

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Neil Jensen, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Cannon Valley Trail Support

MEETING DATE: June 18, 2024

BACKGROUND

The Cannon Valley Trail is requesting continued support for the next 3 years (2025-2027). The Finance Committee reviewed the request at there meeting on June 10th and passed it unanimously. The increase is consistent with what inflation is doing with other departments. Please see the letter of request attached.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Please make a motion to approve the request for continued support to the Cannon Valley Trail Joint Powers Board for the years 2025-2027.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Please make a motion to approve the request for continued support to the Cannon Valley Trail Joint Powers Board for the years 2025-2027.

Cannon Valley Trail

825 Cannon River Avenue
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Website: www.cannonvalleytrail.com
Email: Info@cannonvalleytrail.com
Phone: 507-263-0508



May 31st, 2024

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 38th 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decaying bridges (some of which are more than 100 years old), asphalt (30-years old), water conveyance problems and outdated facilities.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.

The CVT is requesting an increase in the operational budget to ensure we can continue delivering on our key objectives. With rising costs, the current resources are stretched thin. This additional funding will allow us to invest in staffing qualified people, new technology, and keeping up with rising costs such as fuel, services, and supplies. This investment will ultimately lead to improved efficiency, higher productivity, and better service delivery.

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 4th 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.

Historically, the CVT has been supported by the three units of local government along the percentages agreed in the Joint Powers Board Agreement – Goodhue County 49%, Red Wing 34%, and Cannon Falls 17%. In 2024, all three units of government generously supported the Cannon Valley Trail with Operating and Capital Improvement contributions.

The CVT Joint Powers Board is requesting commitments for **Fiscal Years 2025, 2026 and 2027** from all three units of government for Operating Expense contribution as set forth:

% per JPB Agreement	Goodhue County 49%	City of Red Wing 34%	City of Cannon Falls 17%
2025 Operational	\$47,135.00	\$32,721.00	\$16,352.00
2025 Capital Improvement	\$100,000.00	\$69,400.00	\$34,700.00
2025 Total Request	\$147,135.00	\$102,121.00	\$51,052.00
2026 Operational	\$51,849.00	\$35,993.00	\$17,987.00
2026 Capital Improvement	\$100,000.00	\$69,400.00	\$34,700.00
2026 Total Request	\$151,849.00	\$105,393.00	\$52,687.00
2027 Operational	\$57,033.00	\$39,592.00	\$19,785.00
2027 Capital Improvement	\$100,000.00	\$69,400.00	\$34,700.00
2027 Total Request	\$157,033.00	\$108,992.00	\$54,485.00

The CVT will continue to raise funds for general operation expenses through Wheel Pass sales (user fee), donations and merchandise sales. In response to rising costs, the Cannon Valley Trail raised Wheel Pass fees in 2024. Daily passes went up to \$7 from \$5, and seasonal passes now cost \$30, an increase from \$25.

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