

CHANGE TO THE BADGER STATE TRAIL MASTER PLAN

- Plan Variance*
 Plan Amendment

* *A plan variance is a process used to make a minor adjustment to a property master plan where the change is consistent with the plan objectives. A variance may change or add a plan prescription (action taken to meet an objective) or to add language to clarify or add more specificity to a plan prescription. In this case, the variance process is being used to insert a change in the plan as directed by a provision in the plan regarding the winter ATV Trail trial period.*

Property Name: Badger State Trail

Date the Current Master Plan Approved: February 22, 2006

Proposed Change to the Master Plan *(The specific master plan language changes and any change in land use classification, with revised maps as appropriate):*

This proposal amends the "Winter ATV Use" section of the *Special Trail Use Designations* in Chapter 2 of the Master Plan to permanently establish winter ATV use on the trail following the same conditions in place during the three year trial.

The revised section of the plan shall read as follows:

Winter ATV Use

Winter ATV use is allowed on the 11 mile section from Monroe to Monticello. Since this is considered a secondary trail use, no other facilities will be built to accommodate ATVs. The following conditions and limitations apply to ATV use:

- *Use is allowed from 21st Street in the City of Monroe north to Lake Avenue in the Village of Monticello (11 miles)*
- *Use shall only occur from December 1 – March 15*
- *Use shall only occur when snowmobile use is not allowed*
- *Air temperature must be 28 degrees Fahrenheit or lower*
- *The trail surface must be frozen. The property manager shall determine when frozen conditions are present.*
- *No ATV use allowed off of the trail tread*

Approved: Laurie Osterndorf Date: 3/19/10
Laurie Osterndorf, Administrator, Division of Lands

Variance/Amendment Initiator or Author; Brigit Brown
Job Title: State Trails Coordinator

Supporting Approvals

Thomas W. Witt Date; 2-25-10
Department Master Planning Manager, LF

Steve Johnston Date; 03/04/2010
Property Manager

Lloyd L. Green Date; 3-17-2010
Regional Director, Land Leader or Basin Leader

Peter Tom for Dan Schutte Date; 2-25-10
Program Bureau Director

Others with a special interest;

Signature: _____ Date; _____
Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date; _____
Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date; _____
Title: _____

Supporting Information:

Purpose and need for the plan change *(include background and history as appropriate):*

The 2006 master plan (page 7) directed that a 3 year trial be conducted for winter ATV use on an 11 mile section of the trail between Monroe and Monticello. During this trial annual reviews were to be done involving local ATV clubs, the Department, and all interested governmental jurisdictions along the trail; then, at the end of the trial a written assessment was to be prepared assessing environmental damage and enforcement problems and the Department was to make a determination on continued ATV use.

The 3 year trial period ended in March 2009. The subsequent assessment report concluded there were no significant problems related to ATV use during the trial and it recommended that ATV use on the Badger State Trail be permanently allowed under the same use parameters applied during the trial.

How the proposed plan change is supported by or is inconsistent with the property vision, goals and objectives or other plan provisions:

The plan directed the Department to make a decision on winter ATV use following a three year trial period.

Anticipated primary benefits of the proposed plan change *(include only information not presented in the purpose and need section above):*

Clear, consistent information to the public regarding allowed uses on the trail.

Additional anticipated benefits:

None.

Unavoidable adverse impacts *(attach an Environmental Analysis if one was prepared):*

This is covered in the Master Plan (page 16).

Summary of any alternatives considered:

Alternative 1: No action. This alternative is not acceptable. The Master Plan requires a three-year trial period after which a final decision was to be made.

Alternative 2: Discontinue ATV use. This alternative is not warranted because no significant problems were documented during the trial period.

Alternative 3: Continue ATV use as allowed during the trial period. This alternative is supported by the written assessment and annual reviews specified in the Master Plan.

Alternative 4: Expanded ATV use. Expanded ATV use beyond the trial area and conditions was not considered in the Master Plan and would require a more thorough process, including environmental assessment and public review.

Compatibility with statutes, codes, and department policies:

This action is compatible with current statutes, codes, and department policies.

Federal aid limitations (*cite if any federal aid moneys are involved with either acquisition or management of the property and whether the proposed plan change is compatible with the aid requirements or if a federal review of the proposal is required*):

There are no federal aid limitations on the current subject area. (An expansion of the area would require further consideration of this issue: federal funds prohibiting ATVs (Transportation Enhancements) have been used to the north of the subject area.)

Public review process used (*summary of who was notified about the proposal or otherwise reviewed the proposal and the meetings, mailings and other techniques used*):

The trial period was part of the Master Planning process. Public involvement activity for the master Plan was significant and is detailed on page 28 of the Master Plan.

News releases, the Internet, a dedicated telephone line, and a public handout were used to relay and gather information during the trial period. Additionally, the “ATV Review Committee” (as specified in the Master Plan – page 7) met prior to and throughout the trial period to assist in implementation of the trial, to develop criteria for continual review and evaluation of the ATV use, to identify problems, suggest solutions, and to disseminate information. The Committee was comprised of ATV, snowmobile and bicycle representatives, local business owners, local residents, and area law enforcement.

Description of the support and/or opposition to the proposal (*include reasons for the various positions taken and any unresolved issues or concerns*):

Support of ATV use on the Badger was expressed by the ATV community during the Master Planning process and is detailed on pages 30-31 of the master plan. Opposition of ATV use on the Badger was received at the same time from Silent Sport enthusiasts. Their comments are summarized on pages 29-30 of the Master Plan.