

DOOR COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN 2020-2025

Door County Facilities and Parks Department, Parks Division



Adopted by the Door County Board of Supervisors on May 26th, 2020

Researched and Written by: Rebecca Kerwin, Planner, Door County Land Use Services Department

Edited by: Mariah Goode, Director, Door County Land Use Services Department

Door County Parks website: <https://www.co.door.wi.gov/174/Facilities-and-Parks>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	OVERVIEW.....	1
II.	OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES.....	2
III.	INVENTORY OF DOOR COUNTY PARKS, RECENT IMPROVEMENTS, AND PLANS.....	4
IV.	PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS.....	13
V.	APPENDICES	
	A. Outline of Planning Process.....	16
	B. History of Door County Parks.....	18
	C. Previous Door County Park and Recreation Plans.....	24
	D. Comprehensive and Park/Recreation Plans that Incorporate Door County.....	28
	E. Public Input Survey.....	32

I. OVERVIEW

A. Parks Division Vision/Mission/Goals and Overview of Responsibilities

The Door County Facilities and Parks Committee oversees the Facilities and Parks Department, which includes the Parks Division. The Parks Division is managed by a full-time Park Manager who manages all things related to county parks, under the Director of the Facilities and Parks Director. The Parks Division vision, mission, goals, and success statements read as follows:

Vision: *Door County's thriving natural areas and open spaces are world-class treasures that provide solace, nurture one's soul, and celebrate the natural environment.*

Mission: *The Door County Parks seeks to acquire, restore, and manage lands for the purpose of protecting and preserving public open space, natural areas, and other landscapes in an ecological healthy state for the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public now and into perpetuity.*

Four Overarching Goals:

- 1. Nature: Native and natural landscapes will be sustained and thrive into perpetuity.*
- 2. People: Everyone will feel welcome at the Door County Parks and will seek them out for discovery, renewal, and fun.*
- 3. Economy: Communities will value the economic benefits of protected park lands and open spaces.*
- 4. Leadership: Visionary leaders will bring their expertise, guidance, and proactive management to assist the Door County Parks Division in expanding, improving, and increasing resources, and in protecting parks and open spaces into perpetuity.*

Success in 25 years: *In 25 years, the people of Door County will celebrate more than a thousand acres of healthy park lands and open spaces, filled with thriving ecosystems of native flora and fauna. The diverse people who visit the parks, work for the Parks Division, and advocate for open spaces will also champion the parks as a source of inclusion, inspiration, beauty, economic vitality, and health for everyone.*

The Parks Division is responsible for the maintenance of 19 County Parks, totaling more than 1,000 acres that contain 12.5 miles of state trails, 7 boat launch facilities, 18 restrooms, 3 "Welcome to Door County" signs, a disc golf course, Horseshoe Bay Caves, and multiple accessory, support, storage, and shelter buildings. The Parks Division is responsible for the design and construction of parks projects using both in-house and contracted labor.

Other major responsibilities relate to the snowmobile program and the county fair. The Parks Division manages the State of Wisconsin snowmobile program for Door County, including writing grants for trail program funding and reviewing and approving funding for the seven local clubs that maintain approximately 230 miles of Door County trails. The Division also coordinates usage of the John Miles County Park for the county fair as well as other events held in county parks.

B. Overview of Planning Process and Plan

Since 1964, the county has had some form of a county-wide parks plan in place. Starting in 1974, the county regularly adopted five-year plans, through the year 2015. The last plan written was for the 2011 to 2015 timeframe. In late 2018, the Facilities and Parks Committee decided to update the 2011-2015 plan and to have the Door County Land Use Services Department help develop and write the plan. A more detailed description of the planning process can be found in Appendix A.

Background information and an inventory of county parks were gathered in the first half of 2019. This background information, found in Appendices B - D, are as follows:

- Appendix B: Brief Background and History of Door County Parks
- Appendix C: Previous Door County Park and Recreation Plans
- Appendix D: Comprehensive and Park/Recreation Plans that Incorporate Door County

In late 2019, an on-line public survey was conducted regarding Door County parks, which received over 900 responses. Respondents were largely positive about the Door County parks, expressing appreciation for their beauty and how they are a great asset to the county. Overall, the survey indicated a desire for greater investment in land acquisition and preservation, and nature-based activities. Many comments also indicated the county should continue to maintain and improve existing county parks. The survey and a summary of all responses can be found in Appendix E.

Section II of this plan provides objectives and guiding principles for the county parks for the years 2020-2025, as adapted from the 2011-2015 plan and updated by current Parks Division staff members. Section III contains a chart that describes the 19 county parks, including descriptions of amenities, uses/user, natural and sensitive areas, recent improvements, and planning-related information.

Lastly, note that an open house meeting to present a final draft of this plan to the public had been scheduled prior to the plan's adoption, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced the county to cancel this meeting. The public was notified of this cancellation, reminded that the plan could still be reviewed online, and given instructions on how to submit input. A summary of this input process can be found in Appendix A, Planning Process Outline.

II. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The objective of this plan is to encourage the development and maintenance of high-quality, sustainable parks and recreational amenities that meet the needs and demands of Door County residents and visitors. Provided below are guiding principles to consider:

- **Resource Management.** Protect, preserve, and restore the county park's resources through appropriate resource management, including forests, wildlife, plants, millpond/dam, and watersheds. Develop management strategies and actions based upon each park's unique ecological and natural resource features.

- **Sustainability.**
 - Maintain the environmental quality of county parks above all else.
 - Connect county parks to wider environmental issues.
 - Adapt to changing environmental conditions.
 - Be a leader in sustainable practices, using sustainable and low-impact practices in operations and challenging ourselves to consistently perform all our functions in the most environmentally responsible ways.

- **Land Use Balance.** Door County Parks will strive to not exceed an 80/20 overall balance in its land use, with 80 percent of the parks' land to be kept in as natural a condition as possible, and 20 percent to be available for development for recreation that is compatible with the park's mission/vision/goals (including trails, picnic facilities, and other nature-based activities).

- **Public/Private Relationships and Partnerships.** Continue to be open to partnering with other public and private non-profit organizations to enhance overall conservation programs and efforts within the county.
 - Continue to foster and support the Friends of the Door County Park System.
 - Ensure county park programs are appropriate for its level of government. Programs of state-wide or multi-county interest and importance should be the responsibility of the state, those of county-wide interest and importance should be the responsibility of the county, and those of local-level interest and importance should be the responsibility of the city, villages, and towns.
 - Ensure the county is not competing with or duplicating the efforts of private entities that already provide recreational activities and facilities to the public in an adequate, efficient, and economical manner.
 - With research partners, document and/or publicize the economic value of environmental protection, such as flood reduction, improved air quality, and carbon reduction as well as the economic value of free access to the outdoors and health benefits gained by staying active.

III. INVENTORY OF DOOR COUNTY PARKS, RECENT IMPROVEMENTS, AND PLANS

The table on the following pages provides an inventory of the 19 Door County parks. The first column in the table lists the park name and the municipality within which it is located. The second column contains a description of the park, the park’s amenities, and primary or unique uses of the park. The third column lists the known natural and sensitive features within the park and nearby surrounding area. The fourth column lists improvements completed since 2010 and short-term plans (within the next five years). The last column lists potential improvements and planning considerations from the 2011-2015 parks plan that have not yet been addressed. This column also lists other plans that incorporate or refer to county parks.

INVENTORY OF DOOR COUNTY PARKS, RECENT IMPROVEMENTS, AND PLANS

County Parks	Description/Amenities Uses/Users	Natural/Sensitive Areas (both within park & ~600')	Completed Improvements (since 2010) & Short-Term Plans	Planning Considerations (potential improvements identified in Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011–2015 and other plans)
<p>Ahnapee Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Sturgeon Bay • T. Sturgeon Bay • T. Nasewaupée • T. Forestville • V. Forestville 	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 miles of abandoned railroad grade on 144 acres • trailhead in Sturgeon Bay, travels through/by countryside, swamps, farm fields, Forestville dam and millpond, and Ahnapee River before turning towards Algoma • level, hard, graveled surface • restrooms and parking located at Forestville Dam County Park, Maplewood, and 1820 S. Neenah Sturgeon Bay (trailhead) <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flat surface good for family hiking and biking • snowmobiling, hiking, biking, horseback riding • in winter, used as a snowmobile trail; when trail not open to snowmobile travel, can be used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing education, nature 	<p>Along trail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trail runs through many, large areas of mapped wetland • variety of wildlife along trail, including deer, turkey, many other species of birds 	<p>Improvements completed or scheduled for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trail extension from north parking lot to Bayview Bridge, 2015 • Memorial Drive connection, north end of Bayview Bridge, 2015 • trail extension completion from Utah St. to Michigan Street, 2018 • plantings along trail, 2019 • installation of boot brushes, 2020 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long range goal for trail extension up to the north split of Highway 42-57 <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Wisconsin Coastal Cities Trail Inventory & Connectivity (see p. 28, Appendix D) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ future trail connectivity from the City of Green Bay to Door County, potentially along the western side of Door County. ○ possible connecting routes to consider should include shared roadways and existing and potential utility corridors
<p>Baileys Harbor Ridges T. Baileys Harbor</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ~30 acres (including ~8 on the waterfront side of the road), approximately 750' of shoreline • restrooms, picnic tables, parking • shallow waters, sandy beach <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swimming, sunbathing, kiteboarding • days with strong southern wind, kiteboarders race on waves between beach and nearby Anclam Park • bird watching 	<p>Within park and within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Michigan beach, floodplain, ridge/swale complex, wetland, woodland • significant habitat for various sensitive plants, including orchids, along both sides of parking lot • Hidden Brook located just outside of park 	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beach restoration, 2012 • restroom rehab, 2018 • installation of rise station, 2018 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install informational signage and rustic fences to deter trampling of sensitive areas • parking lot low on south end; blacktop should be ground up and base raised as much as possible, but still allow drainage from north to south • enlarge parking area • replace existing gazebo <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identified as a carry-in access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) • located along recommended county bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D) • SWCD plans and designs for beach improvement

