

Trail News – 6/16/09

Grand Opening of the Wisconsin Segment of the Lake Superior Water Trail

Inland Sea Society and regional and state agency representatives joined in a partnership led by the National Park Service's Rivers & Trails Program to create Wisconsin's Lake Superior Water Trail. On **June 18**, at 7:00 p.m. these partners will gather at Stage North (123 W. Omaha Street) in Washburn to announce the official "opening" of Wisconsin's Lake Superior Water Trail which stretches 400 miles from Superior, Wisconsin, to the Montreal River at the Michigan border. This event is in conjunction with the [Inland Sea Society's Kayak Symposium](#).

The trail's brochure, available at DNR properties in the area and by request from the DNR's Bureau of Parks and Recreation (608-266-2181; DNRWISateTrails@wi.gov) emphasizes safe and legal access and camping sites while highlighting the need to steward the shore's abundant natural, cultural, and recreational resources. More information about the trail is available on the DNR's [Lake Superior Water Trail web page](#).

Reminder - Submit Your Comments on the Report to the State Trails Council

From the [6/3/09 edition of Trail News](#):

At the April 15, 2008 meeting, the Governor's State Trails Council (STC) agreed to establish a temporary (ad hoc) committee that would be responsible for examining and proposing changes to the structure and organization of the State Trails Council in order to ensure that the STC is efficient, effective, and inclusive of all citizens and trail user groups. *(More information about the Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Improvements to the Structure of the State Trails Council is available [here](#).)*

At the April 28, 2009 State Trails Council meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee presented their report to the Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council. The Council would now like to hear what **you** think about the nine recommendations outlined in the [Report](#).

E-mail your comments on the report to DNRWISateTrails@wi.gov, by Friday, June, 19, 2009. Comments may also be submitted via U.S. mail:

State Trails Coordinator
101 S Webster Street
Madison, WI 53703

The Council will be discussing the report and feedback at their next meeting at the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area in July. More information about the State Trails Council and draft minutes from the April 28 meeting are available [here](#).

Trail Resources

Information on Trail Funding Programs

Two popular (and significant) sources of trail funding, the [Recreational Trails Program](#) (RTP) and [Transportation Enhancements](#) (TE), have current news (including Federal Stimulus information) available:

- [Recreational Trails Program and Transportation Enhancements Activities news from the Federal Highway Administration](#)
- [TE Corner](#), a newsletter from the [National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse](#) (NTEC), is available
- The FY 2008 National TE Spending Report is now available for [download](#) from www.enhancements.org. This report contains an in-depth analysis of the latest nationwide trends in TE spending, and includes a state-by-state breakdown of key spending figures.

Trail Training

- The [National Trails Training Partnership](#) lists trail training opportunities across the country.
- The [National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council](#) (NOHVCC) is holding their first set of Public Land Advocacy webinars. The free four-part series is designed to assist with creating and maintaining off-highway vehicle trails. The first module on route designation will be held on several dates in July (subsequent modules will happen after July). The second and third modules on Trail System Planning is designed to help riders and land managers understand how to plan, design, manage, and maintain quality trail systems. The fourth module will focus on OHV trail advocacy. For more info, or to sign up: www.nohvcc.org; 800-348-6487.

National Effort to Capture Bike/Ped Trail User Counts

The [National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project](#) assists communities in conducting consistent and useful counts and surveys of bicyclists and pedestrians, and to ultimately use this data to create a non-proprietary national database that can be used for research, policy, and other purposes. Their [website](#) hosts news summaries, count and survey materials and other resources.

Report on Improving Bicycle Access on Federal Lands

The Federal Highway Administration recently released a [guide to promoting bicycling on Federal Lands](#) (Publication No.FHWA-CFL/TD-08-007). Although Wisconsin doesn't have a large amount of Federal land* the report cites several Federal properties in Wisconsin as positive examples, and uses information obtained from Wisconsin throughout the document.

The report, complete with a 'special message' from Wisconsin's own John Burke (owner of Trek Bicycles), is hosted on the [Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center website](#).

**According to the Bureau of Land Management the Federal Government owns almost 30% of the land area of the United States. In Wisconsin about 5% of land is federally owned compared to western states - e.g. California - where the percentage is often closer to 50% federally owned.*

Report Suggests Trails Add to Home Value

A [recent report](#) helps makes the case for trails in new home developments.

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