



MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

202 South K Street, RM 1

Sparta, WI 54656

Phone: 608-269-8705

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Regular Monthly Meeting Monroe County Board Assembly Room 1st Floor / Room 1200

Please use Oak Street/South Side Entrance

Sparta, WI 54656

8:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 14, 2022

****PUBLIC:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, you may access this meeting remotely:

<https://monroecountywi.webex.com/> or **Join by phone:** +1-404-397-1516 United States Toll

Meeting Number: 2483 613 3325

Access Code: 2483 613 3325

Password: Meet

Agenda

1. Call to order/Roll Call
2. Minutes Approval of March 10, 2022
3. 5 Minute Reports
 - *NOTE: Upcoming events/activities around the county should be mentioned along with your 5 minute Report**
 - Monroe County Land Use Planner – Roxie Anderson
 - Monroe County Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - 7 Rivers Alliance – Chris Hardie
 - Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission – Dave Bonifas
 - Hidden Valleys – Rob Wilson
 - Fort McCoy – Tonya Townsell
 - Sparta Chamber – Heidi Prestwood
 - Tomah Chamber – Tina Thompson
 - Local History Room – Jarrod Roll
 - ITBEC - International Trade, Business and Economic Development Council – Nodji VanWychen/Maila Kuhn
 - Additional Area Events
4. County Administrator Report
5. Financials/Invoices
6. 2022 Budget – Discussion/Action
7. Go Monroe County Guide Print Status Update
8. Uniquely Wisconsin – Discussion
9. Dual Sided Recreation Map and QR Codes – Discussion/Action
10. 2022 Committee Member Suggestions - Continuing Discussion
11. Next Month's Meeting Date/Time/Location
12. Next Month's Agenda Items
13. Adjournment

Ron Luethe, Committee Chair

Date notices mailed: April 5, 2022

The Mission of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee is to grow Monroe County's economy through the coordination and promotion of its resources.

Committee Members: Ron Luethe, Nodji VanWychen, Eric Devine

Citizen Members: Terry Green, Tucker Gretebeck, Maila Kuhn

Advisory Members: Heidi Prestwood, Jarrod Roll, Tonya Townsell, Tina Thompson, Roxie Anderson, Chris Hardie, Rob Wilson

www.gomonroecountywi.com

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<http://www.co.monroe.wi.us/committees/economic-development-commerce-tourism-committee/>

Economic Development and Tourism

March 10, 2022

Present: Ron Luethe, Nodji Van Wychen

Citizen Members: Maila Kuhn

Advisory Members: Heidi Prestwood, Jarrod Roll; & Tonya Townsell arrived at 8:46 a.m.

Web Ex: Chris Hardie, Eric Devine, Roxie Anderson, Jen Schmitz

Others: Adrian Lockington, Tina Osterberg, Cedric Schnitzler

The meeting was called to order in the Monroe County Board Assembly Room at 8:32 a.m. by chair Ron Luethe.

Minute's approval - Motion by Maila Kuhn second by Nodji Van Wychen to approve the February 10, 2022 minutes. Carried

5 Minute Reports

- Monroe County Land Use Planner- Roxie Anderson provides report
- 7 Rivers Alliance- Chris Hardie provides report
 - WI GEO Software Usage Privacy Agreement-
- Fort McCoy Tonya Townsell provides report
- Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission-
- Sparta Chamber Heidi Prestwood provides report
- Local History Room- Jarrod Roll provides report
- ITBEC- International Trade, Business and Economic Development Council- Nodji Van Wychen/ Maila Kuhn provides report

Agenda order has been modified by Chair Ron Luethe

2022 Committee Member suggestions

- Chris Devine provides suggestions
 - Handicap Parks are attractions to fit those needs
 - School Involvement
- Maila Kuhn provides suggestions
 - Safety and Advertisements partnerships with Law Enforcements
- Adrian Lockington provides suggestion
 - Photography- partnerships
- Jarrod Roll provides suggestion
 - Radio Station Spots
- Cedric Schnitzler provides suggestion
 - Long term budgeting and sales tax use in Monroe County- appropriation

Uniquely Wisconsin-

- Discover Wisconsin Agreement
- Structure and Planning

Dual Sided Recreation Map- QR Codes

- Update
- QR Codes Updates next month

County Administrator Tina Osterberg provides report

Financials/Invoices

- \$528 Charged for the WIX old account- did not accept appeal

2022 Budget Discussion/Action

Items paid for 2022

- ITBEC Dues
- Go Monroe County Guide
- Hidden Valleys Dues
- Hidden Valleys Mileage

ARPA Funding Request Update-Broadband – 1.7 Million ARPA Funding approved for the phase 1 and phase 2 Grant Application with Broadband Expansion partnership with Vernon Communications Cooperative.

Next month's meeting date and time April 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Monroe County Board Assembly Room

Go Monroe Guide- Ron Luethe makes comment to this.

Next Month Agenda

- Monroe County Outdoor Recreation Plan- Roxie Anderson
- Dual Sided Map and QR Codes
- Uniquely Wisconsin
- Greg Evans- Go Monroe Guide Print Status

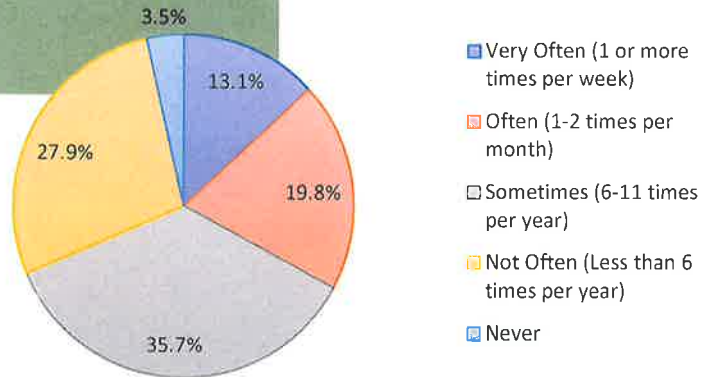
Meeting ended at 10:10 a.m. carried

Recorded by Adrian Lockington
Administrative Office Specialist

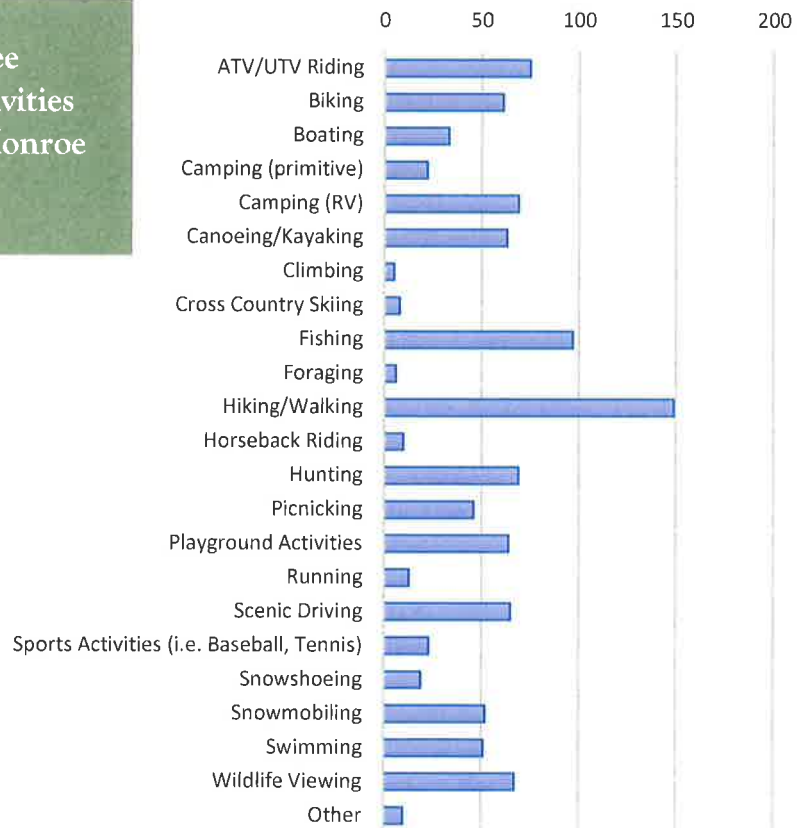
Survey Results

The County prepared a survey during the process of updating its Outdoor Recreation Plan. The survey was made available on the County's website and shared on social media platforms hosted by Monroe County and Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission. A total of 283 responses were received and the results are shown below.

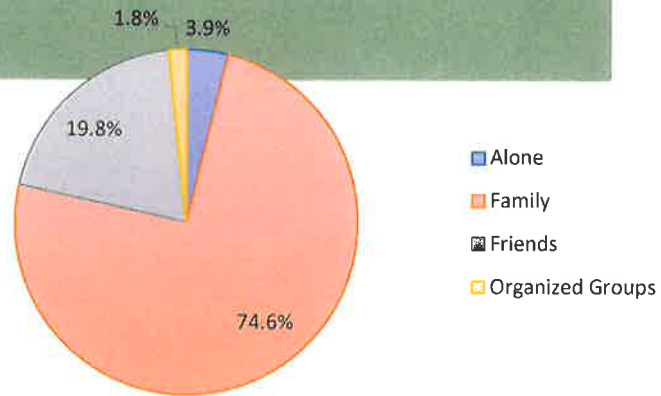
1. How often do you use County Parks or outdoor facilities?



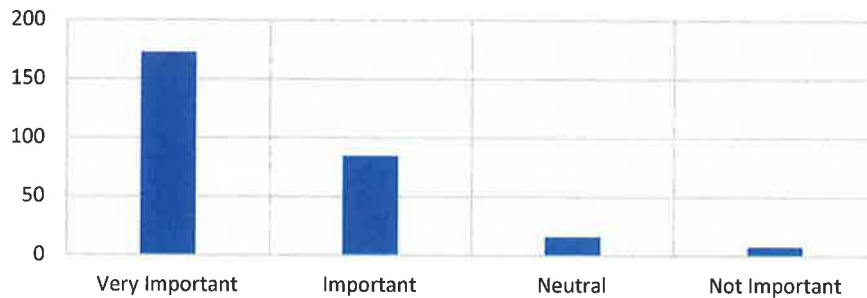
2. What are your top three outdoor recreation activities you participate in in Monroe County?



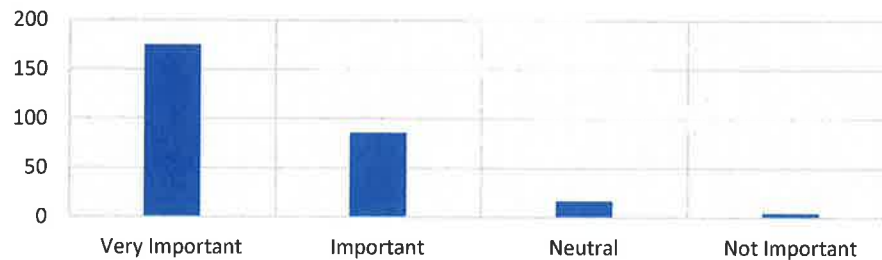
3. Who most often participates with you in outdoor recreation activities?



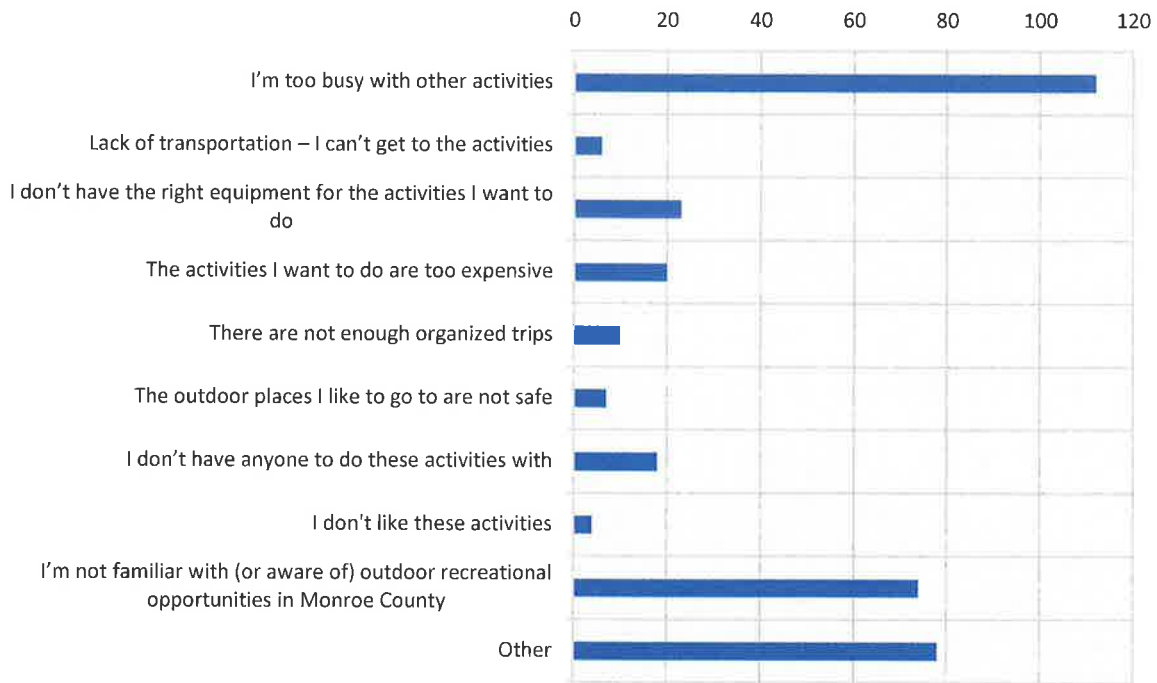
4. Do you think improving outdoor recreational opportunities (i.e. biking trails and routes, canoe/kayak trails, ATV/UTV routes, more public outdoor spaces, etc.) are important to improve the quality of life for County residents and tourists?



5. How important do you feel improving outdoor recreation opportunities are to the future and economy of the County?

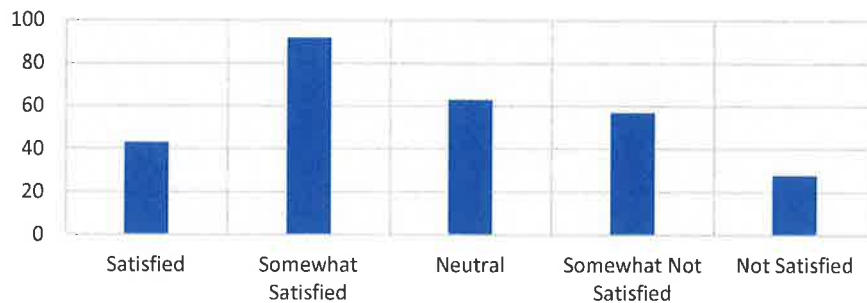


6. If you feel you spend too little time participating in outdoor activities, what keeps you from spending more time?

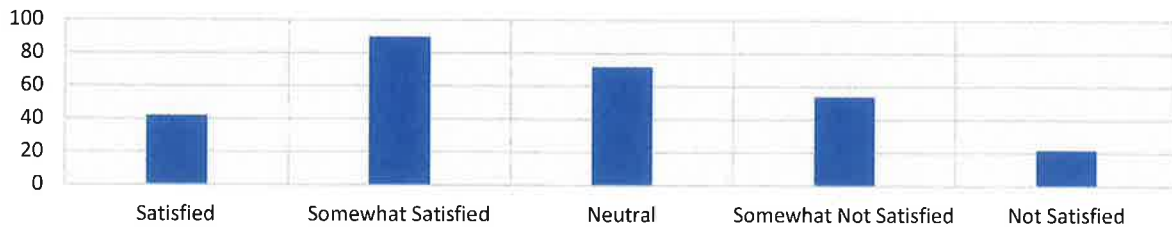


Please tell us how satisfied you are with the following...

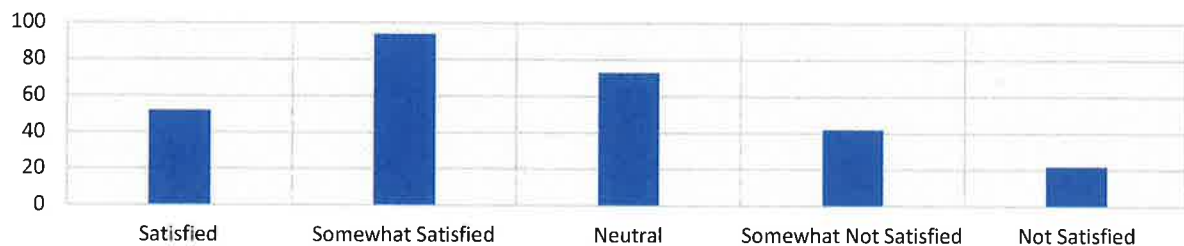
7. The number of outdoor parks/facilities available in Monroe County



8. The quality of outdoor parks/facilities available



9. The maintenance of outdoor parks/facilities available



10. Comments on the number, quality, and maintenance of parks available.

**will be narrowed down to put in plan*

- Could use more space
- Number seems adequate and maintenance is quite satisfactory
- I see a lot of time spent mowing while invasive species control is ignored.
- Logging on Festival Avenue property is devastating this valuable property as a recreational asset. Such a shame to ruin this quality property, so accessible to one of Monroe County's main population centers. And for what, a pittance. I counted 130 rings on one of the logs that were cut, most around 80 years old. So sad to ruin this asset so valuable for future generations and for carbon sequestration. Now it is a wasteland with a new garlic mustard infestation, and existing barberries that will go wild. What the heck.
- Need more wooded hilly hiking trails free of ATVs and snowmobiles. I can't walk on concrete as it's very hard on feet knees and hips. Have a website that shows all facilities in Monroe County and where to park for access.

- No horse trails & places to park horse trailers & get on any trails
- There is only 1 big park that I know of and another little wayside
- More marketing on what actually is available would be helpful
- My family and I like to camp together. McMullen Park is one of our favorite camp grounds.
- We only have one county park. Mill Bluff is a state park and the Angelo park is a wayside. We are the 19th largest county in the state out of 72 and we only have one park. McMullen is a nice park, lots to do and we'll maintained, but it should be because you only have to maintain one park! I don't use it due to how far it is from where I live in southern Monroe County. Please find a park that either has a stream or has bluff land for hiking or both. It will help tourism as well as benefit county residents.
- Any more parks might be harder to maintain the quality of the parks.
- I am not sure where to even find a list of Monroe County facilities.....
- Elroy-Sparta bike trail---WAY too long to get it repaired after flooding, Kendall depot needs to be open for bathrooms, water, info. When trail is not mowed regularly and the predominant plants one sees are invasive species; I'll go somewhere else. I realize you might be asking just for areas that the county is responsible for maintaining and if I am recreating in the boundaries of Monroe County much more likely to be using state/federal property.

The Monroe county Flowage is a beautiful area but the access road is often not well maintained. Canoe/kayaking especially for bird watching needs help keeping the "canals" between the two parts of the flowage free of down trees.

Cross country skiing/snowshoeing could be expanded if only someone would plow out decent areas to park a vehicle.

- Some bike trails-Great River Road for example- seem abandoned, never graded, and have turned into two tracks. This limits bikers with child trailers, etc.

Some park infrastructure is getting tired, needs replacing or upkeep. Bathrooms picnic areas.

- I am not familiar with these items and don't feel comfortable expressing satisfaction nor dissatisfaction.
- It seems as if often times the bathrooms are below standards.
- The shelters at the parks could use a facelift.
- I don't agree with the county buying that land up in Warrens near the other county land. It's out of the way, and I don't think the current recreation land is being used by very many people. Do you have a count of how many residents have used that land in the last year? 5 years? 10 years? With a population in Monroe County of around 46,000 residents, I don't see enough residents using it to make it worth the money being spent on it. Even if there are visitors using the land, how much

economic impact have they given the county? I do not believe the purchase of more recreational land would be fiscally sound for Monroe County.

- Monroe Co. must retain ownership of all its county lands, people need as much "Green Space" as possible. Hiking, snowshoeing, biking, nature viewing are becoming more popular as upcoming generations have less opportunities to experience the outdoors in their backyards. I feel that the more properties for public use are offered and maintained to some degree the less pressure will be put on the agricultural and rural lands for development. Our towns and cities can expand vs. the rural landscape.

We need to offer more areas for hiking/snowshoeing and maintain trails and facilities such as restrooms, small shelters, trash disposal, interpretive signage/centers and putting the media effort to the public about these recreational resources.

There are too few parks, etc. for non-motorized recreation in Monroe County and what is available on larger scales seems to only offer opportunities to hunters.

Thank you for offering the survey.

- The little lacrosse from Leon to Rockland area could be a beautiful kayaking route with a lot of work clearing log jams. Since the lacrosse river is effectively the only kayak canoe opportunity in Monroe County, adding 5 to 8 miles of the little lacrosse river would almost double the paddling opportunities in the county. I did the route last summer during normal water levels and the only problems were the massive and frequent log jams.
- Most of the playgrounds in the city of Sparta have the same exact equipment and much of it is broken. New playground equipment needs to be installed and parks should be different to offer variety. I would love to see a splash pad in a park for hot summer days add an outdoor skating ice rink that could double as a basketball court in summer.

Sparta is the biking capital right? How else can we incorporate that? Could we have a BMX bike course somewhere?

- Pot holes need to be fixed, lines on pavement at stop signs, garbage checked more often
- If we could find a place and work force for a botanical garden/ and or a community garden that would be nice.
- Some items aren't maintained, picnic tables, rest areas,
- The bike trail can use some improvement and maybe someone to regulate the assholes that are getting on there with motorcycles and tearing up the trail. This last year I was biking the trail from Sparta to Tunnel 3 - 3-4 times a week. Every day I would find some new form of damage from what I assume was either a motorcycle or an electric dirtbike.

If Sparta is the bicycling capital, shouldn't there be more bike related options? How about a pump track or a mountain bike course near the campground just outside of Sparta. There is enough hill there to make a fun little trail.

From what I had read on the web, electric bikes are welcome on the trail only if the motor helps power the crank and does not provide power to the bike without the crank being turned. Once a week this last year I was being passed by people on fully electric bikes, drinking beer and smoking cigarettes.. Is that where the trail is going? Its going to be just like snowmobilers, driving recklessly and drinking alcohol? My 13 year old and his friends can't go on the trail without an adult, but a bunch of drunk assholes can tear up the trail with no repercussions? One idiot damn near ran me off the trail when she tried passing me with her three wheeled fully electric bike.. She didn't bother to tell me she was coming up behind, must have thought it would be fun to buzz close to me, I had to leave the trail as her rear tire clipped me left pedal. Didn't stop, didn't say sorry, just cranked her throttle open and sped down the trail.

The word I hear lately is the group who pushed for legalizing atv use in Sparta is gonna try to get ATV use on the bike trail. If that happens, the trail will be useless to anyone on a bicycle. If assholes on electric bikes dont have the common courtesy to be respectful to the trail and other riders, how do you expect drunks on ATV's to care?

- I would like to establish a hiking trail alongside the Kickapoo River from beginning to end would bring in tourism. Think Appalachian Trail/ Ice Age Trail but cool and starting in Monroe County. Would bring folks into Wilton and benefit a lot of low income rural places in other counties also. I have land on the river. I'll be the first to blaze a trail on my Monroe county property for the famous "Driftless Trail". Starts at the head water north of Wilton and goes all the way to the Wisconsin river. Obviously signs posted like crazy during hunting season. That's my best idea that should be reality.
- Would be nice to have more disability access to recover deer during hunting season.
- most need some better upkeep
- Sparta's Blyton Park needs a shelter and bathroom facilities!!! Oldest & one of biggest parks designated as Veteran's Park NEEDS a shelter and at least a Porta a Potty. Very nice park otherwise. A shelter and bathroom facility would allow for more use. Also, subdivision (Park Place) by the water dept./tower in Sparta needs a park for kids to play. Kids in that part of town have no park and have to cross major highway to play at Memorial Park. Not safe to go there on their own. Could put a little park on land on either side of the water department buildings. Perfect play area for that end of town. We always establish new parks but don't accommodate the old ones, so put a new little park there. Like the ATV/UTV routes. Nice relaxing pastime to travel backroads and able to stop in towns to grab a bite to eat or just a

leisure ride to get ice cream. Keep access from town to town open. A lot of UTVs are just like cars! And, most Harleys are louder than atv/utvs!!!

- Please plant more trees. We have been focusing time/energy in Sparta, but most of the parks (city/school, etc) do not have trees near playground equipment. Kids/family need shade to enjoy our limited summer weather outdoors.
- Need more opportunities, choices, variety for the teenage group & toddler aged.
- There is usually no way to reserve a campsite, and even pulling the camper to the campground on a Thursday may not get you a space. People are camping in large chunks of time and are removing spaces for others for months at a time in non-seasonal sites. Seems unfair to other campers.
- Would like to see more on the East side of the county.
- The last time I took my grandkids to play at Fisherman's Park, the bridge on the playground equipment was broken. So I took them over to Memorial park & when the 3 year old had to use the bathroom, the door to the bathroom was locked. The outcome wasn't good.
- Playgrounds are very out dated and run down, picnic tables are run down, parks are not kept up, garbage laying around, park Bathrooms are very disgusting and have a bad odor.
- McMullin park is more of a seasonal park. Hard to get a site for a weekend or a week. Camp hosts seem to have their favorites
- I love hiking and there are very few decent hiking trails in Monroe county. It would be nice to have more trails in the county so I don't have to drive as far to do my favorite activity.
- The parks/playgrounds seem to be outdated and the La Crosse River had a lot of logs/trees to navigate when kayaking. Also, they river was not very well marked with where to exit at Amundson park.
- As the mother of 3 young children living in Sparta we use our parks often! I would love to see some new playground equipment at our parks. Many of them have broken and very dated equipment. We love to walk Amundson Park trail and wade in the water. Spaces like this are awesome to enjoy with our family!
- too many facilities
- We need to do more to keep kids off tablets and outside in these parks
- Skate park - awesome
- Would like to see more things like the Trane park
- I feel that the county would strongly benefit from adding more biking opportunities. Things like pump tracks and skills parks would give more riding for us when we don't want to travel to ride
- The only park I'm aware of in Monroe County run by Monroe County is McMullen Park.
- I feel like some places can be updated.
- More Hiking
- The parks we have are nice and clean. I love the new water park too! The bathrooms at Evans Bosshard are awesome! There are very few

walking/hiking/biking, rollerblading trails, however. While all the bridges are pretty, they are expensive and don't do much. More (and trails that are paved, safe, and off the road) are imperative for a more active community and to make it handicap accessible.

- I'd like to see better access to canoeing and kayaking, especially below the dam in Angelo. It's a great area to get on the river but access is somewhat limited for launching etc.
- More ATV/UTV routes would be extremely beneficial. Making easier access into Sparta and Tomah from state highways would make life easier and more enjoyable for riders. Amish can ride their buggies down state highways but fully insured ATV/UTVs are not allowed? Seems silly to not open these. South Dakota roads besides interstates are all open to ATV/UTV traffic.
- Playground equipment could use some updating or ways of making it more inclusive.
- Usually go to Juneau County
- I would like to see more mountain bike trails other than flat bike trail/railroad bed. Lack of repairs to the current bike trail after flooding is a big disappointment. Living right next to bike trail it is my main access to the rest of Monroe County trail system for snowmobiling.
- In my experience, Monroe County has various outdoor recreation areas. My primary concern, as a parent of 3 children, is the need to update (mostly playground equipment). It is wonderful that our schools have new equipment, but our options become quite limited when school is in session. Traveling to other cities and experiencing newer equipment quickly captures the draw of exciting playground equipment for families. I also love the efforts that have been done thus far to expand our options in Monroe County/Sparta (ie kayaking, hiking trails, fishing, etc). In my opinion, having various outdoors recreation opportunities is vital for any community. Thank you for soliciting feedback.
- It would be nice to have more outdoor skating rinks like maybe on county ponds or baseball fields.
- Since there are no public trails for dirt bikes in Monroe County that we are aware of, I can only conclude that Monroe County does not care about offering trails to dirt bikes, only four wheelers which somehow have been given public road access yet dirt bikes do not have access. What makes a four wheeler road worthy but not dirt bikes? Must be a money thing.
- McMullen County Park is a treasure and we love spending time there. We wish there were other county parks like it!

We specifically love the large, multi-unit sites where we can camp with friends and family from across the state. The park is safe, with enough to do to keep our kids entertained. Camping rates are reasonable and staff are helpful and friendly.

- Need more off road ATV/UTV options in Monroe.

- Would be nice to have more ATV trails in Monroe County. The snowmobile trails system is amazing when we have the snow. A powersports dealer in the county close to a trail would help boost the economy locally as well. Thanks!
- Dnr needs to get the bike trail finished so all snowmobiles can use it again.
- We camp and can no longer get a site most of the time. We use other county parks because they have a limit on how long you can stay and you can make reservations.
- Too many trees are being ruined by bottoms of trees being ruined by weed wackers. more natives trees to be planted by trails to give shade for people that are on the trails, especially during the hot summer. Pollinator strips in parks for butterflies. Stormwater management along streams to prevent flooding.
- There's simply not enough parks in Monroe County.
- Could use another campground.
- We love McMullen in Warrens it has everything for a fun family weekend, its clean, and affordable. I wish we had other similar parks to go to.
- Mc Mullen parks should have another shower/bathroom facility, closer to the shelter. Also online reservations.
I have not checked recently (Monroe County) but we usually bot to other county's facilities as when we search the internet they show what is available both camping, kayaking and pet friendly hiking
- The maintenance quality of our park system is very poor at best. Lack of quality restrooms, trash barrels are not maintained, lawn trimming is minimal at best.
- Bike trail to connect Tomah' to Sparta
- we have only visited McMullen
- I've only been to McMullen Park for Lioness meetings/picnics and a few other occasions. Facilities seem very nice.
- More trout fishing
- Monroe County seems to be lacking park areas in the southern part of the county. New park type suggestions could involve cross-country skiing, canoe or boat access, disc golf, or scenic areas.
- Could use something on the western side or southern part of the county.
- Hard to picture a picnic table on the southern end of the county
- I believe there are only two Monroe County Parks. I would like to see more outdoor recreational opportunities, liking hiking trails, mountain biking trails, etc., at the Tri-Creek Property near Norwalk. Clark County has these types of trails already in use at Levi's Mound.

