



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

3715 Newville Road, Janesville, WI 53545
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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, September 9, 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 Mawhinney, Pennycook, and Woodman

Committee Members Absent: Supervisors Homan and Sutter

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

<u>Others Present:</u>	Chuck Flynn	Citizen (Zoom)
	Carl Lange	Friends of Rock County Parks
	Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
	Cathy Schneider	Parks Advisory Board/RRHPF

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

Approval of Minutes Dated July 8, 2025: Supervisor Woodman moved approval of the minutes from July 8, 2025, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Cathy Schneider extended an invitation to attend the Rock River Heritage Park Friends annual fundraiser, Fall into Fall, on October 4, 2025. She also announced a separate fundraiser on September 25, 2025, at the Janesville Texas Roadhouse. Diners who present a flyer will have 10% of their meal donated to the Rock River Heritage Park Friends (see attachments). Dean Paynter added the Fall into Fall event will feature a 5K run this year (see attachment).

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Mr. Traynor shared there is a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Peace Trail Arch on September 10, 2025, at 4 PM in Beloit. Mr. Jorgenson will be attending this event.

Mr. Jorgenson said he will be attending a Public Involvement Meeting in the Town of Newark tonight at 7 PM to discuss the Cleophas Rd bridge project. Mr. Jorgenson added that Mr. Elmer and himself will be attending the WCHA Fall Commissioner's Training in Platteville on October 6-7, 2025.

Parks Advisory Board Communications: None.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing Application with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for County Conservation Aids Application Grant Funds: Supervisor Woodman moved the Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. Mr. Traynor explained this is the same 50/50 match grant the Parks Department applies for every year. Any funds awarded will be used to address the trails at Carver-Roehl Park. ADOPTED.

Acceptance of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Rock County 2025-2026 Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Grant S-6135: Supervisor Woodman moved the Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. Mr. Traynor explained that this is a two-step process, requiring resolutions to apply for and now accept grant funds. Mr. Traynor noted that this grant covers the maintenance of all snowmobile mileage between the Rock County Snowmobile Alliance and the Sundowners Snowmobile Club. ADOPTED.

Accepting Donations and Reallocation of Remaining POROS Plan Funds for Rock River Heritage County Park Master Plan: Supervisor Pennycook moved the Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. Mr. Traynor noted that the resolution is asking to amend the budget, reallocating the remaining \$10,500 from the 2026-2030 POROS Plan, and approve accepting \$17,000 in donations, to create a Master Plan for Rock River Heritage Park. ADOPTED.

Authorizing Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement – County Trunk Highway T – Green County: Supervisor Woodman moved the Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. Mr. Jorgenson explained the transfer agreement would match what is done operationally, with Rock County responsible for maintaining CTH T between STH 81 and STH 11 (1.89 miles), and Green County responsible for CTH T south of STH 81 (1.81 miles). This transfer would make Rock County eligible to apply for Federal Aid projects for CTH T (STH 81-STH 11). ADOPTED.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Janesville: Mr. Jorgenson explained that the City of Janesville is requesting to install a

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designated bike path crossing at the intersection of CTH WC and Austin Rd to expand a bike path. The City of Janesville would be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the bike path crossing. Rock County would be required to inform the City of Janesville of any upcoming projects on CTH WC. Supervisor Pennycook moved the Intergovernmental Agreement, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

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

Parks General

- Maintenance Update – Mowing, Park Prep, Playground Inspections- staying busy with mowing and park rentals
- Storm Cleanup – August 15th - 16th Storms- trees down at Magnolia Bluff
- Staffing – All Seasonals Are Done – Labor Day- among the best seasonals the department has ever had, hope to have them return next season
- Trail Work – Mowing, Brushing- side mount mowing at Gibbs Lake and Pelishek to push back invasive plants
- Emergency Management Event – Royce Dallman, RRHP, Magnolia Bluff- multi-agency search and rescue training exercise
- 2026 Budget – Meeting with Administrator – August 12th- in progress, the next meeting is on September 25 to present the budget

Beckman Mill Park

- Dam Maintenance Project- Friends of Beckman Mill handling repairs and seeking DNR approval
- Mill Painting Project Complete- looks great
- Hiring a Part-Time Executive Director- had 30 applicants for position
- 2025 Tour Season Ends October 26th- Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 PM
- Heritage Sunday – September 7th- featured tours, live music, demonstrations, living history displays, kid's activities, and food

Carver-Roehl Park

- Playground Update- Paid for by the Friends of Carver-Roehl, will be installed after Fall Fest
- Fall Fest – October 5th- 11:30 AM-2:30 PM, featuring live music, carriage rides, petting zoo, children's activities, and raffle baskets

Gibbs Lake Park

- Rental House Plumbing Issues- made a repair to rotting pipes
- MUTG Fundraiser- raised \$1,200 from Labor Day Weekend event

Happy Hollow Park

- Dumping Issues Continue- additional cameras installed, Sheriff's Office involved

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Koshkonong Lake Access

- Tree Complaint - Lot Survey- healthy cottonwood trees leaning away from a residence were not cut down, homeowner is welcome to trim branches on their side of the property line

Lee Park

- Hwy 67 Entrance is Open- roundabout is also open

Magnolia Bluff Park

- CCA Grant – Trail Work Update- finalizing paperwork to seek reimbursement of \$7,500

Miller Farm Wetland Conservancy

- Tile Project Update- delayed because it is too wet
- Trail Work- expanded trail system to create a loop

Rock River Heritage Park

- Memorial Pavilion Update- complete, will be stained 9/10/25 as part of United Way's Day of Caring event, looking to have dedication for Randy Reilly
- Additions – Memorial Bench- two benches have been donated
- Rentals Update- Heritage Hall rentals are increasing, a rental for the end of the month just chose to upgrade to the 3-day weekend option
- Boy Scout Project – Possibility- project involves installing a split rail fence on the west side of the parking lot
- StoryWalk® – July 1st - 14th- was placed around Pine Pavilion playground, looking for a grant to install a permanent StoryWalk®
- Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser – September 25th- Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of total food purchase to RRHPF if diner(s) have the fundraiser flyer
- Fall into Fall Event – October 4th- featuring a 5K trail run, guided hike, live music, food truck, raffle baskets, StoryWalk®, outdoor games, and beer and wine tasting
- Wednesday Walk – October 8th- will be led by Parks Crew Leader, Jim Hessenauer

Sportsman Park

- Tree Cleanup- the park property line extends approximately three feet beyond our fence, creating confusion with neighbors over tree and brush cleanup
- StoryWalk® – July 25th - August 8th- was placed around the playground

Sweet-Allyn Park

- StoryWalk® – August 11th - 25th- placed around the playground

POROS Plan Update

- Open House – September 18th- collecting public feedback in person at Heritage Hall from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM or online until September 28, 2025

- Committee Approval – October- will review public feedback and make any changes

Events and Other

- Rock County 4-H Fair Booth – July 22nd - 27th- located under grandstand
- July Photo Challenge- three prize winners were randomly drawn from all entries
- Submitted reimbursement request for 24-25 Snowmobile Grant S-6042- not all funds were used due to lack of snow and trail closures
- Rock County Family Fun Night – August 12th- booth promoted parks and had a fishbowl toss game
- RTC Peace Trail Arch Ribbon Cutting – September 10th- 4 PM at Beloit Newark Rd/Afton Rd
- Fall Fun Challenge – September 22nd – October 31st- submit a picture for a chance to win a prize
- ABC Supply Health Expo – September 30th- 7 AM-12 PM
- Rock County Employee Benefit Fair – October 7th- 11:30 AM-3:30 PM

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 9:00 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III



ROCK RIVER
HERITAGE PARK
FRIENDS

FALL INTO FALL

Saturday, October 4, 2025

ROCK RIVER HERITAGE PARK

5K RUN

8:30 AM

GUIDED HIKES

10:00 AM

LIVE MUSIC WITH THE MOOD FAMILY BAND

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

FOOD TRUCK - GRILLED CHEESE

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

BEER & WINE

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM





(608) 757-9700

3201 Deerfield Dr. | Janesville, WI

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» *Support* ««

Rock River Heritage Park Friends

Thursday, September 25

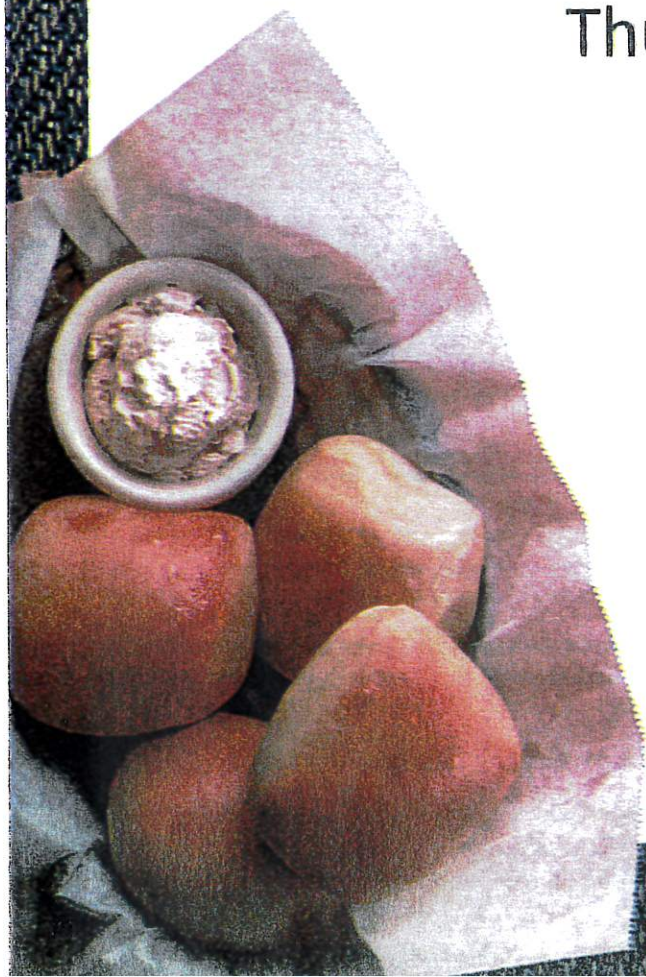
3pm – 10pm

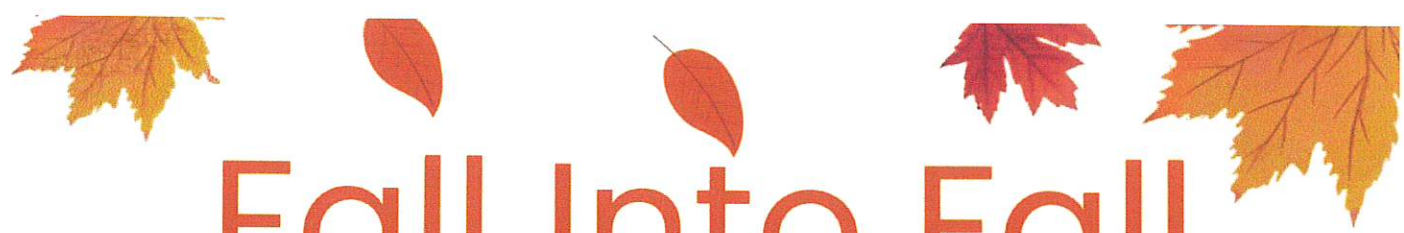
10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support Rock River Heritage Park
Friends by presenting this flyer to the
Janesville

Location and Texas Roadhouse will
donate **10%** of your total food purchases
to Rock River Heritage Park Friends!





Fall Into Fall Trail 5K

A Challenging and Fun Trail 5K

Saturday, October 4

8:30 AM

Rock River Heritage Park

5801 N. River Road, Janesville, WI (Rock County)



Please Scan



Please Scan



Questions: djpaynter@charter.net

Schumacher

WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP

of Wells Fargo Advisors



SSMHealth.

KwikTripTM



ROCK RIVER
HERITAGE PARK
FRIENDS

