

# Wisconsin Governor's State Trails Council – Position Description

## Position Title

State Trails Council Member

## Function of the Position

The Wisconsin Governor's State Trails Council (STC) was created by statute 15.347(16) in 1989. The STC provides advice and consultation to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the planning, acquisition, development, and management of trails in Wisconsin. The council represents trail users in Wisconsin, which includes more than half of the state's residents. The council is also responsible for providing counsel in administering Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. The STC serves as Wisconsin's state recreational trail advisory committee for RTP, necessary for Wisconsin to participate in the program.

## Composition of the Council

The State Trails Council is composed of 9 voting members appointed by the governor to four-year terms who engage in one or more of the various recreational uses of trails. Non-voting council members are selected to the STC as needed. All council members must be knowledgeable in various recreational uses of trails and serve as an advocate for trails. Under the requirements of the Recreational Trails Program, the STC must have representatives from both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff members are assigned to the council to assist with full record keeping of council meetings, meeting arrangements, and to provide other logistical support.

## Responsibilities

The State Trails Council member will be responsible for attending not less than four meetings during the year. Voting members will remain on the council for four-year terms, or as appointed by the Governor. Non-voting members will serve on the council as needed to ensure full representation of all major trail user groups, and to provide consultation to voting members on issues. Duties and responsibilities include working with other council members to identify and discuss trail issues important to Wisconsin's diverse trail users. Some travel is required to meeting locations in various parts of Wisconsin.

Specific duties may include:

- Discuss issues concerning trails with other council members
- Discuss statewide trail management issues and offer recommendations for improvements
- Maintain relations, communicate and monitor the needs and issues of the trail user group the member represents
- Play a leading role in engaging Legislators in important trail issues
- Develop and draft council materials such as STC Resolutions
- Evaluate the performance of the council in achieving its mission
- Perform other responsibilities assigned by the council chairperson
- Respond to public comments and questions

Responsibilities relating to the Recreational Trails Program may include:

- Develop project sponsor criteria (which kinds of project sponsors may receive grants)
- Develop project eligibility criteria (which kinds of projects the State may consider for funding)
- Develop project evaluation and selection criteria
- Provide guidance to determine compliance with the diverse trail use requirement
- Determine appropriate State policy to determine matching share criteria

**Qualifications**

Members must be trail users and a resident of the State of Wisconsin. Members will represent a specific trail user group in which they participate. Members must be enthusiastic and interested in STC activities, willing to attend scheduled meetings and willing to participate actively in the discussions and deliberations of the council. Voting members will be appointed by the Governor. Non-voting members will be selected as needed by the council as a whole. Members should have an understanding of outdoor recreation issues in Wisconsin and the ability to communicate clearly and professionally with trail users of varying interests.

**Compensation**

State Trails Council members volunteer their time on the council but are eligible for reimbursement for travel-related expenses to and from STC meetings (within state guidelines).

**To Apply**

To see what positions are currently vacant, see the State Trails Council website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/council/index.html>

An application form is available on this site. Applications will be kept on file for positions not currently open. Applicants will be contacted once the position they are interested in is open or expects to be open.