



## MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 10:30 am

**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: 2484 694 2919. When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

### **Park Commission Members -**

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

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

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

### **Agenda Items**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Any Person Who Wishes to Address the Commission Must Provide, Name, Address and the Topic to the President of the Commission No Later than Five Minutes Before the Start of the Meeting. Topics must be relevant to the Committee’s area of jurisdiction.**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the June 4, 2024 Park Commission Meeting**
4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Election of Officers – Nomination and Election of President and Vice President
    2. Park Commission Representative for the Wausau and Marathon County Parks and Recreation Foundation
    3. Proclamation Designating July as Park and Recreation Month
    4. 2024 Deer Hunt in Big Eau Pleine
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**

Project Update (400 Block, Drinking Fountains, Athletic Park, Brockmeyer Park, Hammond Park, RiverLife, Woodson, Urban Forestry, Other, Amco, Big Eau Pleine, Bluegill, Marathon Park, Dells of Eau Claire, Events)

**8. Announcements**

- A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – July 30 at 10:30am, 900 Pardee St, Wausau, WI 54401 followed by a joint meeting with the Fair Board at 11:30am at Fairboard Office, North Wing of the Exhibition Building, Marathon Park, 1201 Stewart Ave, Wausau, WI.
- 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](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.*

FAXED TO DAILY HERALD  
COURTHOUSE

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE

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

Date June 28, 2024 Time 3:55 p.m.  
By Jodi Luebbe

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT**  
**MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION**

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

Park Commissioners present: Jeff Frese, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk-(via Webex), Tom Neal, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Sarah Watson

Staff present: Jamie Polley - Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations, Jamie Alberti - Corporation Counsel Paralegal

Others Present: David Decker, Tom Radenz

**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 April 2, 2024 Park Commission Meeting – Motion** by Larson, second by Opall to approve the April 2, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

**4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Approving a Project Request for a Monument at the 45N-90W Geographic Marker-The Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors Central Wisconsin Chapter (Central Chapter) has submitted a proposal to add a display at the 45N – 90W park depicting examples of section corner monuments placed during the early surveys of Marathon County. Decker and Radenz discussed the request. The work would be performed by land surveyors and the Chapter would fundraise for the improvements. Three options for exhibit placement were discussed. The goal would be to complete this effort this summer. Discussion followed and questions were answered. **Motion** by Larson, second by Opall to approve the project request and leave it to the Society’s discretion regarding placement of the exhibit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

2. Law Enforcement Rental Fee for Duane Corbin Shooting Range – Polley explained that outside law enforcement agencies periodically request the use of the Duane Corbin Shooting Range. Their main request is to use the 600-yard range for training. In April, the Park Commission moved to allow the rental of the Shooting Range by law enforcement agencies only and a county employee would staff each rental. The next step is to determine a rental rate to cover the staff cost. Staff has determined that in most cases the employee working during a rental would be a part-time employee. To cover the cost of this employee a fee of \$25/hour is recommended. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Larson to amend the 2024 Fee Schedule to include the \$25/hour shooting range rental fee for outside law enforcement agencies only. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

3. Removal of River Edge Trail Overlook near Pick N Save – In April the City Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed options to repair the damage to the wall and paved area of the overlook on the River Edge trail by Pick n Save. An engineer looked at the area and it was determined that the wall was not sufficiently supported with material when it was installed in 2002. Due to the insufficient material the paver surface is sinking and there is significant settling issues around the drain pipe. This sinking is pushing weight against the wall causing the wall to crack. At this time the cost to replace the overlook is unknown and would require further investigation. The options reviewed were, not to replace the overlook and eliminate that area at this time leaving only the trail with work to be completed by parks staff or hiring an engineering firm to assess the wall and develop plans for repairing the outlook. The Committee moved to recommend to the Park Commission removal of the overlook by park staff leaving only the trail. It has been confirmed by the landowner who grants the trail easement to the City that removal of the overlook is acceptable. **Motion** by Neal, second by Larson to recommend removal of the River Edge Trail Overlook near Pick N Save. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

**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 the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Intergovernmental Agreement to Provide Park Services for the City of Wausau – Polley gave some history that in 1974 pursuant to Wi. Statute 27.075(1), the City delegated authority, through a resolution, to the County to govern, control, improve, and care for public parks, parkways, boulevards and pleasure drives. Wisconsin Statute 27.075(4) also states that the City may enter into necessary contracts with the County, and appropriate money to pay the County for the reasonable expenses incurred in rendering the park services assumed. To date there has not been a formal contract for services. The County has managed and maintained the City parks based on the stipulations laid out in each resolution and the City has appropriated funds for these services based on the same stipulations of each resolution. The proposed intergovernmental agreement documents the way that the County and the City have been operating for the past 50 years to effectively and efficiently manage the city and county park systems. The agreement identifies all of the resolutions that have set the framework of operations as well as details the current practices in place for operation and for funding staff, equipment, and improvements to the park system. The agreement does not include any changes to current operations but rather sets clear expectations of what the City expects of the County. Ultimately the City Council controls the funding that is allocated for the park operations, maintenance and improvements and therefore dictates the services expected with the funding provided. After discussion, there was **consensus** from Commission to table this item to give the City Attorney and County’s Corporation Counsel more time to review the agreement.

**6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. 2025 Capital Improvement Project Requests – Polley discussed the requests in detail which include Athletic Park Clubhouse renovations, River Highlands Park playground replacement, Sylvan Hill and Riverside Parks parking lot paving, Memorial Park tennis court refurbishment, Marathon Park funding for planning of family area, Marathon Park splashpad replacement, Rib Fall Park playground replacement, Marathon Park wrought iron fence repair, Marathon Park road and trail repairs. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Opall, second by Seefeldt to support the CIP projects presented and move them on to the Environmental Resources Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

**7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion**

A. Project Update – Marathon Park Improvements – Eastgate Hall-the kitchen update is the last item to be completed and will begin the week of June 10 for two weeks. Ice Arena Feasibility Study-JLG Architects and structural engineers are currently reviewing the program for the implementation of a saferoom. They are working the saferoom requirements into the plan. Ballard and King continues to work on the economic impact analysis. Campground playground partially installed-Border scheduled to be poured on Monday (6/3). Splash Pad is being prepped to open Saturday (6/1). Events-Holding Monster Truck Show in Grandstands this weekend. Hosting Multi-Cultural Event in Exhibition Building and Infield where soccer will be played next Saturday, June 8. Campground – Establishing a response plan for Park Deputies, Wausau PD, and AFMs in responding to Marathon Park Campground calls to dispatch and the potential removal of campers who are violating park policy and rules. Storm Damage & Invasive Species – We made a major impact on the garlic mustard issue at Big Eau Pleine Park. We have removed large portions of the invasive weed. Storm Damage work at BEP (roads, campgrounds and trails) and the Dells. Work still to be done at Bluegill. Amco Playground – the playground has been removed and the site is prepped for the new playground. Install is planned for as soon as weather allows. Bluegill Bay – New dock installed with ADA ramp. New kiosk/pay station installed. Prep for new ski show venue with bleachers and temporary electric. D.C. Everest Restroom – Continue work on new restroom and surrounding area. Sports Fields – Sports complex had a very successful tournament at the beginning of the month with 140 teams. Sports Complex: Limestone path installed. SunnyVale is a full go with WASA, high schools, and youth baseball.

**8. Announcements**

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., July 2, 2024 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm.5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – Elections, Intergovernmental Agreement to Provide Park Services for the City of Wausau

**9. Adjourn - Motion** by Opall, second by Neal to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

**AGENDA SUMMARY**

**4A1. Discussion and Possible Action Election of Officers – Nomination and Election of Park Commission President and Vice President**

The Park Commission members are asked to nominate and elect a President and Vice President of the Park Commission for the next two year term.

**4A2. Discussion and Possible Action Electing a Park Commission Representative for the Wausau and Marathon County Parks and Recreation Foundation**

The Wausau and Marathon County Parks and Recreation Foundation is a 501c3 foundation that supports the City of Wausau and Marathon County park systems. The Park Commission has a seat on the foundation board. The Commission is asked to elect a representative to serve on the foundation board. The foundation meets every other month on the third Tuesday at 4pm. Their next meeting is August 20, 2024.

