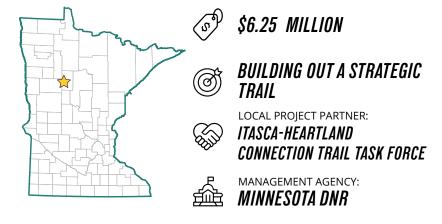
ITASCA-HEARTLAND CONNECTION TRAIL

CONNECTING ITASCA STATE PARK TO THE HEARTLAND STATE TRAIL



Photo credit: Deane Johnson.



BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This project will build on previous funding to construct 14 miles of trail from Itasca State Park on the east side of the trail tunnel under Highway 71 to Emmaville.

WHY THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT

The Itasca-Heartland Connection Trail will be a multi-use paved surface that will serve as a strategic connection between Itasca State Park and the Heartland State Trail just east of Park Rapids. Safe access routes to one of the state's most frequently visited parks have been a longstanding priority for trail users. The proposed trail, which will be located primarily on county and state-owned lands, would increase outdoor opportunities for cyclists, walkers, snowmobilers, and visiting families; these categories include both local residents, who are active trail users, and visitors to this region. The Itasca-Heartland Connection Trail is considered a Primary Corridor in the DNR Division of Parks and Trails' latest system management plan. Bonding money in 2023 went towards the successful construction of a tunnel under Highway 71, and this bonding request for 2024, determined in communication with the DNR, is for the continuation of the trail from the tunnel towards Emmaville.

THIS PROJECT IS READY TO GO!

The route for this 14-mile stretch of the trail is already established, and will be built on tax-forfeited land.

WHO SUPPORTS THIS PROJECT

- · Itascatur Outdoor Activity Club
- Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
- Park Rapids Lakes Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Forest Riders Snowmobile Club
- Friends of Itasca State Park
- Hubbard Bike Group
- Hubbard County
- Heartland Lakes Development Commission
- Itasca-Heartland Connection Trail Steering Citizen Committee
- · Parks & Trails Council of