

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans**

Property or Properties: Buckhorn State Park

Year Master Plan was Approved: 2007

Property-wide

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recreation Management</p>	<p>Camping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and expand modern, rustic, and special camping opportunities without losing the quiet, natural camping experience currently offered at Buckhorn State Park. • Improve the quality of the camping experience provided at Buckhorn State Park by increasing campground privacy. This will be accomplished by increased campsite separation distances and/or vegetative screening. <p>Park Day-Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for a variety of large and small-scale group gatherings in diverse natural settings. • Increase opportunities for environmental education within the park. • Provide high-quality visitor support facilities while preserving the Park's natural character. <p>Trails</p> <p>Provide a variety of trails for various recreational and educational experiences including hiking, interpretation, nature study on land and water, biking, and limited snowmobiling. See Map D for trail locations and Table 2-2 for a complete listing of existing and future trails and their lengths.</p> <p>Park Entrance Visitor Station (PEVS)</p> <p>Serve park operations/administration needs, and provide visitor service facilities and to support nature interpretation/education programs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>In the spring of 2009, school groups assisted in planting trees and shrubs between campsites to provide vegetative screening between sites.</i></p> <p><i>An LTE naturalist was hired last summer to provide environmental education programs. We also had some volunteers give naturalist talks.</i></p> <p><i>The park office interpretive room was rearranged to have sections with an interpretive theme. Some new</i></p>

	<i>displays were constructed.</i>
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Property-wide

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Infrastructure Mgt.</p>	<p>Road System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve the park road system to provide the public safe and attractive access to the park. <p>Utility Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage overhead utility lines to make meet design standards, which will make them unobtrusive to increase the natural aesthetics.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>In 2009, we had the county grade the gravel/dirt road at least three times. Gravel was added to a stretch of low area on this road. A sunken culvert received an asphalt patch as a temporary fix. The snowmobile trail was closed this past winter due to safety concerns. It had used segments of park road that were narrow and were open to vehicle traffic. Overhead utility lines and poles were removed when the line was buried improving aesthetics.</i></p>

Property-wide

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Hunting and Wildlife Mgt.</p>	<p>Hunting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide quality hunting and hunter education opportunities in the park that are compatible with other recreational uses and that maintain visitor safety. <p>Deer Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage deer populations in accordance with Deer Management Unit 54A, which has an over-winter deer density goal of 25 deer per square mile.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>Youth hunt was held at the park to help educate novice hunters. One hunter safety class was held at the park. A proposal was submitted to Madison to allow deer gun hunting opportunities in a recently acquired 1200 acre section of the state park. This will be voted on at spring hearings in 2010.</i></p>

Recreation Management Area

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vegetation Mgt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage with an emphasis on native plants. • In campgrounds, provide for a healthy mixed forest (in both age and species composition) of longer-lived tree species. A shrub layer should also be developed to provide screening between campsites whenever possible. • Throughout the remainder of the recreation management unit, excluding mowed grass areas, provide and maintain a woodland/barrens/grassland landscape, including the establishment of an additional 120 -160 acres of barrens/grassland. • To the degree practicable (considering the primary ecological management objectives of the various areas of the park), manage vegetation to avoid producing or maintaining habitats that promote high deer populations.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>In 2009, volunteers and park staff planted different species of trees and shrubs at campsites to provide diversity and prevent monoculture problems. The large oak and jack pine forest sections at the park have suffered high tree mortality due to oak wilt disease and jack pine budworm.</i></p> <p><i>In 2009, wood permits were given out to clear out dead oak trees. Brush piles were then burned during the winter. These tasks assisted in expanding the barrens area.</i></p>

Buckhorn Sand Barrens Management Area

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vegetation Mgt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and maintain approximately 260 acres of ecologically functioning sand barrens native community. • Provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation.
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Accomplishments 2009	<i>No Action</i>
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Buckhorn Oak Barrens Management Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES Vegetation Mgt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and maintain approximately 298 acres of ecologically functioning oak barrens native community with an open park-like structure. • Provide opportunities for research, ecological observation, interpretation, and wildlife viewing.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>Wood permits were issued to clear out dead and down oak wilt pockets in potential barrens areas. Volunteers and staff burned brush piles during the winter. The area is now ready for a prescribed burn to be done at a future date.</i>

Common Management Elements – Buckhorn State Park, Buckhorn Wildlife Area, and Yellow River Wildlife Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES Real Estate Mgt.	<p>Recent Park Land Acquisitions / Transactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire acreage within the expanded project boundary totaling 2578 acres. <p>Existing Leased Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management of land and resources within the 280 acres of scenic easement land within the State Park is governed by the terms of the existing agreement between WRPCo. and the Department of Natural Resources. The 280-acre parcel is within the original park boundary. The state will attempt to purchase this land if it becomes available.
Accomplishments	<i>Approximately 1200 acres were purchased in December of 2008 which included the 280 acres of scenic easement land. This became part of the state park designation. The WRPCo was going to donate 366 acres of shoreline, flowed lands, and an island as part of this purchase package deal, but this did not occur.</i>

2009	
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