

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

ANNUAL PROPERTY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Potawatomi State Park



Property Type: State Park

County (Counties): Door

Property Manager/Contact Information: Erin Brown Stender

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Expanded Annual Property Implementation Plan Purpose

The purpose of this expanded Annual Property Implementation Plan is to document and share with our public and partners a summary of significant planned and proposed forest and habitat management treatments, recreation and infrastructure development projects, and other property management actions. Annual Property Implementation Plans include planned treatments as well as scheduled treatments that may not be implemented in the current year but under consideration for future implementation. This implementation plan includes a summary of significant habitat restoration projects, timber sales and silvicultural treatments, prescribed burns, and other natural management activities. It also summarizes development projects that can include new or expanded parking areas, trail construction or repair, buildings, roads, or other infrastructure. Annual Property Implementation Plans do not include routine maintenance or minor actions, including mowing, building maintenance, inventory, or field surveys.

The purpose of annual property master plan monitoring is to summarize completed treatments for forest and habitat management, recreation and infrastructure development projects, and other significant property management activities that implement master plan goals and objectives.

Annual projects and activities are directly tied to the property's master plan. The master plan can be accessed online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and searching property planning. All the planned treatments and developments are approved and consistent with the property Master Plan that was developed with significant additional public input.

A full list of forest and habitat management treatments can be viewed on the department's web page by searching "Annual Property Implementation Plan"

The Annual Implementation Plan is divided into sections on:

- I. Forest management
- II. Recreation management
- III. Facilities management
- IV. Wildlife, fisheries, & other habitat management
- V. Real estate management
- VI. Administration
- VII. Partnerships

I. Forest Management

A. Past Year's Monitoring/Accomplishments

- Hazard tree removal

B. Future Work/Scheduled Plans

- Hazard tree removal
- Work with neighboring airport on their plans for tree removal on state park property as part of routine maintenance of their Clear Zone and Avigation easements. The tree removal is expected to take place during the winter of 2024-2025, and is expected to be managed via a Land Use Agreement.

II. Recreation Management

A. Past Year's Monitoring/Accomplishments

- Completion of a project to address flooding and drainage concerns in the campground and picnic area
- Failed stacked stone retaining wall at Hills Point was removed and replaced with large rip rap
- Ice Age Trail Mobile Skills Crew Project
 - Re-routed a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section of trail to separate winter hiking from cross-country skiing
 - Replaced landscape timber steps with new native stone steps
 - Landscaping around the terminus marker stone
- Emergency stabilization of the observation tower
- Installed an electronic pay station at the park office

B. Future Work/Scheduled Plans

- Construct two new accessible picnic sites in day use areas – spring/summer 2024
- Tower restoration – expected to start summer 2024
- Construct a new Park Entrance Visitor Station (PEVS) – planning is currently underway, with construction expected to begin late summer to fall of 2024
- Work with the property's Friends group to construct a new Accessible Kayak Launch – planning expected to begin spring/summer 2024 with construction late 2024 to early 2025
- Nature Trail Upgrades for Accessibility – expected to begin late 2024
- Road Resurfacing project – planning to begin in 2024, anticipated construction late 2025 – 2026
- Campground Waterline Replacement – planning to begin in 2024, anticipated construction late 2025 – 2026
- Work with the property's Friends group to construct a new shelter at the Old Ski Hill overlook – planning to begin in 2024, construction date unknown

III. Facilities Management

A. Past Year's Monitoring/Accomplishments

- Picnic shelter repairs and renovations: interior and exterior staining, new light fixtures, door repair
- Completed replacement of all rectangle fire boxes in the campground with round fire rings
- Installed new benches at the park's amphitheater

B. Future Work/Scheduled Plans

- Water heater and furnace replacement at the park's maintenance shop
- Installation of grab bars on boat landing docks to aid in boat boarding and exit

IV. Wildlife, Fisheries, and Other Habitat Management

A. Past Year's Monitoring/Accomplishments

- Invasive species management including non-native bush honeysuckle, common buckthorn, and autumn olive.

B. Future Work/Scheduled Plans

- Continue invasive species management including non-native bush honeysuckle, common buckthorn, and autumn olive.

V. Real Estate Management

The Department of Natural Resources will continue to pursue land acquisitions from willing sellers at a fair market price. However, any potential purchase must meet a series of stringent criteria to assure that limited acquisition dollars are spent on the best parcels for conservation.

- Work with Parks Program and Real Estate staff on management of the park's scenic easement
- Work with Real Estate on issuance of a Land Use Agreement to allow the neighboring airport to manage their Clear Zone and Avigation easements on state park property

VI. Administrative

- Continue to work with Parks Program staff on the master plan objective to redesign the park's trail system to improve the visitor's experience and trail sustainability

VII. Partnerships

The department works with numerous partners every year to meet mutual goals. The following are partnerships and associated projects in the upcoming year at this property.

- Friends of Potawatomi State Park
 - **Past Year's Accomplishments**
 - Initiated a new Concession Agreement with the Friends
 - The Friends again financially supported the park's LTE Naturalist position
 - Worked with the Friends on management of a number of grants to support improvements to Potawatomi State Park
 - **Future Work / Scheduled Plans**

- The Friends plan to continue to financially support the park's LTE Naturalist position
 - Continue to work with the Friends on grants and projects that support improvements to Potawatomi State Park. Upcoming projects of interest to the Friends include construction of an accessible kayak launch at the boat landing and construction of a shelter at the ski hill overlook.
- Bay Shore Outfitters, LLC / Potawatomi Park Store – sub-contractor of the Friends of Potawatomi State Park to operate the park store, provide firewood, and offer recreational equipment rentals.
 - Continue to work with the concessionaire to provide goods and services to the visitors of Potawatomi State Park
 - Continue to encourage the concessionaire to use downed wood from within the park to process into firewood
- Cherryland Airport / DOT Bureau of Aeronautics
 - Continue to coordinate on the planned tree cutting project to maintain the airport's Clear Zone and Avigation easements