

# Encouraging local trail system use

## Improving accessibility of Maple Lakes & Teal Lake trail system

The Maple Lakes and Teal Lake trail system is well used within Maple Grove for recreational walking and biking and enjoying nature. At the same time, there is great potential for increasing use for transportation purposes, as the trail system connects residential neighborhoods to area parks and recreation facilities, schools, the regional library, city hall, and the city's main street.

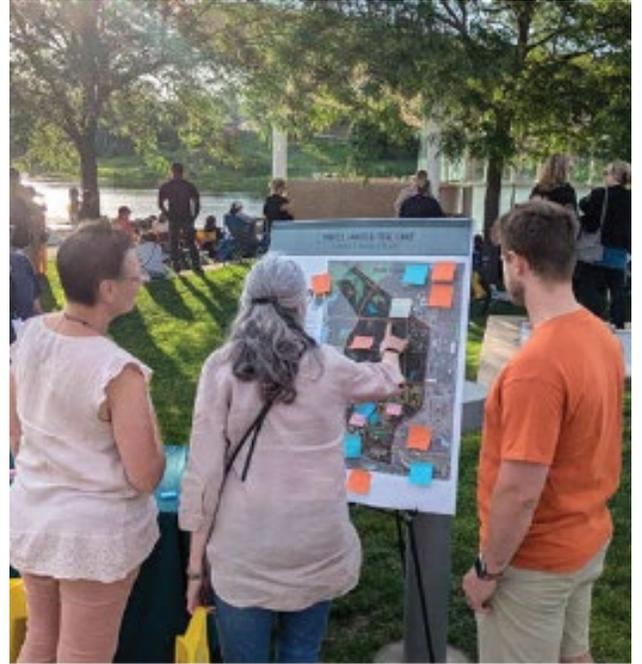
Hennepin County Active Living and the City of Maple Grove launched an effort to enhance the existing trail system by improving safety, connectivity, usability, and awareness. The purpose of this project was to engage the community and stakeholders to discover issues and opportunities with the existing trail corridors and to develop ideas to increase trail use and multi-modal transportation within Maple Grove's linear park system.

The project involved a variety of components, including a site audit to identify existing conditions in the corridor, community input to identify issues and opportunities, and recommendations for improvements based on those items.

### Engaging the community

During the summer of 2024, the City of Maple Grove engaged residents at community events including Chalkfest, Maple Grove Days and Juneteenth. In addition, the team used business cards, yard signs, and social media channels to share links to an online survey and an interactive mapping tool – over 170 responses / comments were made.

A key finding was an incredible pride and enthusiasm that Maple Grove residents have for their trail system. At the same time, a variety of themes came up in their comments that identify opportunities to make this system even better:





- Need for safer and more convenient roadway crossings
- Interest in more trails and trail connections
- Desire for improved trail maintenance – mowing, trimming vegetation, improving trail surface condition, and clearing trails of animal waste and snow
- Desire for additional amenities along trails – restrooms, water fountains, trash/recycling bins, lighting, emergency call boxes, grills, adult fitness equipment, and kids’ activities
- Interest in activating more areas – more planned music and events, geocaching
- Frustration around navigating the trail system and interest in adding more signs and maps

## Key recommendations

Based on the site assessment and community input, a list of short, medium, and long-term strategies were identified to improve the walk-and-bikeability of the trail system.

Recommendations included:

- Improve pedestrian and bike crossings with painted crosswalks, signals, and signage
- Enhance wayfinding with trail maps, directional signs, and mile markers
- Install more benches, rest areas, shade structures, water and restrooms for accessibility and comfort
- Expand trail connections to better link neighborhoods, parks, and businesses
- Repair and widen trails to improve safety and accommodate more users
- Add lighting and emergency call boxes to improve security and visibility
- Increase bike parking and repair stations near businesses and community destinations



*Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Department of Health through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). SHIP supports community-driven solutions to expand opportunities for active living, healthy eating and commercial tobacco-free living.*