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United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
other names/site number Dells of Eau Claire Park

2. Location

street & number	P2150 County Highway Y	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Plover	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county code 073	zip code 54408

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Karina A. Stenbunas
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/13/2016
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Elsa K. Beall

7.5.16

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	2	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	1	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	9	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	objects
		13	1 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
Landscape/PARK

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
Landscape/PARK

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century American
Movements
OTHER/Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite
Concrete
walls Log
Concrete
roof Asphalt
other Granite
Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

A: Recreation

A: Conservation

C: Landscape Architecture

C: Architecture

C: Engineering

Period of Significance

A: Recreation: 1924-1969

A: Conservation: 1924-1942

C: Landscape Architecture: 1937-1942

C: Architecture: 1927-1969

C: Engineering: 1927

Significant Dates

1923; 1924; 1925; 1927; 1935

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ramsdell, Charles H.

Horgen, Ingwal S.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 152 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16N</u>	<u>E315111</u>	<u>N4986517</u>	3	<u>16N</u>	<u>E315951</u>	<u>N4985900</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16N</u>	<u>E315960</u>	<u>N4986499</u>	4	<u>16N</u>	<u>E315573</u>	<u>N4985769</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Shelley C. Greene, Architectural Historian	date	12/19/14
organization	Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc (CCRG)	telephone	414-446-4121
street & number	8669 N. Deerwood Dr.	zip code	53209
city or town	Milwaukee		

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Marathon County	date	9/23/2014
organization		telephone	715-261-1000
street & number	500 Forest Street	zip code	54403
city or town	Wausau	state	WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The Dells of the Eau Claire County Park is located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 7, Town of Plover, Marathon County (Figures 1 and 2). It was established in 1923 and Charles H. Ramsdell drew the park's first landscape plan, that year (Figure 3). A second landscape plan for the park was completed in 1937 by Ingwal S. Horgen (Figure 4). Horgen, a landscape architect by trade, served as Marathon County's first city and county park superintendent, from 1925 to 1965. Under Horgen, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 3649 Camp Rib Mountain SP-15 carried out improvements and implemented Horgen's 1937 Master Plan at the park between 1935 and about 1940. A 1927 stone highway bridge, designed by the Wisconsin Highway Commission (WHC), is located within the park. Including the bridge, the park contains 13 resources that contribute to the historic significance of the park: the landscape (Photo 1), the stone highway bridge (Photos 2 and 3), a foot-bridge (Photo 4), two trail-side shelters (Photos 5 and 6), a former pumphouse (Photo 7), three picnic shelters (Photos 8, 9, and 10), a well shelter (Photo 11), the north park entrance sign (Photo 12), a Combination Building (Photos 13, 14 and 15), and one restroom (Photo 16). One resource, the south side restroom, does not contribute to the historic significance of the park because it post-dates the period of significance (Photo 17).¹

DESCRIPTION

Located in the Town of Plover, the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park is comprised of approximately 190 acres of mostly forested land and gently rolling terrain surrounded by farmland; the nominated area is 152 acres. The park is located 16 miles east of the city of Wausau and 20 miles southwest of the city of Antigo in Langlade County. County Trunk Highway (CTH) Y bisects the park into western and eastern sections. The eastern section developed after the historic period and includes a dam, beach, campground, and park manager station. The park is owned by Marathon County.

¹ Donald Bronk, "Legacy of a Glacier: The Dells of the Eau Claire River" (Wausau, WI: Marathon County Park Department, n.d.); Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.) Sparta District (WI), *Sparta CCC District, Sixth Corps Area Annual* (Baton Rouge, LA: Direct Advertising Company, 1937), Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.) Sparta District (WI), *Sparta District Pictorial Review: Company 3649, Camp Rib Mountain (SP-15)* (Wausau, WI: Civilian Conservation Corps, 1939); Edwin Cordes and Martin Stupich, "Historic American Engineering Record for the Eau Claire Dells Bridge, HAER No. WI-30; (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1987); Ingwal S. Horgen, "Master Plan: Dells of the Eau Claire County Park" (Wausau, WI: Marathon County Parks Department, 1937); "Ing Horgen, First and Only City-County Park Boss, Retiring," *Wausau (WI) Daily Record-Herald*, December 15, 1965; Charles H. Ramsdell, "A Preliminary Plan of General Arrangement of Park on Dells of the Eau Claire River (Minneapolis, MN: 1923), prepared for the Park Commission of Marathon County, Wisconsin, on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Office, Wausau, WI; "We Can Thank Ingwal Horgen for Parks," *Wausau (WI) Daily Herald*, April 28, 2012; "Wisconsin County Park System," *Park and Cemetery and Landscape Gardening*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 12 (Madison, WI: Allied Art Publishers, February 1924);

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Section 7 Page 2Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
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CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**Contributing Site**Landscape (Park) (AHI #224188)

The mylonite cliffs surrounding the Eau Claire River are the primary attraction of the park (see Photo 1). Ingwal S. Horgen's 1937 naturalistic landscape plan was designed to complement these natural features, with meandering trails leading to shelters and overlooks.²

The historic boundary encompasses only the western unit, which is 152 acres in size and corresponds to Horgen's 1937 Master Plan. The Eau Claire Dells Bridge, a 1927 stone veneered reinforced concrete filled spandrel arch bridge, carries CTH Y over the Eau Claire River, which meanders east to west through the park. The river flows through a rocky gorge, falling over stone outcroppings and potholes. The rapids and stone palisades and bluffs are the main attractions of the park. The naturalistic landscape design, including the layout of the hiking paths and overlooks, was intended to highlight these unique features. A Rustic-style park sign denotes the main entrance to the western unit on the north side of the river off of CTH Y. A single lane asphalt road leads to a parking area marked with large boulders, a grassy group campground, a second parking area, and the ca. 1940 Combination Building.

Park structures, restrooms, paved roads, and parking areas are concentrated in this area north of the river on the west side of CTH Y. The remainder of the park is wooded. The Combination Building is the most prominent Rustic building in the park. Located near a parking lot and restroom, the building is surrounded by mown lawn, modern picnic tables, and charcoal grills. Two hiking paths begin at this building and lead to a small set of stone steps (Photo 18), a broad stone stairway (Photo 19), and an overlook (Photo 20). The stone stairway, located directly south of the Combination Building, descends from the park down to the river. The stairway is constructed of flagstone laid in concrete mortar and has metal balusters and hand rails, and built-in wooden benches. Although not confirmed, the stairway was probably built by the CCC under the guidance of Ingwal H. Horgen. The stairway is not depicted on Horgen's 1937 landscape plan but was probably built by the CCC ca. 1940. The overlook provides views of the river and connects to the stone stairway.

The overlook is a broad, rectangular walkway with a wall constructed of flagstone laid in concrete mortar. It has metal balusters and handrails. The overlook was probably built by the CCC around the same time as the stairway, ca. 1940. The steps, stairway, and overlook provide access to hiking paths that wander along the bluffs and through the forested park. The trails lead to outcroppings, overlooks, Rustic trail shelters, and a footbridge. A portion of the Ice Age Trail follows the bluffs on the northern bank of the Eau Claire River and crosses the river at the foot bridge to the west. From the southern end of the foot bridge, hiking trails diverge to follow the southern bank of the river or wander south toward a Rustic-style shelter and wooded areas. The southern trails terminate at a small, tertiary parking area and picnic shelter south of the river and immediately west of CTH Y. The hiking trails, shelters, buildings, and overlooks are all part of Horgen's 1937 naturalistic

²"Dells of the Eau Claire Park," booklet (Wausau, WI: Marathon County Park System, n.d.), on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Office, Wausau; "Dells of the Eau Claire River (No. 109)," Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program Website, accessed February 1, 2013, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=109>.

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Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
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landscape design which was intended to compliment and highlight the park's unique natural features. Much of the current design is true to Horgen's plan.

Contributing Structures

Eau Claire Dells Bridge (Historic American Engineering Record [HAER] No. WI-30; AHI #221047)³

The Rustic style Eau Claire Dells Bridge carries County Highway Y traffic over the Eau Claire River (see Photo 2). Erected in 1927, it is a reinforced concrete, filled spandrel arch bridge. The single span, three centered arch employs a rubble stone veneer to accent its rustic surroundings and to "preserve the original setting."⁴ The abutments, pilasters, and spandrel walls were set in random fashion to imitate a rubble masonry type of construction. The stone coursing is continued on the interior posts and railings of the roadway above. A protruded 10-inch-wide ashlar stone line on the exterior of the bridge identifies the road level. A concrete top rail caps the structure and a small plaque located on the interior of the railing identifies W. H. Fischer and Sons (Antigo) as the general contractor for the project (see Photo 3). The bridge was designed in the offices of the WHC, and the original plans identify G.H. Kirsh as the bridge engineer (see Figure 5). The overall length of the structure is 116.5 feet.⁵ The bridge is a contributing resource in the park and is also individually eligible for the National Register under *Criterion C: Engineering*.

Foot-Bridge (AHI #224191)

The Rustic-style foot-bridge crosses the Eau Claire River at the westernmost edge of the park (see Photo 4). Erected 1936-38,⁶ the bridge has log rails, posts and decking, and stone abutments and piers. The stone for the bridge was hand-picked from the surrounding area. The overall length of the foot-bridge is approximately 120 feet. B.H. Knobla designed the foot-bridge in 1936 (see Figures 4 and 7).⁷

(North Side) Trail-Side Shelter (AHI #224190)

This is a small Rustic style shelter located on the north side of the river (see Photo 5). Built between existing granite pylons, the shelter has a slab roof and a floor made of flagstone shingles laid in concrete mortar. This shelter was built in 1936 (see Figures 4 and 6).⁸

(South Side) Trail-Side Shelter (AHI #224192)

This Rustic style shelter is located in the southwest corner of the park (see Photo 6). The stone structure has an open front, and several small, side windows. The shelter was erected 1937-38 (see Figure 4).⁹

³ Abstracted from Cordes and Stupich.

⁴ Abstracted from Cordes and Stupich; "General Plan for the Eau Claire Dells Bridge," (Madison, WI: Wisconsin Highway Commission, 1926). Microfilm copy on file at Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Madison, WI.

⁵ "General Plan for the Eau Claire Dells Bridge."

⁶ "Dells of the Eau Claire Park Notes."

⁷ "Plan for the Dells of the Eau Claire Foot-Bridge," (Madison, WI: Wisconsin Conservation Department, Division Forests and Parks, 1936); "Dells of the Eau Claire Park Notes;" Horgen.

⁸ "Dells of the Eau Claire Park Notes," for the years 1928, 1929, 1935, 1936 and 1937," on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Office, Wausau, WI; Horgen; "Rock Shelter at Eau Claire Dells Park," *Wausau (WI) Daily Record-Herald*, January 5, 1937; "Plan for the Trail-Side Shelter for the Eau Claire Dells Park," (Madison, WI: Wisconsin Conservation Department, Division Forests & Parks, 1935).

⁹ "Dells of the Eau Claire Park Notes;" Horgen.

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Pumphouse (AHI #224196)

The Rustic style pumphouse, now used as a woodshed, is located immediately north of the Combination Building (see Photo 7). It is a one-story, open, round log-constructed shelter resting on rubble masonry piers and a concrete floor. Its design appears contemporaneous with the Combination Building and was probably erected ca. 1940 (see Figure 4). The pumphouse was the original location of the park's well, which has since been moved farther southeast, on the other side of the Combination Building.¹⁰

(North Side) Picnic Shelter #1 (AHI #224198)

Picnic Shelter #1 is located north of the river and is a wooden shelter with stone footings and an asphalt-shingled, gable roof (see Photo 8).

(North Side) Picnic Shelter #2 (AHI #224199)

Picnic Shelter #2 is also located north of the river, is built of wood with stone footings, and retains an asphalt-shingled, gable roof (see Photo 9).

(South Side) Picnic Shelter (AHI #224200)

This Rustic style picnic shelter is located south of the river (see Photo 10). The wooden shelter has stone footings and an asphalt-shingle, gable roof.

Well Shelter (AHI #224203)

This structure is located on the north side of the river, proximate to the Combination Building (see Photo 11). The open, one-story, wooden, Rustic style structure shelters the park's well.

Contributing Objects

North Park Entrance Sign (AHI #224197)

The north entrance to the park is marked with a hand-carved, Rustic style wooden sign connected to a native stone pylon (see Photo 12). The sign is not indicated on Horgen's 1937 landscape plan but was probably built by the CCC ca. 1940.¹¹

Contributing Buildings

Combination Building (AHI #224195)

The Combination Building serves as the park's main shelter (see Photos 13 and 14). The one-story, T-shaped, round log-constructed building rests on rubble masonry piers and concrete floors. The gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The shelter retains its original rubble masonry fireplace, built-in log seating, and wood plank doors (see Photo 15). According to park notes, the Combination Building was one of the last projects by

¹⁰ Horgen.

