

1. Agenda

Documents: [PARK_20140108_AG.PDF](#)

2. Complete Packet

Documents: [PARK_20140108_PK.PDF](#)

**AGENDA
PARKS COMMISSION
THURSDAY, January 8th, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Section 19.82 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that the park commission of the city of Fitchburg, Dane County Wisconsin, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8th, 2015 in the Meeting Room at the Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711 to consider the following:

(Note: Full coverage of this meeting is available through FACTv and Streaming Video, accessible on the city web site at <http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/677/Government-Channel>)

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes –December 4th, 2014**
- 3. Public Appearances - Non Agenda Items**
- 4. Communication**
 - A. Tree Advisory Committee Update**
 - Community Survey
 - EAB Report – COW meeting in July
 - B. McKee/McGaw Park Shelter process**
 - C. McKee Splashpad shade structure process**
- 5. Review and Approve Agenda**
- 6. Discussion/Action Resolution R-01-15: A Resolution Recognizing International Migratory Bird Day City of Fitchburg, Wisconsin**
- 7. Discussion/Action Update on Shelter reservation posting procedures – Chad Sigl, Director Recreation Department/Community Center and Tony King, Recreations Aide.**
- 8. Staff Reports/Updates**
 - A. Recreation**
 - B. Forestry**
 - C. Parks**
- 9. Future Agenda Items**
 - A. MMSD reciprocity agreement**
 - B. Adopt a Bike Trail Proposal**
 - C. Concession operation – Splashpad**
- 10. Announcements As Allowed By Law**
 - A. The next 2 Park Commission Meetings will be held on February 5th, 2015
And March 5th, 2015.**
- 11. Adjournment**

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Administrative Offices
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AGENDA

PARKS COMMISSION THURSDAY, December 4th, 2014 Minutes

DRAFT DRAFT

Pursuant to Section 19.82 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that the park commission of the city of Fitchburg, Dane County Wisconsin, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 4th, 2014 in the Council Chambers at the Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711 to consider the following:

1. Call to Order

Tom Darcy, Chair called the meeting to order 7:00 P.M.

In attendance: Terra Theim, Mark Vivian, Jacob Johnson, Alder Jason Gonzalez, Mark Almond, City Forester/Naturalist Ed Bartell, Park and Forestry LTE Laura Lorentz, and Director Scott Endl.

Others in attendance: Patrick Cheney, Ron Klaas, David Fahey, and Tony Heinrichs,

Absent: Zyronia Mims

2. Approval of Minutes –November 6th, 2014

Jacob Johnson moved to approve as written, Terra Theim 2nd. Motion Carried.

3. Public Appearances - Non Agenda Items

None

4. Communication

A. Holiday Party – Sunday, December 7th

Scott Endl provided a copy of the flyer that listed activities for this 27th Annual event. All Park Commission members are invited to attend.

B. Tree Advisory Committee Update – Ed Bartell & Laura Lorentz

- **Tower Hill Greenway project**

Ed Bartell provided a brief background report on this project. A meeting has been set with the neighbors for Thursday, December 11th. This project was included in the 2015 CIP budget.

- **2015 Urban Forestry Grant**

Ed Bartell wrote and was awarded in 2014 DNR Urban Forestry Grant. This grant included matching funds for work including EAB treatment and canopy preservation.

- **Red-tailed Hawk release – Quarry Ridge Recreational Area**

Scott Endl provided information that was provided by the Wild Side of Dane County Humane Society which demonstrates/explains this agency's work in rehabilitating animals and then releasing them back to the wild. Dane County requested to release a Red-tailed Hawk at Quarry Ridge Recreational Area. Scott Endl, on behalf of the P&R Department, granted DCHS that permission. This Red-tailed Hawk was released on Monday, December 1st.

5. Review and Approve Agenda

Mark Almond moved to approve agenda as written, 2nd by Jacob Johnson. Motion Carried.

6. Discussion/Action Resolution R-97-14: A Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of McKee and McGaw Park Shelter Renovation Bids

Scott Endl provided bid tabulation for this work. With both bids coming in over budget amount it was recommend rejecting all bids. This project will be re-bid in 2015. Mark Vivian moved to reject all bids, 2nd by Jacob Johnson. Motion Carried.

- Patrick Cheney, 5211 Kittycrest registered and spoke in favor of this item.

7. Discussion/Action Resolution R-107-14: A Resolution Authorizing Purchase and Installation of Three Shade Structures and Other Improvements at McKee Farms Park Splashpad

Scott Endl reported that only 1 bid was received for this work. This bid was not opened per City policy. This project will be re-bid in 2015. No action taken.

8. Discussion/Action CDP-2045-14: Comprehensive Development Plan Request CDP-2045-14 by Tony Heinrichs, agent for Fahey Land LLC, for a residential development for the Fahey Fields development project, on property located near Nobel Drive.

Scott Endl welcomed Mr. David Fahey (5776 Irish Lane, Fitchburg) to introduce this project to the Park Commission. Mr. Fahey gave a brief introduction and handed this discussion off to his team including Mr. Ron Klaas (7530 Westward Way, Madison) and Mr. Tony Heinrichs (1113 Cohiba Court, Verona).

The Park Commission discussed and provided questions related to this project.

At the completion of this discussion Jason Gonzalez moved to approve this CDP as it related to park dedication and comments provided by 11/25/14 memo provided by Scott Endl, 2nd by Terra Theim. Motion Carried.

- Patrick Cheney, 5211 Kittycrest registered in support of this item.

9. Discussion/Action Urban Forest Management Plan Public Survey

Mr. Ed Bartell provided an update on work being conducted by the Tree Advisory Committee including development of an Urban Forestry Maintenance Plan. In an effort to gather community input for the Management Plan a community survey has been developed. Mr. Ed Bartell reviewed this survey with the Park Commission and asked for their comments. The Park Commission members may provide additional comments to staff before December 15th.

Jacob Johnson moved to approve the survey as discussed with inclusion of future comments, 2nd by Terra Theim. Motion Carried.

- 10. Staff Reports/Updates**
 - A. Recreation**
 - B. Forestry**
 - C. Parks**

See below

- 11. Future Agenda Items**
 - A. MMSD reciprocity agreement**
 - B. Adopt a Bike Trail Proposal**
 - C. Concession operation – Splashpad**

- 12. Announcements As Allowed By Law**
 - A. The next 2 Park Commission Meetings will be held on January 8th, 2015 and February 5th, 2015.**

- 13. Adjournment**

Jason Gonzalez moved to adjourn, 2nd by Mark Almond. Motion Carried. 8:00 pm

Minutes provided by Scott Endl

Department: Recreation

Prepared By: Chad Sigl

Date Prepared: August 2014

Review by Mayor:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014:

- Offered comprehensive year-round youth and adult recreational opportunities.
- Held annual special events including; Pack N Park, Children's Holiday Party, Daddy Daughter Winter Formal, Bike Rodeo, & NFL Punt Pass & Kick Competition.
- Included concussion awareness information as part of youth sports programs
- Partnered with Oregon School District to offer ski trips.
- Held Community Day @ Nine Springs Golf Course.
- Added credit card readers through our online registration software, Activenet.
- Worked with local communities to offer the Greater Dane Recreational Softball League
- Began using social media in marketing efforts.
- Included online reservations as part of new website integration.
- Partnered with local Rec Departments to run a 2nd/3rd grade flag tournament.
- Developed traveling flag football leagues for 4th/5th grade & 6th-8th grade.
- Received a grant for youth lacrosse equipment.
- Held coaches meetings for each league of youth sports programming.
- Continued with the replacement of outdated or broken equipment.
- Partnered with local Recreation Depts. to offer 5th/6th grade traveling basketball leagues.
- Developed 3rd/4th grade girls traveling basketball league with Verona & Mt Horeb Rec.
- Increased the number of programs offered through independent contractors.
- Held Quick & Blitz Chess tournaments for both youth & adults at the Community Center.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2015:

- Continue to look for new & exciting youth and adult program opportunities through independent contractors.
- Develop program/special event sponsorship opportunities.
- Develop training manual for summer program staff.
- Develop a document that details the full listing of programs offered throughout the year including a brief description, registration timeline.

Department: Parks

Prepared By: Endl

Date Prepared: August 2014

Review by Mayor:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014:

- Planted 113 new and replacement trees in street terraces, boulevards and parks.
- 76th Year Tree City USA and earned 10th Growth Award and Bird City recognition for second year.
- Obtained a matching DNR urban forestry grant to treat selected Public ash trees, offer public EAB workshops, continue street tree inventory, revise the 5-yr plan, work on revising the Tree and Shrub ordinance, fund attendance at the WAA and the City's Arbor Day Event : \$19,578.50.
- Continued implementation of the Save-an-Ash program.
- Treated >200 ashes in public parks and ROWs.
- Held two EAB Informational Meetings for homeowners.
- Continued updating tree inventory on Arcview/GIS.
- Maintained an Ice Rink on City of Madison's land, in Jamestown Park.
- Maintained McKee Farms Park ice rink
- Pruned ROW trees in the Western Hills, Jamestown, Belmar, Briarwood, Tarpolywick, Schneider, Seminole Hills, Greenway Cross, and Woods Edge neighborhoods.
- Involved over 100 volunteers in community projects including tree planting, invasive removal and woods restoration.
- Completed prescribed burns at Harlan Hills, Dawley Conservancy, Briarwood, Gorman Wayside, Swan Creek, and the entrance to McGraw Park.
- Hosted Fitchburg Days, Fiesta Italia, and McKee concerts
- Mowed and maintained parkland over 57 different locations
- Kept clear from snow approximately 11 miles of trails along with 2 miles of sidewalk.
- Operated Splashpad at McKee Farms Park
- Completed a playground retrofit at Hawk Ridge Park
- Completed a playground retrofit at Wildwood South Park
- Installed recycled rubber tire mulch at Belmar Hills playground
- Installed 360 cubic yards of certified playground mulch in 8 playgrounds.
- Added two parking lot lights at Greenfield Park
- Moved all McGaw softball field lighting out of the shelter into new outdoor cabinet's
- Painted the basketball court at McGaw
- Resurfaced the McGaw tennis courts
- Repaved over 3600 feet of bike path
- Continued work on Huegel-Jamestown Park Master Plan
- Approved Park alternatives for NSGC.
- Received a grant of \$1250 to plant a community orchard at the Community Center with 4-H volunteers and to train volunteers to maintain it and to harvest and distribute the fruit.
- Volunteers planted 236 prairie plants as an initial phase of restoration at Harlan Hills Park.
- Created job description for LTE Parks and Forestry Assistant.
- Volunteers planted native understory shrubs as a phase of forest restoration at Seminole Glen and Quarry Hill Parks.
- Held Arbor Day, Earth Day and International Migratory Bird Day Event at McKee Farms Park, approximately 100 attended.
- Initiated Tower Hill Greenway restoration project.
- Completed 2013 DNR Urban Forestry Grant Project.
- Opened new bike hub at Dawley Park
- Began work on McKee Farms and McGaw Park shelters

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2015:

- Reseal and paint Swan Creek tennis courts
- Complete work on McKee and McGaw Parks shelters
- Seal and paint McKee basketball court
- Paint Pine Ridge Gazebo
- Paint and stain Swan Creek shelter
- Continue with ROW pruning and train pruning throughout the City
- Continue implementation of 5-year Emerald Ash Bore Readiness Plan, including the treatment of remaining public ash trees.
- Submit Tree Preservation Ordinance for Approval
- Continuing neighborhood Park improvements with an emphasis on playground resilient surfacing.
- Prepare RFP for contract tree planting for spring of 2015.
- Complete 5 year (2014 – 2018) Urban Forestry Management Plan.
- Complete and begin implementation of McGaw Park woodlot management plan.
- Continue to develop private/public relationships in maintaining and developing new and existing parklands
- Continue collecting data for urban tree inventory.
- Apply for a matching DNR grant to continue implementation of EAB Readiness and Response Plan.
- Complete prescribed burns at McGaw, Briarwood, Swan Creek, and Harlan Hills Parks, and at Dawley Conservancy and Gorman Wayside.
- Continue prairie restoration efforts in Gorman Wayside and Briarwood Park.
- Make improvements to McKee Farms Park shelter
- Continue work to update the Huegel/Jamestown Park Master Plan and begin implementation of that updated plan.
- Continue forest and savanna restoration projects in Tower Hill Greenway and south end of Quarry Hill Park.
- Continue with second phase of volunteer prairie restoration at Harlan Hills Park.

2015 Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey

Fitchburg’s **urban forest** consists of all trees and shrubs on both public and private property within city limits. The Fitchburg Parks & Forestry Department is developing a strategic plan that will guide long-term management of our urban forest and shape future tree policies. Your responses will help us develop a cohesive plan geared towards optimizing the benefits that a well-managed urban forest can provide to residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Benefits of Public Trees

Collectively, the street, park, and other public trees the city manages function as an important part of the city’s infrastructure. Unlike roads, sewers, and other infrastructure, our public trees appreciate in value over time. The benefits they provide to residents fall into three general categories: economic, social, and environmental.

1. Please rate the importance to you of the following economic, social, and environmental benefits provided by our public trees. Circle *one* number on each line:

<i>Tree Benefits</i>	1 Definitely Not Important	2	3 Neutral	4	5 Very Important
Increase property values by improving the curb appeal of neighborhoods	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce cooling and heating costs	1	2	3	4	5
Trees in business and commercial districts attract visitors/customers	1	2	3	4	5
Visual beauty	1	2	3	4	5
Visual buffer between pedestrians and streets	1	2	3	4	5
Provide a sense of place to neighborhood and community	1	2	3	4	5
Calm and reduce traffic speed	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce crime levels	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce stress and improve mood	1	2	3	4	5
Provide nesting habitat and food sources for butterflies, birds, bees, and other wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce noise pollution	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce levels of particulate matter and other air pollutants	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce global warming gases, like carbon dioxide	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce soil erosion caused by stormwater	1	2	3	4	5
Roots filter out pollutants and protect groundwater	1	2	3	4	5
Cooling effect on heat from asphalt and buildings	1	2	3	4	5

2. Complete the following statements about trees on your street. Circle *one* phrase on each line. *Street trees* are the trees between the sidewalk and street, or within 10-15 feet of the road if no sidewalk.

The number of trees on my street is ...	Too few	Enough	Too many
The trees on my street are...	Not cared for	Adequately cared for	Well cared for
The visual diversity of trees on my street is ...	Not enough	Enough	Too much

3. I would like to see the following in my park or on my street (please check *all* that apply):

Park Name: _____

Park	Street		Park	Street	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edible fruit and nut trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	More variety of trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evergreen trees (e.g. pine, spruce)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Native plants/trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall colors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prairie/tall grass areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flowering trees (e.g. cherry, redbud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shade trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shrubs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	More uniformity of trees			

4. Do you feel that it is important to restore and maintain native woodland communities on public lands?

Yes No

5. Do you feel that invasive plant species are a problem in Fitchburg parks?

Yes No Uncertain

If yes, which do you feel are a problem (please check *all* that apply)?

