



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
Outdoor Recreation Alliance of the 7 Rivers Region
AND
City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby made and entered into by and between the Outdoor Recreation Alliance of the 7 Rivers Region, hereinafter referred to as ORA Trails, and City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, hereinafter referred to as City.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize a cooperative agreement between ORA Trails and the City for the purpose of cooperating and defining the roles of each organization.

OBJECTIVE:

ORA Trails and the City have the mutual goal to expand upon the existing framework of cooperation in beneficial programs, projects, and recreational development activities already accomplished and planned by ORA Trails and the City. This MOU intended to act as a guide for future cooperation between ORA Trails and the City. This document may be amended by mutual agreement from time to time as the parties may desire. It is not intended to be a legally binding or enforceable document in any respect, and nothing hereinafter creates any legal obligations of any kind for ORA Trails and the City.

INTRODUCTION:

As a Department of the City of La Crosse, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is dedicated to the management of parks owned by the City of La Crosse for the benefit of the community. The parks provide for a variety of uses and activities including outdoor recreation. Recognizing high public demand for diverse outdoor recreation and shared-use trails, as illustrated by increasing use on existing trails, events and public meetings. The City is interested in providing recreation and shared-use trails, in various locations throughout the city in both existing parks and potential new parks. The City recognizes high quality shared-use trails and other recreational facilities within the parks contribute to local and regional economies and quality of life.

ORA Trails is a 501(C)3 nonprofit established to create, enhance, and protect majestic trails within the Driftless Region. ORA Trails represents a significant and growing segment of recreational participants in the La Crosse area and is the recognized leader in establishing recreational ethics, safety standards, volunteerism, and fostering appropriate land-use management. ORA Trails desires to use City managed properties for recreational purposes, and through this MOU or subsequent agreements will provide support, volunteer labor and/or funds to the City for accomplishment of mutually beneficial recreational projects or related activities.

It has been identified that actively promoting public-private partnerships help encourage physical activity and public participation in facility maintenance and construction opportunities within properties owned by the City. Both ORA Trails and the City share the common responsibility and interest of promoting, maintaining, and developing venues for recreation. In consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:



STATEMENT OF MUTUAL GOALS:

ORA Trails and the City acknowledge the importance of providing high quality public recreation opportunities, therefore through this agreement, ORA Trails and the City agree to:

- Manage and maintain high-quality public trail systems and recreational opportunities
- Direct use to designated trails and discourage creation of unsustainable, rogue trails
- Enhance shared use recreation that reduces conflicts between different user groups
- Provide consistent public education and information, including meetings, events, and signage
- Enhance educational and training opportunities around shared use, trail maintenance, and sustainability by offering training courses, educational forums, and events

The Primary actions for accomplishing these goals may include:

THE CITY SHALL:

- Work with ORA Trails to identify appropriate partnership opportunities (trail projects, education programs, etc.) and jointly pursue such projects in conjunction with the recreation in and around the City of La Crosse, contingent upon availability of funds and personnel.
- Encourage continued participation between ORA Trails and City officials in the development of mutually beneficial work projects and educational activities.
- Cooperate in the closing and opening of trails and recreational facilities as necessary for weather related events, spring thaw, trail maintenance activities, and new construction.
- Continue to make qualified existing City managed lands available for human powered, shared-use trail recreation, subject to City policies regarding park usage.
- Facilitate introductions between ORA Trails and other stewardship groups so that multiple groups can work together towards recreational opportunities that are safe, fun and sustainable.
- Include and utilize ORA Trails' technical expertise and professional services in maintaining existing trails and other outdoor recreation park amenities.
- Include and utilize ORA Trails' technical expertise and professional services when planning and developing new trails and other outdoor recreation park amenities.
- Include and utilize ORA Trails' technical expertise in developing park programs as they relate to outdoor recreation.
- Work with ORA Trails regarding the grooming and maintenance of trails for winter related activities such as cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, and fat biking.
- Encourage all human powered activity, including mountain biking, running, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. (Mountain biking is an activity distinct from activities by motorized vehicles for purposes of land management and park development.)
- Review this agreement with ORA Trails annually for the purpose of making revisions, as necessary.



ORA TRAILS SHALL:

- Work with the City to identify appropriate partnership opportunities (trail projects, education programs, rock climbing, etc.) and jointly pursue such projects in conjunction with the recreation community and the City, contingent upon availability of funds and personnel.
- Provide technical assistance and professional services for projects, educational activities and recreational opportunities, contingent upon availability of funds and personnel.
- Identify and coordinate volunteer work projects and other efforts, to maintain designated trail systems and facilities and assist with development of new opportunities.
- Encourage its members to work with local City officials to discuss and identify opportunities for cooperative work on mutually beneficial projects or activities, when appropriate.
- Provide training and instruction for crew leaders through qualified external vendors for the purpose of providing safe and effective leadership at volunteer events.
- Obtain City approval prior to implementation of any construction, maintenance, educational or publication or distribution of any printed material regarding recreational uses on public lands.
- Continue regular trail maintenance volunteer events at City facilities with existing trail networks. General Trail Maintenance is necessary on natural surface trails just like any other type of infrastructure. This work is performed to keep the trail experience for users as close as possible to the original intent of the trail when it was new. Trail maintenance helps in extending the life of each trail and aides in the long-term sustainability of trails. General Trail Maintenance will generally be performed by Volunteers under the direction of the ORA Trails Executive Director, Trails Coordinators, and Crew Leaders at scheduled trail work events.
- Assist with new trail construction, followed by regular trail maintenance at City facilities newly opened or anticipated to be opened.
- Utilize sustainable trail construction techniques on new trails.
- Provide the labor and resources necessary to maintain and groom trails for winter activities such as cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, and fat biking.
- Seek approval from the City prior to construction of any major new trail or major reroute of any existing trail.
- Review this agreement with the City annually for the purpose of making revisions.

It is mutually agreed and understood by all parties:

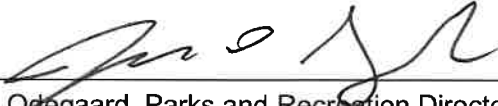
1. The cooperators will develop an operating and maintenance plan for outdoor recreational facilities located within City Parks Land as part of this MOU, which will be reviewed and updated annually.
2. The cooperators will jointly seek funding/grants to assist with all aspects of building, managing, and maintaining quality public trail systems and infrastructure.

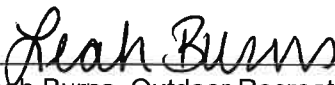


- 3. Specific projects for 2021 are Miller Bluff and Gateway Connector (1.5)
- 4. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor or transfer of anything of value involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this instrument will be handled through separate contracts or agreements.
- 5. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This instrument is executed as of the date of last signature and is effective through June 1, 2022 at which time it will expire unless extended.

Designated Points of Contact and Signatures:

City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

X  5/14/21
 Jason Odegaard, Parks and Recreation Director Date
 Phone: 608-789-7593 Email odegaardj@cityoflacrosse.org

X  5/14/21
 Leah Burns, Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Date
 Phone: 608-789-8672 Email burnsl@cityoflacrosse.org

Outdoor Recreation Alliance of the 7-Rivers Region

X  5/11/21
 Randi Pueschner, President Date
 Phone: 608-386-3446 Email randi@smithsbikes.com

X  5/12/2021
 Jed Olson, Executive Director Date
 Phone: 320-309-4980 Email jed@oratrails.org