

# State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR  
**Alberta Darling**

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**John Nygren**

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Phone: (608) 266-2343

## Joint Committee on Finance

### MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling  
Representative John Nygren

Date: February 5, 2019

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 February 5, 2019.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Friday, February 22, 2019**, 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

Tony Evers, Governor  
Preston D. Cole, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



February 4, 2019

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

FEB 05 2019  
J. 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 the City of Jefferson for development of the Rock River Landing. The proposed grant award of \$434,800 is 48% of the estimated project cost.

The City will create Rock River Landing Park on 5.7 acres of the former Jefferson County Highway Department facility. The park will include frontage on the Rock River, green space, canoe/kayak access, trails, parking, public restrooms, and other park amenities. The park is part of a mixed-use development at the Landing, including ~13 acres of future commercial and residential development.

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,

Preston D. Cole  
Secretary

**DATE:** February 4, 2019

**TO:** Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Preston D. Cole, Secretary

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
GREATER THAN \$250,000; CITY OF JEFFERSON**

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant in the amount of \$434,800 to the City of Jefferson for the development of the Rock River Landing. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

**I. PROJECT DETAILS:**

**Project Sponsor:** City of Jefferson

**Project Name:** Rock River Landing

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

**County:** Jefferson

**Location:** The Rock River Landing will be located about 0.3-mile upstream of the Racine Street/Hwy 18 bridge, along the eastern shore of the Rock River. The park will be accessible from city streets and the river. The Rock River Landing is located along the City's bike route and a short distance from the Glacial Drumlin State Trail and Glacial River County Trail.

**Project Description:** The Rock River Landing is part of a collaborative redevelopment of a former industrial operational site, which has been closed to public use for nearly a decade. The City is converting 5.7-acres to a riverfront park adjacent to future commercial and residential development. The proposed Stewardship grant would support removal of asphalt, construction of green space, trails, a restroom, canoe/kayak launch, and associated park amenities.

The City of Jefferson and Jefferson County are committed to this partnership project as detailed in an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) as signed on April 17, 2018. The project site is part of a larger 19.9 – acre County tract which has a long history of industrial and manufacturing use, and more recently housed the Jefferson County's Highway Department operations facility. The County Highway Department recently relocated and remaining buildings were demolished in 2017. Strategies for reuse of this tract and others in the City were explored in the *Jefferson Economic Recovery Plan, 2017*. The primary goals outlined in this plan were to capitalize on Jefferson's water resources, the Rock and Crawfish Rivers and its public recreational activities.

The City also received a WDNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant (\$117,575) for development of a motor boat launch, vehicle-trailer parking, lighting, piers, and transient docking at the Rock River Landing.

**Project Goals:** The Rock River Landing project supports goals of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the following local/regional plans:

- City of Jefferson Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2008 and its updated plan in 2018.
- Jefferson County Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan 2013-2018
- City of Jefferson’s Economic Recovery Plan 2017
- Rock River National Water Trail
- Jefferson County’s Strategic Plan 2017

**Public Uses:** Rock River Landing will be accessible to the public seven days per week, year-round. This new river front park will provide access to the river for fishing, paddling, and motorboat access. Upland areas of the park will provide opportunities for picnicking, hiking, biking, and scenic enjoyment of the Rock River and serve as a trailhead for the Glacial Drumlin and Glacial River trails.

**Ownership & Management:** While the County will retain its ownership of the site, the City and County will have joint operation of Rock River Landing, and the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) details the division of responsibilities. Generally, County Parks staff will complete annual and seasonal work projects, and the City will manage day to day maintenance and operations.

**Timetable:** Final design complete in spring of 2019; construction in 2019-2020; completion by summer 2021.

**Project Partners:**

- City of Jefferson: Construction and operations and maintenance
- County of Jefferson: Property ownership and maintenance
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Grant assistance

**II. PROJECT FINANCES:**

Proposed DNR Stewardship Grant	\$	434,800
City of Jefferson	\$	463,000
Project Total	\$	897,800

The City has secured their required matching funds.

**III. RECOMMENDED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas Haag, Administrator, Division of Internal Services

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

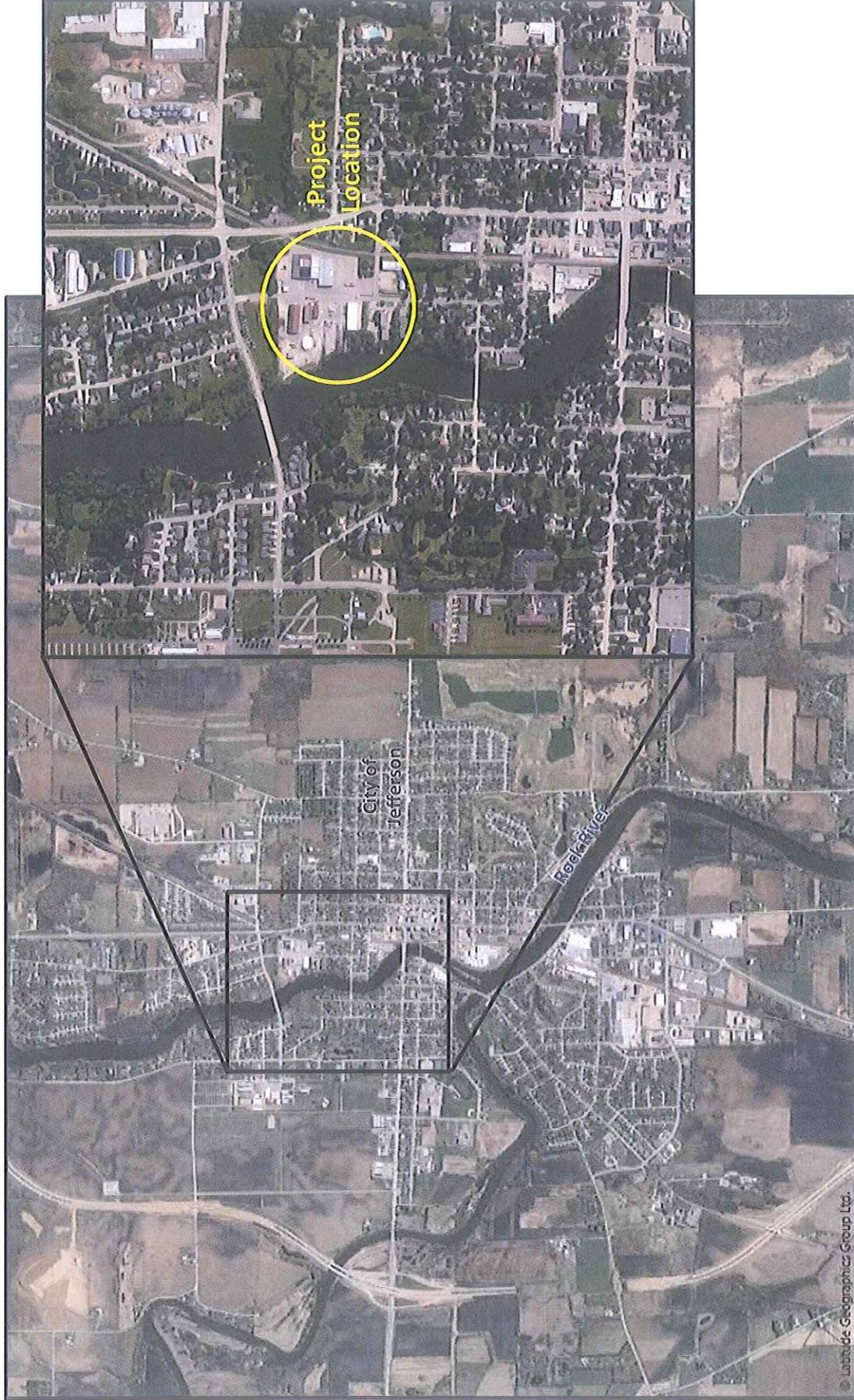
**IV. ATTACHMENTS:**

Project Maps



Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award  
Rock River Landing, City of Jefferson, Jefferson County

Attachment A  
Location Map



0.7 Miles

0.7 Miles

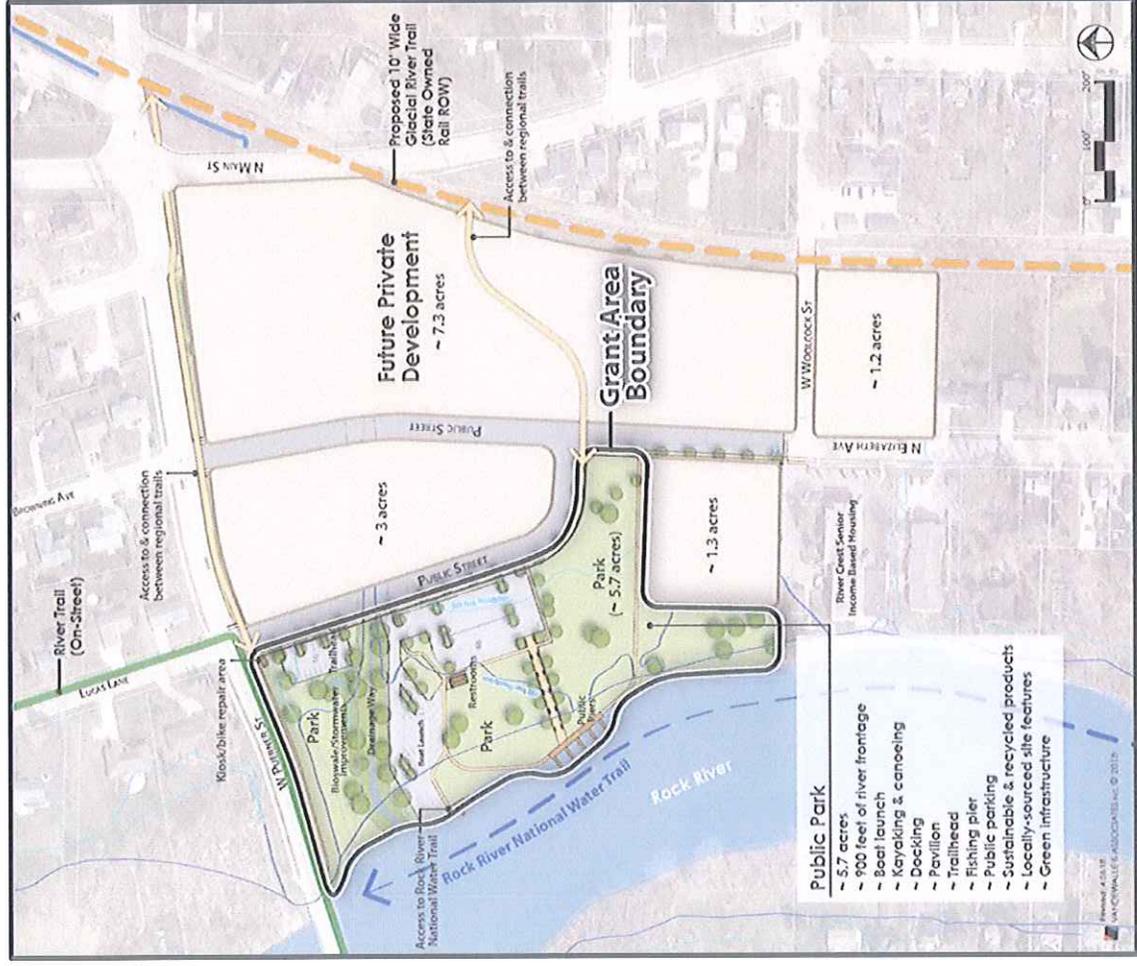
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Projection: NAD\_1983\_HARN\_Wisconsin\_TM



Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award  
 Rock River Landing, City of Jefferson, Jefferson County

Attachment B  
 Site Plan



- Public Park**
- 5.7 acres
  - 900 feet of river frontage
  - Boat launch
  - Kayaking & canoeing
  - Docking
  - Pavilion
  - Trailhead
  - Fishing pier
  - Public parking
  - Sustainable & recycled products
  - Locally-sourced site features
  - Green infrastructure

