

## **2008 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

**PROJECT TITLE:** State Park and Trail Land Acquisition

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Larry Peterson (Parks) and Stan Linnell (Trails)

**AFFILIATION:** Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails

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**WEBSITE:** [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 2008, [Chap. 367], Sec.[2], Subd. 3h.

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$ 1,500,000

### **Overall Project Outcome and Results**

The Trust Fund funding allowed for the following State Parks and State Trails land acquisition projects:

- Ownership of approximately 158 acres currently for sale adjacent to Monson Lake State Park. Adding this parcel will provide additional access to a high quality lake and is adjacent to state park ownership.
- Ownership of approximately 360 acres at George Crosby Manitou State Park. Acquisition of this parcel will provide protection to one of the largest and highest quality old-growth northern hardwood forest complexes in the Lake Superior Highlands.
- The DNR Parks and Trails Division made offers to acquire four parcels of land for the Mill Towns State Trail that were rejected by the landowners at the end of June 2010. An Amendment request to transfer the remaining funds to Result 5-acquisition of approximately 1.25 miles of Paul Bunyan State Trail was approved on August 17, 2010.
- The DNR Parks and Trails Division made offers to acquire one parcel in Maplewood State Park that was rejected by the landowner at the end of June 2010.
- Ownership of approximately 1.25 miles of the Paul Bunyan State Trail. The property acquired is comprised entirely of former industrial property and is located adjacent to the shoreline of Lake Bemidji. This acquisition is partially funded through LCCMR and provides for State ownership of a significant segment of the remaining authorized Paul Bunyan State Trail. The acquired trail segment is to be constructed during 2011. Additional funding through Capital Bonding (2005 and 2006) and 2009 LCCMR was also used for this project.

See attached map for locations.

All acquisitions are from willing sellers, within the statutory boundaries of state parks and for statutory authorized state trails as determined by the Commissioner.

## Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report

**Date of Report:** October 22, 2010

**Date of Work program Approval:** May 23, 2008

**Date of Work program Amendment Approvals:** July 6, 2009 and August 17, 2010

### **I. PROJECT TITLE:** State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition

**Project Managers:** Larry Peterson (Parks) and Stan Linnell (Trails)

**Affiliation:** Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails

**Mailing Address:** 500 Lafayette Road

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**Location:** Acquisitions include, but not limited to 1) Monson Lake State Park in Swift County, 2) George Crosby Manitou State Park in Lake County, 3) Mill Towns State Trail in Goodhue County, 4) Maplewood State Park in Ottertail County, 5) Paul Bunyan State Trail in Beltrami County

<b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b>	<b>Trust Fund Appropriation:</b> \$ 1,500,000
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b> \$ 1,500,000
	<b>Equal Balance:</b> \$ -0-

**Legal Citation:** ML 2008, [Chap. 367], Sec.[ 2], Subd. 3h.

**Appropriation Language:** State Park and Trail Land Acquisition

\$1,500,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land for designated state trail alignments and in-holdings for state parks. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program.

### **II.FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:** Trust Fund funding allowed for the following:

- Ownership of approximately 158 acres in Monson Lake State Park. The addition of this parcel provides 44 acres of upland and 114 acres of water with 10,200 feet of shoreline along West Sundberg Lake. The lake has high quality with good fishing and high number of migratory waterfowl.

- Ownership of approximately 360 acres at George Crosby Manitou State Park. Acquisition of this parcel provides protection to one of the largest and highest quality old-growth northern hardwood forest complexes in the Lake Superior Highlands.
- The DNR Parks and Trails Division made offers to acquire four parcels of land for the Mill Towns State Trail. The offers were rejected by the landowners at the end of June 2010. The amendment request to transfer the remaining funds to Result 5-acquisition of approximately 1.25 miles of Paul Bunyan State Trail was approved on August 17, 2010.
- The DNR Parks and Trails Division made an offer to acquire one parcel in Maplewood State Park. The offer was rejected by the landowner at the end of June 2010. The amendment request to transfer the remaining funds to Result 5-acquisition of approximately 1.25 miles of Paul Bunyan State Trail was approved on August 17, 2010.
- Ownership of approximately 1.25 miles of the Paul Bunyan State Trail. The property acquired is comprised entirely of former industrial property, located adjacent to the shoreline of Lake Bemidji. This acquisition is a necessary connection to the Paul Bunyan State Trailhead on the southeastern corner of Lake Bemidji. This acquisition was a partially funded acquisition. Additional funding sources included Capital Bonding (2005 and 2006) and 2009 LCCMR were also used for this project. See Result 5 for a detailed description.

See attached map for locations.

All acquisitions are from willing sellers, and located within the statutory boundaries of state parks and for statutory authorized state trails. Other critical parcels may be pursued as determined by the Commissioner.

### **III. FINAL REPORT SUMMARY:**

In September 2008, an appraisal for Monson Lake SPK project was anticipated to be completed with an offer in November. The appraisal for George Crosby Manitou State Park was also completed in September. A Coastal Zone Management Grant to contribute to the acquisition cost of George Crosby Manitou State Park was applied for this project. The Mill Towns State Trail acquisition was initiated at this time.

By June 2009, the acquisitions at Monson Lake State Park and George Crosby Manitou State Park were completed. The Coastal Zone Management Grant proposal for this project was not approved, but RIM match funds were utilized since this transaction was a partial donation. The four property owners for the Mill Towns State Trail project were contacted. All parties agreed to the proposed trail alignment and appraisals were initiated.

Since the George Crosby Manitou State Park acquisition project was completed under budget and within the first year of funding appropriation, an Amendment request to transfer funds to acquire another property was submitted to LCCMR for approval. The proposal requested to transfer available funds towards acquiring a key parcel within Maplewood State Park. This island property is surrounded by undeveloped State Park lakeshore on Beers Lake. The Amendment was approved on July 6, 2009.

In December 2009, the four Mill Towns State Trail parcels were still in the acquisition process with the Division of Lands and Minerals. The Maplewood State Park parcel was also in the acquisition process with the Division of Lands and Minerals. The appraisals were anticipated to be completed by March 2010.

At the end of June 21010, the DNR Parks and Trails Division's offers to acquire four parcels of land for the Mill Towns State Trail and one parcel in Maplewood State Park were rejected by the landowners at the end of the month.

In August 2010, the DNR Parks and Trails Division requested a work plan amendment to transfer available funds from the not acquired parcels for the Mill Towns State Trail and Maplewood State Park to the Paul Bunyan State Trail along the South Shore of Lake Bemidji.

The amendment request to transfer the remaining funds from Result 3-Mill Towns State Trail and Result 4-Maplewood State Park to Result 5-acquisition of approximately 1.25 miles of Paul Bunyan State Trail was approved on August 17, 2010.

#### **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**Result 1:** Ownership of approximately 158 acres within the statutory boundary of Monson Lake State Park.

**Description:** The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation will appraise, negotiate and acquire this parcel. This 158-acre parcel contains 44 acres upland & 114 acres water with 10,200 ff along West Sundberg Lake. The lake is high quality with good fishing and high number of migratory waterfowl. The parcel is adjacent to existing state park ownership. This parcel was added to the statutory boundary in 2008. An additional \$100,000 was needed to complete this transaction. Transfer of \$100,000 was made from Result 2.

#### **Summary Budget Information for Result 1:**

<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	\$400,000
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	\$400,000
<b>Balance:</b>	\$ -0-

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>1. 158 Acres Acquired</b>	June 30, 2010	\$400,000	Acquired

**Final Report Summary:**

This acquisition was completed on June 17, 2009.

The appraisal for this acquisition was due in due October 2008. The appraised value came in higher than expected. In June 2009, \$100,000 was transferred to this project from Result 2-George Crosby Manitou State Park. This property was acquired on June 17, 2009 and all funds have been spent.

**Result 2:** Ownership of approximately 360 acres within the statutory boundary of George Crosby Manitou State Park

**Description:** Acquisition of this parcel will provide protection to one of the largest and highest quality old-growth northern hardwood forest complexes in the Lake Superior Highlands.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 2:**

<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	\$ 303,000
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	\$ 303,000
<b>Balance:</b>	\$ -0-

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>1. 360 acres acquired</b>	June 4, 2009	\$303,000	Acquired

**Final Report Summary:**

This acquisition was completed on June 4, 2009.

In September 2008, a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Grant request was submitted to for consideration to contribute towards the funding of this parcel. The appraisal was completed in early June 2009. The CZM Grant was denied. However, the DNR was able to utilized \$50,000 in RIM match funds due to \$50,000 donation given by the landowners. Funds in the amount of \$100,000 were allocated from this project was transferred to the Result 1-Monson Lake State Park acquisition. In addition, since this acquisition project was completed under budget and within the first year of funding appropriation, an Amendment request to transfer \$47,000 to Result 4- Maplewood State Park island acquisition was approved by LCCMR on July 6, 2009.

This property was acquired on June 4, 2009 and all funds have been spent.

**Result 3:** Ownership of approximately 0.75 miles along the authorized Mill Towns State Trail corridor.

**Description:** The trail corridor traverses four separate, privately owned parcels, ranging from undeveloped floodplain to steep, wooded bluffs. All current property owners were previously contacted and willing to consider purchase offers for the proposed trail corridor. These acquisitions would form the western terminus of the Mill Towns State Trail and would provide an immediate link upon development of the existing local Cannon Falls City Trail system and the Cannon Valley Trail to Lake Byllesby County Park.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 3:**

<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	\$ 15,720
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	\$ 15,720
<b>Balance:</b>	\$ -0-

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. 0.75 Miles Acquired	June 30, 2010	\$15,750	Not Acquired

**Final Report Summary:**

This acquisition was not completed.

In September 2008, landowners were contacted and discussions occurred about proposed trail corridor alignments. In June 2009, DNR and landowners agreed upon trail alignment and appraisals to be initiated. In December 2009, DNR processed the acquisition with the appraisals anticipated in March 2010. In June 2010, DNR made offers to the four landowners. Each landowner declined the offer.

The DNR Parks and Trails Division offers to acquire four parcels of land for the Mill Towns State Trail were rejected by the landowners at the end of June 2010. An Amendment request was submitted to transfer the remaining funds from this acquisition to Result 5-acquisition of approximately 1.25 miles of Paul Bunyan State Trail. The amendment request was approved on August 17, 2010.

**Result 4:** Ownership of a 2 acres island within Maplewood State Park.

**Description:** This island property is surrounded by undeveloped State Park lakeshore on Beers Lake. The island could be used as a remote campsite or restored to a natural state. The island is also in view from the new camper cabin cluster development. Acquisition would protect this site from future development. Partial funding for this acquisition is being proposed from Result 2. The remaining funds (approximately \$100,000) will come from RIM and/or Capital Bonding funds.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 4:**

Trust Fund Budget:	\$ 1,166
Amount Spent:	\$ 1,166
Balance:	\$ -0-

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.Two acres acquired	June 30, 2010	\$ 1,166	Not Acquired

**Final Report Summary:**

This acquisition was not completed.

This acquisition began in July 2009 after the Amendment was approved to transfer available from Results 2-George Crosby Manitou State Park. In December 2009, an appraisal assignment was anticipated within the next couple of months. In June 2010, the DNR made an offer to the landowner. The landowner declined the offer. In August 2010, since the DNR Parks and Trails Division's offer was rejected by the landowner, and an Amendment request was made to transfer the remaining funds to Result 5-acquisition of approximately 1.25 miles of Paul Bunyan State Trail was approved by LCCMR on August 17, 2010.

**Result 5:** Acquire approximately 1.25 miles of the Paul Bunyan State Trail.

**Description:** The DNR proposes to acquire a single narrow linear parcel located along the southeastern shoreline of Lake Bemidji, and which containing 13.5 acres extending over approximately 1.25 miles. The property to be acquired is comprised entirely of former industrial property, located adjacent to the shoreline of Lake Bemidji. This proposed acquisition will partially fund the trail segment necessary to connect the existing Paul Bunyan Trailhead. The total acquisition cost was \$2,300,000. Additional funding through Capital Bonding (2005 and 2006), and 2009 LCCMR has also been used for this acquisition project.

<b>Summary Budget Information for Result 5:</b>	Trust Fund Budget:	\$780,114
	Amount Spent:	\$780,114
	Balance:	\$ -0-

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>1. A portion of approx. 1.25 Miles</b>	June 30, 2010	\$780,114	Acquired

**Final Report Summary:**

This acquisition was completed on January 7, 2010.

During the week of August 9, 2010, the DNR Parks and Trails Division staff discussed available options with LCCMR staff regarding the balance of funds from rejected acquisition offers in Results 3-Mill Towns State Trail and Result 4-Maplewood State Park. As a result of the discussions, the DNR Parks and Trails Division requested a retroactive amendment to transfer the funds from Result 3 and 4 to Result 5-acquisition of 1.25 miles of Paul Bunyan State Trail. The approximately 1.25 miles of the Paul Bunyan State Trail acquisition transaction closed on January 7, 2010. The total acquisition cost was \$2,300,000. Additional funding through Capital Bonding (2005 and 2006), and 2009 LCCMR was used for this acquisition project.

LCCMR approved a retroactive amendment to the DNR 2008 work program dated August 13, 2010 for the appropriation ending June 30, 2010. LCCMR was able to approve this change because Paul Bunyan State Trail acquisition has been funded in the past by the Trust Fund and is on the approved work program list for the 2009 Trust Fund appropriation. The 2008 Trust Fund appropriation language did not state specific parks or trails for expenditure but is governed by the DNR priorities and the list of proposed acquisitions in the work program. There were no other new state park or trail acquisitions for which there was a binding contract completed before June 30, 2010 – the deadline for expenditure of the Trust Fund appropriation. Bonding dollars replaced by the Trust Fund will be used for continued development of the Paul Bunyan State Trail ensuring that the Trust Fund is accelerating the funding for the completion of this trail.

In the future, LCCMR staff requested that the acquisition processing take place in a timely manner. LCCMR staff acknowledged that the landowners rejected DNR's offers; however, because declined offers did not take place until the end of June 2010 there were very few options for consideration of alternatives for strategic expenditure. LCCMR staff expressed interest to work with DNR staff on the current appropriations to be more fully informed of the timeline for processing the proposed acquisitions and any need for amendments to the work program. The work program change was approved retroactively as an exception to the process to ensure that the \$780,000 appropriated for state park and trail acquisition from the Trust Fund is expended as intended by the legislature.

## **V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:**

**Staff or Contract Services:** Appraisal Services and Professional Services from DNR, Division of Lands and Minerals and the Attorney General's Office

**Equipment:** None

**Development:** \$ -0-

**Restoration:** \$ -0-

**Acquisition, including easements:** 558 Acres & 1.25 Miles

**TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$1,500,000**

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:**

## **VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:**

**A. Project Partners:** Local state park support groups and the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota. Project partners will only receive market value of project sites in their ownership. Project partner may receive up to \$1,500 reimbursement for appraisal costs.

**B. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:** Bonding 2006 and 2008 funds; RIM Match funds when appropriate.

**C. Past Spending:**



Land Acquisition for the Division of Parks and Trails

M.L. 2007 \$ 750,000

M.L. 2005 \$2,100,000

M.L. 2003 \$1,500,000

M.L. 2001 \$1,726,000

Land Acquisition for the Division of Trails and Waterways (State Trails)

State Trail property acquisition efforts have been supported by legislative appropriations through Capital Bonding, Dedicated User Accounts, the General Fund, the Legislative Commission of Minnesota Resources and Federal appropriations through the Federal Highway Administration.

**D. Time:** To Acquire by June 2010

**VII. DISSEMINATION:** No projected news releases at this time

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than September 30, 2008, June 30, 2009, December 31, 2009 and June 30, 2010. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 30, 2010 as requested by the LCCMR.

**IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA**

**SEE ATTACHMENT A - LCMR 2008 Budget Detail**

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)																	
Project Title: State Park and Trail Land Acquisition																	
Project Manager Name: Larry Peterson and Stan Linnell																	
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$1,500,000																	
10/22/2010																	
2008 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>(date)</i>	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>(date)</i>	<u>Result 3 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>(date)</i>	<u>Result 4 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>(date)</i>	<u>Result 5 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>(date)</i>	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	Ownership of 158 acres adjacent to Monson Lake State			Ownership of 360 acres within George Crosby Manitou State Park		8/26/2010	Professional Services Costs for Mill Towns State Trail		8/26/2010	Professional Services Costs for Maplewood State Park		8/26/2010	Ownership of 1.25 miles of Paul Bunyan State Trail		8/26/2010		
BUDGET ITEM	400,000.00			303,000.00			15,720.00			1,166.00			780,114.00				
Land acquisition	395,000.00	395,000.00	0	296,000.00	296,000.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	780,114.00	780,114.00	0.00	1,471,114.00	0.00
Professional Services for Acq. such as Appraisal, Survey, Title Work and Professional Services	5,000.00	5,000.00	0	7,000.00	7,000.00	0	15,720.00	15,720.00	0.00	1,166.00	1,166.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,886.00	0.00
COLUMN TOTAL	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$303,000	\$303,000	\$0	\$15,720	\$15,720	\$0	\$1,166	\$1,166	\$0	\$780,114	\$780,114	\$0	1,500,000.00	0.00

## Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report Addendum

As part of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Strategic Conservation Agenda, the Parks and Trails Division plans to continue to protect unique natural and cultural features (often identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey or archeological survey) within the state park system, acquire key parcels that will buffer the park from development, and continue to assess the needs of each park through the Division's long term management plans. These plans identify the resource, recreation or management needs that may require changing the statutory boundary of our state parks and recreation areas.

The State Trail land acquisition efforts will help ensure that the resource objectives of the DNR's *Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007: Measuring Progress Toward Mission / 2007 Update* are met. The 2007 Strategic Conservation Agenda Update identifies a target for state trails to: "Acquire 130 new state trail miles by the end of FY 2009".

## STATE PARKS

### **Background:**

The State Parks acquisition goals, as established by the 2000 MN State Park System Land Study, is to provide for a state park system which will preserve appropriate representations of Minnesota's landscape regions and meet future demands for state park resources, environmental education and recreational opportunities.

Decisions on which lands should be part of our state park system are based on our statutory obligations and Division's "vision to create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations."

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 86A.05, Subd.2(a) states "a state park shall be established to protect and perpetuate extensive areas of the state possessing those resources which illustrate and exemplify Minnesota's natural phenomena and to provide for the use, enjoyment, and understanding of such resource without impairment for the enjoyment and recreation of future generations".

The statute continues in setting out three criteria that a site must "substantially satisfy" to be authorized as a state park:

1. Exemplifies the natural characteristics of the major landscape regions of the state, as shown by accepted classifications, in an essentially unspoiled or restored condition or in a condition that will permit restoration in the foreseeable futures; or contains essentially unspoiled natural resources of sufficient extent and importance to meaningfully contributes to the broad illustration of the state's natural phenomena; and
2. Contains natural resources, sufficiently diverse and interesting to attract people from throughout the state; and
3. Is sufficiently large to permit protection of the plant and animal life and other natural resources which give the park its qualities and provide for a broad range of opportunities for human enjoyment of these qualities (Chap. 86A.05, Subd. 2(b)).

The statute also sets out three criteria for State Recreation Areas (SRA), but with greater emphasis on recreation opportunities:

1. Contains natural or artificial resources which provide outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities that will attract visitors from beyond the local area; and

2. Contains resources which permit intensive recreational use by large numbers of people;  
and
3. May be located in areas which have serious deficiencies in public outdoor recreation facilities, provided that state recreation areas should not be provided in lieu of municipal, county, or regional facilities.

There are several tools we use in helping us identify and prioritize lands to become part of our state park system. One tool is utilizing the *MN State Park System Land Study* which was completed in 2000. This study evaluated our existing system and identified gaps in our resource protection and recreation provision roles. The information in this study offers direction for our acquisition efforts.

Another tool is the state park and state recreation management plan. These plans are required under MN Statute 86A.09. Land acquisition priority areas are identified within the long-term management plans under the discussion of proposed boundary expansions. The plans look strategically at park boundary issues and what other parcels would contribute for resource protection and recreation. Through the planning process, we consult with various resources such as the Minnesota County Biological Survey, land cover and exotics mapping information, as well as discussions with other DNR professionals in helping us identify lands for inclusion in the state park or SRA. We also present our boundary change proposals to members of the local community, city, township and county government through the appropriate board meetings.

The proposed boundary changes are brought forward through the management plan or other processes for Division and Department consideration. Boundary adjustments supported by the Department are taken to the Minnesota State Legislature for approval. These boundary changes help guide our long-term acquisition goals.

### **Prioritization Process:**

State Parks maintains a priority list for future acquisitions. The list evolves as new parcels are added to the statutory boundary of a park or the status of a parcel changes when more information is evaluated. A two- filter evaluation process helps us prioritize parcels on this list.

Each state park manager assigns a priority ranking for the private parcels within the statutory boundary of that park. The regional park managers review these rankings before submitting the priority report to the Development and Real Estate Section of the Division of Parks and Recreation. This first filter priority ranking helps us decide if a greater assessment is needed.

The ranking is divided into four levels of priority, A through D. An A-ranking includes lands considered highest importance to mission and management of the state park (such as high resource or recreational potential). A B-ranking includes lands that have less impact on the park, if not acquired (for example: less immediate threat of development). A C-ranking includes lands with no immediate impact on the park (for example: lower existing resource quality). A D-ranking includes lands proposed for deletion from the statutory boundary (for example: significant development has since occurred on the site).

The park managers usually develop and maintain contact with the landowners within the statutory boundary (the manager lives in the same community with most of these landowners). We work with the park manager to find out if a landowner is ready to hear an offer. In other cases, the landowner contacts the park manager stating they are interested in selling their property.

When developing funding proposals, we look at the priority rankings noted above. We discuss which parcels would be likely candidates for proposals and request the Park Managers submit Acquisition Proposal Forms.

This second filter evaluation looks in greater detail at a wide range of factors that determine the importance for acquiring the parcel. These factors include, but are not limited to the following: rare geological feature, quality or quantity of natural or cultural resource present, historic buildings or cultural sites, riparian protection, high restoration potential, view shed preservation, threat due to development or timber harvesting, buffer potential, provide link to other recreation opportunities (trail connection), develop new recreational facility (improved trail system), expand a facility, better access to park or facilities, eliminating fragmented parcels for better management, urgency to acquire due to landowner's needs, resolve visitor safety concerns, funding leverage with potential partnerships and bargain sale opportunity.

The Division's Regional Manager will advise the Regional Management Team and Regional Director of the Division's proposal. The Division Director and Real Estate Manager are also involved in the discussing all acquisition funding proposals. During a funding cycle, the funding proposal list may be revised due to failed negotiations or another priority parcel may be identified.

When another parcel is identified for acquisition, the Park Manager discusses the priority ranking with the Regional Manager and/or the Real Estate Program Coordinator. If they determine the site requires greater evaluation, the park manager is asked to fill out the Acquisition Proposal Form.

The Regional Park Manager, Manager of Development and Real Estate Manager, and Real Estate Program Coordinator evaluate these factors and descriptions on the acquisition proposal form. They discuss what other priority acquisitions are available, and the current funding status, and then decide whether to present the new parcel to the Division Director.

The Division Director determines if we proceed with the acquisition. Depending on the funding availability and/or urgency of the acquisition, we pursue the acquisition with current funds or the parcel is place on our priority list for future acquisitions as funding is available.

If the site is very critical to our state park system and our current funds are committed to other projects, if it is urgent to acquire a site immediately, or the acquisition has specific challenges, we may work with outside organizations such as the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota. The Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota assist us by acquiring these critical parcels and hold them until we are able to pursue the acquisition. If we need assistance from an outside organization or if there are other unusual circumstances surrounding a particular acquisition proposal, the Division Director reviews the proposal with the Commissioner.

## **STATE TRAILS**

### **Background:**

State Trails are established to provide recreational travel routes connecting units of the outdoor recreation system or the national trail system, provide access to or passage through areas which have significant scenic, historic, scientific, or recreational qualities, reestablish or permit travel along an historical prominent travel route, or provide commuter transportation (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 86A.05, Subd. 4).

Currently the Minnesota State Trail system is comprised of 26 legislatively authorized state trails, with a total of 1,249 miles along these designated routes presently developed and managed for public use. Of the 1,249 miles of existing state trail, 475 miles are currently paved. These State trails and trail corridors provide a broad range of recreation opportunities for a variety of trail users including

bicyclists, in-line skaters, hikers, horseback riders, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and dogsledders. The trail corridors, which are subject to active vegetation and habitat management, are open to public hunting. The State Trail system is a key element in the efforts to improve the lives and health of Minnesotans, by providing a convenient and managed system of multiuse and multi-seasonal trails which traverse the diverse environmental zones present throughout the State. The presence of the State Trail system and the number of trail users present throughout all seasons provides a significant economic benefit to adjacent communities. The acquisition of state trail lands is focused on the parcels required to complete authorized state trail corridors or parcels that represent solutions to operational issues.

#### **Applicable Statutes Governing Acquisition and Use of State Trails:**

- **M.S. 86A.05, Subd. 4** – Establishes state trails as part of the Outdoor Recreation System and defines their purpose and use
- **M.S. 86A.07, Subd. 2** – Authorizes acquisition of units of the outdoor recreation system
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 1** – Authorizes acquisition of lands for state trails
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 2** – Authorizes the Casey Jones State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 4** – Authorizes the Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 5** – Authorizes the Glacial Lakes State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 7(a)** – Authorizes the Blufflands State Trail - Root River State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 7(b)** – Authorizes the Blufflands State Trail - Chester Woods Segment
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 7(b)** – Authorizes the Blufflands State Trail - Forestville Segment
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 8a** – Authorizes the Mill Towns State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 11** – Authorizes the Willard Munger State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 12** – Authorizes the Heartland State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 13** – Authorizes the Arrowhead, North Shore, and Taconite State Trails
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 14** – Authorizes the Gateway State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 15** – Authorizes the Paul Bunyan State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 17** – Authorizes the Shooting Star State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 19** – Authorizes the Blazing Star State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 21** – Authorizes the Gitchi-Gami State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 22** – Authorizes the Minnesota River State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 23** – Authorizes the Central Lakes State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 24** – Authorizes the Cuyuna Lakes State Trail
- **M.S. 85.015, Subd. 25** – Authorizes the Great River Ridge State Trail
- **M.S. 84.029, Subd. 2** – Authorizes acquisition of land for trails

#### **Resource Connections:**

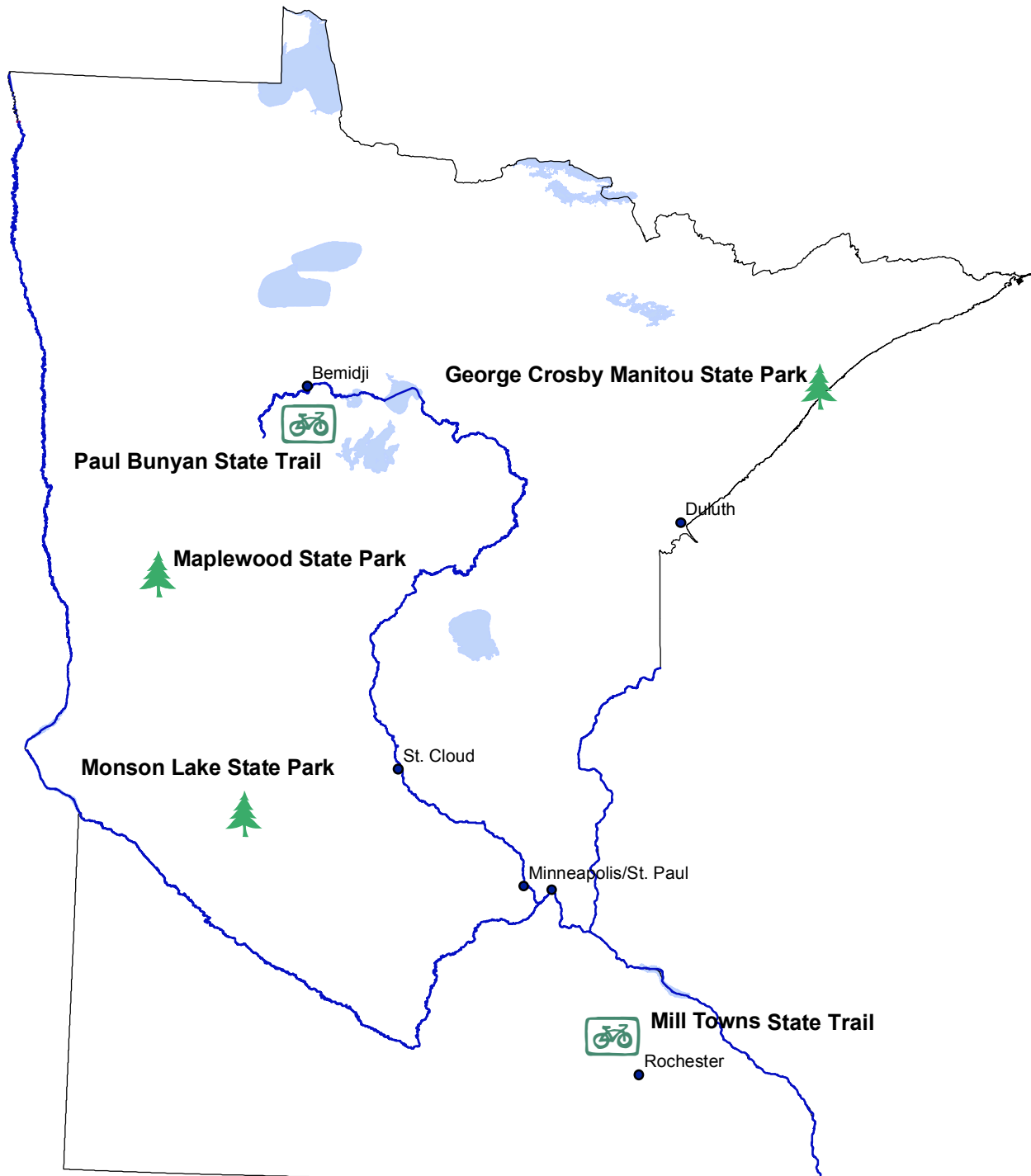
Minnesota State Trails represent a system of 1,249 miles of corridor developed and managed for recreational use and habitat. In addition to providing recreation opportunities to bicyclists, in-line skaters, hikers, horseback riders, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and dogsledders, the state trail lands are also actively managed for resource purposes.

Through an active vegetation restoration and management program, the Minnesota state trail lands provide long, contiguous habitat corridors that cross diverse local environmental zones. In a number of areas these narrow linear corridors of natural vegetation also serve as natural buffers along the margins of a number of rivers, lakes and streams. In addition to the recreational opportunities provided to active trail users, in many areas the trail corridor's natural habitat provides an excellent location for bird watching and hunting. Hunting is a defined and allowable use of state trail lands. As well as the purely recreational aspects of state trail use, the developed trails also provide alternative transportation corridors that serve to reduce traffic congestion and conserve energy.

# 2008 LCCMR REVISED 8/13/2010

## State Park and Trail Land Acquisition

### 7 ca d`YhYX Projects



# 2008 LCCMR Acquired Property

## State Parks Land Acquisition

### George Crosby Manitou State Park

 2008 LCCMR  
Property Acquired

