



# Wausau & Marathon County Parks and Recreation Foundation

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 1-408-418-9388.

**Access Code: 2480 317 6086.** When you enter the telephone conference, please put your phone on mute!

**Tuesday April 15, 2025**

**Time: 4:00pm**

**Place: NEW Parks Office, 518 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rm 089, Wausau WI 54401 – Enter at door 518F on Garfield Ave.**

**Members** – Bill Bertram (President), Dan Bowen, Kevin Crooks (Vice-President), Randy Falstad, Jamie Polley, Bill Duncanson, Jeff Frese, Nicole Fandrey, Mike Egan,

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes – February 18, 2025
3. Financial Reports – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Park Foundation and Great Pinery Heritage Waterway Trail 2025
4. New Business
  - a. Elderon Baseball Fence Replacement
  - b. Mosinee School District – Leading the Way through Play
  - c. Marathon Park Splash Pad
  - d. Donation to Historic Park Tour Presented by the Marathon County Historical Society
  - e. New Member Recruitment
5. Old Business
  - a. Recognition of Charles “Chuck” Newby
  - b. IronBull Agreement Status
  - c. Great Pinery Heritage Water Way Project - Establish Policies and Procedures of Use of Water Trail Funds
6. Future Agenda Topics –
7. Next Regular Scheduled Meeting Date –June 15, 2025 at 4:00pm, 518 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rm 089, Wausau WI 54401, Wausau or web-ex
8. Adjournment

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### MEETING OF THE WAUSAU AND MARATHON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4:00 pm, February 18, 2025

212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

**Members Present** - Bill Bertram (President), Kevin Crooks (Vice-President), Jamie Polley, Dan Bowen, Bill Duncanson, Jeff Frese and Mike Egan. **Excused:** Randy Falstad and Nicole Fandrey

**1. Call to Order** - Bill Bertrem called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**2. Minutes** – There were no minutes to approve as new Secretary was elected but not present at December meeting.

**3. Financial Reports** - Duncanson presented the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Park Foundation financial report.

Duncanson noted that the summaries on the first page are different than what is on the back page due to sub-funds not loading properly. Everything is okay and will be sorted out by the next report. The foundation currently has \$132,511.39 in the Community Foundation account, which is down from the past report, mainly due to investment losses in the past two months but also because of our monthly fee. Investments are not doing well now as everyone is aware. Duncanson highlighted one sub-fund being income from attraction tickets to educate the Board on why we have that income stream. The Park's Department sells attractions from around the state (example: WI Dells attractions) A share goes to the Foundation which funded a computerized cash register many years ago for the department. In 2024 that income was \$706.00. Polley stated the Foundation gets .75 per ticket sold and that portion will go up to \$1.00 next year. There was a question from Polley on the Miller sub-fund and moving that fund to the County knowing that the funds could only be used for the Miller property. She stated that the Foundation would not be accrued a monthly fee on that money. **Motion** by Polley, seconded by Bowen to accept the financial report with the consideration to move the Miller fund to the County. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0

Bertram presented the Great Pinery Heritage Waterway Trail Fund report which currently has \$24,356.26 in it. Bertram stated we are getting close to being finished with this project. There was discussion on signage that has and will be installed. Beerman Foundation may be donating \$25,000 to fund but that has not happened yet. Bertram also stated he will be at Canoecopia on March 7-9 in case anyone else is interested in working at the Great Pinery Waterway booth. Canoecopia is the largest paddle sports show. The Pinery used to get a free booth at the show but had to rent booth space this year. About 20,000 people attend the event. **Motion** by Crooks, seconded by Bowen to accept the Waterway Trail fund. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

Duncanson reported that there was very little activity in the CoVantage account.

Duncanson also reported that Kerber Rose helped us fill out forms and we are officially the Wausau and Marathon County Parks and Recreation Foundation Inc. instead of the Wausau and Marathon County Parks Foundation Inc. \$1890.00 cost to Kerber Rose which is in the process of being paid. Kerber Rose will do the tax forms and then we will submit them.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Charles “Chuck” Newby passed away since the last meeting. This is the first known time that a sitting member of the Board has passed away. Newby was the former Director of the Parks Department as well as being a long-time member of the Board. Newby was responsible for developing master plans for Parks. He was responsible for getting rid of the ½ mile clay track at Marathon County Park which was part of the masterplan. This was hugely controversial. The Fair Board bought into getting rid of the clay track to meet safety concerns and the costs that would have been required to bring the track into compliance. The removal of the track allowed Midway to double in size. Newby tried to get a working dairy farm up and going at the park which did not come to fruition. Duncanson reported that Newby was responsible for starting the Parks Foundation.

Member discussed recognizing Newby. Park bench or tree options were discussed. Polley reported that the Parks Department does not highlight individual trees but rather places a name on a plaque as you enter the park that there is a tree honoring that person in the park. That way should the tree die, the family is not disappointed. Polley offered that the fee is normally around \$450.00 but offered to find out actual cost that could be charged to the Foundation. It was suggested that because Newby raised Frazier firs on his Christmas tree farm that maybe we could have some of those planted in a park. Polley stated she will check with the forester to see if white spruce or Frazier fir would be best species to plant and a couple of the trees could be planted should one die. It was decided that trees should be planted in Riverside Park. Newby was the Park Director when McDonald pool was removed from that location and he worked with the Lions Club to develop and fund the Park there. Plaque would go on in the building at Riverside. **Motion** by Duncanson, seconded by Egan to fund memorial trees and a plaque for Newby. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

- b. Charitable Organization Renewal Notice Update– Bill Duncanson worked with the State of Wisconsin Charitable Organization people. Submitted Form 1099 to amend previous problem. That has been accepted, and we are good. This item be removed from next meeting’s agenda.
- c. Athens Area Trails Association Odyssey Trail System Flail Mower Grant. Comment made that our Foundation tends to not approve maintenance requests. Much discussion on what we fund and what we don’t. Our priority is the Wausau/Marathon County Parks System. We consider non-profits as a second tier but need to serve community (scope). We need to add into our grant applications that we do not fund capital equipment purchases. Duncanson brought up the train for Marathon County Park citing that we have funded equipment in the past. **Motion** by Bowden, seconded by Crooks to deny. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.
- d. Summit Players Theatre Shakespeare in the State Parks Tour -Love’s Labour’s Lost Grant Request. Comments that this is for a State Park and State Program. Outside scope of foundation. **Motion** by Duncanson, seconded by Egan to deny. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.
- e. Village of Weston Yellow Banks ADA Kayak Launch Grant Request. Total cost is \$107,000. They are asking for \$10,000. Would come out of the Great Pinery Heritage Waterway Trail Fund. Currently it has \$24,000 in the fund. Goal is to keep that fund in the area of \$25,000-35,000. Bertram is planning to send out a solicitation letter soon. Weston is not putting any actual money to

this project. They are adding an in-kind donation. **Motion** by Crooks, seconded by Frese to approve \$5000 to this project, contingent on the Village of Weston also putting \$5000 cash to the project. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

- f. Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Wausau Skate Park Redevelopment Grant Request. This is a City Parks project and Polley stated the following: Skate Park is at Oak Island Park. Currently built from asphalt and is 20 years old. Total cost of the project is \$374,600 for phase one. We have \$310,000 for the project currently. Polley explained \$225,000 from the City of Wausau, \$25,000 Dudley, \$25,000 from Greenheck, \$25,000 from Community Impact Fund. Private donations including Central Board Shop. Construction will begin in July. Size of skate park will be approximately double in size from what it is currently. Would be considered a Tier Two Skate Park. Polley asked for a \$20,000 donation to the project. **Motion** by Bowen, seconded by Crooks to donate \$20 ,000 to the project. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

- g. New member recruitment – will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **5. Old Business – moved to next meeting**

- a. IronBull Agreement Status
- b. Great Pinery Heritage Water Way Project - Establish Policies and Procedures of Use of Water Trail Funds

## **6. Future Agenda Topics – None**

**7. Next Regular Scheduled Meeting Date** – April 15, 2025 at 4:00pm, UWSP- Wausau Parks Meeting Room 089. 518 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Wausau or web-ex.

**8. Adjournment** – **Motion** by Egan, second by Bowen to adjourn at 4:45p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

DONOR PORTAL

GRANTEE PORTAL

NONPROFIT

FUND MANAGEMENT

 PROFILE

 LOGOUT

FUND SUMMARY

RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

Wausau & Marathon County Parks and Recreation Fund

Fund Created

06/29/1990

Current Balance

131,379.64

Available to disburse

111,379.64

CFONCW Contact

Pam Eckmann

 pam@cfoncw.org

04/01/2024 - 03/31/2025

DONOR PORTAL

GRANTEE PORTAL

NONPROFIT

FUND MANAGEMENT

 PROFILE

 LOGOUT

FUND SUMMARY

RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

Great Pinery Heritage Waterway Fund

Fund Created  
**02/25/2022**

Current Balance  
**19,086.76**

Available to disburse  
**19,086.76**

CFONCW Contact  
**Pam Eckmann**  
 [pam@cfoncw.org](mailto:pam@cfoncw.org)

04/01/2024 - 03/31/2025

# Elderon Ballpark Fence Replacement

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*Wausau & Marathon County PARKS &  
RECREATION FOUNDATION*

## *Village of Elderon*

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Mr. Rob Henry Wyman  
P.O. Box 23  
Elderon, WI 54429

pj549man@yahoo.com  
O: 715-584-4203  
M: 715-584-4203

## *Mr. Rob Henry Wyman*

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P.O. Box 23  
9322 Main St.  
Elderon, WI 54429

pj549man@yahoo.com  
O: 715-584-4203  
M: 715-584-4203

# Application Form

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## Project Name\*

Name of Project

Elderon Ballpark Fence Replacement

## AMOUNT REQUESTED\*

\$5,000.00

## TOTAL PROJECT COSTS\*

\$55,000.00

## PROJECT SUMMARY / PURPOSE\*

Provide a short outline of your proposed project. You will have an opportunity to give more detail below.

The Elderon Ballpark in the Village of Elderon hosts events throughout the year, but the majority of the use happens in the summer months. Little League, Mixed Couples Softball Tournaments, Old Timers Softball League and Tournaments and Amateur Baseball Games - The Elderon Whiskeyjacks are northern division members of the Badger Amateur Baseball Association. In the winter, the park has hosted snowball softball tournaments and kickball tournaments.

The purpose of this project is to replace the chain link fence that encompasses the playing field. The existing fence is curling up at the bottom and becoming a safety hazard. Other areas of the fence are bent, bowed out or have been damaged from large falling tree branches. All in all, the fence has seen better days. It has served the community well, but it is time to retire the fence and replace it. My best guess for the age of the fence is 75-years old.

## PROJECT START DATE\*

04/01/2025

## PROJECT END DATE\*

04/30/2025

## GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED\*

Your project must serve a community located within Marathon County - or all of Marathon County. What geographic area will this project serve?

The Elderon Ballpark attracts softball, little league and baseball players from throughout Marathon County and beyond.



## *Proposed Project Information*

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION\***

Describe the project for which you are seeking funds. Include project goals, objectives, action plan, and timeline. Also explain the community need for the project and how funding would provide an impact on that need.

The project is centered around recreation and safety. The Elderon Ballpark is a beautiful facility, but the fence encapsulating it has exceeded its useful life. There are many areas where the bottom of the fence is curling up, which is a safety concern because it would be easy to trip on and cut yourself on the exposed bottom of the chain link fence. I've included pictures to document this concern. There are additional areas of the fence that have bowed out over time. Most likely caused by years of hitting balls into the fence during practice. I've included pictures to document this as well. The final area of safety is to increase the overall height of the fence to reduce the number of foul balls hit directly into the third base bleacher area. Over the years, we have had several foul balls hit spectators and many close calls along the third base line, as the height of the fence isn't sufficient enough to stop baseballs hit in that direction. The new fence will extend 10-feet, where the current fence is only 7-feet tall.

The objectives are to eliminate these safety concerns, while transforming the ballpark with a 10-foot tall encompassing fence. The taller fence will change the dynamics of the park for an improved level of play. Taller outfield fences will make play more challenging and will make the ballpark more relevant. The evolution of equipment (bats and baseballs), combined with the smaller dimensions of the Elderon Ballpark has made hitting home runs much easier, this new, taller fence will make it more challenging and will be a welcome change to the aesthetics of the park.

We have received a quote for the entire project for \$55,000 from Straight Line Fence, LLC (a local fence contractor), who has done work for the Village of Elderon in the past. The Village of Elderon has 10% or \$5,500 raised through fundraising efforts earmarked for this project. Once the additional funding of \$49,500 is sourced, we will work with Straight Line Fence, LLC to schedule the work. The intention is to have the new fence installed by May 1, 2025 - in time before all the leagues start for the summer. The weather will play a large role in when the project begins and when it is complete.

In addition to the regularly scheduled league games at Elderon Ballpark, the facilities are rented out throughout the summer for graduation parties, family reunions, wedding receptions and birthday parties. Use of the ballpark is a big draw for these family gatherings and addressing the safety concerns by installing new fencing around the park will be wonderful improvement.

### **DUPLICATION OF SERVICES\***

Are there any similar projects currently operating in the community? If so, how is your program different, and why is it needed?

Elderon Ballpark is the only baseball/softball diamond in the Village of Elderon. The setting is very unique and is considered one of the best ballparks in the area by many citizens of surrounding areas. Everyone loves playing here and watching games in our beautiful park setting. Our abundance of shade trees, our historic clubhouse, our concession stand and our playground area - the park is a treasure and the Village of Elderon spends significant resources every year maintaining and improving it.

The closest softball diamond to Elderon is about 10-miles away in Galloway, WI. That ball diamond is softball only. Wittenberg, WI is approximately 10-miles away from Elderon as well and Wittenberg has both a baseball and a softball diamond. The ball parks in Galloway and Wittenberg are used most of the summer - youth softball, adult softball, little league, legion baseball and adult amateur baseball.

## OTHER PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS\*

Are you collaborating with other organizations to meet this particular need? If so, name other organizations participating in the project and describe their roles.

The Village of Elderon has \$5,500 that has been raised through fundraisers specifically for park improvements. Replacing the fence is the next big project that we hope to complete. We feel that the safety issue alone justifies prioritizing the project. Additionally, it will be an obvious improvement to a great number of people as they watch and/or play at the Elderon Ballpark.

## LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

What are the long-term strategies for continuation and funding of this project at the end of the grant period?

Once the fence is replaced, it should be good for 75-100 years. This is a long-term improvement. The Village will take responsibility to maintain and address any issues that may occur as they occur to ensure the longtime viability of the fence. We will be proactive in addressing any performance or aesthetic issues as well as making sure the fence is properly insured as to protect it from storm damage. (We have a lot of trees around the ballpark.)

## PROJECT BUDGET\*

Upload a project budget below or outline your project budget in the space provided. List anticipated income sources and expenses associated with this project.

Straight Line Bid.pdf

Quote from Straight Line Fence, LLC:	\$55,000
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Cash Contribution from Village of Elderon:	(\$5,500)
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Request for Funding via Wausau & Marathon County Parks & Rec Foundation:	(\$5,000)
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Request for Funding via Wausau & Marathon County Impact Grant:	(\$44,500)
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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Not Required. Feel free to attach additional documents that would benefit the Selection Committee in making their decision.

IMG\_1065.jpg

## Organization Information

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### PURPOSE / HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION\*

Provide a brief history of your organization and an outline of its purpose. What are your current programs or activities?

The Village of Elderon is a small municipality in Marathon County - Population 161. When the Marathon County Parks Department downsized in the early 1990's the County gave the Village of Elderon two former County Parks. At that time, the Village didn't have the equipment (commercial lawn mower, etc.) to maintain the large parks. At that time, the Village of Elderon organized an annual fundraiser called the Elderon Improvement Club Party, which still happens each fall. The party raises approximately \$10,000 per year for the maintenance and improvements of the Village of Elderon parks. We are very proud of the work we have done and continue to do. The Village parks are a priority of our Board and continue to be a popular destination for our residents and those residents in surrounding communities. From Memorial Day to Labor Day our parks are booked for events nearly all summer long.

## Signatures and Confirmation

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### RECOGNITION OF GRANT\*

If a grant is awarded, the Wausau & Marathon County Parks Foundation requires recognition of the grant. How will the Parks Foundation be recognized for this grant if your application is successful? *Minimum requirement is website and/or social media recognition **and** signage at the location of the funded project. A logo is available upon request.*

The Foundation will be recognized the following ways: 1) Signage at the location of the funded project. 2) Press release to our local newspaper. 3) Recognition in all baseball game programs throughout the summer of 2025. 4) Social Media

### SIGNATURE OF CONTACT\*

Enter your full name and title below

Rob H. Wyman

### CONFIRMATION\*

By entering your signature information above and clicking "I Agree" below, you certify that the statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You also agree that if selected, you will use the funds granted for the purpose as proposed and approved by the Wausau & Marathon County Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin board of directors. You also agree to allow Wausau & Marathon County Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Community Foundation to use information provided in this request for press releases, reports, and other public information.

I Agree

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Straight Line Bid.pdf
- IMG\_1065.jpg

**Straight Line Fence LLC**  
181495 County Rd C  
Wittenberg, WI 54499  
715-454-7018

**Proposal**

PROPOSAL NO.	DATE
BID NO.	ARCHITECT
PHONE NO.	DATE OF PLANS
WORK TO BE PERFORMED AT	

Village of Eldern

Eldern Ball Park

We hereby propose to furnish the materials and perform the labor necessary for the completion of 900' of 10' chainlink fence with one gate

Area below for additional description and/or drawings:

- 10' - 9 ga chainlink
- Post 3" x 16' in concrete
- 4 - 15/8 rails
- 1 - 12' gate DD

900' \$55,000.00

All material is guaranteed to be as specified, and the above work to be performed in accordance with the drawings and specifications submitted for above work and completed in a substantial workmanlike manner for the sum of fifty five thousand  
Dollars (\$ 55,000 ) with payments to be made as follows.





## Leading the Way through Play

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*Wausau & Marathon County Parks &  
Recreation Foundation*

### ***Mosinee Elementary***

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Mrs. JoLynn Schmidt  
600 12th Street  
Mosinee, WI 54445

stryba@mosineeschools.org  
O: 7156932810  
F: 715-693-1974

### ***Mrs. Stefanie N Tryba***

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600 12th Street  
Mosinee, WI 54445

stryba@mosineeschools.org  
O: 7156932810  
M: 7156301893  
F: 7156931974

# Application Form

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## *Project Information*

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### **Project Name\***

Name of Project

Leading the Way through Play

### **Amount Requested\***

\$100,000.00

### **Total Project Costs\***

\$774,573.00

### **Project Summary/Purpose\***

*Provide a short outline of your proposed project. You will have an opportunity to give more detail below.*

Mosinee Elementary is launching the Leading the Way through Play initiative to build a new, safe, and inclusive playground that meets the needs of all students and the broader community. Our current playground equipment is outdated and no longer meets modern safety or accessibility standards. This project aims to create a high-quality play space for children of all ages, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to engage in active, creative, and social play. A new playground would serve not only students but also local families, making it an investment for our entire community.

### **Project Start Date\***

08/01/2025

### **Project End Date\***

09/30/2025

### **Geographic Area Served\***

*Your project must serve a community located within Marathon County or all of Marathon County. What geographic area will this project serve?*

Mosinee Elementary School & Community of Mosinee in Marathon County



## ***Project Narrative***

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### **Project Description\***

*Describe the project for which you are seeking funds. Include project goals, objectives, action plan, and timeline. Also explain the community need for the project and how funding would provide an impact on that need.*

#### **Project Overview**

Mosinee Elementary School is seeking funding to build a new, safe, and inclusive playground that will serve both our students and the broader community. Our current playground equipment is outdated, lacks accessibility features, and does not adequately meet the needs of our growing student population. This project aims to provide a modern, developmentally appropriate play space that supports physical activity, social interaction, and creative exploration for children of all abilities. By incorporating designated play areas for both younger and intermediate-aged students, we will ensure that every child has a safe and engaging environment that fosters their physical, emotional, and social well-being.

#### **Community Need for the Project**

A high-quality playground is essential for childhood development, yet our existing equipment is outdated and does not meet modern safety and accessibility standards. Many families in our community rely on the school's outdoor spaces for recreation, making this project not only beneficial for students but also a vital resource for local families. The lack of inclusive and adaptive play structures limits opportunities for children with disabilities to participate fully in outdoor play. Without action, the current playground will continue to deteriorate, reducing safe play options and negatively impacting students' physical activity and social engagement.

#### **Project Goals**

Create a safe and modern playground that meets current safety and accessibility standards.

Provide inclusive play opportunities for children of all abilities.

Designate separate play areas for younger and intermediate-aged students to ensure age-appropriate engagement.

Strengthen community connections by making the playground a welcoming space for families and local organizations.

Sustain the project long-term through continued fundraising, sponsorships, and maintenance plans.

#### **Project Objectives**

Raise the necessary funds through grants, sponsorships, and community-driven fundraising events.

Develop and implement a playground design that prioritizes safety, accessibility, and engagement for all age groups.

Partner with FLY (Families Leading Youth) to facilitate fundraising efforts and secure sponsorship opportunities.

Execute a phased action plan to ensure continuous progress toward full funding and project completion.

#### **Action Plan & Timeline**

Spring 2025 – Planning & Fundraising Kickoff

Gather community input and finalize playground design.

Launch fundraising efforts with FLY and school-wide events.

Apply for grants and seek corporate sponsorships.

Summer 2025 – Community Engagement & Final Design

Finalize equipment selection and site planning.

Continue sponsorship outreach and fundraising efforts.

Host a community event to promote awareness and project support.

Fall 2025 – Fundraising Acceleration & Procurement

Maintain ongoing fundraising initiatives.

Secure vendors and finalize purchasing agreements.

Begin site preparation for construction.

Winter 2025 – Final Fundraising Push & Preparation

Continue final fundraising efforts to ensure project completion.

Confirm logistics and timelines for construction.

Spring-Summer 2026 – Construction & Grand Opening

Install playground equipment and safety surfacing.

Conduct final safety inspections and approvals.

Host a community ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the new playground.

#### Funding Impact

Securing funding for this project will directly impact over 500 students annually, providing them with a safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate play space. Additionally, hundreds of families in the Mosinee community will benefit from the playground as a shared recreational resource, fostering social connections and promoting an active lifestyle. Funding will allow us to replace outdated equipment, install accessible and inclusive play structures, and ensure long-term maintenance and sustainability. This initiative will continue until all necessary funds are raised, ensuring that the playground becomes a reality for our students and community.

By supporting this project, we are investing in the health, well-being, and development of our children while creating a lasting resource that will benefit generations to come. We invite community members, businesses, and organizations to join us in making this vision a reality.

### Duplication of Services\*

*Are there any similar projects currently operating in the community? If so, how is your program different, and why is it needed?*

Currently, there are no similar projects operating in the Mosinee community, making this playground initiative a critical and unique investment for our students and families. While some public parks exist in the area, they do not specifically serve the needs of our elementary school students during the school day, nor do they provide a dedicated, developmentally appropriate, and inclusive play space for children of all abilities. Unlike general-use community parks, this playground will be designed specifically for structured school play, physical education classes, and recess, ensuring that students have safe and engaging opportunities to be active during the school day.

Additionally, our playground will feature separate play areas for younger and intermediate-aged students, allowing children to engage in play that matches their physical and developmental needs. The incorporation of inclusive and adaptive equipment will ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to play opportunities, something that is currently lacking in many public playgrounds.

This project is essential because our current equipment is outdated, limited, and does not meet modern safety or accessibility standards. Without a new playground, students will continue to face restricted play opportunities, which can impact their physical health, social development, and overall well-being. By creating a purpose-built, school-focused, and community-accessible playground, this project will fill a critical gap, providing a much-needed space that fosters learning, active play, and social interaction for all children in Mosinee.

### Other Participating Organizations\*

*Are you collaborating with other organizations to meet this particular need? If so, name other organizations participating in the project and describe their roles.*

We are in the beginning stages of outreach to various partners within our immediate community and the greater Marathon County area to collaborate on this important project. One key partner we are engaging with is FLY group a dedicated group of parents and community members who will play a role in fundraising, event planning, and sponsorship outreach. Their involvement will help us coordinate community-driven initiatives, such as donation campaigns and local business partnerships, to secure the necessary funding.

At this point, we have already begun fundraising efforts within our school community. We hosted a successful family event, which raised \$1,000, and our students led a Penny War fundraiser, which brought in an additional \$1,100. These early efforts demonstrate the strong support and enthusiasm from our school families. Looking ahead, we will be asking for donations at our School Family Engagement Night on April 10, providing another opportunity for families and community members to contribute to this important initiative.

In addition to these events, we plan to organize further fundraising endeavors, such as yard sales and all-school fundraisers. We will also be sending out donation letters and personally visiting local businesses to share information and request donations. As part of our efforts, we are currently working with Funds2Org, a shoe donation project, to collect gently used shoes in exchange for money to fund the playground.

Furthermore, our school district is committed to supporting the project by allocating a portion of the budget to ensure the playground becomes a reality. This collaboration between the school, community, and local organizations will help provide the necessary resources to create a safe, inclusive, and engaging play space for our students.

Through these varied fundraising strategies and partnerships, we are confident in our ability to raise the funds needed to bring this project to fruition.

## Long-Term Strategies

*What are the long-term strategies for continuation and funding of this project at the end of the grant period?*

Our strategy for the continuation of the playground project focuses on sustainable funding, community engagement, and maintenance to ensure the playground remains a safe and accessible space for all.

### 1. Ongoing Fundraising & Community Support

To maintain continued funding beyond the initial grant period, we will establish a sustainability fund that can be replenished through annual fundraising efforts. These efforts will include school-wide events such as yard sales and student fundraisers as well as ongoing community engagement activities like local business sponsorships, donor recognition programs, and partnerships with local organizations. We plan to continue working with FLY and other community groups to plan and host fundraising events, ensuring that our school community remains actively involved in supporting the playground.

### 2. Long-Term Maintenance & Upgrades

To ensure the playground remains in top condition, we will form a Playground Maintenance Committee made up of school staff, parents, and community volunteers who will oversee regular inspections and maintenance. This group will work closely with the school's facilities department to schedule necessary repairs and ensure that the equipment remains safe for use. We will also allocate a portion of our annual fundraising revenue to cover ongoing maintenance costs, such as replacing worn-out equipment, resurfacing the play area, and ensuring the space remains safe and accessible.

### 3. School District Funding & Budget Allocation

As part of our commitment to the long-term success of this project, the Mosinee District plans to include the playground in its annual budget to help cover ongoing maintenance and any future improvements.

### 4. Engaging Future Generations

We will involve future generations of students in the process by encouraging student leadership in planning and executing fundraising efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the playground.

## Project Budget\*

*Upload a project budget below or outline your project budget in the space provided. List anticipated income sources and expenses associated with this project.*

Lee Recreation Bill.jpeg

The proposed playground project at Mosinee Elementary School is a comprehensive initiative to replace outdated and unsafe equipment with a modern, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate play space for all students. While we are still in the early phases of funding, our school community has already taken meaningful steps to support the project through creative, student-driven fundraising efforts. To date, we have raised over \$2,100 through a family night event and a student-led Penny War, with more school-based initiatives planned throughout the year.

We continue to actively explore new ideas with our students and staff to generate funds while fostering leadership and ownership among our learners. In the coming months, we will host additional fundraising events such as yard sales, themed all-school campaigns, and community nights to further support the project.

A key component of our fundraising strategy involves outreach to local businesses and community partners. We are developing a tiered donor recognition system with Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorship levels to acknowledge generous contributors. Donor names and sponsorship tiers will be prominently displayed on permanent signage at the playground, showing our appreciation and building lasting community connections. In addition, we are offering a separate premium donation category for individuals or businesses who wish to make a major contribution and have the playground named in their honor.

We are also currently participating in a Funds2Org shoe drive, collecting gently used shoes to exchange for funding. This unique and inclusive initiative provides an accessible way for all families to contribute, while also reinforcing sustainability and community engagement.

Finally, the Mosinee School District has expressed its commitment to financially support the project through budget allocation, helping to ensure that this playground becomes a reality. Every dollar raised will directly contribute to building a safe, inclusive, and engaging space that benefits students and the larger Mosinee community. This multi-pronged approach to fundraising demonstrates the strength, collaboration, and long-term vision driving this important initiative forward.

Please view documents below to see outline of specific expenses and needs to see project come to fruition.

### Optional: Additional Information

*Feel free to attach additional documents that would benefit the Selection Committee in making their decision.*

Budget Form-Community Grant.pdf

## Organization Information

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### Purpose/History of the Organization\*

*Please provide a brief history of your organization and an outline of its purpose. What are your current programs or activities?*

The Mosinee School District has a long-standing tradition of excellence in education, serving the community of Mosinee and surrounding areas in central Wisconsin. With a commitment to academic success, social development, and lifelong learning, the district provides high-quality educational experiences to students from early childhood through high school.

The purpose of the district is to prepare students to become productive, responsible citizens in a diverse and ever-changing world. We focus on fostering academic achievement, strong character, and leadership skills, while promoting partnerships with families and the broader community. Our mission is grounded in the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to learn and grow in a supportive, inclusive environment that challenges them to expect the best from themselves and others.

Currently, the district offers a wide variety of programs and activities to support the whole child. These include academic enrichment programs, intervention services, gifted and talented instruction, career and technical education, fine arts, athletics, and social-emotional learning initiatives. Mosinee Elementary School, in particular, is a Leader in Me school, promoting the development of student leadership through the 7 Habits framework. It is also a PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) school, emphasizing a safe and respectful learning environment.

In addition to academics, the district prioritizes family and community engagement through programs such as FLY – Families Leading Youth, which empowers parents to be involved in school decision-making and improvement efforts. Events like literacy nights, school-wide assemblies, student showcases, and service projects bring families and students together, creating a strong sense of connection and pride in the school community.

This playground initiative reflects our continued mission to enhance the learning environment, promote student wellness, and engage the entire community in creating safe, inclusive, and innovative spaces for all learners.

## ***Electronic Signature & Confirmation***

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### **Recognition of Grant Award\***

*If a grant is awarded, the Wausau & Marathon County Parks Foundation requires recognition of the grant. How will the Parks Foundation be recognized for this grant if your application is successful?*

*Note: Minimum requirement is website and/or social media recognition **and** signage at the location of the funded project. A logo is available upon request.*

We will recognize the foundation through a press release, newsletters, websites, social media, and by featuring its name on permanent signage at the playground site.

### **Signature of Contact Person\***

*Enter your full name and title below*

Stefanie Tryba

### **Confirmation\***

*By entering your signature information above and clicking "I Agree" below, you certify that the statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You also agree that, if selected, you will use the funds granted for the purpose as proposed and approved by the Wausau & Marathon County Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin Board of Directors. You also agree to allow Wausau & Marathon County Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Community Foundation to use information provided in this request for press releases, reports, and other public information.*

I Agree

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Lee Recreation Bill.jpeg
- Budget Form-Community Grant.pdf



# LEE RECREATION, LLC

Providing Fun Across Wisconsin Since 1995

DATE: March 18, 2025  
 TO: Mosinee Elementary School  
 600 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Mosinee, WI 54455  
 FROM: Jeff Thompson  
 RE: Playground Proposal #142-195997-2

BCI BURKE "Play That Moves You"  
 Playground Proposal #142-195997-2  
 77 Play Events for an estimated 408 users ages 5-12 & 2-12

1-#NUCLEUS	Modular Structure, 5-12	\$213,454.00
DECKS:	4-Triangle, 3-Square, 2- Hexagonal, 1-Crescent, 1-Half Hexagon	
RAMP:	1-Sensory Rail Rise Ramp, 1- Sensory Rail Rise Entrance Ramp	
BRIDGE:	1-Evolution Arched Catwalk Bridge	
SLIDES:	Viper III Spiral Slide @ 96" Deck Ht., Velo XL Slide @ 96" Deck Ht., 360 Loop w/ Slide @ 72" Deck Ht.	
CLIMBERS:	Power Pipes Climber, Trigon Tower, Terrex Climber, Pursuit Climber, Formis Ladder, Twisting Traverse, Shasta Climber, Snake Climber, Atom Climber, Taktiks Bow Climber, Ion Climber, Dynamic Discs, Taktiks Bolt Climber, Pathway Climber, RockIT	
BALANCE/CLIMBING/SOCIAL:	7-Ovistep Launch Pads, 4- FlyLow Pods, 4-FlyLow Step Pods, Eko Arch	
UPPERBODY:	90 Degree Overhead, Straight Overhead, 'S' Overhead, 'S' Horizontal Ladder, Round-A-Bout	
MOTION:	Avec Glider	
PLAY/ACTIVITY/PANELS:	Signing 2 Sided Panel, 3-In-A-Row Panel, Rain Wheel Panel, Hide the Numbers 2 Sided Panel, Classic Game Panel	
1-#NUCLEUS	Modular Structure, 2-12	\$ 16,967.00
DECKS:	1-Triangle, 1-Square	
SLIDES:	Monaco Slide @ 40" Deck Ht., Luge Slide @ 48" Deck Ht.	
CLIMBERS:	Leaf Climber, Petal Step Climber	
BALANCE/CLIMBING/SOCIAL:	1-Lil Novo Bean Step	
1-#470-0870	Serenity Spot	\$ 6,732.00
1-#MUSIC	PlayEnsemble Music Station	\$ 23,950.00
INCLUDES:	4-Drums (Cirque Drums V, IV, III, II), 2-Chimes (Titan Chimes, Suping Chimes Hue), 1-Terra Metallophone	
2-#SWINGS	3-Bay Single Post Swing Assemblies	\$ 10,084.00
INCLUDES:	12-Belt Swing Seats	
1-#550-0225	Cirrus Swing Seats	\$ 7,698.00
1-#550-0196	AirVenture Glider Add-On Bay	\$ 8,241.00
1-#550-9118	Brava Universal Swing	\$ 8,937.00
1-#560-0051	Inclusive Orbit	\$ 15,045.00
1-#560-2585	Verve VI Arch Climber	\$ 6,075.00
1-#560-2586	Comet I	\$ 2,406.00
1-#560-2611	Spinetic w/o Speed Limiter	\$ 6,256.00
1-#560-2601	Roller Table	\$ 15,728.00
1-#560-0073	Nido Spinner	\$ 4,250.00



# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

## PROJECT BUDGET

<b>Organization:</b>				
<b>Project Name:</b>				
<b>PROJECT EXPENSES</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>% of Total Expenses</b>		<b>Total</b>
Personnel				
Facilities/Occupancy				
Equipment/Supplies				
Printing/Promotion				
Meeting/Travel				
Administrative Expenses				
Other Project Expenses ( <i>specify</i> ):				
-				
-				
-				
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES</b>				
<b>SOURCES OF PROJECT REVENUE</b>	<b>Secured Funding</b>	<b>Funding Applied For</b>		<b>Total</b>
Community Foundation			=	
Other Foundations			=	
Corporations			=	
Individuals			=	
Government Grants			=	
Umbrella Organization			=	
Contracts			=	
Other Project Revenue ( <i>specify</i> ):			=	
-			=	
-			=	
-			=	
<b>Earned Income</b>				
Events or Ticket Sales			=	
Publications & Products			=	
Membership Income			=	
In-kind Support			=	
Other Earned Income ( <i>specify</i> ):			=	
-			=	
-			=	
-			=	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT REVENUE</b>				

***\*Total Project Expenses must equal Total Project Revenue***

## Marathon Park Splash Pad

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*Wausau & Marathon County Parks &  
Recreation Foundation*

### ***Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department***

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Jamie Polley  
212 River Drive  
Suite 2  
Wausau, WI 54403

jamie.polley@co.marathon.wi.us  
O: 715-261-1554  
F: 715-261-1565

### ***Jamie Polley***

---

212 River Drive  
Suite 2  
Wausau, WI 54403

jamie.polley@marathoncounty.gov  
O: 715-261-1554

# Application Form

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## *Project Information*

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### **Project Name\***

Name of Project

Marathon Park Splash Pad

### **Amount Requested\***

\$20,000.00

### **Total Project Costs\***

\$591,000.00

### **Project Summary/Purpose\***

*Provide a short outline of your proposed project. You will have an opportunity to give more detail below.*

If awarded, the funding will be used to reconstruct the splash pad in Marathon Park. The splash pad will be the same size and location as the current splash pad. The construction of the splash pad will include upright and ground water features for all ages, a recirculating system and concrete base.

### **Project Start Date\***

07/14/2025

### **Project End Date\***

08/29/2025

### **Geographic Area Served\***

*Your project must serve a community located within Marathon County or all of Marathon County. What geographic area will this project serve?*

City of Wausau and surrounding areas

## Project Narrative

### Project Description\*

*Describe the project for which you are seeking funds. Include project goals, objectives, action plan, and timeline. Also explain the community need for the project and how funding would provide an impact on that need.*

Marathon Park, a 78-acre regional destination located at the gateway to the City of Wausau, is one of the most historic and cherished parks in Marathon County. The park offers a wide range of amenities, including a campground, a 4,000-seat grandstand, indoor ice arena, multiple playgrounds, scenic trails, historic buildings, and a canopy of century-old white pines. For over 120 years, a water feature has served as a central element of this park—from an early pond to a mid-century wading pool, and most recently, the community splash pad built in 2004.

The current splash pad, however, is no longer operational. It was constructed using aging infrastructure from the former wading pool, and after years of wear, the system failed in 2024. Despite significant testing and repair efforts, it could not be restored. The closure of the splash pad has left a noticeable void in recreational opportunities—especially for youth and families in the surrounding area—during the peak summer season.

The splash pad has long served as a gathering place for families and a low-cost, accessible way for children to stay active and cool during hot weather. Its absence has been deeply felt, particularly in the neighborhoods adjacent to Marathon Park, which fall within a designated low- to moderate-income area. For many local families, this amenity represents one of the few low-cost recreational options that is both safe and within walking distance.

Recognizing this, the 2023 Westside Master Plan—a visioning document built on extensive community input—identified the replacement of the splash pad as a top priority. This aligns with the broader goals outlined in the Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), which emphasizes equitable access to recreation, health and wellness, and investment in existing infrastructure to serve future generations.

The County has committed \$375,000 toward the replacement, and the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department has secured an additional \$130,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding due to the park's central location within a low-income census tract. However, in order to deliver a high-quality, fully accessible splash pad that meets current safety and design standards, additional funding is needed.

The proposed project involves removing the existing splash pad—including all outdated piping and filtration systems—while preserving the current decking. A new 8,000 square foot splash pad (the largest in the state) will be constructed in the same footprint, featuring modern piping, a recirculating filtration system, and a mix of ground and elevated spray elements designed to be accessible, safe, and engaging for all ages.

