



Waterways and Parks Commission

Agenda

7:00 p.m., October 26th, 2022

City of Eau Claire

City Council Chamber – City Hall

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting on Wednesday, September 28th, 2022.**
4. **Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda**
5. **Business Agenda Items**
 - a. Presentation by Parks and Forestry Manager Steven Plaza regarding the proposed boardwalk at Half Moon Lake
6. **Discussion and Direction**
 - a. Announcements
Video featuring Eau Claire trees wins Midwest Emmy's <https://fb.watch/7CjxYPv02W/>
 - b. Future Agenda Items
7. **Adjournment**

Ellen Faulkner, Chairperson

c: News Media

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."



Waterways and Parks Commission

Minutes

7:00 p.m., September 28, 2022

City of Eau Claire

North Conference Room – City Hall

1. **Call to Order** by Commissioner Schoen at 7:03PM
2. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Jessica Schoen, Kirk Dahl, Christopher Johnson, Meredith Ball, Charlotte Hudgins, Emily Anderson, Kate Felton, Gina Keenan
Members Absent: Ellen Faulkner, Megan Holmes, Joe Maurer
Staff Present: Steve Plaza, Steve Thompson, Christien Huppert, Lindsay Jerry, Lane Berg
Others Present: Amy Berg
3. **Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting on Wednesday, August 24th, 2022.**

Motion to approve by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Hudgins. All votes in favor, minutes approved as submitted.
4. **Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda**
 - a. Discussion regarding a repair to the water feature that led to a temporary closure over the summer.
 - b. Christien Huppert relayed that the Ager House museum on Madison St. is looking for an easement for 10x10 outdoor museum structure
5. **Discussion and Direction**
 - a. **Announcements**
 - i. Progress at Boyd Park: Plan is to start poured-in-place for the playground on October 14th. The solar tree that the Green Committee bought is being installed Friday, with wiring to channel solar energy to the warming house. The ADA accessible sidewalk should also be installed this month. Boyd Skate Park plan is to start pouring concrete October 17th.
 - ii. A public meeting was held at Half Moon Lake with the area neighborhood association regarding a possible boardwalk on the west side of the lake connecting to Rod and Gun Park.
 - iii. The November and December Waterways and Parks Commission meetings will be combined and will take place on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.
 - b. **Future Agenda Items**
 - i. Presentation regarding the boardwalk at Half Moon Lake, potentially at the October meeting.
6. **Business Agenda Items**
 - a. Presentation on Retention Pond Operations by City of Eau Claire Street and Fleet Maintenance Manager Steven Thompson
 - i. Steven Thompson explained how retention ponds are monitored and maintained, and how they benefit our environment. There are both city-owned and private retention ponds. The City of Eau Claire had 50 retention ponds in 2009, and has more than 80 in 2022, with room to expand. Maintenance takes place in spring and fall and after storms. Fall maintenance starts Oct 17, for 16 hours per day for four weeks. The watershed area downtown has to be swept at least 13 times per year.

- ii. The developer is responsible for maintaining any private retention ponds. The Department of Natural Resources can enforce upkeep of private retention ponds, which need routine maintenance to be effective.
 - iii. Commissioner Dahl inquired whether all stormwater goes into retention ponds. Mr. Thompson clarified that some also goes into the river, and some to the treatment plant. Commissioner Dahl suggested that the pond off of Westover Road could be promoted as a park. Lane Berg added that Mitscher Park has a detention pond that has been converted into a park.
 - iv. The goal of the Department of Natural Resources is to create unforested surfaces to operate efficiently and be accessible to large equipment used for maintenance. Commissioner Felton pointed out that this would be a good opportunity to assure the public that maintaining unobstructed retention areas is part of our Environmental Protection Plan.
 - v. Commissioner Schoen remarked that while stormwater is overseen by a different committee, there is an important connection to the Waterways and Parks Commission regarding some of the contaminants that are filtered by these ponds before they end up in the groundwater.
 - vi. Commissioner Felton inquired whether these water retention systems are also responsible for snow storage. Mr. Thompson clarified that currently, plowed snow is brought to Sky Park. The City is using salt and sand more conservatively than in the past.
- b. Christien Huppert presented information regarding the recommendation for the approval of an easement requested by Xcel Energy. The easement is needed on the north side of Madison Street at Forest Street where the Xcel substation is. The purpose is to convert some of it to underground utility beneath the road. The Plan Commission will review it on October 3, City Council on October 11. Xcel will also be planting a pollinator habitat, with the City churning ground, and Xcel Energy planting the seed.
- Action Taken:** Request for motion to approve by Commissioner Schoen. Motion to approve by Commissioner Keenan, seconded by Commissioner Dahl. All votes in favor, with none opposed. The motion to approve the easement passes.

7. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Felton. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

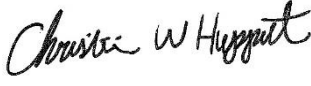
MEMORANDUM

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



CITY OF
**EAU
CLAIRE**

TO: Steve Plaza, Parks and Forestry Manager

FROM: Christien Huppert, PE
Civil Engineer 

DATE: October 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the Half Moon Boardwalk Trail from YMCA Tennis Center to Rod & Gun Park

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

The City has developed a proposed boardwalk route that connects the existing trail by the YMCA Tennis Center to Rod & Gun Park while protecting the environment and allowing all members of the community, regardless of mobility status, to enjoy this beautiful and environmentally diverse area. This trail connection would be a 2700' long, 8' wide composite or HDPE boardwalk placed on plate footings and helical piles.

City staff held a public meeting on September 14th, 2022 to review the boardwalk trail connection. By show of hands, the majority of attendees were supportive of the boardwalk. One view that was held by all in attendance of the meeting, whether they raised their hand in support of the trail or not, was the view that this area is a very special, environmentally diverse, and beautiful asset to the City and its residents. Considering stakeholder feedback from the meeting, the proposed boardwalk was narrowed from 10' wide to 8' wide to minimize tree clearing along the route.

City staff requested and received from the WI DNR an Endangered Resources Review (included in the packet). This review included two recommended actions to prevent possible impacts to the Northern Dry-mesic Forest community and Blanding's Turtle. The recommended actions will be included in the project.

City staff requested a Wetland Identification from WI DNR. The identification was completed on October 14th, 2022.

City staff recommends approval of the Half Moon Boardwalk Trail as presented.

Attachments: Map, Cost Estimate, Boardwalk Typical Installation, WI DNR ERR

Half Moon Boardwalk Trail

Proposed and Alternative Route

Legend

- 1 - Proposed Boardwalk Route
- 2 - Alternative Boardwalk Route
- 2 - Alternative Concrete Route



Proposed Boardwalk Route = **\$1,305,500**

-200 LF 8' wide concrete trail

\$64/LF = \$12,800

-2550 LF 8' wide Pedestrian Rated Boardwalk

\$458/LF = \$1,167,900

-150 LF 8' wide Helical Piled Boardwalk with Railing

\$832/LF = \$124,800

Alternate Route = **\$731,400**

-200 LF 8' wide concrete trail (Connect existing trail to boardwalk)

\$64/LF = \$12,800

-350 LF 8' wide Helical Piles Boardwalk with Railing

\$832/LF = \$291,200

-200 LF 8' wide concrete trail (Connect boardwalk to Park Ridge Dr)

\$64/LF = \$12,800

-1700 LF 10' wide concrete trail (back of curb along Park Ridge Dr and Rod and Gun Park Dr)

\$80/LF = \$136,000

-1000 LF 3' high retaining wall (back of trail where required)

