

Grant helps extend Beaver Islands Trail

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The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has awarded Stearns County a \$12,300 grant to help buy land to extend the Beaver Islands Trail.

The grant will match Stearns County bonding funds to buy about three-quarters of a mile of former railroad property in Lynden Township south of St. Cloud. The 8.5 acres will cost about \$35,000.

Beaver Islands Trail is a paved recreational trail for bicyclists, walkers and in-line skaters that follows the Mississippi River in

St. Cloud. Stearns County wants to extend the trail to Warner Lake Park, said Chuck Wocken, county parks director.

The county will buy property from willing landowners or, if that isn't possible, divert the trail onto county right-of-way along Stearns County Road 75, Wocken said.

He hopes the trail will be constructed within five years.

"The idea is we want to get this thing done," Wocken said.

The city of Clearwater is planning to build a trail toward Warner Lake Park. Stearns County officials also hope to one day to connect the Beaver Islands Trail to the Lake Wobegon Trail, which runs from St. Joseph to Sauk Centre and north to the Morrison County line.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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