

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Parks have become an integral part of our lifestyles. These areas provide many benefits to a great cross-section of County residents. Children learn to interact and play with other children, teens enjoy having a place to play and hang out with one another, and parents and seniors enjoy taking part in family activities. Even dogs have a special park for them. Outdoor recreation is a major component of the high quality of life enjoyed by those that live in, or visit, Portage County.

The State of Wisconsin has established a continuing program to financially assist State and local outdoor recreation programs. Section 23.30 of the Wisconsin State Statutes establishes the Outdoor Recreational Program, the purpose of which is to “promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreational facilities and services...and to facilitate and encourage the fullest beneficial public use of these areas”

This document provides a database and recommendations which may be utilized by community officials, staff, and residents of Portage County to understand and promote comprehensive outdoor recreation planning. It is intended to serve as a policy document of the County Park Commission, the County Planning and Zoning Committee and the County Board of Supervisors. Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

PORTAGE COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

The Portage County Board of Supervisors established the Park Commission in 1935, under Chapter 27.02 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The seven members Commission consists of four (4) County Board Supervisors, whose term is subject to re-election every two years, and three (3) citizen members who serve seven year terms. The Commission discharges those responsibilities granted under Chapter 27.05.

The mission of the Portage County Park Commission is to enhance and maintain the quality of life for Portage County citizens by providing a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities such as biking, birding, fishing, skiing, viewing, swimming, etc., in natural settings throughout County Park facilities and programs.

PAST PLANNING

Portage County developed its first outdoor recreation policy manual in 1966. That manual and a subsequent 1969 update were written for the purpose of meeting the County recreation demands and qualifying for State and Federal recreation aids. The policy manual was expanded and reworked to create the first Portage County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), which was adopted in 1971.

Since the adoption of the 1971 CORP, the Portage County Park Commission has adopted plan updates in 1977, 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2001. These 5-year Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan updates were undertaken to adjust policies and acquisition/improvement priorities as needed, and to continue State and/or Federal funding eligibility.

CURRENT PLANNING PROCESS

The 2007-2011 update of the County's Outdoor Recreation Plan was initiated by the County Parks Director in the summer of 2006. Consistent with past practice, the Parks Department requested the assistance of the Planning and Zoning Department in drafting the document. A draft of the Plan was completed by February 2007 and forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Committee and Park Commission for review and public hearing.

Included in this document are a detailed inventory of existing facilities and an analysis of how local conditions affect recreational needs throughout the County. This Outdoor Recreation Plan is short-range in scope, addressing a 5 year planning period from 2007-2011. As previously stated, this is the sixth in a series of updates to the County's original outdoor recreation plan. The continual update of this Plan serves to facilitate evaluation of current recreation capabilities and needs while maintaining the County's eligibility for various State and federal outdoor recreation grant programs. The Portage County Park Commission shall continually review and update this Plan in light of changing conditions and needs, with possible input from the County Planning and Zoning Committee. Amendments shall follow the same process as the original Plan including: a public meeting(s)/hearing on the proposed amendment(s); approval by the County Planning and Zoning Committee and County Park Commission; and adoption by the County Board.

SECTION 2 COUNTY CHARACTERISTICS

This section describes the population and physical features that make up Portage County. Portage County is located in central Wisconsin. It is bordered by Adams, Wood, Marathon, Waupaca, and Waushara Counties, and includes 28 units of government: 17 Towns, 9 Villages, the City of Stevens Point, and Portage County. The total land area for the County is 823 square miles or 526,813 acres, with a 2000 Census population of 67,182.

Table 1.1: Geographical Size of Civil Division

Municipality	Acreage	Square Miles	Municipality	Acreage	Square Miles
T. Alban	23,191	36.24	V. Almond *	672	1.05
T. Almond	27,642	43.19	V. Amherst *	830	1.3
T. Amherst	24,518	38.31	V. Amherst Jct. *	793	1.24
T. Belmont	23,238	36.31	V. Junction City *	967	1.51
T. Buena Vista	39,290	61.39	V. Nelsonville *	676	1.06
T. Carson	35,332	55.21	V. Park Ridge **	143	0.22
T. Dewey	30,100	47.03	V. Plover **	5,979	9.34
T. Eau Pleine	36,729	57.39	V. Rosholt *	696	1.09
T. Grant	45,618	71.78	V. Whiting **	1,398	2.18
T. Hull	20,069	31.36	Stevens Point **	10,553	16.49
T. Lanark	23,128	36.14			
T. Linwood	21,558	33.68	* = Rural Villages		
T. New Hope	23,319	36.44	** = "Urban Area"		
T. Pine Grove	24,158	37.75			
T. Plover	27,678	43.25			
T. Sharon	41,488	64.83			
T. Stockton	37,053	57.9			

Source: Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Historic Change and Geographical Distribution

