

Master Plan Variance

Property Name: Devil's Lake State Park

Current Master Plan Approved: 1982

Proposed Change to the Master Plan:

The following will be added to Section I.B.2.b. "Vegetation":

The specific management activities described below may be immediately carried out to implement the general vegetation management activities provided for in the master plan and to implement the Clark Creek watershed conversion project. Specific locations of the areas to be managed are shown on the attached maps.

The Clark Creek project would convert 170 acres of cropland to presettlement prairie and would construct several wetland scrapes. Tree-lines and some border sections of the project fields would have the trees removed to aid in the restoration. The trees removed would then be used in the revetments placed on Clark Creek to stabilize the stream banks (see restoration plan).

Description and management prescription of project area

Compartment 16:

Stands 6 and 10: farmland, totaling 20 acres. Tree-line removal. Plant to prairie.

Stand 18: grassland, 29 acres. Tree-line borders between this stand and stand 10.

Stand 15: central hardwoods, 24 acres, large sawlogs. Dominated by American elm, red maple, quaking aspen, and box elder. Moderate levels of woody invasive species (buckthorn, honeysuckle, and Japanese barberry) are present. Limited tree removal in the northwest corner of the stand.

Compartment 17:

Stands 15, 16, and 30: farmland, totaling 104 acres. Tree-line removal. Plant to prairie.

Stand 17: oak, 33 acres, large sawlogs. Dominated by red oak, red maple, basswood, and shagbark hickory. High levels of woody invasive species (buckthorn, Japanese barberry, and black locust) present. Tree-line removal.

Stand 22: central hardwoods, 23 acres, small sawlogs. Dominated by red maple, shagbark hickory, and American elm. High levels of invasive species (buckthorn, garlic mustard) present. Tree-line removal.

These actions will be taken to inform park users and minimize visual and biological impacts:

Notification will be made via the local newspaper, websites, and a presentation to the local Friends Group.

Follow best management practices and other department guidelines.

Biological diversity will be enhanced via the conversion of farmland to a prairie planting that will potentially provide habitat to a number of grassland animals, include birds that are Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Supporting Information

Purpose and need for the plan change:

One of the objectives of the 1982 master plan is to “whenever possible, return the flora and fauna of the park to presettlement conditions.” The areas within this variance were identified in the master plan as being within an Extensive Recreational Area that is included in “Open Areas Management.” Conversion of farmland to prairie will help meet the restoration of presettlement conditions for the park.

Clark Creek in the Town of Greenfield at Devil’s Lake State Park has experienced significant flooding over the past 20 years. Rainfall events in 1993, 2001, 2005, and 2008 have severely impacted Clark Creek and the surrounding residences and structures. Massive erosion of the stream channel and surrounding banks has caused large amounts of sediment to be deposited downstream.

Fisheries have proposed a number of tree revetments that would help stabilize the bank and stream area. Another crucial part of the project would be to convert 170 acres of state owned acres from agricultural production to prairie and construct some wetland scrapes. This work would be done in the headwaters of Clark Creek to restore the area to presettlement conditions. The reduction in peak flood discharge by the prairie conversion and construction of the wetland scrapes could reduce the discharge during the rainfall events up to 22% in a 100 year rainfall event. This could significantly reduce the impact during future large rainfall event.

The areas that would be restored to prairie and wetland scrapes constructed would also have the existing tree lines and fence rows removed. The trees and possibly some rock from the fencerows and adjacent areas would then be used for the tree revetments to armor the stream banks. Removal of tree lines would make management of area much easier and allow the public to better view the restored areas. Tree removal would only occur in A, A1, B, part C, E, G, I, J, and K areas (see maps).

How is the proposed change supported with the property vision, goals and objectives or other plan provisions:

Goal Statement (Section 1.A.1):

To develop and manage Devil's Lake State Park to provide park visitors with quality recreational and interpretative experiences, and to preserve and protect the unique geologic and other natural features of the park as a unit of the National Ice Age Scientific Reserve.

Resource Management Objective (Section 1.A.2):

To classify much of the park as resource protection areas, and whenever feasible to return the flora and fauna of the park to presettlement conditions.

Property Management (I.B.2.b), in part:

The areas designated as "Extensive Recreation Areas, open areas management zone 1, 2, or 3" will be kept "open" as they are now...Row cropping is not a preferred method.

Land Use Potential (II.B.7), in part:

About 3,237 acres are designated for Extensive Recreational Area status. Within that classification, about 1,269 acres are designated as open areas that will be maintained as open areas.

Anticipated primary benefits of the proposed plan change:

Will enhance biological diversity and expand an important habitat type within the park. Potentially reduce flood impacts from large rain events.

Unavoidable adverse impacts:

There may be some short term land scarring from tree removal and from planting prairie. Negative impacts will be mitigated by following best management practices and other department guidelines.

Summary of alternates considered:

1. An original proposal included the construction of a series of dams that would "impound" the runoff during rainfall events. This alternative was ruled out because the dams would require extensive permitting, long term maintenance, and would require lands to be purchased to replace the lands used for the dams.
2. By only doing the prairie conversion, the peak rainfall discharge would most likely drop to below 10%. This alternative did not have the effectiveness to gain the funding necessary to accomplish the goals of the project.

Compatibility with statutes, codes, and department policies:

This variance to the Devil's Lake State Park Master Plan (1982) meets the requirements of ch. NR44.04, Wis. Adm. Code. Permits would be needed to construct the wetland

scrapes. The proposed management will not set a precedent as similar prairie restoration and wetland scrapes have and are occurring on other state parks.

Federal Aid Limitations:

Devil's Lake State Park received Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) dollars in acquisition of the lands.

Public review process used:

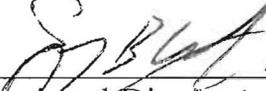
Notification will be made via the local newspaper, websites, and a presentation to the local Friends Group.

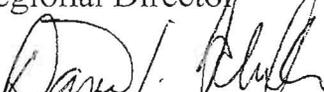
Description of the support and/or opposition to the proposal:

Supporting Approvals

 Date 5/18/13
Variance Author/Property Manager

 Date 8-18-2013
District Park Supervisor

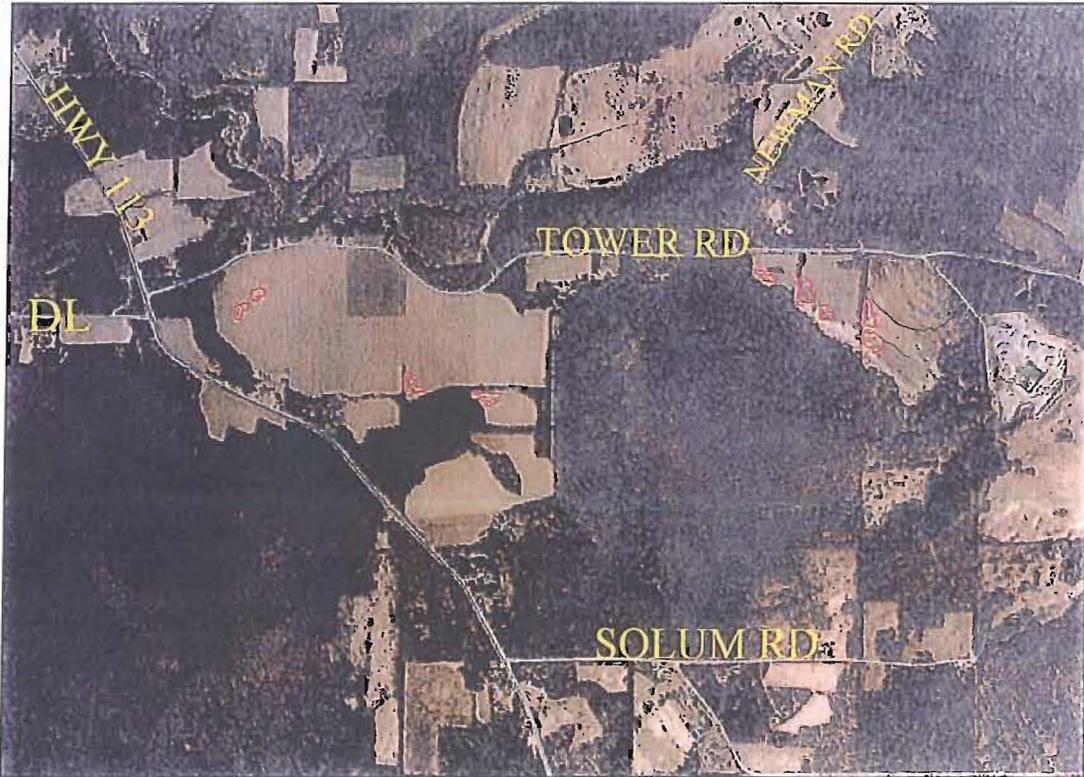
 Date 9/11/13
Regional Director

 Date 8/22/13
Parks Bureau Director

 Date 9/11/13
Administrator, Division of Lands

CONSTRUCTION PLAN

PRACTICE Shallow Wetland Scrapes
OWNER State of Wisconsin, Devil's Lake State Park
ADDRESS S5975 Park Rd, Baraboo, WI 53913
COUNTY Sauk LANDOWNER PHONE NO. 608-356-8301
TOWNSHIP Greenfield
SECTION 16 & 17 TOWNSHIP 11N RANGE 7E
FIELD OFFICE Baraboo TELEPHONE NO. 355-3245



DIGGERS HOTLINE

TOLL FREE 1-800-242-8511
MILWAUKEE AREA 259-1181
TDD 1-800-542-2289
FAX 414/259-0947

CALL 3 WORK DAYS
BEFORE YOU DIG

LOCATION MAP

NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS AND CONTRACTORS REGARDING UTILITIES

NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE TO THE USDA NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE OR THE SAUK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT AS TO THE EXISTENCE OR NONEXISTENCE OF UNDERGROUND HAZARDS. PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION THE OWNERS OF UTILITIES MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE PENDING CONSTRUCTION. YOU WILL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

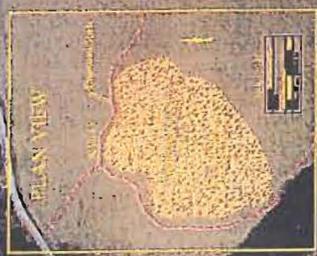
CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTANCE

I/WE HAVE REVIEWED AND DO ACCEPT THE ATTACHED PLANS. I/WE AGREE TO HAVE THIS PROJECT CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND TO NOTIFY ALL AFFECTED UTILITY COMPANIES.

SIGNED: _____	DATE: _____
DESIGNED BY: <u>Suzie Koehn</u>	DATE: <u>1-4-2013</u>
CHECKED BY: _____	DATE: _____
APPROVED BY: <u>Suzie Koehn</u>	DATE: <u>1-4-2013</u>
APPROVED BY: _____	DATE: _____

SHEET 1 OF 7

PLAN VIEW

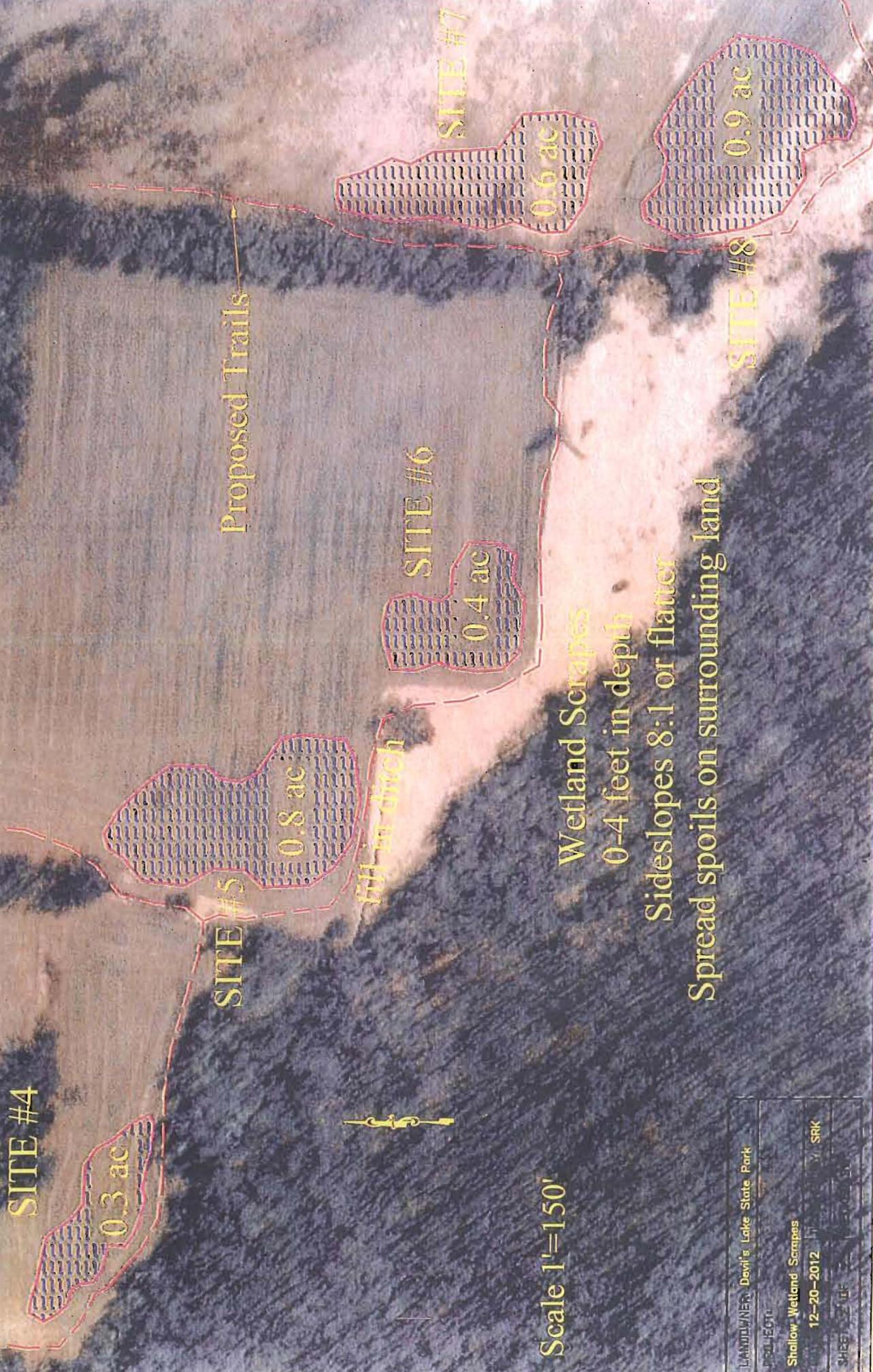


Project Name	Devil's Lake State Park
Project No.	
Project Title	Shallow Wetland Scrapes
Date	12-20-2012
Scale	800'

Scale 1"=800'



PLAN VIEW



Proposed Trails

fill-in ditch

Scale 1"=150'

Wetland Scrapes
0-4 feet in depth
Sideslopes 8:1 or flatter
Spread spoils on surrounding land

PLANNING: Devil's Lake State Park
DESIGNED: SRK
Shallow Wetland Scrapes
12-20-2012
SHEET 2 OF 2

PLAN VIEW

SITE #2

0.5 ac

Proposed Trails

SITE #3

0.6 ac

Wetland Scrapes

0-4 feet in depth

Sideslopes 8:1 or flatter

Spread spoils on surrounding land



Devil's Lake State Park

Scale 1"=130'

Shallow Wetland Scrapes

DATE: 12-20-2012	DESIGNED BY: SRK
SHEET# OF 3	CHECKED BY:

PLAN VIEW

SITE #1

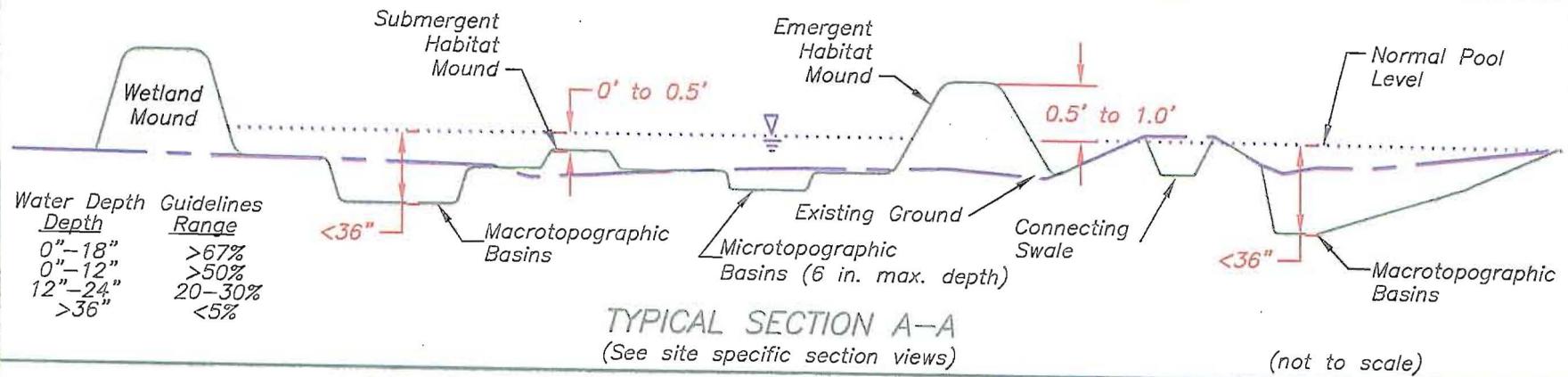
Proposed Trails

MICROTOPOLOGY
AREA

7 ACRES

Scale 1"=120'

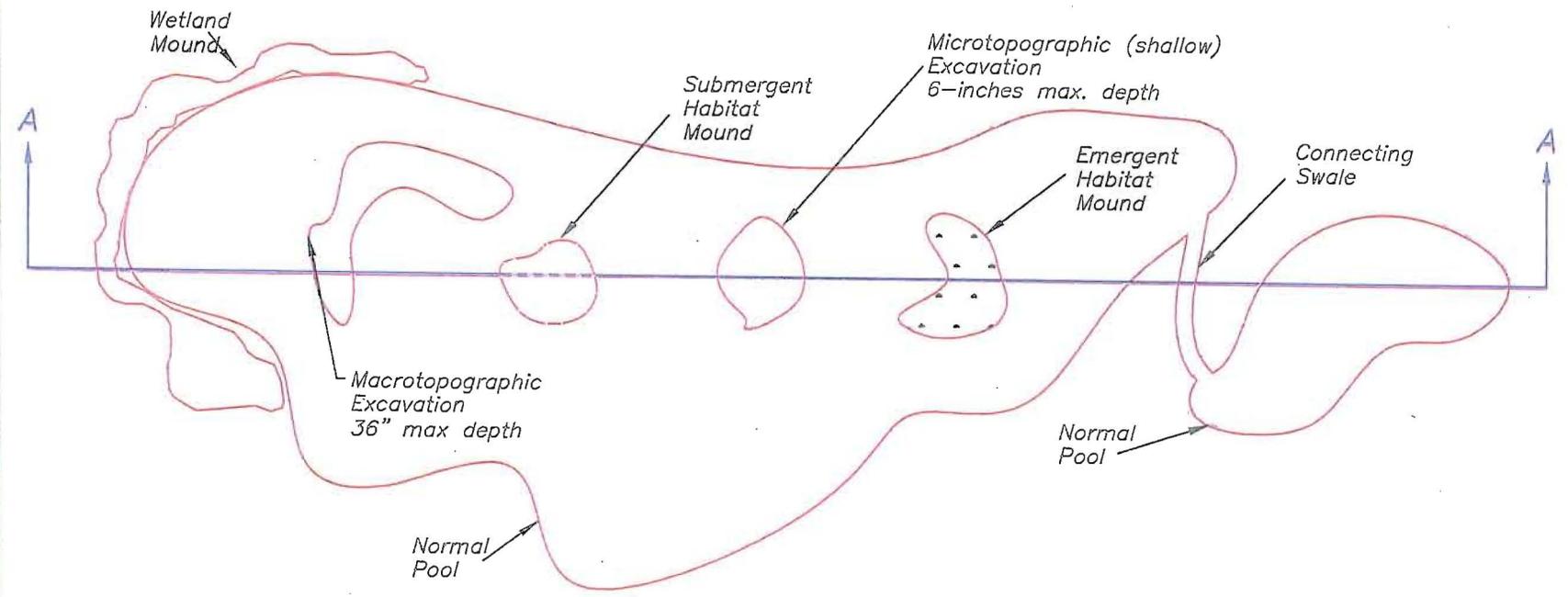
LANDOWNER: Devil's Lake State Park	
PROJECT: Shallow Wetland Scrapes	
DATE: 12-20-2012	DESIGNED BY: SRK
SHEET 4 OF 7	CHECKED BY:



Water Depth	Guidelines
Depth	Range
0"-18"	>67%
0"-12"	>50%
12"-24"	20-30%
>36"	<5%

TYPICAL SECTION A-A
(See site specific section views)

(not to scale)



TYPICAL WETLAND FEATURES
(See site specific plan view)

(not to scale)

Date _____

Designed _____

Drawn _____

Checked _____

Approved _____

TYPICAL CREATIVE BORROW
AND HABITAT MOUNDS



6/04

OWNER: State of WI - Devils Lake State Park

FRIENDS OF DEVILS LAKE INC
Tree Cutting Area for Tree Revetments on Clark Creek

