

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



walk it . . . run it . . . ride it . . . love it!

The following outline is intended to answer some of the most frequently asked questions related to the proposed multi-use trail that will be constructed through the City of Lake Shore. Because the trail would generally be along the CSAH 77 corridor, the trail is currently being nicknamed “Trail 77”.

1. How did this project begin?

The City of Lake Shore completed a Comprehensive Plan in April of 2006. Identified as one of the long-term strategies, under the Parks and Recreation Plan, was establishment of a recreational trail system throughout the City, including a trail along CSAH 77 and connecting with Fritz Loven Park.

A community trail survey was conducted in the spring of 2007 to generate interest and obtain feedback on various aspects related to the trail, including the type, (motorized, non-motorized, walking, biking, etc.), location, and opportunities of a trail.

In 2010, a Cooperative Agreement was entered into by Cass County, Crow Wing County, the City of East Gull Lake, the City of Lake Shore, and Fairview Township. The purpose of the Agreement was to encourage long-term interagency coordination and cooperation to enhance recreational experiences for residents and visitors, to coordinate trail-wide administration and site-specific management, to protect resources, to share technical expertise, and to seek sources of funding for trail planning.

Most recently, the Trail 77 Team (T77T) was formed in 2011 to help carry out Lake Shore’s vision of a multi-use trail and fulfill their obligation of the Cooperative Agreement. This team, along with the Lake Shore City Council, hired the consulting firm of Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) to do the planning, design, and construction administrative services.

2. Where will the trail be located?

The trail is proposed to be located along the right-of-way on the west side of CSAH 77. The location through back lots of Lake Shore that was presented at Public Meeting #2 on Aug. 2, 2012 will not be utilized. Eminent domain will not be used on the project. Maps of the trail location are on the City website and are posted at City Hall.

3. What will the trail cost?

The cost estimate for Phase 1 will be presented at the September City Council meeting for approval by the City Council. The cost of the trail to-date has been funded by The Initiative Foundation (\$3,000), the Cass County Fund 73 (\$20,000), and private donations of time, services, and materials.

4. How will the cost of building the trail be paid?

Working with their consultant, SEH, Lake Shore will be soliciting a variety of funding agencies with a goal of securing as much grant funding as possible. Local contributions from residents, business owners, and other interested parties may also be included. The City of Lake Shore will most likely be required to provide a portion of the funds. All City of Lake Shore funding must be approved by the City Council. As of the 2nd Public Meeting on 8/12/12, no city funds had been expended except the time put into the project by salaried City employees. All other costs have been paid with funds from the above-mentioned (FAQ #3) grants, private donations, and hundreds of volunteer hours by City residents. In addition, a sub-committee of the T77T has been put into place to work on raising private donations to supplant City funding.

5. When will the trail be built?

The construction schedule will largely be dictated by the availability of funding. The project will most likely be broken into three phases. The goal is to begin Phase 1 construction sometime in 2013. Phase 1 is located starting at Sandy Beach Road and is planned to terminate at Sherwood Forest, but the final termination point will be based on funding availability. Subsequent phases will follow as funds become available. This will be a multi-year project.

6. What are the benefits of Trail 77?

- Provide a safe, alternative mode of exercise, recreation, and transportation
- Provide an economic enhancement to Lake Shore by drawing additional tourists to the area
- Recreational enhancement to the community
- Interconnection with adjacent communities (Nisswa, East Gull Lake, Fairview Township, Brainerd, Baxter)
- Health benefits by providing an opportunity for increased activity (walking, biking, roller-blading, etc.)

7. How will the integrity and beauty of CSAH 77 be maintained, i.e., trees, bluffs, wetlands, ratio of pervious to impervious coverage?

The T77T acknowledges that a trail will change the appearance of the CSAH 77 corridor, however, the team and the consultants are committed to a trail design that preserves as many trees and natural features as possible. For example, it is the goal of the team to preserve the special beauty of the section of CSAH 77 south of Sherwood Forest by utilizing the utility right-of-way, which is already cleared of trees, rather than removing the trees that provide the canopied feature of that section of CSAH 77 if at all possible. It is the intent of the trail design to also add features such as landscaping and flowers that enhance the beauty of Lake Shore.

8. Why has the T77T team chosen to recommend an independent trail as opposed to widening the CSAH shoulders to three feet?

The team believes that an independent trail would provide more safety than a trail on the shoulders of CSAH 77 for some sections of the trail. In addition, the team believes that widening the shoulders to three feet on both sides of CSAH 77 would destroy more of the natural features of the City of Lake Shore than a trail on one side of CSAH 77. However, there may be some areas where the trail is part of an extended shoulder to help maintain the character, minimize impacts, and make the trail constructible.

9. What will happen to the trail in the winter?

At this time, there are no plans for the City to maintain the trail in the winter. The City has not been contacted by any of the snowmobile clubs regarding an agreement to groom the trail.

10. What are the on-going annual maintenance costs to the City of Lake Shore for the trail?

There will be annual maintenance costs. A guide to help estimate these costs is the East Gull Lake Trail. Their trail is 8.5 miles long and they are currently budgeting \$6,000 annually for maintenance.

If Lake Shore experiences the same maintenance needs, the City of Lake Shore 5.5 mile trail will add \$3,883 to the current City budget annually for maintenance.

11. Will there be connections to other trails?

The long-term goal, as outlined in the 2010 Cooperative Agreement, is the realization of a trail around the entirety of Gull Lake with connections to the Paul Bunyan State Trail. Fairview Township is not currently working on a trail, however, the City of Nisswa has a trail in planning that will connect with the City of Lake Shore boundary on CSAH 77.

12. Is information available on the Internet regarding this project?

Yes, the City of Lake Shore started a T77T website. On that website, there is also a link to the T77T Facebook page.

www.cityoflakeshore.com

13. What can I do to help make this dream become a reality?

The Trail 77 project began as a vision of Lake Shore government and citizens. Lake Shore strongly promotes this project as a community effort and wants citizens to become and stay involved. To get started, contact the people listed below.

14. What is the City's liability?

In many instances, the state legislature has given cities and other public entities broad release from liability; if there was fear of liability for every public piece of infrastructure, sidewalks & parks would not be built. The liability of a trail is no different than any other street or sidewalk.

15. Will there be a referendum?

No. There are State statutes that govern if and when a referendum is needed or can be used. Due to the fact that the City does not plan to do any bonding or the like, a referendum is not allowable or required. The State gives the City authority to govern and make decisions such as the trail. The City cannot pass decisions back to the public.

16. Is there a possibility of re-routing CSAH 77?

CSAH 77 will not be re-routed. However, there is a possibility of reconstruction and re-alignment through its current right-of-way.

17. Who makes the rules for the use of the trail?

The City of Lake Shore has full authority over the trail and will be responsible for setting the rules.

18. Who should I contact if I have questions or comments regarding this project?

The T77T and the City Council and staff, as well as the City's consultant, SEH, can help you:
City Administrator: Teri Hastings, 218.963.2148
Police Chief: Steve Sundstrom, 218.963.2148
Consultant: Matt Reid, SEH, 218.855.1714