



MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 10:30am

Meeting Location: 212 River Dr, Room 5, Wausau 54403

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning ten minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 1-408-418-9388 Access code: 2487 035 2453. When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

Park Commission Members -

Commissioners: Dawn Herbst, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Lou Larson, Vacant-City, Vacant-At Large

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

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

Agenda Items

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Any Person Who Wishes to Address the Commission Must Provide, Name, Address and the Topic to the President of the Commission No Later than Five Minutes Before the Start of the Meeting. Topics must be relevant to the Committee’s area of jurisdiction.**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 4, 2024 Park Commission Meeting**
- 4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. 2023 Year in Review
 2. 2024 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department Workplan
- 5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. None
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
 1. None
- 6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**
 - A. None
- 7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Project Update (Big Eau Pleine, Marathon Park, Bluegill Bay, North Central Health Care, Library, Nine Mile, Bitzke, Winter Activities)

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr. Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items –

9. Adjourn

Signed /s/ Jamie Polley
Presiding Officer or Her
Designee

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

FAXED TO DAILY HERALD

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE

COURTHOUSE

(Email/Fax City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group)

Date January 26, 2024 Time 2:00 p.m.

By Jodi Luebbe

Date _____ Time _____

By _____

AGENDA SUMMARY

4A1. Discussion and Possible Action Approving the 2023 Department Year in Review Report
2023 was an extremely busy year with high park usage and a number of projects. Staff has gathered information on the work completed in 2023 and is providing the Commission with an overview.

No action is requested.

4A2. Discussion and Possible Action Approving the 2024 PRF Department Workplan
The 2024 work plan for the department is attached. The Commission is asked to review and provide comments on the work plan.

The Commission is asked to approve the work plan.

7A. Project Update

Big Eau Pleine - Large hazard tree removal has been completed in the west campground (just 2 large basswoods left for when we have snowpack over the main road). Raising of the trees in boat launches and horse trailer area is complete.

Marathon Park - EAB infested ash trees in process of all being removed.
-Eastgate Hall work is beginning, the RFB for ceiling and flooring closes 1/30. A contractor has been selected to replace the siding and windows. Windows have been ordered.
-Marathon Park outdoor ice rink was almost up but with the warm weather it will most likely not be finished.

Blue Gill Bay Park - All EAB infested ash trees in the use areas have been removed (heavy infestation).

Northcentral Health Care– removing infested ash trees on the grounds.

Library – trees removed for facilities cooler project as well as all ash removed.

Nine Mile - Grooming operations are on hold with low snow and warm weather forecasted. Trails closed as of Friday, January 26 due to the rain and warm temperatures.
-Completed tree work after winds brought some trees down over the trails

Bitzke - Refinishing and redesign of the main sign

Winter Activities – Crews have completed snow removal and brining operations when needed.
-We have started our wood processing at the Eau Pleine.
-A portion of the Mountain Bay Snowmobile trail was open briefly to get snowmobilers to the open Shawano County trails. With the warm temperatures, all trails are not closed.

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: January 4, 2024 at 11:00am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Rick Seefeldt

Excused: Allen Opall

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director of Community Service

Others present: Joe Nagrant – President of the Waterski Association

1. Call to Order – President Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 11:00 am. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

2. Public Comment – none brought forward.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 31, 2023 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Maszk, second by Herbst to approve the October 31, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Request for Change of Venue from Central Wisconsin Water Ski Show Team Inc. from D.C. Everest Park to Bluegill Bay Park – Aumann explained that the Water Ski Show Team has requested the use of Bluegill Bay Park for their water ski shows instead of DC Everest Park that they currently utilize. The Wisconsin River is regulated by all the cities, villages and towns that border the water. Each entity has the same language within their code of ordinances to regulate the water. If Commission approves the change, then the City of Wausau, Village of Rib Mountain, City of Schofield and the Village of Rothschild would be asked to amend their municipal code to allow the waterski pick up and drop off locations at Bluegill Bay Park for the purposes of waterski practices and shows. The only municipality that has taken it to their board is Rib Mountain who has agreed to change the ordinance if the County allows the change of the land use. The ordinance change has been discussed by the City of Wausau Park Committee and if the land use change is approved by Park Commission, will be taken to the Wausau City Council.

Staff is bringing this item to Commission because of the ordinance changes and concern about possible user conflicts. Staff thinks it could work and feels it's hard to know for sure if there will be conflict because shows are during weeknights. Parking for shows could be accommodated with a large county owned lot behind the park. Nagrant discussed why the waterski team would like to change locations and their possible future plans. Questions were answered and pros/cons discussed. Possible signage and the idea of having a trial year were discussed. **Motion** by Larson, second by Herbst to approve the request for change of venue from the Central Wisconsin Water Ski Show Team Inc. from D.C. Everest Park to Bluegill Bay Park for a one-year trial period. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Amendments to Chapter 19 of Marathon County General Code (Parks) – Polley explained that the proposed amendments are recommendations to clarify and enhance a number of ordinances where questions have arisen in the field over the past year. The amendments will allow the ordinances to be more easily enforced by the Recreation Deputies and Assistant Facility Managers. Polley discussed the amendments which include following the new City ordinance which does not allow alcohol in any City park before 4pm at Marathon Park and D.C. Everest Park, not allowing golf carts in parks, clarifying where horse and buggies are allowed in the parks, and making Marathon Park campground for pre-registration only, no self-registration. There are some exceptions included in the first two amendments. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to accept the amendments to Chapter 19 of Marathon County General Code (Parks) and forward to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

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

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Project Update – Big Eau Pleine – The archery only hunt began on November 15. To date we had four people register their harvest with us. Three bucks and one doe were harvested. We did also find one instance of a buck harvest where the body of the deer was left and the head was removed. DC Everest Restroom – Restroom has been constructed. Still waiting on contractor to install water and sanitary lines. Marathon Park – Snow bars were installed on the roof of MPB #2 to help mitigate snow buildup on the flat roof section between ice sheets. Ice operations are routine at this point. Nine Mile – Garage door and room heating project is complete. Staff completed the installation of the snowshoe signage project. Rib Falls Reclamation – County Materials has completed all of the site grading. Final work and seeding will be completed in the spring.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., January 30, 2024 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm.5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

9. Adjourn - Motion by Herbst, second by Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 11:50am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.



Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry



2023 Year in Review

2023 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 Forests 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 \$7,127,498 in expenditures and \$2,731,021 in revenues (city and county combined)

- 23,627 BOULEVARD TREES, INVENTORIED 2,908 PARK TREES

- PLANTED 524 TREES, REMOVED 519 NON-ASH & 384 ASH TREES, TREATED 1037 ASH (1/3 OF CITY)

- 579 SHELTER RENTAL DAYS AND 213 EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- MOWED 308.5 ACRES AND 81,920 FT OF TRAILS

- 2280 TOTAL SEASON PASSES SOLD (DISC GOLF, BIKING, BOAT LAUNCH, SKI, RANGE, ETC)

- COMPLETED 69-ACRE TIMBER SALE AT BIG EAU PLEINE PARK FOR A NET REVENUE OF \$72,830.62

- COMPLETED MULTI-YEAR FOREST INVENTORY OF ALL COUNTY PARKS OUTSIDE OF CITY LIMITS

- SECURED SPONSORSHIP FROM AQUA FINANCE TO HELP FUND OUR FIRST 400 BLOCK MOVIE IN THE PARK SERIES WHERE WE HOSTED 5 NIGHTS OF FREE MOVIES FOR THE PUBLIC ON A GIANT LED SCREEN

- CREATED A JR. TENNIS LEAGUE TO KEEP MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS ENGAGED

- PARTNERED WITH MCPL TO HOST 3 CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCES AT OAK ISLAND PARK AND 6 STORY TIMES THROUGHOUT OUR PARK SYSTEM

- INCREASED SWIM LESSON REVENUE FOR A 3RD YEAR IN A ROW BY \$1,400 OVER 2022 REVENUES

- OFFERED 200 SWIM LESSON CLASSES FOR 673 STUDENTS ENROLLED THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

- HOSTED MOVING WITH THE MAYOR EVENTS KITE FLYING, MOONLIGHT SNOWSHOEING, AND SUNSET HIKE

- SERVED APPROX. 10,000 PATRONS AT SYLVAN TUBING HILL TOTALING CLOSE TO \$114,000 IN REVENUE

- SUCCESSFULLY PARTNERED WITH THE FAIR TO PROVIDE FAIR OPERATIONS

- CREATED A NEW DIGITAL RECREATION GUIDE REPLACING THE USE OF CITY PAGES TO DO THE GUIDES.

- HOSTED OUR FIRST BUS TRIP TO THE PACKER FAMILY NIGHT

- HOSTED OVER 3000 PARTICIPANTS AT CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL IN NEW LOCATION AT MPB BUILDINGS

- PARTNERED WITH PEYTON'S PROMISE TO HOST A "CHANGE FOR GOOD" DRIVE RAISED \$1,000 WHICH WAS MATCHED BY PEOPLES BANK FOR A TOTAL OF \$2,000 FOR PEYTON'S PROMISE

- SECURED \$3,000 OF SPONSORSHIPS TO THE CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL ALLOWING US TO ADD FEATURES

NEW WATERMAIN & LATERALS AT MARATHON PARK



**Completed on time and
under budget**

TIMBER SALES

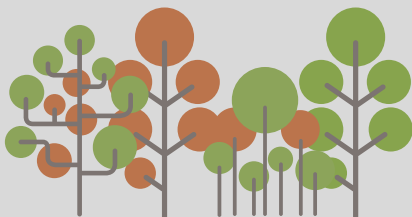


7 sales sold totaling 587 acres with
16,388 cords

\$495,764.00

Gross revenue

\$347,034 Net Revenue to County





2023 Year in Review - Projects

CITY PARK PROJECTS

- 16 FRUIT TREES PLANTED IN 10TH STREET PARK WITH EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS
- TRANSPLANTED 14 FRUIT TREES TO 3-M PARK AND 5 PLUM TREES TO PLEASANT VIEW PARK
- INSTALLED LINCOLN TOT LOT PLAYGROUND FUNDED BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
- 2 ROUNDS OF GOAT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AT BARKER STEWART ISLAND
- ATHLETIC PARK VIDEO SCOREBOARD INSTALLATION
- SERVED APPROXIMATELY 40,000 PATRONS AT POOLS, SOLD 886 ANNUAL SWIM PASSES
- CONTINUE TO ADD NEW ADOPT-A-PARK MEMBERS TOTALING 8 ADOPTEES.
- HELD ONE POP-UP SPLASH PAD WITH THE WAUSAU FIRE DEPARTMENT
- MASONRY WORK COMPLETED AT STEWART PARK ON THE WALLS AND STEPS
- REPLACED FOUL NET BEHIND HOME PLATE AT ATHLETIC PARK
- NEW KIOSK AT SCHOFIELD PARK BOAT LAUNCH INSTALLED. PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH WSD.
- BARKER-STEWART ISLAND BRIDGE DECKING REPLACED
- DEMOLITION OF RESTROOM AND THE START OF INSTALLATION OF RESTROOM AT OAK ISLAND
- ATHLETIC PARK BULLPEN PLUMBING TIED INTO MAIN SUPPLY
- OUTFIELD FENCE REPLACEMENT AT BOILEAU FIELD
- ADA COMPLIANT PATHS INSTALLED AT RIVERSIDE AND TENTH STREET PARK
- KAYAK INFORMATION SIGNS INSTALLED AT GILBERT, SCHOLFIELD, RIVERLIFE, OAK ISLAND & MEMORIAL
- PLEASANT VIEW SHELTER HAS A NEW STEEL ROOF

COUNTY PARK/FOREST PROJECTS

- COMMUNITY ARBOR DAY EVENT AT MARATHON PARK – TRANSPLANTED HUNDREDS OF PINE TREES
- NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN MISSION LAKE PARK, CHEROKEE PARK AND BLUEGILL BAY PARK
- ASH TREES REMOVED FROM BLUE GILL BAY PARK – 5 NEW TREES PLANTED
- 21 HAZARD TREES REMOVED FROM WEST CAMPGROUND EAU PLEINE PARK
- PLANNED AND ORDERED PLAYGROUNDS FOR AMCO AND MARATHON PARK CAMPGROUND
- BROUGHT IN \$3,500 IN NEW REVENUE FROM OFFERING SWIM LESSONS DURING THE WINTER AT NCHC
- INCREASED REVENUE BY \$6,200 IN WATER EXERCISE BY OFFERING IT YEAR-ROUND AT NCHC
- ADDED ADULT PICKLEBALL LADDER LEAGUE, CHALLENGER SOCCER CAMP, YOUTH CHESS CLASSES, AND YOUTH BRICK BUILDERS WORKSHOP TO OUR RECREATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS
- CREATED A NEW VALENTINE'S SKI DATE NIGHT EVENT AT NINE MILE COUNTY FOREST. (DID GET RAINED OUT BUT HAD GOOD PARTICIPATION IN REGISTRATION.)
- INSTALLED NEW BATTING CAGES AT SUNNYVALE SOFTBALL COMPLEX
- DC EVEREST RESTROOM DEMO AND INSTALLATION OF NEW RESTROOM (NOT FINISHED)
- NINE MILE GARAGE RENOVATION
- BEP SOUTH UNIT PARKING LOT RESURFACING
- ADA COMPLIANT PATH INSTALLED AT BLUEGILL BAY PLAYGROUND
- ADA KAYAK LAUNCH INSTALLED AT DC EVEREST PARK
- SOUTH BOAT LAUNCH AT DC EVEREST UPDATED TO COMPLY WITH ADA CODE
- 1 DOCK AT BLUEGILL REBUILT AND ADA COMPLIANT
- CULVERTS REPLACED AND BEACH ROAD/PARKING LOT REPAVED AT DELLS
- ELK TARGET SHELTER INSTALLED AT SHOOTING RANGE
- KAYAK INFORMATION SIGNS INSTALLED AT WISCONSIN RIVER FOREST UNIT, BLUEGILL AND DC EVEREST
- EASTGATE HALL BOILER UPGRADE
- IMPLEMENTED A PERMANENT FAT TIRE BIKE SEASON AT NINE MILE
- COMPLETED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
- COMPLETED A LAND SWAP AT DELLS OF EAU CLAIRE TO CLARIFY LAND OWNERSHIP
- ESTABLISHED A TRIAL ARCHERY DEER HUNT AT BIG EAU PLEINE PARK

CAMPING

Camping had another busy season

Gross Revenue \$271,446.40

1.5% 

Increase in revenue over 2022
Gross Revenue





Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

2024 Work Plan



County CIP Projects

- Eastgate Hall Renovation
- Dump Station Installation at Dell of Eau Claire
- Nine Mile Septic System Replacement
- Amco & Marathon Park Campground Playground

County Small Projects

- Blue Gill Bay dock replacement
- DCE Park Restroom Completion
- DEC manger cabin update
- DEC group campground well
- Extend cart path at Peoples Sports Complex

Riverlife/400 Block

- Concession Fence Replacement
- Leaper Jet Repair/Replacement
- Fountain Push Button
- NE Park Sign

Plan department consolidation - Pardee St Review



Ice Arena Feasibility Study



Forestry Work Plan

- Administer 24 timber sales on 1874 acres
- Plant 60,000 red pine trees on 60 acres
- Establish and advertise 600-625 acres of timber for sale
- Establish another timber sale at Big Eau Pleine Park

Other Projects

- Install new drinking fountains
- New well at Dell of Eau Claire
- Barker Stewart Island Vegetation
- Lincoln Tot Lot Fall Zone
- BEP Boat Launch Repair
- MP Stand Pipe Boxes



Treat & remove ash trees
plant 400 + trees

Expand Recreation Programs & Events
Open Gyms Tot Time
Partnership with Children's Imaginarium

Install AED
Save Stations/
Train all FT
Staff in CPR



City Small Projects

- Memorial & Schulenberg Slide Restoration
- Stewart Park wall cap & tuckpointing
- Athletic Park Cap Repair
- Athletic Park Ascension Deck Staining
- Brockmeyer Soccer Field Improvements
- Brockmeyer Press Box Rebuild

City CIP Projects
-Build Skatepark
-Complete Oak Island Restroom
-400 Block Safety Bollards



Lulu B Jacobs Park
Reestablishment

Plans/Grants to Complete

- County CORP Update
- Rib Falls Master Plan
- Big Rapids Dam Removal
- AED/Save Station Grant
- Athletic Park Clubhouse Review

Secure Field Sponsors
PSC