

JULIE A. BARTHELS  
Winnebago County Clerk  
112 Otter Avenue, P.O. Box 2806  
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2806

NOTICE OF COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEETING

Name of Committee: Parks & Recreation Committee  
Date & Time of Meeting: Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:00am  
625 E Cty Rd Y  
Oshkosh, WI 54901  
Volunteer Room

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 258 825 815 116

Passcode: PMGYwN

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MEETING

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. Public Comment
5. **Discussion/Action** – Ordinance Modification Chapter 19.27
6. Park Director Updates
  - Grundman Boat Landing Construction Update
  - Netzer Home Project Update
  - Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
7. Committee Comments
8. Next Meeting Date:
9. Future Agenda Items:
10. Adjournment

Upon request, provisions will be made for people with disabilities upon 24 hours prior notice to the Office of the County Clerk. Phone Number: 232-3430.

## **Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date & Time of Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Location: J.P. Coughlin Center

Present: Josh Belville (via Online), Steve Binder, Rachael Dowling, Jim Ponzer, Karen Powers

Also Present: Adam Breest, Justin DeJager, Rick Helms, Kyle Vergin, Jon Doemel

1. Call to order:

Karen Powers called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Steve Binder moved to approve the agenda and Jim Ponzer seconded.  
Motion carried 3-0.

3. Approval of October 10, 2023 Minutes:

Steve Binder moved to approve the minutes and Jim Ponzer seconded.  
Motion carried 3-0.

4. Approval of October 24, 2023 Minutes:

Ponzer Binder moved to approve the minutes and Steve Binder seconded.  
Motion carried 3-0.

5. Public Comment:

David Kane, Oshkosh citizen – Spoke about the boat landing fee increase proposal. Does not agree with the fee increase. The numbers used to justify the increase are not typical. Increases are excessive and make Winnebago County more expensive than neighboring communities. Would like the fee increases to be tabled for a year.

Jon Doemel, Oshkosh citizen – Spoke about the boat landing fee increase proposal. Fees need to be increased to keep up with improvements needed at Winnebago County boat landings. There are many of other services in the county that need funds as well and it need to be distributed as well as it can be.

Jim Erdman, Town of Oshkosh Chairman – Town purchased parcel along WIOIUWASH Trail, near Westwind Road, from DOT. Created access for public to park on this parcel. Would like ATVs to have access to the WIOUWASH Trail for ice fishing access during winter.

6. **Discussion/Action** – 2024 Boat Landing Trailer Parking Fee Schedule Modification

Adam Breest gave an overview of the fee increase proposal. There are several issues and projects at other Winnebago County landings that need to be corrected/improved. Winnebago County has a similar number of landings as other local communities like Oshkosh and Brown

County. Winnebago County is unique in that a three-year permit is offered. Last increase was in 2018, before that was 2003. Main reason for increase is to keep up with these projects and provide quality services.

Committee would like to raise the senior status to 62 and older. Fees should keep up with inflation and increases seem reasonable. Inquired about one boat landing permit for all boat landings in Winnebago County.

Steve Binder commented that there is a lot of money in the spirit fund to do these boat landing projects. Does not think it is fair to charge the boat landing users more fees. Would like to table it for a year. Made a motion to table it for a year. No second.

Racheal Downing made the motion to amend Winnebago County General Code Chapter 19.24-11 "Boat Landing Trailer 3 Parking Permit Fees" to Include the Proposed Fee Schedule for the Winnebago 4 County Public Boat Landings. Seconded by Jim Ponzer. Motion carried 3-1. Binder opposed.

Amend the senior status to 62 and older.

Amend the annual resident supplement fee to \$10 and the annual non-resident supplemental fee to \$30.

7. **Discussion/Action** – Budget Transfer – Camera Installation at Grundman Boat Landing

Infrastructure for the cameras was in the project. Four cameras total. \$18,000 for the cabling and cameras.

Jim Ponzer made the motion to recommend to the Finance Committee to authorize the budget transfer for the purpose of installing four cameras, over 1000 feet of cable, and the server to support the installation of security cameras at the Grundman Boat Landing. Seconded by Racheal Dowling. Motion carried 3-1. Binder opposed.

8. **Discussion/Action** – Budget Amendment – Disc Golf Basket Replacement/Fundraiser

The old disc golf baskets will be sold on WI Surplus and the money from the sales will be used to purchase new baskets.

Racheal Dowling made the motion to recommend to the Finance Committee to authorize the budget amendment for the purpose of accepting revenue and increasing expense to purchase 36 new disc golf baskets. Seconded by Jim Ponzer. Motion carried 3-1. Binder opposed.

9. **Discussion** – ATVs on the WIOUWASH Trail

The Town of Oshkosh is requesting the Parks Department to allow for ATV use from November to March along the WIOUWASH Trail from West Wind Road to the first bridge for access to Lake Butte des Morts.

County Code Chapter 19 currently does not allow ATVs on the WIOUWASH Trail in Winnebago County. The State Master Plan for the WIOUWASH Trail would also need to be revised as it currently does not allow for ATVs on the trail.

The committee is not totally in favor of allowing ATVs on the WIOUWASH Trail. Would like to do a trail run this winter to see how it goes. The more people that can access the trail the better.

Committee agreed to add language to the ordinance code 19.27.4.B. to give the Parks Director and/or County Executive the ability to allow temporary use of ATVs on the WIOUWASH Trail. The Committee will meet to vote on this at 5:30 p.m. on November 21, before the County Board meeting.

10. Park Director Updates

- Grundman Boat Landing Construction Update – Bathroom installed last week, getting winterized soon. Putting up more informational signs around the landing. Ribbon cutting next year. Project is in budget.
- Netzer Home Project Update – Tentative day to tear down is November 20. House has asbestos and mold has grown throughout the house. It might be an extra cost to dispose of the house.
- Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Working on drafts of master plan for the Community Park. MSA will be back to speak to committee in December. A public informational meeting will be set for December 5.

11. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 10 a.m.

12. Future Agenda Items:

Would other communities be receptive to a boat landing permit that could be used for all boat landings in the county?

Comments from the committee.

13. Adjournment

Racheal Dowling made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Jim Ponzer. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin DeJager

# Agenda Item Report



**Winnebago County**  
*The Wave of the Future*

DATE: November 20, 2023  
TO: Members of the Parks and Recreation Committee  
FROM: Parks Director  
RE: ATVs on WIOUWASH Trail – Chapter 19.27 Revision

## **General Description:**

The Town of Oshkosh is requesting the Parks Department to allow for ATV use from December – February along the WIOUWASH Trail from West Wind Road to the first bridge for access to Lake Butte des Morts.

## **Requested Action:**

The Parks Department recommends that the Parks and Recreation Committee recommends to the County Board to authorize the ordinance revisions to Chapter 19.27 as proposed in exhibit A.

## **Procedural Steps:**

Parks and Recreation Committee	Meeting date: 12/12/23
Action taken:	Vote:
County Board	Meeting date: 1/16/23
Action taken:	Vote:

## **Background:**

In August of 2021, the Town of Oshkosh Chairman, Jim Erdman attended a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and requested the Winnebago County Parks Department to consider allowing ATVs on the WIOUWASH Trail during the winter months for the purpose of access Lake Butte des Morts. In the past, users parked on Edgewood Lane on the north side of Lake Butte des Morts within the Town of Oshkosh. They utilized this fire lane/boat landing to drive their ATV onto the lake. In the last year or so, the Town of Oshkosh signed the road with no parking signs only during the winter months.

The Town of Oshkosh requested that the Winnebago County Parks Department allow use of ATVs from West Wind Road to the first bridge crossing to the north for the purpose of accessing Lake Butte des Morts on an ATV. A diagram has been included below showing the portion of the WIOUWASH Trail that is being requested for ATV use.



For ATVs to be allowed on a small portion of the WIOUWASH Trail, an ordinance revision would be needed. At this time, Chapter 19.27 states that no vehicles of any kind shall be operated on the recreation trail except police vehicles, emergency and rescue vehicles or County maintenance vehicles.

The Parks Department recommends executing a trial period where ATVs would be allowed with limitation and restrictions. We would allow ATVs on the WIOUWASH Trail for one season for the sole purpose of accessing Lake Butte des Morts. Restrictions in regard to weather conditions would be established by the Parks Department. If we run into issues with ATVs damaging the trail or going past the bridge crossing, then we would shut down access. The Parks Department will work with the Town of Oshkosh to install signs on the WIOUWASH Trail and at the bridge.

Allowing ATVs on roughly 2600 feet of trail from West Wind Road to the first bridge to the north is ONLY for the purpose of accessing Lake Butte des Morts.

The ordinance change would allow for the Parks Department to allow or deny use if needed. It will allow us to be more flexible if we do see that damage is being done to the trail system or if there is a conflict among users.

**Attachments:**

- Exhibit A

- Ordinance Revision

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**ORDINANCE: Amend Winnebago County General Code Chapter 19.27 "Recreation Trail Regulations" to Include Language that Grants Permission to the Parks Director or County Executive to Allow ATVs on Portions of the WIOUWASH Trail with Advanced Permission and Notice**

**TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Committee has reviewed and recommends approval of the following amendments to the Winnebago County General Code Chapter 19.27 Recreation Trail Regulations as attached; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendments add language to allow the Parks Director or County Executive to expand usage on a County owned recreational trail, specifically to allow ATVs on portions of the WIOUWASH Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, the Winnebago County Parks Department has received requests from the Town of Oshkosh to allow ATVs on the WIOUWASH Trail for the sole purpose of accessing Lake Butte des Morts in early and late winter to ice fish; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks Director will determine when the weather conditions are appropriate to allow ATVs on the WIOUWASH Trail from West Wind Road to the first bridge crossing. The Public will be notified of the opening and closing dates each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks Department will not allow ATVs on the remainder of the WIOUWASH Trail north of the bridge.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

That Chapter 19.27 Recreation Trail Regulations of the General Code of Winnebago County be revised as listed in Exhibit A.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that said amendment to the General Code of Winnebago County shall become effective on the date following the date of publication.

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact

Respectfully submitted by:  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Committee Vote:

Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Members Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan D. Doemel  
Winnebago County Executive



**Exhibit A - Revisions**

19.27 RECREATION TRAIL REGULATIONS: The recreation trail regulations herein are in addition to those regulations contained in Chapter 7 of the General Code of Winnebago County.

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(1) SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SEASON. During the calendar year the recreation trail may be used by snowmobiles from on or about December 1 to on or about March 31. Formal trail opening and closing dates shall be as designated by the Parks Director or Committee through notification of the public by various media sources when snow conditions are adequate for snowmobiling.

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(a) The recreation trail may be opened or closed during the season for any good reason (lack of snow, dangerous conditions, etc.) by the Parks Director or Committee by utilizing the same notification process.

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(b) No snowmobiles shall be operated on the recreational trails other than during the snowmobile season. No other vehicles may be operated on the recreation trail during the snowmobile trail season except police vehicles, emergency and rescue vehicles or County maintenance vehicles unless permission is granted by the County Executive or Parks Director.

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(2) AREAS OPEN TO SNOWMOBILING. The following areas are open to snowmobiling:

(a) All County-owned public access points.

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(b) County Recreation Trails and all future designated recreation trails, and leased snowmobile trails.

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(c) No person shall operate a snowmobile in any area other than on marked and approved snowmobile trails, or areas as designated in Sec. 19.27(a)(b), unless permission has been received from the Parks Director.

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(d) No person shall conduct or engage in snowmobile races on any County Park lands, access points, nature preserves, or recreation trails.

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(3) SIGNS. Signs for use on the recreation trail to regulate snowmobile traffic, warn snowmobile drivers or assist the snowmobile driver to reach his destination shall be in accordance with recommendations established by the State Department of Natural Resources, and shall be placed at appropriate locations along the trail. No person shall operate a snowmobile other than in accordance with such signs.

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(4) OFF-SEASON REGULATIONS, RECREATION TRAILS.

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(a) From on or about April 1 to on or about November 30, the recreation trails may be used for hiking, bicycling or in designated areas, horseback riding.

(b) No vehicles of any kind shall be operated on the recreation trail except police vehicles, emergency and rescue vehicles or County maintenance vehicles unless permission is granted by the County Executive or Parks Director. During the off-season the use of the recreation trail shall conform with the rules and regulations relating to County Parks.

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