



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

Glacial Edge Trails

District

3

Location Description

Beginning at the southern city limits of Fergus Falls, in Otter Tail County, the 14.7 miles of the Glacial Edge Trails (GET) passes through the municipality ending at the northeast within 18 miles of Maplewood State Park. Approximately 2 miles of the trail are on the Otter Tail River. The GET proposal is a northward extension of the Central Lakes Trail.

Park/Trail Address

City

Park/Trail State

Zip

Latitude

46.27934679

Longitude

-96.09239101

Map of Park/Trail

Description:

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Glacial Edge Trail Master Plan_22ad6a.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Glacial%20Edge%20Trail%20Master%20Plan_22ad6a.pdf)

Facility Website

Organization

City of Fergus Falls

Lead Contact Person

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Title

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State

Zip

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Joint Applicants

Joint Applicant #1

Joint Applicant #2

Joint Applicant #3

Joint Applicant #4

Other project supporters

Over thirty-two business leaders committed to a redevelopment of the Otter Tail River and Greater Fergus Falls Region through recreational and health-based initiatives resulting in economic stimulus and growth. These include: Fergus Falls Downtown Council; Fergus Falls Fish & Game Club; Noon Kiwanis; Sunrise Rotary; Noon Rotary; Fergus Falls Chamber of Commerce; DNR Regional Officers; West Central Initiative; Partners4Health; Lake Region Healthcare; Fergus Falls/District 544 Community Education as well as Representative Bud Nornes and Senator Bill Ingebriksen, who have personally viewed the project area.

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

Intersecting the western banks and glacial hills of ancient Lake Agassiz, the proposed Glacial Edge Trails reflects a rich transition zone encompassing prairie wetlands, rivers, lakes and hardwood forests. The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls, with 330 acres of native and restored prairie, 28 wetlands and 3.5 miles of additional walking trails attests to the diverse wildlife, grasses, wildflowers, clean water and ecosystems to be encountered here and is just minutes off the trail. Cultural attractions include the Historic Kirkbride, a castle-like decommissioned State Hospital dating to the 1870s, the Kaddatz Art Gallery featuring inimitable landscape works by artist Charles Beck and local artists exhibits on display in the River Inn through the Lake Region Arts Council and Springboard for the Arts. The elm-canopied streets, great dining and historic downtown make this one of the top ten rated communities to visit in Minnesota. Amenities include camping at Delagoon Park, a new 27 hole, wild-land disc golf, M-State Campus and Prairie area, Kirkbride Campus/Park and 9 of 22 city parks, natural areas with 600 acres of green space to host visitors.

The proposed Glacial Edge Trails route begins at the current northern terminus of the Central Lakes Trail just southeast of Fergus Falls. The trail will parallel MN Hwy 210 and Pebble Lake Rd. as it enters the town on a separate 10 ft. bike path. As the trail enters the core urbanized area of Fergus Falls, interactions with existing streets become more frequent in places, though plans are to create the greatest separation for trail users as possible. The trail will eventually connect with the Fergus Falls Riverwalk and begin its interaction with the

scenic riverfront and corresponding river trails as its path moves west through Downtown. After meandering through Downtown Fergus Falls along the Riverwalk, the trail will enter the soon to be developed riverfront recreational area in the heart of the City. At this point, the proposed trail moves north and connects to the Minnesota State Community and Technical College Fergus Falls campus, Fergus Falls Industrial Park, and the Historic Kirkbride site. While now turning back towards the east, the trail will clip the northern edge of the City, providing vistas of nearby lakes and cutting through the scenic and geologically significant Chautauqua Channel, where a Chautauqua Channel Ice Margin Interpretive Loop will be included as part of the Glacial Edge Trail. Finally, the trail will exit Fergus Falls and connect with County Rd. No. 1, where the hope is for a future connection to Maplewood State Park and the Heartland Trail through coordination with Otter Tail County.

Total Acreage or Mileage

Acquisition and Development Status

With the direction of the Fergus Falls Port Authority, the City of Fergus Falls has submitted a grant request to LCCMR for \$500,000 to be matched by the City of Fergus Falls to acquire crucial land areas now for sale along the Otter Tail River in the center of our proposed trail and eventual Regional Park Development. Access and Acquired Lands estimated at 60%

Development status

Facility Listing

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

Existing Facilities

Proposed Facilities

General Site Characteristics

Master Plan

Additional Supportive Information:

Classification Details

Regional Trail (Non-Motorized) Classification

Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

Criteria #1 Images

The Glacial Edge Trails is in the hilly moraine of glacial action that created ancient Lake Agassiz and skirts a http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Trail_Experience_d46455.pdf

dozen of the thousands of prairie wetlands and four of the 1048 lakes for which Otter Tail County has national recognition. The region in the heart of the single largest grassland area in the world and is # 1 on the 25 most important and threatened waterfowl habitats on the continent. The Otter Tail is the true headwaters of the Red River, part of 1/5 of Minnesota waters flowing north to Hudson Bay and are distinguished by the fast, clean waters and an amazing 272' drop in the River from 10 miles north of Fergus Falls to the southern city limits. Two, Class 3 white-water sections lie within the five mile stretch and 100 ft. drop within city limits! This means year round recreation and scenic vistas with especially stunning fall colors of maple/oak/birch/aspen and ash, amazing fishing, native wildflowers, birding, and water-oriented recreation--14% of Otter Tail County area is water. The trail offers unique historic views in passing directly by the old Red River Mill and through the Kirkbride city park grounds, allowing close up views of the architectural style of the former Fergus Falls State Hospital built in the 1870s, a National Historic Site. The Glacial Edge Trails offers secure parking and amenity access in the downtown section of Fergus Falls (population 13,351) while also connecting the green spaces of 7 city parks and recreation areas. The central nexus follows two miles of trail dedicated to river protection and trail development made possible by a recent LCCMR grant match of \$500,000.

Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse Natural or Historic Landscape

The Glacial Edge Trails along I-94 on the 34 mile Fergus Falls Reach of the Otter Tail River has unquestionably the most potential users of any area on its 186 miles (p 5, Otter Tail River Master Plan, 2009, MnDNR). Just one hour from the 230,000, Fargo, ND metro, one of the top ten fastest growing cities in the US (Forbes), Fergus Falls is the Minnesota Legislature designated head of the 55 mile, Central Lakes Trail, linking to the Wobegon Trail in Osakis, Mn and an ideal gateway to the county's 1048 lakes and clean rivers. With 22 parks and three natural areas, the municipality has as much green space per person as any other municipality over 10,000 in Greater Minnesota. Existing, municipal, federal and local non-motorized bike and walking trails (Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, North Country Trail, Fish and Game Land) account for 18.9 miles and with this proposal, bring the total to 29.5 miles in the city limits. Fergus is one of 18 Minnesota cities to receive the Bike Friendly Designation in 2015 (League of American Bicyclists) and yearly hosts the Lake Alice 100, an 88-lap ride around Lake Alice in April, the

Criteria #2 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Connectivity and Users_89ad2b.pdf

most compact century ride in America. The strategic importance is to extend the Central Lakes Trail through Fergus Falls to within 18 miles of Maplewood State Park (south entrance) and its 26 miles of year-round trails. By connecting the Central Lakes Trail northward in this 14.7 mile proposal, we have a 137 mile system. With the proposed 27 mile, Pelican Rapids to Perham Trail at Maplewood (2016 bonding) the reality of a 350+ mile continuous bike route is that much closer--connecting to the Heartland/Paul Bunyan Trails, a superb national attraction.

Well-located and Connected to Serve a Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination

Major trails, numerous historic and educational sites would be linked by this proposal. Note the regional connectivity: 1) The North Country National Scenic Hiking Trail intersecting the GET Proposal, including an additional 10 mile municipal edge loop; 2) Diminishing the gap from the Central Lakes Trail to Maplewood State Park; 3) Closer proximity to the Historic Phelps Mill County Park as well as Glendalough State Park for travelers coming east on I-94 out of Fargo; 4) The strategic role of the GET proposal in closing the final link to the Heartland Trail Extension; 5) Access to Class 3 white-water kayaking sections on the Otter Tail River in Fergus Falls and world-class small mouth bass fishing along the trail; 6) Direct GET trail connection to sites like the 150 year old National Historic Register Kirkbride Buildings (600,000 sq. ft.), over 10,000 visitors, and the Red River Mill (1919), presently planned for redevelopment, as well as Art Displays at the Kaddatz Gallery and local productions at the historic Fergus Theatre downtown; 7) Proximity to The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (USFWS) with 330 acres of native and restored prairie, 28 wetlands and 3.5 miles of additional walking trails. The Visitor Center houses a 2,500-square-foot exhibit area, the Bluestem Store, classrooms and a multipurpose meeting room, and; 8) Trail connection to M-State Fergus Falls Campus and natural prairie area.

Criteria #3 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Regional_Map_f27248.pdf

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region

The Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail Master Plan states, "Relative to other areas of the state, west-central Minnesota has fewer trails of statewide significance." The 2,225 sq. miles in Otter Tail County comprise about 2.5% of the area of the State. It is noted that Minnesota has 4000 miles of bike paths and trails or 1 mile of path/trail for every 21.5 sq miles. Otter Tail county has approximately 1 mile of bike path for every 44 sq. miles. The 20 miles of Central Lakes

Trail in Otter Tail County ends on the south end of the Fergus Falls City limits, the Otter Tail County seat and its largest municipality, but this leaves a significant trail gap to the 10,279 acre Maplewood State Park with its 150 bird species, 50 species of mammals, 25 kinds of reptiles and amphibians. Maplewood has 120,000 annual visitors; most coming by automobile. This significant gap would be strategically addressed by facilitating bikers to utilize Maplewood much more readily. The only other significant bike-path, besides the existing 14 miles in the Fergus Falls city limits, is a 12 mile section of paved trail connects Battle Lake to Glendalough State Park (5 miles of trail), 19 miles from Fergus Falls. Unquestionably, this region of Minnesota is emerging as a regional recreational playground with untapped resources for one of the fastest growing Metro areas in the United States- Fargo/Moorhead. The natural resources exist, if developed, to attract national and international visitors. The recent increase in civic groups and regional partners seeking to meet this demand for connectivity and designated trails certainly highlights why Regional Designation and subsequent funding is crucial at this time. The GET proposal will have a significant and long-lasting recreational, economic and healthy-living benefit for the region and State.

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Location Map	Regional Trail Connectivity	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/1461681885993-GET_Connectivity_Map.pdf
Location Map	Proposed Trail Route	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/1461681904179-Glacial_Edge_Trails_041516mxd.pdf
Resolution	City and County Resolutions	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/1461681923402-Resolutions.pdf
Letters Of Support	Letters of Support	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/1461681940466-Letters_of_Support.pdf
Photo	Select Trail Location Aerials	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/1461681978623-Pictures.pdf
Other	Supporting Plans and Documents	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/1461681997697-GET_Supporting_Plans

	and Documents.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Regional Map_5858b0.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/County Trail Plan_a8e5b0.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/State Bicycle System Plan_2d7c82.pdf
Site Map Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/GET Map_09f92e.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Far North Segment_9ef140.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Central Segment_72cf2b.pdf
Park Trail Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Glacial Edge Trail Master Plan_22ad6a.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification1 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Trail Experience_d46455.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/North Central Segment_32415f.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Meeting Notes_5eb015.pdf
Regional Demographic Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Demographic, Recreation and Public Health Initiatives_916184.pdf
Public Health Values Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Demographic, Recreation and Public Health Initiatives_4fb9c5.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Demographic, Recreation and Public Health Initiatives_b9ba41.pdf
Economic Development Tourism Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Econ

	omic Development and Tourism Opportunities_8c7aec.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification3 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Regional Map_f27248.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification2 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Connectivity and Users_89ad2b.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Preliminary Cost Estimate_2b6a3c.pdf
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Glacial Edge Trail Project Phasing_6e3fd8.pdf
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Land Protection and Aquisition_846381.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Stewardship of Ecological and Land Resources_087873.pdf
Programming Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Lake Region Run_7a5f54.jpg
Programming Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Central Lakes Duathlon_5d1cb4.jpg
Programming Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Turkey Trot_7e32df.jpg
Programming Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Paddelfest Fergus Falls_1a7e9b.jpg
Programming Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/TRAM Fergus Falls_71563b.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/South Segment_853ced.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/On-Road Sections_7defef.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Off-

	Road and Adjacent to Roadway Sections_28d154.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Off-Road and Adjacent to Roadway Sections_0e6574.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/River Walk Section (Mill Crossing Option)_589eab.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/River Balcony Section (Falls Crossing Option)_5bd160.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Crossing Concepts_ae46b5.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Crossing Concepts_8a7989.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-009D/Intersection Treatments_1a4485.pdf