

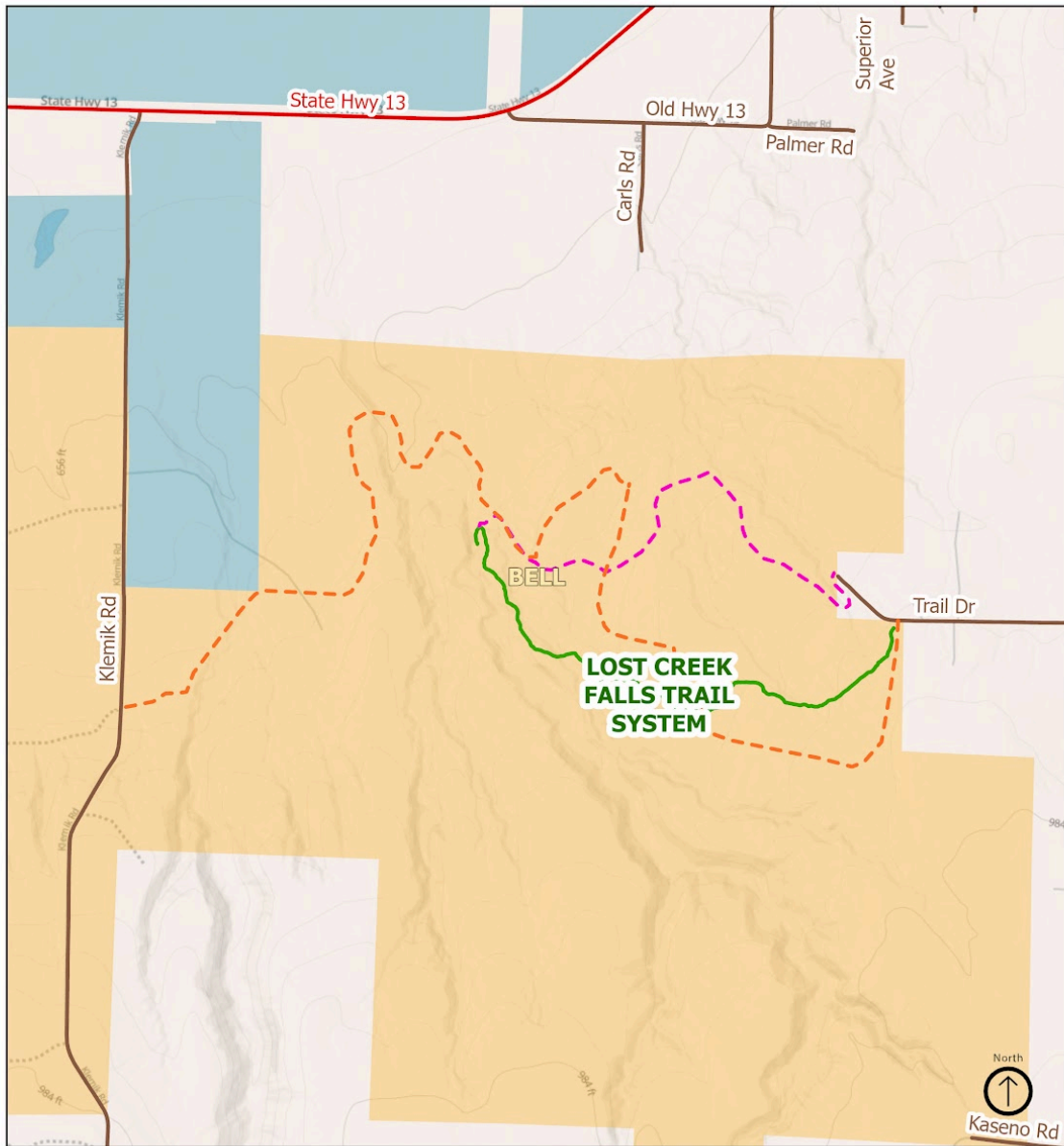
# Lost Creek Falls Trail System Additions Proposal

## Trail Concept

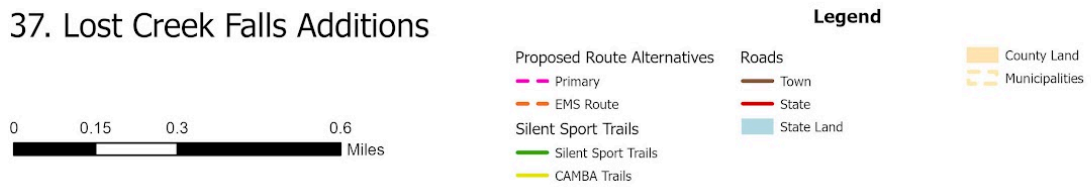
This project would construct a new trail leading to Lost Creek Falls. Because of the popularity of Lost Creek Falls, this new trail would help to alleviate congestion on the current trail, while also providing a loop option. In addition to the new trail, this project would include a second parking area, trailhead, spur trail connecting the trailheads, and access route for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and maintenance of the trails. Bayfield County has already applied for a Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grant and money has been allocated within the 2026 Bayfield County Capital Budget to fund the implementation of this project.

- **Highlights:** Trails traverse mature forests with large trees and the topography of the area provides an interesting hiking experience. The Lost Creek waterfall is stunning.
- **Ecological Habitat:** Mature hardwood forest.

<b>Lost Creek Falls Trail System Additions</b>	
<b>Lead Entity for Project</b>	Bayfield County
<b>Local Jurisdiction</b>	Town of Bell
<b>Project Length</b>	1.5 miles (plus additional EMS access trail)
<b>Proposed Trail Uses</b>	Walking, Hiking, Snowshoeing
<b>Proposed USFS Classification</b>	Class 2 - Moderately Developed
<b>Connections to Other Trails</b>	Yes, connects to Lost Creek Falls Trail System
<b>Private Land Ownership</b>	No
<b>Category</b>	Category 1 (Implement within 5 years)



### 37. Lost Creek Falls Additions



## **Trail Concept Detail**

The project consists of adding a second parking area, trailhead, and hiking trail to the Lost Creek Falls Trail System, and adding access routes for EMS and maintenance crews.

### **New Trailhead & Parking Area**

A second parking area and new trailhead will be constructed at the west end of Trail Dr. Additionally a short trail will be built linking the two trailheads and parking lots to avoid foot traffic on Trail Dr. As part of the construction, an old dump site located at the end of Trail Drive will be cleaned up.

### **New Trail to Lost Creek Falls**

Shortly after departing the new parking area, the trail will follow an old logging road but then will depart and a new trail will be constructed west to join the existing Lost Creek Falls Trail near the picnic area. From here there is shared access to the Lost Creek waterfall.

### **EMS/Maintenance Route from Trail Dr. (East Access)**

From the existing parking lot on Trail Drive a new trail will be created that connects to the snowmobile trail located to the south. The route will continue to follow the existing snowmobile route to the picnic area near Lost Creek waterfall and will be used for EMS access and maintenance.

### **EMS/ Maintenance Route from Klemik Rd. (West Access)**

From the west, the EMS/maintenance route will also use the existing snowmobile trail to cross Lost Creek #2 and Lost Creek #1 to the picnic area near Lost Creek waterfall.

## **Opportunities & Challenges**

### ***Land Ownership***

The land on which the trail would be constructed is owned by Bayfield County and Bayfield County is supportive of this project and would be the project lead. The Town of Bell is also supportive of this project.

### ***Connectivity***

### ***Water Crossings***

The proposed trail is near a floodplain adjacent to Lost Creek #1 and wet spots along the route. Boardwalks will likely be needed in certain sections of the new trail.

### ***Terrain***

The new trail traverses ravines and steep slopes.

### **Potential Implementation Steps**

- If funded by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grant, Bayfield County could proceed with contracting with a professional trail builder to build the new hiking trail, preferably with assistance from Bayfield Area Trails/Cornucopia Trails Club volunteers.
- County staff will create the EMS/maintenance access trail.
- Explore options for cleaning up the old dump. There is a lot of broken glass and other materials that create safety challenges, making it undesirable for a volunteer project.