



**TWO  
RIVERS**  
WISCONSIN

# ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Koska Room - Community House  
1520 17th Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

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## MINUTES

1. **PRESENT:** Council Rep Scott Stechmesser, Council Rep Doug Brandt, Travis Kadow, Chris Eggert-Rosenthal, Tom Lawler, Jennifer Watry **ABSENT:** Erin Lamal, Jason Scharping, Daniel Cortte

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Council Rep Doug Brandt, Seconded by Jennifer Watry.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None

4. **COMMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC (Limited to 3 minutes each)**

Wendy Brandt thanked and commended the Two Rivers Parks & Recreation Department for all that we do for the community. She emphasized that many people appreciate the department's efforts, even though those positive comments are not always expressed.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Recreation Economy for Rural Communities workshop - September 1st & 2nd** - Board and community members are invited to participate in the workshop. Two Rivers is one of 20 communities nationwide selected for the program, which is funded through the U.S. EPA. The program will help develop a strategic plan to guide Two Rivers in creating a successful recreation economy and connect the community with partners for fundraising, implementation, expertise, and networking. Representatives from numerous federal, state, regional, and local organizations, as well as local businesses, will participate.

**B. Youth Sports Summit on November 4th** - Board and community members are invited to participate in the Youth Sports Summit from 5:30–8:30 p.m. at the Two Rivers Community House, Behringer Room. The interactive event will bring together parents, coaches, student-athletes, schools, youth sports organizations, volunteers, businesses, and community leaders to identify challenges and opportunities and develop a shared vision for youth sports. Feedback will help guide a Community Youth Sports Strategic Plan and shape the future of youth athletics in Two Rivers. Registration is required.

**C. Discuss potential 2027 capital park projects:** Seventeen potential park projects were discussed in detail. Please see the attached presentation for project details. The total capital investment is \$650,912, with total project costs of \$1,463,428 after accounting for TID funding, grants, fundraising, and special revenue.

**D. Update on beach paid parking trial:** Five paid parking dates have been completed so far this season. Beach attendance and parking increased on hotter days; however, even on the busiest day, the parking turnover rate was 1.29. Staffing availability and weather have presented challenges in securing additional trial dates. Zip code data was also collected. Additional details regarding revenue, dates, and zip codes are included in the attached presentation.

6. **OLD BUSINESS** - None
7. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None
8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

- a. Program and Event Updates

**Recreation Program Updates** – So far this year, 50 different recreation programs have been offered with 1,355 participants. The busy summer season is winding down, and preparations are underway for fall sports.

**Special Events Updates** – The busy summer event season continues, with numerous concerts, Fourth of July activities, festivals, and community events taking place throughout the city. There is always something going on in Two Rivers.

**Senior Center Updates** - 1,460 participants for “Hello, I Am Here,” 616 fitness participants, 3 Golf Simulator participants, 113 congregate lunch participants, 352 recreational program participants, 293 TRUST participants, and 1,578 Home Delivered Meals (HDM). The Senior Center also completed its digital literacy grant, helping community members build confidence using technology and navigating online.

- b. Parks and Facilities Project Updates

**Parks Updates** – New docks, a kayak launch, sidewalk, and fencing were installed at Paddlers Park. Many repairs related to the May 17, 2026 storm have also been completed.

**Community House Updates** – Boat launch permits and shelter rentals are in full swing. Community House room rentals are generally slower during the summer months. The department received 1 customer service survey, 8 post-rental shelter surveys, and 3 post-rental facility surveys. Survey feedback is reviewed and addressed promptly to identify opportunities for improvement.

- c. Planning and Grants Updates

**Grant Update** – The department received a \$34,466 Wisconsin DNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant for dock replacements at the Veterans Park Boat Launch.

9. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS** - None
10. **NEXT MEETING** - September 9th, 2026
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Chris Eggert-Rosenthal, Seconded by Travis Kadow.

*Respectfully Submitted, Laura Hooper, Parks & Recreation Office Manager*



# TWO RIVERS

WISCONSIN

## Advisory Recreation Board Meeting 8/12/26

MIKE MATHIS, DIRECTOR OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION



# Recreation Economy for Rural Communities

- ▶ Two Rivers is one of 20 communities selected nationally to be in this program
- ▶ Program will produce a strategic plan to guide Two Rivers in creating a successful recreation economy
- ▶ Funded through US EPA
- ▶ Program will connect Two Rivers with partners that can assist with fundraising, execution, expertise, and networking
- ▶ Organizations that will be in attendance: U.S. EPA, Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation, Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin DOT, WEDC, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, Small Business Administration, Wisconsin Sea Grant, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, Manitowoc County, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Options for Independent Living, local businesses, and more



Join us to inform  
outdoor recreation and  
downtown planning.

**TWO RIVERS, WISCONSIN**

We're thrilled to have been selected into the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program!

Community members are invited and encouraged to attend all or any part of this upcoming workshop. Participation is free. Advance registration is requested (not required) to help organizers plan appropriately.

**Community Workshop**  
Tue., September 1 5:30-8:30 pm  
Wed., September 2 9:00am-4:30pm  
Woodland Dunes Nature Center  
3000 Hawthorne Ave, Two Rivers, WI  
Contact: Mike Mathis, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Email/Phone: mikmat@two-rivers.org  
Event details and registration:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/Z1XGCm1WSN>

**TWO RIVERS WISCONSIN**



Scan to Register!

RERC is a joint program of federal and regional partners



**Date:** Wednesday, November 4, 2026

**Time:** 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Two Rivers Community House, Behringer Room

**Registration:** <https://forms.gle/3YkRWjLA1WBa6fuh8>

**Who, What, Why:** The Two Rivers Youth Sports Summit will bring together parents, coaches, student-athletes, schools, youth sports organizations, volunteers, businesses, and community leaders who care about creating the best possible sports experience for local youth. This interactive community event will give participants an opportunity to share ideas, identify challenges and opportunities, and begin developing a shared vision for youth sports from 4K through 12th grade. The goal is to strengthen collaboration, increase participation, improve coaching, reduce barriers, and create positive experiences that keep kids involved in sports longer. Input from the summit will help guide the development of a Community Youth Sports Strategic Plan and shape the future of youth athletics in Two Rivers.

# Youth Sports Summit

# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

## Riverside Phase 2 – Skatepark Replacement



- ▶ New bike park/pump track
- ▶ Basketball court
- ▶ Picnic Shelter
- ▶ Phase 1 is taking place in fall 2026 and spring 2027 and it includes core infrastructure improvements such as a new restroom.

| Funding         |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| WI DNR Grant    | \$ 177,500 |
| City Borrowing  | \$ 100,000 |
| Other Donations | \$ 40,000  |
| Grant           | \$ 75,000  |
| Total Project   | \$ 392,500 |

## 2027 Potential Capital Projects Veteran's Park Playground Replacement

- ▶ This playground is in poor condition.
- ▶ Located in a neighborhood without any other playground.
- ▶ Families and kids are frequently at this park.
- ▶ \$125,000 will be enough for a small play structure and new mulch bed.



## 2027 Potential Capital Projects Equipment/Machinery Replacements

Replace critical Parks & Recreation fleet equipment that has reached the end of its planned service life, including three commercial zero-turn lawn mowers and two utility task vehicles (UTVs). (\$75,000)

The department follows a proactive equipment replacement strategy that maximizes trade-in value, minimizes repair costs, and ensures reliable equipment is available for daily operations. The project also continues the transition from John Deere to Hustler commercial mowers, which offer a five-year comprehensive machine warranty compared to the previous one-year warranty.



# 2027 Potential Capital Projects Community House Gym Floor Replacement

- ▶ Floor is 40 years old and in poor condition
- ▶ The floor can no longer be waxed because of the condition.
- ▶ We are waiting for a quote, but it will likely cost between \$100,000 to \$150,000.



# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

## Coast Guard Park Pier

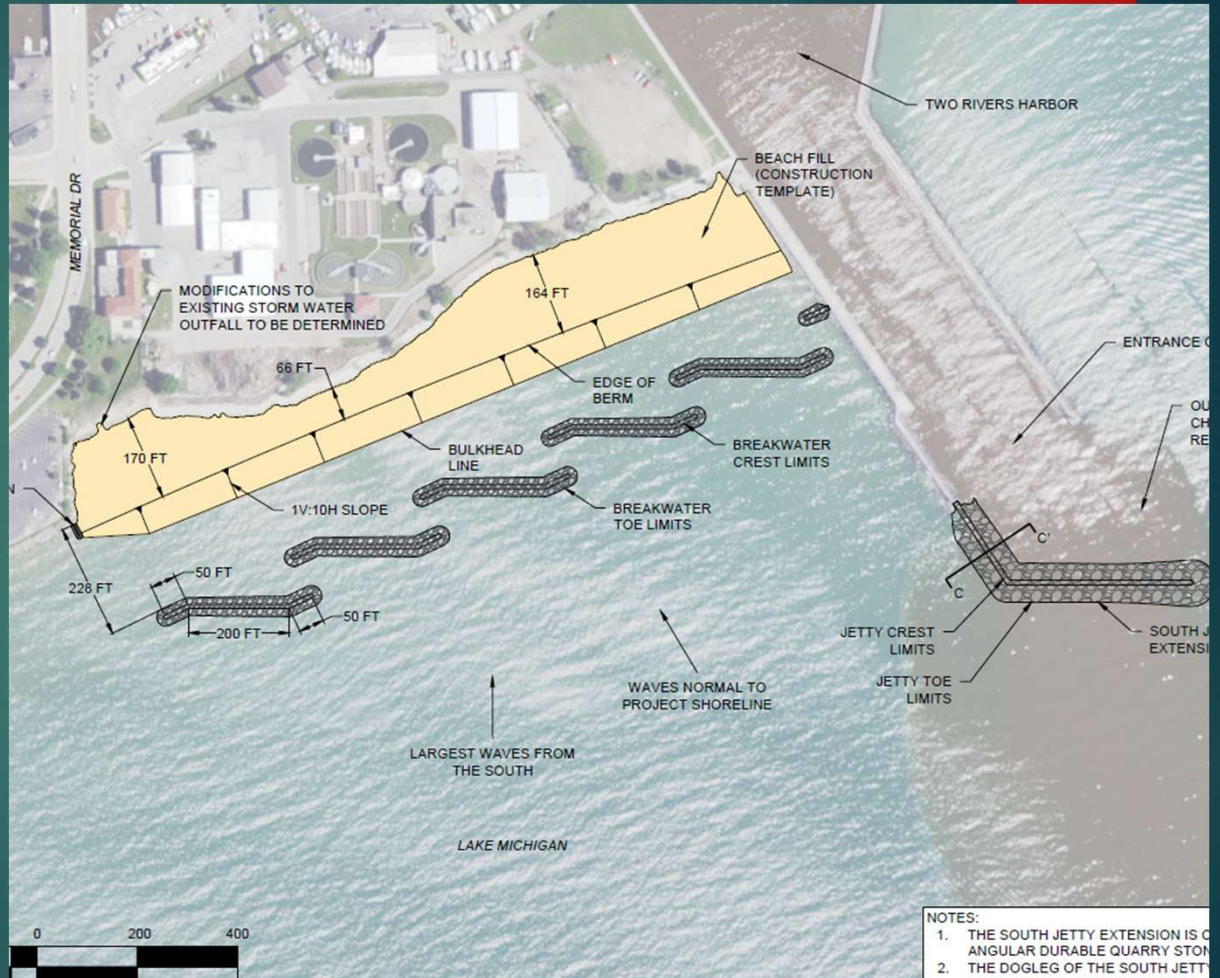
### Fenders/Bumpers

- ▶ The current fenders along the Coast Guard Park pier/dock are insufficient to protect docking boats because the water levels are different from when it was built.
- ▶ The Inland Seas Tall Ship had issues with docking.
- ▶ This could encourage more transient docking at the site.
- ▶ Awaiting quote
- ▶ \$10,000



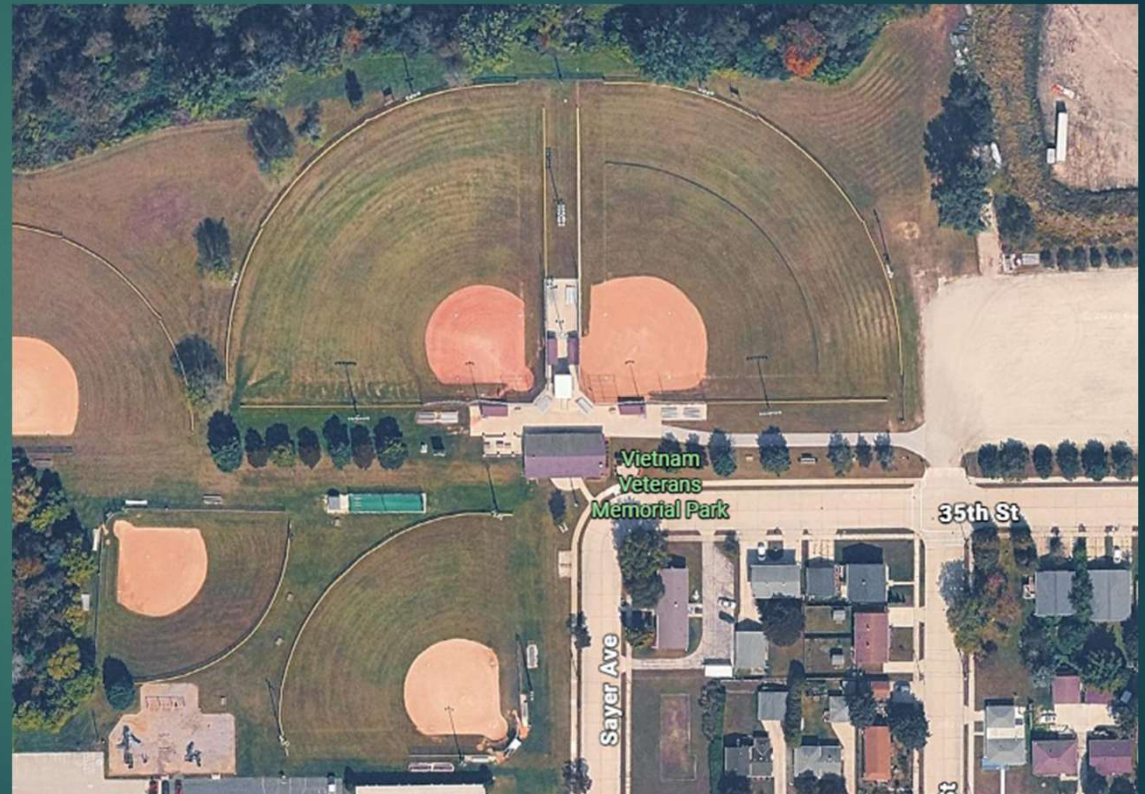
## 2027 Potential Capital Projects Lake Michigan Resilient Project

Provide the City's required \$50,000 local match for the \$388,549 Lake Michigan Resilient Shoreline Initiative grant, a collaborative project led by the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Stantec, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The project will complete final engineering, permitting, and implementation-ready construction plans that position the City to compete for future construction funding while protecting critical public infrastructure, improving public access, restoring habitat, and increasing the long-term resilience of the Lake Michigan shoreline in front of the wastewater treatment plant.



## 2027 Potential Capital Projects Athletic Fields Master Plan

- ▶ Create a long-term strategic plan for Vietnam Veterans Park and Walsh Field to maximize use, efficiently use resources, and account for recent changes such as Two Rivers Youth Sports field
- ▶ \$40,000 from TID 11 to develop high-level conceptual plans and to create bid ready engineering plans
- ▶ Compliments Youth Sports Summit strategic planning process



# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

## Veteran's Park Boat Launch Dock Replacements



- ▶ Current docks to not adjust to water levels
- ▶ Current docks are over 25 years old
- ▶ New docks will move with the water levels and include a wheel kit so we can save time moving them

| Funding Source        | Amount    |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 2027 Capital          | \$ 25,912 |
| DNR Rec Boating Grant | \$ 34,466 |
| Docks Special Revenue | \$ 12,000 |
| Total Project         | \$ 72,379 |

# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

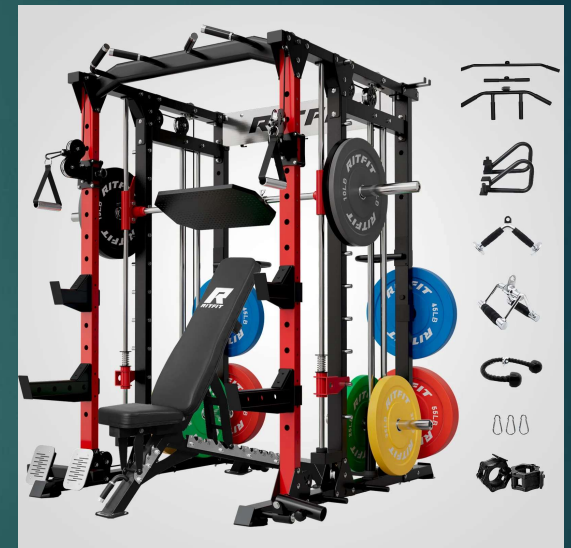
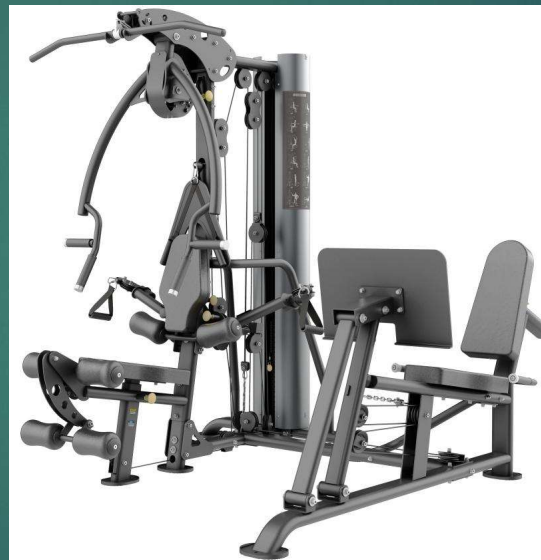
## Community House Technology & Wi-Fi Update

- ▶ Install public Wi-Fi throughout key areas of the Community House and Senior Center.
- ▶ Create a Digital Café in the Senior Center library with Wi-Fi, seating, power access, and laptops available for on-site use.
- ▶ Add mobile multimedia equipment to support classes, presentations, meetings, and digital programming.
- ▶ Install a digital display at the Community House entrance for programs, events, and facility information.
- ▶ Add sound/audio improvements to expand fitness classes and other programming.
- ▶ \$15,000

# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

## Community House Fitness Center Equipment Update

- ▶ Modernize weightlifting equipment
- ▶ Survey users to see what new cardio equipment they want
- ▶ \$20,000



## 2027 Potential Capital Projects Vietnam Veterans Park Improvements - Recrown Purple Field

- ▶ Over time, the Purple Field has lost its original crown and grading, resulting in poor drainage and standing water following rainfall. Wet conditions reduce field availability, create uneven playing surfaces, increase maintenance demands, and accelerate turf deterioration. Restoring the field's proper crown will improve drainage, extend the life of the turf, reduce weather-related closures, and provide a safer and more reliable playing surface for youth sports, recreation programs, and community use.
- ▶ \$15,000 from TID 11



# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

## Neshotah Park Electrical Improvements

- ▶ Major events are having a problem with electricity capacity that create safety issues and limits the growth of events
- ▶ Scope of this project is TBD but funding will come from the events taking place at the park
- ▶ Likely installation of outlets along the new walkway
- ▶ ~\$30,000



## 2027 Potential Capital Projects

### Walsh Field Fencing Replacement

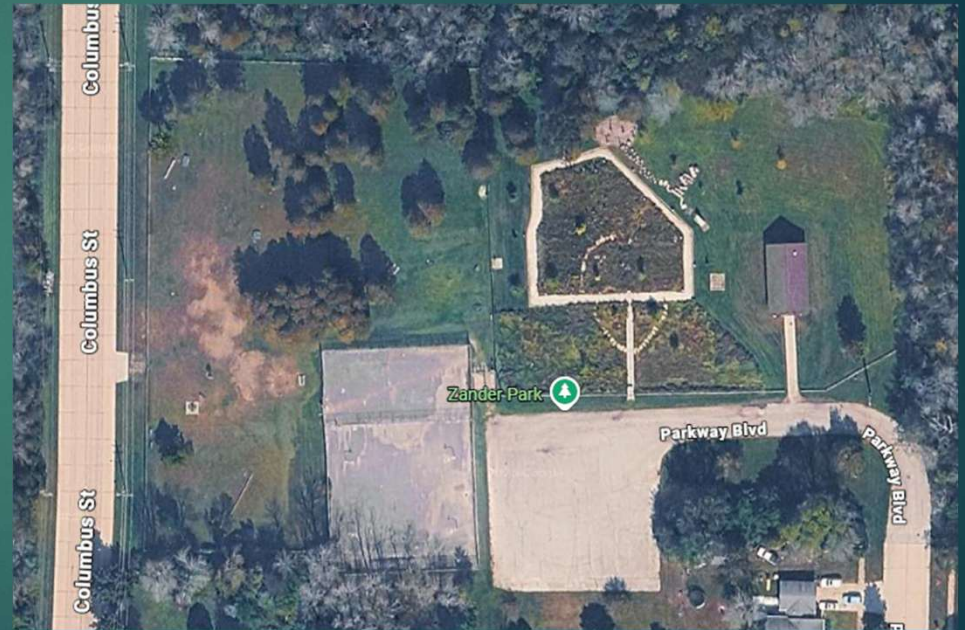
- ▶ Replace the aging backstop and foul line fencing at Walsh Field while updating the field layout to improve player and spectator safety. The project will include relocating the backstop closer to home plate, reconfiguring field entrances to better align with the dugouts, and replacing deteriorated fencing throughout the facility. These improvements will modernize the ballfield, improve functionality, and extend the useful life of this community athletic asset.
- ▶ \$75,00 - \$100,000



# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

## Zander Park Master Plan

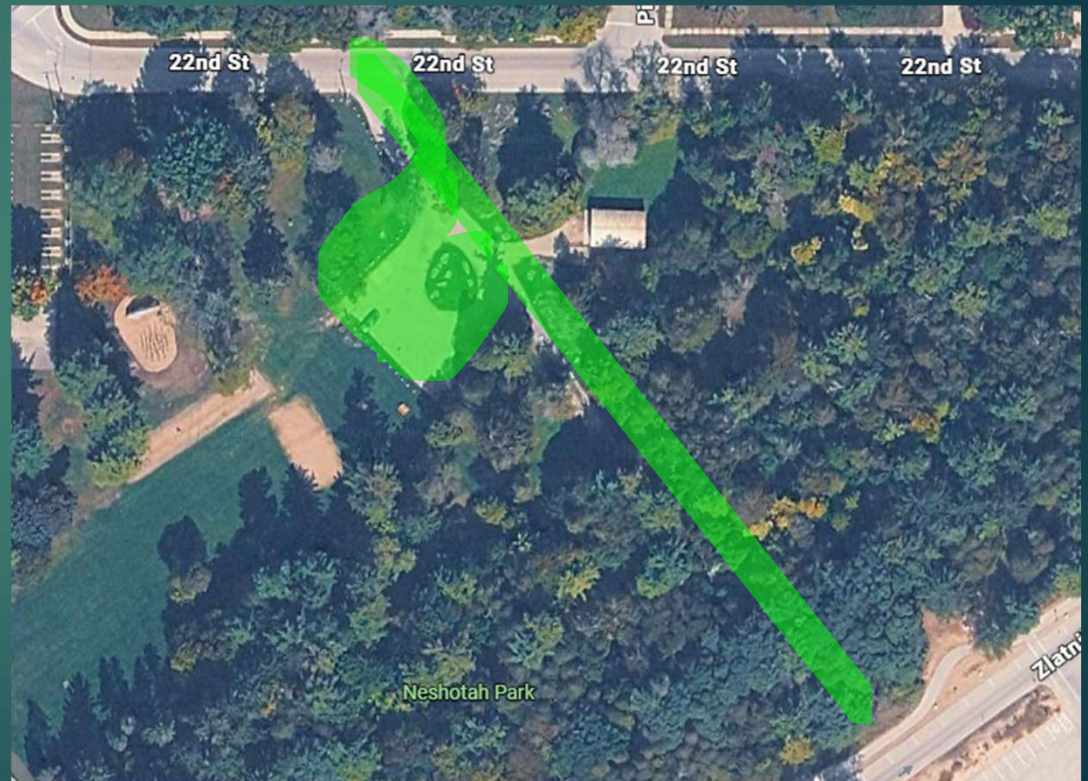
- ▶ The Zander Park dog park, tennis courts, and basketball courts need a long-term vision.
- ▶ This park is in a wetland making maintenance difficult.
- ▶ This is an important southside amenity.
- ▶ \$5,000 for conceptual renderings



# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

## Neshotah Parking Lot 7 & Beach Path Site Plan

- ▶ Create engineering plans and a cost estimate for updating the parking lot and creating a direct path with boardwalk over the swale to the beach
- ▶ Expand parking, improve drainage, and create easy connection to the beach
- ▶ Included in Neshotah Master Plan
- ▶ \$15,000 for conceptual plans and bid ready engineering plans



# 2027 Potential Capital Projects

## Cemetery Maintenance Yard Storage Blocks

- ▶ The Cemetery is our hub for all park maintenance activities. Concrete blocks would help make the site appear more organized and assist the team in managing landscaping materials.
- ▶ \$10,000



## 2027 Potential Capital Projects Central Park East Fountain Updates

- ▶ The Central Park East Fountains could use cosmetic improvements. There have also been some problems over the years with the interior paint. A liner would be the best but most expensive fix.
- ▶ We are still working on the scope of this project.
- ▶ \$25,000



# Other Needed/Desired Projects

- ▶ New storage building
- ▶ Harborview Park – everything
- ▶ Eggers River Walk – everything
- ▶ Road to Picnic Hill
- ▶ Neshotah Sand Volleyball Courts
- ▶ New Tennis Courts
- ▶ Vietnam Vet's Park Playground
- ▶ Lakeshore Park Playground
- ▶ Mariners Trail Fence
- ▶ Security Cameras
- ▶ Automatic Locking Restrooms
- ▶ Community Garden Expansion
- ▶ Fenced Storage Lot at Cemetery
- ▶ Mariners Trail Stairs to Beach
- ▶ Washington Park Restroom Updates
- ▶ Cemetery Backhoe
- ▶ Forestry Stump Grinder
- ▶ Forestry Lift Truck

| Priority | Project                                                   | 2027 Capital | TID Funding | Grants     | Fundraising | 250 Special Revenue | Total Project |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1        | Riverside Park - Phase 2                                  | \$ 100,000   | \$ -        | \$ 252,500 | \$ 40,000   | \$ -                | \$ 392,500    |
| 2        | Vet's Park Playground Replacement                         | \$ 125,000   | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 125,000    |
| 3        | Equipment Replacements                                    | \$ 75,000    | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 75,000     |
| 4        | Community House Gym Floor Replacement                     | \$ 100,000   | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 100,000    |
| 5        | Coast Guard Park Docking Fenders                          | \$ 10,000    | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 10,000     |
| 6        | Lake Michigan Resilient Shoreline Project                 | \$ 50,000    | \$ -        | \$ 388,549 | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 438,549    |
| 7        | Athletic Field Master Plan                                | \$ -         | \$ 40,000   | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 40,000     |
| 8        | Veteran's Park Boat Launch Dock Replacements              | \$ 25,912    | \$ -        | \$ 34,466  | \$ -        | \$ 12,000           | \$ 72,379     |
| 9        | Community House Technology & Wi-Fi                        | \$ 15,000    | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 15,000     |
| 10       | Community House Fitness Center Equipment                  | \$ 20,000    | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 20,000     |
| 11       | Vietnam Veterans Park Improvements - Recrown Purple Field | \$ -         | \$ 15,000   | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 15,000     |
| 12       | Neshotah Electrical Improvements                          | \$ -         | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ 30,000   | \$ -                | \$ 30,000     |
| 13       | Walsh Field Fencing Replacement                           | \$ 75,000    | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 75,000     |
| 14       | Zander Park Master Plan                                   | \$ 5,000     | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 5,000      |
| 15       | Neshotah Parking Lot 7 & Beach Path Plan                  | \$ 15,000    | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 15,000     |
| 16       | Cemetery Maintenance Yard Storage Blocks                  | \$ 10,000    | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 10,000     |
| 17       | Central Park East Fountain Updates                        | \$ 25,000    | \$ -        | \$ -       | \$ -        | \$ -                | \$ 25,000     |
|          |                                                           | \$ 650,912   | \$ 55,000   | \$ 675,515 | \$ 70,000   | \$ 12,000           | \$ 1,463,428  |

# Beach Paid Parking Update

| Date      | Cash     | Card   | Staff  | CC Fees | Net      | Turn Over Rate | Notes                                                                                            |
|-----------|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7/11/2026 | \$ 1,370 | \$ 190 | \$ 411 | \$ 7.76 | \$ 1,141 | 1.29           | Very nice weather, 80's                                                                          |
| 7/12/2026 | \$ 1,410 | \$ 150 | \$ 411 | \$ 6.15 | \$ 1,143 | 1.29           | Very nice weather, 80's                                                                          |
| 7/25/2026 | \$ 580   | \$ 70  | \$ 411 | \$ 2.87 | \$ 236   | 0.54           | Cool weather mid 70's                                                                            |
| 8/2/2026  | \$ 780   | \$ 40  | \$ 411 | \$ 1.64 | \$ 407   | 0.68           | Cool weather mid 70's,slow until Bands on the Beach at 2:00                                      |
| 8/8/2026  | \$ 840   | \$ 190 | \$ 347 | \$ 7.79 | \$ 675   | 0.85*          | *1-staff member no showed on the first shift, only 1 lot was staffed for the morning, high of 81 |
|           |          |        |        |         | \$ 3,603 | 0.93           |                                                                                                  |

- We have extended invitations to many non-profits to participate but none have accepted.

| Other dates we attempted to staff. |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| June                               | Not enough staff                     |
| 4-Jul                              | Not enough staff                     |
| 5-Jul                              | Not enough staff                     |
| 10-Jul                             | Not enough staff                     |
| 18-Jul                             | Not enough staff                     |
| 19-Jul                             | Not enough staff                     |
| 26-Jul                             | Not enough staff                     |
| 1-Aug                              | Fully staffed, cancelled due to rain |
| 9-Aug                              | Not enough staff                     |

# Beach Paid Parking Update

► We have been handing out a Mainstreet discount card to those parking in the lots. A QR code provides a list of discounts at downtown businesses.



| Zip Code Data from 8/8/26 |                           |       |       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| ZIP Code                  | City / Location           | State | Count |
| 54311                     | Green Bay                 | WI    | 4     |
| 54915                     | Appleton                  | WI    | 4     |
| 54155                     | Oneida                    | WI    | 3     |
| 54301                     | Green Bay                 | WI    | 3     |
| 54313                     | Green Bay                 | WI    | 3     |
| 54115                     | De Pere                   | WI    | 2     |
| 54130                     | Kaukauna                  | WI    | 2     |
| 54216                     | Kewaunee                  | WI    | 2     |
| 54220                     | Manitowoc                 | WI    | 2     |
| 54913                     | Appleton                  | WI    | 2     |
| 54952                     | Menasha                   | WI    | 2     |
| 38654                     | Olive Branch              | MS    | 1     |
| 44914                     | Possibly invalid/mistyped | OH?   | 1     |
| 44942                     | Loudonville area          | OH    | 1     |
| 53014                     | Chilton                   | WI    | 1     |
| 53081                     | Sheboygan                 | WI    | 1     |
| 54110                     | Brillion                  | WI    | 1     |
| 54136                     | Kimberly                  | WI    | 1     |
| 54140                     | Little Chute              | WI    | 1     |
| 54169                     | Sherwood                  | WI    | 1     |
| 54181                     | Pound area                | WI    | 1     |
| 54204                     | Brussels                  | WI    | 1     |
| 54208                     | Denmark                   | WI    | 1     |
| 54217                     | Luxemburg                 | WI    | 1     |
| 54241                     | Two Rivers                | WI    | 1     |
| 54302                     | Green Bay                 | WI    | 1     |
| 54303                     | Green Bay                 | WI    | 1     |
| 54304                     | Green Bay                 | WI    | 1     |
| 54403                     | Wausau                    | WI    | 1     |
| 54914                     | Appleton                  | WI    | 1     |
| 54935                     | Fond du Lac               | WI    | 1     |
| 54956                     | Neenah                    | WI    | 1     |
| 64421                     | Amity area                | MO    | 1     |
| 64804                     | Joplin                    | MO    | 1     |
| Total                     |                           |       | 52    |

# Recreation Programs

- ▶ Port Sandy Bay Pizza fundraiser sold 1322 pizzas. A special thank you to Port Sandy Bay and their continued sponsorship and support.
- ▶ Green Bay Packers donating 4 flag football kits for our girl's program.
- ▶ So far this year...
  - ▶ 50 different programs
  - ▶ 1355 participants





# Special Events

# Senior Center

July

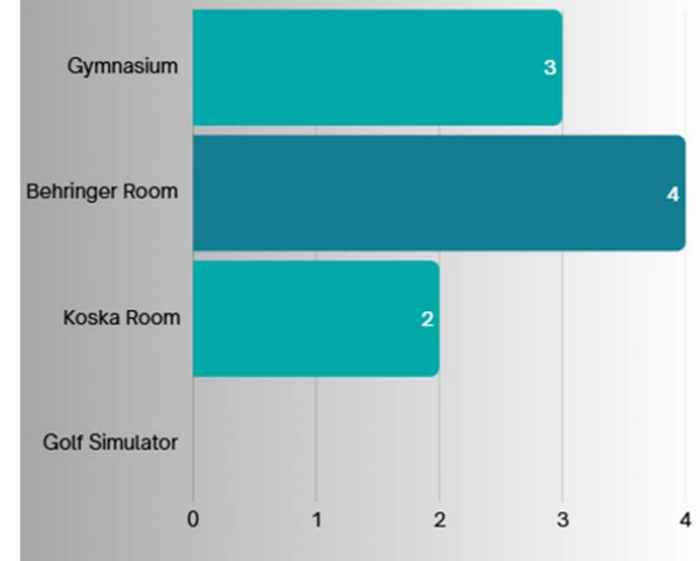
- ▶ Hello I am Here: 1,460
- ▶ Fitness: 616
- ▶ Golf Simulator: 3
- ▶ Congregate Lunch: 113
- ▶ Recreational Programming: 352
- ▶ TRUST: 293
- ▶ HDM: 1578



# Community House

- ▶ Boat Launch Passes – Season passes 124 sold, daily passes 523
- ▶ July Shelter Rentals - 37
- ▶ July Surveys
  - ▶ 1 Customer Service Survey
  - ▶ 8 Post Rental Survey – Shelters
  - ▶ 3 Post Rental Survey – Facilities
  - ▶ 0 Post Rental Survey - Golf Simulator

## July 2026 Community House Rentals





# Parks and Facilities