

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
5:00 p.m.

Tomahawk City Hall
23 N 2nd Street

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

JEFF KAHLE
CHAIRPERSON
TERM EXP 2028

MICKEY LOKA
TERM EXP 2028

STEVE "DING" BARTZ
TERM EXP 2029

MELISSA NIEMAN
TERM EXP 2028

DAN SCHULLER
TERM EXP 2028

JUSTIN LUND
TERM EXP 2029

JIM DAENICKE
TERM EXP 2027

The Committee meeting will be held both in person and virtually. If you are attending remotely, you can do so by either of the following ways:

US Toll Free

1-888-475-4499

Access Code:

903 385 0484

Password: 54487

-OR-

Via a smart device or computer:

www.zoom.com

AGENDA

- A. **Call to Order**
- B. **Public Comments** (During this item on the agenda the Committee listens to oral comments from members of the public on non-agenda items. When speaking please state your name and limit your time to five minutes.)
- C. **Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**
 - 1. March 10, 2026 (page 2)
- D. **Other Business**
 - 1. An ordinance to regulate wake enhancement on Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk (Wakesurfing) (page 4)
 - 2. Bradley Park Boat Landing – Bathroom Facility (page 8)
 - 3. Bradley Park Building Maintenance
- E. **Park Leadsperson Report**
- F. **Set Time and Date of Next Meeting**
 - 1. June 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- G. **Adjournment**

Any additions to this agenda will be added to the original posted at City Hall. Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format must contact the Clerk-Treasurer at City Hall, 453-4040, at least three days prior to the meeting so any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request.

1 **Park and Recreations Committee**
2 **City of Tomahawk, City Council Chambers**
3 **23 N 2nd St, Tomahawk, WI 54487**
4 **March 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**
5

6 **Call to Order:** Jeff Kahle called the Park and Recreations Committee to order at 5:01 p.m.
7

8 **Roll Call:** Committee members present: Jeff Kahle, Mickey Loka, Steve “Ding” Bartz, Dan Schuller,
9 and Jusin Lund.

10 Committee members absent: Jim Daenicke and Melissa Nieman.
11

12 Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Amanda L. Bartz, Richard Philips, Ken Sornsen, Bruce Peetz, Ed
13 Steigerwaldt, Sally Weaver and David Soderberg (virtual).
14

15 **Public comments:** There were no public comments.
16

17 **Minutes:** Mickey LOKA MOVED to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2026 and BARTZ
18 seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.
19

20 **Other Business**

21 An ordinance to regulate wake enhancement on Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk
22 (Wakesurfing)
23

24 David Soderberg stated that there is no need for a carve out of the waterski area because all of the
25 Kwahamot boats do not have wake enhancement or fins. He stated that if there was a carve out, it
26 would apply to anyone in the waterski area.
27

28 Soderberg explained that Manitowish Waters has a bigger ski show than Tomahawk and they did
29 not include a carve out for their show. He stated that additionally, at a State level, they have to be a
30 distance of 300’ from the shoreline and it would potentially ban wake enhancement.
31

32 Mickey LOKA stated that he has been with the Kwahamot’s since 1997 and they are a much larger
33 ski show than Manitowish Waters. He stated that sometimes they have boats with wake
34 enhancement and sometimes they do not. He stated that he does not want to see the Kwahamot’s
35 limited to what they can do in the future. He stated that pulling a 9-year-old skier at 12 MPH will
36 create a large wake.
37

38 Mickey LOKA also noted that the Police Department has stated that they cannot enforce this
39 ordinance.
40

41 Soderberg stated that you are proposing that the Kwahamot’s can do anything that they want. He
42 stated that there are 76 other communities and have a carve out.
43

44 Richard Phillips stated that he is President of the Last Wilderness Alliance. He stated that there
45 has not been an enforcement issue Statewide. He stated that there is already a large carve out for

1 water skiers. He stated that it is impossible to write perfect ordinance. He explained that if there is
2 an issue the ordinance could always be amended.

3
4 Mickey LOKA stated that you also have to keep in mind the benefit that the Kwahamot's bring to the
5 community. Discussion followed regarding the Kwahamot's and the Ski Show.

6
7 Soderberg stated that the Ski Show is great, but it is not everything. Mickey LOKA stated that the Ski
8 Show has been here for over 65 years without damage to the bottom of the lake.

9
10 Clerk BARTZ stated that the Town of Bradley could also have the same carve out but it would not
11 affect any lake area in their municipality, the wording of both ordinances need to be the same.

12
13 Ed Steigerwaldt stated that as a property owner on the River, he sees a lot of damage just from ski
14 boats. He stated that he does not support a carve out for the Kwahamot's.

15
16 BARTZ asked what the Department of Natural Resources considers "Lake Mohawksin". Discussion
17 followed.

18
19 BARTZ stated that he supports the wake ordinance. He stated there is an area designated as a
20 "water ski area" in our municipal code. He stated that we are trying to accommodate all sports, he
21 said he respects everyone but does not think we need an exemption.

22
23 Bruce Peetz stated that he lives on the River where the boats turn around and it the waves created
24 is damaged his property.

25
26 Mickey LOKA asked about hydro-foiling.

27
28 BARTZ moved to postpone the ordinance and get a clear definition of "Lake Mohawksin" and
29 Mickey LOKA seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.

30
31 **Bradley Park Boat Landing and Building Maintenance**

32 This item was postponed until the next meeting.

33
34 **Park Leadsperson Report:** There was no report from the Parks Leadsperson.

35
36 **Next meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Park and Recreations Committee is scheduled for
37 April 14, 2026 at City Hall, Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m.

38
39 **Adjourn:** Mickey LOKA MOVED to adjourn the meeting of Park and Recreations Committee and
40 BARTZ seconded. The VOTE was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**CITY OF TOMAHAWK
ORDINANCE 2026-**

**An ordinance of the City of Tomahawk to amend the Municipal Code, Chapter 66 Park and Recreations
by adding Article V. Artificial Wake Enhancement**

**An ordinance to regulate wake enhancement on Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk and
prescribing penalties for violations thereof.**

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health, safety, and/or welfare, including the public's interest in preserving natural resources, the City of Tomahawk ("City") has the authority to enact ordinances covering waters within its jurisdiction if the ordinances are not contrary to or inconsistent with Chapter 30, Wis. Stats., and they relate to the equipment, use, or operation of boats or to any activity regulated by Sections. 30.60 to 30.71, Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, Lake Mohawksin is a lake with shoreline in Tomahawk; and

WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can cause environmental damage to lakes and lakeshore, including resuspension of sediment adding nutrients to the water and increased risk of algal blooms, turbidity, shoreline erosion, and threats to aquatic life and waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, boats with ballast systems increase the likelihood of aquatic invasive species being introduced and spread on lakes; and

WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can damage shoreline, lake bottom, moored boats, and shoreline structures including docks; and

WHEREAS, operating boats in a stern down manner creates downward prop wash, disturbing the lake bottom far below the wave zone, more than 25 feet below the surface; and
WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can endanger swimmers, anglers, and other watercraft;
and

WHEREAS, the use of ballast and wake enhancing fins can cause unsafe operation by causing the bow to rise obscuring vision forward; and

WHEREAS, the City submitted a draft of this ordinance to the Wisconsin DNR for advisory review at least 60 days prior to passage, pursuant to 30.77(3)(d), Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council, after considering public comments and any DNR suggestions, determines that adopting this Ordinance is consistent with all other ordinances of the City and would promote the public health, safety and welfare, including the public's interest in preserving natural resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Common Council of the City of Tomahawk, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

CITY OF TOMAHAWK

ORDINANCE 2026-

Section 66-92. Applicability and Enforcement.

1. The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the waters of Lake Mohawksin and all segments of the Wisconsin and Tomahawk Rivers in the City of Tomahawk.
2. This Chapter shall be enforced by the Officers of the City of Tomahawk or individuals appointed by the City and/or Lincoln County Sheriff's department as requested along with any and all other State and County officers authorized by law to enforce the same.

Section 66-93. Prohibited Operation.

1. Prohibited Equipment. No person may use or employ ballast tanks, ballast bags or fins to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner, or which increases or enhances a boat's wake.
2. Prohibited Operation. No person may operate a boat in an artificially bow-high manner having the effect of increasing the boat's wake. Such prohibited operation shall include wake enhancement by use of ballast tanks, or ballast bags or fins, or continuous operation at transition speed (the speed below planing speed in which a boat is operating in plowing mode). For the purpose of this provision, "continuous operation" shall mean operation that is not acceleration for the purpose of achieving a state of planing."
3. Certain Operations Excluded. In no event shall any of the following operations be deemed a violation of this Ordinance, provided such operations do not use or employ ballast tanks, ballast bags or wake enhancing fins:
 - a. water skiing,
 - b. tubing,
 - c. wake boarding employing a tow rope;
 - d. brief transition operation to empty a boat of bilge water, or
 - e. brief transition operation of a boat accelerating into a planing condition.
 - ~~f. The operation as allowed by Section 66-2 Water Ski Area~~
4. Certain Water Skiing in Section 66-2 Water Ski Area Excluded. In no event shall water skiing conducted in the Water Ski Area of Section 66-2 of the City of Tomahawk Municipal Code be deemed a violation of this ordinance, even if conducted utilizing ballast tanks or ballast bags, provided such water skiing meets the following conditions:
 - a. The skier is an active member of the Kwahamot Water Ski Club
 - b. The skiing is not conducted at continuous plowing speed.
 - c. The skier is towed by a tow rope at all times.

Section 66-98. Penalties.

1. Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in Wis. Stats. § 30.80 and deposits as established by the Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule established by the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, are hereby adopted by reference and all references to fines amended to forfeitures and all references to imprisonment deleted.
2. To the extent that the penalty for any violation of this Ordinance is not provided under Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in s. 30.80, Wis. Stats., any person violating this Ordinance shall forfeit \$500 for the first offense and shall forfeit \$1000 for the second

**CITY OF TOMAHAWK
ORDINANCE 2026-**

and subsequent offenses within one year. Deposits established in the WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT FEE, FORFEITURE, FINE AND SURCHARGE TABLES shall also apply to any violation.

Section 66-99. Severability.

Severability. Should any portion of this Ordinance or the affected Code Section(s) be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected.

Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon the date on which the City of Tomahawk and the Town of Bradley have both enacted ordinances, being substantively identical as regards sections 66-92 through 66-99 above.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

PASSED and APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

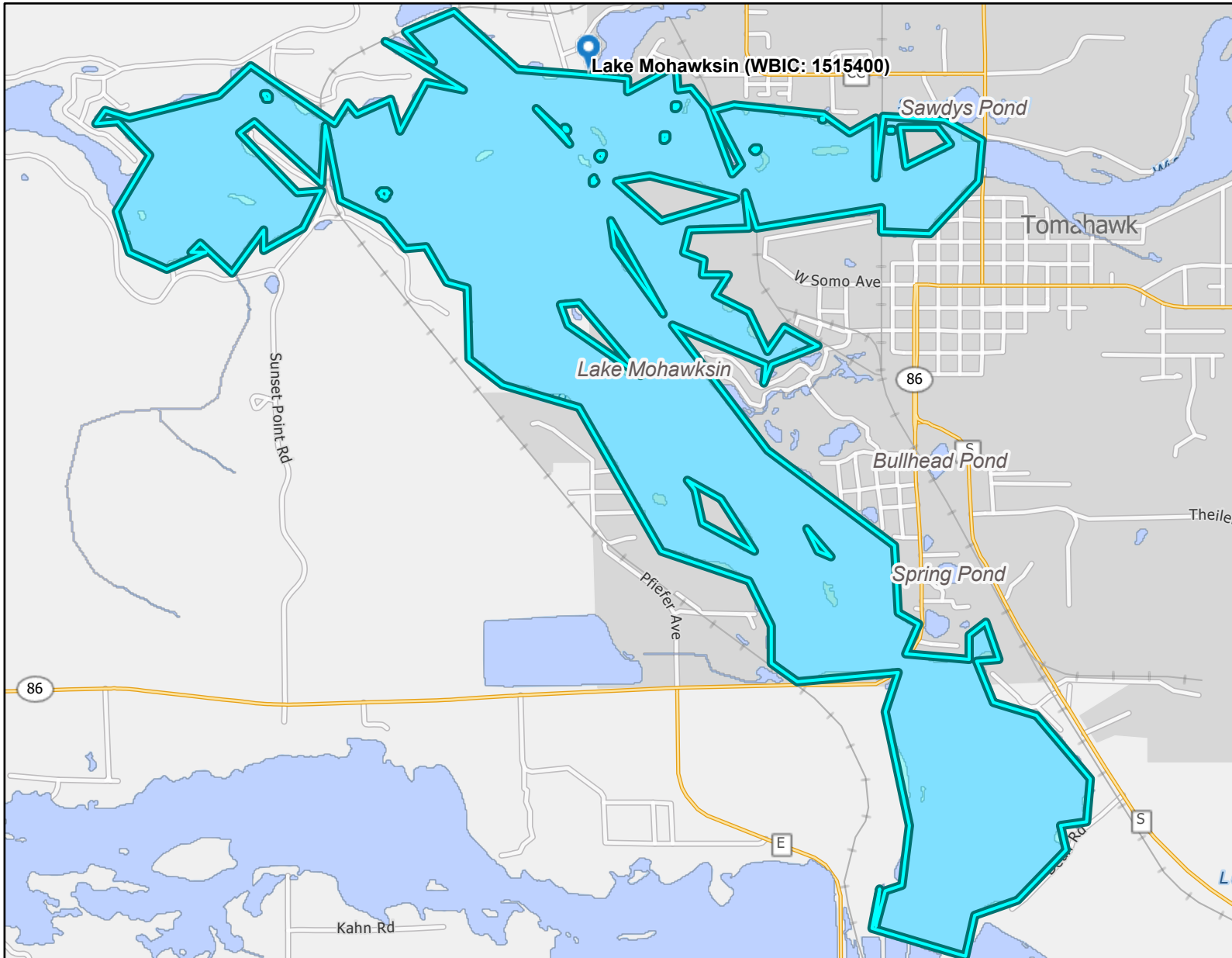
Moved: _____

Michael Habeck, Mayor

Second: _____

Passed: _____

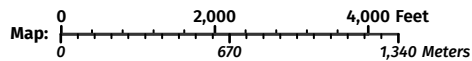
Amanda L. Bartz, Clerk-Treasurer



Legend: (some map layers may not be displayed)

- Rivers and Streams
- Intermittent Streams
- Open Water
- Rivers and Streams
- Intermittent Streams
- Open Water
- 24K Lakes and Open Water

Notes:



Service Layer Credits:
DNR Basic Feature VTL (WTM): Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, GIS Section, Surface Water:
WIDNR, USGS, and other data

Map projection: NAD 1983 HARN Wisconsin TM

This map is a product generated by a DNR web mapping application.

This map is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. The user is solely responsible for verifying the accuracy of information before using for any purpose. By using this product for any purpose user agrees to be bound by all disclaimers found here: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/legal>

Friends of Bradley Park

Mission

Friends of Bradley Park would make meaningful contributions toward the preservation of Bradley Park.

Fundraising Activities

- Membership fee
- Merchandise sales
- Donations
- Memorial bricks/benches

Activities

- Candlelight snowshoe hikes
- Spring and fall clean-up
- Trail clean-up
- Guided nature hikes or historical hikes
- Other community based activities
- Apply for grants

Parameters

- The Friends of Bradley Park would operate under the supervision of the City of Tomahawk
- The group would do all the 501(c)(3) paperwork
- The group would establish by-laws with approval from the City of Tomahawk

- The group would be responsible for establishing a board of directors
- The group would be responsible for their own liability insurance
- All money raised by the group would go to support Bradley Park.
- If the group disbands for any reason all remaining funds would go to the City of Tomahawk
- A member of the City would come to monthly meetings to provide oversight.
- The group would not perform activities without approval from the city.

Friend's of Wisconsin State Parks

- The Friend's of Devil's Lake State Park raised \$750,000 to build and observation tower.
- The Friend's of Rib Mountain State Park raised money to purchase a skid loader for park staff to use for maintenance.