

Response from the MnDNR Natural Heritage Program



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25
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September 13, 2006

Mr. Todd Udvig
Schoell Madson, Inc.
15050 23rd Avenue North
Plymouth, MN 55447

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2006

Schoell Madson

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Stones Throw AUAR,
T120N R23W Sections 25 & 36, Hennepin County
NHNRP Contact #: ERDB 20070224

Dear Mr. Udvig,

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there are 4 known occurrences of rare species or native plant communities in the area searched (for details, see enclosed database printout and explanation of selected fields). However, based on the nature and location of the proposed project I do not believe it will affect any known occurrences of rare features.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, and has been completed for Hennepin County. Our information about native plant communities is, therefore, quite thorough for that county. However, because survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of the county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: short record report and long record report. To control the release of locational information, which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

The short record report provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the short record report for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. **The long record report includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint the long record report for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on *rare natural features*. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other natural resource-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Wayne Barstad, at (651) 772-7940.

An invoice in the amount of \$68.02 will be mailed to you under separate cover within two weeks of
DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929



Minnesota Natural Heritage & Nongame Research Program
 Short Record Report of Element Occurrences within 1 mile radius of:
 Stones Throw AUAR
 T120N R23W Sections 25 & 36
 Hennepin County

Element Name and Occurrence Number Carver, Hennepin, Wright County, MN	Federal Status	MN Status	State Rank	Global Rank	Last Observed Date
<u>Cygnus buccinator</u> (Trumpeter Swan) #2 Location Description: Legal description is too lengthy to fit in allotted space.		THR	S2B	G4	2002
Hennepin County, MN					
<u>Gallinula chloropus</u> (Common Moorhen) #21 Location Description: T120N R22W S30	No Status	SPC	S3B	G5	1991-06-22
<u>Panax quinquefolius</u> (American Ginseng) #190 Location Description: T120N R23W S24		SPC	S3	G3G4	1995-09-20
<u>Sugar Maple Forest (Big Woods) Type #781</u> Location Description: T120N R23W S24		N/A	SNR	GNR	1995-09-20

Records Printed = 4

Long Record Report of Element Occurrences within 1 mile radius of:

Stones Throw AUAR
T120N R23W Sections 25 & 36
Hennepin County

Element Name and Occ. #: Cygnus buccinator (Trumpeter Swan) #2 EO ID #: 28342

Observed Area:
Extent Known?: N - Confident full extent of EO is NOT known
Ownership Type: Private individual

Location Description: Carver, Hennepin, Wright County, MN
Legal description is too lengthy to fit in allotted space.

Site Name: FRANKFORT 35, BUFFALO 2, CARVER PARK RESERVE, CLEARWATER 24, CORCORAN 14, CORCORAN 25, CROW-HASSAN PARK RESERVE, EAST ROCKFORD 6, ELM CREEK PARK RESERVE, FRANKLIN PARK, HASSAN 26, HASTINGS 24, LAKE CLASSEN, LAKE MARIA STATE PARK, LAKE REBECCA PARK RESERVE.

Survey Site #/Name:

General Description:

EO Data: In 2000, positive nesting was recorded at Lake Maria State Park and Krueger's, where the swans were found during summer breeding season. Within the Morris T. Baker Park Reserve, positive nesting was observed at the DQ Marsh, Beaver Marsh and HQ Marsh. Within Elm Creek Park Reserve, positive nesting was found at Mud Lake, Lemans Lake, and W. Hayden Lake. At Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, positive nesting was found at Kasma and Held. Positive nesting was also found at Crow- Hassan Park Reserve in PriaireCreek, as well as Carver Park Reserve in Carver County. In Wright County, positive nesting was confirmed at Monticello, Yonak's, the RR NE of Hanover, Buffalo, Pelican Lake, and Clearwater- 150th St. In Hennepin County, positive nesting was found at Shamrock Golf Course, Hassen, Medina Road and Westwood Hills Nature Center. Lake Claussen next to Orono High School and along Hwy 12 also hosted a nesting pair that produced 2 cygnets in 2002.

Element Name and Occ. #: Gallinula chloropus (Common Moorhen) #21 EO ID #: 12157

Observed Area:
Extent Known?:

Ownership Type: Unknown

Location Description: Hennepin County, MN
T120N R22W S30

Site Name: DAYTON 30
Survey Site #/Name:

Last Observed Date: 1991-06-22
First Observed Date: 1991-06-22
Last Survey Date:

Managed Area(s):
Survey Type:

Surveyor(s): Helmeke, D.

