

# Trail News – 4/4/13

## 1. Next Meeting of the Governor's State Trails Council: Thursday, April 25, 2013

The next meeting of the **Governor's State Trails Council** will be held Thursday, **April 25, 2013** from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Room 330 SW of the State Capitol Building, Madison, WI.

The State Trails Council (STC) is appointed by the Governor under the authority of statute 15.347(16) to provide state trail user groups and individuals a voice in the statewide trails program. The STC also provides a forum for dealing with solutions to conflicts between and within trail user groups and trail providers. Additionally, the STC provides advice and consultation to the Department of Natural Resources regarding the planning, acquisition, development and management of trails in Wisconsin. Additional information about the Governor's State Trails Council is available on the internet: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/stc/>.

Lunch will be catered in for State Trails Council members and DNR staff. An agenda for the upcoming meeting and draft minutes from the January STC meeting are available on the Internet address above. **Please RSVP by April 24, 2013**; [DNRWISateTrails@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWISateTrails@wisconsin.gov) if you are planning to attend the April 25 meeting.

## 2. Work\*Play\*Earth Day Events to be Held at 20 State Park Properties

People looking for a good way to celebrate Earth Day while giving back to and enjoying their favorite Wisconsin state park property will be able participate in any of 20 upcoming Work\*Play\*Earth Day events around the state. Friends of Wisconsin State Parks are sponsoring the 5th annual Work\*Play\*Earth Day, with **events scheduled on April 13, 20, 27 and May 4**. [More Information](#).

## 3. 2013 DNR Trail Training Courses Open for Registration

Attendees will graduate from this 4-day class with a greater knowledge and understanding of current trail design and construction techniques. Each day of the training will have a classroom component and hands-on application. Attendance at all four days of the training is required. You'll be taught how to create natural (dirt) surface trails that:

- Minimize impact to resources
- Minimize maintenance
- Do not go beyond capacity of the land
- Keep users on the trail

Each day of the course builds upon the knowledge from the previous day. Day 1 covers trail design and layout; Day 2, trail construction; Day 3, trail maintenance; and Day 4 is when you'll put it all together for practical application and obtain completion certificates. The training is free to public trail volunteers and land managers. Cost for other attendees is \$425. The 2013 trainings will be held in Eau Claire, La Crosse, and Madison areas. For more information and to sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013TrailTrainings>.

## 4. National Trails Day is June 1

June 1<sup>st</sup> is National Trails Day and now is the time to start planning your event, or make plans to attend an event. Participating in a National Trails Day event is an excellent way to promote and enjoy trails in a fun atmosphere. Although National Trails Day originated with the American Hiking Society, events aren't limited to hiking; events can be an organized trail ride with a local horse group, a group paddle on a water trail, a birding hike or even a trail maintenance day. American Hiking Society has great information on their website (<http://www.americanhiking.org/ntd/>), and many events are taking place in Wisconsin State Parks: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/getoutdoors/events.html>.

## 5. Report Shows Impact of Trails on Illinois Economies, Health, Environment

A new report released March 30 by an Illinois trails advocacy group shows that runners, walkers and cyclists are making hundreds of thousands of visits to six regional trails around the state, spending money daily, spending more time in nature, and likely reducing health care costs and adding high quality years to their lives. The report, *Making Trails Count In Illinois*, includes the findings of a nearly 13-week study of trail use by the non-profit Trails for Illinois and its partners Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the University of Illinois Office of Recreation & Park Resources, and trail agency and volunteers around the state.

The full report is available online at <http://trailsforillinois.org/maketrailscount>.

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