

*** All present are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with our City's Core Values ***



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation or Sub-unit thereof.

Notice is hereby given that the Park and Recreation Committee of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting on the date, time and location shown below.

Meeting of the:	PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU
Date/Time:	Monday, November 4, 2024 at 5:15pm
Location:	City Hall (407 Grant St, Wausau WI 54403) - MAPLE ROOM
Members:	Lou Larson, Carol Lukens, Tom Neal, Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1 Approval of Minutes of the October 7, 2024 Meeting
- 2 Discussion and Possible Action Approving the Installation of a Memorial at Stewart Park
- 3 Discussion and Possible Action on Approving Native American Land Acknowledgement Marker in Riverlife Park
- 4 Educational Items
 - A. Park Updates (SaveStations, Athletic Park Turf, 400 Block, DNR Grant, Winterization, Events)
- 5 Future Agenda Items - Park Ordinance Updates
- 6 Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2024 at 5:15pm, Council Chambers (City Hall 407 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403)
- 7 Adjournment

Lou Larson, Chair

Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may view the meeting live over the internet on the City of Wausau's YouTube Channel <http://www.tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>, live by cable TV, Channel 981, and a video is available in its entirety and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>. Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail Jamie.polley@marathoncounty.gov with "Parks Committee public comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, if agendized, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6622 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and transmitted to the Daily Herald newsroom on 10/30/24 @ 1:00 p.m. Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to Winnie Parker, Park Office (715) 261-1550.

Distribution List: City Website, Media, WSD-Admin, Alderpersons, Mayor, Polley, Dept. Staff, Maryanne Groat, Brad Lenz, Eric Lindman, Lance Leonhard, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Wausau Events, Public Access, Wausau River District

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: October 7, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Parks and Recreation Committee Members Present: Lou Larson (c), Carol Lukens, Tom Neal, Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson

Others Present: Andy Sims – Operations Manager, John Kahon – City Forester, Anne Jacobson - City Attorney, Matt Graun - Becher Hoppe

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. A quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order at 5:15pm.

1. Approve Minutes – September 3, 2024 – **Motion** by Neal, second by Lukens to approve the Park and Recreation Committee Minutes as written. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Discussion and Possible Action Granting Permission to 3M for Soil Testing – 3M purchased a segment of railroad at Riverside Park. That section of railroad was tested and was found to have traces of arsenic. Per DNR requirement the land adjacent to that test site must now be tested to see if this toxin has gone beyond the rail bed. 3M is asking this committee for permission to conduct core samples on the park property. The trees will not be disturbed, and the core holes will be backfilled with topsoil and reseeded. **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Neal to grant permission to 3M for soil testing. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Approving a Park Improvement Request for a Communication Board at Oak Island Park – Request to add a communication board for children who have limited verbal skills at Oak Island Park. This would require some maintenance from the park staff who recommend approving this request. **Motion** by Lukens, second by Watson to approve the installation of a communication board at Oak Island Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Approving a Request to Relocate the Boy with Boot Statue – The Boy with the Boot Statue is a self-standing statue with a water feature. Once the water is added, the water is self-circulating. The intent is to bring the statue out during the warmer season and replace it with something else during the colder season. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Neal, second by Rasmussen to approve to relocate the Boy with Boot Statue. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Approving Repairs to 10th Street Park Wall and Funding Recommendation – The stone retaining wall at the 10th Street Park has been deteriorating and last winter was failing. Temporary repairs were made but after consulting with Allen Wesolowski, City Engineer, the most cost-effective recommendation is to backfill the utilitarian wall and cap it off at grade level even with the sidewalk. This would help maintain the integrity of the sidewalk and ultimately the roadway behind. The contractor-estimated cost is \$31,950 with a 20% contingency fee of \$6,390. We believe we can do much, if not all, of the work in-house. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Neal to approve to backfill and grade level the 10th Street Park Wall and do as much of the work in-house as possible. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

6. Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Update – John Kahon, City Forester, gave an update on the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan. In 2016 the original presentation was given to the Committee. In the winter of 2020, we did find Emerald Ash Borer here in the City of Wausau. Per the recommendation of the Council, we extended our removal period from a 7-year period to a 12–15-year period to lessen the aesthetic impact to the city. We have been removing roughly 350–400 ash trees per year and replacing those trees with other trees. We have started a process of thinning and renewal, so the aesthetic impact is not so drastic. Every year we are treating about one third of the trees we are trying to maintain. The last three (3) years we have injected almost 2,600 trees. Questions were answered.

7. Educational Items

A. Park Updates – The State of Wisconsin had four million dollars available for EAB DNR grants through the Inflation Reduction Act Funds. There were 61 applicants, and 10 grants awarded. Of that the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department received almost one half million-dollar of EAB DNR Grant. This fully funded three (3) year grant is specifically for underserved urban forestry initiatives. About \$380,000 is going to tree planting in the boulevards and rights of way in the city so they can be maintained for the next three years. About 900 diverse species of trees will be planted, focusing on replacing the ash trees that we are losing. About \$100,000 is earmarked for ash tree mitigation on private property. The Community Development Office will be accepting applications from homeowners who need help with removal of these trees. This is a first-come, first-served process and we want to help as many people as possible with the money earmarked for ash tree mitigation. Finally, each school within this area specified by the DNR will receive educational programs on valuing, caring for, and the importance of having trees. Then each school will receive five (5) trees to plant on their school grounds. The Committee wants to thank John Kahon, Forester, for all the time and effort that went into applying for and receiving this grant. Questions were answered.

Our department, in conjunction with the Wausau Fire Department, received a grant for three (3) Save Stations. These are AED stations that are encased either on a pedestal or are a wall mount that is climate-controlled and camera-monitored and alert the fire department when the door is opened. These AED stations decrease response time and have been placed at the 400 Block, River Life, and the east side of the Athletic Park. Athletic Park turf has been installed in three (3) phases. We would like to highlight the fill material which is ground olive pits. The benefits are that it is cooler to play on, is not synthetic material, and its playability is phenomenal. The drinking fountain at River Life Wharf was moved. The Oak Island shelter/playground and Rose Bowl drinking fountains are done. Water winterization is underway at all the parks. Woodson Park fountain has some issues that are being addressed. We have partnered with Wausau West woodshop classrooms to help construct the park kiosks which have been recently added. We are experiencing an increase in excess garbage and human feces, especially at Hammond Park; we want the Committee to be aware of this issue. We are working closely with our two officers who are making individuals clean up after themselves. ABC Supply Company was connecting a storm sewer lateral into River Life Park, which was city approved but appears to our department to be vandalized. The contractor, PGA, will be restoring that area to its previous condition. Events: Art in the Park September 5-8, Festival of Arts September 6-8, Oak Island Beer and Bacon Festival September 13-16, Fall Cup (90 teams) at the Sports Complex mid-September, Ragnar at Nine Mile (1749 runners).

8. Future Agenda Items - Park Ordinance Updates, Banners at River Life, update on stain removal on 400 Block

9. Next Meeting: Monday, November 4, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. Maple Room (City Hall 407 Grant Street Wausau, WI 54403)

10. Adjournment – **Motion** by Watson, second by Lukens to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Discussion and Possible Action Approving the Installation of a Memorial at Stewart Park

In early May 2024, Waltraud Karkar, founder of the Central WI School of Ballet here in Wausau, passed away. Stewart Park was always a very special place to Waltraud. She assisted the city with the park's restoration back in the late 1980s, early 90s by helping to raise funds to restore the stage. The school has used and continues to use the park for their summer performance each year. She loved the park, and she and her husband even bought a home next to it.

The city has received a request from a number of families who were part of the ballet school, some who have been involved with the ballet school since the school was started over 50 years ago. Their request is to dedicate the stage in Waltraud Karkar's name, calling it the Waltraud Karkar Amphitheater and place a 3D cast bronze plaque to the amphitheater wall. This dedication would honor her commitment to the arts and her impact on our community throughout the years in a place that was dear to her heart.

The Committee is asked to approve the dedication of the stage in Waltraud Karkar's name and allow a plaque to be placed on the amphitheater wall.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Approving Native American Land Acknowledgement Marker at Riverlife Park

The city has received a request from Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Colleen Thomsgard to place a Land Acknowledgement marker along the River Edge trail in Riverlife Park just to the northwest of the pedestrian bridge. The Thomsgard's have submitted a summary of their journey that has led them to propose this marker. The summary is included in your packet. The marker would be 5' X 7' and resemble the Teacher College Marker photo that is included in the packet. The proposed marker language is included in your packets titled Wasa Wausau Howasara.

The Arts Commission did review this proposal and has recommended its approval to the Plan Commission. The committee is asked to make a recommendation to the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission will review this request on November 19, 2024.

4A. Project Update

SaveStations The third SaveStation has been installed at Athletic Park.

Athletic Park Turf The turf project is near completion. The main field is complete, sod has been installed to match the turf to the outfield, extra sand will be added in the spring. The contractor is currently on site correcting the visitor bullpen mound. We will then have to finish fencing, netting and some minor odds and ends.

400 Block The perimeter concrete was poured, and the safety bollards will be installed soon.

DNR Grant John Kahon, City Forester, is developing the RFP for the tree planting portion of the grant.

Winterization Staff continues water shutdowns of various locations for winter. Most shelters, fountains and other park water features have been winterized.

Events:

Halloween Movie and Trick or Treat was held downtown on Wednesday, October 23rd in conjunction with the River District – The event was a huge success, and the downtown businesses were very supportive and were excited to participate.



Request for Additional Services

Purpose: The Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has a desire to always provide high quality recreational services and facilities. With restricted financial and personnel resources the Department needs a process to evaluate requests for additional services. Additional services being defined as additions to programs and facilities or new programs and facilities.

In order to fully evaluate and stimulate thought on the complete aspects of additional services, please provide the Department with a request that includes the following (all items may not pertain and may not be known by requestor):

- Please describe program or facility where additional services are being requested.

Stewart Park
508 N. 10th Street
Wausau, WI 54403

- Please describe additional services/facility being requested.

Addition of a 3D cast bronze portrait plaque dedicating the stage at Stewart Park in Waltraud Karkar's memory. This plaque could be mounted on a large decorative rock, concrete pedestal, or a stake mount depending on the location and what the city would allow. (Wording of memorial attached to bottom of document).

- Why do you think this additional service/facility is needed?

In recognition and appreciation for her commitment to the arts for over 50 years in the Wausau community.

- What exactly is being asked of the Department (funding, maintenance, construction)?

Permission to dedicate the stage with a memorial in honor of Waltraud Karkar.

- What are the total costs for the additional services/facilities (not only initial costs but future costs)?

This memorial would be constructed to not require ongoing maintenance.

- How would it be funded (what is the County/City being asked to contribute, what is the group willing to contribute, grants, donations, etc.)?

This memorial would be funded privately through donations.

- Who will provide maintenance in the future (will it be turned over to the Department upon completion, will there be maintenance funds put aside, group to provide some maintenance, who repairs damage, etc.)?

The memorial will be turned over to the department when complete.

- What are the expectations of the County/City once it is complete?

That the memorial will become part of the park.

- What is the timeline for completion?

We would like it to be completed by mid-July 2025 when the Central WI School of Ballet performs their annual Ballet in the Park performance at Stewart Park.

For facility improvements or additions: provide a site plan, pictures of the proposed changes and a materials list.

Addition of a memorial plaque and stand at the entrance to Stewart Park on N. 10th Street. There is a raised flower bed located just through the entrance where the memorial could be placed.



Material List:

- Large rock or concrete pedestal to mount the plaque on.
- 3D cast bronze portrait plaque

Proposed wording of plaque:

THE WALTRAUD KARKAR AMPHITHEATER

PHOTO

1931 -2024

In recognition and appreciation for Waultraud's profound commitment to the arts for over 50 Years in the Wausau Community.

"I am an educator. My students do not simply learn a step but they come to understand dance, its importance, its history, its place in the world.
If I can touch their souls and inspire them, then I have reached my goal as a teacher. If they remember to walk tall, to walk with self confidence,
and to appreciate the arts and the world around them, what beautiful children they become and what wonderful adults they will make."
(Waltraud"s signature)

P667Request for Additional Services

Purpose: The Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has a desire to always provide high quality recreational services and facilities. With restricted financial and personnel resources the Department needs a process to evaluate requests for additional services. Additional services being defined as additions to programs and facilities or new programs and facilities.

In order to fully evaluate and stimulate thought on the complete aspects of additional services, please provide the Department with a request that includes the following (all items may not pertain and may not be known by requestor):

- Please describe program or facility where additional services are being requested.

The plan is to install of Land Acknowledgment marker mounted in an area approximately five ft wide and 7 feet long on the river side of the existing pathway

- Please describe additional services/facility being requested.

Permission and oversight of the installation of the marker, as deemed necessary by Ms. Polley, Parks Department.

- Why do you think this additional service/facility is needed?

The marker describes the Native American tribes who were in the Wausau area before the pioneers and loggers.

- What exactly is being asked of the Department (funding, maintenance, construction)?

No funding is requested for installation, maintenance or construction of the marker.

- What are the total costs for the additional services/facilities (not only initial costs but future costs)?

There is no cost to the city or county for additional services/facilities (e.g., lighting). See next Q/A for additional information regarding future costs/funding.

- How would it be funded (what is the County/City being asked to contribute, what is the group willing to contribute, grants, donations, etc.)?

Mr. and Mrs. Thomasgard are funding the production and installation costs for the maker. The installation will be done by Hase Building & Design, Inc. of Wausau (see four attached documents: Park Marker Proposal, Park Marker Cost Breakdown, Installation Procedures and Large Markers). – When proposal was presented to the Arts Commission the installer has been changed to Osswald Lawncare & Landscaping.

- Who will provide maintenance in the future (will it be turned over to the Department upon completion, will there be maintenance funds put aside, group to provide some maintenance, who repairs damage, etc.)?

Maintenance will be turned over to the Department upon completion. If the marker is damaged or vandalized, Mr. and Mrs. Thomasgard will cover the cost of repair. If the project is approved by the Wausau City Council, there will also be a provision for the same in the Thomasgards' will.

- What are the expectations of the County/City once it is complete?

None, other than routine mowing around its concrete base; this area is already routinely mowed.

- What is the timeline for completion?

Spring 2025.

For facility improvements or additions: provide a site plan, pictures of the proposed changes and a materials list.

See additional attachments:

Wording of the marker approved by the Native American tribes mentioned in the text of the document (Land acknowledgment version 12);

Wausau State Teacher marker, (# 1405) shows the size and style of lettering. The proposed marker will be similar in shape, but larger (~5 x 7 feet) and have silver color for rail and lettering, similar to that shown in Ice Age Trail marker (# 1446);

Aerial view of the site (# 002 untitled);

Views from the Riverlife pathway (# 1668)

A one page summary of the project's purpose and timeline initially provided to the Wausau Arts Commission is the final attached document (Journey_Wausau Land Acknowledgment).



Wausau & Marathon County
**Parks, Recreation
& Forestry**

Native American Land Acknowledgement Marker

-Size: ~5 ft x 7 ft

-Lighting requirements: None

-Anchor in concrete per attached photos

-Installation by Osswald Lawncare & Landscaping *

-Maintenance: Trimming around concrete base (Jos Osswald is drawing up plans, probably would include several boulders place on smaller stones)

-Shape: Like the Teacher College Marker (per attached photo; since it's not done for WI Historical Society, no seal at top nor any photo)

-Lettering and Background: Silver on Black (attached photo, similar to Ice Age Trail Marker)

-Produced by: Sewah studios www.sewahstudios.com in Ohio. They also make the WI State Historical Markers. *

Sewah Studios is the only known marker manufacturer that uses an electrostatic powder paint process in production. This green process provides a much more durable finish to withstand harsh weather.

Although Sewah is the leading manufacturer of cast aluminum historical markers

* Paid for by Michael and Colleen Thomasgard

Wausau Land Acknowledgment Journey

My wife, Colleen, and I began this project in the winter 2023. We were guided by Wisconsin Act 31, <https://dpi.wi.gov/amind/state-statutes>, the statutory requirement that all school districts provide instruction "...on the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of Wisconsin's eleven federally-recognized American Indian nations and tribal communities." The second guiding influence was two treaties relevant to the Wausau area. These were between the U.S. government and the Menominee (1836 Cedar Point Treaty) and the 1837 White Pine Treaty with the Ojibwe.

Our goal is to help residents of Wausau become more aware of the original people of this land and to acknowledge that their descendants are still here. In short, the history of the Wausau area predates the logging industry.

Our journey was not linear. We began with the knowledge that modern day geographic boundaries and maps do not reflect how native people view the land. We also came to realize that what is factual to some may be contentious to others. Ultimately, we met with and/or corresponded with all 12 Native American tribes residing in WI. Each is a sovereign nation with its own government. We initially used tribal contact information from Act 31; however, ultimately our primary contacts became each Tribe's Historical Preservation Officer.

Every step of the way has added value to the process. Ideally, a Land Acknowledgment Statement (LAS) is accurate, respectful and has three components referring to: past, present and future. We believe that the current wording in version 12 of the LAS embodies these principles. Its text has been approved by all five tribes with history in this area. The marker's title reflects the Native American names for the area as well as its current name, Wausau.

The Wisconsin River's central importance to the area through time is emphasized by the marker's proposed site within Riverlife Park. The site is within the boundaries of both the Cedar Point and White Cedar Treaties. Its location along the park's river pathway will allow joggers, bikers and pedestrians of all ages to read its words and reflect upon their meaning.

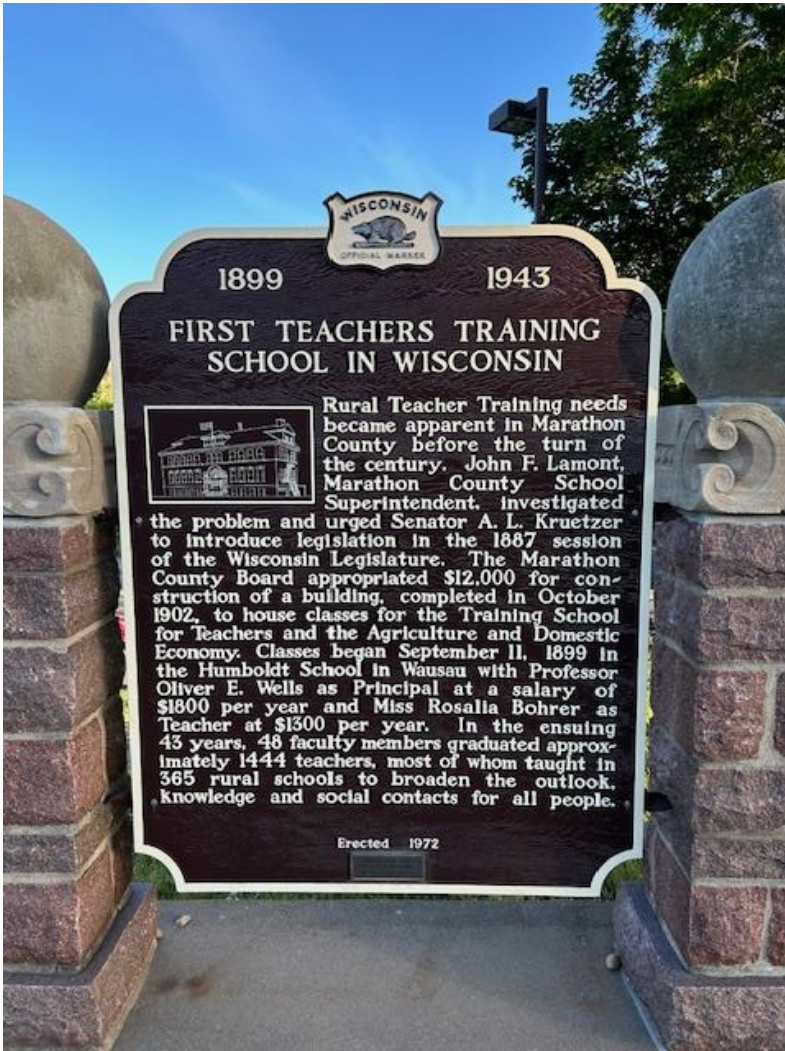
The marker's initial location was to have been on Clarke Island at the Wausau Chamber of Commerce (WCC). This past summer, it became apparent that the central goal of the LAS needed to be separate from the history of that site, a decision that both parties agreed with. Mr. Eckmann of the WCC suggested that we meet with Mayor Diny to discuss other potential sites, which we did in June 2024.

The Mayor was supportive of our project and provided us with a number of key contacts within the city and county. These people include: Brad Lenz (City Planner), Jamie Polley (Parks, Recreation & Forestry) and Blake Opal-Wahoske (Marathon County Historical Society). Meeting with the Wausau Arts Commission on October 15 represents our first step after approval of the proposed site by Ms. Polley on September 27.

The marker itself is cast aluminum with a black background and silver lettering. If approved, it will be manufactured by Sewah Studios, the maker of markers for the WI State Historical Society. It is mounted on two metal posts in cement, does not require lighting and there is no maintenance. If the marker is damaged or vandalized, we would pay for its repair and there will be provisions in our will to maintain the marker. It will be installed by Mike Hase who has worked on numerous historic preservation projects in our community. The production time of six months would lead to installation in 2025.

We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

Michael and Colleen Thomasgard



1899

1943

FIRST TEACHERS TRAINING SCHOOL IN WISCONSIN



Rural Teacher Training needs became apparent in Marathon County before the turn of the century. John F. Lamont, Marathon County School Superintendent, investigated the problem and urged Senator A. L. Kruezer to introduce legislation in the 1887 session of the Wisconsin Legislature. The Marathon County Board appropriated \$12,000 for construction of a building, completed in October 1902, to house classes for the Training School for Teachers and the Agriculture and Domestic Economy. Classes began September 11, 1899 in the Humboldt School in Wausau with Professor Oliver E. Wells as Principal at a salary of \$1800 per year and Miss Rosalia Bohrer as Teacher at \$1300 per year. In the ensuing 43 years, 48 faculty members graduated approximately 1444 teachers, most of whom taught in 365 rural schools to broaden the outlook, knowledge and social contacts for all people.

Erected 1972



 **Eastern Terminus
Ice Age
National Scenic Trail**

This site marks the Eastern Terminus of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The Trail was designated a National Scenic Trail by Congress in 1980 and Wisconsin's first State Scenic Trail in 1987. The Western Terminus is in Interstate State Park on the Minnesota border near St. Croix Falls.

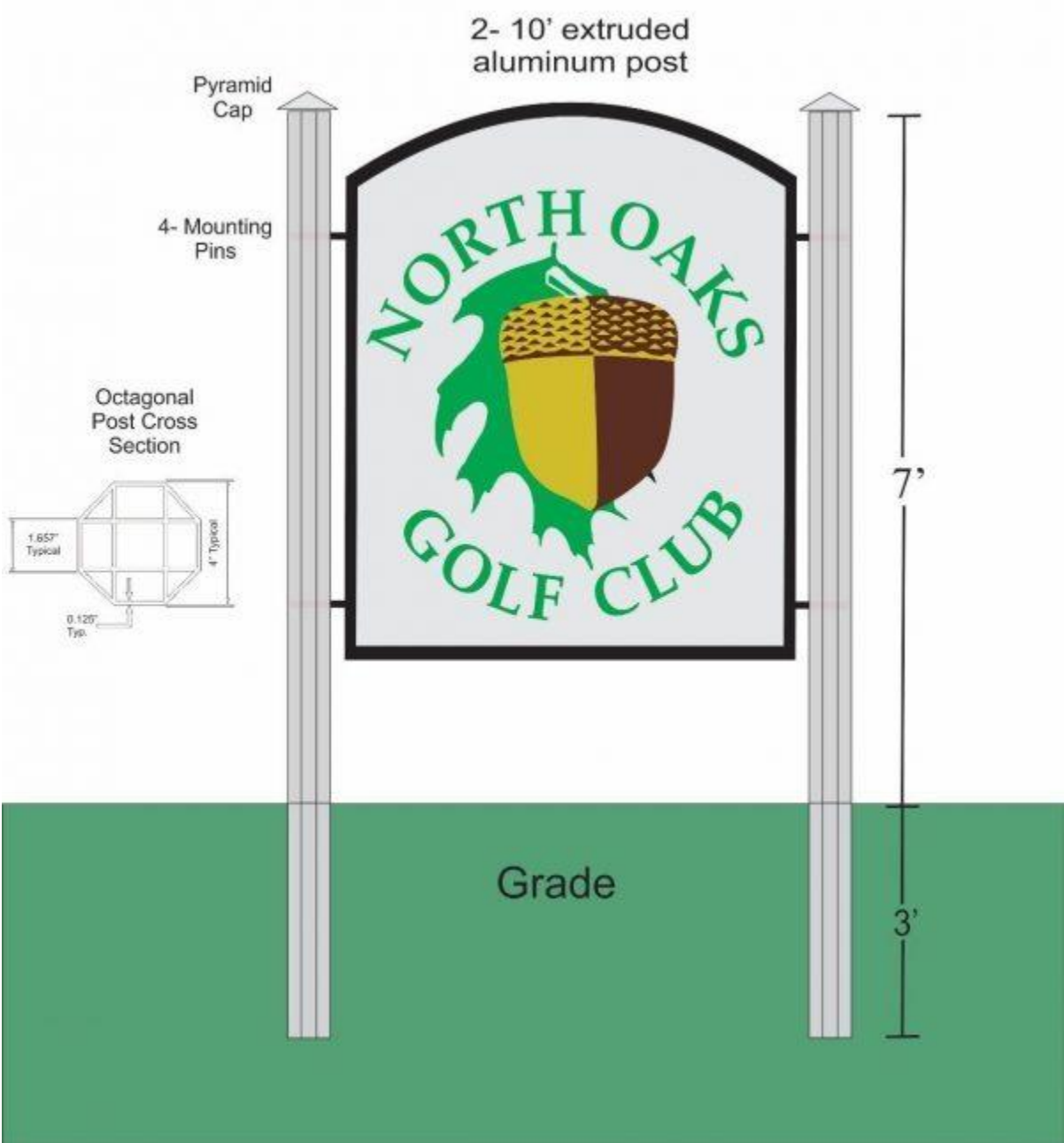
Commemorating the Wisconsin Glaciation, which ended about 10,000 years ago, this 1,200-mile trail highlights the landscape formed by the forces that shaped much of North America.

The National Park Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, and thousands of citizen volunteers cooperate in the development and management of the trail.

Plaque provided by the Deer County Historical Society with assistance from the National Park Service
2001



Large markers are manufactured to suspend between 2 posts with 4 pins inserted into the sides of the marker and pre-drilled holes in the posts. The posts are inserted 3' into the ground with approx. 7ft. of post above grade for mounting the marker. The posts can be set in concrete or soil as desired.



Wasa Wausau Howasara

Wausau occupies the historic and contemporary lands of the Menominee and Ho-Chunk Nation whose shared origin stories connect them to this region of the great lakes. There is also historical evidence of Potawatomi and Sokaogon Ojibwe villages in the area and of Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe hunting and fishing camps. In several Algonquin languages, including Menominee and Ojibwemoin, “Wasa” translates to “Far Away Place.” The Ho-Chunk name for Wausau’s location is “Howasara” referencing a forest.

The 1836 Cedar Point Treaty with the Menominee Tribe ceded (yielded to retain other rights) to the U.S. government a land corridor three miles wide on each side of the Wisconsin River from roughly Wausau to Plover. The treaty allowed settlers access to waterfalls to power sawmills. In 1837 another treaty made with several Ojibwe bands ceded millions of acres of nearby forest that allowed lumbering on an even larger scale (White Pine Treaty 1837). This treaty is one of the foundations for the continued privilege of hunting, fishing and gathering wild rice by the Ojibwe people as well as ongoing resource management.

The influx of settlers into the Wausau area progressively displaced native people from their ancestral territories. Attempts to assimilate them adversely affected the retention of their traditional language and culture. Despite these challenges, they continue to live here, even to this day. Indigenous peoples have valued this region for its clean air, land and water since time immemorial. The people of Wausau share these same values and want the river to remain an essential part of our lives.

Erected 2025

V 12, Characters and spaces: 1657, 8/20/24, pp. 74-75