



MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 10:30am

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

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: 2485 223 4397. When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

Park Commission Members -

Commissioners: Dawn Herbst, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, James Wadinski, Kelly Zagrzebski

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.**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 1, 2022 Park Commission Meeting**
- 4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition Proposal for Maintenance and Improvements at Big Eau Pleine County Park
- 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. Exploratory Mining Article Correction
 - B. Park Update – Campgrounds, Corbin Shooting Range, Marathon Park, Mission Lake Park, Mountain Bay Trail, Nine Mile, Peoples Sports Complex, Big Eau Pleine, Routine Operations/Programs
 - C. Employee Letter to the Editor – Nine Mile Forest and Recreation Area
- 8. Announcements**
 - A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, May 3, 2022 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

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

Date April 1, 2022 Time 2:30 p.m.

By Jodi Luebbe

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

Date _____ Time _____

By _____

AGENDA SUMMARY

4A1. Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition Proposal for Maintenance and Improvements at Big Eau Pleine County Park

Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) has submitted a proposal to make improvements to Big Eau Pleine Park mountain biking trails. Improvements include improving areas of existing trails that have moisture issues and re-routing where wet areas would take significant work to elevate, add trails segments on higher ground to make use of what elevation exists, reconstructing some trails near/between the campgrounds to accommodate younger and beginner adult riders and maintaining rugged primitive feel of all other trails. The goal of the enhancements is to maintain and improve the trails for the next phase of growth in Big Eau Pleine Park.

CWOCC has previously funded the construction and maintenance of trails within Big Eau Pleine as well as Nine Mile and Sylvan Hill Park with the approval of the City and the County. CWOCC is requesting that the County allow them to utilize volunteers and a contractor where needed to make the improvements. The work planned for 2022 would be focused on volunteer items. Where a contractor is needed the County will solicit requests for proposals. The estimated cost of improvements in total is roughly \$100,000-\$180,000 depending on contractor vs volunteer work and how extensive the work becomes. CWOCC is proposing to fundraise for all of the improvements however there are a few items proposed for 2023 and 2024 that benefit the park users as well as bikers that staff may look at requesting or allocating funding for. CWOCC is proposing to complete the enhancements within phases laid out on page 4 of their proposal that is within the agenda packet.

Staff supports the enhancements as proposed. The Park Commission is asked to consider the proposal to enhance the trails at Big Eau Pleine Park and recommend approval of the improvements once funding for the improvements within each phase has been secured.

7A. Exploratory Mining Article Correction

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel recently ran a news story that erroneously inferred that exploratory borings to learn about possible gold content several miles south of the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park could degrade the Eau Claire River and the park. The site where borings have been done in the past is downstream from the park, so it would not be possible for any potential pollutants from the proposed mine site to reach the park, assuming the pollutants would be allowed to escape the site in the first place.

In addition, the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department sent the following correction to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel as well as Wausau Daily Herald, both Gannett news. They both used incorrect information. It has not been confirmed whether they have printed a correction.

Regarding the article posted March 16th, 2022, titled Canadian mining company files papers to conduct exploratory drilling at Bend and Reef Deposits in Wisconsin

Specifically, the paragraph reading:

For the Reef deposit, which is located in Marathon County, the company would also need to apply for a conditional use permit and pay a \$50,000 application fee, in addition to being required to pay for any costs the county incurs while reviewing the permit application.

Marathon County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning would like to submit the following clarification:

Obtaining a Mining Exploration Permit with Marathon County is not a conditional use permit process. A company would complete our Application for Metallic Mining Exploration Permit and submit to our offices for approval or denial by the Zoning Administrator. The fee associated with this particular mining permit is \$500. For clarification mining exploration refers to the on-site geologic examination from the surface of an area by core, rotary, percussion or other drilling, where the diameter of the hole does not exceed 18 inches, for the purpose of searching for nonferrous metallic minerals or establishing the nature of a known nonferrous metallic mineral deposit and includes associated activities such as clearing and preparing sites or constructing roads for drilling.

The conditional use permit process and \$50,000 fee referenced in the 2018 article refers to an application for actual mining operations. At this time, the only application form requested from our office was for a mining exploration permit, and that application has not been turned in to Marathon County.

Other media also picked up the basic story but most did not include the mistaken inference that the county park would be at risk.

This topic is not of direct concern to the Park Commission because it will not affect the park property however, once CPZ receives an application, they will issue a news release and notify/provide updates to the appropriate committees as outlined in Chapter 17 Zoning Ordinance. At this time that Committee will most likely be the Environmental Resources Committee.

7B. Park Updates

Campgrounds:

Cleanup and grading of campground roads and campsites are underway.

