



CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

1100 Marc Dr. • Merrill, Wisconsin • 54452
Rec. Dept. Telephone (715) 536-7313 • Smith Center Telephone (715) 536-6187
Fax (715) 539-2790

MERRILL
WISCONSIN
City Of Parks

MEMO

Friday, September 26, 2014

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Dan Wendorf
Merrill Parks & Recreation Department

Re: Commission Agenda

Dear Commissioners,

For your information, the attached agenda has not been reviewed or approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission Chairperson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Wendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill



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OCTOBER MEETING NOTICE

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on **Wednesday, October 1, 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. Presentation by Aquatic Design Consultants and selection of firm for new water park construction.
5. Review/Approve trail signs for River Bend Trail.
6. Monthly reports.
7. Set date for next meeting.
8. Public comment
9. Adjournment

Submitted by

Don Heyel, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

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

"Focusing on the Future"

An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

		SEPTEMBER			
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	TOWELS/PAPER TOWEL	8-26.14	1255246	\$42.40	LABOR DAY
ACE HARDWARE	SOFTSOAP	8/28/2014		\$9.96	LABOR DAY
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	8/31/2014	929	\$39.75	55200-02-15000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	8/31/2014	646	\$28.90	55200-02-15000
BAJA'S	FLAG FOOTBALL SHIRTS	9/9/2014	16411	\$1,236.25	55300-03-41500
BAUMGART WASTE REMOVAL	WASTE HAULING	9/1/2014		\$83.00	55400-02-23600
BETTY AMBROSE	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/9/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
BOB'S WEST 64	MOUNT TIRE	8/22/2014	61772	\$48.08	55200-03-50000
BOB'S WEST 64	MOUNT TIRE	9/4/2014	61772	\$48.08	55200-03-50000
BRIANNA MUENCHOW	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/25/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
BURGOYNE'S TOILET	TOILET RENTAL	8/1/2014	48533	\$360.00	55200-02-15000
BURGOYNE'S TOILET	TOILET RENTAL	8/1/2014	48532	\$500.00	55200-02-15000
BURGOYNE'S TOILET	TOILET RENTAL	8/1/2014	48531	\$250.00	55200-02-15000
CHERYL GRONKE	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/4/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
CHOICE PROMOTIONS, INC	BARLEYFEST GLASSES	9/18/2014	275	\$1,550.59	BARLEYFEST
CHRIST CHURCH	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/25/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
CUSTOM MURALS	MEMORIALS	9/4/2014		\$765.00	55200-08-91000
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	PROGRAMS	8/27/2014		\$4.29	55300-03-41500
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	PROGRAMS	8/22/2014		\$13.03	55300-03-41500
DUNHAMS SPORTS	FOOTBALLS	9/3/2014		\$165.62	55300-03-41500
ESPN	LABOR DAY	8/31/2014		\$0.00	LABOR DAY
FASTENAL	PINK FLAGGING TAPE	8/28/2014	76726	\$5.53	55200-03-40000
FAYE NELSON	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/9/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
FERUSON ENTERPRISES	ADA CLST BOWL WHIT	8/21/2014	1103953	\$111.50	55200-03-50000
G & K SERVICES	MATS/MOPS	9/4/2014	1016144522	\$237.67	55400-02-23250
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	8/28/2014	1016141585	\$60.07	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	9/4/2014	1016144529	\$60.07	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	9/18/2014	1016150430	\$60.07	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE	9/11/2014	1016147495	\$60.07	55200-03-46000
GREEN LAWN UNDERGROUND SPRINKLERS	WEED CONTROL	9/11/2014	14-13242	\$2,950.00	55200-08-91225
GREEN LAWN UNDERGROUND SPRINKLERS	WEED CONTROL	9/11/2014	14-13242	\$275.00	IC PARK IMPROVEMNTS
HALLMAN LINDSAY	ATHLETIC MARKING WHITE	9/2/2014	10204268	\$288.00	55300-03-41500
HEATHER BUSHAR	SECURITY REFUND MARC	9/25/2014	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7100
HILLSIDE FELLOWSHIP	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/4/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
HORST DISTRIBUTING	PARTS	9/1/2014	6001575	\$168.95	
JANSSEN HEATING & COOLING	INV18896	9/8/2014		\$101.00	
JOURNEY CHURCH	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/25/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
JOY ANNIS	MILEAGE	9/5/2014	VOUCHER	\$44.80	55300-03-30000
KRUEGER PLUMBING	LF BRASS SAMPLE FET	8/29/2014	22836	\$7.41	55200-03-50000
LES N JIMS	SUMMER PLAYGROUND PLAYGROUND	7/30/2014	11673	\$357.50	55300-03-41500
LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/25/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MCDONALDS	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/5/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/9/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	SERVICE P-9	8/13/2014	6287	\$189.78	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	SERVICE P-11	8/13/2014	6285	\$202.03	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	SERVICE P-6	8/13/2014	6288	\$521.06	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	SERVICE P-10	8/13/2014	6289	\$99.47	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	SERVICE P-0	8/13/2014	6292	\$122.37	55200-03-50000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	LIONS PARK	10/10/2014	116-02440-00	\$315.30	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	SWIMMING POOL/SHELTER	10/10/2014	116-02640-13	\$297.81	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	STANGE'S KITCHENETTE	10/10/2014	112-01440-13	\$34.33	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	STANGE'S BATHROOMS	10/10/2014	112-01540-13	\$177.22	55200-02-21000

MERRILL WATER UTILITY	SOCCER BUILDING	10/10/2014	106-00943-00	\$148.07	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	MARC	10/10/2014	106-00640-00	\$385.26	55400-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	MARC CONCESSION STAND	10/10/2014	106-00941-06	\$396.92	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	OTT'S BATHROOM	10/10/2014	102-38040-13	\$132.10	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	OTT'S SHELTER	10/10/2014	102-38140-13	\$36.76	55200-02-21000
NAPA	BULB/FUSE	8/31/2014	493687	\$2.67	55200-03-50000
NORTHWOODS	CHEMICALS	8/29/2014	1009765	\$164.38	
PETERSON BROTHERS	GRANITE	9/3/2014	7672	\$82.50	55200-08-91000
PHIL KRAUSE	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/4/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
RADIO ONE	ADVERTISING	9/1/2014	14080190	\$320.00	BARLEYFEST
RADIO ONE	ADVERTISING	9/1/2014	14080189	\$246.00	55400-03-41000
RENEE WILLIAMS	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/4/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
SALOONS AND SPOONS	ADVERTISING	7/22/2014		\$300.00	BARLEYFEST
ST. JOHN CHURCH	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/4/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
SUSAN ERICKSON	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/4/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
TOMAHAWK LEADER	FALL RIDE BOOK	8/29/2014		\$305.00	BARLEYFEST
TRANTOW DO IT CENTER	CEDAR/MEMORIAL BENCHES	8/15/2014	957666	\$522.65	55200-08-91000
TRANTOW DO IT CENTER	GREEN LANDSCAPE	8/25/2014	440900	\$3.89	55200-08-91000
WALMART	SUPPLIES FOR OFFICE	9/9/2014		\$36.51	55300-03-41500
WALMART	FLAG FOOTBALL SUPPLIES	9/15/2014		\$37.34	55300-03-41500
WEINBRENNER FACTORY	SECURITY DEPOSIT	9/4/2014	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
WISCO SECURITY	LABOR DAY	9/2/2014	140901	\$510.00	LABOR DAY
WPS	MARC SIGN	10/2/2014	405061701-00002	\$20.61	55200-02-22000
WPS	MARC	10/2/2014	405061701-00003	\$1,580.55	55400-02-22000
WPS	MARC CONCESSION STAND	10/2/2014	405061701-00011	\$108.74	55200-02-22000
WPS	MARC CONCESSION STAND	10/2/2014	405061701-00018	\$33.49	55200-02-22000

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 3, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Dave Sukow, Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Brian Artac, Don Heyel

Members Excused Absent: Melissa Schroeder, Mike Willman

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Tonia Speener from Clark Diete, Jeremy Radloff from Merrill Courier/Foto News, Jon Gartman and Candy Peterson

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Ralph Sturm questioned if there was a motion made at the August meeting regarding the pool study. There was not.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac, to approve the claims.

***Carried Unanimously.

No Public Comment

The next item on the agenda was the continued discussion on the pool. Wendorf stated that a donor is willing to donate \$4 million towards the pool. Wendorf stated that they would like a design of what the pool would look like and also a location. Wendorf stated that they need this decision by September 12, 2014. Sturm stated that he would still like to see the pool built at Stange Park and we should continue trying to work with FEMA and getting a variance so it can be built at Stange Park. Sturm also suggested cutting down the hill and still putting the new pool in the same location as the old one. Harris stated that the pool could be built where the current parking lot is and the pump houses could be built on the hill. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated that if it would flood all the flood water would go into the pool and in the long run causing more clean up of the pool, if it would flood. After some discussion a motion was made.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve building the new pool at the MARC.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Sukow to move forward on the preliminary design on the pool with the contingent upon potential funding thru the donor.

***Carried Unanimously.

Heyel suggested that at the October meeting 3 – 5 pool designers should be invited to the Park and Recreation Commission to give a short presentation on a pool design.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Operational Budget. Wendorf stated there are no changes from last year's budget.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Sukow to approve the Operation Budget for 2015.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Capital Budget for 2015. Wendorf stated that there are a few changes to the Capital Budget. Wendorf stated that \$15,000 would no longer be needed for the Varsity Softball Scoreboard due to a donation made from the Bierman Foundation. Wendorf stated that instead of the Scoreboard the Smith Center is due for a new floor scrubber. The one being used now has lost a wheel, the scrubber part does not stay attached and it does not work very well. Wendorf stated the cost would be around \$5,000. Heyel stated that he would like to see some bathrooms being built at some of our heavier used parks, like Normal and also some by the baseball diamonds at the MARC. Sukow stated it would be nice to see a building with bathrooms and also a small concession stand be built at Normal Park.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Sturm to approve the Capital Budget for 2015.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to revisit Park Rental policy for non-profit organizations. Heyel stated that he requested this agenda item. Heyel stated that he would like to see the non-profits maybe only pay half of what the rental fee is for the parks. Sturm stated that if we do that for non-profits we will have every organization coming to us asking to pay only half for a park rental. Sturm was not in favor of changing the pay rate for the parks for non-profits. After some discussion it was decided to keep the prices at what they are for park rental.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Riverside Park bids for sandblast/repaint. Wendorf stated that he received one bid back from the 5 or 6 places he called to have them bid on the project. Wendorf stated the K51 Sales, LLC has done some work for the department in the past and has done a good job in a timely manner.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Sturm to approve the bid from K51 Sales, LLC for \$2,975.00 to sandblast and repaint the shelter at Riverside Park.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the Labor Day celebration went good. Fair grounds was busy, car show turned out great and it seemed everyone had a good time. Wendorf stated that the crew of 2 is busy mowing grass with all the rain we keep getting the grass keeps growing. Wendorf stated that the next couple of months will be very busy at the MARC with all the events coming up.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve the monthly report.

***Carried Unanimously

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2014 at 4:15 p.m.

Kandy Peterson stated that she is very grateful for the donation of money for the pool but does not like the idea of the pool being at the MARC. Kandy Peterson also stated that she does not think we need any slides or the rock climbing wall, she stated that just the pool would be good

enough. Kandy also stated that she would like to see some money set aside for the families who don't have money so they can get out to the pool.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Artac, to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary



**City of Merrill
Parks and Recreation Commission**

**River Bend Trail
SIGN PLAN**

October 2014

Introduction

The River Bend Trail of Merrill is a multi-use non-motorized facility that contributes to the City of Merrill public transportation network and provides a recreation resource for residents and visitors.

The City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2018, Chapter 6, Recommendation and Capital Improvements, A. Recommendations includes: "River Bend Trail - Merrill's outdoor recreation vision statement recognizes the livability that the Wisconsin River adds to the city. The River District Development Foundation of Merrill is pursuing plans for a trail from downtown to Council Grounds State Park along the Wisconsin River, [The] River Bend Trail. Complete parts of the trail as the opportunities arise, and attempt to finish segments when they are mostly complete (e.g. a segment is defined as the corridor between two roads)."

View Outdoor Recreation Plan at:

http://www.ncwrpc.org/lincoln/merrillorp/Adopted%20Merrill_ORP_2013-2018_OnWeb.pdf

The River Bend Trail Sign Plan (Plan) provides specifications to guide the development, use and installation of signs:

1. To mark the trail
2. Communicate trail use courtesies (use rules)
3. For wayfinding to:
 - a. Provide maps of the trail and adjacent streets
 - b. Guide users onto the trail
 - c. Guide users off the trail to community resources
 - d. Communicate distances to community resources and lengths of segments
4. For the promotion of trail use with residents and visitors
5. To provide along-the-trail information (interpretation) about historic, cultural and environmental features of the city and its river resources.

Funding for and development of the River Bend Trail is a public-private partnership between the City of Merrill and the River District Development Foundation of Merrill (RDDFM). Trail projects are guided by a City Council adopted Resolution of Support agreement to cooperatively develop trail resources. The trail is owned by the City of Merrill and administered by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

See Figure 1. - Map of the River Bend Trail from Council Grounds State Park/Merrill Area Recreation Center along the Wisconsin River to wastewater treatment plant.



Figure 1.

River Bend Trail Sign Plan - October 2014

The Plan and Sign Guidelines

1. The Plan will be maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department
2. The Park Department Director will review and authorize signs in accordance with the Plan before installation.
3. River Bend Trail signs developed in accordance with the Plan will include the logo graphic symbols for the River Bend Trail and the Parks and Recreation Department as appropriate. See Figures 2., 3. and 4.



Figure 2. River Bend Trail Logo Vertical



Figure 3. River Bend Trail Logo Horizontal



Figure 4. Merrill Park and Rec Department Logo

4. The Plan will comply with the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Chapter 2H. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs and Part 9 Traffic Control For Bicycle Facilities for signs and pavement marking installation and maintenance for sign installation along municipal roads (federal, state and county highways, and city streets).
 - a. Reference: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/index.htm>:
The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public traffic. The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 655, Subpart F.
 - b. Chapter 2H. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs
Reference: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2003r1r2/part2/part2h.htm>

River Bend Trail Sign Plan - October 2014

Recreational or cultural interest areas are attractions or traffic generators that are open to the general public for the purpose of play, amusement, or relaxation. Recreational attractions include such facilities as parks, campgrounds, gaming facilities, and ski areas, while examples of cultural attractions include museums, art galleries, and historical buildings or sites.

The purpose of recreation and cultural interest area signs is to guide road users to a general area and then to specific facilities or activities within the area.

Option:

Recreational and cultural interest area signs that depict significant traffic generators may be used on freeways and expressways where there is direct access to these areas as discussed in Section 2H.09.

Recreational and cultural interest area signs may be used off the road network, as appropriate. (Underlining added)

c. Section 2H.02 Application of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs

Standards for signing recreational or cultural interest areas are subdivided into two different types of signs: (1) symbol signs and (2) destination guide signs.

Guidance:

When highway agencies decide to provide recreational and cultural interest area signing, these agencies should have a policy for such signing. The policy should establish signing criteria for the eligibility of the various types of services, accommodations, and facilities. These signs should not be used where they might be confused with other traffic control signs.

Option:

Recreational and cultural interest area signs may be used on any road to direct persons to facilities, structures, and places, and to identify various services available to the general public. These signs may also be used in recreational or cultural interest areas for signing nonvehicular events and amenities such as trails, structures, and facilities. (Underlining added)

d. Section 2H.03 Regulatory and Warning Signs

Standard:

All regulatory and warning signs installed on public roads and streets within recreational and cultural interest areas shall conform to the requirements of Chapters 2A, 2B, and 2C.

e. Section 2H.04 General Design Requirements for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs

Standard:

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs shall be square or rectangular in shape and shall have a white symbol or message and white border on a brown

River Bend Trail Sign Plan - October 2014

background. The symbols shall be grouped into the following usage and series categories (see the "Standard Highway Signs" book for design details):

- 1) General Information (RG Series)
- 2) Motorist Services (RM Series)
- 3) Accommodation Services (RA Series)
- 4) Land Recreation (RL series) (Underlining added)
- 5) Water Recreation (RW Series), and
- 6) Winter Recreation (RS Series)

Support:

Table 2H-1 contains a listing of the symbols within each series category. Drawings for these symbols are found in the "Standard Highway Signs" book (see Section 1A.11).

Application to River Bend Trail:

Trail (Bicycle) RL-090
Trail (Hiking) RL-100

See Figure 5. Shown as a modified RL Series sign, sizes include 18"X18" for street installation and 12"X12" for trail marking.

f. Section 2H.05 Symbol Sign Sizes

Guidance:

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 600 x 600 mm (24 x 24 in). Where greater visibility or emphasis is needed, larger sizes should be used. Symbol sign enlargements should be in 150 mm (6 in) increments.



Figure 5. River Bend Trail Road and Trail Sign Design

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 750 x 750 mm (30 x 30 in) when used on freeways or expressways.

Option:

A smaller size of 450 x 450 mm (18 x 18 in) may be used on low-speed, low-volume roadways and on nonroad applications.

g. MUTCD Color Specifications

Reference: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-colorspec.htm>

Color Specifications (23 CFR 655)

The color specifications are used to determine the color of sign sheeting and pavement marking materials for design purposes. Most of the color specifications were last revised by the final rule; amendment dated November 21, 2002. However, some color specifications were revised and specifications for some new colors were added by the final rule dated December 16, 2009.

River Bend Trail Sign Plan - October 2014

h. Pantone Matching Colors

The following are Pantone specifications for printing purposes only. They provide a guide for selecting appropriate ink colors to closely match the standard colors of traffic control signs. The Pantone specifications are not for use in sign fabrication.

NOTE: There are no Pantones available for fluorescent alternatives of standard colors.

Pantone Specifications for Printing

Blue - 294	Brown - 469	Green - 342	Orange - 152	Pink - 198
Purple - 259	Red - 187	Yellow - 116	Yellow-Green - 382	

5. The Plan will follow MUTCD designs as they can be applied to trail-size signs (12"X12" or 9"X9") when installed along trail. See Figure 6.
6. Signs placed along streets will be installed in cooperation with the Street Department in compliance with the MUTCD.
7. Signs will be produced in color on metal, plastic and wooden materials.
8. Signs will be installed at public access points such as at street and trail intersections to:
 - a. Identify the trail
 - b. Welcome trail users
 - c. Communicate trail courtesies - See Figure 7.
 - d. Provide wayfinding assistance
9. A Plan map will be maintained to:
 - a. Show the locations and types of signs
10. Plan Budget
 - a. A budget for the Plan will be included in the annual Park and Recreation Department budget
 - b. Sources of funding for the Plan include:
 - i. Grants from RDDFM
 - ii. Fees businesses pay to include name and directions on wayfinding signs
 - iii. Funds from the Merrill Park Endowment Fund
 - iv. The general fund
11. Updates to the Plan may be made by the Director.
12. The Plan may be amended by action of the Park and Recreation Commission.



Figure 6. Trail Marker with Wayfinding



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MERRILL
WISCONSIN
City Of Parks

October 2014 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Parks: Now that fall is officially upon us, the reservations are winding down and we will soon be winterizing our park facilities. With the recent rainy weather the grass has been a bit difficult to keep up with but we are managing. We have a few more weeks of our flag football program, along with the Merrill High School Fall sports (Soccer, Cross Country, and PRMS Football Practices at Lions). Work has begun on the City Forest Stewardship Grant Trail and was progressing nicely until the rain caused a delay. We should be resuming work this week and be able to take advantage of the beautiful fall weather in order to finish with plenty of time. We have had so much rain that we actually had to pull a few boards from the levy that controls the wetland because there was water starting to run over the top of the berm. We are working with the WDNR on the project and utilizing their bulldozer and personnel for the excavation and will utilize Street Department equipment and our personnel to do the finish work and granite hauling. I still have some lay out work to do up at the Forest to finish the new portion of the trail. I think this is the beginning of a fantastic trail network that will be connected to the Underdown Recreation Area owned by Lincoln County. By combining our trails, we give recreational enthusiasts over 7000 acres and 100+ miles of trails to explore. It is something that can really bring people into our community. Work has also started on sandblasting and repainting of the Riverside Park Shelter. That will be completed by the end of this week. The roof project at Stange Park is scheduled for the upcoming week and will also be finished very soon after it begins. I have spent quite a bit of time working on pool related items, including RFP drafting and related documents to send to the Aquatic Firms that are coming to the meeting. The parks will be closing by ordinance on October 1st. We will then begin winterizing all of our facilities.

Forestry: I have been out working on our fall pruning/removal inspections throughout town, as well as the tree planting list/locations. I will be out in the streets a lot more over the next month making sure we get everything finished. I will be sending the crew to a Chainsaw Safety Class on October 1st at the Wausau School Forest, put on by the WDNR and UW-Extension. With numerous cold nights under our belts already, I am sure you all notice the brilliant fall colors beginning to show. I hope everyone has a chance to get out and take it all in, as we sometimes take for granted just how beautiful it is here in the north woods. With the amount of precipitation we have received this year, I have noticed some of our young tree stock health condition improve. This is two years in a row with average to above average precipitation, which is a step in the right direction. There are still a number of older street trees that are going to continue to decline from the previous 7+ years of drought, as they are not as responsive anymore to the improved conditions. Within the past month EAB has been found in a few new areas, including: Calumet County (Village of Sherwood), Kewaunee County, Manitowoc County, and Outagamie County. These areas were already quarantined due to confirmations in the surrounding area, but they were new finds.

"Focusing on the Future"

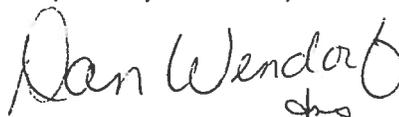
An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Recreation: Fall recreation programs have been finished and distributed to the schools. We have another fantastic line-up of programs for families to choose from once again. Our flag football program started a few weeks ago, and is going very well. We had a very big number of participants in the football program this year, with over 150 kids ranging from 2nd grade through 5th. This is a very positive trend for this program that we can really build on. We will be hosting our 32nd Annual Colorama Bike Ride on Saturday, September 27th at Kitchenette Park. This ride, for those who are not familiar, offers a 10, 30, and 50 mile option. It is a very scenic route and very well attended each year, especially from well outside of our area. We have people from all over the state that come here to participate in this ride. Our pre-race numbers are up this year, and I will anticipate a very large number of walk-up registrations if the beautiful weather persists. We are already starting to prepare for the Winter Season programs.

Smith Center: It has been a very busy month of September, and is going to be an even busier October. We hosted a wedding, La Crosse practices, Zumba, and the 5th Quarter Celebration already. And coming up we have our 7th Annual Lincoln Lager Barleyfest, Business & Trade Show, then set up for the installation of ice for the season. We are anticipating a record crowd again for the Lincoln Lager Barleyfest, with event goers coming from all over the Midwest and beyond. This has been a great event to bring visitors into town and showcase our community. Our locker room heater project will be getting under way within the next week and will be finished before the ice is in. We have been working on finalizing our ice schedule with the associations and creating the master ice schedule for the season. We have a great ice season in store for everyone, with a good mix of figure skating, hockey, and family skate opportunities.

***Note*:** As always, I would like to make sure if any of you have questions regarding anything to contact me at any time BEFORE our regularly scheduled meetings. This will ensure I can answer your question(s) and prepare the necessary background information to share. I would also like to invite each and every one of you to stop out to anyone of our functions or events. Our department does so many unique events, programs, and projects. We would love to give you a tour of a park, show you what goes into an event, how we make ice, or anything you may be curious about.

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