



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2021-371

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: July 21, 2021

Project Title: State Parks And State Trails In-Holdings

Project Budget: \$2,560,000

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: July 20, 2021

Reporting Schedule: March 1 / September 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. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09u

Appropriation Language: \$2,560,000 the first 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 improve the efficiency of public land management.

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 state trails systems. 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 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 and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: State Park In-Holdings

Activity Budget: \$2,310,000

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 Nerstrand Bigwoods, Myre-Big Island, McCarthy Beach, Cascade River, and Maplewood 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	Completion Date
Priority park 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, 2022
Secondary inholdings department land review processes and valuation completed by LAM acquisition services	June 30, 2023
Final land owner negotiations and priority inholdings transaction complete	June 30, 2023
Final land owner negotiations and secondary inholdings transaction complete	December 31, 2023
Restoration priority inholding complete	June 30, 2024
Restoration secondary inholding complete	June 30, 2024

Activity 2: Legislatively Authorized State Trails

Activity Budget: \$250,000

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 in the following locations: Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail - