



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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### **Rustic Roads Board**

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Dear Prospective Applicant :

Thank you for your interest in the Wisconsin Rustic Roads program.

The system was created in 1973 by the State Legislature to preserve what remains of Wisconsin's scenic, lightly traveled back roads for the enjoyment of motorists, hikers and bicyclists. Wisconsin is unique in its efforts to preserve these low volume, low function rural roads and since the designation of the first Rustic Road in 1975, the statewide system has grown to include 95 roads in 52 counties totaling over 510 miles.

The Rustic Roads program relies on the initiative of local residents and government to identify candidates for Rustic Road status and to petition to have the routes designated as Rustic Roads by the 10 member Rustic Roads Board. To qualify, the road should be a low volume local access road and should have some outstanding natural or historical features within it. It should have a length of at least two miles and should not be scheduled nor anticipated for major improvements which would alter the road's unique characteristics. Hiking and biking trails may also adjoin Rustic Roads. The program does not encompass the design or redesign of new and existing roads to meet Rustic Road standards.

Local authorities are encouraged to preserve the natural, scenic and historical characteristics along Rustic Roads. Local zoning powers, building setback regulations, access control, sign control and other powers may be used to protect and preserve the character of the Rustic Road (Trans-RR 1.15, Wis. Administrative Code). Once designated, Rustic Roads remain under local jurisdiction and continue to be eligible for state aids.

Each Rustic Road is marked with a unique brown and yellow Rustic Road sign and the speed is limited to 45 MPH or lower. The surface may be dirt, gravel or paved and roadside vegetation can be cut or mowed selectively. No special funding is available for Rustic Roads, however the Department does pay the cost of initial and replacement signing for each designated rustic road.

I have enclosed the following items which will provide you with further back-ground on Wisconsin's Rustic Roads System:

1. Wisconsin Administrative Code, Rules of Transportation Rustic Roads Board;
2. The Wisconsin's Rustic Roads Brochure; and
3. Application materials for Rustic Road designation.

If you should have any further questions about Wisconsin's Rustic Roads program, please do not hesitate to contact me at (608) 266-0649.

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Sincerely,

Jane V. Carrola  
Rustic Roads Coordinator

Enclosures