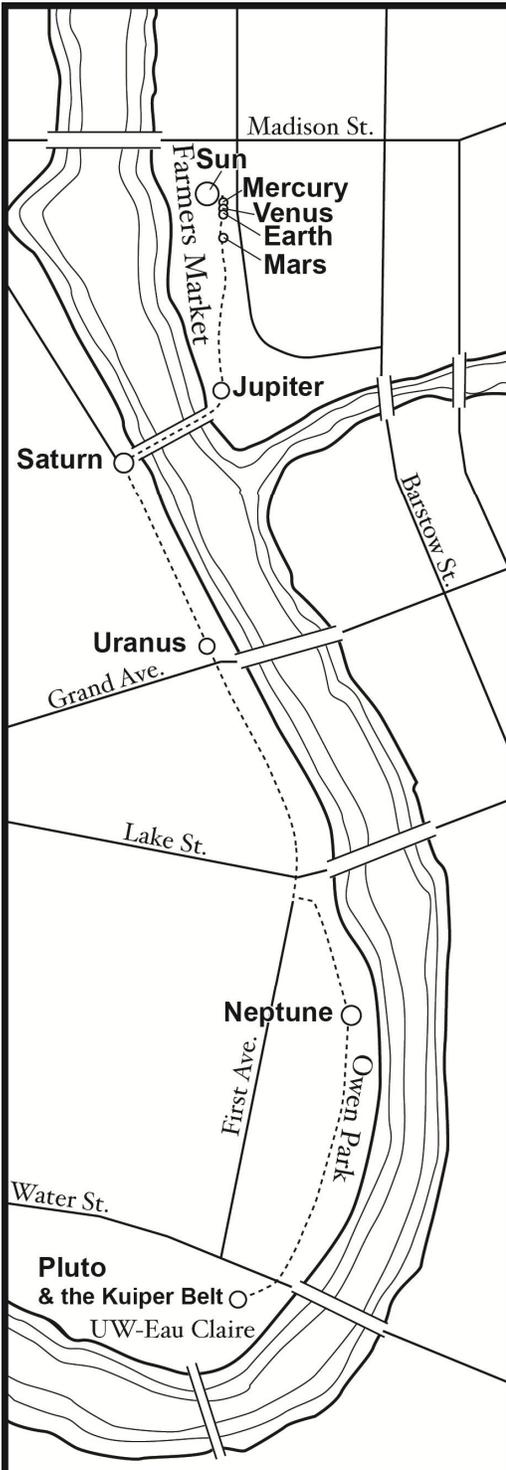




Eau Claire Planet Walk



Direction from BCR to Phoenix Park are on the back (310 Riverfront Terrace)

The planet walk starts at the kiosk in front of the large open pavilion on the north end of Phoenix Park. Look for the silver globe on top of the kiosk. The walk is 1.09 miles along the Chippewa River from Phoenix Park to the UWEC campus. Maps of the walk are etched onto each plaque.

The following article was written Bert Moritz...

Paul Thomas, a UW-Eau Claire physics and astronomy professor, led a team that designed, funded and built a series of plaques that stretch from Phoenix Park to the UW-Eau Claire campus.

Not sure what a planet walk is? Let me tell you about it.

We all know that the sun is very large and very far away.

Just imagine that we can take our sun and shrink it down to only 16 inches in diameter.

In fact, let's shrink the entire solar system down that same amount too.

So, if the Sun were 16 inches across, how big would each of the planets be?

And how far away would the planets then be from this new, smaller sun?

It's really hard to know how to answer those questions. After all, we just made our solar system smaller by a factor of 3.4 billion to one.

The Planet Walk is a model of the solar system that has been made that much smaller.

The walk starts at the kiosk at the Farmers Market area of Phoenix Park. There, you will find a 16-inch sun.

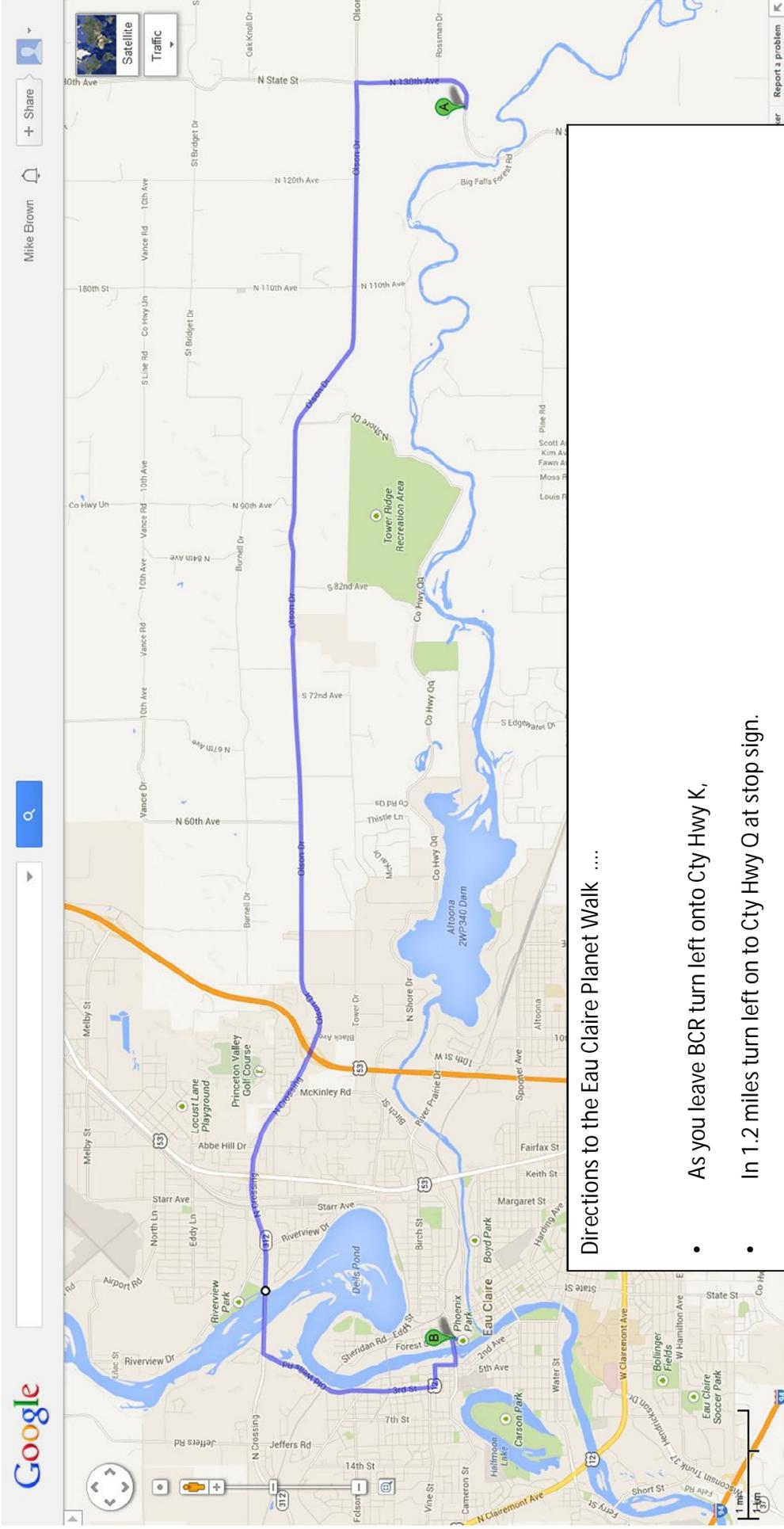
Then, following from one plaque to the next, you can walk along the river as you visit each planet.

Touch each plaque and feel each planet. Read and learn fascinating things about our solar system. Turn and look back toward the sun.

You will be amazed at the size and distance from each planet to the next.

When you are at the end of the walk, you will be near the Haas Fine Arts building on the UW-Eau Claire campus.

What a pleasant walk along the river in downtown Eau Claire.



Directions to the Eau Claire Planet Walk

- As you leave BCR turn left onto Cty Hwy K,
- In 1.2 miles turn left on to Cty Hwy Q at stop sign.
- In 9.3 miles Q will turn into 312 as it crosses over US 53, continue on 312.
- In 2.9 miles turn left onto Old Wells Rd (1st stop light after crossing Chippewa River)
- In 0.7 miles Old Wells Rd turns into 3rd St, continue on 3rd St.
- In 1 mile 3rd St turns left and becomes Platt St, continue on Platt St.
- In 0.2 miles turn right onto Oxford Ave.
- At stop light, turn left onto Madison St.
- Cross bridge over Chippewa River and take first right onto Riverfront Terrace.