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Posted April 7, 2007

Fox River Trail-clearing, cost-sharing plan to be discussed

Communities may share responsibility to maintain portions of route along Fox River

By Tony Walter

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The possibility of sharing the cost of plowing the Fox River Trail will be discussed with Allouez and De Pere officials this month.

The Brown County Education & Recreation Committee asked the parks department to investigate the issue and report at its May meeting. The city of Green Bay is already plowing its portion of the trail.

"We recognize how active the trail is," said Committee Chairperson Kathy Johnson. "So maybe the other municipalities will be willing to step forward. It doesn't hurt to have dialogue."

Several county residents attended Thursday's meeting to address the issue that was first raised last winter when some regular trail users requested that the snow be cleared.

Johnson said no cost estimates have been made yet but said a recommendation to the County Board could be ready for the May meeting.

The trail stretches 20 miles from downtown Green Bay to the Brown-Calumet County line. Approximately one-fourth of the trail, located in the urban areas, is paved.

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Were Almost There.

Sat Apr 07, 2007 12:36 pm

This is a good first step here. Hopefully, Allouez and De Pere will now bow to the will of the people, the many thousands who want to use the FRT all year round, and plow the snow on it during the winter. Like so many ideas like this that seemed nonsense at first, this will prove to be a great idea that should've been done many years ago ...and will only benefit the county in spades down the line. I hope that come next winter, I won't have to do the clearing for my running path with a shovel anymore. But nothing is set in stone yet. So, I urge those of us who want the trail open year round, to keep the pressure on their board members, stay in touch with the media, and remind incoming County Executive Mr. Hinz of his pledged support for this idea. We also need to quickly address the views of those in the minority who point out facts that are just nonsense, like the trail losing it's beauty because the snow will be gone, or with the snow gone, people will be slipping on the bare pavement. I've heard them all. None make sense. This idea is a win/win matter. I'm always amazed that in just 2 months of emails, media contacts, and pressure, I was able to bring this idea to the County Board, which ignored it for years, and now see that were one step closer to fulfilled action. Just goes to show that if you make your voice loud enough, even politicians, who are in step with selfish property owners along the trail, can wise up and listen. Let's get this no brainer done. - Dan Conzemius

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