



To: List of sources (I have a press list of contacts from previous PRs we have done)

From: Friends of Potawatomi State Park Board of Directors

Regarding: DNR Construction at Potawatomi State Park

Date: June xx, 2026

The Friends of Potawatomi State Park values the connection that our members, volunteers, and the public, feel for our park. Over the past several weeks, many who love Potawatomi State Park have reached out to us with strong feelings about the tree removal and road work currently taking place. We feel that the concerns visitors and residents have shared are legitimate but, given recent events, it would be a proper time to share who the Friends are, what the role of the organization is, and how we hope our community can move forward:

- The Friends of Potawatomi State Park is an independent, volunteer-driven nonprofit organization. Our mission is to promote the park, to support it through fundraising and volunteer service, and to help visitors and residents enjoy and appreciate all it offers. We work closely and cooperatively with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the DNR's Potawatomi property supervisor contributes to our board meetings.
- At the same time, we believe it is important to be clear about what our role is *not*. The Friends do not design, approve, or oversee construction projects, and we are not responsible for the public planning process that accompanies them. Decisions about projects like the current road work, and the public input surrounding them, rest with the DNR.
- In May of 2026, the Friends Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution requesting involvement and information from the DNR related to future project design and planning initiatives. That resolution passed with 100% of the board approving. We are committed as an organization to try to bring Friends volunteers, the DNR, and the public together for a discussion about future needs in the park.

- It has recently been brought to the Friends of Potawatomi's attention that the DNR construction project has become a legal matter initiated by a third party. The Friends of Potawatomi organization is not involved in these legal actions. Any future communication regarding the previous project work or future project work should be handled directly through the DNR or other parties involved as this situation possibly develops. The Friends do not plan to make any further comments on this litigation on behalf of the organization.

We encourage those concerned with the project to share constructive thoughts with Missy VanLanduyt (Melissa.Vanlanduyt@wisconsin.gov) of the DNR Public Relations & Partnerships division.

We truly hope everyone will continue to visit and enjoy Potawatomi State Park. Its woods and water, trails and overlooks, and the community of people who care for it remain what they have always been, and we look forward to welcoming you there.

Additional Resources

[DNR Master Plan including Potawatomi - 2018 Northern Lake Michigan Coastal Regional Master Plan](#)

"[Tree Clearing Sparks Backlash at Potawatomi State Park.](#)" *Door County Pulse*, 13 May 2026.

"[Conservation Group Sues DNR Over Potawatomi State Park Road Construction Project.](#)" *Door County Daily News*. June 2026.