



**OFFICIAL NOTICE & AGENDA**  
REGULAR MEETING

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<b>MEETING:</b>	Parks & Recreation Committee	<b>MEMBERS:</b>	
<b>DATE/TIME:</b>	Monday, June 1, 2026, at 5:15 PM	Tom Neal	Kristin Slonski
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers 407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403	Sarah Watson	Bruce Trueblood
		Carol Lukens	

- 1 Call to Order by the Clerk.**
- 2 Elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 2026-2028 term of the Parks & Recreation Committee.**
- 3 Establish regular meeting date and time for the 2026-2028 term of the Parks & Recreation Committee.**
- 4 Public comment on agenda items and reading of the City of Wausau Public Comment Statement.**
- 5 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).**  
Regular Parks and Recreation Committee March 2, 2026 Minutes
- 6 Discussion and possible action.**
  - a.** Adopting Revisions to the City Park Suspension Policy Adopted Pursuant to W.M.C. 9.20.020
- 7 Discussion.**
  - a.** Park Updates (400 Block, Alexander Airport, Athletic, Brockmeyer, Kaiser Pool, Riverlife, Schulenberg Pool, Yawkey, Forestry, Encampments)
- 8 Adjournment.**

Kody Hart, Acting City Clerk

**NOTICE POSTED AT CITY HALL (407 GRANT STREET) AND  
TRANSMITTED TO THE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED NEWSPAPER**

**DATE:**  
**TIME:**  
**POSTED BY:**



This meeting can be viewed on  
YouTube and Channel 981 on Cable TV

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@wausauwi.gov](mailto:ADAServices@wausauwi.gov) 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.



City of Wausau  
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wausauwi.gov





**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
REGULAR MEETING

**MEETING:** Parks & Recreation Committee  
**DATE/TIME:** Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5:15 PM  
**LOCATION:** Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers  
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

**MEMBERS:**  
Lou Larson (C) Carol Luken (VC)  
Lisa Rasmussen Sarah Watson  
Tom Neal

Members Present: Lou Larson, Carol Lukens, Lisa Rasmussen, Tom Neal, Sarah Watson  
Members Not Present:  
Members Excused:  
Present 5, Not Present 0, Excused 0

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 05:15 PM.

**1 Public comment on agenda items and reading of the City of Wausau Public Comment Statement.**

No public comment

**2 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).**

Regular Parks and Recreation Committee February 2, 2026 Minutes

Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Lukens, to approve Parks and Recreation Committee February 2, 2026 Minutes. Motion Passed 5-0.

**3 Discussion and possible action.**

**a. Wausau Municipal Code § 9.20.070 Fires, Fireworks, Firearms, Missiles**

Motion by Alderperson Neal, seconded by Alderperson Watson, to approve Update to Wausau Municipal Code 9.20.070 Fires, Fireworks, Firearms, Missiles. Motion Passed 5-0.

**b. Overview of Potential Future Trail from City of Schofield to the City of Wausau**

Polley provided the Committee with an overview of a potential future trail that the City of Schofield is reviewing that would connect the City of Schofield to the City of Wausau near the Eau Claire River Conservancy. There was no requested action.

Committee members provided feedback regarding the idea of a future trail. Feedback included verifying the covenants of the Eau Claire River Conservancy for any restrictions on use or development, as the vision of the Eau Claire River Conservancy is to remain as natural as possible and a paved trail and/or bicycles, including e-bikes, may not be permitted. Committee members expressed their desire for the City to continue to pursue a partnership and collaboration with the City of Schofield on a trail connection. Potential committees that could provide guidance and funding feedback if the project were to move forward include the City of Wausau's Bike and Pedestrian Committee, Room Tax Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee and Plan Commission. Initial public feedback was shared that included support for a trail as an alternative to Grand Avenue, support for the connection between the communities, concerns regarding e-bikes and the desire to keep the conservancy as natural as possible.

**c. Divestment of the Sawmill Timbers**

In 2012, the City, in partnership with the Community Foundation, arranged for the Stone Lumber Sawmill building to be dismantled, inventoried, and placed into storage with the expectation that it would be reconstructed within five years. To date, the sawmill has not been reconstructed. Polley reviewed the work done to date to evaluate the timbers, determine a possible project location and develop a concept plan for a replicated facility utilizing the existing timbers as accent pieces only due to the reported condition of the untreated white pine timbers.

Due to the inability to rebuild the sawmill and utilize the existing timbers as was envisioned, the Committee discussed the request to issue an invitation to bid as an option to divest of the timbers that are currently being held in storage at a private residence.

Committee members expressed concern about divesting of the timbers until discussions have been had with the Historical Society, Community Foundation and possible arts groups. Staff has had discussions with the Historical Society and Community Foundation. However, staff will contact the organizations to obtain a letter stating their desires and/or ability to utilize the timbers. The Committee also discussed alternative storage options for the timbers to remove them from the private residence if the desire to keep them is determined. Possible options mentioned included the old water plant, MBX property or paid storage.

Staff will obtain letters from the Historical Society and Community Foundation and will provide the Committee with storage options, storage costs and transportation costs to move the timbers. No further action was taken.

#### 4 Discussion.

##### a. Park Updates (Oak Island Skate Park, Sylvan Tubing Hill)

Polley reviewed the current projects. There was no further discussion or action.

#### 5 Adjournment.

Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Luken, to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM. Motion Passed 5-0.

The recording of this meeting may be viewed on  
YouTube [@CityofWausauMeetings](#)



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## Parks, Recreation, Forestry

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**DATE:** June 1, 2026  
**TO:** Parks & Recreation Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Adopting Revisions to the City Park Suspension Policy Adopted Pursuant to W.M.C. 9.20.020

### **PURPOSE**

Revise the current City Park Suspension Policy to reflect current practice.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2025, it came to the attention of the Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry that park bans were being treated differently by the Wausau Police Department and the Recreation Deputies of Marathon County Sherriff's Office. The ordinances of the County parks mirror those of the City parks W.M.C 9.20.020 (5) and state that:(5) *Additional rules*. Rules and regulations may be made governing the use and enjoyment of all lands, structures and property owned, leased or administered by the City and under the management, supervision and control of the Department. No person shall disregard posted rules and regulations or engage in any activity contrary to posted notice. Any person who shall violate such rules and regulations or who refuses to subject himself or herself thereto may be excluded from the use of such facility. The decision of the Director to exclude individuals from the use of park facilities shall be final and the City elects not to be bound by the provisions of Wis. Stats. ch. 68, with respect to administrative procedure in this regard. When the Wausau Police Department issues a park suspension/ban, it usually needs to happen immediately and therefore contact with the Director before issuing the suspension/ban is not possible. The Director has been working with the Wausau Police Department on the process and wording stated on the park ban that allows the officers to issue the park ban with the support of the Director. In doing so, it came to our attention that the City had an existing policy regarding park suspensions. The policy requires updates based on current practice and conversations with the Wausau Police Department.

The proposed amendments to the Park Suspension Policy are being recommended based on current practice, consistency throughout the parks (city and county) and per Municipal Code Chapter 9.20.020.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the amended City Park Suspension Policy.

CITY OF WAUSAU  
PARK SUSPENSION POLICY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
W.M.C. §9.20.020

**GENERAL:**

The City of Wausau has been experiencing over the past several years, recurring problems with a small number of Park users whose behavior in recreational open areas, restroom facilities, shelters and other places have infringed upon the intended use of the Parks by other users. As a result of this behavior, some City Parks, or portions thereof, are no longer welcoming or safe environments for all potential Park users. While the City recognizes that everyone is free to use the City's Parks for their intended purposes, and the intended purposes of a Park are numerous, the City finds that if a Park user's behavior is such that it impacts the use and enjoyment of the Park by others, that this person should not be allowed to use the City's Park, or Parks, for a period of time. This is especially the case with repeat offenders.

The City of Wausau seeks to provide a park and recreation system that will meet the needs of our current and future generations, preserve and protect the City's open spaces, water, historical and natural resources and provide a park and recreation program that is designed to enhance the City's quality of life. This policy is intended to promote Park usage and enjoyment by individuals; preserve the Parks and facilities; reduce costs associated with property loss and damage/graffiti repairs; and reduce police and fire department costs associated with calls for service in the Parks.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to identify clear and consistent procedures for the suspension of privileges for individuals to use parks within the City of Wausau in response to Inappropriate Behavior, violations of Park rules, City ordinances, or state or federal statutes.

**DEFINITIONS:**

"Inappropriate Behavior" shall include, without limitation by enumeration, the following conduct or behaviors:

- (a) Committing or attempting to commit any activity that would constitute a crime under state law or a violation of City or County ordinances.
- (b) Engaging in behavior that is disruptive, harassing, or threatening in nature to Park users or staff, including stalking, unwanted physical contact, or verbal abuse.
- (c) Engaging in explicit sexual activities or conduct.
- (d) Interfering with the safe and free passage of Park users or staff in Parks, including, but not limited to, lying, sitting, or placing objects (bags, personal items, strollers) in aisles, floors, doorways, vestibules, bathrooms, or elsewhere in a manner that unreasonably impedes the free passage of persons about the Park or within Park facilities.

- (e) Trespassing by entering or remaining on or in a Park premises after having been notified by an authorized individual not to do so, and entering or remaining on or in a Park premises during the period in which an individual has been suspended from the premises.
- (f) Being in a Park during hours in which the Park is closed.
- (g) Engaging in behavior which unreasonably interferes with, or has the strong likelihood of interfering with, the use and enjoyment of the Park by another, including interfering with another's use and enjoyment of a Park facility which that person has rented.
- (h) Engaging in repeated violations of this Policy, City or County ordinances, or state law.
- (i) Providing false identifying information to a Wausau City Police Officer or other law enforcement officer ("Law Enforcement Officer") investigating alleged Inappropriate Behavior under this Policy.

"Park" is defined to mean all lands and water heretofore and hereafter acquired by the City for park or recreational purposes, or placed under the jurisdiction of the Wausau & Marathon County-City Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department (PRF) or the City of Wausau Parks and Recreation Committee, and includes, without limitation, parks, parkways, greenways, recreational facilities and structures, and privately owned lands the use of which has been granted or leased to the City for park, recreational, or like public purposes. This definition includes Marathon County Parks within the City of Wausau.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Law Enforcement Officers are authorized, at their discretion, to serve a Notice of Suspension (See Attachment A) to individuals engaging in Inappropriate Behavior in City Parks contrary to this Policy. In determining whether to issue a Notice of Suspension, Law Enforcement Officers shall consider all circumstances surrounding the offense including, but not limited to, whether the individual has had prior suspensions, the type and severity of the offense, prior Inappropriate Behavior engaged in by the individual in City Parks, and the impact of the individual's behavior upon the use and enjoyment of the Parks by others.
2. If an individual will not accept the Notice of Suspension it may be left by the Law Enforcement Officer near the person. If an individual leaves the Park before notice can be given, notice may be sent to the individual's last known address, or served upon them at a later date. The Law Enforcement Officer will record the method of providing the individual notice.
3. A copy of the Notice of Suspension will be issued to the individual being suspended with a copy to be retained by the appropriate law enforcement department. The law enforcement department will forward a copy of the Notice of Suspension to the Director of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.
4. The individual served with the Notice of Suspension shall leave the Park immediately upon issuance of the notice and the suspension will begin on the date of issuance.

5. ~~An individual may request review of a Notice of Suspension by filing a written request with the Director of the Parks Department, 212 River Drive, Wausau, WI 54403 within ten (10) days of the date of the issuance of the Notice of Suspension. Any additional information the individual wishes to provide in connection with the Notice of Suspension must be provided at the time of the filing of the written request. The Notice of Suspension will be reviewed by the Director of the Parks Department within fifteen (15) days of the filing of the written request and will be upheld, amended or denied at his/her discretion. The individual will be notified of the Director's decision by U.S. mail at the address provided on the Notice of Suspension form or they can obtain a copy at the Parks Department. The decision by the Wausau Police Department to issue a park ban for inappropriate behavior, violations of park rules, City ordinances, or state or federal statutes is supported by ~~of~~ the Director of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department and shall be final per Wausau Municipal Code (9.20.020(5)) and the City elects not to be bound by the provisions of Chapter 68, Wisconsin Statutes, with respect to administrative procedure in this regard.~~

6. Suspension Periods:

(a) Inappropriate Behavior not resulting in a misdemeanor or felony arrest:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense – not less than three (3) days and not more than thirty (30) days.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense (within one (1) year of prior offense) – not less than ten (10) days and not more than sixty (60) days.

3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent violations (within one (1) year of prior offense) – not less than twenty-one (21) days and not more than one (1) year.

(b) Inappropriate Behavior resulting in a misdemeanor arrest:

Not less than twenty-one (21) days and not more than one (1) year.

(c) Inappropriate Behavior resulting in a felony arrest:

Not less than sixty (60) days and up to a lifetime suspension.

Suspension periods shall run concurrently in the event of subsequent violations.

7. Violation of the suspension under this Policy may result in further action by Law Enforcement Officers including but not limited to citation, arrest, and/or possible extension of the suspension.

APPROVED:

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~~James E. Tipple~~Doug Diny, Mayor

ATTEST:

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~~Rachel Brown~~Toni Rayala, Clerk



## Parks, Recreation, Forestry

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**DATE:** June 1, 2026  
**TO:** Parks & Recreation Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Park Updates (400 Block, Alexander Airport, Athletic, Brockmeyer, Kaiser Pool, Riverlife, Schulenberg Pool, Yawkey, Forestry, Encampments)

### PURPOSE

Park Updates

### BACKGROUND

- 400 Block
  - Activator is up and functioning. Concerts on the square start June 3rd.
- Alexander Airport
  - Plane cutouts and bike rack are completed and ready to install. Materials donated by Southeast Neighborhood Group in conjunction with Wausau East students.
- Athletic
  - Repairs to fence are in progress from a car driving into the fence on the north side of the park area, we are waiting for fence components to arrive.
  - The Woodchucks home opener is May 28th.
- Brockmeyer
  - A water line from the restroom broke and repair is planned for June 3 with excavation to begin June 1.
- Kaiser Pool
  - Supply line for covered slide broke underground. Planning to meet with contractor to discuss repairs. To be completed hopefully before opening on June 15.
- Riverlife
  - Adirondack chairs have been delivered and need to be assembled and installed. Red chairs will be disposed of following the City's procurement policy.
  - The Riverlife wharf docks will be installed by a contractor due to the complexity of the install. We are waiting for a date from the contractor.
  - The concession stand, Simply Sweet, is scheduled to open June 1.
- Schulenberg Pool
  - We are having issues with the circulation pump VFD and still investigating a reason to determine a solution.
- Yawkey
  - Working with Water Dept. to develop a plan for the water service to Yawkey. Currently, the service is on the property given to the YMCA through the parking

project.

- Forestry
  - Spring planting continues in conjunction with removals and rooting zone assessments for water line replacement.
  - The City Forester was interviewed by Justin Loew of Channel 9 for an upcoming segment of Garden Goodies on June 3.
- Encampments
  - We have removed encampments in 3M and Bull Falls parks. We were notified today of a very large encampment on Fern Island which we will address next week as this will take planning and several people.

## RECOMMENDATION

No action