**Cannon Valley Trail**

**Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

**Project Manager**

Mr. Scott Roepke

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Mr. Roepke has supervised the operation, maintenance, natural resource program, development and staff of the Cannon Valley Trail for 20 years. These responsibilities are performed in accordance with the policies, priorities and direction established by the Joint Powers Board. Mr. Roepke has managed numerous natural resource management activities. He provides oversight including general planning, burn planning and implementation, invasive species control management and public education.

Mr. Roepke received a Bachelor of Science degree in Park and Land Management from the University of Wisconsin in 1993. College courses included forestry, natural resources, plant science, interpretive services, soils, natural resource protection, principles of management, natural resource policies, woodlot management and park and land management. He also holds an interagency certification in Firefighting with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest Service.

**Organization Description**

Cannon Valley Trail is governed by a local Joint Powers Board (JPB) comprised of three members each from the Cities of Cannon Falls and Red Wing; and Goodhue County. The City Councils and County Board of Commissioners each appoint at least one elected official and one citizen to the JPB, while the third position can be either at the governing body’s discretion. The responsibilities of the JPB are defined in a founding document. The three units of government financially contribute to the operations budget.

In a cooperative arrangement, the City of Red Wing serves as the Trails fiscal agent while Goodhue County owns the property. The Joint Powers Board is assisted by a full-time trail manager, part-time office assistant, seasonal staff, and volunteers and professional services provided by staff of the three units of government.

CVT was founded through citizen action and opened in 1986. It now hosts 100,000 annual visitations, with 60% from outside Goodhue County. Developed for non-motorized use, hikers, bicyclists, inline skaters and cross-country skiers enjoy a quiet, nature immersed experience through the Cannon River valley. CVT is a vital regional trail connection to the Mill Towns State Trail at Cannon Falls via City Trail and to the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail in Red Wing via the City Hay Creek Trail, as well as to downtown Red Wing via the City Riverfront Trail. Significant trail connections are being planned by other agencies from Red Wing south to Lake City and north to Hastings.