

*White Pigeon in full regalia at Spunk Hill.*

# Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan

August 2005



**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
August 3, 2005**

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**Acknowledgments**

Schreiber/Anderson Associates of Madison (SAA) in association with Applied Ecological Services of Brodhead, Wisconsin and Mississippi Valley Archeological Center of LaCrosse, Wisconsin worked with the Wood County Staff and various interested citizens to develop a Long Range Master Plan for Powers Bluff County Park.

The following groups played an important role in the creation of this long range master plan.

Wood County Parks and Forestry Committee: Made up of five members of the Wood County Board of Supervisors. The Powers Bluff Long Range Planning Committee included an additional five citizen members. This committee, under the leadership of Ron Arendt, Director of Wood County Parks and Forestry Department, has worked hard on this plan and with the other groups listed below.

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Friends of Powers Bluff: Created in 2001 to provide an organization to influence the County on management and policy decisions regarding Powers Bluff; this group is made up of Wood County citizens.

Ho-Chunk Nation: a federally recognized tribe with members throughout Wisconsin and the world . Wood County and the surrounding area remains the home of the living direct descendents of those Ho-Chunk that lived on Skunk Hill (Powers Bluff) at the turn of the last century.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation: a federally recognized tribe with a reservation in Kansas. This Nation also maintains an interest in Skunk Hill as living descendents of Prairie Band members who lived at the settlement on Skunk Hill at the turn of the last century and still live in Wood County and the surrounding area today.

To create the best possible Long Range Master Plan, the SAA Team worked closely with the Long Range Planning Committee. Through many meetings, site visits, phone calls, letters and emails, the consultant team gathered the necessary information to formulate a long range plan that the people of Wood County can feel good about, support, and help implement. Thank you to all of the people listed below and the many others who helped out behind the scenes to create this document.

**Long Range Planning Committee Members**

Lance Pliml, Chairman of the Park and Forestry Committee

Gene Thiede, Former Vice Chairman of the Park and Forestry Committee

Donald Melville, Secretary of the Park and Forestry Committee

Robert Ashbeck, Member of the Park and Forestry Committee

Dennis Schulhauser, Member of the Park and Forestry Committee

Nettie Kingsley, Member of the Ho-Chunk Nation

Mary Webster, Member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Dave Manthey, Interested Citizen

Gene Bymers, Friends of Powers Bluff

Robert Freckmann, Friends of Powers Bluff

**Wood County Staff Members**

Ronald Arendt, Park Administrator

Fritz Schubert, Forest Administrator

Larry Francis, Maintenance Program Supervisor

Peter Kastenholz, Corporation Counsel

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Jason Grueneberg, Planning and Zoning

Tim Klopstein, Communications Director

Heather Call, Park and Forestry Department Office Manager

Other Contributors:

Lilas Smith

Brian Snowball

Sherry Rady

Jeff Lindow

Wendy Helgemo

John Kollross

David Samter

Norma & Dale Gable

Conrad Accola

Ole Arneson

Grace Collins

Dan Deboer

Stepanie Eastwood

Ginger Johnson

Rey Kitchkumme

Roy Ogden

Gerald Roger

Kris Rued-Clark

Al Salzmann

Barb Salzmann

Helen Schenick

William Schenick

Sheryl Skibba

Carol Tomforde

**Schreiber/Anderson Associates Staff**

David Schreiber, Principal in Charge

Ann Freiwald, Project Manager

Rhonda James, Landscape Architect

Eric Seidl, Landscape Designer

## **Introduction**

In March of 2003 Wood County Parks and Forestry Department entered into a contract with Schreiber/Anderson Associates of Madison to develop a Long Range Master Plan for Powers Bluff County Park. The purpose of this plan is to guide the management, development and preservation of Powers Bluff over the next 10 to 15 years. Powers Bluff is an important landmark, home to fascinating flora and fauna as well as cultural resources, and a much valued recreational resource. As such, it is vital that decisions regarding its future are based on a long-term vision and take into account its unique value.

### **Mission Statement**

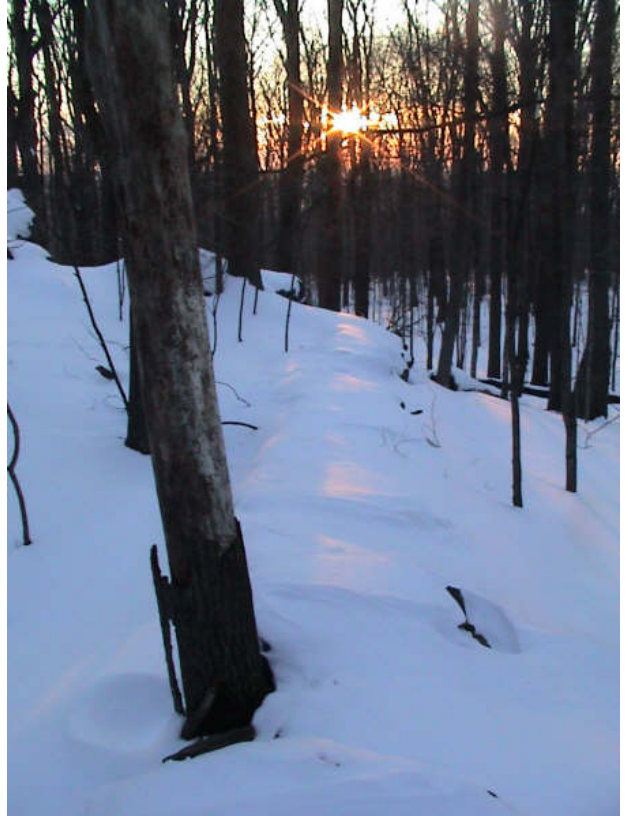
Powers Bluff County Park is a unique natural, cultural and recreational resource. The long-term vision is to protect it for future generations of Wood County residents so they may enjoy the park for years to come.

### Environmental Resource Preservation

Powers Bluff features a mature southern mesic forest perched on a 300' high monadnock – an isolated remnant hill made of erosion resistant quartzite. Its unique flora, fauna and geologic features have been studied and recorded and are appreciated by many people. The County will work to preserve this unique landscape for the people of Wood County.

### Cultural Resource Preservation

Powers Bluff/Skunk Hill (Tah-qua-kik) was the home of a unique settlement of landless Prairie Band Potawatomi, Ho Chunk, Ojibway and Menominee from 1905 to 1930. The County will preserve Tah-qua-kik's traditional and cultural properties by collaboration and consultation with the Indian Tribes to interpret historically important aspects of the park and protect Tah-qua-kik from ground disturbing activity in undeveloped areas of the park. Its worth as a cultural resource in Wood County was memorialized in 2002 when the National Park Service placed it on the National Register of Historic Places.



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### Recreational Use

Winter use of the park includes tubing and skiing opportunities for residents of Wood County not found anywhere else in the County. It is therefore important that these activities continue to be offered and when necessary, improved upon. In addition to winter use, the Park is a well-loved location for quiet hikes, family picnics and nature observation. Wood County will continue to protect and utilize existing recreational areas to the best benefit of the County, its citizens and future generations while balancing concerns for the preservation of cultural and natural resources.

### **Vision Statements**

Two vision statements apply to this Long Range Master Plan as it is unknown at this time if acquisition of lands to the north of the existing park will occur. If the land acquisition is accomplished, it will affect locations of key park facilities and impact the management of the park. Both vision statements are written as the story of activities in the park in the year 2014. The intention is to illustrate the direction those involved in this long term planning effort would most like to see the park take in the next 10 years.

### **Powers Bluff Through the Seasons in the Year 2014: Narrative assuming acquisition of land to the north of the existing park**

#### **May 2014**

It is a bright clear and cool morning on Powers Bluff in early May. A small van arrives at the Bluff from CTH N. Filled with ecology students from UW-Stevens Point, they disperse along the nature trail to inventory the spring flora, in awe of the site's diversity. The students' professor who like to reminisce about how he and his old mentor Dr. Freckmann, used to come to this site each year, explains to the students how the preservation of the wild flower diversity on the Bluff is dependent on the preservation of the tree canopy and the hard work of many volunteers who patrol the Bluff for invasive and non-native species each year.

This visit to the bluff also offers the professor an opportunity to explain the "edge effect" on woodlands as the students walk through the additional 40 acres acquired to the east of the park several years ago.

#### **July 2014**

It is around 1 PM on a hot July day and cars start to stream into the lower parking area located north of the Bluff for a family reunion. The family sets up their picnic in the kitchen area of the Lower Shelter and starts the grills. The children run off to play on the extensive playground equipment or to fish in the pond. A nature hike on the Bluff is planned for later in the afternoon with a kickball game to follow located in the open play field north of the Bluff.

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The very next day another group of cars pulls into the Lower Bluff area and begins to travel up the hill. They are Native Americans who have planned to hold a festival in the Upper Bluff Picnic Area. Most park below, but the elders take advantage of the old entrance road to the top of the bluff.

### **September 2014**

In early September of each year the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class from Vesper Elementary School arrives at the Lower Bluff parking lot. They are met there by two Native American representatives, one from the Prairie Band Potawatomi and one from the Ho-Chunk Nation. The children and the tour guides head off to the nature trail for a walk through the woods and up to the old shelter building. Built in the 1940s and used until 2007 as a warming house and center of activity for tubing and skiing, the building was remodeled in 2008 to become the Center for Native American Culture in Wood County. The building houses artifacts and displays that tell the story of the various Native American tribes that lived in Wood County and the central part of Wisconsin. There is a special and detailed display area that focuses on the story of the Ceremonial Community that occupied the Bluff from the late 1800's to the mid 1930's. The guides help the children to understand and appreciate the displays inside the building and the landscape they walked through to get to the building. Next year, when they are 5<sup>th</sup> graders, they will return to the Bluff in spring to learn about the spring flora.

### **October 2014**

These two old folks have lived in Wood County since the 1980's and they have always visited the Bluff in the fall to enjoy the trees in full color. They used to park in the Lower Bluff parking area and walk, but now they enjoy the colors from in their car. They use the old entrance/exit road, which is still in place for accessing the communications tower and as the handicapped access to the top of the bluff.

While driving up the old road they pass a lone hiker enjoying a quiet walk on the nature trail that circles the bluff; they recognize her as a regular visitor who they have seen here in all seasons.

### **December 2014**

On a Friday in late December a heavy snow blankets the Bluff and an avid snowshoer quickly heads out to make the most of it. Circling the Bluff several times is good exercise and in the early evening dark of a December day the snowshoer has an opportunity to see the wildlife seldom enjoyed by visitors during more busy times of the year.

### **February 2015**

The temperature hovers around 20 degrees as the first snow tubers of the day buy their lift passes and get pulled up the hill. The skiers line up at a separate concession window to rent their skis and boots.

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Although it has not snowed much since that first big snow in late December, the Bluff tube run and ski runs are still open due to the snow making equipment. Skiers and snow tubers have the option of buying a pass for one or all three of the sessions offered each weekend day. The third session was added in 2009 when lights were added to the hill to offer nighttime winter use.



Tired from a long morning of skiing, the skiers join the snow tubers in enjoying a meal at the new Lower Bluff Shelter. The Lower Bluff Shelter houses the concession and kitchen areas, a large room that serves as a warming house in the winter and a rental hall in the remaining months, toilets, ski rentals, and an outdoor shelter for summer activities and rentals. It is energy efficient, handicapped accessible and well designed to accommodate large groups of people comfortably.

### **March 2015**

The Bluff is quiet after a long winter of skiing and tubing. A neighbor of the Bluff comes to watch the warblers before leaf out makes these small birds hard to see. The bird watcher sees a local artist sketching the trees in the sun. They begin to talk and the bird watcher hears how in the late 1900's to early 2000, a group of concerned people from all walks of life joined together to save this unique place and pass it on to the next generations.

### **May 2015**

Another round of seasons at Powers Bluff begins again.

### **Powers Bluff through the Seasons in the Year 2014: Narrative assuming the land to the north of the park is not acquired**

(Please note that significant changes from the narrative above are signified in italics.)

### **May 2014**

It is a bright clear and cool morning on Powers Bluff in early May. A small van arrives at the Bluff filled with ecology students from UW-Stevens Point. They disperse along the natural trail to inventory the spring flora, are in awe of the site's diversity. The student's professor who likes to reminisce about how he and his old mentor, Dr. Freckmann, used to come to this site each year, explains to the students how the



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preservation of the wild flower diversity on the Bluff is dependent on the preservation of the tree canopy and the hard work of many volunteers who patrol the Bluff for invasive and non-native species each year.

This visit to the bluff also offers the professor an opportunity to explain the “edge effect” on woodlands as the students walk through the additional 40 acres acquired to the east of the park several years ago.

### **July 2014**

*It is around 1 PM on a hot July day and cars start to stream into the parking area located on the Bluff for a family reunion. The family sets up their picnic in the kitchen area of the Shelter added in 2007 on the upper level and starts the grills. The children run off to play on the new but modest play equipment located in the picnic area. A nature hike on the Bluff is planned for later in the afternoon which will include taking in the cultural resource interpretive signs scattered over the Bluff.*



*The next day another group of cars pulls into the parking area and begins to set up for an afternoon of festivities. They are Native Americans who have planned to hold a festival in the Powers Bluff Picnic Area. They have reserved the Old Shelter, which has been remodeled to include an outdoor deck area and room for cultural displays.*

### **September 2014**

In early September of each year the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class from Vesper Elementary School travels to the park as part of their curriculum. Two Native American representatives meet them there, one from the Prairie Band Potawatomi and one from the Ho-Chunk Nation. The children and the tour guides head off to the nature trail for a walk through the woods to learn about the cultural information displayed in the landscape and they end up at the Old Shelter building. *Built in the 1950s and still used as a warming house and center of activity for tubing and skiing, the building was remodeled in 2008 to house an impressive collection of Native American artifacts and information on the story of the Ceremonial Community that occupied the Bluff from the late 1800's to the mid 1930's.* The guides help the children to understand and appreciate the displays inside the building and the landscape they walked through to get to the building. Next year, when they are 5<sup>th</sup> graders, they will return to the Bluff in spring to learn about the spring flora.

### **October 2014**

These two old folks have lived in Wood County since the 1990's and they have always visited the Bluff in the fall to enjoy the trees in full color. They used to walk the entire length of the nature trail, but they enjoy

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the colors but from their car. While driving up the old road they pass a lone hiker enjoying a quiet walk on the nature trail that circles the bluff; they recognize her as a regular visitor who they have seen here in all seasons.

### **December 2014**

On a Friday in late December a heavy snow blankets the Bluff and an avid snowshoer quickly heads out to make the most of it. Circling the Bluff several times is good exercise and in the early evening dark of a December day the snowshoer has an opportunity to see wildlife seldom enjoyed by visitors during more busy times of the year.

### **February 2014**

The temperature hovers around 20 degrees as the first snow tubers buy their lift passes and tube down the hill for the first run of the day. *Since the Old Shelter was remodeled and expanded, the entire process of purchasing lift tickets and renting equipment has become much smoother.*

Additionally the skiers and snow tubers have the option of buying a pass for one or all three of the sessions offered each weekend day. The third session was added in 2009 when lights were added to the hill to offer nighttime winter use.

*Tired from a long morning of skiing, the skiers join the snow tubers in enjoying a meal bought at the expanded concession area. The remodeled shelter includes an improved area for concessions, ski rental and ticket sales. It is energy efficient, handicapped accessible and well designed to accommodate large groups of people comfortably.*

### **March 2015**

The Bluff is quiet after a long winter of skiing and tubing. A neighbor of the Bluff comes to watch the warblers before the leaf out makes these small birds hard to see. The bird watcher sees a local artist sketching the trees in the sun. They begin to talk and the bird watcher hears how in the late 1900's and early 2000, a group of concerned people from all walks of life joined together to save this unique place and pass it on to the next generations.

### **May 2015**

Another round of seasons at Powers Bluff begins again.

## **Plan Development Process**

In January of 2000, the Wood County Park and Forestry Department published a request for proposals to perform a select cut on the southwestern 40 acres of Powers Bluff County Park. This request for proposals sparked the discussion of the future of Powers Bluff that continues today.

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In June of 2001, a wind storm took down many trees in the park. The clean up and management of the blow down helped to keep citizens interest in the management of the park at a high level.

In October of 2000 the County formed the Powers Bluff Long Range Planning Committee to help organize input and to develop a Long Range Master Plan to guide the development, management, and protection of the Bluff for the next 10 to 15 years.

The Schreiber/Anderson Associates Team was brought in to the process in March of 2003 to develop the long range plan via a combination of public meetings, stakeholder discussions, site visits, and document review.

### **Site Inventory and Analysis**

Powers Bluff is a 160 acre park located in section 30 of the town of Arpin (see map Appendix A). It is just west of Arpin and approximately a 30-minute drive from Wisconsin Rapids or Marshfield. The park is a wooded site surrounded by agricultural fields, woodlots and rural residential lots surrounding it.

### **Zoning and Surrounding Land Use**

Wood County has a countywide Zoning ordinance that is still legally binding. The ordinance was drafted in 1934 and was written specifically to delineate a forestry and recreation district as well as spell out permitted uses for this district. This ordinance does not identify Powers Bluff property as part of the forestry or recreation district. Any property not delineated as forestry and recreation lands is considered to be in an “unrestricted district.” Due to the narrow scope this covers, 11 of the 22 townships, all of the cities and all of the villages have comprehensive and more complete zoning ordinances that they administer on a local basis. The town of Arpin does not have a local zoning ordinance or any land use plan at this time. This means that any land use type can occur on the properties surrounding the park. This may be a grave threat to the park as inappropriate development on a surrounding parcel would have significant negative impacts on the park. See Appendix B for a graphic of the adjacent ownership.

#### **North of the Site**

This parcel is owned by Fred Grubofski. The southern portion of his 225 acre site was recently logged. There is a small quarry in the northwest corner and the remainder is used for farm fields. The parcel also contains a farm house, dairy barn and some out buildings.

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### **South of the Site**

The south border of the park is formed by Bluff Road. South of Bluff Road are numerous wooded residential lots. During the early 1900's a village of Native Americans occupied some of this land and it is thought to have sites of cultural value, though the area has not be thoroughly studied.

In addition to the settlement in the early 1900's there is evidence of native American habitation in pre European times on the bluff and on the land surrounding the bluff.

### **East of the Site**

This property is owned by Lawrence Grimm and is a mostly wooded 159 acre site. Mr. Grimm's woods plays an important role in protecting the designated state natural area located on the eastern 70 acres of Powers Bluff. Mr. Grimm's woods protect the Powers Bluff forest from "edge effect". Edge effect is the intrusion of sun and non-native species that occurs at the edge of a forest. Mr. Grimm's woods help to keep the Powers Bluff State Natural Area in its current healthy state.

The northeast corner of the park touches on a 147.8 acre wooded and farmed parcel owned by Arpin Reality Ltd.

### **West of the Site**

Two ~ 35 acre wooded residential lots abut the park to the west. Again, the woods on these parcels protect Powers Bluff forest from edge effect.



### **Edge Effect**

"Edge" refers to the transition zone between two different vegetation types. An edge effect can bring increased species diversity which can be beneficial. However, the downside is that species of plants and

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animals that require deep woods will be stressed and population size may drop. Powers Bluff woods has a deep forest ecology on the east and west boundary because of the forest cover provided by the adjacent properties. Changes to the land use or management on these properties will have a drastic effect on the forest of Powers Bluff.

### **Other Park and Recreation Parcels in the Region**

#### North Wood County Park

Located on County Trunk Highway A in the Town of Richfield, the 172.4 acre park hosts a variety of recreational uses. This county park (described as a “regional facility” in the 2001 update to the **Wood County Park and Open Space Plan**) is just southwest of Powers Bluff. The park offers 99 campsites (1 handicap and 50 electric), an enclosed shelter with a kitchen, a bathhouse and beach, restrooms, a nine hole disc golf course, horseshoe pits, 2 volleyball courts, 2 ball diamonds, 4 fireplaces and 2 playgrounds. In addition there are walking paths, fishing and concessions and a 5-acre lake.

The facilities at the park were ranked in excellent condition in the 2001 update to the **Wood County Park and Open Spaces Plan**. Recent improvements include a remodeled shower building and a new shelter. The dam that creates the impoundment received maintenance recently and 28 campsites have been upgraded with electricity since 2003.

Park accessibility has been improved over the years since 1996, and improvements to the shower building, the playground and the beach house has made the park more enjoyable for all.

#### Richfield Recreation Area (Richfield 360)

This 360 acre county park is located on Heggelund Lane just northwest of Powers Bluff. Described as a “wilderness area and a regional facility” in the 2001 update to the **Wood County Park and Open Spaces Plan**, this park has 7 primitive campsites, a restroom, 2 miles of snowmobile trails, and 7 miles of cross country ski/hiking trails. The entire park is managed as a minimally developed recreation area. The parking area at the trailhead and an area on the south side are the only cleared land on the parcel.

The restroom is handicapped accessible. Trails are bare ground and receive minimum yearly maintenance. Currently, there are no plans to improve this park.

### **Powers Bluff County Park Site Access**

Powers Bluff County Park is accessible by bike, foot or car from Bluff Road, which forms the southern border of the park. The one-way entrance road becomes the exit drive on top of the bluff just past the maintenance shed and exits the park onto Bluff Road. The remainder of the park is surrounded by private

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land. Two other roads pass close to the park, Weber Drive in the Town of Bethel and County Trunk Highway N, one quarter mile north of the park's northern border.

### **Topography, Geology and Drainage Analysis**

The bluff of Powers Bluff is actually an isolated remnant hill made of quartzite. The 1.6 billion year old bluff is round in shape as the durable quartzite resisted erosion while the sand stone bluffs of the area weathered parallel to their planes arriving at steep slope formations.

The 300' high monadnock is a landmark easily seen from surrounding roads and homes. This feature adds to the park's importance to local residents.

Due to its steep slopes, erosion can be a problem, especially on bare ground or along trails. Suggestions for dealing with erosion can be found in the Master Plan Section of this report.

### **Archeological Resources**

Ernie Boszhardt of the Mississippi Valley Archeological Center (MVAC) (LaCrosse, Wisconsin) was retained by Schreiber/Anderson Associates to review the existing documentation regarding the cultural resources of Powers Bluff County Park. The scope of this task was to review all available reports documenting previous archeological studies of Powers Bluff and create a summary of the findings and a management plan for the cultural resources. MVAC was not assigned the task of completing any new field work but were responsible for the review and summary of work previously completed at Powers Bluff. The summary statement regarding the cultural resources can be found below. Management recommendations can be found in the Master Plan Section of this report. See Appendix C for Dr. Boszhardt's report and Appendix D for the Cultural Resource Inventory graphic.



Powers Bluff, also known historically as Skunk Hill (Tah-qua-kik), harbors an historic Native American settlement dating from around 1905 to 1930. Prairie Band Potawatomi, Ho Chunk, Ojibway, and

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Menominee occupied the settlement consisting of a variety of activity areas that included upper and lower residential areas and two associated cemeteries, dance circles, a maple sugaring area, and miscellaneous features including an access road and refuse debris locales. The history of this settlement is detailed in Birmingham's (2001) National Register of Historic Places nomination, which was based on extensive archival research and recent archaeological surveys. The latter covered a substantial portion of Powers Bluff County Park, and documented specific find locations as well as portions where no significant archaeological resources were encountered. The majority of the known cultural resources are located on the southern side of the hill, between the rocky crest (which contains a formation known as Spirit Chair) and the south boundary road. No associated cultural resources site areas were identified along the northern slope, where recreational ski and tube runs have been constructed. Not all of the park area has been surveyed and, therefore, additional significant site areas may exist. See Appendix E for the 2002 Historical Society letters regarding Powers Bluff.

Because of its unusual topography, geography and plant life the bluff remains an extremely culturally significant site for traditional tribal members of today.

### **Environmental Resources**

Dr. John Larson of Applied Ecological Resources (AES) (Brodhead, Wisconsin) was retained by Schreiber/Anderson Associates to review documentation of previous studies of the natural resources of Powers Bluff. Dr. Larson visited the site twice (fall and spring) to confirm previous studies. Like Mississippi Valley Archeological Center, AES was not assigned the task of any new field work, only the review and summary of previous studies and field work. Again, the summary of the natural resources can be found below, and management suggestions are located in the Master Plan Section of this report. See Appendix F for the Environmental Features Inventory graphic.

Powers Bluff features a mature southern mesic forest perched on a 300' high monadnock – an isolated remnant hill made of erosion resistant quartzite. Its unique flora and fauna can be attributed to its location at the northern edge of the southern mesic forest community. The Floristic Quality Assessment (a method used to assess vegetation quality in Wisconsin) uses the number of species observed in combination with a ranking of each individual plant species from 0 to 10 to develop a site FQA number. Powers Bluff has an FQA of 72 based on all plant species that have been observed at the site. Throughout the years and depending on the thoroughness of investigators, the Powers Bluff FQA has ranged from 54 to 60. A score of 50 or more is an indicator of a high quality site.

Currently only a few and scattered non-native species, which are non aggressive, are found within the park, with even fewer species and individuals found in the 70-acre designated State Natural Area. Particularly,

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the forest interior is free of non-native species. The dense forest canopy is key to controlling non-native species invasion.

Presence of special concern species such as Pine Vole and the rare plant species Goblin Fern is further proof of the uniqueness of this park. Potential for these species to be in the adjacent State Natural Area or offsite in surrounding woodlands of similar composition is likely.

The high evenness of native plant species throughout the 70 acre natural area is a result of pre-1900 disturbance (extensive logging activities) and limited dispersal capacity of the forest herbs. Native American influence on the site is likely responsible for the introduction of some plant species (the Hop Tree or *Ptelea trifoliata*). This may explain the presence of this southern Wisconsin tree in this central Wisconsin location. See Appendix G for a copy of Dr. John Larson's summary letter.

### **Site Acquisition History and Deed Restrictions**

Peter Kastenholz, Corporation Counsel for Wood County, provided the following information to Ron Arendt, the Wood County Park and Forestry Director in December of 2000. This information covers any legal impediments to the sale of all or part of Powers Bluff Park. Mr. Kastenholz's letter is summarized below; the complete letter is included in Appendix H.

The land that forms Powers Bluff was conveyed to the county by means of three separate deeds.

In 1936 the Town of Arpin deeded land to Wood County. This land would become part of the Powers Bluff Park. The deed states:

That this land is conveyed to Wood County to be used as a county park, with the understanding that if Wood County should ever abandon said park, the ownership of this land would revert back to said Town of Arpin.

In 1948 Dairyland's Broadcasting Service, Inc. deeded a part of Powers Bluff Park to Wood County. That deed provides that the county agrees:

[T]hat said premises shall not be used for, or in connection with, any commercial radio or television broadcasting activities...

This deed contains no other restrictive covenants and therefore does not prohibit the sale of the land.

In 1962 the Lloyd L. Felker Company deeded to Wood County sixty acres of land that became part of Powers Bluff. Today this portion of the park and 10 additional acres make up the designated natural area. That deed contains only one restrictive covenant.



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There is a covenant and restriction which runs with the land wherein the party of the second part, its successors or assigns, is restricted from constructing or erecting a radio or television or communications tower on any part of the premises.

The party of the first part reserves to itself the right to erect a radio or television or communications tower on any suitable part of the premises and the right to retain sufficient area to construct the necessary housing for any remote control system in connection with the radio or television or communications tower, and the right of ingress and egress for the purpose of installing and servicing such radio or television or communications tower and the housing for such remote control center.

So, the 50 acres obtained from the Town of Arpin would revert back to the Town should the county cease using the land as a park. The other parcels could be sold but would carry the covenants and restrictions described above.

### **Master Plan**

This report contains two possible Long Range Master Plans for Powers Bluff. This is due to the fact that it is impossible to ascertain at this time if acquisition of land to the north will become a reality.

Extensive discussion with Wood County staff, the Long Range Planning Committee and interested citizens has demonstrated a strong desire to purchase the land to the north. Details about and benefits of the acquisition have been communicated and they are recorded in the next section of this report. However, due to lack of funding, commitment to the purchase is not forthcoming at the close of this master planning process (early 2005).

There was some discussion during the master planning process that a phased master plan including recommendations for the near term improvements to existing facilities and long term development of new facilities on the future acquisition be provided by the planners. This option was explored. However, it was deemed impractical to make such major improvements to existing facilities only to transition those facilities to a new use once the land to the north was acquired and the new facilities developed.

Therefore, we are left with two distinct master plans. One plan assumes acquisition occurs and new facilities are developed while existing facilities are transitioned into new uses. The other assumes acquisition does not occur so it is therefore reasonable to spend money making major renovations and improving the flow of activities on the existing site.

### **Phase I- Recommendations that Apply Regardless of Outcome on Acquisition**

The following recommendations apply in either master plan alternative.

- Remove woodshed and use this area for overflow parking and snowmobile corral

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- Remove unused roads and restore these areas to native vegetation with guidance from restoration ecologists
- Redesign the trail system as shown on the Trail System Master Plan, restore abandoned trail sections with guidance from restoration ecologists
- Adopt new trail classifications and new trail management practices
- Install a handicapped accessible picnic table and access pad on the south side of the entrance road, near the shelter.
- Move exit drive from existing location to line up with power line across Bluff Road, restore the old exit road bed with guidance from restoration ecologists
- Complete a signage inventory and develop a signage program for the park, including new interpretive signs in consultation with a designee of the Ho-Chunk Nation and a designee of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, plant specialists and geologic specialists for the content of the new signs.
- Build an observation tower without disturbing “new land”. The best location may be to use the tower located on the tube hill. This would involve rebuilding the tower but would not increase areas in need of snow removal in the winter.
- Renovate the toilets to be handicap accessible, and improve the access to the building itself.
- Paint the new radio tower legs forest green up to 20’ in height. If this does not sufficiently mask the tower legs, consider a wooden privacy fence surrounded by native shrubs.
- Work to form relationships with adjacent landowners. Develop a memorandum of understanding to limit future development of their properties. The long term goal is to acquire conservation easements from them to protect the natural resources of Powers Bluff. See Appendix I for easement information.

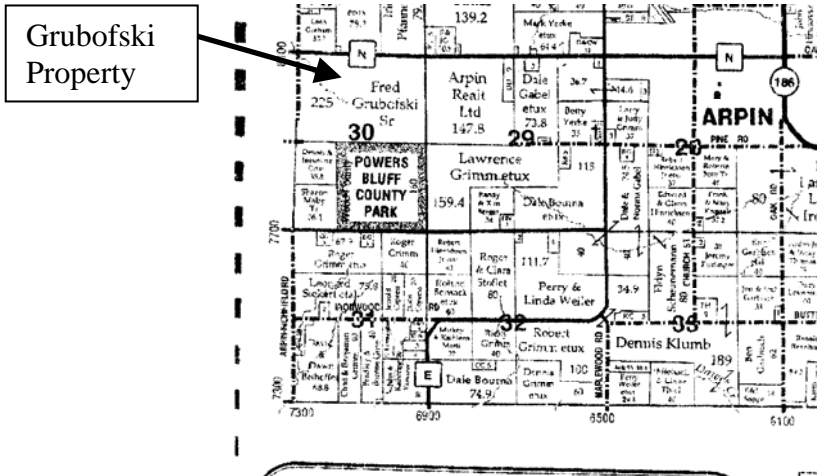
### **Phase IIA- Acquisition of Land to the North**

#### Benefits of Acquisition

The Fred Grubofski property, located just north of Powers Bluff between the park property line and County Truck Highway N, is perfectly suited for expansion of Powers Bluff Park. See Appendix B for a graphic of adjacent ownership.

A Powers Bluff Park expansion into the Grubofski property could be accessed off of CTH N and the new driveway to the park would lead right up to the toe of the northern slope of the bluff. CTH N is under the jurisdiction of the county and therefore the county can ensure the road is plowed and ready for traffic after a snowstorm, when people will want to get to the bluff to enjoy the winter sports.

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Most ski hills locate their lodges and maintenance areas at the bottom of the hill. This makes maintaining access roads and parking lots much easier and less expensive. With the purchase of the Grubofski property, the Powers Bluff parking lots, maintenance building and yard, as well as the ski lodge could be located at the bottom of the bluff which would greatly improve the efficiency of running the park.

The property north of the bluff is a rolling landscape with open fields, wooded areas and a quarry that will be a pond someday. This landscape is perfect for offering a variety of recreational opportunities from cross country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, bird watching, a pick-up game of football, baseball or Frisbee or to just a walk to enjoy nature.

A regional drainageway passes through the property and could be a basis for a regional trail system connecting Powers Bluff to North Woods Park to the Richfield 360. The trail could also head southeast and connect with the SOO rail line (this would involve a rails to trails or rails with trails project) and from there, connect to Arpin, Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield.

The house, outbuildings and pole shed on the property could be put to creative re-use. Certainly the County Parks can make use of the pole shed and the house and other buildings could possibly be used as part of a “living museum” that tells the story of dairy farming in Wood County. This would be a terrific fit with the story of the Ceremonial Native American Community on top of the bluff.

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The entire parcel or portions of the parcel could be put into the County Forest Program as “special use”. This would allow the county to access some additional funds and expertise for maintenance and operation of the park and manage the forested area of the property for future sustainable logging.

The open fields areas could be restored to native prairie with the exception of the mowed trails and an area about 2 acres in size for active use pick up games of softball, football or Frisbee tossing.

Clearly, the acquisition of the Fred Grubofski property would be an improvement to Powers Bluff Park. With this in mind, Wood County staff and various Powers Bluff partners are seriously pursuing the acquisition.

With the acquisition of 225 acres to the north of the park, (or as little as 40 acres) the recreational opportunities of Powers Bluff expand tremendously. They allow for the focus of winter and summer use to be placed at the bottom of the hill where the landscape is capable of handling large numbers of people much better than at the top of the bluff. See Appendix J for the site plans and detailed views.

Main access to Powers Bluff will be off of CTH N, directly north of the tubing hill. As one enters the park, an eight-acre pond will be located to the west and a small parking area will access the pond and a hiking trail around the pond, through the restored prairie area. Continuing south toward the bluff will be a large parking lot, for 200 cars with room to expand to 400, and a new lodge/rentable shelter.

Much of the 225 acres will be available for hiking, cross country skiing, bird watching, etc. There will be an open area north of the new lodge building that is mowed and ready for frisbee, a pick up game of baseball or football. Hiking trails will wind their way through restored prairie landscape and the wooded area close to the northern boundary of the original Powers Bluff property will be managed by the County Forester for future select cut and timber revenue. This use will not exclude other recreational uses, such as hiking and nature enjoyment.

The lodge will be energy efficient, accessible and designed to accommodate the ski/snow board and tubing concessions. The kitchen will be built to accommodate an upgraded food service and be available for rent. The building has large windows all around to take in the views of the bluff and the surrounding landscape.

A cooling pond provides the water for the snow making equipment which allows the hill to be open every weekend during the winter months. A new lighting system will also increase the hours of availability. Expanded hours help meet the increasing demand for the tubing and skiing hill.

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The maintenance area and shed will be located at the bottom of the hill. It is well situated, close to the slopes and yet hidden by trees and shrubs.

The road system on the bluff will be much the same as it has been in the past, but the parking capacity has been reduced due to the decreased demand. Where pavement has been removed, the landscape is restored to pre-settlement conditions.

The old shelter can now be used as a cultural/nature center. It is open with limited hours for the public and can also be visited by appointment for school groups, clubs and others.

### **Phase IIB- Assumes Park Boundaries Remain the Same**

This master plan calls for many more improvements to the existing facilities on the bluff. The idea is to improve existing facilities to ready Powers Bluff for its next 50 years as a county park and the only winter sports center in Wood County, while at the same time minimize any expansion of the “developed area” of the bluff. See Appendix K for Phase IIB site plans and detailed views.

Full renovation of the shelter building will accommodate winter users. (See discussion below regarding details on the renovation of the shelter). The area around the shelter will be re-graded to allow for ambulance access between the shelter and restrooms and to the newly renovated EMT area on the lower level.

Overflow parking accommodating 30 cars will be placed in the old wood shed location. The area below the picnic area will no longer be used for overflow parking.

The maintenance building will be expanded by one half its size and the east and south wall will be faced with a new surface to help it to fit in with the park setting.

### **Renovation of Existing Shelter Building**

The following is a discussion of recommended improvements to the building. These improvements would be completed only if the building is to remain as the main park facility for winter use. However, if the land acquisition to the north takes place, this building may transition into a new use. It could be the location of a cultural resource center for use by Native American Tribes or it may be used for summer use only as a rental shelter. Obviously these recommendations may only apply to some but not all potential future uses. Please see Appendix L as a supplement to the text.

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To better serve the skiers, tubers and spectators, the interior walls will be rearranged and access and traffic will be redirected within the existing shelter building.

- Remove the stairs so that access to the upper or lower story is from the outside
- Discontinue use of the western fireplace and move the food and tube ticket concessions to the western end of the building
- Both doors on the upstairs will remain in use, the eastern 2/3rds of the upstairs will remain in use as a gathering/eating space with picnic tables
- Remove the existing large wood stove from the lower level and rebuild the western interior walls for the most efficient use of the area for ski and snowboard storage and rental; add a counter for ski ticket and equipment rental in the center of the new interior wall
- Create an area for boot changing in the center of the lower level (referred to as the “public area” on the plan); this should include benches, rentable lockers and boot cubbies for storage
- The eastern end of the lower level will be dedicated as a staff room and an EMT room once the wood storage area is removed and the interior walls rearranged
- Two new doors will be added to the lower level. One door will be added at the location of the eastern most existing window. This will be used for EMT and ambulance access. A second new door will be placed in the location of the old closed up door on the north end of the building for snowmobile access.

To make the building more comfortable and energy efficient several changes are recommended.

- Remove the current wood burning furnace system and replace with an exterior high-efficiency wood burning unit to heat water for warming the building
- Instead of forced air, which is extremely inefficient, install a thermal floor coils for heating the shelter
- Extend the heating coils to the sidewalks immediately outside of the western most upper level door and down the new stair system, this will greatly reduce maintenance needed on this very important segment of sidewalk

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- Replace existing windows with weather resistant and efficient windows that do not fog or ice up due to high humidity in the building
- Improved access to the lower level will be provided for people, ambulances and the handicapped via grading, rock removal and the addition of ramps, stairs and some pavement to the back of the shelter.

Recommendations to improve the aesthetics of the shelter include:

- Cover the naked light bulbs in public areas of the shelter
- Inventory interior signage, incorporate interior signs to match the exterior signage design

### **Restroom Building Improvements**

Recommendations include the following:

- Renovate the existing restroom building to make it handicapped accessible. This will involve a new wider door and removal of stalls to accommodate one accessible and one regular stall. Clean up and repaint the interior of the building.
- Build a ramped route from the shelter and the driveway to the restroom.

## **Policy and Management Discussion**

### **Trail Design and Management**

The trails at Powers Bluff are very popular and used three seasons a year by hikers, bird watchers and nature enthusiasts. This report suggests the removal of some redundant trails and the addition of a short stretch of trail to make a vital connection. See the Trail System Map in Appendix M. Trail design and management has been a heavily discussed topic among people concerned about the long term future of Powers Bluff. The report recommends the adoption of “Sustainable Trail” practices to allow visitors to enjoy the bluff while protecting the natural resources that make the bluff special.

In 1991 the National Park Service said this regarding sustainable trails:

Sustainability on natural surface trail corridors is defined as the characteristic of a travel surface to support currently planned and future uses with minimal impact to the natural systems of the area. Sustainable trails have negligible soil loss or movement while allowing the naturally occurring plant systems to inhabit the area, recognizing required pruning and eventual removal of certain plants over time. Sustainable trails will not adversely affect the natural occurring fauna. Sustainable trail design will accommodate existing and future uses while only allowing appropriate uses. The sustainable trail will require little rerouting and minimal maintenance over extended periods of time.

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Simply put, a sustainable trail minimizes the need for ongoing trail maintenance by using construction techniques and materials designed for long term self-sustaining use and by using on-site materials as much as possible.

The characteristics of a sustainable trail include the following:

- Connects control points, such as outlooks, support buildings, trailheads etc.
- Gets water off the trail without erosion
- Can offer different user experiences
- Keeps users on the trail
- Follows natural contours

According to Brigit Brown, Wisconsin State Trails Coordinator, there are several considerations in building sustainable trails. They are as follows:

1. Trails should be aligned using the natural topography of the land.
2. Trails should be aligned to ensure that water exits the tread often.
3. Rolling dips, not waterbars, should be the standard water drainage feature.
4. The average grade of the trail should not exceed 8%. However, for linear stretches of 50 feet or less, a maximum slope of 20% is acceptable.
5. The outslope (cross slope) of the tread should be 5-9%.

Rolling dips are long, subtle drainage dips that serve to prevent water from running down the length of the tread, which can wash away any loose soil and cause erosion. They are likened to open ended spoons where the handle being the ramp. Outslope of the tread refers to the slope of the trail widthwise. See Appendix O for rolling dip graphic.

The National Forest Service (NFS) has developed a trail classification system that allows them to determine the level of development and the type of maintenance a trail will receive. The classification table for the National Forest Service is included in Appendix P.

Using the NFS system, the nature trails of Powers Bluff are assumed to be Class 2 trails. These trails are characterized by simple and minor development. The tread is of natural materials, discernable and continuous but it is also narrow and rough. Structures such as bridges are limited to those necessary to protect the natural resources through which the trail passes. Vegetation is trimmed back but only to the minimum necessary to allow passage of one person. Branches should be pruned to the collar of any branch stem to create a more natural looking result and minimize the risk of infection to the tree or shrub.



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The trail from the shelter to the tube run is considered a Class 3 trail. It will therefore be wide enough for comfortable two-way travel and the tread will be kept clear of obstacles.

Trail surfaces for both Class 2 and Class 3 trails should be as natural as possible – dirt and rock where possible & wood chips in wet areas.

Maintenance considerations should include:

- Resource protection
- User convenience
- Safety on a par with targeted recreational experience

Maintenance frequency and intensity includes:

- Trail clearance to make it available for use early in the use season and to preserve trail integrity
- Maintenance interval typically 1-3 years , or in response to reports of trail or resource damage or obstacles to designated use

More information on sustainable trail design can be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service websites.

### **Forest Management**

This plan is intended as an overall master plan to guide the development and management of Powers Bluff Park for the next ten to fifteen years. It is not a Forest Management Plan. It is strongly recommended that that a Forest Management Plan be developed for this park. The plan should be developed with a team of interested citizens and professionals including forest ecologists, foresters, and Native American representatives from the Ho-Chunk and Potawatomi Nations and wildlife experts. The Wisconsin DNR provides an online publication with guidelines for creating a forest management plan which can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Publications/Guidelines/toc.htm>.



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The following bullets items are observations and suggestions made by the consultant team based on site visits, a review of the existing written material about the site and discussions with Wood County citizens very familiar with the site.

- Red oaks are not reproducing in smaller size classes, due to succession, shade intolerance, slow juvenile growth, and competition with older plants. Thus the forest is moving (successionally) towards a more shade tolerant sugar maple forest community. Selective logging of larger red oaks will push the successional pace at a more rapid rate. While red oak is generally a moderate component of the southern mesic hardwood forest community, it still is an important tree species and selected logging of this species should be avoided
- There is no evidence of past fires at Powers Bluff. However, it is likely that fires periodically burned in this area prior to settlement.
- Significant Native American influence on site. Native Americans perhaps responsible for introduction of some plant species (i.e., *Ptelea trifoliata*), which may explain why a southern Wisconsin native species is currently found on site.
- Disturbance activities, such as logging, road, trail or other construction activities within the park could become a major vector for additional non-native species invasion.
- Recommended protection and or acquisition, if possible, of surrounding offsite woodland habitat essential for maintaining healthy ecological systems onsite.
- Trail edge inspection for non-native species should be done periodically. The trail system throughout the Park area will be an in-road for invasion by non-natives, resulting from human and to some extent, animal traffic. A simple activity such as placement of "boot brushes" at the trail entrances will allow human users to clean their boots or shoes easily and effectively before entering the trail systems and carrying unwanted seeds of non-native species which may have been picked up in offsite areas of the region.
- Logging (outside the 70-acre natural area) which creates light gaps, and some peripheral disturbance to soil, etc. can also serve as an in-road to non-native plant species invasion and thus should be very carefully controlled, with follow-up inspections and monitoring to detect and prevent non-native plant species from establishing. Routine maintenance conducted by Park staff on trails and other activities may also be a potential source of non-native weeds.
- Logging in 70-acre Natural Area should not occur. The Management Agreement created with the natural area designation should be followed.
- Storm damage in 2001 has created light gaps in the Park. If possible, these areas should be inspected for the presence of non-native plant species. If found, they should be removed immediately to prevent their further spread.
- Maintenance of the forest interior closed canopy aspect is essential for the southern mesic hardwood forest community. Edge effect needs to be kept at a minimum.

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- Use of heavy equipment, except on paved roads, should be avoided, especially if logging is allowed in selected areas and on trails. Horse logging is gaining in popularity and can have many benefits for a sensitive forest habitat. Please see the article on this practice in the Appendices.
- New land acquisitions adjacent to existing Park and State Natural Area should be investigated for plant diversity, including rare and uncommon species. Land cover mapping and Natural Resource Inventories (NRI) should be conducted in these potential expansion areas to determine the extent of this southern mesic woodland complex, especially the southern one half of the northern 158-acre site and the western one half of the 79-acre eastern site. In addition, both potential expansion areas have a hydric soil component located within the parcels. It may be necessary to determine whether or not these hydric soils currently support state and federally protected wetlands.
- New land use decisions need to be cognizant of the creation of artificial light gaps (i.e. ski, or toboggan runs, picnic areas, etc.) which may create habitats suitable for aggressive non-native plant species that can rapidly invade into adjacent or nearby high quality, closed canopy, hardwood forest communities.

**Gypsy Moth and Other Forest Pests**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is an excellent source of information about forest pests that threaten Wisconsin forests. Below is a brief discussion of four such pests, not all of them are known to be in Wood County; however, all are known to be expanding their territory.



Gypsy Moth

Of all of the current threats to forests, the gypsy moth receives the most media attention. Since its introduction into the United States in 1869, the gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), a pest of trees, has defoliated thousands of acres of hardwood forests across the northeast United States. Originally introduced into Massachusetts, the gypsy moth has spread north to Maine, west to Wisconsin, and south to North Carolina, infesting 19 states and Washington DC. Despite numerous state and local control efforts, the infestation continues to move South and West.

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Wood County is one of the “quarantine counties” in the state of Wisconsin. There are currently several hotspots in the county that the DNR is watching closely. Though the population of the moth is not to the point of inflicting damage yet, the DNR expects the Gypsy Moth to have a negative effect on Wood County trees within a few years. “A Manual for Land Managers” is available to the County. The manual is produced by the DNR and provides guidelines for how to best minimize damage caused by these pests. People interest in learning more about Wisconsin’s efforts to suppress the gypsy moth should go to <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>. The UW Extension has a gypsy moth site listing programs for cities and counties. This can be found at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/gypsymoth/index.cfm>.



Asian longhorned beetle

The Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, is a major pest of maples and other hardwoods in China and Korea. It was discovered in Brooklyn, New York in 1996, with subsequent detections in the Chicago area in 1998 and in northern New Jersey in 2002. The pest was found in Austria in 2001, and in 2003, additional infestations were discovered in Toronto, Ontario and in Montpellier, France. Adult beetles have also been found inside warehouses in a number of locations around the country, but have not been found outdoors at these sites. The insect is believed to have entered North America inside wood packing materials used in the cargo industry, and it was likely introduced several times. All infestations are believed to predate regulations that require treatment of wood packing materials to eliminate hitchhiking insects and fungi.

The Asian longhorned beetle is a serious threat to North American forests because of the number of species it can infest and its ability to attack healthy trees. The preferred hosts are maples (Norway, sugar, silver, and red) but the insect has also been found to attack other species such as birch, horse chestnut, poplar, willow, elm, ash, and black locust. Tunneling by the larvae causes branch death and canopy dieback and can girdle a tree and kill it. If the insect were to become established and spread throughout much of North America, there would be serious environmental and economic impacts, primarily to maple forests and industries that use maple.



Forest tent caterpillar

The forest tent caterpillar is one of the major defoliating caterpillars in Wisconsin. It is distributed throughout the United States and Canada wherever hardwood trees grow. The populations of forest tent caterpillars periodically erupt and cause heavy defoliation on broad-leaved trees and shrubs in Northern Wisconsin. During an outbreak, many caterpillars are found not only on trees, but also crawling on roads and buildings. Some people mistakenly call forest tent caterpillars “army worms” because when they migrate on the ground to find more food, they look like marching soldiers.

An outbreak of the forest tent caterpillar occurred in 1999 in northern Wisconsin, and the defoliation by the caterpillar was seen throughout much of northern Wisconsin in 2001.

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an exotic pest native to Asia and is currently threatening the ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) tree resource in the Great Lakes region. The emerald ash borer belongs to a group of insects known as metallic wood-boring beetles (*Buprestidae*). Since its recent discovery in southeastern Michigan in 2002, it has continued to spread throughout a 13 county area. In addition, isolated infestations have been reported in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland and Windsor, Ontario. Transmission of this pest is accelerated by the inadvertent transportation of larvae in logs, firewood and nursery stock. The



Emerald ash borer

subcortical (beneath the bark) feeding habits of emerald ash borer larvae cause extensive damage to an ash tree's vascular system, depriving the crown of water and nutrients. The emerald ash borer appears to attack both stressed and healthy trees, typically killing its host in 1-3 years. In Michigan, this insect has caused

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wide-ranging mortality, including white, green and black ash species. Likewise, Wisconsin's ash resource is threatened by emerald ash borer infestation. Forest inventory and analysis data shows that Wisconsin has approximately 628,000,000 ash trees in its forests. As of August 2004 the emerald ash borer has not been found in Wisconsin, but it may already be here. Early detection, isolation and eradication are the best defenses against this pest.

The best defense against these forest pests is good education and preventative methods. The Wisconsin DNR offers an excellent forestry web site that contains the most up-to-date information on forest pest management at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/FH/index.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/FH/index.htm)

### **Designated State Natural Area Issues**

In March of 1977 the Wood County Park Committee entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Scientific Areas Preservation Council of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In doing so they designated 70 acres of Powers Bluff as a State Natural Area.

The 70 acre State Natural Area features a southern mesic forest. A plant species of concern mentioned in the 1995 management plan is *Juglans cinerea* or butternut. No animal species of concern were identified in the plan. According to the plan, management objectives are to preserve and protect the natural ecological values by permitting natural processes to continue and maintaining access to the interior for interpretive and educational purposes.

State Natural Areas are parcels of land or water harboring natural features that have escaped most, if not all, human disturbance and represent the diversity of Wisconsin's native landscape. They contain outstanding examples of biotic communities, geologic features and archeological sites. Often, they are the last refuges in the state for rare and endangered species. State Natural Areas are devoted to scientific research, the teaching of conservation biology and especially the to the long-term protection of Wisconsin's biological diversity for future generations. Because of their sensitivity, they are not intended for intensive public use.

There are two types of State Natural Areas, a Designated State Natural Area and a Dedicated State Natural Area. Powers Bluff is currently a Designated State Natural Area, however, this report recommends that it become a Dedicated State Natural Area to strengthen future protection of the property. The differences between the two categories are spelled out below.

#### Designated State Natural Area (current designation of Powers Bluff)

The DNR, with the advice of the Natural Areas Preservation Council, officially *designates* a site as a State Natural Area when the landowner and the DNR enter into an agreement to manage the property as such. State Natural Area agreements come in a variety of forms including Memoranda of Understanding and

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Master Plans for public lands. These are basically voluntary agreements between the parties and have no legal standing.

### Dedicated State Natural Area

With the passage of the Wisconsin Natural Areas Heritage Act of 1985, the state legislature gave the DNR authority to provide long-term *legal protection* to significant natural areas through a process called *dedication*. Dedication involves placing Articles of Dedication, a special type of conservation easement, on the title of a property. The State of Wisconsin holds this title for the people of the state.

The articles of Dedication run with the property's title and legally protect the land in perpetuity. It is the strongest form of land protection available in Wisconsin.

In October of 1995 Wood County Park and Forestry Department signed a Management Plan for Powers Bluff Maple Woods No. 131 as it is referred to in the State Natural Areas program. The management plan (Appendix Q) contains the general procedures for State Natural Areas and some recommendations specific to the management needs of the site.

General management procedures for State Natural Areas include the following:

- Removal of plants, plant parts, animals, rock and minerals and artifacts is generally not permitted. However, hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking and nut gathering are allowed if not expressly restricted by law.
- Cutting or removing of living or dead trees, standing or down, or other vegetation in forest communities, is generally limited to that essential to meet public safety requirements.
- Control of plant succession with the use of fire, cutting, mowing or water level manipulation, may be employed to maintain a particular natural area type or to control an abnormal animal population.
- Introduction of exotic plant and animal species is prohibited.
- Pesticide use including herbicide, insecticides, fungicides and biological controls should not be used for plant or animal control.
- Intensive public use is not encouraged. Any public use which damages vegetation or otherwise impairs natural conditions is discouraged and, if necessary, will be controlled. Recreational uses such as hiking, nature appreciation, and educational uses which do not degrade the natural features are encouraged.
- Attention drawing signs should be limited to areas that can handle human traffic or already have trails. Vehicle traffic is discouraged; existing trails and service roads may be maintained as identified on the management plan map. No buildings or other improvements are allowed on the property.

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Specific management recommendations for Powers Bluff Maple Woods made in the 1995 management plan are listed as follows:

- Concern about butternut canker that has devastated this species in many places.
- A search and continued monitoring of the site for invasive species was recommended.
- Breeding bird surveys should be conducted once every two to three years.
- Public use for educational and research purposes is encouraged. School groups and nature appreciation groups are encouraged to use the site and stay on the established trails.
- Horseback riding should not be permitted as horse feces can carry exotic species seed.
- Boundary signs should be maintained. Informational and interpretive signs are recommended and the DNR volunteers to assist in the creation of such signs.
- Trail and road maintenance is allowed but should be limited to necessary measures for public safety. Removal of dead or downed trees should be limited to that necessary to maintain a safe trail corridor. Downed or dead wood outside the corridor should be left in place.
- The boundary fence on the east side of the site must be maintained in accordance with state law.

The anticipated effects of management actions as stated in the 1995 management plan are as follows:

By searching for, eliminating, or reducing in abundance the problem species, providing access and interpretation for trail users and eliminating incompatible uses, the site's integrity should be maintained. Natural community functions and rare species populations should be maintained.

### **Management of the Archeological Resources**

This management plan is based on a composite map of the known archaeological site locales and negative find areas.

All known significant site locales should be precluded from ground disturbing activities. These include:

- Two dance rings that were associated with Dream Dance ceremonies, which drew participants from long distances. These are located between the upper road and overflow parking area, south of the park shelter.
- The upper (John Ne Wee) cemetery, located to the east of the dance circles and upper road.
- Two house foundations along the south edge of the rock ledge to the north of the upper road to the east of the park shelter, and associated habitation debris associated with this main village area. The latter includes additional potential house basins detected through remote sensing near the John Ne Wee cemetery, and a potential plaza area located south of the dance rings and overlapping the overflow parking area.
- The East Cultural Area, which was identified during surface reconnaissance of tree throws following a windstorm. This area is located north of the main park road and several hundred meters southeast of



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the main village. This locality is poorly known, but contains a variety of artifacts and a small rectangular depression.

- A sugar bush located amongst a stand of large maple trees on the south central portion of the hill. This locale has also been minimally studied, but consists of a boiling arch and associated surface debris.
- A Trail remnant located in the southwestern portion of the park and visible on 1938 aerial photographs. The visible trail is approximately 10 feet wide and several hundred feet long and provided access to the main village.
- The Lower (Indian Bill) Cemetery, located along the southern margins of the park at the base of the hill. Like the John Ne Wee cemetery at the upper main village, this local is marked by a rock wall that was constructed in the 1930's by WPA workers (Works Progress Administration, a 1930s program to put young men to work on various public projects).
- Miscellaneous features include scattered debris within the southern portion of the park and unnatural rock piles, some of which have large mature trees growing from them. These are not well documented, being located in areas that have not been systematically surveyed.

Based on the research compiled by Birmingham, the southern 80 acres of Powers Bluff encompassing all of the cultural features noted above, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Avoidance of these locales when undertaking ground-disturbing actions is paramount to their preservation. If actions are proposed for these areas, consultation should be initiated with the Wisconsin Historical Society and interested parties, particularly representatives of the affiliated tribes. Portions of the NRHP area that have not yet been formally surveyed could be covered during the planning process, adding to the knowledge base of resources in the park, and potentially determining that no resources exist within specific locals where actions might proceed.

Much of the eastern portion of the park has not been formally surveyed for potential cultural resources. However, this area lies within a designated Natural Resources Preserve, and is consequently afforded some protection from ground disturbing actions that might impact potential cultural resources. Should such actions be proposed, management decisions should follow the procedure outlined above.

Interpretation of the Native American activities for the general public has potential benefits to all interested parties. This could consist of signage at specific site areas, display/exhibits in the shelter, and programs. All interpretive content should be carefully considered for accuracy and sensitivity to the affiliated Native Americans. Therefore, design and content should be developed through a committee composed of representatives of the county, the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
August 3, 2005**



Portions of the Native American settlement at Powers Bluff are known to lie outside of the park boundaries, particularly to the south of the southern boundary road. These areas have not been systematically surveyed but likely contain house foundations and activity areas associated with the lower settlement. Future consideration should be given to survey the adjacent property for such remains, and when defined, develop a stewardship preservation plan with the private landowners or have the county purchase the property as an addition to the park, with preservation planning following the guidelines noted above.

## **Appendix List**

- A – Park Location Map
- B – Adjacent Ownership Map
- C – Cultural Resource Management Plan for Powers Bluff/Skunk Hill
- D – Cultural Resource Inventory Map
- E – Wisconsin Historical Society Letters
- F – Environmental Feature Inventory Map
- G – Powers Bluff Ecological Review
- H – Attorney Kastenzholz Letter regarding acquisition and deed restrictions
- I – Project Boundaries and Easement Map
- J – Phase IIA Site Plan and Detailed View
- K – Phase IIB Site Plan and Detailed View
- L – Phase IIB Shelter Renovation Details
- M – Trail System Master Plan Map
- N – Priority Sequencing Suggestions and Cost Estimates
- O – Rolling Dip Graphic and Natural Surface Trail Tread Cross Section
- P – United States Forest Service Trail Classification Table
- Q – Powers Bluff Maple Woods State Natural Area Management Plan

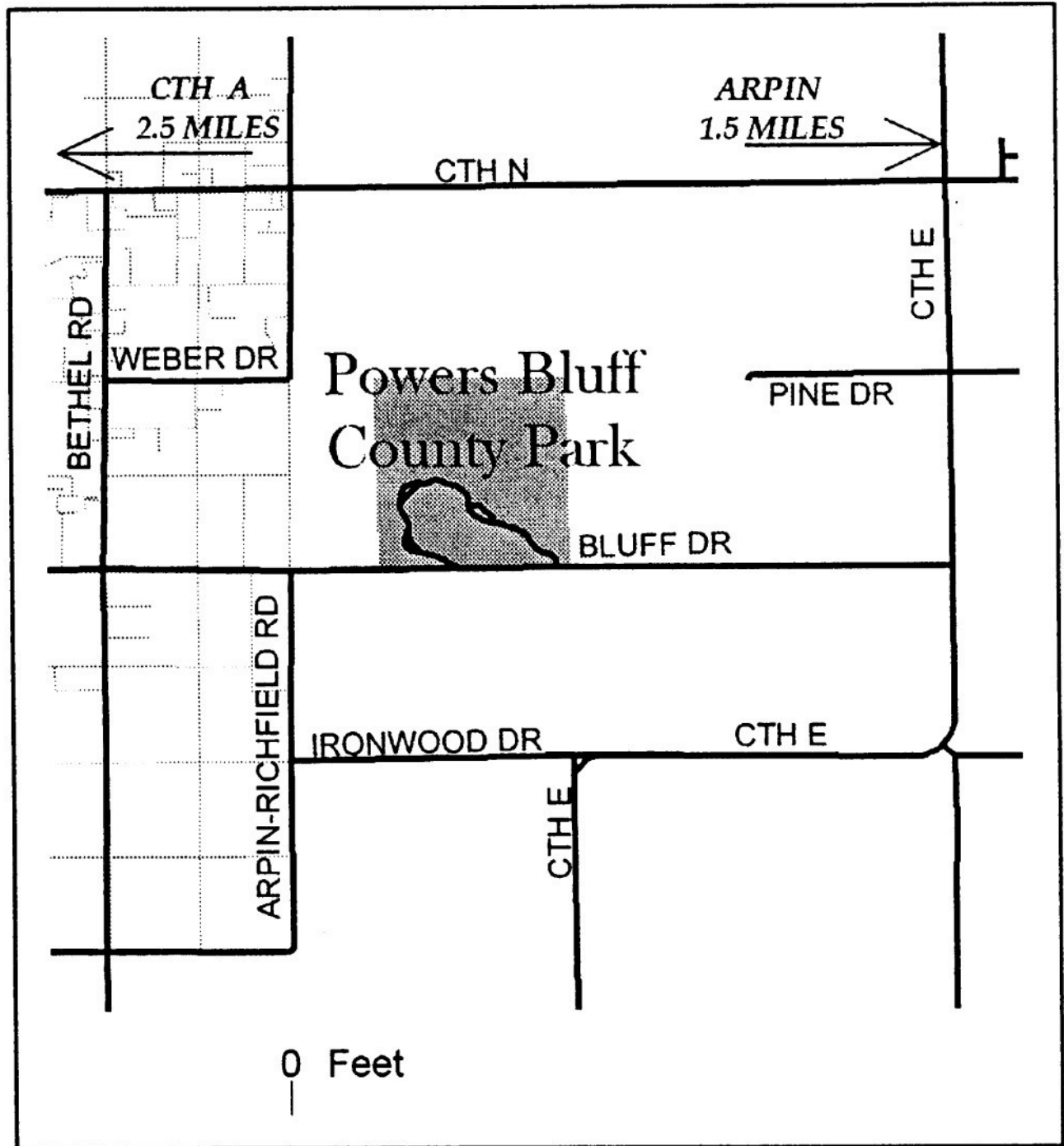
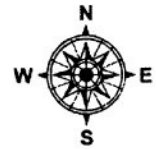
**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