11. Include your priorities for future county/outdoor facility improvements (listed from highest to lowest priority).

HIGH	Multi-Purpose Trails Support Facilities (bathrooms, picnic shelters, snack bars, etc...) Handicapped Accessibility Watershed Planning Public Swimming Areas Mapping (interactive online and paper)
MEDIUM	Playgrounds for Small Children Canoe/Kayak Launches Wayfinding Signage Environmental Education/Outdoor Classroom Acquire undeveloped Land
LOW	Public Fishing Areas Boat Launches Improved Camping (RV, Tent) Wildlife Viewing Primitive Camping Sports Facilities (i.e. Baseball and Soccer Fields) Public Hunting

12. Please comment on any additional high priority items not listed above

- More water access
- Hiking trails.
- Need dirt trails free of vehicles so it's peaceful and safe.
- Diversity -- everything doesn't have to be for everybody -- separate spaces much more valuable for multi-purposes
- An indoor pool in Sparta or Tomah is needed. I wish we would get a YMCA or build something like the Lunda Center in Black River.
- There are many needs as we look to the future. It may be overwhelming to look at the list of needs but that's in part due to a lack of action for decades. Put together a long range plan for the county. Buy property now or as it becomes available as it will only get more expensive and much harder to purchase down the road. Advertise the plan and you may find a landowner who will donate property in their will to preserve it. Include in your long range plan laws and policies that discourage more Amish expansion. They are buying property at an alarming rate and pollute

the land and roadways. Tourists and motorcycles do not like to drive through manure which is a problem on county roads.

- would like more and bigger dog parks
- Surprised you didn't include areas for the gun crowd to shoot away. Would be very, very low priority for me, BUT, in other places where I have lived there have been popular archery "trails"; courses with multiple targets. As long as it is a silent sport I would probably be in favor.
- More (if there is even any) disc golf in Monroe County.
- Lighting in park areas.
- All of the above are important. I don't know how a budget could address all the areas properly. Maybe prioritize and conquer.
- Collaboration with land owners along Kickapoo river to create a world class hiking trail much like the superior hiking trail along the north shore of Lake Superior, it can be called the Driftless Trail or something cool. It's a damn good idea and great for tourism in southern Monroe county and beyond
- I think there should be a handicap playground one for all ages.
- Would be nice to have more Public Hunting for Deer.
- Sparta Memorial Park is such a beautiful park. So sad it's usage has declined. Need to find somehow to increase usage. Maybe, a walking track/trail or pickleball court. This town needs a Community Center!!! Instead of renting all those tents and portapotties for Butterfest all these years, all that money could have been used to gradually build a really nice Community Center on the property that could be used ALL YEAR LONG.
- It would be great to get some ATV/UTV trails in monroe county since with routes people could ride down from jackson county have you ever seen how many people are up there on a 3 day weekend ? lots of money to be made
- UTV trail advancement is needed. UTV riders provide a large economic impact and they are looking for trails combined with roadways. Monroe County has done a wonderful job opening roadways but trails are now needed.
- This should be in consultation with local stakeholders: businesses, city councils, school districts, non-profits, etc. Can we help fill multiple needs by creating outdoor classroom space for outdoor education? Can we develop current areas with tourism/access in mind as we acquire undeveloped areas to protect long-term?
- Outdoor drive-in, rollerskating rink, arcades, petting zoo, shopping centers, etc..
- All inclusive parks for children. Many children cannot access the parks and it would be wonderful if there were a variety of parks around the county they could access..
- I would also like to see more playgrounds available for kids with updated equipment
- What trails are there are not very well kept up. I already commented on site availability..it's very disappointing.
- More bike trails
- Snowmibile trail access and atv/utv trails
- Monroe county forest should have access for mountain biking. The land that borders Fort McCoy. Should allow pedal bike access for hunting and recreation.

- Offer more diversity in activities. We have numerous baseball fields, playgrounds, boat launches, etc. in each decent sized city in Monroe County. Where can youth and adults ride dirt bikes? Give the kids someplace to ride to get them off of their smart phones.
- This. County. Needs. To. Invest. In. Outdoor. Recreation!!!
We live in one of the most beautiful and unique areas of the country. When done properly, the environment can be both preserved and showcased in a way that increases tourism in our area and generates income for our county.
- ATV and UTV trails system would tremendously boost the local economy.
- I dont use the trail system but I do see it really helps bring business to the community. I would use the trail system if it wasn't on road trails
- Mc Mullen needs another shower/bath facility , better maintained boat/kayak landings (Sandy not gravel)
Publishing of education/classes
Publishing of better maps for Public fishing and hunting areas
More RV camp sites with water and electric
- More fishing
- I would like to see the county acquire Castle Rock (north of Sparta) and develop that into a public park/look out. It was once a significant tourist attraction for Monroe County (a century ago).

13. If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in Monroe County, what would it be? DREAM BIG! We want your best project ideas.
**will be narrowed down for the plan*

- Our current park (Portland)
- Improve or modify bike trail to allow ATV use besides snowmobile and bikes - might need to be wider in areas
- It would include "quiet" low impact activities preserving water resources, plant species, and wildlife
- Maximizing wild lands, maintained for rare ecosystems that are becoming fewer and fewer with passing of time, such as old growth forests, and prairies. It is so important to protect these places for research, sensitive wildlife, and educating future generations.
- Clean sandy beach with swimming facilities, picnic and play ground areas and seasonal snack bar. Public toilet and shower facilities. Hiking trails with look outs.
- Because it's part of the Driftless Area, Monroe County has a lot of very beautiful, rolling land. I know much of it is privately owned, but it would be fantastic if the county could establish a large park where people could go on extensive hikes...not just quick hikes over one or two hills, but long hikes over bluffs and down into

valleys. Some of the best outdoor experiences I've had in Wisconsin include parks with extensive hiking trails. I'm thinking Governor Dodge State Park, Hixon Park in La Crosse, Perrot State Park, and so on. Even better, these parks/trails could connect to biking trails and riverways, and allow visitors multi-faceted experiences.

