



## Director's Report

I am proud to present the Winnebago County Parks Department Annual Report for 2021 to the residents of Winnebago County. My name is Adam Breest and I started as the Winnebago County Parks Director in May of 2021. It has been an honor to serve the residents of Winnebago County for the last seven months.

2021 was a busy year for the Parks Department. It began with the previous Parks Director, Rob Way, retiring after 24 years working for Winnebago County. In the fall of 2021, the previous Expo Manager, Vicky Redlin, retired after 22 years with the County. We want to thank Rob and Vicky for spending much of their careers dedicated to the Winnebago County Park System and wish them a very happy retirement.

The last year was also a busy year for projects. After many years of planning, the Asylum Point Bridge, Jerry Finch Winnebago County Dog Park and Sunnyview Exposition Projects got off the ground. All three projects are on schedule to be completed in 2022.

Throughout the last two years, we have been reminded of how important our natural areas, trails, and outdoor recreational opportunities are to the quality of life for our residents. I am very proud of the staff we have within our department and the pride they put into their work. I look forward to continuing to provide best-in-class services and amenities into 2022 and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Adam Breest | Parks & Expo Director

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Bahling Arbor Memorial Archway**

The Bahling Arbor project was completed in June of 2021. The Parks Department will be planting native vine seeds in the raised beds, which will grow to cover the arbor honoring the man who designed the master plan for the park, Jeff Bahling. Bahling's Arbor is located near the Natural Way section of the Community Park.



## **2021 PROJECTS**

## **Jerry Finch Dog Park**

The Jerry Finch Winnebago County Dog Park in the Village of Fox Crossing opened in October. It offers a large open field along with a wooded area allowing dogs to enjoy off-leash adventures throughout the 4.5-acre park. The dog park has plenty of parking, walking paths, and a small dog area. There are a few small projects to complete at the dog park. A grand opening for the park will occur in May of 2022.





# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



## **Asylum Point Bridge**

The bridge at Asylum Point Park, which provides access to the lighthouse island, was installed in November. This new, clear-span bridge is relatively maintenance-free and will not be susceptible to ice shoves like the previous bridge. The landing area on the north end of the bridge will be finished in spring of 2022. A ribbon cutting for the bridge will be scheduled in summer of 2022.

## **2021 PROJECTS**



## **Sunnyview Expo Center East Campus Project**

The Sunnyview Expo Center east campus project began in late October 2021 and will continue into 2022. The project will add additional parking and RV/trailer camping areas on the east side of the expo campus.

Grading, stormwater treatment, and expanded electrical services will also be part of this project. In total, the number of camping and parking spaces will be more than doubled. The cost for this project is roughly \$1.6 million and is scheduled to be completed in June of 2022.

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Upcoming Project

In November of 2021, the Parks Department received a grant from Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council for up to \$400,000 for the Grundman Boat Landing project. Parks Department staff hopes to apply for the Recreation Boating Fund grant with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2022. The department plans to begin engineering and submitting permits for this project in 2022. The project would then be constructed in 2023.



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## CIP Timeline

### **Boat Launch Improvements**

2022 | Grundman \$185,000  
2023 | Grundman \$1,850,000  
2024 | Butte des Morts \$106,707  
2025 | Butte des Morts \$1,067,066

### **Community Park Improvements**

2024 | Shelter 4 & Playground \$45,000  
2025 | Shelter 4 & Playground \$700,000

### **Nature Preserves & Trail Improvements**

2023 | Waukau Dam \$58,000  
2024 | Waukau Dam \$580,000

### **Sunnyview Expo Improvements**

2022 | LED Lights & Painting \$190,000  
2023 | Expo Phase 2 \$250,329  
2024 | Expo Phase 2 \$3,129,115  
2025 | Expo Phase 3 \$176,000  
2026 | Expo Phase 3 \$2,200,000

### **CIP Totals 2022-26**

2022 | \$375,000  
2023 | \$2,158,329  
2024 | \$3,860,822  
2025 | \$1,943,066  
2026 | \$2,200,000



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## **Adam Breest Parks & Expo Director**

Adam has been in the Parks and Recreation field for more than 10 years. In his role as the Director of Parks and Expo Adam wishes to reach out and communicate regularly with the residents of Winnebago County to ensure that the Parks Department is providing top-notch recreational and outdoor opportunities for everyone to enjoy. Adam enjoys traveling, spending time with his family, and being outdoors.

## **Rick Helms Expo Manager**

Rick has been with the expo center for six years in various roles. As the new Expo Manager, he will continue to bring new and exciting events to Oshkosh and the Fox Valley. Continuing to improve the facility and the relationships with our clients is a major priority for the continued success of the Sunnyview Expo Center. Rick enjoys spending time with his family and friends, and attending many community-based events. He can be found volunteering and working for several non-profits in Oshkosh, so make sure to say hi!

## **EMPLOYEE UPDATES**

## **Kyle Vergin Park Foreman**

Kyle has been a Parks Caretaker for the past six years. In his new role as Parks Foreman, Kyle will lead his team in day-to-day parks operations and organize project efficiencies. Kyle enjoys sports, family outings, hunting and fishing, and spending time outdoors.

## **Justin DeJager Programming & Marketing Coordinator**

Justin was the former Administrative Assistant for the Parks Department. In his new role, Justin will develop program-related activities and resources, coordinate marketing efforts, and build strong partnerships with new and current clients. Justin enjoys local craft beer, camping in door county, and riding his bike on the Wiouwash Trail.

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Retirements

Rob Way and Vicky Redlin retired from the Parks Department in 2021. Rob was the Parks Director and Vicky was the Program Manager. Together, they served Winnebago County and the Parks Department for more than 45 years.

Rob and Vicky were champions of outdoor recreation. They both loved caring for our first-class parks, nature preserves, and trails. Their immense contributions to the Winnebago County community are endless and the Parks Department was blessed to have them for so many years.



## Snowmobile Season

Winnebago County received a \$41,250 grant from the WI DNR for snowmobile trail maintenance for the 2020-21 season. There are nearly 200 miles of snowmobile trails in Winnebago County, and 137.5 of those miles are funded by the grant. Snowmobile clubs take care of the unfunded trails without grant assistance.

Total expenses submitted by the 10 snowmobile clubs that receive grant funds for trail maintenance amounted to \$41,558.16. Snowmobile trails in Winnebago County were fully/partially open for a total of 19 days during the 2020-21 season.

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Park

**Revenue: \$20,280**

**Expense: \$74,687**

### Main Events:

- Hmong National Memorial Day & Labor Day Festivals
- Soccer Saturday
- Oshkosh on the Water
- Oshkosh Rugby & Youth Rugby Tournaments
- Fox Valley Open Disc Golf Tournament

## Sunnyview Expo

**Revenue: \$231,885**

**Expense: \$279,389**

### Main Events:

- All events from January to May 2 were canceled
- 4H Horse and Pony Project
- Lazy Days Memorial Day Horse Show
- WAQHA/NEWQHA Combined Paper Valley Horse Show
- TNT Horse Show
- Oshkosh Charity Horse Show
- Lifest
- Morgan Masterpiece Horse Show
- 4H Horse Show
- Winnebago County Fair
- Monster X Tour/Nitro Tour
- WI Paint Horse Club Show
- Mexican Rodeo
- Wisconsin Desert Horse Show
- Walk for the Animals
- WI Futurity Horse Festival
- Earth Science Club Gem & Mineral Show
- Veteran's Memorial Wall
- Holiday Wonders Craft Show
- Oshkosh Gun Show
- Mexican New Year Celebration
- Amazon Driver Training





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## Recreation Trails

**Revenue: \$193,256**

**Expense: \$454,086**

The Parks Department resurfaced and repaired areas of the Wiouwash State Trail and Mascoutin Valley State Trail. The department also continued to maintain two nature preserves and several other park properties including the Waukau Dam, Aslyum Point, Ken Robl Park, and Lasley Point to name a few.

## Navigational Aids

**Expense: \$11,078**

The Parks Department began repairing buoys in-house in 2021. Nearly 20 buoys have been repaired so far. Much of this work occurs during the winter months.



## Boat Landing Fees & Permit Sales

### Boat Landings

**Revenue: \$105,639**

**Expense: \$142,561**

### Boat Launch Daily & Permit Sales

**Boat launch daily revenue: \$62,712**

**Boat launch permit revenue: \$57,695**

**Three-year permit sales: \$40,545**

**Annual permit sales: \$16,150**

Boat launch parking permit revenue increased by nearly \$17,000 from the previous year. The Parks Department partnered with RecDesk, an online reservation system, in 2021. The new software allows residents and non-residents to purchase boat launch trailer parking permits using a credit card online. Permits can still be purchased in-person at the Parks Department, Clerks Office, Festival Foods Oshkosh, and Fish Tales.

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## Donations, Memorial Benches & Trees

The Parks Department received a donation of \$1,000 from the Larsen Winchester Lions Club for trail maintenance. The Oshkosh Youth Soccer Club (OYSC) also donated \$1,200 for improvements to the soccer fields. Three memorial benches were installed and one memorial tree was planted.

The Parks Department met with local soccer clubs in the fall to organize and collaborate efforts. It was a productive meeting for the Parks Department and soccer clubs, and has resulted in better communication between all groups involved. OYSC also donated \$1,200 after the meeting, which enabled our parks crew to install 2,000 feet of drain tile at soccer fields #1 and #2. This will help prevent puddling issues on these fields.

