



CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

1100 Marc Drive - Merrill, WI 54452

Rec. Dept. Telephone (715)536-7313 * Smith Center (715)536-6187

Fax (715)539-2790

JULY MEETING NOTICE

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will have a meeting on **Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:15 p.m.**, at the **Merrill City Hall**.

Voting members of Commission: Jean Ravn, Brian Artac, Kyle Gulke, Joan Tabor, John Vanlieshout and Dan Novitch

The following items will be included on the agenda:

1. Approve minutes from previous meeting.
2. Approve claims.
3. Public Comment
4. COVID-19 Updates
5. 2021 Capital Budget Discussion
6. Monthly reports.
7. Set date for next meeting.
8. Public comment
9. Adjournment

Submitted by

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

Dan Novitch, 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.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

June 3, 2020

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor, Brian Artac, Dan Novitch and John Vanlieshout.

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Hunter Lane from MP3, Mark Weix

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Ravn to approve the minutes from the May meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

Dan Novitch stated that the minutes from the Special May 13 meeting were not included in the packets and should be included in next month's packets.

***Motion by Vanlieshout, seconded by Ravn, to approve the claims from May.

Gulke questioned what the cornerstone cost was for. Wendorf stated it was for the drain tile and straw. Gulke also questioned why they are paying Jumpline for a website and not doing it themselves. Wendorf stated it was for Barleyfest and someone donates their time to keep the website updated. Novitch questioned what the charge for the meter install was. Wendorf stated it was for the water department. We rent all the meters and they install them when we need them.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda was to discuss Lions Park Stairs. Wendorf stated that he was contacted by Alderperson Osness in regards to the shape of the stairs. Wendorf stated that the cost to repair or replace those stairs would be over \$100,000 and in his opinion aren't used enough to put that much money into repairing or replacing them. Wendorf also stated that they are not ADA accessible so they would probably need to be ADA accessible. Wendorf stated that he did not think the stairs were a worthy investment to replace or repair. Artac questioned the cost to remove and Wendorf stated they would do the work themselves. Novitch suggested that Wendorf do a drawing of a path up Lions Hill with ADA assessability and bring it back to the commission. Artac suggested putting a sign up to use stairs at your own risk. Will revisit the agenda item in August or when a plan is ready for another path.

The next item on the agenda was discussion and update on COVID-19 issues or updates. Wendorf stated that he has been talking with Shelly from the Health Department at least every other day. Wendorf stated that he will open bathrooms and shelters when the Health Department feels it will be safer for large gatherings and when we will not need to clean every hour or two hours. Wendorf stated that we don't have the staff for that. Wendorf stated that the Health Department will update accordingly and change recommendations accordingly. The Merrill Park and Recreation Department will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the Health Department.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the summer crew has been working on some park projects and trail projects. Wendorf also stated that the much needed projects at the Smith Center are also being completed. We will be running some smaller programs in July and August with a limited amount of kids, as well as starting a YouTube Channel for alternative programming.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment: Mark Weix stated that he is very supportive of the Park and Recreation Department and looks forward to being a Council person.

***Motion by Ravin, seconded by Artac to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary

ACE HARDWARE	TRASH BAGS	6/5/2020	196503	\$9.99	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	APRONS	6/23/2020	197086	\$14.94	55300-03-41500
ACE HARDWARE	BROOM	6/4/2020	196449	\$16.99	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	GLOVES	5/18/2020	195840	\$42.97	55200-03-40000
ACE HARDWARE	UTILITY KNIFE/TRASH BAGS	6/8/2020	196563	\$123.92	55200-03-40000
ADS ON BOARDS	CLEAN BOARDS IN ARENA	6/22/2020		\$635.00	55400-03-50000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	5/31/2020		\$52.43	55200-02-150000
AMERICAN WELDING	HELIUM RENTAL	5/21/2020		\$70.72	55300-03-41500
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL AQUATIC CENTER	5/31/2020	7124263	\$1,630.68	AQUATIC CENTER
ANDREW MARVIN	PARK REFUND	6/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$95.00	10-45200-46722
ANDREW MARVIN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	6/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
ATCO INTERNATIONAL	HAND SANITIZER	5/29/2020	10555259	\$246.00	10-55200-05-50220
BAUMGART	WASTE HAULING	6/1/2020		\$148.00	55400-02-23600
BLUEJAY 96.3	ADVERTISING	5/31/2020	12641-3	\$249.00	55400-03-41000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS JIM AND JOE	5/14/2020	4050484250	\$71.18	55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS JIM AND JOE	6/4/2020	4052274083	\$71.18	55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS JIM AND JOE	5/21/2020	4051084468	\$71.18	55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS JIM AND JOE	6/18/2020	4053526691	\$71.18	55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS JIM AND JOE	6/11/2020	4052899669	\$71.18	55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS JIM AND JOE	6/29/2020	4051285045	\$71.18	55200-03-46000
CINTAS	MOPS/MATS	6/4/2020	4052273881	\$189.90	55400-02-23250
DOUG KUFAHL	SECURITY DEPOSIT	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
DOUG KUFAHL	PARK REFUND	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
FLEET FARM	PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT	6/5/2020		\$36.85	55200-03-50000
GREEN LAWN	SPRING START UP	6/7/2020	20-07698	\$125.00	55200-02-15000
HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS	TOOL BOX	5/21/2020	1217358	\$329.99	55400-08-82000
JESSI BEYER	POOL PASS REFUND	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$90.00	10-45420-46734
KAY YOHN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
KAY YOHN	PARK REFUND	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
LEE RECREATION	INFANT SWING/DOGGIE BAGS	6/7/2020	12774-20	\$490.00	55200-08-91000
MARK MARSCEAU	SECURITY DEPOSIT	6/9/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MARK MARSCEAU	PARK REFUND	6/9/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
MARK TAUTGUES	PARK REFUND	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$95.00	10-45200-46722
MARK TAUTGUES	SECURITY DEPOSIT	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200

MENARDS	PARTS FOR WATERING TRUCK	6/5/2020		\$9.55	55200-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	ADAPTAR	6/15/2020	196775	\$0.99	55200-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	WALLPLATE	6/3/2020	196396	\$4.58	55400-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	DUCT TAPE	6/10/2020	196627	\$5.99	55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	FASTENERS	6/23/2020	197065	\$9.19	55400-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	MEDING BRACES	6/9/2020	196623	\$9.98	55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PAINT	5/28/2020	196237	\$20.97	55400-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	GROUIND RECEPTACLE	6/23/2020	1970631	\$32.75	55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	ROLLERS	6/12/2020	196721	\$46.77	55200-08-91000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PAINT/ROLLERS	6/16/2020	196842	\$49.34	55200-08-91000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PAINT	6/17/2020	196869	\$55.98	55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PAINT	5/28/2020	1962361	\$139.95	55200-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	UTILITY KNIFE/ROLLERS	6/18/2020	196922	140-94	55200-08-91000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	TISSUE	6/17/2020	1530742	\$208.00	55200-03-40000
MERRILL FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING	5/25/2020		\$404.00	BLACK SQUIRREL SCURRY
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-10	5/21/2020	16635	\$116.16	55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-10	5/5/2020	16619	\$246.16	55200-03-50000
NAPA	BATTERY	5/28/2020	839677	\$127.99	55200-03-40000
NAPA AUTO PARTS	BATTERY	6/9/2020	842233	\$97.35	55400-03-40000
NASSCO	TOWELS	6/22/2020	2633210	\$200.25	55200-03-40000
PERMAR SECURITY	SMITH CENTER	6/8/2020	1203870500	\$486.12	55400-02-16500
PETERSON SAND AND GRAVEL	CONCRETE SAND	6/1/2020	15233	\$285.00	55200-08-91000
RH NEESE MEDIA	MERRILL GOLF COURSE ADVERTISING	6/2/2020		\$298.00	55400-03-41000
RIVER COUNTRY COOP	GRASS SEED	6/10/2020	260973	\$163.97	55200-08-91000
RIVER COUNTRY COOP	GRASS SEED	6/10/2020	260974	\$167.96	55200-08-91000
RYAN RUDER	REFUND POOL PASSES	6/10/2020	VOUCHER	\$120.00	10-45420-46734
SERVICE MOTOR COMPANY	ZERO TURN SERVICE	5/29/2020	2343	\$154.00	55200-03-50000
SERVICE MOTOR COMPANY	PARTS	5/31/2020		\$154.42	55200-03-50000
SHARON HERNANDEZ	REFUND POOL PASSES	6/10/2020	VOUCHER	\$165.00	10-45420-46734
SHOPKEEP	YEARLY FEES	4/17/2020	1411703	\$1,176.00	
SOUTHSIDE TIRE	CHANGE TIRE	6/11/2020	413682	\$216.00	55200-03-50000
SUSAN OSNESS	POOL PASS REFUND	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$85.00	10-45420-46734
TIMEKEEPER	5 GALLONS HAND SANITIZER	6/19/2020		\$300.00	10-55200-02-50220
TINA SCOTT	SECURITY DEPOSIT	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200

TINA SCOTT	PARK REFUND	6/20/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
TOM BAKER	REFUND POOL PASSES	6/10/2020	VOUCHER	\$115.00	10-45420-46734
VICTORY JANITORIAL	CLEANING SUPPLIES	5/26/2020	113131	\$251.20	10-55200-02-50220
WALMART	SQUEEGE	6/23/2020		\$13.54	55300-03-41500
WALMART	PROGRAMS	6/19/2020		\$62.71	55200-08-91000
WALMART	SUPPLIES FOR PROGRAMS	6/10/2020		\$97.29	55400-08-82000
WARREN ANDERSON	PARK REFUND	6/23/2020	VOUCHER	\$95.00	10-45200-46722
WARREN ANDERSON	SECURITY DEPOSIT	6/23/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE	MARC	6/22/2020	0405061701-00018	\$37.43	55200-02-22000
WPS	SMITH CENTER	7/9/2020	0405061701-00011	\$99.59	55200-02-22000
WPS	SMITH CENTER	5/25/2020	04056061701-00004	\$1,614.35	55200-02-210000
		JUNE			

10 Year Capital Plan - Merrill Parks & Recreation Department

GREEN=FUNDED/RED=NOT FUNDED/PURPLE=OTHER FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Park/Project	Priority	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Zero turn mower replace	1	\$25,000									
Replace infield drag ** (engine only)	2	\$2,000									
Smith Center Flooring & office improvements	1	\$15,000									
Replace dock at Ott's	2	\$15,000									
Tree Planting	2	\$10,000									
Smith Center interior LED lights (non arena)	1	\$15,000									
Solar panel installation - Smith Center	2	\$141,000									
Park 1-ton dump truck replacement	2	\$50,000									
Replace large field mower	2	\$100,000									
Re-pave Lion's Park Parking lot *crack seal only	2	\$60,000									
Re-pave Kitchenette Park Parking lot *crack seal	2	\$60,000									
Solar panel installation - Smith Center	1		\$141,000?								
Construct trail from Prairie Trails to RBT	2		\$100,000								
Zero Turn mower	2		\$20,000								
Pit Toilets at City Forest	1		\$25,000								
Construct open air shelter at City Forest	2		\$45,000								
Granite for topdressing existing trails	2		\$10,000								
Dormers over Smith Center entrances	2		\$30,000								
				2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Pit Toilets at Prairie Trails	1			\$25,000							
Replace large field mower	1			\$115,000							
5 year Outdoor Recreation Plan	1			\$10,000							
Re-do basketball courts at Streeter Square	2			\$35,000							
City Forest main road & parking lot reconstruct	2			\$75,000							
Lights on MARC varsity softball field	3			\$175,000							
Park 1-ton dump truck replacement	2			\$50,000							
Disc Golf course at MARC	2			\$25,000							
Tree Planting	1			\$10,000							
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Solar panel installation - Aquatic Center	1			\$20,000							



Native caterpillars not a major concern for trees

Posted on June 6, 2020

Mike Hillstrom, forest health specialist, Fitchburg, Michael.Hillstrom@wisconsin.gov, 608-513-7690

Eastern tent caterpillars (ETC) are hatching and beginning to feed on host trees in Wisconsin, including cherry, apple and crabapple trees. Landowners and homeowners may notice the white silken tents forming in branch forks. Although the tents are unsightly, ETC is a native insect and rarely causes damage. Even completely defoliated trees will put out new leaves within a few weeks.



