



Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Lake Minnewashta Regional Park - Shop
6900 Hazeltine Blvd
Chanhassen, MN 55331

5:30 pm Tour
7:00 pm Regular Meeting

AGENDA

- 1)** Call to Order (7:00 p.m.)
- 2)** Roll Call (7:05 p.m.)
- 3)** Approval of Agenda (7:05 p.m.)
- 4)** Approval of the March 13, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes (7:05 p.m.)
- 5)** Commissioner Liaison Report (7:05 p.m.)
- 6)** Open to the Public (7:10 p.m.)
- 7)** Consent Agenda (7:15 p.m.)
 - a.** Special Use Permit: Car Shows
 - b.** Special Use Permit: Walk on Waconia
- 8)** New Business (7:30 p.m.)
 - a.** Special Use Permit: RibFest
 - b.** Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Playground Color Selection
- 9)** Informational (7:45)
 - a.** Historical Interpretive Signage at Paradise Commons
- 10)** Staff Reports (7:55 p.m.)
 - a.** General Operations & Recreation Services
 - b.** Maintenance and Natural Resources Operations
 - c.** Administrative Update
 - i.** Parks Strategic Capital Investment Plan Follow-up
- 11)** Commission Member Reports (8:10 p.m.)
- 12)** Next Meeting Date (8:15 p.m.)
 - a.** May 8, 2024
 - b.** Baylor Regional Park & DRRT
- 13)** Adjourn (8:20 p.m.)

Upcoming Events and Activities

6/18/24: Coney Island Monument Recognition
6/21/24: Paradise Commons Grand Opening & Community Celebration (Paradise Beach Bash)

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Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Wednesday March 13, 2024
Lake Waconia Regional Park – Sun Room
8170 Paradise Lane
Waconia, MN 55387

6:30 pm Regular Meeting

MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order (6:30 p.m.)
 - a. R. Welch called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
- 2) Welcome New Member Jon Thom (6:30)
 - a. Staff and commissioners all introduced themselves.
- 3) Roll Call (6:35 p.m.)
 - a. Present: Jenn Brewington, Scott Knight, Mark Lagergren, Jon Thom, & Reid Welch
 - b. Absent: Christine Fenner & Makiza Johnson
 - c. Liaison/Staff: Tim Lynch, Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Jake Sandvig, & Hope Mack
- 4) Approval of Agenda (6:35 p.m.)
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda made by J. Brewington; Seconded by S. Knight; Passed 5-0
- 5) Approval of the February 21, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes (6:40 p.m.)
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes made by M. Lagergren; Seconded by S. Knight; Passed 5-0
- 6) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:40 p.m.)
 - a. Commissioner Lynch stated that the County Board has approved the Baylor Regional Park boardwalk repair contract and is very excited for work to begin this spring.
- 7) Open to the Public (6:45 p.m.)
 - a. N/A
- 8) New Member Orientation (6:50 p.m.)
 - a. M. Walsh shared an orientation presentation.
- 9) New Business (7:30 p.m.)
 - a. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Playground Color Selection
 - i. The commissioners reviewed the color options, recommended to ask a few questions to SRF, and asked to bring back options 2 & 3 at the next meeting.
 1. Motion to table the color selection made by M. Lagergren; Seconded by S. Knight; Passed 5-0
 - b. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Natural Resource Management Plan / Recommendation to Contract for Grant Application and Project Delivery
 - i. J. Sandvig reviewed the plan written by RES which identifies opportunities for improvement, prioritizes projects, and provides a roadmap to plan and budget. RES has also proposed to assist with applying for a grant. If we are awarded the grant, then Staff has recommended a sole source contract with RES to perform the work.

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1. Motion to recommend the plan and grant application for approval by the County Board made by M. Lagergren; Seconded by J. Brewington; Passed 5-0

10) Informational Items (8:00 p.m.)

- a. Parks Strategic Capital Investment Plan
 - i. M. Walsh explained that work continues on the presentation and was not ready in time for the meeting for the Commission to get a preview. He invited members to attend the upcoming workshop with the County Board on March 26, 2024.

11) Staff Reports (8:15 p.m.)

- a. General Operations & Recreation Services
 - i. S. Pertz reported that the Maple Syrup Festival is on 4/6/24, Paradise Beach Bash is on 6/21/24, Sun Room reservations are going very well, and that we have our new Recreation Program Educator starting on 3/18/24.
- b. Maintenance and Natural Resources Operations
 - i. J. Sandvig reported that there will be no EAB injections done this year, the WEC demolition is complete and work on the gravel parking lot is being done, the maintenance dock at Lake Waconia will be placed east of the beach, the west dock on Coney Island will be extended, one dock is in at the Lake Minnewashta boat launch, campground cleanup has begun, repairs are underway on the DRRT, the lights in the Lake Waconia parking lot will be completed by May, and that work on the Baylor boardwalk will be beginning soon.
- c. Administrative Update
 - i. Once the County Board approves a policy on cannabis use, it will be shared with the Park Commission.

12) Commission Member Reports (8:30 p.m.)

- a. Lagergren stated, if able, attend the Maple Syrup Festival.
- b. A question was raised about public response to announcing there will not be lifeguards this season. Tim Lynch stated the County Board has not received any comments on it.

13) Next Meeting Date (8:35 p.m.)

- a. April 10, 2024: Lake Minnewashta Regional Park
 - i. Meet at the shop at 5:30pm
- b. Locations were selected for spring/summer site tours.

14) Adjourn (8:40 p.m.)

- a. Motion to adjourn at 8:25pm made by J. Brewington; Seconded by S. Knight; Passed 5-0



**Carver County
Parks and Recreation**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
CC: Martin Walsh, Parks Director
FROM: Sam Pertz, Parks & Trails Supervisor
SUBJECT: Special Event Use Permit: T-Road Tavern Classic Car Shows
DATE: April 2, 2024

This memorandum outlines the pertinent details for review and recommends authorization of a special event use permit on/in the regional park & trail areas operated by Carver County. By Park Ordinance 91.04 – B special use within the County Park system requires the issuance of an authorized use permit. This request is defined as a tier two event per County Policy and requires formal action of the Park Commission and authorization by the County Board.

T-Road Tavern: 2024 Classic Car Shows

Applicant: T-Road Tavern, Joe Lemmerman

Date(s): Thursday(s), June 6 – October 31 (weather dependent).

Location: Town of New Germany: Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Carver County Regional Railroad Authority (CCRRA) Property.

Event Purpose: Classic car roll-in show, social atmosphere, promotion of community events/activities.

Anticipated Attendance: Attendance is estimated at 100-350 people per event date, depending on environmental conditions and season two event growth.

Impact on Park System: Similar to 2023, the request for use of CCRRA property is strictly for participant parking – see site map included.

Required Permit Items Obtained & Reviewed: The required permitting items have been provided, reviewed, and verified to meet County requirements. Insurance coverage in the area of liquor liability and general liability has been provided and also meets requirements. The City of New Germany has issued a use permit for these events. With anticipated recommendation from the Park Commission, Board action is tentatively scheduled for May 7, 2024.

Significant Elements/ Items of Attention: These events are in the second year of operation and generally year one did not present any issues. Staff did not receive reports of unintended outcomes from the event, or the City of New Germany. The request is for use of the CCRRA property for attendee parking. The consumption of alcoholic beverages will be permitted by the City of New Germany during the hours of 5:00pm -8:00pm, which is consistent with the County Permit. Sales and distribution of beverages with alcohol is to be provided by nearby bar establishments involved with the event. There will not be a beer garden or external location of a bar service, where alcohol is sold and/or served on CCRRA premises. Off-sale beverages

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containing alcohol and bringing of personally owned beverages containing alcohol to the event site is prohibited, ie. cooler in trunk etc.

Permit/Use Fees: Use Fees have been applied consistent with the 2024 Regional Rail Authority Fee Schedule.

Number of Years a Special Event Use Permit has been Issued: Year two.

Staff Notes: Year one of these events went well and staff were not made aware of any issues. As the event continues to grow, additional considerations for how the regional rail authority property is used to support the event(s) will need to be conducted. The permittee is aware of scheduled park maintenance operations pertaining to grounds and site upkeep. As was the approach in 2023, the use permit will include language that indicates an ability to amend, or withdraw the permit based on observance by staff as well as feedback by City of New Germany staff.

Recommendation: It is requested that the Park Commission recommend to the Carver County Regional Rail Authority issuance of a Special Event Use Permit to T-Road Tavern, Joe Lemmerman, for the coordination of classic car shows on Thursdays beginning June 6 - October 31, 2024 and use of the Regional Rail Authority property as described.



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Google Maps

CAR SHOWS



Imagery ©2024 Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2024 Google 50 ft



**Carver County
Parks & Recreation**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
CC: Martin Walsh, Parks & Recreation Director
FROM: Sam Pertz, Parks & Trails Supervisor
SUBJECT: Request for Special Event Use Permit: "Walk on Waconia" Fundraiser, Waconia Food Shelf
DATE: April 2, 2024

The Waconia Food Shelf has requested a special event use permit to conduct a walk-a-thon event at Lake Waconia Regional Park. This memorandum outlines the pertinent details for review and to recommend issuance of a use permit consistent with County Ordinance Chapter 91: Parks and Recreation. (91.08 – Other Special Activity Uses)

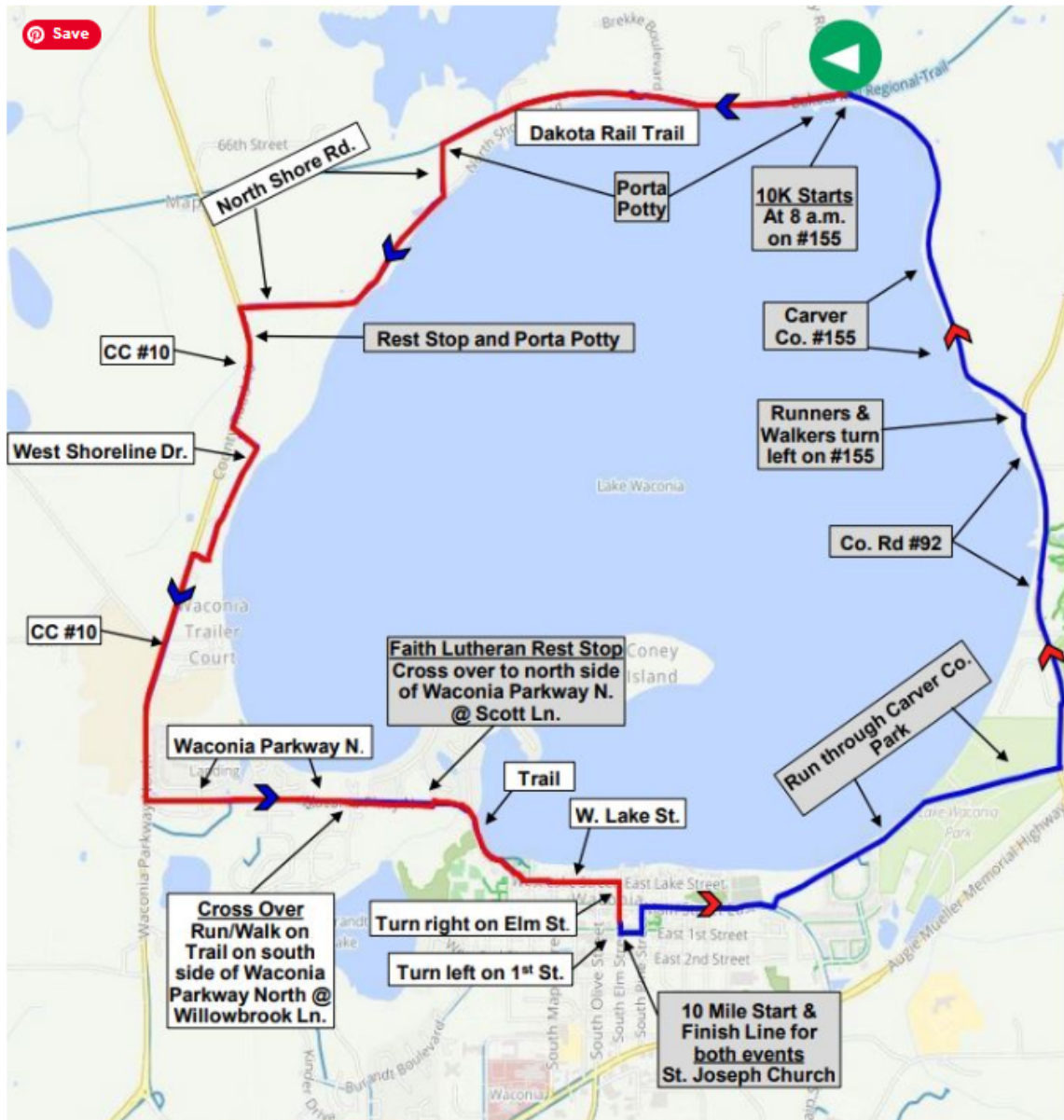
Waconia United Food Shelf – Walk on Waconia Fundraiser

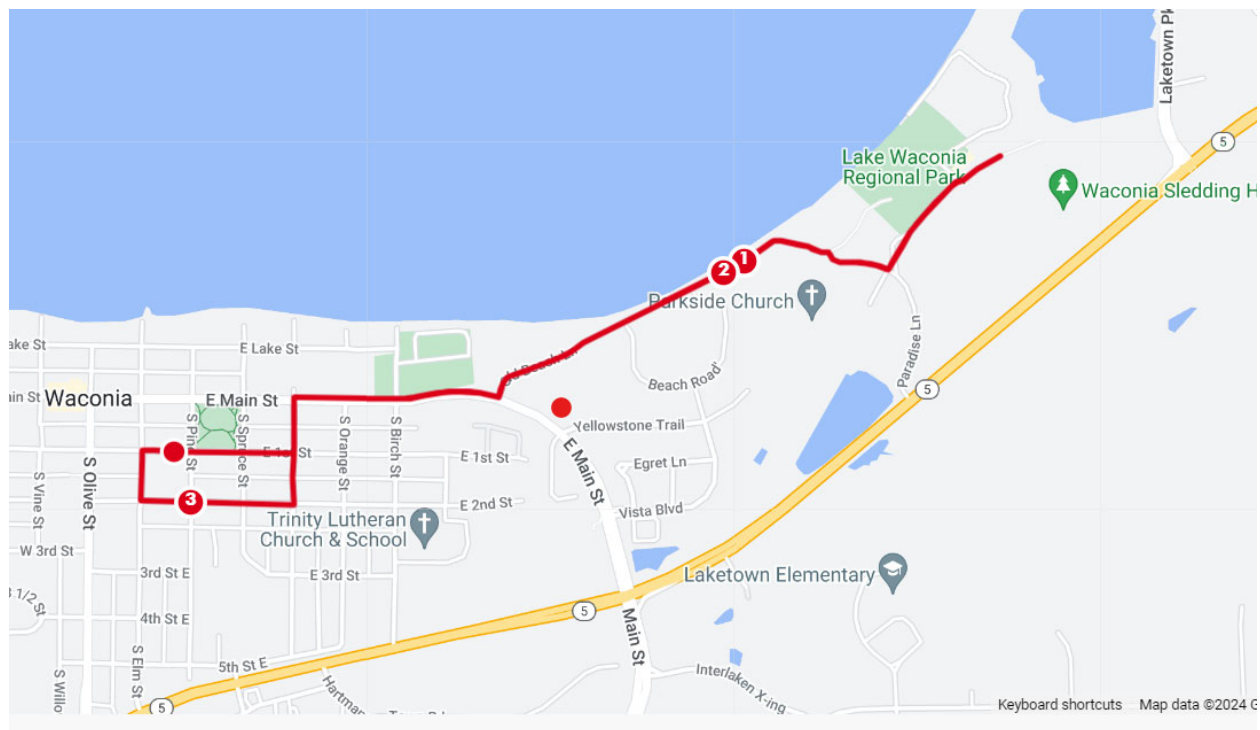
- **Event Date:** Saturday, May 18, 2024 (no back-up date is planned)
- **Location:** Lake Waconia Regional Park, City of Waconia, and a segment of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail.
- **Event:** 5k, 10k and 10 mile walk/runs to raise funds for the organization and its community initiatives.
 - All three distances begin at 8:00a.m.
- **Estimated Attendance:** This event has typically ranged from 300-500 people total (participants, spectators and coordinating personnel).
- **Impacts on County Park & Trail facilities:** Minimal to none.
 - The event route(s) (see enclosed maps) now utilizes the new trail connection that navigates the park property west to east from downtown Waconia to CR92. Additionally, a segment of the Dakota Rail corridor (CR155 and Hwy 10) along the north side of Lake Waconia is utilized for safe participation as compared to the roadway. There have not been any negative impacts to the park grounds with this event in past years.
- **Permit Requirements:** All required items have been submitted to the Department, have been reviewed and are approved to meet County requirements. The Department has also been provided the use permit issued by the City of Waconia for this event.
- **Permit Fees:** Applicable fees per the 2024 County Fee Schedule have been invoiced.
- **Permit History:** This is the 8th year this event has requested a use permit. No concerning history.
- **Other Information:** This event does not require additional services of the County – the group is self-sufficient. Standard site checks for condition of trail surfaces and useability are conducted by park maintenance prior to the event.

Recommendation: It is requested that the Park Commission recommend to the County Board issuance of a Special Event Use Permit to the Waconia United Food Shelf for their Walk-on-Waconia fundraiser planned to be held on May 18, 2024.

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2024 10K (In Red, starts at top of Lake Waconia) and 10M (In Blue) Routes







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Parks and Recreation**

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Cologne, MN 55322

MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
CC: Martin Walsh, Parks Director
FROM: Sam Pertz, Parks & Trails Supervisor
SUBJECT: Special Event Use Permit: T-Road Tavern RibFest BBQ Event Series
DATE: April 5, 2024

This memorandum outlines the pertinent details for review and recommends authorization of a special event use permit on/in the regional park & trail areas operated by Carver County. By Park Ordinance 91.04 – B special use within the County park system requires the issuance of an authorized use permit. This request is defined as a tier two event per County Policy and requires formal action of the Park Commission and authorization by the County Board.

T-Road Tavern: 2024 RibFest BBQ Event Series

Applicant: T-Road Tavern, Joe Lemmerman

Date(s):

- Confirmed requested date at this time: August 10, 2024.
- *Potential* additional dates: June (1,14,15,16,28,29,30) July (5,6,7,26,27,28) August (9,10,11,30,31) September (1,7,8,21,22,28,29) October (5,6)

Location: Town of New Germany, Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Carver County Regional Railroad Authority (CCRRA) Property

Event Purpose: Informal BBQ competition, promotion of community activities, social atmosphere.

Anticipated Attendance: 75-150 people per event date is anticipated.

Impact on Park System: Regarding the August 10 event, the request is to use the CCRRA properties for the primary location for event activities of BBQ area, eating, social area/seating, temporary bar service, temporary structures (event tents), and amplified music.

Required Permit Items Obtained & Reviewed: The required permitting items have been provided, reviewed, and verified to meet County requirements. Insurance coverage in the area of liquor liability and general liability has been provided and also meets requirements. The City of New Germany has issued a use permit for these events. With anticipated recommendation from the Park Commission, Regional Rail Authority Board action is tentatively scheduled for May 7, 2024.

Significant Elements/Items of Attention: RibFest events are in the second year of operation and generally year one went well. Staff did not receive reports of unintended outcomes from the event, or City of New Germany. The request is for use of the CCRRA property as described above as it pertains to the August 10 event.

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The consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted by the City of New Germany, which is consistent with the County Permit. Sales and distribution of beverages with alcohol is to be provided by nearby bar establishments involved with the event.

On August 10, an external bar service location it is requested to be set up on the CCRRA property.

The applicant has also requested the potential to have other dates for RibFest events. At the time of this application, the additional potential dates are not confirmed. Staff is requesting authorization to issue additional RibFest event dates and permitting of alcohol as may be confirmed with the applicant upon appropriate notice and confirmation of applicable license and insurance.

Off-sale beverages containing alcohol and bringing of personally owned beverages containing alcohol to the event(s) site is prohibited (ie. cooler in trunk etc.).

Permit/Use Fees: Use Fees have been applied consistent with the 2024 CCRRA Fee Schedule.

Number of Years a Special Event Use Permit has been Issued: Year two.

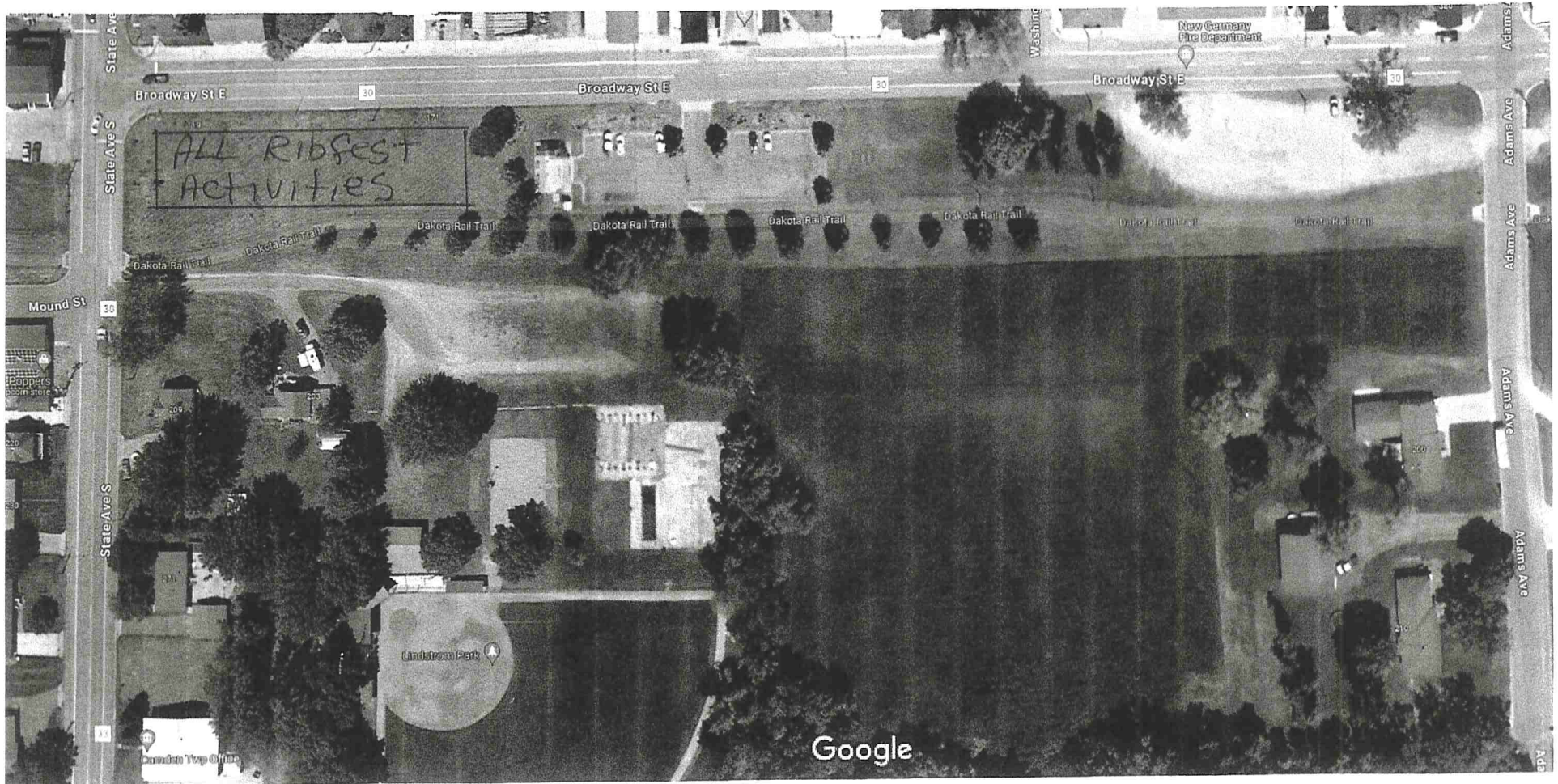
Staff Notes: Year one of these events went well and staff were not made aware of any issues. As the event continues to grow, additional considerations for how the Carver County Regional Rail Authority property is used to support the event(s) will need to be conducted. The permittee is aware of scheduled park maintenance operations pertaining to grounds and site upkeep. As was the approach in 2023, the use permit will include language that indicates an ability to amend, or withdraw the permit based on observance by staff as well as feedback by New Germany staff.

Recommendation: It is requested that the Park Commission recommend to the Carver County Regional Rail Authority issuance of a Special Event Use Permit to Joe Lemmerman. The planned event date is August 10, 2024.

It is also requested the Park Commission recommend to the County Regional Rail Authority that staff be given the authorization to permit other Rib Fest event dates and the sale of alcohol on CCRRA property as may be confirmed upon appropriate notice, confirmation of applicable license and insurance.

Google Maps

Ribfest



Imagery ©2024 Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2024 Google 50 ft



Carver County Parks

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
FROM: Martin Walsh Parks and Recreation Director
SUBJECT: Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Playground Color Selection
DATE: April 5, 2024

At the March 13, 2024 meeting, we shared the recommended color combinations for the Burke playground equipment to be supplied by St. Croix Recreation.

At the meeting, Commissioners were in general agreement with selecting the color combination of black, burgundy, grey, and green.

Additional information was requested about the susceptibility of the colors to fading and heat absorption on dark colored equipment due to the sun.

St. Croix Recreation has responded that it is recommended to stay away from bright reds as they have a tendency to sun fade and heat absorption has not been a problem on dark colors.

Attached for review is the playground equipment shown in the various color combinations that were presented at the last meeting.

Recommendation:

It is requested that the Park Commission select a color combination for the playground.

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Lake Minnewashta Playground Color Options

Option 1





COLOR KEY	
●	CHARCOAL
●	REDWOOD
●	OLIVE
●	ORANGE
●	OLIVE/BLACK
●	ORANGE/BLACK







BURKE
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Option 2





3D Designer: Kendra





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Option 3





3D Designer: Kendra



COLOR KEY



COLOR KEY



COLOR KEY	
	TAN
	OLIVE
	BLACK
	GREEN/TAN







Carver County Parks

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
CC: Martin Walsh, Parks and Recreation Director
FROM: Sam Pertz, Parks & Trails Supervisor
SUBJECT: Historical Interpretive Signage, Paradise Commons
DATE: April 5, 2024

Considerations for historical & cultural interpretation have been planned for the grounds of Paradise Commons. The construction project included two wall coverings in the lobby that provide users an opportunity to encounter historic photos of past use of Coney Island. The final stage of this project will be developing a summarized narrative that explains the photo and displaying that information on a wall plaque in relation to the photo.

Additional work has been underway to develop historical interpretive content for the exterior of the building. Four locations were determined last year and coordination with the concrete contractor was arranged to include the concrete pads needed for signage installation. The enclosed site plan of the project shows the approximate signage locations.

The content, starting with the four subjects listed below, has been an outcome of staff working in partnership with the Waconia Heritage Association. The Carver County Historical Society is also actively supporting this work, including content review for historical accuracy and supplying the selected photos. The content, in a draft 60% design phase, is included for the Commission's awareness.

1. Local rail lines/trains
2. The Yellowstone Trail
3. Ice harvesting from Lake Waconia
4. Lakeside Ballroom/Paradise Night Club

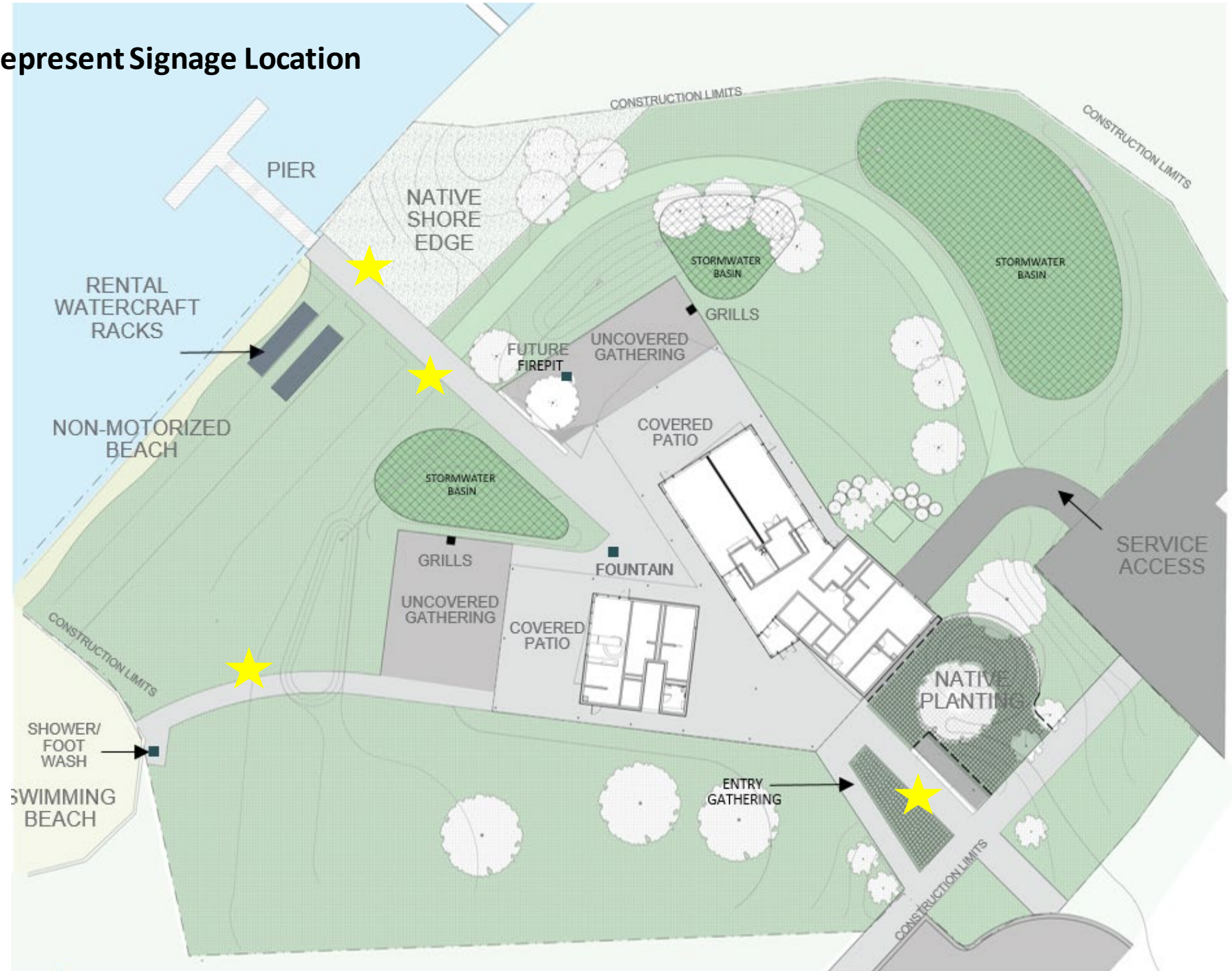
The Department has used a professional design firm in Waconia to assist with the content development and overall design of the sign panels.

The project is scheduled to be completed by June 21 in time for the public grand opening of Paradise Commons. Remaining work is to complete the design of the interpretive signage and source the sign structures. Staff have interest in purchasing the units from a sign vendor in Waconia that has good experience with this work. The overall costs of the project are programmed in the department's 2024 budget.

Recommendation: Staff are not seeking a recommendation on this item. The information is provided for awareness and to obtain any feedback offered by Park Commissioners.

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Yellow ★ Represent Signage Location



Paradise Night Club / Lakeside Ballroom

1933–1956



Paradise Night Club: Escape from the Daily Realities of the Great Depression

Otto "Buck" Krueger erected Paradise Night Club, a 55×100' structure on an old cement factory site, in 1933. The club boasted a spacious dance floor, booths, a stage, refreshment counter, sizable kitchen, ticket office, lobby, and a fully excavated basement for parking. Buck ensured its doors stayed open daily, believing in the necessity of joy during tough times.



"The Place to Be"

Otto and his children were involved in every event. The club was incredibly popular, hosting nightly dances accompanied by live bands. Wednesday evenings became a favorite among the younger crowd who roller-skated to the tunes of popular music from the jukebox.

1971–1978



exterior photo of new building, 1973–1982

A Fire and Unsteady New Beginnings

After being sold by the Krueger family, the club continued to be popular but also faced some turbulent times, culminating in a combustion explosion in 1971 that destroyed the building.

John Wicker erected a larger structure on the same site in 1973. However, issues persisted, including fines for permit violations and unlicensed sale of 3.2 beer by successive owners. Ultimately, in 1978, the sheriff sold the property.

1982–2008

exterior photo of building with Bavarian facade, 1973–2009

For the following 27 years, the Wageners orchestrated a multitude of events, including polka dances, rock concerts, charitable benefits, local fundraisers, teen dances, roller skating, indoor volleyball, and over 1500 wedding receptions.

interior photo? concert, wedding, roller-skating, volleyball

or Wagener family working an event

Lakeside Ballroom: The Wagener Family's 27-Year Reign

In 1982, Elmer and Rick Wagener transformed and renamed the establishment to Lakeside Ballroom, showcasing a distinctive Bavarian facade.



When the Wageners bid farewell to Lakeside Ballroom upon its sale to Carver County in 2009, Rick said, "We continued to do this because we enjoy people. It's what has made this so special."

2009–2023



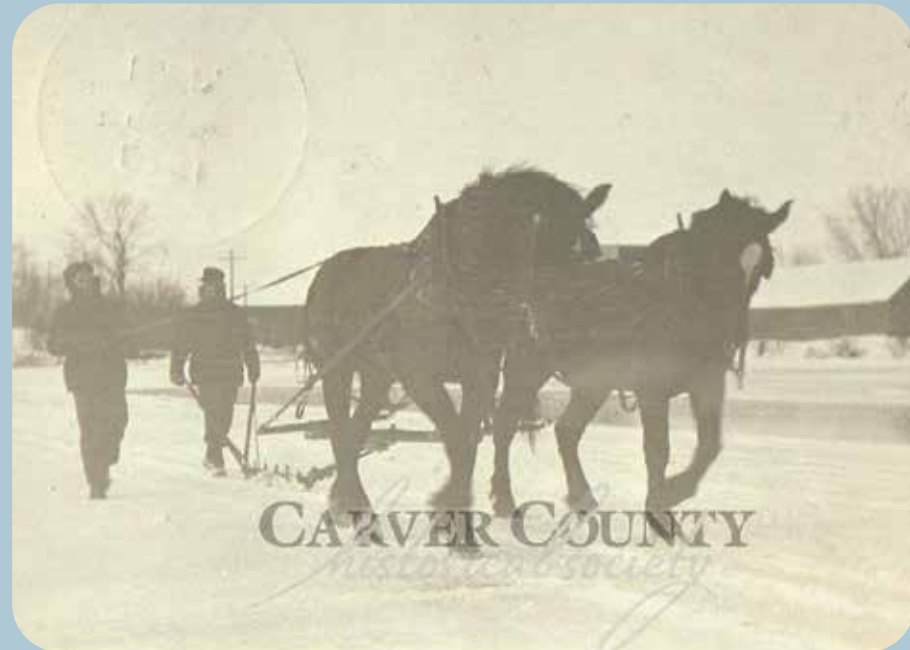
Changing Times Call for a New Reality

In 2009, Carver County Parks reopened the venue as Lake Waconia Event Center, with Lancer Catering managing the events.

There was still a large bar, wooden dance floor, and stage, and as one of the largest venues in the area it continued to host wedding receptions, meetings, banquets, picnics, and other entertainment. But ballrooms were on the decline, being replaced by community centers and dedicated wedding venues. By 2023, the only significant event since 2019 had been COVID-19 screenings and vaccinations. It was decided that costs to renovate or rebuild were too high, and the building was razed.

Ice Harvesting on Lake Waconia

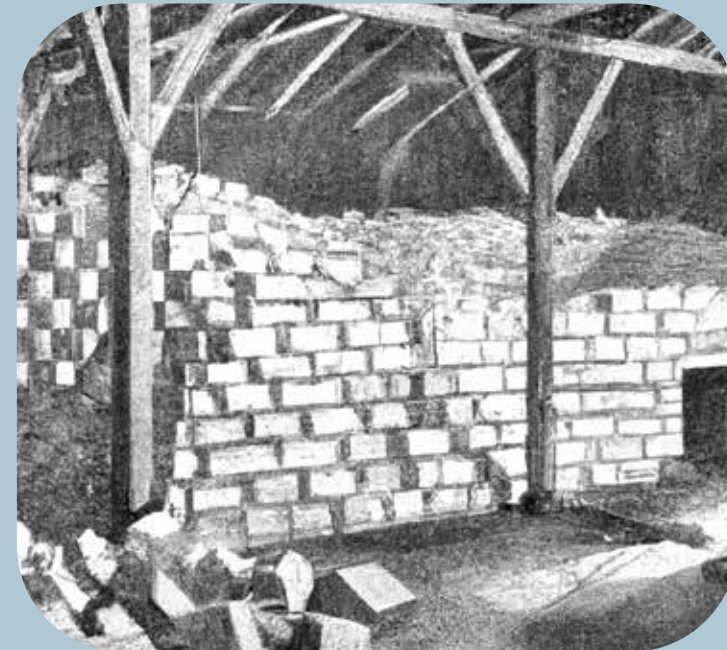
1800s



Icy Beginnings

Before refrigeration, people harvested ice during the coldest months for year-round use. Family farms, saloons, breweries, hotels, and merchants cut ice and maintained ice sheds to store perishable foods throughout the year.

1870s–Early 1900s



Community Cold Storage

In 1893, Lake Waconia froze solid with ice blocks as thick as 29 inches. Waconia entrepreneur John Radde harvested the ice by hiring men (known as icemen or icejacks) to cut, split, and pack ice blocks into sawdust-insulated sheds to be delivered throughout the warmer seasons. During warm months, "the iceman" delivered ice three times a week, and local children greatly anticipated his visits.

1902–1904

The ice harvest left treacherous open water, which in later years had to be fenced.
~Carver County Historical Society



Ice—A Cold Gold Rush

January was the golden month for ice harvesting—the ice was most likely to be hard and clear and the harvesting conditions were safer for the icejacks and teams of horses.

The Boston Ice Company

With the rise in demand for ice from the Twin Cities, the Boston Ice Company moved to Waconia, expanding its operations. They harvested 80,000 pounds of ice in 1902, storing it in massive ice sheds by the east shore. The 1904 tornado wiped out their storage, but they had a 6000-ton icehouse rebuilt in time for the January 1905 ice harvest.

1908–1916: Waconia's Icy Tale Evolves



Era of Expansion

In 1908, the Boston Ice Company expanded by constructing twelve 80×80×100 foot ice bins. A crew of ninety men and fifteen horses could harvest 20,000 cakes of ice in ten hours. Horses cleared the snow from the ice, and two-man gas-driven saws cut the ice into floats which were further broken down into blocks that were 18×30×18 inches. An escalator helped in lifting and packing the ice in the icehouses.

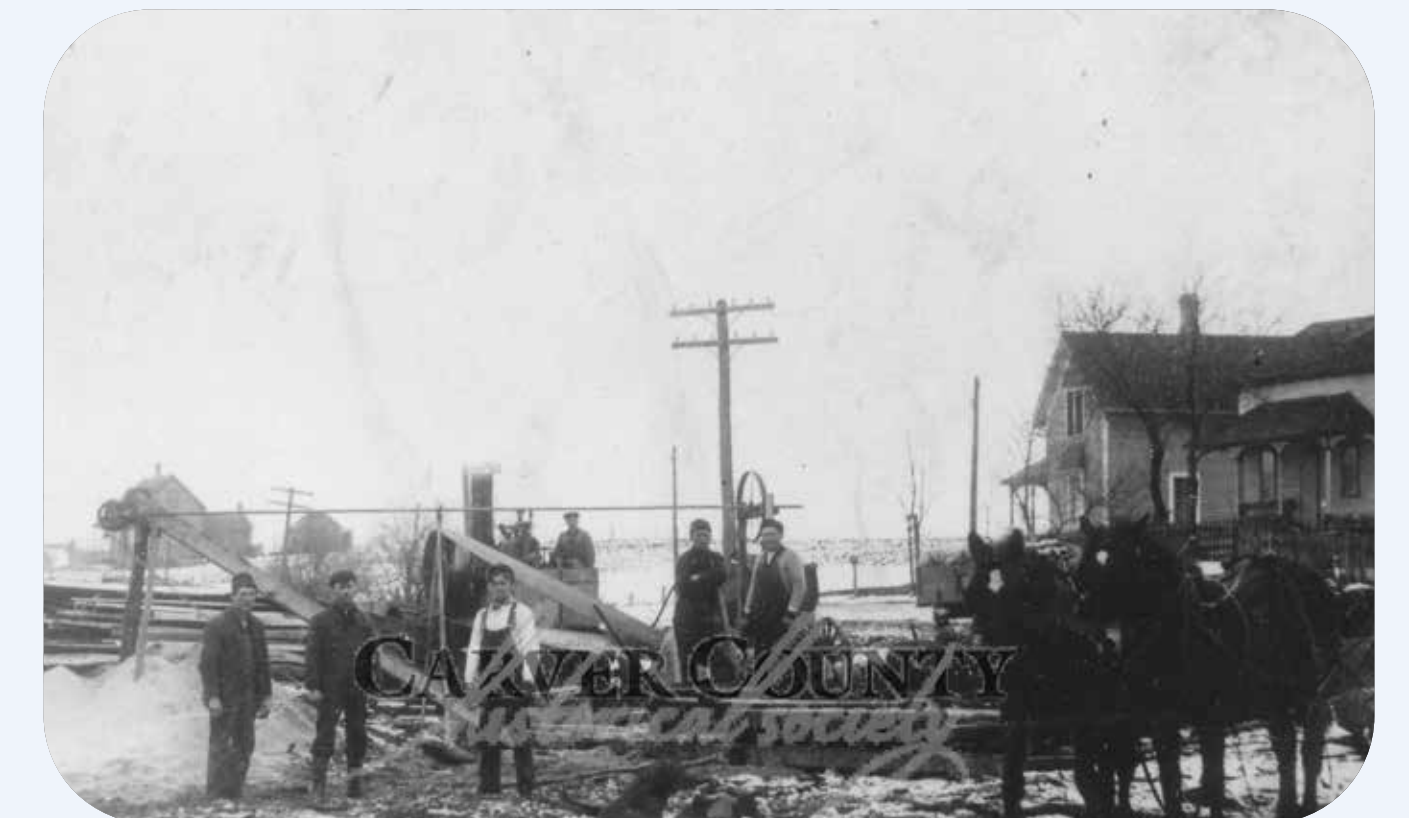
An ice-cutting crew on the east shore of Lake Waconia. ~Carver County Historical Society



Ice, Tech, and Challenges

In 1912, the Minnesota Ice Company took over the Boston Ice Company, employing 120 men to harvest 45,000 tons of ice in a single season: equipment malfunctions, worker strikes, and environmental concerns made for dramatic years. Two local men created the Waconia Ice Company for locals because the Minnesota Ice Company began shipping ice directly onto train cars bound for the twin cities instead of storing it locally.

1923–1940s



Melting Away—The End of an Era

The lake's dwindling levels due to high ice extractions signaled the need for change. The US government enacted The Rural Electrification program, revolutionizing life in rural Minnesota and across the country. Waconia's ice industry gave way to a warmer, electric future.

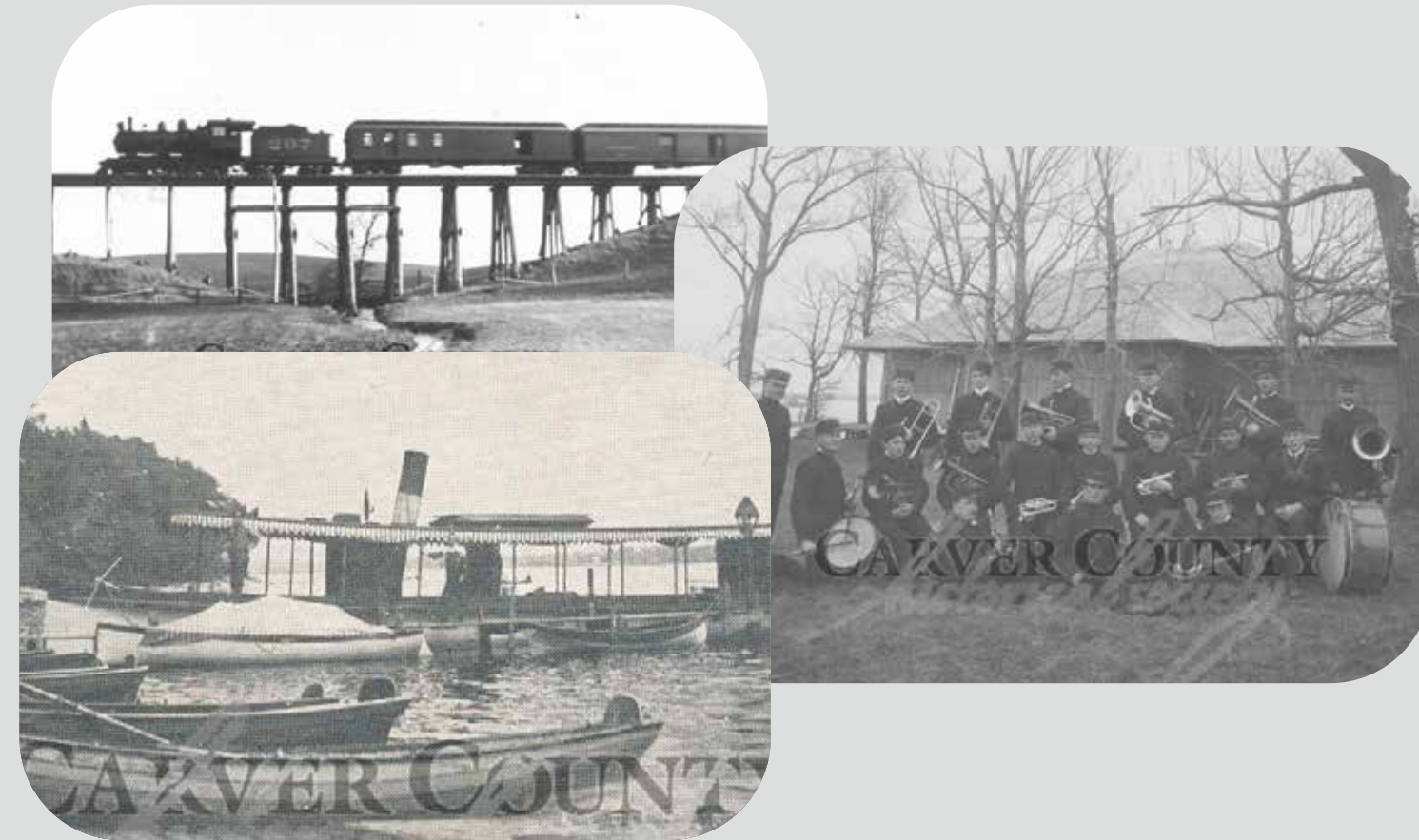
Train Service—Gateway to Adventures

1880s



Arrival of trains to Waconia

1881 The Minneapolis & St. Louis (M&StL) Railroad brings the first rail service to Waconia. This major event launched a new chapter in Waconia's history, transforming the town into a hub of tourist activity and progress. The first station was built south of the lake.



Steamboats *Germania* and *Niagara*

1882–1885 M&StL Railroad introduces Sunday round-trip excursions to Waconia from the Twin Cities and other towns and states. The launch of steamboats *Germania* and *Niagara* bolsters Waconia's tourism, providing spacious rides and onboard entertainment for large groups.



Great Northern

1886 The Great Northern Hutchinson branch stretches its tracks north of the lake, amplifying the region's rail network. Coney Island Station depot is established, providing a strategic link to a nearby dock for tourists.



Tourist Paradise

Despite a modest population (418 in 1900), Waconia boasts three train stations. The town becomes a magnet for hundreds of visitors, whether on day trips, weekends, or extended stays.

1890s – Early 1900s



Daily Passenger & Freight

1894 A Saturday evening train to Waconia and a Monday morning train to Minneapolis are introduced. The M&StL Railway offers daily passenger and freight services in both east and west directions. In 1896 they introduce a refrigeration car that facilitates butter delivery from Waconia to New York City.



"Sundaying in Waconia"

"Sundaying" involved a myriad of leisure activities – from picnicking, swimming, fishing, music and dancing, to challenging the local "Waconia Blues" in baseball. The steamer *Coney Island* transported people to and from Coney Island at a round trip fare of 10 cents. Often times a band accompanied excursions or played and marched on foot from the Waconia depot to the boat landings.



Summer Excursions

1903 M&StL constructed a spur, a short branch line off their main track, providing easy access to the lake. The town built a shelter over the train platform. Hundreds of passengers could disembark and walk to a dock to board a steamer for a trip to Coney Island or a cruise around the lake.



Winter Commerce

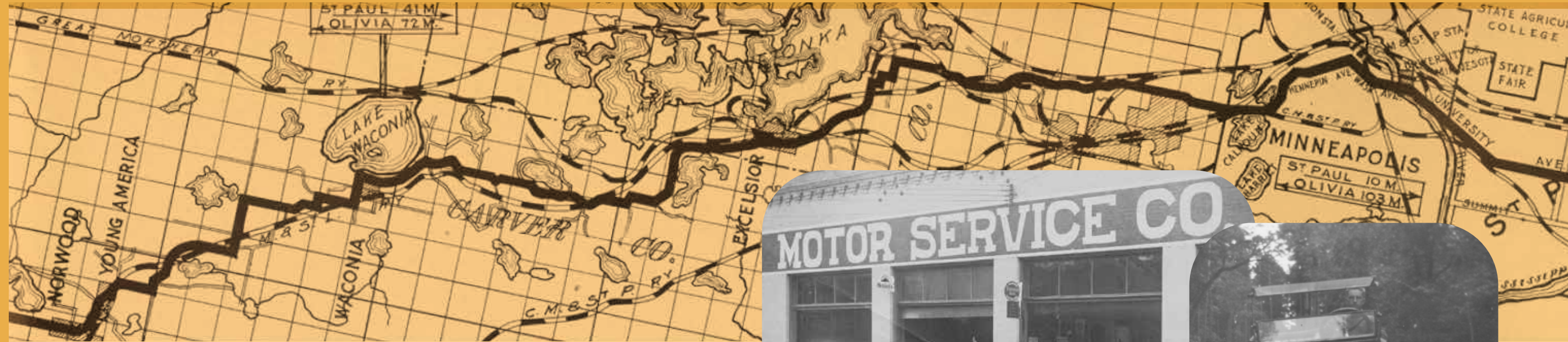
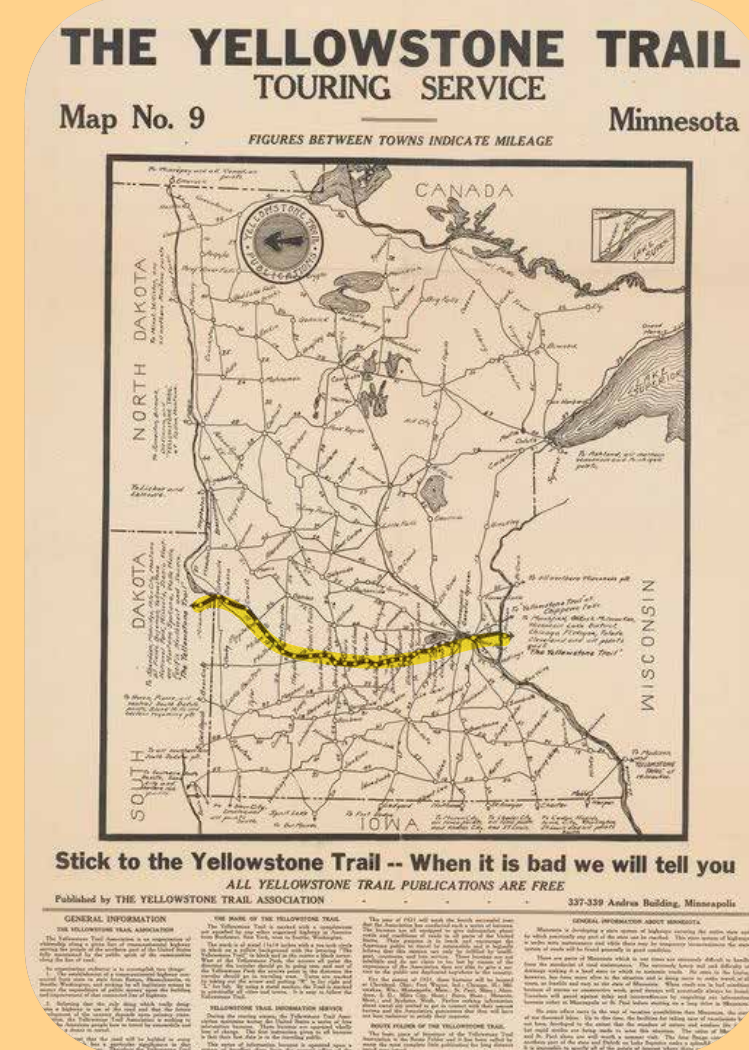
This spur line becomes crucial for the ice harvesting business in Waconia. In 1923 tons of ice was loaded onto train cars bound for the Twin Cities. Rail service continues until the later part of the 1920s.

Yellowstone Trail—Historic National Auto Route



"A Good Road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound"—The Yellowstone Trail Motto

1912, a group of small town businessmen in South Dakota undertook an ambitious project to create a useful auto route across America, the Yellowstone Trail, passing through this very area in Waconia. This was a time when roads weren't marked, there were few maps and slippery mud was the usual road surface. The Yellowstone Trail Association charted the automobile route, improved roads, provided maps, and boosted tourism, driving nationwide efforts for better highways. This significant highway brought forth a united effort for improvement.



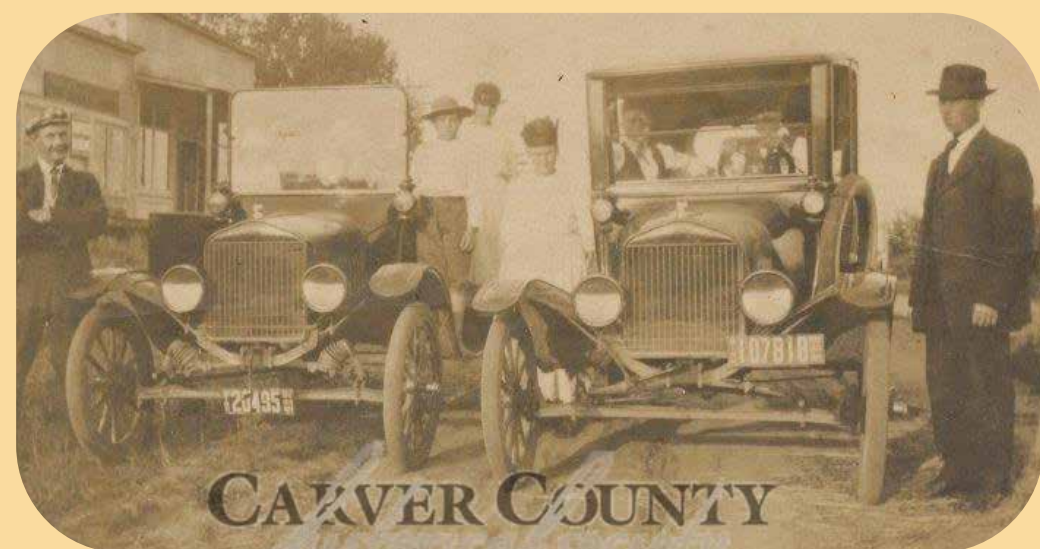
1912–1915

Establishing The Trail— Shaping Our Nation's Journey

"The Yellowstone Trail" was named to draw travelers to Yellowstone National Park. When the link between Chicago and Yellowstone Park was completed in 1915, the trail became a major trans-continental route, offering new opportunities for the towns and cities it passed through. The trail represents a

significant part of the nation's history, showcasing collective effort, progress, and the burgeoning era of automobile travel. The Waconia Commercial Club, alongside delegations from neighboring areas, actively participated in its establishment, making the trail a reliable route for travelers.

1916



Relay Race Highlight

In 1916, a relay race from Plymouth Rock to Seattle, covering over 3700 miles, marked a significant event over the Yellowstone Trail. Traveling at an average speed of 31 miles per hour, racers sped through towns, including a high-speed pass through Waconia, emphasizing the trail's importance for quick and reliable travel.

1917–1920

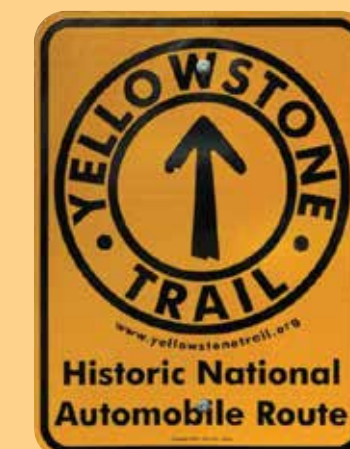


Road Conditions

In the 1920s the use of Road Condition Map Services developed. These maps were corrected each week.

Traffic Growth on the Trail

Despite early weather challenges, traffic flourished on the Yellowstone Trail. By 1917, a week witnessed over 1850 automobiles passing through Waconia alone. By 1920, the trail's reach extended from Cleveland, OH to Seattle, WA, and was in the process of further expansion towards the Atlantic, marking its place as a transcontinental highway in the United States.



Continued Legacy

Although the trail is not definitively marked, today's visitor can retrace history by walking the original Yellowstone Trail, from Waconia Regional Park about .7 miles to Main Street and beyond to Walnut Street, right to 2nd Street and on to Norwood. The path takes you through scenic landscapes, reflecting the journey of early 20th-century travelers.