

CAMPUS CONNECTOR TRAIL

Objective: *To develop a master trail plan for the Campus Connector Trail (formerly known as the Lowell to Lakewalk Trail) that will create a paved multi-use path from Rice Lake Road to the Lakewalk and will connect with public K-12 schools and both CSS and UMD along its route.*

Background

In 2017 the MIC was approached by City of Duluth officials who were interested in expanding the MIC's involvement with the Campus Connector Trail (formerly known as the Lowell to Lakewalk Trail). The idea of the Campus Connector Trail originated in the 2006 as part of the MIC's Rice Lake Road Corridor Study, which identified as a need for a direct transportation connection between the college student housing along Rice Lake Road with the two college campuses (CSS and UMD). Following the MIC's study, the City of Duluth developed the Higher Education Small Area Plan that further identified this trail connection. The idea of a trail from Rice Lake Road to the college campus expanded to include links to K-12 schools, including Lowell Elementary and Congdon Park Elementary, as well as a connection to the Lakewalk. Over the years, the MIC has worked in development of this trail, including providing assistance and guidance on the construction of two segments of the trail. However, the larger vision and route alternative analysis has been missing. This plan will undertake these elements.

Major Work Activities

- Individual responsibilities:
 - MIC Responsibilities
 - Participate in all project meetings and field observations.
 - Public Outreach – meeting scheduling and coordination.
 - Collect and analyze data and public stakeholder communications.
 - Compilation of all final narrative, maps, graphs into final document.
 - Lead plan through MIC approval process.
 - City of Duluth Responsibilities
 - Official communication on project, including public meeting outreach.
 - Assist in writing narrative of the plan.
 - Assure plan compliance with DNR Legacy standards.
 - Lead plan through public approval processes.
- Joint Responsibilities:
 - Form a steering committee made of interested community members and leaders.
 - Identify project stakeholders to engage during the planning process.
 - Conduct field observations by exploring areas of potential trails and assess current trails.
 - Engage community in the planning process.
 - Create a survey to get community feedback.
 - Summarize current trail system and recommend improvements.
 - Review alignment options and costs.
 - Provide a list of potential trail funding sources and provide cost estimates.

- Create a priorities list to help guide implementation.
- Develop a trails plan that will guide trail planning efforts for the next 10+ years.

Final Product

A planning document that will contain: background information, a summary of current trails, recommended trail networks, and priorities for the Campus Connector Trail.

Budget

\$31,600

CY 2019