MN Status: Special Concern
Federal Status: No Status
State Rank: S3B
Global Rank: G5
EO Rank: Not ranked

General Description: BREEDING SEASON OBSERVATION. 1 BIRD OBSERVED FLYING OUT OF LOWER LAGOON FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PONDS ON WEST SIDE OF FRENCH LAKE ROAD.
EO Data:

The Natural Heritage & Nongame Research Program recently adopted a new database system called Biotics. As a result of this change, the layout and contents of the database reports have been revised. Many of the fields included in the new reports are the same or similar to the previous report fields, however there are several new fields and some of the field definitions have been slightly modified. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the latest field explanations.

Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields

The Rare Features database (Biotics) is part of the Natural Heritage Information System, and is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

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Field Name: [Full (non-abbreviated) field name, if different]. Further explanation of field.

-E-

Element Name and Occ #: [Element Name and Occurrence Number]. The Element is the name of the rare feature. For plant and animal species records, this field holds the scientific name followed by the common name in parentheses; for all other elements (such as native plant communities, which have no scientific name) it is solely the element name. Native plant community names correspond to Minnesota's Native Plant Community Classification (Version 2.0). The Occurrence Number, in combination with the Element Name, uniquely identifies each record.

EO Data: [Element Occurrence Data]. For species elements, this field contains data collected on the biology of the Element Occurrence* (EO), including the number of individuals, vigor, habitat, soils, associated species, peculiar characteristics, etc. For native plant community elements, this field is a summary text description of the vegetation of the EO, including structure (strata) and composition (dominant/characteristic species), heterogeneity, successional stage/dynamics, any unique aspects of the community or additional noteworthy species (including animals). Note that this is a new field and it has not been filled out for many of the records that were collected prior to conversion to the new database system. Some of the information meeting the field definition may be found in the General Description field.

EO ID#: [Element Occurrence Identification Number]. Unique identifier for each Element Occurrence record.

EO Rank: [Element Occurrence Rank]. An evaluation of the quality and condition of an Element Occurrence (EO) from A (highest) to D (lowest). Represents a comparative evaluation of: 1) quality as determined by representativeness of the occurrence especially as compared to EO specifications and including maturity, size, numbers, etc. 2) condition (how much has the site and the EO itself been damaged or altered from its optimal condition and character). 3) viability (the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence - used in ranking species only). EO Ranks are assigned based on recent fieldwork by knowledgeable individuals.

Extent Known?: A value that indicates whether the full extent of the Element is known (i.e., it has been determined through field survey) at that location. If null, the value has not been determined.

-F-

Federal Status: Status of species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act: LE = endangered; LT = threatened; LE,LT = listed endangered in part of its range, listed threatened in another part of its range; LT,PDL = listed threatened, proposed for delisting; C = candidate for listing. If null or "No Status" the species has no federal status.

First Observed Date: Date that the Element Occurrence was first reported at the site in format YYYY-MM-DD. A year followed by "Pre" indicates that the observed date was sometime prior to the date listed, but the exact date is unknown.

-G-

General Description: General description or word picture of the area where the Element Occurrence (EO) is located (i.e., the physical setting/context surrounding the EO), including a list of adjacent communities. When available, information on surrounding land use may be included. Note that the information tracked in this field is now more narrowly defined than it was in the old database system, and some of the information still in this field more accurately meets the definition of the new EO Data field. We are working to clean up the records so that the information in the two fields corresponds to the current field explanations described herein. Also note that the use of uppercase in sentences in this field is not significant but rather an artifact of transferring data from the old database system to the new system.

Global Rank: The global (i.e., range-wide) assessment of the relative rarity or imperilment of the species or community. Ranges from G1 (critically imperiled due to extreme rarity on a world-wide basis) to G5 (demonstrably secure, though perhaps rare in parts of its range). Global ranks are determined by NatureServe, an international network of natural heritage programs and conservation data centers.

-L-

Last Observed Date: Date that the Element Occurrence was last observed to be extant at the site in format YYYY-MM-DD.

Last Survey Date: Date of the most recent field survey for the Element Occurrence, regardless of whether it was found during the visit. If the field is blank, assume the date is the same as the Last Observed Date.