



# The Gateway Browns Creek Trail Association

## The Trails



The Gateway Trail starts its 18-mile journey in an urban Saint Paul neighborhood just north of the State Capitol.



Following an old Soo Line Railroad track, the trail enters the Phalen-Keller Regional Park, then winds its way northeast through Maplewood and North Saint Paul. It parallels Highway 36 in Oakdale for a short distance before passing through a tunnel and winding its way along a scenic route through Pine Springs, Mahtomedi, and Grant.

From this point the trail passes by numerous ponds and 58 protected wetlands on the way to its current terminus at Pine Point Park, five miles north of Stillwater. For the first nine miles, the trail consists of a single, 10-foot wide paved trail that is well suited for bicycling, in-line skating, walking and jogging. In winter, portions of the trail are groomed for cross country skiing. The paved trail is joined by a separate limestone trail for nine more miles. The limestone trail is available for horseback riding, carriage driving, and walking.

The Browns Creek Trail joins the Gateway Trail at Duluth Junction, several hundred yards south of the Hwy 96 / Lake Masterman parking area. The trail is 5.9 miles long and ends in Stillwater. Horses are allowed from the junction with the Gateway to Lofton Avenue. There are five pull-outs with benches and interesting natural and historic information. The trail passes through Browns Creek Park and alongside a historic stone bridge dating from the mid 1800's, and goes along and through two golf courses. It then enters a spectacular section through steep bluffs, ending at the St. Croix river. Once at the Trailhead in Stillwater, one can enjoy the town's many amenities.

The trail will eventually join up with the circle route over the old lift bridge into Wisconsin, head south and over the new St. Croix bridge, then north along the river and back into Stillwater.

## Information

### Bike trail Connections

- ◆ Trout Brook Trail
- ◆ Bruce Vento Regional Trail
- ◆ Phalen-Keller Regional Trail
- ◆ Phalen Creek Trail
- ◆ Washington County Road 12 trail to Stillwater

### Parking along the Gateway

- ◆ Phalen-Keller Regional Park
- ◆ Robinhood Park, Maplewood
- ◆ Flicek Park, Maplewood
- ◆ Maplewood Community Center
- ◆ North Saint Paul Trailhead—near wind turbine
- ◆ Just off Hwy 36 and East Hadley Avenue, Oakdale
- ◆ Hwy 96 at Lake Masterman, Grant
- ◆ Jamaca Ave at Jeffrey, Grant
- ◆ Pine Point Park (fee charged and horse parking)

### Parking along Browns Creek Trail

- ◆ Hwy 96 Lake Masterman, Grant
- ◆ Browns Creek Park at Neal Avenue, Stillwater
- ◆ Laurel Street, downtown Stillwater

### Restrooms along the Gateway

- ◆ Phalen-Keller Regional Park—also water
- ◆ North Saint Paul Trailhead—also water
- ◆ Hadley Rest stop—also water
- ◆ Hwy 96 at Lake Masterman, Grant
- ◆ Jamaca Avenue at Jeffrey, Grant
- ◆ Lansing Avenue, Grant
- ◆ Pine Point Park—also water

### Restrooms along Browns Creek Trail

- ◆ Browns Creek Park
- ◆ Stillwater—2 blocks south of the Trailhead

## **MEMBERSHIP IN THE GATEWAY BROWNS CREEK TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

The GBCTA has been in existence since 1988 when members lobbied the State of Minnesota to buy and develop the old Soo Line. After many twists and turns through a complex legal maze, the trail was established and is now considered one of the most-used multipurpose trails in Minnesota. Some of the original members of the Association are still very active, attesting to their dedication to keep these trails in the best possible condition, and to work to extend the Gateway Trail to O'Brian State Park, Scandia, and eventually to Taylors Falls. The Association has the following goals:

- To promote the Extension of the Gateway Trail
- To promote improvements on the trails
- To promote safe use of the trails and good trail etiquette
- To promote and support adequate funding by the State to maintain the trails in the best possible condition
- To communicate information to the public through a newsletter and web site
- To sponsor an "Adopt-a-Trail" program whereby members can volunteer to keep segments of the trail and abutting properties safe and clean
- To provide feedback and support to the DNR in an effort to make the trails the best in Minnesota

Membership dues are: **\$10 Individual; \$15 Family; and \$25 Business**

Please join us in our efforts by sending your check made out to **Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota** (our fiduciary) and mail it to:

**GBCTA  
PO Box 9295  
No. St. Paul, MN 55109**

Please include **your address and e-mail** for newsletter and event notification.