

December 2023 Public Works Report

Roads

- The mild weather throughout the entire month resulted in zero snowplowing days for December 2023. However, despite the lack of snow to be removed from the roads, the unseasonably warm conditions enabled the crew to stay very busy with outdoor projects.
- Beginning on Dec. 6th, the crew ditched approximately 1.2 miles of the southwest section of North Shore Road, in separate areas. The project would have continued if not for some mid-month frost, but two of the flatter problematic drainage areas (proven last April), were dealt with accordingly and a few hundred yards of material were hauled away.
- The Xmas holiday weekend presented three days of rainy, windy weather, which resulted in multiple downed trees and debris to be cleaned up. Thankfully no power outages or anything too serious occurred.
- The beaver activity has increased dramatically along Black Shanty Road, and a particular culvert north of Umbrage Road, where poplar trees were dropped into the northbound lane. The county crew is aware, and we are monitoring the activity. Dams that could result in culvert blockage will continue to be removed as temps drop at night, and trapping will take place if the county deems it necessary.

Parks

- Two additional memorial benches were installed in Russell Park, and supplementary topsoil was spread around the new and existing benches, as well as the Gateway sculpture.
- Ray and I met with the Library Director, and together we have a great plan in place for ice rink maintenance at the Rec Center this winter season, temperature dependent of course. On 12/14, 30 yards of coarse sand was hauled to the rink and leveled out with the Town's skid steer. If a rink can be built, the main Rec room ONLY will be available and heated for skaters. On that note, the Rec Center public bathrooms are still open as this report is being written, which must be a record.
- I successfully won a bid through Wisconsin Surplus online auction for a mid-sized used playground put up by the City of Chippewa Falls. The final price was \$2,446.89, which was taken from the Joni's Beach designated fund. What began as a joke resulted in the crew driving down to Irvine Park of Chippewa Falls on 12/12 and trailering back a disassembled playground. The crew spent 12/19 – 12/23 assembling the playground at Joni's, which replaces the plastic playground unit which we estimate to have been at least 35 years old. The old unit will be auctioned next summer. Extra thanks to Ray and Evan Jr. for an early cold morning disassembly. Thanks very much to donors of the past who wanted to see Joni's Beach improvements years ago. Playground edging, bench swing, and new fence to be installed next spring, or as weather allows.

Drive safe in 2024,
Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram, Public Works Director