¹¹ "Dells of the Eau Claire Park Notes."

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the CCC at the park, ca. 1940. A 1940 plan outlines its design (see Figure 8). It housed men's and women's restrooms, a concession stand, a storeroom, and both interior and exterior shelters.¹²

(North Side) Restroom (AHI #224201)

This restroom building is located proximate to the Combination Building (see Photo 16). The one-story, concrete block building has a low-pitched, front gable roof with cantilevered eaves; clerestory windows; and detached, side wing walls.

Noncontributing Buildings(South Side) Restroom (AHI #224202)

This restroom building is located on at the park's south entrance (see Photo 17). The one-story building is sided with composite wood, has a gable front orientation and overhanging eaves, and rests on a cement slab foundation. The shelter was built after the park's period of significance, ca. 2000.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Name	Date	Map Code (AHI #) ¹³
Dells of Eau Claire Park	1923/1937	#224188
Eau Claire Dells Bridge	1927	#221047
(North Side) Trail-Side Shelter	1936	#224190
Foot-Bridge	1936-38	#224191
(South Side) Trail-Side Shelter	1937-38	#224192
Pumphouse	ca. 1940	#224196
North Park Entrance Sign	ca. 1940	#224197
Combination Building	ca. 1940	#224195
(North Side) Picnic Shelter #1	ca. 1969	#224198
(North Side) Picnic Shelter #2	ca. 1969	#224199
(South Side) Picnic Shelter	ca. 1969	#224200
(North Side) Restroom	ca. 1969	#224201
Well Shelter	ca. 1969	#224203

NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Name	date	map code (AHI #)
(South Side) Restroom	ca. 2000	#224202

¹² "Plan for the Combination Building, Dells of the Eau Claire Park," (Madison, WI: Wisconsin Conservation Department, Division Forest & Parks, 1940); "Dells of the Eau Claire Park Notes;" Horgen.

¹³ The AHI is the Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and History Inventory

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ALTERATIONS

Some of the design of Horgen's 1937 landscape plan has been altered. The Forest Preserve Trail and Woodland Trail have been expanded since 1937. The restroom facilities near the main parking area and south entrance have been replaced with a modern restroom building. The northernmost parking area has been reduced in size and a group campground has been added. Some of the park infrastructure observed on the plan has either disappeared or was not implemented, including Rustic-style picnic tables, fencing, and fireplaces near the south entrance. Structures added since 1940, including the 1969 picnic shelters, restroom, and well shelter are Rustic in style and sensitive to the original Rustic and naturalistic design of the park; they are therefore considered contributing resources. Horgen's 1937 landscape plan has undergone a few modifications, but these changes have not altered the naturalistic character of the design or historic function of the park. Overall, the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park retains a high degree of integrity.¹⁴

¹⁴ Horgen.

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Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

SUMMARY

The Dells of the Eau Claire Park is eligible for the National Register under *Criterion A* at the local level in the areas of *Recreation* and *Conservation*. The Dells of the Eau Claire Park is significant for its association with the creation of recreational park areas by the county parks commission, and the federal work-relief efforts carried out by the CCC, whose mission was to develop, protect, and conserve the natural resources and landscapes of the park. The resources constructed by the CCC at the park promote recreational use of its scenic beauty. The period of significance for Recreation begins in 1924, when the Marathon County Parks Commission began improving the site, and ends in 1969, encompassing the dates of construction for all contributing resources. The period of significance for Conservation begins in 1924, when the Marathon County Parks Commission began improving the park, and ends in 1942, when the CCC ended their work at the park.

The park is also eligible under *Criterion C: Landscape Architecture* and *Architecture*, for its naturalistic landscape design and Rustic-style resources that were characteristic of naturalistic parks of the period. The period of significance for *Criterion C: Landscape Architecture* begins in 1937 with the implementation of Horgen's Master Plan and ends in 1942 with the completion of the CCC's work at the site. The period of significance for *Criterion C: Architecture* begins in 1927 with the erection of the Dells of the Eau Claire Bridge¹⁵ and ends in 1969 with the completion of the contributing picnic shelters, restroom, and well shelter.

The Eau Claire Dells Bridge¹⁶ is also individually eligible under *Criterion C*: in the area of *Engineering*, as a fine, intact, early example of a stone-veneered, reinforced-concrete, arched bridge. The bridge is faced with locally gathered stones which harmonize with the park's rugged natural features. The rustic appearance of the bridge's stonework and aesthetic sensitivity is unusual for a highway bridge and it is significant to the history of the WHC as such. It is listed in *Historic Highway Bridges in Wisconsin-Stone and Concrete Arch Bridges* as individually eligible for the National Register. The 1986 report identifies 44 reinforced-concrete arch bridges and viaducts in the state.¹⁷ At the time, only 14 of the 44 were deemed to have sufficient engineering, historical, and/or architectural significance to merit National Register designation. The Eau Claire Dells Bridge was listed as one of the 14 eligible bridges. Thus the Eau Claire Dells Bridge is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C: Engineering*. The period of significance under *Criterion C* coincides with its date of construction, 1927.

¹⁵ "CCC Camp Will Be Built in Town of Rib Mountain Soon," *Wausau (WI) Daily Record-Herald*, April 10, 1935; "CCC Camp Has Been Assigned to Marathon County," *Wausau (WI) Pilot*, April 11, 1935; "County Parks to Benefit from Camp Location," *Wausau (WI) Pilot*, June 1, 1935; "Closing of Local CCC Camp Ordered by Headquarters: Rib Mountain Unit of Corps to be Abandoned Saturday," *Wausau (WI) Daily Record-Herald*, February 26, 1942; "We Can Thank Ingwal Horgen for Parks;" "Ing Horgen, First and Only City-County Park Boss, Retiring;" "Workers' Paradise: The Forgotten Communities of World War I – People, Charles H. Ramsdell (1879-1957)," Massachusetts Institute of Technology Website, accessed January 24, 2012, <http://web.mit.edu/ejb/www/ww1/Biography-Ramsdell.html>; Ramsdell; "People of Marathon County – Horgen, Ingwal S," Marathon County Historical Society Website, accessed January 24, 2013, <http://www.marathoncountyhistory.org/PeopleDetails.php?PeopleId=367&View=&ItemName=Horgen>; Horgen;

¹⁶ Name derived from, Jeffrey A. Hess and Robert Frame, *Historic Highway Bridges in Wisconsin-Stone and Concrete Arch Bridges*, vol. 1 (Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 1986), 275-279.

¹⁷ Hess and Frame, 259-333.

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Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Marathon County

The abundant stands of timber enticed lumbermen and settlers to Marathon County in the first half of the nineteenth century. Forests of white pine and hardwoods were plentiful, and the Wisconsin, Trappe, Rib, Big Eau Pleine, and Eau Claire rivers supplied means of transportation and water power for mills and manufacturing. Although the land was not formally surveyed and offered for sale until 1866, land claims and logging operations had been established in the area for nearly thirty years prior to that date. Growing numbers of saw mills on the Wisconsin River led to a treaty with resident Native Americans in 1836 in which they ceded their claim to the land for three miles on either side of the river as far as Big Bull Falls. By 1839, John L. Moore and George Stevens established lumber operations and saw mills in Mosinee and Wausau, respectively.¹⁸

Marathon County was set apart from Portage County on February 9, 1850 with a population of 500 and the county seat located at Wausau. When the Wisconsin Central Railroad passed through the county in the early 1870s, the population increased dramatically; between 1870 and 1880, it grew from 5,885 to more than 17,100.¹⁹

The lumber boom began to decline in the late 1870s as the white pine was logged off. As a result, hardwoods became more valuable, so that by 1880, "every log was worth something," and larger tracts of land were cleared. Around this same time, the railroads were also eager to sell land as their tax exemptions expired. This marked the beginning of Marathon County's transition from lumbering to agriculture. Even at the height of the lumber boom, there was a ready market for agricultural products, but the profitability of lumbering, combined with early reports that the land was unsuited for farming, delayed the establishment of farms in Marathon County; however, as the land was cleared of valuable timber, agriculture and the production of paper and wood products such as sashes and doors became the economic mainstays in the region. Growing numbers of farmers, many of German origin or decent, moved to the region and lumbering settlements turned into small agricultural communities raising barley, corn, oats, wheat, rye, and potatoes. In 1910, more than half of the acreage of Marathon County was farmland. By the first half of the twentieth century, dairying was firmly established, and Marathon County ranked as one of the top dairying counties in the state.²⁰

The Town of Plover was established in June, 1890. The township was organized after the height of the lumber era, but limited logging operations did occur there through the late nineteenth century. In addition to Euro-American lumbermen, German, Scandinavian, and Dutch farmers made up the majority of the population in 1910.²¹

¹⁸ *History of Northern Wisconsin* (Chicago: The Western Historical Company, 1881), 542-543; Louis Marchetti, *History of Marathon County, Wisconsin and representative citizens* (Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1913), 59, 62-66.

¹⁹ Marchetti, 166.

²⁰ Wyatt, Barbara L., editor, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Three volumes (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 11-8; Marchetti, 166, 168, 169, 171.

²¹ Marchetti, 573.

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Marathon County Park Commission

Marathon County's agricultural character gave rise to the establishment of the Marathon County Agricultural Society and county fairs. In 1920, the Society deeded 80 acres of land to the county to be used as a public fairground, "dedicated perpetually to the use of the people of the whole County – as a public park."²² One of the Agricultural Society's conditions of this deed was that the county create a County Park Commission pursuant to Section 27.02 to 27.06 of the Statutes for Wisconsin for 1919, which permitted the establishment of county park commissions.²³ On January 3, 1920, the County Board created the Marathon County Park Commission, consisting of seven appointed members. The Park Commission held their first meeting on April 22, 1920.²⁴ The first commissioners, Cyrus C. Yawkey, J. N. Manson, L. C. Leak, W. F. Goetz, John Dittbrender, Joseph Weix and O. E. Knoke, were prominent civic leaders in Marathon County. The Fair Grounds (Marathon Park) were deeded to the county on January 7th, 1921.²⁵

Later in 1921, the Park Commission purchased 18 acres of land along STH 13 south of Unity and the Wausau Land Company deeded the commission ten acres of land on Highway 10. These were named Unity Park and Gooding Park, respectively. By 1925, the City of Wausau's Board of Park Commissioners (established by the Wausau Common Council in 1905) oversaw eleven city parks while the Marathon County Park Commission oversaw four county parks. Cherokee Park in the Town of Hull became the fifth park in the county system in 1926. The city and county agencies worked closely together and split administrative, development, and maintenance costs. In 1975, the two agencies were formally consolidated when the Wausau Park Board was dissolved and the Marathon County Park Commission assumed its responsibilities. Then in 2002, the Wausau/Marathon County Park Department and the Marathon County Forestry Department merged to form the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. This department currently oversees 37 Wausau city parks and 20 county parks.²⁶

On June 8, 1923, the Marathon County Park Commission visited the Dells of the Eau Claire. Bedrock outcrops and "potholes carved in the rock by the falling water created a unique place at the dells and gorge."²⁷ The area had long been admired for its views, and the Park Commission passed a resolution to purchase

N.E.-S.W., Section 7-39-10, same being known as the Dells of the Eau Claire, for a sum not to exceed Six Thousand dollars...and it is also authorized to purchase the North twenty (20) acres of S.E.-S.W.,

²² Marathon County Park Commission, April 22, 1920, Park Commission Original Minutes, on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

²³ Duane L. Corbin, "Park Consolidation – Marathon County, 1976" on file at the Marathon County Park, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

²⁴ Marathon County Park Commission, January 3, 1920 and April 22, 1920, Park Commission Original Minutes, on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

²⁵ "Report of the Marathon County Park Commission for the year ending December 31, 1921," on file at the Marathon County Park, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

²⁶ "Marathon County Park System One of Best in State," *Wausau (WI) Daily Record-Herald*, June 30, 1972; "Park Commission History," n.d., on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

²⁷ Marathon County Town Board, Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning Department, *Town of Plover Comprehensive Plan* (Milwaukee, WI: URS, Inc), 40.

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Section 7-39-10 provided it can be obtained at a price that seems reasonable to the Executive Committee.²⁸

Thus, the Dells of the Eau Claire became the fourth county park in the system when the county purchased 60 acres there in 1923. They began making improvements in 1924, which included road and grounds improvements and the construction on a Shelter House and plan for an Athletic Ground.²⁹

Landscape architect Charles H. Ramsdell of Minneapolis was hired to prepare the first plan for the park (see Figure 3). Ramsdell began his career in the Boston landscape architecture firm of Warren and Manning. He was later sent by the firm to supervise a landscape program in Menomonie, Wisconsin, and eventually relocated to Minneapolis where he established his own landscape firm. Ramsdell designed landscape plans for Library, Yawkey, and Marathon parks, in Wausau, and eventually the Dells.³⁰ Ramsdell's plan for the Dells fit with the mission of the Marathon County Park Commission, which vowed to not, "replace the natural and picturesque with the artificial and commonplace park development."³¹ Ramsdell's plan included provisions for forestry development, the establishment of trails and paths, and automobile access. A picnic grove with fireplaces and a concession stand for supplies were also developed, although these aspects of the original plan are no longer extant. A total of about three and one-half acres were cleared for park development; the remainder was kept in permanent woods.³²

Ingwal S. Horgen directed the subsequent development of the Dells of the Eau Claire Park, including creating the 1937 Master Plan and overseeing its implementation and the involvement of the CCC. Horgen graduated from Iowa State University in 1922 with a degree in landscape architecture. He first worked as a recreational engineer with the US Forest Service in Denver, and later, with Ramsdell, providing landscape plans for cemeteries in Kelly, Wisconsin, and Merrill, Wisconsin. Through this association and at the recommendation of Ramsdell, Horgen was introduced to the Marathon County Park Commission, which oversaw the Marathon County Park Department. In March of 1925, the Park Board of the City of Wausau and the Marathon County Park Commission agreed to hire Horgen as the first city and county park superintendent for Marathon County, the only such dual role in the United States at the time. Horgen served as city and county superintendent until his retirement in 1965.³³

²⁸ Marathon County Park Commission, June 8, 1923 and 1924 Annual Report, Park Commission Original Minutes, on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

²⁹ Marathon County Park Commission, June 8, 1923 and 1924 Annual Report, Park Commission Original Minutes, on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department; Bronk; "Marathon County Park System One of Best in State; "We Can Thank Ingwal Horgen for Parks."

³⁰ Bronk; "Park System Planned by Marathon County" *Milwaukee (WI) Journal*, February 14, 1926; "Seventh Biennial Report of the Wisconsin Highway Commission," in *Proceedings, Board of Supervisors, Marathon County, Wisconsin – Special Session, April 15-19, 1924* (Madison: WI: State Highway Commission, 1924).

³¹ "Wisconsin County Park System."

³² "Ing Horgen, First and Only City-County Park Boss, Retiring;" "Marathon County Park System One of Best in State;" Ramsdell; "Wisconsin County Park System;" "Workers' Paradise."

³³ Corbin, 1976; Marathon County Park Commission, March 24, 1925, Park Commission Original Minutes, on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department; "Ing Horgen, First and Only City-County Park Boss, Retiring;" "Marathon County Park System One of Best in State;" "People of Marathon County – Horgen, Ingwal S," Marathon County Historical Society website,

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Throughout the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Park Commission made regular improvements to the Dells of the Eau Claire Park to make it better suited to public recreational use. Work consisted of clearing timber and brush; clearing and fencing a baseball field; installing stone steps; building roads and paths; and constructing shelters and comfort stations. Of these improvements in the first phase of development, all that remain are the steps, paths, and roads.³⁴ However, the most significant period of improvements occurred as a result of CCC involvement during the Great Depression.

SIGNIFICANCE: CRITERION A: RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

The Dells of the Eau Claire Park is significant under *Criterion A: in the area of Recreation* for its association with the Marathon County Park Commission and the creation of local recreational park areas beginning in the 1920s. The park retains a high degree of integrity and continues to fulfill its recreational use. The period of significance is 1924, when the commission began improving the site, and ends in 1969 to encompass the dates of construction for all contributing resources. It is also eligible under *Criterion A, in the area of Conservation* for its association with the national movement toward natural environment conservation and the federal work-relief efforts carried out by the CCC, whose mission was to develop, protect, and conserve the natural resources and landscapes of the park. The resources constructed by the CCC at the park promote recreational use of its scenic beauty. The period of significance for Conservation begins in 1924, when the Marathon County Parks Commission began improving the park, and ends in 1942, when the CCC ended their work at the park.

The decision to designate the Dells of the Eau Claire Park for conservation and recreation was part of a larger national trend toward creating parks in the first half of the twentieth century. The park movement in Wisconsin and Marathon County was part of a larger national movement toward conservation of natural and wildlife areas, and reclamation and restoration of lands that had suffered from overuse and destructive practices. Setting aside natural areas for public use began in the United States as early as 1634 when Boston Common was established as a common pasture and parade ground. Efforts to save Niagara Falls started in 1860 and the area became New York's first state park in 1885. The movement gained momentum in the late nineteenth century as more states established parks and preserves, and Yellowstone became the first national park in 1872. Interest and concern for natural resource conservation and restoration made significant progress under President Theodore Roosevelt and the passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Organic Act of 1916 which established the National Park Service. In Wisconsin, a state parks board was established in 1907 and hired John Nolen to conduct a survey to locate areas for potential new state parks. Further, the first National Conference on State Parks, held in Des Moines, Iowa in January 1921, met to explore guidelines and a framework for state parks. The organization urged local, state, and the national governments to set aside land for the study of natural history, wildlife preservation and recreation, and to make such reserves publically available.³⁵

accessed January 24, 2013, <http://www.marathoncountyhistory.org/PeopleDetails.php?PeopleId=367&View=&ItemName=Horgen>; "We Can Thank Ingwal Horgen for Parks."

³⁴ Marathon County Park Commission, Annual Reports for 1926-1932; Ingwal S. Horgen, First Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners, January 12, 1926, on file at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

³⁵ Davis, 38-42; Linda Flint McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction* (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 53, 56.

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As a result, the park movement gained more momentum and structure in the 1920s and encouraged the development of national, state, county, and municipal parks and park commissions. The Marathon County Park Commission is an excellent example of a local park agency that grew out of this movement. It was formed in 1920 and established five county parks by 1926, including Marathon Park, Unity Park, Gooding Park, the Dells of the Eau Claire, and Cherokee Park.

However, the onset of the Great Depression caused work to virtually cease in parks across the country. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and National Park Service Director Horace Albright saw enormous potential in the economic crisis, and the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) program and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) presented an opportunity to simultaneously provide employment to young men and conserve natural resources. In 1933, CCC Executive Director Robert Fechner notified states of the ECW and encouraged those states with existing or planned parks to request CCC camps in their areas.³⁶

Brief History of the Civilian Conservation Corps

Roosevelt first presented his proposal for Emergency Conservation Work on March 21, 1933. The relief program would employ men in forestry, erosion prevention, flood control, and other similar work in order to “conserve our precious natural resources...pay dividends to the present and future generations...[and] make improvements in National and State domains which have been largely forgotten in the past few years of industrial development.” In addition to the material value of such a program, Roosevelt was confident in the “moral and spiritual value of such work” and its ability to “eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability.” The proposal called for the employment of 250,000 men by the summer of 1933.³⁷

Congress authorized the bill, and the ECW Act was signed into law on March 31, 1933. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a collaborative effort between four cabinet departments: War, Interior, Agriculture, and Labor, and grew to become the largest peace-time mobilization in the country’s history. In order to carry out the enormous effort needed to meet the President’s deadline, the Labor Department established criteria for enrollment, set state quotas, and worked with local relief agencies to coordinate recruitment. Enrollment was limited to men ages 18 to 25 who had families on public relief rolls. The program was eventually expanded to include Native Americans, who were approved for work on reservations and could return home every day; “local experienced men” (LEMs) who lived near the camps and had essential skills and knowledge to train enrollees; and unemployed military veterans. Enrollees were paid \$30 per month, of which \$22 to \$25 were sent to their families.³⁸

The War Department was responsible for outfitting, conditioning, transporting, and housing CCC enrollees. It divided the United States into nine Corps Areas. Each Corps Area oversaw several districts. Districts fell under

³⁶ Davis, 43.

³⁷ Ren and Helen Davis, *Our Mark on This Land: A Guide to the Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps in America’s Parks* (Granville, OH: The McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, 2011), 12-13.

³⁸ Davis, 14, 16.

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supervision of senior military officers, and lower-ranking officers oversaw individual camps. Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan comprised Region 6.³⁹ Army bases functioned as headquarters and training camps, and after their orientation, enrollees were transported to their assigned camps via army transports or trains. The first enrollees to arrive erected tent housing, which were later replaced with prefabricated buildings. Originally, the Army's role was limited to these tasks while actual camp projects would be directed by other agencies; however, it was quickly expanded to include all camp operations due to the enormous scale of the undertaking. Other agencies did not possess the resources to operate camps, transport, or feed enrollees. Therefore, the Army took on this responsibility while agencies such as the Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Tennessee Valley Authority coordinated the technical work projects.⁴⁰

The Department of Agriculture coordinated CCC projects in national and state forests. The department was concerned about the safety of the men who may not have been familiar or experienced in forestry work. As a result, the agency hired 8-12 LEMs for each camp and tasked them with teaching and supervising the men in skilled labor. More than half of the work performed by the CCC was overseen by the Department of Agriculture.⁴¹

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes was a strong advocate of the ECW program and saw it as an unprecedented opportunity to "reclaim abused public lands, improve and expand parks, and create new opportunities for recreation for all Americans." At the urging of National Park Service Director Horace Albright, President Roosevelt reorganized and greatly expanded the role of the NPS to assume responsibility for national monuments and national military parks (formerly under the Department of Agriculture and War Department, respectively). Albright also advocated for more parks in the eastern United States and made historic preservation part of the NPS's mission. Both Albright and his successor Arno Cammerer were strong supporters of the CCC. The first NPS CCC camp opened on May 11, 1933 in the proposed Shenandoah National Park and Yorktown. By the beginning of June, 63 CCC camps had been established in national parks and monuments.⁴²

The CCC employed 52,000 men in 42 camps in May of 1933. Fearing they may not meet Roosevelt's goal of 250,000 enrollees by July 1, the complex bureaucracies and logistics were streamlined, giving the War Department more responsibilities for operating camps, training and transporting recruits. Additionally, the War Department recommended that peacetime restrictions regarding bids, contracts, deliveries and open market purchases be waived; 8,540 enrollees be recruited every day; and 290 new projects be approved by June 1, 1933. Roosevelt approved the recommendations, and by July 1, 1933, the CCC employed 274,375 men in more than 1,300 camps. A report to CCC Executive Director Robert Fechner stated, "men received, processed, and equipped per day was greater than the average for the United States during the World War for both the Army and the Navy combined."⁴³

³⁹ Davis, 24.

⁴⁰ Davis, 18.

⁴¹ Davis, 19.

⁴² Davis, 20.

⁴³ Davis, 21.

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CCC enrollees carried out a wide variety of projects, from simple work to building dams, lodges, and lakes; stringing telephone wires and laying water lines. They also served as search-and-rescue parties; fire-lookouts; fire-fighters; and natural disaster relief workers. In addition to the important conservation work, the CCC provided young men with educational opportunities, offering academic and technical classes for men to learn skills and earn high school diplomas.⁴⁴ Said to be perhaps “the most successful and far reaching expression of social humanitarianism and landscape development,” the CCC provided employment and training for approximately three million young men nationwide and in the process enabled them to help themselves in better economic times. At its peak, the program operated about 2,650 camps across the United States.⁴⁵

CCC Sparta District

More than 92,000 CCC enrollees worked in an average of 54 camps in Wisconsin. Wisconsin CCC men were based in the state’s national and state forests, on Native American reservations, and in soil conservation areas. They constructed 483 bridges, 4,390 miles of roads and trails, planted more than 265 million trees, and restocked more than 517 million fish, in addition to fighting forest fires and completing other conservation and park projects. Thousands of CCC men were employed in Wisconsin’s cut over areas and, to a lesser extent, in the development or improvement of recreational facilities in state and county parks.⁴⁶

On April 1, 1935, the entire area of Wisconsin north of Baraboo was re-organized into the Sparta CCC District, which included Marathon County. The new district absorbed the functions of the old 10th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Forestry District, and the headquarters were located in Sparta, Monroe County. Horgen was heavily involved with the local relief efforts of Roosevelt’s New Deal programs, particularly the CCC. Officially organized on August 12, 1935, CCC Company 3649th Camp Rib Mountain SP-15 was Marathon County’s first CCC camp, and one of four CCC camps assigned to Wisconsin state and county parks. The main focus of the company was developing Rib Mountain State Park; however, they were also tasked with completing work at the Eau Pleine and Dells of the Eau Claire parks, and much of the present landscape of the Dells of the Eau Claire Park is attributed to their efforts.⁴⁷ Between 1935 and 1942, the company greatly enhanced the park as it designated and constructed the north park entrance; constructed two small trail-side shelters, a set of stone steps, a stone stairway, a foot bridge, pumphouse, an overlook, and the Combination Building. These resources are still extant and contribute to the historic character and significance of the park. The CCC also designated parking areas with massive boulders; erected carved signs for information and directional purposes; planted trees in open

⁴⁴ Davis, 26.

⁴⁵ “People of Marathon County – Horgen, Ingwal S,” Carol Ahlgren, “The Civilian Conservation Corps and Wisconsin State Park Development,” *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Spring 1988, 185.

⁴⁶ “People of Marathon County – Horgen, Ingwal S.,” Carol Ahlgren, “The Civilian Conservation Corps and Wisconsin State Park Development,” *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Spring 1988, 185; Perry H. Merrill, *Roosevelt’s Forest Army: A History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942* (Montpelier, VT: Perry H. Merrill, 1981), 190.

⁴⁷ Ahlgren, “The Civilian Conservation Corps and Wisconsin State Park Development,” 184-185; “CCC Camp Will Be Built in Town of Rib Mountain Soon;” Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.) Sparta District (WI), *Sparta CCC District, Sixth Corps Area Annual*, 151-153; “Closing of Local CCC Camp Ordered by Headquarters: Rib Mountain Unit of Corps to be Abandoned Saturday;” “Marathon County Park System One of Best in State;” “People of Marathon County – Horgen, Ingwal S;” “We Can Thank Ingwal Horgen for Parks.”

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areas; and erected tables, benches and fireplaces in picnic areas. Of these features, the signs, boulders, and trees are still extant. The fireplace is located in the Combination Building.⁴⁸

Horgen was confident that the successful development of the Dells of the Eau Claire was largely due to the involvement of the CCC. He wrote, "The county is fortunate, indeed, that this camp is here. They do very fine work which compares favorably with the work done by the regular park crews and besides this it is a saving to the Park Commission. It will be only a short time before the dells is completely developed, while it would be a long time, if left to the park commission."⁴⁹ Company 3649 continued its work at the Dells of the Eau Claire until 1942. The Rib Mountain camp closed in 1942 as the federal government began decreasing the size of the emergency relief program nationwide.⁵⁰

SIGNIFICANCE: CRITERION C: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The Dells of the Eau Claire County Park is also significant at the local level under *Criterion C* for its designed naturalistic landscape. The period of significance begins in 1937 with the implementation of Horgen's Master Plan and ends in 1942 with the completion of the CCC's work at the site. According to the NPS *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports*, the following characteristics must be considered when evaluating a landscape: spatial organization; natural systems and features; views and vistas; circulation; buildings and structures; water features; and vegetation. The Eau Claire River and its unique natural features were the focal points of Horgen's 1937 plan, and every aspect of his design was intended to highlight these attributes. The 1937 plan laid out the locations of the Combination Building, pumphouse, trail shelters, restrooms, and footbridge, as well as trails, roads, parking areas, and a group picnic area and playground. The majority of the construction and design was concentrated north of the river, west of CTH Y. By concentrating the buildings in one area, Horgen reduced the overall impact on the natural resources while simultaneously promoting recreational use of the site. The historic spatial relationships of these man-made features are still intact. A smaller parking area located south of the river provides access to hiking trails which follow the southern bank of the Eau Claire River and meander south into the woods before turning north to the designed South Side Trail Shelter (see Photo 6) and the foot bridge (see Photo 4). After crossing the footbridge, two hiking trails wind into the woods or follow the north side of the river, leading to bluffs, overlooks, and the designed North Side Trail Shelter (see Photo 5). The hiking trails were designed to conform to the topography and ultimately lead visitors to beautiful outcroppings and vistas of the river. Some hiking paths have been expanded, but the circulation patterns of roads and trails are still largely intact. In terms of vegetation, Horgen's plan intentionally left large areas of the park in permanent woods. Some selective clearing was executed in order to open up vistas of the river. Presently, the majority of the park is still wooded in accordance with the 1937 design. The buildings are constructed in the Rustic style and are part of the designed landscape; they are addressed in more detail later in this section.

⁴⁸ Bronk; "CCC Camp Has Been Assigned to Marathon County;" Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.) Sparta District (WI), *Sparta CCC District, Sixth Corps Area Annual*, 151-153; "County Parks to Benefit from Camp Location."

⁴⁹ "Dells of the Eau Claire Park Notes;" Horgen; "People of Marathon County – Horgen, Ingwal S."

⁵⁰ "People of Marathon County – Horgen, Ingwal S;" Carol Ahlgren, "The Civilian Conservation Corps and Wisconsin State Park Development," *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Spring 1988, 185; "Closing of Local CCC Camp Ordered by Headquarters: Rib Mountain Unit of Corps to be Abandoned Saturday."

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Overall the park retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as a naturalistic designed landscape.

Horgen's 1937 design is an excellent and highly intact local example of the distinctive naturalistic and Rustic styles that developed under the National Park Service in the 1920s. This movement toward natural landscape design grew out of nineteenth century philosophies espoused by men such as Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmstead, and Henry Hobson Richardson, whose works valued scenic views, native vegetation, streams, outcroppings, natural topography, and the use of natural building materials. The first landscape gardens in the United States were designed in the early nineteenth century, inspired by the eighteenth and nineteenth century English gardens of William Kent, Capability Brown, and Humphry Repton. In the 1840s, Andrew Jackson Downing praised these gardens in *The Horticulturalist* and *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*. His writings strongly focused on picturesque landscapes, the idea of natural "wilderness" areas, rustic arbors and seats, log bridges, and framed vistas. Roads and walks should meander through the grounds, following natural contours and leading to points of interest, scenic overlooks, or secluded areas. Downing "established an aesthetic basis for the preservation of natural scenery and its use for pleasure and enjoyment." Through his writings,

He introduced the fundamental concepts of selecting viewpoints, enframing vistas, and moving the visitor through a sequence of views and scenes along curvilinear paths and steps to ensure pleasure and comfort while fostering appreciation and sensibility. He stimulated an appreciation for vegetation and rockwork as objects to be preserved and as vital design elements in enhancing the beauty of a place or scene and in blending the manmade object with its natural setting.⁵¹

These concepts were applied to urban parks such as Central Park, Boston's Franklin Park, and Boston's Emerald Necklace in the late nineteenth century under Frederick Law Olmstead. Like Downing, Olmstead believed landscape designs should be attentive to the natural scenery while man-made elements should be inconspicuous and harmonize with the landscape. His philosophy also recommended that areas intended for different uses should be separate from each other, a concept which is still evident in parks (including the Dells of the Eau Claire) where wilderness areas are distinct from administrative and visitor facilities.⁵² These standards of landscape design and park architecture became foundational in the development of national parks.

Charles Eliot developed additional strategies for preserving scenic views and landscape features. He was a landscape architect in Olmstead's office and advocated establishing parks based on their unique natural characteristics. His work also focused on clearing vegetation in parks to reveal vistas that were characteristic of specific geographical regions. This philosophy became important in national parks which covered thousands of acres and boasted wide varieties of landforms and features. Such clearing should not be done haphazardly; Eliot argued that careful planning was crucial before parks could be effectively and sensitively developed. The landscape architect had a:

⁵¹ Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942*, by Linda Flint McClelland (N.p.: National Register of Historic Places, Interagency Resources Division, 1993), 11, 19.

⁵² Department of the Interior, *Presenting Nature*, 20-22.

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...calling and duty to discover, and then to evolve and make available, the most characteristic, interesting, and effective scenery. Practically, his work will be confined to planning such control or modification of vegetation as may be necessary for the sake of scenery, and to devising the most advantageous courses for the roads and paths from which the scenery will be viewed.⁵³

Clearing vegetation was a controversial idea at the time, but other architects including Olmstead agreed that selective thinning of vegetation was important for the overall health of a landscape by reducing fire hazards, encouraging growth of ground cover and native species, and revealing vistas. Shortly after the National Park Service was established, park designers began implementing Eliot's strategies for scenery preservation and landscape restoration.⁵⁴ His influence is also evident in Ramsdell's 1923 plan for the Dells of the Eau Claire, in which he points out specific areas for clearing small, dead, or down trees and laid out paths to scenic overlooks and outcroppings along the river. It is also evident in Horgen's 1937 plan which laid out trails leading to scenic views of the river and outcroppings.

The need for professional landscaping and intentional planning in national parks was a concern as parks became more popular in the early twentieth century. In places such as Yosemite and Yellowstone, roadside developments, corrals, and markets had grown up with little or no regard to preserving viewsheds and scenery. As a result, a campaign to establish a professional parks bureau comprised of superintendents, engineers, and landscape architects led to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. Landscape architecture was a major concern for many of the bureau's advocates, who argued that the natural resources and scenery would not be properly preserved without the services of professional landscape architects. These designers would play a central role in developing park boundaries and plans that were sensitive to the existing landscape and topography. They would approve designs for proposed buildings and structures and develop maintenance policies to protect the natural beauty of each park. In the 1918 Statement of Policy, the National Park Service stated, "In the construction of roads, trails, buildings, and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape."⁵⁵ Beginning in 1925, the National Park Service started a program of comprehensive planning to coordinate the development of roads and trails, the location of park facilities, park structures, safe access points to scenic and natural features, patrol trails, patrol cabins, fire roads and lookouts, maintenance facilities, and concessionaire's services.⁵⁶ In regards to park architecture, the agency's dual and seemingly contradictory mission of preserving natural areas while making them accessible to the public contributed to the rise of the Rustic architecture plan for government and concessionaire park buildings.

The naturalistic landscape and Rustic man-made features of the Dells of the Eau Claire Park display excellent, aesthetically beautiful design, and enhance the natural beauty of the park by being intentionally subordinate to it. Cleared hiking paths meander through the park, following the topography and appearing entirely natural while intentionally-placed logs and stones act as stairways and subtle reminders of Horgen's purposeful

⁵³ Charles Eliot, June 2, 1896, quoted in McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, 49.

⁵⁴ McClelland, 51.

⁵⁵ Tweed, et al.

⁵⁶ Department of the Interior, *Presenting Nature*, 172.

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landscape design and commitment to the park's conservation. The Dells of the Eau Claire Park retains a high degree of integrity as a designed landscape and it is considered to be one of the finest parks in the Marathon County system.

SIGNIFICANCE: CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

The Dells of the Eau Claire Park is significant under *Criterion C: Architecture* for its Rustic style park buildings. The period of significance begins in 1927 with the erection of the Eau Claire Dells Bridge and ends in 1969 with the completion of the last contributing Rustic park structures and following the 50-year rule. Although the 1969 structures were constructed after the CCC Rustic structures, they contribute to the park's architectural significance because of their sensitive, compatible design. The Rustic resources retain a high degree of integrity and are excellent local examples of the NPS's architectural philosophy of harmonizing man-made structures with the natural landscape through the sensitive use of natural, locally available wood and stone building materials.

Like the parks' naturalistic landscape, Rustic architecture traced its origins to the nineteenth century influences of Downing, Olmstead, and Richardson, as well as popular architectural styles of the time. In order to make buildings and structures harmonize with the existing natural landscape, Downing, Olmstead, and Richardson recommended using natural stone and wood building materials. Permanent park structures such as buildings and shelters were also influenced by Shingle, Adirondack, and Prairie Style architecture. Richardson was the preeminent practitioner of Shingle Style architecture, which was characterized by irregular massing, porches and viewing bays, natural wood and stone construction materials, wide eaves and low-pitched roofs, horizontal bands of windows, open verandas, large interior fireplaces, and skillfully crafted interior woodwork. These character-defining features were utilized in Adirondack buildings and adopted in the American Arts and Crafts movement and Prairie Style designs. These building styles were well suited to the naturalistic landscapes they sought to enhance. They "fulfilled the basic principles of naturalistic gardening – the use of native materials, a design that fit the topography and blended with natural aspects of the setting, and the use of vegetation to blend and harmonize manmade construction."⁵⁷

The Rustic Style also grew out of a romantic vision of nature, conservation, and the western American frontier. According to National Park Service Architect Merrill Ann Wilson, the ethic of conservation "fostered the development of a unique architectural style." She further argues

Perhaps for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature... Early pioneer and regional building techniques were revived because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment...No [other] single government agency has to date been responsible for such a revolutionary break in architectural form.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Department of the Interior, *Presenting Nature*, 52.

⁵⁸ Tweed, et al.

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The National Park Service's Rustic buildings marked a departure from the earliest building styles typically erected in national parks. When Yellowstone and Sequoia were designated as national parks, the Army was assigned to protect the areas from poachers. As a result, basic housing and administrative buildings had to be constructed, which were built to standard Army specifications. Later buildings, such as the Army hospital at Yellowstone, displayed echoes of neo-classical and Georgian stylistic elements. In parks administered by the Department of the Interior, government buildings were often simple vernacular forms, utilitarian in character with little regard for style or setting.⁵⁹

Some of the first strides toward Rustic buildings in national parks occurred upon completion of the railroads toward the end of the nineteenth century which brought larger numbers of visitors to the western parks. By the first decade of the twentieth century, railroad architects and engineers discovered that distinctive hotels which were sensitive to their setting attracted more patrons and therefore had tangible financial benefits. Using a variety of materials including native stone, timber, and shingles, park buildings like the Old Faithful Inn and El Tovar Hotel demonstrated the architects' growing interest in buildings that responded to their natural setting. Buildings in other parks incorporated a variety of styles and regional variations, including Native American, Swiss Chalet, Adirondack, and Stick Style elements. These, together with the earlier Army and government buildings, endowed the parks with an eclectic and somewhat discontinuous mixture of architecture.⁶⁰

In the years immediately following World War I, park development was characterized by new buildings of native stone, logs, and shakes, designed with the landscape in mind. While some of the early designs may have been awkward in scale, inconveniently located, or strangely juxtaposed with their setting (such as the Pueblo-inspired Mount Washburn Lookout in Yellowstone), these early designs are indicative of the NPS's policy of Rustic Architecture.⁶¹

The style evolved in the 1920s and reached maturity by the early 1930s. In the mid-1920s, President Hoover approved additional funding for the NPS, leading to a period of enormous building, trail, and landscape improvements. The increased funding allowed the Landscape Division to hire additional architects. As there were no formal schools teaching Rustic architecture and naturalistic park design, Chief Landscape Architect Thomas C. Vint and the NPS were responsible for training their architects in the distinctive park style and integrating buildings, trails, roads, and campgrounds into their natural settings. At the same time, Dr. Emilio P. Meinecke developed a plan to reduce damage to soil and vegetation caused by human intrusion. Working with the NPS and Forest Service, he created the "Meinecke Plan," which is characterized by "narrow one-way lanes, pull-outs for automobiles...and well-defined campsites with tent spaces, camp stove, and picnic table, often surrounded by natural vegetation for privacy." It was thus in keeping with the NPS's goal to preserve natural areas while promoting their recreational use, and the plan's wide-spread application is still evident in park and forest campgrounds, including the Dells of the Eau Claire.⁶²

⁵⁹ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, *Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942* (National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977), accessed June 23, 2014, http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/rusticarch/introduction.htm

⁶⁰ Tweed, et al.

⁶¹ Tweed, et al.

⁶² Davis, 52-53.

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Under Hoover and Roosevelt, the NPS received funding to carry out its improvement programs, and the agency took on more projects during the Depression as it received grants from the Public Works Administration beginning in 1933. Though the CCC was originally intended to perform only simple forms of labor and park improvement, many government agencies, including the NPS, advocated for the CCC to take a larger role in the bureau's building program. Under the supervision of landscape architects and engineers, CCC enrollees began building several structures in Sequoia by mid-1933. Some park officials objected to the use of CCC enrollees in the construction of permanent buildings, arguing that enrollees did not have the skills required to master the complex building designs. Nevertheless, CCC men were successfully employed in building construction in national parks until the program was canceled in 1942.⁶³

Moreover, Roosevelt advocated the use of the CCC in state, county, and city parks as part of the ECW program. The NPS originally oversaw this program until it was separately designated as the State Park Division. The officials of the State Park Division took design inspiration from the work of Vint and the NPS, and wherever possible, the regional offices were staffed with professionals with previous NPS design experience. For this reason, many of the park buildings and structures erected in state and county parks, including the Dells of the Eau Claire, during the 1930s were built in the Rustic style during the 1930s.⁶⁴

The NPS and Vint's division were hard pressed to train the large numbers of incoming architects and designers, while simultaneously attempting to advise the State Park Division. In order to ease the burden and efficiently distribute the design philosophies of Rustic Architecture, Albert H. Good of the State Park Division and ECW District III Director Herbert Maier published "Park Structures and Facilities" in 1935. In the introductory chapter they described the basic, character-defining features of Rustic Architecture:

Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past.⁶⁵

Additional aspects of the Rustic, non-intrusive philosophy are harmony with the setting and natural vegetation, and use of natural colors on the building exterior. This harmony of material and color could be further accomplished through the use of rock footings and foundations, battered or buttressed stone walls. Boulders and stones could appear unstable, and so Good encouraged them to be laid horizontally "so as to resemble nature's bedding patterns." In terms of scale, the logs and stones should be proportional to those of the existing landscape. Smooth surfaces were to be avoided, as was vertical emphasis. On larger buildings, roofs should match the scale of the structure and foundation without dominating the view. Lastly, Rustic buildings should

⁶³ Davis, 25.

⁶⁴ Tweed, et al.

⁶⁵ Tweed, et al.

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harmonize with other pre-existing buildings in the area in order to achieve a sense of cohesion, thus further diminishing intrusive visual impacts.⁶⁶

The Rustic Style was the dominant architectural style in parks through the early 1940s, but several factors contributed to its decline. The National Park Service grew immensely between 1925 and 1935, undertaking new responsibilities, more sites, and more employees. At the same time, park visitation increased from over 6 million in 1935 to more than 16 million in 1941. Even with the assistance of the CCC, park landscape engineers and architects were unable to keep up with the growing demand for park facilities. Moreover, in order to function more efficiently, the NPS was reorganized into four regional units in 1937. As Vint's design unit was decentralized, and as the park service staff increased, it made the Branch of Plans and Design more susceptible to various "modern" architectural influences that were becoming popular at the time. Simpler, streamlined designs and new building materials were better suited to fulfill the NPS's growing workload and shrinking budget. Rustic architecture required a great deal of skilled and unskilled labor, special materials, and trained professional designers. The manpower required to execute the style helped fulfill Roosevelt's work relief goals, but as the CCC and relief efforts were reduced in the late 1930s, the style became too expensive and inefficient to build and maintain. Gradually, Rustic designs were phased out in favor of simpler wood frame buildings. The new, modern philosophies of simple, efficient park building design replaced the romantic ideals of the Rustic Style, and by the end of World War II, few new Rustic buildings were constructed.⁶⁷

Rustic park architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture are significant in the development of national, state, and county parks in that they allowed these public lands to develop in ways that conserved the existing landscape while making it accessible to the public. They also endowed the parks with a distinctive feeling and purpose as conservation and reserve areas. Finally, Rustic buildings are unique expressions of American architectural design and philosophy characteristic of the romanticism of the early twentieth century which "provided an alternative to the increasingly functional trends of twentieth century urban architecture."⁶⁸

In his 1940 essay "Architecture and Its Relationship to the Design of Parks," George Nason states, "Park architecture and park landscape architecture must be designs conceived with an intelligent regard for the site and the environment." Park sites were often chosen because of an existing feature or natural attraction, and the preservation and enhancement of such features required skilled, sensitive approaches to design. Park buildings were to function as "an underchord in the symphony of the whole design." In other words, they should be of simple design, and constructed of natural, indigenous materials in order to create a harmonic balance between the natural landscape and man-made elements. The role of the landscape architect was to provide a plan that both made the park accessible to the public and enhanced the site's beauty, and do to so in such a way that the intentional designs could easily be mistaken for natural features.⁶⁹ To achieve this end goal of simplicity and harmony, Nason encouraged the use of more honest, less affected park structures. The foundations for this

⁶⁶ Tweed, et al.

⁶⁷ Tweed, et al.

⁶⁸ Tweed, et al.

⁶⁹ George Nason, "Architecture and Its Relationship to the Design of Parks," *1940 Yearbook, Park And Recreation Progress* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1940), 56-58.

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harmony were laid in the 1920s with the Rustic Style, and its execution and design philosophy were redefined and streamlined during the war and post-war era.⁷⁰

The park plans and structures constructed by the CCC at the Dells of the Eau Claire are excellent examples of the natural designed landscapes and Rustic style architecture that were developed by the National Park Service in the 1920s and 1930s. The stone and log construction utilize local materials and pay homage to the park's massive outcroppings and wooded character. Stone foundations, with their boulders laid horizontally according to Good's advice, tie the buildings to the ground while horizontal log construction and wide eaves lend them a low, horizontal profile. While they are meant to be highly visible, they are sensitively designed to be non-intrusive, serving the needs of visitors and harmonizing with the natural landscape. Likewise, the stone steps and paths accomplish this same goal. Counted among the CCC's most significant accomplishments at the Dells of the Eau Claire was the construction of the park's foot-bridge and Combination Building. Work on the 120-foot foot-bridge began in 1936. Local stone was quarried for the construction of the heavy piers and abutments. Because the rock could not be broken or tooled, every stone was hand-picked for the bridge. The log material for the rails, posts and decking was obtained from the Eau Pleine County Park. The Combination Building, erected at the suggestion of the National Park Service, replaced an older, inadequate open shelter. The Combination Building included open and closed shelter space, a concession store room, pumphouse and comfort stations, and employed log and stone construction.

SIGNIFICANCE: CRITERION C: ENGINEERING

The Dells of the Eau Claire Bridge is a contributing resource within the park and is also individually eligible under *Criterion C: Engineering*. The period of significance is the date of construction, 1927. The bridge retains a high degree of integrity. It replaced the original Eau Claire Dells Bridge, a metal, overhead truss structure that carried County Highway Y across the Eau Claire River within the park. Although metal truss bridges were standard for public highways in Wisconsin at the time, the Wisconsin Highway Commission (WHC) recommended a stone-veneered, reinforced-concrete arch span for this location. The final design resulted in an aesthetically pleasing span in its spectacular, rustic setting. Construction on the new span began in the spring of 1927. The bridge was built using locally gathered stones to blend into the environment. The extraordinary aesthetic sensitivity to the environment increased the cost of the structure slightly, but resulted in a bridge which adapted well to the environment and continues to be a symbol for the Dells of the Eau Claire Park. The Park Commission called it "a piece of art of which everyone can be proud. It adds to the beauty of the park and the stone facing fits into the landscape."⁷¹

The Eau Claire Dells Bridge, constructed prior to the involvement of the CCC, is indicative of the WHC's commitment to natural-looking materials and design that grew out of the natural landscapes and parks

⁷⁰ Tweed, et al.

⁷¹ Marathon County Park Commission, 1927 Annual Report; "General Plan for the Eau Claire Dells Bridge; Marathon County Park Commission minutes for the year 1927 (Wausau, WI: Marathon County Courthouse); Marathon County Board of Supervisors Minutes," compiled at the annual meeting on November 9-13, 1926.

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movement in the 1920s. Like the parks' naturalistic landscape and Rustic architecture, the Rustic Eau Claire Dells Bridge traces its origins to the nineteenth century influences of Downing, Olmstead, and Richardson who recommended using natural stone and wood building materials to harmonize with the surrounding environment. Richardson was well known for his use of bold arches and rusticated stonework, especially in bridges. Richardson's Boylston Street Bridge, designed for the Emerald Necklace, set a precedent for fieldstone arch bridges in parks. It inspired two stone arch bridges at Franklin Park's Scarborough Pond, which used randomly-placed rusticated cut stone and acted as models for national park architects. In terms of engineering, in the first decades of the twentieth century, bridges in national parks were commonly timber or metal truss structures. Timber was sturdy but was subject to decay. Truss bridges, though common, did not offer optimal views of the scenery as vertical dimensions of the structure interrupted sight lines. Arch construction, by contrast, was strong and offered unimpeded views of the landscape. Landscape architects and engineers in Yosemite advocated for the use of arch bridges, which soon became more common in national, state, and local parks. The preference for natural materials and arch construction is reflected in the 1927 Eau Claire Dells Bridge.⁷²

Comparative Properties

Of the 12 parks in Marathon County, Marathon Park is the only other park to be determined eligible for the National Register. It was established in 1920 and is significant for its use as a fairground, its naturalistic Prairie School landscape, automobile tourist camp, and Rustic style buildings. The landscape master plans were developed by Charles H. Ramsdell in 1919 with improvements by Ingwal S. Horgen. Many of the contributing buildings were designed by the architecture firm of (William) Oppenhamer and (Irving) Obel and erected between 1921 and 1940. Marathon Park retains a high degree of integrity despite the addition of non-contributing picnic shelters, restrooms, ice arenas, and a new grandstand in the late 1960s through 2000. Although Marathon Park and the Dells of the Eau Claire were designed by the same people and developed at the same time, they have very different characters and intended uses. Marathon Park has a more urban character, focused on the fairgrounds and auto tourism. By contrast, the Dells of the Eau Claire is rural and located outside of the city, and its development was centered on the river, dells, and outcroppings. Therefore, Marathon Park is not a suitably comparable property.

Big Eau Pleine County Park shares more of the rural characteristics of the Dells of the Eau Claire, and also benefited from the CCC during the 1930s. It boasts meandering trails and Rustic park structures. Its National Register eligibility has not been formally evaluated; however, the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park appears to retain a higher degree of integrity in terms of its Rustic architecture and naturalistic landscape design.

Integrity

The Dells of the Eau Claire County Park has experienced some alterations and growth since the 1940s, but it retains a high degree of integrity. The park continues to fulfil its historic use as a recreational facility, and the conservation work performed by the CCC is still intact. Some hiking paths and park structures have been expanded and constructed since the initial implementation of Horgen's 1937 plan, but the park continues to reflect much of the Master Plan. It is recognizable as a designed naturalistic landscape and many of the paths follow Horgen's plan as they meander through the woods and along the river bank, purposefully leading to

⁷² McClelland, 129.

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overlooks, outcroppings, and natural features. Even the design of the narrow park roads is intentional, adhering to the ideas promoted by Dr. Emilio P. Meinecke to minimize the impact of automobiles on the landscape. The park architecture is Rustic in style and has not been substantially altered since construction began in 1937. Although the structures built in 1969 were not included in the 1937 Master Plan, they contribute to the recreational and architectural significance of the park due to their sensitive Rustic design. Finally, the Eau Claire Dells Bridge is a contributing and individually eligible Rustic structure with a high degree of integrity. The stone-veneered bridge enhances the natural rugged landscape of the park and is unique among highway bridges for its reinforced concrete and aesthetic design. Based on its integrity, naturalistic landscape design, Rustic architecture, and its association with the parks movement and CCC, the Dells of the Eau Claire Park meets National Register *Criteria A* in the areas of Recreation and Conservation, and *C* in the areas of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Engineering.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

Historically, there has been an extensive Native American presence in Marathon County. The Archaeological Sites Inventory maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society does not include identified archaeological resources within the boundaries of the Park; however, this area has not been formally surveyed and assessed. From a regional perspective, archaeological evidence demonstrates pre-contact Native American presence from the periods of Archaic, Woodland and the Oneota and Mississippian Traditions. Historic Native American presence includes the Chippewa, Ojibwa, Eastern Dakota, Fox, Huron Tionnontate, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ho-Chunk tribes.

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UTM References (cont.)

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	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description:

The historic boundary for the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Town of Plover, Marathon County. The historic boundary is an irregularly-shaped polygon enclosing the contributing resources. The historic boundary consists of legal parcel lines and lines of convenience within the legal parcel, more specifically described as: part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of T29N R10E Section 7, commencing at the southwest corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, also the southwest corner of the historic boundary; from the southwest corner, the historic boundary turns north along the west boundary of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ for a distance of 2,628 feet to the northwest corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, also the northwest corner of the historic boundary; from the northwest corner, the historic boundary turns east along the north boundary of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ for a distance of 2,780 feet to the northeast corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, also the northeast corner of the historic boundary; from the northeast corner, the historic boundary turns south along the east boundary of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ for a distance of 1,964 feet to a point that corresponds to the southeast corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the section, also the southeast corner of the historic boundary; from the southeast corner, the historic boundary continues west along the QQQ line for a distance of 1,008 feet to the intersection of the QQQ line with CTH Y; from here, the historic boundary follows the western side of CTH Y for a distance of 1,233 feet to a point where it intersects with the southern edge of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$; from here, the historic boundary follows the south boundary of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ for a distance of 1,233 feet to a point that corresponds to the southwest corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the southwest corner of the historic boundary, and the point of beginning. The historic boundary encompasses approximately 152 acres.

Boundary Justification:

The historic boundary coincides with Ingwal S. Horgen's 1937 landscape plan for the park, and excludes areas that are not a part of the designed landscape (see Figure 4). All of the contributing resources are located within the 1937 designed landscape. The park has grown in size since 1937 but those acres were not included in this evaluation because the resources on them either post-date the period of significance, or they are vault toilets or picnic shelters, ancillary uses that do not contribute to the significance of the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park

___End of Boundary Descriptions

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Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

Name of Property:	Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
City or Vicinity:	Town of Plover, Marathon County, WI
County:	Marathon
State:	WI
Name of Photographer:	Rachel Bankowitz, Jim McEachran, and Shelley Greene
Date of Photographs:	April 2012, February 2013, May 2014
Location of Original Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin
Number of Photographs:	20

Photo 1
Landscape and mylonite cliffs, camera facing west

Photo 2
Eau Claire Dells Bridge, west elevation, camera facing southeast

Photo 3
Eau Claire Dells Bridge, plaque detail

Photo 4
Foot-Bridge, east elevation, camera facing northwest

Photo 5
North Side Trail-Side Shelter, south entry (right) and west elevation (left), camera facing northeast

Photo 6
South Side Trail-Side Shelter, east entry (left) and north elevation (right), camera facing southwest

Photo 7
Pumphouse, east façade (left) and north elevation (right), camera facing southwest

Photo 8
North Side Picnic Shelter #1, west façade (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast

Photo 9
North Side Picnic Shelter #2, east façade (right) and south elevation (left), camera facing northwest

Photo 10
South Side Picnic Shelter, east façade (right) and south elevation (left), camera facing northwest

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Section photos Page 2

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

Photo 11
Well Shelter, camera facing northeast

Photo 12
North Park Entrance Sign, camera facing northwest

Photo 13
Combination Building, east façade (right) and south elevation (left), camera facing northwest

Photo 14
Combination Building, east façade (left) and north elevation (right), camera facing southwest

Photo 15
Combination Building, interior fireplace, built-in log seating and wood plank doors

Photo 16
North Side Restroom, southeast façade (left) and northeast elevation (left), camera facing west

Photo 17
South Side Restroom, north façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast

Photo 18
Stone Steps, camera facing north

Photo 19
Stone Stairway, camera facing northwest

Photo 20
Overlook, camera facing southeast

 Insert Figures

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Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 3

Figure 1.

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park, Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin – UTM
16N/E315111/N4986517; E315960/N4986499; E315951/N4985900; E315173/N4985769;
E315079/N4985716

Figure 2.

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park, Town of Plover, Marathon County – Boundary Map

Figure 3.

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park, Town of Plover, Marathon County – Photo Key

Figure 4.

“A Preliminary Plan of General Arrangement of Park on Dells of the Eau Claire River,” by Charles H.
Ramsdell, 1923

Figure 5.

Master Plan for the Dells of Eau Claire County Park,” by Ingwal S. Horgen, 1937

Figure 6.

“General Plan for the Eau Claire Dells Bridge,” 1926

Figure 7.

“Trail-Side Shelter for the Eau Claire Dells Park,” 1935 Plan

Figure 8.

“Dells of the Eau Claire Foot-Bridge,” 1936 Plan

Figure 9.

“Combination Building, Dells of the Eau Claire Park,” 1940 Plan

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 4

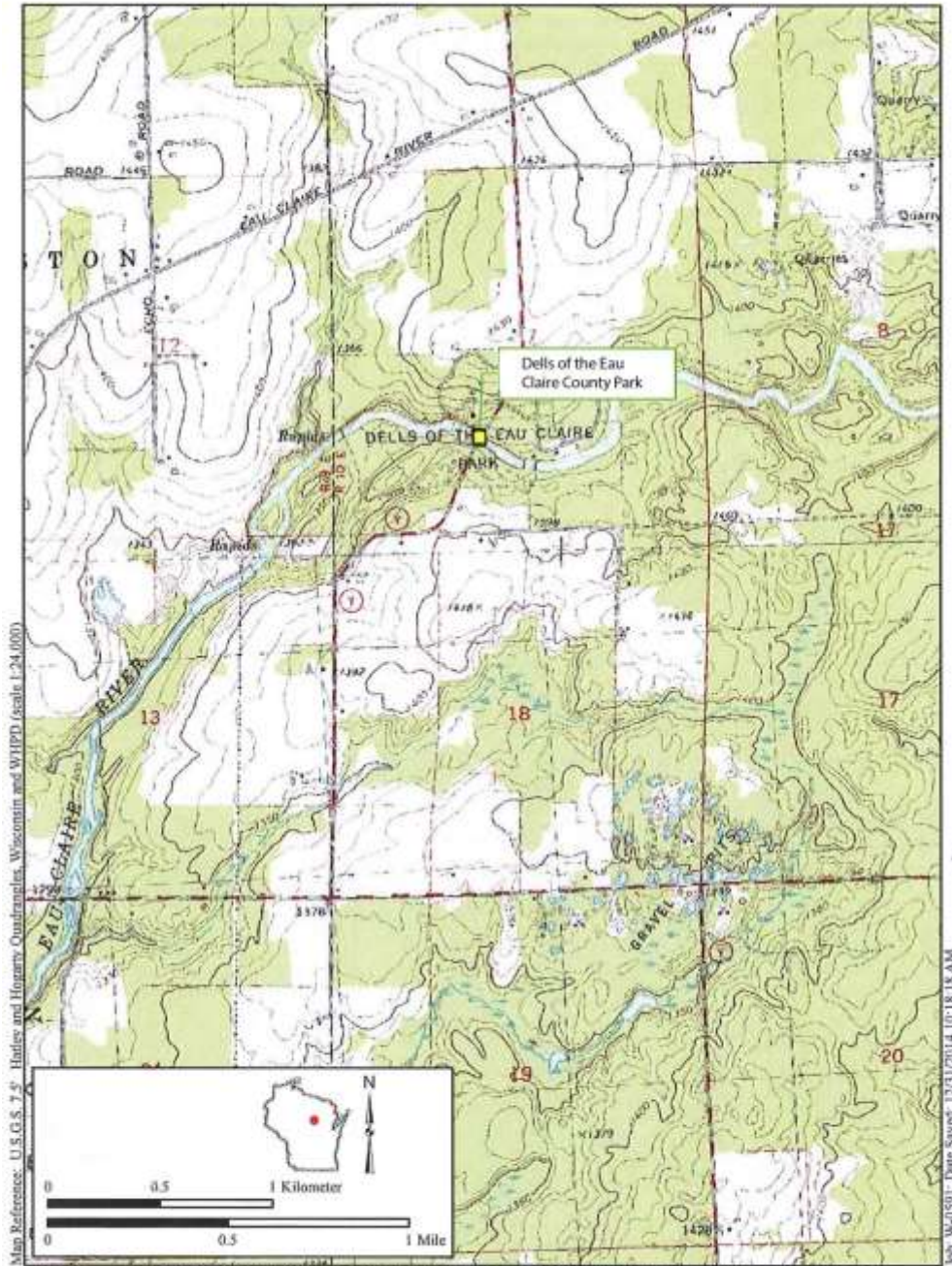


Figure 1. Dells of the Eau Claire County Park, Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin – UTM 16N: E315111/N4986517, E315960/N4986499 E315951/N4985900, E315573/N4985769, & E315079/N4985716

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Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 5

