

**City of Eau Claire  
Waterways and Parks Commission  
Wednesday, May 22, 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
Conference Room – Central Maintenance Facility**

**Agenda**

- I. Approval of minutes from the April 24, 2019 meeting.
- II. New Business
  - a. Group photo of Commission
  - b. Vacation of a portion of Newton Street, from Wilcox Street to the Chippewa River (Trevor Wittwer)
  - c. Recommendation of approval for construction of the restrooms with pavilion at Owen Park on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. (Jeff Pippenger)
- III. 2019 Special Events list (Information only)
- IV. Directors Report (Information only)
- V. Adjournment

**Please call the Community Services Office  
(715-839-4649) if you cannot attend this meeting!**

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*"Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in accessible location or format must contact the ADA Coordinator for the City of Eau Claire, at 839-4921 or at 203 South Farwell Street by 2:00 PM the Monday prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request."*

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**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE  
WATERWAYS AND PARKS COMMISSION  
(Meeting Minutes)**

**April 24, 2019**

**Members Present:** Joshua Miller, Tom Fiedler, Susan McLeod, John Bodkin, Ron Doering, Jeanne Mueller, John Lor

**Members Absent:** Kate Beaton, Kirk Dahl, Meredith Ball, Jenni Sterling

**Staff Present:** Jeff Pippenger, Pat Ivory

The meeting was chaired by Joshua Miller at the City's Central Maintenance Facility Conference Room and called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 27, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

**New Commission Member:** John Lor was welcomed to the Commission.

**Business Agenda.**

**A. Recommendation on Installing a Little Library at Sundet Park.** Jeff Pippenger informed the Commission that the City had received a request from Locust Lane Elementary School to install a free library kiosk at Sundet Park.

Cindy Arteson, from the Eau Claire School District discussed the request noting that the staff at Locust Lane would maintain the library and supply the books.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jeanne Mueller moved to recommend approval. Ron Doering seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**B. Recommendation on Southwest Dog Park and Boat Launch.** Jeff Pippenger provided an overview of plans to install a boat launch and dog park within the Ferry Street special area open space located at the south end of Ferry Street to the east of the Wastewater Treatment Facility and along the Chippewa River. The boat launch will include an area for 12 vehicle and trailer parking spaces, a boat launch area, and a kayak/canoe mooring deck. The dog park will include a 24-stall parking lot, pay station, dog transition area, fencing, and water station. A portable toilet, drinking fountain, security lighting, and picnic tables will also be provided at the site.

Phil Johnson, from CBS Squared, Inc. discussed the design of the two facilities.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tom Fiedler moved to recommend approval. John Lor seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**C. Presentation on Urban Forestry Report.** Matt Staudenmaier, from the Forestry Division discussed the forestry operations of the City. He noted that the City has been recognized as a Tree City USA community for the past 40 years based on its level of service provided to the community. Matt also discussed the Forestry Division staffing, Arbor Day activities, work related to the emerald ash borer infestation, and the re-use of the harvested wood.

The Commission thanked Matt for the work of his Forestry crew.

**D. Recommendation on purchase of property along Mead Street.** Pat Ivory provided an overview of a request to purchase a parcel on the south side of Mead Street adjacent to three parcels recently purchased by the City for future neighborhood park purposes. The future park site is identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan and is adjacent to an existing trail and a future trail extension.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Ron Doering moved to recommend approval. John Bodkin seconded motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**E. Recommendation on West Grand Avenue Plaza Improvements.** Pat Ivory provided an overview of the site plan for the green space located to the west and northwest of the Grand Avenue Bridge. The work would be part of the planned reconstruction of West Grand Avenue this summer. The existing green space contains landscaping, benches, a covered picnic table, sidewalks, and trails. The site plan for the new plaza would include most of the existing features with the exception of the picnic table. Additional features would include decorative pavers, swing benches, boulder seating, a retaining wall, a small event/gathering area, improved river overlooks, a sculpture, and ADA accessibility to the railing along the Chippewa River. Pat noted that the City would attempt to save as many trees as possible, but trees close to the west end of the bridge would be likely candidates for replacement. Pat noted that the West Grand Avenue Business Improvement District had recommended approval of the site plan.

The Commission discussed the site plan noting that they would like to see as many trees retained as possible. They also noted that a number of people smoke in this area and consideration should be given on a trial basis to designate the area as a smoke free area. The Commission also discussed whether the area should be named, possibly in recognition of Brian Amundson, the City's former Director of Public Works.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tom Fiedler moved to recommend that the Commission advocate for naming the area in recognition of Brian Amundson. Ron Doering seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

John Bodkin moved to recommend that the City give consideration to designating this green space area as a smoke free area, possibly on a trial basis for other park areas. John Lor seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**Waterways and Parks Commission Meeting**  
**April 24, 2019**  
**Page 3 of 3**

Jeanne Mueller moved to recommend approval of the site plan. John Lor seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**Other Items.**

-The Commission reviewed the special events listing and Director's Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Susan McLeod, Secretary

# MEMORANDUM

## ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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TO: Jeff Pippenger, Community Services Director

FROM: Leah Ness, PE, PTOE, Deputy City Engineer

DATE: May 15, 2019

SUBJECT: Vacation of Newton Street, from Wilcox Street to the Chippewa River

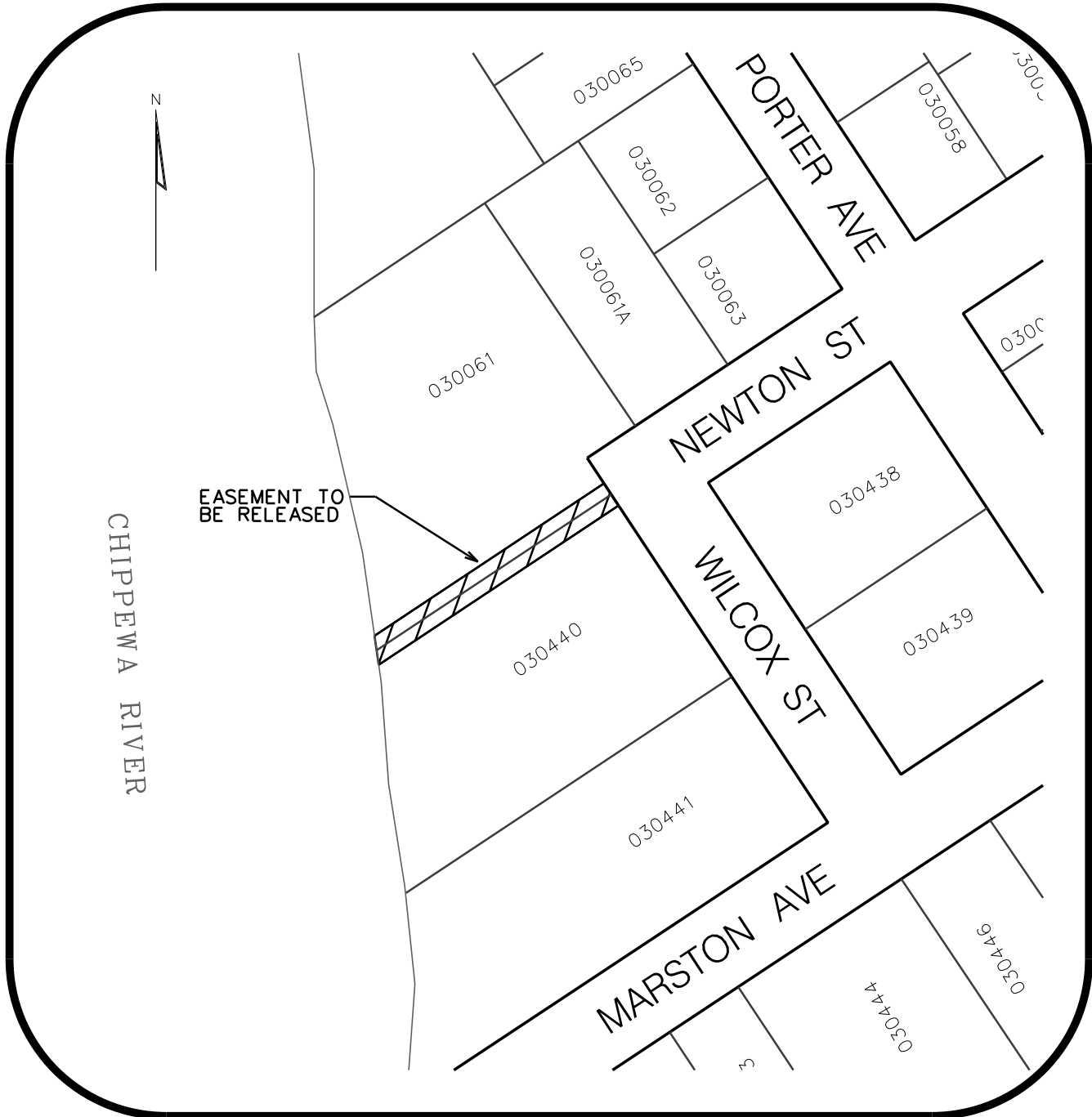
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Ness". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Please place an item on the next Waterways & Parks Commission agenda to discuss and make a recommendation on the above-referenced item.

This action to vacate the segment of Newton Street, from Wilcox Street to the Chippewa River has been initiated by the City of Eau Claire. An abandoned storm sewer is located within this right-of-way. The proposed street vacation would not impact any current or future utility and transportation needs of the city. Vacation of the right-of-way of this segment of Newton Street would appear to be in the best interest of all parties involved. A separate resolution will include language to release the utility reservation over the vacated right-of-way as retained by 13.32.010 of the City Code.

A public hearing is scheduled for the Monday, June 10, 2019, City Council Meeting. A resolution for City Council consideration will be placed on the agenda for the Tuesday, June 11, 2019, City Council Meeting.

Attachments: Map



EASEMENT RELEASE  
NEWTON STREET  
WILCOX ST TO CHIPPEWA RIVER

## PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

### STAFF REPORT

#### PROJECT NAME: Restroom Plan Owen Park

**To:** Waterways and Parks Commission

**Date:** May 22, 2019

**From:** Jeff Pippenger

**Description:** Recommendation to approve plans for restroom at Owen Park

**Location:** Owen Park

**Background:** After Xcel Energy's gas plant remediation project was complete in Owen Park, restoration plans included an elevation out of the flood way to allow for a new restroom in the park nearer the playground and band-shell. The new restroom will also have an open pavilion attached for picnicking. The facility includes a separate family/single use restroom as well.

**Justification:** Current restroom facility in Owen Park is undersized and is the oldest restroom facility in the park system. The current restroom does not meet current ADA requirements, or fixture codes. The pavilion attached is intended replace a small open gazebo that was unsalvageable during the remediation project. The pavilion will also serve as an off season enclosed storage space for park equipment, and be available by reservation during warm weather seasons.

**Proposed Location:** Owen Park

**Facilities Features:** restrooms and open pavilion

**Storm Water:** N/A

**City of Eau Claire Park and Open Space Master Plan:** New restroom identified in current park plans

**City Comprehensive Plan:** N/A

**Financial:** N/A

**LAWCON:** N/A

# CITY OF EAU CLAIRE OWEN PARK PAVILION

501 1ST AVE  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

## GENERAL

- A100 TITLE SHEET, SHEET INDEX, PROJECT LOCATION MAPS
- A101 CODE PLAN

## CIVIL

- C200 EXISTING SITE UTILITY PLANS
- C201 PROPOSED SITE PLAN

## ARCHITECTURAL

- A300 PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN, WALL TYPES, DOOR TYPES, FRAME TYPES, SCHEDULES
- A301 PROPOSED ROOF PLAN
- A400 EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS
- A500 BUILDING SECTIONS
- A501 DOOR DETAILS
- A600 INTERIOR ELEVATIONS
- A700 PROPOSED REFLECTED CEILING PLAN

## STRUCTURAL

- S100 STRUCTURAL DESIGN NOTES
- S300 FOUNDATION PLAN, ROOF FRAMING PLAN

## PLUMBING

- P100 PLUMBING, MAIN FLOOR PLAN
- P200 Unnamed

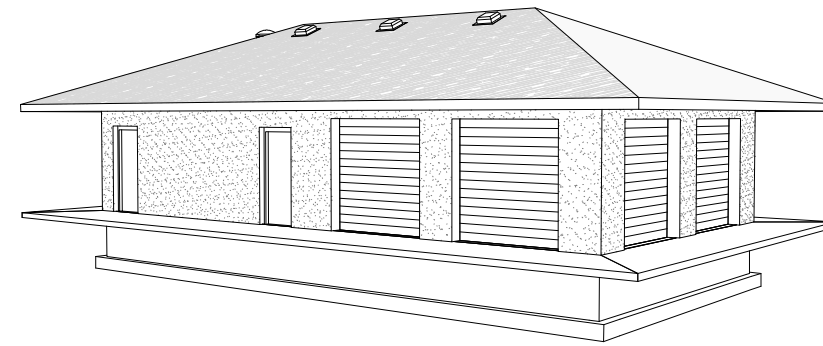
## MECHANICAL

- M100 MECHANICAL, FLOOR PLAN, DETAILS, SCHEDULES, LEGEND AND SPECIFICATIONS
- M200 Unnamed

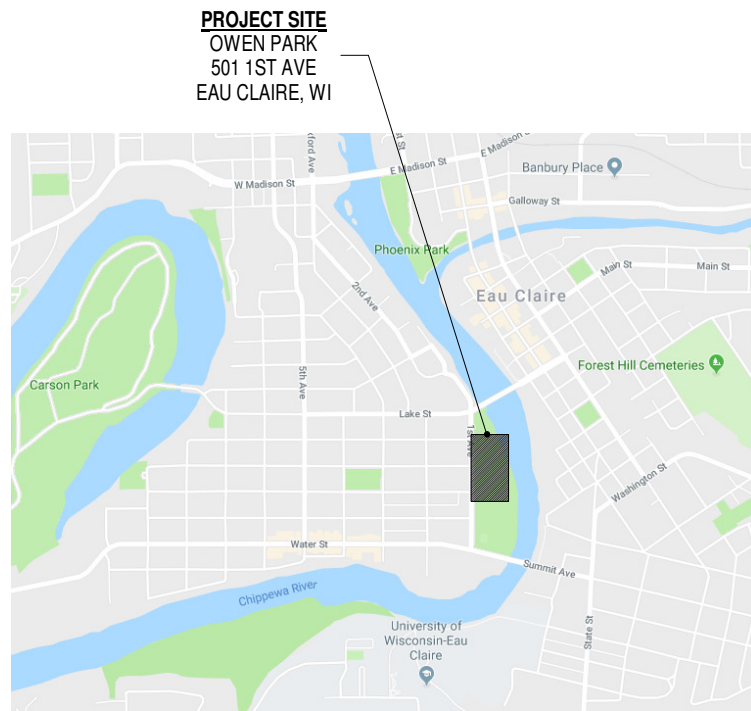
## ELECTRICAL

- E100 ELECTRICAL, MAIN FLOOR PLAN
- E101 Unnamed

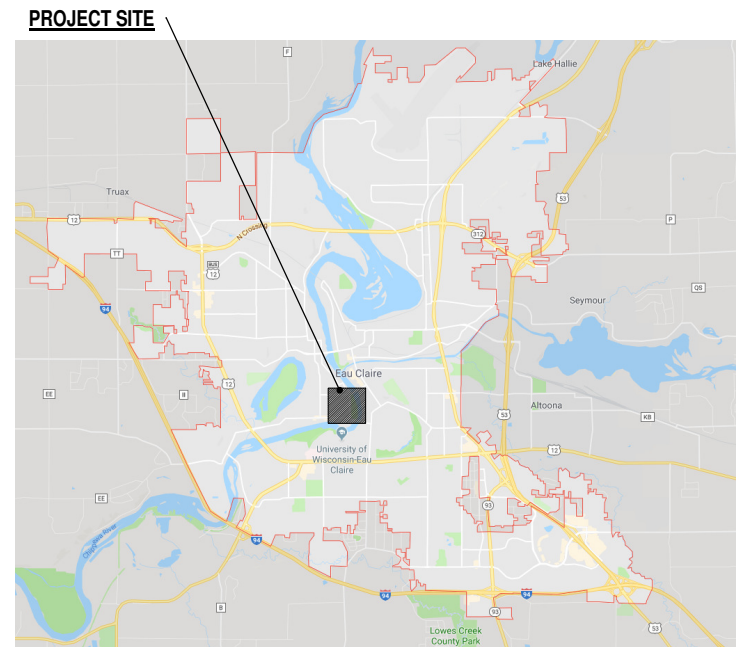
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**  
THIS BUILDING WILL BE USED FOR TWO PURPOSES. IN THE SUMMER SEASON, THE COILING DOORS WILL BE LOCKED IN THE OPEN POSITION AND REMAIN OPEN FOR THE DURATION OF THE SEASON. THE STORAGE SPACE WILL BE USED AS COVERED PAVILION SPACE DURING THIS TIME. IN THE WINTER SEASON, THE BUILDING WILL BE LOCKED UP WITH NO ACCESS TO TOILET ROOMS. THE COILING DOORS WILL BE LOCKED IN THE CLOSED POSITION AND USED FOR PARKS DEPARTMENT STORAGE.



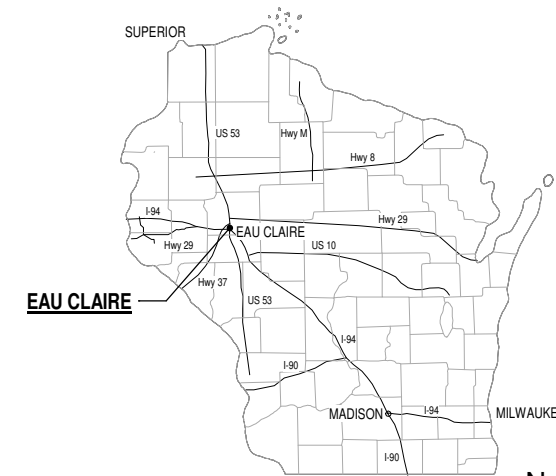
**4 MASSING VIEW**



**3 VICINITY MAP**  
1" = 20'-0"



**2 AREA MAP**  
N.T.S.



**1 STATE MAP**  
N.T.S.

**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**ARCHITECTS**  
**L&P**  
**ENGINEERS**

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501 1ST AVE  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

TITLE SHEET, SHEET  
INDEX, PROJECT  
LOCATION MAPS

REVISIONS:  
NO. DATE

ISSUE DATE:  
MAY 31, 2019

**A100**

L&P PROJECT # 1925



**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

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ROOM FINISH SCHEDULE									
NO.	NAME	FLOOR FINISH	BASE FINISH	WALL FINISH				CEILING FINISH	NOTES
				NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST		
101	STORAGE	CONC.	N/A	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	T&G	T&G PROVIDED BY OWNER
102	WOMEN'S	CONC.	N/A	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	M.R. CMNT BOARD	
103	PLUMBING CHASE	CONC.	N/A	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	M.R. CMNT BOARD	
104	MEN'S	CONC.	N/A	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	M.R. CMNT BOARD	
105	FAMILY TOILET	CONC.	N/A	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	PNT.	M.R. CMNT BOARD	

**ROOM FINISH SCHEDULE ABBREVIATIONS:**  
 CONC. SEALED CONCRETE  
 N/A NOT APPLICABLE  
 PNT. EPOXY PAINT  
 M.R. CMNT BOARD 5/8" MOISTURE RESISTANT CEMENT BOARD  
 T&G WOOD TONGUE AND GROOVE

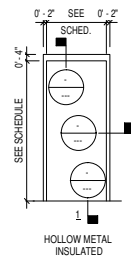
DOOR SCHEDULE									
NO.	DOOR				FRAME			HARDWARE	NOTES
	TYPE	WIDTH	HEIGHT	THICKNESS	TYPE	HEAD	JAMB		
101.1	A	8'-0"	8'-0"	0'-2"	-	3/A501	2/A501	1/A501	1, 2
101.2	A	8'-0"	8'-0"	0'-2"	-	3/A501	2/A501	1/A501	1, 2
101.3	A	8'-0"	8'-0"	0'-2"	-	3/A501	2/A501	1/A501	1, 2
101.4	A	8'-0"	8'-0"	0'-2"	-	3/A501	2/A501	1/A501	1, 2
101.5	A	8'-0"	8'-0"	0'-2"	-	3/A501	2/A501	1/A501	1, 2
101.6	A	8'-0"	8'-0"	0'-2"	-	3/A501	2/A501	1/A501	1, 2
102.1	B	3'-0"	7'-0"	0'-1 3/4"	1	6/A501	5/A501	4/A501	GROUP 1
103.1	B	3'-0"	7'-0"	0'-1 3/4"	1	6/A501	5/A501	4/A501	GROUP 3
104.1	B	3'-0"	7'-0"	0'-1 3/4"	1	6/A501	5/A501	4/A501	GROUP 1
105.1	B	3'-0"	7'-0"	0'-1 3/4"	1	6/A501	5/A501	4/A501	GROUP 2

**KEYED DOOR SCHEDULE NOTES:**  
 1. DOOR HARDWARE PER DOOR MANUFACTURER  
 2. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LOCKSET AT DOOR HEAD TO ALLOW FOR LOCKING AND IN OPEN POSITION  
 3. PROVIDE DOOR GRILLE PER MECH.

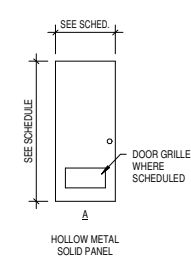
**DOOR HARDWARE GROUPS:**  
 GROUP 1  
 DOUBLE CYLINDER DEADBOLT  
 PUSH/PULL HANDLE  
 1 1/2 PAIR BALL BEARING HINGES

GROUP 2  
 PRIVACY LOCKSET  
 1 1/2 PAIR BALL BEARING HINGES

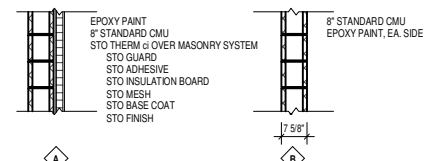
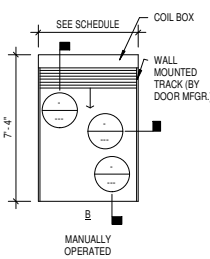
GROUP 3  
 PRIVACY LOCKSET  
 3 HINGES



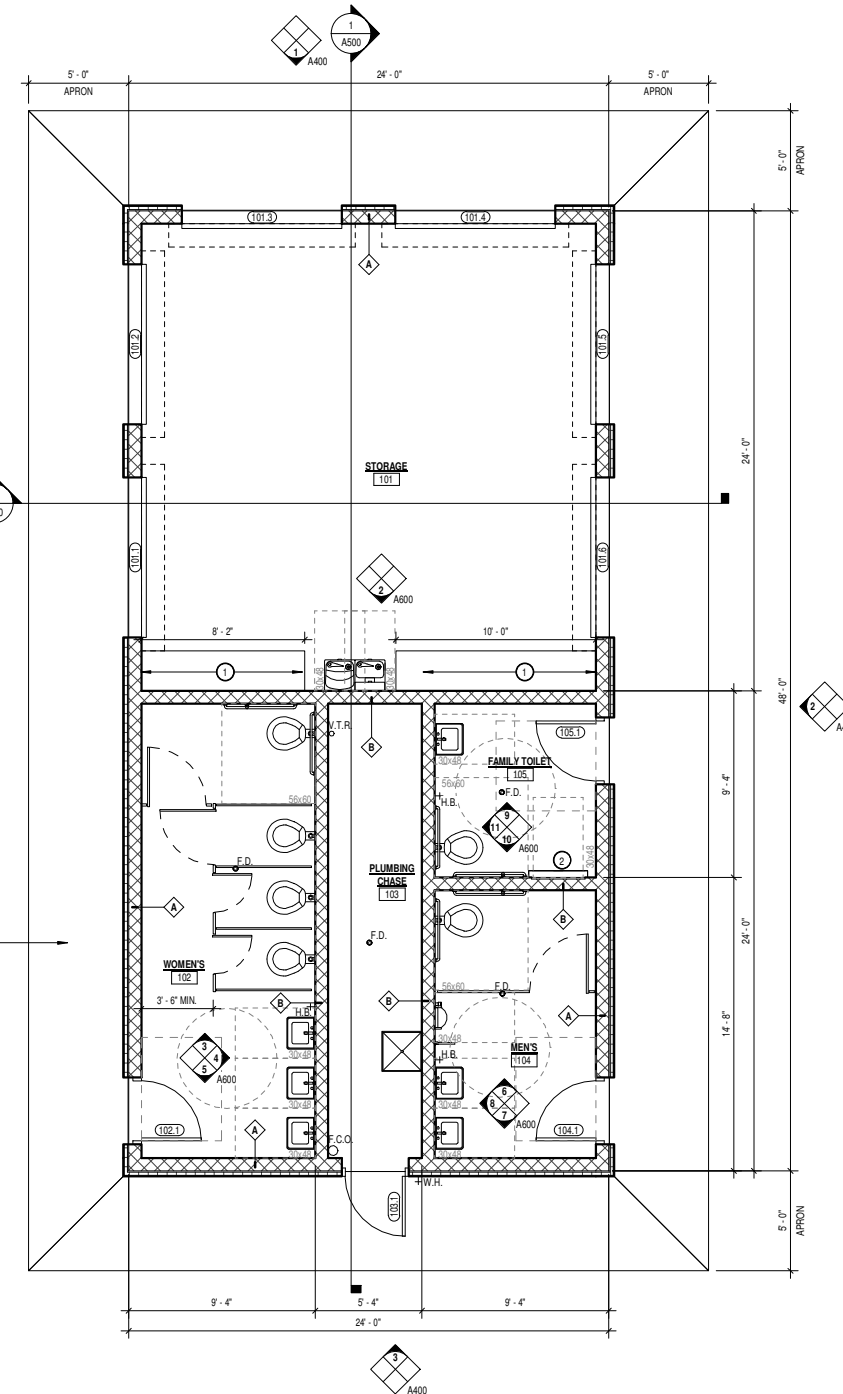
**4 FRAME TYPES**  
1/4" = 1'-0"



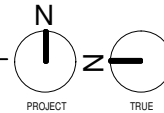
**3 DOOR TYPES**  
1/4" = 1'-0"



**2 WALL TYPES**  
1/2" = 1'-0"



**1 PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN**  
1/4" = 1'-0"



**GENERAL FLOOR PLAN NOTES:**

- A. INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS.
  - a. EXTERIOR MASONRY WALLS: FACE OF EXTERIOR SIDE OF MASONRY
  - b. INTERIOR MASONRY WALLS: FACE OF MASONRY
- B. FINAL FLOOR DRAIN, FLOOR CLEAN OUT, VENT TO ROOF, WALL HYDRANT, AND HOSE BIBB LOCATIONS TO BE COORDINATED WITH PLUMBING.

**KEYED FLOOR PLAN NOTES:**

- 1. 24" DEEP BUILT-IN COUNTER @ 30" A.F.F. W/ METAL SUPPORT BRACKET @ 48" O.C. WOOD TO BE SUPPLIED BY OWNER
- 2. WALL-MOUNTED DIAPER CHANGING STATION TO COMPLY WITH ALL ANSI REQUIREMENTS

**FLOOR PLAN LEGEND:**

- ROOM TAG
- DOOR TAG
- ELEVATION TAG
- SECTION TAG
- WINDOW TAG
- WALL TAG
- ELEVATION DATUM
- EXIT LIGHT
- F.D. FLOOR DRAIN
- F.C.O. FLOOR CLEAN OUT
- H.B. HOSE BIBB
- V.T.R. VENT TO ROOF
- W.H. WALL HYDRANT

**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN,  
 WALL TYPES, DOOR  
 TYPES, FRAME TYPES,  
 SCHEDULES

REVISIONS:

NO.	DATE
2	07/02/2015

SCALE DATE:  
 MAY 31, 2019

A300

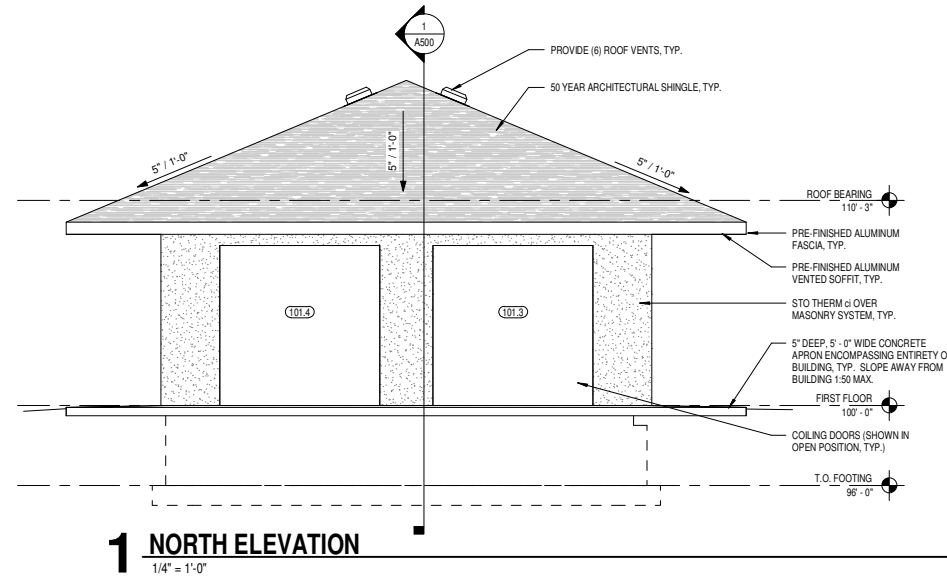
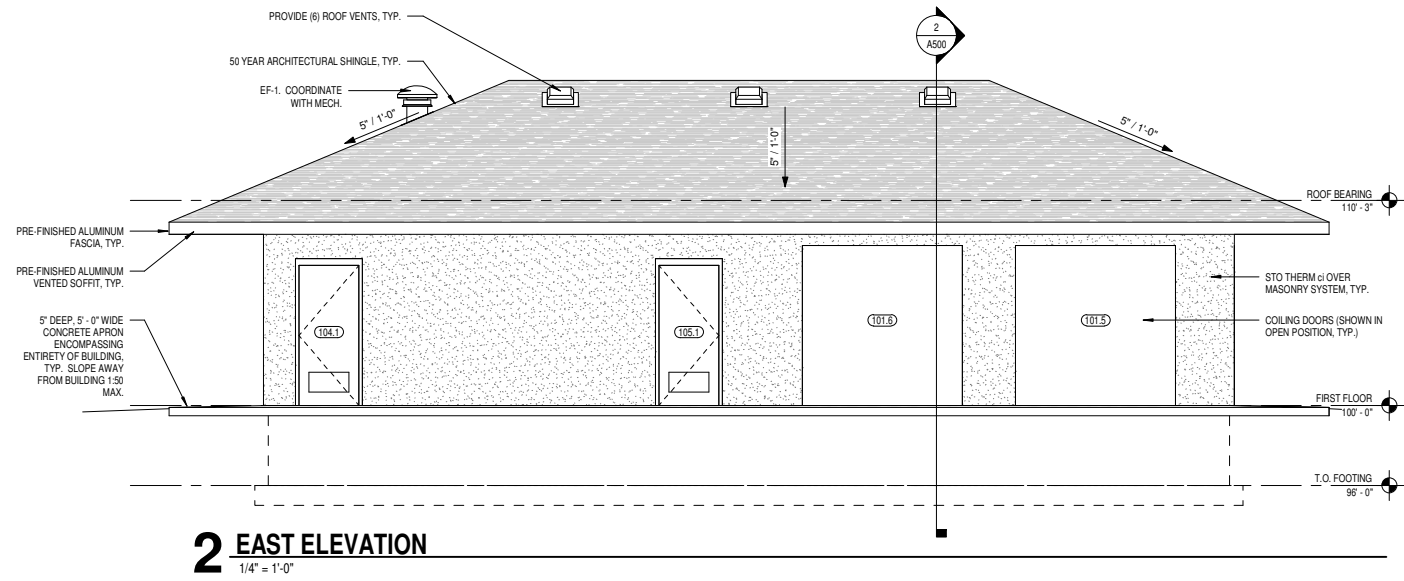
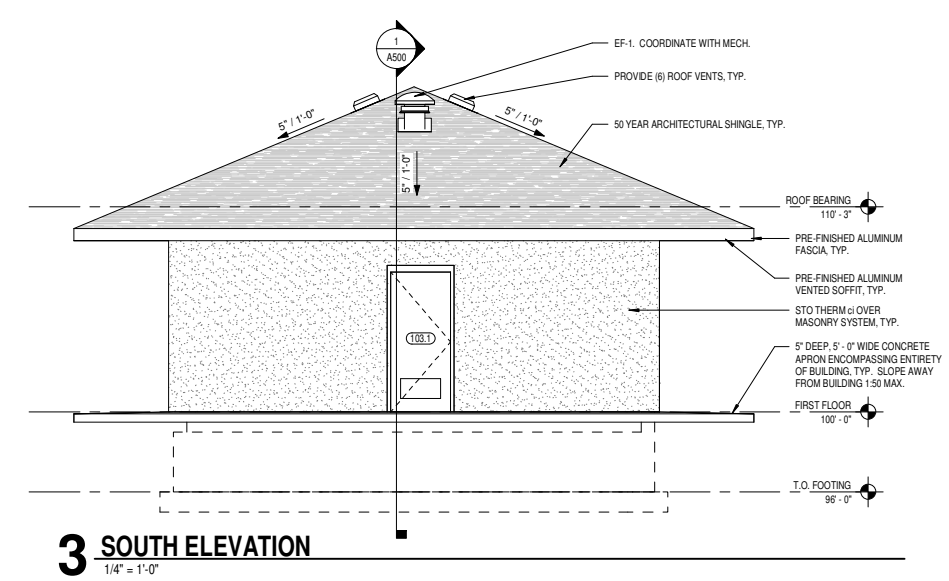
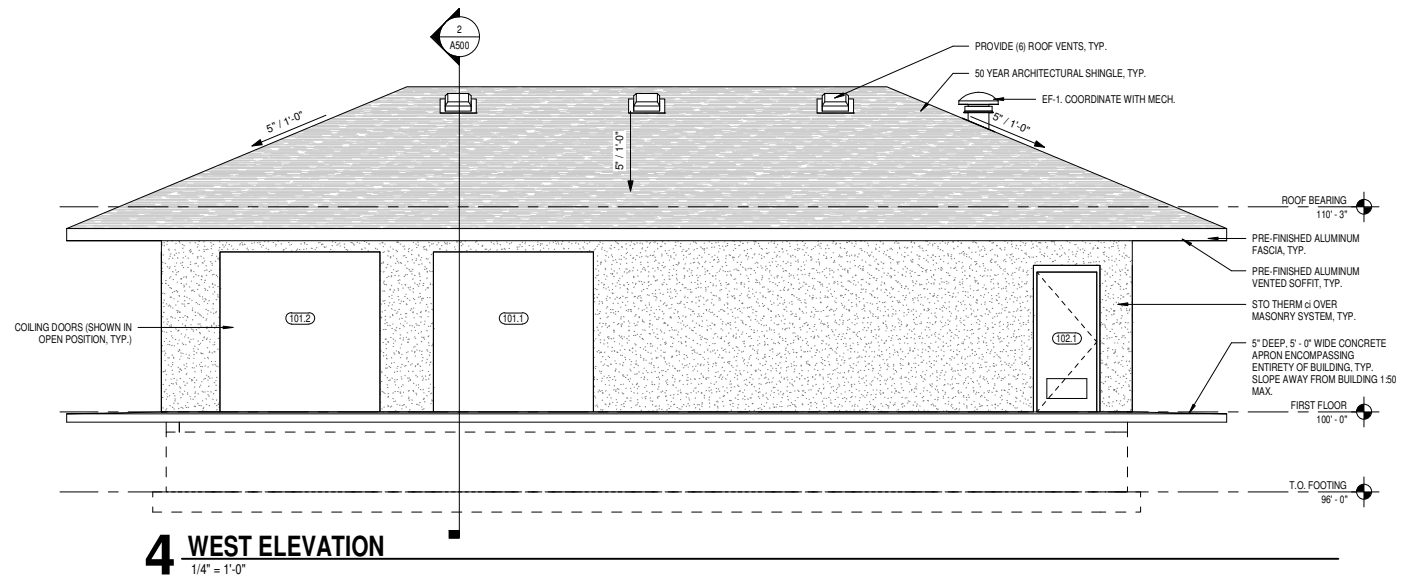
2dip PROJECT # 1925

**ARCHITECTS**  
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**ENGINEERS**  
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**EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS**

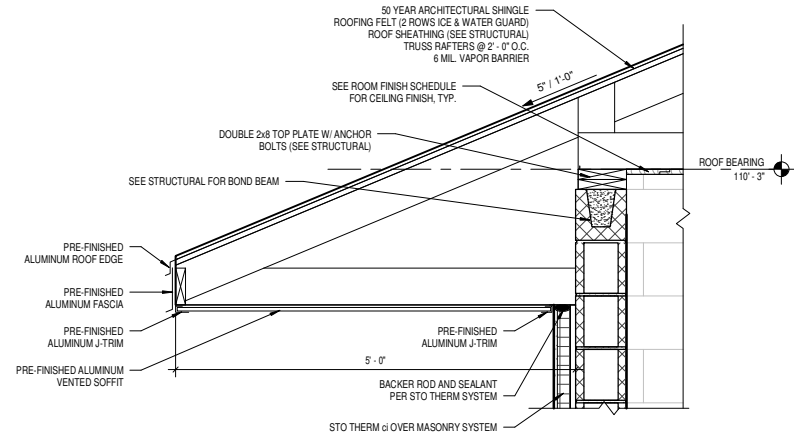
NO.	DATE

ISSUE DATE: MAY 31, 2019

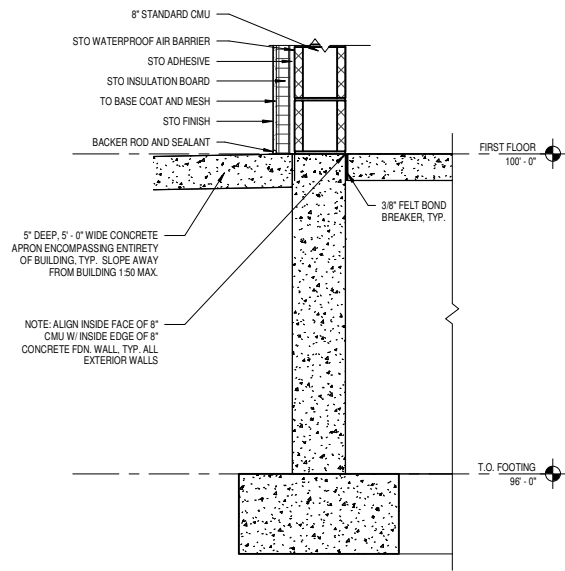
**A400**

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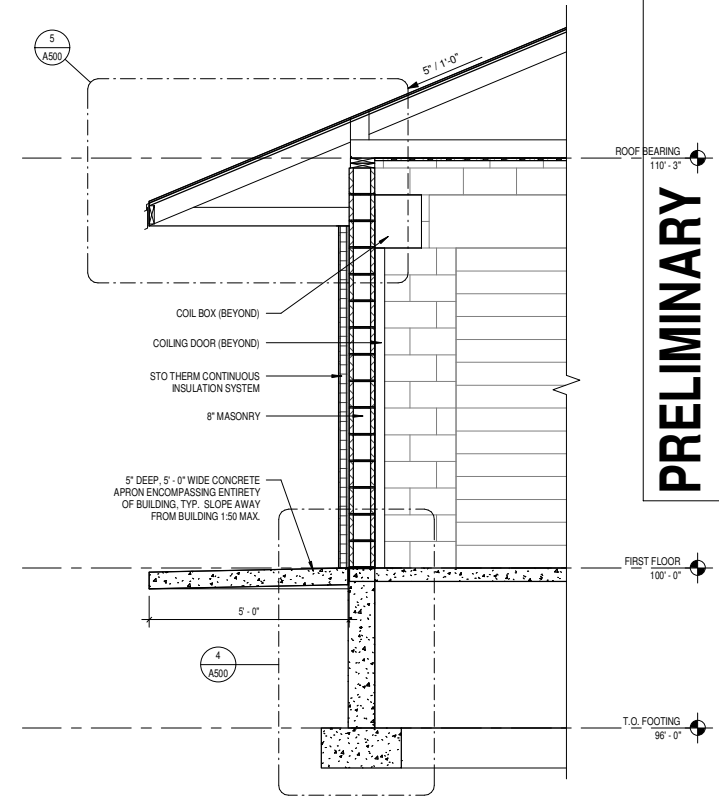
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NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**



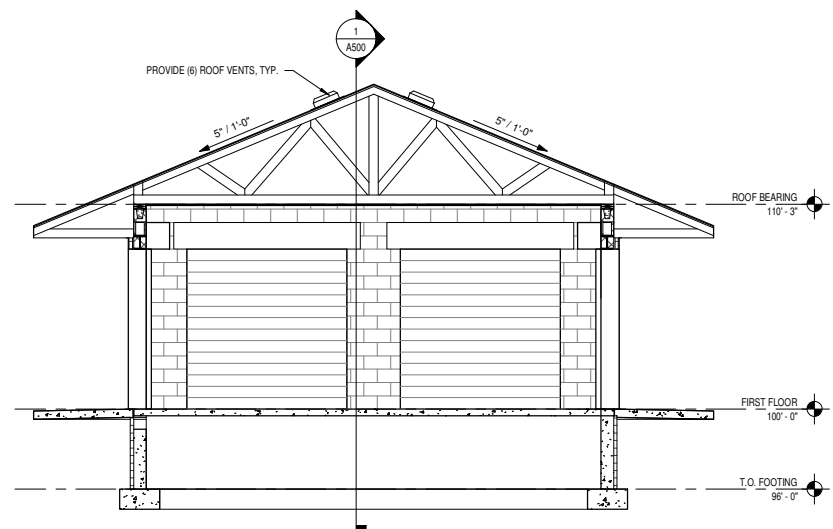
**5 TYP. EAVE DETAIL**  
1" = 1'-0"



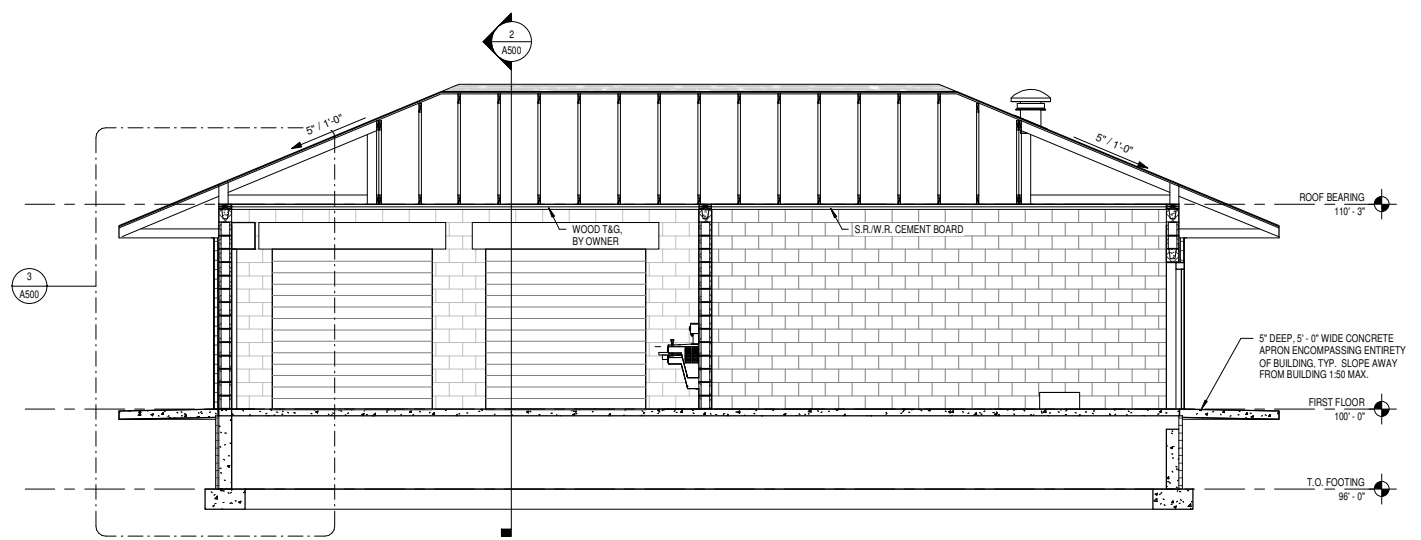
**4 TYP. FOUNDATION DETAIL**  
1" = 1'-0"



**3 TYP. EXTERIOR WALL SECTION**  
1/2" = 1'-0"



**2 EAST-WEST BUILDING SECTION**  
1/4" = 1'-0"



**1 NORTH-SOUTH BUILDING SECTION**  
1/4" = 1'-0"

**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**



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CITY OF EAU CLAIRE OWEN PARK  
 PAVILION  
 501 1ST AVE  
 EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

BUILDING SECTIONS

NO.	DATE

ISSUE DATE: MAY 31, 2019

**A500**

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**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**ARCHITECTS  
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PAVILION**  
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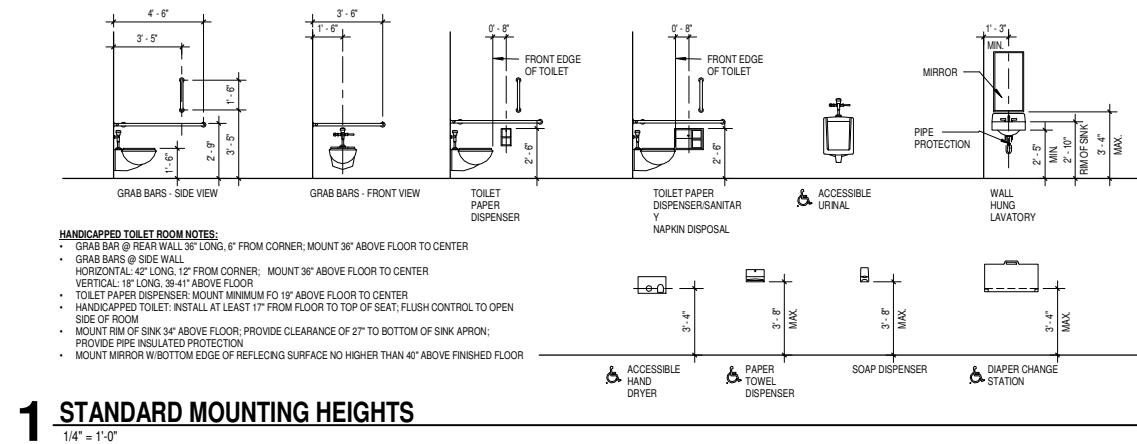
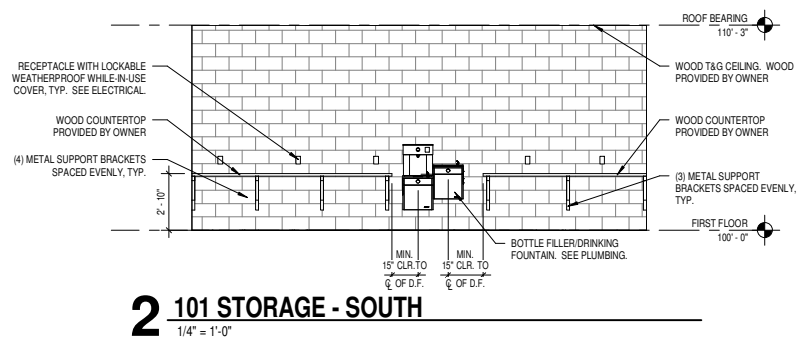
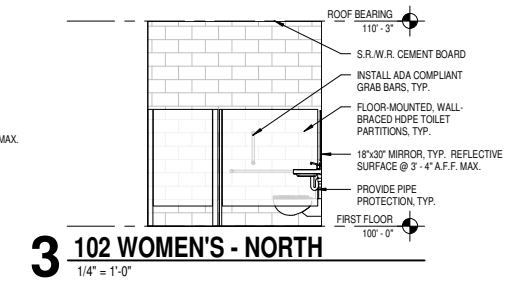
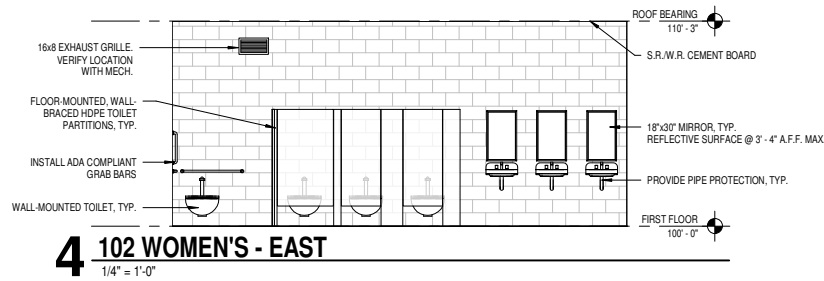
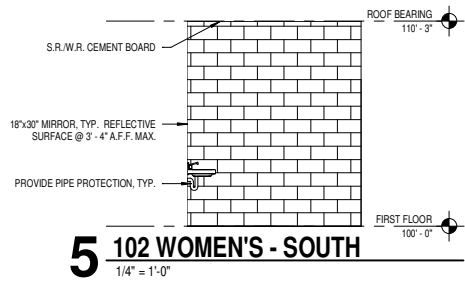
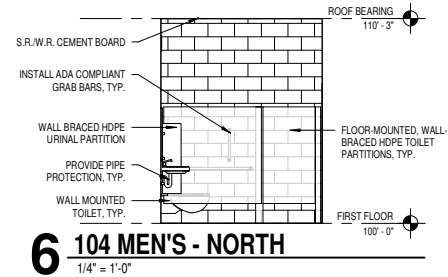
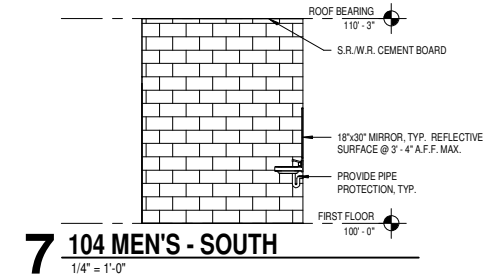
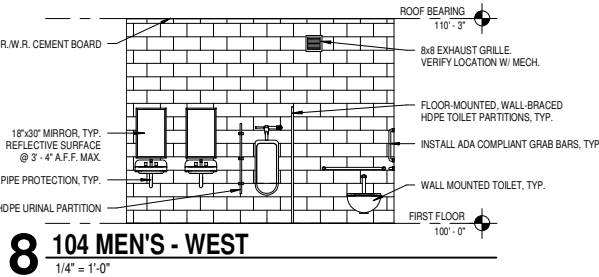
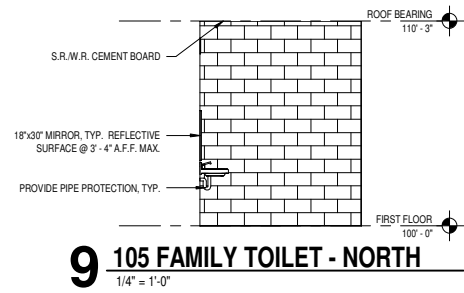
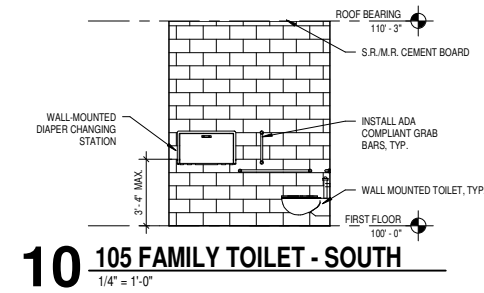
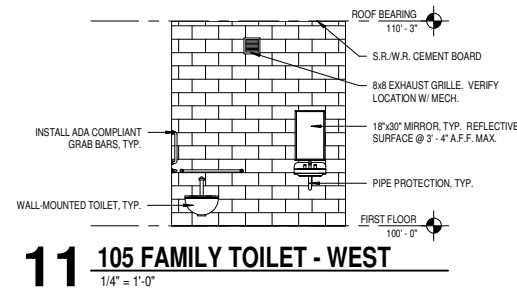
**INTERIOR ELEVATIONS**

NO.	DATE

SCALE DATE:  
MAY 31, 2019

**A600**

2dip PROJECT # 1925



5/15/2019 3:09:18 PM

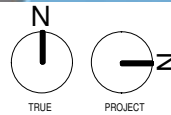








**1 PROPOSED SITE PLAN**  
1" = 160'-0"



**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**LIEN & PETERSON ARCHITECTS, INC**  
ARCHITECTS  
**L&P**  
ENGINEERS  
4675 ROYAL DRIVE  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701  
715-835-7500  
admin@2dip.com

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE OWEN PARK  
PAVILION  
501 1ST AVE  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

REVISIONS:	NO.	DATE

SCALE DATE: MAY 31, 2019

C201

2dip PROJECT # 1925





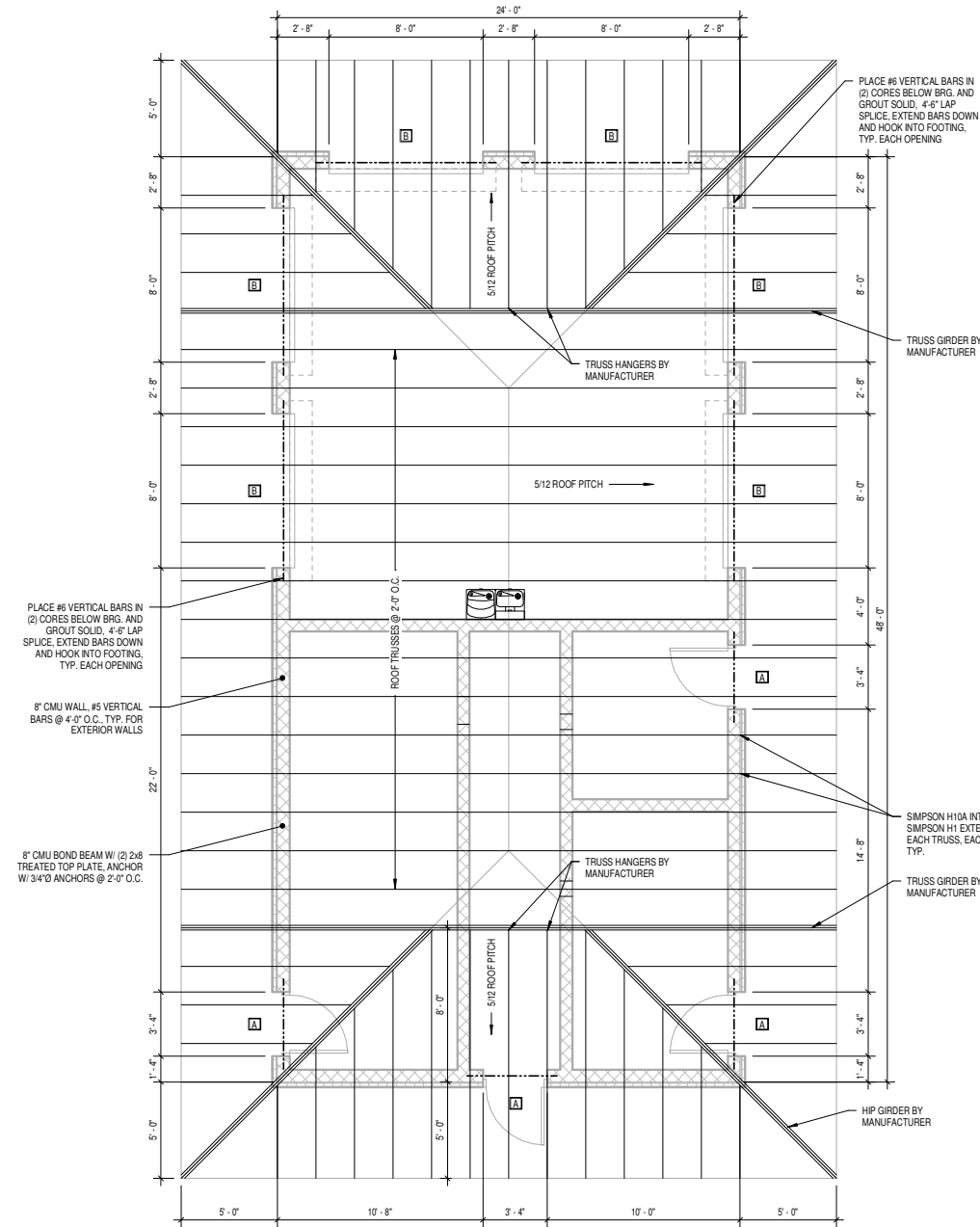
5/15/2019 3:09:23 PM

**LEGEND**

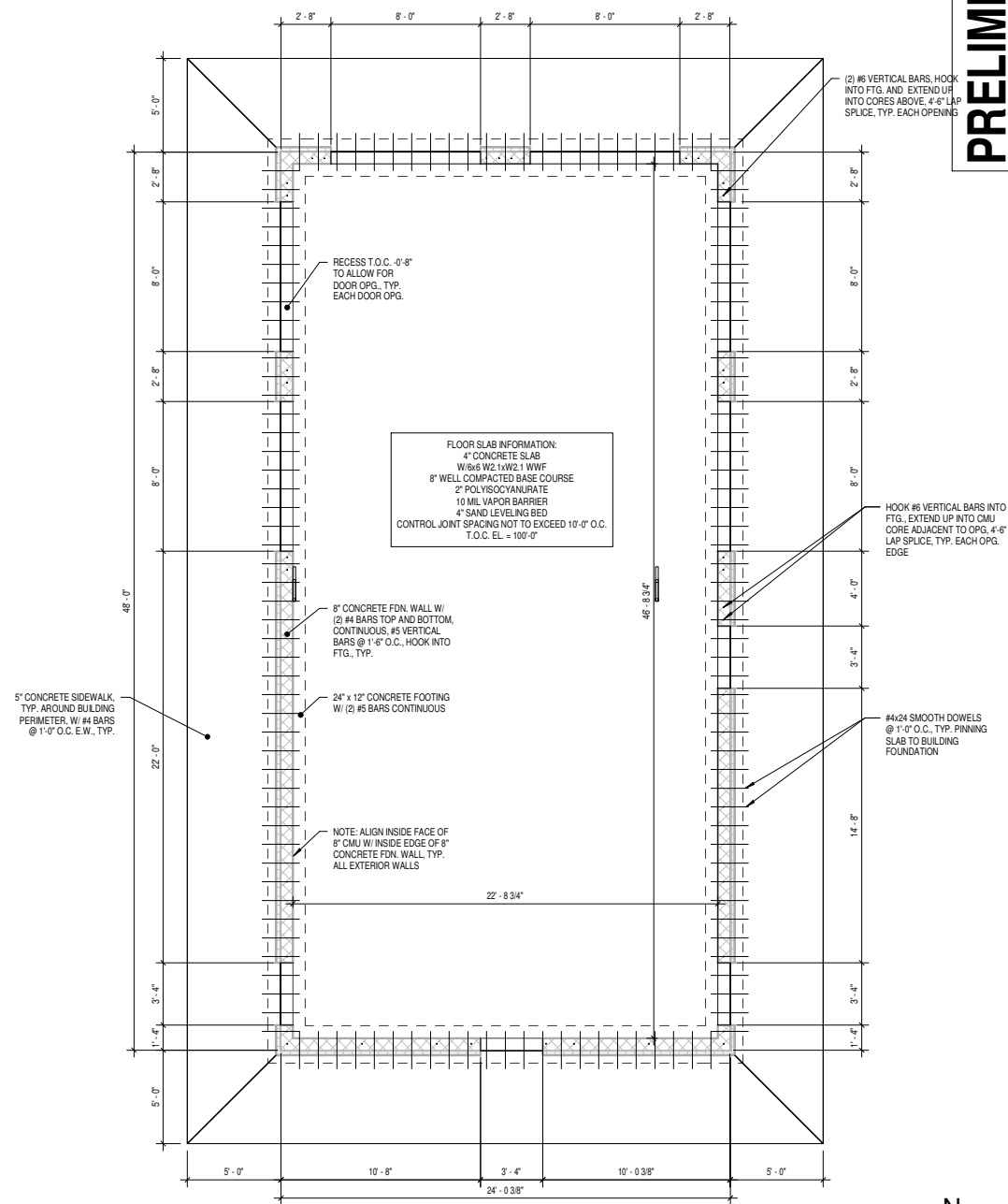
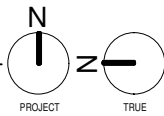
- [A] LINTEL TAG
- (1) JAMB TAG

ALL EXTERIOR WALLS TO BE BRG. TYP.

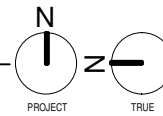
LINTEL SCHEDULE	
Mark	Note
A	W8x10 W/PL 1/4" x 7", 8" BRG. EACH END, GROUT SOLID BELOW BRG.
B	W8x24 W/PL 1/4" x 7", 8" BRG. EACH END, GROUT SOLID BELOW BRG.



**2 PROPOSED ROOF FRAMING PLAN**  
 1/4" = 1'-0"



**1 PROPOSED FOUNDATION PLAN**  
 1/4" = 1'-0"



**PRELIMINARY  
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**ARCHITECTS**  
**L&P**  
**ENGINEERS**

LIEN & PETERSON ARCHITECTS, INC  
 PO BOX 925  
 EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701  
 715-835-7500  
 admin@2dip.com

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE OWEN PARK  
 PAVILION

501 1ST AVE  
 EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

FOUNDATION PLAN,  
 ROOF FRAMING PLAN

REVISIONS:

NO.	DATE

SCALE DATE:  
 MAY 31, 2019

**S300**

2dip PROJECT # 1925

# June 2019 Special Events

Event	Date	Location
Farmer's Market	5/4-10/31	Phoenix
Food Truck Fridays	various	Railroad Parking Lot
Westhill Auto Rallies	various	Phoenix
Cars & Trucks	various	Downtown
Artist Market	5/25-9/14	Phoenix Park
Memorial Day Parade	5/27	Owen Park
Tuesday Night Blues	5/28-8/27	Owen Park
Express Fireworks and Scout Sleepover	6/1-8/9	Carson Baseball
Doll & Pet Parade	6/1	1st Ave, Owen Park
Yoga of Recovery	5/31, 6/7, 6/14	Phoenix Park
Eau Claire Triathlon	5/31-6/2	Half Moon Beach
High 5 Free Yoga	6/1-8/31	Phoenix Great Lawn
Taste of the Valley	6/2	Phoenix Park Pavilion+Amphitheater
Municipal Band Summer Concert Series	various	Owen Park
Sounds Like Summer Concert Series	6/6-8/29	Phoenix Park Amphitheatre
United Soccer Tourney	6/7-6/9	Soccer Park
Rally in the Valley	6/8	Carson Park
Chippewa Valley Pride	6/8	Phoenix Park - Lawn
Hullabaloo Kids Concert Series	6/8, 7/13, 8/10	Phoenix Park - Ampitheater
Hosta Plant Sale	6/9	Phoenix Park
Shrine Circus	6/11-6/12	Carson Baseball
Testimony Day	6/15	Owen Park
Juneteenth Celebration	6/19	Carson Pine
International Day of Yoga	6/19	Phoenix Pavilion
360 Drop-In	6/22	Lakeshore Shelter
Rock the Riverfront	6/21-6/22	Phoenix Great Lawn
Spirit Lutheran	various	Phoenix Ampitheater
Love Eau Claire Day Camp	various	Cameron Shelter
Mayo Clinic Health System Safety Camp	6/25	Pine & Oak Pavilion

Approved

Pending Approval

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY  
May 2019 Monthly Report

Parks Division

The McDonough Park roadway and parking lot was paved on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Funds for this paving were fundraised by the Pickleball group.

We applied herbicide treatment to Halfmoon Lake on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. This treatment is to control the P. crispus and Elodea in the lake to allow other flora to grow.

Staff has been oiling goose eggs to control the number of geese in the park. We are finding fewer nests this spring compared to past numbers.

John Dunn completed his deer survey on March 11, 2019. He saw a decrease in deer population by 13% and deer density decrease of 15% from the previous year. Three areas saw the deer population stay relatively the same, three areas saw a decrease, and one area an increase.

Forestry Division

The forestry division began their spring tree planting season at the end of April, and is scheduled to plant 450 trees.

Recreation Division

Amazing Eau Claire Cleanup had approximately 400 volunteers and removed over three (3) tons of trash from our parks and trails.

Prime Times

The 2019 Spring and Summer edition is now available online at [www.eauclairewi.gov/primetimes](http://www.eauclairewi.gov/primetimes)

Special Events

The Special Events Committee continues to work with all the groups that conduct events within city parks and meets monthly. The group will also review alcohol license applications.

## **2019 Helicopter Deer Survey Summary**

On Monday, March 11, 2019, I conducted a helicopter deer survey for the fifth consecutive year. MN Helicopters, Inc. out of Minneapolis was again contracted for this survey. Ryan Doolittle was the pilot and the same Robinson R22 Helicopter was used.

We had very good weather conditions with afternoon temperature reaching 28 degrees and abundant sun. Cloudy conditions would have been better by eliminating tree shadows.

The survey started at approximately 9:30 AM and finished at about 3:30 PM. We flew the same seven areas (see attached) that have been flown in previous years.

Overall, the survey indicated that the deer population was down 13% from last year's record high, but was still tied for the second highest since the survey began. This is not a significant drop and other mitigating circumstances make this drop even less significant. Deep snow caused the deer to change their travel patterns. They left the more open hardwood stands and moved underneath the conifer cover where the snow wasn't as deep. This made counting them much more difficult.

Three areas were about the same as last year, three were down and one was up. When the raw numbers are translated to Deer per Square Mile (the standard measuring unit for deer densities), the city wide density is 50 Deer per Square Mile. This is down 15% from last year but is still about 3 times above the generally accepted urban density level.

We have had 5 archery seasons in Eau Claire as a result of the 2013 Wisconsin Act 71. The archery harvest numbers within the city are not known but are most likely not significant enough to impact the herd size.

Eau Claire is within the new Deer Metro Sub-unit established in 2018. This new sub-unit was created to allow a more liberal antlerless deer harvest within the Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls metropolitan area. There were 325 antlerless deer harvested in the Eau Claire portion of the Metro Sub-Unit. We will not be able to separate the harvest within the City from the rest of the Metro Sub-Unit but the additional antlerless permits available in the Sub-unit allow for multiple antlerless deer to be harvested by individual hunters. With the recent discovery of 3 positive Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) deer in Southwestern Eau Claire County, it is especially important to harvest deer in an effort to reduce the local deer population.

The Eau Claire City Wells had a 4 day youth/disabled archery hunt for the third year. It's held on approximately 40 acres in the Northwest corner of the Wells. Seven deer were harvested during the November weekend hunt while none were harvested in the January hunt. That brings the total to 26 deer harvested in the 3 years of the hunt. This hunt is a very positive event but its limited scope will not reduce the City Wells herd significantly.

The helicopter survey showed a significant drop in the City Wells herd but it is my opinion that this was due to the difficulty in seeing deer in the conifer cover and not lower deer numbers. Last year the deer were more mobile and more visible in the hardwood stands. This year the deep snow kept the deer on trails that were established in the pines where the snow wasn't as deep. The deer were very reluctant to leave the pines despite the helicopter hovering right over them.

I experienced the same thing in the Jeffers Road area. The larger hardwood stands with deep snow were devoid of deer. Mount Simon is included in this area and last year 16 deer were counted there while none were observed this year.

The other area of interest was the Oakwood Hills area. The deer herd increased by 58% from last year's record number. There was one group of 24 deer on the wooded hillside south of Keystone Crossing. This is most likely the result of either intentional feeding or bird feeders that can be accessed by deer.

Something unrelated to the deer count but still of interest was the sighting of a dened up bear to the west of Jeffers Road. It was curled up in the snow and looked up at us when we flew by. It is not unusual for a bear without cubs to hibernate up on the ground and not excavate an underground den.

There were also several large flocks of turkeys that were using well established deer trails for travel.

As I've stated before, this type of aerial survey is the most effective means of counting urban deer. It is used extensively in the Twin Cities to determine their deer management protocol. Even still, the survey only accounts for 60-80% of the total population. I have considered the Eau Claire survey to be towards the high end of this range but not this year. Due to the deep snow and higher concentrations of deer in the conifer cover, I would put the survey more in the middle of the range.

I don't believe that the current archery harvest within the city is high enough to keep up with the annual reproductive rate. It will be interesting to see if the liberal antlerless harvest opportunities in the new Metro Sub-Unit will have an influence on the urban deer population.

This winter's survey demonstrates that a single year's count can be misleading and that continued surveys will help provide more accurate long term trends that will be useful in determining future management needs.



# Eau Claire Deer Survey Areas





## HELICOPTER DEER SURVEY

	1993	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Area 1 (Princeton Valley)	9	56	75	47	70	75
Area 2 (City Wells)	33	54	45	25	84	52
Area 3 (Jeffers Rd.)	22	42	30	40	78	47
Area 4 (La Salle Hill)	52	34	49	32	30	34
Area 5 (Grover Rd.)	59	61	38	57	41	43
Area 6 (Oakwood Hills)	0	27	18	21	33	52
Area 7 (Putnam Park)	0	33	9	10	18	4
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	175	307	264	232	354	307
		+75%	-14%	-12%	+53%	-13%

## DEER DENSITY/ SQUARE MILE

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Area 1 (Princeton Valley)	35	47	29	44	47
Area 2 (City Wells)	53	44	25	82	51
Area 3 (Jeffers Road)	29	20	28	54	32
Area 4 (La Salle Hill)	77	111	73	68	77
Area 5 (Grover Road)	94	58	88	63	66
Area 6 (Oakwood Hills)	38	26	30	47	74
Area 7 (Putnam Park).	103	28	31	56	13
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Average	50	48	43	59	50
Change		-4%	-10%	+37%	-15%