

REVISED FINAL COPY – 6/27/2011

# BECKER COUNTY RECREATIONAL PLAN



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# Introduction

Welcome to the Becker County Recreational Plan. In the summer of 2009, the Becker County Board established an intradepartmental steering committee to facilitate the development of the Becker County Recreational Plan. The “Plan” was developed to: 1) Create a vision for the future, 2) Take stock of our current recreational inventory and promote it, 3) Identify existing and new recreational needs and opportunities, 4) Develop an ongoing decision making process for evaluating existing and new recreational opportunities, and 5) Improve communication and coordination of existing and proposed recreational activities through internal restructuring and in cooperation with area and regional stakeholders.

## Acknowledgments

The Becker County Board wishes to thank the Steering Committee, County Park Board, Natural Resources Department, land managers (representing cities, townships, and local state and federal agencies), special interest groups and the general public for their interest and involvement throughout the planning process.

## Oversight

### Becker County Board

District 1 - Larry Knutson

District 2 - Harry Salminen (thru 2010)/John Okeson

District 3 - Gerry Schram

District 4 - John Bellefeuille (thru 2010)/Don Skarie

District 5 - Barry Nelson

### Steering Committee

Brian C. Berg (thru 2010)/Tom Mortenson, County Administrator

Nancy Grabanski, Human Resource & Maintenance Director

Steve Skoog, County Assessor & Environmental Director

Ryan Tangen, County Auditor-Treasurer

Brad Wentz, County Highway Engineer

Patty Swenson, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Chip Lohmeier, Former Land Commissioner/Parks and Recreation Director (thru 2010)

Guy Fischer, Economic Development Authority Coordinator

Administrative Assistance: Kathy Fingalson, Kathy Ohman,

Sandy Gunderson, Jena Zachariason, and Cindy Courneya

### Park Board

District 1 - Ray Vlasak

District 2 - Dennis Hopman

District 3 - Hank Ludtke

District 4 - Del Bergseth (Chair)

District 5 - Donald Ackerman

Larry Knutson, County Commissioner

Mark Lohmeier, Staff/Executive Secretary

Arthur Bakker, Member at Large

Karen Mulari, Member at Large



## Section 1

### Becker County Vision Statement

### Recreational Plan Vision Statement

### County Comp Plan

## Planning Foundation

Becker County mission statements and applicable goals from the County's comprehensive plan inform and provide a starting foundation to help inform the development of the recreational plan.

"Becker County is rich in natural resources which promotes agriculture, tourism, and economic development, while retaining its natural beauty fostered by its citizens and governing body. The cost of government services will be reasonable while supporting needed social services, infrastructure, and the criminal justice system. This will enable the protection and preservation of Becker County for future generations."

Ensure the long term recreational sustainability of County administered lands by protecting our natural resources and balancing recreational activities among all user groups County-wide to create a high quality recreational experience for all.

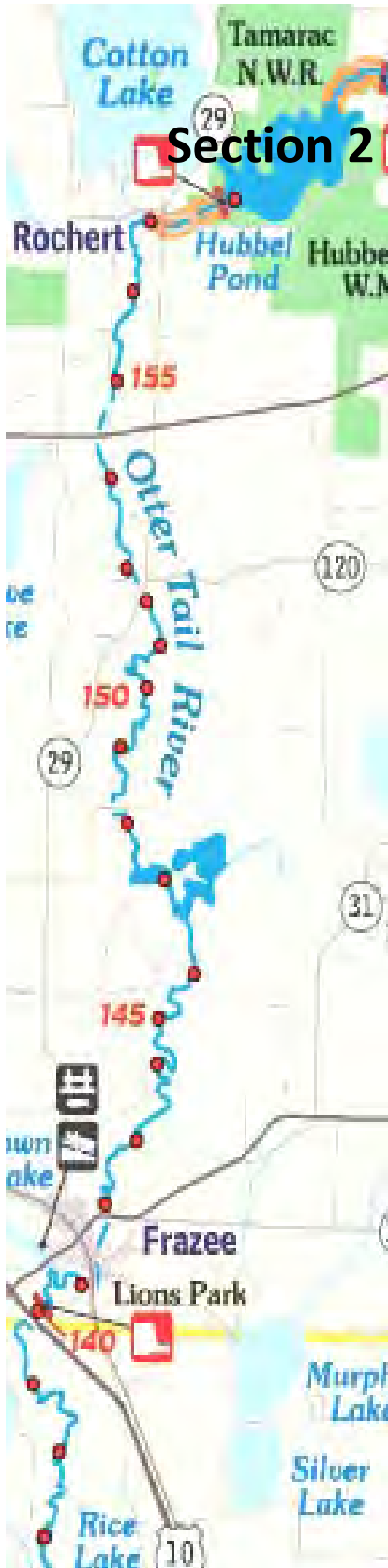
There are numerous goals contained within the County's Comprehensive Plan that pertain to recreation, tourism, and natural resource protection. *See Appendix B. Applicable Comp Plan Goals/Priorities, p. 35-36.*

This recreational plan was requested by the public to address a commonly shared concern about the current and future recreational use of public lands.

Becker County manages approximately 75,000 acres of tax forfeited land and maintains a strong commitment to the sustainable use of its natural resources in order to serve many interests, including recreation.

Recreational pursuits define and improve our area's quality of life and make it a desirable place to live, work, and play. Recreation and tourism provide important economic activity within the county. The forecast is for recreational use of county lands to grow as more people visit and move to our area.

*No guiding vision can remain static. This is a living document subject to change over time, as new realities require new goals and strategies to address them - done in close consultation with the owners of the plan, the citizens of Becker County. Modifications to the Recreational Plan would be reviewed/approved by the County Board.*



## Section 2 Recreational Inventory & Website Development

Developing a recreational inventory is essential to identify current and future recreational opportunities that exist within Becker County. A recent University of Minnesota Tourism Center study looked at the *Economic Impact of Recreational Trail Use in Different Regions of MN* (2009) and determined that total trip spending for ten selected recreational activities provided an economic benefit to the region of approximately \$288 million dollars. The study also notes that 67% of recreational activity occurs within 30 miles of where people live. The regional information, while not County specific, provides a general measure and trend of current economic benefit derived from these recreational activities. *See Appendix C. Recreational Trends & Drivers, Total Trip by Spending Activity for MN's Northwest Region, p. 42.* Clearly there is a benefit to taking stock of our recreational assets and actively promoting them to local residents and non-residents.

An important means of managing and promoting our recreational inventory is to provide comprehensive and up-to-date information to better serve consumer needs. To this end the County has developed a recreational web page to provide a user friendly interface for recreational enthusiasts to access recreational inventory information for the County.

On the next page is a list of the types of recreational activities that are currently provided on the County's web page. It should be noted that the web page/contents of the inventory are subject to change over time as new information becomes available.

Recreational Opportunities/Inventory Categories in Becker County as Listed on the County Webpage:

[http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks\\_recreation/recreation.aspx](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks_recreation/recreation.aspx)

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Becker County, Minnesota

... Bringing It All Together ...

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## Recreational Opportunities in Becker County

**Parks & Recreation Department Links**

Parks & Recreation Home Page

Recreational Opportunities

- ATV/OHV Trails
- Bicycling
- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Equestrian
- Hiking/Walking
- Hunting/Shooting
- Mountain Biking
- Parks & Picnic Areas
- Public Water Access
- Scenic Byways
- Snowmobile Trails
- Swimming Beaches
- Tubing/Sledding

Recreation Map

Including Recreational Information on Website

Dunton Locks Park

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**Becker County GIS System**



Interactive GIS Maps

Search Property Tax Information

-  **ATV/OHV Trails**
-  **Bicycling**
-  **Bird Watching**
-  **Camping**
-  **Canoeing/Kayaking**
-  **Cross-Country Skiing**
-  **Equestrian**
-  **Hiking/Walking**
-  **Hunting/Shooting**
-  **Mountain Biking**
-  **Parks & Picnic Areas**
-  **Public Water Access**
-  **Scenic Byways**
-  **Snowmobile Trails**
-  **Swimming Beaches**
-  **Tubing/Sledding**



**Recreation...**  
a very popular word here in Becker County.

With abundant lakes, streams, forests, trails, and top-notch facilities, Becker County offers some of the best outdoor recreational opportunities you can find. No matter what the season, outdoor enthusiasts flock to this area to enjoy their favorite activities, and to experience all that Becker County offers.

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::: Interactive Recreation Map :::

**Open Recreation Map** 

Explore and locate your favorite recreational activities in our County using our customized map.

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Additional links from the Becker County Recreational Plan Steering Committee:

- Include your information on this website
- Recreational Plan Steering Committee meeting minutes

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## Section 3

# Plan Implementation

This section details internal capacity issues related to County processes and decision making structures necessary to successfully implement the Recreational Plan. Section 3 includes an overall vision for recreation in Becker County as well as goals, strategies, and resources that provide a first step to explore various recreational activities. The Plan is a living document and will change over time as new ideas and priorities for recreation in the County are identified and implemented.

### A. County Capacity Initiatives

County Capacity Initiatives 1-6 below involve various internal operational changes to help the County better plan, coordinate, and implement recreational activities and opportunities within the County. These initiatives include: 1) Recreational Review Process for recreational projects; 2) Park Board restructuring to better align the Committee with the vision, goals, and strategies of the Recreational Plan; 3) Recreational Inventory & Webpage to market our recreational resources; 4) Land Managers' Meetings to better coordinate resources and recreational activities; 5) New Parks and Recreation Ordinance to improve recreational management and enforcement activities; and 6) Coordination & Promotion of Regional Recreational Assets.

#### 1. Recreational Review Process

An important part of the Becker County Recreational Plan is to strengthen its own internal review process for those projects deemed recreational in nature. A draft recreational review process and project application has been developed in an effort to facilitate County and stakeholder decision making.

**Goal:** Develop an internal review process for recreational projects.

**Rationale:** Developing an internal review process will help facilitate decision making for future recreation related projects.



**Strategy 1:** Recreational Advisory Committee (RAC) or other project proposer to utilize recreational review process to initiate new projects.

**Strategy 2:** RAC to provide initial review to recreational project being proposed prior to the project proposer paying application fee. *See Appendix D. Recreational Review Process & Application, p.45-57.*

**Strategy 3:** The RAC will work with Planning and Zoning, the Planning Commission, Natural Resources, and the County Board to help explore and implement recommendations considered essential to the start-up of the Recreational Review process. The following recommendations have been preliminarily identified for discussion:

**Recommendation 1:** Amend County Planning and Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 2, Section 2 to include/add 7. Recreational Review Process.

**Note:** Chapter 2 of the Becker County Zoning Ordinance deals with Planning Commission Creation, Membership, and Duties.

**Recommendation 2:** Develop separate conditional use permit (CUP) application for projects flagged as recreational in nature. (CUP application may require additional/ongoing modifications). *See Appendix D., p. 46-57.*

**Recommendation 3:** Adopt the Department of Natural Resources, Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines (2006) to guide trail design, construction, and ongoing maintenance.

**Recommendation 4:** CUP permit approval for all single and multi-use designated trails on County managed lands is contingent on the development and planning process review and approval of an acceptable monitoring, maintenance, and enforcement plan.

**Recommendation 5:** Revisit County Zoning Ordinances relative to recreational uses. (*See Reference directly below for current Zoning Ordinance language*)

**Reference:** County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 11, Non-Residential Land Uses in the GA and RES and HDR Districts (Recreational uses referenced below):

A. *Non-residential uses except industrial. Recreational uses, public and semi-public uses such as churches, schools, utility buildings, club houses associated with golf courses, etc., are generally traffic generators, bringing people and automotive traffic into the General Agriculture, Residential or High Density Residential zone, in particular attentions should be paid to the following:*

1. *Proximity to traffic generator routes - intersection of these routes as opposed to other minor roads.*

2. *Setbacks from adjacent property for screening and landscaping should be adequate.*
3. *Screening of intensive use areas, such as parking, signing, or lighted areas should be accomplished.*
4. *Fencing or similar systems to keep people off of adjacent properties.*
5. *Consideration of limiting hours of use to provide compatibility with neighbors in such case where noise may be a limiting factor.*

**Strategy 4:** The RAC and/or Planning and Zoning will ensure that White Earth is notified of applicable proposals going through the recreational review process to better facilitate communication and comment.

**Note:** Tax forfeited land does not have a special zoning designation, but shares whatever zoning designation the land happens to be within.

**Resources:** White Earth, RAC, Planning Commission, Planning and Zoning, Natural Resource Management, County Board, Becker County Soil and Water, DNR, other governmental agencies, the public, Becker County COLA, and Pelican River Watershed District.

## **2. Recreational Advisory Committee (RAC)**

In creating the Recreational Advisory Committee, the Park and Recreation (P&R) Board and Recreational Plan Steering Committee have reviewed/recommended changes to the current Park and Recreation Board organizational structure to the County Board, to better address existing and future recreational opportunities within the County.

**Goal:** Replace the existing Park and Recreation Board and create a Recreational Advisory Committee.

**Rationale:** The organizational title of the County Parks and Recreation Board is a misnomer – it is not a Board which acts independently of the County Board, but operates as an advisory committee to the County Board. Replacing the Parks and Recreation Board with a Recreational Advisory Committee better reflects its actual advisory relationship to the County Board. Importantly it is believed that this new Advisory Committee will improve communications, outreach, coordination, and thereby enhance implementation of the Recreational Plan.

**Strategy 1:** Create a Recreational Advisory Committee.

- Review the roles, responsibilities, and capacity of the Park Board as it relates to the emerging Recreational Plan.
- County develop Recreation Advisory Committee Bylaws, Mission Statement and Purpose and Objectives...

*See Appendix A.: Recreational Advisory Committee Resolution & Bylaws, p. 29-34.*

**Status:** Completed

**Strategy 2:** Disband the Winter Trails Advisory Committee (WTAC).

**Rationale:** The Winter Trails Advisory Committee was originally formed to help develop new snowmobile trails during a period of high snowmobile trail development activity in the County. Under Snowmobiling in the Implementation Section of the Recreation Plan, the goal listed is to “Maintain existing snowmobile trails”. The sheer volume of initiatives anticipated with the Recreational Plan speaks to the need to simplify management and coordinative functions of the RAC. The responsibility lies with the RAC to determine if an ad hoc committee or subcommittee needs to be created to perform a specific task(s) relative to the mission at hand. In disbanding the WTAC, the RAC will work in consultation with local snowmobile clubs and partners to help determine and recommend management and operational needs related to snowmobiling in the County.

**Resources:** White Earth, RAC, Planning Commission, Planning and Zoning, Natural Resource Management, County Board, Becker County Soil and Water, DNR, other governmental agencies, the public, Becker County COLA, and Pelican River Watershed District.

**Status:** Completed

### 3. Recreational Inventory & Webpage

**Goal 1:** Identify and take stock of the County’s current recreational opportunities and promote/market it to residents and nonresidents.

**Rationale:** Developing a recreational inventory is considered a first step to identify recreational assets/opportunities and to actively promote them.

**Strategy 1:** Develop a recreational inventory for the Recreation Plan and provide relevant recreational information on the County website.

**Strategy 2:** Continue to update inventory and webpage as needed, but at least on an annual basis.

**Goal 2:** Inventory and assess forest roads/trails, and recreational trails as to location and current condition and post same on County Web page.

**Strategy 1:** Develop condition/sustainability criteria for trails assessment.

**Suggested Impact thresholds/procedures related to trail condition:**



Trail is properly classified, appropriately designed and responsibly used.



Trail requires higher level of monitoring/enforcement to reverse trend toward becoming an unacceptable level of impact. Trail classification/designation, design, and use all have to be analyzed to determine best course of action.



Trail requires re-classification/designation, redesign, restriction of use, or decommissioning (closure) to protect natural resource.

**Note:** In the event of a permanent trail closure, the Recreational Advisory Committee in concert with the Natural Resources Committee, will provide a trail condition assessment along with a recommendation for trail closure or change in designation to the Planning Commission (via the Recreational Review Process) for their review and public review prior to going before the County Board for final review and consideration.

**Goal 3:** Develop a needs assessment process for evaluating various recreational activities.

**Rationale:** A needs assessment is used to evaluate the need for a particular recreational activity and allows the County to pro-actively plan for future recreational activity on county tax forfeited land. (A needs assessment is a scientifically study to gain an understanding of the recreation needs, attitudes, opinions and behaviors of the constituency served.)

**Strategy 1:** Create recreational activity evaluation recommendations to be used as an aid for developing recreational needs assessment(s) as needed. *See Appendix G. Recreational Activity Evaluation Recommendations, p.63.*

**Goal 4:** Utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data as a tool to help identify areas of high conservation priority and recreational opportunity areas.

**Rationale:** Through spatial analysis, GIS provides an opportunity to approach land use planning from a more sustainable perspective. Within this planning context the use of GIS can provide a tool for assessing (in part) the “optimal use and protection of natural resources over the long term (environmental sustainability) and meeting the needs and aspirations of the present generation (socio-economic sustainability)” [Lier, *Sustainable Land Use Planning*, Chapter 1, 1997]. The use of GIS for recreational planning purposes still requires a boots/eyes on the ground perspective, as well as an ongoing dialogue on acceptable data sets and input parameters for use with the GIS evaluation process.

- Strategy 1:** Integrate the GIS Toolkit software developed by the Univ. of MN, USFS, and Univ. of Vermont to determine its efficacy for use by Becker County for recreational planning purposes.
- A. Geographic area of focus on the Smoky Hills to assess the viability of routing a bike trail segment of the Heartland Trail through the Smoky Hills to connect the Cities of Osage and Wolf Lake.
  - B. Further assess the software’s capabilities by applying different spatial data/criteria for trail development.

**Strategy 2:** Work with White Earth, County Planning and Zoning, Natural Resource Management, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Recreational Advisory Committee to identify protection zones within the County.

**Resources:** White Earth, RAC, County Land Manager, IT Department, Economic Development Authority, and DNR (County biological survey/other data)

#### **4. Land Managers’ Meetings**

A recognized need is to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones in order to better accomplish the vision and goals set forth in this plan. A quarterly or bi-yearly meeting will be held with area land managers to improve communication and coordination of recreational opportunities in the County.

**Goal:** Conduct bi-yearly or quarterly meetings with land managers to improve communication and coordination of recreational opportunities in the County.

**Rationale:** The idea of having a larger group of local land managers meet on an ongoing basis was an outgrowth of the first meeting of land managers held on 12/15/09 to talk about the County Recreational Plan and process. Common themes of the meeting included: 1) Creating Connections; 2) Identifying Partners; 3) Working Together; 4) Better Coordination of Planning, Projects and Funding Activities; 5) Managing Change; 6) Protecting Natural Resources; and 7) Providing Access.

**Strategy 1:** Integrate meeting protocols into County Resolution establishing the Recreational Advisory Committee and Bylaws.

**Strategy 2:** RAC and staff to coordinate meetings with land managers (local, tribal, regional, state, and federal).

**Resources:** RAC, White Earth, Cities, DNR, Tamarac, other Counties (if applicable), Becker County Soil and Water, other governmental agencies, the public, Becker County COLA, and the Pelican River Watershed District.

## 5. New Parks & Recreation Ordinance

- Goal:** Develop a County Parks and Recreation Ordinance to replace existing ordinances.
- Rationale:** The new Parks and Recreation Ordinance better encompasses governance and enforcement issues related to parks and recreational use of lands managed by Becker County.
- Strategy 1:** Develop County Parks and Recreation Ordinance concurrent with County's Recreational Plan development.
- Strategy 2:** Conduct Public Hearings and receive citizen input.
- Strategy 3:** County Administration will present new ordinance to County Board for adoption, repealing existing ordinance.
- Resources:** Steering Committee, Park Board, Natural Resources, Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office, County Administrator, County Board, and the public.

## 6. Coordination & Promotion of Regional Recreational Assets

The County, Cities, Townships and White Earth educational institutions, land managers, businesses and non profits provide needed recreational infrastructure to serve a wide variety of public/private and group/individual recreational activities and interests. The Becker County/Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce provides a forum for bringing tourism development interests together to better link local marketing and business /economic development initiatives. The Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center provides a variety of recreational activities and services as well as being cultural/ theatre/arts draw for the region. The Becker County Historical Museum provides a rich resource and a unique recreational feature that captures the history of Becker County. M State's Business and Entrepreneurial Center provides training opportunities aimed at generating new small business ventures which are the economic backbone of rural tourism. Additionally, The White Earth Reservation which comprises 30% of the County brings an added cultural dimension to tourism development in the County/region.

**Goal:** Help improve communication, coordination, marketing, and promotion of recreation and tourism related activities and initiatives.

**Rationale:** "To be sustainable over the long haul, tourism development must catalyze the development of the host community toward its own ideal."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Rural Tourism Development* (Long and Lane); *Trends in Outdoor Recreation, Leisure and Tourism* (Gartner and Lime), Chap. 27, p. 308.

**Strategy 1:** Develop County website to better promote recreational activities in the County.<sup>4</sup>

**Strategy 2:** County will hold local and regional meetings with land managers and other applicable stakeholders to improve communication and coordination of recreation and tourism related activities and initiatives.<sup>5</sup>

**Strategy 3:** Work with Cities and other appropriate levels of government (in particular those with capacity/resource constraints), White Earth, and applicable organizations who have an interest in helping to prioritize and coordinate recreational activities/amenities and explore funding sources.\*

**Strategy 4:** Explore partnerships with non-profits to increase recreational opportunities.

**Resources:** RAC, land managers (local/tribal/regional/state/federal), Regional Chamber of Commerce, Department of Employment and Economic Development, M-State, Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center, Becker County Museum, elected representatives, Becker County COLA and local lake associations, educational institutions, and non-profits.

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<sup>4</sup> See BC Rec. Plan under *Plan Implementation, A. County Capacity Issues, 3. Recreational Inventory & Webpage* p. 19.

<sup>5</sup> See BC Rec. Plan under *Plan Implementation, A. County Capacity Issues, 4. Land Manager Meetings*, p. 20.

\* As an example, in 2010, the County worked with the City of Frazee to help jumpstart the implementation of its Otter Trail River master planning process.

## **B. Recreational Activities**

The recreational inventory contained within this plan provides a baseline against which future recreational activities can be measured. Recreational activities that are listed on the pages that follow represent a wide variety of current and future recreational opportunities within the County for residents and visitors. Part of the challenge of planning for the future, is to take the element of uncertainty out of the planning process, which is most readily done by building upon recreational activities that are consistently in demand. Additionally, being “flexible” can allow stakeholders across the recreational spectrum to recognize new/emerging recreational opportunities and turn them to local advantage as recreational assets to provide both economic and conservation related benefits.

### **Vision Statement**

Ensure the long term sustainability of County administered lands by protecting our natural resources and balancing recreational activities among all user groups County-wide to create a high quality recreational experience for all.

### **Trails Planning/Assessment Process**

As a next step, the Recreational Advisory Committee and the Natural Resources Committee will review the condition of County managed forest roads/trails with the intent to review and address recreational trail use over time to better design and appropriately designate trails capable of accommodating specific recreational uses.

### **Land Management Statement**

From past experience, the County recognizes that there will always be different opinions regarding the classification and use of County administered lands. The recreational review process that has been established will help ensure compatibility with the Recreational Plan, the Vision Statement listed above, County goals, ordinances, other permitting requirements, and provide a forum for stakeholder and public input on recreation related projects into the future (in addition to any ancillary processes such as an EAW, which may run concurrent to the County’s recreational review process).

### **Recreation Review Statement**

As recreation facilities, trails, or other projects are proposed on County administered lands, they will be reviewed as part of the County’s recreational review process as well as the DNR’s environmental review process when applicable. Inherent in project proposal review (for all forms of recreation), the Recreational Review Process will be used to evaluate the current recreation facility or trail system and determine if adjustments (reductions, modification, or additions) are needed. As future recreational projects are proposed, the classification/designation of County administered lands (which various recreational projects will utilize) will be reviewed as part of the County’s recreational review process.

## 1. Arts/Entertainment

In addition to the Becker County Museum, the County offers an array of fine art and handicrafts by local/regional artists as well as centers for culture and entertainment. The Anishinaabe Cultural Center and Gallery features traditional performances, musicians, carvers, beading, speakers and language classes. The gallery located in Calloway showcases the work of Native American artists. The Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center offers recreational activities including an indoor pool, waterslide, fitness center, track and racquetball courts, as well as local, national, and international talent at the Holmes Theater. Becker County hosts top county stars at the WE Fest music festival. Polar plunge, dog-sled racing, community concerts, art shows and Shakespeare in the Park are just some of the many activities provided for those in the County to enjoy.

**Goal 1:** Encourage utilization of existing facilities and promote tourism.

**Strategy:** Identify opportunities to work with to promote use of arts/entertainment in Becker County. Identify any future trends or developments.

**Resources:** Becker County Museum, White Earth, Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center, Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce, Cities, County, civic groups, and other for profit and non profit organizations.

## 2. ATV/OHV's

Becker County currently contains over 60 miles of Grant-in-Aid designated ATV trails. These trails are predominantly located in and around the Two Inlets and Smoky Hills State Forest in northeastern Becker County. There are an additional seven miles of State designated ATV trails and another 45 miles of state forest roads and trails where ATV riding is permitted. The following goals and strategies provide next steps to address current and future ATV/OHV use on County managed lands.

**Goal 1:** Evaluate ATV/OHV trail use on County managed lands.

**Goal 2:** Evaluate recreational activities in terms of compatibility in order to better mitigate recreational conflict.<sup>6</sup>

**Strategy 1:** Evaluate and determine if there is a need for additional designated ATV trail development on County managed lands.

**Strategy 2:** As part of an ATV needs assessment, explore a regional approach to better link existing designated ATV trails.

**Resources:** RAC, White Earth, DNR, Planning Commission, Land Managers, County Board, Natural Resource Management, and interest groups

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<sup>6</sup> *Compatibility and Conflict in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation, Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2005-2010), P. 4-9.*

### 3. Bicycling

The County, local communities, and townships are working together to increase bicycling opportunities to create an alternative mode of transportation within and between cities for commuting and recreational purposes. Additionally opportunities to create trails for mountain biking within the County (Mountain View Recreation Area) are also being developed.

**Goal:** Evaluate the need for more designated bike trails within the County.

**Rationale:** As a recreational activity, bicycling ranks high in economic benefit, second<sup>7</sup> only to hiking in the region. This interest has fueled County and local cities to explore funding opportunities to help plan and develop new bike trails for residents and non residents alike.

**Strategy 1:** Work with local communities to explore expanding the network of bike trails. Trails separate from roads are most desirable, but not always possible, so designating Right of Way (ROW) along roads should also be explored to accommodate bike traffic and better link residential, school, and business areas within communities.

**Resources:** RAC, Cities/stakeholders, Chamber, DNR, bicycling clubs, developers and grants

### 4. Bird Watching

Becker County is situated within three ecological zones (Prairie Parkland, Eastern Broadleaf Forest, and Laurentian Mixed Forest) that provides habitat for a wide variety of birds and bird- watching opportunities. Bird species diversity in the County is estimated at over 275 different species. The annual Festival of Birds brings birders from all over the Country and highlights the importance of birds and birding to the region.

**Trends:** In 2006 Birders in Minnesota represented 33% of the population - down from 36% in 2001(USFSW). From 2001to 2006 expenditures related to bird watching in Minnesota increased 15%. In 2006, approximately \$699 million was spent on bird watching in Minnesota. From 1991 to 2006, in-state birding activity decreased by 18% (USFSW).

**Goal:** Protect bird habitat to ensure species diversity.

**Rationale:** Some bird species can adapt to urban, suburban habitats and agricultural monocultures, but many require natural habitat to flourish.

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<sup>7</sup> *Becker County Recreational Plan (2010):* Appendix D. Total Trip Spending by Activity - Central Region, p. 42; Source: Univ. of MN Tourism Center, *Economic Impact of Recreational Trail Use in Different Regions of MN (2009)*, total spending by activity, Central Region, p. 20-101.

<b>Indicator 1:</b>	<u>Predominate County Land Cover*</u>	<u>% of total</u>
	Forested	39%
	Cultivated Land	33%
	Hay/Pasture/Grassland	10%
	Bog/Marsh/Fen	5%
	Water	9%
	Brushland	2%
	Urban/Rural Development	2%

\*MN Land Management Information Center (from *Becker County Comprehensive Plan - 2003*)

**Indicator 2:** 170 Bird Species Identified (2009 Festival of Birds);  
166 Bird Species Identified (2010 Festival of Birds)

**Strategy 1:** Monitor changes to land cover. Monitor bird species identified via the Festival of Birds event and winter bird counts.

**Strategy 2:** Be aware of and explore opportunities that increase bird habitat.

**Strategy 3:** Work in-conjunction with Chamber and local/state organizations hosting birding festivals within Becker County.

**Resources:** RAC, USFWS (wildlife biologists), DNR, Becker County Soil and Water, White Earth, Natural Resource Management, Land Managers, Planning & Zoning, special interest groups (Becker County COLA), Pelican River Watershed District, Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce, and birding clubs.

## 5. Boating & Public Water Access

Tourism and recreation are one of the single most important driving forces in Becker County and Minnesota.. Lakes and other waters are what people primarily come to Becker County to enjoy. Becker County is fortunate to have a large variety of lakes from which boaters can choose. Predominately, boating activities in the area consist of fishing, pleasure cruising, jet skiing, and kayaking/canoeing. Lake access and water quality are key elements to enjoying lake related recreational pursuits.

### Indicators: 1. Public Water Access

- County (14)
- State (16)
- USFWS (3)
- White Earth (1)
- City of Detroit Lakes (1)

### 2. Water Quality of Area Lakes

- See *BC Lakes – Water Quality Trends*, p. 44
- Aquatic Invasive Species/location(s), status\*

\* Data Sources: Pelican River Watershed, BC COLA, Soil & Water, DNR, MPCA

**Goal 1:** Evaluate the need for increasing public access to area lakes.

**Strategy:** Review current inventory of County managed land parcels with “undeveloped” and “limited” access to evaluate public access development.

**Goal 2:** Ensure economic health of lakes, rivers and watersheds by exploring strategies to prevent spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into Becker County waters.

**Strategy:** Encourage partnerships with appropriate entities to accomplish common objectives to protect our lakes against aquatic invasive species. Recommendations from COLA that will require strategy refinement , partnerships and funding to implement include:

- Educating Becker County property owners and visitors on the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).
- Explore/develop solutions to prevent the spread of AIS. Some examples include: self-contained portable decontamination stations, bait disposal receptacles, education (as mentioned above) and inspections.
- Partners to communicate at the State and local level on the importance of state responsibility on the AIS issue and call for the development of a more pro-active state stance when it involves AIS.

**Resources:** RAC, Natural Resource Management, Becker County Soil and Water, White Earth, Cities, Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA), Pelican River Watershed Districts and other appropriate watersheds and Counties, DNR.

## 6. Camping

Public campgrounds in Becker County are limited to Hungryman Campground, a DNR operated 14 unit campground located in northeast Becker County, and the Wolf Pack Campground located on Wolf Lake in the southeast.

**Trends:** Camping is one of very few recreational activities that show an increasing trend from 1994-2004 (NSGA annual participation survey). The *2004 Outdoor Recreation Facility Survey of Minnesota Cities, Counties and School Districts* ranks the need for additional camping facilities within the next 5 years as the seventh most important recreational need facing MN Counties.

**Goal:** Explore the need for more short term camping in Becker County.

**Rationale:** As the number of resorts in the County continues to decline, those resorts still offering camping opportunities are shifting their focus away from short-term camping and moving towards seasonal campsites.

**Strategy 1:** Review state and county records to determine the actual number of short-term campsites available in Becker County.

**Strategy 2:** Examine issues surrounding the reasons private resorts and campgrounds are trending away from short term camping and moving towards seasonal sites.

**Strategy 3:** Identify potential location(s) for public/private campground(s)

**Resources:** RAC, Univ. of MN Tourism/Extension, and agencies working on creating and completing the National Scenic Trail, i.e., North County Trail.

## 7. Canoeing/Kayaking & Tubing

In Becker County, canoeing, kayaking, and tubing opportunities can be found on area lakes and streams, but are primarily found on the Otter Tail River (OTR). In 2006 the River was designated as a State Canoe and Boating Route, becoming the 31<sup>st</sup> such water route in Minnesota. The River flows through three ecosystems representative of the State and has a rich natural and human and history. After designation as a canoe and boating route, the MN DNR Trails and Waterways developed a draft map for the entire river. The Fargo-Moorhead River Keepers organization continued the work of the DNR by helping to develop a Master Plan (2009) for the OTR in order to continue improving water-based recreation on the River. To date, implementation of some action items within the plan have been implemented within the Frazee reach of the River.

**Goal:** Help implement the *Otter Trail River Canoe and Boating Route Master Plan (2009)*.

**Rationale:** The Master Plan was developed to provide for a safe, attractive, water trail that provides recreational opportunities and creates partnerships for local economic development.

**Strategy 1:** Work with Frazee and the DNR, and River Keepers and/or other community stakeholders to implement applicable components of the OTR Master Plan.

**Strategy 2:** Explore suitable areas for developing river access, camping and parking along the Frazee Reach of the OTR.

**Strategy 3:** Work with the DNR and local partners to identify funding opportunities for accomplishing overall OTR implementation (all reaches along the 156.5 mile route).

**Resources:** RAC, DNR, City of Frazee, FM River Keepers, Frazee Canoe and Kayak Club, Frazee Sportsman's club, Other Reach communities, Civic Groups, Scouts and MCC.

## 8. Cross Country Skiing (commonly abbreviated XC skiing)

Becker County's undulating terrain provides an excellent environment for XC skiing during winters with typical snowfall and temperatures. XC skiing is mostly located in the Broadleaf Forest and Laurentian Mixed Forest zones in the County. Increasing fuel costs, local vacations along with increasing awareness of health related benefits of outdoor exercise, provide opportunity to expand this winter recreational activity.

<b>Indicator:</b>	<u>Current ski trails in County</u>	<u>Kilometers</u>	<u>Miles</u>
	Dunton Locks (County)	6.1	3.8
	Ike Fischer (private/open to public)	16.0	9.9
	Mountain View Recreational Area (County)	9.7	6.0
	Pickerel Lake	9.3	5.8
	Pine Lake (Tamarac)	12.2	7.6
	Maplelag (private)	64.0	39.8
	Rainbow Resort (private)	23.0	14.3

**Goal:** Assess options aimed at improving the quality and/or maintenance of current XC ski trails. Evaluate the need for new XC ski trails.

**Rationale:** The recreational experience of XC skiing is enhanced by well designed and XC maintained trails. Timely grooming allows skiers to use trails soon after snowfalls and during times of lesser snow.

**Strategy 1:** Work with the County, DNR and USFWS on existing trails before snow season. Cooperate between agencies with grooming equipment and trail protocols during the ski season.

**Strategy 2:** Evaluate the potential for establishing new groomed ski areas (such as the former Detroit Mountain Ski Area).

**Strategy 3:** Take a multi-purpose approach by identifying XC skiing opportunities on other established or planned for hiking, biking or horse trails.

**Resources:** County, DNR, USFWS, destination XC skiing resorts, middle and high school ski teams, Chamber of Commerce, local cities. Trail maps provided by County, DNR, resorts or landowners.

## 9. Equestrian

Becker County is home to many avid equestrian riders and many acres of forested lands. Informal trails exist sporadically within the County - predominately on private land and via shoulder riding along existing roads.

**Goal:** Evaluate the need to create designated trails for equestrian recreation.

**Strategy:** Work with local equestrian clubs to develop interest and explore trail development.

**Resources:** RAC, Equestrian clubs/enthusiasts, DNR (grants)

## 10. Fishing

There are numerous fishing opportunities within the County, yet fishing is not hooking as many young new anglers today with an 11% decline (from 2000-2005) in the purchase of fishing licenses among those Minnesotan's between the ages of 16 to 44 (DNR, 2007).

Reasons for the decline in participation include: urbanization, time constraints, electronics (video games) and sports. The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR, USFWS) provides a comparison of Minnesota anglers and spending for 1996 and 2006:

**Goal:** Get kids hooked on the outdoors.

**Rationale:** The angling population is getting older. A declining participation in fishing reduces license revenues which in turn reduce funds that support conservation efforts aimed at fisheries management and the preservation of lakes and streams.

### MN Trends/Indicators:

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2006</u>
Anglers	1,538,000	1,108,000
Avg. days/angler	20	18
Total expenditures	\$1,807,919,000	\$2,259,074,000
Avg. per angler	\$1,086	\$2,038
Avg. trip expenditure	\$25	\$31

**Strategy 1:** Determine if DNR marketing and outreach efforts are/have been effective.

**Strategy 2:** Explore local strategies for increasing awareness and interest in fishing and the outdoors. The importance of water quality and the potential impact of aquatic invasive species to fishing should be factored in to strategy development.

**Resources:** RAC, White Earth, DNR, Cities, County, USFS, USFW, Chamber, Becker County COLA, Pelican River Watershed, Soil and Water, and other stakeholders.

## 11. Golf/Tennis

Becker County golf courses hallmark are their park-like quality amid natural scenery – rolling carpets of velvety green reaching out to meet forests and lakes. Becker County has comfortable temperatures for spring, summer and fall golf with very affordable green fees. Our communities boast excellent tennis courts.

**Goal 1:** Encourage utilization of existing facilities and promote tourism.

**Strategy:** Identify opportunities to work with existing golf courses/tennis courts to promote use. Identify any future trends or developments.

**Resources:** Numerous golf courses and tennis facilities within County, cities and interested citizens.

## 12. Hiking/Backpacking/Walking

Hiking ranks #1 in economic benefit in the Central Region. The North Country Hiking Trail will provide a significant hiking experience for residents and visitor's to enjoy. As a result of this trails' development and the discourse that has accompanied local ATV/OHV discussions, the County recognizes the importance of protecting the hiking experience by reducing as much as possible, trail use conflicts that can occur when silent sports and motorized recreation are too close to each other. Walking is as everyday as talking and an essential means of mobility, health, and quality of life. A walk down a country road, a walk to school, walking downtown is a recreational experience which involves connections to the outdoors and to the community. While walking can occur anywhere, there are many opportunities within the County to create walkable communities that not only become more pedestrian friendly, but become thriving, livable and more sustainable places to live, work, and play.

**Goal 1:** Evaluate the need for providing new hiking trails within the County.

**Strategy:** Work with interested groups to evaluate the need for additional hiking trail development.

**Resources:** RAC, Natural Resources Management, White Earth, special interest groups.

**Goal 2:** Explore/identify opportunities that encourage more walkable communities.

**Resources:** RAC, Natural Resource Management, White Earth, special interest groups, Cities (of which there are some initiatives underway).

**Strategy:** Evaluate local initiatives/interests aimed at developing more walkable communities to better understand how the County could encourage/facilitate a shift towards more walkable communities with added consideration of the needs of all age groups (including ADA accessibility).

**Goal 3:** Develop full range of hiking, backpacking, and walking trails from brief nature walks on well-maintained paths to adventurous backpacking treks in more rugged terrain.

**Strategy 1:** Encourage development of day hike trails--which can be completed within a day that showcase some of the best scenery of Becker County.

**Strategy 2:** Promote development of Heartland Trail and North County National Scenic Trail.

**Resources:** RAC, Natural Resource Management, White Earth, special interest groups, Cities (of which there are some initiatives underway).

### **13. Hunting/Shooting**

The County offers a wide variety of land/terrain suitable for hunting. How the hunter accesses the land (by foot, OHV and motor vehicle) and/or utilizes County roads, forest roads and trails are issues which will be explored to balance recreational needs and preserve natural resources and habitat.

**Goal:** Evaluate the need to develop park-and-walk hunting opportunities utilizing existing forest roads and trails.

**Strategy:** Review inventory of County forest roads and trails that might provide a good fit for providing parking pullouts along roads in close proximity to forest trails.

**Resources:** RAC, Natural Resources Management and White Earth.

### **14. Mountain Biking**

The Mountain View Recreational area will be the first mountain bike trail that has been developed by the County.

**Goal:** Evaluate the need for additional mountain bike trails in the County.

**Strategy:** Explore suitable areas for mountain bike trails.

**Resources:** RAC, Natural Resources Committee, special interest groups, DNR.

### **15. Parks and Picnic Areas**

The County has developed a variety of Parks and Picnic areas to meet the increasing recreational demands of its residents. These amenities enhance the community's quality of life and competitiveness.

**Goal:** Maintain and improve existing parks and evaluate the need for new parks.

**Rationale:** Each park should have its own use and operational narrative as part of developing a needs assessment for ongoing maintenance or for making improvements to each park. Park improvement recommendations can then be costed-out, phased, and integrated into a capital improvement program for future funding consideration.

**Strategy 1:** Assess the use and ongoing maintenance needs of existing parks in the County.

**Strategy 2:** Explore locations within the County for new park development as part of the assessment and evaluation process.

**Strategy 3:** Explore opportunities to work with local governments and White Earth to coordinate park and picnic areas.

**Resources:** RAC, Natural Resource Committee, White Earth, other stakeholders.

## **16. Scenic Byways & Cultural/Historical Tourism**

Becker County has numerous scenic byways that provide scenic views of prime forest and lake country. Additionally the County has many destinations that have cultural/historical significance and are of interest to residents and visitors including the Becker County Museum.

**Goal:** Identify, preserve, and promote areas of scenic and historical significance.

**Strategy 1:** Map scenic byways, cultural and historical destinations and utilize global positioning system [gps] to provide directional location information and coordinates.

**Strategy 2:** Provide interpretation (can also include signage, podcasts) for areas or sites of cultural/historical significance.

**Strategy 3:** Integrate mapping, gps coordinates, and podcasts into the Becker County Historical Society and Chamber website and link to County website.

**Resources:** Becker County Historical Society, RAC, Chamber, DNR grants: Legacy and other governmental entities connected by the Lake Country Scenic Byway.

## 17. Snowmobile Trails

There are approximately 310 miles of grant –in-aid snowmobile trails in Becker County. These area trails also connect to a network of adjoining trails that will take you wherever you want to go. Grooming and maintenance of area snowmobile trails are funded through the registration of the state’s 252,000 snowmobiles, receipts from a State Trail Sticker, and a percentage of the non-refunded gasoline tax. Local snowmobile clubs apply annually to the MN-DNR for funding to maintain the trails and the equipment necessary to keep them in top form.

**Trends:** Snowmobile registrations in Minnesota peaked around 2007 at approximately 270,000 and have since declined to around 253,000 registrations. Trail miles have remained relatively steady at approximately 22,000 miles spread across the state. Over 21,000 of those miles are maintained through 181 Snowmobile Trail Assistance Grants to the 200 organized snowmobile clubs within Minnesota. The MN-DNR manages less than 1,000 miles of snowmobile trails. In 2009, the MN-DNR requested snowmobile clubs apply to provide additional trail miles throughout the state. As a result an additional 1,355 miles of snowmobile trail miles were added to the state’s trail system.

**Goal:** Maintain existing and enhance snowmobile trails.

**Rationale:** The County Board has concluded that maintaining the existing trail system is the priority and can best be obtained by turning responsibility for grooming and maintenance to local snowmobile clubs using Government in Aid (GIA) funding and standards..

**Strategy 1:** Ensure adequate state funding to maintain trails over time.

**Strategy 2:** Becker County will continue as the required DNR sponsor.

**Resources:** Snowmobile clubs, RAC, and DNR

## 18. Swimming Beaches

See Swimming Beaches under Recreational Inventory on County Webpage

[http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks\\_recreation/recreation.aspx](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks_recreation/recreation.aspx)

## 19. Tubing/Sledding

See Tubing/Sledding under Recreational Inventory on County Webpage

[http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks\\_recreation/recreation.aspx](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks_recreation/recreation.aspx)

## 20. Wildlife & Natural Areas

Becker County has a multitude of natural areas that have ecological and biological significance, provide ideal habitat for wildlife, and create scenic and educational opportunities for visitors. Protecting, enhancing, and restoring habitat and encouraging sustainable use of natural resources for future generations is a high priority to sustain the County's environmental, economic and community value for future generations (see *Becker County Natural Resources Goals as excerpted on p. 35*).

<b>Indicators:</b>	<u>National Wildlife Refuges</u> Tamarac NWR – 42,738 acres Hamden Slough – 5,932 acres	<u>Waterfowl Production Areas</u> 11,929.5 acres
	<u>Wildlife Management Areas</u> MN DNR – 17 areas – 6,319 acres	<u>Scientific and Natural Areas</u> Greenwater Lake SNA – 815 acres
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Atlanta State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Callaway State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Chilton Park</li><li>▪ Coburn State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Cuba State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Hubbel Pond Game Refuge</li><li>▪ Linbom Lake State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Lunde State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Melbye State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Ogema Springs State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Pednor State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Pine Grove Roadside Park</li><li>▪ Poodle Park</li><li>▪ Riparia State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Spring Creek State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ Teiken-Dalve State Wildlife Management Area</li><li>▪ White Earth State Wildlife Management Area</li></ul>	
	<u>State Forests</u> Smoky Hills – 25,358 acres Two Inlets – 28,130 acres White Earth – 49,424 acres (in County)	<u>State Parks</u> Itasca – 3711 acres (in County)
	<u>Aquatic Management Areas</u> Christianson Peninsula-Bad Medicine Lake	<u>County Preserves</u> 13 Preserves - 300 acres of old growth forest
	<u>City Preserves</u> Sucker Creek Preserve–69 acres (DL)	

**Trends:** Some of the fastest growing recreational trends documented at the national level include activities that involve viewing/photographing natural scenery,

wildflowers, trees, wildlife and birds, and visiting nature centers and wilderness. (See Appendix C.: *Recreational Trends and Drivers*, p. 37-44)

**Rationale:** “Our relationship to nature is ultimately shaped locally. It is in our immediate backyards, streets, parks, stream banks and remnants of woods, and prairie...that we must demonstrate the importance of natural amenities to people if we ever hope to show them the importance of larger environmental questions.”<sup>8</sup>

**Goal 1:** Encourage/facilitate opportunities in urban areas for people to engage in voluntary alliances of restoration and/or environmental projects (Example: Sucker Creek Preserve in DL).

**Strategy:** Identify areas of biological and ecological significance via the County biological survey to explore protection, conservation, and restoration opportunities in proximity to urban areas. (See Appendix L. *Biodiversity Map*, p. 68)

**Resources:** White Earth, MN county biological survey, RAC, Cities, Becker County Soil and Water, BC COLA, Pelican River Watershed District, DNR, other land managers, and special interest groups

## 21. Winter Sports

As noted under other recreational activity categories above (XC skiing, Snowmobiling, Tubing/Sledding) winter sports and events provide a critical shoulder season to the local economy and give local residents opportunities to remain active in the winter months. Therefore other winter sports such as sled dog racing, snowshoeing, skating, hockey, curling, snowboarding and skiing are mentioned because these activities do and have occurred within Becker County.

Goal: Identify and promote winter recreational activities and tourism.

Strategy: The Recreational Attractions Survey (See Appendix E. *Recreational Attractions Survey*, p. 58-61) will be used to help identify and promote winter recreational activities.

**Resources:** RAC, Natural Resources Management, White Earth, Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce, City of Frazee, other cities, Detroit Lakes Youth Hockey (Kent Freeman Arena), Detroit Lakes Curling Club, and non-profits that have formed to support winter sports activities

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<sup>8</sup> *Ecological Citizenship, The Democratic Promise of Restoration* (Andrew Light), *The Humane Metropolis: People and Nature in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century City*. 2006, p. 169-181.

## **Appendix A.: Recreational Advisory Committee Resolution and Bylaws**

### **BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 06-11-2E**

##### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECREATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS the County Board shall establish the Recreational Advisory Committee to advise the County on the governance and operation of the County Parks system, and the recreational use of lands managed by Becker County;

AND WHEREAS the County Board shall establish the following organizational makeup, duties and expenditure guidelines for the Committee as follows:

1. The County Board will create a Recreational Advisory Committee to replace the Parks and Recreation Board. The Recreational Advisory Committee shall be comprised of seven citizen members (one from each County Commissioner District of Becker County and two at large members all of whom will be appointed for four year terms), two County Board Members (appointed on a yearly basis) and the Parks and Recreation Director or "County Board Designee" hereafter referred to as CBD and the Land Commissioner or CBD. The Parks and Recreation Director or CBD and the Land Commissioner or CBD shall be permanent members of the Committee.
2. The County Administrator will designate the Parks and Recreation Director or CBD who will act to facilitate the RAC. The Land Commissioner or CBD shall act as a technical advisor. All records shall be kept in a file with the County in accordance with State Statutes.
3. The Recreation Advisory Committee shall hold monthly meetings at a time agreed upon by members; the date and location of said meeting shall be posted on the Becker County website. The co-chairs of the Committee may call special meetings to review work programs or conduct other business. Such meetings can be held at any location in the County. The Committee meetings shall be open to the general public.
4. The Recreation Advisory Committee shall hold two (2) meetings yearly to meet with local public land managers to discuss recreational trends, area projects, partnerships, and other recreation related issues.
5. The Committee shall also regularly invite area recreational interest groups and the public to discuss their needs, conflicts, and issues.
6. The Recreational Advisory Committee shall have no budgetary authority.

AND WHEREAS the County Board shall establish Bylaws for the Recreational Advisory Committee which shall supersede the previous bylaws established for the Parks and Recreation Board (See Attachment A).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board for Becker County upon careful consideration and review, approves the establishment of the Recreational Advisory Committee whose creation replaces the Becker County Parks and Recreation Board forthwith.

Duly adopted in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota this 28th day of June, 2011.

ATTEST:  
COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY BOARD OF  
Becker County, Minnesota

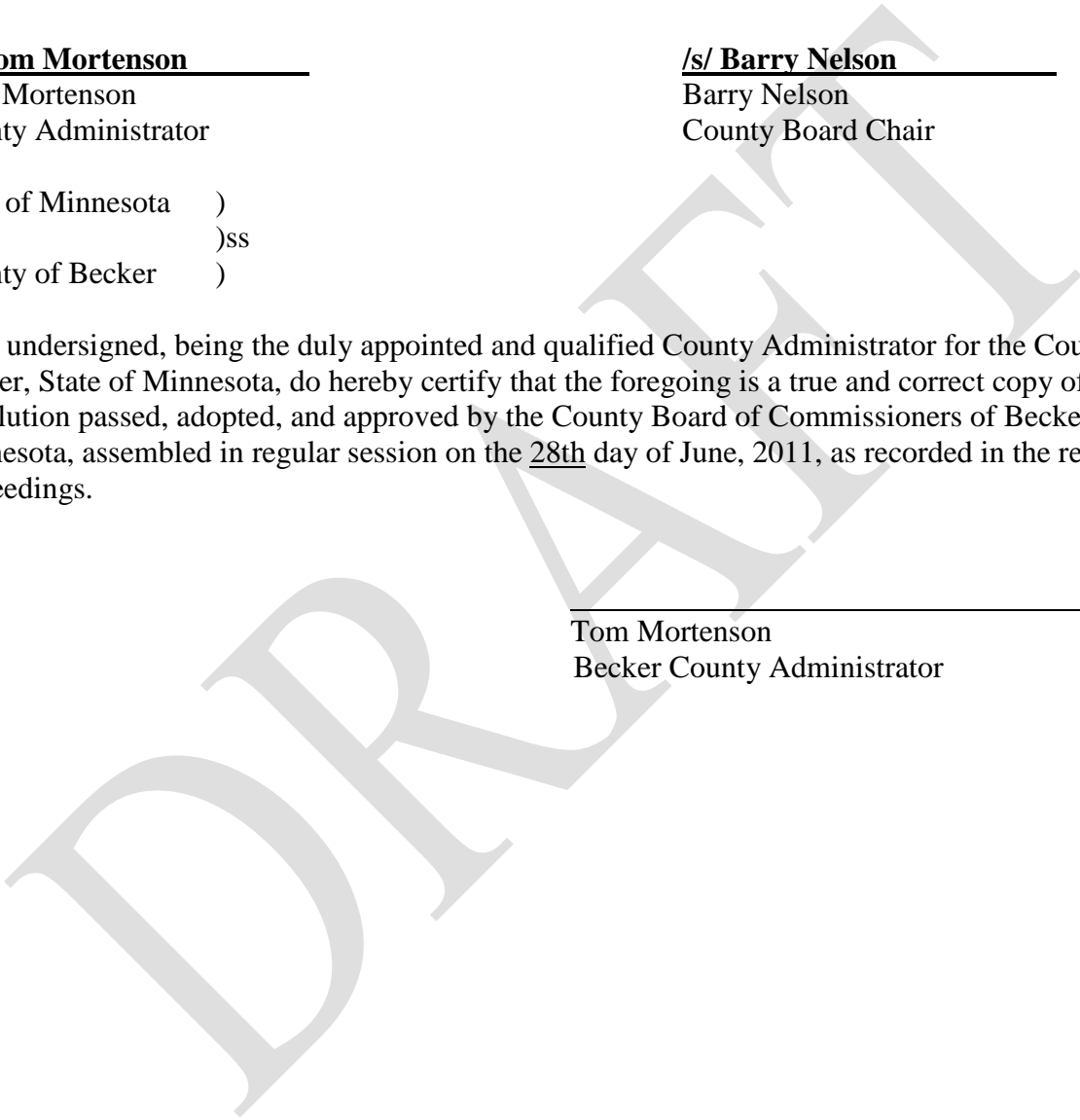
/s/ Tom Mortenson  
Tom Mortenson  
County Administrator

/s/ Barry Nelson  
Barry Nelson  
County Board Chair

State of Minnesota    )  
                                  )ss  
County of Becker     )

I, the undersigned, being the duly appointed and qualified County Administrator for the County of Becker, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed, adopted, and approved by the County Board of Commissioners of Becker County, Minnesota, assembled in regular session on the 28th day of June, 2011, as recorded in the record of proceedings.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Mortenson  
Becker County Administrator



## **ATTACHMENT A:**

### **RECREATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

#### **ARTICLE I. NAME OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Becker County Recreational Advisory Committee (RAC).

#### **ARTICLE II. MISSION STATEMENT**

Section 1. The mission of the RAC is to ensure the long term recreational sustainability of County administered lands by protecting our natural resources and balancing recreational activities among all user groups County-wide to create a high quality recreational experience for all.

#### **ARTICLE III. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES.**

Section 1. To Provide advice to the County Board of Commissioners, County Administrator on various matters pertaining to the management, maintenance and development of County parks, recreational areas and/or facilities, trails and other recreational activities.

Section 2. To provide for the interchange, dissemination of ideas and information to improve recreational opportunities within Becker County while maintaining the balance between protecting our natural resources and recreational activities.

Section 3. To make recommendations to the County Board that encourage outdoor recreation and provide for the most effective and efficient use of County Parks, recreational areas, facilities and trails to the County Board, and to carry out duties as may be assigned to them by the County Board.

Section 4. To study, investigate and advise the County Board on revisions to the short and long term goals of the Recreational Plan and to that end develop a yearly report of Committee activities and accomplishments submitted no later than the first of October each year.

Section 5. To study, investigate and advise the County Board in matters relating to the development, redevelopment of parks, recreational area and open space that are consistent with the Recreational Plan.

Section 6. To study, investigate and advise the County Board on funding opportunities, including any gifts of money or property, or endowments as may be made available compatible with the goals of the Recreational Plan.

Section 7. To study, investigate and advise the County Board in matters relating to park, recreational areas, facilities, etc. rules, regulations and policies, as the Board believes necessary and proper for the management and use by the public.

Section 8. To study, investigate and advise the County Board in matters relating to maintaining, improvement and creation of opportunities for the development of multi-use trails.

- Section 9. To study, investigate and advise the County Board on matters relating to the acquisition of new properties for recreational use.
- Section 10. To strengthen communications and partner with land management agencies, recreational interest groups, landowners and the public to better coordinate project development and leverage available resources to better inform the public on available recreational opportunities.
- Section 11. The Recreational Advisory Committee will act as a public forum and facilitate agency, interest groups, businesses and public comment to better serve the recreational interests of the people of Becker County and report their findings to the County Board.
- Section 12. To assist in publicizing the recreational opportunities of the County.
- Section 13. To encourage cooperation among Federal, State, County, Tribal, and all levels of local government, local organizations and the public.
- Section 14. To create awareness of the importance of sustainable natural resource use
- Section 15. RAC will provide initial review to recreational project being proposed prior to the project proposer paying application fee. The RAC will advise the County Board of the results of their review. The Recreational Advisory Committee will also provide comment via the County's internal review process and/or other applicable environmental review processes for recreational projects being considered in the County.
- Section 16. To advise the Board of Commissioners on matters of common concern as required.

#### **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. The Recreational Advisory Committee shall be comprised of seven (7) citizen voting members (one from each County Commissioner District of Becker County and two at-large members, all of whom will be appointed for staggered four year terms) by the County Board. The County Administrator may be directed to advertise for open positions at the direction of the County Board. The seven citizen members will each have one vote. Citizen committee members shall receive a per diem and mileage reimbursement for each meeting attended as established by the County Board.
- Section 2. Upon dissolving of the existing Park and Recreation Board and the adoption of the Recreational Advisory Committee the County Board may appoint persons to serve on the RAC with staggered terms as they currently exist on the Park and Recreation Board, serving the remainder of the existing terms. After implementation of this Article and Section outlining this term rotation, this section will be repealed by the by-laws of this organization. After which all terms will follow the standard rotation system as prescribed by the County Board.
- Section 3. In the event of the resignation of any RAC Board member, or his/her death, inability to serve or absence without acceptable reasons from three regular consecutive meetings, a vacancy shall be declared. Vacancies occurring on the RAC shall be filled for the unexpired term pursuant to Section 1 of Article IV.

Section 4. Two County Board members shall be appointed on a yearly basis, together with the following member(s) of the County Administration staff, the Parks and Recreation Director, Land Commissioner, County Forester, Natural Resource Manager “hereafter referred to as County Board Designee” (CBD ) as appropriate. All personnel under Section 4 shall serve as ex-officio members.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular meeting shall be held the first Tuesday of each month, or may be called into a special session at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Section 2. Meetings shall convene at a time specified by the majority of the RAC.

Section 3. An organizational meeting shall be held in January of each year. The purpose of this meeting will be the election of offices.

Section 4. The date and location of the RAC meeting shall be posted on the Becker County website.

Section 5. Five (5) citizen members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

Section 6. The RAC may request assistance from the County Administrator to assist in use of any county facility or site for meetings, public notifications, etc..

Section 7. All meetings are open to the public and records of the meeting shall be kept by the County as required by State Statute(s).

## **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of the RAC shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, who shall be elected at the organization meeting to serve until the next organizational meeting when a successor shall be qualified and elected. The Chairperson shall presided at all meetings and perform the usual duties with this office as determined by the RAC.

Section 2. The County Administrator will designate the Parks and Recreation Director or CBD to facilitate the RAC. The Land Commissioner or CBD shall act as a technical advisor. The County Administrator shall designate staff members to serve in the capacity of the Board Secretary and Liaison to the County Administrator. The RAC Secretary is responsible for distributing meeting agendas, minutes, and other relevant information to RAC members.

Section 3. In the event of the resignation of any officer, the RAC shall elect a successor.

## **ARTICLE VII. VOTES, RULES OF ORDER AND INTERPRETATION.**

Section 1. Questions arising at the meetings of the RAC shall be decided by a majority of votes of the citizen members present, and in the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson, if he/she has not already voted , shall give the deciding vote, otherwise, any motion is lost for that session.

Section 2. The Rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order (Revised0 shall govern the RAC in all cases which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the RAC.

Section 3. Any question of interpretation of the Bylaws, rule or regulation shall be decided by the RAC.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES.**

Section 1. The Recreational Advisory Committee may establish sub-committees or technical groups for the purpose of investigating and advising the Committee on particular recreational issues. Special committees shall be appointed by order of the RAC as needs may arise. Such committees shall not necessarily be restricted to members of the RAC. The chairperson of any special committee shall be a member of the RAC. Members of sub-committees and technical groups are not eligible for per diems or mileage reimbursements.

Section 2. An Executive Committee consisting of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and one other RAC citizen member appointed by the RAC, shall meet with the County Administrator, Sheriff, County Attorney or County Board as needed.

Section 3. The RAC will encourage appropriate relationships/partnerships with appropriate entities to accomplish objectives of common interest. Liaisons with other boards, commissions, or groups will be established at the request of the RAC Chair or direction of the County Board.

#### **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Proposed changes in the Bylaws of the Recreation Advisory Committee will be recommended to the County Board of Commissioners after a majority vote. Said RAC vote will take place only after all members of the Committee have been notified in writing of the proposed change. Notice shall be given at least 14 days in advance of the meeting and the vote. To be effective, any such amendment(s) shall be approved by the County Board before taking effect.

Section 2. An annual review of the Bylaws shall take place following the election of officers.

# Appendix B: Applicable Comp Plan Goals/Priorities

## Excerpts from the Becker County Comprehensive Plan (2003) Related to Recreation/Tourism

### Natural Resources Goals<sup>9</sup>

1. Becker County will protect its land and water resources in each County's three distinct ecological zones.
2. Becker County will manage resources to protect, enhance, and restore habitat to support fish and wildlife populations.
3. Becker County will ensure proper functioning of watersheds
4. Becker County will encourage sustainable use of natural resources for this and future generations.
5. Becker County will manage its administered lands for a diversity of uses that sustain the County's environmental, economic, and community value for future generations.
6. Becker County will improve and strengthen land management coordination between government entities.

### Also High Priority – Natural Resources<sup>10</sup>

- Consistently enforce rules, ordinances, and County policies that protect habitat, fish and wildlife populations, and natural resources valuable to the County economy.

### Future Planning Issues<sup>11</sup>

1. Proactively address ATV's
2. Plan for the development of additional trails for non-motorized activities

### Parks & Recreation Goals (adopted by Board)<sup>12</sup>

- The Parks Dept. will increase outside contracting for services;
- The Parks Dept. will work to establish permanent easements for winter trails by meeting with legislators;
- The Parks Dept. will continue to manage the County's winter trails and will work with the Natural Resources Office to establish hunting, walking and historical/interpretive trails;
- The Parks Dept. will upgrade its public accesses;
- The Parks Dept. will fully evaluate its equipment needs;
- The Parks Dept. will work to establish area bicycle trails;
- The Parks Dept. will maintain current staffing levels;
- The Parks Dept. will work with local clubs to assist in the establishment of local ATV trails.

<sup>9</sup> Comprehensive Plan for Becker County, Minnesota, Natural Resource Goals, p. 95.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, Natural Resource Issue Area, Strategies, p. 111.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, Transportation, Future Planning ("Two issues face the Becker County Parks and Recreation Board"), p. 58.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, Long Range Planning exercise – Board adopted goals (1999). P. 74.

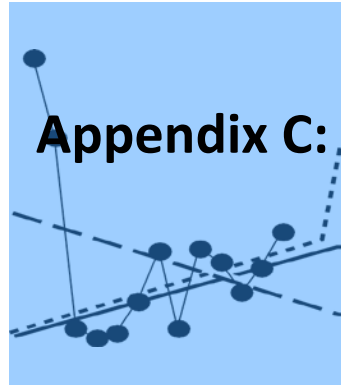
### **Economic Development Goals<sup>13</sup>**

1. Becker County will support and encourage existing tourist agriculture, forestry, service and manufacturing businesses.
  - D. Promote the County's tourist and recreational assets and locally owned resort properties.
2. Becker County will encourage investment in infrastructure and technology to support new industries and diversity its economy, with concern for environmental quality.
  - A. Maintain a balanced set of economic development priorities that promote economic diversity, including agriculture, tourism and recreation, manufacturing, management of natural resources, information and technology, and the sale of goods and services.
  - B. Manage public lands to support the growth of recreation and tourism through sustainable natural resource management.

DRAFT

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<sup>13</sup> Comprehensive Plan for Becker County, Minnesota, Economic Development Policies, p. 92.



## Appendix C: Recreational Trends & Drivers<sup>14</sup>

The following are some general and nature based trends and drivers that influence participation in various recreational activities:

**Aging Population:** Increased demand for recreational activities that are less physically demanding (walking, biking) and more coordinated i.e., recreation programs geared for seniors.

- ADA access considerations (which may not necessarily be age related).

**Economics/Energy:** Higher energy costs (gas prices) have created the need for closer to home recreational activities; vacations are of shorter duration and there is more competition for recreational activity spending.

- Discretionary income is a determinant when choosing recreational activities.

**Environmental Quality:** Importance of natural resource protection, minimal impact, trails developed in natural settings.

**County/Local Governments:** Higher costs associated with providing recreational activities coupled with anti-tax sentiment has created the need for forging partnerships between public, private and non-profits to develop recreational programs, trails, and facilities (ex. Detroit Lakes Community Center, North Country Trail).

### **Recreational Activities:**

- Less scheduled - more individualized recreation
- Adventure activities
- Eco-tourism
- Health and wellness
- Group activities in decline
- Higher, more diversified demand for recreational activities is found near/in cities.

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<sup>14</sup> Some trend elements derived from *Eden Prairie Park and Open Space Plan* (2003), Chapter 9, SRF Consulting, Inc. Also See *Trends in Outdoor Recreation, Leisure and Tourism*; Gartner and Lime (2004 ed.).

## Nature-Based Outdoor Recreation - National Trends<sup>15</sup>

- Between 2000-2007 the total number of people participating in one or more outdoor activity grew by 4.4% (from an estimated 208 million to 217 million).
- Between 2000-2007 days of participation during this same time increased 25% from 67 billion to 84 billion.

### U.S. Outdoor Recreation: national percentage change in growth days for those activities over 10% (from 2000-2007).

Fastest Growing Outdoor Recreation Activities Applicable to our Region (from 2000-2007)	> 10% Growth Change in Participation Days and # of People Participating
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.,	77.8
View/photograph natural scenery	60.8
Off highway driving (motor vehicles)	56.1
View/photograph other wildlife	46.9
View/photograph birds	37.6
Kayaking	29.4
Visiting water (other than ocean beach)	28.1
Backpacking	24
Snowboarding	23.9
Visiting nature centers	23.2
Mountain climbing	20.5
Sightseeing	14
Visiting wilderness	12.8
Outdoor Recreation Activities that have Experienced Growth in Participation Days from 2000-2007	% growth change in participation days
Walking for pleasure	14
Attending family gatherings	16
Visiting farms and agricultural settings	100

## **National Trends Continued:**

### **Other Trends (Growth):**

Applicable activities to our region that are increasing in total participation days at <10% includes: gathering natural products (e.g. berries), motor boating, developed camping, and swimming in natural waters.

### **Other Trends (Decline):**

Recreational activities experiencing a modest decline (<10%; 2000-2007) in total number of activity participation days includes: water skiing, small game hunting, riding personal watercraft, rafting, rowing, cross country skiing and cold water fishing.

Recreational activities declining by 10 to 20% in total number of activity participation days includes: snorkeling, canoeing, sailing, and downhill skiing.

Recreational activities declining by 20 to 40% in total number of activity participation days includes: day hiking, horseback riding on trails, snowmobiling, scuba diving, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and windsurfing.

Recreational Trends:

### **Findings:**

- o Generally the greatest growth in participation is for activities that are not physically challenging.
- o America's interest in nature is changing – not declining.

### **Policy Implications/Opportunities:**

1. Convert public interest in nature into active support of and engagement in conservation of forests, grasslands and wetlands.
2. Use interest in nature to stimulate greater physical activity (while still accommodating people with disabilities) and design trails that require some physical effort.
3. Gas prices will likely cause further changes in the mix of outdoor activities that people choose, and perhaps reduce trips to more distant destinations. This may provide greater visitation to local parks and forest lands.

**Table 7: Annual Outdoor Recreation Participation by Minnesotans in Minnesota and Elsewhere, 2004 (Population 20 years and older)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of Participants (000's)</b>	<b>Percent of Population</b>
Walking/hiking (Outdoors for pleasure or exercise)	1,896	54%
Boating of all types, including fishing from a boat	1,493	43
Boating of all types, excluding fishing from a boat	1,237	36
Swimming or wading	1,423	41
Driving for pleasure on scenic roads or in a park	1,300	37
Picnicking	1,245	36
Fishing	1,054	30
Biking	1,011	29
Visiting outdoor zoos	957	27
Camping	899	26
Visiting nature centers	884	25
Nature observation, photography	844	24
Golfing	820	24
Outdoor field sports (soccer, softball/baseball, football)	737	21
Visiting historic or archaeological sites	721	21
Sledding and snow tubing	642	18
Outdoor court sports (volleyball, basketball, tennis, horseshoes)	612	18
Hunting of all types	556	16
Running or jogging	497	14
Ice skating/hockey outdoors	402	12
Inline skating, rollerblading, roller skating, roller skiing	394	11
Offroad ATV driving	357	10
Snowmobiling	342	10
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	313	9
Gather mushrooms, berries, or other wild foods	302	9
Cross country skiing	227	7
Horseback riding	157	5
Snowshoeing	146	4

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. (2005). Outdoor Recreation Participation in Minnesota

## MN OHV Registration Trends, 1994 to 2010

(MN DNR License Bureau; registered vehicles are tallied on December 31 of each year)

<u>Year</u>	<i>----- Registered vehicles (excluding tax-exempt vehicles) -----</i>			
	<u>ATVs</u>	<u>OHMs</u>	<u>ORVs</u>	<u>OHVs</u>
1994	56,706	181	148	57,035
1995	71,812	258	284	72,354
1996	78,992	298	427	79,717
1997	86,184	2,778	459	89,421
1998	93,824	3,120	532	97,476
1999	110,395	4,026	772	115,193
2000	132,994	5,078	1,082	139,154
2001	148,172	6,274	1,416	155,862
2002	181,755	7,628	2,405	191,788
2003	205,771	9,283	3,850	218,904
2004	222,594	12,163	5,497	240,254
2005	236,683	14,630	7,212	258,525
2006	248,754	16,458	9,029	274,241
2007*	263,640	16,312	7,250	287,202
2008*	268,316	15,709	4,889	288,914
2009*	267,727	14,981	3,137	285,845
2010**	260,696	13,783	3,286	277,765

\* Note: Between 2007 and 2009, Class 2 ATVs (total dry weight of 900 to 1,500 pounds) were shifted from ORVs to ATVs; the shift took three years, because vehicle registrations are for three years.

\*\* Further shifts between vehicle types started in 2010, when the ATV class 1 weight limit was raised to 1000 pounds and the class 2 limit to 1800 pounds.

## Total Trip Spending by Activity for MN's Northwest Region<sup>16</sup>

<u>Regional Rank</u>	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Non Residents</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>State Rank</u>
1. Walkers/hikers	\$84,207	\$162,503	\$246,709	1
2. Snowmobilers	\$30,235	\$10,450	\$40,686	3
4. Bicycle Riders	\$14,967	\$16,226	\$31,193	2
3. ATV	\$18,441	\$9,029	\$27,470	4
5. Running	\$2,531	\$8,759	\$11,291	5
6. Cross Country Skiers	\$1,401	\$3,889	\$5,291	7
7. Horseback Riders	\$2,262	\$1,545	\$3,807	6
8. Inline Skaters	\$985	\$2,167	\$3,151	8
9. OHM	\$1,161	\$871	\$2,032	9
10. ORV	\$547	\$342	\$889	10
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$372,519 Million</b>	

Highlighted areas indicate most money spent by resident/non resident in a particular activity.

<sup>16</sup> Univ. of MN Tourism Center, *Economic Impact of Recreational Trail Use in Different Regions of MN* (2009) total spending by activity in the Northwest Region, p.20-101.

## Trail Use In Each MN Region<sup>17</sup>

Statewide, some 208.2 million person-days were spent in the 10 trails. Walkers/hikers in outdoor trails had the highest total participation at 133.6 million person-days, or two of every three days of trail use. Local trail users (within 30 minutes from home) accounted for nearly three-fourths of the walker/hiker total days. Slightly more than one-half of these local users were in the metro area.

*Total trail use in Minnesota, by activity and by region, 2008 UMN Survey (thousand-person-days)*

<b>TRAIL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Metro area</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>State</b>
Walking/hiking	16,003.6	22,521.0	15,461.8	53,157.5	26,417.0	133,560.9
Bicycle riding	2,163.8	3,614.8	4,045.3	13,793.2	6,475.5	30,092.8
Running	1,321.4	2,484.6	2,077.6	15,116.2	5,668.7	26,668.4
In-line skating	353.9	515.3	587.5	3,852.2	573.2	5,882.1
ATV	1,015.7	1,228.9	825.7	130.0	886.2	4,086.5
Snowmobile	1,053.7	1,440.5	497.2	306.7	696.6	3,994.6
Cross-country skiing	180.8	491.6	181.8	862.7	124.2	1,841.2
Horseback riding	156.9	142.5	621.2	280.3	507.6	1,708.4
OHM	59.6	78.6	62.3	30.2	42.8	273.7
ORV	32.0	42.2	12.0	6.3	20.4	112.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,341.4</b>	<b>32,560.0</b>	<b>24,372.3</b>	<b>87,535.3</b>	<b>41,412.2</b>	<b>208,221.5</b>

Bicycle riding and running in outdoor trails were the next largest user of trails, albeit each at less than one-fourth of the walking/hiking days (30.1 million and 26.7 million person-days, respectively). The next groups had sharper drops in person-days inline skating (5.9 million), ATV (4.1 million) and snowmobiling (4.0 million). The remainder of the trails categories had less than 2.0 million person-days: cross country skiing (1.8 million), horseback riding (1.7million), OHM (0.3 million), and ORV (0.1 million).

<sup>17</sup> Univ. of MN Tourism Center, *Economic Impact of Recreational Trail Use In Different Regions of MN* (2009) total spending by activity in Central Region, p.21.

## **BECKER COUNTY LAKES: WATER QUALITY TRENDS-TSI<sup>1</sup>**

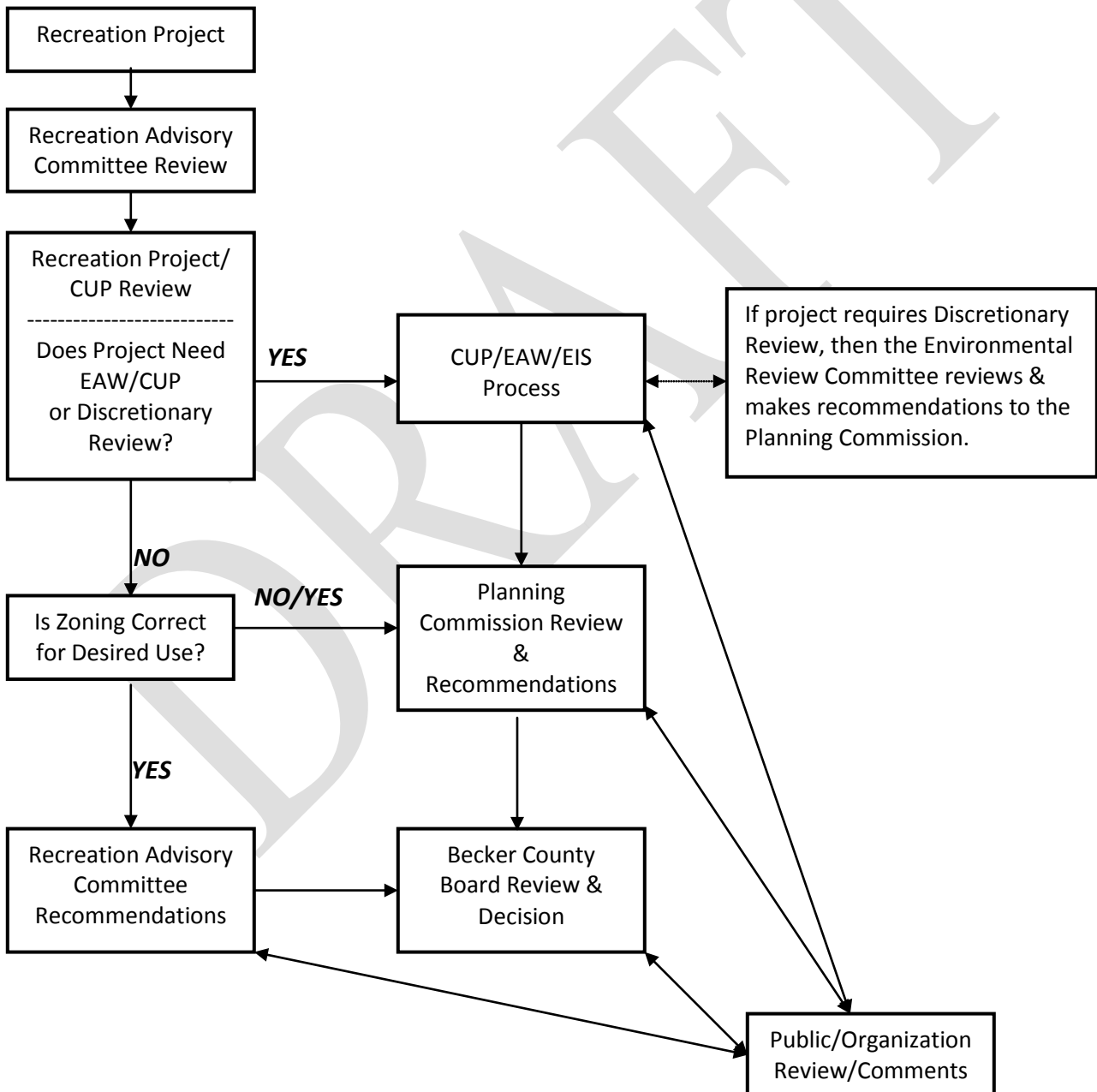
<b>Lake ID</b>	<b>Lake Name</b>	<b>Last Year of Data</b>	<b>Secchi Trend</b>	<b>TSI</b>
03-0085	Bad Medicine	2005	No Trend	O
03-0576	Big Cormorant	2005	Improving	M
03-0304	Big Sugar Bush	2005	No Trend	M
03-0030	Boot	2005	Improving	O
03-0400	Brandy	2005	No Trend	E
03-0350	Buffalo	2002	No Trend	E
03-0286	Cotton	2005	No Trend	M
03-0381	Detroit (Main Basin)	2005	Improving	M
03-0381	Detroit (West Basin)	2005	Improving	M
03-0159	Elbow	2003	No Trend	M
03-0503	Eunice	2005	No Trend	M
03-0387-02	Floyd (south bay)	2005	No Trend	M
03-0358	Fox	2005	No Trend	M
03-0195	Height of Land	2002	No Trend	E
03-0582	Ida	2005	No Trend	E
03-0153	Island	2005	Improving	M
03-0136	Juggler	2005	Improving	O
03-0506	Little Cormorant	2005	Improving	E
03-0386	Little Floyd	2005	No Trend	M
03-0189	Little Toad	2005	Improving	M
03-0383	Long	2005	Declining	M
03-0500	Maud	2005	No Trend	M
03-0371	Meadow	2005	No Trend	M
03-0475	Melissa	2005	No Trend	M
03-0602	Middle Cormorant	2005	No Trend	M
03-0387-01	Mud	2005	No Trend	E
03-0357	Munson	2005	No Trend	M
03-0360	Muskrat	2005	No Trend	E
03-0595	Nelson	2005	No Trend	E
03-0486	Pearl	2005	No Trend	M
03-0287	Pickerel	2005	No Trend	M
03-0293	Rock	2005	Declining	E
03-0155	Round	2005	Improving	M
03-0359	Sallie	2005	No Trend	E
03-0382	St. Clair	2005	No Trend	E
03-0010	Straight	2005	No Trend	E
03-0619	Talac	2005	No Trend	E
03-0107	Toad	2005	Improving	M
03-0657	Turtle	2005	No Trend	M
03-0017	Two Inlets	2005	No Trend	M
03-0328	White Earth	2005	Improving	M

<sup>1</sup> Carlsons Trophic Status Index is a common means for measuring a lakes overall health and associating secchi, chlorophyll and phosphorous measurements: Oligotrophic (TSI <30), Mesotrophic (TSI 30-40), Eutrophic (TSI 40-50); Secchi (TSIS) is the predominately available baseline. Total phosphorous (TSIP) and total chlorophyll (TSIC) data is intermittent. Some historical TSI data exists from 1947 – 2005; MPCA 305 (b) information, received 4/10/06. Data and assumptions subject to change as other organizations compile and compare data (i.e., COLA, local watersheds, Soil and Water).

## Appendix D: Recreational Review Process & Application

A Recreational Review process has been developed by the County to utilize the Planning Commission to provide more systematic review of recreational projects on County administered lands. Similar to the County's existing Conditional Use Permit process the Recreational Review process will help the County make more informed decisions while also providing for public review. A flow chart below details this process and additionally which begins with an application which can be found on pages 46-57 of this document immediately following the flow chart below. *See also the Recreation Review Statement which can be found on page 15 of this document.*

### Recreational Review Process Flow Chart (DRAFT 6-22-2011)





# COUNTY OF BECKER

## Planning and Zoning

915 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Phone: 218-846-7314 ~ Fax: 218-846-7266

### DRAFT RECREATIONAL PROJECT APPLICATION

*Print or type unless otherwise noted.*

NOTE: Projects are subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the Clean Water Act (CWA); the Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Uniform Act); the American with Disabilities Act and Civil Rights Act of 1964; and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), each as amended.

DEP USE ONLY Application <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected by: _____
--

#### Part I. General Information

<b>Project Title:</b>				
<b>Estimated Project Cost: \$</b>		<b>(Include labor)</b>		
<b>Total Project Area:</b>	<b>Acres:</b>	<b>Length of Trail:</b>		
<b>Project Proposal Type (check appropriate box):</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Renovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> Education

#### Part II. Applicant Information

<b>1. Applicant Information:</b>				
<b>Name:</b>		<b>Title:</b>		
<b>Mailing Address:</b>				
<b>City/Town:</b>		<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Business Phone:</b>		<b>ext.</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>				
<b>2. Chief Executive Officer:</b>				
<b>Name:</b>		<b>Title:</b>		
<b>Mailing Address:</b>				
<b>City/Town:</b>		<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Business Phone:</b>		<b>ext.</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>				
<b>3. Legal name for your Organization or Municipality:</b>				
<b>4. Property owner information, if different than applicant:</b>				
<b>Name:</b>		<b>Title:</b>		
<b>Mailing Address:</b>				
<b>City/Town:</b>		<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Business Phone:</b>		<b>ext.</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>				
Note: If the applicant is not the property owner, permission for public recreational access must be documented. Include such documentation as Attachment A.				

### Part III: Project Information

1. **Project Description:** Describe the project as it relates to providing and/or enhancing a public recreational trail. Trail projects must be on publicly accessible land. Describe any unique or imaginative ways this project will meet the recreational need of the community.

2. Check the Yes or No box as applicable and provide details as specified.

YES

NO

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This is a project that is compatible with the Becker County Comprehensive Plan.                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This project connects to and extends trail(s) on state owned land.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This project is included in a local and/or regional plan. Provide copies of relevant excerpts as Attachment B. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This project is located or provides a link to one or more towns.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This is the Next Phase of a project previously completed.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This project is the first of a kind or in the area.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This project is part of an alternative transportation plan (bike, ped, etc)                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This project is receiving funding from State of Federal agencies. If yes, provide source of funding.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This project serves an urbanized area.   |

**Note:** If this is a trail project, then *DNR's Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines (2006)* must be followed to guide trail design, construction and ongoing maintenance (see also **9. Monitoring, Maintenance, and Enforcement Plan**).

3. **Project Maps.** Include a project location map presented on a USGS Quadrangle (<http://usgs.gov/EarthExplorer>) and a more detailed site plan showing the proposed trail bed, improvements, trail heads, locations and technical drawings of trail amenities (parking areas, benches, plantings, fencing, bathrooms, etc.) and signs and/or kiosks and bridges and/or boardwalks as Attachment C. Digital photos and maps (digital photos taken of hard copy maps are acceptable) are preferred.

4. **Site Suitability:** Check the Yes or No box as applicable and provide details as specified:

YES

NO

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Inland Wetlands permits are needed for this project. If Yes, provide copies if they have been obtained as Attachment D.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Conservation Commission permits are needed for this project. If Yes, provide copies if they have been obtained as Attachment D.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation Commission permits are needed for this project. If Yes, provide copies if they have been obtained as Attachment D.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other Permits (Corps of Engineers, etc.) are needed for this project. If Yes, list them in the space provided and provide copies if they have been obtained as Attachment D. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The project is within an aquifer protection area.  |

**Part III: Project Information (continued)**

**4. Site Suitability:** (continued)

- | YES                      | NO                       |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The project may impact endangered species. If Yes, it will be forwarded to the USFW staff for assessment. Any restrictions will become part of your contractual obligations. For more information visit:<br><a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/minnesot-spp.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/minnesot-spp.html</a>           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The project may impact historical, geologic or archaeological sites. If Yes, projects will not be considered without a letter from State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) finding no impact on cultural/archaeological resources. If further investigation by the SHPO is recommended, your project will be delayed until such investigations are completed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are there reserved rights/restrictions or environmental intrusions (power lines, dumps, factories, roads, etc.) on or in close proximity to the trail? If YES, please give details:   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The trail passes through a residential neighborhood. If YES, residents must be informed about the project scope. Provide letters or other informational materials that were provided or minutes from public meeting (s.)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The property through which the trail will pass is suspected of containing hazardous and/or contaminated materials. What has been done to screen for these materials?  |

**5. Site Accessibility and User Group Information:**

- a) Please identify the major service area(s) (neighborhood(s), city(ies), which would be affected by this trail. Indicate the approximate mileage the primary service area would need to travel to access this site.

Check here if additional sheets are necessary, and label and attach them to this sheet.

**Part III: Project Information (continued)**

- b) Within the identified primary service area, is there any elderly housing projects, housing authority (public housing), ethnic community or low or very low-income areas or neighborhoods?

Yes             No

Please describe the methods or means by which these user groups will access the site.

- c) What is the estimated population of the project area?

- d) Will this trail be multi-use or single use?

- e) Which user group or groups would be utilizing this trail? Provided some indication of use intensity expected (i.e. user/week) and method of transportation (pedestrian/hiker, mountain biker, trail bike).

Check here if additional sheets are necessary, and label and attach them to this sheet.

### Part III. Project Information (continued)

- f) If this project is multi-use, is there the possibility of conflicting use?  Yes  No  
If Yes, how will these conflicts be resolved?

- g) To what degree will this project provide assistance to people who have disabilities? Your project must use the best information available to ensure broad usability. List any ADA trailside amenities or trailhead facilities that are available (such as platforms, parking areas, shelters, compost toilets, etc.) to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Please note: Often times, taking accessibility measures is not feasible on trails due to trail terrain, environmental conditions, nature of the setting, prevailing construction methods or required materials that would be prohibited by federal, state, or local laws or where compliance would cause substantial harm to or alter cultural, histories, religious, or significant natural features of the setting. See the Forest Service website ([www.fs.fed.us/recreation](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation)) for the best available guidance for trail projects.

- Check here if additional sheets are necessary, and label and attach them to this sheet.

**Part III: Project Information (continued)**

6. Public Participation: Public participation can be defined as: special public meetings, proposal reviewed by special interest groups or advisory councils and boards, public fund raising, construction or maintenance, etc.
- a) Please describe how public participation at the local level was included in planning this project. Evidence of this public participation should be provided, such as public notices, news releases, public surveys, minutes and news articles as Attachment F.
  - b) If appropriate, provide letters of support for your project as Attachment G.

Check here if additional sheets are necessary, and label and attach them to this sheet.

**Part III: Project Information (continued)**

7. **Scope of work:** You will be granted 3 years to complete your project. Provide your “Project Tasks and Anticipated Completion Timeline,” as Attachment H in a table format as shown below.

Project Tasks and Anticipated Completion Timeline		
Tasks	Person(s) Performing Work	Anticipated Completion Date
Task 1	Staff and Volunteers	March 2010
Task 2	Consultant (name here)	October 2010

8. **Funding Mechanism:**

- a) Provide documentation such as a copy of a Capitol Budget, Written Pledges or Special Fund Account showing the source and availability of funds as Attachment I.
- b) Will the project include a donation of land, cash, equipment or labor from private organizations, agencies, companies, or individuals?  Yes  No

9. **Monitoring, Maintenance, and Enforcement Plan:** Grantees are required to develop a monitoring, maintenance, and enforcement plan deemed acceptable to the PC for all designated trail projects, providing a detailed description of how the trail will be monitored, how the trail will be maintained and to identify those parties who will be responsible for enforcement activities related to the trail. The following criteria should be included:

- A. Monitoring:** Who will monitor the trail? Who will provide reports on trail conditions and how often will those reports be provided? Those conducting inspections must be familiar with monitoring protocols and trail conditions for determining threshold impacts (See example of Impact Thresholds - *Beltrami Recreational Trails Plan: Managing Use Impacts on Designated Trails and Forest Access Routes, April 2006*) to determine trail closure protocols.
- B. Maintenance:** Who will be performing routine maintenance and repair? When will trail repair be performed? What maintenance/repair protocols will be adhered to for trail compaction, trail rutting, trail displacement and/or trail erosion? Follow applicable maintenance guidelines found in *DNR’s Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines (2006)*.
- C. Enforcement:** Provide a detailed chain of command description of who will be providing enforcement of designated trails; from volunteer trail patrols to public enforcement officers.

Provide Monitoring, Maintenance and Enforcement plan as Attachment J.

**Part III: Project Information (continued)**

10. **Project Cost Estimates:** Provide an itemized project cost breakdown as Attachment K. Describe the means by which said cost was derived. List any engineers, appraisers, contractors or manufacturers that were consulted. Use the following table format shown below

Name of Grantee	
Project Cost Estimates	
Item (should correspond to your scope of work and may have more detail)	Cost
Task 1 Item a	\$1,500.00
Task 1 Item b	\$300.00
Task 2 Item a	\$1,000.00
Task 3 Item a	\$500.00
Task 3 Item b	\$1,000.00
Task 3 Item c	\$700.00
TOTAL Project Costs	\$5,000.00

11. If you are proposing a **Land Acquisition Project** provide the following information as Attachment L.
- a. Appraisal; - You must submit an appraisal of the land to be acquired, and a review of the appraisal by an independent review appraiser. The review appraiser must certify that the appraisal meets the standards of the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, found at [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov).
  - b. Regulations – Projects involving land acquisition must also conform to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. § 4601 et seq., as amended, found at [www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov). These regulations apply to evaluating the acquisition of real property and any potential displacement activities. Provide proof of compliance with these regulations.
12. If you are proposing an **Educational Project** complete and submit the “Educational Project Supplemental Application” (DEP-TRAILS-APP-001A) as Attachment M.

**NOTE: (currently under development)**

13. If you are proposing a designated OHV/ATV trail project, applicants must complete a geographic information systems (GIS)-based method for recreational trail location for OHV/ATV’s which considers environmental factors and rider preferences: trail impacts, benefits/impacts associated with water bodies, slope, soil type, land ownership, noise, trail separation, views, rider preferences for vegetative types and loop trails (white paper source: *Ecological criteria, participant preferences and location models: A GIS approach toward ATV trail planning*, Snyder, Applied Geography, 28 (2008) p. 248-258). Provide as Attachment N.

## Part IV: Supporting Documents

Please check the attachments submitted as verification that all applicable attachments have been submitted with this application form. When submitting any supporting documents, please label the documents as indicated in this part (e.g. Attachment A, etc.) and be sure to include the applicant's name.

- Attachment A: If the applicant is not the property owner, permission for public recreational access must be documented. Include such documentation as Attachment A.
- Attachment B: If this project is included in a local and/or regional plan provide copies of relevant excerpts at Attachment B.
- Attachment C: Provide project location map and detailed site plan as described in Part III, item 3 of this application.
- Attachment D: If other permits such as Inland Wetlands, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Corps of Engineers, etc. are needed for this project, provide copies of these permits if they have been obtained as Attachment D.
- Attachment E: If the subject trail passes through a residential neighborhood, provide letters or other informational material that was provided or minutes from public meeting (s) as Attachment E.
- Attachment F: Provide, as Attachment F, evidence of public participation at the local level as described in Part III, item 6 of this application.
- Attachment G: If applicable, provide letters of support for your project as Attachment G.
- Attachment H: Provide project tasks as described in Part III, item 7 of this application.
- Attachment I: Provide funding documentation as described in Part III, item 8 of this application.
- Attachment J: Provide Monitoring, Maintenance, and Enforcement Plan as described in Part III, item 9 of this application.
- Attachment K: Provide Project Cost Estimates as described in Part III, item 10 of this application.
- Attachment L: If the subject proposal is for a Land Acquisition Project, provide information described in part III, item 11 of this application.
- Attachment M: If the subject proposal is for an Educational Project, complete and submit "Educational Project Supplemental Application" (DEP-TRAILS-APP-001A).
- Attachment N: Provide GIS based trail location analysis for proposed designated OHV/ATV trail.

The applicant and the individual(s) responsible for actually preparing the application must sign this part. An application will be considered incomplete unless all required signatures are provided. [If the applicant is the preparer, please mark N/A in the spaces provided for the preparer.]

"I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments thereto, and I certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of the individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I understand that a false statement in the submitted information may be punishable as a criminal offense, in accordance with section 22a-6 of the General Statutes, pursuant to section 53a-157b of the General Statutes, and in accordance with any other applicable statute.

I certify that this application is on complete and accurate forms as prescribed by the administrator without alteration of the text."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant (print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Preparer (if different than above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Preparer (print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title (if applicable)

**Submission and Deadline:** Proposal must be received by the Third Monday of Each Month.

a. Email, [plswens@so.becker.mn.us](mailto:plswens@so.becker.mn.us)

Or

b. Mail reports on a CD to:  
Patricia Swenson, Zoning Administrator  
Becker County Planning and Zoning  
915 Lake Ave  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Or

c. Mail 4 paper copies (1 must contain color maps) to the above address.





# Appendix E.:



## Recreational Attractions Survey

**Please return completed form to:**  
Attn: Recreational Attractions Survey  
Becker County Courthouse  
Office of County Administrator  
915 Lake Ave  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Email:  
Fax:

### Business Name and Address

*(This is the physical location of the property)*

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County:

Website (like www.domain.com):

Public Email (user@domain.com):

Recreational Activity Map Link  
(if Applicable, Example - Trail Map):

Public Phone:

Public Toll-Free Number:

Public Fax:

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### Contact Name and Address

*(This information is for our use only)*

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Private "our use only" Email :

Phone:

Phone:

Toll-Free Number:

Fax:

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Is this open to the general public? (yes/no) \_\_\_\_\_ If no explain \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want Becker County to provide information about this to the general public?  
(yes/no) \_\_\_\_\_

*Becker County reserves the right to edit text as necessary for space and content.*

**Which of the following categories best describe your Attraction?** We are looking for categories that are physically located on your property or directly apply to your business.

**Outdoor Activities - Summer/Year Round (include trail miles if applicable)**

- |   |            |   |            |  |
|---|------------|---|------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATV/OHV Trails     | _____miles | <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian               | _____miles | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/Beaches  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching      |            | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                  |            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tubing _____miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling          | _____miles | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/Walking/Running   | _____miles |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating Activities |            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting/Shooting Sports  |            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping            |            | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Picnic Areas   | _____miles |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking  |            | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Byways/Historical | _____miles |  |

**Outdoor Activities – Winter (include trail miles if applicable)**

- |   |            |  |            |
|---|------------|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Ski Trails | _____miles | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling    | _____miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                  |            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tubing/Sledding |            |

**Other (please specify)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please give a brief description of your attraction(s) (500 characters or less – please be specific for each activity – add additional sheets if necessary):**

**Trail miles (for each applicable activity or indicate above under Outdoor Activities):**

**Concise Driving Directions From nearest town/intersection:**

**Pricing (Admittance fees, rental rates, etc):**

**I am a year round business (yes/no) \_\_\_\_\_ -or-**

**I open on \_\_\_\_\_ and close on \_\_\_\_\_**

**My hours of operation are:** \_\_\_\_\_

- My attraction (check which apply)**
- is accessible to the disabled
  - can accommodate groups of 45 or more
  - other (explain)

*In providing this information you are ensuring that you are in compliance with any required licensing and taxation laws. Becker County reserves the right to edit text as necessary for space and content.*

## Attractions & Activities Database Criteria

The Attractions & Activities Database exists to provide information on recreational opportunities in Becker County. The database includes information that the traveling public may want or need to know about recreational activities in advance of travel to our area.

For purposes of the database, an activity site is defined as a place with a specific, unchanging address/location; the attraction or activity site must be located in Becker County; it must be permanent and available on a seasonal or year-round basis, and must fit one of the existing categories provided in order to qualify.

The activity must be open or available to the public on a regular schedule; however, Becker County reserves the right to consider, on a case-by-case basis, the appropriateness of listings for which recreational activities are provided.

### Attraction/Activity Site Category Definitions & Criteria for Inclusion on County Website

#### **ATV/OHV Trails**

- Trails are open to the public either year around or seasonally (may include a fee).
- Trails are routinely inspected and maintained.
- Trails may provide links to additional public and/or private trails that are open to the public.
- Trails must be a minimum of ten (10) miles in length or provide a connection to a trail system that is at least ten miles in length.

**Bicycling** (may include such things as Mountain Bike Trails, Road Course, Velodrome, BMX Park (jumps, ramps, & rails), BMX-Cross Race Course)

- Trails/facilities are open to the public year around or seasonally (may include a fee).
- Trails/facilities are routinely inspected and maintained.
- Trails/facilities may provide links to additional public and/or private trails/facilities that are open to the public.
- Mountain bike course must be a minimum of 1 mile in length.

#### **Bird Watching**

- Facilities may be public lands, private preserves, aviaries, or clubs where the general focus is on birding.
- Facilities are open to the public either year around or seasonally (may include a fee).
- Facilities should provide the opportunity to observe multiple species of birds.
- Facilities for the hunting of upland game birds or waterfowl would not be listed here.

#### **Boating Activities**

- Business involves the rental of boats, pontoons, canoes, PWC and/or associated equipment to the general public.
- Business accommodates boat launching and/or slip services for the general public to an area lake (may charge a fee).
- Business conducts water tours or excursions, such as dinner excursions, on an area lake.
- Businesses providing on-the-water mechanical or fueling services would not be included in this listing.

#### **Camping**

- Business/Facility is open to the public either year around or seasonally (may charge a fee).
- Camp sites may be short-term (day-use) or seasonal.
- Business/facility should provide basic sanitation needs (i.e. restroom facilities).

#### **Canoeing/Kayaking**

- Business offers guided or un-guided tours utilizing canoes or kayaks.
- Business provides shuttle service and/or canoe/kayak rental.

#### **Cross-Country Skiing**

- Facilities may be public or private lands where the general focus is on cross-country skiing.
- Trails are open to the public when in season (may charge a fee).
- Trails are routinely inspected and maintained (trails do not need to be groomed, but should be cleared and brushed as needed).

- Trails should be a minimum of five (5) km or provide a connection to a trails system that is at least five (5) km.

### **Fishing**

- Facility may be public or private fishing piers/docks or shore fishing.
- Facility/Business should provide fishing opportunities to the general public (may charge a fee).
- Opportunities should include boat/equipment rental where the main focus is on fishing.
- Business may include trout pond fishing.

### **Hiking/Walking/Running**

- Federal, state, local, and private hiking/walking trails that are open to the public where the primary focus is hiking/walking.
- Trails may include other recreational activities.
- Trails should be a minimum of one (1) mile or provide connections to a trail hiking/walking trail system that is at least one (1) mile in length.
- Trails where the primary focus is hunting will not be listed here.
- Public and/or private, indoor or outdoor facilities that are open to the public where the primary focus is on running.

### **Equestrian**

- Federal, state, local, and private trails that are open to the public where the primary focus is horseback riding.
- Trails are routinely inspected and maintained.
- Trails should be a minimum of five (5) miles or provide connection to a horse trail that is at least five (5) miles in length.
- Parking facilities should be adequate for truck/trailer combination.

### **Hunting/Shooting Sports**

- Federal, state, and local lands that are open to public hunting.
- Private hunting preserves/farms that are open to the public (may charge a fee).
- Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clay ranges that are open to the public (may charge a fee).
- Archery ranges that are open to the public (may charge a fee).

### **Parks and Picnic Areas**

- Facilities are open to the public either year around or seasonally (may charge a fee). Facility may contain such amenities as picnic shelters, playground equipment, charcoal grills, recreation trails, sledding/tubing, cross-country and/or downhill skiing, athletic fields, open space, fishing piers, etc.

### **Scenic Byways/Historical**

- Any officially designated Scenic Byway.
- Public or private facilities that are open to the public where the primary focus is on history (may charge a fee).
- Historical data must be verifiably accurate.

### **Snowmobiling**

- State, Grant-in-Aid, and locally funded snowmobile trail systems that are managed by public agencies and/or local snowmobile clubs.
- Trails should be a minimum of ten (10) miles or provide connections to a snowmobile trail system that is at least ten (10) miles in length.

### **Swimming/Beaches**

- Public or private swimming beaches or pools that are open to the public (may charge a fee).

### **Tubing**

- Public or private facilities that are open to the public where the primary focus is on river tubing (may charge a fee).
- Public or private facilities that are open to the public where the primary focus is on downhill tubing/sledding (may charge a fee)

## **Appendix F. Current County Resolution for OHV Use**

### **BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 05-09-2A**

##### **OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE OF COUNTY-ADMINISTERED LANDS**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Schram, seconded by Commissioner Bellefeuille and duly carried, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Becker County manages approximately 74,500 acres of tax-forfeited land for the benefit of the trust in favor of the taxing districts,

AND, WHEREAS, Becker County is responsible for the management of its forest lands, roads, and trails for environmental, economic, and social benefit for all residents of the State of Minnesota,

AND, WHEREAS, MINN. STATUTE 84.777 allows the County Board to adopt a resolution that modifies restrictions on the use of off-highway vehicles on county-administered lands within State Forest boundaries that differs from restrictions placed on lands administered by the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all forest roads and trails on county-administered, tax-forfeited lands within the boundaries of the Smoky Hills and Two Inlets State Forests be identified and designated with regards to off-highway vehicle use consistent with the designations on state-administered lands

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all forest roads and trails on county-administered, tax-forfeited lands within the boundaries of the White Earth State Forest be open to motorized use unless (1) reclassified for other uses, or (2) restricted through signs, gates, berms, or other means.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all forest roads and trails on county-administered lands outside of state forest boundaries be open to motorized use unless (1) reclassified for other uses, or (2) restricted through signs, gates, berms, or other means.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the County commit to the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan within a timely fashion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Natural Resources Management Department be granted the authority to close any forest road or trail on county-administered tax-forfeited land, either temporarily or permanently, when such action is necessary for the protection of the forest, the road or trail, or the general public.

**BOARD APPROVED THE RESOLUTION ON MAY 26, 2009.**

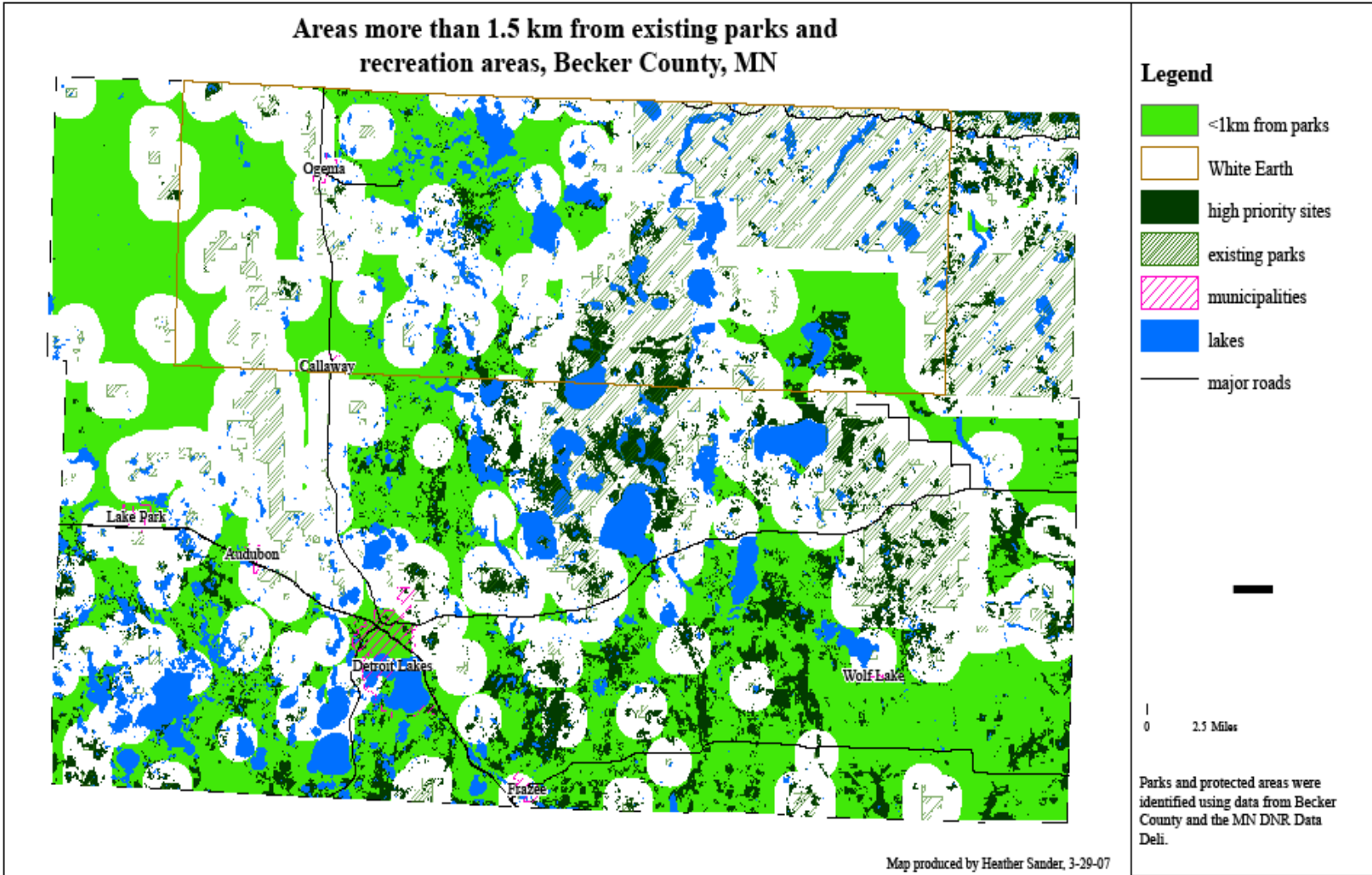
## **Appendix G. Recreational Activity Evaluation Recommendations (1/6/2010 – Draft)**

The recreational activity evaluation recommendations and questions provided below are designed to help facilitate a discussion and develop an assessment of current and future project needs for various recreational activities. The recommendations seek to help:

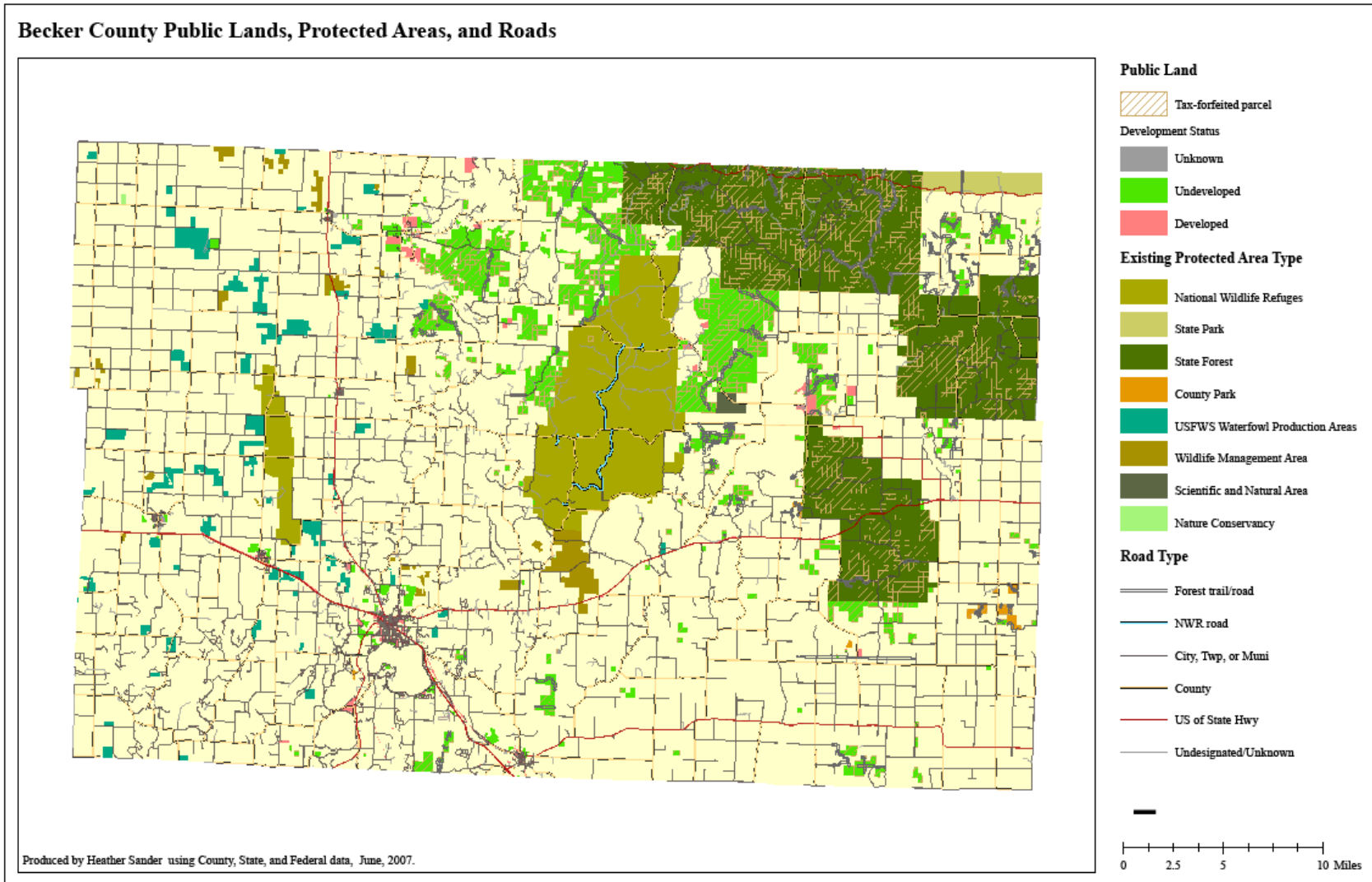
- Define the objective of the Recreational Activity Evaluation
  - What is the objective of the evaluation?
  - Who is responsible for conducting the evaluation?
- Identify the target audience
  - How will the target audience be determined?
  - From whom will information and data be collected?
- Determine data collection methods
  - What types of data are needed?
  - How will the data be collected?
  - Is baseline data available?
  - Organize data
- Choose Instruments and/or techniques for data collection
  - Instruments and techniques used to collect the data
- Develop data analysis
  - How will the data be analyzed?
  - Are there any patterns in the data that help with its interpretation?
- Create a decision making process
  - What is the decision making process?
  - How will the evaluation be presented and to whom?



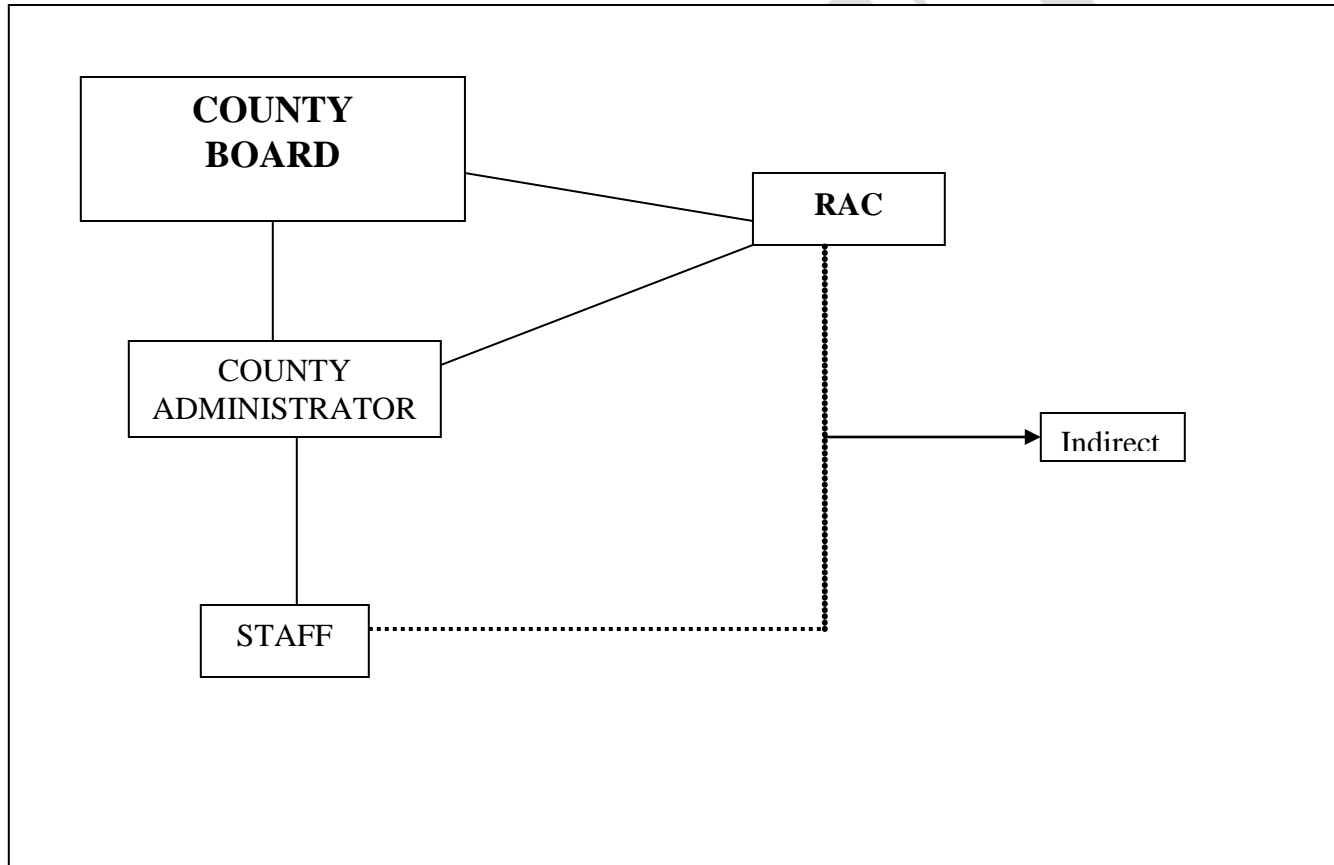
# Appendix I. Proximity to Parks and Recreation Areas Map



# Appendix J. Public Lands Map (2007)



## Appendix K. Relationships of Recreational Advisory Committee



# Appendix L. Biodiversity Map

