



Trail Planning: Opportunities and Recommendations

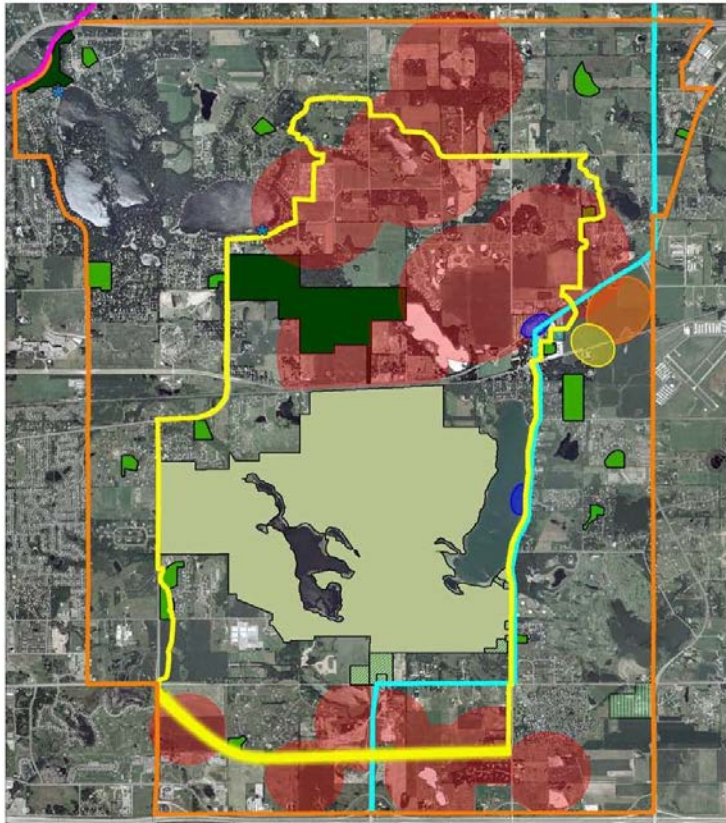
Presentation Overview

1. Review existing City policy pertaining to the development of trails in Lake Elmo.
2. Review potential funding opportunities related to the development of multi-purpose trails in Lake Elmo.
3. Staff recommendations pertaining to future trail planning efforts.

Existing Policy

What does the existing Comprehensive Plan say about trails?

2030 Park System Plan



MAP 7. 2030 PARK SYSTEM PLAN

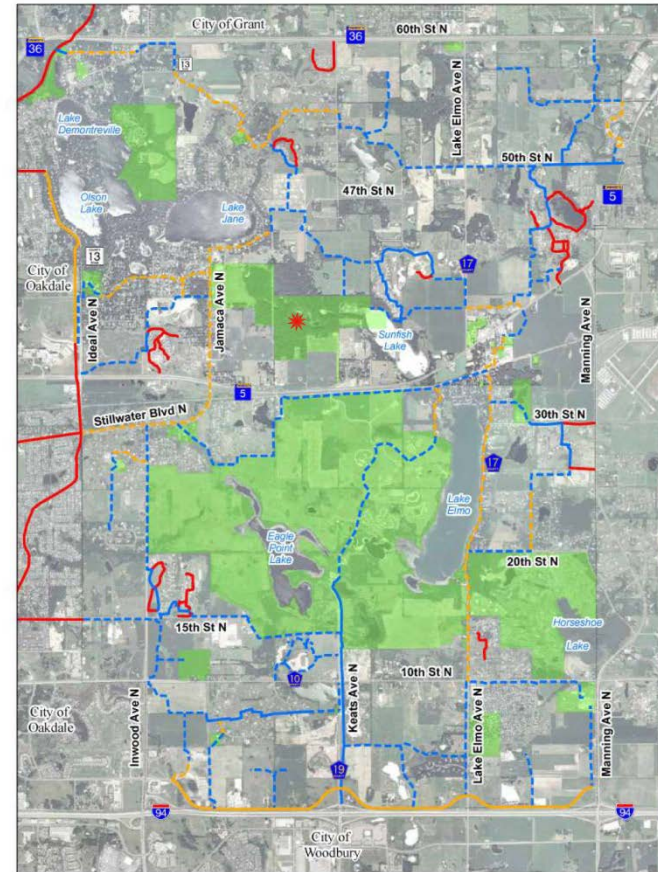


Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan

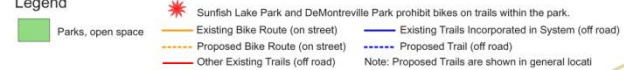
Part 3-15

March 2008

2030 Final Trail Guide Plan



Legend



Existing Policy

What does the existing Comprehensive Plan say about trails?

- “It is suggested two parallel processes be developed to establish priorities for implementing the trail system. The first should be a general overall priority for trails...[and second] a process should be set to help develop the simpler sections of trail.”

Trail Funding Opportunities

1. Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
2. DNR Local Trail Connections Program
3. DNR Federal Recreational Trail Program
4. DNR Outdoor Recreation Grants
5. Other Possible Opportunities
 - a. MnDOT (i.e. CIMS or other corridor improvements)
 - b. MDH (Statewide Health Improvement Program)
 - c. Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program

Trail Funding Opportunities

1. Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

- Program Purpose: Safe Routes Minnesota provides funding to community and school groups to make improvements to the routes your children use to walk and bike to school.
- Eligibility: K-8 schools
- Funding is broken into two categories: 1) education and enforcement, and 2) planning and installation of infrastructure.
- Minnesota has \$3 million available for infrastructure grants and \$800,000 available for non-infrastructure and planning grants for 2013-14. All SRTS grants use federal funds, and no local match is required.

Trail Funding Opportunities

2. DNR Local Trail Connections Program

- Program Purpose: To provide grants to local units of government to promote relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations, not to develop significant new trails.
- Funding priorities: Priority for trail project funding will be given to projects that provide significant connectivity.
- Eligibility: Eligible applicants include counties, cities, and townships.
- Level of assistance: Grants are reimbursement based up to 75 percent of the total eligible project costs.
- Anticipated funding for FY 2014 is \$805,000.

Trail Funding Opportunities

3. DNR Federal Recreational Trail Program

- Program Purpose: To encourage the maintenance and development of motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails by providing funding assistance.
- Eligibility: Motorized and non-motorized trail projects; maintenance/restoration of existing recreational trails; development/ rehabilitation of recreational trail linkages....
- Level of assistance: Grants are reimbursement based up to 75% percent of the total eligible project costs.

Trail Funding Opportunities

4. DNR Outdoor Recreation Grants

- Program Purpose: To increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities in local and community parks throughout the state.
- Eligibility: Cities, counties, townships and recognized tribal governments.
- How it works/funding: Provides matching grants to local units of government for up to 50% of the cost of acquisition, development and/or redevelopment of local parks and recreation areas.

Trail Funding Opportunities

5. Additional Opportunities

- a. MnDOT (i.e. CIMS or other corridor improvements)
- b. MDH (Statewide Health Improvement Program)
- c. Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program

Staff Recommendation

Trail development is a 3 stage process:

- 1. *Prioritize.*** Identify most important trail projects according greatest needs and impacts.
- 2. *Research.*** Conduct additional research about funding opportunities to identify the high-priority projects that match well with funding opportunities.
- 3. *Strategize.*** Determine the budget of the project, finalize project design, assign responsibilities for the application process, and formulate a strategy to secure the funding for City's match.