



**FORESTRY, PARKS AND  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**2026**  
**ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

The mission of the Langlade County Forest is to manage and protect the natural resources found on the forest on a sustainable basis. These natural resources, occurring on the Langlade County Forest, are the base for satisfying ecological and socioeconomic needs of present and future generations.

County Forest Resources should be protected from natural catastrophes such as fire, insect and disease outbreaks, and from human threats such as encroachment, over-utilization, environmental degradation and excessive development. While managing for environmental needs including watershed protection, protection of rare plant and animal communities, and biological diversity, these same resources must be managed for sociological needs which include provisions for recreational opportunities and the production of raw materials, for wood-using industries.

Management must balance local needs with broader concerns through integration of forestry, wildlife, fisheries, endangered resources, water quality, soil, and recreational recommendations and practices. Management will provide this variety of products and amenities for the future through the use of sustainable forest management practices.

Following is the proposed Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Department work plan for the year 2026. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed Forestry and Recreation budgets. The plan further defines and supplements the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreation System that encompasses 130,002 acres.

#### **DEPARTMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Continue to monitor all Forestry and Parks Programs and Functions to Assess and Improve Operational Efficiencies
- Continue to Improve Expenditure and Revenue Accounting to Assess Individual Program Effectiveness
- Continue to monitor the advance of invasive species on the Langlade County Forest and take steps to control these forest pests.
- Continue to promote sound forestry practices and achieve the annual allowable harvest on the Langlade County Forest
- Evaluate effect of increased usage of county forest roads by motorized vehicles.
- Continue to update timber sale contract/administration.
- Participate in Good Neighbor Authority (GNA).
- Participate in Forestry related educational events



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**TIMBER HARVEST**

Timber harvests are not only important for the economic well-being of Langlade County, but also for the health and vigor of the forest. Many social, environmental, and recreation benefits are provided by a managed harvest program. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques is essential. The timber harvest goal is to produce a sustained yield of forest products, using harvest techniques that are suited to the regeneration and growth needs of each timber type.

The following 2026 Annual Harvest Goals include acreage from all County Forest timber stands that have a backlog of harvest activities. All of this acreage is eligible for harvest evaluation in 2026. The long-term (15 year average) harvest goal is 3,982 acres annually. The 2026 annual harvest goal is 4,109 acres.

**2026 Annual Harvest Goals**

Forest Type	Forest Type Description	Annual Goals (acres)
A	ASPEN	1032
BW	WHITE BIRCH	37
FB	BALSAM FIR	103
H	HEMLOCK	110
MC	MISCELLANEOUS CONIFEROUS	68
MD	MISCELLANEOUS DECIDUOUS	12
MR	RED MAPLE	266
NH	NORTHERN HARDWOODS	2686
O	OAK	149
PJ	JACK PINE	10
PR	RED PINE	238
PW	WHITE PINE	169
SB	BLACK SPRUCE	165
SH	SWAMP HARDWOODS	127
SW	WHITE SPRUCE	101
T	TAMARACK	58
<b>Total:</b>		<b>5331</b>



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Langlade County plans to evaluate a minimum of 5331 acres of timber (excluding salvage operations due to unknown occurrences) in 2026. The goal of the Langlade County Forestry and Parks Department is to annually meet the long-term harvest goal of 3,982 by evaluating the 2026 annual harvest acres and backlog practices. In 2026, the Department plans to evaluate an additional 500 acres to reduce the backlog of harvest activities. Annual allowable harvest levels by timber type may be exceeded or reduced to address prior year's timber sale acreage establishment deficit or surplus and for other factors such as markets, silviculture, or other extraordinary circumstances.

Aspen –The County strives for approximately 750-800 acres of aspen harvested per year to bring the aspen resource into regulation. There presently are insufficient acres in the older age-classes to meet this goal requiring the County to focus additional harvest on younger stands to achieve this important leveling of the curve. Younger stands selected for harvest are those exhibiting any pre-maturity health issues, those that border other current management, and early patchwork within large acreages for biodiversity. There have been no operational drawbacks to the harvest of younger blocks of aspen.

Red Pine – Though it appears that the County has fallen shy of allowable cut in this type, there is an influx of acreage due to younger plantations first becoming large enough for first thinning.

