

## **Project Abstract**

M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c  
For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

**PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings**

**PROJECT MANAGER: Shelby Kok**

**AFFILIATION:** Department of Natural Resources/Parks and Trails Division

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

**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$2,000,000**

**AMOUNT SPENT: \$1,901,659**

**AMOUNT REMAINING: \$98,341**

## **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 377 acres of land within the statutory boundaries of four Minnesota State Parks and three legislatively authorized State Trail

- Acquired 0.58 acres of land within the Casey Jones State Trail corridor. This parcel provides access and parking to the trail.
- Acquired 158.84 acres of land within Frontenac State Park. This parcel also has a stunning overlook and incredible birding opportunities for unique trail hiking experiences.
- Acquired 18.19 acres of land within the Great River Ridge State Trail corridor. This parcel will allow for growth of the trail 1.5 miles enable a future connection to the town of Eyota.
- Acquired 134.7 acres within Maplewood State Park. This property will preserve high quality hardwood forest-covered hills that blend into a series of scenic rolling agricultural fields, meadows, and wetlands.
- Acquired 59.97 acres within William O'Brien State Park. The parcel will be restored to a historical native prairie setting. This area is under consideration for the new gateway bike trail extension route.
- Acquired 5.4 acres along the Minnesota Valley State Trail corridor. The division of Parks and Trails can now freely act on maintenance concerns that occur on the section that the department owns. The bluff portion contains a relatively diverse terrace forest.

- Acquired 61.04 acres within the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail corridor. This acquisition allows for the trail to be extended an additional 2.75 miles and utilize an existing bridge. Natural resources include a small portion of Hay Creek and a dry bedrock bluff prairie.
- Acquired 68.53 acres within Myre-Big Island State Park. The property will be restored, and it is anticipated that hiking trails will be built for park visitors to utilize and enjoy.

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

All 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.



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

## M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

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**Today's Date:** November 4, 2024  
**Date of Next Status Update Report:** Final Report  
**Date of Work Plan Approval:** June 5, 2019  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2024  
**Does this submission include an amendment request?** N

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**PROJECT TITLE:** Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings  
**Project Manager:** Shelby Kok  
**Organization:** State of Minnesota  
**College/Department/Division:** Department of Natural Resources/Parks and Trails Division  
**Mailing Address:** 500 Lafayette Road, Box 39  
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**Location:** Statewide

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**Total Project Budget:** \$2,000,000  
**Amount Spent:** \$1,901,659  
**Balance:** \$98,341

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**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c

### Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire high-priority in-holdings from willing sellers within the legislatively authorized boundaries of state parks and trails to protect Minnesota's natural heritage, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and improve the efficiency of public land management. Priorities include but are not limited to Minneopa, St. Croix, Frontenac, and Crow Wing State Parks. A list of proposed acquisitions is required in the work plan.

## **I. PROJECT STATEMENT:**

Acquire Minnesota's 75 State Parks and State Recreation Areas and 26 State Trails top priority in-holdings within legislatively established boundaries of from willing sellers.

This proposal is an investment in the future and fulfills State Legislature direction to acquire parcels from willing sellers within legislatively defined State Parks, Recreation Areas and Trails systems. This project will protect and enhance Minnesota's environment, promote positive economic impacts, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Minnesota citizens.

Each State Park, State Recreation Area and State Trail has a master plan. These plans include public, county and local jurisdiction input and define desirable land to be acquired within legislatively defined boundaries and alignments. These parcels represent unique landscapes and natural resources to be managed for the benefit of the public statewide. In addition to preserving and protecting Minnesota's natural resources and cultural heritage, these projects also generate positive local economic impacts created by enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities.

Most Minnesota State Parks and Trails projects are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Interested sellers often have a vision to include their family's treasured property in the State Park and State Trail system so that it can be enjoyed by the public in perpetuity. If funding doesn't exist to pursue an acquisition, the property may be subdivided, developed or taken off the market for decades.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified and ranked each parcel within legislatively defined boundaries and alignments for State Parks and Trails. DNR maintains a general statewide priority list that is reviewed and updated annually. Potential projects are analyzed using investment criteria established in the DNR Parks and Trails System Plan. If a requested acquisition is not successful, an LCCMR workplan amendment to include the next priority State Park, State Recreation Area and State Trail acquisition may be requested.

## **II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**First Update March 1, 2020** One of the four acquisition projects have been appraised. The landowner reviewed and signed the option. As for the other three projects, they are in early phases of acquiring the parcels.

**Second Update September 1, 2020** Frontenac acquisition closed 7/1/2020. As for the other three projects, they are in early phases of acquiring the parcels due to loss of acquisition consultant.

**Amendment Request December 16, 2020** Jennifer Christie has left the Department of Natural Resources and Shelby Kok is filling her old role. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 2/5/2021**

**Third Update March 1, 2021** Minneopa, St. Croix, and Crow Wing State Park parcels are no longer viable at this time because the seller is no longer interested in selling at this time. New parcels have been identified at Casey Jones State Trail, Charles A. Lindbergh State Park and Great River Ridge State Trail.

**Amendment Request April 9, 2021:** Seeking an amendment on the following activities.

**Activity 1:** Seeking an amendment to replace Minneopa State Park 30 acres with a 1-acre trail head on the Casey Jones State Trail. It is expected this amended activity will not use all the allotted activity budget. Will be looking for an additional acquisition to use unutilized funds.

**Activity 2:** Seeking an amendment to replace St. Croix 64 acres with a 12-acre parcel at Charles A. Lindberg State Park. The anticipated budget will be about the same. The land value increase is due to the structures on site and is located along Pike Creek.

**Activity 4:** Seeking an amendment to replace Crow Wing State Park 3 acres with a 18 acre parcel along the legislatively authorized Great River Ridge State Trail. It is expected this amended activity will not use all of the allotted activity budget.

With the amended activities, it is not expected that the allotted funds will all be utilized. A 5<sup>th</sup> Activity will be identified and requested come September 1 update. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/20/2021**

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021:** Activities 1, 3 & 4 are in the development of property information packets to be dispersed to the appraisal unit within Lands and Minerals. Estimated timeline of making an offer is late winter to all landowners.

**Amendment Request September 20, 2021:** Seeking an amendment to add an activity to consume the non-utilized funds. The 5th Activity addition request is 134 acres within Maplewood State Park.

Reduce Activity 3 to reflect accurate costs and to fund the requested Activity 5. These adjustments will not influence the overall appropriated amount.

**Amendment Approved by LCCMR 10/25/2021**

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:** All uncompleted activities have completed appraisals and are on schedule to close on or prior to June 30, 2022.

**Amendment Request April 21, 2022:** Seeking an amendment to add two activities to consume the non-utilized funds. The 6<sup>th</sup> Activity addition request is a split fund on 60 acres within William O'Brien State Park. The 7<sup>th</sup> Activity addition request is 5 acres along the legislatively authorized Minnesota Valley State Trail.

Take the unused funds from Activity 1 and apply to Activities 6 & 7. These additions will not influence the overall appropriated amount.

**Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/04/2022**

**Sixth Update March 1, 2023:** All activities but two have successfully been acquired. The two that have yet to be acquired will be so by fiscal year end. Both of those activities are in the status of preparing/reviewing closing documents. Many of the projects came in under budget. Those remaining activity budgets will be assigned to Activity 6 William O'Brien. Activity 6 is split funded between two different LCCMR appropriations ML19 and ML20.

**Amendment Request April 7, 2023:** Seeking an amendment to increase the budget for professional services amount to accommodate the increase. Those funds would be removed from the anticipated fee title costs. No increase to the overall project is requested.

**Amendment Request May 19, 2023:** Seeking an amendment to take activities from LCCMR ML 21 approved list to consume the soon to be expiring funding, removing an activity that is no longer utilizing LCCMR funding, request extension for Activity 6, and adjust negative balance in the professional services expenditures in the budget report.

- Two activities would be removed from LCCMR 21 grant added to this grant to help consume expiring funding, Goodhue Pioneer State Trail, 60-acres and Jay Cooke State Park, 40-acres (Activities 8 & 9). All associated project costs within the fiscal year 2023 will be expenditure corrected to come out of this grant's appropriation.
- One activity from LCCMR ML21 would be split funded to help consume expiring funds, Activity 10.
- Activity 2 is no longer utilizing LCCMR funding. Replacement activities have been identified above.
- Activity 6 has funds encumbered and a signed option. A utility easement has been identified on the property and there are issues with getting the language cleaned up.

- Increase the amount allotted to professional services costs in the budget report to remove the negative balance. This adjustment will not affect the overall appropriation.

**Amendment Approved by LCCMR 6/21/2023**

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:** All activities have been completed. Currently working on the properties to get them visitor/user ready.

**Seeking Amendment request** to balance out professional services costs and acquisition costs.

**Amendment Approved by LCCMR 9/9/2024**

**Eighth Update March , 2024:** All activities have been completed. Currently working on the properties to get them visitor/user ready.

**Seeking Amendment Request:** It was discovered that funds were approved to be used towards purchasing a publicly owned property, Jay Cook State Park formerly owned by Carlton County. It is proposed to return the expended funds back to LCCMR. There are no projects that can be supplemented to utilize these funds due to the funding was extended to finish a project, that was successful. Once the amendment is approved funds will be sent back.

Jay Cooke State Park Activity was and amended project to the project list. The property owner was clearly stated however in the Landowner Type Column in the List document a typo occurred and listed it under privately owned when it should have stated publicly owned. This error caused an oversight by the reviewer and the submitter for the request. The amendment was approved and should not have been without the LCCMR committees' approval. Since the project has completed there was no opportunity to go back to the committee to seek approval. It was determined that the best course of action was to return the funds spent. To prevent this action to take place in the future these steps have been put in place. Project manager will review LCCMR requirements, project manager with review all data entered to ensure accuracy before submitting for approval, provide the LCCMR reviewer additional context on the property by listing property owner's last name.

