

ONEIDA COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 700

ROADS, TRAILS AND ACCESS

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700 ACCESS CONTROL AND HISTORY

Resource management and protection activities, recreational uses, and other public uses on the Oneida County Forest require several different types of access. Since the Forest is large and diverse, a broad network of access routes have developed. A combination of geography, soils, vegetation, surface waters, seasons of the year, presence/absence of roads or trails, ownership of adjoining lands, and public regulations interact to control access to any part of the Forest.

Many of the existing roads and trails were originally developed as logging roads, forest fire protection lanes, or trails used to reach popular hunting and fishing areas. The locations and standards for these earlier roads were not routinely established by County personnel.

Over the years, the road density and frequency of vehicle use on the Forest has increased in response to an expanding number of motorized recreational vehicles and to an active timber harvest program. Often times, different uses have occurred on the same trails with minimal conflicts. But the diverse demands for, and uses of, the County Forest have reached the point where an integrated access management plan is needed.

705 OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide direction to the committee and resource managers in order to maintain a network of roads and trails on the County Forest that will meet the needs for resource management and protection activities, as well as provide public access for recreation opportunities.
2. Identify the distribution, density, and types of roads and uses of roads and trails needed to establish a safe and efficient transportation and recreation system that complements the economic, environmental, and social interest in the County Forest. (See General Maps of Oneida County Forest Blocks in the back of Ch. 900).
3. Identify the existing and future County Forest roads eligible for transportation aids

under s.86.315(1), Wis. Stats.

4. Identify areas on the County Forest where the access is limited or restricted.
5. Identify the provisions and criteria that will be policy when addressing management issues on the County Forest.

710 ROADS

Oneida County Forest staff will oversee the construction and maintenance of all County Forest roads. These roads may be constructed and/or maintained by the County, logging contractors, private contractors working under contract and direction of the County or by cooperative agreement with non-profit organizations. The specifications for road construction and maintenance will vary with the frequency, duration, and planned use of each road. Three major types of roads occur on the Forest: permanent primary roads (710.1); permanent secondary roads (710.2), and temporary roads (710.3).

New road establishment should consider information identifying areas with sensitive soils or severe slopes that have the potential for adverse water quality impacts from land management practices. County staff can work with local DNR water resources staff to develop site-specific measures where appropriate.

710.1 PERMANENT PRIMARY FOREST ROADS

These roads are the primary roads accessing the County Forest. They are designed, constructed, and maintained for year-round use. These roads serve essential access corridors for multiple use management. Some of these roads are graveled and routinely graded. Vehicle use may be restricted at various times of the year to minimize physical damage to the road or to accommodate a groomed snowmobile trail.

All roads in this category qualify for and receive the County Forest Road Aids. Qualifying roads must meet minimum design standards of a 16-foot surface width and a 20-foot roadway width. A yearly aid payment is used to maintain and improve these certified public roads. The following table lists the roads currently certified under s. 86.31(1), Wis. Stats.. New roads may be proposed for addition to the County Forest road system and will meet

minimum statute requirements. See the General Maps of Oneida County Forest Blocks for road locations.

Permanent Primary Forest Roads

Table 700-1

TOWN	SECTION	LENGTH (mi)	ROAD NAME/COMMENTS
Enterprise T35N R9E	1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10	7.09	Zimmer Rd.
Enterprise T35N R9E	7, 8, 17	2.89	Bowman Rd.
Enterprise T35N R9E	4, 9, 16, 17, 20, 19, 29	5.76	Camp Six Rd.
Enterprise T35N R9E	13, 14, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30	7.50	Shingle Mill Rd.
Enterprise T35N R9E	28, 33, 34	2.24	South Exit Rd.
Enterprise T35N R9E	14, 23, 24, 25	3.59	Bass Lk. Rd.
Nokomis T36N R6E	24, 25, 36	2.20	Cruiser's Rd.
Little Rice T36N R5E	20, 22, 28, 29	5.50	Rozell Rd.
TOTALS		36.77 MI	

These permanent primary roads will be maintained and remain open to public use for street legal vehicles unless signed as a snowmobile or ATV route. These roads are not signed (except for road names) and are not plowed by the County during winter. If these roads are used for access to private property or to timber sales the private property owner or the timber sale contractor is responsible for snow plowing.

710.2 PERMANENT SECONDARY ROADS

These roads often serve a variety of uses including forest management, fire protection, and recreation. These roads are maintained as part of a permanent road system but are often narrower than permanent primary roads and are built and maintained to lower standards. Some of these roads are designed for use only when the ground is frozen or firm. Oneida County currently has no permanent secondary roads.

710.3 TEMPORARY ROADS

Many of the roads on the Forest fall into this classification. These roads are designed and constructed for short-term use for a specific project; often for timber harvest access. These roads are used only for a short duration and when the activity is done, the temporary road may be closed at the discretion of the Department and/or Committee. These roads are naturally or artificially revegetated and closed by use of earthen berms/bunkers or other physical barriers.

Temporary roads on existing and past sales will be considered for closure. Reasons will include protection of perpetually wet soils, human safety, and prevention of illegal dumping.

The need for new temporary roads will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Road locations will be included in designing timber harvests. Consideration will be given to the objectives within each County Forest unit, existing road density, potential use, and soil type.

720 RECREATIONAL TRAIL ACCESS

This trail network provides access for many recreational opportunities on the Forest. An important role of the Forest is to provide sustainable recreational trails that do not cause long-term natural resource damage, and that are compatible with other uses. Management activities adjacent to recreational trails will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Where deemed necessary, alterations will be made to accommodate the recreational use. The Committee has the authority to open, close or relocate trails.

All of the recreational uses of the Forest have corresponding maps in Chapter 900.

720.1 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for recreational trails will be reviewed by the Committee. Groups requesting specific trail development or use must present a plan for the long term funding and maintenance of proposed trails. Organized trail uses and group-sponsored activities must protect Oneida County with \$1,000,000 liability insurance coverage and provide a certificate of insurance as proof of coverage. Refer to Snowmobile and ATV Trail Maintenance Guidelines available in the County Forest Office.

Construction of any recreational trail in which the activity would increase the erosion potential of one acre or more of land is subject to State and Federal storm water runoff requirements (NR216, Wis. Adm. Code and s. 283.33, Wis. Stats). Construction or development for silvicultural purposes is presently exempt from these requirements. Designated recreational trail development in Oneida County will employ Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMP's) (PUB-FR-093-95) to mitigate any adverse impacts. For projects requiring a storm water permit, an erosion control plan will be prepared for each project.

Note: The BMP's, as they relate to trail construction and maintenance, are currently being refined and revised along with technical standards for trail construction. Once complete, a reference will need to be added to indicate where the standards and practices can be found.

725 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS

725.1 HIKING TRAILS

725.1.1 Undesignated Hiking Trails

All portions of the County Forest are open to hiking or foot travel unless marked with signs closing an area.

725.1.2 Designated Hiking Trails

- Hwy Q Hunter/Hiking Trail
- Almon Park Nature Trail
- Washburn Lake Non-Motorized Trail Area

725.2 BICYCLE TRAILS

725.2.1 Undesignated Bicycle Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for recreational bicycle use. Off-trail mountain bike use may be restricted in specific areas if use causes erosion or other environmental damages.

725.2.2 Designated Bicycle Trails

- Washburn Lake Non-Motorized Trail Area

725.3 HORSEBACK RIDING TRAILS

725.3.1 Undesignated Horseback Riding Trails

All County Forest roads and trails are open to horseback riding except for trails designated for other special uses. Trails signed for walking only or Hunter/Hiking are open to horseback riding. On snowmobile or cross-country ski trails that are not designated as summer ATV or bike trails horseback riding is permitted from May 1 to November 1 only.

725.3.2 Designated Horseback Riding Trails

Oneida County currently has no designated horseback riding trails.

725.4 CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

725.4.1 Undesignated Cross-Country Ski Trails

All trails/logging roads on County Forest property are open to cross-country skiing unless designated as a snowmobile or ATV trail.

725.4.2 Designated Cross-Country Ski Trails

Four ski trails are available for public use on the Forest and are maintained for public skiing.

- Washburn Lake Non-Motorized Trail Area – Segments groomed for ski-skating and tracked skiing.
- Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail – groomed for tracked skiing only.
- Nose Lake Ski Trail – groomed for tracked skiing only.
- Enterprise Primitive Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Trail – not groomed but signed for skiing and snowshoeing.

725.5 OTHER NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL USE

Other non-motorized recreational trail uses including, but not limited to, snowshoeing, dog sledding and, hunting on foot are permitted on all trails except where otherwise designated as closed. Almon Park Nature Trail and the Enterprise trails are designated and signed as snowshoe trails and Washburn Non-Motorized Trail area has designated snowshoe trails.

730 MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS

The use of motorized vehicles on the Forest continues to increase. The design, maneuverability, and power of the vehicles have improved. This has led to greater use, increased trail use conflicts, unnecessary environmental damage, and increased expenses for trail maintenance. Additional regulation on these types of recreational vehicles is needed to protect the Forest and limit adverse impacts on non-motorized uses.

730.1 SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

730.1.1 Undesignated Snowmobile Trails

County Forest roads and trails are open to snowmobiling unless designated closed or designated for other uses such as cross-country skiing or ATV only trails.

No cross-country use is permitted; however, snowmobile use is permitted on all logging roads, and fire lanes when the ground is snow-covered unless trail is designated as closed to motorized vehicles. Use of snowmobiles on the County Forest when the ground is not snow covered is not allowed.

730.1.2 Designated Snowmobile Trails

Two types of groomed snowmobile trails are authorized on the Forest: State-Funded Trails and Local Club Trails. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance, and insurance obligations between Oneida County and local snowmobile clubs.

State trails: A system of State approved and funded snowmobile trails is authorized on designated trails, logging roads, and fire lanes. This system is part of the Statewide network of snowmobile trails which links Oneida County with adjoining counties as well as the rest of the state. Snowmobile registration and out-of-state user fees are used to support trail development, signing, maintenance, grooming and bridge construction.

Local trails: A smaller network of local club-sponsored snowmobile trails is also permitted on designated trails, logging roads, and fire lanes. Maintenance of these trails is supported by club membership fees and fund raising activities. Club maintained or local trails located on Oneida County Forest property, or trails which require Oneida County to hold the easements are subject to the same maintenance standards as state funded trails.

All groomed snowmobile trails are closed to all motor vehicles except snowmobiles from December 1st through March 31st unless vehicle use is authorized by Oneida County (e.g. logging contractors). ATV's are not permitted on groomed snowmobile trails unless the trail has been designated as a dual use snowmobile/ATV trail or authorized by the County. When vehicle use is authorized, contractors must maintain the trail in a safe, useable condition, free from debris and equipment, and the trail must be kept snow covered during the snowmobile season. Trails must be returned to their original condition or better at the end of each period of use and at the end of the contract.

DNR's Trail Signing Handbook will be used as the guide for posting standardized signs and

will assist in promoting uniformity for trail signing throughout the County. Only trail signs that provide information for safety, regulations, trail directions, or provide information of service locations will be permitted. All aforementioned signs must conform to the County color scheme (brown background with white lettering). All trail signs must be mounted on wooden or metal posts.

730.2 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV) TRAILS

730.2.1 Undesignated ATV Trails

All logging roads and trails are open to ATV use unless closed with a berm, rocks, gate or other physical barrier or if they are signed as closed to motorized or ATV vehicle traffic. Trails that are designated as walking only, hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing or snowmobile only are not open to ATV traffic. No cross-country travel is permitted.

730.2.2 Designated ATV Trails

Oneida County currently has two state funded County sponsored ATV trails, and one club maintained County sponsored ATV trail. All three trails are maintained through agreements between local ATV clubs and Oneida County.

- Little Rice ATV Trail (Town of Little Rice) – State Funded
- Enterprise ATV Trail (Town of Enterprise) – State Funded
- Lynne ATV Trail (Town of Lynne) – Club Funded

730.3 OTHER MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TRAILS

730.3.1 Undesignated Motorized Trails

Trails on the County Forest are open to motorized vehicles unless gated, bermed, rocked, signed or otherwise designated as closed to motorized vehicles. Cross-country use of motorized vehicles on the forest is also prohibited. If motorized use of trails causes excessive damage or causes other environmental degradation, access and use will be re-evaluated.

735 RESTRICTED ACCESS AREAS

The County may also provide and designate areas where motorized equipment is not permitted unless authorized by the Committee. The principal intent of these areas is to prevent environmental damage to sensitive areas, protect historical or archeological sites, protect endangered and threatened species, provide for human safety and provide areas for quiet, secluded recreation.

740 WATER ACCESS

As a result of the wide distribution of lakes, streams, rivers, and other surface waters on the Forest, water access may be planned, developed, or restricted as a component of the overall Forest access management plan. Several boat landings, canoe landings, and adjacent roads currently provide water access on the Forest primarily for recreational activities. In addition, these water access points also provide water supply points for fire apparatus working to suppress forest fires or nearby structural fires.

The existing water access points will be maintained to provide a place to launch a small fishing boat or canoe. Not all watercraft will be able to use these access points. These landings are built for public use and not for private boat mooring sites. Mooring or storing boats for longer than 24 hours is prohibited.

The following public boat access sites are currently maintained by Oneida County and are open to public use:

- Townline Lake Boat Landing (County Forest)
Paved landing and dock suitable for small boats.
- Bass Lake Boat Landing (Town of Enterprise County Forest)
Gravel landing suitable for small boats.
- Bass Lake Boat Landing (Town of Little Rice County Forest)
Gravel landing suitable for small boats.

- Perch Lake Boat Landing (Town of Woodboro County Forest)
Gravel landing suitable for small boats
- Flannery Lake
Gravel landing suitable for small boats
- Tom Doyle Lake
Gravel landing suitable for small boats.
- Wisconsin River – County Hwy O
Gravel landing suitable for small and medium sized boats.
- Wisconsin River – Journey’s End Road
Suitable for larger boats.

740.1 UNDEVELOPED ACCESS POINTS ON COUNTY FOREST

Other undeveloped water access points for canoes and boats currently exist on the Forest. These are used routinely to hand launch boats or canoes but have not been developed for boat trailer launching. These sites are not routinely maintained and may be closed if erosion damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access must be reviewed and approved by the Committee.

745 WILD LAKES

The surface waters encompassed under the wild lakes designation include those restricted use areas that are not open to any internal combustion engine vehicles, watercraft, or snowmobiles except when snow covered. In general, all or most of the shorelines of these lakes and streams are owned by Oneida County. Counties may request that towns, under authority of s. 30.77 (3) Wis. Stats., establish regulations restricting motorized use on these surface waters. Canoes, kayaks, and boats propelled by wind, oars, or electric motors are permitted. Gasoline or diesel powered equipment is not permitted. The intent of these restrictions is to protect the aquatic resources of these lakes but still allow human access. On the Oneida County Forest the following lakes are designated as “Wild Lakes”:

1. Perch Lake (Town of Woodboro)

750 WETLANDS

In addition to surface waters, all wetlands on the Forest are closed to motorized recreational vehicle use when soils are not frozen. Vehicle use during non-frozen seasons causes soil rutting, compaction and damage to vegetation. The wetlands are not listed individually here but include all areas where soils, groundwater or surface waters support the growth of vegetation commonly associated with wetland plant communities.

755 ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS

Applications by private parties to build or improve access roads through County Forest land will be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis. The following stipulations will be adhered to before an "Access Permit" is granted.

1. Access across County Forest lands must be demonstrated by the applicant as the route of last resort. Proposed uses must be documented by the applicant.
2. No legal easement will be granted, just permission to cross County lands.
3. The permit is non-transferable. New landowners must apply to continue the land use agreement.
4. The landowner must provide a certified survey map of the proposed access which provides a legal description and area covered by the proposed access.
5. The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the road on County land for administrative costs as a result of this "Access Permit". The access permit is granted upon the signature of the Forest Director and the receipt of acreage fee by the Oneida County Forestry Department.
6. The fee schedule for a one time payment is set at \$3000.00/acre and a \$500.00 administration fee. The \$500 administration fee must be paid prior to the initiation of the access permit process by the Department
7. The standard Land Use Agreement Access permit is included as an exhibit in Chapter 900(915.3).
8. Road improvements and upgrading plans must be approved and construction will be

supervised by the Forestry Department staff. Prior notification of three (3) days is required before work starts.

9. All wood cut is the property of Oneida County.
10. Roadway must be opened to the public through County land. No gate may be erected on County land.
11. The County continues full ownership of the improved roadway; however, it shall not be liable for maintenance or upkeep of the road.
12. The standard width for an access permit is 16.5 ft (one rod). Variance from this width will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

760 PUBLIC UTILITY ACCESS

Access of the County Forest for utility reasons is covered under Chapter 500-Sec. 515.5, Special Uses Public Utilities.

765 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S)

The layout and construction of any new road or trail situated on the County Forest shall adhere to *Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality* (BMP) (PUB-FR-093-95). This access management plan addresses the need for and diversity level of forest roads and trails within the County Forest. Chapter 6 of the BMP Manual provides guidelines for road construction. Soil disturbance activities in areas susceptible to erosion, adjacent to streams or lakes, or with steep slopes may require mitigating measures in excess of those currently listed in the Best Management Practices manual PUB-FR-093-95. Wider buffers, sediment control structures and water diversion techniques will be used as appropriate in these sensitive areas.

770 SIGNS

Signs on the County Forest will be used discreetly to perform and function with minimal disruption to the multiple uses of the Forest. Private signs promoting personal, commercial or political objectives will not be permitted without authorization from the Forest Director. Signs erected by the County for management purposes or by non-profit

recreational trail groups will be as follows:

1. Informational Type Signs
 - A. Interpretive Signs - to educate the general public about forest management practices.
 - B. Public Land Signs - to identify the land as Oneida County Forest property.
 - C. Trail Markers - to provide direction and safety to trail users.
 - D. Scientific, Historical or Geological Markers - to identify points of interest.
 - E. Recreational Facility Markers - to identify park entrances, etc.
 - F. Directional Markers.
2. Regulatory Type Signs - to regulate the use of the Forest in specific areas.

770.1 SIGNING STANDARDS

To assure that signs will serve a purpose without damaging aesthetics, the following standards will be maintained:

1. All signs will be mounted on treated wood posts or steel backed wooden posts.
2. Routed wood signs will be used wherever practical. Fiberboard or painted metal signs, when used, will be of neat appearance.
3. Signs placed on snowmobile trails must conform to state standards and be approved by the Committee.
4. All authorized signs shall be protected by ordinance from being damaged, defaced, obstructed, removed, or possessed by unauthorized persons.
5. All unauthorized signs will be removed by the Forestry staff. No compensation will be afforded for loss of or damage to signs removed. Individuals erecting unauthorized signs may be prosecuted under s. 943.13(3), Wis. Stats.