

DNR Consultation Report
Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council meeting
December 17, 2025
DNR Consultation Report September – December 2025

Parks and Recreation Management Program Updates

General Program Updates

- 125th Anniversary of Wisconsin State Park System by the numbers:
 - Hosted more than 1500 events
 - Over 750 news articles were published about the anniversary
 - Distributed 176,000 swag items to properties
 - Distributed 55,900 number of merchandise items
 - Distributed 26 digital newsletters that included anniversary related information
 - 190 social media posts to date
- A press release went out in November related to public comment on draft 2026 program guidance for the Federal Recreational Trail Program. The RTP grant program will no longer be combined with the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Program or the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program guidance and includes a changing the RTP grant application deadline from May 1 to March 1 annually. The 21-day comment period on the draft RTP guidance document ended on December 1, 2025.
- Friends Group Grant Opportunities: The application deadline for state Friends Groups to apply for Knowles Nelson Stewardship or Heritage Trust Fund grants was November 15, 2025. DNR staff are reviewing grant applications and it's anticipated that grant awards will be announced later in 2026.

Bike Trail Project Updates

- **Capital City State Trail**
 - The parking lot reconstruction project at Syene Road was completed in October.
 - A portion of the Capital City State Trail in Fitchburg will be closed from late December through March 2026. Contractors will be constructing a boardwalk on Promega property from the trail to Nevin Springs overlook. A short detour will be provided around the closure throughout construction.
- **Military Ridge State Trail** – City of Verona was awarded a stewardship grant for the repair and replacement of three bridges along a 2-mile segment from Old Highway PB to the high school at Wildcat Way. Additional, Verona has plans to pave this section of the trail after the bridge work is completed.

Master Planning Updates

- Scoping public involvement for the [Central Lake Michigan Coastal Regional Master Plan](#) started 7/30 and was open until September 12th. A public comment summary was posted to the DNR website on December 3rd. State Trails covered by this plan include the Ahnapee, Fox River, Friendship, and Newton Blackmour state trails. The planning team is now working through plan development.
- A general index of DNR master planning is at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fl/PropertyPlanning/index>, including information regarding how to sign up for updates for general master planning updates or updates on individual regional planning efforts.

- Existing Natural Resources Board (NRB)-approved master plans are available for viewing from DNR's Completed Master Plans web tool at <https://dnr.wi.gov/CompletedPropertyPlans/index.aspx>.