**TIMBER SALE ESTABLISHMENT**

Set up and offer approximately 50-60 sales totaling more than 3,000\* acres with 2 bid openings. (\*This acreage amount does not include deferred acres)

**TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION**

Maintain a continual program of inspections on all timber sale contracts to check completion status, contract compliance, and to deter timber theft.

Administer Active Timber Sale Contracts	90-100 contracts
Close Completed Contracts	40-50 contracts

**FOREST RECONNAISSANCE**

Inventory approximately 5% of productive timber stands in 2018. This acreage includes the 3,000 acres of planned timber sale establishment

**REFORESTATION**



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Natural Regeneration: The vast majority of county forest harvested acres regenerates naturally through seed, root suckers, and stump sprouts. Tree planting does occur in areas where natural regeneration fails or is insufficient to fully stock the site and where conversion to an alternate species will yield substantial increases in productivity.

Survival/Regeneration Checks: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> year survival checks are performed on planted sites each year

### **TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT**

Timber Stand Improvement activities will be conducted as needed, to further optimize potential values of the County Forest.

### **FUTURE FOREST CONDITIONS**

Langlade County desires to move late successional stands into regulated stands with a goal of producing high quality northern hardwood. Broad cover type goals are established for each of the fourteen biological forested communities as identified in and part of the Langlade County Forest Fifteen Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

- Aspen - Future aspen acreage is expected to remain relatively constant due to adequate habitat and proper management.
- Red Pine - Future red pine acreage is expected to decline. High costs associated with site preparation, insect and disease concerns, along with the quality and density of naturally occurring regeneration in the understory are some of the factors considered when determining the suitability of establishing another stand of red pine on the same site. As a result, many red pine plantations with adequate hardwood understories may be allowed to convert to their understory component.
- Northern Hardwood – Future northern hardwood acreage is expected to slightly increase as sites convert from red pine, white pine, and spruce to northern hardwoods.



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**Forest Structure – Past, Present, Future**  
(Reference: WisFIRS Report 207, 01/7/2026)

Timber Text	Acres Past (1977)	Acres Present (2026)	Acres Future
ASPEN	44,815	45,570	45,414
BALSAM FIR	0	462	543
BLACK SPRUCE	6,126	5,692	5,683
FIR SPRUCE - *OLD CODE, RECODE	6,997	0	0
HEMLOCK	822	996	946
JACK PINE	1,136	78	68
MISCELLANEOUS CONIFEROUS	0	316	297
MISCELLANEOUS DECIDUOUS	0	12	12
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	32,460	40,453	40,657
OAK	45	874	847
RED MAPLE	0	2,980	2,996
RED PINE	1,349	3,141	3,272
SCRUB OAK	0	6	6
SWAMP CONIFER-*OLD CODE, RECODE	1,622	0	0
SWAMP HARDWOODS	1,132	2,354	2,320
TAMARACK	1,758	4,114	4,108
WHITE BIRCH	2,034	736	669
WHITE CEDAR	2,605	5,231	5,209
WHITE PINE	0	427	475
WHITE SPRUCE	0	343	310
<b>Total :</b>	<b>102,901</b>	<b>113,785</b>	<b>113,832</b>
Non-Productive	18,809	19,849	19,849

**COUNTY FOREST ROADS AND ACCESS**

Forest Road Maintenance Meeting Minimum

Town Road Standards 7.67 miles

Rehabilitation of Forest Road Infrastructure 3 miles

New Timber Sale Access Construction 1 mile

Access Improvements for Timber Sales 5 miles

Ongoing Implementation of Access Plan as needed

Access Management - Trail Inventory and Planning as needed

Evaluation of culvert locations as needed



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Access Agreements Issued and Administered                      25 agreements

**BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE**

Property Line Maintenance and Establishment                      5 miles

Property boundaries are maintained and established annually by the Langlade County Forestry and Parks Department in cooperation with Langlade County Surveyor and WI DNR forestry staff. The Department maintains an electronic file of all property boundaries including the last time they were maintained. The Department strives to revisit established lines on 10 year intervals to ensure boundary paint remain visible. Management boundary lines that need to be established with no prior history of maintenance are given to the County Surveyor for establishment of survey corners and line markers to avoid future land encroachment.

**FOREST PROTECTION**

Invasive Plant Control and Surveys	910 acres (Surveys done across the County Forest)
Oak Wilt Surveillance and Control	1 site

Fire, insect damage, and extraordinary weather events are the most visible causes of widespread County Forest resource damage. The Department will respond to any such event with the overall goal of protecting the resource assets of the County and minimizing any potential economic losses.

Less recognized but equally important is the potential impact of invasive plant species on the forest resource. The Department will continue its aggressive campaign to survey for, monitor and control destructive invasive plants from the forest and associated recreational sites.

Land encroachment and property trespass issues will continue to be addressed as needs arise. The Department will assess each such instance on a case-by-case basis and explore options for resolution with the overall goal of best protecting the public land base of the County. The County surveyor works with the Forestry Department in line dispute cases.

The forest road network, which is of critical importance to the management of the forest, will continue to be monitored, evaluated and improved as financial conditions allow. The Langlade County Forests and Parks Ordinance's will be enforced to the maximum extent possible while dealing with road damage issues.

**LAND ACQUISITION**



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The acquisition of lands for addition to the County Forest will be considered on a case by case basis. Any lands purchased will be in the best interest of the County and for the purpose of expanding forest holdings, protecting special resources, securing access or improving recreational opportunities, as stated in the 15 year Langlade County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Department's segregated Land Acquisition Fund and/or Federal and State grant programs will be used to fund purchases.

**FOREST CERTIFICATION**

Langlade County will continue to implement forest and land management activities consistent with the standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) forest certification program. SFI standards support sustainable and ecological management practices and promote multiple use of the Forest. Areas of the program identified as needing corrective actions or areas of improvement will be addressed in cooperation with the WDNR.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Water control structure/flowage maintenance and repair	25
Wildlife openings(including associated trails) and trail maintenance	96
Young Forest Initiative- tag alder shearing and regeneration	70 acres
Dam reconstruction	2
Bear population study Forest	various locations on County
Timber sale modifications to benefit wildlife	as needed
Conduct Endangered Resource Surveys	as needed
Gate and structure replacements	as needed
Conduct other wildlife surveys	as needed
Road seeding post-harvest	as needed

**Miscellaneous Forest Activities**

- Firewood permits issued and administered
- Bough permits issued
- Christmas tree permit issued
- Gate/bunker/sign maintenance
- Monitor for Best Management Practices in accordance with timber sale contract
- Mow hunter-walking trails
- Monitor forest health issues including Emerald Ash Borer, Annosum, Oak Wilt



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## Recreation Trails

Langlade County promotes itself as the “County of Trails” and offers numerous, high quality trail systems for a variety of users. Thousands of snowmobile, ATV, Cross-Country Ski, Horse, Dog Sled, Hunter Walking, and Ice Age Trail (IAT) trail enthusiasts visit Langlade County on an annual basis. Most trail improvement projects are supported with grant funding as well as cooperation with local clubs. Maintaining cooperative relationships with these clubs is an integral part of having a successful Recreational trail program.

### Snowmobile Trails

- Continue to maintain 551.7 miles of state funded snowmobile trails in cooperation with the Langlade County Snowmobile Council.
- Perform trail inspections and act as the Snowmobile Trail Coordinator for Langlade County
- Apply for and administer yearly maintenance grants
- Apply for and administer grant funds for trail improvements, trail relocation and bridge replacement and rehab. **(Note this function will be limited for new projects pending confirmation of stable staffing levels and/or staff time availability to manage projects and maintain facilities. Note projects sometimes take 3-5 years or more of work for permitting design and contract completion)**
- 2026 Snowmobile Trail Projects
  - Begin Lily River Bridge grant project on Wolf River State trail- very old grant with work now possible.

### ATV/UTV trails

- Continue to maintain 106 miles of state funded spring, summer and fall ATV/UTV trails in cooperation with the Langlade County ATV/UTV Council
- Sponsor and administer yearly maintenance grants
- Apply for and administer grant funds for trail improvements, trail relocation and bridge/culvert replacement and rehab. **(Note this function will be limited for new projects pending confirmation of stable staffing levels and/or staff time availability to manage projects and maintain facilities. Note projects sometimes take 3-5 years or more of work for permitting design and contract completion)**
- Coordinate trail work in cooperation with various ATV/UTV clubs



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- 2026 ATV/UTV Trail Projects
  - Complete Memorial Drive to Fish Hatchery Road grant project
  - Complete Fish hatchery road to Boulder Lakes USFS project
  - Complete County funded trail connection for improved access to Perch Lake Campground

**Cross-Country Ski Trails**

- Continue to maintain approximately 30 miles of trail at Jack Lake, Gartzke Flowage, Moccasin Lake, and Kettlebowl in cooperation with associated clubs when funding and staff time allows.
- Maintain and develop associated support facilities and equipment. (**Note this function will be limited for new projects pending confirmation of stable staffing levels and/or staff time availability to manage projects and maintain facilities. Note projects sometimes take 3-5 years or more of work for permitting design and contract completion**)
- 2026 Cross-Country Ski Trail Projects
  - Complete Gartzke Bridge replacement funded by Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant

**Horse Trails**

- Continue to assist with the maintenance of approximately 20 miles of designated Horse trails on the County Forest in cooperation with associated clubs when funding and staff time allows.
- Assist with the maintenance of trail support facilities when funding and staff time allows.

**Sled Dog Trails**

- Continue to assist with the maintenance of approximately 30 miles of designated sled dog trails on the County Forest in cooperation with associated clubs when funding and staff time allows.

**Hunter Walking Trails**

- Continue to mow and rehabilitate the hunter walking trail system on the County Forest utilizing Nickle per Acre funding when funding and staff time allows.
- Maintain gates and bunkers to assure the roads and trails are closed to motorized traffic to protect investments in the hunter walking trails.



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**Ice Age Trail**

- Continue to work with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) on temporary trail reroutes due to timber sale activity when funding and staff time allows.
- Continue to update the local chapter of upcoming timber sales along the trail corridor
- Continue to work with IATA to relocate a segment of trail based upon conflicting use concerns when funding and staff time allows.

**Jack Lake Mountain Bike Trail**

- Continue to assist development and promotion of trail system when funding and staff time allows.

**PARKS, CAMPGROUNDS, AND RECREATION SITES**

Langlade County maintains Veterans Memorial Park, Summit Lake Park and Post Lake Dam Park offering recreation opportunities to thousands of visitors each year.

Maintain 3 County Parks, 2 Campgrounds and 11 day use facilities, including: 114 available campsites, 3 cabins, 8 trailheads and associated support facilities including toilets, shelter buildings, shower houses, ball courts, pavement areas, electric systems, wells and water systems, septic systems, roads etc. as needed and as staff time allows.

2026 Park and Campground Improvement Projects:

1. Veterans Memorial Park –Complete ADA Access and Storm Water Control Stewardship Grant project
2. Charles de Langlade Park- Complete roof repairs on former Scout building
3. Bow and Gun Range- Complete bow and gun range grant project
4. Complete erosion control project at Sawyer Lake Boat Landing
5. Maintain 5 Designated Boat Landings as staff time allows.
  - Maintain Bow and Gun Range as staff time allows.



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**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Forestry and Parks 2026 budget revenue projections:

Forest Management	\$2,211,826
Parks and Recreation	\$ 235,700
Recreational Trails	\$ 815,170
Campgrounds	<u>\$ 365,600</u>
	\$3,628,296

Forestry and Parks 2026 budget expenditure projections:

Forest Management	\$1,082,165
Parks and Recreation	\$ 523,205
Recreational Trails	\$1,018,142
Campgrounds	<u>\$ 316,735</u>
	\$2,940,247

Thousands of visitors derive benefits from the Langlade County Forest and associated recreational trails, facilities and programs. These visitors come with varied interests including hikers, hunters, fishermen, berry pickers, sightseers, ATV/UTV riders, skiers, snowmobilers and many others. Many forest industry jobs are supported by the Langlade County Forest including timber producers, truckers, mill workers, and product handlers. As well, local businesses serving the needs of County Forest visitors and the forest industry also benefit the local economy



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**Langlade County Forestry and Parks – 2026 Annual Work Plan**

**Review/Approval Signatures**

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Langlade Co. Forest Administrator      Date

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DNR Liaison Forester                      Date

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DNR Forestry Team Leader              Date