<input type="checkbox"/> Burdock	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese barberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Burning bush	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiflora rose
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada thistle	<input type="checkbox"/> Norway maple
<input type="checkbox"/> Common buckthorn	<input type="checkbox"/> Reed canary
<input type="checkbox"/> Garlic mustard	<input type="checkbox"/> Teasels
<input type="checkbox"/> Honeysuckle	<input type="checkbox"/> Wild parsnip

6. Which of the following would be your first choice of where the city should plant trees? Please check *one*.

<input type="checkbox"/> Along rural right-of-ways	<input type="checkbox"/> In parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Along streets	<input type="checkbox"/> In people's yards
<input type="checkbox"/> In commercial/industrial areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Near streams/natural/forested areas

7. Which of the following statements most closely represents your opinion about trees? Please check *one*.

<input type="checkbox"/> Allow individuals to remove trees as they wish	<input type="checkbox"/> When trees are removed, replace them
<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve as many as possible	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve only large or unique trees	_____

8. Would you plant trees on your property if offered a monetary incentive?

- Yes No Need more information

9. Would you be willing to pay more in property taxes to better maintain and protect existing trees?

- Yes No Need more information

10. Should the City reallocate existing resources to better maintain and protect existing trees without raising property taxes?

- Yes No Need more information

11. Should the City require that some trees be preserved and new ones planted on sites that are being developed?

- Yes No Need more information

12. Should the City be involved with protecting trees on private properties?

- Yes No Need more information

13. Should the City allow the decision to preserve existing trees to be left up to the developer?

- Yes No Need more information

14. How strongly would you support or oppose city regulations that would provide some level of protection for large, healthy trees on private property? Please check *one* of the following:

- Strongly support Support Oppose Strongly oppose

15. How long have you lived in Fitchburg?

- Less than 3 years
 3 – 5 years
 6 – 10 years
 11 – 20 years
 21 years or more

16. Do you own or rent the place you live?

- Own
 Rent

17. What neighborhood do you live in?

18. What do street do you live one? (*optional*)

19. I would like to learn about/attend trainings on:

- City-wide tree preservation
 Emerald ash borer
 Disease and insect issues of trees
 Invasive species
 Tree identification
 Tree maintenance (pruning)
 Tree/shrub selection and planting
 Other _____

20. Would you like to volunteer for park improvement projects?

- City street and/or park tree inventory
 Invasive plant removal
 Get involved with a community orchard
 Pruning street and park trees
 Trail maintenance in natural areas
 Tree planting

Name (*optional*): _____

Email (*optional*): _____

Emerald Ash Borer Readiness and Response Plan Meeting Notes

Current Status of Plan

- Treating all ash trees with Tree-age (emamectin benzoate)
- 406 trees treated to date
 - 151 treated in 2013
 - cost of materials = \$8054.62
 - cost of labor = \$3942.50
 - cost of equipment usage = \$712.80
 - Total cost = \$12,709.92
 - Save-an-Ash donations received = \$1927.26
 - DNR grant reimbursed half of expenditure.
 - 255 treated in 2014
- Approximately 270 trees remaining to treat in 2015
- Assess condition of remaining trees in spring of 2015
 - Contract
 - February 1 to May 15
- Treat remaining trees spring of 2015
 - Between April 15 and May 31
- Remove declining, poorly formed and diseased trees
 - Between January 1 and March 31
 - Notify property owners of removals
- Replace removed trees according to priority and as budget allows

Issues

1. Is the treatment of all ash trees a sustainable practice?
 - a. Growing trees require more time and resources to treat.
 - b. Treatment will be necessary for the foreseeable future.
 - c. Treatment is not a guarantee of protection against infestation.
2. Should all size classes be treated?
 - a. Remove and replace all trees smaller than 6" dbh?
 - b. What is the cost of removals/replacements vs cost of treatment on selected size class?
3. Should all ash be removed over time?
 - a. What would that timeline be?
4. Should certain size classes or specified trees be preserved regardless of cost?
 - a. Determine size class.
 - b. Determine criteria for preserved trees.
5. Should the Save-an-Ash program be offered if all trees are slated for removal?
 - a. Administrative time and costs.
 - b. Documentation protocol.



**Scott Endl, Director
Parks, Recreation and Forestry**

Memo

From: Scott Endl – PRF
To: Board of Public Works
Ref: Plan for McKee and McGaw Farms Park Shelter Renovation work
Date: December 30, 2014

History:

The McKee and the McGaw projects are a part of the 2013 – 2015 capital improvement plans. The McKee project was budgeted for \$120,000 (\$60,000 in 2014 and \$60,000 in 2015) and the McGaw project was budgeted for \$384,750 (\$134,750 in 2013 and \$250,000 in 2014 as part of the McGaw Park Master Plan implementation - \$144,950 has been used to date leaving \$239,800 available). The total available funds for both projects is \$359,800.

Designs for the projects were completed in November 2014. Cost estimates were prepared by our design consultants for both projects and the cost estimates were in line with our available budgets. The bids for the projects were lumped into one bid, with the thinking that combining the projects would result in better bids (a larger combined project).

The combined project was released for bids with a due date of November 25, 2014. Ultimately two bids were received on November 25, 2014. The low bid was \$427,000 with an additional \$91,000 for alternates (total \$518,000) which greatly exceeded the available funds. These bids were rejected.

With both projects combined into one bid, the bids were difficult to disseminate and to determine the reason that the bids exceeded the construction estimate. We have reviewed the bids and discussed the bids with contractors and have identified some reasons that the bids returned high.

- 1) The costs for retrofitting radiant heating at McKee were significantly higher than expected. We have contacted vendors and anticipate that a forced air system could result in a cost savings of over \$40,000.
- 2) Bidding the projects together may have increased costs, as the project may have made the project difficult to bid for smaller contractors and still was too small for larger contractors.

We propose re-bidding the projects with the following modifications:

- 1) Offer contractors the flexibility to bid each project individually or to bid both the McKee and McGaw projects together. We will then know the costs for each project and may receive lower bids by allowing contractors to choose how/which projects they wish to bid on.
- 2) Remove the radiant floor heating from the McKee project bid. Have a separate contract for a forced air system.
- 3) Re-structure the McKee and McGaw base bids to cover only the absolute necessities and have alternate bid items. We will then have the breakdown of costs for individual items. We can then review the costs and decide where we want to spend our available budget.

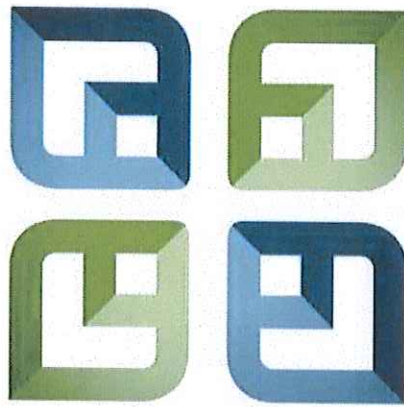
The proposed schedule for the bidding process is:

- Bid would be let on January 13th
- Pre-bid conference Tuesday, January 23rd, 2015
- Bids would be due on February 3rd
- Park Commission review/recommend bids February 5th
- Common Council refer out February 10th
- BOPW review/recommend bids February 16th
- Finance Committee/Common Council review/approve February 24th
- Construction window: September 1, 2015 thru May 1, 2016.

Once the City receives the bids it may accept one or both base bids along with any combination of alternates and unit price items. If the bids still exceed the available budget, the master plans for the parks may need to be re-evaluated or the budget adjusted to accomplish the desired improvements. With the schedule of the proposed Fahey Fields Development being much sooner than anticipated it may be worthwhile re-evaluating the McGaw master plan and desired improvements prior to commencing the current improvements.

This information will also be shared with Park Commission on January 8th, 2015.

CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONTRACT DOCUMENTS & SPECIFICATIONS
McKee Farms Park – Splash Pad Site Work Additions



RESOLUTION R-107-14

- JAN 6 - DEMAND STAR
- JAN 9 + JAN 16 - PUBLIC NOTICE
- 1/27 - BIDS DUE
- 2/2 - BOPW
- 2/5 - PC
- 2/10 - FINANCE/CC
- 5/15 - Completion PAR

JANVary 2015

~~November 2014~~
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY OF FITCHBURG
5520 LACY ROAD
FITCHBURG, WISCONSIN 53711

City of Fitchburg

Committee or Commission Referral

Direct Referral Initiated by:

Direct Referral Approved by:

Date Referred:

Ordinance Number:

Date to Report Back: **January 13, 2015**

Resolution Number: R-01-15

Sponsored by: Mayor

Drafted by: Park, Recreation & Forestry

TITLE: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY, CITY OF FITCHBURG, WISCONSIN

Background: Participating in International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) results in many community benefits including but not limited to:

- o continued efforts towards improved habitat conditions for breeding and migrating birds
- o continued strong management of urban forests
- o recognizing and reducing hazards for birds
- o improved public understanding and appreciation of birds and their needs
- o recognizes City of Fitchburg's engagement in conservation activities conducted by local government, community organizations, individuals, schools, and businesses
- o promotes a strong sense of community pride in conservation accomplishments and ethic.

The Park and Forestry Department will be hosting a Migratory Bird Day along with Arbor Day on May 2nd, 2015-- find below a brief draft of tentative activities that are being planned:

The City of Fitchburg will be hosting its official celebration of Arbor Day and International Migratory Bird Day on May 2, 2015 at McKee Farms Park. We are planning on having activities (for all ages) throughout the morning that may include an introduction to birding and bird identification, tree planting, tree walk, live raptor program, kids crafts, and a Tree City and Bird City recognition ceremony. We hope to partner with the Tree Advisory Committee, UW Extension and the Madison Audubon Society to run activities. We would also like to bring back the Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI) and their birds for another captivating raptor education program.

May 2nd IMBD & Arbor Day Tentative Schedule:

8:00-9:30 – Intro to birding

8:00-12:00 – Kids crafts and games

9:30 – Arbor Day tree planting

10:00 – Welcome; Bird City & Tree City recognition

10:15 – Live raptor program

11:15 – Tree walk

Order	Referred To	Staff Contact	Place on Agenda For	Action Taken On Referral
1	Park Commission	Endl	January 8 th , 2015	

Amendments:

Parks Department
Introduced By

Ed Bartell – City Forester/Naturalist
Drafted By

Park Commission
Referred To

January 13, 2015
Date

Resolution R-01-15
A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
CITY OF FITCHBURG, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share our communities, *and*

WHEREAS, many citizens recognize and welcome migratory songbirds as symbolic harbingers of spring, *and*

WHEREAS, these migrant species also play an important economic role in our community, controlling insect pests and generating millions in recreational dollars statewide, *and*

WHEREAS, migratory birds and their habitats are declining throughout the Americas, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter homes, *and*

WHEREAS, public awareness and concern are crucial components of migratory bird conservation, *and*

WHEREAS, citizens enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining healthy bird populations, *and*

WHEREAS, since 1993 International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) has become a primary vehicle for focusing public attention on the nearly 350 species that travel between nesting habitats in our communities and throughout North America and their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S., *and*

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of people will observe IMBD, gathering in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, nature centers, and wildlife refuges to learn about birds, take action to conserve them, and simply to have fun, *and*

WHEREAS, while IMBD officially is held each year on the second Saturday in May, its observance is not limited to a single day, and planners are encouraged to schedule activities on the dates best suited to the presence of both migrants and celebrants, *and* **WHEREAS**, IMBD is not only a day to foster appreciation for wild birds and to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation, but also a call to action,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Fitchburg that May 2, 2015 is proclaimed as INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY in the City of Fitchburg, and all citizens are encouraged to celebrate this observance and to support efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitats in Fitchburg and the world at large.

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Fitchburg this 13 day of January, 2015.

Approved By: _____ Shawn Pfaff, Mayor

Attested By: _____ Patti Anderson, City Clerk