

2008 Project Abstract  
For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

**PROJECT TITLE: County Trail System Design: Brown, Lyon, Redwood & Renville**

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Mary Vogel

**AFFILIATION:** Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota

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

**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2008, Chap. [367], Sec. [ 2 ], Subd. 3(l).

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$175,000

**Overall Project Outcome and Results**

Project Abstract

Using a publicly engaged process involving citizens, county trail committees, local officials, and trail users, and building on the Center's previous state trail work, the Center for Changing Landscapes created designs/plans for individual county trail systems in Brown, Lyon, Redwood, and Renville Counties. While celebrating the region's and each county's environmental and cultural assets, the county-wide, community, district, and site scale plans/designs link the counties and the communities within them and connect to the existing city trails and the authorized state trails.

Project Goals

- Create county trail plans/designs that promote recreation and environmental awareness and stewardship by addressing issues of environmental type, quality, and preservation along trail corridors and in the larger trail landscapes by preserving, enhancing, and interpreting natural and cultural landscape systems and features;
- Leverage the effectiveness of existing and planned recreational, natural, and cultural assets such as parks, trails, historic sites, conservation lands;
- Create community and county consensus around trail opportunities; and
- Create plans/designs for use to empower county trail funding from local and other sources.

Project Products:

- Community-focused and county-wide trail discussions: local input and critiques of plans/designs were given in over 25 public meetings with trail committees, citizens, and local officials;
- A printed and digital report that includes:
  - Analyses of the landscape of the region and the four counties
  - 4 county trail system plans/designs,
  - 49 county system routes through individual communities
  - 54 community trailhead locations,

- 19 community trailhead designs,
- 5 trailhead & special place designs,
- 5 county park trailhead designs,
- 4 signature element package that brand each county trail: logos, signs, kiosks, and rest areas, and
- A plan/design for the Chief Sleepy Eye Spur.
- Over 60 display boards of trail work for trail committee and larger public meetings
- Power point presentations for committee and public meetings

Plans are available for download at <http://ccl.design.umn.edu/publications.html>.

### **Project Results Use & Dissemination**

- Local media have publicized project meetings and the work. There have been newspaper articles, newsletter articles, radio interviews, and website postings.
- The plans/designs have been presented to and discussions held with county trail committees, park committees, city councils, and county boards.
- Plans/designs for Chief Sleepy Eye Spur were presented to the Minnesota Senate's Capitol Investment Committee and the House's Capitol Investment Finance Division
- The work has been adopted in plans:
  - The newly updated Southwestern Trail Plan includes the work.
  - Lyon County has adopted the County's trail plan in its comprehensive plan.
- Plans are being made for a public meeting in September that will roll out all of the work in the four counties and set the stage for cooperation among the counties and for the development of a coordinated implementation strategy.
- Project results distributed to each county in both printed and digital form for their use and posted on LCCMR's and the Center for Changing Landscapes' websites.

## Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report

**Date of Report:** August 16, 2010

**Final Report**

**Date of Work program Approval:** June 10, 2008

**Project Completion Date:** June 15, 2010

### **I. PROJECT TITLE: County Trail System Design**

**Project Manager:** Mary Vogel  
**Affiliation:** Center for Changing Landscapes, U of M  
**Mailing Address:** College of Design, 151 Rapson Hall 89 Church Street  
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<http://ccl.design.umn.edu> (new address)

**Location:** Lyon, Brown, Redwood, & Renville Counties

<b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b>	<b>Trust Fund Appropriation:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>175,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>		<b><u>175,000</u></b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>		<b>0</b>

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2008, Chap. [ 367 ], Sec. [ 2 ], Subd. 3(I).

### **Appropriation Language:**

\$175,000 is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to design recreational trail systems for Lyon, Brown, Redwood, and Renville Counties.

### **II. & III FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Using a publicly engaged process involving citizens, county trail committees, local officials, and trail users, and building on the Center's previous state trail work, the Center for Changing Landscapes created designs/plans for individual county trail systems in Brown, Lyon, Redwood and Renville Counties. While celebrating the region's and each county's environmental and cultural assets, the county-wide, community, district, and site scale plans/designs link the counties and the communities within them and connect to the existing city trails and the authorized state trails.

#### **Project Goals**

- Create county trail plans/designs that promote recreation and environmental awareness and stewardship by addressing issues of environmental type, quality, and preservation along trail corridors and in the larger trail landscapes by

preserving, enhancing, and interpreting natural and cultural landscape systems and features;

- Leverage the effectiveness of existing and planned recreational, natural, and cultural assets such as parks, trails, historic sites, conservation lands;
- Create community and county consensus around trail opportunities; and
- Create plans/designs for use in grant applications that empower county trail funding from local and other sources.

#### Project Products:

- Community-focused and county-wide trail discussions: local input and critiques of plans/designs were given in over 25 public meetings with trail committees, citizens, and local officials;
- A printed and digital report that includes:
  - Analyses of the landscape of the region and the four counties
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The state trail system has generated interest at the local level to create county trail systems that link to state trails and celebrate regional environmental and cultural assets. The state has recognized the value of such trails by establishing a regional grant program. However, most rural counties lack the planning and design resources themselves or the funds to engage outside planning/design assistance that would move a county trail system forward. This proposal for four county trail systems is a response to the many requests that we have received for planning/design assistance at the county level. The design/planning work will include county, community, district, and site designs/plans. A project team from the Center for Changing Landscapes, an interdisciplinary center at the University of Minnesota, will work with counties, communities, trail groups, and citizens in a community-engaged process to ensure local and user input. The plans/designs goals are to:

1. Create county trail plans/designs that support and promote recreation and environmental awareness and stewardship by addressing issues of environmental type, quality, and preservation along new trail corridors and in the larger trail landscapes to preserve, enhance, and interpret natural and cultural landscape systems and features,
2. Leverage the effectiveness of existing and planned local, regional, and state recreational, natural, and cultural assets such as parks, trails, historic sites, conservation lands,
3. Create community consensus around trail opportunities, and

4. Empower counties and citizens to effectively seek regional trail funding by creating planning/design tools that can be used for grant applications.

#### IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

**Result 1:** Work with counties and communities to create plans and designs for county trail systems that connect community, county, and state natural and cultural assets in Brown County, Lyon County and Tatanka Bluffs (Redwood and Renville Counties).

**Description:** The following activities were done for each of the county groups:

Activity A: Collect & Analyze Data, Identify Issues for the County Existing data describing the physical environment from both the natural systems and cultural perspectives were gathered which identified local, regional, and state resources. Work with the county, communities, and trail groups ensured local and user input on natural resource, recreational, tourism, and community issues.

Activity B: Develop Alternative Design Concepts for the County Using the data, planning/design concepts for a county trail system that connects to the communities and to the current and planned state trails and parks in each county were created. Places for environmental interpretation for use by trail users and by environmental educators and other local teachers were identified. Environmental and cultural amenities that can be visited or observed from the trail were identified.

Activity C: Presentation of Plans/Designs for Feedback Trail committee meetings and countywide public meetings for discussion and feedback were held. Environmentalists, local officials and special interest groups such as trail groups, tourism organizations, other citizen organizations, and citizens were involved.

Activity D: Refine and Complete Plans/Designs The feedback received from the trail committees and public meetings informed the final designs.

Activity E: Publish Results in Print & Digital Form A county trail design framework plan and designs for specific trail-related areas was produced in both printed and digital graphic format. They are understandable, accessible, and useful tools for local trail grant applications.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 1:**

<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b><u>\$175,000</u></b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Lyon County: County Trail Plan/ Design book, large format maps and drawings for public display, and digital copies of the work.	January 15, 2010	\$58,000	complete
2. Brown County: County Trail	February 15,	\$58,500	complete

Plan/ Design book", large format maps and drawings for public display, and digital copies of the work.	2010		
3. Redwood County Trail & Renville County Trail (Tatanka Bluffs): County Trail Plan/ Design books, large format maps and drawings for public display, and digital copies of the work.	June 30, 2010	\$58,500	complete

**V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:** \$175,000

<b>Staff or Contract Services:</b>	\$170,255
<b>Equipment:</b> Not applicable	
<b>Development:</b> Not applicable	
<b>Restoration:</b> Not applicable	
<b>Acquisition, including easements:</b> Not applicable	
<b>Other: Travel Expenses in Minnesota:</b>	\$1,387
<b>Duplicating and supplies:</b>	<u>\$3,358</u>
<b>TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:</b>	\$175,000

1. Personnel \$162,566 increased to \$170,255
2. Duplicating \$6,443 decreased to \$ 3,358: \$3,076 transferred to personnel
3. Travel \$6,000 decreased to \$1,387: \$4,613 transferred to personnel

The transfer within categories was necessary because of some project delays and changes in the designs/plans:

1. The responses from the communities delayed the work and required extra staff time to implement the changes in the designs/plans.
2. The printing of the final reports and the materials for the public meetings in September are taking place outside of the project time frame.
3. Travel to some of the meetings was covered by other budgets; meetings were clustered.
4. The matching money is funding the printing costs, staff time, and some travel in September.

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:** Does not apply

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

**A. Project Partners:** No partners are receiving trust fund dollars for this project.

**B. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:** The time to be spent by local citizens, citizen groups, and local government staff working with the design team as community partners are a local match. At \$10.00 an hour for citizen time and \$25.00 for local government staff time, the estimate for the in-kind match

exceeds \$25,000 for each county group. The project was not able to be informed by the historical work done by the Great River Greening for its Green Corridor Project funded by LCCMR because the historic sites were not identified. \$45,000 was raised by Renville and Redwood Counties to increase resources for the project in Redwood and Renville Counties. These matching funds were used for additional design/planning work, printing the final reports, and for expenses associated with the multi-county meeting planned for September that is outside the LCCMR scope of work.

**C. Past Spending:** Time was spent by in each county by local citizens, citizen groups, and local government staff working together to develop trail groups and trail visions. At \$10.00 an hour for citizen time and \$25.00 for local government staff time, the estimate for the in-kind match exceeds \$25,000. In Lyon County the Center for Changing Landscapes' work with the City of Marshall developed a city trail system that connects and complements the county trail work. The Center received a \$50,000 grant for the Marshall work.

**D. Time:** The period July 1, 2009-June 15, 2010 is needed to work with the communities and local governments to create designs/plans that reflect local needs and aspirations. The work funded by the match will extend through September 2010 in order to accommodate scheduling the meetings.

**VII. DISSEMINATION:** The project's results created in Activity E to is to be distributed to each county in both printed and digital form for their use. They will also be available on LCCMR's and the Center for Changing Landscapes' websites. Project work dissemination has included:

- Local media have publicized project meetings and the work. There have been newspaper articles and radio interviews.
- The plans/designs have been presented to and discussions held with county trail committees, park committees, city councils, and county boards.
- Plans/designs for Chief Sleepy Eye Spur were presented to the Minnesota Senate's Capitol Investment Committee and the House's Capitol Investment Finance Division.
- The work has been adopted in plans:
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#### **VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

**Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than:**

- January 15, 2009
- July 15, 2009
- January 21, 2010

**A final work program report and associated products will be submitted:**

- **Between June 30 and August 16, 2010 as requested by the LCCMR**

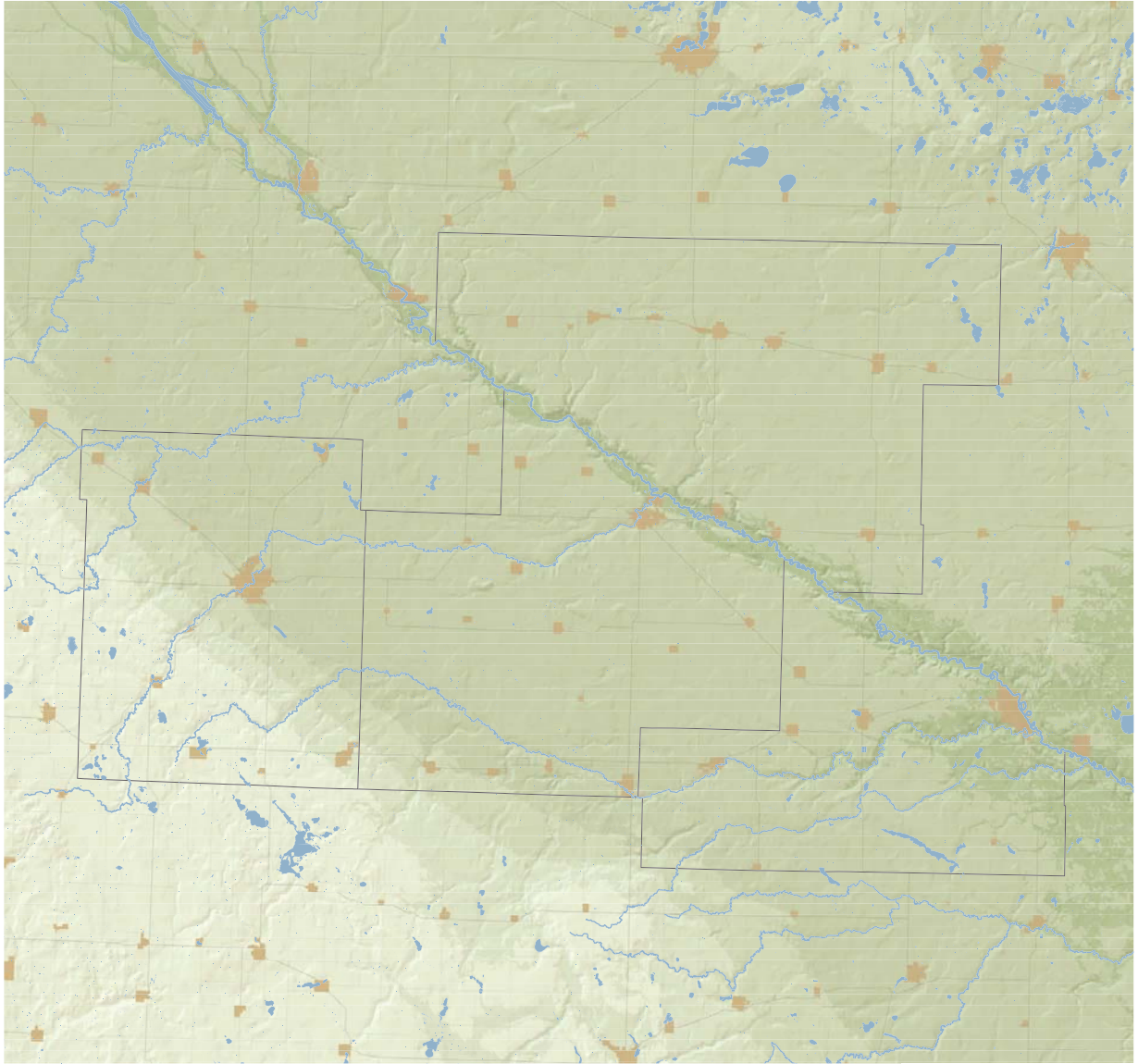
**IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Not applicable



**Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects****Project Title:** *County Trail Systems for Recreation & Environmental Awareness***Project Manager Name:** *Mary Vogel*

Budget Item	Detail Budget	Result 1 Budget:			Budget Total		
		Budget	Amount Spent	Ending Balance	Budget	Amount Spent	Ending Balance
			6/30/2010	6/30/2010			
Personnel: Staff Salaries & Fringe	\$ 162,566	\$ 162,566	\$ 170,255	\$ (7,689)	\$ 162,566	\$ 170,255	\$ (7,689)
Project Leader : 50%	\$ 30,243						
Research Fellows: 2 @ 75%, 1 @ 47%	\$ 83,174						
Senior Fellows: Designers at \$75/Hr. & 100 Hrs.	\$ 7,500						
Administrative Staff: 5%	\$ 7,463						
Personnel: Staff Benefits							
Project Leader @ 33% Fringe	\$ 9,919						
Research Fellows @ 33% & 20% Fringe	\$ 21,205						
Senior Fellows: Designers @ 7% Fringe	\$ 525						
Administrative Staff @ 33% Fringe	\$ 2,537						
Duplicating & Other Supplies: Drawing Paper, Ink, ect	\$ 6,434	\$ 6,434	\$ 3,358	\$ 3,076	\$ 6,434	\$ 3,358	\$ 3,076
Travel Expenses in Minnesota	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,387	\$ 4,613	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,387	\$ 4,613
Column Total	175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ (0)	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ (0)

# COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM DESIGN: BROWN, LYON, REDWOOD & RENVILLE COUNTIES



JUNE 2010