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Posted February 2, 2007

**Fox River State Trail to stay unplowed for now**

Officials studying cost, liability issues involved

By Paul Brinkmann  
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Don't expect Brown County to start snowplowing the Fox River State Trail anytime soon.

County parks officials who maintain the trail said Thursday that they will study the costs and feasibility of plowing the trail, but they won't have any more conclusions until April.

"We're getting a mixed reaction from the public," said Doug Hartman, assistant parks director. "One lady just liked the snow, and some people like to ski on it."

Hartman said county staff would study the costs, liabilities and public input for the next few months. In April, he intends to bring the results back to the county's Education and Recreation Committee.

The trail is officially closed during winter months. Hartman said he wants to know whether opening the trail would mean the county was liable if someone slipped on a patch of snow or ice.

Dan Conzemius of Allouez, a runner and bicyclist, brought the issue to light recently by asking the county to examine year-round use.

When he learned the county wouldn't act until at least April, he wasn't pleased.

"I knew we were probably looking at next winter, but I don't know why it has to be so complicated. The county should respond to the wishes of the people," Conzemius said in a phone interview Thursday.

As a runner, he said, he is exposed to liability when the trail is closed because he runs on snowy sidewalks and streets instead. He suggested the county consider creative solutions like plowing only half the trail and leaving the other half snow-covered for skiers.

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Sun Feb 04, 2007 2:08 pm

we all use the trail for a good time and our health if theres some many people that agree with its needs to be cleaned off than lets get off our butts and all meet down on a day and clean it our selves instead of crying about it ? shovling snow is great for the body but than again if you watn to sit down on a computer allday sending an email or so to people whining to plow it whatever floats your boat!!! Wisconsin i love this place!!!

**Reader Comment**

Sat Feb 03, 2007 2:26 pm

Hmm, hmm, hmmm. This question makes as much sense and cents as not allowing snowmobileres accessing the trails when there is snow and you need a license and some ticket to just walk the pavement there...

Snow-covered taxation to cover the trails make as much sense as the few cross-country skiirs there.

**Make Your Voices Heard On This Matter!**

Sat Feb 03, 2007 1:06 pm

To everyone wanting the FRT plowed for winter:

This is Dan Conzemius. I'm the guy who's been leading the new effort to get the County off their butts, and listening to the people. I've gone as far as to use a shovel on the trail to clear a path for running. I want the trail plowed! Pure and simple. Arguments against this proposal do NOT make sense, and should be shot down whenever they are brought up. For example, there is a SMALL minority of people who are saying they like the snow on the trail for the "look" of it, and to x country ski. There is NO argument here, because what those of us propose is for the county to clear off one side of the trail for runners, and leave snow on the other for the skiers. For the record, I've been using the trail for several years during the winter, and I've NEVER seen anyone on the trail using skis. As for cost, some say this would be expensive to keep the trail open all year round. Hogwash. The county has trucks out already to clear the snow, why not just have one of those trucks diverted to make a pass down the paved portions of the trail? How much could that cost? Besides, we all would be willing to pay an extra buck on the bike pass to cover this cost. You hear that Brown County? Doug Hartman, who I urge you all to get in touch with at the Parks