



# HIGH CLIFF STATE PARK

Draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment

April 2013

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



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Draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment  
April 2013

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation**

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## CHAPTER 1

# Introduction and Plan Summary

High Cliff State Park is a 1,195-acre property located ten miles east of Appleton on the northeast shore of Lake Winnebago in Calumet County. The park is situated on the Niagara Escarpment, a dolomite (dolostone) ridge formed by unequal erosion along the landscape. The Escarpment parallels the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago and extends northeasterly to Door County. It is this 223 foot high ledge, with a panoramic view of the lake and surrounding countryside, which gives High Cliff its name. It is this scenic beauty that has attracted people since the early 1900s.

Year-round attendance at the park is near 417,000 making High Cliff Wisconsin's fifth busiest state park. With its proximity to the Fox Valley, the park is close to a large population base. The park is within twenty minutes of the Fox Cities, forty-five minutes from Green Bay and Manitowoc, and within two hours from Milwaukee and Madison.

### **Purpose of the Master Plan**

The High Cliff State Park Master Plan spells out how the property will be managed, used and developed, and the benefits it will provide. It defines the recreational uses, natural resource management practices and additional aspects of the property's future use and development.

The High Cliff State Park Master Plan:

- Provides a vision and framework for the use, development, management and acquisition of the park well into the future with an emphasis on the next 15 years.
- Identifies land management areas and plans for their future management through description of general management objectives and specific management prescriptions for each management area.
- Makes recommendations for recreation, natural resource management, and habitat conservation to meet current and future needs.
- Provides for continuing public involvement during plan implementation.

### **Need to Revise the High Cliff State Park Master Plan**

The last master plan for the High Cliff State Park was approved in 1982. The Department determined the need to revise the plan in light of changing ecological, economic, and social conditions. The revised master plan will incorporate new information and current understanding of management needs in the context of the larger landscape

in which the park is located, and as required by Wisconsin State Statute 28.04. This plan will receive a formal, rigorous review approximately every 15 years. When necessary, the master plan may also be updated by plan amendments and variances through a formal process that includes public involvement.

### **Overview of the Planning Process**

There are several major phases in the master planning process as well as regular opportunities for public input and participation. These phases include completing the Regional and Property Analysis, establishing the property vision and goals, considering management alternatives, and finally creating a plan and an environmental analysis. The planning process is guided by State Statute 28.04 and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 44. The previous property master plan and extensive ecological, economic, and social assessments provide a foundation for the development of this plan.

### **Public Participation**

Public involvement is an integral part of the planning process. To create a shared vision for the future of the High Cliff State Park, the planning process relied on a solid foundation of public participation. In 2009, a Public Involvement Plan was adopted, outlining the process, procedures, and tools used throughout the planning process to encourage public awareness, interaction and input. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) worked with local towns, non-governmental organizations, citizens, and businesses to create the High Cliff State Park Draft Master Plan. Public meetings were held in 2009, 2011 and 2012. Public comment forms seeking input on a range of recreation and resource management considerations were mailed, made available online and provided at the public meetings. The planning process culminated with review and approval of the master plan by the Natural Resources Board. Public involvement will continue with public participation opportunities related to plan implementation

### **Incorporation of Purposes and Benefits Through the Master Plan:**

#### **Purpose of State Parks**

State parks are managed in accordance with Wis. Stat. s. 23.09 to assure the preservation of their scenic value, their historical value and the natural wonders they contain. The Wisconsin State Park Mission

is “To protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of our Wisconsin State Park System properties while providing high quality recreational and educational opportunities and programs.”

## Overview of the Master Plan

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### Recreation

Recreation management will be implemented in a way that provides safe and sustainable recreational access while protecting the ecological values and unique features of the park. Combinations of upgraded and new recreational facilities are planned for the park. Changes are designed to meet the demands of today’s park visitor and to improve the quality of the state park’s offerings. Several additional camping opportunities are planned, including a redesigned group campground and additions to the modern family campground. The primary modification to recreational trails will be the separation of equestrian and bike uses and an additional trail to be developed along the Lake Winnebago shoreline. Changes will also occur at the marina and beach areas that include a relocation of the existing boat launch. In addition, the educational and interpretative functions will be moved to a new education/interpretation building to be located within this area.

### Land Management

High Cliff State Park has been divided into four land management areas: two habitat community management areas (totalling 388 acres), one recreation management area (924 acres) and one State Natural Area (SNA) (133 acres) which is an expansion of an existing SNA.

### Boundary Expansion

The master plan calls for an expansion to the High Cliff State Park project boundary by 1,820 acres. The expansion area was selected because of its ability to sustainably provide enhanced ecological, economic, and social value for the property and region. If the boundary expansion were acquired in its entirety, the property would encompass approximately 3,015 acres. The expansion area will be classified as a Recreation Management Area and would provide additional public space for future recreational trail uses and hunting as may be appropriate for the capability of the lands acquired (including but not limited to hiking, equestrian, skiing, and off-road biking). The area would also be managed for various habitat management objectives including protection of the Niagara Escarpment, and restoration of open and forested areas to provide habitat for migratory birds.





## CHAPTER 2

# Management, Development and Use of the Property

### Property Designation and Authority

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This master plan is for the development and management of High Cliff State Park, which is designated as a state park as defined in Wis. Admin. Code s. NR 45. State Parks are administered by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

**Acreage Goal:** 3,015 acres

**State Ownership Acreage (2013):** 1,195 acres

**Statutory Authority:** The authority to acquire and manage land within High Cliff State Park is described in Wisconsin State Statutes 23.09, 23.11, 23.14, and 27.01.

### Vision Statement

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The vision of High Cliff State Park is to:

- Conserve and protect the outstanding collection of scenic, scientific, biological, historical, archeological, and cultural features and values along the Niagara Escarpment landscape.
- Provide recreational connections to the surrounding community.
- Preserve the benefits of the mostly natural, undeveloped Lake Winnebago shoreline for present and future generations.

### Property Goals

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**Fundamental Recreation:** The Park provides opportunities to experience and use the waters of Lake Winnebago in close harmony with surrounding natural settings while providing nature-based outdoor recreation experiences for nearby communities and visitors throughout the region.

**Ecological Management:** High Cliff State Park lies within the core of the Niagara Escarpment. This ecologically significant resource provides diverse and important habitats which sustain native, rare, and endangered plants and animals. Taken together, these ecological communities provide a benchmark for Niagara Escarpment protection.

**Aesthetic and Natural Experience:** The impressive vistas of High Cliff State Park provide exceptional opportunities for perceiving the natural world at a scale unavailable in most settings.

**Education and Interpretation:** High Cliff State Park offers interpretive and educational opportunities focused upon natural and human history. These activities provide a diverse narrative of plant and animal communities, ecology, geological formation, natural waterbodies and human history in the setting of the park and surrounding landscape.

**Cultural Resource Preservation:** The park contains a variety of recorded prehistoric and historic sites and structures that reflect the lives of the diverse settlers who strove to develop and thrive upon these lands.

### Recreation Management

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#### Background

Recreation at High Cliff State Park plays an important role in regional and local tourism. Visitors have been coming to the park for generations, and those who vacation or live near the park know the beauty of its great vistas, the easy access to Lake Winnebago and the diversity of its trails. The primary attractions at High Cliff are hiking, water recreation and camping. The High Cliff State Park Master Plan recommends upgrades to a number of facilities while enhancing existing recreational amenities. Changes are designed to meet the demands of today's park visitor and to improve the quality of the state park's offerings. Current and planned recreational facilities are identified on Maps 2.1 - 2.3 and Figures 2.1- 2.4.

#### Designated Trails

High Cliff State Park will continue to offer a variety of designated trails. The phrase "designated trails" refers to trails that are designed, maintained and limited to specific uses and are shown on the official park map. Designated trails at High Cliff State Park are available for recreational activities such as biking, hiking, equestrian, nature-study, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Maps 2.1 and 2.2 show the locations of existing and planned trails. Table 2.1 lists the NR 44 development classification and mileage for each trail.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide approximately 9.7 miles of hiking trails.
- Provide 6.5 miles of groomed cross-country ski trails.
- Provide approximately 8.75 miles of on / off road bike trails.
- Provide approximately 7.0 miles of equestrian trails.

- Accommodate snowmobile pass-through segments in locations which do not conflict with the primary uses of the property.
- Construct a separate bicycle / pedestrian lane on the main park road.

**Management and Development Prescriptions**

The final “on the ground” alignment of the new trails will be determined during the facility design process and included in the Department’s Capital Development Program Statement site plans.

**Biking**

**On Road**

On road biking is an extremely popular activity at the Park. All park roads are open to bicycle use, but they are heavily traveled by cars, campers, and trailers. The park road that climbs to the top of the escarpment is very popular for bike training and is also the main road for camping access. Because of this heavy use, a bike lane will be built to separate vehicle and bike/pedestrian uses. This lane will run from the base of the escarpment road to the upper three-way intersection and terminate 0.3 miles north along the park road at the day use area. In addition, a paved pedestrian / bike trail will be constructed from the upper pavilion parking lot to High Cliff Road. This will allow for an improved public ingress / egress location away from the shop complex.

**Off Road**

Off road biking is an activity which shares a trail network with equestrians and hikers. Off road biking and equestrians are incompatible uses with safety implications (2005-10 Wisconsin SCORP). Off road bike trail use will be separated from equestrian use resulting in 4.0 fewer Off Road miles of bike trail. The new off road bike trail configuration is shown in Map 2.1 and results in 4.75 miles of exclusive trail use.

**Hiking**

There are 8.58 miles of hiking trails on the property. Traditional hiking is available on the five trail loops that offer a variety of trail experiences. An additional 1.1 miles of primitive trail will be built along the Lake Winnebago shoreline and will connect with the upper trail loop system.

**Equestrian**

There are currently 7.0 miles of equestrian trails within the park. These trails are shared with off road biking which is an incompatible use (2005-10 Wisconsin SCORP). The equestrian trail use will be separated from the off road bike use. A section of the trail currently crosses the park service road which is closed to public use. The trail will be rerouted to the west of the shop complex also crossing a park service road. This park service crossing will be traffic controlled by appropriate signage. Increased enforcement of off-leash dogs within this area is planned to reduce user conflict. The new equestrian trail configuration is shown on Map 2.1 as resulting in 7.0 miles of exclusive trail use.

At a regional scale, Calumet County has proposed an equestrian campground at Calumet County Park that will utilize trails on state and county lands once a public land connection has been established.

**Cross-Country Skiing**

There are 6.5 miles of groomed cross-county ski trails within the park. No further expansion of this use will occur.

**Snowmobiling**

A 4.0 mile snowmobile trail connects the park with the county snowmobile trail system and Lake Winnebago. The snowmobile trail is maintained by the Calumet SnoTrails Club. Snowmobilers tend to pass through the park and generally do not stop to recreate within the

Trail	Current Use Miles	Planned Additional / Reduction Miles	Total Planned Miles	NR44 Trail Classification
<b>Hiking</b>				
Fully developed	1.17	-	1.17	Full
Moderately developed	7.41		7.41	Moderate
Primitive developed	-	1.1	1.1	Primitive
<b>Bike</b>				
Off Road	8.75	-4.0	4.75	Moderate
On Road	3.0	1.0	4.0	Full
<b>Horse</b>				
Horse Trail System	7.0		7.0	Moderate
<b>XC Skiing</b>				
	6.5		6.5	Moderate
<b>Snowmobiling</b>				
County Snowmobile Trail	4.0	-	4.0	Moderate
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37.83</b>	<b>- 1.9</b>	<b>35.93</b>	

property. The current trail splits within the property, with one section following a former road segment to provide access to the upper and lower sections of the park. The other trail section currently crosses the park service road which is closed to public use. This section will be rerouted to the west of the shop complex where it will also cross a park service road. This park service road crossing will be traffic controlled by appropriate signage.

### **Snowshoe**

Snowshoe use is allowed upon all trails except snow covered ski trails.

### **Mound Trail Relocation**

The mound trail system is a self-guided limestone surface interpretive trail showcasing Native American effigy mounds. An assessment of this area identified additional mounds that will require a reconfiguration of the trail system. The mound trail system will still be used for Native American effigy mound interpretation.

### **Camping**

High Cliff State Park currently (2013) has one campground with 112 family campsites, a specially designed cabin for campers with disabilities, as well as one outdoor group campground. Camping is available year-round by reservation; however, the shower facility is not available during the winter months.

Since camping occupancy rates are close to 100% on weekends, additional camping opportunities will be developed that include a new modern family campground loop and a redesign of the group camp area. All of the camping opportunities are summarized by camping type in the prescriptions section below. The approximate site locations are shown on Map 2.3 and Figures 2.1 and 2.2.

#### **Management Objectives**

- Provide opportunities for modern family camping in a quiet, natural setting.
- Provide opportunities for outdoor group camping in a setting apart from other uses.

#### **Management and Development Prescriptions**

##### **Family Camping**

Two additional campground loops with 60 total sites will be constructed east of the existing family campground. This new loop will be designed to provide a modern family camping experience. Improvements will include a new flush toilet/shower building, and electricity for a minimum of 25 sites. A set of two-unit pit toilet buildings will be constructed to accommodate the additional campsites. This loop with a combination of pull-through campsites and generously spaced spur-type campsites will more easily accommodate the larger camping vehicles common today. In total, 55 campsites on the property will have electricity when the new loops are completed.

### **Group Campground**

The current group campground is in need of facility upgrades and modernization. The current configuration does not meet state park design standards. The group campground will be redesigned to have four sites that will accommodate up to 30 persons each, for a total capacity of 120 people. Two of the sites will have a single 50 amp outlet for group use. A set of new two unit pit toilet buildings will be constructed to accommodate the new campsites. A central gathering area will be constructed that will include a 20' x 20' open air shelter, a fire pit and a grass play area to be utilized by any camper. A single water outlet will be provided to service all sites.

### **Day Use, Picnic Areas and Water Access**

High Cliff State Park is located on the shores of Lake Winnebago and features numerous picnic/day use areas, beach access and a marina. Day use areas generally provide grills, picnic tables, drinking fountains, pit toilets, and parking. An indoor/outdoor pavilion building is available to be rented out to the public. Flush toilets are available at the pavilion. Another popular day use function near the pavilion is a dog-friendly trail which utilizes the northeast corner of the park. Dogs are allowed on these trails and must be kept on a leash no longer than eight feet. There are a number of improvements and additions planned for the day use facilities.

#### **Management Objectives**

- Provide high quality opportunities for water access and day use recreation.

#### **Management and Development Prescriptions**

##### **Marina**

The park has a marina that offers four boat launch ramps, 85 seasonal slips, 12 transient slips, a mooring field and a concession stand. The marina operations are currently operated by a third-party concessionaire that has an agreement with the State of Wisconsin. As shown in Figure 2.3, there are a number of modifications needed to modernize the facility as a desirable destination, while providing safe access to Lake Winnebago and meeting ASCE standards for small craft basins. These improvements include:

- Relocation of the four boat ramps to the south shore harbor area to reduce on water and parking congestion.
- Expand parking for up to 80 vehicles and trailers on the south side of the harbor entrance.
- Improvement of fishing access from the breakwalls.
- Re-development of a non-motorized boat launch near the day use area.
- Development of a new concessions building offering food and beverage service.
- Reconfiguration of the seasonal slips to provide up to 55 slips.
- Improvement of water circulation rates and flow direction of the marina waters for improved water quality.

### Beach

A 250 foot long designated beach area located on Lake Winnebago is a popular destination for park visitors. The beach offers a playground, picnic tables, a roped swimming area, and a grassy area for sunbathing. There is a changing building that offers a changing area, flush toilets, and tempered showers for rinsing after swimming. With the advent of the break wall reconstruction, the beach sand area has moved up the shoreline toward the marina break wall by wave action. Since this has happened the existing beach zone is less frequently used by park visitors. As part of the marina redesign, the beach will be relocated closer to the break wall to reduce the need for maintenance. The changing building will be replaced by a multi-use building as described in the interpretation section. An accessible path will be built along a portion of the shoreline.

### Pond Complex

In the 1960s, a dam was built which impounded the two natural streams that flowed into the marina and Lake Winnebago. This area is referred to as the butterfly pond complex due to its shape. In 2009, an investigation of the current dam revealed seepage around and beneath this earthen structure. The Department of Natural Resources breached the dam and emptied the water from the butterfly pond complex to prevent potential dam failure. A new design, as shown in Figure 2.4 will offer improved conservation and recreation opportunities within this complex. Design improvements will provide increased pan fishing access, a bike / hike trail, and a connection to the surrounding neighborhood. In addition, this pond will be designated as an "urban fishing water" that will allow for daily bag limits and youth seasons.

### Dog / Pet Use

Currently there are three pet use areas within the park. The first is an area located at an upper parking lot. The second and third areas are located at the marina. The two pet areas near the marina are on the north and south of the High Cliff Marina Harbor. The north area includes the undeveloped boat launch and an area with a few picnic tables. The area to the south is near a playground structure and offers a few picnic tables. All trails at High Cliff are currently pet friendly. The pet areas south of the marina harbor will be closed to pets.

The current pet area in the upper park has a small parking lot and two very small vault toilets, but does not have a water supply. This pet area will be eliminated. A new pet use area will be created in a more desirable location just north of the current pet area and south of the pavilion, and the vault toilets will be removed. The new pet area will provide adequate parking, a flush toilet building, and an exterior water supply. The existing flush toilet building will need moderate renovations. This new pet area will provide much better access to the trail system.

### Picnic Areas

There are four picnic areas located throughout the park. The upper picnic area that was used for pet use will be closed. Maintenance and upgrades will be performed on the upper indoor section of the Pavilion. The remainder of the picnic areas will not change.

### Shop Complex

The shop area is considered an administrative area and is closed to public use. A number of code-related upgrades are planned for this complex. In addition, a two person office will be constructed for use by the local Warden and will serve as location for warden equipment storage unless another location is found within Calumet County.

### Hunting and Trapping

In 2012 the Natural Resources Board enacted a hunting and trapping framework for state parks and trails. The following seasons are in place for High Cliff State Park.

**Fall/Winter:** Archery hunting is allowed in the open areas of the property from Nov. 15 through the Sunday nearest Jan. 6. Trapping is allowed in the open areas of the property from Nov. 15 - Dec. 15. Trapping is not permitted in closed areas or within 100 yards of any designated use area, including trails.

**Spring:** Archery hunting and limited trapping are allowed April 1 through the Tuesday nearest May 3.

### Interpretative and Historic

A number of interpretative and historic features are part of High Cliff State Park. These include remnants and ruins from the former Western Lime and Cement Company and three separate Native American mound groups. A number of improvements are designated.

#### *Management Objectives*

- Protect historic sites as relic features that can be viewed by the public.
- Provide for a multi-use interpretive center that will provide for educational functions and a common gathering space.
- Continue Native American mound protection.

### Management and Development Prescriptions

#### Interpretive Center

The park's interpretive center was housed in the former High Cliff General Store building. The interpretive services have been moved to the visitor center conference room due to unsafe conditions for general public use. This arrangement has also resulted in an increased demand for office space. A multi-use interpretive center of up to 4,000 sq. ft. will be built near the Lake Winnebago shoreline which will provide for a full range of interpretive experiences, as well as providing services for beach and day users. This will include indoor teaching space highlighting the history of the park. As part of this new construction, the existing High Cliff General Store will be

removed, portions of which will be used in building the new interpretive center. This semi-adaptive reuse of the General Store materials will fit well with the narrative of the repurposed Lime kiln site.

### **Lime Kiln**

The Lime Kiln site was part of the Western Lime and Cement Company quarry operation. This site is popular with visitors as the structure is near the shoreline of Lake Winnebago and trailhead access. Improvements to the site will include the construction of an observation platform integrated with the existing chain link fence and will be fitted with additional interpretive signage. This "relic" site will be closed to public use inside the fence with no recommendations for further improvement.

### **Mound Groups**

Three separate mound groups are located within the park, and all have been impacted to some degree. The best preserved mounds lie along the escarpment edge and are accessible by an interpretive trail located north of the Family Campground. Presently, this group includes a number of panther and conical or ovoid forms; other mounds once present in this group included several bird, quadruped, linear, and additional panther mound forms. First mapped by Increase Lapham in the mid-1800s, this mound site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Preservation and management of the Park's mound areas are done in a manner consistent with state law (157.70 WI Stats) which affords them protection from unauthorized disturbance, and the Department's "Burials, Earthworks, and Mounds Preservation Policy & Plan". The current interpretive trail will be redesigned for mound preservation.

Another cultural feature is a 12 foot bronze statue commemorating the famous Chief Red Bird of the Ho-Chunk tribe (known as Winnebago). Popular history has it that Chief Red Bird frequented the High Cliff area often bringing children of tribal members to the cliff for story telling sessions.

### **Dark Sky Area**

Near Ertl Rd is an old silo and farmstead. This silo was evaluated and can work as a telescoped observation platform for star and planet interpretation. The "dark sky" area will establish a permanent location where the public can be educated about light pollution while being introduced to the wonders of the night sky. This area will be maintained by the local astrometry club. Developments will include the construction of the observation platform and vault toilet.

### **Park Entrance Visitor Station (PEVS) and Shop Building**

The objective of the PEVS facility is to serve park operations/administration needs, to provide visitor service facilities and to support nature interpretation/education programs. The Park Entrance Visitor Station (PEVS) building includes a visitor service area, display room, accessible restroom, and the park office.

The shop building service road and adjacent area serves to provide facilities for repair, maintenance and storage of park equipment and park infrastructure. It is a non-public use area. The shop facilities and adjacent grounds are classified as a Special Management Area.

### **Management/Development Prescriptions**

- Maintain the shop building and adjacent area for safe and efficient maintenance of equipment and park facilities.
- Promote native landscape plantings around these buildings to provide screening and improved aesthetics.
- Post non-public use area signage at the shop complex.
- Maintain small, appropriate turf areas around the buildings. Manage the non-turf areas according to the Recreation Management Area objectives and prescriptions.

### **Recreational Land Use Agreements**

**Snowmobile Trail:** The Calumet County Parks Department is responsible for operating and maintaining 131 state funded miles of snowmobile trails throughout Calumet County by participating in the State Snowmobile Program. The Calumet SnoTrails Club has a land use agreement with the Department for the use and maintenance of the park snowmobile trails.

**Golf Course:** Conservation easements exist on several areas of the adjacent High Cliff Golf Course. Three easements totaling 76 acres prevent the development of any non-park structures on the premises. The golf course also has an easement for drawing water from the marina to water the course.

## Land and Vegetative Management

High Cliff State Park has been divided into four Land Management Areas as listed in Table 2.2 and shown on Map 2.4. Each of these management areas has specific short- and long-term objectives that articulate the future desired condition based on the ecological and social capabilities of the area.

Each Land Management Area contains the following information:

- Overview and Summary.
- Land Use Management and Designations.
- Land Cover.
- Short- and Long-Term Objectives.

Land Management Areas	Acres	% of Park
High Cliff Recreation Management Area	624	52%
High Cliff Escarpment State Natural Area	183	16%
High Cliff Habitat Management Area North	157	13%
High Cliff Habitat Management Area South	231	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>100%</b>
Boundary Expansion Area - Recreation Area	1,820*	
<b>Total, Including Boundary Expansion</b>	<b>3,015</b>	

\*See page 18.

### High Cliff Recreation Management Area — (624 Acres)

The purpose of a recreation management area is to provide and maintain land and water areas and facilities for outdoor public recreation or education. Objectives and prescriptions incorporate future desired landscape conditions, management activities, and policies for the protection, maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of the visual characteristics important to the recreational use of the area. The recreation management area is classified as Type 4.

This section addresses the management of land and recreation resources within this specific recreation management area. A separate recreation management section addresses recreation management across the entire property.

Recreation Management Area	Acres
High Cliff Recreation Management Area	624
<b>Total</b>	<b>624</b>

#### Short Term (less than 50 years) Objectives

- In conjunction with Habitat Management activity in the vicinity, plant about 75 oak trees per year for a total of 500 trees in designated areas at savanna densities to soften the edges between grasslands and forests. Plantings should be completed within 10

years. Oaks will be planted in clusters using park stock to increase the rate of tree survival.

