

\*\*\* 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, May 5, 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 April 7, 2024 Meeting
- 2 Discussion and Possible Action Related to Urban Forestry Presentation
- 3 Educational Items  
A. None
- 4 Future Agenda Items -
- 5 Next Meeting: Monday, May 2, 2025 at 5:15pm, Council Chambers (City Hall 407 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403)
- 6 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 4/30/25 @ 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

## CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: April 7, 2025, at 5:15 pm

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, Doug Diny-Mayor

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 – March 3, 2025 – **Motion** by Watson, second by Neal to approve the Park and Recreation Committee March 3, 2025, minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.
2. Discussion and Possible Action Approving the Lease of the Riverlife Park Concession Building to CMA Wausau, LLC for the Seasonal Operation of an Ice Cream and Quick Serve Food Item Business – **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Lukens, to approve the lease of the Riverlife Park Concession Building to CMA Wausau, LLC for the Seasonal Operation of an Ice Cream and Quick Serve Food Item Business. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.
3. Discussion and Possible Action Approving the First Amendment to the Athletic Park Use Agreement for Wausau College Softball, LLC (WCS) – **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Neal, to Approve the First Amendment to the Athletic Park Use Agreement for Wausau College Softball, LLC (WCS) and to confirm the premise described on the liquor license was for the facility within the fence and not the amended premise description in the use agreement. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.
4. Discussion on Possible Action Approving the Third Amendment to the Athletic Park Use Agreement for Wausau College Baseball, LLC (WCB) – **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Watson, to Approve the Third Amendment to the Athletic Park Use Agreement for Wausau College Baseball, LLC (WCB) and to confirm the premise described on the liquor license was for the facility within the fence and not the amended premise description in the use agreement. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.
5. Discussion of the Role of the Park Commission – Committee members mentioned their confusion about the need for City Council members to be on the Park Commission. Polley provided an overview of the role established per resolution of the Park Commission and how items will be brought forward to the Parks and Recreation Committee and Park Commission. Questions were answered.
6. Educational Items
  - A. Park/Project Updates – **Athletic Park:** Clubhouse renovations are underway. The work to make the restroom ADA has begun, flooring has been removed and procured, and additional cubbies are being constructed. **Riverlife:** An RFP for the landscaping contract was let. **Nine Mile:** All trails are closed for this season. Plans for the restroom renovation to make it ADA compliant are being finalized. **Marathon Park:** Ice is out in both Rink 1 and Rink 2. The rinks will host a Dinosaur show this month. Staff have begun the planning and procurement of the mat system upon approval of the County Board. **General Maintenance** includes snow plowing and removal at various locations, park clean up will begin when the snow melts, restrooms and athletic courts will be summarized when the temperature remains above freezing, and horticulturalists have begun growing plants in the greenhouse.
  - B. Beer Garden Ordinance - The City Attorney's office is preparing the ordinance for discussion at the next Public Health and Safety meeting.
7. Future Agenda Items – Urban Forestry Update
8. Next Meeting: Monday, May 5, 2025, at 5:15 pm Council Chambers (City Hall 407 Grant Street Wausau, WI 54403)
9. Adjournment – **Motion** by Neal, second by Lukens to adjourn at 6:00pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Urban Forestry Presentation

At the last Parks Committee meeting there was a request for an update on the City's Urban Forestry program and street reconstruction practices. City Forester John Kahon and Project Engineer Thomas Niksich will be present at the meeting. Mr. Kahon will provide the committee with an update on the implementation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan that was updated by the Committee in October 2021. He will highlight how many trees have been removed, planted and treated overall and each year. Mr. Kahon will also provide the committee with an overview of the large grant received and what programs are covered relating to EAB. Staff will also discuss the challenges and plans pertaining to tree pruning.

Mr. Kahon and Mr. Niksich will together discuss the street reconstruction process as it relates to trees, the City Forester's role in the process and applications that have been utilized to protect trees when possible.

**City of Wausau**  
**Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan**

Updated October 2021

**EAB HOTLINE 1-800-462-2803**

or

**[www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov)**

## **Acknowledgements**

“This document was funded in part by an Urban Forestry Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forestry Program as authorized under s. 23.097, Wis. Stat.”

## **Contents:**

Introduction .....	page 2
History of Emerald Ash Borer .....	page 2
Plan Purpose .....	page 2
Authority to Act .....	page 2
Public Ash Resource.....	page 2
Assessment of Staff Training, Equipment Needs.....	page 3
Scope.....	page 4
Administration of Plan .....	page 4
Ash Management Recommendations .....	page 4
Prioritized preemptive Removals .....	page 5
Detection Methods .....	page 5
Marshalling Yard .....	page 6
Prioritized Treatment Schedule.....	page 6
Utilization/Disposal Methods .....	page 6
Tree Replacement .....	page 7
Reporting and Submitting EAB Suspects and Samples.....	page 8
Summary .....	page 9
Definitions .....	page 9

## **Introduction:**

In 2002 the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) or (EAB) was first discovered in Michigan near Detroit. Since that time it has spread to many other states. In August of 2008, EAB was confirmed in southeastern Wisconsin for the first time. Since then the insect has been confirmed in sixty-one counties. EAB was discovered in Wausau November of 2020.

**For a complete History of the Emerald Ash Borer along with Description, Life Cycle, Signs, Symptoms (includes national and Wisconsin information)**

[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

## **Purpose of Management Plan**

The provisions of this management plan are an attempt to mitigate the disruption to the urban forest caused by EAB. By taking a proactive approach to the eventual infestation the city will try to address this issue in an efficient and effective manner.

## **Authority to Act**

Defined by Wausau Municipal Code, Chapter 12.56 Street Trees

## **Public Ash Resources at Risk:**

In March of 2007 the City of Wausau completed an inventory of the ash tree population to determine the number and percentage of ash trees that comprised the total street tree population. The inventory revealed a total of just under 6,200 ash trees or approximately 25% of the street tree population. As of September 2021, there have been 1,843 ash street trees removed and most have been replaced. This still leaves a current population of 4,357 trees or 17.7% of the street tree population.

Number of trees

1"-6" - 279  
6"-12" - 1,554  
>12" - 2,524  
Total = 4,357

The value of boulevard ash is \$3.16 million based on landscape value.

The total annual ecological benefits provided by the remaining ash trees is \$554,349.97.

The replacement cost of the ash trees is \$697,120 not including labor.

The approximate removal cost of the remaining ash trees is \$1,371,409.50 (tree removal, stump removal)

Tree condition - 33 poor, 3,917 good, and 407 very good.

2,844 trees are of a size and condition suitable for treatment. Treatment costs would be approximately \$44,000 per year.

The maintained or mowed portions of the Wausau City Parks have a total of approximately 276 ash trees. Non-maintained areas were not inventoried.

Number of trees

1"-6" - 18  
6"-12" - 72  
>12" - 45  
Total = 135

The value of the park ash trees is \$83,295 based on landscape value.

The total annual ecological benefits provided by the remaining ash trees is \$12,863.73.

The replacement cost of the park trees is \$21,600.

The approximate removal cost of the remaining ash trees is \$33,534 (tree removal, stump removal)

The city is not considering a treatment option for park trees at this time.

## **Assessment of Staff training and Equipment needs:**

Staff training for EAB identification and detection is ongoing and will continue.

Equipment needs are being evaluated and assessed on an ongoing basis. The department has added a brush chipper with the capacity to handle larger diameter wood. The department has requested an additional arborist position to maintain service levels prior to EAB detection. Additional funds have also been requested due to the detection of EAB and direction given by Park Committee to remove and replace all boulevard ash within the next 12-15 years. Park staff is at or above maximum capacity to accommodate additional tree removals at this time. Since the additional removals from EAB will be relatively consistent over this time, contracting would be the most prudent method to handle additional removals which corresponds to the request for increased funding.

## **Scope:**

This plan will encompass the city limits of the City of Wausau.

## **Administration of Plan:**

This plan will be administered by the City of Wausau Park Department the main contact is the Park Forester (715-261-1561)

## **Ash Management Recommendations:**

### **Pre-EAB**

The City of Wausau has taken a proactive approach to EAB. Upon hearing of EAB in Michigan in 2002 and monitoring the progress of EAB through professional trade publications and internet research for an appropriate time period, ash trees were no longer planted after the spring of 2004. In 2007 all public ash trees were inventoried and recorded.

As part of our urban forestry program we are routinely assessing the tree population and removing poor quality trees of all species. Initial removal of ash trees followed the same criteria and were restricted to those in poor condition, those in poor planting sites and ash growing under overhead electrical wires. Requests from homeowners to remove trees for various reasons were evaluated as in the past but were generally granted to reduce the ash tree population. These criteria did not allow for a significant reduction of the ash population.

## **Prioritized preemptive Removal:**

In 2009 a more focused effort was used to reduce the number of ash trees by removing ash trees impacted by street construction projects. This practice still continues and has become more focused with the removal of all of the ash trees on street construction projects. In 2010 ash trees that were identified that had poor structure for various reasons (crowding, etc.) were targeted for removal, this process is ongoing. Electrical line clearance contractors have been encouraged to aggressively target ash trees growing under high voltage lines. In late 2011 residents and businesses along streets with heavy ash populations were contacted and informed that every other ash tree would be removed. Identified trees were generally in the smaller size classes with poor condition trees targeted. Removals occurred during winter months, stumps were removed in the following spring and summer. Tree replacement is being scheduled as needed. Many areas were over planted or trees were planted in poor locations and additional trees will need to be removed for better tree placement. In 2020 there were very low snow conditions enabling crews to conduct ash removals in parks. Approximately 140 ash trees were removed from parks winter of 2020/2021.

The department provided updated information to the Park Committee regarding finding EAB damage in a boulevard tree. The find was in November, 2020 which called for a revised plan to address ash trees in Wausau. The result of this meeting was that the department will move forward with removal and replacement of all boulevard ash within 12-15 years starting in 2022.

## **Post EAB**

After confirmation of EAB in Marathon County or the City of Wausau the County will have quarantines placed on it in accordance to the State of Wisconsin response guidelines. USDA and DATCP will work with State officials, and affected communities and industries to minimize the impact of quarantines. State regulations would need to be followed on movement of wood products and all options for mitigating EAB impact would need to be reexamined.

## **Detection Methods:**

Detection methods utilized will be visual inspection of ash trees with symptoms consistent of EAB. Ash trees to inspect will be determined by observation of Park staff, contact received by citizens and private tree services. Suspect trees will be further tested by branch bark peeling and looking for EAB larvae.

## **Marshalling Yard**

At this time the City of Wausau Yard Waste site is the only location for residents to dispose of brush and wood waste. The yard waste site is located on the 100 block of Chellis St. adjacent to the Department of Public Works. The site is approximately 1/1/2 acres in size and will be inadequate when EAB fully impacts the City of Wausau. There have been discussions with public officials and the Public Works Director on the need for larger and or alternate sites for public use. When EAB becomes established in the area this issue will be re-addressed and a single larger or number of smaller alternate sites will be designated.

## **Prioritized Treatment Schedule:**

Our current inventory has identified ash that are a priority for chemical treatment. The objective to treatment is to prolong the life of treated trees and not to maintain the tree long-term. Treatment will be budget dependent. The City of Wausau will allow resident to contract with private parties to treat public trees that have not been identified for treatment by park staff.

## **Utilization/Disposal Methods:**

The city has in the past and will continue to research and support alternate wood waste utilization. The sale and processing of quality logs into useable lumber for construction, furniture, flooring, etc. has been used for several years. Sale of lower quality logs for firewood use pulpwood and boiler fuel has been an option that we have used in the past and will continue.

With the construction and opening of the We Energies biomass plant in Rothschild a large percentage of wood debris from the City of Wausau Street and park tree system will be converted to biofuel. WE Energies consultants have been in contact with the City of Wausau on the volume of wood products that would be available and delivery alternatives. The proximity of this facility to Wausau may provide a mutually beneficial relationship for our chipped material

as well as low quality and oversized wood that is difficult to market. In 2020 the City Forester reached out to a private contractor for utilization of urban ash trees. This partnership has resulted in increased wood sales and a higher level of utilization. Lastly, the Wausau School District has purchased a portable mill and will be using some of Wausau's wood to fulfill curriculum needs.

### **Tree Replacement:**

Tree species to replace ash are being considered and introduced to the Wausau Street and Park tree system. Replacement of public trees removed will be with non-host species that are appropriate to the physical site.

This list will be updated as new species are proven successful and is not inclusive.

Tree replacement will be determined by budget but will generally be in the fall or spring after trees have been removed.

### **Species**

Crabapple

    'Spring Snow'

    'Pinkspire'

    'Velvet Pillar'

Elm

    'New Horizon'

    'Regal'

    'Triumph'

Ginko

    'Autumn Gold'

    'Princeton Sentry'

Hackberry

Hawthorn

    'Cockspur'

Kentucky Coffeetree

    'Espresso'

Lilac

    'Beijing Gold'

    'Ivory Silk'

    'Summer Charm'

Linden

    'American Sentry'

'Boulevard'  
'Greenspire'  
'Glenleven'  
'Redmond'  
Honeylocust  
'Shademaster'  
'Skyline'  
Maackia Amur  
'Starburst'  
'Summertime'  
Magnolia  
'Merrill'  
Manchurian Alder  
'Prairie Horizon'  
Oak  
'Northern Pin'  
'Regal Prince'  
'Swamp White'  
Pear  
Callery  
'Chanticleer'  
River Birch  
Serviceberry  
'Autumn Brilliance'

**Reporting and Submitting EAB Suspects and Samples:**

**HOTLINE: 1-800-462-2803**

**E-MAIL: [eab@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:eab@datcp.state.wi.us)**

Insect samples will be forwarded to DATCP

**WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**

**2811 Agriculture Drive  
Madison, WI 53718-6777**

## **How to Collect and Preserve Insect Specimens**

**(Do not send live insects)**

[www.entomology.wisc.edu](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu)

### **Summary:**

With EAB detected in the City of Wausau and Marathon County, this document will need to be updated as new infestations are discovered and new treatment and management options are developed. Public officials have been updated at staff and committee meetings and will be updated as the need arises. The general public will continue to be updated on EAB through the city newsletter, radio, newspaper articles and local access public radio announcements.

### **Definitions:**

DATCP – The state of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Agency responsible for the State of Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer response plan. Authority to issue quarantines that restrict the movement of EAB infected material.

EAB – The emerald ash borer insect.

Marshalling Yard – Fenced in location where infested brush and logs are collected for further processing.

Preemptive Removal – Tree removal prior to becoming infested.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture.