



CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

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SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will have a meeting on **Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.**

Voting members of Commission: Jean Ravn, Brian Artac, Kyle Gulke, Joan Tabor, Mark Weix, Chad Krueger 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 draft of 2023-2027 Outdoor Recreation Plan.
5. Review & approve 2023 Parks & Recreation fees..
6. Monthly reports.
7. Set date for next meeting.
8. Public comment
9. Adjournment
10. Park Tour

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Novitch".

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 & Recreation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Dan Novitch, Brian Artac, Mark Weix, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor, Kyle Gulke, Chad Krueger

Members Excused Absent: None

Department Staff: Dan Wendorf

Others: Eric Pfantz, MP3

Chairperson Novitch called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes from the previous meeting:

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

***Carried unanimously.

Claims:

***Motion Artac, seconded by Tabor to approve the July claims.

Artac asked Wendorf about the charges from Greenlawn. Wendorf stated it was for in-ground irrigation on MARC softball diamonds 1 & 2 and that the Merrill Fastpitch Association paid for it. Novitch asked about Silver Creek Services for portable toilet rentals with different invoice numbers but same date. Wendorf stated they rent additional toilets for the baseball tournament but have them invoiced separately so that they can bill baseball for those toilets. Krueger asked about water lateral charges from Greenlawn. Wendorf stated that was for the water line they ran to the dog park that is paid for out of a non-lapsing account using dog park donations.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Erik Pfantz, 5331 Brode Drive, Madison, WI talked about Disc Golf. He said he attended the US Women's Disc Golf Championships that were held in Madison this summer and mentioned the great crowd it drew from all over the country and said this was a glimpse of what Merrill could do. He said he was approached by others in the community to have longer courses in Merrill and we have the space for expansion. He said we have ARPA funding that is not ear-marked and to build a high end course would cost \$20,000 - \$25,000.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss a location for potential Pickleball Courts. Wendorf informed the Commission that he met with Pickleball enthusiasts to discuss their ideas for courts and their locations. Wendorf provided maps for the commission to reference. Wendorf said they were thrilled to be talking about the possibility of courts and that they arrived on two potential locations that they would be thrilled equally about. The first location discussed was Streeter Square. Wendorf said that was their "1A" due to its central location and convenience for use and direction. Wendorf said that Ott's Park was their "1B" location. Wendorf stated that Ott's Park is not centrally located but they liked that there were tennis courts nearby; it was a quieter location with parking and restrooms. Artac said he likes both locations but slightly favors Ott's Park because of the existing amenities (restrooms, parking, space, tennis courts, etc.). Krueger asked if there is enough room at Ott's to accommodate additional courts should they be requested in the future. Wendorf said that with the courts being smaller than tennis courts they could arrange them north/south and accommodate a few more if needed. Wendorf also stated that there may be a possibility of finding external funding and he would keep the Commission informed. Wendorf also said that he suggested to the Pickleball enthusiasts to try and organize themselves if possible and form a Pickleball Association, similar to the other sports associations. This would help them with leagues, tournaments, fundraising, and decision making moving forward. He said they were going to do that.

***Motion Artac, seconded by Ravn to approve Ott's Park as the site for the potential Pickleball Courts.

***Carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be on September 7th at 4:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. *The Commission will meet to handle business first, and then Wendorf will try to arrange transportation for the Commission to take a "Park Tour" after the meeting.

Public Comment: Krueger thanked the Park Crew for the amazing job they did with the MARC fields and grounds for their 53 team tournament they hosted on July 22-24. He said they received a lot of compliments on the fields and the facility.

***Motion Ravn, seconded by Weix to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dan Wendorf
Recording Secretary

8/1/2022

MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	8/2/2022	1623577	\$253.33	55420-03-40100
ABBY PLAUTZ	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/30/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
ASPIRUS MERRILL	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/30/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	7/28/2022	4126649508	\$142.79	55200-03-46000
CINTAS	MOPS/MATS	7/28/2022	4126649426	\$197.21	55400-02-23250
FAWN BARTON	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/30/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
FERGUSON	REPAIR KIT	7/18/2022	6734071	\$36.98	55200-03-50000
GREG EICHELKRAUT	REIMBURSED FOR FACEBOOK ADS	8/2/2022	VOUCHER	\$200.00	
JANET PLAUTZ	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/2/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
LOANA HEINZEN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/30/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PAINTING SUPPLIES	8/3/2022		\$15.98	55200-03-40000
MID WISCONSIN BEVERAGE	AQUATIC CENTER	7/18/2022	2858489	\$100.00	55420-03-40100
MIDWISCONSIN BEVERAGE	AQUATIC CENTER	7/18/2022	2858490	\$400.00	55420-03-40100
NORTHWOODS	AERO FRESH DISPENSER	7/22/2022	339622	\$92.03	55400-03-44000
PREMIER	PLAQUES/MEDALS/BANNERS	7/13/2022	1680	\$419.00	BLACK SQUIRREL
RENEE SMITH	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/30/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
SAM'S CLUB	CANDY AQUATIC CENTER	8/1/2022		\$86.92	55420-03-40100
SILVER CREEK SERVIES, LLC	PORTABLE TOILET RENTAL	7/30/2022	168693	\$125.00	55200-02-15000
SILVER CREEK SERVIES, LLC	BLACK SQUIRRELL	7/30/2022	168728	\$170.00	BLACK SQUIRREL
TORTOISE AND HARE	BLACK SQUIRRELL	7/30/2022		\$2,363.00	BLACK SQUIRREL
VIP OFFICE PRODUCTS	DISPLAY BOARD	7/26/2022	112511-001	\$7.99	BLACK SQUIRREL
WALMART	PAINTING SUPPLIES	8/2/2022		\$22.03	55300-03-41500
MERRILL HOCKEY ASSOCIATION	SUMMER PLAYGROUND	8/13/2022		\$187.50	55300-03-41500
WALMART	AQUATIC CENTER	8/4/2022		\$76.00	55300-03-41500
BEN NICHALSON	PROGRAM CANCELLATION	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$5.00	45300-46750
COURTNEY CHAVERS	PROGRAM CANCELLATION	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$10.00	45300-46750
CARMEN VOIGT	CANCELLED PARK DUE TO COVID	8/3/2022	VOUCHER	\$60.00	10-45200-46722
CARMEN VOIGT	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/3/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	8/4/2022	4127337108	\$142.79	55200-03-46000

WALMART	AQUATIC CENTER/PROGRAMS	8/8/2022		\$135.48	55300-03-41500
CHRISTIAN MATSON	REIMBURSD FOR LGI CLASSES	8/8/2022	VOUCHER	\$355.68	AQUATIC NON LASPE
GREEN LAWN	SERVICE SPRINKLERS/LIONS PARK	8/17/2022	22-25858	\$171.50	55200-08-91000
GREEN LAWN	START UP FEES/LIONS PARK	8/17/2022	22-25857	\$317.05	55200-02-15000
GREEN LAWN	SERVICE SPRINKLERS/ATHLETIC PARK	8/17/2022	22-25862	\$318.04	55200-08-91000
PETERSON BROS	DUMPING CHARGE	8/1/2022	18387	\$40.00	55200-08-91000
SUNRISE BROADCASTING	ADVERTISING	8/2/2022		\$249.00	55400-03-41000
ATCO INTERNATIONAL	QUICKIES	8/3/2022	1600625	\$427.70	55400-03-40000
HAWKINS	CHEMICALS POOL	7/28/2022	62511888	\$2,629.16	55420-03-50000
BAUMGART WASTE REMOVAL	CARDBOARD	8/1/2022		\$148.00	55400-02-23600
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	TRASH BAGS	8/9/2022		\$59.98	55200-03-40000
JACK KASPER	LABOR DAY CAR SHOW	8/9/2022	VOUCHER	\$1,500.00	LABOR DAY
S & S BAR	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
JIM MOSER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
GLEASON MENNONITE CHURCH	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
PAUL WAID	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
BRIAN NASS	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
CARL TORKELSON	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MARIE RIEN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
JANE DEHNEL	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
AMBER SCHREIBER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
CHERYL HART	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
RAY MELANDER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
MAPS	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
MARIA MENDOZA	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
SHAUNA BUSH COOPER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
107 BAIT SHOP	SUMMER PLAYGROUND	8/5/2022	119	\$336.00	55300-03-41500
FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING	8/5/2022		\$198.00	55400-03-41000
FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING	8/5/2022		\$220.00	55400-03-41000
FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING	8/5/2022		\$40.00	55300-03-41500
FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING	8/5/2022		\$396.00	LABOR DAY
FOTO NEWS	ADVERTISING	8/5/2022		\$490.00	55300-03-41500

SAM'S CLUB	AQUATIC CENTER	8/10/2022		\$216.06	55420-03-50000
RIESTERER & SCHNELL	PARTS	8/10/2022	2260054	\$412.34	55200-03-50000
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER	8/9/2022		\$14.56	55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER	8/9/2022		\$22.95	55420-03-40100
DAWN SMITH	EMPLOYEE MEAL	8/10/2022	VOUCHER	\$21.08	55300-03-41500
BARBARA MONDECK	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/16/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
HORST DISTRIBUTING	50 LB BAG P.C. RED	8/2/2022	94456-001	\$558.00	55200-08-91000
HORST DISTRIBUTING	50 LB BAG P.C. RED	8/2/2022	94456-001	\$1,116.00	MERRILL BASEBALL
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	8/12/2022	1624910	\$50.45	55420-03-40100
WALMART	SUMMER PLAYGROUND	8/12/2022		\$31.42	55300-03-41500
NAPA AUTO PARTS	REFLECTORS	8/1/2022	976464	\$31.99	55200-03-40000
NAPA AUTO PARTS	CABLE TIES	8/8/2022	977661	\$13.49	55200-03-40000
MERRILL COUNTRY STORE	LAWN SEED	8/10/2022	293419	\$19.41	55200-03-40000
DAIRY QUEEN	TREATS	8/4/2022	10009	\$94.45	55300-03-41500
RIESTERER & SCHNELL	TIRE	8/10/2022	2260054	\$412.34	55200-03-50000
AMERICAN WELDING	CHEMICALS POOL	7/31/2022	8689257	\$58.82	55200-02-15000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	7/31/2022	5659702	\$80.30	55300-03-41500
AMERICAN WELDING	CHEMICALS POOL	8/5/2022	8704144	\$470.47	55420-03-50000
WPS	TRAIL LIGHTING	9/1/2022	0401276260-00191	\$74.13	
HAWKINS	CHEMICALS POOL	8/2/2022	5256111	\$1,512.00	55420-03-50000
NASSCO	SOAP AND PAPERTOWEL	8/15/2022	6194090	\$530.02	552000-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PADLOCK/BATTERY	8/1/2022	217994	\$150.95	55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	WASP AND HORNET	8/2/2022	219037	\$9.00	55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	WRIST COIL KEY CHAIN/KEY SET	8/3/2022	218069	\$6.18	55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	CABLETTE	8/8/2022	218187	\$14.99	55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	BRUSH DECK/CLEANER	7/29/2022	217933	\$44.96	55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES FOR FLOWER WATERING	7/27/2022	217963	\$27.39	55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	CABLETIE	7/29/2022	217930	\$14.99	55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	TB CLEANER	7/18/2022	217600	\$17.97	55200-03-40000
JOY ANNIS	REFUND ON FOOTBALLS	8/12/2022		\$66.63	55300-03-41500
LEIGHA LANDWEHR	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/15/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
LYNN ANDERSON	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/15/2022	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200

MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	PRETZELS	8/18/2022	1625553	\$100.00	55420-03-40100
MERRILLDISTRIBUTING	FOOD FOR AQUATIC CENTER	8/17/2022	1625362	\$86.65	55420-03-41500
WALMART	AQUATIC SUPPLIES	8/17/2022		\$22.26	55300-03-41500
LAMERS BUS LINES, INC	BUS TRIPS	7/31/2022	18850	\$1,675.00	55300-03-41500
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER	8/18/2022		\$35.91	55300-03-41500
WALMART	AQUATIC CENTER	8/18/2022		\$70.94	55300-03-41500
LEE RECREATION	VB NETS	8/18/2022	14346	\$271.50	55300-03-41500
DANIELLE MULFORD	PROGRAM CANCELLATION	8/18/2022	VOUCHER	\$20.00	
KAYLA BURROWS	SUPPLIES FOR AQUATIC CENTER	8/18/2022	VOUCHER	\$34.88	55420-03-40100
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	SILICONE	8/20/2022	218571	\$71.94	55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	FASTEMERS	8/21/2022	18274228124	\$37.70	55400-03-50000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	8/11/2022	412008551	\$142.79	55200-03-46000
HAWKINS	CHEMICALS POOL	8/12/2022	6262523	\$1,535.98	55420-03-50000
BEACON ATHLETICS	SUPPLIES FOR BALL FIELD	9/17/2022	556054	\$308.00	55200-08-91000
RIC'S SEWER SERVICE	AGRA BUILDING - DRAINS PLUGGED	8/12/2022		\$350.00	55200-02-15000
BILL SCHNEIDER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/22/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
JOHN FEHLBERG	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/22/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
PEGGY WISSBROECKER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/22/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
HEIDI DULEY	SECURITY DEPOSIT	8/22/2022	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	CLEANER	8/23/2022	218642	\$39.98	55200-03-40000
ULINE	DOG WASTE BAGS	8/12/2022	152601113	\$275.00	55200-03-40000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	GLOVES	8/25/2022	1626404	\$96.00	55200-03-40000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	8/18/2022	4128690804	\$142.79	55200-03-46000
SWIMOUTLET	UNIFORMS	7/26/2022		\$80.48	55420-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	TORCH RCIP BLD.	8/25/2022	218773	\$23.99	55200-03-40000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	8/25/2022	4129373052	\$142.79	55200-03-46000
CINTAS	MOPS/MATS	8/25/2022	412937294	\$197.21	55400-02-23250
WENDORF BUS SERVICE	BLACK SQUIRRELL SHUTTLE	8/24/2022	711	\$250.00	BLACK SQUIRREL
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	RECEPTACLE	0827-22	218795	\$22.47	55400-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	DOOR PROJECT IN ARENA	8/28/2022	218803	\$9.73	55400-03-50000
RTL ELECTRIC	SOCCER BUILDING/NON WORKING LIGHTS	8/24/2022	65340	\$712.08	55200-08-91000
HUGO'S PIZZA	SUMMER PLAYGROUND	8/12/2022		\$205.00	55300-03-41500

Parks & Recreation Department Fee Schedule and Proposed Changes

Program/Service Provided	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	How charged/duration
Little Dribblers Basketball	\$20.00 (\$30 late fee)	Same	Season
Kids in Motion	\$10.00	Same	Program
Tiny Tots Skate	\$1.00	Same	Per session
Open Skate	\$4.00	Same	Per session
Animal Art	\$10.00	Same	Program
Flag Football	\$20.00 (\$30.00 late fee)	Same	Season
Swim Day Pass	\$4.00 (ages 2-61)	Same	Daily
Swim Day Pass	\$2.00 (ages 62+ and military)	Same	Daily
Season Pass Pool Pass(Individual)	\$50 Res \$80 Non Res	Replace with punch passes	Eliminate
Season Pool Pass (Family)	\$100 Res \$130 Non Res	Replace with punch passes	Eliminate
Non Swimmer Fee	\$2.00	Same	Daily
Pool Rental 1-50 people	\$125.00/hr	Same	2 hours
Pool Rental 51-75 people	\$150.00/hr	Same	2 hours
Pool Rental 76-100 people	\$175.00/hr	Same	2 hours
Pool Rental 101 + people	\$1.00/person/hr	Same	2 hours
Pool Group Rates	\$2.00/person	Same	Groups of 50 or more
Pool Punch Passes	\$70.00 for 20 visits/\$30 for 10 visits and \$15 for 5 visits	\$70 for 25 visits/\$30 for 10 visits/\$15 for 5 visits	One "visit" equals one entry per person
Smith Center Ice Skate Pass	\$75.00 res/\$85 non res	Same	Family Season Pass
Skate Rental	\$2.00	Same	Per pair per time
5 th Quarter	\$8.00	Same	Per session 1-2 per fall season
Tee Ball	\$20.00 (\$30.00 late fee)	Same	Season
Starter Tee Ball	\$20.00 (\$30.00 late fee)	Same	Season
Nature Nuts	\$5/class	Same	Program (3 classes total)
Summer Playground	\$330.00 Res/\$380.00 Non Res	\$50 including pool & bus	Per week
Summer Playground	\$105.00 Res/\$115.00 Non Res	\$50 including pool & bus	Per week
Summer Playground	\$165.00 Res/\$190.00 Non Res	\$50 including pool & bus	Per week
Summer Playground	\$105.00 Res/\$115.00 Non Res	\$50 including pool & bus	Per week
Colorama Bicycle Ride	\$25.00 Early \$30.00 Late Reg.	Same	Special Event
Athletic Field Rental	\$30/field/day	Same	Per field per day rent
Athletic League Play	\$10.00	Same	Adult season player fee
Athletic League Play	\$5.00	\$6.00	Youth season player fee
Smith Center Arena Rental	\$350.00	Same	One day full arena rental
Park Shelter Reservations	\$55 Res \$65 Non Res	\$60	Per day (Ott's, Normal, Riverside)
Park Shelter Reservations	\$65 Res \$75 Non Res	\$70	Per day (Kitchenette, Stange)
Park Shelter Reservations	\$85 Res \$95 Non Res	\$90	Per Day (Agra Pavilion)
Birthday Party Packages	\$6, \$7, \$8.00	\$8, \$9, \$10	Per Person/party for Hotdog, Ice Cream, Pizza Parties at SMPC
Breakfast with Santa	\$3.00	Same	Suggested donation
Tree memorial	\$200.00	Same	Per Tree
Memorial bench	\$250.00	Remove	Too many benches
Smith Center Arena Sponsorship	\$500.00	Same	Per year/dasher boards
Smith Center Arena Sponsorship	\$200.00/\$400.00	Same	Per year/4'x4' or 4'x8' billboard
Smith Center Arena Sponsorship	\$200.00/\$350	Same	Per year/3x6 & 4x8 hang banner
Smith Center Arena Sponsorship	\$500.00	Same	Per season/in ice logo
Ice Rental	\$100.00/hr	\$105/hr	Per hour/out of town groups
Ice Rental	\$76.00/hr	\$78/hr	Per hour/in town user groups
Mushy, Gushy, Sticky Icky Fun	\$10.00	Same	Program
Shake Your Sillies Out	\$6.00	\$10.00	Program



THE TRAIL IS CALLING

Explore new segments. Traverse old favorites.
Invite friends. Start a family tradition.

Whichever way you choose to experience this world-class trail,
challenge yourself to log 42 miles this October. Visit 3 Trail Communities
to earn a limited-edition patch and more.

YOU'VE GOT THIS



See you out there.
REGISTER NOW.

iceagetrail.org/mammoth-hike-challenge



ICE AGE TRAIL COMMUNITY

MERRILL



Together with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Ice Age Trail Communities enhance appreciation and awareness of the natural and scenic beauty of the thousand-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Visit our Trail Communities to enjoy small-town hospitality, local supper clubs, hometown bakeries, farm-to-table eateries, and sites highlighting Wisconsin's cultural heritage.

For current trail conditions, to connect with local volunteers, or to plan your Ice Age Trail hike, visit iceagetrail.org

The **City of Merrill**, located along the scenic Wisconsin River at its confluence with the Prairie River, boasts 16 parks and more than 1,300 acres of parkland. Merrill proudly offers a small, family-friendly community with an outstanding quality of life: small-town charm, career opportunities, excellent schools, and fantastic four-season activities.



WHERE TO HIKE

Please note, Merrill is located south of the Ice Age Trail in Lincoln County. Dogs should be leashed (8-foot max) and under control at all times.

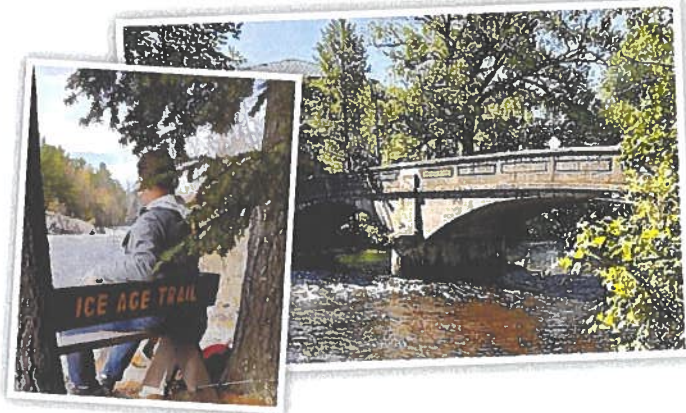
UNDERDOWN SEGMENT (6.3 MILES) AND ALTA JUNCTION SEGMENT (1.2 miles)

The hilly and forested Underdown Segment passes through the popular Underdown Recreation Area and the "Enchanted Forest," a beautiful hemlock grove next to a wetland area. Primitive camping is available on county forest lands.

A walk-in campsite halfway between Mist Lake and Dog Lake offers remote camping along with a backpacking shelter near Dog Lake. Steep climbs are hallmarks of the segment – it traverses part of the Harrison Moraine of the Wisconsin Valley lobe and its hummocky terrain.

TURTLE ROCK SEGMENT (5.1 miles)

The Turtle Rock Segment includes a beautiful and challenging trek along and near the banks of the Wisconsin River. Observant hikers will spot Turtle Rock, a huge erratic with a "turtle head" jutting skyward, a ceremonial rock used by Native Americans. Hikers will traverse thickets, forests, creeks, beaver dams, and wetlands. It may require a few hours to hike one way; however, it offers the best view of Grandfather Falls from the Wisconsin River's rocky shoreline.



GRANDFATHER FALLS SEGMENT (4.0 miles)

The segment starts at the Grandfather Falls Hydro northern parking area. View the unique boulders and sculptured rock formations caused by thousands of years of cascading water at Grandfather Falls Dam – the largest waterfall on the Wisconsin River, with a total drop of 89 feet. Keep an eye out for the Yellow Blaze as there are unmarked spur trails throughout the segment.

ALTA JUNCTION SEGMENT (1.2 miles)

This segment bears the name of the historic railroad junction of two rail lines at the Village of Dunfield (now a ghost town) built as part of the railroad network serving the area's logging industry. The route follows the east side of the North Branch of the Prairie River and is known for the natural springs bubbling up from underground water tables.

Ice Age Trail Alliance 2110 Main Street Cross Plains, WI 53528
(800) 227-0046 (608) 798-4453 iceagetrail.org



EATS & TREATS

Get your java fix along with baked goods at [First Street Coffee Station](#) or [Auntie Ray's Coffee House](#). Satisfy a post-hike sweet tooth at the [Polka Dotted Pie](#), which also serves sandwiches and wraps. Enjoy handmade, tasty slices served at the [Pizza Shop](#) or [Hugo's Pizza](#).

Get charbroiled, pure-beef burgers, and soft serve at [Chip's Hamburgers](#). [D's Dogs](#) is a restaurant specializing in authentic, Chicago-style hot dogs. Enjoy ice-cold margaritas and authentic Mexican fare at [Los Mezcales](#) or [Casa Amigos](#).

SHOPS & STOPS

Find everything you need to restock at [Westside Market](#), [Johnsons of Merrill](#), or [Dave's Country Market](#).

Find great deals on Thorogood footwear at the [Weinbrenner Outlet Store](#). And, ladies, treat yourself at [Ana Blair's Boutique](#), a store offering beautiful and comfortable pieces, curated for real women.

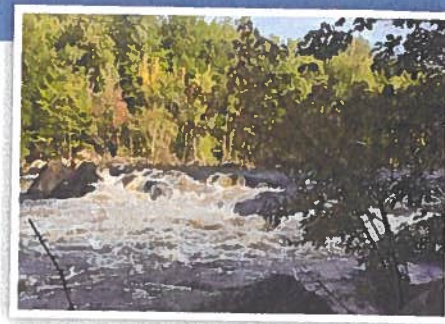
Get all things maple at [Northwoods Maple Farm](#). Challenge your friends and family to a board game from [Dragons, Daggers N' Games!](#) And, finally, browse crafts from more than 60 Wisconsin artists at the [Rivers Edge](#).

RECREATION & RELAXATION

Located along the Wisconsin River, [Council Grounds State Park](#) is a favorite for outdoor enthusiasts. The park offers campsites, trails, and an accessible fishing pier. In addition, a boat landing provides access to Lake Alexander and the Wisconsin River.

The [River Bend Trail](#) follows the Wisconsin River through Merrill. It travels from Council Grounds State Park to the Pine Ridge Shopping area offering rest areas complete with benches, interpretive panels, wayfinding signs, and fishing. Stop by the [Merrill Public Library](#) and check out the [Ice Age Trail Explorer Backpack!](#) It contains Wisconsin wildlife identification guides, binoculars, a magnifying glass, and a copy of the Ice Age Trail Guidebook and Atlas.

For more information to plan your trip, visit: merrillchamber.org/visitors-guide.



STAY & PLAY

Enjoy a peaceful rest after a long day of hiking at these lodging establishments in Merrill:

- [AmericInn Lodge & Suites](#)
- [Cobblestone Inn & Suites](#)
- [Econo Lodge](#)

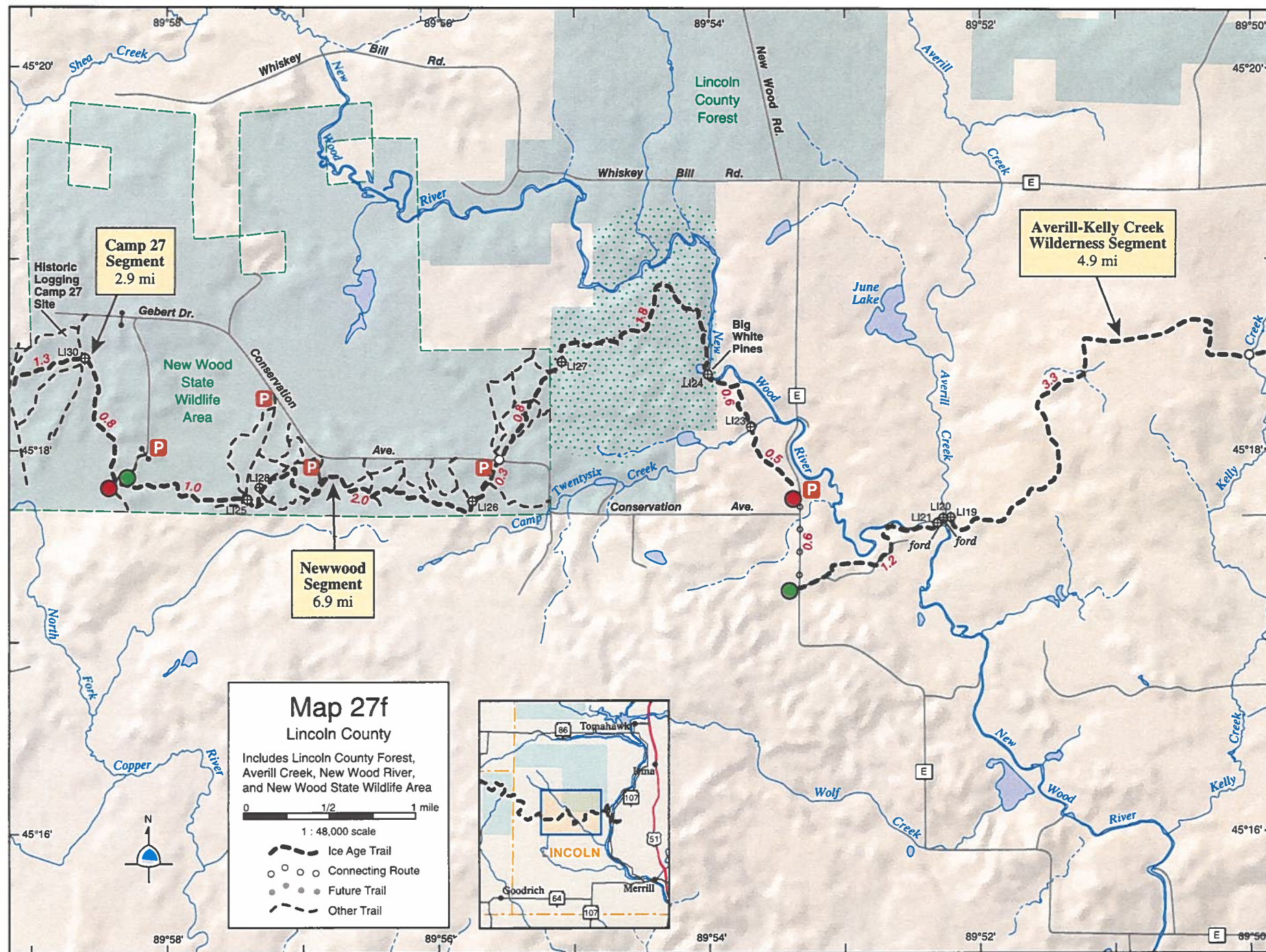
Enjoy a seasonal cabin rental at [Knight Lake Serenity Cabins](#). Beautiful views on a 14-acre lake 10 minutes north of Merrill.

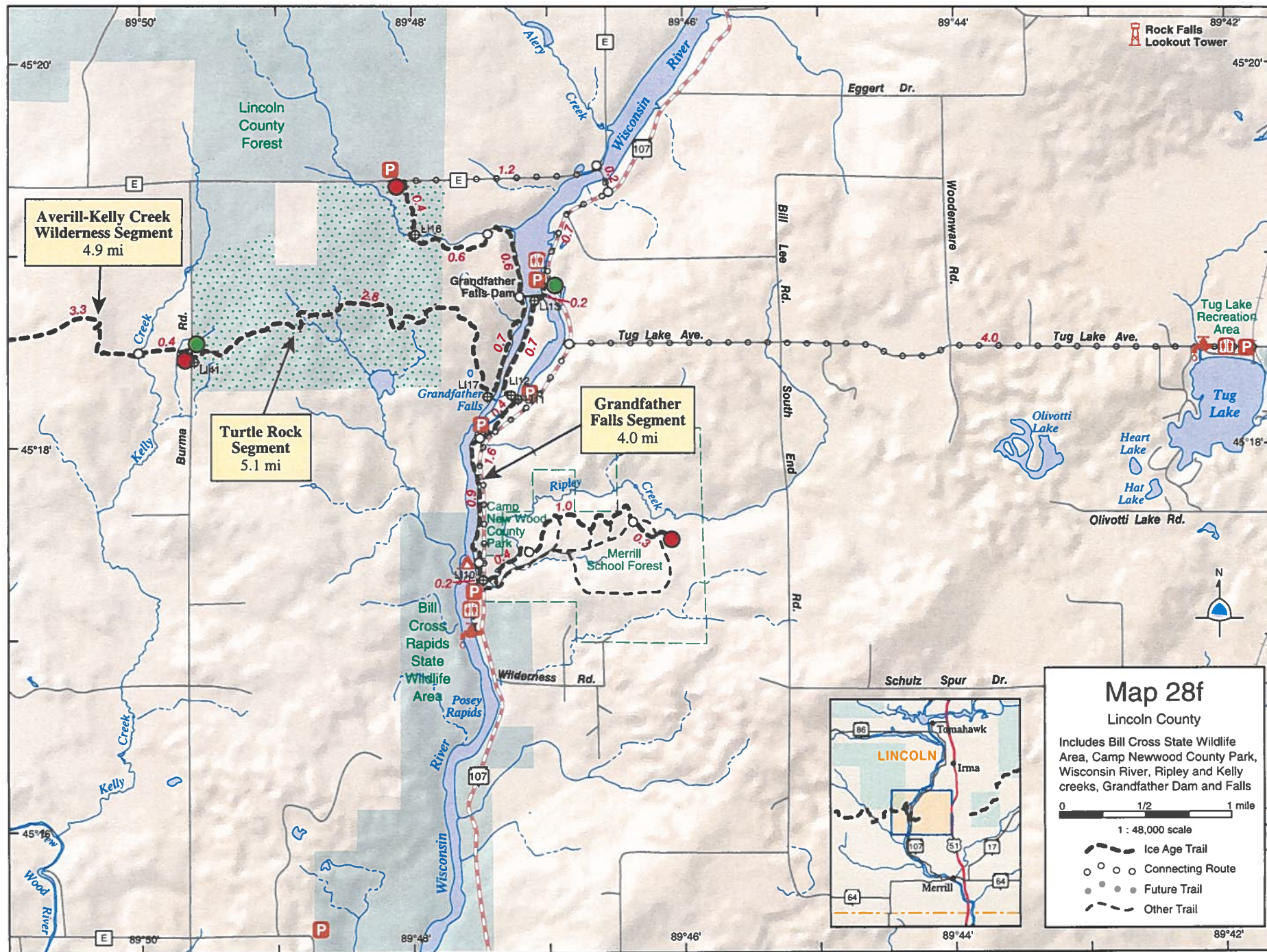
[Helene's Hilltop Orchard](#) offers family-friendly fun with its group tours, a jump pad, and more. The [Merrill Historical Society History & Culture Center](#) is a community resource dedicated to preserving the past's stories. Visit the [Merrill Historical Museum](#) to enjoy exhibits and displays about the Merrill community.

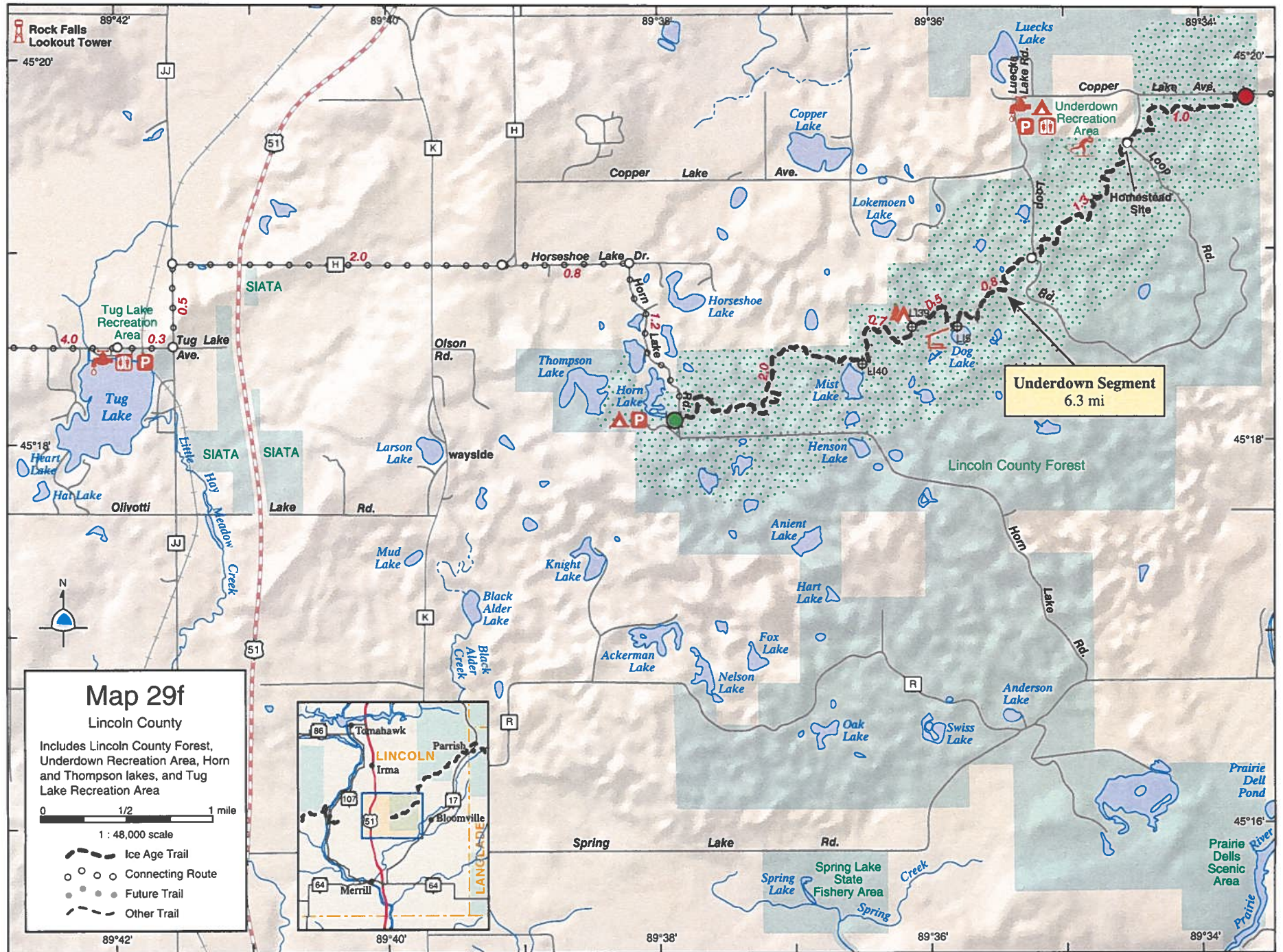
Enjoy a craft beer served from one of 16 taps at the [Sawmill Brewing Company](#). Savor a glass of wine and gourmet nosh at [Sutton's Wine Bar](#).

GET INVOLVED

Contact the [Northwoods Chapter](#) of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, a dedicated group of volunteers who build, maintain and promote the beautiful segments of the Ice Age Trail throughout Lincoln County.