Eastern tent caterpillars preparing for a day of feeding on a black cherry tree.

If landowners are concerned by the appearance of tents in their yard trees and wish to remove them, it's best to do so in the early morning or evening when the caterpillars are inside the tent. Unless it's raining, eastern tent caterpillars leave their tents each morning to feed during the day before returning at night.

Caterpillars and their nests can be removed either by hand if they are within reach or with a rake if they are high in the tree. They can then be killed by soaking them in soapy water or sealing them in a trash bag. Insecticides are rarely necessary but need to penetrate inside the tent if used. Do not prune branches, burn tents or soak them with WD-40. These methods are more harmful to the tree than ETC defoliation and are not recommended.

For more information on eastern tent caterpillar, read [this factsheet](#) from UW-Madison Division of Extension.

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Stressed? Take a 20-minute nature pill

Posted on April 9, 2019 in [Featured News](#), [Health](#), [Psychology](#)



Participants were free to choose the time of day, duration, and the place of their nature experience. Image: Shutterstock.

Just 20 minutes of contact with nature will lower stress hormone levels, reveals new study

— by Tania Fitzgeorge-Balfour, Frontiers science writer

Taking at least twenty minutes out of your day to stroll or sit in a place that makes you feel in contact with nature will significantly lower your stress hormone levels. That's the finding of a study that has established for the first time the most effective dose of an urban nature experience. Healthcare practitioners can use this discovery, published in *Frontiers in Psychology* (https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00722/full?utm_source=fweb&utm_medium=nblog&utm_campaign=ba-sci-fpsyg-nature-pill), to prescribe 'nature-pills' in the knowledge that they have a real measurable effect.

"We know that spending time in nature reduces stress, but until now it was unclear how much is enough, how often to do it, or even what kind of nature experience will benefit us," says [Dr. MaryCarol Hunter](#) (https://loop.frontiersin.org/people/124659/overview?utm_source=fweb&utm_medium=nblog&utm_campaign=ba-sci-fpsyg-nature-pill), an Associate Professor at the University of Michigan and lead author of this research. "Our study shows that for the greatest payoff, in terms of efficiently lowering levels of the stress hormone cortisol, you should spend 20 to 30 minutes sitting or walking in a place that provides you with a sense of nature."

Urban Nature Experiences Reduce Stress in the Context of Daily Life Based on Salivary Biomarkers

► [Read original article](#)

(https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00722/full?utm_source=fweb&utm_medium=nblog&utm_campaign=ba-sci-fpsyg-nature-pill) ► [Download original article \(pdf\)](#)
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A free and natural stress-relieving remedy

Nature pills could be a low-cost solution to reduce the negative health impacts stemming from growing urbanization and indoor lifestyles dominated by screen viewing. To assist healthcare practitioners looking for evidence-based guidelines on what exactly to dispense, Hunter and her colleagues designed an experiment that would give a realistic estimate of an effective dose.

Over an 8-week period, participants were asked to take a nature pill with a duration of 10 minutes or more, at least 3 times a week. Levels of cortisol, a stress hormone, were measured from saliva samples taken before and after a nature pill, once every two weeks.

<https://blog.frontiersin.org/2019/04/09/20-minute-nature-pill-relieves-stress/>

"Participants were free to choose the time of day, duration, and the place of their nature experience, which was defined as anywhere outside that in the opinion of the participant, made them feel like they've interacted with nature. There were a few constraints to minimize factors known to influence stress: take the nature pill in daylight, no aerobic exercise, and avoid the use of social media, internet, phone calls, conversations and reading," Hunter explains.

