

## **Trail Ordinance 2010-02**

### **Section 1. Intent and Purpose.**

Subd. 1. The Town Board of Bridgewater Township finds the following:

- a. Walking and biking contributes to better physical health.
- b. Rural neighborhood clusters in Bridgewater generally have one street accessing a county or township road. These streets do not have paved shoulders, pedestrian trails or sidewalks to accommodate walkers or bikers.
- c. There are limited opportunities for horseback riding in the Township.
- d. Narrow county roads without paved shoulders have contributed to deaths within Bridgewater Township.
- e. As identified in the Township Comprehensive Plan:
  1. Interconnected bicycle/pedestrian trails with opportunities for camping would support area tourism.
  2. The Township will encourage a variety of natural recreational areas and facilities that are well-distributed throughout the Township.

Subd. 2. The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the placement, construction and use of trails within the ordinance. It is the intent of the township to:

- a. Connect rural neighborhoods to adjacent parks or streets with safe access.
- b. Provide safe access from rural neighborhoods across busy roadway corridors.
- c. Provide access to local natural resource corridors (such as Spring Brook, Heath Creek, Cannon River, and Wolf Creek).
- d. When development occurs, support the general concepts of the Northfield area greenways plan and the Dundas trail concepts.
- e. Provide safe access to county parks (such as Wilderness Park).
- f. Support trail maintenance for riding and walking.
- g. Recognize that trail construction and design should not necessarily be the same for every trail.
- h. Recognize that trails may not be available throughout the entire year.

Section 2. Definitions. The following words and terms, wherever they occur in this ordinance, shall be defined as follows:

*Alcoholic Beverage* shall be as defined in M.S. \_\_\_\_\_, as amended.

*Board* shall mean the Bridgewater Town Board.

*Motor Vehicle* shall be as defined in M. S. 169A.03, subd. 3, as amended. Motor vehicle includes every vehicle that is self-propelled but does not include a vehicle moved solely by human power.

*Non-motorized vehicle* means any human powered mechanical device used for transportation.

*Off-road recreational vehicle* means an off-highway motorcycle as defined in M. S. 84.787, subd. 7; off-road vehicle as defined in M. S. 84.787, subd. 7; snowmobile as defined in M. S. 84.81, subd 3; and an all-terrain vehicle as defined in M. S. 84.92, subd. 8.

*Person* means any individual, partnership, corporation or association.

*Pet* means any animal that is tamed, domesticated, and kept as a companion.

*Trail Corridor* means any land or water area and all facilities thereon within the right-of-way of trails designated by the board.

Section 3. General Conduct on Trails. The following rules apply to trail corridors in the township:

- a. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized vehicle on any township trail, except for devices used to provide handicap accessibility.
- b. Bicycle riders shall operate in a safe and controlled manner.
- c. Bicycle or horse riders shall yield to pedestrians.
- d. Trail users must obey all trail signs.
- e. Roller blading is permitted.
- f. Snowmobiles are not permitted.
- g. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.
- h. Pets must be on a leash when on the trail.

- i. It shall be unlawful for a person to leave the trail corridor and enter onto private property without permission of the property owner.

Section 4. Trail Designation and Construction.

Subd. 1. Process for Trail Designation.

- a. Design details and trail alignment will be reviewed and approved at the time of trail development. The review will consider the expected use, grades, erosion control, proximity to natural resources, alignment, connections and other items in determining design details and trail alignment.
- b. Prior to designation of a trail, the Town Board will hold a public hearing to gather public input. All property owners adjacent to a proposed trail will be notified of the public hearing for the proposed trail.

Subd. 2. Easement Grantor Not Liable. Property owners who donate an easement for trail use are provided statutory recreational use immunity through M. S. 604A (Minnesota Recreational Use Statute).

Section 5. Enforcement.

- a. Licensed peace officers are authorized to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.
- b. The Town Board shall have the right to issue additional rules and regulations to enhance or supplement this Ordinance.
- c. If any provision of this Ordinance is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of any other provision of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Violations. A person found guilty or violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and shall be punished according to M.S. 609.02, subd. 4a, or a hereafter amended.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk