

**City of Eau Claire
Waterways and Parks Commission
Wednesday, February 27, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Conference Room – Central Maintenance Facility**

Agenda

- I. Approval of minutes from the January 23, 2019 meeting.
- II. New Business
 - a. Information from Kevin Byrne regarding his Eagle Scout Project. (Todd Chwala)
 - b. Recommendation to rezone and classify 111 Niagara Street to a special area. (Jeff Pippenger)
- III. 2018 Special Events list (Information only)
- IV. Directors Report (Information only)
- V. Adjournment

**Please call the Community Services Office
(715-839-4649) if you cannot attend this meeting!**

"Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in accessible location or format must contact the ADA Coordinator for the City of Eau Claire, at 839-4921 or at 203 South Farwell Street by 2:00 PM the Monday prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request."

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
WATERWAYS AND PARKS COMMISSION
(Meeting Minutes)**

January 23, 2019

Members Present: Tom Fiedler, Susan McLeod, Kate Beaton, John Bodkin, Kirk Dahl, Ron Doering, Meredith Ball, Jenni Sterling

Members Absent: Joshua Miller, Terry Weld (The Commission has one vacancy with Megan Kremer's resignation)

Staff Present: Jeff Pippenger, Todd Chwala, Dave Solberg, Kristine Basom, Pat Ivory

The meeting was chaired by Tom Fiedler at the City's Central Maintenance Facility Conference Room and called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

Election of Officers: The following officers were elected by the Commission

-Chairperson: Ron Doering moved to nominate Joshua Miller as Chairperson. Meredith Ball seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

-Vice Chairperson: John Bodkin moved to nominate Tom Fiedler as Vice Chairperson. Jenni Sterling seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

-Secretary: Kate Beaton moved to nominate Susan McLeod as Secretary. Meredith Ball seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Business Agenda.

A. Recommendation on the construction of the Veteran's Tribute Trail and amenities located to the northwest of Madison Street and Forest Street. Jeff Pippenger provided an overview of the site plan to construct a veteran's tribute trail and amenities in the park and open space area located to the northwest of Madison Street and Forest Street and east of the Chippewa River. The trail would extend north-south along a former street right-of-way. Amenities would include: a gathering area, parking, restrooms, lighting, and monuments recognizing various aspects of the military involvement of residents of Eau Claire County. It was noted that the trail would connect with Phoenix Park located to the south. In addition, Forest Street will be reconstructed this summer and plans include a 10-foot pathway along the west side of the street. A small parking lot within the Oak Street right-of-way to the west of Forest Street will also be constructed as part of the street project. This will provide vehicle parking for persons using the community garden area.

Bill Boettcher, from Lien & Peterson Architects spoke in support and discussed details of the proposed project. He noted that the project would be divided into four phases that would be completed over the next several years. Plans for 2019 include the construction of the 12-foot wide trail and gathering area.

Mark Beckfield spoke in support of the project and discussed the funding for the project.

Edward Thomas Michael spoke in support.

Jenny Nelson spoke in support noting that as many trees in the park should be retained.

Tami Schraufnagel spoke in support. Tami indicated that she was the chairperson for the North River Fronts Neighborhood Association, and that the Association supports efforts to develop the trail and amenities.

Todd Chwala indicated that very few trees would be impacted by the trail project. He did note that some ash trees would be removed along Forest Street as part of the street reconstruction project.

ACTION TAKEN: Meredith Ball moved to recommend approval of the site plan for the veteran's tribute trail and amenities as proposed. Jenni Sterling seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Recommendation on State Street reconstruction project as it relates to Jaycette Park and the MacArthur Avenue urban parks. Dave Solberg provided an overview of plans to reconstruct State Street in the vicinity of Jaycette Park and the two MacArthur Avenue urban parks. Dave noted that roundabouts were proposed at the intersections of Lexington Avenue and State Street and MacArthur Avenue and State Street. It was noted that the proposed roundabout southwest of Jaycette Park would need to use a portion of land from the park in order to accommodate the roundabout.

The Commission discussed the project and indicated that they felt that the construction of the roundabout would be an improvement for the intersection. They stated that Jaycette Park was not heavily used because it was already somewhat isolated due to its location, but keeping some picnic tables for some limited use should be considered.

The Commission noted that the MacArthur Avenue parks were underutilized and discussed options to increase their use and visibility in the neighborhood. The addition of picnic tables, small playground equipment, a sidewalk, and signage were discussed. Neighborhood meetings will be scheduled to obtain input from the neighborhood about possible improvements.

Dave also stated that the benches and a rest area are planned for the portion of State Street extending through Putnam Park. A bicycle rail system is also planned for the stairways extending down to Putnam Drive.

ACTION TAKEN: Ron Doering moved to recommend approval of the street project as proposed as it would relate to Jaycette Park and the MacArthur Avenue urban parks. John Bodkin seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Jenni Sterling left the meeting.

C. Recommendation on declaring the City-owned property at 100 North Farwell Street as excess land. Kristine Basom provided an overview of a request to declare City-owned land as excess land that is located between North Barstow Street and North Farwell Street and north of the Eau Claire River. If declared as excess, the land could potentially be sold for development purposes. The property is known as the Railroad Street parking lot. The open space land along the riverfront located to the south of the parking lot is currently used for the recreational trail and would be retained.

The Commission discussed the request and expressed concern about the potential sale of the land. They noted that multiple redevelopment opportunities already exist within the Downtown area and that this parking lot is used by the food trucks during the summer. They also noted that a Downtown parking study is planned for 2019 and questioned whether the parking study should be completed prior to eliminating the parking lot. Finally, it was noted that this parking lot provides convenient access for people to the riverfront and recreational trail.

ACTION TAKEN: Kate Beaton moved to recommend approval of declaring the parking lot property as excess land. Meredith Ball seconded the motion. The motion failed with Kate Beaton voting in favor.

D. Recommendation to purchase property along Folsom Street. Kristine Basom presented a request for the City to purchase land located south of Folsom Street and south of Roosevelt Elementary School. The property is located along a portion of the City's recreational trail that extends to the High Bridge. It also is located to the east of right-of-way that will be developed as a recreational trail in the future. The City's park plan shows this area as a future park site.

ACTION TAKEN: Kirk Dahl moved to recommend approval of the purchase of the property. Ron Doering seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Other Items.

-The Commission reviewed the special events listing and Director's Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by,
Susan McLeod, Secretary

PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

STAFF REPORT

PROJECT NAME: Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program

To: Waterways and Parks Commission

Date: February 27, 2019

From: Todd Chwala

Description: Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program

Location: Carson Park, Mt Simon Park, and Riverview Park

Background: Presentation of Eagle Scout project from Kevin Byrne, monofilament recycling station program.

Justification: Monofilament fishing line not properly discarded causes devastating problems for wildlife and the environment.

Proposed Location: boat landings

Facilities Features: N/A

Storm Water: N/A

City of Eau Claire Park and Open Space Master Plan: N/A

City Comprehensive Plan: N/A

Financial: N/A

LAWCON: N/A

PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

STAFF REPORT

PROJECT NAME: 111 Niagara Street Rezoning and Classification

To: Waterways and Parks Commission

Date: February 27, 2019

From: Jeff Pippenger, Community Services Director

Description: Rezoning parcel from RM (Single Family Residential) to P (Public) and classify as a Special Area to the Parks and Open Space Plan

Location: 111 Niagara Street

Background: In 1997, the City purchased several parcels located at 111 Niagara Street to remove structures that were built in the flood plain. This property was purchased with FEMA funding to turn into green space. The Randall Park Neighborhood Association has requested to plant some flowers and vegetative plants such as shrubs, grasses and trees. A request for Reuse has been submitted to FEMA for approval.

Justification: This property was purchased to remove structures that were built in the flood plain, and changing the zoning is appropriate due to this parcel will not be built on in the future. Additionally, the green space should be classified under the Parks Classification and assessment system.

Proposed Location: Parcel number 05-0252 located on First Avenue between Chippewa Street and Niagara Street.

Facilities Features: n/a

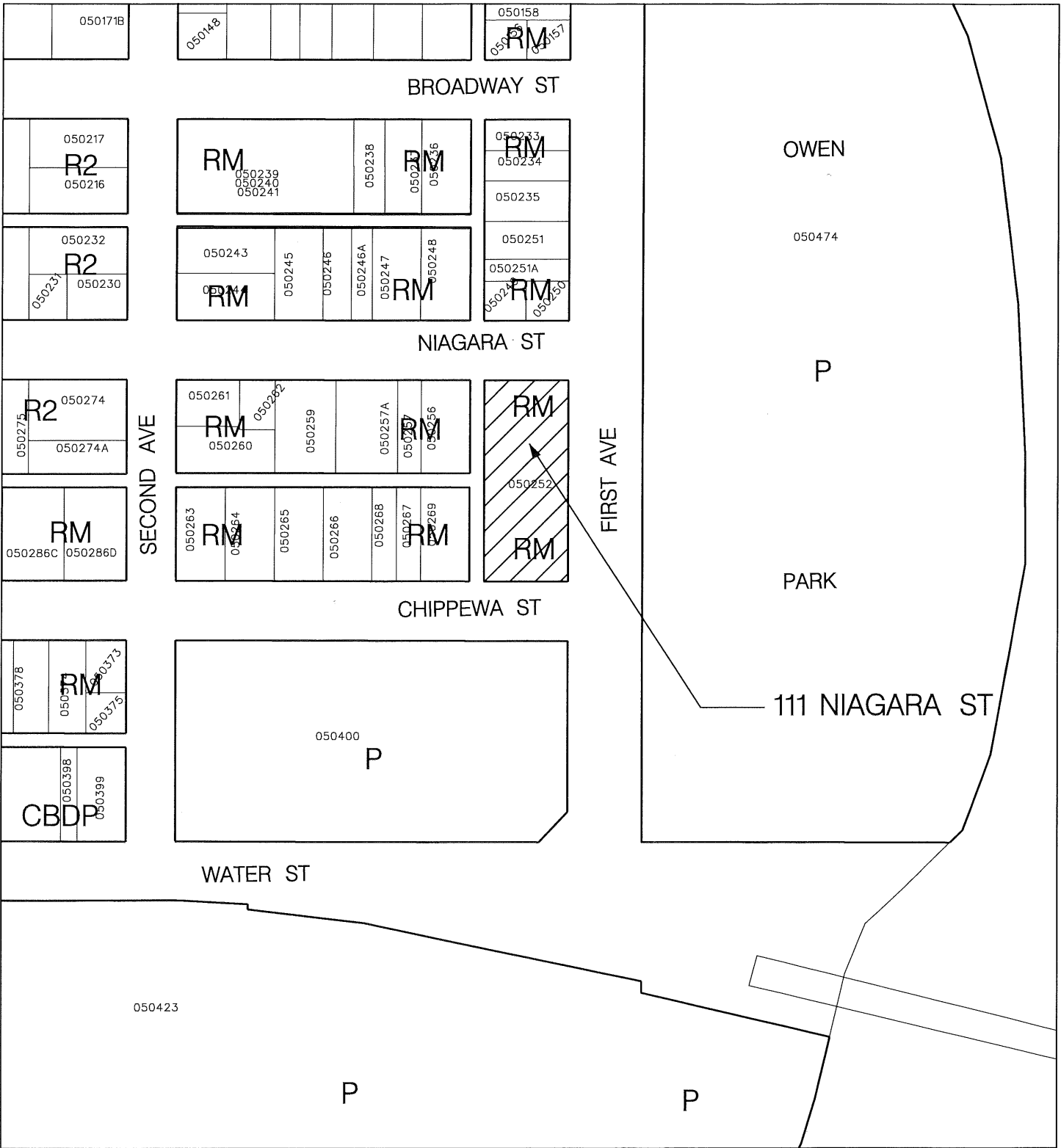
Storm Water: n/a

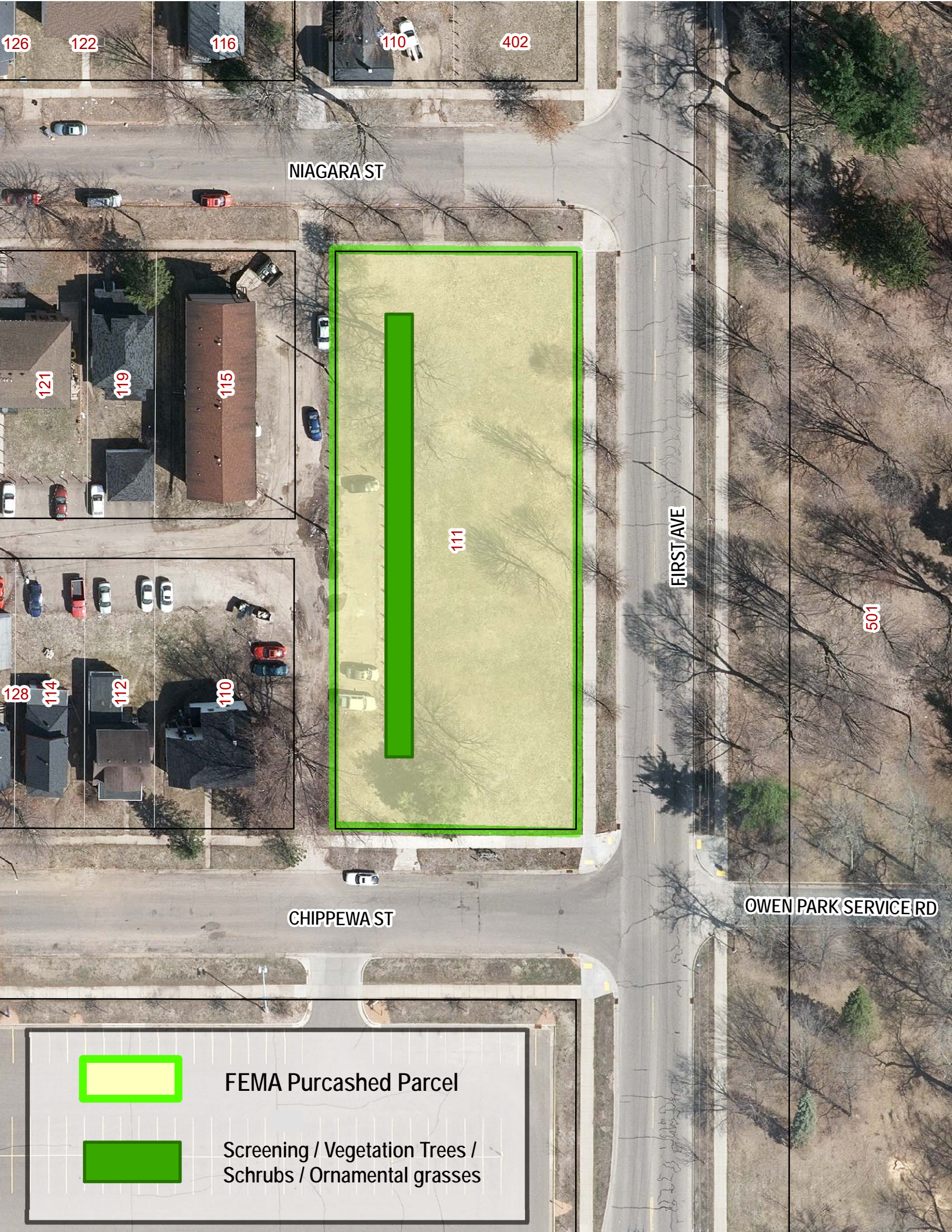
City of Eau Claire Park and Open Space Master Plan: Supported by the Parks and Open Space Plan.

City Comprehensive Plan: Consistent with City of Eau Claire Comp Plan.

Financial: n/a

LAWCON: n/a





126

122

116

110

402

NIAGARA ST

121

119

115

111

FIRST AVE

501

128

114

112

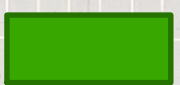
110

CHIPPEWA ST

OWEN PARK SERVICE RD



FEMA Purchased Parcel



Screening / Vegetation Trees /
Schrubs / Ornamental grasses

March 2019 Special Events

Event	Date	Location
Shamrock Shuffle	3/16	City Trails

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY
February 2019 Monthly Report

Parks Division

With the recent snow falls our park ski trails are finally open for cross country skiing, and Pinehurst hill has also been busy with skating, snowboarding, and sledding.

Keeping our 34 miles of trails cleared, and assisting the street division with snow removal has been a priority, and our crews are doing a great job finding places for the overwhelming amount of snow.

Forestry Division

Forestry work has been primarily dealing with our EAB removals and assisting street division with snow removal.

Recreation Division

Outdoor skating attendance for 2018-19 has seen over 5,600 visitors to our seven (7) outdoor rinks.

Winter After Hours is being extended one week to introduce the “Winter Mission” initiative to Eau Claire. Winter Mission is a collaborative effort to get people outside in the winter time to become more active and find ways to reduce the effects of seasonal affective disorder.

Prime Times

The 2018 Fall and Winter edition is still available in print, or can be found online at www.eauclairewi.gov/primetimes. The 2019 Summer edition is now available online as well.

Special Events

The Special Events Committee continues to work with all the groups that conduct events within city parks and meets monthly. The group will also review alcohol license applications.