



222 Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone (715)425-0900  
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**AGENDA MEETING OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.**

**City Hall Training Room**

**5:15 p.m. CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes from April 20, 2022 and May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 workshop of Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Outdoor Recreation Plan Steering Committee #4
2. Update on current Park projects -Mike Stifter
  - (pickleball, playgrounds, and DeSanctis)
  - paving and concrete work at Hoffman Park
  - River Falls Creates: Park and Rec courtesy review of anticipated installation at Glen Park
  - Bee City update

**ACTION ITEMS**

**CALENDAR**

Next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting July 20, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT**

**NOTE:** Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials to be in an accessible location or format, may contact City Clerk Amy White at (715) 426-3408 or in person at 222 Lewis Street, for accommodations. Requests for accommodations should be made at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodations.

*Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.*

*No official Council action will be taken.*



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**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.**  
**City Hall Training Room**

**Members Present:** Patricia LaRue (chair), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Matt Janquart  
Melissa Pedrini

**Members Absent:** Alyssa Mueller (Council Rep)

**Staff Present:** Cindi Danke-Recreation Manager; Brenda Rundle-Recreation Assistant; Scot Simpson-City Administrator; Mike Stifter-Public Works Director; and Kendra Ellner-Planner

**Others Present:** Sean Downing and Ben Fochs

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MSC Gaulke/Pedrini to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2022 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Carried 5-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items**

Sean Downing thanked Park Board for their time over his years on the Park Board and encouraged Park Board to support building an ice-skating rink.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. City Administrator Scot Simpson discussed the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding of \$1.6 million (we have already received about half), and City Council needs to decide the best use of the money. It can be used for any local government services with very few exceptions. There was a City Council workshop to discuss how to use the money. Council leaned towards using it towards existing CIP priorities and they were also given recommendations from City staff. Some projects discussed were the Powell Avenue bridge reconstruction (the City portion), Wasson Lane reconstruction (the City portion), playgrounds, police cars, and weather siren replacement. At the April 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, a final project list was recommended by City Administrator Scot Simpson based on previous workshops, but an amendment was made requesting that \$100,000 of it be used towards an outdoor ice rink which passed by council 4-3. The mayor later vetoed requesting that the focus remain on existing CIP projects and wait for the results of the outdoor recreation plan to determine the merits of an ice rink. The estimate for a very basic ice rink is \$50,000-\$60,000. The 2018 Master plan of Glen Park had a sports court that can be flooded in the winter for about \$200,000 and a basic warming house would be about \$500,000. Park Board members shared their thoughts about having an ice rink, likely at Glen Park because of the last park plan, but it was not high enough on the priority list to get completed in the first or second

phase of Glen Park plan. Though an ice rink is on the Park Board wish list there are higher priority items they would like to see developed in the parks. After much discussion, it was unanimously decided that they are in favor of putting in an outdoor ice rink if the funds are available. To override the mayor's veto at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, it would take a vote of at least 5 out of 7 City Council members.

2. Planner Kendra Ellner shared an update about the Outdoor Recreation Plan. An existing park facility inventory has been completed and a list was shared with Park Board members to review. There will be pop-up events in April and the next steering committee meeting will likely be in May.

3. Mike Stifter says orders have been placed for some playground equipment at four playgrounds: Brandon's, Spring Creek, Knollwood, and part of Glen Park (with some donated funds). Staff also recommends replacement playground equipment at Westdale and Collins with ARPA funds. The Wells Park neighborhood recently received a survey about their neighborhood park and what amenities they desire.

4. The Glover Schoolhouse at DeSanctis Park is being updated and prepared to make it rentable. It should be ready to use in summer. Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will have some ideas for historic photos to hang in the schoolhouse. There are plans to have a historic potbelly stove and desk in the corner.

5. Cindi Danke passed out the list of Hoffman Park camping rules for review. The campground opened Friday April 15th, and it will be full this weekend due to the Chamber's Bluegrass Festival.

6. Patricia LaRue would like each park board member to visit some parks a few times this spring and early summer and speak with park-goers. This will be discussed again next month.

7. Cindi Danke and Scot Simpson told Park Board about a recent community project funding grant for five projects in Rep. Ron Kind's district, and there was a very short deadline to apply, so City staff applied for grant monies to be used on swimming pool as it was already on a project list but did not have the monies to complete it previously. We will likely hear a decision later this summer.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

None

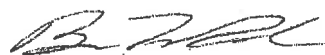
#### **CALENDAR**

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be May 18, 2022.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MSC Dobbertin/Janquart to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle  
Customer Service Representative



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**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD WORKSHOP**  
**Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.**  
**City Hall Training Room**

- Members Present:** Patricia LaRue (chair), Matt Janquart and Melissa Pedrini
- Members Absent:** Alyssa Mueller (Council Rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke
- Staff Present:** Cindi Danke-Recreation Manager; Brenda Rundle-Recreation Assistant; Mike Stifter-Public Works Director; Amy Peterson-Community Development Director, and Emily Shively-City Planner.
- Others Present:** Sean Downing, Ben Fochs, Bryan Thompson, Patricia Armstrong, Christopher P. Gagne, and Stephaine Falkers of SRF (virtually)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No quorum to approve the minutes from April 20, 2022.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items**

Sean Downing announced there is a first organizational meeting for Bee City USA after the Park Board meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Due to lack of quorum, Park Board members that were present continued with a discussion of the agenda items.

1. Stephanie Falkers updated the board about the River Falls Outdoor Recreation Plan. There will be more pop-up events where planners can talk with the public about recreation planning. They also have upcoming stakeholder conversations planned. They posted a couple of park-specific surveys on EngageRF. The preliminary outdoor recreation physical inventory is being reviewed by staff. Next month the needs assessment will be discussed.

2. 46 people replied to the Wells Park survey. Approximately \$50k or more has been slated for the 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), in addition to possibly using some of the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Local residents that live near Wells Park and attended the Park Board meeting stated that the tennis court is used often, but it needs much repair. Mowing is not always kept up, and the sand is dirty, and lighting could be improved. A small picnic shelter might be nice, especially since Wells Park is also a school bus stop. They indicated that a basketball court and a skateboard park is too noisy for a

small neighborhood park. They also would appreciate increased police presence and would like if the park closed earlier than 11:00 p.m..

3. Mike Stifter updated Park Board about current park projects. Staff is preparing the pool and splash pad. They are still working on the Glover Schoolhouse at DeSanctis Park. The Glen Park Pickleball court will be resurfaced soon. Cindi said soccer and baseball has started. The new disc golf course at Sterling Hills is being worked on.

**ACTION ITEMS**

None

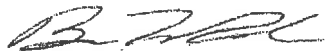
**CALENDAR**

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be June 15, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle  
Customer Service Representative

DRAFT

# RIVER FALLS OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #3b

Wednesday, June 15 | 5:15pm

1

### INTRODUCTIONS

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- Introductions and Icebreaker
  - o Using the park you are assigned (at the meeting), give us your elevator pitch for why it is the best park in River Falls

2

### GOAL UPDATE

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- Goal Review/Discussion

3

### OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY

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- Inventory Updates and Refines
- Needs Assessment Data Points

4

### PARKS AND FUTURE NEEDS

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- Park Category Definitions
- Neighborhood Park Development Exercise

5

### NEXT STEPS

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- Upcoming Events
- Stakeholder Meeting Update

## WORKING PARK CLASSIFICATIONS/DEFINITIONS

The different types of parks within River Falls are categorized into specific park types by the size and function the park provides. The following definitions for each park category have been crafted to respond to the existing parks and future needs. These definitions and descriptions can be modified and tailored to respond to the future needs and goals of River Falls.

### Pocket Park

A Pocket Park is a small site used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. These parks may be found in any type of setting. Examples might include a downtown mini park or plaza, a memorial or historic site, or small open areas. These parks may be either active or passive, but speak to a specific recreational need rather than a particular population density.

### Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are designed to meet the immediate active and passive recreation needs of those people living within a short distance of the park (usually between ¼ and ½ miles uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers). These parks serve as the recreational and social focus of their neighborhood, helping to establish a neighborhood identity.

The average neighborhood park serves from 500 to 1,500 people.

Neighborhood parks commonly range from 5-10 acres in size. The design focus is typically on children (five to fifteen years old) and families, although the demographic composition of the neighborhood should determine if facilities for other population groups are warranted.

Neighborhood parks will usually provide play apparatus for preschoolers and school age children. They typically provide informal recreational facilities, stressing versatility to accommodate multiple recreational pursuits. Examples include multi-purpose turf fields and paved court areas, and lawn areas that may be used for intermittent activities (horseshoes, lawn games, badminton, etc.) and seasonal activities (ice rinks, etc.). Other features found in neighborhood parks may include picnic shelters, restroom facilities, and maintenance or storage buildings. They may include passive recreation areas with naturalized landscaping.

As neighborhood parks are intended to meet the needs of persons living within a walkable distance, vehicle parking will usually be provided on the street, rather than in the park. Connections to the sidewalk and trail system, along with bicycle parking are great additions.

<p><b>Regional Park</b></p>	<p>Regional Parks are designed to serve several neighborhoods or an entire community, meeting the needs of all age groups. Whereas neighborhood parks cater to younger children, a regional park will contain features geared toward teenagers and an adult population. Although size is not always a sound criterion for classifying parks, it is generally recognized that regional parks are more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. Most regional parks have an average size of between 20 and 35 acres, but may be larger. Regional parks have an effective service area of one to three miles (or an entire municipality).</p> <p>Regional parks provide a combination of intensive and non-intensive development ranging from play apparatus to trail systems. In addition to the kinds of facilities provided at neighborhood parks, regional parks may provide facilities such as swimming pools, formal playing fields, sports complexes, community centers, amphitheaters, and other facilities serving a large population base. Parking is typically provided within the park, with the amount determined based on the types of uses the park will accommodate.</p>
<p><b>Special Use Area</b></p>	<p>A special use park is often created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. Examples might include a sports park, water park or pool, arena, community center, fitness center, or theater/event center. These are needs that are not generally found in neighborhood or regional parks, greenways, or trail corridors, or may be incompatible with passive, nature-based outdoor recreation. The actual size of a special use park is determined by land availability and facility/market demand for special uses or recreation programs. These parks may be designed as a revenue-generating enterprise.</p>
<p><b>Linear Parks/ Greenways</b></p>	<p>Linear Parks and Greenways serve similar functions within a community. Greenways are corridors providing connections between parks or other community destinations, and may preserve significant environmental resources in the area. The majority of land area within greenway corridors is used to preserve natural features such as floodways, wetlands, river corridors, and woodlands. Trails will often be found located within the greenway. Other active and passive uses may be found at nodes within the greenway system. Greenways may be owned and maintained by the local or county governments, as well as conservation organizations and others.</p> <p>Linear Parks include similar features to a Greenway and are typically longer than they are wide. Linear parks support of a variety of recreational functions, primarily including trails as associated uses. However, they may provide some other specific recreation uses at a trail head or similar location.</p>



<p><b>School Park</b></p>	<p>School Parks included the recreational facilities and uses located at a public school that primarily serve the school, but are also open to the public outside of school hours. Recreational features can include play equipment, sports fields, sport courts, and other multipurpose spaces.</p>
<p><b>Private Parks and Recreational Facilities</b></p>	<p>Private parks and recreation areas are sites owned by organizations, clubs, or homeowner associations, which provide public access to privately owned open space or recreational facilities.</p> <p>These parks and recreational facilities function similar to a neighborhood park, but for a defined group or area. The recreational value contributes to the overall amenities within the community, though the City has no management or control over the maintenance of the facilities.</p>
<p><b>Trail System</b></p>	<p>A trail system is comprised of hard and soft-surfaced paths designed to accommodate some combination of hiking, walking, bicycling, mountain biking, skating, horseback riding, and similar activities. Nature trails are also included in the trail system. Trails may be designed for a single purpose, or as multi-use paths for several kinds of users (ex., cyclists and pedestrians).</p>