



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2016 Work Plan

Date of Report: April 13, 2016
Date of Next Status Update Report:
Date of Work Plan Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
Does this submission include an amendment request? __

PROJECT TITLE: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions
Project Manager: Jennifer Christie
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road
City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone Number: (651) 259-5579
Email Address: Jennifer.Christie@state.mn.us
Web Address: www.dnr.mn.us

Location: Statewide

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$2,445,000
	Amount Spent:	\$0
	Balance:	\$2,445,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2016, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. 9a

Appropriation Language:

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 300 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 15% (41,900 acres) of land located within the statutory boundary of the 66 Minnesota State Parks and nine 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
- Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for the public to enjoy and appreciate the state’s natural 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, 2016:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results as of July 31, 2019:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Scenic State Park Land Acquisition, Itasca County, 20 acres

Description: Acquire approximately 20 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Scenic State Park. This property would provide protection and riparian buffer for half a mile of

shoreline of Lake Isaac. This acquisition would also help protect the north woods forest and vegetation, limit lake development and maintain excellent water quality. If acquired, the entire Isaac Lake would be within state ownership when combined with state forest land to the west. This property would provide excellent fishing and canoeing opportunities.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 350,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 350,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 20 acres of land in Scenic State Park	June 30, 2019

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:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 2: Crow Wing State Park Land Acquisition, Cass County, three acres

Description: Acquire three acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Crow Wing State Park. This property would provide riparian protection and preservation of 300 feet of Crow River shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi. This property is one of the two last parcels along the peninsula that would add approximately one mile of shoreline along the Crow River. This parcel allow for the opportunity to protect and preserve one of the last undeveloped tributaries along the Mississippi River for upland habitat and river users.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 350,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 350,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire five acres of land in Crow Wing State Park	June 30, 2019

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:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 3: St. Croix State Park Land Acquisition, Pine County, 100 acres
Description: Acquire approximately 100 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of St. Croix State Park. This property would provide needed access to the northern end of the largest State Park in the Minnesota system and contains a wolf den, and a trout stream on the property. A portion of the Matthew Lourey State Trail would also be secured. This state trail connects to other state forest recreation amenities and would provide additional outdoor recreation activities, would also be secured.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 300,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 300,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 100 acres of land in St. Croix State Park	June 30, 2019

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:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 4: Minneopa State Park, Blue Earth County, three acres
Description: Acquire approximately three acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park. This property is located adjacent to the proposed bison area and would allow for greater oversight and increased security of the new bison area. The parcel also contains an old access road to the historic Seppmann Mill site, which would help facilitate maintenance and future interpretive projects of this historical site. It may also support a future Minnesota Valley State Trail alignment.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 4:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 200,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 200,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 3 acres of land in Minneopa State Park	June 30, 2019

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:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 5: Forestville State Park Land Acquisition, Fillmore County, 16 acres

Description: Acquire approximately 16 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Forestville State Park. This parcel would provide protection of wooded parcels adjacent to the Cave Visitor Center that also feeds surface runoff into the Mystery Cave system. There's also an opportunity to utilize the sinkhole entrance to enhance the current State Park interpretive program.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 5:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 250,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 250,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 16 acres of land in Forestville State Park	June 30, 2019

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:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 6: McCarthy Beach State Park Land Acquisition, St. Louis County, 68 acres

Description: Acquire approximately 68 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of McCarthy Beach State Park. This parcel lies in the center of the park and contains shoreline on the north and south sides of Trestle Lake, also known as "Near Side" Lake. It is located adjacent to the Taconite State Trail. McCarthy Beach offers excellent water and land recreation opportunities. The park is located between two major lakes: Sturgeon Lake and Side Lake. Five additional

lakes, including Trestle Lake, provide fishing opportunities for trout, walleye and panfish. In addition to the lakes, the park's terrain is full of rolling hills and many small valleys. Hikers, mountain bikers, and skiers will be able to enjoy enhanced outdoor recreation and scenic trails that wind along pine-covered ridges and through stands of birch trees.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 6:

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

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 68 acres of land in McCarthy Beach State Park	June 30, 2019

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:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019:

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 7: Minneopa State Park and Minnesota River State Trail Land Acquisition, Blue Earth County, 90 acres

Description: Acquire approximately 90 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park, of which part would be used for the Minnesota River State Trail alignment. This acquisition would contain approximately one-mile of the State Trail segment along the river through the 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. This 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 7:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 445,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 445,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 90 acres of land in Minneopa State Park	June 30, 2019

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:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

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:

Activity Status as of October 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 2,395,000	Propose to acquire 300 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, title work, closing costs-recording fees and deed tax required and necessary for the proposed land acquisitions transfer of clear title.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET: \$		

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$	
State			
Parks and Trails Legacy	\$640,000	\$0	Supplement acquisition of high priority

			parcels in State Parks and Trail outdoor recreation system
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 640,000	\$0	

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 \$2-3 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. 2009	M.L. 2010	M.L. 2011 (2 years)	M.L. 2013	M.L. 2014	M.L. 2015
ENRTF	\$1,590,000 Subd 4a & 4b	\$1,750,000 Subd 4d	\$3,000,000 Subd 4b	\$1,000,000 Subd 4a		\$1,500,000 Subd 9a
Capital Bonding		\$2,150,000			1,700,000	
Parks and Trails Legacy			\$3,000,000	\$1,500,000		\$ 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 placed 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.

Any restoration needs will be determined in accordance with each state park and/or state trail master plan. Any additional operations, maintenance and/or restoration costs required to manage the additional land will be determined and taken into consideration during the next budget planning cycle. Additional costs are not anticipated to be a significant amount of increase, and will be absorb with existing staffing and within pre-existing Division restoration plans.

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 that include county notification verification.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Not applicable because the DNR Commissioner empowers DNR staff to select and acquire land within the statutory authorized programs of each Division.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S):

See attached Exhibit maps.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

October 1, 2016, April 1, 2017, October 1, 2017, April 1, 2017, October 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2019.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2016 Project Budget



Project Title: State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition
 Legal Citation: TBD
 Project Manager: Jennifer Christie
 Organization: State of Minnesota-Department of Natural Resources
 M.L. 2016 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 2,000,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2019
 Date of Report: December 7, 2015

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	Activity 5 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 5 Balance	Activity 6 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 6 Balance	Activity 7 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 7 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Scenic State Park Land Acquisition-20 acres			Crow Wing State Park Land Acquisition-3 acres			St. Croix State Park Land Acquisition-100 acres			Minneapolis State Park Land Acquisition-3 acres			Forestville/ Mystery Cave State Park Land Acquisition-16 acres			McCarthy Beach State Park Land Acquisition-68 acres			Minneapolis State Park Land Acquisition-90 acres				
Fee Title Acquisition	\$340,000	\$0	\$340,000	\$340,000	\$0	\$340,000	\$290,000	\$0	\$290,000	\$190,000	\$0	\$190,000	\$240,000	\$0	\$240,000	\$550,000	\$0	\$550,000	\$445,000	\$0	\$445,000	\$2,395,000	\$2,395,000
Acquire estimated 300 acres in fee title. If successful, the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources will hold the title.																							
Professional Services for Acquisition	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Professional service expenses and other transaction related charges including, but not limited to, the appraisal, survey, title work, closing costs-recording fees and deed tax required and necessary for the proposed six land acquisitions transfer of clear title.																							
COLUMN TOTAL	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$550,000	\$0	\$550,000	\$445,000	\$0	\$445,000	\$2,445,000	\$2,445,000

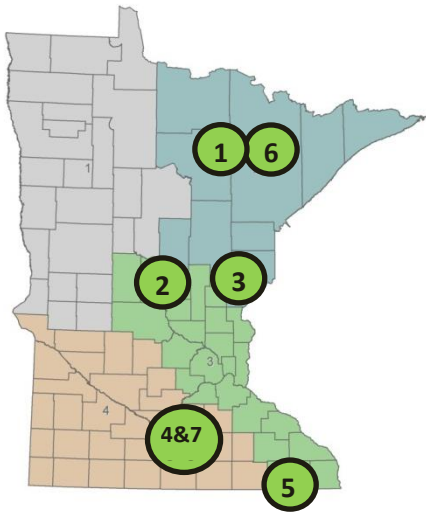
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2016 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition
Project Manager Name: Jennifer Christie
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
ENRTF \$ Request: \$ 2,000,000

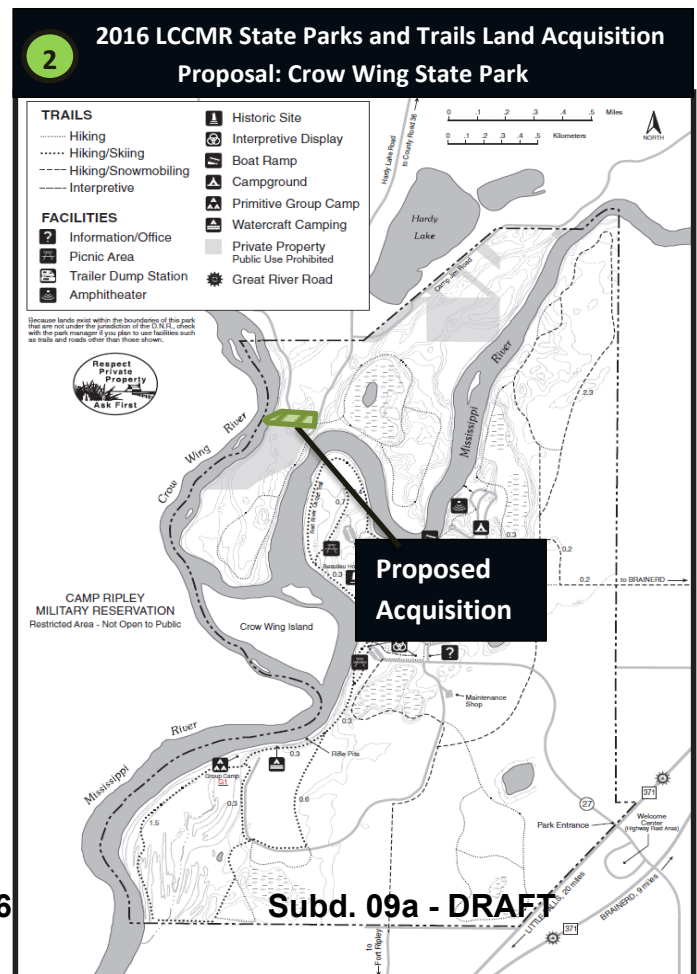
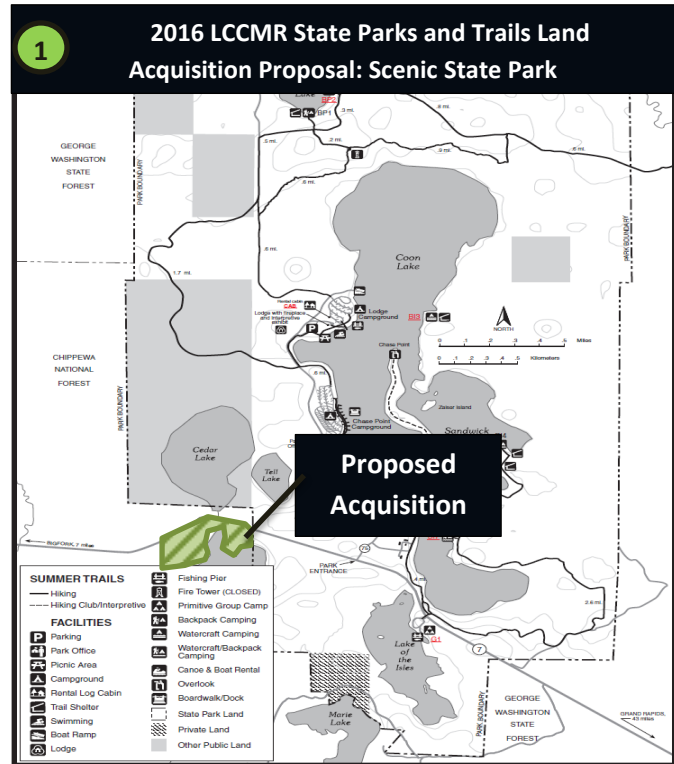
#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude									
1	Scenic State Park	47° 42' 14.4" N	93° 34' 54.4" E	\$350,000	\$1,313	Itasca	Riparian buffer, watershed protection and maintain water quality of an undeveloped shoreline around entire Issac Lake.	Acquire Land	20	1/2 mile	Private	Fee
2	Crow Wing State Park	46° 16' 58.0" N	94° 20' 44.3" E	\$350,000	\$1,313	Cass	Protection of the Crow Wing River shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi River adjacent to existing DNR ownership.	Acquire Land	3	300 feet	Private	Fee
3	St. Croix State Park	46° 0' 2.8" N	92° 28' 8.3" E	\$300,000	\$1,125	Pine	Provide access to the northern end of the largest Mn State Park, contains a wolf den, a trout stream on the property, and a portion of the Matthew Lourey State Trail.	Acquire Land	100		Private	Fee
4	Minneopa State Park	44° 9' 44.73" N	94° 6' 34.86" E	\$200,000	\$750	Blue Earth	Adjacent to the proposed new bison area, contains an old access road to the historic Seppmann Mill site, and potential Mn Valley State Trail alignment.	Acquire Land	3		Private	Fee
5	Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park	43° 37' 9.4" N	92° 18' 50.4" E	\$250,000	\$938	Fillmore	Provide protection of wooded parcels adjacent to the Cave Visitor Center that also feeds surface runoff into the Mystery Cave system. Create an opportunity to utilize the sinkhole entrance to enhance the current State Park interpretive program.	Acquire Land	16		Private	Fee
6	McCarthy Beach State Park	47° 42' 27.2" N	93° 2' 8.1" E	\$550,000	\$2,063	St. Louis	This parcel lies in the center of the park and contains shoreline on the north and south sides of Trestle Lake, also known as "Near Side" Lake. It is located adjacent to the Taconite State Trail and will offer excellent water and land recreation opportunities.	Acquire Land	68	1/2 mile	Private	Fee
7	Minneopa State Park	44° 11' 30.7" N	94° 9' 17.3" E	\$445,000	\$1,669	Blue Earth	Acquire approximately 90 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park, of which part would be used for the Minnesota River State Trail alignment. This acquisition would contain approximately one-mile of the State Trail segment along the river through the 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.	Acquire Land	90	TBD	Private	Fee

NOTES:

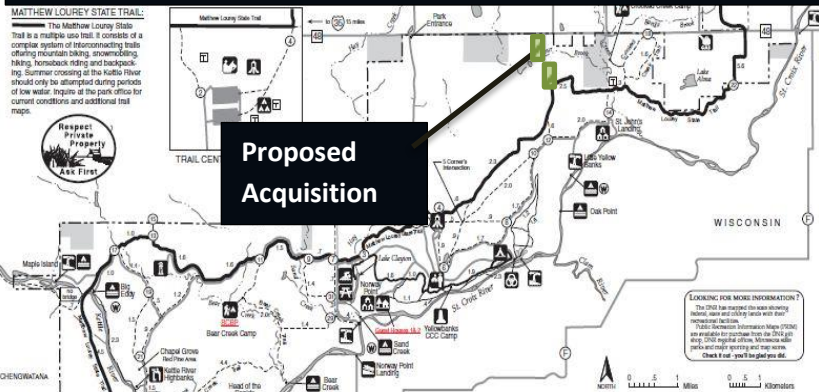
Land Acquisition Proposed Projects



Map #	Facility Name	County
1	Scenic State Park	Itasca
2	Crow Wing State Park	Cass
3	St. Croix State Park	Pine
4&7	Minneopa State Park	Blue Earth
5	Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park	Fillmore
6	McCarthy Beach State Park	Winona

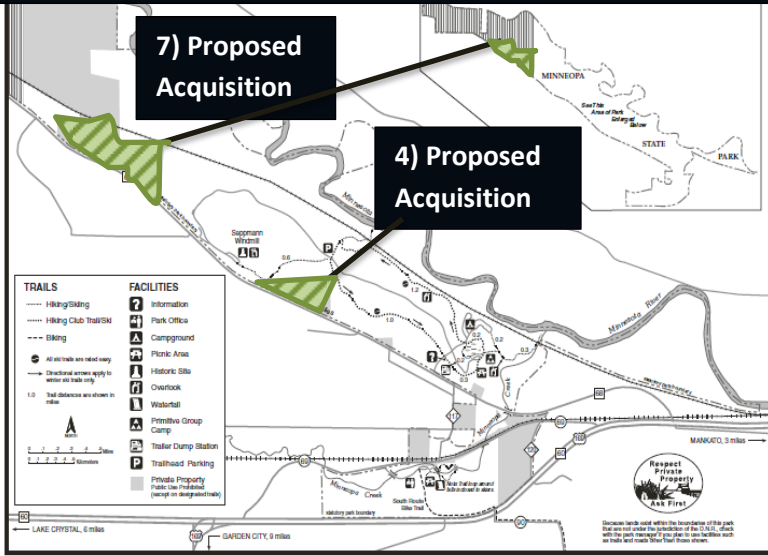


2016 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: St. Croix State Park



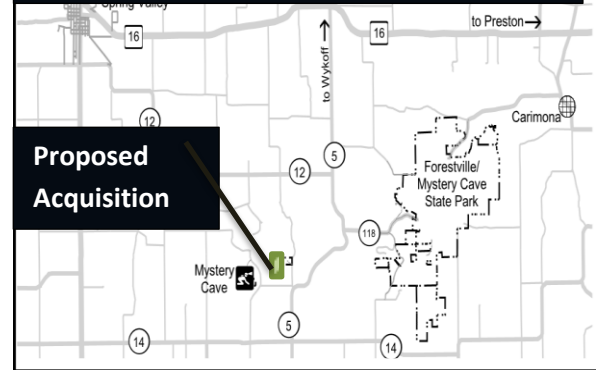
4&7

2016 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Minneopa State Park



5

2016 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park



6

2016 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: McCarthy Beach State Park

