



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan

**Date of Status Update:**

**Date of Next Status Update:** 12/1/2011

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 8/11/2011

**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2014

**Is this an amendment request?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title:** Regional Park, Trail, and Connections Acquisition and Development Grants

**Project Manager:** Ronald Potter

**Affiliation:** MN DNR

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**Web Address:** <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Statewide

**Ecological Section Impacted:** Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	2,000,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	0
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	2,000,000

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide matching grants to local units of government for acquisition and development of regional parks, regional trails, and trail connections. The local match required for a grant to acquire a regional park or regional outdoor recreation area is two dollars of nonstate money for each three dollars of state money. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

## **I. PROJECT TITLE: Regional Park, Trail, and Trail Connection Acquisition and Development Grants**

### **II. PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The Regional Park Grant Program, Regional Trail Grant Program, and Local Trail Connections Program provide competitive matching grants, as authorized under MN Statutes 85.019, to local governments for land acquisition and improvements related to parks and trails. The Regional Park Grant Program and the Regional Trail Grant Program are for regionally significant projects outside the seven county Metro Area. Local Trail Connections are for local projects connecting communities, trails, and parks statewide.

These programs are at the front line of the DNR's effort to partner with local communities in providing access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Connecting citizens with the outdoors through trail and park facilities enhance Minnesota's stewardship ethic and further the goals of the Department's Strategic Conservation Agenda. Trails in local communities are known to provide many social and health benefits and are highly desired. For example, connecting people from where they live with desirable locations, such as schools, businesses, neighborhoods, and recreation facilities, help promote environmentally friendly transportation alternatives and encourage reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

*Regional Park Grants:* Local governments are struggling to acquire and develop regional park and trail land as larger land holdings are subdivided for development and competition increases for limited shore land areas. The 60% state contribution is matched by at least a 40% local contribution. The goal of this program is to help local governments acquire and develop land to meet the needs of present and future generations for natural resource based outdoor recreation. Properties acquired under this program are retained for public use in perpetuity and local government recipients are responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs. This program has helped local governments acquire about 2,700 acres of regional park land since 2001.

*Regional Trail Grants:* Regional Trail Grants help fund projects for acquisition or development of trails of regional or statewide significance. In 2009, the Department received requests from local units of government for over \$16 million in Regional Trail grants and Regional Trail Legacy grants with \$2 million available in funding. These projects help acquire and develop longer distance trail corridors. Regional Trail grants require a 25% local match. Since 2001, this program has helped 27 communities acquire and/or develop 107 miles of regional trail.

*Local Trail Connections Grants:* Local Trail Connections grants fund projects for acquisition or development of local trail connections across Minnesota. These projects are primarily for shorter distance connections between residential areas, schools, businesses, parks, and trails. These projects help expand the connection between individuals and the outdoors by providing funding for local outdoor recreation infrastructure that also provides for alternative transportation, which results in decreased greenhouse gas emissions. Local Trail Connections grants require a 25% local match. Since 2001, this program has helped 75 communities fund acquisition and/or development of 69 miles of trail connections.

**III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of December 31, 2011:**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2012:**

**Project Status as of December 31, 2012:**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2013:**

**Project Status as of December 31, 2013:**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2014:**

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1: Grants for Regional Parks, Regional Trails, and Trail Connections**

**Description:** This request will provide 10 to 19 matching grants to cities and counties for acquisition and/or development of Regional Parks, Regional Trails, and Trail Connections, resulting in approximately 400-700 acres for new or expanded regional parks outside the seven county Metro Area. Two grant rounds are proposed. The local match for projects funded at the requested level would exceed \$1.7 million.

As a condition of subgrants awarded from this appropriation for fee title acquisitions, the grantees will submit the following information to the LCCMR and in one instance to Minnesota Management and Budget as described below:

1. Proof that their elected board has approved the acquisition of the land being acquired in part with the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation.
2. A restoration and management plan for the land being acquired that is consistent with LCCMR guidelines for restoration plans.
3. Identify funding source(s) to implement the restoration and management plan.
4. The results of an analysis to the LCCMR and Minnesota Management and Budget which identifies increased operations and maintenance costs likely to be incurred by the grantee as a result of the acquisition and how these costs will be paid.
5. Description of project selection process, including necessary project criteria and the decision making process used to sort/rank projects.
6. A list of the proposed acquisitions will be provided once the grant awards have been made.
7. A parcel-scale map of the acquired land.
8. Annual land acquisition report forms (initial and follow-up annual reports) which includes the transaction costs and revenue sources for acquiring the parcel in fee or a permanent easement.
9. A copy of the recorded restrictive covenant agreement between the DNR and the grantee containing provisions in MS 116P.15, Subd. 2, ( c ) for the land which requires approval by the LCCMR if the land is proposed to be sold, transferred, pledged or otherwise disposed of or further encumbered.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 2,000,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$ 2,000,000**

**Activity Completion Date:**

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
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<b>1. Regional Parks: Award 2-4 matching grants through two funding rounds.</b>	<i>Fall, 2011, Fall 2012</i>	\$666,666
<b>2. Regional Trails: Award 4-10 matching grants through two funding rounds.</b>	<i>Fall, 2011, Fall 2012</i>	\$666,667
<b>3. Trail Connections: Award 10-15 matching grants through two funding rounds.</b>	<i>Fall, 2011, Fall 2012</i>	\$666,667
<b>4. Grantees acquire 400-700 acres and complete development projects.</b>	<i>June 2014</i>	Included under outcome 1 to 3

**Project Status as of December 31, 2011:**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2012:**

**Project Status as of December 31, 2012:**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2013:**

**Project Status as of December 31, 2013:**

**Final Report Summary:** June 30, 2014

#### **V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** Each year the DNR Division of Parks and Trails distributes information on the various grant programs and application materials to local governments and organizations throughout the state. A general electronic mailing is made at the beginning of each application period, usually in the fall, and individual requests are handled on a case-by-case basis. Grant information is also available on the DNR web site and requests for applications can be completed and submitted on line. A list of awarded projects will be posted on the program web pages:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/index.html>.

**Project Status as of December 31, 2011:**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2012:**

**Project Status as of December 31, 2012:**

**Project Status as of June 30, 2013:**

**Project Status as of December 31, 2013:**

**Final Report Summary:** June 30, 2014

#### **VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget:**

All of the budget categories below represent grants to local units of government for the work to be completed.

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Regional Park – Fee Title Land Acquisition	\$ 333,333	Local units of government.
Regional Park – Development	\$ 333,333	Contracted development of regional parks and facilities by LUG
Regional Trail – Fee Title Land Acquisition	\$ 0	Local units of government.
Regional Trail – Development	\$ 666,667	Contracted development of regional trails and facilities by LUG
Trail Connections – Fee Title Land Acquisition	\$ 0	Local units of government.
Trail Connections – Development	\$ 666,667	Contracted development of trail connections and facilities by LUG
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** The DNR will be using existing staff to administer this program and is not charging administrative time toward this appropriation.

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

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:** N/A

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation:** N/A

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state</b>			
Regional Park Grants: Local Government Matching Funds – Cash and/or in-kind	\$444,444	\$0	Grant match requirement is 40%.
Regional Trail Grants: Local Government Matching Funds - Cash	\$666,667	\$0	Grants require a 50% non-state cash match.
Trail Connections Grants: Local Government Matching Funds - Cash	\$666,667	\$0	Grants require a 50% non-state cash match.
<b>State</b>			
General Fund and other Funds as Appropriate – In-Kind	\$21,000	\$0	Shared Services (operations support governance) are services that DNR relies on in order to conduct business and support the work of the department. These services are more efficient when shared.
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$1,777,778</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Partners are local governments. They will acquire, develop, own, and manage the park and trail facilities. They will provide match dollars as well as covering costs of appraisals, any required archeological/historical surveys, permits, etc. They will also assume all operations and maintenance costs and will certify that any developed trail facilities will be maintained for no less than 20 years.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** Regional parks, regional trails, and trail connections grants are at the front line of the DNR's effort to partner with local communities in providing access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Connecting citizens with the outdoors through trail and park facilities enhance Minnesota's stewardship ethic and further the goals of the Department's Strategic Conservation Agenda.

**C. Spending History:**

**Regional Park Grant Program**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07</b>	<b>M.L. 2007 or FY 2008</b>	<b>M.L. 2008 or FY 2009</b>	<b>M.L. 2009 or FY 2010</b>	<b>M.L. 2010 or FY 2011</b>
ENRTF	\$900,000	\$548,000	\$1,000,000		
Bonding	\$1,280,000				
Bonding (Legislatively directed projects)			\$1,621,000		

**Regional Trail Grant Program**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07</b>	<b>M.L. 2007 or FY 2008</b>	<b>M.L. 2008 or FY 2009</b>	<b>M.L. 2009 or FY 2010</b>	<b>M.L. 2010 or FY 2011</b>
Lottery-in-Lieu	\$404,000	\$230,000	\$270,000	\$257,500	\$0
Bonding (Legislatively directed projects)	\$585,000 (M.L. 2005) \$1,133,000 (M.L. 2006)		\$697,000		\$500,000
ENRTF	\$401,000				

**Local Trail Connections Program**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07</b>	<b>M.L. 2007 or FY 2008</b>	<b>M.L. 2008 or FY 2009</b>	<b>M.L. 2009 or FY 2010</b>	<b>M.L. 2010 or FY 2011</b>
Lottery-in-Lieu	\$880,500	\$425,000	\$385,000	\$397,500	\$655,000
Bonding (Legislatively directed projects)	\$300,000 (M.L. 2005) \$2,010,000 (M.L. 2006)		\$156,000		\$3,292,000
ENRTF	\$299,000				

Matching funds were required for the above grants for regional parks, regional trails, and trail connections. These matching funds have historically come from local unit of government funds, non-government funds (i.e. foundations), and Federal funds. For example, some Regional Trail and Local Trail Connections grants have been matched with grants through either the Federal Recreational Trail Program or Federal Transportation Enhancements.

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:** Grant awards have not yet been determined. A list of acquisitions and restorations will be provided once grant awards have been made.

**IX. MAP(S):** Grant awards have not yet been determined. A map will be provided once grant awards have been made.

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:** N/A

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than December 31, 2011, June 30, 2012, December 31, 2012, June 30, 2013, December 31, 2013, and June 30, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

**Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects**

<b>Project Title:</b> <i>Regional Park, Trail, and Trail Connection Acquisition and Development Grants</i>					
<b>Legal Citation:</b> ???					
<b>Project Manager:</b> <i>Ron Potter</i>					
<b>M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation:</b> \$ 2,000,000					
<b>Project Length and Completion Date:</b> <i>June 30, 2014</i>					
<b>Date of Update:</b> <i>5/26/2011</i>					
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>Activity 1 Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<i>Fill in your activity title here.</i>				
<b>Grants to Local Units of Government</b>					
Regional Park – Fee Title Land Acquisition	\$333,333	0	333,333	333,333	333,333
Regional Park – Development	\$333,333	0	333,333	333,333	333,333
Regional Trail – Fee Title Land Acquisition	\$0	0	0	0	0
Regional Trail – Development	\$666,667	0	666,667	666,667	666,667
Trail Connections – Fee Title Land Acquisition	\$0	0	0	0	0
Trail Connections – Development	\$666,667	0	666,667	666,667	666,667
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Fill in "Project Title", "Project Manager Name", and "M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation" below.
2. For each individual acquisition or restoration parcel that is being considered as possible/proposed under this appropriation, please indicate a parcel name, geographic coordinates, ecosystem description, ecological significance, activity description, # of acres, # of shoreline miles (if applicable), proposed final holder of any fee title or conservation easement, and status. One row per individual land parcel. Add or delete rows as necessary.
3. Use the "Notes" section at the bottom of the page to provide any additional information pertaining to the acquisition list. If there is any requested information you are unable to provide for any of the parcels, please provide an explanation here.
4. Delete this row containing these instructions and any unused rows before submission.

Columns

#: Number each parcel 1 through the total number of parcels.

Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name: Provide a working title or name used to identify each parcel/restoration area

Geographical Coordinates: Provide geographical coordinates for the location of the parcel, preferably the center of the parcel (centroid). The coordinates can be latitude and longitude or UTM-X and UTM-Y. You do not need to provide both.

Ecosystem Description: Provide a description of the type of ecosystem that exists on a parcel (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna)

Ecological Significance: Provide an explanation of the ecological significance of the parcel.

Activity Description: Provide a description of the activity or activities to occur on the parcel (e.g., fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, removal of woody vegetation)

# of Acres: Indicate the size of the parcel to be acquired or restored in acres.

# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable): Indicate the number of shoreline miles if there is any shoreline being impacted.

Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable): For land acquisition, indicate the organization or entity that will hold title of lands once acquired.

Status: Indicate the status of the parcel (e.g., stage in the acquisition process, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)

**Project Title:** Regional Park, Trail, and Trail Connection Acquisition and Development Grants

**Project Manager Name:** Ron Potter

**M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$ 2,000,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
1	Grant projects have not yet been determined.									
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

**NOTES:** Grants are pending the completion of application rounds. Information will be provided with work plan updates.