



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Bugline Trail Improvement Project - Frequently Asked Questions

Fast Facts About the Project

Waukesha County will be paving approximately 11.6 miles of the Bugline Trail, which will bring the total length of the paved trail to just under 14 miles. Design of the entire length of trail will take place in 2012. Phase 1 (3.6 miles from County Trunk Highway VV in Merton to State Trunk Highway (STH) 164 in Sussex) will be constructed in 2013 and Phase 2 (8 miles from STH 164 in Sussex to STH 175 in Menomonee Falls) will take place in 2014.

- The Bugline Trail is both a recreational corridor and a transportation corridor that connects the communities of Menomonee Falls, Sussex, Lannon, Lisbon and the Village and Town of Merton.
- The Bugline Trail serves as a spine to local trail and pathway networks providing access to downtown business areas, schools, libraries, senior centers and local parks, including Menomonee Park and Lisbon Community Park.
- The project will increase safety and accessibility for all trail users, and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.
- The Bugline Trail Improvement Project is recommended in the SEWRPC Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the DNR Southeastern Regional Trails Network Plan, the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan and several local municipalities' plans.

Why does the County need to pave and improve the Bugline Trail?

The goal of the project is to make the trail more accessible and to encourage additional County residents to be active by using the trail. A paved surface will reduce the amount of maintenance necessary to keep the trail surface consistent and conditions safe, and it will open the trail to persons with disabilities. The trail goes through several area business districts and area retail businesses will benefit from an increase in trail users.

Why is it important to increase accessibility on the trail?

The existing crushed stone trail surface is prone to washouts and heavy erosion in some areas due to the land uses and drainage patterns on properties adjacent to the trail corridor. These problems are often most evident after periods of inclement weather, and the problems can reduce accessibility and present barriers to individuals with disabilities.

In 2010, new regulations regarding implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) were adopted. It is Waukesha County's intent to follow these requirements to the maximum extent possible so that the Bugline Trail is accessible to all users, including those with disabilities.

Will paving increase bicycle speed and make the trail unsafe for pedestrians?

Waukesha County is committed to making the Bugline Trail safe for all users. We have found that when more people use a trail, bikers tend to slow down and be more cautious. Pedestrians, runners and bikers learn quickly to share the trails with other users. The County publishes trail brochures and posts information on the County website to educate people about trail safety and sharing the trail with other user groups. The County will also implement trail etiquette and regulatory signs with a variety of traffic control devices to help prevent conflicts.

Will we lose the natural character of the trail by paving it?

It is Waukesha County's goal to minimize the impact to the natural resources in and around the trail, since the natural character of the corridor makes use of the trail such a special experience. Damage to the landscape from trail washouts and erosion will be significantly reduced through this project. The 10' wide trail typically runs down the center of a 60-foot wide corridor of County land, and there are opportunities on either side of the trail to preserve vegetation.

How much does this project cost and who is paying for it?

Construction of all 11.6 miles of the Bugline Trail paving project is estimated to cost just under \$2.4 million. Of this total, about \$1.5 million (63%) will be funded by Federal Transportation Enhancement funding. Of the remaining construction cost of about \$900,000, \$250,000 will be funded by a State Stewardship grant. Waukesha County will be responsible for the balance.

Will the trails in Menomonee Park be affected by the project?

The trail improvements will not extend into Menomonee Park, and the existing bridle and hiking trails in the park will not be changed.

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Will the types of recreational use that are allowed on the trail change?

All types of recreational use that are currently allowed on various sections of the trail will remain the same.

Will the bridges along the trail be changed?

The surface decking and railings on all of the existing bridges along the trail corridor will be reconstructed to provide a wider 12' clear distance. This increased width will provide for safer travel and less potential for user conflicts on the bridges.

Will there be a fee to use the trail?

Use of the trail will continue to be free to both County and non-County residents.



Bugline Trail – current photo



Bugline Trail – current photo



Fox River Park Trail Improvement Project



Lake Country Trail Improvement Project

Where can I find more information about this project?

For questions or comments, please phone Dave Burch, Waukesha County Enterprise Operations Manager, at (262) 548-7798. Project updates will be posted on the Waukesha County Parks and Land Use website at www.waukeshacountyparks.com