



# **Sheboygan County Planning & Resources Department**

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PLANNING DIRECTOR  
**JIM HULBERT**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
June 14, 2010  
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### **Sheboygan County Set to Undertake Major Reconstruction of the Old Plank Road Trail and Implement the Recreation User Pass System**

The Sheboygan County Planning and Resources Department has taken years to accumulate the necessary funding to reconstruct the older sections of the Old Plank Road Trail, repair the balance of the Trail, and to improve the access tunnel under I-43 at the Erie Avenue Trail Head. Work on these projects will commence during the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>, and will take up to three months to complete. The Erie Avenue Tunnel will be closed for about three weeks in order to remove the existing inadequate lighting, sandblast the walls to bare concrete, apply sealants and high gloss acrylic paints, and to install new lighting. There will be twice as many light fixtures, plus approach lighting when the project is completed. The new lights will utilize fluorescent tubes to increase brightness while conserving energy. As an additional energy conservation measure, most of the tunnel lights will be activated by motion detectors when Trail users approach the tunnel and a timer will keep the lights on for about 20 minutes to allow ample time for people to pass through. Besides saving money, the new lighting system will reduce environmental impacts.

Thanks to a partnership with the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, the 2.2 miles of the Old Plank Road Trail between the tunnel and Rangeline Road was reconstructed two years ago. The next phase of reconstruction will remove and pulverize and recycle existing pavement from Rangeline Road to Highway 57 in Plymouth. New pavement will be applied over a proper gravel base which was missing in the original construction. The new pavement will be two feet wider and will be moved to one side so that snowmobiles and horses have a wider non-paved surface to use, as the snowmobile clubs wanted when the original Trail was built but which was not done. Reconstruction will commence on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, and will take up to 3 months. We apologize for the inconvenience for Trail users, but the temporary inconvenience will result in a much better Trail that is safer and more durable. Alternative routes have been developed and posted at Trailheads. A copy is attached.

The total costs of the many aspects of this project will likely approach \$800,000. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been extremely generous with grants totaling \$300,000 to help in the reconstruction and tunnel upgrades. These grants require a 50% local match, which has been provided by Sheboygan County through bonding. Bonding also provided the additional funds that are necessary. Bonds of course carry interest which must also be paid back by taxpayers.

Due to shrinking budgets and increased prioritization of where scarce dollars will go to serve the most people with greater needs, it will not be possible to accumulate funds for major recreation projects like this again. The estimated percentage of trail users as well as people who use the boat landings or camp at the Sheboygan Marsh is less than 30% of the population of Sheboygan County. When factoring in the fact that perhaps 22% of the people that use these facilities do not even live in Sheboygan County, it is easy to see that the majority of taxpayers subsidize the recreation and commuting activities of a very small part of the County and for the large proportion of visitors that do not pay anything to use, maintain, and upgrade these facilities.

County Supervisors and staff wrestled with funding dilemmas at great length and the majority of supervisors felt that it was no longer fair to burden every property tax payer with the increasing costs associated with recreation properties. Likewise, implementing a sales tax was not approved. User fees – having those people who use the facilities pay for most of the costs – was judged by the majority of the County Board to be the best way to provide future funding. Most other units of government nationwide have adopted that philosophy earlier.

Self pay stations will be installed at all Old Plank Road Trail Heads (Erie Avenue, Meadow Lark, Plymouth, and Greenbush), at all boat landings (Gerber Lakes, Jetzers Lake, Sheboygan Marsh, Crystal Lake, Elkhart Lake, and Little Elkhart Lake), and at the Sheboygan Marsh Campground. A network of vendors will also sell the passes, which can also be ordered via the County website and in person at the Planning and Resources Department office at 508 New York Avenue. Passes go on sale Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, and will be mandatory for all users of the Old Plank Road Trail, boat landings, and the Sheboygan Marsh Campgrounds on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The cost of a family pass will be \$16 for residents, and \$24 for non-residents. Daily family passes will be \$4 for residents, and \$6 for non-residents.

For more information, please contact Jim Hulbert, Director, Planning and Resources Department, 920-459-3765.

## 2010 Sheboygan County Annual Family Recreation Pass Application

*Please note that a recreation pass must be purchased in advance to bike or ride mopeds on the Old Plank Road Trail; park any vehicle or trailer at trailheads; use or park vehicles and trailers at boat landings at the Sheboygan Marsh, Gerber Lakes, Jetzer Lake, Elkhart Lake, Little Elkhart Lake, and Crystal Lake; and camp or bring vehicles into the campgrounds at the Sheboygan Marsh. A recreation pass IS NOT required to climb the Marsh observation tower or patronize the Marsh Lodge. A recreation pass IS NOT required for pedestrian use on the Old Plank Road Trail or any other facility unless parking in a fee area.*

Per the Sheboygan County Parks and Recreation Ordinance:

"Family" means up to two adult individuals related as spouses or domestic partners and their children or stepchildren between the ages of 16 and 21 and residing at the same address. Children under the age of 16 are exempt.

### 24.09 FEES AND CHARGES.

- (1) Fee Administration. Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful for any person to use any park, boat launching facility, recreational trail, or wayside without payment of the fee as provided hereafter, or for failure to properly display stickers or other indicia of payment of the fee if parked at a park, boat launching facility or recreational trail parking lot in the manner as determined by the Department and as presented to the purchaser of the fee at the time of the purchase.
- (2) Fees. The following fees shall be charged, unless otherwise specified:
  - (a) Resident Annual Family Fee. For an annual fee of \$16.00, any person who is a Sheboygan County resident may purchase a family pass allowing the resident and his or her family annual access to all facilities for up to two motor vehicles and for up to four bicycles as evidenced by stickers or other indicia of payment for that number of vehicles and bicycles.
  - (b) Non-resident Annual Family Fee. For an annual fee of \$24.00, any non-resident of Sheboygan County may purchase a family pass allowing the non-resident and his or her family annual access to all facilities for up to two motor vehicles and for up to four bicycles as evidenced by stickers or other indicia of payment for that number of vehicles and bicycles.
  - (c) Additional and Replacement Fee. Purchasers of annual passes may purchase additional or replacement motor vehicle or bicycle stickers or other indicia of payment for \$10.00 per motor vehicle and \$5.00 per bicycle.

The Sheboygan County Planning and Resources Department will issue up to two motor vehicle stickers and up to four bicycle hang tags upon payment of the basic resident (\$16) or non-resident (\$24) family pass fee. Upon payment of additional fees, additional motor vehicles (\$10) and bicycles (\$5) can be added provided they are used by the same family at the registration address. Any person over the age of 21 must have their own recreation pass regardless of where they live unless part of the head of household on a registration form. *Hangtags must be affixed on the back of rear view mirrors of cars and trucks and bands must be affixed on the handlebars of bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles and be in plain sight.*

### Passes will be on sale beginning on June 16, 2010, and strict enforcement will begin on August 19, 2010.

Sheboygan County enforcement officers may check identification of recreation facility users and inspect motor vehicles and bicycles to ensure that they are properly covered by a paid Sheboygan County recreation pass.

Persons without or not properly covered by a paid Sheboygan County recreation pass shall be issued a notice of violation. If not paid within ten days, a citation shall be issued and a trial date set.

Recreation fees that are collected will be used only for recreation facility maintenance, improvement, and development. This will offset the property tax levy otherwise needed for these activities.

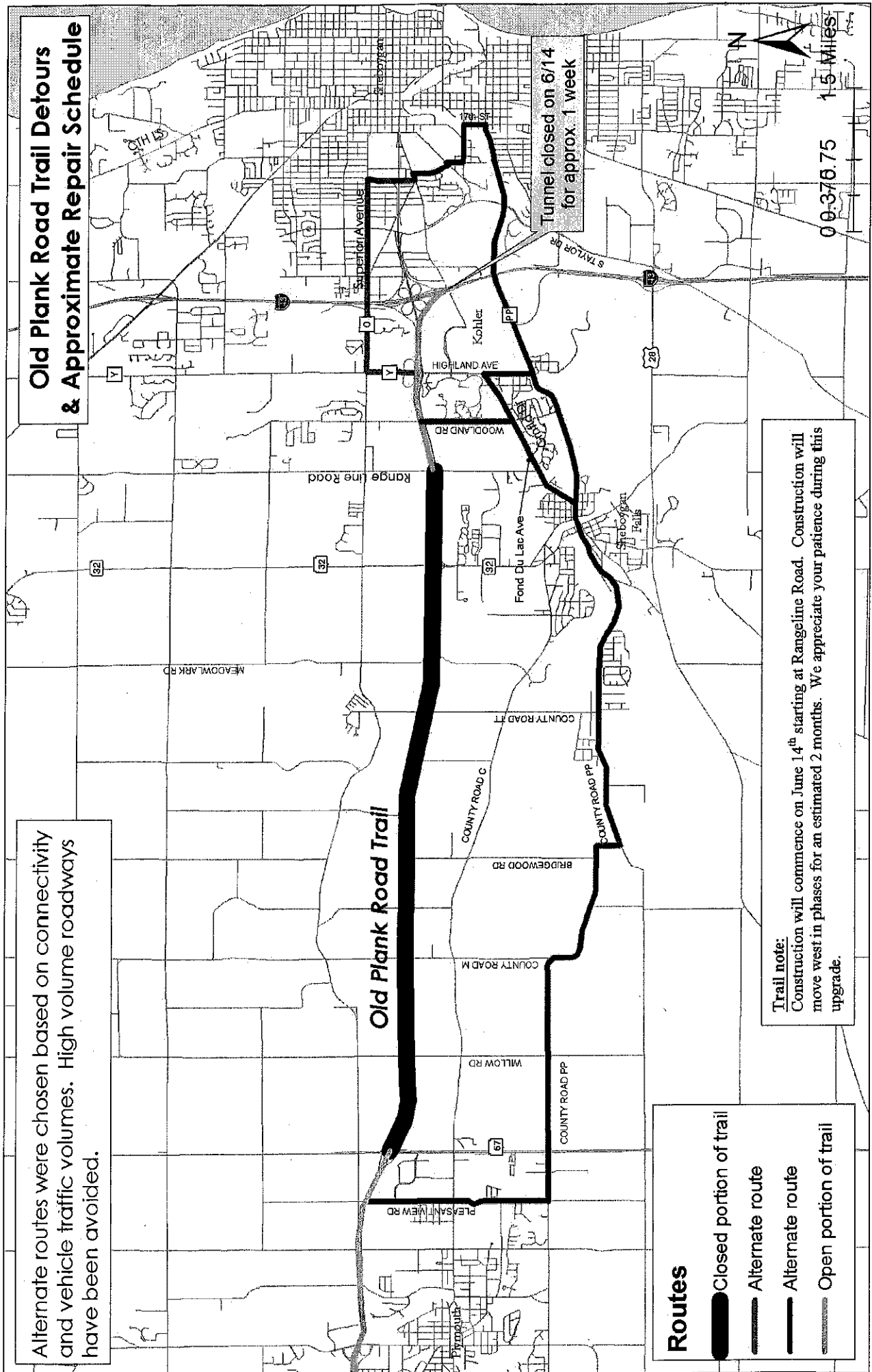
*For more information, contact:* Sheboygan County Planning and Resources Department, 508 New York Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53083. Telephone: 920-459-3060

**Sheboygan County is a beautiful place to visit, play, and to stay.**

**Welcome, and enjoy the lakes, parks, trails, and the many fine businesses that will make your recreational experience one that you will want to repeat.**



Alternate routes were chosen based on connectivity and vehicle traffic volumes. High volume roadways have been avoided.

# Old Plank Road Trail Detours & Approximate Repair Schedule

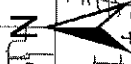


Tunnel closed on 6/14 for approx. 1 week

**Trail note:**  
Construction will commence on June 14<sup>th</sup> starting at Rangeline Road. Construction will move west in phases for an estimated 2 months. We appreciate your patience during this upgrade.

- Routes**
-  Closed portion of trail
  -  Alternate route
  -  Alternate route
  -  Open portion of trail

0.375 Miles



# 2010 Sheboygan County Annual Family Recreation Pass Application

Please see other side to calculate annual family fee

Names of family members living at registration address  
(Please indicate ages for those under 21)

_____	Head of household
_____	Head of household
_____	child
_____	child
_____	child
_____	child

Registration mailing address, with zip code

Telephone number, with area code

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Color, make, model, license number of motor vehicles and mopeds to be registered\***

_____	_____
_____	_____

**Color, make, model of bicycles to be registered\*\***

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

\* Up to two motor vehicles are covered by the basic family pass. Additional fees apply for additional motor vehicles.

\*\* Up to four bicycles are covered by the basic family pass. Additional fees apply for additional bicycles.

Mail completed application and payment to: Sheboygan County Planning and Resources Department  
508 New York Avenue  
Sheboygan, WI 53081