ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   Motion made by Travis Kadow, Seconded by Chris Eggert- Rosenthal.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE -** None

4. **COMMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC (Limited to 3 minutes each)** - None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

   A. Potential community fruit tree orchard project in a park - The Board discussed the possibility of establishing a 25–50 tree community fruit orchard in a City park. The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) may provide trees, design assistance, equipment, volunteer training, and ongoing care guidance. All harvested fruit would be donated to the community. The Board was supportive of the idea and felt Two Rivers has a strong volunteer base to assist with planting and maintenance.

   B. P&R receiving PSC Energy Innovation Grant to evaluate energy efficiency -The Parks & Recreation Department received a $50,000 Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) Energy Innovation Grant to evaluate energy efficiency across City facilities. The assessment will identify opportunities to reduce utility costs, improve building efficiency, and prioritize future energy-saving improvements. Two Rivers was one of 36 statewide grant recipients awarded a share of $11.5 million in 2026.

   C. Discuss possible options for expanding youth swimming programs - The Board discussed expanding youth swim lessons and open swim opportunities following the closure of the Two Rivers Community Swim Club. A part-time swim instructor was hired to help support this 2027 goal. P&R is awaiting a meeting with the former swim club board to explore potential funding from the property sale. The Board discussed creative ways to meet community interest while addressing pool availability and affordability.

   D. Youth Sports Summit -The Board reviewed initial summit results, including 30 attendees, 264 youth survey responses, and 65 parent/guardian responses. P&R and TRPS are working toward completing a Youth Sports Strategic Plan by February, with adoption by City Council and the School Board. Next meeting one additional public session planned for late January (date TBD).

E. 2027 City budget – The Board discussed the projected 1.7% decrease in the P&R general fund budget despite rising insurance, wages, and operating costs. Services are not being reduced, as some expenses are shifting to special revenue funds. Increased revenue from program fees, fundraising, sponsorships, grants, and special events is essential to maintaining services. With the City nearing its levy limit, alternative revenue sources will become increasingly important, leaving less flexibility in the department's budget.

6. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

7. **OTHER BUSINESS -** None

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

a. Program and Event Updates

Program Updates: Recreation has upcoming Co-ed and Girls Youth Wrestling programs, along with Yoga for a Cause. Golf Simulator rentals are increasing with colder temperatures. The Senior Center hosted its annual Health & Information Fair with 300 participants, as well as a cribbage tournament. Program check-in numbers are included in the presentation.

Event Updates: P&R hosted Downtown Trick-or-Treat and its first-ever Zombie Zoom 5K, with 150 participants raising $2,000 for the Youth Sports Equipment and Financial Aid Fund. Next year's race is scheduled for October 30, 2027. Special thanks to the Optimist Club and all volunteers. Next event will be Cool City Christmas December, 12, 2026. The Senior Center also hosted its first Murder Mystery Dinner, which was a great success with 150 participants.

b. Parks and Facilities Project Updates

Neshotah Beach House Renovation: The project will need to be re-bid to confirm costs and determine available funding before moving forward. Current estimates are $170,000 for women's restroom updates and $75,000 for concession stand code updates. Project plans are included in the presentation.

Riverside Park Update: Phase 1 demotion, flattening, and grass planting completed. Phase 1 bidding is expected to begin in December. Phase 2 bike and skate park funding includes a confirmed $100,000 West Foundation grant, $100,000 in City funding pending 2027 budget approval, and a $40,000 community fundraising goal for 2027.

Central Park Ice Rink Update: Synthetic ice rink installation is planned for the week before Thanksgiving. The Two Rivers Rotary will take over free skate rentals (dates TBD), and working to establish learn-to-skate sessions.

Paddlers Park Update: Improvements funded by a 2025 WI Coastal Management Grant are nearing completion. The grass picnic area, new signage, and fishing stations are installed. The expanded concrete boat ramp is expected to be completed by the first week of December.

Neshotah Park Signage Update: Parking lot signs still need final sanding touch-ups and top caps. Entrance signs and kiosk maps are forthcoming. The signage plans were reviewed multiple times by the Advisory Recreation Board and an ad hoc stakeholder committee before City Council approved the contract.

Coastal Resilience Project Update: City staff and resident stakeholders hosted National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) representatives to review proposed shoreline improvements as part of

a $388,000 grant application. The project aims to protect City infrastructure during high lake levels and reduce sand movement into the harbor channel. Staff and residents also advocated for additional funding to extend the harbor jetty, which is not included in the current proposal.

c. Planning and Grants Updates

P&R received a **$25,000 WI DNR Urban Forestry Grant**, with a $25,000 local match, for a $50,000 project. Plans include planting approximately 20 street trees, expanding the gravel-bed nursery, removing remaining declining ash trees, and developing a volunteer Green Team and student acorn-growing program. The project will build a more sustainable, cost-effective urban forestry program and help offset the elimination of the City's annual tree planting budget in 2027.

P&R received a **$77,000 WI DNR Stormwater Grant** to improve Mariners Trail and Shoreline Improvements, specifically the wayside parking lot nearest the Chamber of Commerce. The required 50% local match will be covered by other grants, with no City funding needed.

9. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS -** Review Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Action Plan in January.

10. **NEXT MEETING** – December 9th, 2026

11. **ADJOURNMENT**
    Motion made by Travis Kadow, Seconded by Jennifer Watry.

Respectfully Submitted, Ashley Hagerty, Recreation Clerk

Advisory Recreation Board Meeting

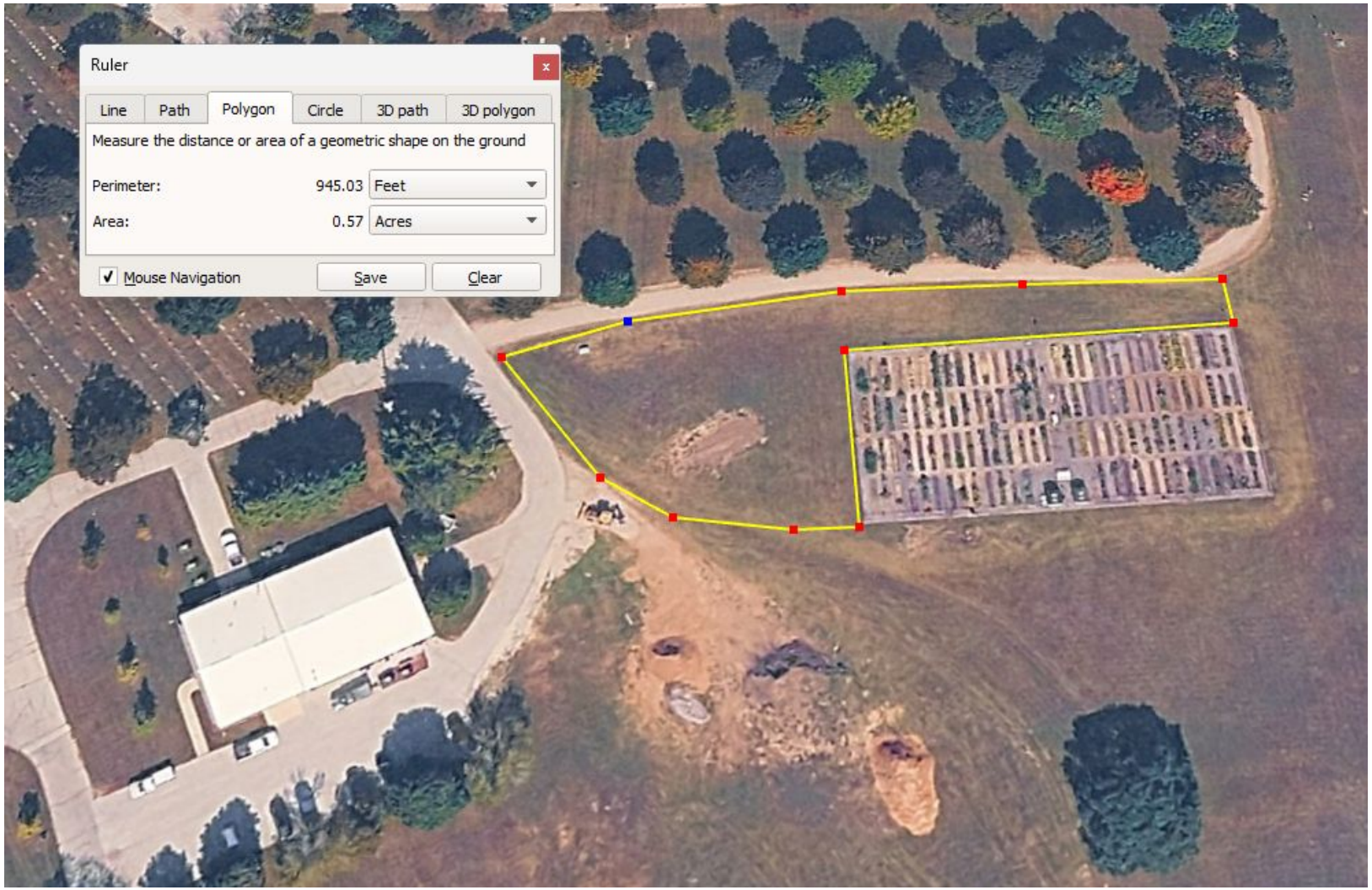


Mike Mathis, Director of Parks and Recreation

11/11/26

Fruit Tree Orchard Opportunity

- The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) provides fruit trees, orchard design assistance, planting equipment, technical expertise, volunteer training, and ongoing care guidance
- 25 to 50 trees
- Variety of species and fruits that are best suited to our environment and for organic production
- Harvest must be donated to the community
- Two Rivers already has a strong pool of dedicated volunteers who support park maintenance, beautification, and community clean-up efforts



PSC Energy Innovation Grant

- Grant Award: $50,000 from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) Energy Innovation Grant Program.
- Purpose: Evaluate energy efficiency and identify opportunities to reduce utility costs across Two Rivers Parks and Recreation facilities.
- Energy Assessments: Examine existing energy consumption, building systems, and potential efficiency improvements.
- Cost-Saving Opportunities: Identify improvements that could reduce electricity and heating expenses.
- Long-Term Planning: Develop recommendations to prioritize future energy efficiency investments and facility improvements.
- Financial Benefits: Help reduce ongoing operating expenses while improving environmental sustainability.
- Statewide Recognition: Two Rivers was among 36 recipients selected for $11.5 million in statewide funding in 2026



Youth Swimming Opportunities

- The closure of the Two Rivers Community Swim Club has made access to swim lessons more difficult.
- P&R leads swim lessons during summer school.
- Expanding access is an important 2027 P&R goal.
- We are awaiting a meeting with the former swim club board to explore options using funds they have from the sale of the property.
- Is there interest from the community in expanding lessons and open swim at the high school led by P&R?
- The high school pool has limited availability during the school year.
- How do we make this affordable?



Youth Sport Summit

- 30 people attended
- Our goal is to produce a youth sports strategic plan by February with adoption of the plan by City Council and the School Board
- A strong partnership with TRPS is leading this effort
- 264 youth survey responses
- 65 parent/guardian survey responses
- One more public session will take place in late January date TBD



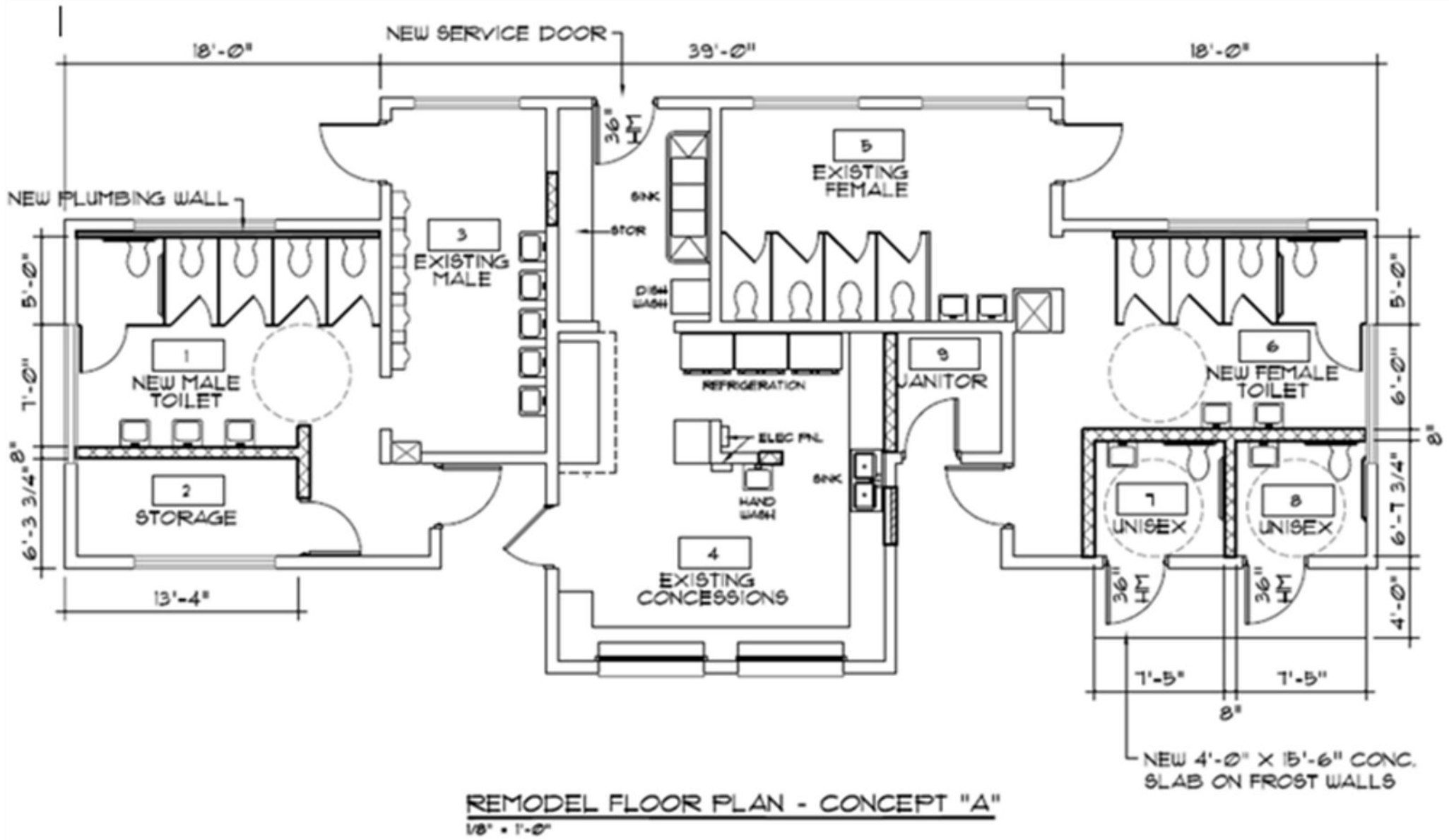
2027 P&R Budget

- The P&R general fund budget is projected to *decrease* by 1.7% for 2027.
  - This is occurring despite an 8% increase to employee health insurance, a 3% cost-of-living wage adjustment, and inflation pressure across all expenses.
- We are not cutting services because general fund expenses are being moved to special revenue funds.
  - We have increased revenue through the Senior Center, special events, fundraising, sponsorships, grants, and charging for service.
- The margin for error and flexibility for our department to adapt is decreasing.
- The City is near its levy limit so increasing revenue through property taxes is capped. Revenue from other sources is essential to prevei cutting services.

Neshotah Beach House Renovation

Neshotah Beach House Renovation Funding Sources		
2026 capital borrowing for the project	$	200,000
Room Tax Commission support 2027-2028	$	25,000
Remaining funds from 2024-2025 Neshotah Park DNR Stewardship project coming in under budget (50/50 city borrowing and grant)	$	20,000
Total =	$	245,000
Renovation Components and Estimated Cost		
Women's restroom reconfiguration and updates	$	170,000
Concession stand code updates, replacement of cabinents and counter tops	$	75,000
	$	245,000

- Re-bidding the project is needed to confirm the cost estimates
- We need to know how much money we have available for the project before going to bid
- The estimate for the concession updates was received a month ago



REMODEL FLOOR PLAN - CONCEPT "A"

1/8" = 1'-0"

HAMANN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS FOR
NASHOTAH BEACH CONCESSION AND RESTROOM FACILITY

SHEET PR1

Riverside Park Update

- Phase 1 bidding process starting in December
- $100,000 grant from West Foundation confirmed for phase 2 bike and skate park
- $100,000 in city funding pending 2027 budget approval
- $40,000 phase 2 goal set for community fundraising in 2027





Central Park Ice Rink Update

- Synthetic ice rink will be installed the week before Thanksgiving
- Two Rivers Rotary taking over free skate rentals (Dates TBD)
  - Working to create learn to skate sessions









Paddlers Park Update

- We are nearing the end of improvements at Paddlers Park using a 2025 WI Coastal Management grant.
- Grass picnic area, new signage, and fishing stations installed.
- Expanded concrete boat ramp coming by the first week of December.

Neshotah Park Signage Update

- Touch up sanding and top caps still needed on parking lot signs
- Entrance signs and kiosk maps still to come
- Signage projected was reviewed multiple times by the Advisory Recreation Board and a separate ad hoc advisory committee of stakeholders
- City Council approved the contract and reviewed the plans before execution





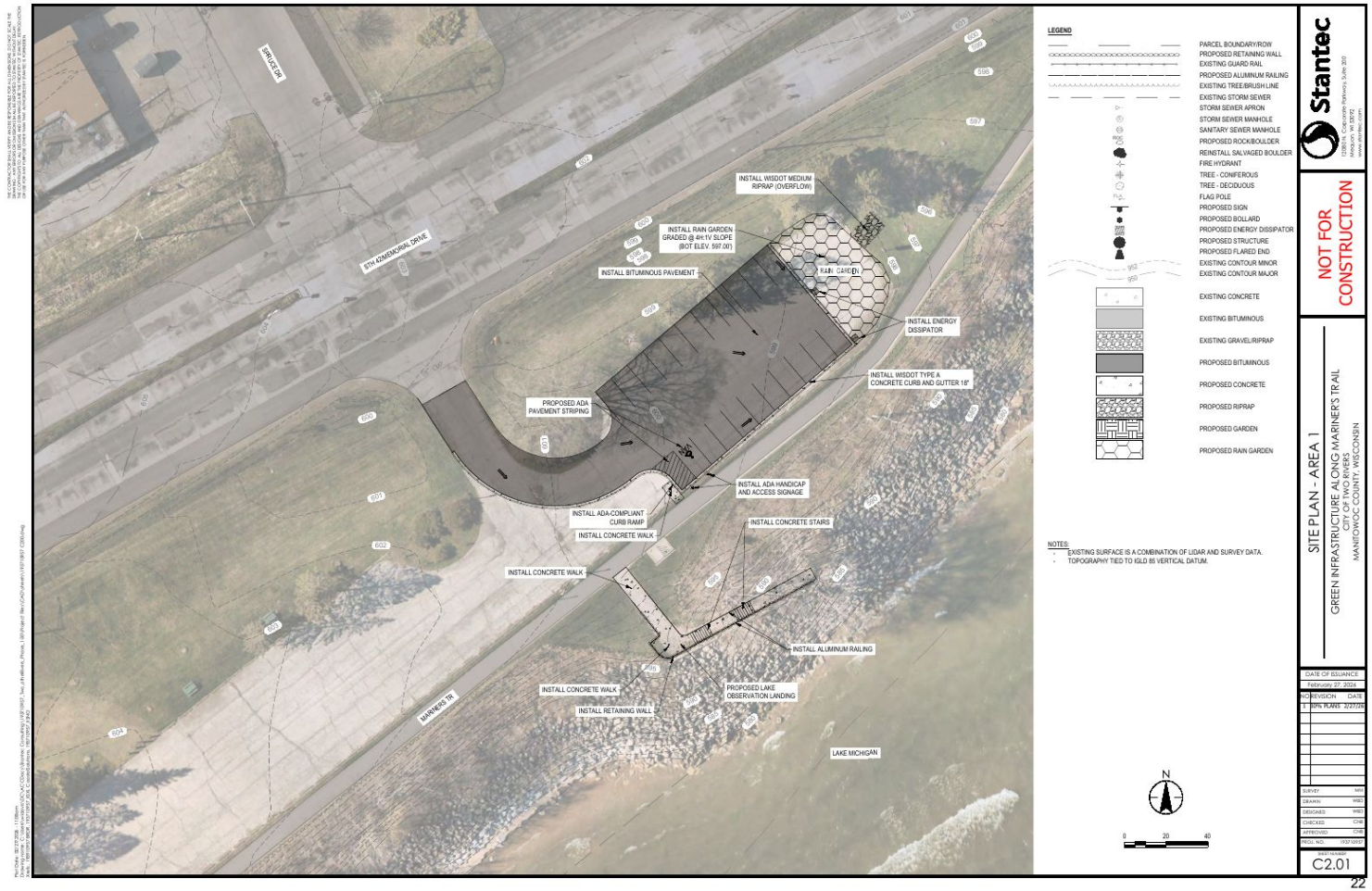
Coastal Resilience Project Updat

- City staff and resident stakeholders hosted representatives from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to share our plans for shoreline improvements as a part of the application process for a $388,000 grant
- Improvements will protect city infrastructure during high lake levels and reduce sand movement into the harbor channel
- Staff and residents advocated for additional funding to extend the harbor jetty which is not a part of this funding proposal



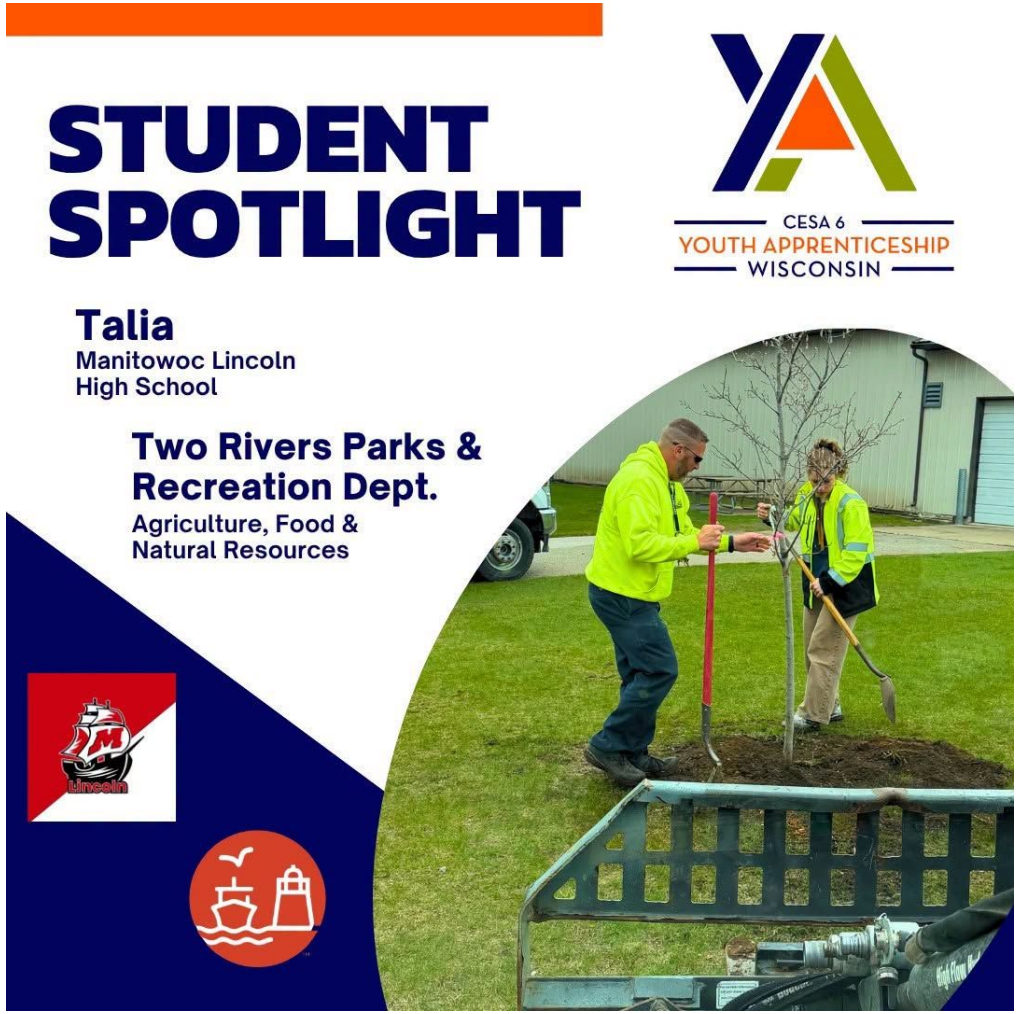
Mariners Trail and Shoreline Improvements

- P&R receiving $77,000 WI DNR Stormwater grant to update wayside parking lot
- 50% match covered by other grants, no city funding
- Wayside nearest the Chamber of Commerce building



2027 WI DNR Urban Forestry Grant – $25,000

- $50,000 total project with a $25,000 grant and $25,000 local match.
- Plant approximately 20 new street trees.
- Expand our gravel-bed nursery to grow trees at a lower cost.
- Remove remaining dead or declining ash trees.
- Establish a volunteer Green Team to support urban forestry.
- Partner with schools on a student acorn-growing program.
- Provide staff training in tree propagation and nursery management.
- Develop a more sustainable, cost-effective urban forestry program.
- Leverage volunteers, students, and in-house tree production to reduce future expenses.
- Help offset the elimination of the City's $22,500 annual tree planting budget in 2027.



Zombie Zoom 5k and Downtown Trick or Treat

- 150 people participated
- Net $2,000 will contribute to youth sports activities
- Returning October 30th, 2027
- The Optimist Club provided volunteers. Thank you!





Murder Mystery Dinner Results

- 150 people attended
- Fundraiser for senior center operations





Senior Center Activities

Hello I am Here: 1,558
Fitness: 574
Golf Simulator: 0
Congregate Lunch: 124
Recreational Programming: 323
TRUST: 286
HDM: 1622

Notable October events:

- Health and Information Fair: 300 participants
- Cribbage Tournament





TWO RIVERS WISCONSIN

Support Local Parks & Programs!

VETERANS PARK FISH CLEANING STATION

Advertising Sign Sponsorships

Gain valuable visibility for your business or organization while supporting Two Rivers Parks & Recreation programs and facilities!



OPTION 1

$500

Smaller Sign

- Size: 12" x 18"
- Number Available: 5
- Location: Fish Cleaning Station
- Annual Cost: $500



OPTION 2

$1,000

Larger Sign

- Size: 12" x 42"
- Number Available: 3
- Location: Fish Cleaning Station
- Annual Cost: $1,000

ADVERTISING SEASON

January 1 – December 31

Signs remain on display from the date of installation through December 31.

FISHING SEASON

Approximately April – December 31

Signs may remain displayed throughout the entire calendar year.

LOCATION

Veterans Park Fish Cleaning Station & Boat Launch, West River St, Two Rivers

ARTWORK & DESIGN

- Provide your own completed artwork or
- Let us help with your design at no additional cost.

All artwork will be reviewed and approved by Parks & Recreation prior to production.

Reserve Your Space Today!

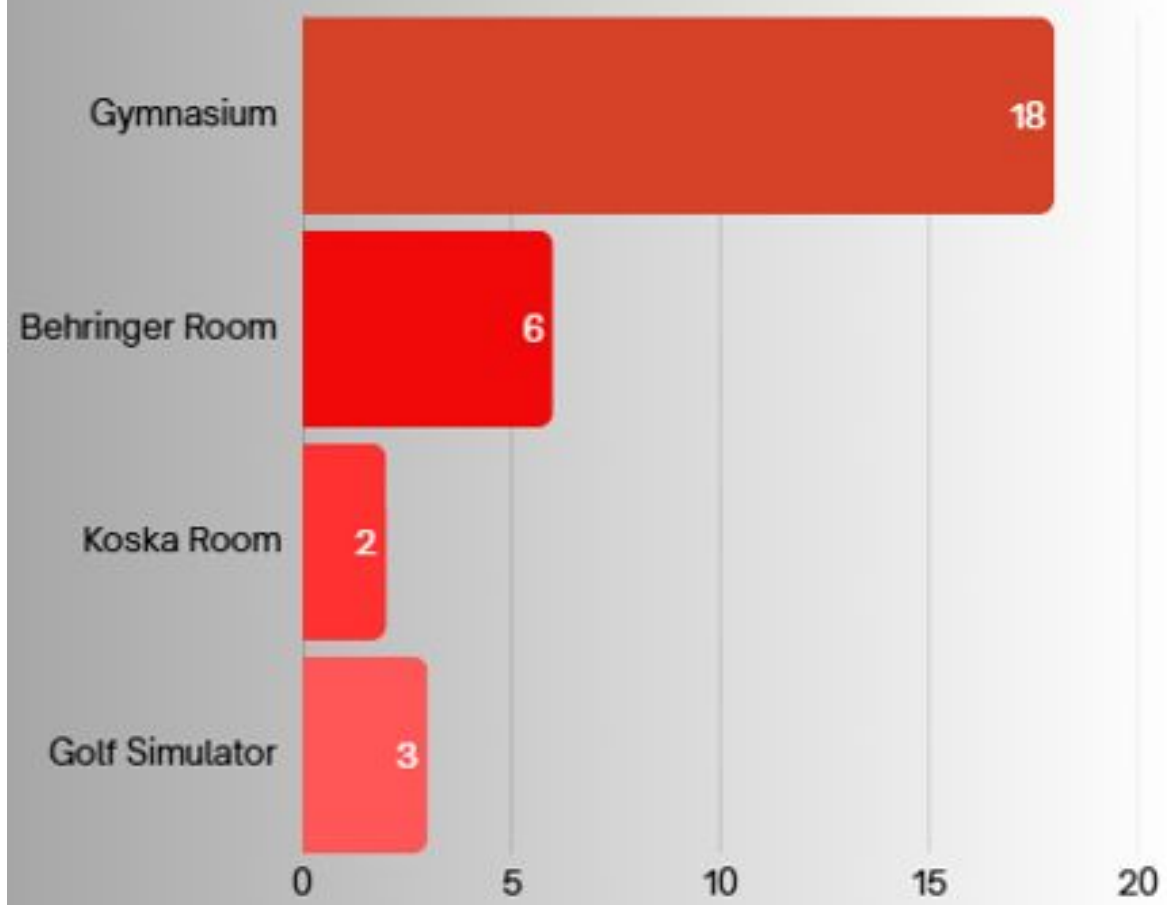
For more information call

793-5592



October 2026

Community House Rentals



YOUTH WRESTLING

Youth Wrestling for boys and girls facilitated by the TR Wrestling Club! Build skills through drills, instruction, and friendly competition in a supportive team setting.



Dates: Dec 3 - Mar 18
Days: Tues & Thurs
Grades 4K - 1: 5:45pm - 6:25pm
Grades 2-4: 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Location: Two Rivers High School
Fee: $35
Registration Deadline:November 27, 2026

REGISTER ONLINE:
TRRECCONNECT.COM

SCAN HERE



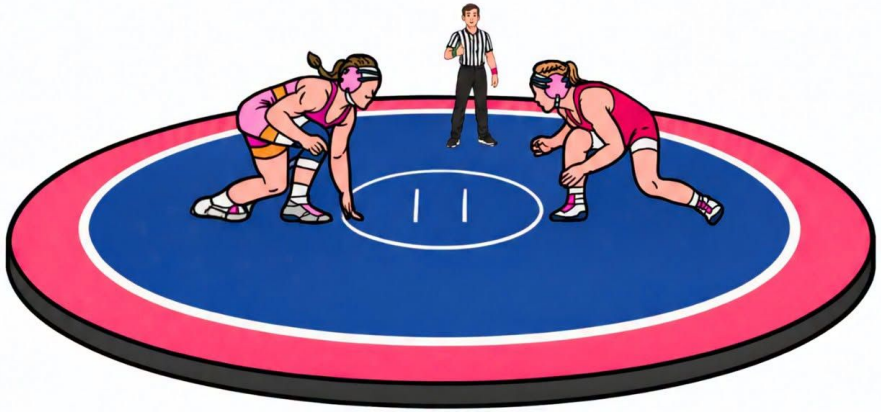
For questions please reach out to Shannon Berglund at:
two.rivers.wrestling.club@gmail.com

Download the TeamReach app and use group code TRYW for program updates and communication.

NEW!

GIRLS YOUTH WRESTLING

Led by Mike DeRoehn, Lakeland University Head Wrestling Coach, with 20+ years of Hall of Fame coaching experience, including coaching wrestlers from beginners through Olympic Trials.
Girls will build balance, coordination, body control, and foundational wrestling skills through fun, age-appropriate drills and games.



Open to Girls in Grades K-4
L.B. Clarke Middle School
Tues & Thurs Nights | Jan 5 - Mar 18
6:30pm - 7:30pm
Cost: $50

Maximum Participants: 30
Registration Deadline: Jan 4
***Not affiliated with the Two Rivers Wrestling Club.**

Register online at trecconnect.com or scan the QR Code!

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MIKE DEROEHN AT MICHAELDEROEHN@GMAIL.COM



HOURS

Monday	9am - 8pm
Tuesday	1pm - 8pm
Wednesday	9am - 8pm
Thursday	9am - 8pm
Friday thru Sunday	9am - 6pm

GROUP RATES

$25 per hour (Monday thru Thursday)
$30 per hour (Friday thru Sunday)

Located in the J.E. Hamilton Community House, Two Rivers

To book your session, scan the QR code, call (920) 793-5592, or visit the Community House.

YOGA
FOR A CAUSE



IN THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING, JOIN CATHY HENDRICKS, EYT, FOR A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SLOW FLOW YOGA CLASS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR TREP (TWO RIVERS ECUMENICAL PANTRY)! THIS CLASS IS DONATION-BASED, SO PAY WHAT YOU CAN. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT TREP!

WEDNESDAY, NOV 25
5:30PM - 6:30PM
BEHRINGER ROOM
COST: DONATION BASED

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT TRRECCONNECT.COM TO SIGN UP

4th ANNUAL COOL CITY CHRISTMAS

In Downtown Two Rivers

Saturday, December 12 | 10:00am - 2:00pm

For details visit exploretworivers.com



MAJOR SPONSOR: Fox Communities Credit Union

SUPPORTING SPONSORS: LOWE'S, Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center, WOMT 1240AM 98.9FM, Two Rivers Utilities

- Visit with Santa
- Meet Santa's Reindeer (10am - 12:30pm)
- Carolers
- Carriage Rides (10am - 1pm)
- Craft & Vendor Fair
- Holiday Craft Making
- Downtown Shopping & Dining
- Food Trucks
- S'mores & Warming Fire
- Face Painting
- Free Ice Skate Rentals
- Two Rivers Police K9 Unit
- Free Photo Booth

CORPORATE SPONSOR: Community First Credit Union

COOL CITY CHRISTMAS 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

MAJOR SPONSOR: Friends of the Two Rivers 1954 Senior Center

SUPPORTING SPONSORS: LOWE'S, SEEHAFER BROADCASTING, AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE P.A. Wargin Agency, Inc., Rotary Club of Two Rivers, Mark Gordon, Realtor, Weichert CornerStone

American Family - Team Wargin
Architectural Forest Products
Ball Auto and Truck Parts (NAPA)
Bank First
Big Loads
Casa Mexico
Christina's Cakery & Baked Goods
City Central Bar & Grill
Clocktower Advisors
Connie's Diner
Cool City Brewing Company
Cool City Chevrolet
Cozy B's Family Diner
Crescent Textile Solutions
Deja & Martin Funeral Chapels
EVM, Inc.
Fox Communities Credit Union
Friends of Two Rivers SnowFest
G3 Industries (Formrite)
Garage Door Specialty
GJ's Salon-N-Spa
Kozlowski Tire & Auto
Kwik Trip
Lakeshore Family Funeral Homes - Klein & Stangel
Hofmann Monuments, Inc.
LeClair Bros Heating & A/C
Linda Loves Cheesecake
Metalware
Phoenix Behavioral Health Services
Riverside Foods
Rush Logistics
Schroeder's Dept Store
Schwartz Manufacturing
Seagull Marina
Seehafer Broadcasting
Susie Q Fish Company
Twin Rivers Improvement
Two Rivers Clothing Company
Two Rivers Family Dental
Two Rivers Fish Derby
Two Rivers Optimist Club
Vinton Construction Co.
Weichert, Realtors CornerStone

COOL CITY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

SPONSOR

TWO RIVERS UTILITIES

SHARED STRENGTH THROUGH WPPI ENERGY

SPRANG FARMS

DOWNTOWN TWO RIVERS

