



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

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MAY MEETING NOTICE

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will have a meeting on **Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 4:15 p.m.**, this will be a **virtual meeting**. **Join by phone 336-904-9371**
PIN: 216313341

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. Review & Approve City Forest Timber Sale.
5. Begin discussion on COVID-19 potential impacts on Aquatic Center.
6. Begin discussion on COVID-19 potential impacts on Summer Recreation programs.
7. Monthly reports.
8. Set date for next meeting.
9. Public comment
10. Adjournment

Submitted by

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

March 11, 2020

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, March 11, 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, Ryan Bartz, Dakota Branski, Heather O'Neil, Nathan Brzornowski, Patrick Perra, Kurt Perra

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

Artac questioned what the Tree keeper subscription was. Wendorf stated that is what he uses to keep track of the trees in the city and works well. Vanlieshout questioned what the surveillance cameras were for. Wendorf stated that they were for the Agra building because of all the vandalism there. Wendorf stated the city paid half and the River Bend Trail paid for half.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potential tree planting requirements for new developments/construction. Wendorf stated that Kyle brought this agenda item up and thought it was a good idea. The requirements would be to replace some of the trees that were removed for construction. Vanlieshout stated that Wendorf should work on a resolution that pertains more for the City of Merrill and bring it back to the commission.

The next item on the agenda was a continued discussion on the 10 year Capital Plan. Wendorf stated that this is something that will continue to be on the agenda and if anyone has ideas, suggestions or changes to voice their opinion.

The next item on the agenda was to review/potentially approve Skate Park Design. Wendorf stated that they have been working with Spohn Ranch on a design and went over the designs. Wendorf stated that the park would be 22,000 square feet and will be located west of the Smith Center. Mayor Woellner questioned if the pictures were to scale and also that one of shaded areas is facing directly at the sun so it should be moved. Vanlieshout questioned if the fence was going to cause some problems with snow removal. Wendorf stated that they will have to move the fence in a little. Vanlieshout also questioned what the cost would be. Wendorf stated around one million to one and a half million. Heather O'Neil stated that she thought the design was great and would bring in people from different communities.

***Motion by Vanlieshout, seconded by Artac to approve the design for the skate park.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the weather has been perfect and hopefully with the slow snow melt it will be easier to get the fields ready. Wendorf also encouraged people who are looking for seasonal jobs to apply for the Park and Recreation seasonal jobs.

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

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Ravn to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary

APRIL

MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	MOP HANDLES	4/15/2020	21162	\$25.98	55400-03-40000
AMERICAN WELDING	HELIUM TANK RENTAL	3/31/2020	7018314	\$70.72	55300-03-415000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	3/31/2020	4018808	\$52.43	55200-02-15000
APPLIED MAINTENACE SUPPLIES	CLEANING SUPPLIES	4/16/2020	701872460	\$547.92	55200-03-40000
BAUMGART WASTE REMOVAL LLC	WASTE HAULING	4/1/2020		\$148.00	55400-02-23600
BECKY MYSZKA	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/1/2020	VOUCHER	\$85.00	10-45200-46722
BECKY MYSZKA	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/1/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
BLUEJAY 96.3	ADVERTISING	3/31/2020	12641-1	\$249.00	55400-03-41000
CARROT TOP INDUSTRIES	FLAGS	4/3/2020	45432300	\$270.94	55400-03-40000
CENTRAL CARPET	CARPET FOR OFFICE	2/27/2020		\$2,879.40	CAPITAL
CHRIS WIMER	SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
CHRIS WIMMER	PARK RESERVATION REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$95.00	10-45200-46722
CINDY BOOHER	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
CINDY BOOHER	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
CINTAS	MOPS/MATS	4/2/2020	12706286	\$71.18	55200-03-46000
DENISE LATZIG	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$95.00	10-45200-46722
DENISE LATZIG	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
ERICA MADDEN	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/1/2020	VOUCHER	\$85.00	10-45200-46722
ERICA MADDEN	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/1/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
ERICA MADDEN	SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
ERICA MADDEN	PARK RESERVATION REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$85.00	10-45200-46722
ISAAC STUHR	REFUND PARK	4/1/2020	VOUCHER	\$95.00	10-45200-46722
ISAAC STUHR	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/1/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
JENNIFER HEYEL	SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
JENNIFER HEYEL	PARK RESERVATION REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
JOY WEBER	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$75.00	10-45200-46722
JOY WEBER	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
JULIE BELFIORI	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/1/2020	VOUCHER	\$95.00	10-45200-46722
JULIE BELFIORI	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/1/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
JUMPLINE	WEBSITE	4/20/2020	101253	\$123.40	BARLEYFEST
JUMPLINE	DOMAIN RENEWAL BARLEYFEST	4/8/2020	99676	\$35.00	BARLEYFEST
KATRINA DEPIES	PARK RESERVATION REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$85.00	10-45200-46722
KATRINA DEPIES	SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200

KRISTA MITCHELL	REFUND BIRTHDAY PARTY	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	
LINDA GARIHEE	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
LINDA GARIHEE	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MARGE JOHNSON	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/10/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
MARGE JOHNSON	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/10/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MELISSA BUTLER	SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
MELISSA BUTLER	PARK RESERVATION REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$85.00	10-45200-46722
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	BIT HAMR SDS	3/28/2020	15975	\$7.49	55400-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	SHELF STANDARD ANOCOHS	4/1/2020	17248	\$79.90	55400-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PARTS FOR SKATE SHARPENING ROOM	4/4/2020	18118	\$17.33	55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PARTS FOR SKATE SHARPENING ROOM	4/4/2020	22393	\$24.11	55400-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	BRACKET SHELVES	4/2/2020	17512	\$303.20	55400-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	HOOKS FOR KEYS	4/6/2020	194562	\$18.35	55400-03-10000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	URINAL BLOCKS/TOISSUE PAPER	3/31/2020	1522512	\$75.75	55200-03-40000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	KUBOTA ZERO TURN MOWER	3/10/2020	16578	\$233.15	55200-03-50000
ROB DRESEN	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/10/2020	VOUCHER	\$85.00	10-45200-46722
ROB DRESEN	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/10/2020	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
SANDRA HOFFMAN	REFUND PARK RENTAL	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$75.00	10-45200-46722
SANDRA HOFFMAN	REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT	4/6/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
SERVICE MOTOR COMPANY	ZERO TURN MOWER	4/2/2020	358	\$14,398.87	CAPITAL
TRINITY	PARK RESERVATION REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$55.00	10-45200-46722
TRINITY	PARK RESERVATION REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$65.00	10-45200-46722
TRINITY	SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND	4/22/2020	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
WALMART	BINS	4/21/2020		\$27.92	55300-03-41500
WISCONSIN URBAN WOOD	MEMBERSHIP	4/6/2020		\$100.00	55200-08-92200
WPS	SMITH CENTER	4/20/2020	405061701-00003	\$3,650.38	55200-02-21000
WPS	SHELTER HOUSE	4/20/2020	405061701-00018	\$34.65	55200-02-22000

Merrill City Forest Hill Top Sale Sale Number 3504-001-2020

This Harvest may be conducted in winter under frozen ground conditions or dry summer when rutting is unlikely to occur.

No Harvesting will be allowed between March 15th and July 15th to minimize residual tree damage and prevent the spread of oak wilt.

This is a 3 year contract

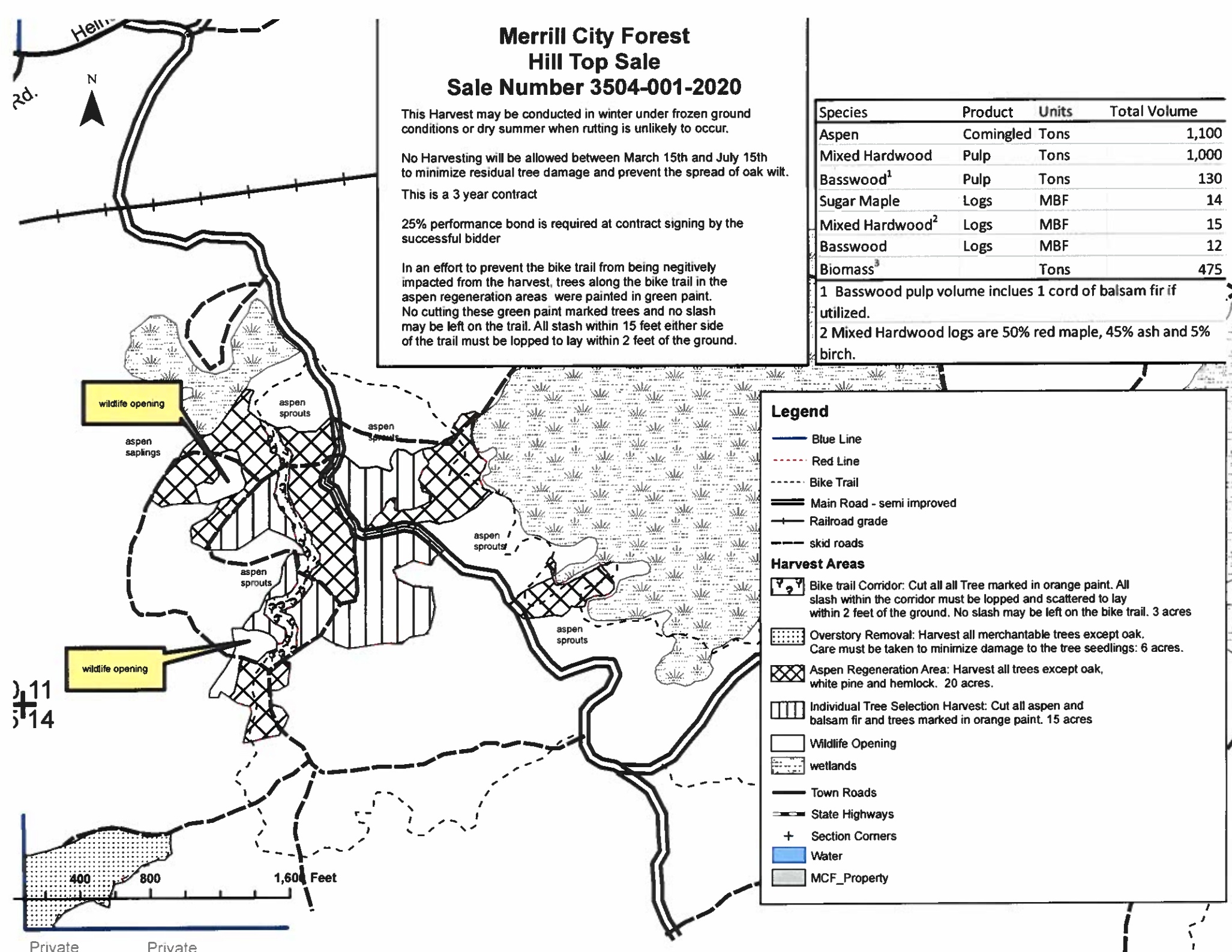
25% performance bond is required at contract signing by the successful bidder

In an effort to prevent the bike trail from being negatively impacted from the harvest, trees along the bike trail in the aspen regeneration areas were painted in green paint. No cutting these green paint marked trees and no slash may be left on the trail. All slash within 15 feet either side of the trail must be lopped to lay within 2 feet of the ground.

Species	Product	Units	Total Volume
Aspen	Comingled	Tons	1,100
Mixed Hardwood	Pulp	Tons	1,000
Basswood ¹	Pulp	Tons	130
Sugar Maple	Logs	MBF	14
Mixed Hardwood ²	Logs	MBF	15
Basswood	Logs	MBF	12
Biomass ³		Tons	475

1 Basswood pulp volume includes 1 cord of balsam fir if utilized.

2 Mixed Hardwood logs are 50% red maple, 45% ash and 5% birch.



TIMBER SALE NOTICE AND CUTTING REPORT

Form 2460-001A

Rev. 12-15

Region	Property Code	County
NED	3504	Lincoln

Tract Number	1
Sale Number	1-2020

15. NARRATIVE**a. General Sale Description**

Management Objective & Prescription: The management objective for this property is to provide a diverse range of timber types and age classes to provide a range of recreational opportunities while providing periodic revenue.

Physical Location: Property is located in the township of Schley in Lincoln County Wisconsin. more specifically T32N R7E sections 11,12,13 and 14.

Soil Type(s): Newwood Pence Sandy Loam

Habitat Classification: AOCa

Topography: ☐ Level ☒ Gentle Rolling ☐ Moderate Slopes ☐ Steep Slopes

Merchantability Standards: ☒ 4" Top ☐ 2" Top ☐ Whole Tree ☐ Other

Biomass Suitability: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Roads, Access, & Landings: The property is accessed off of Heineman Rd. on an improved gravel road.

Adjacent Landowner Contact: ☐ Yes ☒ No ☒ N/A

15a. Comments Timber Harvest does not adjoin private land but the main road is the access for a private landowner to reach his property

b. Ecological Considerations

Management History: There is a fairly long history of management on this property. Starting with acquisition in 1940 the property has been managed by "Trees for Tomorrow" until the 1970's. Trees for Tomorrow could no longer manage the property and the Department of Natural Resources took over management and entered into 25 year leases. The DNR has set up harvests in 1998, 2002, 2011, 2013, 2017. All sales have strived to regenerate another age class of aspen, thin northern hardwood and spruce and red pine stands. 1 large blowdown event occurred in 2011 and a subsequent salvage was conducted on the property.

Silvicultural System(s): Coppice regeneration of aspen, Even aged and uneven aged management of northern hardwoods, Even aged management of various conifer plantations.

Green Tree Retention: Yes, there is reserve areas within the timber sale, all oak, hemlock and white pine are designated reserve trees and green trees were marked in the sale in areas along the bike trail.

Post-Harvest Regeneration Plan: Natural regeneration of all areas

Invasive Species Evaluation: A small area of honeysuckle is present at the intersection of the snowmobile trail and the main access road. This has been slowly spreading into the adjacent red pine plantation.

Insect/Disease Concern(s): None

Skidding / Seasonal Restrictions: ☒ Yes ☐ No (If yes insert comments) After no cutting or skidding between March 15 and July 15th to maximize aspen sprouting and minimize oak wilt infection.

Landscape Considerations: This property is adjacent to the "Underdown" unit of the Lincoln County Forest. Similar management regimes exist in this area making. Together these 2 blocks comprise a large block of continuous forest.

Results of NHI (Natural Heritage Inventory) Review: Yes one state threatened reptile and a federally protected bird. A review was conducted and appropriate management guidelines were followed.

Forest Chemical Use? ☐ Yes ☒ No - If yes, list chemical:

15b. Comments

c. Water Quality Considerations

Lake, Stream or wetland within sale or impacted by sale? ☒ Yes ☒ No (If yes insert comments)

BMP's: ☒ Yes ☐ No (If yes, describe)

Chpt.30 Permits Needed? ☐ Yes ☒ No

15c. Comments RMZ's along wetlands were designated. No equipment will be allowed between the red paint lines and the wetlands and no slash will be allowed to be accumulated or deposited in wetlands.

d. Aesthetic Considerations

Aesthetic Considerations ☒ Yes ☐ No - (If yes, explain)

Leave Trees: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Operational Modifications (seasonality, sale size, big tree mgmt., species diversity):

Slash Treatment: Along the designated bike trail corridor all slash must be lopped or scattered to lie within 24" of the ground. In other areas no slash may be left on the bike trail.

15d. Comments A bike trail runs through the sale and where possible the management objective was to include the trail in an area that will be managed for northern hardwoods under uneven aged management. Unfortunately there are some areas that are mostly aspen and in these areas longer lived species were green paint marked for retention along the trail.

e. Wildlife Considerations

Snag, Den, and Mast Tree Retention: ☒ Yes ☐ N/A

Game Openings: ☒ Yes ☐ N/A

15e. Comments All snags will be retained unless they pose a safety risk to the successful bidder. Two wildlife opening are in or adjacent to the sale. These opening may be used as landing but it will be required to clear these opening of any debris upon completion of the sale.

f. Recreation Considerations (Trails, Campgrounds, Parks, etc)

Recreation Impacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Recreation Stakeholder Contacted? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Signage Needed: ☒ Yes ☐ No

15f. Comments It will likely be necessary to temporarily close the bike trails through the sale area as is the practice when harvesting along the bike trail. It should impact only a small (but popular) portion of the entire system in the area.

g. Resources of Special Concern Considerations (Archaeological / Historical Review)

Results of Cultural Review:

15g. Comments A search of the database indicated no occurrences for historical or archeological resources in the sale area.



Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association

6737 W. Washington St., Suite 4210

Milwaukee, WI 53214

Phone: 414-423-1210

www.wpraweb.org

To: Governor Evers
Secretary-designee Andrea Palm, Department of Health Services
From: Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association (WPRA)
Date: April 23, 2020
RE: **Plans to Reopen Wisconsin's Parks, Aquatic Resources and Recreational Amenities**

The Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (WPRA) provides professionals and agencies in the areas of Parks, Recreation, Community Education and Aquatics with leadership, engaged communities, advocacy and development opportunities to promote the benefits of park, recreation, environmental, educational and cultural services throughout Wisconsin. The WPRA strives to improve the quality of life for all of Wisconsin by demonstrating and supporting the critical services provided by the Park and Recreation profession related to conservation, wellness and social equity. The WPRA is a membership association representing over 1,200 individuals delivering a broad spectrum of services in Wisconsin. Our members include professionals in local, county, state, school district, private and agency settings. WPRA also represents public Park and Recreation Boards and Commissions, students, commercial firms and retired members.

The COVID-19 public health emergency and related Safer at Home Emergency Orders have drastically altered the way Wisconsin residents can utilize their local parks, playgrounds, and other recreational amenities. Our members have roped-off playgrounds, removed nets and locked gates for outdoor sports, canceled special events and recreational programming, and delayed hiring summer workers. At the same time, parks and open spaces continue to be highly utilized by residents as a much-needed refuge in these turbulent, unpredictable times. Our members want to continue to provide this welcome relief to residents – especially as the weather becomes warmer and summer arrives.

In order to provide these vital, important services to all residents, our members need to be prepared for the summer season. Wisconsin is a diverse state – and likewise, so are our parks. Some more urban parks face challenges maintaining safe social distancing measures, while parks in more rural areas, have ample space to protect visitors. Acknowledging these differences is important and should be considered regionally allowing for direction from local health department leadership.

We understand and are adhering to the revised Safer at Home Order (Emergency Order 28). For our members to be adequately prepared for the summer months, **we ask you consider and adopt the following exemptions immediately upon the conclusion of the executive order:**

- **Summer Camps:** Many parents, including front line workers, rely on the local summer camp programs for essential childcare.
 - 1) Permit summer recreational camps (regardless of licensure or certification) to operate, in compliance with “Safer at Home” requirements for child care.
 - 2) Allow school facilities and grounds to be used for municipal and fund 80 summer camp and physical wellness programs. Many community and school recreation/community education departments utilize school facilities and grounds for camps and need access before the “end of the school year” (June 30th).
 - 3) Prioritize children of first responders, municipal, and essential workforce employees for summer camp enrollment.
- **Playgrounds and Other Park Amenities:** For proven physical and mental health benefits to Wisconsinites, we want to ensure community members can safely return to our parks during the summer months. Just as golf courses can be opened with social distancing and other requirements, we believe that park facilities can be as well. Upon conclusion of the Safer at Home order and in Phase 1 of the Badger Bounce Back plan:
 - 1) Open playgrounds and park facilities utilizing social distancing guidelines
 - 2) Use “At your own risk” signs and other signage following CDC guidelines to include social distancing at playgrounds and amenities, such as outdoor sport courts, athletic fields, skate parks, disc golf, etc.
- **Aquatic Resources:** *Due to the variances among organizations and facilities, we will use the term "Aquatic Resources" throughout this letter. Please note that an Aquatic Resource refers to, but is not limited to, indoor, outdoor and wading pools, beachfronts, splash pads, interactive water features, and other aquatic amenities.*

For the purpose of safe, supervised and affordable swimming experience, we want to ensure community members can safely return to using public water sources. Opening some of these resources require 4-5 weeks lead time to adequately clean and perform necessary maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure. Aquatic Resources are staffed by seasonal employees (including certified lifeguards), who need to be hired and appropriately trained prior to opening.

As these Aquatic Resources are opened this summer under certain restrictions, our members need to make those preparations soon. Continuing to work in tandem with the local public health department factoring in Aquatic Resource size and space available:

- 1) Open Aquatic Resources in Phase 1 of the Badger Bounce Back plan for purpose life-saving swim lesson/instruction.
- 2) Open Aquatic Resources in Phase 2 of the Badger Bounce Back plan for the purpose of safe and guarded open water-related activities, including but not limited to; managing admissions, schedule modifications, requiring social distancing of deck furniture, use of lane/pool area closures, etc.
- 3) Monitor the number of people who can be in changing rooms/restrooms at same time.
- 4) Proper PPE for staff and CDC guidelines for protection of employees/visitors.
- 5) Ensure state pool licenses will be renewed and inspections permitted to ensure pool operators can open when phases allow.

Like you, we understand COVID-19 isn't going to just disappear anytime soon. Many entities are going to have to balance how to return to service while still protecting the public and their employee's health. We believe that by following the above recommendations, our members can do this. We can safely provide essential summer camp childcare coverage, access to local playgrounds and amenities, and use of aquatic resources.

Now more than ever, Wisconsin residents need access to the mental and physical health benefits gained through playing at the park or swimming at the local pool. As park and recreational professionals, we stand by to work with the administration and our local government officials, including public health departments, to deploy appropriate, safe plans for each community.

Our members want to continue to be a partner and expert resource with legislators in determining resolutions to community health by providing facilities, programs, and services to our residents. We support and appreciate your leadership during this public health crisis. Thank you for your consideration of the above recommendations.

Sincerely,



Jake Anderson, President
Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association



Jennifer Rzepka, CAE, Executive Director
Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association

Badger Bounce Back



FROM SAFER AT HOME TO THE BADGER BOUNCE BACK

When COVID-19 hit Wisconsin, it started to spread very rapidly. This is what happens when a very infectious, brand-new virus enters a community. No one is safe because no one is immune. That means a lot of people can get sick very quickly. It also means hospitals can be overrun with very sick patients. We saw this happen in Wuhan, in Italy and in New York City. Our Safer at Home order was enacted to protect Wisconsin from this situation. We all stayed home, so the virus couldn't spread easily, and our hospitals have been able to safely care for sick people. According to the model created by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Wisconsin was projected to have between 440 and 1,500 deaths from the 22,000 COVID-19 infections projected by April 8th. Over the first three weeks of Safer at Home, our data shows we have saved at least 300 lives, and perhaps as many as 1,400 lives. We have helped flatten the curve, which has resulted in fewer cases and hospitalizations, and we've saved lives, together.

Safer at Home has saved lives, protected healthcare workers and critical employees, and prevented our hospitals from being overrun, but we know that it is not a workable solution for our economy or our way of life in the long-term. We are fighting an unprecedented global pandemic and we are working to open Wisconsin as soon as we can and in the safest way possible. The challenge is that all of us who have remained safe at home can still become ill if we move too quickly or act without an achievable plan in place. In order to preserve the progress we made during Safer at Home, we've developed a plan to safely reopen Wisconsin. Our plan is the Badger Bounce Back. Here's what it looks like:

- We turn the dial to open businesses and society in phases.
- Decisions to move from phase to phase are guided by data—Wisconsin's Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities.
- In order to turn the dial on Safer at Home and supercharge the Badger Bounce Back, we need to:
 - Increase lab capacity and testing
 - Increase contact tracing, including support for isolation and quarantine
 - Track the spread of COVID-19
 - Increase health care capacity
 - Procure more personal protective equipment
- Individuals and businesses agree to practice good hygiene, physical distancing and other best practices.

Our initial response to COVID-19 has been to keep all Wisconsinites safer at home to prevent spreading this disease. We are eager to move to the next phase but do not yet meet the thresholds for testing, contact tracing, health care worker infection rates, personal protective equipment, and others that public health experts in Wisconsin and within the federal government have determined are necessary.

These guidelines draw from numerous sources including Guidelines for Opening Up America Again (White House, April 16, 2020); COVID-19 Playbook (Resolve to Save Lives, April 1, 2020); National Coronavirus Response: A Roadmap to Reopening (American Enterprise Institute, March 29, 2020); and COVID-19 Economic Recovery: Roadmap for a Smart Re-start of the Wisconsin Economy (Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, April, 2020).



Badger Bounce Back



Once we reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and meet the Wisconsin Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities, we can begin to allow people to interact, and more importantly get Wisconsinites back to work. But once we have more flexibility to interact more and get back to work, we will need to aggressively test people for COVID-19, properly isolate people who test positive and quarantine their close contacts. The shift we are making is from “boxing in” all the people to “boxing in” the virus. Until we have a vaccine that prevents this virus, we will need to take these steps to prevent future outbreaks, monitor for resurgence of the virus and take appropriate steps if we see increases in virus transmission.

WISCONSIN'S GATING CRITERIA

SYMPTOMS: Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period AND downward trajectory of COVID-19-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period

CASES: Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period

HOSPITALS: Treat all patients without crisis care AND Robust testing programs in place for at-risk healthcare workers, with decreasing numbers of infected healthcare workers

These metrics and progress on Core Responsibilities will be evaluated regularly and guide decisions about when Wisconsin is ready to move from phase to phase. They are based on the Federal Gating Criteria and Core State Preparedness Responsibilities found in *Guidelines for Opening up America Again* that was issued by the White House on April 16, 2020. These metrics will be applied on a statewide basis as this highly infectious virus knows no county boundaries and can easily spread from regions with high prevalence to regions with low prevalence.

CORE STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

TEST, TRACE, & TRACK:

Testing: Every Wisconsin resident who has symptoms of COVID-19 can get a lab test. Results will be reported to the patient and state or local public health within 48 hours of collection. To achieve this, our goal is 85,000 tests/week or approximately 12,000 tests/day.

To achieve this goal, we will focus on the following:

1. Within the healthcare systems across the state, all barriers to testing will be addressed, including:
 - a. Providers are aware of guidance and order tests.
 - b. All clinics have adequate specimen collection supplies (e.g. NP swabs and viral media transport) and PPE to conduct tests.
 - c. All labs have supplies to perform tests.
 - d. All tests are reported to patient and public health.
2. In addition to increasing capacity through the health care system, mobile/temporary testing sites are stood up to address the most pressing needs:
 - a. Community locations with known intense community spread (e.g., particular zip codes in Milwaukee).
 - b. Outbreaks in congregate settings (e.g., long term care, correctional facilities).
 - c. Outbreaks in business settings.



Badger Bounce Back



Tracing: Testing without contact tracing will not result in controlling the spread of the virus. In order to reopen Wisconsin, we need to be sure that everyone who can transmit the virus (whether because they are infected or exposed) understands their responsibility to stay home. We will increase the state's contact tracing efforts by hiring 1,000 additional staff to make sure everyone is contacted and has what they need to safely isolate and quarantine.

To achieve this goal, we will focus on the following:

1. A case interview and contact tracing protocol to standardize processes for training and implementation across the state will be established.
2. Technology options for data management and client communication and tracing will be explored and deployed.
3. A system for contact tracing will be adopted that considers and balances the assets of local health departments and the state.
4. Contact tracing workforce will be hired, trained and deployed via direct hires or through contracts with other agencies.
5. Isolation and quarantine capacity will be identified in each county across the state.

Tracking: Building on systems used to track influenza, we will track the spread of the disease and report on the Wisconsin Gating Criteria and other related metrics to keep everyone informed about how we are doing.

To achieve this goal, we will focus on the following:

1. Data to inform these metrics will be collected and translated into a regularly-updated public dashboard.
2. Communication assets will be developed and deployed to engage the public and keep them informed of these metrics.
3. Evaluation questions about the pandemic will be identified, prioritized, and studied to further understand the pandemic.

OTHER STATE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ✓ We will procure personal protective equipment and other necessary supplies to support health care and public safety agencies.
- ✓ While PPE is in short supply, we will acquire systems for decontaminating N95 masks for healthcare providers in the state who request this service.
- ✓ We will support the surge capacity of our healthcare system.
- ✓ We will work with employers to guide them in steps to take, including physical distancing and cleaning practices to create safe workplaces.
- ✓ We will work with long-term care facilities to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable neighbors.
- ✓ We will advise residents regarding protocols for physical distancing, hygiene practices, and cloth face coverings.
- ✓ We will monitor conditions and immediately take steps to respond to any COVID-19 disease resurgence or outbreaks by restarting a phase or returning to an earlier phase, depending on severity.



Badger Bounce Back



INDIVIDUAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES

CONTINUE TO PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

- ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- ✓ Avoid touching your face.
- ✓ Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- ✓ Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- ✓ Strongly consider using cloth face coverings while in public, and particularly when using mass transit.

PEOPLE WHO FEEL SICK MUST STAY AT HOME

- ✓ Do NOT go to work, school, or any other public place.
- ✓ Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.

EMPLOYER GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES

- ✓ All employers are encouraged to use federal, state, and local regulations and guidance, informed by industry best practices and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, to develop and implement appropriate policies regarding:
 - ✓ Physical distancing and protective equipment
 - ✓ Temperature checks and symptom screening
 - ✓ Testing, isolating, and contact tracing
 - ✓ Sanitation
 - ✓ Use and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas
 - ✓ Business travel
 - ✓ Other best practices

Do NOT allow symptomatic people to work. Send them home if they arrive at work and do not allow them to return until cleared by a medical provider.

Working with local public health staff, develop and implement policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee COVID-19 positive test result.



Badger Bounce Back



OVERVIEW OF THREE PHASES OF THE BADGER BOUNCE BACK

Action	Safer At Home	PHASE ONE When all Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities are met	PHASE TWO Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities	PHASE THREE Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities
Wash hands often	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cover coughs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Don't go out if ill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Face mask if ill person goes out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Surface and object cleaning	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Isolation of positive cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarantine of contacts of positive cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physical distancing to 6 feet when possible	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Stop unnecessary visits to nursing homes, congregate facilities, and hospitals	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (until a vaccine is available)
Allow gatherings including religious (above 10, 50 people)	No, but allow religious gatherings below 10.	Yes—10 people maximum	Yes—50 people maximum	Yes—no maximum



Badger Bounce Back



OVERVIEW OF THREE PHASES OF THE BADGER BOUNCE BACK (continued)

Action	Safer At Home	PHASE ONE When all Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities are met	PHASE TWO Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities	PHASE THREE Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities
Open restaurants	No, but allow take-out, delivery, and curbside food take-out.	Yes with best practices*	Yes	Yes
Open bars	No, but allow take-out and delivery.	No, but allow take-out and delivery.	Yes with best practices*	Yes
Open essential businesses	Yes	Yes, with retail restrictions removed	Yes	Yes
Open non-essential businesses	Minimum Basic Operations only	Partial reopening*	Yes with best practices*	Yes
Open post-secondary education institutions	No	No	Consider reopening	Yes
Open K-12 schools	No	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Open daycares	Yes, but limits on capacity.	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Voluntary quarantine of travelers from high-prevalence areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*People over age 60, including employees and those who are medically vulnerable, should continue to shelter in place. Online education/remote work encouraged wherever possible.

Based on recommendations from Resolve to Save Lives, When and How to Reopen After COVID-19 and Guidelines for Opening up America Again.



[Close](#)

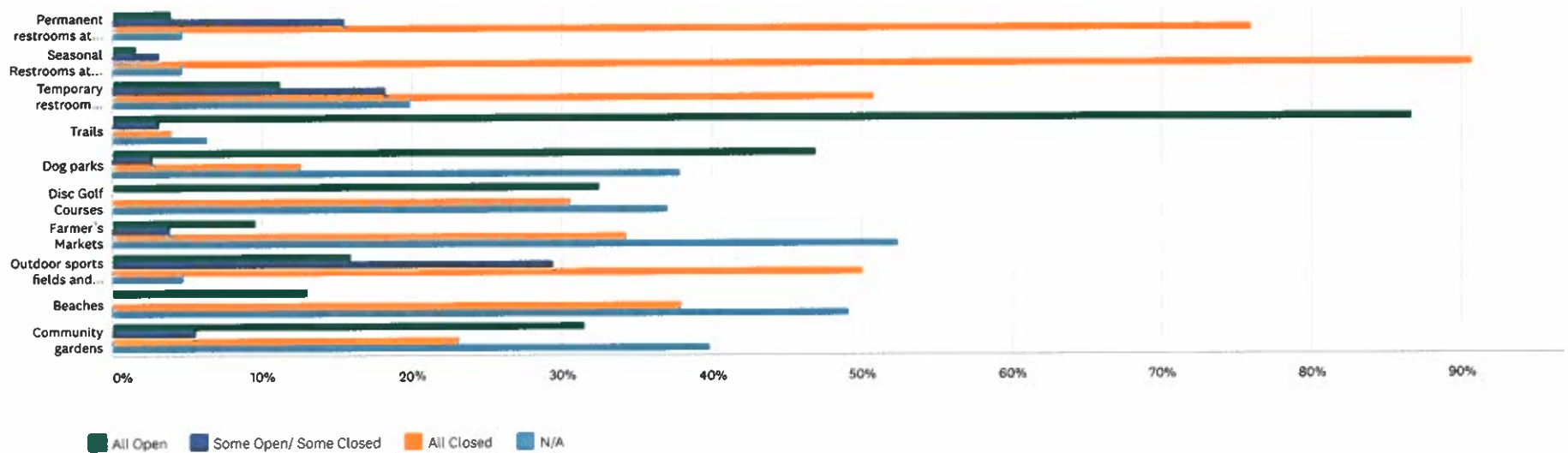
RULES APPLIED ⓘ

No rules applied.

There are no FILTERS or COMPARE rules applied to this question.

What is the status of the following amenities at your agency in response to COVID-19:

Answered: 129 Skipped: 0



WPRA Park COVID-19 Survey

[Close](#)

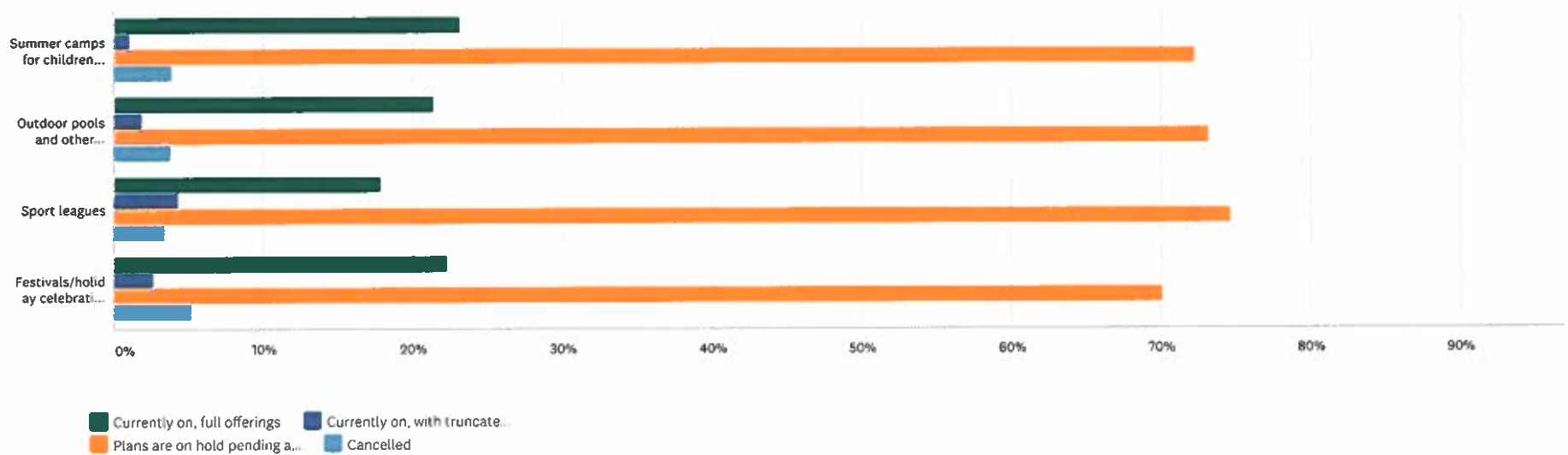
RULES APPLIED 1

No rules applied.

There are no FILTERS or COMPARE rules applied to this question.

Which of the following best describes the current status of the following summer offerings at your agency?

Answered: 123 Skipped: 6



WPRA Park COVID-19 Survey



May 2020 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Parks: Obviously the COVID-19 has dominated the headlines and our lives over the past month and a half. We have all had to adjust our standard living procedures in order to keep things going at home and at work. We have been following State guidelines and the Governor's Orders as it relates to our departments as well as working closely with the Lincoln County Health Department to ensure that we are providing what we can/should provide and also keeping people safe. Parks always have and will continue (even more so now) to provide an essential function in our community. Our parks and greenspaces are a place to escape and help people deal with our current situation in whatever ways they like. We play a vital role in providing places to run, walk, bike, hike, sit, think, and many many other forms of recreation. So our crew has been making sure that the parks are still looking good and are preparing to mow when the grass is ready. In working with LCHD (I will shorten it from Lincoln County Health Department) they recommended early on that we close the restrooms at the Agra Pavilion and keep them closed, along with all other park restrooms, until the new order expires on May 26th. They do not want those high touch areas to potentially create or cause spread of the virus. Our playgrounds are also closed until the current order expires and we are looking into new ways to disinfect playgrounds to allow for more effectiveness and efficiency. We do not have the staffing to hand clean all of our playgrounds so we are looking into a cleaning agent that we can safely spray on with a hose, let sit, and be ready to use when they open up. I would still like to hire our regular seasonal staff for this year so that we can handle the maintenance that will need to be done regardless. This will include mowing, cleaning, dragging ball fields, and disinfecting areas that are going to end up being high touch regardless. This same scenario will most likely be applied to many other park facilities and amenities that we have. I have been attending quite a few Wisconsin Parks & Recreation Association daily Zoom briefings designed to bring parks & recreation professionals together to talk about the virus and share ideas and help one another out during this. They have been very helpful to say the least and I will continue to do so. We received our new zero turn mower a few weeks ago and it is ready to use. Our new one ton dump truck has come in as well and is getting the dump box and hoist installed so we should have that shortly as well. Our new engine for the diamond dragger is also in and will be installed by the time you read this. One of the biggest questions that has been so difficult to get any clarity on is Aquatic Center. . . In referencing the Governor's Order #28, his latest, as well as the Badger Bounce Back plan it lays out guidelines that are going to be followed in order to re-open our communities. One of the issues that we are going to face (all communities) is how long are we willing to hold out until we are allowed to gather at or beyond 50+ people. In order to get the pool ready, we have to fill it (343,500 gallons), heat it and treat it, and hope that our lifeguards and other seasonal employees haven't bailed and taken other jobs. If the gathering number is still 10 it is senseless to attempt to open, if it is at or below 50 it is still most likely a stretch and will cost much more than the revenue it will generate. There are also many more questions that need to be answered: social distancing, use our deck chairs and have to clean them after every use, locker rooms and shower areas cleaned every hour?, high touch areas cleaned after every

touch, concessions (pre-packaged only), PPE for all staff members, what risk are lifeguards in should they have to perform a rescue, money handling and close customer interactions, to name a few.

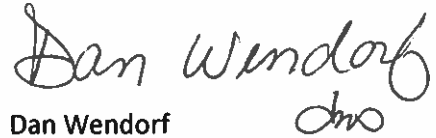
Forestry: I will admit to being a bit behind on where I intended to be on tree inspections but am catching up gradually. I have been trying to put door hangers after inspections on railings rather than on front doors so I can try to limit my exposure to the many households that I have to visit. Street Department has been doing a great job of catching up on my previous lists so I will make sure to stay ahead of them. Due to COVID, we will not be able to host our normal Arbor Day Celebration like we do every spring so I have talked with our WDNR Rep and will possibly look at hosting one in the fall if it works out. National Arbor Day Foundation has altered requirements for this year, stating that we do not have to host one for this year only in order to qualify for a Tree City USA. The closer to typical spring weather has been nice so far on tree health and moisture/nutrient uptake. Hopefully we will see that translate into solid tree growth and health this year.

Recreation: Following the same narrative with COVID-19, we are in a holding pattern with all of our recreation programs as well. Unfortunately we had all of our 2020 Summer Recreation Programs sorted and ready to deliver to the schools on the Monday that schools were closed down for the rest of the year. We haven't taken registrations for anything so it doesn't put us in a situation to have to refund what we might have to cancel but it puts us behind in that if things lighten up, we have to start over and promote and take registrations. We had to cancel our Children's Festival and Easter Egg Hunt because of the virus and that typically was our big jump start to recreation sign-ups. Our recreation programs, especially Summer Playground are definitely going to be in jeopardy for the summer season. With gathering numbers laid out in the Badger Bounce Back Plan Phases it will have the same effect on Summer Playground and our decision making as it does/would on the Aquatic Center. If we are not allowed to gather in larger groups, it will make it difficult for us to run this particular program. Social distancing and disinfecting equipment will also be difficult with programs and if we do even run smaller ones, we are going to have to be very up front and diligent with everyone that we must maintain separation. I am holding out hope that we will be able to run some of our smaller programs and we can potentially adjust, according to whatever restrictions do exist, and run more smaller programs to help get/keep people active. I would also like to look into some virtual programming as well so that we can continue to serve our citizens. We will continue to evaluate things every day and communicate with everyone on upcoming events that may/may not be able to happen (City Band Concerts, Gazebo Nights, Youth Sports Leagues, Fireworks, Tournaments, Labor Day, and many more).

Smith Center: The ice has been out for over a month now and we were able to deep clean the building. The Smith Center is closed to the public until further notice to help prevent exposure/spread of the virus. We were able to have our new office carpeting installed and it makes a world of difference in here I must say! We did end up hosting elections for both the 4th and 5th Districts on April 7th and there were a surprising amount of people that voted in person. With the shortage of poll workers for that election I did have to be a poll worker for one of the districts in our building. We have the building cleaned again after the exposure from the election. It is also looking like the May 12th Election is going to proceed as normal also. As previously mentioned we did have to cancel the Children's Festival inside the arena as well as a number of birthday parties and events we had it rented for. We are also working with a few others who have the arena coming up (June Dairy Breakfast and GRABRAWR Bike Riders who were rented the arena to stay in along their ride). We will continue to adjust our plans as needed as that is all we can do at this point. Future events become difficult as well, planning for them can be tough when seeking sponsorships and making plans for an uncertain future isn't very easy to do.

****NOTE:** We will continue to stay positive throughout this and realize that there are certain things that we simply cannot control. I think it is of the utmost importance that whatever decisions that we do have to make in the upcoming weeks are made with everyone's best health and interests in mind.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Wendorf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. To the right of the main signature, there is a small, separate handwritten mark that appears to be "DWO".

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill