



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2018 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: December 7, 2017

Date of Next Status Update Report: January 31, 2019

Date of Work Plan Approval: 06/05/2018

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2021

Does this submission include an amendment request? ___

PROJECT TITLE: Grants for Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas

Project Manager: Audrey Mularie

Organization: Department of Natural Resources

College/Department/Division: Division of Parks and Trails

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Web Address: mndnr.gov

Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$2,000,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$2,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09a

Appropriation Language: \$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to solicit, rank, and fund competitive matching grants for local parks, trail connections, and natural and scenic areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019. The appropriation is for local nature-based recreation and connections to regional and state natural areas and recreation facilities and does not include athletic facilities such as sport fields, courts, and playgrounds. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Provide approximately 14 matching grants to local units of government for local parks, acquisition of locally significant natural areas and trails to connect people safely to desirable community locations and regional or state facilities. Local park development will not include playgrounds, sports courts or sport fields.

The Outdoor Recreation (Local Parks), Natural and Scenic Area and Local Trail Connections Grant Programs provide competitive matching grants for local parks, natural areas and trails to local governments for land acquisition and improvements related to parks and trails statewide as authorized under MN Statutes 85.019. Many projects include renovation of existing facilities to improve safety and accessibility, acquisition of locally significant natural and scenic areas, completion of trail linkages to safely connect where people live to desirable locations within the community and/or connecting local trails to regional or state facilities.

Outdoor Recreation (Local Park) Grants: Local governments are struggling to acquire, develop and redevelop their local and community parks. The goal of this program is increase and enhance close to home recreation facilities to provide safe and accessible recreation facilities. This aim is achieved through competitive, matching grants that provide financial incentive and ensure the parks acquired and developed under this program are retained for public use in perpetuity. The Outdoor Recreation Grant Program requires a 50% match and the local government recipients are responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Natural and Scenic Area Grants: Opportunities for local governments and school districts to acquire and protect natural and scenic areas statewide are diminishing due to development, especially in high growth areas, shore lands, bluff tops and areas where land use changes may limit future opportunities. The goal of this program is to ensure protection of natural and scenic resources by helping and encouraging local governments to acquire and protect such land for appropriate public use, protection of natural communities, species protection, appreciation of scenic vistas, and scientific and environmental education purposes. The immediate goal is to acquire threatened land, conduct any necessary measures to stabilize its ecological resources, and make it available for public use. Therefore, the majority of funds will be used for acquisition costs with minor amounts available for ecological stabilization, as necessary. This aim is achieved through competitive, matching grants that provide financial incentive and ensure that the land acquired and natural resources are retained for public use in perpetuity. These areas complement state protected areas and provide close-to-home natural resource-based benefits. The Natural and Scenic Area grants require a 50% local match and the local government recipients are responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Local Trail Connections Grants: Local Trail Connections grants fund projects to acquire, develop and re-develop local trail connections across Minnesota. The projects are primarily for shorter distance connections between residential areas, schools, businesses, parks, and regional and/or state facilities. These projects help to expand the connections between individuals and the outdoors by providing funding for local outdoor recreation infrastructure that also provides for alternative transportation options and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The Local Trail Connections grants require a 25% local match and the local government recipients are responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs for trail development projects a minimum of 20 years. Land acquisition is permanent.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update June 30, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2020

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Grants for the Local Parks, Natural and Scenic Areas and Trail Connections

Description: This funding will provide approximately 14 matching grants to cities and counties for acquisition, development and/or redevelopment of local parks, natural and scenic areas and trail connections. Two grant rounds are proposed. The local match for each project will meet or exceed the match required under the specific program that the project was funded. The required match for each program is listed above and in [MN Statutes 85.018](#). It is expected that the match level would exceed \$1.4 million.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,950,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Provide approximately 6 matching grants through two funding rounds for local parks.	Fall 2018, 2019
2. Provide approximately 2 matching grants through one funding round for Natural and Scenic Areas. A second round will be held, if needed.	Fall 2018, 2019 if needed
3. Provide approximately 6 matching grants through two funding rounds for Trail Connections.	Fall 2018, 2019

First Update June 30, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2020

Final Update June 30, 2021

ACTIVITY 2: Grant Program Administration

Description: The funding will be used to support Parks and Trails, Grant Specialist, personnel costs for administering the grant programs and DNR direct and necessary costs associated with this funding. Grant staff persons are involved in grant solicitation, evaluation and ranking, grant agreement management, project billings, project inspections, compliance monitoring and project close out.

As shown in the Detailed Project Budget, work program approval is requested for personnel expenses to be incurred by DNR classified staff involved in administering these grant programs. The requested amount represents approximately 2.5% of the proposed Activity 1 budget equivalent to approximately 0.15 FTE per year over the three year period including the direct and necessary costs that are detailed in the project budget.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$50,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Administer RFP, application process and grant contracts.	June 30, 2021
2. DNR Direct and necessary costs.	June 30, 2021

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: A Request for Proposal is announced for the programs in December of each year through our park and trail contacts e-mail list and regional and statewide organization. Regional and Statewide organizations are encouraged to forward to their members. Program information and applications are available to download on the [DNR Recreation Grants webpage](#) under each specific program. A list of the awarded projects will be posted on the program webpages.

First Update June 30, 2019
 Second Update June 30, 2020
 Final Update June 30, 2021

V. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview: See attached budget spreadsheet

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: Capital expenditures related to the development of park and trail facilities. All trails will be maintained for a minimum of 20 years. All park facilities must be maintained for their useful life and the park area retained and maintained solely for outdoor recreation use into perpetuity.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Classified positions paid for with LCCMR funds will either be 1) backfilled with a new position or 2) the work previously done by this position will be delayed, eliminated, or completed by the start of the project.

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 939	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: .45
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: N/A	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: N/A
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B. Other Funds:

SOURCE OF AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS	Amount Proposed	Amount Spent	Status and Timeframe
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
Local Match	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 0	Secured with state contract.
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:			
ML 2011 Natural and Scenic Areas	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	Complete
ML 2011 Regional Parks, Regional Trails and Local Trail Connections	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,777,808	Complete
Other Funding History: Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars are available each year for local parks, funding varies by year. Lottery in Lieu funding is available for local parks and trails, approximately \$800,000 per year. General Fund dollars are available this year for the Local trail connections and local parks \$250,000 each.			

VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. **Partners receiving ENRTF funding: Partners are successful grant recipients.** They will acquire, develop, own, and manage the park and trail facilities. They will provide match dollars as well as covering costs of

appraisals, any required archeological/historical surveys, permits, etc. They will also assume all operations and maintenance costs.

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding: N/A

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: These programs are at the front line of the DNR's effort to partner with local communities in providing access to outdoor recreation opportunities. It is especially important given that most funding sources have greatly diminished for these local programs. Connecting citizens with the outdoors through park and trail facilities enhances Minnesota's stewardship ethic and further the goals of the Department's Strategic Conservation Agenda.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- **The project is for 3 years, will begin on July 1, 2018, and end on June 30, 2021.**
- **Periodic project status update reports will be submitted June 30 of each year.**
- **A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2021.**

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

A. Budget Spreadsheet

B. Visual/Maps – Statewide maps will be provided after each application round showing project locations by program.

C. Parcel List Spreadsheet

D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements

**Attachment A:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2018 Budget Spreadsheet**



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Project Manager: Audrey Mularie

Organization: Department of Natural Resources

College/Department/Division: Parks and Trails

M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation:

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2021

Date of Report: February 16, 2018

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) .15 FTE Grant Specialist position each year for the three year project period. Includes salary and benefits.	\$44,866	\$0	\$44,866
Grants - Construction Costs	\$1,300,000	\$0	\$1,300,000
Grants - Acquisition Fee Title and/or Permanent Easement	\$650,000	\$0	\$650,000
Direct and Necessary Costs: To support the costs related to the program administration *Direct and Necessary expenses: HR Support (~\$668), Safety Support (~\$153), Financial Support (~\$586), Communication Support (~\$1,271), IT Support (~\$1383), and Planning Support (~\$1,073) necessary to accomplish funded programs/projects	\$5,134	\$0	\$5,134
COLUMN TOTAL	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000