



601 Main Street West
Ashland, WI 54806

City of Ashland

2015 Green Tier Legacy Community Annual Report

Build and Buy Green

- **New Fire Station:** In the spring, ground breaking commenced of the first new fire station in Ashland in 94 years for the purpose of consolidating operations of the Ellis and Beaser Stations into one 21st century facility.
- **Prentice Park Camping Facilities:** In 2015 the WCM for Prentice Park Access and Trail improvement was closed out. Thru this grant, the City was able to update 2 miles of trail into ADA compliancy, provide easy access to the duck pond, artesian well, large pavilion, small pavilion and playground. This grant also assisted with the purchase of a new inclusive swing and swing set bay at the park plus a seasonal fishing pier that can be used as a canoe and kayak landing to access and explore the Fish Creek Slough located in Prentice Park. In the fall of 2015, construction started on the parks campground, and the City received a DNR Stewardship Grant for the redevelopment of the campground and construction of a new comfort station. When finished the campground will have 6 RV sites with water, electric, Wifi, easy access to showers, plus 10 tent sites located in the City.

Transportation

- **Major Street Repairs:** Plans have been set in place for the much needed repaving of 6th Street, a large thoroughfare through Ashland, also known as Highway 137. This project will incorporate new utility infrastructure, as well as new sidewalks on one side of the street. Grant funding has been secured for the repaving and utility improvements on 7th Ave E as well.
- **Pedestrian Underpass Mural Project:** In late 2015, startup funds were secured for a community mosaic/mural project to be installed in the Ed Griffiths pedestrian underpass in 2016. The underpass safely links Ashland's downtown to its waterfront for pedestrians, wheel chair users, and bikers. The mural will be aimed to draw attention to these community assets, form regional partnerships, and celebrate the regions ecological wonders.

Land Use

- **NSP Ashland Lakeshore Superfund Site:** The City is in the process of finalizing a land-use plan based on community input for post remediation of the site. The intent is to make the community desires for post remediation known, so that the site can become a usable community asset and not merely a capped landfill.
- **Roffers Site:** Final funding for the clean-up of a roughly 4 acre brownfield site in the heart of an established residential district in Ashland is being secured. The clean-up is anticipated for summer 2016, and the site should be ready for development shortly after.
- **Bike Trail Connected:** In late 2015, the final leg of the Ashland Rails to Trails System (ARTS) was complete linking Maslowski Beach and Prentice Park to the rest of the trail system. Residents and visitors can now ride, run, walk or skate on 11.5 miles of paved trail in and around the City of Ashland. The whole trail was funded by DOT Pedestrian Infrastructure Funds.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update:** *Authentic Ashland 2035*, the 10 year update of the City of Ashland Comprehensive Plan, is underway. The City is working with consultant group CZB, addressing the needs of the community and involving citizens in every piece of the process. In this plan, special consideration will be given to sustainability, and downtown access.

Energy

- **LED lights.** The City received a grant for over \$16,000 to replace several existing fluorescent street lights with LED bulbs, in an effort to greatly reduce unnecessary electrical consumption.
- **25 by 25 Group Reenacted:** In late 2015 a group of regional stakeholders have come together to resurrect an effort started in 2009 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by the year 2025. This group works to share knowledge, discuss sustainable energy initiatives in the works, and identify ways to work together and move forward on opportunities for regional energy improvements.
- **Mayors Compact:** In November, 2015, Mayor Deb Lewis agreed to work towards complying with the “Compact of Mayors”, the world’s largest cooperative effort among mayors and city leaders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, track progress, and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Water

- **Ore Dock Project:** Work towards the redevelopment of the Ore Dock base for public recreational use began in 2015, with consultant group Smithgroup JJR Westbrook hired on to assist City staff and citizens in this effort. In late 2015, several public input sessions were held to inform the design of the dock base and upland area.
- **Resolution to protect water quality:** the City Council passed a resolution to protect City water, air, and overall well-being from the harmful impacts of potential CAFOs in the Chequamegon Bay region.
- **Maslowski beach:** With funding from Wisconsin Coastal Management, the City is working with Northland College on the Maslowski Beach Water Quality Education project. The Burke Center performed additional water quality testing to identify possible sources of pollution at the beach. The Center for Rural Communities (CRC) performed social surveys to see why people are swimming at Maslowski, assessing the effectiveness of the public education process on beach advisories. The CRC helped in the design of the new sign to be installed May, 2016, to education beach goers on water quality issues. These signs will also indicate whether the beach is open, under advisory or closed. In December of 2015, the City was invited to apply for an EPA Green Infrastructure Grant to assisting the redevelopment of Maslowksi Beach thru green practices to improve water quality.
- **Bay view beach:** With the input of citizens, plans have been created for an update and redesign of Bay View beach and pier. In late 2015, the City applied for two grants to help with the construction phase of this project. The City has been given verbal notice that both of these awards were granted. Construction is hoped to start in fall of 2016. The City is waiting on a third and final grant to pay for the project.
- **Beach Monitoring:** Maslowski, 6th Ave, and Kreher beaches continue to be monitored 2 days per week and after large rain events, seasonally. Northland College will be using modeling and actual lab samples to determine advisories and closures. The City received approval to send 10-16 water samples from Maslowski to Milwaukee to get DNR review, to try to figure out where the E.coli contamination is coming from (avian, human, dog, cow, etc.). The DNR will find a funding source to make this happen. Chris McNerney at Northland and Cyndi Zach from the Health Dept. have been key in making sure that this happens.

Waste

- **Eagle Waste and recycling:** The City has continued their contract with Eagle Waste and recycling, providing municipal single-stream recycling services and waste pick-up to residents throughout the City.
- **City yard waste:** The City continues to provide a yard waste disposal site, available for City of Ashland residents, located at the City of Ashland Public Works Facility.
- **Paint exchange:** The paint exchange is a community program set up to help residents recycle paints and painting supplies so that the polluting substances stay out of our landfill and our precious water supply. It is a self-service exchange, located at the City of Ashland Public Works Facility. All usable paints and supplies can be dropped off and picked up at this location.