



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

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Wood County Forest Administrator

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<https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/Parks> or find us on Facebook