



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

PARKS AND RECREATION



2024 Annual Report

Neshotah Beach and Park

Neshotah Park and Beach, recognized as the best beach in Wisconsin, continues to be a premier destination for residents and visitors alike. This year, significant improvements took place to ensure an even better experience for all who enjoy this beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline.



The giant Adirondack chair had wheels installed so that it can spin to showcase the best view for sightseeing or provide the best photo backdrop.



New

A park picnic table was updated with brass tacks arranged to offer a hands-on opportunity to learn Braille.



New

The Two Rivers Firefighters Local 423 donated five life rings and life ring cabinets to improve safety at Neshotah Beach and the East Twin River.



New

Three SwimSmart beach alert signs were installed to improve communication about beach hazard conditions. The signs sync to the National Weather Service to provide up to date forecast information to beach goers during the swimming season.



The new Neshotah Park playground was installed in late 2023. In 2024, the playground was a massive hit with children of all ages.



New

A new 10 ft. wide pathway was installed from the concession stand to Walsh field to help improve accessibility to parking and the beach.



Neshotah Beach had another fun and sun filled season. The parks department works hard to clean restrooms, remove trash, and groom the sand so an excellent visitor experience is available.

Neighborhood Park Improvements

New



New



Washington Park has a new playground features installed by the parks maintenance team. The improvements were funded by the Tax Incremental District used to support the Washington Highlands development. The new pickleball court also continued to be very popular.

New



In 2023, the West Foundation generously provided a \$50,000 grant to install a nature-based playground and StoryWalk at Zander Park with native plantings. The project was available for its first full summer season. A new waterline, benches, and fence improvements took place at the dog park.

Neighborhood Park Improvements



New



Picnic Hill is the site of a long standing disc golf course. In 2024, the parks maintenance team, supported by volunteers, installed new tee pads and cleared dead trees. New signage will be installed in early 2025 to complete the updates

Park Planning Efforts

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for planning the short and long-term efforts to improve our city parks. In 2024, a comprehensive planning effort with extensive community feedback took place to update our Park and Open Space Plan. Riverside Park and Paddlers Park also had detailed masters plans created to guide future improvements.

The final plans are available at:

<https://www.two-rivers.org/parksrec/page/parks-and-recreations-documents>

Grant Awards

WI DNR Urban Forestry Grant - Parks & Rec received a \$25,000 to support forestry operations. A new forestry website and inventory dashboard were developed and are available at <https://www.two-rivers.org/parksrec/page/forestry>.

2023 Coastal Management Grant - This on-going project supported the cost of purchasing a new 17 kayak fleet in 2024 so we can lead paddling programs in 2025.

Packers Foundation - In partnership with the Two Rivers High School, we will build new dugouts for the purple field at Vietnam Veterans Park with \$3,000 from the Packers Foundation.

2025 WI DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant - Parks & Rec was notified that it will be receiving a \$209,500 grant to support improvements to Neshotah Park in 2025.

West Foundation - To continue fulfilling the goals of our 2023 Neshotah Park Master Plan, the City secured a generous \$100,000 grant from the West Foundation for a new climbing wall that will be installed in 2025.

Vietnam Veterans Park Improvements

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park is home to five combined softball and baseball fields, providing a space for both competitive and recreational play. We continue to improve the facilities to enhance the experience for visitors. Recent upgrades include:



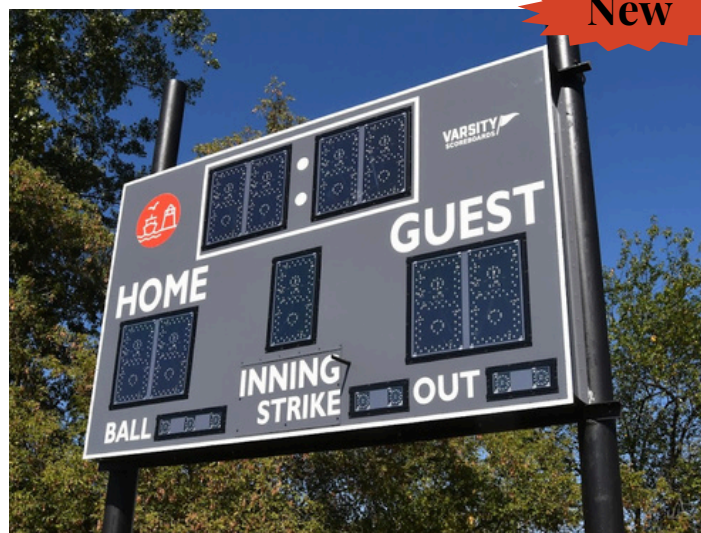
New mulch being installed at the playground.

New



A new batting cage was installed and is available for use by the public during the spring and summer season.

New



New scoreboards were installed on red and white fields which are primarily used for softball.

Vietnam Veterans Park Programs



Girls Softball

74 girls participated in softball, with two teams at each grade level. All of our teams competed in the Manitowoc Youth Baseball Association League (MYBA). At the MYBA end-of-year tournament, we had an impressive showing, with five of our teams placing in the top four!

Two Rivers Team Tournament Highlights:

- Purple Ponytail Team: 1st Place
- Gold Ponytail Team: 2nd Place
- Gold Single A Team: 4th Place
- Gold Double A Team: 1st Place
- Purple Double A Team: 4th Place

We're proud of the hard work, sportsmanship, and growth these players demonstrated all season. Congratulations to all the teams for a fantastic summer!



Baseball

68 boys participated in our summer baseball, with two teams at each age level. All the teams competed in the Manitowoc County Youth Baseball League, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship throughout the season. They also participated in an end-of-year tournament. While we didn't have any teams finish in the top four, we witnessed remarkable improvement and development in all players over the course of the summer. Great job to all the teams!

Boy's Baseball Teams:

- Peanuts (7-8-year-olds): Gold Team & Purple Team
- Peewee (9-11-year-olds): Gold Team & Purple Team
- Pony (12-14-year-olds): Port Sandy Bay Team & Krajnik Chevrolet Team

We're proud of their hard work, dedication, and growth this season!



T-Ball

We launched a new 6-week, 4K T-ball program that welcomed 39 kids! Youth had the opportunity to learn and practice the fundamentals of baseball. It was incredible to witness their improvement. Our 5- and 6-year-old program had an amazing turnout with 51 kids! Six teams participated in a combined 15-minute practice, followed by a 45-minute game. The kids developed their skills, teamwork, and love for the game!

New

J.E. Hamilton Community House



Community House Room Rentals

Gymnasium - 139
Behringer Room - 67
Koska Room - 36

Community Events

Knights of Columbus Cornhole Tournament
Pro-Wrestling Classic
Price is Right
TRCCS Volleyball Tournament
Snowfest Cornhole Tournament
Heart-A-Rama
Community Baby Shower
Applefest
Badger Night
Cool City Christmas



Fitness Center Memberships

Senior (55+) - 92
Adult (18-54)- 33

Golf and Multi-Support Simulator



2024 Golf & Multi-Sport Simulator
Thank You Sponsors!
from *Two Rivers Parks & Recreation*



The Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center *Neshotah Charitable Foundation, Inc*

Rotary Club of Two Rivers *Wargin Agency, American Family Insurance*

Dominitz Flowers, LLC *Kahlenberg Industries, Inc.*

Schaus Mechanical, Inc. *Fatzo's Sub & Pizza Shop*

Eastwin Valley Golf & FootGolf Course *Susie-Q Fish Co.*

Travis Glandt of KUMMER, LAMBERT, FOX, GLANDT & NELSON, LLP *Weichert, Realtors Cornerstone*

