

Motion – East Rim Dual-Use Trail
Introduced by Bayfield Common Council Member, Matt Carrier
Passed with unanimous approval on January 20,2026

I move that the Common Council of the City of Bayfield grant temporary, conditional access for snowmobile use on the East Rim Trail, to be designated as a dual-use trail, for the period ending March 31, 2026 subject to compliance with the conditions stated herein and those outlined in the East Rim Dual-Use Trail Plan.

Access shall be conditioned upon: installation of required signage; posting of 15-mile-per-hour speed limit; designation of the trail as open but ungroomed; posting hours per ordinance 337-6, enforcement of leash requirements for dogs; coordination of enforcement responsibilities among applicable jurisdictions; and ongoing monitoring and reporting to Parks and Rec Committee by the Apostle Islands Snowmobile Club and Bayfield Area Trails; and use of the trail is limited to the route identified in the proposal, as depicted in the associated maps.

Trail access will be managed collaboratively to ensure that all conditions are met and that public safety, environmental protection, respectful trail use, and property access are maintained. If concerns arise, the City will work with partners to address them.

I further move that the Common Council direct the formation of a working group consisting of representatives of the City of Bayfield, Town of Bayfield, private landowners granting trail access, Bayfield County, Apostle Islands Snowmobile Club, Bayfield Area Trails, and Bayfield School to develop a dual-use trail management plan, using the outline contained in the proposal and informed by monitoring, reporting, and public input from the 2026 season. The plan shall be submitted to the Common Council for consideration no later than September 1, 2026.

Long-term snowmobile access on the East Rim Trail, including those portions located on City-owned park land within the Big Ravine, would be granted upon adoption of a City-approved dual-use trail management plan developed pursuant to this motion.