

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 29, 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 29, 2023.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Monday, December 18, 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 29 2023

J. Finance

November 29, 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 Winnebago County for the Waukau Creek Dam County Park Development project using grant funds in the amount of \$751,815.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The proposed grant award represents 44% of the estimated project costs. This parcel is located in the Town of Rushford, Winnebago County.

The proposed project will improve Waukau Creek Dam County Park with the development of an additional parking area, accessible fishing piers, an open-air pavilion, and lighting. The county will also redevelop the existing parking lot and pond loop trail, with fortification and restoration to the pond and creek embankment.

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,

DocuSigned by:

Steven Little

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Steven Little

Deputy Secretary

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 29, 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 \$751,815.00 to Winnebago County for the Waukau Creek Dam County Park Improvements development project. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Winnebago County

Grant Subprograms: Stewardship Local Assistance; Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Location: Waukau Creek Dam County Park is located in the Town of Rushford, Winnebago County.

Project Description: The proposed project will construct an additional parking area, an open-air shelter, and accessible fishing piers. In addition, reconstruction of the existing main parking lot and pond loop trail will be completed. Site lighting will be added and fortification and restoration to the pond and creek embankment will occur. The development of these amenities will aid in creating a park inclusive to all abilities and increase park safety, which will result in an enhanced user experience. A project location map and conceptual site plan are attached.

Public Benefit: The proposed improvements will make the park fully accessible for all ages and abilities in a safe and inclusive manner. The aging pond loop trail has endured past rain events that have caused wash out areas to develop. The embankment fortification and restoration will prevent the wash outs in the future resulting in reduced maintenance needs. The development of the additional parking lot will better serve the growing number of trail users and give more direct access to the trail.

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 Winnebago County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2018-23). Per the purposes of the Stewardship ADLP grant program, the park improvements will provide both new and upgraded public nature-based outdoor recreation facilities, enhance public water access, create park facilities that are accessible to all abilities and implement recommendations from the Waukau Creek Dam Site Analysis, Rush Lake Restoration Plan, and the Town of Rushford Comprehensive Plan.

Public Access: Waukau Creek Dam County Park will be available to the public from Sunrise to sunset, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year. Users will be able to walk, jog, run, bike, and snowshoe on the trails, and partake in wildlife viewing and fishing once the project is completed. These activities will enhance the existing park facilities that include parking lot, creek fed pond, fishing pier, and trails.

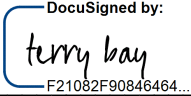
Property Management: Waukau Dam County Park will be operated and maintained by Winnebago County. The mountain bike trail is maintained by North East Wisconsin Trails organization through an agreement with the County. The project will be designed and constructed to reduce future maintenance costs and the County plans to utilize their park fund to perform long-term maintenance.

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

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

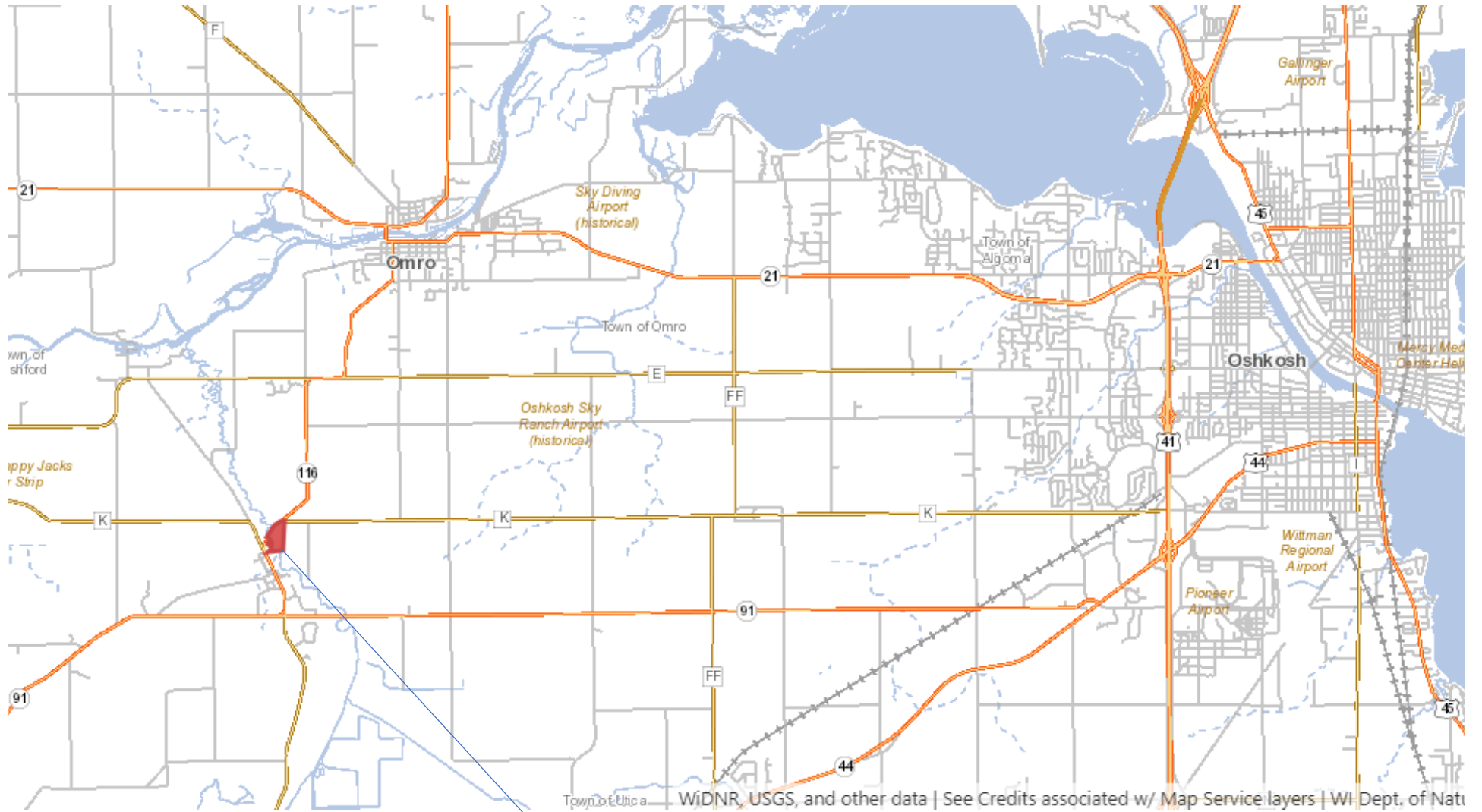
Total project costs	\$1,733,630.00
Sponsor match	\$ 981,815.00
Proposed Stewardship grant	\$ 751,815.00 (44%)

III. RECOMMENDED:

	11/28/2023 3:16 PM CST
_____ Terry H. Bay, Director Bureau of Facilities and Lands	_____ Date

	11/29/2023 8:49 AM CST
_____ Tim Cooke, Administrator Division of Internal Services	_____ Date

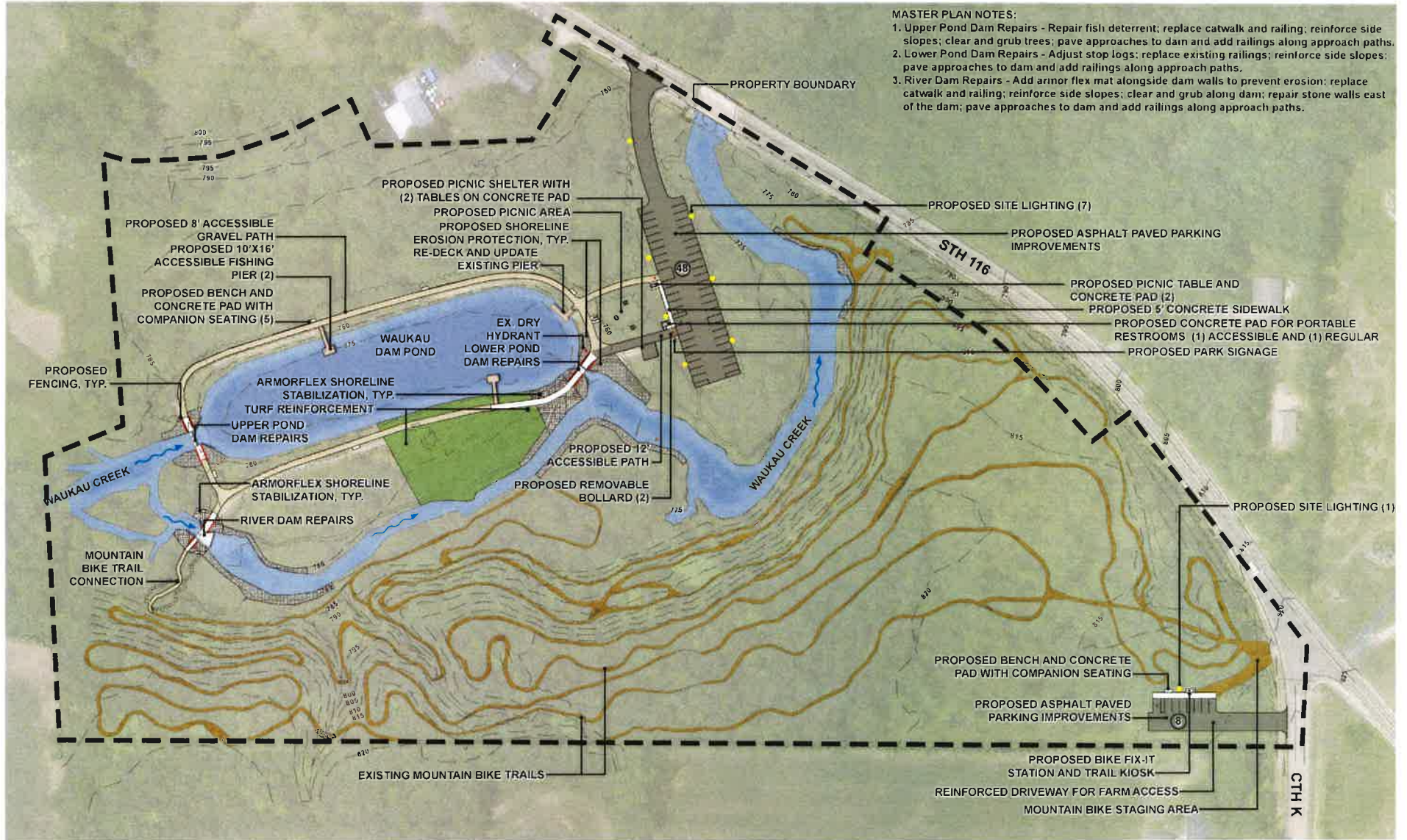
Attachments: Appendix A: Project Location Map
Appendix B: Project Conceptual Site Plan



Town of Ellettsville | WIDNR, USGS, and other data | See Credits associated w/ Map Service layers | WI Dept. of Natu

**Project Location-
Waukau Creek Dam
County Park**

Appendix B: Project Site Plan

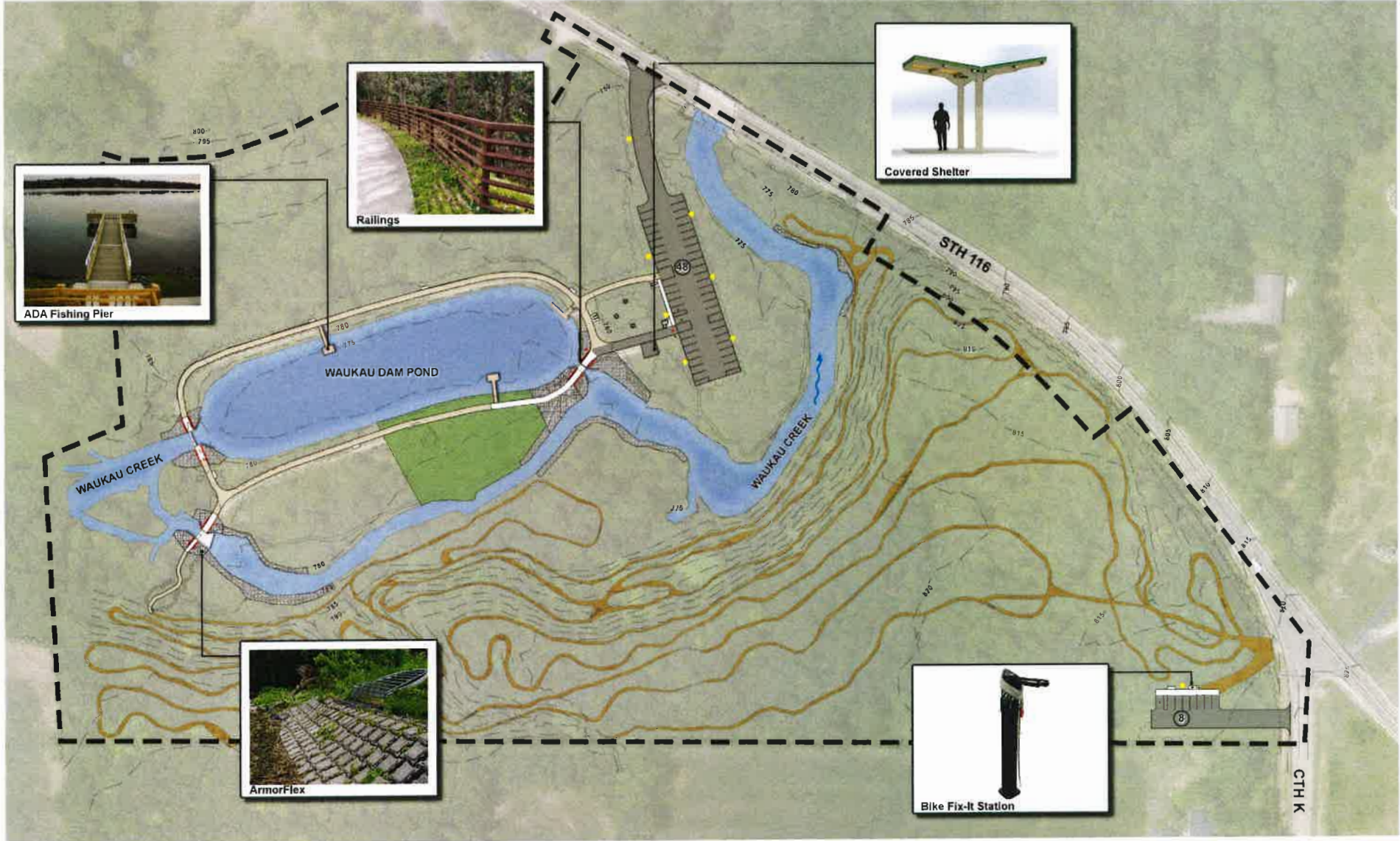


Waukau Dam Master Plan

Winnebago County, WI
06.14.2022



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Waukau Dam
Character Images

Winnebago County, WI
06.14.2022