September 2022 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Parks: It always amazes me how fast time goes. Here we are in September already wrapping up a great and busy summer season. Overall we had a great season; it was extremely busy for everyone which is good. Our crew (full time and seasonal) did a phenomenal job of keeping our parks, facilities, amenities, and athletic fields in great shape throughout the busy season. The Aquatic Center ran well for the most part. Our new chemical control system was helpful to us in efficiency as well as alerting us to any issues in real time and not discovering them the following morning. Otherwise we had very few mechanical issues. Shortly before we opened for the season we discovered a few areas that were leaking and we patched them but suspected we were losing some water through both of our construction joints. Immediately after we closed the pool we had Badger Pool (the contractor who built our pool) send up a few technicians and a diver to test those areas out before we drained the water. He performed a dye test in the water and confirmed what we suspected that some areas in the construction joints were leaking, as well as a few inlets in the deep well. The construction joints are an easy fix but the inlets are not so much. We are going to have Water Utility televise those inlets to hopefully try and pin point the trouble areas so we can minimize the amount of concrete removal we need to perform to re-seal our pool again. After a fairly quiet July and most of August, we have had a few vandalism things pop up once again in our usual locations. This leads into my next item nicely as I can say that thanks to the Merrill Noon Optimist Club, we have purchased security cameras for Normal Park. They will be installed when they arrive and will cover the playground area, perimeter of the building and the entire park. Hopefully we can secure funding for Stange and Kitchenette Parks for security cameras to minimize vandalism in as many areas as we can. Summer youth soccer season came to an end recently and fall softball and middle school soccer began at the MARC. We had another banner year with shelter reservations and that has continued to date. Our shelters have been extremely popular and it is great to see very high usage of our facilities. I have also finally finished all of the required/requested paperwork to finalize the grant payment for the Sumnicht property up at the City Forest. This was a very tedious process but in the end it will be worth it because of what the 70 acres will offer to the public. I am meeting with trail users on 9/1 to begin looking at future trail plans and linkages to add to our already top notch trail system up there. Over the next few weeks we will be spending some time performing necessary tasks on our heavily used athletic fields and grounds. We will be aerating, topdressing, and over seeding those areas to keep our turf areas safe and vibrant. These are necessary to keep our athletic fields in good condition for subsequent years/seasons.

Forestry: We had a few trees down from storms earlier in August but we fared pretty well otherwise besides some clean up that we performed afterwards (that didn't impact park functions or travel). As I am sure many of you have noticed, the Japanese Beetles have done some defoliating damage to a good number of trees in yards and some in our parks as well. I have had several calls regarding those pests and the defoliation they cause. For the most part, trees can handle defoliation for several seasons as long as the root system stays watered and healthy. It is not great for tree health but it

is not an immediate death sentence for that tree either. I will be starting to spend more time over the next month or two with tree inspections for fall tree pruning's/removals as well as preparing for our fall tree plantings. We will remain aggressive as always with our plantings to accomplish our goal of planting many more trees than we remove. I also had a number of private hazard trees that I wrote notices to that were removed by the owners, and I had one that hasn't so we are going through the abatement process to remove the tree with the Street Crew.

Recreation: As previously mentioned, summer literally flew by and we had another very successful recreation season. We had really good numbers in all of our programs and good feedback as well. Summer Playground was very successful as well. We had really good numbers all summer long and it went very well. It was a learning experience for both our staff and our users with the online registration system but we got through it and I think will only improve. The hours for Summer Playground this past summer were brought up towards the end of our last meeting and discussed a bit. As I mentioned at the last meeting, this is a program and not day care so we have to run it so that it fits with our staff and our budget. Like everything, we review our operations and will continue to discuss. The 3:00 p.m. end time was consistent with school schedules that everyone follows during a school year. This end time allowed us some staff flexibility and fit our budget and program. We are never going to fit everyone's schedule perfectly so we need to design the program so that it works well for a majority of our users and it works for our department and staff. Flag Football registrations were completed, teams divided up, and practices have begun. Games will begin the weekend of our meeting and we are looking forward to hopefully another great season. We also have our annual Colorama Fall Bike Ride coming up on September 24th this year with hopefully another great number of riders visiting our community. I will fill everyone in on Labor Day Parade & Festivities at the meeting but we are once again prepared for hosting the entire event for another year. I would also like to inform you that our Ice Age Trail Community application has been processed and our community profile has been published. So that means we are officially an Ice Age Trail Community. I have included our profile in your packet as well as information on the Mammoth Hike Challenge that will be taking place in our area trails and will benefit our City. I am also working with our local chapter and with Ice Age staff to do a recognition event for us becoming a member and will keep you informed on that as I know more. I also did a TV interview with WJFW Newswatch 12 on Thursday, August 25th on our Tourism Grant opportunities with Clyde Nelson, Chamber Director.

Smith Center: We have been spending some time getting some projects done in and around the arena after we had summer ice and before we need to get things in order for the long winter ice season. We also hosted several events in the arena including two very large ones (Sierra Pacific company picnic and Trinity Church/School Block Party). Those two events alone combined for over 1,000 people and both entities were extremely happy with our facility and service. We are also hosting the annual Paper Cities Kennel Club Dog Show at the Smith Center from 9/9 through 9/11/2022 that will draw hundreds of people into our community and to our facility again. We also have our 15th Annual Lincoln Lager Barleyfest on 10/1/2022 inside the Smith Center before we get ready to install the ice for another season. Like I mentioned above, I would like to sincerely thank all of our staff members for their hard work over during this past busy summer season. We are fortunate to have a great staff all around, and they deserve a very big THANK YOU!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director