



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2015 Work Plan

Date of Report: October 22, 2014
Date of Next Status Update Report: October 1, 2016
Date of Work Plan Approval: TBD
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2018
Does this submission include an amendment request? N

PROJECT TITLE: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions
Project Manager: Jennifer Christie
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road, Box 39
City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone Number: 651-259-5579
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Location: Statewide

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$1,500,000
	Amount Spent:	\$0
	Balance:	\$1,500,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a

Appropriation Language:

\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire at least 335 acres for authorized state trails and critical parcels within the statutory boundaries of state parks. State park 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 plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE:

State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

This State Parks and State Trail land acquisition proposal is to acquire 335 acres of the state's highest priority parcels that contain critical natural and cultural resources to protect, preserve and enhance Minnesota's outdoor heritage and environmental stewardship.

Currently, the DNR does not own approximately 16% (42,800 acres) of land located within the statutory boundary of the 67 Minnesota State Parks and eight State Recreation Areas. Minnesota has 25 statutory authorized State Trails. The DNR currently owns 50% of the land needed to complete the State Trail system.

The main benefits of State Park and State Trail land acquisitions are to provide long-term, consolidated management of pristine natural areas representative of diverse landscapes throughout the entire state of Minnesota. Other land acquisition benefits include:

- Riparian buffers along rivers, wetlands, creeks and lakes
- Preservation of significant ecological, plant and animal communities
- Reduction of fragmentation and potential development impacts of fragile ecosystems
- Protection of view sheds and locally significant historical sites and cultural resources
- Connectivity between local communities to share and better understand our resources

Each State Park and State Trail amenity goes through a rigorous master planning process which includes a public input component to identify desired boundaries and corridors. DNR has identified and ranked each in-holding parcel and manages a general statewide priority list that is reviewed annually. This ENRTF proposal is to acquire the highest priority State Park in-holdings statewide with significant ecological values and key parcels of land located within designated State Trail corridors from willing sellers.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results as of July 31, 2018:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Minneopa State Park Land Acquisition

Description:

Acquire 160 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park. According to the natural heritage database, rare and endangered species such as the American bald eagle, western foxsnake, shovel sturgeon and small white ladyslipper are documented in this corridor. While not river frontage,

the land is adjacent to Minnesota River shoreline. Acquisition will protect potential cultural resources, provide for sustainable wildlife habitat and new hiking, bird watching and interpretive programming opportunities. It is located adjacent to existing DNR ownership along the river corridor which will contribute to the consolidated management efforts to maintain and restore native vegetation as well as protection of the river view shed.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 450,000

Amount Spent: \$ 0

Balance: \$ 450,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 160 acres of land in Minneopa State Park	June 30, 2018

Activity Status as of October 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Final Report Summary July 31, 2018:

ACTIVITY 2: Banning State Park Land Acquisition

Description:

Acquire six acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Banning State Park. This property is adjacent to the Rutabega Falls and would contribute to resource viability of an adjacent restored area. Development of this parcel would degrade the natural and visual aspect of the Kettle River. This acquisition would also provide riparian buffer and shoreline management for the River. The Kettle River is a designated Wild and Scenic River.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 125,000

Amount Spent: \$ 0

Balance: \$ 125,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire six acres of land in Banning State Park	June 30, 2018

Activity Status as of October 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Final Report Summary July 31, 2018:

ACTIVITY 3: Myre-Big Island State Park Land Acquisition

Description:

Acquire 109 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Myre-Big Island State Park. This property contains many wetlands and a small oak grove. It also contains large restored prairie planted with local genotype seed that is representative of pre-settlement landscape. The prairie seed collected from this parcel could be harvested as a good seed source for the DNR to use for other grassland restoration projects in the area. This property has a high risk of residential development pressure, or to be tilled for agriculture purposes.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 375,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 375,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 109 acres of land in Myre-Big Island State Park	June 30, 2018

Activity Status as of October 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Final Report Summary July 31, 2018:

ACTIVITY 4: Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail Land Acquisition

Description:

Acquire 60 acres of land located along the statutory authorized corridor for the Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail. This wooded bluff parcel is an essential piece of land needed to connect two viable segments of the designated State Trail. Acquisition of this property from a single landowner would connect four miles of developed trail with two miles of DNR owned land, resulting in a six mile segment. This proposed segment will increase connectivity between local communities to share and better understand our state's natural resources and foster environmental stewardship of Minnesota's unique landscapes.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 4:

ENRTF Budget: \$550,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0

Balance: \$550,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 60 acres of land along designated Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail State Trail	June 30, 2018

Activity Status as of October 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Final Report Summary July 31, 2018:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Update state park and state trail maps and website as land and the new trail corridor becomes available for public use. Possible media event, or press release after an acquisition closes.

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 1,450,000	Propose to acquire 335 acres with the title to be held by the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.
Professional Services for Acquisition:	\$ 50,000	Professional service expenses and other transaction related charges including, but not limited to, the appraisal, survey and title work necessary for the proposed land acquisitions.
	\$	
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 1,500,000	

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
State			
Parks and Trails Legacy FY16	\$ 50,000	\$	Supplement existing funding sources for state park and state trail land acquisitions.
2014 Bonding	\$ 250,000		Supplement existing funding sources for state park and state trail land acquisitions.

TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 300,000	\$	
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VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Local state parks and state trails support groups. It is also anticipated that the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota will continue to play a critical role in the negotiation and timely acquisition prior to State acquisition.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

Acquire critical parcels within State Park and State Recreation Area statutory boundaries and within statutory authorized State Trail corridors. The state currently owns about 85% of the 268,000 acres within State Park and State Recreation Area boundaries and expects approximately \$5 million worth of private in-holding parcels inside the statutory boundary will become available from willing sellers each year. With the continued support of the LCCMR, the Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Trails expects to keep moving forward to acquire critical parcels for preservation, recreation, education and habitat restoration.

C. Funding History:

Funding Source and Use of Funds	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	M.L. 2010	M.L. 2011 (2 years)	M.L. 2013
ENTF	\$1,500,000 Subd 3h	\$1,590,000 Subd 4a & 4b	\$1,750,000 Subd 4d	\$3,000,000 Subd 4b	\$1,000,000 Subd 4a
Capital Bonding	\$2,400,000		\$2,150,000		
Parks and Trails Legacy				\$3,000,000	\$1,500,000

VIII. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List:

State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails maintain an active 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.

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:

Fee Title Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The DNR-Parks and Trails Division utilized a two-filter evaluation process to identify and help prioritize parcels on the willing sellers list.

The first filter is for each state park manager to assign 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 Acquisition and Development Section of the Division of Parks and Trails. 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.

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, such as a trail connection, develop new recreational facility, or improved trail system, expand a facility, provide better access to park or facilities, eliminate fragmented parcels for better management, address urgency to acquire due to landowner's needs, resolve visitor safety concerns, funding leverage with potential partnerships and bargain sale opportunity.

Then there are internal discussions to determine which parcels should be included in the 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 Acquisition 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 Acquisition and Development, and Acquisition 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 staff proceeds with the acquisition. Depending on the funding availability and/or urgency of the acquisition, staff pursues the acquisition with current funds or the parcel is place on our priority list for future acquisitions as funding is available. The commissioner of natural resources shall approve acquisitions when the land acquisition property is identified as a high priority, or meets the objectives and criteria identified in the applicable acquisition plan for the intended management status of the property.

2. **List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.**

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/parks/strategic/0212_pat_strategic_plan.pdf

3. **For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.**

The State Parks and Trails resource management staff is responsible for the restoration and management of the natural/undeveloped areas not planned for facilities. For restoration efforts like converting an old field to a prairie, bonding and Legacy funds are eligible and used. Legacy monies and other sources, such as general fund and the State Parks working capital fund are used for long-term maintenance of the communities once the site has been restored.

4. **For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.**

For State Park and State Trail acquisitions, county board approval is not required, nor obtained.

To enhance and maintain positive working relationships on mutually beneficial state park and state trail acquisitions, DNR follows Ops Order 6 procedures.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S):

See attached Exhibit maps.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than October 1, 2015, April 1, 2016, October 1, 2016, April 1, 2017, October 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2018.



Project Title: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions
Legal Citation: TBD
Project Manager: Jennifer Christie
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails Division
M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 1,500,000
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2018
Date of Report: October 15, 2014

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	Activity 4 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 4 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Acquire 160 acres of land in Minneopa State			Acquire six acres of land in Banning State Park			Acquire 109 acres of land in Myre-Big Island			Acquire 60 acres of land for the Goodhue-				
Fee Title Acquisition	\$435,000			\$120,000			\$360,000			\$535,000			\$1,450,000	
Acquire estimated one, 160 acres parcel. If successful, the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources will hold the title.														
Professional Services and Transaction Costs for Acquisition	\$15,000			\$5,000			\$15,000			\$15,000			\$50,000	
COLUMN TOTAL	\$450,000			\$125,000			\$375,000			\$550,000			\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2015 Parcel List

Project Title: State Park and State Trail Land Acquisitions

Legal Citation: TBD

Project Manager: Jennifer Christie

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division

M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 1,500,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2018

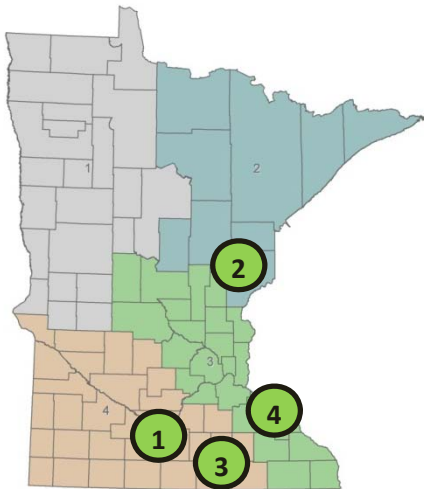
Date of Report: October 15, 2014

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Minneopa State Park	44 12 06.0	-94 08 51.6	\$ 450,000	\$ 3,375	Blue Earth	Rare and endangered species such as the American bald eagle, western foxsnake, shovel sturgeon and small white ladyslipper are documented in this corridor.	Fee Title	160	0	Private	MnDNR	In progress
2	Banning State Park	46 10 45.1	-92 49 34.5	\$ 125,000	\$ 938	Pine	This property is adjacent to the Rutabega Falls and would contribute to resource viability of an adjacent restored area.	Fee Title	6	0	Private	MnDNR	In progress
3	Myre Big Island State Park	43 38 42.0	-93 21 14.3	\$ 375,000	\$ 2,813	Freeborn	This property contains many wetlands and a small oak grove. It also contains large restored prairie planted with local genotype seed.	Fee Title	109	0	Private	MnDNR	In progress
4	Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail	44 29 24.6	-92 34 20.5	\$ 550,000	\$ 4,125	Goodhue	This wooded bluff parcel is an essential piece of land needed to connect two viable segments of the designated State Trail.	Fee Title	60	0	Private/ Non-Profit	MnDNR	In progress
NOTES:													

