



“I love this trail! How can I help?”

So glad you asked! Here’s how . . .

1 Join the GGTA! Please consider becoming a member (or renewing member) of the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association (GGTA) during our fall membership drive. The GGTA is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with the state Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, MN Parks and Trails Council, local governments, and other organizations in the planning, development, funding, construction, maintenance, and promotion of the Gitchi-Gami State Trail.

Membership dues are used to pay for the GGTA’s operations budget, supporting the printing of our newsletter and other publications, including annual ride materials. Membership dues are also used to fund grant applications and cooperative agreements for trail planning. Dues and donations have also been used to purchase

trail maintenance equipment and to build informational kiosks along the trail.

You can join by mail or online. To join by mail, just fill out the information on the enclosed envelope and send it in with your check. Or you can print a form at the “Membership” page on the GGTA website, www.ggta.org. You can also join online from that website page with a credit card, through secure PayPal payment. Members will receive discounts on annual ride fees and GGTA merchandise. Dues are tax-deductible.

The GGTA membership is statewide. A large percentage of GGTA members live beyond the North Shore. This broad membership is key to developing state and federal legislative support for completion of the trail. Please join the GGTA and help to complete a premier non-motorized trail from Two Harbors to Grand Marais, MN.

give
TO THE MAX
DAY
NOV 13, 2014

2 Give to the Max! Are you one of the many generous Minnesotans who contributes to your favorite causes on “Give to the Max Day” — November 13 this year — maybe doing your year-end donations on that day? Consider adding a GGTA membership to your donation list. You can access the GGTA “GiveMN” page by clicking on the Give to the Max logo on our website — or just search for “ggta” on the GiveMN website, www.givemn.org.

3 Like us on Facebook!

Yes, we’re on Facebook now! (See the article on the back page.) We have over 100 “fans” — won’t you join us? Look for this logo on the GGTA website and click on it, or go directly to our Facebook page (address is below). The 200th “liker,” and every hundredth fan up to 1000 this year, will get their choice of a 2014 ride t-shirt or GGTA water bottle! But don’t just like us; post your trail stories, and send us your pics!



4 Get involved! Come to the annual meeting of the of the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association at 3 pm on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at the new visitor center at Tettegouche State Park. Get the latest trail updates, and see the unveiling of our new interactive map for mobile devices, created by talented techies at the ARDC. Learn how you can help, including volunteering to join the GGTA board of directors. Enjoy après-ski and après-snowshoe treats! *See you there!*

TRAIL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Maintenance:

This summer was the first time in awhile that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) did only limited maintenance work on the Gitchi-Gami State Trail (GGST). However, we did complete several projects on the GGST. We sprayed some of the balsam poplar suckers that have caused cracking on the bike trail asphalt, mowed trail shoulders, removed hazardous trees, blew rocks off the trail, and installed kiosks and signs. We also had a washout on the Cobblestone Creek Culvert, which we are repairing this fall.

Construction:

The delay of funding for the trail meant that no actual trail construction was completed in 2014. However, with the late arrival of summer, the Department of Transportation (MnDOT) began a mad dash to complete road improvement projects. As anyone who traveled on the North Shore this summer knows, MnDOT undertook major work on the Tettegouche to Little Marais stretch of Hwy 61, as well as road reconditioning in the Lutsen to Cascade State Park area. We were not able to secure funding needed in order to gain more bike trail mileage along those corridors. The highway project did, however, extend the width of paved shoulders along the road a couple of feet — not up to safety standards for bike travel, but providing somewhat safer and smoother travel for bikers and walkers on the highway in areas with no bike trail.

A highlight of this season was the ground-breaking for the Beaver Bay Trailhead project. The trailhead will include a newly designed kiosk

with maps and information, and a building with running water and flush toilets for trail users and passing motorists.

Engineering and Planning:

The West Road connection to Hwy 61 from the west end of the Beaver Bay-Silver Bay trail segment is currently in the engineering phase. Construction should start on that segment next spring or summer, with completion of the project in the fall of 2015.

Funding awarded in the 2014 bonding bill passed by the Legislature will cover engineering and construction work for the segment from the 1.5 miles of completed trail in Grand Marais to the Cutface Creek Wayside. Most of the trail alignment will be within Hwy 61 corridor.

Also, a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) award has been secured for the planning of a 1.1-mile connection through the town of Tofte, that will link the Schroeder to Tofte and the Tofte to Lutsen trail segments. We hope the design of that project can be completed so that construction can take place by 2018.

There is much interest in getting the planning underway for the Silver Bay to Tettegouche State Park segment, now that the new rest area/park headquarters at the park has been completed. This segment will connect the trail in Silver Bay to the new park building.

Enjoy the bike trail and stay safe!

~ Mark Rudningen
Trail Development
Specialist, DNR

Gitchi-Gami Trail Association
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Check it out! There's a new "Bike Tune Up Station" behind the Visitor Center at Gooseberry Falls State Park. Pedal Minnesota, in collaboration with Health Partners, has erected several of these stations in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. The station includes an assortment of bike tools and a tire pump. Pedal Minnesota partnered with DNR Parks and Trails to install this station adjacent to the GGST. It was made by a Minneapolis company, Bike Fixtation, that has fabricated similar stations for locations around the country.

Bikers "Ride into History" on the 14th Annual GGTA Trail Ride

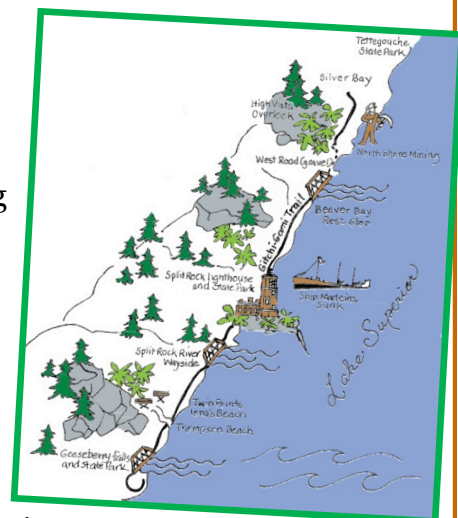
On Saturday morning, August 16th, about 110 enthusiastic bikers arrived at Gooseberry Falls State Park for the 14th Annual Gitchi-Gami Trail Association North Shore Bike Ride. It was a nice day for a ride – 65-70 degrees, calm winds and cloudy. There was a small threat of rain, but none appeared. The ride was held on the 17 miles of trail ending in the town of Silver Bay. The ride had plenty of hills, even though road construction made it necessary to omit the 55-mile loop with its challenging inland ascent.

Most riders completed the "short loop" – a 28-mile round trip from Gooseberry to Beaver Bay. Over 30 continued on up the gravel West Road to the west end of the GGST from Beaver Bay to Silver Bay – a big climb going out and a long coast coming back. A few riders increased their mileage by riding on paved county roads leading out from Silver Bay before they retraced their route back to Gooseberry.

The theme of this year's ride was "Ride Into History." Split Rock Lighthouse historical site is on the trail about eight miles from Gooseberry. A special arrangement was made this year to include a free tour of the lighthouse as part of the ride registration fee. More than half of the

bikers chose to take a tour and learn some of the history of this famous Minnesota landmark.

We were especially pleased with the design of this year's ride shirt, moss green with an image of Grand Marais artist Katherine Hellner's painting of sites along the route. Leftover shirts can be purchased for \$15, plus \$5 for postage and handling, while supplies last.



The annual ride is put on by the all-volunteer GGTA as a way to promote the trail and encourage healthy outdoor activity, and as a fundraiser for the association. The 15th Annual Ride will be held on August 15, 2015. We look forward to seeing you there!

*~Bill Blank,
Vice President, GGTA*



A postcard from the trail . . .

Where did Michelle Pierson take this beautiful photo on a misty fall day? She was on the lonely western-most GGST segment – the half-mile stretch of trail that climbs up and over breathtaking Silver Cliff on the old Hwy 61 roadbed. Someday it will be part of the route from Two Harbors to Gooseberry Falls. Today it's a lovely wayside on the North Shore Drive.

Become a business sponsor!

Are you a business owner? Do you enjoy biking, roller-blading, rollerskiing, dog-walking, jogging, or just strolling on the GGST? Does your business benefit because the trail exists? Would you like to see it completed? Business sponsors are a critical part of the GGTA's support. For \$250, your business sponsorship will be featured in GGTA publications and media, including all Annual Ride promotions and materials. And you'll get a window decal that shows your support for the trail. Here's a list of businesses that have signed on to date this year:

Baptism River Inn B&B
CF Design, Ltd.
Cleveland Cliffs
Cooperative Light and Power
Jeff Latz Properties
North Shore Federal Credit Union
Sivertson Gallery
Tofte Management Company, LLC
[YOUR BUSINESS HERE]



Gitchi-Gami Trail Association

PO Box 74

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GGTA has a new Facebook page



The Gitchi-Gami Trail Association has received invaluable help from the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) in a number of areas. We are especially pleased that through this partnership we at last have a vibrant Facebook page, designed and administered by Michelle Pierson, a project assistant in the ARDC Regional Planning Division. We hope you will use the Facebook site to record your trail experiences, questions, and comments, and that you will share your videos and pictures. Michelle and ARDC coworker Charlie Moore are also working on exciting projects that will utilize technology to enhance enjoyment of the trail. Watch for more information soon!

You're invited . . .

to the Annual Meeting
of the Gitchi-Gami
Trail Association
at 3 pm on Saturday,
January 17, 2015,
at the new Visitor Center
at Tettegouche State Park.

Come and learn about the
progress of the Gitchi-Gami
State Trail, the issues involved
in funding and building new
trail segments, and exciting
technological developments —
and learn how YOU can help.
Refreshments will be served!