

## AGENDA

Eau Claire County

### • Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, January 9, 2023

5:00 pm

*Room AG 103 and 104*

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m5dc03265006bdbf723439b894474ba28>

MEETING NUMBER (ACCESS CODE): 2594 911 1558 MEETING PASSWORD: DtvgmJ6J4q3

JOIN BY MOBILE DEVICE OR PHONE: [+1-415-655-0001,25949111558##](tel:+1-415-655-0001,25949111558) US Toll

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Winnie Parker at [Winnie.parker@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Winnie.parker@eauclairecounty.gov) at least 60 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person and 30 minutes maximum for the public comment period.

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice
2. Roll Call
3. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes - **Discussion/Action**
  - a. December 12, 2022
4. Public Comment
5. Mountain bike skills area at Lowes Creek Park presentation - **Discussion/Action**
6. Awards for service - **Discussion/Action**
7. Adopting the 2023 Annual Work Plan for the Parks and Forest Department to comply with the County Forest Administration Grant Program (Resolution attached, fact sheet attached, and 2023 draft Work Plan attached) - **Discussion/Action**
8. 2023 Emergency Fire Warden list - **Discussion/Action**
9. Discussion on safety on portions of trails in Lowes Creek and Tower Ridge- **Discussion/Action**
10. Eau Claire County Master Park Plan update- **Discussion/Action**
11. Director's Report
12. Future Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion  
*Next Meeting – February 13, 2023, at 5 pm*
13. Adjourn

Prepared by Winnie Parker, Parks & Forest

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710 (FAX) 8391669 or (TDD) 8394735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

## MINUTES

Eau Claire County

### • Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, December 12, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Location: Lake Eau Claire Park  
E19230 County Road SD – Augusta, WI 54722

Members Present: Joe Knight, Missy Christopherson, Jodi Lepsch, Tami Schraufnagel, Dane Zook

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, Kathryn Schauf – County Administrator, Nick Smiar – Ex Officio, Jacob Tumm – EC County Forester, Todd Johnson – Maintenance Technician, Tom Mayer – Lake Eau Claire Park Ranger, Corey Henrich – Maintenance Technician, Chris Silewski - Ayers and Associates, Members of the Public: Peter Crooker, James Tumm, Joe Kirst, Mike Lea,

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#### Call to Order Committee on Parks & Forest and confirmation of meeting notice

Chairman Knight called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

#### Review of November 14, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes

Missy Christopherson moved to approve the minutes from November 14, 2022, as written. All in favor.

#### Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

#### Public hearing on proposed 2023 capital improvement plan for Lake Eau Claire Clubhouse -

Those in attendance representing the public made comments regarding the plans to renovate Lake Eau Claire Clubhouse by stripping the structure leaving only the main supports and stone fireplace, its longstanding usage in the community, understanding the Clubhouse's limitations and issues, and the merits of having a covered roof.

#### Presentation of Draft Eau Claire County Master Park Plans by Chris Silewski of Ayres

Chris Silewski of Ayers and Associates presented the overarching view of the master plan, which is "connecting people through the park system throughout the year." He briefly highlighted the focus for each park, spoke about the data collected from differing demographics, and explained the timeline for the completion of the Master Park Plan. Dane Zook moved to further discuss what was presented at the January 9, 2023, meeting. All in favor.

#### Fall 2022 Timber Sale Bids

2022 Timber Sale Bid Opening was December 9, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. Of the nine (9) bids presented, seven (7) were new bids and two (2) were repeated bid sales, eight (8) were sold. There is currently a strong market and nine (9) different loggers placed bids on sales whose total value is \$752,879. Jodi Lepsch moved to accept the 2022 Timber Bid Sale as presented. All in favor.

**Cross Country Skiing policy at Tower Ridge during gun deer season**

The Committee discussed the safety of the multi-use area of Tower Ridge specifically during gun season and the need to enhance the county code. Joe Knight moved to change the code, so Tower Ridge and Evergreen ski trails are closed during the nine (9) days of deer rifle season only. All in favor.

**Director's Report**

Director Pedersen made introductions of existing staff and new hires of Corey Henrich, Maintenance Technician and Sarah Christensen – Lake Altoona Park Ranger, discussed the Park Master Plan, and spoke about looking into skijoring at Lowes Creek.

**Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion**

Next Parks & Forest committee meeting date is set for January 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment**

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Winnie Parker  
Committee Clerk  
Administrative Specialist III



# Mountain Bike Skills Area

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at Lowes Creek County Park

## Proposal to install a mountain bike skills area at Lowes Creek County Park

For over a decade the mountain biking community in Eau Claire has talked about putting a skills practice area at Lowes Creek. With big increases in youth involvement, changing expectations of trail systems, and commitments from key local organizations, the time is right to bring this idea to fruition.



# What is a mountain bike skills area?

- ▶ An area of trails and constructed “technical trail features” (TTFs) designed to challenge mountain bikers and improve their skills.
- ▶ Fun, while still being challenging, for a wide range of ages and abilities.
- ▶ Might include wood features, rock gardens, dirt berms, jumps, pump track
- ▶ A place for users to socialize and practice the sport, like a golf driving range or neighborhood basketball court.
- ▶ Becoming more and more common at trail systems throughout country





## How is a skills area different from the bike trails already at Lowes?

- ▶ Focus on skills practice & play
- ▶ More condensed, allowing for sections to be re-ridden multiple times or tied together in multiple ways. Not point-to-point.
- ▶ Constructed features – rather than naturally occurring – allow for control over safety and challenge, lower maintenance
- ▶ Provides multiple levels of difficulty in one place, allowing families and groups to ride together.
- ▶ Close to trailhead and park amenities, becoming a focal point, gathering area, and meeting spot for users.

# Examples of skills area features



HEALTH EXERCISE OUTDOORS



NATURAL +  
MAN-MADE



SKILLS  
PRACTICE



SAFE  
CONTROLLED  
ENVIRONMENT



ALL AGES  
BEGINNER  
TO ADVANCED



GATHERING PLACE



TOURISM  
& PARK USAGE



PROGRESSIVE CHALLENGE





# Why create a mountain bike skills area?

- ▶ Youth cycling is the fastest growing sport in Wisconsin (per Office of Outdoor Recreation).
- ▶ Wisconsin Interscholastic Cycling League had 1807 high school & middle school mountain bikers
- ▶ Youth bike programs bring 100-200 kids to Lowes each week in summer.
- ▶ Adult ridership increases as kids join and options like e-bikes become popular
- ▶ Parks are offering more features, challenges, and “epic” experiences; and Eau Claire is falling behind
- ▶ Skills areas let riders learn skills in a controlled environment, so they can safely carry those skills into the wild
- ▶ SAFETY: Features and landing areas can be designed to minimize risk; teaches proper techniques
- ▶ COMMUNITY: Creates a space for friends and family to gather, pass along knowledge, cheer each other
- ▶ PUBLIC HEALTH: Gets more people outdoors and active, improving confidence, fitness, mental health
- ▶ FINANCIAL IMPACT: Increases park pass revenue, draws tourists, attracts talent
- ▶ VISIBILITY: Highly photogenic space helps build awareness of Eau Claire County’s amenities and attractions in traditional and social media



# OPTION 1

## West (Lowes Creek Rd) trailhead

### PROS:

- ▶ Proximity to trailhead and parking
- ▶ Desired mix of open and wooded
- ▶ Area of old trail in need of revitalization; would not affect existing trails
- ▶ Toilets, pavilion, e-payment kiosk
- ▶ Not affected by Expo Center events

### CONS:

- ▶ Amenities not as nice as Expo side
- ▶ Smaller parking area
- ▶ Not as convenient to major roads and businesses
- ▶ Not as accessible to youngest bike program riders



# OPTION 2

## East (Expo Center) trailhead

### PROS:

- ▶ Proximity to trailhead and parking
- ▶ Proximity to major roads and businesses
- ▶ Proximity to meeting locations of youth bike programs
- ▶ Larger, more modern amenities (pavilion, toilets, potable water)
- ▶ Typically, more parking space than west trailhead

### CONS:

- ▶ Dense woods, requiring tree removal and higher prep costs
- ▶ Need to re-route existing trail sections
- ▶ Access affected by some Expo Center events
- ▶ Potential for encroachment by other users/landowners?





# Preference for Option 1

West (Lowes Creek Rd) trailhead

- ▶ Less tree removal, less site prep = less impact, lower cost
- ▶ Trailhead facilities accessible 365 days/year
- ▶ Almost no effect on existing trails
- ▶ More "integrated" with trailhead and facilities

# How?

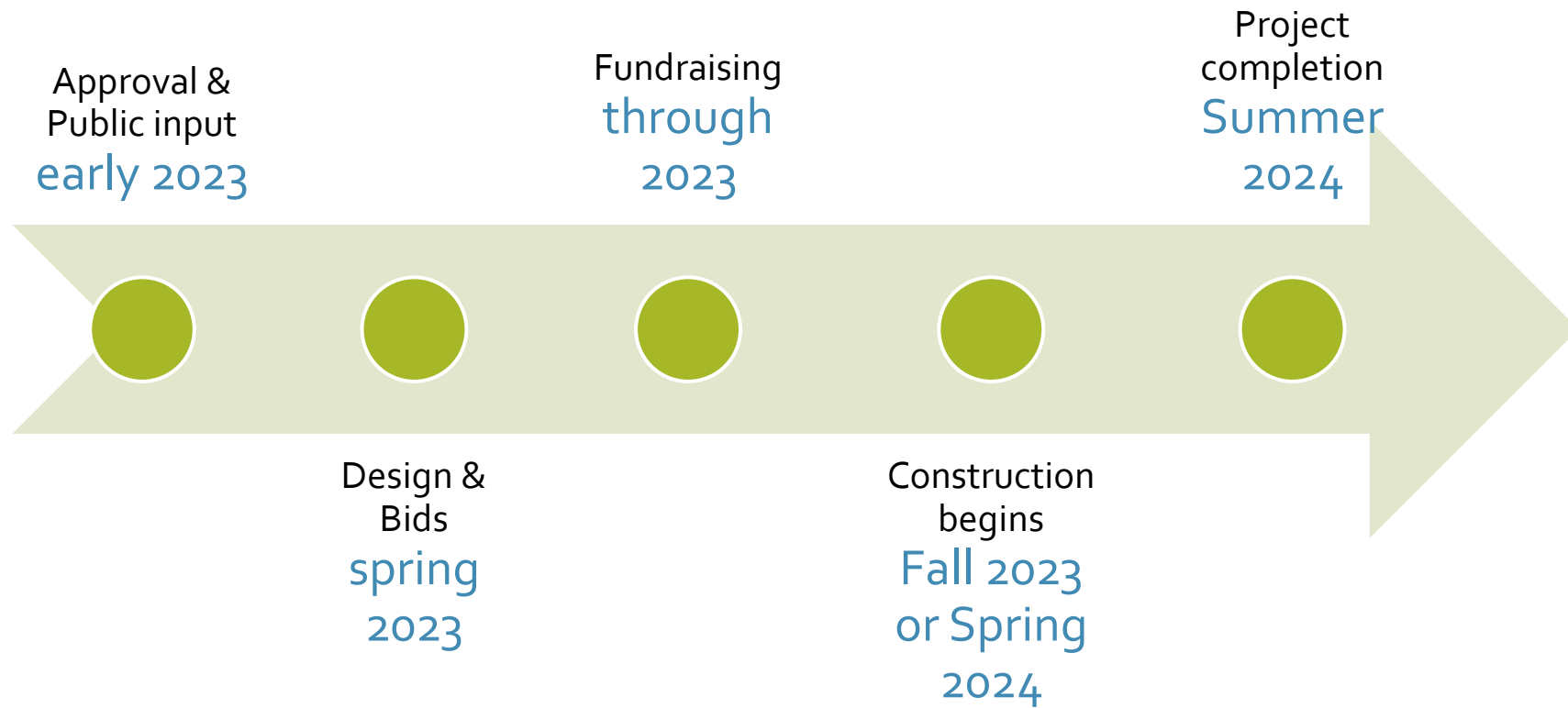
- ▶ Design by professional trail designer with experience designing bike skills parks
- ▶ Construction by a mix of professional trail building crew and local volunteers
- ▶ Cost: Depending on final plan, \$50-150K
- ▶ Fundraising through various channels
  - ▶ Grants
  - ▶ Cash sponsorships and donations
  - ▶ In-kind contributions of materials and equipment
  - ▶ Events
  - ▶ Government funds?

# Who?

Local organizations coming together as a coalition for fundraising, project management, volunteer recruitment, and ongoing maintenance

- ▶ CORBA
- ▶ Eau Claire Youth Cycling Inc
- ▶ Volume One
- ▶ Other youth bike programs, outdoor organizations, area businesses, etc.
- ▶ Eau Claire County


# Projected Timeline



# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON TRAIL SAFETY

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*"Technical Trail Features -- better known as TTFs -- can sometimes be the difference between an okay trail and a great trail. As riders, we're always looking for new features to push our abilities..."*

- from Trailforks.com, a popular website used by mountain bikers to locate and rate trails

# The Situation

Technical Trail Features (TTFs) are already out there. Mountain biking has always been an "adrenaline" sport in which participants challenge themselves and push their personal limits. This leads trail designers to build more technical difficulty into trails and TTFs. You can find numerous TTFs on the trails around Eau Claire, from small log rollovers to a 15-foot-high drop that launches you clear over another trail. What Eau Claire doesn't have, though, is a dedicated place for riders to safely practice the skills required to ride these features.



A mountain biker rides off a "drop" feature at Eau Claire's Pinehurst Park.

# Skills Areas and Safety

Like the terrain parks featured at most downhill ski & snowboard resorts now (and some XC ski parks, such as Tower Ridge), mountain bike skills areas take the riskier aspects that already exist within the sport and place them in a controlled environment where risks can be better managed. As an added benefit, they provide a place where riders can improve their skills and ride other trails more safely.

- Skills areas provide progressive challenges, offering easier features for beginners to learn on before moving up to the next level features.
- Constructed skills area features -- as opposed to naturally occurring obstacles -- can be designed and constructed with safety in mind, providing predictable riding surfaces, unobstructed landing/fall areas, appropriate pitches, etc.
- Skills areas typically have signage directing beginner, intermediate, and advanced riders to the features appropriate for their skill level.
- Skills areas are typically located at or near a trailhead, allowing easier access for emergency services in the event of serious injury.
- The compact nature of a skills area and its proximity to the trailhead makes it easier to do regular inspections and maintenance on the features.

# Thank You

Questions?

Contact [jereme@ecyc.team](mailto:jereme@ecyc.team)



## Some additional notes on mountain bike skills areas and the topic of safety:

Per Trailforks.com (a popular website used by mountain bikers to locate and rate mountain bike trails), *"Technical Trail Features -- better known as TTFs -- can sometimes be the difference between an okay trail and a great trail. As riders, we're always looking for new features to push our abilities, whether it's [sic] made of dirt, wood, or rock..."*

Technical Trail Features are out there. Mountain biking has always been an "adrenaline" sport in which participants challenge themselves and push their personal limits. This leads trail designers to build more technical difficulty into trails and TTFs. In the Eau Claire area, you can find a number of TTFs on the trails, from small log rollovers to a 15-foot-high drop that launches you over another trail. What Eau Claire doesn't have, though, is a dedicated place for riders to safely practice the skills required to ride these features.

Skills areas are becoming more and more common in the sport of mountain biking. Like the terrain parks featured at most downhill ski & snowboard resorts now (and some XC ski parks, such as Tower Ridge), they take the riskier aspects that already exist within a sport and move them to a controlled environment where risks can be better managed. As an added benefit, they provide a place where riders can improve their skills and ride other trails more safely.

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- The compact nature of a skills area and its proximity to the trailhead makes it easier to do regular inspections and maintenance on the features.
- A controlled area to safely learn and practice skills will create more competent riders who are less likely to experience crashes and injury in the field.

## How to improve trail safety? Develop safe trail users.

Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing youth sports in the country. In 2022, over 1,800 middle and high school students were on National Interscholastic Cycling Associate bike teams in Wisconsin alone. As part of NICA, each of these teams is required to be led by a group of coaches trained and certified in safety and risk management. Safety is a top priority of NICA and a big part of the curriculum used to coach student athletes.

Eau Claire Youth Cycling organizes the local NICA team and commits each season to running a program focused on trail safety.

- We present risk management as *the* most important job of coaches and volunteers.
- Helmets are required for every athlete and coach any time they are on a bike.
- Athletes are taught to get off their bike and scout unfamiliar technical trail features before riding them
- Athletes are taught to check their bikes before every ride, to ensure they're safe to ride.
- Athletes are taught trail etiquette and right-of-way in the presence of other trail users.
- Athletes are taught basic skills (safe braking and cornering, looking ahead, body position, etc.) before being allowed to progress to more difficult trails.
- Athletes are taught to ride in control and within their abilities.
- Each athlete is required to abide by the NICA Student Athlete Code of Conduct, which focuses mainly on safe and responsible riding.

Kids and coaches that participate in organized youth bike programs are safer riders. One of the best ways to improve safety on local trails is to support organizations like these and ensure they have places to ride where knowledge and skills can be best developed.

Jereme Rauckman  
Director  
Eau Claire Youth Cycling Inc  
jereme@ecyc.team

# 2023 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PARKS AND FOREST DEPARTMENT WORK PLAN

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE OBJECTIVES

(Accomplished primarily by director, supervisor, parks and programs manager, and administrative specialist)

### A. ITEMS:

- Continue implementation of reforestation plan for the county forest
- Continue department Facebook page for interacting with the public
- Establish date, advertise, and coordinate free ski day at Tower Ridge Recreation Area with Ski Striders
- Coordinate June 3-4 "Open House" free access, National Trails Day in parks (first Saturday in June annually),
- Maintenance agreement with Ski Striders for Tower Ridge Recreation Area chalet
- Contact Boy Scouts or other group to consider involvement with camping development/Adopt-A-Park agreement for L.L. Phillips Park
- Utilize UWEC and CVTC student interns/Service-Learning students on various projects (including park surveys, tallying, etc.)
- Coordinate volunteer efforts including Adopt-A-Park projects: Coon Fork and Harstad with Augusta Area Schools students; Lowes Creek Park with area scouting groups and Lowes Creek trails with CORBA; Big Falls Park with UW-EC student organizations; Lake Altoona Park with Ski Sprites; Tower Ridge with Ski Striders, Chippewa Valley Disc Golf Organization and Chippewa Valley Trailriders; secure adopt-a-park group for Lake Eau Claire Park; Guettinger Woods & Wildlife Area with The Adventurers 4-H Club; and the Augusta ATV Club for ATV trails, including litter pick up and minor maintenance.
- Promote use of Guettinger Woods hiking/snowshoe trails through The Adventurers 4-H Club
- Attend WPR and WCFA meetings as necessary
- By January 31 forward 2023 work plan and director's wages and fringe benefit costs to DNR to be eligible for forest administration grant
- By April 15 make annual application to DNR for ATV and snowmobile trails maintenance and development
- By May 1 apply to DNR for cost sharing any qualifying park development projects (Stewardship funds)
- By December 15 apply to DNR for County Conservation Aids
- Review county code for annual updating
- Monitor and report to committee on eleventh year for free skiing at Tower Ridge on Monday nights in January and February 2023 for continuation
- Spot check CVDGO disc golf tournaments at Tower Ridge to assure all vendors are paying fees to county
- Assess/initiate opportunities for energy conservation and reducing costs relating to electricity use, vehicle use, heating, cooling, and other energy uses at all locations and operations
- Review old files and put them in compliance with County Code regarding record retention

### B. ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS (for Director and Administrative Specialist positions):

Administration of recreation area entrance fees including sales, receipting revenues including new park kiosks, compliance checks, issuance and handling of violation notices, notice to Sheriff's Dept. for suspension of vehicle registration for unpaid fines; purchase equipment/supplies per budget (writing specifications, pricing, bidding); drafting and sending of news releases; spring and fall timber sales and fall firewood brochures and advertisements; contracted service bids/quotes for garbage pickup, campground firewood, septic pumping, ice vending; timber stand improvement work; recruit for seasonal positions; encourage park attendants to get hepatitis B shots from Health Department; timber sales record keeping, extensions, marketing, supervision; schedule and conduct quarterly staff meetings; coordination of staff training opportunities; apply for and process reimbursement claims for state/federal funding including park development, snowmobile trails maintenance (#S-5741/\$54,360), ATV/UTV trails maintenance (#ATV-4482-summer/\$19,824.53; #ATV-4523-winter/\$2,051; #ATV-4549T-troutes/\$816.72), and County Conservation Aids (#CC22-18WH/ \$6,726); conduct summer park user surveys at Coon Fork, Lake Altoona, and Lake Eau Claire parks; develop 2024- budget and work plan; recruit for Advisory Committee members (April); tally camping statistics and park user surveys (November); land acquisition contacts and negotiations as directed by Committee on Parks & Forest; consider alternative ATV route in Fairchild to try to get out from payment to Union Pacific Railroad for ATV trail lease (November); coordinate random drug testing for employees; update ski and snowmobile trail conditions on phone message, Facebook and Travel Wisconsin website regularly; train staff regarding locations of survey markers near county forest roads to ensure monuments are not disturbed when doing road maintenance or other projects on the forest.

### C. CONTRACTUAL ITEMS TO BE PURCHASED/BID/NEGOTIATED/AGREED WITH OTHER PARTIES:

- Lake Altoona parking lot project
- Big Falls trail paving
- Lake Eau Claire clubhouse project
- Lake Eau Claire north boat landing project
- Skid Row dredging project with new pit toilet and dock
- LL Phillips pit toilet replacement
- Coon Fork garage building
- Coon Fork dump station and parking lot paving
- Coon Fork shower door replacements
- Coon Fork pit toilet replacements
- Coon Fork/County Forest yurts
- Expo Center door replacements
- Park entrance signage replacements
- Additional three park payment kiosks
- Eau Claire River primitive campsite development
- Eisberner canoe landing rehab
- Harstad Park rain garden installation
- Brush chipper purchase
- Lawn mower replacement
- Bobcat Toolcat purchase
- Replacement pickup truck
- Carbon Credit project development with Anew
- Firewood from processor for resale at campgrounds
- Blacktop sweeping/bridge inspections/snow plowing by Highway Department (as needed)
- Refuse and recyclable collection at parks
- Rental of portable toilet at Lake Altoona Park (April 1 – May 15 and October 15 – November 15)
- Ice vending machine at Coon Fork
- Office vending machines at Coon Fork
- Pumping of vault/pit toilets and septic tanks
- Fire extinguisher checks
- Asphalt sealing for various parking lots
- Nature Programs at Coon Fork Park by Beaver Creek Reserve staff and volunteers
- Plant seedlings in prepared sites
- Timber stand improvement tracts
- Gravel overlays for forest roads
- Rental of Portable toilets from (May 1<sup>st</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>)

## II. **FIELD STAFF WORK PLAN**

(Maintenance technicians, forester, park rangers, seasonal laborers, and park attendants)

### A. **ONGOING TASKS:**

Remove hazard trees in all parks and intensive recreation areas and grind or pull stumps as needed; vehicle/equipment/building maintenance and repair; timber sales establishment, compliance checks, monitoring, scaling of forest products, forest reconnaissance updating; brush and maintain signs; forest regeneration planning/implementation; park supervision & maintenance; groom ski trails; maintenance of all recreation trails; culvert installations; grading and snowplowing 18 miles of forest roads, winter recreation parking areas including Guettinger Woods and Wildlife Area, Coon Fork, Tower Ridge, Evergreen, and Lowes Creek.

### B. **Parks General:**

- Refurbish picnic tables and upright grills
- Maintain deposit boxes as needed
- Treat park and other intensive use areas for poison ivy including canoe landings
- Grass seed bare spots
- Grind stumps as needed
- Seasonally open/close building water lines
- Repair and maintain ATV and snowmobile trail signs including ATV junctions
- Replace signposts as needed
- Fertilize turf areas
- Seasonally install/remove swim buoys and boat docks
- Replace seals and gaskets on hand pumps as needed



- Utilize Huber Program and Community Service Program as much as possible on maintenance projects
- Repaint park entrance and other signs as needed; re-establish/sign park boundaries
- Add wood chips as needed to playground areas
- Maintenance at all boat landings, including sweeping sand and gravel from ramps, putting rubber bumper guards around docks, and filling in potholes with gravel or blacktop and parking lot striping.
- Install hitching rails at Dells Pond and Coon Fork
- Brush Dells Pond public access
- Maintain and brush various canoe landing access points

C. Big Falls Park

- Pruning along north and south entrance trails
- Landscaping work around new vault toilet buildings
- Projects identified in 2022 parks master plan that can be started and accomplished

D. Coon Fork Park/Dam:

- Add base course and level campsite pads as needed
- Printing of reservation forms, handouts, revenue records, rental agreements, etc.
- Special attention to maintaining Judge Peplau memorial plantings
- Raise fire rings in campsites to avoid “flooding of fire rings” as needed
- Prune branches along campground roads
- Develop canoe access below dam and develop take out and access off NE spur of Shepherd’s Crook
- Plant trees in D Loop
- Add gravel to main parking lot
- Remove and reclaim old playground on Dayside Park
- Replace 2 grills at Dayside beach
- Finish abandoning Dayside hand water pump and remove concrete structure
- Repair footbridge by dam as needed
- Projects identified in 2022 parks master plan that can be started and accomplished

E. Harstad Park:

- Replace traffic signs as needed
- Level and repair campsite pads with base course as necessary
- Gravel day use and canoe parking lots
- Projects identified in 2022 parks master plan that can be started and accomplished

F. Lake Altoona Park/Dam:

- Replace picnic grills as needed
- Replace bathroom partitions
- Continue water, septic, and utility studies for park improvements
- Concrete ADA picnic areas, sidewalks as needed
- Replace timbers around playground areas as needed
- Lime beach to reduce bacteria levels as needed
- Replenish beach sand as needed
- Test the Emergency Action Plan for Lake Altoona Dam
- Plan for beach parking lot replacement
- Repaint change house
- Prune existing park trees
- Replace toilets in both restrooms
- Projects identified in 2022 parks master plan that can be started and accomplished

G. Lake Eau Claire Park/Dam:

- Replace turf, trees, topsoil, under oak wilt areas
- Repair boat landings with Highway excavator/or rent other for department use
- Swing set improvements and replacement items as needed
- Repaint interior/exterior of two toilets
- Brush canoe portage

- Test the Emergency Action Plan for Lake Eau Claire Dam
- Removal of oak wilt trees and landscaping stump holes as needed.
- Sidewalk repairs
- Finish abandoning hand water pump and remove concrete structure
- Projects identified in 2022 parks master plan that can be started and accomplished

H. L.L. Phillips Park:

- Site prep work for installation of pit toilet
- Repair bridges as needed
- Landscape around new park shelter and pit toilet
- Projects identified in 2022 parks master plan that can be started and accomplished

I. Lowes Creek Park:

- Mow trails for WORS "Firecracker" bike race within two weeks prior to race
- Repair/replace signs, posts, picnic tables, and shelter boards as needed
- Winter/Summer Recreational Trail maintenance and grooming
- Finish abandoning hand water pump and remove concrete structure
- Projects identified in 2022 parks master plan that can be started and accomplished

J. Expo Center

- Continue to host rental events on grounds during event season including Eau Claire County Fair
- Continued partnership with Eau Claire Curling Club for use of building E during winter months
- Provide winter storage opportunities for the public in barns

K. County Forest Area:

- GIS recon updates
- Purchase and install culverts as needed
- Pick up dump sites on county forest as discovered/reported
- Survey for Karner Blue Butterflies prior to any development in county forest areas
- Maintain the forest access plan, reberm and repair gates as needed, install control measures immediately after completion of timber sales on new timber access trails
- Spray poison ivy areas as needed
- Brush around information signs on the forest
- Relocation of canoe landing further downstream on Eau Claire River at Eisberner Memorial; add chips for access downbank
- Install signs at Coon Fork and Southfork Barrens (if signage is approved by DNR)
- Install signs at the Hathaway, Horse Creek and Wilson Wilderness Areas
- Maintain rock ford crossing on ATV and forest access trails
- 30 hours assistance from DNR dozer
- Oak scarification of 80 acres of oak sites
- Assistance from DNR Wildlife management on various projects as time allows
- Brushing of trails and parking lots to maintain public access
- 25 acres of oak TSI
- 40 acres of 2023 planting
- Gate replacement on Stoney Lonesome Trail
- Gate replacement on Gilbertson Road
- Culvert replacement on the north end of Stoney Lonesome Trail
- Review for sale approximately 1,057 of timber (annual allowable cut) in the following timber types:

2023 Schedule of Harvest Treatments		
Forest Cover Type Offered For Sale	Total Acreage on The County Forest	Establishment Acres
Aspen	8,728	202
Red Maple	1,978	56
Oak	16,604	436
Red Pine	4,022	171
Jack Pine	4,228	66
White Pine	4,986	119
Bottomland/Central	3,309	7

Hardwood		
White Spruce	6	0
Non-Forested/Not scheduled for management	8,809	0
<b>Total Eau Claire County Forest Land</b>	<b>52,670</b>	<b>1,057</b>

- Develop a kiosk at horseback trailhead on CTH "G"
- Brush and mow Pea Creek Flowage dike

L. Guettinger Woods and Wildlife Area:

- Coordinate with educational institutions for inventorying of various biological species and soil types
- Work with Adventurers 4-H Club on adoption of area
- Maintain parking areas and signs

M. Shop Area:

- Refurbish county forest and park signs
- Construct educational signs on forest management practices
- Clean up garbage and recycle tires and scrap iron
- Construct staff lockers in new shop

N. County Forest Roads (18 miles):

- Monitor improvement needs and document grading and repairs to the county forest roads per certification requirements
- Grade and sand/salt to qualify for state aid
- Construct small parking areas along county forest roads
- Gravel roads and replace culverts
- Replace signs as needed
- GIS inventory of all culverts and sizes on all forest roads and recreational trails

O. Wildlife Projects:

- Mow all/part of 36 acres of wildlife trails and openings with 4x4 tractor/disc & drag
- Seed and gate/berm closed logging access trails and fertilize seeded areas
- Karner Blue Butterfly inventory and monitoring
- Beaver control in problem areas
- Maintain deer enclosures
- Finish Ruffed Grouse access project on Stoney Lonesome

P. Tower Ridge Recreation Area:

- Install "glass prohibited" signs at Trailheads
- Install erosion control measures on hills
- Sign for no disc golf tournaments allowed without prior county approval, include county contact information
- Maintain maintenance agreement with Ski Striders Cross-Country Ski Club
- Plant seedlings along recreation trails with donated funds and volunteers
- Continue removing the trail edge stumps east of the lighted trail
- Winter/Summer Recreational Trail maintenance and grooming
- Grade parking lots and add gravel as needed
- Projects identified in 2022 parks master plan that can be started and accomplished

Q. Public Outlots:

- Acquired through Federal Floodplain buyout – designate county boundaries, especially on Porterville Road and sign county land to prohibit vehicles and dumping
- Work with Rock Falls Sportsman's Club for club to do maintenance of Porterville Road Chippewa River Access

2  
3 ADOPTING THE 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR THE PARKS AND FOREST  
4 DEPARTMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATION GRANT  
5 PROGRAM  
6

7 WHEREAS, each year the county is eligible to receive 50% of the actual salary and up to  
8 50% of the fringe benefit costs of a county-employed professional forester in the position of  
9 county forest administrator or assistant county forest administrator, except that the fringe  
10 benefits may not exceed 40% of the position’s annual salary; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the parks and forest director, in his position, qualifies for this funding; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, per Wis. Stat. § 28.11 (5)(b) and Wis. Admin. Code NR 47.75 for the  
15 county forest administration grant program, the county board must approve an annual county  
16 forest work plan which must also be approved by the department of natural resources to comply;  
17 and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the 2023 Annual Work Plan implements projects included in the adopted  
20 2023 budget and other projects involving only staff time with no other budget expenditures; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, a copy of the approved 2023 Annual Work Plan and a copy of this adopted  
23 resolution must be received by the department of natural resources prior to January 31, 2023.  
24

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of  
26 Supervisors hereby adopts the attached 2023 Annual Work Plan for the parks and forest  
27 department.  
28

29  
30 ADOPTED  
31

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41 Committee on

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44 VOTE: \_\_\_\_\_ AYE \_\_\_\_\_ NAY  
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JP/yk

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 22-23/084

As stated in the resolution, County Board approval is required to comply with the requirements of the Forest Administration Grant. Details of the Parks & Forest Director's wages and fringe benefits are submitted to the state to determine the grant amount.

The Forest Administration grant will be approximately \$55,000 in positive fiscal impact.

Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Pedersen  
Parks and Forest Director

To the Honorable:

The County Board of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

In accord with s. 2612(3) and 26.14(3), Wis. Stats., we recommend the following persons to act as authorized Emergency Fire Wardens for the prevention and suppression of forest fires in this county for the year **2023**, and ask your approval of this organization list.

**EMERGENCY FIRE WARDENS**

Seymour Town Hall

FOR THE Town of Seymour & Washington

The Woodland

FOR THE Town of Bridge Creek & Ludington

FOR THE Town of

FOR THE Town of

FOR THE Town of

FOR THE Town of

FOR THE Town of

FOR THE Town of

FOR THE Town of

FOR THE Town of

Augusta, Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

By: Bruce Henderson  
Black River Falls Area Forestry Leader

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Board Chairperson (*or authorized committee thereof*)