



# Ashland

WISCONSIN

March 13, 2014

Ms. Laurel Sukup  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Via E-Mail

E-mail: [laurel.sukup@wisconsin.gov](mailto:laurel.sukup@wisconsin.gov)

Re: 2013 Green Tier Legacy Community Annual Report

Dear Ms. Sukup:

Enclosed you will find the 2013 Green Tier Legacy Community Annual Report for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin. The report is being submitted as part of the community's obligations under the Green Tier Charter.

Should you or the Steering Committee have any questions on the content of the City's 2013 report, please direct your inquiries to Ms. Sara Hudson, Ashland Parks and Recreation Director at 715-582-7059 or via e-mail at [shudson@coawi.org](mailto:shudson@coawi.org).

Thank you for your understanding in the City's tardiness in submitting the 2013 annual report to the Committee.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ASHLAND

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Mann", is written over the typed name.

Pete Mann  
City Administrator

Enclosure  
2013 Annual Report

cc: Sara Hudson



Ashland  
WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS & RECREATION

Bretting Community Center  
400 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Ashland, WI 54806  
715.682.7059

[www.ashlandparks.org](http://www.ashlandparks.org)

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## City of Ashland

### 2013 Green Tier Legacy Community Annual Report

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#### Transportation

- **New Public Transit Facilities** – Bay Area Rural Transit (BART), the regional public transportation service, completed construction of a \$2.5 million facility funded 100% through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The new facility includes BART offices, a public meeting room, heated and unheated maintenance bays.

#### Land Use

- **Invasive Species Workshop** – Community volunteers, Ashland County Land and Water Conservation, City of Ashland, National Park Service, National Forest Service, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Northland College interns and Northwood Cooperative Weed Management agencies participated in the identification and removal of invasive species within Prentice Park.
- **Beach Management** – The City of Ashland agreed to host the regional beach groomer previously hosted by Northland College to continue with efforts to clean municipal beaches and improve water quality. The program was initiated through a regional partnership created to access Great Lakes Restoration Initiative monies.
- **Prentice Park Trail Projects** - Phase VII of the City's Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvement Program (financed in part by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation) was initiated in May of 2013 to connect the Ashland Waterfront Trail with the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor pedestrian and bikeway. By Sept of 2014, non-motorized and pedestrian traffic will be able to access a 10 mile connected trail through the City of Ashland via Prentice Park. The City also received a grant from Wisconsin Coastal Management to improve two miles of trails and build a canoe/kayak landing on the banks of Fish Creek within Prentice Park; both projects will be constructed to accommodate 2010 ADA Standards.
- **Preparing for EAB** – With the announcement that the emerald ash borer has reached Superior, the City has begun preparations to address the ramifications of this latest attack by a non-native insect on the community's urban forest.



- **Community Garden** – Beaser Park has become the home of Ashland’s only community garden with a number of available low cost garden plots for Chequamegon Bay community members.
- **CBAP – The Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership (CBAP)** - The City Continues to participate in the Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership (CBAP), a coalition of area agencies, governments, organizations, and institutions that aspire to improve the ecological, economic, and social fabric of the Chequamegon Bay area of Lake Superior through collaborative natural resource decision-making and implementation. Strategic Priorities include the development of a regional natural resource management strategy and implementation plan and expansion of the coordination, communication and implementation capacity of the collaboration
- **Shoreline Restoration** - The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funded 4,100 feet of shore land restoration at Memorial and Bayview Parks. The restoration effort included elimination of invasive species, planting of native species, and the monitoring over 10 years of the ecological benefits achieved. Project partners of this restoration effort include the WI Department of Natural Resources, the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College, the City of Ashland, Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department, the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area and UW Extension.
- **NSP Ashland Lakeshore Superfund Site** - The City held a number of community visioning sessions to assist in the post remediation development of a portion of the City’s lakefront contaminated with wastes from a former manufactured gas plant. The intent of the exercise was to make the remediation consultants and regulatory agencies aware of what the community needs in the remedial design to insure that the site becomes a usable community asset and not merely a capped landfill.
- **Soo Line Oredock** – The demolition of the concrete superstructure of the Wisconsin Central (Soo Line) Oredock began the first step in the conversion of another portion of the City’s Industrial waterfront to public use. The City will continue with its efforts to acquire the ore dock base for a public promenade and fishing pier.
- **H. Pearson Plaza** – The City of Ashland and U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc. were selected for an American Planning Association Wisconsin Chapter (APA-WI) Urban Design Award for the creation of a downtown public plaza. The award was based on five criteria: Originality and Innovation; Value Added to the Community; Quality of the Physical Form; Relationship to the Natural Environment; and Long-term Sustainability.
- **Bayview Park Pier**- The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program awarded a planning grant to the community to assist with increased accessibility of the waterfront at Bayview Park. The funding was for the first phase of a possible three phase project to reconstruct the Bayview Pier into a new ADA compliant fishing, swimming and viewing pier.

## Water

- **Utility's I/I program** - The City initiated a program through the assistance of an ACOE Section 154 grant to televise and repair deficiencies in the city's sanitary sewer collection system. Specifically, the program is investigating public and private sources of Inflow & Infiltration (I & I) in an effort to minimize sanitary sewer overflows keeping the utility in compliance with federal and state regulations while reducing the operating & maintenance costs of the wastewater treatment facility.

## Waste

- **Eagle Waste and Recycling** – Citizens can now single stream recycle in 96 gallon recycling carts thanks to The City's new garbage and recycling contractor Eagle Waste and Recycling.

## Recognitions

- **Bird City** – Ashland was awarded Bird City recognition in 2013
- **Tree City** – Ashland has been recognized as a Tree City for nine years
- **Water Star Community** – City of Ashland was recognized as a Water Star Community for its efforts to provide safe and abundant ground water, control runoff, maintain and enhance desirable aquatic habitat, and provide appropriate recreational opportunities for the citizens.