

2020 Joint Powers Board Members

Cannon Falls:

MaryJill Bringgold - council member
Matt Montgomery - council member
Nathaniel Watson - citizen

Red Wing:

Kim Beise - council member
Dean Hove - council member
Chuck Richardson - citizen

Goodhue County:

Brad Anderson - commissioner
Linda Flanders - commissioner
Dan Bender - citizen



Cannon Valley Trail



2019 Annual Report



Prepared by:
Scott Roepke, Trail Manager
Karen Slininger, Administrative Assistant

Cannon Valley Trail
825 Cannon River Avenue
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

July 2020

Cannon Valley Trail 2019 Year in Review

January

The Cannon Valley Trail (CVT) Joint Powers Board (JPB) approved a Federal Recreational Trail Grant application for two trail pedestrian counters and a 3 point hitch flail mower.

The JPB approved purchasing 8.8 acres near Camp Pearson from the Trust for Public Land for no more than \$30,000.

The JPB approved hosting its first Open House on June 1, 2019. No wheel pass fees were collected for this day

The JPB approved concrete decks versus wood decks on the three new bridges being installed in 2019-2020.

March

The Cannon Valley Trail (CVT) Joint Powers Board (JPB) approved a MN DNR Regional Trail Grant application for new and improved signage along the CVT.

Ashley Pethan, representative from Parks and Trail Council of MN, addressed the JPB on how the Parks & Trail Council of MN can be a good partner with trails across the state. She also shared information on their Friends Group Program and how it would benefit the CVT to join.

Dale Lemke, from Goodhue County addressed the JPB on the property boundaries and mapping project. He has 41 plats complete with a total completion expected by end of 2019. CVT property encompasses a total of 250 acres.

Leanne Knot of Goodhue County shared information with the JPB on the emergency services interactive map she is working on. This map will help emergency response teams to easier find where assistance is needed.

The trail manager reported on the Sept 2018 Storm Damage. Clean up expense was \$8,378. MN Department of Public Safety will reimburse 75% (\$6,283). Trail was completely closed for 8 days and required over 225 man hours of clean-up.

The JPB approved giving all employees a free season wheel pass in hopes to encourage them to use the trail more and be better acquainted with the trail and its facilities.



May

Goodhue County approved the Bridge Contract from Icon Constructors, LLC in the amount of \$1,123,553.25 to replace three bridges on the Cannon Falls end of the CVT.

The JPB approved application for five bridge replacements estimated at \$998,500.

The JPB approved purchasing a tractor mower from the City of Cannon Falls in the amount of \$7,800.

Public Safety/Violations Report Summary

The Trail Staff is often the first to encounter a violation of Trail ordinances and enforcement is an important part of the Trail Manager's job. Certain law enforcement related events and situations occur, some frequently. Two different law enforcement agencies help with enforcement on the Trail. Goodhue County provides a recreation officer and the State of Minnesota provides a conservation officer.

In addition, staff members occasionally participate in locating separated families or missing persons, summoning assistance for injured persons and assisting storm stranded visitors.



Violation Description

	<u>2018</u> <u>Violations</u>	<u>2019</u> <u>Violations</u>
<u>motorized related:</u>		
vehicles	3	2
ATVs/motorcycles	6	6
snowmobiles (early)	2	1
<u>snowmobiles (late)</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
Total motorized related	12	13
<u>non motorized related:</u>		
pets/animals	25	23
general vandalism (not signs)	12	11
weapons/hunting/trapping	3	3
horses	1	1
sign damage/theft	4	3
litter	4	2
dumping	0	1
alcohol	0	0
theft	4	20
harassment	0	1
failure to pay	30	28
camping	2	10
fires	0	1
fireworks	0	0
<u>graffiti</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Total non motorized related	87	107
TOTAL	99	120

NOTE: *To be recorded here, Trail staff either observed directly or discovered evidence or received first person reports of the above violations.

These totals do not include events reported or observed by law enforcement agencies, unless Trail staff was notified or involved.

Web Site Statistics Summary

The Trail website is helpful by providing information to current or potential trail users. The website provides information such as: trail conditions, history, directions, wheel passes, trail ordinances and programs.

Visitors

Visitors represent the number of actual people who visited the site.

Visits

Visits represent the number of times the website was visited, without regard to repeat visitors.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Visitors:	62,824	Un-known	53,086	91,789	88,850	63,448
Total Visits:	484,415	Un-known	290,611	445,632	294,609	212,053

(Due to web hosting complications, 2015 statistics were not recorded.)

Newsletters—Emails

Newsletters are being emailed to as many readers as possible, this will help keep expenses down. Currently the CVT has an e-mail list of about 2,100 readers.



Cannon Valley Trail 2019 Year in Review

June

The trail manager reported the Federal Recreation Trail Grant applications for a tractor mower and trail counters were both denied. We will try again next year.



The trail manager reported the City of Cannon Falls was awarded a local trails grant that will be used to improve the connection between the Mill Towns State Trail, Hannah's Bend Park and the downtown city trails.

The trail manager has been working on the 2020 State Bonding applications for funding for: 1.9 million for Storm Water improvements AND 1.2 million for Trail Access improvements. Total request will be for \$3 million with the CVT share of \$107,000.

July

Andrew Oftedahl, Parks & Trail Council of MN reviewed the findings of the 2018 CVT Traffic Count Estimate Report. Bikers, pedestrians, and animals were all counted. Time of day, date traveled and direction of travel were all recorded in various locations along the CVT and adjoining trails (Mill Towns State Trail, Hay Creek Trail, City of CF and City of RW trails)

- Over 1 million miles of travel were estimated during 2018.
- Bicyclists accounted for 86% of these miles – which is a higher percentage than other trails in MN have shown.
- Approx. 150,000 unique trips were made with 25% of these trips from bicyclists and 75% of trips were pedestrian.
- Peak trail usage time was estimated to be between 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Estimated miles for CVT alone was 750,000 with 72,000 individual trips.

September

Speed limits for bicyclists and electric assist were discussed. The board approved a 20 MPH speed limit for bicyclists and a 15 MPH speed limit for electric assist.

The trail manager reported the CVT applied for 2020 state bonding funds for a Storm-water Improvement Project and a Facility Improvement Project.

2020 wheel pass fees were discussed by the JPB and they decided to leave the fees at \$25/Season and \$5 Daily.

Wheel Pass Fee theft has been an issue beginning last summer at the self-pay stations. Security cameras were installed at WSA, modifications to self-pay stations have been made. It is unknown how much has been stolen. Staff will continue to monitor. A new trail camera will be purchased for use in remote areas.

November

The Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission asked if the JPB would reduce the total project cost of Bridge Replacement Project—Phase 2 from \$996,400 to \$670,000. The JPB agreed to adjust the project to reduce the cost.

The JPB agreed to host an 'Open House' event on the Trail annually.

Joint Powers Board Summary

The Cannon Valley Trail is administered by a nine-person Joint Powers Board comprised of members from the cities of Red Wing and Cannon Falls, as well as Goodhue County. Members as of December 31, 2019 were:

Cannon Falls:

Mary Jill Bringgold - council member
Matt Montgomery - council member
Nate Watson - citizen member, vice-chairperson

Red Wing:

Kim Beise - council member
Becky Norton - council member
Charles O. Richardson - citizen

Goodhue County:

Paul Drotos - commissioner
Brad Anderson - commissioner, secretary/treasurer
Dan Bender - citizen member, chairman

Eight Joint Powers Board meetings were held in 2019.



User Comments Summary

The Cannon Valley Trail receives a considerable amount of constructive feedback from those who use and enjoy the Trail. Written comments are often received on the back of the self-pay envelopes left at the pay stations. Below are some of the many comments. It is also popular for users to post on Facebook, Google, Trip Advisor and other media sites.



General:

- ⇒ LOVE your Trail! Always clean. Thanks! Lynn H. 6/7/19
- ⇒ Nice improvements since I was here a few years ago. Keep up good work! 05/15/19
- ⇒ Looking forward to the ride. Appreciate the paved trails on MN! We're not so fortunate in WI. Howard L. 6/17/19
- ⇒ Please clean rest rooms! Nancy & Sam 7/23/19
- ⇒ Discount for veterans/seniors. Brian 7/24/19
- ⇒ Love this trail! Thank you taking such good care of it! One of my favorites! Debra 7/23/19
- ⇒ Trail in great shape and not terribly crowded for a nice Saturday. William 7/29/19
- ⇒ Great Trail! Keep up the care! Make online donating from out of state. Mark trail better in Red Wing? Thank You! Leslie 08/12/19
- ⇒ Just to let you know we think this (fee) is ridiculous. Not even a senior discount. You will not be seeing us again and I will not recommend this trail to anyone. Stephen B. 08/30/19
- ⇒ Stunning! Ann K. 09/03/19
- ⇒ Rode from ____ (?) location with a dog in "burly" trailer. No signage of "No Pets" until outside of Cannon Falls. Signs are smaller than "No Motorized Vehicles" signs that show up before the no pets signage. Was interested so asked a steward and made to feel guilty about missing signage upon riding back, full of guilt, we realized it was not properly signed at starting location (here no 'no pets' instructions anywhere) and require a keen eye once you are already out on the trail. 09/02/19
- ⇒ New user – Not sure yet. Just starting at Red Wing Trail Head. Look great on website. Can't wait! Very glad it's here for enjoyment and exercise. Riding bike today. Thank You! 09/06/2019
- ⇒ The TCBC ride the trail every Thursday from May until Oct and eat at Wiederholt's after. Sometimes we do Hay Creek. (Not well kept) and go to Byllesby also. A great time on one of MN best kept trails.

Fund Balance Summary

From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 there was a fund balance decrease of \$650,269.03.

Account Balance	31-Dec-19	31-Dec-18
Total Equity	\$112,562.80	\$762,831.83
Commitments		
Fund Balance Reserved	\$1,586.05	\$0.00
Contingency fund	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Asphalt escrow balance	174,762.23	164,762.23
Bridge escrow balance	39,121.31	36,621.31
Special Project Fund	50,000.00	50,000.00
Capital Improvement Fund	129,050.00	0.00
Trail Maintenance Fund	268,312.24	268,312.24
Total Commitments	\$762,831.83	\$619,695.78
Balance	-\$650,269.03	\$143,136.05

Asphalt Escrow Fund Summary

Beginning balance	\$164,762.23
Contributions	10,000.00
2019 Expenses	- 0.00
Balance	\$174,762.23



Bridge Escrow Fund Summary

Beginning balance	36,621.31
Contributions	2,500.00
2019 Expenses	- 0.00
Balance	\$39,121.31



Staff/Office Summary

16 part-time employees and numerous volunteers assisted Trail Manager, Scott Roepke. The employees were:

Administrative /Financial Assistant—*Karen L. Slininger*

Trail Laborers

- * *Darwin Bartlett*
- * *Luther Luhman*
- * *Jim Gruber*
- * *Paul Johnson*
- * *Ron Freeberg*
- * *Dave Masterson*
- * *Glen Lundell*



Trail Attendants

- * *Karen J. Slininger*
- * *Glenn Schulz*
- * *Bill Betcher*
- * *Judy Betcher*
- * *Matt Chowen*
- * *Dan Forsythe*
- * *Kristina Carpenter*



Voices of the Valley Coordinator—Dustin Heckman

Trail Facts:

- Hours worked by staff throughout the year totaled 5,341 - 1,159 hours less than budgeted.
- About 25 volunteers assisted with Voices of the Valley and maintenance projects.

Use Summary

Use of the Trail in 2019 was down 3.6% compared to use numbers in 2018.



Estimated visitor use days:

The number of visitors on the trail is estimated using counter numbers, sales records, and assumptions based on survey results.

A visitor use day is one person on the trail for up to one day.

Guests from 64 Minnesota cities, 18 other states and 3 other countries signed the guest book in Welch.

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bicycling	78,898	83,670	82,466	81,220	78,006	76,023
Inline Skating	5,686	5,341	5,264	5,264	4,979	4,853
Pedestrian	9,476	8,901	8,773	8,640	8,299	8,088
Skiing	700	500	500	750	700	700
Total	94,760	98,412	97,003	95,794	91,984	89,664



Wheel Pass Program Summary

Wheel Pass sales are a major source of revenue for the Trail. Passes are required for those age 18 and older who are on bicycle, in line skates, or similar. 2019 rates were \$5.00/day or \$25.00/season (including sales tax). Discounted rates for the season pass are available to purchasers of 50 - 99 or 100+. In addition, discounted daily rates are available to organizers of group events. On an annual basis, about 65% of all trail users are required to have Wheel Passes. The other 45% are trail users who are under the age of 18 or the activity the trail user is enjoying does not require a pass.



Pass	Value	2019 Total Sold	2019 Total Value	2018 Total Sold	2018 Total Value
Daily	\$5	8,436	\$42,180	8,571	\$34,284
Daily - self purchase	\$5	5,017	\$25,085	5,860	\$23,440
Daily - Internet	\$5	1,835	\$9,175	1,721	\$6,884
Season	\$25	1,423	\$35,575	1,535	\$38,375
Season - Internet	\$25	571	\$14,275	155	\$11,600
Group	Varies	130	\$650		\$441
Total Value			\$126,940		\$115,024
Expenses (Pre-Deposit Deductions)					
Friends Coupons Redeemed				-\$314	-\$661
Discounts/Pass Replacements				-\$4,420	-\$4,127
Donated Passes				-\$1,425	-\$1,758
Deposited				\$120,781	\$108,478
Sales Tax Liability				-\$8,296	-\$6,978
Net Wheel Pass Revenue				\$112,485	\$101,500



CF 4th Grade Class—May 2019

Capital Improvement Account Expenses

Project 1. Asphalt Fund - Every year the Trail puts money into a separate account specifically for maintaining the asphalt. This year, the Trail put \$10,000.00 into the asphalt account. The total number of dollars in this account now stands at \$174,762.23 as of December 31, 2019. Money in the asphalt account can only be spent on asphalt repair, general asphalt upkeep and for asphalt replacement.

Project 2. Bridge Fund - The bridge fund account is set up for bridge replacement and repairs in the future. The Joint Powers Board put \$2,500.00 into the bridge fund in 2019. The total number of dollars in this account stands at \$39,121.31 as of December 31, 2019.



Project 3. Bridge Replacement Project— Three bridges were replaced along the CVT—Mile 3.8 near Anderson Rest; Mile 7.3—known as the High Bridge; Mile 5.2 just west of SNA; and abutment repair at Mile 11.4 over Belle Creek at Marshal Rest. This \$1.4M Project was partially funded by a grant from the Greater Minnesota Recreational Parks and Trail Commission (GMRPTC) as part of the Parks and Trail Legacy Grant Program. Private donations were also used to cover the CVT portion.

Project 4. Safety and Maintenance Equipment - \$8,632 was spent on new safety equipment including: chain saw hard hats and chaps; traffic cones, work signs, gloves, welding helmets and gloves, hard hats, eye wash station, snowblower and first aid kits. A grant from the MN Department of Labor covered 50% of this expense.

Project 5. Sign/Way Finding Upgrades / Vault Toilets— \$1,004 was spent on starting of the Wayfinding and Vault Toilet Projects Grant money from GMRPTC help with project of redoing the wayfinding signs and installing 2 vault toilets along the trail.

Project 6. Prairie Restoration - \$6,000 was used to hire Conservation Corps to remove woody vegetation and invasive species from the prairie areas. This is a multiple year project which includes reseeding the area with native grasses.

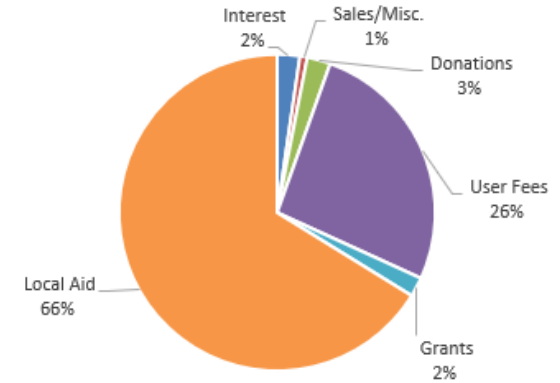


Project 7. Spring Creek Bridge Repair - \$395 was spent on repairs to the Spring Creek Bridge.

Financial Reports

The Cannon Valley Trail has one main account that includes four sub-accounts: **Revenue, Maintenance and Operations, Friends of the Trail and Capital Improvement.** The financial accounts of the Cannon Valley Trail are administered by the City of Red Wing. The accounts are tracked concurrently at the Trail office. The financial summaries presented here are either condensed versions of the sub-accounts prepared by the City of Red Wing or reports

Cannon Valley Trail 2019 Revenue



Revenue Summary

Revenue	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Other Federal Grants & Aids	\$ 1,167,635.00	\$ 4,296.30
Goodhue County Share	\$ 138,434.00	\$ 138,434.00
Red Wing Share	\$ 96,069.00	\$ 96,069.00
Cannon Falls Share	\$ 48,033.00	\$ 48,033.00
Wheel Pass Sales	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 112,485.32
Ski Pass	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
Book Sales	\$ 75.00	\$ 94.91
T-shirt Sales	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,784.00
Interest - deposits/investments	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 9,860.13
Donations - friends of the trail	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,226.00
Donations - special projects	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00
Donations - CVT Wall	\$ -	\$ -
Donations & contributions	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,378.72
Refunds/wheel pass refunds	\$ -	\$ -
Other Misc	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 653.00
Sale of Assets		\$ 671.20

TOTAL REVENUE **\$ 1,577,446.00** **\$ 426,785.58**

