

City of Marine on St. Croix MOSC TIMES



October, November, December 2020

COUNCIL SETS MAXIMUM LEVY: \$1.19 MILLION

The Marine on St. Croix City Council has set the maximum levy for 2021 at \$1,188,462.70, representing a 25.75% increase from 2020.

As a maximum levy, this number cannot be raised and the council will consider reductions at the Truth in Taxation

meeting. The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held December 1st, 6:00 pm at the Village Hall, with the option to attend remotely.

Copies of the budget can be found on the City website or are available at the City office during regular business hours.

Important Dates

Oct. 8	City Council Meeting
Oct. 12	Columbus Day— City Office Closed
Oct. 27	Planning Commission Meeting
Nov. 3	General Election
Nov. 12	City Council Meeting
Nov. 24	Planning Commission Meeting
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving— City Office Closed
Dec. 1	Truth in Taxation
Dec. 10	City Council Meeting
Dec. 25	Christmas— City Office Closed

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General Election: Tuesday, November 3

LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL RACES

Marine residents will elect a mayor and two council members on November 3.

Register to vote, update your registration, or request an absentee ballot at www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting.

The election will be held upstairs in the Village Hall. Social distancing will be observed and masks available.

The following candidates have filed for office in Marine:

Office of Mayor:
Glen Mills
Kevin Nyenhuis

City Council:
Larry Martin
William (Bill) Miller
Lon Pardun
Wendy Ward

HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES

The Marine Community Library and River Radio are hosting two forums for candidates seeking Marine city offices.

City Council Candidates
Tuesday Oct. 6 - 7 p.m.

Mayoral Candidates
Tuesday Oct. 13 - 7 p.m.

Each event will be conducted over Zoom. Links can be found at the marinecommunitylibrary.org or the marineonstcroix.org.

Questions submitted by members of the public will be discussed by the candidates. River Radio co-hosts Jim Maher and Gayle Knutson will moderate the event.

COMPOST SITE WILL CLOSE FOR THE SEASON

The city-operated compost site will close **Saturday, October 31** or earlier if it snows.



City Council Recap

Downtown Roadwork

Village Center Revitalization Has Begun



Street improvements in downtown Marine began September 30. Check the city's website for the most up-to-date information: marineonstcroix.org/projects.

Phase 1 – Fall 2020

Phase 1 includes a first lift of pavement and sidewalks on Parker, and parts of Judd and Linden.

September 24 - Sign installation.

September 28 - Erosion control (silt fences, etc.).

September 30 - Roadwork begins, including removal of trees and brush near Parker Street to prepare the site for water features.

Sept 30 - Oct 1 - Work will begin on a lift station upgrade at Maple and 3rd Street (behind the General Store).

November 30 - The contractor hopes to finish Phase 1 by the end of November, dependent on weather and other variable factors.

Project Details

This revitalization project includes upgrades to asphalt, storm sewer, and the arch culvert through which the Mill Stream runs under Judd Street. Runoff from Highway 95 will flow through a retaining pond. (Read more about this part of the project on page 11.)

The city council awarded a bid for roadwork September 10 to Dresel Contracting of Chisago City. Dresel was the lowest of six bidders, coming in at approximately \$1.213 million. The total project cost is \$1.6 million, with more than \$1 million paid for by grants.

Enchanted Forest will Return

The city council has given the OK to host an Enchanted Forest in Gazebo Park for a third winter. Evergreen trees will be decorated as a kick-off to the holiday season. This year, the decorations will come down after Christmas but the trees will stay up until spring thaw, or as long as they stay green.

Ask Your Council Liaison

The city council has requested that citizen committees channel any requests for work or research by city staff through their council liaison.

Oakland Cemetery Addition

The City of Marine is in the early phases of starting work on a new addition to Oakland Cemetery. The addition will not be directly adjacent to the existing site, but northwest along Broadway, near the public works building. This fall the city plans to cut buckthorn and brush at the site, and will start plotting and platting next spring.

City Upgrading Septic

The city is upgrading the main pump in the city-owned septic system to increase efficiency and expand capacity.

COUNCIL ESTABLISHES PRIORITIES FOR CARES ACT FUNDING

The City of Marine was able to secure approximately \$53,000 in federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funding.

The city council has decided to use the funding for the following projects:

- installing a well to serve the public works building for cleaning and hand washing;
- technology upgrades to the Village Hall to facilitate remote meetings,
- upgrades to the ventilation and air conditioning system at the hall;
- installation of ionizers in the school HVAC system.

THINKING OF LISTING YOUR HOUSE ON AIRBNB OR VRBO?

Apply for a Permit Beginning in November

Rentals through online platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO are now regulated by a permit process in Marine.

At the August 13, 2020, city council meeting, the council approved a short-term rental ordinance limiting the number of rental properties allowed in each zoning district, number of

rental days allowed per property, maximum number of guests, and other details. The rules are designed to limit impacts on neighbors and the village as a whole.

Marine Mills
Folk School Update
**Folk School
Classes
Move Online**

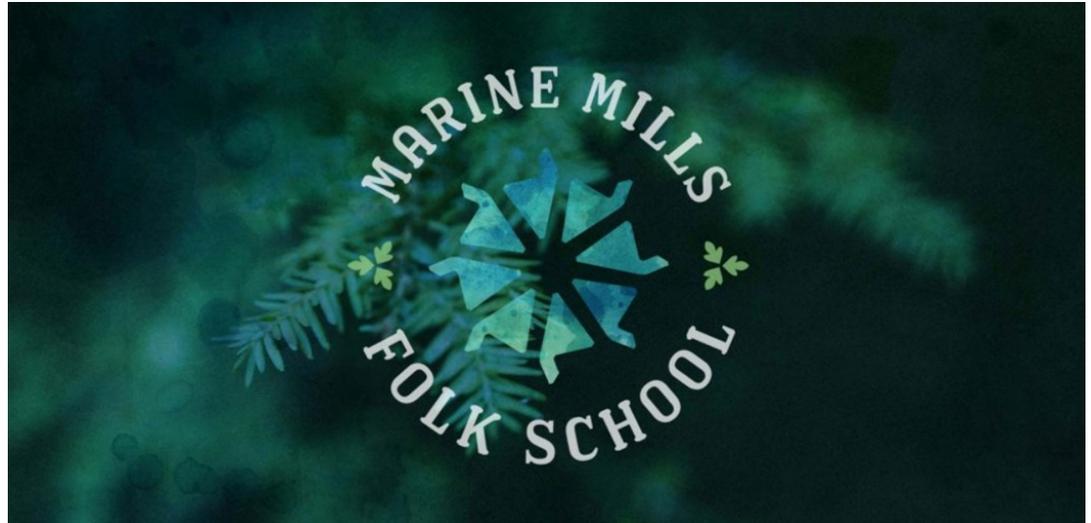
We miss everyone!

New: Online Classes available from Marine Mills Folk School!

We remain closed for in-person classes but are offering fun and informative arts and crafts online classes from your favorite instructors.

We're also continuing to host socially distant Saturday morning walks. We're working to stay connected and help keep up our collective spirits – we are in this together.

To sign up for our weekly newsletter or learn more our online classes, please visit our website, www.marinemillsfolkschool.org, our Facebook page, or email us at info@marinemillsfolkschool.org.



MARINE MILL

Marine Mill Site Update

New Trees and More Visitors

Summer 2020 at the Historic Marine Mill Site has been amazing — the trees our community planted 10 years ago have grown impressively and are starting to feel like a young forest! Volunteers have removed many protective cages and donated them to other reforestation projects in the village.

Volunteers also recently planted a half dozen new trees and shrubs as part of Olivia Nienaber's "Improving the Environment for Early-Migrating Birds" project. Thank you to Larry Whitaker, Peter Foster, Jim Schoeller,

David Stephens, and Anne Reich.

We anticipate that the increased number of visitors walking the Mill Site this summer will continue throughout the fall, as the site is a beautiful place to be with the changing season.

Our committee always welcomes new members. For more information, contact: Jim Schoeller (433-3440) or Anne Reich (433-1341).

Right: Volunteers Peter Foster and Jim Schoeller plant a hackberry tree.



Marine GreenStep Cities Update



Jeff Zylland / National Park Service

Explore the Dark Night Sky

Do you remember seeing the Milky Way as a child? That's a sight that 80% of Americans can no longer see because of night-time light pollution.

Marine GreenStep neighbors are getting together to learn about the benefits of a dark night and the harms done by excessive night-time lighting to insects, birds, bats, and even plant life.

In September, the group downloaded the phone app Loss of the Night (scistarter.org/loss-of-the-night), and learned how to use their phones to measure overall light.

If you would like to be part of this [family-friendly](#) citizen science activity, contact Mark Kraske at mbrkaske@gmail.com.

EV Charging in Marine on St. Croix?

The State of Minnesota is working to accelerate the shift from gas-fueled to electric vehicles. By 2025, 25% of urban delivery vans are expected to be electric; by 2030, 20% of *all* vehicles are expected to be EV. This will save an estimated \$1 billion in fuel costs and make a big dent in our state's carbon emissions.

Charging infrastructure is planned along

major transit corridors, but Highway 95 is not on the list. Fortunately, a level 2 EV charger can be installed affordably and it's something a community can do on its own. Red Wing and Hutchinson have already made the investment. Hackensack (pop. 313) and Grand Marais (pop. 1,351) are looking into it.

The benefits? Tourists who stop in a town

to charge stay an average of 50 minutes longer and area businesses generate 131 times more revenue than the cost incurred by providing free electricity. An EV charger keeps a town on the map for EV drivers.

See the Marine GreenStep website (<https://greenstepmarine.wixsite.com/website/programs>) to learn more.

Urban Forest Update

Enhancing Marine's Tree Canopy

Ash Trees

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first identified in Scandia in 2015. This year an EAB infestation was found in trees at Square Lake Park. It is highly likely that it is already in Marine on St. Croix.

Once a tree has been infested, it will die within five years if not treated. In order to keep a tree alive, treatment must continue every 2-3 years for the remainder of the tree's life.

The Forest Advisory Committee recently submitted to the City Council a 5-year plan for treatment, replacement and removal of significant ash trees within public areas of Marine. Thank you to residents who completed the ash tree survey.



Emerald Ash Borer

Bird-Friendly Tree Plantings

This year's municipal tree-planting efforts focused on trees that provide food and habitat for migratory birds. Olivia Nienaber's multi-community tree project brought trees and shrubs to Christ Lutheran Church and to the Marine Mill Park.

The Marine gravel bed project added 14 trees to the community – mountain and showy ash (not affected by EAB), thornless hawthorn, and maple trees. Gravel bed trees will be used to begin ash tree replacement and to fill in open spots on the public right of way. If you are interested in getting a tree in 2021 for an area in your yard immediately adjacent to a public roadway, contact the Forest Advisory Committee to have your name added to the list of sites for next year.

Marine Community Library

— Autumn 2020 —

While the physical library’s doors are closed for the time being, the library is active in the community offering curbside pick-up for book requests, online programming including River Radio, and some remodeling.

Curbside Pickup

The Marine Community Library is providing contactless Saturday curbside pickup and home delivery for patrons who request library materials by telephone or email. You can see the instructions for requesting books on the website: marinecommunitylibrary.org.



River Radio Returns

Marine Community Library is happy to present Season 2 of its popular River Radio program, starting Saturday, September 12th. This award-winning* news and information program provides insights about your community and your world.

This fall the show will be webcast live via Zoom at a new time, 9:00 a.m. every other Saturday morning. Show dates are: September 12 and 26, October 10 and 24, November 7 and 21, and December 5 and 19. In addition, River Radio will provide live, election night coverage on Tuesday, November 3rd, with local, state and national results and analysis. You can always listen to past episodes through the library website.

***Award for River Radio**

The Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF) gives out an award for the best Library fundraising, programming, or advocacy ideas. The Marine Community Library has won this

award for the second time! The honor, the Evy Nordley Award is MALF’s flagship prize. Its namesake, Evy Nordley, devoted decades to championing Friends of the Library as head of the Washington County Friends, a director of Friends of Libraries USA (now United for Libraries), and a founder of the Minnesota Association of Library Friends.

Online Programming

The Library kicked off its autumn program schedule September 17 with a preview of the U.S. Supreme Court session with John Tunheim, Chief U.S. District Judge, District of Minnesota. Then, September 30, Marine Community Library and River Radio partnered with Take Action Conserve Our Scandia to present an online Candidate Forum for Scandia mayoral and city council candidates. Next up are forums with Marine candidates.

Please go to the Marine Community Library webpage for links and further information.

Marine Candidate Forums

October 6, 7:00 pm

The Marine Community Library and River Radio are hosting two forums for candidates seeking Marine city offices. Each event will be conducted over Zoom. Questions submitted by members of the public will be discussed by the candidates.

October 13, 7:00 pm

The Marine Community Library and River Radio are hosting two forums for candidates seeking Marine city offices. Each event will be conducted over Zoom. Questions submitted by members of the public will be discussed by the candidates.



CITY OF MARINE COVID-19 UPDATE

September 10, 2020 - Issuing Officials: Charlie Anderson, Bill Miller, Dan Malmgren

Some of the following information is taken directly from other government sources.

Note that statewide data on Covid cases may be calculated by zip code. In those instances, counts are not representative of cases in Marine on St. Croix, as the 55047 zip code includes addresses in Scandia and May Township.

Local Response

The Village Hall is open to the public, with masks required inside. Residents can also use the drop box on the front of the hall, mail, email, and telephone to communicate with city employees. The city council is holding meetings in person with a remote-access option for residents. This has presented technical challenges and frustrations, but the city council, staff, and resident volunteers are continuing to improve systems. Improvements include rewiring for improved internet in the hall, and experimenting with different amplification systems. Remote access will continue to be available to citizens in order to allow for greater civic participation and awareness.

Signage has been placed in public rights-of-way to encourage compliance with social distancing and masking. Additional porta-potties and hand sanitizer have also been placed in the Village Center, Burriss Park, and the school playground property.

Local officials have been in regular contact with county and state agencies to ensure we are following best practices, implementing mandatory guidance, and proactively monitoring for compliance and reporting.

Privacy Statement: The City of Marine on Saint Croix respects Health Insurance Privacy (HIPAA), and will never ask, solicit, or knowingly expose information of any medical diagnosis of any citizen.

State & Local Guidance

Minnesota continues to reopen safely and to monitor accordingly. As we return to work, school, and activities we enjoy, we have a shared responsibility to look out for each other and save lives. Keeping businesses and other venues open will depend on all of us doing our part to stay six feet apart, wash our hands often, stay home when sick, and wear a mask. As we take cautious steps forward, it is more important than ever that we protect those most at risk, support workers, and all do our part to slow the spread of the virus. We continue to encourage the following behavior for citizens, businesses, and visitors to Marine on St Croix:

- Stay home except for essential needs.
- Keep 6 feet of space between yourself and others when going out in public.
- Wear a homemade mask or cloth face covering when in public to prevent your germs from infecting others.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Get tested when sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Mask Mandate

Facial coverings are required in public buildings, per [Executive Order 20-81](#).

How to Stay Safe in Social Settings

Social interaction is important for our mental health and well-being. We are at a point where people can start to gather in small groups. If you are hosting or attending a social gathering, follow these tips to help protect yourself and others:

- Keep indoor gatherings to 10 people or fewer.
- Keep outdoor gatherings to 25 people or fewer.

Whether you are indoors or outdoors

- People from different households should stay at least 6 feet apart.
- Set up seating areas ahead of time that allow for space between people.
- Wear a mask in all public indoor spaces and indoor businesses. Even in private social settings, wear a mask during times when you can't keep at least 6 feet between people who don't live in your household.
- Wear a mask when you arrive, when you leave, and if you have to move around among people.
- Try to minimize sharing items and equipment with people not in your household. If you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol once you are done.

- Remember: Stay home if you are sick and be sure to cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue.

Dining at Restaurants and Bars

- Sit or stand at least 6 feet from people from other households.
- Make a reservation at the restaurant. Reservations are required right now so restaurants can manage the number of people there at one time.
- Make sure tables are spaced out to allow for at least 6 feet of space between people from different households. Some restaurants may use room or table dividers as an extra level of protection.
- Wear a mask while at a restaurant. This means wearing one when you enter, leave, and while interacting with people outside of your household, such as giving your order to a server. You can remove your face covering while eating and drinking.
- Avoid sharing dishes, cups, or utensils with people from other households.

While Shopping

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others while shopping and in lines.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when you have to go out in public. This includes when waiting outside to enter the public indoor space or business. Some outdoor stores may require masks as well. Check for signs.
- When you do have to go in person, go during hours when fewer people will be there (for example, early morning or late night), if possible.
- If you are at higher risk for severe illness, find out if the store has special hours for people at higher risk. If they do, try to shop during those hours. People at higher risk for severe illness include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical

conditions.

- Disinfect the shopping cart, use disinfecting wipes if available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- If possible, use touchless payment (pay without touching money, a card, or a keypad). If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer right after paying.

Industry Guidance

Industry guidance for all of the following can be found at <https://staysafe.mn.gov>

Restaurants & Bars • Personal Care Businesses & Salons
• Places of Worship • Guidance for All Businesses

Important Links

StaySafeMN

<https://staysafe.mn.gov>

Frequently Asked Questions

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/faq.jsp>

Washington County Covid-19 Overview

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/3168/COVID-19>

For Washington County Businesses

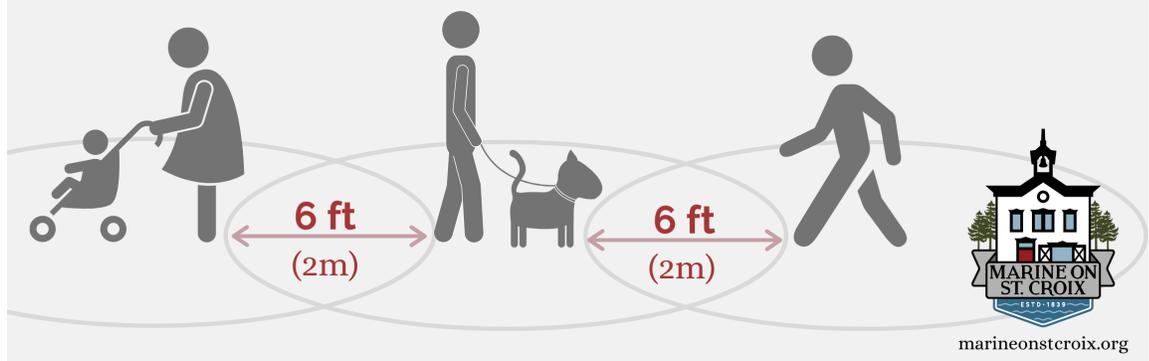
<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/Covid19businessresources>

Washington County Community Resources

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/Covid19CommunityResources>

For the health and safety of you and others please

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE



WINTER TRAIL GUIDE

Enjoy Marine's public trails — and make sure your neighbors can too

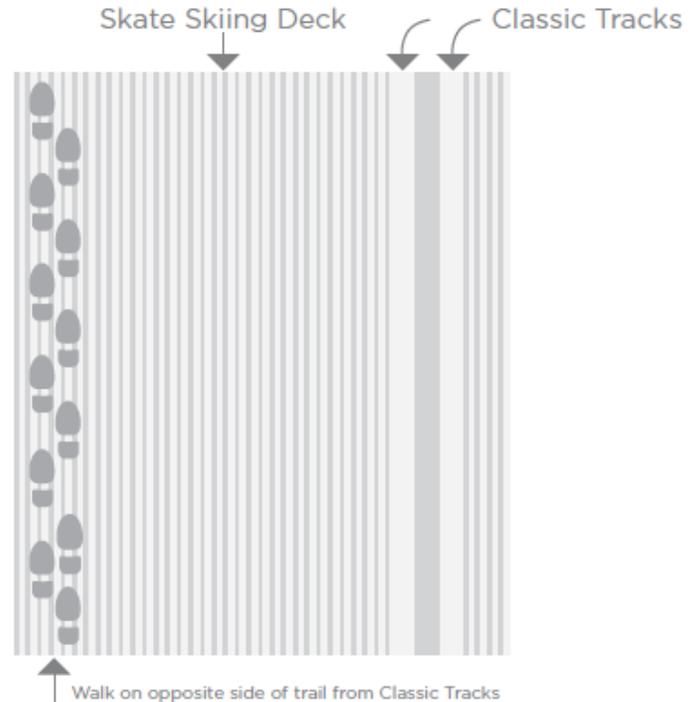
Trail Use: General Guidelines

- No motorized traffic. Motorized wheelchairs are OK.
- Keep right so others can pass.
- If you are on the trail with a dog, keep your pet on a leash and do not leave poo on the trail.
- Obey traffic signs and rules.
- Pick up garbage and litter.
- Respect adjoining landowners' rights and privacy
- Stay on designated trails; do not take shortcuts.
- Do not disturb the plants or animals.

Jackson Meadow Ski Trail Etiquette

During the winter months many city-owned trails are used for cross country skiing. Volunteers from Jackson Meadow groom some of these trails and walkers are asked to try and avoid the groomed ski trails.

- The city encourages hikers in Jackson Meadow to stay on the multi-use trail (see map on page 5).
- On the multi-use trail, walk on the opposite side of the classic skiing tracks (see graphic, right).
- If you are sinking more than an inch into the ski trail, please find an ungroomed trail to hike until the snow is firm. This is most likely to occur after new snow or fresh grooming.