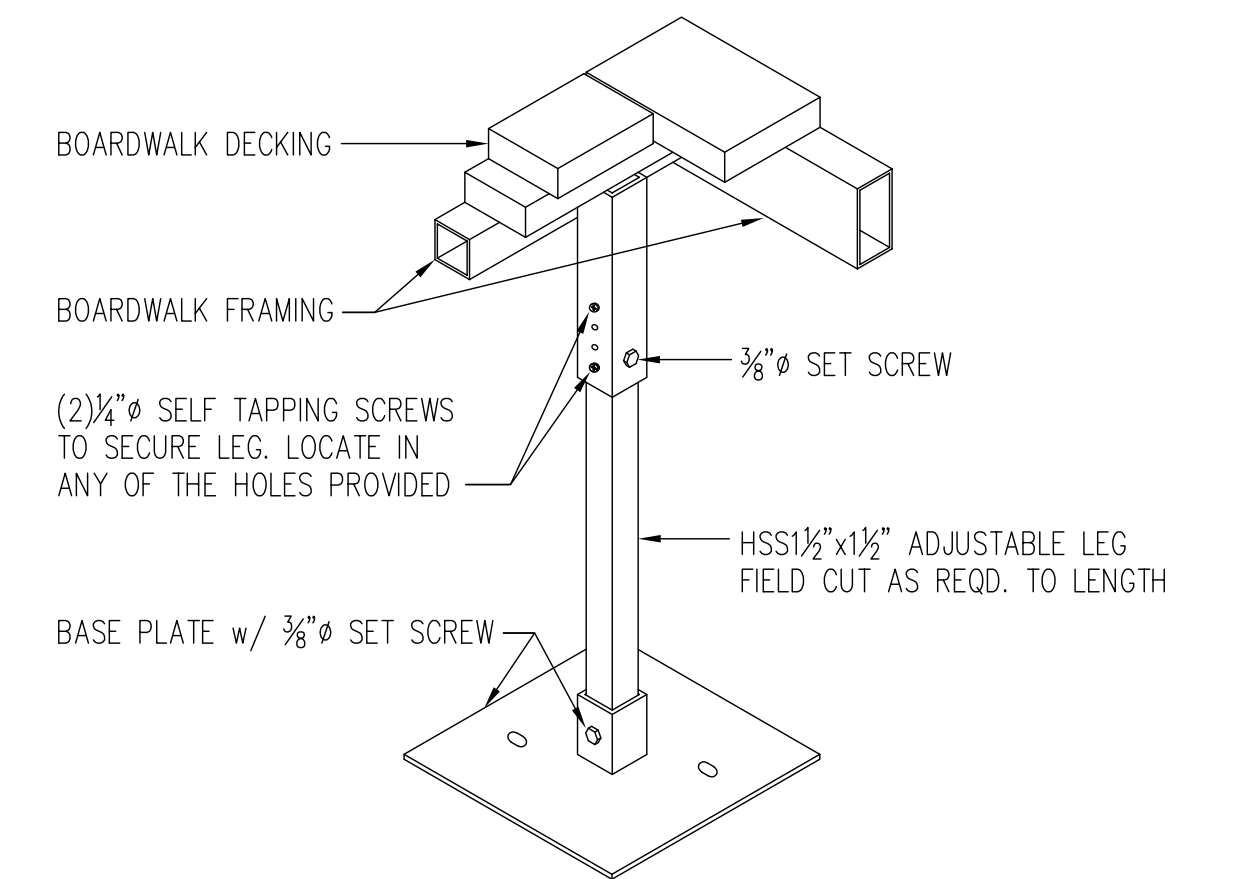
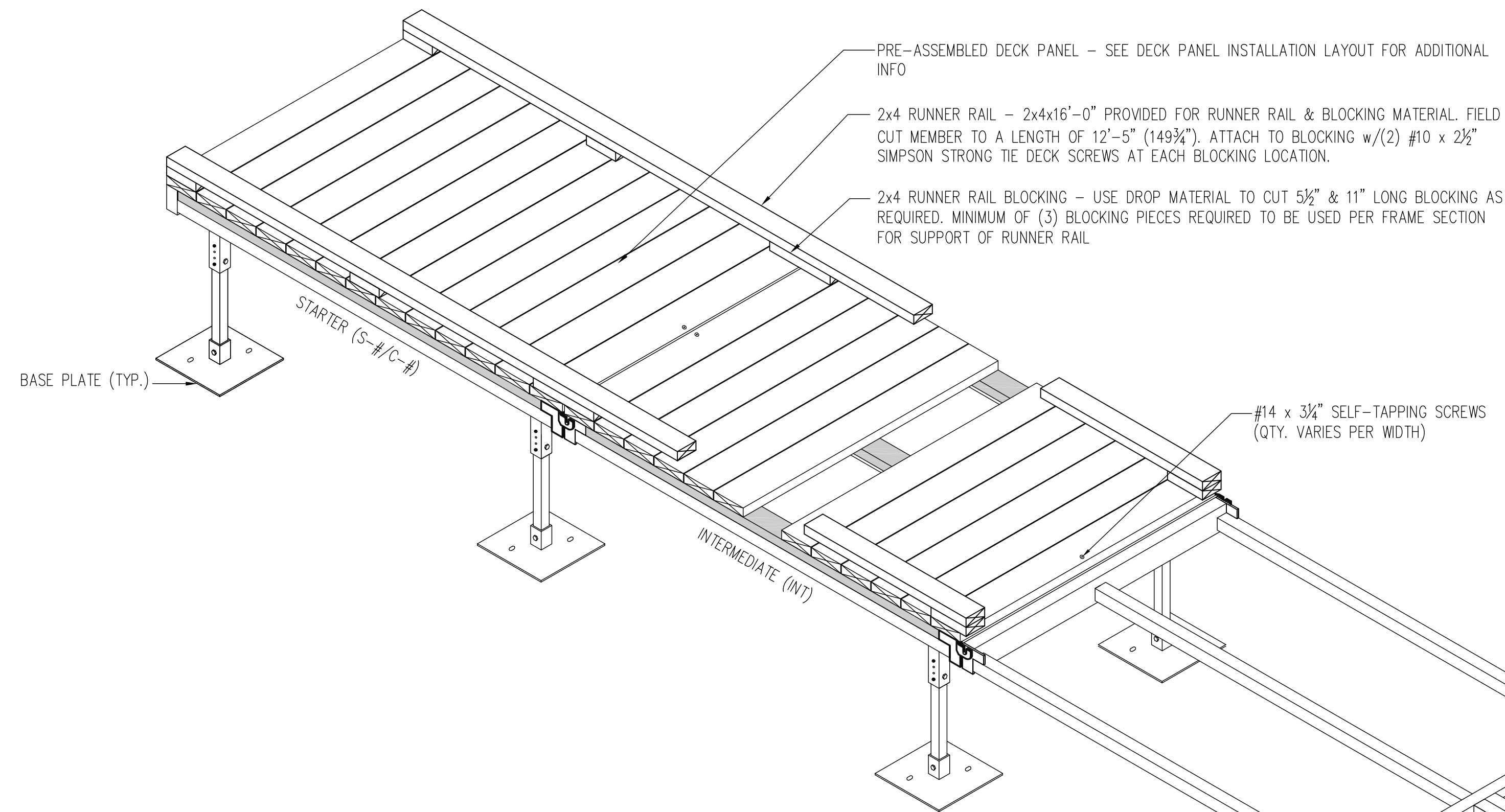
\$30/SF = \$90,000

-1000 LF Railing (along retaining wall)

