed in **4.5 Special Use Recreational Areas**.

Classification: County Parks & Recreation Areas

County Parks & Recreation Areas that act as county parks: *At least 100 acres of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses, accommodates large gatherings & special events, and provides for the individual recreation needs of county residents. County parks and recreation areas offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas. County parks and recreation areas provide for a regional user group and serve primarily county residents. Special facilities like camping and trails are also used by tourists and visitors to the county. (See: 5.3 Park Standards Analysis.)*

See the following pages for county park & recreation area descriptions. See county parks & recreation areas on **Map 2**.

Wood County Cera Park

About 54 acres

205 State Highway 66, Rudolph, WI (Town of Rudolph)

Wood County Cera Park is a 54-acre park on the Wisconsin River. On January 1, 2025, Wood County Parks and Forestry Department entered into a lease agreement with Consolidated Water Power Company (CWPCo) to begin managing Cera Park.

Inventory:

Non-Electric Campsites (6)

Electric Campsites (59)

Waterfront Campsites

Restroom & Shower Facilities

Dump Station & Potable Water

Boat Landing

Boat/Fishing Docks (9)

Picnic Areas

Playgrounds

Mini Golf Course

Enclosed Shelters (2)

Basketball Courts

Sand Volleyball

Softball/Baseball Field

Wi-Fi offered thru Solarus



Pictures from Consolidated Water Power Company staff.

Dexter County Park

About 930 acres

8220 State Highway 54, Pittsville, WI (Town of Dexter)

Dexter Park is about 930-acres located fully within the approximately 1,000-acre Dexter Block of the Wood County Forest. Located within Dexter Park, Lake Dexter is 298-acres with a maximum depth of 17 feet that was created in 1962 by damming the Yellow River. About 80-acres of the park includes a 109-site campground. Within the campground area is a small concrete boat launch; about 400 feet south is a fishing pier with boat mooring; and about 400 feet further south is another fishing pier with boat mooring. Three group camping sites are located south of the main campground. Ten ATV campsites are located south of the group camping sites. The approximately 136-acre park to the south of the campground features an open shelter, playground, beach with bath house and restrooms, and a sand volleyball court. Hiking trails loop throughout the campground and extend north of the campground.

Dexter Hiking/Biking Trails – Loops include 1.75 miles (asphalt / natural surface), 3.75 miles (asphalt / natural surface), and 5.25 miles (asphalt / natural surface). These trails are about 7-feet wide.

On the southeast corner of the lake is a 31-acre peninsula accessible on Town Hall Road, a loop road off of STH 80. Facilities on this peninsula include a concrete boat launch, accessible boat boarding dock, a boat wash station, fish cleaning house, and an enclosed rentable building,

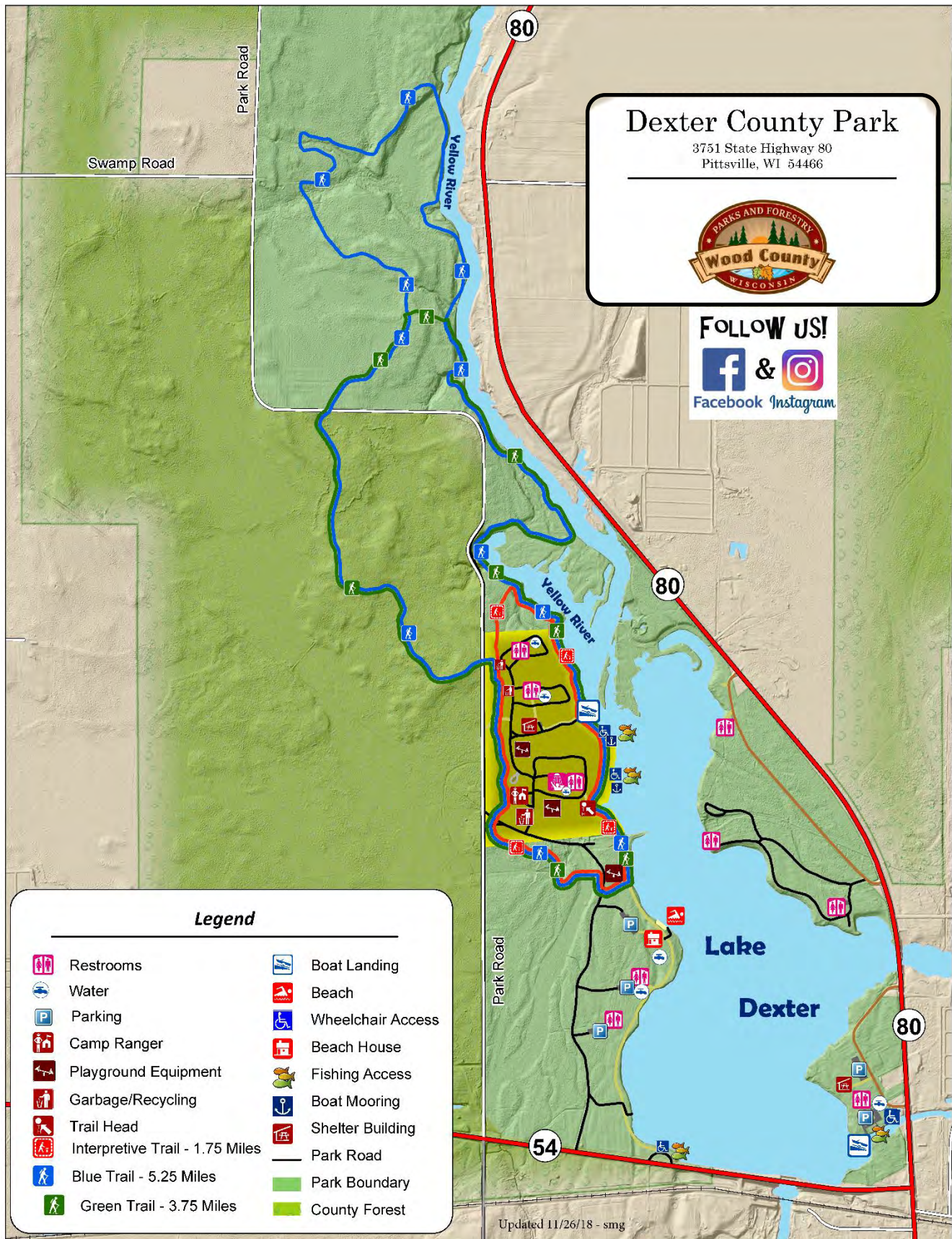
On the northeast shore of Lake Dexter is a 70-acre peninsula accessible on Lake Road, a loop road off of STH 80. Facilities on this peninsula include 3 restrooms and a 1-mile double loop sand trail that is 9-feet wide.