- Nice beaches with outdoor activities for children. Outdoor classes for children to learn more about the outdoors and get them off devices.
- Something similar to Wildcat Mtn SP or Devils Lake St Park. Lots of hiking with some elevation and no motors. Picnic area and year round bath facilities. Wildflower and native prairie areas.
- Hiking, kayaking groups. Rentals locally for kayaks, canoes, snow shoes etcetera. Mosquito control.
- A family-friendly campground near a body of water. County run so it's not super expensive. Activities available for kids like swimming and fishing, mosquito control. Lots of trees and sites are not close together. Swimming pool and showers.
- A place with camping (primitive and RV) that is on or borders an ATV trail. Some hiking/bike/ski trails in/around it would also be nice. Near a body of water that is accessible via kayak/canoe with solid fishing would be nice also.
- Create horse trailer parking & adjoining trails
- I would create a huge lake with a great fishing opportunities that had primitive and non-primitives sites available on it right on the water. It would have a camp store and a place to fuel of boats on it as well right on the shore next to the water.
- We love the city walking trails. We should be encouraging physical activity, making it safer, easy and inviting to get fit. I have always thought that the corridor along north highway 12 from Hwy O to Mc Donalds should have have an established bike/walking path the length of it. I would have ridden my bike to work if that had been the case. Many health oriented communities, like Anchorage, Helsinki which come to mind have the best in established walking trails and bike paths. This would attract me as well as our adult children as an ideal place to relocate.
- Indoor recreation center with a big lap pool.
- Monroe County Fairgrounds cross country ski trails groomed in the winter possible events/races.
Bike trail from Tomah to Sparta and Tomah to Wilton basically creating a loop.
- Paved walkways that lead to waters edge. I am handicapped and have a hard time, or can't get my scooter to water to fish.
Handicap parking
- I think having a handicap playground that also that everyone no matter what age 0-100 could play at. Even non handy cap could play too. Have swings wheelchair accessible. Sides, merry go round, teeter totters, tether ball, balance beams, cars, trucks, trains everyone could be the conductor or drive or passenger . I think this is what I would love to have
- Nice lake with boat ramp . I hate having to leave the county to fish.
- Great scenic clean walking paths,
- Would be nice to have more Public Land for deer hunting.

- More walking loops
- better cooperation with fort mccoey
- Too old for outdoor. Build a nice indoor facility for the elderly to walk and stay active. This town always accommodate the kids. Think about the older generation once!
- a Trail system that UTVs could use to ride all over the county Like the snowmobile trails I understand that is Very hard since most of the "trails" are private land that the owners let the snowmobilers' use during the winter. You said dream big :)
- ATV/UTV Park. Hundreds of acres devoted to trail riding of all levels from gentle family rides to hard-core rock climbing style. Trails could include walking/biking sections to appeal to all groups. Position in area to allow private investment for lodging and food.
- Accessible Marketing: For anyone staying anywhere in/near Monroe County, it should be easy any time of year to find what is available. Whether that's snowmobile trail status, events at Lake Tomah, or the best bird-watching views at Ft. McCoy based on current migration patterns - we should make it extremely accessible to enjoy our area for both residents and tourists. Ideally, an app that is updated regularly by the various stakeholders. This can be then be advertised in Chicagoland, Twin Cities, Milwaukee, etc.

Don't try to be what we aren't: We will never be Wisconsin Dells. Or Hayward. How can we identify our areas strengths/gifts and build on those traditions?*** We provide a happy medium of small-town calm, with accessible options not found in more isolated "up north" locations. Develop a "Monroe County bucket list" of sorts to help both residents/tourists.

Collaboration: It isn't realistic for the county to run/operate/maintain by itself. How can we leverage local partnerships to promote and improve the quality of life for our citizens? Can Matthews sponsor playground equipment? Toro sponsor maintenance tools, etc? I think any upgrades in the county would be big draws for local businesses. What role does local Parks and Rec/City collaboration look like? Summer school opportunities within school districts to integrate outdoor lifestyles/base knowledge early? We are close to 3 local colleges that create pipelines for filling our workforce. Can we tap into those relationships? What does our county AirBnB presence look like?

Ideal: Something that draws people regardless of seasons. Lake/river fun by summer, ice skating/fishing by winter, lodging on-site/close, close to atv/snowmobile trails, dedicated non-motor areas, etc.

What falls under "outdoor recreation"? Outdoor music/concerts could help improve collaboration and usage, if done correctly. Can we recruit conventions/conferences with intention to increase usage? Ex: Retreat Center with on-site lodging and

"summer camp"-esque environment.

Copied from last question in case I wasn't supposed to answer:

I also am unsure of specific designations between "county" and "city" or other division of responsibilities. What does overlap look like? What can co-management and ownership look like? Sharing of resources will be more critical as budgets continue to be squeezed everywhere but shareholder returns.

Expand outdoor amphitheater use and access: Evans-Bosshard Park in Sparta example has infrastructure to not have to build from scratch, but could host outdoor environmental classes, concerts, etc.

For Sparta specifically, it would be great to have a canoe/kayak/tubing company from Angelo to Fisherman's Park. Then from Fisherman's Park to Amundson Park. With the Kickapoo flooding likely to increase in the future, establishing another safe local option could help a lot. Should also establish river maintenance/clean-up plan in process.

- We should have more areas where the public can come together and do things. More camping places would be good for the economy in the area. Also, having more trails for Atv/Utv would be cool and more biking trails.
- Kayak and Canoe rentals in the city on our local rivers and lakes
- Bike trails that take you somewhere and that are not just on roads. Bike trails that take you around the waterways of the city and take you to the local businesses. Also trails that take you to the outer limits of the city. The trails should take you along the river, thru the city showing different routes to navigate and promote local businesses and shops. Get you off the main roads and show you everything the city has to offer in a more scenic way.
- I think a go cart track (with several age/skill appropriate tracks) would be an excellent addition to Monroe County AND surrounding county residents. I'm almost 70 years old, and I would definitely be a "regular" visitor. I have 3 grandkids living with me and they would definitely enjoy it too. Six of my kids and their families live here in Monroe County & all of them love outdoor activities.
- Areas/shelter for families to have organized family parties, graduation parties, wedding reception etc. similar to that in Myrick park Lacrosse. A large playground with updated equipment. and maybe a few smaller ones scattered through out the city. A nice outdoor ice skating rink
- Build new playgrounds, for handicap children and all other children too, up date bathrooms
- Have a pet friendly area..dog park area so pets can run off energy
- Atv trail system.

- We live in Sparta.
I would love to see new playground equipment! Updated and something for all abilities. A splash pad! LaCrosse and surrounding communities have some awesome new playgrounds. It would be great to have something like this within walking distance of our home.
In the winter it would be great to have an outdoor skating rink.
- Off road ATV/UTV trails. Currently we travel to Barron, Washburn, Sawyer, Jackson counties because Monroe has no ATV/UTV trails only routes.
- Someplace that you can fish and swim at with a playground area. More adult fitness items in the parks.
- I'd like to see groups teach outdoor activities in our parks etc
- Honestly my idea would combine outdoor and indoor. There is not enough things for youths and or adults to do in our community. We should coinhibit Memorial Park and add something the whole community could use a gym with multiple basketball courts an indoor swimming pool and gym all built into one. With the golf course being right there maybe throw in a golf simulator. I'm quite sure it would get used year round and could help facilitate some of the costs such a build would endure. Build new tennis courts outside the facility as well as outdoor basketball courts. You could also encompass an outdoor track around the whole facility that would serve many different age categories as well as athletic abilities.
- It would be nice to a facility that can be rented for gatherings. Wisconsin Rapids has really nice facilities at their parks.
- camping from primitive to R v's to cabins. Off road vehicle trails as well as hiking. Lake and beachfront.
- Improve snowmobile friendly trails in all city's including tomah
- A beautiful community campground for tents and arvs with a park nearby and another large restaurant nearby
- As stated in earlier comments. I feel like a bike park would be great for the community. It would offer a lot of outdoor opportunities for everyone.
- Horseback riding trails and horse camping
- A recreation area (all in one location) that is a destination. Something grand enough to be considered the "Crown Jewel" of Monroe County. Camping area/hotel with water park, golfing or mini golf, hiking, biking, etc. In other words, very diversified to appeal to many different interests. Keeping it affordable for families.
- A large, lovely county camping park with swimming, boating, canoeing, access to the bike trail, etc.
- We need an animal park/zoo. So many people love zoo's. The Madison zoo is awesome. And attracts so many people! Just an idea.
- Recreation area with hiking, camping and water fun in the summer. Outdoor skating with a pavilion for music, food and warming houses in winter.
- A mountain biking trail system would be amazing and a perfect fit for the "bicycling capital of America"! Our school could have a mountain bike club for the kids like many other districts do. The closest trails are In Lacrosse. A network of hiking/skiing

trails (many could be multi-use like at Levis Mound near Hatfield) would also be amazing, in addition to a bunch of paved biking/rollerblading/walking trails. The youth in Sparta absolutely need more healthy recreational options. I'm willing to help in some way, Laura Carlson, 608 387 6324

- ATV/UTV trails and state highway access!
Also more hiking trails.
- Paved bike trails and walking paths in the community with rest areas/bathrooms.
- I would like access to more hiking trails that are quiet. To have classes available to learn more about the history and the wildlife in the area would be helpful.
- I would really like to see a splash page in the Sparta area or an updated park
- There are communities around the country creating parks and park equipment geared toward older kids/adults. If you do an internet search for them, they are usually referred to as Ninja Warrior parks. I think it would be great to have something like that for the people in the Sparta area.
- Walking trails
- Allow atv/utv in the county parks and campgrounds. Build a atv/utv park for riders to go play in.
- I think in the winter there should be outdoor ice skating rinks at f different places with a warming hut and snacks/hot chocolate. I do nit feel a person should gave to use your ge hockey rink and have to dodge all the fast hockey players on ice , one should nit have to pay to skate etc
- 2000 acres by Fort McCoy turned into a top mountain bike destination.
- I think we have a wide variety of outdoor recreation experiences, but two biggest things lacking:
 - Updated park/playground that provides equipment for wide age range. As a mom of 3 children, families are willing to drive to have a great park experience
 - multifunctional clean lake (swimming/beach, boating, fishing etc). This need became very apparent during Covid when the swimming pool was shutdown/limited.
- Another hockey rink would benefit everyone. An average weekend brings in \$150-\$250k
- Improve McMullen park start with rewiring then ad more sites. Jackson county is doing a lot for at and ITV maybe time to think about that
- Off-road motorcycle/dirt bike riding area. I know numerous Monroe County resident that travel to Jackson and Wood County to create and maintain dirt bike trails. The workers are here but no land has been provided so we just keep spending our money in other counties to ride.
- Camping, fishing, access to atv/snowmobile trails, all in one place. Year-round.
- Widen the bike trail for or create trails for cc skiing. The current bike trail can be dangerous with snowmobile traffic.
Fish conservation, growing more fish to stock local waterways, to make the the sport more enjoyable for current enthusiasts and future generations.

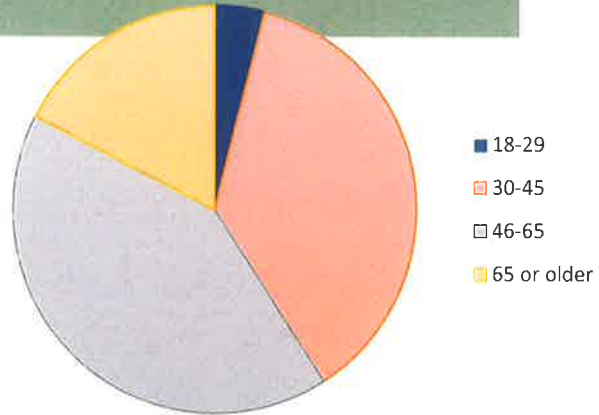
Off-road atv trails would be nice but I think that leads to headaches with the utv crowd, ask Jackson cty.

- A multiuse trail system and a Powersports dealer in the county would be such an awesome benefit.
- better fishing more accessible landings
- Better and more campgrounds and hiking trails.
- Wildlife refuge trails
- A place to tube, kayak, canoe, swim, hike, fish and hunt but still reasonably priced. County residents get a discounted rate versus everyone else.
- Additional RV camping areas.
- Expand and feature the trail that goes from the VA to Winnebago park. Maintain the trail, add additional parks and benches along the route, and add onto the trail to make it more accessible to those not close to the "start" or "finish".
- A place that the family and my dogs are welcome! Hiking would be really nice! With a picnic and beach area. Where it is all in a central area. A nice campground like McMullen park in warrens wi but add more hiking. Make it more known do little kid natural information hikes. Yoga in the park. Just make it a fun place to come visit. Concessions stands or food trucks.
- Lots of hiking trails, observation towers, backpacking/ primitive camping, picnic areas shelters. Warming shelter for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- A park on body of water with camping (no seasonal sites) both rv and tent site with water and electricity, hiking, large playground, swimming beach, fishing piers, canoe rental, nature programs, picnic shelter with water and electricity. Outdoor activities, volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, tennis, nature trails, bike trails. On site camp host that is friendly. No ATV's in park. Have a parking lot at entrance to park ATVs for those wanting to visit. Space between campsites, level parking pads and enough room for vehicle to park. Group site areas and tent area. Possibly a few organized activities like bingo, cornhole games, coffee with the host, craft sale at sites on a special date, a couple theme weeks. (Decorate sites, Halloween, etc).
- I would like more rv camping opportunities.
- Mc Mullen - additional shower/toilet facility
Mc Mullen - Need to have online reservations
Not sure if there are any other county facilities that have RV camping, Show them on line with online reservations. We go outside Monroe county because we can see them on line.
- not spending a bunch of money on luxury items and keeping our roads nicer.
- Promote the men's and women's softball tournaments - they have become a joke. Bring in boys baseball and girls softball for competition from area teams and use the downtown businesses/make use of the portable craft sheds that are used during Christmas. Bike trail connecting Tomah to Sparta's bike trail
- Our county really has lots to offer....I'm stuck on this one!!!
- As a property owner with a lot of folks trespassing to fish, more access to PUBLIC fishing and boating would be nice. Garbage left behind and having fishing line wrap

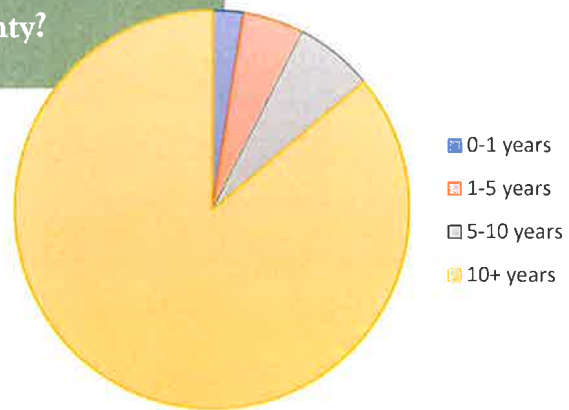
around our mowers is a problem. We provide a public parking area so people can fish on our cranberry marsh without parking on the road. I'm just surprised at how

- Swimming pool
Outdoor Theater\
Group sports non competitive
- More fishing easements
- great trails with good signage and education areas
- Outdoor Obstacle/Rope Course. I remember in middle school taking a bus over to Minnesota to do some team building activities and playing on the ropes course. I've attend various rope courses throughout my life through various organizations. The closest one I think to the Tomah area is Wisconsin Dells. It would be nice to have something like this to play on in Monroe County. Why do the kids always get to play?? We need something fun for the adults to enjoy as well! Thank you!
- A fairly good-sized property such as the Tri-Creek property could provide multi-use activities. Currently, the property serves as mainly a hunting area, has pheasant stocking, and a boat ramp. Since the property has multiple entrances, this could make for opportunities for hiking/ski trails. Moore Creek runs through this property and is flooded/dammed due to a large beaver population. Reducing flooding and improving this waterway could make for better recreational opportunities as well. Scenic viewpoints, primitive camping, canoe or fishing access, and multi-use trails could all be potential opportunities for this property.
- The aforementioned Castle Rock park; a lake with a nice sandy beach area (like Lake Wazee in Juneau Co.)
- Develop non-motorized multi-use trails on the current county lands including the Tri-Creeks property.
- Make it easy for parents to create positive memories for the youth, then they will come back... nomatter where they migrate
- I would like to see the County work the the City of Sparta to plan a multi use facility at the US Silica sand mine. There are opportunities for hiking, camping, fishing and boating on the site. Based on the depth of dredging occurring the site could be used for scuba diving as well. Very similar to Lake Wazee in Jackson County.
- A new park around the castle rock north of Sparta.
- Create hiking and mountain biking trails at the Tri-Creek property near Norwalk. Look at Levi's Mound in Clark County as an example.

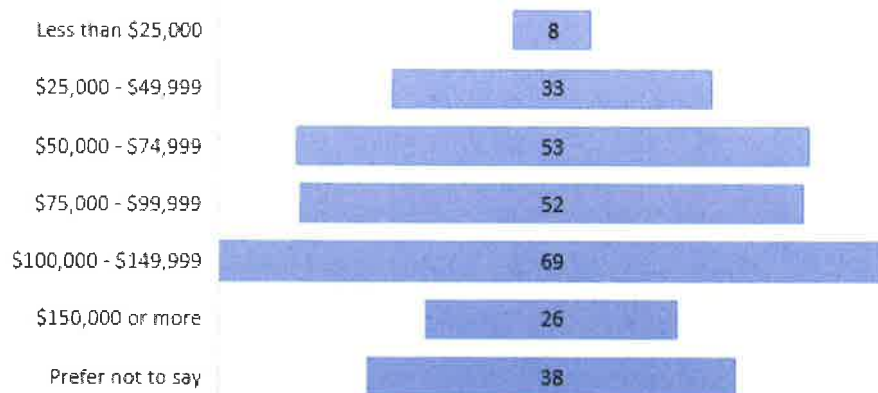
14. Which best describes the age group to which you belong?



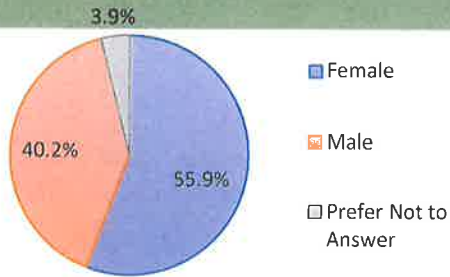
15. Which best describes the number of years you have resided in Monroe County?



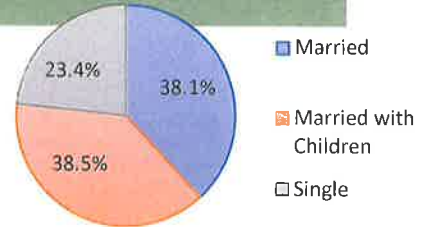
16. What is your total household income?



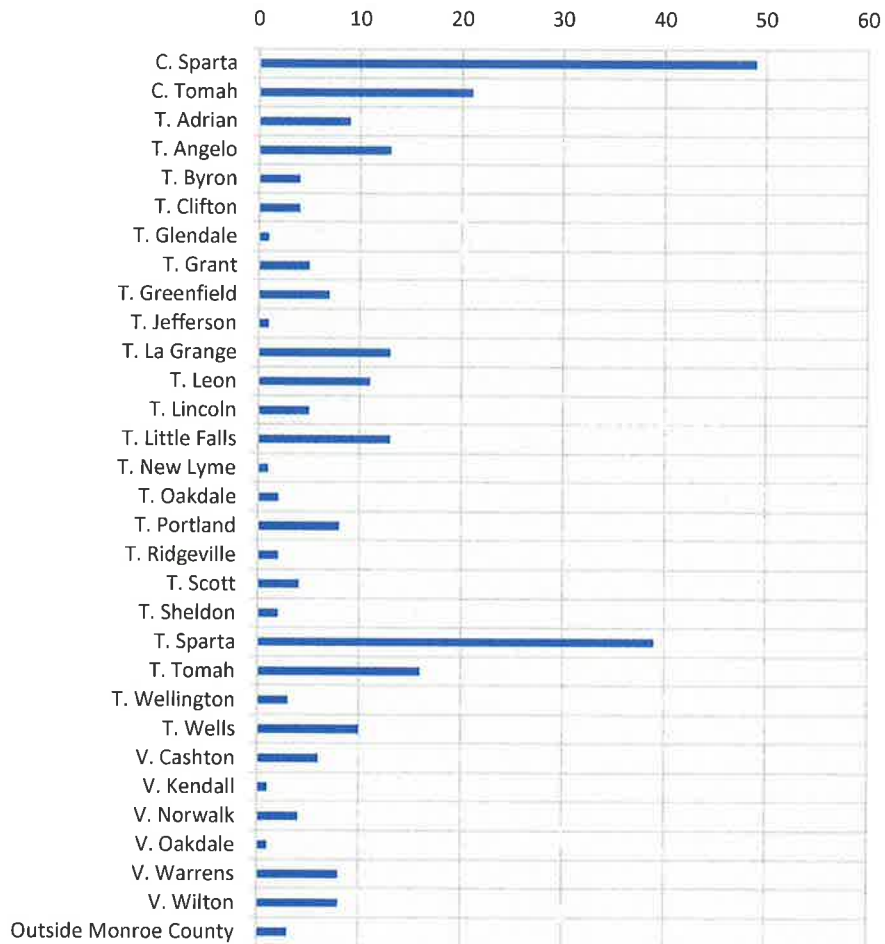
17. What is your gender?



18. What is your marital status?



19. In which Monroe County municipality do you live in?



20. *For municipal officials* What projects or improvements in outdoor recreation are you hoping to see in your community in the next 5 years (*please include the name of your community*) ?

- City of Tomah:
 - As an official from the city of Tomah, something I've always admired about the city of Sparta is how it's incorporated walking and biking into its layout. I know it's because the city is much more compact and has the Elroy-Sparta Trail, but it's much easier to walk/bike from one end of Sparta to the other, than walk/bike from one end of Tomah to the other.
 - Often, I see people walking to the northern businesses in Tomah on foot, which is extremely dangerous because they're walking on the shoulder of ALT I-94/Superior Avenue. Tomah has a great trail system south of Veterans Avenue, but almost nothing north of Veterans. It's like the northern half of the city is completely disconnected from the southern half, and only available to those who drive.
 - I know there has been talk of adding more trails. I only hope the city tries to connect the northern section of Tomah to the southern ("downtown") section.
- Town of Portland:
 - Develop a second park
- Town of Wellington:
 - More emphasis on bike trail interconnecting villages - improvements and repair for weather issues. Seems to be slow to complete.
- Village of Wilton:
 - River Walk enhancement and link to Elroy-Sparta Trail
 - Amphitheater in Village Park
 - Ball Park pavilion with bathroom facilities
 - Swimming pool revitalization