Corbin Shooting Range:

We have grant money to upgrade the archery portion of the shooting range. To date, we have been constructing new target holders and a two-platform shooting tower to safely accommodate elevated practice.

Marathon Park:

Ice is out of both rinks. Boats and campers are available for pickup. An RFP for the cattle barn roofs was received and accepted. The contractor will be Wausau Roofing and Siding.

Mission Lake Park:

An RFP for the roadway and parking lot paving was received and accepted. The contractor will be American Asphalt.

Mountain Bay Trail:

Brushing of low hanging vegetation was completed at the Mountain Bay Trail.

Nine Mile:

One of the two electric services for the lighted loop failed near the end of ski season. This service will be repaired as soon as the ground has sufficiently thawed.

People's Sports Complex:

Due to the settling of the landfill, the concession/restroom building has heaved asphalt around the perimeter. The asphalt has been removed and temporarily replaced with road base.

Big Eau Pleine:

Firewood processing at Big Eau Pleine is over half complete. We have processed the 75 cords for the year and are now working on processing a new delivery of firewood. We anticipate 125+ cords to be processed within the next month in preparation for camping season.

Routine Operations/Programs:

Snow Removal Operations

Firewood Processing

Urban forestry program: Regular tree maintenance, small pruning

Building and structure maintenance.

Equipment maintenance and repair

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: March 1, 2022 at 10:30am Location: Room 5, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Jean Maszk-(via-webex), Pat Peckham-(via webex), Rick Seefeldt, Kelly Zagrzebski-(via webex)

Excused: Allen Opall, James Wadinski

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Director, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director of Community Services, Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations

1. Call to Order – Vice-President Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:30am. 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 February 1, 2022 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Peckham, second by Mask to approve the February 1, 2022 meeting minutes with the change to the sentence under 7A.-Town of Rib Mountain Deer Population Update, “Polley said the Town of Rib Mountain has taken the lead on putting together an educational campaign for their residents on why not to feed the deer and some options available for reducing the deer population”, should be changed to read “Polley said the Town of Rib Mountain has taken the lead on putting together an education campaign *for residents explaining why they should not feed the deer* and some options available for reducing the deer population”. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

Due to technical difficulties, Zagrzebski wasn’t able to join the meeting until the Lake Wausau Project Proposal discussion.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Lake Wausau Project Proposal – ADA Kayak Launch at DC Everest Park – Polley said the Lake Wausau Association (LWA) has submitted a proposal to install an ADA kayak launch at DC Everest Park for public use. LWA and donors will fund the purchase of the kayak launch and donate it to the County upon installation. LWA is requesting the Park Department take care of future annual removal and installation of the kayak launch as well as future maintenance and repairs. LWA also requests the County pave a sidewalk path directly to the kayak launch from the existing sidewalk path running parallel to the lake. The Department currently maintains the same kayak launch at Riverlife Park and taking that one in and out is not an easy task. It is anticipated that the DC Everest Park launch will be easier to take in and out due to the low current in the proposed area. Currently staff cannot anticipate at this time when a connection from the trail to the launch can be installed, however they can complete this request as time and staff allows. If Commission supports this request, it should be contingent upon the LWA signing a Memorandum of Understanding. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Herbst to approve the Lake Wausau Project Proposal for an ADA Kayak Launch at DC Everest Park contingent upon the Lake Wausau Association signing a Memorandum of Understanding. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Park Facility Roofing Color and Material – Polley explained that the County parks currently have a number of buildings with roofs that are traditionally red. The Department is finding it more difficult to acquire the “Cottage Red” shingles for the facilities. Staff questions how critical it is to have the same color at all the parks or if they can have discretion to go to some other earth tone shingle color if necessary. Also, staff questions if the Commission is opposed to installing metal roofing material in lieu of asphalt shingles. The upfront cost of metal is higher, but the increased life span of metal roofing is desirable. Sims gave an update that staff was able to purchase four pallets of the cottage red color, however the color is discontinued. There is a like product color that will be available and is a thicker, more expensive shingle. Maszk would like the color scheme in a particular area or park to be consistent and also was in favor of metal if it was more cost effective in the long run. Polley explained that at Marathon Park where the roofs are all in close proximity they will stay with a like color. Sims explained that the metal roofs would be more for the enclosed buildings than the open shelters to preserve the integrity of what’s inside. Discussion followed. Polley clarified that Commission wanted to stay with the similar colors they have now so that the buildings stay fairly uniform. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Herbst to give staff discretion on prioritizing where metal roofs should go, but not have metal roofs at Marathon Park and to try to stay consistent color wise within a park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

3. Park Hand Pump Well Replacement Options – Polley explained that currently there are some hand pump wells in the parks that are getting to the end of their life and/or also to the end of the replacement part supplies the department has for

them. A couple of options are to take them out entirely, replace them with a new similar style of pump, or put in a more modernized submersible pump with drinking fountains and jug fillers. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Maszk to replace the hand pumps with the new similar style hand pumps that have the drinking fountain feature if it's available. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

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

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Timber Sale Closeout: Flannel Fleet Logging – Contract #706-21 – Polley explained this timber sale in the Big Eau Pleine Park was finished and the contractor did a good job. 2,299.19 tons were cut and the revenue was \$42,432.6. Polley's recommendation is to return the contractor's Letter of Credit following final payment of \$2,432.68. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Herbst to close out Flannel Fleet Logging contract #706-21 and return their Letter of Credit upon final payment. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

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

1. Restructuring 0.75 FTE Motorized Recreation Coordinator to 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator – Polley explained that the current position will be vacant as the Coordinator has taken a full-time position elsewhere. Staff would like to change the position to a 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator that would oversee the motorized recreation program in the winter as well as recreation programs, mostly aquatic related, in the summer. Currently there is only one full-time recreational professional on staff and there has been a push to increase recreation on both the County and the City side. Eventually long term Polley sees the need for these positions to become separate and have a full-time recreation person and a part-time trail coordinator. Polley will be taking this item to the City Park and Recreation Committee next week. There is no proposed change to the 2022 or 2023 budget. Funding will be available in the 2022 budget for the additional 0.25 FTE portion of this position due to the vacancy of 2 FTE positions at the beginning of this year. In 2023 the additional 0.25 FTE will be funded through the reduction of a part-time aquatic position and increased revenue. If programs can be added, more revenue will be generated and also through sponsorships, and events that are charged which will help offset the position over time. At Peckham's request, staff will reach out to the Marathon Swim Center to see if there is any opportunity for offering something there. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Herbst to support the request of restructuring the 0.75 Motorized Recreation Coordinator to 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

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

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Park Update - Big Eau Pleine: Firewood processing at Big Eau Pleine is over half complete. We have processed the 75 cords for the year and are now working on processing a new delivery of firewood. We anticipate 125+ cords to be processed within the next month in preparation for camping season. People's Sport Complex: MC United has grown in numbers again this year. Due to this growth, overflow to Brockmeyer and Airport Parks is now a regular occurrence. Nine Mile: Skiing and snowshoeing is consistent, even with a minimal snow base. Mountain Bay Trail: Crews have been working on trail maintenance, predominantly trees and branches contacting the snowmobile groomers. Marathon Park: Tube (radiant) heaters in rink #1 have been installed and are operational. This was an excellent change to the rink with positive feedback from users. Painting in the lobby and hallway of MPB is nearing completion. Rink #2 ice removal begins on 2/27, Rink #1 ice removal begins on 3/13. Boats and campers can be picked up starting 3/17. Routine Operations/Programs: Snow removal operations, firewood processing, building and structure maintenance, equipment maintenance and repair. Urban Forestry Program: regular tree maintenance and small pruning.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm 5, Wausau WI 54403. Andy Sims received an Urban Forestry award for wood utilization and partnerships under his previous job as City Forester. Polley explained that she will be notifying local municipalities in the future in all cases when the Department is purchasing land as an issue had come up at a recent County Board meeting.

B. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

9. Adjourn – Motion by Peckham, second by Herbst to adjourn at 11:40am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

Big Eau Pleine County Park—Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance and Improvements

Mountain biking at Big Eau Pleine County Park dates back to 2004 when local mountain bikers tied with the Wausau Wheelers bike club were looking for alternative places to ride after Nine Mile trails were closed down each fall. Big Eau Pleine park was offered as an alternative trail location due to it's significant size and that it is a county park rather than forest unit like Nine Mile. The first trails were developed near the north parking lot in 2004. Trail use and further construction languished for several years with Nine Mile receiving the most rider attention due to it's closer proximity to Wausau. When CWOCC was formed in 2012 trail building was reinvigorated with new trail corridor built bringing the total mileage up to approximately 10 miles.

Overall goals of the maintenance and improvement project:

- Improve areas on existing trails that have moisture issues and reroute where wet areas would take significant work to elevate to keep dry
- Add trail segments on higher ground to make use of what elevation exists within the park.
- Reroute sections of trail to accommodate future disc golf expansion.
- Machine reconstruct some trails near/between the campgrounds to accommodate younger and beginner adult riders.
- Maintain rugged primitive feel of all other trails within the park.

CWOCC looks forward to the continued partnership with the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. Outlined below is CWOCC's master proposal for trail maintenance and improvements for the next phase of growth at Big Eau Pleine County Park.





CENTRAL WISCONSIN OFFROAD CYCLING COALITION

Trail plan description (reference map on page 3)

Acorn Loop

1. Fully machine construct Acorn Loop near West Campground.
 - Extend loop to 1.25 miles in length flow based trail. Beginner level surface and gradients
 - Create alternate b-lines utilizing existing rock for challenge features

Dust Bowl

2. Re-route trail to west side of park road to avoid low wet area. Add trail parallel to Giant Hardwoods state natural area to connect to multiuse trail. Intermediate level trail surface.
3. Re-work existing corridor from road crossing to top of hill. Re-route southern segment of trail to utilize more hillside elevation. Will cross multiuse trail near park road and descend down to Eagle Point trail. Intermediate level trail with rock texture and features where possible.
4. Re-Route upper segment of Dust Bowl trail to avoid future disc golf course expansion area. Intermediate level trail surface, machine or hand construction. Maintain rocky texture in trail surface where possible.
5. New trail segment running along ridge to east point and looping back. Approx. 1 mile of new trail construction. Machine construct with mix of hand build, maintain rock within trail tread where possible.

Popcorn

6. Machine updates to portions of existing trail on segment leaving from parking lot and also on hillside south of pond. Improve drainage and trail tread durability where needed.
7. Add loop along ridge. 0.6 miles in length. Mainly hand build with light machine work where needed.

Dharma

8. Machine updates to portions of existing trail. Improve drainage and trail tread durability where needed.
9. Seven (7) new segments of trail to change directionality and flow of Dharma trail and utilize more of the elevation and rocky terrain available in that space. Improve tread outslope for winter grooming. Machine construct, maintain advanced rocky terrain, 1 mile of new trail construction combined from all seven segments.
10. Extension of Dharma trail on north side. Extend to utilize more slope (downhill) and access to large boulders for challenge features. 700' new construction.
11. Machine rebuild intermediate level entrance.

