

GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL RIDER

A publication of the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association

Spring 2018



PHOTO: PAUL SUNDBERG

President's Message

MOMENTUM: GEARING UP FOR GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL PROJECTS

The long, snowy, cold winter is now mercifully but a memory. By now most of our bikes are out of storage and rides have been taken. Up here on the North Shore, spring maintenance is ongoing along the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. Now it is time for all of us to get to work!

The State Legislature is in session and is now considering capital investment (bonding) bills. Funding for the Gitchi-Gami is among the projects being considered. We would like as many people as possible to call their legislators with your support of the trail. This session is set to adjourn in just a few weeks, so this cannot wait.

Building a paved bike trail through volcanic rock and over a multitude of rivers takes time, planning, and funding. We are asking for \$3 million in state bonding this session. These projects include \$1.5 million for design and construction of 1.5 miles of trail near Lutsen, \$500,000 to partner with MnDOT to construct a new bridge over Silver Creek that will accommodate the trail, \$400,000 for design and engineering of a 7-mile segment between Silver Bay and Tettegouche State Park, and \$400,000 for design and engineering to connect Cascade State Park with Cut Face Creek Wayside.

Be sure to mention House Bill HF 2850 and Senate bill SF 2718. No matter who your legislator is, every representative in our legislative bodies understands the importance of the North Shore to all Minnesotans. Need help finding your representatives' contact information? Find it at <https://www.gis.leg.mn/imaps/districts>.

When out enjoying the trail and Lake Superior this summer, look for trail construction in Tofte. In the fall, initial work will begin on the trail segment from Grand Marais to Cut Face Wayside. I hope we'll see you at the Annual Meeting on May 19th and our Annual Ride on August 18th. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy a summer full of family fun and sun. Keep pedaling,

Tom Peterson
GGTA President

Proceeds from the Spokengear Yard Sale will benefit the GGTA!

Trail Coordinator's Report

Spring seems to be “slow-rolling” this year, but we are anxious to get to our version of spring cleaning and see that the trail is in great condition for your next ride or roll or hike on the trail. We will be working to clear gravel and debris from the trail, and, when we finish that, we'll work on straightening some fencing along Highway 61 near the city of Beaver Bay.

As we focus on the 2018 season, we are pleased to announce that construction of the West Road segment of trail in Beaver Bay was completed late last fall, and we are planning on a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 24th. Closing this short gap in the trail is something to truly celebrate and forges a true connection between the communities of Beaver Bay and Silver Bay. Read on in this issue to learn more about the ribbon-cutting event, and please join us!



In other construction news, we are currently working with area business owners in the town of Tofte as well as with MnDOT to coordinate and plan a trail construction project on the northeast part of town. Owners within the right-of-way corridor have been great partners and have redesigned a parking arrangement in front of their properties. This project will result in extension of the trail from its current terminus to the Commercial Fishing Museum in Tofte. Although short, this is an important step in closing the trail gap through the town.

The Cutface Creek State Wayside to Grand Marais trail corridor is currently undergoing final engineering and design planning. With major trail construction planned for spring of 2019, this project will result in another 3.5-mile segment of trail. We anticipate that, when completed, this segment will provide an unforgettable experience to all trail users, as it will prove to be a very scenic segment of trail.

Happy trails,

Mark Rudningen

Trail Development Specialist
DNR Parks and Trails
218-834-1437

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Executive Director's Report

Gear swaps and ribbon cuttings and bike rides . . . oh my! Our gears are grinding as we prepare for many great events over the next weeks and months.

The GGTA has been asked to make a presentation to the William Kelley Bike Rodeo in early May, and we're looking forward to offering some trail prizes and teaching some bike safety and trail use etiquette.

We hope you'll join us on May 19th for two great events happening in Two Harbors. The GGTA has once again been selected to be a recipient of funds from Spokengear/Cedar Coffee Company's second annual “Yard Sale” gear swap. They are inviting folks to drop off gear to sell on consignment, with 80% of funds to go to the seller and the remaining 20% to trail groups like ours! We are thankful for this connection. We'll have a table at the event.

We're planning our Annual Meeting of Members for the same day at 10:00 am, just across the street from the gear swap. Join us to learn what we've

been up to for the past year in the meeting room at the Two Harbors Federal Credit Union. We'll provide snacks, coffee, and lots of trail updates!

Switching into higher gear, we are so thrilled to announce that there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate our newest trail segment connecting Beaver Bay and Silver Bay along the West Road on Tuesday, May 24th. Please join us for the celebration at noon at the Beaver Bay Wayside.

And speaking of the West Road segment, how about a hip-hip-HOORAY for this great new connection that means we no longer have a gravel component to our Annual Ride event. It'll be smooth pedaling on August 18th! We hope to see YOU at one of our events, or out on the trail!

Michelle Pierson

Executive Director, GGTA
info@ggta.org

18TH ANNUAL GGTA NORTH SHORE BIKE RIDE

The 18th Annual Gitchi-Gami Trail Association North Shore Bike Ride will take place on **Saturday, August 18, 2018**. The recreational ride will again offer 55-mile, 37-mile, and 28-mile route options, as well as an 8-mile family ride on the trail and connecting roads.

Starting Point: Gooseberry Falls State Park

Start Time: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Parking for the ride is located in a lot inside Gooseberry Falls State Park. Vehicles will need an annual state park vehicle sticker or a daily vehicle pass. A daily pass will be provided by the GGTA as part of the registration fee and is good for entry to all state parks on that day.

Refreshments will be provided at rest stops and post-ride. Mechanical, emergency and sag support will be provided. All adult riders will receive t-shirts, and younger riders will receive water bottles. All riders must sign waivers and wear helmets.

8-mile family ride option: Follows the GGST for 4 miles from Gooseberry to a rest stop at Twin Points wayside, where there will be treats and special events for families. The ride returns on the GGST to Gooseberry.

28-mile ride option: Entirely on the GGST, from Gooseberry through historic Split Rock Lighthouse State Park, continuing to the rest stop at the Beaver Bay Wayside, and returning on the trail. Because it is an "out-and-back" ride, bikers can turn around at any time to return to the starting point.

37-mile ride option: Follows the GGST to the rest stop at Beaver Bay Wayside, then heads north on Co Rd 4, follows Forest Rd 11/Penn Blvd into Silver Bay, then returns to Beaver Bay on the trail between Silver Bay and the newly paved West Road, down to the highway and across the Beaver River back to the rest stop. The route returns to Gooseberry on the trail.

55-mile ride option: Follows the GGST to Beaver Bay Wayside and adds a loop north on Lake Co Rd 4 and the Lax Lake Road to Hwy 1 and the Eckbeck rest stop, to Hwy 61, to Penn Blvd and Silver Bay, and back to Beaver Bay on Penn Blvd and Co Rd 4 (or, for a slightly shorter option, on the GGST and West Road), then back to Gooseberry on the trail.

Registration can be completed online (through secure PayPal payment) or by mail, using the form on this page. Cost of the ride is \$40 by August 1, \$45 after that date.

Questions? Contact us at annualride@ggta.org.

**REGISTRATION AND WAIVER FORM**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration by Aug 1: \$40 (\$30 for members)

Registration after Aug 1: \$45 (\$35 for members)

Riders 17 and under: free with paid adult

Circle shirt size: M L XL Second rider: M L XL

Options: ___ 8 miles ___ 28 miles ___ 37 miles ___ 55 miles

I agree by my entry into this event to accept its inherent risks, and absolve the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association (GGTA), its officers and employees, and all other sponsors, organizers, volunteers and associated entities, with their heirs and assigns, singly or collectively, of all blame or liability for any harm, inconvenience, injury, loss, or other misadventure suffered as a result of taking part in the GGTA North Shore Bike Ride.

Any qualified doctor or medical technician is hereby authorized to provide me medical treatment in response to an accident, injury, or illness during this event.

I give permission, without obligation or liability to me, for the use of my name, image or other record of my taking part in the GGTA North Shore Bike Ride for any promotional or publicity purposes.

I will obey traffic rules, heed officials' advice, and ride and conduct myself with due caution and respect, so as not to endanger anyone or disrupt the enjoyment of fellow cyclists, motorists or others. I agree to wear a properly fitted hard shell bicycle helmet at all times when riding a bicycle at this event.

My signature indicates that I have read this waiver and agree with its intent (**all riders must sign**):

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Under 18? Sign above, and have adult sign below:

Signature _____ Date _____

Send completed Registration and Waiver form and check for ride registration (including membership fee, if any) in the enclosed envelope.

We need your membership!

Your membership in the GGTA helps support our efforts to advocate for, plan, promote, build, and maintain the Gitchi-Gami State Trail!

AND your membership qualifies you for a discount for the Annual Ride fee (see above)!

Join online on the membership page at www.ggta.org. Or include your membership fee in the enclosed envelope. Help build a great trail on our Great Lake!

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Annual Meeting of Members	Saturday, May 19th 10 am	Two Harbors Federal Credit Union Meeting Room 801 11th Street Two Harbors	Join us to learn more about our efforts to support and advocate for a great trail on OUR great lake!
YARD SALE Spokengear Cyclery— a gear swap	Saturday, May 19th 9 am - 4 pm	On site at Spokengear, 1130 11th Street Two Harbors	This is a great opportunity to buy OR sell used outdoor adventure gear of all sorts and support the GGTA while doing it! Learn more at www.facebook.com/spokengear .
Beaver River Bridge/ West Road Trail Segment Ribbon Cutting	Thursday, May 24th noon	Beaver Bay Wayside at the intersection of Hwy 61 & Co Rd 4	Join MnDNR, MnDOT, city officials and others to celebrate this new segment of our favorite trail!
18th Annual GGTA North Shore Bike Ride	Saturday, August 18th 9 am	Gooseberry Falls State Park	Register with form inside or at www.ggta.org .



Gitchi-Gami Trail Association

1130 Eleventh Street
Two Harbors, MN 55616

We need YOU!

We are seeking volunteers to help out at two events this season. Can you lend a hand?

We're looking for volunteers to help set up and help out folks at the Spokengear Yard Sale gear swap on May 19th. We also need some folks to help our Annual Ride on August 18th go smoothly.

Let Michelle know if you can help out at either of those events. Email her at info@ggta.org, or call her at 218-529-7535! Thanks!