

Dane County Parks-Wisconsin DNR

Waucheeta Trail Connector Path Updates

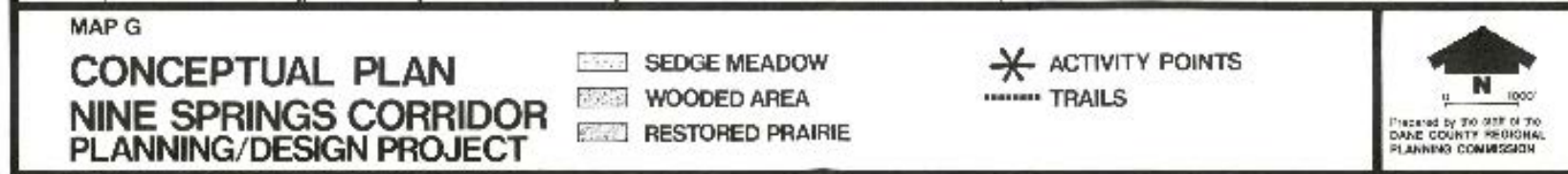
- ▶ History of Capital Springs Centennial State Park & Recreation Area
- ▶ Overview Capital Springs Recreation Area (CSRA) Master Plan
- ▶ Review of Lake Farm Region Bicycling Conditions
- ▶ Overview of Proposed Waucheeta Connector Trail
- ▶ Follow Up on Previously Heard Neighborhood Concerns & Questions
- ▶ Questions/Comments

History of Capital Springs Centennial State Park & Recreation Area




Where Did It Come From?

- ▶ Phil Lewis, UW Madison Professor of Landscape Architecture began planning for protection of environmental corridors in 1971 with financial support from the National Endowment for the Arts
- ▶ Professor Lewis identified a linear corridor of water, wetlands and steep topography from Lake Waubesa to the Nevin Fish Hatchery that would become known as the Nine Springs E-Way.
- ▶ The Dane County Park Commission has been working with many partners (including the Town & DNR) ever since to implement the vision of the Nine Springs E-way Plan.

Learn More At: <https://parks-lwrp.countyofdane.com/park/LewisNineSprings>



**CONCEPTUAL PLAN
NINE SPRINGS CORRIDOR
PLANNING/DESIGN PROJECT**

-  SEDGE MEADOW
 WOODED AREA
 RESTORED PRAIRIE

 ACTIVITY POINTS
 TRAILS



Prepared by THE OFFICE OF THE
DAKE COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION

History of Capital Springs Centennial State Park & Recreation Area

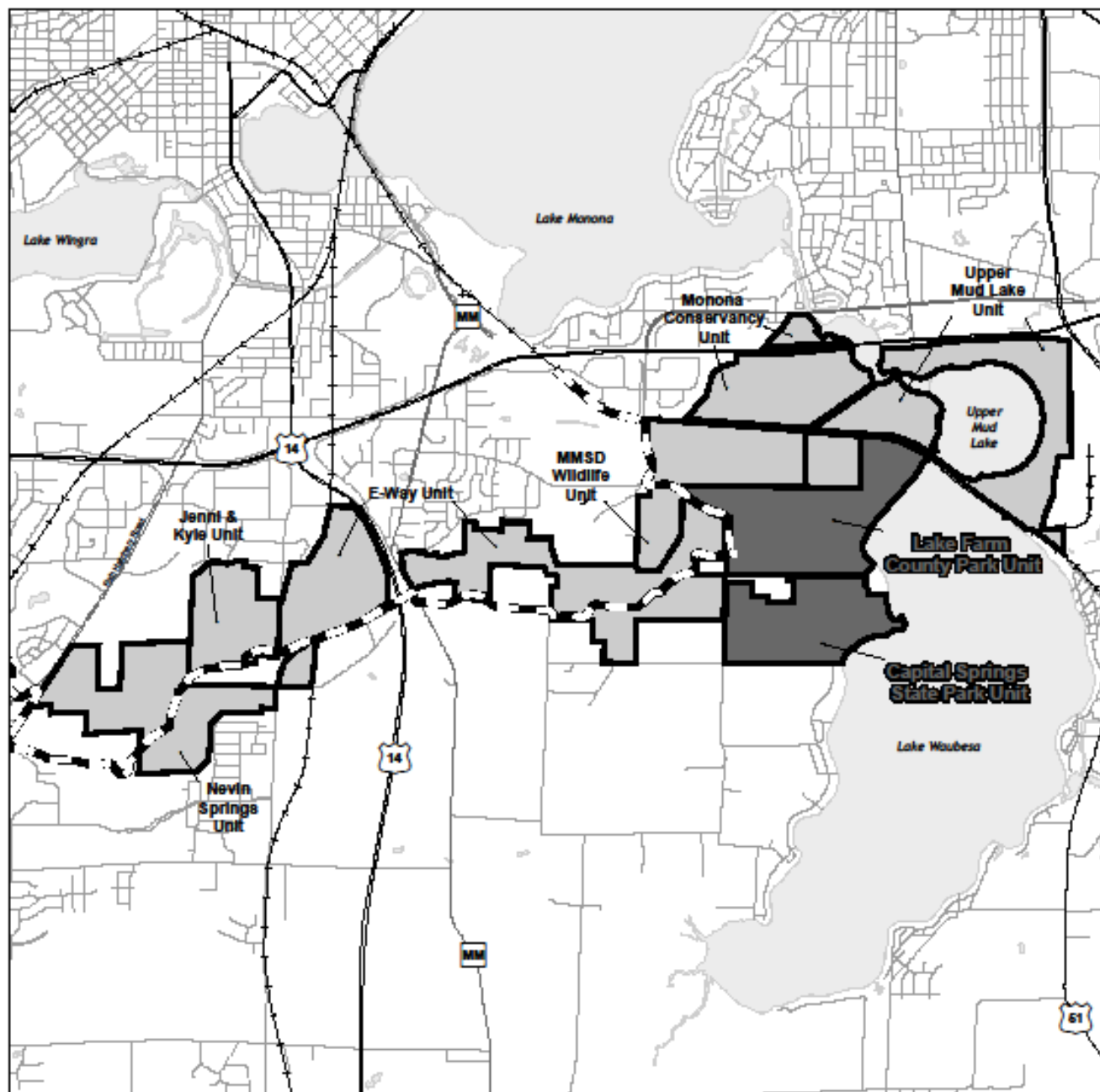
Where Did It Come From?

- ▶ The property (former Libby Farm site) was originally targeted for a municipal landfill in the early 1980's. Citizen and Dane County Board District Supervisors efforts successfully stopped this proposal in 1982.
- ▶ A second effort to site a landfill on the property occurred in the mid 1980s.
- ▶ The Town of Dunn, Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, Lake Waubesa Conservation Association and Dane County partnered on a legal battle against the private landfill, and eventually prevailed in 1994.

History of Capital Springs Centennial State Park & Recreation Area

Where Did It Come From?

- ▶ In 2000 Dane County was successful in their proposal to the Wisconsin DNR to create a new Centennial State Park on the former Libby Farm site and adjacent acreage owned by Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.
- ▶ Governor Tommy Thompson established Capital Springs Centennial State Park as one of two new parks in the Wisconsin DNR State Park System.
- ▶ Capital Springs Centennial State Park is approximately 326 acres and located immediately south of William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park. The entire Capital Springs Recreation Area project boundary is approximately 2500 acres!



Map 2.15 **Lake Farm County** **Park & Capital Springs** **State Park Units**

Capital Springs State
 Recreation Area

LEGEND

- Lake Farm County Park & Capital Springs State Park Units
- Capital Springs State Recreation Area (All Other Units)
- Major Lake
- Capital City Trail
- Roads
- Railroad



0 0.5 1 Miles

Map revised April 14, 2010.

Data Source:
 Park boundary data from Dane County
 Parks, 2005



History of Capital Springs Centennial State Park & Recreation Area

Where Did It Come From?

- ▶ In 2002 Dane County Parks and the Wisconsin DNR began working on a master plan for Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area.
- ▶ The master plan included Regional Analysis that provided a comprehensive analysis of existing natural and cultural features found throughout the project area.

Learn More At:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/documents/FEAS-CapSpringsPR-2003.pdf>

- ▶ The planning process lasted more than 8 years and included input from local units of government (including the Town), stakeholder groups, citizens and neighboring residents.

Capital Springs State Recreation Area Master Plan Chronology of Public Involvement Activities

July, 2002

Intergovernmental Partner Meeting

September, 2002

Capital Springs Neighbor Meeting at the Lussier Family Heritage Center

March, 2003

Intergovernmental Partner Vision and Goals Drafting Meeting

May, 2003

Public Design Workshop at the Lussier Family Heritage Center

August, 2003

Intergovernmental Partner Meeting

August, 2003

Draft Alternatives Public Input Meeting

July, 2009

Draft Plan Review Friends of Capital Springs State Park Meeting

Capital Springs State Recreation Area Master Plan Chronology of Public Involvement Activities

July, 2009

Draft Plan Review Intergovernmental Partner Meeting

July, 2009

Draft Plan Review Public Meeting at the Lussier Family Heritage Center

2003-2010

Dane County Park Commission Meetings

May, 2010

Dane County Board Meeting Plan Approval

October, 2010

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board Meeting Plan Approval

Learn More At:

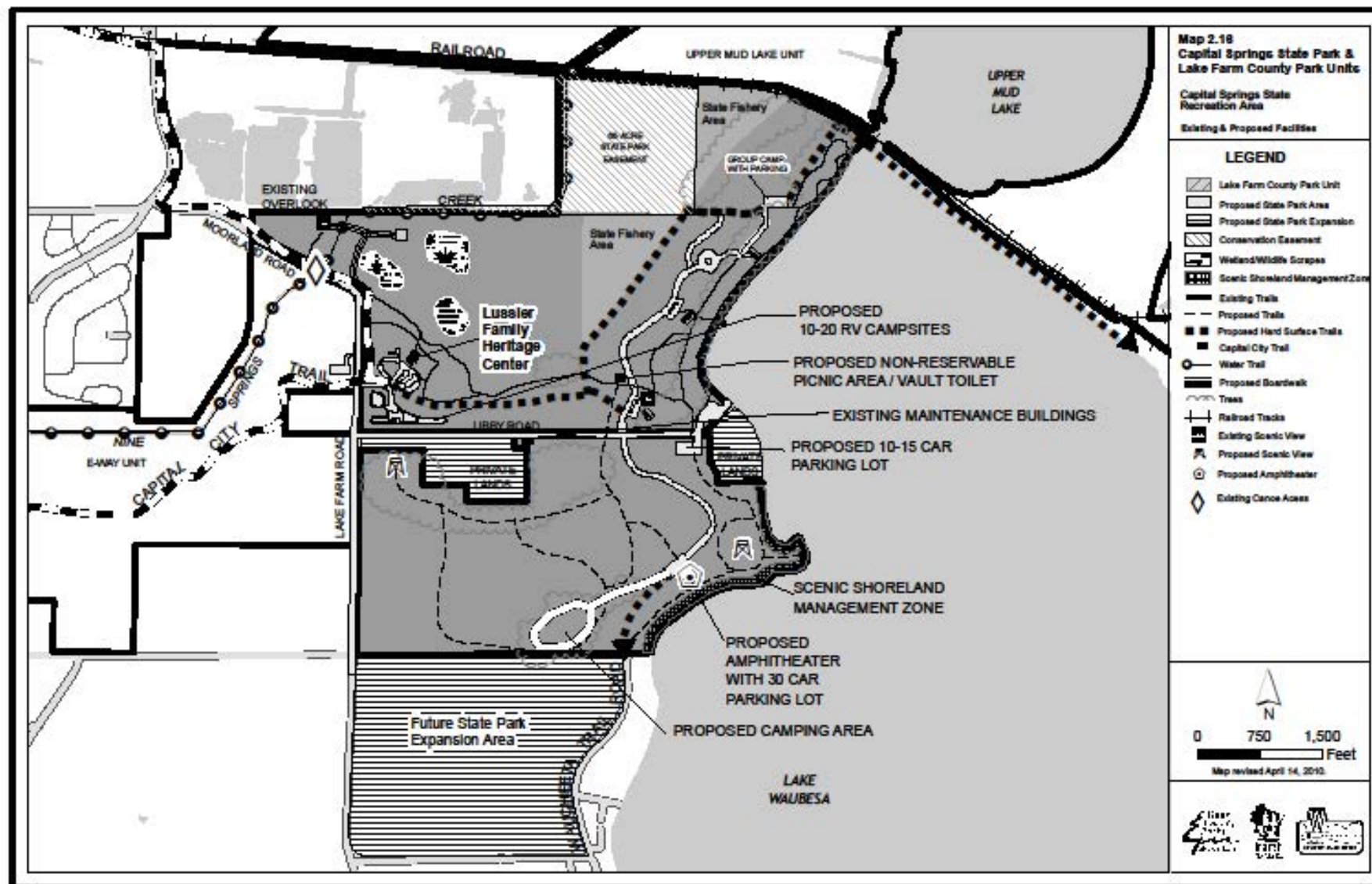
<https://parks-lwr.dane.countyofdane.com/documents/PDFs/plans/CapitalSprings-MasterPlan.pdf>

Chapter 6-Summary of Public Involvement

History of Capital Springs Centennial State Park & Recreation Area

Where Did It Come From?

- ▶ Support was heard from the Town and neighborhood residents throughout the planning process for a trail connection from Waucheeta Trail to the new State Park and Madison trail network.
- ▶ Other recommendations for the State Park in the master plan include an observation tower, rustic campground and amphitheater.



Review of Lake Farm Region Bicycling Conditions

- Frequent Requests from the Town and Area Residents to Look at Widening Lake Farm Road and/or Add A Side Path

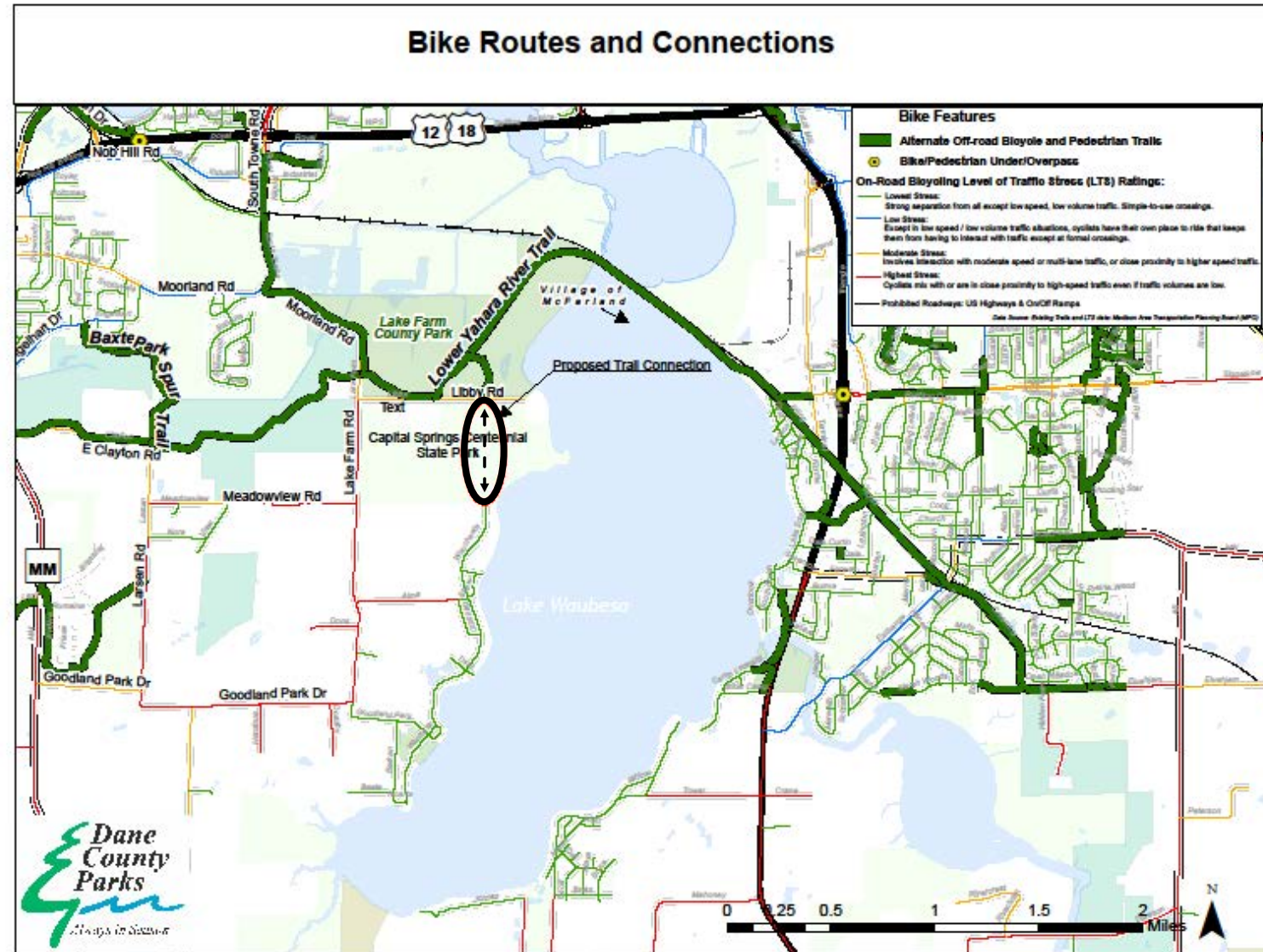
Constraints:

- Narrow Right of Way
- Relocate Existing Utilities
- Conservation Easements
- Town of Dunn, Town of Blooming Grove, City of Madison
- May Require Eminent Domain (if possible) to Acquire Necessary Lands
- Towns & City Would Be Responsible for Cost
- Multiple Locations have Extremely Limited Sight Distances and High Traffic Speeds
- Impacts to Mature Trees, Glacial Features, Possible Archaeological Features



Review of Lake Farm Region Bicycling Conditions

Learn More At: <https://www.gretermadisonmpo.org/planning/BikePlan.cfm>



Overview of Proposed Waucheeta Connector Trail

- Phase 1 Includes Approximate 200' Boardwalk from North End of Waucheeta Trail to Upland Cleared Trail in State Park on Lakeshore

Dane County Parks Project Within Wisconsin DNR State Park

- Dane County partners on planning and developing projects in the State Park that are identified in the adopted master plan through an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DNR and Dane County Parks
- Archaeological and environmental review was completed during the master planning process to decide the location of this trail corridor, and all other facilities.
- Additional archaeological and environmental review must be approved by DNR prior to any facility development in the State Park.
- Dane County Parks must follow local and State permitting requirements for ALL park and trail development projects.



Capital Spring State Recreation Area Cultural Resources Map

0 400 800 1,600
Feet



1:10,000



Purpose of Proposed Waucheeta Connector Trail

Waucheeta

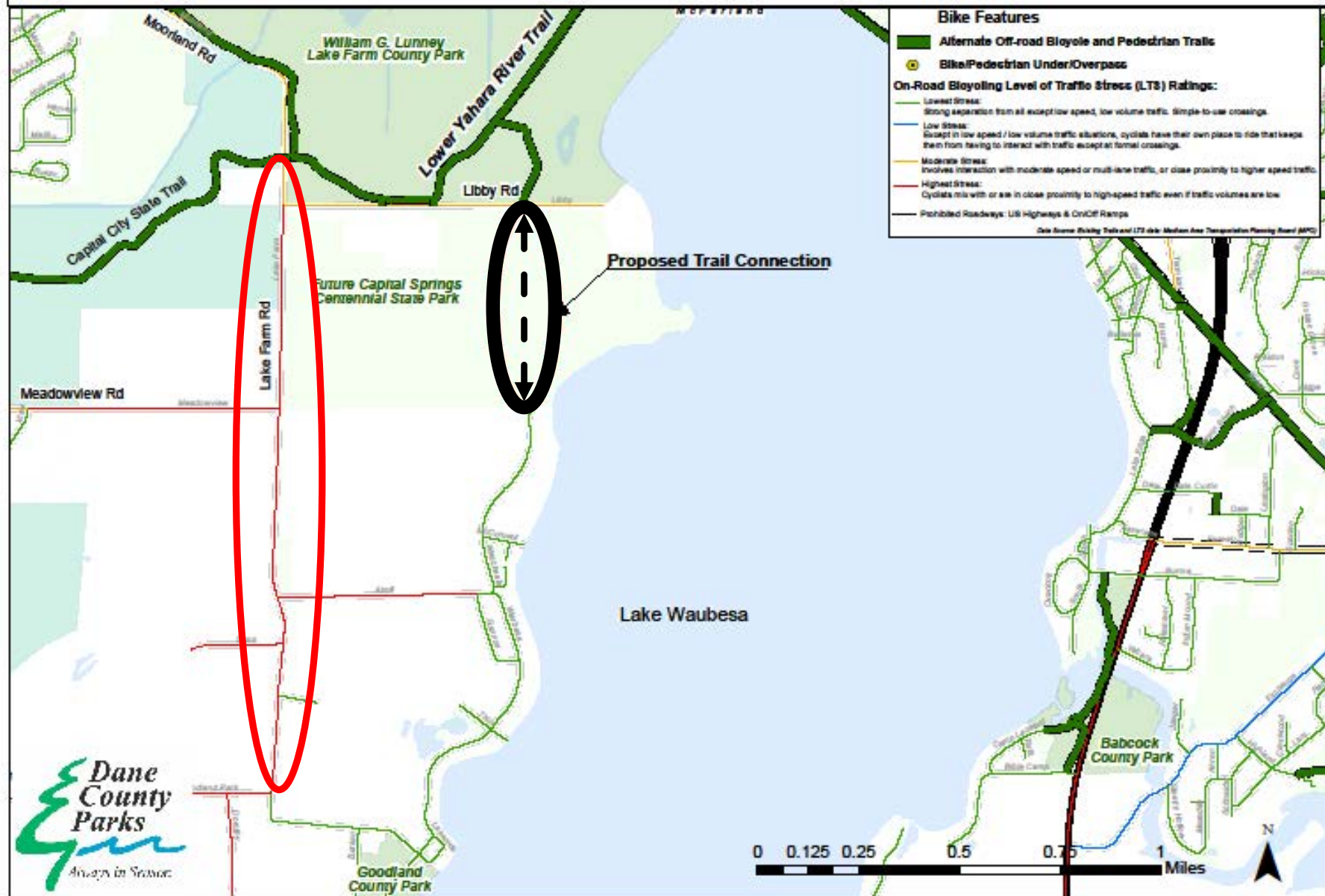
-Provide bicyclists a safer alternative than on road riding on Lake Farm Road between the Lower Yahara River Trail crossing and Goodland Park Road.

-Provide bicyclists “on route” access to restrooms and water at Goodland Park and William G. Lunney Lake Farm Park

-Provide bicycle/pedestrian access from William G. Lunney Lake Farm Park/Capital Springs Centennial State Park to Goodland Park. (Beach)

-Provide Waubesa Beach Neighborhood residents bicycle/pedestrian access to the Lower Yahara River Trail, Capital City Trail, Capital Springs Centennial State Park, William G. Lunney Lake Farm Park.

Bike Routes and Connections





Overview of Proposed Waucheeta Connector Trail Project Timeline*

Winter/Spring 2022-Complete Construction Documents for Boardwalk

Spring/Summer 2022-Apply for Grants/Consider Budget Request for Trail Development

Fall 2022-Complete Permits/Bid Boardwalk if Funding for Trail is Secured

Winter 2022-23-Complete Boardwalk (Paved Trail*) Construction if Funding is Secured

*If funding becomes available, Dane County Parks will continue working with the DNR on development of a paved trail from the boardwalk through the State Park to Libby Road/William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park

Follow Up On Previously Heard Neighborhood Concerns and Questions

- Safety Concerns From Neighborhood Residents Associated With On Street Parking, Narrow Road Widths in Waubesa Beach Neighborhood.

Response: Town of Dunn asked Dane County to provide an update on traffic analysis for the WBN road network. Dane County Parks contacted transportation planning staff from the Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Toole Design Group (Nationwide Private Transportation Planning Consulting Firm).

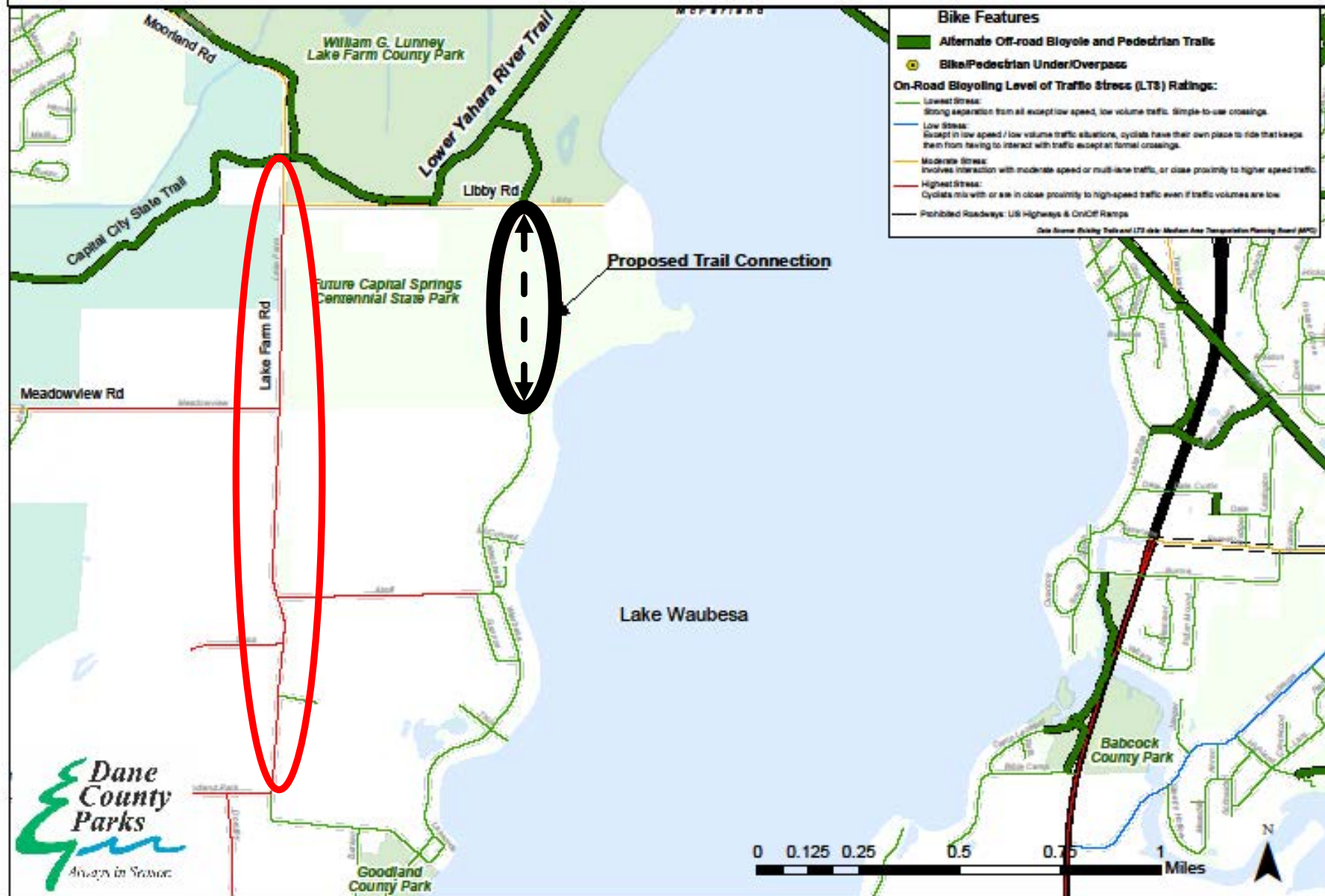
-Waucheeta Trail/Waubesa Ave. both have Average Daily Trips (ADT) of less than 1500 cars, and 25mph speed limits and are rated "Lowest" Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) for on road bicycle traffic.

-ADT could be doubled and Waucheeta Trail/Waubesa Ave. would still be considered "Low" LTS.

-ADT data is from 2018, there has been one new address created in the WBN area since that time; the size of the neighborhood or automobile trip generating destinations has not changed.

-Consider installation of signage in neighborhood to alert motorists of the potential of encountering on road bicyclists.

Bike Routes and Connections



Follow Up On Previously Heard Neighborhood Concerns and Question

- Concerns Related to Crime Increase in the Neighborhood Associated with the Trail.

Response: Contacted Village of McFarland Police Department, spoke to the officer who patrols neighborhood located adjacent to McDaniel Park & east end of the Lower Yahara River Trail.

- No increase in neighborhood crime that he would attribute to trail users.*
- Majority of trail users are travelling through or stopping at park, local food/drink businesses.*
- Most frequent complaint is on-leash dogs on the boardwalk.*

Presentation Take Aways

- ▶ The proposed Waucheeta Connector Trail is a recommendation of the County/State adopted Capital Springs Recreation Area Master Plan.
- ▶ The Master Plan included nearly eight years of public input.
- ▶ Dane County Parks will develop, operate and maintain the proposed Waucheeta Connector Trail through the State Park. The Town will continue to operate and maintain Waubesa Beach Neighborhood roads.
- ▶ Waubesa Beach Neighborhood roads are suitable for on road bicycle traffic based on extremely low average daily traffic counts and low speed limits.
- ▶ Village of McFarland Police do not report any increase in crime in McDaniel Park or adjacent neighborhood associated with development of the Lower Yahara River Trail.
- ▶ The Town will again review the proposed trail connection at an upcoming meeting, check the Town website for more details.

Thank You!

Questions/Comments

For more information contact:

Chris James

Dane County Parks

james@countyofdane.com

608-235-2252

This presentation will be posted on the Dane County Parks website at:

<https://parks-lwrp.countyofdane.com/recreation/Biking>