

Trail News – 02/13/15

Wisconsin Bikeways Project is launched

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in coordination with other state agencies, and the Wisconsin Bike Fed have partnered to work on a statewide Bikeways Project to identify, create and promote a network of mapped bicycle routes in the state. Toole Design Group has been hired as a consultant on the project. A bikeway is a road, street or path that is specifically designated for bicycle travel, may be designed for bicycle travel or is shared with other transportation modes.

The focus of the project will be to establish recommendations and turn-by-turn directions for Wisconsin segments of the United States Bicycle Route System, a network of long-distance bicycle routes across the country linking urban, suburban and rural areas through a variety of bicycling facilities. The project will evaluate existing roadway and trail systems to identify priority bikeway routes across the state.

Two sets of public open houses will be scheduled for this spring and fall and a public comment period is planned. Completion of the project is expected by the end of this year. For more information on the Bikeways Project, or to sign up to receive updates on the project, please visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/trails/bikeways.html>.

Next meeting of the Governor's State Trails Council: Monday, April 27

The next meeting of the Governor's State Trails Council will be held Monday, April 27, 2015 at the DNR Service Center at 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd. in Fitchburg. The meeting will be in the main building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The State Trails Council is appointed by the Governor 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.

Agenda items will include council member updates, a DNR report and a public comment period. Information about the STC, along with April meeting materials, will be available online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/stc/>.

Please RSVP by April 22, 2015 (daniel.buckler@wisconsin.gov) if you are planning to attend the April 27 meeting.

Bell Helmets offers \$100,000 grant to fund mountain bike trail construction

Public land management agencies or tax-exempt organizations with plans to construct a downhill mountain biking trail are encouraged to apply for a \$100,000 grant through Bell Helmets. This 'Bell Built Grant' would provide funds to the agency or organization to have the trail constructed by IMBA Trail Solutions, a service through the International Mountain Bicycling Association that offers trail assessment, design, construction and education.

Different selection criteria will be used to select the potential projects, including the trail's proximity to a large population center, at least 300 feet of continuous descent, a strong local mountain biking community and volunteer capacity. The trail has to be on public land and have the support of the land manager. All manager approvals and construction permits must be acquired before submitting an application. For more information on eligibility requirements and selection criteria, visit: <https://www.imba.com/grants/bell-built>. Applications are due March 6.

American Rivers hosts webinar on revitalization and river protection February 17

The national conservation organization American Rivers is hosting a webinar through its Blue Trails program titled "Revitalizing local communities through recreation and river protection". The webinar will use a case study from the Hitchcock Creek Blue Trail in Rockingham, North Carolina to explore the ways river recreation and conservation efforts have promoted tourism and economic investment.

The webinar will be held on Tuesday, February 17 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. CST. Interested parties can register for the event here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8218952036381182465>.

For those wanting more information about American Rivers' Blue Trails program, please visit: <http://www.bluetrailsguide.org>.

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