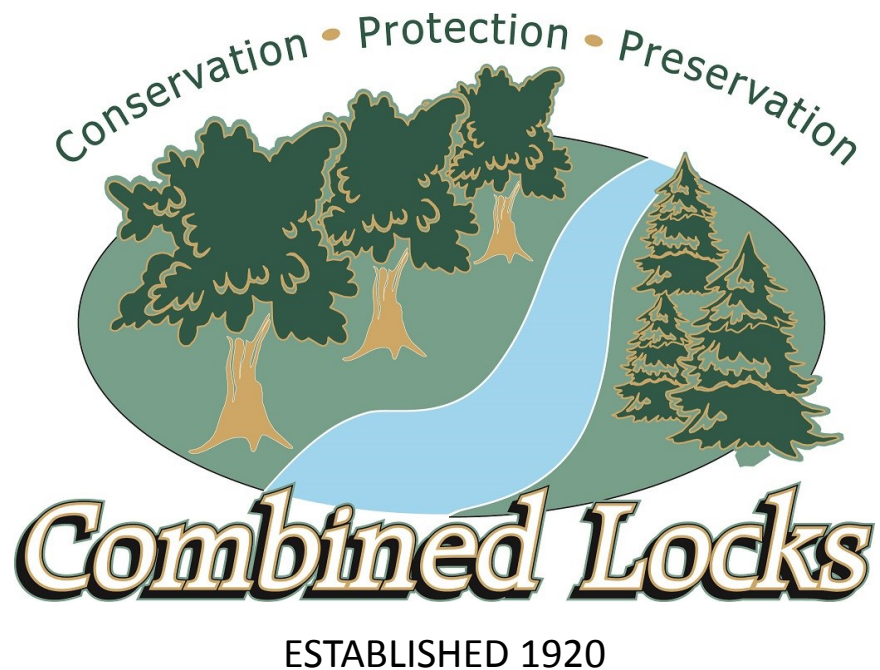
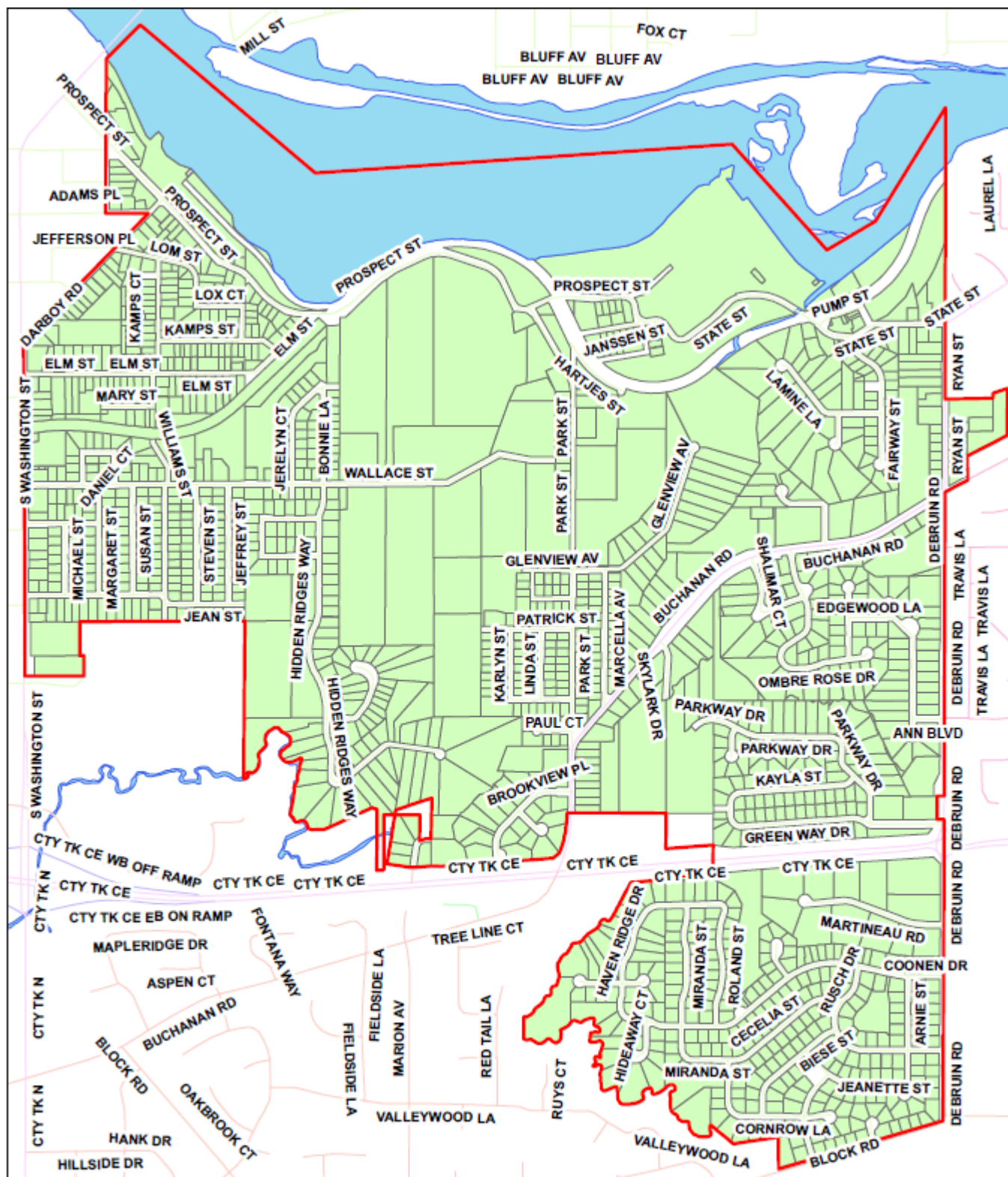




Participant Profile 2018

Combined Locks, Wisconsin





Village of Combined Locks

Itinerary—Combined Locks, WI

Monday, July 16, 2018

Time	Activity	Location	Participants
8:00am	Breakfast	CL Civic Center	Judges/Racquel/Tim
9:30am	Tour Older Sections of Village		Judges/Racquel/Tim
11:30am	Lunch	Kamps Grill & Bar	Judges/Racquel/Tim/Al
12:30pm	Walking Tour of Urban Forest		Judges/Racquel/Tim
2:30pm	Break		Judges
5:30pm	Dinner	Memorial Park Concession Stand	Judges/Racquel/Tim
6:30pm	Volunteer Recognition - Judge Presentation - Meet with Media	CL Civic Center	Judges/Racquel/Tim/Volunteers

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Time	Activity	Location	Participants
8:00am	Breakfast	Rico's	Judges/Racquel/Tim
9:30am	Tour Newer Sections of Village		Judges/Racquel
11:00am	Tour of Mill Farm Guesthouse	Mill Farm Guesthouse	Judges/Racquel/Judy/Craig/Tina
11:30am	Lunch	Mill Farm Guesthouse	As Above
1:00pm	Continue tour of Village, if needed		Judges/Racquel/Tim
2:00pm	Wrap-up/Discussion with Judges		Judges/Racquel/Tim
3:00pm	Break		Judges
6:30pm	Introduction to Village Trustees	CL Civic Center	Judges/Village Board
6:45pm	Dinner	Lox Club	Judges/Tim

Contacts:

Racquel Shampo-Giese, Village Administrator

Tim Mulry, Village DPW Employee

Others:

Al Leicht, Plan Commission Chair

John Neumeier, Village President

Judy Roberts, Volunteer

Craig Robinson, Consultant

Tina Stumpf, Consultant

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FLOWERS

Since becoming involved with American In Bloom, Combined Locks has started to focus more time and energy towards creating a community popping with more color. This has been done through choosing a Community Flowers (Gaillardia and Begonia) and integrating them throughout the community to help create natural beauty seen throughout the Village.

There are three main contributors that have really helped sprout the flower beautification. The management is composed of representation from the Village, the Combined Locks Advancement Association (CLAA), and a local florist and greenhouse. The CLAA is a local non-profit which plays a significant role in helping fund the planting of flowers around the community because they match donations that are received by the Village. Craig Robinson is a resident of Combined Locks and is the owner of Robinson's Florist and Greenhouse which is where the Village gets their plants almost exclusively from. He is an expert horticulturist and is an essential asset when it comes to determining the best fit plants and flowers for the local environment.



The Village keeps to a regular schedule when it comes to when and how they plant the types of flowers throughout the year. We are currently running a spring and summer planting program which is developing into a fall program. The strongest season is the summer months where residents and visitors see the most color in parks and landscaped areas.. Summer weather allows for volunteers and the Department of Public Works to be watering and caring for the flowers nearly every day. There are future plans to expand more into spring and fall landscape areas and flower displays. Current actions to help create more of a spring flowering season is being done by giving local Girl Scouts an opportunity to plant bulbs in the fall so that come spring time they are blooming and providing some color against the brown and gray woody vegetation. The winter season is a more difficult time to plant color around the Village, but planters are displayed at the Civic Center entrances. Unpredictable Wisconsin weather can put a damper on plant success in any other season than summer as seen from a record snowfall that occurred in mid-late April this year.

