

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on December 5, 2025

M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: Minnesota State Parks And State Trails Inholdings

Project Manager: Shelby Kok

Affiliation: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road

City/State/Zip: St.Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651) 259-5590

E-mail: shelby.kok@state.mn.us

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

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$3,500,000

Amount Spent: \$2,283,604

Amount Remaining: \$1,216,396

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Acquisition of 184.33 fee acres in three Minnesota State Parks and 9.91 easement acres plus 6.9 fee acres along two State Trails, ensuring consolidated protection and management of pristine natural areas that represent Minnesota's diverse landscapes and support their enjoyment by residents statewide into the future.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund funding resulted in the Department of Natural Resources acquiring approximately 201.14 acres of land within the statutory boundaries of three Minnesota State Parks and two legislatively authorized State Trail

- Acquired 15 acers of land within Father Hennepin State Park. The property is a will protect lowland swamp and upland deciduous forest. The property provides an opportunity to expand the trail system within the park and possibly backpack camping.

- Acquired 9.91 acres of land within the legislatively authorized Gateway State Trail. This property will provide a link for

the future development of the Gateway State Trail extension. The trail, once developed, will be paved and multiuse.

- Acquired 6.9 acres of land within the legislatively authorized Gitchi Gami State Trail. This property provides a parking area and trailhead for trail users. An ENRFT appropriation was awarded to the DNR for the design and construction to improve accessibility, storm water management and removal of a hazardous entry from Hwy 61.

- Acquired 157.72 acres of land within Lake Louise State Park. A majority of the site will be restored and offer hunting, bird watching, photography and hiking opportunities. The Little Iowa River bisect the property. There are several species of special concern that will be protected.

- Acquired 11.61 acres of land within Myre-Big Island State Park. The park recently acquired approximately 180 acres of land neighboring this property that is undergoing a multi-year restoration project, this property will be joining that effort. Once restored the property will host hiking trails for the public to use and enjoy.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The acquisitions dissemination has 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. There are also maps posted at the local units for visitors to see the recently acquired lands funded by LCCMR.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: December 9, 2025

ID Number: 2020-044

Staff Lead: Tiffany Schaufler

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

Office Telephone: (651) 259-5590

Email: shelby.kok@state.mn.us

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

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: December 5, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: December 5, 2025

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

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. Administrative extension of appropriation until June 30, 2025, approved November 7, 2024, acquisition of real property per M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 12.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

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? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & 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: State Park In-holdings

Activity Budget: \$3,000,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the acquisition of high priority property in-holdings located entirely within the boundaries of state parks and state recreation areas. The successful acquisition of these properties will eliminate the potential for future development and associated resource fragmentation within the statutory boundaries that are inconsistent with legislative intent and the unit's management plans. The primary benefit of State acquisition of the identified properties, however, is the opportunity provided to conserve and protect substantial areas that contain rare, unique or high-quality natural resource communities and areas of significant bio-diversity while also expanding the potential for public recreational access to areas which were previously inaccessible or privately held. After acquisition, site preparation and restoration of the property will occur if needed to bring it to minimum public use standards. The priority properties considered for acquisition under this project are proposed in Lake Louise, Father Hennepin, Myre- Big Island, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Frontenac State Parks. Should one of these acquisitions be unsuccessful, the MN DNR may request an amendment to the Project Workplan that will identify a replacement property selected from a statewide priority list of willing sellers of in-holding properties maintained by the Parks and Trails Division.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Priority park inholding identified and initiate landowner discussions	December 31, 2021
Other or secondary inholdings identified if needed	June 30, 2022
Priority inholdings department land review process and valuation completed by LAM acquisition services	December 31, 2022
Secondary inholdings department land review processes and valuation completed by LAM acquisition services	June 30, 2023
Final landowner negotiation and priority inholdings transaction complete	June 30, 2023
Final landowner negotiations and secondary inholdings transaction complete	December 31, 2023
Restoration or priority inholding and secondary inholdings complete	June 30, 2024

Activity 2: Legislatively Authorized State Trails

Activity Budget: \$500,000

Activity Description:

Acquire high priority in-holdings along legislatively authorized state trails from willing sellers statewide to fulfill master plans throughout the State of Minnesota. Potential high priority parcels include in-holdings along the Gitchi Gami, Casey Jones and Arrowhead State Trail.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Priority trail inholdings identified and initiate landowner discussions	December 31, 2021
Other or secondary inholdings identified if needed	June 30, 2022
Priority inholdings department land review processes and valuation completed by LAM acquisition services	December 31, 2023
Secondary inholdings department land review processes and valuation completed by LAM acquisition services	December 31, 2023
Final landowner negotiations and priority and secondary inholdings transaction 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 work 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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
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	\$1,851,181	\$1,148,819
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 27 Parcels: 7						\$500,000	\$432,423	\$67,577
							Sub Total	\$3,500,000	\$2,283,604	\$1,216,396
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										

							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$3,500,000	\$2,283,604	\$1,216,396

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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
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	\$500,000	-
			State Sub Total	\$500,000	\$500,000	-
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	\$500,000	\$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
Charles A Lindbergh	Morrison	Charles A Lindbergh State Park	Fee Title	75	-	\$325,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	No Longer Being Considered
Father Hennepin	Mille Lacs	Father Hennepin State Park	Fee Title	15	-	\$35,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Purchased
Frontenac	Goodhue	Frontenac State Park	Fee Title	0.8	-	\$70,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	No Longer Being Considered
Gateway	Washington	Gateway State Trail	Easement - Other	9.91	1.25	\$115,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Purchased
Gitchi Gami State Trail	Lake	Proposed Lutsen Trailhead	Fee Title	2	-	\$179,384	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Purchased
Glendalough SP	Otter Tail	Glendalough State Park - Blanche Lake Shoreline and Hardwood Forest	Fee Title	155	-	\$1,865	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	No Longer Being Considered
Lake Louise	Mower	Lake Louise State Park	Fee Title	158	-	\$1,575,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Purchased
Myre-Big Island	Freeborn	Myre-Big Island State Park	Fee Title	11.61	-	\$138,971	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Purchased
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	No Longer Being Considered

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	No Longer Being Considered
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	No Longer Being Considered
Totals				616.32	1.25	\$4,750,220			

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....

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Background Check Certification	75359b2c-e85.pdf
Gitchi Gami State Trail Acquisition Site Photos	6bdedfe4-bd8.pdf
Photo of Tettegouche Property Owned by MnDOT	661682bf-5c2.jpe
Father Hennepin Dissemination Map	c64c9235-a0a.pdf
Gateway Dissemination Map	87904060-2a5.pdf
Lake Louise Dissemination Map	8c563cfa-cbb.pdf
Myre Big Island Dissemination Map	449130c7-dde.pdf
Myre Big Islands Property Photos	d036b720-a72.docx
Abstract	db1f1c41-75f.docx
Transaction Costs	6e50ac6c-3e0.xlsx
Gitchi Gami Dissemination Map	f65beb6e-45b.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 understand that travel expenses are only approved if they 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, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

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

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities and Milestones Budget - Acquisition Attachments Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	<p>Updating to keep all grants in the same set up from year to year. Easier to manage and update.</p> <p>Seeking to add secondary in-holding properties to replace the cancelled primary properties.</p>	June 20, 2023	Yes	June 26, 2023
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget - Acquisition Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed Attachments Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	<p>Seeking to add secondary project to the acquisition and restoration list. To replace cancelled projects.</p> <p>Requesting an extension on some activities. Due to the unforeseen activity cancellations and there is a shortage of staff that work on acquisitions and this is causing timelines to double in time to complete, approximately 2 years. Also struggling to find appraisers to appraise "non-cookie cutter" properties. Having to rebid multiple times. Currently taking 4 months to get an appraisal.</p>	November 6, 2023	Yes	January 5, 2024
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Budget - Acquisition Attachments Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	I had originally asked for an amendment request however it is no longer needed and there is no option to unselect amendment request. Please ignore this request nothing is needed.	August 27, 2024	Yes	October 28, 2024
4	Completion Date	<p>Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024</p> <p>New Completion Date: 06/30/2025</p>	<p>Activity: Charles A Lindbergh was not able to be closed by fiscal year end. Issues were found in the title work preventing us reaching the closing date. An adjacent landowner was claiming ownership over a portion of the property.</p> <p>Prior to FY end we were able to secure a signed option from the landowner. It is anticipated this project will close by</p>	November 7, 2024	Yes	November 7, 2024

			12/31/2024, pending no other issues are discovered.			
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Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: August 28, 2025

Date Approved: October 21, 2025

Overall Update

The final property pursued under this appropriation required payment above the appraised value and was therefore not acquired. As a result, funds were not used for that purchase.

In total, \$2,283,604.47 was successfully spent to expand state-managed lands, adding 16.81 acres to two State Trails and 184.33 acres to three State Parks. Two installment payments remain, scheduled for January 2026 and January 2027. Those funds are encumbered.

The full expense of the appropriation will total \$2,296,954.47. The commission will receive \$1,203,045.53 in unexpended funds.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete. Three state parks expanded their land holdings: Myre–Big Island (11.61 acres), Father Hennepin (15 acres), and Lake Louise (157.72 acres). All additions have been surveyed and marked. Restoration planning is underway for the Myre–Big Island and Lake Louise parcels, while Father Hennepin does not require restoration. A future park trail through the Father Hennepin property is under consideration. Father Hennepin currently has \$13,350 encumbrance for the remaining installation payments.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

Two state trails expanded their land holdings: Gateway State Trail (9.91 easement acres) and Gitchi-Gami State Trail (6.9 acres).

For the Gateway State Trail, a concept has been developed for a new trail extension. However, additional acquisitions are still needed before this segment can be constructed.

For the Gitchi-Gami State Trail, the recent acquisition serves as an informal trailhead. The DNR has received an appropriation from LCCMR (ML24) to formalize the trailhead. Improvements will include addressing accessibility, upgrading stormwater management, and eliminating an unsafe entry from Highway 61. Design work is underway, with construction anticipated in 2026.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

No additional dissemination has taken place due to no additional acquisitions were completed.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2025

Date Submitted: April 16, 2025

Date Approved: June 2, 2025

Overall Update

The Charles A. Lindbergh property is no longer being considered for acquisition, as the landowner requested an amount above the appraised value. As a result, the encumbered funds for this parcel will be released and returned to the commission. One property owner will receive a final payment in December, honoring their request to split the total amount over two years. All other projects under this grant have been completed or are no longer being pursued. In total, 186.63 acres in fee and 9.91 acres in easement have been acquired, with \$2,281,605 expended. A final \$13,350 remains encumbered for the upcoming December payment, while the remaining \$1,205,045 will be returned to the commission.

Activity 1

The Charles A. Lindbergh State Park property, comprising approximately 69.34 acres, was appraised at \$368,000. The landowner requested \$369,096.82—just 0.3%, or \$1,096.82, above the appraised value. Because the request exceeded the appraised value, alternative funding sources were pursued to secure this important property for the park.

The remaining projects have either been completed or are no longer under consideration.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

As the Charles A. Lindbergh State Park property was not acquired with LCCMR funding, no further dissemination has taken place.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2024

Date Submitted: November 18, 2024

Date Approved: January 8, 2025

Overall Update

One property we were not able to get the property under contract. The landowner became very ill and was not able to sign or negotiate. Another property, Charles A Lindbergh, is under contract with a signed option. This property has the optioned amount encumbered, \$377,000. It is anticipated to close by calendar year end.

Five properties totaling 186.63 in fee and 9.91 in easement acres acquired with this grant. There were several properties that were not able to close due to a variety of factors (survey issues, landowner illnesses, appraisal rejections, etc.). \$1,245,544.75 will be returned to the commission due to not being able to be expended.

Activity 1

Frontenac we were unable to obtain a signed option. The landowner became very ill and was not able to sign or negotiate.

