

## 2023 Joint Powers Board Members

### **Cannon Falls:**

Lisa Grove - council member  
Laura Kronenberger - council member  
Paul Korkowski - citizen

### **Red Wing:**

Janie Farrar - council member  
Donald Kliewer - council member  
Chuck Richardson - citizen

### **Goodhue County:**

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



# Cannon Valley Trail



## 2022 Annual Report



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

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

August 2023

# Cannon Valley Trail 2022 Year in Review

## January

The trail manager reported that a grant request was made for funding a Biological Management Plan to the Wingers Foundation in the amount of \$24,903 with a CVT match of \$8,310. The Wingers awarded the CVT \$10,000 on the condition that the rest of the \$25,000 be raised before the award would be dispersed. A deadline of June 30 was included. Discussion was held on the difficulty of getting grant funding for plans. Once plans are created, it is easier to get approved for funding to complete the project. The trail manager recommended applying for a grant through the Red Wing Area Fund for the remaining funds needed. The Joint Powers Board approved to apply for funding through the Red Wing Area Fund for \$14,903 with the remaining necessary funding made by CVT.

## March

The Joint Powers Board discussed the state of the bituminous on three sections of the trail that were originally laid in 1985 & 1988. These sections, equally about 12.5 miles are a high priority for replacement. There are a number of items that must be addressed prior to widening the trail and replacing the bituminous in these areas, including, but not limited to 6 bridge replacements (4 are approved for replacement in winter of 2022/23), ditch capacity issues, stabilize slopes.

## May

The Red Wing Area Fund approved financially supporting the CVT Biological Management Plan in the amount of \$14,903. Therefore the Joint Powers Board approved updating the CVT Biological Management Plan which was last updated in 1988. The cost of a new plan created by EOR (Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.) is estimated at \$33,500. EOR was contacted to begin work in June with completion expected by November. The plan involves inventory of wild plants and wildlife along the trail. This plan will help the CVT better manage the natural resources along the trail and is good information to have when requesting future grant funding.



Electronic/Credit Card pay stations were installed at Cannon Falls Downtown Access, Welch Station Access and Red Wing Old West Main Access.

Erickson engineering provided an engineering Services Agreement quote of \$9,500 to study the oldest asphalt sections of the trail totaling approx. 12.6 miles. This study would address the ability to widen the trail, water conveyance and repaving of the CVT. This study would give the CVT information needed to apply for future grants.

# 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>2022</u> <b>Violations</b>	<u>2021</u> <b>Violations</b>
<u>motorized related:</u>		
vehicles	2	1
ATVs/motorcycles	4	5
snowmobiles (early)	2	3
<u>snowmobiles (late)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>Total motorized related</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>
<u>non motorized related:</u>		
pets/animals	24	25
general vandalism (not signs)	10	8
weapons/hunting/trapping	3	2
horses	0	0
sign damage/theft	4	2
litter	3	2
dumping	1	0
alcohol	1	0
theft	3	5
harassment	0	0
failure to pay	18	20
camping	2	2
fires	0	0
fireworks	0	0
<u>graffiti</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>Total non motorized related</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>81</b>

**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.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total Visitors:</b>	91,789	88,850	63,448	103,995	82,916	29,567
<b>Total Visits:</b>	445,632	294,609	212,053	363,285	336,423	120,053

The amount of website Visits and Visitors drastically dropped in 2022. The reason for this is the Trail switched web hosting companies in July 2022 from GoDaddy to HostGater. GoDaddy and HostGater calculate Visits and Visitors differently.

## Newsletters—Emails

Newsletters are being emailed to as many readers as possible, this helps keep expenses down. Currently the CVT has an e-mail list of 9,953 contacts.



# Cannon Valley Trail 2022 Year in Review

## June

The Joint Powers Board adopted the MN DNR Rules on Electric-Assist/Pedal-Assist Bicycles-Minnesota Statutes 169.011, Subdivision 27. The new rules are to be posted on the website, in a newsletter and on signs at trail access points. A sheet with this information along with trail etiquette is to be included in season wheel passes that are mailed to customers.

The City of Red Wing is considering putting a sidewalk/trail along the north side of Service Drive North near Target and McDonalds. There is an access road from Service Drive N to a lift station near the trail. Red Wing administrator is requesting thoughts/concerns of connecting that with CVT to offer safe travel for walkers if the plan should continue.

The City of Red Wing has been granted funds to install electric vehicle chargers. They are looking at various locations, one of them being the CVT Old West Main Parking Lot. No final decision has been made at this time.

## July

Red Wing financial department is recommending the CVT obtain their own tax id and tax-exempt numbers.

## August

Due to an unexpected breakdown of the Trail's riding lawn mower, the Board approved purchasing a new mower for \$10,500.

## September

Fuel storage and transportation has been an issue since the Trail's 64 gallon fuel storage tank started leaking. The JPB approved purchasing a fuel storage tank on a trailer at a cost of \$8,934.46.

Due to an unexpected breakdown of the Trail's excavator tracks, the Board approved purchasing new tracks for \$3,600.

The JPB approved keeping the Wheel Pass rates the same in 2023 as the rates were in 2022 - \$5 for a Daily Pass and \$25 for a Season Pass.

Access monument signs have been desired for some time at the Downtown Cannon Falls Access. The total project cost estimate minus installation is \$4,000. The Cannon Falls Fire Department donated \$1,000, Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association Operation Round Up program donated \$500, CVT donated \$2,500 and CF public works department agreed to install the monument signs.

## October

The trail manager reported on the expected timeline of the Bridge Replacement II project. He attended a meeting on October 1, 2022 with ICON. They expect to remove the four bridges shortly after the first of November. ICON will do the construction of the bridge just east of County Road 7. The other 3 bridges will be replaced with concrete culverts, this portion of the contract will be performed by Fitzgerald. Inspections of all bridges will be by Erickson Engineering and Goodhue County.

# 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, 2022 were:

## **Cannon Falls:**

Mary Jill Bringgold - council member  
Laura Kronenberger - council member  
Paul Korkowski - citizen member

## **Red Wing:**

Donald Kleiwer - council member  
Dean Hove - council member  
Charles O. Richardson - citizen

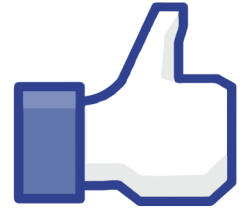
## **Goodhue County:**

Linda Flanders - commissioner, vice-chairperson  
Brad Anderson - commissioner, secretary/treasurer  
Dan Bender - citizen member, chairman

Nine Joint Powers Board meetings were held in 2022.



# User Comments Summary



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

- Appreciate you not using funds to send gifts or mailings soliciting more donations. Keep it on the trail!! We love the upkeep and care shown to this valuable beautiful outdoor gem. Kristi & Kurt 2/10/22
- Thank you for addressing the trail conditions from Red Wing to the overpass. Glad it's on your radar! Karen D. 05/10/22
- Please repave this trail. It is almost unrideable. The first 8 miles from Cannon Falls to Welch is the worst. Anonymous 06/02/22
- Love the new bridges and pit toilets! Thank you! Lots of fawns with spots between CF and Welch Today. Janelle 7/12/22
- You shouldn't have to pay for nature! Anonymous July
- Hi! I have been a member for a couple of years now and continue to be impressed by the trail improvements. I used the new bathroom yesterday and am impressed with its simplicity and yet functional nature. Nice work! Keep it up. Steve 08/12/22
- Where would I start really? Such a great place year after year. Serene, scenic, beautiful. Hope all is well with you guys! Julie M 8/25/22
- One of the best bike trails I've been on. It has a rural full of nature and great views of the bluffs along the river. Jeremy (Google)
- The Cannon Valley is open for the season. Buy your bike pass. You'll see beautiful vegetation and wild life. Don't be too surprised if a fawn runs over the bike path. The beauty of a fawn is far greater than shock you may get when it crosses over. Pack a picnic to eat at the Welch stop. The only downer is they don't allow pets. Mary (Google)

# Fund Balance Summary

Account Balance	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,119,882.49</b>	<b>\$ 1,031,437.17</b>
<b>Commitments</b>		
Contingency fund	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Asphalt escrow balance	\$204,762.23	\$194,762.23
Bridge escrow balance	\$46,621.31	\$44,121.31
Technology Fund	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Special Project Fund	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$129,050.31	\$129,050.00
Trail Maintenance Fund	\$268,312.24	\$268,312.24
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>\$801,246.09</b>	<b>\$786,245.78</b>
<b>Non-committed Funds</b>	<b>\$318,636.40</b>	<b>\$ 245,191.39</b>

## Technology Escrow Fund Summary

Beginning balance	\$0.00
Contributions	2,500.00
2022 Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

## Asphalt Escrow Fund Summary

Beginning balance	\$194,762.23
Contributions	10,000.00
2022 Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$204,762.23</b>

## Bridge Escrow Fund Summary

Beginning balance	\$44,121.31
Contributions	2,500.00
2022 Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$46,621.31</b>

# Staff/Office Summary

15 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*
- \* *Gary Anderson*
- \* *Paul Johnson*
- \* *Ron Freeberg*
- \* *Glen Lundell*
- \* *Karen J. Slininger*



## Trail Attendants

- \* *Karen J. Slininger*
- \* *Bill Betcher*
- \* *Judy Betcher*
- \* *Matt Chowen*
- \* *Dan Forsythe*
- \* *Todd Prink*
- \* *David Anderson*
- \* *Byron Hanson*



Voices of the Valley Coordinator—*Brenda Owens*

Volunteer Coordinator—*Gene Groebner*

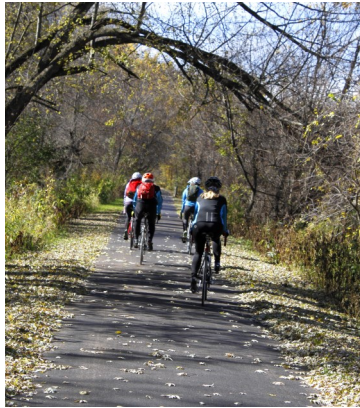
## Trail Facts:

- Hours worked by staff throughout the year totaled 4,257.
- About 35 volunteers assisted with Voices of the Valley and maintenance projects.

# Trail Use Summary

Use of the Trail in 2022 was down 10% compared to use numbers in 2021.

## 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 46 Minnesota cities, 19 other states and 7 other countries signed the guest book in Welch. Many others posted comments on Google.

Activity	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bicycling	81,220	78,006	76,023	146,247	106,864	95,748
Inline Skating	5,264	4,979	4,853	9,335	6,821	6,112
Pedestrian	8,640	8,299	8,088	15,558	11,369	10,186
Skiing	750	700	700	800	800	800
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,794</b>	<b>91,984</b>	<b>89,664</b>	<b>171,940</b>	<b>125,854</b>	<b>112,846</b>



# 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. 2022 rates were \$5.00/day or \$25.00/season (including sales tax). Discounted rates for the season pass were available to purchasers of 50 - 99 or 100+ passes. 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	2021 Total Sold	2021 Total Value	2022 Total Sold	2022 Total Value
Daily	\$5	10,043	\$50,215	10,107	\$50,535
Daily - self purchase	\$5	6,025	\$30,125	3,957	\$19,785
Daily - Internet	\$5	4,928	\$24,640	3,872	\$19,360
Season	\$25	1,715	\$42,875	1,590	\$39,750
Season - Internet	\$25	1,279	\$31,975	1,136	\$28,400
Group	Varies	42	\$1,270	181	\$905.00
<b>Total Value</b>			<b>\$181,100</b>		<b>\$158,735</b>
<b>Expenses (Pre-Deposit Deductions)</b>					
Friends Coupons Redeemed				-\$337	-\$1,242.75
Discounts/Pass Replacements				-\$6,741	-\$5,685
Donated Passes				-\$2,375	-\$1,480
<b>Deposited</b>				<b>\$171,646.</b>	<b>\$150,,327.25</b>
Sales Tax Liability				-\$11,789	-\$9,322.85
<b>Net Wheel Pass Revenue</b>				<b>\$159,857</b>	<b>\$141,004.40</b>



## 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 \$204,762.23 as of December 31, 2022. 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 2022. The total number of dollars in this account stands at \$46,621.31 as of December 31, 2022.



**Project 3. Technology Fund** - This fund account was created by the Joint Powers Board in 2022 for technology expenses in the future. \$2,500.00 was put into the technology fund in 2022. The total number of dollars in this account stands at \$2,500.00 as of December 31, 2022.

**Project 4. Vault Toilet and Sign Improvement** - Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission through Legacy Funds helped fund the project. This was a three year project which started in 2020. This project was completed in June of 2022. This project included new electronic Wheel Pass payment stations, new sign design, signs that communicate the needs of trail users and the installation of two vault toilets. The toilets are located at Anderson Memorial Rest Area at Mile 3.8 and Cannon Bottom Road at Mile 15.3. The total cost of this project was \$121,000.

**Project 5. Phase 2 Bridge Replacement**- Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission through Legacy Funds is helping fund the project. This is a three year project which started in 2021. The completion of this project will take place in June of 2023. This project includes replacing four bridges at a total project cost of \$996,400.

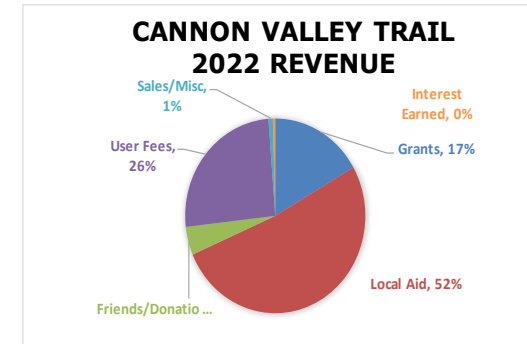


**Project 6. Mile 14 and Mile 16 Slope Failure Repair Project** - Engineer work was completed for preliminary design and cost estimate to repair the slope failure issues at Mile 14 and 16. Engineering costs were \$9,195.25.

## 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 prepared by Trail staff. Only the City of Red Wing reports are considered official.



## Revenue Summary

Revenue	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
Other Federal Grants & Aids	\$ 695,700.00	\$ 94,538.35
Goodhue County Share	\$ 141,187.00	\$ 141,187.00
Red Wing Share	\$ 102,478.00	\$ 102,478.00
Cannon Falls Share	\$ 48,988.00	\$ 48,988.00
Wheel Pass Sales	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 141,004.40
Ski Pass	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,727.50
Book Sales	\$ 75.00	\$ 149.95
T-shirt Sales	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,630.00
Interest - deposits/ investments	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,450.00
Donations - Friends of the Trail	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 15,628.70
Donations - Special Projects	- \$	\$ 1,000.00
Donations - CVT Wall	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,550.00
Donations & contributions	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,392.40
Refunds/wheel pass refunds	- \$	\$ 654.72
Other Misc/Rebates	- \$	\$ 981.66
Sale of Assets	-	-
Transfer from General Acct	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,130,128.00</b>	<b>\$ 565,360.68</b>

# Operating/Maintenance Account Summary

	<u>*2022 Budget</u>	<u>*2022 Actual</u>
wages - full time	\$71,260.69	\$71,837.92
wages - seasonal/ part-time	\$92,217.37	\$88,479.18
PERA	\$7,194.54	\$8,514.72
FICA	\$12,494.63	\$12,229.92
employee Ins	\$600.00	\$8,168.64
<u>Worker's comp insurance</u>	<u>\$2,500.93</u>	<u>\$2,167.86</u>
<b>Sub-Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$186,268.16</b>	<b>\$191,398.24</b>
office supplies	\$1,500.00	\$611.78
printed forms	\$8,000.00	\$5,488.66
envelopes/letterhead	\$175.00	\$251.63
other operating supplies	\$3,500.00	\$3,066.68
postage	\$1,500.00	\$1,171.25
motor fuels	\$6,000.00	\$5,488.66
uniform allowance	\$1,000.00	\$2,824.15
chemicals	\$1,750.00	\$1,725.50
rock/asphalt	\$1,200.00	\$748.87
equipment parts	\$3,750.00	\$6,627.34
tires	\$500.00	\$190.50
building repair	\$1,000.00	\$3,763.43
trees/landscaping	\$200.00	\$678.78
sign repair materials	\$500.00	\$5,670.70
motor vehicle repair supplies	\$1,000.00	\$76.14
other repair/maint. supplies	\$2,500.00	\$2,796.93
small tools	\$450.00	\$247.93
safety equipment	\$400.00	\$29.99
<u>merchandise for resale</u>	<u>\$3,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,885.00</u>
<b>Sub-Total Supplies</b>	<b>\$38,425.00</b>	<b>\$43,343.92</b>
engineering	\$0.00	\$1,010.71
training	\$200.00	\$0.00
professional/ web services	\$8,750.00	\$10,601.78
telephone/internet services	\$4,500.00	\$4,301.68
travel/conference	\$225.00	\$0.00
meals	\$250.00	\$114.79
mileage reimbursement	\$250.00	\$177.30
marketing/advertising	\$3,000.00	\$1,142.12
other printing and binding	\$100.00	\$0.00
insurance	\$8,000.00	\$8,729.00
electricity	\$2,200.00	\$2,189.08
equipment repair and maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$3,516.56
equipment rental	\$500.00	\$625.93
toilet rental/pumping/supplies	\$2,500.00	\$3,081.61
bank charges/ E-commerce fees	3,000.00	\$4,332.60
dues	\$1,000.00	\$844.99
refunds	\$50.00	\$0.00
other Misc/Operating Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,108.05
<b>Sub-Total Services</b>	<b>\$38,225.00</b>	<b>\$41,776.19</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$262,918.16</b>	<b>\$276,518.36</b>

# Friends of the Trail Account Summary

**Friends of the Trail** is a citizen membership based organization under the direction of the Joint Powers Board. Its function is to assist the Board in the development and management of the Trail. Annual membership rates start at \$10, with most members joining at the Prairie Level(\$25-49). The existence of the organization has been beneficial in generating support for grants and political action and in keeping the public informed of Trail events through the organization's quarterly newsletter.

The Cannon Valley Joint Powers Board is grateful for this support.

<u>Friends of the Trail</u>	<u>*2022 Budget</u>	<u>*2022 Actual</u>
office supplies	\$ 40.00	\$ 0.00
printed forms	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00
postage	\$ 150.00	\$ 240.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 440.00</b>	<b>\$ 240.00</b>



# Capital Improvement Account Summary

The capital improvement account includes projects such as facility development, equipment purchases and substantial maintenance activities such as asphalt repair.

All expenditures in the capital improvement account are project-based. Expenses are presented on that basis.

<b>Project</b>	<b>2022 Budgeted</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>
Service Improvement Project ( signs, vault toilets)	\$88,070.66	\$95,713.47
Biological Management Plan	\$33,240.00	\$33,687.17
Bridge Replacement— Phase 2	\$207,128.58	\$44,134.88
Mile 14 & 16 Engineering	\$10,000.00	\$9,195.25
Repaving Project	\$0.00	\$2,510.00
Purchase Lawn Tractor	\$0.00	\$10,449.00
Purchase Portable Fuel Tank	\$0.00	\$4,467.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$338,439.24</b>	<b>\$200,157.00</b>