A – Park Location Map

# POWERS BLUFF COUNTY PARK



Wood County, Town of Arpin  
SE 1/4 of Section 30 T24 R4E



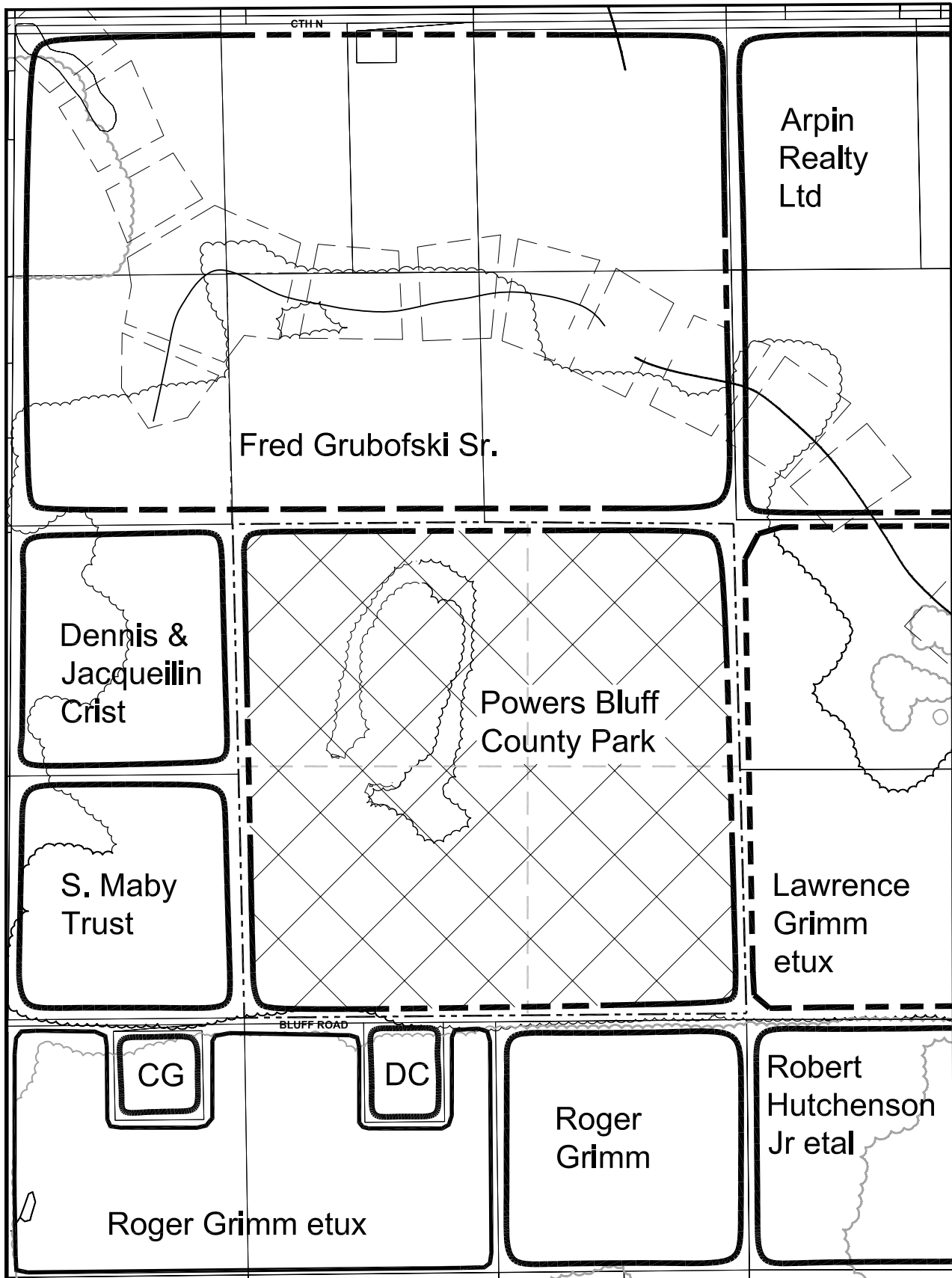
**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

B – Adjacent Ownership Map

**Powers Bluff/Skunk Hill County Park**

**Adjacent Ownership**

Town of Arpin- Wood County, WI



0 100 200 400

April 14, 2005  
Project No. 1868

**SAA**

SCHREIBER / ANDERSON  
ASSOCIATES, INC.  
717 John Nolan Drive  
Madison, WI 53713  
Ph. 608.255.0850  
Fz. 608.255.1730  
www.saa-madison.com

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

C – Cultural Resource Management Plan for Powers Bluff/Skunk Hill



## **Cultural Resource Management Plan for Powers Bluff/Skunk Hill**

Powers Bluff, also known historically as Skunk Hill (Tah-qua-kik), harbors an historic Native American settlement dating from around 1905 to 1930. Prairie Band Potawatomi, Ho Chunk, Ojibway, and Menominee occupied the settlement, and consists of a variety of activity areas that include upper and lower residential areas and two associated cemeteries, dance circles, a maple sugaring area, and miscellaneous features including an access road and refuse debris locals. The history of this settlement is detailed in Birmingham's (2001) National Register of Historic Places nomination, which was based on extensive archival research and recent archaeological surveys. The latter covered a substantial portion of Powers Bluff County Park, and documented specific find locations as well as portions where no significant archaeological resources were encountered. The majority of the known cultural resources are located on the southern side of the hill, between the rocky crest (which contains a formation known as Spirit Chair) and the south boundary road. No associated cultural resources site areas were identified along the northern slope, where recreational ski and tube runs have been constructed. Not all of the park area has been surveyed and, therefore, additional significant site areas may exist.

This management plan is based on a composite map of the known archaeological site locals and negative find areas.

- 1) All known significant site locals should be precluded from ground disturbing activities. These include:
  - a) Two dance rings that were associated with Dream Dance ceremonies, which drew participants from long distances. These are located between the upper road and overflow parking area, south of the park shelter.
  - b) The upper (John Ne Wee cemetery), located to the east of the dance circles and upper road.
  - c) Two house foundations along the south edge of the rock ledge to the north of the upper road to the east of the park shelter, and associated habitation debris associated with this main village area. The latter include additional potential house basins detected through remote sensing near the John Ne Wee cemetery, and a potential plaza area located south of the dance rings and overlapping the overflow parking area.
  - d) The East Cultural Area, which was identified during surface reconnaissance of tree throws following a windstorm. This area is located north of the main park road and several hundred meters southeast of the main village. This locality is poorly known, but contains a variety of artifacts and a small rectangular depression.

- e) A sugar bush located amongst a stand of large maple trees on the south central portion of the hill. This local has also been minimally studied, but consists of a boiling arch and associated surface debris.
- f) A Trail remnant located in the southwestern portion of the park, and visible on 1938 aerial photographs. The visible trail is approximately 10 feet wide and several hundred feet long, and provided access to the main village.
- g) The Lower (Indian Bill) Cemetery, located along the southern margins of the park at the base of the hill. Like the John Ne Wee cemetery at the upper main village, this local is marked by a rock wall that was constructed in the 1930's by WPA workers.
- h) Miscellaneous features include scattered debris within the southern portion of the park and unnatural rock piles, some of which have large mature trees growing from them. These are not well documented, being located in areas that have not been systematically surveyed.

Based on the research that was compiled by Birmingham, the southern 80 acres of Powers Bluff, encompassing all of the cultural features noted above, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Avoidance of these locals when undertaking ground-disturbing actions is paramount to their preservation. If actions are proposed for these areas, consultation should be initiated with the Wisconsin Historical Society and interested parties, particularly representatives of the affiliated tribes. Portions of the NRHP area that have not yet been formally surveyed could be covered during the planning process, adding to the knowledge base of resources in the park, and potentially determining that no resources exist within specific locals where actions might proceed.

Much of the eastern portion of the park has not been formally surveyed for potential cultural resources. However, this area lies within a designated Natural Resources Preserve, and is consequently afforded some protection from ground disturbing actions that might impact potential cultural resources. Should such actions be proposed, management decisions should follow the procedure outlined above.

Interpretation of the Native American activities for the general public has potential benefits to all interested parties. This could consist of signage at specific site areas, display/exhibits in the shelter, and programs. All interpretive content should be carefully considered for accuracy and sensitivity to the affiliated Native Americans. Therefore, design and content should be developed through a committee composed of representatives of the county, the tribes, and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

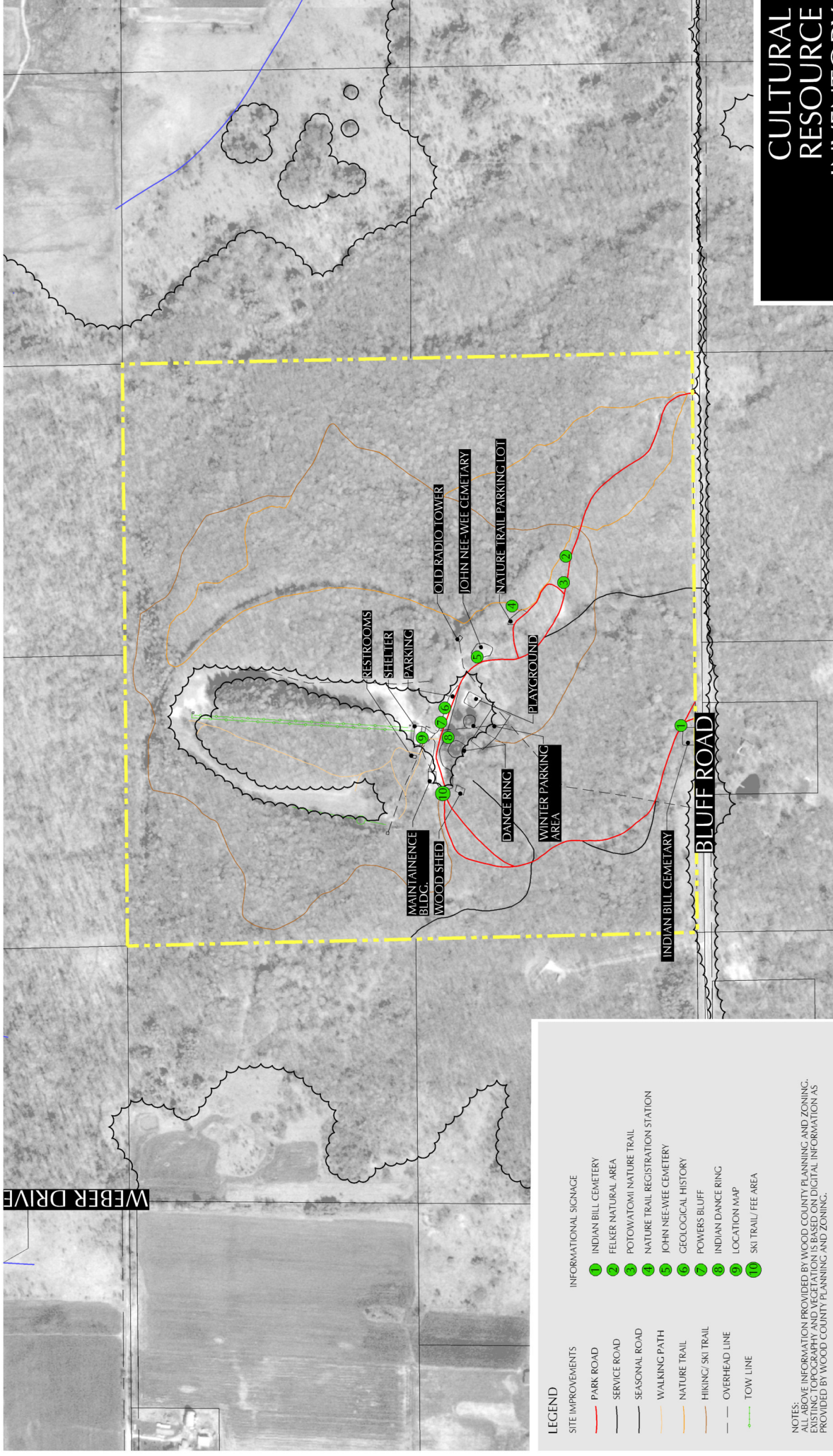
Portions of the Native American settlement at Powers Bluff are known to lie outside of the park boundaries, particularly to the south of the south boundary road. These areas have not been systematically surveyed but likely contain house foundations and activity areas associated with the lower settlement. Future consideration should be

given to survey the adjacent property for such remains, and when defined develop a stewardship preservation plan with the private landowners, or have the county purchase the property as an addition to the park, with preservation planning following the guidelines noted above.

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

D – Cultural Resource Inventory Map

WEBER DRIVE



**LEGEND**

**SITE IMPROVEMENTS**

- PARK ROAD
- SERVICE ROAD
- SEASONAL ROAD
- WALKING PATH
- NATURE TRAIL
- HIKING/ SKI TRAIL
- OVERHEAD LINE
- TOW LINE

**INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE**

- 1 INDIAN BILL CEMETERY
- 2 FELKER NATURAL AREA
- 3 POTOWATOMI NATURE TRAIL
- 4 NATURE TRAIL REGISTRATION STATION
- 5 JOHN NEE-WEE CEMETERY
- 6 GEOLOGICAL HISTORY
- 7 POWERS BLUFF
- 8 INDIAN DANCE RING
- 9 LOCATION MAP
- 10 SKI TRAIL/ FEE AREA

NOTES:  
 ALL ABOVE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY WOOD COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING.  
 EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY AND VEGETATION IS BASED ON DIGITAL INFORMATION AS  
 PROVIDED BY WOOD COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING.

**CULTURAL  
 RESOURCE  
 INVENTORY**

**EXHIBIT 4**

PROJECT NO. 1868  
 JANUARY 2004  
 SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"  
 0 200 400 800

**POWERS BLUFF COUNTY PARK**

TOWN OF ARPIN,  
 WOOD COUNTY WISCONSIN

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

E – Wisconsin Historical Society Letters

WISCONSIN



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Headquarters Building  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706-1482  
608-264-6400

**RECEIVED**

APR 16 2002

Wood County Park & Forestry

April 15, 2002

Wood County Parks and Forestry Dept.  
c/o Mr Ron Arendt  
400 Market Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Dear Mr Arendt:

This letter notifies you officially that, in accordance with my responsibilities under Wis. Stat § 157.70(2)(a), on March 27, 2002 I added the Skunk Hill Lower Cemetery located in Township Twenty-four North, Range Four East, Section Thirty, in the Town of Arpin, Wood County, Wisconsin into the catalogue of burial sites.

This action is the result of a statewide effort to inventory, catalogue, and protect all known historic and prehistoric burial sites in Wisconsin.

I enclose a copy of § 157.70 Wis. Stat. that explains the State Historical Society's responsibilities in protecting burial sites in this state. While I suggest that you examine all of the provisions in these statutes, as the person with the responsibility for this property, you should be particularly interested in:

- The amendment of § 70.11(13) (property tax exemption, p.3).
- Creation of § 157.70(2) (director's duties, p.4).
- § 157.0(2r) (site disturbance prohibited, p. 5).
- § 157.70(5) (procedure for catalogued burial site, pp. 5-6).
- § 157.70(7-10) (action by Attorney General, remedies, preservation of rights, and penalties, p.7).

Skunk Hill Upper Cemetery

Mr Arendt

April 15, 2002

Page 2

I also enclose a copy of the burial site's legal description, now on file with the Wood County Register of Deeds, along with a map showing the location of the burial site.

If you have any questions regarding this action, please contact Deirdre Ann March, Burial Sites Program Assistant, at (608) 264-6502 or (800) 342-7834.

Sincerely,



George L. Vogt  
Director

GLV: dam

Enclosures

cc: Leonard Kobza, Assessor, Town of Arpin  
Margaret Hardesty, Clerk, Town of Arpin  
Anthony Ruesch, Clerk, Wood County  
Arno Haering, Executive Director, North Central WI RPC  
J. Marshall Buehler, President, South Wood County Historical Society





WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Headquarters Building  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706-1482  
608-264-6400

Division of Historic Preservation  
Office: 608-264-6500  
Fax: 608-264-6504  
Web: [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org)

July 15 2002

RECEIVED  
JUL 18 2002

Wood County Park & Forestry

Wood County  
c/o Ronald Arendt  
Parks and Forestry Department  
400 Market Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Dear Mr. Arendt:

Congratulations. The archeological site known as **Skunk Hill Historic Site**, located in the Town of Arpin, Wood County, was listed in the National and State Register of Historic Places on July 5, 2002.

Properties listed in the National and State Register receive protective review by federally and state licensed or assisted projects. County responsibilities for National Register sites can be found in Wis. Stat. § 44.42 and 66.1111.

You have already received information on this archeological site and the reasons for its nomination. If you have any questions about the site or the National Register, please get in touch with Robert Birmingham in the Division of Historic Preservation at 608/264-6495. We thank you for your continued support of historic preservation in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

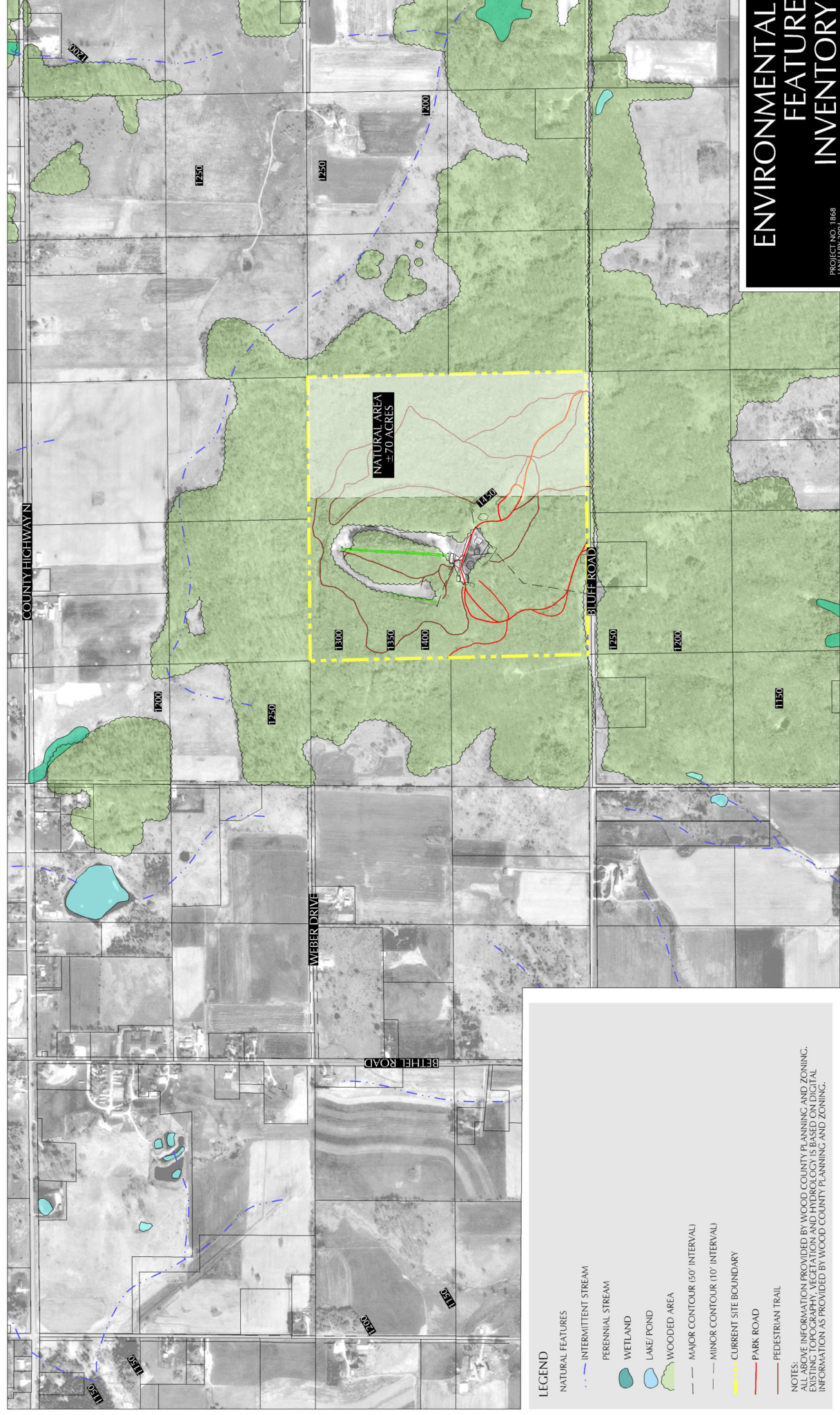
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia L. Goehring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Alicia L. Goehring  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

F – Environmental Feature Inventory Map



**LEGEND**

- NATURAL FEATURES
  - INTERMITTENT STREAM
  - PERENNIAL STREAM
  - WETLAND
  - LAKE/POND
  - WOODED AREA
  - MAJOR CONTOUR (50' INTERVAL)
  - MINOR CONTOUR (10' INTERVAL)
  - CURRENT SITE BOUNDARY
  - PARK ROAD
  - PEDESTRIAN TRAIL

NOTES:  
 ALL ABOVE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY WOOD COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING.  
 EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY, VEGETATION AND HYDROLOGY IS BASED ON DIGITAL  
 INFORMATION AS PROVIDED BY WOOD COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING.

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
 FEATURE  
 INVENTORY**

PROJECT NO. 1868  
 JANUARY 2004  
 SCALE: 1" = 400'-0"  
 0 200 400 800

**EXHIBIT 3**

**POWERS BLUFF COUNTY PARK**

TOWN OF ARPIN,  
 WOOD COUNTY WISCONSIN

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

G – Powers Bluff Ecological Review

January 30, 2004

Ann Freiwald  
Schreiber Anderson Associates  
1435 East Main Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3024

RE: Powers Bluff Ecological Review (02-585)

Dear Ann,

I have reviewed the information off the Internet and information obtained from Wood County on the Powers Bluff site. Here is my general assessment, which is also based on my Fall/Winter 2002 site visit.

- Presence of special concern species such as Pine Vole and the rare plant species-Goblin Fern are found in the Park area. Potential for these species to be in adjacent State Natural Area, as well as offsite surrounding woodlands of similar composition is probable.
- Currently, only a few and scattered non-native species which are not as aggressive are found within the Park with even fewer species and individuals found in the 70-acre Natural Area, especially in forest interior.
- High evenness of native plant species throughout the 70-acre natural area is a result of the pre(-1900) disturbance and the limited dispersal capacity of the forest herbs.
- High diversity of native species compared to other similar forests, is probably due to location (interface of boreal and eastern deciduous forest), and a range of conditions on the site. A method to assess vegetation quality in Wisconsin has recently been developed. The Floristic Quality Assessment uses the number of species observed in combination with a ranking of each individual plant species from 0-10 to develop a site FQA number. Powers Bluff has FQA of 72 based on all plant species that have been observed on site. Throughout the years and depending on the thoroughness of investigators the site FQA has ranged from 54-60. I would consider any value in excess of 50 as a high quality area.
- Red oaks are not reproducing in smaller size classes, resulting from succession, shade intolerance, slow juvenile growth, and competition with older plants. Thus, the forest is moving (successionally) towards more shade tolerant sugar maple forest community. Selective logging of larger red oaks will push the successional pace at a more rapid rate. While red oak is generally a moderate component of the southern mesic hardwood forest community it still is an important tree species and selected logging of this species should probably be avoided.

- No evidence of past fires at Powers Bluff. However, it is likely that fires periodically burned over this area pre-settlement.
- Significant Native American influence on site. Native Americans perhaps responsible for introduction of some plant species (i.e., *Ptelea trifoliata*), which may explain why a southern Wisconsin native species is currently found on site.
- Disturbance activities, such as logging, road, trail or other construction activities within the park could become a major vector for additional non-native species invasion.
- Protection and or acquisition, if possible, of surrounding offsite woodland habitat essential for maintaining healthy ecological systems onsite.
- Trail edge inspection for non-native species should be done periodically. Trail system throughout the Park area will be an in-road for invasion by non-natives, resulting from human and to some extent animal traffic. A simple activity such as placement of "boot brushes" at the trail entrances will allow human users to clean their boots or shoes easily and effectively before entering the trail systems and carrying unwanted seeds of non-native species which may have been picked up in offsite areas of the region.
- Logging (outside the 70-acre natural area) which creates light gaps, and some peripheral disturbance to soil, etc. can also serve as an in-road to non-native plant species invasion and thus should be very carefully controlled, with follow-up inspections and monitoring to detect and prevent non-native plant species from establishing. Routine maintenance conducted by Park staff for trails and other activities may also be a potential source of non-native weeds.
- Logging in 70-acre Natural Area should not occur.
- Storm damage in 2001 has created light gaps in the Park. If possible these areas should be inspected for the presence of non-native plant species. If found, should be removed immediately, to prevent their further spread.
- Maintenance of the forest interior closed canopy aspect essential for the southern mesic hard wood forest community. Edge effect needs to be kept at a minimum.
- Use of heavy equipment, except on paved roads should be avoided, especially if logging is allowed in selected areas and on trails.
- New land acquisitions adjacent to existing the Park and the State Natural Area should be investigated for plant diversity including rare and uncommon species. Land cover mapping and Natural resource Inventories (NRI) should be conducted in these potential expansion areas to determine the extent of this southern mesic woodland complex in these areas, especially the southern one half of the northern 158-acre site and the western one half of the 79-acre eastern site. In addition, both potential expansion areas have a hydric soil component that is located within the parcels. It may be necessary to determine whether or not these hydric soils currently support State and Federally protected wetlands.

- New land use decisions need to be cognizant of that creation of artificial light gaps (i.e. ski, or toboggan runs, picnic areas, etc.) may create habitats suitable for aggressive non-native plant species that can rapidly invade into adjacent or nearby high quality closed canopy hardwood forest communities.

If you have any questions, please call.

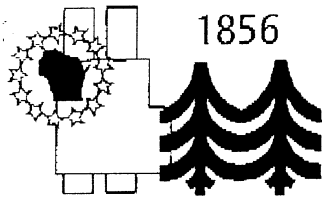
Sincerely,

John L. Larson, Ph.D.  
Senior Ecologist

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

H – Attorney Kastenholz Letter Regarding Acquisitions and Deed Restrictions





# Wood County WISCONSIN

CORPORATION  
COUNSEL OFFICE

*Peter A. Kastenholtz*  
CORPORATION COUNSEL

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Lance Pliml, Park & Forestry Committee Chairman

FROM: Peter A. Kastenholtz, Corporation Counsel *PAK*

DATE: December 14, 2000

RE: Powers Bluff Park

You recently inquired whether or not there are any legal impediments to the sale of all or part of Powers Bluff Park.

The only legal impediments that I am aware of are within the deeds themselves. The land that forms Powers Bluff Park was conveyed to the county by means of three separate deeds. I will proceed by identifying those conveyances and the restrictions contained in them.

In 1936 the Town of Arpin deeded land to Wood County. This land would become part of Powers Bluff Park. That deed states:

That this land is conveyed to Wood County to be used as a county park, with the understanding that if Wood County should ever abandon said park, that the ownership of this land would revert back to the said Town of Arpin.

In 1948 Dairyland's Broadcasting Service, Inc., deeded a part of Powers Bluff Park to Wood County. That deed provides that the county agrees:

[T]hat said premises shall not be used for, or in connection with, any commercial radio or television broadcasting activities . . . .

This deed contains no other restrictive covenants and therefore does not prohibit the sale of the land.

In 1962 the Lloyd L. Felker Company deeded to Wood County sixty acres of land that became part of Powers Bluff Park. That deed contains only the following restrictive covenant.

There is a covenant and restriction which runs with the land wherein the party of the second part, its successors or assigns, is restricted from constructing or erecting a radio or television or communications tower on any part of the premises.

Lance Pliml  
December 14, 2000  
Page Two

The party of the first part reserves to itself the right to erect a radio or television or communications tower on any suitable part of the premises and the right to retain sufficient area to construct the necessary housing for any remote control system in connection with the radio or television or communications tower, and the right of ingress and egress for the purpose of installing and servicing such radio or television or communications tower and the housing for such remote control center.

Thus, the park, which consists of 160 acres of property, could not simply be sold, free and clear. The 50 acres obtained from the Town of Arpin would revert back to the town if the county ceased using it as a park. The county cannot sell this 50 acres.

The 50 acres obtained from Dairyland could be sold with the restriction that the property not be used in connection with radio or television broadcasting activities.

The 60 acres obtained from the Felker Company would have the same type of restrictive covenant plus the retained rights of the company and its successors in interest to build and maintain and access a communication tower on the property.

If you have any further questions regarding the title to Powers Bluff Park, please advise.

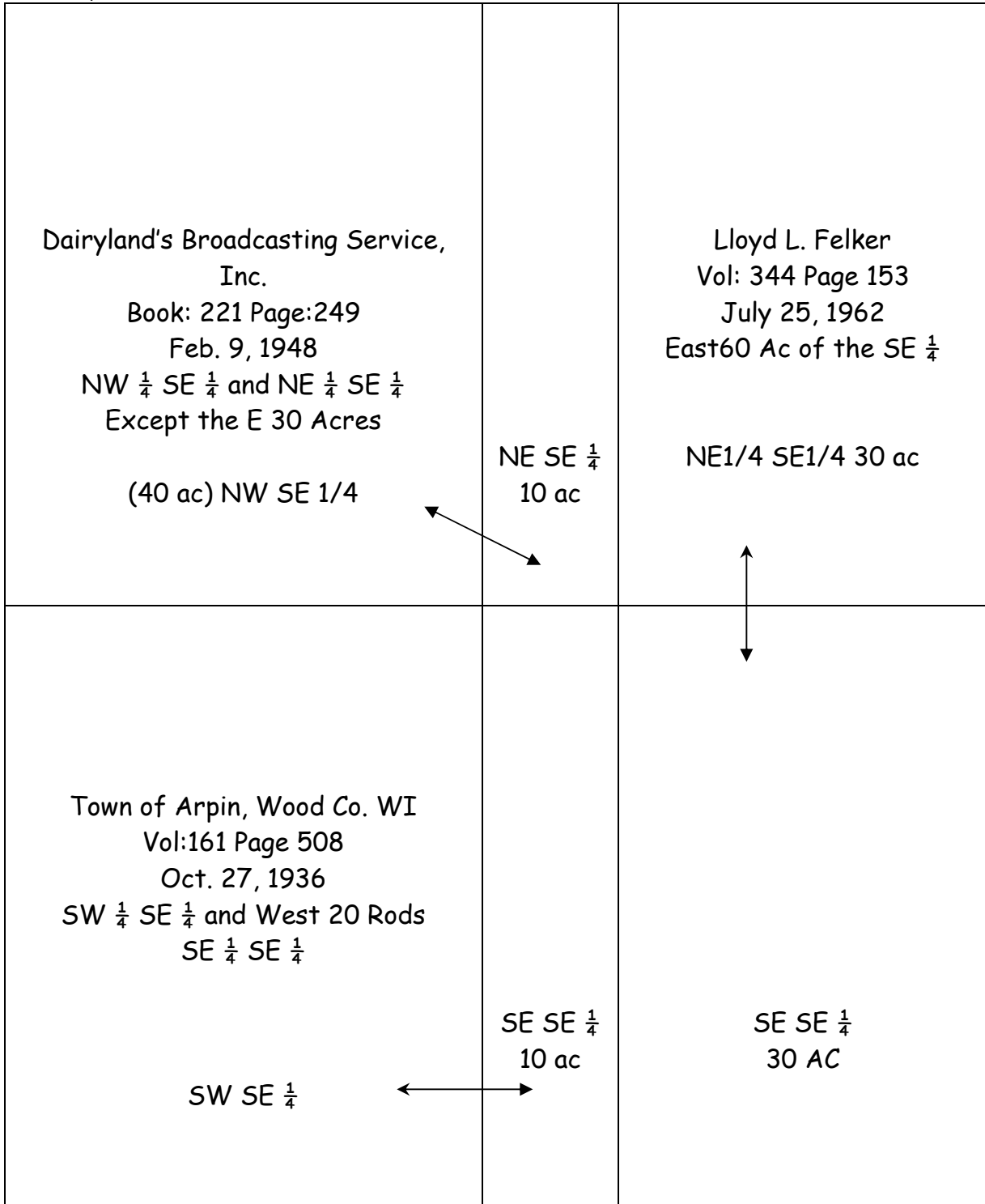
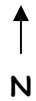
c: Ron Arendt

Powers Bluff Long Range Master Plan

Sketch of the various properties that make up Powers Bluff

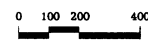
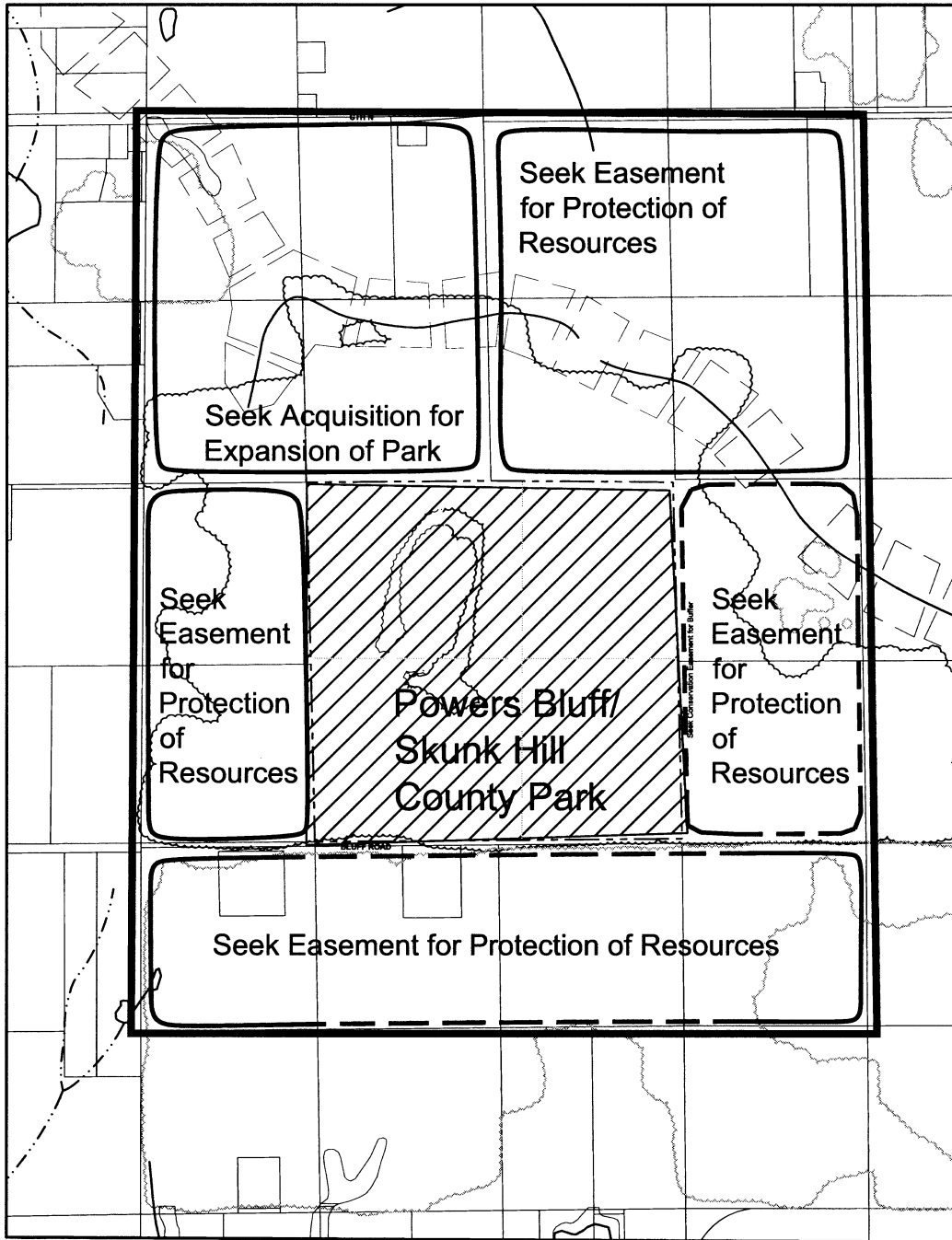
Town of Arpin T24N- R 4 E

SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SEC. 30



**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

I – Project Boundaries and Easement Map



October 25, 2004  
Project No. 1868

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

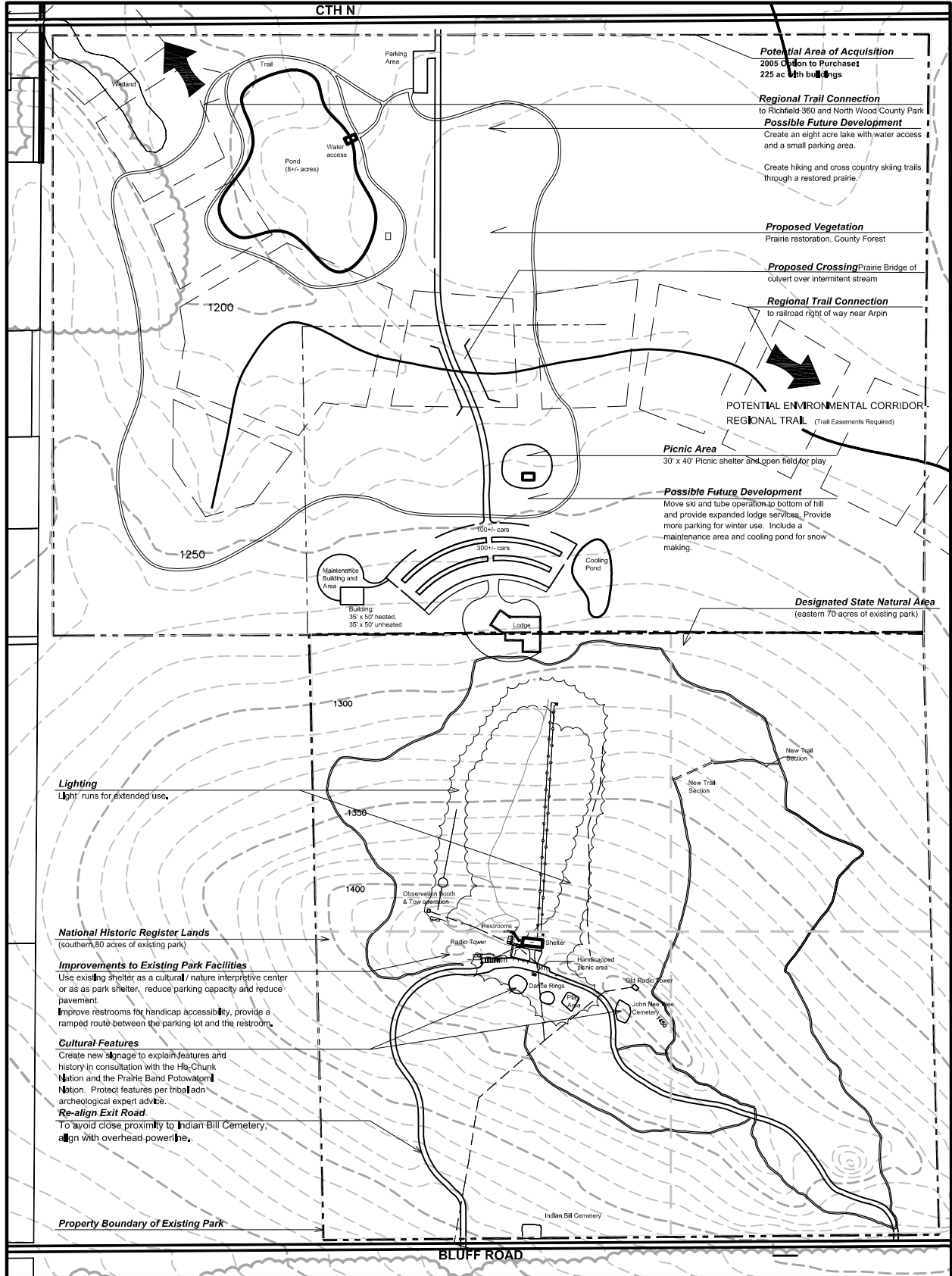
J – Phase IIA Site Plan and Detailed View

(Plan assumes acquisition of land to the North)

# Powers Bluff/Skunk Hill County Park

# Phase IIA Site Plan

Town of Arpin- Wood County, WI



**Potential Area of Acquisition**  
2005 Option to Purchase:  
225 ac with buildings

**Regional Trail Connection**  
to Richfield 360 and North Wood County Park  
**Possible Future Development**  
Create an eight acre lake with water access  
and a small parking area.

Create hiking and cross country skiing trails  
through a restored prairie.

**Proposed Vegetation**  
Prairie restoration, County Forest

**Proposed Crossing** prairie Bridge of  
culvert over intermittent stream

**Regional Trail Connection**  
to railroad right of way near Arpin

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR  
REGIONAL TRAIL (Trail Easements Required)

**Picnic Area**  
30' x 40' Picnic shelter and open field for play

**Possible Future Development**  
Move ski and tube operation to bottom of hill  
and provide expanded lodge services. Provide  
more parking for winter use. Include a  
maintenance area and cooling pond for snow  
making.

**Designated State Natural Area**  
(eastern 70 acres of existing park)

**Lighting**  
Light runs for extended use.

**National Historic Register Lands**  
(southern 80 acres of existing park)

**Improvements to Existing Park Facilities**  
Use existing shelter as a cultural / nature interpretive center  
or as a park shelter, reduce parking capacity and reduce  
pavement.  
Improve restrooms for handicap accessibility, provide a  
ramped route between the parking lot and the restroom.

**Cultural Features**  
Create new signage to explain features and  
history in consultation with the Ho-Chunk  
Nation and the Prairie Band Potawatomi  
Nation. Protect features per tribal and  
archeological expert advice.

**Re-align Exit Road**  
To avoid close proximity to Indian Bill Cemetery,  
align with overhead powerline.

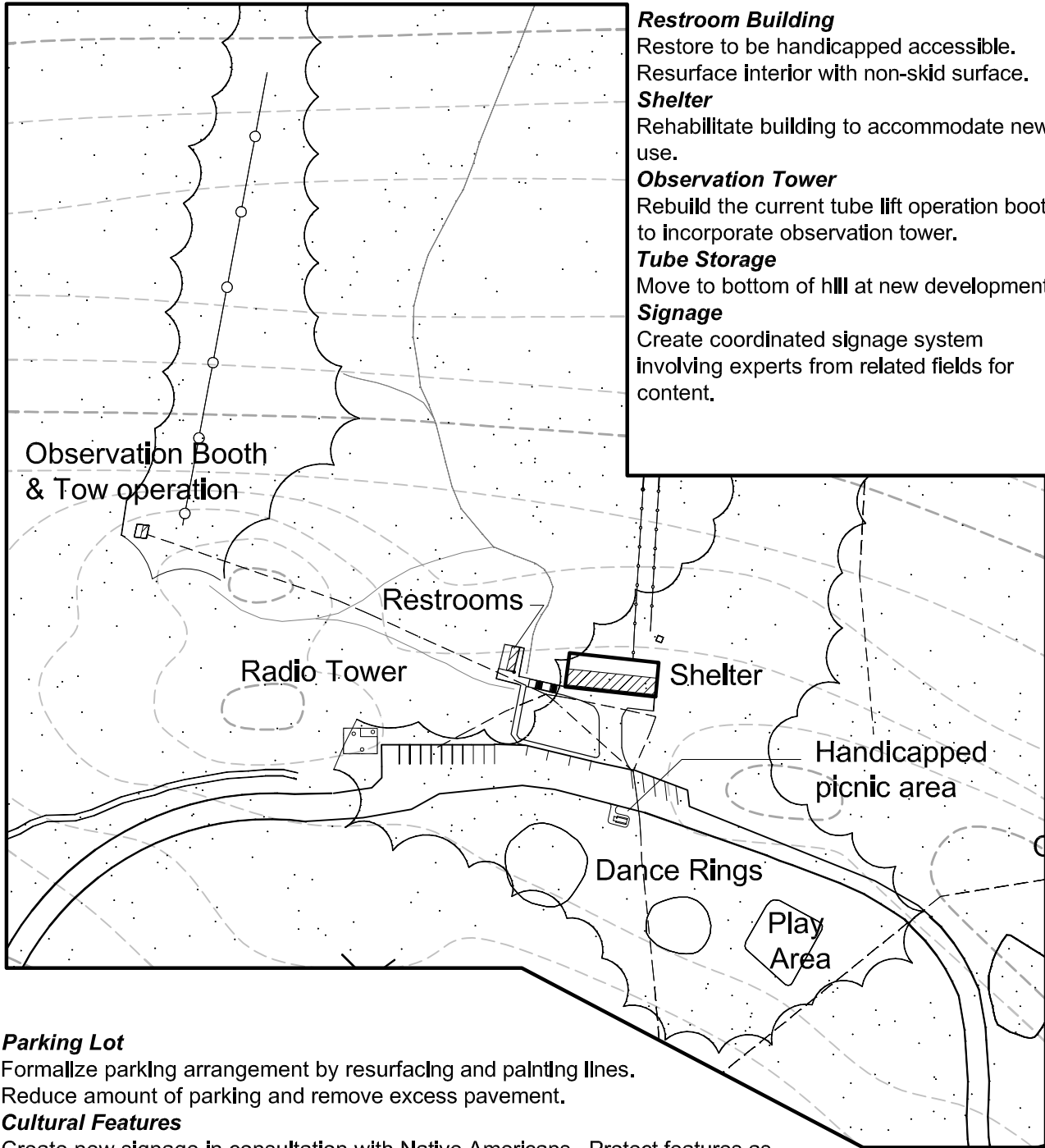
Property Boundary of Existing Park



0 100 200 400  
June 1, 2005  
Project No. 1868

SCHREIBER / ANDERSON  
ASSOCIATES, INC.  
717 John Nolen Drive  
Madison, WI 53713  
Ph. 608.255.0800  
Fax 608.255.7700  
www.saa-madison.com

Town of Arpin- Wood County, WI



**Restroom Building**

Restore to be handicapped accessible. Resurface interior with non-skid surface.

**Shelter**

Rehabilitate building to accommodate new use.

**Observation Tower**

Rebuild the current tube lift operation booth to incorporate observation tower.

**Tube Storage**

Move to bottom of hill at new development.

**Signage**

Create coordinated signage system involving experts from related fields for content.

**Parking Lot**

Formalize parking arrangement by resurfacing and painting lines. Reduce amount of parking and remove excess pavement.

**Cultural Features**

Create new signage in consultation with Native Americans. Protect features as advised by experts, remove evergreen trees from around the Dance Rings.

**Walk ways**

Provide an accessible route from parking to the restroom building. Remove and rebuild the steps from the shelter to the restrooms.

**Utilities**

Remove any overhead wires that are not used and bury any that are in the immediate shelter area.

**Wood Shed**

Remove wood shed from park, use area for parking.

**Maintenance Building**

Remove building and concrete foundation, restore to lawn and trees. This building will no longer be needed once lower maintenance building is in place.

**County Radio Tower**

Expand base area for new tower. Paint new tower dark green to the treetop level



0 25 50 100

June 1, 2005  
Project No. 1868



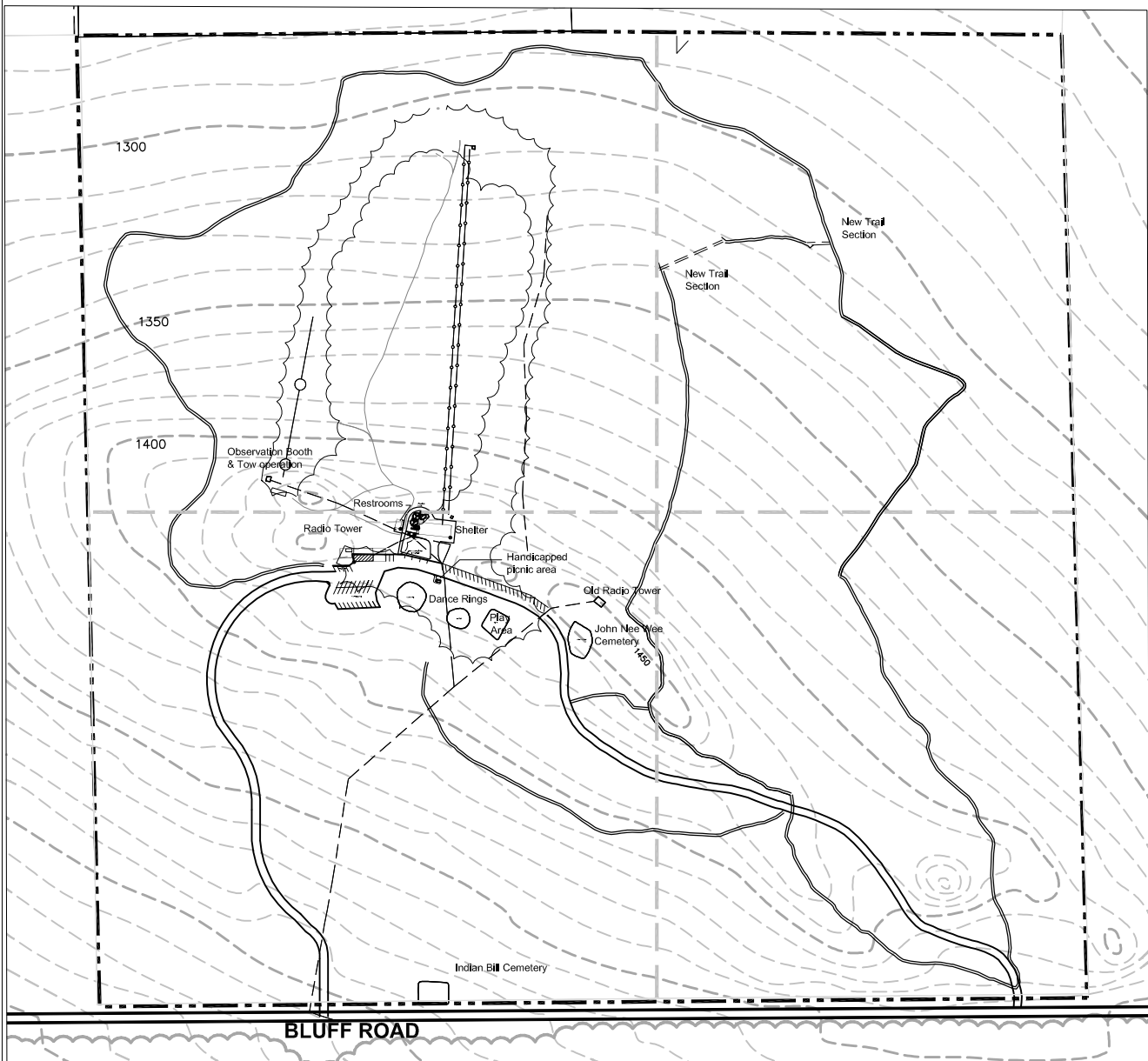
SCHREIBER / ANDERSON ASSOCIATES, INC.  
717 John Nolan Drive  
Madison, WI 53713  
Ph: 608.255.0800  
F: 608.255.0750  
www.saa-madison.com



**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

K – Phase IIB Site Plan and Detailed View

(Plan assumes the park boundaries remain the same)



**Restroom Building**

Improve restrooms for handicap accessibility, provide a ramped route between the parking lot and the restroom.

**Wood Shed**

Remove wood shed from park, use area for parking.

**New Parking Area at Old Wood Shed Location**

Grade a level area and pave a 30 car parking area for winter use. The grass area will no longer be used for overflow parking (unless needed).

**Road System**

Continue using current road system. Discontinue use of side and seasonal roads and replant with native vegetation.

**Cultural Resources**

Protect resources in consultation with the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Potawatomi Nation representatives. Remove evergreens from around the dance rings and rededicate.

**Re-align Exit**

Align exit road to coincide with electrical corridor and leave the space around Indian Bill Cemetery road-free, restore old road bed with native vegetation.

**Shelter Building**

Improve shelter to provide better service to the users of the ski/tube hills and concession operations.

**Utilities**

Remove any overhead lines that are no longer needed and bury those around the shelter building.

**Observation Tower**

Rebuild the tube tow booth to incorporate a new observation tower above the tow operator room.

**Maintenance Building**

Expand to the east of the shed and resurface the south and east exterior walls of the building with a stone similar to the shelter building.

**Existing Parking Lot**

Formalize parking arrangement by lining the lot.

**County Radio Tower**

Expand base to accommodate new tower. Paint the tower legs dark green to top of tree height.

**Handicap Accessible Picnic Area**

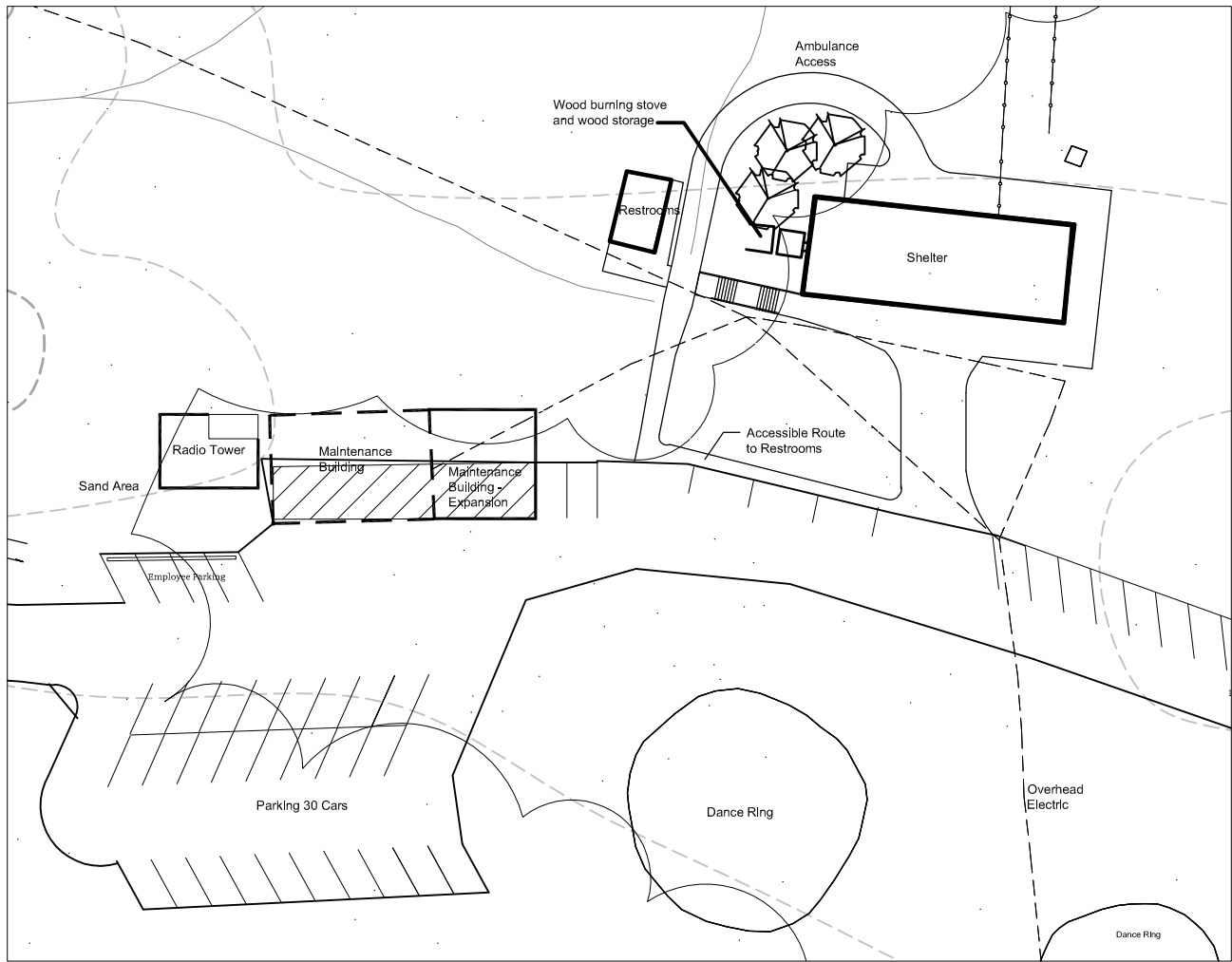
Provide a hard surface path to a picnic table designed to accommodate wheel-chairs.



June 1, 2005  
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***Pedestrian Circulation***

Provide a ramped route from parking to the restroom building.  
 Remove and rebuild the steps from the shelter to the restrooms.

***Existing Parking Lot***

Formalize parking arrangement by resurfacing and painting lines.

***Proposed Parking Lot***

In area of wood shed, level ground and pave and stripe a parking area for winter use.

***Maintenance Shed***

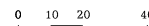
Expand to east and resurface south and east exterior walls with stone similar to the shelter.

***Ambulance Access***

Pave a narrow road to the back of the shelter for ambulance access and pedestrian traffic.  
 Provide space to turn around at the back of the shelter.

***Shelter***

Improve layout of interior for the current operations.



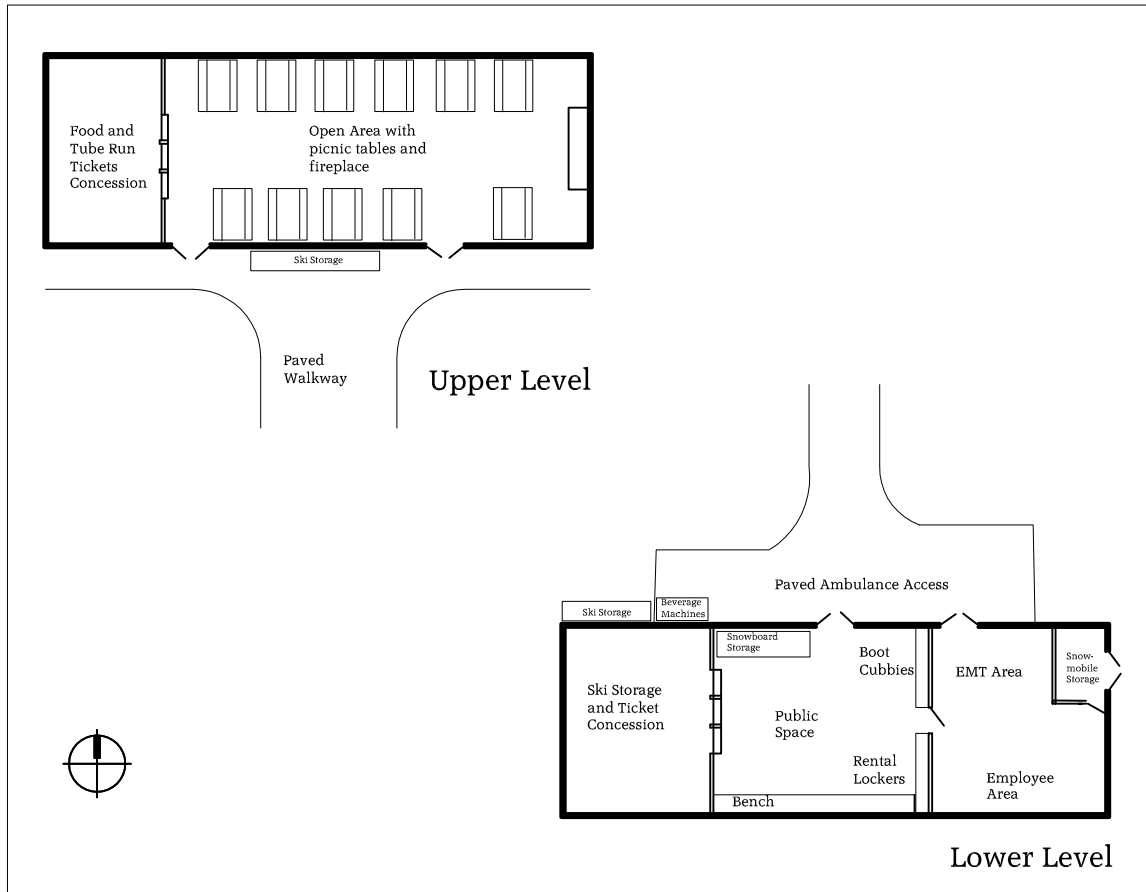
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**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

L – Phase IIB Shelter Renovation Details



**Upper Level**

**Food and Tube Run Ticket Concession**

This area will encompass the west end of the upper level. This concession will sell food and tube run tickets. Discontinue use of steps.