**4A3. Discussion and Possible Action Adopting a Proclamation Designating July as Park and Recreation Month**

July is Parks and Recreation Month. The Park Commission is asked to adopt the attached Resolution designating July as Parks and Recreation Month in the City of Wausau and Marathon County.

**4A4. Discussion and Possible Action Establishing an Archery Hunting Season in Big Eau Pleine Park**

Big Eau Pleine Park is the County's largest County Park consisting of 1,453 acres that is surrounded by water on three sides and farmland or hardwoods on the fourth. The forest of the park is one that is managed by our County Forestry staff for safety, forest health and regeneration. About seven (7) years ago the County Forester set up a deer exclusion area to monitor the effects of deer browse on forest regeneration. The negative impact the deer are having on the forest regeneration is very evident through the pictures that have been taken each year. Staff can see sugar maple seedlings are growing inside the fence although they are not visible in the pictures since they take a while to grow. The vegetation outside of the fence is eaten down very low. In addition, the County has had requests over the years from the landowners to the north asking to allow deer hunting in the park due to the large number of deer in the area and the amount of crop damage they see each year.

The Commission chose to have an archery hunt in 2023. This hunt was open from November 15 through the last day of the regular archery season. The first day of the hunt drew over 50 cars to the park. The department had a QR code available for people to record their hunt. Unfortunately, only 5 people chose to utilize the QR code to provide us their information. From the 5 respondents there were 6 antlerless deer harvested and 3 antlered deer harvested. We also found one carcass within the park where the head was removed. We anticipate that more than 9 deer were harvested within the park and we continue to monitor the deer population. In addition, no reports of user conflict were reported. Staff also talked to the adjacent farmer who indicated that they were able to fill all 6 of their regular season tags and 22 crop damage permits.

The Commission is asked to consider whether a second-year antlerless hunt is desired. If a second year is approved staff would recommend that a permitted hunt be offered vs an open hunt. A permitted hunt will allow the department to more accurately document the number of deer harvested and have knowledge of who is hunting within the park. A permitted season hunt would still be recommended to follow the same guidelines of the State Park System with an opening date of November 15. This would minimize the impact on the other uses of the park.

7A. Project Update

**City**

**400 Block:** The stage caulk has been replaced. Clean up of the previous caulk staining will follow and be completed by park staff.

**Drinking Fountains:** 3M, Riverside and Alexander Airport park had had the new water fountains installed. This is a continuation

**Athletic Park:** Meter/valve project has been completed and new meter box installed.

**Brockmeyer Park:** We are working on potential water leak at Jo Jo's Splash Pad. Believe we may have found the issue. More investigation is needed and we will have it up and running as soon as possible.

**Hammond Park:** The light in the gazebo has been installed in partnership with Wausau PD.

**RiverLife:** Briqs AC compressor failed due to a lightening strike and the replacement is in progress. The new compressor should be delivered early July.

**Woodson:** New drain system poured to eliminate grates that continues to break during snow removal.

**Events:** Youth baseball is winding down on the city fields

Chalkfest was held at the 400 Block

Wings over Wausau at Airport went off smoothly.

Fireworks will be held at the airport on July 4<sup>th</sup>

**Urban Forestry:** Storm clean up from 6/24. May branches and limbs down in the parks and within the city.

**Other:** Homeless leaving many items behind at Bull Falls Gazebo. PD has posted a sign to remove belongings

**County**

**Amco:** The new playground has been completed (curb, chips, parking lot restoration and turf restoration)

**Big Eau Pleine:** Storm damage restoration is underway (washout grading, repairs from down trees)

**Bluegill:** The new dock was installed, kiosk information area completed, repairs to end of launch (added large rip rap), and a Girl Scout will be constructing a Lifejacket Loaner Station on 6/29.

**Marathon Park:** EGH kitchen has been updated and new playground Burke side completed (except PIP) the second structure is scheduled for later July.

**Dells of Eau Claire:** Working on washouts on the trails from the storms

**Events:** Sports complex continues to be very busy

Looking forward to Hmong Fest at the end of July at the Sports Complex

Sunnyvale continues to be busy with American Legion, WASA and tournaments. We had 3 straight weekends of tournaments



### **Designation of July as Park and Recreation Month**

WHEREAS parks and recreation is an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Marathon County; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation promotes health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who live near parks; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation promotes time spent in nature, which positively impacts mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being, and alleviating illnesses such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimers; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation encourages physical activities by providing space for popular sports, hiking trails, swimming pools and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS park and recreation programming and education activities, such as out- of-school time programming, youth sports and environmental education, are critical to childhood development; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation increases a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is essential and adaptable infrastructure that makes our communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change; and

WHEREAS our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS The City of Wausau and Marathon County recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Park Commission that July is recognized as Park and Recreation Month in the City of Wausau and County of Marathon.

Signed this 2nd day of July, 2024 by the President of the Park Commission,

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President

# Big Eau Pleine Deer Hunting Survey

8 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

## First Name

5 responses

Bruce

Shane

Gjinn

Zade

Jeff

## Last Name

5 responses

Braunel

Beilke

Lor

Patzer

Zelinski

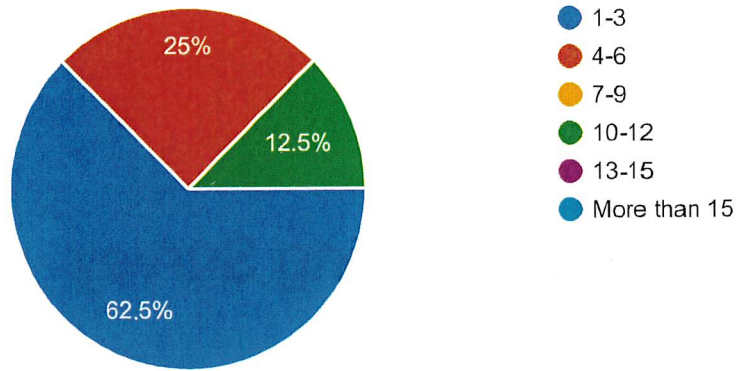




### How many days did you hunt in the park this season?

Copy

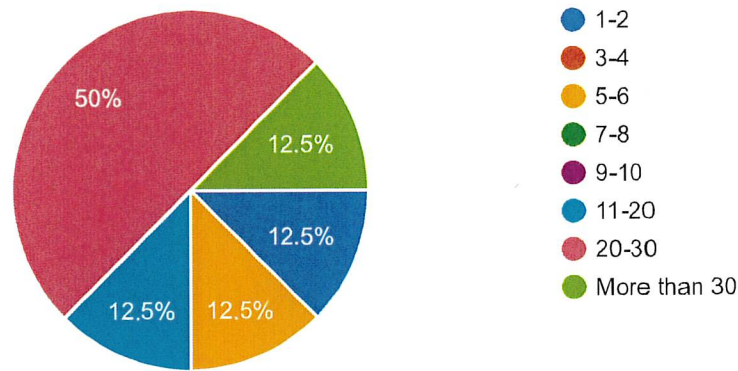
8 responses



### How many deer did you see while hunting in the park this season?

Copy

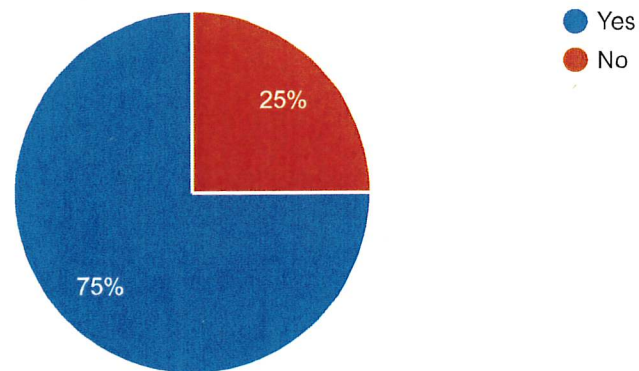
8 responses



### Did you harvest a deer within the park this season?

Copy

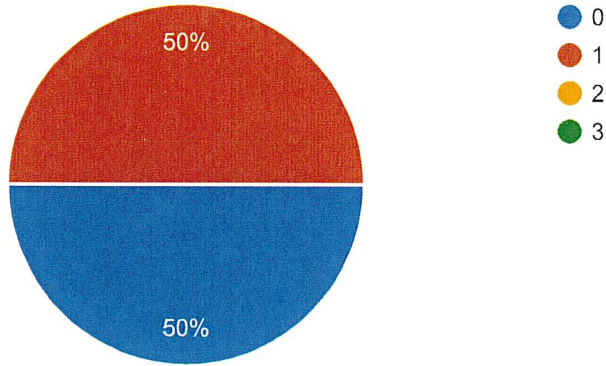
8 responses



How many antlerless deer did you harvest within the park this season?

 Copy

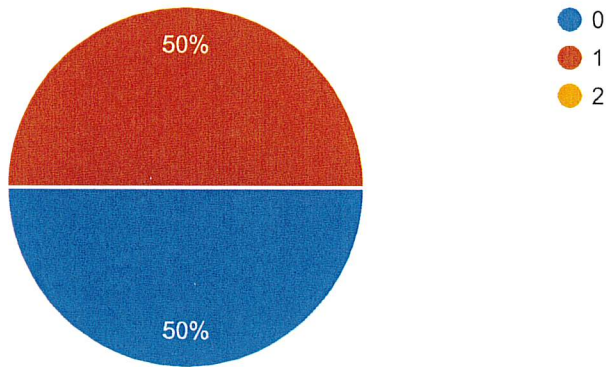
8 responses



How many antlered deer did you harvest within the park this season?

 Copy

8 responses



Please provide your email address for possible correspondence about hunting within the park.

8 responses

Doug.kasat@icoud.com

Chemeng.her@gmail.com

Braunelb@gmail.com

Shanebeilke@hotmail.com

sifupeter52@gmail.com

gjinnlor82@gmail.com

mustang\_68\_tader@yahoo.com

Elk007@charter.net

Please provide your first and last name.

5 responses

Bruce Braunel

Shane

Gjinn Lor

Zade patzer

Jeff zelinski

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Google Forms



## Jamie Polley

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**From:** Sue Hytry <shytry113@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 6:23 PM  
**To:** Jamie Polley  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Farm deer damage--Eau Pleine Park

Hello Jamie

I'm glad you emailed, I had intended to email you earlier.

Mike and I thought the hunt went well. It was clearly marked in the BEP to inform people of hunting in the area. From what I heard there were 30 vehicles parked in the BEP opening morning. A friend of ours got a big buck opening morning and said he must of seen 100 deer!

Mike and I spoke with some hunters and they said they were very happy to have the opportunity to hunt in the BEP and for some it was closer to their home. They also said they saw a lot of deer and mentioned the BEP should possibly be opened the same time as regular archery season just in certain areas. We had some hunters who needed to track a deer on our property and were very respectful and asked permission... while talking with them they talked a lot about having the opportunity to hunt in the BEP.

Some horseback riders were concerned about having hunters in the area while riding but I never heard of any issues. While a friend and I were riding, we saw a hunter in his stand. We just waved at each other and rode on.

As for the deer hunting on our property—the hunters filled their tags along with crop damage permits we had.

Mike and I are interested (and will keep you updated) with the number of deer we see this crop season. Hopefully we see a decline in numbers.

Have a wonderful day.

Sue Hytry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 24, 2024, at 9:25 PM, Jamie Polley <Jamie.Polley@co.marathon.wi.us> wrote:

>

> Hi Sue,

> I hope all is well. I know it has been a while since the deer hunting season however, I wanted to check in to see if you have any feedback or insight on how the archery hunt in BEP went this year? Did you see more deer on your property during the hunt instead of them hiding in the park? I know it is too early to tell if there will be less damage to your crops but later this summer I would like feedback on that as well. We only had 4 people fill out our internal survey letting us know what they harvested so we do not have an accurate number for this season. The Park Commission will be reviewing any information we have mid-summer to determine if we offer another archery hunt this year, if we keep it open to all or if we conduct a special hunt by permit only so that we can better track the harvest.

>

> Thank you for any feedback that you might have,

>

> Jamie Polley

> Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director

>

>

>

> 212 River Drive, Suite 2

> Wausau, WI 54403

> (715)261-1554 Office