

State of Wisconsin

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317 East, State Capitol
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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: April 20, 2017

Re: 14-Day Passive Review Approval – DNR

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Stats., attached is a 14-day passive review request from the Department of Natural Resources, received on April 20, 2017.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Tuesday, May 9, 2017**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachments

AD:JN:jm

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Scott Walker, Governor
Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711



April 20, 2017

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 317 East
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison WI 53707

The Honorable John Nygren, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 309 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance of a proposed development grant to the City of Janesville for the Town Square Development Phase 1.

The City requested grant assistance to construct a path, community green space, riverfront terrace, floating pier, ramp/river steps for water access, and a canoe/kayak launch on property along the Rock River in downtown Janesville. The Town Square project is the result of rigorous public participation and planning efforts conducted over the last 10 years and supports the City's downtown economic redevelopment strategy focused on the riverfront. In late 2016/early 2017, a deteriorated parking plaza spanning the Rock River was demolished. The Town Square project is located on the riverfront where the parking plaza previously existed. Construction of the Town Square Development will provide new public outdoor recreation opportunities and enhanced public access to the Rock River in downtown Janesville.

The proposed grant award of \$297,901.00 is from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The award amount represents 43% of the estimated total project costs. The City has secured their required matching funds.

As provided in s. 23.0917(6m)(a), Wis. Stats., if the Department does not receive notification of the scheduling of a hearing from either of the Joint Committee on Finance co-chairpersons within 14 working days from today, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cathy Stepp
Secretary

Cc: Doug Haag – Administrator, Division of Internal Services
Terry Bay – Director, Bureau of Facilities & Lands

Enclosure

DATE: April 20, 2017

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR FUNDING GREATER THAN \$250,000: TOWN SQUARE DEVELOPMENT PHASE I, CITY OF JANESVILLE

Pursuant to s.s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant in the amount of \$297,901.00 to the City of Janesville for the Town Square Development Phase 1 project. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: City of Janesville

Grant sub-programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks; Urban Rivers

County: Rock County

Location: The project is located on the west bank of the Rock River near the intersection of South River Street and East Court Street in downtown Janesville.

Project Description: The Town Square Development Phase 1 involves construction of a path, community green space, riverfront terrace, floating pier, ramp and river steps for water access, and a canoe/kayak launch on property along the Rock River in downtown Janesville. The Town Square project is the result of lengthy and rigorous public participation and planning efforts conducted over the last 10 years and part of a larger downtown redevelopment strategy focused on the riverfront.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail (IAT) runs through the subject property. Until recently, the IAT traversed the City parking plaza, a 275-stall parking deck spanning the Rock River. As part of the proposed project, the IAT will be re-routed along the riverfront and Town Square property providing a significant enhancement to the public's recreational experience.

In late 2016/early 2017, the parking plaza spanning the river was demolished, funded in part with a State Municipal Flood Grant. Removal of this blighted structure was a critical component of the City's downtown riverfront redevelopment efforts. The proposed Stewardship project will be constructed on the riverfront where the parking plaza previously existed. Paired with removal of the parking plaza, construction of the Town Square Development provides new public outdoor recreation opportunities and enhanced public access to the Rock River in downtown Janesville.

Project Goals: The Janesville Town Square project implements goals of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the following local/regional plans:

- City of Janesville Park and Open Space Plan 2008; 2016 update
- ARISE: Rock Renaissance Redevelopment & Implementation Strategy (2015)
- City of Janesville Comprehensive Plan
- Downtown Vision and Strategy (2007)

- Janesville Comprehensive Plan (2009)
- Rock County Comprehensive Plan 2035
- 2015-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, Janesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Rock River National Water Trail Mission Statement
- Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail Vision Statement
- Ice Age National Scenic Trail Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance

In addition, redevelopment of brownfields for public outdoor recreation purposes is a Stewardship grant program priority per s. 23.09(19)(cm) and ch. NR 51.935. A portion of the property on which the project will be built meets the definition of a brownfield under s. 23.09(19)(a)1. As such, this project directly supports brownfields redevelopment goals of the Stewardship grant program.

Public Uses: The public will be able to hike, bike, picnic, fish, view the river, access the river on foot, and launch a canoe/kayak from the Town Square site. Opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing will be available in the winter months.

Property Management: The Town Square will be managed by the City of Janesville Parks/Public Works Department.

Timetable: The City removed the parking plaza in January/February 2017. The City will begin construction of the Town Square Development Phase 1 in the spring of 2017. The majority of the project will be complete by October 2017, except for the trail between Dodge Street and Milwaukee Street which will be completed by September 2018.

Project Partners:

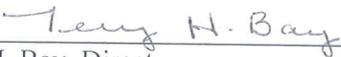
- City of Janesville: Design, engineering, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Grant assistance for engineering and construction.
- Federal Recreational Trails Program: Grant assistance for engineering and construction.

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

City Funds	\$ 342,901.00 (50%)
DNR Stewardship Grant	\$ 297,901.00 (43%)
Federal Recreational Trails Program Grant	\$ 45,000.00 (7%)
Total Project Cost	\$ 685,802.00

The Federal Recreational Trails Program grant was approved by the Federal Highway Administration in November, 2016, and verified by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in January, 2017. The City has secured their required matching funds (approved in a previous budget cycle).

III. RECOMMENDED:



Terry H. Bay, Director
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

4/14/17
Date



Doug Haag, Administrator
Division of Internal Services

4-17-17
Date

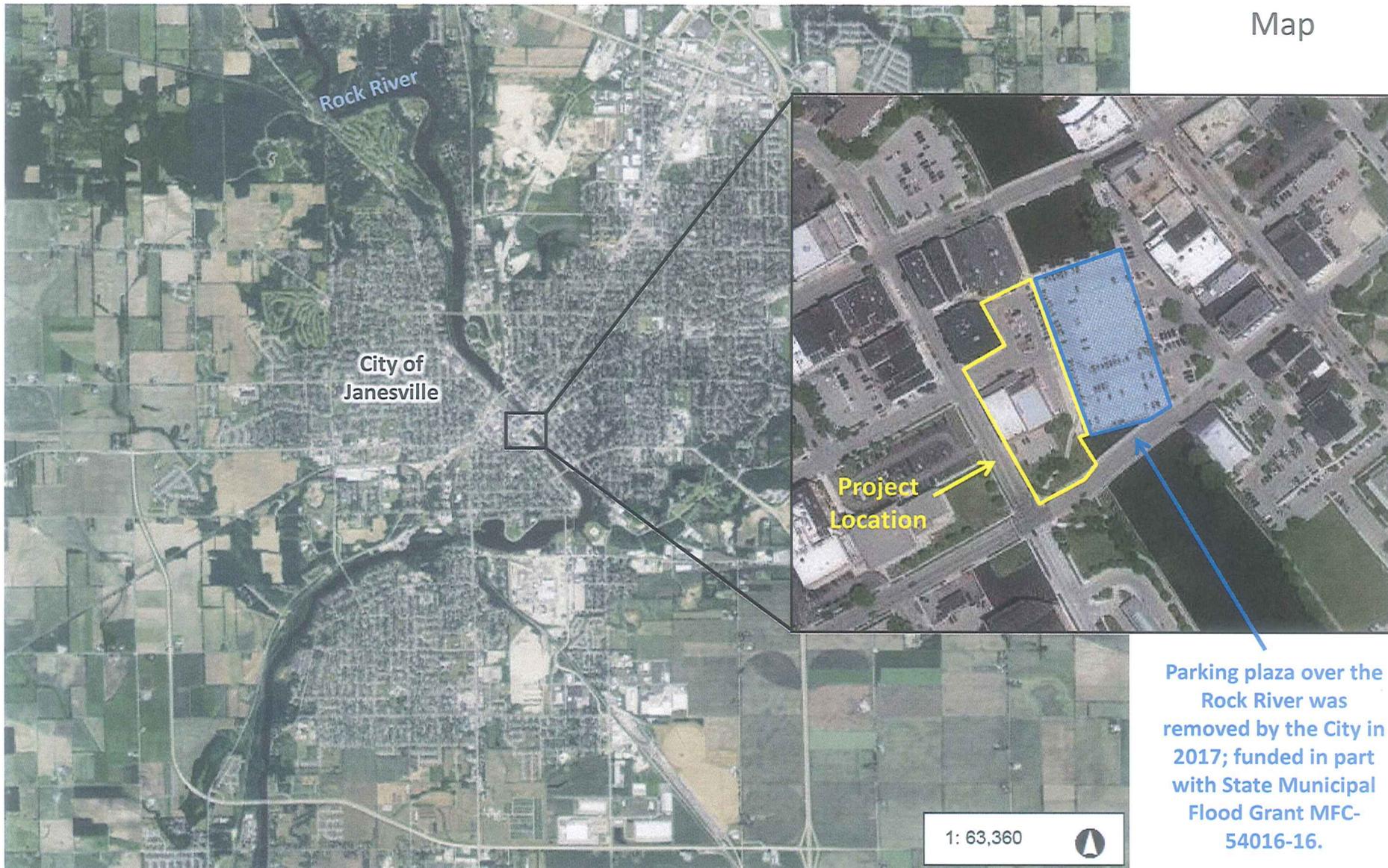
IV. ATTACHMENTS:

- A: Project location map
- B: Site development plan



Proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Award
Town Square Phase I: City of Janesville, Rock County

Attachment A Project Location Map



Parking plaza over the
Rock River was
removed by the City in
2017; funded in part
with State Municipal
Flood Grant MFC-
54016-16.

2.0 0 1.00 2.0 Miles

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Proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Award
Town Square Phase I: City of Janesville, Rock County

Attachment B

Site Development Plan

