MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, December 2 at 10:30 am
Meeting Location: 518 South 7th Avenue, Room 089, Wausau WI 54403

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning ten minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 1-408-418-9388 Access code: 2489 534 1381 When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

Park Commission Members -
Commissioners: Jeff Frese, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Tom Neal, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Sarah Watson

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Mission Statement: *Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work, and play.*

Agenda Items

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Any Person Who Wishes to Address the Commission Must Provide, Name, Address and the Topic to the President of the Commission No Later than Five Minutes Before the Start of the Meeting. Topics must be relevant to the Commission's area of jurisdiction.**

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 2, 2025 Park Commission Meeting**

4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Commission Determination**
   - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Commission
     1. Acceptance of Donation for Snowmobile Bridge Repairs
     2. Department Service Categories and Programs
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
   - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Commission
     1. None
   - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Commission to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
     1. None

6. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Commission Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**
   - A. None

7. **Educational Presentations/Commission Discussion**
   - A. Update on Park Commission and City/County Committee Restructuring Request
   - B. Update on Exclusive Use Guidelines
   - C. Ice Arena Study Presentation to Executive Committee Update

D. Park/Project Update (Big Eau Pleine, Big Rapids, Cherokee, Courthouse Square, Dells of Eau Claire, Marathon Park, Rib Falls, Sports Complex, SunnyVale Softball, Seasonal Tasks)

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – January 6, 2026 at 10:30 am at 518 South 7th Avenue, Room 089, Wausau WI 54401

B. Future Agenda Items –

9. Adjourn

Signed /s/ Jamie Polley
Presiding Officer or Her Designee

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

FAXED TO DAILY HERALD
(Email/Fax City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group)
Date November 25, 2025 Time 3:00 p.m.
By Winnie Parler

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE
Date_____ Time_____
By_____

Marathon County Park Commission **December 2, 2025**

AGENDA SUMMARY

4A1. Discussion and Possible Action Accepting a Donation for Snowmobile Bridge Repairs
The Village of Edgar applied for and received a grant in the amount of $8,500 for the repair of a snowmobile bridge within the Village. Snowmobile bridges that are part of the County snowmobile program are the property of the County. The Village informed the County that they applied for and received this grant and is now proposing to donate the $8,500 to the County and requesting that the County coordinate the work to be completed on the bridge.

The Park Commission is asked to accept the donation of $8,500 and agrees to coordinate the work to be completed on the bridge as identified utilizing the funds solely for the bridge repairs.

4A2. Discussion of Department Service Categories and Programs
Identified within the department 2025 work plan is to evaluate programs and services and develop strategies or plans to reduce the tax levy support of the department through increased revenue, decreased expenditures or alternate forms of funding. Members of the department completed a Financial Sustainability Certification course through the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association. This course identified a process in which departments can utilize to determine the services and programs offered, whether the programs or services are for the greater good of the community or serve a specific group or individual, identifying programs or services that fit well within the organization's mission, determining the cost of these services and setting policy for cost recovery.

The Park Commission will be presented with the service categories that staff has identified based on the current programs and services offered by the department. Commission members will complete an exercise on who each member feels the beneficiary of the services are and whether the category is for the common good, an exclusive service or somewhere in between.

7A. Update on Park Commission and City/County Committee Restructuring Request
In 1974, when the city turned over the responsibilities of the city parks to the County, the City and County dissolved their individual committees and jointly formed the Park Commission. Today the Park Commission is made up of 3 City Council members, 3 County Board Supervisors and 1 member at large. In 2011, the city brought back their Parks Committee and, as time evolved, the practice has been to take city park items to the city committee and county park items to the Park Commission. This structure and the authority of the committee and the roles of the City Council members on the Park Commission were questioned last year as the city and county finalized their intergovernmental agreement. At that time, the city chose to keep the Parks and Recreation Committee as a standing committee.

Staff have proposed to the County Rules and Review committee an updated structure based on the needs of the department. The proposal is to add the parks component to the existing County Forestry and Recreation Committee, where staff will take county park items. The Park Commission will remain a joint policymaking committee that will oversee policy, rules, regulations and structure of the department. The Park Commission will meet quarterly or as needed and will be responsible for items such as budget approval, policy development and review, ordinance updates, etc. The County Rules and Review committee will be making a recommendation to the new County Board that will be seated in April 2026.

7B. Update on Exclusive Use Guidelines
The Park Commission previously discussed language pertaining to exclusive use of the parks and park facilities. Additional questions were raised. Staff and Corporation Counsel further reviewed the meaning of exclusive use and public forums. A draft document has been created to supply to facility renters at the time of their rental outlining public forums – what they are and what they mean to the renter, how events open to the general public are a public forum, time, place and manner restrictions, and exclusive use

rights – when they apply and what they mean. Corporation Counsel is currently finalizing the document. Staff will review this document with the Park Commission when it is finalized.

7C. Ice Arena Study Presentation to Executive Committee Update

Staff presented the completed Ice Arena Feasibility Study to the Executive Committee on October 21, 2025. The Executive Committee wanted time to review the study and the information presented. The Executive Committee will discuss the study again on December 18th. The Executive Committee is asked to provide guidance on the process in which the future of the Ice Arena will be discussed and determined.

7D. Park/Project Update

- **Big Eau Pleine:** leaf blowing of trails and campsites are completed
- **Big Rapids**: old playground has been removed, and the site is prepped for the new playground install to begin in the next week or two.
- **Cherokee:** Repairs were made to main shelter roof and reroofed picnic shelter
- **Courthouse Square:** Began the re-establishment of the LuLu B Jacobs Park project by starting the demolition of the existing retaining walls
- **Dells of Eau Claire:** The leaf blowing in lots and campground completed
- **Marathon Park:**
    - o New double doors were installed on the splash pad pump house. Waiting for contractor to return to see if we can start forming for concrete.
    - o Outdoor hockey rink installed
    - o Both indoor rinks are fully functional with no issues.
- **Rib Falls:** Playground installation was completed earlier in November. Staff will continue to work on restoring the site.
- **Sports Complex** is winterized and closed for the season
- **Sunnyvale Softball:** Diamonds 2 & 4 dugouts have been removed and new concrete pads poured. We will rebuild dugouts over winter.

- **Seasonal tasks**
    - o Vault toilets are closed for the season except for Bitzke, Nine Mile and 2 at BEP.
    - o Docks, kayak launches and piers have been removed (Gilbert will come out on 11/24)
    - o All water systems have been winterized
    - o Tennis nets removed. Pickleball will be removed on 11/24/25
    - o Started to remove signage from around parks to refinish over the winter months. If people see missing signage, that would be the reason.
    - o Final round of playground inspections to be completed soon

MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: Sept. 2, 2025, at 10:30 am. Location: 518 South 7th Avenue, Room 089, Wausau, WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Jeff Frese, Lou Larson, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Jean Maszk, Tom Neal
Absent: Sarah Watson

Staff present: Jamie Polley – Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Director, Andy Sims – Assistant Director of Operations, Jaime Alberti – Risk Manager

Others Present:

1. **Call to Order** – Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:30 am. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting were posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

2. **Public Comment** – None

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the July 29, 2025, Park Commission Meeting – Motion** by Maszk, second by Opall to approve the July 29, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 6-0.

4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Commission Determination**
   A. Discussion and Possible Action by Commission
      1. 2026-2027 Parks and Recreation Facility and Program Fee Schedule – The proposed fee structure allows the department to open shelter reservations up to 12 months in advance. The County administration has directed the department to adjust the fees up by 7.5% for 2026. The 2027 season has increased 3% over the adjusted 2026 fees. The fees in the packet in green have been previously set and are now adjusted based on this directive and new fees are highlighted in yellow. **Motion** by Larson, second by Neal to approve 2026-2027 Parks and Recreation Facility and Program Fee Schedule. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 6-0.
      2. 2026 City and County Budget Overview – The City and County budgets are still in the process of being developed. Polley highlighted some of the proposed changes being incorporated into the budget process. No action is needed.
      3. e-Bike Regulations – Polley reviewed the current ordinance and State Statute that the city ordinance follows pertaining to e-bikes. The Committee discussed the usage of e-bikes, state statues, and the merits of traffic/speed signs, speed bumps/humps, trail rules, and/or education. **Consensus** to add speed limit signage by spring 2026 for e-bike usage.

5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
   A. Discussion and Possible Action by Commission –
      1. None –
   B. Discussion and Possible Action by Commission to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for Consideration –
      1. None –

6. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Commission Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**
   A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee –
      1. None –

7. Educational Presentations/Commission Discussion
   A. Snowmobile Grant Communication – Polley shared an email communication that she sent to the presidents of the Marathon County snowmobile clubs regarding the disbursement of the snowmobile grant and payment of administrative costs to the County. The State of Wisconsin provides the County with grant funding to help offset the cost of managing the county's snowmobile trails. The County is the entity that enters into the grant agreement with the State of Wisconsin and the County then enters into an agreement with each of the clubs to provide grant funding for miles of trails that each club maintains. Covering legitimate administrative expenses through the grant program ensures that approved costs are not shifted to the property tax levy, which is not appropriate for reimbursable grant activities. Historically, county snowmobile clubs have reached supplemental funding thresholds, meaning club expenses exceeded the standard per-mile allocation and the administrative costs were submitted with supplemental requests based on the amount of snowfall. Without reaching that level, supplemental funds cannot be applied for,

and reimbursements are limited to the base grant allocation that is granted to the County. This is why some clubs with higher expenses were left with costs above their allocation. Because of the low snowfall in the last two years, administrative funding came from the base grant, but it is important to note that administrative costs exist regardless of snowfall. Going forward the county will be reimbursed for administrative costs from the base budget regardless of whether supplemental funds are allowed and applied for. The same high standards for reporting and accuracy are expected from both the administration and clubs. There are several things' clubs can do to help reduce administrative cost: submit paperwork on time at council meetings, use council meetings as your primary communication channel, be selective and prepared with new grant requests, and file SNARs expenses promptly and completely. Marathon County's extensive snowmobile trail systems maintained by the many clubs is a leader in snowmobile recreation and enjoys a transparent and fair partnership with Marathon County in how grants and funds are used.

B. Project Update – Alexander Airport Park – Pickleball courts are completed. An additional fence to separate the courts was requested and will be installed. Athletic Park – The baseball and first softball seasons are complete. The many tasks of shutting down are underway. Pools – The bee/hornet issue at Kaiser continues to be remediated with the contractor. Pools are drained for the season. Oak Island – Skate park concrete is complete. Restoration and relocation of the old ramps continue. A new water fountain has been installed at the Rose Bowl, main shelter, and playground. Rose Bowl – Cut the infield to correct specifications and added approximately 75 yards of new ball mix to complete the restoration. Riverlife/River Edge Trail – Stained pergolas and picnic tables by the firepit. Fixed the 1" concrete lip on the north side of the walking bridge. Sylvan Hill – The traffic pattern has been modified by cutting a path through the berm on Hill One. Problems with wet areas are also being addressed. Yawkey – Electrical service has been moved to accommodate parking stalls. Mowing – Continue to manage routes, the growing season has been consistent. This will continue right into mulching season. Seasonals – Most seasonal employees have returned to school. Big Eau Pleine – Repairs to the main shelter went well. Repairs to the major rutting in the campground and trails have been completed. Cherokee – The restoration work around the new restroom have been completed. DC Everest – The interior and exterior of the restroom have been re-clear coated. Marathon Park – The Hockey boards are all raised. Starting September 8, Rink 1 will start the ice installation. The first reservation is on September 15. Work began with Modern Mechanical in the compressor room. Splash Pad - work is underway by the contractor. Oak wilt was found, and trees and stumps were removed immediately. 89Q event hosted on August 21 in the Grandstand, which was projecting 6,000-7,000 in attendance. Gearing up to host the Art Weekend on September 6-7 in Marathon Park and the 400 Block. Mountain Bay Trail – Seasonal mowing is complete. Rib Falls – Rocks were moved to eliminate public access to the north. Peoples Sports Complex – Annual aerating, overseeding and topdressing the complex is complete, and the final tournament of the season will be done in a couple of weeks. SunnyVale Softball – Three of the five fields at the complex are being rehabbed. The infield radius is being cut to specification and new ball mix is being added. Next year, the last two fields will be rehabbed. Softball season has ended.

8. **Announcements**
   A. Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location – Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 10:30 am, at 518 South 7th Ave, Rm 089, Wausau, WI 54403
   B. Future Agenda Items –

9. **Adjourn** – **Motion** by Opall, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

VILLAGE OF EDGAR

224 S. Third Avenue
P.O. Box 67
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

Ph. (715) 352-2891
www.vil.edgar.wi.us

November 12, 2025

Marathon County Parks Department
212 River Drive, Suite 2
Wausau, WI 54403

Subject: Request for Agreement – Omar Creek Bridge Preservation Grant Administration

To Whom it May Concern:

The Village of Edgar is pleased to inform you that we have been awarded a grant in the amount of $8,500 from Polaris for the ATV/Snowmobile Omar Creek Bridge Preservation Project, located within the Village of Edgar.

Given the Marathon County Parks Department's expertise in ATV/Snowmobile bridge and trail infrastructure, the Village is hopeful that we may enter into a formal agreement with the County to oversee and fulfill the technical and administrative requirements of the bridge repairs. In exchange, the Village would transfer the full grant proceeds of $8,500 to Marathon County upon execution of a written agreement.

An inspection of the bridge was completed by a certified bridge engineer hired by private landowner Gordan Krall, and it showed that the structure is in need of necessary repairs. If Marathon County can utilize this inspection, the Village would request that Mr. Gordan Krall be reimbursed for the cost of the inspection. The Polaris grant outlines specific objectives of bridge repair and preservation as part of a comprehensive bridge management plan, consistent with Wisconsin DNR guidelines; we feel you should have no issues meeting these requirements. The exact grant guidelines are as follows:

GRANT GUIDELINES

Organizations can apply for either monetary or products for up to $10,000 annually, with the ability to apply for two grants per year. All organizations must be 501(c)(3), 501(c)(7) government or non-profit organizations.

If the grant is approved, a Results Report will be required as follow up to the project along with photographs that showcase before, during and after efforts. In order to be considered for a new grant, all previous grant programs must be completed with a result/progress report.

Also required is a trail file, either as a GPX or shapefile format, of your club's trail system. Polaris RIDE COMMAND and the related map information is an intrinsic part of the Snowmobile, ATV and ORV programs at Polaris.

Therefore any TRAILS GRANTS that will be used for development, maintenance or the purchase of equipment to be used for that purpose, must submit a GPX or shapefile of that trail system to Chris.Gamache@polaris.com before any grant funds will be made available.

We believe this collaboration would ensure proper project management, compliance with grant and DNR standards, and successful preservation of the Omar Creek Bridge. Please let us know if the County would be willing to partner with the Village in this capacity.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued partnership in supporting community and recreational infrastructure within Marathon County.

Sincerely,

Terry Lepak
Village President

Reference #2025050035

Submitted May 11, 2025

Status Approved

Edgar WI ATV - Snowmobile clubs Omar Creek Bridge Preservation

Village of Edgar

REQUEST DETAILS

Application type	Polaris - TRAILS Application
Submitted	May 11, 2025

CAUSE SUMMARY

Cause	Village of Edgar BSV_GOV_EIN_396006254_0001
Address	224 S. 3rd Avenue P.O. Box 67 Edgar, WI 54426 United States

REQUESTING

Cash	US$ 8,500.00

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name	Edgar WI ATV - Snowmobile clubs Omar Creek Bridge Preservation
Program	TRAILS
Focus Area	Supporting trail preservation and creation

Project Description

The Omar Creek bridge in the village of Edgar WI is integral to the ATV and Snowmobile clubs and trail system . This bridge is on private property under conservation easement and village property and in need of inspection and preservation to ensure safety and continued usage .

Program

T.R.A.I.L.S

Manual Entry

No

Should this request be approved, is this the name to which payment should be directed?

Yes

Is the address displayed above the correct address for this request?

Yes

Summarize your organizations' mission

The Village of Edgar, Wisconsin's mission is to provide residents with a high quality of life by offering various services and amenities. This includes maintaining five unique parks, offering no-interest loans for housing rehabilitation projects, and ensuring a safe and secure environment.

If applicable, please note that your organization's trail data will be required to receive funds

Yes

Please select which category best represents your grant request

Supporting trail preservation and creation

Have you received grant funding from Polaris in the past three years?

No

Are there opportunities for Polaris employees to volunteer with this project or your organization?

Yes

What are your project goals (list top 3)?

1) condition inspection by certified bridge engineer
2) Repair
3) Preservation within a bridge managememt plan per DNR guidelines

How will your organization promote the Polaris TRAILS GRANTS program?

Trail and bridge promotional signage . Posting in Board Council meeting and Record Review newspaper , village website posting and social media.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Jennifer Lopez
Title	Village Administrator
Phone (Work)	(715) 352-8205
Email	grants@edgarwi.gov

EVENTS

No events found for this request

Marathon County ATV and Snowmobile Trail
LAND USE AGREEMENT

This is to certify that Marathon County through its duly authorized representative, and operational department, and hereinafter named the "Permittee", is hereby authorized and permitted by Terry Lepak who is the Village President for the Village of Edgar, located at

224 S. Third Avenue P.O Box 67	Edgar	Wisconsin	54426
Address	City	State	Zip

The Village of Edgar, hereinafter named the Owner, grants permission to the Permittee to enter upon and use the following described lands SW ¼ SE ¼, Section 12, T 28 N, R 04 E AND Part of SW ¼, SE ¼, Section 12, T 28 N, R 04 E (100' Rail Road Right of Way) AND Part of E ½ SE ¼, Section 12, T 28 N, R 04 E, Village of Edgar, for the purpose of locating, constructing, and maintaining a public Winter ATV, Summer ATV (please circle or strike) and/or Snowmobile Trail (please circle or strike), with a minimum cleared width of 10 feet. Including, but not limited to, the installation of directional and informational signs, gates, culverts, and/or bridges necessary to accomplish the intended use.

*See included maps for further details.

This agreement shall be in effect on a continuous basis starting from the date signed below. Landowner intends to provide this property for a motorized recreation trail that will be available for summer ATV/UTV, Snowmobile and Winter ATV use. The section of trail crossing the above listed property shall only use by the general public when designated trails are officially open. This agreement may be terminated, for just cause, by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice submitted to the Permittee.

It is understood by the Owner and the Permittee that this agreement is subject to the following conditions:

1. This agreement is non-transferable.
2. Owner shall incur no expenses associated with the Permittee's construction and maintenance of said ATV and/or snowmobile trail.
3. Trail maintenance activities will be set forth in Trail Maintenance Agreement with Permittee and Marathon County.
4. Necessary fence removal shall be only by approval of Owner and replacement shall be by the Permittee.
5. No unnecessary construction or removal of vegetation will be done. No trees shall be cut without approval of the Owner; any trees cut shall remain the property of the Owner. Permittee shall make reasonable effort to restore the property to a condition that existed before any improvements were made.
6. Permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless Owner for injury to person or property arising from the use of ATV's and snowmobiles on the described agreed premises.
7. All directional and informational signs installed and associated with the ATV and snowmobile trail shall belong to Permittee. All structures (bridges, culverts, boardwalks etc.) will be removed upon termination of this land use agreement and will remain property of Marathon County.
8. Additional conditions specifically pertinent to this land use agreement will be valid if enumerated in the space provided between this condition and the closing signatures. The Permittee and the Owner will initial every such additional condition.

_____

_____

Marathon County ATV and Snowmobile Trail
LAND USE AGREEMENT

Authorized Representative

Signature

Terry Lepak, Village President
Print Name

June 14, 2021
Date

Signature

Jennifer Lopez, Village Administrator
Print Name

June 14, 2021
Date

Permittee

Mid Wisconsin ATV Trail Blazers
Club Name

Dean Manecke Pres.
Print Name/Club Officer Position

Signature

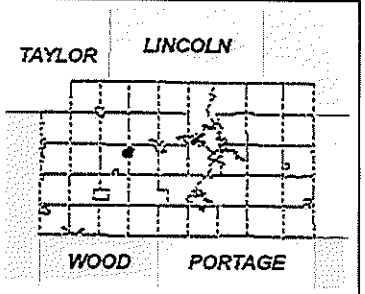
6-24-2021
Date

Krecji City Cruisers Snowmobile club
Club Name

Dan Hilgemann V.P. Trial Boss
Print Name/Club Officer Position

June 17, 2021
Signature

Land Information Mapping System



Legend

- Road Names
- Parcels
- Parcel Lot Lines
- Land Hooks
- Section Lines/Numbers
- Right Of Ways
- Named Places
- Municipalities
- ATV-UTV Roads
- 2020 Orthos Countywide
  - Red: Band_1
  - Green: Band_2
  - Blue: Band_3

189.51 0 189.51 Feet

NAD_1983_HARN_WISCRS_Marathon_County_Feet

DISCLAIMER: The information and depictions herein are for informational purposes and Marathon County-City of Wausau specifically disclaims accuracy in this reproduction and specifically admonishes and advises that if specific and precise accuracy is required, the same should be determined by procurement of certified maps, surveys, plats, Flood Insurance Studies, or other official means. Marathon County-City of Wausau will not be responsible for any damages which result from third party use of the information and depictions herein or for use which ignores this warning.
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes

Service Category Definitions:

Open Access: Access for the general public to parks, park amenities, and/or facilities which do not include supervision or oversight by staff and activity is self-directed by the user or participant. Examples: Interactive Fountain, Dog Park, Outdoor Sport Courts, Skate Park, Playgrounds, Parks, Trails, Urban Forestry, and Snow Removal

Community Events: Department events or activities at low or no cost, planned to be appealing and accessible to a majority of, or the entire community regardless of age, ability/skill, family composition, etc. Examples: Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Festival, Adopt-A-Park

Enrichment Activities: Classes, clinics, workshops, and other led/or supervised activities in which the primary intent is to provide socialization and life skills development with a focus on education, public health, or lifelong learning. Examples: Youth Safety Swimming Lessons,

Drop-In Activities: Activities or facilities which do not require registration, but may require membership or fee/pass, are self-directed and may include staff/volunteer supervision or oversight. Examples: Public Pools, Splash Pads, XC Ski Trails, Mountain Bike Trails, Boat Launches

Beginner/Instructional Activities: Programs, classes, clinics, workshops, and other led and/or instructed activities in which the primary intent is to introduce participants to a skill at a "learn to" level. Examples: Learn to Fish, Intro to Tennis

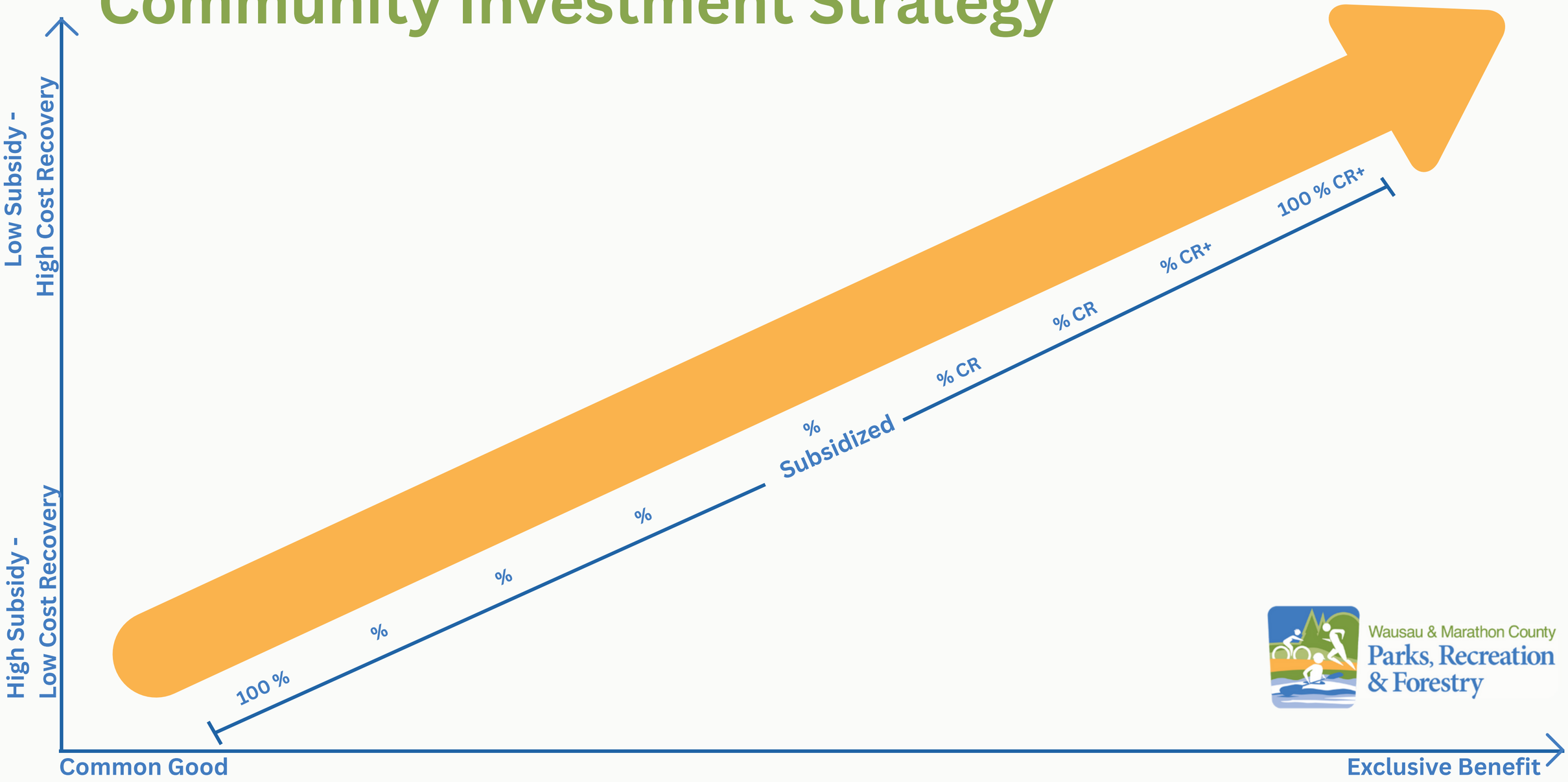
Special Events: Department events or activities designed for a niche' market or a specific interest. These are fee-based events. Examples: Scary Skate, Slam o Rama Pickleball Tournament, Dog Gone Pool Party

Rentals and Reservations: Space, equipment, and facility reservations for use by an individual or external group for either private use or public events. Examples: Sport Field Rentals, Recreation Facility Rentals, Shelter Rentals, Equipment Rentals, Court Rentals

Private/Semi-Private Activities: Specialized programs, classes, clinics, workshops, and other led and/or instructed activities offered in a private setting to meet the unique needs, interests and/or skill sets of individuals and small groups. Examples: Bike Polo, Packers Trip, Water Exercise Class, Advances Swimming Lessons

Resales: Consumable and non-consumable goods or services available for purchase. Examples: Merchandise, Concessions, Skate Sharpening and Firewood

Community Investment Strategy



Wausau & Marathon County
Parks, Recreation
& Forestry

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lance Leonard, County Administrator
Marathon County Rules Review Committee
FROM: Jamie Polley, Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
DATE: July 3, 2025
SUBJECT: Proposal to Combine Forestry/Recreation Committee and County Park Oversight into a Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee

Purpose:
This memorandum proposes combining the Forestry/Recreation Committee and the oversight of County parks into a unified Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee. This restructuring will improve strategic alignment, operational efficiency, and resource stewardship in Marathon County.

Background:
In 1974, the City of Wausau turned over park oversight and responsibilities to Marathon County. At that time, the City Parks Committee and the County Park Commission were dissolved, and a joint Park Commission was established by resolution.

In 2011, the City of Wausau reinstated its Parks Committee to provide more direct oversight of projects within City parks. From that point forward, City-specific items were reviewed by the City Parks Committee, while County items remained under the Park Commission's jurisdiction.

In 2024, with the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and County, questions arose regarding the ongoing validity and function of the City Parks Committee as well as the roles of the City Council members on the Park Commission. Following these discussions, the City Council voted to maintain their Parks and Recreation Committee and requested the County reassess the structure and role of the Park Commission.

Proposed Structure:

- The Forestry/Recreation Committee would be restructured and expanded to include oversight of County Parks, forming the new Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee.
- The current Park Commission, as established under Wisconsin State Statute 27.02, would remain in place and continue to meet quarterly to focus on policy and procedural oversight for the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.
- The City of Wausau will retain its Parks and Recreation Committee to oversee city park projects.

Details of New Structure:

- Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee:
    - Primary focus on County park and forestry projects and programs.
    - Meets monthly.
    - Comprised of five members, either all County Board Supervisors or a combination of County Board Supervisors and members at large.

- Park Commission:
    - Meets quarterly (at minimum).
    - Comprised of three County Board Supervisors, three City Council members, and one citizen member at large.
    - Oversees department-wide policies, ordinances, and operating procedures.

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee

New Mission / Purpose:
To manage and protect Marathon County's parks, forests, and recreational resources in a sustainable manner that supports ecological health, economic vitality, educational opportunities, and high-quality recreational experiences for current and future generations.

Statutory Responsibilities: The Marathon County Forestry and Recreation Committee will follow Chapters 26, 28, 29, 59, and 77 of the Wis. Statutes.

Membership: Total of five (5) members consisting of (4) County Board Supervisors and (1) Citizen member.

Term: All members are appointed for a two-year term to coincide with the biennial organization of the County Board - appointed by the County Board Chair and confirmed by the County Board. Committee vacancies will be filled according to County Board Rule 13.

Reporting Relationship: The Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee is a subcommittee which reports to the Marathon County Environmental Resources Standing Committee.

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Oversee the County's park and forest systems, including policy development, land use planning, and resource management consistent with Chapters 26, 28, 29, 59, and 77 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
- Implement and monitor the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, including preparing amendments and updates as needed.
- Recommend and develop policies for sustainable forest management, including acquisition, protection, and use of natural resources.
- Review and recommend policies and funding for parks, trails, and recreational programs and facilities, including those for tourism and community engagement.
- Review and recommend for approval to the County Board the annual forestry division work plan and budget for the ensuing calendar year.
- Oversee recreational trail development and maintenance, including County-sponsored and State-funded trails.
- Make rules and recommend ordinances for the regulation and use of County forests.
- Direct the monitoring and protection of County forests and parklands from fire, insects, disease, invasive species, trespass, and other forms of damage, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Promote habitat preservation and support the creation and maintenance of diverse wildlife habitats, integrating ecological goals into recreation planning.
- Recommend land acquisitions or exchanges to enhance or expand park and forest holdings, consistent with strategic conservation, recreation objectives and County Comprehensive Plan.

- Support and recommend educational and outreach programs, fostering community awareness and stewardship of County natural resources.
- Direct the preparation and presentation of annual reports to the County Board on parks, forestry, and recreation activities and outcomes.
- Review, approve, and close timber sales of the County forests.
- Address additional duties as assigned by the County Board or Environmental Resources Standing Committee.

Other Organizational Relationship: Coordinate with the Park Commission to ensure policy consistency, public engagement, and long-term visioning across all department operations. Encourage work with other County Board committees as the need arises.

Park Commission

Mission / Purpose: Provide a park and forest recreation system that will meet the needs of our current and future generations; preserve and protect the City of Wausau and Marathon County's open spaces, water, historical, cultural, and natural resources; and provide recreation opportunities that are designed to enhance the ~~County's~~ quality of life.

Membership: The Marathon County Administrator shall appoint seven (7) members to the Park Commission. Those members shall be comprised of three (3) Marathon County Board Supervisors, three (3) Wausau City Council members, and one (1) citizen member.

Duties and Responsibilities include:

1. Monitor, preserve, and protect the City & County's open spaces, water, historical, cultural, natural, and economic resources.
2. Determine and recommend recreational and tourism programs within the County.
3. Recommend policy and funding for establishing and implementing park and recreation programs and facilities.
4. Review and recommend policies and funding for parks, trails, and recreational programs and facilities, including those for tourism and community engagement.
5. Monitor and recommend policy for the development and maintenance of recreation trails including City or County sponsored trails and State funded trails.
6. Make rules and recommend ordinances for the regulation of the use and enjoyment of the City and County parks, trails, and recreation lands, ensuring accessibility and responsible public use.

Rationale for Combining Forestry and Parks Oversight:

Shared Missions and Goals: The Forestry/Recreation Committee, like the Park Commission and City Parks & Recreation Committee share fundamental goals: protecting and managing natural resources for current and future generations, while enhancing public recreation opportunities. The Forestry/Recreation Committee focuses on sustainable forest management and recreation within those forests, while the Park Commission and Parks & Recreation Committee oversees broader park and recreation systems, natural areas, and trail development.

Operational and Strategic Benefits:

- Integrated Resource Management: A unified county committee allows for a more coordinated approach to land stewardship, habitat preservation, trail systems, and recreation programming.
- Stronger Strategic Planning: Combining these functions under one body fosters a comprehensive vision for outdoor spaces, conservation, tourism, and community health.
- Improved Efficiency and Responsiveness: Streamlining decision-making through one main committee dedicated to County projects enables faster policy development and implementation.
- Better Use of Expertise and Resources: Aligning staff, planning, and budget efforts under a single committee avoids duplication and enhances collaboration.

Conclusion:

Improved Representation and Clarity: By clearly defining the roles of the new Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee and the Park Commission, as well as respecting the City's decision to maintain its Parks & Recreation Committee, all parties will have defined oversight without overlap or confusion. This approach honors the Intergovernmental Agreement and supports a unified direction for City/County park operations.

Update on Marathon County Ice Arena FEMA Feasibility Study & Decision-Making Framework Discussion

MARATHON COUNTY

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

December 7, 2025

1

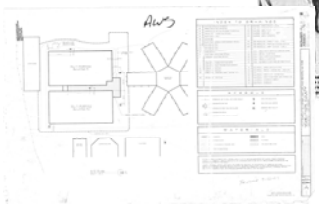
Overview

1. Brief History Recap
2. Future Planning Efforts
3. Ice Mat & Current Operations
4. Feasibility Study Overview
5. Decision-Making Framework Discussion

2

History Recap

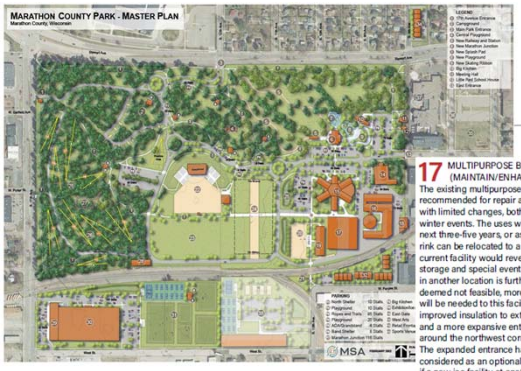
Rink 1
- Constructed in 1974- Seasonal
- Refrigeration system and boards purchased used from Eagle River, WI
- Center section built and buildings connected 1994
- Header replaced in 2010
- Locker rooms added 2014
- Boards replaced in 2020
- Seats approximately 900



Rink 2
- Constructed without walls 1986- Seasonal
- Enclosed 1994
- Seats approximately 150
- Locker rooms added 2017

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

3



17 MULTIPURPOSE BUILDINGS (MAINTAIN/ENHANCE)

The existing multipurpose buildings are recommended for repair and continued use with limited changes, both for summer and winter events. The uses will continue for the next three-five years, or as soon as the ice rink can be relocated to a new facility. The current facility would revert to a mix of winter storage and special event uses. If a new facility in another location is further evaluated and deemed not feasible, more extensive changes will be needed to this facility, including improved insulation to extend the season and a more expansive entry hall that wraps around the northwest corner of the building. The expanded entrance hall may also be considered as an optional interim investment if a new ice facility at another location is to be deferred for five (5) or more years. Assuming relocation of the ice uses, the existing buildings can function for their other uses with limited changes, though there are no proposed uses for the various locker room spaces. The long term plan illustrated on the conceptual illustration is a major overhaul of the facility to consolidate the needed floor space into a more compact structure, either by modification or wholesale replacement of the facility. With a smaller footprint for this use the horse barn can and should be relocated and a wider promenade between the Exhibition Building and the Multipurpose Buildings(s) should be established, each as shown on the concept map.

Future Planning Efforts

<u>Westside Master Plan</u>
Approved 2.20.23

<u>BRIC/FEMA Grant Award</u> to complete a feasibility to include a Saferoom in a new arena or within existing arena

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

4

Ice Mat

October –November 2024

- Rink 2 – multiple leaks, corrosion, and pipe failures found
- Used Rink Seal, constructed a bleeder to get air out of the system, and opened up multiple areas within the floor.
- Opened 3 weeks behind schedule

Infrastructure beyond life expectancy and operational reliability is not certain.

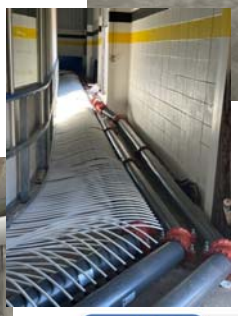
Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

5

Ice Mat

March 25, 2025 - County Board approved the purchase of an Ice Mat system and associated mechanical work as a short term solution.

August 2025-October 2025 - Ice Mat and Mechanical Work completed.



Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

6

Current Operations

Ice arenas 1 & 2 are operational as planned for the 2025-2026 season

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

7

Feasibility Study Overview

8

Feasibility Study Overview

Scope of Study:
•WI Emergency Management Grant awarded to study the incorporation of a saferoom* into a new ice arena or renovate current arena to include saferoom.
•Long-term viability and evaluation of options for continued operation, upgrades, or reconstruction
•Community needs analysis to develop program of arena (November 2023)
•Operational Evaluation (Cost, revenue projections)
•Economic Impact Analysis

Study Options:
•**Option 1**: Construction of a new two sheet arena with Saferoom* at a new location, cost analysis and potential economic impact
•**Option 2**: Reconstruction/renovation of current arena with Saferoom*, cost analysis and construction logistics

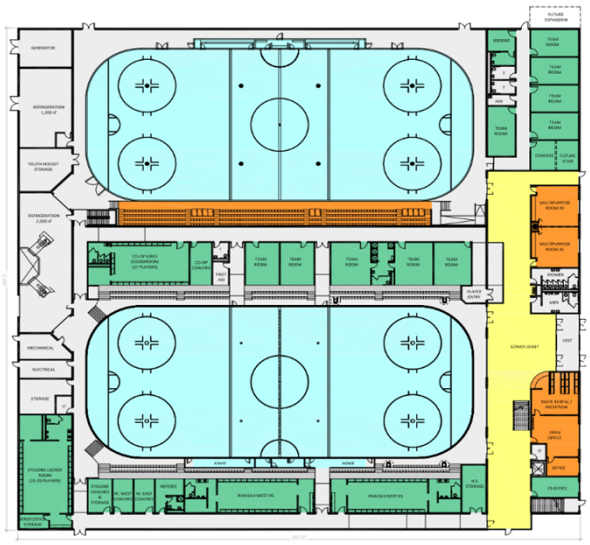
*Note: Since the study was completed the funding option (BRIC Grant) for a saferoom has been eliminated.

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

9

Feasibility Study Overview

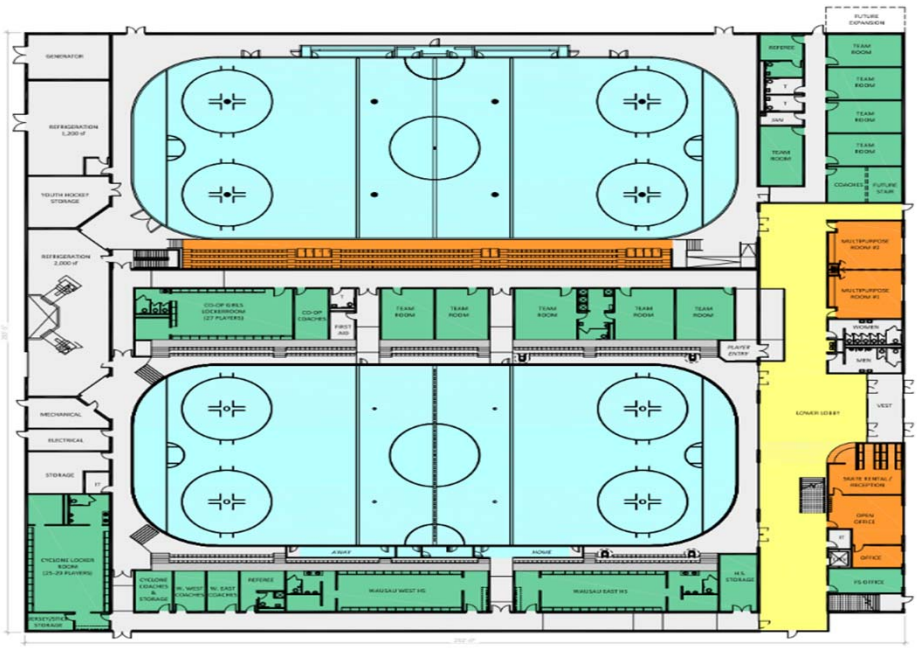
Option 1



CONCEPT MAIN LEVEL PLAN

10

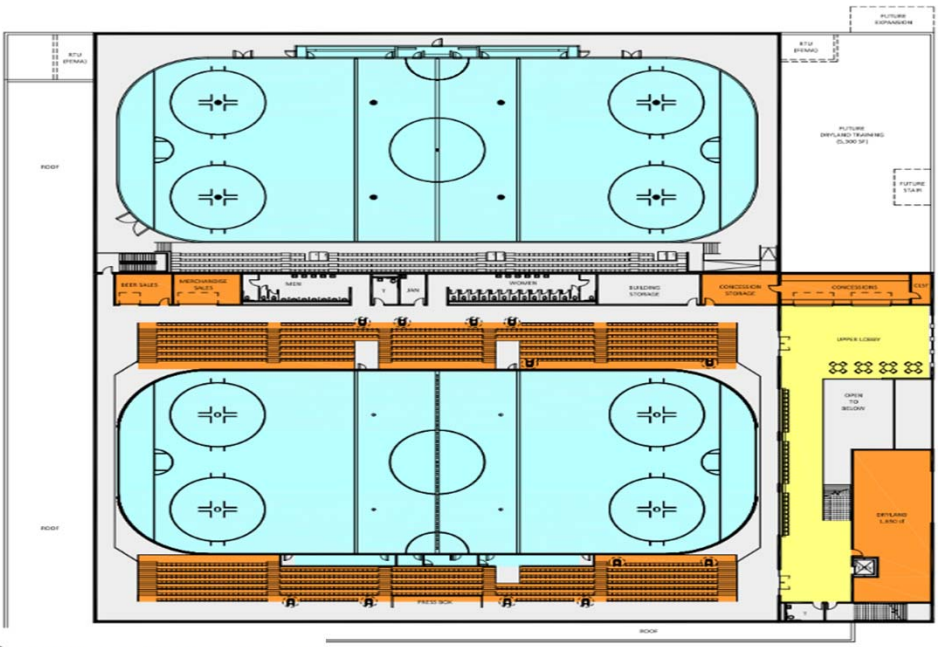
Option 1



CONCEPT MAIN LEVEL PLAN

11

Option 1



CONCEPT UPPER LEVEL PLAN

12

Feasibility Study Overview

Option 1

CONSTRUCTION COSTS				
New Construction Phase 1		Cost/SF	Area (SF)	
General		$250	104,000	$ 26,000,000.00
ICE (rink floors, refrigeration system, dasher boards)				$ 4,200,000.00
Mechanical (HVAC+Plumbing)		$80	104,000	$ 8,320,000.00
Electrical		$40	104,000	$ 4,160,000.00
			SUBTOTAL	$ 42,680,000.00
Site				
Hardscapes				$ 2,100,000.00
Utilities				$ 300,000.00
Misc Site Improvements				$ 75,000.00
			SUBTOTAL	$ 2,475,000.00
Escalation (3% per year)	3%			$ 1,354,650.00
Tarrif escalation	3%			$ 1,354,650.00
Design and Pricing Contingency	15%			$ 6,773,250.00
			SUBTOTAL	$9,482,550.00
Estimated Construction Budget Cost of Work			TOTAL	$ 54,637,550.00

Wausau & Marathon County
Parks, Recreation & Forestry

13

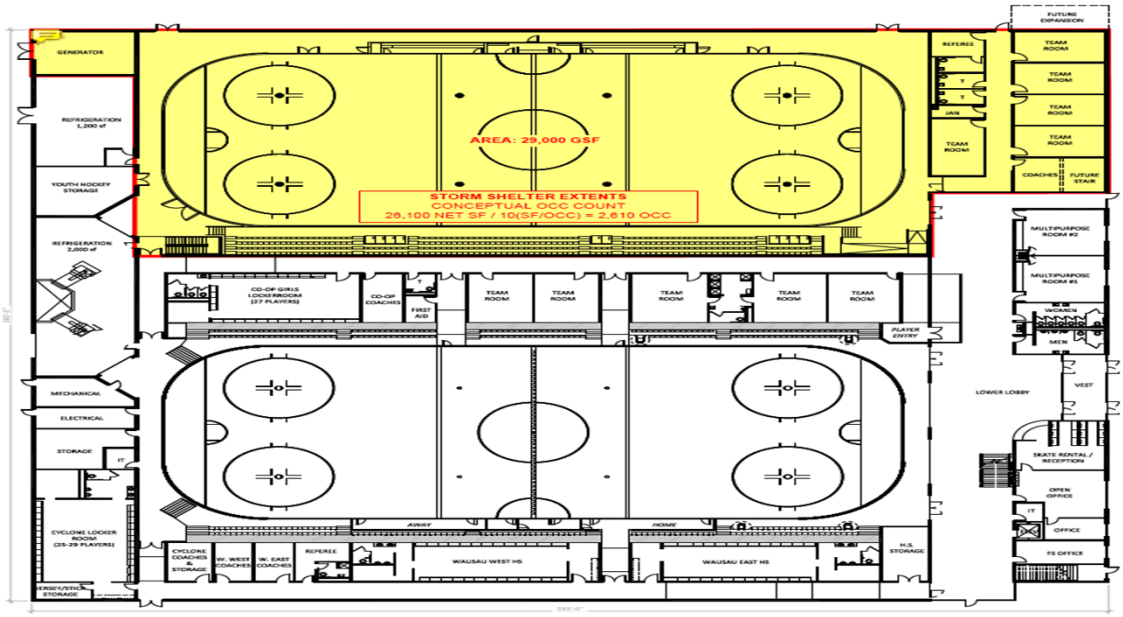
Feasibility Study Overview

Saferoom

CONSTRUCTION COSTS				
New Construction - Stormshelter Cost as rated enclosure		Cost/SF	Area (SF)	
General		$270	31,000	$ 8,370,000.00
Mechanical (HVAC+Plumbing)		$80	31,000	$ 2,480,000.00
Electrical		$40	31,000	$ 1,240,000.00
			SUBTOTAL	$ 12,090,000.00
Escalation	3%			$ 362,700.00
Design and Pricing Contingency	15%			$ 1,813,500.00
			SUBTOTAL	$2,176,200.00
Estimated Construction Budget Cost of Work			TOTAL	$ 14,266,200.00

14

Saferoom



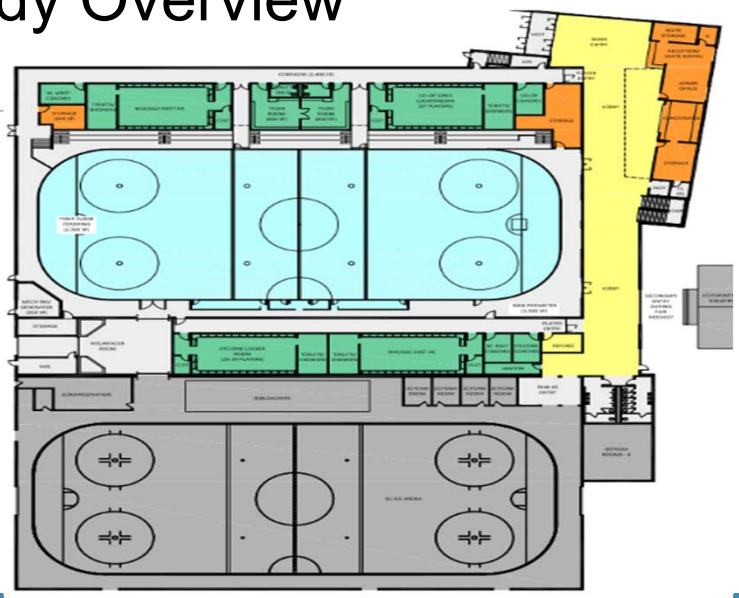
15

Feasibility Study Overview

Option 2

Utilized Same Stakeholder Feedback November 2023

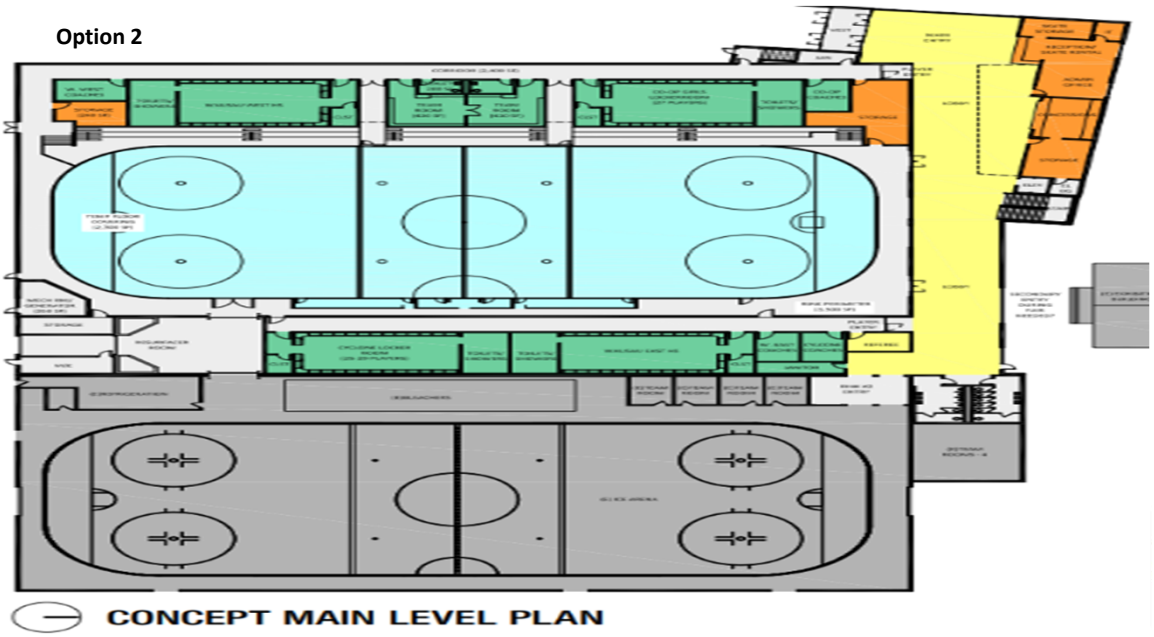
Operational Needs



CONCEPT MAIN LEVEL PLAN

16

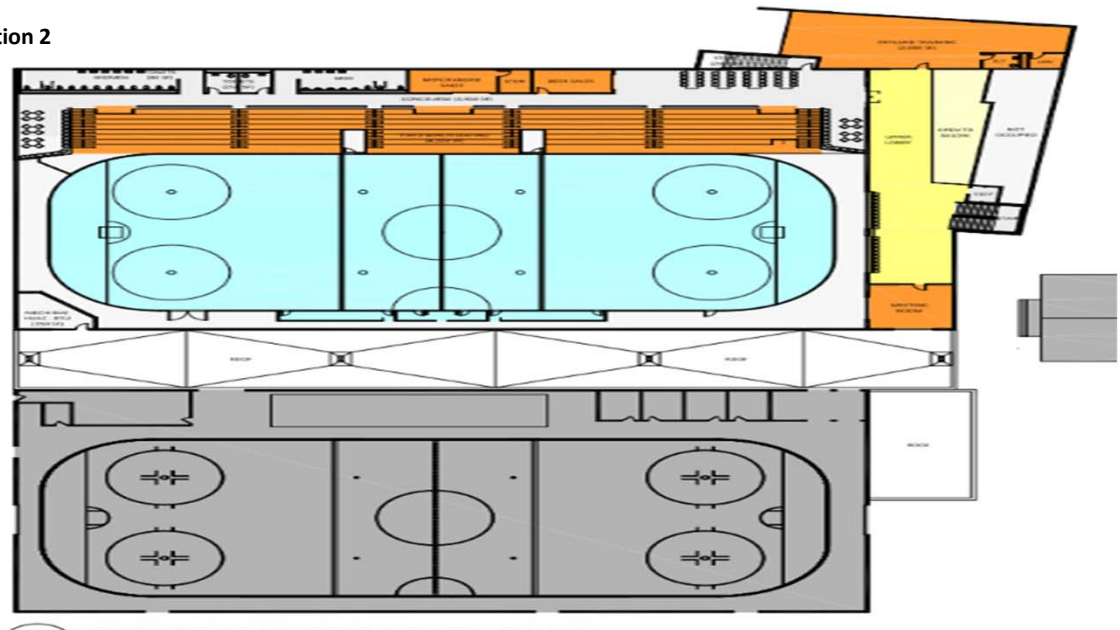
Option 2



CONCEPT MAIN LEVEL PLAN

17

Option 2



CONCEPT UPPER LEVEL PLAN

18

Feasibility Study Overview

Option 2

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

New Construction Phase 1		Cost/SF	Area (SF)	
General		$250	63,000	$ 15,750,000.00
ICE (rink floors, refrigeration system, dasher boards)				$ 2,600,000.00
Mechanical (HVAC+Plumbing)		$80	63,000	$ 5,040,000.00
Electrical		$40	63,000	$ 2,520,000.00
Renovated existing space		$400	3,000	$ 1,200,000.00
			SUBTOTAL	$ 25,910,000.00
Site				
Hardscapes				$ 2,100,000.00
Utilities				$ 300,000.00
Misc Site Improvements				$ 75,000.00
			SUBTOTAL	$ 2,475,000.00
Escalation (3% per year)	3%			$ 851,550.00
Tarrif escalation	3%			$ 851,550.00
Design and Pricing Contingency	15%			$ 4,257,750.00
			SUBTOTAL	$5,960,850.00
Estimated Construction Budget Cost of Work			TOTAL	$ 34,345,850.00

19

Feasibility Study Overview

Operational Analysis

Total Projected Revenue

Fees	
Advertising	$10,000
Concessions	$ 1,700
Drop-In Hockey	$14,692
Dryland Lease (New)	$15,000
Meeting Rooms	$12,000
Other Rentals & In-House Programs	$110,949
Organized/Association Ice Rentals	$400,558
Public Skating	$ 72,115
Summer Event Rentals	$ 25,000
Annual Revenue Budget (2025)	***$662,014***

Five Year Planning:

The following is a 5-Year Summary of the operating projection for the proposed facility. The 5-year projection includes the capital improvement fund and has annual escalators for years 2-5 factored into the projections.

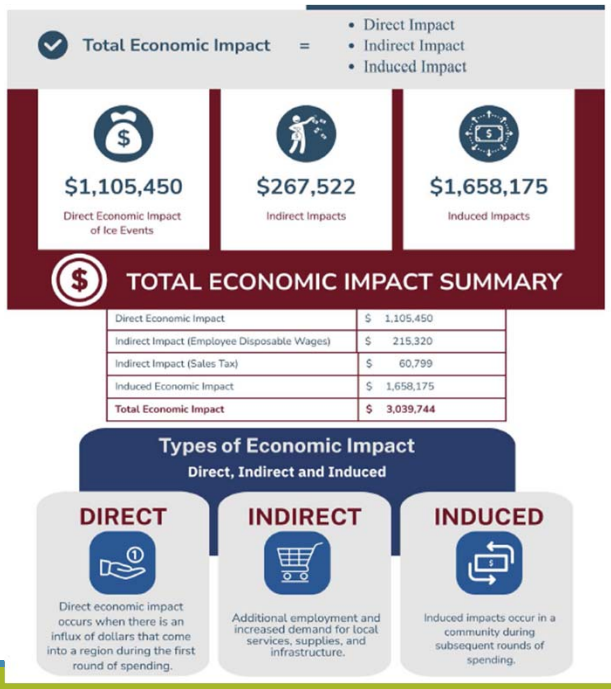
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Expenses	$761,961	$769,581	$792,668	$816,448	$840,942
Revenue	$662,014	$728,215	$764,626	$787,565	$811,192
	($99,947)	($41,366)	($28,042)	($28,883)	($29,750)
Cost Recovery % inc. CIP	86.9%	94.6%	96.5%	96.5%	96.5%
Capital (cumulative)*	$75,000	$150,000	$225,000	$300,000	$375,000

** The capital improvement line is cumulative and illustrates the balance of that line item. It is called out in the chart but is already factored into total expenses.*

Projected Expense Budget

Personnel	
Full-Time Wages	$ 176,985
Part-Time Wages	$ 141,050
Full-Time Benefits	$ 53,096
Part-Time Benefits	$ 10,790
Personnel Sub-Total	***$ 381,921***
Supplies	
Chemicals	$ 16,000
Cleaning & Janitorial Supplies	$ 9,000
Equipment Supplies	$ 5,000
F&B Supplies	$ 5,000
First Aid & Safety	$ 500
Misc. Operating Supplies	$ 4,500
Office Supplies	$ 3,500
R& M Supplies	$ 7,000
Recreation Supplies	$ 5,000
Software	$ -
Special Event Supplies	$ 5,000
Uniforms	$ 2,000
Emergency Shelter System Supplies	$ 3,000
Supplies Sub-Total	***$ 65,500***
Services	
Bank Changes	$ -
Dues & Subscriptions	$ 1,200
EE Training & Development	$ 2,000
Insurance	$ -
IT Services	$ 2,000
Marketing/Advertising	$ 5,000
Phone	$ -
Printing	$ 2,500
Professional Services	$ 8,000
R&M Services	$ 12,500
Misc	$ 1,000
Trash	$ 6,000
Utilities (gas, electric)	$ 184,341
Water/Sewer	$ 15,000
Services Sub-Total	***$ 239,541***
Sub Total All Personnel, Supplies & Services	***$ 686,961***
Capital Improvement Fund (CIF/CIP)	$ 75,000
Annual Expense Budget (2025)	***$ 791,961***

20



Feasibility Study Overview

Economic Impact Analysis

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

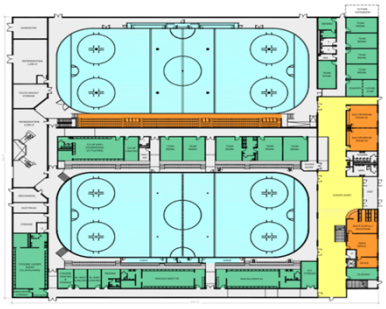
21

Decision-Making Framework Discussion

What are the potential outcomes?

Option 1: Construct a New 2-Rink Facility
•Two rinks with year-round capability

Pros: Expanded programming and increased community access, increased economic benefit
Cons: High initial costs, potential need for significant community fundraising



CONCEPT MAIN LEVEL PLAN

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

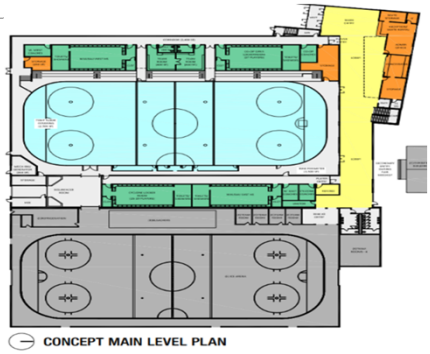
22

Decision-Making Framework Discussion

What are the potential outcomes?

Option 2: Rebuild Rink 1, Upgrade Rink 2
•Rink 1 gains year-round capability; Rink 2 gets new refrigeration (no year-round use)

Pros: Improved functionality, lower cost than a full new facility, increased economic impact
Cons: Limited improvements for Rink 2, moderate costs, temp rink needed during construction, potential community fundraising


CONCEPT MAIN LEVEL PLAN

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

23

Decision-Making Framework Discussion

What are the potential outcomes?

Option 3: Refrigeration Upgrade for Both Rinks
•Refrigeration only; no year-round use
•Operation will continue as it is today

Pros: Lower costs, retains current functionality
Cons: Limited service improvement, does not meet the needs of stakeholders, seasonal only

24

Decision-Making Framework Discussion

What are the potential outcomes?

Option 4: No Longer Operate an Ice Arena
•Stop operation when the facility is no longer functional

Pros: Savings on future operational and maintenance costs
Cons: Loss of community resource, economic impact

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

25

Decision-Making Framework Discussion

The Executive Committee is asked to provide staff with direction on how to proceed with developing the process that the Board will use to make the decision regarding which option to pursue.

Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

26

Thank you

Questions?

Wausau & Marathon County
Parks, Recreation
& Forestry

27