



General

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Last Update

17 Apr 2017 07:27:16

Park or Trail Name

Cannon Valley Trail

District

6

Location Description

Located in Goodhue County, the 20-mile, paved Cannon Valley Trail winds along the banks of the Cannon River, one of Minnesota's six Wild and Scenic Rivers, connecting the communities of Cannon Falls, Welch and Red Wing.

The physical address for the mid-point of the Cannon Valley Trail is:

26674 144th Avenue Way
Welch, MN 55089

Park/Trail Address

City

Park/Trail State

Zip

Latitude

44.56313082

Longitude

-92.73870707

Map of Park/Trail

Description: CVT Trail Map

[CVT Trail Map_69a2df.jpg](#)

Facility Website

Organization

Cannon Valley Trail Joint Powers Board

Lead Contact Person

Scott Roepke

Title

Mailing Address

825 Cannon River Avenue

City

Cannon Falls

State

Minnesota

Zip

55009

Phone

5072630508

Email

trailmanager@cannonvalleytrail.com

Joint Applicants**Joint Applicant #1****Joint Applicant #2****Joint Applicant #3****Joint Applicant #4****Other project supporters**

Description

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Regional Significance Statement**Classification**

Regional Trail (Non Motorized)

Overview/Description of Park or Trail

The Cannon Valley Trail (CVT), a 20-mile, paved trail, connects the communities of Cannon Falls, Welch and Red Wing. Following its namesake, the trail winds along the banks of the designated Wild & Scenic Cannon River. To incorporate the CVT as a part of a comprehensive regional trail/park system, the CVT Joint Power Board has approved future connections to the Goodhue County Park at Lake Byllesby, Dakota County's Lake Byllesby Regional Park as well as the Mill Towns Trail.

The CVT noted as an excellent biking, inline skating and hiking trail, offers year-round recreational use by providing for cross-country skiing during Minnesota's long winters. The CVT also offers access to a half-mile of mountain bike trails. Along the 20-mile CVT, visitors will find multiple benches, interpretive signs that describe the archaeology and geology of the river valley, a wetland observation deck, plus three dedicated rest areas equipped with drinking water, restrooms, picnic areas, and informational kiosks. The CVT offers a variety of natural resources including the state-threatened Kittentails and the federally-endangered Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily and a refuge for the state-threatened Wood Turtle.

Over the past 30 years, the CVT- Joint Powers Board has made efforts to be good stewards of the Cultural and Natural Resources of the Cannon River Valley. The CVT has established a long history of restoring natural areas, providing wildlife habitat and preserving archaeological sites. The CVT provides beautiful vantage points for experiencing the River Terrace Prairie SNA, Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA, Tangential Wildlife Area, and the Richard Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. The CVT manages three exceptionally rare and culturally significant archaeological sites: the Red Wing Archaeological Preserve, the

Silvernale Archaeology Preserve, plus the Thompson Archaeological site, which contains 64 mounds one of which is a rectangular flat-topped mound from the Middle Mississippian era (approx. 1050-1300 AD). This mound is the ONLY one of this type in the entire state of Minnesota!

The CVT is governed by a Joint Powers Board with representatives from the City of Cannon Falls, the City of Red Wing and Goodhue County. The board structure allows both of the local communities as well the county itself to be heavily involved in the management and operation of the CVT. The mission of the CVT Joint Powers Board is to manage the Cannon Valley Trail within our abilities and resources while providing for a diverse and high quality (trail) experience. ?

It should be noted that the "??Community" of the CVT extends beyond the communities and county where it is located. The CVT community also includes 100,000 annual trail users who financially support the trail through the Wheel Pass Program (User fee) and through membership in '??Friends of the Cannon Valley Trail'?

The CVT has been ADA accessible since opening in 1986 and will continue to be accessible.

The CVT staff continually works to offer a safe, well-maintained, high quality recreational trail.

Total Acreage or Mileage

Acquisition and Development Status

Development status

Facility Listing

This section provides an overview of existing and proposed site facilities and general site characteristics .

Existing Facilities

Proposed Facilities

Existing Facilities Other Information

Drinking water, information kiosks, bike repair stations (July 2015), interpretive signs and access to the Cannon River, Trail Run Creek and Belle Creek.

General Site Characteristics

Site characteristics upload

Description: View of Cannon River

[P8021761_fcb660.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Railroad era trestle/trail bridge

[P8265033_841f4a.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Belle Creek Bridge - Winter

[winter-bridge-photo_00c242.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Trail Adjacent to Cannon River
[httpmetrotrailsweeblycom_ac9769.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Aerial - Belle Creek Vicinity
[Fall Drone 3 \(1\)_cefe50.png](#)

Master Plan

Additional Supportive Information:

Classification Details

Regional Trail (Non-Motorized) Classification

Provides a High-Quality "Destination" Trail Experience

The Cannon Valley Trail (CVT) is located along the banks of the designated Wild & Scenic Cannon River in the scenic Cannon River Valley surrounded by a variety of picturesque landscapes including; bluffs, valleys, woodlands, native prairies and river bottoms. The CVT was constructed on an abandoned railway, a rail-to-trail corridor that winds its way along the banks of the Cannon River removed from vehicular traffic with minimal road crossings.

The CVT provides access to a Wildlife Management Area, State Forest and two Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA). In addition, the CVT manages three exceptionally rare and culturally significant archaeological sites. The CVT has also preserved several pieces of actual railroad history including: railway mile-markers and rail crossing signs that are still located along the trail, a flycatcher still in its original location, some of the actual rail line and the historic railroad buildings at the Welch Station Access.

During the nearly 30 years of its existence, the CVT has become a popular tourist destination. According to the 2014 CVT records trail users came from not only throughout Minnesota, but also from across the U.S. as well as other parts of the world.

The CVT has three main access points located in Cannon Falls, Welch and Red Wing. All three access

Criteria #1 Images

Family Biking on Trail
[family-biking_4cbe38.jpg](#)

Criteria #1 Images

Cross Country Skiing on Trail
[Welch-6_9e6720.jpg](#)

Criteria #1 Images

Winter Hiking on Trail
[HikerWinter2005VIII_86ed9e.jpg](#)

points provide trail users with ample and secure parking areas, plus kiosk information, public restrooms and drinking water. Bike repair stations are scheduled to be installed during the summer of 2015.

Additionally, other support services such as information on where to find lodging, restaurants, shops, and more are provided to trail users by the three communities.

Well-located (i.e., Convenience of Access/Adequate Length) to Serve Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination

The Cannon Valley Trail (CVT), located in the scenic Cannon River Valley connects the communities of Cannon Falls, Welch and Red Wing. CVT access point - Cannon Falls is located along U.S. Hwy 52 allowing the CVT to be conveniently situated between Minnesota's three most populated communities; Minneapolis-43 miles, St. Paul-35 miles and Rochester-45 miles.

The 20-mile, paved CVT connects to the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail and in 2016 will connect to the Mill Towns State Trail.

Criteria #2 Images

CVT State Location Map

[Minnesota Trail System Fullmap_945d1e.jpg](#)

Enhances Connectivity to Regional Destinations

The CVT, part of a regional trail system, connects the communities of Cannon Falls, Welch and Red Wing. Several trail links are developed or will soon be developed that will connect to the CVT. From Red Wing, the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail heads south and will tie into the Douglas State Trail that leads into Rochester. There is also a proposed trail from Red Wing to Hastings as well as a trail from Red Wing to Lake City. From Cannon Falls, the designated Mill Towns State Trail will lead southwest out of Cannon Falls and 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. Once completed, this entire trail system will connect the communities of Cannon Falls, Red Wing, Hastings, Rochester, Faribault, Northfield, and Mankato among others, forming a loop in Southeast Minnesota that will connect to the Twin Cities metro area.

Criteria #3 Images

SE MN Trails Map

[Minnesota Trail System SE Map_e3fe86.jpg](#)

The CVT connects users to several local and regional parks, recreation facilities/areas and natural resource areas such as: the Richard Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest, the Tangential Wildlife Management Area, the Gemini Aquatic Management Area, the Dakota County Regional Park -?? Lake Byllesby (2016), the Goodhue County Regional Park -?? Lake Byllesby (2016), the Scientific and Natural Area - River

Terrace Prairie, the Scientific and Natural Area -??
Cannon River Turtle Preserve, as well as local parks
in Cannon Falls and Red Wing.

The CVT connects to archaeologically significant land:
the Silvernale Archaeological Preserve and the Red
Wing Archaeological Preserve.

The CVT, along with trail systems developed by the
City of Cannon Falls and the City of Red Wing,
connects to local schools, work locations, tourist areas
and business districts.

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within a Region

The Cannon Valley Trail (CVT) connects into the
Minnesota State and Regional Trails systems. The
CVT provides the essential link connecting the
Goodhue Pioneer State Trail to the Mill Towns State
Trail. This essential link allows the 100,000 annual
CVT users greater opportunity to enhance their
recreational experience on the Minnesota State and
Regional Trails systems.

Criteria #4 Images

Regional Trails Connections Maps

[Regional Trails Connections_ab0490.pdf](#)

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
User Metrics Research Plan Upload	On Line Survey Summary	2017 CVT Plan Appendix B - On-Line Survey_9d0a84.pdf
Agreement	Cannon Valley Trail - Joint Powers Agreement	1435580801449-Joint Powers Agreement - Revised 2005 - Signed Original.pdf
Development Feature Upload		Bituminous Condition & Recommendations_b872d0.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Appendix E - CIP Detail	CVT Plan Appendix E - CIP_b17e9f.pdf
Park Trail Map	CVT Trail Map	CVT Trail Map_69a2df.jpg
Regional Map Uploads	SE MN Trails Map	Minnesota Trail System_SE Map_80a3e3.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	View of Cannon River	P8021761_fcb660.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	Railroad era trestle/trail bridge	P8265033_841f4a.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Belle Creek Bridge - Winter	winter-bridge-photo_00c242.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Trail Adjacent to Cannon River	httpmetrotrailsweeblycom_ac9769.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Aerial - Belle Creek Vicinity	Fall Drone 3 (1)_cefe50.png
Public Involvement Summ Upload	On-Line Survey Summary	Survey Summary Page 26 in Plan_574a78.docx

Public Involvement Summ Upload	Appendix A: Public Comment - All	Appendix A - Public Comment Final_89cbe3.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Appendix B: On-Line Survey Results	Appendix B - August 2016 On-Line Survey Results Final_6aa704.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification1 Upload	Family Biking on Trail	family-biking_4cbe38.jpg
Rgnl Trail Classification1 Upload	Cross Country Skiing on Trail	Welch-6_9e6720.jpg
Rgnl Trail Classification1 Upload	Winter Hiking on Trail	HikerWinter2005VIII_86ed9e.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Development Overview Map	Map Phasing Map_3c1750.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Development Detail Locations Map	CVT Final Trail Plan_170523_digitalMAPS_2db4c2.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Development Table	CVT Plan Pages 62 - 66 - Development Overview_50dc75.docx
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload	FourAcquisition Property Maps	Acquisition Maps_0c232d.pdf
Development Feature Upload		CVT Bridge Table Page 71_8886c4.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Appendix C - Bridge Report and Cost Estimates	Appendix C - Erickson Feasibility Report Final_b087f2.pdf
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	Appendix E - CIP Detail	Appendix E. Capital Improvement Plan Detail_5d5363.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	Natural Resources Site Maps	Existing Biological Resources and Sites for Management.compressed_c13e7a.pdf
Site Map Upload	CVT Map	CVT Trail Map_0f811c.jpg
Rgnl Trail Classification2 Upload	CVT State Location Map	Minnesota Trail System_Fullmap_945d1e.jpg
Rgnl Trail Classification3 Upload	SE MN Trails Map	Minnesota Trail System_SE Map_e3fe86.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	WSA Picnic Shelter Image	Welch Station Shelter Image_8349c8.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Old West Main Access Improvements Images	OWMAccessDraftSitePlan_38932a.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Vault Toilet Design Example	Vault Toilet Photo Image_5d0e7a.pdf
Development Feature Upload		Bridge Condition Images_55d3d3.pdf
Development Feature Upload		OWM Improvements Map_a86212.pdf
Development Feature Upload		WSA Improvements_c310b3.pdf

Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Trail Connections Table	Trail Connections Table_348b1a.pdf
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Winter Use Pilot Program Maps	Winter Use Pilot Program Maps_7b3889.pdf
Maintenance Operations Plan Upload	2016 Maintenance Budget	2016 Maintenance Budget_ada784.pdf
Programming Plan Upload	Existing Interpretation Locations	Existing Interpretation Locations_4a4f8a.pdf
Additional Attachment	2017 Comprehensive Plan Update	CVT 2107 Comp Plan Update_5fad47.pdf
Development Feature Upload		2017 CVT Plan Appendix D - Sand Erosion Report_9789c5.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification4 Upload	Regional Trails Connections Maps	Regional Trails Connections_ab0490.pdf
Development Feature Upload		Cn Btm Road Access Photo_fc0013.JPG
Additional Attachment	2017 CVT Comp Plan - Final	2017 CVT Comprehensive Plan Update - Final_fbbc06.pdf