

**TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: Neil Jensen, City Administrator**

**SUBJECT: Cannon Valley Trail Funding**

**MEETING DATE: March 21, 2023**

**BACKGROUND**

Cannon Valley Trail is in its 37<sup>th</sup> year and is requesting funding support for the next 2 years (2024-2025). The City of Cannon Falls funding is 17% of the trail budget and is \$49,564 for 2024, \$49,862 for 2025. Please review the attach letter from Trail Manager Scott Roepke for more information. Also, included is the trail's 2017 Comprehensive Plan link for you to gather additional information for the Cannon Valley Trail. [https://cannonvalleytrail.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CVT-Final-Trail-Plan\\_170522sm.pdf](https://cannonvalleytrail.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CVT-Final-Trail-Plan_170522sm.pdf)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Please make a motion to approve the funding request of the Cannon Valley Trail for the years of 2024 and 2025.

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Please make a motion to approve the funding request of the Cannon Valley Trail for the years of 2024 and 2025.

# Cannon Valley Trail

---

825 Cannon River Avenue  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Website: [www.cannonvalleytrail.com](http://www.cannonvalleytrail.com)  
Email: [Info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:Info@cannonvalleytrail.com)  
Phone: 507-263-0508



January 25th, 2023

City of Cannon Falls  
918 River Road  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Re: Request for Continuation of Government Support

To the Honorable Mayor, Councilpersons and Administration of the City of Cannon Falls:

The Cannon Valley Trail (“CVT”) is in its 37<sup>th</sup> year, and is proud to claim 100,000 annual trail visitors. Our visitors are not confined to the trail, of course, and many venture into your community making a significant economic impact along the way.

The Cannon Valley Trail’s 2017 Comprehensive Plan (the “2017 Plan”) was approved by the Joint Powers Board consisting of representatives from Goodhue County, City of Red Wing and City of Cannon Falls. The 2017 Plan has a broad scope addressing trail improvements including: restrooms, technology, healthy lifestyles, cultural resources, bridges, asphalt and much more.

One of the most critical areas that was identified is the pressing need to improve the aging infrastructure of the CVT, which includes decaying bridges (some of which are more than 100 years old), asphalt (30-years old), water conveyance problems and outdated facilities. Of course, the overall Trail experience has always been about delivering a safe, high quality, nature immersion experience for users. To that end the 2017 Plan also includes longer-range recommendations to improve the quality of natural and cultural resources along the CVT, plus making new connections to other trails, neighborhoods, parks and loop-trail opportunities.

Historically, the CVT has been supported by the three units of local government along the percentages agreed in the Joint Powers Board Agreement. In 2022 and 2023, all three units of government generously supported the Cannon Valley Trail with Capital Improvement Funding in addition to their regular Operating Expense contribution.

Your support has enabled us to not only maintain the trail to our high standards, but also to receive grant funding for replacement of 7 bridges and repair of a 4<sup>th</sup> bridge; construction of 2 vault toilets; improved signage; updating the Biological Resource Management Plan. As the next phase of the 2017 Plan begins, we are looking at additional bridge replacement/repair; erosion control; and trail access improvements.

The CVT Joint Powers Board is requesting commitments for **Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025** from all three units of government as set forth:

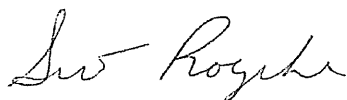
% per JPB Agreement	<b>Goodhue County 49%</b>	<b>City of Red Wing 34%</b>	<b>City of Cannon Falls 17%</b>
2024 Operational - Increase of 2%	\$ 42,850.00	\$ 29,733.00	\$ 14,865.00
2024 Capital Improvement	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 69,400.00	\$ 34,700.00
<b>2024 Total Request</b>	<b>\$ 142,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 99,133.00</b>	<b>\$ 49,565.00</b>
2025 Operational - increase of 2%	\$ 43,707.00	\$ 30,328.00	\$ 15,162.00
2025 Capital Improvement	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 69,400.00	\$ 34,700.00
<b>2025 Total Request</b>	<b>\$ 143,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 99,728.00</b>	<b>\$ 49,862.00</b>

The CVT's 2017 Plan has a ten-year timeline, but this request is for just two of those years. We anticipate renewing the request to the local governments biennially as work on the 2017 Plan's tiered phases moves forward – we are confident you'll be able to see the difference your contribution is making as time goes on.

The CVT will continue to raise funds for general operation expenses through Wheel Pass sales (user fee), donations and merchandise sales.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Scott Roepke  
Trail Manager  
Cannon Valley Trail  
trailmanager@cannonvalleytrail.com