

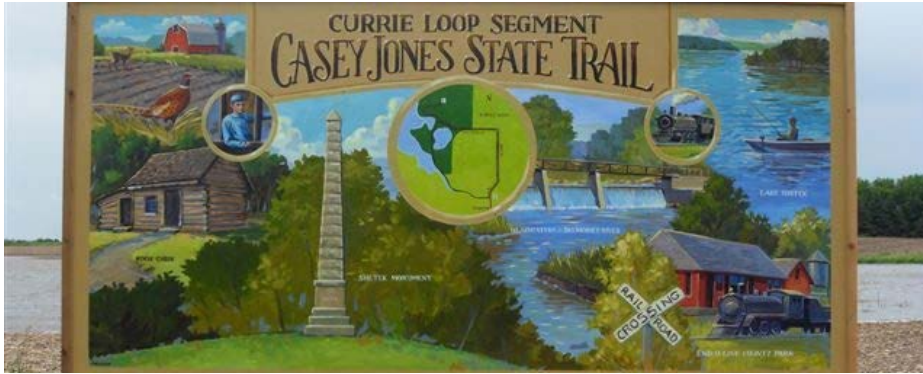


Friendship with Minnesota State Parks and Trails

Arielle Courtney, Partnership Development Consultant
MN DNR Parks and Trails Division

Friends make dreams come true!

Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association supports new trail miles



What projects, events, and work are you most proud of?

Sibley State Park Improvement Association helps beautify the park



Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park Egg Hunt

A message from the DNR...

1. Thank you for all your hard work.
2. You help us accomplish amazing things.
3. We know sometimes government policies can be difficult and frustrating to navigate.
4. But we want to make working together easier!
5. Let's figure out how (and plan some great projects for next year!).

Today's discussion



1. Give you the support you need

- What support has the DNR (or your agency) provided that is helpful?
- Where do you need more support or resources from DNR (or your agency)?

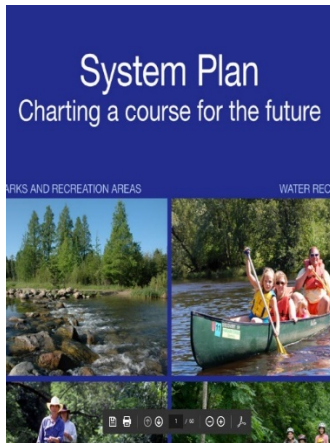


2. Align our goals for the future



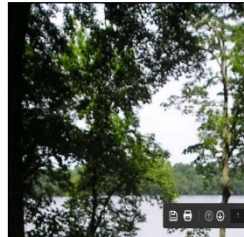
*Our vision is to
create unforgettable
park, trail, and water recreation
experiences that inspire
people to pass along the
love for the outdoors
to current and future generations.*

2. Align our goals for the future

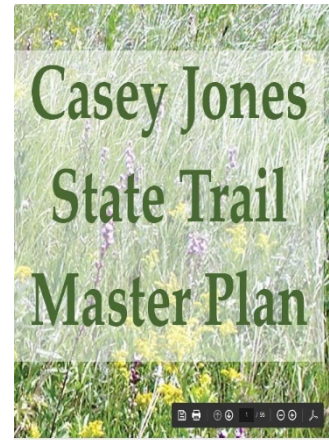


**MN State Parks and
Trails System Plan**

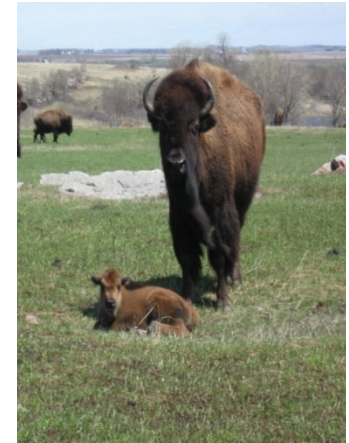
**Sakatah Lake State Park
Management Plan**



Park Management Plans



Trail Management Plans



**Program and Specific
Site Strategic Plans**

Our plans provide strategic and site-level direction for natural resource management, recreation opportunities, facilities, and more.

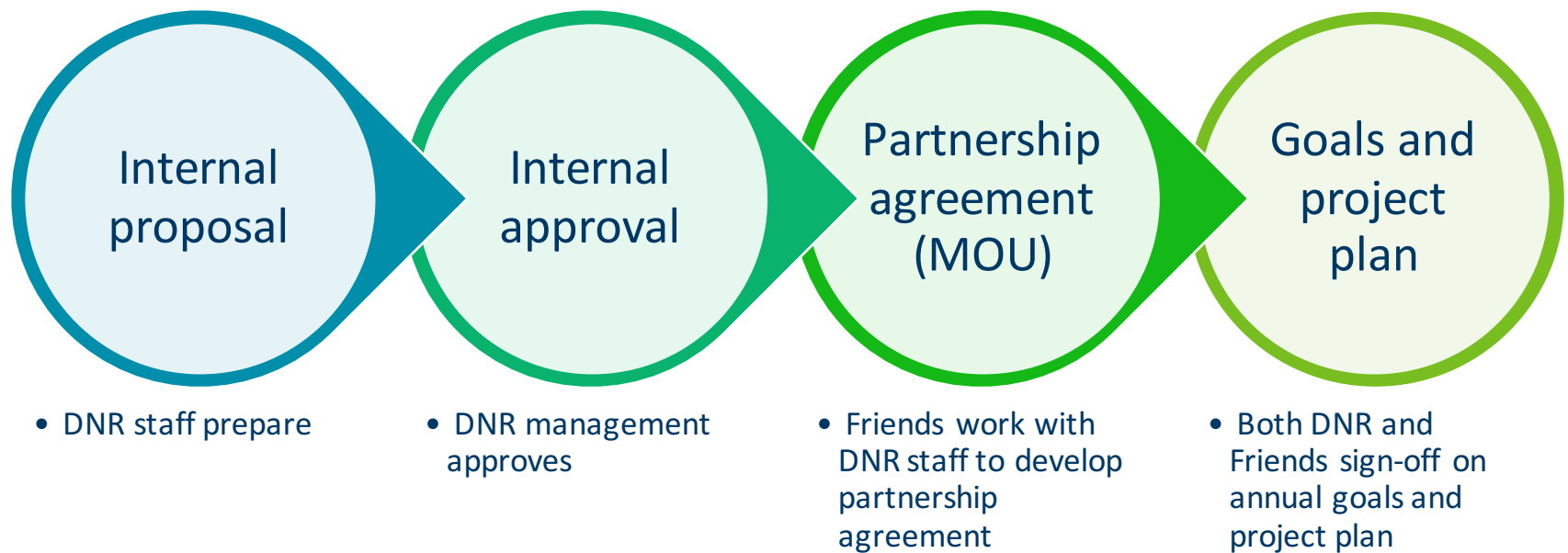
2. Align our goals for the future

DNR's Goals...

- Keep people safe and healthy
- Make it as easy as possible
- Build community / shared advocacy
- Align with unit plans and system plan
- Stay on the right side of the law



3. Make sure everyone is safe and legally protected



3. Make sure everyone is safe and legally protected

Why the paperwork now?

- Enhance public trust
- Enhance brand(s)
- Forward public interest
- Clearly scope work/actions
- Meet state requirements
 - Fiscal controls
 - Insurance
 - Legal



Goal setting and project planning

For example: St. Croix State Park (no current friends group)

1. Sit down with the manager and staff to discuss top goals for the group and site.
2. Review the unit plan for ideas about top goals to prioritize.
3. Make sure all projects and activities are aligned with these goals.
4. Both parties sign the worksheet and revisit on an annual basis.



Goal setting

What might goals be?

1. Greater diversity of experiences
2. Get visitors out into the park
3. Year round opportunities

St. Croix State Park

Management Plan



Project planning

For example:

| Project | Goal | Time | People Involved | Resources Needed | Feasibility |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------|--|---|---|
| Create more programs that use the trail network | 2 (Get visitors out into the park) | 1 year | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park manager or designated staff• Naturalist• Friends• Volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff time for consultation• Volunteer time to create program• Volunteers to lead programs• Maps and other materials• Advertising• Other depending on program type | <p>Highly feasible, need to ensure all Friends volunteers have proper training and paperwork completed.</p> <p>There may be some additional procedural paperwork for “special events,” depending on the series of programs.</p> |

Note: Staff will need to make sure that any big fundraising or infrastructure projects are vetted at the appropriate DNR level.

Project planning: Types of activities

- Maintenance and operational support
- Marketing / promotion
- Fundraising
- Projects
- Special events
- What else?



What's next?

- ✓ Get going on partnership proposals where they don't exist
- ✓ Finalize goal and project plans when agreements are completed
- ✓ DNR and P&TC will be working together to identify opportunities to streamline process and reduce paperwork
- ✓ Start or continue on valuable projects!



Questions

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2019 Regional Friends Group Workshops | Goal and Project Planning Exercise

Instructions

The following worksheet is a tool that land managers and friends groups can use to discuss shared goals and project ideas on an annual basis. It is intended to be a conversation starter and agreement that all parties can sign-off on and revisit each year to make sure priorities are being addressed and strategies are aligned.

Set Goals

What are the **top 3 goals** that your friends group and managing agency has for the future? (e.g., advocating for bonding dollars, collaborating with the community to improve trailhead facilities, etc.)

NOTE: Goals should align with park or trail management/master plan and other department strategic priorities. For more information about these plans, please visit www.mndnr.gov/input/mgmtplans/parks_trails/index.html.

| |
|---------|
| Goal 1: |
| Goal 2: |
| Goal 3: |

2019 Regional Friends Group Workshops | Goal and Project Planning Exercise

Plan Projects

Use this space to develop or document projects that will help your Friends group and the park or trail you work with to accomplish your big goals. Projects that involve fundraising more than \$2,500 or developing new or enhancing existing infrastructure will require higher levels of DNR approval.

| Project | Goal | Timeframe | People Involved | Resources Needed | Feasibility |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| <i>What is the project?</i> | <i>Which goal does this project help accomplish?</i> | <i>Ongoing (e.g., annually) Near-term (1-2 years) Long-term (3+ years out)</i> | <i>Which individuals, groups, and organizations are involved?</i> | <i>Describe budget (\$), staff, community support, and other resources needed.</i> | <i>Describe any challenges that may hinder progress, and what needs to happen to overcome these issues?</i> |
| | | | | | |
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2019 Regional Friends Group Workshops | Goal and Project Planning Exercise

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| | | | | | |
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2019 Regional Friends Group Workshops | Goal and Project Planning Exercise

Signatures

These goals and projects have been discussed collaboratively by both the land manager and the friends group and all parties agree to information listed here. Goals and projects will be revisited approximately one year from today. ***Unit managers will need to get additional regional, director, or Commissioner's office approval for major fundraising (greater than \$2,500) or infrastructure projects.***

X_____ (DNR or land manager) DATE _____

X_____ (Friends group) DATE _____

Additional approvals necessary?

_____YES _____NO