

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• **Committee on Parks & Forest** •

Monday, March 11, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Room AG 103 and 104

Join from the meeting link.

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=mb2ee3476e25aa45fe87d26ec81fd9c9e>

Join by meeting number.

Meeting number (access code): 2533 733 9036

Meeting password: FHjpf6jjK72

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Josh Pedersen at Josh.pedersen@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. February 20, 2024
4. Public Comment
5. Ordinance 23-24-074 To Amend Section 16.30.040 B. Of the Code: Fees and Charges; To Amend Section 16.33.015 of the Code: Rental Rates for Non-Profit and Government Organizations - **Discussion/Action**
6. Altoona Schools Request to Use Tower Ridge for Cross County Races - **Discussion/Action**
7. Request from Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association to Build Shelter Near Knights Pool in County Forest – **Discussion/Action**
8. Annual Report from Chippewa Valley Trailriders – **Discussion**
9. Expo Center Updates – **Discussion**
10. Resolution 23-24/081 Authorizing the Parks and Forest Director to Submit an Application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any Financial Aid that may be Available for Maintaining, Acquiring, Insuring or Developing Lands for Public Outdoor Motorized Trails – **Discussion/Action**

Prepared by Kimberly Watnemoe, 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.

11. Resolution 23-24/082 Authorizing the Parks and Forest Director to Apply for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Friends Grants, Stewardship Local Units of Government, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trail Program; Authorizing the Parks and Forest Director to Accept the Award and Take all Necessary Action to Effectuate the Grant Including Entering into all Necessary Agreements and Expending Funds – **Discussion/Action**
12. Katie Moyle – Memorial Bench Request – **Discussion/Action**
13. Ski Striders Request for Additional Funds for Groomer – **Discussion/Action**
14. Beaver Creek Reserve Request for Free Park Admissions During Earth Week-
Discussion/Action
15. Director’s Report
16. Future Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Meeting – April 08, 2024, at 5 pm

17. Adjourn

Prepared by Kimberly Watnemoe, Parks & Forest

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MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Committee on Parks & Forest •

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Agricultural and Resource Center

Eau Claire County Courthouse – Room 3312

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

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Kimberly Watnemoe – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Kyle Johnson – DNR County Forest Liaison

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

Chairman Knight called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Review of January 8, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Lepsch motions to approve the minutes from January 8, 2024 All in favor.

Resolution 23-24-073 Authorizing the Parks & Forest Department to Participate in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Municipal Dam Grant Program for the Lake Altoona Dam and Eau Claire River Dam

Director Pedersen spoke on this grant application. He would like to apply for a grant that would help fund a dam automation project for Lake Eau Claire and Lake Altoona dams. This would not only be more efficient as it would allow for automation of lake levels, but it would also reduce the need for on-call hours for rangers. This project was already factored into the 2024 budget, while the exact number is not known yet Pedersen estimated the cost being roughly \$600,000. Once the grant application is submitted Pedersen will be notified of the decision by roughly June or July.

Supervisor Lepsch motions to approve Pedersen to apply for the grant and move forward with the project. All in favor.

Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Next Parks & Forest committee meeting date is set for March 11, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Kimberly Watnemoe
Committee Clerk
Administrative Specialist III

2
3 TO AMEND SECTION 16.30.040 B. OF THE CODE: FEES AND CHARGES; TO AMEND
4 SECTION 16.33.015 OF THE CODE: RENTAL RATES FOR NON PROFIT AND
5 GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

6
7 The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Eau Claire does ordain as follows:

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9 SECTION 1. That Subsection B. of Section 16.30.040 of the code be amended to read:

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11 B. Fees. Fees shall not be charged to Eau Claire County departments. At the discretion
12 of the Parks and Forests Director, fees may be charged to other state and local governmental
13 agencies, groups, and associations. The following fees shall be charged, unless otherwise
14 specified:

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16 SECTION 2. That Subsection A. of Section 16.33.015 of the code be amended to read:

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18 16.33.015 Rental rates for nonprofit and government organizations.

19 ~~_____ A. _____~~ Nonprofit ~~and government~~ organizations shall be allowed a 20% discount for all
20 regular rental rates for buildings, grounds and equipment. Eau Claire County departments shall
21 not be charged rental rates. At the discretion of the Parks and Forests Director, fees may be
22 charged to other state and local governmental agencies, groups, and associations.

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24 ENACTED:

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35 Parks and Forest Committee

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37 VOTE: _____ Aye _____ Nay

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48 Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 23-24/074

This ordinance will implement a policy for addressing fee schedule charges for other Eau Claire County departments, as well as other state and local governmental agencies. This code change will help support current practices that have been taking place, as well as helping to define how future requests be handled. There is no fiscal impact associated with this change.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josh Pedersen".

Josh Pedersen
Parks and Forest Director



Altoona High School
Home of the Railroaders

711 7th Street W Altoona, WI 54720 715-839-6031 Fax: 715-839-6028

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to submit a formal proposal on behalf of Altoona High School and Altoona Middle School for the use of Tower Ridge County Recreation Area in Eau Claire County for our annual Cross Country Events in the years 2024 and 2025. We appreciate the opportunity to present this proposal and sincerely hope for your favorable consideration.

Event Details:

- Schools: Altoona High School and Altoona Middle School
- Events: Cross Country Races
- Event Dates: Saturday, October 5, 2024 and Saturday, October 4, 2025
- Set-Up Date: Friday Prior to Event Date
- Event Timing: Set up to be completed by 8:00 AM on the event date; the event will be finished, and all equipment will be taken down by 1:00 PM on the event date.

Venue Use Details:

- Area: Tower Ridge County Recreation Area (excluding the chalet)
- Facilities: We kindly request that the chalet be locked during our event.
- Additional Facilities: We will rent portable toilets for participants and attendees, ensuring the comfort and convenience of everyone involved.
- Event Setup: Our team will set up the event area on the Friday prior to the event date. We will ensure that the setup is organized, safe, and respectful of the natural surroundings of the recreation area.

Event Activities:

- Cross Country Races: The primary purpose of the event is to conduct cross country races for Altoona High School and Altoona Middle School students. The trails and natural terrain at Tower Ridge County Recreation Area provide an ideal setting for these races, challenging our athletes and showcasing their talents.

Benefits to the Community:

1. Promotion of Physical Fitness: The event encourages physical activity among students, promoting a healthy lifestyle and fitness awareness.
2. Community Engagement: The event fosters community spirit by bringing together students, parents, teachers, and local residents in support of our schools and student athletes.
3. Environmental Respect: We are committed to ensuring that our event respects the natural environment. We will implement eco-friendly practices, including waste disposal and clean-up efforts

cont.



Logistical Support:

1. Emergency Medical Services: Medical personnel and first aid stations will be on-site to address any medical emergencies promptly.
2. Insurance: We will provide proof of liability insurance covering the event and its participants.

Conclusion:

We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to utilize Tower Ridge County Recreation Area for our Altoona High School and Altoona Middle School Cross Country Events in 2024 and 2025. We assure you that we will be diligent in our efforts to preserve the integrity of the recreation area and will promptly address any concerns that may arise.

We kindly request an opportunity to discuss this proposal further at your earliest convenience. Please feel free to contact me at 715-838-7081 or eupward@altoona.k12.wi.us to arrange a meeting. We sincerely thank you for considering our proposal and for your continued support of educational and athletic initiatives within our community.

Sincerely,

Elissa S. Upward



PURINA
PRO PLAN

CHIPPEWA VALLEY
CANNON ROCK • SANDY CREEK



Chippewa Valley Trailriders

January 29, 2024

Josh Pedersen, Director, Parks & Forest
227 1st Street West
Altoona, WI 54720

Re: Chippewa Valley Trailriders Annual Report - 2023

Dear Josh,

The Chippewa Valley Trailriders (CVT) was organized in 1989 under a 501©7 Social Club status to unite a group of horseback riders interested in pursuing safe horseback riding options in Chippewa and Eau Claire County.

Following is an accounting of the volunteer hours the members of the Chippewa Valley Trailriders have expended in 2023 to develop, maintain and improve the horse trail systems in Eau Claire County.

Tower Ridge Recreation Area Horse Trails **147 hours**

Volunteer work included removing downed trees and branches from storms and general trail maintenance throughout the year. In addition to the manual labor perform club members also used their own personal chainsaws and ATVs (including gas) and various hand tools to clear trails.

The Tower Ridge Horse Trails are very popular and are used by many horseback riders.

Backwater Horse Trails – **129 hours**

Volunteer work included hand-brushing and clearing from winter and summer storms. Most of this work was performed on foot using chainsaws and hand tools for clearing. Work was also performed using an ATV for re-routing, marking and mapping trails on this property. Members also continue to exploring possible trail expansion options.

Hamilton Falls Horse Trails – **43 hours**

Volunteers worked to clear and maintain the trails. Tools used included chainsaws and various hand tools.

The total volunteer hours expended by CVT to maintain horseback riding trails in Eau Claire County totaled 319 hours. The Wisconsin Horse Council established a value for volunteer work at \$17/hour. Using this formula CVT has donated volunteer labor totaling **\$5,423** in 2023 to maintain horseback trails in Eau Claire County.

2024 Plans include continuing to keep the Eau Claire County established horse trails maintained. In addition, club members will work with you directly to make improvements to the Backwater trails and parking area. The club has pledged \$2,000 toward a permanent toilet facility at Backwater Trailhead. The Hamilton Falls horse trails also need some signing which will be discussed at an upcoming meeting with you this spring.

The Chippewa Valley Trailriders sincerely thank you and Eau Claire County for the opportunity to develop and maintain horseback riding trails in Eau Claire County. We remain dedicated to continuing a supportive relationship with the Parks & Forest Department.

Respectfully,

Jeanne Fox

Jeanne Fox

Public Liaison

on behalf of Chippewa Valley Trailriders

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AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND FOREST DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR ANY FINANCIAL AID THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR MAINTAINING, ACQUIRING, INSURING OR DEVELOPING LANDS FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR MOTORIZED TRAILS

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is interested in maintaining, acquiring, insuring, or developing lands for public outdoor motorized trails are eligible for snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle and/or motorized stewardship grant funds; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Parks and Forest Director of the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department to act on behalf of Eau Claire County to submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

Committee on Parks and Forest

JP/yk

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 23-24/081

The county maintains approximately 20 miles of ATV/UTV trails and 181 miles of funded snowmobile trails throughout the county. The county is eligible to apply for maintenance funding annually for each of these programs from the Wisconsin DNR. This resolution will allow for the Parks and Forest Director to submit applications for maintenance funding, as well as capital improvement projects, for these motorized trail aids. The state ATV/UTV and snowmobile programs are funded at 100% reimbursement rate.

This resolution will also allow for the county to apply for motorized stewardship funding for motorized trails. This level of funding requires a 20% county or club match.

Fiscal Impact: Currently, our annual ATV/UTV trail maintenance funding level is around \$27,010. Our snowmobile maintenance is \$300 per mile, or \$54,360 annually. Together, maintenance funding alone is a \$81,370 positive impact.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josh Pedersen".

Josh Pedersen
Parks and Forest Director

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AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND FOREST DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP FRIEND GRANTS, STEWARDSHIP LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND FOREST DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT THE AWARD AND TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION TO EFFECTUATE THE GRANT INCLUDING ENTERING INTO ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND EXPENDING FUNDS

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and

WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors authorize the Parks and Forest Director to act on behalf of Eau Claire County and submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available, to submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of the project completion date, to submit signed documents and to take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County will comply with state or federal rules for the program; may perform force account work; will maintain the completed project in an attractive, inviting, and safe manner; will keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

ADOPTED

Parks and Forest Committee

VOTE: _____ AYE _____ NAY

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 23-24/082

This resolution allows the county to apply for matching funding for up to 50% of our costs for a planned capital improvement project at Lake Altoona County Park. This project would consist of additional seating and picnicking areas near the waterfront and include a new park pavilion. This project was identified in the Lake Altoona Park Master Plan and ties directly into the beach parking lot renovations that were completed in 2023. This project was approved during the 2024 budget cycle and was budgeted as a \$300,000 project.

Fiscal Impact: Grant reimbursement would provide approximately \$150,000 in revenue back to the county upon completion of the grant cycle.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josh Pedersen".

Josh Pedersen
Parks and Forest Director



Beaver Creek Reserve's "Earth Day Every Day"

Celebrating all April long!

Earth Week: April 15-22, 2024

Earth Day: April 22, 2024

Event Summary

In 2023, we expanded our previous 'Earth Week Challenge' to include more community events and celebrate Earth Day the entire month of April! Beaver Creek Reserve's new campaign is called 'Earth Day Every Day' to promote more community events, Beaver Creek programs, and long-term sustainability in the Chippewa Valley. Participants attend events the entire month of April, and at the end of each event, their names are drawn for raffle prizes donated by sponsors! We still host our annual 'Earth Week' as a designated week leading up to Earth Day to encourage visiting local county and state parks, to participate in our countdown to Earth Day Photo Contest, and attend our Earth Extravaganza event. Since starting this new 'Earth Day Every Day' campaign, we alone saw a major increase in participation in Beaver Creek events, and other activities going on in the community. **This was our outcome last year:**

- **Virtual Programs:** 7 total, 70 participants
- **In-person Programs:** 8 total, 155 participants
- **Earth Day Event:** ~100 attendees
- **Earth Week Open House & University of WI – Eau Claire (off-site outreach):** ~400 attendees

Total: 18 total events = ~725 participants (*WOW!*)

Our Earth Day event, 'Earth Extravaganza,' will be Saturday, April 20th this year. This all-day event bleeds green! From a guided walk along our trails to learn about plants, wildlife, and pollinators, to making sustainable seed starters, building Bluebird houses, shopping around our Bird Banders Thrift Sale filled with second-hand, nature-y goodies, and ending the day with sweet Earth Day-themed treat... We'll be spending Earth Day with fellow eco-champions! **Our goal is to make this event FREE this year!** And with the help of sponsors, *like you*, we can make this possible.

If you have further questions about our month of activities or Earth Week, please contact me at kristen@beavercreekreserve.org or (715) 877-2212. Thank you, again, for your continued support of Beaver Creek Reserve. We look forward to working with you again in the future!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Giefer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristen Giefer
Marketing & Program Director, Beaver Creek Reserve



February 14, 2024

Josh Pedersen
Director Eau Claire Parks and Forest
227 1st Street West
Altoona, WI 54720
Josh.pedersen@eauclairecounty.gov

Dear Josh

A little over a year ago you wrote a letter in support of the Eau Claire Ski Striders efforts to obtain a new groomer for Tower Ridge, (attached).

We appreciate your support and your efforts to secure \$50,000 for this project and hope you are as excited as we are about how this new equipment will benefit winter recreation for local and visiting skiers.

As you know on 11/21/2023 a down payment was made on a new Sno Rabbit. On February 12, we were informed by the dealer that the Snow Rabbit has now been outfitted with all the necessary attachments and is ready for delivery.

Excluding the County's \$50,000 contribution to this project, the Ski Striders have raised \$111,919 as of today. Most of these contributions were made last year during this time when we had plenty of snow and people were eager to support this project. Since that time, the group working on fundraising for the project has continued to work diligently to obtain the necessary funding to complete the project.

We intend to continue to work to raise the balance of funding necessary to complete the project. However, we want to formally request that you and the Parks & Forest committee consider contributing another \$10,000 to help us complete the project so you can take delivery of this new piece of equipment as soon as possible. Perhaps, the funds raised from passes sold this year could cover this additional amount. By using the pass fund, skiers who bought the yearly pass could feel good about buying one going into next year, knowing their funds were put back into trail system maintenance. We may even still have a chance to use the machine this season.

This winter ski season has been very discouraging for local skiers who are still hoping for a couple of good weeks of skiing this year. We hope you can see the value this equipment will add to your fleet and fast track this request so local skiers can see this piece of equipment in action this season.

Thanks for considering this Josh. We appreciate all your work and support.

Chris Gorzek
Eau Claire Ski Striders
Get-It-Groomed

Sue Lindstedt
President, Eau Claire Ski Striders

From: [Katie Moyle](#)
To: [Josh Pedersen](#)
Cc: [Katie Moyle](#)
Subject: Re: bench
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 7:14:28 PM

WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.

Hi Josh. Sorry for the late response. Seems as if the email was going to my iCloud acct and I don't ever use that. I've cced my gmail if you could reply all, it'll make sure I'm seeing the emails.

So for this bench, my husband, Joe Moyle, was raised in Augusta and has years of memories at Coon Fork.

When his family moved to the area, they actually camped there for a month while looking for a house and he still points out that campsite they stayed at. In high school him and his buddies would swim laps from the public beach across for training.

When we lived in Appleton, we'd still drive across the state to camp at his favorite camp ground.

And after his funeral we gathered there in memory of him. I feel a bench in his memory there would get good use since most of his family still live in Augusta.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you!
Katie Moyle.
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 3, 2024, at 3:21 PM, Josh Pedersen
<Josh.Pedersen@eauclairecounty.gov> wrote:

Katie,

Do you still want me to place this on the agenda for our January 8th meeting? I need to get the agenda out tomorrow, so please let me know as soon as possible.

thanks,

Josh

From: Katie Moyle <ktbug01975@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 7:53 AM
To: Josh Pedersen <Josh.Pedersen@eauclairecounty.gov>
Subject: Re: bench

WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.

Hi sorry for not getting back to you as quickly as I wanted to. Let's move forward with that bench. What would you need from me?

Sent from my Apple Watch

On Aug 16, 2023, at 9:13 AM, Josh Pedersen
<Josh.Pedersen@eauclairecounty.gov> wrote:

Katie,

If you would like to do a memorial bench I can help you with that. All memorial bench requests are approved by our committee, which meets on the 2nd Monday of the month.

We have a standardized bench that we use for these requests that is made of recycled plastic lumber material and is very durable. The bench can have up to 3 boards engraved. I have attached a picture of a more recently installed bench, as well as the cost of the last one we did. The more characters engraved, the higher the cost. But these usually range in the 1000-1300 range for the bench. This is a high quality, long lasting bench.

If the committee approves the bench, I would order it and ask for payment upfront. Then when it arrives, my staff would assemble it and then install it for no additional costs. You would only pay the cost of the bench and shipping.

If you would like to be on the September 11 agenda, please let me know. We could find a spot in the area that you have requested.

Thanks,

Josh

This message is private and meant only for the person it was intended for. It may contain confidential information that cannot be shared under the law. If you are not the intended recipient or received this message by mistake, please let the sender know immediately and delete the message from your computer and any other devices. Thank you for your understanding.

<Britton Big Falls.pdf>

<Lions Youth Camp.jpg>

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