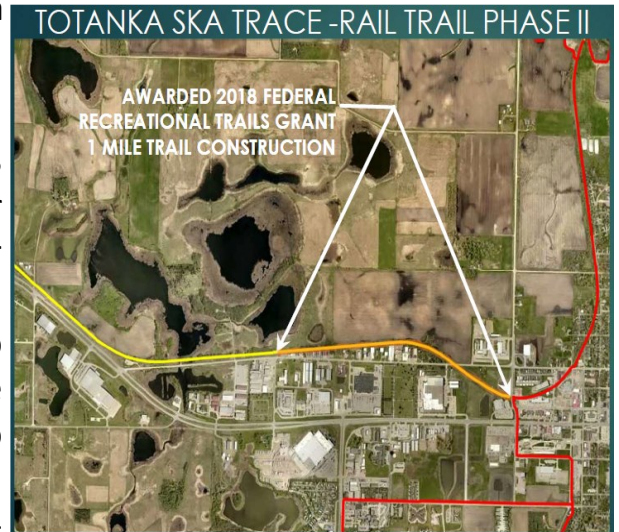


Karson Rodriguez - DCTB J-Term Intern

**SPIRIT LAKE STUDENT INTERNS WITH DCTB:** Karson Rodriguez, a senior at Spirit Lake High School, did his work-study with DCTB during J-Term in January. Karson worked on developing a web page for Tatonka Ska Trace and creating a logo for the developing trail. He plans to attend Iowa State and pursue a degree in business marketing. Karson said he really enjoyed working with the trails because it felt like he was doing something good for the community and making Dickinson County more active. He can't wait to get out on the trails for a jog this summer.



**TATONKA SKA TRACE SECURES TRAIL GRANT:** DCTB was awarded a Federal Recreational Trails grant for the next phase of Tatonka Ska Trace. The grant for \$344,048 will provide for 1 mile of trail construction from Hy-Vee at Peoria Avenue continuing west to Hudson Avenue. Project development will continue through 2018 with construction slated for early 2019. To date, Tatonka Ska Trace has garnered over \$2.6 million in state and federal funding for purchase of the abandoned railroad, renovation of bridge crossings and trail development.



**PLAC CONNECTOR TRAIL IN DEVELOPMENT:** A new trail segment will begin construction in the spring of 2018. The project will involve trail reconstruction near the Pearson Lakes Art Center (PLAC) with a new segment continuing north from the trailhead along Highway 71 to 41<sup>st</sup> Street. The trail is being funded by generous donations given to the Dickinson County Trails Board Endowment through the Okoboji Foundation.

**JONES PASTURE TRAIL:** The Jones Pasture Trail along the northeast side of Big Spirit Lake has been a development priority for several years and DCTB has secured \$100,000 for its construction through grants from REAP and the Okoboji Foundation. DCTB is moving forward with preliminary engineering and design of the project so it is shovel ready and to optimize other grant opportunities. The board is committed to seeing this project to completion and continues to seek all funding options.

**ANNUAL PLANNING SESSIONS:** DCTB held planning sessions in November and December where we prioritized future projects and maintenance needs. There are many great ideas about where we want to expand and improve the trails system with a priority to keep the Jones Pasture Trail and Tatonka Ska Trace moving forward. We have a great board with a variety of talents to contribute and their service to the Iowa Great Lakes Trails is appreciated!

As always, Happy Trails to You and Yours.

Erin Reed, DCTB Executive Director