

GOTH CONSERVANCY PROJECT RECOMENDATIONS



Prepared for the Town of Middleton and the Park Commission by:

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- ▶ UW-Platteville Geography Professor: Richard Waugh
- ▶ UW-Platteville Geography Professor: Lynnette Dornak

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I. Project Overview

In 1987, Royce Goth donated 20 acres of old agriculture fields and woodlands to the town of Middleton. The intention behind this was to create a neighborhood area where residents could enjoy nature and the land. It is that the southern portion of the property to remain as natural as possible, while the northern portion of the site will have permanent amenities such as shelters and a parking lot. The intentions of this site is for minimal activities such as hiking, wildlife watching, and picnicking.

In December 2006, Michael Anderson and Bryn Scriver of Biologic Environmental Consulting LLC prepared an Ecological Assessment and Management Plan for the Town of Middleton and the Goth Conservancy. This was phase one of the final plan for the Goth Conservancy and phase two would come later. The ecological assessment provided recommendations for protecting and restoring the Conservancy's native plant communities; providing for visitor safety and enjoyment of minimizing impacts to adjoining neighborhoods; and utilizing external funding.

In October 2014 Professor Richard Waugh and Lynette Dornak of the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin Platteville became involved in the further development of the Goth Conservancy. After receiving initial contact from the Middleton Park Commission, Professor Dornak and Waugh sought out a student to assist in the creation of a management and implementation plan that would make the Goth Conservancy a suitable place for people to enjoy themselves in. That is where UW-Platteville senior Nick Harnish came into the project. Harnish is a double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science with a double

minor in Geography and Social/Environmental Justice. Harnish along with his advisers completed a design, implementation, and management plan for the Goth Conservancy. This proposed plan is a part of the second phase for the Goth Conservancy; the purpose is to provide recommendations to the Middleton Park Commission on how to provide interpretations and recreation opportunities for the visitors of the Goth Conservancy.

II. Goals and Objectives

The Middleton Park Commission and friends have asked Nick Harnish and advisers to for assistance in creating a proposal to continue to develop the Goth Conservancy. Their goals for phase two include; providing passive outdoor activities such as walking, bird watching, nature education, improved species diversity, and family picnicking. They would like to maintain the grape arbor as a tribute to Royce Goth who donated the land. They would like to improve the current parking lot and entrance into the conservancy. They would also like to increase the amount of sitting areas throughout the conservancy, implement trail markings. Mae Hartwig, a relative of Royce Goth recently donated a rock amphitheater that they Park Commission would like to place in the conservancy. Overall it is the goal of this proposal to provide simple yet productive recommendations for the Goth Conservancy to make it user friendly.

III. Site Analysis

Goth Conservancy consists of 20 acres of old field and timbered wood lots. Evidence of past use

include; grape arbor, utility road through the center of the site, logging remains in eastern



woods. Glacial land forms include two kettles, a small one on the west side of the site and a larger one laying on the north central of the site. The utility road passes between these two depressions connecting the north and south ends of the site. There are many native and invasive species found throughout the site. There are three entrance ways into the conservancy, there is the main entrance adjacent to the parking lot, along with two easements from Trempealeau and Caribou. There are a series of trails that run through Goth Conservancy and all branch off of the old utility road. Overall the Goth Conservancy is a quaint and beautiful property that can be managed for recreational and natural purposes.

IV. Recommendations

Property Boundary

It is from my understanding that the property boundaries have yet to be completely defined with the neighboring communities. However, it is also from my knowledge that the park commission and the town employees are currently working on achieving this task. The funding is in place and now they are waiting on the Wisconsin winter to leave for good. Once the boundaries are concrete, it is my suggestion that we mark out the property lines with fencing. Now, I'm not talking a fully enclosed fence, but on the four corners of the property we would have established fenced corners and then place markers along the border. The ideal fence corners would be wooden split rail, these will mark out the four property corners and maintain a natural and welcoming feel. In the south east corner where there is a second entrance coming off of Caribou Ln, a fenced entry way similar to the main entrance adjacent to the parking lot would be recommended. Some of the fencing can actually be taken from the

current parking lot, this will provide materials at a low cost. The current fencing that is at the parking lot is the ideal fencing for the property boundaries and other entrance ways. There has been many talks in regards to creating an easement into the conservancy in the southwest corner of the property. After speaking with various neighbors and doing some field work it is my strong recommendation that the park commission utilizes the time and resources spent on this particular project into another project. The easement will result in some surveying issues with neighbors and property disputes. After walking the perimeter of the property, it is from my observations, that most adjacent property owners have already created their own ways into the conservancy, and therefore spending time and money on an actual easement would be pointless.

Trail System

The trail is designed as a large loop with several smaller ones to provide a variety of routes and experiences to the hiker. The **northern prairie loop** is designed to meet current ADA standards. This trail will start at the parking lot and wind through restored prairie and oak savanna. Construction to maintain ADA specifications suggest that the grade of this trail not exceed 8% and a minimum trail width of 5 feet. Unfortunately the steep topography of the central portion limits the ADA accessible trail to the northern portion of the site.

There will be two trails leading south through the park. The **west trail** begins at the northern prairie loop and follows a ridge created by receding glaciers. It will provide hikers with a view east into the park, and also west out of the park to a low-lying seasonal wetland/pond. This trail exits in the wooded area through the old grape arbor and into the prairie in the

southern part of the conservancy. The **east trail** also begins at the northern prairie loop and moves through a restored savanna into a woodland area. It exits the woods at the east side of the southern prairie trail. These woodland trails should be 2 feet wide, this allows for a natural feel.

The **south prairie trail** will loop around the edges of the prairie. This will be a mowed grass trail, 6 feet wide, which will also act as a natural fire break. This trail should be set at a minimum of 100 feet from the property boundary to protect neighbor's privacy and make the trail appear more natural.

All trails should be mapped out accurately for the users, this will include trail markers and distance counts.

Trail Markers

A simple method for marking trails is to use the circular ends of tin cans. They can be painted blue in color, since it is the least intrusive color and most often used to mark trails, and they do not rust. These can be nailed to either trees along the trail using rust proof nails or can be placed on posts alongside the trail. By marking the trails, we can discourage the use of deer paths and avoid erosion problems that may result.

Parking Lot Expansion

The current parking lot is a small circle that is not paved. It is my recommendation that the parking lot become a square format and expands to the natural border that is in place. Remove the current fencing that marks the boundaries of the parking lot and expand it to the

trees. In the process of expanding the parking lot, it would be beneficial that the town and park commission squares the lot. This will allow for better traffic flow as well as clear parking spots. By expanding and squaring the current parking lot out to the natural boundary of the trees this will allow for easier and better parking. Ideally the parking lot should be able to house nearly 12 cars by this expansion. I would also move the primary entrance sign closer to the road so that it is visible from oncoming traffic down Old Sauk Rd. It would be my suggestion to leave the parking lot gravel rock; I understand that some visitors may be hesitant to use the parking lot for fear that it may damage their vehicle. However to keep the conservancy as natural looking as possible it is eye appealing for it to remain gravel and the amount of money the town would save can be placed in other areas of the conservancy renovation/improvements. The town already has in place a system for maintaining the parking lot, so there will be no more money spent on that area either. With a square natural looking parking lot the conservancy will remain welcoming.

Grape Arbor

Taking into consideration the historical, artistic, and natural content behind the grape arbor, it is my recommendation that all three rows remain. The third row on the west side is a bit farther away than the other two rows, the third rows needs to be brought closer. By bringing the third row closer to the others, it will provide an eye appealing feature as well as uniformity. By moving the far west row away from the shade of the trees, will allow for better growth. When undergoing this grape arbor project, it is also my recommendation that any shrubs and saplings be removed. Repair of the posts and wire are recommended and should be

inspected annually. Pruning of the grape vines will also need to be considered, this is best done in early spring before the vines begin growing.

Rock Amphitheater

The rock amphitheater that is being recommended for placement in the Goth Conservancy is identical to the current rock amphitheater that located on the north end of Pope Farm Conservancy. This amphitheater is free to the town and commission, it was donated by Mae Hartwig, a resident of the Town of Middleton and the cousin of Royce Goth. The amphitheater itself will be located on top of the hill that is directly east of the grape arbor.

Benches

After walking the trail system a few different times throughout the year, this way I could see vegetation and scenic locations. In the back of this report is a map marking out the current stone bench and the suggested locations of the new benches. It is my recommendation that the stone bench be moved to the southern area of the conservancy, closer to the rock amphitheater. By moving said bench closer to the rock amphitheater, the park commission will create a unified look for the conservancy. What I mean is that the prairie areas of the conservancy in the southern section that is to remain primarily undeveloped will have stone sitting features. While the woodland area on the eastern side of the conservancy will have wooden benches, placed on scenic overlooks. It is my recommendation that the park commission invest in the creation of 2-3 benches. These benches can either be constructed and placed using scouts or a donation process, where a friend or neighbor of the conservancy want's to leave their legacy in the Goth Conservancy can by donating said bench. By donating

the bench, it would be the commission's responsibility to place a plaque recognizing the donors. It is also my recommendation that benches be concreted into their location for sustainability purposes. In the back of this report are blueprints for the ideal style of bench for the Goth Conservancy. Other can be added at your discretion.

Bird & Bat Houses

To bring in more nature and wildlife and make the journey into the Goth Conservancy enjoyable, it is my recommendation that bird and bat houses are to be built and placed throughout the conservancy. There are currently 10 blue bird houses that a friendly neighbor of the conservancy currently maintains. There are a few other native bird species that I suggest the park commission look into attracting and maintaining their population by building and placing those specific bird houses. The other birds that are native to the Middleton are; house wrens, purple martins, and black-capped chickadees. There are blue-prints in the back of this report that are ideal for each species of bird, these houses are a great Eagle Scout project as well. The other type of flying creature house that I suggest the park commission look into would be bat houses. I understand that the public opinion of bats are often negative, however from a natural and environmental standpoint bats are a great to have in a park. They are natural predators to many annoying insects like mosquitos. By placing bat houses throughout the park and along the various trail systems the individuals who are walking/running/hiking the conservancy will have a much more enjoyable time. As far as location of the bat houses are concerned, it is my recommendation to scatter them along the trail system, roughly 50-100 feet off the trail. There is a simple bat house blue print in the back of this report. Since both of

these are recommended scout projects, it would be the responsibility of the scouts to officially mark out each location.

Interpretive Signage

The large sign/bulletin board at the main entrance near the parking lot is a great start to signage throughout the conservancy, however the more interpretive signage we have the better informed the public and our visitors will be. Signage throughout the conservancy will also create a welcoming atmosphere. It is my recommendation that the park commission creates educational information about the biomes of the conservancy, like the prairie and woodland areas. Historical signage near the grape arbor, rock amphitheater and entrances to the conservancy. Other signage like Leave No Trace principles will also assist in creating a friendly but yet controlled environment when it comes to cleanliness of the conservancy. A new and improved trail map at both entrances would be ideal, this map would have distances of the different trails along with labeling of the trails. This will allow users to plan out their hike/walk/run as well as future journey through the Goth Conservancy.

The southeast entrance into the conservancy from Caribou Ln, needs to be developed with a similar sign that is located at the main entrance of the conservancy. It doesn't need to be as large as the original sign but should include all the same information. I would suggest this also as a scout project and to utilize the same layout and blueprint as the primary sign from the main entrance.

There is a history write-up that is placed at the main entrance of the conservancy near the parking lot and shelter. It would be ideal to duplicate the write-up and place it near the rock

amphitheater and grape arbor area, since this is a part of the historical aspect of the conservancy. This will allow users to know the history of the land and should instill some sense of responsibility in the user to follow conservancy rules.

Speaking of rules, a great tool that many national and state parks use in the Leave No Trace Principles to enforce their rules. Leave No Trace is a fun and professional way to ask visitors to be respectful of the property without coming across as aggressive and forceful. I have taken the time and liberty to address the Leave No Trace Principles that are cohesive with the Goth Conservancy and can be found on a separate page in the back of the report.

Marking and mapping the trails is an excellent scout project that can be done relatively easy using a GPS or odometer. The purpose behind having an up to date and user friendly trail map is so that visitors can figure out where they want to go, this will also allow them to plan their trip according to the groups' capabilities and time constraints. If visitors know the name of the trail, the distance of the trail, and where scenic locations such as benches, amphitheaters, and grape arbor are they can get the most out of their trip.

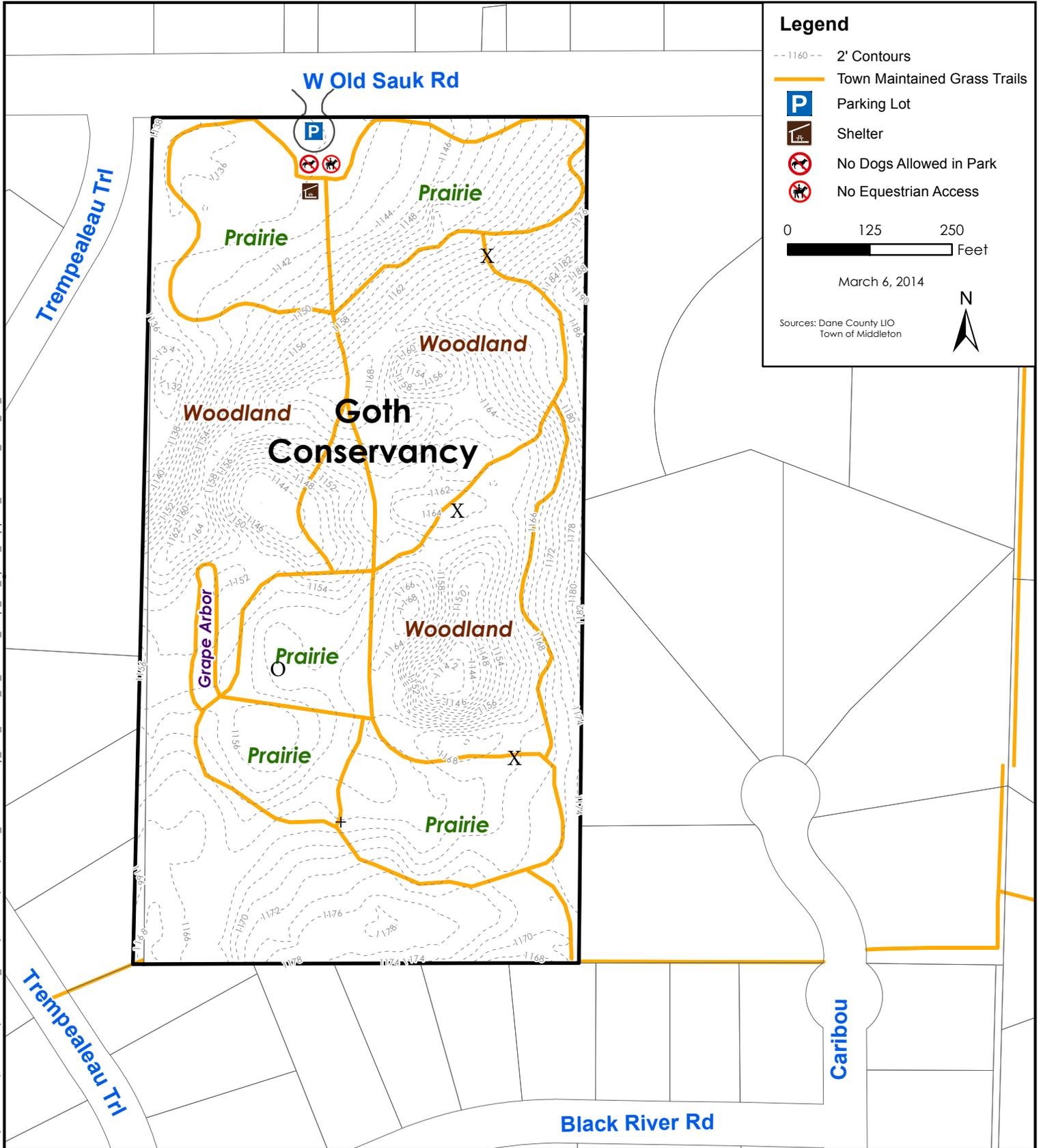
V. **Conclusion**

I, Nick Harnish have provided the next steps in an evolving Goth Conservancy. Future projects can be completed on an adequate time frame and budget. Utilizing neighbors of the Goth Conservancy, along with local scout troops and the expertise that lie within the park commission, is an ideal situation. It is my hope that the information contained in this report will help Goth Conservancy grow into a wonderful front country location that all visitors near and far will enjoy for years to come.

X=Wooden Bench
 O=Rock Amphitheater
 +=Stone Bench



Goth Conservancy Trail System and Points of Interest



Legend

- 1160 -- 2' Contours
- Town Maintained Grass Trails
- P** Parking Lot
- Shelter
- No Dogs Allowed in Park
- No Equestrian Access

0 125 250
 Feet

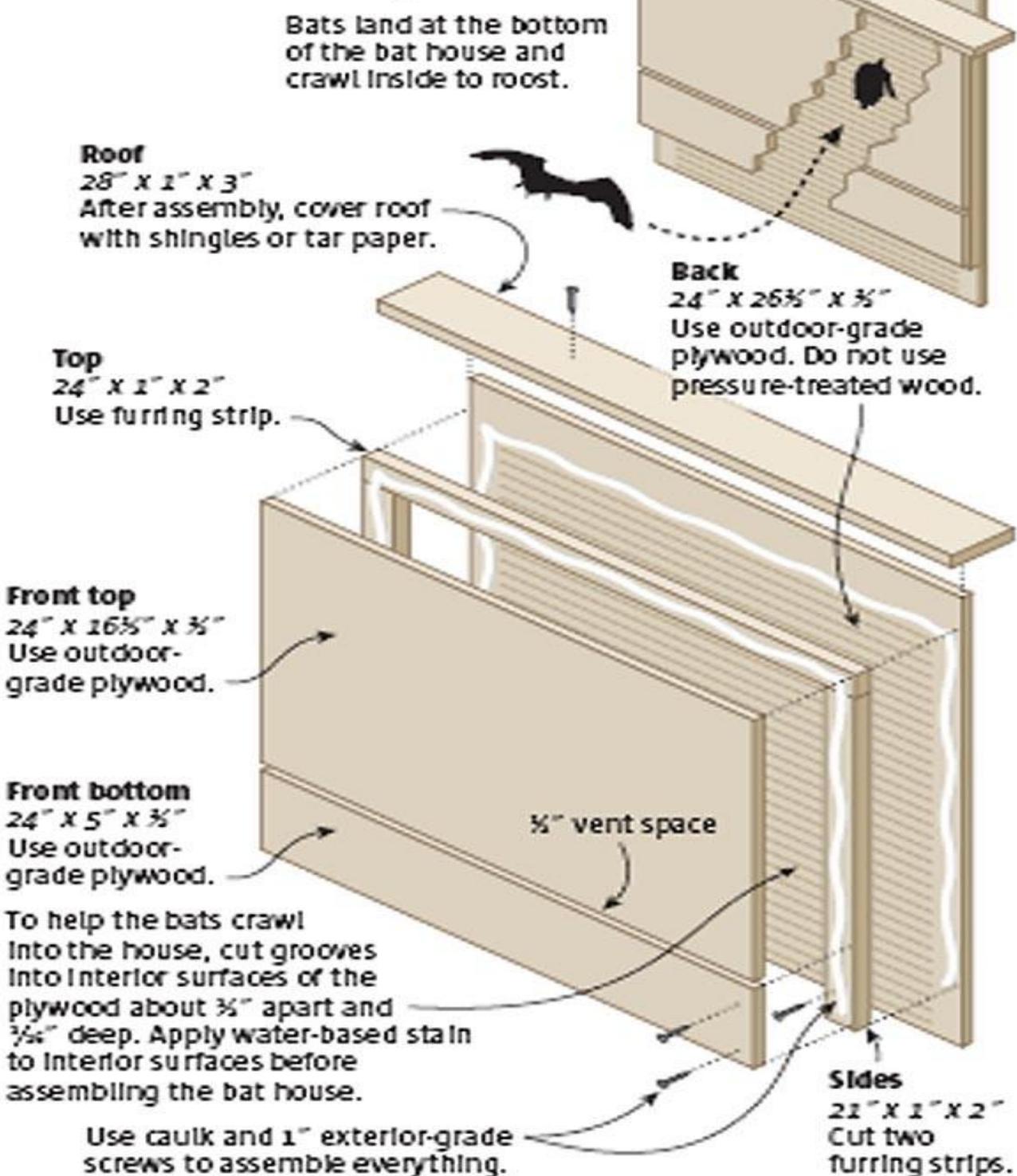
March 6, 2014

Sources: Dane County LIO
 Town of Middleton

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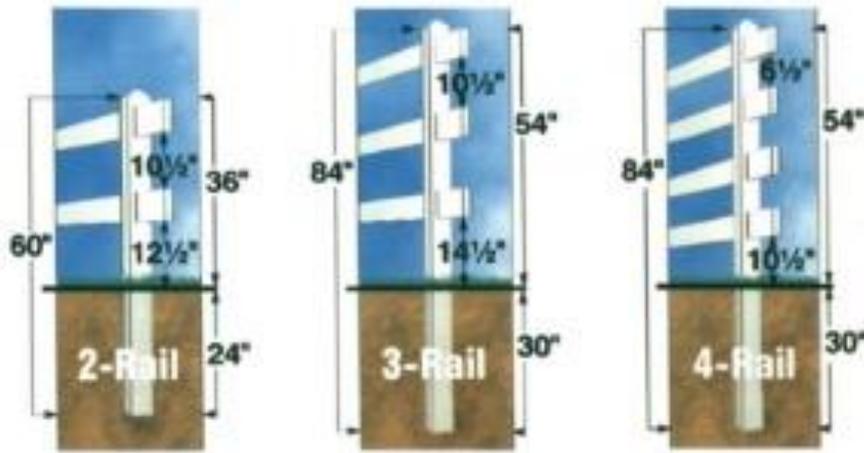
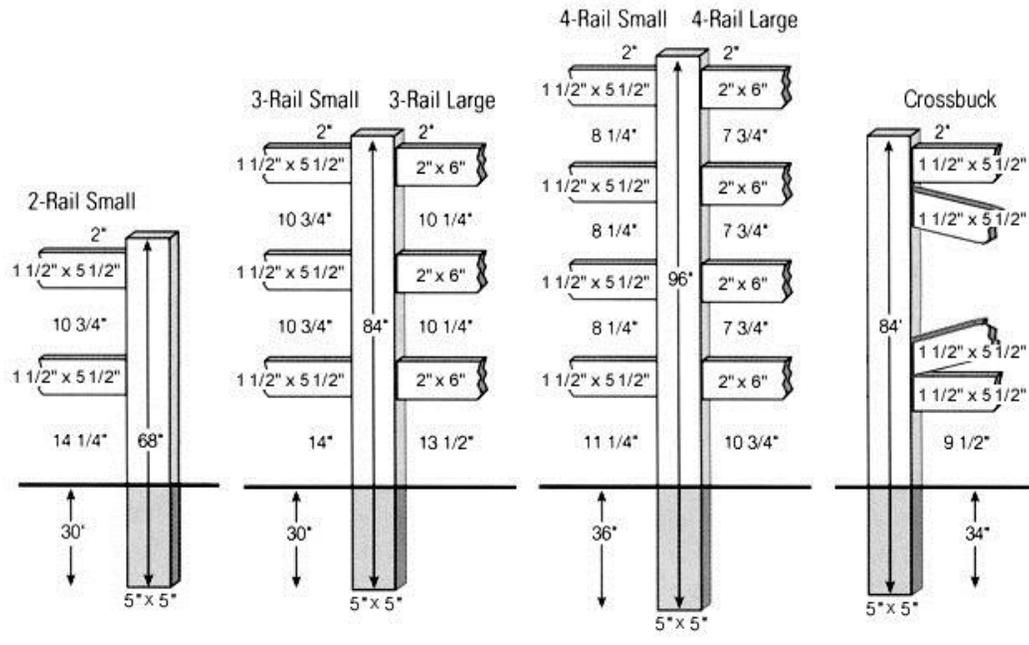
Building a bat house

Here are instructions for assembling a single-chamber bat house. Additional instructions and plans can be found online at batcon.org.



Caulk all outside joints before painting or staining the exterior. Hang the bat house on the east or south side of a building.

Split Rail Fencing Blueprints



Leave No Trace Principles/Rules

1. TRAVEL ON TRAILS

Concentrate Activities When Traveling in Heavily Used Areas Land management agencies construct trails in backcountry areas to provide identifiable routes that concentrate foot and stock traffic. Constructed trails are themselves an impact on the land; however, they are a necessary response to the fact that people travel in the back country. Concentrating travel on trails reduces the likelihood that multiple routes will develop and scar the landscape. It is better to have one well-designed route than many poorly chosen paths.

Trail use is recommended whenever possible. Encourage travelers to stay within the width of the trail and not short cut trail switchbacks (trail zigzags that climb hill sides). Travelers should provide space for other hikers if taking breaks along the trail. The principles of off-trail travel should be practiced if the decision is made to move off-trail for breaks.

(Hikers in the same group should periodically stop to rest and talk. Avoid shouting to communicate while hiking. Loud noises usually are not welcome in natural areas.)

2. DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.

3. LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Allow others a sense of discovery by leaving rocks, plants, archaeological artifacts and other objects of interest as you find them. The activities for this Leave No Trace principle deal with cultural artifacts; however, leave what you find involves many aspects of outdoor use. The following information addresses a variety of ways to respect natural settings.

AVOID DAMAGING LIVE TREES AND PLANTS

Avoid hammering nails into trees for hanging things, hacking at them with hatchets and saws, or tying tent guy lines to trunks, thus girdling the tree. Carving initials into trees is

unacceptable. The cutting of boughs for use as sleeping pads creates minimal benefit and maximum impact. Sleeping pads are available at stores catering to campers.

Picking a few flowers does not seem like it would have any great impact and, if only a few flowers were picked, it wouldn't. But, if every visitor thought "I'll just take a few", a much more significant impact might result. Take a picture or sketch the flower instead of picking it. Experienced campers may enjoy an occasional edible plant, but they are careful not to deplete the surviving vegetation or disturb plants that are rare or are slow to reproduce.

LEAVE NATURAL OBJECTS AND CULTURAL ARTIFACTS

Natural objects of beauty or interest such as antlers, petrified wood, or colored rocks add to the mood of the backcountry and should be left so others can experience a sense of discovery. In National Parks and some other areas it is illegal to remove natural objects.

The same ethic is applicable to cultural artifacts found on public land. Cultural artifacts are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. It is illegal to remove or disturb archeological sites, historic sites, or artifacts such as pot shards, arrowheads, structures, and even antique bottles found on public lands.

4. RESPECT WILDLIFE

Learn about wildlife through quiet observation. Do not disturb wildlife or plants just for a "better look". Observe wildlife from a distance so they are not scared or forced to flee. Large groups often cause more damage to the environment and can disturb wildlife so keep your group small. If you have a larger group, divide into smaller groups if possible to minimize your impacts.

Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Travel quietly and do not pursue, feed or force animals to flee. (One exception is in bear country where it is good to make a little noise so as not to startle the bears) In hot or cold weather, disturbance can affect an animal's ability to withstand the rigorous environment. Do not touch, get close to, feed or pick up wild animals. It is stressful to the animal, and it is possible that the animal may harbor rabies or other diseases. Sick or wounded animals can bite, peck or scratch and send you to the hospital. Young animals removed or touched by well-meaning people may cause the animals parents to abandon them. If you find sick animals or animal in trouble, notify a game warden.

Considerate hikers observe wildlife from afar, give animals a wide berth, store food securely, and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals. Remember that you are a visitor to their home.

5. BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

One of the most important components of outdoor ethics is to maintain courtesy toward other visitors. It helps everyone enjoy their outdoor experience.

Many people come to the outdoors to listen to nature. Excessive noise, unleashed pets and damaged surroundings take away from everyone's experience. So, keep the noise level down while traveling and if you bring a radio, tapes or CDs, use headphones so you will not disturb others. Also keep in mind that the feeling of solitude, especially in open areas, is enhanced when group size is small, contacts are infrequent and behavior is unobtrusive. To maximize your feeling of privacy, avoid trips on holidays and busy weekends or take a trip during the off season. Groups leading or riding livestock have the right-of-way on trails. Hikers and bicyclists should move off the trail to the downhill side. Talk quietly to the riders as they pass, since horses are spooked easily. Take rest breaks on durable surfaces well off the designated trail. Keep in mind that visitors to seldom used places require an extra commitment to travel quietly and lightly on the land.

Keep pets under control at all times. Bowser is not in the wildlife category. Dogs running free can be unwelcome, frightening people or leaving behind unwanted "presents". Please pick up dog feces from camps and trails. Some areas prohibit dogs or require them to be on a leash at all times.

Leave gates as you find them, and leave the land undisturbed for others to enjoy. Remember, our open spaces and wild lands are protected for all generations. It is up to us to keep them healthy, beautiful and open to the public for recreation, reflection and revitalization! Enjoy and learn from historical and archeological sites but respect these sites and treasures. Some of these are sacred to Native Americans, or are important cultural reminders of our heritage.

DIY Plans to Build a Taboreh Bench

Materials:

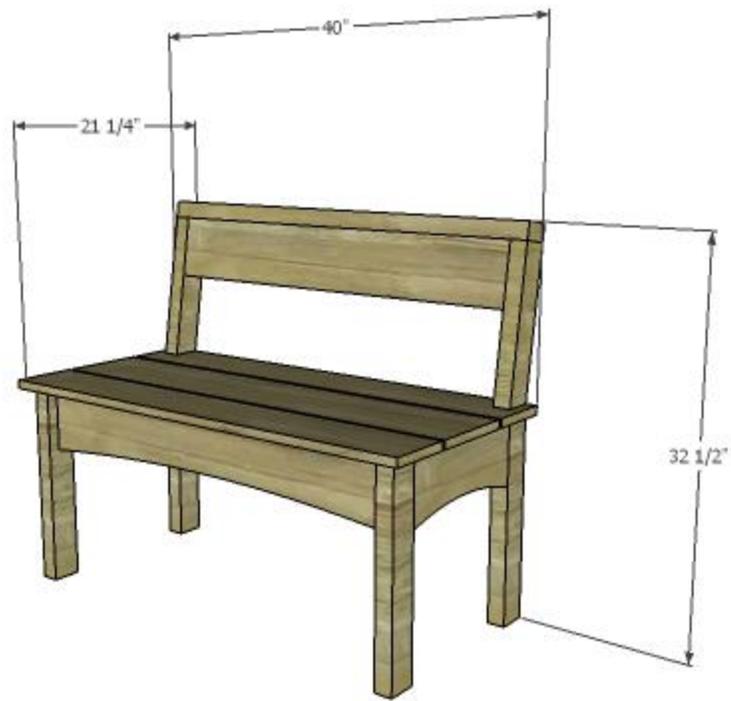
- 1-1/2" pocket hole screws
- 2-1/2" pocket hole screws
- 1-1/2" nails, screws, or brad nails
- 3" screws
- Wood glue
- Sandpaper (100, 150, 220 grits)
- Finishing supplies (primer & paint, or stain, sealer)

Lumber:

- 1 – 1×6 at 4'
- 1 – 1×6 at 8'
- 1 – 1×8 at 4'
- 1 – 2×3 at 8'
- 1 – 2×4 at 4'
- 2 – 2×6 at 8'

Cut List:

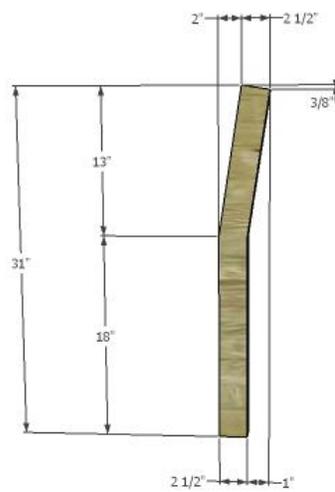
- 2 – 2×6 at 31" – Back Legs
- 2 – 2×3 at 17-1/4" – Front Legs
- 2 – 2×6 at 13" – Side Stretchers
- 2 – 2×6 at 35" – Front & Back Stretchers
- 2 – 2×4 at 13" – Seat Supports
- 1 – 2×3 at 38" – Back Top
- 1 – 1×6 at 35" – Back
- 2 – 1×6 at 40" – Seat
- 1 – 1×8 at – 40" – Seat



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Step One

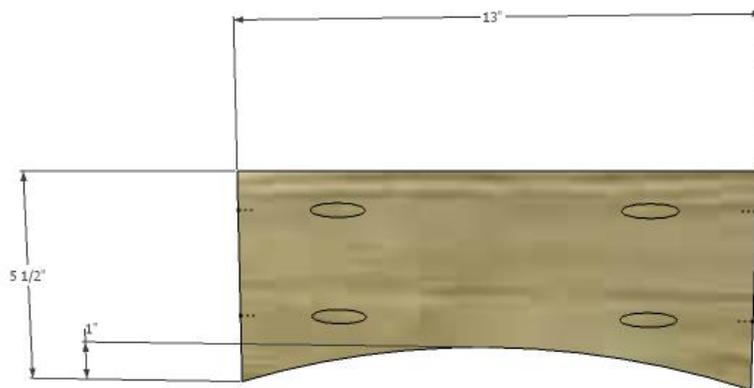
Cut the pieces for the back legs. Draw the legs on each of the 2x6 pieces according to the dimensions in the drawing. Cut the legs using a jigsaw or a bandsaw.



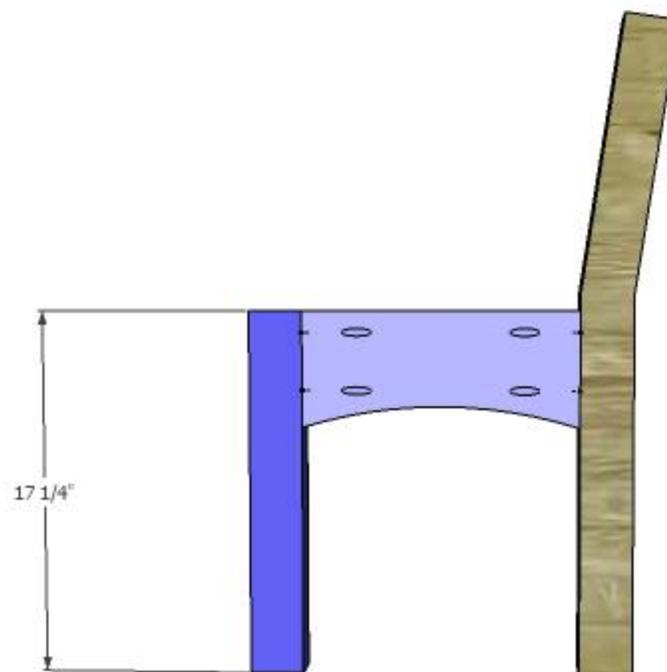
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Step Two

Cut the pieces for the front legs and the side stretchers. Draw the arc on the lower edge of the side stretchers and cut with a jigsaw or a bandsaw. Drill pocket holes in each end of each piece with a pocket hole jig set for 1-1/2" material. Secure the side stretchers to the front and back legs using glue and 2-1/2" pocket hole screws.



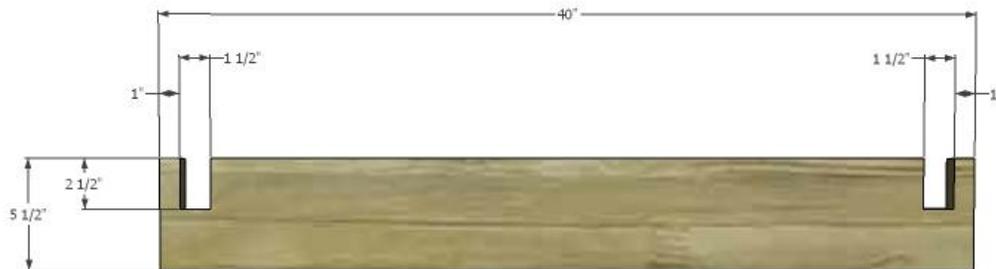
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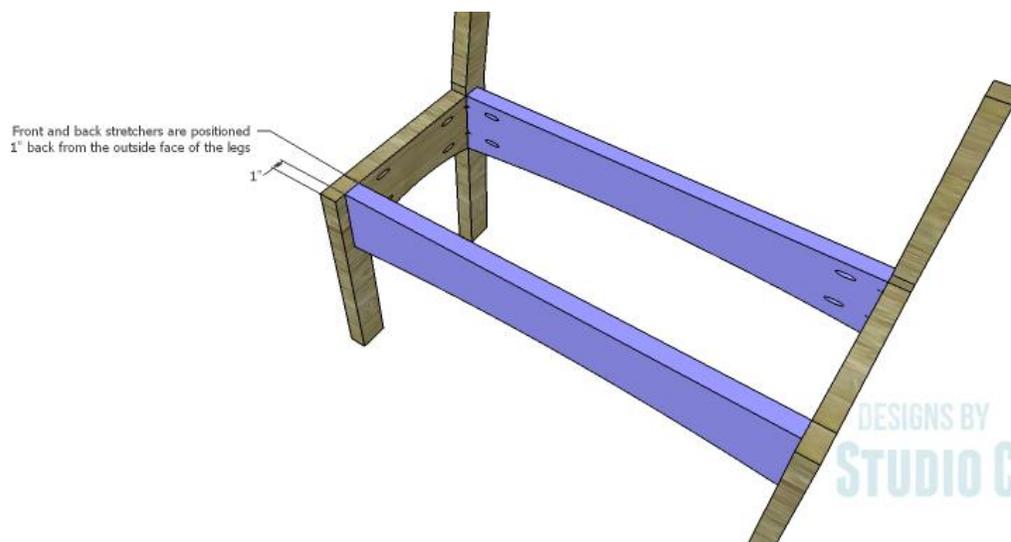
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Step Three

Cut the pieces for the front and back stretchers. Draw the arc on the lower edge of the front and back stretchers, and cut with a jigsaw or a bandsaw. Drill pocket holes in each end of each piece. Secure the stretchers to the legs (locating the pieces 1" back from the outside edge of the legs) using glue and 2-1/2" pocket hole screws.



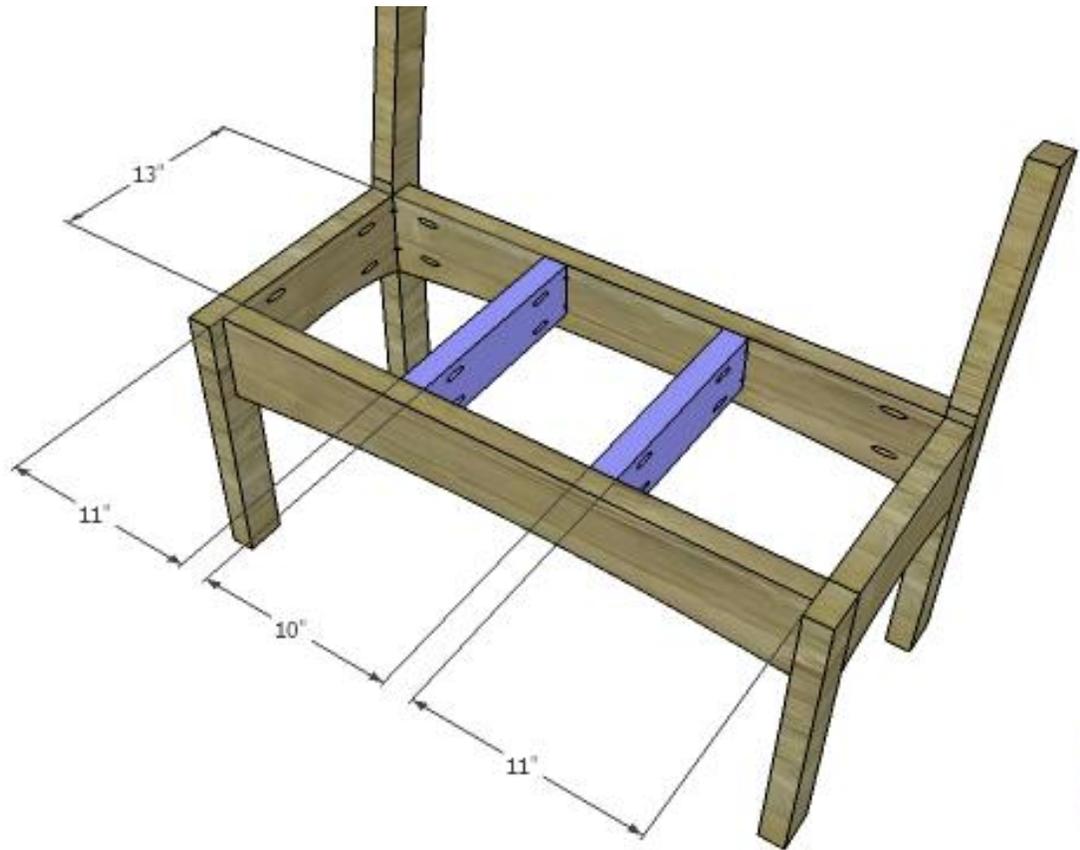
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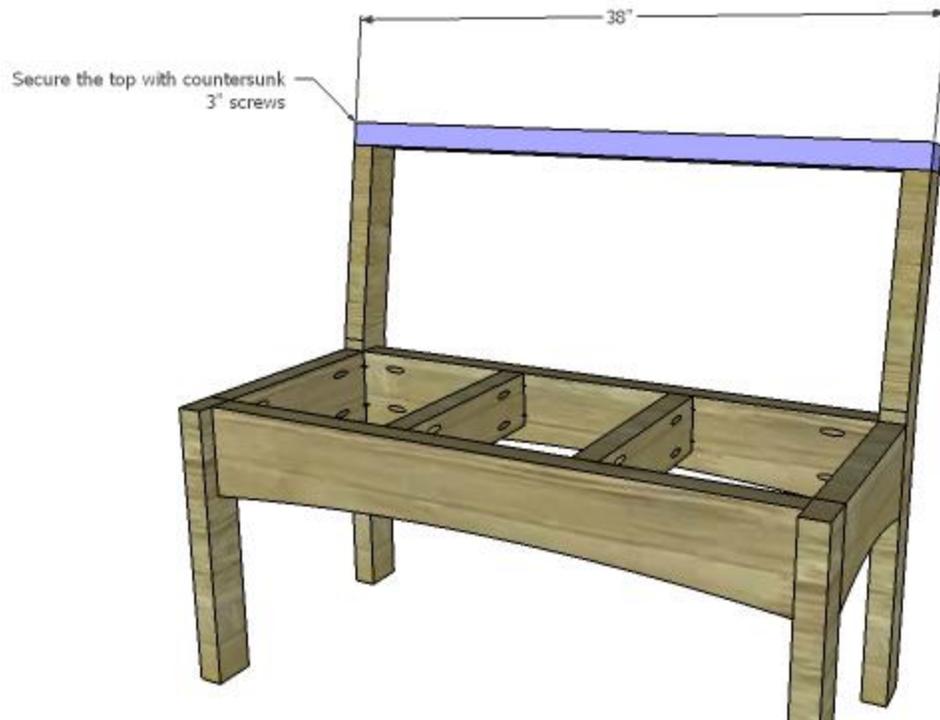
Step Four

Cut the pieces for the seat supports and drill pocket holes in each end. Secure the supports to the front and back stretchers using glue and 2-1/2" pocket hole screws. The top edge of the supports will be flush with the top edge of the stretchers.



Step Five

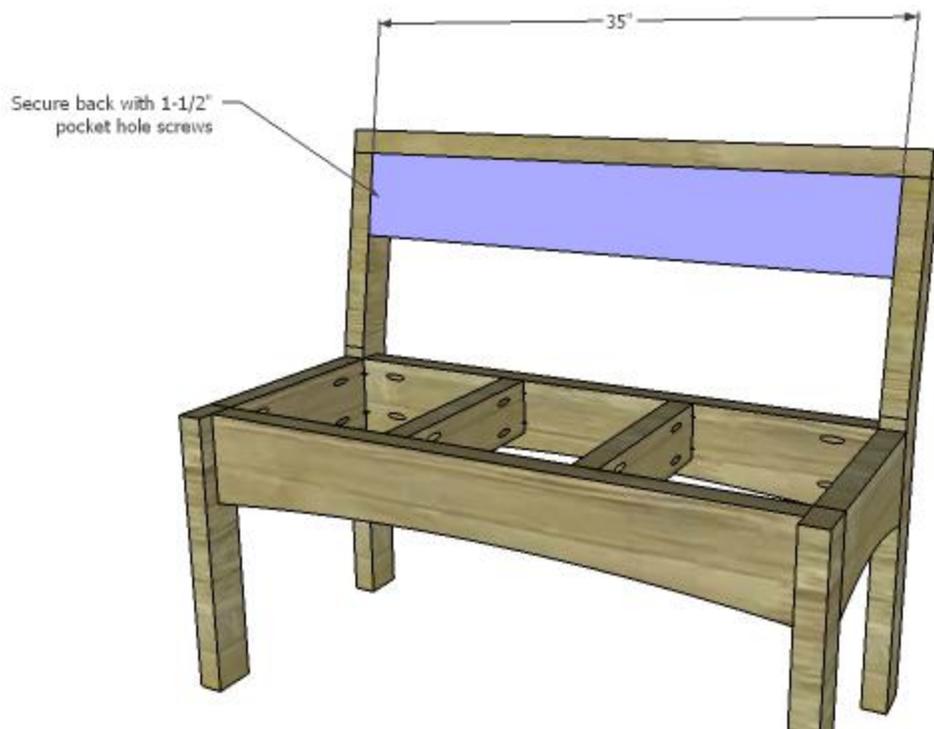
Cut the piece for the top back. Position the piece on the top of the back legs securing in place using glue and countersunk 3" screws.



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Step Six

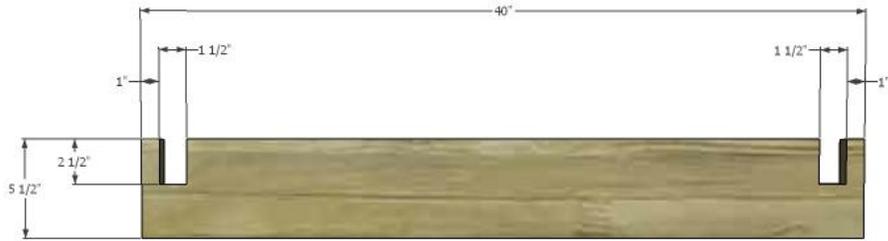
Cut the piece for the back. Set the pocket hole jig for 3/4" material and drill pocket holes in each end as well as one long edge. Secure to the back legs and the underside of the top using glue and 1-1/2" pocket hole screws.



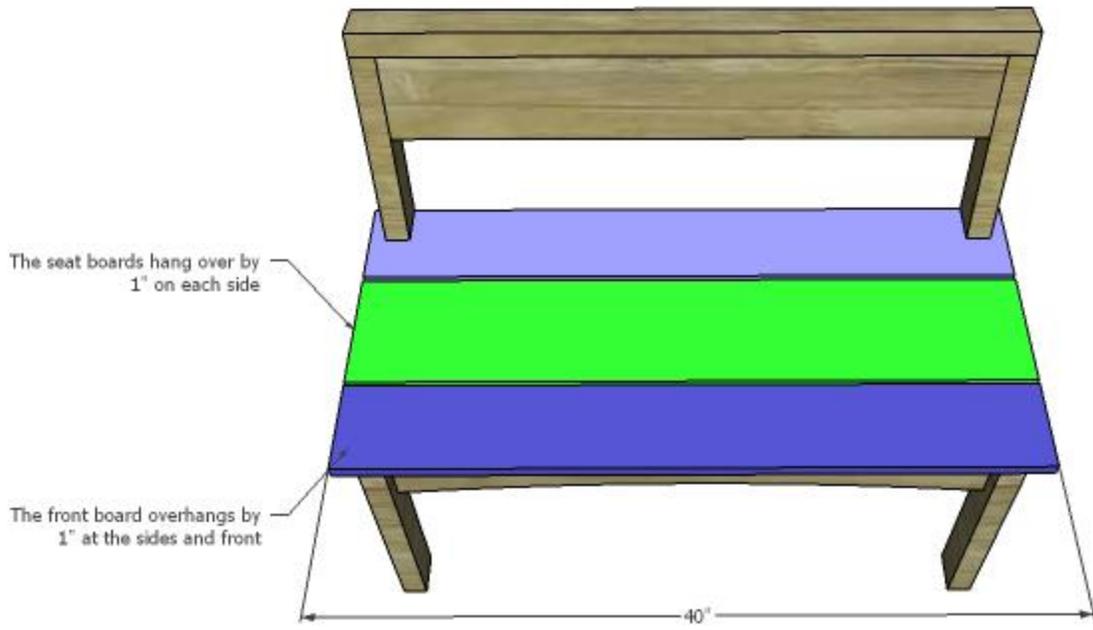
Step Seven

Cut the pieces for the seat. Cut the notches in one of the 1×6 seat pieces using a jigsaw or a band saw. Secure the board to the bench frame using glue and 1-1/2" nails, screws, or brad nails.

Secure the remaining seat pieces to the frame using glue and 1-1/2" nails, screws, or brad nails spacing the pieces 1/2" from each other. The pieces will overhang the sides by 1", and the front 1×6 will also overhang the front by 1".



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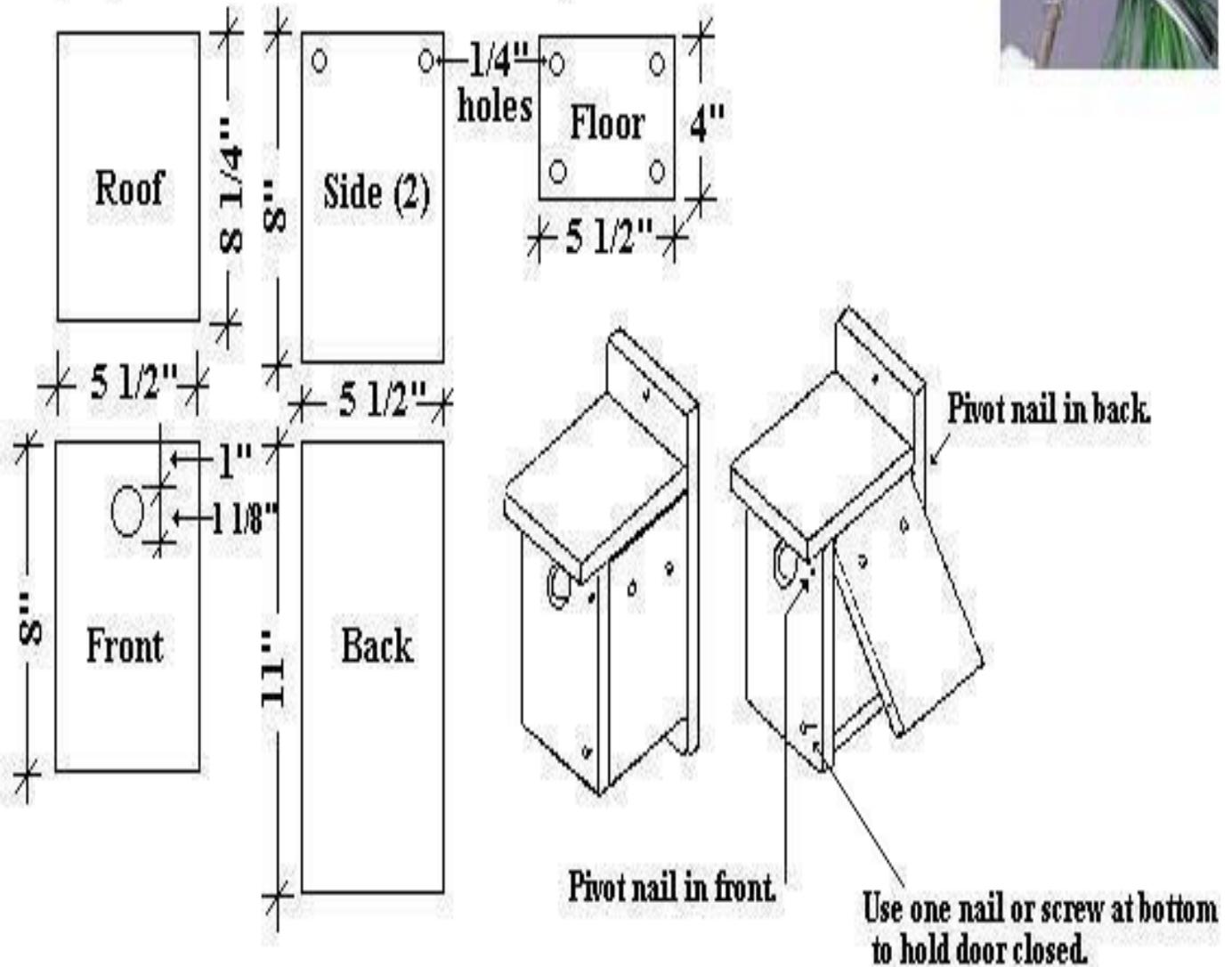


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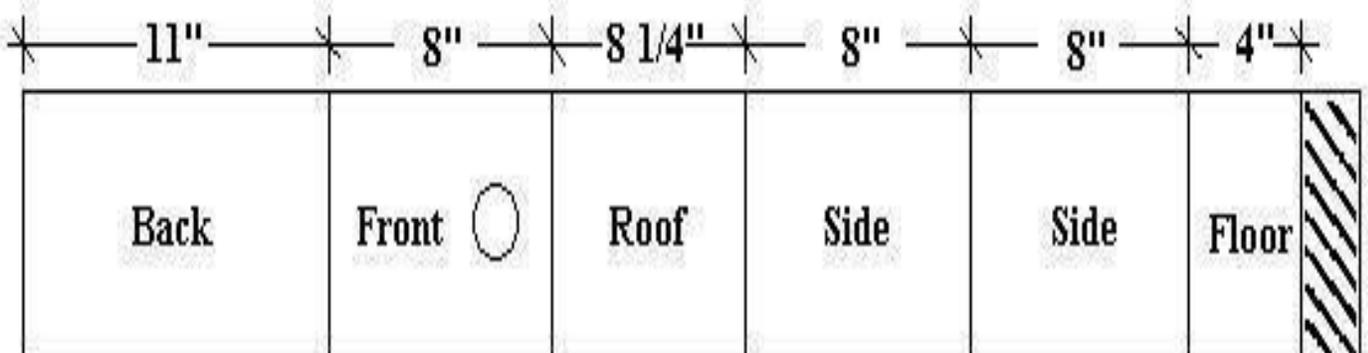
Black-capped Chickadee Nest Box Plans

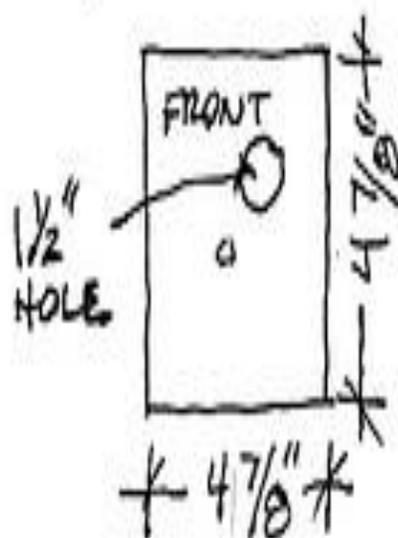
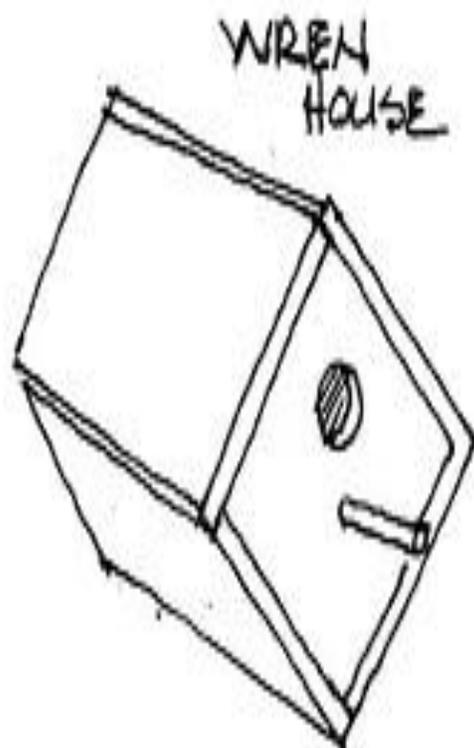
Entrance hole diameter is 1 1/8 inch.

Any larger entrance hole will admit house sparrows.



Lumber: One 1" x 6" x 4'0".





How to Move a Full-Grown Grapevine

1. Cut long vines back to within two feet of the ground, making the cuts on the outside of stem nodes. Reduce the number of vines to no more than two or three shoots extending from the main trunk of the grapevine to help with training, to reduce stress on the plant and to help increase fruit production after moving.
2. Insert the point of a shovel in the soil eight to 10 inches from the grapevine trunk. Work the shovel around the vine to create a root ball. Do not allow the roots to dry out during the transplanting process.
3. Dig a hole for the grapevine that is as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. Amend the soil if it is compact or has heavy clay. Incorporate organic material such as peat moss to the soil removed from the hole to add nutrients and assist with drainage. Grapes typically grow best in soil with a pH between 5.0 and 6.0.
4. Center the grapevine root ball in the hole, and position the top of the root ball so it is at ground level. Add soil around the root ball and tamp it down to remove air pockets; avoid compacting the soil.
5. Water the transplanted grapevine to supplement rainfall and prevent the soil from drying out. Check the soil's moisture by gathering a small handful of dirt and squeezing it. If the dirt crumbles instead of forming together, it needs moisture. If water can be squeezed from the soil, it's too wet.

Tips:

Choose a training method by the second year of growth after moving the grapevine. Train the transplanted vines as they grow by tying them to an arbor or trellis with string.

Allow cut vines to dry to make removal easier.

Wear gloves for protection while working.

Use dried vines for craft projects such as wreaths.

Warnings:

Water as needed for the first two years to help the root system of the vine become established.

Avoid planting grapevines closer than four feet when training on an arbor and at least eight feet when training on a trellis so the vines and roots have room to grow and spread. Any closer and the vines will fight for climbing space and sunlight.

SCOUT PROJECT LIST

- **PARK BENCH CONSTRUCTION & PLACEMENT**
- **BIRDHOUSE CONSTRUCTION & PLACEMENT**
- **BATHOUSE CONSTRUCTION & PLACEMENT**
- **PUTTING UP TRAIL MARKERS & MAPPING DISTANCES**
- **DEVELOPING THE SOUTHWEST ENTRANCE**
- **CREATION OF HABITAT SIGNAGE**
- **CONSTRUCTION OF PROPERTY CORNER FENCING**
- **ASSISTING WITH PARKING LOT CONFIGURATION***