

# Doty Park Shoreline Renewal

## A Legacy for Today and Tomorrow

**Rooted in the lake's history and engineered for its future, the restored Doty Park shoreline now stands stronger, welcomes people closer, and blends seamlessly into the natural landscape.**

Doty Park, a cherished Neenah green space with deep roots dating back to its 1922 donation and 1928 dedication, has long held a special place in our city's story. With about 1,200 feet of shoreline along the Neenah Channel, the park is both a historic gathering ground and a living connection to Lake Winnebago. In Phase 1 of its shoreline restoration, Neenah Parks & Recreation, together with Edgewater Resources and Vinton Construction, set out to strengthen and re-envision this edge — not simply as a boundary, but as a space belonging equally to nature and to people. This work was made possible in part by a \$1 million grant from the Wisconsin DNR's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and a \$100,000 grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service.



## **Engineering That Respects the Lake**

One of the drivers behind this project is a long-standing challenge: the forces of the lake itself. Southeast winds across Lake Winnebago bring powerful waves and ice movement — forces capable of eroding the shore and ripping away at older structures. Rather than fight nature, the restoration “learns” from it. Armor stone now lines large sections of the bank, acting as a resilient barrier that diffuses energy from waves and ice. Native plantings anchor the shoreline, rebuilding natural habitat and stabilizing the land in a way that feels organic and enduring.

## **Access, Safety & Views**

This isn't restoration for restoration's sake — it's a deliberate effort to invite people into the lake's rhythm. The design includes four new access points, built as fishing pads, giving thoughtful places for anglers to drop a line safely and serenely. Near the pavilion, a stone outcropping extends over the water, creating a perch for quiet reflection, photographs, and the kinds of moments that stay with you — whether it's a sunset, a conversation, or something more cinematic, like a proposal or a simply cherished memory.

## **Collaboration for Conservation**

This project is the result of a shared commitment to stewardship. In addition to the City of Neenah, Edgewater Resources, and Vinton Construction, partners included Wisconsin DNR, the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Together, they built a shoreline that protects, restores, and connects.

## **A Balanced, Thoughtful Outcome**

The result is no mere infrastructure upgrade. With 1,362 linear feet of vertical seawall and 565 feet of riprap-enhanced shoreline restored, Neenah has fortified its lakeside for both resilience and beauty.

On a calm day, you can walk along the new edge and feel the difference: the sound of gentle waves, the rooted strength of the stone, the rustle of native grasses, and the quiet assurance that this place is built for longevity — for people, wildlife, and generations of Neenah residents to come





*Before*











*After*































Neenah  
W I S C O N S I N