



STAFF REPORT

DATE: 05/06/2025

CONSENT

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Assistant Public Works Director – Adam Swanepoel

AGENDA ITEM: Cross County Trail Grooming Grant

CORE STRATEGIES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vibrant, inclusive, connected community | <input type="checkbox"/> Efficient, reliable, innovative services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive, transparent, adaptive governance | <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced Finances now and future |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managed Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Resilient Infrastructure |

BACKGROUND:

For the past several years, the City has been a participant in the Cross Country Ski Trail Assistance Program sponsored by the Minnesota DNR. This program allows for reimbursement of costs related to maintaining the ski trails in the forms of fall trail maintenance and winter trail grooming. The proposed application would cover the 2025/2026 ski season in Sunfish Lake and Reid Park. Historically, the city has groomed trails in Sunfish Lake, Demontreville, and Reid Park, which collectively feature over 8 miles of ski trails. In 2025, the city plans to extend its grooming track by adding an additional two miles of trails in Schiltgen Park.

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Should the city pursue submission of a grant application for Cross Country Trail Grooming Reimbursement at Sunfish Lake, Reid Park, Demontreville and Schiltgen Park ?

PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:

Annually, the City of Lake Elmo submits an application for the Cross Country Ski Trail Assistance Program through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to support the trail system in Sunfish Lake Park. In 2022, the city expanded the trail network by incorporating an additional two miles through Reid Park. In 2024, Demontreville Park contributed an extra 1.3 miles of trail. The allocation of funds is influenced by the number of participants in the program and the total miles of trails being maintained. The city has received between \$4,000 and \$5,500 in the past from grant funding to assist with some of the expenses associated with the construction and upkeep of the cross country ski trails across all three parks. These funds are utilized to help mitigate the costs of fall trail preparations and winter grooming activities. A prerequisite for the application process is the inclusion of a resolution that demonstrates City Council approval to endorse participation in the program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

- If awarded, the city would receive reimbursement for up to 65% to help offset the cost of trail maintenance and 60% reimbursement for trail grooming in the winter months.

RECOMMENDATION:

“Motion to approve Resolution 2025-037 to approve grant submission to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Cross Country Ski Trail Grant-In-Aid Program.”

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 2025-037

**CITY OF LAKE ELMO
WASHINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-037

**A RESOLUTION RELATED TO SPONSORING THE CITY OF LAKE ELMO
PARTICIPATION IN THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM FOR THE
2025-2026 SEASON**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Lake Elmo, Minnesota, that the City of Lake Elmo will sponsor the City participation in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Cross-Country Ski Trail Grant-In-Aid Program for the 2025-2026 Ski Season.

APPROVED by the lake Elmo City Council on this 6th day of May, 2025.

By: _____
Charles Cadenhead
Mayor

ATTEST:

Julie Johnson
City Clerk