

**PICTURE YOURSELF IN
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
PARKS & SUNNYVIEW EXPO
CENTER!**



**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
PARKS DEPARTMENT
YEAR END REPORT—2018**

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

The applications went in, the esteemed judges consulted, and... WE WON!!



Winnebago County Parks & engineering firm Rettler Corp. have been awarded the WI Park & Recreation Assoc. 2018 Park Section's Park Facility Award of Excellence for the Community Park Road Redesign Project.

The award was presented at the WPRA Annual Conference in Green Bay on November 1. Projects substantially completed within the past two years were eligible for consideration.

We are grateful to the awards committee and of course the esteemed judges who chose our project from among the many other eligible nominees.

This award is bittersweet, as Landscape Architect Jeff Bahling from Rettler Corp., who had been the designer for the Community Park from 1995 on, passed away unexpectedly and at a very young age, in 2016. His vision and skills helped to make this project a tremendous success!

The following is verbiage from the official press release from WPRA.

**2018 WPRA PARK SECTION
AWARD WINNERS**

The Park Design Awards, Outstanding Young Professional of the Year and Outstanding Professional Award of the Year will be presented at the Annual Conference in Green Bay on Thursday, November 1st at 10:15am. The presentation will be made in Grand A at the KI Convention Center.

Under \$250,000

City of Monona Parks & Recreation - Bridge Road Park

\$250,001 - \$499,999

Winnebago County Parks - Community Park Road Re-Design

\$500,000 - \$999,999

Antigo Park, Recreation and Cemetery Department - Heinzen Peaceful Valley Pavilion



The **Ken Robl Conservation Park** opened July 18 to much fanfare. The Park consists of a looping paved trail with a fishing pond, two fishing areas, a large fishing platform and native plantings. Located off Walter St. on the north side of Oshkosh along Interstate 41 this project reclaimed a portion of a solid waste facility that continues to operate on part of the property, providing another option for recreation in the County.



Have you seen Stan? Winnebago County Parks and our sponsor Cumulus Broadcasting have teamed to produce The Adventures of Stan & Phil: Picturing Themselves in Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo Center.



Cathie spotted Stan. She listened to a Cumulus Radio station for clues, snapped this pic and sent it to our Facebook page. She won a bunch of cool swag from Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo and Cumulus Broadcasting. Be like Cathie. Help Stan nab those picnic bandits.



'Stan' has been making the rounds of parks properties with clues to his whereabouts broadcast on Cumulus radio stations. People who spot Stan and send in his photo to our Facebook page win prizes from Cumulus Broadcasting radio stations and Parks.

Waukau Dam Mountain Bike Trail

Waukau Dam Mountain Bike Trail is a roughly three-mile, single track mountain bike trail that meanders along the steep hillsides and through the deep ravines of the Waukau Dam Nature Preserve.

A handful of mountain bike enthusiasts, with the support of the Oshkosh Cycling Club, have volunteered nearly 1,500 hours to build the trail. Donations to build the many wooden bridges and features have come from the Oshkosh Cycling Club, the trail builders, and private donors.

The trail is considered an intermediate level mountain bike trail. The rugged landscape makes for challenging climbs, fast descents and breathtaking views of Waukau Creek and surrounding forest.

Advanced features have been added along the trail for those who wish to hone their skills - numerous bridges, jumps, drops and skill features help to keep the ride exciting and challenging. Bypasses

are available for all of the advanced features. The trail is a "two way" trail, so always be on the look out for other riders and hikers.

The trail is open for riding year-round, weather permitting. All riders must use fat tire bikes (3.8 inches or wider) in the winter. The trail is closed to riding anytime it is wet or muddy. Trail conditions are closely monitored by the trail builders and current conditions can be found on our Facebook page.

Trail construction is still ongoing – the planned layout should be complete by the fall of 2018. Once complete, trail improvements will continue into 2019 and beyond.

Oshkosh Cycling Club



Oshkosh Summer Fun Runs Report
Dates (4): Sundays **June 3rd, June 24th, July 15th, and August 5th**
Time: 7:00pm

Ages: 2-14 years old
 Kicking off our second year, the Oshkosh Fun Runs were started by a group of local running enthusiasts who want to empower the next generation through health and fitness opportunities. The Fun Runs operate under the umbrella of the Oshkosh Recreation Department. The runs are staffed completely by volunteers. The runs, t-shirts, and refreshments are free of charge to all participants thanks to our generous local sponsors.

Daily Feedback:

Great initial reaction from the community to the police dogs and fire trucks- June 3, 2018

Lots of fun on 80's night as the parents were good role models and ran the course! - June 24, 2018

Sports night was a hit with the Oshkosh

North Soccer Team as well as Timber Rattlers' Fang. – July 15, 2018
 Movie night was a success with the showing of Peter Rabbit. – August 5, 2018

Stephanie Piera De Silva
Oshkosh Summer Fun Run Coordinator

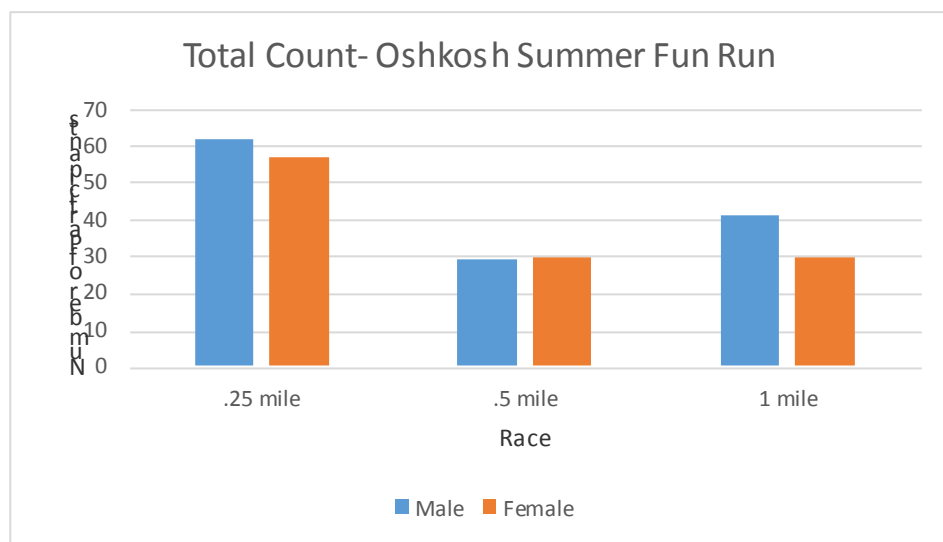


Oshkosh Rotary Club South West, Oshkosh Rotary Club, and the N.E.W. E-club installed an arboretum within the Community Park as part of **Rotary International's 'A Tree**

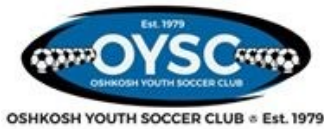
For Every Rotarian' project. Thirty two species were planted in the shape of the Rotary wheel logo. Signage and paths will be installed in the future to complete the project. The trees and shrubs are those that homeowners in the area can take a look at to decide if they would like to plant something similar on their property.

Thank you Rotary!

Total



	.25		
Race	mile	.5 mile	1 mile
Male	129	63	44
Female	102	84	46



Oshkosh Youth Soccer Club (OYSC) is a recreational soccer program

for children ages 5-19 years old. Our program runs from May through July, including 9 weekly games and culminating with our Soccer Saturday Tournament. We have approximately 80 teams with 1,000 participants. We draw approximately 4,000 spectators per week. The majority of our participants are from Winnebago County, but we do have players from surrounding counties as well.

We have a yearly budget of approximately \$20,000 devoted to soccer field improvements at County Park. This includes weed & feed for all fields, grass seed, dirt, weekly field maintenance and more. We have plans to have fields raised and leveled in the near future. OYSC also schedules all field usage throughout Oshkosh for the various soccer clubs that use the fields.

Leslie Burns
Volunteer Field Programmer



Our annual Oshkosh on the Water tournament is held the second weekend in June. We have averaged any where between 170 and 180 teams at the county soccer complex.

There are teams from all over the state of Wisconsin and from Illinois and the UP. For the past three years we have sold out every hotel in Oshkosh and have worked out deals with local restaurants to help accommodate the teams, families and coaches. On average we will have anywhere from 7,000 to 8,000 people out at the soccer park.

We have been fortunate to work with sev-

eral local vendors in the area to sell food for our participating teams and their families. The Oshkosh United Soccer Club truly feel that we give back to Winnebago County via hotel reservations and dining at local restaurants.

Chris Guido
Oshkosh United Soccer Club



With the conversion of the south side lighted softball diamond in Oshkosh more games were played in the Community Park this year. Attendance remained steady and it was overall a good year! A major drainage problem was corrected by installing drain tile in a cooperative effort of ORD and Parks staff to mitigate the damage from the altered flow from an artesian spring. Collaboration on replacement of the outfield fences is also taking place.

It's been another busy year at **Sunnyview Expo Center**.



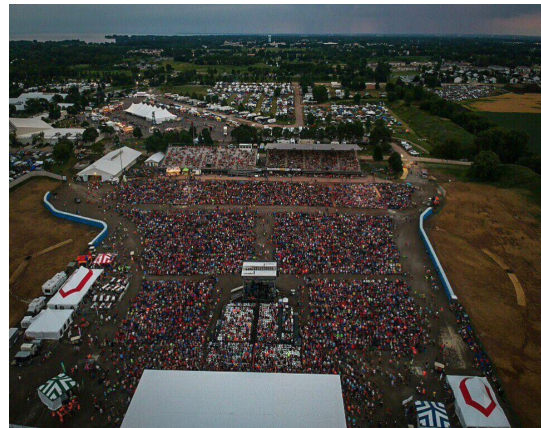
Lifest is the largest Christian music festival in the nation. We saw a 7% rise in attendance with our average daily attendance exceeding 24,000 people which made Lifest 2018 our biggest year ever!

In 2018, we celebrated our 20th anniversary. Part of our celebration was the completion of a new permanent stage in the former racetrack facility. The new stage is one of the largest outdoor concert venues in Wisconsin with the potential to hold over 30,000 people. The stage will accommodate complex lighting and sound design requirements of A-list performing artists and will make Sunnyview Expo Grounds a destination for more great events. Building the stage in the new location allowed us to add seven additional

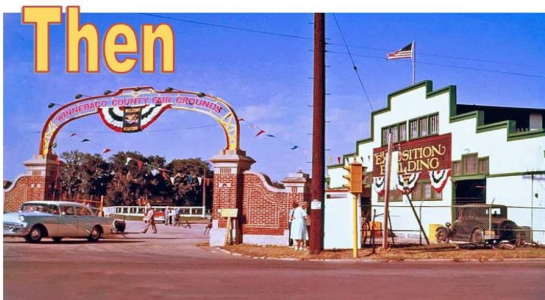
acres on grounds to expand camping and satisfy the needs of Lifest's growing attendance.

Because we are a nonprofit organization, we are volunteer driven. We had 896 volunteers who served 18,185 hours to make Lifest affordable, efficient, and save. Lifest is *A Party With a Purpose* which focuses on celebrating the love of God and connecting the family of faith.

Mary Rockman
Director of Operations



**The Historic Winnebago County
Fairgrounds Arch
Project fund**



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND SEND TO:

Oshkosh Area Community Foundation • 230 Ohio Street, Suite 100 • Oshkosh, WI 54902

Phone: (920)426-3993 • Fax: (920)426-6997 •

Email: info@oshkoshareacf.org

ALL donations welcome!

Buy a brick program also coming soon.



To accommodate large scale events taking place on the expo grounds and in the Community Park a property to the east was purchased. As luck would have it this particular property came on the market, for *the first time in over 50 years*, at just the right time. The additional 20 acre purchase includes a former nature area that was designed by the previous owner of the property, Dr. Donald Netzer, a noted UWO professor and geologist. The nature area will be restored and open to the public in the future.

There were **166 events** scheduled in 2018 with **30 weekend** events open to the public, numerous private parties, and training sessions were also on the calendar. Several horse shows at the **Covered Arena** this season came in with record numbers of participants. Barn usage was up over previous years. Several different breeds were represented throughout the 11 horse shows scheduled between May & September.



Kids Kart Club events ran from May until September every week except over the 4th and during Lifest. Each

week had 45 to 50 young people driving their karts with about 350 spectators and pit people watching. We do not charge spectators so for the family it is more economical. The program is to educate young people about mechanical devices and promote an interest in building things from scratch. Next year will be our 25th anniversary and over the years we have worked with almost 2,000 young people.

Pete Kardong
KKC



We had another record setting year at Winnebagoland BMX. We held 42 races at our track this year that brought in 3,872 bike racers from ages 2 through 75 as well as over 7,000 spectators. We held our first ever Badger State Games event with riders from across the state. Some of these riders qualified for the Commonwealth Games in Virginia. We were also privileged to be part of the National Tangent Pro Am Series which brought in Olympic and Pro racers from around the world. We have been the number



one track in the State of Wisconsin for the past six years, which has earned

us the right to host the Wisconsin State Championship races. We have also been ranked 22nd out of over 300 tracks in the nation. We are proud to have the continued support of the Winnebago County Parks Department, the Town of Oshkosh, and many local sponsors.

Kevin Kemnitz
Winnebagoland BMX



Sunnyview Expo Center 2018 Survey

501 E County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI

Survey created by the Winnebago County Parks and Recreation Department and ECWRPC

ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT—PARK PHASE III

PRELIMINARY RESULTS - SURVEY ENDS MARCH 2019

<https://www.getfeedback.com/s/SfwVkX04>

65% completion rate

USER BASE:

Visitor Type = 95% Attendee, 2 % Promotor, 2% Vendor

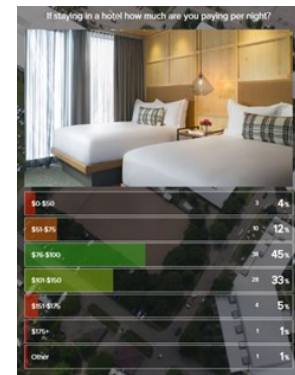
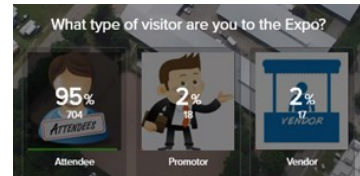
Reason at EXPO? Lifest, County Fair, Horse Show

Lifest was the favorite event attended- 38%

Number of events attended in 2018 = 2.65

63% got their information from Social Media

In WINNEBAGO COUNTY for an event = 68%



SPENDING:

Out of Town Accommodations - Camping 22%, Hotel 14%

Hotel = 45% spent \$76-\$100/night, 33% \$101-\$150 per night

Approximately \$8,000 put back into the local economy.

Length of visit = Most stayed for a weekend -57%

57% - dined out while visiting the expo.

Most visitors were spending \$25-\$50 a day on restaurants.

Shopping – most visitors spent their money on gas (64%) and groceries, (30%).



DEMOGRAPHICS:

Most attendees were couples—61%

Ages ranged from 14 to 83



The Winnebago County Parks Department is in the process of updating our **Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)** and is looking for public feedback on facilities. Three public meetings were held this fall to gather feedback for the Plan in conjunction with ECWRPC. Meetings took place on Mondays from 5pm-7pm: August 27, 2018, at City of Neenah Public Library. September 10, 2018, at City of Omro Community Center. September 17, 2018, at J. P. Coughlin Center Oshkosh.

In addition to the public meetings an online survey has been posted. Please fill out a short 10 question survey, available on the Winnebago County web site under the Parks tab. Thank you in advance for your time.

<https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/parks>

Boat Launch Parking Permit 2018— Revenue & Count

Annual, 3 Year, Resident, Non-Resident
and Senior Resident Permit Revenue:

(Vendors: Rymers Lakeshore Mart,
Festival Foods, Fish Tales)

3 year permits = \$39,970.00

Annual permits = \$27,530.00

Daily permits = \$79,950.00

Total Revenue = \$147,450.00

All revenues are returned to boat launch maintenance funding. This season funds are being used to purchase new and refurbish old lit buoys that are past their useful lifespan. There are **120 total buoys** throughout the Winnebago System that are the County's responsibility.

Staff News: Staff again participated **The Annual BikeOsh** event during this year's **May Bike Week**, and also co-managed the Fox Valley Bike Week Facebook page. Program Manager Vicky Redlin was re-elected as Region II representative on the WI Parks & Recreation Association Parks Section Board, is serving on the WPRA 2019 Conference Committee, Young Professionals Network and as Impact magazine Commercial Corner assistant editor. She was also nominated for WPRA Parks Professional of the Year for 2018. Secretary Mary Koch is serving on the Winnebago County W3 Wellness Committee representing the JP Coughlin Building offices.

New Park Ranger Brad Ludwig joined the Parks Department this past Spring. Long time Parks Ranger Kathy Teichmiller retired at the end of the 2017 season. **Thank you to Kathy and welcome aboard Brad!**

SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS



Winnebago County Parks staff is working closely with the Winnebago County Health Department and ReThink to provide a framework for development of a Safe Routes to Parks (S RTP) audit program. The program, championed by the National Recreation & Parks Association, will provide guidance to community groups wishing to establish safe routes to local parks. Several presentations of this program have been done and more are in the works for 2019.



Long time **Mascoutin Trail** advocate and **Green Lake Greenways President Lauree Renaud** passed away this summer. Lauree was instrumental in the growth of the Mascoutin Trail, bringing recreational opportunities to citizens within the County. She also worked tirelessly to improve the trail and add amenities for all to use. She left an indelible mark on this trail and will be missed.



Sponsors are the BEST!

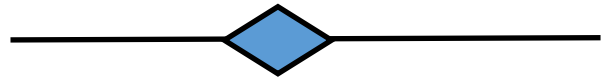


An excerpt from the Green Laker regarding the Mascoutin Valley Recreation Trail from a few years' back still holds true today. Our sponsor and partner Vines & Rushes Winery owner Ryan Prellwitz has helped to fund projects along the trail.

"The health of the trail is so important to the future of his business, Prellwitz has decided to give something back to foster the symbiotic relationship. It's a new wine, aptly named "Mascoutin," from which \$1 from each bottle sold will be donated to the trail. The new, Mascoutin wine includes three distinct varieties of grapes: Sabrevois, Marquette and Frontenac. This grape trio came to Vines and Rushes from around the state, and represents the three counties the trail crosses: Green Lake, Fond du Lac and Winnebago.

Naming this new wine was simple. "If we're going to blend something together, then we're going to come up with a more fanciful name to use ... So in this case, 'Mascoutin' was an obvious choice because of our proximity and history with the

Mascoutin Trail," Prellwitz said. "We're working on partnerships with the county to help them promote this trail more and more," Prellwitz said. "We have a few different resources along the trail here that are making this a better and better option for people to use as a rec trail."



Our sponsor, The Oshkosh Independent online newspaper and it's sister publication The Oshkosh Independent Magazine have teamed up with the Parks Dept. to provide a program for local non-profits who benefit the parks with advertising dollars to use in these publications. For each ad that the Parks places an amount is set aside for these groups to use to further their reach. The first to partake of the program is Oshkosh Southwest Rotary who was instrumental in installing an arboretum within the Community Park.



Picture Yourself in Winnebago County Parks With...



THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The powerful impact parks and recreation has on economic activity, when combined with the ability to deliver healthier and happier communities, highlights the fact that these offerings are not merely a “nice-to-have,” luxury government service. Rather, parks and recreation is a critical aspect of what makes a city, town or county a vibrant and prosperous community. Policymakers and elected officials at all levels of government should take notice and support greater and more stable taxpayer funding of parks and recreation.



NATIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

IN 2015, AMERICA'S LOCAL PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES GENERATED MORE THAN \$154 BILLION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND THEIR OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL SPENDING SUPPORTED MORE THAN 1.1 MILLION JOBS

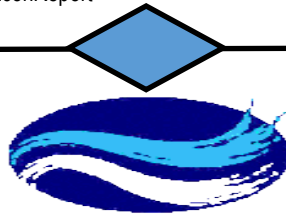
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT IN WISCONSIN

Economic Activity
(Transactions)
\$ 1,564,034,216

Labor Income
\$ 557,893,058

Employment
(Jobs)
13,268

This information comes from NRPA's Economic Impact of Local Parks Report. The report is based on a study by NRPA and the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University and data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau. To read the report and learn more, visit www.nrpa.org/ParkEconReport



Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo Center
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y #500
Oshkosh WI 54901
920-232-1960



www.co.winnebago.wi.us/parks

Director—Rob Way
Program Mgr.—Vicky Redlin
Asst. Director—Tom McInnis
Expo Operations Supervisor—Rick Helms
Administrative Asst.—Mary Koch
Parks Caretakers—Dave Binner, Kyle Vergin, Steve Herman,
Dan Foley
Park Rangers—Bruce Butkiewicz, Brad Ludwig