

## Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

To: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission

From: Kristine Butteris, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

Date: 4/15/2025

Subject: Rock River Rescue request

### Background

Tom Brady, member of The Rock River Rescue Foundation – Heiden Pond Committee, would like to propose placing a pier at Heiden Pond to access the Franklin Street Side of the pond. The foundation has been stocking the fish and maintaining Heiden Pond for many years. Their intent is to provide a safe and accessible fishing area for families in Watertown and surrounding communities.

The City of Watertown is currently in the process of updating the Parks and Open Spaces Plan which will highlight what the needs of the area are.

We currently have 14 fishing access points and four accessible fishing piers along the river.

### Budget Goal

- Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity

- Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities

### Financial Impact

This project would take multiple hours of staff time to complete a DNR permit application as well as approximately \$9,000 for a fishing platform install. This cost does not include design as DNR will request proper design of pier before approval of permit.

### Recommendation

We would like to recommend we wait to see what the Parks and Open Spaces Plan recommends for future additions and improvements to the parks and recreational areas of the City of Watertown.