

MEMO

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laura Qualey, Economic Development

SUBJECT: Regional Trail Grant Application

DATE: February 16, 2021

BACKGROUND

In March of 2019, the Public Works Director at the time applied for a Minnesota DNR Local Trails Grant. The grant was awarded to Cannon Falls, but per our City Engineer, Bill Angerman, he suggested that we turn down the grant dollars and reapply for the Minnesota DNR Regional Trails Grant instead. If awarded, the grant will connect the current Mill Towns State Trail coming from Lake Byllesby to the Cannon Fair Grounds, to the start of the city trail system at Hannah's Bend Park and ultimately to the Cannon Valley Trail. This grant is a 75% / 25% opportunity; where the DNR will cover 75% of total cost as long as the city commits the other 25%.

These grant dollars will cover Phase 1 of this trail connection project. Phase 2 would be done at the cost of the City at a later date as the existing trail conditions are poor; the fence that runs along the trail and Cannon River needs repairs and the trail needs to be resurfaced. The connection between the two trails would happen with a new paved path running through Hannah's Bend park. The Park Board has reviewed the completed grant application; the project was reviewed and approved by the Park Board to be presented to the Council.

The completion deadline for the project is June 30, 2023. Below you will see the breakdown for the trail connection. Since these are engineering estimates we are hoping the bids come in lower for the city portion. Public Works, the Cannon Valley Trail Manager, the City Administrator and Economic Development think this is a great opportunity to connect our trails to the Lake Byllesby Regional Park. We also think this is an opportunity to start the process of repairing some of our city trails.

Cost estimates are on the following page.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Motion to approve submitting the application to MN DNR for the Regional Trails Grant.

**Cost Opinion for Grant Eligible Costs
775 LF New Trail Construction
Cannon Falls, Minnesota
January 4, 2021**

Item No.	Item	Approx. Quantities	Unit of Measure	Unit Price	Amount
1	Mobilization	1	Lump Sum	\$ 10000	\$ 10,000.00
2	Tree Removal / Clearing & Grubbing	9	Each	\$ 1500	\$ 13,500.00
3	Common Excavation (P)	300	C.Y.	\$ 15	\$ 4,500.00
4	Common Borrow (P) (West End Only)	2000	C.Y.	\$ 20	\$ 40,000.00
5	6" Aggregate Base (CV), Class 5 (P)	250	C.Y.	\$ 40	\$ 10,000.00
6	3" Aggregate Shouldering (CV), Class 5 (P)	70	C.Y.	\$ 50	\$ 3,500.00
7	Pedestrian Ramp with Truncated Domes	1	Each	\$ 3000	\$ 3,000.00
8	10 foot wide 3" Type SP 12.5 Wearing Course Mix (2;B)	200	Ton	\$ 150	\$ 30,000.00
9	Traffic Control	1	L.S.	\$ 1000	\$ 1,000.00
10	Erosion Control Supervisor	1	L.S.	\$ 1000	\$ 1,000.00
11	Temporary Rock Construction Entrance	1	L.S.	\$ 1500	\$ 1,500.00
12	Silt Fence	1100	L.F.	\$ 4	\$ 4,400.00
13	Restoration (Topsoil and Seed)	1	L.S.	\$ 7500	\$ 7,500.00

Construction Subtotal	\$	129,900.00
Contingency	\$	19,485.00
Engineering	\$	19,485.00
Total	\$	168,870.00

GRANT Share	\$	126,652.50
CITY Share	\$	42,217.50



REGIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM 2021 Grant Application

INSTRUCTIONS

Delete this page before submitting Application



Before completing this application read and study the program manual, all information on the program website, and these instructions.

APPLICATION DUE DATE: March 31, 2021

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION:

- Carefully review the Project Eligibility section of the program manual to understand the different requirements and eligible expenditures and tips in the How To Apply section.
- Type all responses within the blank boxes associated with each question. Do not type your answers in the same box as the question. For location and site maps, you may insert these as separate pages immediately following each question.
- Replace the sample resolution page with the actual approved resolution.
- DO NOT change the format of this document.
- Respond to all of the required questions and provide all required documents, including those outlined in the Attachment Checklist. Failure to complete the application appropriately will mean that the project will not be considered for funding.
- Please keep answers as brief and concise as possible, but thoroughly answer all parts of a question. Answers should focus on the project for which the funds will be utilized and less on future phases (if applicable) of your project.

HOW TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION:

Applications are to be submitted electronically in a “.pdf” format by the due date above. Paper submission of applications will no longer be accepted. To submit the application, email a pdf version of the application and attachments to Trailgrants.DNR@state.mn.us. This is the official submittal email box. Submitting to any other email will not be accepted. Format the entire application, including all attachments, as one pdf document with all pages 8 ½” by 11” in dimension. After submission, make sure you have received a confirmation email that your application has arrived in a useable format by the due date. A confirmation email should arrive within one business day after you have submitted your application. Each email is opened to insure the files are readable and then followed with a confirmation email. Applications submitted in an unusable format will NOT be considered for funding. If there are any questions about submitting the application please contact the program staff below.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

This is a competitive program. Staff members are available to discuss your project or review application materials. You are encouraged to submit any draft application or materials by March 12, 2021 if you would like staff to provide comments. For assistance, please contact:

Daniel Golner, Grant Coordinator
daniel.golner@state.mn.us (651) 259-5599

Project #	
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REGIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM 2021 Grant Application

1) GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Grant Applicant (Unit of Government Required):	City of Cannon Falls
Contact Person:	Neil Jensen
Contact Title:	City Administrator
Mailing Address:	918 River Road Cannon Falls, MN 55009
Phone:	507-263-9304
Email address:	njensen@cannonfallsmn.gov
<i>If the project has a trail club, organization, or project partner, please include below:</i>	
Organization/Club Name:	
Contact Person:	
Contact Title:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone:	
Email address:	

2) GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Cannon Valley Trail (CVT) and Mill Towns State Trail (MTST) Connection
Project Summary (30 words or less):	This project will connect the Mill Towns State Trail to the Cannon Valley Trail through the Cannon Falls City Trails System which runs through multiple city parks.
Project Completion Date:	Summer/Fall 2021
Trail Name:	Cannon Falls Trail System & Mill Towns State Trail
Website with Trail Info:	https://www.cannonfallsmn.gov/parksrec

3) FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Grant Request:	\$126,652.50	Source of Cash Match (describe below in the box next to \$ amount):	Are these match funds secured? (Check below):	
			YES	NO
Non-State Cash Matching Funds (25% cash match required):	\$42,217.50	City of Cannon Falls General Fund Reserves	x	

Total Matching	\$42,217.50			
Total Project Cost:	\$168,870.00	(Grant Request + Matching Funds must = Total Project Cost)		
If this project has received federal funding through the Enhancements Program or MnDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program, please indicate which year the project is programmed for construction?			FFY:	N/A

4) PROJECT LOCATION:

County Project is Located:	Goodhue
State Legislative (House) District:	21 A
State Senate District:	21
State House Representative (name):	Barb Haley
State Senator (name):	Michael Goggin
Congressional District:	Minnesota's 2nd District

5) MEASURABLE TARGETS/OUTCOMES:

It is required that measurable targets and outcomes be collected for your project. Complete the boxes below on the right with exactly how many miles of trail that will be acquired, newly developed or existing trail miles improved, along with the number of trailhead facilities, bridges, and/or culverts that will be developed or restored as part of just this project, not the whole trail. After the project is complete the measurable outcome will be compared with the target included.	
Trail Miles to be Acquired:	0
New Trail Miles to be Developed/Created:	.17 of a mile (900 feet) Phase 1
Existing Trail Miles to be Restored or Improved:	.3 of a mile ((1600 feet) Phase 2
Number of Trailhead Facilities to be Developed or Restored:	None
Number of Trail Bridges/Culverts to be Developed or Restored:	None

6) RECREATIONAL USES FOR PROJECT:

6A Indicate the existing or proposed uses of the trail under primary use and the secondary recreation uses which will directly benefit from the proposed project:		
Primary Use	Secondary Use	
x		Walking/Hiking
x		Bicycling
	x	Mountain Bicycling
		Horseback Riding
	x	Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing
x		In-Line Skating
		Snowmobiling
		ATV Riding
		Off-Highway Motorcycling
		4 X 4 Trucking
		Other

	(specify):	
6B) Describe/Justify how <u>each</u> of the above identified primary and/or secondary trail user groups will benefit from the project. Response required for each identified use above.		
<p>The proposed project will develop and restore sections of trail which will connect the Mill Towns State Trail to the Cannon Falls city trail system which connects to the Cannon Valley Trail.</p> <p>Over 100,000 people visit the Cannon Valley Trail each year to walk, hike, bicycle, cross country ski, mountain bike or in-line skate. It is anticipated the majority of these users will also use the restored and newly developed sections of this proposed project.</p> <p>The number of Mill Towns State Trail users is statistically unknown at this time, but the traffic on the trail has increased significantly since its creation as it connects the Goodhue County Park at Lake Byllesby to the Dakota County Regional Park and campground on Lake Byllesby. These are users that most likely would not have been able to bike from one side to the other, nor bike into Cannon Falls safely.</p>		
6C) Will this project provide year round trail use? If it is planned to provide year round use, outline which users indicated above will benefit and how the facility will be maintained for those uses.		
<p>The proposed project will provide year-round trail use not only during the prime months of spring, summer and fall, but will also provide trail usage during the winter season. Currently the City of Cannon Falls maintains the city trail system during the winter which creates opportunities for users to hike, bike or inline skate.</p> <p>The City of Cannon Falls has dedicated employees from the Public Works Department to maintain the trail year-round for all authorized uses.</p>		

7) REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:

To be eligible for this grant, the project must demonstrate that it is of regional or statewide significance. Describe how your project meets each of the identified criteria listed below. Trails must meet the first two criteria specifically and must address criteria three, four, and five in aggregate. Complete the three boxes below for each.

1. Regionally desirable setting: The trail is located in a regionally desirable setting. Criteria include attractive, unusual, and/or representative landscapes, important destinations, or high quality natural areas.

Cannon Falls is a premium location for the trailhead of the Cannon Valley Trail. Cannon Falls is strategically placed between the Twin Cities and Rochester as well as in the center between Northfield, Hastings and Red Wing on main thorough ways such as Highway 52 and Highway 19. Once the connection of the Mill Towns Trail and the Cannon Valley Trail are complete, it opens up the biking experience to other trails in the area such as the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail which when it is complete, will connect the cities of Red Wing, Goodhue, Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Bellechester, and Pine Island for a distance of 47 miles. The Mill Towns State Trail will connect the cities of Faribault, Dundas, Northfield, Waterford, Randolph, and Cannon Falls, for a distance of approximately 25 miles. The trail will be an important link in the developing southeast Minnesota trail system, connecting the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail in Faribault with the western end of the Cannon Valley Trail in Cannon Falls. The Cannon Valley Trail runs along the old train track route between Cannon Falls and Mankato overlooking the Cannon River for a majority of the trail.

2. High quality opportunity and use: The trail serves as a destination, providing high quality recreational opportunities, attracts a regional clientele (multiple communities), potentially may draw tourists, and generates an economic impact from outside the local area. The trail should be developed and maintained to include easy access, secure parking, access to drinking water and other necessary services, and is wide enough or designed in such a way to avoid user conflict and provide a safe experience.

In a typical year, the Cannon Valley Trail between Cannon Falls and Red Wing has over 100,000 users according to the statistics provided by the trail manager. In 2020, the Cannon Valley Trail saw 172,000 visitors which surpassed 2019 of 89,500 users! According to the information collected from wheel pass sales, the trail saw visitors from 52 Minnesota cities, 10 states and 2 European countries! That was only from the people that chose to sign the 'CVT guest book'! When the bikers begin their trail journey, they tend to stop into local shops for coffee, snacks or water to gear up for their ride. More often than not, bikers pull off the trail in Welch Village to refuel with ice cream, lunch or to rehydrate. Upon their return to Cannon Falls, it is not uncommon to see bikers in full gear enjoying a glass of wine from the Cannon River Winery or a beer from our local Tilion Brewery which are both half a block from the Trailhead parking lot. They may grab a bite to eat at one of our restaurants, again within walking distance of their car, or they may grab a coffee or ice cream and head on home.

3. Adequate length: The trail provides at least an hour of outdoor recreation opportunity, or connects to other facilities that can provide at least an hour of recreation in total. Regardless of the method you are utilizing to enjoy the trail, a user can experience many hours of enjoyment on the trail system. According to Google Maps, if someone starts at Lake Byllesby on the Mill Towns Trail and bikes into Cannon Falls to utilize the city trail system onto the Cannon Valley Trail to Red Wing and return to Lake Byllesby, it would take about 1 hour 44 minutes biking at an average pace one way. To walk the distance would be 6 hours and 41 minutes one way.

4. Connections: The trail currently or potentially will link to an existing trail of regional or statewide significance. This includes providing connections between significant trails, or connecting communities/ community facilities to these trails.

As mentioned above, the Mill Towns State Trail connects to the Cannon Falls city trail system which is the connection to the Cannon Valley Regional Trail which became a National Recreational Trail in 2018. This connects Dakota County Lake Byllesby campground to Cannon Falls; and Cannon Falls to Welch and onto Red Wing, MN.

5. Scarcity of Trail Resources: The trail provides a high quality recreational opportunity not otherwise available within a reasonable distance. Cannon Falls is fortunate to have access to the Cannon Valley Trail and Mill Towns State Trail. Both of them have a maintained paved surface which users have come to appreciate after traveling on other regional

or county trails in other parts of Minnesota or the country. The nearest trail is the Goodhue Pioneer Trail which is roughly 25 miles away, but is in 2 sections separated by a 12 mile gap.

8) PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Provide a description sufficient enough to understand the project. Indicate prominently whether this is primarily a new trail or facility development request, an enhancement to an existing trail or facility, or an acquisition. Make sure to include the design specifics of the project, such as the trail width (paved multi-use bicycle/pedestrian trails must be at least 10 feet wide). Include how this project will be immediately available for use by the general public. If this project is a phase of a larger project, very briefly describe how it fits into the larger plan, however, focus specifically on how the grant funds will be used for this project. Also, briefly explain why it is important for this project to be funded. Use the box below.

This project is primarily to connect the state Mill Towns Trail to the Cannon Valley Trail. This will add in a 3" in depth by 10' wide x 900' long bituminous trail through our lower Hannah's Bend Park to an existing trail in upper Hannah's Bend Park. The second phase of this project (upon securing future funding) will also rehabilitate the current 1600' city trail from Upper Hannah's Bend to Riverside Park. The end goal of this project is to connect the Dakota County Regional Park – Lake Byllesby, Mill Towns State Trail, City of Cannon Falls trail system and the Cannon Valley Trail. Access to the trail system is made easy through our Cannon Falls Parks, and Downtown Cannon Valley Trailhead. We think it is extremely important to link the Mill Towns Trail to the Cannon Valley Trail and to our city parks and trail system which will increase the usage of the Mill Towns State Trail to the Cannon Valley Trail System which has seen an increase in traffic to over 172,000 users in 2020 compared to 89,500 in 2019!

9) PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN:

Identify each recreational trail/facility being proposed for funding. Provide a short quantitative description of the facility (linear feet, dimension of structures, number of components, etc.), the total estimated cost and the expected completion date for each for just this grant request. Include materials, landscaping, design/engineering services, contract service, etc. Add or delete rows in the text boxes below as appropriate. For acquisition projects, fill out the acquisition table below.

Trail/Facility	Description	Estimated Cost	Expected Completion Date
	Mobilization	\$10,000	9/2022
	Tree Removal/Clearing & Grubbing	\$13,500	9/2022
	Common Excavation	\$ 4,500	9/2022
	Common Borrow (P) (West end only)	\$40,000	9/2022
	6" Aggregate Base (CV), Class 5 (P)	\$10,000	9/2022
	3" Aggregate Shouldering (CV), Class 5 (P)	\$ 3,500	9/2022
	Pedestrian Ramp w/ Truncated Domes	\$ 3,000	9/2022
	10' wide 3" Type SP 12.5 Wearing Course Mix (2;B)	\$30,000	9/2022
	Traffic Control	\$ 1,000	9/2022
	Erosion Control Supervisor	\$ 1,000	9/2022
	Temporary Rock Construction Entrance	\$ 1,500	9/2022
	Silt Fence	\$ 4,400	9/2022
	Restoration (Topsoil and seed)	\$ 7,500	9/2022
	Contingency	\$19,485	
	Engineering	\$19,485	
Total		\$168,870	

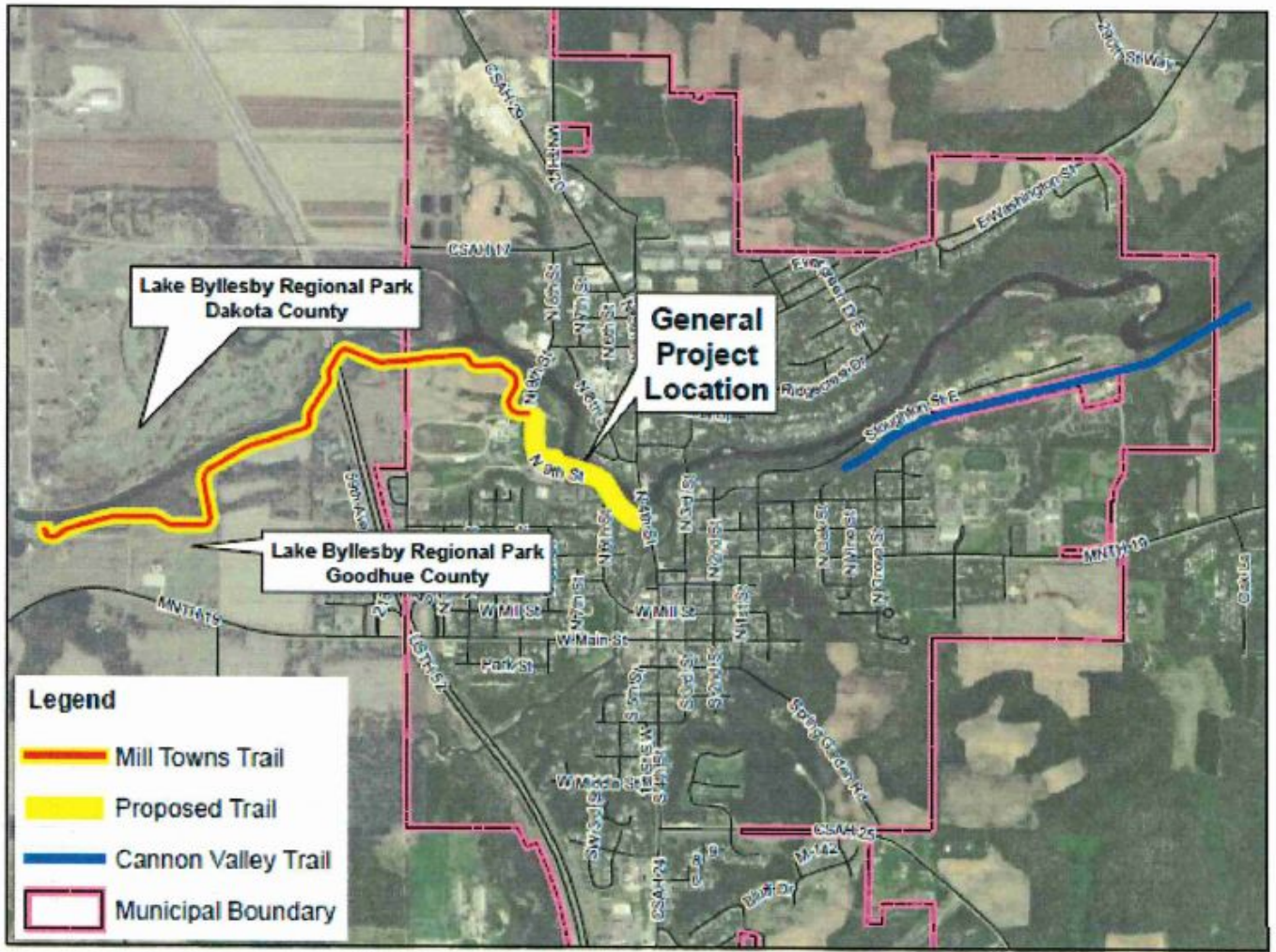
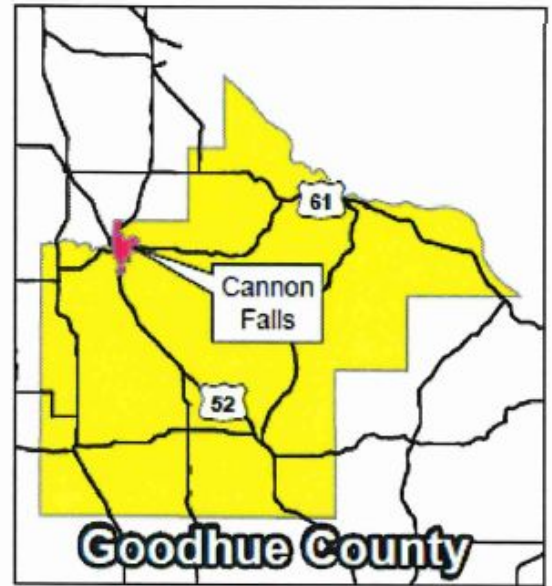
***ACQUISITION* (if applicable):**

Description of Parcel	Acres or Miles of Trail	Reasonable Market Value Estimate	Expected Acquisition Date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Total	\$N/A	N/A
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10) PROJECT LOCATION MAP:

It is important for reviewers to have an idea of where in the state and/or your region the project being proposed is located. This map must be 8 ½” X 11” in size ONLY, in color, and be able to show where the project is generally located within the state or region. Insert the map here.

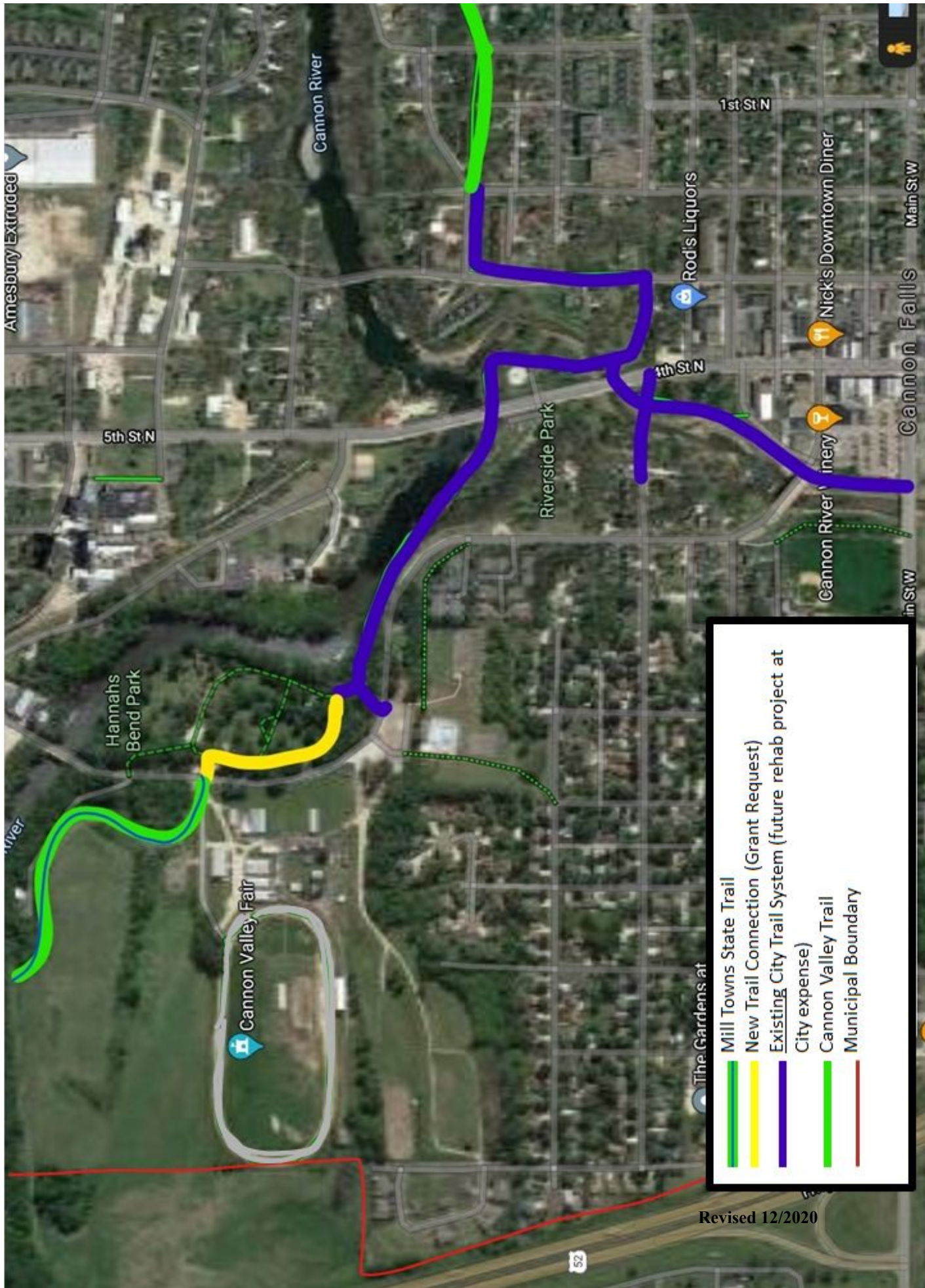


11) PROJECT SITE LEVEL MAP:

It is also important for the reviewers to be able to see where the project is located within the context of a city, county, park, etc. This map must be 8 ½” X 11” in size ONLY, in color, and should be very effective at showing how the project fits within its specific context. The map must show existing trails/facilities, proposed trails/facilities as directly proposed as part of the project, and future trail/facility development/acquisition plans.

Color Coding: Red: Boundary, including all contiguous lands currently owned by the applicant and managed for public recreation and any additional land to be acquired with this grant; Green: Existing facilities that will remain; Yellow: Acquisition and/or trail development accomplished with this grant; Blue: Future acquisition and/or development.

Make sure to include a key to the map. A clear and high quality map is very important in explaining the project. The scale of this map is usually small. Insert the map here.



Revised 12/2020

12) SITE AND PROJECT QUALITY:

What considerations have been given to the needs of the intended trail user groups and are they appropriate for the location? What attractive features exist on site or within view of the proposed project that may bring in potential user groups to this project location? Does the proposed project develop infrastructure and amenities that meet the needs and interests of future generations and diverse communities? Is the proposed project located in a densely settled area or area of rapid population growth? What other facilities (if any) are on site or within the trail corridor that enhances this project? Describe what attractive features exist on the site or within view. Use the box below.

What considerations have been given to the needs of the intended trail user groups and are they appropriate for the location? Whether a user is coming from the Cannon Valley Trail system or the Mill Towns Trail system, the user has had a smooth, paved ride the entire duration of their journey. Once they get to Hannah's Bend or Riverside Park, it will suddenly change over to a zero maintenance gravel/dirt path before they can return to a paved trail again. Although the trail connection is not significant in length, it is a significant link to the trail systems for a positive user experience.

Does the proposed project develop infrastructure and amenities that meet the needs and interests of future generations and diverse communities? The trail systems in and around Cannon Falls are all handicap accessible and are of a width that allows for wheelchairs, bikes and walkers to co-exist. The trail systems are open to all ages, races, creeds and physical abilities.

Is the proposed project located in a densely settled area or area of rapid population growth? The stretch of trail that we are trying to connect is in a non-residential area. The proposed trail runs through a couple parks along the Cannon River.

What other facilities (if any) are on site or within the trail corridor that enhances this project? Almost every park in Cannon Falls has a picnic shelter and porta potties that are ADA compliant. If a user is coming from the Dakota County Lake Byllesby Campground off the Mill Towns Trail, the public swimming pool is half a block away to allow for another amenity in Cannon Falls visitors can enjoy.

Describe what attractive features exist on the site or within view. Hannah's Bend offers a view of the Cannon River as it flows into the City of Cannon Falls. Amenities include a frisbee golf course, picnic shelter, playground equipment, hiking trails and a connection to both the Cannon Valley Trail and the Mill Towns Trail. Hannah's Bend is also the site of various festivals throughout the summer and fall months. You can also find a monument dedicated to the 2011 visit by President Barack Obama. Riverside Park is located in downtown Cannon Falls. This park has a picnic shelter with picnic tables, playground and a canoe launch point onto the Cannon River. Riverside Park also has trail connections to both the Cannon Valley Trail and the Mill Towns Trail. Paths and sidewalks from Riverside Park will bring visitors directly into historic downtown Cannon Falls on foot or bicycle.

13) PROJECT READINESS:

What is the current status of the project? Can the project begin immediately? What major activities must still be accomplished before the project can begin? Will the project be completed within the appropriation timelines? At a minimum, please reference land acquisition requirements, status of engineering/design, and relevant permits and approvals that have/have not been obtained for the project. Is there urgency to move ahead with this project now, and what consequences are looming if it is not funded? Use the box below.

Current Status: This project is proposing new trail development and trail restoration. The proposed new development portion of the trail is currently a gravel path. The gravel path was

formerly a gravel road used in the park many years ago. The gravel road has been abandoned as a park road and is now used as a connection to the Cannon Falls Trail System into the Mill Towns State Trail. The proposed trail restoration portion of the project is currently in disrepair. The asphalt is pitted and sloping off towards the Cannon River due to the age of the asphalt and erosion making it difficult for beginner or novice bike riders.

Can the Project Begin Immediately: Upon grant funding and execution of the contract, the project can begin nearly immediately. It will start with securing professional engineer design services, followed by the design process which is expected to take 6-8 months. It is expected most of the planning will occur in 2021 and implementation as soon as the ground is ready in 2022. Local permits may be required from the City of Cannon Falls and the MN DNR.

Urgency and if not Funded: If funding is not secured, the City Trail system will continue to deteriorate and continue to offer a diminished trail experience. If traffic decreases due to the user's poor experience, Cannon Falls will suffer lost opportunities for future trail users and in turn can affect our local economy and reputation of our trail systems.. Traffic on the Mill Towns State Trail has increased with users utilizing the trail from the Dakota Regional Park campground. Families will bike into town to explore, get ice cream, shop or have something to eat. If the experience is impeded by an insufficient trail, they may not make a return trip to the area and choose another location over Cannon Falls in the future. 2020 has certainly seen an uptick in the usage of the City trail system, CVT and MTST as people are looking for outdoor adventures.

14) ACCESSIBILITY (ADA):

All facilities that are developed, or portions thereof, using these funds must be accessible for persons with disabilities or be eligible for an exemption. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has developed guidelines for outdoor developed areas, buildings and facilities and is available at www.access-board.gov. Will the project facilitate and/or improve ADA access to existing trails or trail related facilities? Does the proposed project develop and/or redevelop facilities that meet the differing outdoor recreation needs for people of all abilities? Describe how the trail or facility is designed for use by persons of all abilities and takes into consideration ADA design standards. Do not just state the trail will be ADA compliant. If your project will not be ADA accessible, list the specific exemption permitted in ADA guidelines. Use the box below.

The proposed project will improve ADA access to the city trail system. Currently, the portion we are requesting funding for is rough, gravel and not maintained. The engineering team will ensure that the width of the trail will accommodate for wheelchairs to safely pass each other. There are a couple areas of this stretch that have two steep slopes, but will be addressed by the engineering phase to ensure that these areas will make this leg of the trail more suitable to ensure ADA compliance for all users.

15) CONNECTIVITY:

15A) Describe how the trail project will connect multiple destinations and/or communities. Use the box below.

The City of Cannon Falls Trail System is connected to multiple trails as it is part of a regional trail system. The Goodhue Pioneer State Trail heads south out of Red Wing and ties into the Douglas State Trail that ends in Rochester. There is also a proposed trail from Red Wing to Hastings. The City of Cannon Falls Trail System connects to the Mill Towns State Trail. When completed, the Mill Towns State Trail will pass through Northfield and Faribault connecting with

the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail leading into Mankato. There are also plans for the Stagecoach State Trail from Faribault to Rochester to be connected as well. Once completed, this trail system will connect the communities of Rochester, Mankato, Faribault, Northfield, Cannon Falls, Red Wing, Hastings, among others, forming a loop in Southeast Minnesota that will connect to the Twin Cities metro area.

The Cannon Valley Trail will connect into the Minnesota State Trails and the Minnesota Regional Trails systems via the Cannon Falls city trail system. When complete, the trail system will connect Cannon Falls to southeastern Minnesota stretching as far south as Houston, MN and will connect to southwestern Minnesota stretching as far west as Pipestone, MN. The trail system will connect the Cannon Falls to west central Minnesota stretching as far west as Ortonville, MN and will connect north to the Twin Cities metro trail system and beyond to the cities of International Falls, Ely, Grand Portage, Duluth, Hinckley, Bemidji, Grand Rapids, St. Cloud, Alexandria and Moorhead.

15B) Does the trail project connect directly to an existing state or regional trail? Check all that apply to the right and describe in the box below if applicable.	Connects to Designated and Existing State Trail:	Yes
	Connects to Designated and Existing Regional Trail:	Yes

The portion of the trail that we are requesting funding for will connect the Mill Towns State Trail with the regional Cannon Valley Trail. The connecting piece is only 900'-1200' long .

15C) Does the trail project connect directly to an existing state park, state recreation area, regional park, high quality natural resource, local recreation area, or local park? Check all that apply to the right and describe in the box below if applicable.	Connects Directly to a State Park or State Recreation Area:	No
	Connects Directly to a Regional Park or Regional Recreation Area:	Yes
	Connects Directly to a Local Park or Recreation Area:	Yes
	Connects Directly to a High Quality Natural Resource (not included above):	Yes

Connections to Regional Park: The City of Cannon Falls Trail System, via the Mill Towns State Trail connects to the Lake Byllesby Regional Park (Dakota County) and Goodhue County Regional Park at Lake Byllesby.

Connections to Local Parks: Cannon Falls has an abundance of parks in the community and the City of Cannon Falls Trail System directly connects to Hannah's Bend, Riverside Park, Two Rivers Park and Minnieska Park.

Connections to High Quality Natural Resources: The City of Cannon Falls Trail System directly connects to the MN DNR Gemini Aquatic Management Area. Indirectly, the Cannon Falls Trail System connects to the Lower Cannon River Valley which has numerous locations of high quality natural and scenic resources. As an example, within the CVT boundaries, there are about 20 locations containing plant species listed as state special concern or federally endangered (Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily.) There are also numerous locations of native prairie and quality upland and floodplain forest. Examples would be: Two MN DNR Scientific and Natural Areas (River Terrace Prairie, Cannon River Turtle Preserve), One Wildlife Management Area (Tangential), State Forest Land (Richard J. Dorer) and MN DNR Gemini Aquatic Management

Area.

15D) Describe how the trail project contributes to the overall connectivity of the trail system in the area. Specifically, how well does the project connect existing trail networks or fill critical gaps within the trail system? How well does the project help promote connectivity among trail networks statewide? Use the box below.

As described elsewhere in this application, the existing and emerging trail system for southeast Minnesota is extensive. Eventually this system will connect Mankato, Faribault, Northfield, Cannon Falls, Red Wing, Lake City, Zumbrota and Rochester and even to the Twin Cities Metro area. The City of Cannon Falls Trail System provides an essential link and fills a critical gap to the success of the other trails.

16) NATURAL RESOURCE IMPACT:

Describe the potential impact to natural resources by the project and efforts to avoid or mitigate adverse effects. This includes considerations for trail design and construction practices, noise, odors, dust control measures, surface erosion, fish and wildlife populations, damage to wetlands or other ecologically sensitive natural resources, landscaping that includes native planting, and historical/archaeological sites. Also, demonstrate the compatibility of the proposed project with existing adjoining land uses. To the extent possible, all landscaping or plantings that are done in the project area must be native to Minnesota and preferably of the local ecotype, and describe below how this project will comply with this requirement.

The trail connection portion of the project will be constructed on an existing gravel surface in Hannah's Bend Park. Construction of this portion of the trail can be accomplished without disturbance to the adjacent vegetation. The current gravel surface produces some dust, but once paved will not produce dust or silt erosion.

There will be a second phase to this trail connection where a portion of the reconstruction lies along the Cannon River. During that phase of construction, erosion control measures (i.e. silt fence and/or bio rolls) will be used to prevent erosion from reaching the river. The impact corridor for the reconstruction will be as minimal as possible to limit the impact to the adjacent landscaping. MNDOT seed mix will be used to restore any disturbed vegetations. It is important to note that the funds in which we are applying for will not be used toward the second phase of the project. This will occur within the next couple of years to help maintain and reconstruct some areas of the paved city trail.

ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS (All attachments MUST be 8 ½ by 11 ONLY)	
	<p>Attachment A – Required Certifications The first signature block is to be signed by the proper authority for the grant applicant. The specific manager of the facility that is being rehabilitated, enhanced or developed should sign the second section. If the proposed project will utilize public land that is not under the jurisdiction of the grant applicant, the proper authority must sign the final section in order to assure that they are both aware and supportive of the project.</p>
	<p>Attachment B – Resolution Supporting Application The application must be accompanied by either a copy of a resolution, council minutes or some other official documentation that demonstrates that the local unit of government supports the proposed project and the consequent application. The resolution does not need to have a specific form or specific language, as long as it satisfies what was outlined in the previous sentence. A sample resolution has been included. The sample resolution is a combination type resolution example. It shows support of the grant application (as required above), and if the project is awarded, it includes language to support accepting the grant award, names the fiscal agent, and states that the facility or trail will be maintained for no less than twenty years. This combination resolution helps eliminate the need for an additional resolution for this project in the future, if awarded a grant.</p>
ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS (if applicable)	
	<p>Attachment C – Letters of Support Letters of support are an important factor for reviewers when selecting projects. There should be an effort to solicit letters from specific groups that will derive a direct benefit from the project. The applicant is also welcome to provide letters of support from all other sources as well.</p>
	<p>Attachment D – Transportation Funding Award Letter If this project is scheduled to receive Federal Transportation funds, then your local MnDOT district should have notified you in some manner. Please attach this notification and fill in the year in which you are scheduled to receive the funding under question 3.</p>

Attachment A – REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS

Complete the Required Certifications form below with original signatures.

For Grant Applicants:

“I hereby certify that all of the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I recognize that in the event of the proposed project being funded, this document will be used as an addendum to the agreement between the sponsoring unit of government and the state to guide project scope and reimbursement. I also acknowledge that all work must be completed by June 30, 2023, and no reimbursement will be sought for an in-house labor services and/or to meet existing payroll. I also preliminarily agree with plans to develop the proposed trail related project on land administered by my agency.”

Name:	Neil Jensen	Title :	City Administrator
Unit of Government:	City of Cannon Falls		
Signature:		Date:	

For Trail and Park Administrators:

“I substantially agree that the proposed trail related project will be mutually beneficial to the local community, as well as to the goals and purposes for which this recreation unit was established. I will cooperate in its provision if the project proposal should be funded.”

Name:		Title :	
Unit of Government:			
Signature:		Date:	

For All Administrators of Public Lands Crossed/Utilized in the Proposed Linkage (Required only if the proposed project will utilize public land that is not under the jurisdiction of the grant applicant):

“I preliminarily agree with plans to develop the proposed trail related project on land administered by my agency, and I will cooperate in seeking more formal authorization in the event the project proposal is authorized for reimbursement.”

Name:		Title :	
Unit of Government:			
Signature:		Date:	

Attachment B – RESOLUTION SUPPORTING APPLICATION

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NUMBER

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GRANT APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE LOCAL TRAIL
CONNECTIONS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Cannon Falls supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Regional Trail Connections Program. The application is to construct and rehabilitate 900’ feet of paved trail to work toward connecting the Mill Towns Trail to the Cannon Valley Trail via the City of Cannon Falls trail system. The trail system is located within the Cannon Falls parks and trails system, and

WHEREAS, the City of Cannon Falls recognizes that it has secured \$42,217.50 in non-state cash matching funds for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if the City of Cannon Falls is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural resources in the amount of up to \$130,000, the City of Cannon Falls agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project. The City of Cannon Falls will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the applicant has read the Conflict of Interest Policy contained in the Regional Trail Connections Grant Manual and certifies it will report any actual, potential, perceived, or organizational conflicts of interest upon discovery to the state related to the application or grant award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls names the fiscal agent for the City of Cannon Falls for this project as:

Neil Jensen
City Administrator
City of Cannon Falls
918 River Road
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Cannon Falls hereby assures the Mill Towns Trail, City of Cannon Falls trail system and the Cannon Valley Trail will be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CANNON FALLS THIS ____
DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.

John O. Althoff - Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil Jensen – City Administrator

Cannon Valley Trail

825 Cannon River Ave.

Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Phone: 507-263-0508

Website: www.cannonvalleytrail.com

Email: info@cannonvalleytrail.com



February 4, 2021

Laura Qualey

Community & Business Development Specialist

Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Dear Laura,

The Cannon Valley Trail strongly supports the trail connection for the Mill Towns State Trail to the City of Cannon Falls Trail System.

This trail connection will safely guide trail users from the Lake Byllesby area parks to the Cannon Falls area businesses, amenities and provide a connection to a State Trail and Regional Trail.

Over 100,000 people visit the Cannon Valley Trail each year (est. 172,000 on 2020) to walk/hike, bike, cross-country ski, and/or in-line skate. It is expected that many of these users will return and use the restored and newly developed section of this proposed project.

Destinations within the city, such as the Cannon River, Hannah's Bend Park, Riverside Park, Veteran's Memorial, Two Rivers Park, Cannon Valley Fairgrounds, MN DNR Canoe Launch Access, and the City of Cannon Falls swimming pool, would also be better connected for residents and visitors of the area.

The 2017 Cannon Valley Trail Comprehensive plan included public support of more trail connections to the Cannon Valley Trail which would increase biking distances. The public also stated additional trail connections would give them more opportunities to safely access businesses for food, lodging and other amenities.

Again, we greatly support this Trail Connection Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Roepke".

Scott Roepke
Trail Manager
Cannon Valley Trail