

# Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

## Funding Report

### General Section

Park or Trail Name: Lake Wobegon Trail

Park ID: 14-019D      Funding Application #: 16-006F

Date Designated: 2015-10-07      District4

Lead Organization: Stearns County

First Name: Ben      Last Name: Anderson

Mailing Address: 1802 County Road 137

City: Waite Park State: MN      Zip: 56387

Phone: 320-654-4725      Email: benjamin.anderson@co.stearns.mn.us

Project Name: Lake Wobegon Trail Extension

### Project Description:

The Lake Wobegon Trail currently consists of 62 miles of paved trail that provides year around use for a multitude of outdoor recreational activities. However, the current terminus of the trail is located in St. Joseph and thus falls just short of providing a safe and separated connection to the 100,000 plus residents of the greater St. Cloud area, which includes the cities of St. Cloud, Waite Park, Sartell, Sauk Rapids and others. Currently, local residents and visitors have to ride, walk or run on busy and dangerous county highways and roads to access the trail unless they put their bikes into a vehicle and transport them to the St. Joseph trailhead. The completion of the Lake Wobegon Trail to Waite Park creates trailhead access, with parking facilities, for not only local residents but also for the visitors of the St. Cloud area. The current Lake Wobegon Trail attracts local users and tourists from Minnesota, the United States and from foreign countries. The ten foot wide extension of the Lake Wobegon Trail into Waite Park places a trailhead within close proximity to the Crossroads Shopping Center, restaurants, bed and breakfasts and hotels in St. Cloud and Waite Park. It provides a lighted trailhead at Waite Park's, Rivers Edge Park, with accessible parking, bathrooms, water, a splash pad and ball fields. The planned 10 foot wide paved trail will also connect to the existing Harold P. Nelson Healthy Living Trail and will be a multi-use, year around trail that is open for bicycles, walking, snowmobiles (without studs), and inline skaters. This development is mostly a rail with trail project and will be an important component in providing the first safe and separated pedestrian/bicycle corridor for non-motorized transportation going east to west across St. Cloud. The primary goal of the requested funds is to assist with construction, however some of the received funds may be needed to complete the engineering construction management, wetland credits, railroad crossing arms, the bridge, and/or other project related costs of the 3.2 mile Lake Wobegon Trail extension. This project is a key step in connecting the existing 62 mile long Lake Wobegon Trail to the Mississippi River in downtown St. Cloud. It is also an important step in connecting to the Glacial Lakes, ROCORI and Beaver Island trails. The Stearns County Parks Department has been actively pursuing the land acquisitions needed for this trail extension. To

date we have secured and closed on five out of the seven parcels of land, with the largest completed acquisition being from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. In fact, BNSF is in the process of tearing out the rails and railroad ties. The two remaining land owners are being cooperative and we are hoping to close on these this fall. With that said, dependent on funding, some of the construction could begin as early as next fall (2017) but is expected to begin and be completed the fall of 2018.

### Funding Section

Project Cost Breakdown: Estimated Project Cost: Design and Engineering - \$160,771 (DONE); Construction Engineering - \$100,000; Acquisition - \$1,221,500 (five parcels out of the seven are purchased); Bridge - \$722,098.65; Railroad Crossing Arms - \$250,000; Wetland Impact Credits - \$120,000; Appraisals - \$25,000 (DONE); Abstract Review - \$4,500 (DONE); Construction Phase I - \$251,594 (DONE); Construction Phase II - \$1,700,000; Total Estimated Cost - \$4,555,463.65 (Year 2016) Estimated Remaining Funding Needed to Build the Trail: Total Construction Estimate (Years 2017/2018) - \$3,181,309 (estimated 10% increase in cost); Total Committed Funding - \$1,700,178; Funding Request - \$1,100,000 with \$400,000 match = \$1,500,000; Committed Funding + Requested = \$3,200,178 ; THIS IS ESTIMATED TO PUT THIS PROJECT AS FULLY FUNDED!!! Current Funding: Legacy - \$1,000,000 (Design and Engineering and Acquisition) (SPENT); Legacy - \$250,000 (Acquisition and Construction) (SPENT); Federal TAP - \$922,678 (Construction); Federal Recreation Trail - \$150,000 (Acquisition) (SPENT); St. Joseph Township - \$10,000; City of St. Joseph -\$200,000 (Upon Project Completion) (SOME SPENT); Community Foundation - \$9,000; Legacy - \$750,000; Total Funding = \$3,291,678; Total non-state Funding - \$1,291,678

Grant Funding Request: 1,100,000

Local Match: 400,000 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Total Funding: \$1,500,000 Percentage of Local Match: 26.7%

Completion Timeframe: 18 months