

WELCOME and VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.townofwheaton.com

Welcome to the Town of Wheaton newsletter for "Winter 2020". There are lots of things happening in our township. "Tornado 2019" and the decision by the Town Board to get out of the Chippewa Fire District and provide our own Volunteer Fire Department are just two of the things. From agricultural activities, expansion of existing and new businesses, construction on new residential lots, road improvements, Wheaton Park enhancements, operation of a top-notch recycling facility, and to a world class trout stream with improvements, the Town of Wheaton is progressing forward! A revised Comprehensive Plan is required in 2020 and will be the preliminary road map for the growth of our township into the future. Like all road maps, they are updated as needed, but give a general guidance to the direction the town residents want to go. Pressures for development along the County T corridor will continue and will be addressed by the board or will be lost to other entities that recognize its potential. Public utilities of water and sewer will quickly become topics that must be dealt with.

The "Community Survey Questionnaire" response rate was 50% for the Wheaton Comprehensive Plan questions. These results will be tabulated and available at the April/May 2020 public hearings. As those dates draw near, they will be posted on the Township of Wheaton web site and notices will be posted. As each Chapter becomes updated, they will be posted to the web site as well. (These will be DRAFTS.) You may find those by going to TOWNSHIP OF WHEATON, click on GOVERNMENT, click on COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, click on PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2020-2040. If you want to add feedback, click on DO YOU HAVE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FEEDBACK? Send an email to the Wheaton Planning Commission Chair. All feedback will be reviewed by all Wheaton Planning Commission members at their next meeting.

TORNADO

We will all remember where we were and what we were doing when it hit on September 24th. The cleanup is continuing. This being a late season storm, several areas are still in need of cleanup, but winter weather has gotten in the way. Many people will still need volunteers to help them in the spring when weather permits. Even with all the wonderful volunteers that showed up to help, debris remains an issue. Anyone still needing volunteer help should contact one of the Town Board members. The township has invested well over \$140,000 in the effort so far. The outpouring of support from volunteers from all over was humbling and greatly appreciated. The amount of dumpsters provided is astounding. The shredded wood pile in the park has to be removed. We will continue to support the recovery effort until it is complete. This will take time and patience.

The large pile of shredded branches and wood at the park has to be removed. Residents and others may have as much of the material in the pile as they want (until it is gone). You will be responsible for loading and hauling. Please do not damage surrounding grass areas. We will rebuild the gravel parking lot after the pile has been removed. All liability for the use of the shredded wood is the responsibility of the user, not the Town of Wheaton. We have not had anyone hurt during this recovery. Help to keep it that way. Slow, safe, and steady will finish the recovery in a successful manner.

The amount of support from businesses, schools, organizations, clubs, and individuals has been tremendous. We thank each and every one who helped with this recovery. The town will have a complete accounting of all expenditures, reimbursements, and donations as soon as possible. We anticipate this to be the spring of 2020.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

In September, the Town Board voted to leave the Chippewa Fire District organization and provide fire service through our own Volunteer Fire Department. EMS services will be provided by either the City of Eau Claire or the City of Chippewa Falls depending on which one is closer to the call. The official date for the change is January 1, 2021, per the agreements.

This was no sudden decision. It had been discussed for two years prior to this. Several previous board members are on record wanting to leave the Fire District. So a committee of “non-fire department town residents” was formed last spring and given the task of examining all pertinent information to recommend a path which the township should take. They were given free rein to obtain any and all information they needed to make an informed decision. This included financial records, interviews with officials of the District, and any other information they deemed necessary. The only caveat was that the final recommendation be completed by September 2019, because the township agreement with the District required notification to them by October 1, 2019 if the decision was to leave. If it was to stay, that gave the committee members, all of whom volunteered their time, a finalizing date.

The committee met 8 times between the formation of the committee and their final recommendation. They spent a lot of hours interviewing, researching, and discussing all the different scenarios, including many hours between meetings! The final recommendation by the committee was to form our own fire department. Discussions were conducted with surrounding fire departments for mutual aid. Agreements will be secured and the fire department will be ready and available for high quality emergency response on 01.01.21!

Wheaton started the fire district in 1978. We are now starting our new direction. The Wheaton Volunteers have already had several people join the department. We now have 18 volunteers on the roster. We would like to have 30 volunteers actively participating in this rewarding activity on the first day. Come join the group. Most calls are for things other than structure fires. Off road rescues, car crashes, snowmobile incidents, downed powerlines, searches, water incidents, and brush fires are just a few of the things dealt with. Medical first responding will be part of the new fire department, with transport ambulances and paramedics coming from Eau Claire or Chippewa Falls. Call any Town Board member for more information and sign up soon. We can get you trained before the starting date!

ROADS

The township, with 83 plus miles of road, has more roads to maintain than most rural townships in the state, and we are 100% paved. With the tight budgets prevalent for so many years, we are diligently pursuing means and methods of pavement and ditch maintenance to maximize the amount of improvements to the roadways for the available funds.

It has been a couple years since everyone was reminded that **Wisconsin Statute 346.94(5)** prohibits anyone from placing or causing to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle. Section 86.022 makes it a misdemeanor punishable by fine to place any obstruction in a road ditch which will impede drainage. All this to say, do not plow snow across the road. Ridges, ice, and other materials left by this action can cause accidents and is illegal. Piling snow in the right-of-way can damage snow plow wings and cause other damage. You are responsible for damages caused by these actions.

CLEAN GROUND WATER

We all want and need clean water. The township has begun discussion and fact finding measures to determine what steps can and should be taken to assure that our groundwater resource is safe and will remain safe in the future for use by the people. If the groundwater is contaminated, what, if anything, can we do to reverse that situation and how can we minimize the chances of future contaminants entering the water source. UW-Stevens Point has studied the groundwater conditions in Chippewa County for decades. Some areas have been found to have high nitrates or other contaminants. The Comprehensive Plan will address clean water issues. Attend the meetings!

You can contact Chippewa County Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management at the Court House in Chippewa Falls, WI. Go to Room 11 and ask for a Water Test Kit, fill out the form enclosed, and drop the box in the mail. Chippewa County will pay the \$19.00 for the Nitrate-Nitrogen test. It would be advisable to pay the additional \$19.00 for the Coliform Bacteria test.

There are several other private water testing companies. They will test only nitrates for free. All other testing will have to be paid for unless you buy their equipment.

Please see the TOWN OF WHEATON web site. Click on GOVERNMENT. Click GROUNDWATER INFORMATION. Listed there are links to "Groundwater Testing", "Town of Wheaton Nitrate Levels Map", and other "Resource Links" with regards to clean ground water.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Our township maintains a website at www.townofwheaton.com. We continue to add new information and features so please let us know what additional things you would like to see on the site. You can find the names and addresses of all the board and commission members there. Please visit our site and bookmark it for easy return! **We need your input.**

The Plan Commission term for each member is 3 years, from May 1 to April 30. Appointment to the commission is by the Town Chair, with board approval. Terms are staggered. Two members one year, two members the second year, and three members changed the third year, maintaining a consistency in the commission. If you are interested in an appointment to the Plan Commission, please contact any

Town Supervisor, Chair, or Clerk to add your name to the list. Meetings are normally once per month, on the first Tuesday, held at the Wheaton Fire Station meeting room, at 7:00 pm.

The Parks Commission term for each member is 7 years, from July to June. Appointment to the commission is by the Town Chair, with board approval. The terms are staggered each year, with one member's term expiring each year. If you are interested in an appointment to the Parks Commission, please contact any Town Supervisor or Chair to add your name to the list. Seven years is a long commitment. Some members may not be able to stay that long, which means appointments may be more often than once per year. **We value your input.**

ELECTIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Spring Election for the Town of Wheaton will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 starting at 7:00am, the following officers are to be elected:

A TOWN SUPERVISOR, for a term of two years to succeed the term of Bud Beckwith, which will expire on the 21st day of April, 2020.

A TOWN SUPERVISOR, for a term of two years to succeed the term of Alice Droske, which will expire on the 21st day of April, 2020.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2019, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Contact the Town Clerk for nomination papers, or obtain them from the following website:

<https://elections.wi.gov/forms/candidates>. You will need EL-169, Nomination Papers, EL-162 Declaration of Candidacy (properly notarized), filled out and returned. Check state statutes for requirements if there is financing of your campaign. A minimum of 20 and maximum of 100 qualified electors must sign the nomination papers with legible writing. Please read the instructions with that form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Hall Rental

The hall rental rate is \$100 per day, plus a refundable \$100 deposit. You are responsible for the cleanup and removal of garbage after your event. To schedule the rental of the Town Hall, please call Mary Eckwright at 715-874-5397. All cleanup must be complete by 8:00am the following day!

DOG LICENSE INFORMATION: (See Real Estate Tax info below for further info)

SPAYED OR NEUTERED DOGS - **\$8.00**

UNSPAYED OR UNNEUTERED DOGS - **\$13.00**

MULTIPLE DOGS - FOR UP TO 12 TAGS - **\$60.00**

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL TAGS FOR MULTIPLE DOGS AFTER 12 TAGS -**\$7.00** EACH

PROOF OF CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION IS REQUIRED. WITHOUT PROOF OF RABIES VACCINATION, LICENSE WILL NOT BE ISSUED. Proof will be returned

PENALTIES

A minimum late fee of \$25.00 shall be assessed the owner of each dog 5 months of age or over who fails to obtain a dog license by April 1st of each year, or within 30 days of acquiring ownership on or before the dog reached licensable age. The minimum late fee has been raised by municipal action, and includes payment of costs assessed by the Township for checking on the license. Any owner, who fails to have a dog vaccinated against rabies as required by statute, may be required to forfeit not less than \$50.00 or more than \$100.00.

ALL DOG OWNERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES REGARDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DOG OWNERSHIP

- (1.) Dogs more than 5 months of age shall be licensed by April 1 of each year or within 30 days of ownership of a dog 5 months of age, else a late fee of \$25.00 shall be imposed.
- (2.) Proof of rabies vaccination is required before a license will be issued.
- (3.) Dogs are not allowed to run at large. The dog must be kept on the owner's premises and under control of the owner or some other person.
- (4.) Dogs running at large are subject to impoundment.
- (5.) If the owner permits a dog to run at large, the owner shall forfeit not less than \$25.00 or more than \$100.00 for the first offense and not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00 for subsequent offenses.
- (6.) The dog owner can be held liable for a dog causing injury to a person, domestic animal or property. The penalties imposed can be from \$50.00 to \$500.00, depending on the circumstances. The penalties are in addition to any other liability imposed on the owner of the dog.

If you are a landowner and have tenants who are dog owners, please forward this information to them. Thank you.

Please send check, proof of vaccination, plus a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Laura Hayden, Town of Wheaton Treasurer
4975 County Highway T
Chippewa Falls WI 54729
715.874.5982

Make check payable to: **TOWN OF WHEATON TREASURER**

The Dog Catcher for the Township is **Roger Fagerland**. Contact him at **715-497-0804** or you can email him at wheaton.DogCatcher@gmail.com. **He deals with dogs**. If you have issues with other animals, please contact the Town Chair, any Town Supervisor or the Town Clerk for help. You can find everyone's name, phone and email on the Town Website.

REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION FOR 2019-2020 (NEW TOWN TREASURER)

As a friendly reminder, when you receive the Real Estate Tax statement, the check for the first half or full payment of your Real Estate Taxes must be made payable to: **TOWN OF WHEATON TREASURER**, on or before January 31, 2020. A January 31, 2020 postmark will be accepted. Include your phone number on the check/checks. This is important so that we can contact you if there are any questions about your payment. Without your phone number, the tax payment may be delayed.

Payments are to be mailed to:

**Laura Hayden, Town of Wheaton Treasurer,
4975 County Highway T
Chippewa Falls WI 54729**

Please do NOT mail the first half or full payment property tax payment to the Chippewa County Treasurer *BEFORE* the January 31, 2020 date. Should this happen, the Chippewa County Treasurer's office then has to mail your payment back to the Town of Wheaton Treasurer for processing.

The second payment, if there is a second payment; the County Treasurer will mail you a tax statement regarding the remaining amount owed, which needs to be paid on or before July 31, 2020. Please make the second payment check payable to:

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY TREASURER,
711 N. BRIDGE STREET,
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729.**

As it was last year, in order to save on postage, the tax payment receipts will be mailed if you enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Your returned check from the bank will serve as your receipt.

Dog Owners: Please remember to send a separate check for your pet and tax payment, as well as a self-addressed stamped envelope.

**WHEATON RECYCLING CENTER
2429 20TH STREET
ELK MOUND, WI 54739**

Contacts:

Roger Fagerland: 715-861-3933
Facility: 715-874-6271

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

Summer Months: April thru September

- Wednesdays: 2:30 – 6:30pm
- Saturdays: 8:00am – 3:00pm

Winter Months: October – March

(Closed Wednesday, Dec 25th, 2019 and Wednesday, January 1, 2016)

- Wednesdays: 1:00pm – 5:00pm
- Saturdays: 8:00am – 3:00pm

ITEMS MUST BE STORED AND PLACED IN PROPER DUMPSTERS

- Recyclable glass and plastics go together as does paper and cardboard go together

- Household trash goes into compactor. Trash bags for compactor can be purchased from attendant.
- Large items & materials go into the large construction dumpsters.
- Metal items go into metal dumpsters.
- Aluminum cans go into small wire cage
- Any items that go into the Construction Dumpsters MUST be approved by attendant before dumping.
- Styrofoam is considered trash.

PRICE LIST:

Demolition Material:

Full size pickup (Level full) minimum	\$45.00	Dehumidifiers	\$20.00
Small pickup (level full) minimum	\$23.00	Refrigerators	\$20.00
8 foot trailer with 3 foot sides (min)	\$45.00	Freezers	\$20.00
Larger trailers or overflowing pickup (Ask!)		Dishwashers	\$15.00
Sofa couch	\$12.00	Microwaves (metal dumpster)	Free
Large chairs	\$10.00	10 Blue Wheaton Bags	\$30.00
Small chairs	\$ 7.00	Blue Wheaton Bags (single)	\$3.00
Mattress or box springs	\$10.00	White Kitchen Bags (13 gal)	\$1.00
Burn barrels	\$ 5.00	Black or Brown Large Bags	\$4.00
Air conditioners	\$20.00	Hide a bed couch	\$15.00

TIRES

Small trailer, Car & small pickup	\$ 2.00	Larger than 22.5"	\$10.00
16" to 17"	\$ 3.00	Tractor under 28"	\$12.00
18" to 19"	\$ 5.00	28" or larger	\$20.00
20" to 22.5"	\$ 8.00	Tires with rims	add \$2.00

RECYCLABLES

Batteries Free - put on pallet

No# 1 thru 7 plastics – CLEAN

Glass jars and Bottles – lids to be removed

Metal of all kinds – sort brass and copper

All others go in metal roll-off

Paper and cardboard

Stoves, Washers, Dryers Water Heaters, Motors, Bikes, Lawn Mowers, Tillers, etc. NO CHARGE – Go into metal roll off dumpster.

There are a few businesses in the area that accept appliances for free. Ask the attendants. When in doubt, ask the ATTENDANT! It is either Roger or Larry!

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

No hazardous materials are accepted. Residents must save and take to

Chippewa County Clean Sweep held in the Spring and Fall (this includes paint,

Light bulbs and chemicals of all kinds).

Yard waste, TV's and electronics are not accepted

Burning Permits

Burning permits are not required in Wheaton, but you can only burn what is allowed by state law. Visit the Wisconsin DNR website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/openburning/> for burning regulations and several fine articles about the alternatives to burning.

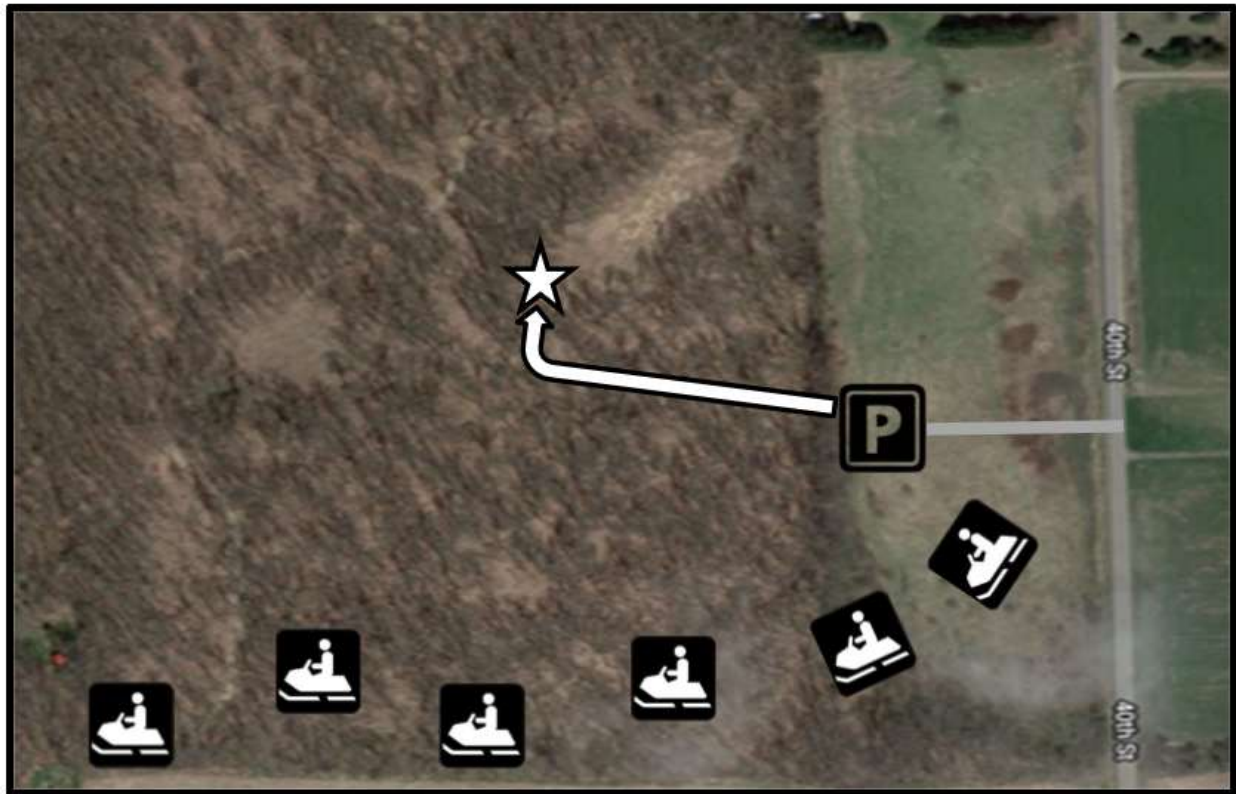
If you must burn, please be careful. You are responsible for all costs of extinguishing a fire that you started if it has gotten out of control. Burn only when sufficient moisture exists (rain and/or snow cover) in the area, winds are light (under about 7 mph maximum gusts), and temperatures are cool. You can call the Chippewa Fire District at 715-723-5488 to let them know you are intending on burning.

Town Park

The Wheaton Town Park is located at 3900 38th Street, Elk Mound. Improvements are being made as volunteers and funding becomes available. Walking/hiking trails throughout the 63-acre park are having the tornado tree damage wood chips placed on the trails which has provided a much nicer walking surface. Checkout our new trail map and pictures at www.townofwheaton.com/parks-recreation/

A big thank you to Elk Mound School District 6th, 7th, and 8th graders for their awesome help on the trails! With wood chips available and 1/3 of trails left to cover we could certainly use more volunteer help. Interested in volunteering? Contact a Wheaton Parks Commission member.

With winter bringing snow to the area be sure to check out Wheaton Park sledding hill located at 40th Street entrance and ice-skating rink located at 38th Street entrance. Thank you to Wheaton Volunteer Firefighters for setting up and maintaining ice-skating rink!



Sledding Hill



Parking Lot



Walking Trail to Sledding Hill



Snowmobile Trail Access to State Trail 33 and Wheaton Trail

Hard to believe baseball season is only 5 months away! Wheaton Ball League will begin its 42nd season in 2020 and start accepting registrations in January. The program is for boys and girls ages 4 – 14 and consists of the following program levels: T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Minors, Majors, and Ponys. 2020 season will bring the return of the Pony level to Wheaton after 6 years of not having enough kids for a team. This will surely be some exciting baseball! For program information go to www.townofwheaton.com/wheaton-ball-league/ Feel free to 'Like' Wheaton Ball League on Facebook. For any questions email Wheaton.Ball@hotmail.com or call 715-874-6414.

Park Rentals

Park rental rates are listed on the park reservation application. Rates vary depending on the applicant's residency status and the type of event being held.

Go to www.townofwheaton.com/parks-and-recreation

✓ Check Pavilion Sizes, Capacity, Number of Picnic Tables

✓ Check Pavilion Availability

✓ Download Reservation Application/Check Rental Rates

✓ Download Park Renter Procedures

To schedule park rentals, you can also email wheatonpark@gmail.com or call Ken Books at 715-874-6414.

Town Boat Landing

The Wheaton Town Boat Landing is located at 3001 106th Street, Chippewa Falls. The Parks Commission has plans finalized for addressing the boat landing ramp in 2020. Also, the Parks Commission is working on another grant application for adding boat dock and solar lighting in 2021.

Reminder: For the safety of all park/boat landing users – NO hunting is allowed on park and/or boat landing property.

Wheaton Park Ornamentation Project Campaign

The Parks Commission has been adding amenities to the park over the last couple years and has also created an ornamentation project campaign for residents/non-residents. This fundraising campaign offers the community an opportunity to make a donation, memorial gift, or in honor gift with long lasting benefits to our area. By allowing for resident/non-resident and community donations this further creates a sense of community ownership to this project and unifies our commitment to the park.

Our project will have 2 phases and to help keep Wheaton Park aesthetically pleasing we have selected the donation level options. We have started with Phase 1 which focuses on areas around the lower pavilion and lower ball fields. Once Phase 1 is fully completed we will begin Phase 2 which will focus on areas around the upper pavilion and upper ball field.

Interested in DONATING? See the attached Wheaton Park Ornamentation Donation Form. Additional information is located at www.townofwheaton.com/wheaton-park-ornamentation-project-campaign/

Wheaton Park Ornamentation Project Donation form

Wheaton Parks Commission has started an ornamentation project to help beautify Wheaton Park and provide additional amenities.

Interested in DONATING? It as simple as 1-2-3!

1. Fill out the following information.

Name of Donor: _____ Amount _____

Donor's Address: _____

Donor's Phone: _____

DONATION: _____ MEMORIAL: _____ HONOREE: _____

In Memory Of/In Honor Of: _____

Donation Given for: BUSH ___ SHRUB ___ TREE ___ PICNIC TABLE ___ BENCH ___

Check Box if you prefer your donation be used where needed.

2. Make Checks Payable to Town of Wheaton

Check Box if you want your donation to remain anonymous.

3. Mail Donation Form and Check To

Ken Books
Town of Wheaton Parks Commission Chair
1121 40th Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Our project will have 2 phases and to help keep Wheaton Park aesthetically pleasing with ornamentation that goes together below are the different donation levels that have been setup along with example pictures. We will start with Phase 1 which will focus on areas around lower pavilion and lower ball fields. Once Phase 1 is fully completed we will begin Phase 2 which will focus on areas around upper pavilion and upper ball field.

Donation Level	Phase 1 Needs	Phase 2 Needs
Bushes (Weigala, Spirea, Hydrangea)	10	3
Shrubs (Dogwood, Lilac)	2	0
Trees (Maple, Elm, Fruitless Flowering Crab)	14	3
Picnic Table (Wood)	2	3
Bench (8' Metal in Ground)	8	9