



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.
Public Works Department – Committee Room
3715 Newville Road
Janesville, WI 53545

Call to Order: Chair Mawhinney called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 8:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Homan, Mawhinney, Pennycook, and Woodman

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Sutter

<u>Staff Members:</u>	Duane Jorgenson	Public Works Director
	Nick Elmer	Assistant Director Public Works
	John Traynor	Park Services Supervisor
	Amanda McElroy	Administrative Professional III

<u>Others Present:</u>	Sheila Williams	Citizen (Zoom)
	Terri Carlson	Corporation Counsel
	Carl Lange	Friends of Rock County Parks
	Ashley Roscoe	Land Conservation
	Carolyn Brandeen	League of Women Voters
	Floyd Finney	Parks Advisory Board
	Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
	Tom Presny	Parks Advisory Board
	Cathy Schneider	Rock River Heritage Park Friends

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Woodman moved approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes Dated January 14, 2025: Supervisor Pennycook moved approval of the minutes from January 14, 2025, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Mr. Traynor shared that he was outbid when attempting to purchase an adjoining parcel to Sweet-Allyn Park on January 14, 2025.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Parks Advisory Board Communications: Mr. Paynter announced there is a candlelight hike at Magnolia Bluff Park this Saturday night (2/15), from 6-8pm.

Mr. Finney shared that trail school is coming up in May. Employee Guadalupe Begovatz is scheduled to attend.

Mr. Presny added there is also a candlelight hike at Rock River Heritage Park the following Saturday (2/22), from 6-8pm.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Sportsman’s Park Deer Display: Mr. Traynor gave an overview and shared photos of the recent fire that occurred at Sportsman’s Park on January 28, at one of the deer shelters. The fire was likely started by a combination of a 20-year-old electrical cord and a 1500-watt tank heater. The damage to the shelter will not exceed the county’s \$15,000 insurance deductible. There are four does and one buck between 4-18 years of age at Sportsman’s Park. The current contract with the Schoonover’s to house the deer expires February 28, 2027. Temporary repairs have been made to the building, but a long-term solution is needed. Discussion was had about potential shelter options, costs, and using volunteers to help construct a new shelter. The Committee asked Mr. Traynor to bring estimates for contractors and materials to the next Public Works Committee meeting on February 25 for consideration.

Discussion and Possible Action – Miller Farm Wetland Conservancy Proposed Drain Tile Project: Mr. Traynor explained that the Miller Farm is a 54-acre parcel that had drain tiles installed by the previous owner. A map was handed out showing which tile lines were intact and disabled during the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) wetland easement process (see attachment). The main tile line also serves Mr. Sayre’s property to the north. The Sayre’s are requesting permission for their contractor to cross into county owned property to repair the main tile line. Ms. Roscoe with Rock County Land Conservation added that the project entails digging up approximately 150 feet of county property with a backhoe and replacing the perforated line with a non-perforated line. There is no cost to the county. Supervisor Woodman moved the Drain Tile Project, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – Access Control Driveway Permit – CTH N: Mr. Jorgenson explained that a resident on CTH N, which is access controlled, has requested a field entrance on a parcel adjacent to their residence. Recent construction to CTH N has changed the elevation of the highway, and the resident is no longer able to access the field by driving in the ditch. Granting this access would exceed the eight access points per mile, but there is no other roadway access to this parcel, and per ordinance, each parcel shall be granted an access. Supervisor Woodman moved the Issue Paper, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Parks Report – See Attached: Mr. Traynor discussed items in his report and answered questions from the Committee.

Parks General

- Maintenance Update – Brushing, Picnic Table Rehab, Sign Work- catching up
- Staffing Update – FTE and Seasonals- Maintenance position just came down; seven candidates were invited to interview for four seasonal positions
- Staff Work Anniversaries – Jim 30 years – Amy 18 years- Jim has spent his entire career in Parks, Amy has been with Parks the last six years
- Rental Update- 74 park reservations, 1 campfire permit, 13 firewood permits, 0 metal detection permits, and 10 annual boat launch stickers so far
- WPRA Annual Conference – February 4-7- attended by John, Jim, and Amy

Beckman Mill

- Memorial Bench Donation- donor wants to honor his father
- Forestry Mowing Update- forestry mower is down for repairs after sucking up an unseen discarded tire

Gibbs Lake Park

- Mowing Project- working on the north loop
- Gathering Place Fishing Club – Fish Crib- looking to place one more fish crib at the south end of the lake, possibly next week

Lee Park

- Hwy 140 Project -Driveway Restrictions- park access may be impacted during project

Magnolia Bluff Park

- Ice Age Trail Meeting – February 12- looking at adding route through the park

Rock River Heritage Park

- Water Pumping Project Status- water gauge made to meet DNR requirement
- Fire Inspection Work Update- looking for permission from commercial building inspector to avoid installing an access off the back deck at the office
- Property & Trail Map Update- completed thanks to Amy and Ashley (see attachment)
- Navigation Map- interactive map created by Scott Skelly accessible on a smartphone
- Grant Work Status – CC Grant- closed and payment has been received
- Eagle Scout Project- Jacob Jorgenson will be cleaning up the fire pit area behind Heritage Hall
- Hearts in the Park- February 1-15 along the trails

Royce Dallman Park

- Tree Removal Project- Gathering Place Fishing Club plans to clean-up the shoreline

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Sportsman Park

- Deer Shelter Fire – January 28- obtain estimates for meeting on 2/25
- Well Pit Work- well pit is cracked, trying to obtain an easement to hook up to city water

POROS Plan Update

- Staff Kickoff Meeting - February 19- Vandewalle having a meet and greet with staff
- Committee Meeting – March 11- initial presentation to the Committee

