



Washington County

Planning and Parks Department

NEWS RELEASE – PLEASE POST

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Winter Sports in the Washington County Park System

With an unexpected long winter season and with free entrance to the Washington County Parks visitors should take every opportunity to enjoy this Wisconsin winter at one of our Washington County Parks. Various county parks provide sites for popular winter sports such as cross country skiing, sledding, ice skating, and ice fishing.

Parking is available for those wishing to snowmobile on the separate trails running through Glacier Hills County Park located at 1664 Friess Lake Road in the Village of Richfield and at Sandy Knoll County Park located at 2064 Wallace Lake Road in the Town of Trenton. Snowmobiles and ATV's are allowed on the northern segment of the Eisenbahn Trail that begins at Lighthouse Lane Road and heads north into Fond du Lac County from December 15th until March 15th when the trail is frozen and posted open. All snowmobile and ATV users should call the Washington County Association of Snowmobile Clubs hotline at 1-262-334-6061 or check their website at www.wcasc.org to make sure the trails are open for ATV's or snowmobiles before venturing out.

The lighted sled hill that was opened several years ago at Glacier Hills County Park located at 1664 Friess Lake Road in the Village of Richfield has been well used and with timely snowfalls it will gain in popularity this year. It features a 35' drop for a fast ride before leveling out, so it is not a hill for toddlers. A plowed parking lot, flush rest rooms and a warming house are also on site and open for your use. There are two other lighted sled hills in the park system and they are located in Ridge Run County Park in West Bend and in Homestead Hollow County Park on Freistadt Road in Germantown. These sites also include plowed lots and heated flush rest rooms. All sled hills are open to the public weather permitting-at no charge. Please do not build jumps on these hills because of the potential for injury.

Lake access for ice fishing is available at Ridge Run and Henschke Hillside County Parks in West Bend, Leonard J. Yahr County Park in the Town of Farmington, Glacier Hills County Park in the Village of Richfield, and at Ackerman's Grove County Park on Highway Z in the Town of Polk. All fishermen are strongly urged to use common sense in judging proper ice conditions.

Cross country skiers in the West Bend and northern Washington County are encouraged to try Sandy Knoll County Park located just north of West Bend at Trenton Road and Wallace Lake Road. This park has a unique three-loop trail system that has been growing in popularity because it allows for short, medium, and longer trips. The trails here are gently sloped and very scenic. Residents in Germantown and southern Washington County are urged to try Homestead Hollow County Park located on Freistadt Road in Germantown for another easy to moderate, but very scenic trail. All those hearty skiers looking for more demanding trails should check out Glacier Hills County Park located on Friess Lake Road in the Village of Richfield. Cross country ski trails here are rated moderate to difficult. The heated warming room and flush toilets in the park are available for use by all winter visitors. None of the cross country ski trails are groomed.

Ice skating is available at Ridge Run County Park and at Homestead Hollow County Park when weather conditions permit. Again, skaters should use common sense in judging proper ice conditions.

Visit our website www.co.washington.wi.us for more detailed information on the Washington County Park System.