

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Howard Marklein

316 East, State Capitol
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Madison, WI 53707-7882
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ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

308 East, State Capitol
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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Howard Marklein
Representative Mark Born

Date: November 27, 2023

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 27, 2023.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Thursday, December 14, 2023**, 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
Adam N. Payne, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711

NOV 27 2023
St. Finance

November 15, 2023

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

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

Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Born:

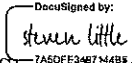
Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Committee on Joint Finance of a proposed development grant to City of Wisconsin Dells for the River Road Multi-Use Path using grant funds in the amount of \$717,915.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The proposed grant award represents 32.8% of the estimated (total or Stewardship eligible) project costs. This project is located in the City of Wisconsin Dells and Town of Newport, Columbia County, and Town of Dell Prairie, Adams County.

The proposed project will construct an approximate 1.9 mile, 10-foot wide, multi-use path to improve bicycle and pedestrian recreation and transportation along River Road from downtown Wisconsin Dells to the Chula Vista Resort. The route will connect to points of interest including the Upper Dells Boat Launch, the Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area, the Chapel Gorge Trail, the Cold-Water Canon Golf Course, the Woodside Dome, the Briarcliff Resort, the Swan Barn Door and the Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek. The trail will provide a safer, off-road recreation and transportation route for visitors, residents, and seasonal employees. Allowable uses include walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, and biking.

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 the submission of the application, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Steven Little
Deputy Secretary

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 15, 2023

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Steven Little, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for approval of stewardship development grant exceeding \$250,000

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 Program grant in the amount of \$717,915 to the City of Wisconsin Dells for the River Road Multi-Use Path development project. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: City of Wisconsin Dells

Grant Subprogram: Stewardship Local Assistance, Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Location: The River Road Multi-Use Path is located in the City of Wisconsin Dells and Town of Newport, Columbia County, and Town of Dell Prairie, Adams County

Project Description: The proposed project will construct an approximate 1.9 mile, 10-foot wide, multi-use, lighted pathway to improve bicycle and pedestrian recreation and transportation along River Road from downtown Wisconsin Dells to the Chula Vista Resort. The route will connect to points of interest including the Upper Dells Boat Launch, the Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area, the Chapel Gorge Trail, the Cold-Water Canon Golf Course, the Woodside Dome, the Briarcliff Resort, the Swan Barn Door and the Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek. The trail will be constructed at the same time the River Road is resurfaced/reconstructed, and the new trail will provide a safer, off-road recreation and transportation route for visitors, residents, and seasonal employees. Allowable trail uses include walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, and biking. A map and proposed cross-section for this project is attached.

Public Benefit: The multi-use path will be accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists year-round. Wisconsin Dells has been expanding their trail network over the last decade. Following completion of the River Road Path project, bicyclists and pedestrians will be able to travel almost seven miles on a separate-grade path from Highway 12 in Lake Delton to the Chula Vista Resort located in the Town of Dell Prairie, Adams County.

Coordination with recreational planning: This project will advance the purposes of the Stewardship Local Assistance, Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) grant program and objectives of local and regional recreation planning efforts. Specifically, the project is supported in the Wisconsin Dells Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2023-28). Per the purposes of the Stewardship ADLP grant program, the path will provide a new public nature-based outdoor recreation facility, enhance public access to the several points of interest in the Wisconsin Dells community, and implement recommendations from the Adams County Outdoor Recreation Plan, the North-Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and Wisconsin's State Trails Network Plan, all supporting trail connections and developments.

Public Access: The River Road Path project will be available to the public year-round, seven days a week, 365 days per year. Users will be able to walk, jog, run, cross-country ski, and bike during the day and at night since the path construction includes lighting.

Property Management: The City will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the new multi-use path. The path will be designed and constructed to reduce future maintenance costs and the City plans to utilize their park fund to perform long-term maintenance.

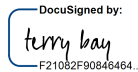
Timetable: Construction is scheduled to begin spring of 2024 and the path is estimated to be completed and fully open to the public by winter 2025.

Partnerships: Since River Road spans three municipal jurisdictions, the City is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Newport, and Town Dell Prairie for path construction rights as well as long-term maintenance and operation of the path.

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

Total project costs	\$2,189,429
Sponsor match	\$1,471,514 (67.3%)
Proposed Stewardship grant	\$ 717,915 (32.7%)

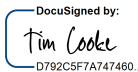
III. RECOMMENDED:

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11/16/2023 | 4:29 PM CST

Terry H. Bay, Director
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Date

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11/27/2023 | 9:30 AM CST

Tim Cooke, Administrator
 Division of Internal Services

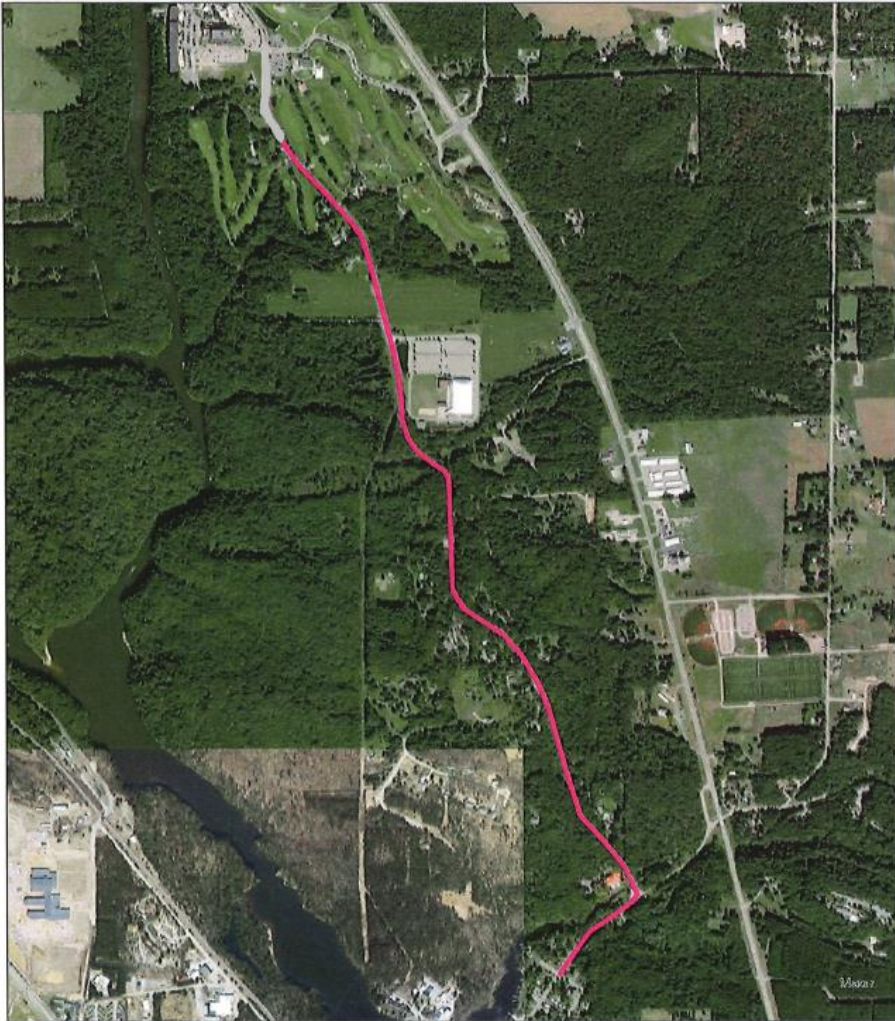
Date

Attachments

Appendix A: Trail map and cross-section of trail surface

Appendix B: Project location map

Appendix A

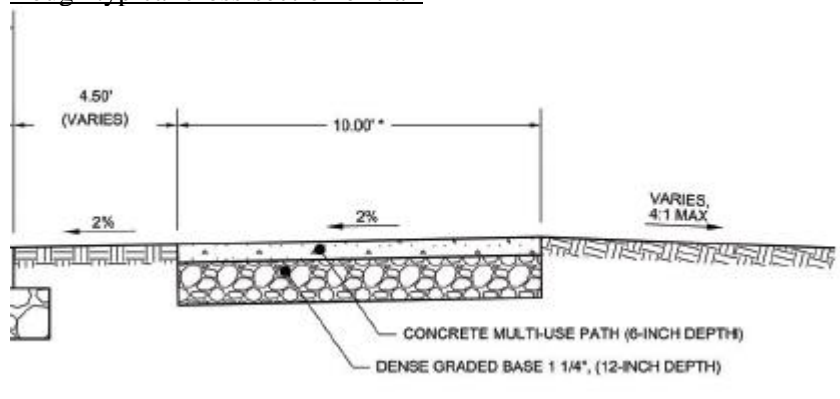


River Road Multi-Use Path

Stewardship Application

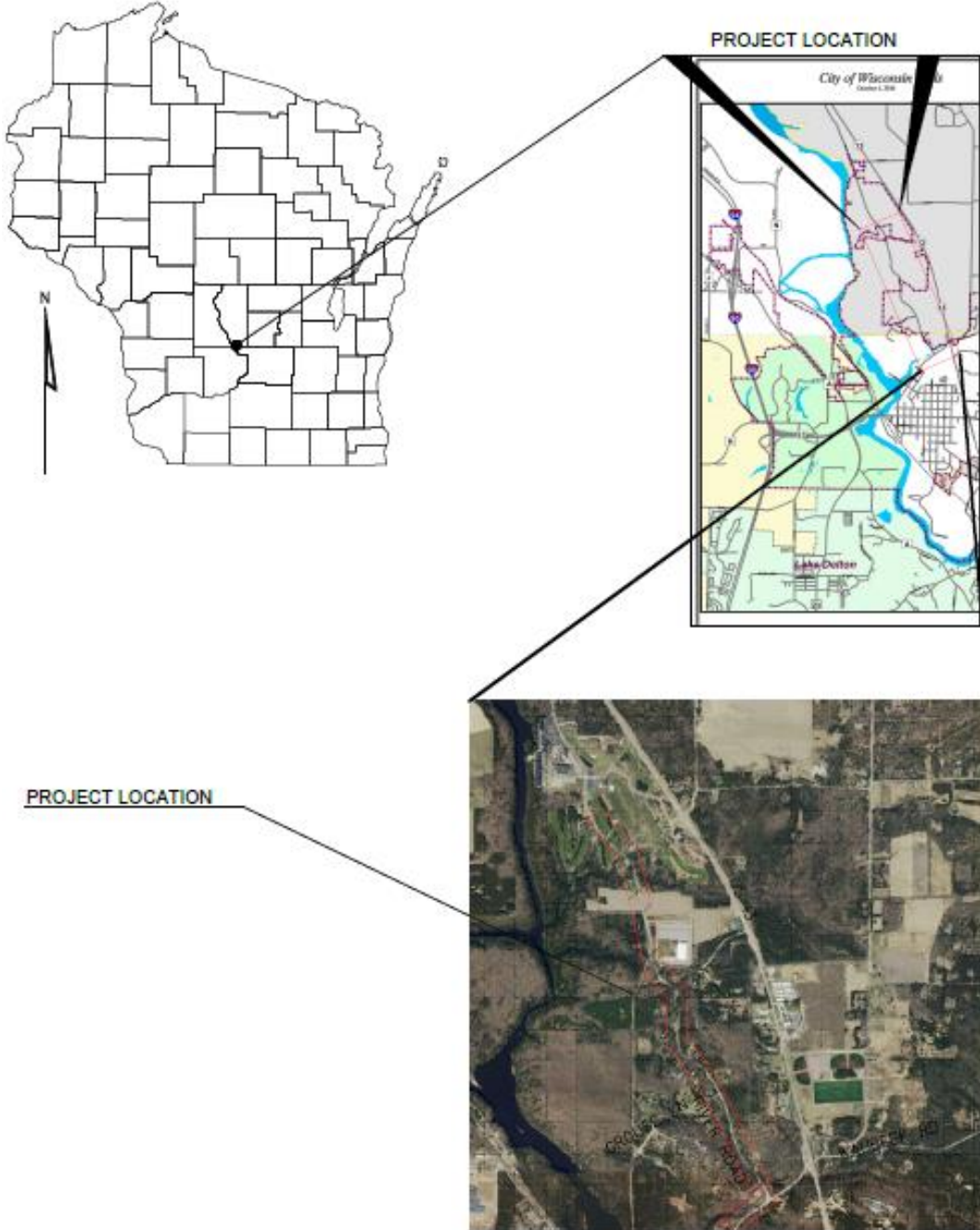
— Proposed Path

Rough typical cross-section of trail



Appendix B

**RIVER ROAD RECONSTRUCTION
CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS**



CAD MAPS PRODUCED BY
MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.