



WILLARD MUNGER STATE TRAIL



RESTORING A CRITICAL TRAIL CONNECTION FOR SAFETY & ECONOMIC HEALTH

This project will rehabilitate a critical section of trail between Finlayson and Hinckley, which has been degraded over time.



PROJECT COST
\$5.25 MILLION



REHABILITATION WORK FOR
13 MILES



LOCAL PROJECT PARTNER
FRIENDS OF MUNGER SOUTH



MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MNDNR

Lisa Filter / P&TC

Willard Munger State Trail is a beloved 70-mile, multi-use corridor linking Hinckley and Duluth, celebrated for its scenery, history, and steady flow of visitors who support local businesses. Yet the southernmost 13 miles from Hinckley to Finlayson is in critical condition. According to the Parks & Trails Council's State of the Trails report, this segment is rated the second-worst one in the state trail system. Culvert separations, sinkholes, and extensive cracking, heaving and slumping pavement have rendered the trail unsafe. As a result, riders increasingly divert onto Highway 61, creating serious safety risks and contributing to one known fatality. Rebuilding this segment is urgent to restore safety, protect lives, and sustain the region's outdoor economy.

THIS PROJECT IS READY TO GO!

The MNDNR has completed an engineering predesign assessment of the 13-mile segment from Hinckley to Finlayson. The portion from Finlayson to Groningen Road is construction-ready, with the MNDNR committing Parks and Trails Legacy Funds for repaving. Additional bonding funds are needed to complete the remaining work in a single, coordinated construction window. Completing the project all at once is the most cost-efficient approach, reducing long-term disruption and allowing critical safety improvements sooner.

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

- ✓ FRIENDS OF MUNGER SOUTH**
- ✓ CITY OF SANDSTONE**
- ✓ HINCKLEY CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU**
- ✓ CITY OF FINLAYSON**
- ✓ CITY OF STURGEON LAKE**
- ✓ NATIONAL MS SOCIETY**
- ✓ CITY OF HINCKLEY**
- ✓ CITY OF WILLOW RIVER**
- ✓ PINE COUNTY**
- ✓ CITY OF MOOSE LAKE**
- ✓ FINLAYSON-GIESE LIONS CLUB**
- ✓ PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA**