



## Wisconsin AD Shawn Eichorst shares unique NIL mindset, first-year goal

SPORTS, 1B

# WAUSAU DAILY HERALD

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# Hidden gems



"Elk Centaur," 2017, by François Lelong of Nedde, France appears to emerge from the edge of a pond in the Stevens Point Sculpture Park as seen on June 29. PHOTOS BY ERIK PFANTZ/STEVENS POINT JOURNAL

## Stevens Point Sculpture Park sparks visitors' imagination and wonder

**Erik Pfantz**  
Stevens Point Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

STEVENS POINT - If you desire to learn about and enjoy the culture of Portage County, a couple of hours at the Stevens Point Sculpture Park is a good place to start.

The 20-acre park near the northwest corner of the city of Stevens Point saw its first five sculptures built or placed in the park in April 2010 and it now hosts over four dozen displays that dazzle and delight visitors with wonky constructions, ethereal creatures and natural materials warped by human hands and creativity.

It is a fitting "Hidden Gem" for the summer recreation series my fellow USA TODAY NETWORK reporters in central Wisconsin and I are writing.

### My experience and recommendations

When I visited the park in the midst of a moist heat wave in late June, I felt a bit of regret for not spraying at least a dash of bug spray across my legs, neck and torso before venturing into the shaded woods that characterize most of the park's terrain.

Visitors are welcome to the park

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"TNIOP (that's Point spelled backwards)," 2014, by Roger M. Skrzeczkoski Sr. welcomes visitors near the park's entry and is made of old city snowblower parts, a downtown tree grate, and a police car in the Stevens Point Sculpture Park as seen on June 30.

## EAST BRIDGE STREET Committee gives nod to mixed-use development

**Erik Pfantz**  
Wausau Daily Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

WAUSAU - Current and future residents of Wausau may soon see a new housing and commercial development along East Bridge Street.

The city's Economic Development Committee voted 4-1 on July 7 granting an exclusive, six-month planning agreement to Madison-based developer Eminent Domain Corporation for 1.13 total acres of city-owned property at 1501, 1502, 1505, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1514 N. Second St. and 201 E. Bridge St.

District 3 alderperson Terry Kilian voted not citing concerns about the housing market and possible development incentives for the project.

Pending Council approval, the agreement would give both the city and the developer additional time to complete due diligence tasks and further evaluate the feasibility of the developer's proposal for the site, according to a memo dated July 7 from Patrick Gatterman, City of Wausau economic development manager.

### Madison-based developer's is only active proposal for property

The city's economic development department conducted two rounds of requests for interest for developers to submit project proposals for the site since July 1, 2025, before initiating an "open" request for interest for the properties, Randy Fifrick, City of Wausau development director, said in the June 2 Economic Development Committee meeting.

A developer who expressed interest during the first round of the city's request for interest withdrew their proposal and did not submit again and Eminent is the only proposal for the property the city has received since then, Fifrick said. Some feedback he received about the site was that it is too small and requires unique considerations for an existing utility easement and access from surrounding streets.

### What is the current proposal?

The initial proposal from Eminent consists of two buildings and a 40-stall surface-level parking lot. A three- or four-story building with a 16,600-square-foot footprint along the property's west boundary would contain 45-60 apartment units on the building's upper floors, while the first floor would contain 45 indoor parking stalls and space for amenities and services for residents such as a fitness center, community rooms and an on-site property manager, Julian Walters, Eminent Domain Corporation president, said in the June 2 meeting.

A second building near the property's southeast corner would contain 5,800 square feet of commercial or retail space, according to the proposed plan. The project would also implement bicycle and pedestrian improvements along what would become the former North Second Street

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