

CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) and Brown's Creek State Trail Connection Project



Washington County requests **\$3 million in state funds** to construct a trailhead and trail connection(s) from County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 to the Brown's Creek State Trail.

Issue At-A-Glance

- Accessing the Brown's Creek State Trail from surrounding neighborhoods requires users to take an uneven, unsafe, and unsanctioned footpath down a steep ravine. A new trail connection would make this link safe, accessible, and compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).
- In 2025, Washington County added new trails and resurfaced existing trails along County Highway 5 in areas adjacent to the Brown's Creek State Trail. The bridge crossing over the trail was also replaced. However, the trail that would connect people directly to the Brown's Creek Trail was not included due to a lack of funds. The 2025 project was financed with local funds and cost approximately \$6 million.
- During 2025 construction, the county received reoccurring comments from the community expressing disappointment that the direct connection to Brown's Creek Trail was not included.
- State funds, if provided, will be used to construct a trailhead and trail connection(s) from County Highway 5 to the Brown's Creek State Trail.

Support

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Stillwater Township
- City of Stillwater

Previous Considerations

This project was submitted for consideration in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

No Action

If the state funds are not provided, the connection will not be built, leaving only the steep, uneven, unsanctioned footpath to the Brown's Creek State Trail.

Financial Implications

Washington County expenses to date: Trail resurfacing and road improvements:

- Local funds: \$6 million

Trail connection

- **State of Minnesota: \$3 million**

Total estimated project cost: \$9 million

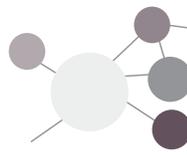
More about the Brown's Creek State Trail



More than
120,000 users
annually access the
Brown's Creek State Trail.



5.9 mile-trail
connects the City of Stillwater
and the City of Grant on a
former railroad bed.



Connects parks and
trail systems, including
the Gateway Trail, the
most used DNR trail in
Minnesota.

