

## **Appendix A**

### **Public Comment**

All public comments are included with the exception of an on-line survey conducted throughout August 2016. That 32 question survey received 374 respondents and 789 comments. The complete on-line survey results are included as Appendix B as a separate document.

This public participation summary is organized by:

- Agencies and Local Units of Government Programs and Staff
- Non-Profit Groups/Service Clubs/Similar
- Recreational Users/Stakeholders
- Citizens – General
- Open Houses
- Adjacent Landowners
- Business Interests
- Other

Email and phone numbers for private citizens have been blackened out for privacy reasons. Names were left visible.

## **Agencies and Local Units of Government and Staff**

### **Cannon Valley Trail Joint Powers Board**

Reviewed the planning process and content on:

July 26, 2017  
September 27, 2016  
December 21, 2016  
February 28, 2017  
March 28, 2017  
April 25, 2017  
May 23, 2017

### **Cannon Valley Trail Planning Advisory Committee**

Reviewed the planning process and content on:

July 18, 2016  
August 30, 2016  
November 8, 2016  
December 13, 2016  
February 21, 2017  
March 22, 2017

### **City of Cannon Falls – Planning Department Staff**

Ongoing Communication

Bruce Blair, consultant and Scott Roepke, Trail Manager continuously communicated with the Economic Development and Planning Director throughout the process regarding CVT related issues.

### **City of Red Wing – Planning and Engineering Departments**

Bruce Blair, consultant and Scott Roepke, Trail Manager continuously communicated through Red Wing staff throughout the process regarding CVT related issues.

### **Cannon Falls Township**

November 9, 2016  
Cannon Falls Township Hall

Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager  
Bruce Blair, Consultant

Blair/Roepke:

- Reviewed need for comprehensive plan update and the process
- Noted that at this time there were no issues or proposed changes that we thought would impact the Township, but that the process was not complete yet
- Noted that some construction activity on the Trail, such as bridge replacement, may require permits and perhaps Township review

Township Board Comments:

- Mentioned that the Township has a portion of Sunset Trail posted as No Parking in response to adjacent homeowner complaints about trail users parking in front of their house
- Township paid for these signs in the past, but now with a state mandate for reflectorized signs, when the signs are replaced they will have to be reflectorized. The Board asked if CVT would pay for the replacements signs – there was no follow up discussion
- Board Chair mentioned that people “love the trail”

## **Vasa Township**

November 15, 2016

Vasa Township Hall

Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager

Bruce Blair, Consultant

Blair/Roepke:

- Reviewed need for comprehensive plan update and the process
- Noted that for Welch Station there was interest in a picnic shelter, modern restroom and perhaps additional equipment storage building space. It was acknowledged that this involved local zoning and would be an issue for Township discussion if these ideas were to move forward

Township Board Comments

- Asked about the risk of vandalism to future restrooms – Roepke replied that it is a risk but that generally vandalism on the trail is on the decline
- Had general questions and comments about grant funding sources for the CVT
- No other issues were identified

**Red Wing City Council**

May 8, 2017

Red Wing City Hall

Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager

Bruce Blair, Consultant

Roepke presented an overview of the Draft Comprehensive Plan, with an emphasis on the CIP needs and costs. The only comment from the Council was about the existing operational cost share between the two cities and County, and that Red Wing residents, due to taxes paid to the County, also end up paying a portion of the County share.

**Cannon Falls City Council and Goodhue County Board of Commissioners**

May 16, 2017

Presentation by Scott Roepke, Trail Manager

Bruce,

I finished up the government presentations yesterday.

Goodhue County: just general discussion about the CVT at the end of the presentation.

The City of Cannon Falls: 1) asked about how likely the Trail would be able to obtain grants since the Plan relies heavily on grant funding. 2) asked if the plan addressed limited parking in Cannon Falls.

Scott Roepke

Trail Manager

Cannon Valley Trail

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources****Scientific and Natural Area Program**

October 3, 2016

Telephone conversation between Bruce Blair and Larissa Mottl, Natural Resources Program Coordinator

General:

- Appreciated my contacting her
- Invasive species concerns – managing this on CVT would also help them. Does CVT manage for this? They are watching/waiting for ornamental bittersweet.

Wood Turtle SNA:

Concerns:

- Erosion blowouts (along Bryans) and resulting sediment deposition on SNA – try and reduce/eliminate this

Other:

- Protection efforts: small acquisition in process –she will send map – but it looks like it is along the Trail right at Hwy. 61
- Some interest in re-introduction of the wood turtle

River Terrace Prairie SNA:

- Restoration work continues – they have grant funds to keep going with this
- Use Trail for access and fire break – they appreciate this

### **Wildlife Management**

October 3, 2016

Telephone conversation between Bruce Blair and Gretchen Miller, Assistant Wildlife Manager

General:

- No WMA plans in the valley now.
- Reminder: it may be that for some work, such as bridge replacement, it is necessary to go through EIS/Review through the St. Paul DNR office – contact is Lisa Joyal. It is best to mention this in the Plan.
- Reminder: For new bridges CVT might need water related permits. It is best to mention this in the Plan.

Tangential WMA:

- No plans to expand but if nearby landowners offered to sell property, they would be interested
- Are considering transferring management to the SNA program due to Dwarf Trout Lilys

### **Forestry**

November 3, 2016

Telephone conversation between Bruce Blair and Mike Wachholz, Local DNR Forester

DNR Forestry locations along CVT:

- Sunset Trail
- Belle Creek
- Collischan Road: reed canary grass is taking hold. Management is to herbicide to kill it, then plant trees

Information discussed:

- All forest land is in a management rotation- driven by a Forest Management Plan
- Invasive species: Can't do it all, must be focused
- No comment regarding any more land acquisition

#### Mile 6. Interpretive Trail

- Run by DNR Trails and Waterways (Craig Bloomer), not Forestry
- May not be officially designated as a trail anymore
- Needs a 'champion' – someone to take it over – Forestry won't
- Discussed Trail idea of a storm shelter at 6.1, this may increase relevance of the Interpretive Trail. Baby boomers like to read interpretive signs,

#### Law Enforcement

- Some campers at Trout Brook make a mess
- Some ATV use – not too bad
- Gates open when farming activity is happening.

#### **Trails and Waterways**

October 3, 2016

Telephone conversation between Bruce Blair and Craig Bloomer, Acquisition and Development Coordinator

#### Goodhue Pioneer State Trail

- North piece in Red Wing
- South piece from Zumbrota and 5 miles north
  - One more mile of south piece will be paved in 2017
- From south of Hay Creek, they are working on a key acquisition to connect existing trail to 2.5 miles of railroad ROW they own already. Acquisition is not guaranteed.
- An informal use survey for the north piece was conducted – Craig will send me the findings.

#### Mississippi Bluffland State Trail

- A Plan has been completed/approved

#### Hastings/Red Wing Trail

- Craig was not involved

#### Mill Towns State Trail

- Contact is Joel Wagar

## **Wild and Scenic**

September 12, 2016

Telephone conversation between Bruce Blair and Dan Petrik, Land Use Specialist

Conversation discussed:

- No new acquisition – no funds
- No new legislation, no changes in boundaries since 1984
- Dan Golner works with acquisition program – see him about existing easements
- Administered through County and City ordinances
- Commercial at Welch Station – not likely allowed by WS, would take rule change, DNR not likely to cooperate.

November 1, 2016

Telephone conversation between Bruce Blair and Dan Petrik, Land Use Specialist

Conversation regarding a picnic shelter at Welch Station, with modern restrooms

- Likely NOT an issue with W & S
- It falls under a “other government open space/park” type program
- Open Sided Structure: usually don’t need to be flood proof...not sure about a modern restroom
- Is the site in a flood way or flood plain?
- He will speak with other staff and if other information develops, he will call me.

## **Non-Game**

Jamie Edwards

December 1, 2016 (telephone message)

Blandings Turtles: Some in the valley but not many – not significant population. Not likely that the CVT plan needs to put much emphasis on this species – just a mention but don’t need to make accommodations in CVT plan for them.

Wood Turtle: Will be doing a survey in 2017, from the Straight River downstream – not sure if they will get all the way to the Mississippi River or not. Results of this survey could influence the CVT plan.

**Goodhue County Sheriff Office**

**From:** Powers, Scott [<mailto:scott.powers@co.goodhue.mn.us>]

**Sent:** Monday, May 08, 2017 9:04 AM

**To:** [trailmanager@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:trailmanager@cannonvalleytrail.com)

**Subject:** Comprehensive Plan

Hello Scott,

We really don't have any concerns with the trail, I took a look at the calls and the majority were medicals or some recreational vehicles that entered the trail. If you have any questions give me a call at 651-764-3537.

Sergeant Scott Powers

Goodhue County Sheriff's Office

430 West 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone (651) 267-2848

[scott.powers@co.goodhue.mn.us](mailto:scott.powers@co.goodhue.mn.us)

**Live Well Goodhue County**

**Live Healthy Red Wing**

September 22, 2016

Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager

Bruce Blair, consultant

David Anderson, Director, Live Well

Michelle Leise, Director Live Healthy

Conversation and comments were:

Live Healthy Red Wing

- Focus on healthy eating, activity, transport
- Reaching diverse populations
- Less focus on programming
- "Live your life actively" is the motto

Live Well Goodhue County

- County-wide perspective
- Work with community development policy and programs so that the healthy choice is the easiest
- Work Place Wellness emphasis –



### Examples of Strategies/Programs

- Promote bike commuting, such as the Industrial Park in Red Wing, Target, etc. One issue is lack of showers at work. There is much more commuting potential – marketing needs to be done.
- Accommodating/encouraging bicycling: Kellys Bar has bike racks, St. James rents bikes.
- Create our own new users! Encourage Bike share programs, fleet of bikes at Senior Center, expose people to electric assist bikes,
- Program Examples:
  - Kids are taught how to fix donated bicycles, then they get to keep one
  - The “Take a Kid Fishing” idea – take a kid biking
  - Ride on CVT free days
- Winter Use: In the City of Goodhue, the City plowed the walking path and immediately winter pedestrian use went up. Could plowing some of the CVT in Red Wing contribute to more winter hiking?
- Pine Island: one business (the Cheese factory?) has a “borrow a bike” program run by volunteers.
- Amtrak: Amtrak is being lobbied to let passengers unload bicycles at Red Wing.
- Food in Parks: Nationally a growing movement – planting fruit trees as example and letting people harvest. (Consider how popular blueberry and apple picking is locally). Herbs are also popular. Gives people another reason to be active and visit a park.

### Examples of Issues/Needs

- Training business staff (such as at hotel desks, restaurant staff, etc.) so they know what is available for bicycling
- Upper A. P. Anderson Park: Some people don’t realize you can now bike to downtown on trail. Would signage help?
- Kids stuck at home with both parents working – yet there are an increasing number of safe biking options from home to destinations which are underutilized
- CVT Bench Street Access: Wayfinding from there to downtown, Hay Creek Trail, etc. needs to be improved. How about a “cool” kiosk. Make Bench Street a memorable place. More interpretation too.
- Old West Main/Withers Harbor Drive Intersection: A challenging, confusing intersection for bicyclists. How can it be redesigned?

### **From Goodhue County Park Board meeting, July 28, 2016:**

#### Joint Master Planning of the two parks:

- Challenge – find synergy with both parks that serves the public and meets the needs of the 2 jurisdictions
- Not enough for people to do at the two parks
- How to attract use in the off season, week days

- Dave M: how to integrate services of CF's into CVT and with 2 Byllesby Parks

#### Hastings to Red Wing Trail

- GC is working on land acquisition (Close property) of 1 mile of RR r-o-w.
- May work with Leigh Nelson who owns 2-3 miles of r-o-w.
- No citizen group advocating for the Trail – an impediment
- DC is working on acquisition but hopes to prioritize it more in the near future.

#### Mill Towns State Trail

- Joel Wager is DNR contact person
- 507/455-5871
- Joel.Wagar@state.mn.us
- DNR project
- Under construction CF's to the new bridge
- New bridge is open

Suzie Nakasian [REDACTED]

To: Bruce Blair

Cc: Mary Jo Knudson; [REDACTED] Carlos Espinosa; [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: Cannon Valley Trail Draft Comprehensive Plan

Wed 4/26/2017 12:32 PM

Dear Bruce:

Peggy Prowe has forwarded me your helpful update on the CVT Comp Plan. I write on behalf of the SMART Board- We are rebooting the SMART Board and eager to assist trail projects in the region.

how might our network be helpful to your efforts?! Our next meeting is May 11 in Rochester at the Silver Lake Pavilion at 2:30 p.m. - an announcement will come to you shortly. I hope you can join us as we work together to pursue a regional trail system! !

Thanks

Suzie Nakasian

Northfield  
[REDACTED]

## **Non-Profit Groups/Service Clubs/Similar**

### **Cannon River Watershed Partnership**

September 30, 2016

CRWP office, Northfield

#### Attending:

Brad Fraizer, Executive Director

Bruce Blair

#### CRWP Mission

- Engaging people, improving water quality

#### Example of Program:

- Have 17 farmers experimenting with planting a cover crop in corn once the corn is knee high

#### Bruce stressed;

- Erosion damage to CVT from ravines and Cannon River, Belle Creek flows
- Sedimentation impacts
- Poor water quality

#### What can CVT do to help the CRWP?

- Joint programs, marketing, outreach

#### Recommendations:

- CVT Plan to understand all the Legacy funding programs
- CVT to work closely with the SWCD/NCRS – nudge them to prioritize work that benefits CVT

#### Discussed Trust for Public Land

- They are working on “Cannon River Headwaters Project” – looking for land to buy that can improve ecological condition and water quality of the Cannon River. TPL staff involved are Bob McGillivay, DJ Forbes
- Discussed if TPL would be interested in taking a look at Hidden Valley Campground river front property

### **Goodhue County Historical Society**

November 4, 2016

Goodhue County Historical Society

#### Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager

Bruce Blair, consultant

Dustin Heckman, GCHS Executive Director  
James Clinton, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Conversation and comments were:

- Interpretation – aids people in understanding place
- Interpretation elements – prefer features that blend in, don't dominate the site (unlike the kiosks at Memorial Park)

Old West Main Access

- "It feels like the Trail experience is over"

Welch Station Access

- Good to have better cell phone coverage
- Make a place for users to charge their phones

CVT Kiosks:

- Need updating – materials are outdated, old flyers, etc.
- Could Live Well Red Wing be in charge of updating CVT kiosks?
- Could kiosks be updated remotely, have a touch screen, with advertising for revenue?

Role of "Place Making"

- Art Reach and Art Association involved with place making efforts, often with sculpture
- Welch Station has a donors wall which contributes to place making
- State Arts Board is a funding source

Program Ideas

- Ask a photographer to interact with trail users in regards to how to take better 'selfies' (this comment was in context of discussing the millennial generation)
- Archaeology – do a tour of sites, via bike, hike, combination
- Discussed success of GCHS "Bluffs and Brews" program involving kayaking to locations and visiting brewerys
- "Growth Points" concept – logical places to start building a program
- Group Hikes – easier especially for starting a series of programs
- Provide a shuttle service for CVT users
- School use – how can teachers utilize the trail for teaching?

Social Media

- Roepke mentioned that Trail does not have much of a presence, but that the CVT Office Assistant position description is being rewritten to include social media efforts
- Facebook: appeals more to Baby Boomers and Gen x
- Twitter: Used by all generations

- Instagram: Most often used by millenials
- Recommended the trail have a hashtag
- Check Live Healthy Red Wing – they have a good website

#### Red Wing Cultural Park and Trail Concept

Reviewed the idea of a hiking trail on top of the terrace, connecting the Anderson Center, archaeological sites and CVT

- Key is sensitivity to cultural resources
- GCHS would support this concept

**From: Dustin Heckman, Director, GCHS**

May 13, 2017

Hey Bruce,

So I feel like a schmuck right now! I've been out of the office a lot in the last few weeks so I haven't had a chance to review the draft plan until today. Everything to me looks good and reflects our previous conversation at the History Center between you, Scott, myself, and James.

As planning goes forward, I think it would be good to meet with you and Scott at some of the trail sites that you'd like some help with or that apply to cultural and historic resource management. We have a new Education & Outreach Coordinator, who I think would like to tag along as well. This way we can see some of these sites and start developing strategies to help with educational opportunities. I hate to admit, but I have never used the trail so this will also get me moving to start utilizing this resource as well J

Take care and let me know how we can help!

Dustin

#### **Red Wing Rotary Club**

November 15, 2016

Bruce Blair, consultant, gave a presentation about the plan process and on-line survey results. General discussion followed. One member asked if CVT could do more to promote and manage trail to the west of Cannon Falls.

## **Recreational Users/ Stakeholders**

### **Twin Cities and Northfield Bike Clubs**

September 15, 2016

Welch Station Access

#### Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager  
Bruce Blair, consultant  
Nine citizens

#### General discussion on the trail experience. Comments Received:

- Consider classes to teach young people how to use the Trail
- Signage: See City of Inver Grove Heights trail map examples – on MRRT
- Good upkeep is critical – best in the State
- Staff is friendly
- Safety: Add signs – stay on right
- County Road 7 Crossing – hard for east bound bikers to see other side
- Donation requests: get a patch or similar – bikers like patches
- Advertise trail more at conventions, etc.
- Wider is better – prefer 10'

### **Red Wing Area Mountain Bike Organization (RAMBO)**

September 29, 2016

Bayside Bar, Red Wing

#### Attending:

Bruce Blair, consultant  
Six RAMBO members

#### General Information discussed:

- What is a 'fat tire' bike? Tire width of 2", 3", 4", 5"
- What is a Cycle Cross? Biking through sand, grass, and lifting bike over barriers
- Memorial Park use: 200 – 300 users per month (they have a counter)
- Not just a guy sport – many women
- Does CVT use social media?
- Does CVT do special events?
- CVT should capitalize on scenic views

There is potential for CVT to encourage mt. bike use

- If they knew Fat Tire bikes were welcome, they would be happy

- Little BMX courses off main trail, along the way – parents can let kids use and enjoy them

#### BMX Course along CVT

- Progressively more challenging
- Little roller things – a BMX feel – kids play around

#### Use

- High school leagues are bringing in new users of mt. bikes
- Red Wing does not have a league yet

#### Welch Village Ski

- Moving into mt. biking
- Trails up and down the slopes
- Skills park down below
- Trails on top
- Will outfit a ski lift to carry bicycles
- Will rent mt. bikes

#### Sites for Mt. bike trails

- Camp Pearson
- Old Cannon Bottom Road – even doing a winter loop that takes them through the Cannon Bottoms, over lake ice, through the cattails, back into Red Wing

#### Fat Tire Bikes

- Just mentioning that Fat Tire bikes are welcome would please RAMBO
- Hay Creek Trail – have to compete with snowmobiles so not much fun
- It may be that fat tire bike use has already plateau – it is a narrow customer base
- Few people actually ride them year round

#### Winter Use of Fat Tire

- 10 mile road trip
- Because of increased effort required to use Fat Tires on snow, hills are less needed – flat has an advantage
- Mississippi Golf Links: they are working on getting winter trails
- Memorial Park: from the Golf Links a huge hill climb is required – not that much fun

## **Cross-country Ski Advocates**

October 4, 2016

Welch Station Access

### Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager  
Bruce Blair, consultant  
Four citizens  
Jim Patterson

### General information discussed:

- Trail is nice for beginners
- CVT not wide enough for even the best skate skiing – 12-14' is preferred, let alone sharing the trail with classic skiing
- Skiing has been a baby boomer sport, and there appears to be fewer people doing it now. One exception is active high school programs
- RW elementary and middle schools have a youth program – 50 kids or so – led by Heather Nagel. They use Mississippi Golf Links as they have loops and hills. A coach can more easily see the students as they ski with that sort of layout – at CVT once they head down the trail the coach can't interact with them.
- Climate seems to be milder, snow fall more variable, warm spells melt it, etc.
- Discussed grooming technique and how to do the best job
- Skiing on CVT is very beautiful – can see the river and valley
- Consider allowing dogs in the winter

### Other Facilities

- Welch Ski Village – if they made a loop for skiers and made snow – that would be great
  - Maybe the loop could involve CVT
  - Matt will talk to Peter at the Ski Village
- Highland, Battle Creek, Elm Creek and Theodore Wirth Parks are all making snow
- Trollhaugen is making snow – when there isn't good snow cover elsewhere they are busy. When good snow elsewhere their use goes down

### Comment from one attendee:

- Racer
- Avid biker
- Trains with roller ski's – use Flower Valley Road trail now instead of CVT as Flower Valley has new blacktop and hills to improve training, plus sometimes CVT is too busy
- Involved with RW Ski Club – president
- He participates in grooming trails at Memorial Park and Mississippi Golf Links
- Believes it is generally best that trails are not shared – single use per trail – separate users!



Other Comments:

- Note that fat tire bike and skate skiing are thought to be incompatible on the same

Fat Tire Bikes

- They are on the ski trails at Memorial Park
- Consider their use on CVT – they are waiting to feel welcome
- They want a groomed trail, but it can be very narrow

Walkers

- Don't try and make a ski trail where walkers are prevalent – it doesn't work for skiers
- At CF's end, walkers go to about mile 2

Idea

- Maybe to get the most use on CVT in the winter, consider grooming for classic and allowing fat tire bikes

**Jim Patterson**

**Ski Advocate**

Telephone Call April 26

- Fat tire bikes – wide range, mt. bikes used to be called fat tire
- Impact of tire on snow...5" is minimal compared to 2.5"
- Ambiguous language using fat tire

Winter Use Pilot Program Comments:

- Will not want to stop at Cannon Bottom Road
- Why can't 5" tires go further....so little impact
- Idea: 5" tire bikes are allowed everywhere, plus any size to Cannon Bottom Road
- Draw conclusions from Pilot Program, maybe it will prove fat tire bikes are ok everywhere in the future
- Or keep bikes on one side of trail and allow classic on other side, skate skiers in the middle
- Sign trail well if sharing use

## Citizens – General

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, January 07, 2017 8:32 AM

**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)

**Subject:** Master pl

I'm an online distance skater and would like to see the gravel road crossings paved and kept clean. There is nothing worse than having to stop and pick your way across a gravel road. It would also improve the safety for skaters as it would remove a tripping and falling hazard.

Michael Pekarik

Rosemount, Mn.

**From:** Roger Popp [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2017 12:26 PM

**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)

**Subject:** CVT observations

I have been a user of the CVT for quite a few years and I am always somewhat concerned, as an 85 year old, that there are places along the trail where the ridge of the trail is so close to a severe drop off into lower terrain. It is not as much a concern until I meet "some young bikers" going quite fast, who are talking with their group and do not pay attention as they are coming toward me. I am always concerned about what to do if I need to avoid running into one of them.

As the number of bikers increase! Is there any plan to address that issue?

Roger Popp  
Red Wing, Mn

**From:** Kirsten Ford [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, January 09, 2017 8:45 AM

**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)

**Subject:** Input on the trail

Hello,

We've enjoyed the Cannon Valley trail many times during our 22 years of living in Red Wing. We can bike from our driveway and connect in less than 2 miles. I agree the trail should be a gateway into Red Wing and not "stop" at Old West Main. Same in Cannon Falls. I think trail head signage needs to be improved including a new logo that stands out to claim your place and importance. The trail is too narrow overall. We've had bikers come up from behind and pass at alarming speeds nearly causing accidents. There should be "rules to riding" education that includes common courtesy behavior with fellow trail riders (better signage along the trail and at trail heads). I would like a map to show up on my

phone with places nearby I may be interested in exploring. Could a fast lane be added along side the trail? Have special family days without admission? Could there be a way for people to donate bikes so families can use on the trail? Have a bike swap for kids, have a learn bike maintenance event including other nonprofits to reach more people?

Kirsten Ford, art director owner  
Focus Design | [REDACTED]  
[www.focusdesigncreative.com](http://www.focusdesigncreative.com)

**From:** Kirsten Ford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 09, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** Cannon Valley Trail  
**Subject:** Re: Input on the trail

Hello.

I hadn't been to your revised website before. Maybe start with promoting it! I don't like the interactive map from Goodhue county - it doesn't load fast even with good internet speed and it's archaic looking - not friendly or fun at all! I see there's a PDF map you have which I like, but it's too small to be readable on an iPhone 6 and when I try to enlarge the resolution its too low to read.

For an example, <http://www.elroy-sparta-trail.com/maps-and-more>. I like that their maps are PDF and can be downloaded to your phone in advance of your ride - no need for better internet access along the trail - but I wish for better/easier labeling of picnic tables, toilets, overlooks, things not to miss, places to explore, side trails that are perhaps more challenging off-chutes to the main trail. There's another idea!

What kind of user does the trail serve? Seniors? Families with young kids? Walkers? Rollerbladers? Race-trainers? Wanna bee healthy adults who want to try it? Design the trail to accommodate all? Some?

**From:** Julie Birk-Betcher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)  
**Subject:** typo on comprehensive plan Sent from Snipping Tool

I think the intent was for Mid to be 2021-2023 and maybe someone already pointed that out to you. Interesting reading and excited about keeping the CVT a premier trail.

to serve the Trail for about 10- 20 years, with implementation prioritized in three phases: Early (2018-2020), Mid (2021-2013) and Late (2024-2027). It is recommended that the need for plan updates be addressed at least every ten years or as circumstances warrant  
about:blank

**From:** Julie Birk-Betcher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 4:01 PM  
**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)  
**Subject:** what does this mean on the Plan? Sent from Snipping Tool

Page 14 What does this mean?  
'Way finding confusion to navigate...'

Thanks.

Julie Birk-Betcher  
HR Coordinator  
S. B. Foot Tanning Company/Red Wing Shoe Company  
805 Bench St. Red Wing, MN 55066  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Julie Birk-Betcher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 4:06 PM  
**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)  
**Subject:** typo on plan Sent from Snipping Tool

I believe it should be Hastings.  
Thanks.

## *Hasting to Red Wing Trail*

[about:blank](#)

**From:** Sue Allyn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 3:08 PM  
**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)  
**Subject:** Wow

All that for a bike trail.

Didn't read the entire update, but love the idea of increasing the width of the trail and of course taking care of the erosion/bridge issues when flooding occurs.

Love that the trail will hopefully connect with other trails as well.

Once again, I've been on many trails in MN and WI and the Red Wing trail is one of my favs. Appreciate the time and effort into making it a great ride.....it really is all about the feel of being in the woods and away from town.....you dont have to cross streets or highways, other than in Welch, and none of that annoying noise from that as well, pretty much only under the 61 bridge, but that's a neat stop there for a drink and a rest.

I certainly would snowshoe on the trail in the winter months, but the ski'ers dont like folks messing up their trail.

I regularly use the trail out to Haycreek as well.....but I'm from Red Wing, so I know it's there as a result. If you make more signage visible for folks to use that portion of the trail, I would certainly have a sign at the end of the trail stating there is Dressens Saloon restaurant down the road from there, its nice to stop in there and have a snack and something to drink, of course, Dressens would most likely need to do that. And maybe they dont want the business, not sure.

Anyhoo, very comprehensive plan. Using the trail I dont really think about alot of the information you put in there, so very interesting to see how diverse and complex it really is. Been using the trail regularly since it opened! And have brought friends there to use it and enjoy it with me from Whysconsin! :) Always promoting pretty little Red Wing and all it has to offer!

ADRC, Aging and Disability Resource Center  
Barron, Rusk, and Washburn Counties  
335 E Monroe Ave., Room 100  
Barron, WI 54812

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Lisa Walker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 5:25 PM  
**To:** Scott Roepke  
**Subject:** Re: Help plan the future of the cannon Valley Trail!

Hello Scott,  
I have read through this proposed plan. Thank you for sending it. I would like to find out more about where you are considering to build the additional indoor equipment storage space at the Welch access. I would appreciate if you could call me: home [REDACTED] cell [REDACTED]

Thank you!  
Lisa

**Lisa Walker - Welch**

April 18, 2017

Telephone conversation with Bruce Blair

Supports the Trail but is opposed to the proposed maintenance building at the Outdoor Service Yard location. This would interfere with the views from her house out into the valley.

**From:** Eric Johnson [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:29 AM

**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)

**Subject:** Trail Plan

Scott,

Thanks for all I learned at the Trail Plan Meeting last night in Cannon Falls. I am pleased at the scope and the results of work by you, Bruce and others.

Because our bike club has been helping test a newfangled bike sensor for the traffic signal at Second and Highway 3 I have been in frequent contact with the signal engineer at MnDOT. When I wrote him asking for a link to the hydrology section of his organization I was able to get a current answer to the rainfall standards used by MnDOT in their roadway projects. Please pass this on to Bruce as well.

As ever, Eric in Northfield

Eric,

MnDOT, along with many others in the Midwest, used to use TP 40 rainfall data which was created in the late 1960's for our design storm events. In the last few years, we have updated our data standard to Atlas 14. Many watersheds in the Metro area have also updated to this data standard. Atlas 14 data takes into account more recent rainfall data over the region and captures the increase that we have been seeing in the amount and intensity of rainfall events.

Beth Neuendorf

MnDOT Metro District Water Resources Engineer

1500 W County Rd B2

Roseville, MN 55113

**Dan Forsythe – Welch**

Mon 4/10/2017 7:51 AM

Bruce,

I spent some hours last night reading sections of the the plan. Will try to come up with some intelligent comments and forward as requested.

I think you have done a very impressive job on this and hope it is received well.

Dan

From: Douglas Jones [doug1mary@gmail.com](mailto:doug1mary@gmail.com)

To: Peggy Prowe

Cc: [bbwelch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:bbwelch@sleepyeyetel.net)

Subject: Re: Cannon Valley Trail Draft Comprehensive Plan

why do you have to put asphalt on all the bike trails? Over time they deteriorate and crumble. Why don't you consider permeable recycled asphalt or, even better, crushed river rock? Maybe Peg Prowe rides old fashioned skinny tired bikes, but the new deal is mountain bikes, off-road bikes, knobby tired bikes. Better exercise for the biker and better for the environment. I will actively oppose any future bike trail funding to pay for asphalt bike trails.

## Open Houses

### Cannon Falls Open House

September 19, 2016

Cannon Falls City Hall

#### Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager

Bruce Blair, consultant

Interested citizens

#### Comment Received:

- Lots of questions about Mill Towns State Trail – when will it be completed to Northfield, where will it be located, who will take care of it, etc.
- Wayfinding to trail connections needs improvement
- Trail gap between Mill Towns and City Trail – when and how will it be finished?
- Like CVT the way it is
- A woman expressed passionate interest in that trails need to be for all users, including snowmobiles, horses, atv's as well as bicycle. She was impressed with the multi-use trails she has visited in Michigan.

- A couple expressed interest in dog sledding on the Trail – she does it on the Douglas Trail. Trail without too many road crossings is good for sledding.
- The dog sledding couple also mentioned that the Douglas Trail has a lot of fat tire bike use on it in the winter.
- It was noted that the different trail managing agencies will have different ordinances and will this be a source of confusion?
- At Mile marker 2 – considered thinning out the trees for a better view of the river.
- Consider making all trail from Byllesby to Red Wing multi-use in the winter: snowshoe, hike, mt. bike, skate ski, fat bike, dog sled, skijor, horse, jogging.
- Consider fat tire bike races for supporting different groups
- Connect small section of CVT to the dog sled trails

Want:

- More water stations
- Leaving one trail system going onto another
- Mile markers on city/state trails
- Lighting on new Mill Towns bridge over the Cannon River at Byllesby

**Red Wing Open House**

September 22, 2016

Red Wing Public Library

Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager  
 Bruce Blair, consultant  
 Brian Peterson, Planning Director, City of Red Wing  
 Greg Isakson, Goodhue County Public Works Director  
 Dan Bender, Mayor of Red Wing  
 Brad Anderson, Goodhue County Commissioner  
 Interested citizens

Comment Received:

- Need better signs to Hay Creek Trail and Red Wing Riverfront Trail (users view it as one trail system, not separate trails)
- Trail surface condition is an important issue
- Beautiful trail – we use it often.
- Agree with the Not Pet policy
- Spring Creek bridge is too rough to in-line skate – what can be done?
- Wayfinding issues at Bench Street Access – can't sense the City and options for destinations
- Want a 10' wide trail if possible



- Safety concern – steep drop offs along the trail
- Wheel Pass fee – consider tiered prices – an hourly rate
- Plow trail from Old West Main to A.P. Anderson
- Slippery bridges – safety issue. Consider sandblasting the surface to roughen it up some
- MRT (Mississippi River Trail – MnDOT responsibility): Route now is Hwy. 61 to Bench Street – CVT should be used instead as possible.
- Provide additional interpretive signage at various points of interest – train wreck site, hardwood forest type, etc.
- Former Hidden Valley Campground – is there an opportunity to purchase and use as a campground?
- Marshall Rest Area – a favorite place
- Short bridge east of Belle Creek Bridge: slippery when wet – a woman went down here about 3 weeks ago
- Red Wing Vicinity: There are conservation easements on some properties – it would be good to map these.
- Historic Road: Interesting potential for interpretation
- Connect CVT to Highway 61 at the Cannon Bottoms
- City Planning and Engineering have worked on hiking trail connections from the Cannon River Bluffs development to CVT (behind the new Kwik Trip)
- Lower A.P. Anderson Park: Fix up the restroom
- Cannon River Avenue/Trail Crossing: There are harsh bumps at street interface
- Along Red Wing Mall: Bituminous surface is getting rough
- Want trail connection from West Service Drive to the Trail (between Target and McDonalds)
- Red Wing Riverfront Trail near Pottery Pond: puddles persist after rain – poor drainage
- New bike route between Withers Harbor Drive along Old West Main to Hwy 61, to Hill Street, to downtown (See RW Planning)

**April 11, 2017**

**Public Open House**

**Cannon Falls**

Comment Received:

- Discussion on how to accomplish bridge and bituminous replacement while minimizing the closure of the Trail
- Could bridge work be done in the winter?
- It is critical that the nature immersion experience be respected and enhanced
- Future development must address the serious water conveyance/erosion issues – the dramatic increase in intense rainfall events is creating havoc to the Trail
- There were questions about clarifying the Winter Use proposal for the Cannon Falls end

- Regarding increasing use, there was comment that Cannon Falls doesn't have much for overnight accommodations so this could be an impediment

**April 12, 2017**

**Public Open House**

**Red Wing**

Comment Received:

- Is it possible for an individual to volunteer to work with a sponsoring partner, like RW Seniors or Live Healthy Red Wing?
- Discussion on how to accomplish bridge and bituminous replacement while minimizing the closure of the Trail. How can the impact be minimized? Could bridges be constructed in the winter?
- Volunteer for trail maintenance?
- Incentives for donors?
- Would Road Share help to connect place in Red Wing or Cannon Falls?
- Would more lighting help prevent vandalism?
- The Trail Board needs to organize an effective fund raiser – it is critical that the Trail meet the needs
- Questions on details of bituminous replacement

## **Adjacent Landowners**

**Anderson Center**

October 14, 2016

At the Center

Attending

Bruce Blair, consultant

Christopher Burawa, Executive Director

General:

- The property is an untapped resource – restoration is the vision
- Education/Art/Ecological Programs – tie together and back to the mission of the Center
- Lots of artists use nature as inspiration, and use items and the science of nature in their work
- Long Range: get \$\$\$ for artists to lead public activities so CVT visitors can meet with, and engage, with artists

- Artists in Residence love the CVT – Center has bikes they can use – many don't have cars
- Center may start a restaurant/wine bar/deli sort of place

#### Connectivity

- Obviously the slope makes for a challenge
- Discussed idea of a trail along Hwy. 61 from Bryan Addition to CVT – this is on the other side of Hwy. 61 from the Center which would be an issue.
- Wondered about finishing the paving of Cannon Bottom Road to the trail to make it easier for CVT users to get to the Center

#### Ecological Restoration of Property

- High level of interest in bring back the oak savanna from the top down the slope to CVT
- Working with Tim S. of Audubon Society and Tim C. of USFWS regarding planning this restoration
- USFWS might be able to help with funding
- Restoration would be a multi-year process, and management sustained over years
- Center owns land in the flood plain too – there is an conservation type easement of it – held by the Nature Conservancy
- Would like Center visitors to be able to stand on the bluff edge and see down the hill and into the valley

#### Trail Development

- Would like trails through the wetlands
- I mentioned my previous trail planning work for a hiking trail on the bluff top, from the Center to the Red Wing Archaeological Preserve – there is potential this is doable. (Update: In a later conversation the Anderson Center expressed support for this trail concept).

#### Interpretation

- On Trails want to add interpretive signs – nothing boring however

#### Bruce Mentioned

- Maybe CVT can prioritize it's vegetation management to be complimentary to the Center's restoration
- The idea of CVT having a pilot program of a part time position to promote joint programming with CVT and the community – Chris mentioned that the Bush Foundation has grant programs to fund something like that

#### **Anderson Center**

Wed 4/26/2017 2:00 PM

Dear Bruce,

I've reviewed the materials you produced twice, and I think it is very comprehensive—offering many points for discussion and development. I especially like the idea of a HWY 61 trail that creates a loop with the CVT at the Anderson Center. I also appreciated the section, Increasing Visitor Integration with Host Communities, and the necessity of Red Wing to connect physically, programmatically, and providing information about the Anderson Center. I have endeavored to close the perceived physical

gap between the AC and downtown, but it is not easy. The Center is at the gateway and it would be great to have a developed plan of integration of CVT and cultural resources—into downtown.

Thanks for all of the hard—and good—work!

Chris

Christopher Burawa

Executive Director

Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies



W: [www.andersoncenter.org](http://www.andersoncenter.org)

### **Owner of former Cannon Falls Railroad Depot Building**

Charlie Theis, Cannon Falls

Telephone conversation with Bruce Blair

- His plan is to establish a bicycle repair shop and provide food service, including sandwiches, ice cream and “healthy stuff” – but the plan is still fluid. May open in 2018.
- Building has modern restrooms – not sure how available they will be to trail users who are not customers

### **Business Interests**

#### **Cannon Falls Chamber of Commerce**

October 13, 2016

Cannon Falls City Hall

Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager

Bruce Blair, consultant

Patty Anderson, Chamber Director

Chamber Members

Blair gave a presentation about the plan process and on-line survey results. General discussion followed. There were few comments.

## **Red Wing Chamber of Commerce**

October 13, 2016

Chamber of Commerce Office, Red Wing

### Attending:

Scott Roepke, Trail Manager

Bruce Blair, consultant

Patty Brown, Chamber Director

Sean Dowse, Candidate for Mayor (11/8/16 Update: Elected Mayor)

Blair gave a presentation about the plan process and on-line survey results.

### Comments:

- Regarding declining use by those age 18 and under, the “Jacob Wetterling” effect was discussed (children having less flexibility to be out and about on their own)
- A 10’ wide trail would reduce congestion on busy days
- It was asked if the plan will ask the 3 units of government for funds to match development grants
- It was noted that often times trail users don’t know where to go in Red Wing or what to do, so they stop at the Chamber office and ask

It was recommended that:

- Welch Station Access provide wi-fi as cell phone coverage is poor
- CVT Plan should suggest the creation of an endowment for capital improvements
- It was noted that CVT has an interactive map on its web site – it was suggested that it be expanded to assisting guiding someone through Red Wing, to collaborate with Google maps and Biking Minnesota
- The Mesabi Trail has interesting maps that CVT should look at

## **Welch Ski Village and Snowboard Area**

October 2016

Bruce Blair had a discussion with Leigh Nelson, owner of the Welch Ski Village about Village plans to construct mountain bike trails on their property and convert a chair lift so it can haul mountain bikes up the hill. From there riders can enjoy the trails as they descend to the bottom.

**From:** Peter Zotalis <mailto:peter@welchvillage.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2017 12:00 PM

**To:** [info@cannonvalleytrail.com](mailto:info@cannonvalleytrail.com)

**Subject:** Winter Fat biking

Hi Scott,

I'm sure you have been asked this before. Does the Cannon Valley Trail allow fat biking on the trail in the winter?

We are starting to get asked this more and more. And....when we put in mountain biking this summer, I expect more questions in future winters. Also, there is a group in Red Wing who has told me that if winter biking was allowed, they would make regular trips to the ski area. I wouldn't mind that because those people would buy food and beer too.

Hope you are enjoying winter. Thanks

Peter Zotalis  
General Manager  
Welch Village Ski Area Inc.  
[REDACTED]

### **Trout Scream Café**

October 2016

Bruce Blair had a discussion with Peggy Hanson, owner of the Trout Scream Café, about CVT and the planning process. It was suggested that CVT policy be adjusted to allow the Café to have a more prominent sign on the Trail directing users to Welch and the Café.

### **Red Wing Republican Eagle**

October 14, 2016

Bruce Blair had a telephone conversation with Eagle staff regarding the stairway that connects the Eagle facility to CVT. Staff reported no issues of concern.

### **Red Wing Shoe Company**

November 2, 2016

Bruce Blair had a conversation with the Red Wing Shoe Plant #2 Manufacturing Support Manager regarding any issues with CVT. He reported that sometimes trail users cut through the parking lot and that others (not necessarily CVT users) rummage through the dumpsters but that neither issue was significant.

## **Welch Mill Canoeing and Tubing**

December 12, 2016

Bruce Blair had a discussion with owner Ross Nelson about the comp plan update and specifically about public interest in having bicycles shuttled so that bikers could also use the river. He discussed the physical challenge of transporting bicycles on crowded buses (it doesn't work), the public resistance to paying what it costs, having to invest in front of bus mounted bicycle racks to even try and make transporting bicycles work, etc.

## **Other**

### **Archaeology**

Dr. Ron Schirmer, Anthropology Department Associate Professor at Mankato State University, Minnesota

October 21, 2016

Telephone conversation between Bruce Blair and Dr. Ron Schirmer. Discussed:

- Preservation
- Stewardship/Management
- Scientific/Excavation
- Communicating Value/Making relevant to RW, CVT and beyond

Site Management

- Woody vegetation is invading, not visually interesting (lots of junk trees), difficult to mow.
- Establish a more visually friendly landscape – oak savannah like
- Mounds by Pepin Avenue – completely invaded with trees.

Communicating Value

- Silvernale and Red Wing Archaeological Preserve sites interpretive signs are outdated – we know more now
- Plan for more interpretation
- Generally there is more value than detriment in interpreting mounds, but must not endanger them
- Welch to Hwy 61: Tell the story of seasonal migration. Almost no archaeological research has been done
- Cannon River: tell the story of native American use of the river
- Tributaries to the Cannon River: sites all over, unreported mounds, etc. Mentioned one ravine (formerly Stanley Sell property I think – where the curved trail bridge is) likely has sites.
- Conclusion: CVT has, or is adjacent to, enormously valuable archaeological resources – few other trails do – need to capitalize on this.

Scientific Work

- Done 10 seasons of excavation in RW – 5 or 6 seasons at Silvernale.
- Have a good handle on Silvernale site
- Want to do more work

- Field schools are only 5 weeks long (due to structure of college courses, etc.) – need more time
- Make Silvernale the base of operations – make it shine! Do more work here.
- Currently he is planning a multi-year study of the entire Cannon River Valley watershed – a higher level study to understand regional context and extent of archaeological resources.

Site Comments:

- Big field by Capital Safety plant (9.26 acres): owned by City of RW and full of mounds. Find some way to improve, interpret, do archaeological research on it. Some problems with ATV traffic now (Silvernale too?). Relocate the mounds using geophysical methods
- Ron has good aerial photos of the mounds
- Thompson Mounds: rare mound resource (square or rectangular mound).
- Camp Pearson: Ron believes there is high probability that there are more archaeology resources there than is currently known. Plus the site has building remnants, old fireplace. Regarding the potential acquisition opportunity of Lutheran Social Service property across the Trail from Camp Pearson it would have to be studied to see if there are any resources.

Other:

- Discussed Anderson Center plans and the potential for a hiking trail from the Anderson Center to the Red Wing Archaeological Preserve and Thompson mound site, and how this could create a loop hiking trail including CVT.