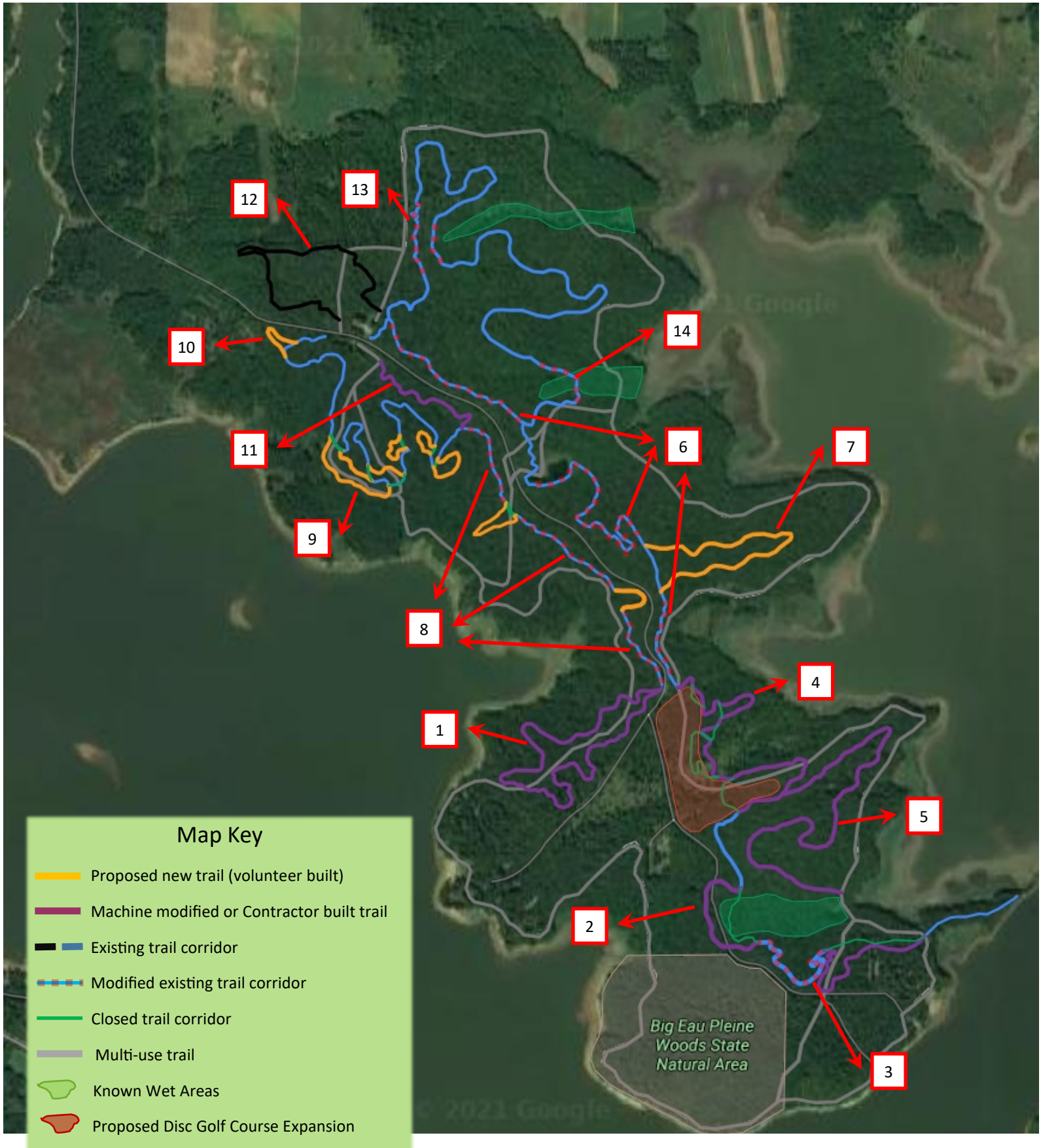
Prudential

12. Rock work in most challenging portion of trail. Add alternate lines with raised wooden bridges connecting to large boulders. Approx. 650' of new trail construction.

Blockbuster

13. Rework low segments for proper drainage, reclaim northern section of trail. (volunteer build)
14. Rebuild rock causeway. (volunteer or contractor build).

Highlight = 2022 Proposed



Big Eau Pleine County Park—Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance and Improvements—Implementation Timeline

Numbers listed below correspond to numbered segments on the map (page 3).

2022 Late Summer/Fall

- #2—Reroute Dustbowl (volunteer)
- #3—Updates to south Dustbowl (contractor pending funding)
- #4—Reroute north Dustbowl for disc golf expansion (contractor pending funding)
- #6—Machine updates to Popcorn (volunteer)
- #8—Machine updates to Dharma (volunteer)
- #14—Reconstruct rock causeway (volunteer or contractor pending funding)

2023 Summer/Fall

- #1—Machine build Acorn loop (contractor)
- #5—Add new 1 mile segment on Dust Bowl (contractor)
- #9—Add new segments to Dharma loop (volunteer or contractor)
- #10—Add new extension to Dharma loop (volunteer)

2024 Summer/Fall

- #11—Rebuild intermediate Dharma entrance (volunteer or contractor)
- #12—Rock work on Prudential (volunteer or contractor)
- #13—Rework low spots Blockbuster (volunteer or contractor)
- #7—Add alternate loop extension to Popcorn trail. (volunteer)



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Wausau Pilot & Review

OPINION

Your letters: Readers sing praises of Nine Mile

March 29, 2022



Letters TO THE Editor

 English




Dear editor,

Recently, the Nine Mile Recreational Area was closed for cross country skiing and snowshoeing on Red Bud Road off of Highway NN.

My husband and I have worked at the chalet for the last two seasons. We have had the opportunity to meet new people from our area as well as many from southern Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. Others came from California, Texas and as far away as Poland.

There are the dedicated regulars that have become our friends and others that came to visit the ski area after taking a break from business conferences or training.

 English



We're Hiring
Direct Support Professionals!

WHY HIL?

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Great Benefits!

Be Part of Something Bigger!

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Many skiers come to train for the Birkie, which is the largest cross country ski race in North America. This race takes place in the Cable and Hayward area and hosts about 11,000 skiers and 40,000 spectators yearly.

Some families will take downhill skiers to Granite Peak and then come to Nine Mile for a more relaxing ski, although, there are challenging runs for the more advanced classic or skate skiers.

We are grateful to have worked with Brad, our operational manager, Jason and Andy, our groomers, Glen, Larry and Pam, our co-workers and the dedicated Wausau Nordic Ski members who put in countless volunteer hours teaching young and skiers of all ages the best techniques of cross country skiing.

Co to  English Area next season and check out the web opportunities in this year round outdoor venue.



Wausau Pilot & Review

Barb and Dan Parlier of Marathon City

Editor's note: Wausau Pilot & Review gladly publishes commentary from readers, residents and candidates for local offices. The views of readers and columnists are independent of this newspaper and do not necessarily reflect the views of Wausau Pilot & Review. To submit, email editor@wausaupilotandreview.com or mail to 500 N. Third St., Suite 208-8, Wausau, Wis. 54403.



English