Cool City Christmas

2nd Annual Cool City Christmas

The 2nd Annual Cool City Christmas took place on December 14 across multiple locations, including Central Park West, the Two Rivers Community House, and downtown businesses. Families turned out to enjoy a day full of festive activities. Highlights included live reindeer, photos with Santa, the Lowe's Toy Workshop, face painting, ice skating, ornament making with the Rotary Club, and a vendor fair. The Roncalli Show Choir filled Central Park with carols, while the Boy Scouts hosted fires and s'mores. The Police Department's K9s, Daisy and Xanti, made special appearances, adding to the fun. Food trucks and a family photo booth rounded out the offerings. Community First, Friends of the Senior Center, Lowe's, Sprang Trees and Wreaths, and Mark Gordon from Weichert Realtors, Cornerstone were key sponsors, with 30 sponsors in total supporting the event. Volunteers from the City of Two Rivers and other organizations helped ensure the day ran smoothly. This growing tradition continues to bring holiday cheer to residents and visitors alike.



Tree Decorating Contest

Thirty Christmas trees were generously donated by Sprang's Trees and Wreaths, with 26 claimed and decorated by families, individuals, and businesses. The trees brightened Central Park throughout the holiday season, creating a festive display that delighted residents and visitors. Prizes were awarded to the top three decorated trees, with winners receiving ribbons and trophies. The contest brought the community together, fostering creativity and holiday spirit. Comments from participants and onlookers praised the beautiful display, with many expressing hope that this new tradition will continue for years to come.



New



Recreation Programs



New

Paddle Palooza

Over 100 people joined us for the first ever Paddle Palooza on September 14th. Participants enjoyed a group paddle, educational presentations, and ended the day with a sunset paddle up the West Twin River.



Central Park Ice Rink

Hundreds of people enjoyed the first winter of our new synthetic ice rink in Central Park. Everyday, regardless of weather, is a skating day in Two Rivers!



Night at the Ball Park

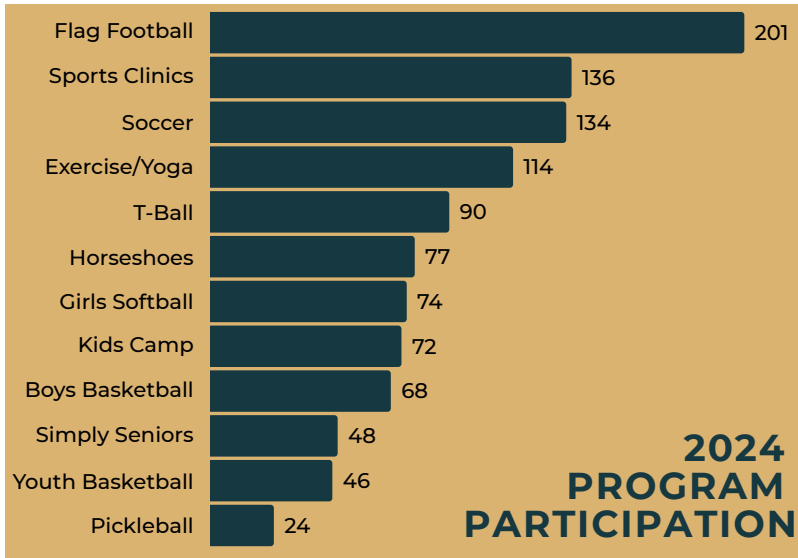
The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers supported our youth sports programs by hosting a Two Rivers Night at the Ball Park. A portion of ticket sales was donated back to Parks & Rec and Two Rivers youth had a special night!



Youth Sports Fund

Parks & Rec works hard to raise funding to support the cost of operating youth sports. We are very thankful for a strong partnership with Port Sandy Bay, who supports our pizza fundraiser. We raised over \$19,000 this year that will support youth sports equipment and financial aid. Thank you Port Sandy Bay!

Recreation Programs



Horseshoes

This year marked the 44th season of the Horseshoe League. With 77 players spread across 14 teams, the league continued its strong tradition. A special thank you goes to Mike Bauknecht, who did an outstanding job leading the league in his first year as president. At our year-end banquet, held at Port Sandy Bay, we honored our teams, top shooters, and league award winners. Here's a look at the season's highlights:

Season Champions

- 1st Half Champions: Cool City Brewing
- 2nd Half Champions by Division:
 - Red Division: Cool City Brewing
 - White Division: Deja & Martin
 - Blue Division: Braun Building

We're incredibly proud of the achievements of all our teams and players. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this season such a success.



Kids Camp

72 kids participated in our 8-week Kids Camp. Our camp coordinator, Kelly Tice, and camp counselor, Eli Hooper, did an outstanding job keeping the kids engaged with a variety of activities. From crafts and games to outdoor sports, they ensured every day was full of fun and learning opportunities. They organized destination trips that added excitement and educational value to the camp experience. Highlights included visits to Neshotah Beach, Lester Library, the Fire Department, the Police Department, and the Community House, among others. We're incredibly proud of the energy, creativity, and dedication shown by our staff and look forward to another successful camp next year!



Recreation Programs



Soccer

Significant growth took place this year in soccer, with a record 134 children from 4K through 8th grade participating in our summer, fall, and winter sessions. We introduced a new winter middle school program. Additionally, we expanded all three of our seasonal programs to include 4K, broadening our reach to younger players. Our summer program also experienced a notable increase of 32 participants. Our focus remains on teaching fundamentals and then organizing teams to play games, ensuring that our players develop essential skills in a structured and supportive environment.



Sports Clinics

This past year, we hosted a total of four softball and three baseball clinics, focusing on fundamentals and providing kids with extra practice during the winter months. High school softball coaches Kirk Shillcox and Adam Wachowski did a fantastic job leading the softball clinics and helping build a strong connection between our youth and high school softball programs. A total of 136 kids participated in the clinics, gaining valuable experience that will benefit them when league play begins this summer.



Basketball

We had 46 kids in 1st through 4th grade participate in our Youth Basketball Fundamentals Program. During this program, we focused on teaching proper techniques for dribbling, shooting, and passing through instruction and drills. To make learning even more engaging, Coach Preston incorporated fun, interactive games that allowed the kids to apply their skills. The growth and enthusiasm shown by these young athletes was truly inspiring!

New

Recreation Programs



Flag Football

201 kids participated in our flag football programs! Fall Peewee League, designed for kids in K-1st grade, consisted of four teams that played a six-game schedule, with a 20-minute practice followed by a 45-minute game. Fall (NFL) and Spring 2nd-4th Grade Leagues have continued to grow, with eight teams competing. The 2nd-4th grade programs concluded with an end-of-the-year tournament. In the Fall (NFL) League, the Buffalo Bills took 1st place. In the Spring League, the Gators claimed 1st place.

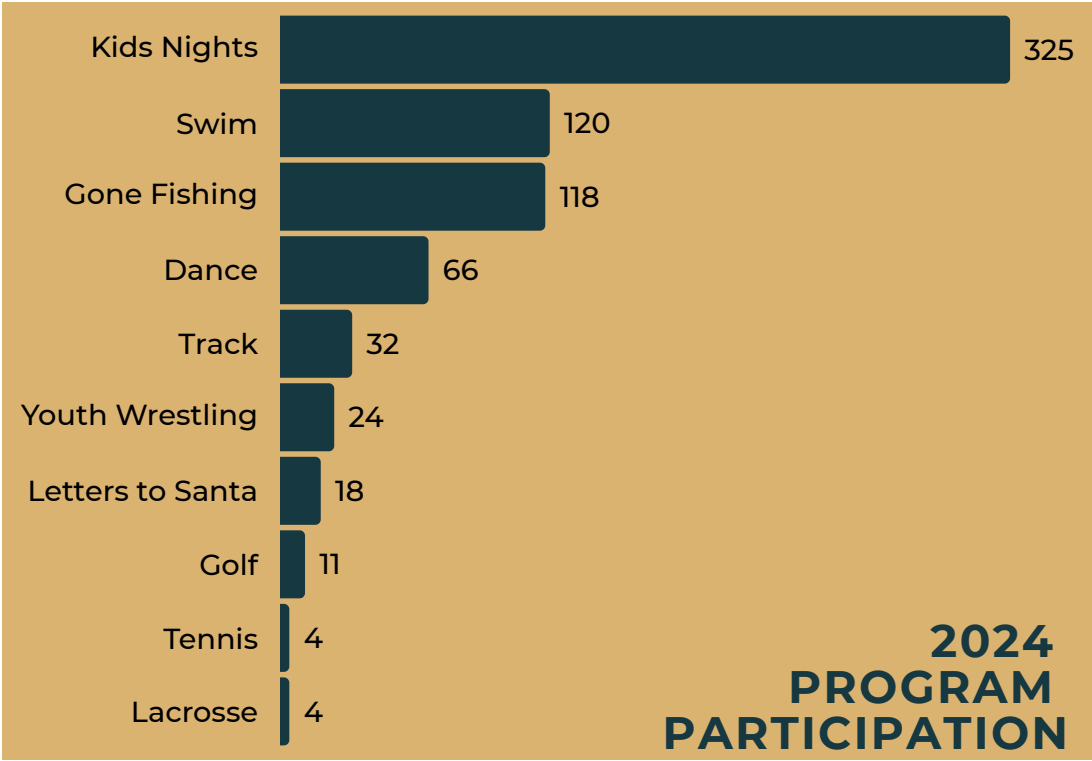


New

Yoga

Led by yoga instructor, Cathy Hendrickson, we introduced seven yoga programs with a total of 114 participants, including Slow Flow Yoga, Restorative Yoga, and Morning Yin Yoga. Each class runs once per week for six weeks, with sessions lasting one hour. Designed for beginners and experienced yogis, the classes focus on a slow, meditative pace, promoting peace and relaxation. Participants practice about half the number of poses typically found in a Power Flow class, allowing for a deeper understanding of foundational movements in a vinyasa-based practice.

Recreation Programs



In every season, there is something fun taking place in our parks or the Community House. We also partner closely with the Two Rivers Public Schools to use the school pool and athletic fields. Kids nights, swimming, track, wrestling, and more!





Senior Center



Trust Car Program Highlights

In 2024, the TRUST Car program provided significant support to our community by helping **66 members** gain access to **3,903 rides**. Notably, **1,512 rides** were to the Senior Center, a marked increase from last year. This growth reflects several key changes:

- The decision to waive fees for rides to the Senior Center.
- Increased volunteer participation.
- The addition of a second TRUST car.



ADRC Home Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals

The ADRC Home Delivered Meals and Congregate Meal programs made a meaningful impact this year:

- **Home Delivered Meals:** 17,442 meals delivered to 158 recipients.
- **Congregate Meals:** 76 participants with **1,386 lunches** served at the Senior Center.

Volunteerism

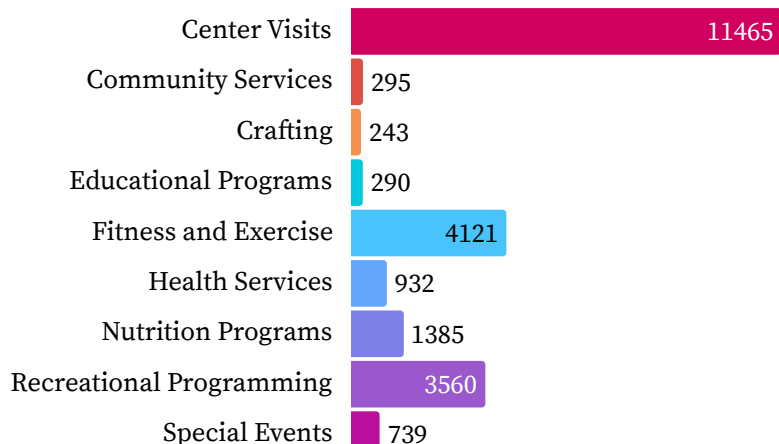
Our programs thrive due to the dedication and generosity of our volunteers. In 2024, volunteers logged a total of **13,800 hours** across various roles:

- **Trust Car Drivers:** 19 volunteers contributed 1,621 hours.
- **Home Delivered Meals Deliverers:** 144 volunteers provided 3,040 hours.
- **Instructors:** 3 instructors volunteered 49 hours.
- **Kitchen Volunteers:** 27 volunteers contributed 1,731 hours to the HDM program.
- **Receptionists:** 14 volunteers worked 1,731 hours.
- **General Senior Center Volunteers:** 60 volunteers contributed 2,357 hours.



Program Participation Overview

The Senior Center saw robust participation across various programs in 2024, with a total of **139,101 hours** contributed by members. Here is a breakdown of activities:





Senior Center

Events and Community Engagement

New

70th Anniversary Celebration

- **Attendance:** Over 200 attendees.
- **Community Sponsors:** Reinert Family, VT Industries, American Family (Pam Wargin), Rotary Club of Two Rivers.



Back-to-School Carnival

- **Impact:** Provided 120 children with school supplies through a shopping experience.
- **Clothing Donations:** Seniors and community members provided first-day-of-school outfits for 16 children.
- **Sponsors:** TR Firefighters Union, Rotary of Two Rivers, Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center, St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, City of Two Rivers, United Way of Manitowoc Co., Village Inn, and many others.



Two Rivers Hunger Task Force

- Collaborated with community organizations, including the Senior Center, TRPSD, St. Peter the Fisherman, Grace UCC, Optimist, and Salvation Army.
- Provided over **30,000 meals** to families during the summer.

New

October Health Fair

- **Attendance:** Record-breaking 300 visitors.
- **Vendors:** 45 health and wellness vendors participated.

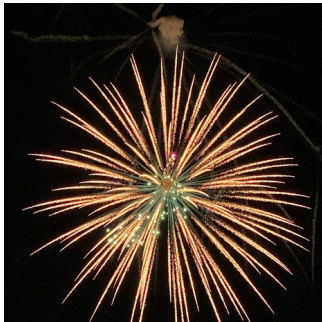


Thanksgiving Community Meal

- **Meals Served:** Over 125 community members received a homemade Thanksgiving meal.
- **Sponsors:** NextEra Energies, Carron Net, Rotary Club of Two Rivers, Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center, Dominitz Flowers, TR Koenig Elementary 4th Graders, and individual donors.



Special Events



21st Annual July 4th Fireworks

The 21st Annual Community Sponsored Fourth of July Fireworks at Walsh Field drew over 3,000 attendees for a day of food, entertainment, and a spectacular fireworks show. Major sponsors included Sprang's Trees and Wreaths and Seehafernews.com, with support from 15 additional local sponsors. The event featured food trucks, live music, games, and performances by local high school singers. Organized by Two Rivers Parks & Recreation and several community partners, the event was a huge success, continuing its tradition as a holiday highlight.

Community Reactions:

- ★ "The best fireworks anywhere—beautiful, Two Rivers!"
- ★ "We watched from our boat at Neshotah Beach—amazing!"
- ★ "So proud of my community!"



Easter Bunny Breakfast

The annual Easter Bunny Breakfast at the Two Rivers Community House welcomed 210 attendees on the Saturday before Easter. Guests enjoyed an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, games, crafts, raffles, and photos with the Easter Bunny. In partnership with the Two Rivers Optimist Club, the event coincided with the Easter Egg Hunt at Neshotah Park, creating a fun-filled morning for families. With support from 39 sponsors, custom placemats featured their names, logos, and a coloring page for kids. Volunteers played a key role in making the event a success, continuing this cherished tradition.

Community Reactions:

- 🐰 "The kids loved visiting with the Easter Bunny!"
- 🥞 "My little one loved the pancakes and the bunny!"
- 🎉 "Such a special event—can't wait for next year!"



Special Events

Sundae Thursday

On June 27th, Central Park West hosted Sundae Thursday, drawing thousands downtown for 25-cent sundaes, live entertainment, and family fun.

Highlights included the TR Community Band, a kids' show by Mr. Steve, inflatables, and an ice cream eating contest.

A total of 2,185 sundaes were sold, using 32 tubs of ice cream and all toppings. Volunteers from VT Industries, the Two Rivers Rotary Club, and the Senior Center made the event possible. VT Industries and the Rotary Club were key sponsors, with Cedar Crest donating ice cream and supplies.

Community Reactions:

🍦 "Can't wait for Sundae Thursday!"

🎵 "Such a great tradition!"

👏 "Absolutely amazing job!"



Bands on the Beach

The 6th annual Bands on the Beach concert series wrapped up a record-breaking season at Neshotah Beach Rotary Pavilion, drawing 5,000 attendees to six incredible shows. The 2024 lineup featured:

🎸 Spicy Tie Band

🎵 Model Citizens

🎸 Road Trip

🎸 Big Mouth & the Power Tool Horns

🎵 Stephen Cooper & the Nobody Famous Band

🥁 Panchromatic Steel

The Rotary Club of Two Rivers, in partnership with Parks & Rec, managed beverage sales and coordinated food trucks, with Neshotah Concessions performing well all season. Proceeds will support future events.

Major sponsors included Fox Communities Credit Union and SeehaferNews.com, along with 11 additional sponsors.

Community Reactions:

☀️ "Sunny skies, happy people, and the best beach in Wisconsin!"

🎵 "Always a fantastic lineup!"

🍷 "Great food and drinks at the concession stand!"



Central Park West

New



Two Rivers - A Destination for Live Music

The Two Rivers Parks and Recreation Department hosted a lively summer of music at Central Park West. The Concerts in the Park series returned with 15 Thursday performances from May through August, featuring acts like the TR Community Band, Tony Rocker, and Jazz in the Park. The inaugural Friday Night Live series ran June through September, with eight upbeat shows from bands like The Mockingbirds and Fire on High. Families gathered weekly to enjoy music, splash pad fun, and concessions, thanks to support from Community First, Seehafernews.com, Nicolet National Bank, and other local sponsors. Attendees praised the events: "Had a great time at the concert tonight, thank you Two Rivers!" These concerts showcased our community's love for live music and promise another exciting summer ahead.

Central Park West an Award Winning Venue

1. The Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association awarded the City the Park Design Award for a project completed between \$1,000,000 and \$3,000,000. The award judged on innovation, functionalism, aesthetics, community benefits, environmental stewardship, and maintenance.
2. The Chamber of Manitowoc County awarded the City the Collaboration Award, recognizing a county project, activity or event for its progress, success, innovation, and contribution to the community during 2024.
3. Progress Lakeshore awarded the City the Community Enhancement Award recognizing a business or organization that has made a substantial impact on the quality of life in the county by creating projects to make the county a more attractive place to live and work.



Support for Community Partners Events

The Parks and Recreation Department supports the many events led by community organizations taking place in parks and the Community House. We are proud to be a part of this amazing community!



Heart-A-Rama



Applefest



Cool City Classic Car Show & Cruise



Ethnicfest



Latino-American Festival



Beach Bash



Rogers Street Days



National Night Out



Kiwanis Fish Derby



Snowfest



Bryan Lee Blues Festival



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