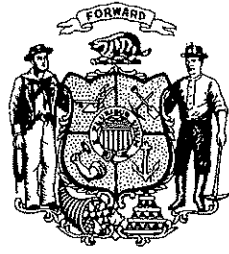


State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Howard Marklein

316 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-0703



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

308 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8592
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Phone: (608) 266-2540

Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Howard Marklein
Representative Mark Born

Date: November 14, 2022

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 November 14, 2022.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Friday, December 2, 2022**, 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

HM:MB;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



NOV 14 2022
St. Finance

November 9, 2022

The Honorable Mark Born, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 308 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

The Honorable Howard Marklein, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 316 East
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Representative Born and Senator Marklein:

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), 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 Rhinelander for the Timber Drive Bike Trail development project. The proposed grant award of \$318,600 is 50% of the estimated project cost.

Timber Drive is a busy city road connecting downtown Rhinelander to the eastern part of the city. This project would develop a non-motorized, multiuse path along Timber Drive from Harvey Street to US Highway 17 to improve access for outdoor recreation such as hiking and biking. The trail will also connect local neighborhoods to area schools and services. The funds will be used for purchase of materials and installation of an asphalt surface trail.

The City of Rhinelander project meets goals in the following plans:

- Rhinelander Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), 2015-2020
- Rhinelander Bike and Pedestrian Plan, 2019
- Rhinelander Safe Routes to School Plan, 2012
- Rhinelander Area Pathway Project Plan (RAPP), 2003

As provided in s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), 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,

DocuSigned by:
Sarah Barry
A70200C3770406

For Preston D. Cole
Secretary

cc: Dave Siebert, Administrator, External Services Division
James Yach, Secretary Director, NOR
Pam Rood, Stewardship Grant Program Manager
Jeff Pennucci, Stewardship Grant Project Manager, NOR

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 9, 2022

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 RHINELANDER**

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 \$318,600 to the City of Rhineland. The City requests these funds for development of a hike and bike trail along Timber Drive to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as connect local residents to schools and other services. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: The City of Rhineland

Project Name: Timber Drive Bike Trail

Grant Sub-programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)

County: Oneida

Location: Along Timber Drive, from Harvey Street intersection to State Highway 17

Project Description: The primary purpose of the project is to develop a non-motorized, multiuse path along Timber Drive from Harvey Street to US Highway 17 to improve access for outdoor recreation such as hiking and biking. The trail will also connect local neighborhoods to area schools and services. The funds will be used for purchase of materials and installation of an asphalt surface trail.

The Timber Drive hike and bike trail project is included in the City of Rhineland's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP 2015 to 2020), as well as two other City plans. The proposed project meets multiple City goals identified in the CORP. The City is actively working to update its CORP for another 5 years, but efforts have been delayed due to COVID. This past summer, they completed a public survey as part of the update process. No opposing comments to the project were received.

Background: Timber Drive is a busy city road connecting downtown Rhineland to the eastern part of the City. It provides access to Central Elementary School, James Williams Middle School, Rhineland High School, the new athletic dome, the YMCA, and the Rhineland ice-skating rink. This trail will provide a safe path for pedestrians and bicyclists to reach these locations. Additionally, this trail is part of the City's larger trail system plan, with plans for a future trail along US Hwy 17 to connect the Timber Drive trail to an existing trail in the northern part of the City, along Stevens Street, to create a loop.

The City has received letters of support for this project from area businesses, school administrators, organizations, and law enforcement.

Project Goals: The City of Rhinelander project meets the following goals:

- Rhinelander Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), 2015-2020*
- Rhinelander Bike and Pedestrian Plan, 2019
- Rhinelander Safe Routes to School Plan, 2012
- Rhinelander Area Pathway Project Plan (RAPP), 2003

* The City is currently updating their CORP, but this has been delayed due to COVID.

Public Uses: Year-round hiking and biking.

Ownership & Management: Site is within the existing road right-of-way for Timber Drive. A portion of the trail is within the Town of Pelican and the Hwy 17 right-of-way. Both the Town and the WI DOT have granted the City of Rhinelander permission to construct, operate, and maintain the trail within their respective jurisdictions. Operation and maintenance of the trail will be managed by the City’s Parks, Buildings and Grounds Departments.

Timetable: Planning and design work is ongoing for this project. The City intends to start this project at the same time as planned resurfacing for Timber Drive in spring 2023. Construction will be completed by fall of 2023.

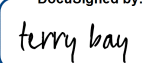
Project Partners:

- The City of Rhinelander
- Town of Pelican and WI DOT: land use agreement
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR): Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

Proposed WDNR Stewardship Grant FY23	\$ 318,600
<u>The City of Rhinelander (City Funds)</u>	<u>\$ 318,600</u>
Project Total	\$ 637,200

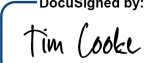
III. RECOMMENDED:

DocuSigned by:

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11/11/2022 | 10:01 AM CST

Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Date

DocuSigned by:

 D792C5F7A747460...

11/11/2022 | 12:21 PM CST

Tim Cooke, Administrator, Division of Internal Services

Date

Attachments: Project Map



City of Rhinelander Timber Drive Bike Trail

Map Features



Notes

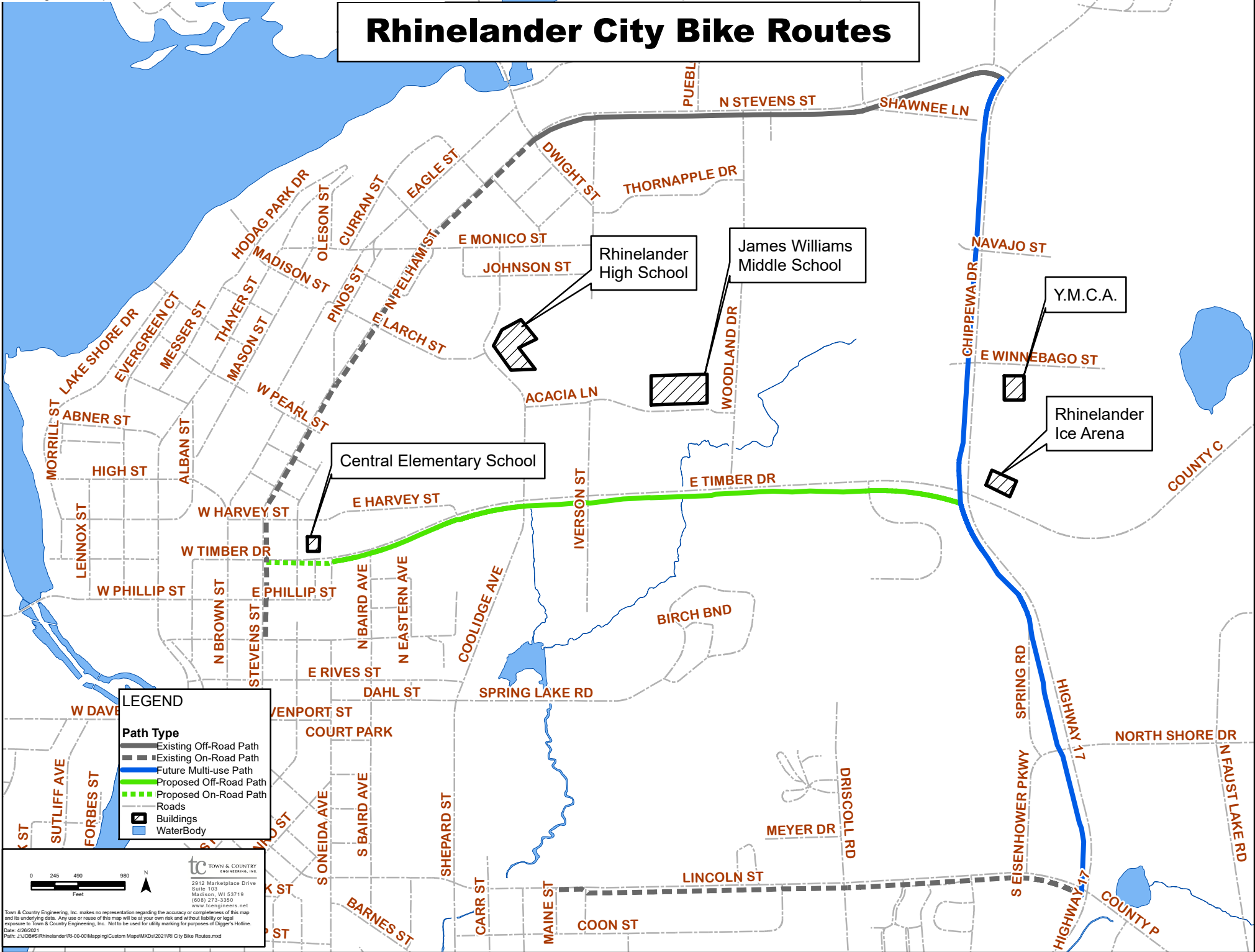


Projection: NAD_1983_HARN_Wisconsin_TM

Map created: 11/9/2022

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Rhinelanders City Bike Routes



LEGEND

Path Type

- Existing Off-Road Path
- Existing On-Road Path
- Future Multi-use Path
- Proposed Off-Road Path
- Proposed On-Road Path
- Roads
- Buildings
- WaterBody

0 245 490 980 Feet

TC TOWN & COUNTRY ENGINEERS, INC.
 2912 Marketplace Drive
 Suite 103
 Madison, WI 53719
 (609) 273-3350
 www.tceengineers.net

Town & Country Engineering, Inc. makes no representation regarding the accuracy or completeness of this map and its underlying data. Any use or reuse of this map will be at your own risk and without liability or legal exposure to Town & Country Engineering, Inc. Not to be used for utility marking for purposes of Digger's Hotline. Date: 4/28/2021
 Path: J:\JOBS\Rhinelanders\RI-00-00\Mapping\Custom Maps\MXD\2021\RI City Bike Routes.mxd



April 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The Rhinelanders Area Chamber of Commerce fully supports the City of Rhinelanders pursuing a DNR Stewardship Grant to support the development of a recreational trail along Timber Drive here in Rhinelanders, WI.

This trail will enhance the safety of bike and pedestrian traffic, create a carbon-friendly sustainable city development, and further our city's outdoor recreation connectivity.

We look forward to having this development in our community for both residents and visitors of Rhinelanders. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Sackett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Sackett
Executive Director
Rhinelanders Area Chamber of Commerce



City of Rhinelanders

Office of the Administrator

April 23, 2021

RE: Timber Drive Multi-Use path

Dear Members of the Stewardship Local Assistance Review Team -

It gives me great pleasure to submit a letter of support for the addition of a multi-use trail on the Timber Drive corridor. This area currently lacks essential bicycle and pedestrian facilities, particularly with an adjacent Elementary School, faith-based organizations, medical clinics, non-profit service organizations, and nearby High School and related facilities. Our Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has prioritized this route through an analysis of challenges and opportunities within the Rhinelanders Community. As part of a reconstruction of this thoroughfare planned in 2022, this is the ideal time to add a multi-use recreational trail within the existing right-of-way. In 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is planning to reconstruct the Highway 17 Bypass and will add a recreational trail there further adding to our trail network. Last year, we completed the addition of a multi-use recreational trail on North Stevens Street as part of a significant utility and street reconstruction project. All in all, these segments need a connection and the addition of a multi-use trail along Timber Drive will provide.

In the Northwoods, residents and visitors alike enjoy outdoor recreation and this project fits squarely within that. Separating the bicycle and pedestrian facilities from the motorists is simply the right thing to do and will add greater connectivity to the abovementioned destinations in the process.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We will be great 'stewards' of the precious resources.

Zachary Vruwink
City Administrator

135 S. Stevens Street
Rhinelanders, WI 54501
Website: rhinelandercityhall.org

Telephone (715) 365-8600
Fax (715) 365-8630
Email zvruwink@rhinelandercityhall.org



Rhinelanders Police Department

Lloyd J. Gauthier
Chief of Police

Captain of Police

April 15, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

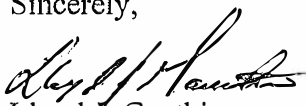
The City of Rhinelanders is pursuing a DNR Stewardship Grant to support the development of a recreational trail along Timber Drive to Sth 17. As the Chief of Police, I fully endorse this endeavor. Three main schools are located either on Timber Drive or within a block. Central School is located on Timber Drive and the Rhinelanders High School and Middle School are located one block north of Timber Drive. Timber Drive is heavily traveled by vehicles and pedestrians because of the schools. This heavy traffic puts pedestrians at risk when walking.

The police department supports this from the pedestrian/bicyclist's safety point of view. This project would also create pedestrian walkways on both sides of Timber Drive. Currently, the only sidewalk is located on the north side of the road. This is extremely important as we have a lot of children who walk to school though out the school year.

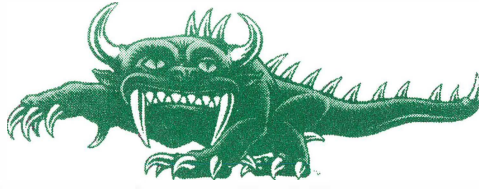
This project would also create a safe place for bicyclist to bike to school and not be in the roadway. Not only would students be able to bike, but it would be open to the public to also bike. Timber Drive is also a major thoroughfare to The YMCA of the Northwoods. The project would allow safe passage for pedestrians and bicyclists to the sidewalks that run along Sth 17 to the YMCA, which is located one block north of Timber Drive on Sth 17.

As the proposed bike trail is fully within the City of Rhinelanders limits, our officers will patrol the trail and adjoining areas for safety and security and enforce all applicable city ordinances and state laws. For these safety reasons, the Rhinelanders Police Department wholeheartedly supports the City of Rhinelanders applying for this grant. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Lloyd J. Gauthier
Chief of Police



CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RHINELANDER

418 N. Pelham Street • Rhineland, WI 54501

Phone: (715) 365-9600 • Fax (715) 365-9612

www.rhineland.k12.wi.us

April 12, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

The School District of Rhineland strategic plan for continuous improvement outlines our key performance indicators that we will use to determine our effectiveness. School safety is a priority in our core area focused on our operations. The Timber Drive Recreational Trail project would be a wonderful asset to help support safety for all.

Central Elementary School, located along Timber Drive, is the only city elementary school in our district. Our students all live within a short distance to our school. As such, we try to promote students to walk and bike to and from school. The greatest barrier to this centers on safe paths to school. The DNR Stewardship Grant proposal by the city of Rhineland identifies key locations for improving safety and supporting the well-being of all.

All students of the School District of Rhineland would benefit from this project. Many students from James Williams Middle School and Rhineland High School walk or bike Timber Drive, both during the school year as well as during the summer for various activities. Our middle and high school physical education curriculum has a biking unit. The teachers are continually trying to navigate the safest routes. This is challenging. The recreational trail would be an asset to this unit of instruction.

This proposal is exciting and would open up avenues of success in our city. The improvements to safety would be beneficial and serve as a springboard to brighter days ahead for Rhineland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr. Paul E. Johnson
Principal
Central Elementary School



Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 74 . Rhineland, WI 54501 . 715-369-6111

April 6, 2021

City of Rhineland
Zach Vruwink, City Administrator
135 South Stevens Street
Rhineland, WI 54501

Dear Mr. Vruwink:

Subject: Support for DNR Stewardship Grant for the City of Rhineland

We write to express our support for the development of a recreational trail along Timber Drive to the Bypass as part of the DNR Stewardship Grant the City of Rhineland is pursuing.

Safe passage for walkers and bikers has long been a goal of our organization. This pathway provides the preferred off-road experience that promotes families use as well as individual use.

The Timber Drive pathway serves the underserved population of children in Rhineland by :

- Providing the safe passage for students walking or biking to Central Elementary School and James Williams Middle School;
- Providing safe passage for youth participating in the programming provided at YMCA of the Northwoods and the Rhineland Ice Association.

This significant missing link has been included in several outdoor recreation plans developed by North Central Regional Planning. It is key to connecting youth with organizations providing activities, education centers, employees and worksites, and walkers and bikers a continuous route.

The Timber Drive pathway would strengthen the biking and walking infrastructure by providing a critical link in a continuous walking and hiking loop taking residents by wetland areas, mixed forest, and meadow.

The Timber Drive pathway encourages employees at schools, county offices, and clients and staff at the developmental facility located along the pathway as an alternative transportation route reducing their carbon footprint. This supports the City of Rhineland effort to become more sustainable.

Our organization would see the advancement of this important project the cornerstone of making the City of Rhineland more walkable and bikeable friendly to residents and visitors. Benefits to the economy, infrastructure, and livability would be greatly enhanced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jackie Cody'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Cody
President

Cc: OCBWTC Board



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

April 5, 2021

Re: Rhinelander Timber Drive Recreational Trail

The YMCA of the Northwoods has worked closely over the years with the City of Rhinelander to expand safe walking and biking areas within our city and proudly serve on the Mayors Advisory Committee on Walking and Biking. Our objective to provide support and feedback on what our community shares as important in this area.

The discussion on safer travel paths on Timber Drive have been of importance for the YMCA and for our community. Through a community needs assessment by the YMCA as well as further discussions we see it as important for this work to move forward for residents of all ages.

The YMCA is the leading nonprofit serving youth of all ages in our community. Currently the path between the YMCA and our schools is on a route which could be seen as unsafe. The addition of a recreational trail will further allow our ability to support and serve our youth as an extension to the school day, opening up out of school time opportunities that were difficult to access previously. The project serves a multitude of purposes of safety, separation of bicycle or walking from vehicular traffic, furthering promoting healthy lifestyles and creating a community that supports alternative means of travel creating a cleaner environment.

We strongly support the Timber Drive development and know the investment will be very highly received by our community as an investment in all that reside in our area.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Ryan Zietlow
Chief Executive Officer
YMCA of the Northwoods



**Rhineland Ice
Association**

P.O. Box 1188
Rhineland, WI 54501-1188

www.rhinelandice.com

To Whom It May Concern:

The Rhineland Ice Association, a 501c3 non profit organization, owns and operates Rhineland Ice Arena which is located on Timber Drive. On behalf of Rhineland Ice Association, I would like to offer our full support to the City of Rhineland in their pursuit of a DNR Stewardship Grant to support the development of a recreational trail along Timber Drive.

The proposed trail would enhance the safety of bike and pedestrian traffic, which is used often for our participants to walk or bike to our facility from the schools. It would also offer opportunity for more outdoor recreation in the city limits.

Connecting the downtown and school area with businesses like ours, Headwaters Inc, and the YMCA on the edge of town provides a great benefit to all in the community.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Aylesworth'.

Brett Aylesworth
Rhineland Ice Association Rink Manager



The Rhineland Ice Association is a United Way Partner Agency



Headwaters, Inc.
Empowering Lives

April 14, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Headwaters is a community agency serving people with disabilities in the Rhinelander area, and our office is located on Timber Drive. On behalf of Headwaters, I would like to offer our full support to the City of Rhinelander in their pursuit of a DNR Stewardship Grant to support the development of a recreational trail along Timber Drive.

The proposed trail would enhance the safety of bike and pedestrian traffic, which is very exciting and important to our agency as we use Timber Drive a lot for walking and biking.

We see people bike and walk along Timber Drive all the time and their safety is a concern because it is a heavily trafficked roadway in Rhinelander. This recreational trail would be a great development for the City of Rhinelander, and as someone who personally hikes and bikes in the area a lot, we could use additional safe trails for these activities, particularly for individuals who can't drive to the trails outside of city limits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Felty".

Jennifer Felty, Director

Services include: Community Employment, Community Integration,
Community Supported Living, Children & Family Services, and Pre-Vocational Services



An Equal Opportunity Employer
An Agency of the Catholic Charities Bureau
1441 East Timber Drive Rhinelander, WI 54501-0618
Phone 715-369-1337 Fax 715-369-1793





THE HUMAN SERVICE CENTER

(HUMAN SERVICES BOARD 51.42/51.437)

P.O. BOX 897

705 EAST TIMBER DRIVE • RHINELANDER, WI 54501-0897

TELEPHONE: 715-369-2215

FAX: 715-369-2214

April 15, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The Human Service Center supports the City of Rhinelanders pursuing a DNR Stewardship Grant for the development of a recreational trail along Timber Drive in Rhinelanders, WI.

As a community service organization often serving residents with limited transportation, options like this bike trail could aid in increasing access to our office for our clients.

We look forward to having this development in our community as an added option for our clients and employees to safely commute to our office.

Sincerely,

William Korrer,
The Human Service Center Board Chair