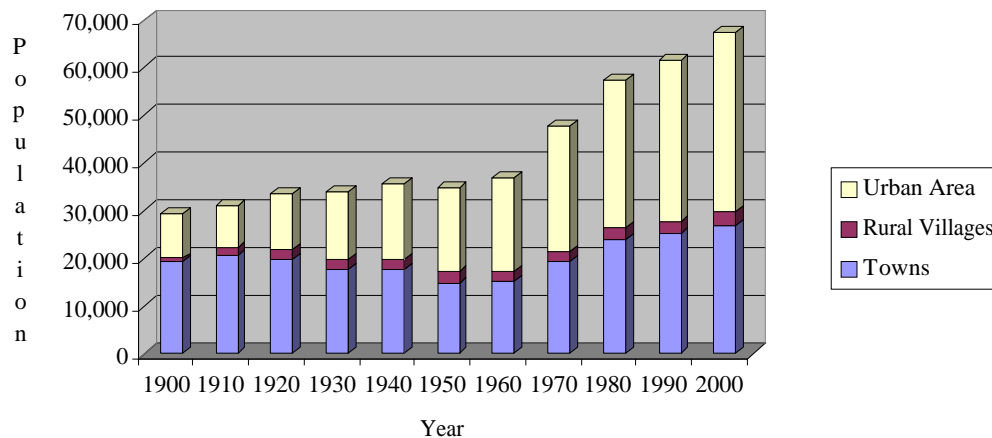
Every 10 years the Federal government performs the national census, and these census results are the main source of information used to understand how communities change over time. Table 1.2 and Figure 1.1 show how Portage County’s population changed throughout the 20th century, both in total number and how it was distributed across the area.

Table 1.2: Portage County Population Change, 1900 to 2000

	U.S. Bureau Of Census											
	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	
In Towns	19,401	20,754	19,668	17,654	17,543	14,872	15,264	19,283	23,792	25,142	26,986	
In Rural Villages	558	1,499	2,194	2,224	2,268	2,254	2,166	2,180	2,645	2,701	2,877	
Rural Area	19,959	22,253	21,862	19,878	19,811	17,126	17,430	21,463	26,437	27,843	29,863	
Urban Area	9,524	8,692	11,687	13,949	15,987	17,732	19,534	26,078	30,973	33,562	37,319	
Portage County	29,483	30,945	33,549	33,827	35,798	34,858	36,964	47,541	57,410	61,405	67,182	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Urban Area = Stevens Point, Villages of Plover, Whiting, Park Ridge

