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CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

April Meeting Notice

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on **Wednesday, April 3rd, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.**, in the basement conference room at the Merrill City Hall, 1004 East First Street.

The following items will be included on the agenda:

1. Approve minutes from the previous meeting.
2. Approve claims.
3. Review of River Bend Stewardship Application from the River District Development Foundation.
4. Review of Merrill Memorial Forest Stewardship Application.
5. Review/approve Kitchenette Park re-roof bids.
6. Continued discussion on Dog Park.
7. Continued discussion on MARC Varsity Soccer Field Fencing.
8. Monthly reports.
9. Set date and time for next meeting.
10. Public comment.
11. Adjournment

Submitted by,

Dan Novitch, Chairman *DNW*
Parks & Recreation Commission

The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are required, please contact City Hall at 715-536-5594.

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- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 6, 2013

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Dan Novitch, Steve Hintze, Anne Caylor and Brian Artac – came in at 5:15p.m.

Members Excused Absent: Mike Willman,

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kandy Peterson, Phynette Conrad, Vincent Conrad, Sharon Anderson, Judy Woller, Mile Wilson, Gene Bebel, Mayor Bill Bialecki, Steve Sabatke, and a few walked in after the meeting started.

***Motion by Caylor, seconded by Hintze, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Hintze, seconded by Caylor, to approve the claims.

***Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was to review/approve request to place monument in Cenotaph Park. Wendorf turned the floor over to Steve Sabatke. Mr. Sabatke explained that right now the plaque is hanging in the old American Legion Building on the wall and no one ever has a chance to honor this plaque or the people who served in World War 1. Mr. Sabatke stated that the plaque is 7 feet tall and weighs about 400 pounds. There are 39 veterans honored on the plaque. Mr. Sabatke explained that there would be a sidewalk leading up the plaque and there would also be an additional plaque below this one honoring an additional 15 veterans. Mr. Sabatke stated that all the money needed to complete this project will be done through fundraising and all the work would be volunteered by different organizations.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Caylor, to approve the request to place the monument in Cenotaph Park.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review Memorial Forest salvage timber sale revenue. Wendorf stated that Finance Director Unertl recommends waiting on any expenses until settlement is completed with Crawford Insurance related to all tornado claims. Wendorf stated at this time there is 121,820.69 left from the revenue of the timber sale at Memorial Forest. Sturm had some questions regarding where some of the money went and how much the concession stand cost. Wendorf stated that those questions will be able to be answered when Finance Director Unertl returns to work. Wendorf stated when everything from the tornado was paid he can report back to the Park and Recreation Commission.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss varsity soccer field fencing possibilities. Wendorf stated that there was some interest on enclosing the varsity soccer fields. Wendorf stated that this would allow for soccer to host tournaments and WIAA games admission can charge at the gate.

The cost of the fence will run about \$12,000.00. Mayor Bialecki stated that erecting a fence around the soccer fields would bring in a lot of revenue for the soccer association and the school. Harris stated that we should check with WIAA and see what rules would all apply to putting up a fence around the soccer field. After some discussion it was decided to put this on the agenda for next months meeting. It was suggested that someone from the school and Merrill Youth Soccer be present at the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Kitchenette Park roof proposal. Wendorf stated that he would be working with Becher Hoppe to put together the specs for the new roof at Kitchenette Park. Sturm suggested that Becher Hoppe is not needed to put together the specs for Kitchenette Park. Sturm stated that Wendorf can put the specs together and send it out for bids since the only thing being replaced is the roof. It was stated that Wendorf could bring all bids back to next months meeting so that all work can be done before the rental of parks begins.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant with River Front Development Foundation for the River Bend Trail acquisition. Wendorf stated that this would need to be approved because the City is the only one who can apply for the grants and so that the City Council can approve it at the March meeting.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Caylor, to approve Resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant with River Front Development Foundation for the River Bend Trail acquisition with a change in wording on paragraph 5, should state: Whereas, the City of Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting on March 6, 2013, authorized Dan Wendorf, Park and Recreation Director for the City of Merrill to act on in corporation with Park and Recreation Commission and forward to City Council.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant for Memorial Forest trail improvements. Wendorf stated that there is a grant that can be applied for to help enhance and add some new trails at Memorial Forest and to also adjoin with some county trails. Wendorf stated the grant that they are applying for would be for \$50,000.00 and the City would need to match the grant. Hintze questioned what if the City did not have the funds to match the grant. Wendorf stated that if the money was not available an extension could be requested or we can wait until the following year.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Hintze to approve the Resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant for Memorial Forest trail improvements with a wording change in paragraph 5, should state: Whereas, the City of Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting on March 6, 2013, authorized Dan Wendorf, Park and Recreation Director for the City of Merrill to act on in corporation with Park and Recreation Commission and forward to City Council.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to continue discussion on Dog Park. Wendorf stated that the "Friends of the Dog Park" would at least like to see 3 acres for the dog park. Wendorf also stated that having some rules and regulations would help enhance the park. Hintze stated that a concern he has had is why you would want to put a dog park in one of our parks where families are going to have picnics in the park. Hintze did not feel that this would be a good idea and suggested putting the dog park someplace where it would interfere with families already utilizing the parks. Wendorf stated that he received a email from Jeremy Thompson stating that the land behind Zastrows, owned by the Merrill Area Development Corp., is non useable for building so he felt

that this would be a perfect location. Wendorf stated that land would have to be purchased if we wanted to go that route with the dog park. After some discussion the commission felt that purchasing land would not be a good idea for the dog park. The commission requested that at the next meeting Wendorf narrow the sites down to three and bring it back to the commission on locations.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss Parks and Recreation Commission meeting times. Novitch stated that at one meeting the idea of us running our meetings a little later would be nice for the public. Caylor stated that very few city meetings are run before 5:00 p.m. Artac suggested that maybe rotating the meetings would be a good idea.

***A motion by Artac, seconded by Caylor to rotate meeting times for the Park and Recreation Commission meetings.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the ice will be out as of March 17 and dry floor events will begin shortly after that. Wendorf stated that the guys are getting ready for spring/summer for the parks.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., in the lower level in the conference room at City Hall.

Public Comment: Gene Bebel thanked the commission. Sharon Anderson stated the Brenda Mamer is doing a cross county bike ride and hoping to raise some funds for the River Bend trail. Vincent Conrad thanked the commission for the effort in getting the dog park going.

***Motion by Caylor, seconded by Artac, to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary

MARCH					
JANET THOMPSON	TENNIS CAMP	2/23/2013	VOUCHER	\$345.00	55300-03-41000
1230 THE VOICE	ADVERTISING	3/21/2013		\$239.00	LADIES LIFESTYL EXP
ACE HARDWARE	ICE MELT	3/1/2013		\$14.99	55400-03-50000
ACE HARDWARE	DEHUMIDIFIER	3/11/2013		\$189.99	55400-03-50000
ACE HARDWARE	BULBS	3/6/2013		\$25.98	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	PADLOCK/WATERBASE STAIN	2/28/2013		\$103.42	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	BULBS	3/9/2013		\$44.91	55400-03-50000
ACE HARDWARE	EQUIPMENT FOR SHOP	3/22/2013		\$70.03	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	CORDS/POWERSTRIP	3/24/2013		\$115.43	55200-03-40000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	2/28/2013	2132702	\$25.20	55200-02-15000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	2/28/2013	2131748	\$16.80	55200-02-15000
ATCO INTERNATIONAL	ICE GO PELLETS	2/28/2013	132383	\$85.00	55200-03-40000
BB COMMUNITY LEASING SERVICE	COPY MACHINE	3/11/2013	2058	\$138.25	55300-03-41500
BOB'S WEST 64	MOUNT TIRES	2/14/2013	14665	\$107.73	55200-03-50000
BURGOYNES'	TOILET RENTAL	3/1/2013	44100	\$110.00	55200-02-15000
CTL COMPANY	TOILET TISSUE/PAPER TOWEL	3/6/2013	16636	\$297.45	55400-03-50000
DOOR COUNTY TROLLEY TOUR	BUS TRIP	3/10/2013		\$200.00	55300-03-41500
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	2/28/2013	1016713847	\$45.29	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	3/7/2013	1016716714	\$45.29	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	3/14/2013	1013719588	\$45.29	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	MAT/MOPS	3/21/2013	1016722463	\$196.42	55400-02-23250
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	3/21/2013	1016722474	\$48.29	55200-03-46000
GOLD MEDAL TRAILER SALES	FIX TRAILER JACK	3/15/2013	654	\$26.33	55200-03-50000
KID AGAIN INFLATABLES	END OF YEAR SCHOOL PARTY (5TH QUARTER	2/23/2013		\$2,100.00	5TH QUARTER
LAMERS BUS	BUS TRIPS SUMMER	3/18/2013		\$1,300.00	55300-03-41500
LAMERS BUS	BUS TRIPS SUMMER	3/18/2013		\$950.00	55300-03-41500
LAMERS BUS	BUS TRIPS SUMMER	3/18/2013		\$1,075.00	55300-03-41500
MECHANICAL INCORPORATED	REPLACE MOTOR IN ZAMBONI PIT FOR HEATER	2/7/2013	43629	\$515.75	55400-02-16250
MECHANICAL INCORPORATED	CAPITAL EXPENSE HOT WATER HEATER	2/22/2013	43619	\$8,300.00	CAPITAL EXPENSE
MERRILL COUIRIER	ADVERTISING	2/28/2013	22813004	\$241.00	55400-03-41000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	URINAL BLOCS/LATEX GLOVES/GARBAGE BAGS	3/5/2013	1200141	\$315.20	55400-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	WELDS BROKE ON A FRAME	3/1/2013	5582	\$164.03	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	REPLACED ALTERNATOR	3/1/2013	5585	\$161.50	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	REPLACE CUTTING EDGE & SHOES	3/1/2013	5588	\$33.78	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	ROTATE TIRES/CHANGE BRAKES	3/1/2013	5591	\$181.22	55200-03-50000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	LIONS PARK	4/10/2013	116.02440-00	\$273.96	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	MARC	4/10/2013	1060094000	\$904.02	55400-02-21000
MILWAUKEE BREWERS	TICKETS FOR BUS TRIP	2/22/2013	914909	\$720.00	55300-03-41500
MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT	WEDDING SHOW	3/21/2013		\$210.00	55300-03-41500
T & P SALES & SERVICE	LP FOR ZAMBONI	3/11/2013	1861	\$23.00	55400-03-51500
T & P SALES & SERVICE	ZAMBONI LP TANKS	3/18/2013	1879	\$110.00	55400-03-51500
THE PATRIOT	ADVERTISING	2/28/2013	62439	\$246.00	55400-03-41000
TOMAHAWK LEADER	ADVERTISE WEDDING SECTION	3/1/2013	200	\$241.20	55400-03-41500
VERIZON	CREDIT	2/28/2013		15.25 CREDIT	CREDIT
WALMART	EASTER CANDY	3/6/2013		\$206.24	55300-03-41500
WALMART	EASTER CANDY	3/7/2013		\$144.02	55300-03-41500
WALMART	OFFICE SUPPLIES	3/20/2013		\$28.33	55300-03-41500
WALMART	WEDDING SHOW	3/21/2013		\$41.24	55300-03-41500
WPS	LIONS PARK	4/2/2013	405061701-00018	\$16.18	55200-02-22000
WPS	MARC SIGN	4/2/2013	405061701-00002	\$12.46	55200-02-22000
WPS	SMITH CENTER	4/2/2013	405061701-00003	\$4,925.00	55400-02-22000



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Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

To: Parks & Recreation Commissioners

From: Dan Wendorf

Re: Kitchenette Park re-roof bids

Dear Commissioners,

I wanted to let you know that in order to give contractors enough time to bid our project at Kitchenette Park, I will not have them included in the packets. I will have them with me to hand out at the meeting on Wednesday.

Bids were due at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2013 and opened at that time. With Friday, March 29th being a holiday I needed to get packets out to everyone a little earlier this month.

The River District Development Foundation is still preparing their grant for Parks & Recreation Commission review. A copy of the grant proposal will be on hand at the meeting on Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill



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Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

April 2013 Parks & Recreation Director Board Report

Parks: We are still waiting on the weather to turn more spring-like, just like everyone else in the Midwest. We have already had to cancel some MHS sporting events and it is not looking very positive for the next few weeks. Once the snow is gone we still need to prep the fields and facilities in order to be ready. I have been in communication with the Activities Director at MAPS and we will figure out how to navigate through this spring. From a timing stand point we are going to most likely have to get everything ready at the same time. This includes athletic fields, park clean up, get parks ready for opening, and other amenities. This does make things a bit tricky for our staff at the time but we have been cooperating well with the Street Department and we may have to have some help from them at times. I have been working on getting all of our projects ready to move, Lions Park Restrooms, Kitchenette Roof, MARC parking lot striping, dog park, City Forest, etc. We do have a very busy year lined up so it is important to ensure that everything remains in forward motion. After talking with the Dog Park group that has been instrumental in getting us to where we are, in regards to location it seems as though the MARC is the best of what is left. So we can now begin to focus on where to align this park within our complex out here. I am going to talk with Dawn Bishop, Council Grounds Administrator, on April 2nd (as she has been out of town for a number of weeks on trainings) to see if we can revive the collaborative talks related to the dog park. Without cooperative efforts with Council Grounds, it severely limits the amount of space we can provide for the park, along with shade and other constraints. I will verbally update you all at the meeting on Wednesday how that meeting went.

Forestry: We are having a Tree Board Meeting right before the April Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting to go over the upcoming year in forestry. We are going to discuss any issues and concerns throughout the City related to forestry, as well as talk about removal and planting plans for 2013. I do have 6 purple EAB traps from the WDNR that we are going to place in key locations throughout the City and a few of our parks to help with monitoring during the flight period. I have been working to try and stay ahead with the City Forest Stewardship Grant. Enclosed you will find the narrative portion with a preliminary breakdown of the proposed costs. I have also been working with the WDNR local foresters to make sure we are still ready for our replanting efforts this spring at the City Forest. This, along with everything else at this point, is weather dependent. I am going to talk about this at our Tree Board meeting as well, but we are going to see some effects from drought in our urban forest. With the sustained drought conditions we have endured over the past few years, our trees will show some signs (especially young and old). I would anticipate a few more stress related symptoms in our terrace trees especially (chlorosis, leaf out and drop, leaf spots, miners, anosium, etc.). It would be extremely helpful to have a gradual melt with water retention here to recharge our system.

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Recreation: Our Summer Recreation programs are finished and have been distributed to the schools. We have our summer playground special registration already on April 2nd at the Smith Center. We are hoping to build off of the great success we had last year, our best recreation year we have ever had. I am confident that we can exceed those expectations and continue to build off of that. With some new programs geared towards a wider audience we intend to expand our offerings year round. We are also working on introducing a Fun Run in August in cooperation with the Merrill Rotary Club. This event will help benefit both of our organizations and I intend to make this an annual event. I am also planning on adding an additional run for next year, as well as more wellness opportunities. It is a great way for a community to take the lead on living a healthy lifestyle, and for our Parks & Recreation Department a great way to increase exposure and provide that service. We are also having our Easter Egg Hunt at Lions Park on Saturday, March 30th.

Smith Center: We took the ice out on Monday and Tuesday (3/18 – 3/19) and got everything cleaned up and set up for the first dry floor event, the 1st Annual Bridal Expo on Saturday, March 24th. Dawn did an excellent job with the 1st Annual with upwards of 300 people in attendance. As I have mentioned in previous board reports, we have a very busy start to our dry floor season. We already had the Bridal Expo on March 24th, upcoming is: Children's Festival on April 13th, Business & Trade Show on April 27th, and the Ladies Lifestyle Expo on April 30th. Once the weather warms up we will continue with our HVAC preventative maintenance/replacement schedule that was budgeted for this year. We have already replaced the hot water heater between locker rooms 4 and 5 and will proceed with replacement of the two heaters on the west end of the building. I would like to congratulate all of the hockey players at all levels and figure skaters on another very successful ice season with us at the Smith Center. The Merrill Youth Hockey Association had two State Championship teams this year and the Ice Reflections Figure Skating Association continues to do a first rate job with their skaters as well as their show.

Note: As usual, I would like to encourage members of the Parks & Recreation Commission to contact me with any and all questions you may have before we get into the meetings. This will allow me to more accurately answer your specific questions in an efficient manner.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill



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Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director

Re: Stewardship Application

Dear Commissioners,

Attached you will find the Rough Draft narrative portion of the Stewardship Grant Application for the City Forest Trail Improvements. This rough draft has some of my own notes left in there either as reminders to add information or to finesse the language before I am ready to submit. This should suffice for your information and give you a sense of what we are writing it for.

I am still working on putting all of the numbers for the budget together. I have most of the large item prices figured out but have to massage the small details into the final grant request. I am going to write the grant for 2 miles worth of trail additions (this will allow for enough extension of the existing to add a loop of trail to connect to the Prairie Dells property). As of now I am estimating the overall grant request to be in the neighborhood of **\$30,000 (50% matching = \$15,000 we are responsible for)**. *****This is not a final number, and should not be used as anything but reference.***

The trail will be built in cooperation with our Park Crew, Street Department, and WDNR local office. Each of these entities working together has labor and equipment that would allow for the trail to be built efficiently, adequately, and cost effectively.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Wendorf

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**Stewardship Local Assistance Programs,
Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund, and Recreational Trails Act**

Application Information:

Please see attached Appendix M with appropriate information

Project Information:

- 1.) Merrill Memorial Forest Trail Improvements is the title of the project and we are applying for a **Development** grant category. All other technical information is included on the Appendix M sheet enclosed with this application.
- 2.) **Project Description:**

The City of Merrill Memorial Forest Wildlife Area (furthermore known as "The Forest") was established in 1944 by citizens of Merrill as a Memorial to those who served in World Wars I and II. It has been expanded from the original 840 acres to 946 at present. The Forest features an 80 acre wetland in the middle surrounded by mixed hardwood forest stands and abundant wildlife. There are currently 5 + miles of existing gravel roads and trails that allow for access to portions of the property. The Forest was originally administered by the Merrill City Council, but responsibility was transferred to the City of Merrill Parks & Recreation Commission in 1961. Since 1954 the City and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have been cooperating in a joint wildlife and forest management program for the Forest.

- a. Our primary goals of the project include the preservation of the aforementioned legacy that has been bestowed upon us, while working towards improving our existing trail system. We intend to improve the system by enhancing the existing trail with topdressing of new crushed granite. We would also like to add to the existing trail with the ultimate goal of connecting our property with adjacent County Park Property. We feel this will increase the functionality of both parks, attract more visitors to the region, and enhance the outdoor experience for all users. Prairie Dells County Park, which is geographically separated by the Memorial Forest by the Prairie River, is home to the historic and scenic Prairie Dells. It features picturesque granite rock outcroppings at the site of the former Prairie Dells Dam that was removed many years ago. We feel that by joining both parks it would tremendously enhance user experience and draw tourists for a longer stay from a longer distance. ****Something related to tripling the recreational opportunities with so many more trails, trout fishing, canoeing, sightseeing, photography, un-matched scenery, unique wildlife viewing, 4 seasons, destination get-away, micro tourism, ETC ETC ETC
- b. The City of Merrill Memorial Forest Wildlife Area is a beautiful and diverse 946 acre parcel of land that offers rolling hills with upland forests, an 80 acre wetland in the center, riparian habitat along the north border featuring the historic Prairie River, and mixed pines and hardwoods throughout. There is abundant waterfowl and wildlife for nature observers and photographers. There are two very distinct and unique features that lure people to the area, Don Manthei 80 acre wetland in the center of the park, and the Prairie Dells of the Prairie River along the eastern border of the park.

The Forest, as mentioned previously, has been actively managed by the City of Merrill and WDNR for wildlife and timber since 1954. The first forest management plan was prepared in 1948 by the then Merrill based "Trees for Tomorrow." The first forest

planting on the property was done at the time of dedication in 1945, with 10,000 four year old white spruce planted across the Prairie River from the Prairie Dells Dam. To date over 46,000 trees have been planted with emphasis shifting from red pine and white spruce in the early years to the wildlife cover and mast producing species of white pine and red oak in the 1980s. Over the years, however, the objective for the Forest has remained the same: "To develop and maintain the forest as a fitting and useful living memorial to those who have served in the armed forces of the United States, through sound forest and wildlife management.

There are presently no threats to the natural and recreational values of the site. However on April 10th, 2011 an F3 tornado that tore through our City made its way all the way to the entrance of the Memorial Forest and flattened over 120 acres of timber. We were able to salvage as much timber usable timber as possible shortly after and are currently working with the WDNR on a re-forestation plan of succession for the area. We also received a grant from Polar Bears International for helping replant trees on the property to help curb global warming after devastating timber losses such as the tornado.

The Forest currently consists of a series of gravel roads and pedestrian trails. The main roads lead to a parking area and two main gated areas that regulate motorized traffic into the remainder of the property. One gated area is located off the main parking lot near the entry way and leads along the eastern edge of the wetland in an easterly fashion. The other gate is near the north east end of the wetland and leads back to the east south east as part of a looping trail system. The current trail system is not very well organized and un-marked and first time visitors could potentially find it easy to get lost. There was a berm constructed on the north end of the wetland to allow the water to back up in the form of a waterfowl flowage forming the Don Manthei wetland area. There is also a culvert that allows the water to flow from the wetland area under our main trail. This area tends to attract beaver in the warm weather months. There was a main wooden entrance sign by the confluence of Spring Lake Road, County Road R, and Heinneman Road that was damaged by the tornado. This sign had a map of the property on it that is now virtually un-readable. As part of the project we would propose constructing a new interactive sign with new weather resistant material that is more user friendly and interactive.

Development and renovation projects:

For this project we are proposing to improve existing trails so they are more user friendly, ADA compliant, and safer. We are also proposing to add more trails to the existing with the ultimate goal to connect to the surrounding Lincoln County Land. The Memorial Forest is surrounded (West, East, North) by 8,500 acres of County Land. The parks to the east are known as Haymeadow Park and Prairie Dells Park, and the park to the west is known as the Underdown. The Underdown area is extensively used for cross country skiing, horseback riding, camping, biking, hiking, and wildlife observation to name a few and is already a very popular regional attraction. Our first order would be to add trails towards the Prairie Dells Park area, as it is the closest and would create an immediate impact on the recreational opportunities for both parks on a larger scale. Depending upon funding we would like to continue the trail expansion all the way around the wetland in a more organized fashion than currently exists. This would allow

for a more functional/interactive "loop" trail system. We would like to mark the trails to allow for ease of use and help people find their way. This would include a main trail head and map sign, along with "pocket sized" maps they can take with them that could help point out key features along the way.

- c. Currently the Memorial Forest can only be accessed from the confluence of Spring Lake Road, County Road R, and Heinneman Road at the Main Entrance. We already have a designated parking area located adjacent to the main entrance drive way. We have had conversations with Lincoln County about providing access in the form of a pedestrian bridge from Prairie Trails Park into the Memorial Forest. The County has been very receptive to that idea and actually received a grant approximately 10 years ago for a bridge to span the Prairie River but the grant was never fulfilled because the County and State of Wisconsin could not agree on where they wanted the bridge located.

The public will be allowed to use the site in many ways. The park is open for year round, four season activities. The park is accessible and used for: walking, hiking, biking, nature observation, bird watching, hunting, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, outdoor education, picnicking, research, trapping, photography, geocaching, fishing, orienteering, and many more.

- d. We are currently working with the WDNR local forestry office on a re-forestation initiative in response to the F3 Tornado of April 10th, 2011. With the loss of 120+ acres of timber near the entrance of the Forest we are going to allow for some natural regeneration and take the opportunity to utilize Best Management Practices to generate and duplicate the diverse forest habitat we had before the tornado. When doing the actual trail work, we intend to use the utmost care in curbing runoff and erosion as well as trying to lay out the trail extension to minimize having to remove trees and natural vegetation. We intend to be very delicate and respectful of the property, as the goal is to enhance the property and give people easy access to observe the beauty of the Forest. ADD MORE FROM NOTEBOOK NOTES
- e. To my knowledge, there are no exotic species of plant or animal on the property. No erosion or over grazing. We have had a few minor problems with people dumping household items (appliances, tires, etc.) near the entry area due to its secluded surroundings but these improvements to the Forest will help limit these problems by increasing the visibility of the park and the number of visitors. We hope that more traffic equals more self-policing to the park and surrounding areas. There are no overhead lines or other intrusions present or conflicts with other users. In every aspect of the current use of the Forest, this initiative will greatly enhance the property.
- f. For implementation we would like to start working on the project mid-summer 2013 and continue into the fall. We would like to work with our Street Department and their equipment, along with the WDNR local office to perform as much of the physical work as possible. This will allow us to keep costs down and maximize the physical work being performed on the property. Once the trail is laid out we would excavate and backfill shortly after and finish the project with trail markers and the kiosk map entrance sign. We would like to be finished with the project by late fall of 2013 before the frost settles in.
I will manage the project and use a mix of contracted labor and equipment (if needed), as well as City resources where applicable.

We are planning on partnering with the City of Merrill Street Department to use their labor and large equipment, WDNR local office and staff to potentially rent labor and large equipment for trail blazing, Lincoln County for technical services and cooperation to connect our properties together.

- g. The Memorial Forest is owned, operated, and maintained by the City of Merrill Parks & Recreation Department under the direction of the Merrill Parks & Recreation Commission. Each year we partner with our local WDNR office and staff to help with some brush mowing, as well as with the Merrill Street Department to help grade our main roads so they remain smooth. We also partner with our local WDNR office to help manage the Forest for timber sales, plantings, and sustainable management. They help us with setting up and managing timber sales.



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CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

Dog Park Fencing Estimate

After talking with Security Fencing once again for Dog Park fencing quote, I was given the following information. This information takes into consideration 4 foot fencing and 5 foot fencing on a per foot basis. The fencing quote includes 9 gauge cyclone fencing, 20 gauge pipe, and 2 inch by 1 5/8 rails.

The cost for 4 foot high fencing (as quoted by Security Fencing) is \$6.50 per running foot.

The cost for 5 foot high fencing (as quoted by Security Fencing) is \$7.35 per running foot.

It has been discussed that ideal size for Dog Park is 3 acres which equals 130,680 square feet. In my estimate and for reference I am using 362 ft. x 362 ft. square (3 acre) dimensions for a running total of 1,448 perimeter feet of fencing to cover 3 acres.

Using that information we can apply the prices quoted above:

3 acres of 4 ft. high fencing = 1,448 ft. x \$6.50/ft. = \$9,412	
(Add 362 x \$6.50 = \$2,353 for small dog fence)	\$11,765 w/small dog fence area
3 acres of 5 ft. high fencing + 1,448 ft. x \$7.35/ft. = \$10,642.80	
(Add 362 x \$7.35 = \$2,660.70 for small dog fence)	\$13,303.50 w/small dog fence area

**This does not include a separate double gated area to allow for entry without letting other dogs out

**City Council allotted \$12,500 total through the capital expense process for Dog Park

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Wendorf

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more dog park MARC Maps



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SCALE: 1" = 394'

Print Date: 3/8/2013