

State of Wisconsin

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Alberta Darling

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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: March 14, 2018

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 March 14, 2018.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Friday, March 30, 2018**, 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
Daniel L. Meyer, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711



March 12, 2018

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

The Honorable John Nygren, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 309 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

MAR 14 2018

St. Finance

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 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to Portage County for development of the Green Circle Trail. The proposed grant award of \$325,401 is 50% of the estimated project cost.

The Green Circle Trail is a 27-mile multi-use trail loop that encircles the City of Stevens Point. Via an effective public-private partnership, the County will develop a new trailhead and reroute the Paper Mill trail segment. The proposed trailhead includes construction of an open-air shelter, restroom, and parking lot. The trail reroute includes construction a new off-street corridor for the Paper Mill trail segment (1.2 miles) along the Wisconsin River.

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,

Daniel L. Meyer
Secretary

DATE: February 23, 2018

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Daniel L. Meyer, Secretary

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR FUNDING GREATER THAN \$250,000: PORTAGE COUNTY.

Pursuant to ss. 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 \$325,401 to Portage County for development of the Green Circle Trail. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Portage County

Project Name: Green Circle Trailhead Development and Trail Reroute

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

County: Portage

Location: The Green Circle Trail is a 27-mile multi-use trail loop that encircles the City of Stevens Point. Designated as a Wisconsin State Trail, connects to the Tomorrow River State Trail. More than 100,000 visitors utilize the Green Circle trail each year. Portage County, U.W. Stevens Point (UWSP), the City of Stevens Point, and the Village of Whiting share responsibility for trail management.

Project Description: This proposed project involves development of a trailhead at the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center and rerouting ~1.2 miles of the Paper Mill trail segment. The proposed trailhead includes construction of an open-air shelter, restroom, parking lot, and connector trail. There are currently no parking or facilities dedicated to trail users at this location.

The "Paper Mill" trail segment, on the southwest portion of the Green Circle loop, is located on the former site of the Whiting Paper Mill complex (mill buildings demolished in 2013-2015). The trail reroute includes construction a new off-street corridor for the Paper Mill trail segment (1.2 miles) along the Wisconsin River. Redevelopment of this vacant riverfront property is possible via an effective public-private partnership among the County, Village of Whiting, UWSP, Consolidated Water and Power (CWP), and Neenah Paper.

Project Goals: The Green Circle State Trail Development project supports goals of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the following local/regional plans:

- City of Stevens Point Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan 2010-2015
- Village of Whiting's Park & Recreational Plan 2014-2019

- Portage County Comprehensive Outdoor Plan 2025
- University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Master Plan 2007
- Portage Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan 2014
- Wisconsin State Trails Network Plan (2003)
- North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan (2004)

Public Uses: The project will be available to the public from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. everyday. The public will be able to hike, bike, cross-country ski and fish along the trail.

Ownership & Management:

- **Trailhead:** The trailhead property is owned by UWSP. In April 2017, the Board of Regents passed a resolution granting UWSP authority to enter into a lease with Portage County for construction of the trailhead facility.
- **Paper Mill Reroute:** Three separate entities own portions of the new 1.2-mile Paper Mill trail route.
 - CWP owns ~1 mile of the proposed 1.2-mile trail route (see Attachment B2, Parcels C, D, and E). CWP and Portage County will enter into an agreement to accommodate County trail construction and management activities on CWP property.
 - UWSP and Neenah Paper will amend their existing agreement to accommodate UWSP trail construction and management activities on Neenah Paper property (see Attachment B2, Parcel A).
 - Verso Minnesota Wisconsin, LLC, is selling ~1/2 acre to the Village of Whiting for trail development (see Attachment B2, Parcel B). The Village will own and manage the trail segment on this property.

Timetable: Construction is scheduled to begin in fall of 2018. The project will be fully open to the public by fall of 2019.

Project Partners:

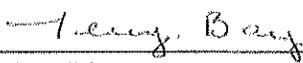
- **Portage County:** Design, engineering and construction of the trailhead and trail reroute; operate and manage ~1 mile of the new Paper Mill trail.
- **Village of Whiting:** Land acquisition, operation, and maintenance.
- **UWSP:** Project management; long-term operation and maintenance of the trailhead.
- **CWP:** Execute agreement with Portage County for trail construction and maintenance.
- **Neenah Paper:** Execute agreement with UWSP for trail construction and maintenance.
- **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:** Grant assistance for engineering and construction.

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

Portage County Funds	\$ 325,401 (50%)
<u>DNR Stewardship Grant</u>	<u>\$ 325,401 (50%)</u>
Project Total	\$ 650,802

The County has secured their required matching funds.

III. RECOMMENDED:



Terry Bay, Director
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

3/14/18

Date



Douglas Haag, Administrator
Division of Internal Services

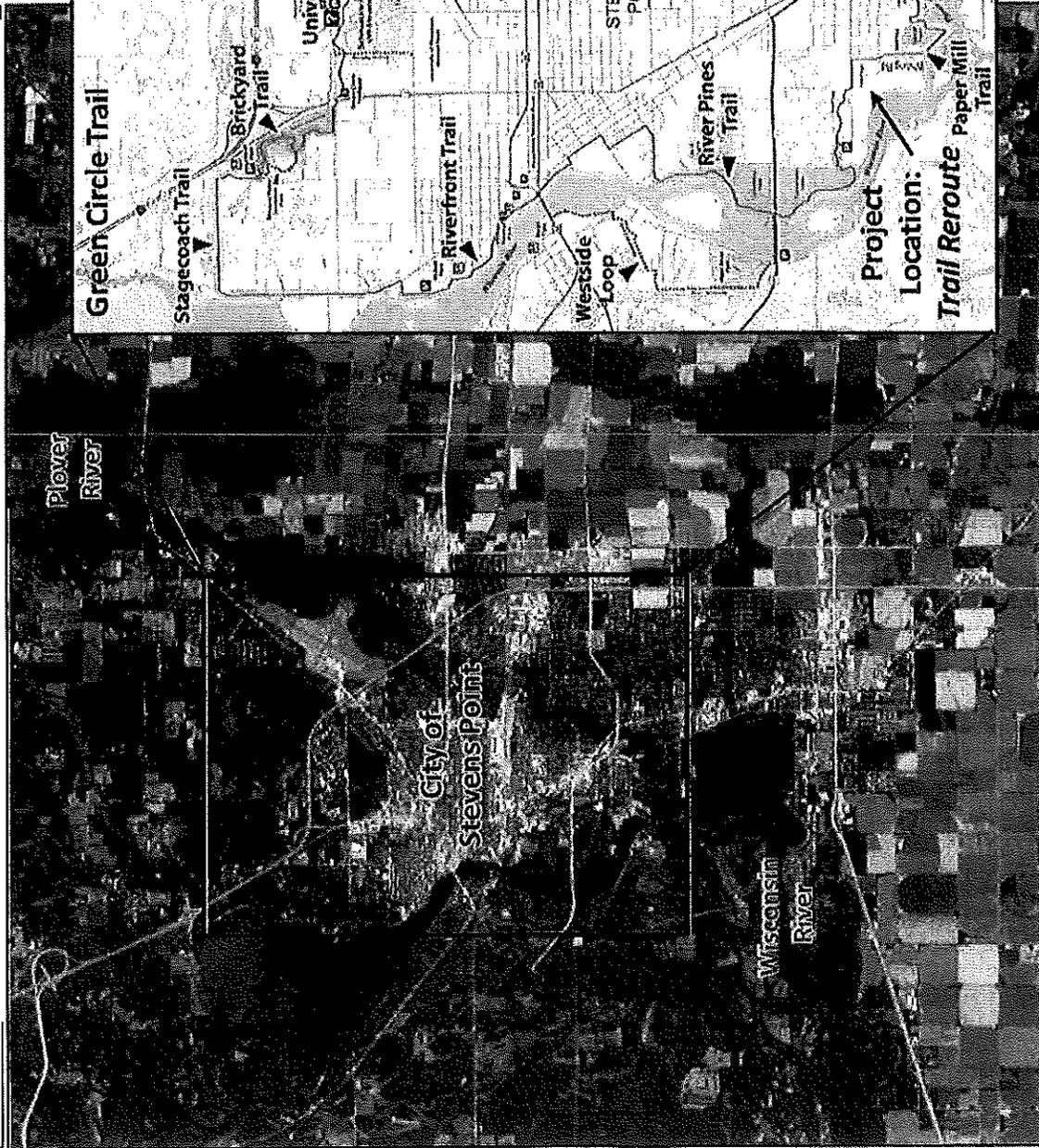
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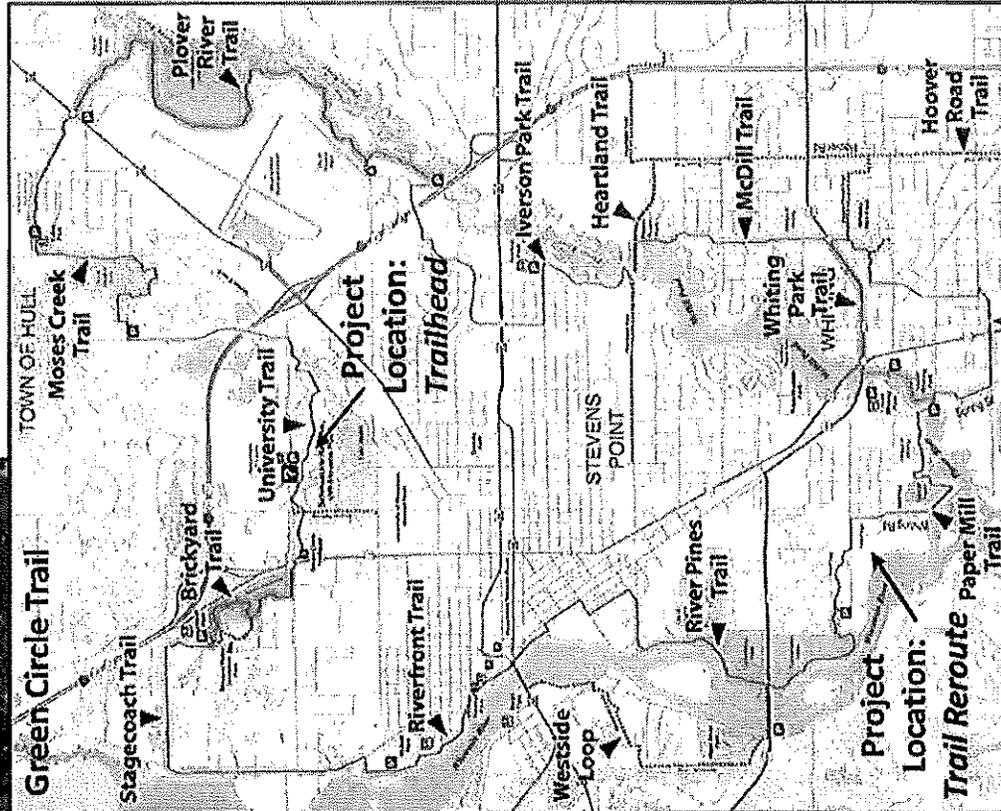
Attachments: Project Maps



Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
Green Circle Trailhead and Paper Mill Segment Reroute: Portage County

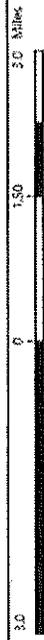


Attachment A
Project Location
Map



Map source: greencircletrail.org

DISCLAIMER: The information shown on this map was obtained from various sources and is not intended to be used as a substitute for a professional survey or other information about a project. The user assumes all responsibility for the accuracy of the information shown on this map. The user also assumes all responsibility for the accuracy of the information shown on this map. The user also assumes all responsibility for the accuracy of the information shown on this map.

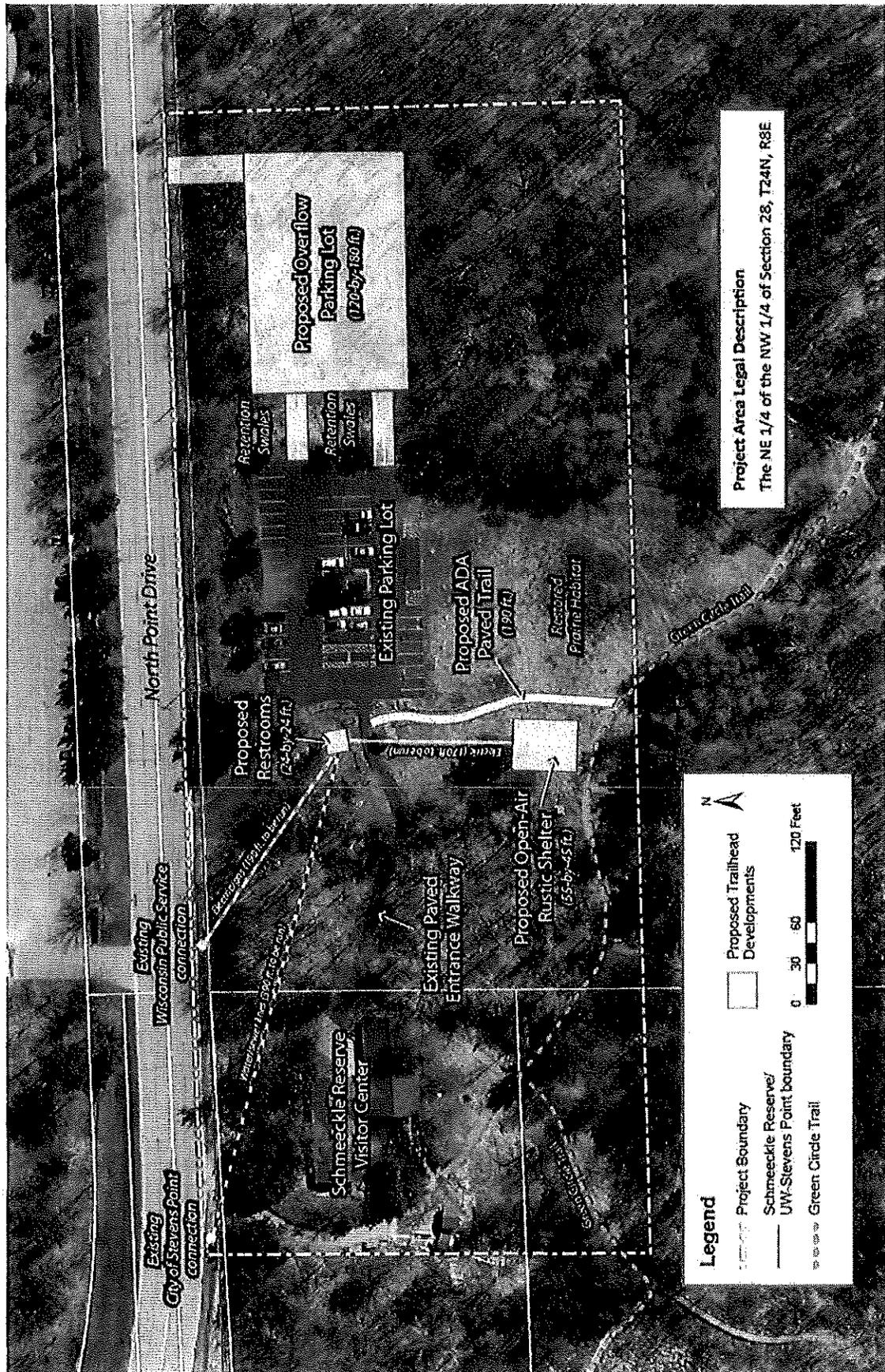


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Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
Green Circle Trailhead and Paper Mill Segment Reroute: Portage County

Attachment B1
Site Plan:
Trailhead





**Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
Green Circle Trailhead and Paper Mill Segment Reroute: Portage County**

**Attachment B2
Site Plan:
Trail Reroute**

