

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Parks & Trails

9700 170th St. E., Nerstrand, MN 55053

Phone: 507/333-2056 Fax: 507/333-4852



November 17, 2016

Mr. David Bennett
Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Northfield
810 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for your recent correspondence and for Northfield's active engagement in the real estate acquisition process between Dundas and Northfield for the Mill Towns State Trail. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Division of Parks and Trails, is supportive of Northfield pursuing a property interest in some form across the areas of 1700 and 1900 Dundas Boulevard, southeast of Rice County 78, which would provide for a contiguous corridor in public ownership between the two communities.

The possibility of routing a recreational trail through these locations is desirable because it will keep users on the Cannon River side of the active railroad grade and afford significant enhancements in scenery, safety and natural resource quality over the existing locally built trail in the nearby highway ditch.

MNDNR's vision is to eventually connect Dundas and Northfield by state trail for the public's use and benefit. We are greatly appreciative of the effort the City has put forth on behalf of the Mill Towns and our desire is to continue to work with local interests in completing this initiative.

Furthermore, we value our partnership with Northfield and our past successes working together to achieve commonly shared goals. Our commitment to that partnership has been demonstrated in recent collaborations, including the pedestrian bridge adjacent to Hwy 3, the Cannon River Regional Park Rest Area facility and the planning advancement for the trail connection through town, to name just a few. As a result, we support the City in this strategic investment and consider this an important step in securing a highly beneficial corridor for future development as a state trail segment.

I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you further about the status of this acquisition project from the City's perspective and how we may assist moving forward.



Sincerely,



Scott C. Haugen
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Electronic cc: Joel Wagar, Area Supervisor, DNR Parks and Trails
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Steve Hennessy, Acquisition and Development Coordinator, DNR Parks and Trails

