

## **Mackenzie Reed-Kadow**

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**From:** Justin Nickels  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 3:02 PM  
**To:** Deborah Neuser; Mackenzie Reed-Kadow  
**Subject:** FW: Quick History of Camp Vits  
**Attachments:** Camp Vits PC Report 1984.pdf

Please add Paul's e-mail and attachment to the Council agenda under the Camp Vits item.

Thank you!



**Justin M. Nickels**  
Mayor  
City of Manitowoc, WI

City Hall | 900 Quay Street | Manitowoc, WI 54220  
Office Phone | (920) 686-6980  
Cell Phone | (920) 374-0499  
Assistant | Stacey Groll | [sgroll@manitowoc.org](mailto:sgroll@manitowoc.org)

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**From:** Paul Braun  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 2:56 PM  
**To:** Justin Nickels; Adam Tegen; Dan Koski  
**Cc:** Eric Sitkiewitz - D6; Curtis Hall; Marshall Black  
**Subject:** RE: Quick History of Camp Vits

Sorry for the bullet format but this is what I could find in short order. Hope it's what you had in mind.

- The first communication I found were County Park & Planning minutes from June 1979 where Manitowoc Savings Bank was for the Earl Vits Memorial Trust approached the County to see if they wanted to purchase the land for a County Park. The County didn't purchase for various reasons. For approximately 5 years the County, Town, City and citizens discussed how to preserve the property but no entity stepped up to purchase and preserve the property.
- July 6, 1984, Associated Manitowoc Bank advisors for the Earl Vits Memorial Trust approach the City to see if the City would purchase the property for a park
- City begins process to purchase the property. There is an August 1984 Planning staff report attached which provides background information prior to the purchase.
- 1986 City applies for LAWCON – Land and Water Conservation Fund Monies to purchase the property as a City Park. LAWCON amount was \$40,000 / City share \$40,000
- 1987 City is awarded LAWCON monies for the purchase of 75 acres +/-
- LAWCON funds require the property to be used for public purposes.
  
- The property was formerly used by the Boy Scouts for a camp. In approximately 1905 – 1948 it was part of a larger wilderness area called Ravine park. It was then donated to Pigeon Lake Land Company who let the Boy Scouts use the property.
  
- March 8<sup>th</sup> 1988, volume 832 Page 167 the City of Manitowoc acquires the property from Associated Manitowoc Bank, National Association Trustee of the Earl O. Vits Memorial Trust

- There is only one vehicular access point to the park which is located at S. Parkview Road and Middle Road. The access is only 25' and there is no off-street parking available. There are two other pedestrian accesses off of Kuchera Lane and W. Custer but who knows if those are still valid easements. Approximately 10 years ago, in response to the off road bike group constructing a bike trail in Camp Vits, the Town of Manitowoc Rapids placed no parking signs along Middle and S. Parkview Roads which essentially prevented citizens from visiting the park.
- Additional parking and points of access into Camp Vits have been one of the top priorities in the current and past Park plans.
- Misc Tidbits
  - o An old "buggy trail" used to run along the shoreline
  - o Three distinct areas of the park
    - Floodway
    - Flat plateaus
    - Steep topography
      - Approximately 103 foot difference from the highest point to the waters edge
      - Almost all 75 acres are heavily virgin woods
      - Approximately a half mile of river frontage (2,500 l.f.)
- Historically the Planning Department (Community Development) has had discussions with adjacent property owners to gain additional access and provide parking but nothing has ever materialized.
  - o Gerald Fischer property north of the existing 25' access road
  - o Bejtula Ademi
  - o Glenn Strodthoff
- City staff have a general understanding with Woodland Dunes to allow a trail through their property from the property to be purchased to existing Camp Vits. This will have to be memorialized in the future after we acquire the property.
- Curt & Marshall are currently writing a grant application, from our early indications the grant administrator is very optimistic that the project will be funded.

If you need anything else let me know, I can do some more digging.

Excuse any typos

Paul

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**From:** Justin Nickels  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 11:45 AM  
**To:** Paul Braun; Adam Tegen; Dan Koski  
**Cc:** Eric Sitkiewitz - D6  
**Subject:** Quick History of Camp Vits

Can you guys get me some information on the history of this park....especially recent history and the difficulties of getting access to the park.

Paul – you know this subject better than anyone.

I'll put together something.

Alderman Sitkiewitz requested this prior to the council meeting on Monday.

Thanks!



**Justin M. Nickels**

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