

City of Amery

Arts, Parks, and Recreation Committee

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84, Notice is hereby given to the public that a meeting of the **Arts, Parks, and Recreation Committee** of the City of Amery will be held on: **March 5, 2026 @ 4pm at Amery City Hall 104 Maple St W, Amery, WI 54001**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda



Agenda Items

1. **Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2026**
2. **Public Works Update**
3. **Story Walk Update**
4. **South Twin Park Playground Update**
5. **Volunteer Program Discussion and Event Preparation**

Respectfully Submitted;

Taylor Larson
City Clerk-Treasurer

**Posted: March 2, 2026 on the city website (www.amerywi.gov); and at Amery City Hall, Amery Public Library, and the Amery Police Department.

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

NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Amery will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Clerk-Treasurer's office at (715) 268-3410 by Noon the previous day so that arrangements can be made.

ARTS, PARKS, & RECREATION COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS
February 12, 2026

The Amery Arts, Parks, and Rec. Committee met on February 12, 2026, at the Amery City Center. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Present: Members Colleen Adams, Eric Elkin, and Evelyn Braaten

Others Present: City Administrator Alex Mansfield, Clerk-Treasurer Taylor Larson, Library Director Heather Wiarda, Adult Services Librarian Jake Wyrzykowski, Youth Services Librarian Emma Novak, and Parks Supervisor Kyle Schultz

Motion by Elkin; seconded by Braaten to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ayes – 3

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

1. **Approval of Minutes from December 4, 2025** – The committee reviewed the minutes.

Motion by Braaten; seconded by Elkin to approve the minutes as presented.

Ayes – 3

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

2. **Public Works Update** – Parks Supervisor Kyle Schultz updated the committee on tasks that are being completed in the parks while they are closed for the winter like bench repairs.
3. **South Twin Park Playground Design Discussion** – City Administrator Mansfield presented the two playground options that were provided to the public for a preference survey. Option 2 with things like a playhouse, swings and musical instruments was the favor in the online and in person poll. The committee discussed and the consensus was that Mansfield should reach back out to the company to pursue Option 2 with the addition of a bench. The playground will be constructed in two phases.
4. **Library Story Walk Discussion** – Heather Wiarda, Emma Novak and Jake Wyrzykowski were present from the Amery Area Public Library to discuss a proposed Story Walk. The walk would run along a trail and have 16 viewing points to read a book as you walk. It was presented to the committee that the preferred location for the story walk would be along the Stower Trail or in York Park. The committee discussed and the consensus was the Story Walk should be pursued along the Stower Trail if possible with an alternative location being York Park if the Stower Trail isn't possible.
5. **Parks Promotion Day Discussion** – City Administrator Mansfield and the committee discussed the proposed event. The event is slated for May 9th and there will be an informational day about the event in April. The City will promote the event through various platforms and share the event with service organizations.

Motion by Braaten; seconded by Elkin to adjourn at 5:08pm.

Ayes – 3

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Larson
Clerk-Treasurer
February 19, 2026

104 Maple Street W., Suite A
Amery, WI 54001



Office: 715.268.7486

Fax: 715.268.4870

TO: Arts, Park, and Recreation Committee

FROM: Alex Mansfield, City Administrator

DATE: 2/24/2026

RE: Story Walk Update

Summary: Following our last discussion on this item, the City has heard back from Polk County Parks and Recreation Department regarding use of the trail for the story walk. Polk County is in the midst of renegotiating their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wisconsin DNR regarding maintenance and use of the trail. The negotiation is expected to be completed by May 2026. The County's response was warm to the idea of the story walk and its feasibility on the Trail.

Leading up to the completion of the Polk County/DNR MOU, City staff will do a walkthrough of both the Stower Trail and York Park trails and determine which site we would prefer prior to engaging with the County formally.



TO: Arts, Park, and Recreation Committee

FROM: Alex Mansfield, City Administrator

DATE: 2/24/2026

RE: Proposal for City Parks Community Clean-Up and Revitalization Day

Background:

Our city parks and riverfront are the crown jewels of our community, yet several areas require immediate attention to maintain safety, accessibility, and aesthetic appeal. Based on a recent site assessment, the following high-priority tasks have been identified:

- **Structural Maintenance:** Painting of old buildings and white boundary posts at North Park and North Twin Park; staining of the Bobber Michael and South Twin fishing piers, and the river access deck at the Dam.
- **Trail & Park Access:** Extensive brush clearing at North Twin Park and along the York Park trail system to ensure safe passage for hikers.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** A comprehensive litter and debris removal project along the Apple River, stretching from Birch St. to the Dam.

To execute these tasks, we estimate a need for **35–43 volunteers** organized into specialized "Work Crews." This volunteer model allows the city to tackle a large volume of deferred maintenance in a single high-impact day.

1. The Painting & Staining Crews

- Why: Wood rot is an expensive fix. Protecting the fishing piers and the Dam deck is the highest value-add for the city's long-term budget.
- Action: If we have fewer than 15 volunteers, the entire group will focus on the Bobber Michael Pier, South Twin Pier, and the Dam rails.

Focus: Aesthetics and preservation.

Task	Volunteers	Specific Equipment Needed
Old Buildings (North Park)	4–6	2-gallon buckets of exterior paint, 4" brushes, 9" rollers/covers, extension poles, painter's tape, scrapers, wire brushes.
White Posts (Both Parks)	4	1-gallon "handy buckets," 2.5" angled sash brushes (for detail), rags, sandpaper.
Fishing Piers (Bobber Michael & South Twin)	6 (3 per pier)	Deck stain (semi-transparent), deck brushes (stiff bristle), paint trays, floor rollers, drop cloths (to protect the water), stir sticks.
Rails & Deck (at the Dam)	3	Same as above, plus smaller detail brushes for railing spindles.

2. The Brush & Trail Crews

- Why: Overgrown trails become unusable and create safety hazards, as well as being unsightly.



- Action: Once staining crews are fully staffed, the next 10 volunteers will be assigned to North Twin Park and York Park Trails.

Focus: Trail access and park visibility.

Task	Volunteers	Specific Equipment Needed
Trail Brush (York Park)	6-8	Bypass loppers (for thick branches), hedge shears, hand saws, heavy-duty rakes, and high-quality work gloves, wheelbarrow
Brush Clearing (North Twin)	4-6	Same as above.

3. The River Cleanup Crew

Priority 3: Stewardship (River Cleanup)

- Why: While important, this is a task that can easily be rescheduled for a "Phase 2" or handled by smaller "Adopt-a-River" groups later.

Focus: Environmental health and litter removal.

Task	Volunteers	Specific Equipment Needed
Apple River (Birch St. to Dam)	8-10	Long-handled litter grabbers, heavy-duty trash bags (2-6 mil thickness), buckets (easier to carry than bags until full), and hip waders for a few brave souls.

Fiscal Impact:

The primary cost for this initiative is limited to materials and safety equipment. The preliminary budget estimate for supplies is categorized as follows:

Category	Estimated Cost
Paint & Stain (approx. 28 gallons total)	\$850 – \$1,400
Tools & Landscaping Gear (Loppers, saws, rakes)	\$350 – \$650
Application Supplies (Brushes, rollers, trays)	\$200 – \$350
Safety & Volunteer Support (Gloves, water, first aid)	\$340 – \$630
TOTAL ESTIMATED IMPACT	\$1,740 – \$3,030

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee endorse this project plan and recommend its implementation to the City Administrator/Common Council. This endorsement will allow staff to begin volunteer recruitment and procurement of supplies.

Friends of the Amery Parks

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Spring Clean-Up Day • Saturday, May 9, 2026

Our parks and riverfront are the crown jewels of our community. They need YOUR help to stay beautiful, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

What We're Doing

Three specialized work crews will tackle priority tasks across multiple parks and the Apple River:

- Painting & Staining — buildings, posts, fishing piers, dam deck
- Brush & Trail Clearing — North Park trails, North Twin Park
- River Cleanup — Apple River, Birch St. to the Dam

Event Details

 **Date:** Saturday, May 9, 2026

 **Locations:** North Park, North Twin Park, Bobber Michael & South Twin Piers, Apple River

 **Bring:** Work gloves, sturdy shoes, water bottle. Tools & safety gear provided.

 **Goal:** 35–43 volunteers needed

Ways to Volunteer

Event Volunteer

One day — great for families, students, groups

Park Steward

Ongoing ~2 hrs/week — weeding, watering, monitoring

Adopt-a-Park Partner

1-year commitment — for businesses & organizations

Ready to Sign Up?

Pick up a sign-up sheet and waiver at today's meeting, or contact City Hall to register.

City of Amery | 104 Maple Street W., Suite A | 715.268.7486

FRIENDS OF THE AMERY PARKS — VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Informational Meeting Agenda

Date: TBD | Time: TBD | Location: TBD

Time	Item
5 min	Welcome & Introductions — who we are and why we're here
10 min	Program Overview — vision, mission, and how the Friends of Amery Parks program works
10 min	Why Now? — park needs overview based on recent site assessment (CORP recommendations)
15 min	Spring Clean-Up Day, May 9th — event details, locations, what to expect
10 min	Work Crew Breakdown — Painting & Staining, Brush & Trail, and River Cleanup crews
5 min	Volunteer Roles — Event Volunteer, Park Steward, and Adopt-a-Park Partner
5 min	Sign-Up & Waiver Process — how to register and what forms are needed
10 min	Open Q&A — questions from attendees
—	Sign-Up & Refreshments

City of Amery | 104 Maple Street W., Suite A | 715.268.7486

Spring Clean-Up Day: Saturday, May 9, 2026

FRIENDS OF THE AMERY PARKS — VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

Spring Clean-Up Day • Saturday, May 9, 2026 • Amery, Wisconsin

#	Full Name	Phone Number	Email Address	Crew Preference*	Minor?
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

*Crew options: (P) Painting & Staining (B) Brush & Trail Clearing (R) River Cleanup (A) Any/No Preference

All volunteers must complete a Waiver and Release of Liability before participating. A guardian must sign for volunteers under age 18.

Contact: City of Amery | 104 Maple Street W., Suite A | 715.268.7486