

**WOOD COUNTY, WI  
FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN  
TABLE OF CONTENTS  
CHAPTER 4000**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS OF 15-YEAR PLAN AND FUTURE AMENDMENT LIST**

Chapter	Section	Sub Section	Subject	Page #
4000	4000		<b>PROPOSED PLAN TIMELINE</b>	4000-2
	4005		<b>Opportunities for Public Comment</b>	4000-3
	4010		<b>Public Announcements and Survey</b>	4000-4
		4010.1	Stakeholder Letter	4000-4
		4010.2	Survey	4000-5
	4015		<b>Future Amendments</b>	4000-7
	4020		<b>HIRC and Authors of the Plan</b>	4000-7
	4025		<b>Resolution # _____ Approving the Wood County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035</b>	4000-7

**4000 PROPOSED PLAN TIMELINE**

**Wood County Forest 15 Year plan (2021-2035) Project Schedule**

The following is a proposed timeline for completion of the plan and approval process. This schedule is subject to change.

<u>Wood County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan</u> <u>Planning Timeline</u>	
<b>January 2019</b>	Wood county HIRC Committee Reviews and Approves Public Participation Process and Projected Project Completion Timeline.  Stakeholder letters mailed. General public notification via Wood County website, Facebook, and newspaper(s).
<b>February 2019</b>	HIRC Committee review & recommend changes, Chapters 100-300.  Public participation: Draft chapters posted on website, P&F Facebook. Public comment received via email, in writing, at regular committee meetings.
<b>March 2019</b>	HIRC Committee review & recommend changes, Chapters 400-500. Public participation and comment: See above
<b>April 2019</b>	HIRC Committee review & recommend changes, Chapters 600-700. Public participation and comment: See above
<b>May 2019</b>	HIRC Committee review & recommend changes, Chapters 800-900. Public participation and comment: See above
<b>June 2019</b>	HIRC Committee review & recommend changes, Chapters 1000-2000. Public participation and comment: See above
<b>July 2019</b>	HIRC Committee review & recommend changes, Chapters 3000-4000. Public participation: See above
<b>August 2019</b>	Allow 30-Day Public Comment Period Open House Public Meeting
<b>September 2019</b>	Make Final Plan Changes and Committee Discussion
<b>October 2019</b>	Committee Approval of draft plan Send to DNR for Review
<b>November 2019</b>	Incorporate any DNR mandated changes. Final Committee approval (if necessary). Send to County Board for approval (by resolution).
<b>December 2019</b>	DNR Final approval for Wood County Forest 15 Year Plan

## **4005 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Note: All HIRC Committee meetings are legally noticed public meetings and contain public comment as a regular part of all agendas. All 15 Year Plan draft chapters posted on Wood County website once approved by HIRC Committee.*

### January 2020

- HIRC Committee 1/2/2020
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Proposed Timeline and Discussion

### February 2020

- HIRC Committee 2/6/2020
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapters 100, 200, 300

### March 2020

- HIRC Committee 3/12/2020
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapter 400

### April 2020

- HIRC Committee 4/9/2020
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapter 500

### June 2020

- HIRC Committee 6/4/2020
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapter 600

### November 2020

- HIRC Committee 11/5/2020
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapter 700 & Assorted Maps

### December 2020

- HIRC Committee 12/3/2020
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapter 800

### March 2021

- HIRC Committee 3/4/2021
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapter 900

### April 2021

- HIRC Committee 4/1/2021
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapter 1000

### July 2021

- HIRC Committee 7/6/2021
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapter 2000

### August 2021

- HIRC Committee 8/5/2021
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Draft Chapters 3000, 4000, Glossary
  - Start of 30-day public comment period (8-6-2021)\*
  - Open House Public Meeting (8-30-2021)\*

*\*Public notice on Wood County website, Facebook, newspaper. Letters sent to stakeholders.*

### September 2021

- HIRC Committee 9/2/2021
  - 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Committee approval including any changes as directed by the Committee
  - End of 30-day public comment period (9-6-2021)
  - Send plan to DNR for review (9-3-2021)

## November 2021

- Incorporate DNR mandated changes as needed
- HIRC Committee 11/4/2021
  - Final Committee approval and Resolution
- Wood County Board 11/9/2021
  - County Board approval and Resolution

## December 2021

- Final DNR approval of Wood County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan

## 4010 PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SURVEY

### 4010.1 Stakeholder Letter January 29, 2020



## Wood County WISCONSIN

PARKS AND  
FORESTRY  
DEPARTMENT

January 29, 2020

Dear Wood County Forest Stakeholder:

We are beginning the process to update our Wood County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Once completed, the new plan will guide the management of the Wood County Forest for the years 2021 through 2035. We have identified you or your organization as someone who may have an interest in the Wood County Forest.

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is required under State Statute 28.11, also known as the County Forest Law - Wood County has managed a county forest under this law since 1932. The plan describes the forest in detail and identifies the policies and procedures used in caring for the forest. Some of the issues covered in the plan include:

- mission statement
- description of the forest and history of the county forest program
- administration and financial operations
- forest resources planning
- aesthetics and endangered resources management
- timber management
- recreation and wildlife management
- forest protection
- roads, trails, and access issues

Our forest is a valuable asset to Wood County. Timber revenues and the associated wildlife, recreation, and environmental benefits that occur because of sustainable forestry practices are critical to the economy and a benefit to the citizens of the county and state. We encourage your input on issues related to this vital resource. A comment form /Survey is attached to this letter for you to use to let us know about issues of concern to you and/or your organization as we start the planning process. Please take the time to complete the comment form and return it to the Wood County Parks and Forestry office at the address shown on the form. The comment form can also be found on our website at the following address: <https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/Parks/ForestryPlan.aspx>.

You may also choose to go directly to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNT52ZK>.

As we develop the plan, draft copies of each chapter will be posted at the website shown above. Please feel free to comment on any portion of the plan, as they are made available for review. Furthermore, please be aware that draft chapters will be agenda items and discussed at monthly HIRC Committee meetings. The HIRC Committee is the oversight committee composed of five County Board members responsible for county policy decisions relating to the County Highway, Parks and Forestry Departments. Their meetings are open to the public and legally noticed in the paper. In addition, there will be an opportunity for public review and comments on the entire plan prior to formal adoption by the county board later this year.

We look forward to your input in this important process. Please contact the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department with your questions, concerns, and comments.

Thank you,  
*Fritz Schubert*  
Fritz Schubert  
Wood County Forest Administrator

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Wood County River Block, 111 W. Jackson St., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
Telephone (715) 421-8422 Facsimile (715) 421-8534  
<https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/Parks> or find us on Facebook

4010.2 Survey



**WOOD COUNTY FOREST SURVEY**

Name:
Street Address:
City, State, Zip:
E-mail Address:

How often do you use the Wood County Forest?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ At least once per month  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Once every 2-3 months  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonally during hunting seasons  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Never

How do you use the Wood County Forest?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Hunting  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ATV riding or snowmobiling  
 \_\_\_\_\_ General Recreation(specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other(specify) \_\_\_\_\_

How important is this issue to you?	Scale of Importance				
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Too Important	Not at all Important	Unsure
1. Size and location of Wood County Forest and future land acquisition, (e.g. too big, too small, location of future acquisitions, etc.)					
2. The amount, size, location and methods of timber harvest on the Wood County Forest.					
3. How to effectively protect Wood County Forest aesthetic values.					
4. The amount and location of habitats that favor game species, such as deer, grouse, and turkey.					
5. Satisfaction with types of recreational activities available on Wood County Forest. Develop/improve opportunities for....? (e.g. mountain bikes)					
6. ATV use on the Wood County Forest.					
7. The general quality of recreational experience on the Wood County Forest.					
8. The amount of roads (including logging roads) that are open to public motor vehicles.					

**Additional Comments:** Please provide comments on the above topics—*The aspects of the issue that are important to me are:*

Issue 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue 7: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue 8: \_\_\_\_\_

## WOOD COUNTY FOREST SURVEY

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important, rank the following values of the Wood County Forest:

_____ Timber Production	_____ Habitat for game and non-game wildlife
_____ Water Quality Protection	_____ Environmental benefits (biodiversity, endangered resources, scenic beauty)
_____ Recreational use of the forest	

**OTHER COMMENTS:**

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*Please return form to:* **Wood County Parks & Forestry  
Wood County River Block  
111 W. Jackson St.  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495**

Or scan and email to: [sgreen@co.wood.wi.us](mailto:sgreen@co.wood.wi.us)  
Questions? 715-421-8422

#### **4015 Future Amendments**

*Note: Future amendments to the plan will be added here as needed.*

#### **4020 HIRC Committee and Authors of the Plan**

- Jake Hahn                      Chair
  - Al Breu                        Vice Chair
  - John Hokamp                Committee Member
  - Dave LaFontaine          Committee Member
  - Lee Thao                      Committee Member
- 
- Gavin Hutchinson; WDNR County Forest Liaison
  - Sandra Green; Office Manager; Wood County P&F Dept.
  - Fritz Schubert; Wood County Forest Administrator

#### **4025 Resolution #**

#### **Approving the Wood County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035**

*Note: Insert Resolution here once approved by Wood County Board.*