

Progress Report

March 2011

Northwoods ATV Trail

Formerly the 70-Mile Trail Project

Oversight Committee

Maynard Ahonen
*Beaver Twp – Aitkin
County*
Robin Baker
*Itasca Cnty. Trails Task
Force and Cnty. Park &
Rec.*
Rusty Eichorn
District 4 Itasca Cnty.
TJ Gustin
*Aitkin Cnty. Park
Commission*
Len Hardy
ATVAM
Mark Jacobs
*Aitkin Cnty. Land
Commissioner*
Harlan Kingsley
Business owner
Jon Korpi
*Chairman Lone Pine
Township, Itasca Cnty.*
Anne Marcotte
*Aitkin Cnty.
Commissioner*
Bob Marcum
*Salo Twp – Aitkin Cnty.
Supervisor*
Dave Marshall
*Assistant Land
Commissioner Itasca
Cnty.*
Brian Napstad
*Aitkin Cnty. Board of
Commissioners*
Garrett Ous
*Itasca Cnty. Land
Commissioner*
Kim Risen
NatureScape News
Warren Spawn
Township Supervisor
Frank Turnock
Aitkin Cnty. ATV Alliance
Galen Tveit
*Aitkin Cnty.
Commissioner*
Rick Utech
*Itasca Economic Dev.
Corporation*
Ross Wagner
*Aitkin Cnty. Economic
Development*

Project Coordinator, Katie Fernholz, Dovetail Partners/ 612-333-0430, info@dovetailinc.org

Grand Opening of Phase I

On July 14th, 2010 around 50 people attended the Phase I Northwoods ATV Trail System Grand Opening in Aitkin County, MN. The grand opening welcomed trail enthusiasts, community members and business owners at the trailhead of the 17-mile long Lawler Loop. State legislators and DNR officials, county representatives, and trail committee members were in attendance to give a presentation about the project, including which segments were completed and open for use and which ones were still in the planning and construction phases.



As of summer 2010 approximately 40 miles of the Northwoods ATV Trail System were completed and open for use. Trails that are completed include the Lawler Loop, the Moose River Connection, and the Itasca Phase I Trail. The Solana Forest Loop is currently under construction. See page three of this progress report for an updated Lawler Loop map. ★

Updated Phase I Maps Available

Updated Phase I routes are available by request (612-333-0430; info@dovetailinc.org) and at the project website: www.NorthwoodsTrail.net.

To view an updated map of the completed Lawler Loop see page three of this report. The map can also be downloaded from the project website or requested from the project coordinator. ★



Construction Begins on Phase II

Trail clearing for Phase II of the Northwoods ATV Trail System began this winter. Winter clearing protects soils and wetlands since frozen ground conditions minimize soil disturbance. This aids the project's goal of designing an environmentally sensitive ATV trail. The project is designed to be environmentally sensitive, economically beneficial, and community supported.

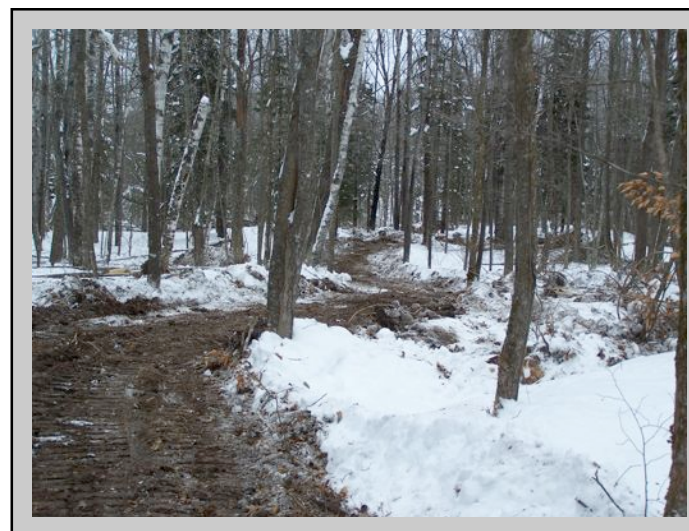
The Phase II trail segments include the Blind Lake Connector, the Hill City Connector, and the Goodland Connector. Overall the second phase of the trail project includes an estimated 50 miles of trail with 37.5 miles (75%) located on existing logging trails. There are 12.5 miles of new trail construction proposed.

The Blind Lake Connector will join the existing Blind Lake ATV Trail with the Soo Line Trail southeast of Swatara, MN.

The Hill City Connector will join the Soo Line Trail southeast of Swatara to the Rabey Line Trail southeast of Hill City, MN.

The Goodland Connector Trail will join the existing Pengilly-Goodland ATV Trail with the Rabey Line Trail in Jacobson, MN.

A video presentation regarding trail system planning and design can be found on the project website: www.NorthwoodsTrail.net ★

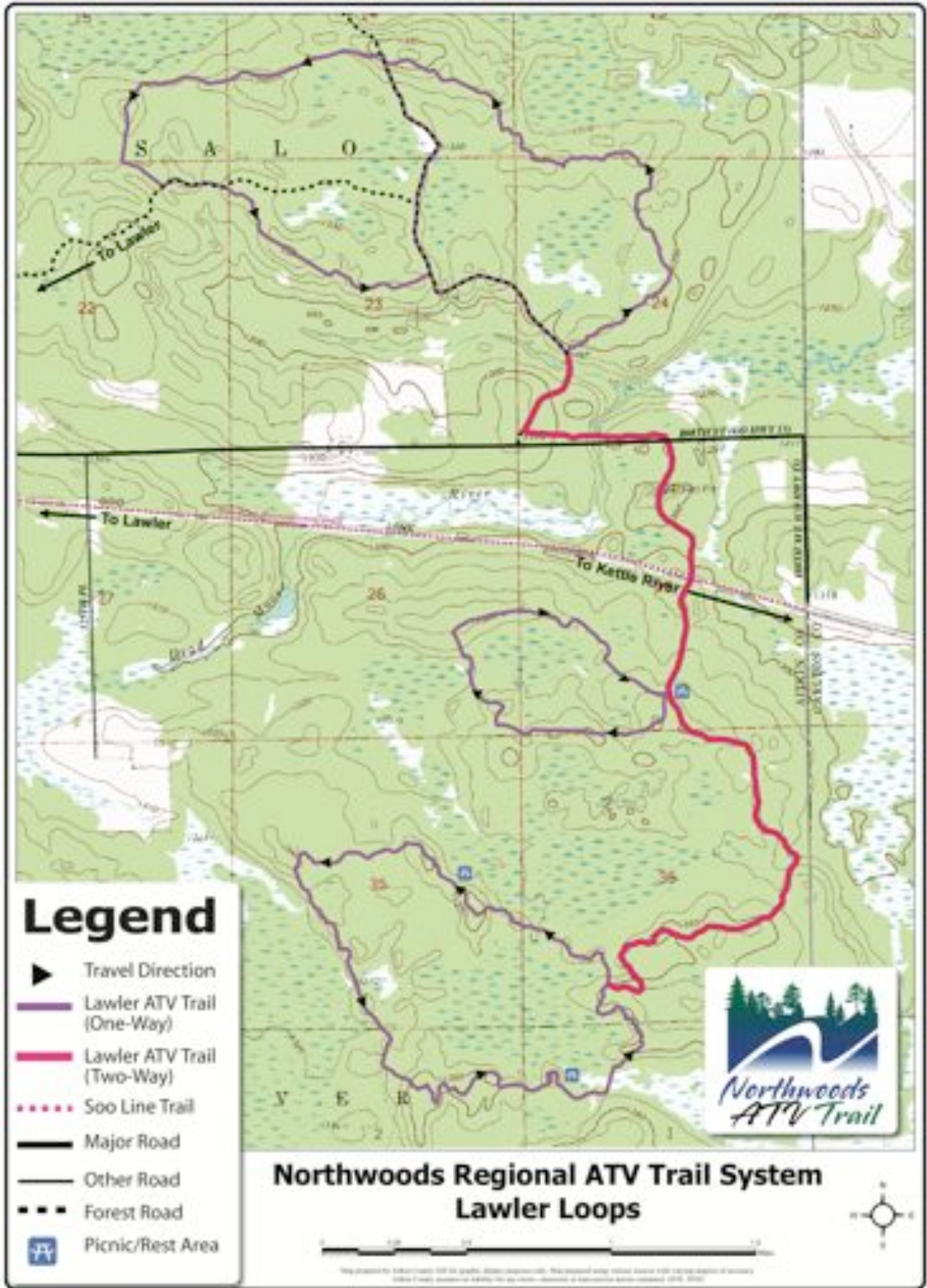


Phase II trail clearing began this winter.

FAQs Spotlight: *"Isn't 'environmentally-sensitive ATV trail' an oxymoron?"*

The goal of the Northwoods ATV Trail System is to be environmentally sensitive in its design and to fully consider environmental impacts. The trail design also aims to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts as much as possible. To achieve this goal, a diverse range of interests are represented on the Oversight Committee that is directing the project, the public has been asked to provide input throughout the planning process, Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs) for Phase I and II have been completed, and extensive analysis of environmental indicators and data have been completed.

A list of additional FAQs, the EAWs and articles on Managing ATV Use can be found at the project website: www.NorthwoodsTrail.net ★



Economic Impacts of Trails: A Business Owner Perspective

Project Coordinator

Dovetail Partners

528 Hennepin Ave.,
Suite 703
Minneapolis, MN
55403

PHONE:
612-333-0430

FAX:
612-333-0432

E-MAIL:
info@dovetailinc.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.NorthwoodsTrail.net

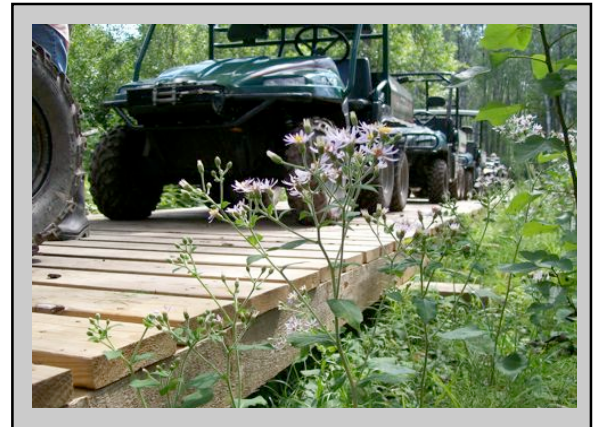
Mary Pepera, owner operator of Jackson's Hole in Lawler, MN was asked to provide feedback on the impacts of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System on her business. The Jackson's Hole bar and restaurant has operated in Lawler since 1980, and Mary and her husband have been the owners since 2007. They have been supporters of the trail project. Meetings of the advisory group for the project have been hosted at the business.

Jackson's Hole is located close to the Soo Line Trail and has benefited from the use of the winter trails by snowmobiles. In 2010, the Lawler Loop segments of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System opened near Lawler. The new ATV trails are loops off of the Soo Line Trail.

"We've seen an increase in 4-wheelers, with people coming from out-of-town to ride the trail and many are staying overnight in the area at hotels or camping," said Mary.

Mary says the trail riders have included local residents as well as people from the Duluth area, other parts of Minnesota and people from outside of the state. As Mary saw planning for the ATV trail beginning, the hope was that trail use in the area could become more of a year-round activity.

"The trail riders include everyone from families with little tikes to grandparents," says Mary. "The trail has made a big difference in business and bringing in new folks." ★



DOVETAIL PARTNERS

528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 703
Minneapolis, MN 55403

HELP SPREAD THE WORD

Do you have a place to post information such as a community bulletin board? Help us share information with the public about the Northwoods ATV Trail System by posting this progress report in a place for all to see. Additional information is available at the project website:
www.NorthwoodsTrail.net.