

## October- November 2024 Naturalist Report

Brad Garrity – Naturalist

Terri Vosters – Director

### Community Enrichment Department Report

- Successfully hired Community Enrichment Program Manager and Recreation Program Manager. Both start on 11/25.

### 1000 Islands Report

#### Admin/Finance

- 11/11-2025 proposed budget went before City Council. Will report any proposed changes.
- Terri and Brad went to the Outagamie County Finance meeting on 10/22 to secure funding for 2025. County committed to their continued gracious \$10,000 donation.
- Cassie and Terri added 1000 Islands to the City Amazon account.
- Cassie and Terri discussed IT/Finance the printer, copy paper and postage. 1000 Islands will no longer need to order paper or purchase postage for smaller mailings. They will be issued from MSB.
- Terri met Paul V. on 11/12 to discuss the history of 1000 Islands funding. Including CD, golden passport, restricted funds and general fund.
- Staff continue to meet and discuss RecTrac training.
- Penni and Brad presented and answered questions on behalf of Friends of 1000 Islands to the board of the Community Vision Fund through the Community Foundation in support of the grant request written to make the Asst. Naturalist position full-time in 2025. We were awarded \$60,000 over 3 years to supplement the wages, and the City has committed to providing the remainder as well as the cost of benefits.

#### Education

##### School Programs

- Hosted our final Crayfish and Critter Hunt of the season in collaboration with Kaukauna Public for a local homeschool group.
- Also hosted another homeschool group learning about hibernation.
- Riverview 6<sup>th</sup> graders were onsite for water quality testing to support their learning about the water cycle and environmental impacts on the watershed.
- Carl Traeger Elementary (Menasha) visited to learn about animal species characteristics and adaptations.
- Kat facilitated another successful 1000 Little Wonders program about deer. Kids enjoyed hiking, story time and making a deer antler headband!
- Offsite program at Park Community Charter School with Mrs. Roehrig's 4k class.

## Public Programs

- We hosted our monthly collaborative Storybook Walk with KPL. Storybook walk will continue with the boardwalk construction using an alternative route.
- Our latest Survival Series Saturday was held on 11/2 in collaboration with KPL and Scouting USA. Scoutmaster Don led the Shelter Building program for approximately 20 participants, assisted by our Naturalist and KPL staff.
- Brad led a DIY Fall Craft program on 11/9 which was attended by nearly 60 people of all ages. Participants made 3 different fall themed crafts.
- Staff worked on creating and scheduling Spring programming to hit the deadline for inclusion in the Spring Recreation Guide

## Building and Grounds

- Brad, Eric and Terri have continued discussions about the bathroom updates happening in November. The custom countertops will have sinks at two levels for ADA compliance and also for ease of use for smaller children, allowing us to discontinue the use of stepstools at the sinks which are a hazard. We are getting final quotes for the fixtures/plumbing and anticipate installation to be completed within a few weeks.
- Bella Lundt has been working for an hour each day Tue-Fri as part of our support for the Kaukauna HS JET program giving special needs students work experience. She is with us through November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The boardwalk project is underway. Phase 1 (river trail) has been staked out and is now closed. Radtke Construction hopes to begin staging equipment and tearing out old boardwalk soon. Start has been delayed by weather and Radtke wrapping up other projects. Eric and volunteer Ross Schuh are working on buckthorn removal along the river as the project progresses.
- Baseball field restrooms are closed for the season and a portable toilet has been delivered for the winter.
- Terri met with Amplitel, and Eric is also getting quotes from Lappen and another security company for possible camera upgrade and addition of head count capabilities on the trail.
- Due to recent power outages in the City, our current security camera system server was hit with a power surge and disabled. It is currently under repair at Lappen/Milwaukee PC.
- Brad met with Street Dept to determine the scope of the siding installation. We await the Street Dept plan for installation timeline to move forward and will be purchasing material from Drexel when ready. It was suggested that we consider roof replacement in the near future.

## Community/Other

- We have had many groups from outside orgs, particularly special needs care providers such as Paragon using our center to have lunch and explore.
- A large Bald Eagle migration came through during the week of 11/10. There were numerous eagles along the river at 1000 Islands, particularly on 11/13.