

Provide Your Ideas about Edgerton's Parks

The City's Parks Committee is kicking off the process of developing an update to its 2008 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The planning process will inventory existing park improvements and programs; it will determine what services or improvements are needed in the park system; and it will recommend actions to take to improve recreation opportunities. The plan will be used by the Parks Committee and the City Council to make decisions about park expansions and investments. The planning process will take place over the next six months, with the goal of adoption in the Spring of 2023.

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

As part of the kickoff to this project, we invite any resident or visitor to participate in a "City-wide Parks Survey." The survey will help evaluate existing preferences and participation rates, in addition to guiding future priorities, needs, and projects. It is critically important to gather as much feedback as possible in order to develop a plan that best fits the community's needs and preferences. The survey will be open for submissions from mid-October through mid-November.

The survey will become available online beginning in mid-October, and its link will be distributed via the city's website, local news outlets, and social media.

For more information on the planning process and other ways to get involved, see the city's website at <https://www.cityofedgerton.com>

Energy Planning

The City of Edgerton received a \$96,000 grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission Office of Energy Innovation to create a joint comprehensive energy plan for the cities of Edgerton, Milton, and Evansville. The collaboration will allow for a more strategic approach to energy efficiency in the region (rather than uncoordinated one-off energy upgrades that might create needless excesses or redundancies). The plans will support the creation of a comprehensive energy plan to guide future energy improvements and to drive lower fossil-fuel-based energy consumption. The comprehensive energy plan is a necessary first step for each community in order to achieve decarbonization goals and to access future funding for the implementation of planned energy strategies.

The plan will explore the following energy reduction areas: energy efficiency upgrades for buildings; fleet electrification; and renewable energy options.

Given the immense energy savings already achieved with the solar installation on City Hall, Edgerton's City Council has prioritized the use of a portion of its American Rescue Plan Act funding to install solar PV facilities on city-owned properties wherever feasible.

SIDEWALK UTILITY FAQs

The City of Edgerton will consider the adoption of a sidewalk utility. The sidewalk charge will appear on the quarterly utility bill, appearing for the first time on the fourth quarter bill. Below are some frequently asked questions about sidewalk utilities. If you have additional questions, please call City Hall.

Is a sidewalk utility similar to a sewer and/or water utility? Yes, in some ways they are similar. Like a water utility, the user fees paid by utility customers are used to make improvements to the overall system. Like other utilities, customers will pay a regular fee as part of their quarterly utility bill.

How do we currently pay for sidewalk-related costs? Currently, sidewalk improvements are paid for through special assessments to the property owners directly adjacent to the sidewalk being repaired or replaced. A special assessment is a tax charged and added to a property owner's property tax bill.

Why not continue to use special assessments? A sidewalk fee is easier for land owners because charges are small and regularly occurring. Special assessments, on the contrary, are large, relatively infrequent "lump sum payments," which make budgeting difficult for property owners and for the city. Also, some property owners, who hap-

pen to have long stretches of sidewalk (like on corner lots), endure large special assessments, which can be argued is an unfair burden. With a utility, however, all property owners pay a regular fee with each utility bill, spreading the burden more fairly and also making it easier and less costly for the city to plan and execute sidewalk repairs.

What was the average special assessment when the city last undertook a comprehensive sidewalk repair program in 2017-2019? The average special assessment for all properties that had sidewalk repairs completed was \$428.

What will Edgerton's rate be? The Public Works Committee has recommended a rate of \$11/year for a single family home, or \$2.75/quarter. The final rates will be established later this year, after a public hearing.

How are sidewalk costs allocated within a sidewalk utility? Residential properties are assessed a flat rate, referred to as an Equivalent Unit (EU). Non-residential properties will be assessed based on their street frontage, given a multiple of the EU.

Who will pay the user charge? Almost all property owners will pay a user fee. Only large undeveloped or undevelopable properties will not pay a fee.



**November 8th Election
Bring a Photo ID to the Polls**

Absentee Voting via mail:

When: Absentee voting by mail is open from now until the deadline listed below.

Deadline: Applications to receive a ballot must be received in the Clerk's office by 5:00 pm Thursday, October 27, 2022. To request an absentee ballot go to <https://myvote.wi.gov>. Applications may also be requested by fax at 608-884-8892 or by email to wloveland@edgerton.wi.gov.

In-Person Absentee Voting:

When: In person absentee voting hours are October 25, 2022 through November 4, 2022. City Hall office hours are M-F 7:30 am-4:00 pm and November 4th until 5:00 pm.

Where: Edgerton City Hall, 12 Albion Street.

Election Day Voting:

When: Polls will be open from 7:00 am- 8:00 pm on November 8, 2022.

Where: Edgerton City Hall, 12 Albion Street.

What to Bring to the Polls: Bring a photo ID. For more information about what form of a photo ID is acceptable please go to www.bringitwisconsin.com or call the City Clerk's office at 608 884-3341.

Voter Registration:

When: You can register to vote at <https://myvote.wi.gov> until October 19, 2022. In office registration is available now through November 4, 2022. You can also register on Election Day. If you plan to register on Election Day please leave extra time as there is apt to be a line.

Where: Edgerton City Hall, 12 Albion Street.

What to Bring When Registering: Proof of residency document with voter's name and current address. For a current list of acceptable proof of residency documents please go to <http://elections.wi.gov>.

SIDEWALK UTILITY FAQs (continued from page 1)

Why do all properties pay a user fee? The sidewalk system is part of the city's overall transportation network. The sidewalk network benefits the entire community by providing a safe place for the movement of pedestrians, a place for recreation, and an alternative to vehicular transportation.

How will the sidewalk fees be used? The city will use the fees paid to repair existing sidewalks. Fees will also be used to pay for up to 50% of the cost of any new sidewalks that are installed. (Under the former system, first-time sidewalk installations were paid 100% by the property owner. Note that the new utility does not compel the installation of sidewalks where they currently don't exist. Those decisions are still driven by city council action, which allows for citizen input.)

Will sidewalks be repaired sooner if there is a sidewalk utility? Yes. In the past, the city has undertaken a city-wide sidewalk repair about once every 10 to 15 years, with almost no sidewalk work being done in the intervening years. Many sidewalks have remained out of compliance for years. A sidewalk utility will provide a steady source of funds that can be allocated as needed.

How will I be billed for the sidewalk user fee? The user fee will appear as a line item on your utility bill. It will appear for the first time on the fourth quarter statement.

PUBLIC WORKS NOTICES



Brush Pickup

Brush pickup is scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month through November, weather permitting. Limbs and branches should be piled or put in garbage cans at the curb. Piles should be no larger than 6 feet long and 24 inches in diameter. Garbage cans should not exceed 100 pounds. For complete information regarding the brush pickup ordinance please see the City of Edgerton website.

Brush and Compost Drop off Site

City of Edgerton residents only, can bring brush and compost to the drop off site at the back of Fassett Cemetery during posted hours. Contractors are not allowed to deposit materials at the site. City staff will ask for identification verifying all visitors are City of Edgerton residents. No material can be left at the site when the drop off site is not open. Hours through October 31, 2022 are as follows:

Monday 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Thursday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The drop off site will be open on **SATURDAYS ONLY** through the month of November weather permitting. Chips and compost can also be picked-up from the drop off site.



Leaf Pickup

Leaf pickup is scheduled to begin the week of October 17th. Please place your leaves in the street along the curb. You can assist in making leaf collection as quick as possible by not parking too close to the leaf piles and by making the piles as consolidated as possible. Please remember burning is not allowed within the City.

Fassett Cemetery Flowers & Plants

All flowers and hanging baskets must be removed by November 1st of each year or they will be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel. Flowers can be placed on or after the Friday before Veterans Day.

Water Lateral Inspections Deadline

Using more than \$1 million of WDNR grant funding over the past two years, the city will have replaced in excess of 260 private water service lines by the end of this year. Edgerton's Utility Commission plans to apply for more grant funding in 2023 with the hope of receiving enough funding to replace the remaining lead water service lines in the city. City staff has performed more than 800 inspections of water services since the project began, pursuing the goal of completing all inspections by the end of 2022.

The City Council has made inspections mandatory for those properties on streets that are apt to have lead water service lines. (Mandatory means that there's the potential for water service to be disconnected if a property owner does not complete an inspection.) If you live in, or own property where the house is more than 50 years old and you have not had an inspection of your water service, please call City Hall at 608-884-3341 as soon as possible to schedule an inspection and to avoid a water disconnection and reconnection fee.