



III. Past Plans & Accomplishments

Recreational planning has a long-established history in Wood County. This section will examine past county recreation plans. This provides a clearer understanding of the extent of progress made over the years. There have been many improvements and accomplishments since the first plan was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in 1972.



Red Sands Beach – South Park

Past Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans

The first Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan was developed in 1972 as part of a larger county comprehensive development project. Updates of the plan occurred in: 1977, 1984, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2011, and now 2018. This demonstrates Wood County's commitment to providing quality recreational opportunities for its residents and visitors. Reviewing these documents provides a clearer understanding of the extent of progress made over the years. This plan builds off of all previous versions of past recreation plans to provide consistency, but also aims to identify ever changing recreation trends and issues.

Improvements & Accomplishments

Beginning with the original 1972 plan and continuing through the six (6) comprehensive updates, it is very evident of the significant recreation system improvements and accomplishments that have occurred over the years. Review of these early plans reveal that many goals, objectives, and recommendations have been implemented. Some examples include: the acquisition of 360 acres in the Town of Richfield; the development of a new county park on NEPCO Lake; the construction of 25 miles of trails; the reconstruction of boat landings; the construction of ADA compliant facilities; the protection of natural and cultural resources; and significant improvements to parks at the local municipal level. These are only a few of the significant recreation system improvements. To gain a clearer understanding of the extent of progress made since the 1970's, early plans can be referenced and compared.

Specifically, since the 2011 plan was adopted by the County Board many improvements to the Wood County recreation system have ensued. Improvements are in many cases the result of their inclusion in the 2011 plan. Most noticeably, the county acquired 223 acres of land adjoining Powers Bluff County Park for future facility development. The Red Sands Beach Pavilion was constructed at South Wood County Park in 2012. Lake Wazeecha was dredged in 2016 providing environmental and recreational benefits. (Table 1) Starting on the next page details outdoor recreation improvements and accomplishments for county facilities since the last time the plan was updated. This provides a clearer understanding of the extent of progress made in the implementation of the plan. Additionally, in some cases city, village and town improvement projects received state and federal grant funding due to their inclusion in the plan.



Red Sands Beach Pavilion



Dredging Lake Wazeecha

**Table 1
WOOD COUNTY RECREATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS (Since 2011)**

<p align="center">South Wood County Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction of Red Sands Beach Pavilion (removal of old beach house) ▪ New parking lot adjacent to Red Sands Beach Pavilion ▪ Constructed sidewalk , stairway, concrete patio, and retaining wall adjacent to Red Sands Beach Pavilion ▪ Upgraded campground electric to 50 amp in 2nd and 3rd loop ▪ Removed trees and woody vegetation from downstream side of dike structure ▪ Dam improvement project including: retaining wall replacement, rip-rap overlay, dam gate seal replacement, and installation of dam level monitoring equipment with remote gate adjustment controls ▪ Vault toilet remodels including: Buena Vista and Shady Rest ▪ Enclosed shelter improvements including: New steel roof, windows, doors, serving bar, sink, and restroom remodels ▪ Replaced park entrance sign ▪ Dredged east end of Lake Wazeecha ▪ Constructed larger firewood storage structure ▪ Remodeled camp ranger cabin ▪ Added a work bay onto maintenance shop building
<p align="center">North Wood County Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter building parking lot renovation ▪ Removal of old vault toilet near Disc Golf course ▪ Construction of new vault toilet at Disc Golf course parking lot ▪ Installation of new above ground fuel station at maintenance shop (closure of underground storage tank) ▪ Replaced bulkhead in swimming area, and cleaned out and replaced sections of inlet culvert in order to increase water flow and water quality in beach area ▪ Remodeled camp ranger cabin, lower shower building and vault toilet near beach ▪ Installed new playground equipment in campground ▪ Enlarged firewood storage structure ▪ Relocated “roaming” maintenance worker office and workspace to NP, from Forestry Shop ▪ Upgraded campsites along river to 50 amp ▪ Replaced septic systems for beach house, shelter building, and lower shower building ▪ Replaced park entrance sign
<p align="center">Dexter County Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Repaved loop 3 in campground ▪ Relocated camper dump station ▪ Constructed 4 full hookup sites ▪ Updated loop 2 and 3 electric to 50 amp ▪ Enlarged firewood storage structure ▪ Constructed new shower building between loop 2 and 3 ▪ Constructed new vault toilet on east side of park ▪ Remodeled overflow camping bathroom and camp ranger cabin ▪ Removed tennis courts and replaced with sand volleyball courts ▪ Installed new playground equipment near the shelter building ▪ Installation of dam level monitoring equipment and remote gate adjustment controls ▪ Constructed new equipment storage building and maintenance/forestry shop on property south of park entrance road ▪ Moved supplies from old Forestry Shop, in Wisconsin Rapids, to new shop. Forestry Shop ownership was transferred to Hwy Dept. and LWCD ▪ Sold old Dexter Park maintenance shop ▪ Replaced park entrance sign
<p align="center">Powers Bluff County Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acquired 223 acres adjoining the existing 160 acre park (land trade for 240 acres of county forest land in Seneca and Cranmoor)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed old buildings on new property and created small parking lot Leased out 80 acres of crop land on new property Constructed new tow operator building for tube hill Replaced upper and lower ski tow operator buildings Remodeled vault toilet building Removed semi-trailer, which stored tubes, and replaced with new carport structure Reconstructed bottom of tube hill to create a safer landing area Created plan to follow through with Powers Bluff Long Range Master Plan; including multi use shelter building renderings and cost estimate, and trails and site plan for new property Began fundraising efforts and grant applications for the Powers Bluff Development Plan Began multi-use trail construction on new property Replaced park entrance sign and park map sign on shelter building
NEPCO Lake County Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded cross country ski trail Constructed shelter building storage addition Milled, shaped and paved boat landing parking lot Expanded and signed single track trail Created trailhead parking lot and information board Installed sound absorption panels in shelter building Partnered with Consolidated Musky Club in stocking musky on several occasions
Richfield 360 Recreation Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaced decking and handrails on snowmobile bridge Entered property into the County Forest system
Wood County ATV Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaced park entrance sign Installed trail head sign with map New wood stove installed in shelter building Worked in cooperation with WDNR on trail improvements and re-routes
Wood County Rifle Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved range access path with road base Improved shooting lane paths with wood chips Parking lot improvements including: removal of old fence and replacing with boulders, grading
Source: Wood County Parks and Forestry Department - 2018	



Musky Stocking – Lake Nepco