

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Kent Skaar MNDNR Parks & Trails Published: June 18, 2025 Expires: July 3, 2025

St. Paul District
Permit Application No. MVP-2019-03037-PJH

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Kent Skaar

MNDNR Parks & Trails 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

AGENT: Ben Hodapp

Anderson Engineering of Minnesota, LLC 13605 1st Avenue North, Suite 100

Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect unnamed wetlands that are waters of the United States. The project/review area is located in Section 1, Township 39 North, Range 32 West, and Sections 25 & 36, Township 40 North, Range 32 West, Morrison County, Minnesota. The approximate center coordinates are Latitude 45.911843 and Longitude -94.273797.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The proposed project would widen portions of the existing Camp Ripley Veterans State ATV Trail (Inca Road Segment). The original trail construction was permitted by the Corps on March 22, 2022 (MVP-2019-03037-EJI) and authorized the permanent discharge of fill material into approximately 2.97 acres of wetlands. During the project construction in the summer of 2023, the applicant (MNDNR) noticed a series of additional wetland fill impacts. It was determined that the original plans had been deviated from, which resulted in the additional discharge of permanent fill material into approximately 0.10 acres of wetlands.

The unnamed wetlands are directly adjacent to the existing ATV trail and they appear to collect surface runoff from the trail, nearby Inca Road, and surrounding agricultural fields. The wetlands appear to have a continuous surface connection to the Platte River. Surrounding land use is comprised of rural agricultural fields and scattered residential properties. The Rice-Skunk Wildlife Management Area and Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge are located adjacent to the project area.

Affected vegetation would consist of reed canary grass, cattail, sandbar willow, pussy willow, sensitive fern, lake sedge, hummock sedge, stinging nettle, rough horsetail, woolgrass, and prairie cordgrass.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to ensure safety for automobile and all-terrain vehicle traffic along Inca Road and the Camp Ripley Veterans State ATV Trail. Widening the existing trail would allow for the safe passing and two-way traffic of ATVs. In addition, the trail edges would be sloped to avoid potential damage/injury to riders in the event of an accident.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is proposing to widen an existing ATV trail to address safety concerns. The applicant is requesting after-the-fact (ATF) authorization for the discharge of permanent fill material into approximately 0.10 acres of wetlands caused during construction activities in 2023. Additionally, the applicant is seeking authorization to discharge permanent fill material into approximately 0.05 acres of wetlands. The regulated activities associated with this project include the permanent discharge of fill material into approximately 0.15 acres of wetlands to widen an existing ATV trail and address safety concerns.

QUANTITY, TYPE, AND AREA OF FILL: In the summer of 2023, approximately 0.10 acres of permanent fill material was discharged into unnamed wetlands adjacent to Inca Road. Approximately 0.05 acres of permanent fill material would be discharged into unnamed wetlands adjacent to the existing Camp Ripley Veterans State ATV Trail. The fill material would consist of 1.5" rock sub-base course and Class 5 aggregate materials.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: The fill material would be sourced from a local commercial business.

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: The Camp Ripley Veterans State ATV Trail is a 3.7-mile-long aggregate trail that connects to the existing Soo Line Trail. Within wetland areas, the trail consists of geotextile fabric (Type 5) on top of the subgrade, followed by 12" of 1.5" rock sub-base course. The surface of the trail consists of 6"-12" of Class 5 aggregate materials. The depth of Class 5 material varies depending on the section of trail.

DESCRIPTION OF DREDGING OR EXCAVATION: No dredging or excavation is proposed for this project.

THE FOLLOWING POTENTIALLY TOXIC MATERIALS COULD BE USED AT THE PROJECT SITE: The applicant has not proposed to use toxic materials at the project site.

THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE APPLICANT: The applicant would be required to receive an individual 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC). Best Management Practices (BMPs)

would be utilized during the project construction to protect water quality and prevent adverse environmental effects.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: Prior to the original trail construction, the applicant attempted to acquire land, but no landowners within a reasonable path were willing to sell. Constructing bridges over wetland areas was considered but deemed not practicable/feasible due to substantial operational and maintenance costs. Minimization efforts such as reduced ditch widths, crossing aquatic resources at the narrowest practicable points, and designing the trail to the minimum necessary width have been applied to this project.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant is proposing to purchase credits from a Corps approved wetland bank to off-set unavoidable wetland losses.

The compensatory mitigation requirements for the 2022 wetland impacts (2.97 acres) have been satisfied. The applicant purchased 7.42 wetland credits from wetland bank account #1028.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and other interested parties.

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur within the boundary of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project will not affect any listed species or critical habitat.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

NAVIGATION: The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

SECTION 408: The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Valid Section 404 permits cannot be issued for any activity unless water quality certification for the activity is granted or waived pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The Section 401 authority for this project is the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A Department of the Army permit will not be granted until the MPCA has issued or waived Section 401 WQC certification and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) neighboring jurisdiction process is completed. Corps Section 404 Clean Water Act decisions may not be finalized until after the USEPA completes this process.

The MPCA has indicated that this public notice serves as its public notice of the application for Section 401 water quality certification under Minnesota Rules Part 7001 Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1341 (a)(1)). The MPCA has indicated that if, at a later date, it makes a preliminary anti-degradation determination regarding Section 401 Water Quality Certification, it will at that time plan to issue an additional public notice under Minnesota Rules Part 7001.

Any comments relative to MPCA's Section 401 Certification for the activity proposed in this public notice may be sent to:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Resource Management and Assistance Division Attention: 401 Certification 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 401Certification.PCA@state.mn.us

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated

by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The St. Paul District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until July 3, 2025. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs or by email to Peyton.J.Hamm@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

If electronic submittal is not available, you may submit comments in writing to:

Duluth Regulatory Field Office St. Paul District Corps of Engineers 11 East Superior Street, Suite 260 Duluth, MN 55802

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, contact Peyton Hamm of the Duluth Regulatory Field Office at (651) 391-3226.

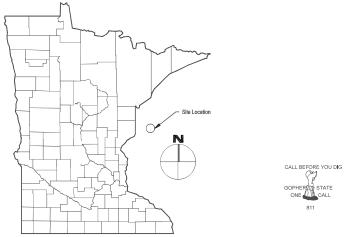
To receive Public Notice notifications, go to: https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Contact/RSS/ and subscribe to the RSS Feed for which you would like to receive Public Notices.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

Enclosures: Project Figures

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - PARKS AND TRAILS DIVISION

CAMP RIPLEY VETERANS STATE TRAIL **INCA ROAD MOTORIZED TRAIL**



EXISTING LITH ITY INFORMATION SHOWN ON THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE LITH ITY OWNER THE CONTRACTOR SHALL FIELD VERIFY EXACT LOCATIONS PRIOR TO COMMENCING CONSTRUCTION AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW. NOTIFY GOPHER STATE ONE-CALL 1-800-252-1166 OR 651-454-0002

THE SUBSURFACE UTILITY INFORMATION IN THIS PLAN IS UTILITY QUALITY LEVEL D. THIS UTILITY QUALITY LEVEL WAS DETERMINED ACCORDING TO THE GUIDELINES OF CI/ASCE 38-02, ENTITLED "STANDARD GUIDELINES FOR THE COLLECTION AND DEPICTION OF EXISTING SUBSURFACE UTILITY

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS IN PROJECT MANUAL, DIVISION 1, (01 30 00) INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION IN COMPLETING THE WORK

ALL NECESSARY EASEMENTS. PERMITS AND RIGHTS OF WAY FOR THE PROJECT SHALL BE SECURED BY THE OWNER OR SPONSOR BEFORE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS COMMENCED UNLESS OTHERWISE

VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AND LOCATIONS ON THE JOB, REPORT ALL DISCREPANCIES TO OPERATIONS SERVICES DIVISION.

NO TREE CLEARING IS ALLOWED BETWEEN APRIL 1ST AND AUGUST 15TH.

NOTE WORK IN WATER EXCLUSION DATES OUTLINED IN PUBLIC WATERS WORK PERMIT.

PREBID SITE EXAMINATION SHALL BE COORDINATED WITH PARKS AND TRAILS DIVISION STAFF, ANY MOTORIZED VEHICLE ALLOWED ON THE TRAIL SHALL BEAR THE COMPANY'S IDENTIFICATION ON THE SIDES OF THE VEHICLE. VEHICLES MUST UTILIZE FLASHERS, TRAVEL UNDER 20 MPH, AND YIELD THE RIGHT OF WAY (BY PULLING TO THE SIDE OF THE TRAIL AND STOPPING) TO ALL TRAIL USERS

DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS

Operations Services Division Approval

Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail ATV Motorized Trail Parks and Trails Division

Section: 35&1 Township: 40&39 Range: 32

Revisions Title Sheet JME 1/2023 ##### Checked:

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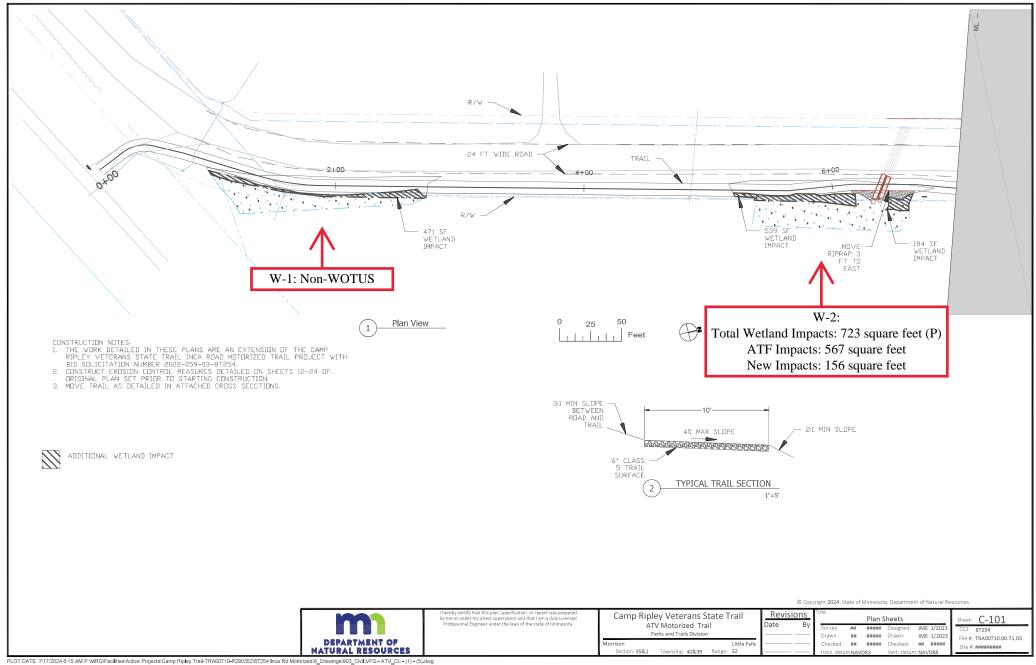
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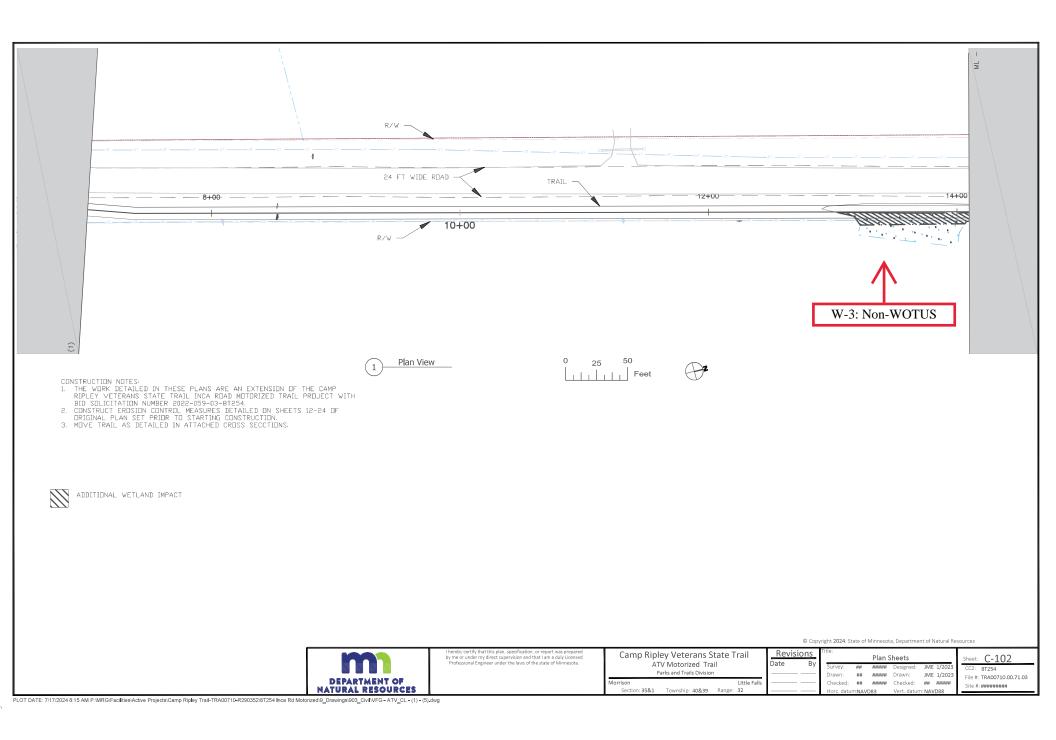
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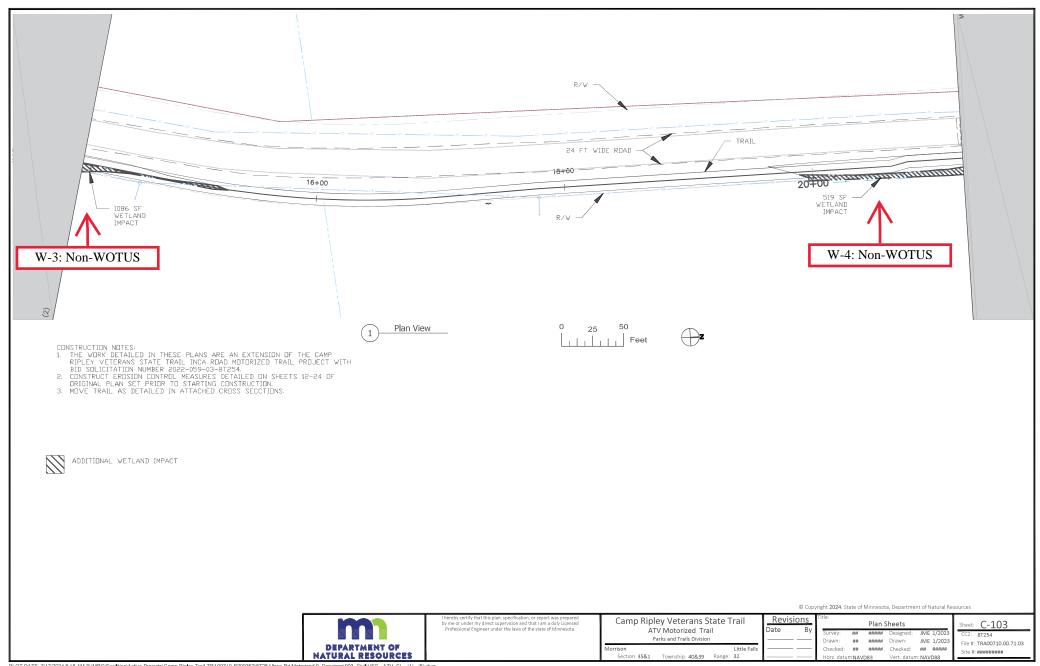
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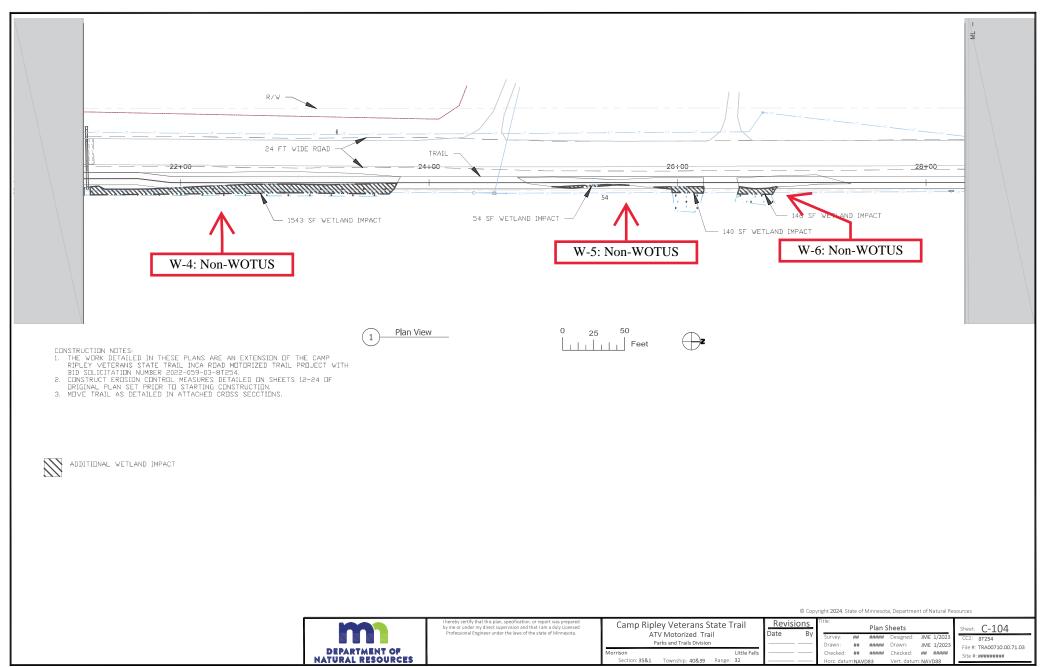
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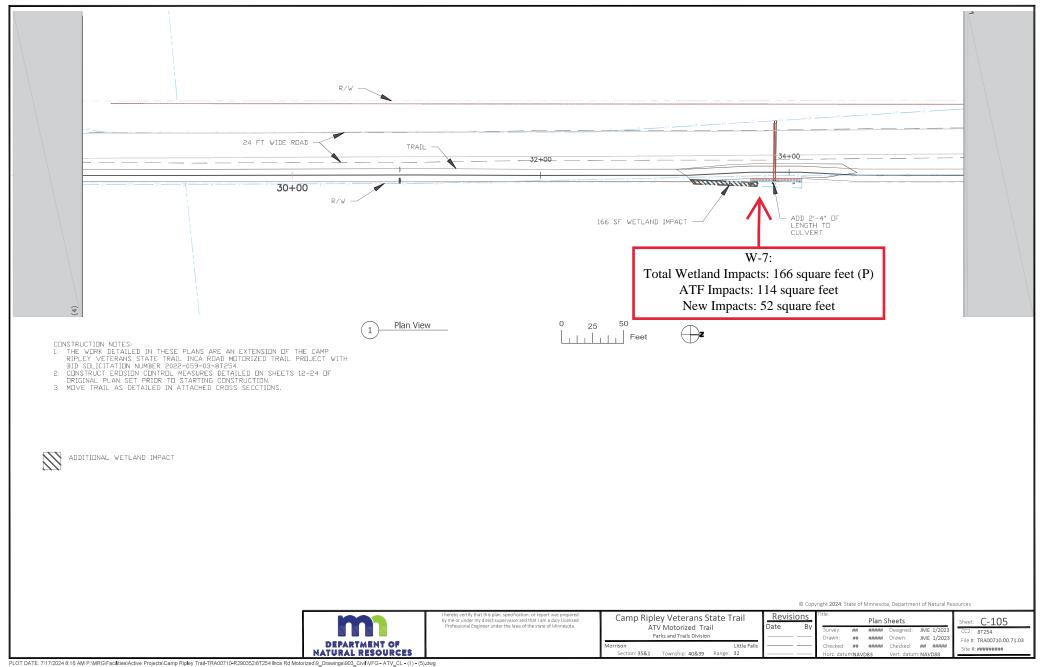
Division Approval

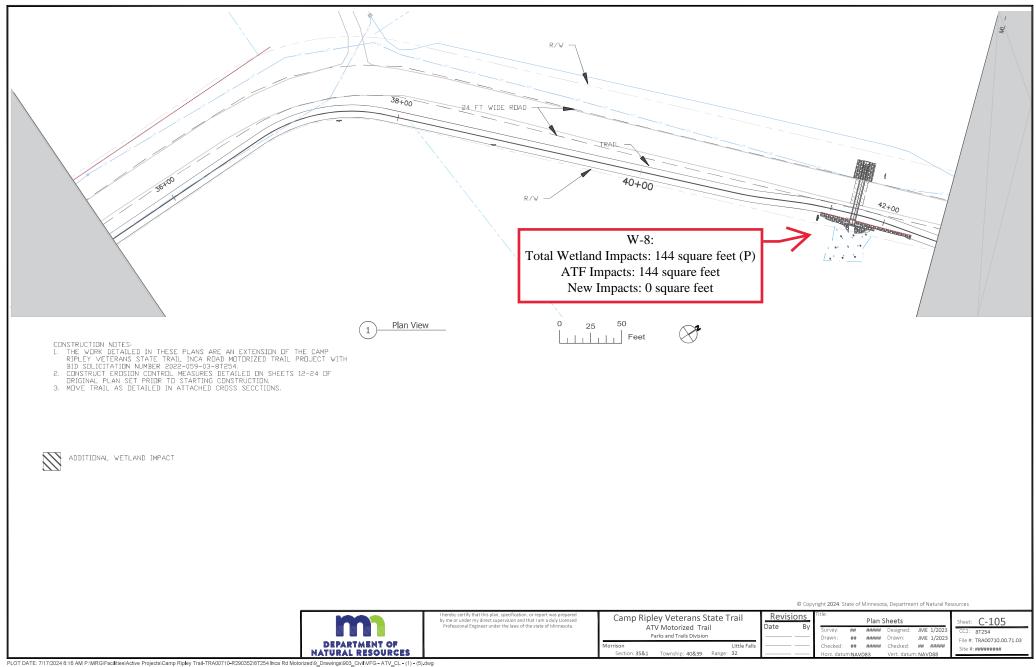


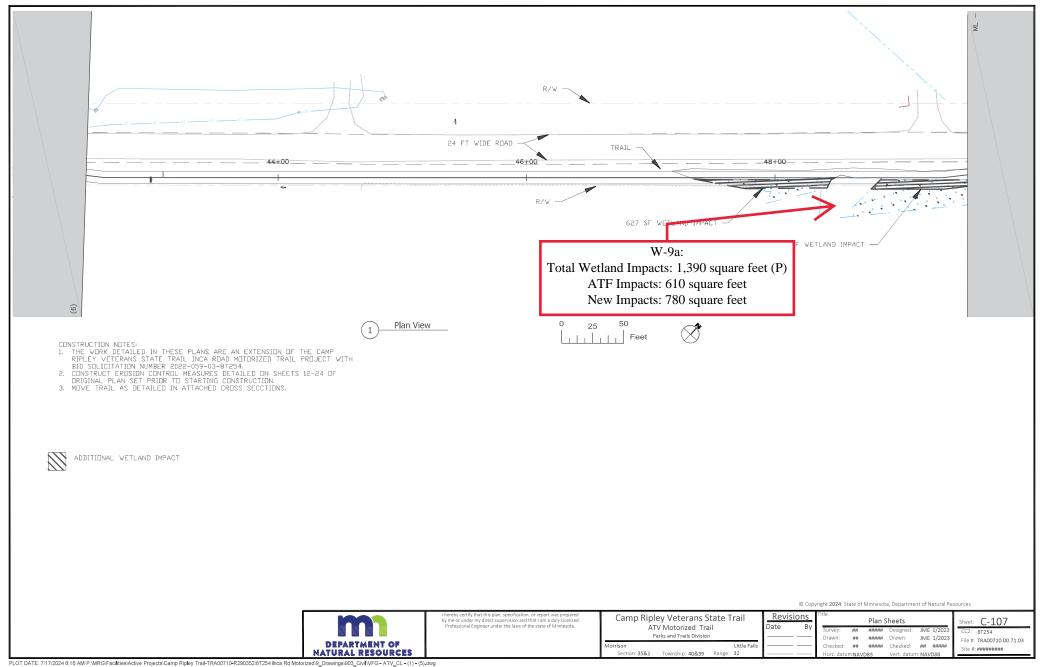


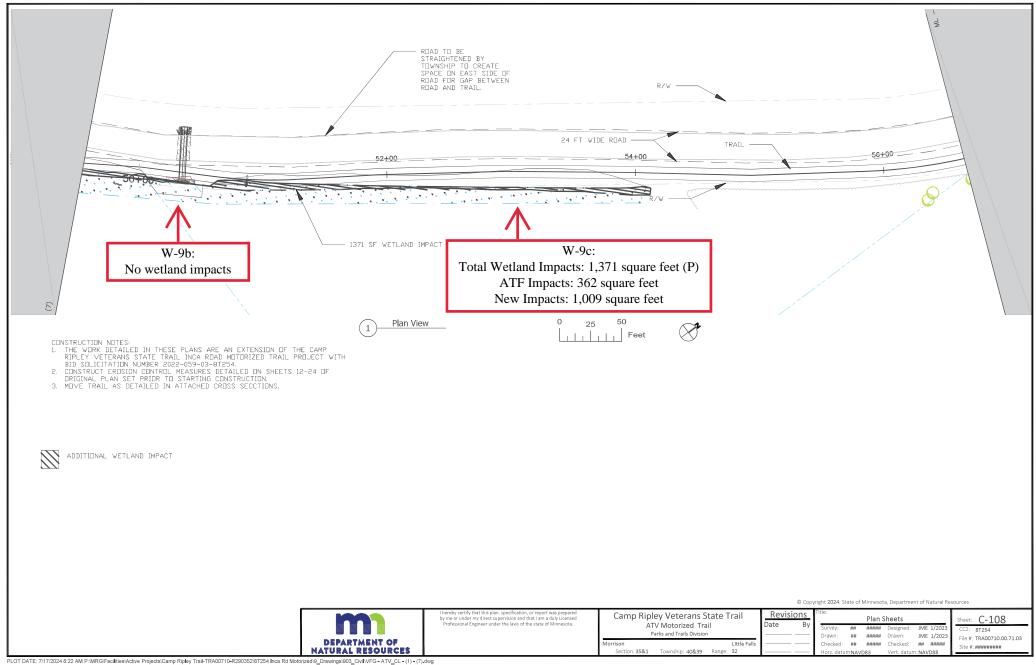


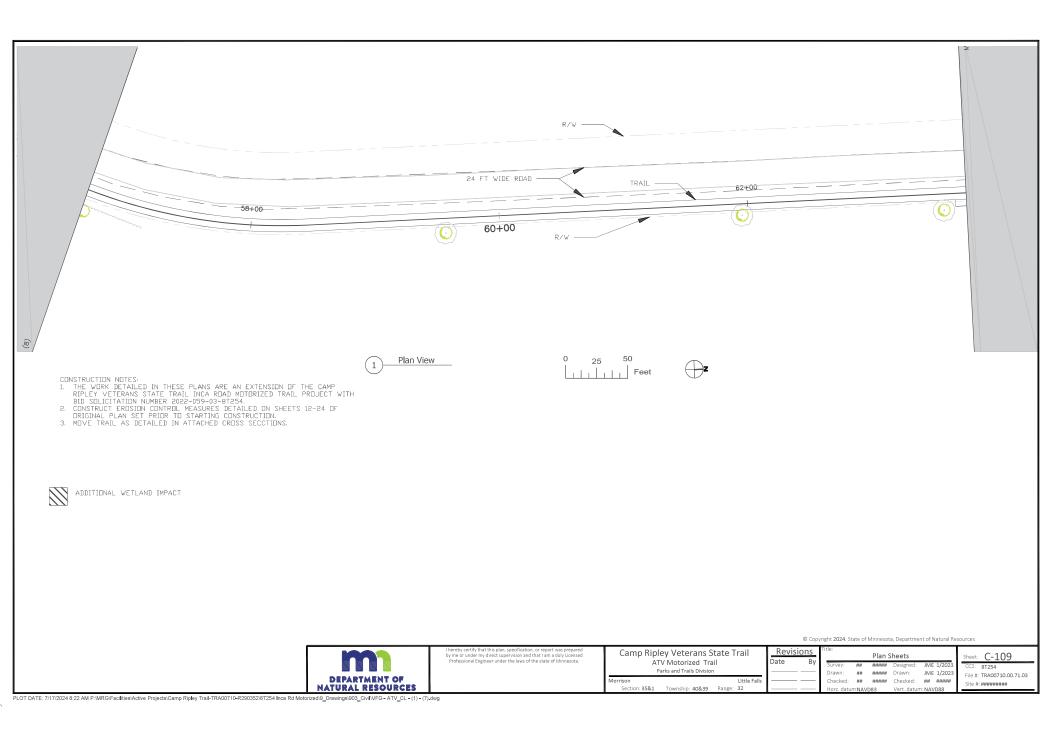


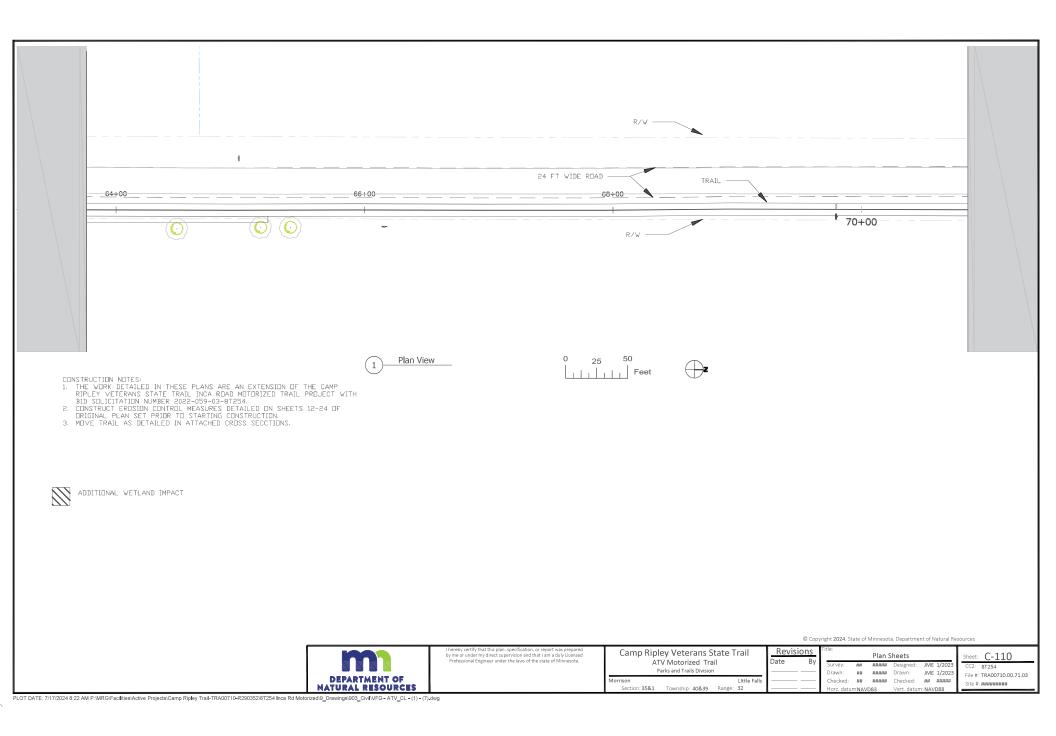


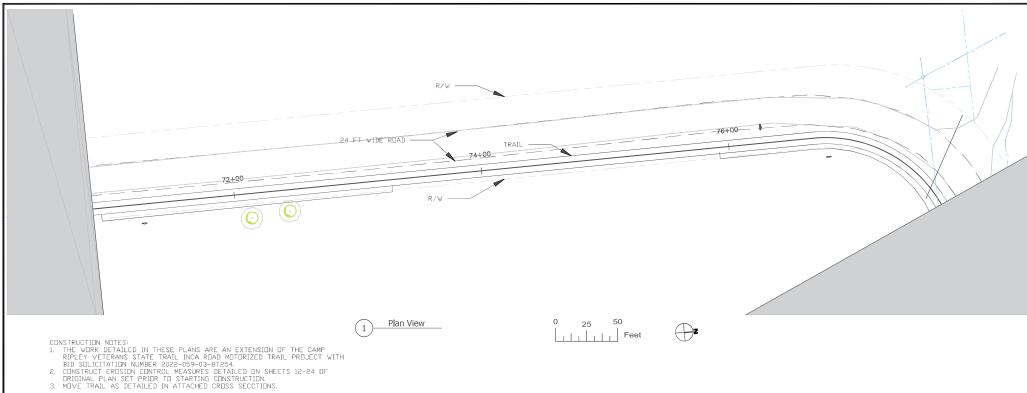












ADDITIONAL WETLAND IMPACT

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I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Licensed Professional Engineer under the laws of the state of Minnesota.

. A	lley Veterans S TV Motorized Tra Parks and Trails Division	il	rail
Morrison			Little Falls
Section: 35&1	Township: 40&39	Range:	32

<u>Revisi</u> Date	VISIOIIS	Title: Plan Sheets					
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