

# ROCKY BRANCH PARK

N8272 1015<sup>TH</sup> Street

## PARK DESCRIPTION:

Rocky Branch Park is a 13.7 acre Community Park kept in its natural state with the Rocky Branch Creek running through it. The Rocky Branch Creek is a year round, spring fed creek, designated an active trout stream as referenced by the Pierce County Outdoor Recreation Plan. The City of River Falls controls the Creek bottom on both ends of the Town park. The area is abundant with many species of wildlife: blue herons, pheasants, ducks, geese, deer and trout are commonly observed. The park is bordered by steep bluffs covered with many different varieties of trees on both sides and two active beaver dams.

Many volunteers have been instrumental in creating access to this natural wonder. A single track trail on the east bank of the creek is approximately one-half mile, extending through the Rock Branch Park to the Kinnickinnic River. An 8' wide natural trail branches off leading to a 28' clear span bridge. The bridge is located approximately ¼ mile from the Devon Lane entrance and can be accessed from both tail directions. There are two 8' natural trail loops on the east bank: The Creek loop to the right, leads you along the Creek and back to the bridge through grassy fields, it's about ¼ mile in length. Raspberry loop to the left leads along the creek through a large raspberry patch and back to the bridge through wood areas, it is about 3/8 of a mile in length. The park is open year round.

Development of the park and trails will be an on-going project. There are plans for developing, an entrance from the Birch Cliff sub-division down the West bluff to connect Birch Cliff Park to the Rocky Branch trails.

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES:

1. Hiking/ walking/jogging.
2. Check out the Beaver Dams.
3. Look for fingerling Trout.
4. Bird watching.

## WINTER ACTIVITIES:

1. Hiking/walking/jogging.
2. Cross Country skiing and snow shoeing.

## DIRECTIONS FROM DOWNTOWN RIVER FALLS

### Directions to East Trail

1. Best access is from the Devon Street cul-de-sac. Drive South on South Main Street. Turn right at Cemetery Road. Drive about ¼ mile turn left on Devon Road, continue about ¼ mile to a cul-de-sac and park your vehicle. Walk down the bluff on the paved path to the trail on right near Rocky Branch Creek.

### Directions to West Trail (still under construction)

1. Drive South on South Main which changes to HWY #29. Turn right (west) on County Road FF, continue on FF, ½ mile. Turn right (north) on 1015<sup>th</sup> Street or Birch Cliff Drive; continue for about ½ mile. Park entrance is on the right. Caution: Very steep bluff down to Rocky Branch Park.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- **Rocky Branch Park**—2009 thru 2013- Continue park/trail improvements and general bridge/trail maintenance. An entrance from the Birch Cliff Sub-division down the West bluff is proposed to connect Birch Cliff Park to the Rocky Branch trails.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Town of River Falls and the Park and Recreation Committee want to extend their appreciation to Rick Cleary, the River Falls High School Cross Country teams, and the many volunteers for their concerted efforts in creating the single track trails of Rocky Branch Park. Additionally we want to commend all the many volunteers who helped construct the bridge which links the east and west trails. Their efforts have provided access to this beautiful park possible.



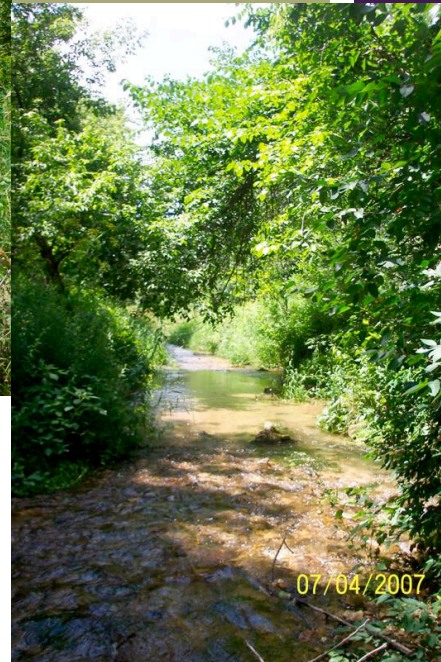
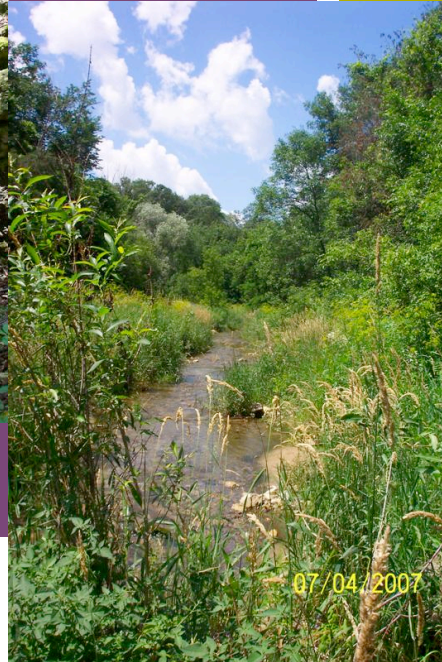
# Rocky Branch Park

# Bridge

# New bridge that crosses the Rocky Branch Creek



Beaver dams on the creek



# Trails, Streams