



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

**Date of Submission:** September 1, 2016  
**Date of Next Status Update Report:** October 15, 2017  
**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 06/07/2017  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2020  
**Does this submission include an amendment request?** No

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

**Project Manager:** Jennifer Christie

**Organization:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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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. 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 approximately 373 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 November 1, 2017:**

**Project Status as of May 1, 2018:**

**Project Status as of November 1, 2018:**

**Project Status as of May 1, 2019:**

**Project Status as of November 1, 2019:**

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

**Overall Project Outcomes and Results as of September 15, 2020:**

## **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 song birds. The Maplewood State Park Management Plan dated 1998 recommends maintaining the southeast part of the park to favor forest neo-tropical song birds and other wildlife species requiring interior forest habitats.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

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

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

**Activity 1 Status as of November 1, 2017:**

**Activity 1 Status as of May 1, 2018:**

**Activity 1 Status as of November 1, 2018:**

**Activity 1 Status as of May 1, 2019:**

**Activity 1 Status as of November 1, 2019:**

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

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:**

**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:**

**ENRTF Budget:** \$ 500,000  
**Amount Spent:** \$ 0  
**Balance:** \$ 500,000

| Outcome   | Completion Date |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Acquire 153 acres of land in Sibley State Park | June 30, 2020   |

**Activity 2 Status as of November 1, 2017:**

**Activity 2 Status as of May 1, 2018:**

**Activity 2 Status as of November 1, 2018:**

**Activity 2 Status as of May 1, 2019:**

**Activity 2 Status as of November 1, 2019:**

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

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:**

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

**Description:**

Acquire 135 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. Depending on which parcels the landowner is interested in selling, the property may, or may not, river frontage. 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 river corridor which will contribute to the consolidated management efforts to maintain and restore native vegetation as well as protection of the river watershed.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 500,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$ 500,000**

| <b>Outcome</b>                                      | <b>Completion Date</b> |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Acquire 135 acres of land in Minneopa State Park | June 30, 2020          |

**Activity 3 Status as of November 1, 2017:**

**Activity 3 Status as of May 1, 2018:**

**Activity 3 Status as of November 1, 2018:**

**Activity 3 Status as of May 1, 2019:**

**Activity 3 Status as of November 1, 2019:**

**Activity 3 Status as of May 1, 2020:**

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:**

**ACTIVITY 4: William O'Brien State Park, Washington County**

**Description:**

Acquire approximately 5 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of William O'Brien State Park. This parcel is located in the southern portion of the park adjacent to the City of Marine on St. Croix along Washington County Road 4. It will contribute additional woodland habitat as well as remnant grasslands. It also contains one of the best remnant native prairies in this area of the state. There is also a major hydrological feature on this property in terms of numerous springs as well as a trout stream.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 4:**

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

| Outcome  | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Acquire 5 acres of land in William O'Brien State Park | June 30, 2020   |

**Activity 4 Status as of November 1, 2017:**

**Activity 4 Status as of May 1, 2018:**

**Activity 4 Status as of November 1, 2018:**

**Activity 4 Status as of May 1, 2019:**

**Activity 4 Status as of November 1, 2019:**

**Activity 4 Status as of May 1, 2020:**

**Final Report Summary September 15, 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 November 1, 2017:**

**Status as of May 1, 2018:**

**Status as of November 1, 2018:**

**Status as of May 1, 2019:**

**Status as of November 1, 2019:**

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

**Final Report Summary September 15, 2020:**

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

##### **A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview:**

**\*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.**

| Budget Category                        | \$ Amount    | Overview Explanation  |
|--|--------------|---|
| Fee Title Acquisition:                 | \$ 1,450,000 | Propose to acquire ~373 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, deed tax and recording fees, as necessary for the proposed land acquisitions. |

|                            |                     |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b> | <b>\$ 1,500,000</b> |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|

**B. Other Funds:**

| <b>Source of Funds</b>       | <b>\$ Amount Proposed</b> | <b>\$ Amount Spent</b> | <b>Use of Other Funds</b>   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>State</b>                 |                           |                        |   |
| Parks and Trails Legacy FY18 | \$ 1,000,000              | \$ 0                   | Supplement existing funding sources for state park and state trail land acquisitions. |
| <b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>    | <b>\$ 1,000,000</b>       | <b>\$ 0</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:**

| <b>Funding Source and Use of Funds</b> | <b>M.L. 2009</b>       | <b>M.L. 2010</b>       | <b>M.L. 2011<br/>(2 years)</b> | <b>M.L. 2013</b>       | <b>M.L. 2015</b>       |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| ENRTF                                  | \$1,590,000<br>Subd 3h | \$1,750,000<br>Subd 4d | \$3,000,000<br>Subd 4b         | \$1,000,000<br>Subd 4a | \$1,500,000<br>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 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](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. 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 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: Jennifer Christie

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: September 1, 2016



| ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST<br>FUND BUDGET   | Activity 1 Budget                              | Amount<br>Spent | Activity 1<br>Balance | Activity 2<br>Budget        | Amount<br>Spent | Activity 2<br>Balance | Activity 3<br>Budget          | Amount<br>Spent | Activity 3<br>Balance | Activity 4<br>Budget               | Amount<br>Spent | Activity 4<br>Balance | TOTAL<br>BUDGET | TOTAL<br>BALANCE |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| BUDGET ITEM  | Maplewood State Park Land Acquisition-80 acres |                 |                       | Sibley State Park-153 acres |                 |                       | Minneopa State Park-135 acres |                 |                       | William O'Brien State Park-5 acres |                 |                       |                 |                  |
| Fee Title Acquisition  | \$237,500                                      | \$0             | \$237,500             | \$487,500                   | \$0             | \$487,500             | \$487,500                     | \$0             | \$487,500             | \$237,500                          | \$0             | \$237,500             | \$1,450,000     | \$1,450,000      |
| Acquire estimated 373 acres in fee title. If successful, the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources will hold the title.  |  |                 |                       |                             |                 |                       |                               |                 |                       |                                    |                 |                       |                 |                  |
| Professional Services for Acquisition  | \$12,500                                       | \$0             | \$12,500              | \$12,500                    | \$0             | \$12,500              | \$12,500                      | \$0             | \$12,500              | \$12,500                           | \$0             | \$12,500              | \$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 land acquisitions transfer of clear title. |  |                 |                       |                             |                 |                       |                               |                 |                       |                                    |                 |                       |                 |                  |
| COLUMN TOTAL   | \$250,000                                      |                 | \$250,000             | \$500,000                   | \$0             | \$500,000             | \$500,000                     | \$0             | \$500,000             | \$250,000                          |                 | \$250,000             | \$1,500,000     | \$1,500,000      |

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2017 Parcel List

Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition

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

Project Manager: Jennifer Christie

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

M.L. 2017 ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,500,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2020

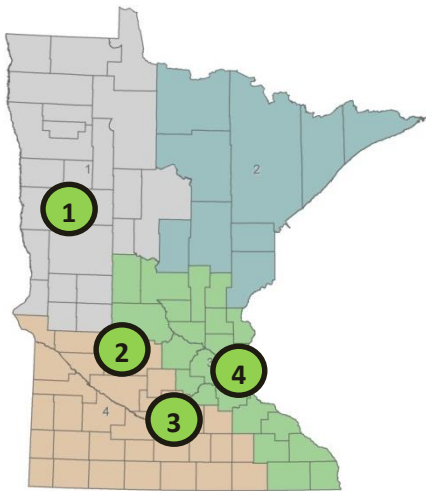
Date of Report: September 1, 2016

| #      | Acquisition or Restoration<br>Parcel Name | Geographic Coordinates<br>Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.] |                 | Estimated<br>Cost | Estimated<br>Annual PILT<br>Liabilities | County     | Site Significance  | Activity<br>Description | # of Acres | # of<br>Shoreline<br>Miles | Type of<br>Landowner | Proposed Fee<br>Title or<br>Easement<br>Holder<br>(if applicable) | Status      |
|--------|---|--|-----------------|-------------------|---|------------|--|-------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------|
|        |   | Latitude   | Longitude       |                   |   |            |  |                         |            |                            |                      |   |             |
| 1      | Maplewood State Park                      | 46° 30' 33" N  | 95° 55' 20.1" N | \$250,000         | \$ 1,875                                | Otter Tail | This property will preserve high quality hardwood forest, wetlands and wildlife habitat that contains a large contiguous tract of maple basswood hardwood forest over a rolling topography.  | Acquire Land            | 80         | None                       | Private              | Fee   | Not Started |
| 2      | Sibley State Park                         | 45° 18' 2.6" N   | 95° 0' 51.7" N  | \$500,000         | \$ 3,750                                | Kandiyohi  | This property affords park visitors 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.  | Acquire Land            | 153        | None                       | Non-Profit           | Fee   | Not Started |
| 3      | Minneopa State Park                       | 44° 11' 29.4" N  | 94° 8' 38.2" N  | \$500,000         | \$ 3,750                                | Blue Earth | 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. The property may, or may not, river frontage.  | Acquire Land            | 135        | TBD-<br>Based on<br>parcel | Private              | Fee   | Not Started |
| 4      | William O'Brien State Park                | 45° 12' 1.7" N   | 92° 46' 46.5" N | \$250,000         | \$ 1,875                                | Washington | This parcel will contribute additional woodland habitat as well as remnant grasslands. It also contains one of the best remnant native prairies in this area of the state. There is also a major hydrological feature on this property in terms of numerous springs as well as a trout stream. | Acquire Land            | 5          | 150 feet                   | Non-Profit           | Fee   | Not Started |
| NOTES: |   |  |                 |                   |   |            |  |                         |            |                            |                      |   |             |

# Land Acquisition Proposed Projects

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

LCCMR 2017



| Map # | Facility Name        | County     |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| 1     | Maplewood State Park | Otter Tail |
| 2     | Sibley State Park    | Kandiyohi  |
| 3     | Minneopa State Park  | Blue Earth |
| 4     | William O'Brien      | Washington |

