



Take notice that a meeting of the City of Ashland Committee of the Whole will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 in- person in the City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Main Street W. Ashland, WI with the availability to attend virtually. Meeting will begin immediately following the adjournment of the City Council Meeting to consider and act upon the following agenda.

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/500263957>

Or dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1-877-309-2073 Access Code: 500-263-957

Please contact the Clerk's office if you require accommodations to attend the meeting.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Council President's Report
3. Administrator's Report
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Committee Updates
6. Discussion Items
 - A. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Revisions to the City's Fee Schedule** (*Planning Director*)
 - B. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Resolution to Apply for WI DNR State Aid for Recreation Purposes: DNR Stewardship Grant, DNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant and DNR Recreation Trails Program** (*Parks and Recreation Director*)
 - C. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the City of Ashland Trails Master Plan for Recreational Use** (*Parks and Recreation Director*)
 - D. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Revised City of Ashland Employee Handbook** (*Administration*)
 - E. **Discussion and Possible Regarding the Proposed *Good Governance for the City of Ashland*** (*Councilor Ortman*)
7. Items for Future Discussion
8. Adjournment

Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 – 6:00 PM
601 Main Street W. Ashland WI 54806



The CITY of
ASHLAND
WISCONSIN

The City of Ashland does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities.

NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Ashland will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals or individuals with limited English proficiency through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the City Clerk's Office at 715-682-7071 (not a TDD telephone number) or FAX: 715-682-7048

SUBJECT: Committee Updates

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion only

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Council President

CLEARANCES:

EXHIBITS:

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: NA

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

ASHLAND ORE DOCK BOARD OF TRUSTEES: TOCHTERMAN
DISABLED PARKING ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: GRAF
HARBOR COMMISSION: PUFALL
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: GOYKE
HOUSING AUTHORITY: SEEFELDT
MAIN STREET COMMITTEE
MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD: JACKSON
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE: SEEFELDT
PLAN COMMISSION: TOCHTERMAN
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: GOYKE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE: GRAF

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Revisions to the City's Fee Schedule (*Planning Director*)

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Planning and Development

CLEARANCES: City Administrator

EXHIBITS: 1. Chapter 165 Comprehensive Fee Schedule with Proposed Changes

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Planning and Development Department is proposing changes to some permit fees in the City's Fee Schedule.

The dollar threshold where permits are required for commercial projects is \$2,500 rather than \$5,000 in labor and materials as listed in the fee schedule currently. Permits are required for any commercial project where work of \$2,500 or greater is proposed. Building Inspector Steve Schraufnagel discussed this with former Planning and Development Director Megan McBride and the Planning Department has required permits for commercial projects of \$2,500 or greater. The City's current fee schedule states that projects over \$5,000 require a permit.

Staff recommends changing the fee schedule to ensure consistency with the City's building permit application. In Section B (Commercial Construction Permits) on the Fee Schedule, staff recommends changing the dollar threshold for the following:

- Miscellaneous repairs under ~~\$5,000~~ \$2,500 in labor and materials, which do not involve structural alterations, or changes to existing egress, do not require a permit.
- Projects over ~~\$5,000~~ \$2,500 in labor and materials or structural alterations, or changes to existing egress, at any cost, require a permit.

For interior and/or exterior demolition permits the Planning and Development Department would require permits for projects where the dollar threshold is \$5,000 or greater for residential demolitions and \$2,500 or greater for commercial demolitions or structural changes. A \$50 flat fee would apply for demolition permits and the intent of the fee is to cover the staff time involved in reviewing and processing the permits. On projects where demolition and remodeling are proposed the demolition permit and fee would be included in the permitting process. Staff would like to codify the fee required for demolition permits and ensure that demolitions and structural changes are reviewed and inspected as part of the permitting process. By doing so, the Building Inspector can ensure that demolitions occur in accordance with pertinent building codes and that unsafe conditions are avoided. With the process proposed the Inspector can ensure that lead paint, asbestos removal, dust control, and the building's structural integrity will be done/maintained properly.

Staff recommends the following changes in Section D. (Moving and Demolition).

- Change the heading to Moving / Raze / Interior / Exterior Demolition
- Change 2. Demolition Permits to 2. Raze Permits
- Add 3. Interior/Exterior Demo: \$5,000 or greater for residential, \$2,500 or greater for commercial or structural changes - \$50 fee.

Raze permits are required when an owner plans to demolish all or part of a structure. An example is if an owner wants to demolish a detached garage and remove it from the property. Interior/Exterior demolition permits would be required for remodeling projects especially where demolition of interior walls or structural changes are proposed. An example is if an owner or tenant would like to remove interior walls and partitions and replace with a new configuration in an existing building. Staff believes that the proposed changes to the fee schedule will ensure consistency with the building permit application and codify when interior/exterior demolition permits are required. More importantly, the changes will ensure that appropriate permits are required for demolition projects and that proper material disposal occurs. The inspector can verify that the building's structural integrity is maintained during the process. Staff recommends COW approval of the revisions proposed and referral to the Council for review.

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMS

<u>AMBULANCE FEES:</u>	<u>Resident**</u>	<u>Non-Resident**</u>
Basic Life Support	\$1,300.00	\$1,500.00
Advance Life Support 1	\$1,400.00	\$1,600.00
Advance Life Support 2	\$1,800.00	\$1,900.00
SCT Base Rate	\$1,900.00	\$2,000.00
Mileage	\$22.00	\$24.00
Oxygen	N/A Bundled into base	N/A Bundled into base
Spinal Immobilization	\$155.00	\$155.00
Residential 4th Lift Assist or > in a year	\$175.00	\$300.00
List Assist at a Nursing Facility	\$175.00	\$175.00
Non-Resident Lift Assist or No Transport		\$300.00
Ambulance Transfer with no medical necessity	\$450.00 + mileage	\$550.00 + mileage
BLS on Scene Care	\$400.00	\$400.00
ALS on Scene Care	\$1,000.00	\$1,300.00
Intravenous Access at a Medical Facility	\$175.00	
**Fee increases includes billed supplies		**Fee increases includes billed supplies

APPARATUS FEES:

Engines	\$475.00 per hour
Aerial Apparatus	\$650.00 per hour
Tanker	\$450.00 per hour
Command Vehicle	\$175.00 per hour
Ambulance	\$300.00 per hour
Ambulance for Local Events	\$120.00 per hour/per ambulance
*Non-Subscriber Ambulance Fee	\$2,100.00 per call
Brush Truck	\$285.00 per hour
Ice Angel	\$575.00 per hour
Snowmobile/Rescue Trailer	\$175.00 per hour
Haz Mat Trailer	\$500.00 per hour
Extrication Equipment	\$175.00 per hour

*A non-subscriber fee will be charged to townships that do not currently have an agreement with the City of Ashland for fire protection and emergency medical services. This amount will be charged on top of the non-resident fees.

Accommodation Tax Permit Application fee \$5.00

AIRPORT

<u>Hangar Use (all fees + tax)</u>			
Single engine	Daily	\$25.00	
	Monthly	\$80.00	
Twin engine	Daily	\$50.00	
	Monthly	\$150.00	
Lease	\$0.10 per square foot		
Parking	\$15.00 per month		

ANIMAL LICENSES/FEES

DOG LICENSE

Neutered/Spayed	\$15.00
Unneutered/Unspayed	\$22.00

CAT LICENSE

Neutered/Spayed	\$13.00
Unneutered/Unspayed	\$18.00

KENNEL FEES

Licensing	\$50.00
Animal Pick up fee	\$20.00

NSF FEE

Non-Sufficient Fund (NSF) Fee	\$25.00 per check
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RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION

48 Gallon container	\$10.00/month
64 Gallon container	\$15.00/month
96 Gallon container	\$20.00/month
Container Replacement Fee	\$75.00

BURNING PERMIT FEES

Bonfire Permit [978.16(f)]	\$10
burning for Agricultural Clearing [978.16 (c)]	\$50
burning for Industrial Clearing [978.16(c)]	\$50

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

BUILDING PERMITS

All fees shall **DOUBLE** if the work requiring a permit is commenced without a permit. Additionally, a \$100 - \$1,000 penalty may be enforced against any person, contractor, company, or agent who commences work on a project which does not have a valid building permit. All residential permits, unless otherwise specified, shall be valid for one year (12 months) from the time of issuance, and all commercial/industrial permits shall be valid for two years (24 months) from the time of issuance.

Unless otherwise specified, all inspection fees are included in Building Permit fees.

A RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

1. New UDC Homes

Plan review fee	\$400.00
Building permit/ Inspections	\$250.00 Manufactured Home \$300.00 Custom or Stick Built Home
State Seal	\$100.00
Electrical permit	\$100.00
Plumbing permit	\$5.00 per fixture - \$50 minimum
Occupancy permit	\$100.00
New Build Inspection Fees	\$0.05 per sq foot

2. Alteration/Remodel or Additions (Except siding and roofing projects) \$5.00/\$1,000 of project cost - minimum fee = \$50.00
** Miscellaneous repairs under \$5,000 in labor and materials, which do not involve structural alteration, or changes to existing egress do not require a permit.*
**Projects over \$5,000 in labor and materials, or structural alteration or changes to existing egress, at any cost require a permit.*

3. Roofing and Siding Projects (including replacement / repair of roof or siding)
**Roof or siding projects with material cost under \$1,000 do not require a permit*
 Roof projects with material cost over \$1,000 \$30
 Siding projects with material cost over \$1,000 \$30

4. Handicapped ramps No fee but permit is still required

**Materials and labor are considered at market value, as if a paid contractor was installing.*

B. COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

(Note: a development permit and site plan review may be required for commercial projects.)

1. New Construction and Additions

- * Does not apply to unfinished storage buildings or airplane hangars*
 \$0.25 per square foot- Minimum fee is \$250

2. Alterations and Remodeling to an existing structure (including handicapped ramps)
**Certificate of Appropriateness maybe required on designated Historical Structures or being within a designated Historical Districts*
 Changing \$5,000 to \$2,500 **Miscellaneous repairs under \$2,500 in labor and materials, which do not involve structural alterations, or changes to existing egress, do not require a permit. The cost of furniture and removable equipment/fixtures is excluded from project cost.*
 Changing \$5,000 to \$2,500 **Projects over \$2,500 in labor and materials or structural alterations, or changes to existing egress, at any cost require a permit.*
 \$5.00 per \$1,000 for first \$1,000,000 of project cost - Minimum fee is \$50
 \$3.00 per \$1,000 for project cost over \$1,000,000

3. Roofing and Siding Projects (including replacement / repair of roof or siding)
Roof or siding projects with material cost under \$1000 do not require a permit.
 Roof projects with material cost over \$1000 \$75.00
 Siding projects with material cost over \$1000 \$75.00

4. Warehouse / self-storage / hangars \$5.00 per 1000 square feet - \$100 minimum
 5. Communication structures/towers \$5.00 per \$1,000 of project cost - \$100 minimum
 6. Occupancy Permit \$100.00 flat fee
(Additional fee not required if issued in conjunction with a Building Permit.)

C. PERMIT FEES PERTAINING TO ALL CONSTRUCTION

1. Plumbing Permits

New plumbing fixtures	\$5.00 per fixture - \$50 minimum
All other plumbing alterations for projects of \$5,000 or greater with labor and materials	\$5.00 per \$1,000 of project cost-- \$50 minimum

2. HVAC Permits

HVAC (New)	\$5.00 per \$1,000 of project cost-- \$50 minimum
HVAC (Replacement)	\$5.00 per \$1,000 of project cost-- \$50 minimum
<i>All other HVAC alterations for projects of \$5,000 or greater with labor and materials</i>	

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

**Residential HVAC replacement requires no permit if heating type & location of heating system is unchanged.*

3. Electrical Permits		
Establish new service		\$100.00
<i>All other electrical alterations for projects of \$5,000 or greater</i>		\$5.00 per \$1,000 of project cost-- \$100 minimum
<i>*No permit required for replacement of existing service panel or wiring update.</i>		
4. Renewal of Expired Building Permit		
	25% of original permit fee	
* Valid for renewals within 36 months of permit expiration. If a permit lapses for longer than 36 months, a new Building Permit and plans must be submitted and the full permit fee shall be paid.		
5. Accessory structures under 600 square feet		
		\$50.00 flat fee
6. Accessory structures over 600 square feet		
		\$5.00 per 100 sq ft - \$50 minimum
7. Accessory structures - Storage canopy (of any size)		
		\$50.00
8. Decks		
		\$50.00
9. Fences		
	Up to 50' in length	\$50.00
	Fences 50' - 200'	\$75.00
	Fences over 200'	\$100.00
10. Parking Lot/Driveway		
	Pervious surface	\$3.00 per \$1,000 of project value-- Minimum \$100
	Impervious surface	\$5.00 per \$1,000 of project value-- Minimum \$75
11. Solar arrays (rooftop or ground mounted)		
		\$2.50 per \$1,000 of project value-- Minimum \$50.00

D. MOVING / RAZE / INTERIOR/EXTERIOR DEMOLITION

1. Moving Permits		
	Move buildings or structures that are under 600 sq'	\$25.00
	Move buildings or structures that are over 600 sq'	\$50.00
2. Raze Permits		
Change Demolition to Raze in Section 2	Razes up to 600 sq'	\$30.00
	Razes over 600 sq'	\$5.00 per \$1,000 of project cost - Minimum \$50.00
3. Interior/Exterior Demolition Permits		
	\$5,000 or greater for residential, \$2,500 or greater for commercial or structural changes	\$50.00

E. MISCELLANEOUS PERMITS

1. Early Start Permit (for footings and foundation)		
	Residential	\$75.00
	Commercial	\$100.00
2. Certificate of Appropriateness		
	No Fee	

PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT FEES

All fees shall double if the work requiring a permit is commenced without a permit.

A. Development Permit Applications (i.e., Change of Use, Bed & Breakfast Establishment & Fill Permits)		
		\$75.00
B. Site Plan Review Applications:		
1. New Development less than 10,000 square feet		\$200.00
Review Fee for Amended Site Plan that requires Plan Commission review		\$75.00
Review fee for Amended/Revised Plan Set that requires City staff review		\$50.00
2. New Development greater than 10,000 sq ft.		\$350.00
Review fee for amended site plan that requires plan commission review		\$175.00
Review fee for amended/revised plan set that requires only city staff review (not plan commission)		\$75.00
C. If engineering services are required as part of the site plan review, the following fees apply to land disturbances greater than 10,000 square feet		
	Erosion Control	\$100.00
	Storm Water Management Plan Review	\$100.00
D. Conditional Use Permit Applications (Class 2 Public Hearing Notice)		
	Republication Fee	\$50.00
E. Map (rezoning) and/or Text Amendment to Unified Development Ordinance Applications (Class II Public Hearing Notice)		
		\$200.00
	Republication Fee	\$100.00

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

<u>F. Variance and Appeal Request Applications</u>		\$500.00
(Class I Public Hearing Notice)	Republication Fee	\$100.00
<u>G. Comprehensive Plan Amendment Applications</u>		\$500.00
<u>H. Right-of-Way Vacation / Discontinuance Applications (Class III Notice)</u>		
	Alley Vacation / Discontinuance Application	\$250.00
	Street Vacation / Discontinuance Application	\$500.00
	Republication Fee	\$150.00
<u>I. Sale Price of Vacated / Discontinued City Right-of-Way</u>		\$0.25 / sq. ft.
<u>J. Land Transfers</u>		
	Public Notice Fee for Request to Purchase City Owned Property	\$150.00
	Republication Fee	\$100.00
	Down Payment for Request to Purchase City Owned Property	\$500.00
<u>K. Request to Name or Rename Public Improvements</u>		
	Public Notification Fee for Request	\$150.00
	Republication Fee	\$100.00
<u>L. Special Planning Commission Meetings (requested by applicant)</u>		\$400.00
<u>M. Application for Certified Survey Map Review</u>		\$50.00
<u>N. Application for Plat Map/ Subdivision Plat Review</u>		
	1. Preliminary Plat Review	
	Principle Fee	\$150.00
	Fee for each lot in excess of one	\$25.00
	2. Final Plat Review	
	Principle Fee	\$75.00
	Fee for each lot in excess of one	\$5.00
<u>O. Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) Review</u>		
	1. General Development Plan (PUD-GDP)	
	Principle Fee	\$150.00
	Fee for each lot in excess of one	\$25.00
	2. Specific Implementation Plan (PUD-SIP)	
	Principle Fee	\$75.00
	Fee for each lot in excess of one	\$5.00
<u>P. Three Year Keeping of Animal Permit (i.e. Chickens, Rabbits, Beekeeping)</u>		\$50.00
<u>Q. Public Art Permit Application (i.e. Murals)</u>		\$50.00
<u>R. Sign Permits & Applications</u>		
	1. Permanent Signs	\$50.00
	2. Permanent Electrically or Mechanically Energized Animated Sign (i.e. message boards) and Joint/Area Identification Sign Application	\$50.00
	3. Temporary Sign Permit	\$10.00
	4. A \$50 - \$500 penalty may be enforced against any person, contractor, company, or agent who commences installation or modification of a sign which does not have a valid sign permit.	
<u>S. Billboard Licenses</u>		
	1. Per sign annual fee	\$50.00
	2. License transfer fee	\$10.00
	3. A \$50 - \$500 penalty may be enforced against any person, contractor, company, or agent who commences installation of a sign which does not have a valid sign permit.	
<u>T. Assessment Record Copy Fee</u>		
	1. Self service copy or print (fee per page)	\$1.00
	2. Full service copy or print (fee per page)	\$2.50
<u>U. Comprehensive Plan Purchase</u>		\$44.00

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

(Plan is available in a PDF format on the City's website; no fee charged)

<u>V. Unified Development Ordinance Purchase</u>		
	Unbound	\$20.00
	Bound & Divided in Three-ring Binder	\$25.00
	Digital Copy (on a CD)	\$15.00
<i>(U.D.O. is available on the City's website; no fee charged)</i>		
<u>W. Revocable Occupancy Permit</u>		\$50.00
<u>X. Formal Zoning Determination</u>		\$25.00
<u>Y. Residential Rental Registration Fee</u>		
	Registration fee per building	\$10.00
<u>Z. Mobile tower siting fees</u>		
	Class 2 colocation permit	\$500.00
	New construction or substantial modification	\$3,000.00
<u>AA. Weights and Measures Based on WI DSPS Census fee of estimate number of devices</u>		
	Current estimate per device	\$10.00

** Planning, Zoning and Development Permit and License Fees are refundable if the permit is not issued.
The Application Fees and Republication Fees are nonrefundable.*

FAXES - SENDING AND RECEIVING (sales tax included)		
	1st Page	\$2.00
	Each Additional Page	\$1.00

PRINTING AND COPYING FEES (sales tax included)		
<u>Black & White Copies/ Prints</u>		
	8.5" x 11" Single-Sided Copy	\$0.20
	8.5" x 11" Double-Sided Copy	\$0.30
	8.5" x 14" Single-Sided Copy	\$0.30
	11" x 17" Single-Sided Copy	\$0.40
	11" x 17" Double-Sided Copy	\$0.60
<u>Color Prints</u>		
	8.5" x 11" Single-Sided Print	\$1.00
	8.5" x 14" Single-Sided Print	\$1.50
	11" x 17" Single-Sided Print	\$2.00
	24" x 36" Single-Sided Print	\$9.00

<u>Computer Disc (CD/DVD) or flashdrive provided by the City</u>	
or electronic file preparation (data, maps, exhibits)	\$15.00

<u>Preparation Time</u>	
(Research, Reformatting, Plotting and Organization of Data)	
First half hour is free, thereafter:	\$25.00 half hour

<u>Map/Exhibit Plotting or Printing Fee</u>		
	8.5 x 11 (color)	\$2.00 first page \$1.00 each thereafter
	8.5 x 11 (black and white)	\$1.00 first page \$0.50 each thereafter
	8.5 x 14 (color)	\$2.00 first page \$1.25 each thereafter
	8.5 x 14 (black and white)	\$1.00 first page \$0.75 each thereafter
	11 x 17	\$2.00
	24 x 36	\$10.00 each
	36 x 42	\$12.00 each
	Large or custom sizes	\$1.50 sq ft
	Premium Paper (Heavy Weight Glossy or Satin)	\$3.00 sq ft

PUBLIC WORKS SPECIAL CHARGES

Permanent Right-of-Way Application/Inspection Fees	\$150.00*
<i>*All Right-of-Way fees shall quadruple if the work requiring a permit is commenced without a permit unless approved as an emergency as defined in 501.02(g).</i>	
Temporary Obstructions on Sidewalk Application/Inspection Fees	\$30.00
Temporary Obstructions on Highways Application/Inspection Fees	\$30.00
Revocable Occupancy Application/Inspection Fees	\$50.00
Public Utility Right-of-way User Registration/Application	\$150.00

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

Administrative Fee for Invoicing	\$15.00 per invoice
Storage Fee per Ordinance 501 (tax included)	\$10.00 per day, per item stored
After Hours Inspection	\$100.00

(After hours inspection is considered any time of day between 3 p.m. and 7 a.m. M-F and Saturday and Sunday)

Well Operation Permit Fee	\$50.00	Every 5 years
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Parking

*Overnight Parking Lots A, B, C, D, E (tax included)	\$25.00 per month for month-to-month Lease
	\$20.00 per month for yearly lease

**Overnight parking leases will only be available to those who verify necessity as determined by the City. Vehicle must have a current lease parking permit as established in 601.04(c) of the Ashland City Ordinances.*

Spring Clean-up Event

Minimum Charge	\$10.00
Per Car Load	\$10.00
Per Pick-up or Small Trailer Load Single Axle	\$10.00
Per Large Trailer Load Duo Axle	\$30.00

MARINA

Marina Rates - Subject to State and Local Sales Tax

<u>Slip Rates</u>	
per boat foot for full service slips	\$58.00
flat rate for boat maximum 22' (No Electricity)	\$1,050.00
flat 23' - 29'	\$1,075.00
flat 30' - 36'	\$1,300.00
flat 37' - 43'	\$1,525.00
flat 44' - 50'	\$1,750.00
flat 51' - 57'	\$1,975.00
Charters, Taxis, and any other boat for hire	\$50.00 per foot
surcharge on single slips (no minimum service in single slips)	\$150.00
<u>Storage Rates</u>	
Summer/winter storage if on a trailer or stand	\$18.00 per boat foot
Non-Tenant summer/winter storage if on a trailer or stand	\$22.00 per boat foot
Trailer or cradle storage	tenant - \$100.00 non-tenant - \$200.00
Trailered fishing/recreational boats (Summer)	\$400.00
Stand storage summer/winter	\$75.00
Stand rental	\$50.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Pump Outs < 32' boat	\$5.00
Pump Outs > 32' boat	\$10.00
Service/Repair	\$100/hr
<u>Travel Lift</u>	
Lift boat and/or splash	\$10.00 per foot
non-tenant	\$12.00 per foot
Hold Boat in Sling	\$50.00
<u>Power Washer</u>	
first 15 min free	
	tenant \$10.00 30 minutes max non-tenant \$25.00 30 minutes max
<u>Transient Slip Rates</u>	
daily Breakwall	\$30.00 daily
daily Slips	\$1.50 per foot
	minimum 25' for A, B, & C Docks
daily Commercial	\$2.00 per foot
weekly Slips	\$1.50 per foot
	minimum 24' (1 Free Night) A, B & C Docks

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

<i>monthly</i> Breakwall and Slips	20' Max	\$400
	25' Max	\$450
	30' Max	\$500
	35' Max	\$550
	40' Max	\$600
	45' Max	\$650
	50' Max	\$700
	55' Max	\$750
	60' Max	\$800

Boat Launch

Annual Boat Launch Fees	\$50 (includes tax)
Senior Rate (65+), Military and Disabled:	\$40 (includes tax)

<u>Daily Boat Launch:</u>	Day launch pass	\$5.00
	Daily Commercial Boat Launch (excludes fishing guides)	\$150.00

Daily Parking	\$5.00
Overnight Parking	\$5.00

RV Overflow Parking @ Sunset Launch or Hot Pond	\$25.00/night
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SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RATES

Sidewalk Special Assessment Rates	40% of the Unit Rate
Special Assessment Letter (7 day service)	Prepaid by Requestor \$10.00
Special Assessment Letter (7 day service)	Billed to Requestor \$15.00
Special Assessment Letter (1 day service)	Prepaid by Requestor \$25.00
Special Assessment Letter (1 day service)	Billed to Requestor \$35.00

WASTEWATER LAB FEES

Laboratory Analysis for Each Unit

Coliform Bacteria Total	\$25.00
Coliform Bacteria Most Probable Number (MPN)	\$25.00
Coliform Bacteria Standard Plate Count (SPC)	\$25.00
Fecal Coliform Membrane Filter (MF)	\$25.00
E. Coli Bacteria Total	\$20.00
E. Coli Bacteria Most Probable Number (MPN)	\$25.00
Nitrate/Nitrite 3 Day	\$20.00
Nitrate/Nitrite RUSH 1 day	\$40.00
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	\$40.00
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	\$20.00
Phosphorus Total	\$15.00
pH	\$7.00
Temperature	\$4.00
Conductivity	\$8.00
Fluoride	\$20.00

Sanitary Sewer Service Charges as stated in Chapter 711, Ashland City Ordinances, Appendix A

CITY CLERK FEES

Council Packet	\$15.00
Committee of the Whole Packet	\$10.00
Planning Commission Packet	\$10.00
Budget Book	\$30.00 paper copies
	\$15.00 downloaded

Miscellaneous License Fees

Arcade License	\$30.00
Coin Operated Game	\$25.00 each machine
Duplicate Coin Operated License	\$15.00 per license
Mobile Home Park License	\$5.00 per lot
Pawnbroker License	\$210.00
Recycling Junk Dealer License	\$100.00
Cigarette and Tobacco License	\$75.00
Jukebox License	\$20.00 each machine
Mobile Concession Street Vendor	\$75.00 10 days or less (non-consecutive, Jan 1 thru Dec 31)
	\$100.00 30 days (consecutive, Jan 1 thru Dec 31)
	\$250.00 90 days (consecutive, Jan 1 thru Dec 31))
	\$350.00 6 month (Jan 1 thru Dec 31)
	\$500.00 12 month (consecutive, Jan 1 thru Dec 31)

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

Taxicab License	\$50.00 first vehicle \$25.00 ea addl vehicle
Taxicab License Transfer	\$50.00 first vehicle \$25.00 ea addl vehicle
Operator's License	\$30.00 one year \$50.00 two years
Duplicate License (other than coin)	\$10.00 per license
Change of Agent	\$10.00
Publication Fee Per Liquor License	\$50.00
Transient Merchant/Solicitor	\$50.00 1 day \$200.00 week/7 days \$500.00 month/30 days

Special Meeting of 3rd Party

Council	\$1,050.00
Committee of the Whole	\$750.00

Public Records Requests

Requestor shall be charged a fee to defray the cost of locating and copying records in accordance with Ordinance Chapter 133. A deposit may be required prior to completing any request.

SVRS Data (includes sales tax)

SVRS Data Requests	\$50 + \$5 per 1000 voter records (\$5 for up to the first thousand, and then rounded to the nearest \$100)
Printed Data from SVRS	additional \$0.20 per single-sided page or \$0.30 for double-sided page, plus the cost of postage and shipping

PARKS & RECREATION FEES

Reservation of City Open/Green Spaces (requires \$100 refundable security deposit)	\$25.00 + tax
Reservation of the Oredock (requires \$100 refundable security deposit)	\$50.00 + tax
Reservation of the Central Railyard Concessions Building (requires \$100 refundable security deposit)	\$60.00 + tax
Non-Profit Park Reservation (requires \$100 refundable security deposit)	\$15.00
Pavilion Reservation Rental	
Large facility: Bayview, Prentice Large Pavillion, Kreher, Maslowski (requires \$100 refundable security deposit)	\$50.00 + tax
Small facility: Prentice Park Small Pavillion (requires \$100 refundable security deposit)	\$35.00 + tax
Prentice Park Concession Stand	\$10.00 + tax
Ballfield Usage Fee	\$100.00 per league
Business in City Parks Daily Fee** Mobile Concession	\$30.00 + sales tax
Business in City Parks Weekly Fee** Mobile Concession	\$50.00 + sales tax
Business in City Parks Monthly Fee** Mobile Concession	\$175.00 + sales tax
Business in City Parks Yearly Fee** Mobile Concession	\$750.00 + sales tax
Special Event Fee** (requires \$100 refundable security deposit)	\$50.00 + sales tax
Business in City Parks Daily Fee** Vendor	50.00 + sales tax
Business in City Parks Weekly Fee** Vendor	100.00 + sales tax
Business in City Parks Monthly Fee** Vendor	300.00 + sales tax
Business in City Parks Yearly Fee** Vendor	750.00 + sales tax

Bretting Community Center Fees

Daily Entry Fee	\$1.00
BCC Yearly Membership:	
Individual -	\$50.00
Family -	\$100.00

BCC (Game Room and Gym) Rental

Exhibit 1: Comprehensive Fee Schedule

During Business Hours		
	First Hour	\$75.00 + sales tax
	Each Additional Hour	\$50.00 + sales tax
	Half Hour	\$25.00 + sales tax
During Non-business Hours		
	First Hour	\$50.00 + sales tax
	Each Additional Hour	\$30.00 + sales tax
	Half Hour	\$15.00 + sales tax
*Game Room Only	Hourly	\$30.00 + sales tax
*Available Weekday Evenings for Private Parties		
BCC Special Event (Game Room or Gym)		\$15.00 per class
Ashland Community Organization/Group Fee*		\$75.00 Gym
		\$50.00 Game Room
<u>Daily Camping Rates</u> (includes sales tax)		
	Kreher Park	\$35.00
	Kreher Lakefront Site	\$40.00
	Prentice Park	\$35.00
	Prentice Park Tent	\$20.00
<u>Weekly Camping Rates</u> (includes sales tax)		
	Kreher Park	\$210.00
	Kreher Lakefront Site	\$240.00
	Prentice Park	\$210.00
	Prentice Park Tent	\$125.00
<u>Monthly Camping Rates</u> (includes sales tax)		
	Kreher Park	\$850.00
	Kreher Lakefront Sit	\$1,000.00
	Prentice Park	\$850.00
<u>Spring Special Event Camping Rates</u>		
Bayview Park parking lot Camping/Overnight Parking:		
	Daily Rate	\$25.00
	Weekly (6 nights + 1 night fee)	\$125.00
<u>Hot Pond Camping/Overnight Parking:</u>		
	Daily Rate	\$25.00
	Weekly	\$125.00
<u>Dumping Fee</u>	Daily non-pd camper	\$10.00 per day

* The BCC Community Fee was created for Ashland groups such as baseball, basketball, karate, Zumba and others who wish to use the gym or game room, are not a program run by APR, and are charging little to no fee for their participants to participate in the activity.

** The Business in the Parks fee has been established for private businesses making profit from doing business in City Parks. The Parks and Recreation Committee is working on the final draft of this policy.

*** Special Event Fee is a fee charged to organizations hosting a special event in/on City property. Events include, but are not limited to, parades, festivals, car shows, etc. Organizations may be charged additional fees for labor, equipment and supplies needed from the City.

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Resolution to Apply for WI DNR State Aid for Recreation Purposes: DNR Stewardship Grant, DNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant and DNR Recreation Trails Program (*Parks and Recreation Director*)

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Parks and Recreation

CLEARANCES: Administration
Parks and Recreation Committee (to be discussed at the April 15 meeting)

EXHIBITS: 1. Resolution to Submit Wisconsin DNR Grant Applications for Financial Aid

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: This agenda item conforms with the City of Ashland Strategic Plan.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The City Staff is seeking approval of a resolution to apply for WI DNR State Aid for Recreation Purposes: DNR Stewardship Grant, DNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant and DNR Recreation Trails Program for the following grants and projects with due dates:

DNR Stewardship Grant - May 1 - Prentice Park Campground Expansion: Funding will be used to construct an additional 10 RV sites at Prentice Park. Six sites will be located in the old deer yard area off Juntion Rd. and 4 sites will be located in the current RV section of the campground to the south of Park Road. These new additional sites will have water and electricity. Please see the attached renderings. The 2023 CIP Budget has allocated \$50,000 towards this project. Estimated project cost is \$100,000-\$120,000. The 50% match would come from the in-kind labor and CIP budget. Ideally, construction would be in 2024.

Recreation Boating Facilities Grant - June 1 - Kreher Park Boat Launch: Funding would be used to build a new 2 bay boat launch at the former Superfund site. The estimated cost for the construction of the boat launch is ~\$1,300,000. This cost is inflated by 30% from the 2020 cost estimate created by AMI Engineering. The City will be asking the Wisconsin Waterways Commission for \$900,000 on an 80/20 split for this project. The City will also be applying for a Sport Fish Restoration Grant to use as a match. The match for this grant is still being determined.

Sport Fish Restoration - October 1 - Kreher Park Boat Launch: Funding would be used to build a new 2 bay boat launch at the former Superfund site. The estimated cost for the construction of the boat launch is ~\$1,300,000. This cost is inflated by 30% from the 2020 cost estimate created by AMI Engineering. The City will be asking the US Fish and Wildlife Service for \$150,000 for this project. This grant would only be applied for if the WI Waterways Commission approves the RBF request. This grant is a 50/50 match which would come from the City's allocation or RBF grant.

DNR Recreation Trail Program - May 1 - ARTS Trail Repair: 22nd Ave W to Xcel Energy: The City of

Ashland will be seeking funding to repair the failing trail from 22nd Ave West to the Xcel Energy Plant. A 2022 Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant has paid for the engineering, design, and construction documents for this project. Cost for the repair is \$132,000. Match for RTP is 50/50. The 2023 CIP Budget has \$48,000 towards this project along with in-kind labor.

**RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL AID**

WHEREAS, The City of Ashland is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from the Department of Natural Resources for the purposes as described in the application; and

WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out the project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The City of Ashland has budgeted a sum sufficient to meet the match requirement; and hereby authorizes Sara Hudson, Director for the Department of Parks and Recreation to act on behalf of the City of Ashland to:

- Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;
- Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within six months of project completion date;
- Submit signed documents;
- Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Ashland does approve the resolution confirming that the City and its staff will comply with state or federal rules for the programs; may perform force account work; will maintain the completed project in an attractive, inviting and safe manner; will keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

PASSED:

Councilperson

ATTEST: _____
Denise Oliphant, City Clerk

Matt MacKenzie, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Tyler W. Wickman, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the City of Ashland Trails Master Plan for Recreational Use (*Parks and Recreation Director*)

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Parks and Recreation

CLEARANCES: Parks and Recreation Committee

EXHIBITS: 1. City of Ashland Trails Master Plan

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: The proposed development conforms to the goals and community values identified in the City of Ashland's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

In 2022, the City of Ashland and Memorial Medical Center (MMC) received a grant from the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) for a Trails Accelerator Grant to create a concept plan/map for off-road/mountain bike trails on the MMC property (where the current ski trails now exist). After an initial site visit with IMBA, landscape architects/trail designers showed them the MMC properties and additional City properties. The project grew from just a trails plan on the MMC property to a master off-road trails concept plan for the City of Ashland highlighting not only the MMC property but also the Bay City Creek Corridor and a bike park in Central Railyard Park.

IMBA's mission is to create, enhance and protect great places to ride mountain bikes. Their vision is for everyone in the U.S. to have access to great trails—from close-to-home rides to iconic, backcountry experiences.

Ashland is still somewhat undiscovered. Many people know about Bayfield but few have ever stopped to explore Ashland. Those who do stop, enjoy it and stay (at least that is what we find with the campgrounds). Ashland and Bayview Counties are also known for their road and gravel bike routes. Many bikers participate in more than one kind of cycling.

The Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) has trailheads in Hayward, Cable, Namekagon and Bayfield. An entry level trail system in Ashland would help bridge the beginner trail gap between Cable and Bayfield. The proposed trails would serve truly as a “gateway” for those learning how to bike and making the connection between beginner biker to a lifelong biker. The closest trailhead to Ashland is at Mt. Ashwabay in Bayfield, WI, 30 miles away. This trail system is awesome, but it is built for intermediate to advanced riders - you are riding up a ski hill! CAMBA is open to ideas on how to work with the City and the community to make these plans into a reality.

In 2022, the Chequamegon Bay Composite NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association) Mountain Bike Team was created. The team is organized by the City's Parks and Recreation Department and is open to students in the Ashland, Washburn, Bayfield and South Shore School Districts in grades 6-12. In our inaugural season, we had 14 athletes participate. Of the 14 student athletes, 11 participated in at least 1 race during the

12-week season. The team participated in 5 weekend race events located across Wisconsin from September 3 to October 23, 2022.

CITY OF ASHLAND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

ASHLAND, WI

DECEMBER 2022



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PREPARED FOR:

CITY OF ASHLAND, WISCONSIN
PARKS AND RECREATION



PREPARED BY:

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING
ASSOCIATION (IMBA)



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ABOUT IMBA TRAIL SOLUTIONS

IMBA Trail Solutions (TS) is the international leader in developing trails, with experience in over 750 projects in North America, Europe, and Asia. Our staff excels at planning, design, and construction of trail systems that provide high-quality experiences for local riders and destination visitors while simultaneously minimizing environmental impacts.

Trail Solutions is a fee-for-service based arm of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. IMBA's mission is to create, enhance, and protect great places to ride mountain bikes. Based in Boulder, Colorado, and with staff distributed across the country and the world, IMBA meets its goal to create great mountain bike experiences through its Trail Solutions program. Trail Solutions employs approximately twenty professional trail planners and builders. In addition to being industry professionals and exceptional mountain bike riders, Trail Solutions staff hold a broad base of applicable skills and knowledge from planning, landscape architecture, and environmental sciences to GIS systems, CAD, and graphic design.

Our wealth of experience has allowed us to develop the gold standard guidelines for the creation of both sustainable and enjoyable singletrack trails. These guidelines have influenced all major federal land management agencies and a large number of state and local parks departments. We pride ourselves on the positive experiences Trail Solutions has provided to the millions of active trail users around the world and on the economic independence that communities have achieved through the development of destination trail systems.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Ashland engaged IMBA Trail Solutions (TS) to develop a Trails Master Plan that would provide area residents with accessible recreational opportunities for a diversity of users and ability levels. The city was awarded a Trail Accelerator Grant to assist in planning efforts. There is a demonstrated desire for quality natural surface trails and more opportunities for youth in the Ashland area. This project outlines a vision for developing a city-wide trail network along with addition bike related facilities. The plan looks to provide the community with access to engaging recreational experiences that bring the community together and provide healthy fun activities for visitors and residents alike.

Trail Accelerator Grants (TAG)

To grow the quantity and quality of mountain bike trail communities, IMBA has identified the need to accelerate the pace of trail building. Trail Accelerator Grants (TAG) provide a jump-start to communities that have the interest and political support to develop trail systems but need assistance to get projects up and running. A TAG award provides professional trail planning and consultation services to launch a community's trail development efforts, which can often leverage additional investment from local, regional, and national partners.

In late 2021, the City of Ashland was awarded TAG matching funds to engage IMBA TS to create this plan.

Ashland, WI

The City of Ashland is in northern Wisconsin along the shores of Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay. Ashland has a population of 7,908 people according to the 2020 census. It is home to Northland College and Northwood Technical College. The city's historic downtown offers a glimpse of the past with many buildings exhibiting murals of local people and history. Remnants of the city's industrial past can be found along the lakeshore at the Soo Line Ore Dock which used for

shipping iron ore. This resource was once a major economic driver of the towns and cities found along the shores of Lake Superior. There are numerous abandoned rail corridors associated with Ashland's industrial past that were used to move iron ore and timber. The Ashland Rails to Trails System (ARTS) is one such rail line. Running through the heart of the city, the ARTS trail has been repurposed as a recreational pathway. The Ashland region is now known for its outdoor recreational offerings and offers year-round opportunities such as fishing, camping, snowmobiling, xc-skiing, hiking, biking and boating.

Area Trails

No significant natural surface trails exist within the City of Ashland. The current trail system consists of the paved ARTS Trail, Nordic Ski trails, and the Farm Road trail network. Mt. Ashwabay is the closest significant riding area with most riding an hour or more from the city. This distance can be a barrier for many people in the community, especially youth who may not have access to transportation. Trails close to home help enhance quality of life for residents, provide economic benefits, and build community.



Farm Road Trails

The Farm Road trails are a privately built and managed system just south of the elementary school. There is 7+ miles of beginner and intermediate traditional and bike optimized singletrack trails open to hikers and mountain bikers. The system is also open in the winter for fat biking.

ARTS Trail

The Ashland Rails to Trail System (ARTS) Trail is a 11.5 mile paved pedestrian path that loops through downtown and along the Lake Superior waterfront. The trail connects many of the city's parks, businesses, and neighborhoods. Portions of the pathway are open to snowmobiles in the winter.

Mount Ashwabay

Mount Ashwabay Outdoor Recreation Area is located 20 miles north of Ashland. The area offers incredible views of Lake Superior and is connected to the Mt. Ashwabay Ski and Recreation Area. Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association manages the 20+ mile trail system. The system is a mix of traditional and bike



optimized singletrack with options for beginner, intermediate, and advanced riders. With over 500 ft of vertical elevation change, Mt. Ashwabay offers some great options for intermediate and advanced riders.

CAMBA

Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) manages over 130 miles of mountain bike trails in the towns of Hayward, Seeley, Cable, Namekagon and Bayfield. This system is a key Midwest riding destination in and around the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. With over 38,000 annual users this system claims \$8 million in economic impact to the area. The system has 13 trailheads and opportunities for riders looking for all styles and ability levels. The area also hosts some notable events including the American Birkenbeiner, Borah Epic, Chequamegon Mountain Bike Festival, Fat Bike Birkie, Firehouse 50, Chequamegon 100, Hungry Bear 100, and Seeley Big Fat.

The Hayward Area Memorial Hospital Trails are a 5.5 mile system that caters to entry level riders and families. These beginner level trails are incredibly popular and is seen as model for the Ashland system.



PROJECT GOALS

1 Provide quality trail experiences for a diversity of users and ability levels

The City of Ashland is committed to providing recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for residents of the community. Introducing bike-specific amenities and singletrack trails will bring engaging recreational activities to residents of all ability levels and promote healthy lifestyles. This plan identifies multiple opportunities for establishing new natural surface trails and mountain bike amenities in the community for walkers, hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, gravel riders, snowshoers, and fat bikers.

Many trail users prefer narrow natural surface trails. These trails offer a wider range of experiences which vary depending on the user group. Walkers and hikers are often looking for efficient routes to a destination point or loops where they can immerse themselves in nature and observe the beauty of the world around them. Runners seek trails where they can travel uninterrupted for longer distances, challenge themselves with steeper grades and improve fitness. Mountain bikers seek variety to challenge themselves and improve their skills. Trails experiences can range from fast and flowing through open terrain, with swooping turns and rollers to challenging technical lines with natural or built features. Providing the community with natural surface trails allow users a more immersive experience in nature, giving expanded access to the outdoors. The plan will serve diverse members of the community and offers new close to home opportunities for multiple user groups that are suitable for a diversity ages and ability levels.

2 Introduce progressive mountain bike experiences, skills development, and bike amenities

This plan has identified multiple sites within the city where natural surface trails and bike specific amenities are suitable for development. Bike optimized trails and features would be focused on Central Railyard Park, and Memorial Medical Center.



Today's mountain biker is looking for purpose-built trails that optimize the riding experience. A mountain bike optimized trail is constructed with features to enhance the riding experience. Features may include rock gardens, berms, grade reversals, cambered turns, and modest jumps. They should be designed for a range of users from beginner to advanced skill levels.

To progressively build skills necessary for more difficult trails, cyclists are looking for features to increase bike handling and balancing skills. Technical trail features (TTFs), such as wooden rollers, bridges, log skinnies, etc. provide the challenge and skill-building opportunities that cyclists are seeking. These features can be located on a designated skills trail or can be provided on the side of trails as optional features. Adequate space must be provided to allow riders to exit the feature and gradually merge with the main trail and other riders. Some of the bike optimized trails on the Memorial Medical Center parcel offers ample opportunities for incorporating some of these features.

In addition to trails, bike-specific recreational amenities, such as tot tracks, bike playgrounds, and pump tracks serve diverse ability levels and interests of mountain bikers. Space is available within Central Railyard Park that could be utilized as a space for some of these bike-specific amenities.

3 Enhance connectivity to existing recreational facilities

The ARTS Trail is an important asset to Ashland providing bike/pedestrian connectivity across the community and along the lakeshore. This trail links downtown with multiple parks and neighborhoods and is utilized in the winter as a snowmobile corridor. Additional connectivity can be found along Bay City Creek, which would be ideal for natural surface trail development, creating a green corridor from the southwest corner of the city all the way to the Soo Line Ore Dock on Chequamegon Bay. This trail corridor would create a non-motorized singletrack network that connects to the ARTS Trail, multiple city parks, Northland College, Ashland High School, Lake Superior Elementary School and Memorial Medical Center. Combined, this trail network would provide Ashland with an active transportation and recreational trail system that would benefit both visitors and community members.

4 Provide healthy recreational activities for residents with a focus on opportunities youth

Numerous studies on physical activity have indicated that proximity to outdoor recreational facilities, such as trails and bike amenities, is a predictor for physical activity level. If there are walking and biking trails nearby, then residents are more likely to use them and therefore be healthier. Physical health and access to nature also benefit mental health, reducing stress and increasing happiness. Connection to nature is paramount to maintaining the health of the environment and making



the outdoors relevant and accessible to all. In addition, individual and community health translate to economic benefits by decreasing healthcare costs. Public trails and bike facilities also provide outdoor community spaces that encourage public engagement. Bike facilities serve a diverse population and cultivate unity and stewardship in the community. By incorporating bike-specific amenities into area parks and open space, Ashland can help promote active and healthy lifestyles and promote social integration.

With today's distractions and the increasing amount of time indoors and in front of screens, children are spending less time outside. Many times, programmed play equipment doesn't provide the challenge and reward that children are seeking. By incorporating a range of bike-specific play features, the parks can provide engaging activities that will encourage kids to get outdoors, increase socialization, and build confidence.

5 Provide a training facility for NICA teams

NICA, the National Interscholastic Cycling Association, develops mountain biking programs for student-athletes and coaches across the United States. In 2013, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Cycling League was formed as a project league of NICA. Currently there are 70 teams across the state. Recently the Chequamegon Bay Composite team was created for the City of Ashland, Bayfield, Washburn, South Shore, and other nearby districts.

During the site visit, the Memorial Medical Center (MMC) grounds were assessed for its suitability as a potential NICA training area. A training venue requires the space and infrastructure to support skills development for a variety of riders. High school mountain bike race venues have complex needs, the most challenging typically being parking and space for up to thousands of people. A race venue was deemed unfeasible for MMC as space needs would interfere with existing hospital operations. Additionally, much of the site contains wetlands, limiting the amount of trail mileage that can be feasibly constructed. While the site is unsuitable as a race venue, it does provide adequate space for a training and skill building and is conveniently located near the High School. For additional and more detailed information on NICA and racecourse requirements, see NICA Training and Racing Facilities.



BIKE FACILITIES & TRAILS

The types of mountain bike trails and facilities considered in this feasibility study are explained below. These narratives are meant to provide a brief description of the envisioned experience, intended user, construction considerations, and approximate ranges of construction costs. The construction costs reflect the cost of retaining a professional trail contractor and are provided for financial planning purposes only. The cost ranges do not include planning, design, and permitting needed to develop the facilities, typically estimated at 10-20% of construction costs. It is important to consider ongoing maintenance costs of trails and bike facilities; these can range from 5-25% of the installation cost.

Trail Types

Modern trail systems use specific trail types as a way of managing users and providing them with the best possible visitor experience. Extensive planning and design should be dedicated to the goal of maximizing a visitor's trail experience while simultaneously balancing the demands of physical, environmental, and social sustainability. This list is not exhaustive.

Traditional Shared-Use Singletrack

These trails can serve walkers, hikers, runners, cyclists, and equestrians. Trails should be constructed and maintained according to sustainable trail construction practices and employ techniques that minimize user conflict. Multiple user types travel these routes; therefore, care should be taken to avoid obstacles such as jumps or water bars which may lead to undesirable trail experiences for some. Turns are constructed sustainably, but are generally not cambered like bike-optimized turns that improve cornering traction. Keeping trail grades within certain ranges ensures both a positive trail experience for users and enables proper stormwater drainage with minimized erosion. Depending on soil conditions, these trails may need surface hardening techniques to provide a durable four-season trail.

Approximate Construction Costs: \$40,000-\$70,000 per mile



Mountain Bike-Optimized Singletrack

These trails are purpose-built to optimize the experience of riding a mountain bike. The trails can either be unidirectional or bidirectional depending on the type of trail, preferred circulation of users, and management decisions. This type of trail is constructed with features such as rock gardens, berms, grade reversals, cambered turns (typically wider than turns on traditional singletrack trails), and modest jumps. These trails should make use of gravitational forces and, where possible, be managed to enhance trail flow for descending riders. These trails may need surface hardening to provide a durable four-season trail. They should be designed for a range of users from beginner to advanced skill levels. Optional advanced features can be located along the side of the trail to provide challenges for intermediate and advanced riders. This allows many skill levels to experience the full trail mileage, while providing for skill progression within a smaller trail footprint.

- Approximate Construction Costs: \$50,000-\$100,000 per mile



Tot Track and Bicycle Playground

A tot track is designed for smaller bicycles and beginner ability level users. The track is comprised of reduced-sized rollers as well as low-angle bermed turns that can accommodate balance bicycles as well as regular bikes with short wheelbases. These are essentially small versions of pump tracks, both of which can be constructed with dirt or hardened surfaces. Asphalt is the recommended surface material for tot tracks. Asphalt is more expensive to install, but greatly reduces maintenance costs. Most importantly, asphalt provides a consistent high-quality experience for the users.

Bicycle playgrounds incorporate play features such as prefabricated structures, rocks, berms, tunnels and other challenges to create a fun loop for children to practice skills and improve bike handling. The bicycle playground can range in size and configuration to best fit the site and desired features.

Approximate Construction Costs:

- \$10-\$30 per square foot (tot track)
- \$9-\$13/linear foot for trail surface (bicycle playground)
- \$1,000 - \$5,000 for prefabricated features (bicycle playground)



Bike Parks

The features explained to this point are designed and optimized for bike-based experiences. A bike park combines all or a selection of these features to create an amenity that appeals to a wide range of riders and ability levels. The type and scale of features will be dependent on the community interest, ridership needs, goals of the project, the site's opportunities and constraints, and available funding. Bike parks range from small parks at 1-2 acres, medium sized parks of 5-15 acres in size, to larger parks over 15 acres. Bike parks serve local, regional, and destination ridership by offering a hub of activity to the cycling community by providing progressive facilities that are designed for riders to build skills and confidence while promoting a healthy, active lifestyle.



Mountain Bike Skills Trail

These are trails that have been specially designed for mountain bikers to develop the skills necessary for enjoying more challenging trails. This type of trail is built with different routes and features for a range of skill levels, allowing users to progress their skills with repetition and experience over time. Beginner riders and kids are especially fond of this type of purpose-built bike facility. They are typically constructed on nearly flat or gently sloping terrain and take up relatively little space. Features may include rocks, bridges, drops, rollers, and more. Typically, installed features include a mix of prefabricated structures and those built on-site with locally sourced materials.

Approximate Construction Costs:

- \$9-\$13/linear foot for trail surface
- \$1,500 - \$10,000 for prefabricated features



Pump Track and Pump Parks

A pump track is designed to encourage cyclists of all skill levels improve their riding skills in a manner that is fun and repetitive. Pump Tracks are typically a bidirectional closed circuit or series of closed circuits made up of rollers and berms. Pump parks have an open design with a larger area of hard surfaces that allow users to create their own multidirectional routes through the rollers, berms, and jump features. A pump park will foster more organic and creative riding that stimulates both novice and skilled riders. Riding these facilities is an extremely anaerobic activity, so it is recommended that suitable seating and shade structures be installed for users to rest between sessions. Like the tot track, pump tracks and pump parks are recommended to have asphalt surfaces. With an asphalt surface, the track will allow users to enjoy year-round. Contracting with a specialty designer and builder for the pump track is strongly recommended to ensure the quality and enjoyable riding experience of the track. With all pump tracks, necessary drainage infrastructure is necessary.

- Approximate Construction Costs: \$25-40/square foot



Adaptive Mountain Bike Trails

Adaptive mountain bike trails are natural surface trails that feature specific design parameters to accommodate adaptive mountain bikes (aMTBs) while providing a high-quality experience for “different-abled” riders. Adaptive mountain bikes are equipped with the proper positioning and geometry to allow the millions of Americans have a mobility disability to enjoy the outdoors. The bikes have three wheels (trikes) or four (quads) and may position the riders in a laid back, recumbent position for most crosscountry style bikes or face-forward with the riders back to the sky which is common for all-mountain style bikes. The style and make of the bikes vary, but all are wider, larger, and heavier than traditional mountain bikes which results in significant changes to acceleration, deceleration, and the ability to change direction and corner.

Adaptive mountain bike trails combine an appropriate combination of width, radius, and grade to create an accessible layout and design of the trail. In general, the adaptive mountain bike trails must be wider, uphill gradients decreased and less abrupt, turning radius increased, bridges and trail features widened, and access to trails must be barrier free with low grade climbs. Riders are positioned lower to the ground which must be accounted for when creating clear sightlines. When a trail traverses steep slopes, the tread width should be increased and tread outslope must be greatly lessened or removed to uphold clear passage in landscapes with high exposure. Rollers and undulations in the trail must be gradual and require adequate spacing between each to allow riders to coast through without pedaling. Pull-outs along the side of the trail should be installed to allow riders to rest along the trail and allow other riders to pass. Trails must free of obstacles for easy (green) aMTB trails, but can feature obstacles, such as rocky sections, on more advanced trails.

Planning and designing for these trails at the beginning of a project is necessary to create trail specifications and a layout that delivers the intended experience. Due to the tread width of aMTB trails, the most feasible way to build these trails is with the assistance of machines.



Winter Fat Biking

Winter Fat Biking is enjoyed on frozen ground or a groomed/packed snow surface over existing natural surface trails, frozen lakes and ponds, or other winter trail network used for Snowshoeing and Nordic skiing. Fat Bikes use wide tires and low tire pressure to distribute a riders wight over a larger surface area that allows them to travel across soft surfaces such as snow and sand. Wide forks are used to accommodate the oversized rims and tires. Tires are typically 3.5 – 5 inches wide and run with lower tire pressure, usually under 8 psi and at times during very loose conditions riders have pressures set at 2-3 psi.

Winter Fat Bike trails offer similar riding experiences to those found on other traditional cross country and bike optimized trails. Trails can be gravity oriented and include features such as berms, rollers, and jumps. Not all singletrack trails are optimal for winter use, additional considerations are needed to accommodate the type of grooming equipment being used to set the track. Tread width, turning radii, bridge widths, tree spacing, steep grades, and off camber sections all factor into the design. Beginner singletrack and bike optimized trails with their wider tread and gentle grades often make good winter trails. Trails can be constructed specifically for winter use only or they can overlap with existing singletrack or other winter trail networks. Winter trail systems often function best with trails dedicated to fat bike use or shared bike/snowshoe options. Shared-use access to Nordic trails has had mixed success as user conflicts can arise. Thoughtful layout of shared corridors, parallel trails, and carefully located intersections have made for successful Nordic trail network use by Winter Fat Bike operations.

Ideal conditions are generally cold and dry with consistent temperatures and snowfall, the ground needs to be frozen with only a few inches of fresh snow to begin creating a base of compacted snow. A compacted trail surface is important to keep tires from sinking in too far. Wallowing in deep fresh powder, plowing through wet slushy snow, or on an unconsolidated base is an incredibly challenging experience and is generally frowned upon as it creates ruts in the trail surface. General guidelines are if your tire is sinking more than an inch the snow is too soft to ride or the riders tire pressures are too high (reduce pressure and reassess).

Like ski and snowmobile trails, groomers are needed to maintain a consistent snow surface for a quality riding experience. The grooming equipment used will vary

depending on the needs of the system and trail widths but are usually much smaller than the snowcats used on ski trails. Grooming equipment for narrow singletrack has evolved from simply packing out the trails with snowshoes and tire dragging to trail specific machines. Many types of equipment exist such as tow behind rollers and drag mats that can be hooked up to snowmobiles, ROKON's (small two wheel drive motorcycle), or ATV's. Custom machines like the SnowDog and Trail Tamer were designed specifically for fat bike trail grooming and are usable on trails that are too tight for most other machines.

It is not recommended to allow Fat Bike access on Snowmobile trails due to the large speed differentials.



NICA Training and Racing Facilities

NICA, the National Interscholastic Cycling Association, develops mountain biking programs for student-athletes and coaches across the United States. Over 19,000 student-athletes in junior high and high-school participate in 31 state and regional leagues supported by over 9,000 volunteer coaches and 10,000 additional volunteers. Participant numbers continue to grow. In the last ten years, student-athlete participation has averaged 48% annual growth, and coach participation has averaged 75% annual growth.

The league's mission is to build strong minds, bodies, character, and communities through cycling with the values of fun, inclusivity, equity, respect, and community. Unlike some youth programs, there are no bench warmers. Every athlete participates, and the league offers a multitude of benefits: getting kids outside; promoting healthy lifestyles; exposing kids to cycling and outdoor advocacy; and providing social interaction, leadership opportunities, and life lessons such as self-awareness, discipline, success, failure, empathy, humility, and sportsmanship. In 2018, NICA launched GRiT (Girls Riding Together), a program focused on engaging more girls and women as student-athletes, volunteers and coaches. They also updated their Teen Trail Corps advocacy program to promote stewardship of the

trails. Some leagues include Elevate programs for student-athletes with mental and physical challenges, making the sport more inclusive and integrated than many other high school activities. NICA is also helping to fuel more collegiate varsity cycling programs and clubs.

Beyond the many benefits for student-athletes, NICA leagues provide significant economic stimulus to their communities. As participation grows, so does the demand for trails and bike amenities. Teams need trails for training and racing. NICA racecourses require 4- to 6-mile loops of combined singletrack and double track with 300–600 feet of climbing per lap. Throughout the country, communities are building NICA racecourses from scratch or modifying existing trails. Along with the trails, the racecourses require venues that can accommodate, in some cases, thousands of spectators and participants who generate business in lodging, travel, restaurants, bikes stores, and other retail sales and services. This economic activity can support jobs, provide sustainable growth in rural communities, and produce tax revenue. The bottom line: Growth in NICA leagues doesn't seem to show any signs of slowing down, and that means an abundance of benefits for individuals and communities.



Lifted and Tilted Tread Type

A new trail construction method, “lift and tilt,” is a way of raising the tread above the existing grade while simultaneously lowering the grade of areas off the trail that act as natural drains. This enhances tread drainage while increasing the fun factor for mountain bikers. Borrow basins are dug to harvest suitable mineral soil to lift and tilt the tread. Woody debris is used to replace the soil taken from the borrow basins, which are then masked and blended with organics to create natural-looking low points for drainage. This technique holds the rider on the trail while directing water off the tread into the basins.

This method can be implemented on any scale, using smaller machines to provide a singletrack feel or larger machines to create wide trails with a true bike park flow. Visitor numbers, rainfall, and soil type may require the use of culverts and sumps to keep trails rideable while providing drainage. The trail can have an increased emphasis on fun, flow, and airtime depending on the designated trail user. For shared-use trails, which generally cater to beginning riders, the dial can be turned down with mellow grades, less undulation, and feature frequency. For advanced trails, the dirt features can be more dynamic with larger rollers and jumps, bigger drops, and steeper banked turns, giving riders play in the vertical plane. Flatter areas that may have been avoided in the past can now be designed to provide an exciting riding experience. The lift and tilt method is often used for pump tracks, flow trails, jump trails, and other bike-optimized amenities.



EXPERIENCE ZONES & PREFERRED-USE TRAILS

Experience zones and preferred-use trails are showing up in trail systems around the world. Experience zones divide management areas into special-use zones designed around specific activities: one zone may be preferred for mountain biking and another for accessible, interpretive trails. Implementation of such zones can provide a variety of visitor experiences and recreational opportunities that reduce conflict between differing user groups while providing sustainable, long-lasting trails.

Single use challenges the notion that all trails must be all things to all people. In this case, land managers designate certain trails as “preferred” for certain activities. For example, a trail that is single use for mountain bikers might be designed to be fast and flowing through open terrain, with swooping turns and dips. Hiking-preferred trails, meanwhile, may be more about travel efficiency with stairs, tight switchbacks, short distances, or other qualities that would be less attractive to bikers and equestrians. Visitors will be drawn to routes that match their desired experience.

Each trail system should, of course, include a variety of trails. One way to include numerous types of trails is to have shared-use trails at the beginning of the network near parking lots, with preferred-use trails branching off farther along. The number of trails designated for each mode of travel should be based on the habits and needs of the user groups being managed.



PROJECT SITE & EXISTING CONDITIONS

In the spring of 2022, Trail Solutions staff met with the Director of City of Ashland Parks and Recreation to discuss project goals and conduct a field assessment of multiple sites within the city. The sites were analyzed for their suitability in establishing natural surface trails and potential connectivity to existing recreational amenities and points of interest. Several key sites were identified that offered excellent opportunities for trail and bike amenity development. Further desktop analysis, based on findings from the site visit, revealed additional opportunities for connectivity. The primary areas of interest include Memorial Medical Center, Bay City Creek Corridor, and Central Railyard Park.



Memorial Medical Center

Memorial Medical Center has a 172 acre campus on the southwestern edge of the city. It is located along Beaser Avenue and straddles the north and south sides of Maple Lane. The hospital grounds occupy 35 acres on the corner of Beaser Avenue and Maple Lane and include multiple annex buildings and associated parking. West of the developed portion of the property is a 76 acre wooded area that include Ashland City Ski Trails — a 5 km Nordic trail network. Parking is available for 18 vehicles at the trailhead and is separate from the main hospital parking. The trail system is groomed and open to the public but is limited to skiers only. The trails are typical of Nordic Ski trail design, wide (14' - 20'), making long sweeping loops that easily accommodate multiple skiers along with grooming equipment. The system was designed to maximize the ski experience and functions well in the winter but there are difficulties in adding additional singletrack trails to this area of the property. Almost half of this wooded area is covered with wetlands and poorly draining soils. Available space for locating singletrack trails in this area is limited, multiple boardwalks would be needed to create a sustainable trail system in this sensitive area making development prohibitively expensive.



South of Maple Lane, MMC has an additional 46 acres of fields and woodlands. Largely undeveloped this site is much dryer than across the road. The forest is a mix of pines, hemlock, and hardwoods and offers ample opportunities for trail development, particularly for beginners.

Key Opportunities

- Forested area with gentle terrain for beginner bike optimized trails
- Close to schools and Farm Road trail system,
- Connectivity to schools and larger trail system
- Winter fat biking on bike optimized trails
- Easy trail access for MMC staff and patients
- Training area for NICA team

Key Constraints

- Significant wetlands and low laying areas with limited drainage
- Existing Nordic trails
- Road crossing to existing parking lot



Bay City Creek Corridor

Bay City Creek runs along the southeastern side of the city where it meets Lake Superior near the Soo Line Ore Dock. While much of the terrain around Ashland is relatively flat, the creek corridor provides some interesting relief. Access to the creek corridor along city owned property is found off 3rd Street. The corridor is largely wooded and includes a fascinating look into the city's industrial past. An abandoned rail corridor runs along the creek corridor from Main Street to 11th Street. Along this former rail line is a large timber trestle and a partially collapsed stone archway. Bay City Creek winds through the Northland College Campus and Lake Superior Elementary School providing an excellent opportunity for connectivity.

Key Opportunities

- Undeveloped creek corridor
- Vertical terrain relief ideal for sustainable trail development
- Connection to ARTS trail
- Cross town connectivity that includes the Elementary and High Schools, Northland College, Memorial Medical Center, and lakefront

Key Constraints

- Multiple landowners
- Bridges will be needed to cross Bay City Creek to create access in some areas
- Existing infrastructure and rail facilities



Central Railyard Park

Located in the heart of the city, Central Railyard Park is a popular recreation area for residents. The park includes two baseball fields, tennis courts, playground, skate park, and ice rink. The ARTS trail passes through the park.

Key Opportunities

- Close to downtown
- Existing Park amenities and trail connectivity
- Open grassy space with gentle slopes for bike facilities

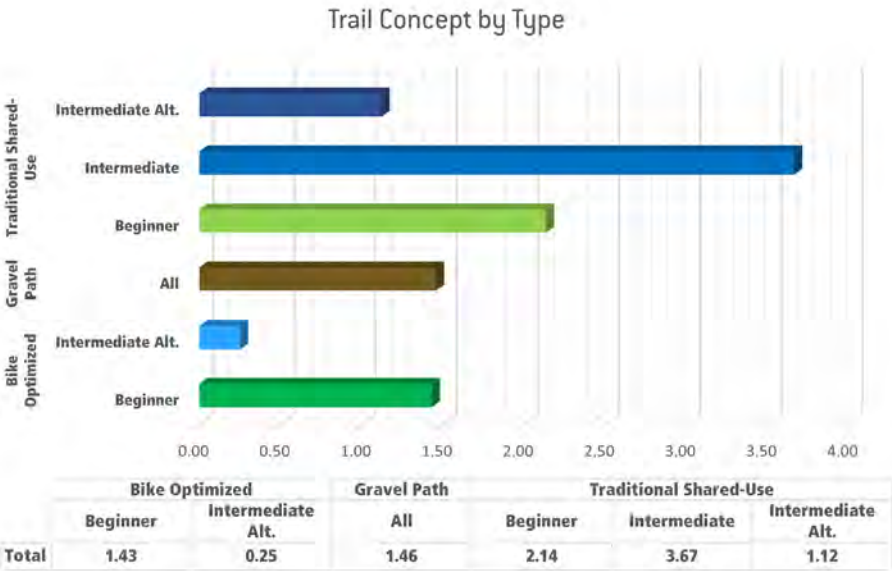
Key Constraints

- Utilities and existing facilities



CONCEPT PLAN

This concept plan seeks to provide engaging recreational activities for Ashland residents and visitors of all ages and ability levels. The plan proposes traditional shared-use trails for use by both mountain bikers and pedestrians. Mountain bike-optimized trails that enhance the experience of riding a mountain bike. Along with a bike skills park with amenities for bike handling skills progression. Trail opportunities and bike facilities are identified throughout the city, with this plan being broken down into three main areas, Memorial Medical Center (MMC), Bay City Creek Corridor, and Central Railyard Park. The green (easy) trails are envisioned for use by adaptive mountain bikers and those new to the sport focused around the MMC property and Schools. Additional natural surface trails along the Bay City Creek corridor will provide connectivity and options for skills progression. The skill building area would be located at Central Railyard Park and complement existing park facilities.



City of Ashland Trail Concept Plan Overview Map

ASHLAND, WI
DECEMBER 2022

Legend

Existing Site

- City Parcel
- County Parcel
- Northland College Parcel
- School Parcel
- Memorial Medical Center Parcel

- Road
- Parcel
- Stream/River
- ARTS Trail
- Ski Trail
- Trail

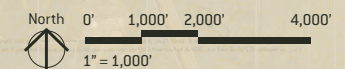
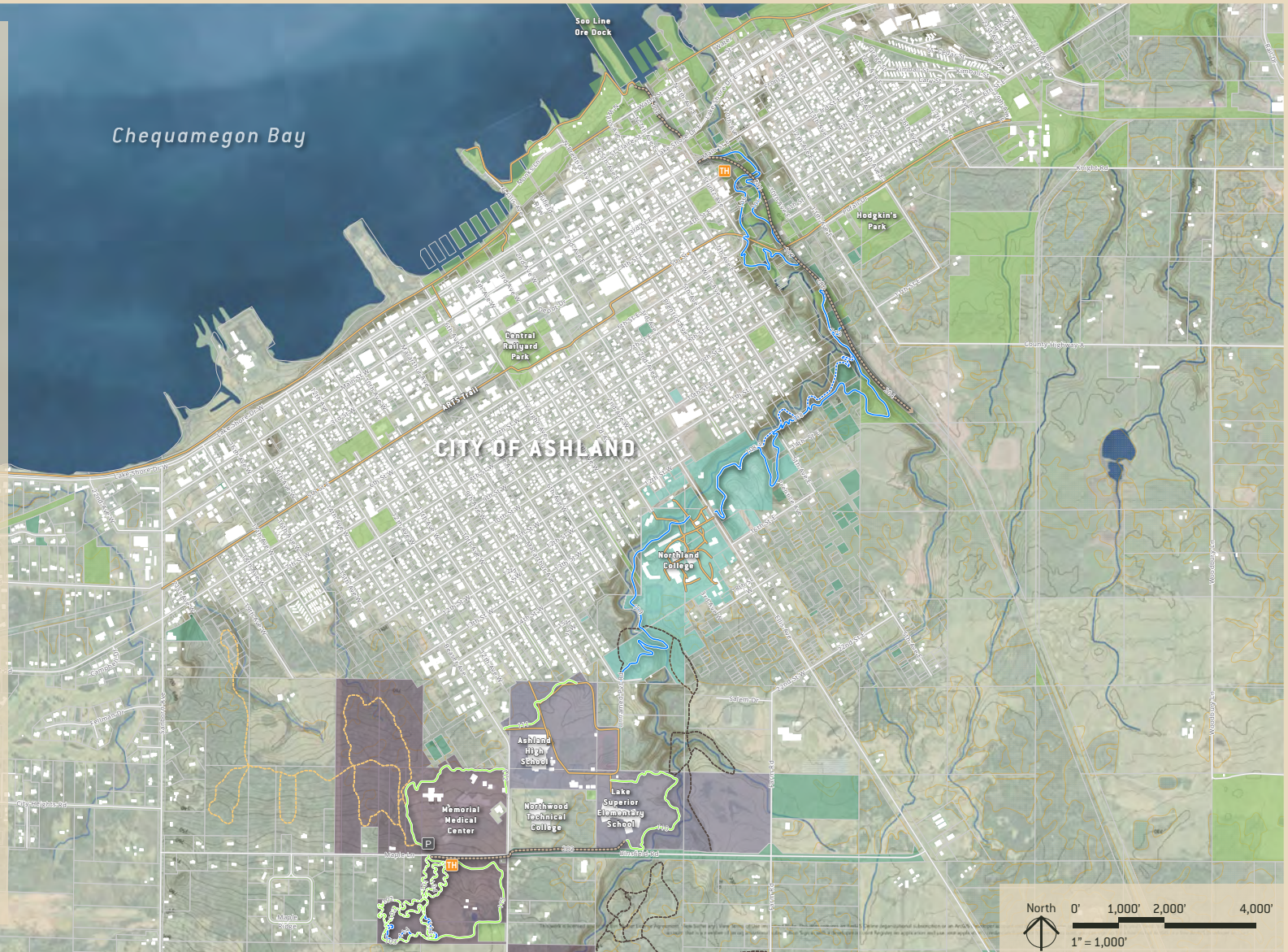
Proposed Concept

- Beginner Shared - Use Trail
- Beginner Bike Optimized Trail
- Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Alternate Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Intermediate Bike Optimized Trail
- Gravel Path
- TH Trailhead

Prepared by:



Note: This map is intended for planning purposes only. Property boundaries are approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.



Memorial Medical Center

Trail development at MMC is concentrated on the undeveloped property south of Maple Lane. This site has 20-acres of forest ideal for trail development. The concept plan illustrates 1.5 miles of beginner bike optimized trail within this zone, as seen in Segments 101, 102, 103, 104, and 114. Multiple alignments maximize the available space while providing a variety of loop options for riders. Segments 114 highlight optional intermediate skills development lines that could incorporate natural or prefabricated features to add variety to the system. Prefabricated features can include logs, rollers, and bridges. Utilizing available rock content or importing some can provide a textured, technically challenging riding surface that helps riders gain skills and confidence for riding more advanced trails. A flow style trail will give riders a place to learn pumping, jumping, and cornering skills. This area will provide a fun, safe environment for beginners to become confident in their bike handling skills. Lift and tilt construction should be used to create the tread in this area as it is relatively flat and will help ensure proper drainage. A good

example of this construction technique can be found on the Connector trail at the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital Trails which is a model for this system.

To build on this system additional beginner shared use singletrack is shown along the edges of MMC, Ashland High School, and Lake Superior Elementary School (Segments 110, 111, 112, 115). These trails along with a gravel pathway alongside Maple Avenue/Binsfield Road (Segment 203) add another 2.7 mile of trail for a total of 4.4 miles. These segments are located along the wooded edges of each parcel and tie into existing sidewalks and hard surface pathways allowing users to create longer loops and provide bike/ped connectivity. The longer loops are important to provide the NICA team with easy to access trails for training. The Farm Road Trail System is also located in this area, connectivity to this system should be explored as it would provide options for longer rides and access to more challenging trails.



City of Ashland Trail Concept Plan MMC Trail Concept

ASHLAND, WI
DECEMBER 2022

Legend

Existing Site

- City Parcel
- County Parcel
- Northland College Parcel
- School Parcel
- Memorial Medical Center Parcel
- Road
- Parcel
- Stream/River
- Ski Trail
- Trail

Proposed Concept

- Beginner Shared - Use Trail
- Beginner Bike Optimized Trail
- Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Intermediate Bike Optimized Trail
- Gravel Path
- Trailhead

Prepared by:



Note: This map is intended for planning purposes only. Property boundaries are approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.



Bay City Creek Corridor

The Bay City Creek Corridor has the potential to create a longer natural surface trail network within the city. An additional 3.5 – 4 miles of traditional shared-use singletrack and 1-mile of gravel pathway would make it possible to connect the Soo Line Ore Dock all the way to Memorial Medical Center with minimal road crossings. The main access point would be from city owned property at the end of 3rd Street. This location offers excellent side slopes for trail development with views of Bay City Creek and the timber railroad trestle. An approximately 1 mile shared-use loop would offer hikers and bikers access to this amazing landscape right in the heart of the city. Segments 105, 106, and 107 are shown as conceptual options for this area. Two bridges are necessary to create a loop here. A trail along the northwest side of the creek could also be explored but most of the parcels along this side are privately owned and multiple easements would need to be secured. Segment 201 follows the abandoned railroad corridor and should be part of the long-term plan for improvement. The trestle offers incredible views of the valley and creates a great opportunity for interpretive signage about the history of Ashland. The addition of well utilized trails in this location would also help displace some of the less desired uses taking place there currently.

Segments 108 and 108-2 show route options that connect to Northland College. A few short loops may also be possible along this section depending on acquired easements. Segment 108 is shown within the Paper street right of way with tighter turns needed to keep the trail at sustainable grades. Segment 109 would continue along the edge of Northland College Campus and tie into existing pathways. Some user created trails currently exist along the creek here, but are unmaintained and include steep unsustainable alignments. A well designed shared use trail would create a sustainable option for students, faculty, and area residents and help promote healthy active lifestyles.



City of Ashland Trail Concept Plan Bay City Creek Concept

ASHLAND, WI
OCTOBER 2022

Legend

Existing Site

- City Parcel
- County Parcel
- Northland College Parcel
- School Parcel
- Memorial Medical Center Parcel
- Road
- Parcel
- Stream/River
- ARTS Trail
- Ski Trail
- Trail

Proposed Concept

- Beginner Shared - Use Trail
- Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Alternate Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Gravel Path
- Trailhead

Prepared by:



Note: This map is intended for planning purposes only. Property boundaries are Approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.



Central Railyard Park

Existing Skatepark

Central Railyard Park has an existing skatepark located on the North-Western side of the park, this 10,000 SF amenity will remain but will have added features that tie into the new concept. All the existing skatepark features will remain, but vegetation, decorative fencing and shade structures with seating will serve as physical buffers from the new Skills Trails proposed for the south end the skate park. This will allow each area to be its own entity, alleviating traffic jams or hazards from riders crossing paths trying to cut or skip features. Each entity will have its own starting zones, which will assist riders in traveling in the correct directions and allowing a safe but fun riding experience.

Skills Trails

The proposed skills trails have been designed specifically for mountain bike riders wanting to progress their riding in a dependable and controlled environment. Each of the prefabricated or natural features that are locally sourced will all be rollable, whether the rider is located on the more progressive skills lines just south of the



skatepark or in the wooded skills section on the other side of Vaughn Ave. Each of these areas will provide the rider with challenging but low-risk ways to improve their riding skills, from balance to tabletops, the rider will have full confidence in the ability to improve over time as they master each of feature on the Skills Trails.

Pumptrack

A proposed 6,000 – 10,000 SF pumptrack will be located on the South-Eastern side of the park, looking to be the most popular new bike amenity in the area. The pumptrack will consist of rollers, berms, that are specifically designed for bicycle use. These features will be sized and spaced for full-sized riders but this does not limit who is able to ride the features, everything is designed to be rollable will large radius corners and smooth surfaces. The pumptrack will also allow more experienced riders to create their own lines and progress their riding in a challenging and unique way. Pumptracks with an asphalt top layer allows riders the ability to use this amenity for most of the year. While the initial investment cost is higher, upkeep and maintenance costs are minimized, providing a quality experience for users.



Tot Track/Bicycle Playground

A Tot track/Bicycle Playground is designed for entry level and beginner ability level users. These features are all rollable and offer rid-around options for riders not comfortable with features yet. All features are reduced in size, low-angle berms and low-to-no risk rollers which are ideal shorter wheelbase bikes like Striders and balance bikes. Play features such as prefabricated structures, rocks, berms, tunnels, and other challenging but reliable amenities will allow a fun loop styled trail for children to develop the bike skills needed to move to more advanced features in the future. The Tot Track/Bike Playground can range in size, scale, and configuration to best fit the site and needs for the community and its users.

Bonus Line

Located on the East side of the Central Railyard Park is space for a possible bonus line. This could be an additional Skills Trail style riding location consisting of prefabricated and natural features, rollers, berms, etc. This also has the possibility of being a unique material like asphalt or chipseal, similar to the proposed Pumptrack. The section is very linear but would provide a considerable addition to the park's bike amenities.



City of Ashland, WI Central Railyard Park Bike Amenity Concept

ASHLAND, WI
DECEMBER 2022

Legend

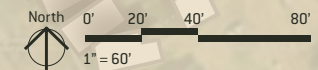
Proposed Concept

-  Natural Surface
-  Bike Plaza/Sidewalk
-  Pumptrack
-  Deep Pumptrack Berm
-  Pumptrack Drainage
-  Shade Structures
-  Wooden Ladder Feature
-  Proposed Tree
-  Roller
-  Bike playground features
-  Trailhead

Prepared by:



Note: This map is intended for planning purposes only. Property boundaries are Approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.



Pre-fabricated Features

Manufactured features are an excellent option for Central Railyard Park. These features are pre-fabricated to exacting standards and provide a known and approved option for providing unique riding experiences.

Advantages of pre-fabricated features include precise measurements which are conducive to a variety of trail needs and provide an easily constructed feature without need for second guessing. Stainless steel fasteners and powder coated steel frames are durable and long-lasting, meaning the structure itself requires little maintenance over its lifespan. Pre-fabricated trail features often are approved by engineers or other professionals and meet the criteria of a variety of land management and governmental agencies.

In the case of Central Railyard Park pre-fabricated features should be selected that are appropriate for a beginner and intermediate skill level riders. Appendix D provides additional information on feature types and general installation guidelines.

Pre-fabricated features should be acquired from reputable vendors who provide quality control, construction instructions, and maintenance requirements in a written format.



Trailheads and Amenities

The trail system envisioned for the City of Ashland has multiple access points across the city. New trailheads at Memorial Medical Center and the city owned property on 3rd street are identified on the overview map and provide parking access at both ends of the system. In addition to parking areas – restrooms, water fountains, changing stations, bike repair stations, informational signage, seating areas and other trailhead amenities welcome visitors while enhancing the trail experience. Trailhead kiosks at the two main trailheads and other key access points will be important to provide visitors with information about the trail network. Interpretive kiosk with trail map should be provided and include route finding information, necessary safety information, user etiquette, and park rules. Wayfinding signage is recommended to guide users along the trails and include information on the different trail types, ability levels, directionality, and allowed user groups. It is also recommended that technical Trail Features be marked with warning signs. Please see the “Signage” section included in the Appendix for more information on recommended sign types. In addition, TS recommends a bike workstation to provide riders with a place to inflate tires and perform minor repairs. This is especially important for users who may not have the resources to make personal investments on tools or maintenance for their bikes. Central Railyard Park and the Memorial Medical Center trailhead would be good locations for a workstation.



PHASING & COST OPINION

The following phasing is a recommended prioritization of next steps in the trail development process. These are provided to help the City of Ashland and their stakeholders understand the future and what it takes to get there.

Phasing is important for many reasons and typically chief among those is available funding. By stretching implementation out over time, stakeholders and community members have better opportunities to raise funds for construction. Phasing also creates the chance for new trails to be added over time, enticing locals and visitors to continue to come back for new experiences while the project progresses.

Phasing and priorities can change over time, this is intended as a guide to be revisited and edited as the project progresses. In general, the first few priorities are crucial, and the timing of the latter phases are more likely to blend, mix, or change. Some of these steps are iterative, and will progress with the rest of the project as it moves forward.

1. **Design and implementation of Memorial Medical Center Trails and School Connectivity:** these will create immediate beginner trail loops and provide the NICA team with easy access to trails for practice. These initial trails will build excitement and help the bike community grow. By introducing the most accessible trails first the City provides great opportunities for everyone.
2. **Design and implementation of Bay City Creek loop from 3rd Street Trailhead:** shared-use loops in this area will add diversity to the trail system in town and is easily connected to the ARTS trail. Segments 105, 106, and 107 will make this an attractive destination for hikers, trail runners, bikers, and people looking to explore the natural surroundings without having to leave the city. A new trailhead will support additional connectivity as the system is built out.

3. **Design and implementation of Central Railyard Park:** the bike skills park and pumptrack is the most infrastructure intense of the projects and implementation can be broken down into further phases. Initial phases could include the pumptrack and bike playground to build excitement for the project and provide easy entry features as the community is introduced to these new amenities.
4. **Design and implementation of Bay City Creek Connectivity Trails:** The city should continue to work with local partners such as Northland College to create a continuous trail corridor along Bay City Creek. This phase may require more time to implement as partnerships are created and easements secured but an integrated trail system will be a benefit to everyone in the community.



Ashland Trail Concept Cost Opinion

Segment ID	Type	Difficulty	Style	Direction	User	Zone	Distance			Estimated Cost	
							Miles	Unit Cost Low	Unit Cost High	Low	High
101	Singletrack	Beginner	Bike Optimized	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center	0.35	\$65,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$22,774.63	\$29,782.21
102	Singletrack	Beginner	Bike Optimized	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center	0.52	\$65,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$33,685.63	\$44,050.44
103	Singletrack	Beginner	Bike Optimized	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center	0.38	\$65,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$24,958.17	\$32,637.61
104	Singletrack	Beginner	Bike Optimized	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center	0.18	\$65,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$11,627.39	\$15,205.05
105	Singletrack	Intermediate	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	0.48	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$26,310.26	\$31,093.94
106	Singletrack	Intermediate	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	0.27	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$14,877.94	\$17,583.02
107	Singletrack	Intermediate	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	0.45	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$24,529.62	\$28,989.55
108	Singletrack	Intermediate	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	1.59	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$87,473.62	\$103,377.91
108-2	Singletrack	Intermediate Alt.	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	1.12	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$61,772.95	\$73,004.40
109	Singletrack	Intermediate	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	0.82	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$45,249.03	\$53,476.12
110	Singletrack	Beginner	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	High School	0.60	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$33,032.52	\$39,038.43
111	Singletrack	Beginner	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Elementary School	0.31	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$16,788.86	\$19,841.38
112	Singletrack	Beginner	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center/Schools	0.60	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$33,102.54	\$39,121.18
113	Singletrack	Intermediate	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	0.06	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$3,150.39	\$3,723.19
114	Singletrack	Intermediate Alt.	Bike Optimized	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center	0.11	\$65,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$7,052.57	\$9,222.59
114	Singletrack	Intermediate Alt.	Bike Optimized	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center	0.06	\$65,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$3,669.75	\$4,798.91
114	Singletrack	Intermediate Alt.	Bike Optimized	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center	0.09	\$65,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$5,668.93	\$7,413.21
115	Singletrack	Beginner	Traditional Shared-Use	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center	0.63	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$34,562.53	\$40,846.62
201	Pathway	All	Gravel Path	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	0.40	\$65,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$25,947.19	\$39,918.75
202	Pathway	All	Gravel Path	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	0.29	\$65,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$18,561.54	\$28,556.21
203	Pathway	All	Gravel Path	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Memorial Medical Center/Schools	0.56	\$65,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$36,479.30	\$56,122.01
205	Pathway	All	Gravel Path	Bidirectional	Hike-Bike	Bay City Creek Corridor	0.21	\$65,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$13,799.84	\$21,230.52
Total							10.07			\$585,075.20	\$739,033.28

Notes: Cost opinions are for planning purposes only. This conceptual cost opinion provides ranges for the cost of construction and serves as a tool for planning purposes only. The cost opinion does not serve as a bid and does not include cost of permitting, construction documents, and contractor mobilization or contingency.



IMPLEMENTATION & NEXT STEPS

Community Outreach and Visioning

The concept plan reflects the suitable locations for bike facilities based upon analysis of the site and identified goals. The proposed locations work in tandem with existing recreational amenities and are located based upon the assessment of opportunities, constraints, nearby supporting infrastructure, and community amenities. The concept plan is preliminary at this point in the planning process. Public outreach, such as community and stakeholder meetings, is encouraged to gather input, generate excitement and support for the plan, create a stewardship base of future trail users, and build a sense of ownership and pride of the bike facilities. In addition to reaching out to residents, communication with local bike organizations and other mountain bike enthusiasts will help build an understanding of the existing ridership, their interests, and concerns while creating relationships. These mountain bike enthusiasts can share local knowledge of trails, construction experience, and lessons learned on past projects.

Since many of the bike facilities presented in this study would be a new type of recreational amenity to the area, the facilities and their benefits may be unfamiliar to residents, stakeholders, and community leaders. Continued education, through community meetings, field trips to trails and bike facilities, and demonstration projects will help residents understand the potential of these facilities and generate support for future projects.

To create a regionally-significant destination, coordination early on with the tourism bureau and community development organizations will help create necessary branding, content, and platforms to spread the word of the bike facility development.



Risk Management

As the bike facilities would introduce a new type of recreation with unknown liability concerns to Ashland, an assessment and clear understanding of recreation protections, laws, and precedents is necessary to ease concerns and create a plan to mitigate risk. Professional legal advice is recommended to ensure all liability concerns are understood and create a plan to mitigate risk. Warnings of the inherent risk of mountain biking



Bike Facility and Trail Development

Once the park concept plans are further refined based upon community input and coordination with future park plans, development of construction plans with specifications and details is necessary to guide and communicate the construction. Based upon the facility type and conditions, permitting plan sets may be necessary. For the development of all trails and bike facilities, we recommend a professional trail designer/builder field flag the trail alignments, construct the trails or bike facilities, and provide training for staff and volunteers. The construction of the pump track and other asphalt features will require the services of a specialized designer and builder. For the construction of the bike optimized trails we recommend an experienced rider/builder to provide consultation services and oversight during construction to ensure the proper design, spacing, and scale of features. When retaining a professional trail building firm, we recommend having a qualified construction manager experienced with mountain bike trail development provide oversight during the construction progress, perform inspections, and provide quality assurance services.



Maintenance

Trails should be managed according to recommended difficulty guidelines, trail type guidelines, and respective trail narratives. Design will provide these detailed guidance documents. Maintenance is an ongoing cost and should be planned for. Typical annual maintenance budgets for traditional and mountain bike-optimized trails are 10%-15% of the installation cost, and gravity trails can be closer to 20%-25% of the construction cost. Some of the annual maintenance for all trails can be performed by adequately managed and trained volunteers. These tasks will include corridor trimming, downed tree removal, general clean up (branches, leaf litter, etc.), and minor drainage work

Professional assistance will occasionally be required. The frequency will depend upon ongoing maintenance as well as weather patterns and use. Typically for cross-country trails, professional maintenance will be required every 10-20 years and will involve small reroutes, major drainage work, or other large tasks. Gravity trails can be expected to need professional help every 5-10 years as trails wear through weather and use. This will typically come in the form of rebuilding large dirt features and upgrading trails to provide slightly new experiences which help continue to draw regional riders, give locals something new, and help all riders progress in their skills.

Bike facilities such as pumptracks and skills features can typically be maintained by traditional parks staff. Maintenance can include seal coating, grass cutting, checking fasteners, and wear/tear on wood. Increasingly, destination mountain bike trail systems are funding and hiring part- or full-time staff to provide maintenance to trail systems. Ensuring a quality, consistent riding experience is key to attracting visitors and keeping a local riding community satisfied and growing.



Programming

To fully activate and create a community around outdoor recreation and mountain biking, certain programming is recommended. School groups or community organizations such as SPARK can integrate mountain biking into their programming and provide young riders with an introduction to the sport and access to mountain bikes. Kids should also be encouraged to organize events or races to get their peers excited about the sport, additionally this supports their own educational and leadership skills. Mountain bike skills clinics and/or guided rides can be provided by area groups such as Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) to help introduce the sport to new riders and help them improve skills. The trail system provide the potential to train for competitions. Having scheduled volunteer days keeps the community engaged, invested in their local trails, and helps improve the conditions of the trails while reducing the maintenance workload of land managers. Events and programming keep visitation numbers high throughout the year.

Next Steps

This concept plan serves as a guiding vision for the development of bike related facilities for the City of Ashland. This plan looks at conceptual opportunities but will require refinement and detailed design. Refinement is needed for the bike park facilities such as pump track, skills course, and tot track. We recommend consulting with a professional trail designer/builder to finalize the layout of the plan and assist with the selection of the features. To bring these concepts and ideas into fruition, the next step is to share the findings of this report with the appropriate city officials, staff, and community stakeholders to gather their feedback, strategize the next steps, and identify funding sources. This coordination will help identify the key areas of need and prioritize projects. Public meetings with community leaders, residents and other stakeholders are encouraged to engage the public and build interest in the project. Additional design, community engagement, site surveys, and permitting will be needed before construction begins. An engineer should be engaged for the bridges and stormwater needs. Permits may also be needed for wetlands and site construction, along with a survey of wetlands, utilities and other infrastructure.



CONCLUSION

This document presents the feasibility, key opportunities, constraints, and recommendations for the development of bike focused infrastructure within Ashland. The terrain, supporting infrastructure, and existing area amenities offer highly suitable conditions for the incorporation of bike facilities. The trail system will provide new connectivity options across the city and create bike focused options close to home for area youth. The planned Central Railyard Park amenities provide an engaging experience for users of all ability levels with a focus on novice and young riders, filling a needs gap for this user group. This type of recreation will offer kids who don't play traditional sports a chance to get outside and stay active while learning vital skills such as balance, confidence, independence, and more. The incorporation of the bike amenities and trails introduces new features to the area, adding to the appeal of the region and attracting visitors. Overall, the development of bike focused infrastructure encourages residents to enjoy the outdoors and improves the quality of life for residents and visitors to the Ashland area.



APPENDIX A: GENERAL TRAILS PLANNING & DESIGN GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines for the construction and maintenance of trails. The natural environment is dynamic and unpredictable. The nature of recreational trails and roads, the desired user experience, and the constant forces acting on natural surface trails and roads make strict standards untenable and undesirable. As such, the guidelines below are simply that: best management practices that should be followed within environmental constraints.

Trail System Design

Mountain Bike-Optimized Trails and Preferred Direction Trails

Mountain bike-optimized singletrack trails are designed and constructed to enhance trail experiences specifically for mountain bikers. Mountain bike-optimized trails might differ from traditional trails in several ways: enhanced tread shaping, directional or one-way travel, and the addition of man-made technical trail features (TTFs). Bicycles move differently along a trail than other modes of transportation. The movement of the wheel, the use of gravity and friction, the transfer of energy from the rider to the wheel – these offer both opportunities and constraints for trails and trail features that may differ from those of other users.

Mountain bike-optimized and one-way trails that harness gravity are a growing area of interest for mountain bikers. These trails can be designed and built at any level, from beginner friendly flow trails to extremely difficult race-oriented downhill trails. Riders cherish the feeling of flight that a bicycle provides while coasting through a succession of bike-optimized features from top to bottom. A consistent trail is not necessarily a boring or easy trail (though it can be), it's one that is designed such that a preceding section of trail prepares users for the subsequent sections. This is a hallmark of flow trails and can be particularly important for beginner trails, as well as for higher speed trails with gravity features, such as jumps and drops.

As trail systems grow and become congested, one-way trails help to take the pressure off popular shared-use trails. Riders looking for speed, thrill, and challenge will have their own designated areas, and users traveling at slower speeds will have their own trails. Well-designed mountain bike-optimized singletrack and gravity singletrack are exciting for mountain bikers but are also designed to help manage risk and minimize user conflict.



Rolling Contour Design

Providing consistent climbs and extended descents is a design priority. Trails may contour gently up or down for consistent lengths to maximize climbs and descents. This is known as rolling contour design. All shared-use trails should be of rolling contour design to minimize impact and sedimentation in the watershed.

Stacked Loops

A stacked-loop system is a series of loops somewhat like links in a chain. The loops can vary in length and difficulty. In a stacked-loop system, the loops that are closest to the trailheads are more inviting to novice riders, and the loops further out cater to more advanced riders. This creates a progression of experiences and challenges as users explore the trails in more depth.

Progressive Hubs and Clusters

A trail system of hubs and clusters looks more like spokes radiating out from a central junction and intersecting at various points. A trailhead or major intersection is a hub. A cluster is a concentration of trails radiating out from the hub. Like a stacked loop system, hubs and clusters are designed with skill level progression in

mind. Hubs and clusters give users more trail options for varying skill levels at each hub, allowing for skill level diversity. At many intersections, riders have the option to change trail difficulty or continue on the same difficulty level.

With progressive trail features, a mountain biker may become a better rider by gradually moving up in trail difficulty. This practice also spreads out visitors and helps reduce trail user conflict. This is also a proven risk management tool. Signage shows difficulty levels at every hub and wherever necessary in the trail system to help users choose trails based on their skill levels and desired experience. Giving riders the option to warm up before hitting more technical segments provides a level of safety in the system.

Loops and clusters are often favored over out-and-back routes because they offer variety. People love the adventure of starting down one path and returning to the same point by way of a different trail. With loops or clusters in a trail system, visitors can choose a short route, a combination of routes, or a long outer route.

Progressive design and construction also allow users of different levels to ride the trails in the same system, so families and groups can enjoy being together in one place and riders can find a trail that matches their skills and progress.



Trail Difficulty Rating System

In order for a trail system to provide the varied riding experiences and skill progression which trail users seek, the trails must be built to provide relatively specific challenges and riding characteristics. For the purposes of this conceptual trail plan, the difficulty rating system has been simplified into three levels:

- Easiest Trails, Green Lines (green circle) – For beginners, these trails have a smoother and wider tread, lower trail grades, and less exposure.
- More Difficult, Blue Lines (blue square) – For intermediate riders, these trails can be steeper, more technically difficult, or longer.
- Very to Extremely Difficult Trails, Red Lines (black diamond or double black diamond) – For advanced riders, these trails offer a combination of difficult trail tread, technical features, and long distances for those looking for challenge and endurance-oriented experiences. Generally, they have significant exposure and have less predictable surfaces.

This system was adapted from the International Trail Marking System used at ski areas throughout the world. Many trail networks use this type of system, most notably resort-based mountain biking trail networks. The system applies well to mountain bikers and is also applicable to other visitors such as hikers and equestrians. These ratings should be posted on trail signage and in all maps and descriptions. Following is a summary of criteria to be considered when implementing a trail rating system.

Tread Width

The average width of the active tread or beaten path of the trail.

Tread Surface

The material and stability of the tread surface is a determining factor in the difficulty of travel on the trail. Some descriptive terms include hardened (paved or surfaced), firm, stable, variable, widely variable, loose, and unpredictable.

Trail Grade (maximum and average)

Maximum grade is defined as the steepest section of trail that is more than approximately 10 feet in length and is measured in percent with a clinometer. Average grade is the steepness of the trail over its entire length. Average grade can be calculated by taking the total elevation gain of the trail, divided by the total distance, multiplied by 100 to equal a percent grade.

Natural Obstacles and Technical Trail Features

Objects that add challenge by impeding travel. Examples of natural obstacles include rocks, roots, logs, holes, ledges, drop-offs. The height of each obstacle is measured from the tread surface to the top of the obstacle. If the obstacle is uneven in height, measure to the point over which it is most easily ridden. Technical trail features are objects that have been introduced to the trail to add technical challenge. Examples include rocks, logs, elevated bridges, teeter-totters, jumps, drop-offs. Both the height and the width of the technical trail feature are measured.



IMBA Trail Difficulty Rating System



	 EASIEST WHITE CIRCLE	 EASY GREEN CIRCLE	 MORE DIFFICULT BLUE SQUARE	 VERY DIFFICULT BLACK DIAMOND	 EXTREMELY DIFFICULT DBL. BLACK DIAMOND
TRAIL WIDTH	72" (1,800 mm) or more	36" (900 mm) or more	24" (600 mm) or more	12" (300 mm) or more	6" (150 mm) or more
TREAD SURFACE	Hardened or surfaced	Firm and stable	Mostly stable with some variability	Widely variable	Widely variable and unpredictable
AVERAGE TRAIL GRADE	Less than 5%	5% or less	10% or less	15% or less	20% or more
MAXIMUM TRAIL GRADE	Max 10%	Max 15%	Max 15% or greater	Max 15% or greater	Max 15% or greater
NATURAL OBSTACLES AND TECHNICAL TRAIL FEATURES (TTF)	None	Unavoidable obstacles 2" (50 mm) tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present Unavoidable bridges 36" (900 mm) or wider	Unavoidable obstacles 8" (200 mm) tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present Unavoidable bridges 24" (600 mm) or wider TTF's 24" (600 mm) high or less, width of deck is greater than 1/2 the height	Unavoidable obstacles 15" (380 mm) tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present May include loose rocks Unavoidable bridges 24" (600 mm) or wider TTF's 48" (1,200 mm) high or less, width of deck is less than 1/2 the height Short sections may exceed criteria	Unavoidable obstacles 15" (380 mm) tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present May include loose rocks Unavoidable bridges 24" (600 mm) or narrower TTF's 48" (1,200 mm) high or greater, width of deck is unpredictable Many sections may exceed criteria

Trailheads

Well-placed trailheads and parking lots contribute to a successful trail system. Trailheads should be located in areas of lower elevation, as most trail users prefer outbound climbs with inbound descents back to the parking area. This also helps mitigate risk by allowing fatigued riders an easier route back to their starting point. This is especially true for mountain bikers, and necessary for families and beginners. Trailheads should offer information useful for the trail users, including trail maps, location information, emergency contact details, and volunteer information.

Sustainable Trails

A sustainable trail balances many elements and is designed to have little impact on the environment. Sustainable trails resist erosion through proper design, construction, and maintenance and blend with the surrounding area. A sustainable trail also appeals to and serves a variety of users over many years. It is designed to provide enjoyable and challenging experiences for visitors by managing their expectations effectively. Following sustainable trail design and construction guidelines allows for high-quality trail and education experiences for users while protecting the land's sensitive resources. For additional trail design, construction, and maintenance techniques, refer to Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack. These guidelines are appropriate for any hike, bike, or equestrian trail.



Signage

The development of a mountain bike trail network requires the development of a comprehensive system of signs. Signs are the most important communication tool between land managers and trail users. A well-implemented and maintained signage system enhances the user experience by helping visitors navigate the trail network and providing information about the area. Signage also plays a critical role in managing risk and deploying emergency services.

Recommended signage for the trails should be simple, uncluttered, and obvious with a sign at every major intersection to help users stay on track. Signs should meet the needs of all users, from the daily trail user to someone who is experiencing the trails for the first time. In order to serve the variety of visitors, sign placement should be strategic and frequent. Because signs can intrude on the natural outdoor experience, too much signage can be unsightly. Balancing competing interests is key to developing a successful signage program.

Sign Types

A variety of signs can be created to help users identify trails and their location, select routes, remain confident in their trail choices, find destinations and key points of interest, and understand regulations and allowed uses. Signage can also be interpretive, helping visitors learn about responsible recreation, trail etiquette, and resource protection, as well as how to reduce risk and hazards.



Informational signs

Usually positioned at the trailhead and major intersections, informational signs provide details such as trail length and difficulty. These include signs that identify a trailhead from a road, signs at a trailhead kiosk, trail intersection signs, waymarks, difficulty rating signs, and trail length or elevation gain and loss signs.

Regulatory signs

These types of signs delineate rules, such as prohibited activities, direction of travel, or other restrictions.

Directional signs

Directional signs provide navigational information.

Warning signs

Often incorporating highly visible designs, these signs warn trail users of upcoming hazards or risks. These include visitor rules and regulations, allowed activities, road and trail intersections, and emergency signs.

Educational signs

Educational signs can provide a variety of information for trail users, such as guidelines for responsible recreation, descriptions of natural or cultural resources, trail etiquette, and bike skills.



APPENDIX B: BENEFITS OF MOUNTAIN BICYCLING TRAILS

Promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles

The benefits of mountain biking may start on the trails, but they don't end there. Learning to ride a bike is a rite of passage. Bikes and the sport of mountain biking provide a multitude of opportunities to teach children valuable lessons that will carry into adulthood.

Obesity is at a high, while activity levels among Americans are plummeting. With its progressive nature and way of stimulating the senses, mountain biking is appealing, especially to youth, and provides an excellent form of recreation for reversing the trend toward poor health. Since riding a bike provides excellent cardio conditioning, improves strength and coordination, and burns several hundred calories an hour, it is an activity as appealing to parents as it is to kids.

The unstructured play that mountain biking provides inspires people to explore and appreciate the natural world, leading to positive associations with outdoor activities and exercise.

Mountain biking allows individuals to advance at their own pace, so kids looking for a challenge can have just as much fun as children who are more interested in exploring the scenery. Riding in nature provides an environment where children can work on their skills, have fun, and pedal their bikes without parents having to worry. Mountain biking is a cross-generational endeavor, accessible to all ages and levels of physical fitness. Going for a trail ride is an excellent way for parents to do more than support their children's activities, it's a way to share the experience. Every ride is an opportunity to create a healthy lifestyle and pass on lessons that are best learned through experience.

Several studies on physical activity have indicated that proximity to recreational facilities, such as trails, is a predictor for physical activity. Simply put, if there are walking and biking trails nearby, then residents are more likely to use them and

therefore be healthier. Physical health and exposure to nature also benefit mental health, reducing stress and increasing happiness. In addition, individual and community health translate to economic benefits by decreasing health care costs.



Contributing to Economic Growth

A well-designed trail system can stimulate economic growth by increasing activity within the local population as well as attracting visitors from outside. Trails can generate business in retail sales and services, support jobs, provide sustainable growth in rural communities, and produce tax revenue. Access to trails also correlates to a higher quality of life, thus making the community more desirable and capable of attracting new businesses and workers to an area.

IMBA assists local communities in increasing mountain bicycling tourism as a sustainable, renewable source of economic development. A mountain biking destination is one that attracts tourists to an area for the benefits of the mountain biking experience; provides visitors with all of the amenities needed to compliment, ease, and enhance their visit; and in turn creates word of mouth about the community that will draw new and repeat visits.



According to the Outdoor Industry Alliance, mountain bicyclists represent approximately 3.4% of the U.S. population, or nearly 10.6 million participants. IMBA's own research indicates that enthusiasts, who represent a portion of this overall number, travel extensively within a four-hour range and will typically devote one week per year specifically to travel to reach mountain bicycling destinations. Same-day visitors spend approximately \$35 per day in local communities while destination visitors spend closer to \$193 per day (due in part to lodging and increased meal purchases).

While mountain bicyclists are certainly willing to travel to ride, they will only do so if their destination contains a key ingredient: high-quality trails. These trails must be of a sufficient length and contain a variety of experiences, such as traditional singletrack, bike-optimized singletrack, bike parks, and shuttle options. The competition for these destination-quality locations is slowly increasing over time.

A case study in Cable, Wisconsin, clearly illustrates how a community can benefit from offering a world-class bicycling experience. Construction of new bicycle trails in Cable resulted in:

- Increased property values.
- Increased spending on bicycle related goods.
- 35 jobs created annually, adding \$523,000 to total employee compensation.
- Nearly \$1.3 million impact related to spending from mountain bicyclists.

Fostering Community Pride and Identity

Involving community members in the planning, building, and maintaining of trails fosters community pride. In order to maintain sustainable trails, care of the trail system should be managed by local enthusiasts and rely on an organized membership base. Volunteering to help with trails provides an opportunity for area residents to connect with each other and with the terrain and land that surround them. IMBA members donate nearly one million volunteer hours to trails throughout North America every year, making volunteerism a large part of mountain bike culture.

Trails and parks also provide informal opportunities for people to meet and interact with others in a natural setting. Connection to nature is paramount to maintaining the health of the environment and making the outdoors relevant and accessible to all. Trails serve a diverse population and cultivate unity and stewardship in the community. Trails can even revitalize blighted areas, for example, turning landfills into bike parks or gravel pits into trailheads.

Preserving Open Space

Trails make communities better places to live by preserving and creating open spaces for recreation. Greenways function as hands-on environmental classrooms for people of all ages, providing opportunities to enjoy nature close up. With its abundant plant life, open spaces can decrease pollution, protect water quality, and reduce soil erosion. Economic growth and property values are also tied to open space as buyers are generally willing to pay more for property located close to parks and open space. The recreation, health, economic, and environmental benefits of trails can contribute to an overall enhanced quality of life in nearby communities.

Encouraging Positive Recreation Use to Displace Negative Use

Without a plan, undeveloped areas are often haphazardly transformed by users creating unauthorized sites to suit their personal wants. Purposefully designing trail systems can help create diverse recreational opportunities, encourage safe use, and meet the needs of the entire community. Unauthorized trail building and dumping or other unacceptable activities can damage ecology, cause safety hazards, and leave behind debris that is both unsightly and illegal. The best way to encourage positive use is to displace negative use. A well-planned trail system can discourage and displace destructive activities with healthy recreational use that attracts visitors of all ages.



APPENDIX C: FIGURES

Figure 1: Ashland Trail Concept Plan Overview

Figure 2: Bay City Creek Concept

Figure 3: Memorial Medical Center Concept

Figure 4: Central Railyard Park Concept

City of Ashland Trail Concept Plan Overview Map

ASHLAND, WI
DECEMBER 2022

Legend

Existing Site

- City Parcel
- County Parcel
- Northland College Parcel
- School Parcel
- Memorial Medical Center Parcel

- Road
- Parcel
- Stream/River
- ARTS Trail
- Ski Trail
- Trail

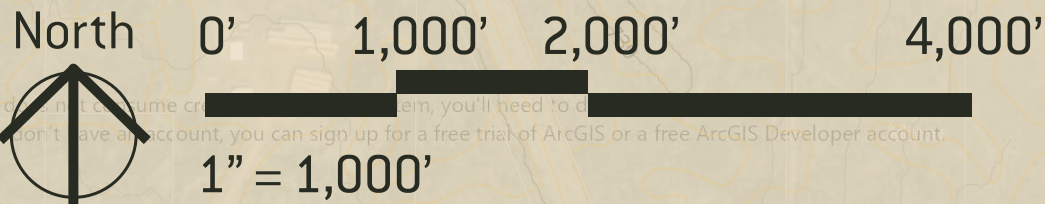
Proposed Concept

- Beginner Shared - Use Trail
- Beginner Bike Optimized Trail
- Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Alternate Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Intermediate Bike Optimized Trail
- Gravel Path
- Trailhead

Prepared by:



Note: This map is intended for planning purposes only. Property boundaries are Approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.



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City of Ashland
Trail Concept Plan
Bay City Creek Concept

ASHLAND, WI
OCTOBER 2022

Legend

Existing Site

- City Parcel
- County Parcel
- Northland College Parcel
- School Parcel
- Memorial Medical Center Parcel

- Road
- Parcel
- Stream/River
- ARTS Trail
- Ski Trail
- Trail

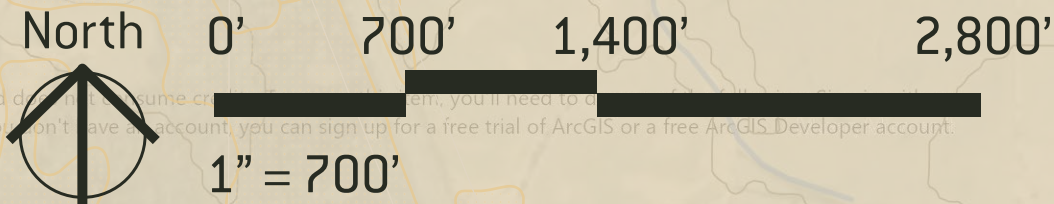
Proposed Concept

- Beginner Shared - Use Trail
- Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Alternate Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Gravel Path
- Trailhead

Prepared by:



Note: This map is intended for planning purposes only. Property boundaries are Approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.



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City of Ashland Trail Concept Plan MMC Trail Concept

ASHLAND, WI
DECEMBER 2022

Legend

Existing Site

- City Parcel
- County Parcel
- Northland College Parcel
- School Parcel
- Memorial Medical Center Parcel
- Road
- Parcel
- Stream/River
- Ski Trail
- Trail

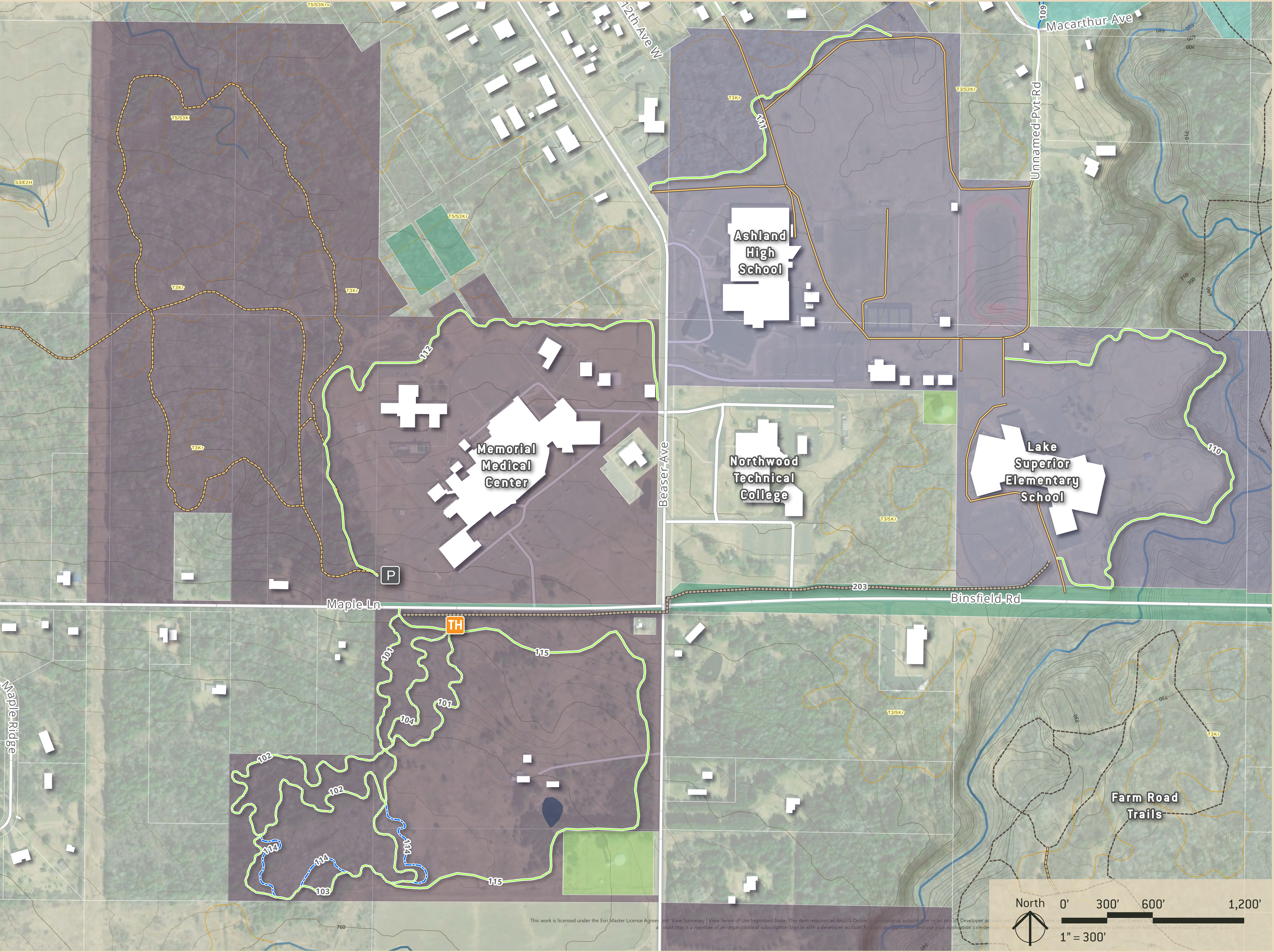
Proposed Concept

- Beginner Shared - Use Trail
- Beginner Bike Optimized Trail
- Intermediate Shared - Use Trail
- Intermediate Bike Optimized Trail
- Gravel Path
- Trailhead

Prepared by:



Note: This map is intended for planning purposes only. Property boundaries are Approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.



City of Ashland, WI
Central Railyard Park
Bike Amenity Concept

ASHLAND, WI
DECEMBER 2022

Legend

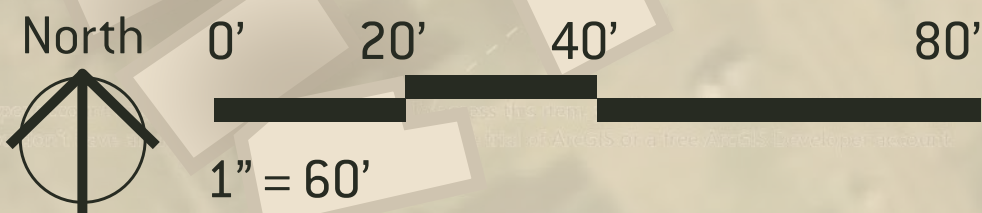
Proposed Concept

- Natural Surface
- Bike Plaza/Sidewalk
- Pumptrack
- Deep Pumptrack Berm
- Pumptrack Drainage
- Shade Structures
- Wooden Ladder Feature
- Proposed Tree
- Roller
- Bike playground features
- Trailhead

Prepared by:



Note: This map is intended for planning purposes only. Property boundaries are Approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.



APPENDIX D: PRE-FAB FEATURES

Supplemental Resources for Prefabricated Features

The vast majority of prefabricated features recommended for Central Railyard Park consist of varying sizes of Ladder Bridges. Below you will find supplemental resources that will assist the City in understanding, sourcing and installing these features. The information provided here is for Progressive Bike Ramps (PBR) engineered prefabricated features, there may be other suppliers capable of providing these features, but this is the supplier that we have used with great success on many projects.

In the following excerpt from PBR's Catalog on ladder bridges, it is important to note that nearly any situation can be accommodated by their ladder bridges.

Included in this appendix are installation instructions, Earth Anchor specifications, a framework submittal and a sample detail of a ladder bridge.

Progressive Bike Ramps Contact:

P: 417-288-4466, E: sales@progressivebikeramps.com

LADDER BRIDGES/ SKILLS FEATURES

Ladder Bridges have become a staple for bike park skills areas. Originally created to bridge sensitive trail crossings, especially in marshy terrain, the popularity of ladder bridges for skill building and just plain fun has helped make these features a must have in any bike park master plan.

While standard widths and lengths are shown, Progressive Bike Ramps features can be modularly expanded to fit nearly any situation.





There are two different types of earth anchor plates that we use to attach to features in different locations. The “bat wing” type as shown here attach to the toes of the ramps (i.e. ladder bridges, Nessy, wedge table). They will also attach to wall rides in front and back and will accept one ground anchor each. This will eliminate the need for any concrete unless dense rock is found and you are unable to drive an anchor.



The upside down C —channel is able to attach to both the middle support posts and to the toes of features like ladder bridges. It is a good idea to either hammer down the piece to where it is solidly touching the ground, or to dig out a small area to make this happen (a small shovel or a claw hammer are completely acceptable tools for this task). Once in place you are ready for the ground anchors. This plate accepts two ground anchors. This distributes the load better and again eliminates the need for concrete (except in certain instances). A couple of things to note here: 1) If you are dealing with a very rocky soil, or in an area with a lot of roots it may be necessary for a pilot hole to be drilled prior to driving the ground anchor. This can be done with a hammer drill and masonry bit available at any hardware store. 2) If you are in looser soil and feel our standard 18” penetrator is not sufficient we can provide longer (or shorter) anchors depending on the soil needs.



When it comes to driving the earth anchors all that you need in “standard” soil is an 18v cordless impact with a ½” drive. Using this tool will eat through some batteries pretty quick so we recommend having several or using electric or pneumatic power if available. The ground anchor we use is an 18” Penetrator (yes that is the name we can’t make this up). It is made of Aircraft-Quality cast aluminum 356 alloy; heat-treated to T6 Specification; has a length (depth) of 18” from flange to tip; has a flange diameter of 2”; flight diameter of 1 ¾”; and neck diameter of 1”.



LOAD CAPACITY

Pullout strength with flight fully embedded

Hardpan or asphalt	Soil Class 1 Dense sand or gravel	Soil Class 2 Medium sandy gravel	Soil Class 3 Loose medium-to-fine sand	Soil Class 4 Loose fine uncompacted sand
2,500 lb 11.1 kN	1,700 lb 7.56 kN	600 lb 2.67 kN	350 lb 1.56 kN	200 lb 0.89 kN

At this particular site pilot holes were not needed; however on the same site we ran into heavy rock and had to drill a pilot hole in order to properly drive the ground anchors. If you ever run into an area where you absolutely cannot get an anchor to drive to depth it is at that point another solution will need to be used. In this case we would recommend a small pad to whatever depth you can and utilizing J-bolts. The anchors can be driven into asphalt as well and it is recommended that a 1” pilot hole be drilled.





After parts are assembled and earth anchors are driven the product will be completed, and ready to ride.

The earth anchor supports are made of:

- 7 gauge (3/16") galvanized steel.
- Powder coated finish to protect against the elements further.
- Bolt patterns for "toes" and posts.

For permanent use we recommend that you cover the earth anchor supports with dirt, mulch, or other natural material. For temporary use leave uncovered for ease of removal.

If you need further assistance contact:

Don Wimer: Project/Install Manager
1-855-727-7267 ext 150
don@progressivebikeramps.com

Robert Botts: PBR Product Engineer
1-855-727-7267 ext 126
Robert@progressivebikeramps.com

Jason Stouder: PBR-VP
1-855-727-7267 ext 123
jason@progressivebikeramps.com





American Earth Anchors

The best screw you will have in the dirt™

QUICK REFERENCE

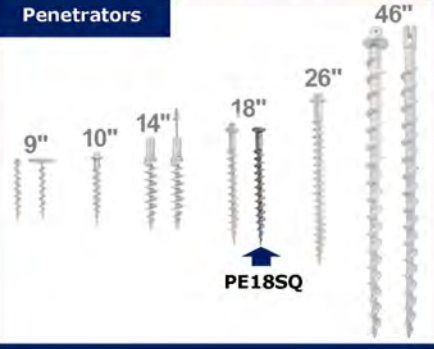
PE18SQ | Specifications

18" Penetrator™ with square-drive (flat) head

- Aircraft-quality cast aluminum 356 alloy
- Heat-treated to T6 specification
- Install with 1/2" square drive
- Removable

1.3 lb
(.6 kg)

Penetrators



Fits 1/2" square drive



LOAD CAPACITY

Pullout strength with flight fully embedded

Hardpan or asphalt	Soil Class 1 Dense sand or gravel	Soil Class 2 Medium sandy gravel	Soil Class 3 Loose medium-to-fine sand	Soil Class 4 Loose fine uncompacted sand
2,500 lb 11.1 kN	1,700 lb 7.56 kN	600 lb 2.67 kN	350 lb 1.56 kN	200 lb 0.89 kN

Contact us for CUSTOM WORK
Size, length, shape, material,
prototypes, cable assemblies

866-520-8511
+1 508-520-8511

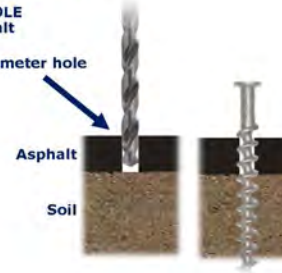
PE18SQ | Installation

QUICK REFERENCE

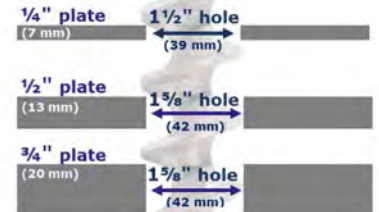
Through asphalt

Drill PILOT HOLE
through asphalt

1" (2.5 cm) diameter hole



Through metal plate



Installation methods



Impact wrench



AEA T-handle

Optional ratchet

1/2" square-drive tip

Attachment accessories

Contact us for custom bracket/sleeve sizes and designs



Tie-off cable
PE-TC

Can be doubled over to
make large loop around
structural member



Sleeves
and plates



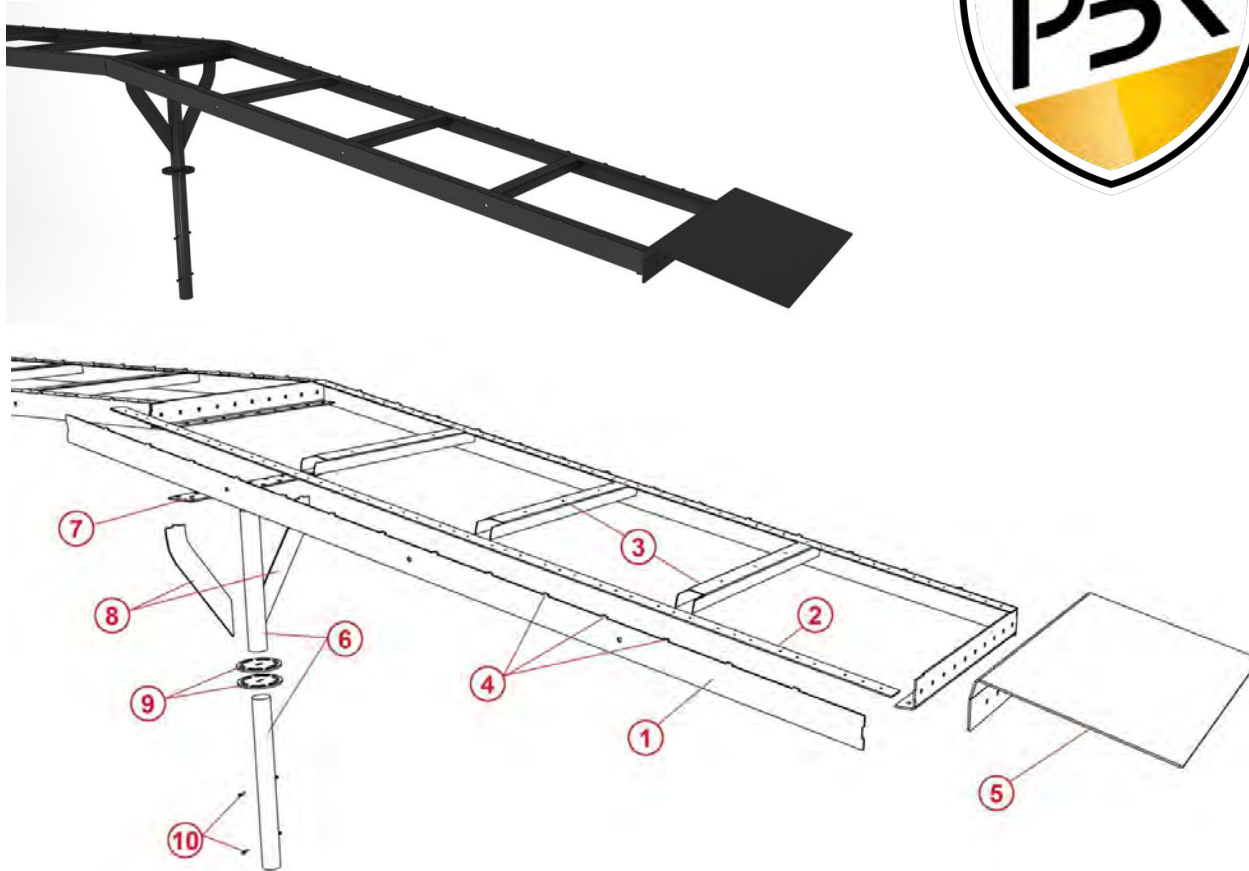
Brackets

American Earth Anchors
info@americanea.com
americanea.com

Contact us for CUSTOM WORK
Size, length, shape, material,
prototypes, cable assemblies

866-520-8511
+1 508-520-8511

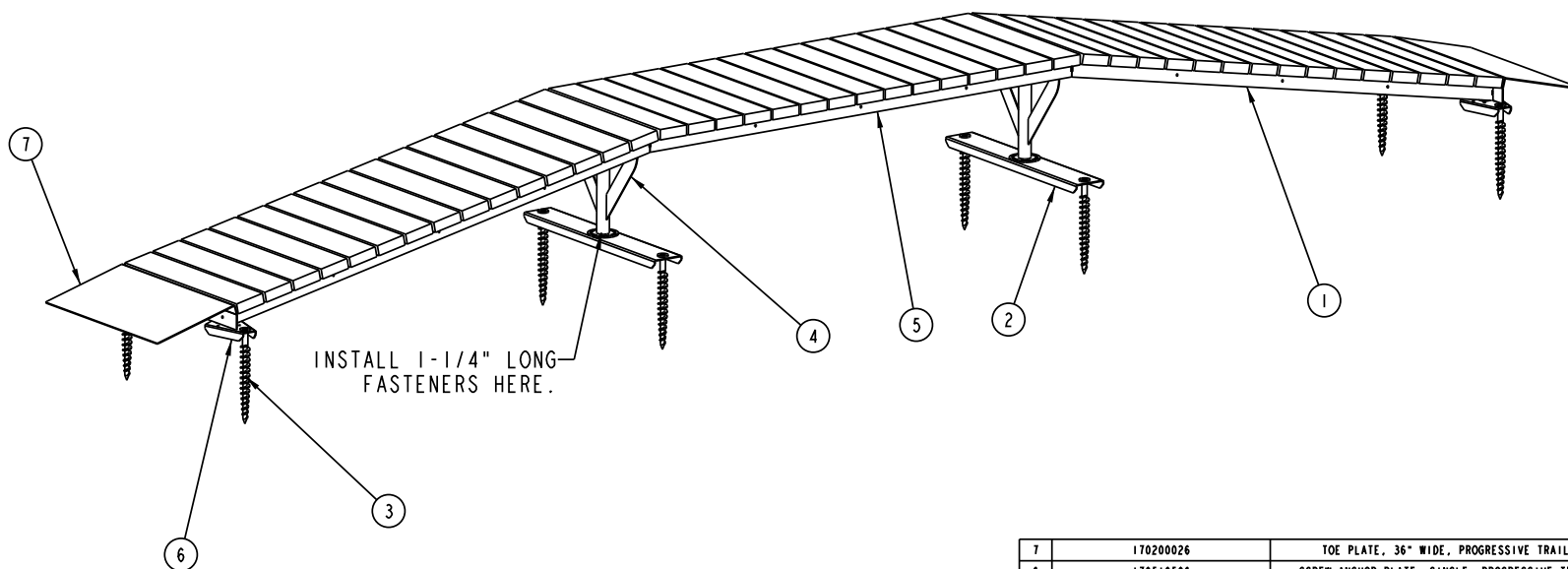
Progressive Bike Ramps- Framework Submittal



Progressive Bike Ramps
601 McKinley Ave
Joplin, MO 64801
1-855-727-7267
www.progressivebikeramps.com

- 1) **Side Support**- 7-gauge galvalneal laser cut, powder-coat paint finish
- 2) **Top Support**- 10-gauge galvalneal laser cut, laser cut hole pattern for riding surface, Powdercoat paint finish
- 3) **Lateral Support**- 13-gauge galvalneal laser cut, CNC- formed metal support, powder-coat paint finish
- 4) **Locator Tabs**- laser cut, tabs for proper riding surface spacing
- 5) **Transition Plate**- 7-gauge galvalneal laser cut, CNC-formed metal support, powder-coat paint finish, vertical support underneath
- 6) **Support & Anchor**- 2" schedule 40 pipe, powdercoat finish
- 7) **Support Plate**- 7-gauge galvalneal laser cut, powder-coat paint finish
- 8) **Lateral Support**- 7-gauge galvalneal laser cut, powder-coat paint finish
- 9) **Anchor Plate**- ¼" galvalneal laser cut, powder-coat paint finish
- 10) **Nelson Studs**- welded 4" from the bottom & 8" between, powdercoat paint finish

REVISION HISTORY			
REV	DESCRIPTION	REVISED	DATE



7	170200026	TOE PLATE, 36" WIDE, PROGRESSIVE TRAIL	2
6	170510596	SCREW ANCHOR PLATE, SINGLE, PROGRESSIVE TRAIL	4
5	170110105W	FRAME W/LUMBER, 8' LONG, 3" WIDE, PROGRESSIVE TRAIL	1
4	170200069	FIXED LEG, 2' HIGH, 36" WIDE, PROGRESSIVE TRAIL	2
3	110460024	EARTH ANCHOR, 18" LONG, PROGRESSIVE TRAIL	8
2	170510592	ANCHOR CHANNEL, 42", PROGRESSIVE TRAIL	2
1	170110095W	8' RAMP, 2' HIGH, 36" WIDE, PROGRESSIVE TRAIL	2
ITEM		PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION

TOLERANCES
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
(X.X) : ±0.125
(X.XX) : ±0.060
(X.XXX) : ±0.030
ANGULAR : ±1.0°

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601 MCKINLEY
JOPLIN, MO. 64801
PHONE: (417) 206-6816
FAX: (417) 206-6888
www.americanrampcompany.com

STRAIGHT LADDER
2' HIGH, 36" WIDE, PBR
DWG NO. SL-11D-2-270-36-EA
658.9

DRAWN BY: R. BOTTS
DATE: 16-Mar-18
RELEASE LEVEL: Concept

DO NOT SCALE THIS PRINT
SHEET 1 OF 2

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SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Revised City of Ashland Employee Handbook (*Administration*)

RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Administration

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS: 1. City of Ashland Handbook of Terms and Conditions of Employment 2023 - DRAFT

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: GOOD GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

At the March 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole, Kucera offered the revised City of Ashland Employee Handbook for Councilors to review, with the intention of bringing any edits, concerns, or questions to the March 28, 2023 meeting.