County Parks	Description/Amenities Uses/Users	Natural/Sensitive Areas (both within park & ~600')	Completed Improvements (since 2010) & Short-Term Plans	Planning Considerations (potential improvements identified in Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011–2015 and other plans)
<p>Cana Island T. Baileys Harbor</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 acres • lighthouse • wreck of the Frank O'Connor just off island's shore • residence at lighthouse contains exhibits, small museum store, restrooms <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sight-seeing, access to top of lighthouse tower • scuba diving to shipwrecks • non-motorized watercraft launching 	<p>Within park: Lake Michigan, causeway, floodplain, woodland</p> <p>Within ~600' of park: floodplain, wetland</p>	<p>Improvements completed or scheduled for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parking on mainland and restroom facilities on island, 2011 • Phase I, Lighthouse - exterior historic rehab, 2014 • Phase II, Oil House - privy, barn historic rehab, 2017 • Phase III - construction of Cana Island Interpretive Center, 2020 • Phase IV Keeper's Quarters - historic restoration, 2024 or when funding is available 	<p>2011-2015 Plan: None</p> <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • located along Lake Michigan State Water Trail and within an area identified by the plan as a gap area, however, it is not identified as an access site (see p. 28, Appendix D) • located near county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D)
<p>Cave Point T. Sevastopol</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18.6 acres, 900 feet of shoreline. • picnic areas with tables, cooking grills, restrooms, wedding gazebo • first solar-powered restroom in county park system • parking space for twenty-five cars • half mile forest trail that links up with several miles of trails in adjacent Whitefish Dunes State Park • 4 shipwrecks, located 4 to 5 miles off shore <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weddings • sight-seeing/photography • scuba diving • hiking • bicycle events 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Michigan • Limestone, Dolomite bluffs • birch, maple, beech, cedar trees • heavily wooded with trails • ephemeral species <p>Within ~600' of park: entire area heavily wooded, owned by DNR</p>	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved hiking trails • gazebo on south lawn area, 2011 • additional parking, 2016 • updated solar power for restrooms, 2019 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drinking water well is currently closed, needs to be replaced (<i>note: no plans to replace</i>) • any improvements should be done in low-key manner, preserving natural setting <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identified as a carry-in access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ may be difficult to access land from water • located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D)
<p>Chaudoir's Dock T. Union</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 acres, 625' of shoreline • 100-foot day dock, w/ daytime tie-up access • 3 boat launch lanes (one of the busiest county parks for boat launching) • picnic area with tables, grills, parking, restrooms • emergency harbor of refuge for 40 to 50 small boats <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deep waters make for prime access to Green Bay fishing, including perch, bass, whitefish, walleye • spawning reef a mile from the dock, popular spring walleye spot 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bay of Green Bay <p>Within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ~8 acres woodland 	<p>Improvements completed or scheduled for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entire ramp replaced with longer structure, 2011 • installation of remote viewing camera, 2018 • installation of automated pay system, 2020 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development emphasis on water access • adjacent property should be considered for acquisition if/when available • 10 to 12 parking stalls on upper east edge • continue to update signage • in low-water conditions, harbor needs dredging to safe depths for boaters (last dredged in 2014) <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identified as a developed access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) • located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D) • SWCD stormwater runoff plan

County Parks	Description/Amenities Uses/Users	Natural/Sensitive Areas (both within park & ~600')	Completed Improvements (since 2010) & Short-Term Plans	Planning Considerations (potential improvements identified in Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011–2015 and other plans)
<p>Door Bluff Headlands T. Liberty Grove</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 228 forested acres, 6,830 feet of shoreline • second largest county park • no amenities except access road, natural hiking trails <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sight-seeing • hiking • bird watching 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bay of Green Bay and Niagara Escarpment – vertical limestone bluffs rise up from Bay • pictographs listed in the National Registrar of Historic Places • variety of tree species • two studies identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 46 species of birds ○ 92 species of flora ○ 18 species of land snails ○ bat species (threatened/endangered) <p>Within ~600' of park: woodland, escarpment</p>	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72.7 acre expansion, 2019 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development should be low-key due to flora-and-fauna, relative remoteness • only hiking trails should be considered, no other types • potential for vault-type toilets, more parking spaces, scenic vistas spaced along drive • purchase of adjacent land should be considered if/when becomes available • future CIP consideration to pave entrance roadway <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered for Grand Traverse Islands National Park (more information can be found at https://forloveofwater.org/grand-traverse-islands-national-park-proposal/) • identified as a limited emergency access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ undeveloped natural area with a number of resting areas along shore • located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D)
<p>Ellison Bluff T. Liberty Grove</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 174 acres • ¾ mile scenic entrance road • picnic area, restrooms, parking • handicap accessible trails • natural hiking trails • stairway leading to wooded bluff overlook that provides view of cliffs, Green Bay waters, many Green Bay Islands • 7,000 feet of shoreline inaccessible because of bluff • picnicking at eastern end • bluff in excess of 100 feet high, parallels shoreline throughout entire park, no access to the water • Wisconsin State Natural Area designation, 2002 <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sight-seeing, hiking • bird watching • weddings 	<p>Within and within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bay of Green Bay and Niagara Escarpment – vertical limestone bluffs rise up from Bay • trees grow on sheer face of cliffs, anchoring roots in small crevices with little soil: White cedar, Canada yew, mountain maple, red pine, basswood, red elderberry • forest atop bluff includes wide variety of mature trees: sugar maple, white ash, red oak, beech, paper birch, big-tooth aspen, hemlock • ground cover: wild sarsaparilla, big-leaved aster, Canada mayflower, large-flowered trillium, wood-betony, bracken fern, rare rock whitlow-grass and broad-leave sedge • large variety of birds take residency in forest as peninsula is flyway for migratory birds • 26 species of land snails, including five rare species and two glacial relict species 	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpretive signage along trail, 2019 • roadway improvements – grade, gravel, compact, 2019 • roadway improvements – paving 2020-2025 CIP Planning 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purchase adjacent land if/when becomes available • potential for several more viewing areas • potential for access to park's lower levels, which might include staircase and/or a viewing tower combination • future CIP consideration to pave entrance roadway <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • located along Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan, not identified as an access site (see p. 28, Appendix D) • located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D)

County Parks	Description/Amenities Uses/Users	Natural/Sensitive Areas (both within park & ~600')	Completed Improvements (since 2010) & Short-Term Plans	Planning Considerations (potential improvements identified in Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011–2015 and other plans)
<p>Forestville Dam T. Forestville</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79 acres • adjacent to Ahnapee State Trail, serves as wayside for trail users • picnic tables, waterfront picnic area with grills, open pavilion, playground, restrooms • fishing dock • one-lane boat launch • shallow millpond, 1½ miles long, 1/8 mile wide • dam overflows in spring <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small non-motorized boating, including canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding • motorized craft allowed, but shallow waters are hazardous • fishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ below dam, a shallow riverbed area thick with fish in the spring when water runs high ○ catch and release fishing popular ○ Northern pike, rock bass, crappies, blue gills, large-mouth bass • weddings • run/bicycle events • Southern Door Fire Department and DNR Warden training exercises • playground use • pavilion rentals (only pavilion in southern door county at this time) 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahnapee River, floodplain, wetland, woodland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ low-lying wooded area south of earthen dam is maintained as wildlife area <p>Within ~600' of park: ~80 acres of floodplain, wetland, & woodland</p>	<p>Completed Improvements: None</p> <p>Short-term plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current millpond drawdown to be completed in 2021 • develop canoe/kayak launch 2021 • Fish stocking, post drawdown activities 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential for additional parks in Southern Door area • millpond management, as directed by best management practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ drawdown millpond, as needed, every 8-10 years to improve conditions (<i>current drawdown to be completed in 2021</i>) ○ review millpond management strategy as directed by best management practices • seal coat or chip seal parking area • parking area revision to better accommodate boat trailer parking • land to the south and east of park along the Ahnapee River should be considered for acquisition if/when becomes available • DNR has expressed interest in assisting with any purchases that would add to Ahnapee State Trail for purposes of public fishing access <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix C) • SWCD management plan (see p. 31, Appendix D)

County Parks	Description/Amenities Uses/Users	Natural/Sensitive Areas (both within park & ~600')	Completed Improvements (since 2010) & Short-Term Plans	Planning Considerations (potential improvements identified in Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011-2015 and other plans)
Frank E. Murphy T. Egg Harbor	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 acres, approximately 1,300 feet of shoreline one of the most heavily used county parks volleyball court, picnic facilities (tables and grills), restrooms with changing rooms, playground equipment, large open pavilion parking space for 55 cars large dock, protects swimming area from rough water, serves as emergency harbor two-lane boat launch ramp located at south end entrance to Horseshoe Bay Caves <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> large group gatherings triathlon training and event swimming fishing, volleyball pavilion rentals for weddings, run/bicycle events, family reunions, graduation parties, company picnics public cave tours 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bay of Green Bay mapped escarpment Horseshoe Bay Cave 3.8 acres wetland 10.2 acres wooded base map stream (non-navigable) <p>Within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> escarpment, woodland, base map stream, wetland, floodplain 	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> beach restoration, 2015 restriped parking lot, but not by boat launch 2018 seal coated and striped boat launch, 2019 removed cottonwood trees, 2019 dock installation, 2019 boat ramp repairs, 2020 <p>Short-term plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remove dead ash trees Horseshoe Bay Cave Center (interpretive center and storage) development of recreational trail connecting park to Village of Egg Harbor 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> during times of low water, excessive sand movement makes boat launch difficult to use potential for additional games for family and group activities playground equipment should be upgraded and expanded additional waterfront property should be considered if/when becomes available <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified as a developed access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D) SWCD plans and designs for beach improvement; stormwater runoff plan
George K. Pinney T. Sevastopol	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 acres, approximately 1,000 feet of water frontage 6-lane boat launch, handicap accessible several submerged shipwrecks located in nearby waters 1.5 acre harbor of refuge pavilion and picnic area, year-round restrooms 90+ parking stalls <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> favorite spot for local fisherman to access excellent habitat for bass, northern, perch pier fishing in winter, small village of ice shanties sets-up off shore, using park as access sunset viewing 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bay of Green Bay ~1.8 acres woodland <p>Within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~5.2 acres woodland to the north and ~3 acres woodland to the south 	<p>Improvements completed or scheduled for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> breakwater maintenance/repair, 2018 parking lots and launch lanes restriped, 2018 breakwater maintenance/repair, 2020 installation of waterless cleaning station, 2020 installation of automated pay system, 2020 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if historical and safety concerns can be addressed, property to southeast should be considered for acquisition, if/when becomes available <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified as a developed access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) located near county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D) SWCD stormwater runoff plan
<p>John Miles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Sturgeon Bay, 60 acres See Appendix C for information on the John Miles County Park Recreation Plan – Phase I, 2017 and improvements completed in 2017 – 2019. (Contact the Door County Land Use Services Department at (920) 746-2323 for a copy of this plan. Also note that SWCD has a stormwater plan for John Miles.) 				

County Parks	Description/Amenities Uses/Users	Natural/Sensitive Areas (both within park & ~600')	Completed Improvements (since 2010) & Short-Term Plans	Planning Considerations (potential improvements identified in Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011-2015 and other plans)
Lily Bay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Sevastopol (entrance to and parking area) • T. Sturgeon Bay (launch and park/beach areas) 	Description/Amenities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 acre, 150 feet shore frontage • parking for 6 cars • 2-lane, fair weather boat launch Uses/Users: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • boating • fishermen troll for brown and steelhead trout, salmon • sunbathers often use park as access to the bordering private sand beach 	Within park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Michigan beach Within ~600' of park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ~1.7 acres of woodland • large floodplain/wetland complex overlaps to the northeast • mapped ridge/swale complex 	Improvements completed or scheduled for 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat ramp approach repairs, 2020 	2011-2015 Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional parking, if/when nearby land becomes available Other Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identified as a developed access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D)
Lyle-Harter-Matter Sanctuary T. Jacksonport	Description/Amenities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 acres • completely undeveloped • parcel not served by public road, however, an easement exists for maintenance and emergency vehicles • Wisconsin State Natural Area designation Uses/Users: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife and nature study • hiking • bird watching 	Within park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high sand dune, woodland, wetland, floodplain • heavy woods, both deciduous and coniferous species, cover most of property • marsh with excellent wildlife • Hines Emerald Dragonfly (threatened/endangered) Within ~600' of park: dunes, Clark Lake, wetland, floodplain, woodland	Completed improvements: None	2011-2015 Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no extensive development is recommended; should remain as a wildlife, nature study area • potential for hiking trails • property between Kangaroo Lake and the sanctuary should be acquired and added to sanctuary, if/when available • access road along county's easement should be made passable for emergency entrance and routine inspection purposes
Meridian T. Jacksonport	Description/Amenities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contiguous to Lyle-Harter-Matter Sanctuary • 155 acres undeveloped, except for 2-acre wayside located on southeast corner, adjacent to State Highway 57 • wayside maintained by WisDOT • includes restrooms, picnic facilities, well, parking spaces • natural trails • Wisconsin State Natural Area designation Uses/Users: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traveling public • hikers 	Within park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heavily wooded, marshy in places • excellent wildlife habitat • Hines Emerald Dragonfly (threatened/endangered) Within ~600' of park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake MI, Clark Lake, dunes, wetland, floodplain, woodland, Heins Creek 	Completed improvements: None Short-term plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hiking trails • incorporation of rest-stop area from State/County Highway Departments into park – remove or replace pit toilet to vault toilet 	2011-2015 Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contiguous to Lyle-Harter-Matter Sanctuary, any use of one park should be integrated with that of the other • no development should take place within visible distance of State Highway 57

County Parks	Description/Amenities Uses/Users	Natural/Sensitive Areas (both within park & ~600')	Completed Improvements (since 2010) & Short-Term Plans	Planning Considerations (potential improvements identified in Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011-2015 and other plans)
<p>Percy Johnson T. Washington</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 acres, 500 feet sandy beach large pine shelter parking for 10 cars <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> swimming non-motorized water craft launching bird watching 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Michigan beach western half heavily wooded overlooks nearby Hog Island, part of Horicon National Wildlife Refuge nesting Herring Gulls, Black-Crowned Night-Herons, Great Blue Herons, occasional White Pelican <p>Within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Michigan beach heavily wooded 	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restrooms replaced, 2018 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> northern portion has been cleared of underbrush, could be used for expanded picnic and game use, with additional clean-up work to make beach more attractive for swimming informational marker placed explaining Hog Island's status as a National Wildlife Refuge increase parking area to accommodate larger number of cars upgrade/expand playground equipment <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified as a carry-in access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D)
<p>Robert M. Carmody T. Gardner</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 acres, 400 feet shoreline 6-lane boat launch and handicap accessible fishing pier wave attenuator dock picnic area, parking, restrooms designed around 3 mature oak trees 94 parking stalls <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> popular place to fish for small mouth bass, northern pike, walleye, perch in winter, boat launch provides access to Little Sturgeon for ice fishing 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bay of Green Bay floodplain <p>Within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~6.4 acres woodland large wetland complex to the north 	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restriped all parking lots and launch lanes, 2019 installation of waterless cleaning station, 2020 installation of automated pay system, 2020 <p>Short-term plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> kayak launch installation gazebo installation 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential for more parking stalls, consider for west end of park <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified as a developed access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) located near county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D)
<p>Robert La Salle T. Clay Banks</p>	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 acres, 440 feet of public access to Lake Michigan 2 parking lot areas restrooms, picnic tables, grills, playground equipment characterized by a three-tiered landform consisting of pebble-strewn Lake Michigan shore, level grassy upland area, and higher wooded upland area steep sandy bluffs separate each tier; several stairways provide pedestrian access to the various tiers prairie plantation in upper park <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sight-seeing, weddings, run/bicycle events 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Michigan beach three-tiered landform consisting of pebble-strewn Lake Michigan shore, level grassy upland area, and higher wooded upland area small stream cuts through sandy ravine, dry most of year restored prairie in upper park <p>Within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~10.7 acres woodland 1.1 acres Wetland 	<p>Improvements completed or scheduled for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restrooms replaced, both lower and upper, 2011 and 2012 prairie plantation area, grant received in 2018, completed in 2019 pavilion/shelter, 2020 <p>Short-term plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review beach front erosion due to high water 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> grade upper level parking lot, improve entrance, paving 1-mile loop trail system <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified as a carry-in access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D)

County Parks	Description/Amenities Uses/Users	Natural/Sensitive Areas (both within park & ~600')	Completed Improvements (since 2010) & Short-Term Plans	Planning Considerations (potential improvements identified in Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011-2015 and other plans)
Sugar Creek T. Gardner	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 acres, 1,050 feet of water frontage fair weather boat launch 18 hole disc golf course restrooms, picnic tables, grill parking for 20 cars 80' long foot-bridge over Sugar Creek park is exposed to intense storms, making it difficult to provide boat launching facilities <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emergency fire-fighting fill site smelt-dipping in the past, however, no longer done as smelt have not been traveling up the creek for breeding ice-fishing for perch and whitefish small, motorized & non-motorized watercraft run/bicycle events 	<p>Within park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bay of Green Bay Sugar Creek, floodplain woodland <p>Within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ 10.0 acres woodland to the north, and 10.9 acres of woodland, wetland, and floodplain to the southeast 	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new restrooms, 2015 pedestrian bridge over creek, 2015 trails installed in wooded undeveloped area east of Sugar Creek (disc golf course trails are there now) 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more inviting entrance with better landscaping and signage installation of playground equipment evaluate parking arrangement for adequacy; additional parking could be developed on upper grass area, near entrance repair blacktop roads <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified as a developed access site in Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan (see p. 28, Appendix D) located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D)
Tornado Park T. Gardner	<p>Description/Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 acres 1st Door County Park historical marker picnic area, restroom parking for 15 cars <p>Uses/Users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> traveling public historical education hikers, bikers, picnickers 	<p>Within ~600' of park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~28.5 acres of woodland, wetland, and floodplain Ahnapee River 	<p>Completed improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> installation of memorial plaque, 2019 	<p>2011-2015 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repave parking lot restrooms in fair condition, eventually will need upgrading and new roof <p>Other Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> located along county recommended bicycle route (see p. 31, Appendix D)

SECTION V: PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

When considering potential land acquisitions, donations, or improvements to existing Door County parks, it is envisioned that the objectives and guiding principles outlined in Section II will be used in conjunction with the following guidelines and questions.

A. Guidelines and Questions for Potential Land Acquisitions

Properties for potential parkland are brought to the attention of the Parks Division in a variety of ways, including unsolicited outreach by interested sellers and via ongoing conversations with various public and not-for-profit entities. The Parks Division will continue to rely upon an evolving set of creative land acquisition and financing techniques to stretch and leverage its land acquisition funding.

- Prioritize acquisitions that are a good value, that help stretch public land acquisition dollars.
- Prioritize acquisitions where there is a willing seller and local political support so that the acquisition will not be delayed for years in costly, contested proceedings.
- Prioritize acquisitions/donations where other organizations can contribute to the cost and/or care of new sites. Collaborate with other agencies such as the Door County Land Trust or Nature Conservancy to increase conservation and recreation opportunities.
- Prioritize acquisitions/donations that connect or expand, link to, add to, fill in, or buffer existing holdings, and other connections that support mission and goals.
- Prioritize acquisitions/donations of sites that contain remnant native populations or unique natural resources as well as those with unique ecological, historical, archaeological, topological, cultural, or other significant features.
- Prioritize acquisition of land adjacent to lake waters to increase public water access, particularly on the Lake Michigan shore between Baileys Harbor and Sturgeon Bay.
- Prioritize acquisitions/donations of larger sites to take advantage of lower land costs and larger opportunity sites:
 - Smaller isolated sites present management and maintenance challenges and should only be considered where there is a strong case that the site would contribute to the Parks Division mission and goals.
 - Explore acquisition of failed development projects as large-site opportunities at reduced costs.

Potential questions to consider for land acquisitions:

- Does the acquisition support the overall parks mission, vision, and four priority goal areas?
- Is the land located adjacent to or near an existing county park? If yes, is adjacent land acquisition recommended by this plan?
- If adjacent or near an existing county park, how would the acquisition complement the existing county park?
- Would the acquisition provide greater connectivity between existing county parks?
- Is there potential to partner with another organization on the acquisition?
- Does the land have sensitive natural features that need to be protected? If so, is there a conservation organization that may be a better steward?

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- Does the land have unique geological features (i.e., drumlins, steep slopes, varied terrain, scenic view, etc.)?
- Does the land have historical significance? If so, would a historical organization be a better steward?
- Does the land have potential to be restored back to native species with feasible expense?
- Is the land located on or near the county's recommended bicycle network?
- Is the land located on a segment of a county highway that has 3' or greater shoulder width?
- Would the land provide an interesting or convenient stop for bicyclists or other silent sports enthusiasts?
- Is the land located within an area identified as an enhancement zone by the Lake Michigan State Water Trail?

B. Guidelines and Questions for Potential Park Improvements

- Prioritize activities that will engage new users, promote healthy lifestyles, connect people to nature, and protect sensitive natural features.
- Prioritize use of limited capital funds for improvement of the parks system by evaluating conditions and needs as well as information on projected public uses or unique resources. This may require consultant support. Some new capital projects can be added in response to requests from the public and staff members via public input opportunities. Grant funding and contributions from land use and utility license agreements are also increasingly a factor in prioritizing new capital investments.
- Maintain a policy that ensures adequate compensation to the county when granting exclusive use of county park facilities and/or resource lands to non-county agencies, groups or individuals, or granting easements or other permanent rights to park and resource land.
- Improve user experience by providing at least basic facilities at all county parks, including:
 - potable water supply for drinking, washing, and fire defense purposes
 - adequate access and designated parking areas
 - ADA accessibility and inclusivity improvements such as:
 - ADA-accessible toilets, preferably vault-type where more sophisticated systems are not practical
 - features that will aid handicapped people such as specialized walkways, hard-surfaced walkways, wide doorways, grab-rails in restrooms, special seating at picnic areas and at spectator events, and special playground apparatus
- Build the county parks brand identity
 - provide consistency in signage, markers, and structures
 - identify park entrance(s) and boundaries
 - identify opportunities to ensure a safe and easy-to-navigate trail system within county parks
 - provide baseline information on the current trail system
 - recommend new policies for managing trails,
 - create a process for assessing requests to improve unrecognized trails
 - prioritize future capital improvement projects to enhance trail systems
- Develop areas that provide the potential to accommodate a variety of activities, as opposed to single purpose activities

Potential questions to consider for park improvements:

- Does the potential improvement support the parks mission, vision, and four overarching goals?
- Is the improvement identified in this plan or another appropriate action plan?
- Would the improvement enhance current uses and/or enhance current users' experience?
- Would the improvement help protect sensitive natural features?
- Is there potential to partner with another organization or entity on the improvement?
- Would the improvement provide a unique interactive experience that cannot be commonly found elsewhere and would attract new users?
- Would the improvement enhance the educational and/or historical aspect of the park?
- Is the upgrade at a park that is located along the Lake Michigan State Water Trail?
- Would the upgrade fulfill a need within an enhancement zone, as identified by the Lake Michigan State Water Trail plan?
- Will the improvement serve a niche interest, if so, is there an economic impact?

C. Guidelines for potential relinquishment of county-owned park land:

Relinquishment of county-owned park land for purposes other than preservation or recreation shall be dependent upon:

- the impact on fulfillment of the park's mission, vision, and four goals
- the long-term impacts on park and recreational use throughout Door County
- an equal exchange of land value is provided in return
- the dedication of revenues to additional park lands and improvements
- actions are consistent with local and regional plans
- a determination that the land is not needed for county park and open space purposes, both at the present and in the future
- consideration of the total costs and benefits of ownership of the land
- protective deed restrictions placed on title of property

APPENDIX A: OUTLINE OF PLANNING PROCESS

Pre-planning. Pre-planning for the Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025 began in 2018 with the meetings described below.

- **Administrative Meeting** (August 9th, 2018). Parks and Land Use Services staff met to discuss updating the Door County Parks and Open Space Plan, 2011 – 2015.
- **Facilities and Parks Committee Meeting** (November 7th, 2018). Parks Superintendent reviewed with the committee an outline of the plan to be developed and planning process to be used.

Background information gathering (January – May, 2019). Land Use Services gathered plan background information that can be found in Section III, Inventory of Door County Parks, Recent Improvements, and Plans and in Appendices B – D.

Facilities and Parks Committee Meeting (May 8th, 2019). Parks Superintendent reviewed draft mission/vision/goals and the plan background information gathered by Land Use Services. The mission/vision/goals were approved by unanimous vote.

Facilities and Parks Committee Meeting (October 9th, 2019). Parks Superintendent reviewed a draft of the public input survey.

Public Input Survey (October 18th – December 2nd, 2019). The survey reviewed by the committee was available on-line for this time period, with two press releases issued and multiple emails sent to Land Use Services contacts.

Facilities and Parks Committee Meeting (November 13th, 2019). Parks Superintendent updated the committee on number of survey responses received and the public affairs outreach campaign to promote the survey.

Facilities and Parks Committee Meeting (December 11th, 2019). Parks Superintendent reported that the survey closed and gave a summary of responses.

Facilities and Parks Committee Meeting (February 12th, 2020). The committee reviewed and discussed a draft of the Plan to be distributed for public input. Land Use Services staff members also presented research related to indoor recreation ideas for John Miles Park. The Facilities and Parks Director noted that current planning for the county parks does not include indoor or significant outdoor recreational facilities, and that staff members do not recommend including recreational planning in this plan as it is not a core function of the county parks division. Committee members agreed; if an externally-driven opportunity arises related to recreational facilities, the county can address it at that time. Motion made, seconded, and carried unanimously to hold a public hearing regarding the plan draft as presented.

Public Input (March 5th – April 2nd, 2020) An open house meeting to present the plan to the public and gather input had been scheduled for March 31st, 2020, however, per the State of Wisconsin's public safety orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was cancelled. Prior to cancellation, the public and county contacts had been notified of the open house meeting via press release and email on March 5th. A follow-up press release and emails to county contacts were sent out on March 17th, notifying the public and recipients that the open house meeting had been cancelled, but that the plan

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

could still be reviewed online and input would still be accepted through April 2nd, 2020. A second reminder email regarding the same was sent on March 27th. Email notifications were sent to the Friends of Door County Parks group, local municipal officials, school districts, business associations, local user and sports groups, educational organizations, and county and city employees.

Final Committee Approval (May 13, 2020) The Committee reviewed and discussed public input on and potential changes to the February 12th, 2020 draft that was distributed for public review. Seven individuals had submitted written comments, provided to the Committee verbatim. Items considered minor edits as well as county staff members' administrative updates to the plan were noted in the plan draft and pointed out to the Committee. Also noted in the plan draft were public input items that would require substantial changes to or change the meaning of sections of the plan, which the Committee discussed and decided upon. The Committee also agreed that some public input received was too specific to include in the plan. Motion made, seconded, and carried unanimously to forward the plan to the county board for adoption.

County Board Approval (May, 26, 2020)

APPENDIX B: HISTORY OF DOOR COUNTY PARKS (adapted from the Door County Parks and Open Space 2011-2015 plan)

- **Ahnapee State Trail**

Location: Ahnapee State Trail spans from the city limits of Sturgeon Bay to the Door/Kewaunee county line, continues into Kewaunee County towards the cities of Algoma and Kewaunee, and the Luxemburg/Casco area.

History: The Ahnapee State Trail follows the retired railroad line of Ahnapee and Western. The railroad line moved freight and passengers in and out of Door County between 1894 and 1968 and was a vital link during World War II with Algoma's plywood industry and Sturgeon Bay's shipyards. Powered by either steam or diesel, the trains hauled lumber, dairy products, cherry crops, and passengers in and out of Door County.

The State of Wisconsin obtained the stretch of railroad grade when it was retired from service as a rail line and added it to the state trail system. A lack of funding to maintain the trail prompted the state to forge a partnership with the County of Door. In mid-1994, Door County signed its first renewable lease with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the operation and maintenance of the Ahnapee State Trail. The lease designated that the trail become a part of the County Parks System.

- **Baileys Harbor Ridges**

Location: 2301 Ridges Road, Town of Baileys Harbor.

History: Door County purchased most of the land the county currently owns from the United States government in 1937. (A strip of land that the U.S. Coast Guard had reserved for navigational lighting was deeded to the county in 1972.) Also in 1937, the nonprofit Ridges Sanctuary formed to protect and maintain the broader area, including and surrounding the county's property. The Ridges Sanctuary eventually began leasing and maintaining most of the county's acreage, which contains two range lighthouses, alignment lights used by ships to enter Baileys Harbor; a 99-year lease agreement was signed in 1990. Part of the property on the harbor side of Ridges Road is maintained as a county park. The area contains many ridge lines, historical shorelines from the lake's water receding since prehistoric time.

- **Cana Island Lighthouse**

Location: 8800 E Cana Island Road, Town of Baileys Harbor.

History: Built in 1869 for \$12,792.55, Cana Island Lighthouse's tower, made of cream city brick, was the tallest building in Door County. Verified by telescope during the first year of operation, 4,862 ships passed the station during daylight hours. Keepers filled the oil and kept the beacon shining until the lighthouse was automated in 1944. It remains a functioning navigational light of the Great Lakes. Cana Island Lighthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

In 2006, the Bureau of Land Management transferred ownership of the park's 9 acres free of charge to the county to preserve the lighthouse and allow public access by maintaining it as a county park. To fulfill the stipulations, the county partners with the Door County Maritime Museum to manage the island and lighthouse, something Door County Maritime Museum had done in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard since 1970.

- **Cave Point**

Location: 5360 Schauer Road, Town of Sevastopol.

History: The land for Cave Point County Park was gifted to the county for preservation by three families in 1943 and 1945. It was the fifth park added to the county park system and derived its name from its geological formation. Early discussion of the park's establishment explored making it a state park or a war memorial site. After lengthy and heated debates, and a reshuffle of county board members, the county decided to focus on the park's geological formation.

- **Chaudoir's Dock**

Location: 10865 County Road N, Town of Union.

History: Chaudoir's Dock began as a working dock built by brothers Eli and Julis Chaudoir after they arrived in Namur from Belgium in 1856. Ships traveling to Northport and Green Bay often moored at the dock with passengers and goods, including hay and grain for the lumberjacks' horses. Local farmers were able to export their beets, potatoes, lumber, hay, and straw. In winter, local farmers took to the ice to harvest fish with pound nets. Ice shanties were also rented out, delivered onto the ice. Ice fishermen still flock to the area to this day.

In 1944, John Chaudoir requested the county purchase the dock because he was interested in keeping it open to the public. That year, the dock was purchased from John and Mamie Chaudoir by Door County for \$1.00. The dock and park now carry the name and the legacy of the Chaudoir family.

- **Door Bluff Headlands**

Location: 12900 Door Bluff Park Road, Town of Liberty Grove.

History: Originally named Death's Door Headlands Sanctuary, the county purchased the original 123 acres for this park for \$1 in 1944. In 1977, the county purchased another 33 acres of adjacent land for \$1 with the premise that the "land be forever used as a park." According to an article in the Door County Advocate in 1977, the donation of the 33 acres of land marked the first major land donation to the county park system since the original 123 acres. In 1970, only a scenic road was created as it was decided to keep the park in its natural state as a sanctuary. Native American paintings – rock art dating back to 1000–1499CE – were found on the cliffs at the Door Bluff Headlands in 1991 by amateur archeologists. It is reputed that it was at this point where the Washington Island Iroquois fought the mainland Potawatomi.

In 2019, the county purchased two parcels adjacent to the Door Bluff Headlands County Park. The property includes over 72 acres with a small strip of shoreland. Listed below are characteristics of the two properties and surrounding area.

- Both parcels share boundaries with the existing park. Total acreage acquired is 72.68.
- The property represents a major promontory of the Niagara Escarpment, holding several habitats of ecological interest, including the semi-mature to mature northern mesic forest on the upper plateau of the site.
- The larger parcel includes a 30.55' wide by 150' deep strip of land that extends westerly, on the opposite side of Door Bluff Road, to the water's edge.

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- The forest is composed of 70 year old hardwoods, including sugar maple, American beech, white ash, basswood, hemlock, and red oak. Silty soils on these parcels are very thin and overlay fissured dolomite bedrock. A series of rocky shorelines and small bluffs on the property are dominated by a dense coniferous forest including old growth white cedars.
 - A local conservationist identified 46 species of birds and 92 species of flora in the park. Several rare plants and animals have also been documented on the property.
 - In 1993, Native American pictographs were discovered on the cliffs adjacent to the park and within the park. The pictographs have been dated to 1000-1499CE and are listed in the National Registrar of Historic Places. The schooner Fleetwing, a shipwreck of 1888, is located in the waters next to the property. The ribs and keel can be seen on the bottom of the bay.
- **Ellison Bluff**

Location: 12050 Ellison Bluff Road, Town of Liberty Grove.

History: The call to preserve the land that now makes up Door County's largest park was made by the Door County Parks Board in 1945 when the board proclaimed "the limestone headlands, as they emerge out of the blue waters of Green Bay, are geologically one of the most outstanding natural monuments in our country. They must be preserved." Preservation became official just five years later when Door County purchased 88 acres in 1950 for \$1. In 2000, an additional 86 acres of undeveloped property with 1,939 feet of shoreline to the south was acquired. The park was designated a State Natural Area in 2002.

- **Forestville Dam**

Location: 475 Mill Road, Town of Forestville.

History: The original dam was built in 1877, an earthen works to provide power for a gristmill. The mill processed grain into flour for people all the way from the Belgian district to the Town of Baileys Harbor. The mill was closed circa 1920 when the dam washed out, then replaced in 1934 as a Works Progress Administration project. The dam and surrounding property was sold to the Town of Forestville in 1949 to be developed into a park. In 1963, the town gave the park and dam to the County of Door.

- **Frank E. Murphy**

Location: 7119 Bay Shore Drive (County Highway G), Town of Egg Harbor.

History: In 1937, the Murphy family that owned Frank E. Murphy's Horseshoe Bay Farm donated 11 acres to Door County for a park. The county was awarded a Civil Works Act grant, which was used to employ sixty men to cut brush, clean the beach, rebuild the pier, and build a 950 foot long stone wall on the south and east sides of the property.

The Frank E. Murphy's Horseshoe Bay Farm was the largest dairy in Wisconsin as well as the largest employer in Door County at its time. The original pier was used to ship apples, cherries, and plums grown on the farm to Dykesville and Peshtigo. In 1972, three acres of the farm was donated to the county. A championship golf course and residential development was developed on the rest of the farm in the late 1970's.

- **George K. Pinney**

Location: 4879 Bay Shore Drive, Town of Sevastopol.

History: Located four miles north of the City of Sturgeon Bay, George K. Pinney Park (formerly Olde Stone Quarry) was one of several prominent locations for the county's export of limestone and gravel with much of the stone being exported to Chicago. The Leathem and Smith quarry operated at the site beginning in the late 1890's. When operated as the Smith quarry, the operation sported the largest dock as well as being the largest quarry in Door County.

This park was renamed from Olde Stone Quarry County Park to George K. Pinney County Park in 2012 in honor of its namesake's longtime service as Door County Parks Director. Pinney served in the Parks Department for 18 years, between 1994 and 2012, and was instrumental in developing the property into a prime boat launching destination for fishermen and water enthusiasts.

- **John Miles**

Location: 916 N 14th Avenue, City of Sturgeon Bay.

History: The Door County Fair has been held at this site since 1908. On August 28, 1990, by Resolution 82-90, the Door County Fairgrounds became a part of the Door County Parks System and was renamed the Door County Fair Park. In 2001, the park was renamed John Miles County Park in honor of the decades-long fair secretary and to recognize its evolution into a multi-use park, not just a home to the fair.

- **Lily Bay**

Location: 4449 E County Highway T, Town of Sturgeon Bay. Note that the entrance to and parking area for Lily Bay straddle the boundary between the Towns of Sevastopol and Sturgeon Bay, but the launch and park/beach areas are located within the Town of Sturgeon Bay.

History: In the 1880s, a bustling settlement grew at Lily Bay and included a sawmill, blacksmith shop, general store, boarding house, and several residences as well as a pier on the lake. The pier at Lily Bay brought both goods and people on ships from Chicago and returned with lumber and wood supplies such as cordwood. Lily Bay's major export was hemlock bark, of which the tannin was used in the tanning industry in Milwaukee and Chicago. The settlement at Lily Bay slowly declined after the Sturgeon Bay ship canal was completed in 1879.

- **Meridian**

Location: 6799 State Highway 57, Town of Jacksonport.

History: The third largest of the county parks, the property is undeveloped, save for a wayside located on the southeast corner adjacent to State Highway 57. The wayside is maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and includes toilets, picnic facilities, a well, and parking spaces. Heavily wooded and in places marshy, the park provides excellent wildlife habitat. The park is contiguous to the Lyle-Harter Matter Sanctuary.

- **Percy Johnson**

Location: 640 Lake View Road, Town of Washington.

History: The land for Percy Johnson park was purchased in 1947. Formerly called Washington or Eastside for its location on the eastern side of Washington Island, the park was renamed in 1994 in memory of a former Door County Board supervisor from Washington Island, Percy Johnson, in honor of his 27 years of representation. Johnson's parents originated from Iceland, as had many of the island's original settlers.

- **Robert LaSalle**

Location: 408 County Road U, Town of Clay Banks.

History: The site is commemorated as a landing place by the French explorer Robert de LaSalle in 1679. One of the oldest county parks, its current acreage was stitched together through several land purchases spanning 79 years between 1925 and 2005.

According to the Peninsula Historical Review of June 1930, Clay Banks used to be one of the largest shipping points for lumber and forest products on the peninsula. In the upper park, an archway, built in the spring of 1930, stands near the roadway, a remnant of the park's entrance in earlier years. The logs were imported from the Pacific Coast in honor of the mighty trees logged from the area by early settlers. The archway was built as a grand entrance to the park for model As and Ts, the first cars made, to drive through to enter the park.

LaSalle Park was also the setting of baseball games in the 1920s and 30s, where hundreds of spectators would gather to watch America's pastime. A ball hit into the lake was considered a home run.

- **Robert M. Carmody**

Location: 3570 County CC, Town of Gardner.

History: Robert M. Carmody is a boat launch located on the bay of Little Sturgeon in the Town of Gardner, with a long history of excellent waters for fishing, whether by boat or on ice. Archeological exploration determined that Indians camped on this site. It is also the area where Door County's first Euro-American settlers, Increase and Mary Claflin, built a cabin in 1835.

Although the area has long been a fisherman's haven, there was a lack of public access to the boating waters as well as a safe boating harbor from storms. In 2001, Door County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources jointly purchased 4.5 acres on the shores of Little Sturgeon Bay for the purpose of constructing a boat launch. It was the first jointly owned park between the two departments in Door County. (The Ahnapee State Trail and George K. Pinney are two county parks that are owned by the DNR and maintained by the county with no lease fee.) The land was purchased from Dean Carmody and named after his father, Robert, who had owned the land for many years.

- **Sugar Creek**

Location: 2349 County Road N, Town of Gardner.

History: The land for Sugar Creek Park was obtained by Door County in 1945. The park is named for the creek that runs through it, known to have been a popular tributary for smelt-dippers.

- **Tornado Memorial County Park**

Location: 8518 County DK, Town of Gardner.

History: Tornado Memorial County Park preserves the story of Williamsonville, which was in one day reduced from a new and growing crossroads town to ashes, never to be rebuilt. Thomas and Fred Williamson, brothers who immigrated to the Green Bay area from Canada in the late 1860s, settled Williamsonville. Also known as Williamson's Mill, the settlement grew around the steam-powered shingle mill built next to the Ahnapee River in 1870. According to a 1995 WisDOT report, 76 people lived in the town, including 15 women and 16 children, of which 55 were killed in a fire. The Williamsonville fire occurred on October 8, 1871, the same day as the Peshtigo fire.

Tornado Memorial was the first park of the Door County Park System, purchased in 1927 from Albert and Elinda Eickelberg. In the 1950s, the WisDOT began using the park as a highway wayside, contracting with the Door County Highway Department to maintain it. The park's wayside designation was removed in 2008 with the expansion of State Highway 57.

APPENDIX C: PREVIOUS DOOR COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION PLANS

- 1964: *Door County Comprehensive Planning Program* (author unknown)
- 1969: *Door County, Wisconsin, Outdoor Recreation Plan*, Wisconsin State Department of Local Affairs and Development (under contract to Door County)
- 1974 – 2015: Seven subsequent five-year outdoor recreation plans were written by the Parks Department and adopted by Door County:
 - 1974 – 1978
 - 1979 – 1986
 - 1987 – 1993
 - 1994 – 1999
 - 2000 – 2005
 - 2006 – 2010
 - 2011 – 2015 (Note: Objectives, policies and guidelines from the 2011 - 2015 plan are provided below.)
- 2017: *John Miles County Park Recreation Plan, Phase 1, Door County Parks and Land Use Services Departments*. A description of this plan is provided below.

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2011 – 2015, Door County Parks Department

The 2011-2015 plan includes objectives, and both general and park-specific recommendations. The objectives and general recommendations are listed below, directly quoted from the plan.

- “Objectives:
 - Provide a basic document which identifies and details a coordinated park and outdoor recreation program to meet the needs and demands of Door County residents and visitors.
 - Promote and encourage the development of sufficient park and recreational facilities of high quality.
 - Identify and preserve sites of significant scenic, historical, archaeological, and natural characteristics.”
- “Recommended policy statements:
 - Governmental agencies should not compete with or duplicate the efforts of private interests which provide recreational activities and facilities to the public in an adequate, efficient, and economical matter.
 - In general, park programs of state-wide and macro regional (areas consisting of many contiguous counties) interest and importance, should be the responsibility of the state government; those of county-wide and micro regional (areas composed of only one or a few contiguous counties) interest and importance, should be a county responsibility; the park programs of towns, villages, and cities should be structured to meet the needs and desires of the immediate respective areas.

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- All levels of government should pursue a policy of attempting to acquire and protect areas of significant scenic, cultural, and historical value and important wildlife and wetland areas.
- Both public and private non-profit organizations can be more effective in reaching their goals if they work together and pool their resources.
- Environmental quality should never be sacrificed in the interest of need satisfaction.”
- “Guidelines for land acquisition. Land acquisition projects of the following type should be given highest priority:
 - Projects involving acquisition of land adjacent to lake waters to increase public water access opportunities particularly on the Lake Michigan shore between Baileys Harbor and Sturgeon Bay.
 - Projects to provide increased public access to Cana Island, including additional parking facilities.
 - Projects to expand present park lands either for reasons of satisfying additional space needs, protection of critical landforms or natural areas, or protection of the environmental integrity of a park.
 - Projects involving lands capable of supporting multi-seasonal activities.”
- “Guidelines for implementation of the Parks and Open Space Plan
 - Develop a full range of programs for the preservation of parks and open space including: purchase, dedication, zoning, acquisition of easements, and other rights.
 - Encourage state and federal allocation of financial resources for parks and open space in Door County.
 - Encourage greater private sector participation in the preservation of park and open space lands.
 - Seek new and innovative methods of using private sources of funding such as land donation, donation of easements and other rights, labor donations, and in-kind goods and services.
 - Maintain a policy that ensures adequate compensation to the county when granting exclusive use of county park facilities and/or resource lands to non-county agencies, groups or individuals, or granting easements or other permanent rights to park and resource lands. Research the need for a volunteer program that identifies tasks for volunteers and provides supervision, support, and recognition.
 - Relinquishment of county-owned park land for purposes other than preservation or recreation shall be dependent upon:
 - the long-term impacts on park and recreational use throughout Door County
 - an equal exchange of land
 - dedication of revenues to additional park lands and improvements

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- action being consistent with local and regional plans
- determination that the land is not needed for county park and open space purposes, both at the present and in the future
- consideration of the total costs and benefits of ownership of the land
- protective deed restrictions placed on title of property
- Donations of land to the county parks system should be evaluated in terms of:
 - consistency with needs identified in the “Door County Outdoor Recreation Plan”
 - proximity to existing parks
 - maintenance and development costs
 - any special environmental or cultural qualities
 - allowing the county to accept land donations for resale with the proceeds used for purchasing other park and resource land
- The county cooperates with private groups and with all other units of government in financing and in sharing management of recreation resources where appropriate.
- The county endorses the projects of other units of government, which meet regional objectives and provide regional use.
- The county encourages local municipalities to provide for the park and recreational needs of the citizens of unincorporated communities within their boundaries. The towns may assist in implementing Door County’s plan by coordinating their plans with Door County’s plan, and enhance the value of the parks, open space, and recreational facilities of both the towns and county.”
- “Guidelines for park development. For the planning period, the following development projects should be considered:
 - Parks should generally provide at least basic facilities which include:
 - ADA accessible toilets, preferably vault-type where more sophisticated systems are not practical
 - potable water supply for drinking, washing, and fire defense purposes
 - designated parking facilities
 - adequate access and marking
 - facilities should always include features that will aid handicapped people including specialized walkways, hard surfaced walkways, wide doorways, grab rails in restrooms, special seating at picnic areas and at spectator events, and special playground apparatus
 - identification of park entrance(s) and boundaries
 - nature and/or hiking trails, where practical

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- development of areas providing entrance(s) and boundaries
- development of areas providing a variety of activities, as opposed to single purpose activities
- facilities presently provided should be improved and maintained in a safe and useful manner”

John Miles County Park Recreation Plan, Phase I, December 2017, Door County Parks and Land Use Services Departments

This report contains results from the first phase of planning for John Miles, which focused on a vision for recreational aspects of the park. The plan includes a detailed site assessment of the park that inventories current conditions at the park, plans and studies written regarding recreation in general and John Miles specifically, and demographics of residents and visitors. The plan also includes a summary of input regarding the park gathered through public meetings, an on-line survey, emails, and in-person discussions. This input was also organized into potential action items with timelines for completion dates.

This Phase 1 plan also recommends a second phase to address the functions and infrastructure needed to support the potential future recreational uses. At the time of writing of this Plan, there are no plans to pursue additional recreational activities at John Miles.

Listed below are improvements done at John Miles from 2017-2019 and 2020 CIP improvements:

- 2017
 - south restrooms, new LED lighting and interior paint, fixtures and shower rehabbed
 - fiber optics installed into Fair Secretary office
 - LED lighting upgrade to midway and race track pits
- 2018
 - electrical panel upgrade
 - Jr Fair building heating system upgrade, oil to propane
 - 8 inch water main upgrade to pavilion and soccer fields
 - concrete pad installed under grandstand
- 2019
 - midway paving, with curbs and ADA accessibility
 - exhaust fan installation in multi-purpose building
 - electric panel upgrading in cattle barn
 - installation of cat5 connection to Jr Fair, cattle barn, horse arena, multipurpose building, rabbit barn, horticulture building for computer network interfacing of fair operations
 - installation of 200 amp electrical panel in multipurpose building for future events
 - Junior Fair Building LED lighting conversion
 - Re-roof of maintenance garage
 - clay installed on race track
 - replaced 8 inch storm water drain from racetrack to Pond 1
 - tree re-planting
- 2020 CIP funding for:
 - construction of multimodal entrance gate with ticket booth and park sign upgrades at 14th and 15th Aves
 - 24x40 enclosed stage/pavilion with electrical

APPENDIX D: COMPREHENSIVE AND PARK/RECREATION PLANS THAT INCORPORATE DOOR COUNTY

Listed below are descriptions of plans and goals/policies from those plans that include Door County and specifically mention Door County parks.

Northeast Wisconsin Coastal Cities Trail Inventory & Connectivity, 2014, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
(https://baylakerpc.org/application/files/9115/4083/0401/BLRPC_Trail_Report_Final_maps_02-2014.pdf)

The Northeast Wisconsin Coastal Cities Trail Inventory & Connectivity plan identifies the Ahnapee State Trail pertaining to Door County, as summarized below.

- The Ahnapee State Trail provides off-road access from Sturgeon Bay to as far as the Village of Luxemburg in Kewaunee County.
- The portion of the Ahnapee State Trail connecting Sturgeon Bay to Algoma is also considered existing National Ice Age Trail.

The plan also notes that future trail connectivity from the City of Green Bay to Door County could be along the western side of Door County. Possible connecting routes to consider should include shared roadways and existing and potential utility corridors.

Lake Michigan State Water Trail Project, Inventory and Analysis of Access Sites in Support of a Lake Michigan Water Trail, December 2011.
(<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakemichigan/>)

Authors:

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Lake Michigan Water Trail Project intends to increase and improve public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Michigan. When complete, the proposed Wisconsin portion of the trail will be a 523-mile segment of a continuous 1,638 mile water route that traverses the shores of four states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin). Most sites in Wisconsin are located on public lands owned by the state or local governments.

The Project conducted a survey of over 360 sites in 11 Wisconsin counties to identify potential non-motorized water access, followed by a series of stakeholder and public meetings to review those sites. Sites were given one of the descriptors listed below:

- **Developed Access:** A site that provides water access via a public boat ramp or dock.
- **Carry-In Access:** A site with a beach that provides easy kayak access to the water with little user conflict from adjacent landowners.
- **Alternate Access:** Non-ideal carry-in access site that may be only a road that ends at the water. Alternate Access sites may have a bit of a steep slope to the water, require wading or paddling through marsh, or have minimal potential for user conflict from adjacent landowners.

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- Emergency Access: Use of these sites (primarily road ends) is restricted by limited parking options, high user conflict potential, or agreements with site owners that only permit emergency egress.

The report identifies the ten county parks listed below as access sites:

- Baileys Harbor Ridges – carry-in
- Chaudoir’s Dock – developed
- Door Bluff Headlands – emergency
- George K. Pinney – developed
- Frank E. Murphy – developed
- Lily Bay – developed
- Percy Johnson – carry-in
- Robert M. Carmody – developed
- Robert La Salle – carry-in
- Sugar Creek – developed

Note that the Cana Island Lighthouse, Cave Point, and Ellison Bluff parks are located along the route, but are not identified as access sites.

The plan also identified enhancement zones based on the project’s analysis of the route for site amenities and distance between sites to identify zones for site acquisition and/or improvement. Goals are to have restroom facilities no further than five miles apart and public camping no more than 10 miles apart.

- Haines Park (Sand Bay Lane, Town of Nasewaupée) to Potowatomie State Park, 9.7 miles.
- Village of Sister Bay Beach to Ellison Bay Women’s Club (Town of Liberty Grove), 6.6 miles. This gap runs along a stretch of bluff that can make public access difficult without a staircase.
- “Death’s Door” to Washington Island or Detroit Island, 4.0 miles. This gap is less than five miles, but has significant needs and opportunities for providing safe passage across.
- Washington Island Ferry to Gudmundson Drive, 10.6 miles.
- Sand Bay (Town of Liberty Grove) and Baileys Harbor Ridges Park (Town of Baileys Harbor), 29.3. This gap is the lengthiest gap along the water trail. There are two sites that break up this gap somewhat, but there are still more than five miles remaining between each site.
- Anclam Park (Town of Baileys Harbor) and CTH V/Lake Park Drive (Town of Jacksonport), 6.8 miles. Public access is available within this segment, but public camping is limited.

Door County Comprehensive and Farmland Preservation Plan – 2035, December 2014, Door County Land Use Services Department (formerly Door County Planning Department)
<https://www.co.door.wi.gov/492/Planning>

The state’s comprehensive planning law requires the county to have a comprehensive plan and to consider parks as part of that plan. Below is information from the Door County Comprehensive and Farmland Preservation Plan – 2035 that directly addresses parks and, more generally, recreation within the county.

- **General issues and opportunities** (as related to parks and recreation, paraphrased from p. 14, Chapter 2, Issues and Opportunities, Vision and Goals, V. I)
 - community facilities are top county assets and integral to the future of the county
 - recreational facilities, plus lakes, streams, and wetlands, offer tourists and residents high quality beaches, parks, fishing, and other recreation
 - maintaining and improving the county’s recreational infrastructure is essential to the long-term health of residents and to promoting more recreation-based tourism
 - the county’s trail system outside of our parks was characterized as very limited and increasingly difficult to acquire as the cost of land increases
 - the existing snowmobile trail system presents an opportunity, though, in that it has the potential to be expanded and developed into a multi-use trail system

- **Door County’s greatest assets** (as related to parks and recreation, quoted from p. 15, Chapter 2, Issues and Opportunities, Vision and Goals, V. I)

“The abundance of surface water, parks, and wildlife habitats greatly contributes to the county’s natural beauty, as well as providing the resources for a variety of recreational opportunities. Public recreational infrastructure, providing access to these areas for a variety of activities, is believed to be equally valuable.”

- **Community facilities vision statement** (as related to parks and recreation, quoted from p. 43, Chapter 7, Community Facilities and Utilities, Volume I, Vision and Goals)

“In the year 2035, Door County continues to work with its municipalities and other community and government agencies to improve communication, education, and information-sharing as well as to implement long-range planning with regard to shared goals and related improvements, programs, and services, particularly with regard to issues such as:

- preservation of wild space and green space;
- establishment of a multi-purpose trail network;
- expansion of existing and establishment of more county parks;
- establishment or improvement of safe harbors and waterway access points”

- **Goals and policies** (as related to parks and recreation, quoted from p. 79, Chapter 11, Implementation, Volume I, Vision and Goals)

Goal: “Support the development, maintenance, and up-grade of utilities, community facilities, and services in an efficient, coordinated, and cost-effective manner to service the current and future needs of the community’s residential and commercial uses.”

Policies:

- “Support and participate in, as appropriate, efforts determining adequate staffing and funding levels to establish, improve, and maintain programs, regulations, and education efforts by exploring and implementing solutions to financial issues and constraints.
 - Help determine how the aging population affects community facilities issues.
- Support or participate in, as appropriate, joint planning efforts to acquire, maintain, and improve public recreation infrastructure in order to provide adequate and safe public recreation space.
- Assist as appropriate with updates to county and town outdoor recreation plans.”

Door County, Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Recreational Facilities Plan, January 2014, Alta Planning + Design and Wisconsin Bike Fed

<https://www.co.door.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1824/Door-County-Bicycle-Pedestrian-and-Recreational-Facilities-Plan>

The Door County, Bicycle Pedestrian, and Recreational Facilities Plan identifies a county-wide “recommended bikeway network.” Maps of this recommended network can be found on pages 49 and 50 of the plan.

The Plan also identifies the County Parks as a potential partner for building bicycle tourism. Maps of these tourism loops can be found on pages 39 and 40.

Note that this plan identifies a lack of wayfinding tools, such as signage, to orient users and direct them to and through major destinations like town centers, schools, parks, and commercial areas.

Management Plan for Horseshoe Bay Cave, June 2014, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation, Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department, and Door County Parks Department

<https://www.co.door.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/558/Horseshoe-Bay-Cave-Management-Plan-PDF>

Located in the Town of Egg Harbor, Horseshoe Bay Cave is one of the longest known caves in Wisconsin and has been identified as a significant bat hibernaculum. The cave’s bat population falls under the authority of the State Threatened & Endangered Species Law under management direction from the WDNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. The plan was written, at least in part, to help prevent White-Nose Syndrome, a disease caused by a fungal pathogen that poses a significant threat to cave-hibernating bats throughout North America.

This plan was designed to preserve and protect the diverse and significant features of the caves while still allowing for the public access, as described below.

- objectives for long-term management of the cave
- opportunities and actions to protect and learn about cave resources
- procedures for safe visitor education and quality visitor experiences in HSB cave
- policies and procedures for public access to the cave
- policies and procedures for proposed special activities
- procedures to protect fragile cave resources
- procedures to protect biological resources
- recommendations for future inventory, monitoring, and preservation efforts

Comprehensive Lake Management Planning Grant Project for Forestville Millpond, June and December (updated) 2018, Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department

<https://www.co.door.wi.gov/510/Forestville-Millpond>

The Forestville Millpond report describes current conditions of the Millpond and potential management options to address concerns. A public survey showed that the majority of landowners within the Millpond watershed would like to address water quality, clarity, and quantity. Specifically, many respondents would like to see more fish and less algae. The report outlines information gathered from the public, government officials, resource professionals, and local and state agencies. This input was used to form a set of consensus-based goals and management options to address the issues of the Millpond.

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC SURVEY

An on-line survey regarding the Door County parks system was available to the public between October 29th and December 2nd, 2019. A press release was issued on October 18th and another reminder press release was issued on November 15th, 2019. An email regarding the survey was sent to County and City employees, municipal contacts, user groups, and other planning contacts on October 23rd, with a follow-up email sent on November 15th. Provided below is a summary of the survey results.

Door County Parks Division 2020 - 2025 Plan Survey Results

941 total responses from October 23rd – December 2nd, 2019

1. “What do members of your household like to do at any public park, either in Door County or elsewhere outside of Door County?” (935 responses)

Note: respondents were able to check off as many items as they liked as well as provide open-ended comments.

Activities (listed in order from highest number to lowest number of responses)	#	%
Nature-based activities (hiking, biking, bird watching, photography)	810	86.6
Relaxing/picnicking/playing	738	78.9
Swimming/beach	636	68.0
Fishing	379	40.5
Non-motorized water craft launching	306	32.7
Off-road biking	214	22.9
Individual sports	187	20.0
Motorized activities (i.e., snowmobiling, car racing, boating)	176	18.8
Other (<i>see comments below</i>)	88	9.4
Organized sports	86	9.2

“Other (please specify)”:

- Dog-based activities (15)
- Sight-seeing (12)
- Cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing (9)
- Camping (8)
- Biking (8)
- Off-road biking (7)
- Quiet/reading/sketching/painting/photography (7)
- Play and playgrounds (4)
- Hiking/walking (4)
- Paddleboard/kayaking (3)
- Horse showing/riding (3)
- Running, on- and off-road (2)
- Frisbee/disc golf (2)
- Surfing (2)
- Pickleball (2)
- Boat launching (2)
- Patronizing eating/drinking establishments (2)

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- Geocaching (1)
- Outdoor markets (1)
- Sledding (1)
- Homeschooling (1)
- Family gatherings (1)
- Hunting (1)
- Caving (1)
- Foraging (1)
- Rappelling (1)
- Learning history at George K. Pinney (1)
- Would like parks to host “loving Christian-based athletic events” (1)
- Expand exhibits at George K. Pinney into a walking tour that provides descriptions of the escarpment, Native American and Settler inhabitation, and water ecology (1)

2. “Which Door County Parks System park do members of your household use most frequently? Please rate your most used parks with 1 being the highest use and 2 being the second most and so on.” (908 responses)

The parks listed in the table below are sorted from highest “score” to lowest “score.” The score is a weighted average ranking. For example, Frank E. Murphy park had more selections than Ellison Bluff, but received a lower score. See the end of this document for an example.

County Park	# of Selections	Score (average ranking)
Cave Point	785	17.46
Baileys Harbor Ridges	607	16.05
Cana Island Lighthouse	584	15.30
Ahnapee State Trail	523	15.28
Ellison Bluff	589	14.94
Frank E. Murphy	617	14.53
Door Bluff Headlands	551	14.49
George K. Pinney	585	13.75
Chaudoir’s Dock	429	13.08
Forestville Dam	444	11.60
John Miles	458	10.47
Lily Bay	432	9.22
Lyle-Harter-Matter Sanctuary	392	7.15
Meridian	405	6.60
Robert LaSalle	436	6.37

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

Percy Johnson Memorial	396	5.50
Sugar Creek	424	4.93
Robert M. Carmody	402	4.90
Tornado Memorial	395	2.94

3. “What activities do members of your household do at the Door County Parks System park(s) listed in Question #2?” (907 responses)

Note: respondents were able to check off as many items as they liked as well as provide open-ended comments.

Activities (listed in order from highest number to lowest number)	#	%
Nature-based activities (hiking, biking, bird watching, photography)	766	84.5
Relaxing/picnicking/playing	645	71.0
Swimming/beach	488	53.8
Fishing	260	28.7
Non-motorized water craft launching	198	21.8
Motorized activities (i.e., snowmobiling, car racing, boating)	139	15.3
Individual sports	133	14.7
Off-road biking	126	13.9
Other (see comments below)	65	7.2
Organized sports	49	5.4

“Other (please specify)” comments:

- Sight-seeing (14)
- Dog-based activities (11)
- Play and playgrounds (4)
- Boat launching (4)
 - Commercial boat launching (1)
- Quiet/painting/sketching/photography (3)
- Camping (3)
- Fair (3)
- Hiking/walking (3)
- Running, on- and off-road (3)
- Paddleboard/kayaking (2)
- Lighthouses (2)
- Surfing (2)
- Cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing (2)
- Geocaching (2)
- Organized running/biking events (2)
- Picnicking/family gatherings (2)
- Caving (1)

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- Bird-watching (1)
- Frisbee/disc golf (1)
- Organized sports (1)
- Racing (1)
- Homeschooling (1)
- Horse showing/riding (1)
- Biking (1)
- No room to play since Ridges beach was fixed (1)

Note: Question numbers 4 – 6 on the survey included an option for open-ended comments. These comments address a variety of general ideas/themes as well as more specific items, which have been sorted into main categories and subcategories. The main categories are listed after each survey question below, in bold text. The total number of times the main category was mentioned is listed after the heading, in bold text and parentheses. Below the main category headings are the subcategory headings, with the total number of times the subcategory was mentioned listed after each heading in parentheses. If a specific comment was mentioned only once and does not fall into any main category or subcategory, it is included in a “miscellaneous” category.

4. “In your opinion, should the Door County Parks System continue to pursue the acquisition of more lands that will protect flora, fauna, and other natural resources and be used to provide greater education, pleasure, and outdoor recreation opportunities for the public?”
(934 responses)

Opinion	#	%
Strongly agree	576	61.7
Agree	214	22.9
Neither Agree or Disagree	76	8.2
Disagree	27	2.9
Strongly disagree	13	1.4
Comments (<i>see below</i>)	28	3.0

“Comment (please specify)”:

❖ **Budget concerns (16)**

- Concern for parks budget (9)
- Only if money is available (2)
- Use caution, concern for erosion of tax base (2)
- Concern for cost to maintain parks (1)
- Support, but not if it harms budget for existing parks (1)
- Only if land is donated (1)

❖ **Have enough parks, maintain what we have (8)**

❖ **Other agencies do this already, this is the Land Trust’s role (5)**

❖ **Thoughtful acquisition, how land fits with existing parks, consider land adjacent to existing parks, partner with Land Trust (3)**

❖ **Miscellaneous:**

- Make any future land acquisition available for snowmobiling
- Difficult to answer, do not know enough about other parks not used
- Protect quarry
- Prevent adjacent commercial development
- Don't drain Forestville dam
- Yes, but stop naming after people
- Do not like question – sports and motorized sports in county parks conflict with natural resource protection

5. “Would you support the development of a land acquisition fund to only be used for parks land acquisition, as described in Question #4?” (933 responses)

Opinion	#	%
Strongly agree	470	50.4
Agree	282	30.2
Neither Agree or Disagree	111	11.9
Disagree	36	3.9
Strongly disagree	17	1.8
Comments (see below)	17	1.8

“Comment (please specify)”

- ❖ **Depends on taxes, only if taxes do not go up, donations only (4)**
- ❖ **Maintain/improve what we have (4)**
- ❖ **Land Trust is already doing this, this is their role (3)**
- ❖ **Only to keep natural (2)**
- ❖ **Need more information (2)**
- ❖ **Miscellaneous:**
 - Yes, to prevent commercial development
 - “Only if it is not to be used for RV park development.”
 - “Can't answer without condoning use of public money for special interests such as sports or motorized activities”
 - “Again difficult to answer - what does State add - what is the level of usage”

6. “Please provide any additional comments in the box below.” (311 responses)

❖ **Have enough parks, “improve” existing parks, and/or better maintain existing parks (not trail related) (82)**

- Comments about county parks in general:
 - Clean up the water and beaches, make more useable (8)
 - Improve bathrooms, provide clean and working bathrooms at all parks (3)
 - Improve boat launches and docks (2)
 - Make parks more user friendly for all ages (2)
 - More picnic tables and benches (2)
 - More play areas and jungle gyms (2)
 - More educational components (2)
 - Robert LaSalle – an example of providing education on historical development (1)
 - Overgrown scenic overlooks (1)
 - Discourage disrespectful use (1)
 - Fish cleaning stations at all boat launches (1)
 - Update signage (1)
 - Better roads (1)
 - Pickleball courts (1)

- Comments about specific county parks, excluding comments specific to land adjacent to George K. Pinney:
 - Carmody Park – need for a kayak/canoe launch (1)
 - Cave Point – overuse, misuse, erosion from rock stacking (1)
 - Door Bluff (4)
 - Maintain better (1)
 - keep “as is” (1)
 - do not pave road (1)
 - provide bike trails, picnic area, better trails, and access to lookouts (1)
 - Frank E. Murphy (4)
 - “Fraunkie” park is in need(1)
 - provide more opportunities to visit caves (1)
 - needs more grooming (1)
 - need more grooming, only gets attention at triathlon time (1)
 - John Miles - make better use of (2)
 - Use for farm/craft market (1)
 - Ridges – install boardwalk (1)
 - Sugar Creek – install dock or publicly explain why not (1)
 - Tornado park – more trails (1)

❖ **General appreciation/love for Door County and its public parks; well-managed public parks are an asset to Door County (40)**

❖ **Preserve, protect, restore Door County's open spaces (32)**

Note: This category includes general comments about love for Door County and preserving/protecting/restoring land, not specific enough to interpret whether or not the county should acquire more land. The next category "Acquire more park land" includes comments that were specific about acquiring more park land.

- preserve and protect land (26)
- limit condo/motel development, save from commercial development (2)
- Preserve large tracts of land (1)
- Restore and maintain native species (1)
- Provide drinking water education (1)
- Focus on wildlife (1)

❖ **Acquire more park land (15, not including comments about land adjacent to George K. Pinney)**

- When available, buy adjacent lands to protect (4)
 - Create matrix of land adjacent to existing parks, potential acquisitions, based on natural and recreational qualities, establish relationships with property owners for "right-of-first-refusal" for property purchase (1)
- Only acquire more land to square off an existing park (1)
- Develop urban parks (1)
- Spread throughout county, close to every "city" (1)

Land adjacent to George K. Pinney

- Acquire land above park, no RV park, provide education about escarpment (55)
 - Create a walking tour, expand exhibit to provide description of escarpment, inhabitation, and water ecology

❖ **No additional parks or decrease parks for budgetary reasons (14)**

- Do not buy more park land (4)
- Other agencies, such as land trust, are already buying/protecting land (4)
- No more parks if taxes have to go up (2)
- Do not take more land off tax roll (2)
- Consider transferring land to Door County Land Trust (1)
- Budget strapped already (1)

❖ **Need for more accessibility to land and water - provide more hiking and biking trails, more water access, more active recreation (13)**

- More trails (6)
 - More bike trails (2)
 - More hiking trails (1)
 - Better trails and roads for hiking and biking between parks (1)
 - County-wide system of paved bike trails (1)
- Provide for more active recreation (3)
- More water accessibility via pocket parks up and down the county – natural, maybe a bench or two (1)

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

- More kayak/canoe accessibility (1)
- More accessible parks (1)

- ❖ **Provide indoor sports recreation – soccer, football, pickleball, skating, baseball, and wrestling (9)**
 - Install turf at John Miles barn (4)

- ❖ **Drawdown of Forestville Dam - no drawdown, reconsider, postpone (9)**

- ❖ **Decrease fees or reconsider fee structure (8)**
 - Keep user costs down, free launching is offered in most of state (4)
 - Charge shanty fee only for commercial usage of parks (2)
 - Consider charging other commercial fishing guides also (1)
 - Unfair ice shanties do not pay launching fee (1)

- ❖ **Allow more dog accessibility (5)**
 - Allow dogs at all parks (1)
 - More off-leash trails (1)

- ❖ **Survey critique (5)**
 - Good survey, complimentary about parks department (2)
 - Technical difficulties answering question #2 (2)
 - Survey full of loaded questions, motorized sports and preserving flora/fauna are contradictory (1)

- ❖ **Cooperative acquisitions, development, and programming of parks (4)**

- ❖ **More snowmobile/ATV/UTV/dirt bike trails (4)**
 - Connect existing trails and parks (1)
 - Continuous trail up and down peninsula (1)
 - Acquire easements on private property, when possible (1)

- ❖ **Increase fees (3)**
 - Increase fees for out-of-state users (1)
 - Require annual pass to fund future development (1)
 - Require fee for Cave Point (1)

- ❖ **Southern Door needs same attention and benefits as Northern Door, more parks in Southern Door (3)**

- ❖ **Need more horse trails and camping (2)**

- ❖ **No hunting or trapping at county parks, safety and ethics (2)**

- ❖ **Promote silent, non-motorized sports (2)**

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

❖ **Miscellaneous:**

- Provide raised garden beds for public to grow vegetables
- Consider kid-free beach
- Open Schauer park ramp
- Use Baker Park in Naples, FL as park planning example
- Allow camping at all parks
- Continue to allow drones at all parks
- Spend equally on all parks
- Provide list of parks and features
- Was discriminated against and denied use of county parks
- Be careful of too much law enforcement
- Provide outdoor music
- Better publicize parks
- Keep some parks undeveloped and unpublicized
- Cave Point – dangerous in winter, consider closing
- On-line maps are not always accurate
- Ridges – ruined since beach was “fixed,” no place to play, needs a boardwalk
- “What are other options? Staff? Upkeep?”
- Use parks for internet towers
- Wildflower gardens, solar panels, downward lighting, no chemicals or pesticides, restrict fossil fuels to park maintenance, recycle better
- More tourism dollars should go towards parks and public lands

❖ **Non-county park comments:**

- State parks:
 - Peninsula State Park - allow rappelling on Eagle Bluff
 - Potowatomi State Park – don’t tear down tower
 - Increase fees for state park passes for out-of-state users
- City – provide at least one wheelchair swing
- Haines Beach (Town of Nasewaupee) – pick up trash, provide boardwalk along back of park

7. “In which age category do you fall?” (924 responses)

Age	#	%
Under 18	2	0.2
18 – 24	23	2.5
25 – 34	97	10.5
35 – 44	119	12.9
45 – 54	175	18.9
55 – 64	248	26.8
65+	260	28.1
Total	924	100

8. “If you reside in Door County year-round, in which municipality is your residence located? If you do not reside in Door County year-round, where do most members of your household prefer to rent/camp/lodge in Door County?”

Municipality	#	%
City of Sturgeon Bay	134	14.7
Town of Egg Harbor	90	9.9
Town of Sturgeon Bay	80	8.8
Village of Sister Bay	73	8.0
Town of Baileys Harbor	70	7.7
Town of Gibraltar	54	5.9
Village of Ephraim	42	4.6
Village of Egg Harbor	29	3.2
Town of Forestville	22	2.4
Do not stay overnight in Door County	21	2.3
Town of Jacksonport	16	1.8
Village of Forestville	15	1.6
Town of Gardner	14	1.5
Town of Brussels	13	1.4
Town of Union	8	0.9
Town of Washington	6	0.7
Town of Clay Banks	5	0.6
Total	912	100

9. “If you do not reside in Door County year-round, where is your permanent residence?”

400 out of county

Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

Question #2 Example:

Rank	Ellison Bluff			Frank E. Murphy		
	# of selections	weight	# of selections * weight	# of selections	weight	# of selections * weight
1	52	19	988	81	19	1,539
2	95	18	1,710	84	18	1,512
3	84	17	1,428	86	17	1,462
4	61	16	976	48	16	768
5	60	15	900	40	15	600
6	30	14	420	32	14	448
7	92	13	1,196	28	13	364
8	49	12	588	24	12	288
9	21	11	231	132	11	1,452
10	19	10	190	33	10	330
11	7	9	63	12	9	108
12	9	8	72	3	8	24
13	2	7	14	3	7	21
14	1	6	6	5	6	30
15	0	5	0	1	5	5
16	2	4	8	2	4	8
17	1	3	3	2	3	6
18	4	2	8	0	2	0
19	0	1	0	1	1	1
Total	589	--	8,801	617	--	8,966
Average Ranking (Score)	8,801/589 = 14.94			8,966/617 = 14.53		