One of the main goals of planting flowers in the community is to bring as much color and life while keeping the cost within a reasonable budget. Craig Robinson really helps the Village achieve this goal by providing plant combinations that are attractive, deer resistant, and drought resistant. Craig also keeps the Village on the forefront of the latest and greatest types of flowers and plants that are on the market today. He makes sure that the plants that are being planted around the Village are the ones that are best suited to help ensure a lasting investment. The Village strategically places flowers in locations in which the public will be able to see as much color as possible. These locations include, but are not limited to, park signs, subdivision entrance signs, and along some of the busiest streets in Combined Locks. The main flower arrangements seen at these locations are flowers planted in the ground, potted flowers, and hanging baskets which helps create many different levels of colors. One thing that was added within the last year were banners posted on many of the light poles promoting the flowers that have become an increasing part of the Combined Locks. This has caused more residents to take notice of the flowering community, which in turn has



FLOWERS

resulted in an increased amount of donations that have been received to keep growing what has sprouted from planting the multitude of flowers. The Village of Combined Locks and the Department of Public Works (DPW) takes many measures to assure that their flowers are reaching their full potential. Before the flowers are planted, the soil that they will be put in is often fertilized and new potting soil is mixed in to the planting locations. The flowers being planted are specifically chosen based on their minimal pruning and maintenance needs. Maintenance that is done on the flowers includes removing flower heads (which is mainly done through volunteer efforts), applying deer repellent (deer being the primary pest to the flowers), and watering the plants. The most important asset to the DPW when it comes to taking care of flowers around the community is their truck with a 300 gallon tank in the back that they fill with water and low-release fertilizer. This enables the Village to place plants virtually anywhere because of the mobile-

watering station. As a result of the mobile watering truck, all of the plants and flowers can be watered on a regular schedule. In the future, the Village does plan to get self-watering planters so not as much time needs to be devoted to flower and plant care. The flowers seen around the community are a mixture of both robust and floriferous types. The robust flowers are the Begonias that are found in all of the hanging baskets, pots, and near park signs. The floriferous flowers are the petunia waves which can be found at every single one of the parks in plentiful



amounts and colors.

The flowering community that is developing could not be what it is today without the help of community members. There is a 50/50 equal partnership goal that the Village strives for and is achieving. What this means is that half of the flower funds come from within Village budget and the other half comes from private and non-profit organizations. When community members see the Village put money back into the community by enhancing the natural

aesthetic, they see the potential that the community has and more and more residents have started to donate to the cause. For example, hanging baskets were put up on Wallace Street last summer and residents clearly noticed and liked them so much that eight hanging baskets were donated this summer! These baskets have been installed on the main entrance streets in Combined Locks. In addition to that, Robinson's Florist and Greenhouse created a fundraiser in partnership with the Village help promote sales of some of the most prominent flowers seen throughout the Village (Begonias and Gaillardias). Community members do much more than just donate their money towards this cause. We have residents who devote a good amount of time to planting the flowers themselves. Individual members, clubs such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, and the Kimberly High School environmental club "Project Green" have all given a hand in planting pride in the community. Project Green works with students at Janssen elementary by growing plants and flowers from seeds and then the young kids can take the plants home to plant in their yards once they have grown.



LANDSCAPED AREAS

Residents and visitors would be hard-pressed to tour Combined Locks and not see beautiful landscaping almost anywhere you look. There are numerous landscaped areas throughout the Village and on private property, and we are very proud to have created such a beautiful, natural environment for everyone's enjoyment.

The majority of the landscape planning and management of public landscape areas is done by the Village DPW employees. A local expert landscape architect, Tina Stumpf of Stumpf Creative Landscapes, will occasionally assist the Village when it comes to deciding on starting new landscaping projects or modifying existing landscapes. There is a heavy emphasis on landscaping around new commercial properties, especially when they are adjacent to residential properties. There is an entire Village ordinance dedicated to landscape buffers with the purpose of never letting the growing Village lose the natural beauty that comes from landscaping.



There are current plans being developed to implement more types of landscaping throughout Combined Locks. The Village is currently researching and applying for available grants to restore the wooded area beneath transmission lines that cut through part of one of the local neighborhoods in the fall of 2017. If a grant is received, the Village plans on implementing pollinator gardens and/or introducing native plants as part of the landscape restoration. There have been some residents that have already taken initiative to start help the restoration process by planting grass to prevent any further erosion that could occur due to the clear cut path. The Village still plans on looking elsewhere within municipal boundaries to identify possible locations for pollinator gardens. Residents have taken action to help enhance the natural aesthetic and health of the environment by voluntarily

removing invasive plant species within the community. Volunteer removal of invasive plants such as garlic mustard has been going on for many years, and more people are starting to become aware of the issue and are now helping get rid of other invasives such as buckthorn and box elder plants. Although the Village has considered implementing a recognition program for attractive residential landscapes, we feel that it is better to focus on creating pride in landscaping as a community, rather than creating pride within individuals in such a small community.



The Village puts forth quite a bit of effort to create landscaping designs throughout Combined Locks with a general overall theme, but with slight variations amongst each location. Similar plant and flower varieties can be seen from different landscape spots, which are mainly park signs and islands, but the arrangements at each of these sites are marginally different to create different contrast and color effects all with the same overall theme. Deer resistant plants are always the primary plants being used in the landscapes due to that being the most prominent pest that destroys Village landscapes. The main species of plants that are seen around the various landscaped locations include daylilies, gaillardias, daisies, begonias, shenandoah grasses, and spireas. There is still an ongoing process to fill more of the landscape locations with these combinations of plants.

LANDSCAPED AREAS

The landscape areas are all managed and maintained regularly by the Department of Public Works with the help of volunteers on occasion. Most of the work on landscape areas are done during summer months, which is the best season for plant life in Combined Locks. Weeds are pulled from park signs and islands on a bi-weekly schedule, and then they are mulched as needed to improve the aesthetic of these locations. The plants in the landscaped areas are watered and fertilized regularly, and pruning is done to them every spring and fall. In addition to landscaped areas, recreation fields are of high priority to the Village. The Combined Locks recreation programs are some of the biggest draws to new residents so all of the fields are kept in great conditions when possible.

The community has seen an an increased involvement from residents and volunteers to keep on improving the landscape in the Village. From the improvements made in 2017 due to Combined Locks' participation in America in Bloom, over \$15,000 in donations have been received for the 2018 year. In addition to monetary donations, the community has many residents that volunteer their own time to take care of the 35+ islands around town. For many years, they did this without any community support. However, over the last four years, the Village has helped these outstanding residents with providing fresh mulch, removing old plantings, purchasing new plants and flowers, and recognizing the value of these volunteers.

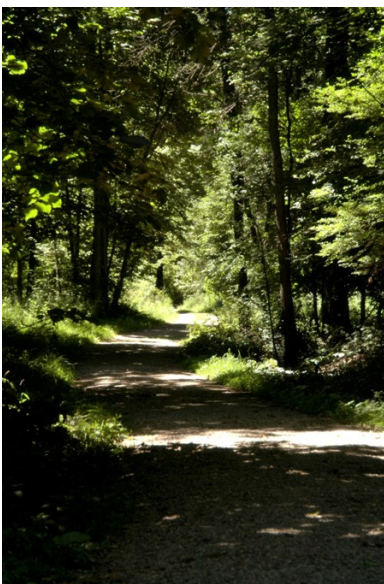


URBAN FORESTRY

Combined Locks takes great pride in keeping the Village flourishing in its plant life, with heavy emphasis on the tree population. The Village has taken initiative in many different ways to ensure the success for current and future trees to prosper.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is one of the main departments responsible for maintaining the healthy tree life within the Village. The DPW stays up to date with tree knowledge and safety by attending tree school several times each year. An active Tree Board is held in place and is composed of the Village Board members who actively meet, which the DPW serves as advisory to. One proactive measure that Combined Locks takes to ensure urban forestry integrity is that there are strictly enforced conservancy areas on all ravine lots which is kept somewhat flexible but for conservation and/or preservation purposes only. Combined Locks' commitment to being a deeply rooted tree bearing community is exemplified by this being the 25th year of being part of "Tree City USA".

Although the Village of Combined Locks already has a healthy and prosperous tree community, it is continually trying to find ways to better itself and improve on what has already been established. To give an idea to how much priority trees in the Village are given, Combined Locks reinvests over double the recommended tree budget per capita. The GIS program of tree inventory is currently being updated, and the Village is working with an engineering firm to quantify the benefits that come as a result of trees being part of the municipality. Strong tabs are kept on dead trees annually so that they can be replaced as soon as possible, and new trees are planted next to ash trees as a proactive measure to prevent significant loss due to invasive insects like the Emerald Ash Borer. Preventative steps have been taken in the past to prevent gypsy moths from imperiling oak trees by putting up gypsy moth tents around these trees. In addition to that, buckthorn is removed annually from Village properties and is highly recommend to private landowners to be removed. Residents are informed in how to suppress other invasive plant species through newsletters that are sent out from the Village.



A variety of tree species can be seen throughout the Village parks and terraces, and each of them has been selectively placed in each specific location. Trees are planted based on the local environment which can be influenced by several factors including spacing of trees, canopy restrictions, and residential elements such as mailboxes and sidewalks. A rule of thumb that is followed when planting trees in the ground is "too low won't grow, too high they die". These practices are done to mark the safety and success of newly planted trees. A future goal is to designate an area for an arboretum with walking trails that will have tree information and identification posted along the trails.

Tree health is maintained mainly by the DPW. Proper tree care training is required by employees of the DPW where they are trained on proper care, diagnosing diseases, and much more. Communication is made with ranger services when outside advice is needed when dealing with adversely affected trees. Trees are also continuously monitored for Emerald Ash Borer damage and trees are removed if they are susceptible or damaged. All newly planted trees are mulched and are watered during dry periods to ensure continuous growth.

URBAN FORESTRY

Each tree planted is then also appropriately pruned at least once every five years to make sure they do not obstruct the paths of any vehicles or DPW equipment.

Community members see many of the benefits that come from planting trees and are very supportive of the urban forestry. Arbor Day provides an opportunity for many volunteers to help add to the growing tree life that's in Combined Locks. One of the largest community contributions to urban forestry is on Arbor Day each year when local fourth graders get to plant trees with their classes on public grounds. In addition to planting trees, there a handful of other different things that are done to promote tree health that often changes year to year. Residents are also very adamant about keeping the terrace trees in front of many of their homes good health and they spend a lot of their own time caring for them. A good amount of these volunteering opportunities are funded through donations from members around the area. In the past, donations have not been used for trees as much as they could have been, but they have been used in other ways to improve the aesthetic of the Village (flowers, shrubbery, etc.). Because of this, many community members have taken notice and more donations have started to flow in: so more of donated funds could now be prioritized for urban forestry. The Village Board is considering allowing living memorials to be established to honor loved -ones and residents who impacted Combined Locks' history and growth.



ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

“Conservation, Protection, Preservation”. These are three words that can be seen on each and every Combined Locks logo around town that represents the community’s attitude and actions towards keeping the local environment as clean and pure as possible. A short, yet simple motto that has yielded great environmental benefits to the community throughout the years.

The Village of Combined Locks has a planning commission within the Village Board that deals and focuses on environmental issues. Water quality and pet waste are two components of environmental significance that the Village Board helps manage. Combined Locks is one of the founding member communities of the Garners Creek Stormwater Utility. The stormwater utility in Combined Locks is responsible for holding the Village the highest possible water quality, which is seen through several different ways. One of the most significant ways that this has been achieved is by installing storm-



water runoff ponds that protect local waterways from urban runoff and pollution. Another way that great water quality is obtained is through working with local engineers to fortify and maintain stream banks along Garners Creek. Reduced erosion from maintaining stream banks dilutes the amount of sediment in the creek which in turn helps keep Combined Locks’ waterways as clean as they can be. Septic tanks are also prohibited as a safety measure to keep the water clean. Keeping pet waste at a minimum in the community is another key point of interest when it comes to environmental efforts. Combined Locks does its best to strategically place pet waste stations and garbage cans along

walking trails and parks to help reduce the amount of waste that is left around the Village. There are also some places where pets are restricted to keep some locations around town as clean as can be. Other information on pet waste disposal is available to residents through the Village website.



Combined Locks strives to keep the community as clean as possible all the time. Nearly each and every day litter is picked up from all seven parks within the Village. There are non-profit groups that come in at different times during spring and fall to clean and pick up public areas. It is a strong point of the community to have the town nice and clean, and the Village provides a good example by making sure it stays clean every day. Luckily, the Village does not have any Brownfield areas within its boundary limits. There is often a misconception that the landfill located on Prospect Street is a Brownfield site, but the Wisconsin DNR prohibits any type of action to repurpose the site, thus disqualifying it as a Brownfield site. Other ways that the Village keeps clean is by educating residents by posting informational flyers and posters that show different ways people can protect local waterways through responsible mowing practices, vehicle washing, pet practices, weed control, and landscaping practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

Of the motto “Conservation, Protection, Preservation” that is held by Combined Locks, conservation is the first stated, and that is by no mistake. Many steps are taken to conserve energy and resources as much as possible to protect and preserve the environment. All fluorescent lights at parks and municipal buildings either have been converted or are in the process of being converted to LED lights. Within the municipal buildings, all the lights are self-timed and/or motion-activated. There are local electric and utility companies that offer home energy audit programs. They also offer incentives for energy efficient appliances and collection of old, outdated appliances. A rain barrel program is offered through Outagamie County with information available to residents on the Village website. Combined Locks does have some bioswales in place located in municipal and private parking lots and there are still plans to update the landscaping on some of them. The Village also requires all restaurants and taverns to install grease traps to help reduce the amounts of grease that could potentially make their way into local waterways.

The Appleton Coated paper mill located in Combined Locks is a keystone business that has been part of the Village for over 120 years. They do a spectacular job being environmentally conscientious and it has shown through the environmental awards recently received. Their commitment to the environment consists of, but is not limited to, responsible fiber sourcing, use of post-consumer recovered fiber, and using fiber suppliers within 80 miles of the mill which helps reduce their carbon footprint. Probably the most significant thing they do to preserve the local environment is that they manage their own wastewater treatment plant. They only release their own water back into the Fox River after meeting or exceeding all of the Wisconsin DNR guidelines and standards.

A great effort is made to make sure that environmental footprint from Combined Locks is small as can be. This starts with keeping as much recyclable material out of the landfill as possible. The Village participates with the Outagamie County Solid Waste and Recycling Department to collect the plastic recyclables. All residents are given 65-gallon automated collection carts to put their recycling in. The carts have lids which help keep the streets and properties clean during recycling days which occurs weekly. The Village is also very conscious of recycling and that is seen at the Memorial Park baseball diamonds where there are distinguished carts for plastic bottles, cans, and garbage for people to put their waste in. Household hazardous waste can be properly disposed of at the Outagamie County landfill for no fee from May through October on two specified days each week. The Combined Locks department of public works also collects metal that residents can put on the curbside once a month. Other disposables such as electronics, paint, fluorescent bulbs, and batteries can be disposed of at local accepting businesses. Multiple electric utility companies close to the community have annual collection days for electronics, making it accessible for residents to dispose of their technology properly.



ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

Unused prescription drug drop-off is available to residents in the communities neighboring Combined Locks. This generally coincides with National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in the spring and fall. Otherwise, the nearby city of Appleton allows for prescription drugs to be dropped off at a specified location 24/7, 365 days per year. One thing that really sets the Village of Combined Locks apart from other communities around the area is that they have their own yard waste site. Residents, from April to November, can pay \$5 per year where they are allowed to conveniently drop off grass clippings, shrub and small tree prunings, car batteries, and waste oil (oil is collected year round) right here in town. The Village does keep some of the yard waste for compost but doesn't have the space to keep all of it for compost. The excess grass clippings that are disposed of at the yard waste location are then later disposed of at a local landscaping company that uses the clippings as compost. Information about personal compost bins is also available to residents on the Village website. Brush is collected curbside and chipped weekly during the summer. Wood chips and mulch are stored at the yard waste site where residents are allowed to take for their own residential landscaping needs. By allowing residents to reuse the wood chips and mulch, it helps eliminate waste that would otherwise need to be taken to the landfill. Broken or unusable trash carts have also been repurposed into planters that have been placed around the parks. As far as plastic bag collection goes for residents, there are drop offs available at local retailers. Overall, the low cost and effort recycling options has resulted in community members actively engaging in how they dispose of their waste. According to the Outagamie County's annual diversion report (7/17/17), since 2011, Combined Locks has been one of the top three communities in Outagamie County in terms of landfill to recycling tonnage. This is very impressive considering Outagamie County's recycling facility has a 7% - 8% rejection rate compared to the average rejection rate of 15% - 20%!



From the numbers previously stated, it is pretty clear that the community has a very positive predisposition when it comes to being environmentally conscious with their waste. The Village does its best to keep the community involved when it comes to staying environmentally aware throughout the year. Earth Day presents Combined Locks with an opportunity for local Boy Scouts to help in a clean up day to help get rid of litter throughout the Village. A local Sierra Club chapter is also involved in helping out combat and prevent invasive insects and bugs when possible. Combined Locks is a strong supporter of National Walk and Bike to School Days when those happen annually as well. Environmental awareness information is posted in public areas around town to keep residents thinking environmentally friendly as much as they can. During elections, environmentally conscious flyers are handed out. Also every new resident is given information packets about how to be environmentally responsible within the community. In addition to that, information about environmental efforts is available on the Village website.

CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Combined Locks is a young community, yet it still has a great heritage that many people that pride in that can be seen through multiple ways throughout the Village.

For being as young of a community that Combined Locks is, there are currently many efforts being made to preserve and celebrate the short heritage that they have. America in Bloom has opened the eyes of the community on preparing and planning to start designating historic preservation areas around town. For being only a 98 year old community, Combined Locks is still in the process of figuring out how to formalize the ways that they will celebrate and acknowledge their history. Members of the Village and Village Board had started to talk to other nearby communities with strong historic societies so that Combined Locks can have their history more easily recognized and accessed by the public. Combined Locks does currently have an existing historic preservation ordinance to preserve historic areas in the developing community. With the 100th anniversary of the founding of Combined Locks coming up in 2020, a Centennial Committee has been formed to help promote this milestone.

Combined Locks currently has made plans and actions for different ways to celebrate and preserve the history within the community. The most important thing currently on the agenda for celebrating heritage is finding ways to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of Combined Locks in 2020. One thing that is being done is that historical plaques are planned to be distributed amongst current historical sites and sites that are still looking to be distinguished to help celebrate the centennial anniversary. Additionally, a local resident, Al Leicht, has been interviewing long time residents of the Village to record different perspectives of the earlier days in Combined Locks. These interviews will then be compiled in a book for the centennial celebration. The Village also holds time capsules from the 50th and 75th anniversary that will be used in the centennial celebration. History in Combined Locks is also preserved in multiple ways. The

department of public works houses all of the old/historical maps of the Village and St. Paul's church holds all the cemetery records. In order to make sure some of the land in Combined Locks remains untouched, the Village has established environmentally sensitive lines. These lines prevent structures from being built on them and these areas are suggested to be kept as natural as possible. There have also been specific ravine properties that have been established as conservancy areas to conserve some natural history. More historic information is available to the public on the Village website as a greater commitment is being made as the Village approaches 100 years as a community!



Mill guest house built in 1884



CELEBRATING HERITAGE

The Village has already taken some measures to commemorate the history and there are other plans to keep expanding the commemoration. History sign boards placed throughout the community are one of the main ways that the Village commemorates its history. There are new history sign boards that have been posted on Wallace Street and Prospect Street to help commemorate the Village's history. More historic spots are still being identified so that they can be commemorated with history sign boards in time for the 2020 centennial celebration. The Village sees this as a great opportunity for the residents and public to become more aware about the history during their daily life. Historic commemoration can also be seen inside the Civic Center. There is currently a wall of presidents in the board room and there is work being done to get a display case with historic commemorations and a history wall in the main entrance and lobby area. There are a couple of standout events that occur in Combined Locks that commemorate the community's heritage as well. Opening day for little league baseball is always a big event at the ball diamonds at Memorial Park. Youth baseball is one of the largest parts of the community's identity, so community members always make sure to come out and celebrate it annually. Furthermore, as of recently a local well-established festival called PaperFest has been adopted by Combined Locks. This festival is held between neighboring communities Combined Locks and Kimberly which helps celebrate the paper industry which has been a large part of both communities since the 1800s.

Volunteers have always been a big part of the Combined Locks history, so naturally they play a role in heritage celebration contributions. There has recently been a Centennial Committee that has been established by the Plan Commission and Village Board. There are plans to also have volunteer community members to join this committee in the near future. Volunteers from the community are also an integral part when it comes to running local festivals like PaperFest. Additionally, local Eagle Scouts are a tremendous help to celebrating and commemorating heritage because they have created storyboards to place throughout the community. They have constructed historical signs on Prospect Street, which provide information about how the local paper mill Appleton Coated, the CN Railroad, and the Fox River all contributed to the settling of Combined Locks. More of these similar types of signs will be installed over the next two years.



C O M M U N I T Y
Vitality

Combined Locks focuses a great deal of time, energy and funding to maintain its green space and recreational facilities for community members and visitors to enjoy.

The Plan Commission regularly updates the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Included in the plan is this goal: To ensure that adequate open space and recreation facilities are provided for and made accessible to all residents of Combined Locks. The Plan also includes these objectives: *Provide a full range of recreational facilities to serve Combined Locks residents on a year-round basis. *Ensure that active and passive recreational areas and facilities consider elderly and disabled citizens in their design. *Provide park and recreation facilities to serve all existing and future residential areas. *Preserve structures and sites that reflect the historical and natural heritage of the area.

A copy of the 2015-2020 Combined Locks Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is included in your judge's binder that you will receive when you arrive.

With several local festivals in the area, it is often difficult to schedule one of our own that doesn't conflict with neighboring municipality events. However, we are attempting a new event scheduled for August which is geared toward residents and their families. Combined Locks Public Safety Day will be an opportunity for our local Police, EMT's, Firefighters, and DPW Staff to demonstrate vehicles and equipment for the attendees. This will be in conjunction with our Annual Playground Carnival which features children's games and a bounce-house. Food and beverages will also be available for

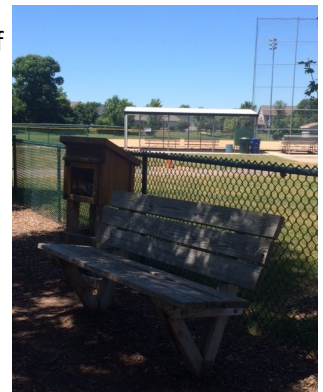


purchase, and we keep the game tickets and food to reasonable pricing to make this event appealing to all ages. We've recruited the VFW Ladies Auxiliary to staff the concession stand, which will serve as a fundraiser for them. We hope that this new event is successful for many years to come.

C O M M U N I T Y Vitality

There are seven (7) parks in the Village of Combined Locks. Three of the parks are available for people to rent for family functions (reunions, birthday parties, team building). The other four parks are considered neighborhood or pocket parks. All of the parks have sufficient recreational amenities, including playgrounds, volleyball courts, basketball courts, archery range, walking areas, green space for soccer and lacrosse, cross-country skiing, hiking, fishing, and quiet seating areas. The playgrounds all have ADA equipment and wood chips that are ADA accessible. The walking areas have a stone or asphalt base, and all restrooms are ADA compliant. The Plan Commission is considering the possibility of a splash pad at Memorial Park as a water feature currently does not exist. Future trails are also being planned to completely connect all sides of the Village, and the county's CE Trail allows for walking, biking, rollerblading, running, or cross-country skiing to surrounding municipalities.

Local businesses and organizations take advantage of the outdoor spaces provided to them. Kamps Grill & Bar offers the opportunity to hear music under its horseshoe court on Sunday afternoons. This establishment has hosted a cancer benefit golf outing for many years and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars doing so. High school and local organizations sponsor 5k run/walks using the multitude of trails and sidewalks available in Combined Locks. The Combined Locks Recreation Program in conjunction with the Combined Locks Advancement Association (CLAA) hosts "Opening Day" for youth baseball and softball in mid-May, and the CLAA hosts an adult softball tournament and Village corn roast at the end of August. This event also has live music and has included polka bands, elementary to high school age bands and other popular local artists. There is also the opportunity for quiet time in the parks with a variety of seating options in the sun or in the shade and Little Free Libraries.



The Combined Locks Advancement Association is heavily involved in supporting the Village's efforts to keep Combined Locks a community filled with recreational activities, parks for EVERYONE to enjoy, green space for tranquility, and it also serves as a resource for residents to volunteer or otherwise get involved with the community. Without this organization's help, Combined Locks would not have the quality facilities we all enjoy today.



Combined Locks
CL
AA
Advancement
Association

OVERALL IMPRESSION

Combined Locks strives to keep an impression of a clean and welcoming community to all of its residents and visitors. We focus a lot of time and resources to maintaining a community of this kind.

Combined Locks takes various measures to make sure that the Village is easily accessible to all. There are sign ordinances that are enforced which include having proper street signs, wayfinding signs, and signage for business parks. Residential property signs such as staked signs for elections and rummage sales are allowed, but only for short periods of time and as long as they do not obstruct right of ways; no long term signage is allowed. The Village is strong on enforcement of prohibiting abandoned vehicles and making sure there are not any overgrown lots. The Weed Commissioner, Ryan Swick, gives one notice to landowners to clean up their properties as necessary, and if it is not done in a reasonable time frame then fines are issued and/or the Department of Public Works cleans up the affected areas. To date, there have only been three instances where properties have had needed to be cleaned up and maintained. Such few instances show how much pride the Village and its residents have in their properties.



The Village has done a great job providing amenities around the Village for its residents to take advantage of and enjoy. Amenities that can be found at the parks include water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, trails and wayfinding signs through the trails, garbage cans along trails, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, containers, planters, and more. Cigarette receptacles are not found at any of the parks because smoking is prohibited at all of them. Something unique about Combined Locks that many communities do not offer is the amount of public restrooms available. Six out of the eight parks and recreational areas have bathrooms that are available 24/7 and are cleaned daily during weekdays. Many of the previously stated amenities can be found throughout the community as well. Furthermore, the Village offers a large rubbish pickup once each month so trash doesn't begin to accumulate on residential properties. Crosswalks are

something that are prioritized by Combined Locks considering that they are well known for being a walking community. All of the crosswalks around the Village are well marked with highly trafficked crosswalks painted annually and lesser trafficked crosswalks being painted every other year. There is proper signage at all school crosswalks with volunteer crossing guards during the school year and flashing lights where they are required. At each entry point into Combined Locks there are welcome signs with the Village population on them and/or banners on light poles. All corporate boundaries are outlined with banners that are changed seasonally. As a way to culture the community a bit more, the Village is currently gauging interest from local artists to paint murals in different potential locations throughout the Village. Currently there is a mural painted on the local tennis court at Lindberg Park. The mural was painted several years ago to be inviting to youth tennis players. The mural was re-painted last year by high school volunteers.

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Potential locations for murals to be painted include the pedestrian tunnel beneath County Road CE and on the Kaukauna Utility brick wall on State Street near the paper mill. Combined Locks has ample wayfinding signs denoting churches, parks, and municipal buildings. The 13 access points to the Village's 3 miles of trails are also all marked with a trail signs and maps at each trailhead. As much as the Village loves to use plants to decorate the town with, they also have different ways of decorating for the different seasons. A lit Christmas tree is located on Prospect Street by the seating area during the Christmas season and seasonal banners can be seen for the spring, fall, and 4th of July. The Village is looking to expand the seasonal banners as more funds become available.

There is great pride in Combined Locks when it comes to keeping all public goods and resources in excellent conditions. The five year capital improvement plan is what helps keep the Village going in the right direction. The improvement plan lays out different plans to update roads and utilities prioritized by need. One of the highlights of this plan is that \$25,000 is budget annually for maintaining sidewalks due to Combined Locks being such an exceptional walking community. There is also a lot of pride in keeping good care of municipal buildings and park facilities. All of the public parks and recreational areas are free of vandalism. In addition to that, the Village is working on replacing all park and municipal building signs with more damage resistant ones because many of the previous signs had been damaged by different types of birds and weathering. The streets are swept on a regular basis as well to prevent pollutants from entering the environment. The conditions of vacant lots, stormwater retention ponds, and swales are all kept in good conditions. Vacant lots are covered under the Village ordinance for weed control to keep a good aesthetic in areas

which could otherwise very easily become an eyesore of the community. The stormwater retention ponds throughout the Village are taken care of very well. This past year, a prescribed burn was done for the first time to get rid of woody vegetation in the ponds. This was done to make sure that the ponds were functioning as intended and additionally for aesthetic purposes.

The Village does a great job when it comes to allowing their residents to have an influence in shaping their community. Volunteer efforts are the primary way in which this is done. The Village holds clean up days on Earth Day in which Boy Scouts help assist with, the UW-Fox Valley extension comes and cleans up Garners Creek periodically, and the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance partnered up with the Boy Scouts to clean up trails in the Combined Locks woods and near the Fox River. Other volunteering that occurs within the Village is through a



local Habitat for Humanity chapter and through Adopt-a-Spot programs. The Habitat for Humanity chapter has done work in Combined Locks where they have helped shape the community by voluntarily building homes. Also, many of the boulevards and islands have been adopted by community members living nearby where they care for and help design the landscaping on them. The volunteer efforts received by Combined Locks are all recorded by the Village.

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The volunteers are thanked periodically in the newsletter, and standout volunteers are invited to summer luncheons to acknowledge their charitable work. Residents can additionally have an influence on the amenities that are seen throughout town. There are memorial benches throughout the village, in parks, and trails, and memorial trees are also being incorporated into the Village which people can dedicate them to whom they desire.