Figure 1.1: Portage County Population Distribution, 1900-2000

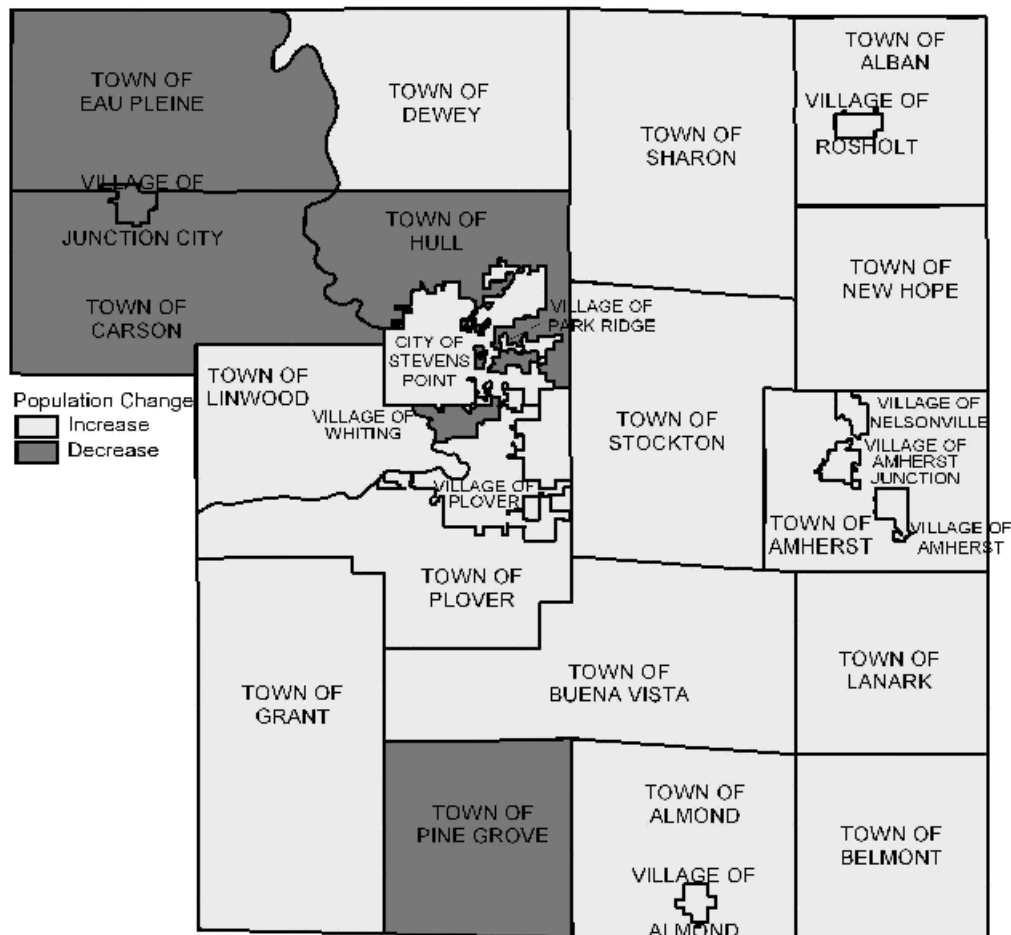


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Portage County saw its population increase by 5,777 people between 1990 and 2000, a growth rate of 9.41 percent. The State of Wisconsin grew by 471,906 people (9.6%) over the same period. The majority of the County’s population (56%) is concentrated in the County’s incorporated “urban area” (City of Stevens Point, Villages of Plover, Whiting and Park Ridge). This percentage increases when the more densely developed portions of the adjacent Towns of Hull, Plover and Linwood are included. Another 4% of the total population resides in the County’s six outlying rural villages. As a group, the rural villages have experienced very limited growth since 1990. Approximately 40% of the County’s population resides in its 17 towns. This rural residential population generally represents very low-density development, primarily scattered along the highways and roads throughout the County. However, a limited number of higher density, rural subdivisions do exist. As a group, the towns have demonstrated only modest population growth since 1990.

The following map illustrates which areas of the County gained or lost population between the 1990 and 2000 Census years.

Figure 1.2: Population Change 1990 to 2000 for Portage County Municipalities



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

Population Projections

Population projections developed by the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) suggest that Portage County will experience moderate growth through the year 2025, with a projected increase of 11,770 residents from 2000 to 2025, or a growth rate of 17.5%.

The Portage County Board has adopted the following population projections for through 2025:

Yr 2010: 72,272 Yr 2015: 73,924 Yr 2020: 76,183 Yr 2025: 78,952

The WisDOA also publishes population estimates each year for every municipality and county in the state. The 2006 population estimate for Portage County was 69,591. Based on this assumed current population, Portage County is projected to grow by approximately 4% within the 2007-2011 timeframe of this outdoor recreation plan. It is anticipated that, similar to past experience, the majority of population growth is expected to occur within the Urban Area. This emphasizes the need for cooperation and coordination between Portage County, the City of Stevens Point, and the other urban area units of government in preparing to meet the recreational demands of this concentrated, growth area. This could include joint participation in the development of new park facilities on the urban fringe.

Population Composition

The breakdown of the County's population by age composition in Table 1.3 reveals a disproportionately high percentage in the 15-24 age groups in the "Portage County" columns; this reflects the impact of the nearly 9,000 students enrolled in the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point campus. The "Baby Boom" generation, the name given to those persons born from January 1, 1946 through the end of 1964, is also identified by the gray boxes moving diagonally across the three Census years.

Table 1.3: Portage County Historical Population Composition

Age	Towns			Rural Village Total			Portage County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Under 5 years	2,230 9.4%	1,994 7.9%	1,612 6.0%	239 9.1%	217 8.0%	216 7.5%	4,343 7.6%	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%
5 to 9 years	2,200 9.2%	2,347 9.3%	2,035 7.5%	188 7.1%	231 8.6%	234 8.1%	4,105 7.1%	4,667 7.6%	4,331 6.4%
10 to 14 years	2,403 10.1%	2,242 8.9%	2,261 8.4%	200 7.6%	234 8.7%	241 8.4%	4,566 8.0%	4,413 7.2%	4,787 7.1%
15 to 19 years	2,452 10.3%	1,947 7.7%	2,185 8.1%	207 7.9%	183 6.8%	234 8.1%	7,153 12.5%	5,643 9.2%	6,394 9.5%
20 to 24 years	1,897 8.0%	1,438 5.7%	1,188 4.4%	207 7.9%	159 5.9%	177 6.2%	8,117 14.1%	7,438 12.1%	7,589 11.3%
25 to 34 years	4,233 17.8%	4,067 16.2%	3,098 11.5%	404 15.3%	405 15.0%	409 14.2%	9,180 16.0%	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%
35 to 44 years	2,784 11.7%	4,201 16.7%	4,917 18.2%	257 9.8%	393 14.6%	443 15.4%	5,593 9.7%	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%
45 to 54 years	1,973 8.3%	2,691 10.7%	4,407 16.3%	153 5.8%	247 9.1%	343 11.9%	4,447 7.7%	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%
55 to 59 years	906 3.8%	1,018 4.0%	1,420 5.3%	127 4.8%	91 3.4%	105 3.6%	2,158 3.8%	2,157 3.5%	2,894 4.3%
60 to 64 years	826 3.5%	921 3.7%	1,121 4.2%	165 6.3%	81 3.0%	115 4.0%	2,027 3.5%	2,142 3.5%	2,341 3.5%
65 to 74 years	1,262 5.3%	1,457 5.8%	1,616 6.0%	271 10.3%	238 8.8%	142 4.9%	3,391 5.9%	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%
75 to 84 years	498 2.1%	664 2.6%	874 3.2%	175 6.6%	176 6.5%	151 5.2%	1,806 3.1%	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%
85 years and over	128 0.5%	151 0.6%	252 0.9%	42 1.6%	46 1.7%	67 2.3%	534 0.9%	720 1.2%	998 1.5%
Total	23,792	25,138	26,986	2,635	2,701	2,877	57,420	61,405	67,182
Median Age	27.3	32.2	37.8	32.0	34.7	36.2	25.4	29.3	33.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1980, 1990, 2000

The WisDOA prepares Population Projections for Wisconsin Counties by Age. Table 1.4 below details these projections for Portage County through 2025, along with the historical data from Table 1.3. This information can help in understanding future recreation needs. As people remain active longer into their lives, Baby Boomers will continue to be an important piece of the recreation puzzle. Consideration should be given to further study of the impact of an active aging population on the long-term recreation needs of the County. Such study would logically be part of a long-range outdoor recreation planning process.

Table 1.4: Portage County Population Composition Projections

Age	U.S. Census			WisDOA Projections		
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2025
Under 5 years	4,343 7.6%	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%	4,238 5.9%	4,510 6.1%	4,946 6.3%
5 to 9 years	4,105 7.1%	4,667 7.6%	4,331 6.4%	4,143 5.7%	4,354 5.9%	4,920 6.2%
10 to 14 years	4,566 8.0%	4,413 7.2%	4,787 7.1%	4,375 6.1%	4,391 5.9%	4,994 6.3%
15 to 19 years	7,153 12.5%	5,643 9.2%	6,394 9.5%	6,481 9.0%	5,892 8.0%	6,380 8.1%
20 to 24 years	8,117 14.1%	7,438 12.1%	7,589 11.3%	8,691 12.0%	8,314 11.2%	7,554 9.6%
25 to 34 years	9,180 16.0%	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%	8,364 11.6%	8,897 12.0%	8,481 10.7%
35 to 44 years	5,593 9.7%	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%	8,070 11.2%	7,510 10.2%	8,656 11.0%
45 to 54 years	4,447 7.7%	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%	10,519 14.6%	9,826 13.3%	7,891 10.0%
55 to 64 years	4,185 7.3%	4,299 7.0%	5,235 7.8%	8,666 12.0%	9,813 13.3%	9,717 12.3%
65 to 74 years	3,391 5.9%	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%	4,686 6.5%	6,051 8.2%	9,048 11.5%
75 to 84 years	1,806 3.1%	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%	2,743 3.8%	2,935 4.0%	4,670 5.9%
85 years +	534 0.9%	720 1.2%	998 1.5%	1283 1.8%	1418 1.9%	1695 2.1%
Total	57,420	61,405	67,182	72,259	73,911	78,952

Source: Demographic Services Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration, January 2004

LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 1.5 summarizes land use in Portage County as of 2006. This summary is based on information contained in the adopted Portage County Comprehensive Plan.

Table 1.5: Portage County Land Use, 2006

Existing Land Use, Unincorporated Area	Acres	% of Total Acreage
Residential	19,642	3.7%
Agricultural	206,783	39.2%
Commercial	1,330	0.3%
Industrial	530	0.1%
Governmental/Institutional	1,057	0.2%
Parks/Recreation/Natural Areas*	44,539	8.4%
Non-Metallic Mineral Extraction	1,169	0.2%
Right-of-Way (road and rail)	15,531	2.9%
Vacant / Undeveloped	213,144	40.4%
Rural Town Acreage	503,725	96%
Rural Village Acreage	4,591	<1%
Urban Area Acreage	18,948	3.6%
Total County Acreage (Approximate)	527,264	100%

Source: Portage County Planning and Zoning Department * Includes Water (streams, rivers, impoundments, etc.).
 Urban Area = Villages of Park Ridge, Plover, Whiting, City of Stevens Point

CLIMATE DATA

The warmest month is July, with an average high temperature of 80°; the coldest is January with an average high of 22.7°. Average annual rainfall is 32"; average annual snowfall is 44.5".

Table 1.6: Portage County Climate Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Au g	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Average Degree High (F°)	22.7	27.8	39.0	53.8	67.1	76.0	80.0	77.5	68.7	56.3	40.5	26.9	53.0
Average Degree Low (F°)	3.2	7.9	20.2	33.4	44.9	54.4	59.4	57.1	47.3	36.2	23.2	9.9	33.1
Precipitation (inches)	1.11	0.98	1.95	2.87	3.63	3.66	4.12	4.11	3.78	2.31	2.27	1.34	32.1
Snowfall (inches)	11.6	7.8	7.1	1.9	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	4.6	11.4	44.5
Growing Degree Days	0	1	24	127	319	494	621	567	348	152	25	1	2,674

Source: Weather Station Number 478171, Stevens Point WI

GENERAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The land surface of Portage County was formed largely by glacial activity. This and other complex geomorphologic processes have acted together to create a variety of contrasting landforms. The glacial topography varies from the rolling, terminal or end moraines oriented north to south in the eastern third of the County, to flat sand outwash plain in the southwest portion. Elevation ranges from 1,320 feet above sea level in the Town of Almond to 920 feet above sea level along the southeast border of the County.

Natural Landscape

For study purposes, the County was divided into four distinct landscape or ecosystem types, as described below. Each area has a unique character that distinguishes it from the others in terms of geology, topography, soils and so on. Each area also possesses different land use limitations and potentials. Surface and groundwater resources are discussed separately, because of their overall impact on the land and its present and future uses.

1. Moraine and Lake Landscape

The eastern one-third of the County underwent significant glaciation and is characterized by a series of north-south ridges or moraines, and numerous "pothole" lakes. Large areas of glacial till and outwash were deposited between the moraines.

The wooded, moraine topography has attracted some non-farm residential development. Certain lakes have also attracted recreational and year-round home development. The lakeshore areas typically have severe limitations for septic systems and are poorly suited to high density development. Care must be taken not to exceed the carrying capacity of these small lakes.

2. Sandplain Landscape

Lying immediately west of the moraine and lake landscape, and in striking contrast, is the sandplain. Known locally as the "golden sands", this largely flat area extends throughout the central and southwestern parts of the County. The sandplain is composed of deep layers of sand and gravel, which were deposited by glacial meltwaters. This porous layer provides a valuable groundwater aquifer. The abundant supply of groundwater, together with advances in irrigation technology, have allowed the draughty soils to be converted to vegetable, cash-crop production.

A total of 12,000 acres of prairie chicken habitat are contained in the Buena Vista Marsh Wildlife Area, which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) under a lease agreement with two private organizations; Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus and the Dane County Conservation League. The prairie chicken is a threatened Wisconsin species, which survives in significant numbers in only a few areas in the central part of the State. Management of these lands consists primarily of maintaining the grassland habitat.

The sand plain region as a whole presents limitations for residential development due to the high water table, the proximity to intensive agricultural activity, and the threat of groundwater contamination. The area is also lacking in certain recreational amenities, such as forests, lakes, and streams, which are abundant throughout the rest of the County.

3. River and Marsh Landscape

The northwestern part of the County is characterized by its gently rolling topography, shallow soils, high water table and crystalline bedrock at or near the surface. The granite-like aquifer yields only limited amounts of water for wells. While groundwater volumes are small, volumes of surface runoff are large. The area is typified by numerous wetlands and large marshes, such as the Dewey Marsh and the Mead Wildlife Area. The Wisconsin River flowage north of Stevens Point and the Lake DuBay impoundment of the County's northern border are two other notable features of this region. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources owns and manages 1,076 acres of prairie chicken lands in the Sherry-Carson Wildlife Area, which straddles the Portage and Wood County line.

4. Floodplain and Wetland Landscape

Floodplains serve as natural water storage areas during high water periods and occur as corridors along streams and rivers. They are also habitat heavily used by terrestrial and aquatic organisms. The largest floodplain zones are associated with the Wisconsin River and areas west, particularly in the Towns of Carson and Linwood.

Wetlands are depression areas that are covered by shallow water or are subject to intermittent flooding and slow drainage. Based on wetland mapping completed by the Department of Natural Resources, there are approximately 92,800 acres of wetlands, which constitutes about 18% of the land area in the County. The largest concentrations are located in the northern and western townships, particularly in association with the Mead Wildlife Area and the Dewey and Buena Vista Marshes. Floodplains and wetlands tend to occur in association along streams and lakes and are generally forested in this situation. Wetlands in the southern part of the County support forest, grassland and scrub vegetation types.

Floodplains and wetlands are of exceptional value for wildlife habitat and light recreational use.

Surface Water

According to the 2001 Portage County Comprehensive Planning Survey, residents support the protection of the lakes and rivers in the County. Recreation depends heavily on the County's surface water resources. The Wisconsin River, while utilized extensively for hydro-electric power generation, is also used extensively for fishing and recreational boating. Smaller streams and lakes throughout the County provide tremendous recreational opportunities for both public and private use. There are 20 municipal, County, or State parks located on Portage County lakes/rivers and an additional 10 public access points for Portage County lakes.

Portage County is divided between the Wisconsin River drainage basin on the western half and the Wolf River basin (Tomorrow and Little Wolf Rivers) on the east. This surface water divide is also a continental divide, as the Wisconsin River flows to the Gulf of Mexico and the Wolf River flows to Lake Michigan, and eventually the Atlantic Ocean. The bulk of the water that flows to these streams comes from seepage of groundwater along the stream channels, but some of the water comes from surface runoff during and after storms. No single boundary, such as a topographic divide, identifies that area or basin which contributes to the Wisconsin, Waupaca or Little Wolf Rivers. Instead, the topographic divide limits the areas contributing surface runoff to the streams, whereas the groundwater divides limit the areas contributing subsurface groundwater. The groundwater divide between the Wisconsin and Waupaca Rivers' basin follows the general trend of the outer moraine, whereas the topographic divide approximates the trend of the second moraine, lying further east.

Most of the rivers and lakes in the County receive a significant amount of water from groundwater; therefore, contaminated groundwater can impact the surface water quality and biota. Additionally, significant water withdrawal from groundwater pumping can impact the amount of water in lakes and rivers. Parts of the Little Plover River dried out during summer 2005 and 2006. Historically this has never been observed and is due to low water levels in addition to groundwater withdrawal from nearby high capacity wells. The number of high capacity wells in Portage County has increased from 60 in 1960 to approximately 1,000 today.

Based on an inventory of water resources by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), there are approximately 85 lakes and 64 streams in the County, totaling approximately 6,600 acres. The largest watercourse (Wisconsin River) is the length of about 19 miles, much of which is impounded within the County. The Wisconsin River Flowage No. 3 near Stevens Point is the largest single body of water in the County covering 2,093 acres.

1. Streams (Table 1.7)

There are about 430 miles of streams that convey over 3,000 cubic feet of water per second through the County. The largest flow of surface water which passes through Portage County is the Wisconsin River. Streams contain 25.5% of all surface water in the County. There are 40 named streams and 24 unnamed streams.

The Wisconsin River is a major waterway for Portage County and throughout the State of Wisconsin. In total, the Wisconsin River is 430 miles long with a 12,000 square mile drainage area and a vertical drop of 1,050 feet. The river runs either through or along the borders of the Portage County Towns of Carson, Dewey, Eau Pleine, Hull, Plover, Linwood, Village of Plover, and the City of Stevens Point, covering 25.5 miles in Portage County.

The Plover River runs through or along the border of the Portage County Towns of Sharon, Dewey, Hull, the Village of Whiting, and City of Stevens Point. In total, it is 16.98 miles long and averages 53 feet in width.

The Tomorrow River runs through or along the border of the Portage County Towns of Sharon, Stockton, New Hope, Amherst, Lanark, and the Villages of Nelsonville and Amherst. In total, it is 30.89 miles long and averages 33 feet in width.

Mill Creek runs through the Portage County Towns of Carson and Linwood, and flows into the Wisconsin River between the Towns of Linwood and Plover. In total, the creek is 21.92 miles long and averages 68 feet in width.

Table 1.7: Portage County Stream Inventory

Named Streams	Area (Acres)	Length (Miles)	Width (Feet)	Flow (CFS)
Allen	1.02	2.11	4	0.7
Bear	10.24	5.22	16	-
Bear (Leary)	11.52	8.00	12	12.9
Bradley	8.32	5.90	12	3.8
Buena Vista	27.46	20.42	11	19.8
Buena Vista Ditches	120.32	75.34	13	40.6
Carden Feeder	0.60	1.55	3	0.5
Duck	7.55	5.20	12	7.0
Eau Claire, Little	7.30	3.57	17	13.2
Eau Pleine, Little	42.24	3.48	100	-
Emmons	7.53	3.92	16	17.0
Flume	33.92	15.62	18	24.3
Four Mile	45.25	15.02	25	20.8
Hay Meadow	24.96	14.01	15	-
Hayden	0.83	2.19	3	1.0
Klondike	2.75	3.31	7	2.5
Lost	4.48	4.86	8	5.7
Mack	1.30	2.15	5	-
Meade Wildlife Area Ditches	17.92	21.78	7	0.8
Mill	197.50	21.92	68	-
Murry	3.26	3.92	7	4.4
Nace	0.64	2.63	2	1.2
Pearl	2.82	4.65	5	1.1
Plover	108.80	16.98	53	96.0
Plover, Little	12.16	6.92	15	-
Poncho (Mitcheltree)	4.67	4.87	8	7.7
Rainy	0.64	1.75	3	1.5
Rocky Run	46.72	9.57	40	1.5
Sannes	0.51	1.32	3	0.6
Spring	14.38	3.47	20	21.8
Spring, Upper	0.51	1.32	3	1.4
Stedman	2.11	2.22	8	4.0
Stoltenburg	1.86	3.05	5	1.9
Ten Mile	35.84	14.74	20	13.2
Ten Mile, North Branch	25.60	12.62	17	-
Ten Mile, South Branch	2.05	8.30	2	-
Ten Mile Creek Ditches	105.60	48.61	18	13.2
Tomorrow	123.66	30.89	33	138.3
Wisconsin River	689.25	18.99	300	-
Wolf, Little, North Branch	7.96	3.11	21	17.8

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

2. Lakes

Most of the naturally occurring lakes are small and are located in the eastern part of the County in pitted outwash and glacial drift. Many lakes are small, without a surface inlet or outlet and because their surfaces coincide with the water table, they may have widely fluctuating stages. These lakes include kettles (pothole lakes), oxbows, bayous, marsh potholes, excavations and impoundments. Forty-one of the 85 lakes listed by the Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) are less than 30 acres. Lake Emily is the largest of the natural lakes (105 acres). Fifteen of the 85 lakes are impoundments of rivers, and there are a number of farm ponds that have been developed over the years.

Wisconsin River Flowage No. 3, an impoundment on the Wisconsin River from Stevens Point north, is the largest single body of water in the County. Covering 2,093 acres, it represents 43% of the total lake surface area. Lakes 50 acres and less account for 90.3% of the total number of lakes, but only 33.4% of the surface area.

The majority of the lakes in the County are shallow, i.e. 50% are less than 10 feet deep. Adams Lake is 51 feet, Budsberg Lake at 58 feet, Collins Lake at 56 feet and Sunset Lake at 55 feet are the deepest lakes in the County. Table 1.8 represents an inventory of Portage County lakes, including summary data by size and depth classes:

Table 1.8: Portage County Lake Inventory

Named Lakes	Township	Area (Acres)	Length (Miles)	Width (Miles)	Maximum Depth
Adams	Stockton	30.4	0.31	0.23	51
Amherst Millpond	Amherst	24.9	0.85	0.14	5
Anderson	Eau Pleine	12.1	0.69	0.13	6
Bass (Claudes)	Almond	55.0	0.56	0.25	16
Bear	Stockton	33.6	0.43	0.18	36
Becker	Sharon	31.5	0.35	0.18	4
Bingo	Lanark	5.9	0.21	0.10	16
Boelter (Marshfield)	Lanark	14.4	0.34	0.13	5
Budsberg (Severson)	New Hope	25.2	0.30	0.24	58
Clar-Re	Plover	17.0	0.10	0.06	15
Collins (Fish)	Alban	49.4	0.59	0.19	56
Dana Pond (Bentley)	Sharon	85.9	0.65	0.30	10
Deans	Belmont	6.4	0.14	0.09	23
Ebert	Amherst	11.6	0.23	0.13	29
Ell	Amherst	27.6	0.33	0.22	15
Emily	Amherst	104.6	1.09	0.27	36
Fountain	Belmont	15.4	0.28	0.12	23
Glisezinski (Jacqueline)	Sharon	39.7	0.44	0.21	17
Goin (Cow)	Alban	19.8	0.28	0.16	7
Helen	Alban	78.4	0.53	0.41	18
Hintz	New Hope	51.4	0.46	0.31	5
Jim	Lanark	4.4	0.11	0.08	15
Johnson	New Hope	3.7	0.13	0.08	7
Jordan Pond	Hull	83.0	0.91	0.26	10
Julia (Ward's)	Amherst	13.9	0.27	0.13	4
Kranski	Sharon	17.1	0.29	0.14	33
Lime	Amherst	44.5	0.35	0.28	31

Table 1.8 continued on following page.

Table 1.8: Portage County Lake Inventory (Continued)

Named Lakes	Township	Area (Acres)	Length (Miles)	Width (Miles)	Maximum Depth
Lions	Alban	38.6	0.49	0.21	10
Lutz (Peters)	Lanark	11.2	0.18	0.13	23
McDill Pond	Plover	261.0	1.50	0.50	15
Meyers	Amherst	17.7	0.24	0.21	11
Minister (Preacher)	New Hope	15.6	0.23	0.14	9
Mud	Amherst	5.2	0.15	0.08	22
Mud	Amherst	3.9	0.15	0.05	17
Mud	Amherst	14.9	0.28	0.14	7
Mud	Alban	10.8	0.19	0.18	12
Mud	Alban	22.3	0.37	0.26	4
Mudhole	Sharon	2.8	0.41	0.23	3
Oesterle	Sharon	30.8	0.40	0.21	4
Onland	New Hope	46.9	0.38	0.26	25
Ostrowski	Amherst	5.4	0.15	0.08	11
Pallen	Sharon	12.6	0.20	0.14	10
Penny	Alban	10.8	0.16	0.15	22
Pickerel	Belmont	39.8	0.44	0.22	16
Pine	Belmont	21.5	0.26	0.19	10
Pleasant	Belmont	16.8	0.23	0.14	8
Renton	New Hope	42.7	0.53	0.33	8
Riley (Rough)	Buena Vista	7.5	0.18	0.09	48
Rhinehart	New Hope	41.6	0.39	0.29	25
Rosholt Millpond	Alban	17.6	0.46	0.10	7
Silver	Buena Vista	6.5	0.23	0.07	16
Skunk	New Hope	27.8	0.39	0.21	20
Slough	Dewey	22.9	1.00	0.09	5
Spring	Lanark	36.5	0.71	0.23	42
Springville Pond	Plover	18.0	0.53	0.08	12
Stoltenburg	Amherst	15.3	0.24	0.23	32
Sunset	New Hope	61.2	0.43	0.31	55
Susan	Hull	22.6	0.34	0.17	24
Thamar (Thomas)	Stockton	33.9	0.29	0.24	31
Thorn	Amherst	14.5	0.26	0.12	25
Tree (Three)	Alban	71.3	0.45	0.38	34
North Twin	Sharon	36.5	0.45	0.15	7
South Twin	Sharon	52.7	0.49	0.22	9
Van Order Pond	Hull	35.3	0.73	0.16	8
Virgin (Turtle)	Amherst	12.6	0.26	0.13	6
Windorf	Alban	8.2	0.18	0.09	5
Wisconsin River Flowage #1	Linwood	57.0	0.38	0.12	6
Wisconsin River Flowage #2	Linwood	22.0	2.58	0.18	25
Wisconsin River Flowage #3		2,209.0	5.54	1.60	25
Wolf	Almond	22.0	0.30	0.18	17
Wolf, East	Almond	18.0	0.28	0.14	2

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

3. Wisconsin River Flowages

The Wisconsin River, within the County, has four closely controlled flowages. One of these, Lake DuBay is strictly for hydroelectric use and not associated with a paper mill.

This flowage is formed by a Consolidated Paper Company dam, which is about one mile south of the Marathon County line. Most of this flowage is outside of the County, but its flood control potential benefits the County. However, this flowage is not considered large enough to completely control or accommodate a 100-year regional flood.

Table 1.9 Portage County Flowage Inventory

Flowage	Approximate Length	Approximate Area
Biron Flowage	27,984 feet	1,344 acres
Whiting Plover Mill Pond	3,000 feet	57 acres
Consolidated Mill WI River Division Pool	2,58 miles	220 acres
Consolidated Mill Stevens Point Division	28,200 feet	2,093 acres
DuBay Flowage	9,000 feet	1,696 acres
Little Eau Pleine	7,000 feet	300 acres
Lower Plover River Whiting-Plover Mill	5,000 feet	52 acres

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

4. Mill Ponds

There are a number of mill ponds throughout the County. The largest and one of the most scenic is McDill Pond (262 acres) on the lower Plover River in the City of Stevens Point. These mill ponds were originally created as a source of water power for local grain and timber mills, but no longer function in that capacity. These ponds are generally shallow and suffer from eutrophication. The dam at Jordan Pond is currently operating as a hydro-electric power generating facility.

Table 1.10 Portage County Mill Pond Inventory

Name	Acres	River	Original Use
Jordan Pond	83	Plover	Lumber Mill
McDill Pond	262	Plover	Mill
Van Order Pond	53	Plover	Mill
Rosholt Pond	14	Flume Creek	Mill
Amherst Pond	46	Tomorrow	Mill
Springville Pond	16.5	Little Plover	Mill
TOTAL	474.5		

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Groundwater

Groundwater conditions are far from uniform throughout the County and can be distinguished in terms of three distinct regions.

1. River and Marsh Landscape - Border drift from early glaciers covers much of the northwestern portion of the County, to an average of four feet. This shallow drift layer contains the water supply for this part of the County.
2. Moraine and Lake Landscape - Glacial drift in the form of moraines or ridges cover the eastern one-half of the County. Small wells in this area are 10-15 feet deep and yield as much as 50 gpm. Wells of 100-200 feet are not uncommon, however, in the moraine area, and they commonly yield 500 gpm or more.
3. Sandplain Landscape - The most important sources of groundwater in the County are thick and extensive deposits of well-sorted sand and gravel, which form gently sloping outwash plains and terraces. Larger wells in this area commonly yield 1,000 gpm and are usually sunk to an average depth of 60 feet. The chemical quality of the water is generally satisfactory, although the iron content may be objectionable locally.

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