Black River Water-Ski Club
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SLALOM COURSE PROJECT NARRATIVE

Local citizens of the Coulee Region love being outdoors around the Mighty Mississippi; unfortunately, there is not a local club who has installed a water-skiing slalom course within the La Crosse area. Water-skiing aficionados would truly appreciate a slalom course to work on their skills, compete with friends and family, and enjoy some recreation on the water. The Black River Water-Skiing Club (BRWSKI) would like to build/install a slalom course on the Black River in La Crosse, Wisconsin. With an area of roughly 91,000 square feet (slightly over two acres), the proposed slalom course will become a virtual playground/waterpark for local water-skiing fanatics.

Located near the shoreline of the La Crosse Regional Airport, the proposed slalom course would be installed just North of 'Airport Beach' to the East of Fishermans Road. Positioned downstream from the Onalaska Spillway, the proposed slalom course will be located within a stretch of the river system that is non-navigable for towable barges and other large vessels. Considering multiple water-skiing events are held in this area throughout the summer season, the chosen location is a prime area for a slalom course to be utilized by the Black River Water-Skiing Club and other local water-skiing enthusiasts. Established in 1972, the River City Water Ski Team holds practices and shows nearby the proposed slalom course location.

Beginning after permit approval, layout of the slalom course will be precisely positioned atop the Black River's frozen waters. Utilizing global positioning technology, each buoy will be accurately placed and positioned. In order to install the buoy anchors for the slalom course, holes shall be cut in the ice where the buoy anchors will be lowered into position. Next, highly trained, professional commercial divers will enter the water to drive the buoy anchors into the river bottom. Made of two-inch steel pipe, the buoy anchors will be securely driven about four to five feet into the sediment. Surface supplied air equipment will ensure the divers have a constant supply of air both for breathing and operating pneumatic tools used to drive in the buoy anchors. Small sub-floats (six to eight inches in diameter) will be fastened to the driven buoy anchors for easy relocation during the spring/summer. Once the weather becomes favorable for water-skiing, marker buoys will be attached to the sub-floats and slalom skiing will commence.

If the ice is not of adequate thickness or the installation timeframe has an unforeseen set back, the buoy anchors will be installed from a work platform such as a small vessel or barge. Divers will enter the water to drive the buoy anchors at the precisely located coordinates provided by global positioning systems. Since all installation activities will occur in the main channel of the Black River, no temporary or permanent erosion control measures are foreseen. During the installation process, no materials will be excavated or dredged. Foreign fill materials or disturbances are also not applicable to the installation of the proposed slalom course.

Considering the construction schedule, impacts to the public use of the waterway should be relatively minimal to non-existent. If an unforeseen delay should occur, installation of the buoy anchors will commence in early spring limiting the impact to the public use of the waterway. Use of highly trained, professional commercial divers should lessen the impact to the waterways when installing the buoy anchors. Utilizing two-inch diameter pipes as anchors will also minimize the surface area of river bottom disturbance.