

# Trail Vision & Goals

## Vision

The Camp Ripley/Veterans State Trail will be a multi-use trail that will link the Paul Bunyan State Trail to the Soo Line Regional Trail and will serve as a section of the Mississippi River Trail. Trail users will experience a diversity of landscapes including pine moraines, prairies, hardwood forests and wetlands. The trail will connect users to the region's natural, historic, cultural and scenic resources thereby creating an interest in and passion for their conservation and protection. The trail will connect and revitalize central Minnesota communities near and surrounding Camp Ripley and along the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers by promoting economic development within the area and improving the quality of life and promoting healthy living for residents.



## Goals

- Will serve many different types of users throughout all seasons of the year;
- Will promote economic growth in the area by attracting visitors, attracting and retaining businesses, increasing tourism and linking tourist attractions;
- Will provide a fun, safe, recreational resource for residents of all ages and interests, thereby benefiting their health and improving their quality of life;
- Will serve as an alternate means of transportation in the region, connecting rural areas to town centers, commercial districts, parks, and schools, and reducing vehicle trips, thereby improving the environment;
- Will connect to existing and future trail networks, complete a missing link in the regional/state trail network of this area, provide a new link between cities and townships, and connect local, county and state parks, trails and conservation areas; and
- Will showcase the unique cultural themes of the area, including but not limited to oxcart trails, early Crow Wing town settlements, Fort Ripley ruins, honor/remembrance of veterans, Camp Ripley, Charles A. Lindbergh, etc.
- Will increase the awareness of the unique natural, historic and cultural resources along and within proximity of the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers;
- Will preserve and protect these natural and environmental resources