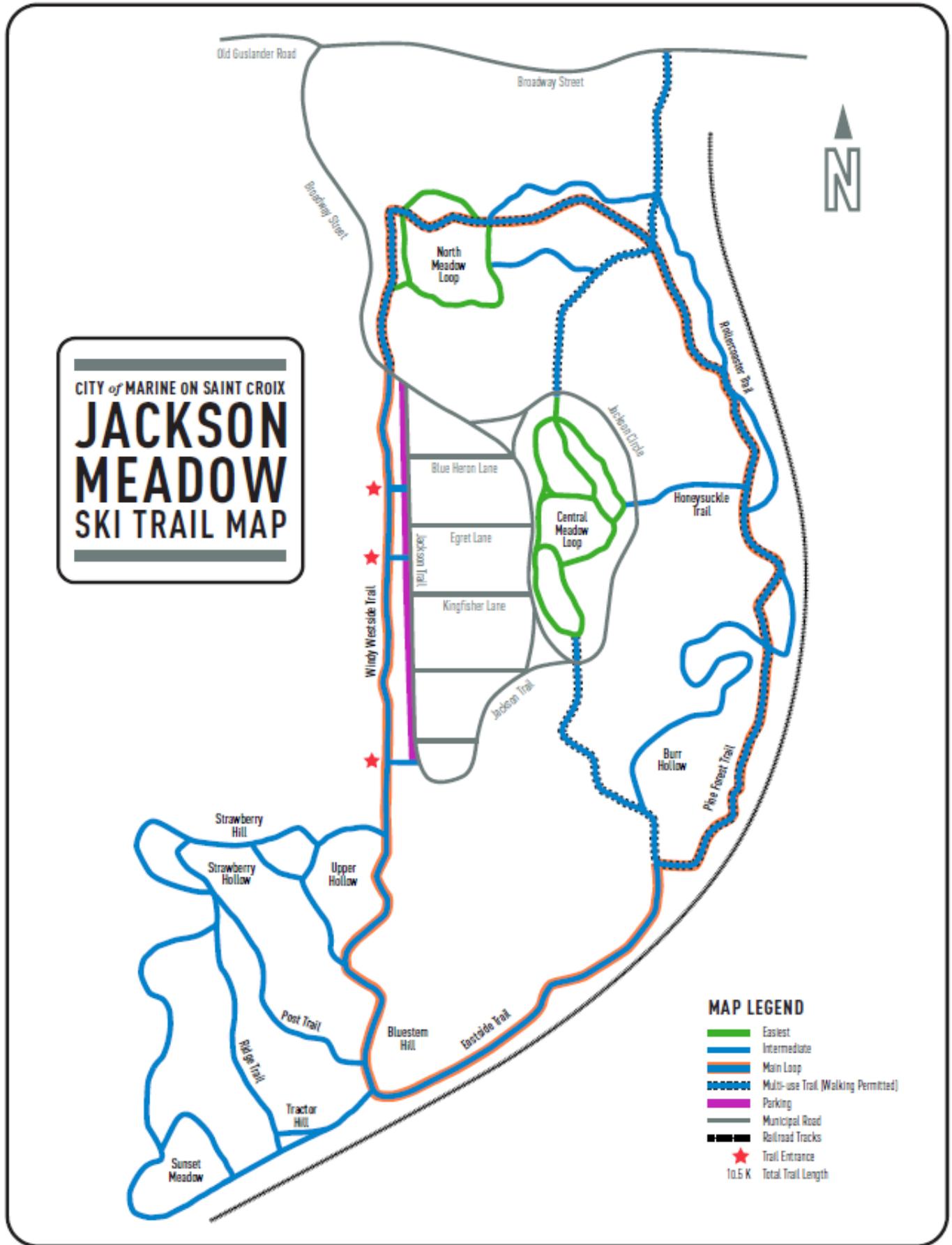


- Whether hiking or skiing, if temperatures are warm and the trails are soft, please stay off groomed trails altogether. When the snow refreezes boot or ski tracks freeze and make grooming difficult.

If you would like a better understanding of what goes into maintaining the ski trails, call Andy Powell at 612-743-8780 and ride along for some laps on the groomer.



Remember to clean up after your dog, and throw the bags in the trash.



2020 HUNTING SEASON UNDERWAY

Within Marine’s city limits, permits are required for anyone hunting with a firearm. These permits are available at the City office during regular business hours.

Property owners interested in allowing bow hunters on their property to hunt deer should contact the city office.

If you have questions regarding hunting regulations or need to report any suspicious or illegal activity, contact Conservation Officer Scott Arntzen at 763-413-4881.

It is against the City Code to discharge a firearm within the limits of the City of Marine on St. Croix without a permit signed by the Mayor. These are approved for the purpose of hunting only. (Chapter 9, Section 1).

Hunting Season Reminders

- Be aware while walking trails, parks.
- Wear bright orange clothing.

Bow Hunting September 19- December 31 **Shotgun** November 7- 15 **Muzzle Loading** November 28- December 13



City’s Website Gets a User-Friendly Upgrade

The City of Marine has a new website designed to help residents and visitors find what they’re looking for with ease. City staff are working with Councilman Charlie Anderson on final tweaks to the design and content. Visit marineonstcroix.org to see it.

THERE’S STILL TIME TO TAKE THE CENSUS

The data that will be collected by the 2020 Census are critical for states, counties, and communities.

This data will shape political representation, funding of government programs, the flow of business and commerce, and the planning and delivery of services to local communities.

Fill out the 2020 Census today at my2020census.gov.





BIG IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER QUALITY STARTING THIS FALL

Be on the lookout for water quality improvements starting this fall. The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) will be working to stabilize and restore the headwaters of Marine Landing Creek and partnering with the City to revitalize the downtown area with new stormwater quality practices to reduce pollutants flowing to Mill Stream and the St. Croix River.

Ravine Stabilization

The Ravine Stabilization and Restoration Project addresses stormwater runoff from Highway 95 that caused a large ravine. The project includes filling the ravine created by Highway 95 runoff and restoring native perennial plants, trees, and shrubs. Earth work, seeding, and erosion con-

The Ravine Stabilization Project addresses stormwater runoff from Highway 95 that caused a large ravine.

trol for the ravine project will be completed in October of 2020.

The District will be coordinating with the Washington Conservation District and volunteers in the summer of 2021 to install plantings. Watershed Steward Leslie McKenzie is assisting by coordinating a volunteer planting for the Marine Ravine in late spring or early summer in 2021.

Village Center Revitalization

The Marine Village Center Revitalization Project also addresses stormwater runoff from Highway 95. The design includes directionally boring under Highway 95 to intercept stormwater pipes discharging directly into Mill Stream.

The stormwater will be redirected into two large bioretention basins (raingardens) that will infiltrate and filtrate the stormwater prior to reaching Mill Stream. Two additional bioretention basins will also capture and treat water prior to discharging to the St. Croix River.

Grading and shaping of all four basins and installation of stormwater piping will be completed fall/early winter. Specialized work to complete bioretention basin construction, native seeding, and permanent stabilization is planned for 2022.



How do you recycle?

Share your thoughts in the survey.



Help Washington County provide the information you need to recycle better by completing this online survey: bit.ly/3457FWB.

SHORT TERM RENTALS:

Application Period Begins November 1

FROM PAGE 2

Those who wish to offer their property for short-term rental will be required to apply for an operating license. Applications will be available November 1 for property owners who wish to run a short-term rental in 2021.

The Council will approve or deny license requests at the December 10th meeting. After December 10th, any homeowner operating an STR without an approved license will be in violation of the ordinance.

In the upcoming weeks, the City Council will be working on establishing a license fee, along with an application form and corresponding documents.

Once these are complete, they will be available to the public through the City website (marineonstcroix.org) or by contacting the City office. See the back of this newsletter for contact information.

We're on the web
www.marineonstcroix.org

**2020 CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF
OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY - THURSDAY 8:00AM-4:30PM FRIDAY 8:00AM - 12:00PM**

City Council

Mayor Glen Mills 433-5879
Lon Pardun 433-2130
Bill Miller 433-5354
Charlie Anderson 651-592-9449
Gwen Roden 651-433-2908

Council meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

City Staff

Lynette Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer
Suzanne Dammann, Assistant Clerk
Jason Crotty, Public Works 651-675-6493
Tom Boesel, Public Works
Maintenance Shop 651-433-5492

Planning Commission

Chairman Gerry Mrosla
Ron Brenner Kristina Smitten
Scott Spisak Anna Hagstrom
Jennifer Henry Ed Sanderson

*Meetings are last Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.*

**Get the newsletter
via email:**



If you are interested in
receiving the newsletter
electronically, email Assistant City Clerk
Suzanne Dammann: asstclerk@cityofmarine.org
The newsletter is also available online:
www.marineonstcroix.org