



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Council Rep Scott Stechmesser, Robert Reed, Erin Lamal, Travis Kadow, Daniel Cortte, Tom Lawler, Jennifer Watry ABSENT: Council Rep Adam Wachowski, Jason Scharping

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Dan Cortte, Seconded by Jennifer Watry

3. CORRESPONDENCE - None

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

Marilee Hirvela expressed concerns regarding Item 5d (Cemetery Flowers). She indicated her understanding that arrangements for this year, including the use of geraniums, had already been finalized. While she is not opposed to the use of perennials, she noted potential maintenance challenges, including the need for seasonal cutback and the risk of deer damage.

Dean Hirvela requested that the cemetery restrooms be open and that John Tuesburg be present on May 23, 2026, in conjunction with the American Legion flag placement scheduled for the Saturday prior to Memorial Day.

Kathy Dahlke also expressed concerns regarding Item 5d (Cemetery Flowers). She recommended implementing a pilot program to evaluate the use of perennials before making any permanent changes to the ordinance. She further suggested that additional data and feedback be gathered and presented to the ARB Board prior to taking formal action.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2026 Great Neshotah Beach Campout – Action recommended in support of City Council waiving ordinance(s) to allow the campout to take place.

Action Item – Neshotah Beach Campout: Following discussion, the 2026 campout will remain the same size, continue to be family-focused, and prohibit alcohol. Registration fees will increase, with all proceeds allocated to Parks & Recreation. Motion made by Dan Cortte, seconded by Travis Kadow. Motion carried by voice vote. **Voting:** All aye.

b. 2026/27 DNR Non-Point Source & Storm Water Grant – Action recommended in support of City Council passing a resolution in support of applying for the grant.

Action Item – 2026/27 DNR Non-Point Source & Storm Water Grant: Following discussion, a motion was made by Erin Lamal, seconded by Travis Kadow, to support applying for the grant for

Mariners Trail storm water management solutions. Motion carried by voice vote.
Voting: Yea – Cortte, Kadow, Lamal, Reed, Watry, Stechmesser. Nay – Lawler.

c. 2026/27 DNR Stewardship Grant – Action recommended in support of City Council passing a resolution in support of applying for the grant.

Action Item – 2026/27 DNR Stewardship Grant: Following discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer Watry, seconded by Erin Lamal, to support applying for the grant for Phase 2 of the Riverside Park Improvements project. Motion carried by voice vote. **Voting:** All aye.

d. Cemetery Flower Planting Ordinance Change – Action recommended in support of City Council changing the city ordinance to allow city staff to plant perennial flowers in place of annual flowers for the perpetual care program.

Action Item – Cemetery Flower Ordinance Change: Clarification was provided regarding public comment. All geraniums have been ordered and will be planted this year as in previous years. Additional work is needed to establish a fund for future flower plantings. Following discussion regarding the ordinance and flower options, a motion was made to table the item pending further clarification. Motion made by Dan Cortte, seconded by Tom Lawler. Motion carried by voice vote. **Voting:** All aye.

e. Neshotah Park and Beach Signage Project

Update: Staff anticipates a significant reduction in regulatory signage while still meeting required standards and effectively informing visitors. The project is expected to go out for bid prior to installation, with signage likely to be installed in September. The ARB recommended incorporating solar caps on top of the signs for lighting, as well as including additional signage for future replacement needs.

f. Review of Neshotah Beach Concession Stand Survey Results

Update: A total of 786 responses were received, with 66% supporting a comprehensive renovation, 26% favoring a minimal approach, and 8% indicating no preference. While non-scientific, the survey provides a strong indication of community sentiment. An additional \$50,000 grant has been submitted, potentially reducing the City’s share to approximately \$105,000. A working group met to review results and plan community communication.

Next Steps: Await grant confirmations, receive bid results (due April 17, 2026), prepare estimated annual operating costs, and present all information to City Council for a final decision.

6. OLD BUSINESS - None

7. OTHER BUSINESS - None

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

a. Program and Event Updates

Program Updates: The dance program concluded with a successful recital attended by over 200 community members, showcasing 80 participants. Registration is now open for a variety of spring and summer programs, including track, swim lessons, baseball, softball, flag football, soccer, as well as new offerings such as Forest Bathing and Kids in Motion. Full program details are available in the new summer activity guide.

Senior Center Updates: March activity showed strong participation across all areas, even with multiple weather-related closures. Total check-ins reached 1,408. Fitness programs totaled 588 participants, including 111 in cardio drumming and 282 in senior yoga. The golf simulator had 12 participants, with additional weekly time slots added. Congregate lunches served 151 participants, recreation programming (games, bingo, etc.) totaled 323, TRUST programming reached 268, and 1,355 home-delivered meals were provided. Overall, participation increased in all categories compared to prior periods.

Special Event Updates: Seehafer Broadcasting provided a \$20,000 in-kind sponsorship for Bands on the Beach, including approximately 800 radio ads in celebration of WOMT's 100th anniversary. Fox Communities Credit Union contributed \$1,500 as a major sponsor for Cool City Christmas. The Easter Bunny Breakfast was highly successful, drawing nearly 300 participants and generating over \$3,300 in profit. Additionally, Heart-A-Rama will begin use of the Two Rivers Community House this week for their upcoming event. Upcoming events include: 4/18 Beach Cleanup, 4/25 Arbor Day Tree Planting & Earth Day Parks Clean Up as well as Summer Concerts.

b. Parks and Facilities Updates

Staffing Updates: All maintenance staff are now based at the Cemetery, with no new positions added. Responsibilities and work locations have been adjusted to better align staffing with operational needs. These changes are expected to result in approximately \$14,000 in savings in 2026, provide flexibility for potential budget challenges in 2027, and improve support for Community House operations. The restructuring also shifts staff capacity toward higher-need areas, including park trash collection, restroom closing, and Community House cleaning, particularly during second shift hours.

Paddlers Park updates to begin in April including sidewalk, ramps, fishing pads, concrete mattress boat launch, and concrete connection to the street.

Golf Simulator: Rentals have been successful and continue to grow each month.

c. Planning and Grants Updates

Special Note: The Board extended its sincere appreciation to Robert Reed for over 20 years of dedicated service on the Advisory Recreation Board. Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your commitment to the community.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

Continue discussion of 5d Cemetery Flower Planting Ordinance Change

10. NEXT MEETING - May 20th, 2026

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Dan Cortte, Seconded by Travis Kadow.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Hooper, Parks & Recreation Office Manager



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

Advisory Recreation Board Meeting 4/15/26



Mike Mathis, Director of Parks and Recreation

The Great Neshotah Beach Campout

- 2025 was a major success
 - 240 people attended the event
 - Participant reviews were very positive
 - No other organizations have requested camping events on the beach
 - No illegal camping on the beach has been reported
 - No complaints about trash occurred
- 2026 Campout
 - No alcohol allowed
 - Event will stay the same size
 - Event will remain family focused
 - Cost of registration will increase, and all proceeds will go to P&R



The Great Neshotah Beach Campout

Join Us for the Ultimate Family Camping Experience!
Celebrate National Beach Day with a night of fun, community, and outdoor adventure at Neshotah Beach!

Campout Schedule

- 5:30 – 7:30 pm | Check-in & tent setup
- 6:00 – 8:30 pm | Games & activities for all ages
- 7:31 pm | Sunset on the beach
- 7:30 – 9:00 pm | Campfire, music & entertainment
- 8:00 pm | Concession stand closes
- 11:00 pm | Quiet time / Lights out
- 6:11 am | Sunrise
- 7:00 – 8:30 am | Breakfast at the concession stand
- 8:30 am | Yoga on the beach
- 10:00 am | Pack up & check out

Reminders

- Bring your own tent & camping gear (max 2 tents per family).
- Tents must go in designated areas only.
- No open flames, cooking equipment, or alcoholic beverages.
- Parking: Lot 3 (by Rotary Pavilion) is first-come, first-serve. Overflow parking available on nearby streets or at Walsh Field.

This event is led by Two Rivers Parks & Recreation, with support from the Two Rivers Optimist Club.

Contact the Two Rivers Parks & Recreation Department for questions at (920) 793-5592 or ashlag@two-rivers.org

The Great Neshotah Beach Campout

- Action Recommended: I move that the Advisory Recreation Board recommend that City Council waive the requirements of Sections 7-1-5 and 7-1-6 of the City Code for the purpose of allowing the Great Neshotah Beach Campout event.
- Sec. 7-1-5. - Parking in parks. - No person shall park any motor vehicle in any park in the city except in designated parking areas, nor shall any person allow any motor vehicle, trailer, or construction equipment to allow remain parked within any city park during park closing hours, except by permission of the city manager or his designee. The penalty for violation of this section is as provided for in section 8-1-6.C. of the City Code.
- Sec. 7-1-6. - Park closing hours. - No person shall be within Picnic Hill Park between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. No person shall be within any other city parks between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. This section shall not apply to persons traveling directly through any park on a city street, and further provided the hours set forth in the section may be adjusted by the city council or city manager, or his designee, for special activities.

DNR Non-Point Source & Storm Water Grant

Resolution for Application

- Action Recommended: I move that the Advisory Recreation Board recommend that City Council pass the authorizing resolution to allow city staff to apply for a DNR Non-Point Source & Storm Water grant.
- Project will execute storm water management solutions along Mariners Trail
- Resolution does not commit us to accepting the grant
- 50% cost share with a total possible state contribution of \$150,000
- Local match funding will be secured through additional grants, donations, in-kind match, and/or 2027 capital borrowing
- City Council must approve any city contributions as a part of the 2027 budget

DNR Stewardship Grant Resolution for Application

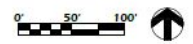
- Action Recommended: I move that the Advisory Recreation Board recommend that City Council pass the authorizing resolution to allow city staff to apply for a DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant.
- Project will execute Phase 2 of the Riverside Park Improvements
- Resolution does not commit us to accepting the grant
- 50% cost share
- Local match funding will be secured through additional grants, donations, in-kind match, and/or 2027 capital borrowing
- City Council must approve any city contributions as a part of the 2027 budget



- LEGEND**
- 1 PARK PATH/SIDEWALK
 - 2 EXPANDED PLAYGROUND
 - 3 PLAZA SEATING AREA
 - 4 SKATEPARK
 - 5 SKATE PATH
 - 6 SHADE STRUCTURE
 - 7 RESTROOMS
 - 8 GENERAL OPEN SPACE
 - 9 PADDLECRAFT LAUNCH
 - 10 RIVERWALK OVERLOOK
 - 11 RIVERWALK
 - 12 WILDLIFE LOOP PATH
 - 13 NEW PARKING LOT
 - 14 DROP OFF LOOP
- PHASE 1
 PHASE 2
 PHASE 3



PROJECT: RIVERSIDE PARK
 1801 14TH STREET
 TWO RIVERS, WI 54241
 SHEET: PHASING PLAN
 Project #: 24.014
 Issued For: Review
 Date: 6/19/2024
 Sheet Number: CP102



Potential Components of Stewardship Grant

- Bike park features
- Picnic shelter improvements
- Basketball court improvements
- Landscaping

Cemetery Flower Ordinance Changes

Sec. 7-5-9. Regulations for monuments; markers; urns; planting; fences.

A. If flowers are planted at grave markers or monuments, they must be planted or placed in metal containers on the grave site. Flowers planted or placed at grave markers shall be placed adjacent to the back of the grave marker and shall not exceed the marker's width nor extend more than 18 inches in the area behind the marker. The planting or placing of any article in front of any grave marker is prohibited. The area in front of grave markers is defined as paths between lots and blocks in this case. Flowers planted or placed at monuments shall only be placed at the front of the monument. They must be kept within the width of the monument and extend no further than 18 inches into the grave site. No flowers are allowed at the sides or rear of the monument. **The City may plant native perennial flowers to replace annual plantings and reduce perpetual care requirements at grave markers or monuments. Such flowers may be planted directly in the ground by City staff, or their designated personnel, as described herein.**

Flower Examples

- Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) Ht: 1-2' Spread 1' Part-full shade Clumping shape Color: purple-pink Blooms: May-June
- Wild Stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*) Ht: 6" - 1' Spread: 1' Part-shade Spreading ground cover Color: white Blooms: May-June
- Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) Ht: 6-12", Part-shade, low spreading, Color: green with small white flowers Blooms: April - May



Flower Math

- Perennial Wild Geranium – Plant once with life span of ~10 years
 - \$5.50 per plant X 1000 planting sites = \$5,500
 - No watering required
- Annual Geranium – Planted annually
 - \$3.00 per plant X 10 years X 1000 planting sites = \$30,000
 - Watering required to keep in good condition
- Annual Labor Costs
 - We will have an accurate cost of labor in spring 2026. There will be a meaningful savings on labor that will be redirected to other tasks.

Cemetery Flower Ordinance Changes

- Action Recommended: I move that the Advisory Recreation Board recommend that City Council update ordinance 7-5-9 to allow City park staff to plant perennial flowers in place of annual flowers as explained in the ordinance.



PRECEDENT IMAGE



PRECEDENT IMAGE



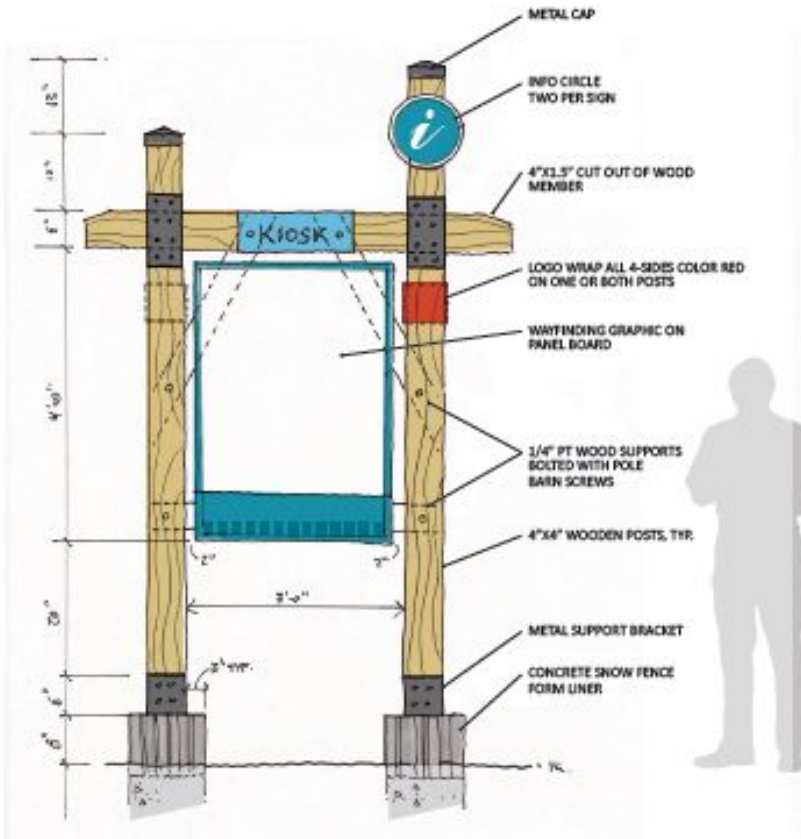
PRECEDENT IMAGE

Pantone 547C

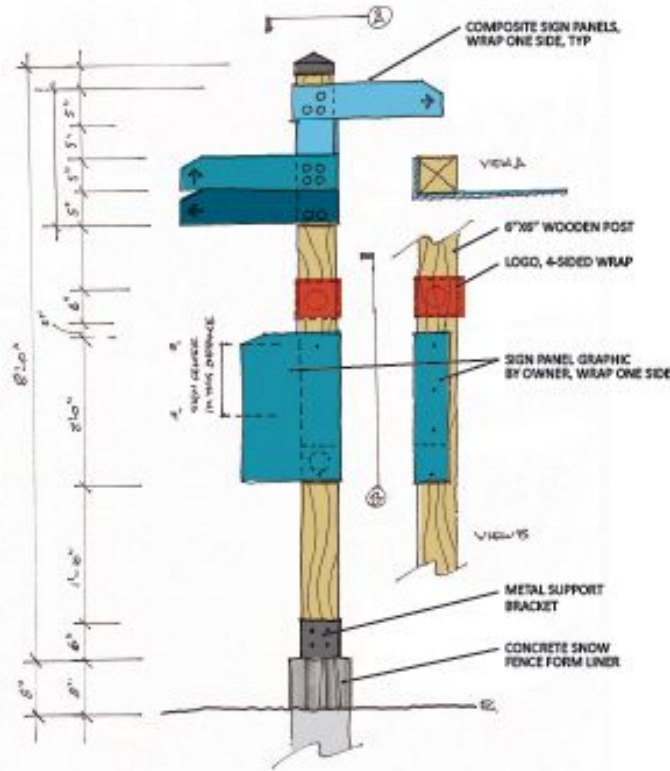
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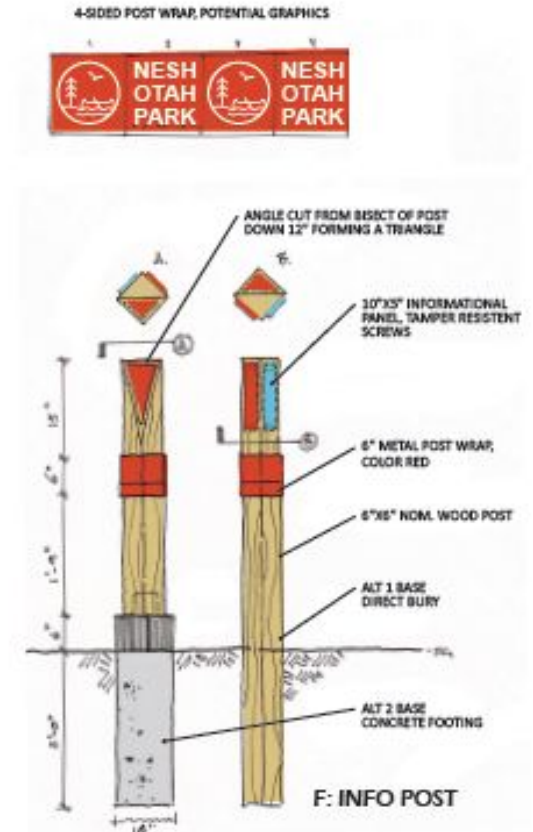
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D: ORIENTATION KIOSK



E: PEDESTRIAN DIRECTIONAL



F: INFO POST

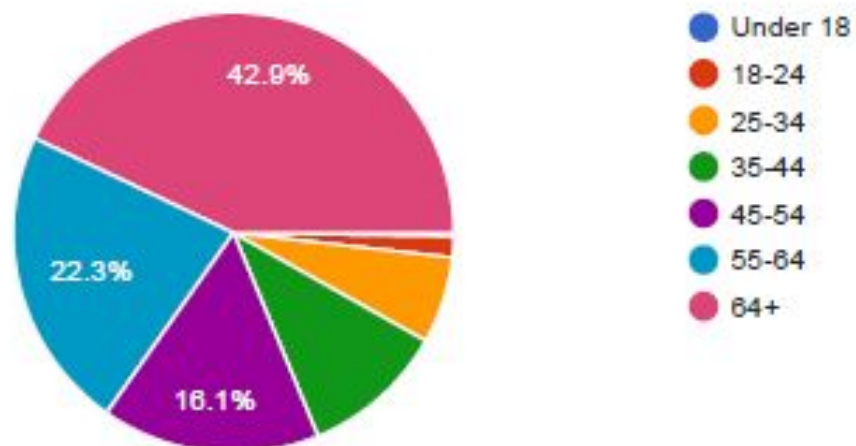
Neshotah Concession Stand Survey Results

- Total Responses: 786
- Survey Period: January 21 – March 3 , 2026
- Survey is non-scientific, but provides a stronger community pulse than social media or public meetings
- 66% support Option 1 (comprehensive renovation including picnic shelter)
- 26% prefer a minimal investment approach
- 8% had no preference / need more information
- City staff have submitted an additional \$50,000 grant since the survey was executed. The potential city investment could drop to \$105,000
- Working group of the City Manager, Library Director, and City Council members Darla, Bill, and Doug met to review results and to prepare for communicating result to the community

How old are you?

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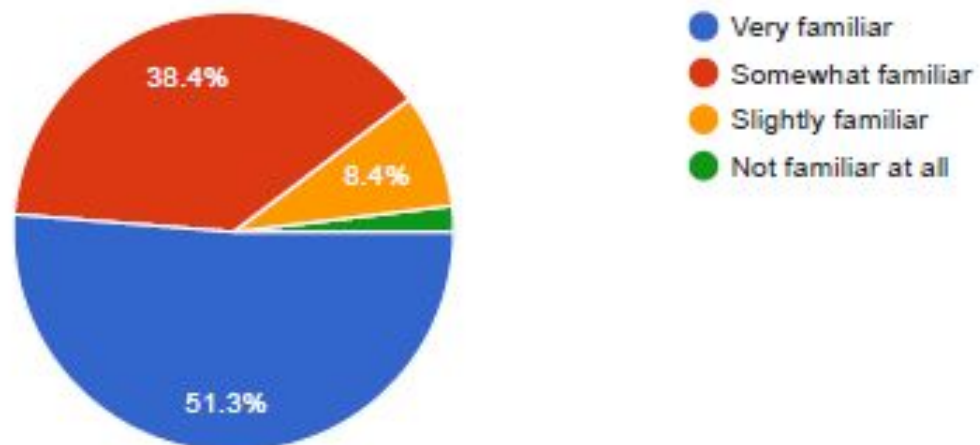
785 responses



How familiar were you with the Neshotah Beach Concession Stand project before taking this survey?

 Copy

786 responses



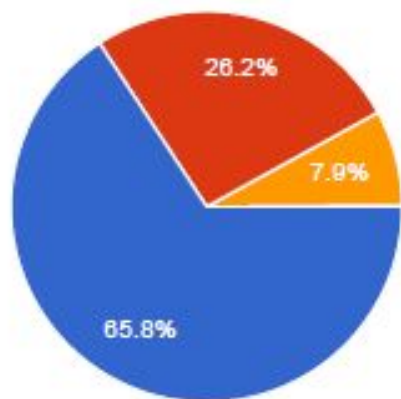
Which option best reflects your general preference for how the City should proceed with the proposed renovations to the Neshotah Beach Concession Stand?



Option 1: Proceed with the approximately half-million-dollar renovation project that retains the existing building and limits property-tax support to approximately \$131,000 over 10 years. This option is funded primarily with NON-property taxes and includes funds from the Room Tax Commission and outside grant sources. This option upgrades the kitchen area to bring it up to code, upgrades the restroom and changing areas, and adds a sheltered "three-seasons room" that would be a space for rent and activate the facility for more usage.

Option 2: Pursue only a minimal update to meet health and safety requirements, using approximately \$50,000 in property tax support. No bathroom renovations, no individual changing rooms, and no three-season room out back. This option is funded entirely with property taxes.

786 responses

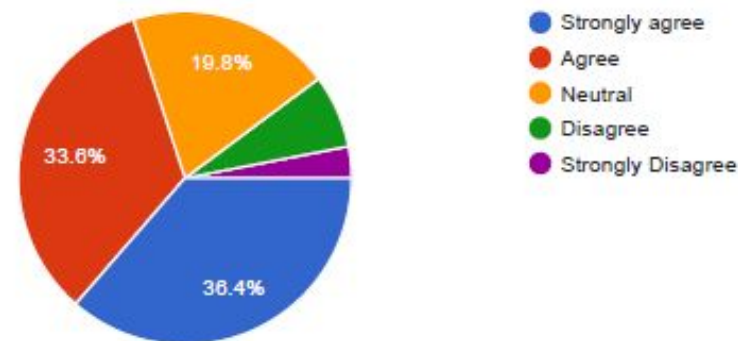


- Option 1
- Option 2
- I do not have a preference / need more information
- Proceed with the proposed renovation that retains the existing building and limits property-tax support to approximately \$130,000 over 10 years. This option is funded p...

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:

"Investing in public amenities at public parks is appropriate for attracting families to Two Rivers when most funding comes from non-property-tax sources such as Room Tax revenue and grants."

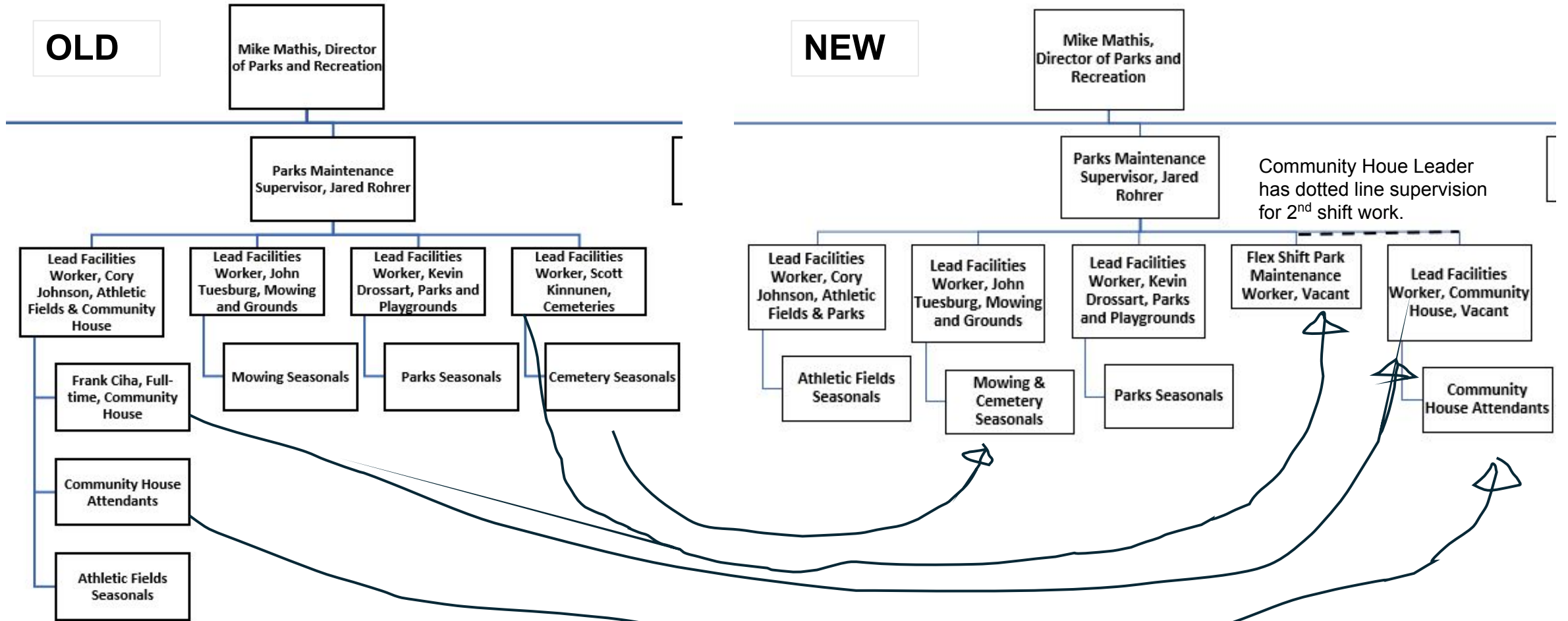
786 responses



Neshotah Concession Stand Next Steps

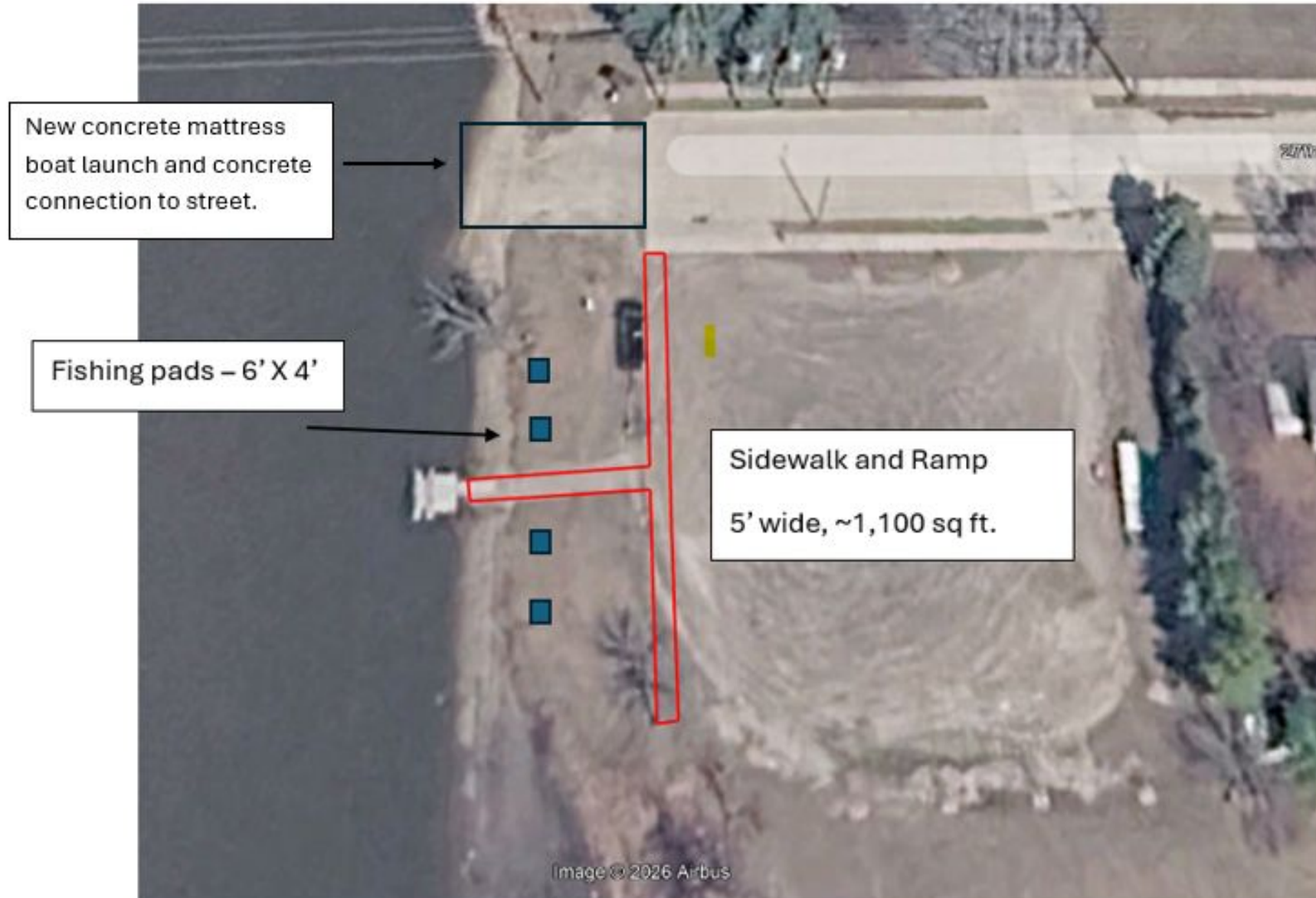
- Wait for the following
 - Confirmation from agencies about the grants we have applied for (DOA confirmation in “spring”)
 - Confirmation of project budget from competitive bidding process (Bids due April 17th)
 - P&R prepare estimate for cost of annual operating for updates
- City Council reviews all information and votes on if the project will occur

Staffing Updates

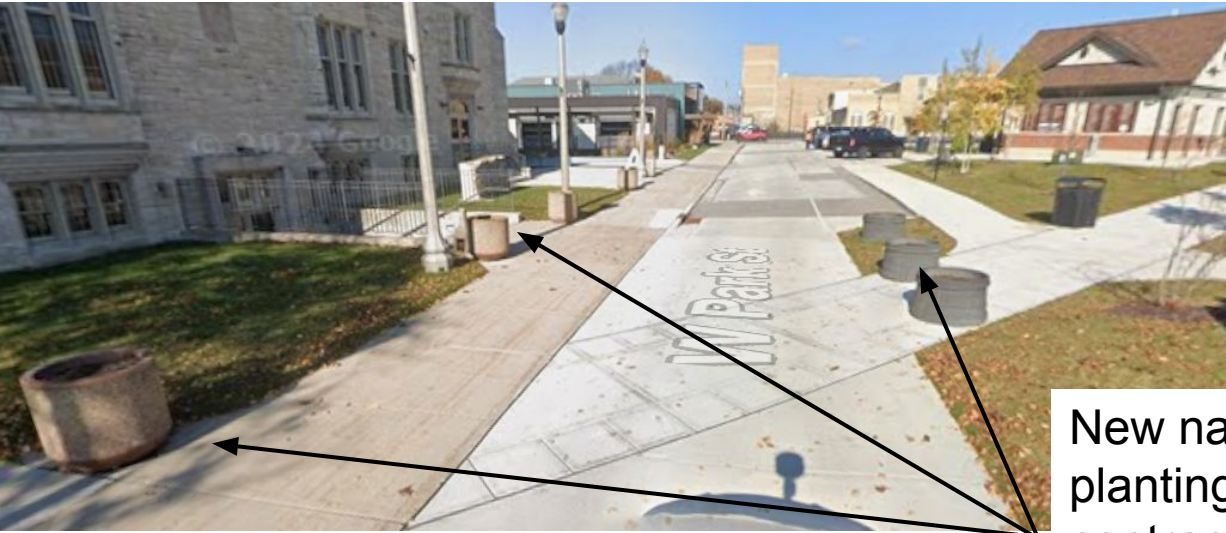


- Will save money, ~\$14,000 in 2026
- Creates flexibility for budget challenges in 2027
- Creates better alignment for Community House operations
- Moves capacity to where it is needed for park trash clean-up, restroom closing, and cleaning the community house, especially on a 2nd shift, and away from the cemetery

Paddlers Park – Work starting in April



Native Plant and Gardening Projects



New native perennial plantings to reduce contractor and planting costs.



Recreation Programs

- Spring Youth Track begins April 27, with 44 currently registered
- Summer Swim Lessons, 110 youth enrolled
- Dance program ended on 4/11 with over 200 people attending the recital to see the 80 participants perform

Kids in Motion



Summer Kids & Family Program

6:00-7:30pm in Central Park West
Wednesdays, June 17 - July 22

Enjoy weekly themed adventures filled with movement, creativity, and fun! Each session includes obstacle games, water play, music & dance, mindfulness, crafts, and a snack. For children age 2 to 12, children 5 and under must attend with an adult.

What to Expect Each Week

- Obstacle games & group activities
- Splash pad water play
- Short dance party
- Mindfulness activity
- Parent-child interaction opportunities
- Craft, snack & take-home item

Weekly Themes

Week 1: SpongeBob Splash Party
Obstacle races, bubble fun, tie-dye craft & dance party

Week 2: Paw Patrol Rescue Mission
Rescue challenges, water games & hero badge craft

Week 3: K-Pop Hero Adventure
Dance-offs, relays & music-inspired fun

Week 4: Minions & Monsters Adventure
Silly games, skits & water challenges

Week 5: Lego Adventure
Creative building challenges & mini performances

Week 6: Super Mario Galaxy Adventure
Obstacle course, quests & races

\$40 per child for all sessions or \$10 per night



Register by June 16.
Scan the QR code to register
or visit TRreconnect.com

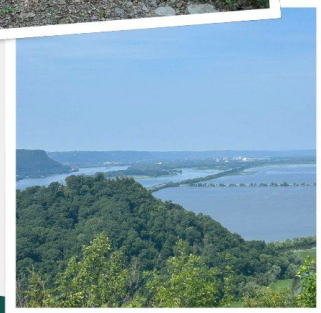
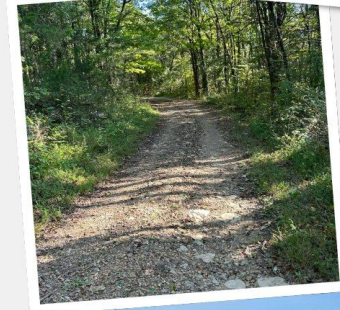
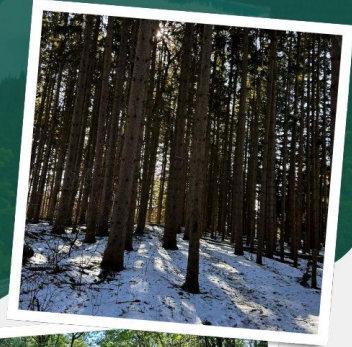


For more information contact Kenny at 793-5594 or kenshi@two-rivers.org

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

May 12 & 13, 6pm-7pm

Shinrin-Yoku (Forest Bathing with Two Rivers Parks & Rec)



FEATURED EXPERIENCES:

- **Slow Down & Reconnect**
This gentle 2-day series invites you to immerse yourself in nature through mindful walking, sensory awareness and quiet reflection
- **Progressive**
Learn about Forest Bathing and tools to reduce stress, restore balance, and deepen your connection to the natural world - no experience or special fitness required
- **Showing Up**
Come as you are. Leave feeling grounded, refreshed, and renewed



TWO RIVERS
WISCONSIN



\$25 investment in your health
Further details sent via email after registration
Scan the QR Code to register or at trreconnect.com

Contact Info:
kenshi@two-rivers.org
(920) 793-5594

Summer School Swim Lessons

Level 1 – Skills include submerging face, blowing bubbles, experiencing buoyancy, supporting front and back float kick, and learning basic water safety rules. **Hours 1 & 3**

Level 2 – Skills include holding breath, rhythmic breathing, orientation to deep water, supine floating and kicking, front and back crawl arm action, combined strokes using kick and arm movement, turning over, and personal safety and rescue. **Hours 2 & 4**

Level 3 – Skills include retrieving objects, jumping in and bobbing in deep water, prone and supine glide with push off, coordinating front and back crawl with breathing, and water safety techniques. **Hours 1 & 3**

Level 4 – Skills include deep-water bobbing, rotary breathing, diving from side of pool, sculling on back, front and back crawl, and water safety techniques. **Hours 2 & 4**

Level 5 – Skills include refining of all six swimming strokes (i.e. front crawl, back crawl, butterfly, breaststroke, elementary backstroke, and side stroke) as well as building endurance. Tread water longer, and flip/open turns for all strokes. **Hours 2 & 4**

Details:

Monday–Friday

Session 1: June 15–July 2

Session 2: July 13–July 24

Two Rivers High School Pool

Session 1: \$40 Session 2: \$30

Grades: 3–8 grade

Max participants per level – 16

Registration Deadline: April 30, 2026



Registration must be completed through Infinite Campus first and payment made to the Rec Department
For additional information please call: 920-793-5598 or email rebhan@two-rivers.org

PARKS AND RECREATION



APR 27-
MAY 20
2026



SPRING YOUTH TRACK

1st-4th graders welcome

**Ready, set, go! In this program,
participants will learn the
fundamentals of one of the oldest
(coolest!) sports in the world.**

**MONDAYS &
WEDNESDAYS**



**Fee - \$30 - Magee & Koenig Green Spaces
3-4PM (Mondays) 2:15-3:15PM (Wednesdays)**

CALL 793-5592 TO SIGN UP TODAY OR
GO ONLINE AT TRRECCONNECT.COM



Arbor Day CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 25, 2026

10am - Noon

Holy Cross & Forest View Cemetery

Join us for a FREE, family-friendly event featuring tree plantings!

Don't forget your gloves & helping hands!

Holy Cross & Forest View Cemetery
3801 Mishicot Road, Two Rivers



TWO RIVERS
PARKS & REC



2026 Concerts IN THE Park



*ALL CONCERTS ARE 6-8PM UNLESS NOTED

- DORF KAPPELLE 6/4
- WINE ON FRIDAY 6/11
- MANITOWOC MARINE BAND 7/23
- LAKESHORE WIND ENSEMBLE 7/26
- CLIPPER CITY CHORDSMEN 7/30

- DR. BOMBAY 8/20
- DAVE STEFFEN BAND 8/27
- THE TAXMEN 9/3
- TR COMMUNITY BAND
*6/18, *7/9, *7/16, *6:30-8PM
**8/6, **8/13 **6:00-7:30PM



EXPLORETWORIVERS.COM

BEACH CLEANUP & DUNE GRASS PLANTING



Join Us!

LOVE YOUR LAKE THIS EARTH DAY!

Be part of **restoring our Lake Michigan Shoreline!** Join the Friends of the Twin Rivers on Saturday, April 18 from 9AM - 12 PM for a hands-on morning of beach cleanup and dune grass planting.

Native dune grass helps **build habitat**, hold sand in place, and **protect Memorial Drive from wind and wave** driven sand movement.

- **Saturday April 18th**
9AM - 12 PM
- Meet at the beach area south of Lighthouse Inn

Register now at:

<https://bit.ly/fotrcleanupapril2026>



EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Join the City of Two Rivers Parks & Recreation Department for a community-wide Earth Day Clean-Up on April 25th to help keep our parks, neighborhoods, and public spaces beautiful.



We invite families, students, and community members to help the Parks & Recreation Department pick up litter in parks, streets, and public spaces. Volunteers will meet at one of three rally sites. Trash bags and some grabbers will be provided—wear clothes that can get dirty and bring gloves if you have them.

Rally Locations:

- Central Park West (Bandstand)
- Lakeshore Park (Lester Public Library - Playground)
- Riverside Park (Skatepark)



Scan QR code to volunteer!

Special Events

- \$20,000 in-kind sponsorship from Seehafer Broadcasting for Bands on the Beach, providing approximately 800 ads as part of WOMT's 100th Anniversary
- Fox Communities Credit Union as a \$1,500 major sponsor for the Cool City Christmas event
- Easter Bunny Breakfast was a great success, welcoming nearly 300 participants and generating over \$3,300 in profit
- Heart-A-Rama will be utilizing the TR Community House starting this week for their upcoming event

Senior Center

March Numbers

- Check-ins: 1,408
- Fitness: 588
- Cardio Drumming: 111
- Senior Yoga: 282
- Golf Simulator: 12 (added the 4 slots to each week)
- Congregate Lunch: 151
- Rec Programming: 323 (games, bingo, etc)
- TRUST: 268
- Home Delivered Meals: 1355
- March showed an increase in all categories, even with multiple days closed due to weather.



Community House / Other

- Seasonal Hiring

