



“Let’s Connect”

Support the 9-mile “connector” trail between Perry and Woodward that links two of the premier recreational trails in Iowa:

Raccoon River Valley Trail

&

High Trestle Trail

Raccoon River Valley Trail to High Trestle Trail “Connector” Project

Dallas County Conservation Board (DCCB)

FUNDING STATUS

- The DCCB is in the beginning stages of fundraising for this important 9 mile project that will connect the Raccoon River Valley Trail (RRVT) to the High Trestle Trail (HTT). The search for additional grants, donations, and pledges will continue. This project will be built in phases over a period of a few years.
 - A Federal Recreational Trail Grant has been **approved** for \$139,103.
 - A State Recreational Trail Grant has been **approved** for \$92,897.
 - A Federal Recreational Trail Grant has been **approved** for \$119,575.
 - A Federal Recreational Trail Grant has been **preliminarily approved** for \$170,944.
 - City of Woodward **approved** REAP Grant for \$75,000.
 - Dallas County Board of Supervisors Trail Fund **budgeted** for \$400,000.
 - Bock Family Foundation **pledged** for \$30,000.
 - Dallas County Foundation **pledged** for \$60,000.
 - Raccoon Valley Bank **pledged** for \$100,000.
 - Local private matching/**challenge donation** up to \$100,000. Could turn into a \$200,000 overall donation if challenge is met.
 - Additional State and Federal grants will be applied for.
 - Local citizens from Perry, Bouton, Woodward, and many other communities are stepping up to help raise funds to help complete this project.
- ❖ **The preliminary cost estimate for this project is approximately \$5,000,000. This estimate is subject to many variables, many unknowns, and design issues.**

DEVELOPMENT STATUS

The project is currently in the acquisition and design phase. It is anticipated that initial construction segments will start in Perry and proceed east whenever funds are available. Snyder & Associates from Ankeny is providing engineering services for the project.

Raccoon River Valley Trail to High Trestle Trail Connector
Trail project information

- 9 mile connection.
- Paved (concrete) trail, 10 ft. wide, 6” thick.
- Connects two of the best trails in the state of Iowa.
- Connects the 89 mile RRVT to the 25 mile (and growing) HTT and into the Des Moines metro trail system.
- These two trails both have been responsible for the creation of new businesses in trail communities.
- This project will create a network of communities that consists of 20 communities and 6 counties.
- Allows multiple trail system users the opportunity to view the iconic High Trestle Trail “Bridge” and the Grand Daddy of them all the “Raccoon River Valley Trail” via the same network of trails.
- Connects the HTT to the north loop of the RRVT which contains the “longest paved loop trail” in the nation.
- Connects trails that are designated as: part of the American Discovery Trail, a “National Recreation Trail”, and also designated as a “Millennium Trail”.
- Both trails are classified as Category I trails, the highest classification of statewide significance.
- This project will complete a missing link in the Central Iowa Trail Network.
- Tourism numbers and economic opportunities have increased due to these two trails.
- Trails provide one of the highest “Quality of Life” opportunities in our society.
- Hundreds of thousands of people utilize these two trails every year and connecting these trails will bring additional users to our communities.

Trail user numbers for the RRVT and the HTT

Trail counter data on all of the HTT and on the RRVT (only in Dallas County segments) from 2012 to 2014 trail seasons.

| Year | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Estimated users on HTT | 301,896 | 411,487 | 417,262 |
| Estimated users on RRVT in Dallas County | 157,777 | 243,093 | 330,518 |

Raccoon River Valley Trail to High Trestle Trail “Connector” project

FUNDING NEEDS

Many of the funds that will be used to construct this trail come from federal and state grant dollars. There will be many of these types of grants that will be applied for. These grants usually are in the form of matching grants.

Many federal and state grants are either 80%/20% or 75%/25% grant to matching dollars ratio oriented. These matching dollars are needed from private sources and donors.

Private donations and pledges will be used as matching dollars which will significantly **leverage** each dollar donated privately.

EXAMPLE

A private donation of \$150,000 (25%) can leverage itself into a project of \$600,000 (75% grant).

FUNDING REQUEST

On behalf of the Dallas County Conservation Board and the many partners and supporters of this project, we are asking for your financial support of this “Let’s Connect” project. Attached to this packet you will find a donation/pledge sheet that you may use to make a contribution. Your contributions would be made to the Dallas County Conservation Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization that assists and supports the Dallas County Conservation Board in its projects. Your financial contribution would be leveraged into significant other dollars to make this project successful.

You can also donate on line for this project by going to the Raccoon River Valley Trail Association web site and click on the Friends of the Trail (Trail Passes) page <http://raccoonrivervalleytrail.org/become-a-friend-of-the-trail>. Scroll down to Options 3 and select the “Let’s Connect” project, enter your donation amount in the Add to Cart window.

Please help us “Connect” the Raccoon River Valley Trail to the High Trestle Trail. To help support this trail project or for more information on donating for this project, contact Mike Wallace, Director, Dallas County Conservation Board, 14581 K Ave., Perry, Iowa 50220, 515-465-3577,

Email: mike.wallace@dallascountyiowa.gov.

Mike Wallace

Director
Dallas County C



“Let’s Connect”

Support the 9-mile “connector” between Perry and Woodward that links two outstanding trails:

Raccoon River Valley Trail & High Trestle Trail

Your gift will provide matching funds needed to secure public/private grants and other major support for this project! Please donate or pledge today. My gift of \$_____ is enclosed. I Pledge to contribute a total of _____ within the next three years.

Signature *Date*

Please send me pledge reminders:

Quarterly Annually

Beginning date: _____

Make all checks out to:
Dallas County Conservation Foundation
14581 K Ave.
Perry, Iowa 50220
Ph. 515-465-3577

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____
Date _____

For more information please contact Mike Wallace, Director, Dallas County Conservation Board
Email: mike.wallace@dallascountyiowa.gov Ph. 515-465-3577.

If you donate \$1,000 or more, you may choose to receive recognition at each trailhead.

The Dallas County Conservation Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization.