

Lake Vermilion Trail Plan Implementation

Scope of Work

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission



Background & Purpose

In January, 2011 the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) and the Lake Vermilion Resort Association commenced an eight-month planning process for the future development of the Lake Vermilion Trail—a trail facility connecting the lake and its residences and businesses to the communities of Cook and Tower. The process was facilitated by ARDC and relied on a local steering committee for feedback and guidance. The process would help the Association and other key partners to determine the feasibility of constructing and administering a paved trail in the Lake Vermilion and Cook areas. ARDC worked with the steering committee to develop a vision, goals, strategies and action steps for the trail, identified trail route segments, estimated construction costs, helped determine a management structure, and garnered public input.

The resulting *Lake Vermilion Trail Plan* outlines the general alignment for a proposed trail connection between the City of Cook and the City of Tower, providing a transportation route that connects people to the scenic beauty of the south shore area of Lake Vermilion. The plan also describes opportunities for trailhead facilities, interpretive sites, recreational amenities, as well as local and regional promotion for tourism. This plan is intended to be used as a tool for guiding the near term development of the first phases of the project and outlining a strategy for longer term phases of the project.

The purpose of work during FY 2012 will be to provide technical assistance to the Lake Vermilion Trail Plan – Steering Committee to advance identified priority action items of the plan for implementation (funding, trail feasibility study and organizing a trail management entity).

Participants

ARDC will continue to work with the Lake Vermilion Trail Plan Steering Committee to advance implementation of the trail plan. Steering Committee members include those in local city/township government, natural resources, business, and tourism, and who have an interest and/or expertise to help bring the trail to reality.

Lake Vermilion Trail Plan Implementation

Scope of Work

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

Planning Process

The steps for the Lake Vermilion Trail Plan Implementation are as follows:

Step 1

ARDC will work to identify and obtain funding for the Steering Committee to hire professional assistance for conducting a trail routing study.

Step 2

Based on results of the trail routing study and estimates for trail construction, ARDC will work to research funding sources for trail development. As applicable, ARDC will assist the group to apply for funding sources such as grants.

Step 3

ARDC will work with the Steering Committee to advance next steps for trail development. This may include contacting affected property owners along the trail route and holding public meetings.

Step 4

ARDC will work with the Steering Committee to establish a trail management entity (or entities) to manage the trail and associated funds.

Public Participation

ARDC will work with the Steering Committee to engage the public in the planning process through public comment or participation on the committee. ARDC will also continue to maintain an up-to-date project web page at www.arrowheadplanning.org/lakevermiliontrailplan that will monitor project progress and contain contact information.

Timeline

The planning process is designed to be completed within six months. The beginning date depends on the availability of funds.

Lake Vermilion Trail Plan Implementation

Scope of Work

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

Plan Budget and Funding Sources

The cost of this planning process is \$7,000. The Lake Vermilion Trail Resort Association is requesting \$5,600.00 from the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) In-kind Transportation Planning Grant Program. \$1,400.00 will be provided as a local match.