A wayside park, within Dexter Park, has a boulder lined loop gravel driveway off of STH 54 on the southwest corner of Lake Dexter. Facilities include gravel parking, a historic log, a covered picnic table, a bench along Lake Dexter, and an accessible fishing platform.

Inventory:

Non-Electric Campsites (3)	Sand Volleyball Court
Electric Campsites (103)	Restroom Facilities
Waterfront Campsites (2)	Drinking Fountains
Full Hookup Campsites (4)	Picnic Areas
ATV Campsites (10)	Playgrounds
Group Campsites (3)	Lake Dexter (298 acres)
Accessible Campsites (3)	Swimming Beach
Accessible Fishing Pier	Boat Landings (2)
Laundry Facilities	Fish Cleaning Stations
Restroom & Shower Facilities	Hiking/Biking Trails
Dump Station & Potable Water	Hunting (certain areas)
Enclosed Shelter	Wildlife Observation
Open Shelter	





Nepco Lake County Park

About 125 acres

1410 Griffith Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI (Village of Port Edwards)

In 1977, this 125-acre park was donated by Nekoosa Papers, Inc. to be used for public outdoor recreation. This park is located on the north side of 496-acre Nepco Lake. The park provides the only public boat landing available on the lake. The park features just over 1-mile of shoreline, which provides ample opportunities to shore fish. Some other highlights include a beach area, playground, accessible fishing pier, and an enclosed shelter with heating and air conditioning that is open to rent all year round. One of the most popular attractions at the park includes all of the available trails. There are several loop trails totaling 4.5 miles that are used by many for hiking and cross-country skiing. Additionally, there are over 5 miles of single-track trails used for bicycling and snowshoeing. Wood County has partnered with Consolidated Musky Club on several occasions to stock musky in Nepco Lake.

Inventory:

496-acre Nepco Lake
Swimming Beach
Boat Landing
Boat Docks (2)

About 4.5-miles Hiking & X-C skiing trails
5-miles Single Track Bike/Snowshoe Trails
Trail Pass Registration Station
Picnic Areas

Enclosed Shelter Building (reservable)
Open Shelter
Playground



Source: Wood County Parks & Forestry





North Wood County Park

About 167 acres

7500 Park Lane, Arpin, WI (Town of Richfield)

The Yellow River traverses North Wood County Park. Two small dams create Lake Kaunewinne (5 acres) and Lake Manakiki (11 acres), providing scenic beauty throughout the park. One of the main attractions of the park is the 225-foot suspension bridge that spans the river. The Yellow River and both lakes provide ample shore fishing opportunities. There are a total of 99 campsites in North Park. Some of the amenities at the campground include: electrical hookups, shower & laundry facilities, a dump station (fee for non-registered campers), and fresh water are available for registered campers. Other attractions include disc golf, a stone enclosed shelter, beach area, bathhouse, and scenic walking trails along the river.

Inventory:

Non-Electric Campsites (23)

Electric Campsites (76)

Waterfront Campsites (5)

Accessible Campsites (2)

Group Campsite

Laundry Facilities

Restroom & Shower Facilities

Dump Station & Potable Water

Suspension Bridge

Stone Shelter Building (Reservable)

Open Shelters (2)

Playgrounds (3)

Dams (2)

Sand Volleyball Courts (2)

18-hole Disk Golf Course

Stone Bathhouse & Restroom

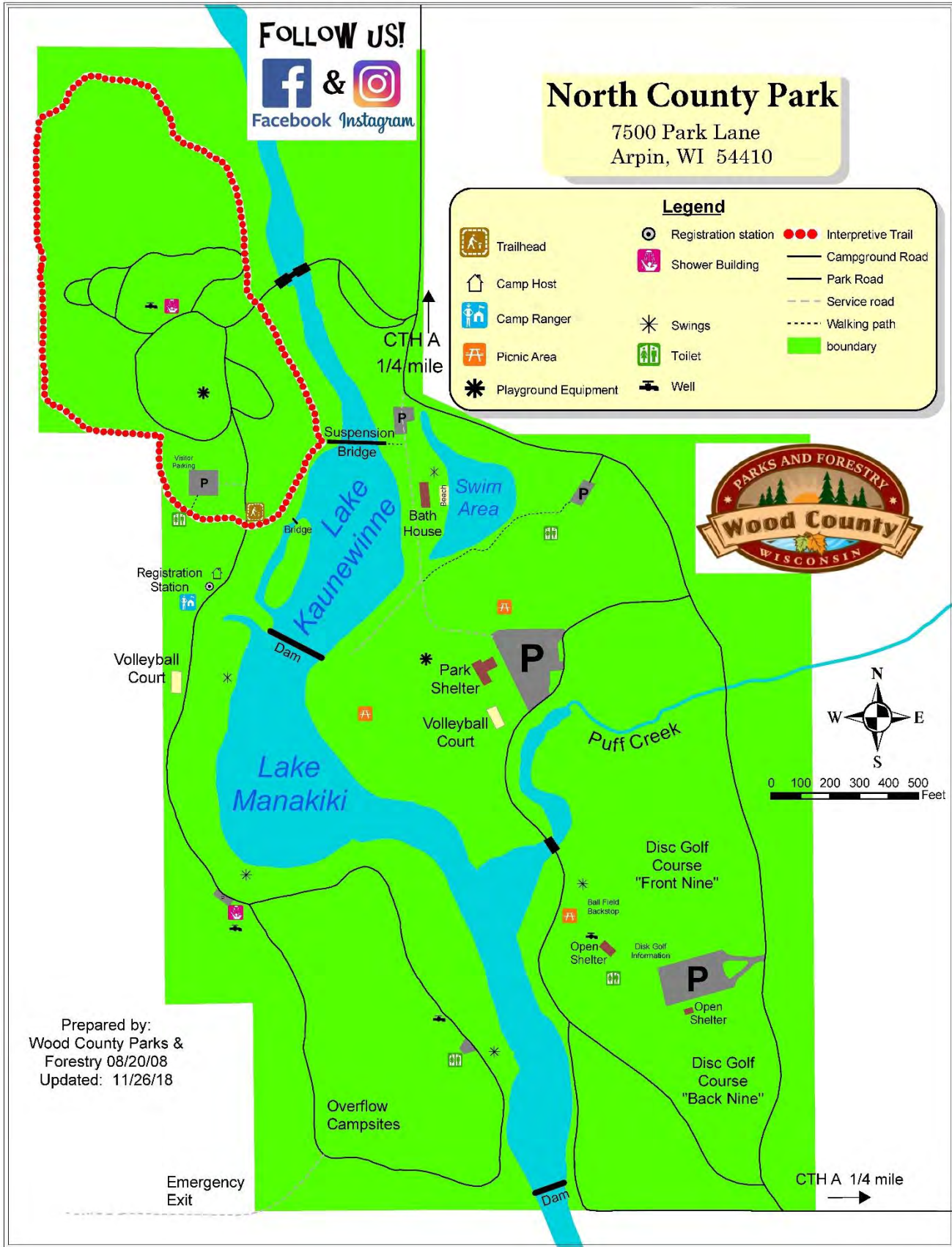
Swimming Beach

Picnic Areas with tables and grills

Hiking Trails



Source: Wood County Parks & Forestry



Powers Bluff County Park

About 382 acres

6990 Bluff Drive, Arpin, WI (Town of Arpin)

Powers Bluff is a worn down peak of an ancient mountain range which once covered northern Wisconsin. It is comprised almost entirely of solid quartzite, and the highest point of elevation in Wood County.

Inventory:

Snow Tubing Hill (4 runs)

Downhill Skiing (3 runs)

Tow Lifts (3)

Skiing/X-C Trail (2.5 mi.)

Snowmobile Trail (1.3 mi.)

Nature Trail (1.5 mi.)

3-miles Hiking, Biking, Snowshoeing, & X-C skiing trails

5-miles Single Track Bike/Snowshoe Trails

Stone Shelter Building

➤ Restrooms

➤ Drinking Water

➤ Fireplace (winter only)

➤ Concessions (winter only)

Picnic Areas/Tables/Grills

Play equipment

2 parking lots off of CTH N.

Native American Burial

Grounds & Dance Rings

Historical Markers

Archery hunting allowed

within 223 acres of new property off CTH N.



Winter activities include: downhill skiing, tubing (tubes provided), snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowmobile access, and wooded areas for snowshoeing.

A two-story stone shelter building includes a fireplace, restrooms, and concessions.



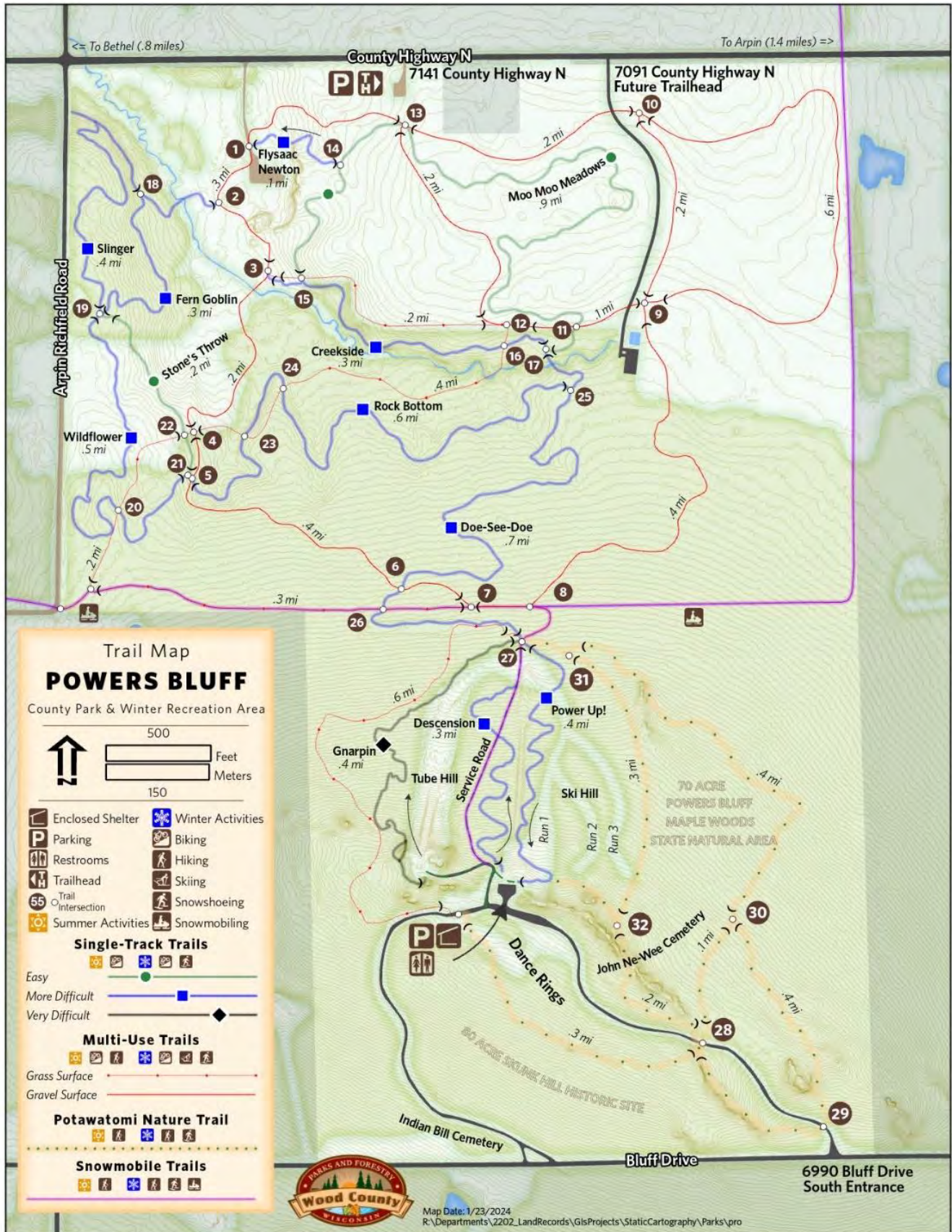
70 acres of the park is a designated State Natural Area (SNA) – **Powers Bluff Maple Woods SNA (No. 131).**

A 1.5 mile nature trail winds through the SNA, which was designated a State Natural Area in 1976.



The south 80 acres of the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Native American Cultural Sensitivity Area with preserved Native American dance rings, and burial grounds.

In 2012, Wood County acquired 223 acres north of the snow tubing & downhill skiing location. This area will be developed in the future for recreational activities. See [Powers Bluff County Park Concept Plan](#) in **Appendix H.**



South Wood County Park

About 332 acres 6411 South Park Road, Wisconsin Rapids, WI (Town of Grand Rapids)

Lake Wazeecha is the Native American name that means "Lake of the Land of the Pines."

Inventory:

Non-Electric Campsites (8)	Boat Landing (2 lanes, concrete)	White Sands Swimming Beach
Electric Campsites (66)	Boat Wash Station	Red Sands Swimming Beach
Waterfront Campsites (8)	Boat/Fishing Docks	Bleachers for State Water Ski Show
Accessible Campsite (1)	Picnic Areas with tables and grills	Ski Show Historical Marker
Accessible Fishing Dock	Playgrounds	Enclosed Shelter
Restroom & Shower Facilities	12-hole Disk Golf Course	Open Shelters (4)
Dump Station & Potable Water		Storm Shelter

South Wood County Park is 332-acres located around 148-acre Lake Wazeecha. There is a 4-mile trail encompassing the lake. This multi-use trail is mostly paved, and features community walk/run events annually. Trail users can enjoy scenic views throughout the year. South Wood County Park Campground is located on the south side of the lake. This campground hosts 73 campsites. The campground has shower facilities available to users. Lake Wazeecha is a great place for water skiing, fishing, paddle boarding, canoeing, tubing, and other water sport activities.

There are numerous small sandy beaches that are perfect for parking a boat and having a picnic. There are plentiful fishing opportunities by boat and shoreline. The park hosts the State Water Ski Show Tournament, held each July at Red Sands Beach. South Wood County Park is surrounded by suburban neighborhoods providing outdoor recreations opportunities within walking distance. Some other highlights of the park include: Willow Run Disc Golf Course, two beaches, six reservable shelters, a boat launch, and numerous picnic areas.



4.3 County Forest

The Wood County Forest has 37,822 acres of land. This land provides public access for various types of outdoor recreation. There are several miles of county forest roads to enhance access to these facilities.

Recreational Use of the County Forest

Hunting, trapping, fishing, picnicking, snowshoeing, horseback riding, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, photography and nature study are currently permitted throughout the County Forest. These uses do not require a permit but must be conducted according to the provisions of County Ordinances.

Primitive Camping within the County Forest.

Wood County allows primitive camping within the County Forest. Natural vegetation and terrain may not be damaged or altered in any way, except for the construction of an adequate fire ring. Fasteners such as nails, screws or bolts may not be attached to trees. No littering. Camping is not permitted in areas adjacent to existing County Park camping facilities, developed recreation areas, and in areas posted “no camping allowed.” Firewood cutting requires a permit that is available at the Wood County Parks & Forestry Office. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days without a permit.

Multi-Use Trails

All open paths and roads in the Wood County Forest are open to walking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Richfield 360 Trails – These trails total about 8 miles of roughly 7-foot wide mowed clover that are open all year round. In winter, these trails are groomed for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and fat tire biking. A trail pass is required in winter. Outside of winter, these trails are open for walking, fat tire biking, and horseback riding.

Dexter Park Walking Trails & Nature Trail – These trails total about 10.75 miles of roughly 7-foot wide mowed clover that are open all year round for walking, fat tire biking, and horseback riding. These trails are not groomed for cross country skiing, and no trail pass is required.

Equestrian Trails

All portions of the Wood County Forest are open to horseback riding except: 1) within developed areas of Dexter Park, 2) ski trails at Richfield 360 parcel when groomed in winter, and 3) locations marked with signs closing an area.

Snowmobile Trails

Wood County has approximately 285 miles of established public snowmobile trails: 271 miles are **state-funded** and 13.6 miles are **club-funded**, non-sponsored snowmobile trails. **Map 3** shows the location of all snowmobile trails, but there are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the County. The state-funded trails sponsored by Wood County Parks & Forestry are maintained by the member clubs of the Wood County Snowmobile Council. The Council is comprised of 7 snowmobile clubs that meet monthly during the snowmobile season to provide continuous input to the County about the future direction of the County's snowmobile program.

ATV/UTV Trails

Wood County sponsors 10.6 miles of state funded All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)/Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) trails. In addition to the 10.6 miles of state funded off-road trails, there are several miles of road routes. **Map 3** shows the location of all ATV/UTV trails throughout the County. The map in **Appendix F** shows what communities have opened their roads to ATV/UTV traffic.

The state funded ATV/UTV trails in Wood County are as follows:

- **Hazelnut Trail** is 4.1 miles long running from STH 173 to McKeel Road.
- **Kimball Connector Trail** is 1 mile long running from the ATV Intensive Use Area to Kimball Road.
- **Hay Creek-Peterson Road Trail** is 4 miles long and runs from Hay Creek Road to Peterson Road.
- **Range Road Connector** is 1.5 miles long running from STH 54 to Range Road.

See **ATV Intensive Use Area** under **4.5 Special Use Recreational Areas**.

4.4 Special Use Recreational Areas

Special use recreational areas are intensively used spaces in the county forest that do not act as county parks. A fairly high degree of public use is expected in these areas, so there will be developed trails or facilities created for such uses. Any recreational areas of the county forest that act as county parks are listed in **4.3 County Parks & Recreational Areas**.

Classification: Special Use Facility

Special Use Facilities are often created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or unique use not classified elsewhere. Activities allowed and size requirements are only based upon what the use is and how much buffer space is needed from adjoining land uses. **(See: 5.3 Park Standards Analysis.)**

The following properties are shown on **Map 2** and are maintained by the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department:

- ATV Intensive Use Area
- Richfield 360 County Forest
- Rifle Range

See next page for descriptions.

ATV Intensive Use Area

About 400 acres 4415 State Highway 54, Wisconsin Rapids, WI (Town of Cranmoor)

The Wood County ATV Intensive Use Area is located 3 miles west of Port Edwards on State Highway 54. The park provides a central trailhead location to access ATV/UTV trails, snowmobile trails, and routes in Wood County and adjacent counties. The 400-acre area includes 10 miles of ATV trails, restroom facilities, a wash down station, loading/unloading ramp, playground equipment, open shelter, and an enclosed shelter. The park is open year-round with the exception of gun deer hunting season. This area offers several loop trails that have varying terrain and conditions. It is recommended if you visit the ATV Intensive Use Area to have a cell phone on you, to ride with a buddy, and to have a winch on your machine. It is a very “intensive use area.”

Inventory:

10 miles of ATV trails
Paved parking lot
Loading/unloading ramp
ATV wash station

Enclosed shelter (reservable)
➤ Restrooms
➤ Wood stove

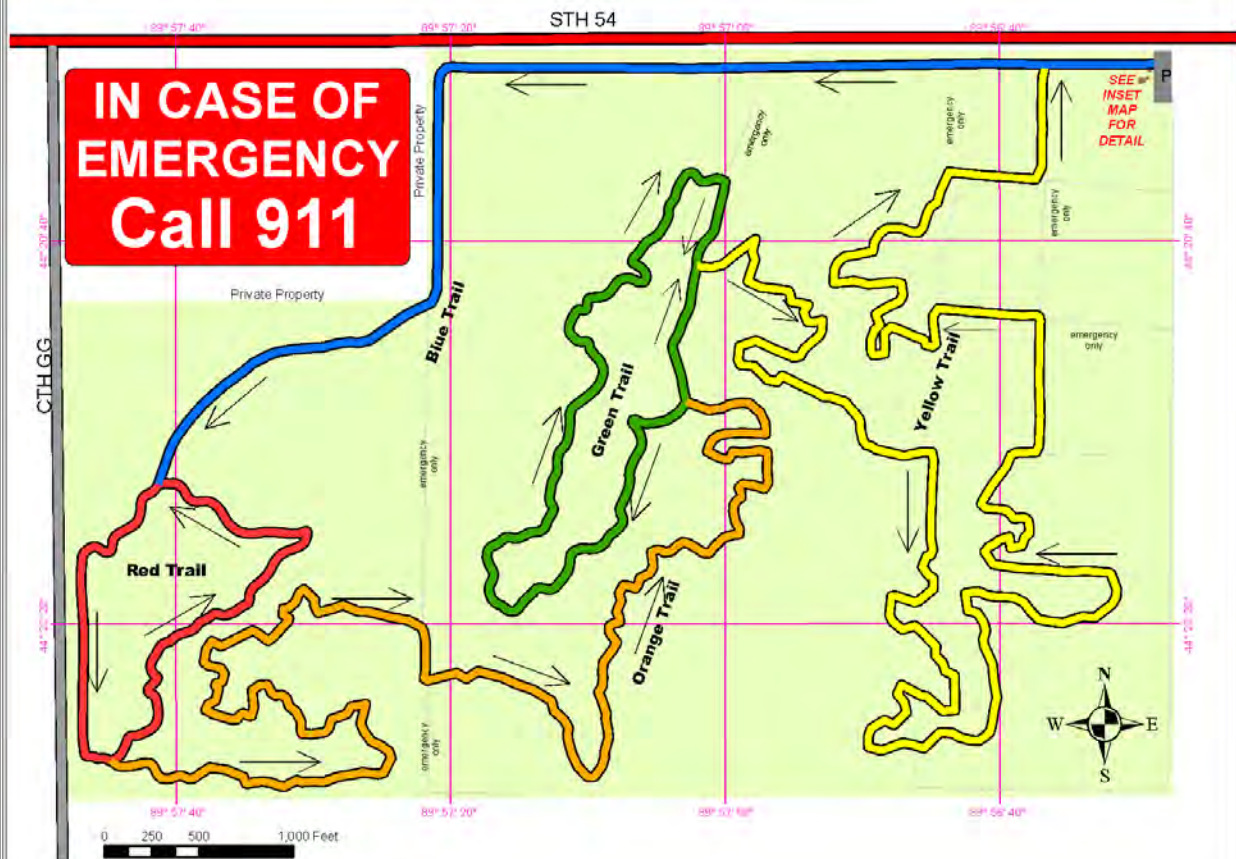
Small open shelter with grill
Picnic area
Playground



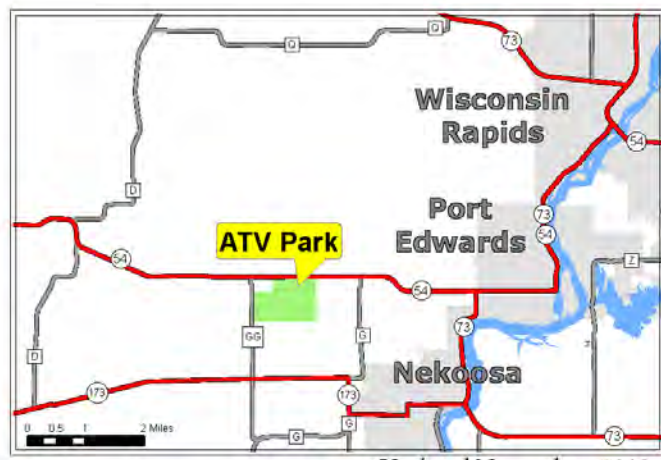
Source: Wood County Parks & Forestry

Wood County ATV Intensive Use Area

4415 State Highway 54
Port Edwards, WI 54469



Inset Map



Updated November, 2018

Richfield 360 County Forest

About 360 acres

8183 Heggelund Lane, Marshfield, WI (Town of Richfield)

Richfield 360 Area is located 7 miles north of State Highway 73 and State Highway 80 on County Highway A. This 360-acre area has wilderness camping with 7 primitive campsites and is open year-round. The park features 8 miles of nature & cross-country ski trails on gently rolling lands along Puff Creek. The ski trails are broken down into 1, 2, and 5 mile loops. These trails are winter groomed for ski, bike, and snowshoe. The Wood County snowmobile trail also crosses through the southern portion of the park. Horseback riding is another activity that can be enjoyed at Richfield 360 when there is no snow. This property is part of the County Forest Program and is often open for hunting.

Inventory:

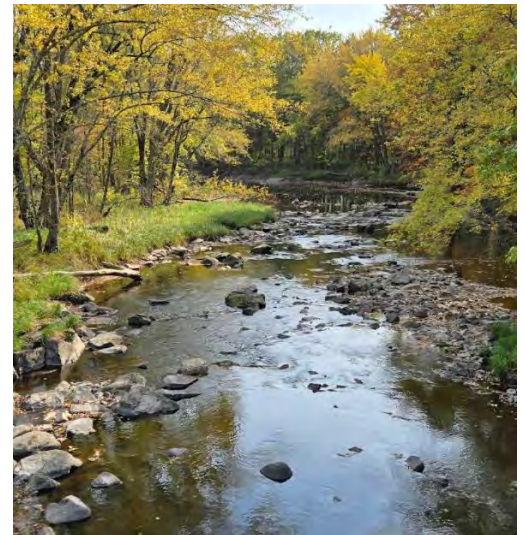
Hiking/Biking/Cross-Country Trails
Horseback Riding
Trailhead & Trail Pass Registration Station

Primitive Campsites (7)
Vault Toilet
Puff Creek

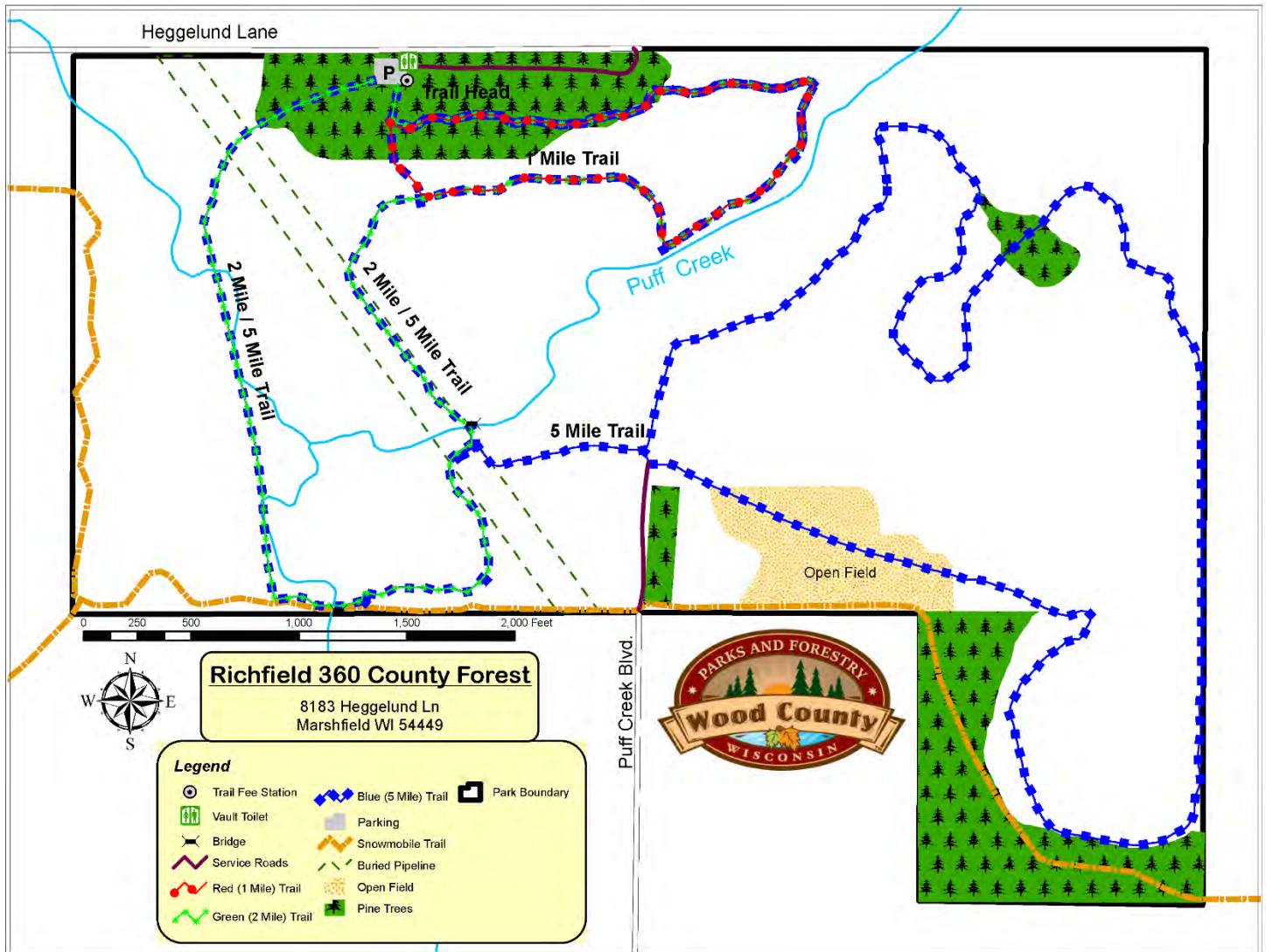
Hunting
Wildlife Observation



Source: John Drachenberg on Google



Source: Kevin Fuller on Google



Rifle Range

About 9 acres

3705 Marsh Rd., Wisconsin Rapids, WI (Town of Seneca)

The Wood County Rifle Range is 9-acres and open year-round from sunrise to sunset. The shooting range is free of charge. Eight shooting stations are available ranging from 25 yards out to 100 yards. There are two 100-yard shooting stations, two 50-yard shooting stations, and four 25-yard shooting stations. Each shooting station is equipped with an ambidextrous shooting bench. There is no range master, and users must provide their own targets (cardboard and paper only). The shooting range is in the Seneca Block of the Wood County Forest. Additionally, the range features a large gravel parking lot, gravel path to all shooting stations, and trash receptacles to dispose of targets and shell casings.

Inventory:

Shooting Benches
Range Backstop
No Range Master
No Range Fees

25-yard Shooting Stations
50-yard Shooting Stations
100-yard Shooting Stations

Gravel Parking Lot
Gravel Paths
Trash Receptacles



Source: Wood County Parks & Forestry

Wood County Rifle Range Area

3705 Marsh Road, WI Rapids, WI 54495

3.5 miles West of Wisconsin Rapids



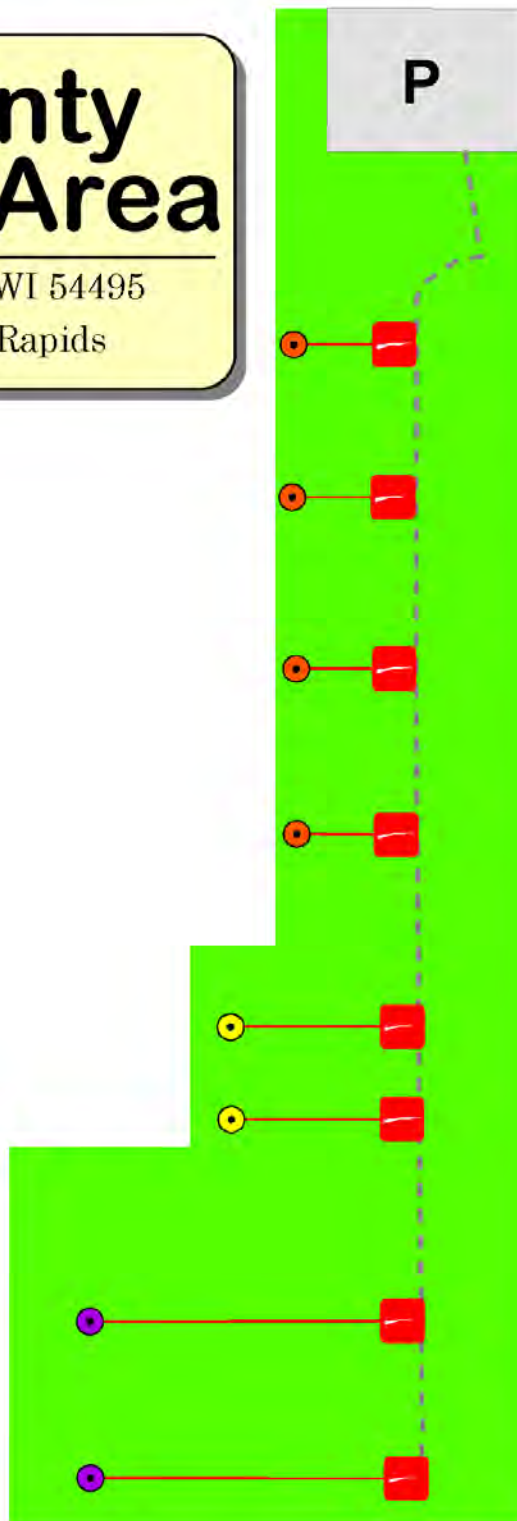
The Rifle Range is open year round from sunrise to sunset. There are eight shooting stations available. No fee is required. There is no range master so you must bring your own targets.

PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!

Cardboard Targets Only. Please observe the posted rules.



Prepared by: Wood County
Land Information Office
2/24/2014
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Parks & Forestry



0 75 150 225 300 Feet