

TO: Park & Recreation Commission Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
Chris Fortsch, Administrative Assistant
DATE: March 6, 2025
RE: Meeting Notice
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
5:30 p.m., Wieser Park Pavilion at Wieser Park
1817 County Road #6, La Crescent

AGENDA

1. Consideration of meeting minutes – September 16, 2024.
2. Introduce Alyssa Sebo – Summer Recreation Director.
3. Review new City Park sign design. Information will be presented at the meeting.
4. Review Outdoor Recreation Grant application/project for improvements at Wieser Park. Information included.
5. Review Stoney Point Forest Restoration Project. Information included.
6. Discuss future CPL grant application for next forest restoration project.
7. Wieser Park pavilion repairs authorized – information included.
8. Review Wieser Park pavilion usage and 2025 fee schedule. Information will be presented at the meeting.
9. Discussion regarding enclosing one side of the park shelter at Old Hickory Park.
10. Visual/digital counter for the bicycle/pedestrian bridge – information included.
11. Natural Resource Advisory Group – 2024 Summary of Activity. Information included.
12. Eagles Bluff Park sign project – information included.
13. Set date for next meeting.
14. Additional discussion items.
15. Adjournment.

Please call either Chris or Bill at 895-2595, or e-mail us at cfortsch@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov or bwaller@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov, if you will not be able to attend, have questions, or need more information. Thank you.

#1

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
Park and Recreation Commission Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: September 19, 2024
RE: Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024

The La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, September 16, 2024, in the Wieser Park Pavilion at Wieser Park. The following members were present: Maseray Bangura, Patti Martell, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jon Steffes, Sarah Wetterlin, and Paul McLellan. Commission member Diana Adamski was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Chris Fortsch, Larry Kirch, and Bill Waller.

1. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2024 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented.
2. Community Development Director Larry Kirch was in attendance at the meeting and reviewed the following projects with the Park & Recreation Commission:
 - a. Root River State Trail Extension.
 - b. Bike/Pedestrian Bridge connection to Miller's Corner.
 - c. Application for Federal Assistance – Root River Trail Planning and Design Grant.
 - d. Overlook Plaza Project.
 - e. South 6th Street Improvement Project.
 - f. USA Cycling Gravel National Championships.

The summary that was presented at the meeting regarding these projects is attached to the meeting minutes.

3. It was agreed that the next Park & Recreation Commission meeting would be November 18th, 2024, and that agenda items would include signage at the Blue Lake Canoe/Kayak access and the dog park, along with a visual/digital counter at the bike/pedestrian bridge.
4. There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 pm.

Park and Rec Board Notes – 9-16-24 meeting

2a) Root River State Trail Extension – Through a Memorandum of Agreement to Jointly Cooperate between Houston County and the cities of Houston, Hokah, and La Crescent, a Citizens Exploratory Committee was formed. La Crescent City Staff and Houston County staff from the Economic Development Authority have staffed the committee. The committee prepared a Root River State Trail Extension plan which has been approved by all three cities and the county. The plan confirms the State approved DNR plan from 2011. The plan does not include a specific trail alignment. The DNR state trail plan also did not have a preferred trail alignment. After the 2011 plan was approved by the DNR Commissioner, little to no local work was done on the trail extension until 2021 and 2022.

The MOU trail plan calls for entering into a Joint Powers Agreement between the three cities and the county. The trail plan also calls for searching for and pursuing funding sources, securing land rights for the trail bed and encourages the four entities to become members in the Southeastern Minnesota Association of Regional Trails, the Root River Trail Towns organization, the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the Bicycling Alliance of Minnesota.

2b) Bike Pedestrian Bridge to Millers Corner – The city received a \$30,000 MnDOT Technical Assistance Grant to hire the city's engineering company to assist the city in making a federal discretionary grant application for trail construction. This grant is funding additional engineering feasibility of a trail alignment between the Wagon Wheel Bike-Ped Bridge and Miller's Corner. In 2023, MnDOT funded a planning corridor Action Plan for the same corridor. The Action Plan has been used to seek other funding sources. The City Engineer Tim Hruska, is working with MnDOT right-of-way data, LIDAR data and cross-sections from a previous DNR study. The community preference is for a trail between the highway and the railroad. However, the DOT would like the city to keep the option open of putting a trail on the west side of Highway 16. The feasibility work should be done by the end of the year so that the city can apply for a federal discretionary grant like Safe Streets 4 All or Transportation Alternatives,

2c) Application for Federal Assistance – Planning and Design Grant – The city applied back in July under a new Federal grant program called the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) to fund \$525,000 planning and design plan for the entire corridor from the Wagon Wheel Bike-Ped Bridge to the City of Houston. That grant, if funded, will include the federal processes for evaluating historical and cultural resources and natural resources. This plan will seek to define a specific corridor based on overall feasibility from an ownership standpoint along with avoidance and minimizing impacts to natural, historical and cultural resources.

2d) Overlook Plaza Project - The city received a \$60,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation as a "Boost Grant" in 2023. The city is matching the grant with \$20,000. \$5,000 is being used to pay the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center for their assistance. The city entered into agreements with the University of Minnesota, Resilient Communities Project (RCP) for \$6,000 to fund three graduate students in the Masters of Urban Planning Program – Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs for a Capstone Project. The students completed a project with several recommendations. The city is

working on implementing those recommendations. This summer, the RCP sponsored two summer scholars to continue the work of the capstone students' work. This summer's work included two case studies (Red Wing and Dakota County Parks), several Placelt! Community workshops, a field day with an Indigenous youth group from the Ho-Chunk Nation and interviews with several Indigenous people from several tribal communities.

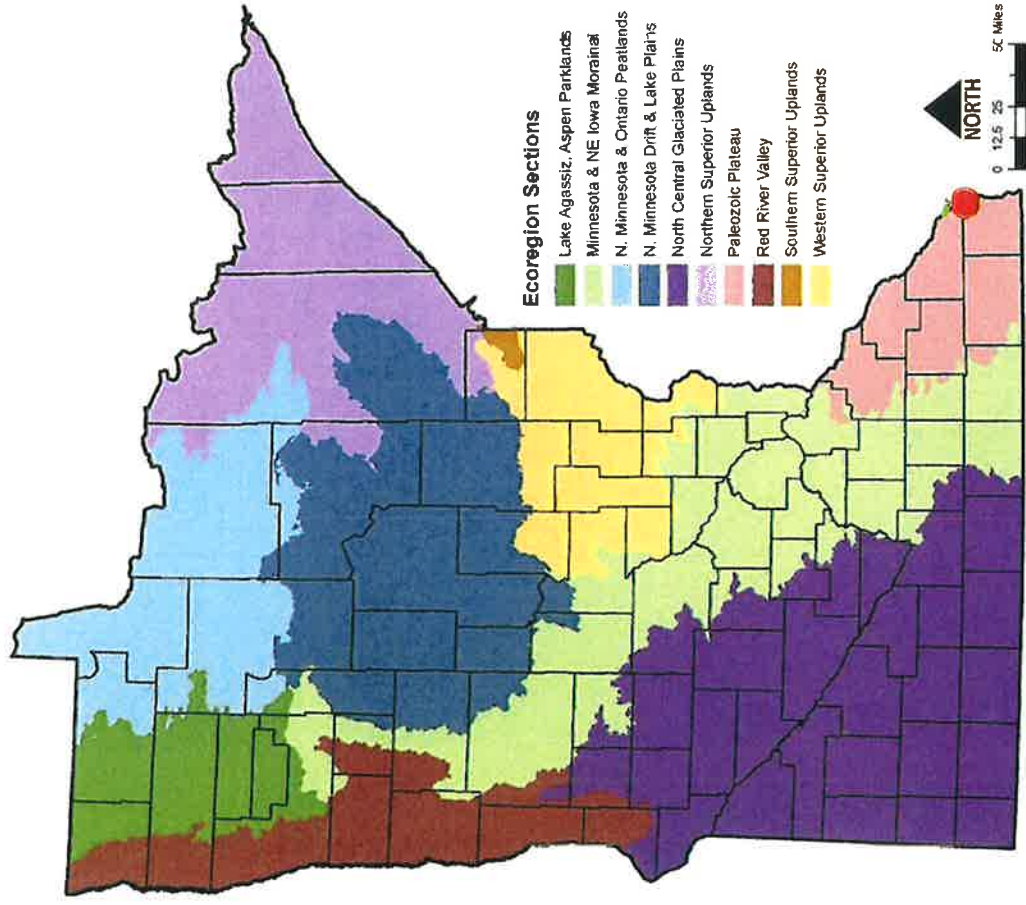
The city has been developing relationships with several of the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, the Meskwaki Nation in Iowa and several Dakota Sioux communities including the Prairie Island Indian Community and the Lower Sioux Indian Community. Building on the work of the capstone student work and the RCP Summer Scholars, future work includes selecting an artist or artists to develop a concept for Overlook Plaza and for the city engineer to create plans and specifications for the plaza. Staff is also seeking other funding sources for construction of the plaza. The project also includes an educational component as well as creating a Land Acknowledgement Statement and possibly an MOU/MOA or a more formal Programmatic Agreement. The city has been invited to the Indigenous Persons Day in La Crosse by the Ho-Chunk Nation to have a booth at the event.

2e) South 6th Street Improvement Project - The city applied for funding in 2023 (not funded) and again in 2024 for a MnDOT Alternative Transportation (infrastructure) grant. It was funded this year for \$201,000 to create curb extensions at 6th and Elm Streets and to create a 10' path on the north side of South 6th to the Aquatic Center and also to South 7th. Other improvements include narrowing up the street, pulling in the cul-de-sac to create a rain garden and a street reconstruction project that included new water and sewer infrastructure. Houston County is funding the curb extensions at Elm and South 6th. This project was identified in the 2017 Bike-Ped Plan Update. The project will be constructed in 2025.

2f) USA Cycling Gravel National Championships - The city was selected to host this event in 2025 and 2026. Explore La Crosse and a group of local gravel bike riding enthusiasts submitted a proposal to host the event in 2023 but Gehring, Nebraska was chosen for 2023/24. The same group assisted in putting forth a 2025/26 application earlier this year. The event will be held the same weekend as Apple Fest in 2025 and again in 2026. Preparations are under way and a Local Host Committee must be formed to work with USA Cycling and their event contractor. Local support will be needed for sponsors, volunteers and assisting in creating the course. USA Cycling is excited to have the event here as they love the terrain and gravel roads in the area. There will be, perhaps 750, cyclists or more and their families in the area. People will often come and pre-ride the course once it is released. The final course has not been selected but will be known soon. Gravel riding and racing has taken off over the last 15 years and USA Cycling recognizing that, created a national championship for gravel racing. Anyone can race in the event if they get a USA Cycling membership. On October 5th, there is a local race/ride called The Old Fashioned in Hokah and is being sponsored by Paul Reardon and Driftless Cycling. There are 20, 40, 60 and 100-mile options. Paul and his wife Liz assisted in helping with the RFP process with Explore La Crosse.

Stoney Point Forest Restoration Progress

Updated 2/19/2025



October, 2005

Sources: DNR (GIS data available at <http://delldnr.state.mn.us/>)

- Blufflands subsection of eastern broadleaf forests province
- 230+ acres of parks
- Extensive hiking trails connecting parks and residential areas
- 32 prairies seeded on city property over last 6-7 years

Background

- Stoney Point Property: hiking area adjacent to two other city parks, local landmark
- **2024 Conservation Protection**
Legacy Grant awarded to the city to restore native hardwood forest
- Overrun by woody invasive species, including buckthorn, honeysuckles, and roundleaf bittersweet



Project Area

- 8 acres along Stoney Point Rd
- Large area requires forestry mowing
- Mower turns invasives into wood chips



Project Timeline

June 2024:
City is
awarded CPL
grant

Spring-Fall
2025:
Herbicide
treatment

2026: Planting of
native hardwood
trees



November 2024 -
January 2025:
Forestry mowing and
hand cutting

Spring-Fall
2026:
Herbicide
treatment

October-November 2024: Native trees are marked to keep

- Desired trees are marked with either orange spray paint or orange tape
- This includes black walnuts, cherries, aspens, oaks, maples, hickories, and hackberries



November 25th, 2024: Forestry mowing begins



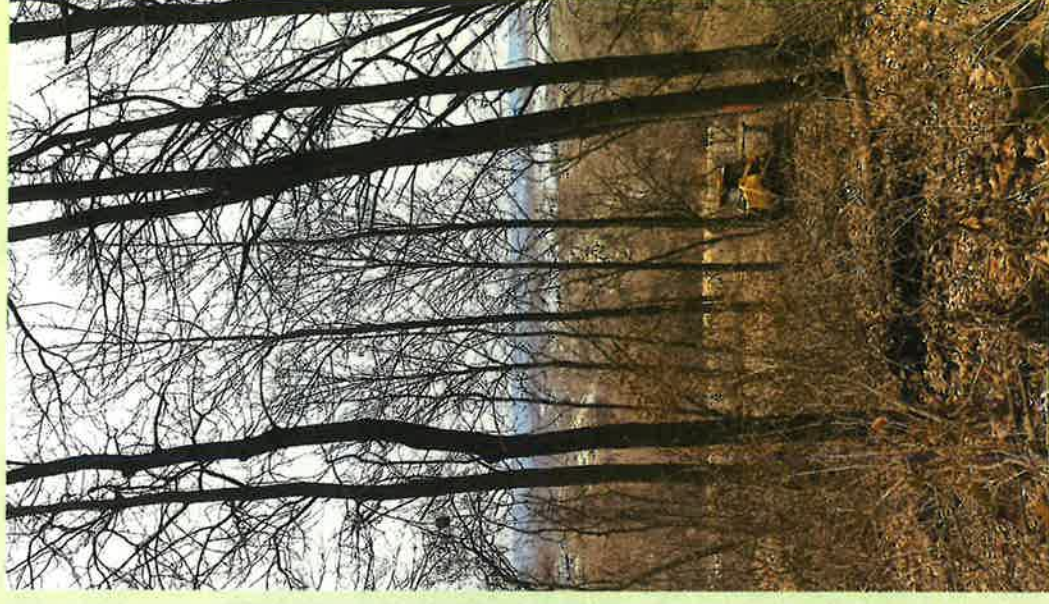


December 11th, 2024: Forestry mowing continues





December 17th, 2024: Forestry mowing continues





January 3rd, 2025: Forestry mowing continues, hand cutting begins



January 9th, 2025: Hand cutting continues



What's next?

- Wellhouse area has now been mowed and hand cut
- The next step is herbicide treatment later this year



June 2024: City is awarded CPL grant

Spring-Fall 2025: Herbicide treatment

2026: Planting of native hardwood trees

November 2024 - January 2025: Forestry mowing and hand cutting

Spring-Fall 2026: Herbicide treatment

2024

2025

2026

2027



#7



TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Tyler Benish, Public Works Director *Tyler Benish*
DATE: February 20th, 2025
RE: Authorize expenditure- Wieser Memorial Park pavilion repair

On November 13th, 2024, an individual drove an SUV into the south east corner of Wieser Memorial Park pavilion. The damage was limited to one panel, the concrete panel is cracked through to the inside and needs to be replaced. The removal and replacement will require part of the roof and interior floor to be removed. The repair will be scheduled to minimize impact to reservations and use of the building.

The City of La Crescent has received two proposals to repair the damaged panel and all work relating to the repair.

Wieser Brothers: \$55,475

Cary specialized: \$62,400

The League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust will approve the lowest qualified bid. LMCIT will issue the city a check for the amount minus our deductible of \$1000. LMCIT will attempt to recover the full amount including the \$1000 deductible from the driver's insurance carrier.

We suggest the City Council approve the proposal from Wieser Brother in the amount of \$55,475 for the repair of the Wieser Memorial Park pavilion.

#10

To: Park and Recreation Committee

From: Jason Ludwigson, Sustainability Coordinator

Date: 11/06/2024

Re: EcoCounter Bike/Ped Bridge

The city reached out to EcoCounter to explore options for a bike/pedestrian counter that would display counts in live time. Julie from EcoCounter has provided us with a quote for an Eco-DISPLAY. The quote information is in the packet. We have reach out to the Houston County Public Health Department to inquire about SHIP grant funding to help with some of the cost.

**Eco-Counter Corp**

C/O Pramex International Corp.
535 Mission Street, 14th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105, United States

Contact : Julie Babin
Email : julie.babin@eco-counter.com
Phone : (514) 849-9779

Customer Number :**Quote Number :** Q-70695

QUOTE

Customer**City of La Crescent**

La Crescent, MN
, United States

Contact : Jason Ludwigson

Delivery address if different**Subject :** City of La Crescent - 1x EDC+ to fit with existing Multi**Date :** 10/3/2024

Code	Description	Unit Price	Qty	Price
Eco-DISPLAY Classic + for Pedestrians/Cyclists			1	\$ 26,765.00
SYSTEM	Eco-DISPLAY Classic+ Double-Sided - 4-line Matrix	\$ 18,050.00	1	\$ 18,050.00
1879	CAN Cable flat rate fee	\$ 125.00	1	\$ 125.00
1859	CAN Cable (Price per meter)	\$ 5.00	30	\$ 150.00
2854	110VAC/60Hz Power Pack for EDCP Double-Sided	\$ 750.00	1	\$ 750.00
1993	Warranty extension for Eco-DISPLAY Classic+ double sided (expires after 5 years)	\$ 3,650.00	0,2	\$ 3,650.00
1458	Shipping Cost for Eco-Display	\$ 2,000.00	1	\$ 2,000.00
2584	Backlight for Eco-DISPLAY Classic+ - Double-Sided	\$ 1,500.00	1	\$ 1,500.00
2612	PROFESSIONAL Package (1 year service) Eco-Visio Software subscription, Alert service, Dashboards, Annual Data Validation & Reconstruction included, weather module	\$ 540.00	1	\$ 540.00
Components			1	\$ 35.00
2101	RAYGEL XS Waterproof Case with Protective Covers	\$ 35.00	1	\$ 35.00
Components			1	\$ 1,500.00
1599	ComEth Adapter	\$ 550.00	1	\$ 550.00
2330	Remote Installation Assistance (1 Day)	\$ 950.00	1	\$ 950.00

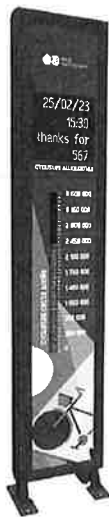
Current Multi is owned by MinnDOT - Y2H23036006**Cost of display only, to attach to existing counter.****Cost for a new Multi is \$5725 + yearly fee of \$540 for automatic data transmission + access to data.**

Delivery lead time four to five weeks.
Please provide tax ID for customs clearance.
Payment by check, wire transfer or ACH transfer within 30 days.
All prices are in US dollars and exclude sales tax.
Please provide sales tax exemption certificate if any.

Total \$ 28,300.00

Eco-DISPLAY Classic+

Multi-user display



Eco-DISPLAY Classic+ is a high visibility display. This communication tool allows you to animate your community and raise awareness of active transportation. The system complies with ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) protocols and standards. The display allows you to show pedestrian and/or bicycle and/or scooter counts in real time, in daily, monthly and/or annual formats. Available with single or double-sided counts.

- ✦ High precision
- ✦ Customizable design
- ✦ Customizable displays
- ✦ High visibility
- ✦ Robust and durable

Displayed users

Eco-DISPLAY Classic+ allows the display of pedestrian and/or cyclist and/or scooter counts. The display can show up to 6 lines of text. The text can be fixed or moving, and several colors are available. An optional bargraph can be added.

Each side's graphics can be customized according to your needs (colors, display areas, display mode etc...).



Displayed along a bike path and sidewalk, Eco-DISPLAY Classic+ allows you to animate your community of cyclists, scooters and pedestrians. Show your commitment to cycling and benefit from the potential of a personalized public display.



Eco-DISPLAY Classic+ allows you to use up to 6 fields to display the counts and information you want. You can display counts, but also the date, the time or the name of the neighborhood where the display is installed.

**Natural Resources Advisory Group
2024 Summary of Activity**

The following includes highlights of NRAG activity in 2024:

The proposed revision of the tree ordinance was reviewed at multiple meetings, and input regarding language clarity and species recommendations was provided.

Regular updates on relevant grants were reviewed.

The La Crescent Park Habitat Plan prepared by Val Green (DNR) was reviewed, and considered as the justification for the forestry mowing project.

Received an overview of chloride and sodium levels in local waterways, provided by Jeremy King (WDNR).

Provided input on signage for the Wagon Wheel trail, and near the Blue Lake canoe/kayak access dock.

Organized and advertised 5 days of volunteer efforts to pull garlic mustard in Vetsch Park.

Provided input on efforts to help the public understand forestry mowing in Stoney point - including language and frequently asked questions, being present at the City Council meeting, and participating in outreach at the farmers market.

Maintained the Frank J. Kistler memorial park pollinator gardens.

Revised and updated trail maintenance guidelines and developed plans for future trail maintenance work. This included a walk-through work day with City employees.

Received and considered regular updates on invasive species removal, prairie seeding, grant opportunities, etc.

Hours of Logged Activity by NRAG members and community members, 2024

Activity	NRAG Hours	Community Member Hours
Garlic Mustard pulling (5 days)	12	16.5
Frank J. Kistler Pollinator Gardens	36	3.5
Prairie Seeding*	8	.5
Invasives - Eagle Bluff*	6	39
Invasives - Vetsch/Stoney* (buckthorn and wild carrot)	4	
Invasives - Wagon Wheel Trail*	2.5	7.5
Trail Maintenance - Eagle Bluff*	3	25
Trail Maintenance - Vetsch/Stoney*, (including signage)	10	2
Outreach - Farmers Market*	3	

*City employees participated

Additional activities beyond meeting:

Close reading of and commenting on ordinances/publications/information

Coordination with Val Green, DNR

#12

To: Park and Recreation Committee

From: Jason Ludwigson, Sustainability Coordinator

Date: 11/06/2024

Re: Addition of Eagles Bluff Park Signs

The Lion's Club provided funding to supply and install trail signs in Eagles Bluff Park. Two new signs containing a large map of the park now stand at both the Old Hickory Park entrance and the McIntosh Road entrance to the park. One smaller sign with a map of the park was installed near the top of the bluff. Additionally, several new trail signs were installed with the names of trails and arrows to direct hikers. The images below show each of the types of signs.