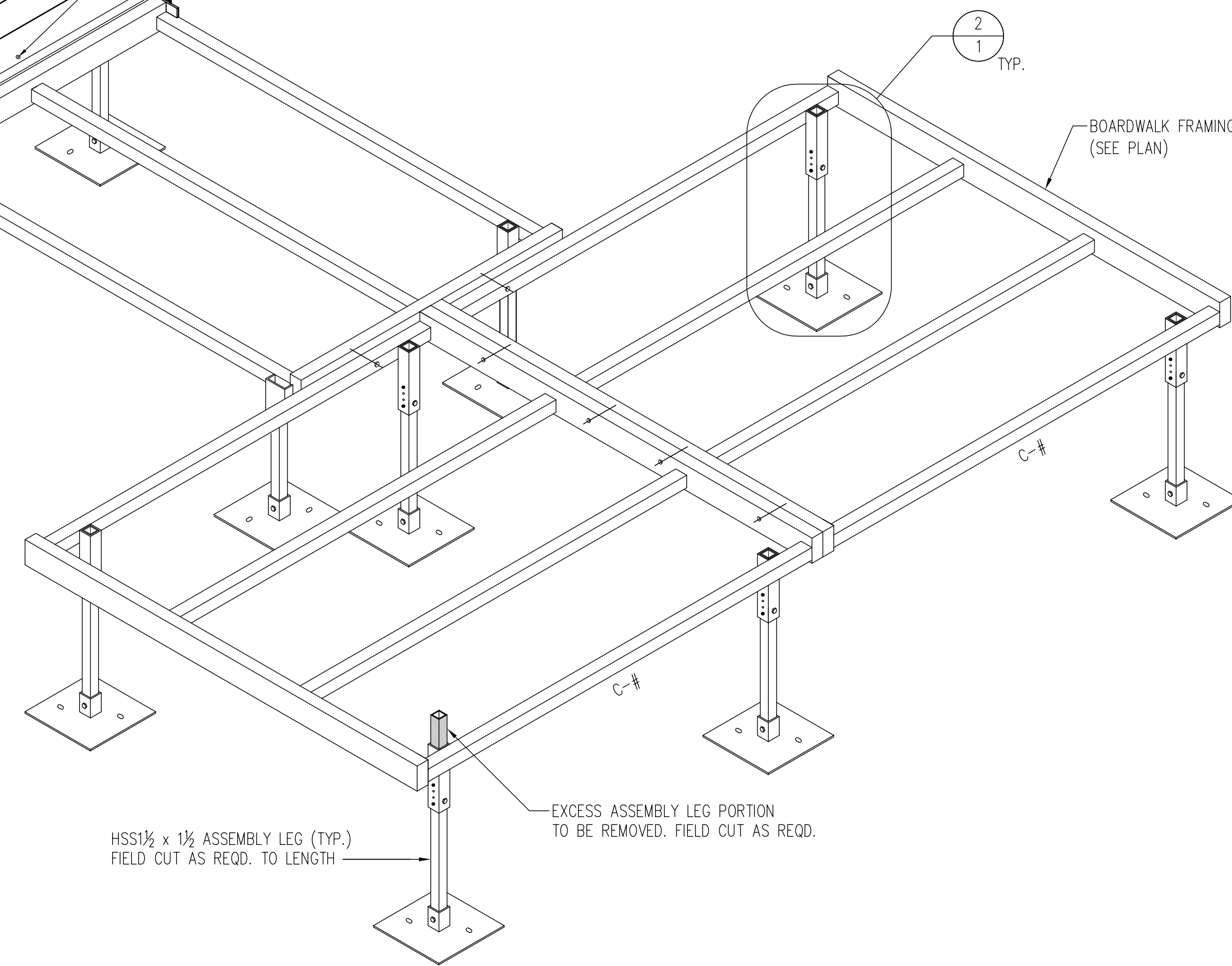
\$175/LF = \$175,000

-1700 LF trail restoration, 8' wide along trail

\$1/SF = \$13,600



2
1
ADJUSTABLE LEG DETAIL
SCALE: N.T.S.



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS:

NOTES: BOARDWALK LAYOUT SHOWN IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN OVERALL CONCEPT OF THE INSTALLATION REQUIRED FOR A PAN-FOOT BOARDWALK ASSEMBLY. ACTUAL PROJECT LAYOUT & PART MARK NUMBERS / GEOMETRY WILL VARY BY PROJECT. REFER TO PROJECT SPECIFIC LAYOUT DRAWINGS PROVIDED FOR LOCATION & PART MARK NUMBERS OF BOARDWALK SECTIONS TO INSTALL.

- 1) SEE PLAN FOR STARTER SECTION PART MARK NUMBER (S-# OR C-#). LOCATE AND PLACE STARTER SECTION AT DESIRED LOCATION.
- 2) INSERT LEG MATERIAL (HSS 1 1/2" x 1 1/2") INTO COLLAR ON BASE PLATE ASSEMBLY. LEG SHOULD BE FULLY INSERTED INTO COLLAR UNTIL CONTACT IS MADE WITH BASE PLATE. TIGHTEN 3/8" SET BOLT ON SIDE OF COLLAR TO SECURE LEG IN PLACE TO BASE PLATE ASSEMBLY.
- 3) ONCE BASE PLATE IS ATTACHED TO HSS LEG, INSERT OPPOSITE END OF THE LEG INTO THE SLEEVE LOCATED ON THE BOARDWALK FRAME. RAISE / LOWER FRAME UNTIL DESIRED ELEVATION IS OBTAINED. LEVEL FRAME AS NEEDED. TIGHTEN THE 3/8" SET BOLT ON THE LEG SLEEVE TO SECURE THE LEG IN PLACE. REPEAT THIS PROCESS FOR ALL SLEEVE LOCATIONS ON STARTER FRAME.
- 4) ONCE FINAL ELEVATION OF FRAME IS DETERMINED SECURE LEG IN PLACE BY INSERTING (2) 1/4" SELF TAPPING SCREWS IN EACH LEG SLEEVE. SCREWS MAY BE PLACED IN ANY OF THE PRE-DRILLED HOLES PROVIDED IN SLEEVE INTO THE HSS LEG.
- 5) ONCE SECURED, CUT OFF EXCESS HSS 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" LEG SECTION AS REQUIRED. LEG IS TO BE FLUSH w/ TOP OF LEG SLEEVE.
- 6) ONCE STARTER FRAME IS IN PLACE LOCATE AND INSTALL THE FIRST INTERMEDIATE FRAME (INT OR C-#) PER THE PLAN. INTERMEDIATE SECTION IS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE STARTER SECTION VIA THE MALE / FEMALE HINGE PIN CONNECTION PROVIDED ON EACH SECTION. SET THE PIN (MALE) END OF THE FRAME INTO THE FEMALE RECEIVER LOCATED ON THE STARTER FRAME. ONCE THE PINS ARE IN PLACE AT THE HINGED CONNECTION POINT, REPEAT THE STEPS ABOVE FOR CONNECTING THE HSS LEG SUPPORT. LOCK THE FRAMES TOGETHER AT THE HINGE CONNECTION BY INSERTING (1) 3/8" SET BOLT BELOW THE HINGE. THIS WOULD BE TYPICAL EACH SIDE OF THE FRAME.
- 7) REPEAT PROCESS ABOVE FOR ALL INTERMEDIATE FRAMES.
- 8) WHEN REQUIRED, FRAMES WILL BE CONNECTED WITH 3/8" x 5" BOLTS. IF NECESSARY, FIELD DRILL 7/16" HOLE AS REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION.
- 9) ONCE FRAMES ARE INSTALLED, PLACE DECK PANEL ONTO FIRST FRAME AND SECURE PANEL IN PLACE. REFER TO DECK PANEL INSTALLATION DRAWING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
- 10) ONCE FRAMING AND DECKING PANEL INSTALLATION IS COMPLETE, INSTALL 2x4 RUNNER RAIL SYSTEM AS REQUIRED FOR THE PROJECT. REFER TO PAN FOOT W/ 2x4 RUNNER RAIL DRAWING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

