



**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

APRIL MEETING NOTICE

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will have a meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 4:15 p.m., at the Merrill City Hall in the Basement Conference Room.

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 upcoming 5 year Outdoor Recreation Plan.
5. Update on Normal Park Restrooms.
6. Update on River Bend Trail east extension project and Pavilion.
7. Monthly reports.
8. Set date for next meeting.
9. Public comment
10. Adjournment

Submitted by

Mike Willman

Mike Willman, Chairperson *ch*
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

March 1, 2017

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Mike Willman

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Heather O'Neil, Dave Johnson, Mayor Bill Bialecki, Erik Pfantz, Derek Woellner, David Johns, Rod Akey, Justin from Ott's Garage, Paul Russel from Housing Authority.

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: Heather O'Neil addressed the Park and Recreation Commission in regards to the location of the Skate Park. She expressed concerns with the current location and the safety of the kids utilizing the park.

Justin from Ott's Garage also addressed the Park and Recreation Commission in regards to the location of the Skate Park. Justin explained that the kids that skate board and BMX biking take their sport very serious and it would be great to see a new park built for the kids.

David Johns also addressed the Park and Recreation Commission in regards to the location and current condition of the current skateboard park. Mr. Johns stated that his son skate boards and he doesn't even enjoy going to the Merrill skate park due to condition and location. He expressed that he would like to see some adults support the new skate park and would like to see it go in a better location.

Paul Russel voiced his opinion on the current condition and location of the skate park. Mr. Russel feels that the current location is a safety hazard and would like to see it somewhere else. He questioned why both the Skateboard Park and new shelter could both go into Stange Park. He believes there would be room to the new skateboard park was put where the current tennis courts are. Mr. Russel also suggested it going out to the MARC. He stated the current location doesn't work so the Park and Recreation Commission should do something about it.

The first item on the agenda was to potentially revisit proposed skate park sites that were previously eliminated by the Commission. Artac stated that because the Board of Public Works voted down the skateboard location that the Park and Recreation Commission recommended he was bringing it back to the commission to see if any of the previous locations would be reconsidered. Burgener stated that the only place he sees the skateboard park at is the current location. Sukow stated that even if they would reconsider Stange Park by the tennis courts that

the park floods and Heather O'Neil stated the skateboard park should be in a location with no flooding. Schroeder stated that this skate park would be bigger than any in the state and really didn't think we needed one that big. Schroeder also stated that she thinks raising money for the skateboard park would be hard to do. Discussion on location.

***Motion by Burgener, seconded by Schroeder to leave Skateboard Park in current location with no other considerations to a different location.

Sukow stated that the Park and Recreation Commission is in favor of a new skateboard park but until someone donates a piece of land to build it on, there are no other locations to consider.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was an update on ADA Lawsuit project progress. Wendorf stated that a big thank you to the street department and Rod Akey for getting all the paths finished and was happy to say there are only a few smaller items that need to be addressed. Wendorf stated that by June/July there will be total completion on the projects.

The next item on the agenda was an update on Normal Park Restroom project. Wendorf stated that everything was moving forward and should be ready to put out for bids in two weeks. Project should be completed by June or July if everything continues as scheduled.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potential hiring of Aquatic Center summer manager and clarification of supervisory duties and relationships at the Aquatic Center. Wendorf stated that the person he is referring to has not been hired yet, but wanted to let the Park and Recreation Commission know that an employee's daughter applied for the position and was being considered for position. Sukow questioned who would interview. Wendorf stated that he would interview the people for this position and whoever is hired would report to him. It would only be a seasonal employee.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that there has been some damage done at Ott's Park by someone tearing up one of the ice rinks, but thankfully the suspect was caught and will pay for damages.

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

Public comment: none

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

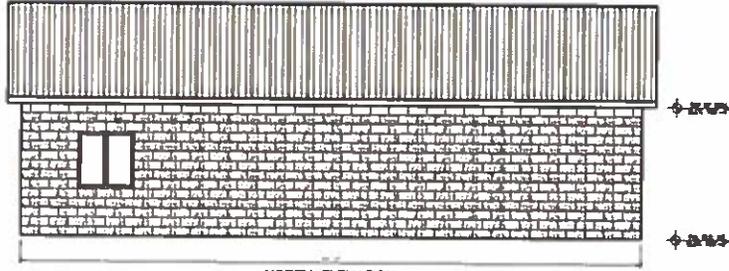
***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary

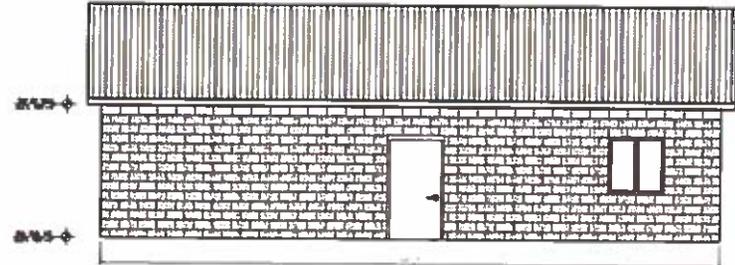
MARCH

AC & SONS	STAGE RENTAL	3/2/2017	4456	\$550.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
ACE HARDWARE	LIGHT BULBS	2/24/2017		\$5.99	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	ANTI-FREEZE	2/23/2017		\$18.95	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	SPECIALTY TOOL	2/28/2017		\$25.97	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	BULB	3/17/2017		\$38.99	55400-03-50000
ACE HARDWARE	ANTI ODOR	3/6/2017		\$6.99	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	ANTI FREEZE	3/7/2017		\$15.16	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	SPECIALTY TOOL	3/8/2017		\$9.23	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	SLEDGE DBLFACE	3/16/2017		\$31.99	55200-03-40000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	2/24/2017	4622504	\$82.42	55200-02-15000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	2/28/2017	4641856	\$37.38	55200-02-15000
AMY STEFFEN	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
ANNETTE DUPKE	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
ATCO INTERNATIONAL	CENTURION	3/21/2017	132383	\$291.00	55200-03-40000
BAUMGART WASTE REMOVAL	GARBAGE HAULING	3/2/2017		\$128.00	55400-02-28600
BEACON ATHLETICS	BASES	4/9/2017	274321	\$1,918.00	BIERMAN LIONS PARK
BEDFORD TECHNOLOGY	TRAIL MARKERS RBT	3/17/2017	54630	\$2,447.48	RIVER BEND TRAIL
BURGOYNES	TOILET RENTAL	2/1/2017	53870	\$135.00	55200-02-15000
CAROL NORTON	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
CARROT TOP INDUSTRIES	FLAGS	3/24/2017	33829800	\$273.23	55400-03-40000
DUANE KOHNHORST	DJ OPEN SKATE	2/7/2017	106	\$175.00	55300-03-41500
EDWARD JONES	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
FASTENAL	SUPPLIES FOR SHOP	4/2/2017	93657	\$409.28	55200-03-40000
FASTENAL	SHOP SUPPLIES	3/6/2017	93678	\$16.61	55200-03-40000
FASTENAL	PARTS FOR SHOP	3/22/2017	93997	\$4.35	55200-03-40000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	2/23/2017	1016517336	\$107.22	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	3/2/2017	1016520171	\$113.32	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	MATS, MOPS	3/16/2017	1016525821	\$290.44	55400-02-23250
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	3/9/2017	1016522998	\$110.68	55200-03-46000
G & K SERVICES	UNIFORMS JIM/JOE/ADAM	3/16/2017	1016525829	\$111.32	55200-03-46000

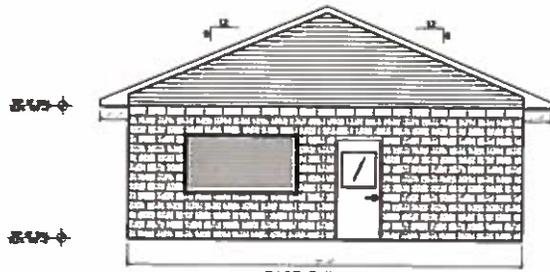
GOLD MEDAL TRAILER	BALL HITCH	3/15/2017	4951	\$15.00	55200-03-40000
HAVEN, INC	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$65.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
HORST DISTRIBUTINGS	BOLTS	3/10/2017	62838-000	\$260.72	55200-03-50000
HYDRO AIR	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$65.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
JUMLINE	BARLEYFEST WEBSITE	3/9/2017	10262	\$35.00	BARLEYFEST
KAREN MOOTZ	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
LAURA BARES	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
LAURIE WOLLER	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
LORI FANAREY	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-4	2/17/2017	8403	\$70.19	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-1	2/13/2017	8398	\$168.99	55200-03-50000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	LIONS PARK	4/10/2017	116-02440-00	\$307.28	55200-02-21000
MERRILL WATER UTILITY	MARC	4/10/2017	106-00940-00	\$1,112.42	55400-02-21000
MERRILL YOUTH HOCKEY	BIRTHDAY PARTY	3/1/2017	164	\$56.00	55300-03-41500
NAPA AUTO PARTS	HALOGEN BULB	3/2/2017	645996	\$12.87	55200-03-50000
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SPARK PLUG	3/15/2017	648123	\$3.50	55200-03-40000
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SPARK PLUG	3/16/2017	648140	\$2.84	55200-03-40000
PREMIER	BANNER	3/21/2017	3945	\$185.00	55400-03-50000
RIVER'S EDGE LP	LP TANKS ZAMBONI	3/6/2017	1725	\$80.00	55400-03-51500
RTL ELETRIC	NORMAL PARK	3/9/2017	61573	\$105.17	55200-02-15000
RTL ELETRIC	NORMAL PARK	3/9/2017	61574	\$167.38	55200-02-15000
RTL ELETRIC	MARC CENTER	3/9/2017	61575	\$113.35	55400-03-50000
SIERRA SMITH	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
STACY LITERSKI	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$65.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
STEVE RESNICK	WEDDING EXPO	3/1/2017		\$220.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
SUNRISE BROADCASTING	ADVERTISING	3/2/2017		\$349.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
TAMMY SABATKE	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
TARA OSTERMAN	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$60.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
TOMAHAWK LEADER	ADVERTISING	3/1/2017	MER200	\$116.55	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
TOMAHAWK STOVE JUNCTION	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$65.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO
VANESSA LAZARZ	REFUND LLE	3/9/2017	VOUCHER	\$120.00	LADIES LIFESTYLE EXPO



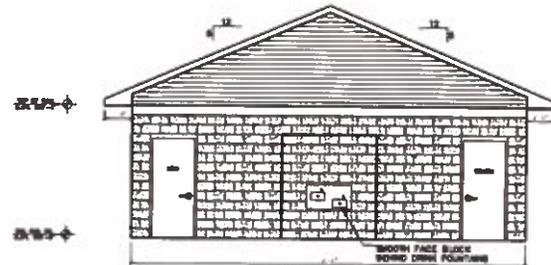
NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

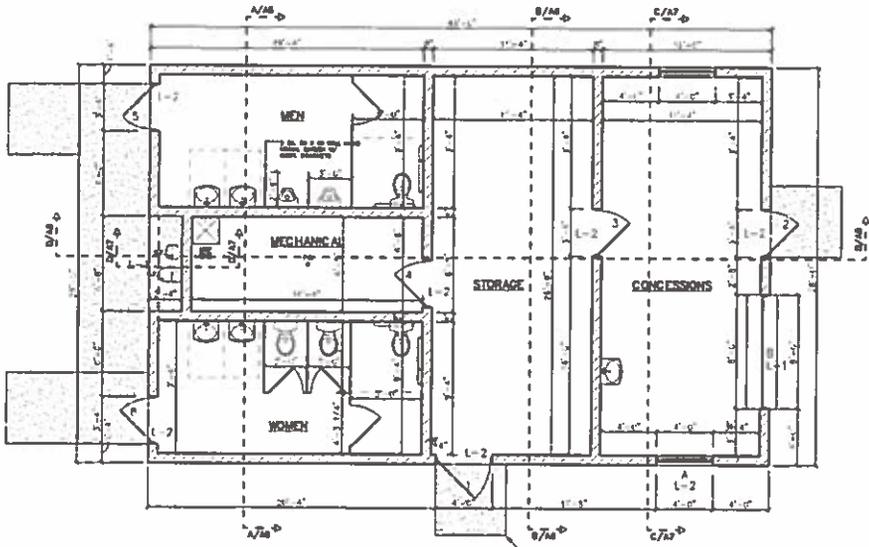


WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

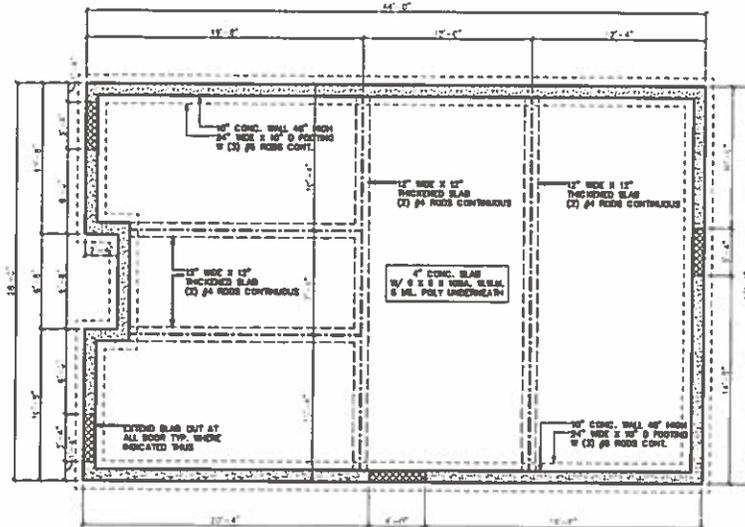
MTS
Consulting
Engineers

Mayfield Technical Services LLC
404 Franklin Street
Wausau, WI 54983
Phone & Fax (715) 843-7292
www.mtsllc.net

<p>PROPOSED ELEVATIONS</p> <p>CITY OF WAUSAU OFFICE: 1000 WILSON, WI 54983</p>	<p>REVISIONS</p> <p>NO. DATE DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>Mayfield Technical Services LLC 404 Franklin Street Wausau, WI 54983 Phone & Fax (715) 843-7292 www.mtsllc.net</p>
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PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



PROPOSED FOUNDATION PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

- GENERAL NOTES**
- INSTALL ANY NECESSARY MECHANICALS PRIOR TO POURING OF CONCRETE
 - ALL DIMENSIONS ARE SHOWN UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
 - PROVIDE 1" RODS W/SPACING AROUND EXTERIOR FOUNDATION
 - PROVIDE 1/2" PERFORE EXPANSION JOINT MATL. BETWEEN CONC. SLABS, SIDEWALKS & FOUNDATION WALLS
 - SEE SITE PLAN FOR LOCATION OF SIDEWALKS IF ANY
 - PROVIDE A CONC. MIX OF 3,000 PSI AT 28 DAYS (3 1/2 BAG MIX) W/ 4" MAX SLUMP FACTOR
 - FOOTINGS TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON UNDISTURBED SOIL (1,500 P.S.F. ASSUMED)
 - PROVIDE TYPE 60 GRADE REINFORCING
 - ALL CONCRETE WORK SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE
 - ALL FILL MATERIAL TO BE SAND (SEE PASSING 1-1/2" SIEVE, 40% - 70% PASSING 3/4" SIEVE, 20% - 50% PASSING NO. 10 SIEVE, AND 0% - 5% PASSING NO. 200 SIEVE. MECHANICALLY COMPACT IN 4" LIFTS TO AT LEAST ONE MOISTURE PROCTOR DRY DENSITY

WINDOW SCHEDULE

NO.	SIZE	TYPE	FINISH	GLASS	OPERATION
1	4'-0" x 6'-0"	DOUBLE	WOOD	1/2"	1/2" INS. SPACER, DOUBLE GLAZED, LOW EMISS. COAT
2	3'-0" x 4'-0"	DOUBLE	WOOD	1/2"	1/2" INS. SPACER, DOUBLE GLAZED, LOW EMISS. COAT

DOOR SCHEDULE

NO.	SIZE	TYPE	FINISH	OPERATION	OPERATION
1	3'-0" x 7'-0"	FLUSH	WOOD	SWING	PRELUBRICATED AND COATED WITH FIRE RESISTANT FINISH, 1 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE ABOVE, 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE BELOW, 0.500" MIN. CLEARANCE AT SIDING
2	3'-0" x 7'-0"	FLUSH	WOOD	SWING	PRELUBRICATED AND COATED WITH FIRE RESISTANT FINISH, 1 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE ABOVE, 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE BELOW, 0.500" MIN. CLEARANCE AT SIDING
3	3'-0" x 7'-0"	FLUSH	WOOD	SWING	PRELUBRICATED AND COATED WITH FIRE RESISTANT FINISH, 1 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE ABOVE, 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE BELOW, 0.500" MIN. CLEARANCE AT SIDING
4	3'-0" x 7'-0"	FLUSH	WOOD	SWING	PRELUBRICATED AND COATED WITH FIRE RESISTANT FINISH, 1 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE ABOVE, 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE BELOW, 0.500" MIN. CLEARANCE AT SIDING
5	3'-0" x 7'-0"	FLUSH	WOOD	SWING	PRELUBRICATED AND COATED WITH FIRE RESISTANT FINISH, 1 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE ABOVE, 1/2" MIN. CLEARANCE BELOW, 0.500" MIN. CLEARANCE AT SIDING

- NOTES:**
1. ALL EXTERIOR LEVELS SHOWN UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. FINISH FLOOR FINISHES TO BE SHOWN.
 2. ALL EXTERIOR WALLS TO BE 16" MIN. THICK.
 3. ALL EXTERIOR WALLS TO BE 16" MIN. THICK.
 4. ALL EXTERIOR WALLS TO BE 16" MIN. THICK.
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 9. ALL EXTERIOR WALLS TO BE 16" MIN. THICK.
 10. ALL EXTERIOR WALLS TO BE 16" MIN. THICK.

LINER SCHEDULE:

1-1 = 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" LINER, FINISH TO BE SHOWN
1-2 = 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" LINER, FINISH TO BE SHOWN



- GROUP 1 - EXTERIOR LEVEL, S.D. FINISH AND WALL FINISH TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS**
- GROUP 2 - FINISH LEVEL, S.D. FINISH, WALL FINISH TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS**
- GROUP 3 - FINISH LEVEL, S.D. FINISH, WALL FINISH TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS**
- GROUP 4 - FINISH LEVEL, S.D. FINISH, WALL FINISH TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS**
- GROUP 5 - FINISH LEVEL, S.D. FINISH, WALL FINISH TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS**
- GROUP 6 - FINISH LEVEL, S.D. FINISH, WALL FINISH TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS**

THIS SET WAS PREPARED BY:

Matthew Technical Services LLC
404 Franklin Street
Wausau, WI 54983
Phone & Fax (715) 843-7292
www.mtsllc.com

FINISH SCHEDULE

NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
1	CONCRETE	CU YD	1.00	100.00	100.00	CONCRETE	CU YD	1.00	100.00
2	FORMWORK	SQ YD	1.00	100.00	100.00	FORMWORK	SQ YD	1.00	100.00
3	REINFORCING	TON	1.00	100.00	100.00	REINFORCING	TON	1.00	100.00
4	PAINT	SQ YD	1.00	100.00	100.00	PAINT	SQ YD	1.00	100.00

CONCRETE 2" - 4" GRADE FINISH
CONCRETE 2" - 4" GRADE FINISH TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS

FORMWORK
FORMWORK TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS

REINFORCING
REINFORCING TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS

PAINT
PAINT TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS

- NOTES:**
- ALL EXTERIOR FINISHES TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS
 - ALL EXTERIOR FINISHES TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS
 - ALL EXTERIOR FINISHES TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS
 - ALL EXTERIOR FINISHES TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS
 - ALL EXTERIOR FINISHES TO BE SHOWN ABOVE THIS

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN ADDITION

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Wisconsin URBAN WOOD

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2016-2017

BACKGROUND

By 2012, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) had devastated ash populations in Michigan and was destined for Wisconsin. At that time, a group met in Madison to prevent wood from local ash trees from being wasted in the wake of this certain tree mortality. Concern for wasted resources included wood from routine tree removals of all species in every area represented by the diverse group of individuals, businesses, and organizations. The group worked to determine how these trees could make their way back into the social and economic lives of their communities as lumber, flooring, furnishings, art, architecture and other value-added products.

Michigan's response to the EAB was the Urbanwood Project (Urbanwood): "an informal network of small sawmills, arborists, and others who salvage quality logs from trees removed from the urban setting, process them into lumber, and collectively market products both individually and through Recycle Ann Arbor's ReUse Center with a shared brand."

The Madison group collaborated with Urbanwood to help determine, build, and sustain an urban wood economy that included all aspects of the material stream. The resiliency of the economy would depend upon the public purchasing goods and services from businesses that process locally available wood, and upon businesses working together to source and provide wood that is generally unknown and cannot be supplied on demand like other woods. Generating public awareness became the first goal, so the group focused on marketing and outreach. The benefit of working together became clear.

By 2014 the group founded and became Wisconsin Urban Wood (WUW), a partnership for collaborative marketing, shared branding, a consistent message, and organized outreach for urban wood. WUW's partnership includes a growing network of arborists, sawyers, kiln operators, finished wood product manufacturers, retail, architects, organizations, municipalities, and supporters. Wisconsin Urban Wood, the product, is defined as wood from trees *NOT* harvested for their timber value, but removed because of insect, disease or circumstance.

By building networks with likeminded people, Wisconsin Urban Wood links material streams, provides opportunity for increased collaboration, and allows partners to learn from one another while building mutual capacity and availability of quality urban wood products and services throughout our state.

As a fellow steward of our urban forests, WUW invites you into this collaborative network as a partner of Wisconsin Urban Wood for the sake of Wisconsin's woods and the communities in which they grow.

***WUW is indebted to
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry for their guidance and funding;
Jessica Simons and Recycle Ann Arbor for sharing information and experience;
to Jen Voichick, Director of Habitat ReStore Dane County (2014) for the development of our logo;
and to Sustainable Atwood, Madison, Wisconsin for initiating the WUW project.***



Are gravel beds right for your community?

Posted on March 10, 2017



Gravel beds, a way of holding bare root trees and

extending the bare root planting season, have been growing in popularity, especially in the Midwest. Several municipalities and other organizations throughout Wisconsin have been utilizing gravel beds to plant more trees on tight budgets, diversify plantings, decrease labor and ensure sound, healthy root systems. Hudson and Racine are wonderful examples of the success of gravel beds.

There are four main reasons for the cost benefit of using gravel beds: bare root stock are typically one

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fourth the price of balled and burlapped tree stock, transplanting bare root trees takes less people, it takes less time and it takes less equipment. The City of Racine uses five arborists to plant 50-60 trees a day, compared to 20-25 trees a day planting with balled and burlapped stock. The need of less equipment and muscle to plant trees opens the door for community volunteers to help get trees in the ground too.

When purchasing bare root trees, not only are the prices lower, but there are more species available. Higher species availability correlates with greater diversity in urban forestry, which leads to reduced vulnerability to pests and insect threats.

Gravel beds maintain moisture levels that allow for the dense development of fibrous root systems, which give them a leg up when planted in the urban environment. The extra mop of roots helps the tree take in more nutrients and water, thereby increasing the likelihood of successful, faster establishment.



Quick establishment because of the extra fibrous root growth is a huge advantage; they are given a leg up over those not held in a gravel bed. Also, it extends the bare root planting season. Normally bare root trees are

limited to a small planting window in spring, but with a gravel bed you can really plant them any time

Awards

Best Management Practices

Buying seed

Care for your woods

Central WI Forest Health

Certification

Did you know?

Disease

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South Central WI Forest Health

Statewide

Forest

Health

during the growing season because of the mop of fibrous roots. Hudson found success in using gravel beds over winter.

Gravel beds, in addition to other benefits, are relatively simple to develop. They consist of four components: a site, gravel, irrigation, trees. The site is dependent on what is available. Gravel beds can be built in a lumber enclosure, with concrete barriers, or without containment; with these options it is important to consider the budget and planned use of the gravel bed. The site requires good drainage and consistent access to water. Weather is a minor factor; if the site is in an area of high wind and sunlight the trees will need to be watered more often. It is better to find a site sheltered from the wind, to prevent uprooting, and slight shade.

Gravel type and irrigation are the next consideration. The gravel depth throughout the bed should be around 15 inches. The recommended gravel type is 3/8" washed river gravel; however, other gravels, or combination of gravel and sand, will work. The City of Racine uses a mixture of 90% pea-gravel and 10% fine grain sand.

Irrigation for the gravel can be done many ways. Soaker hoses are the



most common. They have easy installation and removal, low water usage, and less evaporation due

Taking action Urban wood

Woodland owners

Archives

- March 2017
- February 2017
- January 2017
- December 2016
- November 2016
- October 2016
- September 2016

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to proximity to the gravel. Irrigation timers are important for consistent watering. Soaker hoses, drip tape and stationary spray heads are all options for irrigation. The standard timing for irrigation is 100 minutes a day separated out in four to six increments, with one increment during the night and another immediately before sun rise, but number and time of increments can vary.

Irrigation, and the repeated watering of gravel beds, ensures moisture levels are adequate (moisture should still be felt four inches deep into the gravel at all times). Over irrigation can lead to poor drainage, which is the main drawback, and potential risk, with gravel beds. For this reason, it is important to have proper site choice, lay gravel properly and monitor irrigation to prevent drainage issues.

Trees are the most important part of all gravel beds. When the trees are being moved into or out of the gravel beds the root systems should be kept moist. This can be done with a water soaked canvas or burlap, or a soaker tub. Hudson and Racine uses a canvas sheet and hydrogel, a water-absorbing polymer that helps the root systems stay moist, when transferring trees. Bare root trees are easy to move into and out of gravel beds. However, all the same factors of tree selection should still apply: diversity, maintenance, size, where they will be planted. It is important to note that not all trees do well in a gravel bed.

Gravel beds are increasing in popularity and it isn't hard to see why. Gravel beds help increase tree health, and stretch budget and planting times. There are several case studies of communities throughout Wisconsin that have successfully implemented this method. When ordering trees next season think: Are

gravel beds right for my community? For more information on gravel beds talk to your [Urban Forestry Regional Coordinator](#) or view the [Minnesota resources](#) used for this article.

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CITY OF MERRILL

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MERRILL
WISCONSIN
City Of Parks

April 2017 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Parks: The weather is very slowly starting to improve finally, but it is still going to be a little bit before our athletic fields are completely ready for competition. We are ready for when the conditions allow for us to get on the fields and prepare them. It is shaping up to be one of those springs where we will have to hustle and get the fields ready and they will be on them right behind us. We are going to make sure that the restrooms and other amenities are ready before that time so we don't have one more thing to add to that list. The only concern we have with winterizing too early is frozen lines, but the long term forecast is finally showing over-night temperatures creeping into the upper 20's and low 30's which will allow us to supply them with water. The crew has also been getting all of our equipment and amenities ready for the good weather to arrive. This includes all of our mowers, infield conditioners, playgrounds, restrooms, etc. We have ordered our zero turn mowers that were budgeted for this year, and should have them within a week or two. I also spoke with Swiderski Equipment to check on the status of our new tractor, and was informed that we will not have it until June. I have been working with City Engineer Akey and MTS Architects to finalize our Normal Park Restroom plans and specs. We are a little behind my timeline but will have them out for bids hopefully this week or the next if all goes accordingly. I met with a WDNR representative, along with City Engineer and River District Development Foundation representative at the new extension site to review our shoreline plan for the new trail. We wanted to make sure that we comply with WDNR regulations, as well as open some of the heavily brushed areas for people to enjoy and access. I also joined with a few City leaders and RDDF leaders to meet with Agra Industries to discuss the status of the River Bend "Agra Pavilion" project. It was a very productive meeting and it appears that things will begin progressing this year. We are ready and excited to stop removing snow and mowing green grass and working in the parks!

