Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 3.B.5

SUBJECT: Hank Aaron State Trail Boundary adjustment

FOR: DECEMBER, 2007 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Bill Smith

SUMMARY:

The Hank Aaron State Trail located in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin has an opportunity to adjust the existing project boundary for incorporation of adjacent lands for expanded recreation opportunities and conservation habitat. This project boundary adjustment is necessary to allow the Hank Aaron State Trail to cross the Menomonee River and connect to the western extension of the trail. This project boundary adjustment plays a role in the continuing redevelopment of the Menomonee Valley corridor and has the support of the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION: Natural Resource Board Approval per NR 44.04(4) (b) Master Plan development.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☐	Background Memo	Yes	☑	Attached

APPROVED:

William A Smith — 10/31/07
Bureau Director, — Date

Laurie Stendorf — 10/31/07
Administrator, — Date

10/31/07
Secretary, Matt Frank — Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: October 31, 2007

TO: Natural Resources Board Members

FROM: Matt Frank

SUBJECT: Adjustment of project boundary for Hank Aaron State Trail

The Natural Resources Board approved the original master plan for the Hank Aaron State Trail in October of 1996. An amendment of that master plan, to allow the west extension of the Trail, was approved by the Natural Resources Board in May of 2006. This request for a project boundary adjustment would allow a relatively small parcel of land on the south side of the Menomonee River in Milwaukee County to be incorporated into the project boundary of the Hank Aaron State Trail.

Hank Aaron State Trail.

The Menomonee Valley is home to unique tourist destinations, excellent urban park space, and thousands of family-supporting jobs. Linking all these components of the Valley's redevelopment is the Hank Aaron State Trail. A 7-mile paved trail forming the backbone of the Menomonee Valley, and a destination in itself, the Trail connects major destinations in the Valley and beyond. Over 400,000 people live within a 15-minute bike ride of the Trail, and use it regularly to reach job, recreation, and entertainment destinations.

The Trail is named for baseball legend and former Milwaukee Braves player Hank Aaron, who hit his record-setting home run at the nearby stadium. Today, interpretive signs and murals along the Trail detail Hank Aaron's career and show the diversity of the neighborhoods bordering the Valley today.

In 2006, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle announced the State's purchase of an additional 5.5 miles of abandoned railroad right of way to create a 5.5 mile west extension of the Hank Aaron State Trail. The Trail will eventually connect Lakeshore State Park on Lake Michigan to Milwaukee County's Oak Leaf Trail and will link 16 of the top tourist destinations in the region.

Hank Aaron State Trail Valley Passage Trailhead.

Within the existing project boundary and this projected expansion of the Hank Aaron State Trail, the City of Milwaukee, the Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc., the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources are planning the construction of a bridge over the Menomonee River, re-development of the Valley Passage tunnel under the existing Canadian Pacific rail lines, construction of entry ramps onto the trail, and creation of a linkage to a south parking lot for trail users. These projects collectively are referred to as the Hank Aaron State Trail-Valley Passage Trailhead. Construction of the Trailhead will allow an important link to be created between the existing Hank Aaron State Trail on the north side of the river and the western extension to the south and west.

The existing project boundary for the Hank Aaron State Trail incorporates most of the land necessary for the Trailhead. A small boundary adjustment is necessary south of the river where the former Valley Passage tunnel exists and the where the project will require the land to be within the Trail project

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boundaries to thereafter complete the necessary trail work.

Environmental Analysis.

This is a Type III action under Chapter 1.50, Wis. Adm. Code, and neither an environmental impact statement nor an environmental assessment is required.

Action Requested of the Natural Resources Board.

The Department is requesting the Board's approval of the project boundary adjustment for the Hank Aaron State Trail.

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