1
1
TYPICAL PAN FOOT BOARDWALK INSTALLATION w/ 2x4 RUNNER RAIL
SCALE: N.T.S.

**PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

WICKCRAFT BOARDWALKS
2317 DANIELS ST. MADISON, WI 53718
(608) 244-9177

TITLE
PROJECT NAME:
PROJECT LOCATION:
TYP INSTALLATION - PAN FOOT FRAMING

#	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY:	#	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY:
△	-	-	-	△	-	-	-
△	-	-	-	△	-	-	-

THIS DRAWING AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IS CONFIDENTIAL AND IS THE PROPERTY OF WICKCRAFT CO. INC. USE, REPRODUCTION OR DISCLOSURE OF THE CONTENT OF THIS DRAWING (OR ANY PORTION) MUST BE APPROVED BY WICKCRAFT.

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES. THE FOLLOWING TOLERANCES APPLY:
DECIMAL DIMENSIONS: ± .1"
FRACTIONAL DIMENSIONS: ± 1/16"
ANGULAR DIMENSIONS: ± 0.25°

DRAWN BY JLL	DATE: 12/03/21	DWG. NO. 1
APPROVED BY ###	DATE: ##/##/##	PROJECT NO. ##-##-####



State of Wisconsin / DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

September 28, 2022

Christien Huppert
203 S Farwell St
Eau Claire, WI 54701

SUBJECT: Endangered Resources Review (ERR Log # 22-697)
Proposed Half Moon Boardwalk, Eau Claire County, WI (T27N R10W S24)

Dear Christien Huppert,

The Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation has reviewed the proposed project described in the Endangered Resources (ER) Review Request received September 14, 2022. The complete ER Review for this proposed project is attached and follow-up actions are summarized below:

Required Actions: 0 species

Recommended Actions: 2 species

No Follow-Up Actions: 17 species

Additional Recommendations Specified: Yes

This ER Review may contain Natural Heritage Inventory data (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/NHI>), including specific locations of endangered resources, which are considered sensitive and are not subject to Wisconsin's Open Records Law. Information contained in this ER Review may be shared with individuals who need this information in order to carry out specific roles in the planning, permitting, and implementation of the proposed project. **Specific locations of endangered resources may not be released or reproduced in any publicly disseminated documents.**

The attached ER Review is for informational purposes and only addresses endangered resources issues. **This ER Review does not constitute DNR authorization of the proposed project and does not exempt the project from securing necessary permits and approvals from the DNR and/or other permitting authorities.** Please contact the ER Review Program whenever the project plans change, new details become available, or more than a year has passed to confirm if results of this ER Review are still valid.

Please contact me at 608-264-8968 or via email at anna.rossler@wi.gov if you have any questions about this ER Review.

Sincerely,

Anna Rossler
Endangered Resources Review Program

cc:

**Endangered Resources Review for the Proposed Half Moon Boardwalk, Eau Claire County
(ER Log # 22-697)**

Section A. Location and brief description of the proposed project

Based on information provided by the ER Review Request form and attached materials, the proposed project consists of the following:

Location	Eau Claire County - T27N R10W S24
Project Description	The City of Eau Claire proposes to install a boardwalk, approximately 2600' long, between the John and Fay Menard YMCA Tennis Center and Rod & Gun Park along the western edge of Half Moon Lake. The boardwalk is proposed to be 10' wide and supported by 1'x1' base plate legs and helical piles (where necessary). The specific route will be selected to minimize clearing of large trees and instead clear undesirable species (Buckthorn). All clearing and boardwalk installation will be done without the use of ground disturbing equipment.
Project Timing	4/3/23- 6/30/23
Current Habitat	The proposed boardwalk route follows the edge of Half Moon Lake and is located in area identified as Forested Wetlands in the Wisconsin SWDV. The current land use is undeveloped, but there are multiple concrete footings and structures from previous structures within the wetland. The majority of the proposed path is currently disturbed from foot traffic.
Impacts to Wetlands or Waterbodies	Half Moon Lake, Forested Wetlands, Sherman Creek. No discharges are known or suspected from this project. Impacts include minor brush/tree clearing and base plate legs contacting the ground. No boardwalk supports will be placed at or below the ordinary high water level.
Property Type	Public
Federal Nexus	No

It is best to request ER Reviews early in the project planning process. However, some important project details may not be known at that time. Details related to project location, design, and timing of disturbance are important for determining both the endangered resources that may be impacted by the project and any necessary follow-up actions. Please contact the ER Review Program whenever the project plans change, new details become available, or more than a year has passed to confirm if results of this ER Review are still valid.

Section B. Endangered resources recorded from within the project area and surrounding area

	Group	State Status	Federal Status
Moist Cliff (<i>Moist cliff</i>)	Community	NA	
Northern Dry-mesic Forest (<i>Northern dry-mesic forest</i>)	Community	NA	
Floodplain Forest (<i>Floodplain forest</i>)	Community~	NA	
Sioux (Sand) Snaketail (<i>Ophiogomphus smithi</i>)	Dragonfly~	SC/N	
Blue Sucker (<i>Cycleptus elongatus</i>)	Fish~	THR	
Lake Sturgeon (<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>)	Fish~	SC/H	
River Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>)	Fish~	THR	
Goldeye (<i>Hiodon alosoides</i>)	Fish~	END	
A Cleft-footed Minnow Mayfly (<i>Metretopus borealis</i>)	Mayfly~	SC/N	
Purple Wartyback (<i>Cyclonaias tuberculata</i>)	Mussel~	END	
Fawnsfoot (<i>Truncilla donaciformis</i>)	Mussel~	THR	
Buckhorn (<i>Tritogonia verrucosa</i>)	Mussel~	THR	
Butterfly (<i>Ellipsaria lineolata</i>)	Mussel~	END	
Elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta marginata</i>)	Mussel~	SC/P	
Sheepnose (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>)	Mussel~	END	LE
Muskroot (<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>)	Plant	THR	
Ovate Beak Grass (<i>Diarrhena obovata</i>)	Plant	END	

Wood Turtle (<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>)	Turtle~	THR	SOC
Blanding's Turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>)	Turtle~	SC/P	SOC

For additional information on the rare species, high-quality natural communities, and other endangered resources listed above, please visit our Biodiversity (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/biodiversity.html>) page. For further definitions of state and federal statuses (END=Endangered, THR=Threatened, SC=Special Concern), please refer to the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Working List (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/wlist.html>).

Section C. Follow-up actions

Actions that need to be taken to comply with state and/or federal endangered species laws: None

Actions recommended to help conserve Wisconsin's Endangered Resources:

• Northern Dry-mesic Forest - Community

State Status: NA

Impact Type	Impact possible
Recommended Measures	Other
Description of Recommended Measures	Northern Dry-mesic Forest may occur within the project site. Natural communities may contain rare or declining species and their protection should be incorporated into the project design as much as possible. We recommend minimizing impacts to, implementing invasive species BMPs, and/or conducting work under frozen ground conditions when working within or adjacent to this natural community.

Impact Type	Impact possible
Recommended Measures	Time of year restriction, Exclusion Fencing, Other
Description of Recommended Measures	<p>Since suitable habitat, particularly nesting habitat, for the Blanding's Turtle may be present within the project site, the following measures can voluntarily be implemented to avoid impacts:</p> <p>Overwintering areas – Blanding's turtles typically overwinter in wetlands or water bodies with standing water at least three feet deep. Because this species can be found in these wetlands and water bodies throughout the year, impacts to these wetlands and water bodies should be minimized at all times.</p> <p>Non-overwintering areas – For wetlands / water bodies shallower than three feet at the deepest point, conduct work outside of the Blanding's turtle's active season (March 5 – November 15). The installation and maintenance of exclusion fencing using the WDNR Amphibian and Reptile Exclusion Fencing Protocol is an avoidance option that can be used during this period as long as the exclusion fencing is installed between November 16 and March 4. Work can then be conducted within the fenced area at any time of year as long as the fencing is maintained.</p> <p>Upland nesting habitat – Avoid work in suitable upland nesting habitat (sandy and/or well-drained soils) within 275 m (900 ft) of a wetland or water body during the Blanding's turtle's nesting period (May 20 – October 15). The installation and maintenance of exclusion fencing using the WDNR Amphibian and Reptile Exclusion Fencing Protocol is an avoidance option that can be used during this period as long as the exclusion fencing is installed between October 16 and May 19. Work can then be conducted within the fenced area at any time of year as long as the fencing is maintained.</p> <p>If avoidance dates and fencing cannot be implemented, it is recommended to walk through or gently disturb the project area immediately prior to disturbance. While this will not protect nests, it may allow turtles to move out of the area and avoid take. If a turtle is found, please carefully move it to suitable habitat outside the project area.</p> <p>Please note, inactive dates are updated frequently in the Fall, and can be checked here: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wildlifehabitat/HerpRegulations.html</p> <p>Blanding's Turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>) is a Special Concern species in Wisconsin. They utilize a wide variety of aquatic habitats including deep and shallow marshes, shallow bays of lakes and impoundments where areas of dense emergent and submergent vegetation exists, sluggish streams, oxbows and other backwaters of rivers, drainage ditches (usually where wetlands have been drained), and sedge meadows and wet meadows adjacent to these habitats. This species is semi-terrestrial and individuals may spend quite a bit of time on land. They often move between a variety of wetland habitats during the active season, which can extend from early March to mid-November. They overwinter in standing water that is typically more than 3 feet deep and with a deep organic substrate but will also use both warm and cold-water streams and rivers where they can avoid freezing. Blanding's turtles generally breed in spring, late summer or fall. Nesting occurs from about mid-May through early July depending on spring temperatures. They strongly prefer to nest in sandy soils and may travel up to 300m (984 ft) from a wetland or waterbody to find suitable nesting sites. This species appears to display nest site fidelity, returning to its natal site and then nesting in a similar location annually. Hatching occurs from early August through mid-October. This species takes 17 to 20 years or more to reach maturity.</p>

Remember that although these actions are not required by state or federal endangered species laws, they may be required by other laws, permits, granting programs, or policies of this or another agency. Examples include the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, State Natural Areas law, DNR Chapter 30 Wetland and Waterway permits, DNR Stormwater permits, and Forest Certification.

Additional Recommendations

The project site is located near Half Moon Lake and we strongly recommend implementing erosion and runoff prevention measures during the course of the project.

Please note that erosion control netting (also known as erosion control blankets, erosion mats or erosion mesh netting) used to prevent erosion during the establishment of vegetation can have detrimental effects on local snake and other wildlife populations. Plastic netting without independent movement of strands can easily entrap snakes moving through the area, leading to dehydration, desiccation, and eventually mortality. Netting that contains biodegradable thread with the "leno" or "gauze" weave (contains strands that are able to move independently) appears to have the least impact on snakes and should be used in areas adjacent to or near any waterbody.

If erosion matting will be used for this project, use the following matting (or something similar): American Excelsior "FibreNet" or "NetFree" products; East Coast Erosion biodegradable jute products; Erosion Tech biodegradable jute products; ErosionControlBlanket.com biodegradable leno weave products; North American Green S75BN, S150BN, SC150BN or C125BN; or Western Excelsior "All Natural" products.

No actions are required or recommended for the following endangered resources:

• **Moist Cliff - Community**

State Status: NA

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	Moist Cliff is not present within the project site. No impacts are anticipated.

• **Floodplain Forest - Community~**

State Status: NA

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	The Floodplain Forest is not present within the project site. No impacts are anticipated.

• **Sioux (Sand) Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus smithi*) - Dragonfly~**

State Status: SC/N

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Sioux (Sand) Snaketail (<i>Ophiogomphus smithi</i>), a State Special Concern dragonfly, has been found in small to medium clean, fast-flowing sandy warm streams. The flight period extends from late May through mid June.</p>

• **Blue Sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*) - Fish~**

State Status: THR

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Blue Sucker (<i>Cycleptus elongatus</i>), listed as Threatened in Wisconsin, prefers large, deep rivers with moderate to strong currents over substrates of gravel or cobble.</p>

• **Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) - Fish~**

State Status: SC/H

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Lake Sturgeon (<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>), listed as Special Concern, prefers large rivers and lakes. It also lives in the shoal waters of the Great Lakes.</p>

• **River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*) - Fish~**

State Status: THR

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>River Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>), listed as Threatened in Wisconsin, prefers moderate to swift currents in large rivers systems, including impoundments and pools.</p>

• **Goldeye (*Hiodon alosoides*) - Fish~**

State Status: END

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Goldeye (<i>Hiodon alosoides</i>), listed as Endangered in Wisconsin, prefers the quiet, turbid waters of large rivers and their connecting lakes ponds and marshes.</p>

• **A Cleft-footed Minnow Mayfly (*Metretopus borealis*) - Mayfly~**

State Status: SC/N

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p>

• **Purple Wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*) - Mussel~**

State Status: END

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Purple Wartyback (<i>Cyclonaias tuberculata</i>), listed as Endangered in Wisconsin, is found in large rivers in the western and southern parts of the state.</p>

• **Fawnsfoot (*Truncilla donaciformis*) - Mussel~**

State Status: THR

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Fawnsfoot (<i>Truncilla donaciformis</i>), a State Endangered species, prefers large rivers or the lower reaches of medium-sized streams.</p>

• **Buckhorn (*Tritogonia verrucosa*) - Mussel~**

State Status: THR

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Buckhorn (<i>Tritogonia verrucosa</i>), listed as Threatened in Wisconsin, is found in medium to large-sized rivers, with a moderate to swift current, and clean, firm substrates.</p>

• **Butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*) - Mussel~**

State Status: END

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	<p>No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Butterfly (<i>Ellipsaria lineolata</i>), listed as Endangered in Wisconsin, is found in large rivers in the western and southern parts of the state.</p>

• Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*) - Mussel~

State Status: SC/P

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated. Elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta marginata</i>), a State Special Concern mussel, is found in various-sized streams with flowing water, sand, gravel or rock substrates that are stable.

• Sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*) - Mussel~

State Status: END Federal Status: LE

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	No suitable habitat is present at or adjacent to the project site. Because of the lack of connectivity to suitable habitat, it is unlikely that suitable habitat will be disturbed. No impacts are anticipated. Sheepnose (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>), formerly referred to as Bullhead, is both State and Federally Endangered in Wisconsin. This species is found in clean water of large rivers in the Western part of the state.

• Muskroot (*Adoxa moschatellina*) - Plant

State Status: THR

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	No suitable habitat is present at the project site. No impacts are anticipated. Muskroot (<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>), a Wisconsin Threatened plant, is found on moist shaded ledges and bare soil at cliff bases with relict northern plant species present.

• Ovate Beak Grass (*Diarrhena obovata*) - Plant

State Status: END

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	No suitable habitat is present at the project site. No impacts are anticipated. Ovate Beak Grass (<i>Diarrhena obovata</i>), a Wisconsin Endangered plant, is found in moist streamside deciduous forests.

• Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) - Turtle~

State Status: THR Federal Status: SOC

Impact Type	No impact or no/low broad ITP/A
Reason	Lack of Suitable Habitat within Project Boundary
Justification	Wood turtles do not typically utilize lakes. Because of the distance to a suitable wood turtle stream, it is unlikely that wood turtles would be present at the project site. No impacts are anticipated. Wood Turtle (<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>), a Threatened Species in Wisconsin, prefers rivers and streams with adjacent riparian wetlands and upland deciduous forests. This species often forages in open wet meadows or in shrub-carr habitats dominated by speckled alder. They overwinter in streams and rivers in deep holes or undercut banks where there is enough water flow to prevent freezing. This semi-terrestrial species typically remains within 300m (984 ft) of rivers and streams.

Section D. Next Steps

1. Evaluate whether the 'Location and brief description of the proposed project' is still accurate. All recommendations in this ER Review are based on the information supplied in the ER Review Request. If the proposed project has changed or more than a year has passed and you would like your letter renewed, please contact the ER Review Program to determine if the information in this ER Review is still valid.
2. Determine whether the project can incorporate and implement the 'Follow-up actions' identified above:
 - o 'Actions that need to be taken to comply with state and/or federal endangered species laws' represent the Department's best available guidance for complying with state and federal endangered species laws based on the project information that you provided and the endangered resources information

and data available to us. If the proposed project has not changed from the description that you provided us and you are able to implement all of the 'Actions that need to be taken to comply with state and/or federal endangered species laws', your project should comply with state and federal endangered species laws. Please remember that if a violation occurs, the person responsible for the taking is the liable party. Generally this is the landowner or project proponent. For questions or concerns about individual responsibilities related to Wisconsin's Endangered Species Law, please contact the ER Review Program.

- o If the project is unable to incorporate and implement one or more of the 'Actions that need to be taken to comply with state and/or federal endangered species laws' identified above, the project may potentially violate one or more of these laws. Please contact the ER Review Program immediately to assist in identifying potential options that may allow the project to proceed in compliance with state and federal endangered species laws.
 - o 'Actions recommended to help conserve Wisconsin's Endangered Resources' may be required by another law, a policy of this or another Department, agency or program; or as part of another permitting, approval or granting process. Please make sure to carefully read all permits and approvals for the project to determine whether these or other measures may be required. Even if these actions are not required by another program or entity for the proposed project to proceed, the Department strongly encourages the implementation of these conservation measures on a voluntary basis to help prevent future listings and protect Wisconsin's biodiversity for future generations.
3. If federally-protected species or habitats are involved and the project involves federal funds, technical assistance or authorization (e.g., permit) and there are likely to be any impacts (positive or negative) to them, consultation with USFWS will need to occur prior to the project being able to proceed. If no federal funding, assistance or authorization is involved with the project and there are likely to be adverse impacts to the species, contact the USFWS Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office at 612-725-3548 (x2201) for further information and guidance.

Section E. Standard Information to help you better understand this ER Review

Endangered Resources (ER) Reviews are conducted according to the protocols in the guidance document Conducting Proposed Endangered Resources Reviews: A Step-by-Step Guide for Wisconsin DNR Staff.

How endangered resources searches are conducted for the proposed project area: An endangered resources search is performed as part of all ER Reviews. A search consists of querying the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database for endangered resources records for the proposed project area. The project area evaluated consists of both the specific project site and a buffer area surrounding the site. A 1 mile buffer is considered for terrestrial and wetland species, and a 2 mile buffer for aquatic species. Endangered resources records from the buffer area are considered because most lands and waters in the state, especially private lands, have not been surveyed. Considering records from the entire project area (also sometimes referred to as the search area) provides the best picture of species and communities that may be present on your specific site if suitable habitat for those species or communities is present.

Categories of endangered resources considered in ER Reviews and protections for each: Endangered resources records from the NHI database fall into one of the following categories:

- Federally-protected species include those federally listed as Endangered or Threatened and Designated Critical Habitats. Federally-protected animals are protected on all lands; federally-protected plants are protected only on federal lands and in the course of projects that include federal funding (see Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended).
- Animals (vertebrate and invertebrate) listed as Endangered or Threatened in Wisconsin are protected by Wisconsin's Endangered Species Law on all lands and waters of the state (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.).
- Plants listed as Endangered or Threatened in Wisconsin are protected by Wisconsin's Endangered Species Law on public lands and on land that the person does not own or lease, except in the course of forestry, agriculture, utility, or bulk sampling actions (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.).
- Special Concern species, high-quality examples of natural communities (sometimes called High Conservation Value areas), and natural features (e.g., caves and animal aggregation sites) are also included in the NHI database. These endangered resources are not legally protected by state or federal endangered species laws. However, other laws, policies (e.g., related to Forest Certification), or granting/permitting processes may require or strongly encourage protection of these resources. The main purpose of the Special Concern classification is to focus attention on species about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected before they become endangered or threatened.
- State Natural Areas (SNAs) are also included in the NHI database. SNAs protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations, and archeological sites. Endangered species are often found within SNAs. SNAs are protected by law from any use that is inconsistent with or injurious to their natural values (s. 23.28, Wis. Stats.).

Please remember the following:

1. This ER Review is provided as information to comply with state and federal endangered species laws. By following the protocols and methodologies described above, the best information currently available about endangered resources that may be present in the proposed project area has been provided. However, the NHI database is not all inclusive; systematic surveys of most public lands have not been conducted, and the majority of private lands have not been surveyed. As a result, NHI data for the project area may be incomplete. Occurrences of endangered resources are only in the NHI database if the site has been previously surveyed for that species or group during

the appropriate season, and an observation was reported to and entered into the NHI database. As such, absence of a record in the NHI database for a specific area should not be used to infer that no endangered resources are present in that area. Similarly, the presence of one species does not imply that surveys have been conducted for other species. Evaluations of the possible presence of rare species on the project site should always be based on whether suitable habitat exists on site for that species.

2. This ER Review provides an assessment of endangered resources that may be impacted by the project and measures that can be taken to avoid negatively impacting those resources based on the information that has been provided to ER Review Program at this time. Incomplete information, changes in the project, or subsequent survey results may affect our assessment and indicate the need for additional or different measures to avoid impacts to endangered resources.
3. This ER Review does not exempt the project from actions that may be required by Department permits or approvals for the project. Information contained in this ER Review may be shared with individuals who need this information in order to carry out specific roles in the planning, permitting, and implementation of the proposed project.