



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 6, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Public Participation

Call: 888-327-8914

Passcode: 6829 265#

Teleconference & GEF 2

101 S Webster Street

Room 613

Madison, WI 53703

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE
10:00 a.m.	Bryan Much, Chair	Welcome and introductions
10:05 a.m.	Members	Agenda review/repair and approval of October meeting minutes
10:10 a.m.	Bryan Much, Chair	Council Elections
10:15 a.m.	Mary Monroe Brown	Office of Outdoor Recreation Introduction
10:30 a.m.	Kathryn Gehrke, DNR	DNR Update
10:50 a.m.	Bobbi Winebar, DNR	RTP Update
11:00 a.m.	Bob Fasick, DOT	Snowmobile draft bill
11:10 a.m.	Brigit Brown, DNR	Blue Mound management alternatives review
11:30 a.m.	Members	User Group Report Updates
11:45 a.m.	Public	Public Comment
11:55 a.m.	Chair	Potential Future Agenda Topics
12:00 p.m.	Chair	Adjourn



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GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2020 – Teleconference & GEF 2 Madison

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members present

Bryan Much, off-highway motorcycle representative (member of *Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association (WOHMA)*) [STC Chair]

Luana Schneider, 4-wheel drive vehicles representative (member of *Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Association*)

Steve Falter, water trails representative

State Trails Council Members Present on Phone

Ken Neitzke, hiking representative (member of the *Ice Age Trail Alliance*) [STC Vice Chair]

Doug Johnson, snowmobiling representative (member of *Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC)*) [STC Secretary]

Kricket Jewett, equestrian representative (member of *Wisconsin Horse Council*)

Jeff Anderson, *Wisconsin Department of Tourism* [non-voting]

Roy Atkinson, bicycle touring/rail trail bicycling/road bicycling

Bob Fasick, *Wisconsin Department of Transportation* [non-voting]

John Siegert, off-road bicycling representative (member of *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin*)

Randy Harden, ATV/UTV representative (member of *Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association ((WATVA))*)

Ben Popp, cross-country skiing representative (Executive Director of American Birkebeiner)

James White, small boards and wheels

Invited speakers

Mary Monroe Brown – Office of Outdoor Recreation

WI DNR Staff present

Kathryn Gehrke. DNR liaison/staff to the STC

Missy Vanlanduyt, DNR

Bobbi Winebar, DNR

10:05 A.M. – Welcome and introductions

- Much called the meeting to order. Council members and guests introduced themselves.
- Motion to approve October minutes, Doug motioned, Ken second, minute approved.

10:08 A.M. – Council Elections

- Any other nominations from last month, none
- One nomination per position, Bryan for Chair, Ken for Vice Chair, Doug for Secretary
- Motion from to approve nominations from Luana, Doug Second, none opposed
- Nominations approved



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10:10 A.M. – Introduction Office of Outdoor Recreation, Mary Monroe Brown

- Mary Monroe Brown joins via phone, director for the office of outdoor recreation
- Initial goal is to form framework for the office, working on strategic plan
- Office of Outdoor Recreation sits inside Tourism Office with focus on job creation, health & wellness
- Office of Outdoor Recreation will be identifying and making connections relevant to the 4 pillars of the Office of Outdoor Recreation, rather than traditional promotion that the office of tourism traditionally does
 1. Driving tourism, both in- and out-of-state
 2. Creating jobs and growing local economies
 3. Uniting communities and promoting active lifestyles
 4. Ensuring access to healthy public lands and waters
- 15 states have offices of outdoor recreation, there is an annual gathering of all states, that have offices of outdoor recreation, but not all states run or use their office of outdoor recreation the same
- In the future there will be an Office of Outdoor Recreation committee
- Working closely with DNR since they manage land and recreation opportunities
- In initial phases of forming Office of Outdoor Recreation committee, feel free to email Mary if you have any suggestions: MMonroeBrown@travelwisconsin.com

10:20 A.M. - DNR Update, Missy VanLanduyt

- DNR closed on parcel for the Ice Age Trail on the E Twin River segment in Manitowoc County. After initial rejection, department received approval from Joint Finance for a \$408,000 land acquisition on September 21. Land is for the Ice Age Trail in Sheboygan County.
- DNR is still reviewing best way to update statewide trail plans and coop trail plans and we continue to work with our coop partners on development, maintenance and planning and are constantly reprioritizing maintenance
- DNR, IATA and NPS will begin drafting a new triad agreement which will follow a length of time approved by NPS (5-year agreement) – NPS is taking the lead on a draft
- DNR plans to hire 3 recreation liaisons to be stationed around the state including a fulltime position that will assist with trails. Parks moved from 5 district model to 6 district model and will be hiring 3 district supervisors. Park Manager hiring just closed and plans to do a ranger recruitment
- The recreation stakeholder group had its third meeting in November to further discussion on state wide collaboration on recreation management, recreation planning and recreation outreach and education.
- The program continues to successfully work through a law enforcement transition with the bureau of law enforcement. Full implementation isn't expected until 2020. Staff will spend the winter refining enforcement policies, procedures, working through questions



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and challenges and preparing for the peak 2020 season. New chief ranger starting this week.

- A new volunteer database will be contracted and built in 2019 for implementation in 2020. This new database will be available to all volunteers as well as friends and key partners for use in posting volunteer opportunities and recruiting volunteers.
- Stewart Tunnel on Badger State Trail near Verona is closed while short- and long-term options for repair are being assessed – reported 4x4 ft limestone chunk fell from ceiling in August, which initiated the closure
- Bearskin State Trail had visual inspection issues with 7 of the 17 trestle bridges, 1 of the 7 bridges is closed to motorized traffic and snowmobile is rerouted
- Mountain Bay State Trail has a bridge that is pulled off the abutments, caused by a motor vehicle on 117 (below bridge) hitting and pulling it off. Both - One mile section of trail and HWY 117 directly below the bridge are closed. County is working on a bike, ped and snowmobile reroute which will need approval by town board.
- Winona Connector project has started construction. Current issue is the railroad is trying to get DNR to pay them \$100,000 for their inspection and oversight of the project. Project is 2.9 million in construction. Phase one of this project will connect Winona to Buffalo County and the Great River State Trail, by way of the Old Wagon Bridge in Aghaming Park on Latsch Island
- Staff continue to make significant progress on FEMA projects. Trail repairs are expected to be made by early summer 2020 while some other property damage may not be repaired until 2021 (Pattison Dam).

2020 Marketing and Outreach Events

- OutWiGo Snow will be held January 11, at Lapham Peak, and February 1, at Willow River. Both events will showcase all types of winter recreation and we are asking all partners to participate, attend and promote these events.
- On May 9th we will host our 2nd annual OutWiGo Girls event at Scuppernong Trailhead in S Unit.
- Work Play Earth Day Series for 2020, goal of 50 events
 - Main Event Time Period: April 11-May 3 (although we encourage and will post co-sponsored volunteer work day events throughout the year)
 - Event Marketing Deadline: March 15 all event notices for the Work*Play*Earth Day event series, submit through survey the DNR liaison will share
 - Reporting: A DNR survey will be used to collect event results from participating groups/organizations
- We have reached out to the IATA, Friends Groups, local businesses in partnering and providing programming, outreach and/or opportunities to participate in all of our marketing and outreach events for 2020.



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- We are expanding our merchandise program this year with bandanas that include all state park, forest and trail properties.

Legislative update

- EScooter legislation has been enacted, as mentioned in last meeting, the legislation allows them to operate in some ways the same as segways and in other ways the same as bicycles. DNR still has authority to allow or not allow on state park trails and signage will need to be posted if they are allowed.
- Ebike legislation has been signed into law by the governor. SB 129 DNR and WisDOT will collaborate on an informational paper explaining the new law, should be available by January. Important to know: this law does not allow all types of electric bicycles to operate everywhere.
- There are still several bills concerning Lyme disease awareness and prevention that will likely pass in this session.
- A bill giving free state park admission to 4th graders will likely also likely pass this session (SB212) similar to the disabled veteran/POW fee waiver.
- Draft administrative code package for off-highway motorcycles was approved by the Natural Resources Board for approval in December (CR-19-107) and is with the governors office for review
- Parks Stew funding (SB125/AB134) Would provide unobligated Stewardship funding for already-identified infrastructure projects, water and wastewater project, mainly in the NE

Master Planning

Blue Mound State Park: The public had the opportunity to review and comment on management alternatives for Blue Mound State Park from November 5 to December 2. A public meeting was held on November 19. Approximately 130 people attended to learn more about the alternatives and submit their input.

The majority of people chose to comment using the online public input form. Alternatives included: management options for nonmotorized trails within the park and connections through the park to other trail systems. Specifically, the management alternatives discussed options for connecting the Military Ridge State Trail to Dane and Iowa County snowmobile trail systems, mountain bike and cross-country ski trail realignment, and connections to the potential Driftless Trail.

The public input period has closed, but the Management Alternatives Document remains available on the DNR website. . The department is now forming the draft master plan. The public will also be given the opportunity to review the draft plan, which is anticipated to be released in early 2020.

Northeast Sands Regional Plan: Plan was presented to NRB in October and was tabled pending additional analysis and resolution of issues related to forest management and a proposed State Natural Area on the Pine-Popple Wild River. Staff are conducting analyses and plan to meet with



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stakeholders in Florence County in early December. Anticipate presenting the plan for NRB action in January, 2020.

Western Prairie Regional Plan: The Western Prairie Draft Regional Master Plan is available for public review and comment through December 6, 2019. Visit the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, search keywords “property planning” and select “Western Prairie” on the page map.

The following are opportunities related to nonmotorized trails on department properties:

Willow River State Park:

- Develop and maintain a network of primitive to lightly developed sustainable off-road bicycling trails. Provide support facilities, such as vault toilets, as needed.
- Allow for a regional multi-use trail to pass through northern portion of the park and connect to the day use and camping area, provided the trail logically connects to a trail segment outside the park boundary.

Kinnickinnic State Park:

- Develop and maintain a network of primitive to lightly developed sustainable off-road bicycling trails. Provide support facilities, such as vault toilets, as needed.

Kinnickinnic River Gorge and Delta State Natural Area:

- If demand exists, develop and maintain a multi-use primitive trail that would allow access to a popular viewing area on the south side of the Devil’s Den or Devil’s Punchbowl. The developed trail would specifically be routed to protect sensitive resources.

Southwest Savanna Regional Plan: In spring 2019, the department initiated planning with a public involvement process. The input received is summarized in the Public Scoping Input Summary posted on the DNR SW Savanna Ecological Landscape webpage. Presently, the department’s planning team is drafting the regional plan.

The public will be given the opportunity to review the draft plan, which we anticipate being released in early 2020. We anticipate presenting the plan for NRB approval in summer 2020. Badger State Trail, Military Ridge State Trail and Sugar River State Trail are included in this project. At this time the department does not have any specific actions related to nonmotorized trails to consider.

Central Sand Plains Regional Plan: The department engaged the public at a scoping meeting in Adams, WI on August 28. The comment period for public scoping of planning issues to consider ran through September 27. The planning team has now moved into the plan development phase, but is at very early stages. At this time the department does not have any specific actions related to nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails to consider.

Central Sand Hills Regional Plan: The department is continuing its development of background information for this regional plan. We anticipate finishing our pre-planning data gathering by the end of 2019 and posting a series of summary documents describing the region and properties in February 2020.

We plan to hold an initial public “kick-off” meeting in late February or early March to gather input on the properties and their future management, regional ecological and recreation needs. At this time the department does not have any specific actions related to nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails to consider.



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Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest Master Plan Variance –
No updates this month.

Rib Mountain State Park master plan revision: At their October 2019 meeting, the Natural Resources Board directed the department to initiate a revision process for the park's 2005 master plan.

The planning process will evaluate the full range of public uses occurring at the park and habitat management opportunities. In addition, options for the future will be assessed, including possibly new recreation activities. The planning process will evaluate a potential expansion of the Granite Peak Ski Area.

The Department anticipates hosting a “kick-off” open house meeting in January 2020 in Wausau to present information about the park and the surrounding landscape. A key component of the open house meeting will be to gather initial public input and ideas regarding the park and its future. Details about the open house meeting will be posted here as they become available.

10:45 A.M. – RTP Update, Bobbi Winebar

- Transportation alternative report in progress and due at end of January
- Updated grant application, also has stewardship and lawcon, all three grant applications will be posted, in one booklet, online end of January or beginning of February
- RTP should be back to 2.1 million for local aid and state projects
- This year \$45,000 cap and 2021 \$200,000, per project

10:50 A.M. – Snowmobile 40-Foot Headlamp Barrier Rule Draft Bill, Bob Fasick

- The Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) wants to revise the 40-foot headlamp barrier rule
 - Current rule requires vegetation or other type of screening in highway ROW when snowmobiles are operating *counter-directional* to highway traffic flow at night.
 - WisDOT agrees with AWSC that the 40-foot rule is not reasonable especially on a highway with 66-foot ROW
 - A draft bill has been developed by Rep. Swearingen's and Sen. Petrowski's office
- After a meeting with WisDOT, AWSC, Swearingen's and Petrowski's office, and DNR on December 4th, consensus was that:
 - The 40-foot headlamp barrier rule should be revised
 - Snowmobiles should still operate 10 feet or more from the roadway (white stripe)
 - Snowmobiles may be operated less than 10 feet from roadway only by permit from the maintaining highway authority and as long as the proper language is placed in the statute
 - Snowmobiles should be operated as close as practicable to the cleared edge of the ROW
 - The 40-foot headlamp barrier rule revision should also be extended to ATV/UTVs when operating on an open snowmobile trail
- Big emphasis that any language put into statute is enforceable
- WisDOT would develop a new snowmobile webpage (similar to its ATV webpage) to assist with understanding the statute (and revisions) along with a special emphasis on



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creating diagrams and including pictures that are typically not in statute. Could also include a FAQ section as inquiries come into WisDOT or DNR.

- Looking for a final bill to be enacted by spring
- DOT is also doing a lot of mapping through a new GIS program
 - In the future, looking to get mapping layer for ATV and snowmobile routes/trails

11:02 A.M. – User Group Updates

Ken

- IAT first day hikes were huge success

John

- WI Bike Fed has a new executive director, Kirsten Finn

Jeff

- Winter campaign promotes Wisconsin's inside and outside offerings, similar to fall campaign
- snow report has launched and has 65,000 subscribers
- launched update to co-op advertise program
- Wisconsin Governor Conference on Tourism date sent out and award nominations open
- Governor Council on Tourism meeting last month elected new officers

Roy

- New study from Rails to Trails Conservancy shows economic impacts of biking
- UW Madison rated platinum bike friendly campus

Kricket

- May 13-16 Trail School at Hartman Creek is almost full
- April 17 – 19 Midwest Horse Fair is bringing in International Mountain Trail Challenge Association
- December 31 grants are due to Wisconsin Horse Council, \$3,000 for existing trails and \$4,000 for new trails

Randy

- Annual meeting will include additional motorized user of 4WD

11:18 A.M. – Blue Mounds, Brigit Brown (presentation in appendix)

- Mid 2018 DNR was asked to develop new master plan
- Initial scoping began in Spring 2019
- DNR went back out to public with management alternatives in late 2019
- Draft master plan planned for mid 2020
- See slides for additional information on this topic
- Comments from council
 - If park was expanded to the West it could be a good place for equestrian use
 - Option 2 seems OK but it's currently a quiet area that does not have motorized use
 - Brigit – sound engineer is measuring noise at service road location and other locations in the park
 - AWSC is very active in this plan

11:45 A.M. – User Group Updates Continue



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Doug

- Trail pass program growing every year, 52,000 sold as of December 31 to club members and 15,000 to non-club member

Steve

- Flooding continues to be huge issue
- looking for habitat, signage and development plan and training

Luana

- 1st meeting of merged groups happening soon

Bryan

- Big events coming up but dependent on ice

11:55 A.M. – Public Comment

Hank

- None

Ryan

- RL4WD working on connecting routes and plans to discuss slow speed trails with motorized use group in April

11:57 A.M. – Next Meeting Topics

- Social groups vs. traditional clubs, discussion topic
- Sauk Prairie for April meeting

12:00 P.M. – Adjourn

- Luana moved to adjourn, Steve seconds, none opposed.

January 2020

Appendix – User Group Reports (submitted before meeting by Council Members)

STC User Group Reports

ATV/UTV

Updated work continues as we streamline and further improve the Trail Patrol Ambassador <TPA> training system by implementing an online, two way video conference training method that covers the classroom portion of the TPA training. This method makes it much more convenient for our applicants, they can now take this training in the comfort and convenience of their home or office as long as they have a high speed connection and speakers at their disposal.

Once the classroom portion is completed, the applicants then schedule a hands on, field day training with our club coordinator trainers and/or regional coordinators. This second day is coordinated when outdoor weather conditions permit, on an actual trail system to finish the training with their own vehicles, under the tutelage of the Trail Patrol Ambassador instructors. Last year we pilot tested several of these new training platforms, finding they were more efficient, more convenient plus the hands on field day instilled much more confidence with the Trail Ambassador candidates once the overall training was completed. Previously to this method, only role playing videos were used to emphasise the TPA training in a classroom setting compared to the new hands on field training.

The 2020 Annual Workshops & Meeting of the Wisconsin ATV UTV Association is scheduled in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn Conference Center April 3rd through the 5th. This year we invited and offered the rest of the conference center to the 4 Wheel Drive and Off-Highway Motorcycle communities. There will be some general session time where these different motorized communities can share common interest sessions as we continue to integrate educational workshops that benefit a variety of different rider groups. Our current sessions already include a significant number of dual use, ATV UTV / snowmobile clubs, a side benefit of inviting other rider groups to share conference space and workshops is to further increase a better understanding of each group's objectives.

Another focus of the organization is working with our many ATV UTV registration program partners as we strive to update and improve laws that are either out of date or not currently addressed in state statute. A number of different lawmakers have worked with our volunteers to put these changes into an omnibus bill. Public hearings are soon to be scheduled in both houses.

The organization has again signed up for a booth at the upcoming March 16th Wisconsin Governor's Conference On Tourism <WIGCOT>. We are re-launching our Trail Town marketing program designed for businesses located on a trail or route. We look forward to sharing this information and more about our organization at this setting during the Marketplace session within WIGCOT.

We look forward to the hiring of an OHV administrator by the WI DNR Department of Law Enforcement, this important position has been vacant for more than a year. Speaking of the DNR

Bureau of Law Enforcement, our Trail Patrol Ambassadors were invited to ride and patrol with them during busy weekends at high traffic count areas in 2019. We look forward to more partnering opportunities of that type in 2020.

As well we've had good results with our two mobile Welcome Centers, staffing them with club personnel, Trail Patrol Ambassadors and on occasion, with county law enforcement recreational deputies. These outreach efforts serve to get trail and route information to the riders, better awareness as to laws and safety information out to the general riding public in a very visible and welcoming way.

Submitted by: Randy Harden

BICYCLE TOURING/RAIL TRAIL BICYCLING/ROAD BICYCLING

General Updates

Happy winter, friends! For my update, I will be sharing a number of news articles from throughout the state that have had / will have a general impact on state trails and road cyclists. Here's to a quick thaw so we are out riding quicker than expected this spring!

User Group Related Events:

See the link below for an early listing of touring events across the state:

<http://www.granfondoguide.com/Events/CenturyRidesCalendar/North%20America/United%20States/MidWest/Wisconsin>

Click here for a good list of century bike ride opportunities >>

<https://www.bikecentury.com/wisconsin/>

User Group Related Articles:

Study: Bike, Hiking Trails Generate Big Money And Savings For Wisconsin

Click link to view article>

<https://www.wuwm.com/post/study-bike-hiking-trails-generate-big-money-and-savings-wisconsin#stream/0>

“A national advocacy group for recreation trails says the trails' net economic value continues to go up. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy says Wisconsin trails generate as much as \$1.5 billion in spending or health care savings every year.”

This study provides a picture of the impacts that bike and hiking trails have on Wisconsin. Between the impacts on public health to the economic impacts.

Manitowoc to host Tour of America's Dairyland professional bike race in June

Click link to view article>

<https://www.htrnews.com/story/news/2019/12/19/manitowoc-host-tour-americas-dairyland-professional-bike-race/2697651001/>

“Manitowoc businessman John Brunner is bringing bicycle racing back to Manitowoc after an 11-year hiatus as part of the Tour of America's Dairyland series. The Maritime Bay Classic will be held on June 22 on the near north side of Manitowoc's downtown.”

Mark your calendars for this awesome cycling/spectator opportunity in Manitowoc!

Fond du Lac bike share program to launch in spring: What to know

Click link to view article>

<https://www.fdlreporter.com/story/news/2019/12/12/fond-du-lac-bike-share-program-starts-spring-partner-zagster/4408531002/>

“The Fond du Lac City Council voted unanimously Wednesday night to approve the start of a city bike share program beginning in 2020, sponsored by Alliant Energy.”

Kudos to the City of Fond du Lac for voting to start of a city bike share program in 2020. This will provide residents and tourists with an alternative and healthy method to traverse the community.

UW–Madison named platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University

Click link to view article>

<https://news.wisc.edu/uw-madison-named-platinum-level-bicycle-friendly-university/>

“The University of Wisconsin–Madison is one of only eight institutions honored as a platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University. The award is the highest given by the League of American Bicyclists, the oldest advocacy organization for people who bike.”

Kudos to UW- Madison to achieving the platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University designation! Several communities throughout the State of WI have been awarded varying levels of Bicycle Friendly designations. My home community, Eau Claire, was awarded the bronze designation which is a testament to the excellent bike-ability and trail-friendly community we have.

Annual bike ride raises money to fight AIDS

Click link to view article> <https://www.nbc15.com/content/news/Annual-bike-ride-raises-money-to-fight-AIDS-513321791.html>

“The 17th annual AIDS Ride Wisconsin took bikers on a 275-mile route through southern Wisconsin. The ride started on Friday and passed through Waukesha and Lake Geneva before returning to Madison Sunday afternoon.”

I wanted to showcase this excellent event! Great work!

IN DEPTH: Communities in south-central Wisconsin on path for bike trail expansion

Click link to view article> https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/in-depth-communities-in-south-central-wisconsin-on-path-for/article_262dbc9e-f16c-576c-bf0e-bbc39505e339.html

“Bicycling to build tourismThe Portage Chamber of Commerce promotes bike loops in Columbia County. Marianne Hanson, the executive director, was involved with a group that helped create 14 loops throughout the county. The chamber promotes the loops, which were created to connect communities and attractions, as a tourism tool with physical maps and an online presence.”

I wanted to share this update because it hits on biking to build tourism in the Portage Area. This is an item that many tourism entities are taking note of and are actively taking advantage of in marketing/destination development. If they aren't doing this, they should start doing it. Trails build and connect communities, and provide positive economic and public health benefits.

Group Updates:

Eau Claire Area -

The Friends of the Chippewa River State Trail are looking at taking on a capital campaign for the repair of a stretch of the Chippewa River State Trail that is experiencing erosion issues. The stretch is located along the “Tyrone” stretch between the intersection of the Red Cedar State Trail / Chippewa River State Trail and Meridean. The group will be working on this in 2020.

Submitted by: Roy Atkinson

FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE

This time of year there is not as much wheelin' as other times of the year, but that doesn't mean all are parked. There are those that do snowbashing on roads/trails that are accessible. Also there are several areas where ice racing occurs IF the ice permits. Others just tour areas that are available and enjoy the beauty of winter in Wisconsin. Some head for warmer weather with their four wheel drive vehicles.

Road Legal Four Wheel Drive (RL4WD) has had a great 2019 with lots of events, rides and trails opened. They are about to top 700 members on rl4wd.com, they have over 1,000 in their WI Facebook group, and almost 40 trained Trail Ambassadors to date. They have a new chapter, South Central WI Overlanders, based in Mazomanie with 2 additional chapters forming in both Oshkosh and Platteville all led by certified Trail Ambassadors.

The first Public OHV park in Wisconsin will be announced and showcased at the annual April combined meeting.

There are several overlanding tours that combine different types of trails and roads. The Southern Wisconsin Overlanding Tour (SWOT) will be listed in the RL4WD directory via legs. Right now, the SEWI leg extends from Horicon Marsh to Washington Island and the Wisconsin River Leg extends from the Mississippi to beyond Sauk City along the Wisconsin River. A Superior Overlanding Loop has also been created but not as of yet tested. The directory will feature these tours on the Overlanding tab which is being developed for 2020.

RL4WD First CrawlerFest will be held June 26th - 28th <https://rl4wd.com/CrawlerFest>

The first Midwest Overlanding Expo in Wisconsin will be held Labor Day weekend in SEWI - <https://rl4wd.com/overlanding>

Wisconsin Off Highway Vehicle Association (WOHVA) members attended numerous trail rides hosted by other 4WD based groups. It's worth noting the majority of these trail rides took place outside of WI.

In Aug WOHVA hosted our 12th Annual Great Northern Trail Ride. Once again WOHVA rented a Private Off Road Park in Auburn WI. This was another successful event with attendees traveling from all over the state.

In September WOHVA coordinated with Fuel Motorsports for a display of 4WD vehicles at their Annual Cars in Kewaskum car show. We label this event "Fill the Hill" where our vehicles are given an exclusive access area for display. This year we had 21 vehicles on display with the center of attention, a young couple who drove from Mankato MN just to attend. They had seen our post publicizing the event on Facebook.

October brought 2 significant actions. Our 2nd Annual Ronny Buggy Fall Color Ride based out of Wabeno, WI. We had 16 vehicles in attendance. While the weather did not cooperate the enthusiasm of our attendees did not disappoint and made this another great success. WOHVA also entered into a MOU with a private landowner near Tomah, WI to work on development of a 4WD trail network. WOHVA/WC4WD hopes to host an event at this location in Fall.

The year wrapped up with one of our members hosting his Annual Holiday Light Ride through the Making Spirits Bright display at Evergreen Park in Sheboygan. A full pick up truck full of food and over \$300 in donations.

The Wisconsin Four Wheel Drive Association has worked on many trail possibilities this year and has also hosted one event with many of the clubs within in the Association having their own events and activities. One this Fall was a Veteran's Run that the Association was part of and the group involved raised about \$15,000 for veterans in that area.

The Wisconsin Off Highway Vehicle Association (WOHVA) and the Wisconsin Four Wheel Drive Association (W4WDA) are continuing the process of merger into a new group (Wisconsin Coalition of Four Wheel Drive) with a formal set of By-laws close to being finalized and an SOP now being worked on.

This new group has been approached to work with Road America on a special event in later May with cutting & clearing trails before the event.

They are also working with Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) on adding trails and working on a clean-up weekend of some of the forest this coming summer. They are also working in conjunction with RL4WD on a trail system at Big Sno just across the border in Michigan.

The main convention for the above Four Wheel Drive groups will be held in conjunction with WATVA and WOHMA in Stevens Point in early April. This should be a step in the right direction for various motorized groups to work together.

Submitted by: Luana Schneider

HIKING

The winter hiking season has begun or at least in the northern half of the state. In the southern half of the state, the hiking conditions are more like March with wet muddy trail conditions and warm temperatures. It seems that this is one of those winters that we can enjoy warm weather hiking and cold weather snowing in the same state at the same time.

This unusual warm and dry winter weather in the southern half of the state has allow Ice Age Trail volunteers to get caught up on trail maintenance and storm damage mitigation from this past summer. In the cold, snowy north, Ice Age Trail and North Country Trail volunteers have been focusing on clearing their perspective trails of downed trees and any other trail work that can be done above the snow. Regardless of the weather, both the Ice Age Trail and the North Country Trail have enjoyed well attended successful hiking events throughout the state.

News Years Day brings First Day Hikes which kicks off the winter hiking season. First Day Hikes is national event initiated by the National Association of State Park Directors to encourage people to get outdoors (<https://www.stateparks.org/initiatives-special-programs/first-day-hikes/>). The Ice Age Trail Alliance is hosting (5) First Day Hikes across the state and the Wisconsin State Parks Friends groups are hosting (12) First Day Hikes.

2020 is looking to be a very busy year for volunteers of both the Ice Age Trail and the North Country. The Ice Age Trail Mobile Skills Crew project calendar has been released with (12) trail building events across the state with the first one scheduled for January 30-31 (<https://www.iceagetrail.org/mobile-skills-crew-program/>).

Submitted by: Ken Neitzke

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLES

Many off-highway motorcyclists have prepped their motorcycles for riding frozen waters in the state. This is a popular version of off-highway motorcycling that allows riders to stay active with their riding in the winter. Motorcycles have studded tires that help to create excellent traction on the ice. The unseasonably warm weather has delayed some riding opportunities because of ice conditions. There are some formal ice riding events scheduled this winter around the state. Hopefully ice conditions will improve soon.

Submitted by: Bryan Much

XC SKI

- **Eau Claire Area Ski Trails:**
 - The Chippewa Valley Nordic Ski Team has been racing in Cable and Spooner, skiing in Barron, and practicing recently at Tower Ridge Trails (Eau Claire County). Finely tuned trail base and exceptional grooming have allowed them to practice at Tower Ridge on very thin/low snow conditions, along with a good number of citizen ski racers and recreational skiers.

- A HS/MS race will be hosted at the Tower Ridge Trails on Jan. 23rd , with MN teams from Winona, Rochester, Redwing, along with WI teams from Eau Claire, Spooner, Wausau, Rice Lake, Ladysmith and Hayward all invited to attend – over 100 skiers anticipated to participate.
- The Eau Claire Kickin’ Kids youth cross country ski program kicks off it’s youth instructional “learn to ski and have fun doing it” program on Jan. 8th, held every Monday through the end of February, at the Tower Ridge ski area. Approximately 140 youth skiers – ages 4 to 16 – participate in the program, along with 25 coaches and parent helpers.
- **Lakeland/Minocqua Area:**
 - Currently, the snow is plentiful and the regional groomers have done a great job with a fair amount of typical skiing pressure. In general I would rate most conditions as good to very good with some brown spots showing at the top of hills of a stray organic matter coming up...or falling down into the track. Skier volume has been VERY HIGH !
- **American Birkebeiner**
 - American Birkebeiner Ski Trail has 107KM of groomed trails, as well as the new competition trails at the old Telemark. There was warm/rain late in December, but conditions are now reported excellent and ski pass volume is up 15% from last year.
- **Rhineland Area**
 - Rhineland's Northwoods Nordic SC has been hard at work, endeavoring to bring the majority of our CAVOC ski trails up to FIS standards for competitions and safe skiing for the community. 5km were gone over, widened, graded, seeded, etc, and a one acre stadium area was developed where before, there was nothing but trees. We have made an investment in acquiring new grooming equipment.
- **Milwaukee Area**
 - Winter has gotten off to a slow start in Southeast Wisconsin, as there has not been enough natural snow to open any significant cross country skiing venue. However, the volunteers and dedicated staff at Lapham Peak have taken advantage of the cold weather to make snow and open skiing, groomed for both skate and stride.
- **Madison**
 - Elver Park snowmaking has a loop open even without mother nature!
- **Central Cross-Country Skiing (Regional Governing Body under US Ski & Snowboard)**
 - Over 2,000 new pairs of skis will be distributed in the Midwest; currently 130 Midwest schools are involved in the Nordic Rocks for Schools Program.
 - Recently completed: Two On-snow Junior Development Program Camps: November in Ironwood, Michigan and December in Cable, Wisconsin
 - The schedule is confirmed for the race support at the six CXC Marathon Cup events, along with the World Masters Championship in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- The schedule is confirmed for three CXC Junior Cup events.
- The CXC Youth Cup schedule is finalized for 12 CXC Youth Cup events, as well as a MN, WI, and MI SkiWerks Race Series

Submitted by: Ben Popp

EQUESTRIANS

None

WATER TRAILS

Water trails in Wisconsin continue to be affected by weather changes, bringing record flooding. Also the influx of tree killing exotics such as emerald ash borer and others that weaken forested areas adjacent to rivers. Flood waters have brought a three fold increase in the amount of wood in our waters. River banks are losing stability in more areas.

Invasive plants are gaining ground and weaken other stream bank areas. This leads to more bank work to the development of safe water trails. Just clearing a path does not make for a water trail in the long term.

The other issues slowing water trail development, are the availability of trained personal to do the correct in water and bank work. Perhaps a joint training, online or hands on seminar could be produced. Proper on water signage for safe paddling; a goal that can be reached with support from the DNR and river sign experts to complete a international based sign system that includes NPS standards.

Myself and lead personal of Capitol Water Trails, along with industry experts may help in both of these issues being completed. Also a state wide acceptable plan of trails to limit issues of threatened habitat areas and closed development wilderness areas.

I look forward to working with DNR staff to bring a water trails plan to Wisconsin waters.

A staff position at the DNR is likely not an option, but with the correct input and connections within the agency I believe we can be better prepared in the future.

Submitted by: Steve Falter

SNOWMOBILE

Welcome to winter! Our northern counties received snow early this season and some have already been able to enjoy some of the economic benefits of open snowmobile trails. Currently 19 counties are reporting open trails or partially open trails on the TravelWisconsin website.

Challenges presented by summer storms, tornadoes, and a wet fall have kept local volunteers busy preparing the trail system for use. Early heavy wet snow complicated those preparations.

Lakes have been slow to freeze and swamp crossings are taking additional time to firm up also. Warm Christmas temperatures have not helped either of those situations. Counties in the southern two thirds of the state are still waiting for winter's arrival.

The first major snow cross race of the season, scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend in Duluth had to be postponed because of snow. Yes, that's right. A major snowstorm caused conditions to deteriorate to the point where racing could not be conducted.

Preparations are underway for the 57th running of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby in Eagle River. Reports are that the track is shaping up nicely and the facility has undergone some renovations in anticipation of another fantastic event. Championship weekend is 16-19 January.

The 12th annual Military Appreciation Snowmobile Ride will take place in Eagle River on the 20th of January.

The MS Snowmobile Tour will be taking place January 23-25 at Lac Du Flambeau.

Applications for the Snowmobile Friendly Community Program sponsored by the AWSC, DNR, and Dept. of Tourism will be accepted until the 10th of January.

THINK SNOW!

Submitted by: Doug Johnson



Blue Mound State Park Master Plan Update

State Trails Council

January 6, 2020



Blue Mound State Park Overview

- BMSP is in western Dane County and eastern Iowa County.
- Bordered by Military Ridge State Trail to the south.
- Master Plan revision is underway and addresses all recreation and natural resource management at the park.
 - A public involvement period on management alternatives ended in December.

What are management alternatives?

- Options for management that may be included in the draft master plan





Management Alternatives in the Planning Process

Scoping

**Management
Alternatives**

**Draft Master
Plan**



Management Alternatives in the Planning Process

February – March
2019

Plan Kickoff

Idea gathering and issue
identification

November –
December 2019

Management Alternatives

Conceptual management
options formed by
planning team

Potentially
Spring 2020

Draft Master Plan

Detailed draft
management objectives
and prescriptions for
public review

Potentially
Summer 2020

Final Proposed Master
Plan

Final management
objectives and
prescriptions for
Wisconsin Natural
Resources Board
approval.

Management Alternative Topics

- Project Boundary
- **Camping**
- **Cross-Country Skiing**
- **Mountain Biking**
- **Snowmobiling**
- Natural Resources Management

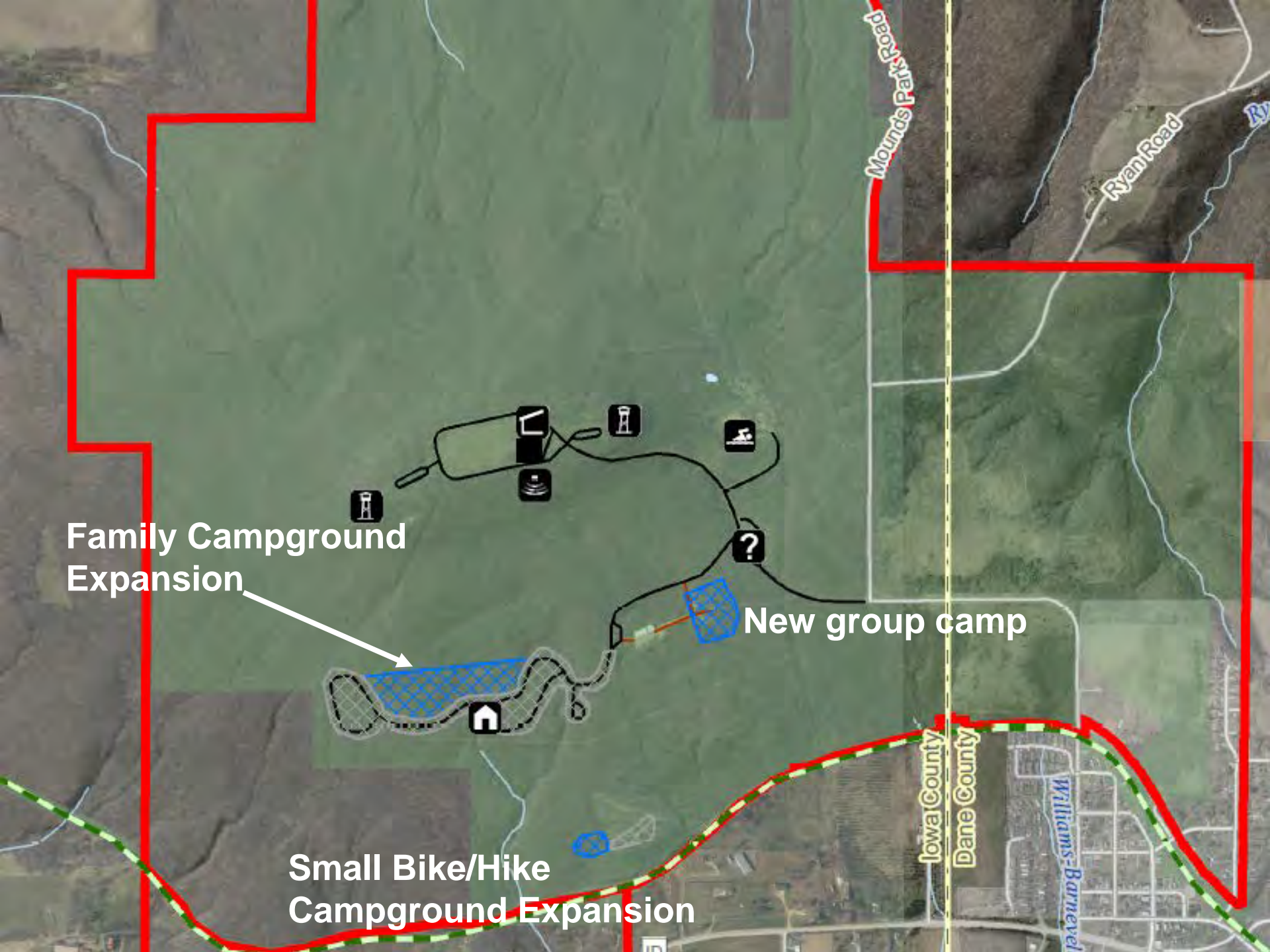
Bolded topics have a connection to Military Ridge State Trail and are covered here.



Camping

- Campers at the Bike/Hike Campground often arrive via the Military Ridge State Trail.
- Two alternatives
 - Expanded camping
 - Status Quo





Family Campground Expansion

New group camp

Small Bike/Hike Campground Expansion

Mounds Parkway

Ryan Road

Iowa County
Dane County

Williams-Barnevel



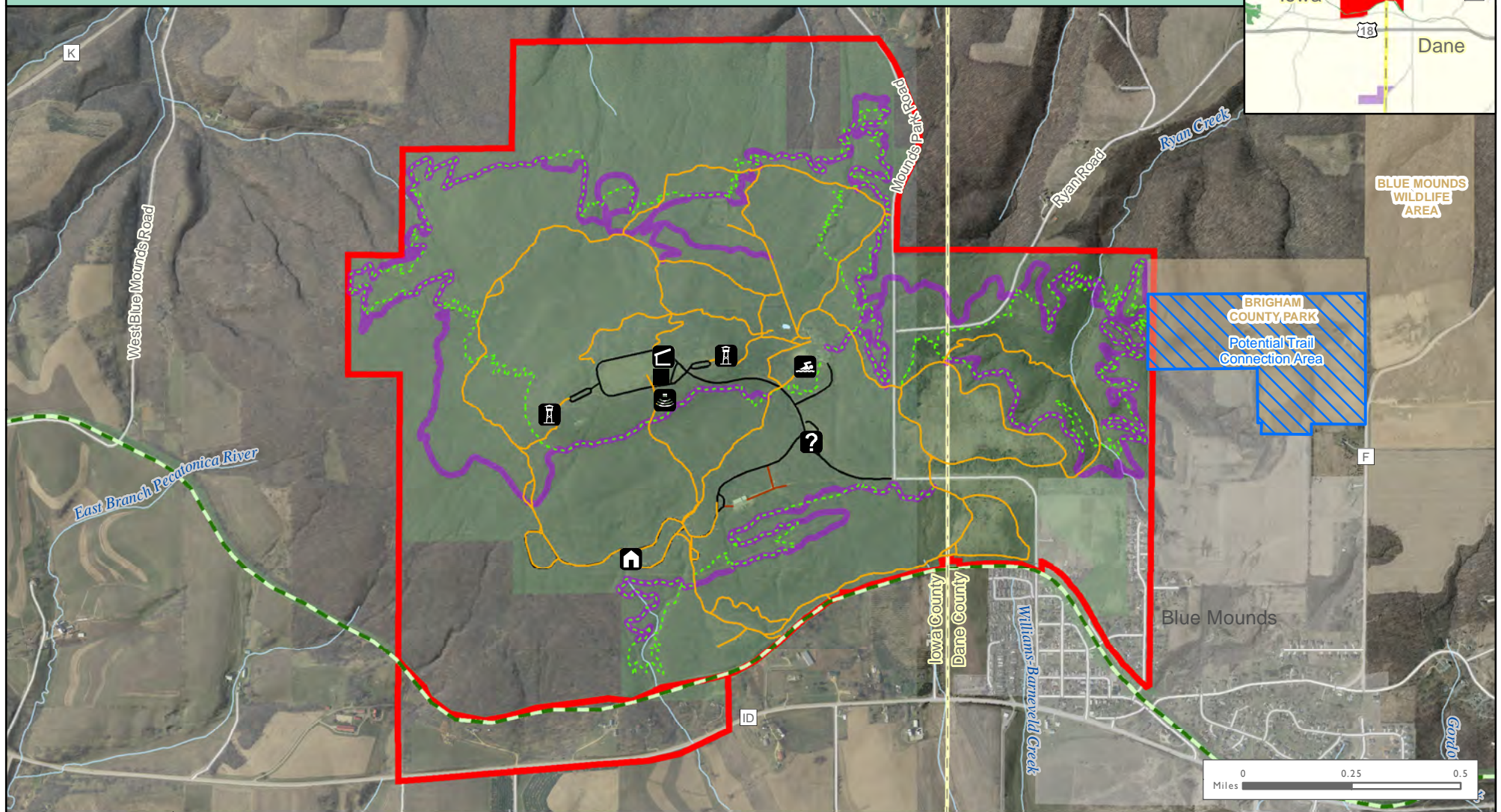
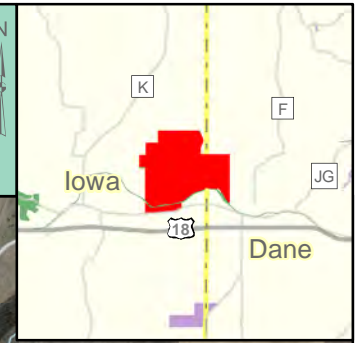
Mountain Biking

- Mountain bikers often use the Military Ridge State Trail to access the park.
 - Alternative 1 : Trail System Redesign
 - Alternative 2 : Status Quo



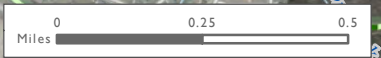
BLUE MOUND STATE PARK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

DRAFT



BLUE MOUNDS WILDLIFE AREA

BRIGHAM COUNTY PARK
Potential Trail Connection Area



Project Boundary



- Status Quo Mountain Bike Trails
- Alternative I Mountain Bike Trails
- Current Hiking Trail

- Military Ridge State Trail
- DNR Road Open to Motorized Access
- DNR Road Closed to Motorized Access

- Tower
- Entrance Station
- Friends Shelter

- Mayberry Cabin
- Nature Center
- Amphitheatre
- Pool Concession

- Dane County Parks
- DNR Fee Title

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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Oct 22, 2019
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MAP-3

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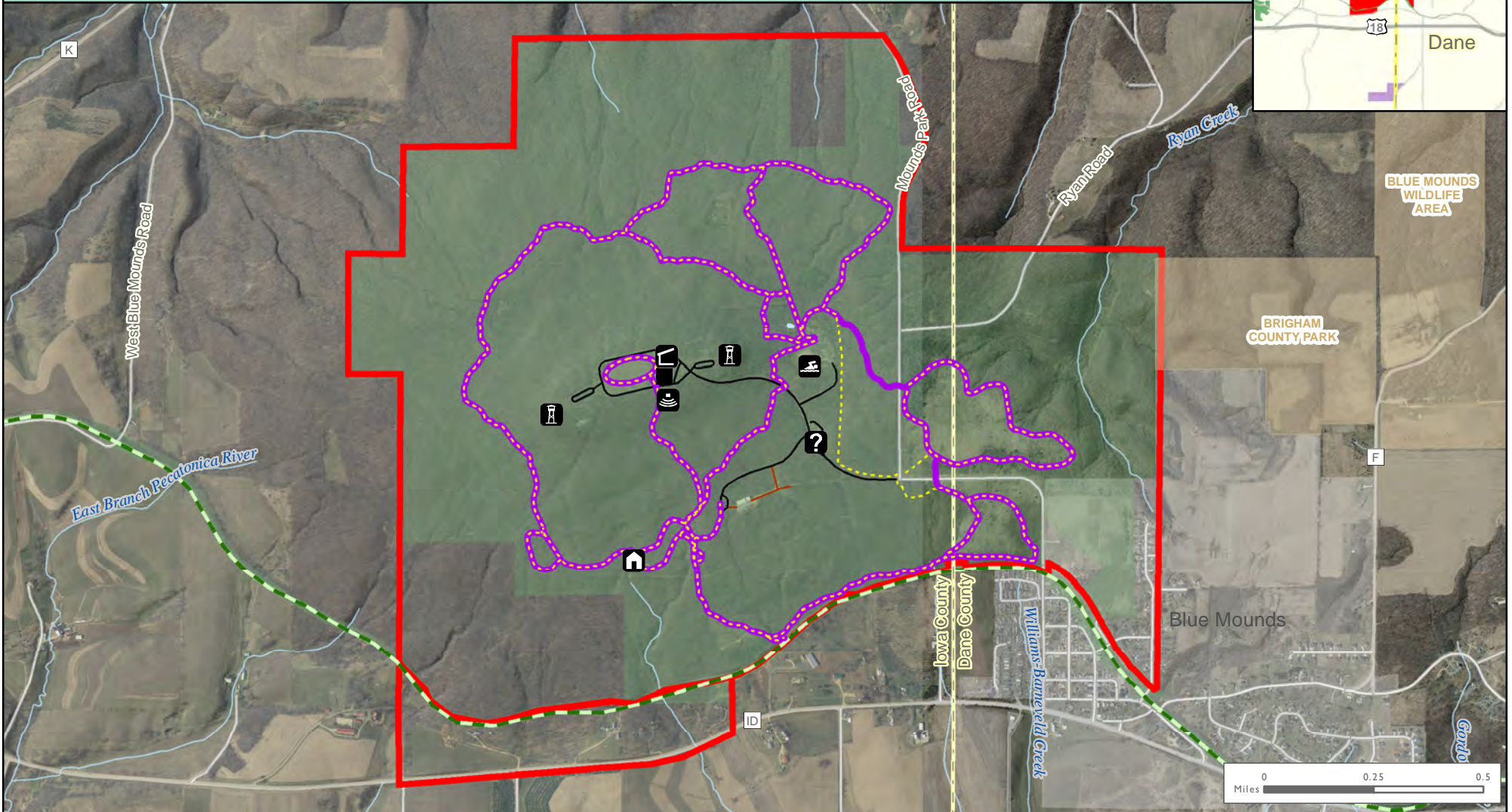
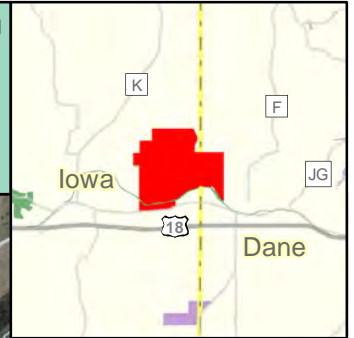
Cross-Country Skiing

- Cross-Country Skiing is allowed on the Military Ridge Trail (no groomed trail).
 - Alternative 1:
Controlled Crossing
 - Alternative 2:
Status Quo



BLUE MOUND STATE PARK CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

DRAFT



Project Boundary



- Alternative 1: Mounds Park Road Controlled Crossing
- Alternative 2: Status Quo

- Military Ridge State Trail
- DNR Road Open to Motorized Access
- DNR Road Closed to Motorized Access

- Tower
- Entrance Station
- Friends Shelter

- Mayberry Cabin
- Nature Center
- Amphitheatre
- Pool Concession

- Dane County Parks
- DNR Fee Title

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MAP-8

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Snowmobiling

- Considerations in creating snowmobile alternatives
 - Maintaining a connection from the Military Ridge State Trail to the existing county trail system north of the park.
 - Ensuring that any snowmobile connection opportunities minimize disruption to other activities.
 - Minimizing snowmobile and nonmotorized use trail crossings.



Snowmobiling

- Alternative 1: Mounds Park – Ryan Road Connector Trail
- Alternative 2: Service Road Trail
- Alternative 3: West and North Slope Trail
- Alternative 4: Status Quo

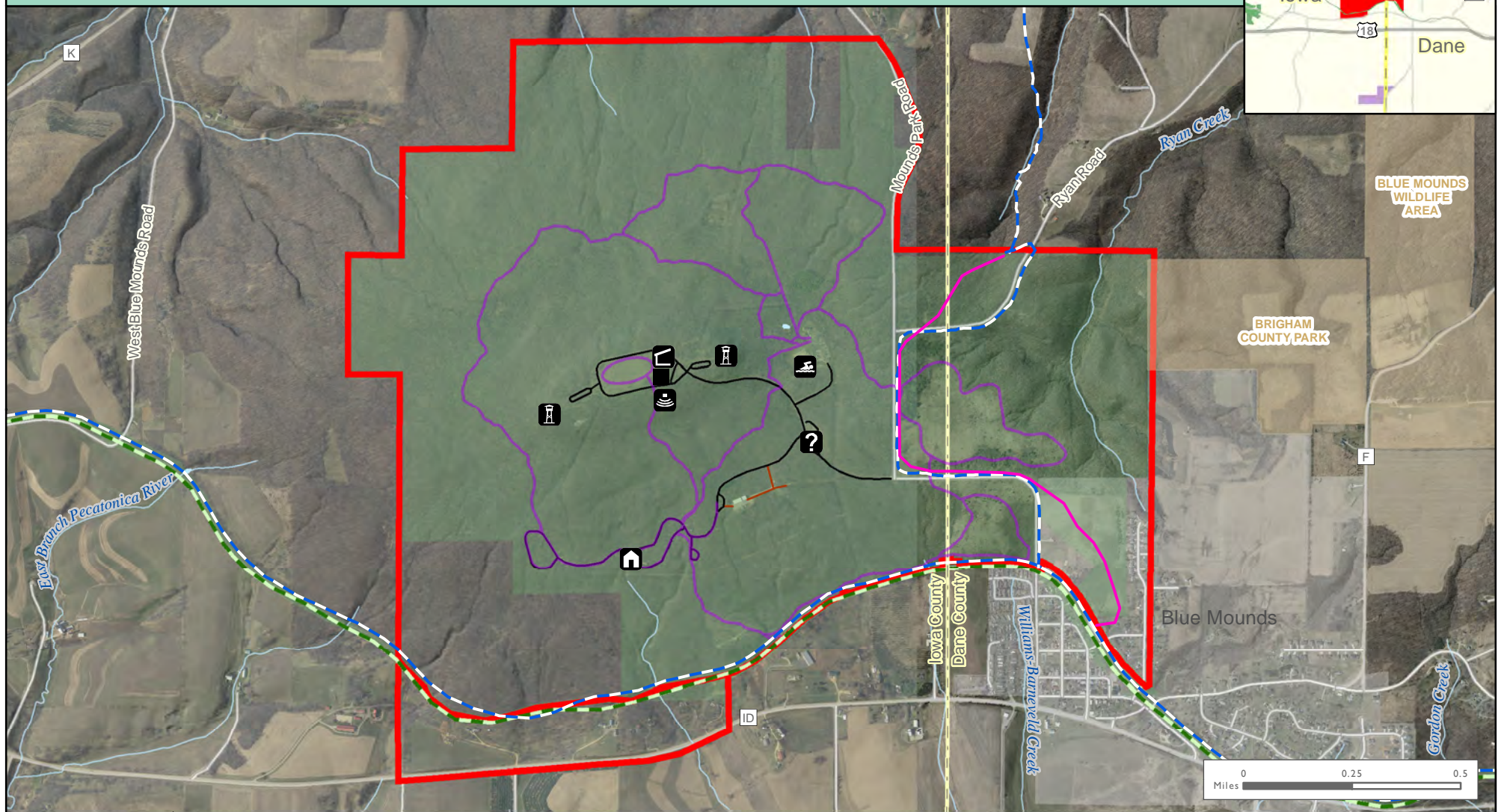
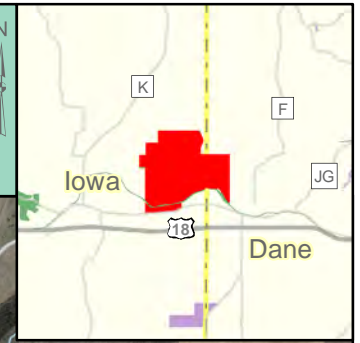


Snowmobiling

- Alternative 1: Mounds Park – Ryan Road Connector Trail
 - Keeps motorized uses to existing motorized corridors.
 - Two cross-country ski trail crossings.

BLUE MOUND STATE PARK SNOWMOBILE TRAILS - ALTERNATIVE I

DRAFT



Project Boundary



- Two-Way Snowmobile Trail
- Current County Snowmobile Trail System
- Cross Country Ski Trail
- Military Ridge State Trail
- DNR Road Open to Motorized Access
- DNR Road Closed to Motorized Access

- Tower
- Entrance Station
- Friends Shelter
- Mayberry Cabin
- Nature Center
- Amphitheatre
- Pool Concession

- Dane County Parks
- DNR Fee Title

- Dane County Parks
- DNR Fee Title

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MAP-4

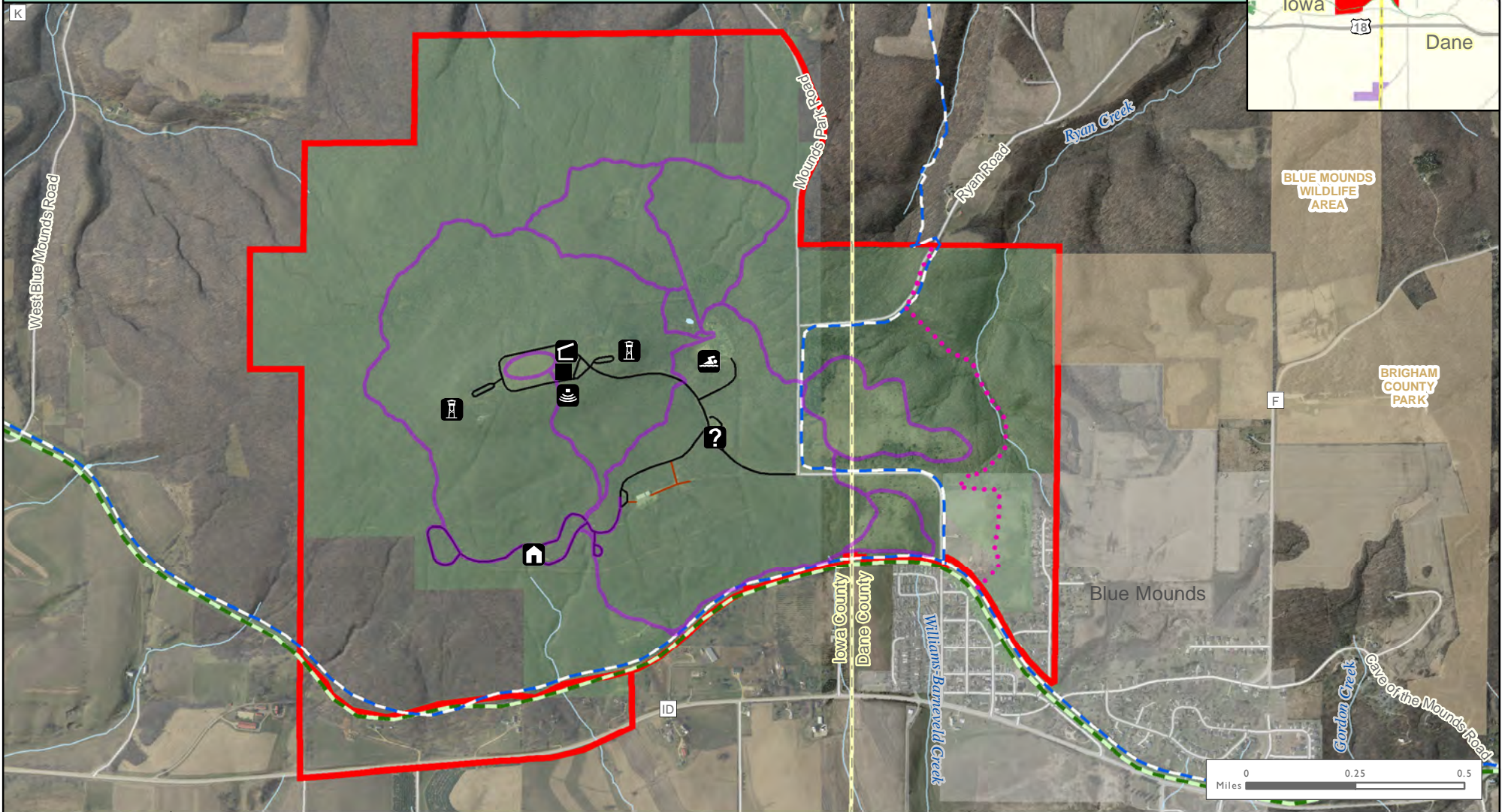
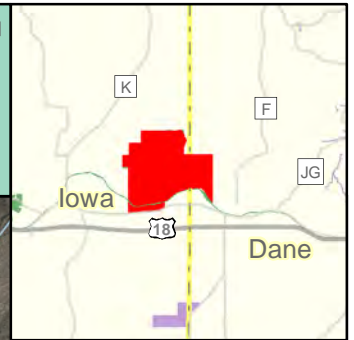
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Snowmobiling

- Alternative 2: Service Road Trail
 - Near former trail.
 - Largely utilizes existing infrastructure.
 - No cross-country ski trail crossings.

BLUE MOUND STATE PARK SNOWMOBILE TRAILS - ALTERNATIVE 2

DRAFT



Project Boundary Blue Mound State Park	Service Road Trail	Military Ridge State Trail	Tower	Mayberry Cabin	Dane County Parks
	Current County Snowmobile Trail System	DNR Road Open to Motorized Access	Entrance Station	Nature Center	DNR Fee Title
	Cross Country Ski Trail	DNR Road Closed to Motorized Access	Friends Shelter	Amphitheatre	
				Pool Concession	

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MAP-5

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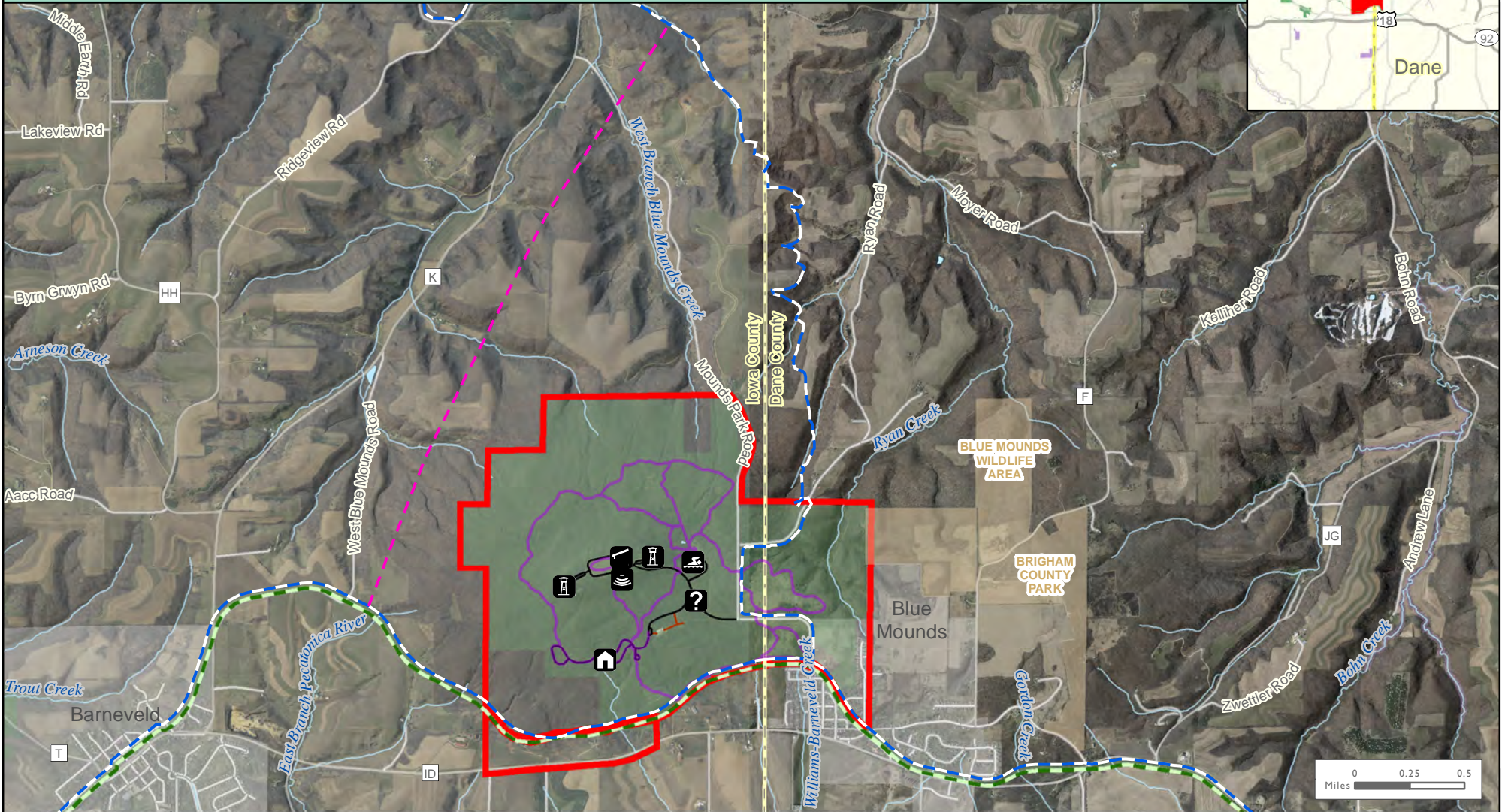
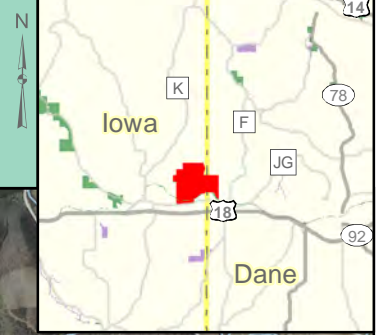


Snowmobile Alternatives

- Alt 3 – West and North Slope
 - Route in which department lands play a connecting role.
 - Longer trail and likely longer term to completion than others.
 - No nonmotorized trail crossings.

BLUE MOUND STATE PARK SNOWMOBILE TRAILS - ALTERNATIVE 3

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Project Boundary



- Snowmobile Conceptual Connection - North Slope
- Current County Snowmobile Trail System
- Cross Country Ski Trail
- Military Ridge State Trail
- DNR Road Open to Motorized Access
- DNR Road Closed to Motorized Access

- Tower
- Entrance Station
- Friends Shelter
- Mayberry Cabin
- Nature Center
- Amphitheatre
- Pool Concession

- Dane County Parks
- DNR Fee Title
- DNR Easement

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MAP-6

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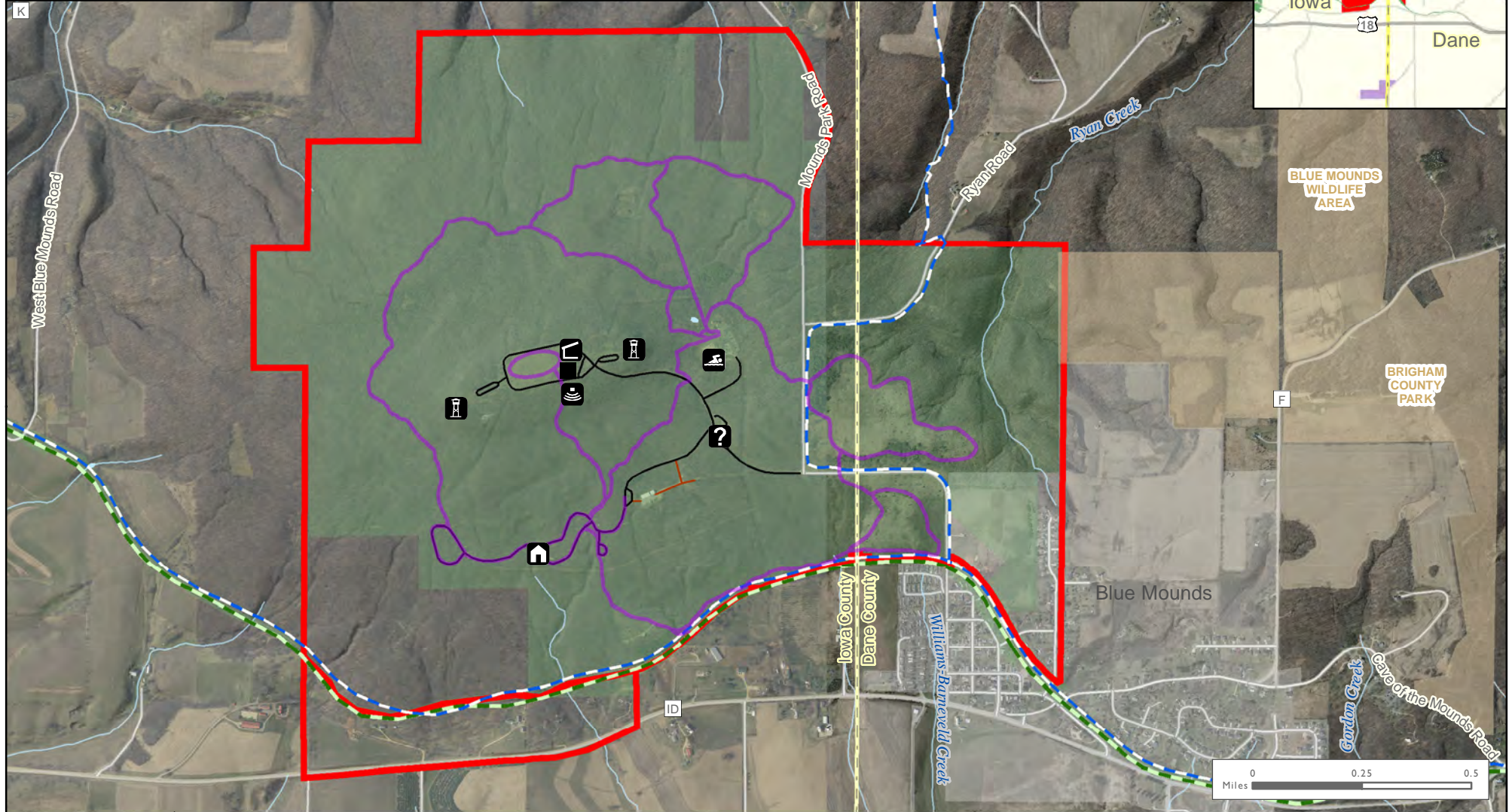
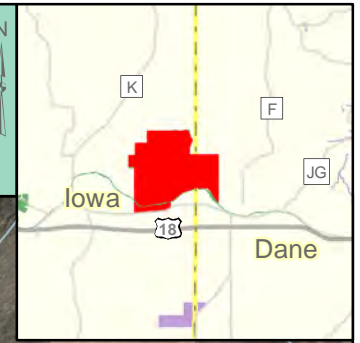


Snowmobile Alternatives

- Alternative 4: Status Quo
 - Snowmobile route along roads would remain without a trail.

BLUE MOUND STATE PARK SNOWMOBILE TRAILS - STATUS QUO

DRAFT



Project Boundary



- Current County Snowmobile Trail System
- Military Ridge State Trail
- Cross Country Ski Trail
- DNR Road Open to Motorized Access
- DNR Road Closed to Motorized Access

- Tower
- Entrance Station
- Friends Shelter
- Mayberry Cabin
- Nature Center
- Amphitheatre
- Pool Concession
- Dane County Parks
- DNR Fee Title

- Tower
- Entrance Station
- Friends Shelter

- Mayberry Cabin
- Nature Center
- Amphitheatre
- Pool Concession

- Dane County Parks
- DNR Fee Title



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MAP-7

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