Forestry: I will be continuing tree inspections over the next several weeks, when time allows, for our spring trimming cycle. I also plan to order some trees for a small spring planting and Arbor Day observation. This year our Arbor Day planting/observance will be Friday, May 12th, at 10:00 a.m. I am still working on the location but you are all invited and I would encourage you to come if you can make it. I recently met with the Executive Director of Wisconsin Urban Wood to discuss a potential partnership, and for our community to join their association. It is a unique opportunity and one that I have been intrigued with for some time. Urban Wood's mission is to encourage communities to look at wood utilization in a different way than it has traditionally. They encourage communities to re-utilize the wood generated by removals and storms in the form of lumber, artisan markets, furniture markets, etc. This will allow us to better utilize and market the trees we take down (or that come down for whatever reason), as well as potentially re-purpose them back into our park system and community. I have also been looking into the possibility of establishing a gravel planting bed for enhancing our bare root tree planting success and allowing for staging area for our trees. There have been a number of communities

"Focusing on the Future"

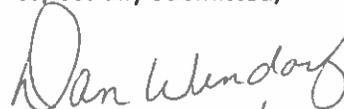
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in Wisconsin that have been having very good success with this. There is an investment up front (not very significant ~\$3,000-\$5000) but it might be worth our while to explore next year or the year after.

Recreation: Enclosed you will find our 2017 recreation program, and once again a BIG thank you to Dawn for all of her work on this. There are a lot of details that go into helping make a great slate of programs. Once again we have a phenomenal series of programs for everyone to enjoy. There is truly something for everyone this summer, and for those who say there is "nothing to do in Merrill," I say you are not looking at all! We are moving our Summer Playground program back to Ott's Park for both groups this summer. It was nice to have everyone at the Smith Center last summer, but we did find that it might have been a little too convenient on them. We had to spend quite a bit of time monitoring electronic devices and had to motivate them to get up and get active way too much. We will still have the same fantastic program once again this summer, but we want to get back to our roots and keep them outdoors and engaged! We will be starting to get the Aquatic Center ready in the very near future; including cleaning, scrubbing, concession equipment, admissions, technology back in place, inspections, filling with water, balancing, etc. I would like to be ready to un-winterize and fill starting around May 15th to give us an opportunity to make any repairs (if needed), glitches, or work out any kinks and balance the water well in advance of our opening in early June. If we have clean/balanced water and everything is running fine, and we have enough staff available, I would like to possibly open for partial hours the first full week in June. We would then open with full hours on June 9th, which is the last day of school for MAPS (they are letting out early at 1:00 p.m.).

Smith Center: The ice is out and the floor is clean and we are ready for dry floor events. We kick it off with the annual Children's Festival on April 1st and have had a great response from local businesses and participants in the festival again this year. We did have a few issues with our southeast corner boards heaving outward towards the end of the season. We are going to replace the seals under the boards and caulk before we lay water for ice making this fall to make sure that we do not have any water bleeding under the boards. I have been working on a few potential events still and hope to be able to share some information in the coming weeks. As I have said before, it is always nice to add new events, but we need to make sure we have the resources (monetary and staffing) to not only add a new event but make it successful on an annual basis. We have a number of weddings and other dry floor events coming up that we are very excited to host.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill