Subject: Great Sauk State Trail Corridor Encroachment Management

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

The Great Sauk State Trail, that is adjacent to your property, is managed cooperatively by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Sauk County. The public trail right-of-way is owned by WisDOT and leased to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In accordance with the lease, the DNR is responsible for preserving the public trail corridor and resolving matters concerning trespass or encroachments within the trail right-of-way from adjacent property. Sauk County operates and manages the trail through an agreement with the DNR. It is the intention of the DNR, WisDOT, and Sauk County to preserve the integrity of the public recreational trail corridor, prohibit any uses within the corridor that interfere with Sauk County’s operation or maintenance of the trail or compromise the safety of trail users, and protect WisDOT property rights.

Notice was given to you in February 2024, informing you of DNR’s plans to survey and boundary post the trail corridor that is adjacent to your property for the purpose of delineating the WisDOT owned property and cataloging existing encroachments. This work has been done and we now have a full listing of encroachments that we are working with adjacent landowners to resolve. Enclosed is a copy of the plat of survey.

According to the survey, there are two sets of wood steps that come from your adjacent property (Assessor’s Lot 7) that are entirely within the public trail corridor. At this location, the trail right-of-way is 100 feet wide with a portion of it extending beyond to the shoreline of the Wisconsin River. The WisDOT in consultation with DNR and Sauk County has determined that the stairs encroaching into the corridor must be removed and ask for your cooperation to remove them by **September 1, 2026**. Prior to removal, you will need to secure a WisDOT Temporary Authorization Permit (TAP).

The WisDOT permit contacts are Scott Edmundson, Rail Real Estate Specialist, (608) 267-3643, scott.edmundson@dot.wi.gov and Kim Tollers, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Please also be aware that the following types of encroachments within the trail corridor from adjacent property are prohibited:

* Removal or manipulation of trees or natural vegetation
* Tree plantings or landscaping
* Dumping of yard waste or debris
* Junk piles

DNR, WisDOT, and Sauk County staff will do a field review of encroachments after the September 1, 2026 deadline. If the stairs or any other encroachments are discovered at this time, they will be subject to an assessment of further legal action, which may include removal and…?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I can be contacted at 608-572-5007 or sara.rigelman@wisconsin.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sara Rigelman, Recreation Liaison

DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation