



FOREST-BASED RECREATION

Forest-based recreation in Wisconsin includes hunting, camping, snowmobiling, hiking, fishing, all terrain motor vehicle use, watching wildlife, off-road biking, cross country skiing, horseback riding, plant collecting, and pack animal use. Given the diversity of recreational user groups, different groups often value different ways of using forest resources. In order to assure that each group's needs are met, communities must develop a coordinated vision for forest-based recreation within their community, considering each potential forest user.

Some Reasons to Plan for Forest-Based Recreation

- Wisconsin households spend over \$5.5 billion per year on goods and services associated with forest-based recreation. Of this total spending, roughly \$2.5 billion are spent in local regions within close proximity to recreational sites.
- The popularity of motorized recreation is increasing, heightening the need for public conversation and planning to minimize recreational user conflicts.
- As more land converts to non-industrial private ownership, the amount of forestland open to the public is decreasing. This will increase the importance of ensuring adequate recreational access on public forestlands.
- Forests are in demand for a mix of uses from timber removal to wildlife habitat. Planning must take into account the variety of resources forests provide to ensure that forest resources are sustained while meeting community needs.

Tools to Address Forest-Based Recreation Across All Elements of Your Comprehensive Plan

- Assess the current status of forest-based recreation in your community and identify ways to improve public access to forests.
- Develop an outdoor recreation plan by collaborating with local parks and natural resources/forestry departments to coordinate a public vision for forest-based recreational opportunities.
- To ensure that forestland will be available in the future, acquire, transfer, or purchase development rights or work with local organizations to place conservation easements on large blocks of forestland.
- Support the work of service clubs and organizations dealing with the maintenance and development of forest-based recreational facilities and activities. Provide sufficient resources as necessary.



For more planning tools go to the
**Smart Forestry for Smart Growth
Planner's Toolbox**



on the web at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/SmartForestry/toolbox/>