



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2020-044

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: August 13, 2021

Project Title: Minnesota State Parks And State Trails Inholdings

Project Budget: \$3,500,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Shelby Kok

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

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Web Address: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails/index.html

Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: August 13, 2021

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2024

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2024

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c

Appropriation Language: \$3,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire high-priority inholdings from willing sellers within the legislatively authorized boundaries of state parks, recreation areas, and trails to protect Minnesota's natural heritage, enhance outdoor recreation, and promote tourism.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

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

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

This proposal is an investment in the future, fulfilling legislative direction to acquire parcels from willing sellers within legislatively authorized and defined state parks, state recreation areas and along state trail corridors. This project will protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources, promote positive economic impacts and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Minnesota citizens and visitors. Most Minnesota state parks and trails in-holdings are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Interested willing sellers often have a vision to include their family's treasured property as a part of a State Park or State Trail for the public to enjoy their land into perpetuity. If funding is unavailable to pursue an acquisition, the property is at risk to be subdivided, developed or taken off the market for decades

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

Currently, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) does not own and manage on behalf of the public approximately 15% (41,900 acres) of land located within the legislatively approved and statutorily described boundaries of the 66 Minnesota state parks and nine state recreation areas. The MN DNR currently owns and manages on behalf of the public approximately 50% of the land needed to complete the 26 legislatively authorized State Trails. The MN DNR has identified and ranked each parcel within legislatively defined boundaries and alignments for state parks and Trails. The MN DNR maintains, reviews and annually updates a general statewide priority list of willing sellers. Potential projects are analyzed using investment criteria established in the DNR Parks and Trails System Plan.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The parcels identified in this project represent in many cases unique landscapes and natural resources that will be managed for the benefit of the public statewide. The successful acquisition of the identified properties will result in expanded natural and cultural resources protection and restoration, environmental educational programming, increased economic activity in local communities, and enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities to engage current and future generations in Minnesota's great outdoors.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Glendalough State Park, Otter Tail County - State Park In-holding

Activity Budget: \$1,000,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the acquisition and protection of approximately 155 acres, which contains over 2,200 feet of Blanche Lake shoreline and over 700 feet of pristine creek frontage with abundant emergent and aquatic vegetation contained entirely within the legislative state park boundaries. The upland areas contain high quality oak forest that is contiguous with the forested State Park lands. This parcel is located in a major migratory corridor for forest birds and waterfowl. The parcel also provides potential for additional public outdoor recreational opportunities through expansion of existing State Park hiking trails.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Property Acquisition Documents Complete	June 30, 2022
Property Valuation Complete	June 30, 2023
Property Acquisition Complete	June 30, 2024

Activity 2: Tettegouche State Park, Lake County - State Park In-holding

Activity Budget: \$1,000,000

Activity Description:

The proposed acquisition of the referenced property will result in the conservation of approximately 650 feet of Lake Superior shoreline and preserve the famous views from Palisade Head. This property is comprised of approximately 18 acres and is identified as the "Palisade Coast" in the State Park management plan. The property also contains the mouth of and nearly 1,500 feet of the designated trout stream "Palisade Creek", a number of unique natural communities with rare plant and animal species and significant geologic features. These qualities, qualify Palisade Head for inclusion in the Minnesota Natural Areas Registry.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Property Acquisition Documents Complete	June 30, 2022
Property Valuation Complete	June 30, 2023
Property Acquisition Complete	June 30, 2024

Activity 3: Tettegouche State Park, Lake County - State Park In-holding

Activity Budget: \$1,000,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the acquisition of a 146 acre property and represents the largest in-holding in the park. Public ownership of this property will result in the preservation and protection over 1,300 feet of undeveloped shoreline and a significant high quality northern hardwood tract. Preservation will eliminate the potential for forest and resource fragmentation that would result from future private development and will secure the contiguous park setting and experience. The property also provides for inland views of Lax Lake and Cedar Creek Valley. The County Biological Survey ranks the property as Outstanding Biodiversity

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Property Acquisition Documentation Complete	June 30, 2022
Property Valuation Complete	June 30, 2023
Property Acquisition Complete	June 30, 2024

Activity 4: Legislatively Authorized State Trails In-Holdings**Activity Budget:** \$500,000**Activity Description:**

This project proposes the acquisition of high priority in-holdings located along legislatively authorized State Trail corridors from willing sellers to fulfill the legislative intent for the referenced state trails. Potential high priority parcels include in-holdings in the following locations: Gitchi Gami State Trail – Lutsen Trailhead (Cook County), Gitchi Gami State Trail – Community of Tofte (Cook County), Blufflands State Trail-City of Preston to Forestville-Mystery Cave State Park (Fillmore County), Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail in-holdings (Goodhue County) and Great River Ridge State Trail in-holdings (Wabasha and Olmsted Counties) .

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Individual Property Acquisition Documents Complete	June 30, 2022
Individual Property Valuations Complete	June 30, 2023
Individual property Acquisitions Complete	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Brett Feldman	Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota	The Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota works with many public partners to ensure that urgently needed lands are acquired for parks and trails.	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

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.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

Each of the properties identified for potential acquisition are located within existing state park or state recreation area boundaries or along authorized state trail corridors. All facilities are components of the Outdoor Recreation System which require individual master plans to guide land acquisition, development and improvement, public use and resource management. The Parks and Trails Division maintains an active priority parcel list of potential acquisitions to pursue, based on available funding. All property surveys, valuations, negotiations and transactions will be completed by or under the direct supervision of the staff of the MN DNR Lands and Minerals Division.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$1,500,000
Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c	\$1,500,000
Minnesota State Parks and State Trails	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09k	\$2,500,000
Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-Holdings	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c	\$2,000,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 319 Parcels: 3						\$3,000,000
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 27 Parcels: 7						\$500,000
							Sub Total	\$3,500,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								

							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$3,500,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Funds FY21, MN Session Laws 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 3, (a)	Parks and Trails Division Allocation for State Parks and State Trail property acquisitions and related transactions	Secured	\$500,000
			State Sub Total	\$500,000
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$500,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Gitchi Gami State Trail	Lake	Proposed Lutsen Trailhead	Fee Title	2	-	\$190,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Negotiations in Progress
Glendalough SP	Otter Tail	Glendalough State Park - Blanche Lake Shoreline and Hardwood Forest	Fee Title	155	-	\$1,000,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Negotiations in Progress
State Trail Corridor In-Holdings	Statewide	Properties required to enhance and expand legislatively authorized State Trails	Fee Title	25	-	\$310,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Tettegouche SP - Lax Lake	Lake	1300 feet of undeveloped Lax Lake shoreline and large hardwood forest	Fee Title	146	-	\$1,000,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Tettegouche SP - Palisade Creek	Lake	Contains Lake Superior shoreline and the mouth of Palisade Creek	Fee Title	18	-	\$1,000,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Totals				346	0	\$3,500,000			

Fee Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) has identified and ranked each parcel within legislatively defined State Park boundaries and along the alignments for State Trails. The MnDNR maintains, reviews and annually updates a general statewide priority list of willing sellers. Potential projects are analyzed using investment criteria established in the DNR Parks and Trails System Plan. Division selected parcels are then subject to review by the MnDNR Regional Managers to ensure that all parcels also meet and exceed the Department's Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) goals and objectives, which include proactive and frequent communication with local governmental agencies.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

MNDNR Parks and Trail Division Park and Trail Management Plans.

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

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/parks_trails/trails.html#completed

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan 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 scope and nature of restoration of acquire parcels will be based upon the nature of the potential use as defined by State Park and/or State Trail Master Plan. All resource management plans for individual parks and trails are maintained by the Division Resource Manager. Long term maintenance and management of the selected properties will be assumed by the existing Parks and Trails Division Facility Managers and Staff. Restoration of acquired State Park and State Trail properties has previously been funded through a variety of funding sources including State Bonding, Legacy and General Fund appropriations and the State Parks working capital fund.

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.

Each property purchased for State Parks and State Trail will be subject to County Board notification and approval per DNR administrative direction and operational order.

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.

Easement (Other) Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) has identified and ranked each parcel within legislatively defined State Park boundaries and along the alignments for State Trails. The MnDNR maintains, reviews and annually updates a general statewide priority list of willing sellers. Potential projects are analyzed using investment criteria established in the DNR Parks and Trails System Plan. Division selected parcels are then subject to review by the MnDNR Regional Managers to ensure that all parcels also meet and exceed the Department's Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) goals and objectives, which include proactive and frequent communication with local governmental agencies.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

MNDNR Parks and Trail Division Park and Trail Management Plans.

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

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/parks_trails/trails.html#completed

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan 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 scope and nature of restoration of acquire parcels will be based upon the nature of the potential use as defined by State Park and/or State Trail Master Plan.. All resource management plans for individual parks and trails are maintained by the Division Resource Manager. Long term maintenance and management of the selected properties will be assumed by the existing Parks and Trails Division Facility Managers and Staff. Restoration of acquired State Park and State Trail properties has previously been funded through a variety of funding sources including State Bonding, Legacy and General Fund appropriations and the State Parks working capital fund.

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.

Each property purchased for State Parks and State Trail will be subject to County Board notification and approval per DNR administrative direction and operational order.

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.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [9ff30ea0-3d0.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of State of Minnesota with each state park in-holding acquisition identified and an inset map with additional parcel specific detail provided. A small inset map of the State of Minnesota is also provided that shows the locations of each State Trail although specific parcels are not identified....

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Background Check Certification	75359b2c-e85.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Project Collaborators - updated phone number

General Information - answer new question "Does your project have potential royalties, copyrights, patents, or sales of products and assets" - No

Narrative - Updated timeline to New appropriated dates associated with this project.

Budget - Budget was updated per comments and revisions request. The Divisions of Lands and Minerals (LAM) professional services contract was to be incorporated into the Acquisition cost. Non-ENRTF fund status updated to secured.

Acquisition and Restoration - Projects estimated costs were updated to reflect the incorporation of the LAM professional services into the project costs. Project statues of two projects have been updated, comments associated with those updated were included.

Dissemination - Provided a description of planned dissemination efforts.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

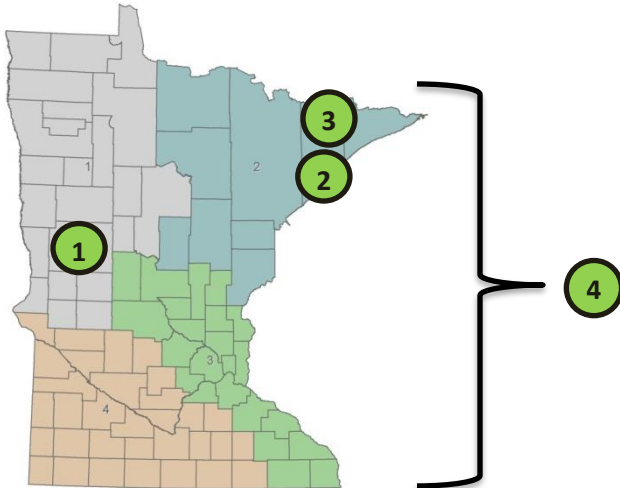
Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Inholding Proposal



Map #	Facility Name	County	Acres
1	Glendalough State Park	Otter Tail	155
2	Tettegouche State Park	Lake	18
3	Tettegouche State Park	Lake	146
4	State Trails-Top Priority Inholdings	Statewide	5

