



City of Neenah Arrowhead Park Master Plan Implementation Update

JANUARY 21, 2026

Arrowhead Park History

- 1950- US Army Corp of Engineers approval to construct new shoreline. City of Neenah formally established a shoreline (bulkhead) by ordinance.
- 1951- State of Wisconsin granted City of Neenah the marsh and submerged land for a “public purpose”. The City was issued a deed for the property.
- 1952- Wastewater Treatment Plant operational.
- 1952-1976 – Wastewater Solids Deposited South of Dike.
- 1957-1970 Bulkhead Dike Constructed.
- 1996- Minergy Facility Constructed.



Historical Site Photos



Arrowhead Park Long-Term Maintenance Requirements from WDNR

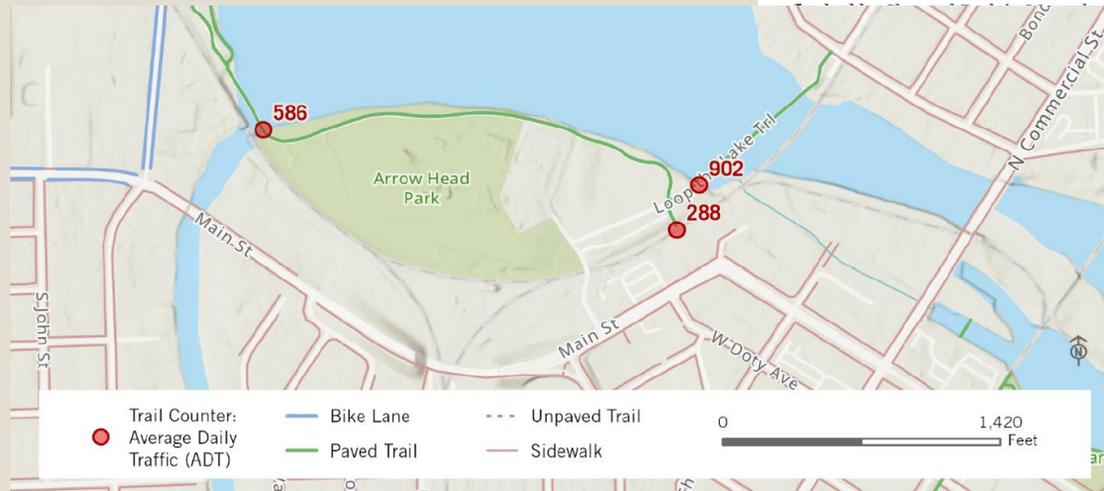
- Maintain Positive Drainage on Site
- Implement the Methane Migration Prevention Action Plan
- Ensure Dike is Structurally Sound
- Groundwater Well Monitoring
- Closed Landfill Responsibilities

Arrowhead Park Development

- 2008 – Herb and Dolly Smith Park and trestle construction.
- 2008-2012 – Parking Lot and Open Space Lawn Constructed
- 2014 – Trail constructed along shoreline.
- 2016 – Minergy facility demolished.
- 2018 – Loop the Little Lake trestle constructed – a 5k loop which connects three municipalities.
- 2023 – Nelson Family Pier constructed.
- 2025- Carriage road and parking constructed.



Public Trail Utilization:



Post Crescent.

WISCONSIN FAMILY

The results are in: See which Fox Cities trail our readers said is the most kid-friendly

Rebecca Loroff
Appleton Post-Crescent
Updated June 3, 2025, 8:54 a.m. CT

Last week, the Appleton Post-Crescent surveyed our readers, asking about the most family-friendly trail in the Fox Cities. While several parks and trails were nominated, we saw a clear favorite: the Trestle Trail in Menasha and Neenah.

The Trestle Trail includes a 1,600-foot bridge across Little Lake Butte des Morts and Fritse Park in Neenah. The trail is part of the Lake and the Friendship State Trail.

...re why this trail regularly makes area bucket list survey. Both parks have bathrooms, and you're crossing the trestle bridge itself, the Fox River Menasha Channel keeps the views scenic, our readers said. There's also plenty of shade and take in the view.

...ail, bring sun and wind protection and be prepared for the weather. There's one shaded pavilion on the trail itself,

Arrowhead Park Conceptual Master Plan

- ADOPTED 2024
- CHANGES TO PLAN WILL OCCUR. PLAN IS INTENDED TO BE A VISION.



ARROWHEAD
MASTER PLAN

City Vision and Goals

Vision: Arrowhead will be a renowned waterfront destination where people gather to celebrate, play, learn and explore!

Goals:

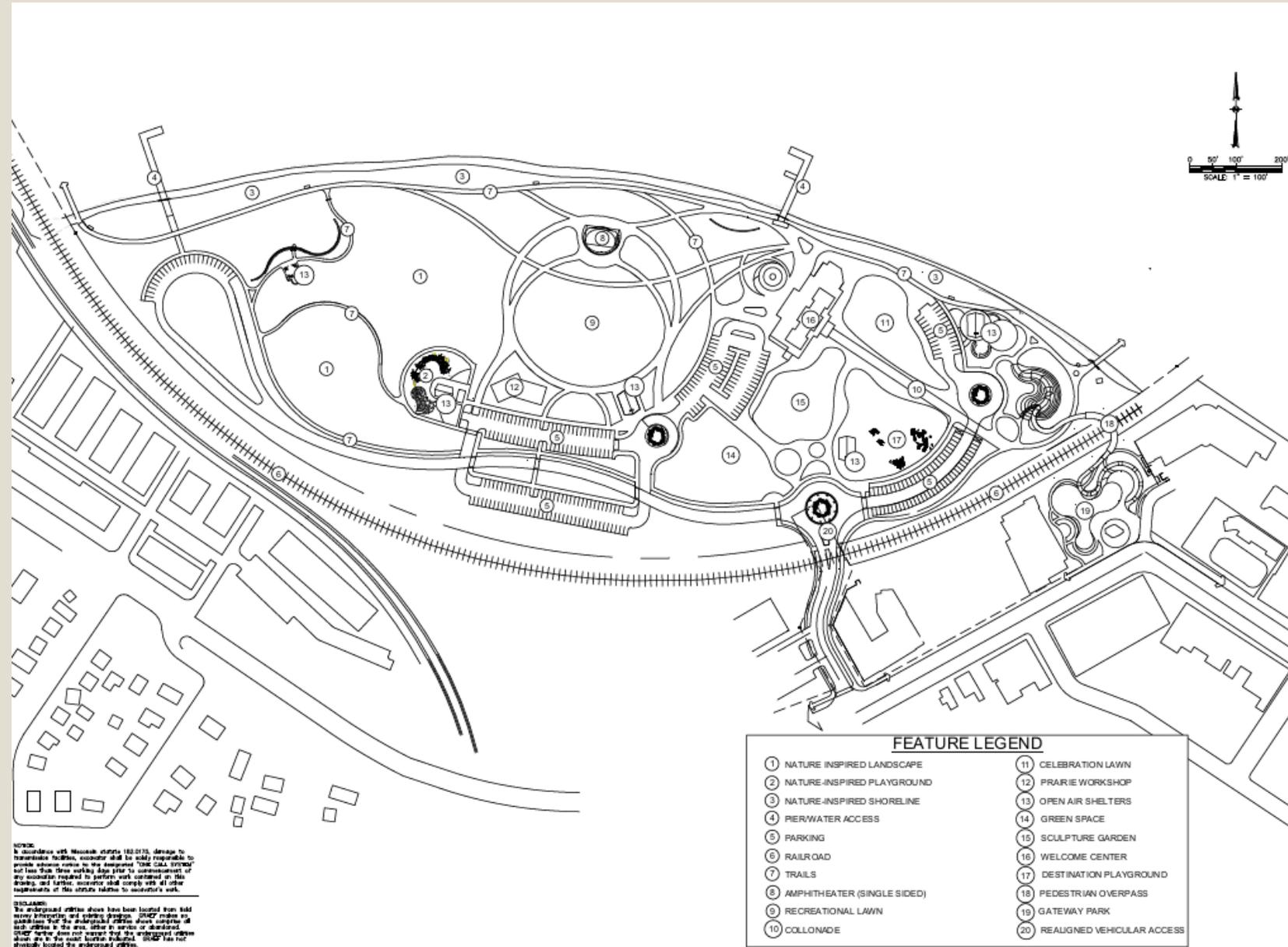
- ❖ Improve public access to water
- ❖ Enhance nature-inspired landscape
- ❖ Improve physical connections to Arrowhead Park and the Fox River
- ❖ Initiate year-round programming that helps people flourish

The City of Neenah's Vision for Arrowhead Park

Vision: Arrowhead will be a renowned waterfront destination where people gather to celebrate, play, learn and explore!



The City of Neenah's Vision



Plan
Implementation
Phases – All
Phases Require
WDNR Approval

WDNR Approval for Use

Utilities, Grading, and Infrastructure to
Support Park

Improve Park Access

Provide Park Amenities

Improvements to Enhance Park

Plan Implementation Process Complexities

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
(WDNR) APPROVALS
NEEDED

AND

EXPERTISE NEEDED TO
SUBMIT FOR APPROVALS

Engineer, Architect, Geotech, and Environmental Consultant

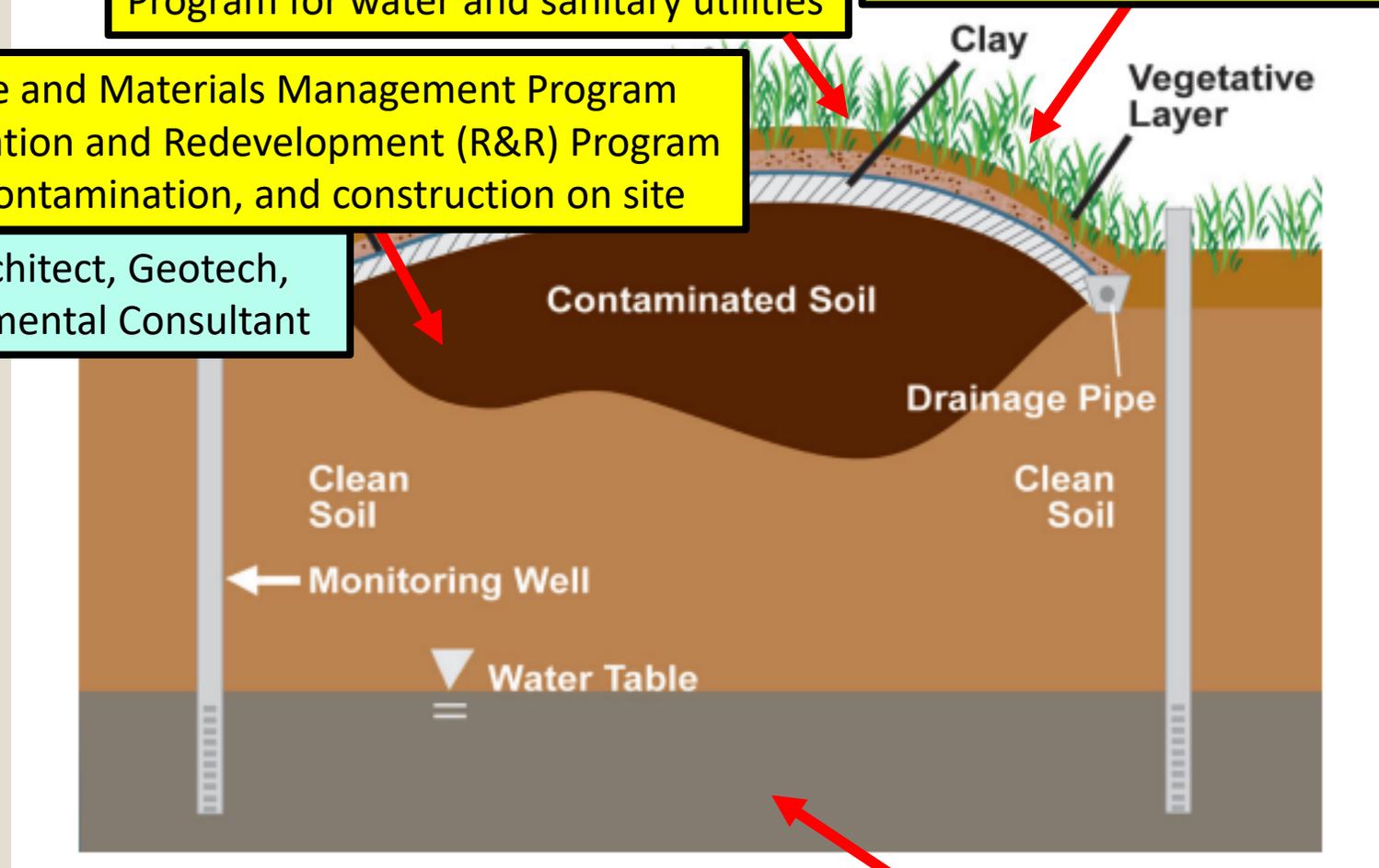
WDNR Water Program and Wastewater
Program for water and sanitary utilities

Engineer

WDNR Waterways Program
for stormwater

WDNR Waste and Materials Management Program
and Remediation and Redevelopment (R&R) Program
for landfill, contamination, and construction on site

Engineer, Architect, Geotech,
and Environmental Consultant

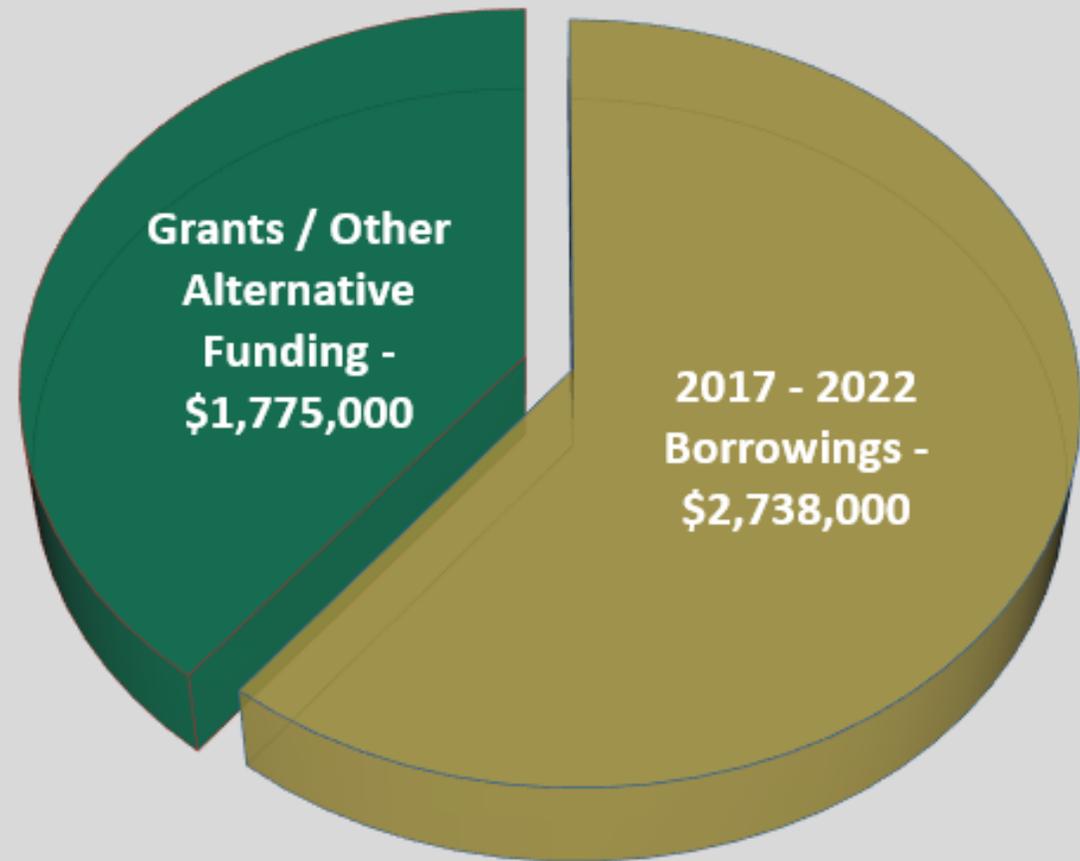


Outside Counsel

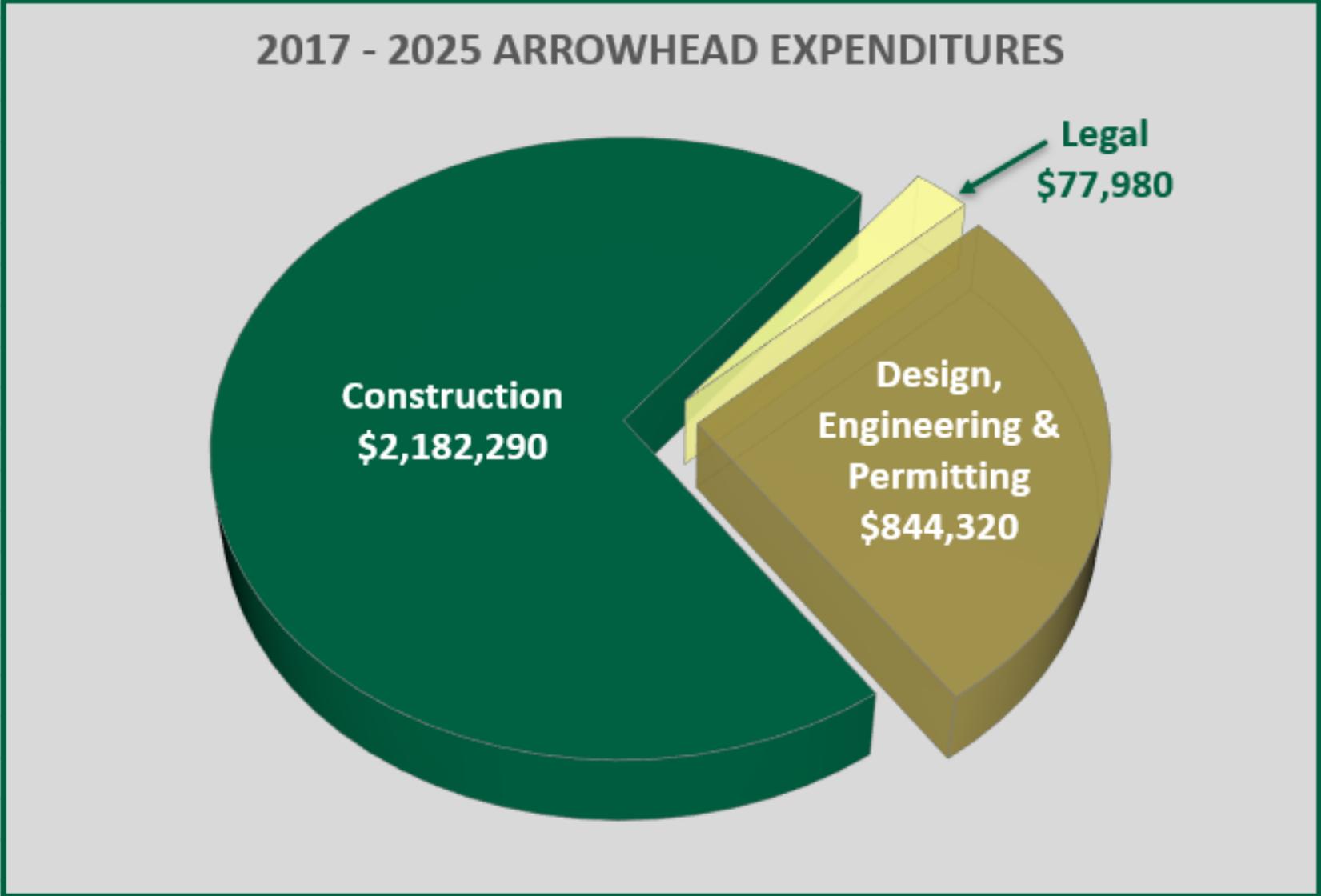
WDNR Waterways Program
for Use of property

Arrowhead Park Funding Sources 2017-2025

ARROWHEAD FUNDING SOURCES 2017 - 2025



Funds Spent on Maintaining and Development of Arrowhead Park 2017-2025



Funds Spent on Maintaining and Development of Arrowhead Park 2025

Current Fund Balance (less encumbered contracts): \$1.04M



Plan Implementation Process: What Was Completed in 2025?

- Submitted plans to WDNR for grading, utilities and minor improvements
- Met with WNDR staff multiple times to discuss the proposed uses on site
- WDNR ordered the city to develop a methane migration prevention action plan
- Internal access road and parking constructed
- Prairie constructed

Next Steps



Arrowhead Park Long-Term Maintenance Requirements from WDNR

- Maintain Positive Drainage on Site
- Implement the Methane Migration Prevention Action Plan
- Ensure Dike is Structurally Sound
- Groundwater Well Monitoring
- Closed Landfill Responsibilities

Plan Implementation Process in 2026: What's Next?

- WDNR to review submitted plans to WDNR for grading, utilities and minor improvements (up to 90 days)
- Submit a formal request to confirm the proposed uses on site meet the intent of the public trust doctrine
- Implement the methane migration prevention action plan
- Discuss next phase with council and parks commission after WDNR approvals obtained

Thank
You!

