

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Sauk Prairie Recreation Area



Overview

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) recognizes that sound planning is a partnership effort with the people it serves and that the end product must be broadly supported by them as well as fit the capabilities of the properties. The WDNR encourages citizen input throughout the planning process. This public participation plan outlines the strategy for soliciting public review and input into the development, evaluation and adoption of the master plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, formerly the Badger Army Ammunition Plant.

Master Plan development will be based on and influenced by existing statutes, administrative codes, scientific data, the best capabilities of the resources, judgment of resource management professionals and public opinion. The local and regional recreational supply, economy and social conditions will also be considered. The approved master plan represents the best role of the property in its local, regional and statewide context.

Questions or comments pertaining to the Army's environmental clean-up of the property are separate from and outside the scope of this planning effort. Opportunity for input on the environmental clean-up occurs routinely at the Army's Restoration Advisory Board meetings and periodically in conjunction with significant WDNR decisions on the clean-up process.



Photo credit: Tom Thomas, Badger History Group.

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Planning Process

The Master Planning process is divided into three primary phases:

Phase 1

Phase one is the preparatory work. Reliable, current information on the property's resources and public uses, as well as on regional demands and opportunities is needed as a foundation for the planning process. Prior to the announcement that planning is starting, the Department is busy updating natural resource and recreational use data for the property and collecting regional data in order to better understand the property's current and potential functional role in the region.

Phase 2

Phase two is plan development and public involvement. It begins with a formal public announcement that the property's master plan will be developed. The announcement is soon followed by a public open house to share information on the process, and get public feedback on important issues to be addressed in the plan. Considering this is a new property master plan, the Department will use your input along with other data to develop a range of resource management and recreational use alternatives and their potential impacts for your review. We will then develop the draft master plan and environmental assessment from the preferred alternative. "Ways You May Make Your Voice Heard" (on the next page) describes how the public can give input into these activities.

Phase 3

Phase three is presentation of the draft master plan to the Natural Resources Board for approval.

Opportunities for Participation in Planning

The Department's goals for public involvement in master planning are to offer the public meaningful ways to be involved in shaping the future management and use of their favorite properties, and to provide a means for interested people to stay informed about the property and planning progress. Public review and comment will be formally sought at key milestone points during the plan's development and approval process. However, it should be noted that public comments are welcomed at any time. The formal public input points in the process are:

- At the beginning of the plan development process (Phase 2 discussed above) to help identify important issues to be considered in the plan.
- To review and comment on a range of alternatives, and work toward a Preferred Alternative, which is the focus of the master plan,
- To review and comment on the draft master plan and its environmental assessment, and
- Lastly, the Natural Resources Board offers the public an opportunity to provide input to them when they consider approval of the proposed master plan.

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Ways You May Make Your Voice Heard

Public meetings: DNR staff will hold informal public meetings at key points of the master planning process to present and discuss information on the property and plan proposals, and to listen to your comments and suggestions. These meetings will be held in the vicinity of the property.

Other ways to comment: If you are unable to attend a meeting or if you think of comments you want to give after the meeting you may submit comments to the planning team by e-mail, postal-mail or by phone. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

How the Department will Provide Planning Information to You

Issue Press Releases

Press releases will be issued at key stages of the project to announce public meetings, provide information updates and to solicit public comments.

Direct Mailings (e-mail and postal)

The Department is using GovDelivery system, an electronic notification list, to keep interested parties (landowners, user groups, sporting clubs, environmental groups, service groups, local government, state officials, affected Indian Tribes, local and state newspapers) informed about upcoming events and discussions. The email system is used at key points in the planning process, to provide information about the property and planning issues; and to announce meetings, decisions, and other planning developments. To sign-up for GovDelivery notifications, go the DNR home page located at <http://dnr.wi.gov> and click on "Subscribe to Updates." You may also sign up for the mailing list by contacting the Department at the address or phone number listed at the end of this document.

Provide a Web Page

The Department will set up a special master planning web page where information about the property, the planning process, draft plan documents, notices, planning progress reports and other important planning information may be accessed.

Planning Reports

After each formal public input step the Department will summarize the results for your review. Additional progress reports will be posted, if needed, on the master planning

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website to keep you informed on the status of the plan's development.

Conduct Special Meetings

If needed, additional public meetings may be held at various stages of the planning process to discuss specific issues in depth. All public meetings will be announced ahead of time. Focus group meetings may be held with selected representatives to work through special management issues or other concerns that may arise.

Consultation with Other Governmental Units

Throughout the planning process, the master planning team will also be consulting with local governments, state and federal agencies, and affected Indian Tribes on a government-to-government basis on mutual planning issues.

How Plan Decisions will be Made

To develop an effective property master plan, the Department listens to many voices. Recreation users, commercial interests, neighboring landowners, conservation groups, elected officials, other government agencies, tribal representatives, and other interested persons or groups are all encouraged to participate. Input received at each major step in the planning process will be considered as the plan is developed.

Decisions on which ideas to incorporate into the plan will be made based on the type of property, its capabilities, and the best role of the property in its local, regional and statewide context, and on the professional expertise of DNR staff. Further, the plan must comply with applicable Federal Laws, State Statutes, Administrative and Department Codes, and facility design standards. While a broad range of interests will be listened to and considered in developing a proposed master plan, the final decision-making responsibility and authority on the master plan rests with the DNR's citizen policy-making Natural Resources Board.

Contact Information:

To give comments or suggestions on the planning process, to receive materials, or to sign up for the mailing list, contact:

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For property-specific comments or questions, contact:

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