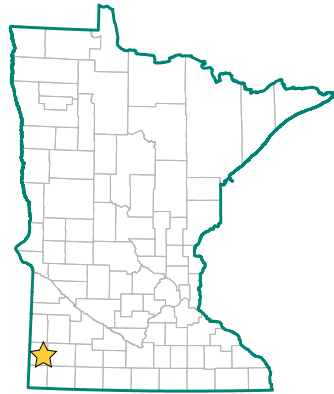


Casey Jones State Trail

Creating awareness of the unique southwestern Minnesota landscape and its natural features



Casey Jones State Trail near Pipestone (Photo by Dean Schoolmeester)



\$1,249,000



2 new trail miles east of Woodstock; engineer/design 2.5 miles west of Lake Wilson



Local project partner:
Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association



Management Agency:
Minnesota DNR

Brief Description:

The Woodstock segment is existing state-owned corridor east of town, confined to former railroad grade, adding 2 new miles directly to a 10 mile trail segment. A portion of the 2.5 mile section west of Lake Wilson is former railroad grade owned by the DNR.

Why this project is important:

The Casey Jones State Trail—authorized in 1967—was Minnesota’s first state trail. More than 50 years later, it’s been dubbed by the Star Tribune as the “bike path the state forgot” and remains a definable gap in Minnesota’s trail system. There are more than 600 miles of paved state trails in Minnesota, and fewer than 20 miles are in Southwest Minnesota. When complete, the Casey Jones State Trail will bring trail users up close to Minnesota’s rich prairie and agricultural landscapes and connect to Pipestone National Monument; Blue Mounds, Lake Shetek and Split Rock Creek state parks; and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum. Creating these connections is important because it increases the quality of life for residents, helps attract more tourists to the area, and creates jobs.

This project is ready to go!

Land for this segment is already owned by the DNR, so it is poised for development. Sens. Bill Weber and Gary Dahms and Rep. Joe Schomacker have introduced bills (SF 971 / HF 1115), and this project has a long and growing list of supporters.

Who supports this project:



Sen. Bill Weber



Sen. Gary Dahms



Rep. Joe Schomacker

- City of Woodstock
- City of Pipestone
- Murray County
- Pipestone Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest Regional Development Commission
- Shetek Area Lake Association
- Currie Town & Country
- End-O-Line Railroad Park & Museum
- Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers
- Friends of Lake Shetek State Park
- Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association
- Parks & Trails Council of MN
- Many others