



Fostering the Development and Preservation of Trails and Greenways

TO: Senator Roger Breske, Chair
Special Committee on State Trails Policy

FROM: Mike Hendrick, President

DATE: November 8, 2006

RE: All Terrain Vehicles on Pedestrian and Bicycle Trails

I am not able to attend the November 10th meeting in Merrill. However, the Fox Cities Greenways Board of Directors has asked that I submit comments on their behalf in opposition to allowing ATVs on pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Our primary concern has to do with the incompatibility of these users. There are concerns over the speed, dust, damage on and off trails, and exhaust created by ATVs. All these factors have a negative impact on the walkers, bikers, and hikers. Taking a quote from the *Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2005-2010* (SCORP) that states "...when comparing the compatibility of all other land-based activities with hiking and ATV riding (See Table 4-2), it is evident that ATV riding is incompatible with every other land-based activity but snowmobiling. Hiking, on the other hand, is supplementary or complementary with all other activities."

Although we appreciate the growing popularity of ATVs in the State of Wisconsin, participation in the "silent sports" like wildlife viewing, bird watching, pleasure walking, and bicycling, to name a few, generate far more activity, according to the 2005-2010 SCORP. The economic impact of the silent sports is also considerable, especially in terms of tourism dollars. According to the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, the economic impact of wildlife viewing alone in 2001 was over \$1.3 billion.

It is for the above stated reasons that I respectfully request that you not allow ATVs to use these trails. Thank you for your time and consideration.