

FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 2023 Project # 2023-WB-06; CO-WP-314

<u>Region</u> 5	<u>Project Title</u> Balfour Lake Parking Area Improvements
--------------------	--

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Management Unit</u>
Expansion of Existing Structure/Improvement	Minerva	Essex	Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest

Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

The Balfour Lake Parking Area was rehabilitated in 2015. It was regraded, resurfaced, and boulders were placed around it to prevent illegal motor vehicle use in the adjacent field and wetlands. This work was successful, but the short steep driveway on the north of the lot coupled with the narrow space for parking proved to be difficult for maneuvering. There is an old driveway that was closed decades ago to the south of the lot. Re-opening this driveway by excavating, grading, and resurfacing would allow for a full pull through parking lot. The slope here is more gradual than the northern entrance which will improve ingress and egress especially during winter months. The route will be lined with boulders to delineate the driveway. Additionally, the main parking lot will be expanded approximately 10 feet towards the lake (west). This extra room will allow for easier maneuvering and parking within the lot.

A properly designed and managed parking area will maintain its firm and stable surface with minimal maintenance and allow unencumbered parking for the designed number of vehicles. This not only maximizes environmental protection, but also user safety, function, and enjoyment. Like roads and other facilities, parking areas can add to a positive user experience if it blends well with the natural area. This is intended to be apparent through design, construction, and blending of the facility.

Description of Project Specifications

The parking lot expansion is approximately 10 feet by 70 feet. This expands the western side of the lot further west by an additional 10 feet. The existing boundary boulders along this western edge will be removed and saved for later use. 70 linear feet of 10-foot-wide geotextile highway fabric will be installed on the existing grade. 35 tons of fill for a base will be installed and compacted on top of the geotextile fabric, then 15 tons of item 4 (2-inch minus) for a mid-layer will be spread and compacted. Next, 15 tons of 3/8-inch minus shoulder stone will be spread and blended into the existing parking area and compacted for a firm and stable topcoat. The boundary boulders will be reinstalled along the new western edge of the parking area to help delineate the parking limits. Accessible parking and unloading signs will need to be installed. These will be on two 4 by 4 posts, which the contractor will install. The Department will provide the posts and signs and the contractor will install.

The driveway is an L shape with the two sections being 12 feet wide by 75 feet long and 15 feet wide by 40 feet long. Two trees, a 6 inch and a 17-inch white pine will need to be cut for this full corridor. The organic layer of soil on top of the route will be excavated. Spoils will be kept on site and used to support the toe of the slope along the downslope side of the driveway and parking area. Any exposed organic soil that is reused on site will be seeded and strawed to control erosion. DEC will provide the native seed mix and the straw, and the contractor will spread it and ensure the site is firm and stable. Geotextile fabric totaling approximately 3,000 square feet will be laid down, 60 tons of fill for a base will be laid and compacted over the fabric, then 30 tons of Item 4 (2-inch minus) for a mid-layer and 30 tons of 3/8-inch minus shoulder stone for a topcoat. Each layer of material will be compacted as it is laid down, which will generally be every 6 inches. The driveway will then be delineated on the downslope side by 15 three-foot diameter boulders, each being approximately six feet apart.

All limits of work will be painted on the ground by a Department representative so the contractor knows exactly where work will be done.

Balfour Lake Parking Area



Description of Measures Taken to Avoid, Mitigate and Minimize Impacts to Natural Resources

There are 22 trees under 3 inches diameter measured at breast height (DBH) and 6 trees 3 inches DBH and above to be removed. The branches and small logs will be chipped and dispersed on-site. Larger logs will be chipped or placed in the wood line.

State Land Tree Tally															
Project: Balfour Lake Parking Area Improvements															
State Land Unit: Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest															
County: Essex								Town: Minerva							
Date Tallied: 3/13/23															
Tallied By: Robert Ripp															
Species	Diameter (inches)														Total
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	
pine, white		2		1		1	1		1						6
Other (not species specific)	22														22
Total	22	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	28

Earthwork: The organic layer of soil within the expansion area will be removed and replaced with geotextile fabric and crushed stone. Proper drainage and sloping will be incorporated throughout the parking area and driveway to ensure water is shed quickly to maintain a firm and stable surface. The improvements will total approximately 2,200 square feet which is 0.05 acres.

Care to blend the facilities into their surroundings will be taken. The parking expansion and reestablishment of the old driveway are intended to be improved in a way that utilizes preexisting features and merges the state highway with the water access site in a way that blends the facility into the environment. The existing parking area borders the highway shoulder, but the reopened driveway will be screened from the highway by vegetation except at its entrance point.

There are no rare, threatened, or endangered species identified in the immediate area, nor are there any wetlands or streams impacted by this.

All the variables mentioned above were weighed and balanced to minimize the overall short-term and long-term impacts to the site. This minimization and balance will result in a sustainable facility that protects the natural resource while providing the public with a safer, more accessible facility.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

The existing short, steep driveway is hazardous and difficult to navigate both entering and exiting the highway. The narrow parking area is also difficult to maneuver, making parking a challenge. There are nearby property boundaries and wetlands, so areas of opportunity for expansion are very limited.

Expanding the parking area to the west and rehabbing the old existing driveway avoids all wetland and boundary concerns. Other than the “No Action” alternative there truly is not another alternative. The proposed work improves accessibility of the parking area, safe access to and from the highway, and does not impact the nearby wetlands. It also does this without increasing parking capacity, therefore not changing the existing public recreational use on Balfour Lake. These improvements are the only viable options for increased ease of access and safety.

Description of Use of Motorized Equipment and/or Motor Vehicles (if any)

Motor vehicles will be used in all phases of these improvements. Dump trucks will haul materials and an excavator and loader will perform the surface development. Chainsaws will be used to clear the vegetation.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

The entire project is designed to better facilitate access between the parking area, existing accessible path, and water access site for people with all abilities. The parking area will remain in compliance with current accessible standards.

Other Relevant Considerations

Prepared by (Name & Title): Robert Ripp
Phone: (518) 897-1305

Date: 3/14/2023

REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS

PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	SPDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Ripp	Approved in 2016 VMWF UMP Amendment
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Ripp	Approval part of this work plan
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	EAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Commissioner (aircraft, motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Corps. of Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Highway Enter DOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Ripp	Permit #202301106539
Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			