The City of Ashland Handbook of Terms and Conditions of Employment

[MONTH] 2023

(This document is not a contract)

ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

We are pleased to present you with this Employee Handbook containing information in summary form about our workplace, the major benefits available to you, and your obligations as an employee.

This Handbook is provided as a guide you may use to familiarize yourself with the City of Ashland.

As with any job change, you will experience a period of adjustment. You will want to know what you can expect from the City and what will be expected from you. You may have questions about your job duties, your benefits, and general City operations. We have prepared this Handbook to assist you in finding the answers to many of these questions. However, we do not expect this Handbook to answer all of your questions. Your supervisor will be your primary source of information.

THE HANDBOOK IS NOT, NOR SHOULD IT BE CONSIDERED TO BE, AN AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OR A PROMISE OF TREATMENT IN ANY PARTICULAR MANNER IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION. THIS HANDBOOK STATES ONLY GENERAL CITY GUIDELINES. TO THE EXTENT ANYTHING CONTAINED IN THIS HANDBOOK CONFLICTS WITH AN APPLICABLE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT GOVERNS. THE CITY'S POLICY IS THAT EMPLOYMENT IS "AT WILL." YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE THE CITY AT ANY TIME, WITH OR WITHOUT A REASON AND WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE. THE CITY ALSO HAS THE RIGHT TO END YOUR EMPLOYMENT AT ANY TIME, WITH OR WITHOUT A REASON AND WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE. ALTHOUGH THE CITY MAY CHOOSE TO END YOUR EMPLOYMENT FOR A CAUSE, CAUSE IS NOT REQUIRED.

Further, the City has the right to manage its work force and direct its employees. This includes the right to hire, transfer, promote, demote, reclassify, lay off, terminate, or change any term or condition of employment at any time, with or without a reason and with or without notice unless otherwise required by law. The City may, at any time, in its sole discretion, modify or vary anything stated in this Handbook—except as required by law, and except for the rights of the parties to terminate employment at will, which may only be modified, on an individual or collective basis, by an express written agreement signed by the City Administrator.

This Handbook supersedes all prior handbooks, manuals, policies, and procedures issued by the City of Ashland. Any violation of the policies and/or procedures set forth in this Handbook may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

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1. Introduction

1.01. Introduction

The "City of Ashland ~~Employee Handbook—of Terms and Conditions of Employment~~" hereinafter referred to as "Employee Handbook," sets forth employment policy, guidelines, rules of conduct and guidance regarding general expectations of professional behavior and conduct which employees are to follow. The Handbook informs employees about what the City of Ashland may generally expect from ~~the~~ employees in order to guide employees in their professional duties and in fulfilling their responsibilities in serving the City of Ashland and its residents.

None of the statements or policies outlined in the Employee Handbook are meant to create any contract of employment, nor do they imply that the ~~employer~~ City is guaranteeing employment for any person or changing the at-will relationship in any manner. This Employee Handbook is not, nor is it intended to be construed as an employment contract or to guarantee any rights to employees. This Employee Handbook applies to all City of Ashland employees.

To the extent this Employee Handbook conflicts with specific language in applicable collective bargaining agreements covering certain personnel, the specific language of the collective bargaining agreement shall control over the language of this Handbook when required. However, application of these policies to members of bargaining units neither contemplates nor allows for the extension of fringe benefits or other compensation beyond that which is provided in the specific labor agreements. Additionally, any wages, hours and working conditions referenced in this Employee Handbook that are subject to the mandatory duty to bargain are not binding on those parties unless permitted by the collective bargaining agreement or upon fulfillment of the duty to bargain between the Union and ~~City of Ashland Employer~~ or upon waiver.

Final interpretation and implementation of any of the policies or rules in this Employee Handbook are vested solely with the City. The ~~policies~~ Polices included herein are subject to change at any time by the City and will be reviewed and revised periodically.

To the extent ~~that~~ this Employee Handbook conflicts with any controlling state or federal statute, regulation, or common law, the requirements of such state or federal law shall substitute for the conflicting language in the Handbook to the extent necessary, but only to the extent necessary, for conformity of this Handbook with the law.

1.02. Welcome to the City of Ashland!

~~To the Employees of the City of Ashland,~~

Welcome to the City of Ashland! We are pleased to have you join our team of highly dedicated and committed public servants. It is our hope that our employees will find their work with the City of Ashland ~~((hereinafter the "City"))~~ to be not only fulfilling, but rewarding as well. As ~~City-of-Ashland~~ employees, we are challenged to work together to provide the best service possible to the citizens of the ~~City-of-Ashland~~. Employees will be given the opportunity to grow, develop and utilize their skills, within a City that values honesty, integrity, and most importantly excellence in customer service. The rewards for success will be great in terms of recognition, a sense of accomplishment and service.

A position with the City ~~of-Ashland~~ is more than a job; it is an expression of the trust that the public places with us. You are now a member of a team dedicated to delivering exceptional municipal services in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards.

Again, we welcome you to the City ~~-of-Ashland~~ and wish you much success in your employment!

1.03. City History

Ashland was incorporated as a City on March 25, 1887. It is located on Chequamegon Bay of Lake Superior. Before being settled by Europeans, this area was home to the Ojibwe Nation, a Native American tribe. The Ojibwe people in our area are known by two tribal bands; the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe and the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. Both bands, their members and descendants ~~—who remain important—remain an important~~ demographic, ~~—and cultural—and governmental contributors and partners—force~~ in the area. The first Europeans to come to this area, French and British fur traders and French Missionaries, came via Lake Superior. Lake Superior is known by the Ojibwe people as Gichi Gamii (gi-chee gumee) or Big Lake.

Asaph Whittlesey was the first European to build a home and settle in what is now Ashland. When he felled the first tree, he said, "This will be the site of a great city." Whittlesey later served in the Wisconsin Legislature. At the time, the nearest train station was Chippewa Falls and the only way to get there was to walk one hundred and fifty (150) miles. The photograph of Whittlesey, in his winter garb and snowshoes, has become locally famous.

Lake Superior helped Ashland grow as a City, with logs shipped to and processed lumber and iron ore shipped out ~~from our~~ port. Ashland became the trading, wholesale, medical, and educational center of northern Wisconsin. Except for an occasional shipment of coal, Ashland is no longer used as an industrial port. Chequamegon Bay is now used for recreational boating, fishing, swimming, jet-skiing and sail boarding. In the winter, the ice hosts ice-fishing, ice-racing, and cross-country skiing.

Railroads were also important in Ashland's development. Ashland was first connected to the nation by rail in 1877. The "Rails to Trails" program provides Ashland with a ten-mile walking and biking loop, and connects the City to an impressive recreational trail system used for biking, ATV riding, and snowmobiling. Ashland is still served by rail, however, including a spur to the southern portion of our Industrial Park. For more historical information, visit the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce's website.

The City ~~of Ashland~~ embraces its rich and unique history. We acknowledge the land we inhabit as belonging to generations of many different people, but do give special acknowledgement to the indigenous people who were caretakers of this land for thousands of years. We welcome people of all ethnicities, races, creeds, and backgrounds. We are a beautiful fabric of people woven together as a community.

1.04. City of Ashland Employee Operating Statement

The philosophy of public service held by employees and elected officials affects the attitudes, morale, work environment and ultimately the quality of municipal services. The City's ~~of Ashland~~ operating statement articulates the values and philosophy governing the operation of the city.

Our Vision

~~Our vision is to~~ help ~~Ashland~~ the City become a more exceptional place to live, work, and recreate.

Our Mission

~~To deliver exceptional municipal services in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards.~~

Our Values

~~We will:~~

1. Greet our customers with enthusiasm and a helpful attitude.
2. Be open and honest with customers, elected officials, and other employees, welcoming opinions and ideas of others.
3. Be results-oriented individuals actively engaged in providing quality services, finding ways to improve city operations, and striving toward the most efficient delivery of services.
4. Respect the quality of our environment and seek opportunities to improve it.
5. Resolve disputes and answer inquiries quickly and accurately.
6. Understand that failure is to be learned from rather than feared.
7. Respect citizen opinions regardless of whether we agree or disagree with those opinions.
8. Be innovative and creative in working toward solutions to community issues.
9. Expect to be held accountable and be willing to accept responsibility for our actions.
10. Capitalize on opportunities for teamwork with other departments, employees, government agencies, civic groups, and individuals.
11. Continually strive to increase customer satisfaction and add value to our community.

1.05. Administrative Responsibility Purpose of this Handbook

~~This Handbook is a tool to educate employees who are new to City service and to serve as a ready reference for our current employees. The general purpose of this Handbook is to establish guidance whereby all employees are treated fairly with respect to recruitment, benefits, compensation, advancement, and other aspects of human resource administration. It is each employee's responsibility to read or become familiar with the information contained within this handbook and to comply with the policies adopted by the City.~~

~~The remainder of the Handbook will familiarize employees with the benefits and responsibilities of being an employee of the City. Please understand that this handbook can only highlight and summarize the City's policies and practices. Due to the diverse and very specialized nature of activities within City operations, the policies set forth herein are not intended to be a complete assembly of all policies of the City. For more detailed information, please speak with your supervisor or the City's Human Resources Director.~~

~~In our City, circumstances and situations are constantly evolving. As a result, the City may have to revise, rescind, or supplement these policies from time to time, which will require employee acknowledgement. A signed acknowledgement of receipt of the policy change will be placed in each employee's personnel file. Section 12 outlines an amendment process to which the City will adhere. It should~~

~~be noted, the contents of this Handbook should not be construed as a contract, expressed or implied between the City of Ashland and any of its employees.~~

~~Only the Common Council has the authority to enter into any employment agreement for a specified duration. Such agreements will be considered valid and binding on the City only if it is expressly set forth in a written document and signed by both the employee, the City Administrator/designee, and/or by the Common Council.~~

~~This edition of the Handbook becomes effective the date of publication and supersedes all previously issued editions of the Employee Handbook. The City will follow the Handbook amendment process set forth in Section 12.~~

~~Procedures, assignments, work duties, staffing levels will change as the nature of public service changes. Departments, programs, or individual employees that seek changes to any of the Employee Handbook sections should contact the City's Human Resources Director regarding the process. Departments are encouraged to regularly review and submit recommended changes to the Employee Handbook to ensure highly productive operations.~~

Administrative Responsibility

The City Human Resources Director is responsible for the administration of the content of the Employee Handbook, except as otherwise provided. The City Human Resources Director directs the implementation of human resource policies, specifies such administrative procedures, forms, records, reports and audits as deemed necessary. All ~~City~~ employees ~~of the City~~ assist in implementing the policies, procedures and guidelines contained in this handbook.

1.06. Role of Management

Role of Management

The role of management includes:

- A. ~~Direct and manage~~ Managing the department workforce, and determine its composition, organization standards of workmanship and structure;
- B. Hire, promote, transfer and assign employees;
- C. Maintain a positive and safe workplace environment
- D. Evaluate employee job performance annually;
- E. Lay off and recall employees;
- F. Discharge employees or take disciplinary action;
- G. Determine the extent and schedule of its operations subject to law;
- H. Schedule hours and ~~-overtime~~ as necessary;

- I. ~~+~~Develop and update job descriptions;
- J. Assign work duties;
- K. Schedule process and distribution of work;
- L. Introduce new or improved processes or facilities;
- M. Contract out for goods and services;
- ~~M.N.~~ Direct the operations of the City.

2. Employment

2.01. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The City ~~of Ashland~~ is ~~committed to the principle of an~~ equal employment opportunity ~~employer~~. ~~The City enthusiastically accepts its responsibility to make employment decisions without regard to race, religious creed, color, age, sex, sexual orientation (including gender identity and expression), national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, marital status, disability (including pregnancy and childbirth), military service or veteran status, genetic information, or any other classification protected by applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances. The City is dedicated to ensuring the fulfillment of this policy with respect to (EEO) in any term, condition, or privilege of employment. The City has an Equal Opportunity Policy that provides a uniform set of standards governing the equality of opportunity for City employees and job applicants. The policy states:~~

~~Any violation of this policy will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination. If an employee believes someone has violated this policy or otherwise has questions regarding this policy, the employee may bring the matter to the attention of the City Human Resources Director. The City will promptly investigate the facts and circumstances of any claims this policy has been violated and take appropriate corrective measures.~~

~~No employee will be subject to, and the City prohibits, any form of discipline or retaliation for reporting perceived violates of this policy, pursuing any such claim, or cooperating in any way in the investigation of such claims. It is the policy of The City of Ashland to provide equal employment opportunity to all employees and job applicants. No person shall be discriminated against in any term, condition, or privilege of employment on the basis of age, race, gender however it is defined,, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by state or local law.~~

2.02. Employment “At-Will”

Employment with the City ~~of Ashland~~ is "At-Will". Under Wisconsin law, unless there is an agreement to the contrary, ~~"At-Will"~~ employment means employees are not obligated to work for the City for any specific time period and that employees may quit at any time for any reason, with or without cause. The City ~~of Ashland~~ has the same right to terminate the employment of any employee at any time, with or without cause. This Employee Handbook does not create an employment contract between the employee and the City ~~of Ashland~~. No one at the City is authorized to make promises of continued employment or assurances of benefits or other verbal agreements of any kind. Any agreement other than "at-will" must be approved by the Common Council, and must be in writing and signed by both the employee and the City Administrator/designee.

At-will status does not apply to elected officials.

2.03. Orientation Period

Unless otherwise specified, all new and promoted non-elected persons shall serve a six (6) month orientation period. During this time, the supervisor will determine the suitability of the employee for the position. The orientation period may be extended at the discretion of the supervisor for a newly created position, a highly skilled position, or a position which has been inadequately supervised. During this orientation period, an employee may be terminated, without recourse to the grievance procedure of this "handbook", if the City, in its discretion, determines the employee is not suited and/or qualified for the job. Upon completion of this orientation period, the employee shall be notified in writing of ~~successful~~ completion of the orientation period. Represented employees may have different orientation periods up to one year depending on their position and the specific union contract.

Employee Orientation – During the initial period of employment, the employee will participate in an orientation program conducted by the City Human Resources Director and department head or a designee. During this time, the employee will receive important information regarding performance requirements for his/her position, basic city policies, benefit programs, safety orientation and training.

New employees are encouraged to use this orientation time to familiarize themselves with the City and its policies and procedures. The City encourages new hires to ask any questions they may have during this time, so they will understand all the guidelines that affect and govern the employment relationship with the City.

For all new and promoted/laterally transferred persons, the first six (6) months of employment are considered to be within the orientation period. This period

provides the employee and the City the opportunity to decide whether the employee is suitable for the position. Upon completion of this six (6) month period, the employee shall be notified in writing of successful completion of the orientation period. However, this does not change the at-will employment status. (Represented employees need to consult their contract for the probationary and promotion guidelines, if any.) Please note, an orientation period may be extended if the employee fails to meet the conditions of employment at the discretion of the Department Head and in consultation with Human Resources and the City Administrator. Only a Department Head or Human Resources can extend an employee's orientation period.

Supervisors are encouraged to make an evaluation of an employee who is classified as being in an orientation period after three (3) months and at the six (6) months within the position. Evaluations may also be made at any other time. An unsuccessful orientation period may result in termination. However, the orientation period may be extended by a department head in concurrence with the City Human Resources Director and/or City Administrator for an additional period of time if it is determined that additional time may be needed for proper assessment of skills.

Although the City hopes that new hires will be successful, the City may terminate employment at any time, either during the orientation period or afterwards, with or without cause and with or without notice. Employees are also free to resign at any time for any reason. Successful completion of the orientation period does not guarantee a job for any period of time or in any way change the at-will employment relationship.

Medical and Psychological Evaluations - Medical and psychological evaluations may be required for specific City positions (i.e. police officer, firefighter) and will be given to all entering employees in the same job category regardless of disability after a job offer has been made. Physical agility tests and tests for the use of illegal drugs are not considered medical examinations under the ADA. However, the City may require new employees to submit to drug testing and physical agility tests as determined by the nature of their position within the City. Police and Fire employees should refer to their specific union contract and conditions of employment.

2.04. Recruitment

The City ~~of Ashland~~ understands we are only as good as our employees; the City searches as widely as possible for talented and motivated individuals to fill vacant positions. The City ~~of Ashland~~ provides equal employment opportunity in its

employment practices by recruiting and selecting employees based on their relative ability, knowledge and skills for ~~the~~ positions regardless of age, race, gender identity, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation or any other status protected by state, federal, or local law.

All recruitment activities are coordinated through the City Human Resources Director and the department head. The filling of vacant positions must be authorized by the City Administrator and the Common Council as deemed necessary by the Personnel Recruiting/Requisition process.

2.05. Hiring Practices

The City ~~of Ashland (hereinafter the "City")~~ will seek to recruit and select the best-qualified persons for open positions with the City. The City Human Resources Director and the department head are responsible for developing and conducting an active recruitment and selection program designed to meet current and projected City employment needs. The procedure will be consistent with the City's Equal Opportunity Employment policy and will comply with applicable contracts, state and federal laws.

In general, the City Council must budget for, and the City Administrator must approve the filling of any full-time City vacancy before starting the recruitment process. All new or additional positions must be approved by the Common Council. Under most circumstances, new or additional positions will be considered at budget time or at other times if budgeted funds become available.

When a full-time or regular part-time position is vacated, the department head must notify the Human Resources Director, complete a Personnel Requisition Form that includes a complete justification for filling the position, submit a current or updated job description, direction on how the position will be advertised, estimated costs to recruit and an estimate of salary and fringe benefits. The City Human Resources Director will review the completed form and seek City Administrator and Finance approval or the Common Council if the position is not currently budgeted for.

The department head and/or City Human Resources Director will be responsible for the administration of the recruitment and selection policy. The City may deviate from the recruitment and selection policy as the City deems necessary and in its sole discretion. Deviations from the recruitment and selection policy must be approved by the City Administrator and/or the City Human Resources Director.

The City, at its discretion may develop eligibility lists to fill positions as is necessary to minimize recruitment costs and fill positions in a timely manner.

Seasonal/Limited-Term Positions: If the seasonal position is recurring and has been budgeted for in the current year, the department head must submit a Personnel Requisition form to the City Human Resources Director for review and approval by the City Human Resources Director and the City Administrator. After the City Human Resources Director and the City Administrator approve the filling of a season/limited-term position the positions may be posted without further approval.

Emergency Appointments: Whenever there is a need to fill a vacancy and the City Human Resources Director is unable to provide names of eligible candidates, the department head must submit a Personnel Requisition form to the City Human Resources Director who will review the form and determine if further approval is necessary. If a true emergency situation exists, the department head and/or City Human Resources Director may begin the recruitment process with prior approval by the City Administrator. In emergency situations, prior authorization of Council is waived if the position has already been budgeted for.

Employment of volunteers, interns, and seasonal employees:

No department shall employ or use volunteers, interns, seasonal employees, temporary employees, co-op students or participate in other wage sharing programs without prior discussion and approval by the City Human Resources Director. While such programs appear on the surface to have little or no cost associated with them, there may be liability and training issues that should be reviewed before the City ~~of Ashland~~ uses this type of help. If such positions/programs are authorized the department will coordinate the employment conditions, offer letters, approvals and paperwork with the City Human Resources Director and the City Administrator.

The following is the general procedure for recruitment and selection in the City, although the City Human Resources Director and the City Administrator may vary from this procedure at their discretion.

Internal Recruitment or Internal Promotion/Lateral Transfer – The City ~~of Ashland~~ recognizes the importance of promoting qualified employees to fill vacancies within the organization. Vacancies therefore will generally be posted for a minimum of ten (10) business days within the City before open recruitment. Internal posting of the position may be done concurrently with open recruitment at the City's discretion.

Open Recruitment – All regular, full and part-time jobs not filled internally, will be advertised at a minimum of one (1) time through a locally known job search resource. In addition, the local and state Job Service office will be notified of any vacancies along with any other public or private agencies deemed appropriate or necessary and also posted on the City of Ashland Website and other social media as appropriate. Applications for positions will generally be accepted for a minimum of ten (10) days following the first publication.

The City Human Resources Director will issue a job announcement to publicize vacancies deemed appropriate for announcement. This should be coordinated with the department head in the department in which the vacancy exists to ensure the community is aware of job openings.

Applications will be valid for consideration when:

1. The application and any other required documentation is received or postmarked on or before the deadline date. Faxes and emailed copies of application materials will be accepted.
2. The application is filed on the prescribed form.
3. The application is signed and substantially complete.
4. The application has not in any way been falsified.
5. The application reflects that the applicant meets other valid and lawful employment requirements for the vacant position.

Screening – The department head and/or the City Human Resources Director, and when appropriate the City Administrator, will conduct all appropriate applicant screening and ranking procedures including but not limited to: review of education and experience, work sample and skills testing and background criminal and reference checks. The department head and/or City Human Resources Director will confer with supervisory staff, members of the governing committee and others familiar with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to fulfill the duties of the vacant position. Applicants may be rejected if the applicant, among other things:

- Has falsified the application
- Does not meet the minimum qualifications for the position
- Is not within the legal age requirements for minors and minor employment law as applicable limits or as prescribed for the City position
- Is found unsuitable for the position vacancy based on job related factors

Interviews – Applicants selected for final consideration will be scheduled for a personal interview. The department head and/or City Human Resources Director

will be responsible for scheduling interviews and the preparation of interview questions. The Interview Committee responsible for the actual conducting of the interview will be determined on a case by case basis and may include the department head, supervisory staff, members of the governing body and the City Administrator. All interviews must be carried out in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

Appointment – Upon the completion of the interview and evaluation of the certified candidates, the department head will make the selection based on the advice and recommendations of the Interview Committee. If no appointment is made, a decision to re-post the vacancy and begin the search process again will be made. After the position has been offered and accepted, candidates not selected will be notified by the City Human Resources Director that the position has been filled.

2.06. Physical Examinations

Physical Examinations may be required in the following situations:

- Pre-employment Physicals - after a conditional offer of employment has been extended to an applicant and before an individual begins working for the City, a physical examination may be required depending upon the position. The full cost of the examination will be provided for at the City's expense. An offer of employment may be conditioned on the results of the examination, as provided for below.
- Fitness for Duty Examination - where there is a need to determine whether an employee is still able to perform the essential functions of his or her job, the City will require a physical examination. The full cost of the examination will be provided at the City's expense.

A job applicant or an employee will be required to sign a release so that the medical provider conducting the examination will be permitted to disclose the examination results and recommendations.

If the physical examination reveals that a job applicant or employee has a disability that impacts the applicant's or employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the job, the City will consult with the employee or applicant regarding reasonable accommodations, if any.

The results of any physical examination performed by or on behalf of the City will be maintained in separate secure files and will be treated as confidential.

2.07. Required Paperwork

1. Offers of Employment/Letters of Hire: The City Human Resources Director/designee may give offers of employment orally or in writing. If given orally, a formal written job offer letter in writing will follow. The City Human Resources Director will coordinate with the department head to establish a start date, as well as the appropriate time for the paperwork to be completed. After the candidate has received the appropriate approval(s), a letter is sent noting salary, start date and conditions of employment to be completed. All offers of employment shall be contingent upon successful passing of criminal background checks, drug and alcohol testing requirements when necessary as determined by the position, as well as any other appropriate tests or verifications.

2. Hiring Folder: Human Resources Director shall keep a hiring folder for each opening which shall contain the following: job description, recruitment ads or notices, applications, tests, a list of all staff involved in the hiring process, interview questions/rating sheets, responses to reference questions, and EEOC data. The results of a medical or psychological exam, obtained after an offer of employment has been made, shall be kept in a separate medical file.

3. ~~Orientation~~Onboarding: The City Human Resources Director shall conduct new employee ~~orientation~~ onboarding in a timely manner and is responsible for ensuring enrollment in applicable benefit programs. The department head will be responsible for coordinating department, safety, timesheet preparation and other ~~orientation~~ onboarding programs as deemed appropriate.

4. Employment Eligibility Verification: The Employment Eligibility Verification form (Form I-9) must be completed by all newly hired employees to verify their identity and eligibility to work in the United States. Employees are considered hired as of the actual commencement of employment for wages. The employee must fill out Section 1 of the form and present documents establishing both identity and employment eligibility within three (3) days of hire.

5. New Hire Reporting: All new hires must be reported to the Department of Workforce Development within 30 days from the date of hire. Reports must include the employee's name, address, date of birth, social security number, date of hire, and the City's name, address, and federal employer identification number.

Employees are responsible for keeping the City informed of changes in address or contact information. There is a specific address change form employees are required to fill out to make address changes. Please contact Human Resources for the form.

2.08. Outside Employment

City employees may not hold another full-time job, or the equivalent, in addition to their regular full-time position with the City. Employees may hold supplementary, part-time employment as long as they meet the performance [and attendance](#) standards of their position and their outside employment does not create a conflict of interest or hinder the impartial, objective or effective performance of their public duties. Supplementary part-time employment must be approved by the Department Head prior to the start date of the outside employment. Employees should consider the impact ~~that~~ outside employment may have on their mental health and physical endurance. Full-time employment with the City ~~of Ashland~~ shall be considered an employee's primary occupation and take precedence over all other occupations. Full-time employees shall not have other employment which present a "time conflict". A time conflict exists when the working hours of a secondary job directly conflicts with an employee's scheduled working hours or mandatory overtime obligations, if any, or when the demands of a secondary job prohibit adequate rest or otherwise affect the employee's job performance or when an employee takes leave from the City to perform secondary work.

No employee, regardless of employment status, shall have other employment, as an employee or as an independent contractor or as a self-employed individual, which presents an "conflict of interest" with their municipal position. A conflict of interest exists when an employee engages in any secondary employment which tends or may appear to compromise the employee's judgment, actions, or job performance or conflict with the policies, objectives and operations of the City. If you are uncertain if there is a conflict, please consult your department head or the City Human Resources Director. All employees will be judged by the same performance [and attendance](#) standards and will be subject to the City's scheduling demands, regardless of any existing outside work requirements. It is the employee's responsibility to notify their supervisor of any outside employment.

Employees must submit a written request and obtain permission from their department head prior to accepting any secondary part-time employment. Department heads must submit a written request and obtain permission from the City Administrator prior to accepting any secondary part-time employment. Copies of the request and the approval or denial are sent to the City Human Resources Director to be placed in the employee's personnel file.

2.09. Employment of Relatives

The City does not permit any members of the immediate family of any employee to be hired or to work under the supervision of, or in the same department as, the employee, unless special approval for this hire has been obtained from the Common Council, prior to the employment of the family member. Immediate family for the purposes of this rule shall mean spouses, parents, children, or siblings, including step relationships and in-laws.

2.10. Residency

The City encourages, but except as permitted by State law does not require, residency within the City limits for any city positions. Employees working in positions with residency or response time requirements must meet the residency requirements within the six (6) month orientation period.

Each member of the police or firefighters union should check his or her collective bargaining agreement for specifics.

2.11. Employment of Appointed Officials

City Attorney - The regular term of the office for City Attorney shall be two (2) years and shall commence on the third Wednesday of January of the odd-numbered years. The City Attorney is a position that is appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council. This appointed position receives full benefits for the duration of the term.

Other Appointments - The terms of the office of any other appointed official shall continue without limitation until any of the positions shall be eliminated from the budget of the City or shall be vacated by termination for cause, resignation, or retirement.

3. Employee Conduct and Practices

3.01. Standards

Certain standards of conduct are expected of all employees. Any conduct of an employee which adversely affects the reputation, health, safety, or welfare of the City; its employees, customers, or residents; will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The following are standards of conduct which are not acceptable in the workplace. This listing is not meant to be all-inclusive but rather representative of reasonable rules, regulations, and expectations.

1. Stealing - Certain positions may require the City to look beyond the workplace if a theft conviction occurs especially in Finance.
2. Misuse or destruction of ~~the~~ City ~~of Ashland~~ or other public property as well as any personal property belonging to fellow co-workers.
3. Fraudulent claims for hours worked, reimbursement, or for any benefits.
4. Neglect of duties; disorderly or improper conduct, including the use of profanity in public; or unsafe conduct such as horse-play which could cause harm or injury to oneself, another employee, or public property.
5. Physical or verbal abuse of other employees or citizens.
6. Neglect or incompetence in the performance of assigned duties.
7. Gambling while on duty.
8. Sleeping while on duty. (Except Fire Department employees working 24-hour shifts.)
9. Failure to report accidents occurring on City time or with City equipment.
10. Misappropriation of City equipment, tools, supplies, or funds.
11. Reporting to work in a condition unfit for work, including but not limited to being visibly intoxicated or under the influence of any illegal substance.
12. Conduct violating the City's Equal Employment Opportunity or No Harassment policies.~~Acts of harassment of any kind while on duty. The City will follow the definition of harassment from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC):~~
 - ~~• Harassment is unwelcome conduct that is based on race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy), national origin, older age (beginning at age 40), disability, or genetic information (including family medical history). Harassment becomes unlawful where~~
 - ~~• Enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment, or~~
 - ~~• The conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.~~
13. Off-duty misconduct that harms the City's reputation, disrupts the ability of the City to operate effectively, or makes the individual unfit for their position.
- ~~16.~~14. Failure to follow smoking restrictions in the workplace, on workplace grounds and in all City owned vehicles.
- ~~17.~~15. Abuse of break times or lunch periods.
- ~~18.~~16. Driving any City ~~of Ashland~~ vehicle or equipment while under the influence of an intoxicant and/or illegal substance.
- ~~19.~~17. Purchase of items for personal use using the City sales tax exemption.
- ~~20.~~18. Unauthorized absences (unauthorized absence for three (3) or more consecutive days) may be considered a voluntary resignation. Chronic

tardiness or absence from duties without good cause may also be grounds for disciplinary action and possible termination

~~21.19.~~ Failure to follow the chain of command. See Section 3.02 for the Chain of Command policy.

Violations of these employment rules will result in disciplinary action according to the City's disciplinary policy which may include termination.

Some conduct may result in immediate termination. Some examples include:

- Theft or misappropriation of City property;
- Excessive tardiness or absenteeism, Unauthorized absences (unauthorized absence for three (3) consecutive days may be considered a voluntary resignation.);
- Arguing or fighting with customers, co-workers, or supervisors;
- Carrying an unauthorized weapon at work;
- Threatening the physical safety of customers, coworkers, supervisors, department heads, city administrators, and/or elected officials;
- Physically or verbally assaulting someone at work;
- Any illegal conduct at work and any breach of confidentiality;
- Using or possessing illegal drugs or alcohol at work- the manufacture, dispensation, distribution, transportation, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol while operating City equipment or vehicles or while on duty or performing assigned job duties;
- Insubordination or willful misconduct;
- Conviction of a felony;
- Making a false statement on a job application or in securing appointment;
- Violating City rules, standard operating procedures, and/or regulations, including failure to observe safety rules and regulations;
- Unlawful discrimination and harassment related to an individual as included in a protected class under Wisconsin Fair Employment Law;
- Neglect of duty, incompetence, inefficiency, dishonesty, negligence or damage to public property;
- Loss of driver's license if required for the job;
- Abuse of sick leave.

Of course, it is impossible to compile an exhaustive list of the types of conduct that will result in immediate termination. The above examples illustrate the severity of actions that could result in immediate termination of employment. Represented employees should consult their contract for the disciplinary process that may apply to them.

Any employee absenting ~~him~~ themselves from employment with the City without authorized leave, or failing to report after a leave of absence has expired, was not authorized, or was revoked or canceled shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. An employee absent from work without authorization for a period of more than three (3) consecutive days shall be deemed as having voluntarily terminated employment, unless a good reason, as determined solely by the City, can be shown.

The City ~~of Ashland~~ will maintain personnel records including disciplinary action according to the Wisconsin Open Records law.

3.02. Chain of Command

Operation of any organization depends on an effective chain of command. The ultimate decision concerning policy in the City ~~of Ashland~~ rests with the City Council and Mayor. The City Administrator and department heads of the City are part of the City's management team. The City Administrator reports to the Mayor and Council. Department heads report to the City Administrator. Supervisors are subordinate to department heads and employees are subordinate to supervisors. This system represents a means of establishing orderly lines of organization and communication as management personnel unite with the City Council and Mayor to promote effective service delivery for the community.

Each employee of the City is to keep their ~~direct supervisor~~ ~~person the employee reports to~~ informed of the employee's activities by whatever means the supervisor deems appropriate. Issues or questions that arise in the day to day operations of the City or any aspect of his or her job, opinions, or suggestions must be directed through the chain of command.

The City recognizes ~~that~~ many employees handle directives or requests from the public on a daily basis as part of their positions. The City expects employees to use sound judgment and common sense to determine which directives or requests are inappropriate and should be reported to a supervisor. If an employee is unsure of whether a directive or request should be reported, the employee should discuss it with their supervisor. Any employee who receives inappropriate directives or requests for special treatment from an individual citizen, business representative or elected or appointed official must immediately report such directive or request to their supervisor. No specific directives or requests should be fulfilled unless permission to do so is given by an employee's supervisor.

Generally, if an employee has a problem with an individual, then the employee is encouraged to approach the person first and attempt to resolve the conflict. If that does not resolve the problem, then the employee must address the problem

through the employee's immediate supervisor and onward through the chain of command.

If an employee has an issue with a direct supervisor and after speaking with the supervisor to try and resolve the issue, the employee may go to the next individual in the chain of command or speak to Human Resources to try and resolve the issue. An employee, acting under this policy, will not be reprimanded for breaking chain of command.

The City recognizes ~~may also be citizens and that employees who are also~~ residents of the City ~~of Ashland and~~ have a right to express their opinions about policy matters to their elected representatives. Generally, personnel matters should be handled through the chain of command, and the City asks each employee to exercise judgment as to what matters are most appropriately discussed with a supervisor, and what matters should be discussed with a Council member.

3.03. Public Contact

Because the City employs you, you have a critical public contact role. Your work, attitude and appearance are all subject to close inspection by the public. Individuals and their friends base their total judgment of the efficiency and character of their City's government on the way you perform. To them, **YOU** are the City.

If you take pride in doing your job well, others will catch the same spirit. The reputation the City ~~of Ashland~~ enjoys depends largely on what you and your co-workers say about it.

When asked for information, do not give the questioner the "runaround". You cannot possibly know all the answers, but you can make sure- you refer people seeking information to the right sources. Be courteous in your dealings with the public. Show a sincere interest in the problems that are directed to you. Never lose your temper or give a "short" answer no matter how seriously you may be tempted to do so. Whether you want it or not, you are on public display at all times when you work for the City.

3.04. Relationship with Media

Social Media: The City ~~of Ashland~~ uses social media to disseminate time-sensitive information as quickly as possible, and to increase the City's ability to communicate with the widest possible audience. Departments may use social

media to conduct departmental business, provided they follow the policies outlined below.

- Social media accounts must be approved by the Department Head prior to implementation. Unless approved otherwise, departmental use of social media will be for one-way communication only, unless offering essential information on project/event date, time, location, etc.
- The City ~~of Ashland~~ website shall remain Ashland's primary and predominant internet presence. Where possible, content posted to social media sites will also be posted to the City ~~of~~ Ashland website.
- Social media sites shall comply with all other applicable policies and standards, including but not limited to, the **Technology Policy - Section 3.10**, Employee Conduct & Practices - Section 3.0, Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and Confidential Information Policy.
- Social media sites are subject to the State of Wisconsin public records laws. Any content maintained in social media format ~~r~~related to City business, including a list of followers, subscribers, etc. and all posted communications, is a public record.
- Additional requirements for social media use are set forth in the City's **Information Technology policy**, which is accessible from [identify position or department].
- Personal use of social media is prohibited during work hours. Personal social media use on City-owned technology/equipment are subject to the State of Wisconsin public records laws.

Contact with the press: Staff members contacted directly by ~~r~~media outlets should refer the caller to their ~~r~~department head. Employees ~~are encouraged~~shall not to contact the media directly about newsworthy events without first discussing them with their department head. Prepared news releases shall be approved by the City Administrator or their designee.

3.05. Punctuality and Attendance

An employee's attendance and punctuality are essential to the effective operation of the City's services. An employee's attendance and punctuality is considered, along with his or her work performance, in granting pay raises, promotions, or transfers. Absenteeism or tardiness that is excessive in the judgment of the City will not be tolerated.

If an employee is going to be absent or late, the employee is required to let their supervisor know as soon as possible prior to the beginning of the scheduled shift. Leaving messages with other employees is not acceptable. Employees should

check with their supervisor on the acceptable protocol and who the designated contact person is for receiving department call-ins.

Excessive tardiness/absences as determined by the department can result in discipline up to and including termination. Failure to call in when absent for three (3) consecutive days will be treated as a voluntary resignation of the employee.

A pattern of excessive or unexcused absences or tardiness may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

3.06. Inclement Weather

Citizens depend on the City during inclement weather; therefore the City is always open for business regardless of weather conditions. While the City recognizes weather conditions may prevent employees from getting to work or cause them to arrive late, many employees must be on duty to provide essential municipal services. Employees are expected to make every reasonable effort to get to work during inclement weather. When severe weather conditions exist, it will be the responsibility of each employee to contact the employee's supervisor before the start of each shift if they are unable to report to work on time.

The Mayor, City Administrator or department heads are authorized to dismiss those employees or close departments not considered essential municipal operations during periods of inclement weather. In this case, the employee will be paid for the full day and will not be required to use their own leave time.

In general, work time missed due to inclement weather is unpaid time; this refers to times when the Mayor or City Administrator have not closed departments or dismissed employees. However, employees may request to use vacation or personal leave time for lost time due to inclement weather. The department head has the discretion of allowing an employee to "make up" lost time by working alternative hours within the immediate or following pay period provided those hours are earned at a straight time rate. Under no circumstances will employees be permitted to make up lost time caused by inclement weather at an overtime rate.

If a department head determines an employee has abused the provisions of this policy, the City may take appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination.

3.07. Camera Phones and Other Recording Devices

Many cell phones today come with built-in recording capabilities, including camera, video, and/or audio recording devices. Although these features are fun for personal use, using them in the workplace can lead to violations of privacy and breaches of confidentiality; therefore its use is prohibited.

The only authorized individuals allowed to record via video or audio are the Human Resources Director, City Administrator, and the Mayor. These instances must be for documenting important events and personnel meetings as seen fit by the named positions.

A department may provide video or audio recording devices for employees to document daily activities or events which promote a positive representation of the City of Ashland. The devices will be at the discretion of the department and will be required to be allocated from the specific department budget.

3.08. Official Communications

Employees: City email is the City's official way of keeping employees informed about policies, procedures, special events, and information concerning local, state and federal guidelines.

Public: Public information requesting to be posted is at the discretion of the Department Head. All information should be in compliance with the [City policy campaign](#).

Bulletin Boards: It is the City's policy to keep employees informed about City activities and to provide a bulletin board for use by employees for the posting of various communications. Bulletin boards are generally located in break rooms and other common areas. Authorization for employees to use the bulletin board must first be obtained from the Department Head or designee. All persons who post notices, letters, and the like on City bulletin boards without first obtaining authorization will be subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

~~They are located in all employee break rooms. Only authorized personnel are permitted to post, remove, or alter any notice on these bulletin boards. Employees are not permitted to post anything on these boards without prior approval of their department head.~~

3.09. Use of City Property

The City of Ashland provides supplies, uniforms, equipment, vehicles and materials necessary for employees to perform their job. These items are to be used solely

for City related business. Employees are expected to exercise care in the use of City equipment and property and use such property only for authorized purposes. Loss, damages or theft of City property shall be reported to the employee's supervisor immediately.

3.10. Technology Policy

Computers, telephones, fax machines, copy machines and other office equipment provided to help employees perform their official work duties may also be used by employees for personal use within the following guidelines:

Personal use during normal work hours should be kept to a minimum. After work hours or during approved break times, employees may use office equipment and computers, including Internet and email access. Employees are discouraged from ~~using their City of Ashland~~ email address for personal communications, but may use City computers and the City's internet connection to access a personal email account.

Because the equipment is publicly-owned and publicly-funded, employees must not use office equipment inappropriately including use for personal gain. Accessing Internet sites considered pornographic or otherwise inappropriate is prohibited. These same standards also apply to email, computer software, photocopy machines, etc.

All office equipment is the property of the City ~~of Ashland~~ and, consequently, all documents and records created by said equipment are subject to examination by City management and technology staff members and may also be subject to the open records law. Employees should not have any expectation of privacy rights for electronically created and/or stored records. This is the case for all records, whether they were created for city-related work or personal use. Employees should be aware that computers create electronic records even when information is not saved and the record is stored in a "personal directory" available through the computer's network system. Any records created or stored on the City's computer system may be deleted at any time without prior notice to the employee.

Personal use of city-owned office equipment is considered a privilege and it may be revoked by the City if it is abused by an employee.

Please see Sections 4.09 and 4.10 of this Handbook for additional rules regarding use of City computers.

The City reserves the right to change this policy for the personal use of office equipment at any time.

3.11. Use of Personal Property at Work

Employees may wish to bring personal property to work either for reasons associated with their professional responsibilities or for use during off-duty hours. This practice is permitted provided it is understood that the City will not be responsible for any loss, damage, or misuse of such property.

3.12. Personal Appearance

Dress Code Policy: Employees should dress in business casual attire, which could include casual slacks and skirts, dresses, collared shirts, blouses, or sweaters. Inappropriate attire includes, but is not limited to, active sportswear, shorts, T-shirts or apparel with messages or commercial advertising, as well as unkempt or inappropriately revealing clothing. Employees are expected to exercise good judgment. Exceptions to the business casual policy can include those situations when an employee is representing the ~~company~~ City to an external audience.

- Employees with positions which require physical labor - Above all else, employees with positions whose jobs involve physical labor or working in a dangerous environment should wear comfortable clothing that not only allows them to perform their jobs efficiently, but protects them from hazards. Though clothing should still be neat, clean, and well-maintained. Employees should avoid torn, frayed and dirty clothing, and anything with words, logos, or pictures that may be deemed offensive.
- Uniforms - Employees issued uniforms by the City are required to wear the uniforms in the performance of their duties.
- Casual Fridays - On Fridays, employees are free to dress in casual attire, which could include jeans and tennis shoes. Clothing should still be neat, clean, and well-maintained. Employees should avoid torn, frayed and dirty clothing, and anything with words, logos, or pictures that may be deemed offensive.

Violations: Department Heads will inform employees in a timely manner should they violate the above dress code. Any employee coming to work in attire that is deemed inappropriate by their Department Head may be asked to leave work and return appropriately dressed.

3.13. Keys and Building Access

Selected employees will be assigned a key and given access to buildings as necessary to their job. Employees given keys and building access have an understanding that they are not to make any copies of City keys. If an employee loses a key, it must be reported immediately. Employees should only access the building during scheduled working hours or with prior approval from a department head and/or supervisor. Employees are expected to return all keys when leaving employment with the City.

3.14. Progressive Disciplinary Policy

In order to maintain an orderly and fair working environment for all, the City has implemented a progressive disciplinary ~~policy~~ to document undesired behavior and to use it as a corrective action plan to improve the employee's overall work performance.

Any employee conduct that, in the opinion of the City, interferes with or adversely affects City business is sufficient grounds for disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action can range from verbal warnings to immediate termination. The general policy for all employees is to take disciplinary steps in the following order:

- **Verbal Constructive Advice**- The supervisor will provide verbal correction to the employee. A written record of this constructive advice will be placed in the employee's personnel file. This will include an explanation of the problem and what corrective action the employee should take within a specified time limit.
- **Written Corrective Action**- If the employee does not correct his or her behavior; the supervisor will consult with the department head and prepare a written corrective action. The employee will be asked to sign the written corrective action form, indicating they have received a copy, and a copy will be placed in the employee's personnel file. This step will include a performance improvement plan (PIP) in which the specific behavior is documented; actions to correct the specific issue are outlined with a time frame to make the improvements.
- **Suspension**- {time off with or without pay} A meeting will be held with the employee in which the employee will be given a written explanation of the problem and what corrective action the employee should take within a specified time limit. The employee may be accompanied by a

representative at any such meeting. The original document is placed in the employee's personnel file and a copy given to the employee. This documentation shall include all documentation from the verbal constructive advice and the written corrective action and will indicate to the employee that any further offenses will result in termination.

- **Termination**- When all means of disciplinary action have been used, or when the offense justifies the action, the employee may be terminated. The employee will be notified of their termination in writing at a meeting or by certified mail. This written notification of termination will include a reiteration of all offenses and action taken at all steps.

However, the City reserves the right to alter the order of any of the steps described above, to skip disciplinary steps, to eliminate disciplinary steps, or to create new/additional disciplinary actions.

In choosing the appropriate disciplinary action, the City may consider the following:

- Seriousness of the misconduct
- History of misconduct
- Employment record
- Length of service
- Ability to correct the action
- Actions taken for similar instances that may have occurred with other employees.

~~Some conduct may result in immediate termination. Some examples include:~~

- ~~▪ Theft or misappropriation of City property;~~
- ~~▪ Excessive tardiness or absenteeism, Unauthorized absences (unauthorized absence for three (3) consecutive days may be considered a voluntary resignation.);~~
- ~~▪ Arguing or fighting with customers, co-workers, or supervisors;~~
- ~~▪ Carrying an unauthorized weapon at work;~~
- ~~▪ Threatening the physical safety of customers, coworkers, supervisors, department heads, city administrators, and/or elected officials;~~
- ~~▪ Physically or verbally assaulting someone at work;~~
- ~~▪ Any illegal conduct at work and any breach of confidentiality;~~
- ~~▪ Using or possessing illegal drugs or alcohol at work the manufacture, dispensation, distribution, transportation, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol while operating City equipment or vehicles or while on duty or performing assigned job duties;~~

- ~~▪ Insubordination or willful misconduct;~~
- ~~▪ Conviction of a felony;~~
- ~~▪ Making a false statement on a job application or in securing appointment;~~
- ~~▪ Violating City rules, standard operating procedures, and/or regulations, including failure to observe safety rules and regulations;~~
- ~~▪ Unlawful discrimination and harassment related to an individual as included in a protected class under Wisconsin Fair Employment Law;~~
- ~~▪ Neglect of duty, incompetence, inefficiency, dishonesty, negligence or damage to public property;~~
- ~~▪ Loss of driver's license if required for the job;~~
- ~~▪ Abuse of sick leave.~~

~~Of course, it is impossible to compile an exhaustive list of the types of conduct that will result in immediate termination. The above examples illustrate the severity of actions that could result in immediate termination of employment. Represented employees should consult their contract for the disciplinary process that may apply to them.~~

3.15. Employee Complaint/Grievance Procedure

It is the City's policy to deal promptly and fairly with employee's complaints and grievances. All employees may seek resolution to grievances arising from their employment with the City. Employees have the right to file such grievances without prejudice. No employee shall be disciplined, harassed or dealt with unfairly as a result of filing a grievance or testifying in a grievance hearing. The Employee Complaint/Grievance procedure is explained in more detail as an attachment to this manual.

3.16. Campaigns/Elections and Solicitation of Contributions

Employees are free, on their own time and away from any office of the City, to participate in all federal, state, and local campaigns and to openly express views and support for a candidate. Employees while on duty will refrain from any political activities which give the appearance that the City endorses any particular candidate or position or which interfere with the performance of normal job duties. The purpose of this policy is to prevent and avoid the appearance of impropriety on the part of any City employee. City employees are neither hired nor retained on the basis of their political affiliations or activity. That being stated, all employees are allowed to join political organizations, civic groups, and/or associations and to become involved in political activities within the following guidelines:

1. City employees are not prohibited from supporting candidates for office or from contributing labor to candidates and organizations that endorse candidates. However, Section 66.0501(2) Wisconsin Statutes prohibits employees from holding an elected office for the City ~~of Ashland~~. Employees are not permitted to make public endorsements of a candidate for a City elective office while on duty or otherwise acting in an official capacity.
2. If an employee is successful ~~in seeking City of Ashland~~ elective office, ~~they~~~~he or she~~ will be required to resign ~~their~~~~his or her~~ employment before taking office.
3. Political activity must not interfere with job attendance or performance. Employees are not permitted to solicit or handle political contributions in City elections. Employees also are not permitted to display political badges, buttons, or signs related to City elections on City property, or to wear political badges, buttons, or signs related to City elections while on duty or otherwise acting in an official capacity.
4. Employees are not permitted to solicit another employee for contributions of money or labor for any candidate for elective office, or otherwise compel, or attempt to compel, any employee to support a candidate for elective office or to engage in any political activity.

Applicants for employment and City employees are not required to contribute to any political fund nor perform any political service to any person or party at any time. No person, or employee shall be hired, promoted, suspended, demoted, or terminated for off duty political affiliation or activities.

Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any employees to engage in or refrain from protected concerted activity (including lawful communications about wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment), either with co-workers or others, or any other rights provided under the National Labor Relations Act. To the extent that conduct is protected under the National Labor Relations Act, this policy does not prohibit or dissuade it.

4. Employment Policies

4.01. Open Door Policy

Misunderstandings or conflicts can arise in any organization. To ensure effective working relations, it is important that such matters be resolved before serious

problems develop. Most incidents will resolve themselves naturally; however, if a situation persists that is believed detrimental to employees or the City, free discussion with your immediate supervisor, department head, or a member of the human resources department is encouraged. These individuals will endeavor to work out a satisfactory solution to the problem.

Whistleblower Policy: The City does not tolerate any form of retaliation against employees availing themselves of this procedure. The procedure should not be construed, however, as preventing, limiting or delaying the City from taking disciplinary action against any individual, in circumstances (such as those involving problems of overall performance, conduct, attitude, or demeanor) where the City deems disciplinary action appropriate.

4.02. Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy

The City of Ashland strives to maintain a positive work environment. The City does not tolerate harassment of its job applicants, contractors, or employees by another employee, supervisor, vendor, customer, or any third party. This policy applies to all employees including managers, supervisors, co-workers, and non-employees such as customers, clients, vendors, job applicants, consultants, etc. Employees are cautioned to consider their behavior and comments from the perspective of anyone who might see and hear them.

Harassment may take many forms, including but not limited to offensive language and behavior regarding an individual's age, race, sex, gender identity, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or any other legally protected status.

~~Prohibited behavior includes but is not limited to the following:~~

- ~~▪ Written form such as cartoons, e-mail, posters, drawings, photographs, or social media posts.~~
- ~~▪ Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory comments, slurs, or jokes.~~
- ~~▪ Physical conduct such as assault or blocking individuals' movements.~~

Harassment Defined. Harassment as defined in this policy is unwelcome verbal, visual or physical conduct, based on an individual's protected characteristic, creating an intimidating, offensive, or hostile work environment that interferes with work performance. Harassment can be verbal (including slurs, jokes, insults, epithets, gestures or teasing), graphic (including offensive posters, symbols, cartoons, drawings, computer displays, or e-mails or other social media posts) or physical conduct (including physically threatening another, blocking someone's way, etc.) that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards an individual because of any protected characteristic. Such conduct violates this policy, even

if it is not unlawful. Because it is difficult to define unlawful harassment, employees are expected to behave at all times in a professional and respectful manner.

Sexual Harassment Defined. Sexual harassment can include all of the above actions, as well as other unwelcome conduct, such as unwelcome or unsolicited sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, conversations regarding sexual activities and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. ~~The City believes that sexual harassment raises some issues that are unique in comparison to other forms of harassment and warrants separate emphasis. It is the policy of the City to maintain an environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, including sexual harassment. The City strongly opposes sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual conduct.~~

~~Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other written, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:~~

- ~~▪ Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment.~~
- ~~▪ Submission to rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for decisions affecting an individual's employment.~~
- ~~▪ Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.~~

Examples of conduct that violates this policy include:

- unwelcome sexual advances, flirtations, advances, leering, whistling, touching, pinching, assault, blocking normal movement
- requests for sexual favors or demands for sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment
- obscene or vulgar gestures, posters, or comments
- sexual jokes or comments about a person's body, sexual prowess, or sexual deficiencies
- propositions, or suggestive or insulting comments of a sexual nature
- derogatory cartoons, posters, and drawings
- sexually-explicit e-mails or voicemails
- uninvited touching of a sexual nature

- unwelcome sexually-related comments
- conversation about one's own or someone else's sex life
- conduct or comments consistently targeted at only one gender, even if the content is not sexual
- teasing or other conduct directed toward a person because of the person's gender

All such conduct is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related settings such as business trips and business-related social functions, regardless of whether the conduct is engaged in by a supervisor, co-worker, client, customer, vendor, or other third party.

Inappropriate sexual conduct that could lead to a claim of sexual harassment is expressly prohibited by this policy. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, sexually implicit or explicit communications whether in:

- ~~Written Form~~ such as cartoons, posters, calendars, notes, letters, email and social media posts.
- ~~Verbal form~~ such as comments, jokes, foul or obscene language of a sexual nature, gossiping, or questions about another's sex life, or repeated unwanted request for dates.
- ~~Physical gestures and other non-verbal behavior~~ such as unwelcome touching, grabbing, fondling, kissing, massaging, and brushing up against another person's body.

Harassment-ComplaintReporting Procedures - the City is committed to maintaining a positive work environment free of unlawful harassment and- is sensitive to the diversity of its employees. In doing so, the City prohibits harassment as identified above.

The City requires the reporting of ALL incidents which violate this policy regardless of who the offender may be. Any person who believes -the policy has been violated, whether to themselves or another individual, should report it immediately to his or her supervisor, department head, or City Administrator. If the accusation of harassment is against a person in a supervisory position, the report should be made to that person's supervisor or to the City Human Resources Director. If the employee has an accusation of harassment against the City Administrator, they should report it to the Mayor. If an employee has an accusation of harassment against the Mayor, the employee should report the offense to the City Administrator.

The individual may be asked to put the complaint in writing. The City encourages all individuals to report suspected violations of this policy as close to the date of the alleged occurrence as possible so that the City can respond to the complaint in a prompt and adequate manner. Regardless of when the alleged harassment or unlawful discrimination occurs, the City will investigate all reported violations of this policy. All complaints are investigated and handled as promptly and as confidentially as practical. The City ~~of Ashland~~ will review the findings of the investigation with the complainant at the conclusion of the investigation. If the investigation reveals that the complaint to be valid, immediate and appropriate corrective action up to and including termination may be taken. If the City finds after a thorough investigation that an employee knowingly made a false accusation of harassment or discrimination, that employee may be subject to appropriate corrective action up to and including termination, if necessary.

Any form of retaliation that is taken against any employee or individual that has reported or complained of harassment or discrimination, or against any employee who cooperates in the claim of harassment or discrimination, is prohibited. If an employee perceives any form of retaliation for making a complaint or for participating in an investigation, they are strongly urged to bring the matter to the attention of their supervisor or the City Human Resources Director immediately.

Investigation Procedures - The City will promptly investigate the facts and circumstances of any claim of harassment. To the extent possible, the City will endeavor to keep the reporting employee's concerns confidential; however, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Employees must cooperate in all investigations. During the investigation, the City generally will:

- interview the complainant and the alleged harasser
- conduct further interviews as necessary
- document the City's findings regarding the complaint
- document recommended follow-up actions and remedies, if warranted
- inform the complainant of the City's findings
- monitor the implementation of remedial actions and modify as necessary.

Every supervisor who learns of any employee's concern about conduct in violation of this policy, whether in a formal complaint or informally, must immediately report the issues raised to senior management or to the City Human Resources Director.

Upon completion of the investigation, the City will take corrective measures against any person who has engaged in conduct in violation of this policy, if the City determines such measures are necessary. These measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling, suspension, or immediate termination. Anyone, regardless of position or title, whom the City determines has engaged in conduct that violates this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Investigation Procedures - No employee will be subject to, and the City prohibits, any form of discipline or retaliation for reporting perceived violations of this policy in good faith, pursuing any such claim, or cooperating in any way in the investigation of such claims in good faith. If an employee believes someone has violated this no-retaliation policy, the employee should bring the matter to the immediate attention of the City Human Resources Director. Anyone, regardless of position or title, whom the City determines has engaged in conduct that violates this policy against retaliation will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

We cannot remedy claimed harassment or retaliation unless you bring these claims to the attention of management. Failure to report claims of harassment and/or retaliation prevents us from taking steps to remedy the problem.

4.03. Workplace Violence Policy

The City ~~of Ashland~~ is committed to a safe workplace free of violence. Any behavior that creates a climate of violence, hostility, or intimidation will not be tolerated regardless of its origin. The City has a "zero tolerance" policy toward violence in the workplace. Threats or intimidation of employees, vendors, customers, or others with whom the City has contact is prohibited. Violating rules regarding the handling of dangerous materials in the workplace is also a violation of this policy.

The workplace is defined as all property including parking lots, public areas such as lobbies, rest rooms, break rooms, and vehicles as well as any location where the employee is assigned to perform work.

Examples of behaviors prohibited by the City's Workplace Violence Policy include:

- Making threats with words or gestures
- Intimidating others physically, verbally, or in writing
- Acting in a hostile manner whether physically, verbally, or in writing
- Physical contact

- Physically blocking another person's freedom of movement
- Brandishing, displaying, or possessing a weapon
- Stalking
- Nuisance telephone calling, emails, or social media posts
- Sabotaging another person's work
- Harmful misuse of City equipment or property
- Causing or maintaining high levels of conflict or tension within a work unit or between co-workers

The City ~~of Ashland~~ recognizes that violence can be brought into the workplace by outsiders. Employees must report to their direct supervisor, Department Head, Human Resources Director, or City Administrator any action, behavior, or perceived threat by intruders, customers, vendors, outside contractors, and family members and/or acquaintances of employees. Reporting such actions may include filing of a police report if required by the supervisor.

Domestic violence can lead to acts of violence against an employee at the employee's workplace and may injure not only the targeted employee but co-workers in the area at the time of the incident. If an employee is aware of a troubled relationship that may lead to violence in the workplace, the employee should report it to their immediate supervisor, department head, or Human Resources Director so appropriate preventative measures can be taken. The City ~~of Ashland~~ understands the sensitivity of such situations and will handle the information discreetly and confidentially to the extent practical to maintain employee privacy while at the same time investigating or taking precautionary measures.

The City ~~of Ashland~~ requires the reporting of all incidents regardless of who the offender may be and regardless of who the victim may be. Anyone who has observed or becomes aware of such behavior—whether it is to themselves or another individual—is to report it even if the person who observes the behavior is not the target of it. This policy also prohibits retaliation against any person who reports violent or intimidating behavior or helps in investigating such a complaint.

Depending upon the circumstances, the outcome of the investigation will be communicated to the appropriate persons, and action may be taken up to and including termination and/or legal action such as seeking a restraining order, arrest, and prosecution. Any employee who has been found in violation of this policy by committing a violent act, or to have deliberately falsified a report of violence will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

4.04. Weapon-Free Workplace Policy

In the interest of maintaining a workplace that is safe and free of violence, the City of Ashland prohibits the possession or use of "dangerous weapons" on City property, regardless of whether or not the person is licensed to carry the weapon. This policy applies to all City employees, contractors, and temporary employees on City property. Please note that law enforcement officers may carry a weapon as required by their position.

"City Property" This term includes all City-owned or leased buildings and surrounding areas such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways, and parking lots under the City's ownership or control. This policy also applies to all City-owned or leased vehicles and all vehicles that come onto City property.

"Dangerous Weapons" This term includes but is not limited to handguns, firearms, explosives, knives, and other weapons further defined by Wisconsin statute and/or local ordinance. If an employee has a question regarding whether an item is covered by this policy, he or she should contact the City Human Resources Director. It is the employee's responsibility to make sure that any item not specifically listed above that is possessed by the employee is not prohibited.

4.05. Confidentiality

City ~~of Ashland~~ employees may have access to confidential, customer, personnel or other sensitive information. This may include, without limitation, information concerning a client's or employee's financial status, a client's or employee's medical status and condition as well as the City's business practices including purchasing and negotiating strategies, and employee records (collectively "confidential information").

This confidential information cannot be disclosed to any City personnel who do not have a legitimate business need to know such information or to persons outside of the City without the express authorization of the City Administrator or department head. There may be special circumstances in which the information may be released only with specific signed releases that may be time sensitive. All employees are responsible for protecting the confidentiality of this information.

Likewise, no information concerning the internal operations of the City, including but not limited to the release of records of the City, may occur except through, and with the permission of, the City Administrator or individual department heads. If requests for information are received by employees, whether on or off duty, from any person, the employee is required to politely decline to provide such information and to direct that individual to the City Human Resources Director or department head for a response to that inquiry. The City's custodian of records is responsible for the disclosure of records pursuant to requests for records under

Wisconsin's Public Records Law. Unless directed by the City's custodian of records, employees shall not act as the City's custodian of records or disseminate information.

Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any employees to engage in or refrain from protected concerted activity (including lawful communications about wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment), either with co-workers or others, or any other rights provided under the National Labor Relations Act. To the extent that conduct is protected under the National Labor Relations Act, this policy does not prohibit or dissuade it.

4.06. Gifts and Gratuities

Employees cannot solicit or accept, from any person or organization directly or indirectly, gifts, gratuities or anything of substantial value without full payment, if it could reasonably be expected to influence their governmental actions or judgments, or if it could reasonably be considered as compensation or a reward for any governmental action or inaction. It is not a conflict of interest for an employee to receive an unsolicited item of ~~\$25.00 or less~~insignificant value or anything that is given to them independent of their position as an employee. Employees are advised ~~that~~ solicitation and acceptance of gifts, gratuities, offers of employment, or other items of value may constitute a violation of Wisconsin law, including, without limitation, chapters 19 and 946 of the Wisconsin statutes, City of Ashland Ordinance 80 and is not permitted. Violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action and may result in criminal prosecution.

Employees are required to report to their immediate manager any goods, services or other forms of compensation or favor received from a supplier to the extent that:

- their fair market value exceeds the values specified above;
- the employee is uncertain whether their fair market value exceeds the values specified above;
- they take the form of season tickets;
- they are in the form of cash, gift certificates or other cash equivalents regardless of their value; or
- they are provided frequently, regardless of their value.

Employees violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

4.07. Personal Telephone Calls

Employees are discouraged from making or receiving ~~personal calls~~ during working hours unless it is ~~an emergency~~ nature during working hours.

Non-emergency calls should be made during break or lunch periods when possible.

4.08. Duty to Maintain Records

In accordance with City ~~of Ashland~~ Ordinance 133 all employees have the following duties related to maintenance of public records: "Except as otherwise provided by law, each officer and employee of the City shall safely keep and preserve all records received from his or her predecessor or other persons and required by law to be filed, deposited or kept in his or her office or which are in lawful possession or control of the officer or employee or his or her deputies, or to the possession or control of which he or she or they may be lawfully entitled as such officers or employees"

An employee should never destroy a record without approval of a supervisor. An employee in a supervisory role should never destroy a record or permit the destruction of a record without the approval of the City Clerk.

Employees should consult with their department head or immediate supervisor to determine applicable filing and maintenance procedures for their particular department.

4.09. Electronic Mail (e-mail)

All hardware and software used to create and receive Internet and City electronic mail (e-mail) is municipal property.

All messages composed, sent, or received on the internet and City's e-mail systems shall remain the property of the City and are governed by the Wisconsin Public Records Law. Such messages are not the private property of any employee(s) and employees have no right or expectation of privacy in messages. The same applies if the employee uses a private email account through the City's internet system.

The City's internet and e-mail systems shall not be used for the creation or distribution of materials for personal gain, solicitation, or for any other personal use or business purpose.

The internet and City e-mail systems shall not be used to create, modify or forward any offensive or disruptive messages. Offensive or disruptive messages include,

but are not limited to, any messages which are sexually explicit or contain sexual implications, racial slurs, gender offensive comments, profanity, or any other comment that offensively addresses someone's age, race, creed, color, handicap, marital status, sex, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, arrest or conviction record, or any comment which in any way defames another person, or is intended to frighten, intimidate, threaten, abuse, annoy, or harass another person. In the event an employee receives an offensive or disruptive message, the procedures outlined in the City Sexual Harassment Policy shall be followed.

The City reserves the right to monitor e-mail activities and monitor, review, audit, access, disclose, and delete all messages created, received, stored, or sent over the City's internet and email systems with or without notice. The City may require an employee to disclose any password-protected or encrypted material created, received, stored, or sent over the City's internet and e-mail systems.

The confidentiality of any message should not be assumed. The use of passwords for security does not guarantee confidentiality of the message. Notwithstanding the City's right to retrieve and read any e-mail messages, such messages should be treated as confidential by other employees and accessed only by the intended recipient. Employees are not authorized to retrieve or read any City employee's e-mail messages to another employee without the latter's permission. The City may at its discretion block any threatening or harassing emails from any external source.

Sending broadcast emails that are not related to City business is prohibited. Broadcast email messages should be used judiciously to communicate within a City department, committee, Council or division or to all members of an interdepartmental work group and then only in support of City business. Examples of broadcast emails that would be inappropriate are: offers to sell or give away personal property; expressions of personal views on political, religious or controversial issues; comments which are derogatory and destructive towards individuals, organizations or City policies.

[Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any employees to engage in or refrain from protected concerted activity \(including lawful communications about wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment\), either with co-workers or others, or any other rights provided under the National Labor Relations Act. To the extent that conduct is protected under the National Labor Relations Act, this policy does not prohibit or dissuade it.](#)

Please see section 3.10 of this Handbook for additional rules.

4.10. Internet Use

No employee should have any expectation of privacy as to his/her internet usage while using City equipment.

The City reserves the right to inspect any and all files stored in private areas of its network or any device attached to the network in order to assure compliance with this policy. The City may require an employee to disclose any password-protected or encrypted material created, received, or stored on the City's computer system or any part of that system.

It is a violation of this policy and the City's harassment policy to display any kind of sexually explicit or offensive image or document on any City system except for approved investigations by law enforcement or City personnel. In addition, sexually explicit or offensive materials shall not be printed, archived, stored, distributed, edited or recorded using City network or computing resources.

The City may block access from within its networks to any website. If an employee finds himself or herself connected accidentally to a site that contains sexually explicit or offensive material, the employee shall disconnect from that site immediately.

The City's internet facilities and computing resources shall not be used to violate the laws and regulations of the United States or any other nation, or the laws and regulations of any state, city, or other local jurisdiction in any way. Use of any City resources for illegal activity will result in termination, and the City will cooperate with any law enforcement investigation into such illegal activity.

Software may not be downloaded onto City property without authorization. Any software or files downloaded via the internet into the City network become the property of the City. Any files or software however received and installed shall be used only in ways that are consistent with licenses or copyrights.

No employee shall use City facilities to download or distribute pirated software or data. No employee shall use the City's internet facilities to create, propagate or distribute any computer virus.

No employee shall disable or overload any computer system or network, or to circumvent any system intended to protect the privacy or security of another user. Each employee using the internet system of the City shall identify himself or herself honestly, accurately, and completely (including one's City affiliation and function when requested) when participating in an authorized chat or newsgroups or when conducting any City business using the internet system.

Only those employees or officials who are duly authorized to speak to the media or in public gatherings on behalf of the City may speak for or write in the name of the City. When speaking to the media or in public gatherings or chat rooms, authorized individuals shall refrain from any political advocacy and shall refrain from endorsing or appearing to endorse any commercial product or service.

If an individual is speaking to the media or in public gatherings or chat rooms and the individual is identified as an employee or agent of the City, but the individual is not authorized to speak on behalf of the City, the employee must clearly state that the statements or opinions expressed by the individual are his or her own and not those of the City.

The City retains the intellectual property rights to any material posted to any forum, newsgroup, chat or World Wide Web page by any employee in the course of his or her duties.

When speaking in public forums, employees shall not reveal confidential or privileged City or client information. Employees disclosing confidential or privileged information will be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.

Internet resources are for business purposes only. However, limited personal use is permitted in accordance with the office equipment use provisions of this handbook and is allowed only during regularly scheduled breaks during normal working hours and only as long as such use does not adversely affect the system, the employees work duties or City operations. Such personal use must be in accordance with all City policies and procedures. Please see section 3.10 of this Handbook for additional rules.

Employees with internet access shall not use City internet facilities to download entertainment software or games, or to play games against opponents over the internet.

Instant messaging and social networking sites are popular means of communications but pose a significant security risk to the eCity network. Therefore use of these web-based services is prohibited unless the sites are used for City business and approval is given by the employee's department head and the technology department.

Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any employees to engage in or refrain from protected concerted activity (including lawful communications about wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment), either with co-workers or others, or any other rights provided under

[the National Labor Relations Act. To the extent that conduct is protected under the National Labor Relations Act, this policy does not prohibit or dissuade it.](#)

4.11. Enforcement and Violations of the Email and Internet Policies

The e-mail and internet policies are intended to be illustrative of the range of acceptable and non-acceptable uses of e-mail and internet facilities and are not necessarily exhaustive. Questions and specific uses or to report unacceptable uses should be directed to the employee's supervisor or department head. Violations of the policy will result in disciplinary actions as appropriate, up to and including discharge.

[Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any employees to engage in or refrain from protected concerted activity \(including lawful communications about wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment\), either with co-workers or others, or any other rights provided under the National Labor Relations Act. To the extent that conduct is protected under the National Labor Relations Act, this policy does not prohibit or dissuade it.](#)

4.12. Cellular Phone Policy

~~Ashland-The~~ City provides cellular phones for employees when phones are necessary to perform their job responsibilities.

The City will contract for basic cellular services for use by those employees that require it for their job. Any options or exceptions to the base plan will need approval from the department head and governing committee. Employees are responsible for seeing that the phones are used in an efficient, ethical and lawful manner. [Employees should keep in mind that any text messages sent or received on City-provided cellular phones are public records, and employees should have no expectation of privacy with respect to any such messages.](#)

Any unauthorized use, excessive personal use, or inappropriate use may result in the cancellation of this privilege as well as possible disciplinary action.

4.13. Cellular Phone Use While Driving

Employee's should not use a personal or City provided cellular phone while driving a City-owned vehicle or a personal vehicle on City business due to safety concerns. Instead, employees should legally and safely park the vehicle to make or receive calls. If an employee is unable to pull over or stop before receiving a call, they may use the hands-free adapter for increased safety. It is

recommended that employees should keep the conversation brief, and immediately locate a legal and safe area to park their vehicle to complete the call.

4.14. City Vehicle Use

Purpose

The Purpose of these regulations is to outline the City's policies regarding the use of City-owned vehicles.

Responsibility

All employees authorized to use City-owned vehicles are required to adhere to these regulations. Disciplinary action may be taken against employees that violate these policies.

Fleet Managers

Each department head shall be responsible for the vehicles under his/her jurisdiction. In this capacity, they are responsible for ensuring the inspection, maintenance, service and efficient operation of vehicles in the department. They will also ensure that employees receive proper vehicle operation training and that vehicles are safely operated. Department heads may adopt departmental vehicle use policies that are more detailed and more restrictive than this policy.

Private Vehicle Use

City vehicles will be used to the maximum extent possible for City business. All City employees are required to submit their Driver License to the City Clerk for insurance purposes. However, there may be occasions when an employee will be required to use his/her/their own private vehicle on City business. Use of a private vehicle must be approved prior to the trip by the department head. In these cases, the City will pay mileage reimbursement in accordance with established City mileage rates if use is authorized by the department head in advance of departure. Occupants of private vehicles utilized on City business shall utilize seat belts at all times.

Vehicle Acquisition

No Department may acquire a vehicle without approval of the Common Council. The Police Department shall notify the Common Council following successful acquisition of vehicles through forfeiture proceedings. The Common Council shall determine whether vehicles acquired through forfeiture proceedings will be retained as part of the vehicle fleet or sold as surplus property.

Marked Vehicles

All City vehicles will be marked to indicate that the vehicle is property of the City of Ashland except unmarked squad cars. Any exception to this policy must be approved by the City Council.

Vehicle Use Restrictions

It shall be the general policy of the City ~~of Ashland~~ to restrict City vehicle use to official City business only.

The use of city-owned vehicles for traveling to and from an employee's personal residence is not permitted, except for very rare or infrequent circumstances that are outlined in the rules and regulations section below. This provision shall apply to all City employees including, but not limited to department heads, the Police Chief, and Fire Chief.

Rules and Regulations

- After balancing the resources of the City with the needs of the operations of the department, the department head has the discretion to permit or withhold the incidental personal use of a municipal vehicle during work hours.
- Personnel are responsible for appearance and cleanliness of their vehicles, both interior and exterior. Personnel shall also ensure the general maintenance, including preventative maintenance, of City vehicles is undertaken.
- Window decals, ornaments hanging from the windshield mirror, bumper stickers, or other signs, pictures, or ornaments visible to the public attached to a City vehicle are prohibited.
- Unattended vehicles will be locked at all times.
- Police Officers shall secure all weapons while the vehicle is unattended. All weapons will be removed from the vehicle while it is being serviced.
- Except when required by Police Officers involved in official police business, alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs will not be transported in City vehicles nor will vehicles be operated by personnel who have consumed alcoholic beverages within the previous six hours or who have illegal drugs in their system.
- Use of tobacco products shall be prohibited in City vehicles.
- Personnel shall use the seat belt installed by the vehicle manufacturer in a properly adjusted and securely fastened manner when operating or riding in any City vehicle. The driver of the vehicle is responsible for ensuring compliance with all safety restraint laws by occupants in the vehicle they are operating.
- Except in specific ambulance intercept situations, no one except City employees may operate City vehicles. In the case of Paramedic Intercepts, drivers from other ambulance providers may drive/operate

vehicles owned by the City of Ashland. In no case, however, shall the intercept vehicle be operated in an emergency mode. Once the intercept has been completed, all emergency-warning systems shall be deactivated and the driver shall proceed directly to the receiving hospital following all applicable rules of the road. It shall be the responsibility of the ambulance provider requesting the intercept to ensure all drivers are licensed to operate motor vehicles in the State of Wisconsin.

- Drivers will carry a valid license when operating a City vehicle.
- Non-City personnel may ride in a City vehicle if on City business, including parade activities if pre-approved by the Department Head, with a City employee. Hitchhikers will not be picked up.
- All City personnel will drive and park legally.
- Drivers of municipal vehicles will be responsible for any citation received.

Accidents

All accidents involving City vehicles shall be investigated by the Police Department from the jurisdiction in the municipality or county where the accident occurred. Accidents involving Police vehicles shall be investigated by the Chief of Police or his designee.

The following actions shall be taken by employees involved in an accident:

- Stop as soon as possible.
- Leave the vehicle where the accident occurred, except that such a stop should be made without obstructing traffic more than necessary.
- Call the local Police or 911 to report the accident.
- Do not leave the scene of the accident until the Police have arrived and have told you that you may leave.
- Do not admit fault. Do not discuss the accident with anyone except the Police or representatives of the City-of-Ashland's insurance company.
- Obtain from other drivers or witnesses involved in the accident their name; address; telephone number; registration number of the vehicle(s), the name of their insurance company, agency, and policy number; and ask to see their operator's license.
- Produce your operator's license for all other drivers.
- Give to each driver your name and address and information concerning the City-of-Ashland's insurance. An insurance card is in the glove compartment of City vehicles, is on file with the Ashland Police Department, or is available from the City Clerk.
- Give to each driver the name, address, and phone number of the City:
City of Ashland
601 Main Street West
Ashland, WI 54806
(715) 682-7071

Contact person: City Clerk

- Immediately notify the department head and the City Clerk and Human Resources/Safety Director of the accident. All accidents must be reported immediately regardless of severity.

4.15. Drug and Alcohol Policy

~~Ashland~~ The City has a vital interest in maintaining a safe and productive work environment. Employees who work while under the influence of drugs or alcohol pose a serious safety and health hazard to themselves, their co-workers, and third parties.

The City has developed the following policy on drug and alcohol abuse:

Alcohol - The sale, purchase, or use of alcohol on the City's premises, and/or in City vehicles, or while on City time is prohibited with the exception of City organized events and with City Administrator approval.

Prescription Medication - Because prescription medication can also affect an individual's demeanor and job performance, such prescription drugs must be taken under medical supervision and may not be used in any way or in any dosage not approved by the employee's physician. Any such legal drug usage while on City time or while on the City premises and/or City vehicles may be allowed as long as the use of the prescription or legal drug does not adversely affect the employee's safety and/or job performance or the safety and/or job performance of other employees. It is the employee's personal responsibility to ensure medication they are taking does not violate this policy.

Illegal Drugs - The possession, sale, purchase, or use of any illegal drugs, or the illegal use of any legal drug, while on City premises and/or in City vehicles or while on City time is strictly prohibited. Employees may not report to work or be on City time or premise while under the influence of any illegal drug.

Any employee who violates the above procedures may be immediately discharged.

The City can require a drug test if there is *reasonable suspicion* that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or has legal or illegal traceable drugs in his or her system. Testing may be conducted by a breath, blood, or urine sample. Refusing to consent to the drug testing will be cause for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

If the City has reasonable suspicion that an employee involved in an accident or an injury on the job is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, that employee will immediately be drug tested after any necessary medical treatment. Any employee who refuses to consent to such testing will be subject to immediate termination. If an employee tests positive, the City has the discretion to discipline up to and including termination, and/or recommend rehabilitation and to institute unannounced testing for the employee. If the employee refuses to comply with the City's recommendations, the City has the right to terminate employment.

The City also will conduct pre-employment testing, after a conditional offer of employment has been made, which may include drug testing, and which will be paid for at the City's expense. An applicant who tests positive for illegal drugs will not be hired.

4.16. Maintaining a Valid Driver's License

If specified as a requirement in the job description, it is a continuing requirement of employment for employees to maintain a valid Wisconsin Driver's License with all appropriate endorsements necessary for the position that is held. It must be stated in the employee's letter of hire as a part of conditions of employment.

4.17. Americans with Disabilities Act

The City ~~of Ashland~~ prohibits discrimination against a person with a disability, i.e., persons with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities who, with or without an accommodation, is qualified to perform the essential functions of the job. In accordance with the law, the City will reasonably accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities. Because each individual is different, the City will discuss specific situations with the individual and undertake an investigation of the specific circumstances involved. Individuals requiring additional information or reasonable accommodation may consult the City Human Resources Director.

Reasonable Accommodation of Individuals with Disabilities – The City recognizes and supports its obligation to endeavor to reasonably accommodate job applicants and employees with known physical or mental disabilities who are able to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation. The City will endeavor to provide reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified job applicants and employees with known physical or mental disabilities, unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on the City or pose a direct threat of substantial harm to the employee or others.

An applicant or employee who believes they need a reasonable accommodation of a disability should discuss the need for possible accommodation with the City Human Resources Director or their direct supervisor.

Reasonable Accommodation of Individuals' Religious Beliefs and Practices – The City recognizes and supports its obligation to endeavor to reasonably accommodate job applicants and employees with sincere religious beliefs or practices who are able to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation. The City will endeavor to provide reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified job applicants and employees, unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on the City.

An applicant or employee who believes they need a reasonable accommodation of a sincere religious beliefs or practice should discuss the need for a possible accommodation with the City Human Resources Director or their direct supervisor.

5. Employment Status, Practices, and Records

5.01. Required Employee Notifications to City

It is the responsibility of the employee to notify the City of any changes in personal data. The City Human Resources Director is responsible for maintaining the employee's records. However, these records are only as good as the information that has been provided by the employee.

It is very important for employees to notify the City Human Resources Director of all of the following, and of any changes to any of the following:

- Your home address
- Phone number
- The [name and](#) number of dependents that you are designating for income tax withholdings for births, adoptions, [insurance coverage](#), etc.
- Marital status
- Emergency contact information
- Any restrictions that you may have had affecting your driver's license status (specifically as it relates to driving any City vehicles) must be reported to the City Human Resources Director immediately.

5.02. Personnel Records

Maintaining accurate personnel records is critical to effective human resource management and in satisfying the City's legal responsibility. The City Human Resources office maintains a secure personnel file on each employee. The content of the files maintained by the Human Resource's office shall be consistent with the requirements of state and federal law and sound principles of human resource management. Medical and I-9 records shall be maintained in separate files for each employee. Department heads and supervisors should not maintain files containing an employee's personnel records, payroll, I-9, or medical records.

Employees of the City may view the contents of their personnel file no more than once per calendar quarter with three business days' notice from the date of the receipt of such notice. Review of the file will be permitted with a representative of the City present at all times. Employees are not permitted to remove or alter information contained within the personnel file. The file itself may not be removed from City Hall but employees may request copies of the information contained within.

Any individual who reviews personnel records will sign and date a log, which shall be kept in a secure location.

It is the City's policy to respect individual privacy and to maintain in confidence all information and records pertaining to employees to the extent practicable in keeping with the City's best interest. Information in an employee's personnel file and all other employment-related files will not be disclosed to any third party without an employee's written consent, except to meet the legitimate business needs of the City or as required by law. Upon a written request from a third-party for disclosure of a personnel record, the City will determine whether or not the public interest in disclosure is outweighed by the privacy and reputational interests of the employee. If the City determines that the record should be released, it will first notify the employee so that the employee has an opportunity to oppose the release.

The disclosure of health records is strictly limited under federal and state law.

While the blanket withholding of all personnel records related to City police officers is not allowed under the law, there are special circumstances applicable to law enforcement officers that may limit release of some of such records. The City Human Resources Director will consider any such circumstances prior to any such release.

An employee may designate a representative to inspect the employee's personnel records. The designation shall be in writing. Upon receipt of such authorization, the City will allow the designated representative to inspect that

employee's personnel records in the same manner as the employee is permitted to inspect them under this guideline. All written designations shall become a part of the personnel file.

The following exceptions apply to the employees' right to inspect his or her personnel records:

1. If the City Human Resources Director believes that disclosure of any medical records could have an adverse effect on the employee, the City Human Resources Director may release those records to the employee's physician.

2. The employee's inspection right does not apply to records related to the investigation of possible criminal offenses; letters of reference; tests, except for cumulative scores for either a section of the test or the entire test; staff-management planning documents as per Wis. Stat. sec. 103.13(6)(d); personal information about another person, if the release of that information would invade the privacy of that person; and records concerning any pending claim between the City and the employee that may be discovered in a judicial proceeding.

If an employee disagrees with any information contained in the personnel records, a removal or correction of that information may be mutually agreed upon by the City and the employee. If an agreement cannot be reached, the employee may submit a written statement explaining the employee's position. The City shall attach the employee's statement to the disputed portion of the personnel record. The employee's statement shall be included whenever that disputed portion of the personnel record is released to a third party as long as the disputed record is part of the file.

5.03. Verification of Employment

The City may receive calls from prospective employers, financial institutions and other businesses seeking employment related information. The City's policy for verification of employment is to ensure consistency and documentation of responses; only the City Human Resources Director will process these written requests for information. Supervisors are required to refer any such requests for information to the City Human Resources Director immediately. The City ~~of Ashland~~ will only respond to verification inquiries that are submitted in writing. All requests for written employment verification must contain the employee's signature for release of such information. The City ~~of Ashland~~ will only provide limited phone verification.

5.04. Employee Classifications

The designated classifications do not constitute a guarantee of work or status for any period of time. Please direct any of your questions regarding your employment classification to the City Human Resources Director and/or the Accounting Assistant/Payroll Specialist.

The Common Council specifies the number and classifications of all regular positions authorized for each department through the budget approval process. In addition to regular positions, the City may approve other types to meet business needs. Current position types include the following groups of employees within the City of Ashland in terms of benefits and policy and procedures:

Regular Full-Time (FT):— employees are generally expected to work a 30-40 hour work week, as specified on the work schedule. Full-time employees are eligible to enroll in the City's employee benefit plan once they have met the requirements for each benefit. Any full-time employee working under 40 hours per week, but 30 or more hours per week will have their leave time, benefits, and other payroll deductions prorated.

Exempt or Salaried Position - employees are expected to work the number of hours necessary to get the job completed professionally. As defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), full-time exempt employees are not eligible for any overtime pay. However, upon supervisor approval exempt employees may accrue compensatory time at a rate of 1:1 for any hours worked over 40 hours. Supervisor approval must be given prior to any overtime work being completed.

Non-Exempt or Hourly Wage Position - employees work regularly scheduled hours. All non-exempt employees are eligible to receive overtime compensation at a rate of time and a half for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a defined work week. Employees must have prior approval before working any overtime hours. Note: Police and fire employees may have different FLSA overtime schedules and therefore, overtime eligibility requirements are different based on their union contract. Applicable employees should consult their contract for further information.

Part-Time (PT): Employees scheduled to work ~~less than 30 hours~~ or more but more than (20) hours per week and are not assigned temporary status are eligible for pro-rated benefits. Any part-time employee working less than ~~(30-20)~~ hours is not eligible for the city's benefit program.

Part-Time Manager:- Employees who are seasonal and/or work hours that are flexible due to the nature of the position. These employees are eligible for City benefits on a prorated schedule

Temporary/Limited Term:- Employees hired as interim replacements, to temporarily supplement the workforce, or to assist in the completion of a project in a given time period. If a temporary employee is hired through an agency, the individual is not a direct employee of the City and will not receive any benefits through the City; instead the agency will handle payroll, social security, and workers' compensation insurance for the temporary employee. A temporary employee's time card must be signed off by their supervisor or department head before it is sent to the agency for payment.

Seasonal: Employees- who are employed to work on a regular and/or recurring basis during a specific season or portion of any one calendar year. Seasonal employees receive all legally mandated benefits (such as social security benefits and workers' compensation insurance); however, they are ineligible for the City's employee benefits program.

Paid On-Call Firefighter/EMS (POC)

APOC firefighter/EMS is defined as anyone performing firefighting or EMS tasks and duties for the City of Ashland and is not a member of the IAFF Union or a full-time member of the fire department on their one year probationary period. POCs receive all legally mandated benefits (such as social security benefits and workers' compensation insurance); however, they are ineligible for the City's employee benefits program.

Independent Contractors - in addition to the five employment classifications above, some individuals are employed by the City as independent contractors and are not considered 'employees' of the City. Payment is through a contractual agreement and the individuals are not eligible for any benefits offered to City employees. Elected officials would be defined as the aforementioned and therefore the City does not offer any benefit provisions.

6. Employee Benefit Programs

6.01. Introduction

The following benefits apply to all employees of the City except where noted or except where an individual employment contract or a collective bargaining agreement provides otherwise. If the general descriptions in this Handbook do not conform to the language found in any contract or in any plan document, the

language in the contract or plan document takes precedence. Employees are encouraged to familiarize themselves with and take advantage of all their benefit opportunities. Since benefits are likely to change from time to time, this section of the Handbook, like the rest of the Handbook, does not create any expressed or implied contractual obligation on the part of the City ~~of Ashland~~.

Council Members and seasonal limited term employees are not eligible for benefits. Full-time employees working more than 30 hours/week but less than 40 hours/week and part-time employees are eligible for pro-rated benefits. The percentage of time worked, as compared to full-time employment of 2080 hours/year, is the percentage applied to all benefits, including prorated vacation and sick time.

If two employees are in dependency status to each other, only one of the employees may carry the family plan(s).

Employees who are in non-pay status, i.e. on leave of absence or layoff, are required to pay the full cost of the medical, dental and life insurance programs.

6.02. Eligibility

Regular full-time employees may choose to be included in the City's group insurance programs. All such insurance programs shall be selected by and may be changed by the employer. Regular part-time employees who work at least 30 hours per week on a permanent basis may elect to participate in the plans in accordance with the policy of the City. Employees electing to participate in either the health insurance or dental insurance plans shall be eligible for coverage pursuant to the requirements of the plan.

Eligible employees who decline health or dental insurance benefits may in the future be able to enroll in the plan(s), provided that the conditions of the specific plan are met.

Detailed benefits and provisions of the group health and dental insurance plan(s) are explained in the Summary Plan Description provided to the employees by the Administrator of the Plan. These documents are available for review in the City Human Resources Director's office.

6.03. Medical and Dental Insurance

Currently, regular full-time and part-time employees are eligible for medical, dental and a prescription drug plan based on the number of scheduled hours worked. (See Section 5.04 to determine correct eligibility) Employees are strongly

encouraged to check with the City Human Resources Director for their specific eligibility information. The City currently pays approximately 85% of the cost (depending on the plan an employee chooses) of the health insurance premium and approximately 90% of the premium for dental insurance. The remaining percentage of the premium is the responsibility of the employee. The City reserves the right to adjust the percentage of premium payments based on renewal rates and budget limitations.

To obtain health and dental coverage, employees must apply for coverage within thirty (30) days from the date of employment. Health and dental insurance coverage will be effective on the first (1st) day of the month following a thirty (30) day waiting period. The rules, regulations, and conditions of the insurance program as set forth by the insurance carrier selected by the City, are incorporated by reference into this section. Any employee failing to apply for coverage within thirty (30) days will be required to provide evidence of insurability as required by the insurance company if they desire to obtain coverage at a later date or follow the City's Open Enrollment rules including IRS qualifying life event circumstances

6.04. Benefit Continuation

In the event that an employee and/or their dependents are no longer eligible for City benefits (as a result of the voluntary or involuntary termination of the employee, a change in employee classification, or as a result of the separation, divorce, or death of the covered employee) then an individual may have the right to continue the same group health coverage at group rates. An individual's cost for coverage may be higher than what the individual was paying before, but generally the cost is lower than private, individual health insurance. Under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, or "COBRA", the City will offer the qualified persons the opportunity to apply for temporary extension of health coverage (also known as benefit continuation coverage). Benefit continuation coverage typically lasts for eighteen (18) months; longer periods are available in specific circumstances and are solely at the employee's expense. A representative of the City will meet with the employee prior to the last day of employment or send information to the employee regarding rights to continue benefit coverage.

6.05. Basic Life Insurance and Dependent Life Insurance

Through our carrier, the City offers each employee Basic Life Insurance and the opportunity for the employee to purchase dependent Life Insurance. Life Insurance becomes effective the 1st of the month 30 days after hire.. Basic Premiums will be paid for the employee only by the City. Employees have the

option to choose spouse, dependent and additional life insurance coverage at their own expense. A plan summary is available from the City Human Resources Director.

6.06. Section 125 Premium Conversion Plan

The City has approved an IRS Section 125 premium conversion plan available to all employees who have a health or dental insurance contribution. This plan enables you to pay your insurance contributions with pre-tax dollars rather than after tax dollars.

6.07. Wisconsin Retirement System

All eligible employees will be covered under the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) and all employees shall contribute the employee's share as established by law or, for those members of the police and fire bargaining units hired before July 1, 2011, by collective bargaining agreement. The City shall pay the required employer contribution.

6.08. Voluntary Benefits

The City offers a variety of voluntary benefits such as accident insurance and deferred compensation programs. Complete details of these plans will be available to new employees and at various times throughout the year. The employee pays 100% of the premiums for these plans.

6.09. Longevity Pay

All regular full time and part-time employees who have completed continuous uninterrupted service will receive longevity pay as follows:

- After five (5) continuous years 1% of base salary
- After ten (10) continuous years 2% of base salary
- After fifteen (15) continuous years 3% of base salary
- After twenty (20) continuous years 4% of base salary
- After twenty five (25) continuous years 5% of base salary

As a general rule, longevity is based on an employee's date of hire.

6.10. HIPAA Compliance

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was enacted primarily to provide improved portability of health benefits and greater accountability in the area of healthcare fraud.

As a plan sponsor of fully insured group health plans, the City is required to comply with the HIPAA requirement to maintain the privacy of personally identifiable information (PII). PII refers to any health information which may be identifiable including but not limited to demographic information collected from an individual that relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care; future payment to an individual; and the identification of an individual in relation to overall physical or mental condition.

In offering benefit plans to its employees, the City is obligated to provide a Notification of HIPAA procedures to all employees enrolled in the plans. This notice will advise employees of the procedures in place to assure regulatory compliance.

The City also reserves the right to make any amendments ~~any changes as necessary~~ to the Notification of HIPAA procedures as allowed by law.

6.11. Unemployment Compensation

The City ~~of Ashland~~ participates in the State of Wisconsin unemployment benefits if an employee becomes unemployed through no fault of his or her own. Eligibility for benefits is an individual determination made by the appropriate state agency.

6.12. Medicare

The City ~~of Ashland~~ is required to deduct a portion of each qualified employee's pay to Medicare. The employee pays a percentage of his or her gross income each pay period. The City matches the employee's Medicare payroll deduction.

6.13. Workers' Compensation Insurance

The City ~~of Ashland~~ maintains workers' compensation insurance coverage for work-related employee injuries and illnesses. Workers' compensation insurance will provide for payment of an employee's medical expenses and for partial earnings continuation in the event of a work-related injury or illness. The amount of benefits payable and duration of payments depends upon the nature of the injury or the illness. In general, however, all medical expenses incurred in connection with the injury or illness are paid in full and partial earnings payments are provided as covered by the law.

In the event an employee is injured on the job, and as a result is eligible for Worker's Compensation Disability Pay, the City agrees to continue the employees' normal base salary for a period of time not to exceed ninety (90) working days. As a result of the continued payment of base salary, the worker's compensation disability payment for the worker's compensation carrier will be paid directly to the City. An employee may not receive, or if received may not keep, both the City payment of normal base salary and the Workers' compensation disability payment and is required to return one or the other to the City.

Employees unable to return to regular or modified duty due to an injury or illness will be placed on medical leave of absence as stated in this Employee Handbook. Medical leave of absence runs concurrently with workers' compensation insurance.

6.14. Employee Assistance Program (E.A.P.)

The City ~~of Ashland~~ is concerned with the total employee, their family and the community in general. For this reason, an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) may be provided which offers direction to appropriate community resources for information and/or treatment. This program covers any illness or personal problem which repeatedly interferes with the individual's health, safety, and/or job performance.

An employee may self-refer to EAP for any appropriate reason. A referral by a supervisor will be based only on unsatisfactory job performance, which is the only criterion for a supervisory referral. The City ~~of Ashland~~ believes that job performance is the responsibility of the employee, with or without treatment. If after referral, the job performance does not improve to an acceptable level, the case will be handled as any other case of unacceptable job performance. It is the policy of the City ~~of Ashland~~ that EAP, when appropriate, should be used at appropriate steps of the disciplinary process and will be documented.

The confidential nature of any employee's participation in the EAP will be maintained. Any records generated through the EAP are confidential and will not be maintained by the City in the employee's personnel file.

7. Compensation Policies

7.01. Compensation Program

It is our objective to compensate employees for their performance and contribution to the City's goals and objectives. In setting compensation levels, the City considers a number of factors including overall organizational effectiveness, the need for attracting and retaining qualified and talented employees, and the City's financial position. Three main tools are currently utilized to determine salaries:

Job Descriptions- The majority of the City's jobs have been defined in a written job description. These typically identify the purpose, responsibilities, qualifications, and accountabilities of the job.

Wage/Salary Ranges- The City has implemented a formal salary structure for non-exempt and exempt positions in an attempt to keep salaries aligned with comparable markets. These ranges are developed by blending the City's compensation philosophy, salary survey data, and current economic business conditions.

Performance Appraisal- Performance appraisals measure an employee's demonstrated job performance and results achieved. How well a job is performed is the most important factor in determining eligibility for a merit increase. Performance evaluations may be held at any time, but are scheduled annually. If you do not receive an annual evaluation, please talk to your supervisor.

7.02. Pay Procedures

The City ~~of Ashland~~ pays its employees on a bi-weekly basis. A pay period consists of two (2) 40 hour work weeks beginning ~~Sunday~~~~Monday~~ and ending ~~Saturday~~~~Sunday~~. All timekeeping is based on a 40 hour work week and contained within that week. The checks will include all work hours within the previous payroll period. Employees are paid bi-weekly on the Thursday following the end of the pay period. If the regular pay day occurs on a holiday or when the banks are closed for a holiday, employees are paid on the last working day prior to the regular payday.

On each payday, employees receive a statement showing gross pay, deductions, and net pay. Automatic deductions such as additional tax withholding, contributions to voluntary benefit plans and individual savings plans may be arranged through the City Human Resources Director. Please remember it is the employee's responsibility to review their pay stubs every payroll period to insure accuracy and contact the Payroll Specialist with any discrepancies~~†~~.

The City also offers and encourages the option of having the employee's paycheck automatically deposited into the employee's personal bank account(s). ~~—~~In order to participate, the employee must complete an authorization form and provide a canceled check or official proof from the employee's bank of routing and account numbers during orientation. Direct Deposit authorization can be changed at any time by submitting a request in writing to the Payroll Office at City Hall.

7.03. Pay Corrections

It is the City's policy and practice to accurately compensate employees and to do so in compliance with all federal and state laws. Employees are encouraged to discuss any questions regarding the calculation of their pay with their supervisor. Employees must bring any pay errors, underpayment, or overpayment to the attention of their immediate supervisor. If the employee's paycheck is short due to a payroll error, the employee will receive the amount on the next scheduled payday. Any deviation from this procedure requires a written request to the Department Head. ~~Y—~~Errors made as a result of an employee's omission will be corrected on the next scheduled payday. Overpayment corrections will be made on the next payroll following the discovery of the error.

7.04. Pay Procedures and Time Sheets

All City Hall union and non-union employees, department heads, and Enterprise employees are required to record their hours worked, vacation, sick leave, holiday leave, and compensation time in a standardized timekeeping system which will be provided by the department head for review and approval.

Each employee is required to document working hours via the timekeeping system. Failure to accurately record time may result in delayed issuance of an employee's paycheck. Employees who repeatedly submit timekeeping inaccuracies will be required to attend timekeeping training. Ongoing timekeeping issues which arise after the employee has had corrective training may result in disciplinary action. Each employee should record their time only. Each employee will be required to verify ~~that~~ the hours on the employee's time card record are complete and accurate prior to submitting the card to the supervisor at the end of each pay period. To accommodate direct deposit, it is necessary to have all time cards to the Accountant's office no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Monday following the close of the pay period. ~~Employees should never assume a supervisor or the payroll specialist will notice or edit any time discrepancy, as this is the employee's responsibility.~~

Each employee's timesheet will be signed by the employee and contain the statement "I hereby certify that the hours on this time sheet are a true and correct record of the actual hours worked for the week shown." Failure to submit a timesheet when required may result in a delay in issuance of the employee's paycheck unless there is cause. Submission of a fraudulent timesheet will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. All requests and authorizations for time-off will be submitted with the timesheet for the bi-weekly payroll.

Record keeping to track Compensatory time, Sick Days, Vacation Time and Personal Days shall be kept in one central location within each department.

7.05. Payroll Deductions

A paycheck reflects total employee earnings for the pay period adjusted for any mandatory or voluntary deductions. Mandatory deductions are deductions that the City is legally required to take; such deductions include federal income tax, social security tax (FICA), and any applicable state and local taxes. Voluntary deductions are deductions authorized by the employee. Such deductions might include health and dental insurance, retirement accounts, etc. Employees with questions regarding deductions or who wish to change their federal withholding (Form W-4) are required to contact the Payroll Specialist and notify the Human Resources Director for notation in the employee's personnel file.

Any changes to federal or state taxes or payroll deductions in general must be filed with the Payroll Specialist in order to confirm the change and filed in the employee's personnel record.

By January 31 of each year, employees will be supplied with a Wage and Tax Statement (W-2) form for the previous working year. This statement summarizes employee income and deductions for the year. Employees may direct questions regarding these deductions to the Payroll Specialist.

7.06. Wage Garnishments

A wage garnishment is an order from a court or a government agency directing the City to withhold a certain amount of money from an employee's paycheck and send it to a person or agency. Wages can be garnished to pay child support, spousal support or alimony, tax debts, outstanding student loans, or money owed as a result of a judgment in a civil lawsuit. If the City is instructed by a court or agency to garnish an employee's wages, the employee will be notified of the garnishment at once. The City is legally required to comply with these orders. An

employee with disputes or concerns about the amount of a garnishment must contact the court or agency that issued the order.

7.07. Meal Times/Breaks

Meal and rest break times are currently provided to relax and refresh an employee for the day's work. The employee will need to coordinate with their supervisor as to department needs and the rest break and lunch schedule for the department. Employees are granted two (2) paid 15-minute rest breaks in each full working day. Typically these break times are to be taken mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Deviations from this ~~practice~~ must be approved by the ~~employee's~~ direct supervisor and documented in writing.

A meal break is considered unpaid and cannot be considered as paid time off, nor can missed breaks accumulate as any form of time paid. Rest periods are included in an employee's paid work time. When breaks must be skipped due to the volume of work, any flexing of the work day requires the approval of a supervisor.

7.08X. Lactation Accommodation

The City will provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate an employee desiring to express breast milk for the employee's infant child, to the extent required and in accordance with applicable law. The break time, if possible, must run concurrently with rest and meal periods already provided to the employee. If the break time cannot run concurrently with rest and meal periods already provided to the employee, the break time will be unpaid, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

The City will make reasonable efforts to provide employees with the use of a room or location other than a toilet stall for the employee to express milk in private. This location may be the employee's private office, if applicable. The City may not be able to provide additional break time if doing so would unduly disrupt the City's operations. Please speak to the City Human Resources Director if you have questions regarding this policy.

7.098. Hours of Work

Scheduling of the 40 hour workweek for full-time City employees will be determined at the discretion of the City. Employees are scheduled as needed by the department head. The City will provide employees with an unpaid half

(1/2) hour meal period per work day unless circumstances require otherwise. The Department Head must approve all extended meal periods.

7.0109. Flexible Work Schedule and Remote Work

The City ~~of Ashland~~ encourages its managers to consider flexible and remote work arrangements when appropriate for an individual staff member and the City. A restructured work arrangement should focus on results, with the understanding that many types of work require an employee's presence on a predictable, and sometimes standard, schedule.

Recognizing it is sometimes mutually beneficial for the City and the employee, generally work schedules can be altered at the manager's discretion.

7.110. Overtime

On occasion, an employee may be required to work beyond the regular 40 hour work week. The City will ~~try and~~ attempt to give advance notice when overtime work is necessary; however, it may not always be possible to notify employees in advance.

Exempt (salaried) employees will not be paid for working beyond regularly scheduled hours, instead they will be allowed to request 1:1 compensatory time for any hours worked over 40. Whenever possible comp time accrual requests and approval should be made in advance.

Non-exempt (hourly wage) employees are entitled to time and a half for all authorized hours worked over forty (40) hours in a defined work week. (Note: Police and Fire Department employees should see their contract for designated hours and FLSA pay calculations.) All overtime must be approved in advance by the employee's department head. It is advised, whenever possible, to obtain approval for all overtime hours in writing.

Overtime is calculated only based on actual hours worked - meaning hours the employee spent time performing services for the City ~~of Ashland~~ - within a work week. The normal work week is Sunday – Saturday unless otherwise provided by union contract. The City considers vacation and holiday pay 'hours worked' and will be included in overtime calculation.

Jury duty, funeral leave, personal leave, and sick leave are not considered 'hours worked' for the purpose of calculating overtime payments.

7.11. Compensatory Time

Compensatory Time is defined as time off ~~for overtime worked~~ in lieu of overtime pay. All compensatory time will be granted in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Compensatory time in lieu of overtime is at the discretion of the ~~employer~~ City.

Non-represented Employees:

Compensatory time is accumulated at the rate of one hour for every one (1) hour worked in excess of thirty five (35) hours per week, and an hour and a half (1 ½) for each hour worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week. Qualifying "hours worked" to accrue compensatory time in a 40 hour work week will include holidays and vacation time. Sick and other previously earned compensatory time will not be included.

Executive and Administrative Employees:

The above classification includes elected and appointed officials and department heads who are exempt (salaried) from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) are permitted compensatory time off at the rate of one hour off for every one hour worked (1:1) in excess of forty (40) hours per week. This is subject to approval from the employee's supervisor.

In General:

The accrual of compensatory time must be approved in advance, whenever possible, by the immediate supervisor or department head. Employees will be required to use their compensatory time by the first payroll in December. If the compensatory time is not used it will be paid out on the final pay period of the calendar year. It is important for employees to plan accordingly when they have accrued compensatory time. It is also important for department heads to manage the amount of compensatory time any one individual is accruing.

Compensation for conference or for training attendance or any travel will be in compliance with the ~~Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)~~ and this handbook.

Employees should request compensatory time off from their department head at least two (2) days in advance. If the employee is a department head, the leave request should be submitted to the City Administrator. The employee may choose to use compensatory time for emergency medical or dental appointments or when there is a serious illness or injury in the employee's immediate family instead of using sick leave.

In case of termination, lay-off, retirement, or death of an employee, the following requirements apply:

1. Non-exempt (hourly wage) employees classified under the Fair Labor Standards Act will be paid for any accumulated compensatory time.
2. Exempt (salaried) Employees will be paid hour for hour of all work performed for the City at their regular hourly rate.

Use of compensatory time as time off in lieu of payment is at the discretion of the department head and should be strictly monitored to adhere to the policy within this section.

For further information on compensatory time, contact the City Human Resources Director.

7.13. Training/Meeting Travel Reimbursement

If an employee is required to travel for work-related training/meetings, the City will reimburse all approved business-related travel expenses as outlined below. Changes to the standard mileage or meals and incidental reimbursement rates will be made annually, if needed, by the City Administrator referring to the in this Handbook and per the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Personnel Management Pocket Travel Guide and IRS guidelines.

An employee must obtain training/meeting travel authorization from his/her department head. Department heads must receive training/meeting travel authorization from the City Administrator. This authorization must include the work-related connection for the training or travel. Use the travel and approval form provided.

The City will pay for all business-related training/meeting travel expenses including lodging, meals and any transportation requirements such as airline tickets, rental cars, train, taxi-cabs, etc. When required, as outlined below, a receipt must be submitted for reimbursement. The City will not pay or reimburse employees for room tax on in-state travel. Appropriate tax-exempt forms should be requested prior to travel. The employee is expected to document all travel expenses.

City Credit Card: Whenever possible, employees should use the City credit card for all expenses related to the cost of travel, food, and lodging and save all receipts. Use of the City credit card does not relieve an individual from turning in receipts for expenditures. Under no circumstances should any expenses other than the employees be charged to the City.

Expense Reports: Employees shall submit expense reports with receipts, as outlined below, to the Department Head for approval within 7 days of the conclusion of the trip to substantiate the expenses. All reports must include details regarding the date, place, name of person visited or entertained, and business or training purpose. Any excess reimbursement or advances are to be returned to the City with the expense report. This is necessary to meet IRS regulations. When possible attach a flier or agenda documenting a conference or workshop attended.

Please Note: When using a City credit card for purchasing meals employees **MUST** keep a receipt to reconcile the credit card statement. Employee meal and incidental expense (M&IE) reimbursements are is-at a set rate and ~~does~~ not deviate from that rate unless approved by the Department Head and Finance Director. The employee will be responsible for any meal costs exceeding the daily M&IE rate for City travel.

City Vehicle Use/Mileage Reimbursements-Personal Vehicle: Whenever possible, employees should use a City vehicle for business travel. Mileage will not be paid for the use of a personal vehicle if a City vehicle is available. Employees who use their personal vehicle for business travel will be reimbursed by the City at the rate of \$0.51 per mile. Employees are not entitled to separate reimbursement for gas, maintenance, insurance, or other vehicle-related expenses as the reimbursement rate is intended to encompass all of these expenses. Mileage for any business travel is based from the office to the business-related location. The IRS does allow mileage expense from home directly to the designated training/meeting location to be reimbursed if the travel is done on a regularly scheduled off day (i.e. Sunday). The mileage will be reimbursed at the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Personnel Management's Travel Guide rate. The ~~above~~ table included further down in this section gives a breakdown for mileage reimbursement rate of .42/mile or as authorized and approved by the Common Council.

Lodging/Other Transportation: The City will pay the actual amount of the hotel/motel stay less room taxes. Employees need to acquire a tax-exempt letter from the City Clerk prior to departure. The employee should always request a government discount when making reservations or checking in to the hotel. There will be no reimbursements for lodging or commercial travel without a receipt. Any entertainment during overnight stays, including in-room movies and food/beverages from the hotel room refrigerator, will be paid for by the employee

and are not reimbursable by the City. Taxes on in-state lodging will not be paid by the City nor will they be reimbursed to the employee.

The following travel policies apply to an employee authorized to make his or her own travel arrangements:

- Transportation should be scheduled using the most economical mode of transportation available at coach rates with the most direct route.
- Mileage will not be paid for the use of a personal vehicle if a City vehicle is available.
- Airline tickets should be purchased in advance to maximize any discounts offered by the airlines. All points/mileage accumulated for the travel will belong to the employee when the employee uses their personal credit card to purchase the tickets.
- The City may allow an employee to add additional days to a trip. However, it is the responsibility of the employee to make up the financial difference to the City. If the additional time off is on a scheduled work day, the time off must have prior approval in accordance with procedures identified in this Handbook.
- The City occasionally allows for another person to travel with an employee as long as it is done at their own expense and with prior authorization. If traveling with another person, such travel must be approved by the Department Head prior to the trip. The City will assume no cost for the additional person. Additionally, the City assumes no liability for the additional person and will not be responsible for any negligent acts by the non-employee.
- The City may utilize a specific vendor for rental cars because of the vendor's rates. Employees are permitted to contract to rent a compact or mid-sized car when traveling. Additional charges for rental insurance are not reimbursable. An employee must have valid insurance including collision damage on their existing vehicle insurance policy. If an employee is involved in an accident with a rental vehicle, they will need to file a claim with their own insurance or insurance purchased at the time of securing a rental vehicle, and must also provide a report of the accident to the City.

~~• The City may allow an employee to add additional days to a trip. However, it is the responsibility of the employee to make up the financial difference to the City. If the additional time off is on a scheduled work day, the time off must have prior approval in accordance with procedures identified in this Handbook.~~

~~• The City occasionally allows for another person to travel with an employee as long as it is done at their own expense and with prior authorization. If traveling with another person, such travel must be approved by the Department Head prior to the trip. The City will assume no cost for the additional person. Additionally, the City assumes no liability for the additional person and will not be responsible for any negligent acts by the non-employee.~~

~~• The City may utilize a specific vendor for rental cars because of the vendor's rates. Employees are permitted to contract to rent a compact or mid-sized car when traveling. Additional charges for rental insurance are not reimbursable. An employee must have valid insurance including collision damage on their existing vehicle insurance policy. If an employee is involved in an accident with a rental vehicle, they will need to file a claim with their own insurance or insurance purchased at the time of securing a rental vehicle, and must also provide a report of the accident to the City.~~

Same Day Travel/Training & Overnight Travel/Training without Per-Diem Request - Meal & Incidental Expenses (M&IE) Reimbursements: The City will reimburse employees for meals for approved business training/meeting travel. Meals will be reimbursed at up to 75% of the daily meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) (see table below). Receipts are not required for meals purchased with cash, or a personal credit card, or with a City credit card. Tips for meals are included in the M&IE rate. Receipts are also required to reimburse expenses related to business travel such as public transportation, parking fees, etc. If employees are out of town for a portion of the day, meal reimbursement (including tips) will be paid at up to nine dollars (\$9.00) for breakfast; fourteen dollars (\$14.00) for lunch; and eighteen dollars (\$18.00) for dinner. **Receipts must be presented** for reimbursement. Reimbursement for travel that is not overnight is **taxable to the employee** and will be included in taxable wages per IRS guidelines.

Until a travel authorization and approval process is implemented the following rules will apply:

Overnight Travel Per-Diem Requests - Meal & Incidental Expenses (M&IE) Reimbursements: The requirements for requesting an M&IE per diem meal allowance for overnight travel is as follows:

- The City will provide advance M&IE per-di~~m~~ for meals for overnight business-related travel and training only.

- See the table below for current approved M&IE rates. The per diem is \$41 per day for meals including tips.
- The day of departure and the day of return will be prorated at 75% $\frac{3}{4}$ of the M&IE for these days per diem or \$30.75 for each of these days.
- For travel outside of the state or the Midwest Region, the M&IE rate per diem rate may be increased up to the maximum federal M&IE per diem rate as approved by the Department Head and Finance Director.
- Per diem expense reports are required to be submitted to the department head within seven days of the conclusion of the trip to substantiate the use of the M&IE and are to include the following:
 - Dates, time, place, and purpose of the trip which substantiates the use of the per diem. Note: Receipts are not required to be attached for meals unless a City credit card is used. In that instance, receipts must be kept to reconcile the credit card statement. M&IE expenses are paid to the employee regardless of the actual expense incurred for the meals purchased while on travel.
 - Employee signature and department head signature.
 - Receipts for purchases with the City Credit Card are REQUIRED to be attached to the report - this includes meal receipts when meals are purchased with the City credit card.
 - Un-substantiated M&IE per diem advanced to the employee per diem IS REQUIRED to be returned to the City and attached to the expense report.
 - A standard authorization and reconciliation form will be provided to be used across the workforce. Until a standard form is created the current forms may be used.
 - Failure to submit a per diem expense report within 7 days of the conclusion of the trip will result in the per diem amount be included as taxable wages to the employee as required by the IRS. The employee will also relinquish the right to the per diem meal option for future travel.

The following table is a quick reference guide for M&IE:

<i>Type of Travel</i>	<i>Supervisor Approval</i>	<i>Expense Form</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Meals (Includes Tips)</i>	<i>Meal Per Diem (Includes Tips)</i>
<i>Same Day or Overnight without Per Diem</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Required - Must be submitted within 7 days of conclusion of the travel with receipts attached.</i>	<i>Use of City Car-Preferred. Personal Car use - mileage reimbursed at .51/mile</i>	<i>Breakfast \$9 Lunch \$14 Dinner \$18 Taxable for same day travel. Taxable for overnight travel if receipts not attached.</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
<i>Overnight Per Diem advance</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Required: Must be submitted within 7 days of conclusion of the travel.</i>	<i>Use of City Car-Preferred. Personal Car use – mileage reimbursed at .51/mile</i>	<i>Not taxable if expenses are substantiated by expense form submitted within 7 days after travel</i>	<i>\$30.75 each for the first and last day. \$41 for full days without travel.</i>

7.13. Uniform and Clothing Reimbursement Policy

The City ~~of Ashland~~ shall provide to employees, or reimburse employees, for the costs of uniforms the employee is required to wear in connection with employment with the City ~~of Ashland~~. An article of clothing shall be defined as a uniform only if it meets each of the following criteria established by the IRS:

1. Be specifically required as a condition of employment by the Department for which the employee works;
2. Not be adaptable to general usage or ordinary clothing; and
3. Not be worn for general use.

The provision or reimbursement of uniforms to employees shall be non-taxable benefit to such employees.

The City ~~of Ashland~~ shall not provide to employees; nor reimburse employees, for the cost of any clothing that is not a uniform unless the expenditure or reimbursement for non-uniform work clothes is approved by the City ~~Administrator~~ and the employee's Department Head. Current approved positions include Facilities Maintenance, Humane Officer, and Public Works staff. The provision or reimbursement for non-uniform work clothes shall be a taxable fringe benefit to the recipient employee.

8. Time-off Benefits

8.01. Introduction

The City ~~of Ashland~~ recognizes our employees need to take time off occasionally to rest and relax, enjoy a vacation, or attend to personal matters. Paid time-off benefits are granted based on the number of hours in the employee's standard workweek. The City's standard work-week for non-represented employees is defined as Sunday through Saturday and consists of 40 hours. Paid time off benefits are based on actual hours worked within a given work-week. For the purposes of calculating time off benefits like overtime and compensatory time the City will include Holiday and Vacation time as actual hours worked. All other paid time-off benefits, such as sick leave, bereavement leave, jury duty, and other time-off benefits as defined ~~further down~~ in this section will not count towards actual hours worked within a given work-week and will not be used to calculate overtime or compensatory time accrual. ~~Family Medical Leave or FMLA is unpaid leave or job protection. Please refer to the FMLA section of this handbook for more information.~~

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION: Overtime and compensatory time accrual will be allowed regardless of actual hours worked during Saturdays and Sundays only for emergency call-back situations for all non-represented employees.

Ex: EE's regular work week is Monday through Friday at 40 hours. EE calls in sick on Monday but is called back one day during the weekend for an emergency work task. The EE will keep the sick leave for Monday and accrue as follows for the emergency weekend work:

1. An exempt employee will accrue compensatory time at one hour for each hour worked for the emergency work required on a Saturday or Sunday.
2. A non-exempt employee will accrue overtime or compensatory time at the rate of one hour and a half for every hour worked for the emergency work required on a Saturday or Sunday.

Note: Non-Exempt employees who receive prior approval to voluntarily work a Saturday or Sunday will not be allowed to accrue overtime or compensatory time at the one hour and a half rate. They will receive straight time for any voluntary hours worked on a Saturday or Sunday up to the 40 hours. In this case, time and a half rules will apply to non-exempt employees for any hours worked over 40.

UNION EMPLOYEES; Please refer to your union contract for specific information regarding time-off benefits.

Additional informational resources not to be included in the amendment:

DEPT. OF LABOR WAGES AND FLSA POINTS OF REFERENCE:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/flsa>

- **FLSA Overtime:** Covered nonexempt employees must receive overtime pay for hours worked over 40 per workweek (any fixed and regularly recurring period of 168 hours – seven consecutive 24-hour periods) at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay. There is no limit on the number of hours employees 16 years or older may work in any workweek. The FLSA does not require overtime pay for work on weekends, holidays, or regular days of rest, unless overtime is worked on such days.
- **Hours Worked (PDF):** Hours worked ordinarily include all the time during which an employee is required to be on the employer's premises, on duty, or at a prescribed workplace.

The employee is responsible for accurately recording ~~their~~^{his/her} paid time-off time on ~~his or her~~^{their} timesheet or electronic timekeeping platform and coding it correctly as to which designation of benefits they are using. (i.e. vacation, holiday, sick, etc.) Time-Off requests must be in line with the current timesheet system.

8.02. Vacation

Vacation time will be based on the employee's date of hire. In general, all non-exempt employees will earn one 8 hour vacation day per month (pro-rated for regular part-time employees) which is accessible to them upon completion of at the 6 month orientation/training period up to 96 hours of vacation which is available to employees immediately upon accrual up to the 96 hour cap for first and second year employees. There-after, employees vacation will be renewed on the anniversary of their hire date per the below schedule; except as provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract. From the approval of this policy vacation time will be earned based on the following schedule and will apply to all employees:

Amount of Vacation based on a calendar year	
1st (Initial) Calendar Year	12 days or 96 vacation hours earned one (1) working day per month. Accrued vacation will be accessible upon successful completion of the 6 month orientation period.
2nd Calendar Year	12 days or 96 hours One working day for each month worked
3rd Calendar Year	13 days
4th Calendar Year	13 days
5th Calendar Year	14 days
6th Calendar Year	15 days
7th Calendar Year	16 days
8th Calendar Year	17 days
9th Calendar Year	18 days
10th Calendar Year	19 days

11th Calendar Year	20 days
12th Calendar Year	21 days
13th Calendar Year	22 days
14th Calendar Year	23 days
15th Calendar Year	24 days
16th Calendar Year (thru 19th)	25 days
20th Calendar Year	26 days
21st Calendar Year	27 days
22nd Calendar Year	28 days (Maximum)

Regular part-time employees working at least 30 hours per week on a regular/permanent basis will receive prorated vacation benefits. Limited term employees and Seasonal employees are not eligible for vacation time.

Vacation requests for four (4) days or more are required to be submitted to the supervisor for approval at least two (2) weeks prior to the date requested. If less than four (4) days is being requested, a two (2) day advance notice is required to be submitted to the department head/supervisor for approval. If more than one employee is requesting the same vacation time within a department, the decision will be made on the basis of seniority within the department.

A maximum of two (2) weeks or 80 hours of unused vacation time may be carried over into the following calendar year. This must be approved by the department head/supervisor prior to December 31st of that year. The carried over hours can be used at any time during the next calendar year as approved by the employee's supervisor or Department Head. ~~These carry over hours must be used within the first six (6) months of the following year or be considered a loss.~~

8.03. Holidays

The City ~~of Ashland~~ will grant paid holidays to all full-time employees and prorated holidays to regular part-time employees. Holiday pay will be calculated based on an employee's straight-time base pay rate (as of the date of the holiday) multiplied by the number of hours that the employee would have been scheduled to work on that day.

If an employee is required to work a holiday they will receive 1 and 1/2~~2~~ times the rate of pay for every hour worked. The rate will be calculated at the employee's straight-time base pay rate as of the date of the holiday and multiplied by the number of hours worked.

Employees who choose to trade their holiday will be paid at their straight-time base rate of pay for the holiday they work and will then, upon approval of the supervisor, be eligible to identify a different day to take as the holiday which will be calculated based on an employee's straight-time base pay rate (as of the date of the holiday) multiplied by the number of hours that the employee would have been scheduled to work on that day.

The following days will be observed as holidays. The Common Council reserves the right to designate dates for observance of any other holidays.

- New Year's Day (January 1st)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Friday before Easter
- Memorial Day (last Monday in May)
- Independence Day (July 4th)
- Labor Day (first Monday in September)
- Veteran's Day (November 11th)
- Thanksgiving (fourth Thursday in November)
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve Day (December 24th)
- Christmas Day (December 25th)
- New Year's Eve Day (December 31st)

A recognized holiday that falls on a Saturday will be observed on the prior Friday. A recognized holiday that falls on a Sunday will be observed on the following Monday.

To be eligible for holiday pay, employees must work the last scheduled day immediately preceding and the first scheduled day following the holiday. This excludes employees who have pre-approved vacation time or compensatory time arranged on workdays before or after the holiday.

~~Non-exempt employees required to work on a City-observed holiday will be paid time and a half (1 and ½). Any non-exempt employee who is required to work on a City-observed holiday will be paid time and a half in addition to eight (8) hours holiday pay at a straight hourly rate.~~

Exempt employees required to work on a holiday will be entitled to utilize another scheduled day as the holiday with approval by the department head.

~~Regular part time employees shall receive prorated holidays.~~ Limited term and seasonal employees are not eligible for holiday benefits except when they are

working on a holiday and in that case they will be paid 2 times their base rate of pay for every hour worked.

NOTE: The Vaughn Library, Bretting Center, and Park and Recreation Programs may remain open on these holidays under policies adopted by the Vaughn Library Board or the City. Further, Police and Fire employees need to consult their contracts for their specific holiday payment policies.

Should any regular employee's bona fide religion require the observance of other religious holidays, those holidays may be substituted for an equal number of the listed holidays, provided that municipal operations do not suffer undue hardship. The City and the employee will work together to determine which days will be substituted. If the substitution of holidays is insufficient to reasonably accommodate the employee's religious observances, the employee and City will work together to determine other reasonable accommodations.

8.04. Sick Leave

Accumulation

Sick Leave will be credited to each regular full-time employee at the rate of one (1) day for each completed month of service. One (1) day is calculated at eight (8) hours per day depending upon the employee's regular hours of work. Part-time employees will earn sick leave on a pro-rated basis pursuant to Sec. 5.04 of this Handbook. Credit for the employee's initial month of employment will be given if the starting date of employment was prior to the sixteenth (16th) day of that month. Sick leave may be accumulated as follows:

Non-represented Employees hired before October 31, 2019:

Sick leave may accumulate and carry over calendar year to calendar year up to 960 hours or 120 days.

Part-time employees will receive a prorated amount of sick leave based on hours worked.

Non-represented Employees hired on or after October 31, 2019:

Sick leave may accumulate and carry over calendar year to calendar year up to 480 hours or 60 days.

Part-time employees will receive a prorated amount of sick leave based on hours worked.

Limited term employees and Seasonal employees are not eligible for sick time.

Use of Sick Leave

Eligibility for sick leave begins upon accumulation. Employees may draw upon accumulated sick leave when, due to sickness or temporary disability, the employee is unable to perform the duties of employment. Any time-off must be requested in advance or after the fact according to this policy and documented on a Time-Off Request Form which is also attached to the timesheet. A physician's statement may be required to return to work after an absence of three (3) consecutive days or more. Abuse of sick leave may be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination. Sick Leave or compensatory time may be used in medical emergencies or for medical or dental appointments or when there is a serious illness or injury in the employee's immediate family.

Please refer to Sec. 9.04 of this Handbook for more details.

Separation of Service

In the case of involuntary termination or lay off, no employee will be paid for their unused, accumulated sick leave. See Retirement payouts for more detailed information regarding employees retiring from the City ~~of Ashland~~.

If an employee dies while employed by the City ~~of Ashland~~, their estate will be paid for seventy-five (75%) of the unused sick leave remaining in the employee's account, not to exceed ninety (90) days of full or pro-rated pay.

8.05. Leave Transfer Policy

Eligible City staff may donate leave to, or apply for a leave transfer from, the City ~~of Ashland~~ leave pool. The Leave Transfer policy enables eligible staff who have exhausted all paid leave to request use of leave donated to the program. The request must be based on a personal emergency requiring time away from work which would result in a substantial loss of income because of the lack of paid leave.

Please refer to the attachment section of this handbook for a detailed description of the Leave Transfer Policy.

8.06. Leave of Absence

The City understands that there may be times that require an employee to be away from work for personal reasons. An employee may request a personal leave of absence from their department head. Approval is not guaranteed. It is based on the reason for the requested leave, the length of the leave desired, the department's workload, and the employee's work record and length of service. Regular employees with a minimum of two (2) years of service may request up to

thirty (30) calendar days of leave. The leave may only be extended with special permission granted by the City Administrator.

The following items must be approved by the employee's immediate supervisor prior to the start of the personal leave: reason for the leave, duration of the leave, how the leave is to be paid (sick, comp time, vacation time, or without pay), benefit provisions, and the employee's returning position and pay. A signed document outlining all terms of the leave must be approved by the City Administrator before the leave is granted. In no case will a leave of absence be granted for the purpose of accepting employment with another employer. During the unpaid leave, no vacation, sick leave, or any other benefits will accrue to the employee.

Earned vacation time must be used before the employee can request an unpaid leave. If the employee's leave extends into the next month after the start of the leave, the employee is responsible for making all dependent insurance premium payments, and must make arrangements with the City Finance Director or designee for that purpose. The City will make every effort to place the employee in their former position or a similar one upon the employee's return from personal leave, but cannot guarantee this placement.

Failure to return from leave on the agreed upon date shall be considered as a resignation, unless further time off is needed and communicated to the supervisor or Department Head.

8.07. Unexcused Absences

Supervisors should always be made aware of an employee's ability to work. An unreported absence or "no call, no show" ~~of -three (3) or more consecutive days~~ may be considered voluntary termination.

Supervisors have the right to approve absences and should do so in advance whenever possible. The City recognizes timely notice may not always be able to be given. Three (3) consecutive unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

8.08. Jury and Witness Duty

The City ~~of Ashland~~ encourages employees to fulfill their civic responsibilities and obligations by serving jury duty or responding to subpoenas to testify when called upon. Jury and Witness Duty Leave is compensated time-off for an eligible employee to perform jury duty or to testify as set forth below, on a day or time that conflicts with the employee's regularly scheduled work time. If an employee

is excused from jury duty or from testifying during regularly scheduled work hours, the employee is expected to return to work for the remainder of their shift. If an employee is selected as a juror, the employee must notify their supervisor as soon as possible and advise the supervisor of the selection.

The employee must notify their supervisor no later than the first business day after receiving a notice of jury duty or subpoena to testify.

Jury and Witness Duty Leave is governed by state law. No benefits are denied to an employee who serves on a jury. The employee shall assign or pay to the City the full amount of pay received by the employee from the Court or subpoenaing party minus any expense allowance and will receive from the City their regular wage for up to fourteen (14) days. If a jury duty assignment is fifteen (15) days or longer, the employee may elect to use accrued Vacation Time or accumulated Compensatory Time for time missed. The employee is not eligible to accumulate compensatory time while performing jury duty. The 14-day limit for receiving full pay for witness duty does not apply if the employee is subpoenaed to testify regarding a crime against the City ~~of Ashland~~ or an incident involving the employee during the course of the employee's employment for the City.

The employee is responsible for marking their timecard regarding payment for Jury or Witness Duty during the fourteen (14) days of paid Jury or Witness Duty.

8.09. Voting

Voting is an important right for all citizens. The City encourages its employees to exercise their right to vote in all municipal, state, and federal elections. Under most circumstances, it is possible for employees to vote before or after work. However, if it is necessary for an employee to miss work in order to vote in any election, the employee should make arrangements with their supervisor no later than the day before the date of the election. The supervisor will determine the time of day when the employee may have time off, taking into account the need to schedule the least disruption to City services. The City will grant up to four (4)~~three (3)~~ hours of paid time off to vote.

8.10. Bereavement Leave

If an employee suffers the death of an immediate family member, the employee is entitled to take up to three (3) working days or (1) shift in the fire department off of work with pay upon immediate notification of his or her supervisor, for the purpose of arranging for and attending the funeral. For purposes of bereavement leave, an "immediate family member" is defined by the City as an employee's spouse or domestic partner, parent, child, sibling (including step relationships)

grandparents, spouse/domestic partner's parents, partner's grandparents, grandchildren or any individual who has resided with the employee immediately preceding the person's death.

Employees may, with the prior approval of a supervisor, use any available vacation, sick leave or compensatory time to supplement bereavement leave, or may request additional time off to be taken without pay.

Bereavement pay is calculated based on the base pay rate at the time of absence and will not include any special forms of compensations such as incentives, shift differentials, or bonuses.

8.11. Military Leave

The City ~~of Ashland~~ supports those who serve in the armed forces to protect our country. In keeping with this commitment, and in accordance with state and federal law, employees who must be absent from work for military service are entitled to take a military leave of absence.

Vacation, sick leave, and holiday benefits will not continue to accrue during a military leave of absence (or on leave without pay). Benefits will only continue until the end of the month worked, and then the employee will be moved into unpaid status. The employee will not lose any benefits already accrued, but the employee will not accumulate any additional benefit until returned to a paid status.

Regular, non-represented employees who are members of the reserve component of the military forces of the United States of America or the State of Wisconsin will notify the department head/supervisor promptly upon notification of reserve training. The employee will be granted time off with pay, up to a maximum of two (2) weeks per year, if required to participate in reserve training activities.

An employee who is called to military service must inform their department head as soon as possible the employee will need to take military leave and submit written orders. Notification without written copies of orders will not be considered official notification. An employee whose military service has ended must return to work or inform the City ~~of Ashl~~ and they want to be reinstated following these guidelines:

- For a leave of thirty (30) or fewer days, the employee must report back to work on the first regularly scheduled workday plus eight hours after completing military service, allowing for travel time.

- For a leave of thirty one (31) to one hundred and eighty (180) days, the employee must request reinstatement within fourteen (14) days after military service ends.
- For a leave of one hundred and eighty one (181) days or more, the employee must request reinstatement within ninety (90) days after military service ends.

When an employee's military leave ends, the employee will be reinstated to the position previously held, or to a comparable position, as long as the employee meets the requirements of federal and state law.

Note: The City ~~of Ashland~~ will follow all federal and Wisconsin military leave regulations in effect at the time of the leave.

8.12. Family and Medical Leave

The City provides family and medical leave as required by the Wisconsin Family or Medical Leave Act (WFMLA) and the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993. Application of these laws must be coordinated with leave benefits provided under any applicable collective bargaining agreement. The provisions of WFLMA, FMLA, any applicable collective bargaining agreement, or this section of the Handbook, whichever provides the most generous benefit to the employee, will be applied. Leave qualifying under both laws (WFMLA and FMLA) will be counted against the employee's entitlement under both laws, as well as against the employee's entitlement under any applicable collective bargaining agreement, and the leave provided under this section of the Handbook. **WFLMA and FMLA are unpaid leave statuses.** All qualifying "family and medical leave" under the federal and state acts, under any collective bargaining agreement, and under this section, run concurrently or at the same time. The City will be guided by the specific provisions of FMLA and related regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Labor when interpreting and applying this policy in individual cases. The employee must notify their supervisor and contact the Human Resources Director to initial the FMLA Request process as soon as the need arises.

Eligibility

In order to qualify to take Federal FMLA leave, an employee must meet all of the following conditions:

- The employee must have worked for the City at least 12 months, which need not have been consecutive. For eligibility purposes, an employee will be considered to have been employed for an entire week even if the

employee was on the payroll for only part of a week or if the employee was on leave during the week. In determining whether intermittent or occasional employment qualifies as "at least 12 months," 52 weeks is deemed to equal 12 months.

- The employee must have worked for the City at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date when the leave would begin.
- The employee must work in an office or worksite where 50 or more employees are employed by the City within 75 miles of that office or worksite.

Types of Leave Covered

In order to qualify as FMLA leave under this policy, the employee must be taking the leave for one of the reasons listed below:

- The birth of a child and in order to care for that child;
- The placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care;
- To care for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition; or
- Because of the serious health condition (described below) of the employee that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of the employee's job.

A "serious health condition" is defined as an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care at a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility or continuing treatment by or under the supervision of a health care provider.

"Continuing treatment by a health care provider" may be for a variety of situations, including:

- A period of incapacity of more than three consecutive full calendar days;
- Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care;
- Any period of incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition;
- A period of incapacity that is permanent or long term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective; and
- Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments either for restorative surgery or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days if not treated.

A "period of incapacity" is a period during which a person cannot work, attend school, or perform other regular daily activities because of the condition, including treatment for and recovery from the condition.

Employees with questions about what conditions are covered under this policy or under the City's sick leave policy are encouraged to consult with the Human Resources Department.

The City normally requires an employee to provide a health care provider's certification of the serious health condition. The form used for the certification process is available from the Human Resources Department.

If an employee takes paid sick leave for a condition that progresses into a serious health condition and the employee requests unpaid FMLA leave as provided under this policy, the City may designate all or some portion of the earlier leave as FMLA leave taken under this policy, to the extent that the earlier leave meets the necessary qualifications.

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered military service member or veteran who is recovering from a serious illness or injury sustained or aggravated in the line of duty on active duty is entitled to up to 26 weeks of leave in a single twelve (12)-month period to care for the service member. This military caregiver leave is available during a single twelve (12)-month period during which an eligible employee is entitled to a combined total of 26 weeks of all types of FMLA leave.

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter or parent of an individual being on or called up for active overseas duty in the Armed Forces shall be entitled to up to 12 weeks per rolling 12-month period of "qualifying exigency" leave. "Qualifying exigency" is defined as short-notice deployment, military events and related activities, childcare and school activities, parental care, financial and legal arrangements, counseling, rest and recuperation, post-deployment activities, and additional activities where the employer and employee agree to the leave.

An eligible employee can take up to 12 weeks of leave under this policy during any 12-month period. The City will determine the 12-month period as a [rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any leave under this policy]. Each time an employee takes leave, the City will compute the amount of leave the employee has taken under this policy and subtract it from the 12 weeks of available leave, and the balance remaining is the amount the employee is entitled to take at that time.

If a husband and wife both work for the City, a leave for the birth of a child, placement of a child for adoption or foster care, or to care for a parent (but not

a parent-in-law) with a serious health condition, may be limited to a total of 12 weeks for both of them during any 12-month period.

Use of Paid and Unpaid Leave

An employee who is granted FMLA leave must use all sick leave prior to being eligible for unpaid leave. Compensation in lieu of overtime (comp time) and annual leave accrued time may be used at the discretion of the employee. The remaining portion of the approved FMLA leave will be unpaid and begin from the last paid day of sick leave credit or discretionary paid time. All FMLA leave must be designated as such on the individual employee's timesheet. If an employee is collecting workers' compensation or disability benefits, accrued leave may not be used except where necessary.

Employee Benefits During Leave

While an employee is on FMLA leave, the City will continue the employee's benefits during the leave period at the same level and under the same conditions as if the employee had continued to work.

The employee is responsible for paying the same portion of premiums for dependent coverage and contributions to any additional insurance coverage. While the employee is on paid leave, the City will continue to make payroll deductions to collect the employee's share of premiums. **While the employee is on unpaid leave, the employee must continue to make premium payments,** along with any dependent premiums, either in person or by mail. If the payment is more than thirty (30) days late, the City may discontinue coverage during the leave period, or will recover the payments at the end of the leave period, in a manner consistent with law.

Certification of the Serious Health Condition

The City also normally requires certification of a serious health condition. The certification form should be returned within 15 days of receiving it. Failure to provide certification may result in a denial of FMLA leave, which may lead to disciplinary action for unexcused absence. The Medical certification form is available from the Human Resources Department.

Certification of the serious health condition must include the date when the condition began, its expected duration, diagnosis, and a brief statement of treatment. For medical leave for the employee's own serious health condition, the certification must also include a statement that the employee is unable to perform work of any kind or a statement that the employee is unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's position. For a seriously ill family

member, the certification must include a statement that the patient requires assistance and that the employee's presence would be beneficial or desirable.

If the employee plans to take intermittent leave or work a reduced schedule, the certification must also include dates and the duration of treatment and a statement of medical necessity for taking intermittent leave or working a reduced schedule.

The City has the right to ask for a second opinion if it has reason to doubt the certification. The City will pay for the employee to get a certification from a second health care provider, selected by the City.

If necessary to resolve a conflict between the original certification and the second opinion, the City will require a third opinion. The City and the employee will jointly select the third health care provider, and the City will pay for the opinion. This third opinion will be considered final.

The City may require an employee to provide a return to work certification from a health care provider before returning from FMLA leave.

Procedure for Requesting Leave

All employees requesting leave under this policy must submit the request in writing to their immediate supervisor, with a copy to the Human Resources Department. When an employee plans to take leave under this policy, the employee needs to give the City 30 days' advance notice if the need for the leave is foreseeable. If it is not possible to give 30 days advance notice, the employee must give as much notice as is practicable. An employee undergoing planned medical treatment is required to make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment to minimize disruptions to the City's operations.

If an employee fails to provide 30 days' notice for foreseeable leave with no reasonable excuse for the delay, the leave request may be denied until at least 30 days from the date the City received notice.

While on leave, employees are required to report periodically to the City regarding the status of the medical condition, and their intent to return to work.

Return to Work at Termination of Leave

The employee is required to give the City five (5) days' notice of returning to work. In the case of an employee returning to work following a serious health condition, the employee must receive a "fit-for-duty" certification by a healthcare provider. This document should state the employee is able and ready to return to work and indicate the applicable date of return.

Confidentiality

All medical information obtained by the City shall be received, used, and stored in accordance with the privacy standards outlined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, as amended, and in accordance with applicable Wisconsin law. For additional information regarding privacy of information, please refer to the City's Notice of Privacy Practices.

The City Human Resources Director or Payroll/Benefits Specialist can assist an employee in determining his or her eligibility and answering questions regarding family and medical leave. This policy may change at any time in order to comply with possible revisions or additions to the law.

8.13. Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave

As noted above, an employee may be entitled to leave under both the FMLA and WFMLA, depending on the circumstances. When both acts apply, the employee will be entitled to leave under the more generous act. Under most circumstances, FMLA leave and WFMLA leave will run concurrently, and the FMLA will provide the more generous benefits. There may be circumstances, however, where only the WFMLA applies or where the WFMLA provides the more generous benefits. This policy summarizes key distinctions in the provisions of the WFMLA.

In accordance with the WFMLA, the City will grant an employee up to 6 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, 2 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a seriously ill family member, and 2 weeks of unpaid leave for the employee's own serious health condition during any calendar year. The leave may be paid, unpaid, or a combination of paid and unpaid, depending on the circumstances and as specified in this policy.

Eligibility

In order to qualify to take WFMLA leave, an employee must meet all of the following conditions:

- The employee must have worked for the City at least 52 consecutive weeks. For eligibility purposes, an employee will be considered to have been employed during a week as long as the employee has actually been treated by the City as an employee, in accordance with normal personnel recordkeeping practices, regardless of the number of hours worked that week.
- The employee must have worked or have been on accrued paid leave provided by the City for at least 1,000 hours during the 52-week period immediately preceding the date when the leave would begin.

- The employee must work for an employer in Wisconsin employing at least 50 individuals on a permanent basis.

Types of Leave Covered

The amount of leave an employee may take under the WFMLA varies depending on the reasons for the leave. The different types of leave, and the length of leave available per calendar year for each different type, are described below:

- An employee may take up to 6 weeks of family leave for the birth of the employee's natural child or the placement of a child with the employee for adoption. This leave must begin after 16 weeks prior to the expected date of birth or placement, or before 16 weeks after the actual date of birth or placement.
- An employee may take up to 2 weeks of family leave to care for the employee's child, spouse, qualifying domestic partner or parent with a serious health condition.
- An employee may take up to 2 weeks of medical leave for the employee's own serious health condition if the employee is unable to perform his or her employment duties.
- A "serious health condition" is defined substantially the same as under the FMLA described above.
- Employees with questions about what conditions are covered under this policy or under the City's sick leave policy are encouraged to consult with the Human Resources Department.

Use of Paid Leave

While an employee is using WFMLA leave, the employee may use accrued sick, personal, vacation, or any other accrued paid leave.

Other Miscellaneous Provisions

The provisions under the Federal FMLA regarding Intermittent Leave or a Reduced Work Schedule, Certification of the Serious Health Condition, and Procedure for Requesting Leave, described above, also generally will apply to leave qualifying under the WFMLA.

If an employee has further questions about specific provisions of the WFMLA, or about the interplay between the FMLA and WFMLA, the employee should contact the Human Resources Department.

9. Health and Safety

9.01. Workplace Safety / On-The-Job Accidents

The City ~~of Ashland~~ takes employee safety very seriously. In order to provide a safe workplace for everyone, every employee must follow the City's safety rules.

- No horseplay, roughhousing, and other physical acts that may endanger employees or cause accidents is permitted.
- Employees must follow their supervisor's safety instructions.
- Employees in certain positions may be required to wear Personal protective equipment (PPE's), such as hard hats, safety glasses, work boots, ear plugs, masks, etc. Your supervisor will let you know if your position requires protective gear.
- All equipment and machinery must be used properly. This means all guards restraints and any other safety devices must be used at all times. Do not use the equipment for anything other than its intended purpose.
- All employees must immediately report any workplace condition that they believe to be unsafe to their supervisor. The City ~~of Ashland~~ will look into the potential safety risk immediately.
- All employees are responsible for reading and following all City safety rules and are accountable for understanding the content. Employees' failure to follow safety rules or use appropriate safety devices may result in a reduction of the worker's compensation benefits received in the event of an injury.

Safety: Job safety is very important to all of us. We require safe work practices of all employees and expect you to conduct yourself carefully and safely at all times. You are expected to observe all safety procedures and rules, and use required personal protective equipment (PPE) as outlined by your department and supervisor.

All work areas must be kept clean and free from debris and clutter. Tools and equipment must be kept clean and in good repair. Any accident, hazard, or unsafe condition or equipment is to be corrected and reported to a supervisor. If you are involved in or witness an accident while working, you must report it immediately to a supervisor. Supervisors must maintain a safe work environment, enforce safety rules, and train staff.

The City will design and implement a Safety Handbook within 1 year of this dated revision and distribute separately from this handbook to each employee. If you do not have one, please

contact your supervisor or department head. You must familiarize yourself with all safety rules within your department and city-wide and abide by them. If you have questions about one or more of the rules, contact your supervisor department head or Human Resources/Safety Director.

9.02. Procedure For Reporting Workplace Injuries/Illnesses

1. Employees shall report all injuries and illnesses resulting from their employment with the City to their supervisor immediately regardless of how minor the incident.
2. Employees, when necessary, shall seek first aid or medical treatment as soon as possible following the incident.
3. Employees, whenever possible, shall notify their supervisor of a work related injury or illness and together will follow the Worker's Compensation Workplace Injury/Illness Reporting procedures.
4. Department head/Supervisor shall arrange for first aid and/or prompt medical attention for the injured employee.
5. The Department head/supervisor shall investigate on-the-job incidents, complete and file necessary reports and take necessary action to prevent recurrence. A review by the Department's Safety Committee may also be done.

It is essential for an employee to file a notice of any workplace injury or illness with the immediate supervisor or the employee's Worker's Compensation claim may be jeopardized. Employees submitting, or assisting in submitting, false Worker's Compensation claims will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Legal action may also be taken against employees submitting fraudulent claims.

Employees who fail to immediately report an illness or injury in accordance with this policy shall be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.

Employees are covered by Worker's Compensation Insurance in accordance with State law. Worker's Compensation provides a payment to an employee injured at work to replace a portion of the income lost due to work related injuries or illnesses. It also provides payment of medical bills and related expenses. Employees will be paid for worker's compensation according to the terms of the insurance policy in effect.

The City is not responsible for payment of worker's compensation benefits for injuries resulting from the participation in any recreational, social, or athletic activity where the employee is under no duty to attend and the injury did not result from the performance of tasks related to the employee's normal job duties. The City is also not responsible for providing benefits for injuries resulting from intoxication or drug abuse, the employee's violation of established safety rules, or the removal of safety devices from tools and equipment.

The City ~~of Ashland~~ provides for all necessary medical treatment for accidental work-related injuries and illness and has the right to designate the treating physician as specified in the Wisconsin Workers Compensation Law. The cost of this benefit is paid entirely by the City.

9.03. Procedure For Grievances Concerning Employee Safety

The Procedure for Grievances Concerning Employee Safety is an attachment to this Handbook.

9.04. Return to Work

The City ~~of Ashland~~ supports a Light Duty Work (LDW) program. This program allows employees to return to work with temporary restrictions during the healing process for work related injuries or illnesses.

Return To Work Policy Statement

The City ~~of Ashland~~ desires that employees who are unable to perform the functions of their regular job because of a work-related injury or illness that prevents their return to regular assigned duty should, where possible, be temporarily assigned alternative productive work subject to necessary medical certification. The City does not assign employees to non-productive work. It does desire to obtain the benefits of a temporary assignment of alternative productive work which maintains a level of activity and productivity, serves a therapeutic purpose, and speeds the employee's return to regular assignment. Alternative productive work is reserved for employees who are temporarily disabled because of a work-related injury or illness. Alternative productive work may be assigned within or outside an employee's regular department. The work assigned under this policy is not permanent in nature and the City retains the absolute discretion to modify work assigned hereunder at any time. This policy does not in any way constitute an employment contract and the City reserves the right to amend this procedure at any time.

If there is a conflict between this policy and any applicable collective bargaining agreement or any law, the law and/or contracts shall prevail.

Transition Duty/Return To Work Plan

The City's Return to Work plan is called the "Light Duty Work" injury management program. It includes a team effort involving the injured worker, the treating health care provider, the City's Workers Compensation Insurance carrier and City Management Staff.

1. An employee injured or suffering an illness at work will provide to their supervisor, as soon as possible, written certification of any restrictions imposed by a licensed medical provider. This will include the projected duration of the restriction(s). The prescribed Work-Related Injury/Illness Report can be found in the forms section of this Handbook.
2. The department head will evaluate the restriction(s) and determine if temporary assignment of alternative productive work is available. The department head may recommend assignment of the restricted employee to such available work and for the hours that such work is available.
3. The department head and City Administrator will attempt to provide a transitional job within the capabilities specified by the treating physician, intended to facilitate a return to regular work duties as soon as medically feasible.
4. The department head/supervisor, in coordination with the City Administrator, will determine, when applicable, in accordance with the physician's return to work recommendation what and where the duties of the employee will be. The duties and location will not be limited to the department the employee normally works in. If so determined by the department head and the City Administrator, the employee may work in a different department until they can return to full duty in their regular work assignment.
5. The department head will contact the injured employee in writing informing them of the City's return to Work program, soliciting the employee's cooperation in the program and instructing the employee of their responsibilities in maintaining their employee status.
6. Except as provided by law, employees shall be available for any transitional duty assignment which is within their medical restrictions.
7. It is expressly understood that:
 - a. No obligation exists for the City to provide or create a temporary

assignment of alternative productive work or convert a regular job for the purposes of a temporary assignment.

- b. Temporary assignment of alternative productive work does not create a regular employment opportunity and is made as a temporary assignment only which will terminate at the conclusion of a specified time period. The specific end date of the assignment will be communicated clearly in writing to the employee upon temporary assignment of alternative productive work. Vacation and paid holidays may be excluded in calculating the time period.
- c. Unused accrued vacation and sick leave may be used in lieu of a temporary assignment to alternative productive work.
- d. The department head will determine the amount of temporary assignment of alternative productive work available in any department.
- e. Temporary assignment of alternative productive work is separate and distinct from the duties of the employee's regular job. However, the employee may be assigned to perform those duties of the regular job that the employee can perform without restriction or limitation.
- f. An employee is entitled to remain on unpaid FMLA leave until the FMLA leave entitlement is exhausted. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting an employee's state and federal FMLA rights.
- g. Temporary assignment of alternative productive work may be considered only when an employee is certified as unable to perform the functions of their regular job.
- h. An employee's regular work schedule may change during the temporary assignment of alternative productive work to accommodate the department's needs.
- i. If alternative productive work is unavailable within an employee's regular department, the City may assign alternative productive work to the employee outside the employee's regular department.
- j. All temporary assignments of alternative productive work will be reviewed each thirty (30) calendar day period by the respective department head and the City Human Resources Director.

9.05. Smoking Policy

In order to maintain a safe and healthful working environment and to ensure compliance with applicable laws, employees and visitors are not permitted to smoke, including the use of e-cigarettes, within the City's facilities, including City-issued vehicles. All persons, employees, citizens, and visitors are not allowed to smoke within 10 feet of any entrance/exit to a City owned and operated facility. The City encourages those who wish to quit smoking; the health insurance provider selected by the City offers wellness programs to help employees stop smoking. Please contact the health insurance carrier for more details on this benefit.

9.06. Evacuation Procedures

Evacuation procedures are posted on the employee bulletin boards or in employee common areas in each facility. Employees should familiarize themselves with them in case of an emergency.

9.07. Life Threatening Illnesses

Employees with life-threatening illnesses often wish to continue their normal pursuits, including work. The City supports these endeavors as long as employees are able, in the opinion of management, to meet acceptable performance standards. As in the case of other disabilities, the City makes reasonable accommodations to allow qualified employees with life-threatening illnesses to perform the essential functions of their jobs.

10. Employee Development

10.01. Promotions, Lateral Transfers, and Demotions

Employees who receive either a promotion or a lateral transfer are on a six (6) month orientation period. If at the end of the six (6) months the employee does not succeed, they may go back to their previously held position at the City's discretion. The City follows the employment "at-will" policy (see Sec. 2.02) and does not guarantee any continued employment for any position.

Promotions are the advancement of an employee from a position of one classification to a position having a higher classification. Promotions are based on individual qualifications and consideration is given to such factors as demonstrated ability, performance, training, attitude, attendance, and length of service. Employees will have an orientation period of six (6) months in the new position. The City does not guarantee continued employment if the candidate is

unsuccessful in completing the orientation period to the position in which they have been promoted. The effective date of promotion will be the date of transfer and will become official once the ~~6-~~month orientation period is successfully completed.

Lateral transfers happen when an employee transfers from one City department to another. The transfer must be coordinated between the two departments. The employee carries with them all accumulated sick leave, vacation benefits and longevity. If the transfer to the new position is of the same labor grade, the employee may retain the former rate of pay with the approval of the department head, Finance Director and in consultation with the City Human Resources Director.

Unfortunately, there are situations in which an employee will be demoted to a lower pay grade; the employee may have their wage adjusted to the new labor grade.

10.02. Tuition Reimbursement Policy

The "Tuition Reimbursement Policy" serves as the City's official policy on the administration and processing of requests from full-time employees for tuition reimbursement to the extent funds are available. Funds for tuition reimbursement are not guaranteed. Many factors affect the general budget and department budgets. It is the responsibility of the Department Head to budget accordingly for training and tuition reimbursement. Employees must request and receive approval from their Department Head prior to enrolling or registering for any training or coursework.

The reimbursement program is provided for employees who take courses to improve their skills and competencies in their present job and for promotional opportunities with the City ~~of Ashland~~. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, the following criteria must be met:

- Employees must have worked for the City for at least twelve (12) continuous months.
- Full-time employees will be reimbursed for approved tuition expenses only (the City will not reimburse lab fees, books, parking, etc.). In order to qualify for tuition reimbursement, the employee must show documentation of ~~successfully~~ passing the course.
- All coursework is subject to approval and must be taken solely on the employee's time, unless waived by the department head and City Administrator. This approval must be documented and submitted to Human Resources for the employee's personnel file.

- Employees cannot receive more than ~~(\$2,500.00)~~ per calendar year to cover educational costs.

Before enrolling in a class, the employee must complete a Tuition Reimbursement Request and have it approved by the employee's supervisor and the City Administrator.

Upon completion of the class, the employee will submit proof they have paid for the class and an official copy of the grade to the City Human Resources Director for prompt reimbursement.

~~An employee agrees that in the event they leave their employment for any reason and has received tuition reimbursement within three (3) years of the date of separation, the employee will be required to pay back the full amount paid by the City and may be taken out of any final employee payouts. Departments may outline other tuition/training repayment schedules as appropriate for their department. It is the policy of the City to work with all employees around tuition. However, an employee may be asked to voluntarily sign a repayment agreement upon hire. All repayment agreements are voluntary and~~ must be included in the conditions of employment with the hire letter, a personnel memo, or a separate condition of employment signed by both the department head and the employee.

10.03. Performance Reviews

Formal performance reviews are scheduled approximately every twelve (12) months. During the employee's initial period of employment, the employee may be reviewed after three (3) months of service and again after six (6) months of service, or at any other time deemed appropriate by the supervisor. A performance review does not necessarily mean an increase in pay.

Supervisors and employees are strongly encouraged to discuss job performance and goals on an informal day-to-day basis. Formal reviews are conducted to provide both the supervisor and the employee the opportunity to discuss job tasks, identify and correct areas needing development, encouraging and recognizing strengths, and to discuss positive and purposeful approaches for meeting goals.

11. Leaving Employment with ~~t~~The City of Ashland

11.01. Resignations/Voluntary Terminations

An employee can terminate their employment at any time. When an employee decides to terminate employment with the City ~~of Ashland~~, the employee should

notify the City Human Resources Director by letter of resignation a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the desired date of separation. Resigning employment with the City of Ashland means voluntarily terminating employment. In some situations, based on the nature of the employee's position, an employee may be asked to leave their position immediately even if a two weeks' notice is given. If asked to leave, the employee will be paid out for the remaining time of the notice.

11.02. Layoffs/Rehires

The City's operational needs may necessitate a decrease in the number of employees or reduction of work hours to operate efficiently and within our available funding.

In the event it becomes necessary to reduce the number of employees, layoffs shall be conducted consistent with the following procedures:

- Demonstrated ability in past performance;
- Transferability of skills to other positions;
- All skills and performance being equal, 'length of service' with the City shall be the deciding factor.

If an employee has been laid off and has been recalled back to work within a seventy-five (75) -day period, the employee's original hire date will be reinstated to calculate vacation time and all other related benefits. If an employee has been laid off for more than seventy-five (75) days, seniority status will be treated as if they are a new hire.

11.03. Exit Interviews

An exit interview may be conducted for any employee voluntarily leaving City employment, either by resignation or retirement. During the interview, an employee has the opportunity to tell the City about their employment experience. The City greatly values these constructive comments and suggestions.

The exit interview also gives the City a chance to handle some practical matters regarding the end of employment. Departing employees will be expected to return all City property at the interview, including any keys and other property paid for by the City. Departing employees will have an opportunity to ask any questions regarding insurance, benefits, final paycheck, references, or any other matter relating to employment with the City of Ashland.

11.04. Retirement Payout Policy

Please note the [minimum](#) retirement age for the City [for WRS purposes of Ashland](#) is ~~age~~ 50 [years old](#) for Police and Fire employees and 55 for all non-represented employees.

As described in **Sec. 11.01** of this Handbook, an employee who wishes to terminate employment with the City ~~of Ashland~~ must notify the City Human Resources Director by letter of resignation two (2) weeks prior to the desired date of separation. If a two (2) weeks' notice is not provided the payment of separation benefits will not be allowed unless otherwise required by law.

Date of Retirement/Prorating Days in Current Year

Retirees must declare their date of actual retirement. For purposes of pro-rating benefits, the days employed in the current year shall be calculated as follows:

Days Employed = Date of Retirement - December 31st of Previous Year

(Example: 80 days employed = March 21, 2009 to December 31, 2008)

Longevity

Longevity will be prorated through the employee's declared retirement date. Longevity will not be accrued for vacation days paid out.

Payouts for employees who receive their longevity annually or monthly shall be calculated as follows:

Annual: In the final months of employment, payout shall be prorated by the number of days employed / 365 X annual longevity pay.

Monthly: In the final month of employment, payout shall be prorated by number of days worked in the last month / total number of days in a month X monthly longevity pay.

Accrued Sick Leave Payouts

For City employees hired before October 31, 2019:

Sick leave Payouts = .75 x accumulated unused hours x \$/hr. Retirement payouts for sick time and vacation time are subject to higher withholding tax. The amount of withholding is determined by the IRS and State of Wisconsin.

Accumulated unused sick hours shall be calculated as follows: Balance on December 31 of the prior year + days employed in current year / 365 X annual sick

leave hours. Payouts may not exceed 960 hours or 120 days. (This does not apply to the Fire Department)

For City Employees hired after October 31, 2019:

There will be no sick leave payouts for any employee hired after October 31, 2019. At this time the allowable accumulated sick leave balance and annual carryover is 60 days or 480 hours.

Represented Employees:

Police and Fire Union retirement payouts will be negotiated under the rules of each individual union contract. This section does not apply to Police and Fire union represented employees. All employees, with the exception of Police and Fire, hired before October 31, 2019 will be paid out based on the 2016 approved handbook policy under section 11.04.

Sick leave Payouts = .75 x accumulated unused hours x \$/hr. Retirement payouts for sick time and vacation time are subject to higher withholding tax. The amount of withholding is determined by the IRS and State of Wisconsin.

Accumulated unused sick hours shall be calculated as follows: Balance on December 31 of the prior year + days employed in current year/365 X annual sick leave hours. (This does not apply to the Fire Department)

Final Vacation Accrual and Payouts

Vacation earned or paid out will be calculated through the employee's final day of actual time worked. This may include vacation time earned in the previous year and taken in the current year.

All vacation earned in the current year of retirement may not be taken, and will be paid out. Vacation earned shall be based on days employed/365X following calendar year's allowance per Schedule C of the Employee Handbook.

Payout shall be based on accrued and unused vacation as the retirement date X current hourly rate.

12. Handbook Amendments

12.01. Definitions

1. *Employee group.* "Employee group" is a group consisting of represented or non-represented employees from each individual City ~~of Ashland~~ Department.

2. *Employee group's representative.* An employee group may designate an individual employee to represent the employee group if necessary. "Employee group's representative" is an individual that represents employees within an employee group.

All employees within an employee group shall have the right, without interference, restraint, coercion or domination, of self-organization and to form, join or assist in the creation and maintenance of an employee group's representative as long as it is not a labor organization and does not collectively bargain. The representative, ~~for~~ for the purpose of engaging, as [a representative of](#) interested stakeholders, and subject to the applicable provisions of this Handbook, the City regarding the adoption, amendment, or termination of any of the provisions contained in this Handbook that relate to the employee group it represents.

All employees within an employee group shall also have the right to refrain from any and all activities of the employee group's representative. No employee group's representative shall engage in any collective bargaining or any other activity ~~under a collective bargaining agreement with the City, unless the employee group's representative is also the recognized labor union representative.~~

3. *Handbook.* "Handbook" is this "City of Ashland Handbook of Terms and Conditions of Employment." ~~4. Independent consultant. "Independent consultant" is an advisor to the City, its employees, and its interested stakeholders.~~
4. *Independent consultant.* "Independent consultant" is an advisor to the City, its employees, and its interested stakeholders.
5. *Interested Stakeholders.* "Interested Stakeholders" are employees covered by this Handbook, and employee groups and their representatives engaged with the City in discussions regarding adoption, amendment, or termination of any of the provisions contained in this Handbook.

12.02. Procedure

This Handbook may be amended in accordance with the provisions of this section, subject to review and approval by the Common Council.

12.03. Notice

At least ten ~~-(10)~~ business days before introduction to the Committee of the Whole or City Council of any proposed revision to this Handbook, the City Administrator shall provide written notice of the proposed revision to the employee group representatives of the affected employee groups.

12.04. Bi-Annual Review

1. At least once every two years based on a calendar year, the Human Resources Director in consultation with the City Administrator shall provide notice to and meet with interested stakeholders to review, discuss, and obtain input concerning proposed changes to this Handbook. Interested stakeholders shall be given the opportunity to provide verbal or written input.
2. At such other times as requested by interested stakeholders, the Human Resources Director in consultation with the City Administrator may meet with employees to review, discuss, and obtain input concerning proposed changes to this Handbook.
3. After any meeting or series of meetings as provided for in subsections (1) and (2) immediately above, ~~the Human Resources Director shall~~ prepare a draft of proposed revisions, if any, and shall share the draft with those interested stakeholders who had participated in the meeting or meetings and the City Administrator. Interested stakeholders may also prepare a draft of proposed revisions, if any, and shall share the draft with the Human Resources Director who will notify the City Administrator. The City Administrator may, at their discretion, engage in further discussions with the interested stakeholders in an effort to develop a consensus proposal for presentation to the Committee of the Whole or the Common Council.
4. The City ~~of Ashland~~ or an employee group's representative may engage an independent consultant to assist in recommending revisions to this Handbook. If both the City Administrator and employee group's representative agree to the engagement of an independent consultant, then the City Administrator and employee group's representative shall agree on the selection of the independent consultant, and shall equally share the costs of the independent consultant. If the independent consultant is engaged by the City Administrator or employee group's representative without the concurrence of the other, then the engaging party shall be responsible for all costs of the independent consultant. In either case, the independent consultant shall have the authority to work with the Human Resource Director and the City Administrator and interested stakeholders, gather all pertinent information, and make recommendations for revisions to this Handbook.

5. At the conclusion of steps (1) through (3) the City Administrator may present to the Committee of the Whole or the City Council any proposed amendment to this Handbook. However, if any party has engaged an independent consultant under (4), the recommendations of the independent consultant shall be presented to the Committee of the Whole or the City Council for consideration, along with the Administrator's, provided the independent consultant's recommendations are provided in a timely fashion.
6. The City-~~of Ashland's~~ Common Council is the only authority allowed to approve and implement changes to the Employee Handbook.

Forms

CITY OF ASHLAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

All employees who receive a copy of the City of Ashland Employee Handbook must sign this form that they are in receipt of the City of Ashland Employee Handbook. Signing this acknowledgement does not constitute a contract for employment of any kind. A copy of the document will be placed in the employee personnel file.

We have prepared this Handbook as a guide to the City of Ashland's policies and benefits. We have also included general information that should assist you in your employment. However, neither this Handbook nor any other City of Ashland communication or practice constitutes an employment contract. The City of Ashland reserves the right to make changes in the content or the application of policies as it deems appropriate, and these changes can be implemented even if they have not been communicated, reprinted or substituted in this Handbook.

Feel free to discuss any questions you have with your supervisor.

I acknowledge receipt of the City of Ashland Employee Handbook.

Employee Signature _____

Printed name: _____

Date _____

CITY OF ASHLAND

EEO Complaint Form

Individuals who feel that they have been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex including gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability or have been sexually harassed by an employee of the City or while working for the City supervisor, vendor, customer, or any third party may file a complaint by completing this form and submitting it to the Human Resources Director.

Name of Complainant: _____

Address: _____

Basis of Complaint: _____
(Continue on back
of separate page if
necessary) _____

Date(s) of Incident(s): _____

If claiming discrimination
Based on disability, what
accommodations do you
Request? _____

If claiming discrimination
Other than disability, what
Resolution do you request? _____

Date: _____

Signature of Complainant

Date Rec'd: _____

Rec'd by: _____

CITY OF ASHLAND
DISCIPLINARY ACTION FORM

Discussion date: _____

Employee Name: _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Lack Of Interest | ☐ Profanity |
| ☐ Lack of Cooperation | ☐ Carelessness |
| ☐ Wasting Time | ☐ Disregard for safety |
| ☐ Failure to Follow Directions | ☐ Quantity of Work |
| ☐ Quality of Work | ☐ Action Detrimental
to Employee Morale |
| ☐ Tardiness | ☐ Excessive/Unauthorized
Absence |
| ☐ Disregard of Established rules well known to the employee | |
| ☐ Other | |

Fully explain each item or items checked. Give dates and times of specific incidents involved.

Has the employee been previously warned for a similar occurrence? Y or N

If so, when?

Corrective Effort:

Has the employee been placed on probation? Y or N

If so, until what date?

Employee Signature

Supervisor Signature

**** Note:** Employee signature does not imply agreement, but acknowledgement of the discussion process. The employee has a right to place a statement with this in their file with their account of the events leading up to this process.

CITY OF ASHLAND
EMPLOYEE TIME-OFF REQUEST FORM

Employee Name: _____ Dept: _____

Dates and hours to be off: _____

Check off applicable:

☐ Vacation
☐ ~~Jury Duty~~ ~~Travel~~
☐ Other
☐ Sick Time

☐ Training
☐ Compensatory Time
☐ Kelly Day
☐ Workers Comp.

Illness/Injury: _____

Date expected to return: _____

Signature of Employee: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor Approval: _____ Date: _____

Note: All time documented on the employee time-off request form shall also be documented on the bi-weekly time sheet. The time-off request form is required to be attached to your bi-weekly timesheet as proof of approval for time-off.

CITY OF ASHLAND

Personnel Requisition Form

Part I

Open positions are not automatically approved and must be reviewed before the position can be posted. To post a job opening, the department head must (1) complete this form, (2) attach an updated job description, (3) obtain the necessary signatures, (4) return the completed form and job description to the HR Director. **Part II must be completed for ALL Personnel Requisition Requests.**

Date of Request: _____ Date new Hire Needed: _____

Job Title: _____ Department: _____

Number of Months to be Worked per Year: _____

Classification: Full-time Part-time Temporary Other: _____

GL Account Number for position: _____

Position allocated in the current budget? _____ Amount allocated: _____

Total cost of position including benefits: _____

Is this position the result of a departmental reorganization? _____

Proposed Salary: _____

What other expenses will be associated with the position that is not already included in your department budget? (e.g. space, travel expenses, furniture, computer, or cell phone)

Approvals:

1) _____ 2) _____
City Clerk/HR Director Date City Administrator Date
3) _____
Finance Director Date

Return to the HR Director Date Received: _____ Initials: _____

Part II (complete Part I first)

Position Request Worksheet

All positions require a thorough review by the administration before the position can be posted and also require the review of the Common Council unless the Employee Handbook specifically exempts the position (LTE budgeted). The department head must do the following, (1) complete Part I and Part II of this form, (2) attach a job description, (3) attach other required documentation as requested in Part II, (4) obtain the necessary signatures in Part I, (5) return all materials to the HR Director-.

Please outline why this new position is necessary.

To complete the Personnel Requisition process, please address the following items and attach your response to the Personnel Requisition Form (your responses will be presented to the Common Council if necessary for approval to fill the position):

1. How the position is Mission Critical for the Program (delivery of program; health of the program, trends, external comparisons, and fit with the City's goals).
2. How the position addresses current priorities.
3. How this position will meet the ongoing needs of the City as a whole.

Part III: Recruitment

Please indicate your recruitment budget line item: _____

Please indicate where you would like your position posted :

☐ Internal ☐ WI Job Center ☐ Indeed ☐ Local Paper
☐ WI League ☐ City Facebook ☐ City Instagram ☐ Other (please list): _____

Decision – Human Resources Director Use Only

Date presented to Council: _____ Approved: _____

Not Approved: _____ On Hold: _____

Further action required: _____

CITY OF ASHLAND
Unsafe Condition or Hazard Report

Instructions: Consult the City of Ashland Procedure for Grievances Concerning Employee Workplace Safety for a full description of the grievance process and applicable timelines.

- Use this form to report an unsafe working condition that does not require immediate action.
- This form should NOT be used to initially report immediate and dangerous working conditions. See page 2 of this form for instructions on such conditions.
- This form should be completed, fully and legibly, with as much detail as possible. If additional space is needed, print information on a separate sheet of paper and attach.
- Return this completed form to your immediate supervisor.

Employee's Full Name:		Job Title:	Date of Report:
Department:	Address/Location of Incident:		Additional Information:
DATE AND TIME RECEIVED (FOR CITY USE ONLY):		Work Telephone No. () - ext.	Home Telephone No. () -
		Work Email Address:	Home E-mail Address:
Date Safety Issue Occurred:		Supervisor:	
Location of condition believed to be unsafe or hazardous (specify exact location and use attachments if necessary):			
Detailed description of unsafe or hazardous condition and its cause (use attachments as necessary):			
Date and time of unsafe or hazardous condition first observed by employee (use attachments if necessary):			
Are there any employees or other individuals who you may believe have been injured or became ill due to the unsafe or hazardous condition? If so, identify the employee or individual, the nature or the illness or injury and the date on which the employee or individual was injured or became ill. (use attachments if necessary):			
To your knowledge, has the unsafe or hazardous condition previously been reported to a person in management? If so, to whom was the condition reported and what was the result of the inspection? (use attachments if necessary)			

To your knowledge, has the unsafe or hazardous condition been previously inspected? If so, who inspected the condition, when was the inspection and what was the result of the inspection? (use attachments if necessary)	
What changes would you recommend to correct the unsafe or hazardous condition? (use attachments if necessary)	
CERTIFICATION: By signing below, I certify that I have read the above report and declare that the information in the report is true and correct.	
Date:	Employee's Signature:
<i>Any workplace safety violation must be reported immediately and no later than 24 hours following the incident or issue. Failure to report safety incidents or issues may result in further injury. The <u>Grievance Procedure</u> contains complete instructions.</i>	

Immediate and Dangerous Working Conditions

This form should not be used to initially report immediate and dangerous working conditions. If a dangerous working condition exists that requires immediate attention or corrective action, the employee must notify his/her supervisor at once. A delay may result in serious injury. All safety issues, no matter how insignificant the situation may appear to be, must be reported. If the situation involves serious injury and/or the need for rescue, fire, or other emergency response, call 911 immediately.

Upon receiving notice of the alleged Workplace Safety violation from an Employee, the City shall have fourteen (14) calendar days in which to investigate the condition and advise the employee in writing that the City: a) has determined that the condition does not constitute a Workplace Safety violation and will not be taking corrective action; or B) is taking corrective action in accordance with law to address the condition.

If the City advises the Employee in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days that it is taking corrective action in accordance with law and has commenced corrective action within this period, an Employee may not initiate a Workplace Safety grievance.

CITY OF ASHLAND LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM
LEAVE DONATION REQUEST FORM

Name _____ Department _____

I request that the amount of hours for the type(s) of leave listed below be transferred from my account to the City's leave transfer pool. I understand that once my leave credits have been transferred to the pool account, such credits will not be restored or returned to my account.

_____ Hours of Annual Leave

and/or

_____ Hours of Sick Leave

I understand that I may donate no more than one-half (½) of the sick or annual leave earned within a calendar year to the appropriate pool leave account for that calendar year, and that I must retain a minimum of 15 days of sick leave. I also understand that I may not specify to whom my donated leave may be awarded.

Employee Signature

Date

Request Form must be received by City Human Resources Director prior to December 15.

FOR HR USE ONLY	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
Dept: _____		
Hourly Rate: _____		
Leave Balance:	Dept Head _____	Date _____
Annual: _____		
Sick: _____		
Adjusted Balance:	City Clerk _____	Date _____
Annual: _____		
Sick: _____		
Credit Pool: _____		

CITY OF ASHLAND LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM
LEAVE TRANSFER REQUEST FORM

Policy: When an employee experiences a personal emergency requiring time away from work for which they have no paid leave, the employee may request a leave transfer by submitting a Request for Leave Transfer Form to their department head. The request must include an explanation of the personal emergency, and a brief leave history explaining the reason there is insufficient leave to cover the time needed. The personal emergency may be subject to verification.

Name _____ Department _____

Description of personal emergency requiring time away from work:

Brief leave history with explanation of reason for insufficient leave to cover emergency:

Amount of Leave Requested: _____ Hours

I understand that the information described above is true and accurate and that I may be asked to verify the information described in this request. I have read and understand the terms of this policy and my responsibilities related to the terms described.

Employee Signature

Date

Do not write below this line

Department Head Recommendation: Approval / Denial (circle one)

Explanation of approval or denial: _____

 Department Head Signature Date

Final recommendation: Approval / Denial (circle one)
 Explanation of approval or denial: _____

 HR Director Signature Date

 City Administrator Signature Date

FOR HR USE ONLY	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
Dept: _____	_____	_____
Hourly Rate: _____	_____	_____
Leave Balance: _____	Dept Head	Date
Annual: _____	_____	_____
Sick: _____	_____	_____
Adjusted Balance: _____	HR Director	Date
Annual: _____	_____	_____
Sick: _____	_____	_____
Credit Pool: _____	_____	_____

CITY OF ASHLAND
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE - EMPLOYEE REQUEST FORM

SECTION 1: For completion by the EMPLOYEE	
Date of Request: _____	
Employee Name: _____	
Home Phone Number: _____	Work Phone Number: _____
Home Address: _____	
Email: _____	Department: _____
Work Address: _____	
Reason for Leave (Check all applicable): ☐ Birth/Adoption/Pre-Adoptive Foster Care ☐ Foster Placement ☐ Employee's Own Serious Health Condition (may require medical certification) ☐ To Care for Family Member (including domestic partner or domestic partner's parent), Military Service member, or Veteran with a Serious Health Condition* (may require medical certification) ☐ For a Qualifying Exigency due to military deployment to a foreign country of a spouse, son, daughter, or parent in the regular or reserve armed forces (certification may be required)	
* When Family and Medical Leave is needed to care for a family member, service member, or veteran, you must state the care you will provide and an estimate of the time period during which this care will be provided, including a schedule of intermittent leave or leave on a reduced work schedule, if requested.	
Anticipated Begin Date of Leave: _____	Anticipated End Date of Leave: _____
Briefly Explain Reason for Leave. If leave is to care for someone, or for a military qualifying exigency, please indicate the other person's name and your relationship to that person. If leave is to care for a domestic partner or a domestic partner's parent, please complete and sign the back of this form.	
Substitution of Paid Leave: Please indicate if you would like to use paid leave during your absence and how many hours you plan to use (to the extent provided by law, labor agreement, and workplace leave policies). Attach a completed leave report if required. ☐ Vacation (____ hours) ☐ Compensatory Time (____ hours) ☐ Sick Leave Bank (____ hours) ☐ Sick Leave (____ hours) ☐ Holiday Pay: _____ (____ hours) ☐ Other: _____ (____ hours)	
I authorize the approving authority to obtain any necessary information regarding my request for family and medical leave.	
Employee Signature: _____	Date: _____

Page 1 of 2

Attachments

City of Ashland Grievance Procedure

It is the policy of the City of Ashland to provide a timely and orderly review of decisions, as required by Wis. Stat. §66.0509, concerning: a) employee terminations; b) employee discipline; and c) workplace safety.

I. Purpose and Applicability

Although the City seeks to provide a workplace in which all employees feel that they are an integral part of the City of Ashland, and where employees feel fairly treated, there may be times when there is a dispute with a supervisor or the City which can best be resolved through a formal procedure for dispute resolution. This procedure provides an employee with the individual opportunity to address concerns regarding discipline, termination or workplace safety matters, to have those matters reviewed by an Impartial Hearing Officer and to appeal to the City Council, where appropriate. The City expects employees and management to exercise reasonable efforts to resolve any questions, problems, or misunderstandings prior to utilizing the Grievance Procedure.

Please note the following: if an employee is subject to a contractual grievance procedure, the contractual grievance procedure must be followed as applicable; this procedure does not replace or supersede any statutory provision which may be applicable to an employee's employment with the City; the City of Ashland reserves the right to modify this procedure at any time and nothing in this procedure should be construed to constitute a legally binding contract or contract for employment between the employee and the City of Ashland.

II. Discipline

Discipline may result when an employee's actions do not conform with ~~generally accepted City standards of good behavior/conduct, when an employee violates a City policy or rule, when an employee's performance is not acceptable, when the employee's conduct is detrimental to the interests of the City of Ashland, or when an employee violates a factor pursuant to State Statute Section 17.12.~~

Please refer to section 3.01~~14~~ and 3.15 for detailed information: Depending on the issue and the number of occurrences. There may be circumstances when one or more steps are bypassed. Certain types of employee issues are serious enough to justify either suspension or termination of employment without going through progressive disciplinary steps. The City reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to implement the disciplinary policy outlined in Ordinance 77, Handbook of Terms and Conditions of Employment with the City of Ashland, and implement this policy as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances.

III. Definitions

Definition of “Discipline”: For purposes of this procedure, “discipline” includes all levels of progressive discipline, but shall not include the following: placing an employee on paid administrative leave pending an internal investigation; counseling, meetings or other pre-disciplinary action; actions taken to address work performance, including use of a performance improvement plan or job targets; demotion, transfer or change in job assignment; or other personnel actions taken by the employer that are not a form of progressive discipline. Verbal discipline will be documented, as outlined in the City of Ashland Employee Handbook, but is not subject to the grievance procedure. The purpose of written and verbal notices, warnings, or reminders is to alert the employee that failure to correct the behavior may result in disciplinary actions such as suspension, termination, or demotion/reduction in rank.

Definition of “Elected Official”: For purposes of this procedure, an “elected official” is a person who has been elected to their position by the electors of the City of Ashland.

Definition of “Employee” for Purposes of Discipline and Termination Grievances: For purposes of the Procedure for Grievances Concerning Employees Terminations and Employee Discipline, “employee” includes all regular full-time and part-time employees. The term “employee” excludes individuals hired on a limited term, temporary, casual, or seasonal basis; independent contractors; elected officials and any employee that serves at the pleasure of an appointing authority, as provided by Wisconsin Statutes.

Definition of “Layoff” : For purposes of this procedure, “layoff” means the suspension or termination of employment (with or without notice) by the employer or management. Layoffs are not caused by any fault of the employees but by reasons such as lack of work, cash, or material.

Definition of “Limited Term Employee”: For purposes of this procedure, “limited term employee” means a person who is hired on a temporary basis with the understanding the position will terminate after a specified period of time.

Definition of “Termination”: For purposes of this procedure, “termination” means a separation from employment by the employer for disciplinary or performance reasons. **“Termination” does not include layoff;** furlough or reduction in workforce; reduction in hours; job transfer; reassignment; voluntary termination, including without limitation, resignation or retirement; job abandonment, “no-call, no-show”; end of employment due to disability; or action taken as a result of an

employee's failure to meet the qualification of the position or fraud in securing an appointment with the City of Ashland.

Definition of "Workplace Safety": For purposes of this procedure, "workplace safety" includes, but is not limited to, any conditions of employment related to the physical health and safety of employees, including the safety of the physical work environment, the safe operation of workplace equipment and tools, provision of personal protective equipment, and accident risks. "Workplace Safety" does not include conditions of employment not directly related to physical health and safety matters, including, but not limited to, hours, overtime, and work schedules.

Definition of "Employee" for Purposes of Workplace Safety Grievances: For purposes of the Procedure for Grievances Concerning Workplace Safety, "employee" shall include all regular full-time and part-time employees, elected officials; and, individuals hired on a limited term, casual, or seasonal basis. The term "employee" excludes independent contractors.

IV. General Provisions

Role and Appointment of an "Impartial Hearing Officer": For purposes of this policy, the role of the "Impartial Hearing Officer" will be to define the issues, identifying areas of agreement between the parties and identifying areas of agreement between the parties and identifying the issues in dispute, and to hear the parties' respective arguments.

The Impartial Hearing Officer may require parties to submit documents and witness lists in advance of the hearing in order to expedite the hearing. The Impartial Hearing Officer will have the authority to administer oaths, issue subpoenas at the request of either party, and decide if a transcript is necessary. The Impartial Hearing Officer shall apply relaxed standards for the admission of evidence and may allow or request oral or written arguments and replies.

The Impartial Hearing Officer shall be selected and agreed upon by both City Administration and the employee based on the nature of the matter or dispute.

Costs: Each party shall bear its own costs for witnesses and all other out-of-pocket expenses, including possible attorney fees, in investigating, preparing, presenting, or defending a grievance. The fees of the Impartial Hearing Officer will be equally split between the City and the grievant. An initial filing fee will be paid to the City of Ashland in the amount of \$25.00 by the grievant if Step 2 of the Grievance Procedure is initiated by the grievant, in which case a hearing is requested before an Impartial Hearing Officer.

Time Limits: The term “days” as used in this provision means calendar days, excluding paid holidays as defined in Ordinance 77, Handbook of Terms and Conditions of Employment with the City of Ashland. The City and the grievant may mutually agree to extend time limits, in writing. If the last day on which a grievance is to be filed or a decision is to be appealed is a Saturday, Sunday or paid holiday, the time limit is the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday as defined by Ordinance 77.

A grievance or decision or appeal is considered timely if received by the employer during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or postmarked by 12:00 midnight on the due date.

The employer and grievant may mutually agree, in writing, to waive any step to facilitate or expedite resolution of the grievance.

If the grievance is not answered within the time limits, the grievant may proceed to the next available step within 7 days.

The Impartial Hearing Officer shall have no jurisdiction to address timeliness issues. Issues of timeliness shall be addressed by the City Administrator.

Scheduling: Grievance meetings and hearings will typically be held during normal business hours. Time spent in grievance meetings and hearings outside the Grievant's regularly scheduled work hours shall not be considered as compensable work time.

Representation: The grievant shall have the right to representation during the Grievance Procedure at the Grievant's own expense. Employee/grievant representation shall not include anyone party to the grievance including a union representative, etc.

V. Procedure for Grievances Concerning Employee Termination and Employee Discipline:

Step 1: An earnest effort shall be made to settle the matter informally between the aggrieved employee and the employee's immediate supervisor. If the grievance is not resolved informally, it shall be reduced to writing by the employee who shall submit it to the employee's department head, with a copy given to the Human Resource Director.

The written grievance shall be documented on the “City of Ashland Employee Grievance Procedure Grievance Form” under First Resolution Step with attachments utilized as necessary. The written

grievance documented on the form shall give a detailed statement outlining the issues, the facts supporting the issues, and the relief that is sought from the grievance.

Time limit: If an employee does not submit a written grievance within 10 calendar days after the facts upon which the grievance is based first became known, or should have been known to the employee, the grievance will be deemed waived. The department head will reply in writing to the employee within 10 calendar days after receipt of the written grievance.

Step 2:

If the grievance is not settled in Step 1, and the employee wishes to appeal the decision of the department head, the employee shall submit the written grievance to the City Administrator to request a hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer. The written grievance shall be documented on the City of Ashland Employee Grievance Procedure Grievance Form under the Second Resolution Step with attachments utilized as necessary.

Time limit: If the employee does not submit a written grievance to the City Administrator requesting a hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer within 7 days after receipt of the department head's decision, the grievance will be deemed waived. If timely requested, the hearing will normally be scheduled within 30 calendar days of receipt of the request for hearing.

The City of Ashland and the grievant shall choose the Impartial Hearing Officer. The Impartial Hearing Officer shall not be a City of Ashland employee or anyone who may appear or creates a conflict of interest. In all cases, the grievant shall have the burden of proof to support the grievance. The Impartial Hearing Officer will determine whether the City of Ashland acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner. This process does not involve a hearing before a court of law; thus, the rules of evidence will not be followed. Depending on the issue involved, the impartial hearing officer will determine whether an actual hearing is necessary, or whether the case may be decided based on the submission of written documents.

The Impartial Hearing Officer shall prepare a written document with their final decision indicating the reasons for one of four decisions: 1) sustaining the discipline/termination, 2) modifying the discipline/termination, 3) denying the discipline/termination, or 4) recommending additional investigation prior to final determination.

In cases where the Hearing Officer recommends additional investigation, at the conclusion of the additional investigation, a second, follow-up hearing may be scheduled, if necessary. The Hearing Officer shall render a written decision to the employer and employee within 7 calendar days from the date of the hearing.

Step 3: The employer or employee may appeal the decision of the Hearing Officer to the City Council. The decision of the governing body shall be final and binding upon all parties.

Time limit: The employee or employer may request a hearing before the City Council by filing a request with the City Administrator within 7 days of receipt of the written decision of the Hearing Officer. The request must set forth in detail the reasons for the appeal. The non-appealing party shall have 14 days to submit a reply to the detailed request. Once the request for hearing and reply are received, a Council hearing date will normally be scheduled at the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting. If not timely submitted by the grievant, the grievance can no longer be addressed in the grievance procedure.

Level of Review: The City Council shall review the written decision of the Hearing Officer, the reasons for the appeal and the reply. The City Council shall not take testimony or evidence; it may only determine whether the hearing officer reached an arbitrary or incorrect result based on a review of the record before the hearing officer. The City Council may either uphold, modify, or reverse the decision of the Impartial Hearing Officer. The City will inform the employee of its findings and decision in writing within 10 calendar days of the City Council meeting.

VI. Procedure for Grievances Concerning Employee Workplace Safety

Step 1: Any employee who personally identifies, or is given information about, a workplace safety issue or incident must notify his/her Supervisor of the issue or incident as soon as reasonably practicable. A delay may result in serious injury. All safety issues, no matter how insignificant the situation may appear to be, must be reported.
Time Limit: Any workplace safety incident or issue must be reported by an employee within 24 hours after the incident or issue was witnessed or raised in order to be addressed as part of the grievance procedure.

The City of Ashland Workplace Safety Incident Report/Grievance Form must be completed detailing the incident or issue, and outlining the events that transpired and the proposed resolution, if any, shall be signed by all concerned parties and submitted to the Human Resources Director within 5 business days of the incident or issue for review by the Safety Committee.

Step 2: After receipt of the written report, the Safety Committee will conduct an additional investigation, if required, and normally issue a final report on its findings and conclusions within 5 business days of receipt of the written report. Copies of the final report will be given to the persons who signed the written report, the City Administrator, department head, supervisor, as well as to the Human Resources Director.

Step 3: The employee may appeal the findings and conclusions of the Safety Committee and request a hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer.

Time Limit: If the employee does not submit a written grievance, via the City of Ashland Workplace Safety Incident Report, to the City Administrator requesting a hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer within 7 calendar days after receipt of the final report, the grievance can no longer be addressed in the grievance procedure. If timely requested, the hearing will normally be scheduled within 14 calendar days of receipt of the request for hearing.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Hearing Officer shall prepare a written document with his/her final decision indicating one of three outcomes:

- 1) sustaining the conclusions of the final report,
- 2) denying the conclusions of the final report and ordering additional or alternative remedial measures, if applicable, or
- 3) recommending additional investigation prior to final determination. In cases where the Hearing Officer recommends additional investigation, at the conclusion of the additional investigation, a second, follow-up hearing may be scheduled, if necessary.

The Hearing Officer shall render a written decision to the employer and employee within 10 calendar days from the date of the hearing.

Step 4:

The employer or employee may appeal the decision of the Hearing Officer to the City Council. The decision of the governing body shall be final and finding upon the parties.

Time Limit: The employee or employer may request a hearing before the City Council by filing a request via the Workplace Safety Incident Report/Grievance Form with the City Administrator within 14 calendar days of receipt of the written decision of the Hearing Officer. The request must set forth in detail the reasons for the appeal. The non-appealing party shall have 14 calendar days to submit a reply to the detailed request. Once the request for the hearing and reply are received, a Council hearing date will be scheduled normally at the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting. If not timely submitted by the grievant, the grievance can no longer be addressed in the grievance procedure.

Level of Review: The City Council shall review the written decision of the Impartial Hearing Officer, the reasons for the appeal and the reply. The City Council shall not take testimony or evidence; it may only determine whether the Impartial Hearing Officer reached an arbitrary or incorrect result based on a review of the record before the Impartial Hearing Officer. The City Council may either uphold, modify, or reverse the decision of the Impartial Hearing Officer. The City will inform the employee of its findings and decision in writing within 10 calendar days of the City Council meeting.

CITY OF ASHLAND
EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE
GRIEVANCE FORM – Employee Termination and Discipline

Instructions: Consult the City of Ashland Procedure for Grievances Concerning Employee Termination and Employee Discipline for a full description of the grievance process and applicable timelines.

I. Grievance

Employee's Full Name:		Job Title:	Work Address:	
Department:	Supervisor Receiving Grievance:		DATE AND TIME RECEIVED (FOR CITY USE ONLY):	
Home Address:		Work Telephone No. () - ext. Work Email Address:	Home Telephone No. () - ext. Home E-mail Address:	
Date Grievance Occurred:		Role Title:		
The issues are/Policy Procedure or Rule being challenged (use attachments if necessary):				
The steps employee has taken to review matter orally or in writing with the employees Supervisor (use attachments as necessary):				
The facts supporting this are and witnesses are (use attachments if necessary):				
The relief I want is (use attachments if necessary):				
Date:	Employee's Signature:			
<i>Grievances must be presented to the immediate supervisor within 10 calendar days. If the grievance alleges discrimination or retaliation by the immediate supervisor, the grievance may be submitted to the next level supervisor in the line of supervision. The Grievance Procedure contains complete instructions.</i>				
Check if you decided not to present this to your immediate supervisor because (check one):				
☐ Discrimination or Retaliation by Immediate Supervisor ☐ Expedited Process				

II. First Resolution Step		
Date Received:		
Response to Grievance (use attachments if necessary):		
Date:	First Step Respondent's Signature:	Telephone No.: () - ext.
Employee's response (check one): ☐ I conclude my grievance and am returning it to the Human Resources Office. ☐ I advance my grievance to the second step and request a hearing. ☐ I have paid a non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 for filing fees as required (if advancing to the second step). I am aware that the cost of an Impartial Hearing Officer will be split equally (50/50) between the grievant (myself) and the City.		
Employee's comments (optional - [use attachments if necessary]):		
Date:	Employee's Signature:	
NOTE: The employee is responsible for having the grievance delivered to the proper person or office within ten calendar days.		

III. Second Resolution Step		
Date Received:		Date of Meeting:
Response by Impartial Hearing Officer (attach written summary and decision of Impartial Hearing Officer):		
Date:	Second Step Respondent's Signature:	Telephone No.: () - ext.
Employee's response (check one): ☐ I conclude my grievance and am returning it to the Human Resources Office. ☐ I advance my grievance to the third step and am appealing to the Council.		
Employee's comments (optional - [use attachments if necessary]):		
Date:	Employee's Signature:	
NOTE: The employee is responsible for having the grievance delivered to the proper person or office within seven calendar days.		

IV. Third Resolution Step

Date Received:		
Requestor (employee or employer may request):		
Detailed reasons for request to appeal to Council (use attachments as necessary):		
Response by non-appealing party to detailed request (use attachments if necessary):		
Response by City of Ashland Common Council (use attachments if necessary):		
Date:	Third Step Respondent's Signature:	Telephone No.: () - ext.
Date Received: _____		
Council response (check one):		
☐ Decision of Impartial Hearing Officer was upheld. ☐ Decision of Impartial Hearing Officer was modified or reversed (attach documentation).		
Employee's comments (optional - [use attachments if necessary]):		
Date:	Employee's Signature:	
NOTE: The City Council decision is final and binding upon the parties.		

CITY OF ASHLAND
Workplace Safety Grievance Form

Instructions: Consult the City of Ashland Procedure for Grievances Concerning Employee Workplace Safety for a full description of the grievance process and applicable timelines.

Employee's Full Name:		Job Title:		Date of Report:	
Department:		Address/Location of Incident:		Additional Information:	
DATE AND TIME RECEIVED (FOR CITY USE ONLY):		Work Telephone No. () - ext. Work Email Address:		Home Telephone No. () - ext. Home E-mail Address:	
Date Safety Issue Occurred:			Supervisor:		
Identification of condition being grieved. Provide a description of the Workplace Safety Condition being grieved. (use attachments if necessary)					
Basis for grievance. Provide a detailed description of the standard under Wis. Admin. Code Chap. Comm 32 that you believe has been violated and a detailed description of any facts or information which can support your belief. (use attachments as necessary):					
Witnesses. Identify by name, telephone number and address of all witnesses that you believe will support your claim that the City has violated a standard established under Wis. Admin. Code Chap. Comm 32. Provide a summary of the facts and/or information known by each witness. (use attachments if necessary):					
Documents. Attach any documents which support your claim. If you do not have a document, provide a description of the document which includes the date of the document, the source of the document and the content of the document. (use attachments if necessary):					
Remedy requested. Describe in detail the remedy you request. (use attachments if necessary)					
CERTIFICATION: By signing below, I certify that I have read the above report and declare that the information in the report is true and correct.					
Date:		Employee's Signature:			
<i>The <u>Grievance Procedure</u> contains complete instructions.</i>					

CITY OF ASHLAND
Workplace Safety Incident Report/Grievance Form

Note: Consult the City of Ashland Grievance Procedure concerning employee workplace safety for the reporting process and applicable timelines.

I. First Resolution Step - Safety Incident Report

Employee's Full Name:		Employee ID No.:	Job Title:
Department:	Address/Location:		Additional Information:
Home Address:		Work Telephone No. () - ext. Work Email Address:	Home Telephone No. () - Home E-mail Address:
Date Safety Issue Occurred:		Role Title:	
The safety issues or violations that have occurred (use attachments if necessary):			
The facts supporting this violation are (use attachments as necessary):			
The proposed resolution (use attachments if necessary):			
The relief I want is (use attachments if necessary):			
Date:	Employee's Signature:		
<i>Any workplace safety violation must be reported immediately and no later than 24 hours following the incident or issue. Failure to report safety incidents or issues may result in further injury. The Grievance Procedure contains complete instructions.</i>			
Check if you decided not to present this to your immediate supervisor because (check one):			
☐ Discrimination or Retaliation by Immediate Supervisor ☐ Expedited Process			



II. Second Resolution Step

Date Received: _____		
Response to Safety Incident Report (use attachments if necessary): 		
Date: _____	First Step Respondent's Signature: _____	Telephone No.: () - ext.
Date Received: _____ Employee's response (check one): ☐ I agree with the response to the safety incident and want no further resolution. ☐ I disagree with the response to the safety incident and would like to appeal the findings and conclusions to an Impartial Hearing Officer.		
Employee's comments (optional - [use attachments if necessary]): 		
Date: _____	Employee's Signature: _____	
NOTE: Safety Committee will issue findings and conclusions within 14 calendar days of written report.		

III. Third Resolution Step

Date Received: _____		Date of Meeting: _____
Response by Impartial Hearing Officer (attach written summary and decision of Impartial Hearing Officer): 		
Date: _____	Second Step Respondent's Signature: _____	Telephone No.: () - ext.
Date Received: _____ Employee's response (check one): ☐ I conclude my grievance and am returning it to the Human Resources Office. ☐ I advance my grievance to the fourth step and am appealing to the Council.		
Employee's comments (optional - [use attachments if necessary]): 		
Date: _____	Employee's Signature: _____	
NOTE: The employee is responsible for having the grievance delivered to the proper person or office within seven calendar days.		

IV. Third Resolution Step

Date Received:		
Requestor (employee or employer may request):		
Detailed reasons for request to appeal to Council (use attachments as necessary):		
Response by non-appealing party to detailed request (use attachments if necessary):		
Response by City of Ashland Common Council (use attachments if necessary):		
Date:	Third Step Respondent's Signature:	Telephone No.: () - ext.
Date Received: _____		
Council response (check one):		
☐ Decision of Impartial Hearing Officer was upheld.		
☐ Decision of Impartial Hearing Officer was modified or reversed (attach documentation).		
Employee's comments (optional - [use attachments if necessary]):		
Date:	Employee's Signature:	
NOTE: The City Council decision is final and binding upon the parties.		

CITY OF ASHLAND – LEAVE TRANSFER POLICY

This document sets forth the City of Ashland Leave Transfer policy for all staff except temporary employees, student employees, and certain contract employees that are not entitled to leave benefits. Leave taken pursuant to this policy may qualify as FMLA leave and, if so, will run concurrently or at the same time.

Policy

Eligible staff may donate leave to, or apply for a leave transfer from, the City of Ashland leave pool. The Leave Transfer policy enables eligible staff who have exhausted all paid leave to request use of leave donated to the program. The request must be based on a personal emergency requiring time away from work which would result in a substantial loss of income because of the lack of paid leave.

A. Leave Donations

1. Staff earning sick and/or annual leave may donate a specified amount of annual leave and/or sick leave to be transferred from their leave balance to the leave pool. Staff with 15 days or less sick leave may not donate sick leave and must maintain a minimum balance of 15 days after donating sick leave.
2. Leave donations must be made prior to December 15th of each calendar year.
3. Once leave has been donated to the leave pool, it may not be restored or returned to the leave donor.
4. A donor of leave may not designate the recipient.
5. An employee may donate no more than one-half of the annual or sick leave they earn within a calendar year to the leave pool for that calendar year.

B. Leave Transfer

1. Eligible staff experiencing a personal emergency requiring time away from work for which they have no paid leave may request that a specified amount of annual or sick leave, as appropriate to their situation, be transferred from the leave pool.
 - a. Only staff who accrue annual and/or sick leave are eligible to request a leave transfer from the leave pool.

- b. For purposes of this policy, a personal emergency is defined as a medical or family emergency or other hardship situation that is likely to require a staff member's absence from duty for a prolonged period of time and to result in a substantial loss of income because of the lack of paid leave.
- c. A personal emergency is limited to catastrophic and debilitating medical situations, severely complicated disabilities, and severe accident cases which would require a prolonged period of recuperation. Routine disabilities or disabilities resulting from elective surgery do not qualify for leave transfers from the leave pool.
- d. For the purpose of this policy, a prolonged period of time as used in the definition of personal emergency is generally interpreted to be a minimum 30 working days. An employee ~~must~~ have been in leave-without-pay status for a minimum of 30 working days or be able to provide documentation certifying that a medical emergency will result in a period of leave without pay for that period of time. However, an employee who is within 30 days of becoming eligible for WRS/ETF Income Continuation ~~benefits~~ or disability retirement, and who has exhausted all accrued leave due to the prolonged personal emergency, will be eligible to be considered for leave transfer even though the total period of leave without pay may be for less than 30 working days.
- e. A staff member must exhaust all earned sick and/or vacation and compensatory ~~leave~~ (as appropriate according to Sick~~-,~~ Annual and Compensatory Leave policies) prior to using approved transferred leave.
- f. Leave taken pursuant to this policy may qualify as FMLA leave and, if so, will run concurrently.
- g. Employees who become eligible for other paid benefits will generally be considered ineligible for leave transfer from the leave pool. Examples of other paid benefits include but are not limited to workers' compensation, long-term disability, and disability retirement benefits.
- h. There is no limit to the number of separate requests that a staff member may submit; however, each separate request must be limited to no more than 30 working days.
- i. When a staff member returns to work, the personal emergency ends, or employment terminates, any transferred leave remaining in the leave recipient's balance must be restored to the leave pool. When employment terminates, transferred leave from the pool may not be included in a lump sum payment for accrued leave or

included in the leave recipient's total service for retirement computation purposes.

- j. The department head of the individual requesting a leave transfer is responsible for determining whether there are sufficient funds to pay for the leave transferred from the Leave Pool. Insufficient funds may justify denial of a leave transfer request.
 - k. Additional factors such as the individual's leave usage record may be considered before recommending approval of a leave transfer request to the City Administrator and City Human Resources Director.
- 2. All requests for leave transfer, regardless of the recommendation from the department, must be forwarded to the City Administrator and City Human Resources Director.
 - 3. Decisions of the City Administrator and City Human Resources Director to recommend approval or deny approval of leave transfer requests are final. There are no administrative or judicial appeals of these decisions.

Procedure

A. Leave Donations

- 1. When a staff member wishes to donate leave to the leave pool, a Leave Donation Form must be completed specifying the amount and type of leave to be donated.
- 2. The request to donate leave should be forwarded to the department head for review and approval.
- 3. When the donation has been approved, the leave donor's sick and/or annual leave balance will be decreased by the specified amount. Notification of this action will be provided to the employee donating leave.

B. Leave Transfer Requests

- 1. When a staff member experiences a personal emergency requiring time away from work for which they have no paid leave, they may request a leave transfer by submitting a Request for Leave Transfer Form to their department head. The request must include an explanation of the personal emergency, and a brief leave history explaining the reason there is insufficient leave to cover the time needed. The personal emergency may be subject to verification.
- 2. It will be the responsibility of the department head to review the request, verify the leave history and make a recommendation for approval or disapproval. Regardless of the recommendation from the department,

the request must be forwarded to the City Administrator and City Human Resources Director for review, verification of leave, and approval or denial.

3. If the leave transfer request is approved, the Payroll/Benefits Specialist will transfer the approved amount of sick and/or annual leave to the leave recipient's balance.
4. When a leave recipient returns to work, the personal emergency ends, or employment terminates, the department head must complete a Return from Leave Notification and send it to the City Human Resources Director. Any transferred leave remaining in the balance of the leave recipient must be restored to the leave pool.

**CITY OF ASHLAND
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDES UTILITY DEPARTMENT)
EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK ADDENDUM**

INTRODUCTION

This Addendum is a supporting document for the City of Ashland Employee Handbook. It is meant to further clarify provisions of the City of Ashland Employee Handbook as they pertain to the City of Ashland Public Works Department (APWD), as well as establishing specific policies and guidelines not addressed in the Employee Handbook.

CLARIFICATIONS

The following clarifications of the Employee Handbook are hereby incorporated into this Addendum:

Hours of Work and Compensation — the City of Ashland will compensate APWD employees under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). FLSA provisions can be accessed on the web at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/flsa/>.

- The normal work week for APWD staff of full time s shall consist of 40 hours per week k in accordance with FLSA rules. There shall be a one half (1/2) hour unpaid lunch break. Work schedules will be set by the department head or the specific Public Works/Utility Manager and may be subject to change based on projects and other work tasks.
- One full time utility employee will work the rotating weekend schedule assigned by the public works director or his designee.
- Any time worked over the 40 hour work week for a non-exempt employee, in accordance with FLSA rules, shall be paid at a rate of one and one half (1 ½) the hourly rate of pay of the employee's wage.
- Callout Exception: The only exception to the above policy is if an employee is called out on a Saturday or Sunday or other unscheduled work day, the employee will receive 2 hours of overtime regardless of FLSA rules.
- In the event an employee is requested by the City to return to work while on vacation, the employee shall be paid one and one half (1 ½) times the employee's base rate of pay for all hours worked that had been for vacation. Likewise, the employee shall be granted vacation due to this call back to work.

- ~~Employees scheduled to work on holidays will continue to schedule their holiday for a different day as agreed to with the Public Works Director or his/her designee.~~
- ~~Payroll of street, engineering, parks, and utility employees will continue to be calculated by the public works office staff.~~

Special Pay Provisions

- ~~The street sweeper operator shall receive an additional twenty cents (\$.20) per hour differential pay for all hours worked during that period of the year when the street sweeper would normally be operating, regardless of the job classification they happen to be working in.~~
- ~~Utility IIs performing lab technician duties shall be paid an additional ten (\$.10) per hour when filling in during the absence of the lab technician.~~
- ~~Utility employees shall receive an additional twenty five (\$.25) per hour for scheduled weekend and holiday hours.~~
- ~~In the event an employee is assigned temporarily the duties of Sub Foreman or Utility Lead Operator, the employee shall receive the Sub Foreman or Lead Operator Rate in that capacity.~~

Certification Pay will be paid as follows:

Water

- ~~Grade T Surface and Distribution \$0.17/hour~~
- ~~Surface Water Grade 1 plus Water Distribution Grade 1 \$0.35/hour~~

Wastewater

- ~~General Wastewater & Activated Sludge T, 1 or 2 \$0.17/hour~~
- ~~Class T, 1 or 2 in Disinfection, Mechanical sludge dewatering, Phosphorus removal and On Site Laboratory testing \$0.03/hour for each subclass~~
~~Potential total = \$0.29/hour (\$0.17+\$0.03+\$0.03+\$0.03+\$0.03)~~
- ~~Passing the Advanced Test for General Wastewater and Activated Sludge Subclass \$0.35/hour~~

- ~~Passing the Advanced Test for disinfection, Mechanical sludge dewatering, Phosphorus removal and On-site Laboratory testing – \$0.05/hour for each subclass~~
- | | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------------|
| Potential | Total | = | \$0.35/hour |
| (\$0.35+\$0.05/hour\$0.05/hour\$0.05/hour\$0.05/hour | | | |

Safety/Work Gear

- ~~The City shall pay for the replacement of safety glasses in the event they are broken due to job related breakage or due to a change in prescription under the following terms:~~
 - ~~The City will pay market rate for a replacement pair of safety glasses when they are damaged due to a work related issue.~~
- ~~Employees will be entitled to receive \$600 annually for work related clothing items as described in Section 7.15 of the Employee Handbook. Between April 1-30 and November 1-30 of each calendar year, employees shall submit receipts to the Public Works Office Manager for items qualifying for clothing allowance reimbursement. The process outlined in Section 7.15 of the Employee Handbook shall be followed for reimbursement of work related clothing.~~

Commercial Driver's License (CDL)

- ~~The City shall pay the employee's CDL license renewal fee for licenses required by the employee's job description. Employees will be reimbursed for all costs associated with the renewal of a CDL.~~
- ~~The City shall make available to an employee taking a driving skills test, a vehicle which is in good operating condition and representative of the class of commercial motor vehicle the employee is required to operate, for the CDL test.~~
- ~~A suspension, revocation or disqualification of an employee's CDL, for any employee whose job description requires a CDL, may result in a reduction of pay to the next lowest pay scale until the CDL can be reinstated.~~
- ~~In the event the employee's CDL is unable to be successfully reinstated within 30 days the employee will be subject to a pay reduction based on the next lowest pay scale rate until the CDL is successfully reinstated. If the law prohibits the employee from obtaining a CDL and the employee's position description requires a CDL, efforts will be made to place the employee in another position. If this is deemed an undue hardship to the~~

~~City/Department or the employee is unable to be reinstated, the Department Head in consultation with department manager(s) will have discretion in determining continued work status.~~

- ~~• An employee who is required under their position description, to hold a valid driver's license and fails to comply with the notification requirements of convictions for driver violations or driver's license suspension the Department Head in consultation with the department manager(s) will have discretion in determining continued work status.~~

Standby Pay and Emergency Call Out

- ~~• Each employee scheduled for standby duty shall monitor and respond to the stand-by phone 24 hours a day and receive forty dollars (\$40) per day for such duty, and in addition receive compensatory equivalent to one and one half (1 ½) times the hours physically worked. Standby pay shall apply to weekends, holidays, or any other day that may be scheduled by order of the Department Head or designee. The City is not obligated to designate anyone for standby pay.~~
- An employee called out to work outside of their regularly scheduled work shift who has left the premises will be guaranteed a minimum of two hours work at overtime rates; all other hours worked are according to FLSA provisions.

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Regarding the Proposed *Good Governance for the City of Ashland (Councilor Ortman)*

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion and Possible Action

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Councilor Ortman

CLEARANCES:

EXHIBITS: 1. What is Good Governance for the City of Ashland

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: GOOD GOVERNMENT: Developing a standard for the Council and staff to conduct processes in the betterment of the City of Ashland.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Council President Ortman introduced the question, "What is good governance?" to Council on January 31, 2023 during the Committee of the Whole meeting. By approval of the Council, Ortman proceeded to research and develop a statement for the City to bring back for review and potentially be written into Chapter 51, City Council Procedures and/or the Council Handbook.

The proposed statement was given to Councilors at the March 14, 2023 meeting for review, and were asked to return with comments, concerns, and/or edits at the following Committee of the Whole meeting.

WHAT IS GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR THE CITY OF ASHLAND

Good governance means that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal. The concept of efficiency in the context of good governance also covers the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment.

Good governance aims to minimize corruption, take into account the opinions of minorities, listen to the voices of the oppressed people in the decision-making process, and respond actively to the needs of the community now and in the future.

Good governance ensures the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision, and accountability of an organization. It demonstrates a willingness and ability to act in the best interests of the organization, ensuring the operation of effective, open and ethical processes which adhere to the law and stand up to scrutiny.

Governance and governing are often confused and used interchangeably. Governance is about democracy, representation, accountability, institutions, choice and participation. It is the how we do what we do. For example, a company or country might have good governing arrangements (for recruitment, financial processes and other procedures) but might not be accountable (poor governance). Likewise, a village 'government' may (good governance) or may not (poor governance) respect formal and informal local institutions or traditional leaders and women. In this example, building on the comparative advantages of village government and customary institutions results in greater recognition and respect for each other, as well as their knowledge systems. This is good governance.¹

According to the [United Nations](#), Good Governance is measured by eight factors:

¹ **RIGHTS + RESOURCES** **Governance Governing Government:** *The importance of governance has gained momentum and wider meaning, yet it remains a confusing concept. Edmund Barrow FRSA looks at what it means in practice and suggests some ideas for understanding and supporting local governance.*

- **Participation** requires that all groups, particularly those most vulnerable, have direct or representative access to the systems of government. This manifests as a strong civil society and citizens with the freedom of association and expression.
- **Rule of Law** is exemplified by impartial legal systems that protect the human rights and civil liberties of all citizens, particularly minorities. This is indicated by an independent judicial branch and a police force free from corruption.
- **Transparency** means that citizens understand and have access to the means and manner in which decisions are made, especially if they are directly affected by such decisions. This information must be provided in an understandable and accessible format, typically translated through the media.
- **Responsiveness** simply involves that institutions respond to their stakeholders within a reasonable time frame.
- **Consensus Oriented** is demonstrated by an agenda that seeks to mediate between the many different needs, perspectives, and expectations of a diverse citizenry. Decisions needs to be made in a manner that reflects a deep understanding of the historical, cultural, and social context of the community.
- **Equity and Inclusiveness** depends on ensuring that all the members of a community feel included and empowered to improve or maintain their well-being, especially those individuals and groups that are the most vulnerable.
- **Effectiveness and Efficiency** is developed through the sustainable use of resources to meet the needs of a society. Sustainability refers to both ensuring social investments carry through and natural resources are maintained for future generations.
- **Accountability** refers to institutions being ultimately accountable to the people and one another. This includes government agencies, civil society, and the private sector all being accountable to one another as well.

As the Governing Body for the City of Ashland, the Common Council pledges to assume and encompass the principals of Good Governance as the manner in which deliberating and decision making is conducted for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin.

SUBJECT: Items for Future Discussion

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion Only

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Council President

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS: 1. COW Items for future discussion

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC
PLAN:**

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Attached is the progression of items recommended for discussion to date.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

5/31/2022	ORTMAN JACKSON TOCHTERMAN LINDELL MACKENZIE	HIRE FOR SNOW SHOVELING IN WINTER IN CERTAIN HIGH TRAFFIC WALKING AREAS REQ AN UPDATE RE THE MEET & GREET/LISTENING SESSION IN SEPTEMBER SPECIFIC AREAS THAT NEED PLAN-FUL SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER OF COMMITTEE UPDATES/REPORTS AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE MONTH, BEGIN 6/28/22 ASKED COUNCILORS WHAT TOPICS THEY WISHED TO BE DISCUSSED AT A RETREAT	SCHED 7/27 SCHED 6/28
6/14/2022	PUFALL	COMPLAINTS FROM PROP OWNERS RE THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS INVOLVED WITH 6TH ST E PROJ	DISC 6/28/2022 & 7/12
6/28/2022	ORTMAN SEEFELDT MACKENZIE	WMNS RIGHT TO CHOOSE RESOLUTION UPDATE FROM AIRPORT CLARIFY COUNCIL'S THOUGHT RE VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION DURING CLOSED SESSION	DISC 9/13 DISC 7/12
7/26/2022	ORTMAN SEEFELDT PUFALL MACKENZIE SEEFELDT	HOW TO BECOME A MONARCH CITY ADDRESS SPEED LIMIT ON USH 2 ON W END OF TOWN ASKED HOW COUNCILORS SUBMIT A WISH LIST FOR ARPA FUNDS POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO CH 467 REMINDER OF PW FACILITY OPEN HOUSE	1/31 - fwd to P&R Committee PD/PW put up speed monitors SCHED 8/25
9/13/2022	TOCHTERMAN	ASKED TO ADDRESS SNOW REMOVAL ROUTES AT NEXT COW	HANDOUT
1/10/2023	JACKSON	RESULTS OF PFAS STUDY	SCHED 1/31
1/31/2023	PUFALL ORTMAN BUTLER	ADDRESS ODD/EVEN WINTER PARKING ADDRESS CITIZEN COMMENTS AT NEXT COW MEETINGS DRINKING WATER INTAKE UPDATE TO COW	MAYOR TO TALK WITH CHIEF SCHED 2/14
2/14/2023	SEEFELDT MACKENZIE	INVESTIGATE PASS THRU GRANT FOR HOMELESS/TRANSITIONAL SHELTER COMMUNICATION WITH PUBLIC	2/28 COW
2/28/2023	JACKSON	REPORT OF BATB AND NEW PERMIT PROCESS	Tent 4/18 COW
3/14/2023	ORTMAN JACKSON	REVISION OF COUNCIL HANDBOOK ROOM TAX	TENT 4/18 COW TENT 4/18 COW