

## **Wolf River State Trail- County Resolution 39-2022- Update on activities**

Since 2017 the Department has worked with the White Lake ATV/UTV clubs and other regional clubs to establish trail connectivity from the Mountain, Lakewood Area west into southeastern Langlade County. This included substantial funding for an ATV/UTV for a trail system.

Resolution 39-2022 was passed by the County Board requesting information on what would be required of the DNR to provide for year-round motorized use on the segment of Wolf River State Trail which is currently closed to summer motorized use but retained for silent sports users, other than those authorized under a Power Driven Mobility Permit, which may allow ATV/UTV use by those that qualify. (Walrich Road to Lily) A primary issue identified by ATV/UTV groups, local businesses and Towns during the original 2022 discussion was lack of summer motorized trail connectivity of the communities within the Town of Wolf River including Langlade and Holister, the Village of White Lake, the Town of Evergreen and communities of Lily and Pickerel in the Town of Langlade. Major concerns were that during the summer months those trail connections were dead ends with no connectivity.

**It should be noted that the County does not have authority to change the trail use on the Wolf River Trail without approval of the DNR. Resolution 39-2022 requested assistance from the DNR to identify what, if any, requirements would allow change the use. Any change of use on the Wolf River State Trail would require the County working with the DNR to meet requirements for the change. The first discussion between the County and the DNR on potential change of use of the existing trail is planned to be in the first week of January 2026, it has taken 3 years of work to get to this meeting.**

**In January of 2026, it is expected that DNR requirements for modification of the Master Plan, for possible change of use (if possible), will be discussed. Requirements of changing the master plan will require public surveys and public hearings and formulation of a plan to mitigate potential impacts. Following that meeting the County may consider continuation with the MOU to operate and maintain the WRST or turning it back to the DNR for operations and maintenance. which would first require modification of the Wolf River State Trail Master Plan**

Since the time of resolution 39-2022 the Department has:

1. Met with the DNR where suggested alternative routes were considered. The Department worked with the DNR to check the potential of a trail west of the Wolf River across lands of which the DNR has a Conservation easement. This connection would provide a link north from Walrich Road to Lily. The landowner will not authorize summer motorized trails on that property.

Based upon **no other reasonable alternative route**, the Department then created a draft mitigation map and cost maps based upon original environmental concerns from 2005. (dust, speed, turtle habitat). This was a discussion point at a second meeting with the DNR earlier in 2025.

2. Other ATV/UTV related work in that area of Langlade County included:

- a. Working with the Town of Wolf River and the Wisconsin DOT to establish legal crossing, using the existing highway bridge over the Wolf River. This provided connectivity from the west to the businesses in Langlade. A new recreational wing on the highway is part of a scheduled DOT project replacing the bridge scheduled for 2027. Funded by ATV/UTV money since 2017.
- b. Working with the US Forest Service to design and get approval of an ATV/UTV trail across from the Boulder Lakes area in Oconto County to Fish Hatchery Road east of Langlade. 2 grant applications were completed but denied. Project will be funded by ATV/UTV clubs with assistance of the Department. Project Scheduled
- c. Worked with a contract engineer and DOT to design and get approval of an ATV/UTV trail within the Hwy 64 corridor from Langlade east to Fish Hatchery Road and the Boulder Lakes area in Oconto County to Fish Hatchery Road east of Langlade. 2 grant applications were completed but denied. Project will be funded by ATV/UTV clubs with assistance of the Department.
- d. Working with Towns across Langlade County to establish standardized ATV/UTV ordinances allowing ATV/UTV's on most Town Roads.

All Documents and work products can be provided by contacting the Forestry, Parks and Recreation Administrator.