



**MERRILL
WISCONSIN**
City Of Parks

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

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will have a meeting on **Wednesday, February 1, 2017 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. Review/discuss Normal Park Restroom project.
5. Review/discuss Stange Park revitalization project.
6. Review/discuss 10 year Capital plan.
7. Monthly reports.
8. Set date for next meeting.
9. Public comment
10. Adjournment

Submitted by

Mike Willman

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

December 7, 2016

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Mike Willman, Dave Sukow, Jean Ravn, Ben Debroux, Brian Artac, Melissa Schroeder and John Burgener

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Cade Heidemann MP3, Heather O'Neill, Mark Wisinski, Swiderski Equipment, Gene Bebel, Mayor Bill Bialecki, Kyle Gulke and Ryan Grieser

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve the minutes from the November meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that he wants to see Stange Park taken off the list for potential skate park location. Mayor Bialecki stated that he would like to see Stange Park utilized for reservations with new bathrooms and a facility similar to Kitchenette Park.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and finalize locations for potential skate park.

***Motion by Burgener, seconded by Sukow to take Stange Park off the list for potential skate park location.

Burgener stated that he would like to see Stange Park turned into another Kitchenette Park utilizing it for park reservations.

***Carried 6 – 1 with opposing vote from Mike Willman.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Burgener to take Streeter Square off the list for potential skate park locations.

Melissa stated that there is no parking there and also it is more of a residential area. Sukow stated that does not leave many places left for location because the County stated that they do not want the skate park built where the current ice rink is located at Memorial. Sukow stated that he received phone calls regarding concerns about having the skate park down by the River Bend Trail with it not being very visible in that area.

***Carried 5 – 2 with opposing vote from Mike Willman and Dave Sukow.

Wendorf stated that the only areas left were the Festival Grounds, the American Legion site and the parking lot down by the River Bend Trail. City Administrator Johnson stated the he did not

want the skate park at the Festival Grounds because there was no room for it down there. He also stated that it would be at least 2 years before you could do anything at the American Legion site. Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that he will fight tooth and nail to not have the skate park at the Festival Grounds.

***Motion by Burgener, seconded by Sukow to remove the Festival Grounds from the list of potential areas for the skate park.

***Carried 5 – 2 with opposing votes from Mike Willman and Ben Debroux.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Burgener to approve the site by River Street municipal parking area for the skate park and send to Public Works to approve and send to Common Council for approval.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve public participation process for potential skate park. Willman stated that there is nothing to discuss since the commission decided on one location.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve bids for the purchase of utility tractor for Parks Department. Wendorf stated that 3 bids came in for a tractor. Riesterer & Schnell Inc. from Antigo bid \$83,396.00 with options, Service Motor Company bid \$70,625.00 with options and Swiderski Equipment Inc bid \$66,605.00 with options. Wendorf stated that he would recommend Swiderski Equipment Inc. and would like approval to add a couple more safety options but would not exceed the \$70,000.00 that was granted to the Parks Department.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to accept the bid from Swiderski Equipment Inc. and to add on a couple safety features but not to exceed \$70,000.00.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to recommend eliminating River Bend Trail maintenance charges to River District Development Foundation from the Parks Department. (River Bend Trail is officially recognized as a Linear City Park) Wendorf stated that they currently do the maintenance on the trail now and won't impact the budget because city employees performing normal work in a Linear City Park already.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Schroeder to recommend eliminating River Bend Trail maintenance charges to River District Development Foundation from the Parks Department.

Sukow questioned who would receive the money from the cell tower. City Administrator Johnson stated the River District Development Foundation would.

***Carried unanimously. Mike Willman abstained from casting vote.

The next item on the agenda was to recommend the City of Merrill self-perform trail base work on new construction from Kyes St. to Cooper St. with the River District Development Foundation paying for the paving and finishing work on that section of trail. Wendorf stated that there are two sources of funding for this part of the trail, the Stewardship Grant and also help from the Street Department. Sukow questioned if the land was ready for work or if they will run

into any problems with any clean up. Mike Willman stated that the land is clear and ready for work. Wendorf stated that all costs will be covered by grant.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Burgener to recommend the City of Merrill self-perform trail base work on new construction from Kyes St. to Cooper St. with the River District Development Foundation paying for the paving and finishing work on that section of trail.

***Carried unanimously. Mike Willman abstained from voting

The next item on the agenda was to recommend the City of Merrill contribute an operational donation, on an annual basis, to the River District Development Foundation. Wendorf stated that this would be a yearly donation the River District Development Foundation would or could ask for. Sukow stated that the amount is at the mercy of the Common Council.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Burgener to recommend the City of Merrill contribute an operational donation, on an annual basis, to the River District Development Foundation.

***Carried unanimously. Mike Willman abstained from voting.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve grant awards from Stewardship Fund and Recreational Trail Aids for River Bend Trail East expansion project. Wendorf stated that they were awarded \$83,342 from the Stewardship Grant and \$30,408 from the Recreational Trail Aids program.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Ravn to approve the grant awards from Stewardship Fund and Recreational Trail Aids for the River Bend Trail and to be forwarded to the Common Council for approval.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was an update on final 2017 Operational and Capital Budget results. Wendorf stated there was a 0% increase for the budget. For capital improvements the Park and Recreation Department was approved for everything but Stange Park project, Prairie Trails pit toilet, and Athletic park parking lot.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. No questions. Wendorf stated he would like to thank all the employees of the Park and Recreation Department. Willman asked if any pool passes are being sold.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Ravn to approve the monthly board report submitted by Wendorf.

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Public comment: Heather O'Neal presented some pictures of some skateboard parks and stated that she really thinks the skate park will benefit the community. She also stated that as soon as she receives her 501C3 number for nonprofit she will begin fund raising now that a site has been approved. O'Neal stated that she has been contacted by a couple businesses that are interested in donating. Gene Bebel stated that he would like to thank the commission for all their support and help with the River Bend Trail.

*****Motion by Sukow, seconded by Ravn to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.**

*****Carried unanimously.**

**Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary**

DEC

ACE HARDWARE	DIAGONAL PLIER/CEMENT	12/2/2016		\$13.48	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	ANTI FREEZE	12/8/2016		\$7.58	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	QUARTZ HEATER	12/15/2016		\$49.99	55200-03-40000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	11/30/2016	4455526	\$54.05	55200-02-15000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	11/30/2016	4454894	\$39.35	55200-02-15000
ATCO INTERNATIONAL	CENTURION	12/9/2016	132383	\$798.00	55200-08-91000
BAUMGART WASTE	CARDBOARD PICK UP	12/1/2016		\$166.00	55400-02-23600
BOB'S WEST 64	TIRE REPAIR	11/30/2016	31951	\$68.33	55200-03-50000
CENTRAL WI WHOLESALE AUTO PARTS	CITROL CITRUS BASED DEGREASER	12/2/2016	15965	\$96.24	55200-03-40000
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	SUPPLIES FOR WARMING HOUSE	12/21/2016		\$27.72	55300-03-41500
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	SUPPLIES FOR WARMING HOUSE	12/19/2016		\$30.43	55300-03-41500
DOUG WILLIAMS	SANTA	12/22/2016	VOUCHER	\$175.00	55300-03-41500
DUANE KOHNHORST	DJ NEW YEARS EVE SKATE	10/28/2016	104	\$175.00	55300-03-41500
ENTRANCE TECHNOLOGIES LLC	SERVICE ON ENTRY DOOR	12/21/2016		\$150.00	55400-02-16700
ETCO ELECRC	LIGHTS	12/7/2016	1243219	\$740.00	55200-08-91000
FASTENAL	SUPPLIES FOR SHOP	11/22/2016	91899	\$0.68	55200-03-40000
FERGUSON ENTERPRISES	PARTS FOR SHOP	11/28/2016	3664965	\$37.40	55400-03-50000
FERGUSON ENTERPRISES	LATCH	11/28/2016	105637	\$37.40	55200-03-40000
FERGUSON ENTERPRISES	PARTS FOR SHOP	12/6/2016	3331	\$73.33	55400-03-50000
FERGUSON ENTERPRISES	LATCH ASSY CP	12/12/2016	105637	\$60.32	55200-03-40000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	12/1/2016	1016483500	\$103.67	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	12/8/2016	1016486296	\$103.67	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	MATS/MOPS	12/22/2016	1016491901	\$290.44	55400-02-23250
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	12/15/2016	10164891110	\$103.67	55200-03-46000
GREEN LAWN	ATHLETIC IMPROVEMENTS	12/1/2016	16-21077	\$324.78	26-31-5370
INTEGRITY	ANNUAL INSPECTION	12/20/2016	52015	\$315.00	55400-02-16500
MAKAYLA BURDEK	SECURITY DEPOSIT	11/30/2016	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MECHANICAL	OFFICE HEAT	12/19/2016	50026	\$645.48	554400-03-5000
MECHANICAL	BLEACHER HEATERS	12/2/2016	49945	\$15,990.00	CAPITAL PROJECT
MECHANICAL	ZAMBONI ROOM HEATER	12/2/2016	49944	\$8,850.00	CAPITAL PROJECT

MENARDS	TARP STRAPS/OUTDOOR TIMER	12/2/2016	30160496	\$39.63	55200-03-40000
MERRILL FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING	12/1/2016		\$677.00	55400-03-41000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	DIG PATH AT MARC	11/2/2016	38	\$433.30	55200-08-91000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	PARK CHECK TRUCK	11/29/2016	8305	\$123.66	55200-03-50000
MERRILL WATER UTILITIES	MARC	1/10/2016	106-00940-00	\$693.58	55400-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITIES	SOCCER BUILDING MARC	1/10/2016	106-00943-00	\$125.06	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITIES	LIONS PARK	1/10/2016	116-02440-00	\$337.88	55200-02-21000
MERRILL YOUTH HOCKEY	BIRTHDAY PARTIES	11/30/2016	160	\$76.50	55300-03-41500
MERRILL YOUTH HOCKEY	BIRTHDAY PARTIES	12/13/2016	161	\$42.00	55300-03-41500
NAPA AUTO PARTS	PARTS FOR SHOP	11/29/2016	631075	\$42.11	55200-03-50000
NAPA AUTO PARTS	HALOGEN BULB	12/6/2016	632148	\$4.29	55200-03-50000
NAPA AUTO PARTS	BOSS OIL	12/21/2016	634964	\$12.24	55200-03-40000
NORTHWOODS SUPERIOR CHIMICAL	TB SPRAY	11/30/2016	144183	\$127.21	55400-03-50000
PETERSON BROTHERS SAND & GRAVEL	DUMPING AT PINE PIT	12/1/2016	11222	\$70.50	55200-02-15000
QUICKSILVER	ADVERTISING	11/30/2016	242	\$246.00	55400-03-41000
RIVERS EDGE LP	NORMAL PARK	12/14/2016	1614	\$124.00	55300-02-22750
SHARON SCHMELTZER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	11/30/2016	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
WALMART	CANDY FOR BREAKFAST WITH SANTA	11/28/2016		\$19.89	55300-03-41500
WALMART	O TANN. TOUR/TRAIL CAM	11/30/2016		\$262.74	55300-03-41500
WALMART	TREES	12/8/2016		\$247.00	55300-03-41500
WPRA	MEMBERSHIP	12/11/2016		\$125.00	55200-03-32000
WPRA	MEMBERSHIP DUES	12/21/2016		\$125.00	55200-03-32000
WPRA	MEMBERSHIP DUES	12/22/2016		\$125.00	55200-03-32000
WPRA	MEMBERSHIP DUES	12/22/2016		\$125.00	55200-03-32000
WPS	MARC STAND	1/3/2017	405061701-00018	\$38.50	55200-02-22000
WPS	MARC STAND	1/3/2017	405061701-000002	\$73.71	55200-02-22000
WPS	SMITH CENTER	1/3/2017	405061701-00003	\$5,061.11	55400-02-22000

JAN

ACE HARDWARE	DOOR SEAL CINCH	1/6/2017		\$13.99	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	PARTS FOR SHOP	1/6/2017		\$13.99	55200-03-40000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	12/31/2016	4514994	\$80.68	55300-03-41500
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	12/31/2016	45115629	\$55.52	55300-03-41500
BAUERNFEIND	CONTRACT COPY MACHINE	1/10/2016	29199	\$85.89	55300-03-41500
CITY PAGES	ADVERTISEMENT	1/6/2017	25660	\$149.63	55400-03-41000
DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP	TREEKEEPER SUBSCRIPTION	12/23/2016	910846477	\$1,800.00	55200-08-92000
DUANE KOHNHORST	DJ OPEN SKATE	1/13/2017	105	\$175.00	55300-03-41500
ETCO ELECTRIC	REPLACEMENT VANDAL PROOF LENS	12/28/2016	1243936	\$147.21	55200-03-43000
FASTENAL	EYEBOLT	12/22/2016	92406	\$7.04	55200-03-40000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS	1/5/2017	1016497569	\$107.22	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	MATS/MOPS	1/19/2017	1016203173	\$290.44	55400-02-23250
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	1/12/2017	1016500383	\$107.22	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	1/19/2017	1016503181	\$107.22	55200-03-46000
HEARTLAND COOPERATIVE	ICE AWAY	1/17/2017	292444	\$179.09	55200-03-40000
LEE RECREATION	LITTER BAGS DOG PARK	1/5/2017	11008-17	\$91.50	55200-08-91000
MARCO	WEBSITE HOSTING	1/3/2017	3927083	\$420.00	55400-03-41000
MECHANICAL INCORPATED	HEATER ENTRYWAY	1/17/2017	50097	\$186.00	55400-03-50000
MERRILL COURIER/FOTO NEW	ADVERTISEMENT	12/30/2016		\$305.00	55400-03-41000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	MARC	9/10/2016	350-31240-00	\$87.00	55200-02-21000
MERRILL YOUTH HOCKEY	PIZZA PARTY	1/18/2017	162	\$84.00	55300-03-41500
NIENOW ELECTRIC	LIGHTING	1/31/2017	3711	\$519.15	55200-08-91000
QUICKSILVER BROADCASTING	ADVERTISEMENT	12/30/2016		\$246.00	55400-03-41000
RIESTERER & SCHNELL	PARTS	1/11/2017	1125694	\$100.82	55200-03-50000
RTL ELECTRIC	SMITH CENTER	1/16/2017	61515	\$136.08	55400-03-50000
T & T AUTO SERVICE	FORMED EDGES	1/12/2017	119805	\$432.36	55200-03-50000
TEAM SPORTS	T-BALL	1/6/2017	72603	\$18.00	55300-03-41500
WALMART	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1/4/2017		\$66.10	55300-03-10000
WEINBRENNER SHOE COMPANY	SHOES	1/20/2017		\$93.00	55200-03-46500
WPS	MARC STAND	2/9/2017	405061701-00018	\$0.49	55200-02-22000



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~Memo~

To: Parks & Recreation Commissioners

From: Dan Wendorf
Merrill Parks & Recreation Department

Re: Normal Park Project & Stange Park Revitalization

Dear Commissioners,

I wanted to inform you that I will have Normal Park Restroom Plans available for you at the meeting next week, and possibly Stange Park Revitalization drawings as well. I am working with City Engineer, Rod Akey, and he has been kind enough to work on these for us in addition to his workload.

We will be able to review the Normal Park Restroom Plans at the meeting and Rod and I will take that information and have them ready to bid out shortly after. It is my goal to have this project back to you for approval in March (April at the very latest) so we can award and schedule construction for right away this spring.

The Stange Park Revitalization project is going to be a schematic drawing that we can use to create a vision of what we would like the park to look like. This will be a working document that we can work on to be ready for the budgetary process this fall, and hopefully receive funding for in 2018.

Sincerely,

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill

10 Year Capital Plan - Merrill Parks & Recreation Department

Park/Project	Priority	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Smith Center HVAC	1	\$60,000	\$70,000								
MARC Ballfield Improvements	3	\$15,000	\$15,000								
Stange Park Improvements	1	See below									
Athletic Park Parking Lot	1	\$50,000									
Athletic Park Field Lights	2	\$200,000									
Park Dump Truck Replacement	2		\$40,000								
Stange Park Lagoon Bridges	1	\$50,000									
Large Field Mower Replacement	2		\$85,000								
Otts Park Field Lights	3			\$100,000							
Park Pickup truck replacement	3		\$30,000								
Prarie Trails Pit Toilet	3	\$25,000									
Athletic Park Wall Restoration	2						\$20,000				
Lions Park eliminate stairs and construct pedestrian p	3				\$25,000						
Lions Park Parking lot replace	2			\$35,000							
Kitchenette re-surface playground	3				\$15,000						
Kitchenette parking lot replace	2			\$35,000							
City Forest Pit Toilets	2		\$25,000								
City Forest Shelter	3				\$30,000						
Otts Park re-fence ball field	2			\$20,000							
Otts Park new bleachers	2			\$25,000							
Stange Park resurface/border playground	2					\$15,000					
Stange Park Restrooms/shelter	1	\$150,000									
Stange Park Parking Lot	1	\$35,000									
Stange Park basketball court upgrade	2	\$30,000									
Stange Park lighting	2	\$20,000									
Stange Park tennis court remove and hillside fix	2	\$15,000									
Streeter Square re-do basketball courts	3					\$20,000					
Riverside Park parking lot	2				\$40,000						
Riverside Park resurface playground	2				\$15,000						
Replace infield dragger	3			\$20,000							
City Forest Main Road re-construction	3							\$75,000			

Western and Central Wisconsin Forest Health Report – Nov 2016

By Mike Hillstrom, Todd Lanigan, Paul Cigan

Topics covered this month:

[2016 summary](#)

[EAB](#)

[Gypsy moth](#)

[Brown marmorated stink bug](#)

[Pine root collar weevil](#)

[Rotstop C](#)

[Oak wilt spreading in Northwest WI](#)

[Mark Guthmiller retirement](#)

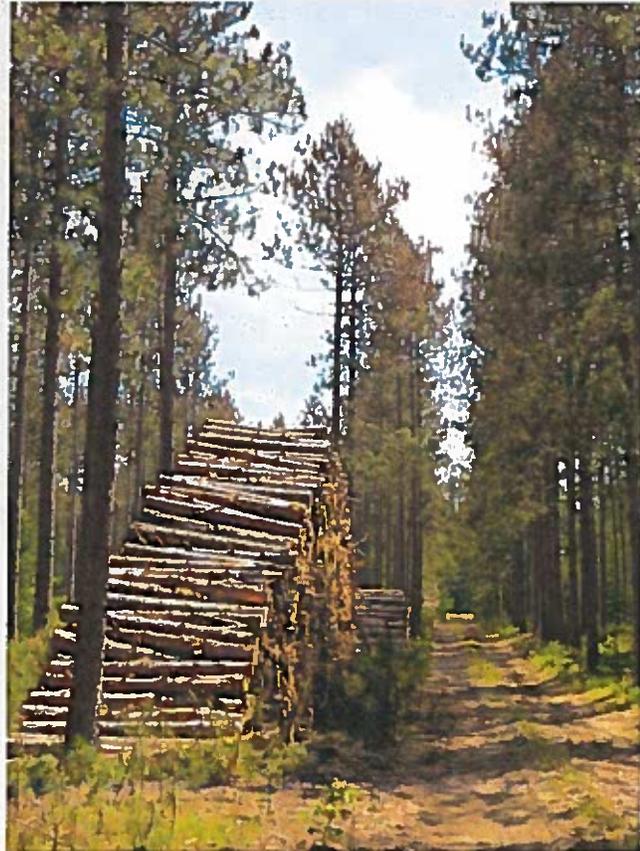
[Bur oak blight](#)

2016 Summary

Overall, 2016 was a relatively quiet year for insects and diseases. Forest health staff were as busy as ever but the issues tended to be minor (e.g. anthracnose) or localized with the exception of the usual suspects (e.g. EAB, oak wilt). We did have lots of calls this year about abiotic damage including heavy spring frosts and storm damage of all types (e.g., flooding, wind and hail damage). These abiotic events contributed to some of the insect and disease issues we noted in 2016 including:

- Two-lined chestnut borer attacked and killed oaks in stands that were thinned and impacted by heavy frost damage in a few northcentral counties.
- Diplodia caused mortality of red pine seedlings and saplings and branch tip mortality of overstory red pine.
- New oak wilt infections
- Moderate spruce budworm damage in northern WI was difficult to see because storms washed off all the dead needles.

Figure 1. Red pine salvage harvest in Adams County because of wind and hail damage.



Emerald Ash Borer

EAB has reared its metallic head in a number of new locations since our last forest health update. First county finds occurred in Sawyer County (Town of Radisson) and Manitowoc County (Town of Schleswig). 42 of Wisconsin's 72 counties are now quarantined.

In other EAB news, it appears the green menace is able to successfully develop in Manzanilla olive trees (green table olives) in the lab. There is no known infestation of olive trees in the field currently but this is an interesting discovery given EAB's primary host ash is in the olive family (Oleaceae). EAB can also infest white fringetree (also in the olive family).

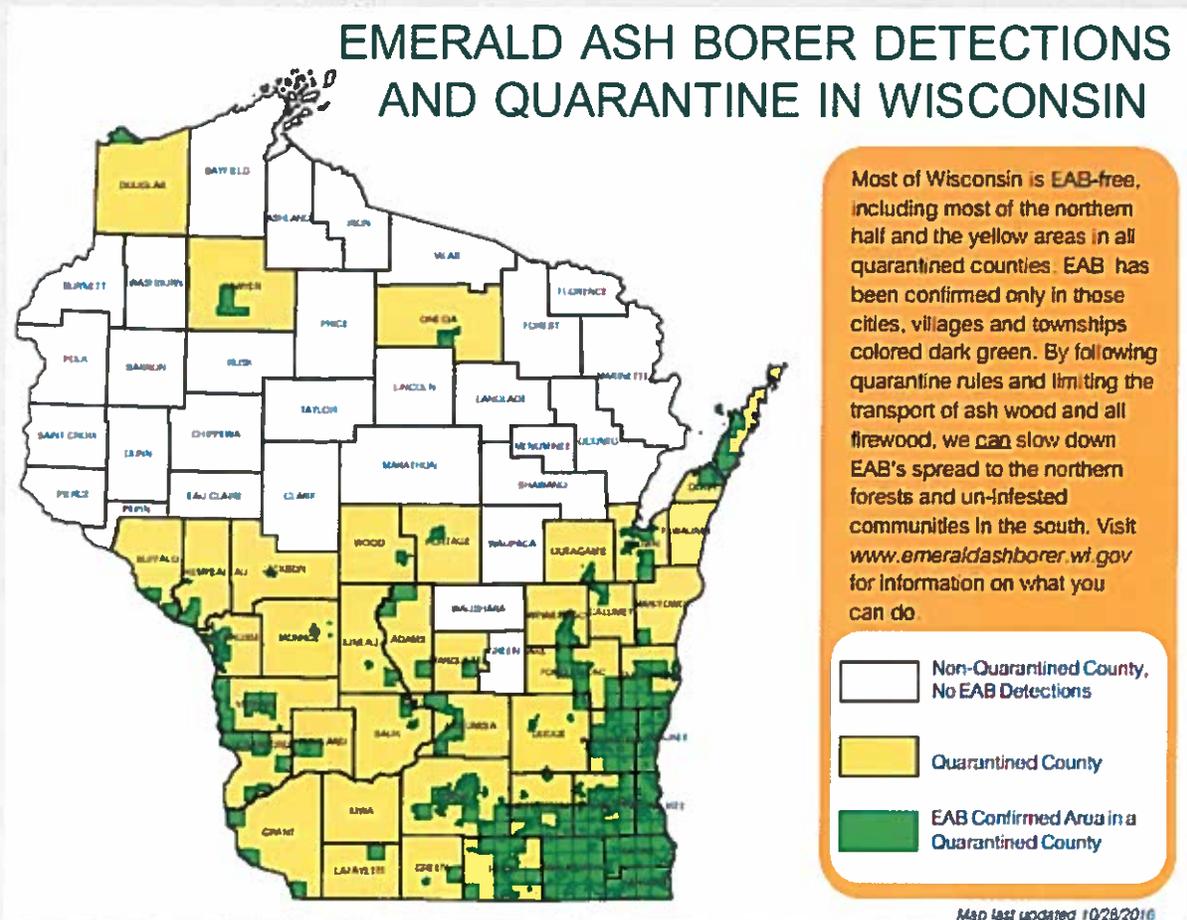


Figure 2. Known locations of EAB in Wisconsin.

Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moth trapping for 2016 is completed. 86,462 male moths were captured in 5,399 of the 11,383 traps set. Numbers are down slightly from 2015 when 97,505 moths were caught and 2014 when 92,786 moths were caught. The lower numbers are probably because of the late spring frosts and abundant rainfall causing mortality or promoting disease. We received very few nuisance caterpillar complaints in 2016 so we expect the DNR suppression spray program to be small again in 2017. It's anticipated DATCP will continue slow-the-spread spraying in Western counties in 2017.

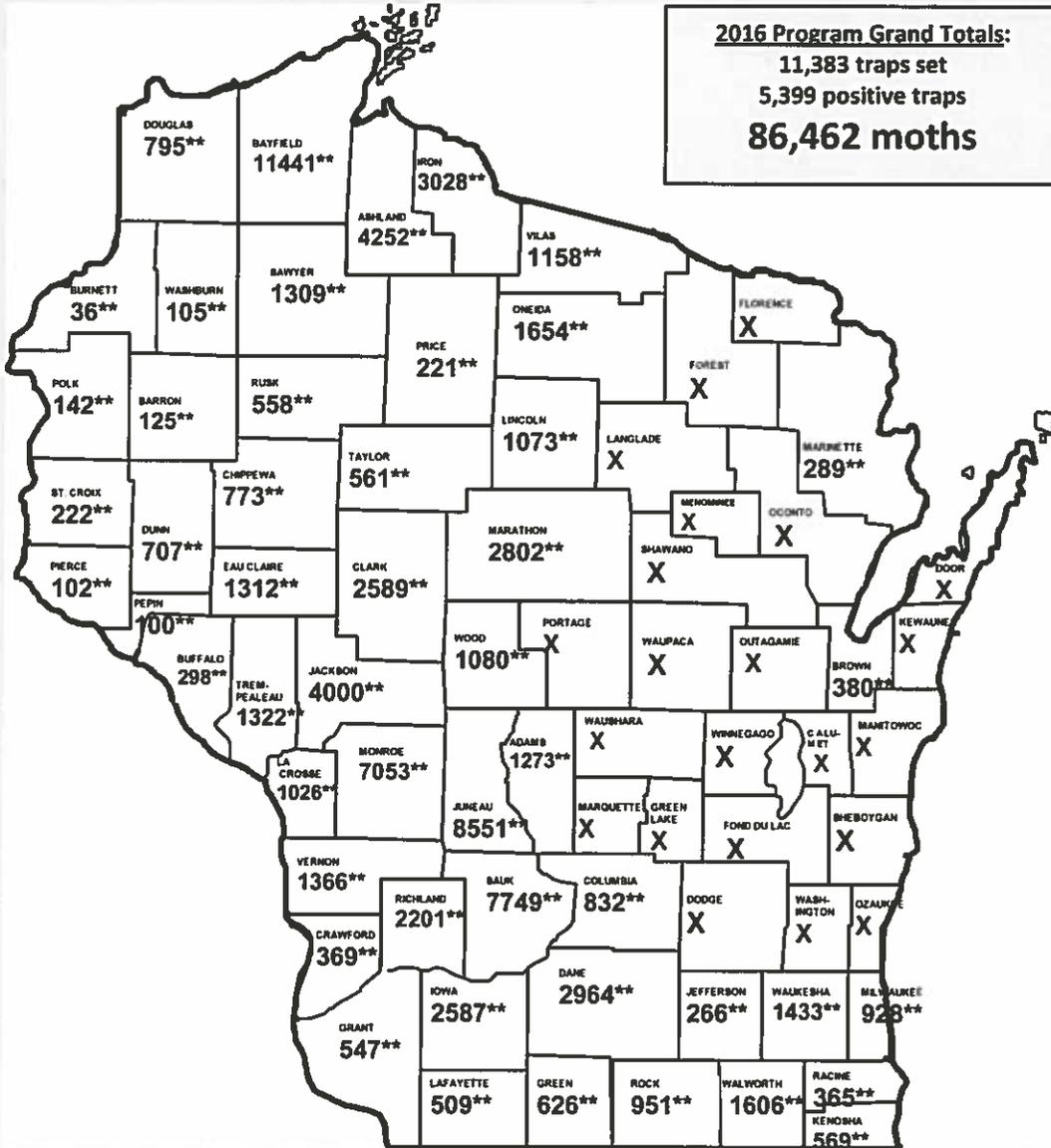


Figure 3. Gypsy moth trap catch numbers by county for 2016.

Pine Root Collar Weevil (By Paul Cigan)

Pine root collar weevil (PRCW) is a native beetle species that attacks and can kill young pines—red, Scotch, Austrian, and occasionally white pine. PRCW larvae bore into the bark and feed extensively on the cambium around the root collar. Feeding damage reduces nutrient and water conduction and stem growth and strength. Symptoms and signs include chlorotic and dead foliage, pitchy soil near the root collar, and malformed and sunken stem growth on the root collar with underlying feeding galleries, and tree tip-over at the ground line. Control of PRCW is best achieved through prevention including the following cultural and chemical practices: *Planting depth*—ensure the root collar of planted pines is just above the soil line; *Pruning and cleaning*—remove lower limbs on trees to increase light levels and air circulation, as well as debris of needle litter and mulch from around tree bases; *Competition control*—use mechanical or chemical methods to reduce belowground resource competition from competing vegetation; *Insecticides*—at feasible scales, two applications of a soil drench around the root collar products containing permethrin or bifenthrin (once in mid-May, and a second in mid-August) can be effective at killing adults; *Species selection*—choose white pine over other pines where PRCW is common.

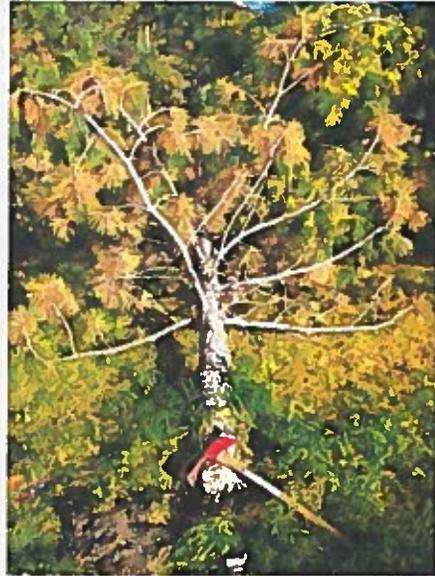
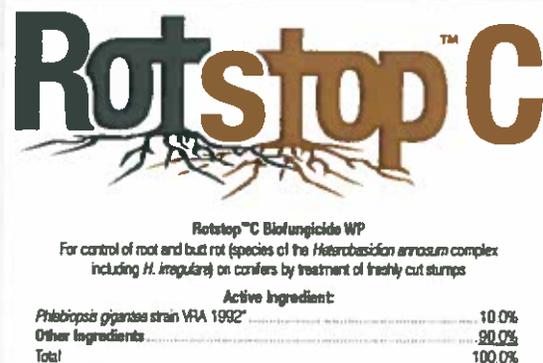


Figure 6. A young red pine that tipped-over after being attack by pine root collar weevil (Washburn Co.)

Rotstop C Registered for Stump Treatment

Wisconsin has a new product for treating stumps to prevent Heterobasidion Root Disease (annosum). Rotstop C was recently registered by the EPA and in Wisconsin by DATCP. Rotstop C is a wettable powder biofungicide with the active ingredient being spores of the native wood decay fungus *Phlebiopsis gigantea*. The product is manufactured and distributed by BioForest. The cost is approximately \$1.89 per package to mix with 1 gallon of water or \$9.45 per package to mix with 5 gallons of water, plus shipping and handling. Orders can be placed by contacting the BioForest Order Desk at orderdesk@bioforest.ca or by phone at 1-888-236-7378. One gallon of Rotstop C solution covers approximately 210-250 6-inch stumps or 75-90 10-inch stumps. The fungicide Cellu-Treat is the only other stump treatment product currently available.

Figure 7. Part of the Rotstop C label.



Oak Wilt Spreading in Northwest Wisconsin (By Paul Cigan)

In 2016, first township detections were made in multiple northwestern counties where oak wilt had been previously detected: Burnett (Rusk), Rusk (Stubbs, Wilkinson), Sawyer (Edgewater, Sand Lake), and Washburn (Beaverbrook, Birchwood, Evergreen, Minong). Additionally, in Washburn County symptomatic red oaks in the undocumented townships of Long Lake and Madge remain under investigation for the disease. Oak wounding caused by logging and pruning damage during the high risk period between April 15 and July 15 is a suspected mechanism of infection in over half of these cases.

The Washburn County Forestry Department (WCFD) performed an aerial detection survey leading to the detection of multiple disease centers on county forest property in the Birchwood area. To contain belowground spread, they implemented a multi-acre girdle-herbicide treatment and will remove infected boles and large branches from the site before April 2017. Additional ongoing efforts include oak wilt outreach to the towns of Birchwood and Long Lake regarding potential seasonal road-side brushing restrictions, and management of an existing brush dump site. WCFD will also be leading an outreach effort with Forest Health to educate county residents on the disease through an informational notice to be included in 2016 property tax mailings.

Efforts by the neighboring Rusk County Forestry Department have continued this year with cut-stump herbicide treatments to control newly detected disease centers. Sawyer County Forestry Department is planning to process infectious oak material from their recently detected county forest site in Edgewater.



Figure 8. Fresh oak wilt spore mat produced under the bark of a northern pin oak that sustained pruning damage in mid-June 2016. Oak wilt spore mats formed in early fall may be less hazardous than spring-formed mats due to a low abundance of beetle vectors in fall. (Washburn Co.)

Mark Guthmiller Retirement and Final Forest Health Update

Mark Guthmiller, forest health specialist for southern Wisconsin, retired at the end of October. Mark was great at digging deep into forest health issues to figure out the causes. Check out his phytoplasma write up in his final forest health update for a fascinating example of his work. And while you are there, read about the new molecular methods we are using in our forest health lab to test for oak wilt <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/2016/ForestHealthSO-Oct16.pdf>.

Bur Oak Blight Discovered in Clark and Sawyer Counties

Clark and Sawyer counties recently became the 23rd and 24th with bur oak trees confirmed to be infected with bur oak blight. If you need a refresher on BOB check out this info sheet http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/bur_oak_blight/bob_print.pdf.

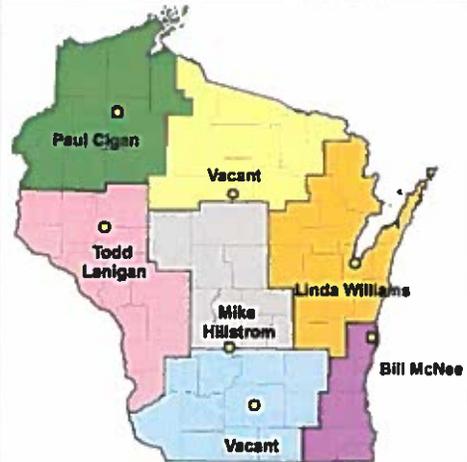
Bur Oak Blight Confirmed Counties in Wisconsin (September 23, 2016)



Confirmed in 2010: Dane, Green cos.
Confirmed in 2011: Eau Claire, Iowa, Kenosha, Rock, Sauk, Walworth,
and Waukesha cos.
Confirmed in 2012: Buffalo, Dunn, Grant, La Crosse, Monroe,
St. Croix, Pepin, Pierce, Trempealeau, Vernon, Winnebago cos.
2013: No new county
Confirmed in 2014: Marquette County
Confirmed in 2015: Barron County
Confirmed in 2016: Clark, Sawyer cos. (Highlighted in yellow)

Figure 9. Counties with confirmed cases of bur oak blight as of September 2016.

For general forest health and municipal level urban forest health issues contact:



<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html>

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Statewide reporting systems:

Report EAB:

by phone 1-800-462-2803

by email DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov

visit the website <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

Report Gypsy Moth:

by phone at 1-800-642-6684

by email dnrfgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov

visit the website <http://qypsymoth.wi.gov/>

For additional information visit the Forest Health webpage at dnr.wi.gov keywords forest health. Note: This report covers forest health issues occurring in western and central Wisconsin. The purpose is to provide up-to-date information on forest health issues to foresters, forest landowners, and anyone else interested. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter as well as reports on forest health problems in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Mike Hillstrom at Michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov. Previous issues of this update and other regional forest health updates are available on the forest health webpage. Articles written by Mike Hillstrom unless otherwise noted.

Pesticide use: Pesticide recommendations contained in this newsletter are provided only as a guide. You, the applicator, are responsible for using pesticides according to the manufacturer's current label directions. Read and follow label directions and be aware of state or local laws regarding pesticide use.



CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

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MERRILL
WISCONSIN
City Of Parks

February 2017 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Parks: The New Year was off to a very fast start with lots of snow and snow removal by the crew. We had a number of snowfall removals that were also followed by wind aided snow drifting. The cooler temperatures over the holidays and into mid-January allowed us to build some really good outdoor ice rink conditions. We had great activity on them until the recent warm up and rainy conditions. We had to close our outdoor rinks down before the weekend of 1/21/17 due to poor ice conditions. We still have quite a ways to go this winter so we will evaluate the weather to see if we can repair the conditions and get them open for a while before spring arrives. The crew has also been making good progress on our seasonal repairs (picnic tables and equipment) when they have found time in between ice rink flooding and snow removal. I met with the City Engineer to work on the Normal Park restroom design process so we can have that ready to bid out very soon. I also met with him to begin working on a design for the revitalization of Stange Park. I hope to have the Normal Park Restroom project ready to be bid out within the next few weeks so that we can have it on the March (April at the very latest) Commission Agenda. This would allow us enough time to get things organized for construction to begin when the weather allows this spring. The Stange Park design is going to help visualize that space, and help with the budgetary process. Even though we specifically listed what our requests were for at Stange, the City Council wanted to see a design. City Engineer, Rod, is a very busy person but I would like to thank him for always helping us out for things like this. We don't have the budget to do a design and it is great to be able to use his time and talent to help our department. We will be finishing all of our interior maintenance and work before spring arrives so that we are ready to go.

Forestry: I attended our quarterly Urban Foresters Networking meeting on Thursday, January 19th at the WDNR Rib Mountain Service Center. There was 30 City Foresters from the Northern Region present, and it was highly informative as always. We always discuss a very wide variety of topics and this time included EAB, diseases, insect pests, and invasives. Also, the City of Eau Claire Forestry Department gave a presentation on their new gravel bed tree staging area they established last year. It was very nice to hear how they went about this new venture and it is something that I do have interest in for our community. There was also a presentation from Rainbow Tree Care on treatment options and costs for EAB, and other forestry diseases and pests. We always finish our meetings with a "roundtable discussion" where we share ideas with one another, as well as things we are doing, and things that are working well and not so well. I will begin tree evaluations and markings for early spring forestry work within the next few weeks so I can get in front of the busy spring season. This also will allow for spring pruning to take place before trees break dormancy.

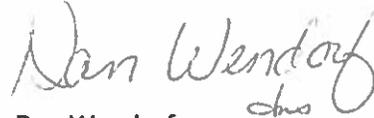
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Recreation: Our Little Dribblers Youth Basketball Program is off to a great start. We have very good numbers again this year and it has been nice to see parents willing to volunteer to coach. The nice part about the program is that we spend one night a week in January gently learning the game through skills and drills. We then transition into February with scrimmage style games to ease them into learning the sport further, but without the pressure of high stress competition. Our bus trip to the Mall of America on February 4th, has sold out. That is always great to see that even when we diversify our trips that we can still fill them up completely. As always we are continuing to plan and organize for the summer months with recreation programs, aquatic center, staffing, details, arrangements, etc. There are a lot of things that need to be accomplished before the season arrives.

Smith Center: It is hard to believe but we are at the midway portion of our ice season inside the Smith Center. Things have been going very well this season, thus far, and things have been running pretty smooth to date. Merrill Youth Hockey has cancelled some ice over the past few weeks that have left us with a few holes in our schedule. This has had a minor impact on our scheduling but nothing major. This situation will be rectified during the off-season, and before we begin the next season. As mentioned, it is only minor, but I want to make sure that we are firm on our ice schedule and utilize as much time as possible while we have it in. We have been working on some of the events that will take place shortly after we take the ice out, as well as always exploring new potential events. We have a good schedule of events taking place during the dry floor portion of the season, and I am hoping to continue to add more as time/budget allows.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill