president of Ironbull adventure races, welcomes thousands of racers and their families to the area and takes active seniors on hiking trips through the park. In his many community roles — another being president of the Wausau and Marathon County Parks Foundation — he's especially interested in what draws people here.

"This area has so much potential. It's an incredible market for outdoor recreation," said Bertram.

The booming outdoor recreation business contributes \$7.8 billion to Wisconsin's GDP and supports 93,000 jobs, according to the state's Office of Outdoor Recreation.

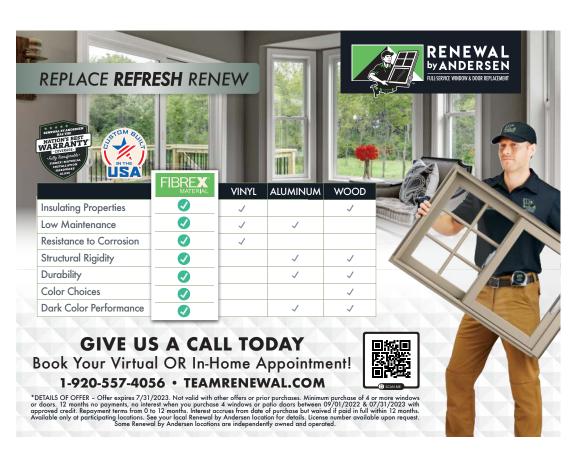
Bertram believes now is the time to act as the DNR considers changes to the 2005 Master Plan. He's 'all in for Alternative #4' because it realizes the full recreation potential for summer and winter activities at Rib Mountain

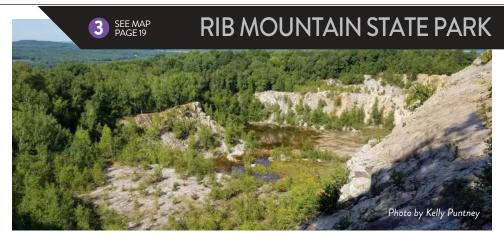


State Park with a \$71.1 million impact to the region's economy.

Jamie Polley is also on a mission to show

SEE OUTDOORS CONTINUED ON PAGE 11





With more than 13 miles of hiking trails (eight miles of which are accessible to people with disabilities), Rib Mountain State Park offers unmatched views of the surrounding area. Trails meander through wooded areas and often over and past geological formations. The Turkey Vulture trail leads to an abandoned quarry, pictured above.



The River's Edge Trail along the Wisconsin River in downtown Wausau connects many of the city's parks, from Oak Island on the south end of the trail to Winton Street on the north. Riverlife Park, pictured above, offers fun for all ages and is located near the point the trail leads under Bridge Street.

## **ALSO**

**ICE AGE TRAIL:** The Plover River Segment of this statewide trail can be found east of Wausau along Highway 52. The trail features some boardwalk through swampier areas.

**DELLS OF THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PARK:** Trails along a rocky gorge run along the north and south sides of the Eau Claire River, with bridges on both ends.

**RIVER BEND TRAIL:** A paved path in Merrill which follows the Wisconsin River for 2.5 miles. The trail includes historical markers, fishing opportunities and playground access.

Visit GREATERWAUSAU.ORG/EXPLORE/TRAILS/ to find more on hiking.

#### OUTDOORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

visitors that Marathon County is an Outdoor Recreation Mecca with 30,000 acres of county forest, 3,400 acres of parks and plenty of waterways.

"When someone comes here to visit, we want them to turn around and say, 'I could live here," said Polley.

It's what she said after living in Minnesota for 11 years. The D.C. Everest graduate returned here to raise her family in a strong community with tremendous outdoor assets. As the director of parks, recreation and forestry for the city and county, she's involved with exciting initiatives, including developing the Great Pinery Heritage Waterway and a countywide bike plan that links riders to more places like Rib Mountain State Park.

"The goal is to connect Rib Mountain to

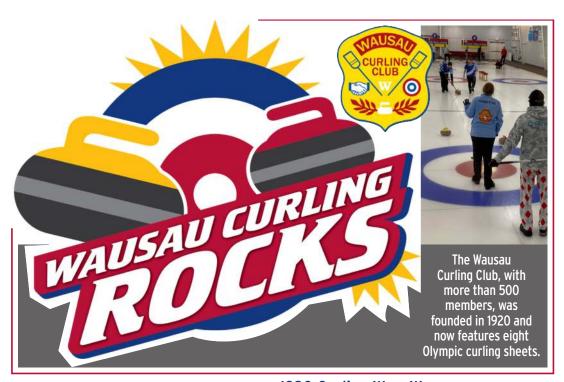
Nine Mile County Forest and Recreation Area. We'd also like to make sure that Rib Mountain State Park is connected to other local parks and trails," Polley said.

She also supports Alternative #4 to the DNR Master Plan.

"Increasing the use of the park in areas that make sense will increase visitors to the area and enhance our economy," said Polley.

By expanding features such as shared-use trails, family-oriented alpine ski runs and the base area at Granite Peak, visits could increase to 744,000 annually.

"With increased tourism, our economy will see greater tax revenue and personal income, improved standards of living and more employment opportunities," said Blake Opal-Wahoske, executive director of Wausau River District, Inc. "We are excited to see changes at Rib Mountain State Park!"



715-842-3614

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## ON THE WATER



Lake Wausau is more than 1,800 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 30 feet. Several public boat landings offer anglers an opportunity to try their luck catching musky, panfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, Northern pike and walleye. The lake plays host to water ski shows each summer and hundreds of paddlers.

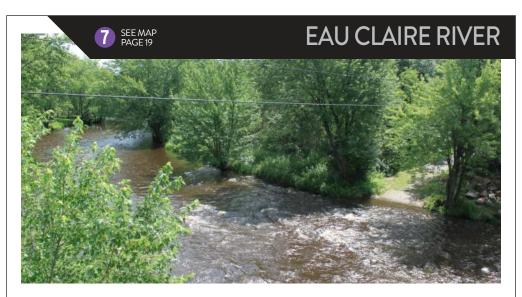


Packed with plenty of playable 'holes' for paddlers, the Wausau Whietwater course is open to kayaks and canoes during scheduled Rec Release events each summer. The course offers a uniquely graded experience, with more difficult features upstream and gradually simpler features downstream, ending near Oak Island Park in Wausau.

## **ALSO**

**LAKE DUBAY:** Straddling Portage and Marathon Counties, south of Wausau, this large lake offers a public beach, boat landings and plenty of fish varieties.

Visit GREATERWAUSAU.ORG/EXPLORE/WATERWAYS/ to lean more.



A stretch of the Eau Claire River from Weston to Schofield begins at an access point on near Babl Lane and offers paddlers boulder gardens and small rapids. More experienced paddlers can try the upper portion of the river which stretches towards Aniwa. With many maple trees along the river, a fall trip can be especially beautiful.

## **ALSO**

BIG EAU PLEINE RESERVOIR: Southwest of Wausau, this body of water offers great fishing and boating opportunities.



# **SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

There's plenty of fun to be had outdoors each summer in the Greater Wausau region. Here's a list of a few of the many recreational options:

Archery	Fishing	RC Flying
ATV Riding	Gardening	Running
Baseball/Softball	Geocaching	Shooting
Bird Watching	Golf	Skateboarding
Boating	Hiking	Soccer
Cycling	Horseback Riding	Strawberry Picking
Camping	Hunting	Swimming
Canoeing	Kayaking	Tennis
Dancing	Mini Golf	Volleyball
Disc and Mini Golf	Paintball	Water Skiing
Dog Park Fun	Pickleball	and much more!



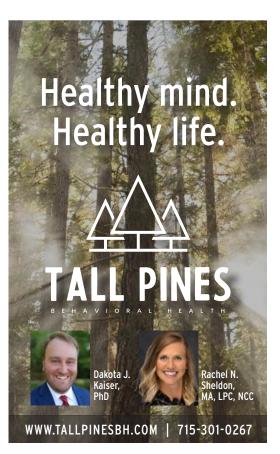
Children of any ability can play alongside their friends and families at JoJo's Jungle is a unique playground in Wausau. The park is nearly an acre in size and includes areas designed for three different age groups from infant to adolescent. All areas of the park are accessible by wheelchair.



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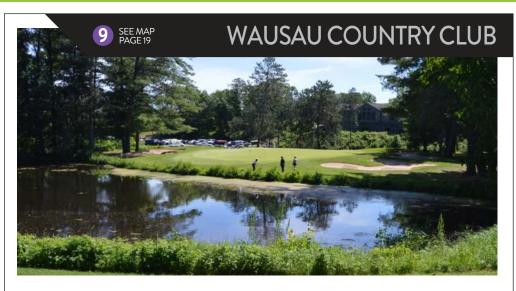
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# **GOLFING**



The Wausau Country Club is a private club which offers tree-lined fairways, views of Lake Wausau and Rib Mountain and a clubhouse with dining rooms, bars and meeting spaces. The Country Club is a historic institution in the area, established in 1899. The course is 6,348 yards and is a par 71 with four sets of tee boxes for all abilities.



Carved into the rolling hills east of Wausau, Greenwood HIlls Country Club offers a distance of 7,017 yards, which plays longer because of all terrain. The Club offers a practice range and short game area for players. Mulligans Lounge offers both casual and formal fare.

## **ALSO**

**RIB MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE:** Nine holes at the base of Granite Peak Ski Area. **TRIBUTE GOLF COURSE:** Wausau's first public golf course, located on the east side.

Visit GREATERWAUSAU.ORG/EXPLORE/GOLF-COURSES/ to find more on golf.