



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

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

Today's Date: August 24, 2018
Date of Next Status Update Report: March 1, 2020
Date of Work Plan Approval: TBD
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2022
Does this submission include an amendment request? N

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings
Project Manager: Jennifer Christie
Organization: State of Minnesota
College/Department/Division: Department of Natural Resources/Parks and Trails Division
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City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55155
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Location: Statewide

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

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx
Appropriation Language: TBD

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

Second Update September 1, 2021

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2022

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Minneopa State Park, In-holding, Blue Earth County, ~30 acre

Description:

Acquire approximately 30 acres of land located in legislatively authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park. The property is in the middle of the State Park and would provide buffer protection for the Minnesota River. Combined with another parcel, it will create a contiguous 195 acres rather than a fragmented gap in protected land. The goal is to connect this land to the campground, Bison Range and Seppmann Mill.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$300,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~30 acres within Minneopa State Park boundary	June 30, 2022

First Update March 1, 2020

Second Update September 1, 2021

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2022

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

ACTIVITY 2 Title: St. Croix State Park, In-holding, Pine County, ~64 acre

Description:

Acquire approximately 64 acres of land located in legislatively authorized boundary of St. Croix State Park. This parcel has a tributary stream that connects to Wilbur Brook, which is a trout stream. DNR property is adjacent to this parcel on three sides. This area will create a link with existing hiking trails and has potential for a new group camping feature per the recently updated Master Plan.

ACTIVITY 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$250,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~64 acres within St. Croix State Park boundary	June 30, 2022

First Update March 1, 2020

Second Update September 1, 2021

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2022

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

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: \$1,000,000

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

First Update March 1, 2020

Second Update September 1, 2021

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2022

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

ACTIVITY 4 Title: Crow Wing State Park, In-holding, Crow Wing County, ~3 acres

Description:

Acquire the last 3-acre in-holding in the Crow Wing State Park peninsula to fulfill peninsula element of the Master Plan. The property is adjacent to state park land on three sides and the Crow Wing River on one side. This parcel contains very high natural and cultural resource values and would protect 370 feet along the Crow Wing River State Water Trail near the confluence with the Mississippi River. Consolidated management and contiguous outdoor recreation opportunities, such as hiking trails and access to the river are major benefits.

ACTIVITY 4 ENRTF BUDGET: \$450,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~3 acres of land within Crow Wing State Park boundary	June 30, 2022

First Update March 1, 2020

Second Update September 1, 2021

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2022

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

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

Second Update September 1, 2021

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2022

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

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: TBD
Project Manager: Jennifer Christie
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: 3 years, June 30, 2022
Today's Date: August 24, 2018

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM				
Fee Title Acquisition				
Acquire estimated 255 acres in fee title. If successful, the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources will hold the title.		\$ 1,950,000	\$0	\$ 1,950,000
Professional Services for Acquisition				
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.		\$ 50,000	\$0	\$ 50,000
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000
PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS		Budget	Spent	Balance
Current appropriation:				
M.L. 2019, Subd XX		\$2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000
Past appropriations:				
M.L. 2018, Subd 9k (Acquisitions in progress. Funds expire 6/30/2021)		\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000
M.L. 2017, Subd 9c (Acquisitions in progress. Funds expire 6/30/2020)		\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000
M.L. 2015, Subd 9a		\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
M.L. 2013, Subd 4a		\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -

Attachment C:

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2019 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet

Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings

Legal Citation: TBD

Project Manager: Jennifer Christie

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

College/Department/Division: Parks and Trails Division

M.L. 2019 ENRTF Appropriation: TBD

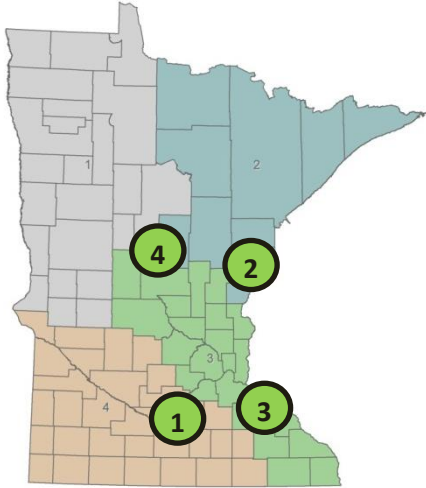
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2022

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#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include 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	Minneopa State Park	44° 11' 36.5" N	94° 9' 37.1" N	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,250	Blue Earth	Provide buffer protection for the Minnesota River. Combined with another parcel, it will create a contiguous 195 acres rather than a fragmented gap within State Park.	Fee Title Acquisition	30	700 feet	Private Individual	Fee Title	Not Started
2	St. Croix State Park	46° 0' 38.5" N	92° 32' 57.7" N	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,875	Pine	Protect a tributary stream that connects to Wilbur Brook, which is a trout stream. This area will create a link with existing hiking trails and has potential for a new group camping feature per the recently updated Master Plan.	Fee Title Acquisition	64	0	Private Individual	Fee Title	Not Started
3	Frontenac State Park	44° 31' 14.9" N	92° 21' 3.9" N	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Goodhue	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 birding opportunities for unique trail hiking experiences.	Fee Title Acquisition	158	0	Non-Profit Organization	Fee Title	Not Started
4	Crow Wing State Park	46° 16' 59.1" N	94° 20' 45.6" N	\$ 450,000	\$ 3,375	Crow Wing	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	3	370 feet	Private Individual	Fee Title	Not Started
NOTES:													

**2019 LCCMR
Land Acquisition Proposed Projects**



1 2019 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Minneopa State Park ~30 acres

Map #	Facility Name	County	Acres
1	Minneopa State Park	Blue Earth	30
2	St. Croix State Park	Pine	64
3	Frontenac State Park	Goodhue	158
4	Crow Wing State Park	Cass	3

2 2019 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: St. Croix State Park ~64 acres

3 2019 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Frontenac State Park ~158 acres

4 2019 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Crow Wing State Park ~3 acres

Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

Acquisition Information:

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, when the status of a parcel changes after additional information is evaluated or when willing seller approaches the MnDNR to sell their land to the State.

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 MnDNR-Parks and Trails Division utilizes a two-filter evaluation process to initially identify and help prioritize parcels based on the active willing sellers list. Division selected parcels are then reviewed by the MnDNR regional managers from other MnDNR Divisions within the Department to ensure parcels meet and exceed Department's Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) goals and objectives, which include proactive and frequent communication with local governmental agencies.

The first filter is for each state park manager to assign a priority ranking for the private parcels located within the statutory boundary, also known as in-holdings, for the park. The regional parks and trails staff and 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. Lands considered the highest importance to the mission of the state park, such as high resource or high recreational potential, is given an A-ranking.

This second filter evaluation looks into 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 and watershed 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 internal discussions determine which parcels should be included in the upcoming funding request proposals. During a funding cycle, the identified funding proposal list may be revised due to failed negotiations or another priority parcel being identified.

When a parcel is identified for acquisition, the Park Manager discusses the priority ranking with the Regional Manager and/or the Acquisition Program Consultant. If they determine the site merits greater review and evaluation, the park manager is asked to fill out a Real Estate/Acquisition Proposal Form.

The Regional Parks and Trails Manager, Acquisition and Development Manager, and Division Acquisition Program Consultant evaluates various factors and land attributes described on the Real Estate/Acquisition Proposal Form. They discuss what other priority acquisitions are available, the current funding availability, and then decide whether to present the new parcel to the Division Director.

The Division Director determines if staff proceeds with the acquisition. Depending on the funding availability and/or urgency of the acquisition, staff pursues the acquisition with current funds or the parcel is placed on our priority list for

future acquisitions as funding is available. The Commissioner of Natural Resources delegated authority to the Division Directors and Regional Directors to approve acquisitions when the land acquisition property is identified as a high priority based on system priority plans which meets the objectives and criteria identified in the master plan for each outdoor recreation unit. The proposed land acquisitions are reviewed, evaluated and approved within each region's respective spring SLAM meeting, which includes a representative from the Commissioner's office, to ensure proposed acquisitions meet and exceed program criteria and that proactive, effective communications occurs with local governmental agencies to enhance relationship building opportunities.

- 2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.**

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/parks/strategic/0212_pat_strategic_plan.pdf

- 3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.**

The State Parks and Trails resource management staff is responsible for the restoration and management of the natural/undeveloped areas not planned for facilities. For restoration efforts like converting an old field to a prairie, bonding and Legacy funds are eligible and used. Legacy monies and other sources, such as general fund and the State Parks working capital fund are used for long-term maintenance of the communities once the site has been restored.

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

- 4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.**

For State Park and State Trail land acquisitions, county board approval is not required, nor obtained. However, when legislation is proposed to change the statutory authorized boundary, an informational presentation to the county board 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.

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

Land acquisition projects selected for ENRTF funding are vetted and reviewed through MnDNR internal fact sheet acquisition approval process.