



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Governor Evers Announces \$2.8 Million in Support for Minor League Sports in Wisconsin**

Madison, WIS.- Governor Evers announced today that \$2.8 million of grants will be made available to minor league sports teams in the state of Wisconsin. The grants are funded by the American Rescue Plan of 2021. Wisconsin has an amazing minor league sports history with successful franchises in operation throughout the state. The Mallards 2020 season was cancelled due to the pandemic and the uncertainty of the last year has made the launch of the Mallards 2021 season slower than normal. Support from ticket holders, the corporate community and flexibility from the City of Madison, who owns Warner Park, has allowed the Mallards to continue operations into 2021, but it will most likely be 2022 before operations return to normal for the popular baseball team.

“Summer baseball in Wisconsin is all about bringing our communities together,” said Mallards President Vern Stenman. “The pandemic has created non-stop uncertainty for our business and we would like to thank the Governor for recognizing the important role that these teams play in our communities and investing in making certain that people across the state continue to have access to some of the most entertaining experiences in the entire country at ballparks and athletic venues throughout Wisconsin.”

The Mallards launched their 21<sup>st</sup> summer in Madison on May 31<sup>st</sup> and their season will complete on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Typically, over 200,000 fans attend Mallards games each summer at The Duck Pond in Warner Park on the Northside of Madison. The Mallards employ over 300 part-time employees each summer, with the vast majority coming from within one mile of the ballpark.

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*The Madison Mallards are a member of the finest developmental league for elite college baseball players, the Northwoods League. The Northwoods League is the proven leader in the development of elite college baseball players. Having completed its' 26th season, the Northwoods League is the largest organized baseball league in the world with 22 teams, drawing significantly more fans, in a friendly ballpark experience, than any league of its kind. A valuable training ground for coaches, umpires and front office staff, over 230 Northwoods League players have advanced to Major League Baseball, including three-time All-Star and 2016 Roberto Clemente Award winner Curtis Granderson, three-time Cy Young Award winner and World Series Champion Max Scherzer (WAS), two-time World Series Champions Ben Zobrist (CHC) and Brandon Crawford (SFG) and World Series Champion Chris Sale (BOS). As well as 2019 Rookie of the Year and Home Run Derby Champion Pete Alonso (NYM) and MLB All-Star*



*Jordan Zimmermann (DET). All league games are viewable live via the Northwoods League website. All league games are viewable live via the Northwoods League portal. For more information, visit [www.mallardsbaseball.com](http://www.mallardsbaseball.com) or download the new Northwoods League Mobile App on the Apple App Store or on Google Play and set the Mallards as your favorite team.*