

City of Richland Center Park Board Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Richland Center Park Board. Board members meet on the **4th Monday of every month at 5:00 PM** to advocate for our parks, trails, and recreational programs.

Please complete this form to submit your expression of interest.

Applicant Information

- Full Name: Zachary Aaron Larson
- Street Address: 336 E Court St,
- City, State, Zip: Richland Center, WI 53581
- Phone Number: (608) 475-4207 (cell); (608) 647-1121 (home)
- Email Address: zclarson18@gmail.com
- Are you a resident of the City of Richland Center? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Expression of Interest

Please provide a brief summary of your background, your involvement with local parks or recreation, and any specific experiences (community volunteerism, professional skills, or personal interests) that make you a strong fit for the Park Board.

I have an incredibly varied background both occupationally & recreationally, but my personal interests and experiences are much more qualifying. Much of my free personal time is spent by the Pine River or on Miner's Hill, and through work at the Richland County History Room, I have become acquainted with not only contemporary ecology of the area but its history as well. I have spent much time wandering and getting to know the flora, fauna, landscape, and climate through experience as well as study. My experience with hospitality, customer service, and theatre effectively combine with these recreational interests for forest bathing and wildlife survival, for which I am certified. My strongest passion in recent years has been learning, practicing, and sharing exactly why connecting to nature is so important, and why appreciating and protecting that nature is of equal if not more importance in this day & age as we grapple with a largely unpredictable future.

Why I Want to Make a Difference

The Park Board relies on dedicated advocates. Please share your motivations for joining the board and why you care about the future of Richland Center's parks and public spaces.

Without going on a tangent, I simply care for the land around us and all within it. I want it all, the hills, the river, the creeks, the animals, the trees, the air, to be not only appreciated for their recreational utility but also for their own inherent value, and treated and respected in kind. Very "woo-woo", I know.

Active Stewardship and restorative recreation are my main motivators. Like the Lorax speaks for the trees, I find myself speaking for the river. I want it and everything else to be healthy, for generations to come.

What I Plan to Do to Make a Difference

If appointed to the board, what specific goals, projects, or areas of advocacy do you plan to focus on to improve our community's recreational offerings?

I would strongly adhere to the 2022 Land & Water Resource Management Plan, as well as the DNR's plan for the Western Coulee region, in order to suggest appropriate proactive & reactive strategies to land management. Tackling invasive species (especially plants) while focusing on other restorative & educational actions, such as a native seed drive or expanded community gardening, or river monitoring. Volunteer opportunities would be a natural start. Additionally, I would encourage active correspondence with the Ho-Chunk Nation, and other locally-interested parties.

By signing below, I certify that I am interested in serving on the Richland Center Park Board and can commit to attending the regular monthly meetings.

- Signature: Joehy Loren
- Date: 7/8/26

Please return your completed application to the Recreation Department or via email to the Recreation Director.

Contact information:

Recreation Department:

Address: 1050 N. Orange St., Richland Center, WI 53581

Mailing address: 450 S. Main St., Richland Center, WI 53581

Recreation Director: Jodi Mieden

Cell: 608)604-6608 Office: 608)647-8108 ext. 7

jodi.mieden@richlandcenterwi.gov