

THE CASEY JONES STATE TRAIL

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO A HISTORIC MINNESOTA TRAIL



\$3.15 MILLION



RESTORING THE TRAIL



LOCAL PROJECT PARTNER
**FRIENDS OF THE CASEY
JONES TRAIL ASSOCIATION**



MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MINNESOTA DNR

The gap in the Minnesota Trails System. Credit: Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This project will rehabilitate two segments of the Casey Jones State Trail - trailhead and 3 miles east of the Pipestone trail segment and the west segment of the Currie Loop Trail.

WHY THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT

Southwest Minnesota represents a definable gap in the State Trails system. There are over 600 miles of paved state trails in Minnesota, but fewer than 20 miles of those trails are in southwest Minnesota, and a portion of those trails that exist have significant user safety issues. The existing six-mile Casey Jones loop from Lake Shetek State Park is ranked fair to poor in the Parks & Trails Council "State of the Trails" report. The funding requested here will rehabilitate two of those poorly-ranked segments, allowing more hikers, bikers, and other outdoors enthusiasts to make use of this historic trail. There is hard data to back up this bump in traffic - visitorship at Lake Shetek State Park increased by over 16,500 from 1995-1996 when the loop officially opened. In addition, increased trail usage has been positively linked with a corresponding increase in tax revenues, making this proposed improvement a potential boon for the local businesses.

THIS PROJECT IS READY TO GO!

Because this project is concerned with rehabilitation of existing trail, there is no need for land acquisition. DNR Division of Parks and Trails is ready to proceed with engineering upon receiving the appropriation, which will allow them to be ready for bid letting in Spring 2026. Representative Schomacker and Senator Weber have introduced bills (HF 3477/SF 3386) in support.

WHO SUPPORTS THIS PROJECT



Rep. Joe Schomacker



Sen. Bill Weber

- City of Lake Wilson
- City of Pipestone
- Murray County
- Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest Regional Development Commission
- Shetek Area Lake Association
- Currie Town & Country
- End-O-Line Railroad Park & Museum
- Pipestone Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest Health and Human Services
- Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers
- Pipestone County
- Reclaim Community
- Prairie Riders Saddle Club
- Hadley Lions Club
- Statewide Health Improvement Partnership
- Friends of Lake Shetek State Park
- Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association
- Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota