



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

Beaver Island Trail

District

4

Location Description

The trail corridor area is situated in the corporate City limits of southeast St. Cloud (just west of the Mississippi River) in Stearns County, MN. The county is approximately 1400 square miles in size with a population of 152,000. St. Cloud is the largest city in the county at 42 square miles with a population of 67,000. The cities of Sartell, Sauk Rapids and Waite Park are directly adjacent to St. Cloud, thus increasing the size of the St. Cloud metropolitan area. St. Augusta Township is approximately 39 square miles in size and has a population of 3,065, while Lynden Township is approximately 26 square miles in size and has a population of 2,000. The Mississippi River which has been designated a Wild and Scenic River Corridor, defines the eastern boundary of the county.

Park/Trail Address

City

Park/Trail State

Zip

Latitude

45.48865922

Longitude

-94.14201736

Map of Park/Trail

Facility Website

Organization

St. Cloud

Lead Contact Person

Scott Zlotnik

Title

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Joint Applicants**Joint Applicant #1**

Stearns County MN

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 Beaver Island Regional Trail is located within the corporate City limits of St. Cloud and areas of St. Augusta and Lynden Township Stearns County, MN. The proposed trail corridor travels between commercial and natural areas and is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi River. The trail corridor contains environmentally sensitive land classification types and is also designated as ?Mississippi River Wild and Scenic. The project corridor features commercial zoned properties, Regional Parks and community facilities. Natural features along the corridor include trees, river bluff views, significant landforms, topography and vacant lands.

The development of future trail segments:

1. Will provide a trail connection between the existing southern terminus of the Beaver Island Regional Trail and River Bluffs Regional Park (Located at 42nd Street South in St. Cloud) to Stearns County Warner Lake Regional Park.
2. Provide opportunities for economic development related to trail use by City and County residents and by tourists from outside the County.
3. Increase public awareness of the natural and cultural/historic resources within the City/County such as the Mississippi River, River Bluffs Regional Park, Warner Lake Regional Park and provide natural resource interpretation at important features along the trail.

Trail Way Section Termini:

From: Beaver Island Regional Trail current southern termini

To: Stearns County Park System jurisdiction (eventually construct to Stearns County Warner Lake Regional Park)
Length: 3.4 miles proposed

Horizontal/Vertical Alignment:

The vertical alignment for the trail is predominantly flat along the proposed alignment. The existing grade for the proposed trail is planned to be 5% or less for the entire distance. The proposed trail is aligned to be located on public property but may require additional right of way (this will be determined as future segments are identified and surveyed for construction).

The horizontal alignment is proposed to be contained within old railroad beds, public property and platted right of way. The intended future trail improvements will maintain ADA standards and will conform to all trail design speed requirements required by the State of MN.

Adjacent Land Use:

The land uses adjacent to the project is generally commercial or industrial zoning with some residential districts, community owned properties, natural areas and parkland:

Railroad Crossing Location(s): None

Airport Proximity: None

Bike Path Type: Urban

Path Width: 10.0 feet

Path Surfacing: Bituminous

Clear Zone: 2.0 feet

Inslope, rise/run: 4:1

Design Speed: 20 MPH

Maximum Grade: 5.0%

Total Acreage or Mileage

Acquisition and Development Status

Nay need additional ROW or trail easements
95%

Development status

Facility Listing

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

Existing Facilities

Proposed Facilities

Proposed Facilities Other Information

New bridge construction crossing of Johnson Creek

General Site Characteristics

Master Plan

Additional Supportive Information:

Classification Details

Regional Trail (Non-Motorized) Classification

Provides a High-Quality "Destination" Trail Experience

The proposed trail corridor setting can be described as one of high natural resource value. Immediately adjacent to the corridor are many high quality natural areas categorized in both the Minnesota County Biological Survey for Stearns County (Dry Prairie and Oak Woodlands) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas, which range from priority natural areas to rare ecotypes. The trail corridor would intend to exist within or immediately adjacent to the Mississippi River Wild and Scenic River designation area.

The proposed trail project will provide many considerations, such as a safe and scenic venue for trail users to enjoy the outdoors and enjoy being active. Trails are highly regarded by the City of St. Cloud public as well as the regional voter. The aesthetic quality of the trail location will be one which is very scenic, incorporating elements of green infrastructure. The landscapes that the trail intends to cross are mainly upland high bluff river bank areas with minimal slope (typical of old abandoned rail corridors) and are adjacent to existing green spaces and woodlands. The proposed trail meets many requirements and objectives of the Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association, the 2008-2012 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, The Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Strategic Plan and, most importantly, appeals to our local/regional community goals and strategic direction.

Most recently, as part of the St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Master Plan, an effort has been made to establish a community-based vision and implement a strategy to maintain the Mississippi River as a regional asset through sustainable utilization and stewardship. Based upon previous planning initiatives, this plan serves as a guiding document for development, redevelopment, natural resource enhancement, preservation, and promotion of the river corridor within the St. Cloud urban area

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

The Beaver Island Regional Trail focuses on providing a high quality recreational trail experience that is readily accessible from the populated and rapidly growing regional center of St. Cloud, which is also the County Seat of Stearns County. The trail also focuses on connecting St. Cloud State University (SCSU) and it's many students and faculty to a vast network of interconnected local and regional trail systems constructed by the City and Stearns County.

This project is a continuation of bicycle/walking trail construction connections that have been determined to be a high priority for the City of St. Cloud and its community members. The proposed trail route will connect to the current Beaver Island Regional Trail and the Scenic River Regional Trail; then intends to head south paralleling the Mississippi River from River Bluffs Regional Park, a Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment improvement project, constructed in 2011, located at 38th Street South. River Bluffs Regional Park, located just minutes from Interstate 94, is a 175 acre park with significant access to the Mississippi River. The park can best be described as a high quality natural area with many attractions and facilities located in the Mississippi Wild and Scenic River Designated Area.

The development of pedestrian and bicycle trails are listed as a priority in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan both statewide and regionally. The proposed trail corridor is also listed and inventoried as a future asset through the Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Plan process. The benefits of this proposed project for regional access, recreational opportunities and high quality natural areas are endless.

Enhances Connectivity to Regional Destinations

This project is one piece of the puzzle that must be accomplished in order to fulfill the broader plan. This trail project, parallel to the mighty Mississippi River, can provide far greater than just one hour of recreational opportunity; it connects to several other major regional hubs that provide dozens of hours of regional, recreational, economic, social, educational and community based opportunities, as well as the potential, with future connections, to link vast natural areas such as the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sand Prairie Wildlife Refuge and Sand Dunes State Forest. Future connections will also link other regional

sites of importance such as the Lake Wobegon Regional Trail and Glacial Lakes State Trail, providing access to the Mississippi River and downtown St. Cloud for all residents in and outside of the St. Cloud metro area. This functional linkage creates a transportation route independent of the consumption of fossil fuels, providing healthier life styles, a cleaner environment and safer routes to schools.

Making trail connections has been a priority for the St. Cloud regional area for some time. This proposed project has been determined to be regional priority by many planning studies and reports which include:

- * 2011 St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan
- * 2005 Central Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Plan
- * 2030 Area Transportation Authority Bike and Pedestrian Plan (projected need in year Twenty-Thirty)
- * 2003 City of St. Cloud Comprehensive Plan
- * 2015 City of St. Cloud Capital Improvement Plan
- * 2000 Beaver Island Trail Regional Concept Plan
- * 2014 City of St. Cloud Strategic Plan
- * The proposed project has also been determined to be a bicycle route on the newly designated Mississippi River Trail Bike-way system (MRT)

The proposed project is supported by many Regional users and it is now time to embark on the actual construction of this segment.

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within a Region

This project should be funded in part because the area voters have demonstrated that they not only support trails, but also desire more trails and open space through the voter approved local option sales tax. The development of trails is listed as a priority in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association (MRTUA), and a priority for the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Strategic Plan. Connecting liner parks to other communities, to city parks, county parks, and to existing trails can best be accomplished by such action.

The project provides the opportunity for healthier lifestyles for persons of all abilities. The current 20+ miles of trail in existence have been designed and constructed to meet and/or exceed standards set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This project is part of the City's 2003 Comprehensive Plan

to provide for pedestrian and bicycle trail development, and development of links between other communities, schools and parks. This project, together with planned future trailway improvements, will connect the current Beaver Island Trail system with other existing parks and St. Cloud metro area trails. This project will help the City to create a system of trails that connects to parks and other trip generators. The proposed project will provide functional linkages to the River Bluffs Regional Park, the Scenic River Regional Trail, the Beaver Island Regional Trail, the River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Hospital, Hester Park and downtown St. Cloud. These sites are responsible for thousands of visits each year by persons from the tri-county area, as well as the state of Minnesota and the national population.

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Location Map	Location map added from general tab	1438289887225-2nd location map.pdf
Master Plan	Master plan added from master plan tab	1438959505505-BIT Regional Trail Concept Plan.pdf
Letters Of Support	Group letters of support for the project	1439230650663-support .letters.pdf
Resolution	St. Cloud City Council Support	1439483602130-Support Resolution.pdf
Resolution	St. Cloud City Council Support	1439483602130-Support Resolution.pdf
Location Map	Location map added from general tab	1438289887225-2nd location map.pdf