



SUBMITTED GRAPHIC

The trail would run from Park Rapids to Itasca State Park. Public comment will be received by the DNR until Jan. 27.

Heartland Spur trail on high priority list

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has placed the Heartland Spur trail on its high priority list and is inviting public comment on the value of this proposed spur by Tuesday, Jan. 27.

The Heartland Spur, which is proposed to go from Park Rapids to Itasca State Park, is included in the Minnesota State Parks and Trails System Plan, which is still in draft form.

According to the Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Trails, the state must continue to demonstrate better government over the long term. The system plan advances new approaches for managing DNR's state parks and state recreation areas, state trails, forest recreation areas, and water recreation system: 75 state park and recreation areas, 24 state trails, 62 state forest recreation areas, 1,500 public water accesses, 350 fishing piers, and 33 water trails.

According to the sum-

mary, implementation of this plan will result in:

- Future investments focused on Minnesota's most important natural resources and highest quality recreation opportunities.

- Staff better able to determine where and how to invest time and resources, and where to pursue new opportunities.

- Transparency with the Legislature and other stakeholders about priorities.

- More effective collaboration with our partners.

- Measureable improvements that advance Better Government.

To look at a copy of the plan, go to http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/strategic_plan/system_plan.html

Send comments to PAT systemplan.dnr@state.mn.us. Revisions to the draft system plan may be made before a final plan is adopted.

Email comments are due Jan. 27.