

## **2017 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2020

**PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions**

**PROJECT MANAGER: Shelby Kok**

**AFFILIATION: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

**MAILING ADDRESS: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 39**

**CITY/STATE/ZIP: ST. Paul, MN 55155**

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

**LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c**

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$1,500,000**

**AMOUNT SPENT: \$1,496,976**

**AMOUNT REMAINING: \$3,024**

### **Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results**

Acquisition of Minnesota State Park and State Trail land provides permanent, effective and consolidated protection and management of pristine natural areas representative of diverse landscapes throughout the entire state of Minnesota for perpetual enjoyment by State Park and Trail users.

### **Overall Project Outcome and Results**

Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund funding resulted in the Department of Natural Resources acquiring approximately 426.82 acres of land within the statutory boundaries of four Minnesota State Parks.

- Acquired 80 acres in Maplewood State Park. This acquisition is located within the southeast portion of the state park, which contains a large contiguous tract of maple basswood hardwood forest over a rolling topography. This forest is similar to what is known to exist at the time of European settlement of the area. This undisturbed/undeveloped forest is important nesting habitat for neo-tropical forest songbirds.
- Acquired 157.62 acres in Sibley State Park. This property affords park visitors approaching along TH71 a glimpse of Minnesota's original prairie landscape with rolling grasslands and wetlands. Recreational trail users on this parcel will have views of the transitions from prairie to savanna to woodlands. This parcel will also provide a route for the Glacial Lakes State Trail connection to Sibley State Park.
- Acquired 30.36 acres in Minneopa State Park. This acquisition helps in protecting cultural resources, provide for sustainable wildlife habitat and new hiking, bird watching and facilitate interpretive programming opportunities. It is located adjacent to existing DNR ownership along the Minnesota River which will connect ~164 acres of publically owned, DNR managed land, and contributes to the consolidated management efforts to maintain and restore native vegetation as well as buffer for Minnesota River and protection of river watershed.
- Acquired 158.84 acres in Frontenac State Park. This land improves the park's ability to preserve and buffer natural resources, wildlife habitat and view sheds. This parcel also has a stunning overlook and incredible birding opportunities for unique trail hiking experiences.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

Maplewood and Sibley acquisitions dissemination have been communicated through updated state park maps reflecting state managed land and are identified as public land open to be used and enjoyed by all visitors. Now,

that an acquisition consultant has been appointed, dissemination will continue for the rest of the acquired parcels.



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2017 LCCMR Work Plan Final Report

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**Date of Submission:** February 8, 2021  
**Final Report**  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2020  
**Does this submission include an amendment request?** No

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**PROJECT TITLE:** Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions  
**Project Manager:** Shelby Kok  
**Organization:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
**Mailing Address:** 500 Lafayette Road, Box 39  
**City/State/Zip Code:** St. Paul, MN 55155  
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**Location:** Statewide

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<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation:</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
	<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$1,496,976</b>
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$3,024</b>

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**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire 426.82 acres from willing sellers 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, 2020, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

## I. PROJECT TITLE:

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

## II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

This Minnesota State Parks and State Trail land acquisition proposal is to acquire ~373 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 MnDNR does not own and manage on behalf of its citizens, approximately 16% (43,000 acres) of land located within the statutory boundary of the 66 Minnesota State Parks and nine State Recreation Areas. Likewise, the MnDNR currently does not own and manage on behalf of its citizens, 50% of the land needed to complete the 25 statutory authorized State Trails in Minnesota.

The main benefit of Minnesota State Park and State Trail land acquisitions is to provide permanent, effective and 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
- Enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities to engage current and future generations
- Connectivity between local communities to share a better understand our natural resources

Each outdoor recreation unit in the Minnesota State Park and State Trail system goes through a rigorous master planning process that includes a public input component to identify key land attributes and define desired boundaries and corridors to include as a part of the public outdoor recreation system. MnDNR has identified and ranked each state park in-holding parcel within the designated boundary and maintains a general statewide priority list that is reviewed and analyzed annually. If an acquisition attempt is not successful, a workplan amendment may be requested.

## III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

**Project Status as of May 1, 2018:** Two out of four acquisition projects have been appraised by independently contracted appraisers. One landowner has accepted the DNR's offer and signed an option agreement. DNR has made an offer and are waiting for response on the second acquisition. One acquisition is working on a variance request with their city to sell to DNR. One landowner had a recent death in the family, so we are giving some time for landowner to think about their next steps.

### **Amendment Request May 1, 2018**

An amendment request to increase/decrease two activity acquisition projects because appraised value came in higher than estimated budget amount and reduced acreage from original workplan. 1) Request increasing Activity #2 – Sibley State Park in the amount of \$34,800 to cover higher appraised value 2) Request decreasing Activity #4 – William O'Brien State Park in the amount of \$34,800 due to an acreage reduction since original workplan. New estimates are \$534,800 and \$215,200; actual costs will be listed in the next update after transactions close.

### **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/17/2018.**

**Project Status as of November 1, 2018:** The Sibley State Park acquisition officially closed on 6/29/18. The Maplewood State Park landowners accepted DNR's offer and entered into a signed option agreement. One landowner in Minneopa State Park is not ready to sell yet and another landowner in William O'Brien State Park has decided to pursue another direction, so DNR is requesting approval to pursue two different parcels through this workplan amendment request.

**Amendment Request November 1, 2018**

An amendment request to replace two acquisitions in the workplan due to landowner circumstances and revise activity budgets to accommodate replacements and adjust one activity due to higher than budgeted transaction related costs: 1) Replace Minneopa State Park – 135 acre parcel with a ~30 acre parcel also located in Minneopa State Park and 2) Replace William O’Brien State Park – 5 acre parcel with a ~30 acre parcel located in Lake Maria – 30+ acre parcel. Increase/decrease/increase Activity 2, 3 and 4 acquisition project budgets to adjust to anticipated range of replacement acquisitions: 1) Request increasing Activity #2 – Sibley State Park in the amount of \$8,420 due to higher than budgeted transaction costs 2) Request decreasing Activity #3 – Minneopa State Park in the amount of \$150,000 due to acreage reduction of replacement acquisition 3) Request increasing Activity #4 – Lake Maria in the amount of \$141,580 due to an acreage increase of replacement acquisition. New budget estimates are Activity #2-\$543,220, Activity #3-\$350,000 and Activity #4-\$265,200; actual costs will be listed in the next update after transactions close and expenditures paid.

**Amendment Approved by LCCMR 11/9/2018.**

**Project Status as of May 1, 2019:** The Sibley State Park acquisition officially closed on 6/29/18. The Maplewood State Park acquisition is waiting for landowner to provide marketable title. Minneopa State Park landowner has verbally accepted MnDNR’s offer.

**Amendment Request May 1, 2019**

An amendment request is being made, due to landowner rejecting MnDNR’s offer, to replace Activity #4 – Lake Maria State Park with partial funding at Frontenac State Park. After transactions close and expenditures paid, a budget amendment may be requested to move all unused funds to Activity #4.

**Amendment Approved May 23, 2019**

**Project Status as of November 1, 2019:** The Maplewood State Park acquisition officially closed on 6/21/19. The Minneopa State Park acquisition is waiting for landowner to provide marketable title. Frontenac State Park is being appraised.

**Amendment Request November 1, 2019**

An amendment request is being made to remove budget line item negative balances, to decrease in Activity 1 Fee Title Acquisition line item and increase in Activity 1 Professional Services for Acquisition line item in the amount of \$8,700; to decrease in Activity 3 Fee Title Acquisition line item and to increase in Activity 3 Professional Services for Acquisition in the amount of \$32,500.

**Project Status as of May 1, 2020:** The remaining two acquisitions, Minneopa and Frontenac, are nearing closing status.

**Amendment Request December 28, 2020:** Jennifer Christie has left the Department of Natural Resources and Shelby Kok is filling her old role.

Amendment approved 1/21/2021

**Overall Project Outcomes and Results as of September 15, 2020:** This Minnesota State Parks and State Trail land acquisition proposal is to acquire 426.82 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 MnDNR does not own and manage on behalf of its citizens, approximately 16% (43,000 acres) of land located within the statutory boundary of the 66 Minnesota State Parks and nine State Recreation Areas. Likewise, the MnDNR currently does not own and manage on behalf of its citizens, 50% of the land needed to complete the 25 statutory authorized State Trails in Minnesota.

The main benefit of Minnesota State Park and State Trail land acquisitions is to provide permanent, effective and 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
- Enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities to engage current and future generations
- Connectivity between local communities to share a better understand our natural resources

Each outdoor recreation unit in the Minnesota State Park and State Trail system goes through a rigorous master planning process that includes a public input component to identify key land attributes and define desired boundaries and corridors to include as a part of the public outdoor recreation system. MnDNR has identified and ranked each state park in-holding parcel within the designated boundary and maintains a general statewide priority list that is reviewed and analyzed annually. If an acquisition attempt is not successful, a workplan amendment may be requested.

**Amendment Request February 8, 2021:** An amendment requested on the budget sheet to eliminate line item negative balances.

- Activity 4: Requesting \$11,000 increases on overall project budget to eliminate negative balance in Fee Title. This increase comes from remainder Activity 2 and Activity 3 professional services. This increase does not increase the overall appropriation budget.
- Activity 2: Decrease \$3,000 in professional service line and move that to Fee Title line in activity 4
- Activity 3: Decrease \$8,000 in professional service line and move that to Fee Title line in activity 4

**Amendment Request Retroactively Approved February 25, 2021**

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1: Maplewood State Park Land Acquisition, Otter Tail County**

**Description:**

Acquire approximately 80 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Maplewood State Park. This property will preserve high quality hardwood forest, wetlands and wildlife habitat. This acquisition is located within the southeast portion of the state park which contains a large contiguous tract of maple basswood hardwood forest over a rolling topography. This forest is similar to what is known to exist at the time of European settlement of the area. This undisturbed/undeveloped forest is important nesting habitat for neo-tropical forest songbirds. The Maplewood State Park Management Plan dated 1998 recommends maintaining the southeast part of the park to favor forest neo-tropical songbirds and other wildlife species requiring interior forest habitats.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 250,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 247,959**  
**Balance: \$ 2,041**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 80 acres of land in Maplewood State Park	June 30, 2020

**Activity 1 Status as of May 1, 2018:** This land acquisition was appraised, DNR has made an offer to the landowner, and we are awaiting the landowner's response.

**Activity 1 Status as of November 1, 2018:** Landowners accepted DNR's offer and signed an option agreement. DNR has elected to purchase. Working on title opinion to ensure marketable title.

**Activity 1 Status as of May 1, 2019:** MnDNR is waiting for landowner to provide marketable title for the property. Upon receipt of marketable title, MnDNR is ready to close.

**Activity 1 Status as of November 1, 2019:** The Maplewood State Park acquisition officially closed on 6/21/19.

**Activity 1 Status as of May 1, 2020:**

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:** Acquired 80 acres of land in Maplewood State Park.

**ACTIVITY 2: Sibley State Park Land Acquisition, Kandiyohi County**

**Description:**

Acquire 153 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Sibley State Park. This property affords park visitors approaching along TH71 a glimpse of Minnesota's original prairie landscape with rolling grasslands and wetlands. Recreational trail users on this parcel would have views of the transitions from prairie to savanna to woodlands. This parcel will also provide a route for the Glacial Lakes State Trail connection to Sibley State Park.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

<b>ENRTF Budget:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>540,220</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>540,121</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>99</b>

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Acquire 153 acres of land in Sibley State Park	June 30, 2020

**Activity 2 Status as of May 1, 2018:** This land acquisition was appraised, DNR made an offer to the landowner, and the landowner has accepted DNR's offer. Next steps: survey and title review.

**Activity 2 Status as of November 1, 2018:** Acquisition officially closed on 6/29/18. Still processing professional services invoices.

**Activity 2 Status as of May 1, 2019:** Acquisition officially closed on 6/29/18.

**Activity 2 Status as of November 1, 2019:** The Minneopa State Park acquisition is waiting for landowner to provide marketable title.

**Activity 2 Status as of May 1, 2020:**

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:** Acquired 157.62 acres of land in Sibley State Park.

**ACTIVITY 3: Minneopa State Park Land Acquisition, Blue Earth County**

**Description:**

Acquire approximately 30 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park. Acquisition will protect cultural resources, provide for sustainable wildlife habitat and new hiking, bird watching and facilitate interpretive programming opportunities. It is located adjacent to existing DNR ownership along the Minnesota River which will connect ~164 acres of publically owned, DNR managed land, and contribute to the consolidated management efforts to maintain and restore native vegetation as well as buffer for Minnesota River and protection of river watershed. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 11/9/2018.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:**

<b>ENRTF Budget:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>342,000</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>341,829</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>172</b>

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Acquire ~30 acres of land in Minneopa State Park	June 30, 2020

**Activity 3 Status as of May 1, 2018:** Landowner had a recent death in the family so we are giving the landowner some time to think before making any major land decisions.

**Activity 3 Status as of November 1, 2018:** DNR is proposing to pursue another parcel within Minneopa State Park in light of originally identified parcel family situation. Another willing landowner approached DNR and is interested in receiving an offer from DNR before listing tkhe property on the open real estate market. DNR’s offer is anticipated to be ready in early 2019.

**Activity 3 Status as of May 1, 2019:** Landowner verbally accepted MnDNR offer and signing option agreement is in progress.

**Activity 3 Status as of November 1, 2019:** The Minneopa State Park acquisition is waiting for landowner to provide marketable title.

**Activity 3 Status as of May 1, 2020:** Started to conduct closing.

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:** Acquired 30.36 acres on land in Minneopa State Park on 6/23/2020.

**ACTIVITY 4: Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County**

**Description:**

Acquire approximately 158 acres of land located within statutory authorized boundary to enhance the natural assets of Frontenac State Park. According to the Master Plan, this land improves the park’s ability to preserve and buffer natural resources, wildlife habitat and view sheds. This parcel also has a stunning overlook and incredible birding opportunities for unique trail hiking experiences. This activity is anticipated to partially fund the acquisition.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 4:**

<b>ENRTF Budget:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>367,780</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>367,068</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>712</b>



Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~158 acres of land within Frontenac State Park.	June 30, 2020

**Activity 4 Status as of May 1, 2018:** Landowner is working with the City for a minimum lot size variance request to sell a land only parcel to the DNR.

**Activity 4 Status as of November 1, 2018:** Landowner from originally proposed acquisition is pursuing other conservation options, so DNR proposing to pursue an acquisition from a willing seller located within Lake Maria State Park. A DNR offer is expected in early 2019 for the landowner’s consideration.

**Activity 4 Status as of May 1, 2019:** Landowner within Lake Maria State Park rejected MnDNR’s offer and decided to sell to a private party. Frontenac State Park is just beginning the MnDNR acquisition process.

**Activity 4 Status as of November 1, 2019:** The Frontenac State Park land acquisition is being appraised in preparation for making a landowner offer.

**Activity 4 Status as of May 1, 2020:** Received title opinion and working on finalizing funding.

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:** Acquired 158.84 acres in Frontenac State Park on 7/1/2020

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** Update state park and state trail maps and website as land and the new trail corridor becomes available for public use. Depending on the acquisition, a news release may be created and distributed to local news and media.

**Status as of May 1, 2018:** Dissemination has not occurred because none of the transactions have closed.

**Status as of November 1, 2018:** Dissemination has not occurred.

**Status as of May 1, 2019:** Dissemination has not occurred other than updating the Sibley State Park maps to show this new land is available for the public to enjoy, appreciate and recreate.

**Status as of November 1, 2019:** Dissemination has not occurred other than updating the Maplewood State Park maps to show this new land is available for the public to enjoy, appreciate and recreate.

**Status as of May 1, 2020:** Due to the vacancy of the position, dissemination has not moved forward.

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:** Due to the vacancy of the position, only Maplewood State Parks maps reflect the acquisition. Dissemination for the rest has not moved forward. Once the position is filled dissemination will take place.

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	\$ Amended Amount	\$ Actual Expenditures	Overview Explanation
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Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 1,450,000	\$1,400,080	\$1,398,409	Propose to acquire 426.82 acres with the title to be held by the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.
Professional Services for Acquisition:	\$ 50,000	\$99,920	\$98,568	Professional service expenses and other transaction related charges including, but not limited to, the appraisal, survey, title work, deed tax and recording fees, as necessary for the proposed land acquisitions.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,496,976</b>	

**\*This section represents an overview of the preliminary budget at the start of the project. It will be reconciled with actual expenditures at the time of the final report.**

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>State</b>			
Parks and Trails Legacy FY18	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 248,235	Supplement existing funding sources for state park and state trail land acquisitions.
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 248,235</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:**

**Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

- Local state parks and state trails support/friends groups.
- Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota is anticipated to 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, which means the state does not own, and manage on behalf of the citizens of Minnesota, approximately \$5 million worth of private in-holding parcels inside the statutory identified 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 on behalf of the public.

**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. 2015
ENRTF	\$1,590,000 Subd 3h	\$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			
Parks and Trails Legacy			\$3,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

- **The project is for three years, will begin on 07/01/2017, and end on 06/30/2020.**
- **Periodic project status update reports will be submitted May 1 and November 1 of each year.**
- **A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and September 15, 2020.**

**IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S):**

See attached Exhibit maps

**X. 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 priority list evolves as new parcels are added to the statutory boundary of a park or the status of a parcel changes after addition 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](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 absorbed 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. When legislation is proposed to change the statutory authorized boundary, an informational county board presentation is offered to respective county.

To enhance and maintain positive working relationships on mutually beneficial state park and state trail acquisitions, DNR follows Ops Order 6 procedures, which includes county notification communications and supporting verification.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**  
**M.L. 2017 Final Project Budget**  
**Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition**  
**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c  
**Project Manager:** Shelby Kok  
**Organization:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
**M.L. 2017 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$ 1,500,000  
**Project Length and Completion Date:** 3 Years, June 30, 2020  
**Date of Report:** February 8, 2021



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget- 11/1/19	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget- 2/8/2021	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget- 2/8/2021	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	Activity 4 Budget-2/8/2021	Amount Spent	Activity 4 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>Maplewood State Park Land Acquisition-80 acres</b>													
<b>Fee Title Acquisition</b>	\$228,800	\$228,800	\$0	\$522,000	\$522,000	\$0	\$305,000	\$305,000	\$0	\$365,855	\$365,143	\$712	\$1,400,080	\$712
Acquire approximately 373 acres in fee title. If successful, the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources will hold the title.														
<b>Professional Services for Acquisition</b>	\$21,200	\$19,159	\$2,041	\$18,220	\$18,121	\$99	\$37,000	\$36,829	\$172	\$1,925	\$1,925	\$0	\$99,920	\$2,312
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.														
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$247,959</b>	<b>\$2,041</b>	<b>\$540,220</b>	<b>\$540,121</b>	<b>\$99</b>	<b>\$342,000</b>	<b>\$341,829</b>	<b>\$172</b>	<b>\$367,780</b>	<b>\$367,068</b>	<b>\$712</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$3,024</b>

**Notes:** 5/16/18 Requesting an increased in Activity #2 by \$34,800 and a decrease in Activity #4 by \$34,800 to accommodate a higher than expected valuation and reduced acreage from original workplan. New estimates are \$534,800 and \$215,200; actual costs will be listed in the next update after transactions close. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/17/2018.

11/1/18 Requesting an increase in Activity 2 by \$8,420 due to higher than budgeted transaction costs, decrease Activity 3 by \$150,000 due to lower anticipated acquisition budget with a new transaction and to increase Activity 4 by \$141,580 due to higher anticipated acquisition budget with a new transaction. New budget estimates are: Activity 2-\$543,220, Activity 3-\$350,000 and Activity 4-\$356,780; actual costs will be listed in the next update after transactions close and expenses paid.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 11/9/2018.

5/1/19 Requesting an amendment to replace Activity #4 Lake Maria State Park acquisition with partial funding Frontenac State Park acquisition due to landowner rejecting MnDNR's offer. Approved by LCCMR 5/23/2019.

11/1/19 Requesting a decrease in Activity 1 Fee Title Acquisition and increase in Activity 1 Professional Services for Acquisition in the amount of \$8,700 to remove line item negative balance in Professional Services; and a decrease in Activity 3 Fee Title Acquisition and an increase in Activity 3 Professional Services Acquisition in the amount of \$32,500 to remove line item negative balance.

12/28/2020 Requesting project manager change. Jennifer Christie has left DNR and I, Shelby Kok, am filling her role.