

Chapter Two: Public Engagement



*The success of the Flyway Trail depends on
an informed and engaged community.*

Introduction

Design Workshop Summary

FLYWAY TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY | 25

Workshop Schedule

Monday, August 24

The design team performed field work and prepared for the BCLTT committee meeting that evening. Additional preparations were performed that evening in anticipation of the following day.

Tuesday, August 25

The design team arrived at the Cochrane VFW Hall at 8:00 am to set up and prepare for the day. Drop-in stakeholder meetings took place during the morning hours, with ongoing concept development occurring through midday. A public “drop-in” hour was scheduled from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm during which members from the public arrived to engage with the design team. The

afternoon was reserved for additional concept development and a check-in meeting between the design team and the BCLTT. The public open house took place from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and provided the primary opportunity for the public to review concept development and ask questions of the design team. The day ended with a meeting debrief between the design team and the BCLTT.

Wednesday, August 26

The workshop ended with a 2-hour morning meeting that included the design team and BCLTT. Together, the group discussed their reactions to the open house, vetted the concept development decisions, and planned next steps.



Aerial maps and other visuals provide an orientation to the project and help residents visualize the potential for a county-wide trail along the study corridor.

Workshop Activities

Existing Conditions Review

The design team shared a draft Opportunities and Constraints Map at the workshop. The map called out specific areas where the proposed trail will be a challenge to build and opportunities where the trail alignment could take advantage of existing topography, cultural features and historic landscapes. The draft map was displayed for the public to review and add additional opportunities and constraints that may have been missed.

Aerial Corridor Review

As part of the workshop, the design team presented an aerial map of the complete 35-mile project area along a row of tables. Seeing the entire corridor spread out on one table gave the public a chance to understand the context of the trail and use it as a platform to have conversations with the project team and the BCLTT. To augment the aerial view, the design team printed out about 30 photographs from recent field visits. The photographs provided additional context to the viewer by showing a variety of on-the-ground views within the corridor.

To record ideas and conversations, markers and sticky notes were available and placed along the top of the aerial map. Members of the public, the BCLTT and the design team recorded comments on the sticky notes and placed them on the map.

A digital projection of over 700 georeferenced photographs was also available for the public to view. The design team was able to quickly reference individual photographs from the collection if someone wanted an on-the-ground view of the corridor that was not printed.



An Opportunities and Constraints Map provides area residents with an overview of issues affecting trail development.

Members of the public review aerial maps and field photos during the open house.





Topographic Alignment Exercise

In addition to the aerial map, the design team prepared a full corridor printout using USGS topographic maps. The maps were displayed along a table parallel to the aerial maps. Using markers and tracing paper, the design team worked with members of the public to draw potential alignments through the corridor. Alignments and notes were captured by the trace paper and were used to influence the proposed alignment alternatives of the trail.



With countless hills and bluffs rising from the river valley, Buffalo County's natural environment presents a challenge for trail development. Area residents and members of the Buffalo County Land and Trails Trust study topographic maps to identify potential alignments for the Flyway Trail.

Plat Map Review

As part of the final meeting between the design team and BCLTT, an original plat book was reviewed. Access to this detailed resource allowed the design team to supplement their understanding of ownership information.



Plat maps provide a unique source of information for open house attendees, with land ownership and historical information not available through other sources.



Attendees at the Flyway Trail Fun Ride experienced first-hand the natural wonders and cultural gems like the Prairie Moon Museum along the ride.



Additional Outreach

Community Ride and Open House

On September 19, the BCLTT hosted a Community Fun Ride as a way to draw additional attention to cycling opportunities within the corridor and to the feasibility study. The aerial photos from the Design Workshop were made available at the ride's end point at Goose Lake Park in Cochrane.

Fun Ride!

BUFFALO COUNTY FLYWAY TRAIL FUN RIDE

The Buffalo County Land and Trails Trust is hosting public events to begin a feasibility study for the 35-mile "Big River Flyway Trail" through Buffalo County, Wisconsin. The proposed "Flyway" will be a scenic bikeway along one of the most beautiful stretches of the Mississippi River from Nelson to Bluff Siding, with the potential to link into existing recreation trails to the north and east.

Please join us on Saturday, September 19 for a FUN RIDE on the beautiful Big River Flyway Trail. There will be three routes to choose from- short, medium, and long.

Start and end at Goose Lake Park in Cochrane, WI

short route

medium route

long route

SATURDAY SEPT 19th

START: 10:00am
Goose Lake Park

END: 2:00pm
Goose Lake Park

LUNCH: 2:00-4:00pm

KIDS: Come ride your bikes!

PARENTS: Bring your kids!

QUESTIONS?
Contact Nettie Rosenow at Buffalo County Land and Trails Trust at BCLTTTrust@gmail.com