



Village of Stratford  
*Friends of the Trail*

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The Village of Stratford is pleased to announce approval from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to proceed with its plans to construct a recreational trail system throughout the Village! The DNR's support is accompanied by two matching funds grant awards of nearly \$250,000 for trail construction.

The initial idea for a local trail system was brought to the Village Board several years ago by area "silent sports" enthusiasts. The project did not make any progress at that time due to local budget constraints. Recent renewed interest in personal wellness and the availability of grant funding for outdoor recreational venues has brought this opportunity for Stratford back to the forefront. Similar trail systems located throughout the state have proven to be valuable assets to local economies, as well as improving the overall health and well-being of residents.

Though the three phase trail system is anticipated to link the school forest, Klemme Reserve, FFA Park and other village recreational facilities, the first phase is planned for the area near the Business & Industrial Park and the wooded wetlands to the south. Features of Phase One will be a crushed-rock walking surface, trail-head picnic shelter and parking area, wetland boardwalks, and trailside benches. The trail will have year-round access for non-motorized recreation such as walking, biking, nature viewing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. A "Friends of the Trail" group will be established to help maintain the trail as a permanent asset for Village residents and visitors. A contest is being discussed to give the trail system an appropriate name.

Early estimated costs for developing Phase One are approximately \$500,000. The DNR grants are matching funds awards, which means that \$250,000 of local funding must be raised for the trail system to proceed. The Village Board has contributed initial engineering fees along with designating start-up dollars of \$13,900 toward the trail project. Local contributions eligible for DNR matching funds may be financial or in the form of donated labor, equipment, or products.

A community-wide fund raising effort is necessary to see the trail system become a reality. Can you make a donation or pledge toward the recreational trail system? Whether financial or in-kind, your investment is needed. It is the Village's intent to recognize all trail enthusiasts based on their level of contribution. Possible recognition for businesses, community groups, families, or individuals may include permanent trail markers, picnic area pavers, and media exposure.

A Trail Committee member will be in contact with you soon! Please consider how you can be a part of this exciting new addition to the Stratford area. Thank you for your consideration.

**RECREATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Tom Bornbach, Village Trustee      Jeremy Schafer, Committee Chair

Diane Austin, June Krueger, Duane & Lynette Pupp, Alan Rock, John Southworth, Scott Winch