

## **Zoo Bike And Walking Path Open Once Again**

*Construction to repair the path likely to begin in spring or summer of 2022*

**City of Racine** – Today, the City of Racine Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Service (PRCS) officially re-opened the bike/walking path behind the Zoo. The path had been eroded and found unsafe to use following massive storms that bombarded the City’s lakefront in January of 2020. Fencing and other measures have now been put in place so that the path is once again safe to use by the public.

“It has been a long process of working with FEMA and SmithGroup to re-engineer the path to prepare for the storms of the next 20 years. Construction documents are being drawn and we anticipate that in 2022 major work will be done repair the path and provide the public access to the beach once again. Until that time, the safety fencing and our other work allows us to re-open the path,” **said Matt Koepnick, who leads the City’s Forestry Division.**

SmithGroup was hired by the City to work on engineering and design plans to restore parts of the lakefront damaged by the January 2020 storm and ensure that the lakefront can handle the strong storms, due to climate change, that are expected to occur in the future. Current projections would have major repairs likely commence in spring or summer of 2022.

“I want to thank Matt, the PRCS team, and SmithGroup for finding a way to reopen the path while we wait for major repairs to begin next year. I hear from residents frequently about the desire to have that path re-opened, so I am happy we found a way to do that safely,” **said City of Racine Mayor Cory Mason.**