



February 9, 2022

Sibley State Park Improvement Association
1806 Upper Trentwood Circle NE
Willmar, MN 56201

Dear Sibley State Park Improvement Association,

Firstly, here at the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission, we would like to thank you for beneficial land acquisitions you have completed at Sibley State Park over the years. Secondly, thank you for working on the continuation of the Glacial Lakes Bike Trail.

Sibley State Park is designated as a destination park and attracts thousands of visitors each year, making it one of Minnesota's top 10 visited state parks. In addition, it hosts part of the Glacial Lakes Bike Trail. This trail already connects the cities of Willmar, Spicer, New London, Hawick up to the Kandiyohi and Stearns County line. Along this segment of the trail are two parking access areas, including a park and ride parking lot in Hawick. In addition to this 7.5 miles of paved trail run from Roscoe to Cold Spring. The convenient access to this trail is a huge attraction.

The completion of trail improvements and expansion in the park in 2020 and 2021 created a new segment of trail that guides visitors through the scenic prairie of Sibley. However, this trail ends abruptly at the tunnel that travels under Highway 71. The continued development of this trail will complete the connection of this beautiful trail system from the park to New London. Visitors at the park would now have recreational opportunities and access to the City of New London, which would have meaningful economic benefits to the community.

We ask that you please continue the work to complete this project for the benefit of Minnesotans of West Central and greater Minnesota and also those who travel to our state to enjoy the many cultural, economic and natural resources we offer.

In appreciation,

Aaron Backman

Executive Director of the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar EDC