

**School District of River Falls**  
**Joint School Board & River Falls Common Council Meeting**

October 28, 2024 - 6:00 PM  
River Falls High School Media Center  
818 Cemetery Road  
River Falls, WI 54022

Personnel Committee members: Stacy Johnson Myers (Chair), Alison Page, & Alan Tuchtenhagen

A quorum of the Board may be present for information-gathering purposes only.

Agendas can be viewed at <https://www.rfsd.k12.wi.us/district/school-board.cfm> or at  
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1447>

1. <b>Call to Order</b>	
2. <b>Manner of Public Notification of Meeting</b>	
3. <b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	
4. <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
5. <b><u>School District Updates</u></b>	
A. School District Strategic Plan	2
B. Referendum Project	16
C. School Safety	28
D. School Forest	30
6. <b><u>City Updates</u></b>	<b><u>52</u></b>
A. City Strategic Initiatives	
B. River Falls Fire Station	
C. River Falls Public Library Project	
D. Housing and Development Updates	
7. <b>Discuss Ideas for Future Discussion/Follow-up</b>	
8. <b>Adjournment</b>	



# Strategic Plan Monitoring

*Special Joint Meeting River Falls Common Council  
and River Falls School Board  
October 28, 2024*

## OUR MISSION

Inspire all students through challenging, meaningful, and engaging learning experiences, in a safe and collaborative environment.

## OUR VALUES

- STUDENTS FIRST
- PEOPLE MATTER
- EQUITY
- RESPECT
- INTEGRITY
- EXCELLENCE
- INNOVATION
- COMMUNICATION



### GOAL 1:

Hold High Expectations for Student Learning

### GOAL 2:

Provide a Safe, Welcoming, and Healthy School Environment

### GOAL 3:

Attract, Retain, and Develop High Quality Staff

### GOAL 4:

Provide Life Readiness Skills

### GOAL 5:

Uphold Operational Excellence

## OUR SCHOOLS



Greenwood  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Montessori  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Rocky Branch  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Westside  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Meyer  
MIDDLE SCHOOL



River Falls  
HIGH SCHOOL



Renaissance  
CHARTER ACADEMY



RF4C  
COMMUNITY-BASED 4K

Celebrating 2023-24





# High Expectations for Academic Growth

**Wisconsin Report Card**  
 Student achievement score ranks in top 16% of all WI school districts.

**Exceeds Expectations**

**RIVER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ACADEMICS**

- 165** course offerings
- 732** industry-wide certifications earned
- 34** students participated in CVTC academies or associate degree programs
- 3** student-run entrepreneurial businesses at RFHS
- 158** student registrations for Dual Academic Credit Program (DACP) UWRF credit
- 1,498** transcribed credits earned in 2022-23, saving families **\$214,888**

**READY!**

**CAREER COLLEGE LIFE**

Students learn in a variety of ways and they should be able to demonstrate readiness in a variety of ways. **Redefining Ready** is a national initiative that shares deeply researched metrics to appropriately assess that students are college, career, and life ready.

Our students reflect and assess their readiness throughout each year through ACP lessons.

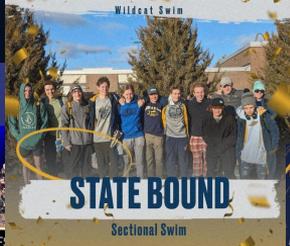


# Co-Curricular Accomplishments



## RIVER FALLS

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC





# Highly Trained Staff

- 10 retirees who served the district for a combined 271 years of service to River Falls School District
- 68 new staff members
- 23 staff members moving to new roles



▶ **500+**  
dedicated  
employees

▶ **271**  
certified staff

▶ **157** teachers  
& certified staff  
with MA or  
higher

▶ **90%** of our  
staff recommend  
our district for  
employment

▶ **64** staff with  
over 20 years of  
service in the  
district

# Continuous Growth in 2024-25





# Disciplined planning process

- **Discipline #1: Focus on the Wildly Important**
  - *Too many priorities, means no priorities.*
  - *Specific, measurable*
- **Discipline #2: Act on the Lead Measures**
  - *Predictive, Actionable*
  - *Within our circle of influence*
- **Discipline #3: Keep a Compelling Scoreboard**
  - *Shared widely*
  - *No blame or shame*
- **Discipline #4: Create a Cadence of Accountability**
  - *Regular, repeated, and predictable*
  - *Board, School/Department, Classroom*



Summarized based on the work of  
Sean Covey ([LINK](#))

# Focus on the Wildly Important



- Academic Growth → River Falls Learns
- Student Engagement → River Falls Connects
- Employee Satisfaction → River Falls Works

**Each school and department will create specific/targeted goals that are within their circle of influence.**

- Planning, resource allocation, in-service, and data collection.
- Focusing on what we can control and not getting frustrated about what we can't control.
- Accountability to students, staff, families, and the School Board.



# 2024-25 Strategic Plan Scorecard

## WHAT IS THE DISTRICT SCORECARD?

The School District of River Falls' District Scorecard serves as a tool to track the progress towards goals set by the 2022-27 Strategic Plan. The benchmarks reflect our high expectations for academic growth, student engagement, and employee satisfaction. Our intent is to meet or exceed these targets, but if we fall short, we are committed to identifying new lead measures that will drive change. This pursuit is ongoing and continuous.

## CRITICAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Critical Performance Indicators measure what matters most to our district. Our commitment to excellence in learning, working, and community connections is reflected in our rigorous benchmarks.

1.2-Identify and **monitor** academic readiness benchmarks.

3.4-**Monitor** and maintain regionally competitive salary and benefits for all staff.

- Commitment to academic growth of all students.
- Investment in college and career planning experiences.
- Strong systems of support and robust resources for every learner.



DISTRICT CRITICAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Target
100% of students in Grades K-5 will be proficient or exceed their yearly growth goal as measured by the reading screening assessment.				<b>100</b>
90% of our students at Meyer Middle School will be proficient (3.0) on priority standards measured on each of their end of course cumulative assessments.				<b>90</b>
100% of students at River Falls High School will achieve grade level reading comprehension expectations or achieve at least 10% growth each year as they progress towards reading mastery.				<b>100</b>
80% Special Education students will show above average growth (Student Growth Percentile of > 65) on Universal Reading Screeners from Fall to Spring.				<b>80</b>
The district's composite score on the state report card will rank 2nd or better when compared to regionally or demographically comparable school districts.*	Released 11/24			<b>2nd</b>
The district's achievement score on the state report card will rank 2nd or better when compared to regionally or demographically comparable school districts.*	Released 11/24			<b>2nd</b>
Overall ACT Composite will increase to 22.0 for 11th Grade Students.	Released 11/24			<b>22.0</b>
80% of students taking an AP Exam will earn a 3 or better.	Released 11/24			<b>80</b>

\*Hudson, Menomonie, New Richmond, Monona Grove, West De Pere, and Pulaski

# River Falls WORKS



- Supportive collaborative teaching culture focused on student learning and high quality teaching practices.
- Mentoring and coach support for all staff.
- Regionally competitive salary and benefits package.
- Dedicated to a strong district and building culture and climate.



DISTRICT CRITICAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Target
Employee retention rate will increase from 79% to 90%.	Released 10/24			<b>90</b>
Staff member job satisfaction, as measured on the Job Satisfaction: Staff Feedback Survey composite will increase from 67.25% to 75%.	67.25			<b>75</b>
Employee salary ranking will be 2nd or better when compared to regionally & demographically comparable school districts.*	5th			<b>2nd</b>
Staff feedback on effective training/professional development, as measured on the Job Satisfaction: Staff Feedback Survey will increase from 63.5% to 85%.	63.25			<b>85</b>
Capital referendum projects will be completed aligned to plan, within budget, on schedule, and with consistent, transparent communication to stakeholders.				<b>100</b>
Authentic collaboration will occur on scheduled collaboration dates within all K-12 buildings.				<b>85</b>

*\*Hudson, Menomonie, New Richmond, Monona Grove, West De Pere, and Pulaski*

# River Falls CONNECTS



- Connected and supportive community.
- Transparent and open communication.
- College and technical college connections.



District Critical Performance Indicator	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Target
The percentage of students who are identified as chronically absent** will decrease from 8.32% to 3%.	8.32			<b>3</b>
82% of River Falls High School Students will participate in at least one co-curricular activity.	76			<b>82</b>
Parent connections feedback survey will increase from 83.4% to 90%.	83.4			<b>90</b>
The percentage of students completing at least one dual enrollment course will increase from 59.4% to 70%.	59.4			<b>70</b>
District website accessibility will be updated so that 100% of users have access to online programs, services, and activities.				<b>100</b>
Increase overall Community Education satisfaction scores by 10%.				<b>10</b>

\*\*For the purpose of this scorecard, chronically absent is defined as absent for more than 10% of school days. All absences, except medical, are considered.

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## SCHOOL BOARD MONITORING CALENDAR

	JUL	AUG/SEP	SEP	OCT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>TOPIC</b>	School Board	Personnel, Ed Pro, Finance & Facilities	School Board	School Board	Personnel	School Board	Ed Pro
<b>MTG</b>	Strategic Plan Scorecard Draft, Supt Entry Plan	2024-25 Committee Goals	Final Strategic Plan Scorecard & Monitoring Calendar	Elem WIG Report, Supt 90-Day Report	Staff Retention Report	MS/HS, SPED WIG Report	State Assessment Report
	JAN	FEB	FEB	MAR	APR	JUN	JUN
<b>TOPIC</b>	Finance & Facilities	Personnel	School Board	School Board	Personnel	School Board	Planning Retreat
<b>MTG</b>	Budget Forecast & Facility Planning	Salary Comparability Report	Elem WIG Report, Supt 180-Day Report	MS/HS, SPED WIG Report	2025-26 Staffing Plan	Final WIG Reports	Updated Strategic Plan Scorecard Draft, Stakeholder Feedback & Data Analysis

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# Referendum Projects Update

*Special Joint Meeting River Falls Common Council  
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## QUESTION 1: OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

The operational question seeks voter approval to increase our revenue limit authority by \$1M (2024-25), \$2M (2025-26), \$3M (2026-27), capped at \$3M recurring (2027-beyond) for operational expenses (including to maintain programs and services, to hire and retain staff, purchase instructional materials/supplies, etc.).

## QUESTION 2: BOND (FACILITIES) REFERENDUM

The bond question will seek voter approval for **\$28M** total to include the following three main categories:



### SECURITY, SYSTEMS & GROUNDS

**\$20 million (approx.)**

Improvements would include surveillance camera and door security system advancements, heating/ventilation upgrades, air quality improvements, restroom remodels, boiler replacements, back-up electrical generators, fire suppression sprinklers, and tennis court and sidewalk improvements.



### TRANSPORTATION CENTER

**\$4 million (approx.)**

The district would build a new Transportation Center on the same location as the current one. The existing maintenance bay and office space will be used for storage. The new building would be constructed on a recently purchased lot adjoining our current transportation center.



### MULTIPURPOSE SPACE

**\$4 million (approx.)**

A new indoor multipurpose addition will be constructed at River Falls High School. This will provide flexible space for our wrestling program, youth athletics, physical education, speed and conditioning programs, marching band, community education, and co-curricular practice areas.





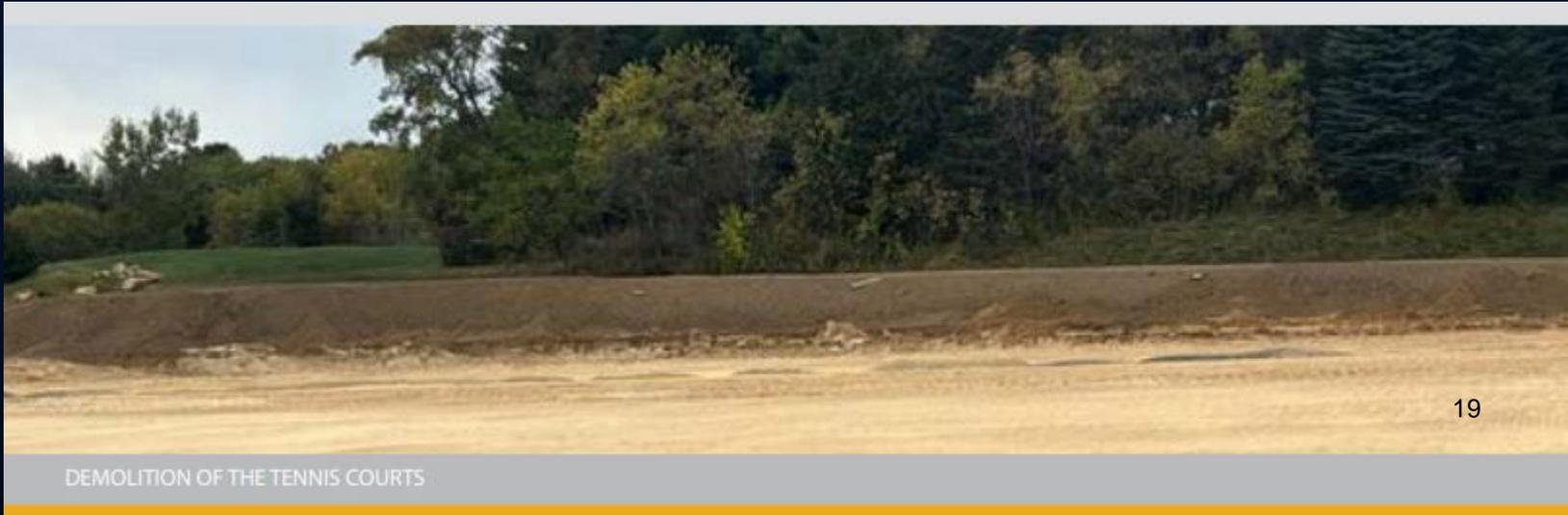


## WHAT'S NEW?

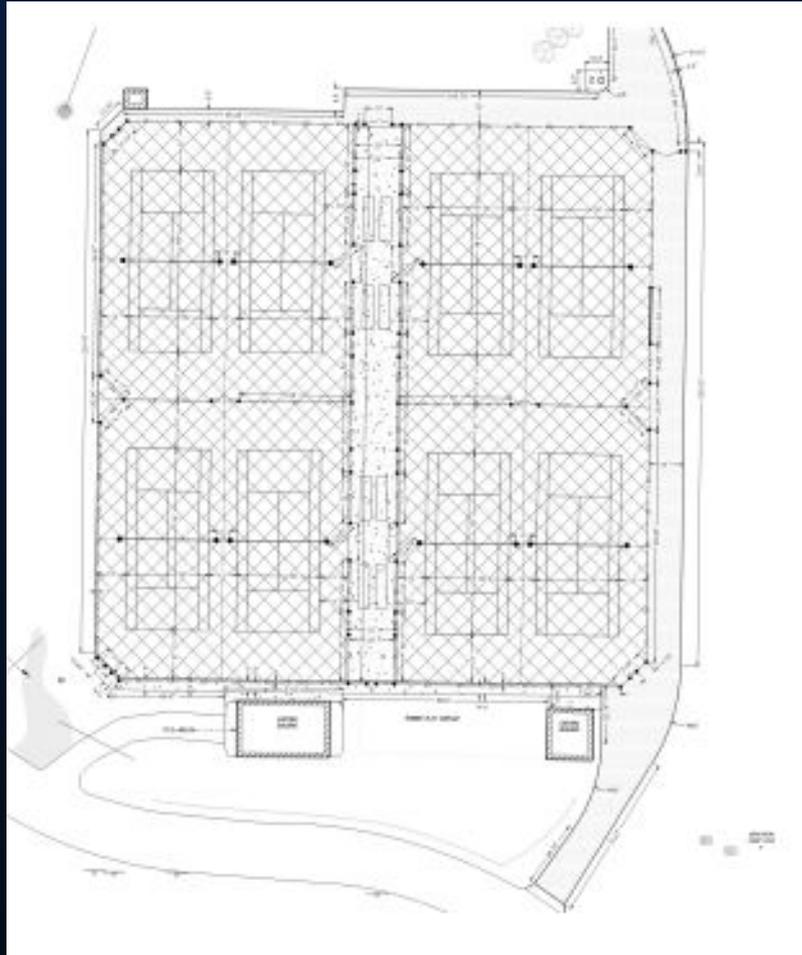
September was an exciting month, Kraus-Anderson and the construction team started the demolition of the tennis courts. Bray Architects focused on the exterior design of the Transportation Center and Multi-purpose room addition and presented this to the district with much enthusiasm. With most of the design work complete, Bray and their engineers have been focusing on building security, maintenance, and infrastructure improvements at all the schools.

### High School Tennis Courts

Kraus-Anderson and their construction team started the demolition of the existing tennis courts. The tennis court base layer will be installed this year to allow for any settlement over the winter. Next year the courts will be finished and ready for play.



DEMOLITION OF THE TENNIS COURTS





## PLANNING & DESIGN UPDATE

### Transportation Center

The design team has finalized the interior and exterior materials and finishes and presented them to the Core Planning Team. The civil engineers have been focusing on finalizing the site design including the pavement around the building for proper water drainage, and pedestrian and vehicle access to the building.



TRANSPORTATION CENTER



DEMOLITION AT NEW TRANSPORTATION CENTER SITE





# EXTERIOR RENDERING | NEW TRANSPORTATION CENTER

BACK





### High School Multipurpose Room

The design team has been collaborating with the Core Planning Team and athletic department on the use and layout of the multi-purpose indoor facility. Several meetings have been hosted to work through the turf flooring, training and weight room equipment layouts, and building access.



RIVER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - ENTRANCE



RIVER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL - MULTIPURPOSE ROOM RENDERING





### Meyer Middle School and Greenwood Elementary School

Over the past few months, Bray Architects, their engineers, building and grounds staff, Kraus-Anderson, and the Core Planning Team have been working together to determine the extents of the security, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure improvements. After visiting the schools to verify the existing conditions, the design team will document the improvements and work with Kraus-Anderson and the Core Planning Team to ensure this scope of work aligns with the referendum budget.



### Rocky Branch and Westside Elementary Schools

The layout of the new student bathroom has been finalized and will include the same plumbing fixtures and interior finishes as other recently renovated student bathrooms around the district. Similar to Meyer Middle School and Greenwood Elementary School, the team has also been focusing on safety, security, and building infrastructure improvements.





# Working with the City

- Combining Parcels
- Vacating Right of Way
- Building & Storm Water Permitting

# School District Safety

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October 28, 2024

# RFSD School Safety Overview



## Multifaceted Approach to Safety

- Physical Safety
- Emotional Safety
- Cyber safety



# School Forest Development

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## School District of River Falls SCHOOL FOREST TIMELINE



1

**1930/40'S**

RFSD acquires school forest land. Property is landlocked.

2

**1940-80**

Little official action was documented

3

**1980**

Access and use of School Forest land initiated

4

**1983-86**

Temporary access gained and School Forest improvement completed

9

**2009**

Negotiations started again for "land swap"

8

**2003**

Consolidation of land proposed to help gain access

7

**1992**

Property purchase fell through - no access to land

6

**1992**

Renewed efforts were made to gain access to land by purchase of adjacent property

5

**1986**

Temporary access to land ended

10

**2011-12**

Land swap made with help from KRLT, but land still inaccessible.

11

**2012**

New School Forest configuration put into conservation easement 70 acres

12

**2019**

SDRF and KRLT work to purchase property with access

13

**2020-21**

Purchase of KRLT Community Forest made and access to School Forest secured. Planning underway!

# Increased Access



# Increased Access



Entrance at County Road FF



# Increased Access



Straight Level Roadway from FF to the School Forest  
Cleared by Volunteers 2021-22 [ ½ Mile Long]

# Increased Access



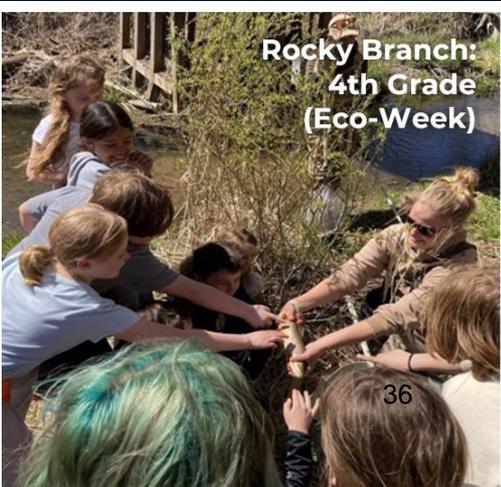
The Final Step! 1/10<sup>th</sup> Mile Road from “The 4 Corners” to the Meadow



Bus Turnaround near the building site; just completed in spring 2024



# Enhanced Educational Opportunities





# Enhanced Educational Opportunities

Westside:  
4th Grade



MMS:  
7 Blue





# Enhanced Educational Opportunities



Renaissance:  
Tree Planting





# Enhanced Educational Opportunities

Montessori:  
Upper Elementary



Greenwood:  
1st Grade





# Enhanced Educational Opportunities





# Enhanced Educational Opportunities



Autumn Candlelight Hike  
at the  
School Forest &  
The Community Forest  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH





# Enhanced Educational Opportunities

## Summary of FT taken in 23-24

- Fall 2023 - 5 Field Trips (321 Students)
- Spring 2024 - 10 Field Trips (571 students) - 2 trips canceled due to weather
- Fall 2024 - 5 Field Trips (556 Students)



# Enhanced Educational Opportunities

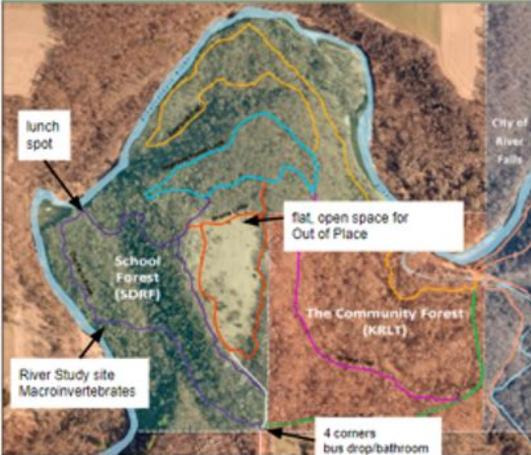
Examples of the activities that take place on the FT

- Kinni River Exploration, hiking, observation, journaling, math with nature objects, science experiments in nature, Scavenger Hunts, seed collection
- Art/Crafts: Nature bracelets, bookmarks, bird feeders, drawing, leaf rubs, chlorophyll drawing
- Team Building Activities, Pathfinders led several stations during field trips.
- Mental Health - Benefits of connecting with nature

# Enhanced Educational Opportunities

## Upper Elementary: River Falls School Forest

Schedule	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
9:30 am	Arrive, Orientation, Split into groups		
10:00-11:00	Out of Place (River Alive)	Aquatic macroinvertebrate (Trout Unlimited)	Sensory/ Nature Hike (Rivers Alive)
11:00-12:00	Sensory/Nature Hike	Out of Place	Aquatic Macroinvertebrates
12:00-12:30	Lunch		
12:30-1:30	Aquatic Macroinvertebrate	Sensory/Nature Hike	Out of Place
2:00 pm	wrap up and depart		



Map Key

- bus stop to prairie loop
- oak forest (.7 mile loop)
- prairie loop (.5 mile loop)
- old farm road loop

- Rivers Are Alive Educators:**
- Wild Rivers Conservancy
  - St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, NPS

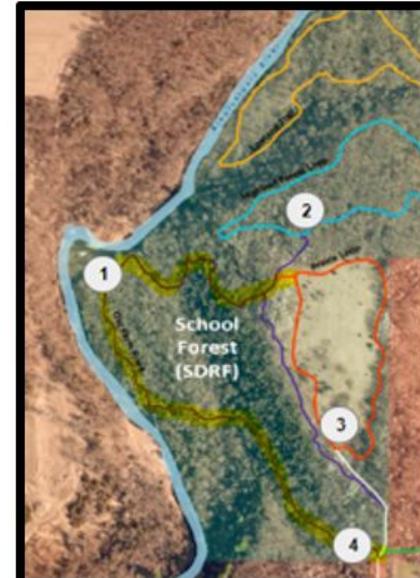
# Enhanced Educational Opportunities

## Middle School Curriculum Example

### Middle School Field Trip Outline: 2.5 Hour Trip

<b>Middle School</b> Staff: 6 / 4 Volunteers Time: 9:00 - 11:30am	105 Students 4 Groups / 26-27 students per group
---	---

Time	Kinni Study (1)	GeoCaching (2)	Character Building (3)	Hike (4)
9:00am	Transportation to School Forest from Meyer Middle School			
9:30 - 10:00	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
10:00 - 10:30	Group D	Group A	Group B	Group C
10:30 - 11:00	Group C	Group D	Group A	Group B
11:00 - 11:30	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group A
11:30am	Transportation from School Forest back to Middle School			



# School Forest Pavilion

- River Falls Rotary is providing the funding for the construction of a Pavilion, Concrete Pad, and related site work at the School Forest.
- 50 ft (L) x 20 ft (W) x 14 ft (H)-> Conservation Easement limits the size of the building.



# School Forest Pavilion



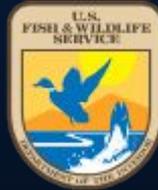
# School Forest Pavilion



# Prairie Trail Accessibility



# Strong Partnerships



University of Wisconsin  
Stevens Point



# Learn More!

- [School Forest Seasonal Updates](#)
- Contact: [schoolforest@rfsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:schoolforest@rfsd.k12.wi.us)



# **Special Joint Meeting River Falls Common Council & the School Board**

**6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Oct. 28, 2024**

*Media and Library, River Falls High School*

Scot Simpson, City Administrator  
City of River Falls

# Presentation Agenda

- I. City Strategic Initiatives**
- II. River Falls Fire Station**
- III. River Falls Public Library Project**
- IV. Housing and Development Updates**



# 2023-2025 Strategic Initiatives

- **Connected Community**
  - 2025 National Community Survey
  - Hydroelectric License
  - UWRF Science and Technology Center partnership
  - Kinni Corridor USACE
- **Economic Vitality**
  - Cooperative boundary agreement: Town of Clifton
  - Complete Phase 1 Mann Valley Corporate Park
  - Preliminary analysis and prep for Main Street Corridor Plan
- **Financial Sustainability**
  - 2024-2028 Fiscal Plan
  - Construct and begin operation of biosolids facility
- **Quality Municipal Services**
  - Complete Powell Avenue Bridge construction
  - Complete Wasson Lane urbanization
  - Fire Station Initial Design and Engineering

# Fire Station

## Fire Station Addition and Remodel

- New apparatus and operations support space
- Remodeled meeting, office and administrative support spaces in existing apparatus bay space
- Improved opportunities for on-site training and training room access for public
- \$1.4 million federal support (\$10 million project)



# Library Upgrades

- Anticipated improvements:
  - Library-wide renovations and equipment upgrades
  - Additional study rooms
  - Teen space
  - Meeting space enhancements
  - Technology Improvements
- Flexible Facilities Grant Award:  
\$4,000,000+

