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For Immediate Release: August 25, 2009

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PARKS DIRECTOR TOM STEPHANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

(Oshkosh, WI.) City Manager Mark Rohloff has announced that Parks Director Tom Stephany has retired from the city effective Monday, August 24, 2009. Mr. Stephany has been the city's Parks Director since February 20, 1995. In Mr. Stephany's discussion with City Manager Rohloff regarding his retirement, he cited recent health issues as a factor in his retirement at this time.

"I have been discussing with City Manager Rohloff my plans to retire in the near future. However, my current medical conditions have accelerated my original plans and I felt it was in the city's best interest to find a replacement for me while I address these issues," said Mr. Stephany. "I have enjoyed my 14 years working for the city and seeing the city's parks system grow and flourish during this time. I will miss working with my colleagues and serving the citizens of Oshkosh who have been so supportive of me and the entire parks program during my tenure with the city."

City Forester/Landscape Operations Manager Bill Sturm will be filling in as interim Parks Director until Mr. Stephany's position has been filled. Mr. Sturm has been with the city since July 19, 2004 and is responsible for the city's cemetery, forestry, and horticulture operations. "I appreciate all of the contributions by the entire Parks staff who have pitched in prior to Mr. Stephany's retirement," said City Manager Rohloff. "I am confident that Mr. Sturm will be able to work successfully with our outstanding Parks staff and pull together as they have in recent months to make sure that the transition from Mr. Stephany to his replacement will be as smooth as possible. I appreciate the public's understanding as we make our way through this transition."

City Manager Rohloff indicated that the city would begin immediate recruitment of Mr. Stephany's replacement, with the hope that the position may be filled by December 1, 2009.

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