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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Menominee Park's Pratt Trail is open to traffic

OSHKOSH, Wis., July 1, 2024 – Menominee Park's Pratt Trail has reopened. The winding road through Oshkosh's Menominee Park had been closed for nearly a year after archaeological items of significance were discovered when reconstruction of the road began in August, 2023.

The city of Oshkosh engaged with the Cultural Resource Management program at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UWM), the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Tribal Nations to ensure compliance with state laws that protect our state's heritage, including archaeological sites. UWM has been active at the site since before the beginning of the road work. The project area is known to be coincident with an extensive pre-contact Native American village that dates from circa AD 900 to 1600. The archaeologists' work, in part, was aimed at conservation of archaeological assets in the original location of the significant finds. The archaeologists worked in tandem with road construction crews. UWM confirmed to the city of Oshkosh that the historically significant village site has been preserved intact beneath the bed of the newly reconstructed road.

The road project replaced stormwater infrastructure, including curb and gutter repair, and new asphalt pavement along the entire length of Pratt Trail from Merritt Avenue to the intersection with Siewert Trail. Park visitors are asked to avoid areas where there is newly planted grass near Pratt Trail. The road's reopening allows visitors to travel through Menominee Park for the many activities held there, including the Festival Foods Fireworks Show, to be held on July 4th at dusk. The event will feature a spectacular fireworks show and 18 food trucks staged throughout Menominee Park. Rain date for the fireworks show is July 5th. For more information about Menominee Park, please contact the Oshkosh Parks Department at (920) 236-5080.

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