The Foundation's investment in this project would directly address a critical community need—by restoring a beloved recreational resource that supports physical activity, outdoor play, and social connection for hundreds of families each summer. Your support would help bridge the funding gap, allowing us to install a more impactful design with increased accessibility, sensory-friendly elements, and durable features that will serve the community for years to come.

With your help, we can bring this essential community space back to life—promoting equity, well-being, and pride in one of the most visible and valued parks in Marathon County.

### Duplication of Services\*

*Are there any similar projects currently operating in the community? If so, how is your program different, and why is it needed?*

While there are a few outdoor aquatic facilities operating in the region, there is currently no public splash pad available within the greater Wausau community. The City of Wausau and the Villages of Rothschild and Weston, operate outdoor swimming pools, but these facilities typically charge a daily admission fee, making them less accessible—particularly for low-income families or those with multiple children.

The City of Wausau also offers two small interactive fountains at the 400 Block and Riverlife Park, as well as a limited water play area at JoJo's Jungle in Brockmeyer Park. However, these features are minimal in size and functionality, and are not true splash pads. They lack the scale, interactive elements, and inclusive design that characterize modern splash pads, and they do not provide the same level of recreational value or user capacity.

What sets our project apart is its accessibility, scale, and community impact. The Marathon Park splash pad—at 8,000 square feet—is the largest in the state and has long served as a low-cost, high-capacity, multi-age water play area located within walking distance of several underserved neighborhoods. Unlike traditional pools, a splash pad does not require lifeguards or swimming skills, making it a safer and more inclusive option for children of all ages and abilities.

The replacement of this facility is essential to fill the current gap in low-cost, family-friendly water recreation in Marathon County. It will restore an important public amenity that promotes health, outdoor play, and community gathering, especially for those who may not have the means or transportation to access fee-based pools.

## Other Participating Organizations\*

*Are you collaborating with other organizations to meet this particular need? If so, name other organizations participating in the project and describe their roles.*

The County has committed \$375,000 toward the replacement, and the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department has secured an additional \$130,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding due to the park's central location within a low-income census tract. The City of Wausau Economic Development Department oversees the allocation of the Community Development Block Grant funds and supported the award of \$130,000 towards the replacement of the the splash pad.

There are no other participating organizations at this time. Conversations have been started with the Kiwanis for support.

## Long-Term Strategies

*What are the long-term strategies for continuation and funding of this project at the end of the grant period?*

The Marathon Park Splash Pad will be a permanent asset owned and maintained by Marathon County, ensuring long-term public benefit and responsible stewardship. Upon completion, the facility will be incorporated into the County's established park system, and all ongoing operations, maintenance, and eventual capital reinvestment will be managed through the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department (PRF) as part of the County's overall asset management and budgeting process.

Once completed, the splash pad will be operated seasonally, opening annually from Memorial Day to Labor Day, as weather conditions allow. The PRF Department will be responsible for daily operations, including system activation, water quality monitoring, cleanliness, safety inspections, and closing procedures.

Currently, splash pad operating hours are typically from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days per week. These hours have historically been set based on usage patterns and staffing availability, and may be adjusted as

needed in response to community feedback, climate patterns, and budget considerations to maximize access while ensuring operational efficiency.

This schedule is consistent with the County's goal of providing accessible, low-cost outdoor recreation, particularly for families and children in low-income neighborhoods adjacent to Marathon Park. The continuation of a minimal user fee is planned for the splash pad.

Operations will be integrated into the PRF's existing staff structure, which includes seasonal employees and full-time maintenance staff. During the summer season, specific staff will be assigned to monitor the splash pad daily for cleanliness, functionality, and water quality, including compliance with all local and state health and safety regulations. PRF also maintains close relationships with local contractors and equipment vendors to ensure responsive support in the event of technical issues or repairs.

## Project Budget\*

*Upload a project budget below or outline your project budget in the space provided. List anticipated income sources and expenses associated with this project.*

Features Cost: \$246,000

Total Mechanical & WQMS Cost: \$216,000

- Feature Pump Module
- Filtration Module 2x (filters, chlorine & acid)
- Water Containment System
- Freight & Embed Freight Fees
- Training Included

Installation Estimate Specialty Work + Start-up – \$129,000

## Optional: Additional Information

*Feel free to attach additional documents that would benefit the Selection Committee in making their decision.*

1\_PERSP 2.jpeg

## Organization Information

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### Purpose/History of the Organization\*

*Please provide a brief history of your organization and an outline of its purpose. What are your current programs or activities?*

Mission - Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work and play.

## ***Electronic Signature & Confirmation***

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### **Recognition of Grant Award\***

*If a grant is awarded, the Wausau & Marathon County Parks Foundation requires recognition of the grant. How will the Parks Foundation be recognized for this grant if your application is successful?*

*Note: Minimum requirement is website and/or social media recognition **and** signage at the location of the funded project. A logo is available upon request.*

The Foundation will be recognized at the facility with a plaque and on the department's webpage and social media pages.

### **Signature of Contact Person\***

*Enter your full name and title below*

Jamie Polley

### **Confirmation\***

*By entering your signature information above and clicking "I Agree" below, you certify that the statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You also agree that, if selected, you will use the funds granted for the purpose as proposed and approved by the Wausau & Marathon County Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin Board of Directors. You also agree to allow Wausau & Marathon County Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Community Foundation to use information provided in this request for press releases, reports, and other public information.*

I Agree

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- 1\_PERSP 2.jpeg





The Marathon County Historical Society presents



May 18, 2025 12pm - 3pm

Tickets \$40

Available only at Ticket Bookstore  
Call 715.937.5544 for more info.

Brought to you by:  
The Parks Foundation