

# Gateway to Scandia

Building Community Connections





# Summary

- Cycling is a growing trend and can be a growth driver for communities
- The DNR has addressed this trend with a planned extension of the highly popular Gateway Trail that has over 125,000 visitors a year
- The project has legislative and widespread community support
- The Scandia section of the trail is a great place to make an immediate impact
- The Gateway to Scandia project is ready to go

Your support is needed and appreciated!





## Cycling **macro** trends

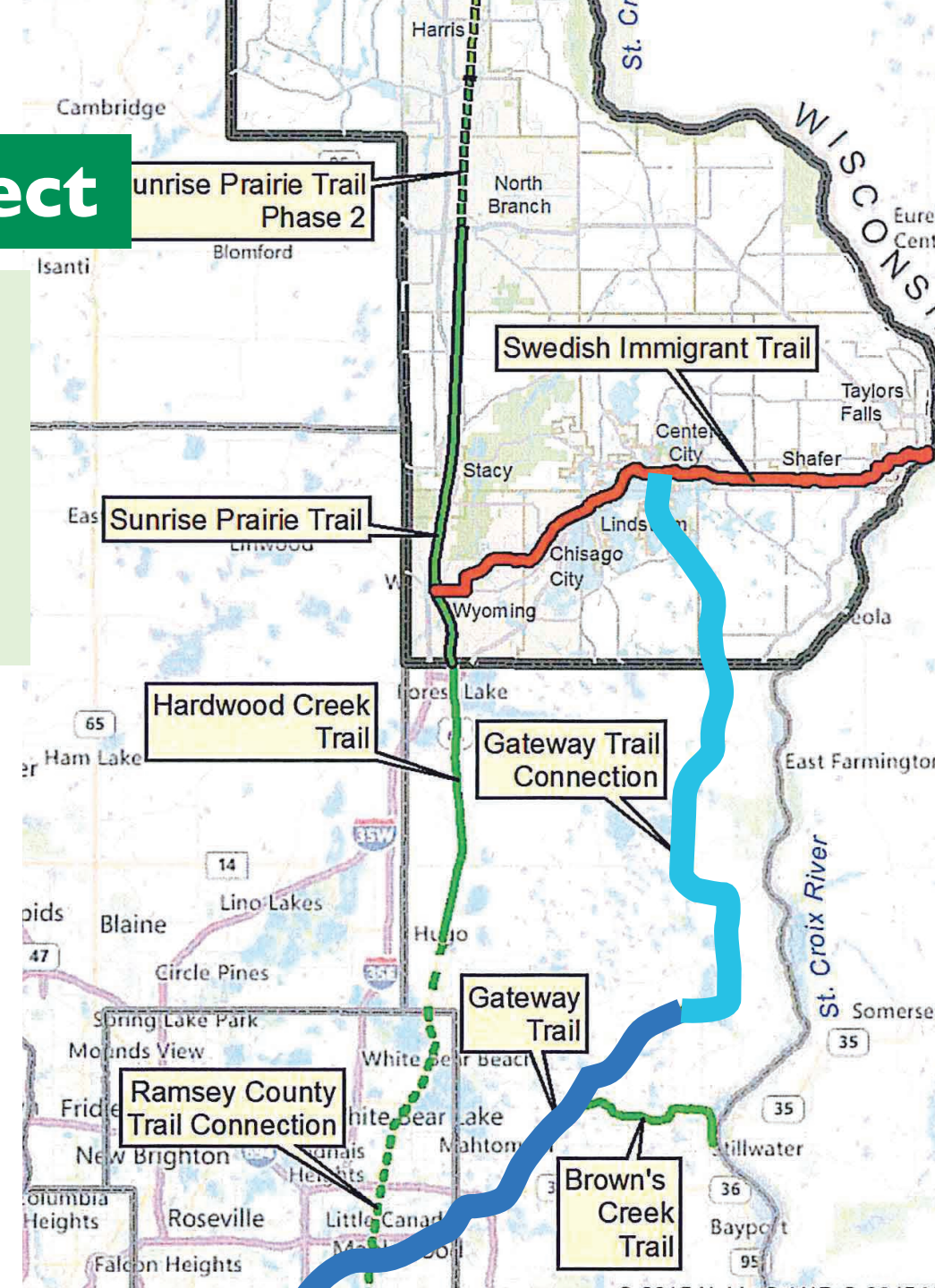
- The pandemic has brought a sizable increase of bike riders across many demographics and regions
- E-bike growth continues unabated and has introduced a large group of new people to cycling across several demographics
- Protected bike lanes can add desirability and increase home value while providing safe recreation and transportation for families and children
- Cycling contributes a number of positive mental and physical health impacts
- Bike trails can enhance the economic value of a region as seen in Crosby (Cayuna MTB), Lanesboro (Root River Trail) and Bemidji (Paul Bunyon Trail)



# DNR Gateway extension project

The long-term vision is to develop the Gateway Trail to Taylors Falls and eventually to connect with other trails and recreation areas in a Twin Cities-to-Duluth Trail System, connecting surrounding communities

- Currently the Gateway State Trail runs from St. Paul to Pine Point Park in Washington County, a distance of 19 miles
- The DNR, along with community partners, are working to extend the Gateway Trail from Pine Point Park, through Wilder Forest and William O'Brien State Park, to the City of Scandia, MN.
- In 2017 the State completed acquisition of the final linkage for connecting the Gateway State Trail from Marine on St. Croix, through William O'Brien State Park to Scandia
- The DNR will own the trails via easements across private property and on already owned public land within the State Park. The extension will be a State Trail and will be operated by the DNR



# There is widespread support to extend the Gateway

## Area cities, counties, businesses & associations



**Maklin Bike Shop**

And many others including:

- Scandia Parks and Recreation Committee
- Friends of Scandia Parks & Trails
- Gateway-Brown's Creek Trail Association
- Forest Lake YMCA

## What area residents say...

“Time for it to be done, this will be a great amenity”

“I have been waiting for this for 20 years”

“It is a great way to encourage people to enjoy the beauty of Minnesota and encourage healthy exercise in a safe manner”

“**PLEASE** make this available to my children”

“This would be an amazing asset to our state and our region”

“**Thank you in advance for making us safe!!**”

“The Gateway is truly one of the great trails of Minnesota. Extending it makes it greater”  
“**Help us stay healthy and happy!**”

“**What better use for our tax dollars?**”

\*quotes are excerpts from a 2020 petition fielded by the GBCTA



# Scandia is great place to start the project!

Scandia is a highly popular cycling destination, and there is a community need for off-road trails to provide greater appeal and safety for families and children that use William O'Brien State Park including the Scandia Elementary School population

Bringing the Gateway Trail into Scandia will allow access from the State Park to Scandia Village Center including two tot-lots, a skating rink, multiple sports fields, restaurants and other commercial facilities, including the pride of Minnesota's Swedish Immigrant Heritage—the Gammelgården Museum.

As it brings in trail users to the Scandia Village Center, it will also add to the city's economic vitality as it works to increase its appeal to residents and visitors to enjoy and utilize the natural and historic resources of the city.





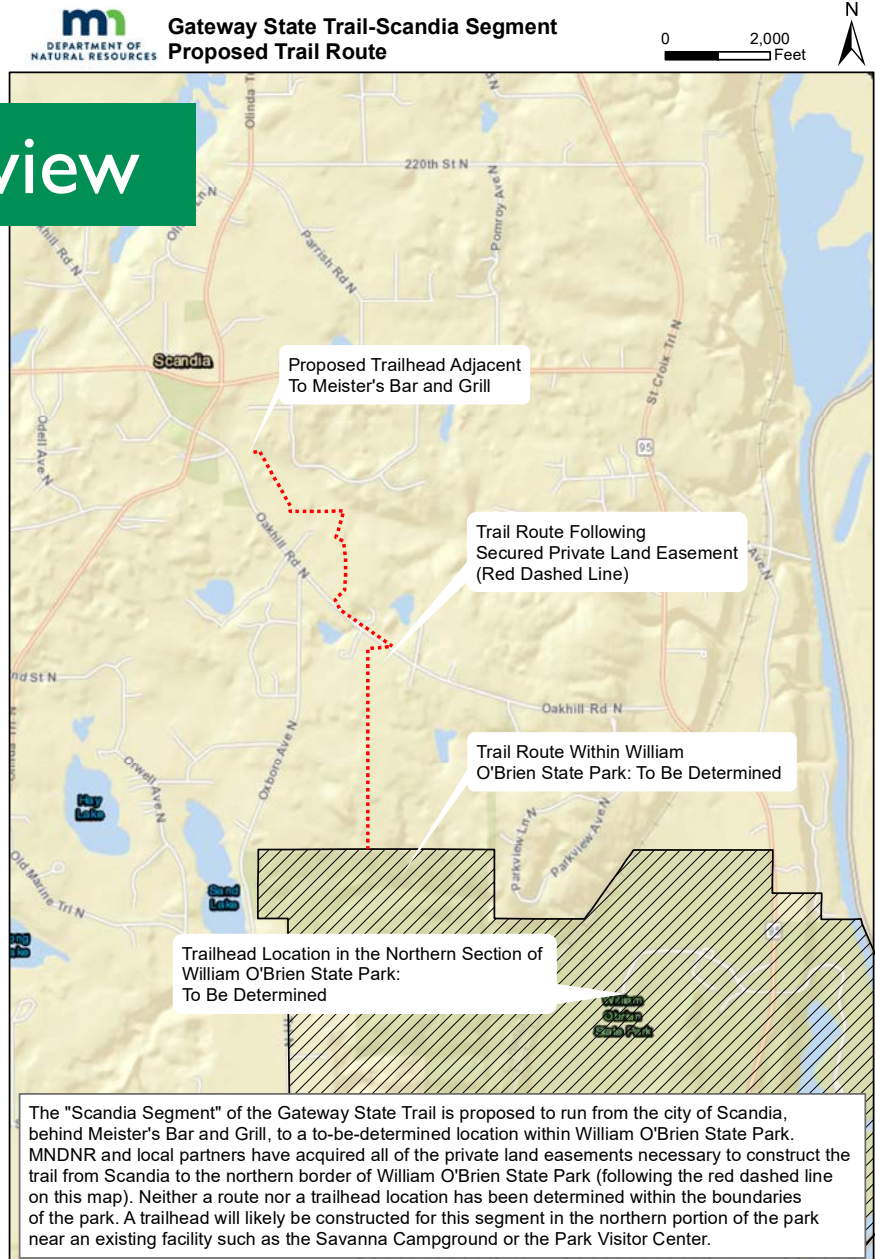
# Scandia Connection project: overview

The State has already acquired the land and has engineered the trail from Scandia Community Center to Oakhill Road

The Park Master Plan for William O'Brien State Park developed in 2007 includes a corridor for the Gateway Trail to extend through the park.

DNR staff have examined a number of possible routes for the trail. Funding will allow the completion of engineering detail and of natural resource investigations in order to arrive at a preferred route and destination.

It will also allow for construction of the trail from the northern border of William O'Brien State Park to a terminus within the park determined by the DNR Parks and Trails, thus completing a bicycling trail system from the Scandia Village Center.

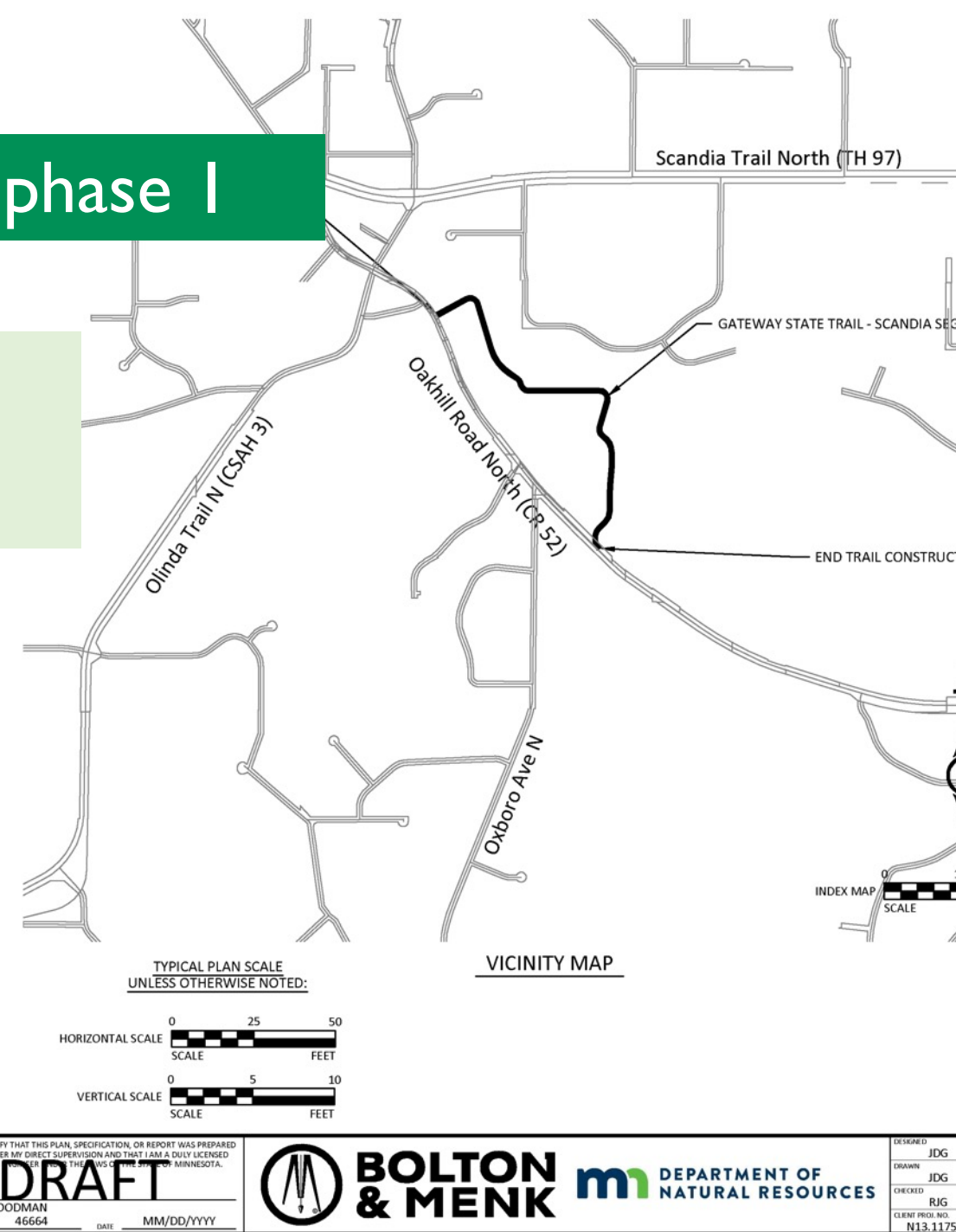


# Scandia Connection project: phase I

Approximately one half of the segment between the Park's northern border and the Scandia Village Center has been fully designed

This one-mile trail addition and tunnel works towards connecting the City of Scandia to William O'Brien State Park.

Funding is now needed to complete the trail design which will include a tunnel and re-design of a portion of Oakhill Road, and subsequently construction of this segment of trail.





# Scandia Connection project: phase I funding

**This request will be for \$2,960,000.** This funding request would be enough to complete construction of the Gateway Trail extension from the Scandia Village Center to Oakhill Road and to also construct a tunnel under Oakhill Road and realign Oakhill to accommodate the tunnel

The breakdown is as follows:

\$500,000 – for the trail from Scandia Village Center to Oakhill Road

\$1,000,000 – for tunnel construction

\$1,460,000 – for Oakhill Road realignment

Future funding will be needed to complete the trail from the tunnel to William O'Brien State Park boundary and through the park.

We ask that you support funding the development of this exciting recreational and community enhancement opportunity



# Thank you!

**Gateway<sup>to</sup>Scandia**  
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