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# Waterways and Parks Commission

## Agenda

August 25, 2021

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that there will be a meeting of the City Waterways and Parks Commission on Wednesday, August 25th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually through online meeting systems and will be available to the public via Webex using a computer, tablet, or smartphone (Webex app required) or telephone (audio only) on the following agenda items:

### Waterways and Parks Commission Connection Info:

*Event address for attendees:*

<https://eauclairewi.webex.com/eauclairewi/onstage/g.php?MTID=e77c808a15a0dd834fe71ef880e0e1d99>

*Audio Only:* +1-408-418-9388    *Access code:* 146 343 9046

1.     **Call to Order**
2.     **Roll Call**
3.     **Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting, July 28, 2021.**
4.     **Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda**
5.     **Business Agenda items**
  - a.    Request of Encroachment/Improvement at 1430 Howard Drive for Riverview Drive.
  - b.    Recommendation for purchase of land along the Eau Claire River, parcel 02-0411-A.
  - c.    Recommendation to place a skateboard element adjacent to a trail section along 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.
6.     **Discussion and Direction**
  - a.    Future Agenda Items
  - b.    Announcements
  - c.    Director's Report (information only)
  - d.    2021 Special Events List (information only)
7.     **Adjournment**

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Ron Doering, Chairperson  
c: News Media

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*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."*

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# Waterways and Parks Commission

## Minutes

July 28, 2021

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1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:17pm by Chairperson Doering
2. Roll Call
  - a. Members Present: Ron Doering, John Lor, Kate Beaton, Meredith Ball, Megan Holmes, Joe Maurer, Kirk Dahl
  - b. Members Absent: Ellen Faulkner, Christopher Johnson, Jessica Schoen, John Bodkin
  - c. Staff Present: Renee Tyler, Aaron White, Steve Plaza, Christien Huppert, Taylor Graybehl, Amber Willi
3. Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting, June 23, 2021.
  - a. Motion to approve by Council Member Lor, seconded by Commissioner Ball. All votes in favor, minutes approved as submitted.
4. Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda
  - a. None
5. Business Agenda items
  - a. Request of Encroachment/Improvement along Riverview Drive for 1416 Howard Drive
    - a. Presented by Mr. Plaza
    - b. Motion to approve request by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Holmes. All votes in favor, motion passed.
  - b. Land transfer between the City of Eau Claire and the Redevelopment Authority and Subsequent Installation of Solar Tree and Trail in Cannery District
    - a. Presented by Mr. Huppert
    - b. Motion to approve the trail connection and place a solar tree amenity by Commissioner Dahl, seconded by Commissioner Maurer. All votes in favor, motion passed.
  - c. Excess Land Recommendation
    - a. Presented by Mr. Huppert
    - b. Motion to approve the land transfer and the site plan, if consistent with City Ordinances, by Council Member Beaton, seconded by Council Member Lor. All votes in favor, motion passed.
  - d. Request by North Barstow/Medical Businesses Improvement District for a permanent encroachment in Phoenix Park for placement of a Digital Kiosk and art piece.
    - a. Presented by Mr. White
    - b. Commissioner Holmes inquired about how digital signage would be approved. Mr. White clarified that the BID district would be in control of the digital unit and the software, but would be subject to City ordinance. Commissioner Dahl expressed concerns about business advertising on the kiosk.
    - c. Commissioner Dahl inquired about the durability of the digital unit in Eau Claire's climate. Mr. White clarified that the unit is designed to be durable outdoors and can withstand temperatures and conditions that are typically seen in this environment.
    - d. Motion to recommend the placement of a digital kiosk and art piece in Phoenix Park to City Council by Council Member Lor, seconded by Commissioner Dahl. Commissioner Maurer abstained. All votes in favor, motion passed.

6. Discussion and Direction
  - a. Future Agenda Items
    - a. Skate obstacles on the trails
    - b. Major project timing and sequencing
  - b. Announcements
    - a. None
  - c. Director's Report
  - d. 2021 Special Events List
7. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to adjourn by Council Member Beaton, seconded by Commissioner Maurer. All votes in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:13PM.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY  
STAFF REPORT  
PROJECT NAME: Encroachment Request**

**To:** Waterways and Parks Commission

**Date:** 8/25/2021

**From:** Steve Plaza, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery, Building & Grounds Manager

**Description:** Request of Encroachment/Improvement at 1430 Howard Drive for Riverview Drive

**Location:** Riverview Drive

**Background:** Ms. Wilodyne Bruce, homeowner, requested permission to remove selected vegetation above Dells Pond, adjacent to 1430 Howard Ave. The project will include removal of invasive, dead and diseased trees leaving the stumps in place to help erosion control. It will also include replanting native grasses to help keep the riverbank stabilized.

**Justification:** Selective removal and thinning of trees and other vegetation will create a vista of Dells Pond on this portion of Riverview Rd. Maintenance work targeted for oak trees must follow best management practices to avoid oak wilt disease. The adjacent neighbors have already been approved and completed this work last month and Ms. Bruce has been approved to complete this work in the past. Black Locust and Ash are primary targeted for this removal and staff recommends this work being done. To ensure quality control, all work is to be completed by an individual or firm that employees ISA-Certified Arborists, and is licensed to apply herbicide treatment. All work will be completed under the general direction of the Forestry Division by a preapproved licensed contractor, and future maintenance to be conducted by the same.

**Mission Statement:** To support the beautification and awareness of local parks or trails while encouraging and recognizing neighborhood and community involvements.

**Proposed Motion:** I motion to approve the Tree Trimming/Removal/Planting Treatment Permit Application submitted by Ms. Bruce for the property adjacent to 1430 Howard Ave overlooking Dells Pond. The homeowner will work with the City Forestry Department and will be responsible for all cost related to this operation.

**Proposed Location:** Riverview Drive – adjacent to 1430 Howard Drive

**Facilities Features:** N/A

**Storm Water:** No impact at this time

**City of Eau Claire Park and Open Space Master Plan:** Goal “C” subsection 3: “Promote joint public-private ventures in developing park and waterway facilities”

**City Comprehensive Plan:** Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

**Financial:** Homeowner agrees to pay for the entire cost of the project

**LAWCON:** N/A

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**MEMORANDUM****FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

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**Date:** *August 18, 2021*

**To:** *Waterways and Parks Commission*

**From:** *Kristine Basom, Budget Analyst*

**Subject:** *Recommendation for acceptance of land along the EC River*

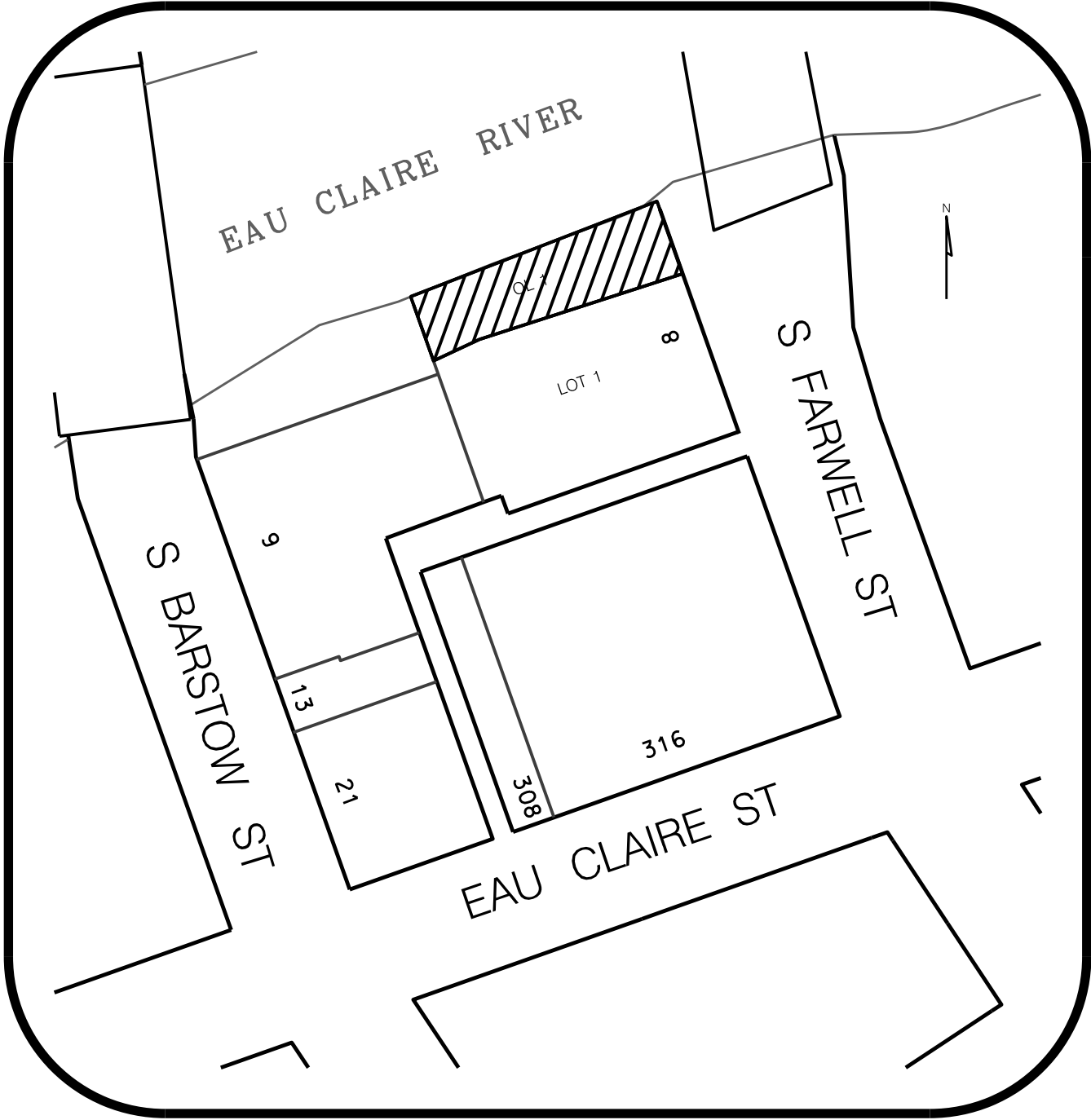
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The property located at 0 Farwell St; parcel 02-0411-A is needed for a trail extension along the Eau Claire River. The property owner has agreed to sell the property to the City of Eau Claire.

The Parks, Trails and Greenway System section of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan, Objective 2, Policy 2 states, "Pursue these land acquisition as recommended in the *2013 to 2017 Park and Open Space Plan*: Any remaining properties necessary for a continuous trail along the northern side of the Eau Claire River.

This acquisition is consistent with the objective and goals of the plan.

Please place this item for review and recommendation to City Council on the August 25<sup>th</sup> Waterways and Parks Commission agenda.



SOUTH FARWELL STREET  
LAND PURCHASE

**PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY  
STAFF REPORT  
PROJECT NAME: Skate Element adjacent to the Trail**

**To:** Waterways and Parks Commission

**Date:** 8/25/2021

**From:** Steve Plaza, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery, Building & Grounds Manager

**Description:** Place a skate board element adjacent to a trail section along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue by the Court House and Police Station.

**Location:** Adjacent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue trail by the Court House and Police Station

**Background:** Board Member Johnson brought up in our June meeting the idea of placing a skate park element adjacent to one of our trails. Since then Board Member Johnson and City staff determined the best location for this element is along the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue trail adjacent to the current path close to the Court House and Police Station.

**Justification:** At our June meeting the Commission requested Board Member Johnson and City staff explore this option and bring it back to the board with a cost estimate and a specific location. It was determined the skate element would cost \$1,300 and a 30' x 0.5' sidewalk to offset the feature from the current trail would cost \$2,000. Board Member Johnson is actively looking for individuals who could help out with this project and would like to see it completed this fall.

**Mission Statement:** To support the beautification and awareness of local parks or trails while encouraging and recognizing neighborhood and community involvements.

**Proposed Motion:** I motion to approve this trial skate park element to be installed along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue trail.

**Proposed Location:** Adjacent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Trail

**Facilities Features:** N/A

**Storm Water:** No impact at this time

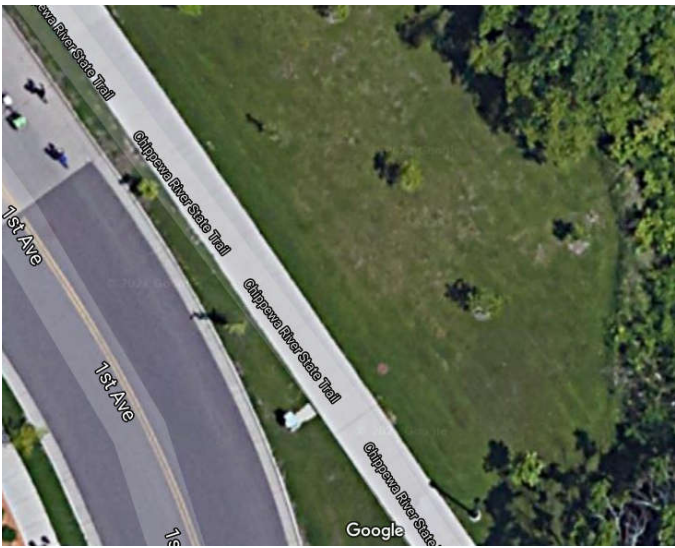
**City of Eau Claire Park and Open Space Master Plan:** Goal "C" subsection 3: "Promote joint public-private ventures in developing park and waterway facilities"

**City Comprehensive Plan:** Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

**Financial:** \$3,500; may be offset by sponsorships and donations

**LAWCON:** N/A





**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**PARKS, FORESTRY, CEMETERY, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DIVISION**  
**RECREATION DIVISION**

**August 2021 Report**

Community Services Department

- The Community Services Department is doing its part to slow the spread of Covid-19. Masks are required once again regardless of vaccination status, staff are participating in the City's Vaccine Incentive Program, and additional measures such as mandatory weekly testing are being considered. Additionally, cancellation policies for recreation programs and facility reservations have been relaxed temporarily to accommodate Covid-19 concerns.

Parks Division

- The Boyd Park Skate Park RFP was awarded to Spohn Ranch. Staff is now working with the Purchasing Department, Spohn Ranch, and the Eau Claire Skater's Association to secure a design for a skate park to be built in Boyd Park. The team is currently working on identifying dates and time for the community engagement process.
- Baseball Season is wrapped up and crews are cleaning and closing the Carson Park Baseball Stadium and preparing the Football Stadium for the use.
- In collaboration with the Engineering Department and Recreation Division, the Fairfax Safe Route to School project is on track to be completed before students return to the classroom.
- An irrigation control system at Phoenix Park that had been damaged in a recent lightning storm has now been replaced.

Forestry Division

- The Forestry crew continues tagging, pruning, and removing Ash Trees throughout the City.
- The Stump Grinding machine is temporarily out of service for repairs. A replacement machine is in the works for 2022.
- An order for 300 trees has been placed to prepare for the fall planting season.

Recreation Division

- National Night Out, hosted in conjunction with the Police Department, was a huge success with over 2,000 community members in attendance. Staff and guests enjoyed the new location in Carson Park immensely and look forward to using that space again in future years.
- Fairfax Pool will close for the season on August 27, 2021, save for the Doggie Swim scheduled for Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>
- A new recreation management software implementation is underway, with an expected switchover in September or October.
- Hobbs Ice Arena is preparing for a more regular season this fall and winter. Staffing levels are the largest concern at the moment, with an additional 14+ seasonal employees needed before the season begins.

Prime Times

Recreation has completed and released the 2021-22 Fall/Winter edition. The document can be found online at [www.eauclairewi.gov/primetimes](http://www.eauclairewi.gov/primetimes). Registration is set to begin on September 15, 2021.

## August/September 2021 Special Events

Event	Day/Date	Location
Farmer's Market	Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 05/01-10/30	Phoenix Park
Artist's Market	Saturdays, 05/29-09/25	Phoenix Park
Express Fireworks	Various after Express Games, 05/31-08/09	Carson Park
Downtown Historical Walking Tours	Various, 06/02+	City sidewalks & trails
Food Truck Fridays	Fridays, 06/04, 07/09, 08/06, 09/03	Phoenix Park
Sounds Like Summer Concert Series	Thursdays, 06/10-08/26	Phoenix Park
Meet Me at the Confluence (Exercise series)	Wednesdays, 06/09, 06/23, 07/14, 07/28, 08/11, 08/25	Phoenix Park
International Day of Yoga (and more)	Various, 06/10, 06/13, 06/21, 07/11, 07/30, 08/08	Phoenix Park
Radio Control Car Races	Various, 06/15+	Carson Park
Praise in the Park	Sundays, 06/13-08/29	Phoenix Park
Love Eau Claire Day Camp	Monday-Thursday, 07/05-08/05	Cameron Park
Tuesday Night Blues	Tuesdays, 07/06-08/31, Monday, 09/06	Owen Park
Forest Hill Cemetery Walking Tours	Mondays, 08/02, 08/09, 08/16, 08/23	Forest Hill Cemetery
National Night Out	Tuesday, 08/03	Carson Park
Family Night in the Park	Saturday, 08/07	Phoenix Park
Team Hope Run/Walk	Saturday, 08/14	Carson Park
We Care Eau Claire Backpack Event	Monday, 08/16	Phoenix Park
Grand Evening on the Bridge	Wednesday, 08/18	Grand Ave Bridge
WI Clear Waters TU Silent Auction	Tuesday, 08/24	Phoenix Park
North Husky Cross-Country Invite	Saturday, 08/28	City Wells
Festival in the Pines	Saturday-Sunday, 08/28-08/29	Carson Park
Doll & Pet Parade	Sunday, 08/29	Owen Park
Little Buckshot Run	Tuesday, 08/31	Carson Park
UW Meets EC	Thursday, 09/02	Owen, Phoenix
State Horseshoe Tournament	Saturday-Monday, 09/04-09/06	Carson Park
Buckshot Run	Saturday, 09/04	Carson Park
International Fall Festival	Saturday, 09/11	Downtown Eau Claire
Barnboozlement	Friday, 09/17	Boyd Park
Walk for Life	Saturday, 09/18	Owen Park
90s Reunion Concert	Saturday, 09/18	Owen Park
Eau Claire Marathon	Saturday-Sunday, 09/25-09/26	Phoenix Park
Walk to End Alzheimers	Saturday, 09/25	Carson Park
Heart Walk	Saturday, 09/25	Carson Park