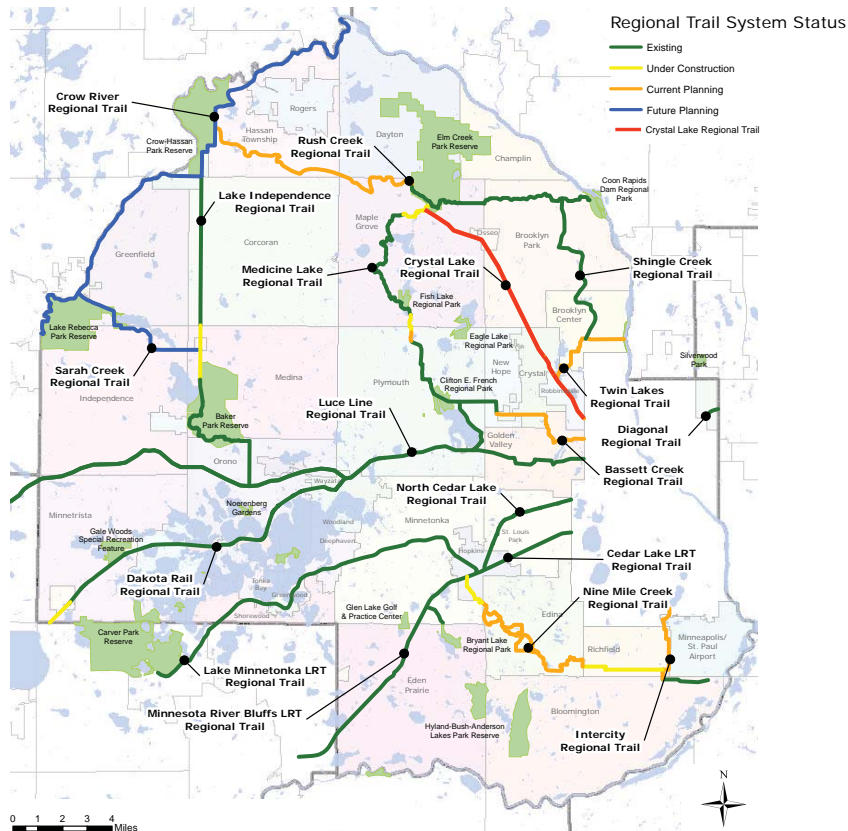


Crystal Lake Regional Trail Master Plan

Project Description



Three Rivers Park District is developing a trail master plan for Crystal Lake Regional Trail as part of the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan requirement by Metropolitan Council. The purpose of the trail master plan is to identify and capitalize on potential opportunities for new regional trail facilities. Careful planning of new regional trail corridors allows for thoughtful coordination with other future redevelopment plans and infrastructure improvements within the first tier suburbs.

The Crystal Lake Regional Trail will fill a gap in the multimodal transportation system with safe, accessible and enjoyable non-motorized transportation options. Currently many metro area residents do not have access to convenient and attractive off-road regional trail networks that support bicycle and pedestrian mobility and connect with existing and planned transit facilities. The Crystal Lake Regional Trail will expand non-motorized commuting and recreational access to vital employment, retail and recreational sites in the metropolitan region - providing opportunities for safe pedestrian and bicyclist recreation and commuting, economic development, and environmental benefits. By providing this non-motorized option, the Crystal Lake Regional Trail can help reduce congestion and increase efficiency.

The Crystal Lake Regional Trail Master Plan is approximately 9 miles and runs from the Minneapolis Grand Rounds at Victory Memorial Parkway through the cities of Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, Osseo and Maple Grove to Elm Creek Park Reserve. This trail corridor has been divided into two segments; Segment 1 and Segment 2.

Segment 1

The Park District secured a Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant to construct approximately 2 miles of the Crystal Lake Regional Trail within the City of Robbinsdale; connecting the existing Minneapolis Grand Rounds regional trail network at the southern project terminus to the existing Twin Lakes Regional Trail tunnel under TH 100 at the northern terminus. This segment includes development of a regional trailhead; up to three bridges in Lakeview Terrace Park; two rest area/pull-outs; trail kiosks providing signage and shelter; bicycle parking; natural vegetation restoration; and intermodal facilities along a regional transitway.

Segment 2

This portion of the Crystal Lake Regional Trail corridor begins at the Twin Lakes Regional Trail tunnel under TH 100 and runs northwest along CSAH 81 (Bottineau Boulevard) and portions of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway through the communities of Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, Osseo and Maple Grove. The trail will terminate at the southern boundary of Elm Creek Park Reserve and link to both Medicine Lake and Rush Creek Regional Trails.

Currently, CSAH 81 is undergoing roadway improvements and transit planning referred to formally as the Bottineau Boulevard Corridor Project. This large scale, multi-agency planning and reconstruction project is led by Hennepin County. Reconstruction of Bottineau Boulevard will occur in segments, with the TH 100 to CR 10 (Bass Lake Road) segment beginning in spring 2010. As part of this project, Hennepin County is studying alternative transit options including Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). In addition, the BNSF Railway corridor may provide a potential trail alignment opportunity. It is expected that the Crystal Lake Regional Trail Master Plan will incorporate and coordinate the future plans of the Bottineau Boulevard Corridor Project and BNSF to establish a conceptual trail alignment and identify right-of-way and/or easements necessary to implement the trail.

Task Force

The Crystal Lake Regional Trail Task Force will guide the trail master plan and work to coordinate planning efforts with the local communities and greater region. Members of the Task Force include representatives from the Cities of Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, Osseo and Maple Grove, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority, Hennepin County Department of Transportation, Hennepin County (HCWT) – Development, Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The responsibilities of the Task Force include:

Coordination with respective governing bodies such as City Councils, Planning Commissions, Park Commissions and other staff/departments within the respective city/agency.

Assist in implementing public participation opportunities.

Provide information and support necessary to identify feasible trail alignments and review/complete the trail master plan which meets Park District, city and other applicable agency goals.

Assist Park District in local municipality/agency approval processes.

Public Involvement & Next Steps

The Park District anticipates a twelve-month planning process for Crystal Lake Regional Trail Master Plan beginning in July 2010. If you wish to learn more about the master planning project or to give us your comments, we offer the following options:

Open House #1

Thursday, September 30,
3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Crystal Community Center,
4800 Douglas Dr. N.
Crystal, MN 55429

Written Comments

Three Rivers Park District
Crystal Lake Regional Trail
3000 Xenium Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55441

Email Comments

CrystalLakeTrail@threeriversparkdistrict.org