

APPENDIX III

State Parks, Trails, Recreation Areas & Natural Areas

Ahnapee State Trail: Designated as a rails-to-trails trail in 1970, the Ahnapee State Trail begins in Sturgeon Bay and travels south to Kewaunee. The trail skirts along the Ahnapee River, and is used by touring bicyclists, horseback riders, and snowmobilers in the winter. The State of Wisconsin owns the trail and the Counties it travels through manage it.

Fischer Creek Park State Recreation Area: An excellent example of what partnerships can accomplish. As an alternative to residential development Fischer Creek Park was purchased with money from the Wisconsin Stewardship Fund and matching funds from Manitowoc County. Although the park is owned by the state, Manitowoc County is responsible for its development and maintenance. Fischer Creek Park is located on the shores of Lake Michigan just north of the village of Cleveland. The park includes 109 acres and over one mile of Lake Michigan shoreline. The diverse topography and vegetation communities include ancient sand dunes, forest, wetlands and bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan.

Newport State Park: Located at the northern tip of Door County, Newport is nearly 2500 acres in size. The park offers backpack camping, hiking and biking trails, and a wonderful educational program. In addition, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular winter sports at Newport. A boreal forest, conifer swamp, and miles of Lake Michigan shoreline are protected within its boundaries. The park is open to deer hunting in the fall. The showy ladyslipper, dwarf lake iris and Hine's emerald dragonflies are a few of the many endangered species can be found at Newport.

Peninsula State Park: Without a doubt, Peninsula is the largest and most popular State Park in the Basin. With 3,775 acres of primarily forest and wetlands, Peninsula is home to many species of plant and animal life. The property, which was purchased in 1910, is one of the oldest in the State Park system. The property offers nearly every recreational opportunity, including; swimming, hiking, biking, camping, snowmobiling, skiing, and even an eighteen hole golf course. In addition, Eagle Bluff Lighthouse (1868) is open to the public. The American Players Theater is a popular attraction at the park, with live performances throughout the summer.

Point Beach State Forest: One of the few State Forests, Point Beach is the only one located in this Region of the State, and is the only located along the shores of Lake Michigan. The Forest was purchased in the late 1930's in conjunction with the communities of Manitowoc and Two Rivers. The park is open to many recreational opportunities, such as indoor and outdoor camping, hunting and fishing, hiking and biking, and several winter sports. The property is comprised of forested lands primarily, and wooded dunes along the sandy shoreline. The endangered dune's thistle can be found in the Forest, along with a wide variety of other plant life unique to the Great Lakes shoreline.

Potawatomi State Park: Purchased in 1928, Potawatomi is located on the northeast shore of Sturgeon Bay. Its 1200 acres are mainly wooded, with stands of paper birch and hemlock trees. The park offers camping, hiking, biking, skiing, and snowmobiling. The two and a half miles of rocky shoreline offer shore-fishing opportunities. The close proximity of the town of Sturgeon Bay makes the park a favorite with its local population. The park offers an accessible cabin to the mobility impaired for renting throughout the summer season, and the observation tower affords a view of Green Bay. Trilliums and yellow ladyslippers are popular sights in the spring, and endangered species include the dwarf lake iris and varieties of land snails.

Rock Island State Park: Rock Island is truly a mixing of the old and new. It was purchased from the Thordarson family in the 1960's and is a source of pride for the local residence, as well as the State. The property boasts some of the most beautiful and historic buildings in the State Park system. The Potawatomi Lighthouse (1836), the first light on Lake Michigan, is located at the properties northern end. Buildings that were constructed by the Thordarson's still remain on the Island, and are protected and preserved for future generations to see. They include the magnificent Viking Hall (boathouse), the Cabin (office), the Water Tower, the Gate, and the Pagoda (shelter). No vehicular traffic is allowed on Rock Island, including bikes. The 40 plus campsites are all accessed via footpaths. Electricity is generated on the Island itself to power the office and boathouse. Diesel generators are being replaced with solar and wind generating units.

Whitefish Dunes State Park: The Dunes was purchased in the 1960's and is a day use only park, meaning they do not offer overnight facilities. The main purpose of the park is to protect the sand dunes that comprise much of the parks' acreage. An archeological dig in the 1980's uncovered a wealth of prehistoric history in the park, with evidence of village life dating back to the early Woodland Era. The park is home to many endangered species such as the dune thistle, the dwarf lake iris, and a sea spurge. Education is a primary focus at the Dunes, and year round educational programs focus on the sites rich history and the uniqueness of the large dunes throughout the park. Whitefish is touted as the only State Park with a class 1 trout stream, an inland lake, and frontage on a Great Lake. It offers hiking, biking, and skiing trails, in addition to its famous beach.

Lakeshore Basin State Natural Areas

Peninsula Park Beech Forest State Natural Area

The site contains a representative northern mesic forest and an excellent exposure of the Niagara escarpment.

Peninsula Park White Cedar Forest State Natural Area

The site contains a continuum of plant communities that change with elevation. A state threatened plant species can be found on the site.

The Ridges Sanctuary State Natural Area

The Ridges Sanctuary encompasses a variety of unusual habitats, resulting in one of the greatest concentrations of rare plants in the Midwest. Several endangered and threatened plant species are found on the site.

Sister Islands State Natural Area

The site is an historical gull and tern nesting area.

Toft Point State Natural Area

The site contains an outstanding northern mesic and boreal forest, more than two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, two state-endangered plant species, and two state threatened plant species.

Newport Conifer-Hardwoods State Natural Area

The site contains diverse northern mesic, northern wet mesic, and boreal forest communities. Two state-threatened and several rare plants occur within the area.

Jackson Harbor Ridges State Natural Area

The site contains wet calcareous sand beach and swale. Low dunes landward harbor an outstanding diversity of rare and restricted plants of coastal areas.

Mud Lake State Natural Area

Mud Lake is can be described as a shallow, hard, drainage lake surrounded by northern wet mesic forest.

Whitefish Dunes State Natural Area

The site features the largest and most significant Great Lakes dunes in Wisconsin. Three state threatened plant species are found on the site.

Marshall's Point State Natural Area

A unique variant of the boreal forest type that exists along Lake Michigan reflecting the influence of the near to surface limestone bedrock; also maple beach northern mesic forest.

Mink River Estuary State Natural Area**Moonlight Bay Bedrock Beach State Natural Area****Wilderness Ridge State Natural Area**

The are features a cross section of Lake Nippissing-age beach ridges and their associated vegetation.

Vanderbloomen Bog State Natural Area

Bog featuring a range of plant succession from open mat to coniferous to deciduous forest. The site lies within the end moraine of the Valders's stage of the Wisconsin glaciation.

Cherney Maribel Caves State Natural Area

The area features exposed limestone cliffs, rarely found in glaciated Wisconsin, and their associated shaded cliff community.

Two Creeks Buried Forest State Natural Area

The site is world famous for research on and interpretation of the Pleistocene period.

Point Beach Ridges State Natural Area

The site contains an excellent example of lake dunes and ridge and swale topography and vegetation. One state endangered and four state threatened plants are found on this site.

Woodland Dunes

Ancient lake dunes and ridge and swale topography.