



## OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department, Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation, or Sub-unit thereof.

*Meeting of the:*

### **PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

*Date/Time:*

Monday, August 1, 2016 @ **4:30 p.m. – Regular Scheduled Meeting**

*Location:*

City Hall (407 Grant Street, Wausau 54403) - **Board Room**

*Date/Time:*

Monday, August 1, 2016 @ **5:30 p.m. – Public Meeting - Emerald Ash Borer**

*Location:*

**Street Tree Management Plan**

City Hall, (407 Grant Street, Wausau 54403) - **Council Chambers**

*Members:*

Gehin, Gisselman, Neal, Nutting, Peckham (c)

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION** (All items listed may be acted upon)

1. Call Regular Meeting to Order
2. Public Comment on Matters Appearing on the Agenda
3. Approve Minutes – July 11, 2016
4. 2017+ Fee Directive – Discussion and Possible Action on Setting Fees for 2017+
5. Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail – Presentation by the Village of Weston on the Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail and Possible Action
6. JoJo’s Jungle Adaptive Playground – Report and Discussion on Project Progress
7. Emerald Ash Borer Street Tree Management Plan – Public Meeting in the City Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m. - Discussion and Possible Action on an Emerald Ash Borer Street Tree Management Plan
8. Project Update
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Next Regular Meeting – To Be Determined
11. Adjourn

Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to Jodi Luebbe (Park Office) @ (715) 261-1560.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and faxed to the Wausau Daily Herald newsroom on \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ **M**

Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids & services. For information or to request this service, contact the City Clerk, at 407 Grant Street, Wausau WI 54403 or Ph# (715) 261-6620.

Others Distribution: Media, WSD-Admin, Alderpersons, Mayor, Duncanson, Knotek, Maryanne Groat, Brad Lenz, Eric Lindman, Brad Karger, Wisconsin Woodchucks, A. Werth, Wausau Events

**DRAFT**

**CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date/Time: July 11, 2016 at 4:30p.m. Location: Board Room, City Hall

Members Present: Joe Gehin, Gary Gisselman, Tom Neal, David Nutting, Pat Peckham (c)

Others Present: Bill Duncanson-Director, Blaine Peterson-City Forester, Robert Mielke - Mayor, Dennis Smith – Councilperson, Dan Fiorenza-Park Dept, Andy Sims-Park Dept, Eliza Christopher-UWSP, Steve McKay-UWSP, Tara Alfonso-Asst. Attorney, Matt Barnes-Police Dept, Courtney Terlecki-Channel 9

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. It was noted that there was a quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Peckham at 4:30 p.m.

Public comments – none brought forward.

Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Nutting, second by Gehin to approve the Park and Recreation Committee June 6th, 2016 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Restrooms in Neighborhood Parks – Discussion and Possible Action on the Current Role of Neighborhood Parks and the Associated Facilities Needed to Fulfill that Role – Duncanson explained there are standards for the different types of parks and the typical facilities and services provided. A neighborhood park serves the neighborhood and is meant to be visited for a shorter period of time so there is not off-street parking or restrooms. The only City parks with restrooms are community parks/special facility parks such as Athletic, Brockmeyer, Oak Island and by the kayak course/farm market area. The only time neighborhood parks have temporary restrooms is if there are sports fields used by youth leagues. Nutting said this has been past practice for a very long time. Smith understood the reasoning but wondered if something could be considered for Reservoir Park which has a shelter and grills. He felt it was a very nice park where people could have a day-long cookout. Duncanson reiterated that there are community parks with more facilities like parking, reservable shelters and restrooms which encourage longer stays. Marathon Park is a short distance away from Reservoir Park. Duncanson said it would cost approximately \$600.00 a month to bring in a single handicapped accessible porta-pottie. Smith said sometimes things change and the porta-pottie wouldn't have to be there year round. He felt it odd that restroom facilities were not provided at Reservoir Park when it has shelter and grills. He was not sure what other parks had for amenities. He wondered if the policy could be looked at as they are going into a new budget year. He did acknowledge that if one was brought there it could snowball to other parks. He hoped it is something that could be considered in the future as the people around the park would really appreciate it. Ryan said a number of the residents take their children to that park and have expressed concerns even just about changing their babies. She has heard that because it is such a quiet park that people with autism or other developmental disabilities use the park. Ryan also said that a lot of neighborhood people watch the fireworks from the park and also Reservoir Park has the water available right there. There are a lot of additions and new parks but they shouldn't forget about the neighborhood parks because those parks should be included with basic services too. Duncanson said that with the addition of restroom and other facilities it will become more attractive to more people outside of the neighborhood. That is something the neighborhood needs to consider. Ryan said the neighbors were asking for it at this point and she said if they do this for a number of parks the \$600.00 price may decrease. Neal questioned if the department would bring in porta-potties for family events. Duncanson recommended against that because it is a level of service not offered to people anywhere else. Peckham said a group he belongs to was renting a porta-pottie themselves for their event. Ryan thought there would be continued interest in having restroom facilities.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan - Discussion and Possible Action on the EAB Background Information and Potential Management Options to be Presented at the Upcoming Public Information Meeting – Duncanson wanted the Committee to keep in mind a couple constraints as they figure out the alternatives to managing the Emerald Ash Borer. One is that there is not any State or Federal grant money that will help out local government or private citizens so whatever is done the City should plan on paying for it themselves. Whatever private homeowners chose to do they should plan on paying for it themselves. Another constraint is that they can look at the alternatives to rapidly remove a lot of trees or rapidly treat a lot of trees but currently there are not private sector resources in the community to do huge amounts of work even just for the City street trees let alone all the park trees trees, private trees, and the surrounding communities. The City may have to do some longer term planning. Internally, the urban

forestry staff is already way understaffed for the population of trees we manage. Staff has come up with a number of good resources from either State or Federal sources that can be distributed to the public. Basic information such as what ash trees and the Emerald Ash Borer look like, if a homeowner's ash tree is worth treating, and how big the ash borer problem is nationally. Duncanson felt information should also be provided about the benefits of trees and what they mean to the City. The benefits include storm water mitigation, helps property values, reduces energy use for heating and cooling which save on costs, helps air quality, etc.

Duncanson discussed management considerations that have been developed by UWSP to help communities such as Wausau. Formulations of how to consider cost and benefits can be developed for different scenarios. He discussed the variables taken into consideration which include for Wausau the starting average ash diameter of 11.28", the starting population of trees which is 5200, the removal cost of \$8.00 (low – closer average is \$13.00), treatment cost which is \$7.50/diameter inch, replacement tree size of 1.25", replacement cost of \$60, and installation cost of \$50. The findings show the different results considering a variety of alternatives that include doing nothing, treatment, preemptive removal, preemptive removal and replant, and no EAB. Duncanson compared and discussed some of the findings for the management alternatives including if nothing is done, if they are chemically treated, if there is no Emerald Ash Borer, if there is preemptive removal and replanting, or if there is preemptive removal without replanting. The findings show the number of trees surviving, trees lost, and the net values for the different management options. Duncanson discussed the treatment options for various percentages of trees including 100%, 70%, or 50% over a seven year span. Seven years may be good number to look at because the community doesn't have private or internal resources to address this in a real rapid manner, it knows costs will change, and there may be much more successful chemical treatments in the future. Sims said the current treatment lasts for two years so for a constant budget item we would treat half the population annually. Duncanson said this also helps because he questions if they can get to everything in one year. He also said the costs don't vary hugely with the different percentages. With removal and replacement depending on how aggressive they are, at some point the ash runs out and then they aren't being treated anymore and that's where the decision ends. The City is going to have to pick what it can afford over time and figure out how long that is. Duncanson discussed another scenario where over seven years all 5200 City street trees are removed and replaced. His sense is that is more aggressive than we can afford. Gehin questioned why ash was initially selected for City street trees. Peterson said that ash were selected because they are fast growing, very tolerant, and have strong wood. They take dry and wet sites and are transplantable in the spring and fall. Accordingly, it was heavily used as a replacement for elm. He believes cost was a big factor years ago. He noted that Eau Claire has 60% of their street trees in ash while Wausau has 20 to 25%. Peterson spoke about other species that are planted including honey-locust, maple, some pears, hackberry, swamp white oak, lindens. He noted that bottomland trees do better as street trees because they are tougher. Peckham said Committee needs to decide what they would like to do and Finance Committee will figure out if the City can afford it. Neal felt the information was laid out well and they need to send forward a recommendation. Peterson felt because the City's tree inventory show that 20% to 25% of the ash are not in real good condition and some are in poor sites so he believes 70% is what they should be looking at. He felt 50% would be really aggressive. Duncanson agreed with the 70% and said if nothing improves in treatment alternatives then continue taking out 30% of the trees every seven years. Neal asked about the treatment types of boring into the ground or the soil drenching. Sims said the injection goes directly into the tree, is effective for two years and can be done for a good part of the growing season. The soil drench is one year and has a narrower window for application of early spring and fall. Nutting hoped staff could display pictures of the cities that have lost their ash canopy at the public meeting. Peterson noted that the City has not planted any ash since 2004. **Motion** by Neal, second by Nutting to go to the public meeting with a 70% treatment scenario with a clear indication of associated costs over the years and the financial impacts of the value lost or gained. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

400 Block Regulations - Discussion and Possible Action on the Role of the Park and Recreation Committee in Regulating the use of Park and Recreation Lands and Facilities Including Alcohol –Duncanson said that the parks offer opportunities for all residents and the use of parks involves rules. The 400 Block is a specialty type park and part of the reason it was made a park and not general public lands is that it is not legal to drink on general public lands and alcohol is allowed in parks. The downtown area is focal point of the community and is part of the daily television news so what happens there reflects directly on the community. He also believes that consideration needs to be taken with other broad use specialized areas downtown and they should not just think about alcohol, but also about pets, smoking, and language because these areas will be intensively used. Neal felt there were already statutes on the books that were enforceable for certain behaviors associated with intoxication and this would be creating something going beyond what is already in place in an effort to solve something that is exhibited by a small number

of people. If enforcement occurred on existing ordinances to a greater degree perhaps there could be a better impact on the perceived problem. So is it a question of restricting peoples privileges in the parks because of having a hard time enforcing against a few a few people abusing the privilege. Peckham felt the problem is that these types of actions have to be witnessed and the police don't have enough hours to witness everything there. Barnes said they are talking about ordinances that are enforced with citations and that to the individuals exhibiting these behaviors citations aren't worth the paper they are written on. The average citizen offended by the behaviors doesn't want to have to get involved as a witness and everything that involves. The Police Department doesn't have the staff to be at the 400 Block all hours of the day which he is not even sure is the message the City wants to send. He said they also have to very careful with the ordinances for public intoxication because if they are just looking for signs of impairment in intoxicated individuals he would also have to write citations on Wednesday concert nights also. Neal felt there were people there that were not drinking but still exhibited poor behavior. Barnes agreed and said there also may be some individuals that may suffer from mental illness and that was a component of the overall problem. Discussion followed regarding intoxication, incapacitation and public nuisance concepts. Barnes said he understands some people will be disenfranchised but he felt that would be the case no matter what the decision is. He felt they will be back to talk about these issues regarding other downtown area parks and trails along the riverfront. That is a component for any decisions made because of the image necessary for the downtown to keep growing and be vibrant. Neal felt this issued deserved some time and creative thinking maybe partnering with downtown businesses before decisions were made. Peckham also wondered if a subcommittee should look at the issue. Nutting disagreed and felt it was necessary to take action. He is a representative of the 400 Block and the residents that live in and around there are asking for a change to be made. He has witnessed these behaviors himself and feels it is a front and center location that is far different from a gazebo that is hidden away. The 400 Block is a premiere park and to see areas of it disgraced and abused is an affront to all the people who have visited, encouraged and invested in its development. Committee members felt this was good discussion in advance of tomorrow night's Council meeting.

Park and Recreation Fees – Discussion and Possible Action on the Philosophy and Process for Establishing Park and Recreation Fees – tabled

JoJo's Jungle Adaptive Playground – Report and Discussion on Project Progress – no report

Storm Damage – Report and Discussion on the Impacts and Future Ramifications of the June 5, 2016 Storm – Peterson explained that the initial cleanup was quick but it will take into the fall to get to all of the stumps that remain from the storm. There are still a lot trees that need to be inspected for damage including park trees. It is a slow process and he is also spending time on Emerald Ash borer along with the routine tree work so the June 6<sup>th</sup> storm has set things back.

Recreation Program Update – report on swimming, playgrounds, tennis and soccer camp, attendance had previously been distributed.

Project Update

Schulenburg Pool – Demolishing of the existing pool and bath house is underway and will be followed by excavation for the new bath house and pool.

Sylvan Hill Bike Park – A draft of the design/build request for proposals has been sent to representatives from CWOCC for review. Park staff will issue the RFP once comments have been received.

Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, August 1, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room, City Hall

Adjourn - **Motion** by Neal, second by Nutting to adjourn at 4:35 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

**CITY OF WAUSAU  
COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE**

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

Change in Fee				
New Fee				
FEE, LICENSE, PERMIT, CHARGES DESCRIPTION	2016 RATE	2017 SHELTER RATES	PROPOSED RATE 2017	PROPOSED RATE 2018 SHELTERS
Administrative Fee	\$25.00		\$25.00	
Administrative Fee for Contracts w/Insurance	\$25.00		\$25.00	
Boat Launch - Annual Sticker	\$25.00		\$25.00	
Boat Launch - Business Sticker	\$50.00		\$50.00	
Boat Launch - Daily Pass	\$4.00		\$5.00	
Boat Launch - Additional Sticker	\$10.00		\$10.00	
Boat Launch - Replacement Sticker	\$10.00		\$10.00	
Boat Launch - Violation Notice	\$25.00		\$25.00	
Playground Program- Resident	\$31.00		\$32.00	
Playground Program - Non Resident	\$40.00		\$41.00	
Tennis Program - Resident - Child 5-6 yrs.	\$20.00		\$21.00	
Tennis Program - Resident - Child 7 and Older	\$40.00		\$41.00	
Tennis Program - NonRes - Child 5-6 yrs.	\$25.00		\$26.00	
Tennis Program - NonRes - Child 7 and Older	\$52.00		\$54.00	
Tennis Program - Family - Res (2-4 people)	\$65.00		\$67.00	
Tennis Program - Family - Res (each additional)	\$10.00		\$11.00	
Tennis Program - Family - NonRes (2-4 people)	\$85.00		\$88.00	
Tennis Program - Family-NonRes (each additional)	\$13.00		\$14.00	
Soccer Camp - Resident Over Sponsor Fee	\$15.00		\$16.00	
Soccer Camp - Non Resident Over Sponsor Fee	\$20.00		\$21.00	
Dog Gone Snow Stomp/ Pool Party - ages 14 and over	\$5/person		\$5/person	
Tubing - Daily - Youth Admission	\$6.50		\$6.50	
Tubing - Daily - Youth 4 Admissions	\$24.50		\$24.50	
Tubing - Daily - Youth 8 Admissions	\$48.00		\$48.00	
Tubing - Daily - Youth 12 Admissions	\$71.50		\$71.50	
Tubing - Daily - Adult Admission	\$9.00		\$9.00	
Tubing - Daily - Adult 4 Admission	\$34.00		\$34.00	
Tubing - Daily - Adult 8 Admission	\$66.50		\$66.50	
Tubing - Daily - Adult 12 Admission	\$99.00		\$99.00	
Tubing Private Rental - 1 Tow	\$365 min		\$365 min	
Tubing Private Rental - 2 Tows	\$570 min		\$570 min	
Swim Lesson - Resident - Parent-Child	\$14.00		\$15.00	
Swim Lesson - Resident - Pre-School	\$20.00		\$21.00	
Swim Lesson - Resident - Levels 1-5	\$34.00		\$35.00	
Swim Lessons - NonRes - Parent-Child	\$18.00		\$19.00	
Swim Lessons - NonRes - Pre-School	\$25.00		\$26.00	
Swim Lessons - NonRes - Levels 1-5	\$42.00		\$43.00	
Water Exercise - Resident-Fall/Winter Session	\$40.00		\$41.00	
Water Exercise - NonRes - Fall/Winter Session	\$50.00		\$52.00	
Swim - Season Pass - Resident - Youth	\$30.00		\$30.00	
Swim - Season Pass - Resident - Adult	\$45.00		\$45.00	
Swim - Season Pass - Resident - Family	\$70 + \$10 each addtl		\$70 + \$10 each addtl	
Swim - Season Pass - NonResident - Youth	\$40.00		\$40.00	
Swim - Season Pass - NonResident - Adult	\$60.00		\$60.00	
Swim - Season Pass - NonResident - Family	\$95 + \$15 each addtl		\$95 + \$15 each addtl	
Swim - Agency Pass	\$30.00		\$35.00	
Swim - Agency Pass per visit Kaiser, Memorial, Schulenburg Pools	\$1.00/person		\$1.00/person	
<del>Swim - Agency Pass per visit Schulenburg Pool</del>	<del>\$0.50/person</del>		<del>\$0.50/person</del>	
Fee to Replace Lost Pass (1st One is FREE)	\$2.00		\$2.00	

**CITY OF WAUSAU  
COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE**

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

Change in Fee

New Fee

FEE, LICENSE, PERMIT, CHARGES DESCRIPTION	2016 RATE	2017 SHELTER RATES	PROPOSED RATE 2017	PROPOSED RATE 2018 SHELTERS
<del>Swim - Daily Admittance - Youth (1-17) - 1p-7:50p Mem., Schu.</del>	<del>\$1.00</del>		<del>\$1.00</del>	
<del>Swim - Daily Admittance - Adult (18-59) - 1p-7:50p Mem., Schu.</del>	<del>\$1.00</del>		<del>\$1.00</del>	
<del>Swim - Daily Admittance - Senior (60+) - 1p-7:50p Mem., Schu.</del>	<del>\$1.00</del>		<del>\$1.00</del>	
<del>Swim - Daily Admittance - Youth (1-17) - 6p-7:50p Mem., Schu.</del>	<del>\$0.50</del>		<del>\$0.50</del>	
<del>Swim - Daily Admittance - Adult (18-59) - 6p-7:50p Mem., Schu.</del>	<del>\$0.50</del>		<del>\$0.50</del>	
<del>Swim - Daily Admittance - Senior (60+) - 6p-7:50p Mem., Schu.</del>	<del>\$0.50</del>		<del>\$0.50</del>	
Swim - Daily Admittance - Youth (1-17)- 1p-7:50p Kaiser, Mem& Schu	\$2.00		\$2.00	
Swim - Daily Admittance - Adult(18-59) - 1p-7:50p Kaiser,Mem & Schu	\$3.00		\$3.00	
Swim - Daily Admittance - Senior (60+) - 1p-7:50p Kaiser, Mem & Schu	\$2.00		\$2.00	
Swim - Daily Admittance - Youth (1-17) - 6p-7:50p Kaiser, Mem & Schu	\$1.00		\$1.00	
Swim - Daily Admittance - Adult (18-59)- 6p-7:50p Kaiser, Mem & Schu	\$2.00		\$2.00	
Swim - Daily Admittance - Senior (60+) - 6p-7:50p Kaiser, Mem & Schu	\$1.00		\$1.00	
Swim - Daily Admittance - Infants <1 - 1p-7:50p All pools	Free		Free	
Swim - Wednesdays - Youth, Adult, Senior (60+) 6p-7:50p All pools	Free		Free	
Swimming Pools Rental no Waterslides	\$250.00		\$250.00	
Swimming Pools Rental with Waterslides	\$300.00		\$300.00	
Parks - Non-Exclusive Use - NonCommrc/day	\$129.00	\$134.00		\$138.00
Parks - Non-Exclusive Use - Commercial/day	\$263.00	\$274.00		\$282.00
Parks - Oak Island Shelter - NonCommrc/day	\$137.00	\$142.00		\$146.00
Parks - Oak Island Shelter - Commercial/day	\$284.00	\$295.00		\$304.00
Parks - PleasantView Shelter - NonComm/day	\$91.00	\$95.00		\$98.00
Parks - PleasantView Shelter-Commercial/day	\$185.00	\$192.00		\$198.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter-NonComm-1-200/day	\$203.00	\$211.00		\$217.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - Comm - 1-200 /day	\$419.00	\$436.00		\$449.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - NonComm - 201-300	\$337.00	\$350.00		\$361.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - Comm - 201-300/day	\$698.00	\$726.00		\$748.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - NonComm - 301-400	\$476.00	\$495.00		\$510.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - Comm - 301-400/day	\$984.00	\$1,023.00		\$1,054.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - Summr Mtg 1-50/ hr	\$37.00	\$38.00		\$39.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - Summr Mtg 50+/hr	\$45.00	\$47.00		\$48.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - Winter Mtg 1-50/hr	\$45.00	\$47.00		\$48.00
Parks - Riverside Shelter - Winter Mtg 50+/hr	\$50.00	\$52.00		\$54.00
Parks - Sylvan Hill Chalet - Non-Commercl/day	\$203.00	\$211.00		\$217.00
Parks - Sylvan Hill Chalet - Commercial/day	\$419.00	\$436.00		\$449.00
Parks - Sylvan Hill Chalet - Meeting 1-50/hr	\$37.00	\$38.00		\$39.00
Parks - Sylvan Hill Chalet - Meeting 50+/hr	\$45.00	\$47.00		\$48.00
Athletic Park Baseball w/o admission / game	\$83.00		\$85.00	
Athletic Park Baseball with admission/game plus 10% of gross admission	\$83.00		\$85.00	
Athletic Park Field Lights / hour	\$26.00		\$27.00	
Athletic Park - Non-Baseball Activities	Negotiable		Negotiable	
Ball Diamonds - Organized Adult or Comm Use	\$29.00		\$30.00	
Sports Fields - Organized Adult or Comm Use	\$30.00		\$30.00	
Sports Fields - Organized Youth or Comm Use	\$20.00		\$20.00	
Tennis Courts - Public Use	Free		Free	
Tennis Courts - Reserved Use - Non Comm	Free		Free	
Tennis Courts - Commercial or Private Use/hr	\$5.00		\$5.00	

July 27, 2016

City of Wausau  
Attn: Park and Rec Committee  
212 River Drive  
Wausau, WI 54403-5476

Dear Committee Members,

In 2014, the Village of Weston completed an update to its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Among the Village's CORP objectives is a desire to link its park and recreational system development with community and tourism development, as well as collaborate with other public, non-profit, private entities to expand recreational opportunities.

The Village's CORP includes as a major initiative the establishment and enhancement of a Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail. In overview, the proposed Water Trail would be a designated route for paddling or floating along a waterway with strategically located access points. With the support of the Marathon County Environmental Impact Fund and private foundations, the Village will in 2016 develop a water trailhead at the Ross Avenue bridge as an important start. Village crews have also completed earth-moving at Yellow Banks Park to further improve the existing river access point there.

The Village recently completed the attached preliminary vision document, entitled "Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail—The Adventure in Our Own Backyard", to further describe and advance this initiative. Some of the identified launch sites already exist in some form, a few are well-maintained, others would benefit from safety and access improvements, and a couple do not exist yet in any form. Our aim is a cohesive system of launch sites across throughout the communities along the river, along with modest improvements along the river. Common signage, for example, would provide the trail user confidence when choosing locations to put in and put out. We think more obvious and safer parking options are also needed.

The Village of Weston believes a project of this scale is best accomplished through intergovernmental collaboration and County involvement. We are now seeking further support from Marathon County and other municipalities that share the trail to knit these first steps into a bigger system. The proposed Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail route spans at least four municipalities.

What we are requesting from your municipality at this point is two things. First, we welcome continued discussion and adjustment of the Water Trail concept—our clear desire is that this be a collaborative regional project. Second, we request that your Board or Council consider adopting a support resolution along the lines of the attached model. We believe that this will both raise the profile of the project and better position



Daniel Guild  
Administrator/C.A.O  
Cell: 715-571-9693  
dguild@westonwi.gov

5500 Schofield Avenue  
Weston, WI 54476  
715-359-6114  
www.westonwi.gov

it for implementation and funding. If you decide to take this step, please share the signed resolution with me; we'd also encourage you to forward it to the Marquette County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

The Village of Weston hopes you will consider support what you agree is a worthy endeavor supporting recreation, resource preservation, quality-of-life, and economic growth in our area. Village staff are anxious to advance the Water Trail, and are available for questions and discussion at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

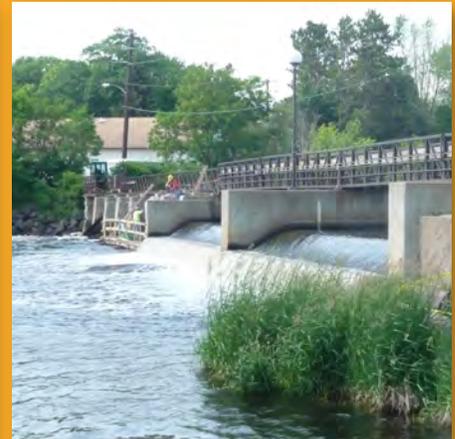
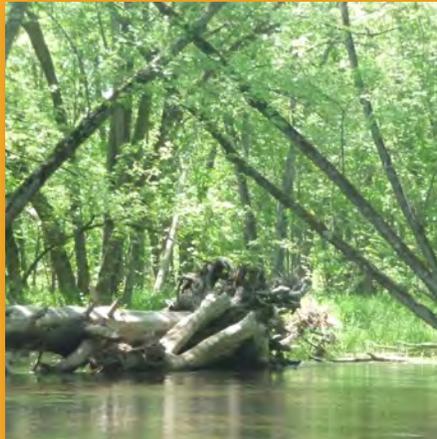
Daniel Guild  
Weston Village Administrator



Daniel Guild  
Administrator/C.A.O  
Cell: 715-571-9693  
dguild@westonwi.gov

5500 Schofield Avenue  
Weston, WI 54476  
715-359-6114  
www.westonwi.gov

# Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail



The Adventure in Our Own Backyard



# Our Vision

Our vision is for an enhancement of a Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail that...

- Expands opportunities for safe and fun paddling and floating.
- Grows recreational-based tourism development in the Wausau-Weston-Ringle area.
- Builds on related initiatives, like Wausau's master plan for the Eau Claire River Conservancy.
- Includes safe and well-marked put-in and take-out spots along the river, and advises people on how to get to these spots and navigate once there.
- Connects to and enhances destinations along the river, including parks and conservancies, campgrounds, school forests, and neighborhoods.
- Advances opportunities for land-based trails, picnic spots, and other activities along the river.
- Provides a consistent and appealing image through signage and informational materials.



## What is a water trail?

A designated route for paddling or floating along a waterway with strategically located access points; similar to hiking trails and bikeways but with one difference: **the “trail” already exists.**

## Benefits:

- Recreation
- Economic
- Quality of Life/Health
- Education/Information
- Resource Stewardship
- Community Identity

## Finding A Put-in Spot

Paddling and floating down the lower Eau Claire River is a rite of summer for many residents in the Weston-Wausau-Ringle area. The river offers a natural escape, a range of experiences, a path to healthy living, and most of all, fun! To date, most paddling occurs on an informal basis, sometimes offering a mixed quality of experience and safety. Many area residents are not aware of what the lower Eau Claire River has to offer, and others may be reluctant to canoe or kayak the river. Further, paddling down the river is not on the navigation chart of most visitors to the area.

Much of the proposed water trail goes through the Village of Weston. The trail also goes through parts of Wausau, Schofield, and Ringle, and passes by lands in the hands of scouting organizations, the D.C. Everest School District, and other organizations. This calls for an intergovernmental, collaborative approach to trail conception, development, and implementation.

## Going with the Flow

The idea of a water trail is not a new one, and paddling or floating down the river already provides a special experience for many people each summer.

The river, itself, is of course the most valuable asset. It is navigable from spring until late summer, and has few obstructions. During spring and early summer, when water levels are higher, the river provides an exhilarating experience for beginners and a test for more experienced paddlers. Later in the summer, the river takes on a lazier character, bringing out more first-

timers and tubers. Starting in Ringle, then Weston, then Wausau, and finally Schofield, the character of the river shifts. In most places, the views from the water are similar to what they might have been 200 years ago.

There are already several launch sites that many people use each warm summer day. Some, like the County's launch site along Ringle Avenue in Ringle, are well-marked, include at least basic parking, a picnic spot, and a reasonable launch site. Others, like a spot at the County Highway J bridge in Weston, are very informal and not always safe in their present condition. Safety deficiencies at this and other spots often result from little to no parking, heavier car and truck traffic, and very informal or hidden put-in/take-out locations.

The communities along the river, Marathon County, local outfitters, and others also recognize the value and potential of the river in their efforts and plans. For example, the City of Wausau has recently established a master plan for its Eau Claire River Conservancy—City-owned land on the northern shore of the river. The land has a series of oxbow lakes, making it an ideal place to kayak and canoe.

The Village of Weston has, through its 2015 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, identified the water trail as a priority initiative. To advance that initiative, the Village has constructed a modern launch and parking lot at the Ross Avenue Bridge (see Fig. 1). This project was supported through grants from Marathon County, the B.A. and Esther Greenheck Foundation, and the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin. The Village is exploring similar improvements at Yellow Banks Park and the County Highway J bridge area, which are in need of funding support.

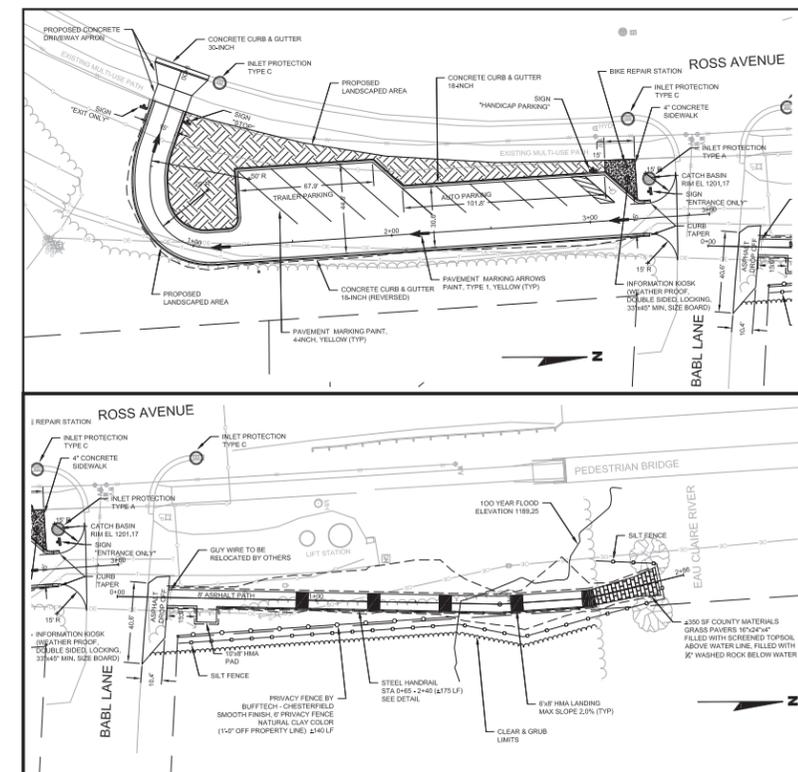


Figure 1: Engineering drawings for Ross Avenue Bridge river access point, including parking area, ramp and river launch, guided recent improvements at this site and may be a model for parking and access improvements at other spots.

**Canoeists on the Kickapoo spent over \$1.2 million in rural southwest Wisconsin.\* (1999)**

**\*Johnson, Lindsay “Case Studies of Water Trail Impacts on Rural Communities.” Masters Thesis, University of Oregon, 2002. p.102.**

## Economic Benefit

The economic impact of recreation water trails has been documented by a number of studies since the early 2000s. For example, in 2012 the Outdoor Industry Foundation estimated that the annual national active outdoor recreation economy, including resources such as hiking trails and water trails, contributed \$646 billion to the U.S. economy.<sup>1</sup> In a 2009 study of the economic impact of the Rogue River in Oregon, ECONorthwest found that river-based recreation contributed at least \$30 million annually to the surrounding local economies.<sup>2</sup> In 2008, the North Carolina Paddle Tourism Study estimated that paddlers spent more than \$1 million dollars annually on paddle trips in North Carolina.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Outdoor Recreation Economy. 2012. Outdoor Industry Association. [https://outdoorindustry.org/pdf/OIA\\_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf](https://outdoorindustry.org/pdf/OIA_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf) May 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Helvoigt, Ted L. ECONorthwest. 2009 Regional Economic Impacts on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River. [http://www.oregonwild.org/sites/default/files/pdf-files/Rogue\\_Economic\\_Impact\\_Report.pdf](http://www.oregonwild.org/sites/default/files/pdf-files/Rogue_Economic_Impact_Report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Beedle, Jennifer. 2008 Paddle Tourism Study: North Carolina State Trails Program. 2008. [www.ncparks.gov/About/docs/paddle\\_report.pdf](http://www.ncparks.gov/About/docs/paddle_report.pdf). June 2012.



### The Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail

- Existing or Proposed Access Point
- Existing Land Trail
- Proposed Land Trail
- Public Park
- Private Recreational Land
- School District Land

This page shows the 15-mile extent of the Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail, existing and proposed access points, distances between points, other key spots along the river, and improvement opportunities. These opportunities focus on parking, ramp, picnic, restroom, and signage/wayfinding improvements for each of the access (put-in/take-out) spots--see details on next page. Some access points require minimal improvements; others require more significant investments to ensure safe and visible access. The map also shows key road and land trail connections, both existing and proposed. Because lands, trails, roads, and other facilities associated with the water trail are under different ownerships, collaborative action is required to realize the full potential of the water trail.

# on map	Access Point Name	Current Condition of River Access				
		Parking	Ramp	Picnic	Restrooms	Signs / Wayfinding
1	Club House	on shoulder	unimproved	no	no	no
2	Riverside School Area	on street	unimproved	no	no	no
3	Mountain Bay Trail	on shoulder of Ringle Ave	unimproved	yes	no	no
4	Highway J	on shoulder of County HWY J	unimproved	no	no	no
5	Planned Park	no current public access	---	---	---	---
6	Ross Ave	yes	recently improved	no	porto-let	yes
7	Yellow Banks Park	yes	recently improved	yes	yes	no
8	Eau Claire Conservancy	yes	no	yes	no	no
9	Brooks & Ross Dam	yes	yes	yes	porto-let	no



3- Mountain Bay Trail

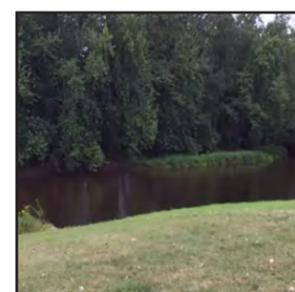


4 - Highway J



6 - Ross Ave.

Access Distance (miles)	Downriver →						
	①	③	④	⑥	⑦	⑨	
Club House	①	1.6	3.9	7.1	10.1	14.9	
Mountain Bay	③	1.6	2.3	5.8	8.5	13.3	
Highway J	④	3.9	2.3	3.5	6.2	11	
Ross Avenue	⑥	7.1	5.8	3.5	2.7	7.5	
Yellow Banks Park	⑦	10.1	8.5	6.2	2.7	4.8	
Brooks & Ross Dam	⑨	14.9	13.3	11	7.5	4.8	



7 - Yellow Banks Park



9 - Brooks & Ross Dam

## Sharing Our Float Plan

### Each access location should ideally be developed with:

- A parking lot or safe pull-off area, ideally for at least 10 motor vehicles including a few with trailers (See Fig. 1, on earlier page).
- Wayfinding signage to get to each parking area, and from there to the launch (Fig. 2-A).
- A permanent display near the put-in spot that would include a “you are here” map showing other put-in/take-out spots, distances, other riverfront destinations, and navigation tips (Fig. 2-B).
- A launch, designed with a firm surface (despite changes in sedimentation levels), a launch area of 15 to 25 feet long and 6 to 12 feet wide, slopes of not more than 15 percent (or 8.33 percent where possible to meet ADA accessibility standards), and water level of at least two feet. Handrails, step-down designs, or ropes can help paddlers balance their weight during put-in and take-out (See Fig. 1 on earlier page).
- An area with a picnic table or two and a bench overlooking the river.
- Along the river, minimal signage is advised to provide a navigational aid while maintaining the natural experience. Each bridge should be signed, and a sign indicating the location and distance to each upcoming take-out spot should be included (Fig. 2-C). Some other modest navigational signage may be beneficial, particularly for beginners and emergency service personnel. These may include  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile markers (Fig. 2-D), and arrows to help users avoid non-navigable forks (Fig. 2-E). Alongside the river, land trails should be developed and possibly co-branded with the water trail (See map on earlier page).
- Signage should be developed and installed in accordance with a unified theme. The accompanying conceptual graphics provide a starting point for more detailed design work (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).

## The Value of Signage

Informational, directional, and wayfinding signage is an important amenity for trail users and provides a visible benefit to the surrounding community. A good signage system increases user comfort, assists in navigation, warns of approaching obstacles, and guides users through unfamiliar terrain. Signage can direct people from road or parking to water, advise on current location and destinations, and provide directions and distances.

(continued on next page)

## Scouting the Route

### Specific efforts to develop the water trail include:

- Adaptation of this document to serve as a project brochure, including an accompanying route map.
- Final signage plan, including final types, logo, design, placements, and “you are here” route map, and then build and install the signage.
- Engineering design and development of put-in/take-out points—some require minimal improvement while others require more significant time and investment.
- An annual community “riverfest” event, including introductions to the river for first-time users and fun activities like a rubber ducky race.
- Educational and promotional programming, such as a YouTube video, on river use and paddling skills.
- Collaboration with and among riverfront organizations and businesses, and encouragement of more.

### The Village of Weston cannot complete these efforts or develop the Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail alone.

Intergovernmental partnership with Marathon County, City of Wausau, City of Schofield, Town of Ringle, Town of Weston, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is essential, and partnerships with other riverfront recreational land owners and outfitters are desired. Potential funding sources include local health care and wellness organizations, paddlers, Marathon County’s Environmental Impact Fund, State Stewardship and Federal LAWCON (River Protection and Enhancement) grants, the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, and the B.A. and Esther Greenheck Foundation.

## The Value of Signage

(continued from previous page)

The signage system must be visible but not obtrusive, and distinctive but not distracting. It should provide information in an understandable and logical way. The user should understand at a glance what information is being conveyed. The system must also harmonize with the environment it inhabits or it will detract from its surroundings.

Providing clear, concise and consistent wayfinding has many benefits. Good signage, by increasing user comfort level, can lead to increased usage. By providing a better experience, users are more likely to return. Good signage also makes for better and easier management of trails. By providing appropriate information at access points and on the water, the incidence of user conflict and negative resource impact can be reduced. Accurate location information, at predictable intervals, also provides improved EMS response and maintenance access.

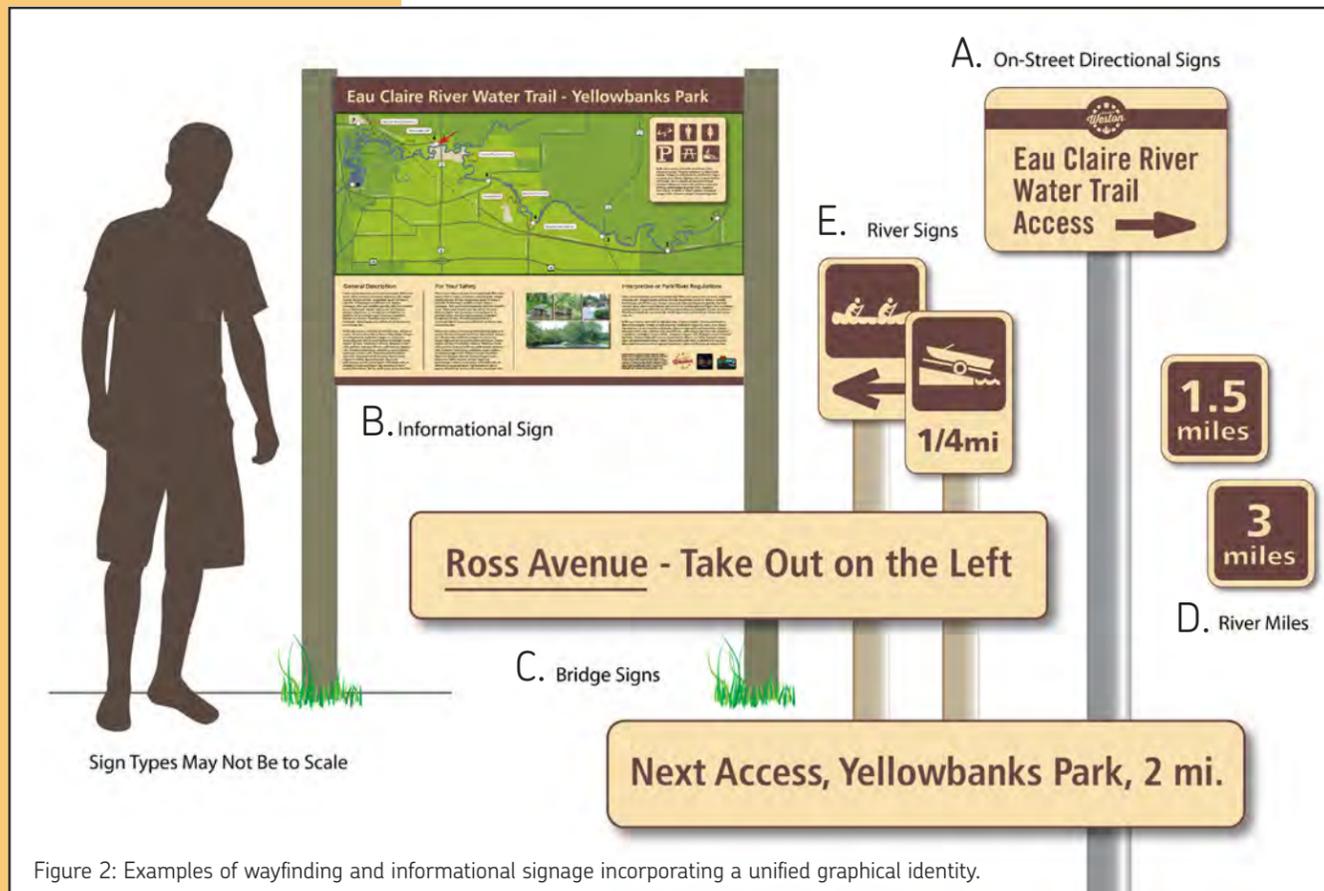
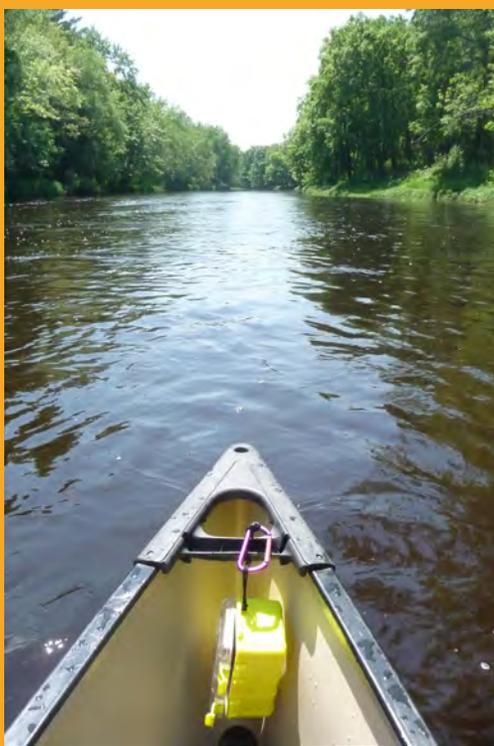


Figure 2: Examples of wayfinding and informational signage incorporating a unified graphical identity.

Figure 3: Visualizations of water trail signage in context.





## Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail The Adventure in Our Own Backyard



Prepared with assistance by:



[drxnl.com](http://drxnl.com) / [mdroffers.com](http://mdroffers.com)

October 2015 (Rev. 03, July 2016)

**SAMPLE RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Eau Claire River provides a natural connection between communities in the Wausau metro area; and

WHEREAS water-based recreation along the river is present but underutilized, and greater use would improve quality-of-life, community development, recreation, and tourism in the area; and

WHEREAS the Village/City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_ has reviewed the document entitled “Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail—The Adventure in Our Own Backyard,” and supports the vision put forward in that document; and

WHEREAS the Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail would fulfill several objectives within the Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Marathon County Strategic Plan goal of prioritizing and fostering collaboration with local governments; and

WHEREAS the Village/City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_ would benefit from participation in a regional effort to establish and enhance the Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board/Council of the Village/City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_ endorses the Lower Eau Claire River Water Trail concept, intends to participate in further discussions related to its implementation, and supports related adjustments to the County’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in support of Trail implementation.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

[INSERT SIGNATURES OF CEO AND CLERK]



# Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan



# Topics To Be Covered



- ▶ What is an Ash
- ▶ What is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
- ▶ History of EAB in the U.S.
- ▶ Evolution of EAB Management Strategies in the U.S.
- ▶ Value and Benefits of Trees
- ▶ Status of Wausau Boulevard Ash Trees
- ▶ Suggested Management
- ▶ Management Procedure
- ▶ Benefit Versus Cost
- ▶ Questions

# What is an Ash?

There are three primary varieties of ash planted as boulevard trees in Wausau (Green, White, and Black)



2003 © Peter M. Dziuk

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/udata/r9ndp23q/pd3/fraxinus-pennsylvanica-018.jpg>



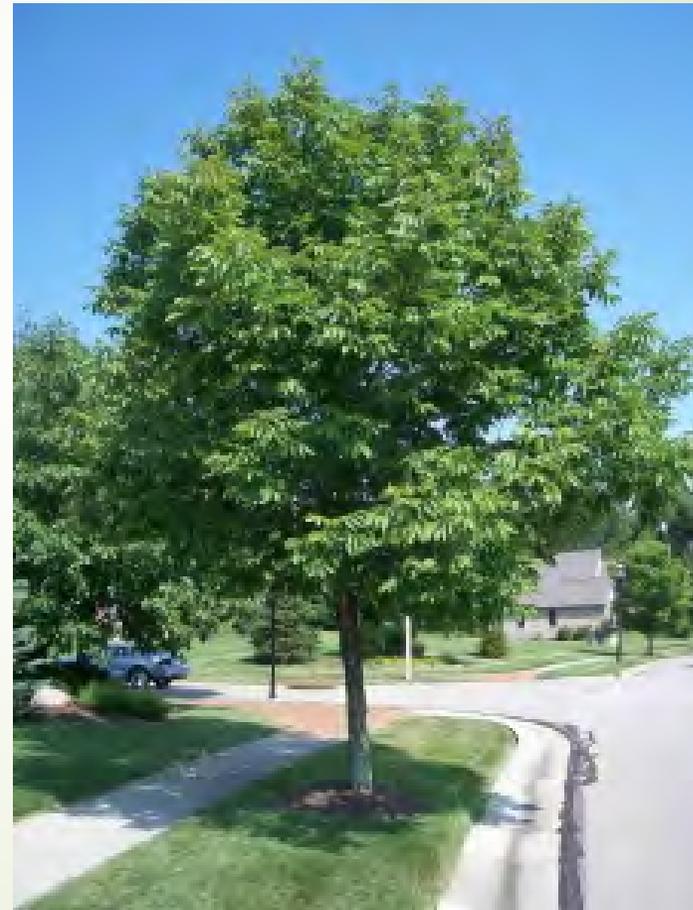
<http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/portals/forestry/images/trees/ash-green.jpg>

Ash become a popular boulevard tree because of their ability to grow in difficult sites  
\*Wausau has not planted ash since 2004\*

# What is an Ash?

Ash was selected as a suitable replacement for American Elm

They establish easily, grow fast, are salt and drought tolerant, have strong wood, and were low cost



# What is Emerald Ash Borer?



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a beetle native to eastern Asia

- Adult emerges via a D shaped exit hole
- Approximately the size of a grain of cooked rice (3/8" -1/2" long)



<http://images.universityherald.com/data/images/full/5257/the-emerald-ash-borer.jpg>



<http://www.ojibway.ca/emeraldashborer.jpg>



<https://bugwoodcloud.org/images/768x512/5147090.jpg>

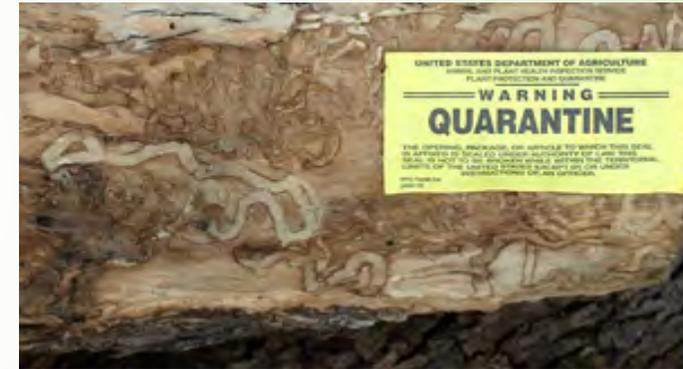
# What is Emerald Ash Borer?



Larval life cycle is the most damaging



<http://steintree.com>



<https://www.nps.gov>



<https://www.thetoddgroupinc.com>

# Effects of EAB



## Signs of EAB

- It is likely you will not see an EAB adult
- Often tree health and appearance indicate insect presence



<http://www.ville.ddo.qc.ca/En/img/environnement/agrile-arbre.jpg>



Photos courtesy of the City of Toronto

# Effects of EAB



Photo by Daniel Herms



<https://experiment.com/projects/can-we-save-ash-trees-from-the-invasive-emerald-ash-borer>

# Effects of EAB



Credit: Jeffrey Hahn



<http://eminnetonka.com/community-forestry/shade-tree-disease-control/emerald-ash-borer>

# Effects of EAB



Toledo, Ohio – Same street between 2006 and 2009

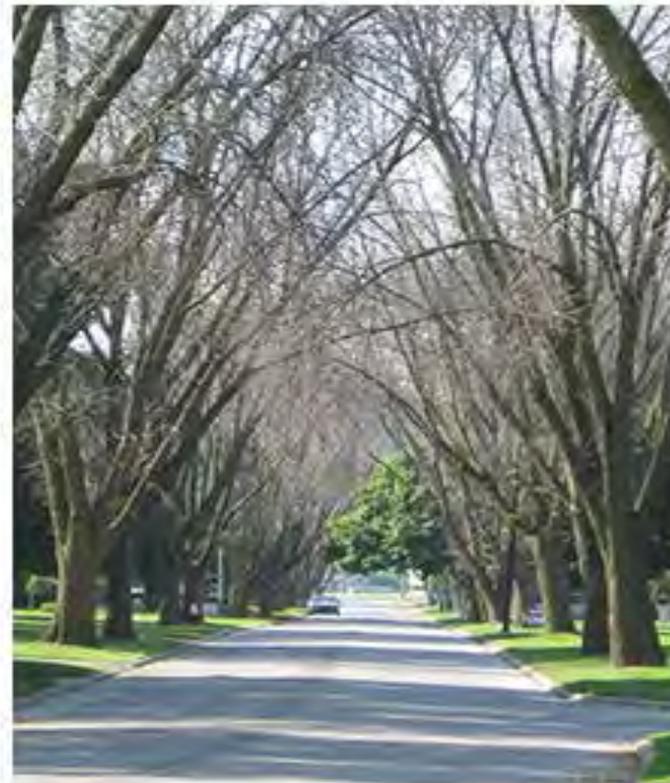
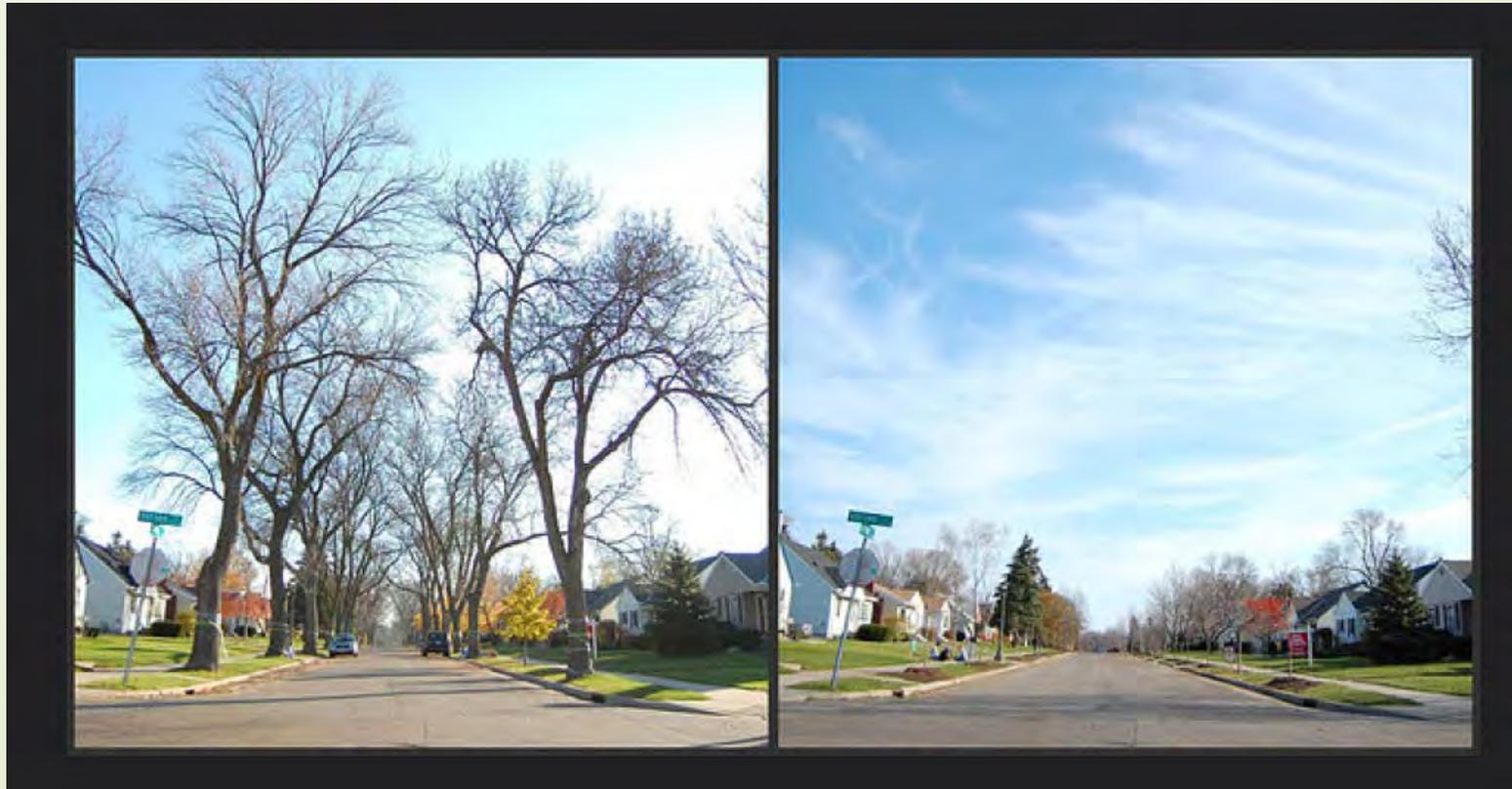


Photo by Daniel Herms

# Effects of EAB



<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=16537>

# History of EAB



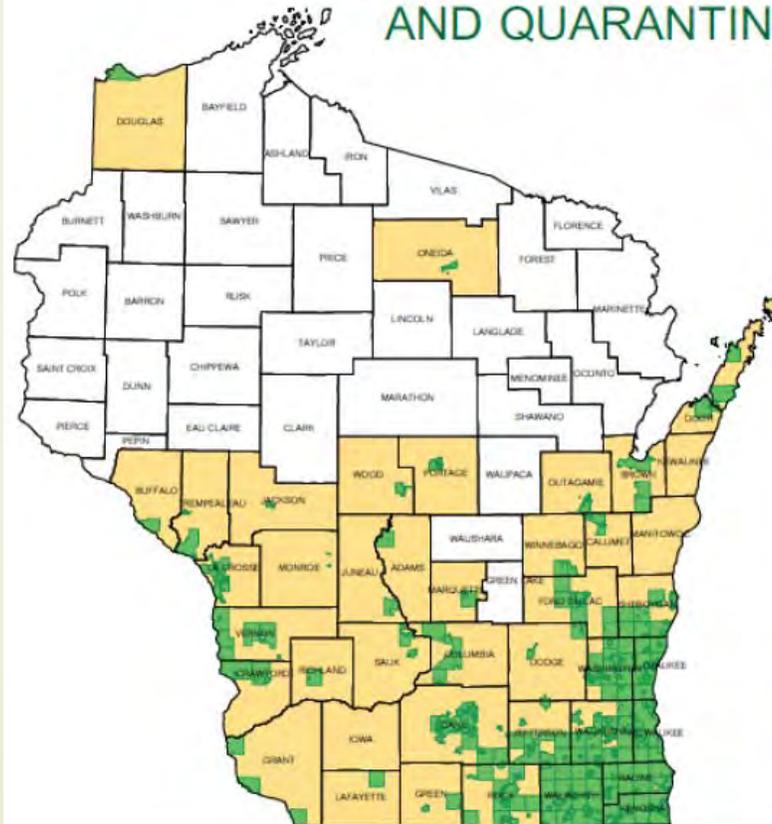
- EAB was found in the Detroit area in the summer of 2002
- EAB was likely in the U.S. for up to 10 years prior to detection
- Origin was wood packing crates from Asia
- Found in Wisconsin in 2008
- EAB has been found in 27 states and has killed over 50 million ash
- Cost to municipalities and homeowners is in the hundreds of millions of dollars



# History of EAB



## EMERALD ASH BORER DETECTIONS AND QUARANTINE IN WISCONSIN



Most of Wisconsin is EAB-free, including most of the northern half and the yellow areas in all quarantined counties. EAB has been confirmed only in those cities, villages and townships colored dark green. By following quarantine rules and limiting the transport of ash wood and all firewood, we can slow down EAB's spread to the northern forests and un-infested communities in the south. Visit [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov) for information on what you can do.

-  Non-Quarantined County, No EAB Detections
-  Quarantined County
-  EAB Confirmed Area in a Quarantined County

Map last updated 6/20/2016

Image courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

# Value and Benefits of Trees

The average ash in Wausau is 11.28".

Total benefit provided per year of a 11" green ash is **\$98**

Annual benefit for entire population of ash is approximately **\$505,000**



# Value and Benefits of Trees

If that tree were grown to 16" ...

Total benefit provided per year of a 16" green ash is **\$157**

Annual benefit for entire population of ash is approximately **\$816,400**



# Value and Benefits of Trees



Additional values trees provide:

- Properly placed trees can reduce cooling costs by 30%
- Increased life of asphalt surfaces
- Moderation of 'heat island' effect
- Lower crime rates
- Reduce sound pollution
- Trap dust, pollen, and smoke from the air

# Status of Wausau Boulevard Ash Trees



Current ash population is approximately 5200  
This represents approximately 20% of all boulevard trees  
Of these trees, approximately 70% are in good or better condition  
Average diameter is 11.28 inches based on a 50% inventory\*

\*Wausau is in the process of conducting a tree inventory.  
At the time of this presentation, half of the boulevard trees  
have been inventoried.

# Evolution of EAB Management Strategies in the U.S.



- Began with an attempt to create an 'ash free zone' by elimination of 150,000 ash
- Remove ash within ½ mile of infection site
- Remove all ash prior to EAB presence
- Remove and replace ash with different species
- Treat high profile trees/remove and replace others
- Treat majority of population in order to conduct removals at a manageable level
- Treat all ash \*Milwaukee, WI has chosen this option\*



# Suggested Management



To this point, we have been replacing ash with several different species:

- Hackberry
- Hybrid Elm
- Oak
- Linden
- Hop Hornbeam
- Honeylocust
- Maple...

# Suggested Management



Maple, of all varieties are the most commonly requested replacement...

Species	Percent of Population
Maple (Acer sp.)	44
Ash (Fraxinus sp.)	19.7
Linden (Tilia sp.)	10.7
Crabapple (Malus sp.)	6.1
Lilac (Syringa sp.)	4.3
Hackberry (Celtis sp.)	3.4
Elm (Ulmus sp.)	2.6
Honeylocust (Gleditsia sp.)	2.5
Schubert Cherry (Prunus sp.)	1.6
Oak (Quercus sp.)	1.4
Ginkgo (Ginkgo sp.)	1
Other	2.7

# Suggested Management



Due to the proximity of EAB to Wausau, we are suggesting the following over the next seven years:

- Remove poor condition ash annually on a priority basis
- Remove ash that die naturally (approximately 50 per year)
- Remove ash that correspond to street reconstruction projects
  - Total ash removed will amount to 30% of the current population
- Treat the 70% of the population that are in good or better condition
- Continue to replace ash with different varieties of trees

\*We suggest this management plan be practiced for seven years, after which time we will re-evaluate and determine the next course of action.

# Suggested Management



## Wausau Ash Street Tree 7 Year Management Plan

Year	Population	Trees to be Treated	Trees to be Removed	Annual Treatment Cost	Planned Removal/Replacement Cost	Total Cost	Retained Value
0	5200	0	40	0	8010	8010	505680
1	4899	1715	261	151489	53307	204796	510180
2	4640	1624	259	149570	52898	202469	481910
3	4383	1534	257	147039	52490	199528	462112
4	4127	1444	256	143867	52285	196153	476133
5	3873	1356	254	140096	51877	191973	488565
6	3621	1267	252	135733	51468	187202	454815
7	3371	1180	250	130786	51060	181846	458787
				<b>\$ 998,581.29</b>	<b>\$ 365,385.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,363,966.65</b>	

The management objective of this plan is to retain the highest quality 70% of our existing ash street trees through insecticide treatment and remove the lowest quality 30% and replace them with other tree species over a seven year period. This process will keep annual costs more affordable, retain more of the benefits provided by street trees, and give more time for the rapidly evolving science of battling the emerald ash borer time to provide more effective, less costly options.

# Management Procedure



There are multiple options for treating ash trees

The best option determined through research and industry standards is:

- Emamectin Benzoate (TREE-äge®)
    - Provides 2 years of coverage
    - Is systemic (product is contained within the tree)
    - Typical application time is 10-15 minutes per tree
    - Is >99% effective in killing EAB larvae in the first two years
- \*Dependent upon initial condition of tree\*

# Benefit Versus Cost

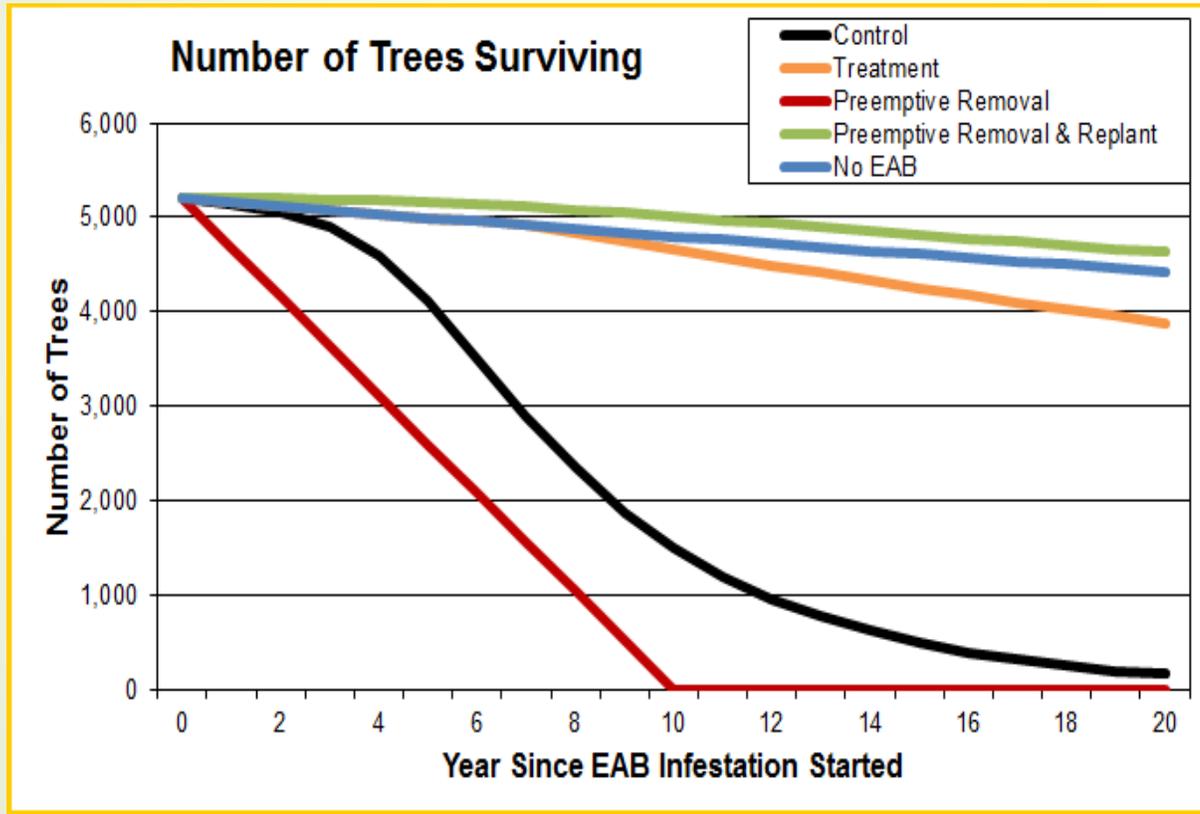


## Emerald Ash Borer PLAnning Simulator (EAB-PLANS<sup>©</sup>) Version MKE

Developed by Dr. Rich Hauer and Andrew VanNatta (2015).  
the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

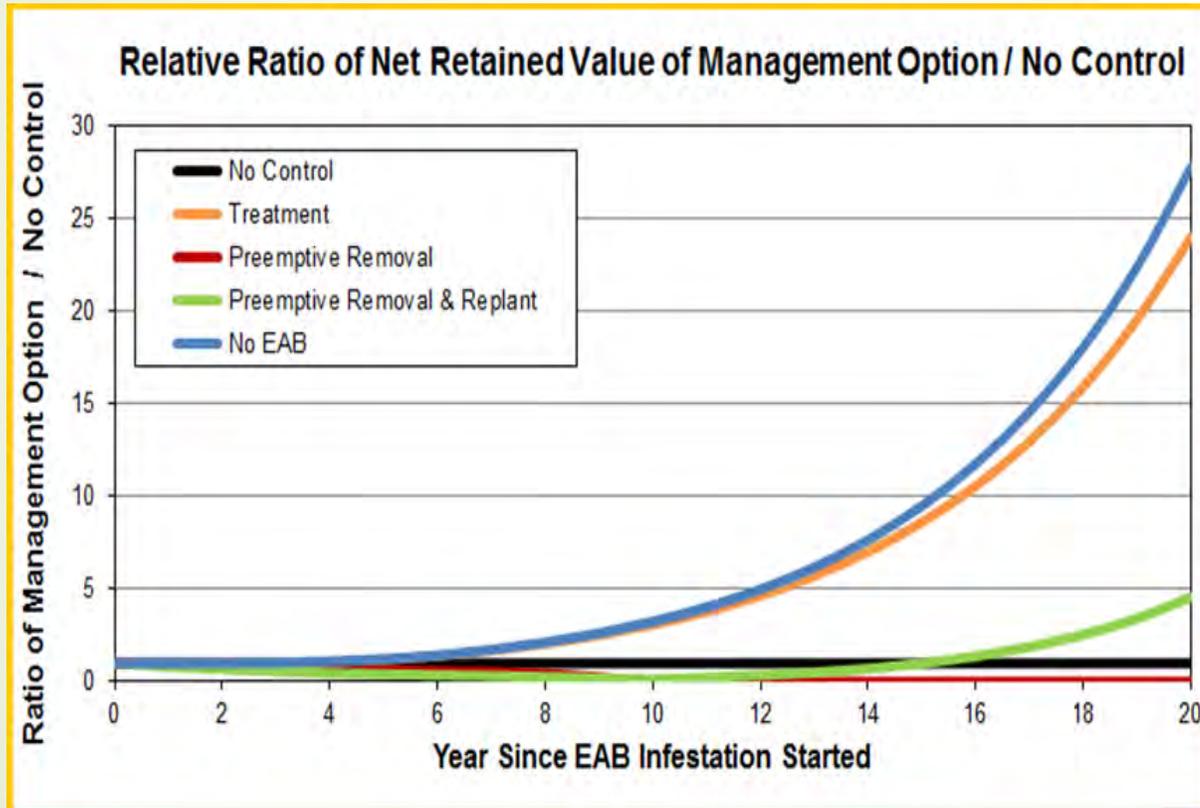
Assists communities in determining the best course of action for EAB  
management

# Benefit Versus Cost



Estimated number of individual ash that are expected to survive EAB over a 20 year time span for each management plan. *\*Control refers to "no control" of emerald ash borer.*

# Benefit Versus Cost



\*This chart represents a ratio. A value of 2 means the value has doubled and a value of 5 means the value is five times greater.

Estimated ratio of net value retained when comparing management options for no control, treatment, preemptive removal without replanting, preemptive removal with replanting, and no EAB over a 20 year period. A value > 1 suggests that alternative is better than the "No Control" (doing nothing).

# Questions???



<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/horticulture/emerald-ash-borer-overview-and-background>

OR



[http://treepicturesonline.com/mountain\\_ash\\_tree\\_pictures.html](http://treepicturesonline.com/mountain_ash_tree_pictures.html)

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Schulenburg Pool

Demolition is complete, foundation work for the bath house and equipment room is underway.

### Sylvan Hill Bike Park

A request for proposals for a design/build firm was issued July 17. Proposals are due August 16. Currently 16 proposal packets have been sent out.