



MERRILL
WISCONSIN
City Of Parks

CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

1100 Marc Dr. • Merrill, Wisconsin • 54452
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NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will have a meeting on **Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 4:15 p.m.**, at the **Merrill City Hall**.

Voting members of Commission: John Burgener, Jean Ravn, Brian Artac, Melissa Schroeder, Dave Sukow, Ben Debroux and Michael Willman.

The following items will be included on the agenda:

1. Approve minutes from previous meetings.
2. Approve claims.
3. Public Comment
4. Discuss and finalize potential skate park locations to be considered at future public hearing,
5. River Bend Trail project(s) update(s).
6. Monthly reports.
7. Set date for next meeting.
8. Public comment
9. Adjournment

Submitted by

Mike Willman, 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.

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

October 5, 2016

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Mike Willman, Dave Sukow, Jean Ravn, Ben Debroux and John Burgener

Members Excused Absent: Brian Artac, Melissa Schroeder

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Erik Pfantz, Derek Woellner, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Cade Heideman MP3, Heather O'Neill, Justin Novitshi, Steven Reed, Kyle Gulke, Ethan Ravn, Stacy Stevenson

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Burgener to approve the minutes from the March meeting minutes.

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potential "Early Bird" season pass rates for Bierman Family Aquatic Center. Wendorf stated that he has been checking with other communities and having the passes available would make great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers. Wendorf would like to go with a flat fee instead of a percentage like some other communities do. Wendorf recommends that from December 1 through December 30th save \$15 on the purchase of a family season pass and save \$10.00 on the purchase of an individual season pass, and from the first business day of the New Year through April 14th save \$10.00 on the purchase of a family season pass, and save \$5.00 on the purchase of an individual season pass.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Ravn to approve recommendations from Wendorf regarding the "Early Bird" season passes for the Bierman Family Aquatic Center.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve 2017 Parks & Recreation Department Operating budget. Wendorf stated that the finance director Kathy Unertl provided a copy of the 2017 operating budget. Wendorf stated that there is no room for any wiggle – 0 % increase. Wendorf stated that we have to have \$3,026.00 decrease in the operating budget. Wendorf recommended to subtract a \$1,000.00 from Self & Non-support – expenses, increase Marc revenue from \$72,400 to \$73,400, and Wendorf stated he has talked with the County and the license fees for the Aquatic Center will not be as much as this year so that would be a savings of \$1,218. Sukow asked if Normal Park restoration cost was figured in on the budget. Wendorf stated that would be in capital improvements. Wendorf also said that the aquatic centers expenses would not be as much for next year since all the supplies and equipment have been purchased in the first year. Sukow questioned if there will be any timber sales this year. Wendorf

stated there will be, stated that Rich LaVally will be taking care of laying out the sale and bidding.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Burgener to approve the 2017 Parks and Recreation Department Operating budget.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a continued discussion on potential skate park locations. After going through the list of parks with pros and cons Wendorf stated that he has been looking into the best possible place for the skateboard park and his suggestion would be the Merrill Festival Grounds. Wendorf stated that there is more than enough room, parking would work great and room for expansion. Wendorf provided an aerial photo of the Festival Grounds and mapped out a location for the skate park. City Administrator Johnson did not think the skate park would work at the Festival Grounds, that there would be conflict with other events. City Administrator Johnson stated that in the near future the city may have an opportunity to purchase the old Legion building across from the Library and feels that would be a good location for the skate park. Burgener stated he feels a location needs to be chosen and then recommends a public hearing regarding location in January of 2017. After some discussion parks that the commission would recommend for the skate park are Streeter Square, Old Legion area, and Memorial ice rink, with permission from the county. A Public meeting will be held in January regarding location.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. City Administrator Johnson asked if bench was being replaced at Normal Park. Wendorf stated that it will be covered under insurance and is on order. Wendorf went over Aquatic Center numbers. Wendorf stated that he received a Stewardship Grant.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Burgener to approve the monthly board report given by Wendorf.

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

Public comment: Eric Pfantz asked what happened with the River Rat. Wendorf stated that it rotted out and will be replaced. Heather O'Neill questioned if any of the commission looked at the information she gave them in regards to the skate park. Heather stated that she does not agree with any of the locations. Heather stated that she put a lot of time and effort into working on skate park information. Heather stated that if this is built in the right location a lot of people would be at the skate park on a daily basis. Derek Woellner said he thought a good location would be down by the Weinbrenner parking lot by River Bend Trail. Gulke questioned when the Totem Pole at Normal will be moved. Derek Woellner asked why Stange Park would be a better location than Kitchenette for green space for picnics for families.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Burgener to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary

OCT.

AC & SONS	POLE AND DRAPE	9/28/2016	4205	\$1,800.00	BARLEYFEST
ACE HARDWARE	MOUSE TRAPS	9/19/2016		\$17.98	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	MR. CLEAN ERASER PACK	9/28/2016		\$6.98	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	AIR PLUG	10/12/2016		\$11.48	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	ANTI FREEZE	10/12/2016		\$33.88	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	ANTI FREEZE	10/10/2016		\$51.82	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	PUTTY KNIFE/SHIMS TOILET	10/7/2016		\$21.95	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	SPRAYER	10/22/2016		\$51.70	55400-03-40000
ADVANTAGE PURCHASING	BIERMAN FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER	10/11/2016	150357-0013	\$4,528.02	BIERMAN FAMILY AQUATIC
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	9/30/2016	4330305	\$37.55	55200-02-150000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	9/30/2016	4330946	\$51.35	55200-02-150000
BAJA'S	SHIRTS BARLEFEST	9/29/2016	17099	\$337.50	BARLEYFEST
BAUERNFEIND	COPY MACHINE	10/11/2016	23118	\$928.68	55300-03-41500
BAUMGART WASTE REMOVAL	WASTE HAULING	10/2/2016		\$83.00	55400-02-23600
BREW CADDY	LANYARD	9/28/2016	223	\$450.00	BARLEYFEST
BURGOYNE'S TOILET RENTAL	TOILET RENTAL	9/1/2016	53188	\$125.00	55200-02-15000
BURGOYNE'S TOILET RENTAL	TOILET RENTAL	9/1/2016	53187	\$135.00	55200-02-15000
BURGOYNE'S TOILET RENTAL	TOILET RENTAL	9/1/2016	53186	\$1,580.00	55200-02-150000
COUNTRY 106	ADVERTISEMENT BARLEYFEST	9/30/2016	590	\$300.00	BARLEYFEST
DAMEON DEATES	FLAG FOOTBALL REF	10/16/2016	VOUCHER	\$60.00	55300-03-41000
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	COLORAMA	9/24/2016		\$4.10	55300-03-41500
DUANE KOHNHORST	DJ SERVICE HALLOWEEN SKATE	10/28/2016	101	\$175.00	55300-03-41500
FASTENAL	PARTS FOR SHOP	10/14/2016	91137	\$155.74	55400-03-40000
G & K SERVICES	MATS/MOPS	9/29/2016	1016458080	\$290.44	55400-02-23250
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	9/22/2016	1016455271	\$103.67	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	9/29/2016	1016458088	\$103.67	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	10/13/2016	10164637954	\$103.67	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	10-60-16	1016460961	\$103.67	55200-03-46000
HARDGRAVE APPLIANCE CENTER	KEGERATOR	10/6/2016	11403	\$300.00	BARLEYFEST
HARGRAVE APPLIANCE	DRIP BOWL FOR RANGE AT KIT.	9/16/2016	5365594	\$21.40	55200-03-400000

HORST DISTRIBUTING	INVOICE	9/16/2016	6001575	\$143.13	
HORST DISTRIBUTING	50# PROSC. 25-0-51	10/18/2016	60834	\$359.25	55200-08-91000
HUGO'S PIZZA	PIZZA PARTY	10/4/2016		\$255.00	55300-03-41500
JAYDEN BEYER	FLAG FOOTBALL REF	10/16/2016	VOUCHER	\$240.00	55300-03-41000
JORDAN BUSH	FLAG FOOTBALL REF	10/16/2016	VOUCHER	\$195.00	55300-03-41000
JUSTIN BUSH	FLAG FOOTBALL REF	10/16/2016	VOUCHER	\$165.00	55300-03-41000
KARLA STAUS	REFUND ON PROGRAM	10/4/2016	VOUCHER	\$20.00	
LAMERS	BUS TOUR	10/10/2016	495228	\$880.00	55300-03-41500
LEAVES INSPRED	TREES	11/20/2016	154	\$721.00	55200-08-91000
LEE RECREATION	PRESTIGE BENCH	10/4/2016	10921-16	\$960.00	RIVER BEND BENCHES
LIEBERS EXCAVATING	HAUL GRANITE	10/7/2016		\$10,000.00	CAPITAL PROJECT/ PARK TRAIL
LOGAN MOSHER	FLAG FOOTBALL REF	10/16/2016	VOUCHER	\$225.00	55300-03-41000
MENARDS	PLASTIC	10/13/2016	30160496	\$124.95	55400-03-40000
MERRIL WATER UTILITY	RIVERSIDE PARK SHELTER	11/10/2016	330-51240-13	\$39.00	55200-02-21000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	SUPPLIES	10/14/2016	974956	\$469.96	55300-03-41500
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-6	9/15/2016	8233	\$36.98	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-6	9/14/2016	8226	\$176.62	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-12	9/6/2016	8210	\$117.38	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-18	9/8/2016	8217	\$36.99	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-14M	9/26/2016	8246	\$354.75	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-13	9/15/2016	8221	\$498.63	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-10	9/8/2016	8219	\$163.04	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-0	9/6/2016	8212	\$334.75	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	DIG OUT STUMP IN RIVERSIDE	10/10/2016		\$379.65	ADA CAPITAL PROJECT
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	RIVERSIDE PARK	11/10/2016	330-51040-13	\$114.26	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	MARC	11/10/2016	350-31240-00	\$87.00	55400-02-21000
MID WISCONSIN BEVERAGE	INVOICE FOR SODA	10/3/2016	10931	\$295.37	55420-03-40100
MIRON CONSTRUCTION	BIERMAN FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER	10/24/2016		\$39,329.04	BIERMAN FAMILY AQUATIC
NELSON'S POWER HOUSE	GRAVELY	8/18/2016	17419	\$144.95	55200-03-50000
NORTHWOODS NURSERY	TREES	10/14/2016	73279	\$2,489.00	55200-08-92000
PREMIER MANUFACTURING	BANNERS, PLAQUES	10/4/2016	3726	\$612.00	BARLEYFEST



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To: Merrill Parks & Recreation Commissioners

From: Dan Wendorf
Merrill Parks & Recreation Department

Re: Potential Skate Park Locations

Dear Commissioners,

Once again we had quite a bit of discussion regarding potential sites for the potential new skate park initiative. Over the past few months there has been considerable discussion on city owned, park locations. During the last meeting, after I went through the merits and drawbacks of each park, the discussion focused specifically on which park(s) you would like to see considered. Chairperson Willman suggested this topic be brought to a public hearing at some point in January, and asked for direct input on specific locations from Commissioners. There were five (5) locations that were directly mentioned; Streeter Square, American Legion site, Memorial Ice Rink Site, Festival Grounds, and Stange Park. A number of Commissioners endorsed multiple sites as potential candidates so the number of recommendations exceeds the seven (7) Commissioners. The following is a summary of the number of times each location was endorsed by a Parks & Recreation Commissioner:

Streeter Square – 4
American Legion – 3
Memorial Ice Rink – 2
Stange Park – 1
Festival Grounds – 1

This is intended to help guide you through our discussion at the November Commission meeting. Similarly to how we structured the Aquatic Center location public input, it would be nice to narrow the choices down to focus on sites that you feel are viable options.

Sincerely,

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill

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Emerald Ash Borer Found in Manitowoc County; No Change in County's Quarantine Status

Release Date: 10/14/16

Contact: **Donna Gilson**
608-224-5130, donna.gilson@wi.gov
Bill Cosh, Communications Director
608-224-5020, William2.Cosh@wi.gov

MADISON – Emerald ash borer has been confirmed for the first time in Manitowoc County, in a private woodlot in the Town of Schleswig.

Although EAB had not previously been found in Manitowoc County, the county has been under quarantine for EAB since 2014, when infestations were found in neighboring Calumet and Outagamie counties.

"This will not change anything from a regulatory standpoint," said Brian Kuhn, Plant Industry Bureau Director with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). "The quarantine will remain in place. The insects will continue to spread naturally, but the quarantine can help prevent EAB from leapfrogging to entirely new areas with the help of humans."

The property owner noticed woodpecker damage to ash trees throughout a six-acre woodlot and reported it to the state EAB hotline. DATCP staff visited the site Oct. 6 and collected EAB larvae, or immature insects, from two heavily infested trees. Samples went to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for official confirmation, which was received October 12.

For private citizens, the quarantine means that they cannot take firewood from Manitowoc County to non-quarantine counties. For businesses handling wood products that could carry EAB, it means that they must work with DATCP to assure that their products are pest-free before shipping.

For property owners in Manitowoc County and other quarantine counties, Kuhn recommended:

- Watch ash trees for signs of possible EAB infestation: Thinning in the canopy, D-shaped holes in the bark, new branches sprouting low on the trunk, cracked bark, and woodpeckers pulling at the bark to get to insect larvae beneath it.
- If your property is within 15 miles of a known infestation, consider preventive treatments. Whether to treat depends on several factors: the age of the trees, the size of the trees, and the number of trees. Treatment costs vary depending on size of the tree and whether you do the treatments yourself or hire a professional.
- Consider planting different species of trees that are not susceptible to EAB.
- Contact a professional arborist for expert advice, and visit emeraldashborer.wi.gov for detailed information.

Emerald ash borer is native to China and probably entered the United States on packing material, showing up first in Michigan in 2002. It was first found in Wisconsin in 2008 in Washington County. Manitowoc County joins 39 other Wisconsin counties where EAB has been found: Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oneida, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Winnebago and Wood. Iowa and Kewaunee counties are also under quarantine because of the proximity of infestations in neighboring counties.

###

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SKATEPARK DESIGN FEATURES

information provided by the Tony Hawk Foundation

DESIGN ELEMENTS

1. Flow Course;

a style of design that relies heavily on undulating forms found in curved skating surfaces; also called 'beginner areas' but are popular with all skate levels; flow courses are spread out over a large area of a skatepark

2. Bowls;

included in most skateparks are one or more bowl-shaped features; shallow bowls can be used by beginners, while deep bowls are generally used by more experienced skaters; bowls can also be varied in shape and size

3. Transition;

this term refers to any curved skate surface; most modern skateparks include curved surfaces; transition or 'tranny' surfaces may or may not reach a verticle angle (vert); transition- style skateparks usually include one or more skate surfaces which are overhanging (beyond verticle) which serves to challenge experienced skaters; transition provides the opposite of street skate surfaces, quarter and half-pipes are examples of verticle skate features

4. Street Plaza;

this style of skatepark design exclusively features street-style attractions that mimic architecture found in urban public spaces; street plaza parks are a

draw for all levels of skaters as they do not appear as forbidding as deep bowls or curves; street plazas do not feature transitional elements

****NOTE;** In modern skatepark design, it is generally desired for a skatepark to include **all of the four main design elements**; flow course, bowls, transition and street. This is so that a skatepark is attractive to all levels of skaters and so that the park's features are diverse enough to keep the interest of the skate population. In order to include all of these design elements, a skatepark needs to be of sufficient size as well.

POPULAR SKATEPARK FEATURES;

1. pyramids; with an approx. 4 ft flat top, 20 degree angle, 20 feet of clearance per all four sides
2. manual pads; flat top, dimensions approx. 4ft wide x 12ft long x 1ft tall; grinding edge, 10ft of clearance on two short sides, and 40 feet of clearance at two ends
3. ledges; flat top, approx 12—18 inches tall and 18 inches wide, length varies, no rounded coping on the edge for grinding, 10ft of clearance on two long sides, 40ft of clearance on two short sides
4. hubba ledge & stair set; mimic heavy concrete bannisters, these features are unidirectional (the skater descends), popular for sliding and grinding, the hubba is the ledge next to the stairs, hubbas can also be placed next to ramps, length of hubba depends on stair set, stairs can be short (set of three) or long (set of six), requires 30 ft of clearance at each end per three stairs, hubba ledge is at a 20 degree angle (sometimes seen up to 25 degrees) bottom edge is 22 inches tall and approx. 16 inches wide, leading edge of

hubba is 18 inches taller than top stair, stairs are traditionally sized, cross-traffic must be prevented at bottom stair

5. handrail and stair set; cross-traffic must be prevented at bottom stair, rail is placed in the middle of stair set with 8 feet of stairs on each side, rails may also appear on flat banks, average set includes 5 stairs (but may be taller), 40 ft of clearance is needed on each of the two ends—more for taller stairs, this structure is unidirectional (the skater descends), stairs can be either in single or double sets (5 or 10 stairs with flat area between sets)

6. flat rail; approx. dimensions are 8 ft long, 9-12 inches high, and 4 inches wide; the rail is a steel beam which is set into (not bolted down on) the concrete surface; 6 feet of clearance is required on each of the two sides and 20 feet of clearance for each end, a rail may be used from all directions but most commonly from either end

7. funbox; a combination of pyramid-hubba-ledge-rail and/or other features built into a single structure; constructed in the same manner as above features, 20 feet of clearance is required on both sides and 30 feet of clearance is required at each end.

****NOTE;** In modern skatepark design, it is generally desired that **all of the seven basic features are included**, although there can be even more features used by designers such as pipes, slopes, and humps. A **good** skatepark designer combines interesting features with an understanding of proper traffic control and flow.

10 Skatepark Locating Tips

1. **Include spaces where people can sit and observe the action.** A skatepark is a place that everyone can enjoy.
2. **Put trash cans where people rest or enjoy their drinks.** Cans should be secured in place so they aren't used as ad-hoc obstacles.
3. **Include areas near the park entrances for people to drop their backpacks, jackets, and water bottles.** Somewhere central to the action and visible from all parts of the park is best.
4. **Provide a water fountain and, if possible, shade.** Be careful using trees for shade as they can sometimes deposit dangerous debris in the skating area. Without a water fountain the park will need more trash cans.
5. **Invite other users.** A playground, comfortable benches or picnic tables, BBQ pits, maintained restrooms, and lights will attract a broader range of skaters and park users. The more activity occurring around the park, the better.
6. **Don't hide your park.** Locate your facility such that it allows passive observation by the community and law enforcement. Poor or remote skatepark sites make it clear to the skaters that they aren't wanted in the community.
7. **Don't landscape using pea gravel, beauty bark, or any other material that can creep into the park.** Take precautions to draw nearby water away from the skating areas.
8. **Don't wrap the facility with a chain link fence if possible.** Instead, consider using ornamental fences or short ledges that can be skated and sat on. The fewer barriers between the community and the skatepark, the better.
9. **Don't presume that because it's a skatepark it shouldn't look gorgeous.** Skateparks can reflect local history, incorporate natural materials, and even be distributed across a broad, decentralized area.
10. **Don't assume skaters won't take pride and ownership in the new facility.** Give them the opportunity to help shape policy, maintenance, and other ongoing concerns.

10 Street Plaza Tips

1. **Leave extra pushing room between street features.** Too much space between structures is better than not enough.
2. **Leave room for “freestyle”.** Pushing is OK, flat is good.
3. **Use different kinds of materials and textures to create a diverse skateboarding experience.** Brick, dyed concrete, small amounts of exposed aggregate, and imprints can all be used to turn huge slabs of gray into visually arresting spaces.
4. **Factor for the constraints of skateboarding.** Expansion seams, drainage grates, and wind-swept debris are all hazards for a skateboarder.
5. **Use fillet edges.** A 1/2 inch radius on leading edges intended for grinding will help prevent chip-outs.
6. **Space and position the obstacles and structures in a way that allows the skater to travel through the park as they wish.** It is better to provide directional liberty rather than attempt to control traffic.
7. **Allow for enough space between structures so that skaters won’t be running into each other.** Use plenty of buffer between elements and seek good visibility, especially around large structures that require more speed.
8. **Include a ledge and flat rail that are easily approached from either direction.** Consider that every structure in a plaza-style setting should be approachable from at least two opposing sides.
9. **Don’t assume a “street” park means a “beginner” park.** Small structures require the same amount of attention to design and construction as a large structure. While “ordinary” sized structures should be included, if space permits, don’t be afraid to include some larger features.
10. **Don’t underestimate the amount of speed a skater may need to approach a particular obstacle or structure.** Different tricks require different speeds. In general, more space allows the park to be used in more ways.

10 Transition Park Tips

1. **Include terrain for a wide range of skill levels.** Areas where less experienced people can practice should be disconnected from where experienced riders will be.
2. **Emulate the feel of a real swimming pool by featuring coping, faux filter box, and other interesting features.** Experienced skatepark designers have a list of fun elements that can be considered.
3. **Consider how the transition area might be used.** Anticipate the facilities capacity, where those users might be traveling through the park, and how quickly.
4. **Include over-vertical (overhanging) terrain, such as full pipe, capsule, or cradle.** In the hands of experienced designers and builders, these elements often suggest a world class park.
5. **Include a variety of transition, corners, hips, and coping types.** Each part of the park – and often different parts of the bowl – can provide countless challenges by varying speed and approach direction.
6. **Reveal Pool (bullnose) or steel coping between 1/4 to 1/2 inch on the rising (vertical) side.** On the horizontal (deck) side the coping should rise no higher than 1/2 inch.
7. **Try to allow at least 10 feet of walking and standing area around the bowls.** These decks are important for safety, comfort, and some types of tricks.
8. **Don't allow unplanned irregularities in the curved walls.** These kinks and bulges create a dangerous "tripping hazard" and can quickly render whole portions of the skatepark useless.
9. **Don't broom the finish or use expansion joints in the skating area.** Instead, use a steel trowel finish and cut narrow control joints to control cracking.
10. **Don't create on big flowing area.** Slower, less experienced skaters can expectantly roll into the path of faster skaters.

Park place:

Pop-up parks provide casual gathering areas for communities

By JULIE YOUNG | The Municipal

It all began in 2005 with a single parking space, a patch of turf, a bench and a potted tree. There was also a sign that read, “If you’d like to enjoy this little park, please put some coins in the meter.” With a small investment and a little effort, the first “parklet” was created.

A parklet is a sidewalk extension built over several parking spaces that is designed to provide more space and amenities to pedestrian traffic. Parklets offer folks a place to sit, read and relax, or provide some much needed green space to an area that needs it. The first parklet was created by the San Francisco arts collective Rebar, and over the past decade, parklets have become one of the hottest urban design trends in communities nationwide.

Pavement to parks

Once the initial prototype proved successful, the City by the Bay decided it needed more. In 2010, they created the Pavements to Parks program — a partnership between the San Francisco Planning Department, the Department of Public Works and the Municipal Transportation Agency. The organization conducted some research and learned that 25 percent of the city’s land was streets and public right-of-ways, more than all of the public parks combined. They also realized that many of those streets are excessively wide and underutilized, especially near intersections. They decided to test the possibilities of these areas by converting them into pedestrian spaces that would be enjoyed by people of all ages.

According to the Pavement to Parks website, parklets are temporary structures that can be changed easily according to need, may fold into the local landscape and can consist



of outdoor seating arrangements or something much more elaborate. When properly designed and executed, parklets reimagine the potential of city streets, encourage non-motorized transportation, enhance pedestrian safety and activities, foster neighborhood interaction and support local businesses. Parklets typically take between 12 and 18 months to plan and construct and can cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$14,000;

however, those who have them say they are well worth the time and effort.

“It’s a go-to for people,” said Tony Gemigani, owner of a parklet outside his pizzeria in New York City. “It just grabs people.”

Parklets populate big cities and small towns

After San Francisco’s parklet movement took off, other communities wanted to get in on



the act. Today, parklets can be found in a variety of locations — including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle, Philadelphia and even Auckland, New Zealand — and are making their way to small municipalities as well. Covington, Ky., installed five parklets in May that will be on display until

LEFT: Pictured is one of Lafayette, Calif.'s parklets, both of which have been positioned near local restaurants, providing roadside eating for city residents. (Photo provided)

ABOVE: San Francisco launched the parklet movement and now has several, which are hosted by local nonprofits, small businesses, neighborhood groups and others. Pictured is its 1331 Ninth Ave. parklet that Arizmendi Bakery hosts. (Photo by Jack Verdoni Architecture; <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sfplanning/8457445788/in/album-72157632723108182/>; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

the beginning of October and range from a wooden igloo — known as a Wish Igloo — to a hopscotch garden and a parklet that enables visitors to pedal stationary bicycles. Lafayette, Ind., has also installed five parklets to be part of the community's long-term streetscape plan, and even Rochester, N.Y., is working on bringing its first parklet prototype to the community.

"We started our parklet as a demonstration at our Earth Day festival to see the community's reaction to it," said Adam Foster, code enforcement officer/assistant planner of the city of Lafayette, Calif. "It was so well-received that the Downtown Development Authority approved a pilot parklet project for this summer."

With a budget of \$5,000, Lafayette constructed two parklets consisting of palettes, plywood, tables, chairs and umbrellas arranged in two parking spaces at local intersections. Thanks to their proximity to a local coffee shop and restaurant, it didn't take long for the community to gravitate toward the open-air seating areas and enjoy their

food alfresco. It may not be as elaborate as the parklets in San Francisco, but the installation will help the city determine whether or not repurposing a parking space is more beneficial to the community.

"It's something that we are going to have to study further. We have to determine if the space costs more to the city as a parking space or as a parklet," Foster says. "With a parking space, you have to maintain it all year long, but a parklet may encourage people to spend more time downtown, which gives the local economy a boost. We are fortunate that we can maintain a parklet all year-round. Colder climate areas can't do that."

Naturally, there are those who lament the loss of the parking spaces, but Foster said they are generally older residents who live in the suburbs and whose lives are designed around the car. However, he says many of those same people genuinely like the idea of the parklets because they remind them of a time when people ambled along sidewalks and interacted with their neighbors. ▶

Parks remain as relevant today as ever



Sarah Wright | Editor

THIS YEAR MARKS THE CENTENNIAL year for our U.S. National Park Service, which was created in 1916 with just 35 national parks and monuments to be overseen. That number has since soared to more than 400, with thousands of visitors turning out each year — in some cases displaying some headline-grabbing misbehavior. Yet as they mark this milestone, our national parks face some real challenges from underfunding to climate change and relevancy. It is a challenge city parks and recreation departments might be able to relate to, even if they are only overseeing a few acres of land versus the 84 million acres that fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. National Park Service.

However, with growing rates of obesity, parks — particularly urban parks — have never been more important. According to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases website, data from a National Health and Nutrition Examination survey in 2009–10 found more than two in three adults are considered to be overweight or obese while one-third of children and adolescents ages 6 to 19 are considered to be overweight or obese. The Center for Disease Control on its website noted links between obesity and sedentary lifestyles to a host of health issues from diabetes and heart disease to cancer and hypertension. Linked diseases account for more than 20 percent of

total U.S. health care costs, according to the CDC.

One solution being bandied about? More parks and within walking distance to more residents. In 12 Los Angeles public parks, a RAND Corporation team, led by researcher Deborah Cohen, found “people — especially adults and seniors — were more likely to exercise at parks that had areas for moderate exercise, such as tracks, walking paths, and trails. Having a park near one’s home was more important than the size of the park itself — people were more likely to use their neighborhood park even if a larger park was just a few miles away.”

In fact, The Trust for Public Land’s 2006 report, “The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More Parks and Open Space,” using data from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, found “that ‘creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach’ produced a 48.4 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity.”

Minnesota seems to have it down to a science, with two of its largest cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul, scoring exceedingly well in the ParkScore index, a ranking of urban parks systems published by the Trust for Public Land. In Minneapolis, roughly 95 percent of residents — across a large demographic — live within a 10-minute walk to a park. In St. Paul, it is approximately 96 percent.

Another case for parks’ relevancy nowadays is community. Writer Julie Young examined the “parklet” trend — see page 20 — and one of its major draws, beyond encouraging non-motorized transit and pedestrian safety, is the way it fosters neighborhood interaction and support for local businesses. In an increasingly digital age, with people’s faces buried in their devices,

we need more interaction. Albeit, some park departments are wisely tapping into digital trends liked Pokemon Go to encourage visits and exercise in their local parks.

Thriving and unique local parks, beaches and gardens have the potential to draw in visitors from outside of a city, making for vibrant communities. In fact, writer Anne Meyer Byler found through the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association that our beaches have twice as many visitors annually than national parks combine. This makes beaches and beach-related tourism a \$1.3 trillion business; \$124 billion of that goes to governments of all levels in annual taxes. To harness this economic boost, municipalities may want to consider restoring their beaches like Highland Park, Ill., did — see page 24.

With the many pluses — and I’m just hitting the top of the iceberg — of having strong parks and recreational activities, both for the people and the economy of our local towns and cities, it should be hard to argue that parks are no longer relevant; after all, people need access to nature in this day in age just as much, if not more, than times in the past. While visiting Prophetstown State Park in West Lafayette, Ind., I was struck by that thought quite profoundly as I stood in awe of the restored prairie and listened to the birds’ calls.

While “Parks and Recreation” is October’s theme, we will also be sharing information about Zika virus from the CDC, sustainable asset management, temporary structures, building safety from threats within and out, how to avoid false positive when testing water and more.

We hope you find this issue of *The Municipal* useful. And let’s keep “America’s Best Idea” going for another 100 years. ☐





MERRILL
WISCONSIN
City Of Parks

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November 2016 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Parks: With the fall season well upon us, and a few frosty evenings, the grass has finally begun to slow down. That is a relief as it has allowed us to finish up a few tasks that needed finishing before winter closes in on us. We have all of our facilities winterized and prepared for winter. The crew has also been able to get some athletic field maintenance done as well, including aerating and fertilizing so the turf is ready to go in the spring. We have also been working to finish a big project, new granite overlay on all trails at the MARC and Prairie Trails. As a capital project this year we were able to top dress all of the trails at these two parks with over 1800 yards of new granite. This was very much needed as the trails in these locations were cupping out, holding water, and getting pretty rough. Now that it is finished they look great and function even better now. Both of these trails haven't had fresh granite added to them in well over 10 years. The crew has also been going park to park and gathering picnic tables that need repair and stacking the others under the shelters so they are out of the elements for winter. The damaged ones are brought back to the park shop where we perform the repair work when we have time during the winter months. The pool has been completely winterized, and all external items that are portable have been brought inside the breezeway to be stored. Thanks to the Street Department, we should be able to finish the ADA lawsuit required paths in Ott's Park, Stange Park, Riverside Park, Kitchenette Park, and at Streeter Square. They provided the equipment and labor (instead of having to contract out) to excavate the paths and American Asphalt will perform the paving. We will have a few small things to finish next year in order to be in complete compliance with the lawsuit settlement, but the paths are the most difficult and will be great to finish. We are also going to use some additional granite to add a small pedestrian connector trail from the MARC north loop trail directly to the pool. This will allow pedestrians to cross Marc Drive by the intersection with Hwy. 107 and traverse directly to the pool facility without having to continue down Marc Drive at all. This is a cost effective safety measure that separates pedestrians from vehicular traffic. *I attended the all-day budget meeting on Friday, October 21st at City Hall. Unfortunately I don't have anything to report to you as far as budgetary results. The meeting had some great discussion, however unfortunately the capital portion wasn't ready for discussion so a separate meeting was added. That meeting is the night after our Commission meeting.

Forestry: I have been very busy on the forestry front over the past few weeks. I have had some time to start catching up on tree inspections for pruning and removals finally. I have also had the opportunity to organize and finalize the entire fall boulevard and park plantings. That takes quite a bit of time to identify sites, mark them, notify homeowners, select species, order trees, and get them in the ground. By the time you read this we should be almost finished with all of our plantings. We focused quite heavily on the east central portion of the City (area that lost quite a few trees during the same wind storm that took down the grandstand at the Festival Grounds). We are planting almost 40 trees in

"Focusing on the Future"

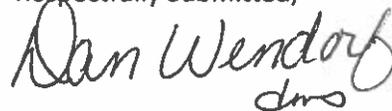
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that area, and it allows us to re-beautify an entire area at once instead of chipping away at it over a period of years. As has been our mission over the past decade, we are planting a fantastic diversity of tree species again this year. I ordered 16 different types of trees this year, and for a 12th straight season it includes zero maple trees. We will have a few trees left over that we will place in our parks. There was also another EAB confirmation over the past few weeks, this time in Manitowoc County in the Township of Schleswig. This is not a big surprise for that region, as two surrounding counties had confirmed EAB within the past few years.

Recreation: Our fall programs have come and gone already and were very successful. We were fortunate with some beautiful weather to enjoy fall recreation for our flag football program, 5th Quarter, Colorama Bike Ride, as well as the sold out bus trip to the Amish Woodshed in Augusta, WI. All of the programs had great participation, everyone enjoyed them, and we had no issues at all. Our next season's programs are already out and in circulation and we have been seeing registrations coming in for the winter. As always we will be spending the winter months evaluating our spring/summer/early fall programs to ensure we make changes &/or improvements necessary to continue to provide our community with the best programs possible. It is very important to be able to adapt our programs to meet the needs and trends of our community. We will also take the winter months to begin planning for the very busy and detail oriented summer season.

Smith Center: Our dry floor events came to an end on October 15th with the Tots Need Toys event inside the arena. The following day we turned the floor temperature down to begin the ice installation process. By the time you read this we will be open for business with our first open skate on Friday, October 28th as a special event Halloween Skate. The installation process went very well again this year, thanks to a great crew – we are fortunate to have great employees with our department! They all do a fantastic job, and the ice looks great again this year. We have a good ice schedule for the 2016-2017 season and we very much look forward to working with our associations and visitors inside the arena again this year. This will also be our first year with a Cooperative High School Hockey Team. For those of you who may not be aware, MHS Hockey Team and Wausau East Hockey have combined this year to form the "Bluejacks." It will be an adjustment for everyone, but from an arena end – we are ready to go. Our 2016 preventative maintenance will finally be taking place this week with the replacement of our radiant bleacher tube heaters, as well as our overhead heater in the Zamboni pit.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Wendorf" with the initials "dwo" written below it.

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill