

INTRODUCTION

The Proctor Master Trail Plan takes an internal look at Proctor and focuses on creating a complete and cohesive non-motorized transportation network within Proctor. But this is not possible by just focusing within the city limits alone. Proctor is not an island amongst itself, but one piece of the regional puzzle. Therefore, this plan also focuses on how to interconnect Proctor's system of trails with the rest of the region, including Duluth, Hermantown, Midway Township and St. Louis County.

In addition, this plan takes into account trail planning efforts already undertaken, including those by the Duluth Comprehensive Plan Trail Committee, the Superior Hiking Trail Association, the Bay View Elementary School students and faculty, and the Duluth Area Trails Alliance.

Background

In 1997, Proctor completed their first Comprehensive Plan. This plan called for the development of a number of multiple use recreational trails in various locations through out the city. Specifically called out in the plan was the development of natural walking trails in the future park space (identified on maps in this plan as "North Proctor Park") in the northwestern corner of Proctor and the construction of a multiple use trail from the Proctor Community Center to the Munger Trail, with a connection to the Spirit Mountain recreational area.

Five years later, in 2002, the Comprehensive Plan was updated. The idea of developing trails in the 1997 plan was expanded upon in the 2002 update, with the impetus being the creation of a Master Trail Plan. The 2002 plan also moved away from a largely recreational trail focus to more of an overall non-motorized transportation focus.

In order to accomplish this non-motorized transportation focus, the creation of a completely interconnected and seamless network of trails, including both on-street and off-street pathways, was envisioned. These trails would connect neighborhoods, natural areas, community assets and regional attractions. This trail system would increase the overall number of bicycle and pedestrian paths in the City of Proctor; thereby, encouraging the use of non-motorized modes of transportation with the goal of decreasing the reliance on single-occupant automobile usage.

The 2002 plan also reinforced and expanded upon the list of specific places to connect with trails, by mentioning again the importance of the Proctor to Munger Trail connection and including Boundary Avenue and Kingsbury Creek as additional future trail locations.

Project Goal

Identify potential on & off-street non-motorized route segments to provide a cohesive network of pedestrian, bicycle, inline skating, and other multiple use paths throughout Proctor linking with regional attractions.

Process

This document has primarily been prepared in collaboration with the Trail Plan Advisory Committee. Beginning in the summer of 2005, the Advisory Committee met to identify relevant departure and destination points and determine viable trail alignments. After an initial map of the preliminary trails was developed, input was garnered from the surrounding communities, including Midway Township, Hermantown, and Duluth. In addition, input was gathered from trail planning groups and agencies, including Bay View Elementary School, Duluth Area Trails Alliance, and the Minnesota DNR. The meetings focused on how the preliminary trail alignments matched their own trail planning efforts. Based on these discussions with the pertinent agencies and groups, a number of refinements were made to the trail alignments.

In the summer of 2006, the proposed trail plan was prominently displayed at the Proctor Community Center to give the general public an opportunity to review and

provide comments. To kick off this public review process, the plan was put on display in time for one of Proctor's biggest festivals of the year, the Hoghead Festival. The map was on display for approximately two months and received a number of comments (see appendix).

After a number of delays to the project, work began again earnestly in the spring of 2007. A number of revisions and refinements to the trail alignments were made based upon comments received, new information gathered, and additional field work performed.

In July of 2007, a walk-through of the Proctor Connector Trail was held with the Proctor Comprehensive Plan Group to help determine the final alignment of this trail. In August, the Draft Proctor Trail Plan was presented to the MIC policy and technical boards, the Proctor Comp Plan Group, and the Proctor Planning & Zoning Committee. A week later, the draft plan was presented to the Proctor City Council. A few changes and additions were requested from this series of meetings and final revisions to the plan were made and presented in October, 2007 to the MIC boards. Final approval by the MIC boards took place in December, 2007.