**Open Area with Picnic Tables**

Add light fixtures to the bare bulbs. Consider windows that would be more energy efficient.

**Lower Level**

**Furnace Room**

Remove wood burning furnace and replace with an exterior high efficiency wood burner. Remove all wood storage from the lower level of the shelter.

**Interior Steps**

Discontinue use and remove, replace ceiling/floor.

**Ski Storage and Concession**

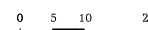
Expand to full width of the building on west end. This concession will rent skis and sell ski hill tickets. The space will also store skis and snowboards.

**Public Space**

Center of lower level will be dedicated to public use. This area will house rental lockers, boot cubbies, a bench for boot changing, and a large concession window area. Improve the doors and provide beverage machines and ski racks outside these doors.

**Employee/EMT area**

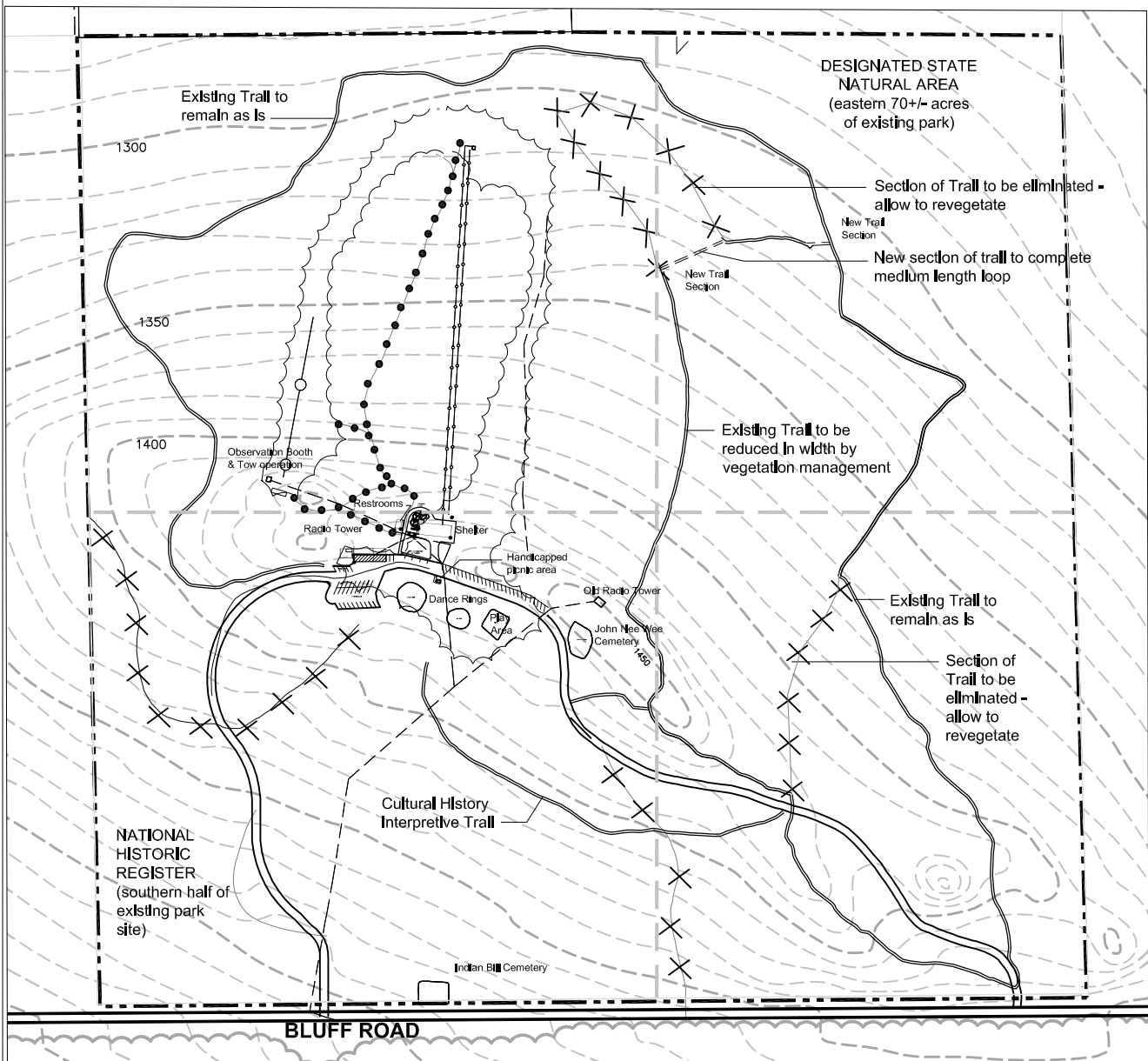
Remove the wood storage from this portion of the building and rearrange walls to create new spaces for EMT, employees and for the snowmobile. The snowmobile storage space should have its own door for exiting the building. This could be at the area of the previous door.



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**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

M – Trail System Master Plan Map



**Trail System**

Discontinue use of parallel trails and revegetate them with native vegetation.  
Remove cross-country skilling from these trails use for hiking only.

**Trail Standards**

- ● ● = Class 3 Trails (see Appendix P for USFS Trail Classification System)
- = Class 2 Trails

**Road Standards**

One Way: 14 feet wide asphalt paving with 1 foot gravel shoulders  
Two Way: Main park entrance road - 28 feet wide asphalt paving with 2' gravel shoulders. This includes two 11' travel lanes and 3' wide paved shoulders for pedestrians and bicycles. Use white fog line to indicate paved shoulders.  
Secondary park roads - 24 feet wide asphalt paving with 1 foot gravel shoulders.

**Parking Lot Standards**

Parking lot standards are complicated and depend on the exact design of the particular parking lot, so they can not be provided here. Working with an Engineer or Landscape Architect on the design and development of a new or re-developed parking lot can reduce the amount of paving needed, reduce the costs and ensure that the parking lot meets accepted standards.



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ASSOCIATES, INC.  
717 John Nolan Drive  
Madison, WI 53713  
Ph. 608.255.0800  
F. 608.255.7750  
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**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

N – Priority Sequencing Suggestions and Cost Estimates



## **Phase I- Recommendations that Apply Regardless of Outcome on Acquisition**

### Priority/Sequencing Suggestion and Notes on Costs:

1. Work to form relationships with adjacent landowners. The long term goal is to acquire conservation easements from them to protect the natural resources of Powers Bluff. See Appendix I for easement information. Cost: \$0, but it will take time and a dedicated person to do this.
2. Adopt new trail classifications and new trail management practices. Cost: \$0 for adopting the new trail classification system, the cost to implement the new trail management practice will vary considerably and will need further design to estimate properly.
3. Install a new handicap accessible picnic table on a hard surface pad across from the shelter building. Cost: \$4 per square foot for flat concrete work, and \$500 to \$800 for the handicap accessible picnic table depending on the style selected.
4. Redesign the trail system as shown on the Trail System Master Plan, restore abandoned trail sections with guidance from restoration ecologists. Costs: It is difficult to determine the cost to abandon and restore trail to native landscapes. Much of the work can be done by volunteers, if using a contractor, we typically use the cost of \$3,000 per acre for seed and install or \$5.00 per plant for plant plugs and install.
5. Complete a signage inventory, develop a signage program for the park, including new interpretive signs with the consultation of Ho-Chunk Nation and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation representatives, also consult a cultural resources specialist, a plant specialist and a geologic specialist for the content of the new signs. Costs: The sign inventory and the sign program can either be done by volunteers or a professional consulting firm. The route chosen will affect the costs. We use a cost of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per interpretive sign to install signs similar to the vandal proof signs used in the National Parks.
6. Remove the spruce trees from the dance circles (if this is important to the Ho-Chunk and the Prairie Band Potawatomi representatives) and recreate and rededicate the dance circles with guidance from Native American tribes. Costs: Costs to remove large trees such as these can be high; \$800 to \$1,200 would be an estimate. A better estimate can be procured by asking a local tree surgeon to provide you with a quote. It is our recommendation that the trees are removed in the winter when the ground is frozen to keep the site damage to a minimum. The removal work is something that the Wood County crews might be able to do.
7. Rehabilitate the toilets to be handicap accessible, including access to the building itself. Costs: It is difficult to estimate the costs of this work without further engineering and design. Wood County may have a good estimate based on past work of this type with other restrooms in the Wood County Park system.

8. Remove unused roads and restore these areas to native vegetation with guidance from restoration ecologists. Move exit drive from existing location to line up with power line pole across Bluff Road, restore the old exit road bed with guidance from restoration ecologists. Costs: To remove one square yard of asphalt road generally costs about \$2.10. To build one square yard of asphalt road is about \$7.00. So to remove and rebuild one linear foot of a 14 foot wide road would be about \$14.15. As mentioned above restoration costs for native plants can vary greatly depending on the method used, volunteers vs. professionals, plant plugs or seeds.
9. Remove woodshed and use this area for overflow parking and snowmobile corral. Costs. The square yard cost of asphalt is \$7.00. The costs to remove the wood shed and prep the site are difficult to pin down without more information.
10. Build an observation tower without disturbing “new land”, the best location may be the tow tower located on the tube hill. This would involve rebuilding the tower but would not increase areas in need of shoveling in the winter. Costs: Additional engineering design is required to determine this cost.
11. Paint the new radio tower legs forest green up to 20’ in height, if this does not sufficiently mask the tower legs, consider a wooden privacy fence surrounded by native shrubs. (This project is only necessary when the new tower goes in and if the new tower is considered an eye sore.)

## Phase IIA Sequencing and Master Plan Level Cost Estimates

Task	Assumptions	Master Plan Level Cost Estimate
1 Purchase the Property	Approximate current asking price	\$600,000
2 Complete an Environmental Study and a Design Development Study	Hire a professional consultant for about 450 hours	\$45,000
3 Build the lodge driveway and parking area	5,500 ln ft of drive at \$25/ln ft, and 300 stalls (10,000 sq yards) of parking at \$10 per sy	\$237,500
4 Install bridge over drainage way on property	Allowance only	\$75,000
5 New maintenance building and yard, also re use existing pole shed on site	Heat 35 x 50 of building, cold storage building with electrical plug ins, 35 x 50 and fenced in yard (\$50 per sq ft for heated and \$35 per sq ft for non-heated)	\$148,750
6 Build lodge for skiing, tubing and year round party rentals	Includes a kitchen and meeting rooms, storage space, flush toilets and concession area. Many questions remain to be answered but we will assume a 8000 sq ft building at \$350 per sq ft.	\$2,800,000
7 Build the lake on the old quarry site, includes fishing access	an 8 to 10 ac lake, additional info needed	To be determined
8 Restore farm fields to native landscape to be determined by soil type	\$3,000 per ac for seed and install	\$540,000
9 Develop picnic area and trails	1 30' x 40' shelter with toilets, plus grass mown trails throughout the park	\$135,000
10 Continue restoration on farm fields for first three years	Lump sum allowance	\$15,000
11 Install cooling pond, snow making equip. and lights on the slopes	Lights will be 30K, Cooling pond 25K, snow making 75K	\$130,000
12 Continue restoration on farm fields for first three years	Lump sum allowance	\$15,000
13 Build regional trail	Assume 10' wide limestone screenings trail at \$15/ln ft	\$75,000
14 Continue restoration on farm fields for first three years	Lump sum allowance	\$15,000
15 Re design existing shelter on bluff for new use	Additional information needed	To be determined
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$4,831,250</b>
Engineering 15% of total		\$634,688
Contingency 15%		\$634,688
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$6,100,625</b>

Note: Two items on the above list do not have a cost estimate attached to them. They will raise the grand total considerably.

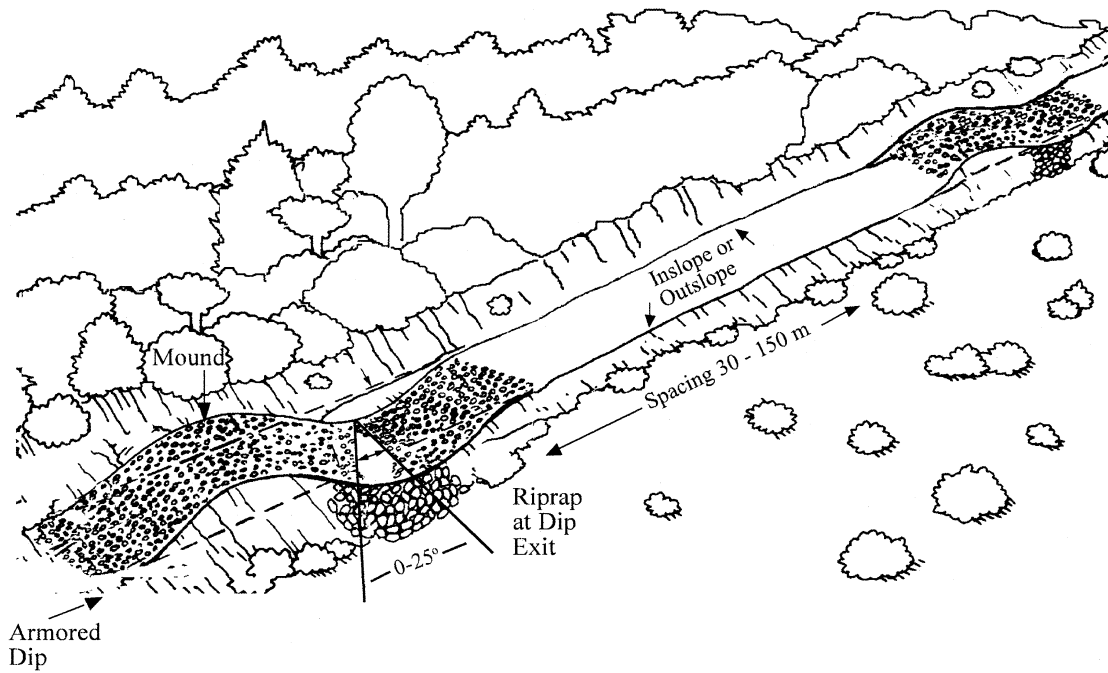
## Phase IIB Sequencing and Master Plan Level Cost Estimates

Task	Assumptions	Master Plan Level Cost Estimate
Shelter rehabilitation as per Master Plan- put in flush toilets, improve 1 kitchen, new heating system, dealing with older building	Improved kitchen area, remove steps, new heating system and windows, flush toilets, Allowance of \$450 per sq foot approx. 5,300 sq ft building	\$2,385,000
2 Maintenance building expansion and improvements	Allowance of \$75 per sq foot, existing building is 50 x 35, expansion is 35 x 35	\$223,125
3 Parking lot stripping	\$3.25 per linear foot 35 stalls at about 50' of painting per stall	\$5,688
4 3 - Phase electric upgrade	\$10 per In ft from CTH N, cost will increase if access from the north is denied; cost only includes buried wire	\$47,000
5 New well (This project will be difficult based on existing conditions)	Allowance	\$12,000
6 ADA and Ambulance Access	Allowance	\$30,000
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,702,813</b>
	Engineering 15% of total	\$405,422
	Contingency 15%	\$405,422
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,513,656</b>

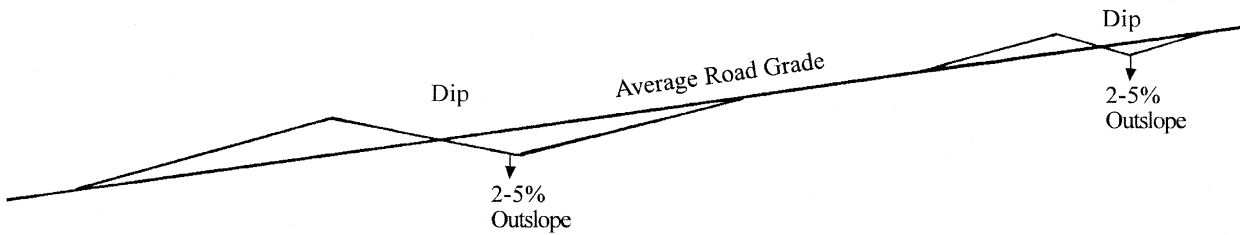
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June 1, 2005**

O – Rolling Dip Graphic and Natural Surface Trail Tread Cross section

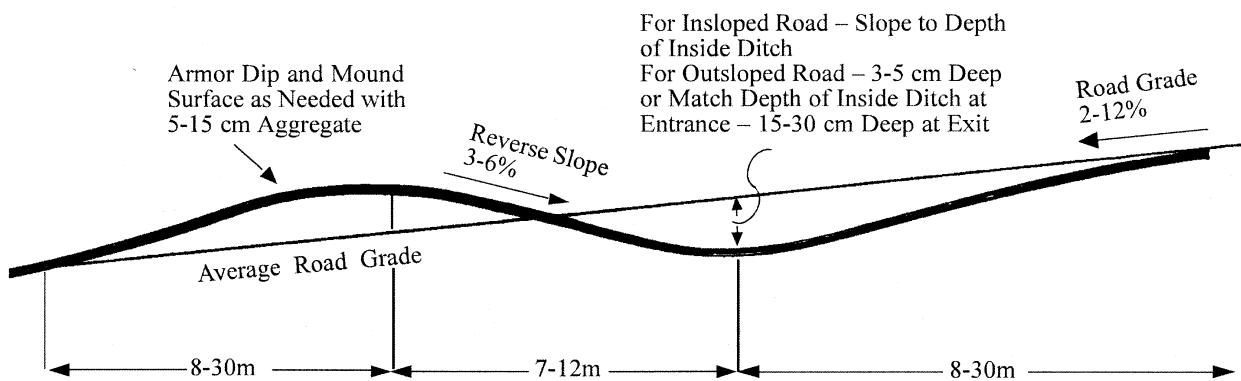
Figure 7.3 Rolling (broad-based) dip cross-drains.



a. Perspective View



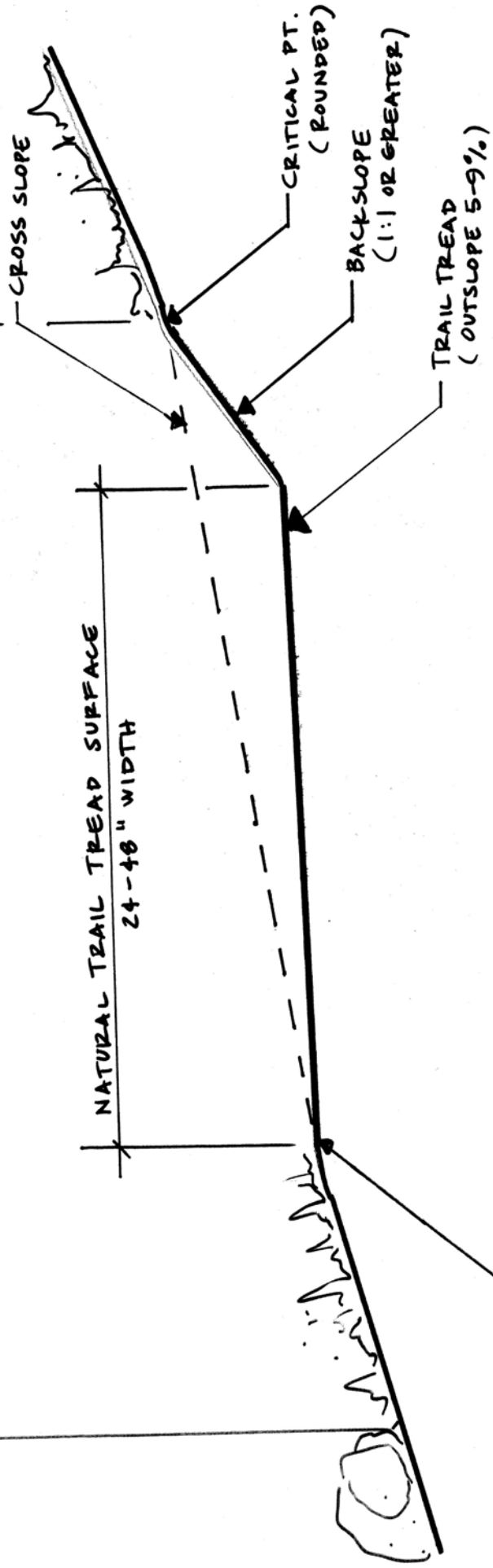
b. Profile



c. Rolling Dip Profile Detail

TRAIL CORRIDOR, HORIZONTAL 4-6' WIDE  
TRAIL CORRIDOR, VERTICAL 8-10' HIGH

NATURAL TRAIL TREAD SURFACE  
24-48" WIDTH



CRITICAL PT.  
(ROUNDED)

BASIC TRAIL CROSS-SECTION

NTS

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

P – United States Forest Service Trail Classification Table



**United States Forest Service  
Trail Classification System**

<b>Trail Attributes</b>	<b>Trail Class 1 Primitive/Undeveloped</b>	<b>Trail Class 2 Simple/Minor Development</b>	<b>Trail Class 3 Developed/Improved</b>	<b>Trail Class 4 Highly Developed</b>	<b>Trail Class 5 Fully Developed</b>
Tread and Traffic Flow	Tread intermittent and indistinct May require route finding Native materials only	Tread discernible and continuous, but narrow and rough Few or no allowances constructed for passing Native materials	Tread obvious and continuous Width accommodates unhindered one-lane travel Typically native materials	Tread wide and relatively smooth with few irregularities Width may consistently accommodate two-lane travel Native or imported materials May be hardened	Width generally accommodates two-way travel Commonly hardened with asphalt or other imported material
Width Suggestions (SAA)	1 foot to 2 feet wide	2 feet to 3 feet wide	3 to 4 feet wide	5 foot wide at minimum	5 foot wide at minimum
Obstacles	Obstacles common Narrow passages, brush, steep grades, rocks and logs present	Obstacles occasionally present Blockages cleared to define route and protect resources Vegetation may encroach into trailway	Obstacles frequent Vegetation cleared outside of trailway	Few or no obstacles exist Grades typically <12% Vegetation cleared outside of trailway	No obstacles Grades typically <8%

**United States Forest Service  
Trail Classification System**

<b>Trail Attributes</b>	<b>Trail Class 1 Primitive/Undeveloped</b>	<b>Trail Class 2 Simple/Minor Development</b>	<b>Trail Class 3 Developed/Improved</b>	<b>Trail Class 4 Highly Developed</b>	<b>Trail Class 5 Fully Developed</b>
Constructed Features and Trail Elements	Minimal to non-existent Drainage is functional No constructed bridges or foot crossings	Structures are of limited size, scale and number Drainage functional Structures adequate to protect trail infrastructure and resources Primitive foot crossings and fords	Trail structures (walls, steps, drainage, raised trail) may be common and substantial Trail bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access Generally native materials	Structures frequent and substantial Substantial trail bridges are appropriate at water crossings Trailside amenities may be present	Structures frequent or continuous; may include curbs, handrails, trailside amenities and boardwalks Drainage structures frequent; may include culverts and road like design
Signs	Minimum required Generally limited to regulation and resource protection No destination signs present	Minimum required for basic direction Generally limited to regulation and resource protection Typically very few or no destination signs present	Regulation, resource protection, user reassurance Directional signs at junctions, or when confusion is likely Destination signs typically present Informational and interpretive signs may be present outside of Wilderness areas	Wide variety of signs likely present Informational signs likely Interpretive signs possible Trail Universal Access information likely displayed at trailhead	Wide variety of signage is present Information and interpretive signs likely Trail Universal Access information is typically displayed at the trailhead
Trail surroundings	Natural, unmodified	Natural, essentially unmodified	Natural, primarily unmodified	May be modified	Can be highly modified

**Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan  
June 1, 2005**

Q – Powers Bluff Maple Woods State Natural Area Management Plan

08/19/2004

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WDNR ENDANGERED RESOURCES → 92557750

NO.502 P001

Powers Bluff Maple Woods No. 131  
State Natural Area  
Management Plan

This management plan contains the Department's general procedures for State Natural Areas. It also contains recommendations specific to the management needs of each site and includes exceptions to the general procedures.

The specific management actions have been developed and approved by the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Endangered Resources, and Wood County (property administrator), and reviewed by the Natural Areas Preservation Council. The plan will be reviewed periodically and if necessary amended to assure that all necessary management considerations are incorporated. Changes to the management plan may be made with the advice of the Council and written agreement of the Bureau of Endangered Resources and the property administrator.

The primary objectives of these procedures is to protect the site in a natural condition with little human disturbance. The Department of Natural Resources Master Plan Handbook-Standard Land Use Classification System, will be used to identify authorized land use practices. Sections 23.27, 23.28 and 23.29, Stats., and Section NR 45.13, Wis. Administrative Code, also may apply in regulating use. The land use classifications used include research natural area or interpretive natural area and critical species natural area. Resource development classifications may also be used, but only in that portion identified as buffer zone. The Natural Areas Handbook provides more detailed guidelines and procedures.

I. General Management for State Natural Areas

A. Management of Terrestrial and Aquatic Communities, Geologic and Archaeological Features.

1. Removal of plants, plant parts, animals, rocks and minerals, and artifacts is generally not permitted. However, hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking and nut gathering is permitted if not expressly restricted or otherwise prohibited by law or Articles of Dedication. Collecting for scientific purposes may be allowed by Department permit.
2. Cutting or removal of living or dead trees, standing or down, or other vegetation in forest communities, is generally limited to that essential to meet public safety requirements. Cut material will be left within the natural area. Death of trees due to blowdown, fire, flooding, insects and disease is regarded as a normal natural occurrence. The Department and the property administrator may consider deviation from this procedure in the event of large scale mortality, on a case by case basis, with advice of the Council.

3. Control of plant succession with the use of fire, cutting, mowing or water level manipulation, may be employed to maintain a particular natural area type, or control of abnormal animal populations may be employed if provided for in this plan.

4. Introductions of exotic plant and animal species is prohibited. Reintroduction of an extirpated species, or introduction of a species of concern which is known to inhabit a particular community and edaphic condition may be permitted with the advice of the Council and consent of the Department.

5. Pesticides including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and biological controls should not be used for plant or animal control. Department approval, with Council review, must be obtained for each case should an exception be necessary. Biological control agents are preferred over chemical agents.

#### B. Public Use

1. Intensive public use is not encouraged. Any public use which damages vegetation or otherwise impairs natural conditions is discouraged and if necessary will be controlled. Recreational uses such as hiking, nature appreciation, and educational use which do not degrade the natural features is encouraged.

2. Attention drawing signs should be limited to those areas that have a low site fragility or have established trails. Signs indicating the area's purpose and use limitations are desirable at access points. Boundaries may be marked for the convenience of the property manager, visitors, and adjacent landowner.

3. Vehicle traffic of all types is discouraged. Existing walking trails and service roads may be maintained and they will be identified on the management plan map. New walking trails may be constructed where use is heavy or where needed to protect sensitive vegetation; these will be identified in the management plan.

4. No buildings, and other improvements such as fireplaces, picnic grounds, athletic facilities, dams, beach improvements or other waterway modification devices will be constructed. Any public use or maintenance facility essential to the natural area should be located in a buffer zone or outside the natural area.

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## II. Specific Management for Powers Bluff Maple Woods

### A. Communities, Species or Features of Concern and Statement of Management Objectives. (Figure 1)

This 70 acre area features a southern mesic forest.

A plant species of concern is butternut *Juglans cinerea*.

No animal species of concern have been identified.

Management objectives are to preserve and protect the natural ecological values by permitting natural processes to continue and maintaining access to the interior for interpretive and educational purposes.

### B. Problem Identification.

No specific problem species have been identified; however, the site has not been inspected for the presence of invasive exotic species.

Facility related concerns are maintenance of the access road through the southwest portion of the natural area, maintenance of boundary fences, trail maintenance and interpretive signing, and use of the area by horses.

### C. Management Requirements for Communities or Species and Type of Action.

#### COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

##### Southern Mesic Forest -

No specific management is required.

#### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

##### Species of Concern

##### Butternut -

No specific species management is required.

Butternut canker has devastated this species in many places. Any request to harvest nuts for nursery growing requires a permit issued by the Natural Areas section of BER.

##### Problem Species

Search for the presence of other invasive exotics. Remove populations when found using the recommended guidelines from the Invasive Species Control Handbook.

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## D. Monitoring, Research, Educational and Public Use.

## MONITORING

Breeding birds - Conduct a breeding bird survey once every two to three years. The Department will recruit volunteers to conduct the survey.

## PUBLIC USE

Research and education use is encouraged.

School groups and nature appreciation visitors are encouraged to use the established trail. Off trail use should be discouraged.

Horseback riding should not be permitted in the natural area, because horse feces often contains seeds from exotic species that may invade the area.

## INSPECTIONS

Inspections should be done once a year and the results reported on Natural Areas Inspection Sheet Form 1700-21.

## E. Facility Development and Maintenance.

## SIGNS

## Boundary Signs -

Signs identifying the cooperative designation of Powers Bluff Maple Woods as a state natural area may be erected.

## Information Signs -

An information sign describing the site's natural values and the reason for designation may be erected. The Department would assist in the development of any such sign.

## Interpretive Signs -

Wood County has erected signs interpreting the natural vegetation along the trail running through the natural area. The erection, maintenance and development of these signs are at the discretion of the county.

ACCESS is via a trail emanating from parking areas within the County Park.

## LITTER

Annually remove litter.

## TRAILS

A multiuse trail runs throughout the natural area. Maintenance of the trail within the corridor should be limited to necessary measures needed for safety. Removal of

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downed or dead wood should be limited to that necessary to maintain a safe trail corridor. Downed or dead wood outside the corridor should be left in place.

**ROAD**

The park entrance road traverses the southwest corner of the natural area. The road corridor is not part of the natural area and it is managed as any other road within the park.

**FENCE**

The boundary fence with the neighbor to the east must be maintained in accordance with state law.

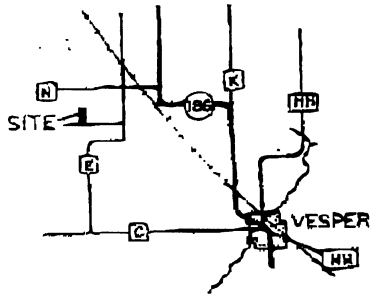
**F. Land Acquisition.**

Acquisition within the natural area boundary of 70 acres is complete.

**G. Anticipated Effects of Management Actions.**

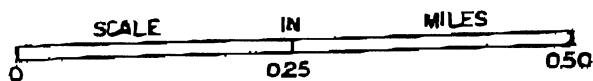
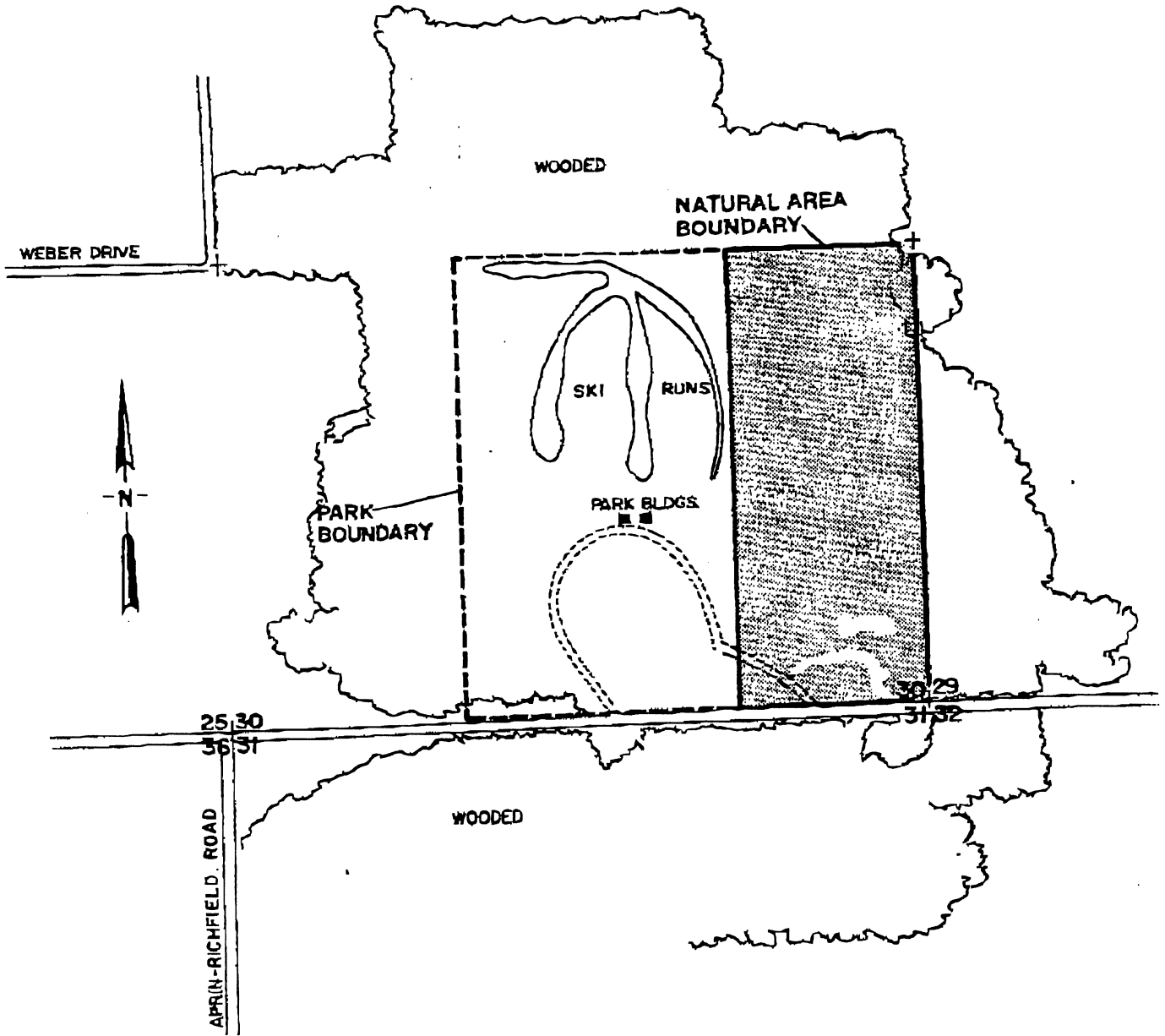
By searching for, eliminating, or reducing in abundance the problem species, providing access and interpretation for trail users and eliminating incompatible uses, the sites's integrity should be maintained. Natural community functions and rare species populations should be maintained.





# POWERS BLUFF MAPLE WOODS STATE NATURAL AREA

FIGURE 1



This Management Plan is recommended by Natural Areas Preservation Council, approved by Wood County, and by the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Approved by Wood County

*Larry Trout*

*10-17-95*

Maintenance Program Supervisor, Wood County Park & Forestry Department

Date

Approved by Bureau of Endangered Resources

*Charles W. Pils*

*10/23/95*

Director

Date

08/19/2004

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NO. 502

0003

DRAWING -

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
By and Between  
WOOD COUNTY PARK COMMITTEE  
and  
SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

The Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Wood County Park Committee, hereinafter called the "Committee", and the Scientific Areas Preservation Council, Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter called the "Council."

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Wood County is authorized to cooperate with state agencies in the preservation of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Wood County owns certain lands in Wood County known as Powers Bluff County Park, and manages said lands through its Park Committee for public park purposes; and

WHEREAS, approximately 70 acres within said park is a unique natural area containing part of a quartzite outcrop, and a relatively undisturbed southern hardwood forest; and

WHEREAS, the Council is a statutory body created for the purpose of preserving scientific areas necessary for research, teaching of conservation and natural history and for preserving valuable plant and animal species and communities and other natural features; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of both parties will be advanced by the preservation of the scientific area for scientific and educational use as well as public enjoyment by its designation as a state scientific area;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

1. The Committee will be responsible for the management of the scientific and buffer zones, as outlined on the attached map, with due

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regard for the perpetuation of all natural features, and consistent with deed restrictions as specified in the management plan. The attached management plan includes both general and specific management provisions for the scientific and buffer zones and becomes a part of this agreement.

2. The Council will assemble information on the natural resources of the area, prepare a descriptive information leaflet, provide a sign or signs describing the features of the site, list the area in its official publication of state scientific areas and credit the County for its contribution in preserving the area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorandum of understanding shall be effective and remain in effect from the date of signature given below until terminated by either party following sixty days written notice by either party and an opportunity for negotiation of a new agreement between the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of the parties hereto have affixed their signatures.

FOR WOOD COUNTY PARK COMMITTEE  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN

Emil E. Schuur  
Superintendent

FOR SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

Forest Stearns  
Chairman

April Stobert  
Secretary

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## Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program Fact Sheet

### State Natural Area Dedication

State Natural Areas are tracts of land or water harboring natural features that have escaped most, if not all, human disturbance and that represent the diversity of Wisconsin's native landscape. They contain outstanding examples of biotic communities, geological features, and archeological sites. Not surprisingly, they are often the last refuges in the state for rare and endangered species of plants and animals. State Natural Areas are devoted to scientific research, the teaching of conservation biology, and especially to the long-term protection of Wisconsin's biological diversity for future generations. Because of their sensitivity, they are not intended for intensive public use.

Most State Natural Areas are owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but several are designated on land owned by other government agencies and non-profit conservation organizations. This fact sheet describes the process used to permanently protect these vital elements of our state's natural heritage.

#### *What is dedication?*

With the passage of the Wisconsin Natural Areas Heritage Act of 1985, the state legislature gave the DNR authority to provide long-term legal protection to significant natural areas through a process called *dedication*. Dedication involves placing Articles of Dedication, a special type of conservation easement, on the title of a property. The State of Wisconsin holds this easement for the people of the state.

First, the DNR determines if the property meets the necessary criteria for permanent natural area protection. Next, the landowner and the DNR agree to the specific items in the Articles of Dedication. The articles contain legally binding provisions for the stewardship, custody, and protection of the natural values of the property and clearly define the covenants of the landowner and the rights of the state. Then, after public notification and with the governor's approval, the articles are recorded with the county register of deeds. With dedication, the landowner retains title to the property but gives up the right to conduct activities considered harmful to the natural values of the land - actions such as development, logging, and agricultural use.

#### *How permanent is the protection given by dedication?*

Articles of Dedication run with the property's title and legally protect the land in perpetuity. It is the strongest form of land protection available in Wisconsin. Dedicated land may never be taken for other uses and is protected from condemnation unless the Articles of Dedication are removed from the deed. Removing Articles of Dedication is a difficult and lengthy process. First, the DNR must issue a written finding that the withdrawal of dedicated lands serves a "superseding and imperative public purpose" and no prudent alternative exists. Then, after a public hearing, both the governor and the state legislature must approve the withdrawal. To date, no dedicated lands have been withdrawn from the State Natural Area system.

#### *What are the financial benefits of dedication?*

When Articles of Dedication are placed on a property, the owner's land rights become limited. This usually results in a decrease in the property's taxable value. Private landowners may be eligible for

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reassessment of their dedicated lands, resulting in lower property taxes. Nonprofit organizations may also be eligible for property tax benefits.

Private landowners who chose to donate Articles of Dedication on their land see their gift go twice as far under the Natural Heritage Match Grant Program. This state program matches, dollar-for-dollar, the value of donations of funds, land, and natural area dedications by private individuals and organizations. The matching funds are used by the State Natural Areas Program to buy more land. Moreover, the donation of a dedication may offer attractive tax benefits to the giver.

### ***Who has dedicated so far?***

As of January 1, 2000, the DNR, local governments, nonprofit conservation organizations, and private individuals had dedicated more than 20,000 acres of land in 86 State Natural Areas. The Wisconsin Natural Areas Program dedicates newly acquired natural area property and is dedicating as many previously established areas as possible. The Nature Conservancy feels so strongly about protecting their natural areas in perpetuity that they have donated dedications on lands totaling more than 7,000 acres in 17 of their preserves. Among the variety of other agencies and organizations that have dedicated their properties are the National Audubon Society, Madison Metropolitan School District, Wisconsin Electric Power Company, Dunn County, and Woodland Dunes Nature Center.

### ***How does natural area dedication differ from designation?***

The DNR, with the advice of the Natural Areas Preservation Council, officially *designates* a site as a State Natural Area when the landowner and the DNR enter into an agreement to manage the property as such. State Natural Area agreements come in a variety of forms including Memoranda of Understanding and Master Plans for public lands. These are basically voluntary agreements between the parties and have no legal standing. The DNR cannot designate a State Natural Area on private property, except for land owned by non-profit organizations, unless the DNR holds a conservation easement on the land.

Designated State Natural Areas that are not dedicated do not have the same protection as those that are. For instance, a designation agreement may be canceled by either party, usually with a short notice period of 60 days; Articles of Dedication can be removed from the property title only with the approval of the governor and the legislature as described above. Designated State Natural Areas are subject to condemnation; dedicated sites are not. State Natural Areas that are not dedicated are not protected in perpetuity, nor is there any recourse for the citizens of Wisconsin to take if the landowner of a significant natural area decided to cancel the agreement.

### ***What laws govern dedication?***

Wisconsin State Statutes §23.27 and 23.29 describe the dedication program.

For more information on the State Natural Areas Program, contact:  
State Natural Areas Program  
Bureau of Endangered Resources  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

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