



**merrill**

Location. Nature. People.

**Smart Move**

## CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

### **MAY MEETING NOTICE**

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on **Wednesday, May 7, 2014**, at **4:15 p.m.**, at the Merrill City Hall.

Voting members of Commission: Dave Sukow, Don Heyel, Ralph Sturm, Brian Artac, Melissa Schroeder, Michael Willman and Dorwin Harris.

The following items will be included on the agenda:

1. Approve minutes from previous meeting.
2. Approve claims.
3. Public Comment
4. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.
5. Discussion and recommendation on location of future outdoor pool.
6. Discussion on Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Grant with Fred Heider from NCWRPC.
7. Discuss Bike Route designation.
8. Discuss potential Optimist Playground at Normal Park.
9. Discuss potential sale of "Ranger Station" property.
10. Monthly reports.
11. Set date for next meeting.
12. Public comment.
13. The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. State Statutes Sec. 19.85 (1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session to consider Hockey Contract terms.
14. Reconvene into open session.
15. Adjournment

Submitted by



Dan Wendorf,  
Parks and Recreation Director and  
Dave Johnson,  
City Administrator

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

		APRIL			
AC & SONS	POLE AND DRAPE FOR WEDDING SHOW	3/25/2014	2960	\$1,480.00	55300-03-41500
AC & SONS	CURTAINS PIPE AND DRAPE	4/21/2014	2961	\$2,225.00	LLE
ACE HARDWARE	COUPLE/HOSE	4/1/2014		\$8.27	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	DUCT TAPE/BASKETBALL NET	4/8/2014		\$12.48	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	DUPLX RECEPTICLE COVER	4/9/2014		\$31.44	55300-03-41500
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	3/31/2014	929	\$30.69	55200-02-15000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	3/31/2014	646	\$20.46	55200-02-15000
APPLIED MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	FIELD MARKING PAINT	5/4/2014	96393065	\$666.52	55200-03-40000
ATCO INTERNATIONAL	CENTURION	4/4/2014	132383	\$532.00	55200-03-40000
BAUERNFEIND	COPY MACHINE	4/8/2014	66047	\$135.96	55300-03-41500
BAUMGART WASTE REMOVAL	WASTE HAULING MARCH	4/2/2014		\$58.00	55400-02-23600
BB COMMUNITY LEASING SERVICES	COPY MACHINE	4/14/2014	25773	\$138.25	55300-03-41500
BOB'S WEST 64	CHANGE TIRES	3/20/2014	61772	\$107.35	55200-03-50000
BURGOYNE'S TOILET RENTAL	LIONS HILL	2/19/2014	47042	\$130.00	55200-02-15000
CITY OF MERRILL	ENVELOPES	3/19/2014		\$123.40	55400-03-10000
CITY PAGES	CHILDRENS FESTIVAL	4/3/2014	17629	\$107.10	55400-03-41000
CITY PAGES	ADVERTISING	4/17/2014	17762	\$276.30	LLE
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	BRIDAL SHOW	3/30/2014		\$7.44	55300-03-41500
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	4/3/2014	1016879853	\$55.75	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	3/27/2014	1016876902	\$65.51	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	4/17/2014	1016885745	\$55.75	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	MATS AND MOPS	4/17/2014	1016885738	\$216.06	55400-02-23250
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	4/10/2014	1016882813	\$55.75	55200-03-46000
GOPHER	BLEACHER	4/14/2014	3520372	\$1,610.04	GREFE MEMORIAL
HEARTLAND COOPERATIVE	LAWN MIX	4/9/2014	590073	\$136.00	55200-08-91000
JANET THOMPSON	TENNIS CAMP	3/30/2014	VOUCHER	\$360.00	55300-03-41000
LAMERS BUS	BUS TRIP AUGUST	4/8/2014		\$1,075.00	55300-03-41500
LAMERS BUS	BUS TRIP JULY	4-87-14		\$1,300.00	55300-03-41500
LAMERS BUS	BUS TRIP JUNE	4/8/2014		\$1,300.00	55300-03-41500
MELISSA MALUEGGE	DECORATIONS FOR WEDDING EXPO	3/24/2014	VOUCHER	\$600.00	55400-08-82000
MENARDS	LAWN BLANKET/AIRCRESSOR	4/1/2014		\$268.98	55400-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	BAR KEEPER	4/10/2014		\$19.90	55400-03-50000
MERRILL COURIER	ADVERTISING	4/1/2014	33114014	\$767.90	55420-02-25000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	HAND CLEANER/URINAL BLOCS	4/16/2014	4162014	\$308.20	55200-03-40000
MERRILL FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING	4/1/2014		\$395.00	55400-03-41000
MERRILL FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING POOL	4/1/2014		\$371.00	55420-02-25000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	CHANGE OTTER TIE ROD END	3/27/2014	6161	\$354.69	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	WATER VALVE NOT WORKING	3/14/2014	6140	\$16.89	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	REMOVE PLOW MOUNT	3/7/2014	6124	\$135.12	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	REPLACE & ADJUST WEST COAST MIRROR	3/11/2014	6129	\$122.54	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	p-14	3/7/2014	6125	\$259.29	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	MICRO SWITCH STUCK	3/11/2014	6134	\$33.78	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	ROTATE TIRES	3/14/2014	6141	\$128.77	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	BATTERY/ALTERNATOR BELT	3/18/2014	6147	\$110.78	55200-03-50000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	1110 10TH STREET	5/10/2014	338-00820-01	\$62.14	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	MARC	5/10/2014	350-31240-00	\$87.00	55400-02-16500
NAPA	ASSORTED PVC	3/27/2014	466171	\$3.59	55200-03-50000
NAPA	SEAT COVER	3/28/2014	466283	\$25.49	55200-03-50000
QUICKSILVER BROADCASTING	BRIDAL SHOW/ADVERTISING	3/31/2014	242	\$546.00	55400-03-41000
RTL ETECTRIC	NON WORKING LIGHTS IN BREAKROOM	3/31/2014	101814	\$163.04	55400-03-50000
RTL ETECTRIC	SPRINKLER SYSTEM	3/31/2014	2584	\$105.74	55400-03-50000
RTL ETECTRIC	HARWIRE NEW COMPRESSOR FOR SPRINKLE	4/22/2014	6122	\$220.79	55400-03-50000
STACY LITERSKI	LADIES EXPO	4/22/2014	125	\$150.00	LLE
STEVE RESNICK	BRIDAL SHOW	3/30/2014		\$220.00	55300-03-41500
STEVE RESNICK	LLE	4/21/2014		\$280.00	LLE
TRANTOW DO IT CENTER	BIRD HOUSES	3/24/2014	16448	\$138.80	55300-03-41500
TRANTOW DO IT CENTER	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	4/1/2014	16448	\$110.00	55300-03-41500
VIP ELECTRONICS	SPEAKERS	3/27/2014	89352	\$29.99	55200-03-40000
WALMART	BRIDAL SHOW	3/27/2014		\$120.74	55300-03-41500
WALMART	EASTER EGG CANDY	4/1/2014		\$236.11	55300-03-41500
WALMART	EASTER EGG CANDY	4/15/2014		\$26.20	55300-03-41500
WALMART	CHILDRENS FESTIVAL	4/11/2014		\$54.37	55300-03-41500
WALMART	LLE	4/22/2014		\$13.50	LLE



**- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

April 2, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall, with a public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Dan Novitch, Melissa Schroeder and Mike Willman.

Members Excused Absent: Brian Artac and Anne Caylor

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kandy Peterson, Judy Sukow, David Sukow, Don Heyel and Cory McCorkle

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Willman, seconded by Sturm, to approve the claims.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss usage and prioritization of Memorial Forest Salvage Timber Sale (referred back to Commission by the Council). Wendorf stated that Mayor Bill Bialecki would like to see some of the Memorial Forest Salvage Timber Sale money go towards a parking lot out at the MARC near the soccer fields. Wendorf stated that an estimate was given to him by Mayor Bill Bialecki, on the cost for a parking area of 150' by 250', which would park close to 80 vehicles. Wendorf stated that a few years back a petition went around in favor of a parking lot closer to the soccer fields for the handicap and the elderly. After some discussion a motion was made.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Harris, to adjust the Memorial Forest Salvage prioritization to include the recommendation from the Council and explore the idea of a parking lot at the MARC for up to \$22,000.

Willman stated that he would prefer to build a smaller parking lot and if need arises to go bigger.

\*\*\*Carried: Sturm, Schroeder and Harris

\*\*\*Nay – Willman

Wendorf stated the deductions should be: \$5,000 from the Memorial Forest continued improvements, \$5,000 from the Park Endowment Fund, \$5,000 from the Riverside Trail rehab work and \$7,000 for the fund for the Normal Park Bathrooms.

\*\*\*Motion by Willman, seconded by Schroeder, to approve the deductions given by Director Wendorf for the parking lot at the MARC and forward to Council.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve mower bids. Wendorf stated that they put the bids out and only received one bid back from Central Wisconsin Cooperative for \$21,200.

\*\*\*Motion by Sturm, seconded by Willman to approve the bid from Central Wisconsin Cooperative for \$21,200 for a new mower.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Normal Park plaque/bench from Lincoln County retired teachers association (follow up from fall 2013 item). Wendorf stated that a drawing and pictures have been enclosed in your packets of the bench and plaque. The bench will be located on the north side of the existing flower bed. Wendorf stated they have a little more fund raising to do and the bench is being done by Tomahawk Monument.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sturm, to approve the bench/plaque to be placed at Normal Park by the Retired Teachers Association.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant for development of River Bend Trail. Wendorf stated that the River Bend Trail Committee will be writing a grant for the development of the paving of the trail. The grant is due by May 1, 2014. The grant will be for \$390,000 with the foundation matching the grant 50%. Sturm questioned if the River Bend Trail Committee would be writing the grant. Wendorf stated they would. Schroeder questioned if there will be any attachments coming with the grant. Wendorf stated there would not.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Willman, to approve the resolution of support for the WDNR Stewardship Grant for the development of River Bend Trail.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf stated that the weather is not being very friendly for getting spring sports and restrooms ready. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions.

\*\*\*Motion by Willman, seconded by Schroeder to accept the monthly reports given by Director Wendorf.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2014 at 4:15p.m., in the lower level in the conference room at City Hall.

Public Comment: None

The next item was to go into closed session:

Willman – yes

Schroeder – yes

Sturm – yes

Harris – yes

Novitch – yes

Meeting reconvened into open session at 5:45. There was a short break before the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

The next item on the agenda was a Public Hearing regarding the location of the proposed future Outdoor Swimming Pool.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sturm, to open up the Public Hearing.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Public Present: Erin McCarthy, Kandy Peterson, Don Heyel, David Sukow, Judy Sukow, Jill Schmunk, Karen Karow, Cody Weber, Ryan Schwartzman, Brad Bacher, Dean Haas, Greg Hartwig, Harold Schultz, Kristin Novitch, Ralph Schultz, Charlotte Peters, Jean Ravn, Collin Ludwick, Steve Hass, Gus Caylor, Crystal Duwe, Heather Duwe, David Mootz, Carol Mootz.

Wendorf went over some the pool drawings and invited the public to come up and view them. Wendorf also talked about the process that has taken place to get to this point. Novitch asked Johnson to explain what the city would be paying towards the pool. Johnson stated that the city will not be responsible for paying for the outdoor pool. This meeting is not a guarantee that a pool will be built, it is for the purpose of knowing where you would like a pool if funds can be raised to pay for the pool.

\*\*\* (No Name) Old pool liner would be around \$27,000, make it handicap accessible and open the old pool back up, was not even an option.

\*\*\*Harold Schultz – Children in the community are less and less every year, why a big water park now. Wants to know why Wausau can have 3 pools next to the river and Merrill can't. MARC is too far for kids to travel, keep the old pool open, and fix it.

\*\*\*Jill Schmunk – Who would provide transportation to the MARC for the kids? The MARC is too far for kids to walk. Bigger pool, more lifeguards, who pays for that?

\*\*\*Crystal Duwe – Who closed the old pool and why. Stay where it is, refurbish the pool and open it back up. We have to consider the safety of the kids; the MARC is too far out.

\*\*\*Cody Weber – A big pool is not feasible for Merrill, who will oversee the project.

\*\*\*Karon Karow – Stange Park, redo old pool, or build at Stange Park.

\*\*\*Gus Caylor – Was in EMS for 20 years and it is a terrible idea to put the pool at the MARC, traffic is going to fast and it is just a crazy idea. Stange Park is a nice park and should stay there. Trying to push everything out to the MARC seems like.

\*\*\*Brad Bacher – Keep old pool, Merrill does not have the money for a new pool. How many more people will it take to run a bigger pool, who pays for it.

\*\*\*David Mootz – Stange Park is the best place for the kids. Disappointed that the city did not consider putting any money aside for a new pool before closing the old pool.

\*\*\*Don Heyel – What is current capacity – 300 – reopen old pool.

\*\*\*Greg Hartwig – Why not build a splash pad, no lifeguards, will save money in the end. If you go with a pool, Stange Park.

\*\*\*Brad Bacher – Against spending money on the pool, would like this to be done by all fund raisers and volunteer work and build what you can afford.

\*\*\*Dean Haas – what was the daily usage at the old pool?

\*\*\*Wendorf – at times we were at capacity of 300.

\*\*\*Crystal Duwe – Safety first for the kids. What are we supposed to do for swimming in the summer until money is raised for a pool.

Wendorf stated that the Merrill Park and Recreation Department will be taking a bus down to Weston Aquatic Center every other Wednesday and this bus will be open to the public, you do not have to be part of the Summer Playground Program to participate in the trip. Also, PRMS pool, Council Grounds, Tug Lake, Otter Lake all have public beaches.

\*\*\*Harold Schultz – Will there be bussing to the Council Grounds and who pays for it. Talk with the motels around town to see if you can use their pools.

\*\*\*Karon Karow – I think the committee should repair the old pool and also think people need to stop thinking the government is responsible for taking care and making arrangements for their kids. Parents need to take more responsibility upon themselves.

\*\*\*Dave Sukow – the old pool is not ADA compatible that is why it was closed. It would cost too much money to make ADA compatible. The potential of lawsuits is always looming. It is imperative to comply. Not in favor of bonding and increasing taxes for this.

\*\*\*Don Heyel – what would the cost be to redo the pool  
Wendorf stated it would cost between 1 and 2 million dollars.

\*\*\*Jean Ravn – would like to see the pool at the MARC. Merrill is on the move, keep it moving. Cannot expand pool or facilities if at Stange Park.

\*\*\*Charolette Peters – Would like it at Stange Park, the committee needs to make a decision and go with it. Tear the old pool down, put up a sign that says future home of new pool. More people are in favor of Stange Park than the MARC.

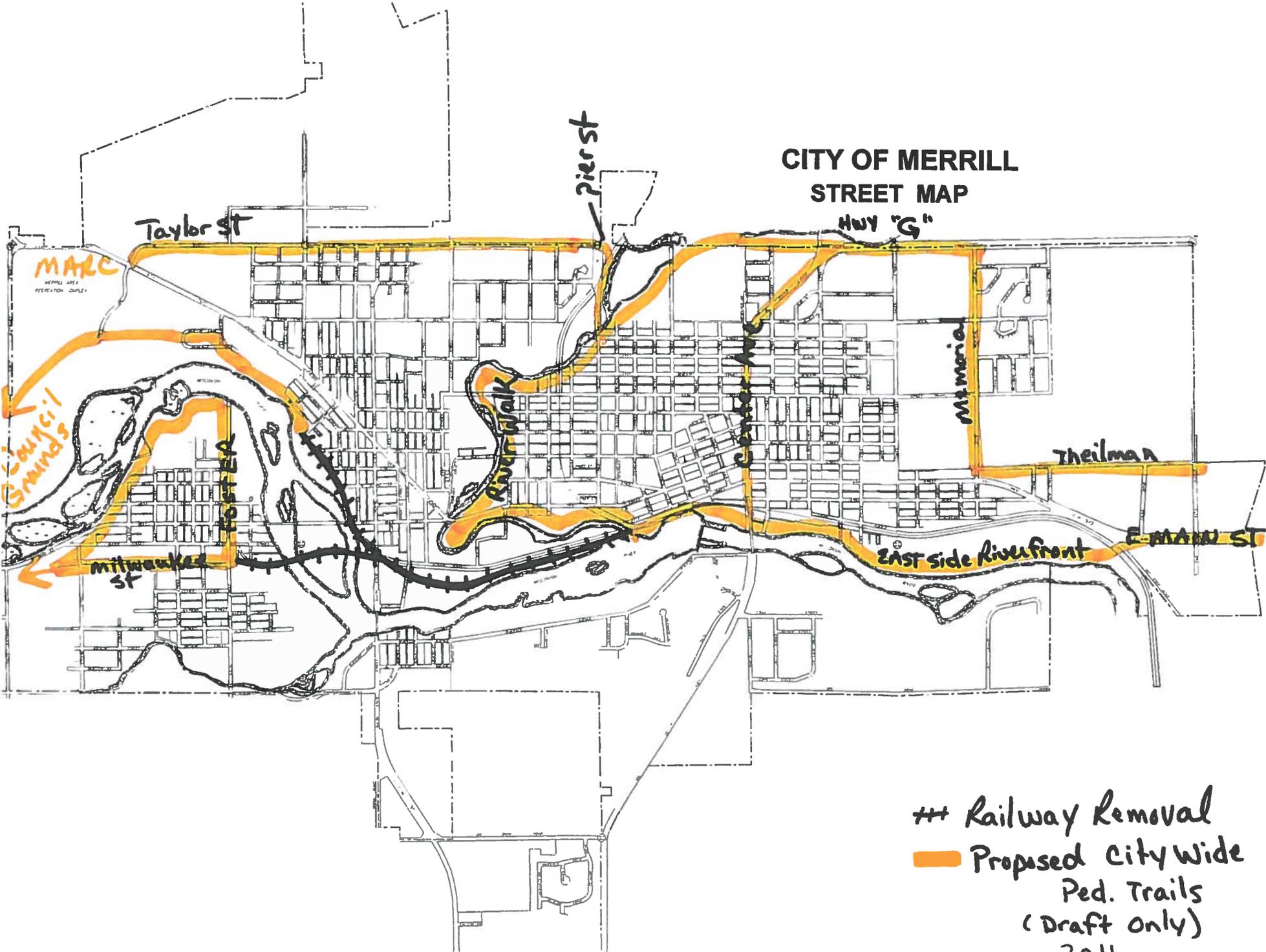
Novitch stated that the public hearing was closed and thanked everyone for coming and sharing their thoughts.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sturm, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

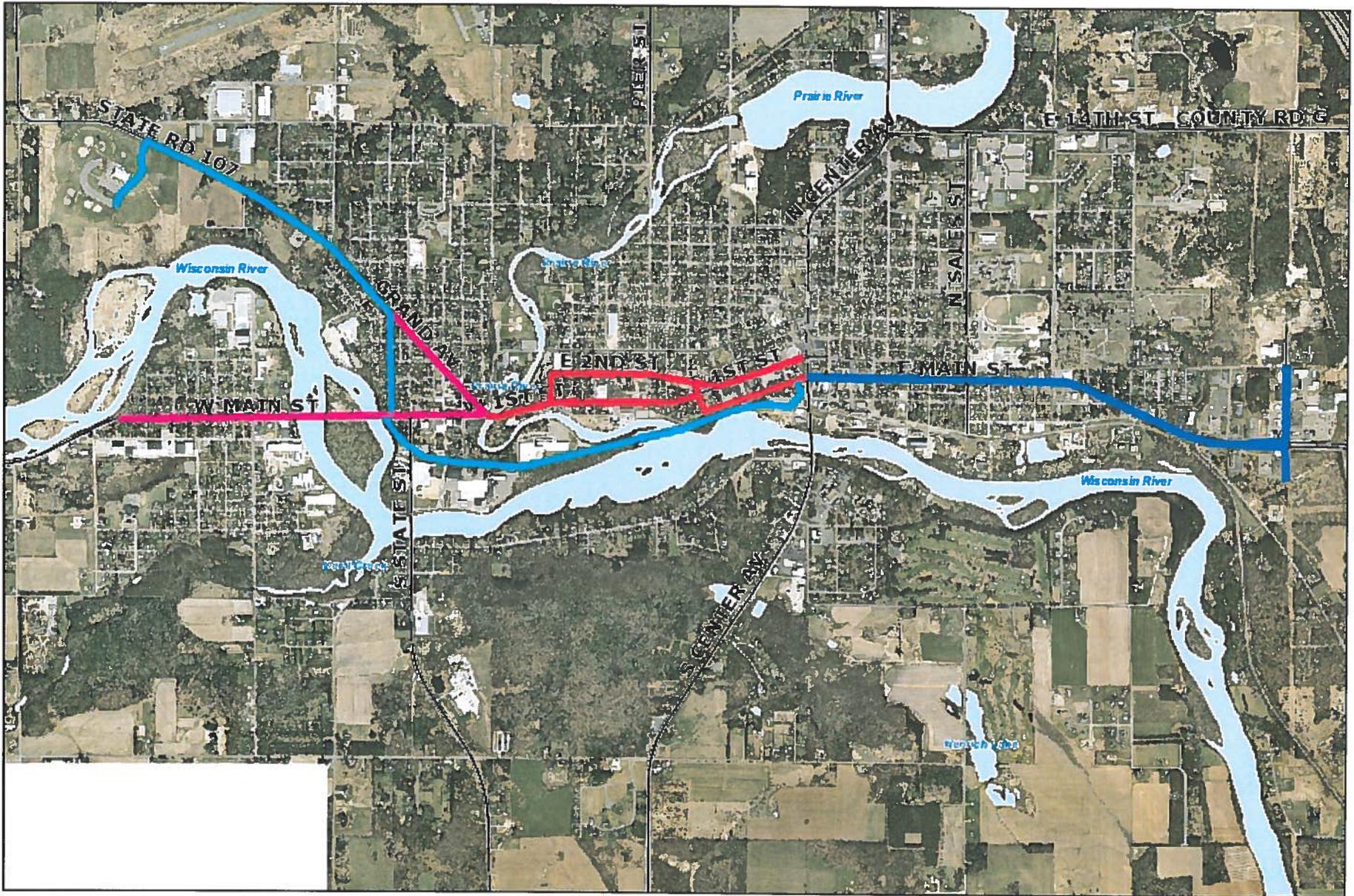
\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary

CITY OF MERRILL  
STREET MAP



## Railway Removal  
— Proposed Citywide  
Ped. Trails  
(Draft Only)  
2011



comprehensive bike route map

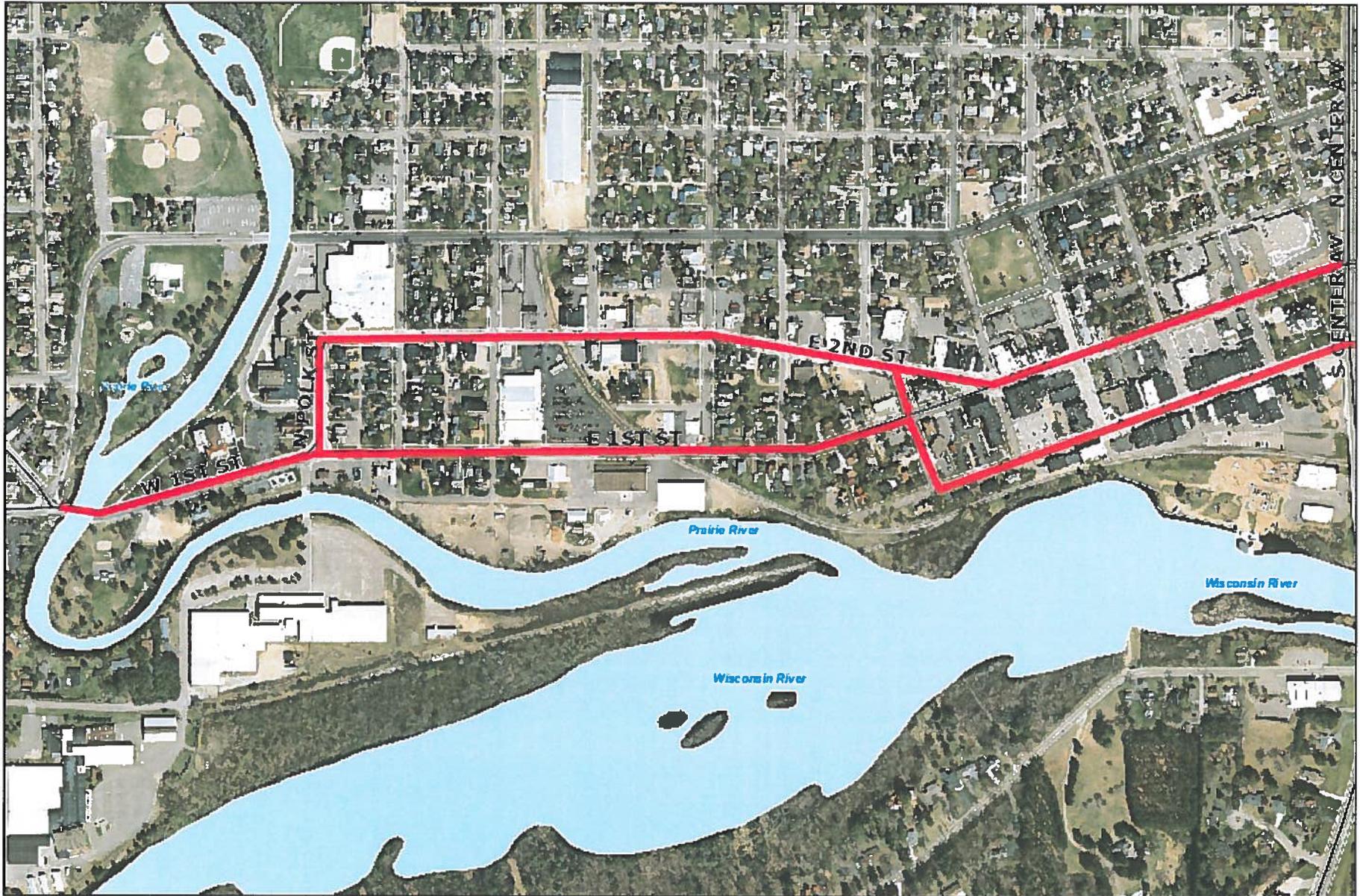
phases 1-3 with River Bend



DISCLAIMER: The City of Merrill Does not guarantee the accuracy of the material contained here in and is not responsible for any misuse or misrepresentation of this information or its derivatives.

SCALE: 1" = 2359'

Print Date: 4/24/2014



## Bike Route Designation 2014

### Phase 1



DISCLAIMER: The City of Merrill Does not guarantee the accuracy of the material contained here in and is not responsible for any misuse or misrepresentation of this information or its derivatives.

SCALE: 1" = 590'

Print Date: 4/24/2014

# PHEASANTS FOREVER AND QUAIL FOREVER'S POLLINATOR HABITAT PROGRAM

## URGENT ISSUES

\* Pollinating insects, which are an essential component in global food production, are in decline around the world. Approximately one-third of all food and beverages consumed by humans require pollination during the production process and the decline of pollinating insects is threatening the production of these important food sources.

\* Since 2007, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment has declined by more than 14.7 million acres, accounting for 26 percent of the program and setting a 26-year low for total acres enrolled. This equates to a loss of over 4.6 acres of CRP every minute since 2007. CRP is significantly below the 30 million acre enrollment benchmark maintained for more than two decades. This loss of acres is negatively impacting pheasant and quail numbers.

\* Today's youth spend the majority of their time fixated on electronic devices and less than half of the time outdoors than their parents did. One in four are obese. They will not develop a conservation ethic or attachment to the land without experiences that are fun and involve them personally.

## A SOLUTION

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's new Pollinator Habitat Program will provide financial support and training designed to engage youth, families and communities in establishing, maintaining and monitoring pollinator habitat areas across the country. By working with local community partners, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever will use our expertise, equipment and networks to create habitat projects that involve youth, schools and community groups. The results will benefit pollinators as well as establish critical brood rearing habitat for quail and pheasants. Support will include cost-share assistance to establish pollinator habitat projects on private and public property as well as educational materials to assure continuing education and monitoring.



## A SUCCESS STORY

The Central Nebraska Quail Forever Chapter enlisted the help of their local 3rd grade class to establish a two-acre pollinator habitat project on Leonard A. Koziol Wildlife Management Area outside St. Paul, NE. Prior to broadcasting seed, the chapter provided the entire class of approximately 60 students with curriculum so they could learn about the basics of upland habitat and the importance of creating habitat for wildlife. In addition to curriculum, the chapter provided each student with a Quail Forever t-shirt and "Whistler" membership. The chapter plans to invite the class out to the same location in the fall to conduct monarch butterfly tagging as part of the monitoring activity of their project. They also plan to make this an annual project by increasing the size of their pollinator planting each year.





# Habitat Education — A Community Approach

## Two Urgent Priorities

\* Pollinating insects are an essential component in global food production. Approximately one-third of all food and beverages is delivered by pollinators and many species of native pollinators and domesticated honey bees are in decline.

*“Farming feeds the world, and we must remember that pollinators are a critical link in our food systems.” — Paul Growald, co-founder of Pollinator Partnerships*

\* Today’s youth spend the majority of their time fixated on electronic devices and less than half of the time outdoors than their parents did. One in four are obese. They will not develop a conservation ethic or attachment to the land without experiences that are fun and involve them personally.

*“I like to play indoors because that’s where the outlets are.” — 4th grade student*

## A Solution — Quail Forever/Pheasants Forever Pollinator Habitat Program

QF/PF’s new Pollinator Habitat Program will provide support to over 750 grassroots chapters to engage youth, families and communities in establishing and monitoring pollinator habitat areas across the country. Working with local community partners, chapters will use their expertise, equipment and networks to create habitat projects that involve youth, schools and community groups. The results will benefit pollinators as well as establish critical brood rearing habitat for quail and pheasants. Support will include cost-share assistance for private and public property and educational materials to assure continuing education and monitoring. National sponsorships and grants will be matched with local dollars.

## Building on Our Commitment

QF/PF’s No Child Left Indoors Initiative has galvanized chapters to become more involved in their communities through youth events and new partnerships. In 2012, they held 950 youth events with almost 50,000 youth participating. They have embraced the belief that we have to pass on our outdoor traditions to the next generation and help them develop a conservation ethic. They are the grassroots, make-it-happen volunteers who carry out QF and PF’s habitat and youth mission in their communities.

## An Example of Success

A 6th-grade class in Mediapolis, Iowa, decided to do a habitat project and created “Operation: Save the Quail” working with the local PF chapter. Their project won the Disney Planet Challenge and 60 students and chaperones were treated to an all-expense-paid trip to Disneyland in California.

## For more information, contact

**Drew Larsen, National Habitat Education Coordinator**  
308-293-1194  
dlarsen@pheasantsforever.org



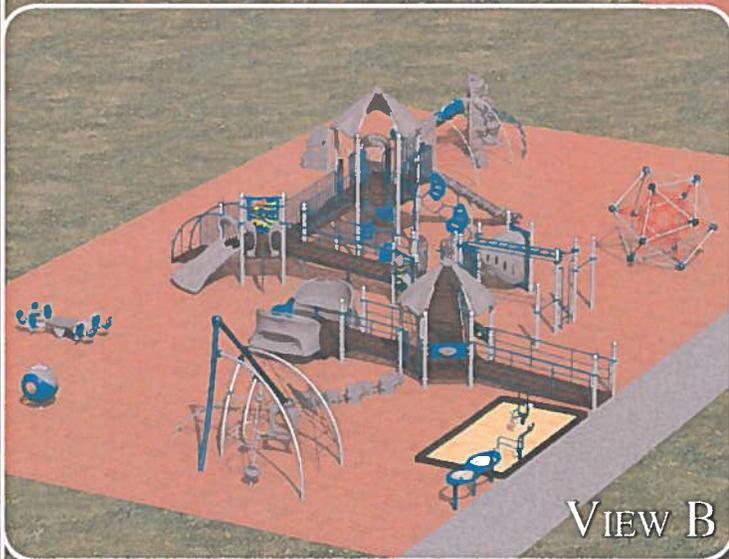
# NORMAL PARK

MERRILL, WI

**LEE**  
**RECREATION LLC**  
PLAYGROUND & RECREATION EQUIPMENT  
P.O. Box 93  
Cambridge, WI 53523  
Phone: (800) 775-8937  
Fax: (608) 423-7655  
email: info@leerecreation.com  
www.leerecreation.com



VIEW A



VIEW B



VIEW C



VIEW D

# City of Merrill

Proposed Park Design  
Normal Park

SPRUCE STREET

E 7TH STREET

N CENTER AVENUE

E 6TH STREET

Ball Field  
&  
Ice Rink

P

Warming  
Shelter

Power Stations

FLOWER GARDEN

Proposed Restrooms  
& Storage

## Legend

- Proposed Power Stations
- Proposed Trees
- Parking Lot
- Existing Path
- Proposed Path
- Gazebo
- Proposed Restrooms & Storage
- Playground Area



1 inch = 50 feet

Map Printed: 05/03/13

Map Prepared By:  
North Central Wisconsin  
Regional Planning Commission

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



**merrill**

Location. Nature. People.

**Smart Move**

## CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

### May 2014 Parks & Recreation Director's Board Report

**Parks:** The weather continues to dominate our conditions, progress, and overall situation. Our parks will open as scheduled on May 1<sup>st</sup>, but it certainly has not been without a hitch or two. As I type this, we are still waiting for the water to unthaw at Athletic Park. This is the last location that is frozen, as Lions Park and Kitchenette were frozen up until last week. The crew has been working very hard trying to get everything cleaned and ready for park opening, while trying to work on athletic fields as Mother Nature permits. We still have very high water running past our parks but we were fortunate that this thaw didn't happen very quickly. If we can somehow experience one full week of drying weather we will be able to catch up with everything completely and the fields would be able to start to take a little rain on them. MAPS has been able to play a few games on our fields over the past couple of weeks and has also had to cancel a number. Boys Little League begins on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Lions Park and the Girls Softball League begins the week of May 12<sup>th</sup>. I have been meeting with the Merrill Noon Optimist Club in regards to their interest in funding a playground at Normal Park. I have a concept included with this packet and feel that it will be a wonderful amenity for our park system if constructed. They would like to emphasize ADA amenities at this playground for those of all abilities. I am meeting this week with representatives from MAPS and Pheasants Forever to discuss collaborative work at Prairie Trails for a Pollinator Habitat Program. The program is designed to create pollinating species of plants and flowers as well as brood rearing habitat for pheasant and quail species. The project will be a collaborative effort between us, MAPS, Pheasants Forever, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The project would consist of a plot of land approximately 1 acre in size to be worked, planted, and maintained that receives a minimum of 60% sunlight daily. I think the project has tremendous potential and would be a great addition to our park at Prairie Trails. I will begin laying out the trail soon at City Forest for the Stewardship Grant Project. The project will consist of existing trail improvements, as well as new trail construction. With the snow gone, the usage at the dog park is starting to pick up again and people are enjoying the new park. I have not heard of any troubles out there so that means that things are going well in the Dog Park. Having listened to public comment at the hearing last month I would like to encourage everyone to think hard over the weekend on the location of the pool. If we are to make this project a reality, we need to make a decision on the location so we can move forward with fundraising. Fund raising that amount of money has the potential to take a good deal of time.

**Forestry:** The Street Department has been working towards getting caught up with the pruning and removal schedule that I had for them over the past year. I have more inspections to do over the next few weeks to have some of the poor health trees addressed before we get into the summer months. I have a few concerns that I am going to keep an eye on over the next few months. The first being tree stress brought on by all of the sand/salt utilized during the long and harsh winter. The other being frost cracks from the extreme cold conditions that we consistently endured over the past 6

1100 Marc Drive • Merrill, Wisconsin • 54452  
Rec. Dept. Phone: 715.536.7313 • Smith Center Phone: 715.536.6187

Fax: 715.539.2790

[www.merrillparkandrec.com](http://www.merrillparkandrec.com)

*An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.*

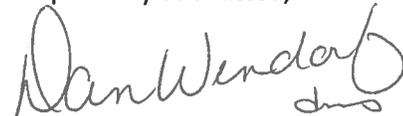
months. These two factors can stress a tree and lead to susceptibility to diseases, infestations, and leaf dropping. We received funding from American Transmission Company for the purchase and planting of our Arbor Day Trees this year. Our Arbor Day planting and Tree City USA Observance will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We will be planting trees at the MARC this year and hope you can all make it. I am also going to attempt to apply for a few different funding sources this year in hopes that we can plant more trees. There are a few new opportunities for funding out there and I would like to take advantage of that.

**Recreation:** Our Summer Recreation Programs have been out in circulation for a number of weeks now and we have been experiencing a very good number of registrations thus far. Our bus trips to the Brewer Game and the Milwaukee Zoo are each almost full and a number of other programs are filling up quickly. We are going to continue to promote the activities and hopefully we can fill all of our programs up before summer arrives. We had our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19<sup>th</sup> and had a very good turnout. The best part of the hunt was the Green Bay Packers Tailgate Tour participants pulling up to Lions Park unexpected and mingling with all of the kids and families at the egg hunt. As usual, a special thanks to Dawn for her hard work on the programs and getting all of the details taken care of. There is a lot of work that goes into these recreation programs. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Stride 5k/10k fun run/walk has been finalized for August 16<sup>th</sup>, and online registration is being accepted at [www.tandhtiming.com](http://www.tandhtiming.com). We partner with the Merrill Rotary Club for this event for volunteers and are grateful for their contributions. The funds from the event will go to our Park Endowment Fund and I encourage you all to participate and help promote the event to your friends and family.

**Smith Center:** We have had an extremely busy, yet successful past few weeks and weekends inside the Smith Center. We have hosted the Bridal Expo, Children's Festival, Open Roller skating, Packers Tailgate Tour, and the Ladies Lifestyle Expo. These events have combined to draw over 3,000 people through our doors in just the past few weeks along, many of which are visitors to our community. We still have a great line up for the rest of the dry floor season as well. I have a lot of ideas that I am going to start working on as additional events inside the Smith Center, and am excited to keep adding these events that promote our beautiful facility and bring people into town. I am working with Mechanical Inc. to get the process rolling for our locker room heaters replaced, from our capital improvements list. I will get prices to the Commission within the next month or so to allow for discussion and time to replace before we need heaters for the next hockey season.

**NOTE:** As always if you have any questions, please contact me any time. I am more than happy to answer any and all questions ahead of time and in advance of the meetings. This will also allow me to prepare and bring any supporting information to the meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Wendorf" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Wendorf  
Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Merrill