



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

February 7, 2022

Correspondence # ERDB 20220090

Claire Freesmeier
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
3701 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55416

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Canterbury Event District,
T115N R22W Sections 4, 5, and 9; Scott County

Dear Claire Freesmeier,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, please visit the [Rare Species Guide Website](#) for more information on the biology, habitat use, and conservation measures of these rare species). Please note that the following rare features may be adversely affected by the proposed project:

State-listed Species

- The Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), a state-listed endangered bird, has been documented in the vicinity of the project site. Loggerhead Shrikes use grasslands that contain short grass and scattered perching sites such as hedgerows, shrubs, or small trees. They can be found in native prairie, pastures, shelterbelts, old fields or orchards, cemeteries, grassy roadsides, and farmyards. Shrikes frequently shift territories between years so it is not unusual for a particular nesting area to be vacant for several years before it is used again. Given the potential for this species to be found in the vicinity of the project, avoid tree and shrub removal during the breeding season, typically April through July. Contact me if any tree or shrub removal will occur during the breeding season, as the DNR may request that a survey for active nests be conducted prior to construction. Please report any loggerhead shrike sightings to the Regional Nongame Specialist, Bridgette Timm (Bridgette.Timm@state.mn.us).

- The gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), a state-listed species of special concern, has been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project and may be encountered on site. These snakes prefer grassy areas with sandy and gravel soils. Given the presence of these rare snakes, the DNR recommends that the use of erosion control mesh, if any, be limited to [wildlife-friendly materials](#).

Federally Protected Species

- To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

Environmental Review and Permitting

- Please include a copy of this letter in any state or local license or permit application. Please note that measures to avoid or minimize disturbance to the above rare features may be included as restrictions or conditions in any required permits or licenses.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS 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. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location (noted above) and the project description provided on the NHIS Data Request Form. Please contact me if project details change or construction has not occurred within one year as additional review may be required.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Bump". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Samantha Bump
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us

Links: Rare Species Guide
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html>
DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html
USFWS IPaCTool
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>
Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control
<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf>

Cc: Melissa Collins, Leslie Parris, and Bridgette Timm