

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

Property: Chippewa Flowage

Master Plan Year: 2000

Flowage Area Development and Recreation Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Recreational Use and Watercraft Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDNR, LCO, and the FS will develop a comprehensive recreational use and watercraft management plan for the flowage. Key objectives of this plan are to protect the undeveloped character of the flowage, to protect the high quality of recreational experiences, to protect public safety, to ensure the exercise of treaty rights, to prevent wildlife harassment and destruction of their habitat, to prevent the impairment of water quality by accelerated bank erosion and the suspension of bottom sediments caused by watercraft and recreational use, and to prevent the exposure of pre-flowage era Chippewa grave sites on islands due to soil erosion by boat wakes and other causes. Prior to developing this plan recreational use surveys and other studies will be done to identify any existing and potential use problems, user conflicts, and preferred management strategies.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>A comprehensive recreation use and watercraft management plan has not been developed for the Chippewa Flowage. There will likely be a review Chippewa Flowage Joint Agency Management Plan in the near future and recreational use surveys and studies could be conducted at that time to assist with plan development. There have been ongoing efforts to increase enforcement in the marked slow-no-wake zones as well as with the 100 ft. slow-no-wake law. The WDNR has performed erosion control work on many islands with the potential for accelerated bank erosion. Developing vegetation on the banks will help reduce the impact from watercraft.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Development Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the islands, mainland shoreline and backlands in a manner that minimizes development and its intrusion on the natural, visual landscape. Structures, facilities and materials used should blend in with the surrounding environment and repeat form, line and color of the (non-winter) landscape as much as possible.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>The WDNR, LCO, USFS, and some private land owners adhere to covenants contained in the property deeds to flowage lands. The WDNR Chippewa Flowage property manager continued to work with the Sawyer County Zoning office to enforce covenant restrictions on private lands. In 2014, the WDNR acquired a .72 acre developed parcel of land on a prominent point of the flowage to be restored to a natural state. The structure on this parcel will be demolished in 2016, and restoration work will continue. All WDNR structures, facilities and materials have continued to be constructed to blend in with the surround environment as much as possible. The visible portion of the new fishing pier is mainly constructed of wood to minimize its visual impact.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Camping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WDNR, FS and LCO agree that no more than 18 campsites will be designated and maintained for public use on the flowage, not including those sites designated by LCO for use by tribal members. The campsites will be primitive; facilities will include only a fire ring, picnic table, and an open air pit toilet. One campsite will have a pier and other facilities to provide for access and use by persons with disabilities. • Make designated public campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis until such time as a camping permit system may be established. Provide signs and maps that designate the campsites open to public camping.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>All objectives have been met. 18 total campsites are maintained for use by the public, including 11 DNR, 6 LCO, and 1 USFS campsite. DNR and US Forest Service campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, except for one established accessible DNR campsite which is available by reservation for persons with disabilities. DNR plans to have their accessibility coordinator visit Cedar Tops West to look for any possible improvement to accessibility of site's amenities. LCO campsites are available by reservation. Maps, signs, brochures and websites all show locations of campsites and rules and instructions for occupying campsites. Two campsites, one WDNR and one LCO, were relocated in 2014 due to heavy use and erosion at the sites. Restoration work was completed on the closed sites in 2015 and maps and brochures were update to reflect changes.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Picnic and Beach Area Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public picnic and beach facilities will be constructed on agency managed lands within the flowage management area, except that limited picnic facilities may be provided at selected boat landing sites.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No public picnic or beach facilities have been constructed on agency managed lands. None of the public boat landings have picnic tables or shelters, but they all provide a toilet facility (2 permanent and 2 portable) and the CC South boat landing offers a drinking water source.</p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Water Access and Related Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional public boat access or new canoe access to the flowage (shown on Map 3) will be constructed within the flowage management area; however, existing facilities or sites may be relocated to better meet management objectives. Improve one boat landing to provide access to all users. Provide for adequate access to all users at other landings if they are upgraded. Provide a fishing pier or other suitable shore fishing facility to accommodate all users at a suitable location on the flowage.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No additional public boat or canoe landings have been constructed on the Chippewa Flowage. All DNR landings have been improved to provide access to persons with disabilities. A floating fishing pier was purchased in 2015 to be located at the CC North Public Access. Shoreline access to the pier was constructed to include a four stall parking area and a path connecting the parking area to the pier. The pier will be open to the public beginning in May, 2016. The public boat access at CC South will undergo parking improvements in 2016 to reduce road parking.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Non-motorized Trail Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian – cross-country skiing and hiking are allowed. If a need is shown, primarily develop trails on the backland areas. • Horse/Mountain bike trails –horse and mountain bike trails will not be proposed by the managing partners in order to protect aesthetic, cultural, and ecological resources.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>The Moss Creek Trail, located off of CTH B on the backlands of the Chippewa Flowage, continues to be a popular pedestrian trail within the Chippewa Flowage Management Area. In 2015, DNR began construction on another designated trail located at the site of a recent timber harvest on the west side of CTH CC across from Conners Lane. This will be a small, looped trail located in a central, high traffic portion of flowage lands. The “CC Trail” will be open to the public for hiking/skiing in 2016.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Snowmobile Trails and Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The marked snowmobile trail system will be restricted to the existing system, except as otherwise provided herein. Relocation of existing snowmobile trails may occur to correct safety hazards, protect resource values, or reduce user conflicts. All appropriate measures will be taken to protect sensitive flowage resources that may be harmed by the operation of snowmobiles.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>No new snowmobile trails were established in 2015. The local snowmobile club is interested in establishing a new short access trail to the flowage from World’s End Road. This will be discussed when the master plan review is conducted.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to existing laws and regulations, ATV use should be limited to marked trails. Off-trail ATV use will not be encouraged.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>No ATV trails exist on WDNR Chippewa Flowage property.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Visitor Information Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WDNR, FS and LCO will coordinate the design, construction and maintenance of informational bulletin boards at the primary access points. These bulletin boards may contain maps, brochures, interpretation and education materials and other visitor information.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>There are kiosks at each of the public access points on the flowage which provide maps and a variety of information for the public. The WDNR, USFS, and LCO communicate regularly at partner's meetings to coordinate updates to mapping, regulations, etc. Many of the informational signs at WDNR kiosks were updated in 2015. Information is also provided on WDNR, USFS, and LCO websites. Chippewa Flowage brochures were updated in 2015 to reflect the relocation of two campsites, as well as a variety of other changes. The brochures will need to be updated again in 2016 to reflect a change in DNR phone numbers.</i></p>

Water Resource Management

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Water Quality Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WDNR, FS and LCO will work together to establish baseline water quality information, to monitor water quality in the flowage and its watershed and to identify causes of water quality problems. • The WDNR, FS and LCO will urge and cooperate with local governments and organizations to monitor point discharges on a regular basis; the parties agree to coordinate the exercise of their respective jurisdictions over water quality issues. • The agencies will cooperate on studies of the long-term water quality impacts of motor boat use on the flowage, specifically on bank erosion, sediment re-suspension, and their potential as a non-point source of pollution that may adversely affect the flowage; the agencies will take appropriate corrective actions as needed.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>The WDNR, USFS, and LCO have worked collaboratively to study bank erosion around the flowage. The Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association has expressed interest in assisting with a more extensive erosion study. Erosion control work will continue at some of the high use areas. Native trees, shrubs, and grasses have been planted to increase bank stabilization. Slow-no-wake enforcement efforts contribute to the protection of shorelines.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Aquatic Plant Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage native plant species to best maintain natural plant diversity to protect against the invasion of non-native species and to maintain high quality fish, wildlife and aesthetic values. Develop an aquatic plant management plan that 1) preserves and enhances wild plant species traditionally used by the Chippewa (especially the re-establishment, preservation and enhancement of wild rice beds); 2) prevents new exotic plant species introduction; and 3) controls and, where feasible, eradicates already present exotic plant species. • The WDNR, FS and LCO flowage managers will monitor and map aquatic vegetation for changes over time and will initiate control efforts only to achieve localized and specific resource management objectives.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>The Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association (CFAPOA) continued to provide aquatic invasive species (AIS) monitors at public access sites during heavy use periods through the DNR grant program. The CFAPOA also continued their efforts to remove purple loosestrife plants through mechanical and biological methods. Educational and regulatory signs have been placed at all of the WDNR boat landings. With the growing concern of a Eurasian watermilfoil presence in the Chippewa Flowage, a</i></p>

	<p><i>decision was made by the Chippewa Flowage partners group to draw the reservoir level down 8 feet during the 2013-2014 winter months with the intention of exposing and freezing the root system of the plants. This drawdown regime has continued through the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 winter months. Currently, LCO and Northland College are conducting a three year aquatic plant study to help determine the effectiveness of drawdowns on the milfoil (and native plant) population.</i></p>
--	--

Fishery Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Emphasize the maintenance and protection of native species, genetic strains, and their spawning habitat, plus fairly balanced harvest opportunities for tribal and sport fishing needs. The following management actions are to be taken to support this objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue surveys to annually assess the year class strength of walleye, muskellunge, and northern pike in standard index stations. • Strive to estimate the adult walleye population and angler harvest rate at least once every 7-8 years. • Develop indices for determining trends for other key fish species. • Continue to stock muskellunge annually. • Spawning areas for both musky and walleye should be mapped with the quantity and quality of habitat described every 7-8 years. • Enforce state-licensed ice fishing for panfish.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>Electrofishing surveys are conducted annually by WDNR, LCO, and GLIFWC personnel to assess the health of the fish populations. A rough tally of the young of year walleye showed a year class of less than 5 per mile. Additionally, the 2014 walleye year class was still abundant and the fish were averaging roughly 9.5 inches in September, 2015. DNR stocked 72,900 walleye in the Chippewa Flowage in 2015. Ice fishing opportunities were expanded in 2010 to include the panfish season being open year round.</i></p>

Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Management on Islands and the Mainland Shoreline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage to maintain or enhance a naturally appearing landscape with emphasis on promoting long-lived tree species, big tree character and mature vegetative communities.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>The WDNR continued erosion control work on many of the state owned islands. Native tree, shrub, and grass species were planted to enhance a naturally appearing landscape and to increase bank stabilization. This is also accomplished through protection required in the deed covenant restrictions for WDNR, LCO, and USFS properties.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Management on Backlands Visible from the Flowage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage to maintain or enhance the naturally appearing landscape with an emphasis on promoting long-lived tree species, big tree character, structurally diverse communities, mature communities, and encouraging a sustainable, resilient, and functioning ecosystem. • Unique and sensitive plants, such as cedar, hemlock and other species negatively impacted by herbivores, will be favored and perpetuated; understory plants gathered by the Chippewa will be given special consideration. • Provide nesting and brood rearing habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive wildlife species, including eagles and osprey.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>Efforts to protect the naturally appearing landscape are undertaken by adherence to the deed restrictions and close monitoring by LCO, WDNR and USFS foresters. Thriving populations of both eagle and osprey species are being maintained through close monitoring by WDNR and LCO wildlife personnel and enforcement efforts by each agencies' officers. WDNR timber sales within the Chippewa Flowage Management Area adhere to covenant restrictions and have not been visible from the Flowage.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Management on Backlands Not Visible from the Flowage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide habitat for a variety of native wildlife and plant species, with particular regard to understory plants gathered by the Chippewa, and to encourage a healthy, functioning ecosystem. In particular, provide timber of all age classes, provide or perpetuate cedar and hemlock as practicable, and provide nesting and brood rearing habitat for endangered, threatened, sensitive and other species, including eagles, osprey, fisher, bobcat and marten.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p><i>Management for diverse communities on Flowage backlands has been conducted on WDNR, USFS, and LCO lands through select harvest timber sales and adherence to best management practices. Thriving populations of both eagle and osprey species are being maintained through close monitoring by WDNR and LCO wildlife personnel and enforcement efforts by each agencies' officers. Planting of trails with a mix of grasses and clover has been accomplished and mowing of existing trails and openings is completed several times/year to encourage wildlife habitat.</i></p>