Charles A Lindbergh has a signed option. There have been survey issues and easement issues that requires having them resolved before we can close on the property. It is anticipated we will close on this property by end of calendar year pending no additional issues arise.

Three state park projects closed, Father Hennepin (15 acres), Myre Big Island (11.91 acres) and Lake Louise (157.72 acres).

Myre Big Island and Lake Louise were originally crop fields these will be going through a lengthy process of restoring the property.

Father Hennepin requires no restoration or work to take place on the property. The property blends with the State Park property. Signage will be placed to distinguish the new park boundary.

The projects that did not close are continuing to be worked on. Frontenac will be purchased with legacy funding. There is now a possibility Tettegouche will be donated.

Activity 2

Two of three projects completed totaling 2 acres in fee and 9.91 acres in easement. Gitchi Gami trail head is already well established and minimal updates will be made to the site. To the north of the site and extension of the trail is undergoing construction.

Gateway trail will not be improved until additional parcels are purchased. Currently the trail is segmented.

Minnesota Valley trail did not close due to a number of issues with the appraisal. The current appraisal is in for review.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Maps of completed acquisitions have been provided to the area/site staff and have been instructed to place them on the bulletins/kiosks for visitors to see. Also, online maps have been updated to reflect the purchased properties.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: August 27, 2024

Date Approved: October 28, 2024

Overall Update

Three projects are not expected to close by FY end, Tettegouche - Lake Superior, Charles Lindbergh and Minnesota Valley. The rest of the projects are either closed or there are signed options in place and are expected to close prior to FY end.

Tettegouche-Lake Superior was an anticipated \$1million dollar project that will not close by FY end and there will not be an agreement in place either. Also, there are not enough large dollar projects to help consume that amount. It is expected that approximately \$1.25M will be returned to LCCMR.

Total acers acquired with this grant 186.33 in fee and 9.91 in easement.

Activity 1

The following properties have been purchased Father Hennepin, Lake Louise, and Myre- Big Island.

15 acres purchased at Father Hennepin there are no plans for this property but to continue to manage it in its current condition.

157.72 acres purchased at Lake Louise this site will have to be restored because it was farmed.

Myre Big Island closed on 4/30/2024. 11.6 acers were added to the Myre- Big Island State Park land inventory. Plans for this property is to have it restored from agriculture to a natural setting.

We have found survey issues associated with Charles A Lindbergh parcel. There is a 20x50 ft section that has a conflicting survey indicating the neighbor owns. However, our survey states we own. There is another small section of land that show no ownership. It is assumed that the neighboring landowner's deed is incorrect. We currently attempting to get ahold of the adjacent landowners to help resolve the deed issues.

Tettegouche - Lak Superior will not close because the appraisal reviewer rejected the appraisal.

Frontenac - the landowner became very ill and was not able to fill out required documents in time to close this transaction by FY end.

Activity 2

Minnesota Valley State Trail project is currently under negotiations. There have been several issues with the appraisal that has resulted in going back to the appraiser for revisions. This project will not close by FY year end.

Gateway State Trail project has closed. There are now 9.91 easement acres to have a future developed trail. A few more parcels need to be purchased in order for the future development to take place.

Dissemination

Maps of completed acquisitions have been provided to the area/site staff and have been instructed to placed them on the bulletins/kiosks for visitors to see. Also, online maps have been updated to reflect the purchased properties.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2023

Date Submitted: October 13, 2023

Date Approved: January 5, 2024

Overall Update

There are no additional closed projects at this point. However, there is one that had an offer accepted and another offer made. Three projects are with appraisal and the others are soon to make it to the appraisal unit. There is an amendment request with this update to include one additional prioritized property.

Activity 1

Lake Louise offer was accepted. Working on survey and title review prior to closings.

Charles A Lindberg an offer was made. Waiting to hear if accepted.

The rest of the projects are in the development of property information packets to be sent to the appraisal unit to go out for bid.

Tettegouche SP - Palisade Creek is now back under consideration and is under appraisal. The landowner's husband recently passed creating a change in wanting to sell again.

Myre-Big Island an appraisal is underway.

The remaining projects are currently in the works of developing a property information packet to be taken to the appraisal unit to be placed out for bid.

Funding has been updated to show more accurate project costs.

Activity 2

There was a line item for acquisition of state trails. It has now been set to a status of no longer considered and has been "replaced" with one state trail project, Glacial Lakes State Trail. During the initial set up of this grant the individual projects were not listed. They are now listed and being actively worked on to be acquired. Gateway State Trail is out for appraisal. The appraisal and the review should be completed within the next 4 months. The title review is complete.

Dissemination

No additional dissemination has been completed at this point. Once projects have been completed dissemination will take place.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2023

Date Submitted: June 21, 2023

Date Approved: June 26, 2023

Overall Update

Five new projects are being requested for an amendment to be added to the project list. These projects are all in milestone 4. There is still a need to identify a few more projects or a large project to consume the remaining available funding within this appropriation. It is unfortunate that three large million-dollar projects all backed out at the same time. We are looking forward to new opportunities. Seeking additional opportunities also includes milestone 2.

Activity 1

The amendment addition of the 5 new parks projects are all on milestone 4. However, these 5 additions do not reach the total of the 3 canceled projects. We are still seeking additional acquisitions to utilize the remaining available funds. This places us on milestone 2, finding secondary projects.

Activity 2

Currently working with Friends Groups to help identify potential state trail acquisitions. This places us on milestone 2, finding secondary projects.

Activity 3

Activity 3 merged with activity 1.

Activity 4

Activity 4 merged with activity 2.

Dissemination

No additional acquisitions have completed to allow for dissemination.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2022

Date Submitted: June 21, 2023

Date Approved: June 26, 2023

Overall Update

Working to identify secondary acquisitions due to the cancelations of 3 large projects due to lack of landowner willingness to sell. Currently working on milestones 2 & 3.

One project closed on 6/21/22 Gitchi Gami State Trail.

Activity 1

All three state park projects canceled due to landowner willingness. Glendalough state park an offer was made however, the landowner decided to sell to family. The valuation came in below half of what was expected. That now made the price at a more achievable level for the family members to purchase the property. Unfortunately, the property tax records have been off for years, not taking the Land Conservation Easement into consideration.

The Tettegouche properties both wanted us to come back in 5-10 years thinking in that time frame they may be interested in selling.

We are currently seeking secondary projects for replacement.

Activity 2

One project closed on 6/21/22 Gitchi Gami State Trail. 6.9 acres were purchased to support a trailhead for the Gitchi Gami State Trail. It contains a gravel parking lot with access to the paved trail. This particular project is at milestone 5, complete.

We are currently seeking secondary projects to fulfill Activity 2's allotment. This places us in milestone 2.

Activity 3

Activity 3 merged with activity 1.

Activity 4

Activity 4 merged with activity 2.

Dissemination

Gitchi Gami State Trail maps have been updated to show ownership of property.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2022

Date Submitted: April 8, 2022

Date Approved: April 18, 2022

Overall Update

2 of the 4 projects are awaiting signed options. The other three projects we are working closely with the landowners to determine if they are still interested in selling their land. In the meantime other parcels of lands are being looked at as replacements just incase the project listed landowners are no longer willing to sell.

Activity 1

An offer has been made to the landowner. The landowner's relatives have also expressed interested in purchasing the same parcel. We are waiting to hear back if the landowner will agree to sell to us.

Activity 2

Working with the landowner to provide comfort on our acquisition process and what their land would provide not only to the park but the legacy they would leave for all visitors to the park.

Activity 3

Working with the landowner to provide comfort on our acquisition process and what their land would provide not only to the park but the legacy they would leave for all visitors to the park.

Activity 4

An option has been presented to the landowner. We are waiting for the signature in order to move forward with closing. This project will not consume all of the funding allotted to this activity. In this activities description it allows for multiple state trail acquisitions to take place state wide. I am working on other projects to incorporate under this activity.

Dissemination

No dissemination has been performed at this time.