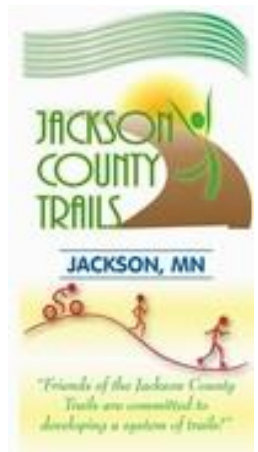


Friends of the Jackson County Trails

The Jackson County Trails Committee was formed in the late 1990s to develop a trail system throughout Jackson County. The committee is committed to improving the way of life in Jackson County with dreams of bringing families, friends and communities together.

Our mission statement is to provide economic opportunity for our county, improve the quality of life, and provide a safer means of outdoor activity, including connecting communities in and outside of Jackson County, connecting the Jackson County Parks and the Minnesota State Parks when making plans.

The purpose of the Friends of the Jackson County Trails is to act as an advisory committee to promote an active partnership among landowners, schools, citizens and communities in planning Jackson County Trails.



Jackson Trail Committee Members

- Joann Asa: President
- Lynne Anderson: Treasurer
- Luke Ewald: Secretary
- Jeff Johnson
- Dave DeJong
- Tim Stahl
- Jeremy Bartosh
- Sam Espy
- Matt Skaret
- Phil Nasby
- Phil Markman
- Gordy Willett
- Donnie Schoenrock

- Alyssa Anderson
- Jacqueline Knips
- Craig Rubis
- Davin and Holly Amara
- Shawn Haken
- Paul Graupmann
- Mary Anne Finstad
- Steve Handevitd
- Heidi Moss
- Cheryl Holte
- Thomas Nelson
- Jackson Chamber



In This Issue:

Brief History of Jackson Trails

Bicycle Friendly Community Designation.

Jackson County Active Living Plan.

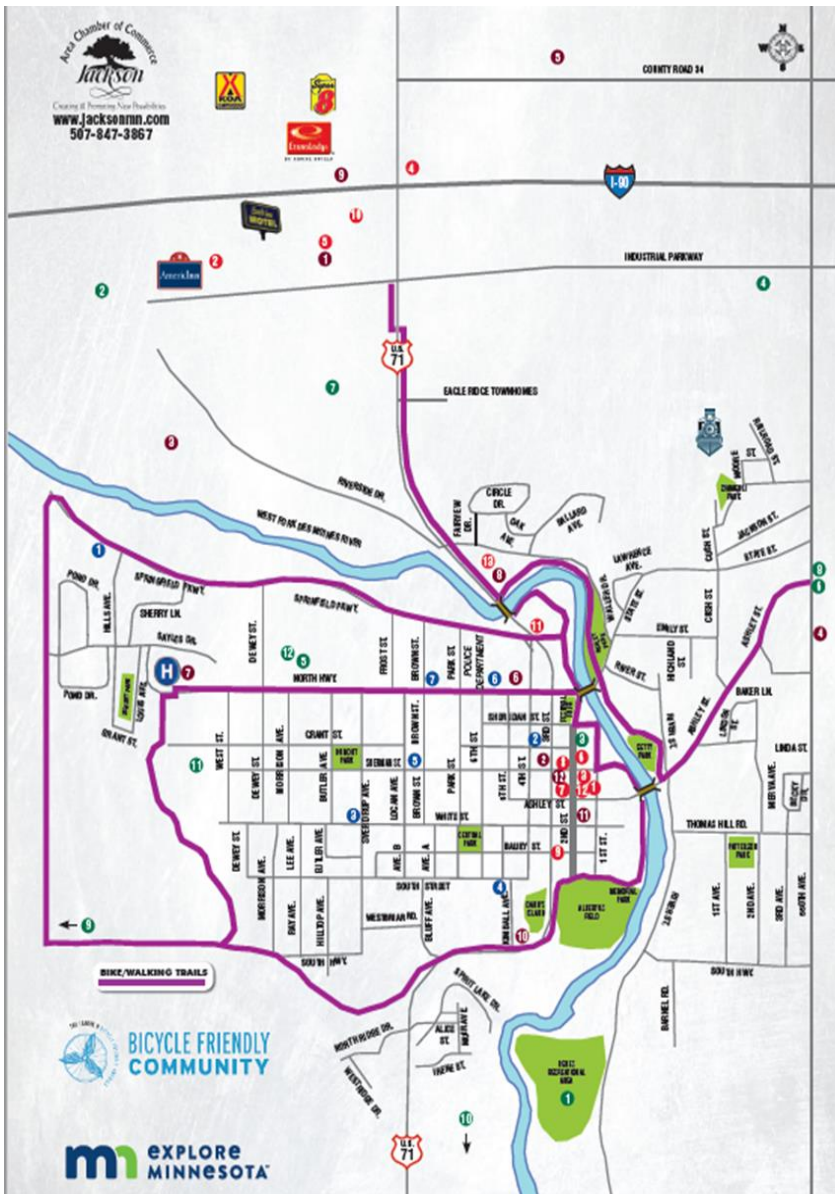
History of Jackson Trails:

Current Trail System:

- 2005, Des Moines River Trail 1.8 miles.
- 2007, Nelson Creek Trail 1.4 miles.
- 2008, Sunset View Loop 2.8 miles.
- 2011, Ashley Street Walkway .75 mile.
- 2013, Springfield Parkway 1 mile.
- 2015, Lakefield Trail .50 mile.
- 2016, A.H Strong Trail US-71 .85 mile.
- 2019, Dewey Street <.25 mile.
- 2019, Memorial Park Trail– west-side expansion <.25 mile.

Jackson County Park-Trail Connections:

- Total Trail miles: 3.35 miles
- 2006, Brown and Robertson Park Trail,
- 2009, Robertson and Mini Wakan Park Trail (connects MN to IA).



The Bicycle Action in Jackson:

In the 1980s, Lynne Anderson and Wilma Pell visited communities with trails—communities not just in suburban Minnesota, but greater Minnesota as well. The common question: why doesn't Jackson have trails?

In 1998, Lynne Anderson, Wilma Pell, and Craig Rubis formed a committee called the Friends of the Jackson County Trails. Volunteers and city and county elected officials began writing and lobbying for trail grants.

In 2000, the first trail grant was awarded. In 2005 Jackson installed its first trail segment downtown along the banks of the Des Moines River. After this trail, almost every passing year marked another success, making for well-connected places to walk and bike.

In 2014, the City of Jackson partnered with Southwest Regional Development Commission, Friends of the Jackson County Trails, Jackson Park Board, and local public health to develop an active living plan to work on walking and biking goals for Jackson.

In 2017, Community Wellness Partners (CWP) funded through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) for the counties of Cottonwood-Jackson-Nobles, started networking with the Friends of the Jackson County Trails Committee.

The Bike Friendly Community (BFC) designation was awarded to the City of Jackson in June 2018. The Bicycle Friendly Community designation provides a report card that we can use to learn about Engineering, Evaluation, Encouragement, Education, Enforcement, and Health Equity—all these E's cultivate a community where individuals want to live and visit.

Through education walking and biking has been emphasized and encouraged. Many of the elementary schools in Jackson County have a Walk Bike Fun Curriculum. There are two League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in Jackson (as of January 2019) to teach Bike Basics in the schools and the community.

There are also public outreach campaigns with local radio and law enforcement to teach children and adults about bike safety. The Jackson County Pilot has a column called "Ask a Trooper," which often highlights these topics. Education is one of the vital E's.

Incorporating bicycling into cities long range planning will develop safer riding experiences along with an economic impact.

Having the right community champions makes a world of a difference getting this work done.

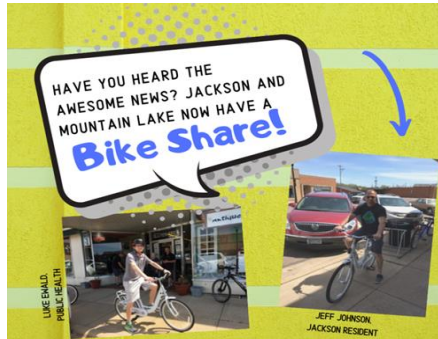


Dewey Street Trail:

Since 2015, a long awaited trail project finally came to fruition! Funded through a Safe Routes to School Grant, the Dewey Street Trail is key trail to providing a safe route to school. It is a connecting trail between Springfield Parkway Trail and the North Highway sidewalk system. During events Dewey Street Trail will provide a safe walkway.

Trail Committee 20 Year Plan:

In January 2019, MnDOT visited Jackson to learn about our 20 year plan. This plan lays out future trails that we would like to see built in Jackson County through 2039. Stay tune for more updates!



Belmont County Off-Road Trail:

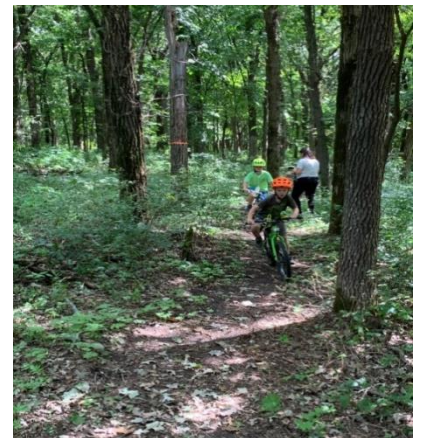
In 2017, the trails committee explored opportunities to introduce off-road trails in the county. Belmont County Park is an ideal location for mountain biking due to the terrain. We are currently writing grants to help fund the 6.2 mile multi-purpose off-road trail. A future goal is to have Minnesota State High School League Racing competitions come to Jackson!

Bicycle Repair Day:

In early August 2019, the trails team partnered with Kiwanis members, law enforcement, and public health to fix bicycles and distribute them during the Jackson Family Resource Night in September 2019. Over 30 bicycles were cleaned and made rideable for adults and youth. A huge thanks to Jackson County LEC, State Farm Insurance, Jackson Kiwanis, and the backbone of the team, Ezekiel's Wheel Bike Shop!

Jackson Bike Share:

In 2017, the trails committee partnered with the City of Mt. Lake to purchase a bike share. Jackson and Mt. Lake received bicycles in May 2019. The project was funded through donations and grants. A big thanks to all those who helped make this a reality for our communities.

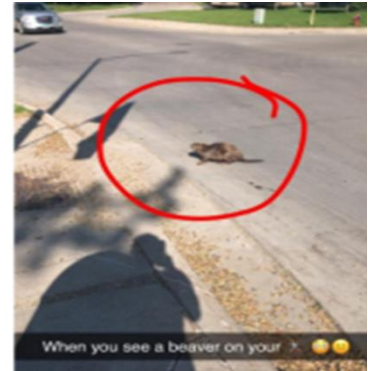


Bike to Work Day and Bike Month:

Two of the longest running biking and walking promotional events in Jackson is our bike to work day and bike month. In 2019 we teamed with Coffee Nest and Subway to provide a quick snack during the noon hour.

Active Living and Safe Route to School Plans:

Jackson has been progressive over the past four years completing the strategies in each plan and is now looking at making updates to each plan through community engagement. The committee also is committed to looking into grants to help develop trails identified in each plan. Stay tune for future updates!



Want to join the Friends of the Jackson County Trails Committee?
Contact Luke Ewald, Trail Committee Secretary at luke.ewald@dvhs.org or 612-597-0433

Check Us Out Online!

Visit us on Facebook! "Friends of the Jackson County Trails"

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Jackson-County-Trails-123340064400832/>

Visit our website! "Friends of the Jackson County Trails"

<https://www.co.jackson.mn.us/?SEC=B46AEADB-7E11-4673-8B58-77D4C8276A4A>

Check out one of our early "history" articles!

<http://mntrails.com/content/meet-friend-jackson-county>

Trail Committee Meetings:

Held the second Tuesday of the month at the Jackson County Shop

Time: 730am