

Current Vilas County policy for developing trails on county lands (distributed to the Special Committee on October 30, 2006)

TRAIL POLICY – GENERAL OUTLINE

Purpose:

1. Create guidelines and methods for trail acceptance and oversight on Vilas County Lands.
2. Include Vilas County in trail planning process.

All trail requests requiring use of County Land and/or County administration must first come to the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee.

1. Minimum requirements for trail consideration.

- A. All requests for trails on highway right of way will be forwarded, with maps to the Vilas County Highway Committee and Land Use & Zoning Committee for final approval.
- B. Purpose and use of trail.
- C. Trail sponsors: Public entity or private group. A private group must consist of at least 10 members with a president, vice-president, secretary, & trail boss. The names, addresses, & telephone numbers of the above officers must be submitted to the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Dept. The president of the Group must have the authority to contract with Vilas County for the development/maintenance of the trail. A public entity must submit the name, address, & phone number of the responsible person.
- D. Trail route and mapping: The Group must submit a map of the proposed trail accurately illustrating the trail location with fine point red ink including distances & dimensions.
- E. A natural resource review will be performed by County Staff.
- F. Require use agreement with County.
- G. The Trail Sponsor must submit a detailed cost estimate for the trail development and Maintenance with a plan for the long term funding of the trail maintenance. The Sponsor will submit a Certificate of Insurance providing proof of public liability in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 and Worker's Compensation (a signed waiver shall be submitted if Worker's Compensation does not apply).
- H. Have all Trail Coordinators, stakeholders, and other trail groups been informed?
- I. Resolve conflicts with other proposed/existing trails. The current as well as future land use of the County Land is to be considered. Current land use plans will be reviewed, such as the County Recreation Plan and the County Forest Management Plan. Conflicts of trail use and implementation will be resolved by the decision of the Forestry, Recreation, and Land Committee. For asphalt trails, the group must state how the trail will be maintained & repaired.
- J. The responsible party or trail group must prove it has the ability to maintain the trail system by submitting documentation showing the group owns, leases or has available, equipment that is capable of maintaining the trail.

- K. Construction and maintenance of trails on County Land shall adhere to Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality (PUB-FR-093-95). Construction or maintenance of any recreational trail in which the activity would increase the erosion potential of one or more acres of land is subject to state and federal storm water runoff requirements (NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code and §283.33, Wis. Stats). In addition, the Trail Sponsor will prepare an erosion control plan for each project depicting the location of the project, surrounding wetlands, and what erosion control measures will be employed.
- L. Trails on County Forest Land shall comply with Wis. Stats Chapter 28.11 governing the use of County Forests and the sustainability of forest resources, and the Vilas County Forest 10 Year Management Plan.
- M. Asphalt trails shall be planned to accommodate access for heavy equipment. Vilas County will not be responsible for any damage to paved trails due to heavy equipment.
- N. The placement and operation of trails on County Land shall not hinder any current or future forest management activity.
- O. When shared use of a trail between bicycles, snowmobiles, and other motorized or non-motorized is not an option:
 - Snowmobile trails shall be located to the back of the right of way to allow for the headlight factor.
 - Bicycle trails shall be located closer to the highway to accommodate current/future snowmobiles.
 - If a new trail requires relocation of an existing trail, the request shall specify who is responsible for the cost of trail relocations.
- P. The County or its contractors are not responsible for damage or repair to trails on County land.
- Q. Discontinued use of the trail: The Trail Sponsor is required to submit to the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee a plan to reclaim the trail in the event the trail use is discontinued and/or the sponsoring organization would dissolve. The plan is to include the reclamation of the land and the name(s), addresses, and phone numbers of those persons responsible for accomplishing the tasks. The names of the responsible persons will be updated yearly or more frequently should changes occur.