



**Public Safety Team Analysis of
Nature Based Outdoor Activities on
Projects Purchased with
Stewardship Grant Funds**

Rev. August 2012

NOTE TO DNR STAFF: This completed form will be attached to the NBOA notice that the DNR will publish when considering a request for Stewardship grant funding. Do not list location information for the subject property or the seller's name because WI courts have held that this information is confidential until land ownership has changed hands. CF Staff completes the project proposal section prior to submitting to public safety team for review.

PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW TEAM

Jeff Dauterman

David Zebro

Regional Recreational Safety Warden

Regional Warden Supervisor

Jeff Dauterman 08-08-13
Date

David Zebro 8-16-13
Date

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Applicant/ Sponsor: City of Merrill

Year of Application: 2013

Project Name:

City of Merrill River Bend Trail (Railroad Grade Acq)

Primary Purpose: Habitat Areas Local Parks
 Natural Areas Urban Rivers
 State Trails Urban Greenspace
 Streambank Protection

Project Description:

The City of Merrill proposes to acquire 12.17 acres (1.3 miles) of former railroad grade in downtown Merrill. The city plans to develop a hike/bike trail in the downtown area. Future phases of the project hope to ultimately connect this trail to the city's MARC (Merrill Area Recreational Complex) and the Council Grounds State Park.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Hunting and trapping would be prohibited per local ordinance, except as needed for removal of nuisance animals, or trapping with specific written authority from the common council. This prohibition has been in place for many years within the City of Merrill. The trail is in a very urban area of the city. There are four schools within 1,700 feet of the trail, and numerous private residents. All portions of this railroad grade are either within the school buffer or within 100 yards of a residence. Given the proximity to homes, schools, businesses, roads, waterways, and size/width of this parcel, hunting would be a safety hazard to the public.

Parcel Size, Shape, and Topography: Describe the size, shape, and topography of the parcel and how it relates to public safety for this activity on this site.

Parcel is 1.3 miles of linear surface, with railroad ties removed and existing rock base in place. Grade is level and largely clear/open. Parcel runs through downtown Merrill and is adjacent to homes, schools, businesses, roadways and waterways.

Proposed NBOA Prohibition or Restrictions

HUNTING			
	Gun Prohibition/Restriction	Archery Prohibition/Restriction	List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)
Waterfowl	Hunting Prohibited	Hunting Prohibited	
Small Game	Hunting Prohibited	Hunting Prohibited	
Turkey	Hunting Prohibited	Hunting Prohibited	
Large Game	Hunting Prohibited	Hunting Prohibited	

Public Safety Team Narrative:

As noted earlier, hunting has historically been prohibited per local ordinance, except as needed for removal of nuisance animals. The trail is in a very urban area of the city. There are four schools within 1,700 feet of the trail, and numerous private residents. All portions of this railroad grade are either within the school buffer or within 100 yards of a residence. Given the proximity to homes, schools, businesses, roads, waterways, and size/width of this parcel, hunting would be a safety hazard to the public.

Public Safety Factors Considered: Check all that apply.

- The sponsor is within its own municipality boundary
- Parcel is within 100 yards of building devoted to human occupancy
- Parcel is within 50 feet of the center line of highways & roads
- Parcel is within 1700 feet of school grounds, hospital, or sanatorium
- Ordinance exists –
 - Discharge or carrying a weapon
 - Hunting within a park
 - Throwing or shooting missiles, arrows, spears, etc.
- Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance
- Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.
- Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.
- Visitor's expectations of safety at the site, which includes user conflicts that may create public safety issues and impact one or more NBOA's activities. Describe:
- Other _____

Prohibition or Restriction Necessary to Protect Public Safety: Yes No

TRAPPING

Location	Prohibition/Restriction	List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)
Upland	Trapping Prohibited	Trapping Prohibited
Water	Trapping Prohibited	Trapping Prohibited

Public Safety Team Narrative:
 As noted earlier trapping has historically been prohibited per local ordinance, except as needed for removal of nuisance animals, or with specific written authority from the common council. The trail is in a very urban area of the city. There are four schools within 1,700 feet of the trail, and numerous private residents. All portions of this railroad grade are either within the school buffer or within 100 yards of a residence. Given the proximity to homes, schools, businesses, roads, waterways, and size/width of this parcel, prohibition/restriction of trapping is supported for public safety reasons.

- No Water On Site
- Public Safety Factors Considered: Check all that apply.**
- The sponsor is within its own municipality boundary.
 - Parcel is within 100 yards of building devoted to human occupancy and per s. NR 10.13(1)(b)(12)(c), the following traps are prohibited: conibear body gripping traps (with jaws wider than 60 sq. inches) and cable restraints.
 - Ordinance exists that prohibits trapping or some type of trapping.
 - Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance
 - Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.
 - Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.
 - Visitor's expectations of safety at the site, which includes user conflicts that may create public safety issues and impact one or more NBOA's activities. Describe:
- Other _____

Prohibition or Restriction Necessary to Protect Public Safety: Yes No

FISHING

Method	Prohibition/Restriction	List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)
Shore	No prohibition	According to State law
Boat	No prohibition	According to State law

Public Safety Team Narrative:

- No Water on Site
 - Public Safety Factors Considered: Check all that apply.**
 - Ordinance exists – _____
 - Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance
 - Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.
 - Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.
 - Visitor's expectations of safety at the site, which includes user conflicts that may create public safety issues and impact one or more NBOA's activities. Describe:
- Other _____

Prohibition or Restriction Necessary to Protect Public Safety: Yes No

HIKING		
Location	Prohibition/Restriction	List Dates (opening and closing)
On-Trail	No prohibition	
Off-Trail	No prohibition	
Public Safety Team Narrative:		
<p>Public Safety Factors Considered: Check all that apply.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists. <input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway. <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor's expectations of safety at the site, which includes user conflicts that may create public safety issues and impact one or more NBOA's activities. Describe: <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Prohibition or Restriction Necessary to Protect Public Safety:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING		
Type of Trail	Prohibition/Restriction	List Dates (opening and closing)
Off-Trail (un-groomed)	No prohibition	
On-Trail (un-groomed)	No prohibition	
On-Trail (groomed)	No prohibition	
Public Safety Team Narrative:		
<p>Public Safety Factors Considered: Check all that apply.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists. <input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway. <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor's expectations of safety at the site, which includes user conflicts that may create public safety issues and impact one or more NBOA's activities. Describe: <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Prohibition or Restriction Necessary to Protect Public Safety:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No