

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Subd: 04b

Project Title: State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$3,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

Acquire land from willing sellers within the statutory boundaries of State Parks, State Recreation Areas and authorized State Trails. State land acquisitions provide ecological and recreational benefits to the public.

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: STATE PARKS AND TRAILS LAND ACQUISITION

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Acquire land from willing sellers within the statutory boundaries of State Parks and within statutory designated State Trail corridors. The State Parks and Trails acquisitions will provide significant and safe recreational trail connections between communities and other public recreational facilities; create contiguous wildlife corridors between diverse habitats; assist in the preservation and restoration of diverse, locally significant natural plant communities and cultural resources; help reduce impacts of potential future development; provide riparian buffers along wetlands, creeks and lakes; and expand the diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities to inspire the current and next generation to explore the outdoors.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation will allow for the:

The Department of Natural Resources to acquire approximately 210 acres of land within the statutory boundaries of the Minnesota State Parks and statutory designated State Trails System.

- Partially fund the acquisition of approximately 64 acres, 6.5 miles, of the Brown’s Creek Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail located in Washington County. This segment will connect the existing Gateway State Trail, which originates in St. Paul and terminates at Pine Point Regional Park, to the City of Stillwater. This acquisition consists of the entire segment of the legislatively authorized Brown’s Creek segment of the Willard Munger State Trail. This acquisition will also help protect a critical section of the Brown’s Creek trout stream and preserve a natural greenway. Once developed, this will become a heavily travelled trail corridor in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area.

Funding requests to date are summarized as follows:

DNR Option Agreement	2009 LCCMR Work Plan Amount (Time Extension Required)	2011-2012 LCCMR Proposal Amount	Washington Co. Offered Amount	Total Funding Amount Requested	Remaining Funding Need From Other Sources
\$4,235,000	\$700,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,300,000	\$935,000

- Acquire approximately 75 acres of land in Mille Lacs Kathio State Park located in Mille Lacs County. This private parcel is located within the Kathio National Historic Landmark District and contains known significant cultural resources on site. The parcel contains approximately 2/3rds of the lakeshore surrounding Warren Lake. Future state ownership and will provide protection of the adjacent wetlands, lakeshore and the documented and undocumented prehistoric burial mounds.
- Acquire approximately 48 acres of land in Tettegouche State Park located in Lake County. This property will preserve an intact historic north shore fish camp that includes many artifacts and may be eligible on the National Register as possibly the last remaining historic property of this type on the North Shore. This acquisition includes 40 acres adjacent to park boundary which would afford an important link of Gitchi Gami State Trail connection link from Silver Bay to Tettegouche State Park. This parcel is included in the 2011 park boundary bill; activity on this acquisition would need to be initiated after successful inclusion in the park boundary. This request will be amended if the property is not included in the park boundary.
- Acquire approximately 3 acres of land in Crow Wing State Park located in Cass County. This private parcel contains approximately 200 feet the Crow Wing River and is at high risk for development. It will provide additional shoreline protection and add to the recreational opportunities now offered in this area such as hiking and access to the river.

- Acquire approximately 20 acres of land in Nerstrand Big Woods State Park located in Rice County. This property was identified as outstanding biodiversity significance by Minnesota County Biological Survey and has not been logged in over 100 years. The spring ephemerals are prevalent in this area of the park and the site is important to maintaining the closed canopy and diverse understory characteristic of ‘big woods’ portions of Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. This acquisition is a new addition to the original LCCMR list because one of the original projects from the original LCCMR proposal was funded through other sources.

All acquisitions are from willing sellers and will be located within the statutory boundaries of state parks at the time of purchase. Other critical parcels may be pursued as determined by the Commissioner.

Activity 1: Acquire approximately 64 acres, 6.5 miles, of Brown’s Creek Segment of Willard Munger State Trail located in Washington County.

Budget: \$ 1,600,000

The DNR proposes to acquire 64 acres, 6.5 miles, of the Browns Creek Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail. This funding request will partially fund the acquisition of approximately 64 acres, 6.5 miles, of the Brown’s Creek Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail located in Washington County. This segment will connect the existing Gateway State Trail, which originates in St. Paul and terminates at Pine Point Regional Park, to the City of Stillwater. This acquisition consists of the entire segment of the legislatively authorized Brown’s Creek segment of the Willard Munger State Trail. This acquisition will also help protect a critical section of the Brown’s Creek trout stream and preserve a natural greenway. Once developed, this will become a heavily travelled trail corridor in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area. The property was formerly used by the Minnesota Zephyr Dinner Train. The requested funds will supplement the 2009 LCCMR proposal for \$700,000 (a time extension will be required) and funds offered by Washington County. Approximately \$1 million additional funds will be sought from other sources.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	Completed
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	Completed
3. Acquire Parcels	July 1, 2011

Activity 2: Acquire approximately 75 acres of land in Mille Lacs Kathio State Park located in Mille Lacs County.

Budget: \$ 200,000

The DNR proposes to acquire property located in Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. This private parcel is also located within the Kathio National Historic Landmark District, the Mille Lacs Kathio State Park is within this district, and there are known significant cultural resources present on this site. The parcel contains approximately 2/3rds of the lakeshore surrounding Warren Lake. Future state ownership and will provide protection of the adjacent wetlands, lakeshore as well as documented and undocumented prehistoric burial mounds.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 30, 2011
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2012
3. Acquire Parcels	December 30, 2012

Activity 3: Acquire approximately 48 acres of land in Tettegouche State Park located in Lake County.

Budget: \$ 800,000

The DNR proposes to acquire property located in Tettegouche State Park. This property will preserve an intact historic North Shore fish camp that includes many artifacts and may be eligible on the National Register as possibly the last remaining historic property of this type on the North Shore. Also includes 40 acres adjacent to park boundary which would afford an important link of Gitchi Gami State Trail connection link from Silver Bay to Tettegouche designation and would be an excellent asset to interpret the natural and cultural significance of commercial fishing in the State of Minnesota. Currently, this property is located outside the state park statutory boundaries. The DNR's 2011 land bill legislation proposes to include this property within Tettegouche State Park statutory boundaries. State Park acquisitions must be located within the statutory boundaries, so the 2011 DNR land bill legislation would need to be approved and signed into law prior to initiating this acquisition.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 30, 2011
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2012
3. Acquire Parcels	December 30, 2012

Activity 4: Acquire approximately 3 acres of land in Crow Wing State Park located in Cass County.

Budget: \$ 200,000

The DNR proposes to acquire property located in Crow Wing State Park. This property contains one parcel totalling approximately 200 feet the Crow Wing River. This acquisition is at high risk for development and will provide additional shoreline protection and add to the recreational opportunities now offered in this area such as hiking and access to the river.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 30, 2011
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2012
3. Acquire Parcels	December 30, 2012

Activity 5: Acquire approximately 20 acres of land in Nerstrand Big Woods State Park located in Rice County.

Budget: \$ 200,000

- The DNR proposes to acquire property located in Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. This property was identified as outstanding biodiversity significance by Minnesota County Biological Survey and has not been logged in over 100 years. The spring ephemerals are prevalent in this area of the park and the site is important in maintaining the closed canopy and diverse understory characteristic of 'big woods' portions of Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. Within the park there are over 160 wildflowers, 260 identified mushrooms, and over 150 bird species including and an uncommon forest colony of nesting Great Blue Heron located northwest of this parcel. This acquisition is a new addition to the original LCCMR list because one of the original projects from the original LCCMR proposal was funded through other sources.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 30, 2011
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2012
3. Acquire Parcels	December 30, 2012

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota is working collaboratively with the DNR to secure parcels located within the state park system located in Crow Wing and Mille Lacs Kathio State Parks. These critical parcels are being pursued when willing landowners are ready to sell but DNR funds aren't available. The County of Washington has agreed to be a partner in acquiring the Brown's Creek Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail.

B. Timeline Requirements

All projects will be completed by June 30, 2013. Timing depends heavily on the length of negotiations and the acquisition process. Funding will be used for land costs, appraisals and professional services costs.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

To acquire critical in-holdings within state park boundaries and along authorized state trail corridors. The DNR currently owns approximately 84% of the 268,000 acres within state park boundaries and have yet to acquire 50% of the 2,597 miles statutory authorized state trails. Each year the DNR Parks and Trails Division receives well over \$5 million worth of requests from willing sellers.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Proposed approximately 210 acres in Fee Title or Permanent Easements and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will hold title.	\$ 2,950,000
Additional Budget Items: Professional services for proposed land acquisition such as appraisal, survey and title work.	\$ 50,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 3,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): 2009 ENRTF appropriated \$700,000.00 for Brown's Creek Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail which is unspent.	\$ 700,000	Unspent
Funding History: M.L. 2010 \$2,200,000 \$1,590,000 M.L. 2008 \$1,500,000 M.L. 2007 \$ 750,000 M.L. 2005 \$2,000,000 M.L. 2003 \$1,500,000 M.L. 2001 \$1,726,000	M.L. 2009	

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition

Project Manager Name: Peter Hark

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$ 3,000,000

Final Title Holder(s): Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

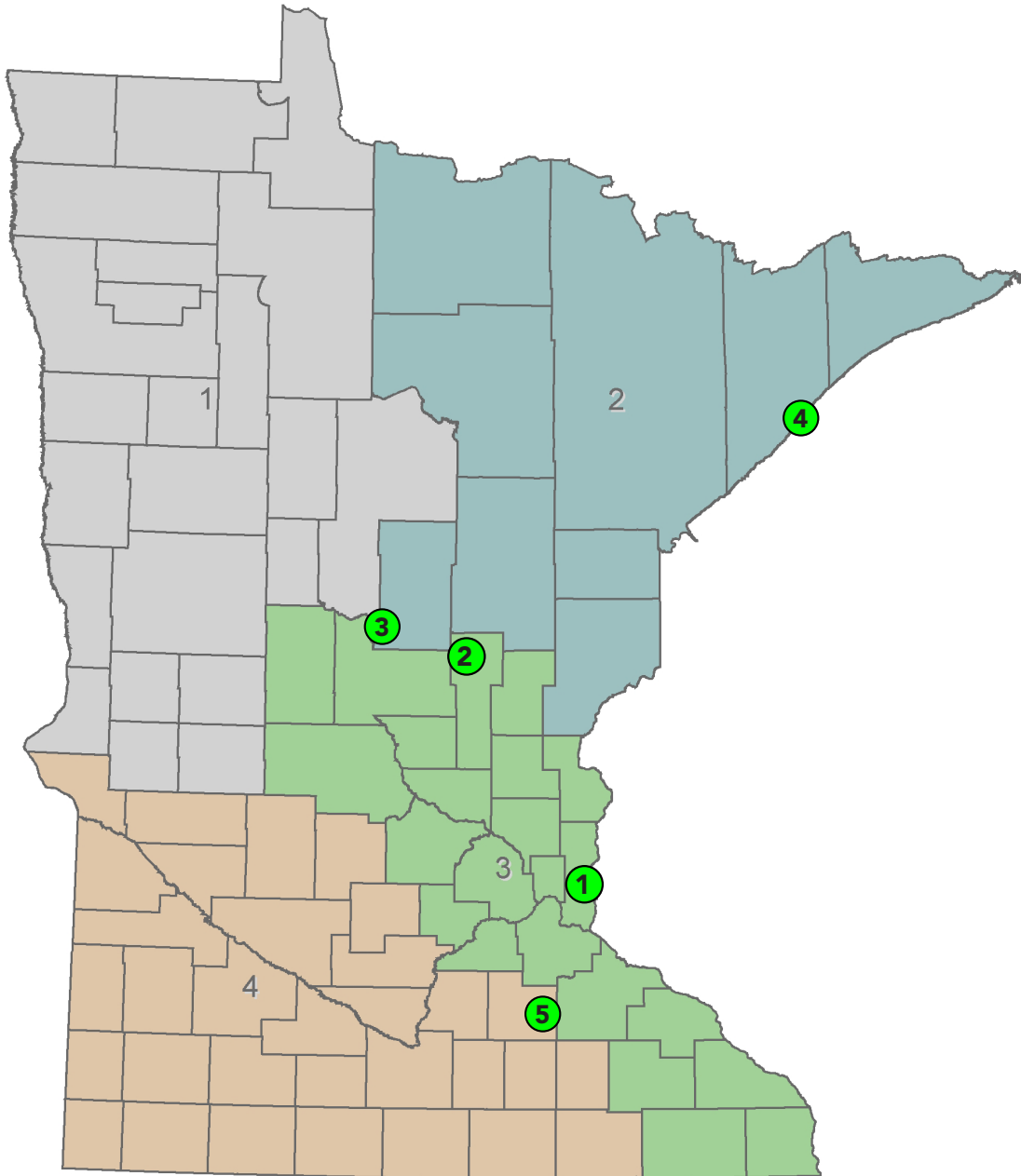
#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)			
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y
1	Willard Munger State Trail Brown's Creek Segment	Fee Title	Washington	64			511834	4991007
2	Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	Fee Title	Mille Lacs	75			442849	5108470
3	Tettegouche State Park	Fee Title	Lake	48			633178	5245319
4	Crow Wing State Park	Fee Title	Cass Wing	3			397167	5126063
5	Nerstrand State Park	Fee Title	Rice	20			491173	4909947
NOTES:								

Land Acquisition Proposed Projects

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND TRAILS

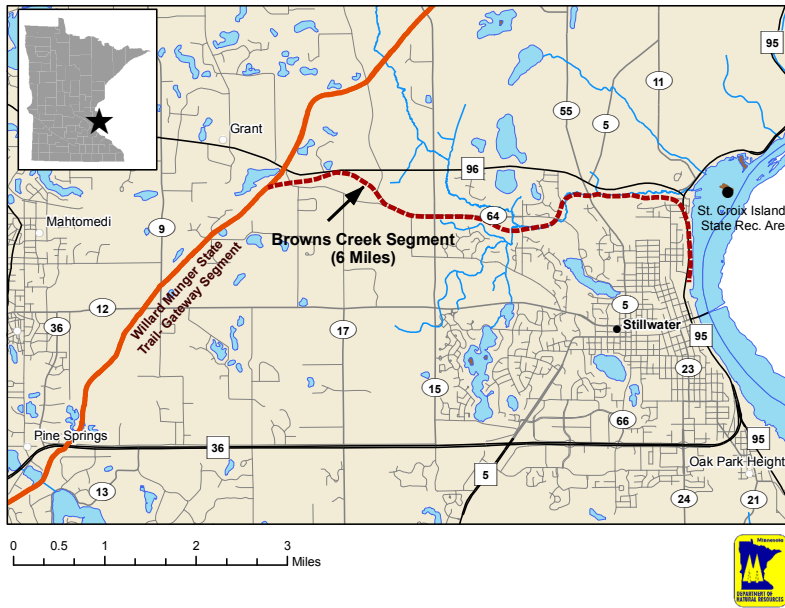
LCCMR 2011-2012



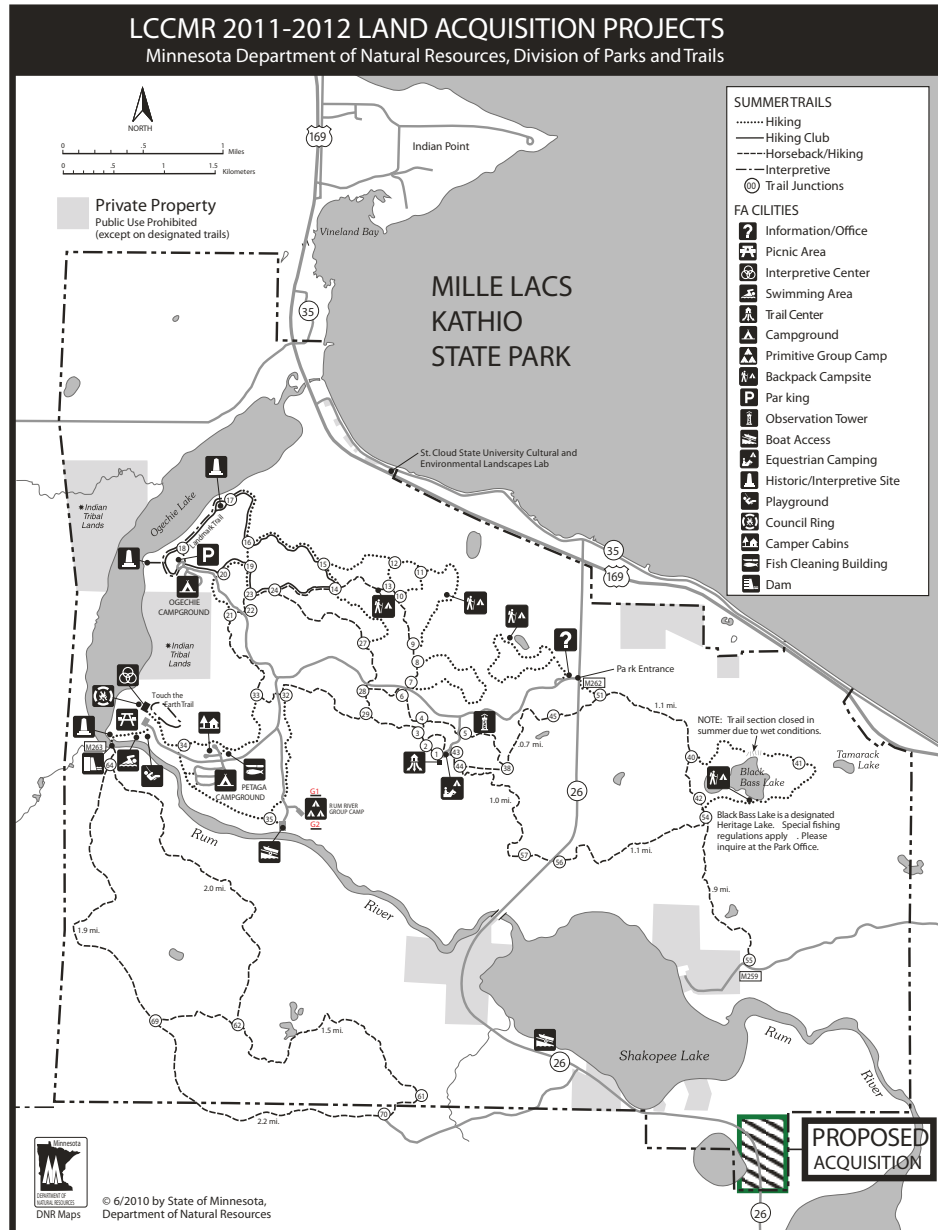
Map #	Facility name	County
1	Willard Mungar State Trail- Brown's Creek Segment	Washington
2	Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	Mille Lacs
3	Crow Wing State Park	Cass
4	Tettegouche State Park	Lake
5	Nerstrand Big Woods State Park	Rice

Willard Munger State Trail- Browns Creek Segment

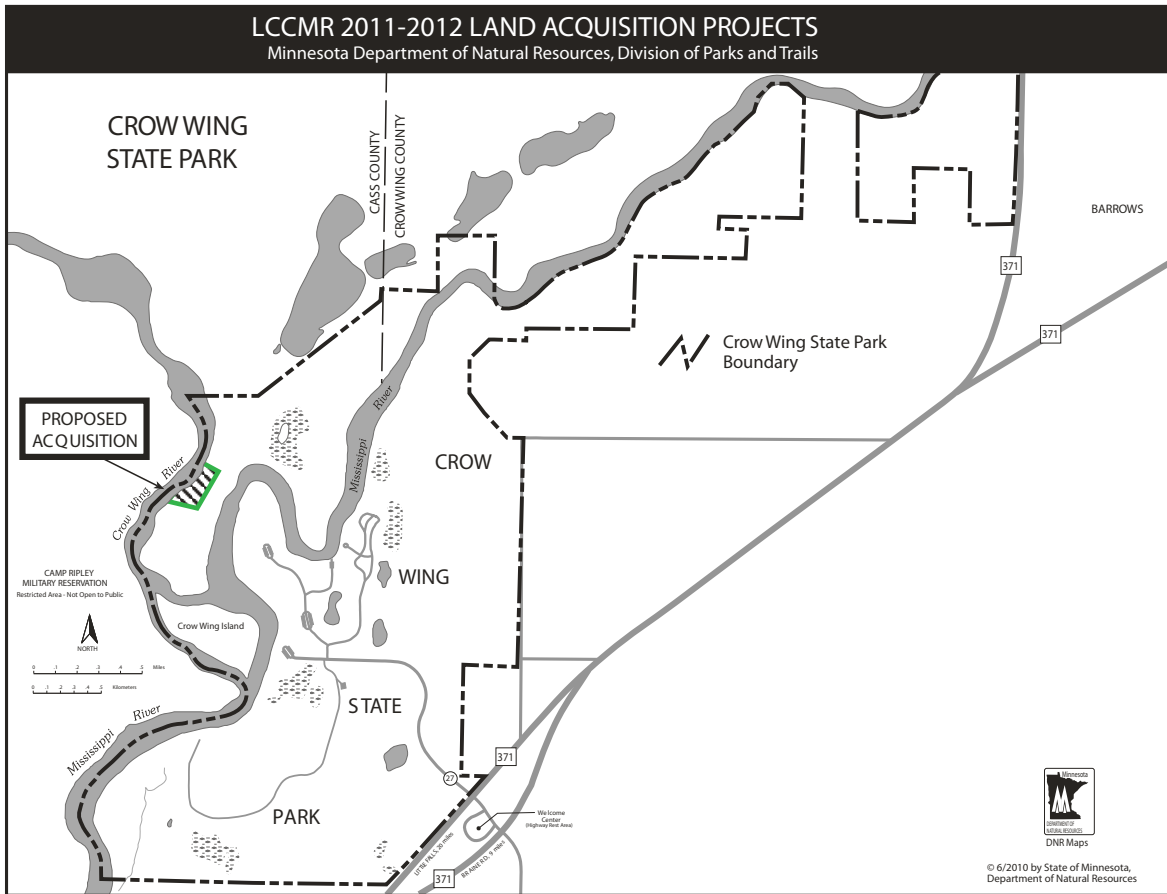
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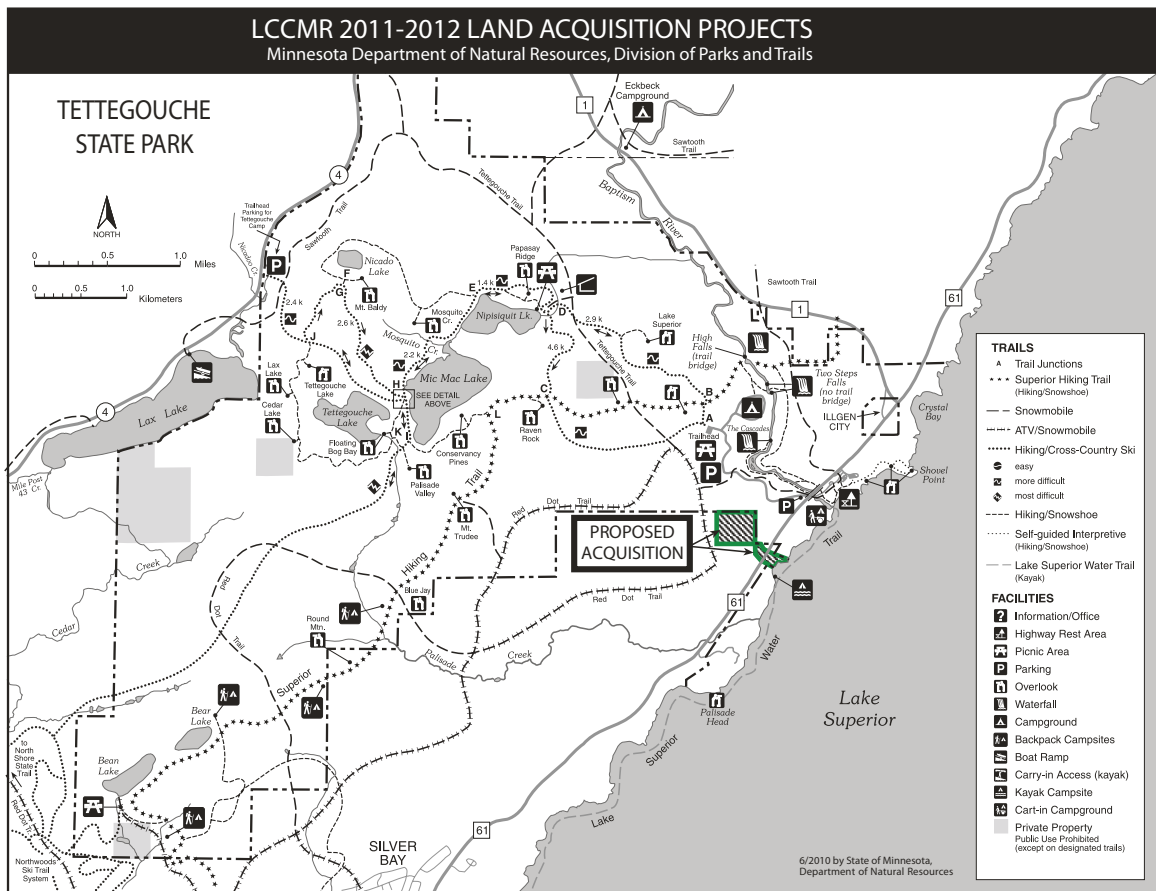
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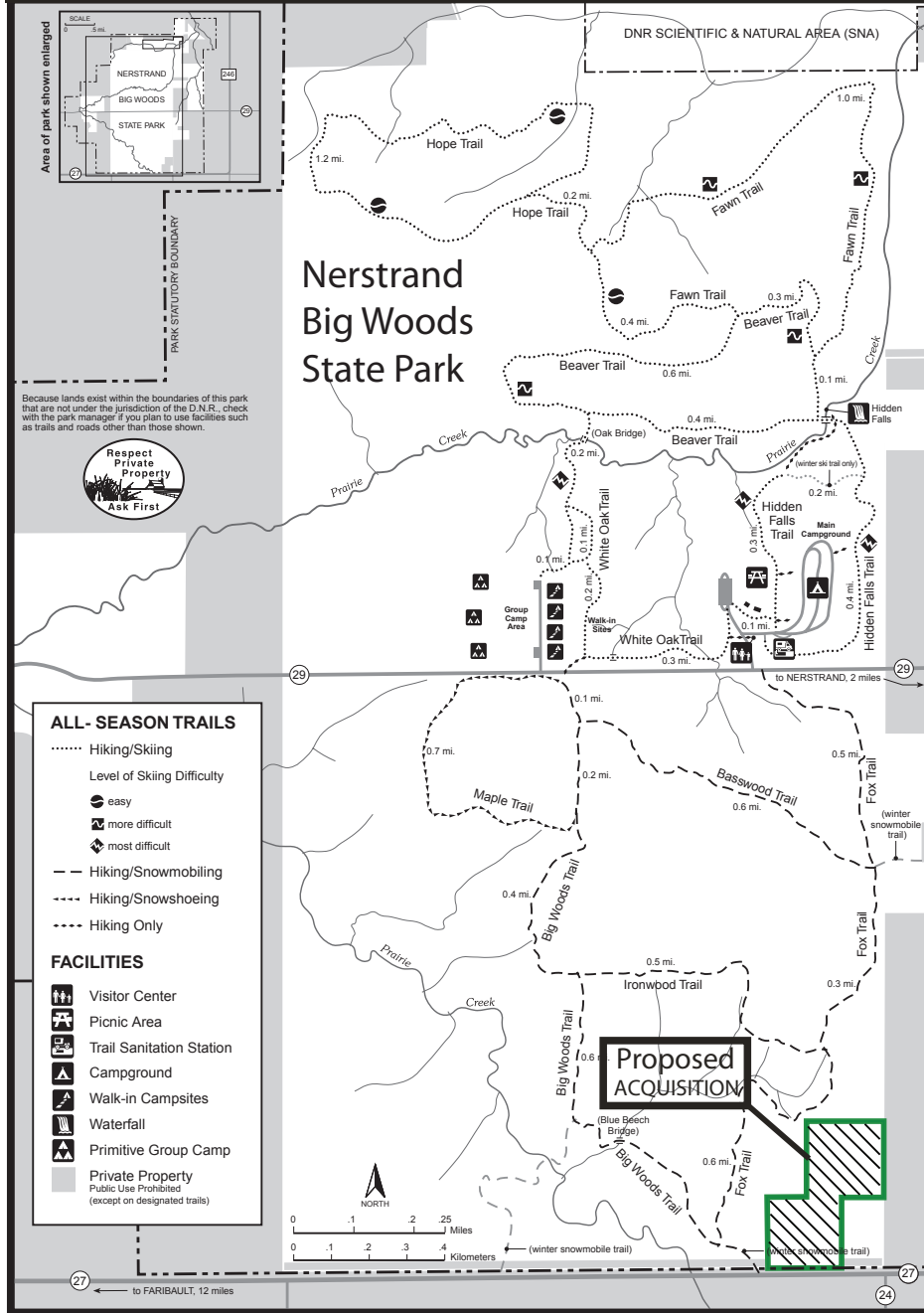


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LCCMR 2011-2012 LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails



Trust Fund 2011-12 Project Proposal

Project Title: State Park and Trail Land Acquisition

Qualifications

As Manager of Real Estate and Development for the Division of Parks and Trails, Larry Peterson oversees the acquisition planning process for state parks and state trails to ensure the Division acquires the more critical parcels within our state park statutory boundaries and within state trail statutory authorized state trails.

Organization Description

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails operates 66 state parks, 7 state recreation areas, 575 miles of surfaced state trail, 1610 water access sites, 30 water trails and 9 state waysides throughout Minnesota. The Division connects people to the state's natural resources by providing access to outdoor recreation, conservation education and natural resource restoration and management.