

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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**CHAPTER 900**

**RECREATION**

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## **900 RECREATION**

Recreation is an integral part of the management of the Burnett County Forest and recreation uses are referenced in most of the previous chapters. Due to the tremendous growth in recreational demands over the duration of the last planning period, this Plan recognizes the importance of more intensive recreational planning and emphasizes its importance with a separate chapter.

## **905 PLANNING**

In addition to this Plan, the [Burnett County Outdoor Recreation Plan](#) also guides the recreation program. It is revised every five years and is made part of this Plan. The Burnett County Outdoor Recreation Plan includes, but is not limited to, activities on the County Forest. It incorporates snowmobile and ATV plans, parks and boat landings, recreational maintenance and development plans and other recreation surveys and reports.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan, [Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#) (SCORP), public input, and other local or regional planning documents will be used as resources in recreational planning and development efforts. The responsibility for recreational planning, development and maintenance on the County Forest will rest with the Committee.

## **910 AUTHORITY**

The Burnett County [Code of Ordinances](#) and [s.28.11](#) Wis. Stats, authorize the Burnett County Natural Resources Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in the mission statement for the County Forest Plan (Chapter 100), which specifically identifies outdoor recreational opportunities. This mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes environmental damage.

**915 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES**

The Committee is empowered and shall have responsibility for establishing entrance, camping and other user fees on recreational facilities maintained by the County Forest. Camping, entrance, or other fees shall be comparable to fees charged by other adjacent counties, as well as similar state or private facilities, and are subject to periodic changes by the Committee. Fees, where appropriate, will be utilized to assist in the maintenance of recreational facilities.

**920 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide for recreational maintenance or services to the public. As part of the Plan, the County contracts for the following services

1. Snowmobile trail grooming and maintenance
2. ATV trail grading and maintenance

**925 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS FOR ORGANIZED EVENTS**

Any event on the forest which is advertised to the public, for which a fee is charged, or is otherwise organized as an event, requires a permit or authorization by the Committee. Permits may be issued by the Committee provided the use is consistent with management activities and will not cause resource damage. Appropriate levels of event liability insurance is required.

**930 UNDESIGNATED RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST**

Undesignated recreation includes those informal activities for which the County generally does not provide a facility or service. These uses include activities such as hunting, fishing, biking, hiking and others. These uses do not require a permit but must be conducted in compliance with [ordinances](#). The Forest Administrator and the Committee shall periodically review such uses and enact ordinances as necessary to protect from resource damage.

### 930.1 HUNTING

The entire County Forest is open for regulated hunting, with the exception of areas developed for high public use and listed in Sections 935.1, 935.2, 935.3, 935.4, and 935.5.1.

The [Burnett County Code of Ordinances](#) regulates activities relating to hunting. The ordinance is also appended in Chapter 1000.

In general, the following activities are regulated: Portable, temporary hunting stands or elevated platforms are permissible but must be removed completely each day at the close of hunting hours. These may not be attached in a way that damages the tree or uses nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other metal fasteners. Ground blinds are permitted if constructed entirely with natural, dead, non-manufactured forest materials.

### 930.2 FISHING

All lakes and streams within the forest are available for fishing unless otherwise listed in state regulations. Use of motorized equipment on some of the lakes is restricted (Section 720).

### 930.3 PICNICKING / DAY USE

Picnicking and other day uses outside of established facilities is allowed. The Burnett County Code of Ordinances also regulates day use. In general, the following activities are regulated:

1. All litter, trash or rubbish must be removed and disposed of properly.
2. Cutting or harvesting vegetation is not permitted.
3. The only time fires are allowed is during the non-wildland fire time of the year, and only cooking and warming fires are permitted at that time. Fires may not be left unattended at any time, and must be extinguished before leaving.

#### 930.4 CAMPING

A permit is required to camp on the County Forest. Permits are available from the County Forest & Parks Office or on the [County's website](#). In general, the following activities are regulated:

1. Within 412 feet of the Namekagon or the St. Croix Rivers, camping is permitted only at campsites with steel fire rings jointly designated by Burnett County and the National Park Service. All camping regulations of the [St. Croix Scenic Riverway](#) will apply within this zone.
2. Camping with a tent, camper trailer, mobile camper, or other lesser camping shelters is allowed under the following conditions:
  - a. A valid camping permit issued by the county must be visibly displayed on site. The camping permit is valid only for the permitted dates and location as issued by the county. All persons must purchase a permit from the county Forest and Parks Department.
  - b. The camping shelter may be a tent, camper, trailer, truck camper, or other camping unit used for overnight sleeping accommodations. One permit may cover a maximum of three shelters with a maximum of ten people per shelter.
  - c. Maximum permit period is ten (10) consecutive days. The camping shelter must be occupied daily and may not be vacated or stored on the site.
  - d. Littering or damage to natural resources is not allowed. The permittee must take all refuse when he/she leaves and dispose of it properly.
  - e. No campfires are permitted during April 1 through May 31. The rest of the year, a three-foot wide mineral soil break must surround an open fire when the ground is not snow covered. All fires must

be extinguished and cool enough to touch with hand before leaving the campsite. Permittee is responsible if the campfire gets away. Permittee is liable for all expenses incurred in suppressing the fire and will be responsible for all damages caused by the fire.

f. Camping and campfires are not allowed when county or state emergency fire regulations are in effect. The county reserves the right to suspend all camping permits during this period.

g. Permit allows for the collection of dead and down vegetation for campfires within the permitted area, but such dead vegetation may not be removed from the immediate area itself. This shall not be construed to permit the harvest of vegetation otherwise controlled. This does not allow cutting of any living trees or shrubs.

h. No camping is permitted on the shores or within 50 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of any river or lake in the forest. No camping is permitted within 200 feet of a state or county road, or within ¼ mile of another valid camping permit without authorization from the county.

i. No camping is permitted at designated parks, boat landings, within the boundaries of an active timber sale, or trails, or other areas designated by the county.

j. Hunting or fishing on County Forest Lands is allowed only during legal seasons. Permanent tree stands are not permitted and portable stands must be removed daily.

k. ATV/UTV use in the county forest is allowed on existing logging roads, fire lanes, or developed snowmobile trails, but only during specified months and in authorized areas.

- l. Camping shelters used while camping on County Forest Lands equipped with septic wastewater holding tanks shall dispose of wastewater at established dump stations.
- m. Burnett County Forestry limits one permit issued per 40 acres with up to three camping shelters allowed per permit.
- n. Permits cannot be issued before the calendar year of intended use and are on a “first come, first served” basis.
- o. Any and all correspondence shall be sent to the Permittee only.
- p. Permits are non-transferable, and cannot be resold, and are non-refundable.
- q. The Natural Resources Committee may establish the permit fee and other camping regulations.

#### 930.5 MOTORIZED TRAVEL

The Burnett County [Code of Ordinances](#) regulates motorized uses on the County Forest. The ordinances are also appended in Chapter 1000.

#### 930.6 OTHER USES

Other uses of the County Forest are permitted provided they are not specifically addressed with the [County Code of Ordinances](#). Mountain Biking, Horseback riding, and other non-motorized uses are currently not regulated. The County Board may, at any time, enact ordinances to protect the forest should damage begin to occur.

#### **935 DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS/USES**

Designated recreation includes those uses for which the County provides a trail or facility. The Burnett County Forest has developed sites and areas to accommodate a fairly high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other recreation activities that are not compatible with the intent of the developed facilities.



The Committee and Forest and Parks Department has noted a marked increase in demand for recreation facilities. Burnett County may attempt to develop additional facilities and will maintain its currently developed facilities.

#### 935.1 YOUTH CAMP

Camp Burnett provides a rustic summer camp facility for use by non-profit youth groups. The Natural Resources Committee has established a policy regulating the uses and fees for [Camp Burnett](#).

#### 935.2 CAMPER CABIN

On the Burnett County Forest is a [camper cabin](#) with non-motorized access, no electricity, and no running water. The cabin is available for rent to the public year-round on a nightly basis. The Natural Resources Committee has set the camper cabin rental rate.

#### 935.3 PICNIC / DAY USE AREAS

The following picnic/day use areas have been developed on the Burnett County Forest and are open to public use:

##### 935.3.1 Picnic/Day Use Areas on the Burnett County Forest

1. [DEER LAKE ACCESS](#)
2. [LAKE 26 PARK](#)

#### 935.4 SWIMMING AREAS / BEACHES

A small swimming area/beach open to the public is located at [Lake 26 Park](#).

#### 935.5 BOAT LANDINGS

As a result of the wide distribution of lakes, streams, rivers, and other surface waters on the forest, water access may be planned, developed, or restricted as a component of the overall Forest access management plan. Several boat landings, canoe landings, and adjacent roads currently provide water access on the forest primarily for recreational

activities. In addition, these water access points also provide water supply points for fire apparatus working to suppress forest fires or nearby structural fires.

The existing water access points will be maintained to provide a place to launch a small fishing boat or canoe. Not all watercraft will be able to use these access points. These landings are built for public use and not for private boat mooring sites. Mooring or storing boats for longer than 24 hours is prohibited.

The following public boat access sites have been developed on the Burnett County Forest and are open to public use:

935.5.1 Public Boat Access Sites on the Burnett County Forest

- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <a href="#">BANACH LAKE</a>        | 5299 BUSHEY RD, WEBSTER          |
| 2. <a href="#">BIG LAKE</a>           | 5648 COUNTY RD A, WEBSTER        |
| 3. <a href="#">CLAM FLOWAGE</a>       | 10180 CUTLER RD, DANBURY         |
| 4. <a href="#">DEER LAKE</a>          | 4051W. DEER LAKE RD, DANBURY     |
| 5. <a href="#">EAGLE LAKE</a>         | 29810 EAGLE LAKE RD, DANBURY     |
| 6. <a href="#">LAKE 26 PARK</a>       | 30319 ELIOT JOHNSON RD, DANBURY  |
| 7. <a href="#">LITTLE MCGRAW LAKE</a> | 3982 ST. CROIX TRAIL, DANBURY    |
| 8. <a href="#">MALLARD LAKE</a>       | 3676 NORMANS LANDING RD, WEBSTER |
| 9. <a href="#">YELLOW RIVER</a>       | 3375 GASLYN CREEK RD, WEBSTER    |
| 10. <a href="#">LOON LAKE</a>         | NWNW SEC. 1 T40N R15W            |
| 11. NAMEKAGON RIVER*                  | NENE SEC. 33 T42N R14W           |

*\*This access is maintained by the National Park Service.*

935.5.2 Undeveloped Water Access Points

Other undeveloped water access points for canoes and boats currently exist on the forest. These are used routinely to hand launch boats or canoes but have not been developed for boat trailer launching. These sites are not routinely maintained and may be closed if erosion

damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access must be reviewed and approved by the Committee.

## 1. NORTH LAKE ACCESS

### **940 DESIGNATED RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

Designated recreational trails are those for which the County provides a designated trail and/or facility. The County currently provides trail systems that accommodate a fairly high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other activities on these trails that are not compatible with the intent of the development.

Whenever possible, multiple uses of various trail systems are encouraged and are subject to policy review of the Committee. Wherever possible, attempts will be made to avoid user conflicts. Recreational users, however, will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future of the County Forest. Trail systems are identified in Chapter 1000.

#### **940.1 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

The Burnett County Forest is a multiple-use forest. Non-motorized recreational trails are a legitimate use of the forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight natural features present on the forest, should minimize damage, and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape.

It is the policy of the Committee to manage non-motorized recreational trails on the County Forest.

##### **940.1.1 Hiking Trails**

###### **940.1.1.1 Undesignated Hiking Trails**

All portions of the County Forest are open to hiking or foot travel unless marked with signs closing an area.

#### 940.1.1.2 Designated Hiking Trails

##### [Ice Age National Scenic Trail](#)

The Ice Age Trail crosses the forest in Sections 25, 26, 30, 31, 32 & 35 of the Town of Roosevelt. The trail is both a national and state scenic trail and follows the end moraines of the most recent glaciations of Wisconsin. It is intended to provide a high quality rustic walking experience across Wisconsin. The agreement which allows the use of the forest for this trail can be found in Chapter 1000.

##### [Big Bear Lake Nature Trail](#)

The Big Bear Lake Nature Trail is located in Section 30 of the Town of Webb Lake. The two-mile trail was developed by the Big Bear Lake Association under a Memorandum of Understanding with Burnett County. Educational signs are located at several points of interest along the trail.

#### 940.1.2 Mountain Bike/Fat Tire/Bicycle Trails

##### 940.1.2.1 Undesignated Bicycle Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for recreational bicycle use. Off-trail mountain bike use may be restricted in specific areas if use causes erosion or other environmental damages.

##### 940.1.2.2 Designated Bicycle Trails

Three designated bike trails are available for public use on the forest and are maintained for public bicycling under provisions of agreements with Burnett County.

##### [Dogtown Cluster and Big Bear Trails](#)

The Webb Lake Men's Club developed and has agreed to maintain the Dogtown Cluster and Big Bear Trails in the Town of Webb Lake. These two trails total approximately 13.5 miles.

### Keizer Lake Trails

Lake Country Pedalers Bicycle Club developed and has agreed to maintain the Keizer Lake Bike Trails in the Town of Jackson. This trail system consists of a combination of constructed single-track mountain bike trails and existing logging road connector trails.

### Timberland Hills Fat Bike Trail

The Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA) developed and has agreed to maintain a fat bike trail in the Timberland Hills Ski Area utilizing the county's existing tote road system. The trail is also used for skijoring during the winter months.

## 940.1.3 Equestrian Trails

### 940.1.3.1 Undesignated Equestrian Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for horseback trail riding. Off-trail riding within 50 feet of rivers, streams, or lakes is not permitted except when watering the horses.

### 940.1.3.2 Designated Equestrian Trails

There are no designated horse trails on the County Forest.

## 940.1.4 Cross-Country Ski Trails

### 940.1.4.1 Undesignated Cross-Country Ski Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for cross-country skiing. Cross-country skiing on groomed snowmobile trails is not encouraged due to serious safety concerns.

#### 940.1.4.2 Designated Cross-Country Ski Trails

Two regularly groomed ski trails are available for public use on the forest and are maintained for public skiing under provisions of Land Use Agreements with Burnett County. The Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA) has agreed to maintain the [Timberland Hills Ski Area](#) and the [Webb Lake Men's Club](#) has agreed to maintain the Bear Lake Ski Trail. Motorized vehicle use is not permitted on these two trail systems without authorization.

#### 940.1.5 Future non-motorized trail systems

The development of additional non-motorized trail systems will include careful consideration of public demand, analysis of user conflicts and potential damage to the natural resource. Trail system development should comply with the Outdoor Recreation Plan goals and be referenced in [SCORP](#) or other regional planning documents.

Non-motorized trail systems generally are not supported by statewide grant programs. The County may require proof of an organized club or user group, with the ability to assist with maintenance and support of the trail and associated facilities. Appropriate trail passes, or other user fees, may be implemented as indicated in Section 915.

### 940.2 MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

#### 940.2.1 Designated Snowmobile Trails

Designated snowmobile trails are those recognized by the Committee as the official trails within the County. The Forest and Parks Department manages the snowmobile trail system in Burnett County. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance and insurance obligations between the County and local clubs. The County contracts with the [Burnett County Snow Trails Association](#) for trail maintenance.

The [Burnett County Code](#) regulates snowmobile trails. A summary of rules and regulations relating to snowmobile trails is as follows:

- a. Snowmobiles must be [registered](#) and display a Wisconsin Snowmobile Trail Pass.
- b. From December 1 through March 31 you may operate your snowmobile on state-funded snowmobile trails when a 4-inch groomed snow base is present and trails have been officially opened. Snowmobile trails are designated with orange blazers.
- c. Operation of a motor vehicle other than an ATV, UTV, or snowmobile on state-approved groomed trails from December 1 through March 31 when trails are officially open without permission from the county forest administrator or designee is prohibited unless the trail is designated and signed as allowing such use.
- d. [Wisconsin Snowmobile Laws](#) must be followed.

#### 940.2.1.1 Trail Types

The County recognizes several different classifications of snowmobile trails. A [map is appended](#) for reference, and is also appended in chapter 1000.

State Funded Trails – These are state approved and funded miles on designated trails that are part of a statewide network of trail systems. Snowmobile registration fees and gas tax allotments fund grants that support maintenance, rehabilitation and development of these trails. There are approximately 248 miles of funded trails in Burnett County, with approximately 110 miles on County Forest Lands.

Unfunded Trails – These are segments of trails that meet the eligibility requirements for a funded trail system, but have not been included in the grant system due to restrictions on available funding. There are approximately 13 miles of unfunded trails in Burnett County, with approximately 2 miles on County Forest Lands. It is recommended that the county continues to apply for grants to include these in the funded system.

Local/Club Trails – These trails that are not funded by State Maintenance Grants, and may or may not be groomed by local clubs. These trails may not meet eligibility requirements of a funded trail and may dead end at local businesses. There are approximately 139 miles of club trails in Burnett County, with approximately 7 miles on County Forest Lands.

#### 940.2.1.2 Trail Maintenance

Burnett County contracts with the Burnett County Snow Trails Association to groom and maintain the funded snowmobile trail system. The County periodically assists with mowing, grading or other trail maintenance projects as needed.

The County shall inspect and monitor bridges and other infrastructure on the trail system and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace or rehabilitate as needed.

#### 940.2.1.3 Future Snowmobile Trails

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over any trail development proposals. It is recommended that future trails be considered only after careful consideration of costs, benefits and impacts and as part of a larger planning effort. Burnett County will evaluate requests for additional connecting trails as they arise.

Proposals to relocate trails or to make adjustments to the existing trail system will be encouraged where there are concerns of public safety or environmental damage. Unfunded and club trails should be evaluated for maintenance funding applications.

#### 940.2.2 Designated ATV/UTV Trails

Designated ATV/UTV Trails are those recognized by the Committee as official trails within the County. These may lie on County, private, or other agency lands. Annual



agreements outline the operation, maintenance and insurance obligations between the County and local clubs. The County contracts with the [Burnett County Snow Trails Association](#) and [Turf and Tundra Trails Association](#) for trail maintenance.

The [Burnett County Code](#) regulates ATV/UTV trails. A summary of rules and regulations relating to ATV/UTV trails is as follows:

- a. All ATVs and UTVs must be [registered or licensed](#) in order to ride on Burnett County Forest Lands.
- b. Off-road motorcycles are not allowed on Burnett County Forest Lands at any time.
- c. From April 1 until the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, all Burnett County Forest Lands are closed to ATV/UTV use.
- d. From the Friday of Memorial Day weekend through September 15, you may operate your ATV/UTV on state-funded summer use trails only. Only machines meeting the [state definition of an ATV/UTV](#) are allowed on these trails. All other trails are closed to ATVs and UTVs.
- e. From September 16 through November 30, you may operate your ATV/UTV on existing snowmobile trails, fire lanes and logging roads on Burnett County Forest Lands. Logging roads must be at least 8 feet wide in order to ride on. Trails are multi-use during this time, meaning that any street legal, licensed vehicle can be on these trails.
- f. From December 1 through March 31, you may ride your ATV/UTV on state-funded winter use trails when a 4-inch groomed snow base is present and trails have been officially opened. If we do not have snow, the Frozen Ground ATV Winter Trail will be open for use once the ground is frozen. All other trails are closed to ATV/UTV use.
- g. Your ATV/UTV must be equipped with a U.S. Forest Service tested and approved spark arrestor. This arrestor shall be properly maintained and in effective working order.
- h. You may not operate your ATV/UTV in a reckless manner, without regard to other persons or their property, and such that injury and property damage is

likely to occur. You may not pursue any wild animal with the intent of harassing such animal.

- i. You may not operate your ATV/UTV in any wetlands or within 50 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any surface water, unless on a designated trail.
- j. You may not operate your ATV/UTV when County or State emergency fire regulations are in effect, or when WDNR wild fire danger is posted at the RED FLAG ALERT.
- k. You may not operate your ATV/UTV on trails or roads that have been gated, signed or bermed as closed to motorized vehicles.
- l. No off trail riding is allowed.

There are numerous types of designated ATV trails managed by Burnett County. These trails are further identified in chapter 1000.

#### 940.2.2.1 Trail Types

The County recognizes several different classifications of ATV trail. [Maps are appended](#) for reference, and are also appended in chapter 1000.

1. Funded Winter ATV Trails – A majority of state funded snowmobile trails on the County Forest are also designated and funded as winter use ATV trails. There are approximately 133 miles of winter funded ATV trails managed by Burnett County, with 83 miles on County Forest Lands.
2. Funded Summer ATV Trails – these are trail systems funded for only summer use. These trails are open from the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend through September 15th. There are approximately 60 miles of summer use ATV trails managed by the County with 59 miles on the County Forest.
3. Funded Year-round Trails - these are trail systems funded for both winter and summer use. There are approximately 58 miles of year-round funded ATV trails managed by Burnett County with 57 miles on the County Forest.

4. Funded UTV Trails – UTV’s, or side by sides, can be allowed on ATV trail systems. Burnett County allows for UTV’s on all state funded ATV trails within the County.

5. Funded Troute/Hybrid Trails – The ATV/UTV program does not allow for full maintenance funding on ATV/UTV trails that are open to highway traffic (cars, trucks, etc.). ATV trails with this dual use, that were maintained and funded prior to August 1, 2012, are still funded at 100% of the annual per mile maintenance rate. Trails funded after August 1, 2012 allow for partial funding under the following categories:

5a. County Forest Gas Tax Roads – these are gas tax roads used as a connector to trails or services and are funded at a rate determined by the full per mile funding rate, less the gas tax funding rate, not to exceed 50% of the full maintenance funding rate. Burnett County maintains 6.5 miles of County Forest Road Troutes.

5b. Hybrid Trails – these are trails designated as ATV trails, opened after August 1, 2012, that also permit highway vehicle traffic. These are funded at 50% of the annual maintenance funding rate. Burnett County maintains 1 mile of Hybrid/Troute trails.

5c. Club Trails – These are trails not funded under the state ATV program. In some cases, these are trails that are maintained and may be added as a funded trail at a future date. Burnett County recognizes 2 miles of club trails.

#### 940.2.2.2 ATV Trail Maintenance

For the purpose of ATV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive

maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion.

Burnett County contracts with the Turf and Tundra Trails Association to groom and maintain the funded summer ATV/UTV trail system. The Burnett County Snow Trails Association grooms and maintains the winter ATV/UTV trail system. The County periodically assists with mowing, grading or other trail maintenance projects as needed.

The County shall inspect and monitor trails, bridges and other infrastructure and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace improvements or rehabilitate trail surfaces or bridges as needed.

#### 940.2.2.3 Future ATV Trails

The use and popularity of ATV's and UTV's increased dramatically over the period of the 2006-2020 County Forest Plan. Increased usage of trail systems proved a tremendous need for much higher levels of trail maintenance in order to manage environmental damages.

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over any trail development proposals. It is recommended that future trails be considered only after careful examination of costs, benefits and impacts, and also as part of a larger planning effort. Burnett County will evaluate requests for additional connecting trails as they arise.

Proposals to relocate trails or to make adjustments to the existing trail system will be encouraged where there are concerns of public safety or environmental damage. Unfunded and club trails should be evaluated for maintenance funding applications.

It is critical that trail layout and design is done in such a way as to prevent erosion and soil loss. Trails must be developed to sustainability. For the purpose of this plan, sustainability is defined as follows:

**Sustainability** – For the purpose of ATV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion. Trails should be built with a slight crown and appropriate ditching to allow for adequate and proper water dispersal.

To this end, the construction and development of new ATV trails are to comply with the [WCFA ATV/ORV Trail Standards](#), which is also found in chapter 1000.

#### 940.2.3 Other Designated Motor Vehicle Trails

Other types of trails and their policies may come under consideration by the Burnett County Natural Resources Committee.

### 940.3 RECREATION TRAIL PERMITS

#### 940.3.1 Storm Water Discharge

In general, any trail construction or rehabilitation activities that disturb one acre or more of land will require a Storm Water Discharge Permit. In order to further define the County's understanding and implementation of permit requirements, the following current acceptable process will be used for determining when a permit is needed.

- The 1 acre threshold will be determined by measuring/estimating new disturbance or disturbance of previously grassed surfaces.

- Periodic grading of impervious or non-grassed trail surfaces is not considered disturbance.
- Restoration of water filtration/diversion devices, such as sediment traps or catch basins is considered maintenance and not disturbance.
- Reconstruction of previously grassed ditch lines as part of trail rehabilitation is considered disturbance.

#### 940.3.2 [Chapter 30](#)

Permits are required for bridges or culvert crossings of navigable waterways. These permits will either be classified as general or individual depending on specific site conditions. These permits are not required for culvert or bridge crossings of non-navigable or intermittent streams, nor are they required to install a clear span bridge over wetlands.

#### 940.3.3 Wetland Fill

Permits are required any time that fill is placed in a wetland. Permits are available to fill small wetlands for recreational trail purposes. Wetland fill must be less than 10,000 square feet and the permit does not require wetland mitigation. Clear span bridges and boardwalks placed on pilings generally do not require a wetland fill permit. Puncheon style bridges do require a permit.

## **945 RECREATION PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANTS**

### 945.1 RECREATION AREA FUNDING

Funding for recreation areas is generally from public funds and various grant sources. Aid for Development of Local Parks (ADLP) funding is available for facility development or enhancement, but there is normally a very high level of competition for these funds.

## 945.2 RECREATIONAL TRAIL FUNDING

### 945.2.1 Non-motorized trail systems

At this time, there is very limited access to any grant funds that will assist with non-motorized recreational trail maintenance. The County relies on local club labor and Recreational Trails Program Grants.

### 945.2.2 Motorized trail systems

There are numerous grant programs available to offset motorized trail system costs.

Burnett County utilizes the following funding sources:

1. Snowmobile Maintenance - \$300/mile
2. ATV Summer Maintenance - \$600/mile
3. ATV Winter Maintenance - \$100/mile
4. UTV Maintenance - \$100/mile
5. Troute Maintenance – up to 50% of the summer ATV per mile rate
6. ATV/Snowmobile Rehabilitation - 100% grants
7. ATV/Snowmobile Development - 100% grants
8. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grants – up to 50% of project cost

## 950 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RECREATION PROGRAM

Recommended changes to improve or enhance the recreation program on the Burnett County Forest can be found in the [Burnett County Outdoor Recreation Plan](#), which is also found in chapter 1000.