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park Boundary Map

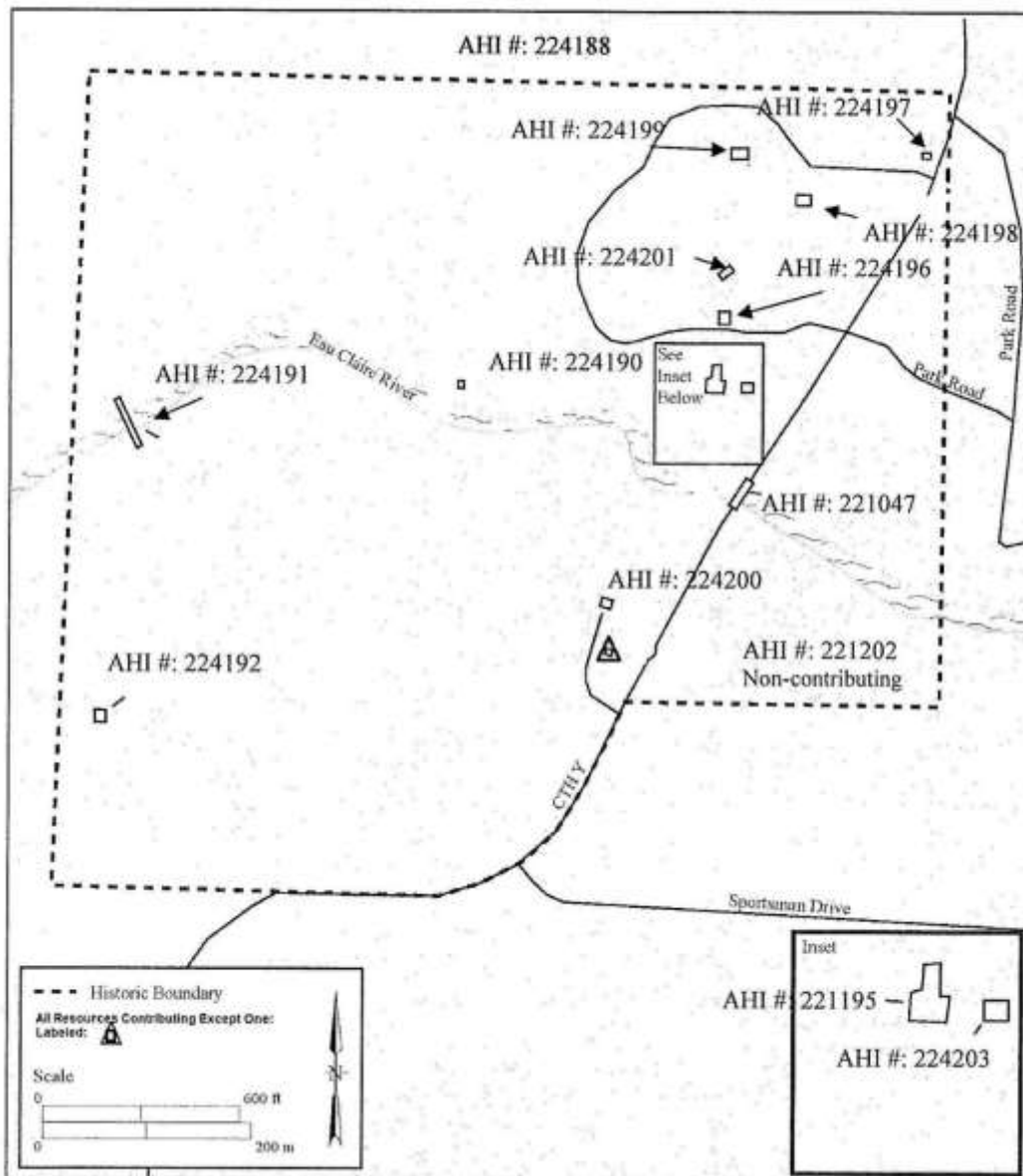


Figure 2: Boundary Map

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 6

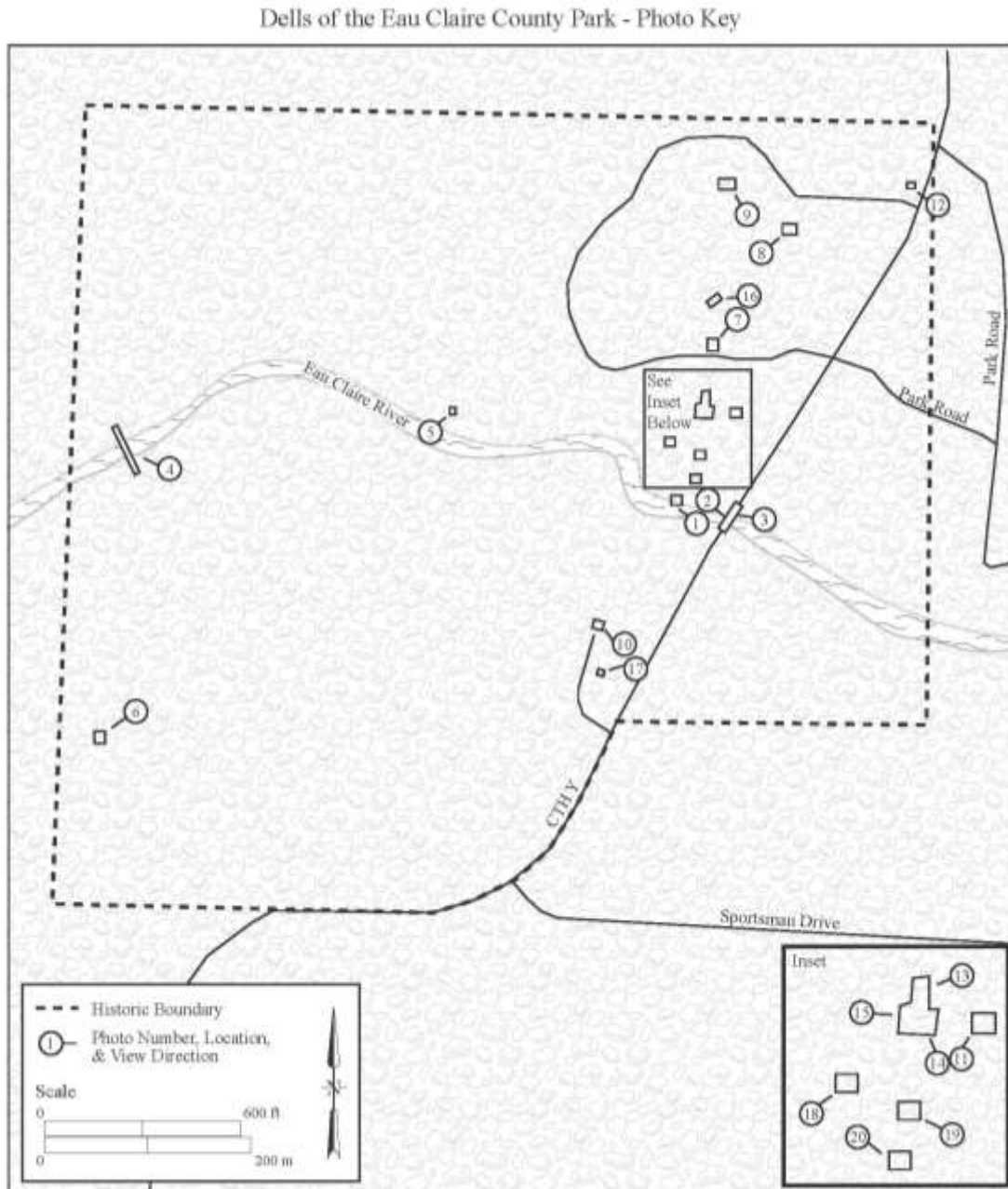


Figure 3: Photo Key

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 7

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

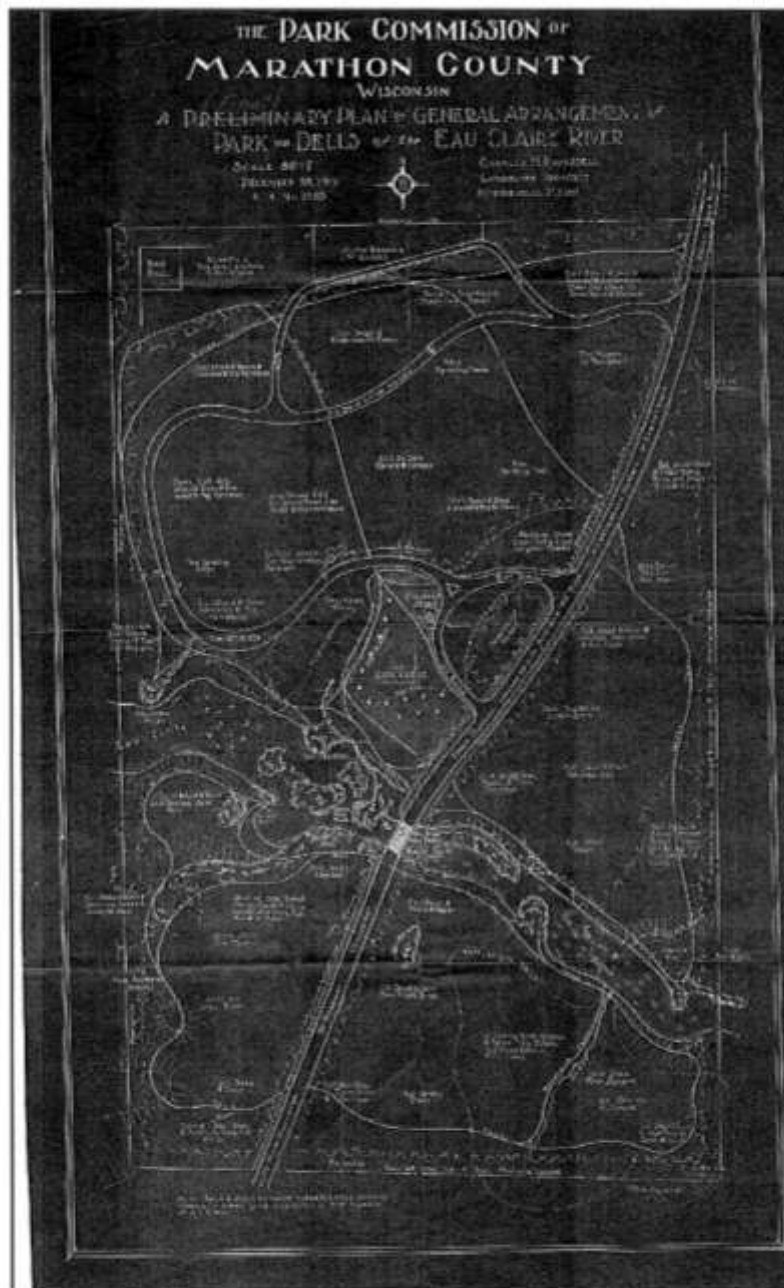


Figure 4. A Preliminary Plan of General Arrangement of Park on Dells of the Eau Claire River, by Charles H. Ramsdell, 1923

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 8

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

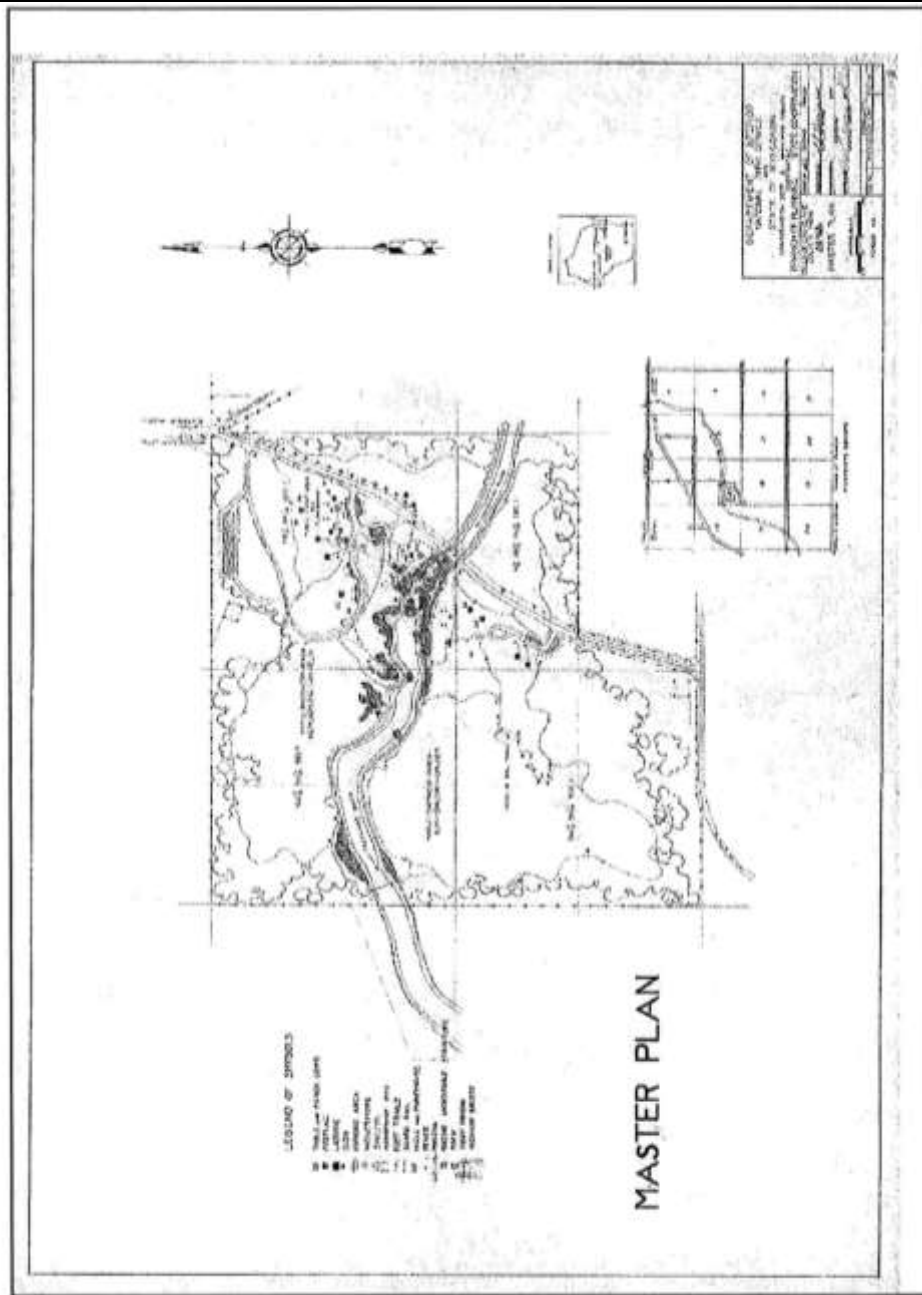


Figure 5. Master Plan for the Dells of Eau Claire County Park, by Ingwal S. Horgen, 1937

Figure 5: "Master Plan for the Dells of Eau Claire County Park" by Ingwal S. Horgen, 1937

United States Department of the Interior
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Section figures Page 9

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

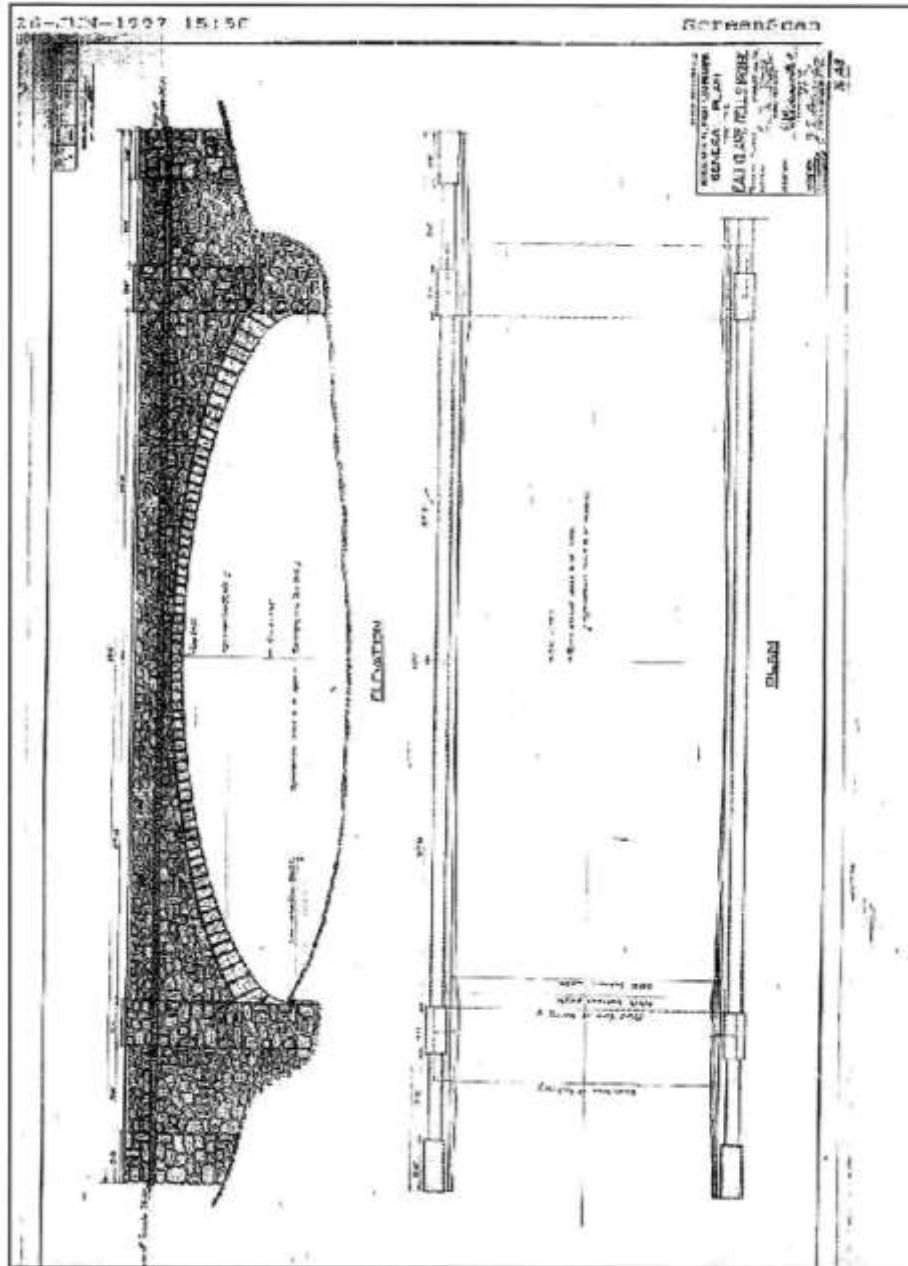


Figure 6. General Plan for the Eau Claire Dells Bridge, 1926

Figure 6: "General Plan for the Eau Claire Dells Bridge," 1926

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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 10

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

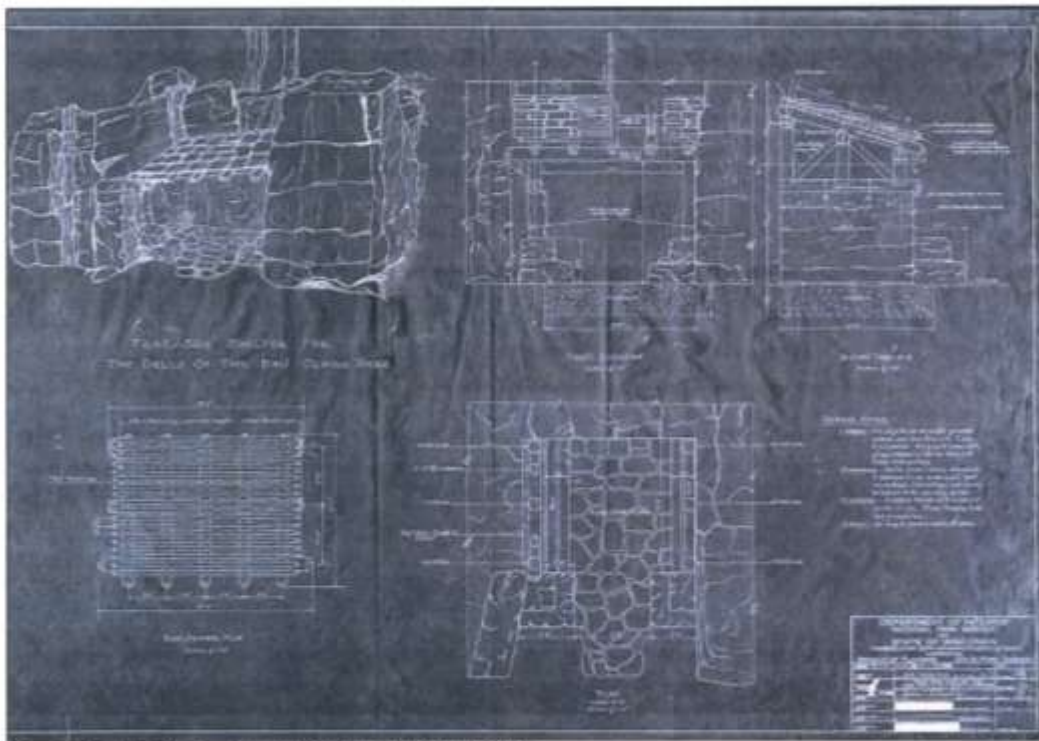


Figure 7. Trail-Side Shelter for the Eau Claire Dells Park, 1935 Plan

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Section figures Page 12

Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin

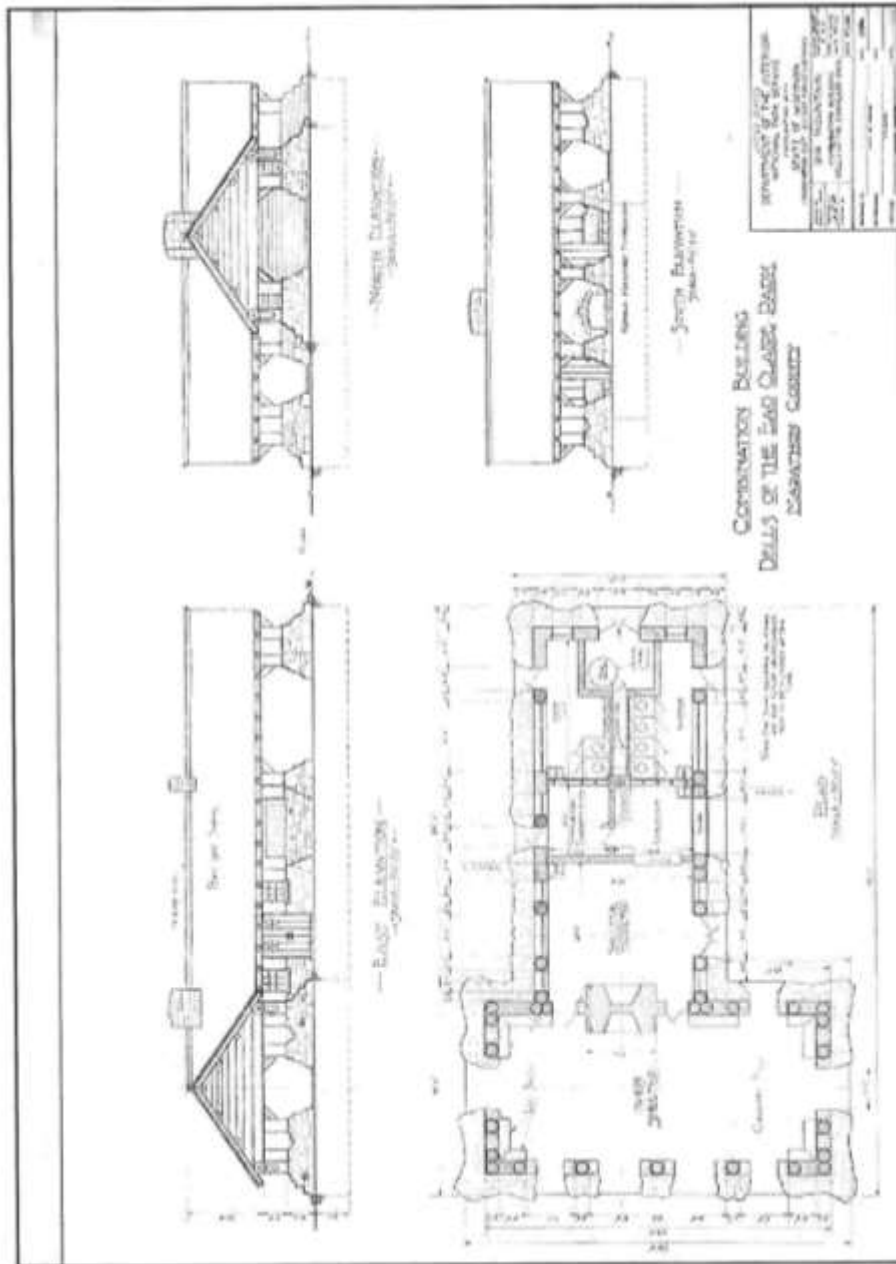


Figure 9. Combination Building, Dells of the Eau Claire Park, 1940 Plan

Figure 9: "Combination Building, Dells of the Eau Claire Park," 1940 Plan





W.H. FISCHER & SONS

ANTIGO, WIS.

CONTRACTORS

1927









A stone pillar, approximately 10 feet high, is constructed from stacked, roughly-hewn grey and brown stones. A thick, weathered wooden log is horizontally mounted across the top of the pillar. To the left of the pillar, a black sign with gold lettering is suspended from the log. The sign is rectangular with a decorative, slightly irregular bottom edge. The background consists of a dense forest of tall, thin trees with sparse, light green foliage, suggesting a spring or early summer setting. The foreground is a well-maintained green lawn with scattered yellow wildflowers. The lighting is bright and natural, casting soft shadows on the grass.

DELLS
OF THE
EAU CLAIRE
MARATHON COUNTY PARK
SYSTEM









THIS SHELTER
MAY BE RESERVED

NO. 1















WOMEN

MEN





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Dells of the Eau Claire County Park
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Marathon

DATE RECEIVED: 5/20/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/02/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/17/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/05/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000429

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.5-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 20 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

The following materials are submitted on this Thirteenth day of May 2016, for the nomination of the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park to the National Register of Historic Places:

<u>1</u>	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
<u>1</u>	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
<u> </u>	Multiple Property Nomination form
<u>20</u>	Photograph(s)
<u>1</u>	CD with image files
<u>1</u>	Map(s)
<u>8</u>	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
<u> </u>	Piece(s) of correspondence
<u> </u>	Other:

COMMENTS:

<u> </u>	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
<u> </u>	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
<u> </u>	The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
<u> </u>	Other: