

Merriam Junction Regional Trail



Scan to watch the project video!



PROJECT COSTS

Construction \$23 M
STATE BOND REQUEST \$11.5 M
 *State bond request is for riverbank stabilization costs of the trail project.


PROJECT TIMELINE

- ✓ Preliminary Design Complete
- ✓ Final Design Underway
- ✓ Environmental Review
- ✓ Phase II Archaeological Study
- ✓ Right of Way Acquisition - Fall 2023
- ✓ Construction Winter 2023-24

PROJECT ELEMENTS

- » 2.42 miles of paved trail
- » 4 bridges
- » Trailhead parking for both state and regional trails

COMMUNITIES SERVED

 **129,000**
 anticipated trail users annually

16% of the local community is Hispanic or Latinx

11% of the local community lives below the federal poverty level

28% of the local community is over the age of 65

Source: Metropolitan Council Community Profiles/ 2020 Census



PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE

ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

- Improves connectivity to the regional trail system for residents of the Southwest metro area
- Loops to local communities
- Connects to Shakopee and disadvantaged communities



CULTURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION

- Riverbank stabilization
- Flood resistance improvements for portions of the State Trail



COLLABORATION

- Coordinating with the City of Carver levy project
- Trailhead coordination between the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Scott County and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)



PROJECT AREA

Merriam Junction Regional Trail – making an accessible link across the Minnesota River Valley for everyone.



About the Merriam Junction Trail Project

- Provides an accessible pedestrian and bicycle link across the Minnesota River Valley, connecting Scott and Carver Counties
- This rails-to-trails project eliminates significant physical barriers on a critical planned trail connection in the regional trail network
- Includes:
 - » 2.42 miles of paved trail
 - » Four bridges
 - » Riverbank stabilization
 - » Trailhead parking at the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Project Readiness

- Final design underway
- Environmental Review
- Phase II Archaeological Study initiated

Project Significance

- **Accessibility & Connectivity:**
 - » Connects nearby disadvantaged communities to regional, state, and national recreation facilities
 - » Creates an accessible trail through the Minnesota River Valley landscape for a broader group of users - bicyclists, persons using wheelchairs or with limited mobility
 - » Fills a gap in the regional system in the SW metro area, the fastest growing area of the Metro
- **Cultural Resource Preservation:**
 - » Riverbank stabilization, preserving recently discovered significant cultural and archaeological resources
 - » Creates opportunity for interpretation and appreciation of pre-contact through settlement era history
- **Collaboration:**
 - » Provides flood resistance to MN Valley State Trail
 - » Coordinating with City of Carver levy project
 - » Trailhead improvement partnership with MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Louisville Swamp Parking), Scott County and the MN DNR. One parking lot to serve three significant trail amenities.



Merriam Junction Regional Trail – linking the region and local communities to the Minnesota River Valley and its history and wonder.



Legend

- Regional trail
- - - Planned regional trail
- · - · - 2027 programmed regional trail
- On road connection
- State trail - paved
- · - · - State trail - unpaved
- Regional Park
- State & federal land
- Planned Merriam Junction Regional Trail

For more information, please contact:

Lisa Freese
 Transportation Services Director
 952.496.8363
 lfrees@co.scott.mn.us

Patricia Freeman
 Parks Director
 952.496.8752
 pfreeman@co.scott.mn.us

