

# July 2025 Newsletter

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## Need a Trail Pass?

Buy your 2025 State Recreational Trail Pass through Brown County Parks, [Purchase Now](#). Buying the passes locally means more of the fee stays in Brown County.



## Help Us Pave the Future

With a generous matching grant doubling every donation up to \$25,000 and just \$100,000 needed to extend the pavement past Lasee, a contribution today could mean more miles of cycling tomorrow for generations of trail enthusiasts to come.

You can make a donation on the Friends website at [FriendsFRT.org](http://FriendsFRT.org). The donate button is prominent on the homepage. **Thank you for helping us meet our goal.**

## Trail Pass Sales:

### *The Unsung Heroes of Our Pathway Paradise*

Picture this: you're gliding along the Fox River Trail on a perfect Wisconsin morning, the sun filtering through the canopy while you cruise past the scenic waterway that gives our beloved trail its name. That smooth asphalt beneath your wheels didn't magically appear—and more importantly, it won't magically maintain itself. Enter the humble trail pass, a colorful piece of paper that packs a mighty punch in keeping our 20-mile recreational corridor in tip-top shape throughout Brown County.

Here's what everyone needs to know: **a \$25 annual trail pass is required for anyone on wheels and horseback riders who are 16 or older.** Walkers get a free pass (literally), though we'd love to see our walkers join the support squad too. That modest twenty-five dollars might seem like pocket change in today's economy, but it is the financial backbone that keeps our trail from turning into a pothole-riddled obstacle course.

Since the trail's inaugural ribbon-cutting in 2001, something concerning has been happening behind the scenes—**trail pass sales have been steadily declining.** Those daily and annual pass purchases aren't just bureaucratic busy work; they're the lifeblood funding that keeps the lights on (or rather, the path smooth) for ongoing maintenance across the entire pathway in Brown County.

Without adequate trail pass revenue, the domino effect is predictable and painful. **Deferred maintenance becomes delayed repairs**, which eventually transforms into expensive emergency fixes that strain municipal budgets and frustrate trail users alike. The math is simple, but the impact is profound. When trail pass sales decline, maintenance budgets shrink, and our beloved pathway suffers accordingly. But when our cycling and horseback riding community steps up to purchase their passes—and encourages fellow riders to do the same—we're collectively investing in years of continued enjoyment along one of Wisconsin's premier recreational assets.

Come join us at our next meeting: **Thursday, July 24, 2025**, starting at **6 pm**. We meet at **Someday Farms** on Hwy 57 in De Pere. All are welcome as your voice matters to us.