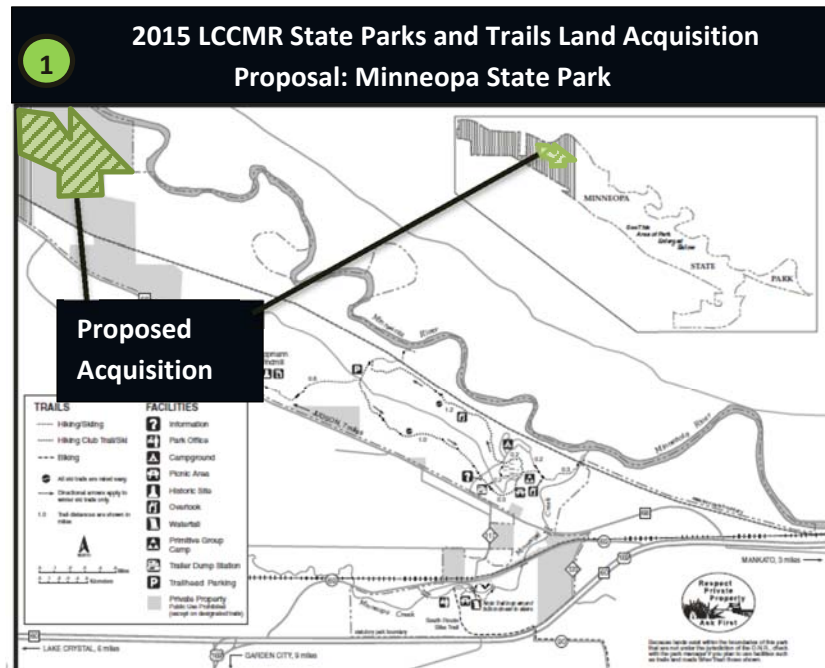
Land Acquisition Proposed Projects

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

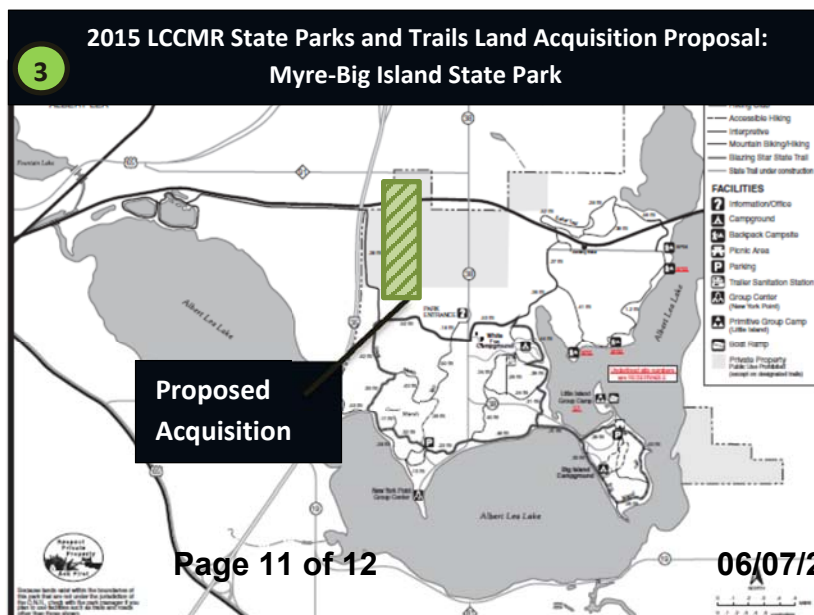
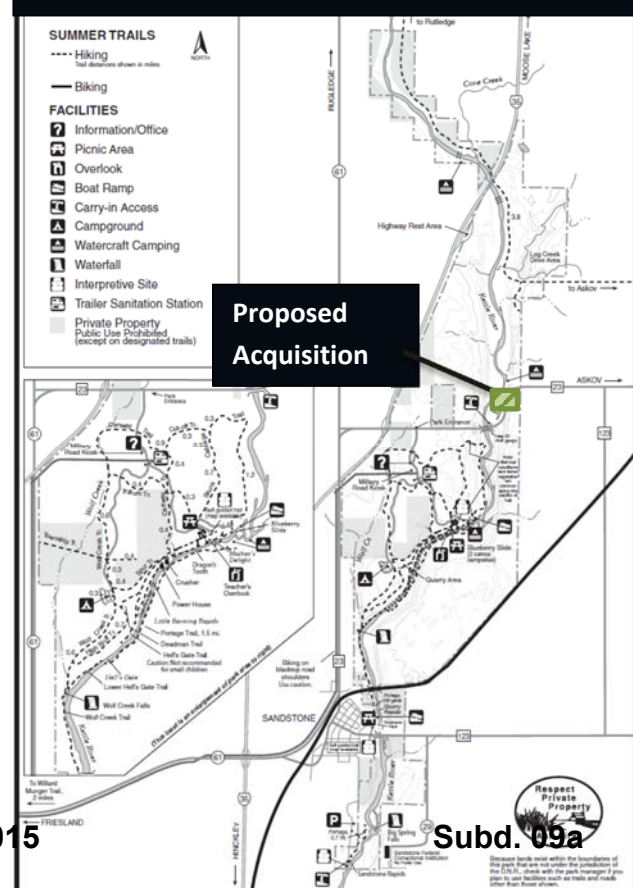
LCCMR 2015



Map #	Facility Name	County
1	Minneopa State Park	Blue Earth
2	Banning State Park	Pine
3	Myre-Big Island State Park	Freeborn
4	Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail	Goodhue



2015 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Banning River State Park



**2015 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition
Proposal: Goodhue Pioneer State Trail**

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