



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Parks
Tuesday, October 14, 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

Staff Members:

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

Others Present:

Carolyn Brandeen	Citizen
Chuck Flynn	Citizen (attended in person and on Zoom)
John Light	County Administrator
Kristin Vander Kooi	Financial Services
Carl Lange	Friends of Rock County Parks
Kris Ellis	Parks Advisory Board
Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Board
Cathy Schneider	Parks Advisory Board/RRHPF
Ben Rohr	Vandewalle and Associates

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

Approval of Minutes Dated September 9, 2025: Supervisor Pennycook moved approval of the minutes from September 9, 2025, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Cathy Schneider shared that the 2nd Annual Fall into Fall fundraiser hosted by the Rock River Heritage Park Friends on October 4, 2025, was a success. There were fifty-one participants in the 5K run/walk.

Parks Advisory Board Communications: None.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Approving the 2026-2030 POROS Plan: Ben Rohr, Vandewalle and Associates, summarized the updated and recommended Parks, Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space (POROS) Plan. His presentation highlighted the public feedback gathered from the in-person open house and online survey, plan changes, and the next steps of obtaining Committee recommendation and County Board adoption. Supervisor Woodman moved the POROS Plan, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Discussion and Possible Action – Review of the 2026 Recommended Budget: Mr. Light, County Administrator, noted that the 2026 recommended budget focused on the “cost to continue” services as is due to revenue limitations. The recommended budget proposes borrowing \$4.7 million to fund long-term investments in current county assets including road construction projects and the Sportsman’s Park shelter replacement. It also includes \$3 million to start repaying the highway fund balance. Delaying equipment purchases or road construction projects may lead to higher maintenance costs in the future. Failure to approve borrowing for road construction projects could potentially cause staff layoffs if another funding source is not found. Mr. Light advocated the importance of protecting the county bond rating.

The Committee has requested this item be included on the next Public Works Committee - Highway meeting agenda to address any further questions. There is a Joint Finance and Public Works Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at noon to review the highway fund balance.

Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – Access Control Driveway Permit – CTH A: Mr. Elmer explained that the new property owner is requesting a field entrance to a recently split parcel on CTH A, which is access controlled. The previous owner split the residence, buildings, and driveway access into a parcel separate from the agricultural field. Despite not meeting all the spacing requirements, the parcel does not have an access point and there is no option to obtain access to the parcel from another road. Supervisor Woodman moved the Driveway Permit, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Discussion – Proposed Sportsman’s Shelter Project: Mr. Traynor broke down the estimated cost of the Sportsman’s Shelter project (see attachment). The estimate of \$752,569.03 includes the removal of the old building, surfacing, utilities, and the new building. The initial budget request was reduced to \$700,000 because county staff can complete some of the

work in-house, including demolition and grading. The estimated cost of the building itself is \$525,000, but the final costs won't be known until the project is approved and put out for bids. The estimate also includes a standard 10% contingency to address any potential unforeseen costs.

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 Event Prep, Sign Work- mowing is slowing down, have had lots of events to prepare for, repaired sign damage
- Trail Work – Mowing, Brushing, Signage- trying to push brush back to widen trails
- Boat Launch – Ends October 31st- Gibbs Lake, Happy Hollow, and Royce Dallman
- 2026 Budget – Budget Presentation and Meetings- answering questions

Beckman Mill Park

- Dam Maintenance Project – Update- this project may be delayed until the spring
- 2025 Tour Season Ends October 26th- there are a couple of weekends left

Carver-Roehl Park

- Storywalk® Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn – September 15th – 29th- signs placed around the playground
- Fall Fest – October 5th- horse drawn carriage rides, petting zoo, children's activities, food, and donations for the food pantry
- Playground Update- project has not been started, trying to obtain an estimate to install a concrete border around the playground
- CCA Grant Application Submitted for Trail Work- applied for a 50/50 match grant totaling \$15,000 to address the trails

Happy Hollow Park

- Dumping Issues – Update- ongoing issues, another couch was recently dumped, the Rock County Sheriff's Office has issued six citations

Magnolia Bluff Park

- CCA Grant – Working on Reimbursement- will be submitted today

Rock River Heritage Park

- JFD Fire Inspections Report- identified issues have been addressed
- Master Plan Update- Ben Rohr, Vandewalle and Associates, is putting together a contract for review after the POROS Plan is complete
- United Way Day of Caring – September 10th- 23 volunteers helped with painting, staining, and trail work

- Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser – September 25th- Texas Roadhouse donated 10% of total food purchases when diners presented a flyer
- Storywalk® Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn – October 2nd - 16th- starts at Heritage Hall and ends by Pine Pavilion playground
- Fall into Fall Event – October 4th – 5K trail run, guided hike, live music, food truck, raffle baskets, outdoor games, and beer and wine tasting
- Wednesday Walk – October 8th- well attended, some hadn't visited this park yet

Sportsman Park

- Deer Shelter Wiring Update- reached out to county electrician to schedule

POROS Plan Update

- Open House – September 18th- 5:30-7:30pm
- Public Input Survey Closed September 28th
- County Board Approval – October 23rd

Events and Other

- Rock Trail Coalition - Peace Trail 2nd Arch Ribbon Cutting – September 11th- Mr. Jorgenson gave a small speech at the event
- Fall Fun Challenge – September 22nd – October 31st- submit a photo for a chance to win one of three prizes
- ABC Supply Health Expo – September 30th- partnered with Carl Lange at the Rock County Parks booth
- Rock County Employee Benefit Fair – October 7th- attended by almost 500 people
- Candle Workday for Candlelight Hikes – October 16th- at Traxler Park Warming House
- 2026 Candlelight Hike Dates- six hikes scheduled in Rock County, including Carver-Roehl Park (February 21, 2026) and Rock River Heritage Park (February 28, 2026)

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Joint Finance/Public Works Meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Combined Parks/Highway Meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Combined Parks/Highway Meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 9:03 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III



Project: Walt Lindeman Park Shelter
Date: April 2, 2025

OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS						
GENERAL	Item	Qty.	Unit	Unit cost	Item Total	Comments
	MOBILIZATION	1	LS	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
	EROSION CONTROL	1	LS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
	DEMOLITION	1	LS	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	
	EARTHWORK	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
				SUBTOTAL	\$58,500.00	
SURFACING						
	DENSE GRADED BASECOURSE	147	TN	\$22.00	\$3,226.67	
	CONCRETE	147	TN			8
	CONCRETE PAVEMENT 5-INCH	6334	SF	\$8.00	\$50,672.00	
	SIDEWALK	2500	SF			
	BUILDING SLAB	3834	SF			
				SUBTOTAL	\$53,898.67	
UTILITIES						
	4" SANITARY LATERAL	70	LF	\$55.00	\$3,850.00	
	2" WATER LAT	277	LF	\$65.00	\$18,005.00	
	WATER CONNECTION	1	LS	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
	ELECTRIC SERVICE	1	LS	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
				SUBTOTAL	\$32,355.00	
BUILDING						
	BUILDING	1	LS	\$525,000.00	\$525,000.00	
	FF&E	1	LS		\$0.00	PICNIC TABLES ETC
				SUBTOTAL	\$525,000.00	
LANDSCAPING						
	LAWN RESTORATION	1	LS	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	
	TREE PLANTINGS	4	EA	\$600.00	\$2,400.00	
				SUBTOTAL	\$14,400.00	
					TOTAL	\$684,153.67
					10% Contingency	\$68,415.37
					TOTAL COST	\$752,569.03