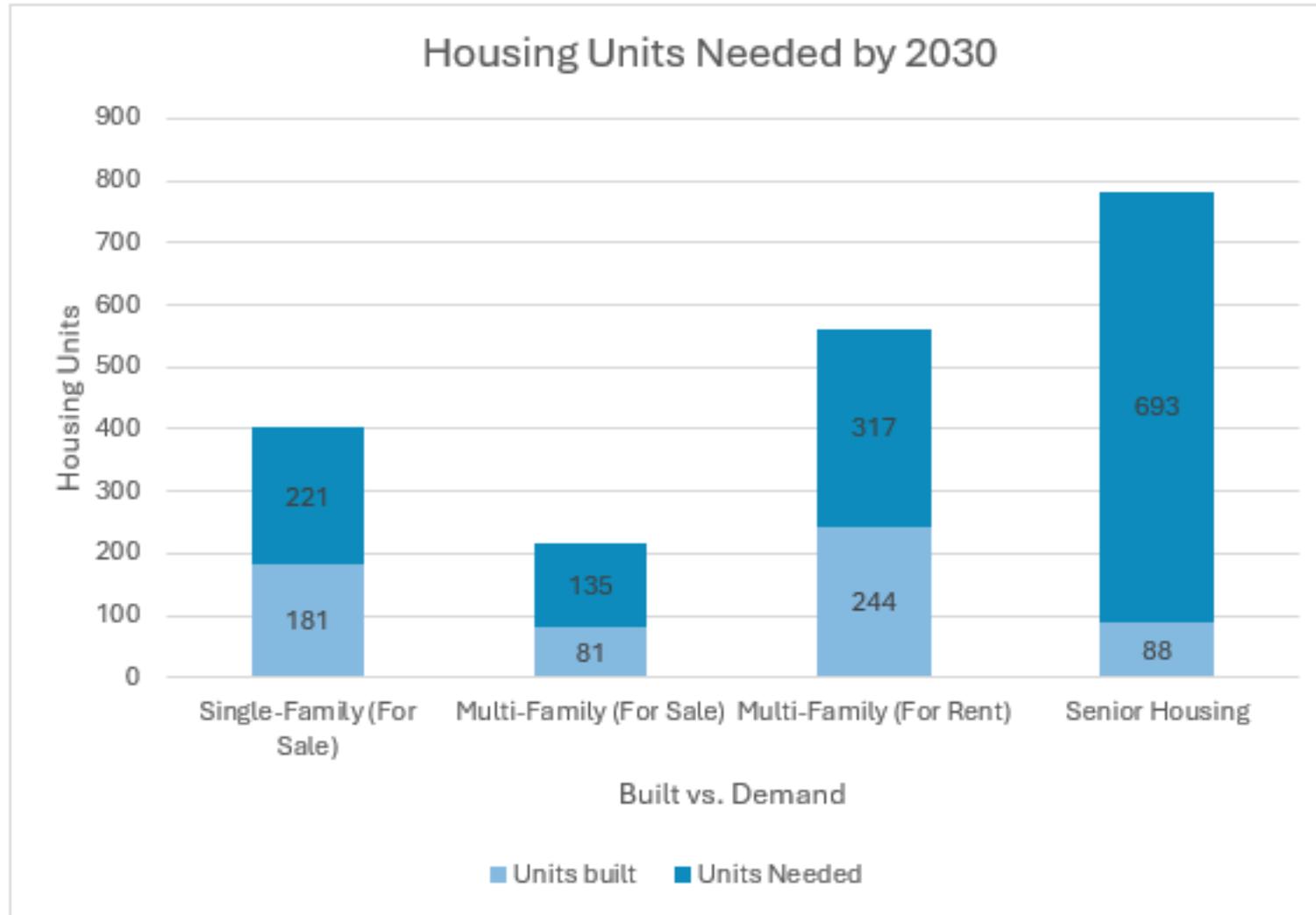


# Development Mann Valley Corporate Park

- Largest corporate park in the City
  - >200 acres for light industrial and manufacturing
  - 10 acres for residential development
  - Two miles of a multi-use path for residents
  - 63 acres for conservancy
- Grand Opening-October 17, 2024



# Housing





# Thank you!

**Scot Simpson**

*ssimpson@rfcity.org*

715-426-3402

