

**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 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In spring of 2012, school groups assisted in planting trees and shrubs between campsites to provide vegetative screening between sites.</i> • <i>An LTE naturalist provided environmental education programs. We also had some volunteers give naturalist talks.</i> • <i>The Discovery Room in the park office had new displays added and was well used by visitors.</i>

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Trails were groomed for cross country skiing and the Friends of Buckhorn donated snowshoes for checking out to use in the park.</i>• <i>An ecobox in the barrens provides themed messages.</i>• <i>The Friends of Buckhorn purchased the final 3 caches for the Ranger Rick Geocache Trail. A trail of 8 caches follows the Barrens Nature Trail.</i>• <i>Friends of Buckhorn received match grants for new picnic grills which were installed in the beach picnic areas and a picnic shelter at the kid's fishing pond, which planning started for.</i>• <i>Planning and surveying were done for the 60 unit family campground and dump station.</i>• <i>The new flush toilet/2-stallshower building was completed and in use.</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 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In 2012, a project was completed with Germantown Township to refinish 1.2miles of township roads within the park, 31st St and 22nd from 31st north to 29th St.</i> <i>The snowmobile trail remained closed this past winter due to safety concerns. It previously used segments of park road that were narrow and were open to vehicle traffic.</i> <i>There are no overhead lines remaining in the park.</i>

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 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>.Novice hunt was held at the park to help educate novice hunters.</i> <i>Deer gun hunting opportunities were allowed in a 1200 acre section of the state park that was recently acquired. The hunt was successful and were open to all deer gun and archery seasons offered in 54A.</i> <i>Hunting maps were revised to reflect changes from Act 168.</i>

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 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In 2012, volunteers and park staff planted different species of trees and shrubs at campsites and picnic areas 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> • <i>In 2012, wood permits were given out to clear out dead oak trees on the ground. Brush piles were then burned in winter. A tree harvester machine and operator were contracted to drop dead trees. These tasks assisted in expanding the barrens area.</i> • <i>Garlic mustard was pulled by staff and volunteers to reduce the spread to new locations of the group camp area.</i> • <i>93 acres of red pine plantation was thinned in 2012 south of 30th St and 2 acres of aspen was clear cut. This sale was to improve growth and vigor of the red pine plantation and improve wildlife habitat for game and non-game species by clearcutting aspen.</i> • <i>Timber sale was set up for thinning the pine plantation south of Cty G and west of 19th Ave to improve growth and vigor of the plantation.</i>

Buckhorn Sand Barrens Management Area

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</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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Vegetation Mgt.	
Accomplishments 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Site inventory completed by area forester.</i> • <i>No other work completed.</i>

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 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wood permits were issued to clear out dead and down oak wilt pockets in potential barrens areas. A tree harvester machine and operator were contracted to drop dead trees. Staff burned brush piles in winter.</i> • <i>Timber harvest of 47 acres was completed for oak/pine barrens restoration north of the park entrance.</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.
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**Accomplishments
2012**

- *Purchase of easement area was completed in 2009. The WRPCo still owns 366 acres of shoreline, flowed lands and an island in the project boundary.*
- *Rating was done for potential purchase of a 5 acre undeveloped inholding that was for sale. Appraisal was completed and bid submitted to owner, which was turned down.*