Events

- FORCP Candlelight Hike – Magnolia Bluff – February 15
- RRHPF Candlelight Hike – February 22
- Leprechauns on the Loose - March

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 8:55 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III

Going to
10" Nonperf
Corrugated Line

Approx. 150'
of line
replacement

LEGEND

- TILE LINES TO BE DISABLED
- TILE LINES TO BE LEFT INTACT
- MAIN TILE LINE TO BE LEFT INTACT
- EASEMENT BOUNDARY DERIVED FROM FSA CLU LAYER



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

PLAN VIEW

CLIENT: CAROL MILLER WRP
COUNTY: ROCK

Designed ACJ
Drawn
Checked
Approved MTS 1/16

Date
1/8/16

File Name
WI-002

Date
08/14

Sheet 4 of 7

Rock River Heritage County Park

 Playground

 Heritage Hall

 Nature Center

 Oak Shelter

 Pine Pavilion

 Pine Shelter

 Pond View Point

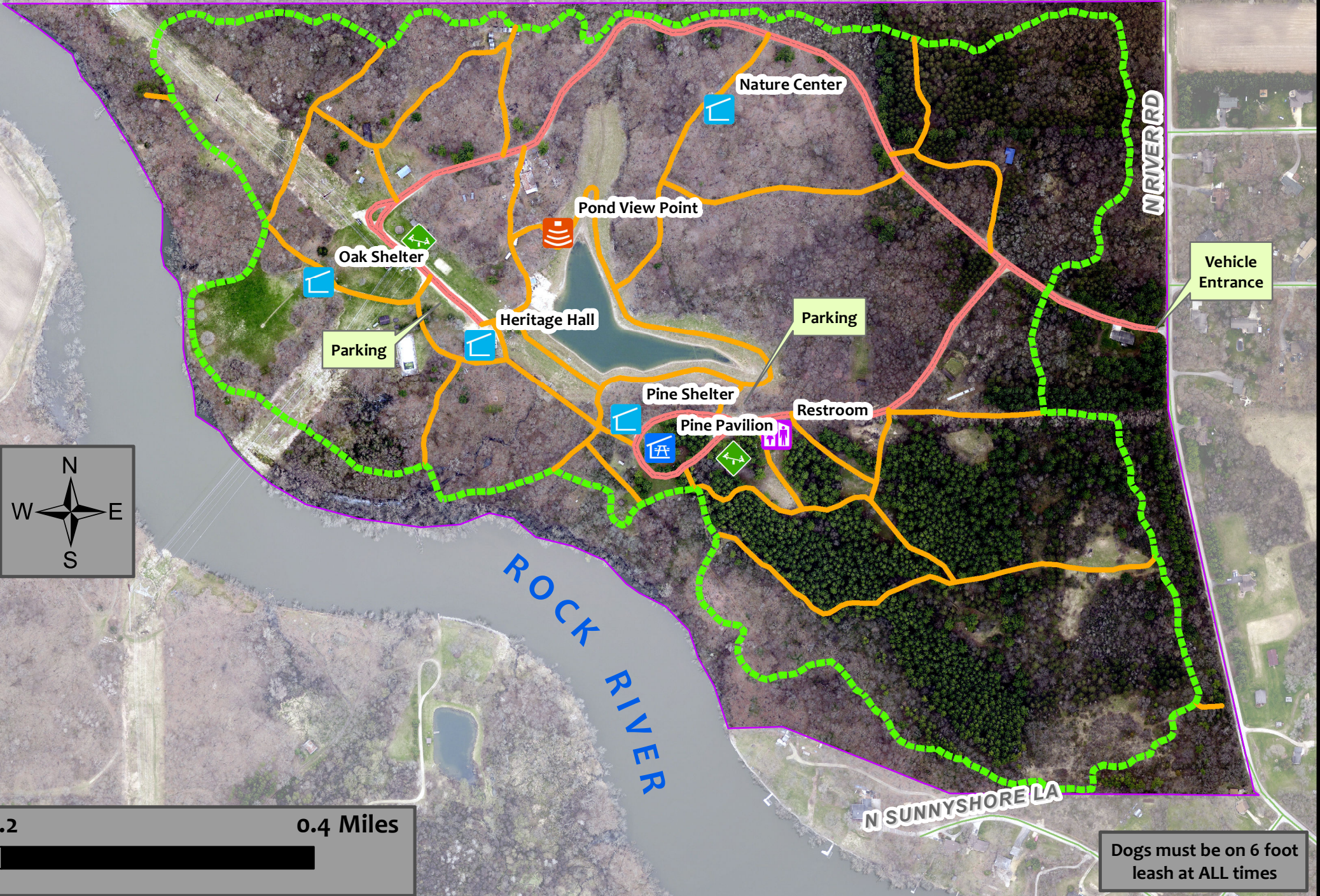
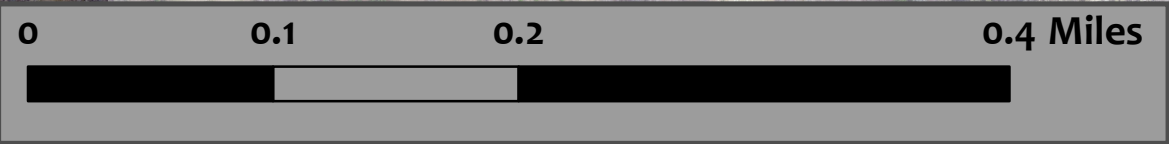
 Restroom

 Road- Vehicle Access

 Inner Trails

 Perimeter Trail (Approx 2.4 miles)

 Park Boundary



Dogs must be on 6 foot
leash at ALL times