She continues, "Building personal flexibility into the experiment, allowed us to identify the optimal duration of a nature pill, no matter when or where it is taken, and under the normal circumstances of modern life, with its unpredictability and hectic scheduling."

To make allowances for busy lifestyles, while also providing meaningful results, the experimental design was novel in other aspects too.

"We accommodated day to day differences in a participant's stress status by collecting four snapshots of cortisol change due to a nature pill," says Hunter. "It also allowed us to identify and account for the impact of the ongoing, natural drop in cortisol level as the day goes on, making the estimate of effective duration more reliable."

Related: [Love Island: Flamboyant males get the girls on Madagascar](https://blog.frontiersin.org/2019/04/03/ecology-evolution-madagascar-colorful-new-giant-stick-insects/?utm_source=fweb&utm_medium=nblog&utm_campaign=ba-sci-fpsyg-nature-pill) (https://blog.frontiersin.org/2019/04/03/ecology-evolution-madagascar-colorful-new-giant-stick-insects/?utm_source=fweb&utm_medium=nblog&utm_campaign=ba-sci-fpsyg-nature-pill)

Nature will nurture

The data revealed that just a twenty-minute nature experience was enough to significantly reduce cortisol levels. But if you spent a little more time immersed in a nature experience, 20 to 30 minutes sitting or walking, cortisol levels dropped at their greatest rate. After that, additional de-stressing benefits continue to add up but at a slower rate.

"Healthcare practitioners can use our results as an evidence-based rule of thumb on what to put in a nature-pill prescription," says Hunter. "It provides the first estimates of how nature experiences impact stress levels in the context of normal daily life. It breaks new ground by addressing some of the complexities of measuring an effective nature dose."

Hunter hopes this study will form the basis of further research in this area.

"Our experimental approach can be used as a tool to assess how age, gender, seasonality, physical ability and culture influences the effectiveness of nature experiences on well-being. This will allow customized nature pill prescriptions, as well as a deeper insight on how to design cities and wellbeing programs for the public."

Original article: [Urban Nature Experiences Reduce Stress in the Context of Daily Life Based on Salivary Biomarkers](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00722/full?utm_source=fweb&utm_medium=nblog&utm_campaign=ba-sci-fpsyg-nature-pill) (https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00722/full?utm_source=fweb&utm_medium=nblog&utm_campaign=ba-sci-fpsyg-nature-pill)

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- Frontiers in Psychology
- stressful life events

3 Comments on Stressed? Take a 20-minute nature pill

1. *Im* // [May 1, 2019 at 4:20 am](#) // [Reply](#)
nature is a doctor
2. *Don* // [July 31, 2019 at 6:40 am](#) // [Reply](#)
Great post!
3. *Cortisol* // [September 26, 2019 at 8:51 pm](#) // [Reply](#)
Vrey inspiring article about the stress

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July 2020 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Parks: Hard to believe another month has come and gone. We have been able to utilize some of the additional time that we have to really get some projects done, which has been great. Our staff has been able to accomplish countless smaller projects that are always on the bottom of the list each year but are always needed. Such things as painting smaller areas and facilities, sealing and staining areas needed, additional turf work, small repairs and fixes to facilities, pre-emptive work in high use areas, landscaping and beautification, etc. We have stayed with 3 seasonal staff to this point and it has been just enough to be able to accomplish our essential functions. The weather has been providing us with a little too much grass growth yet, but that typically balances out throughout the course of the summer. After my most recent discussions with the Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) we have been allowed to proceed with some things. As I have shared the information with you, we are going to begin renting our Park Shelters out as of July 1st, baseball and softball have been given the OK on practicing and single game use formats, soccer is still considered a "high risk" sport and it is not recommended to play soccer games, but they can do skills and drills if they choose to do so. We provided the updated recommendations/guidelines to the public to keep everyone informed of what the new recommendations are. We also contacted everyone that had a shelter reservation or was on the waiting list to see if we were going to reserve a shelter to them. We informed every one of the new recommendations and many of them were excited and able to continue with their shelter rental, and there were a number of them that had to cancel but they were very understanding. I will not lie, June was a challenging and trying month and it was unique to everyone. We are very happy that our COVID cases are still low here and hopefully we remain at that number. We are also excited to begin phasing our way forward by allowing some functions and activities to take place. I think this will help to slowly bring people back together and get things back to "normal." I will continue to work with LCHD to continue to guide us through this situation and will also continue to keep you all updated as new information becomes available or changes. We would like to thank Merrill Fire Department for helping educate our staff members on proper PPE usage before we get ready to clean restrooms again during COVID-19 conditions. Tuck pointing work on Athletic Park is going to begin shortly. We are excited to have Kowalski Masonry from Wausau doing the work; they are very qualified and will do a great job.

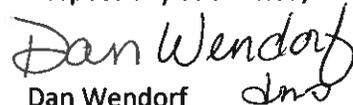
Forestry: I have been inspecting a few more trees than I normally would this time of year and I do think it is related to more people being at home. I have been able to keep up with calls and inspections by grouping them together. With the amount of rain we have had it has been good for our urban and park trees and I have observed some tremendous growth on some of our faster growing species. It has also helped some of our trees that have been stressed over the winter time. I have ordered some trees and other plants to try and handle some tree replacements and new plantings in areas where I know they are going to be taken care of and we are going to be doing some landscaping work in a few locations in the coming weeks. This will allow us to plant more trees this year, but I am hesitant to plant in areas where I am unsure if people will care for them as summer tree planting requires more tender loving care. We have a volunteer who is going to paint the letters on the Stange Public Park sign and has

agreed to re-plant the gardens all around that area to re-beautify it. Within the next few weeks we are going to have a wood-mizer come to our shop to cut the large white pine and other straight logs we have accumulated from park and street tree removals. He will cut them into lumber lengths and widths that we can reuse for park and other city related projects. This is a great way to be a leader in urban wood recycling and save ourselves money along the way.

Recreation: After some of the guidelines were relaxed, we were able to go through our summer recreation program and make enough adjustments to offer them in smaller numbers with guidelines. We were able to take programs that do not require sharing of resources and allow for physical distancing in small groups and accomplish our goals of getting some programs out there. I have started our YouTube Channel and have it all set up with an introductory video on there and MAPS Athletic Director Miller has sent my invitation to all varsity coaches as of 6/19. I hope some of them take us up on the opportunity to create some short videos. If they don't we will create our own content and continue to create other channels to help families with healthy living, lifestyle, family, parks, and may more things. As with everything, we are looking into the fall season trying to figure out what we are going to be able to do/not do. All we can do is be ready and hope that we can get back to our full offerings of recreation programs.

Smith Center: Our office and building has been open to the public for several weeks now and we have had people stopping in and they have been respectful of all guidelines. We have been continuing to utilize this time to continue some tremendous maintenance progress inside the building. We brought in a contracted hockey board cleaner on 6/22 and he did an amazing job and it only took him 2 hours. This typically takes us several weeks to accomplish but he had a machine he designed to do an even better job in a fraction of the time. As I have mentioned before, we have painted many of our walls and remaining floors, re-did our Zamboni pit, finished office carpeting and complete reorganization, completely reorganized skate rental room, deep cleaned everywhere, etc. We have a number of projects that we are intending to work on and finish up in the coming months while we have time so we are ready to go for the fall season. We are going to have to continue to monitor regulations as we do have some big events looming inside the Smith Center. The Paper Cities Kennel Club Dog Show is early September and Barleyfest in early October are two very large events that we are going to wait as long as we can to determine what to do. I think that we will have to decide at some point by mid-end of July for Barleyfest and I have been communicating with the organizers of the Dog Show to make sure we are on the same page. Of course we are keeping an eye on the ice season as well to see what type of guidelines will be in place at that time. I have a fair amount of confidence that we can put ice in and safely do a majority of what we need to for almost all of our ice programming. I will continue to monitor that and stay on top of that information so we can be ready either way.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill