

*** All present are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with our City's Core Values ***



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation or Sub-unit thereof.

Notice is hereby given that the Park and Recreation Committee of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting on the date, time and location shown below.

Meeting of the:	PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU
Date/Time:	Monday, February 3, 2025 at 5:15pm
Location:	City Hall (407 Grant St, Wausau WI 54403) - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Members:	Lou Larson, Carol Lukens, Tom Neal, Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1 Approval of Minutes of the November 4, 2024 Meeting
- 2 Discussion and Possible Action Approving the Naming of a Section of the River Edge Trail in Honor of Patrick Peckham
- 3 Discussion and Possible Action on Approving the Naming of the Amphitheater at Stewart Park in Honor of Madam Waltraud Karkar
- 4 Discussion and Possible Action Recommending the Approval of a Resolution to the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor Evers Supporting the Renewal of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund
- 5 Review and Discussion of the 2025 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Work Plan
- 6 Educational Items
 - A. 2024 Year in Review
 - B. Riverlife Concession RFP Update
 - C. Park Updates (Operations, Signage, 400 Block, Riverlife, Sylvan Hill, Nine Mile, Water Meters, Big Eau Pleine, SunnyVale)
- 7 Future Agenda Items - Park Ordinance Updates, Riverlife Concession Proposals, Beer Gardens
- 8 Next Meeting: Monday, March 3, 2025 at 5:15pm, Council Chambers (City Hall 407 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403)
- 9 Adjournment

Lou Larson, Chair

Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may view the meeting live over the internet on the City of Wausau's YouTube Channel <http://www.tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>, live by cable TV, Channel 981, and a video is available in its entirety and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>. Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail Jamie.polley@marathoncounty.gov with "Parks Committee public comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, if agendized, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6622 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and transmitted to the Daily Herald newsroom on 1/28/25 @ 4:00 p.m. Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to Winnie Parker, Park Office (715) 261-1550.

Distribution List: City Website, Media, WSD-Admin, Alderpersons, Mayor, Polley, Dept. Staff, Maryanne Groat, Brad Lenz, Eric Lindman, Lance Leonhard, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Wausau Events, Public Access, Wausau River District

2. Discussion and Possible Action Approving the Naming of a Section of the River Edge Trail in Honor of Patrick Peckham

The City of Wausau Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has submitted an application to name the new section of the River Edge Parkway between Thomas St and Adolph Street in memory of Patrick Peckham. The City of Wausau Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee voted in favor of this recommendation in April of 2024.

The newest section of the River Edge Parkway extends the westside trail system from Thomas Street south, around the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Department of Public Works campus, and connects to Adolph Street. This represents the southernmost section of paved trail on the westside and an important bookend to a trail system 50 years in the making.

The trail also represents the practicality of using existing City property, the community support in funding, and the ability to provide recreational infrastructure to a lower-income area of the city. Exactly the type of values and efforts Mr. Peckham would have championed. Mr. Peckham, as a City alder, was known for a gentle but firm manner, willingness to seek and hear input, a great champion of the City, as well as an avid bicyclist and outdoorsman. The recommendation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is to use the name **'The Peckham Way'** to honor how Pat conducted himself as a resident and an alderperson.

Per the naming policy: E. Guidelines for naming in honor of individuals, groups or **organizations** are as follows.

1. Individuals honored with a park or facility name ("Honoree") **must** meet all of the following:
 - Have resided or worked in Marathon County or the area which has become Marathon County for a minimum of ten (10) years; and
Mr. Peckham has been a resident of Wausau since 1997
 - If a former city or county employee, have been separated from City/County service for at least one year prior to application; and,
Mr. Peckham last held office in 2022 and was an alder for 6 years.
 - Be highly esteemed in the community based upon character references and generally understood reputation in the community, and without criminal or legal judgments (including violations of environmental laws) which demonstrate poor character.
2. Honoree(s) **are recommended** to meet at least one of the following conditions:
 - At least 10 years of civic service (must have made significant and exceptional meritorious contributions to the local parks or local community as a whole for recreation purposes).
 - Contributed to the preservation of the City or County's history or culture
 - Contributed in a significant way to the acquisition, development or conveyance of land, buildings, and other amenities to the City or County.
 - A major financial contribution (donation of at least 51% of the value of park land dedication).

The Committee is asked to approve the naming of the River Edge trail section from Thomas Street South to Adolph Street The Peckham Way and the installation of identifying signage.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Approving the Naming of the Amphitheater at Stewart Park in Honor of Madam Waltraud Karkar

In November of 2024 the Park Committee approved the placement of a placard memorial on the stage at Stewart Park in honor of the late Madam Waltraud Karkar. At that meeting the Committee

asked that the naming of the amphitheater after Waltraud Karkar be brought back with the naming policy for further discussion.

Per the naming policy: E. Guidelines for naming in honor of individuals, groups or organizations are as follows.

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 - Have resided or worked in Marathon County or the area which has become Marathon County for a minimum of ten (10) years; and
 - If a former city or county employee, have been separated from City/County service for at least one year prior to application; and,
 - Be highly esteemed in the community based upon character references and generally understood reputation in the community, and without criminal or legal judgments (including violations of environmental laws) which demonstrate poor character.
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 - Contributed in a significant way to the acquisition, development or conveyance of land, buildings, and other amenities to the City or County.
 - A major financial contribution (donation of at least 51% of the value of park land dedication).

In early May 2024, Waltraud Karkar, founder of the Central WI School of Ballet here in Wausau, passed away. Stewart Park was always a very special place to Waltraud. She assisted the city with the park's restoration back in the late 1980s, early 90s by helping to raise funds to restore the stage. The school has used and continues to use the park for their summer performance each year. She loved the park, and she and her husband even bought a home next to it.

The city has received a request from a number of families who were part of the ballet school, some who have been involved with the ballet school since the school was started over 50 years ago. Their request is to dedicate the stage in Waltraud Karkar's name, calling it the Waltraud Karkar Amphitheater and place a 3D cast bronze plaque to the amphitheater wall. This dedication would honor her commitment to the arts and her impact on our community throughout the years in a place that was dear to her heart.

The Committee is asked to approve the dedication of the amphitheater in Waltraud Karkar's name and allow a plaque to be placed on the amphitheater wall.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Recommending the Approval of a Resolution to the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor Evers Supporting the Renewal of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund
The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is a tremendously successful environmental conservation program that protects our lakes and streams, conserves working forests, secures critical wildlife habitats, and provides countless opportunities for outdoor recreation both close to home and across Wisconsin.

But most people have never heard of Knowles-Nelson. The program works behind the scenes to make it possible for conservation organizations, Cities, Counties and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase land, to build trails, to maintain our parks and boating facilities, and to take care of our shorelines. The program is up for renewal in 2025, and our legislators need to know that caring for Wisconsin's land and water is a top priority.

Named after two former Wisconsin governors — Warren Knowles, a Republican, and Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat — the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program honors Wisconsin's bipartisan commitment to land and water protection.

Since its inception in 1989, Republicans and Democrats across the state have championed the program because our land, water, and wildlife don't have political affiliations. We all want Wisconsin to be a healthy, thriving place to live, work, and play. According to recent polls, 9 out of 10 Wisconsinites support the Stewardship Program!

Knowles-Nelson is currently funded through June 2026. Groups are currently working with legislators to ensure that renewed funding for the program is included in the 2025 state budget.

For years, the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee could review the use of stewardship grants in certain cases and block projects that raised concerns. Governor Evers challenged this process, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that the system currently in place violated the state Constitution. The program is not in jeopardy of being reauthorized.

Marathon County and communities within Marathon County have benefited from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund since 1989 to acquire property, and build and improve trails, parks and park amenities (see attached spreadsheet).

The Parks and Recreation Committee is asked to recommend that the City Council pass a resolution to be sent to State Legislators and Governor Evers supporting the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on the 2025 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Work Plan

The 2025 work plan for the department is attached. The Committee is asked to review and provide comments on the work plan.

The Committee is asked to approve the work plan.

6A. 2024 Year in Review

2024 was an extremely busy year with high park usage and a number of projects. Staff has gathered information on the work completed in 2024 and is providing the Committee with an overview.

6B. Riverlife Concession RFP Update

The deadline for the Riverlife Concession RFP has been extended to February 14th. At this time we have three interested parties that plan to submit a proposal.

6C. Project Update

Operations - Removal of old hoist and prepping for new hoist in mechanic's garage.

Signage - Many wooden park signs have been removed to be refinished and replaced. This will continue through the winter.

400 Block – Transported snow from Sylvan Hill to the 400 Block for a base to build the ice rink. In addition to building the rink, additional work was completed to have a snow ring around the rink for the sled dogs at WinterFest.

Riverlife - Refinished wood boards to the park benches.

Sylvan Hill – The Facebook posting about Sylvan Hill opening reached over 100,000 impressions! It became the department's most popular trending post. What's even cooler is that many of the

users who saw it weren't already following our page. This really helped expand our reach to new customers!

- Sylvan tubing fully operational. Lack of snow has made maintenance challenging.

Nine Mile – Fat tire bike trails are open, and ski trails have been rolled but remain closed due to lack of snow. The Chalet is currently open Sat-Sun from 11a-4p until there is more snow.

- Snow Striders was able to kick off their programming on Sunday. They will continue as long as conditions allow.

Water Meters - New water meter cages are nearly completed for Airport, 3M and DC Everest Park.

Big Eau Pleine Park – Staff is brushing trails and roadsides.

- Processing wood for camping season at Big Eau Pleine and stacking wood at the Dells.

SunnyVale – Staff plowed, packed the field and prepped electrical for the Pond Hockey tournament held at Sunnyvale on 1/18.

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: November 4, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Parks and Recreation Committee Members Present: Lou Larson (c), Carol Lukens, Tom Neal, Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson

Others Present: Jamie Polley – Parks Director, Colleen Thomasgard, John Robinson, Anne Marie Abuzzahab, Andrea Sczygelski

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. A quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order at 5:15pm.

1. Approve Minutes – October 7, 2024 – **Motion** by Neal, second by Rasmussen to approve the Park and Recreation Committee Minutes as written. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Discussion and Possible Action: Memorial at Stewart Park – The city has received a request from a number of families who were part of the ballet school, to dedicate the stage in Waltraud Karkar's name, calling it the Waltraud Karkar Amphitheater and place a 3D cast bronze plaque to the amphitheater wall. This dedication would honor her commitment to the arts and her impact on our community throughout the years in a place that was dear to her heart. Mr. Robinson spoke of Madam Karkar's contributions and vision of revitalizing the amphitheater in Stewart Park that goes back to 1980's. In addition, she was the founder of the Central WI School of Ballet and held outdoor performances at the amphitheater each summer. Questions were answered and discussion followed. Discussion includes additional questions on park naming that will be brought back to the committee at a later date. **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Lukens to approve the installation of a memorial at Stewart Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Approving Native American Land Acknowledgement marker in Riverlife Park – Colleen Thomasgard presented the placement of a marker at Riverlife Park for Native American Land Acknowledgement. Because the location is being placed in a park the request is coming to this committee for approval/denial before it goes onto the Plan Commission and City Council. The name of Wausau stems from five (5) different native American tribes that considered the Wausau area home. It would be nice to have a land acknowledgement for the current and future residence and visitors of the area to know the expanded history of the place and the people that were here. Questions were answered and discussion followed. **Motion** by Neal, second by Watson to approve the Native American Land Acknowledgment Marker in Riverlife Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Educational Items

A. Park Updates – The third Save Station was installed at Athletic Park next to the new concession stand and the entrance gate. Athletic Park Turf Project is near completion. 400 Block perimeter concrete was poured, and the safety bollards will be installed. The stage has been power washed. The old caulk has been removed, cleaned, and will be repainted. At the last meeting John Kahon, City Forester, gave an EAB and grant update. He's working on the RFP for the tree-planting portion. We have been busy winterizing all the parks in the city and county, and shutting down all the water in the parks, which include the fountains and bathrooms.

B. Events – We had a successful Halloween event this year in partnership with the River District but had to cancel the Scary Skate portion due to issues at the second ice rink. Businesses along the 400 Block who didn't think they were going to participate ended up joining in and want to do this event again next year. Questions were answered.

5. Future Agenda Items - Park Ordinance Updates, Re-naming Stewart Park, Concession Stand Vendor RFP

6. Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. Council Chambers (City Hall 407 Grant Street Wausau, WI 54403)

7. Adjournment – **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Neal to adjourn at 6:03 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

WAUSAU/MARATHON COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY NAMING GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

1. Purpose:

A. The Purpose of these guidelines and criteria is to develop names for City or County parks, property, facilities, or portions thereof that are:

- **Unique.** Unique names are identifiable to a specific place and do not duplicate or are not confused with existing names in the City of Wausau, Marathon County, or neighboring areas.
- **Meaningful.** Names may reference natural features or landmarks, local historic events, or persons with historic significance, locally or nationally.
- **Inclusive.** Respectful of all people and cultures and reflect positive values acceptable to the community as a whole.

B. These guidelines and criteria applies to the naming of City or County parks, property, facilities, or portions thereof, whether payment has been offered or sought in exchange for the naming privilege through an offer of Sponsorship under the Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department (“Department”) Sponsorship Policy or a naming application has been made without an offer of compensation.

C. Offers for Sponsorship that include or concern naming as a Recognition Benefit are subject to the provisions of the Department Sponsorship Policy and may include provisions for ongoing and special maintenance costs or costs of improvements such as the renovation of a facility. Sponsorship Agreements that include or concern naming as a Recognition Benefit will contain specific terms for discontinuation or termination. Offers of Sponsorship for naming rights of any City park, County Park or facility shall be approved by the City Council or County Park Commission. Offers of Sponsorship for naming rights of designated portions of City or County facilities, such as naming rights for a specific athletic field within a park or a shelter within a City or County Park, may be approved by the Department Director pursuant to the requirements and guidelines of the Department Sponsorship Policy.

2. Guidelines:

A. General Name guidelines:

- Should not duplicate or be easily confused with existing local public or private places.
- Should not be cumbersome, corrupted, or modified names, profane, discriminatory, or derogatory names related to age, race, religion, creed, national origin, sex, color, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or other similar categories.
- Should not contain names of companies or organizations whose business is substantially derived from the sale of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling, firearms, sexually explicit materials, adult entertainment and/or other practices considered unsuitable or inappropriate for children.
- Should use the fewest words possible.
- Should not be names of appointed or elected local officials currently in office or current City/County employees.
- Former facility names should not be re-used other than for a reconstruction of the same facility in the same location
- .

B. Names of **historic places, events and cultural ideas** utilized for naming purposes shall be appropriate to the site and proposed use.

C. Names may include names of recognizable areas that aid in locating a facility, park, or open space.

D. Names may include references to site features, wildlife, or other natural ideas when site specific.

E. Guidelines for naming in honor of individuals, groups or organizations are as follows.

1. Individuals honored with a park or facility name (“Honoree”) **must** meet all of the following:

- Have resided or worked in Marathon County or the area which has become Marathon County for a minimum of ten (10) years; and
- If a former city or county employee, have been separated from City/County service for at least one year prior to application; and,
- Be highly esteemed in the community based upon character references and generally understood reputation in the community, and without criminal or legal judgments (including violations of environmental laws) which demonstrate poor character.

2. Honoree(s) **are recommended** to meet at least one of the following conditions:

- At least 10 years of civic service (must have made significant and exceptional meritorious contributions to the local parks or local community as a whole for recreation purposes).
- Contributed to the preservation of the City or County’s history or culture
- Contributed in a significant way to the acquisition, development or conveyance of land, buildings, and other amenities to the City or County.
- A major financial contribution (donation of at least 51% of the value of park land dedication).

If the Honoree is living, the naming is only subject to approval after a study has been completed relative to the individual’s background and qualifications pursuant to the criteria set forth above.

2. Groups or Organizations

- Groups, organizations, associations, companies, or businesses that have been instrumental in enabling the City or County to acquire sites either by donation of land or money or have donated the amount of land or money needed to complete development of a park, park facility or park amenity.
- Have a longstanding affiliation with the City/County of significant community service, involvement, or contributions beyond the ordinary interest level whose efforts have:
 - i. Enhanced the quality of life and well-being of City/County residents
 - ii. Contributed to the preservation of the City/County’s history or culture.
 - iii. Made exemplary or meritorious contributions to the City/County or its residents.

Note: Meeting the guidelines does not guarantee that a name will be approved.

MINUTES

April 22, 2024

Members Present: Tom Neal, Terry Kilian, Tyler Wildman, Chris Filtz, Ben Gerhards, Susan Schmidt, Veronica Hope

Others Present: Jon Smith, Jillian Kurtzhals, TJ Niksich

Location: City Hall, Maple Room

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Lynch called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. **Public Comment**

N/A

3. **Discussion and Possible Action: Election of Committee Chair**

Motion/second by Neal/Filtz to table the election of the committee chair until the next meeting.

4. **Approve minutes of March 25, 2024 Meeting**

Motion/second by Filtz/Gerhards. Passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion: Overview of Committee**

Lynch reviewed the information provided in the packet regarding the official language for the committee. He discussed the history and purpose of the Wausau MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the River Edge Trail Plan. Neal asked about the MPO and what kind of funding was available. Funding from the MPO is mostly tied to road projects but there is a federal requirement to address the bike and ped needs in that project area. Neal asked if in the future the projects from the plans could be listed and tracked so the committee could focus on their completion.

6. **Discussion and Possible Action: Mayor's Ride and Bike Month activities**

Smith discussed the work he had done creating the graphic, the press release, and a route. This will likely go out to the press and public notice in early May so as not to be lost in the shuffle of the news cycle.

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Proposed naming of the new River Edge Trail section in memory of Pat Peckham

Lynch noted that the idea of naming the new section of the RE Trail in memory of former alder Pat Peckham was brought up at separate times by Mayor Rosenberg, Lynch, Gerhards and Alder Neal. There is a process created by the Parks Committee, staff can start it and seek help from committee members for additional work.

Motion/second by Neal/Kilian to direct staff to submit application for naming the River Edge Trail section in memory of Pat Peckham to the Parks & Recreation Committee. Vote is unanimous in favor.

8. Next meeting date

The committee is scheduled to meet next on May 20, 2024 due to the regular meeting date falling on observed Memorial Day.

9. Adjourn

Motion/second by Neal/Kilian to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.



MEMO

To: Parks & Recreation Committee
Prepared By: Andrew Lynch, AICP City Planner
Date: November 25, 2024

Request to name section of River Edge Parkway in memory of Patrick Peckham.

Application to name the section of the River Edge Parkway between Thomas St and Adolph St as 'The Peckham Way' in honor of former city alder, local journalist, and bicycle advocate Patrick Peckham.

In April of 2024, the City of Wausau Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee voted in favor of a recommendation to name the new section of the River Edge Parkway between Thomas St and Adolph Street in memory of Patrick Peckham. The Committee directed staff to solicit references of Mr. Peckham and apply.

The newest section of the River Edge Parkway extends the westside trail system from Thomas Street south, around the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Department of Public Works campus, and connects to Adolph Street. This represents the southernmost section of paved trail on the westside and an important bookend to a trail system 50 years in the making.

The trail also represents the practicality of using existing City property, the community support in funding, and the ability to provide recreational infrastructure to a lower-income area of the city. Exactly the type of values and efforts Mr. Peckham would have championed. Mr. Peckham, as a City alder, was known for a gentle but firm manner, willingness to seek and hear input, a great champion of the City, as well as an avid bicyclist and outdoorsman. The recommendation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is to use the name '**The Peckham Way**' to honor how Pat conducted himself as a resident and an alderperson.

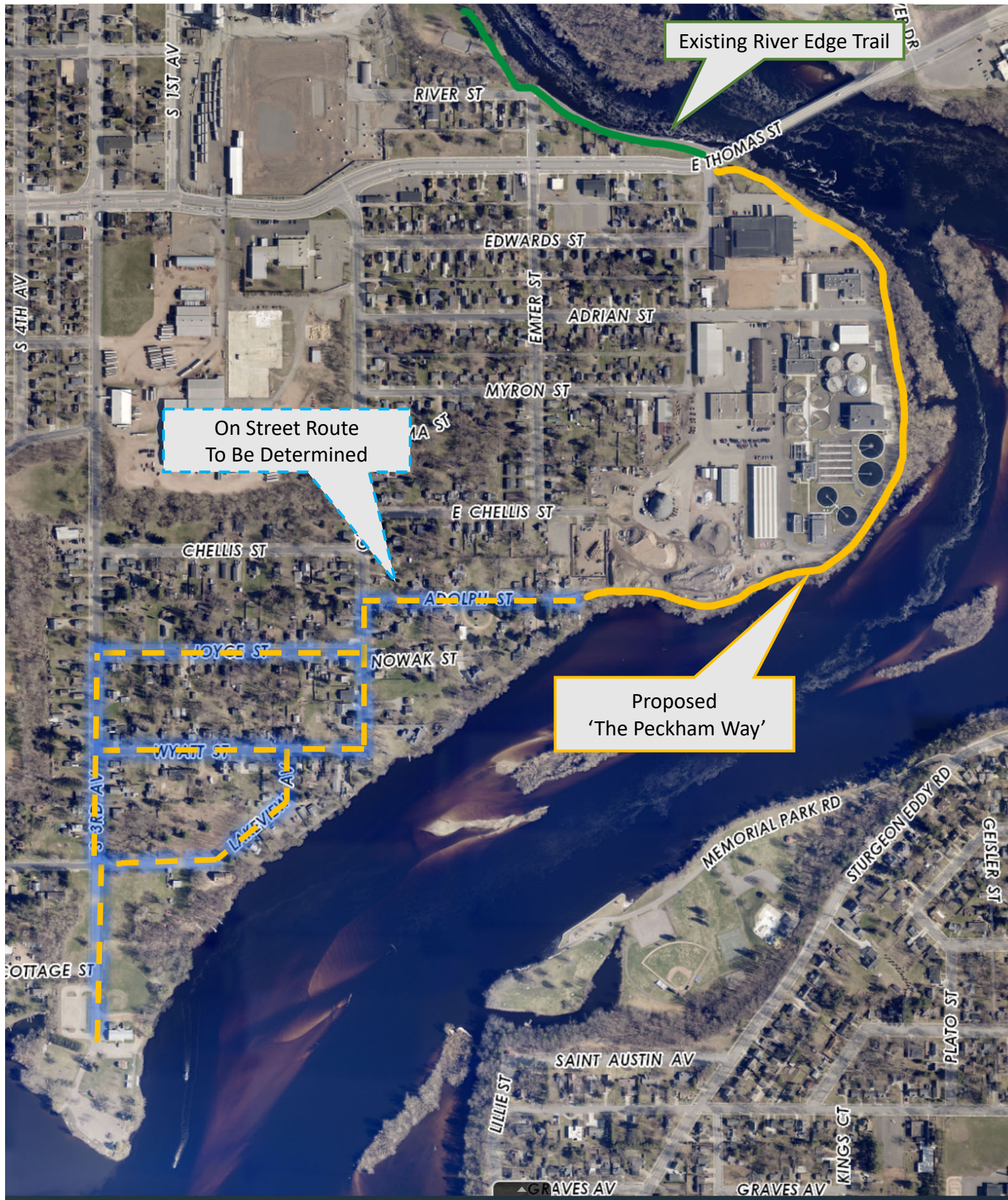
The trail will have paving completed in 2024. Lights and final touches will be installed in 2025 and a ribbon-cutting will be held at time. Please see the information provided for the guidelines below as well as the attached character references.

E. Guidelines for naming in honor of individuals, groups or organizations are as follows.

1. Individuals honored with a park or facility name ("Honoree") **must** meet all of the following:

- Have resided or worked in Marathon County or the area which has become Marathon County for a minimum of ten (10) years; and
 - **Mr. Peckham has been a resident of Wausau since 1997**
- If a former city or county employee, have been separated from City/County service for at least one year prior to application; and,
 - **Mr. Peckham last held office in 2022 and was an alder for 6 years.**
- Be highly esteemed in the community based upon character references and generally understood reputation in the community, and without criminal or legal judgments (including violations of environmental laws) which demonstrate poor character.
 - **Please see included character references.**

City of Wausau – River Edge Parkway Extension



Request for Additional Services

Purpose: The Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has a desire to always provide high quality recreational services and facilities. With restricted financial and personnel resources the Department needs a process to evaluate requests for additional services. Additional services being defined as additions to programs and facilities or new programs and facilities.

In order to fully evaluate and stimulate thought on the complete aspects of additional services, please provide the Department with a request that includes the following (all items may not pertain and may not be known by requestor):

- Please describe program or facility where additional services are being requested.

Stewart Park
508 N. 10th Street
Wausau, WI 54403

- Please describe additional services/facility being requested.

Addition of a 3D cast bronze portrait plaque dedicating the stage at Stewart Park in Waltraud Karkar's memory. This plaque could be mounted on a large decorative rock, concrete pedestal, or a stake mount depending on the location and what the city would allow. (Wording of memorial attached to bottom of document).

- Why do you think this additional service/facility is needed?

In recognition and appreciation for her commitment to the arts for over 50 years in the Wausau community.

- What exactly is being asked of the Department (funding, maintenance, construction)?

Permission to dedicate the stage with a memorial in honor of Waltraud Karkar.

- What are the total costs for the additional services/facilities (not only initial costs but future costs)?

This memorial would be constructed to not require ongoing maintenance.

- How would it be funded (what is the County/City being asked to contribute, what is the group willing to contribute, grants, donations, etc.)?

This memorial would be funded privately through donations.

- Who will provide maintenance in the future (will it be turned over to the Department upon completion, will there be maintenance funds put aside, group to provide some maintenance, who repairs damage, etc.)?

The memorial will be turned over to the department when complete.

- What are the expectations of the County/City once it is complete?

That the memorial will become part of the park.

- What is the timeline for completion?

We would like it to be completed by mid-July 2025 when the Central WI School of Ballet performs their annual Ballet in the Park performance at Stewart Park.

For facility improvements or additions: provide a site plan, pictures of the proposed changes and a materials list.

Addition of a memorial plaque and stand at the entrance to Stewart Park on N. 10th Street. There is a raised flower bed located just through the entrance where the memorial could be placed.



Material List:

- Large rock or concrete pedestal to mount the plaque on.
- 3D cast bronze portrait plaque

Proposed wording of plaque:

THE WALTRAUD KARKAR AMPHITHEATER

PHOTO

1931 -2024

In recognition and appreciation for Waltraud's profound commitment to the arts for over 50 Years in the Wausau Community.

"I am an educator. My students do not simply learn a step but they come to understand dance, its importance, its history, its place in the world.

If I can touch their souls and inspire them, then I have reached my goal as a teacher. If they remember to walk tall, to walk with self confidence, and to appreciate the arts and the world around them, what beautiful children they become and what wonderful adults they will make."

(Waltraud's signature)

CITY OF WAUSAU, 407 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403

RESOLUTION OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Resolution in Support of the Continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

Committee Action:

Fiscal Impact: \$0

File Number:

Date Introduced: February 3, 2025

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

COSTS	<i>Budget Neutral</i>	Yes ☒ No ☐	
	<i>Included in Budget:</i>	Yes ☐ No ☒	<i>Budget Source:</i>
	<i>One-time Costs:</i>	Yes ☐ No ☒	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Recurring Costs:</i>	Yes ☐ No ☒	<i>Amount:</i>
SOURCE	<i>Fee Financed:</i>	Yes ☐ No ☒	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Grant Financed:</i>	Yes ☐ No ☐	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Debt Financed:</i>	Yes ☐ No ☐	<i>Amount</i> <i>Annual Retirement</i>
	<i>TID Financed:</i>	Yes ☐ No ☐	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>TID Source: Increment Revenue</i> ☐ <i>Debt</i> ☐ <i>Funds on Hand</i> ☐ <i>Interfund Loan</i> ☐		

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, per Ch. 23.0915(2c)(d), Wis. Stats., the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2025; and

WHEREAS, the program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local governments including the City of Wausau, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau has utilized Stewardship grant funds to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities, and desires to support the continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau City Council considers the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program a valuable tool to preserve and restore natural areas, wildlife habitat and water quality while supporting the development of public nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities that promote economic development and enhance quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wausau City Council does support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Wausau Clerk be directed to forward a copy of

this resolution to all Wisconsin Counties, the Legislature and the Governor and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary.

Approved:

Doug Diny, Mayor

Jamie Polley

From: Lisa Siewert <siewert.elizabeth@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 10:34 AM
To: Jamie Polley
Cc: Lisa Rasmussen
Subject: Request for Support: Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Resolutions

You don't often get email from siewert.elizabeth@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Jamie,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Lisa Siewert, and I am a Wausau resident and a member of the Central Moraines Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. As you know, Wausau was recently named an Ice Age Trail Community, which formalizes our partnership with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to enhance awareness of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and improve the quality of life in our community. With 43 miles of the Ice Age Trail developed in Marathon County, this partnership underscores the importance of preserving the natural spaces that make our area so special.

I'm reaching out regarding the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, which has been instrumental in protecting Wisconsin's natural spaces and enhancing access to trails like the Ice Age Trail. This program is crucial to preserving the outdoor resources that make our community such a vibrant and desirable place to live, work, and explore.

As part of an effort to support the reauthorization of this program in the upcoming state budget, we are asking city and county leaders to pass resolutions in support of the fund. Your leadership and collaboration would be invaluable in advancing this initiative for the benefit of Wausau and the broader Marathon County community.

We have prepared resources, including [district-specific information](#), that can help with drafting resolutions. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to Wausau's parks and outdoor spaces. I look forward to working together to support this important program that impacts our local community so deeply.

Best regards,
Lisa Siewert
siewert.elizabeth@gmail.com
Cell: 517-281-0117

The Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation has entered into an agreement with the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for and Ice Age Trail Easement on Stewardship property in Marathon county. Acquisition on an easement on 79 acres

The Ice Age Trail and Park Foundation proposes purchasing 20 acres in Marathon County along the Eau Claire River for the Ice Age Trail.

Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation is acquiring the 7.2 acre Sandberg II property in the Town of Easton, Marathon County. One quarter mile of the IAT hugs the shoreline of the Eau Claire River crossing through the Sandberg property. Project completes t

State Trail subprogram funds to acquire 41,488 acres in the Town of Reid, Marathon County. The acquisition will permanently protect approximately one-half mile of the Ice Age Trail where no off road trail currently exists. The property will be open to th

The State Trail subprogram funds to acquire 29.37 acres of land that currently has approximately 1/4 mile of the Ice Age Trail located on it, via a handshake agreement. Acquisition of this property will allow the trail to remain open year round. The en

Number of Amendments=0; Adv to Mad=blank; Adv \$=blank; Final Bill Received=920116; Bill to Mad=920131; Bill to Di=16,000.00

Number of Amendments=0; Adv to Mad=blank; Adv \$=blank; Final Bill Received=930226; Bill to Mad=930324; Bill to Di=17,370.00

Marathon County Dells of the Eau Claire Park Addition Acq.	Marathon County shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by purchasing approximately 0.31 acres of land for public outdoor recreation purposes.	MARATHON COUNTY	36000	0.3100595	1997	ACQ	Marathon	12	35	S-ADLP-476	10/13/1997	LPA
Scotin Creek Acquisition	The Village of Edgar shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by acquiring approximately 73 acres of land for public outdoor recreation purposes.	VILLAGE OF EDGAR	82750	77.968814	2006	ACQ	Marathon	29	86	S-ADLP2-941	10/6/2006	LPA
	Marathon County shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by acquiring two parcels of land totaling approximately 64.3 acres for public outdoor recreation.											
Marathon County - Dells of Eau Claire Park Acquisition	Tract 1 62.92 acres \$263,800 Tract 2 1.38 acr	MARATHON COUNTY	152265	58.684586	2007	ACQ	Marathon	12	35	S-ADLP2-980	11/14/2007	LPA
Marathon County-Hoffman Acquisition	Marathon County proposed to use Stewardship Funds to acquire 80 acres Hoffman property in the Town of Hewitt for nature-based outdoor recreation activities.	MARATHON COUNTY	80815	77.196832	2010	ACQ	Marathon	12	35	SCF3-1002	11/29/2010	LPA
	Marathon County proposes to use Stewardship funds to acquire 80 acres--Marshall property in the Town of Ringie, Marathon County, for nature-based outdoor recreation activities.											
Marathon County-Marshall Parcel	Fair Market Value: \$200,000 Additional Appraisal Costs: Acquisition of 198 acres in the Town of Hewitt northeast of Wausau. The property will be entered in to the County Forest law program and be managed primarily for timber production and outdoor recreation. Grant for acquisition of approximately 189.84 acres in the Town of Hewitt to be added to Marathon County Forest; a portion of the match for this award is derived from the value of 79.7 acres in the Town of Easton.	MARATHON COUNTY	101215	78.859497	2011	ACQ	Marathon	29	87	SCF3-1007	9/20/2011	LPA
Marathon County - Ceres Timber		MARATHON COUNTY	180005	199.77945	2017	ACQ	Marathon	12	35	SCF3-1051	5/18/2017	LPA
Marathon Co. Kerswill		MARATHON COUNTY	347033	274.30423	2019	ACQ	Marathon	12	35	SCF3-1074	6/30/2019	LPA
Marathon County Wisconsin River Park Acquisition	Marathon County shall participate in the Urban Rivers Grant Program by purchasing approximately 289.5 acres of land for public outdoor recreation purposes. The Village of Marathon City shall participate in the Urban Rivers grant program by acquiring approximately 52.4 acres of land for public outdoor recreation.	MARATHON COUNTY	108500	292.71597	1998	ACQ	Marathon	12	35	URGP-108	10/23/1998	LPA
	Acquisition Costs \$123,200 Other Expenses 2,370											
Village of Marathon City - Nature Center & Reserve Acquisition	Total Project Costs	VILLAGE OF MARATHON C	62785	52.207284	2007	ACQ	Marathon	29	86	URGP2-226	12/14/2007	LPA
Mosinee Boat Landing		CITY OF MOSINEE	3614		1997		Marathon	29	87	RBF-002	2/24/1997	RBF
Lake DuBay Boat Pass		MARATHON COUNTY	102037		1995		Marathon	29	87	RBF-105	5/11/1995	RBF
Village of Maine Brookaw Boat Launch Access Road Dev		VILLAGE OF MAINE	2000		2002		Marathon	12	35	RBF-1697	4/29/2002	RBF
Town of Rib Mtn Access		TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN	128500		2000		Marathon	29	87	RBF-206	10/9/2000	RBF
Mosinee River Park Restroom Development		CITY OF MOSINEE	250		2009		Marathon	29	87	RBF-852	7/8/2009	RBF
Mead Wildlife Area	PHASE 3, SIGNS FOR EPHEMERAL TRAIL & BOARDWALK	DNR	14000		2011	DEV	MARATHOT	29	86		1/1/2011	DNR
Mead Wildlife Area	CONSTRUCT EPHEMERAL TRAIL & BOARDWALK - PHASE 2	DNR	20000		2009	DEV	MARATHOT	29	86		1/1/2009	DNR
Mead Wildlife Area	CI-LOTS MEAD WILDLIFE AREA	DNR	45500		2011	DEV	MARATHOT	29	86		1/1/2011	DNR
Mead Wildlife Area	CI-LOTS MEAD WILDLIFE AREA	DNR	38000		2011	DEV	MARATHOT	29	86		1/1/2011	DNR
Mead Wildlife Area	Develop Dog Training / Trial Area	DNR	11250		2003	DEV	MARATHOT	29	86		1/1/2003	DNR
Mead Wildlife Area	Interpretive Panels at Educational Center	DNR	20000		2007	DEV	MARATHOT	29	86		1/1/2007	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	CONVERT CAMPITES TO DAY USE - PHASE II	DNR	814700		2011	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2011	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Trail System Repair	DNR	6400		2009	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2009	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	FRIENDS - CONSTRUCT SHELTER	DNR	20000		2011	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2011	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Granite Peak Chalet Kitchen Upgrade	DNR	98500		2007	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2007	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Granite Peak Chalet Kitchen Upgrade	DNR	9000		2007	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2007	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Site Grading / Code Compliance	DNR	100000		2005	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2005	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Repair Chalet Restroom / Carpet	DNR	50000		2001	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2001	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	WALKING PATHWAY ROCK REMOVAL	DNR	125040		2019	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2019	DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	PEVS	DNR	914800		2009	DEV	MARATHOT	29	87		1/1/2009	DNR

Rib Mountain State Park	ROAD & WATER INFRASTRUCTURE	DNR	5202100	2009 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2009 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	WATER BOOSTER STATION COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT	DNR	13600	2011 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2011 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Renovate 22 Campsites	DNR	11000	1997 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/1997 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Chalet	DNR	991000	2005 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2005 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Chalet Roof Replacement	DNR	66700	2003 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2003 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Chalet Siding Improvements	DNR	35000	2003 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2003 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	FLUSH TOILET BUILDING AT AMPHITHEATER	DNR	104400	2023 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2023 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	FY23 FRIENDS-AMPHITHEATER BARRIER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	DNR	16415	2021 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2021 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	FRIENDS - COMPLETION OF SITE WORK FOR ENCLOSED SHELTER	DNR	20000	2013 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2013 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	FRIENDS GRANT - PARK AMENITIES & SIGNAGE	DNR	11338	2015 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2015 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	FRIENDS - UPPER USE AREA PLAYGROUND	DNR	20000	2017 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2017 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	Nature Center Planning & Dev. Phase 1	DNR	40000	2007 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2007 DNR
Rib Mountain State Park	REPLACE FLUSH BUILDING ROOF	DNR	19200	2013 DEV	MARATHOI	29	87	1/1/2013 DNR
Village of Athens Erbach Park Development	The Village of Athens shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing Erbach Park to include the following items: toilet building, underground utilities, road restoration, sport courts, play area, and security lighting.	Village Of Athens	26650	1996 DEV	Marathon	23	69 S-ADLP-401	7/1/1996 LPA
Village of Rothschild Community Wide Trail System - Phase 1	The Village of Rothschild shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing the Community Wide Trail System. This project shall be known as Phase 1 and include the following items: Engineering; Trail Construction (prepara The Town of Weston shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing Kellyland Park to include the following: Picnic Shelter, Toilet Building, and Playground Equipment.	Village Of Rothschild	149885	2006 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP2-925	8/22/2006 LPA
Town of Weston Kellyland Park Development		Town Of Weston	22625	1996 DEV	Marathon	29	85 S-ADLP-393	7/1/1996 LPA
Town of Rib Mountain Fritz Doepeke Recreation Area Development	The Town of Rib Mountain shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing Fritz Doepeke Recreation Area to include the following items: Picnic Shelter; Restrooms; Fitness Trails and Walkways; Parking Lot; and Utilities.	Town Of Rib Mountain	60500	2003 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP2-795	11/10/2003 LPA
Marathon Co Dally Trail Devel	Marathon County will participate in the Aid for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by providing the following items: 1. Develop 18.3 miles of trail. 2.Pre and post-engineering and supervision. 3. Grading. 4. Surfacing. 5. Gates. 6.Sigs. 7. P	Marathon County	71840	1994 DEV	Marathon	2	6 S-ADLP-308	10/7/1994 LPA
Village of Elderon Village Park Improvements	The Village of Elderon shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Program by developing Elderon Village Park to include the following items: Vault Toilet Upgrade; Walkways; Play Area; Safety Fencing; Picnic Shelter; and Landscapi	Village Of Elderon	56000	1998 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP-522	8/25/1998 LPA
Village of Hatley - Memorial Park Improvements	Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram funds are awarded to the Village of Hatley to develop Memorial Park. The project will include the following items: Engineering; Restroom Facility; Trail; Benches; Picnic tables; Trash Receptacles; Pla	Village Of Hatley	92275.25	2014 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP3-14-1	4/4/2014 LPA
Marathon County Mountain Bay State Trail Resurfacing	Marathon County shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing the Mountain Bay State Trail to include the following items: Trail Surfacing.	Marathon County	137983	2004 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP2-835	10/13/2004 LPA
Village of Weston Eau Claire River Trail Development	The Village of Weston shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing the Eau Claire River Recreational Trail to include the following items: Engineering; Trail Site Preparation; Trail Surfacing; Signs; and 4 Bridges.	Village Of Weston	70000	2002 DEV	Marathon	29	85 S-ADLP-701	2/12/2002 LPA
Village of Weston Eau Claire River Trail Development	The Village of Weston shall participate in the Urban River Grant Program by developing Eau Claire River Recreational Trail to include the following items: Engineering; Trail Site Preparation; Trail Surfacing; Signs; and 6 Bridges.	Village Of Weston	18028	2002 DEV	Marathon	29	85 URG2P-160	4/23/2002 LPA
City of Wausau - River Edge Parkway Development	The City of Wausau shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing River Edge Parkway to include the following items: Engineering; Trail; Trail Surfacing; Benches; Lighting; Landscaping; Fencing; Signs; Bridge; and Outflo	City Of Wausau	319250	2009 DEV	Marathon	29	85 S-ADLP2-104E	10/20/2009 LPA
City of Wausau Rivers Edge Park Trail Dev	City of Wausau will utilize the subprogram Acquisition & Development of Local Parks grant to funding the development of the River Edge Trail Parkway improvements. Project elements include: engineering, trail construction, landscaping, seeding, signs & l	City Of Wausau	87487	2018 DEV	Marathon	29	85 S-ADLP3-18-1	6/1/2018 LPA
City of Wausau Rivers Edge Park Trail Dev	City of Wausau will utilize the subprogram Urban Rivers grant to fund the development of the River Edge Trail Parkway improvements. Project elements include: engineering, trail construction, landscaping, seeding, signs & labor.	City Of Wausau	37904.78	2018 DEV	Marathon	29	85 URG3P-18-33	6/1/2018 LPA

	City of Wausau will utilize the subprogram Acquisition & Development of Local Parks grant to fund the development of the River Edge Trail Parkway improvements. Project elements include: engineering, trail construction, landscaping, seeding, signs & I.	City Of Wausau	87487		2018 DEV	Marathon	29	86 S-ADLP3-18-1	6/1/2018 LPA
City of Wausau Rivers Edge Park Trail Dev	City of Wausau will utilize the subprogram Urban Rivers grant to fund the development of the River Edge Trail Parkway improvements. Project elements include: engineering, trail construction, landscaping, seeding, signs & labor.	City Of Wausau	37904.78	0	2018 DEV	Marathon	29	86 URGF3-18-33:	6/1/2018 LPA
Rib Mtn-Liberty Park Dev.	Number of Amendments=0; Adv to Mad=blank; Adv \$=blank; Final Bill Received=900111; Bill to Mad=900112; Bill to DI=16,079.00	Town Of Rib Mountain	16079		1989 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP-071	8/2/1989 LPA
Village of Rothschild - Cedar Creek Recreational Trail Extension Development	The Village of Rothschild shall participate in the Acquisition & Development of Local Parks by development Cedar Creek Trail to include the following items: Engineering; Site Preparation; Trail Construction; Trail Surfacing; Riprap; Landscaping; and Sign	Village Of Rothschild	71859.65	0	2009 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP2-1051	11/1/2009 LPA
Town of Rib Mountain - Doeppke Park Trail Development	The Town of Rib Mountain shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing a recreational trail at Doeppke Recreation Area to include the following items: Engineering; Site Preparation; Trail Development; Trail Surfacing; a	Town Of Rib Mountain	53500	0	2011 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP3-12-1	11/9/2011 LPA
Town of Rib Mountain - State Park Road Trail Development	The Town of Rib Mountain shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing State Park Road Trail to include the following items: Engineering; Clearing; Site Preparation; and Surfacing.	Town Of Rib Mountain	30100	0	2008 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP2-1002	7/25/2008 LPA
9-Mile Trailhead Development	Number of Amendments=1; Adv to Mad=blank; Adv \$=blank; Final Bill Received=930916; Bill to Mad=930920; Bill to DI=152,000.00	Marathon County	152000		1991 DEV	Marathon	29	87 S-ADLP-069	6/25/1991 LPA
Oak Street Park Redevelopment	Number of Amendments=1; Adv to Mad=blank; Adv \$=blank; Final Bill Received=921007; Bill to Mad=921029; Bill to DI=35,000.00	Village Of Edgar	35000		1991 DEV	Marathon	29	86 S-ADLP-106	10/28/1991 LPA
Village of Stratford - Recreational Trail Development - Phase 1	The Village of Stratford shall participate in the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks by developing the Stratford Recreational Trail and Conservancy Park to include the following items: Engineering; Site Preparation; Trail Construction and Surfaci	Village Of Stratford	156182.5	0	2008 DEV	Marathon	29	86 S-ADLP2-1011	10/28/2008 LPA
West Side Pk Dev-Stratford	Number of Amendments=1; Adv to Mad=blank; Adv \$=blank; Final Bill Received=941220; Bill to Mad=blank; Bill to DI=5,320.00	Village Of Stratford	5600		1993 DEV	Marathon	29	86 S-ADLP-180	5/24/1993 LPA
Ice Age Trail Alliance-Rice Lake Addition	IATA will use State Trail funds to purchase a 22.70 acres to link sections of the Ice Age Trail near Rice Lake.	ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE,	36080	22.7	2021 ACQ	Marathon	29	87 IAT3-21-69	6/10/2021 NCO
Marathon Co. Ceres	Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant for acquisition of two parcels, totalling 200 acres. Acquisitions are additions to County Forest holdings.	MARATHON COUNTY	187250	200	2020 ACQ	Marathon	29	87 SCF3-1076	1/31/2020 LPA
City of Schofield - Lake Wausau Public Access Acq.	The City of Schofield is awarded Stewardship funds to acquire a 2.37-acre property to expand an existing City park along Lake Wausau and eventually develop the property for a boat launch facility. The subject 2.37-acre property includes approximately 1.38	CITY OF SCHOFIELD	72225	2.37	2022 ACQ	Marathon	29	87 UGS3221229	4/1/2022 LPA
Marathon Co. Erikson	Grant for acquisition of 40 acres to incorporate into Marathon County Forest.	MARATHON COUNTY	31367.5	40	2018 ACQ	Marathon	29	87 SCF3-1065	8/10/2018 LPA

PUBLIC FORESTS ARE WHERE WISCONSIN WORKS AND PLAYS

COUNTY FORESTS PROVIDE JOBS, PROTECT NATURE,
AND ARE HOME TO THOUSANDS OF MILES OF TRAILS.

Publicly owned forests are key to the economic health and cultural heritage of northern Wisconsin. County forests are always open to the public and they generate far more revenue for local communities than forests owned by corporations or private lands enrolled in the Managed Forest Law Program.

These working forests fuel northern Wisconsin's tourism economy and connect communities, with expansive trail systems attracting tourists from across the country. For hunters, healthy public forests provide wildlife habitat and ensure access to the best hunting spots.

There are **2.4 MILLION ACRES**
of county-owned forestland in Wisconsin.
**That's more than the state or the
federal government own.**

Knowles-Nelson has invested
\$11.8 MILLION into Wisconsin's
county forests across **19 counties**.

Public lands are the backbone of Wisconsin's
\$11.2 BILLION outdoor recreation economy.

County forests support Wisconsin's
\$24 BILLION forest products industry.


96,000
jobs


\$5.4 BILLION
in employee wages


\$17.9 BILLION
in consumer spending


58,000
jobs


\$4 BILLION
in employee wages

The forest products industry is the number one
employer in **seven counties**.

County forests are home to thousands of recreational opportunities.


9,130
miles of
snowmobile trails


3,340
campsites


1,730
miles of
ATV trails


504
miles of
hiking trails


460
miles of
ski trails


280
boat landings


396
miles of
bike trails

County forests are managed for long-term economic and environmental sustainability, not just to turn a profit. Public forests keep trail systems and wildlife habitat intact, ensuring that forestry dollars remain local. Renewing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program ensures these working forests continue benefiting Wisconsin's sites for generations to come.



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OUTDOOR RECREATION WORKS FOR WISCONSINITES

PUBLIC LANDS ARE THE BACKBONE OF WISCONSIN'S OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY.

Wisconsin's public lands are more than just pins on a map - they're essential spaces where we connect with nature, strengthen our communities, and enhance our quality of life. From the shores of Lake Michigan to the trails of the Northwoods, these cherished landscapes provide endless opportunities for recreation, help sustain our physical and mental health, and serve as economic engines for local communities.

750,000 ACRES

throughout Wisconsin have been protected by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program over 30 years - a **\$1.3 BILLION INVESTMENT** in public lands.



95%

of Wisconsinites participate in outdoor recreation each year



60%

of Wisconsinites rely on public lands & waters when participating in their favorite outdoor activity



20 MILLION

people visit Wisconsin's state parks annually

OUTDOOR RECREATION MEANS BUSINESS.

Wisconsin's outdoor recreation economy supports:



\$17.9 BILLION

in consumer spending



\$5.4 BILLION

in employee wages



96,000

jobs

Outdoor recreation adds **\$11.2 BILLION** to Wisconsin's GDP from activities including:



\$1.10 BILLION

motorcycling & ATVing



\$928 MILLION

boating & fishing



\$320 MILLION

hunting & shooting



\$157 MILLION

bicycling

TIME SPENT IN NATURE IS TIME WELL SPENT.



Time outdoors reduces stress and anxiety, improves mood, and boosts creativity and focus.



Regular exercise lowers blood pressure and improves heart health.



Outdoor recreation strengthens social bonds and community connections while reducing feelings of isolation.

Outdoor recreation is vital for our well-being and community health. Whether hiking, fishing, or camping, time spent in Wisconsin's landscapes connects us to nature and each other. By protecting our public lands, we enhance our quality of life and preserve the resources we all depend on. Renewing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program gives Wisconsin the tools to protect these special places so they can keep working for all of us.



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NELSON**

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THE KNOWLES–NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

For 30 years, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has funded our parks and trails, protected our lakes and rivers, and conserved special places across Wisconsin. It's how we take care of the outdoor places we love.

The governor and the Wisconsin state legislature must renew Knowles-Nelson in the 2025 budget or we'll lose hundreds of millions of dollars to care for our land, water, wildlife, and the Wisconsin way of life.

750,000 ACRES

throughout Wisconsin have been protected by Knowles-Nelson.

That's a **\$1.3 BILLION** investment in Wisconsin's land, water, wildlife, and way of life.



90% OF WI VOTERS

support public funding for conservation.



\$11.00

is how much stewardship costs each WI resident each year - less than a fishing license or state parks pass. And yes, that includes debt service.



90% OF WI HOUSEHOLDS are **less than 1 mile** from a Knowles-Nelson investment.

There are projects in all **72 COUNTIES.**

WHEN WE PROTECT NATURE, NATURE WORKS FOR US.

\$2.5 BILLION VALUE is returned to Wisconsinites every year through:



Air & Water
Filtration



Carbon
Sequestration



Recreation
Opportunities



Flood
Protection



Access to open space improves our health. When we exercise in nature we become:

- Relaxed
- Less Anxious
- More Creative
- Better Problem Solvers



Regular exercise outside lowers the rate of expensive health problems like cardiovascular disease and diabetes.



4,200+ GRANTS

have been awarded to local governments and non-profits to support parks, trails, boat launches, and campgrounds.

KNOWLES–NELSON SUPPORTS A HEALTHY WI ECONOMY:



96,000

outdoor recreation jobs



\$24 BILLION

forestry economy

Non-profit conservation organizations, like land trusts, and local governments apply for Knowles-Nelson matching grants - every dollar Wisconsin invests in a conservation project is matched by another dollar raised elsewhere, effectively doubling the program's impact. The DNR also uses Knowles-Nelson funds to support land purchases around the state. These local-led projects create trails, boat launches, parks, and protect the natural areas that make our communities special.



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NELSON**

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PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROTECT WISCONSIN

LOCAL DOLLARS GO FURTHER WITH KNOWLES-NELSON.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program empowers Wisconsin communities through matching grants that double the impact of every conservation dollar. When local governments and nonprofits step up to protect land and build outdoor spaces, Knowles-Nelson matches their investment - turning community vision into reality.

From neighborhood playgrounds to vast forests, from boat launches to hiking trails, these partnerships create the outdoor places that make our communities special.



90% OF WI HOUSEHOLDS

are **within one mile** of a Knowles-Nelson investment.



90% OF WI VOTERS

support public funding for conservation.



\$11.00 is how much stewardship costs each WI resident annually - less than a fishing license or state parks pass.



4,200+ GRANTS have been awarded to local governments and nonprofit organizations.



3000+ grants totaling **\$273 million** have helped over **600 communities** and **68 counties** build bike paths, create community parks, renovate boat launches, repair snowmobile trails, and expand public hunting land.



700+ grants totaling **\$133 million** have helped over **75 nonprofit organizations**, like land trusts and nature centers, protect wildlife habitat, add nature preserves, and create opportunities to explore outdoors.



\$53.5 MILLION to build & improve boat launch facilities



\$12 MILLION to protect **15,000+ acres** of publicly accessible county forest



\$3.6 MILLION to improve snowmobile & ATV trail infrastructure

550+ GRANTS to support trail building projects

130+ GRANTS to improve accessibility at local park facilities

50+ GRANTS to install kayak launches on WI's waterways

40+ GRANTS to expand amenities at local campgrounds

Local organizations know what matters most to their communities and how to make conservation work at home. Building trails, protecting watersheds, and creating parks takes time, vision, and resources. Renewing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program ensures our communities have the resources they need to protect and care for the outdoor places where we live, play, and grow together.



**KNOWLES
NELSON**

WWW.KNOWLESNELSON.ORG
INFO@KNOWLESNELSON.ORG



THE KNOWLES–NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

THE GOVERNOR AND THE WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE MUST RENEW
KNOWLES–NELSON IN THE 2025 BUDGET OR WE’LL LOSE HUNDREDS
OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO CARE FOR WISCONSIN’S LAND AND WATER.

750,000 ACRES

PROTECTED: forests, farms,
wetlands, prairies, parks,
shorelines & more

93% OF HOUSEHOLDS

in Wisconsin are **within 1 mile** of a
Knowles-Nelson investment

Knowles-Nelson supports key
Wisconsin industries like:

168,000 OUTDOOR RECREATION JOBS

\$24 BILLION FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY



\$2.5 BILLION VALUE is returned to Wisconsinites every year through:



AIR & WATER
FILTRATION



CARBON
SEQUESTRATION



RECREATION
OPPORTUNITIES



FLOOD
PROTECTION

WHEN WE PROTECT NATURE, NATURE WORKS FOR US

ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE
IMPROVES OUR HEALTH

When we exercise in
nature we become:



≡ RELAXED ≡

≡ LESS ANXIOUS ≡

≡ MORE CREATIVE ≡

≡ BETTER PROBLEM SOLVERS ≡

FOR 30+ YEARS,

THE KNOWLES–NELSON
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
HAS BEEN PROTECTING
OUR LAKES *and* STREAMS,
SECURING CRITICAL
WILDLIFE HABITAT, *and*
PROVIDING WORLD–
CLASS RECREATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES.



KNOWLES
NELSON

Join the Team

ACTION.KNOWLESNELSON.ORG





Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry



County CIP Projects

- Marathon Park Splash Pad
- Dump Station Installation at Dell of Eau Claire
- Nine Mile Chalet Renovations
- Big Rapids Park Playground
- Dells of Eau Claire Beach Restroom
- Phase 1 of Marathon Park Fence Replacement

City CIP Projects

- Build Skatepark
- Alexander Airport Pickleball Courts
- Athletic Park Clubhouse Updates

County Small Projects

- SunnyVale concession updates
- BEP main shelter roof
- DEC manger cabin update
- DEC group campground well
- BEP Road Sealent

Treat, remove &
plant ash trees
Manage UF Grant



Plans/Grants to Complete

- County CORP Update
- Rib Falls Master Plan
- AED/Save Station Grant

City Small Projects

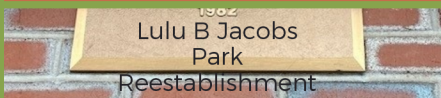
- Kaiser Slide Restoration
- Stewart Park wall cap & tuckpointing
- Install Cameras at Athletic Park
- Spray pad repairs at JoJo's Jungle
- Isle of the Ferns Limestone Trail
- 3M trail reconstruction
- Pool feature repairs/replacements

Riverlife/400 Block

- Concession Fence Replacement
- Mulch planters/secure irrigation
- Fix lighting
- Fountain Push Button
- NE Park Sign

Install 2 additional
AED Save Stations

Ice Arena
repairs and long
term plan



Forestry Work Plan

- Administer 21 timber sales on 1906 acres
- Apply herbicide to newly planted red pine trees on 60 acres
- Establish and advertise 600-625 acres of timber for sale



Expand Recreation Programs & Events

Open Gyms Tot Time
Partnership with Children's Imaginarium

Secure Field
Sponsors
PSC

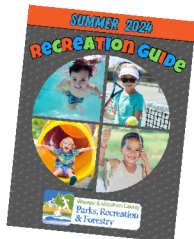
Other Projects

- Develop parking lot next to Athletic Park
- New well at Dell of Eau Claire
- Barker Stewart Island Vegetation
- County Materials 2nd grading/seeding of Rib Falls Park

Admin office
move to UWSP
- Wausau



Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry



2024 Year in Review

2024 was a very busy year for the department. Parks and programs were enhanced to continue to provide our citizens with amenities and activities to explore within 37 City Parks, 17 County Parks and 10 County Forest Units that make up 3,401 acres of parkland and 30,714 acres of County Forest.

-Our department has 44 FTE and 150+ seasonals.

-General operating budget of \$9,032,367 in expenditures (including grants) and \$3,630,432 in revenues (city and county combined)

- 23,338 BOULEVARD TREES, INVENTORIED 2,851 PARK TREES, PRUNED 5,500 TREES

- PLANTED 537 TREES, REMOVED 604 NON-ASH & 372 ASH TREES, TREATED 742 ASH (1/3 OF CITY)

- 795 SHELTER RENTAL DAYS AND 374 EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- MOWED 308.5 ACRES AND 81,920 FT OF TRAILS

- 2660 TOTAL SEASON PASSES SOLD (BIKING, BOAT LAUNCH, SKI, RANGE, ETC.)

- SOLD 79-ACRE TIMBER SALE AT BEP PARK FOR A NET REVENUE OF \$53,180.00 WHEN COMPLETE

- SECURED \$6,000 SPONSORSHIP FROM LOVE YOU, KID! & \$6,200 IN GRANTS TO HELP FUND OUR 400

BLOCK MOVIE IN THE PARK SERIES, HOSTED 6 NIGHTS OF FREE MOVIES FOR THE PUBLIC

- PROVIDED TENNIS LESSONS TO 200 PARTICIPANTS

- PARTNERED WITH MCPL TO HOST 5 FREE CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCES AT OAK ISLAND PARK AND 5 STORY TIMES THROUGHOUT OUR PARK SYSTEM

- OFFERED 200 SWIM LESSON CLASSES FOR 541 STUDENTS ENROLLED THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

- SERVED APPROX. 5,631 PATRONS AT SYLVAN TUBING HILL TOTALING CLOSE TO \$62,842 IN REVENUE

- ICE RENTALS TOTALED \$280,718 FOR 2024 BEING THE 3RD HIGHEST REVENUE SOURCE FOR DEPT

- UPDATED THE DIGITAL RECREATION GUIDE AND PUBLISHED TWO PER YEAR

- HOSTED BUS TRIP TO THE PACKER FAMILY NIGHT

- HOSTED OVER 6000 PARTICIPANTS AT 50TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL AT MPB BUILDINGS

- SECURED \$1,500 SPONSORSHIP FROM BECHER HOPPE FOR FISHING EQUIPMENT AND FREE CLINIC

- PROVIDED PLAYING FIELDS FOR OVER 2500 YOUTH

- TWO STAFF COMPLETED CDL TRAINING

-ADDED NEW PROGRAMS INCLUDING NERF WARS, LEGO CLUB, STEM SCIENCE CLUB, CARDBOARD BOAT RACE, JUNIOR GOLF, TODDLER TIMES, LEARN TO FISH CLINIC, BAIT CRAFTING JAM, FIN-TO-FEAST CULINARY PROGRAM, HIGH SCHOOL PICKUP BASKETBALL, BREWERS BUS TRIP, AND BIKE RODEO.

- ALL FULL TIME STAFF CERTIFIED IN CPR AND FIRST AID

TURF INSTALLED IN ATHLETIC PARK INFIELD



**Funded through donation
by Macdonald Foundation**

TIMBER SALES



9 sales sold totaling 596 acres with
13,944 cords

\$785,270.00

Gross revenue

\$549,685 Net Revenue to County





Wausau & Marathon County
**Parks, Recreation
& Forestry**



2024 Year in Review

CITY PARK PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

- AWARDED CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR SKATE PARK
- 19 FRUIT TREES PLANTED IN BROCKMEYER PARK FOR EARTH DAY
- PARTNERED WITH WAUSAU FIRE TO INSTALL 3 AED STATIONS WITH GRANT FROM CFONCW
- 2 ROUNDS OF GOAT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AT BARKER STEWART ISLAND
- ALL CITY DRINKING FOUNTAINS REPLACED WITH ADA COMPLIANT FOUNTAINS
- INSTALLED SAFETY BOLLARDS AT THE 400 BLOCK
- REPROGRAMMED RIVERLIFE LEAPERS
- REPLACED DETERIORATED CAPS TO THE PILLARS AT ATHLETIC PARK
- SERVED APPROXIMATELY 23,756 PATRONS AT POOLS, SOLD 756 ANNUAL SWIM PASSES
- CONTINUE TO ADD NEW ADOPT-A-PARK MEMBERS TOTALING 8 ADOPTERS.
- PROVIDED PROGRAMMING 4 DAYS/WEEK FOR 313 CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT G2M PROGRAM
- PARTNERED WITH AMERICORP TO HELP RUN SUMMER PROGRAMS
- HOSTED OUR FIRST DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RIVER DISTRICT
- REPAIRED CAULKING OF THE 400 BLOCK STAGE
- ACCEPTED THE DONATION OF A LOT ADJACENT TO ATHLETIC PARK FOR FUTURE PARKING
- COMPLETED RESTROOM AT OAK ISLAND PARK
- ORGANIZED RELANDSCAPING OF JOJO'S JUNGLE PLAYGROUND WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- COORDINATED/ASSEMBLED TEMP FENCE, NEW BATTING TURTLE AND MOUND FOR ATHLETIC PARK
- HUNG 110 SELF WATERING FLOWER BASKETS AND MAINTAINED FLOWERS AT 40 LOCATIONS

COUNTY PARK/FOREST PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

- PLANTED 57,000 RED PINE TREES ON 60 ACRES AT NINE MILE
- SUCCESSFULLY PARTNERED WITH THE FAIR TO PROVIDE FAIR OPERATIONS
- ARBOR DAY EVENT AT MARATHON PARK - TRANSPLANTED 100 WHITE PINE SAPLINGS AND 3 OAKS
- NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN MARATHON PARK CAMPGROUND AND AMCO PARK
- NEW PATH AT PEOPLES SPORTS COMPLEX CONNECTING THE NORTH AND SOUTH PARKING LOTS
- ICE ARENA FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY COMPLETE
- PLANNED REPLACEMENT OF MARATHON PARK SPLASH PAD
- BROUGHT IN \$1,848.50 IN NEW REVENUE FROM OFFERING SWIM LESSONS DURING THE SUMMER AT NCHC
- CONTINUED WATER EXERCISE CLASS YEAR-ROUND AT NCHC TOTALING \$6,416.20 IN REVENUE
- \$1,500 SPONSORSHIP SECURED FROM KIWANIS FOR EASTER EGG HUNT
- DOUBLED ENROLLMENT OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAMS AND ADDED FULL DAY SESSIONS
- SECURED \$3,500 OF SPONSORSHIPS TO THE 50TH CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
- EASTGATE HALL RENOVATIONS COMPLETE (WINDOWS, SIDING, FLOORING, CEILING, LIGHTS, FANS, TILE IN RESTROOM AND UPDATED KITCHEN)
- CLEARED AND REPAIRED CULVERT AT RIB FALLS PARK
- DC EVEREST RESTROOM INSTALLATION WAS COMPLETED
- NINE MILE SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACED AND PELLET BOILER LINES REPLACED
- DEC SEPTIC TANKS INSTALLED FOR NEW DUMP STATION
- 1 DOCK AT BLUEGILL REBUILT AND ADA COMPLIANT
- REPLACED AND REPAIRS CONCRETE AND PLANKING AT BEP BOAT LAUNCH WITH DNR GRANT
- UPGRADED WATER HEATER AT THE ICE ARENAS
- CONSTRUCTED CAGES FOR ALL NEW WATER METERS IN MARATHON PARK
- EASTGATE HALL BOILER UPGRADE
- HELD 2ND ARCHERY DEER HUNT AT BIG EAU PLEINE PARK

CAMPING

Camping is the Department's
2nd Largest Revenue Source
Gross Revenue \$307,646

13% 

Increase in Revenue Over 2023 Season
Gross Revenue

