

## Whitewater Country Loop State Trail

Connecting Communities, Improving Lives

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## Chester Woods State Trail

The Chester Woods Trail is part of the Whitewater Country Loop which is a proposed 50 mile State Trail connecting 8 cities, 2 State Parks and a county regional park

**Route:** Starts in Rochester, goes through Chester Woods County Park, and the cities of Eyota & Dover. Phase 1 of this trail connects Rochester's 107 miles of city trails with Olmsted County's 1,330 acre Chester Woods Park.

**Terrain:** Follows Bear Creek for several miles and runs through woodlands and plains

**Dual use:** A second parallel tread-way is included for horseback riding where permitted

**Committee:** The City of Eyota started work on this trail in 1993, our trail group was organized in 1995 under the Eyota EDA and consists of members from each of the cities and townships involved.

**Funding:** To date we have been awarded total State Bonding funds of \$1.5 million from years, 1999, 2005, 2006 & 2008. \$145,000 in land donated by Olmsted County, \$30,000 from City of Eyota. 2018 bonding bill to finish phase 1 is being proposed for \$2.25 million. SF1176, HF1494

**Phase 1:** Land between County Road 11 on outskirts of Rochester and Chester Woods County Park (5 miles) has been purchased. Summer of 2015 - 1.5 miles was graded, culverts and a needed retaining wall built. Funds needed are to complete construction of the whole 5 mile section including paving.

**Phase 2:** Connections east to the cities of Eyota & Dover and a connection north across Hwy 14 to link with the 13 mile Great River Ridge State Trail. DNR is currently in the process of finishing land acquisition between Chester Woods Park and the City of Eyota.

**Support:** Minnesota DNR, National Parks Service, Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota, Olmsted County, City's of Rochester, Eyota, and Dover, Rochester Active Sports Club, Steps to a Healthier Rochester, SMART, Minnesota Council on Physical Activity and Sports, Be Active Minnesota, Mayo Action on Obesity Task Force