

Woodtick Wheelers GIA ATV / OHM Trail Proposal Project Summary

Proposer: Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club

Sponsor: Cass County

Trail Location: Cass County, Minnesota
Pine Lake Township - T141N, R29W, sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
Kego Township - T141N, R28W, sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 34

Partners: Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club; Cass County; Kego Township; Pine Lake Township; U.S. Forest Service; City of Longville; Department of Natural Resources.

Total Grant Request: \$21,304

Project Description:

The proposed grant-in-aid (GIA) all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-highway motorcycle (OHM) trail will connect the City of Longville with the community of Whipholt. The trail sponsor, Cass County, has identified a priority of connecting communities with managed off-highway vehicle recreation trails in its County Resource Management Plan. In accord with Cass County policy, the Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club has obtained resolutions of support from all local units of government that will be affected by the proposed GIA trail, as well as letters of support from two snowmobile clubs that currently manage much of this same route as a GIA snowmobile trail.

This proposal is the first phase of an effort to eventually connect the communities of Longville to Whipholt (phase 1), Whipholt to Hackensack (phase 2), and Hackensack to existing trails in the Foothills State Forest (phase 3).

The Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club plans to sign and maintain this trail for OHM and Class 1 and Class 2 ATV use from May 1-November 1 of each year. The route will bring riders into towns for services such as gas, food, and lodging.

Trail administration will follow guidelines provided in the State of Minnesota Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant-in-Aid Program Manual, requirements of the sponsor Cass County, and the towns and cities through which it travels.

The trail will be monitored by the DNR Parks and Trails Area Office 1A located in Bemidji, Minnesota. Monitoring will be assisted by trained volunteer Trail Ambassadors, who promote safe, environmentally responsible operation of off-highway vehicles through on-trail observation and informational and educational contacts with other riders. The trail will exemplify the concept of managed use on managed trails and be promoted as a safe place for responsible riders.

Cass County recently acquired a parcel of private land to allow the trail alignment to avoid a section of CSAH 5 right-of-way where construction would have been complex and expensive.

The availability of this parcel for routing the trail substantially decreases the cost of trail construction.

Trail Route Description:

The trail begins at the east end of the Whipholt roadside parking area and goes west on Whipholt Beach Road for 0.6 mile, turns south on 16th Avenue/Pine Lake Road NW and then crosses Trunk Highway 200.

Just south of Trunk Highway 200 a short connecting trail travels west for approximately 0.25 miles on 67th Street NW, then north on 17th Avenue NW, re-crossing Trunk Highway 200, and ending at Huddles Restaurant on Whipholt Beach Road.

The main trail continues south on Pine Lake Road NW approximately 1.5 miles to Old Grade Road NW. The trail turns east on Old Grade Road NW for approximately 6 miles to Cass County Road 125.

The trail then shares the surface of County Road 125 for approximately one mile to the intersection of a forest access road located north and east of Boxell Lake. The forest access road ends at the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 right-of-way where it intersects with Nellie Lake Lane NE. The trail is routed in the road ditch of CSAH 5 for approximately one-third mile to the Longville city limits.

Entering the City of Longville, the trail uses the surface of County 5 for approximately 0.7 miles ending at Trunk Highway 84.

Trail users will be able to park at the Whipholt roadside parking area, administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, or at a location to be determined within the City of Longville.

Approximate total distance: 12 miles, which includes:

Approximate total township road distance: 7.5 miles (this includes the Old Grade road, which is township-maintained)

Approximate forest access road distance: 2.6 miles

Approximate County Road Surface: 0.9 miles

Approximate County Road right-of-way: 0.3 miles

Approximate City of Longville road: 0.7 miles

Most of the trail route is currently open to motorized use, but is not actively managed or signed as ATV / OHM trail.

Trail operations, maintenance and monitoring:

The trail will be operated, maintained, and managed by Cass County with assistance and support provided by the Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club. The cost of maintenance is eligible for up to 90% reimbursement through the GIA program. The sponsor and the DNR will share monitoring responsibilities, supplemented by the DNR's Trail Ambassador program. The club will inspect the trail and perform maintenance and repairs as needed. The trail will be open to

off-highway motorcycle and Class 1 and Class 2 ATV use May 1 to November 1, closed as conditions warrant for safety considerations or to prevent erosion or trail damage.

The majority of the trail is located on or in the rights-of-way of county, municipal, township, and undesignated forest access roads. Where the trail is in the right-of-way, it will be shaped and maintained to drain rainfall and storm water runoff. The treadway will be graded and brushed seasonally to manage the encroachment of woody vegetation. Water quality and erosion control best management practices (BMPs) described in the DNR GIA manual, and the DNR's 2007 publication "*Trail Planning, Development and Design Guidelines*" will be employed if needed. Grant-in-aid funding can be used to maintain the trail surface on road shoulders if wear is attributable to trail use. The proposed trail does not involve any new wetland or public water crossings.

Public Review:

The DNR invites public comment on the proposal from December 23, 2013 to January 24, 2014. Copies of the proposal are available on the DNR website, (www.mndnr.gov/input), as well as at the DNR Bemidji Parks and Trails office. Written comments on the proposal may be e-mailed to david.schotzko@state.mn.us, faxed to 218-755-4063, or mailed to Dave Schotzko, Area Supervisor, DNR Parks and Trails, 3296 State Park Rd. NE, Bemidji, MN 56601. For more information, or to request a printed copy of the proposal, please call Dave Schotzko at 218-308-2367, or the DNR Information Center at 1-888-MINNDNR (toll free).