**Amendment Approved by LCCMR 10/29/2024**

**Final Update November 4, 2024:** All activities have been completed and \$98,341 was sent back to the fund inaccurate expenditures applied to Jay Cooke State Park.

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024**

*Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund funding resulted in the Department of Natural Resources acquiring approximately 101.29 acres of land within the statutory boundaries of four Minnesota State Parks and three legislatively authorized State Trail*

- Acquired 0.58 acres of land within the Casey Jones State Trail corridor. This parcel provides access and parking to the trail.
- Acquired 158.84 acres of land within Frontenac State Park. This parcel also has a stunning overlook and incredible birding opportunities for unique trail hiking experiences.
- Acquired 18.19 acres of land within the Great River Ridge State Trail corridor. This parcel will allow for growth of the trail 1.5 miles enable a future connection to the town of Eyota.
- Acquired 134.7 acres within Maplewood State Park. This property will preserve high quality hardwood forest-covered hills that blend into a series of scenic rolling agricultural fields, meadows, and wetlands.
- Acquired 59.97 acres within William O'Brien State Park. The parcel will be restored to a historical native prairie setting. This area is under consideration for the new gateway bike trail extension route.

- Acquired 5.4 acres along the Minnesota Valley State Trail corridor. The division of Parks and Trails can now freely act on maintenance concerns that occur on the section that the department owns. The bluff portion contains a relatively diverse terrace forest.
- Acquired 61.04 acres within the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail corridor. This acquisition allows for the trail to be extended an additional 2.75 miles and utilize an existing bridge. Natural resources include a small portion of Hay Creek and a dry bedrock bluff prairie.
- Acquired 68.53 acres within Myre-Big Island State Park. The property will be restored, and it is anticipated that hiking trails will be built for park visitors to utilize and enjoy.

### III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

#### **ACTIVITY 1 Title: Casey Jones State Trail, Murray County, 1 acre**

##### **Description:**

Acquire approximately 1 acre of land located in the legislatively authorized boundary of Casey Jones State Trail. The parcel is an important step in furthering the development of the Casey Jones State Trail. The state has nearly completed a joint powers agreement with Murray County that would allow the county to mow and maintain a hiking trail starting at this trailhead and extending up to two miles to the West. In future years, the management goals for the trail involve connecting this segment to the nearby community of Woodstock. This parcel will provide parking and access to the trail.

#### **ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$15,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 1 acre of land along the legislatively authorized Casey Jones State Trail	June 30, 2022

**First Update March 1, 2020:** Due to vacancy of the parks and trails consultant position this project has not moved forward.

**Second Update September 1, 2020:** There is not much movement on this acquisition due to vacancy with Parks and Trails acquisition consultant position. The beginning of the calendar year an assessment will be conducted to determine if an amendment request will be appropriate or to continue with this parcel.

**Third Update March 1, 2021:** 30 acre Minneopa State Park in-holding landowner is not willing to sell at this point in time. The next priority parcel has been identified along the legislatively authorized Casey Jones State Trail.

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021:** Developing a property information packet to provide to appraisal unit.

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:** Option has been sent to the landowner. The acquisition is on track to close on or prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Amendment Request April 21, 2021:** Seeking to reduce the budget to accurately reflect acquisition costs and take the remainder and apply to Activities 6 and 7.

**Sixth Update March 1, 2023:** 0.58 acres acquired on 06/15/2022.

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:**

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** Initial reporting form submitted 10/31/2024, LCCMR ID 24-101-001.

**ACTIVITY 2 Title: Charles A. Lindbergh State Park, Morrison County, 12 acers**

**Description:**

Acquire approximately 12 acres of land located in legislatively authorized boundary of Charles A. Lindberg State. This parcel has Pike Creek running through, which is a tributary to the Mississippi River. This property is ideal for trail expansion, additional canoe campsites and a visual buffer to surrounding development.

**ACTIVITY 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$250,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1 Acquire 12 acres within Charles A Lindbergh State Park boundary	June 30, 2022

**First Update March 1, 2020** Due to vacancy of the parks and trails consultant position this project has not moved forward.

**Second Update September 1, 2020** There is not much movement on this acquisition due to vacancy with Parks and Trails acquisition consultant position. The beginning of the calendar year an assessment will be conducted to determine if an amendment request will be appropriate or to continue with this parcel.

**Third Update March 1, 2021:** 64 acre St. Croix State Park in-holing parcel landowner is not willing to sell at this point in time. The next priority parcel has been identified within the statutory boundary of Charles A. Lindbergh State Park.

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021** Phase 1 environmental site assessment has been completed. The property information packet will soon go to the appraisal unit within the division of Lands and Minerals.

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:** Recently received the appraisal. Review of DNR appraisal and landowner's appraisal is due 4/15/2022. Project is still on track for closing on or prior to 6/30/2022.

**Sixth Update March 1, 2023:** Closing documents have been reviewed and we are now entering into closing and encumbering funds to pay landowner.

**Amendment Request May 19, 2023:** This activity is no longer utilizing LCCMR funding. Additional activities have been identified and requested to be added during this amendment to consume available funds. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 6/21/2023**

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:**

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024**

**ACTIVITY 3 Title: Frontenac State Park, In-holding, Goodhue County, ~158 acre**

**Description:**

Acquire approximately 158 acres 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.

**ACTIVITY 3 ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 400,000**



Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~158 acres of land within Frontenac State Park boundary	June 30, 2022

**First Update March 1, 2020** Funds are encumbered to purchase parcel. Working on creating election to purchase to provide to landowners.

**Second Update September 1, 2020** Parcel was closed on 7/1/2020. Still paying professional services. Working on operational aspects on getting signage posted and updating the unit's management plan with the addition of the new parcel.

**Third Update March 1, 2021:**

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021:**

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:**

**Sixth Update March 1, 2023:**

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:**

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** Initial report submitted LCCMR ID 21-049-001.

#### **ACTIVITY 4 Title: Great River Ridge State Trail, Olmsted County, 18 acres**

##### **Description:**

Acquire 18 acre parcel along the legislatively authorized Great River Ridge State Trail. This parcel is a retired Chicago and North Western Railway rail line. Purchasing this parcel will allow for growth of the trail 1.5 miles enable a future connection to the town of Eyota. Trail uses approved by the master plan include bicycling, hiking, inline skating, snowmobiling, and horseback riding.

#### **ACTIVITY 4 ENRTF BUDGET: \$450,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 18 acres of land along the legislatively authorized Great River Ridge State Trail	June 30, 2022

**First Update March 1, 2020** Due to vacancy of the parks and trails consultant position this project has not moved forward.

**Second Update September 1, 2020** There is not much movement on this acquisition due to vacancy with Parks and Trails acquisition consultant position. The beginning of the calendar year an assessment will be conducted to determine if an amendment request will be appropriate or to continue with this parcel.

**Third Update March 1, 2021:** 3-acre Crow Wing State Park in-holdings parcel landowner is not willing to sell at this point in time. The next priority parcel has been identified along the legislatively authorized Great River Ridge State Trail.

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021:** Phase 1 environmental site assessment has been completed. The property information packet will soon go to the appraisal unit within the division of Lands and Minerals.

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:** Option has been sent to the landowner. This project is on track to close on or prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Sixth Update March 1, 2023:** Acquired 18.19 acres on 6/30/2022. This activity came in substantially less than anticipated. There is \$333,000 remaining and will be reallocated to Activity 6 William O'Brien.

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:**

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** Initial report submitted 10/31/2024, LCCMR ID 24-109-001.

**ACTIVITY 5 Title: Maplewood State Park, Otter Tail County, 134 acres**

**Description:**

Acquire a 134 acre property within the statutory boundary of Maplewood State Park. This property will preserve high quality hardwood forest-covered hills that blend into a series of scenic rolling agricultural fields, meadows, and wetlands. Fritz Lake is partially included within this parcel along with numerous ponds and wetlands supporting a wide variety of wildlife habitat (nesting trumpeter swans, eagles and sandhill cranes).

**ACTIVITY 5 ENRTF BUDGET: \$600,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 134 acres of land within the statutory boundary of Maplewood State Park	June 30, 2022

**First Update March 1, 2020 :** Nothing to report activity added during fourth update.

**Second Update September 1, 2020 :** Nothing to report activity added during fourth update.

**Third Update March 1, 2021:** Nothing to report activity added during fourth update.

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021:** Landowners contacted the DNR looking to sell their parcel of land. Lands and Minerals staff is working on assembling a property information packet to present to the appraisal unit.

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:** Received title option. Currently prepping and reviewing title documents. Project will close on or prior to 6/30/2022.

**Sixth Update March 1, 2022:** 134.70 acres acquired on 04/19/2022. This property came in substantially less than anticipated. Remaining funds will be reallocated to Activity 6 William O'Brien.

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:** Initial reporting form submitted 11/2/2024, LCCMR ID 24-111-001.

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024**

**ACTIVITY 6 Title: William O' Brien State Park , Washington County, 60 acres**

**Description:**

Acquire a 60-acre property within the statutory boundary of Maplewood State Park. The project would be split funded with M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09k, "Minnesota State Parks and State Trails". This parcel would close the western side of the park boundary. The parcel would be restored to a historical native prairie setting extending the naturalist communities of this region. This area is under consideration for the new gateway bike trail extension route. This parcel would help protect higher quality resources in other areas by redirecting the trail to this added parcel.

**ACTIVITY 6 ENRTF BUDGET: \$220,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 60 acres of land within the statutory boundary of William O'Brien State Park	June 30, 2022

**First Update March 1, 2020:**

**Second Update September 1, 2020:** Initial conversations with the landowner. Received divisional approval to proceed with purchase. Original agreement was for 20 acres

**Third Update March 1, 2021:** Landowner became discouraged with how long of a process it was working with the DNR. Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota (PTCM) was asked to step in to help acquire this parcel in a quicker manor. The DNR would then purchase from. PTCM was able to negotiate with the landowner to not only acquire the 20 acres but an additional 40 acres. That helps close out the western park boundary and limits the number of future transactions with this landowner.

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021:** PTCM is still working on negotiations with the landowner.

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:** PTCM has officially acquired the property. Now the DNR is working on acquiring from PTCM. Appraisal has been received preparing the option to provide to PTCM.

**Amendment Request April 21, 2021:** Requesting to add this additional activity due to other activities not utilizing their full appropriated amounts. As of today, PTCM has signed the option and we have requested the abstract of title commitment.

**Sixth Update March 1, 2023:** The lean has yet to be satisfied. It has been made clear that it will be satisfied this spring. It was also found that there is a pipeline easement on the property. The landowner is working with the utility company to clean up the easement language prior to becoming the State's property. The acquisition is on track to close by fiscal year end.

**Amendment Request May 19, 2023:** Seeking an amendment to extend the appropriation for this activity for one year. Currently this project the funding has been encumbered, there is a signed option, and a request has been made for the abstract of title commitment. There is still a chance this project will be closed by fiscal year end. An easement with a utility company was discovered during the project and there is a need to get some easement language cleaned up before the state can acquire the property. Due to the lack in response from the utility company it is unsure this project will close by fiscal year end. These conversations have been taking place since fall of 2022. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 6/21/2023**

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:** 59.97 acres were acquired on June 21, 2023. The property is currently undergoing site cleanup to start restoration efforts.

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** Initial reporting form submitted 10/29/2024, LCCMR ID 24-163-002.

**ACTIVITY 7 Title: Minnesota Valley State Trail, Scott County, 5 acres**

**Description:**

Acquire a 5-acre property along the legislatively authorized Minnesota Valley State Trail. Acquiring the property would allow PAT to freely act on maintenance concerns that occur on the section that we own as an example having access for equipment for repaving, adding a culvert, storm cleanup, emergencies, etc. The bluff portion contains a relatively diverse terrace forest containing oak, basswood, cherry, hackberry along with some elm and boxelder.

**ACTIVITY 7 ENRTF BUDGET: \$20,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 5 acres of land along the legislatively authorized Minnesota Valley State Trail	June 30, 2022

**First Update March 1, 2020 :**

**Second Update September 1, 2020 :**

**Third Update March 1, 2021:**

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021:** Initiated conversations with landowner to determine if there was any interested in selling land to the state.

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:** The landowner signed the option. Currently in process of creating an option acceptance letter.

**Amendment Request April 21, 2021:** Requesting to add this additional activity due to other activities not utilizing their full appropriated amounts. As of today, we are preparing an election to purchase.

**Sixth Update March 1, 2023:** 5.40 acres acquired on 12/16/2022.

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:**

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** Initial report submitted 11/2/2024, LCCMR ID 24-139-001.

**ACTIVITY 8 Title: Goodhue Pioneer State Trail, Goodhue County, 60 acres**

**Description:**

Corridor is on the statutory corridor of the authorized Goodhue Pioneer State Trail. Prairie bluffslands, woods and abandoned railroad corridor for the construction of a multi-use trail between Red Wing and Zumbrota. This parcel would connect the present Goodhue Pioneer State Trail that runs from Red Wing to Hay Creek to abandoned railroad right-of-way already in State ownership. This would allow the trail to be extended an additional 2.75 miles and utilize an existing bridge. Natural resources include a small portion of Hay Creek (approximately 300 feet), an important trout stream, and a dry bedrock bluff prairie. Other vegetation includes 9 acres of tilled land and oak forest. No known cultural resources are present.

**ACTIVITY 8 ENRTF BUDGET: \$458,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 60 acres of land along the legislatively authorized Goodhue Pioneer State Trail	June 30, 2022

**Amendment Request May 19, 2023:** Seeking an amendment to add this parcel onto this grant. This property is nearly acquired, currently drafting an election to purchase and the title is sitting with the attorney for review. This activity is being pulled from LCCMR ML21 list, a replacement activity will be found for that grant. Currently drafting the title opinion. Should close by fiscal year end. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 6/21/2023**

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:** 61.04 acres were acquired on June 12, 2023.

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** Initial report submitted 11/4/2024, LCCMR ID 24-049-002.

**ACTIVITY 9 Title: Jay Cooke State Park, Carlton County, 40 acres****Description:**

40-acre parcel entirely within the statutory boundary of Jay Cooke State Park. It is all forest cover. By purchasing this property, it will help eliminate and trespass situations by park visitors, clear the confusion on allowable uses, and will help with management. This parcel also contains a portion of the Superior Hiking Trail.

**ACTIVITY 9 ENRTF BUDGET: \$95,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 40 acres of inside the statutory boundary of Jay Cooke State Park	June 30, 2022

**Amendment Request May 19, 2023:** Seeking an amendment to add this parcel onto this grant. This property is nearly acquired, currently drafting an election to purchase and the title is sitting with the attorney for review. This activity is being pulled from LCCMR ML21 list, a replacement activity will be found for that grant. Project is currently under title opinion review and should be completed by fiscal year end. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 6/21/2023**

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:** 40 acres were acquired on July 31, 2023.

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024 and Amendment Request:** A mistake was discovered that this project was approved to be funded with LCCMR funding. This is a publicly owned property, Carlton County. Given that it is a public property it does not fit the requirements to utilize LCCMR funding. These funds are to be returned.

**Amendment Approved by LCCMR 10/29/2024**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** There was an initial report submitted but has since been removed due to funding being returned.

**ACTIVITY 10 Title: Myre-Big Island State Park, Mower County, 70 acres****Description:**

70-acre parcel entirely within the statutory boundary of Myre-Big Island State Park. The lands were historically oak savannah that have been managed under a cultivated regime for decades. The lands surrounding this property were inhabited by native peoples for centuries. It is expected that there will be cultural artifacts throughout the property. The proposed property will be restored, and it is anticipated that hiking trails will be built for park visitors to utilize and enjoy.

**ACTIVITY 9 ENRTF BUDGET: \$200,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 70 acres of inside the statutory boundary of Myre-Big Island State Park	June 30, 2022

**Amendment Request May 19, 2023:** Seeking an amendment to add this parcel onto this grant. This property has been acquired utilizing LCCMR ML21 funds. Due to this appropriation expiring at fiscal year end and the many of this appropriation's activities coming in grossly underestimated it is being asked to split fund this property to utilize the remaining funds. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 6/21/2023**

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:** 68.53 acers were acquired on 12/23/22.

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:**

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** Initial report submitted 11/2/2024, LCCMR ID 24-047-002.

**IV. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:**

Dissemination of the completed land acquisitions would primarily be through updating state park and state trail maps and website as land and the new trail corridor that this property is now available for public use and enjoyment. Depending on the acquisition, a local news release may be created and distributed to local newspapers and media.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

**First Update March 1, 2020** No dissemination has been performed at this time.

**Second Update September 1, 2020** When a land acquisition closes, MnDNR updates public maps to show land is MnDNR managed land for the public to use and enjoy. Frontenac State Park map is currently underway of being updated to show the acquisition.

**Third Update March 1, 2021** No additional dissemination has been performed at this time.

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021** No additional dissemination has been performed at this time.

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022:** Frontenac State Park maps and website have been updated to include the new ownership.

**Sixth Update March 1, 2023:** Maplewood State Park maps and website have been updated to include new ownership.

**Seventh Update September 1, 2023:** William O'Brien, Charles Lindbergh, and Myre Big Island State Park maps have been updated to include new ownership along with the Goodhue Pioneer Trail map.

**Eighth Update March 1, 2024:** Maps have been created for all the acquired properties to be posted at the sites for the public to view the success.

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2024:** Sites have maps posted of the acquired lands and maps have been updated online showing recently added parcels.

**V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:**

Not applicable.

**VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners outside of project manager's organization receiving ENRTF funding**

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
None	--	---	--

**B. Partners outside of project manager's organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota	Non-Governmental Organization	Like-minded Organization	Partner

**VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

Acquire critical in-holding parcels located within statutory boundary and included in the master plans of State Parks and State Recreation Areas and acquire in-holdings of land located within statutory authorized and included in the master plans 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. Each year approximately \$5 million worth of private in-holding parcels inside the statutory boundary will become available from willing sellers.

With the continued support of the LCCMR, the Department of Natural Resources-Division of Parks and Trails expects to keep moving forward to fulfill each of the 75 state park and recreation area master plans and acquire critical parcels within statutory boundary for preservation, recreation, education and habitat restoration on behalf of the public. These land acquisitions positively contribute towards local community economy.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

- Project status update reports will be submitted March 1 and September 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2022

**IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:**

- A. Budget Spreadsheet**
- B. Visual Component or Map**
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet**
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**

**Attachment A:****Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund****M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet****Legal Citation:** M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c**Project Manager:** Shelby Kok**Project Title:** Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings**Organization:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**Project Budget:** \$2,000,000**Project Length and Completion Date:** 5 years, June 30, 2025**Today's Date:** November 4, 2024

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>				
<b>Fee Title Acquisition</b>				
Acquire estimated 255 acres in fee title. If successful, the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources will hold the title.		\$ 1,874,077	\$ 1,782,077	\$ 92,000
<b>Professional Services for Acquisition</b>				
Professional service expenses and other transaction related charges including, but not limited to, the appraisal, survey, titlework, closing costs-recording fees and deed tax required and necessary for the proposed land acquisitions to transfer clear title.		\$ 125,923	\$ 119,582	\$ 6,341
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>		\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,901,659	\$ 98,341
PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
<b>Current appropriation:</b>				
M.L. 2019, Subd 9c		\$2,000,000	\$ 1,901,659	\$ 98,341
<b>Past appropriations:</b>				
M.L. 2018, Subd 9k (Acquisitions in progress. Funds expire 6/30/2022)	\$ 36,866	\$2,500,000	\$ 2,463,134	\$ 36,866
M.L. 2017, Subd 9c	\$ 3,024	\$1,500,000	\$ 1,496,976	\$ 3,024
M.L. 2015, Subd 9a	\$ -	\$1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
M.L. 2013, Subd 4a	\$ -	\$1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -
*10.01.23 Amendment request to adjust negative balance in professional services <b>Amendment Approved by LCCMR 9/9/2024</b> 03.01.24 remove Jay Cooke State Park from project list and the associated funding has been returned. <b>Amendment Approved by LCCMR 10/29/2024</b>				





**ENVIRONMENT  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
TRUST FUND**

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hems.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for- profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway).
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Minnesota State Park	44° 11' 36.5" N	94° 9' 37.1" N	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,250	Blue Earth	In future years, the management goals for the trail involve connecting this segment to the nearby community of Woodstock. This parcel will provide parking and access to the trail.	Fee Title Acquisition	30	700 feet	Private Individual	Fee Title	Canceled
1	Casey Jones State Trail	43° 59' 43.5" N	95° 57' 25.6" N	\$ 15,000	\$ 113	Murray	This parcel has a Pike Creek running through, which is a tributary to the Mississippi River. This property is ideal for trail expansion, additional canoe campsites and a visual buffer to surrounding development.	Fee Title Acquisition	1	0	Non-Profit Organization	Fee Title	Acquired 6.15.2022
2	St. Croix State Park	46° 0' 38.5" N	92° 32' 57.7" N	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,875	Pine	Fulfilling 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 views of Lake Superior from its scenic trail hikes.	Fee Title Acquisition	64	0	Private Individual	Fee Title	Canceled
2	Charles A Lindbergh	45° 57' 15.79" N	92° 23' 32.3" N	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,875	Morrison	Preservation of very high natural and cultural resource values and protection of 370 feet along the Crow Wing River State Water Trail, near the confluence with the Mississippi River. This parcel would also offer additional recreational opportunities such as hiking trails and access to the river.	Fee Title Acquisition	12	900 feet	Non-Profit Organization	Fee Title	Canceled
3	Frontenac State Park	44° 31' 14.9" N	92° 21' 3.9" N	\$400,000	\$ 3,000	Goodhue	Retired Chicago and North Western Railway rail line. Vegetation found on the parcel includes trees and shrubs (aspens, boulder, cottonwood, walnut, cherry, crab apple, gooseberry, raspberry), grasses (brome, reed canary, cattails), forbs. Two wetlands are on either side of the rail line on the south end of this acquisition. This parcel will add 1.5 miles to the 13 mile trail when development is complete.	Fee Title Acquisition	158	0	Non-Profit Organization	Fee Title	Acquired 7.1.2020
4	Crow Wing State Park	46° 16' 59.1" N	94° 20' 45.6" N	\$ 450,000	\$ 3,375	Crow Wing	High quality hardwood forest-covered hills that blend into a series of scenic rolling agricultural fields, meadows, and wetlands. Fritz Lake is partially included within this parcel along with numerous ponds and wetlands supporting a wide variety of wildlife habitat (nesting trumpeter swans, eagles and sandhill cranes).	Fee Title Acquisition	3	370 feet	Private Individual	Fee Title	Canceled
4	Great River Ridge State Trail	44° 0' 15.1" N	92° 15' 14.2" N	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,125	Olmstead	Preservation high quality hardwood forest-covered hills that blend into a series of scenic rolling agricultural fields, meadows, and wetlands. Fritz Lake is partially included within this parcel along with numerous ponds and wetlands supporting a wide variety of wildlife habitat (nesting trumpeter swans, eagles and sandhill cranes).	Fee Title Acquisition	18	0	Non-Profit Organization	Fee Title	Acquired 6.30.2022
5	Maplewood State Park	44° 0' 15.1" N	92° 15' 14.2" N	\$ 600,000	\$ 4,500	Otter Tail	This parcel would close the western side of the park boundary. The parcel would be restored to a historical native prairie setting extending the naturalist communities of this region. This area is under consideration for the new gateway bike trail extension route. This parcel would help protect higher quality resources in other areas by redirecting the trail to this added parcel.	Fee Title Acquisition	134	550 feet	Private Individual	Fee Title	Acquired 4.19.2022
6	William O'Brien State Park	45° 13' 13.30"N	92° 47' 47.90"W	\$ 220,000	\$ 1,650	Washington	Acquiring the property would allow PAT to freely act on maintenance concerns that occur on the section that we own as an example having access for equipment for repaving, adding a culvert, storm cleanup, emergencies, etc. The bluff portion contains a relatively diverse terrace forest containing oak, basswood, cherry, hackberry along with some elm and bowlder.	Fee Title Acquisition	60	0	Non-Profit Organization	Fee Title	Acquired 6.21.2023
7	Minnesota Valley State Trail	44° 47' 21.40" N	93° 33' 28.97" W	\$ 20,000	\$ 150	Scott	Acquiring this property will allow PAT to continue the development of the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail and allow for the connection of a bridge already in place. It will also allow for the opportunity of anglers to have addition access to Hay Creek for fishing.	Fee Title Acquisition	5	0	Private Individual	Fee Title	Acquired 12.16.2022
8	Goodhue Pioneer State Trail	44° 29' 20.85"N	92° 33' 06.7"W	\$ 485,000	\$ 3,638	Goodhue	Acquiring this property will allow for continuous and effective management. Currently it is county owned and it is difficult to manage hunting on park property because the rules are different from state to county. This property is completely compromised of forest.	Fee Title Acquisition	60	2,000 feet	Private Individual	Fee Title	Acquired 6.12.2023
9	Jay Cooke State Park	46° 40' 36.33"N	92° 48' 32.30"W	\$ 05,000	\$ 733	Carlton	Acquiring this property will allow PAT to restore the land to previous use. It was historically comprised of oak savanna and some wet lands. It is anticipated there could be many historical artifacts on this property knowing this was an area native people use to inhabit. The future planned use for the property would be to allow for hiking trails for visitors to use and enjoy.	Fee Title Acquisition	40	0	Private Individual	Fee Title	Acquired 6-26-2023 Paid with by non-LCCMR Funds
10	Myre-Big Island State Park	43° 38' 46.61"N	93° 18' 41.15"W	\$ 20,000	\$ 150	Freeborn		Fee Title Acquisition	70	0	Private Individual	Fee Title	Acquired 10.23.2022
<b>NOTES: Amendment Request March 25 2021: Seeking an amendment on the following activities.</b> • Activity 1: Seeking an amendment to replace Minnesota State Park 30 acres with a 1 acre trail head on the Casey Jones State Trail. • Activity 2: Seeking an amendment to replace St. Croix 64 acres with a 12 acre parcel at Charles A. Lindberg State Park. • Activity 4 : Seeking an amendment to replace Crow Wing Stat Park 3 acres with a 18 acre parcel along the legislatively authorized Great River Ridge State Trail. The expected project cost of all activities are not expected to utilize the entire appropriated budget. A 5th Activity will be identified and requested come September 1 update. <b>Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/20/2021</b> <b>Amendment Request September 20, 2021: Seeking and amendment on the following activities.</b> • Activity 5: Seeking an amendment to add this activity to utilize appropriated funds that would not be spent without this addition. This acquisition is 134 acres within the statutory boundaries of Maplewood State Park. • Activity 3: Seeking an amendment to reduce the budget of this activity to the actual activity amount. Move the reduced funds to Activity 5 to fully fund that activity. These adjustment will not change the overall appropriation. <b>Amendment Request April 21, 2021: Seeking amendment on the following activities</b> • Activity 6: Seeking an amendment to add this activity to utilize appropriated funds that would not be spent without this addition. This acquisition is 60 acres within the statutory boundaries of William O'Brian State Park. • Activity 7: Seeking an amendment to add this activity to utilize appropriated funds that would not be spent without this addition. This acquisition is 5 acres within the legislatively authorized Minnesota Valley State Trail. • Activity 1: Seeking an amendment reduce the budget of this activity to the actual activity amount. The original amount allocated was \$300,000 and the replacement project will only utilize \$15,000. Move the reduced funds to Activity 6 & 7 to fully fund those activities. These adjustment will not change the overall appropriation <b>Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/04/2022</b> <b>Amendment Request May 19, 2023: Seeking amendment on the following activities</b> • Activity 6: Seeking an amendment to add this activity to utilize appropriated funds that would not be spent without this addition. This acquisition is 60 acres within the legislatively authorized Goodhue Pioneer State Trail. • Activity 7: Seeking an amendment to add this activity to utilize appropriated funds that would not be spent without this addition. This acquisition is 40 acres within the statutory boundaries of Jay Cooke State Park. • Activity 10 : Seeking an amendment to add this activity to utilize appropriated funds that would not be spent without this addition. This acquisition is 70 acres within the statutory boundaries of Myer-Big Island State Park. • Activity 2: Seeking an amendment to remove this activity. <b>Amendment Approved by LCCMR 6/21/2023</b> <b>Amendment Request March 1, 2024: Seeking amendment on the following activity</b> <del>Added to the existing list of activities and approved for funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding.</del> <b>Amendment Requested March 1, 2024: Seeking amendment on the following activity</b> <del>Added to the existing list of activities and approved for funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding.</del> <b>Amendment Requested March 1, 2024: Seeking amendment on the following activity</b> <del>Added to the existing list of activities and approved for funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding.</del> <b>Amendment Requested March 1, 2024: Seeking amendment on the following activity</b> <del>Added to the existing list of activities and approved for funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding.</del> <b>Amendment Requested March 1, 2024: Seeking amendment on the following activity</b> <del>Added to the existing list of activities and approved for funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding. The funds were used to the extent of LCCMR funding.</del> <b>Amendment Requested March 1, 2024: Seeking amendment on the following activity</b> <del>Added to the existing list of activities and approved for funding. The funds were used to the extent of</del>													