



# MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, October 1, 2020, 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting Location: **Marathon County Highway Department, 1430 West Street Wausau WI. 54401**

Members: Randy Fifrick, Chair; Sandi Cihlar, Vice-Chair; Chris Dickinson; Jeff Johnson, Richard Gumz, John Robinson; Alan Christensen

**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.

**Infrastructure Committee Mission/Purpose:** Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to technology and infrastructure initiatives of Marathon County, which includes, but is not limited to, highways, airways, waterways, etc.

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Executive Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 408-418-9388. Access Code: 962 376 748- Meeting from phones- PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONE!**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 3, 2020, and September 10, 2020, Infrastructure Committee Meeting.
4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: N/A
5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution or Policy: N/A
6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion
  - A. Central Wisconsin Airport Update (Grefe)
  - B. Accomplishments of the Infrastructure Committee: Strategic Plan (McEwen)
  - C. Broadband Update (Robinson)
  - D. Update on Long-term Transportation Plan
  - E. Presentation on How Wild Parsnips are Handled Throughout the County
  - F. Covid-19 Related IT projects
  - G. City County Information Technology Department Update
  - H. Highway Commissioner's Report
7. Announcements:
  - A. Future meetings and agenda items:
    1. November 5, 2020 Monthly Committee Meeting at 1430 West Street, Wausau WI 54401
8. Adjourn

*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 [infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.*

**SIGNED** /s/ Randy Fifrick

Presiding Officer or Designee

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

FAXED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages,  
 FAXED TO: and Other Media Groups  
 FAXED BY: K Pergolski  
 FAXED DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAXED TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



## MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 3, 2020, 9:00 a.m.  
Marathon County Highway Department, Wausau, WI

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
Randy Ffrrick, Chair	x		
Sandi Cihlar, Vice-Chair	x		
John Robinson	x		
Jeff Johnson	x		
Alan Christensen	x		
Richard Gumz	x		
Chris Dickinson	x		

**Also Present:** James Griesbach, Kevin Lang, Kendra Pergolski, Gerry Klein, Lance Leonhard, Dave Mack, Andrew Lynch, Brian Grefe, Jeff Koppa, Randy Weissenger, Beth Nemec, John Thompson, Pete Weinschek, Norman Barrientos

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Ffrrick at 9:02 a.m.
- 2. Public Comment:** N/A
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the July 3, 2020, Infrastructure Committee Meeting**  
**MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY CHRISTENSEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 3, 2020, INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**
- 4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:**
  - A. Next Steps in Broadband Task Force**  
**Discussion:** The committee discussed how the task force has been developed and whom is on it. They revisited the tasks assigned and discussed the overview of issues. Klein discussed grant opportunities, CARES Act allocations, State vs Federal restrictions and the distribution of unused funds.  
**Action:** N/A  
**Follow through:** N/A
  - B. Motion to Go into Closed Session (Roll Call Vote Suggested), pursuant to s. 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats., for the Purpose of Deliberating or Negotiating the Purchase of Public Properties, the Investing of Public Funds, or Conducting Other Specified Public Business, Whenever Competitive or Bargaining Reasons Require a Closed Session, to Wit: For the purpose of permitting the Committee to compare three possible sites within Marathon County, State of Wisconsin, for possible purchase by the County for future development and to discuss strategy to be employed by administration in negotiating a possible purchase.**  
**Action: MOTION BY FIFRICK, SECOND BY DICKINSON, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION, PURSUANT TO S. 19.85(1)(e), WIS STATS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DELIBERATING OR NEGOTIATING THE PURCHASE OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES, THE INVESTING OF PUBLIC FUNDS, OR CONDUCTING OTHER SPECIFIED PUBLIC BUSINESS, WHENVER COMPETITIVE OR BARGAINING REASONS REQUIRE A CLOSED SESSION TO WIT: FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMITTING THE COMMITTEE TO COMPARE THREE POSSIBLE SITES WITHIN MARATHON COUNTY, STATE OF WISCONSIN, FOR POSSIBLE PURCHASE BY THE COUNTY FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND TO DISCUSS STRATEGY TO BE EMPLOYED BY ADMINISTRATION IN NEGOTIATING A POSSIBLE PURCHASE. ROLL CALL TAKEN. COMMITTEE MEMBER GUMZ ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.**
  - C. Motion to Return to Open Session (No Roll Call Vote Required).**  
**Action: MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY CHRISTENSEN, TO REOPEN CLOSED SESSION. MOTION CARRIED.**

D. Announcements and possible action on matters discussed in closed session

**Discussion:** N/A

**Action:** N/A

**Follow through:** N/A

**5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**

A. Small Purchase Procurement Resolution

**Discussion:** Commissioner Griesbach addressed committee requesting that current small purchase procurement threshold be increased from \$30,000 to \$75,000 and include an automatic escalator at least every five years to account for inflation (resolution mirrors the one passed for the Central Wisconsin Airport).

**Action: MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY JOHNSON, TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION STATING THAT THE MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REQUESTS THAT MARATHON COUNTY CONSIDER CHANGING SEC 3.05(3) OF THE MARATHON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCREASE THE SMALL PURCHASE PROCUREMENT THRESHOLD TO \$75,000 AND INCLUDE AN AUTOMATIC ESCALATOR AT LEAST EVERY FIVE YEARS TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION.**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY JOHNSON, TO AMEND MOTION TO STATE THAT THE MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REQUESTS THAT MARATHON COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES AND FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEES CONSIDER CHANGING SEC 3.05(3) OF THE MARATHON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCREASE THE SMALL PURCHASE PROCUREMENT THRESHOLD TO \$75,000 AND INCLUDE AN AUTOMATIC ESCALATOR AT LEAST EVERY FIVE YEARS TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION. MOTION CARRIED 5-2.**

**Follow through:** N/A

**6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety Marathon County Update

**Discussion:** Randy Wiessinger addressed the committee reporting the year-to-date crash statistics for Marathon County; statewide crashes including fatalities; and predictive analytics.

B. County Road "J" Highway Abandonment, Town of Weston

**Discussion:** Commissioner Griesbach advised the committee that a quit claim deed was prepared in order to convey right-of-way back to adjoining owners which will be signed by Administrator Leonhard.

C. Marathon County Highway Safety Audit

**Discussion:** Commissioner Griesbach updated the committee with the intention of having a report to provide in November.

D. City County Information Technology Department Update

**Discussion:** Report provided.

E. Highway Commissioner's Report

**Discussion:** Report provided.

F. Discussion regarding County Board educational presentation on Implicit/Explicit Bias and institutional/structural discrimination and their impact on Marathon County's ability to achieve its goals (presentation available here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6lxZiSeZJI>)

1. What opportunities do you see to improve our policies and practices to enhance diversity and inclusion and help us meet Objective 3.8 of the Comprehensive Plan?

**Discussion:** Administrator Leonhard reviewed with the committee how the county strives for diversity and inclusion while promoting cultural competence and encouraged everyone to watch presentation available on YouTube.

**7. Announcements:**

A. Future meetings and location, agenda topics  
October 1, 9:00 AM, 1430 West Street, Wausau

**8. Adjourn**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:17AM.**

Minutes prepared

By Kendra Pergolski on September 9, 2020.



## MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m.  
Marathon County Highway Department, Wausau, WI

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
Randy Fifrick, Chair	x		
Sandi Cihlar, Vice-Chair	x		
John Robinson	x		
Jeff Johnson	x		
Alan Christensen	x		
Richard Gumz			x
Chris Dickinson	x		

**Also Present:** James Griesbach, Kevin Lang, Kendra Pergolski, Gerry Klein

- Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Fifrick at 9:02 a.m.
- Public Comment:** N/A
- Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:** N/A
- Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**  
Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution or Policy:
  - 2020 Marathon County Bridge Aid Resolution  
**Discussion:** Commissioner Griesbach addressed the committee regarding the bridges that are subject to repairs in 2021. He briefly explained what the bridge and culvert aid program is, who is eligible and the process on how applications are reviewed.  
**Action:** MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY CIHLAR, TO APPROVE THE 2020 MARATHON COUNTY BRIDGE/CULVERT AID RESOLUTION FOR \$525,000.  
**Follow through:** N/A
- Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:** N/A
- Announcements:**
  - Future meetings and location, agenda topics  
October 1, 9:00 AM, 1430 West Street, Wausau
- Adjourn**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:16AM.**

Minutes prepared  
By Kendra Pergolski on September 20, 2020.

**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**INFRASTRUCTURE GOAL:**

**Objective 8.7: Strive to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed internet access throughout Marathon County**

Strategy	Actionable Item	Contributors	Status	Action
A. Develop a comprehensive approach to county-wide high speed internet including: fiber, copper, powerline, cellular, Wi-Fi, new radio frequencies and other emerging technologies		CCIT, County Administration, Highway, Library, Sheriff's Office		
	a. Developed task force	Infrastructure, CCIT, Library, Administration	Completed	Approved by County Board
	b.			
	c.			
	d.			
	e.			
B. Promote partnerships between carriers/providers and government through MCDEVCO		CCIT, County Administration, Highway, Library, Sheriff's Office		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			
	d.			

**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

C. Develop financial incentives to encourage carriers/providers to commit to helping accomplish this objective in Marathon County		CCIT, County Administration, Highway, Library, Sheriff's Office		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			
	d.			
D. Establish a dig-once policy for county roadway reconstruction and bridge projects that engages providers in a discussion about whether to include conduit for fiber		CCIT, County Administration, Highway, Library, Sheriff's Office		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			
	d.			
	e.			
	f.			

**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

E. Marathon County Government will invite all carriers providing services in Marathon County to present their current coverage, speeds, and costs		CCIT, County Administration, Highway, Library, Sheriff's Office		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			
	d.			
	e.			

**INFRASTRUCTURE GOAL/MISSION:** Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to technology and infrastructure initiatives of Marathon County, which includes, but is not limited to, highways, airways, waterways, etc.

**Objective 10.12: Maintain infrastructure to support economic growth**

Strategy	Actionable Item	Contributors	Status	Action
A. Maintain a safe highway network to provide access to all communities in the county		Central WI Airport, CCIT, CPZ, County Administration, Facilities and Capital Management, Highway		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			

**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Actionable Item</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action</b>
B. Support technology in the workplace, particularly through access to broadband		Central WI Airport, CCIT, CPZ, County Administration, Facilities and Capital Management, Highway		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			
C. Work with municipalities to maintain a competitive inventory of serviced industrial land and office sites		Central WI Airport, CCIT, CPZ, County Administration, Facilities and Capital Management, Highway		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			
D. Provide appropriate access for trucks and employees for all business and industrial park sites		Central WI Airport, CCIT, CPZ, County Administration, Facilities and Capital Management, Highway		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			



**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

E. Pursue federal and state funding to develop a county wide revolving loan to fund to assist communities with cleanup of contaminated sites.		Central WI Airport, CCIT, CPZ, County Administration, Facilities and Capital Management, Highway		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			
F. Secure state and federal funding to maintain infrastructure and support economic growth		Central WI Airport, CCIT, CPZ, County Administration, Facilities and Capital Management, Highway		
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			

**INFRASTRUCTURE GOAL:**

**Objective 12.3: Promote cost-effective public services**

Strategy	Actionable Item	Contributors	Status	Action
A. Support efforts by local municipalities to establish cooperative service and joint facility arrangement		County Administration  All Marathon County Government Departments		
	a.			

## Threats

### Wild parsnip

- Displaces native vegetation
- Decreases biodiversity
- Can cause painful blisters

## History

Wild parsnip was brought to the United States by settlers who valued its edible taproot. Wild parsnip is the same species as cultivated parsnip, but it escaped from the garden long ago. Now wide-spread, wild parsnip is often found where people hike, work, garden and play, making encounters more frequent.

## Range & Habitat

Wild parsnip grows in sunny areas: fence rows, roadsides, uncultivated fields, meadows, woods edges, pastures, prairies and restorations. It is found nationwide, except for a few southeastern states. Wild parsnip prefers rich alkaline soils, but adapts to almost any open upland habitat.

## Warning! Skin Irritant

Be cautious around wild parsnip. Keep away from juices from cut or broken leaves, stems or flower heads. Furocoumarins in the plant juice cause skin to become hypersensitized to sunlight, leading to a painful sun-induced burn-like reaction called phytophoto-dermatitis. Wild parsnip can be

touched safely as long as the stems are not broken, and don't release the sap. Wild parsnip sap is harmless when dry.

Unlike poison ivy, (which causes an allergic reaction) you don't need a previous exposure to be sensitized. People vary in the intensity of their reaction to parsnip, depending on skin color and other factors. Moist, sweaty skin can intensify the reaction. Animals with bare light-colored skin or thin fur may also be affected. Covering exposed skin immediately will prevent the reaction, but the area will remain sensitized for about eight hours.

The 'burn' reaction usually appears a day or two after exposure, and only in places touched by the sap and exposed to the sun. In mild cases, affected skin turns red and feels like a sunburn. In more typical cases, skin reddens, often hurts and forms large blisters. Unlike blisters caused by poison ivy, wild parsnip blisters do not spread.

If blisters develop, cover them with a cool, wet cloth to help relieve pain. Avoid rupturing the blisters for as long as possible, allowing the skin beneath to heal. You can also cover the affected areas with bandages. Keep blistered skin out of the sun to avoid further pain and redness. When blisters rupture, keep the area clean, and if desired, apply an antibiotic cream to prevent infection. If blistering is severe, see a physician. A topical or systemic cortisone steroid may relieve discomfort. As blisters heal, a reddish-brown discoloration will mark the site. These telltale marks can persist for months to several years.



Wild parsnip blisters. Photo by David J. Eagan



Blisters acquired while using a weed whip. Note the lack of blisters where skin was protected by socks. Photo by Steven Zorowski

## Printed References

### BOOKS

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control, by Elizabeth J. Czarapata, University of Wisconsin Press, 2005

## Websites

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW)  
[www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org)

Univ. of Wisc. Extension — Wild parsnip factsheet  
[www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/x1083.pdf](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/x1083.pdf)

Wisconsin DNR — Wild parsnip factsheet  
[dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/parsnip.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/parsnip.htm)

Wisconsin DNR — Invasive plants photo gallery  
[dnr.wi.gov/invasives/photos](http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/photos)

Wisc. Natural Resources magazine — Wild Parsnip  
[www.wnrmag.com/stories/1999/jun99/parsnip.htm](http://www.wnrmag.com/stories/1999/jun99/parsnip.htm)  
[www.wnrmag.com/stories/2000/jun00/parsnip.htm](http://www.wnrmag.com/stories/2000/jun00/parsnip.htm)

Wisc. State Herbarium — Vascular plants search  
[www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/search.asp](http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/search.asp)

Illinois Nat. Hist. Survey - Wild Parsnip Management  
[www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/VMG/parsnip.html](http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/VMG/parsnip.html)

Minnesota DNR — Wild parsnip factsheet  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/wildparsnip.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/wildparsnip.html)

The Nature Conservancy Wild parsnip management  
<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/pastsati.html>

**NOTE: Use pesticides wisely. Always read the product label carefully. Follow all mixing and application instructions. Wear all recommended protective gear and clothing.** Follow directions exactly to protect the environment and people from pesticide exposure. Failure to do so violates the law. References to pesticides and other products are for your convenience and are not an endorsement or criticism of one product over similar products.

## UW-Extension County Offices

Adams: 608-339-4237  
Ashland: 715-682-7017  
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Buffalo: 608-685-6256  
Burnett: 715-349-2151  
Calumet: 920-849-1450  
Chippewa: 715-726-7950  
Clark: 715-743-5121  
Columbia: 608-742-9680  
Crawford: 608-326-0223  
Dane: 608-224-3700  
Dodge: 920-386-3790  
Door: 920-746-2260  
Douglas: 715-395-1363  
Dunn: 715-232-1636  
Eau Claire: 715-839-4712  
Florence: 715-528-4480  
Fond du Lac: 920-929-3170  
Forest: 715-478-7797  
Grant: 608-723-2125  
Green: 608-328-9440  
Green Lake: 920-294-4032  
Iowa: 608-935-0391  
Iron: 715-561-2695  
Jackson: 715-284-4257  
Jefferson: 920-674-7295  
Juneau: 608-847-9329  
Kenosha: 262-857-1945  
Kewaunee: 920-388-7141  
La Crosse: 608-785-9593  
Lafayette: 608-776-4820  
Langlade: 715-627-6236  
Lincoln: 715-536-0304  
Manitowoc: 920-683-4168

Marathon: 715-261-1230  
Marinette: 715-732-7510  
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Oconto: 920-834-6845  
Oneida: 715-365-2750  
Outagamie: 920-832-5121  
Ozaukee: 262-238-8288  
Pepin: 715-672-5214  
Pierce: 715-273-3531  
Polk: 715-485-8600  
Portage: 715-346-1316  
Price: 715-339-2555  
Racine: 262-886-8460  
Richland: 608-647-6148  
Rock: 608-757-5696  
Rusk: 715-532-2151  
St. Croix: 715-684-3301  
Sauk: 608-355-3250  
Sawyer: 715-634-4839  
Shawano: 715-526-6136  
Sheboygan: 920-467-5740  
Taylor: 715-748-3327  
Trempealeau: 715-538-2311  
Vernon: 608-637-5276  
Vilas: 715-479-3648  
Walworth: 262-741-4951  
Washburn: 715-635-4444  
Washington: 262-335-4480  
Waukesha: 262-548-7770  
Waupaca: 715-258-6230  
Waushara: 920-787-0416  
Winnebago: 920-232-1970  
Wood: 715-421-8440

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This brochure was produced by Lisa Johnson, Dane County UW-Extension Horticulture Educator and David J. Eagan, UW-Madison. This brochure was produced under the auspices of the Environmental Working Group of the UW-Extension Urban Horticulture Team.

Copies are available from your county Extension office and the Wisconsin DNR.

Reviewed by: Kelly Kearns, Wisconsin DNR; Dr. John Stier, UW-Horticulture

## Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)



## A Major Threat to Wisconsin's Prairies, Fields and Roadsides

HT 2007 (UWEX Horticulture Team)  
PUB-ER-647 2007 (WI DNR)



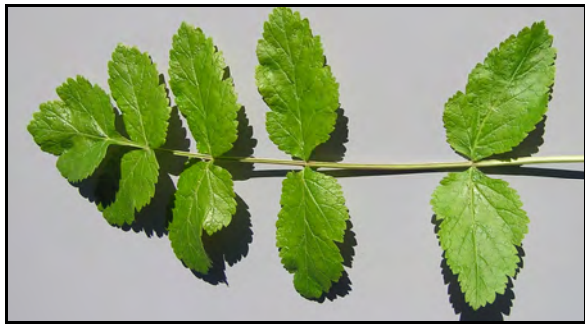
## Identification

**Forms.** Wild parsnip has two growth stages: non-flowering leafy rosettes at ground level and four- to five-foot-tall flowering plants.

**Non-flowering rosettes.** Germinating seeds produce low-growing non-flowering rosettes of leaves the first year. Each rosette is a cluster of spindly, compound leaves that resemble celery leaves.



Rosette of leaves. Photo by David J. Eagan



One compound leaf. Photo by Lisa Johnson

Compound leaves consist of a central stem bearing several pairs of toothed leaflets. A mature rosette has five to 15 leaves, and each leaf is six to 12 inches long. During the first year, the plant develops a large taproot. It may take two to three years for the root to store enough energy to produce a flowering stalk.

**Flowering plants.** A tall, branched flowering stalk appears in the second or third year.

**Flowers.** The flowers are tiny, five-petaled and yellow-green, borne in umbels (flat clusters) atop four- to five-foot-tall leafy stems. Stems are stout, grooved and hollow. Most flowering occurs from early June to mid-July. Umbels are two to six inches across. Primary umbels, the largest, bloom first atop the main stem, followed by secondary and tertiary umbels, blooming 10-14 days later on side branches. With different bloom times, plants can produce seed for a longer period than if all the flowers matured at once. This gives plants a competitive advantage. When flowering ends, plants start to wither and die.



Primary and secondary umbels. Photo by Lisa Johnson



Umbel. Photo by David J. Eagan

**Seeds.** Wild parsnip seeds are oval, one-quarter-inch long and smooth on one side with four horizontal curved “ribs” on the other. They mature in about three weeks, changing from yellow-green to tan in color. Most seeds fall by October in southern Wisconsin. About 1,000 seeds are produced per plant. They require a cold period to germinate, so most sprout in spring. Seeds are viable for about four years.



Wild parsnip seeds. Photo by David J. Eagan

## Spread

Wild parsnip reproduces only by seed. It is spreading in Wisconsin for several reasons. Delaying the regular mowing of roadsides or fields (to accommodate the nesting cycles of grassland birds) allows seeds to mature before mowing occurs. Seeds are also spread inadvertently to new locations on mowers, trucks and other machinery, and in soil used for landscaping and construction and in hay.

Wild parsnip prefers weedy, sunny, disturbed areas. Dense, well-established prairies are less likely to be invaded. However, wild parsnip can infest prairie edges or disturbance areas within prairies. Control methods such as burning and mowing can actually favor the spread of wild parsnip, depending on the treatment and timing. Apply these methods carefully.

## Control Methods

The best way to control wild parsnip is by early detection and eradication. Removing a small or new infestation early will prevent a much larger problem from developing. Regardless of the method used, the goal is to prevent the plants from seeding.

Management practices should be based on the quality of the area, the degree of infestation, and use by people or livestock. In high quality natural areas, eradicate wild parsnip promptly to help preserve the native plant community. Long-term monitoring is a crucial part of any control method used, as seeds in the ‘seed bank’ will continue to germinate for several years.

**Caution.** To avoid getting plant juice on bare skin, wear gloves, long sleeves, long pants, safety glasses and other protective clothing. If contact occurs, immediately wash or cover the area. Working at sundown may be the safest option.

**Hand-digging and pulling.** This method will kill the plant, but is not practical for large infestations. Flowering plants have stout stems and may be pulled, especially when soil is moist after a rain. If seeds are ripening, remove pulled plants from the area to avoid spreading the seeds; they may still ripen even after the plant is uprooted! To dig out wild parsnip, use a narrow shovel, spade or trowel to loosen and uproot them. You may also slice the taproot with a sharp shovel an inch below the root crown and pull up the top of the plant. It should not resprout.



Digging parsnip roots. Photo by Sam Thayer.

**Prescribed burns** Burning will not kill established plants; they will resprout from their taproots. However, fire often kills newly sprouted seedlings. A spring burn clears the

ground and encourages early and vigorous rosette growth as well as seed germination. This allows wild parsnip to be easily spotted, as they are among the first plants to reappear after a fire. Follow all state, county and local ordinances when using fire.

**Mowing.** Mowing flowering plants must be properly timed, or it may lead to a worse infestation. Mowing tends to favor plants in the rosette stage by allowing more sunlight to reach them. It also reduces the density and reproduction of other species that compete with wild parsnip. To control flowering plants, mow after the first umbels flower (usually late June to early July), but before seeds enlarge. At this time, plants have used up most of their energy and often die when cut. Some plants will resprout or flower late, so follow-up mowing or spot-cutting is necessary. Continue mowing for at least five years to exhaust the seed bank. Be especially careful when using mowers, weed whips, mechanical string trimmers and other such devices. They tend to spray users with juice and bits of the plants, leading to redness and sometimes hundreds of blisters on exposed skin. Wear goggles and protective clothing when mowing.

**Chemical controls.** Apply a broadleaf herbicide product to the rosettes, such as one containing triclopyr or 2,4-D. Add a surfactant, if one is not already present, to improve herbicide adherence. Ideally, spray in fall on a warm day after the first frost. This reduces the possibility of harming desirable species. Spray each year until all missed plants and newly germinated plants are eliminated. Always follow herbicide label directions. Use proper personal protective equipment, and keep people and animals out of treated areas as directed.



# Wild Parsnip - A Dangerous Invasive



Photos: Top-Left & Top-Right - David J. Egan, WI DNR  
Center-Left - Joe Boggs, OSU Extension  
Center-Right - Lisa Johnson, UW-Extension  
Bottom-Right - commonsensehome.com



First year plants have non-flowering, leafy rosettes that look a lot like celery (*left.*)

Mature plants produce a single, thick, deeply grooved, greenish-yellow stem up to 5' tall (*center-left*) with flat-topped clusters of yellow flowers 2-6" wide blooming in late spring to mid-summer in Wisconsin (*center-right*)

Seed begins to form mid to late July changing from yellow-green to tan as they mature (*top right.*)



**CAUTION! Plant juices on bare skin in the presence of sunlight can cause rash & blistering (above.)**

(See back for more resources)

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**Wild Parsnip Basics & ID**

UW-Extension

<https://goo.gl/NA6eYo>



**Wild Parsnip Management**

UW-Extension

<https://goo.gl/zVL3u3>



More information on Wild Parsnip is available on the Portage County UW-Extension Website

[www.portage.uwex.edu](http://www.portage.uwex.edu)

*under the Agriculture drop down menu.*

You can also call or stop by your UW-Extension office.

**Portage County Annex Bldg  
1462 Strongs Ave  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 346-1316**

**EddMapS** is a national invasive plant database and mapping tool. Create a free account at [www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org) & begin mapping locations with a mobile device or a desktop computer.



*Our Mission: To bring University of Wisconsin unbiased, research-based educational information to the residents of Portage County.*

University of Wisconsin, United States Department of Agriculture & Wisconsin Counties Cooperating.  
UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment & programming, including Title VI, Title IX and ADA requirements.

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# MARATHON COUNTY

## OFFICE OF HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

1430 WEST STREET  
WAUSAU, WI 54401

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TO: Infrastructure Committee  
FROM: Jim Griesbach  
RE: October Highway Report  
Date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

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We experienced two positive case for Covid-19 within the department. We have also have had another 5 staff members meeting that criteria for being quarantined for 14 days. We currently are working on our winter protocol which will divide our crews up for winter maintenance. This includes protocol which may allow those quarantined without symptoms to plow if needed, this still must of health department approval. We are also working with County Administration on improvements to our shops, such as adding touchless faucets, and toilets and adding a bathroom to one of our Stratford buildings. We are also purchasing equipment to disinfect our equipment if needed. The cost for these improvements will be covered under the Road for Recovery Act.

We are currently in the process of hiring our new Equipment and Facility Supervisor. Second interviews should take place the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>.

I am currently reviewing contracts for the 2022-2025 bridge program. We have selected the firms of AECOM, Ayres, Corre and CBS Squared to perform the work on the 7 structures.

### **Summer project update**

- CTH M Bridge south of CTH P is currently being replaced by contractor forces; completion is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- CTH WW in "Brokaw" is nearing completion; contractor has to finish their work and we have 50' of paving to complete as soon as Railroad flaggers are available; we anticipate completing this in the first week of October.
- Crews will be paving culvert patches and other minor paving patches in October.
- Construction crews are working on a few remaining ditch grading projects for roadways that are planned for paving in future years.
- Mowing crews are finishing a second round of mowing in on the County highways. State highways do not have a second round of mowing planned.
- Culvert aid application for 2021 are being reviewed.
- The Shop is working on assembling two new patrol trucks, routine maintenance and repairs and early preparation for winter plowing equipment.

- Operations staff has divided our staff 14 groups in an effort to isolate staff during the winter months. The efforts are intended to reduce staff impacts in the event we have employees testing positive for COVID 19.
- State crews recently assisted Oneida County crews on USH 51 concrete repairs; work was funded with state monies.

Submitted by

James Griesbach

Highway Commissioner