

Great Northern Trail Partners MOU

Sherburne and Mille Lacs Counties, Cities of Elk River, Zimmerman, and Princeton (collectively known as "Parties") hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding:

The Parties agree to work together on the development and management of the Great Northern Trail (GNT), consistent with the Great Northern Trail Master Plan in order to enhance recreational opportunities for residents of the eastern Sherburne County and Mille Lacs County region. The Parties will continue the GNT Committee previously established consisting of staff representatives from each of the Parties.

Through the Committee and the implementation of the MOU; the Parties will seek to denote the roles and responsibilities of each governing entity in grant solicitation, refining trail corridor to improve local connections, defining allowable trail uses and suggesting best practice in managing operations and maintenance. The Parties understand that decision-making lies with each respective Board or Council (collectively referred to as "Boards") of the respective parties that have ownership of the trail corridor.

The Committee will:

1. Include key staff from the Parties to provide recommendations to be considered by their respective Boards;
2. Include townships and cities that are bisected by the trail corridor in discussions and seek feedback on decisions impacting their respective jurisdictions;
3. Schedule meetings as needed with regular communication through emails;
4. Work together to assist Parties in maximizing grant opportunities for construction and maintenance of the trail segments and trail heads as prioritized in the master plan;
5. Support the development prioritization strategy set forth in the master plan. It is the intent that Sherburne County apply for funding to complete the south half of corridor first;
6. Recommend to the Parties' respective Boards a cost sharing model per project or a cost allocation of professional services that benefit the entire trail that can be codified in writing;

7. Develop a GNT event permitting recommendations to promote regulatory consistency along the entire regional corridor;
8. Recommend to each Party, based on Party-specific circumstances, guidelines for Trail Closure(s) (such as hunting season, etc.);
9. Establish minimum base trail conditions and maintenance schedule recommendations to assist Parties in coordinating such activities for maximum cost effectiveness; and
10. Make recommendations on the acquisition of easements and fee title interest in real property for each Party's Board consideration.

Party Responsibilities:

1. Each Party is responsible for maintaining the portion of the trail corridor in their ownership;
2. Each Party shall assume leadership for grant and construction administration for work on portions of trail corridor in their ownership; and
3. Each Party shall be responsible for their acts and those individuals who are under their direction and control.

Each Party agrees to designate a person(s) to work with the committee.

This Memorandum of Understanding will automatically renew annually, unless affirmative action is taken by a Party wishing to opt out. A Party desiring to opt out must do so in writing with six (6) months' notice.

Sherburne County

Mille Lacs County

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

City of Elk River

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

City of Zimmerman

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

City of Princeton

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____