- Manage hedgerows and isolated trees along former fence lines to promote oaks and hickories, and reduce or eliminate invasive species and undesirable native woody species, such as box elder.
- Continue to share-crop selected areas. When sufficient funds have accumulated, remove those acres from share-cropping and plant to a prairie mix. Share-cropping will then be shifted to a new area until there is sufficient funding to convert to a prairie planting.
- In areas where there is proposed development (e.g., the family campground expansion), prairie plantings should use a less diverse mix (ca. 10 species). Elsewhere, the seed mix should be more diverse. Prairie species for planting mixes will be appropriate to Calumet County (see Appendix A).
- Maintain aesthetic qualities with respect to recreational trails and developed areas.
- Reduce or eliminate non-native invasive species by following HCSP invasive species management plan. NR40 and other early detection species should immediately be reported and eliminated. Forest management in Stands three, seven, and eight south of the family campground will be allowed outside of a 200-foot buffer extending eastward from the fall line of the Niagara Escarpment. Within the 200-foot buffer there are additional restrictions due to the specific habitat requirements of a number of rare terrestrial snails. Forest management emphasis in Stand three south of the family campground will be to retain large oaks until the end of their biological lifespan. All sapling and subcanopy trees within the crown radius of canopy oaks will be removed. Within two to three radii of the crown of canopy oaks, competition from other canopy and subcanopy trees will be reduced but not eliminated. One-third to one-half of all woody material (tops, trunks) will be left on-site as coarse woody debris. Hazard trees along trails and other developments will be removed per standards. Forest management in Stands seven and eight south of the family campground will promote diversity in species (including hickory, black cherry, and ironwood), age, size, and structure in the canopy and subcanopy through the use of selective tree harvest. Pockets with high concentrations of big-toothed aspen which range in size from 0.5 to 1.0 acre may be clear cut. To maintain aspen and provide habitat for migrating songbirds, one-third to one-half of woody material (tops, boles) will be left on-site as coarse woody debris. Hazard trees along trails and other developments will be removed per standards.

#### Long Term (100 year) Objectives

- Maintain grassland, savanna, and forest habitat south of the old park entrance road to provide vegetation diversity and wildlife habitat, especially for birds. Plant trees (oaks) mimicking savanna to soften the abrupt edges between forest and grassland. Fields planted in row crops will be converted to a diverse mix of prairie grasses and forbs as will existing surrogate grasslands.

### Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Manage to reduce recreation user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides and biological controls per park invasive species plan.
- Appropriate site preparation techniques will be used to maximize tree establishment. Manage tree plantings to reduce seedling/sapling mortality rates. Practices can include mowing and/or herbicide application around saplings and animal enclosures (such as tree tubes and fencing). Management of individual saplings will be needed for 2-3 years after planting.
- There will be a 200-foot buffer on or upslope of a known population of land snails due to the specific habitat requirements of a number of rare terrestrial snails that are very vulnerable to management activities which alter temperature, moisture, and/or food supplies. Any development or resource management on or upslope of a known population of land snails should be set back 200 feet to ameliorate the effects of these alterations on this highly vulnerable suite of species. Any felling of trees that is allowed as forest management within the 200 foot buffer zone will be by hand cutting. Canopy closure will be maintained to at least 80% closure. Vehicles (pick-up trucks, UTVs, etc.) used to remove firewood will be confined to established trails and field roads. Exceptions will be made for hazard tree management.
- Site preparation for prairie plantings may include normal rotation using farming techniques to eliminate plant competition. These techniques may include pesticides, prescribed burning, mowing, plowing, tilling, disking twice to a fine seed bed, and no-tilling. A variety of planting techniques can be used, ranging from using standard farming methods such as broadcast seeding or no-till seeders to using methods like winter or frost seeding. Mowing or clipping vegetation at least twice a year will be used to maintain the prairie plantings. Vegetation should be mowed to no lower than four inches when it reaches a height of 12 inches. More mowing can be done provided it is completed before August 1. If weeds are especially problematic, up to two spring clippings can be completed by June 15. When a field is planted in the fall or winter, or frost seeded, then the first spring clipping needs to be started by May 31. Allow for a minimum of two clippings following the procedure described above.
- A minimum of 15-20% of the available grassland acreage needs to be maintained each year through prescribed burning or haying. Areas planted with trees into current openings or grassland areas to create a savanna effect will also be incorporated into grassland burn units.

### Family Campground

#### *Short Term (less than 50 years) Objectives*

- Maintain aesthetic qualities with respect to recreational trails and developed areas.
- Reduce or eliminate non-native invasive species by following the HCSP invasive species management plan. NR40 and other early detection species should immediately be reported and eliminated.
- Manage to reduce recreation user exposure to hazard trees.

#### *Long Term (100 year) Objectives*

- Maintain native tree canopy cover within the campground

### Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Manage to reduce recreation user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides and biological controls. If woody species control results in the loss of visual screening between campsites, plant appropriate native shrub species per park invasive species management plan.
- Plant, as needed, appropriate tree species using large park stock when hazard trees are removed.

### Grasslands and Brushlands North and East of Group Camp

#### *Short Term (less than 50 years) Objectives*

- Plant oak trees in designated areas at savanna densities to soften the edges between grasslands and forests. Oaks will be planted in clusters using park stock to increase rate of tree survival.
- Manage hedgerows and isolated trees along former fence lines to promote oaks and hickories and reduce or eliminate invasive species and undesirable native woody species, such as box elder.
- Where appropriate and practical, reduce or eliminate invasive species and undesirable native woody species to restore open grasslands.

#### *Long Term (100 year) Objectives*

- Maintain grassland habitat to provide vegetation diversity and wildlife, especially bird, habitat. Plant trees (oaks) mimicking savanna to soften the abrupt edges between forest and grassland. Existing surrogate grasslands will be converted to a diverse mix of prairie grasses and forbs.

### Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Manage to reduce recreation user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides and biological controls per park invasive species management plan.

- Appropriate site preparation techniques will be used to maximize tree establishment. Manage tree plantings to reduce seedling/sapling mortality rates. Practices can include mowing and/or herbicide application around saplings and animal enclosures (such as tree tubes and fencing). Management of individual saplings will be needed for 2-3 years after planting.
- Site preparation for prairie plantings may include normal rotation using farming techniques to eliminate plant competition. These techniques may include pesticides, prescribed burning, mowing, plowing, tilling, disking twice to a fine seed bed, and no-tilling. A variety of planting techniques can be used, ranging from using standard farming methods such as broadcast seeding or no-till seeders to using methods like winter or frost seeding. Mowing or clipping vegetation at least twice a year will be used to maintain the prairie plantings. Vegetation should be mowed to no lower than four inches when it reaches a height of 12 inches. More mowing can be done provided it is completed before August 1. If weeds are especially problematic, up to two spring clippings can be completed by June 15. When a field is planted in the fall or winter, or frost seeded, then the first spring clipping needs to be started by May 31. Allow for a minimum of two clippings following the procedure described above.
- A minimum of 15-20% of the available grassland acreage needs to be maintained each year through prescribed burning or haying. Areas planted with trees into current openings or grassland areas to create a savanna effect will also be incorporated into grassland burn units.

### **Butterfly Pond**

#### ***Long and Short Term (up to 100 years) Objectives***

- Restore native plant communities per Butterfly Pond plan.
- Control invasive species in accordance with the property invasive species management plan.

#### **Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices**

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Manage to reduce recreation user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides and biological controls per park invasive species management plan.
- Tree, shrub, and herb plantings per Butterfly Pond plan.
- Prescribed fire as needed and appropriate.

### **Upper and Lower Shelter Areas**

#### ***Short Term (less than 50 years) Objectives***

- Evaluate areas that are currently maintained by mowing and reduced mowing where possible. As needed within those areas, plant appropriate native species of trees and shrubs to enhance habitat in adjacent wooded areas.
- Control invasive species in accordance with the property invasive species management plan.
- Remove hazard trees for visitor safety.

#### ***Long Term (100 year) Objectives***

- Maintain vegetation that is compatible with recreational users, e.g., picnicking, beach use.

#### **Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices**

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Manage to reduce recreational user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides and biological controls per park invasive species management plan.
- Appropriate site preparation techniques will be used to maximize tree establishment. Manage tree plantings to reduce seedling/sapling mortality rates. Practices can include mowing and/or herbicide application around saplings and animal enclosures (such as tree tubes and fencing). Management of individual saplings will be needed for 2-3 years after planting.

### **Wooded Areas North of the Family Campground**

#### ***Long and Short Term (up to 100 years) Objectives***

- Control invasive species in accordance with the property invasive species management plan.
- Remove hazard trees for visitor safety.

#### **Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices**

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Manage to reduce recreational user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides and biological controls per park invasive species management plan.

### High Cliff Escarpment State Natural Area (183 acres)

The master plan team in collaboration with Bureau of Endangered Resources personnel evaluated sites that could contribute to critical habitat for rare species, provide ecological reference areas, or which contain significant geological or archaeological features. These sites are proposed for designation as State Natural Areas (SNAs). In many cases, the High Cliff State Park offers the best representations of these unique attributes in the state or within the Niagara Escarpment Ecological Landscape.

Activities in State Natural Areas will be compatible with the existing and future land and recreation prescriptions to further protect the resource. Some level of resource management is allowed within State Natural Areas, as are low-impact recreational activities such as hunting, hiking and cross-country skiing.

SNA Name	Existing Acres	Proposed New Acres	Total Proposed Acres
High Cliff Escarpment	125	58	183

#### Short Term (less than 50 year) Objectives

- The native moist cliff and talus forest species are managed passively.
- Exceptions include control of invasive plants and animals, maintenance of existing facilities, and access to suppress wildfires.
- Salvage of trees after a major wind event can occur if the volume of woody material negatively impacts trails and access.
- Although removal of hazardous trees from over and near trails and field roads is an allowed activity, manipulation/removal of vegetation and soil disturbance should be minimized to the extent possible. All cut material should be left within the area for coarse woody debris.
- Vegetation on and surrounding the effigy mounds will be managed in consultation with the Department archaeologist and concurrence of the State Historical Society.
- Maintain a 15-foot zone from the base of effigy mounds free from woody vegetation. Hand-cutting and herbicide treatment may be used for woody vegetation maintenance.
  - Where bare ground exists on mounds, seed in low-statured, ecologically appropriate native sedges, grasses, and forbs such as Pennsylvania sedge.
  - If additional trees need to be removed from the effigy mound groups area, use the following criteria:
    - Remove trees only when the ground is frozen.
    - At some locations, selected trees may be retained for forestry purposes, when significant, unavoidable mound damage would occur during tree removal, or for other management purposes.

- During tree removal, avoid disturbing the burial site in any way. Do not drop trees on or drag them across the burial areas, drive machinery over the areas, or stage vehicles or material on them.
- Stumps are to be left in place or cut to ground level.
- Half of the cut material may be removed from the site for firewood. The remainder will be left on site as coarse woody debris provided that is at least 15 feet away from the defined burial area or mound.

#### Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Manage to reduce recreation user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides, per the property invasive plant management plan.
- On effigy mounds, remove, by hand, woody plants. Stumps may only be cut or ground only to ground level and should not penetrate below the "natural" surface and into the soil of a burial area/mound or adjacent areas. Chemical treatment may be a necessary component of invasive species and woody vegetation control. Herbaceous vegetation (ideally no- or low-maintenance, preferably with native species) should be established to stabilize area soils and inhibit woody plant succession. Mowing and/or periodic prescribed burns can be used to maintain herbaceous cover and suppress woody species.

#### Long Term (100 year) Objectives

- Manage the site as a reserve for moist cliff and talus forest, as a rare animal protection site, as a significant geological site, and as an ecological reference area. Natural processes and prescribed fire will determine the structure of the natural communities of this site. Provide opportunities for research and education on the highest quality moist cliff and talus forest communities. Continue to protect the archaeological features ("effigy mounds"). Reconstruct the casual use trail that currently extends from the established Lime Kiln trail to the southern edge of the property at base of the Escarpment into a sustainable trail to reduce visitor use impact.

**High Cliff Habitat Management Areas (388 acres)**

Habitat management areas are managed to provide or enhance habitat, whether upland, wetland or aquatic, and to support specific species of plants or animals. Habitats and natural communities in areas with this designation may be managed for a wide variety of purposes, including focused species production and protection. Areas that initially do not have desired habitat conditions, but have a high potential to be restored to those conditions, may be included under this classification.

Habitat management areas also provide public access for uses such as hiking, equestrian, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.

Native Community Management Areas	Acres
High Cliff Habitat Management Area North	157
High Cliff Habitat Management Area South	231
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>

**North Area**

**Short Term (less than 50 year) Objectives**

- Continue managing the 46-acre forest (Compartment 1, Stand 2) with the goal of retaining large oak trees to the end of their biological life span. Where there are exceptional opportunities for oak recruitment, as shown by advanced oak regeneration, 0.25-0.5 acre shelterwood harvests are acceptable upon discussion and agreement at the annual integrated property management meeting. Within the 200-foot buffer for terrestrial snail habitat special management requirements apply.
- Continue to allow the 46-acre forest to succeed to northern hardwoods.
- Continue to afforest open fields by planting native tree species that are appropriate to the Ecological Landscape and Landtype Association (LTA) as shown in Appendix A. Incorporate a shrub component into tree planting. Once a sufficient forest canopy has established through afforestation (ca. 10-20 years), begin to establish LTA-suitable forest herbs. 75-100 acres will be planted over the next 25 years which includes replanting as needed. Depending on the number of acres planted in a given year, larger park stock is preferred to enhance survivability. In-fill within existing plantings to replace trees that have died.
- Manage hedgerows and isolated trees along former fence lines to promote oaks and hickories, enhance canopy development and continuity, and reduce or eliminate invasive species.
- Maintain aesthetic qualities with respect to recreational trails and developed areas.
- Maintain coarse woody debris on the forest floor when timber sales or firewood cutting is permitted.

- Reduce or eliminate non-native invasive species by following the HCSP invasive species management plan. NR40 and other early detection species should immediately be reported and eliminated.
- Identify and protect ephemeral ponds. If new lands are acquired for High Cliff State Park, identify and restore ephemeral ponds by the use of tile breaks or prevention of existing artificial drainage.
- Identify and preserve any witness trees on the property. Witness trees are defined as those that bear man-made markings or evidence of non-naturally occurring reformative growth patterns; served as a sign-post or communication device; acted as a message board, boundary marker, warning sign, or having evidence of domestic usage; served as a repository of vital information or daily record keeping; contained information pertaining to cultural or historical event which occurred during the lifespan of a tree; have carved images (arborglyphs or dendroglyphs) on the bark of trees which represent signs and symbols holding vital information for inhabitants and travelers of the time and local people (commonly used were smooth bark, e.g., beech trees); were saplings (that are now mature trees) that were bent or trained to serve as informational signposts to indicate a boundary marker or directional pointer; or had marks on a tree standing today that can be authenticated with 19th century paperwork such as General Land Office records.

**Long Term (100 year) Objectives**

- Focus on old growth forest characteristics and aesthetics within the existing 46-acre forest (Compartment 1 Stand 2 in WisFIRS) that was designated as a demonstration forest in the 1983 property master plan. Maintain large diameter, long-lived species, especially oaks, to their maximum biological age. Allow the former demonstration forest, both managed (Stand 2) and unmanaged (Stand 3) sections, to continue to succeed to northern hardwoods. A long-term oak component will be maintained at the park through these afforestation plantings. Tree planting will provide a larger block of forest for aesthetics, wildlife, and a buffer zone for the Niagara Escarpment.
- The demonstration forest designation of this stand will be removed. Potential sites for another demonstration forest designation will be evaluated when additional lands are acquired for the park.

**Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices**

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Continue to identify and reduce recreation user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides, per the property Invasive Plant Management Plan.
- Where practical, park stock will be planted. If acreage in a given year is too great to use park stock, seedlings and acorns will be planted. Depending on the life stage of trees and shrubs that are

planted, appropriate site preparation techniques will be used to maximize tree establishment.

- When tree and shrub plantings result in sufficient canopy, native forest herb seed will be collected from forested sites on the property and planted in clusters in the afforestation areas. Seed collection from an individual species will be 20% or less of the total seed produced by a species.
- Manage tree plantings to reduce seedling/sapling mortality rates. Practices can include mowing and/or herbicide application around seedlings/saplings and animal enclosures (such as tree tubes and fencing). If park stock is used, management of individual saplings will be needed for 2-3 years after planting. If seedlings or acorns are used, management will be needed for at least 5 years after planting.
- There will be a 200-foot buffer on or upslope of a known population of land snails due to the specific habitat requirements of a number of rare terrestrial snails that are very vulnerable to management activities which alter temperature, moisture, and/or food supplies. Any development or resource management on or upslope of a known population of land snails should be set back 200 feet to ameliorate the effects of these alterations on this highly vulnerable suite of species. Any felling of trees that is allowed as forest management within the 200 foot buffer zone will be by hand cutting. Canopy closure will be maintained to at least 80% closure. Vehicles (pick-up trucks, UTVs, etc.) used to remove firewood will be confined to established trails and field roads. Exceptions will be made for hazard tree management. Woody debris will be maintained on forested areas.
- Maintain aesthetic qualities with respect to recreational trails and developed areas.
- Reduce or eliminate non-native invasive species by following HCSP invasive species management plan. NR40 and other early detection species should immediately be reported and eliminated. Forest management in Stands three, seven, and eight south of the family campground will be allowed outside of a 200-foot buffer extending eastward from the fall line of the Niagara Escarpment. Within the 200-foot buffer there are additional restrictions due to the specific habitat requirements of a number of rare terrestrial snails. Forest management emphasis in Stand three south of the family campground will be to retain large oaks until the end of their biological lifespan. All sapling and subcanopy trees within the crown radius of canopy oaks will be removed. Within two to three radii of the crown of canopy oaks, competition from other canopy and subcanopy trees will be reduced but not eliminated. One-third to one-half of all woody material (tops, trunks) will be left on-site as coarse woody debris. Hazard trees along trails and other developments will be removed per standards. Forest management in Stands seven and eight south of the family campground will promote diversity in species (including hickory, black cherry, and ironwood), age, size, and structure in the canopy and subcanopy through the use of selective tree harvest. Pockets with high concentrations of big-toothed aspen which range in size from 0.5 to 1.0 acre may be clear cut. To maintain aspen and provide habitat for migrating songbirds, one-third to one-half of woody material (tops, boles) will be left on-site as coarse woody debris. Hazard trees along trails and other developments will be removed per standards.

## South Area

### Short Term (less than 50 year) Objectives

- In conjunction with Habitat Management activity in the vicinity, plant about 75 oak trees per year for a total of 500 trees in designated areas at savanna densities to soften the edges between grasslands and forests. Plantings should be completed within 10 years. Oaks will be planted in clusters using park stock to increase the rate of tree survival.
- Manage hedgerows and isolated trees along former fence lines to promote oaks and hickories and reduce or eliminate invasive species and undesirable native woody species, such as box elder.
- Continue to share-crop selected areas. When sufficient funds have accumulated, remove those acres from share-cropping and plant to a prairie mix. Share-cropping will then be shifted to a new area until there is sufficient funding to convert to a prairie planting.
- In areas where there is proposed development, e.g., the family campground expansion, prairie plantings should use a less diverse mix (ca. 10 species). Elsewhere, the seed mix should be more diverse. Prairie species for planting mixes can be found in Appendix A.

### Long Term (100 year) Objectives

- Maintain grassland, savanna, and forest habitat south of the old park road to provide vegetation diversity and wildlife habitat, especially for bird. Plant trees (oaks) mimicking savanna to soften the abrupt edges between forest and grassland. Fields planted in row crops will be converted to a diverse mix of prairie grasses and forbs as will existing surrogate grasslands.

### Allowable Management Prescriptions and Practices

- Schedule and conduct management activities at times and in ways to minimize impacts to recreational users.
- Manage to reduce recreation user exposure to hazard trees.
- Control non-native invasive species and aggressive native species using appropriate techniques including pesticides.
- Appropriate site preparation techniques will be used to maximize tree establishment. Manage tree plantings to reduce seedling/sapling mortality rates. Practices can include mowing and/or herbicide application around saplings and animal enclosures (such as tree tubes and fencing). Management of individual saplings will be needed for 2-3 years after planting.
- There will be a 200-foot buffer on or upslope of a known population of land snails due to the specific habitat requirements of

a number of rare terrestrial snails that are very vulnerable to management activities which alter temperature, moisture, and/or food supplies. Any development or resource management on or upslope of a known population of land snails should be set back 200 feet to ameliorate the effects of these alterations on this highly vulnerable suite of species. Any felling of trees that is allowed as forest management within the 200 foot buffer zone will be by hand cutting. Canopy closure will be maintained to at least 80% closure. Vehicles (pick-up trucks, UTVs, etc.) used to remove firewood will be confined to established trails and field roads. Exceptions will be made for hazard tree management.

- Site preparation for prairie plantings may include normal rotation using farming techniques to eliminate plant competition. These techniques may include pesticides, prescribed burning, mowing, plowing, tilling, disking twice to a fine seed bed, and no-tilling. A variety of planting techniques can be used, ranging from using standard farming methods such as broadcast seeding or no-till seeders to using methods like winter or frost seeding. Mowing or clipping vegetation at least twice a year will be used to maintain the prairie plantings. Vegetation should be mowed to no lower than four inches when it reaches a height of 12 inches. More mowing can be done provided it is completed before August 1. If weeds are especially problematic, up to two spring clippings can be completed by June 15. When a field is planted in the fall or winter, or frost seeded, then the first spring clipping needs to be started by May 31. Allow for a minimum of two clippings following the procedure described above.
- A minimum of 15-20% of the available grassland acreage needs to be maintained each year through prescribed burning or haying. Areas planted with trees into current openings or grassland areas to create a savanna effect will also be incorporated into grassland burn units.

**Boundary Expansion and Real Estate Management**

A boundary expansion of 1,820 acres is proposed south and east of the current property and is shown on Map 2.5. This area was selected because of its ability to provide additional ecological and social values for the property and the region, as well as meeting the requirements of 2011 Wisconsin Act 250 which adds land in the Niagara Escarpment corridor to this list of state stewardship land acquisition priorities. Areas within the expanded boundary would be considered for a range of protection options including purchase, cooperative agreements and conservation easements. The primary objectives of the proposed boundary expansion are:

- To protect the Niagara Escarpment.
- To increase forest and grassland block sizes to better accommodate area-sensitive wildlife species.
- To connect county park lands to the state park.
- To provide additional public space for recreational trail uses and hunting.
- To provide a buffer to land uses that would diminish habitat, management, or visitor experience.

If all lands were purchased within the expanded property boundary, High Cliff State Park would encompass approximately 3,015 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in Table 2.6.

Current Ownership	Proposed Expansion	New Proposed Acquisition Goal
1,195 acres	1,820 acres	3,015 acres

**Niagara Escarpment Recreation Management Area (1,820 acres)**

Lands within the acquisition area will be classified as a Recreation Management Area under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 44.05. The Niagara Escarpment Recreation Management Area is shown on Map 2.5. This management area is classified as Recreation Management – Type 3 Setting. Lands under this classification are managed to provide readily accessible areas with modest recreational facilities offering opportunities at different times and places for a variety of dispersed recreation.

The primary focus of recreation management in the Niagara Escarpment Management Area will be to provide for a variety of compatible non-motorized recreational uses, including hunting, to complement the more intensive uses on the High Cliff State Park Recreation Management Area.

**Recreation Management Objectives**

- Provide for compatible, non-motorized trail uses (including but not limited to hiking, equestrian, skiing, and biking) as may be appropriate for the capability of the lands acquired.
- Accommodate a pass-through snowmobile connector trail which is essential for the function of a regional snowmobile trail network.
- Provide a broad range of hunting and trapping opportunities.
- Provide wildlife viewing where opportunities are available.

**Resource Management Objectives**

- Maintain and enhance existing forest along escarpment by controlling non-native invasive species along the buffer east of the escarpment. Consider planting trees in gaps along the escarpment instead of waiting for natural recruitment. Where practical and ecologically appropriate, link existing woodlots through afforestation using native tree species (see Appendix A). Elsewhere, increase suitable open habitat by planting row crop fields and convert surrogate grasslands to a diverse mix of prairie and savanna species. A minimum of 40 acres would be required if it is suitable for prairie restoration; ideally there would be greater than 80 acres for new areas of prairie planting. Note that this would include both prairie and savanna. The pace of afforestation and grassland establishment and conversion will depend on acquisition of property from willing landowners and the availability of funding and other resources.

## Real Estate Acquisition Policies

All property purchases are on a willing seller basis. As required by state and federal laws, the Department pays “just compensation” for property, which is the estimated market value based on an appraisal by a certified licensed appraiser. At times, it is in the interest of both the Department and the landowner for the Department to acquire only partial rights to a property or an easement. The Department has a number of easement alternatives available to address these situations. Landowners within the park boundary will be contacted periodically by Department staff to explain the Department’s land acquisition program and to ascertain whether there is an interest in selling their property.

## Aides in Lieu of Taxes

For all properties purchased by the Department, the Department makes an annual payment in lieu of real estate taxes to replace property taxes that would have been paid had the property remained in private ownership. The payment is made to the local taxing authority where the property is located. More detailed information on how the Department pays property taxes may be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/realestate/pilt.html>.

## Future Boundary Adjustment Process

From time to time, adjustments in the park boundary are needed. In some cases parcels of land are removed from the boundary to allow alternative, necessary public uses by local governments. In other cases it may be desirable to add small parcels adjacent to the park so they can be purchased for resource protection or to meet expanding recreational needs. Property boundary changes of 40 acres or more require approval by the Natural Resources Board. Wisconsin Administrative Code Ch. NR 44 provides a plan amendment process that may be used to make adjustments to the park boundary. Requests to amend the master plan for a property boundary change are forwarded to the Natural Resources Board. If the Board agrees to consider the proposal, the subsequent review process includes public notification and an opportunity to comment. The Board must approve all plan amendments. Because federal funding has been used for land acquisition on the state park, approvals from federal agencies may also be required prior to removing land from the approved boundary.

## Cultural Resources Management

The cultural resources management plan for the High Cliff State Park recognizes that cultural resources, such as archaeological sites, historic structures, and tribal heritage areas, are significant resources and provide important clues to the historic use of state lands.

### Cultural Resources Management Goal

The goal of the High Cliff State Park is to identify and manage cultural resources to provide future generations an opportunity to appreciate and experience the park’s diversity of human history and the delicate ecological relationship between people and the land.

### Cultural Resources Management Objectives

The protection and preservation of areas, objects, and records of cultural importance will be coordinated with the Department Archaeologist in consultation with interested tribal communities, institutions, and/or other interested parties. This consultation will include (but is not necessarily limited to) notifying interested parties of activities and potential impacts in areas of known concerns. Opportunities for interested parties to become involved in research of sites with known cultural importance will be made.

- Protection of cultural resources will be coordinated with the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) as required by applicable state and federal historic preservation laws and regulations.
- Protection of burial sites will follow Section 157.70 of Wisconsin Statutes, and the Department’s “Burials, Earthworks, and Mounds Preservation Policy & Plan” (WDNR 2008).
- As needed, approved future facility development sites (parking lots, buildings, etc.) will be inspected prior to construction to locate and evaluate any evidence of significant archaeological or historic material in compliance with Section 44.40 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and Manual Code 1810.1.
- All accommodations necessary will be made to avoid adverse impacts on cultural sites that maybe affected by management activities.
- Cultural resources may be developed for scientific and educational purposes to the extent that the integrity of the resource is maintained.

## **General Park Management Policies and Provisions**

The following section describes general policies and provisions that are applied to all lands of the High Cliff State Park that are under state ownership.

### **Invasive Species Control**

Invasive non-native species have become recognized in recent years as a major threat to the integrity of the state parks. These species have the ability to invade natural systems and proliferate, often dominating a community to the detriment and sometimes the exclusion of native species. Invasive species can alter natural ecological processes by reducing the interactions of many species to the interaction of only a few species.

High Cliff State Park has an invasive plant management plan which outlines various factors in managing for invasive species such as early detection, inventory, mapping, control, monitoring and research, and education. The plan is used to guide the management of invasive plants on the state park. In addition, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Species will be incorporated into management practices on the property.

If detected, invasive species may be controlled using appropriate and effective methods, including but not limited to the use of pesticides, cutting, or hand removal. Control methods may be restricted in certain sensitive management areas. Before initiating control measures, the management prescriptions for the area being treated will be referenced.

### **Chemical Use**

In accordance with MC 4230.1, approved pesticides may be used for various purposes on the park, such as to control invasive plants, to control plant competition in forest regeneration areas, or for insect control except as restricted in the management prescriptions in this master plan. All Department procedures and pesticide label requirements will be followed.

### **Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern Protection**

All management prescriptions in the master plan will consider the needs of these species and the potential impacts to the species and their habitat. Management actions being planned on the state park are checked against an up-to date database of listed species to assure that no Department actions result in the direct taking of any known endangered or threatened resource. Property managers routinely work with Department biologists and ecologists to protect rare species where they are known to occur.

### **Fire Suppression**

As stated in Wisconsin Statutes 26.11, "The Department is vested with power, authority and jurisdiction in all matters relating to the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires outside the limits of incorporated villages and cities in the state except as provided in sub (2), and to do all things necessary in the exercise of such power, authority and jurisdiction." Forest fire suppression actions within the state park will consider the property management goals and the threats of the fire to life and property. Appropriate techniques will be used in each event to provide effective fire suppression while minimizing resource damage.

### **Forest Certification**

In 2004, Wisconsin State Forests gained dual Forest Certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Independent, third-party certification means management of Wisconsin's forests meets strict standards for ecological, social, and economic sustainability. In 2009, the state park lands were certified under FSC and SFI. The state park program will continue to participate in forest certification. The status of certification corrective actions will be shared annually.

### **Research**

High Cliff State Park provides a strategic location for experimental trials and research, especially with regard to Niagara Escarpment and the Lake Winnebago shoreline. The research conducted by Department managers, scientists, and educational partners can be beneficial for the park, the Department and the general public. Scientific research that is compatible with the ecological and aesthetic attributes of the site is generally supported. The State Park Superintendent has the authority to approve or deny requests for research projects on High Cliff State Park.

### **Authorized Response to Catastrophic Events**

Wildfires, timber diseases, and insect infestations shall be controlled to the degree appropriate to protect the values of each management area. Necessary emergency actions will be taken to protect public health and safety. Appropriate management responses to catastrophic events are determined on a case-by-case basis, and action will be taken as appropriate. At a minimum, salvage of trees damaged by wind, fire, ice, disease, or insects may occur if consistent with the objectives of the management area.



## CHAPTER 3

# Background and Affected Environment

A detailed analysis of the region and property can be found in the High Cliff State Park Regional Analysis (WDNR 2010).

### Property Description

#### Physical Environment

The Niagara Escarpment and Lake Winnebago are unique physical features of High Cliff State Park. Lake Winnebago is the largest self-contained lake in Wisconsin and is drained by the Fox River to Green Bay. The property's topography and geology provide the foundation for its popularity. The most prominent topographical feature is the exposed ridge of Niagara dolomite bedrock landscape, which forms escarpment bluffs approximately 140 feet in elevation along the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago. Soils atop the bedrock contain similar glacially deposited material, and vary from several inches of coverage to thick layers of few feet deep. Current park ownership spans 1,195 acres.

The entire 2.3 miles of the property's western boundary borders Lake Winnebago. The park offers public beach and marina slips access to the lake along this mostly undeveloped shoreline. Totalling 4.5 miles, two unnamed streams with clay and hardpan bottom materials and relatively clear water run through the property, carrying nutrient runoffs from an adjacent subdivision and an 18-hole golf course resulting in fertility and some algae growth in Lake Winnebago.

#### Vegetation and Natural Communities/Habitats

Land cover contains a mixture of open grasslands, forested areas, and a dolomite cliff zone that supports a Talus Forest—a unique site that supports rare plant and animal species found along the escarpment cliff—with small seepage areas and spring runs emerging from the base of the cliff. A mature Southern Mesic Forest dominated by sugar maples borders the Niagara Escarpment. Associated canopy trees are American beech, basswood, hackberry, red and white oak, shagbark hickory, and white ash.

The park supports a diversity of natural communities which differ in size and quality. High quality natural communities listed in the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database which are found in the park include dry cliffs, moist cliffs, Southern Mesic Forest, and Talus Forest. This combination of natural community and landscape is critically imperiled across Wisconsin, due to both its extreme rarity and vulnerability to extirpation.

#### Wildlife Resources

The property supports several unique species, and hosts both resident and seasonal wildlife species in a fashion mostly similar to the larger region around the park. These species may be inconspicuous, but are still very important to the ecological and social values of the property. Badgers, coyotes, minks, red or gray fox, and weasels are present, but rarely seen. Small mammal species (bats, chipmunks, deer, gray squirrels, mice, raccoon, shrews, skunks, and woodchucks), amphibians and reptiles (DeKay's snakes, fox snakes, garter snakes, leopard and wood frogs, and snapping turtles), as well as bird species (migratory warblers, several purple martin colonies, upland birds like ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant and wild turkey) are commonly seen on the property.

The park also hosts several special concern and threatened species, including the land snail, dickcissel, great waterleaf, snow trillium, dentate supercoil, and thin-lip vallonina.

#### Existing Recreational Facilities and Use

During the 2012 fiscal year, this fifth-busiest state park saw 417,000 visitors, with around 90% being Wisconsinites. The parks' popularity can be attributed to its combination of water recreation and camping facilities in relatively close proximity to large populated areas such as Appleton, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, and Oshkosh.

#### Day Use

The park has many day use facilities such as a museum, nature center, and picnic grounds inclusive of an enclosed pavilion. A 40-foot observation tower located near the pavilion offers panoramic views of Lake Winnebago, other lakeside cities, and the expansive countryside. The picnic pavilion is furnished with a fireplace and is situated near a children's playground. Table 3.1 comprehensively lists the park's day use facility.

Facility	Number	Facility	Number
Picnic Areas	4	Beach / Bathhouse	1
Open Air Shelters	3	Enclosed Shelter	1
Horseshoe Pits	2	General Store	1
Playgrounds	2	Marina	1
Volleyball Courts (sand)	2	Museum	1
Baseball Diamond	1	Nature Center	1

## Beach

A 250-foot designated beach area along Lake Winnebago offers a playground, picnic tables, a roped swimming area, a grassy sunbathing area, as well as a building with flush toilets, a changing area, and hot water showers for rinsing. In 1998, a break wall was constructed within the property's marina to minimize wave disturbance to boats. Waves are subsequently diverted into the beach area, resulting in a shift of the original beach zone towards the break wall. Park staff observations suggest that a declining use of the existing beach area is potentially due to changes in swimming preferences as well as a perceived decline in water quality.

## Fishing and Hunting

Fishing opportunities are abundant along the shoreline, with summer and winter (ice) fishing activities often engaged in from within the park. The hunting framework is set by the Natural Resources Board.

## Marina

The park's marina offers 4 boat launch ramps, 85 seasonal and 12 transient slips, a mooring field, and a privately contracted concession stand. The park provides visitors with abundant boating and fishing opportunities in the summer and winter through its marina. An evaluation of the marina other than the effects of the break wall is underway. The evaluation will examine non-motorized water access, fishing access, and water flow and traffic.

## Pond Complex

A 3.6-acre pond complex, dubbed Butterfly Pond due to its shape, can provide pan fishing opportunities from the shoreline once the safety of the connected dam is sound. The dam was emptied in 2009 due to leakages found around and beneath the structure. This may be related to the cycle of construction and reconstruction experienced by the dam over the past four decades.

## Recreational Trails

High Cliff offers over 37 miles of trails in different forms as listed in Table 3.2. The park has 7 miles of horse trail which is seasonally open to riders from May to November. There are also 6.5 miles of groomed tracks for cross-country skiers, as well as 4 miles of marked snowmobile trail which connects Calumet County snowmobile trails to Lake Winnebago. Other trails include interpretive walks and exploration trails along Indian mounds and historical ruins.

**Table 3.2 High Cliff State Park Trails**

Trail Type	Miles
Biking — mountain	8.75
Horse	7
Hiking	7.4
Cross-Country Skiing	6.5
Snowmobile	3
Biking — road	4
Nature	1.2

## Other Cultural, Historical, and Social Recreation Resources

A park naturalist is on staff to lead interpretive programs and guided hikes, as well as educating visitors about the historic and scenic value of the property. Cultural and historical features include three Indian mound groups on the property, and a 12-foot tall bronze statue of the famous Ho-Chunk (formerly Winnebago) Chief Red Bird. Other historical artifacts, remnants and ruins are from the quarry and lime kiln operation formerly operated by the Western Lime and Cement Company. These are displayed in the museum and in various park areas.

## Camping

Reservable campsites are offered in four categories: modern family, modern family with electricity, group campground, and disabled accessible cabin (see Table 3.3). The campgrounds have flush toilets on site, and boast a 98% weekend camping occupancy rate with 86% of campers as Wisconsinites.

**Table 3.3 High Cliff State Park Camping Facilities**

Camping Type	Sites
Modern Family — non electric	80
Modern Family — electric	32
Group Campground	8
Disabled Accessible Cabin	1

## Non-Public Use Facilities or Structures

The only area of the park unintended for general public access is the shop and storage area of approximately two acres. Storage, parking and general maintenance and support of the park infrastructure are carried out or centered at this facility.

## Special Designation/Settings within the Property

The High Cliff property has three areas of special designations.

- The 125-acre High Cliff Escarpment State Natural Area containing both shaded and exposed cliff habitats extends along the Niagara Escarpment to Lake Winnebago.
- The 76-acre conservation easement areas acquired on several areas adjacent to High Cliff Golf Course prevents development of non-park structures.
- The Forest Management Demonstration Area also known as the “Lucky 13 Demonstration Forest” has a 1.3-mile trail with 26 demonstration points where tree-planting and cutting plans have taken place.

## Regional Context

### Land Use and Trends

Situated along Lake Winnebago’s northeastern shore between the Village of Sherwood and the Town of Harrison, the park has had major historical human disturbances including agriculture, quarrying, lime kilns, logging, roads and trails, old small scale garbage dumps, as well as the usage and alterations of springs and seepages. Currently, there are mainly residential developments due north and south. Agricultural lands are being converted to residential housing to the east. As the Village of Sherwood continues to grow, more housing developments are expected to be developed immediately adjacent to or near the state park.

In a recreational sense, Lake Winnebago is one of the more heavily fished lakes in Wisconsin. Many fishermen consider it one of the nations’ top walleye fisheries. The lake also has one of the United States’ largest populations of lake sturgeon. These sturgeon are actively harvested during a February spearing season.

## Recreational Resources, Use and Demand

Understanding the supply and demand of recreational resources is an important component of planning for recreational opportunities. Located on Lake Winnebago and in close proximity to a larger urban population, regional demand for water-based activities is higher than currently supplied. The property is also the only state park and state forest within 25 miles, and exists among a few county parks, state trails, State Natural Areas, and Wildlife/Fisheries in the region.

As the fifth busiest park in the State Park System, High Cliff supplies many popular activities. According to the latest SCORP, this property experiences some of the highest participation rates in the following activities: family gatherings (63.5%), walking for pleasure (87.7%), driving for pleasure (52.8%), picnicking (47.0%), snow/ice activities (45.9%), and in many water-based activity types.

Reported land-based recreational supply shortages include lack of non-electric campsites, and non-motorized trails and parks. Users indicated demand for more biking trails, electric campsites, and hiking trails. Opportunities also exist for the park to meet water-based recreational needs by improving the beach/swim area, and relocating or improving the boat launch. Additionally, there is a need to re-examine the supply and demand for piers and mooring fields, as well as determining the carrying capacity of the existing supply. This will aid in determining whether additional moorage within the shelter of break walls is necessary.







## CHAPTER 4

# Analysis of the Environmental Impacts of the Master Plan

### **Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

This chapter explains the potential primary and secondary environmental effects of the management plan for High Cliff State Park. See Chapter Two for a description of the preferred management alternative. The intent of the Environmental Assessment (EA) is to disclose the environmental effects of an action (the master plan) to decision-makers and the public, and to determine if that action would have a significant impact on the natural and man-made environment. If such an impact is determined, the development would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. This EA has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) and Chapter NR 150 of Wisconsin Administrative Code.

A detailed description of the elements of the proposed action is contained in the High Cliff State Park Master Plan. A listing of anticipated impacts from both proposed land management and proposed facility development activities follows, indexed by affected resources.

### **Environmental Effects and Their Significance (long- and short-term)**

#### **Impacts to Air Quality**

Impacts to air quality from motor vehicles attracted to the park by additional and improved recreational facilities are expected to be minimal. Motorized vehicle use on the property will not produce adverse air quality impacts as supported by the Department's NO<sub>x</sub> emissions projections. Currently, and as planned, there is no motorized vehicle recreational use on the property other than a 4-mile pass through snowmobile trail which connects Lake Winnebago with the Calumet County snowmobile trail system. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website does not include Winnebago County in its list of marginal and non-attainment counties for any tracked pollutants as of 02/12/2013.

During construction periods, dust may be present in the air surrounding project areas. Dust control measures will be employed to reduce the level of impact. Impacts on air quality, whether from fugitive dust particles or construction equipment exhaust emissions, would be finite and short-lived. When construction is complete, no residual impacts to air quality would be detectable from dust-creating activities.

Additional camping opportunities will be developed that include a new modern family campground loop and a redesign of the group camp area. Two additional campground loops with 60 additional individual

sites will be constructed south of the existing family campground. The group campground will be redesigned to have four sites that accommodate up to 30 persons each, for a total capacity of 120 people. A central gathering area will be constructed that will include a 20' x 20' open air shelter, a fire pit and a grass play area.

The total footprint of camping sites should be similar in area to the current extent. The average number of site users will increase slightly and is not expected to have an adverse effect on air quality. There will be a small increase in campfires, the use of camp stoves, and similar activities due to reconfigured camping sites and the new gathering. Only a minor increased impact to air quality is expected from these types of activities.

Prescribed burns that may be used to maintain grassland cover will have temporary air quality impacts. When grassland areas are burned, the occurrence of these impacts are infrequent and of short duration (less than one day). Impacts on nearby residents would be reduced through staff notifying the public in advance of a planned burn.

#### **Impacts to Groundwater Resources**

High Cliff State Park and the nearby lands have been analyzed for sensitivity to groundwater contamination by the Department in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin Extension, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Five physical resource characteristics were identified as important in determining how easily a contaminant can be carried through overlying materials to the groundwater. These characteristics are depth to bedrock, type of bedrock, soil characteristics, depth to water table, and characteristics of surficial deposits. High Cliff State Park is within the Niagara Escarpment and exhibits karst topography. Areas along the escarpment are generally more prone to groundwater contamination from development or other land use activities. The aquifer below HCSP is considered both as susceptible and having thin soil. Because of this, all new developments will require surface water runoff mitigation to prevent possible groundwater contamination. A stormwater permitting process will address this issue.

Since High Cliff State Park is on the Village of Sherwood municipal water supply, no new drinking water wells are anticipated.

### Impacts to Surface Water Resources

The state park is located along the northeastern shoreline of Lake Winnebago. This 2.3-mile long shoreline is mostly undeveloped and provides both water quality and habitat protection to Lake Winnebago. The park offers public access to the lake through a marina and a beach. Two unnamed streams run through the property. The water clarity of the two streams is relatively good, with bottom materials of clay and hardpan. Combined length of these streams is about 4.5 miles. Although relatively clear running, the streams do carry a certain amount of nutrient runoff from the adjacent 18-hole golf course and subdivision. This runoff contributes to the fertility of Lake Winnebago and the ensuing algae growth. Because of this, all new developments will require surface water runoff mitigation to prevent possible surface contamination. A stormwater permitting process will address this issue.

### Impacts from Developments

Park developments could cause minor impacts from surface water runoff. Trail reconfiguration is planned which will yield marginally fewer total miles (-1.9) than present. Two additional campground loops with 60 total sites will be constructed east of the existing family campground. The group campground will be redesigned to have four sites that will accommodate up to 30 persons each, for a total capacity of 120 people. This will yield a net increase of 45 potential campers per day in High Cliff State Park. There are a number of modifications needed to modernize the marina facility to provide safe access to Lake Winnebago and comply with ASCE standards for small craft basins. An increase in impervious surface area will occur from the reconfiguration of parking areas. The hard surface road and parking lots will be the main source of sheet runoff. All runoff from the impervious surfaces will be directed away from nearby surface waters, minimizing any risk of water pollution from spilled or water-transported materials. Stormwater permits will be issued for all developments.

### Impacts from Land Management

The proposed land management activities described in Chapter Two would not have a significant adverse effect on the streams or wetlands within High Cliff State Park. Management activities may result in localized, limited, and short-term impacts to water quality due to increased runoff during unusual storm events. As new lands are acquired for High Cliff State Park, ephemeral ponds will be identified and restored by the use of tile breaks or prevention of existing artificial drainage.

### Impacts to Geological Resources

If the plan were fully implemented, more portions of the Niagara Escarpment would be protected, resulting in positive benefits.

### Impacts to Visual/Scenic Resources

Impacts on the visual/scenic resources in the area would be minimal or strongly positive. There would be a small increase in the overall level of facility development on the property.

However, the expanded family and group campgrounds would not be highly visible from the trail system. All developments would, to the degree practicable, be designed to harmonize with the natural environment, and the style would retain the classic "rustic look" people associate with Wisconsin State Parks.

The current visibility of property developments on the Lake Winnebago shoreline would not change significantly as the existing shoreline screening would be maintained. The Department would meet or exceed the NR 1.15 Wis. Adm. Code standards. While new buildings may be visible from the water, most parking lots would largely be located where they are screened from view from the lake.

The proposed land management would, over time, create a strong positive visual effect due to producing larger trees and open areas. Overall, visual evidence of vegetation management activities would be low and of short duration due to the use of special management techniques that minimize aesthetic impacts. To the degree practicable, management activities would be conducted at times of lower public use to minimize impact.

### Impacts to Land Use

A boundary expansion of 1,820 acres is proposed south and east of the current property and is shown on Map 2.5. This area was selected because of its ability to provide additional ecological and social values for the property and the region. An increased level of active recreation is anticipated within the improved campground and use area facilities at High Cliff State Park. Marina/day-use areas and the trail system within High Cliff State Park are also anticipated to experience a rise in visitors. The recreation and land management proposed would not alter land use significantly. The main impact would be an anticipated increase in the level of active recreation on the property. These impacts would be managed like other state parks and forests with resource protection and management. The other potential impact to land use would result from the expansion of the High Cliff State Park boundary. If additional lands are acquired, these lands would be permanently converted to conservation and recreation uses.

High Cliff is within the Town of Harrison. The Calumet County Zoning Ordinance applies to this township. Most land use in the nearby Village of Sherwood to the north is single family residential. Sherwood is growing quickly and has substantial areas designated for Tax Incremental Financing (TIF). Much of the other existing land use near HCSP is in the form of non-irrigated farmland, and to a lesser degree, woodlands. There is a cluster of industrial land use parcels to the east of HCSP's northeastern edge.

### Impacts to Infrastructure and Transportation

The Interstate highways closest to High Cliff State Park are U.S. 10 to the north and U.S. 151 to the south. U.S. 10 serves as a major east-west route through northern Calumet County providing access to the greater Fox Cities area while U.S. 151 is a major east-west route for southern Calumet County providing access to Fond du Lac County. State Highways 55 and 114 are the primary arterial roads providing service to

High Cliff State Park. Hwy 55 is a major roadway linking north to south in Calumet County. Hwy 114 runs coincident with U.S. 10 to the north before following Hwy 55 south through the Village of Sherwood, where it diverges and continues east to the Village of Hilbert.

2010 WisDOT traffic counts for the segments of Hwy 55 which lie between Interstate Highway 10 to the north and Harrison Road to the south average 5,850 vehicles per day. Segments along State Highway 32/57 to the east of High Cliff State Park between U.S. 10 and U.S. 151 reveal an average of 4,957 vehicles per day. Spring Hill Drive and Golf Course Road feed traffic to the entrance of High Cliff State Park with related road segments showing an average of 610 vehicles per day.

After all facility development is complete, it is estimated that an additional 60,000 visitors in 24,000 vehicles would visit High Cliff State Park, for an annual projected attendance of 480,000 visitors. This would increase the average daily traffic by 65 vehicles a day. The increased visitation would not generate enough new traffic to require upgrading of the existing roads as they will still be under capacity. Although local area residents may notice a slight increase in traffic; the increase is unlikely to cause significant safety or congestion impacts.

### **Noise Impacts**

Soundscape management has been a consideration during the planning process. One of the fundamental property goals is to preserve the park's silent and aesthetic experiences. Natural sounds are increasingly recognized as an important component of resource conditions and visitor opportunities at the park. A growing body of research suggests human caused noise can be disruptive to natural ecological processes and visitor experiences. However, a healthy soundscape is not limited to the sounds of nature. Human sounds have an appropriate place in the outdoors. Cultural and historical sounds, such as the sounds of boat traffic and beach use, are important components of the park.

The majority of the property soundscapes will not change as property management objectives call for only minor changes related to visitor use and experiences. Soundscape objectives within the Type 4 Recreational Use Setting do call for recognizing construction noise resulting from capital improvements such as campsite, road and building construction, land management, and other development activities. These activities could have a slight and temporary impact on the property's users, wildlife, and neighbors; however, the noise would reach a peak (high in level, short in duration) during construction periods which would not be continuous. When construction activities are completed, noise impacts will cease.

The elevated presence and activities of park visitors and campers may present a potential for reaction from neighbors or other park visitors and thus a minor temporary impact. State park rules are already in place that regulate the use of power generators, amplified sound devices (radios, stereos, etc.), and loud conduct to minimize the imposition of unwanted noise both for neighbors of the park, and visitors to the park, especially for those in camping situations.

An important noise-related aspect addressed by the master plan is the design of the new campground loop which will provide electrical sites that eliminate generator use. Snowmobiling is the only permitted form of motorized recreation allowed on the property and no additional motorized recreation is proposed in the master plan.

Park management activities will generate noise during active timber harvesting operations. Primary sources would be from chainsaws, skidders and other harvesting machinery, and from logging trucks. As with construction, this noise would peak during timber harvesting periods and cease when harvesting operations are completed. Therefore, impacts would be temporary.

### **Impacts to Recreational Resources**

The additions of expanded camping, trails, and hunting opportunities would increase a number of popular recreational activities that are highly limited in this region. The construction of the interpretation center would greatly expand and enhance nature-based education opportunities for visitors and area school groups.

The proposed level of development together with a rustic style would enable and complement the existing recreational opportunities. The focus of facility developments is two-fold. The first focus is to provide improved and upgraded amenities for campers, hikers and picnickers preferring more modern facilities.

The second focus of planned development, visitor dispersion and vegetative management would provide an improved and increasingly nature-based recreational experience, thus reinforcing the mission of the DNR to provide environmentally-sensitive outdoor experiences that are resource protective.

### **Impacts to Human Health**

By providing hiking trails, water access and improved on road biking, the state park provides for increased exercise and aerobic activities. Increased outdoor exercise has been shown to reduce individual weight, increase overall endurance, and allow for better cognitive skills. Improved physical fitness also reduces the incidence of many diseases such as congestive heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, while also working to extend overall life expectancy (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

### **Impacts to Biotic Resources**

#### ***Vegetation and Natural Communities***

Much of the property will be under passive management and therefore vegetation changes will be slow and subtle barring any large scale natural disturbances (wind, flood, insect/disease outbreaks, invasives, etc.). Based on the resource management objectives and prescriptions in the master plan, a number of vegetation changes would occur gradually over time. The acreage of oak would increase with that of aspen decreasing. Due to adding several new recreational facilities and expanding others, there would be a slight increase in the acreage of developed land.

On lands within the proposed project expansion area that are acquired, forested areas would be maintained and possibly expanded over time. Agricultural land would be placed in permanent vegetation cover (forest or grassland). Overall, the proposed habitat management would be a positive benefit to threatened and endangered species and other species of conservation need.

### **Invasive Plants**

A program of regular monitoring and inspection for invasive exotic species would be implemented. Both aquatic and terrestrial species are included. Some common invasive exotics that would be monitored are garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, common reedgrass, Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, tatarian honeysuckle, Japanese barberry and black locust. Department policies in place that address these threats to the resource base would be followed. Control measures appropriate to the species of invasive would be used. Additionally, the potential introduction and spread of invasive species into the most sensitive habitat areas would be minimized by the proposed limiting of access to, or through these areas.

### **Impacts to Endangered or Threatened Species**

Some rare, uncommon, and declining animal species have been documented within and near High Cliff State Park. Some of the species are sensitive to size, isolation, context, and quality of their habitat, both forest and grassland. This proposed plan would have no known adverse impacts on threatened and endangered species. Threatened, endangered and other rare species would benefit from the long-term protection provided by the proposed habitat management.

### **Impacts to Historical and Archaeological Features**

High Cliff State Park has a number of recorded historical structures and archaeological sites. These sites range from Native American earthen mounds to turn of the century manufacturing sites. There are almost certainly numerous other, unrecorded archaeological sites on the property. Historical and archaeological sites on the property will be preserved and management will emphasize protection of the sites. All of these sites are protected against unauthorized disturbance under Sections 44.40 and/or 157.70 of Wisconsin State Statutes and Manual Code 1810.1. When required, site specific archaeological surveys would be conducted prior to construction or development projects following Wisconsin State Historical Society and DNR procedures. Appropriate protection measures would be followed if any historical or archaeological features are found. For more information, please refer to the Cultural Resources Management section in Chapter Two of the HCSP Master Plan.

## **Economic Effects and their Significance**

Economic benefits are anticipated to result from the influx of visitors to High Cliff State Park. The anticipated increase of approximately 60,000 tourists annually would increase economic activity at local business establishments. Recent data indicates that, in the northeastern region of Wisconsin, local resident park visitors contribute an average of \$19.12 per day to the economy, while non-local park visitors contribute an average of \$59.94 per day. The projected 580,000 total annual visitation to High Cliff State Park creates an estimated economic impact of approximately \$13 million per year. The proposed increased visitation contributes approximately 10 percent, or \$1.2 million of this amount.

Economic benefits during construction of the park facilities would accrue to building trade members, laborers, and suppliers, some of whom may be local. Competitive bidding procedures would be followed. Total development cost for the High Cliff State Park is expected to amount to several millions of dollars over the life of the projects. No estimate of dollar amounts to the local area is available, as extent of local contractor involvement is not yet known. Some employees working on development would probably live in the vicinity of the park. Those employees would participate in the local economy and spend a significant amount of their income on daily needs as members of the community.

## **Fiscal Effects – State Government**

### ***Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments***

Program budgets for capital development facilities are determined on a biennial basis. Because of the significant cost of developing facilities for High Cliff State Park, funding priorities within the Department's capital budget would necessarily be adjusted to accommodate the proposed development. If the proposed developments were funded without an increase in capital spending authority and/or an increase in the property's operating budget, it would cause other Department developments and operations to be delayed or deferred.

### ***Recommended Phasing for Park Facility Development, Improvements and Construction***

The property improvement projects described for each of the management zones in the preceding chapters should generally be implemented according to the three phases indicated in Table 5.1. The rate of development will depend upon the availability of funding and the approval of the proposed improvement projects as part of the Department of Natural Resources' Capital Development Process. It is estimated that the total cost of all three phases of the proposed park improvements will be approximately \$11.3 million (in 2013 dollars). This cost would be distributed over a period of 10-15 years or more.

**Table 4.1 Proposed Phasing for Facility Developments and Improvements**

Park Facility Maintenance/ Repairs	Cost Estimate	Phase
<b>Marina</b>		
Repairs to Marina (Breakwall Lighting, Channel Markers, Sheet Piling, Jin-Pole)	\$350,000	II
<b>Toilet/Showers</b>		
Reroof Campground Shower Building	\$12,000	I
Repairs to Shower Building	\$112,000	I
<b>Camping</b>		
Replace Campsite Posts	\$2,500	II
Rehabilitate Campsites	\$135,000	I
<b>Information/Wayfinding</b>		
Construct Kiosks	\$30,000	II
Replace Park Kiosk	\$10,000	II
Trail Sign Replacement	\$5,000	I
<b>Building Maintenance / Repair</b>		
Remove/Replace Carpeting/Tile PEVS	\$8,100	II
Stain Buildings	\$26,000	II
Maintenance Shop Upgrades	\$106,603	I
Nature Center – Remove Shed	\$1,000	III
Observation Tower – Replace Decking Boards	\$18,000	I
Pavilion (Doors, Windows, Sink, Insulation & Lighting)	\$90,000	II
<b>Trails, Roads and Parking Lots</b>		
Relocate Lime Kiln Trail	\$7,000	II
Replace Lime Kiln Ruins Fence	\$8,000	I
Replace Fencing along Red Bird Trail	\$18,000	II
Park Roads Resurface	\$250,000	III
Parking Lot – Stall Painting	\$15,000	II
Gates throughout Park	\$4,000	I
<b>New Park Facility Developments</b>		
<b>Water Access</b>		
Beach signage and kiosk	\$10,000	I
Marina Upgrades / Reconfiguration	\$5,500,000	III
Boat Launch Relocation	\$500,000	II
Multi-Purpose Building / Interpretive Center	\$800,000	III
<b>Camping</b>		
Family Campground Expansion 60 sites	\$1,500,000	II
Group Campground Renovation 4 sites	\$225,000	I
Group Camp Flush Toilet/Shower Building	\$795,000	II
<b>Trails, Roads and Parking Lots</b>		
On Road Bike Trail 1.0 miles	\$500,000	I
Primitive Trail 1.1 miles	\$45,000	II
Trail Relocation / Restoration	\$15,000	II
Water Access Parking	\$130,000	II
<b>Day Use</b>		
Close and Relocate Pet Use Area	\$35,000	I
Night Sky Area Development	\$45,000	II
<b>Shop Complex</b>		
Warden Offices	\$80,000	II
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,388,203</b>	

Note: Development costs are based on 2013 dollar-values and assume full completion of all proposed construction. In actuality, work may be phased over several state capital biennial budget cycles.

### **Estimated Cost of Land Acquisition**

DNR policy is to purchase land only from willing sellers. The purchase price is set by an appraisal prepared in compliance with state and national guidelines, unless the seller chooses to make a gift or a partial donation of land. This master plan proposes a 1820 acre addition of uplands to High Cliff State Park with a current estimated undeveloped average value of \$5,000 – \$6,000 per acre. Individual parcel values vary depending on the individual qualities of the site, as well as whether any improvements or buildings existed on the parcel. If all lands were purchased, the total estimated cost of acquisition at current value would be in \$9.1 million. It is unlikely that all tracts within the boundaries would be available for acquisition simultaneously, and some may never be. Expenditures would therefore likely be spread over a considerable span of time.

Lands purchased for addition to High Cliff State Park would likely be acquired using Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program funds or a similar bonding fund. The cost to the state of bonding for land acquisition and project development occurs when the interest or dividends must be paid on the bonds. Several methods of making these payments could be used, the main one being General Program Revenue (GPR).

### **Projected Staffing and Annual Operations Cost and Revenue**

#### **Operations Costs**

An additional staff position (FTE) would be required for the maintenance of the added campground facilities and shelter buildings. An additional \$45,000 a year in management funds would also be needed.

At this time, additional staff are not projected to be hired for forest and wildlife habitat work on the property; however, this potentially may cause comparable reductions or delays in management work on other DNR properties in the region.

#### **Revenue Projections**

The state park access and camping fees are the main revenue source for High Cliff State Park. In fiscal year 2011, High Cliff State Park had \$596,000 in revenue. With the expansion of camping and other improvements, yearly revenues are expected to increase by \$300,000 to \$325,000.

### **Fiscal Effects – Local Government**

#### **Property Tax Revenue**

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (or PILT) are state payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable state lands within their boundaries. Eligibility for payment under the PILT program is reserved for local governments that provide services such as those related to public safety, environment, housing, social services, and transportation. PILT payment calculations to local governments are based upon Wisconsin State Statute 70:114 which refers to "Aids on certain state lands equivalent to property taxes."

### **Significance of Cumulative Effects**

Acquisition of additional lands for the park is expected to produce a cumulative benefit, as it would complement the other public conservation and recreation properties in the area. Protection and management of rare, threatened, and special concern species; wildlife and fish habitat; natural aesthetics; and archaeological sites would contribute to the overall quality of the human and natural environment in the region. Additional acquisition projects of this type in the future would improve conditions for wildlife and provide additional public land for a variety of recreational activities. The cumulative effects from the preferred alternative for High Cliff State Park would have a long-term positive effect on the quality of human life in the region. The public has recognized the need to preserve land for the benefit of present and future generations, demonstrating this support verbally and in writing.

### **Significance of Risk**

Management and development of the High Cliff State Park presents a low overall potential risk to the environment. Most actions are low-risk and would be a continuation of or slight modification to existing management and uses. Therefore, the level of risk in the future is low. Environmental impacts associated with facility construction would be minimal as new construction affects less than 5% of total property acreage. Efforts would be made to locate campsite and trail developments, and any other construction away from sensitive habitat sites. The presence of motor vehicles and other equipment during construction may pose an increased risk from spills and erosion. These risks would be mitigated by BMP requirements put in place in the bid documents and at preconstruction meetings with contractors.

There would be minimal increased risk to the resources of the property that result from human activity, whether from public use or Department management. Risk is mitigated by emergency action plans and procedures put in place by property staff. These plans are reviewed annually and updated as needed or whenever circumstances change. There would be a slight risk of increased introduction or spread of invasive exotic species across the property due to public use of the trails.

### **Significance of Precedent**

Aspects of the proposed plan are not precedent setting in the county or state, primarily because they are continuing the general types of long established uses and management on the park. This project has a sound basis in applicable statutes and codes, and state project expansions such as this one are not uncommon. Approval of this plan does not significantly influence future decisions on other DNR property master plans as all recreational uses described are currently allowed within other DNR state parks and southern forests.

### **Significance of Controversy over Environmental Effects**

No significant controversy over environmental effects has been identified to date during public review of this project.

### **Conclusions**

Implementation of master plan goals for management and development of the High Cliff State Park would provide positive recreational, ecological, social, and economic benefits to the region by providing an expanded public property that provides access to a variety of popular outdoor recreational activities and facilities. This property also provides for the protection of unique, rare, and endangered species, and the protection of the Niagara Escarpment. The proposed project would not cause any significant, adverse environmental effects.

**Decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement**

The proposed project is not anticipated to cause significant adverse environmental effects. The Department has made a preliminary determination that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required for this action. This recommendation does not represent approval from other DNR sections, which may also require a review of the project.

**NR 150 Decision Form**

Project Name: High Cliff State Park County: Calumet

DECISION (This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate authority)

In accordance with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Adm. Code, the Department is authorized and required to determine whether it has complied with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

Complete either A or B below.

A EIS Process Not Required

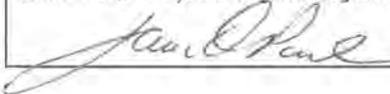
The attached analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department.

B Major Action Requiring the Full EIS Process

The proposal is of such magnitude and complexity with such considerable and important impacts on the quality of the human environment that it constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Signature of Evaluator 	Date Signed 3/25/13
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Number of responses to news release or other notice:

Certified to be in compliance with WEPA Environmental Analysis and Liaison Program Staff 	Date Signed 06/12/2013
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**NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS**

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that the Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with section NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and served on the Secretary in accordance with section NR 2.03, Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30 day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

Revised 06/21/2010





## CHAPTER 5

# Alternatives and Their Environmental Impacts

A master plan alternative is a grouping of a number of compatible options for resource management, recreational development, and public use of a property owned by the Department of Natural Resources. The content of an alternative should be compatible with the property designation, property capabilities, the master plan's vision and goals, and the area's Regional Analysis. The alternatives summarized below are the most recent set of alternatives that were considered as part of the planning effort for High Cliff State Park.

### Recreation Management Alternatives

#### Alternative One: Status Quo

There would be no new recreational facilities or development within High Cliff State Park.

#### Alternative Two: Preferred Alternative – High Level of Recreational Development

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. High Cliff State Park already has a high level of development within the current boundary. The added developments proposed in Chapter Two would provide a variety of camping and day use activities such as better access to Lake Winnebago, expansion of camping options and trail redevelopment. In terms of the range of management approaches, the recreational facility development would be typical of other high use state parks by providing a full range of visitor services and amenities.

### Land Management Alternatives

#### Alternative One: Status Quo

Management of the High Cliff State Park would remain somewhat passive with no changes. This alternative is feasible but not desirable because it would not meet the vegetative management needs for the park.

#### Alternative Two: Preferred Alternative – Active and Passive Land Management

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. The landscape will be both actively and passively managed for a set of diverse ecosystems including older forests, other forests of various age and size classes, and open grassland habitat for upland grassland birds. An added benefit with this alternative is the expansion of the State Natural Area for the protection the Niagara Escarpment.

### Real Estate and Boundary Expansion Alternatives

#### Alternative One: No Additional Land Acquisition

This alternative would allow no land acquisition beyond what is within the existing park boundary. Lands recommended in the master plan for acquisition would not be acquired. This would cause High Cliff State Park to not meet the vision and goals of providing additional lands for a variety of recreational pursuits and providing additional protection for the Niagara Escarpment and the protection of unique, rare, and endangered habitat and species.

#### Alternative Two: Limited Boundary Expansion

This alternative was considered for making a narrow corridor connection to Calumet County Park. While this alternative would enhance the ecological connections to the county park, providing expanded recreational opportunities would be limited.

#### Alternative Three: Preferred Alternative – Expand High Cliff State Park

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. Under this alternative, the park boundary would be enlarged to include approximately 3,015 acres of land. Acquisition would provide an opportunity to protect the Niagara Escarpment and provide for more options for recreation connections to Calumet County Park. This connection would allow for expanded trail and hunting opportunities.





## CHAPTER 6

# Summary of the Public Involvement Process

In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code, NR 44 - Master Planning for Department Properties, the High Cliff State Park embarked on a plan to involve the public in the process of developing the master plan. From the beginning, steps were taken to ensure opportunities for public involvement throughout the planning process.

The Department developed a Public Involvement Plan which was available for public review on the internet and in print. The plan outlines the public participation strategy for soliciting public review of and input for the development, evaluation, and adoption of the revised High Cliff State Park Master Plan. It describes legislative standards that guide the planning process, methods of communication between the DNR and public, and how decisions are made.

### Primary Stakeholders

To develop an effective master plan, the Department listens to many voices. People of varied interests and backgrounds have participated in High Cliff State Park master planning activities. Some of these "stakeholders" in the future of the High Cliff State Park include neighboring landowners, conservation organizations, recreation users, civic groups, state and federal agencies, local governments, and members of the local business community.

Government-to-government contact was maintained with local towns and county governments. Elected officials were informed of planning activities and proposals by mail and personal contact.

### Methods of Public Contact and Involvement

Various means were used to inform the public of the planning process and to promote public involvement throughout the development of the master plan. This involved periodically contacting public stakeholders to gather information and provide ways for people to participate.

#### Communication Methods

- Statewide news releases, direct mailings of public involvement notices, draft documents, and public comment forms.
- Public meetings.
- Informational presentations to interested groups and organizations.

- Personal contacts with visiting clientele, and by telephone or written correspondence.
- E-mail correspondence.
- Government-to-government consultations.
- The High Cliff State Park internet website was a comprehensive resource used to facilitate the public involvement plan. Nearly all documentation produced on the plan was made available at the park's website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/HighCliff/>.
- Comment forms were posted online for people to electronically submit their contributions, ideas and suggestions during each public comment period.

#### Topics Posted on the Website

- General information about the state park.
- Links for individuals to be added to the mailing list, or to contact the Park Superintendent.
- Park Master Planning Overview of the Department's overall approach to master planning.
- Previous Master Plan.
- Public Involvement Plan.
- Vision Statement and Property Goals.
- Regional and Property Analysis.
- Property Planning Maps.
- Draft Master Plan and Environmental Analysis.

#### Public Comment

Public comments were submitted by interested or affected parties throughout the master planning process. The public's input was received in a variety of formats: written comment forms, online surveys, mail, e-mail, fax, or verbal correspondence. Department staff analyzed and recorded comments for public record. A qualitative summary of comments was prepared following each phase of the master planning process. Each comment summary reviewed key issues, described what was heard collectively, and reported that information back to the public.

## Issue Identification and Consideration

At each major step in the process, the public's input served as a planning tool to help identify planning issues and suggestions. The public's comments, the Regional and Property Analysis, DNR staff technical input, and other considerations guided the master planning team. During this process decisions were made based on:

- The land's resource capability;
- The role of the property in its local and regional context;
- Applicable federal and state laws, administrative DNR Codes, and DNR design standards;
- Policies and missions of the state park and its programs;
- Consideration of public input;
- The professional expertise of DNR resource managers.

A broad range of interests were heard and considered in the development of the master plan. Final decision-making responsibility and authority rests with the DNR's citizen policy-making Natural Resources Board (NRB). The NRB reviews the draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan and Environmental Analysis and makes an approval decision on the plan. The public has a final opportunity to comment at the NRB meeting before the Board renders their decision.

## Master Planning Publications

Information on a variety of topics was compiled to support the planning process and was made available to the public. These documents are available in paper copy by order request from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The website is a long term repository for master planning documents and the final master plan which can then be readily accessed in the future at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/HighCliff/>.

## Planning Documents

Working documents were developed with involvement from the public as the master plan's focus narrowed toward completion. Completed documents were made available to the public by request, during public meetings and were posted on the internet. They were also distributed statewide to local public offices and public and depository libraries.

For the High Cliff State Park planning process, this literature included a Public Involvement Plan, Vision and Goal Statements, and the Regional and Property Analysis, all of which contributed to the development of a final Master Plan and Environmental Analysis. Maps depicting management areas and proposals were produced as a tool for planners and to inform participants during public meetings. They were included with published documents and were posted on the High Cliff State Park master planning website.

## Community Involvement and Public Participation

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, recognizing that the reality of High Cliff State Park must reflect the people it serves and encourage citizen input throughout the planning process. Public meetings were announced via the media, direct mail, a website, and postings to the statewide meetings calendar. Opportunity to sign up for mail or e-mail contact lists was incorporated into an internet webpage and in literature that was distributed during the planning process.



<b>Table 6.1 Public Participation and Contacts Represented on Mailing Lists (as of February, 2013)</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Individuals and business contacts on mailing list	250
Non-government organizational contacts (conservation, civic, sportsman, and recreation groups)	165
Local media	3
Public libraries	5
Government and tribal units	3
<b>Total public contacts</b>	
Email distribution	175
Zip code locations represented in public contacts database	33
Other states represented in database	1

<b>Table 6.2 Chronological Summary of Public Involvement</b>	
<b>2008</b>	<b>CONTACTS</b>
Nov. 12	Introduced public to master plan process being used to update the High Cliff. Approximately 50 persons participated – 43 signed. A six-week deadline for comments on this phase of the plan was announced at the meeting.
<b>2011</b>	<b>CONTACTS</b>
Oct. 11	Public Meeting – Held at Sherwood Community Center.  Butterfly Pond Restoration Plan introduced. Presentations by DNR representatives, McMahon, and the Friends of High Cliff State Park
<b>2012</b>	<b>CONTACTS</b>
Feb. 16	Rotary Club Presentation – Held in Appleton at the Holiday Inn.  Carolyn Morgen presented proposed Project Boundary for new Master Plan, and Butterfly Pond Restoration Project Plan.
Feb. 22	Village of Sherwood Board Meeting – Held at the Village of Sherwood Board Room. Carolyn Morgen presented proposed Project Boundary for new Master Plan, Butterfly Pond Restoration Project Plan, and other main components of Master Plan
Mar. 20	Calumet County Board Meeting – Held at Calumet County Courthouse.  Carolyn Morgen presented proposed Project Boundary for new Master Plan, Butterfly Pond Restoration Project Plan, and other main components of the Master Plan.
Mar. 27	Harrison Town Board Meeting – Held at the Harrison Town Hall.  Carolyn Morgen presented proposed Project Boundary for new Master Plan, Butterfly Pond Restoration Project Plan, and other main components of the Master Plan.
Oct. 10	Notice of Oct. 23 public meeting mailed. Comment deadline is listed as Nov. 15, 2012.
Oct. 23	Master Plan Public Meeting - Held at Sherwood Community Center. Bureau of Parks Staff in attendance – Master Plan Drawings presented.
Nov. 28	Calumet County Civic Association (Calumet County City, Town, and Village Administrators). Held at the Neighborhood Pub and Grill in Chilton, WI. Carolyn Morgen presented proposed Project Boundary for new Master Plan, Butterfly Pond Restoration Project Plan, and other main components of the Master Plan.



# APPENDIX A

Table A-1 Tree and Shrub Species for Afforestation

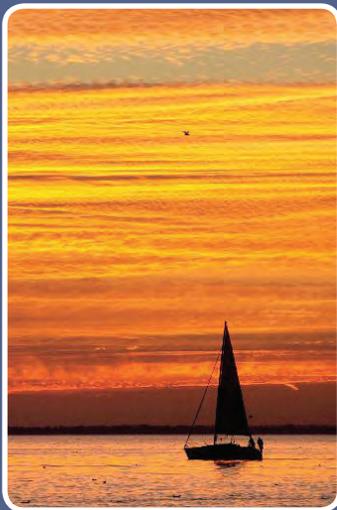
Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Canopy Trees</b>		<b>Small Trees and Shrubs</b>	
Available through DNR nurseries			
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Highbush cranberry	<i>Viburnum opulus ssp trilobum</i>
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp</i>
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Hawthorne	<i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>		



Table A-2 Species for Prairie Plantings

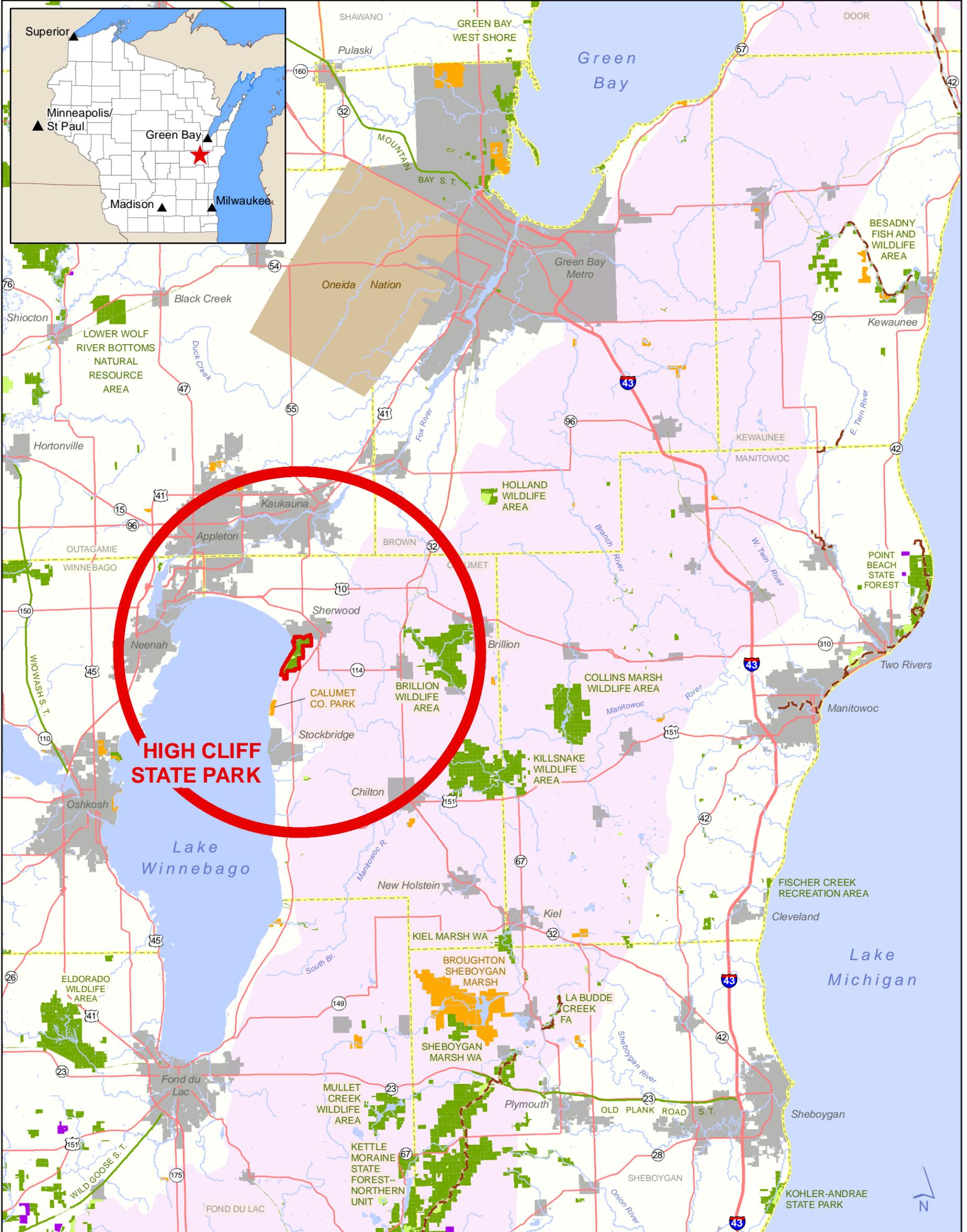
Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Grasses and Sedges</b>			
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big bluestem	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	June grass
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side-oats grama	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass
<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	Fringed brome	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Canada blue-joint grass	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	Dark green bullrush
<i>Carex hystericina</i>	Porcupine sedge	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Wool grass
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wild rye	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wild rye	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Cordgrass
<i>Glyceria grandis</i>	Reed manna grass	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed
<i>Glyceria striata</i>	Fowl manna grass	<i>Stipa spartea</i>	Porcupine grass
<b>Forbs</b>			
<i>Allium canadense</i>	Wild onion	<i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i>	Great St. John's-wort
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Round-headed bush clover
<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	Thimbleweed	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough blazing star
<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i>	Great angelica	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Prairie blazing star
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild columbine	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	Wood lily
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	<i>Lilium michiganense</i>	Michigan lily
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great blue lobelia
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterflyweed	<i>Lobelia spicata</i>	Spiked lobelia
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled milkweed	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild bergamot
<i>Aster azureus (=A. oolentangiensis)</i>	Sky-blue aster	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Evening primrose
<i>Aster laevis</i>	Smooth blue aster	<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>	Wood-betony
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>	Swamp-lousewort
<i>Aster prenanthoides</i>	Crooked-stem aster	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Prairie phlox
<i>Aster sericeus</i>	Silky aster	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient plant
<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>	Canadian milk vetch	<i>Polygonatum canaliculatum (=P. biflorum)</i>	Giant solomon's seal
<i>Baptisia lactea (=B. alba)</i>	White false indigo	<i>Potentilla arguta</i>	Prairie cinquefoil
<i>Cacalia atriplicifolia</i>	Pale indian plantain	<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>	Pasque flower
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Mountain mint
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey tea	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow coneflower
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Turtlehead	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Prairie coreopsis	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Wild golden glow
<i>Dalea candida</i>	White prairie clover	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple prairie clover	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	Prairie dock
<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	Swamp loosestrife	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Giant goldenrod
<i>Delphinium carolinianum</i>	Prairie larkspur	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Early goldenrod
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	Showy tick-trefoil	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Gray goldenrod
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	Midland shooting star	<i>Solidago riddellii</i>	Riddell's goldenrod
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye-weed	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Stiff goldenrod
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	<i>Taenidia integerrima</i>	Yellow pimpernel
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Flowering spurge	<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	Meadow rue
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie smoke	<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	Ohio spiderwort
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue vervain
<i>Helianthus x laetiflorus</i>	Showy sunflower	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary vervain
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Western sunflower	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	Common ironweed
<i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i>	Stiff sunflowe	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox-eye sunflower	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden alexanders
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Alumroot		

# HIGH CLIFF STATE PARK



# High Cliff State Park

Map 1.1: Regional Locator



**HIGH CLIFF STATE PARK**

**MAP 1.1**

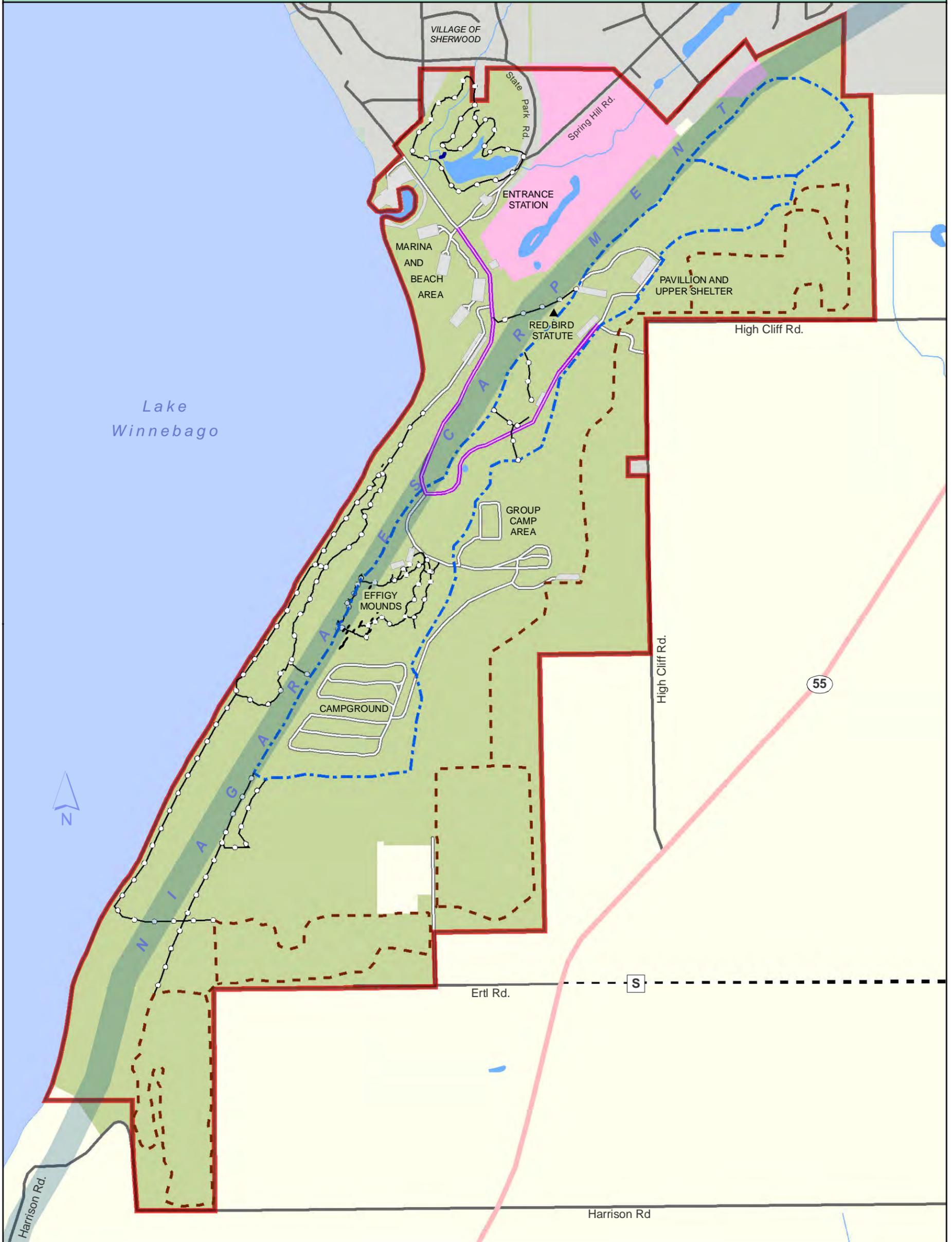
High Cliff State Park	Federal Land	Ice Age Trail
DNR Managed Land	County Land	State Recreation Trail
State Natural Area	Tribal Land	Niagara Escarpment

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands  
PR-HCSP-MP-1.1 acr July 2012

0 Miles 10

# High Cliff State Park

Map 2.1: Summer Trail Network



<b>MAP 2.1</b>	<b>DNR Managed Land</b>		<b>Summer Trails</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fee Simple</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Easement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> High Cliff State Park Project Boundary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Hike</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed brown; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Equestrian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Off-Road Bike</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px solid purple; margin-right: 5px;"></span> On-Road Bike</li> </ul>

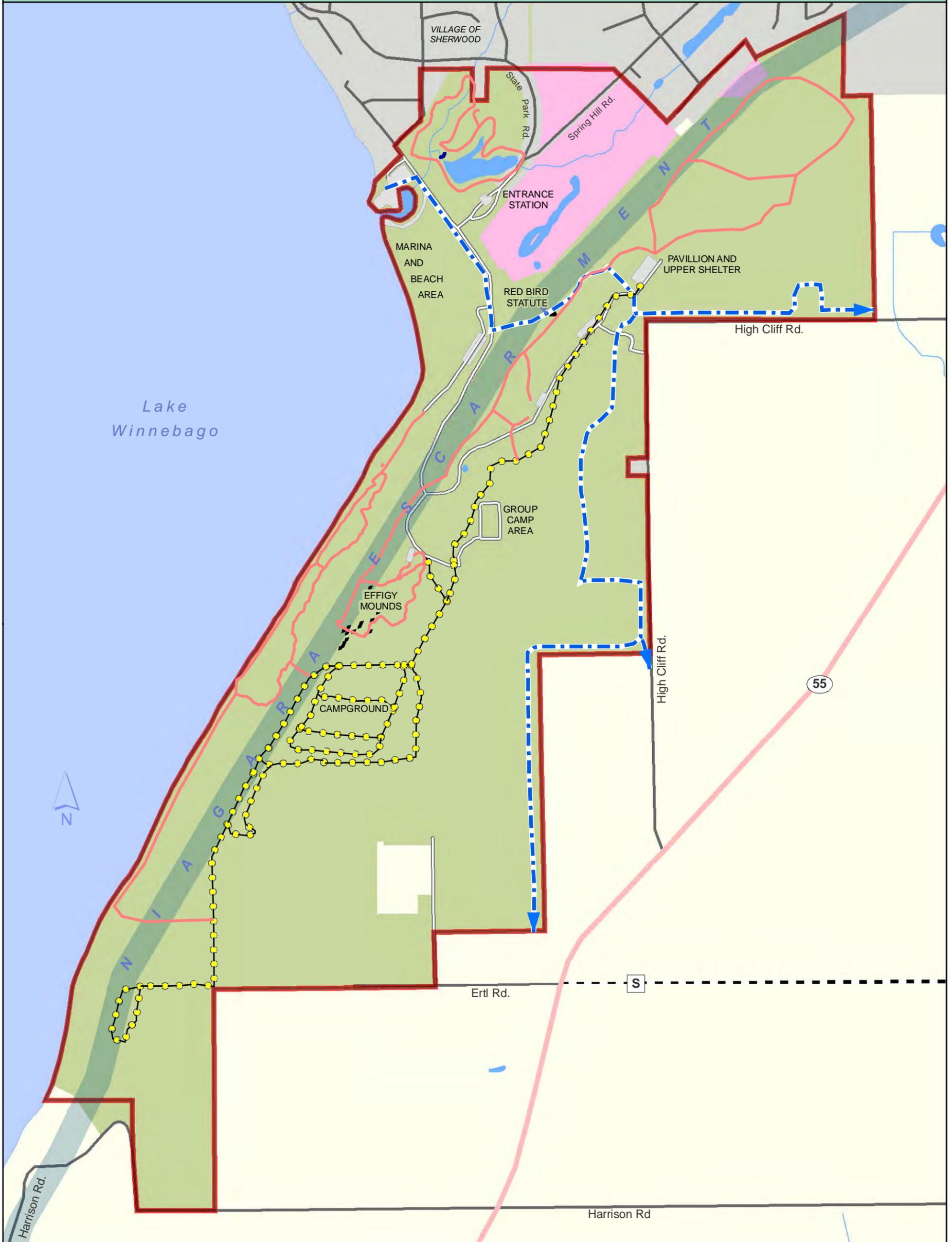
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

PR-HCSP-MP-2.1 acr April 2013

0  2,000  
Feet

# High Cliff State Park

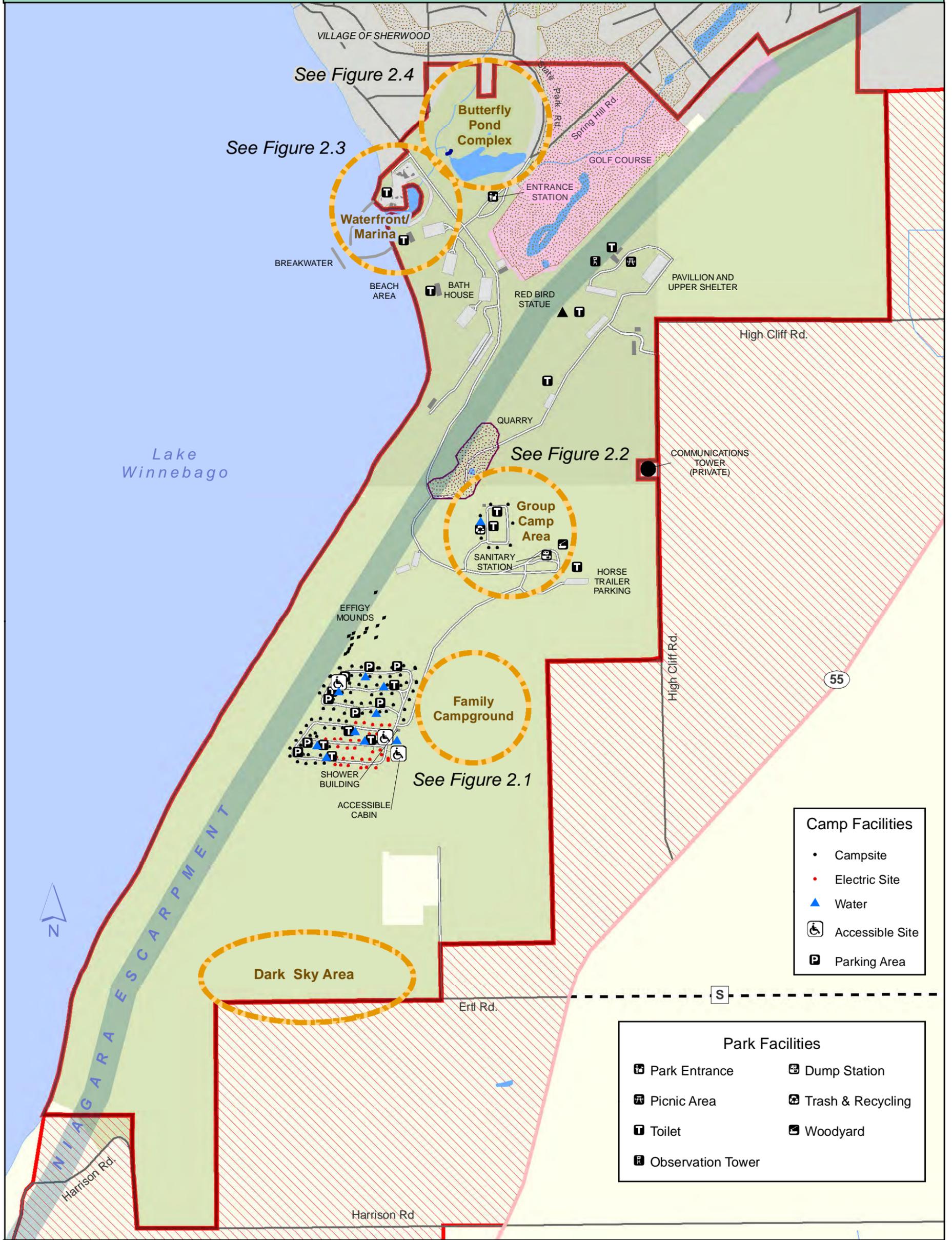
Map 2.2: Winter Trail Network



<b>MAP 2.2</b>	<b>DNR Managed Land</b>		<b>Winter Trails</b>		WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Bureau of Facilities and Lands PR-HCSP-MP-2.2 acr April 2013 
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #c8e6c9; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fee Simple</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ffcdd2; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Easement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> High Cliff State Park Project Boundary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed yellow; margin-right: 5px;"></span> XC Ski</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Snowmobile</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Snowshoe/Hike</li> </ul>		

# High Cliff State Park

Map 2.3: Major Recreation Facilities



- Camp Facilities**
- Campsite
  - Electric Site
  - ▲ Water
  - ♿ Accessible Site
  - Ⓟ Parking Area

- Park Facilities**
- Ⓜ Park Entrance
  - Ⓜ Picnic Area
  - ♿ Toilet
  - Ⓜ Observation Tower
  - Ⓜ Dump Station
  - ♻️ Trash & Recycling
  - Ⓜ Woodyard

**MAP 2.3**

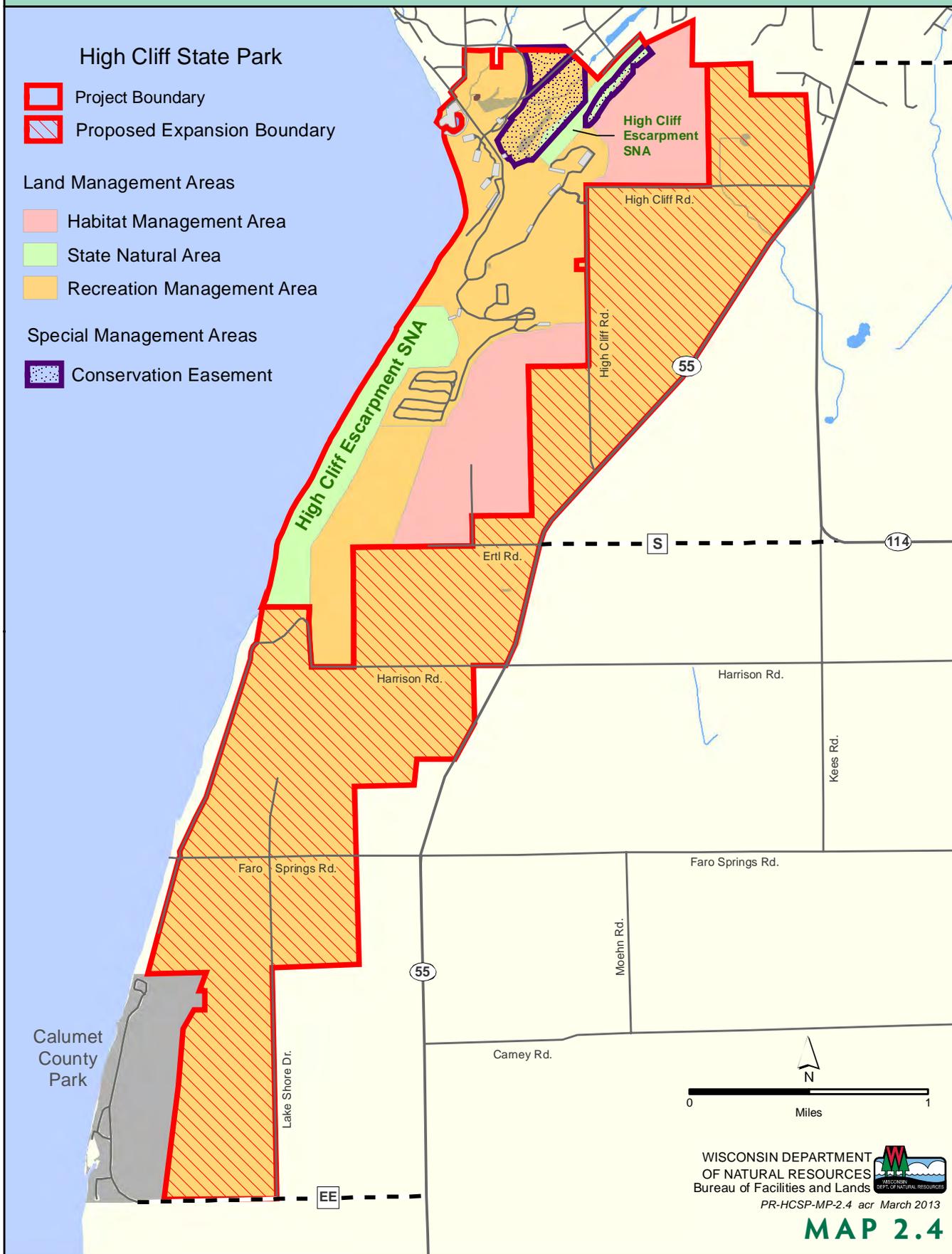
DNR Managed Land	High Cliff State Park Project Boundary	Quarry	Parking Lot
Fee Simple	Proposed Boundary Expansion	Golf Course	Building
Easement			

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands  
PR-HCSP-MP-2.3 acr April 2013

0 Feet 2,000

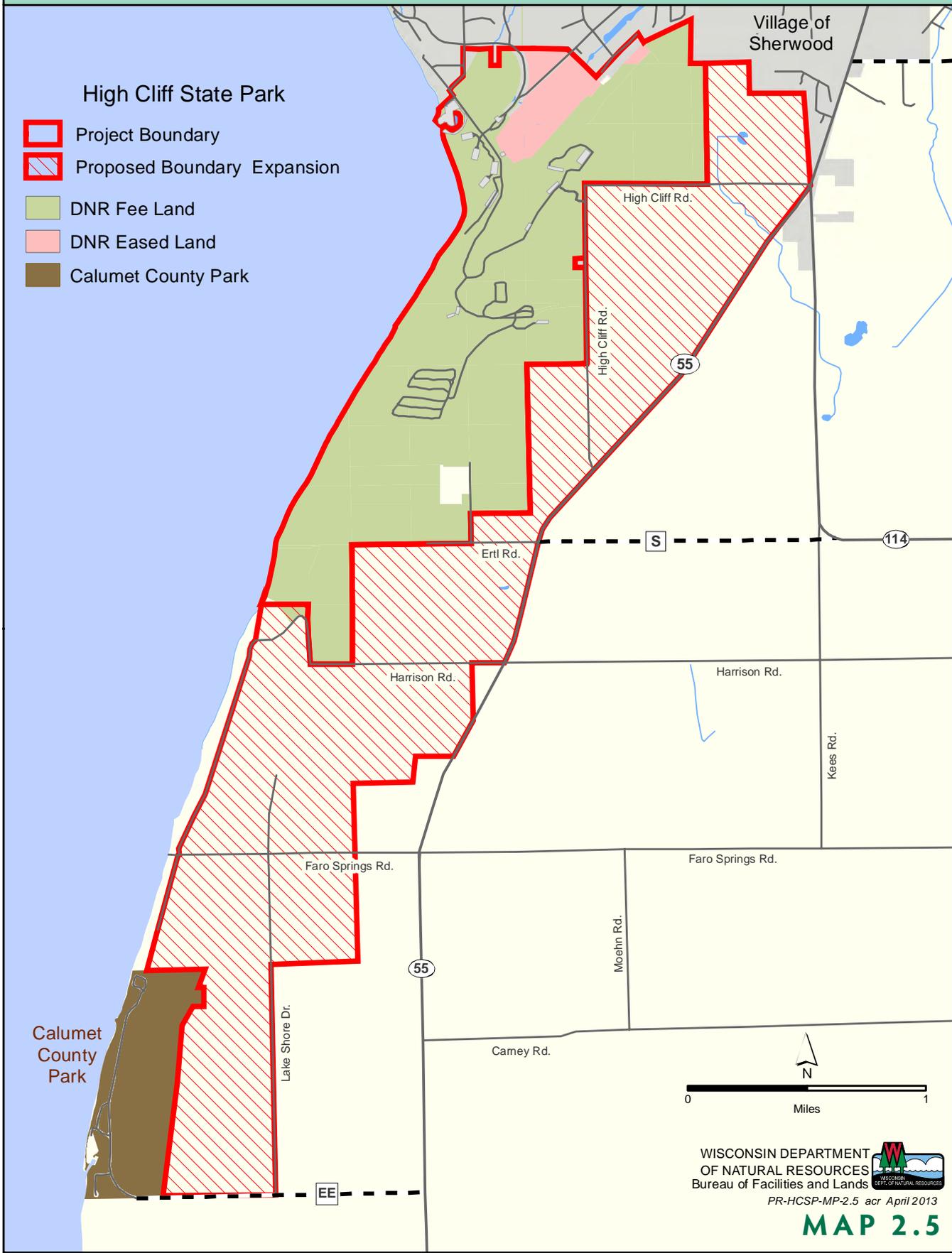
# High Cliff State Park

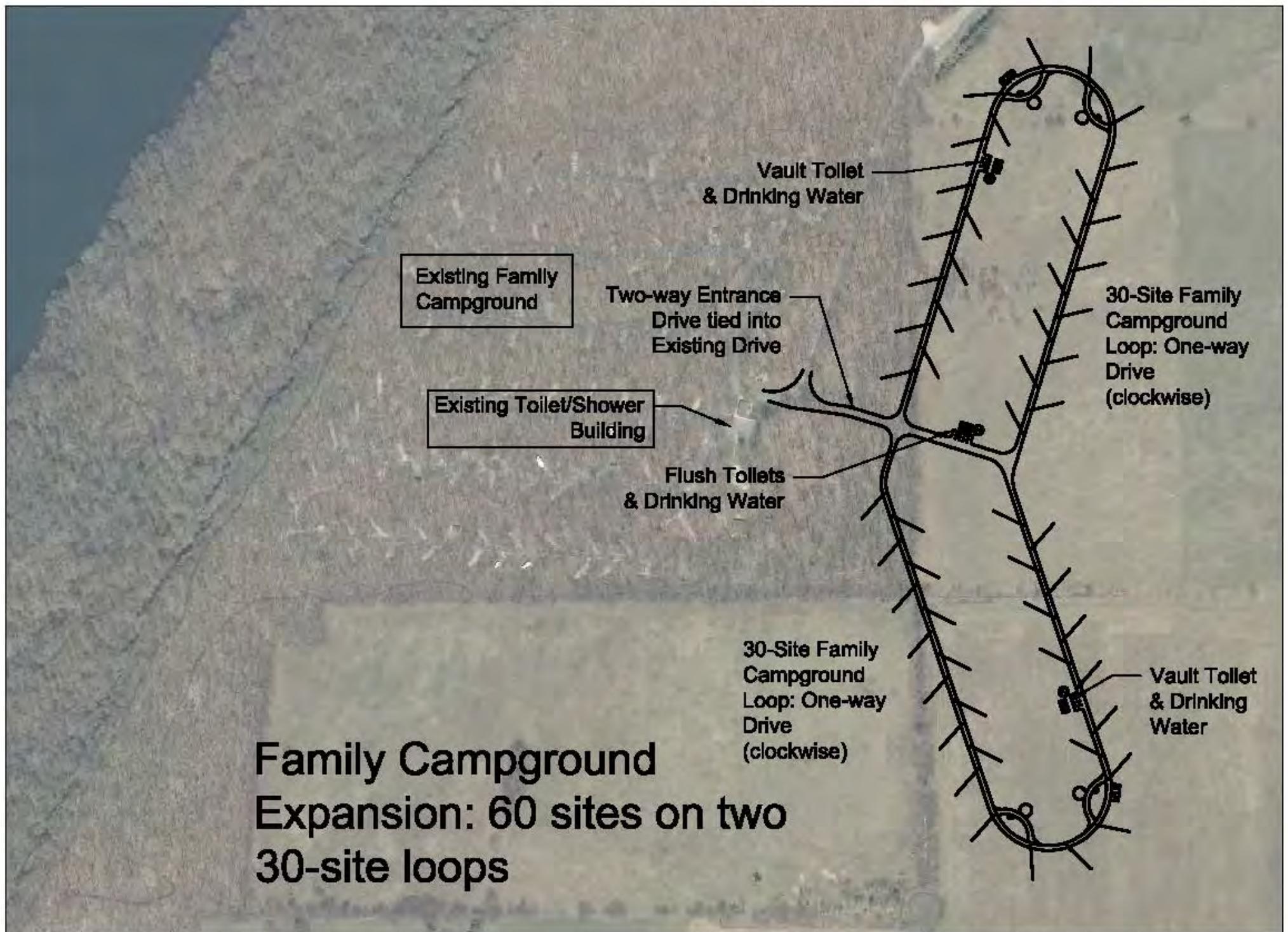
## Map 2.4: Land Management & State Natural Areas



# High Cliff State Park

Map 2.5: Project Boundary & Proposed Expansion





**Figure 2.1 High Cliff State Park - Family Campground Expansion**

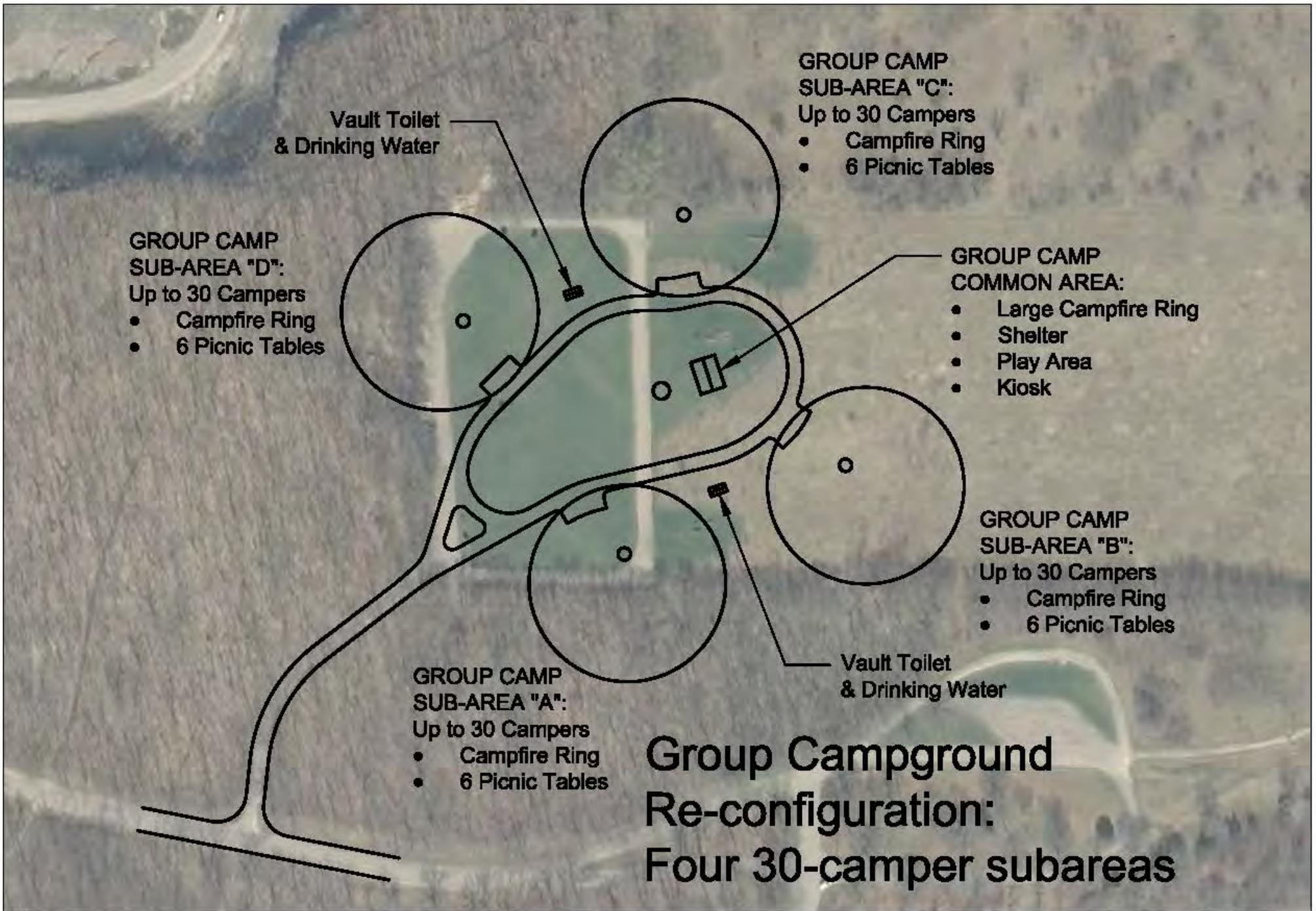


Figure 2.2 High Cliff State Park - Group Campground Reconfiguration

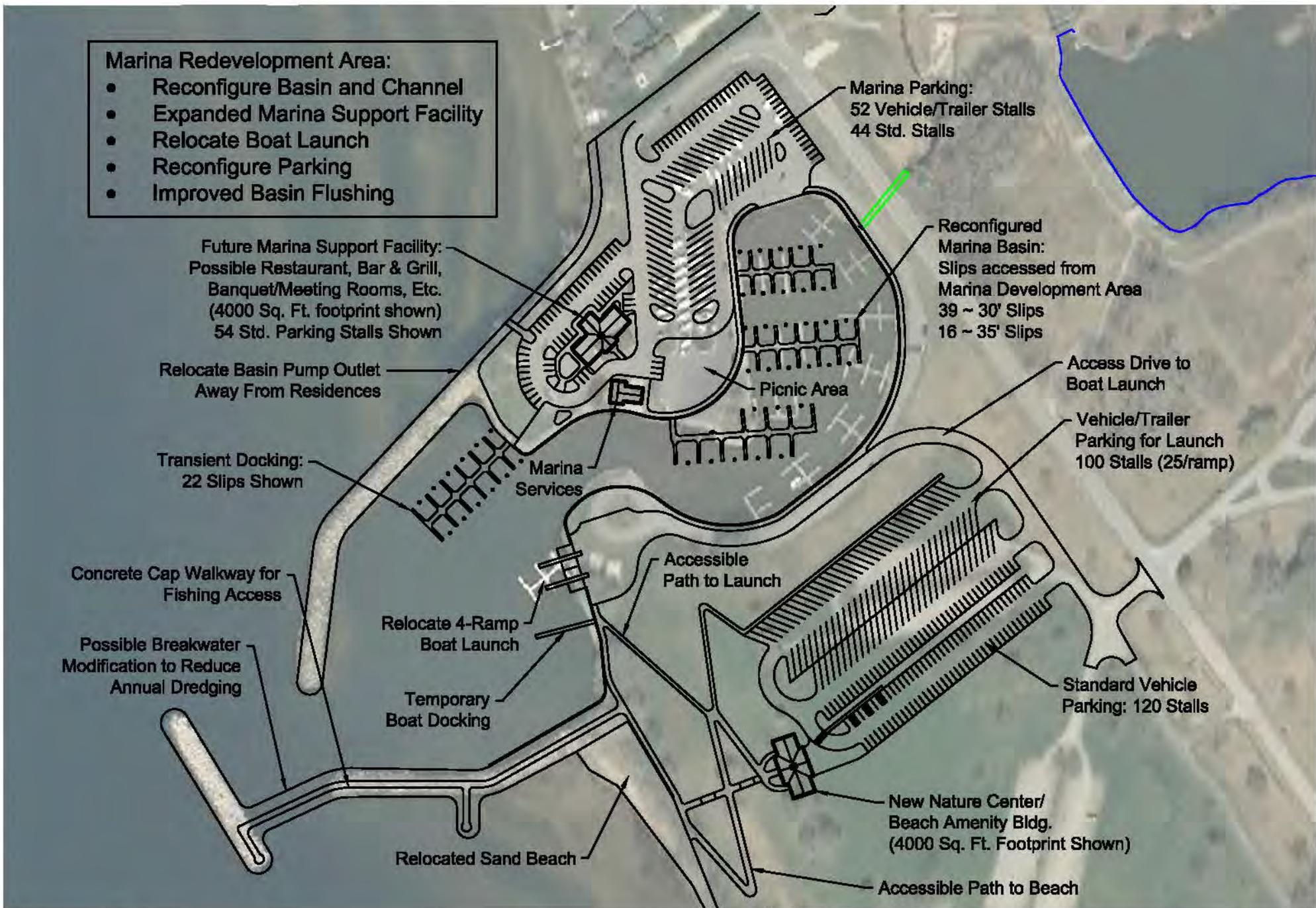
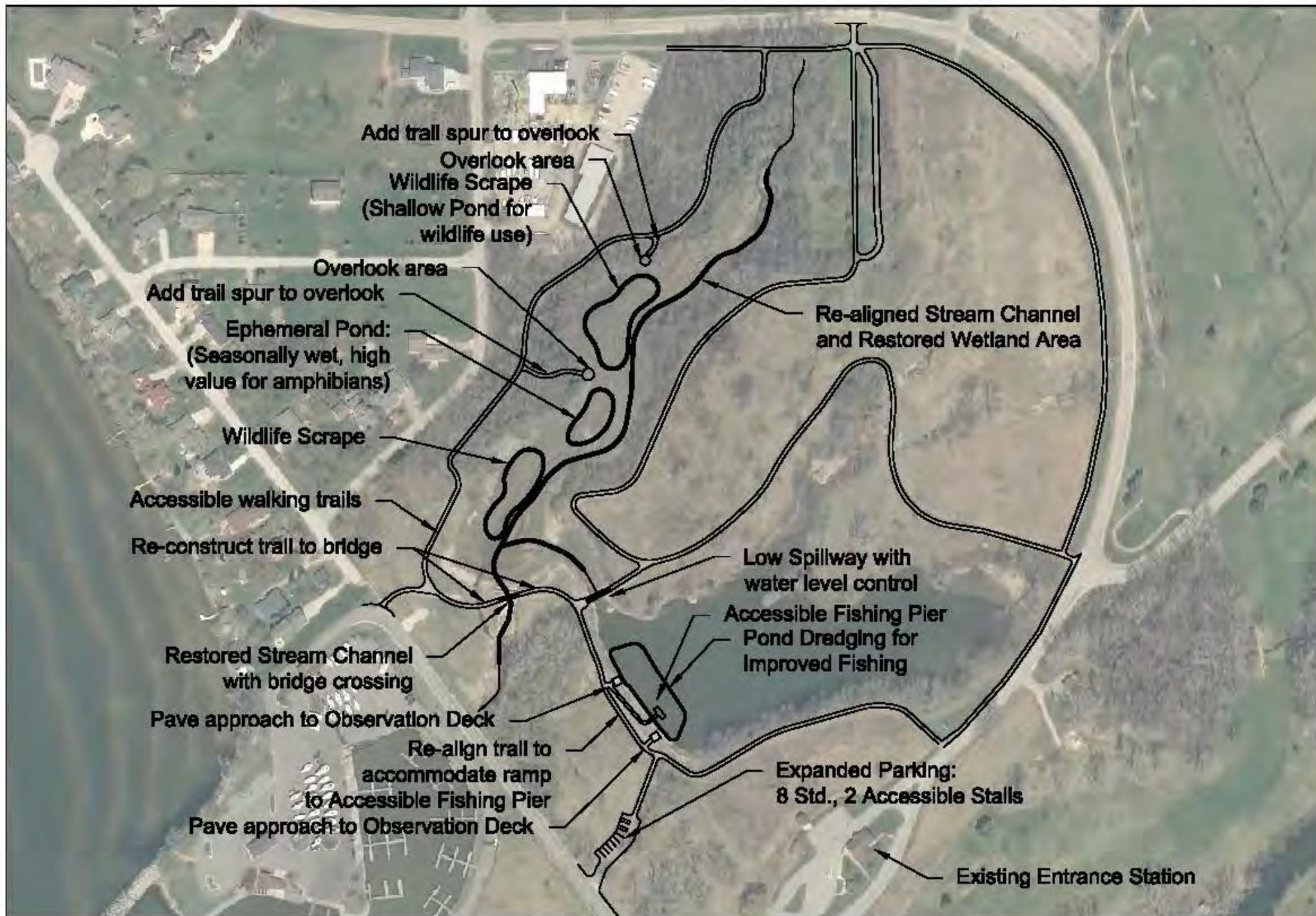


Figure 2.3 High Cliff State Park - Waterfront Redevelopment



**Figure 2.4 High Cliff State Park - Butterfly Pond Redesign**

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Jeff Decker  
Address N 5547 Lower Cliff Rd Phone 920-989-2183  
City Sherwood State NC Zip 54169 Email \_\_\_\_\_

I appreciate the open forum -  
I was glad to see there  
is at least some thought  
about moving the back  
pump outlet further out  
into the lake were the  
"algae" will have a better  
chance of breaking up.  
As a neighbor of the marina  
we hope this portion of the  
master plan receives top priority.

Thanks for your consideration  
Jeff Decker

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Don Engelhardt  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 989-3253  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Marina Issues

We the people on lower Cliff Rd truly hope that the restoration of the pump outlet be moved as to not keep hindering the lake use of our properties. We have not gotten anywhere with previous management and truly hope we can settle this issue. It isn't right to be dumping toxic waste on neighboring properties. Please at least try to move the outlet further out or in a different area all together.

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I feel closing in the break wall  
of the marina is a mistake. It would  
create a very tight entrance for  
sailboats and cause traffic issues,  
especially at night.

The break wall should be moved  
back further into the lake to  
prevent sand build up behind  
it and less dredging.

The new harbor looks very  
tight making it difficult for  
larger sailboats to turn around  
in the harbor. The docks are  
not that old and don't need to  
be ripped out.

Putting the boat landing in a  
different spot is a good idea.  
The cement drop off at the launch  
creates a hole and trailers get  
stuck.

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2013 10:43 AM  
**To:** Keeley, Kenneth M - DNR  
**Subject:** FW: Marina Comments

Wisconsin State Parks  
P 608-266-2182

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**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2013 12:48 PM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Subject:** Marina Comments

/ Another fisherman stopped in to tell me:

- The plan for the marina will be more of a bottleneck than the current layout
- Put the boat launches on the north side, west of the harbor house
- The plan layout is too far/steep to walk back to launched boat at the docks
- There are only 35 – 40 sail boaters, many more fishermen and recreational boaters. Why are we catering to the sailors?

 *Carolyn Morgen*

Superintendent, High Cliff State Park  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
**phone:** (920) 989-1106, extension 223  
**cell:** (920) 207-5013  
**fax:** (920) 989-4009  
**e-mail:** [carolyn.morgen@wi.gov](mailto:carolyn.morgen@wi.gov)

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 08, 2013 2:55 PM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Subject:** FW: Marina Master Plan UP DATED COPY ( spelling )

Jeff,  
This is what I got from the Harbor Commission. Is this OK, or do you need something more?  
Thanks!

Carolyn Morgen  
**phone:** (920) 989 1106  
**cell:** (920) 207 5013

---

**From:** Brian and Carla [<mailto:bmahony@new.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2013 7:57 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Marina Master Plan UP DATED COPY ( spelling )

To the DNR,

We the members of the High Cliff harbor commission are in favor of and support the master plan for the High Cliff marina project.

We would like to meet with the people in charge of the planning committee and go over some changes we would like to see and also would like to see it happen in stages. We would like to see what we call (phase one) being the relocation of the boat launch area.

And the reconstruction of the breakwall and walk way. Phase two being the inner marina area ( with some changes) and phase three being the buildings and parking lot area next.

We the commission look forward to getting together with the state and working together in making this reconstruction of the harbor

area. This project is a good idea in keeping up with the marinas in the area and what the boating people would also like to see too.

Thank you, Sincerely High Cliff Harbor Commission

Prey, Jeff J - DNR

*\* Ruth Lane B Shultz*

**From:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2013 10:44 AM  
**To:** Keeley, Kenneth M - DNR  
**Subject:** FW: sign in sheets

*Vernor Salts*

For our discussion this afternoon.

*1. General Store*

Jeff  
Wisconsin State Parks  
P 608-266-2182

*57 make  
Johnny Ryan  
Marty W...*

**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2013 12:45 PM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: sign in sheets

Joe Hennlich comments:

1. The General Store should be kept.
  - It is just as important as the Mounds and the Lime Kiln
  - The General Store (front of the building) should be restored.
  - Install free standing, non-vented propane heaters and a HVAC system
  - Perform improvements necessary to preserve the building
  - The building should be a "year-round" facility
  - There is no need for another Nature Center this close to so many others (Chilton, Kaukauna, Heckrodt, Bubboltz) already established.
  - The Naturalist should be working out of the back of the General Store, not a new building. The added on portion should be removed and add a new addition onto the back.
  - The Naturalist should be outside, interpreting the park, not be in a building.
2. The Marina reconstruction idea is a BAD idea
  - The layout will be even more of a bottleneck
  - The hill will cause problems for older people to have to walk so far/too steep
  - People don't want to leave their boat so far to walk to their car
  - Move the ramps back to the last draft drawing on the north side, just west of the Harbor House; better parking, less cost
  - When the lot is full, it's full. Why add more parking?
  - Adding a "restaurant" is counterproductive to the High Cliff Supper Club, and to the Village.
  - The drop in Marian use has more to do with the economy than anything.
3. **The Butterfly Pond should be included in the "Habitat Management Area"**
4. The WISFIRS stand numbers are included in the plan (for example on page 12). The "stand" reference doesn't make sense to the reader.
5. The estimated cost of land, page 29, is too low. He thinks it should be \$8,000 - \$10,000/acre.
6. **Need to add to plan, "Seek connection to the Friendship and Fox River Trails."**
7. Wants to see more information to address the deer at High Cliff. If the muzzleloader hunt isn't restore, he feels that High Cliff will need to bring in sharp shooters, etc. to control the herd.
8. Joe wanted to see more reference to control burning in the plan
9. **Under "Projected Staffing" add a FTE Naturalist Position.**

Jeff, those were the highlights of Joe's comments ☺ I will see you on Thursday afternoon.

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Joy Hagen  
Address 55 Meadow Row Ct Phone 920-734-6455  
City Appleton State WI Zip 54913 Email  
joyous4all@new.rr.com

I whole- heartedly support the expansion of High Cliff State Park. I agree with the addition of more campsites, updating the marina and adding nearly 1,800 acres of land. The \$11,000,000 price tag is money well spent.

Please consider putting a due share of funds into bike trails, those near roads, off roads- especially meandering through the park on black top trails. I think the off-road cyclists would like opportunities as well. My vote is for putting a large share of resources into black-top off road trails which connect to other trails and various sites in the park.

Thank you for putting the effort into expanding High Cliff State Park. It will benefit many generations to come.

Ciske } a20 989 3522  
Ken ~~Sestey~~  
- marina

- Relocated the boat landing.  
- (70-80% <sup>1/2</sup> 7 1/2" sheephead - 27#

- Wants ramps back on  
N. Side

- When it's filled it's filled - parking

- temporary dock -  
will be used by beach  
users -

- most convenient to everyday

- user -  
- Flat land - it'd be different.

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30-40% of actual saithers

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** dwnhlldav . <dwnhlldav@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:08 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff State Park Multiuse trails

Hello Carolyn,

I would like to voice my support for continuing the current shared use policy of the trails at High Cliff State Park. My family and I are avid users of the park and greatly enjoy riding our bikes on the trails. If we were no longer allowed to ride on the horse trails we would certainly spend far less time in the park.

As an employee at a local bicycle shop, I routinely tell customers that High Cliff is a wonderful place close to the Fox Valley to ride their bikes. I would have to begin sending our customers to other parks, like Hartman Creek or the Reforestation Camp if bicycles were no longer allowed on the horse trails at High Cliff.

Thank you for your time,  
Dave Martin  
Service Manager  
Wheel & Sprocket  
Appleton, WI

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Michael Schmidt <dr.wood@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:08 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Biking-High Cliff St Park

Ms Morgen:

My name is Mike Schmidt, from Appleton, WI

As an avid bicyclist I am concerned to learn that High Cliff Trails are being considered for horse use only! This proposal would this severely limit trail/mtn biking at High Cliff for the many of us that use it now. I believe there are many more cyclists and trail hikers to use and support the park than horse riders by a large margin.

Thanks You for your time and consideration.

Mike Schmidt  
3624 W Sunnyview Rd  
Appleton, WI 54914

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Amanda Frederick <amanda.frederick@uwalumni.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 5:02 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Biking trails at High Cliff

Dear Ms. Morgen,

I'm writing to someone that is new to the Fox Valley Area. I relocated from Madison, WI. After living in an area that truly supports its biking constituents, I can tell you first hand, how important it is to keep avenues open for bikers to exercise, enjoy nature, and practice there skills safely.

Prohibiting biking on High Cliff trails will truly hurt our community and decrease the support for our public parks.

Please consider allowing bikes to remain on the trails at High Cliff. We are a dedicated group of people- dedicated to active lifestyles, healthy living, the environment, and family. We are the folks that you want in your parks.

Best regards,

Amanda Frederick  
University of WI- Madison, BA '04  
University of WI- Madison, MBA '12

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Joel Landsverk <landsverk.joel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 5:19 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Mountain Bike trails at High Cliff

Hello Carolyn,

I'm writing to express my support for the availability of mountain bike trails at High Cliff State Park. I'm a 40-year resident of the Fox Valley and many-time visitor to High Cliff. My wife and 2 daughters are avid cyclists (for fun and fitness). For many years I've enjoyed the "unofficial" mountain bike trails at High Cliff and Calumet Cty parks.

As you likely know, there is very little mountain biking access in the Fox Valley area, with the closest being Green Bay. For many of us with full-time jobs, wives and children and many other responsibilities, it's just not practical to drive an hour just ride a bike. High Cliff is perfectly situated to the Valley to allow for easy access to some really great terrain (lots of climbing!).

I urge you to please consider maintaining and expanding the current trail system. The mountain bike community in Appleton and the surrounding areas is really starting to bloom and the support you would gather in making this commitment would be unparalleled.

Thanks for your time.

Best regards,

Joel A Landsverk  
1807 N Superior St  
Appleton, WI 54911  
920-915-9160

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** peter.coons@wheelandsprocket.net  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 5:42 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Mountain Biking at High Cliff

Hello Carol,

My Name is Peter Coons, I am a manager of a bicycle shop in Appleton (Wheel & Sprocket). I have been a life long resident of Neenah and have experienced the benefits of High Cliff as a place where I've recreated my whole life. As a beautiful State Park as you can find and a place which has unlimited potential for improvement. I have always seen this park as a very underutilized asset which never seems to embrace its terrain. The fact that the whole nation has successfully developed long term mt biking trails which offer a healthy safe life long activity and the Fox Valley has literally no trails is a very tragic situation. With epidemic Diabetes and very poor health, our country is headed in a very poor direction. We are doing a great disservice to the populous. Given governments long term impact on health with Obama care, investing resources in cycling is a no-brainer. Good trails leave little environmental impact and offer amazing results for healthy family fun. Cycling is a low cost simple solution to many complex problems!

Please consider supporting cycling in the future!

Thank you

Peter Coons

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Jessica Suprise <suprij73@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 2:28 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Mountain Biking trails at High Cliff

Hi Carolyn,

My name is Jessica Suprise and I am a resident of Appleton that purchases a pass yearly to High Cliff state park. I am emailing you to express my interest in the development and maintenance of mountain biking trails in the park. A well developed and maintained trail system is a great way to get people into the park and as these trail systems develop they can lead to opportunities that could involve raising money for other projects in the park (races, riding clinics, trail advocacy and education classes). Many areas with developed trail systems do entire weekend events that involve camping, lodging, etc and an increase in local economy.

Contrary to some beliefs, if a trail is made properly mountain biking trails and riding really don't cause any environmental damages. Additionally, avid bikers like myself are devoted to respecting trails and the beautiful areas they travel through. As a board member of the FVMTB (Fox Valley Mountain Bikers) group I know our group would be willing to step in and help with the care and development of such trail systems given the opportunity. Many of us, myself included have ridden other trail systems, some mountain biking specific but mostly other multi-use trails. We have seen that when various groups (equestrian, bikers, hikers, etc) work together and let our passions take residence with respect of the beauty of nature that these trails let us explore, we can co-exist and strive positively.

I truly hope you and the rest of those in charge of High Cliff seriously consider allowing the development and use of mountain biking trails in the park. Having a beautiful are such as High Cliff so close to home to ride would be absolutely wonderful. Please feel free to contact me for any reason pertaining to this issue or even volunteer needs within the park whatever they may be.

Thank you for your time,  
Jess Suprise, LAT, FVMTB Secretary  
Cell: (920)312-4596 email: [suprij73@gmail.com](mailto:suprij73@gmail.com)

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** P8N <porr@new.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 10:22 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Trails at HC

Hi Carolyn,

Writing to show my support for biking trails at High Cliff State Park.

Enjoy using these biking trails when I visit and camp at the park.

Also, know of many individuals and families that utilize the biking trails too. Lastly, many people camp at HC because the whole family can bike on lovely trails that traverse woods and prairie.

Thank you for your time and continued support of maintaining and expanding biking trails.

Peyton Orr  
50 Crestview Drive  
Appleton, WI 54915

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Ben Andrews <andrews.benj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 9:47 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff Multit Use Trails

Carolyn,

I wanted to write you in regard to the multi-use trails at High Cliff State Park. I have lived in the area for four years. I moved here from Michigan for work at Oshkosh Corporation. Two years ago I moved to the east side of Appleton which is where I currently live. I am an avid Bicyclist and rode through High Cliff for the first time last year during Race the Lake. While I do enjoy road biking my passion is with mountain biking. After last years Race the Lake I went out to High Cliff this spring with a friend to see what they had for mountain bike trails. The terrain was great and the views even better. I have found that High Cliff State Park is an exceptional place for my wife and I to ride our bikes together while enjoying the outdoors. I hope to visit the park and ride many more times this year and would like to thank you for all the work you have done to keep the trails available to all users.

In the past couple months the Fox Valley has a new group of mountain bikers form. I am a board member of the group (Fox Valley Mountain Bikers). Our goal is to promote, maintain, and help increase mountain biking in the area. Our most current project has been working with the Riverview Gardens in downtown Appleton to build a short multi use trail more gears toward trail running and mountain biking. If there is ever any opportunity for our group to help you on your trails system please contact us.

Thanks again for you dedication to the parks system,  
Ben Andrews

Ph: (989)763-5500

Email: [Andrews.Benj@gmail.com](mailto:Andrews.Benj@gmail.com)

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Ben Schultz <bschultz222@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:35 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Re: High Cliff Trails

Carolyn,

I was just informed that your group is trying to limit trails at High Cliff to Equestrian use only?? I am disturbed to learn of this news. First and foremost if trails are constructed correctly they can be used safely by all parties, bikers, hikers and horses. With Proper signage there is no concern that is worthy of banning use of State trails to a whole selection of tax payers and citizens. What concerns me even more is that this is even being considered. In this current state of the economy, why wouldn't the State and the DNR want as many State park permits being purchased as possible?? One happening in government that really tends to upset me is ignorance. If everyone can be satisfied and money can be saved and possibly even made?? Then I always ask myself why are ridiculous ideas like making trails for Equestrian use only even on the table!!!!

Sincerely,

Ben Schultz

On Fri, May 10, 2013 at 9:22 AM, Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR <[Carolyn.Morgen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Carolyn.Morgen@wisconsin.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for your comments. All comments will be reviewed at the next Master Plan team meeting. Any possible revisions to the plan will be discussed by the group.

Carolyn Morgen

Phone: (920) 989 1106, ext. 223

**From:** Ben Schultz [mailto:[bschultz222@gmail.com](mailto:bschultz222@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 8:40 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff Trails

Good morning Carolyn,

I am a avid hiker and mountain biker. I have always liked High Cliff and the trails it has. I am a certified trail builder, certified through Trail Design Specialist. High Cliff is a perfect spot with some great natural elevation and contours. With some re design this park could double it's visits from campers and bikers almost immediately. I would recommend Mike Riter - he taught this session in collaboration with the DNR up at Bear Paw Resort in White Lake -Langlade County.

Sincerely,

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Juanita Woulf <nwoulf@cleverk9s.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 8:26 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Biking at High Cliff State Park

Hi Carolyn,

I am a weekly user of High Cliff State Park bike trails. Not only do I love the trail system, but the park has so much potential for expansion of mountain bike trails. I go to many other parks in Wisconsin to mountain bike and would love to see something closer to the Fox Valley.

It is so important to continue to stress healthy lifestyle - and the recreational opportunities provided at High Cliff support that belief. Biking continues to be a growing industry - especially mountain biking - I am amazed at the number of young children at mountain bike races in Wisconsin.

Please consider the importance of allowing biking to continue in the park - and hopefully expand in the future!

Nita Woulf - biking enthusiast

W5807 Skippers Lane

Appleton, WI 54915

(920)202-1599

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Mertz, Todd <TMertz@corp.earthlink.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 8:18 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff State Park - MTB Trail

Carolyn –

This email is to let you know I positively support adding and improving the mountain bike trail system currently in-place at High Cliff State Park (HCSP). Many of us in the cycling community that do ride off road, tend to venture outside of the local area such as Hartman's Creek, Greenbush (Northern Kettles), or Reforestation Camp due to these being our nearest option. HCSP just doesn't have options available for us. Driving an hour one way to get fit or train for an event takes a toll on the pocket book – having trails locally would be a benefit.

Obviously, you will have both sides to contend with when determining a correct direction that pleases both sides. Adding and improving the trail system will generate more revenue for the immediate local community at HCSP which is a benefit for the small business community. If trails aren't added or improved – that revenue is being spent in other communities. As simple as it is, stopping for a beer & burger after a hard ride or simple getting a water at the local gas station helps business! Most of us riders spend that money in other communities after a ride.

Both sides need to realize that everyone can't be happy, but seeing additional revenue coming in to the community has to be pleasing for both sides!

Todd Mertz  
2942 W Creek Valley Lane  
Appleton, WI  
(920) 540-4287

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Marc <wildbee@new.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 7:16 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff

Carolyn,

Just letting you know that I enjoy all the trails at High Cliff for the purposes of MTBing. Any expansion would be greatly appreciated. Especially if they became single use trails.

Marc Wildeman  
IMBA, WORBA member since 1995  
Director, Calumet Sun Run MTB race, 1996-2006, WORS Series

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Todd Ake <tmake@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 6:34 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Mountain bike trails at High Cliff

Ms. Morgen,

I live in Arkansas now but grew up in Neenah. As I have a lot of family still living in the valley, I visit there at least a couple times a a year. Typically during the spring/summer/fall visits I ride the High Cliff trails with my mountain bike. I have heard rumor that the trails are being considered to close for biking; I would be disappointed if this happened.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and please keep the trials open for mountain biking,

Todd Ake

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Chad Romzek <chad.romzek@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 6:13 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff Multi Use

Good morning Carolyn,

I am a 40 year old father of 2 awesome boys who are 8 and 10. We live in the Neenah area and we love mountain biking..... especially riding in different areas with beautiful scenery and terrain. High cliff is a favorite place with a good amount of riding for beginners and I would love to see continued use for mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians on the trails.

Please consider keeping the trails open for all!

Additionally, I am a new member of the FVMTB (Fox Valley Mountain Bikers). Our group is passionate about maintaining trails for bikers, hikers and horses. We also have projects moving forward with new trails that will be for multi use.

Best Regards,  
Chad Romzek  
920.216.0400

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 9:17 AM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Subject:** FW: High cliff mountain biking

Carolyn Morgen  
phone: (920) 989 1106  
cell: (920) 207 5013

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Loren Potter [<mailto:lopott@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 6:03 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High cliff mountain biking

Carolyn,

High cliff park is ideally situated in the state with many good amenities. Personally for myself and family and friends, cycling is one of the best ways to enjoy our parks. Please keep biking and even consider expansion of the trail system for further development.

Thank you,

Loren Potter

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Samida, Jeff <jjsamida@kcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2013 4:58 PM  
**To:** Biermeier, Peter C - DNR; Schuller, Daniel J - DNR; Prey, Jeff J - DNR; Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Mater Plan High Cliff

Hi, excellent job on the master plan, I feel I can speak for the Friends group on that also. I am going to speak with Jon our president and plan to bring up a resolution at the friends board meeting in support of the plan with a minor tweak. A few of the board members including myself have some emotions around bike trails so I hope that will work for them also. It's not a show and will send you a marked up map for feedback....

With the land expansion at some point there will be room for us all ☺. Good job,

### **Jeff Samida – P.E.**

Kimberly-Clark Corp.  
NACP - P&TD  
ph 920-721-4200  
fax 920-969-3343  
cell 920-858-9339  
[jjsamida@kcc.com](mailto:jjsamida@kcc.com)

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This e-mail is intended for the use of the addressee(s) only and may contain privileged, confidential, or proprietary information that is exempt from disclosure under law. If you have received this message in error, please inform us promptly by reply e-mail, then delete the e-mail and destroy any printed copy. Thank you.

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**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** appletonbike tds.net <appletonbike@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2013 12:38 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff

Hi Carolyn,

I wanted to email and express our support for Mt. biking/ trail riding at High Cliff. We have personally ridden the trails there since the 1990's. We love to see expanded areas for biking at High Cliff. There is a strong demand in the this region for additional biking opportunities.

Thanks,  
Gwen Sargeant

--

Gwen Hinzman Sargeant  
Appleton Bicycle Shop  
121 S. State St  
Appleton, WI 54911  
920-733-2595  
Family owned and operated since 1939

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to see more biking trails in the plan and connect those bike trails to those in the Fox Valley Area. We thought the plan was ~~to~~ to have all the bike trails in the state connected.

Develop areas that focus on health and wellness programs not only for young families but also for middle aged and elderly people so they stay in this area of the state!

Would like to see more information about the "Friends of High Cliff" group. Please send to [sisteiner@new.rr.com](mailto:sisteiner@new.rr.com)

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** dwnhldav . <dwnhldav@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2013 10:12 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Re: High Cliff State Park Multiuse trails

Thank you for the reply Carolyn.

Unfortunately, that is not enough trail to be worth the drive to the park, and I only live 20 minutes away. I am very disappointed in this plan. High Cliff is already behind the ball when it comes to mountain biking. There are examples all around of parks embracing mountain biking, not shunning it. Hartman Creek in Waupaca, Baird Creek in Green Bay and Brown County Reforestation Camp in Suamico are all embracing mountain biking and riders from the Fox Valley are heading to these parks instead of High Cliff.

Currently the city of Grand Chute is working to construct a bike park and the city of Wausau is pursuing the idea of developing a trail center in cooperation with Rib Mountain State Park, yet High Cliff wants to reduce the amount of trails open to off road cyclists. I believe this will send more local riders out of the area. High Cliff has the potential to be an incredible mountain biking destination. There is no park within an hour that has the terrain that High Cliff possesses.

I have heard that one of the reasons that this is being considered is the mountain bikers have not been involved in the upkeep of the park. In the past, the park management was not friendly to cyclists and not at all welcoming to our input. It's hard to justify putting our time and energy into a park that doesn't want us there. Right now, off road riding enthusiasts are organizing in the Fox Valley to take on the task of caring for the places we ride. I'm a founding member, and board member of Fox Valley Mountain Bikers. It will be very difficult for us to convince our members to volunteer their time at High Cliff if we don't have anywhere to ride in the park.

Also of note, in the 5 years I have lived in the area and ridden at High Cliff, I have never encountered an equestrian Yet I encounter other cyclists frequently. Why would you limit trails for a group so present in the park, in favor one that is rarely present? I've ridden my bike all over the country and have encountered equestrians on many other trails and have never had an issue with startling a horse. There are plenty of examples of horses and bikes successfully sharing a trail system all around the country. If people are worried about their horse being startled then that horse does not have the temperament to be a trail horse.

I implore you to reconsider this plan,  
Dave Martin  
Service Manager  
Wheel & Sprocket Appleton

Founding Member and Board Member  
Fox Valley Mountain Bikers  
[www.fvmtb.org](http://www.fvmtb.org)

On Sat, May 11, 2013 at 8:14 PM, Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR <[Carolyn.Morgen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Carolyn.Morgen@wisconsin.gov)> wrote:

Dave,

Thank you for your comments. All comments will be looked at by the Master Plan committee.

Please review the draft plan, and maps. The intent of the plan is to separate horses and bicycles from the same trail, for safety purposes. High Cliff would still have off road bicycle/hiking trails. The plan is to allow bicycles on the Red Bird and Forest Management Trails.

Thank you again for your comments. Feel free to contact me for more information.

Carolyn Morgén  
phone: (920) 989 1106, ext. 223

**From:** dwnhldav . [mailto:[dwnhldav@gmail.com](mailto:dwnhldav@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:08 PM  
**To:** Morgén, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff State Park Multiuse trails

Hello Carolyn,

I would like to voice my support for continuing the current shared use policy of the trails at High Cliff State Park. My family and I are avid users of the park and greatly enjoy riding our bikes on the trails. If we were no longer allowed to ride on the horse trails we would certainly spend far less time in the park.

As an employee at a local bicycle shop, I routinely tell customers that High Cliff is a wonderful place close to the Fox Valley to ride their bikes. I would have to begin sending our customers to other parks, like Hartman Creek or the Reforestation Camp if bicycles were no longer allowed on the horse trails at High Cliff.

Thank you for your time,

Dave Martin

Service Manager

Wheel & Sprocket

Appleton, WI

**Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Josh Ball <joshua.b.ball@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2013 5:42 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Re: High Cliff Mountain Bike Trail Access

Carolyn,

Where can I find the draft plan and maps? Are they available on the park's website? I, personally, support the separation of the horse trails and biking/hiking trails, as long as biking access isn't limited. What's the time frame for the separation of the trails?

Josh Ball  
920-224-4190  
[joshua.b.ball@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.b.ball@gmail.com)

On May 11, 2013, at 8:14 PM, "Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR" <[Carolyn.Morgen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Carolyn.Morgen@wisconsin.gov)> wrote:

Joshua,

Thank you for your comments. All comments will be looked at by the Master Plan committee.

Please review the draft plan, and maps. The intent of the plan is to separate horses and bicycles from the same trail, for safety purposes. High Cliff would still have off road bicycle/hiking trails. The plan is to allow bicycles on the Red Bird and Forest Management Trails.

Thank you again for your comments. Feel free to contact me for more information.

Carolyn Morgen  
**phone:** (920) 989 1106, ext. 223

**From:** Joshua Ball [<mailto:joshua.b.ball@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:49 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** High Cliff Mountain Bike Trail Access

Ms. Morgen,

I am writing you on behalf of Fox Valley Mountain Bikers (FVMTB). We are a newly formed group of mountain bike enthusiasts who aim to "maintain and expand recreational trail access to mountain bikers and all trail users in the Fox Valley region." We will soon have the support of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), as we have submitted an application (along with other mountain biking groups from Green Bay and Kewaunee) to establish an IMBA chapter for north east Wisconsin -

NorthEast Wisconsin Trails (affectionately called NEWT). Currently FVMTB has 28 members, the support of 3 local bicycle shops, and nearly 200 supporters.

Recently it has been brought to our attention that High Cliff State Park is in the process of finalizing a 50-year plan for the park that involves expanding the park size in a very significant way. As we were told, part of this plan includes expanding the trail system for its many trail users. I wanted to let you know that FVMTB, including myself, support the expansion of the park as well as its trail system. We are very excited about the potential for more miles of singletrack mountain biking trails in the greater Fox Valley region.

As a second point, I'd like to voice my opinion (as well as that of FVMTB), that we would not like to lose mountain bike access to the multi-use trails currently in place at High Cliff. We have been told that there has been a push by other trail users to limit (or prohibit) mountain bike access on these trails. Please let me know if there is anything that we, as an organization, can do to make sure we keep our trail access. We are open to helping in the maintenance and improvement of the trails that are currently in place. If mountain bikers' trail access will be limited on the existing trails, we would like to open dialogue concerning the sustainable development of mountain bike specific trails at the park.

If you'd like more information on our group (FVMTB) please contact me via email or the cell phone number listed below. If you'd like more information on IMBA and the help they can provide, please visit [www.IMBA.com](http://www.IMBA.com) or contact me.

We look forward to using and expanding the trail system at High Cliff State Park in the years to come!

--

Josh Ball  
Chair - Fox Valley Mountain Bikers ([www.fvmtb.org](http://www.fvmtb.org))  
Email: [joshua.b.ball@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.b.ball@gmail.com)  
Cell: 920.224.4190

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name IRENE PETRIK  
Address 6860 COUNTY ROAD M Phone 582-7734  
City WINNECONNE State WI Zip 54986 Email \_\_\_\_\_

IT WOULD BE NICE TO CONCENTRATE ON LAND PURCHASE TO CONNECT CALUMET COUNTY PARK TO HIGH CLIFF STATE PARK, THIS WOULD MAKE IT ACCESSABLE FOR HORSEBACK RIDERS TO CAMP AND RIDE.

I FEEL THAT THE PARK IS IN TOO OF A POPULATED AREA TO ALLOW HUNTING.

SIGNAGE ON THE HORSE TRAILS COULD BE IMPROVED INCLUDING WHAT FORM OF RECREATION YIELDS TO WHO.

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Laura Steidl  
Address N7122 32nd Ct Phone 920-867-4245  
City Weyauwega State WI Zip 54983 Email hlsteidl@centurylink.net

I would like to see campgrounds added to this park system that would allow overnight camping with horses. We need multi-use trails (that include horses) linking High Cliff State Park with the nearby County park and their trail system.

I am very concerned about the safety of all trail users in hunting zones within the park trail system and hope you will continue your current safety policies of not allowing hunting during the May through Nov. 15 time period. Hats off to you for keeping this a safe state park to enjoy. Archery only is a great plan but it isn't fool proof.

It would be nice to see signs up that say bikes should yield to horses on multi-use trails. The reason is because horses are unpredictable at times and this would make things safer for all. "Equestrian Only" trails would be really nice if space permits. If not, I'm happy to share.

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Donna Franczek  
Address N 7571 S. Harvard Phone 987-1224  
City Hilbert State            Zip            Email franczekl@tds.net

When the public trails are decided upon to be expanded, I would like to see some running/hiking trails that go along the shoreline. Right next to the Lake is currently missing from the State Park. Most current trails are up above the lake. I feel one lake-side trail would spotlight our beautiful lake. Kids can skip stones + marvel at the immense body of water. I understand land purchases are a priority, but I wanted my input for now.

Thank you,

*Donna Franczek*

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would really like to see the existing  
horse trails better marked, I when riding  
don't like the feeling that I am where  
I am not supposed to be.

Thank you

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Mike Pokoiski  
Address 2126 HWY 147W Phone 980-323-2430  
City MISHKOT State W Zip 57208 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Horse trails and bike can be  
gained if everyone is educated  
as far as rules, we ride on  
roads quite often and get along  
very well with folks that  
know horses. More trails are  
always needed and appreciated

Thank you

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Ken Carpenter  
Address N3255 County Rd A Phone 608 576 4104  
City Fort Atkinson State WI Zip 53538 Email Witrailsco@gmail.com

The continuation of the equestrian trails in HCSP is wonderful. This will continue to support the unique and historic recreational need of rural Wisconsin; horse back riding. I take strong objection to the SCORP finding that equestrians & off road bikes are not compatible. Other Park properties and other State land (KUR) show this is not ~~the~~ true at all. Proper trail design using modern techniques ~~make~~ can make the trail safe for both users. How can we make it possible for those planners working on SCORP learn the modern trail design?

While the future expansion will ~~at~~ possibility allow access ~~o~~ from the community into the park, ~~it~~ is ~~a~~ missing from the current plan. It is desirable to connect the park out into the community. The existing horse trails are currently only a designation accessible by vehicle. There is no community out reach with recreational trails.

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Fay Van Camp  
Address W 3127 Garvey Rd Phone 920-738-9036  
City Kaukauna State WI Zip 54130 Email fjgjc@att.net

Glad I came to dispell some rumors that the horse trails were going to be lost, or a portion lost to a dog park.

Pleasantly surprised to hear that existing horse trails will remain in tact and that they will be ~~for~~ for hiking and horses only, and no longer for biking.

I myself have never had any serious incidents with bikers, but I know others have. Many kudos to the management for putting safety first and pursuing a compromise for bikers & horse riders.

I will most certainly make more use of the horse trails to support and know many other riders that will also once they are aware of this great news

Thanks Much!!!

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Jodi Pokorski  
Address 2126 Hwy. 147 West Phone 755-2491  
City Mishicot State WI Zip 54228 Email Sleepy  
meadows @

We love your trails - live.com  
Great job.

Keep up the good work.  
We can always ride MORE -  
Camping would be great.

IF bicycle riders could be educated -  
we would NOT have a problem sharing  
the trails with them.

Pretty much - they need to call out  
if they are coming up from behind us.  
IF they see us motioning them to  
STOP - they should!

It only takes a second for us  
to get past, and everyone can be  
on their way.

Thanks for listening!

Stephanie Halbach  
President of High Cliff Ridge Riders  
W4794 Questa Ct.  
Sherwood, WI 54169  
920-851-2437  
millennium\_steph@hotmail.com

June 4, 2013

High Cliff State Park  
N7630 State Park Rd.  
Sherwood, WI 54169

Dear Master Planning Team,

The High Cliff Ridge Riders would to thank the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and High Cliff State Park for the opportunity to allow the community the ability to be a part of the master planning process.

As the club who maintains the horse trails at the park (e.g. mowing, signage), we fully support the decision to separate the bike and horse trails. Our club frequently rides the trails together as well as on our own, and this decision will greatly improve trail safety for the horse and rider. As a result, not only will the experience in the park and on the trails be enhanced for current riders, but as part of our mission, our club will continue to promote the park to others as a wonderful and peaceful destination for horseback riding.

Looking toward the future, we believe the options for equine camping and additional horse trails are great assets to the master plan and will aid in growing the usage of the park within the horse community.

We truly and gratefully appreciate all that has been done for horses and their riders thus far, and we are excited for the future. We look forward to working with you to maintain and grow our horse trail systems and amenities.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Halbach  
President of High Cliff Ridge Riders

## **Prey, Jeff J - DNR**

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**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2013 8:16 PM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Subject:** FW: Master Planning Meeting

Carolyn Morgen  
phone: (920) 989 1106, ext. 223

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**From:** Jennifer Kvalheim [mailto:[jenkvalheim@charter.net](mailto:jenkvalheim@charter.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2013 10:44 AM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** FW: Master Planning Meeting

Dear Carolyn Morgan,

Myself along with all my riding lesson families are in FAVOR of removing the bikes/bicyclists from the Horse Trails at High Cliff State Park in order to make it safe for both parties around the blind corners as well as reducing the narrow ruts caused by the bikers that tend to trip up horses.

Thanks you for reading.

Jennifer Kvalheim

**From:** L Nate [mailto:[lmnate1@gmail.com](mailto:lmnate1@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2013 9:14 PM  
**To:** Ann & Marshall Crandall; Bebe Valentine; Chad & Deb Leightley; Cheri; Dan West; David & Sandie Miller; Deb DeCoster; Deb Schroeder; Ed & Linda Davidson; Jen Kvalheim; Jim Erdmann; Jim Miller; Joan Petrie; Karen Frederickson; Katie Swanson; Kelly Backes; Kris & Dale; Lisa Behlman; Lisa Heraly; Lisa Nate; Lorrie Formella; Mary Jarvis; Pat Bevers; Randy Baumann; Rick & JoAnn Fink; Sara Janssen; Sheli & Patrick Radtke; Shirley Bauman; Stephanie Halbach; Steve Bevers; Sue Devries; Sue Evers; Terry & Barbara Vandenbosch; Tina & Rich Betters  
**Subject:** Master Planning Meeting

Hello all, I hope everyone is enjoying this warmer weather... I sure am :) Just a reminder to whomever can make the Master Planning Meeting on Tuesday MAY 7th, from 4 to 6:30. The link is below that has more details and maps, etc. Please consider going if possible. As it stands right now, the bikes are being removed from the horse trails, but that might be met with some resistance from the bikers so we are highly encouraged to go and show our support for their decision and the horse trails at High Cliff. Heck, even talk some non-horse people into posing as trail riders for the night to have some good numbers ;))!! Please feel free to pass this on to anyone interested!! Thanks!

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/HighCliff/>

Also, if you can or can't come to the meeting you can leave comments on the right hand side of the link, there is Carolyn Morgan's name. I believe we have 30 days from the meeting to submit there.

Also, reminder our Spring Clean-up day for the trails is this coming Saturday, the 11th, time to follow..

Thanks!

Lisa

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Kathy Hermes  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 788 6554  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to see no hunting in  
the park. E

It would be nice to have private  
showers in the new bedrooms. This is  
especially nice for family with children —  
much safer!!

Draft High Cliff State Park Master Plan  
Informational Open House Meeting, May 7, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

OPTIONAL

Name Steve HERMES  
Address 7 Floral Drive Phone 788-6554  
City Kimberly State WI Zip 54136 Email shermes2@new.rr.com

I believe that drive through camping pads for the big campers is not environmentally sound. I understand that you are "chasing the money," so to speak, but ~~it~~ does not fit into the conservation mission of state parks.

private I do not object to state of the art bathroom and shower facilities found in several state parks as they are important health and safety facilities.

Overall, The Master Plan is well-conceived and will show an environmentally sound vision for the future of High Cliff State Park. Thank you!

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2013 6:19 AM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Subject:** Master Plan Comments

I've had a few verbal requests for a few backpack sites. I think we had discussed adding those, but then decided against them. I think they would be well received.

 *Carolyn Morgen*

Superintendent, High Cliff State Park  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
**phone:** (920) 989-1106, extension 223  
**cell:** (920) 207-5013  
**fax:** (920) 989-4009  
**e-mail:** [carolyn.morgen@wi.gov](mailto:carolyn.morgen@wi.gov)

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 08, 2013 2:57 PM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Subject:** FW: Demonstration Forest HCSP

Comments from Frank Kirschling....

Carolyn Morgen  
**phone:** (920) 989 1106  
**cell:** (920) 207 5013

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**From:** Kirschling, Frank A - DNR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2013 5:38 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: Demonstration Forest HCSP

Carolyn:

Thanks for your other nice comment.

Regarding "helping sort out the inconsistencies" my thought is that it is sometimes easier to sort things out at a local level. Especially if the local people (HCSP staff, and all of Ron Jones records in our file cabinets) have a more accurate picture than some people in Madison.

Nothing against people in Madison, but sometimes these people may not be as familiar with HCSP as the HCSP staff and local resource managers like Dick, me, or Ron Jones. They may end up making decisions without knowing all the facts.

In fact one of the issues I've had with HCSP Master Planning (and the Lower Wolf River Bottoms State Natural Area Master Plan that we finally finished this past summer) is that I think the ideas of the people who actually work at the park should be considered more strongly. Oftentimes people come from great distances (Madison) to help plan but they've never walked on the properties!

Anyway, that is just my opinion because I realize that you and other park staff have a lot of good ideas!

Frank

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**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2013 4:12 PM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR; Kirschling, Frank A - DNR; Mueller, Cynthia R - DNR  
**Cc:** Anderson, Craig J - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: Demonstration Forest HCSP

Jeff,  
Let me know if I can help...

Carolyn Morgen

(☎) phone: (920) 989 1106

(☎) cell: (920) 207 5013

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**From:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2013 11:14 AM  
**To:** Kirschling, Frank A - DNR; Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR; Mueller, Cynthia R - DNR  
**Cc:** Anderson, Craig J - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: Demonstration Forest HCSP

Hi,

The draft plan will go out with the current language. I am restarting the dialog with central office staff forestry about this subject. There are a number of inconsistencies from the original 46 acre demonstration woodlot as designated in the 1983 master plan to where we are today. We will have a resolution of this issue before the plan is to the NRB.

Jeff  
Wisconsin State Parks  
P 608-266-2182

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**From:** Kirschling, Frank A - DNR  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2013 2:43 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR; Mueller, Cynthia R - DNR; Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Cc:** Kirschling, Frank A - DNR  
**Subject:** Demonstration Forest HCSP

I just re-read Chapter 18 from the Private Forestry Handbook. I have been asking Jeff Prey since he decided to "de-list" it, his reasons for the decision.

Recently, (yesterday) he made a reference to the above chapter (3 pages plus a map). I wasn't clear on his explanation so I read the chapter again.

After reading the chapter the only possible disadvantage for HCSP is "revenue from timber harvests goes into the Forestry Account". This may be Jeff's reason although he hasn't articulated it.

All of the other verbiage indicates advantages (possible money from grants, educational opportunities, etc.) for having a Stewardship Demonstration Forest (SDF) at High Cliff or anywhere.

One other SDF that I am familiar with was in Wausaukee because I worked in Marinette County in the late 1990s. It seemed to be off the beaten path and was probably not visited by the public and used as an educational tool very often.

For the record, my reason for wanting to keep the Demonstration Forest is **entirely for public education and numbers of visitors**. It has nothing to do with “revenue going to the Forestry Account”. In fact, I wasn’t aware of this until recently. I assumed the money for timber revenue stayed with Parks but ended up somewhere in Madison and was re-distributed to all parks.

One of the goals for Demonstration Forests is public education. This is also one of the goals for HCSP’s Master Plan. One of the problems with SDFs during the last 30 years has been the inability for Forestry staff to spend time to utilize SDFs for public education (from Chapter 18). **Between Tom VandenElzen (DNR Forester for Calumet County), the Friends group, the HCSP staff, and me, I think there would be many dedicated people to address any needed work in the SDF and other areas within the park.**

Lastly, when I inventoried HCSP in 2008 in order to enter the data on WisFIRS (Forestry’s State Lands database), my objective for this stand was to naturally allow the stand to convert to northern hardwoods (sugar maple, beech, etc.); allow the oak trees to reach their biological longevity rather than converting the stand back to an early –successional oak stand using even-age management; and to steer this area to an old-growth parcel. Those were my objectives and are perfectly compatible with a Stewardship Demonstration Forest.

Anyway, those are my thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely,

Frank

## Prey, Jeff J - DNR

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**From:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 08, 2013 2:56 PM  
**To:** Prey, Jeff J - DNR  
**Subject:** FW: Master Plan Photo Credit

Photographer

Carolyn Morgen  
**phone:** (920) 989 1106  
**cell:** (920) 207 5013

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**From:** Mueller, Cynthia R - DNR  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2013 2:10 PM  
**To:** Morgen, Carolyn A - DNR  
**Subject:** Master Plan Photo Credit

Carolyn,

The printed Master Plan booklets came in today. I cannot locate the credit for the cover photo that Nick VanDinter. I told him that we would give him credit whenever his photos were used. Can we be sure to have that included in the final?

Also, one key piece that I feel is missing from the master plan, is any reference to High Cliff staff participation and input.

 *Cynthia R. Mueller*

Naturalist

High Cliff State Park

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Public Comments:  
10/23 High Cliff State Park Meeting

The following comments are obtained from the High Cliff public planning meeting on 10/23/12, and from emails received afterward. A short summary of stakeholder concerns is provided on this page. A larger sample of comments condensed from those sources and somewhat edited for clarity follows. Comments are largely about the effect of Act 168 on use of the park, and the future of horse trails within the park.

**Expansion of Hunting/Trapping:** Many comments are concerned that hunting and trapping activities present danger to other park users. Stray bullets are of particular concern. The park is viewed as too small for creating the necessary physical separation between hunters and other users. There are few comments from these sources which show support for hunting in High Cliff. Some comments are more tolerant of hunting, but recommend using seasonal restrictions to separate hunting and other uses. For the most part, park users want ongoing use of High Cliff without worrying about safety.

**Horse Trails:** Multiple comments support retaining and expanding horse trails. Comments oppose reduction of horse trails. Two comments refer to the DNR Parks Department discussion of potential trail connections between High Cliff and Calumet County parks. Trail use, whether for horse riding or other activities, is also in the discussion phase. The possibility of future horse trail connections is seen by some as too far off to justify near term reduction of horse trails in High Cliff. Riders mention lack of other area horse trails, and the need for a minimum amount of trail miles to justify making the trip to High Cliff. Some comments have no issue with staying on the South trail if it is restricted to equestrians and hikers. A subset of bicyclists is seen as a hazard due to behavior which spooks horses. There is some support for separating bicyclists and horse riders to different trails. Many comments mention the contributions of the High Cliff Ridge Riders club in creating and maintaining these horse trails. Multiple comments also point to the area economic stimulus attributable to equestrian park users.

**Geological/Archaeological Concerns:** One comment notes that there are several rare geological and archaeological features present within High Cliff State Park which require surveying and preservation due to scientific and educational value.

**Marina Pro and Con:** Some comments criticize the management of the marina. It is seen as reducing boat traffic, reducing service quality and ignoring marketing and promotion opportunities. One comment mentions the discharge of dirty water without proper dilution, something which is seen as lowering property values, limiting safe swimming opportunities and making too much noise.

**Campground/Amenities:** There are requests for individual showers and flush toilets due to privacy concerns. There are also requests for hike-in backpacking sites, and separation of electric camp sites from non-electric.

**Bicycling/Walking/Hiking:** There are requests for bicycle paths on State Park Rd, and for safety improvements related to trails and overhanging branches.

## Public Comments

### For Expansion (Act 168):

- Allow trapping. Hunting may be too dangerous.

### Against or Concerned about Expansion (Act 168):

- I am totally and strongly against the expansion of hunting and/or trapping opportunities in Wisconsin State Parks if it means hunting and/or trapping during the months of January, February, March, April, or May. I believe that allowing hunting and/or trapping during this time period does not support the stated goals of Act 168 and the Sporting Heritage Council because the bad press, hype, and publicity in the public's eye, will work against the stated goal to "improve the recruitment and retention of hunters, trappers, and anglers.... . This goes directly against the stated goal of "improve the management and protection of the natural resources of this state for the purpose of hunting, trapping, fishing, and "other types of outdoor recreation activities."
- I spend a lot of time at this park and suddenly I feel like I will have a target on my back.
- It is not necessary to cull animal numbers in the park through hunting.
- I understand the allure of opening the Park to more hunting - it would be a nice place for turkey hunting and maybe small game also. The issue of doing so lies not with hunters intentionally encroaching on others using the park, but with the fact that there are not many places that are far enough from trails and other heavily used areas to be safe to shoot in any direction, even with a shotgun. The current deer season configuration there lends itself to safety; everyone knows exactly when the deer season is, and not many people use the park for other purposes during that time. For 9 days, that isn't a significant sacrifice for most. But if expanded to longer seasons like turkey and small game, the potential for inadvertent encounters between hunters and other recreationalists increases. While I as much as anyone would like to be able to take advantage of such a close area to hunt in, I am just not convinced that it could be managed safely and hope that the regulations for use of the park remain as is.
- I run up at High Cliff, and had a question about using the trails during hunting season. I plan on staying well away from the hunting area during gun season, but it looks like on the map there is quite a bit of overlap on areas that are open to hunting and some of the XC ski trails. I was wondering if you had any advice on skiing during bow season... provided we get some snow this year. Are bow hunters set up near the XC ski trails, or are they further out toward the edge of the park?
- I would have significant concern about hunting going on while the trails are still open during the fall. Especially for any gun hunting where a stray bullet could hit a horse or rider. I have ridden in public forests with orange during bow season with less concern, but I would consider any kind of gun hunting concurrent with open trails as a significant risk.
- Multiple comments that park is too small for hunting.
- There is a huge public hunting area six miles away.
- Close park if you must allow hunting.

## Concern/Support for Horse Trails:

- My family does not want to lose any trails for the horses. This is the closest trail to home and is a great way to spend an afternoon without having to drive long distances. We want more trails if anything. Perhaps some would be willing to pay a greater fee for a seasonal "trail sticker" if that is what it takes to get more trails and not lose what we have. I know I'd pay more!
- Our family goes to High Cliff State Park Horse Trails so many times a year I can't even count!!! We love them and would look forward to having more trails added on. I would not want u guys to eliminate any trails at all!!! It would be nice if u could add on to the existing trails that are already there!! We are grateful we have trails that are so close to home and appreciate them!!
- This year I have NOT ridden my horse at all on the NORTH TRAIL, just the South, I am fine with the proposed changes and feel that if the SOUTH TRAIL was for HORSES or HIKERS ONLY it would be much safer. On average about 80% of the dogs I come across while riding on the trails are OFF-LEASH and the owners are scrambling to hold on to their dogs when they see riders. Also my horse and I have been 'scared/spooked' by 3 bicyclist that have rounded a blind corner or come into the woods as we were coming out and never said anything. Most recreational bikers are very polite and nice and pull over and get off and stand in the weeds. But the serious mountain-type bikers that go all out usually have head-phones on in their ears and cannot hear the warnings that I usually give and tell my kids to say such as "Coming out of the woods", "Coming into the woods" or "Coming around the corner with horses".
- I have very much enjoyed riding at High Cliff, and would like to continue doing so, but I have to admit that fewer trails would lead to less likelihood of my continued patronage of the park. While High Cliff is relatively close, I have to consider the time and mileage costs it takes to travel there with horses, and fewer miles of trails means it is harder to justify the trip. I already consider High Cliff to be a fairly short horse trail system. I hope that you value your horse riding patrons enough to try to maintain enough trails to make their trip worthwhile.
- As a Sherwood resident and a member of the High Cliff Ridge Riders, I often use the park primarily for horseback riding and have done so for the past 12+ years. The High Cliff Ridge Riders were pro-active about putting the horse trails in place and they have been in existence for the last 30 years, before I was even born. Not only have they spent countless hours putting the trails in, they still maintain them today. The new proposed plan suggests that the horseback riders would lose the entire north loop system and part of the south system after new land has been acquired. If the thought process is that we would like the trails all to ourselves that is not necessarily true. We don't mind sharing with hikers and bikers if they follow simple rules to alert the rider they are present.

I've seen the results of voting when the village asked for opinions regarding adding a dog park in future developments. The lack of interest placed it near the bottom of a list of nearly 15 items. This tells me that having a dog park in the general location probably isn't that important to the people that live near the park. For those that do not live near the park, they likely have much easier access to dog parks near their homes. I feel that taking away the horse trails in that location (north loop) may be a mistake. In the summer months I would estimate there are probably close to 30-50 horses a week on the

trails. Also, there is a section of the south trail loop that is proposed to be eliminated. I often only have limited time to ride. I can do that loop in about an hour which is perfect. Ultimately we would like to see additional trails added to what we currently have. Riders from other clubs have told us they often can't invest the time and money into making a trip to our park with only 7-8 miles of trails. We would also like to see horse camping added to the plan, which should also increase traffic. The Wisconsin State Horse council estimates horse people spend about \$2.4-2.9 billion annually. Having the camping and additional trails would undoubtedly bring additional income to the park and the community. The High Cliff Ridge Riders are more than willing to help with expenses and construction of new trails, existing trails and horse camping. We don't want to see the hard work, dedication, and passion for horses to end at High Cliff.

- High Cliff Ridge Riders horse club made those trails a reality and we have worked hard to maintain them: including mowing, trimming brush, cutting wild parsnip, and creating and installing the sign system. There aren't many riding trails in our area, so we can't afford to lose any. Riders greatly support many local businesses including gas stations, restaurants, vets, mechanics & car dealers (trucks and trailers), as well as the feed mill.
- A series of loops is the most user-friendly for horses and bicycles. Equestrians and bicyclists would understand and support restrictions based on trail conditions rather than arbitrary dates.
- Don't reduce number of trails before connecting High Cliff to Calumet County. That would result in years of inadequate trail access in area.
- We like the idea of separating the bike and horse trails. There are too many bikers who do not understand how easily horses can be spooked; educational efforts are not able to prevent this problem. Walkers and dogs are usually not a problem.

#### **Geological/Archaeological Concerns:**

- There is a need to conduct an industrial archaeological survey of the park. Although some limekiln ruins and quarry exposures are preserved, there is much additional information about the quarrying and lime-burning industry that potentially could be gathered. There is a need to conduct a geological survey of the park. There are many geologic features in the park, most of which are not indicated to the public and some possibly endangered by other parts of the plan. After the Sherwood quarry adjacent to the park has exhausted its extractable resources upon conducting its routine course of business, plans to acquire the land for the park should be considered.
- A request to be included in discussion of Effigy Mounds and other cultural landscape artifacts.

#### **Marina Pro and Con:**

- The marina is pumping 5' of dirty water into 1' of water with poor circulation. This hinders the use of our properties on Lower Cliff Rd. The pump should be moved so the discharge can be properly diluted. Children cannot swim, because of toxic algae. Land values are depreciating. Outlet pipe makes too much noise.
- Like Marina, but docks are too long. Butterfly pond is great.

- I cannot support any improvements to the marina without improvements to how it is currently managed. One only need look at the empty slips to know there is a serious problem. Boat traffic is down, services have slipped. Marketing and promotion of the marina is non-existent.

#### **Campground/Amenities:**

- Expansion of the campground would necessitate another shower house. Need individual showers/flush toilets for safety/privacy.
- Maintain present non-electric status of North campground. Keep electric sites separate from non-electric.
- Put in hike-in backpacking sites. Each site could be a tent or two with a table and a pit.

#### **Bicycling/Walking/Hiking:**

- State Park Rd was recently black topped. Consider putting in a bike lane on both sides of that road for numerous bicyclists and marathoners.
- We like the proposed bike loop for easier/kids biking.
- Hike trails at south end of park need fine gravel to prevent problems with excessive mud.
- Park staff should remove leftover hanging timber from above trail for safety.
- Areas of the new "Land" trail need rocks and roots removed for safety.

#### **Boundary Expansion:**

- Support acquisition of new land. We must be careful not to create parkland islands surrounded by private land. Connection to Calumet County Park would be fantastic.

#### **Compliments:**

- Very informative meeting!
- Great job on X-country tracking!