Mountain Biking
The DNR Planning Team has developed two mountain biking management alternatives for the public's consideration.

Mountain Biking Alternative 1: Trail Network Redesign
A redesigned trail system that creates additional mountain biking opportunity by accommodating various skill levels and increasing the number of days trails are open by limiting water-related trail maintenance issues.

Mountain Biking Alternative 2: Status Quo
Maintains the existing mountain biking trail system.

Camping
Camping is currently allowed in two campgrounds: the Family Campground and the Bike/Hike Campground. The DNR planning team has formed two camping management alternatives for the public's consideration.

Camping Alternative 1: Expanded Camping Options
Includes expansion of camping options at both the Family and Bike/Hike campground and adds a group camp area.

Camping Alternative 2: Status Quo
Maintains existing camping opportunities and does not expand camping opportunities beyond current levels.

Snowmobiling
Snowmobiles currently utilize the area along Mounds Park and Ryan roads connecting route between Military Ridge State Trail and the county trail system on private lands north of the park. The DNR Planning Team has developed four snowmobiling management alternatives for the public's consideration.

Snowmobiling Alternative 1: Mounds Park - Ryan Road Connector Trail
A two-way snowmobile trail would connect the Military Ridge State Trail to the county trail system north of the park. Where possible, the trail would generally follow Mounds Park Road until crossing Ryan Road, where it would continue through the park for 0.25 miles to meet the county trail system north of the park. The trail would generally be 40 feet from the paved roadway.

Snowmobiling Alternative 2: Service Road Trail
A two-way snowmobile trail would connect Military Ridge State Trail to the county trail system north of the park primarily utilizing an existing service road through the valley in the eastern portion of the park, commonly known as Pleasure Valley. The service road portion of the trail would need minimal improvement to sustain a snowmobile trail. This trail would parallel the Park Entrance Road to its intersection with Mounds Park Road. All Mounds Park Road crossings would happen at an intersection as a crosswalk.

Snowmobiling Alternative 3: West and North Slope Trail
A trail would be constructed on the west and north slopes of Blue Mound outside of the current BMSP boundaries. The trail shown is a conceptual line showing the two trails that would be connected. Actual connection points and the trail siting would be determined as land becomes accessible for a trail. A project boundary expansion would be necessary for DNR to acquire lands to play a connecting role in this trail's creation. This trail would depend on partners to work with neighboring land owners to make connections to the county trail system outside of DNR lands.

Snowmobiling Alternative 4: Status Quo
Snowmobiles would continue to use the route along Mounds Park and Ryan roads, without an improved trail, to make the connection between the Military Ridge State Trail and the county snowmobile trail system north of the park.

Cross-Country Skiing
The DNR Planning Team has developed two cross-country skiing alternatives, both of which largely or completely maintain the current trail system.

Alternative 1: Improved Mounds Park Road Crossings
Cross country skiing trails would be adjusted to improve the Mounds Park Road crossings. A new trail would be constructed utilizing a former powerline corridor to reach the Park Entrance Road. This trail would parallel the Park Entrance Road to its intersection with Mounds Park Road. All Mounds Park Road crossings would happen at an intersection as a crosswalk.

Alternative 2: Status Quo
The current trail system will be continued. Small changes may occur based on management alternatives selected for other recreation and sightline assessments of the northern Mounds Park Road crossing.

Other Recreation
Many of Blue Mound State Park’s current recreational offerings are well suited to serve the park’s visitors into the future. The DNR planning team is currently only considering status quo management for the following activities and topics:

- Hiking
- Hunting and Trapping
- Observation Towers
- Road Bicycling
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming

While hiking is listed as a status quo alternative, the DNR planning team is aware of the efforts of local non-profit groups to create a hiking experience known as the Driftless Trail, linking several DNR properties. While these efforts are in their early planning stages, the department expects BMSP may host a portion of the Driftless Trail.
Within the **Forest Zone**, the DNR planning team is considering two management alternatives.

**Forest Zone Alternative 1: Large Hardwood Management**
Manage the forest zone to produce a large hardwoods aesthetic. This would be less intensive management. Oak stands within the Forest Zone would likely naturally transition to central hardwoods cover types.

**Forest Zone Alternative 2: Large Hardwoods with Oak Component Management**
Management of the forest zone would be for large hardwoods and oak regeneration. Oak regeneration management would occur in patches that have been identified as having high potential for success. These oak regeneration areas would see more intensive management activities than other areas of the forest zone.

Within the **Oak Transition and Prairie Zone**, the DNR planning team is considering the following management:

- Creating areas of transition from oak forest to oak opening or oak savanna
- Maintaining or, where feasible, expanding grassland areas
- Converting conifer plantations to big tree silviculture areas or different cover types.

Management within the **Day Use and Camping Zone** would largely be for aesthetics and visitor safety.

For the purposes of discussing natural resources management master plan alternatives, BMSP has been divided into three zones: Forest Zone, Oak Transition and Prairie Zone and Camping and Day Use Zone.

**Image Descriptions**
1. An overlook area in Blue Mound State Park. Management to maintain aesthetics, overlooks, and safety will continue in the Day Use and Camping Area.
2. A northern hardwoods stand in the Pleasure Valley area of BMSP. Under both Forest Zone alternatives these stands would be managed for large hardwoods.
3. Shelterwood harvest is a management option to spur oak regeneration under Alternative 2 in the Forest Zone. A similar aesthetic could be expected in patches of the Forest Zone for years following the shelterwood harvest as oak seedlings are established. This type of intensive management is required if oak stands are to be retained at BMSP.
4. Prescribed fire in a white oak woodland. Prescribed fire may be a management tool used to develop oak woodland and savanna in the Oak Transition and Prairie Zone.
5. Spring green-up following fire management in a white oak woodland.
6. Oak Savanna to prairie transition area. This type of cover would be the goal in areas of the Oak Transition and Prairie Zone where the oak woodland begins to meet prairie areas.

**PROJECT BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES**

A DNR project boundary is created by a Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) action and established as a preferred area where DNR may acquire land from willing sellers. During the planning process, DNR examines the park’s current project boundary and determines where it may make sense to expand the boundary to help future park management. DNR also examines the boundary for areas where it may no longer be feasible or practical to expand the park and removes these areas from the project boundary.

**Project Boundary Alternative 1: Project Boundary Expansion**
Includes a project boundary expansion to encompass areas that have potential for resource and recreation management opportunities. Small areas no longer suitable for acquisition are removed from the project boundary (project boundary contraction).

**Project Boundary Alternative 2: Status Quo**
Maintains the current project boundary.
The Wisconsin DNR is currently in the process of revising the Blue Mound State Park Property Master Plan. The planning team has developed a series of management alternatives and is seeking your input.

**What is a Master Plan?**

DNR develops property master plans to establish the levels and types of public uses that are permitted on a property as well as the authorized resource management and facility development that will take place there.

Master plans are developed by integrated teams of resource and recreation professionals from all appropriate DNR programs with input from property users, stakeholders, and the interested public, which is solicited throughout the planning process. Chapter NR 44, Wis. Admin. Code guides the planning process, procedures, content and opportunities for public involvement.

**What are Management Alternatives?**

In March 2019, the department initiated the Blue Mound State Park (BMSP) master planning process with a public input opportunity. The input received at that time helped shape the management alternatives that are now available for review and comment.

The Blue Mound State Park management alternatives are options the DNR planning team is considering for recommendation in the eventual draft master plan. Management alternatives include topics such as:
- Project Boundary Adjustments
- Camping
- Cross-country Skiing
- Mountain Biking,
- Snowmobiling
- Forest and grassland management

**Learn More**

There are three options to learn more about the Blue Mound State Park Management Alternatives:

The Management Alternatives Document and more information are available in the Blue Mound State Park Friends Shelter Meeting Room or in the Park Office.

Go online to the website on this poster to read the Management alternatives document!

Submit your input at this meeting!

**Have Your Voice Heard!**

There are multiple ways to submit input on the Blue Mound State Park management alternatives:

- **In Person or Through the Mail**
  Input forms are available meeting room of the Friends Shelter or at the park office. Submit hard-copy input forms at the self-registration station or by U.S. Mail (the address is on the form)

- **Go Online**
  Online input forms are available at the website below!

- **Visit our website!**
  Go to DNR.WI.GOV, search keywords: “Property Planning” and click “Blue Mound State Park.”

**Questions or Comments?**
Contact Phil Rynish, DNR Property Planner
Phillip.Rynish@Wisconsin.gov
608-266-5854
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