
To Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors, Black Hawk County Conservation Board,
& Vern Fish, Black Hawk County Conservation Executive Director:

I am writing to you, asking for your support in keeping the Cedar Valley Nature Trail preserved in its totality by repairing its footprint as repairs become necessary, the immediate focus to repair the Wolf Creek Bridge.

The 52 mile Cedar Valley Nature Trail stretches from Evansdale to Hiawatha, connecting Waterloo with Cedar Rapids and all surrounding communities. Users of the Trail provide positive economic impact for communities on or close to the Trail.

Historically, the CVNT uses the early 1900s path of the Waterloo Cedar Falls & Northern (CF&N) Railroad. In 1977, the Iowa State Legislature, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund began raising funds to purchase the 52 miles. By 1983, funds were raised with the CVNT open for public traffic in 1984. Further monies have been expended amounting to over seven million dollars, to keep our Cedar Valley Nature Trail whole.

With this history, investment, and continued positive support and use, why would any effort be undertaken to divert the Trail, a part of the American Discovery Trail?

I see the diversion (realignment) as unsafe, anti-conservation, and unnecessary. I feel an option that takes trail users across a highway and railroad tracks is not a good option. This will discourage casual trail users and families from continuing that far on the trail. The option to repair the bridge would be more cost-effective in the long term, and possibly even the short term.

I again ask for your support in keeping the Cedar Valley Nature Trail intact, continuing its original footprint. The dollars can and will be found just like they were in 1977-1983, 2009, and 2011.

Where there's a will, there's a way!

Respectfully,

(Name Here)
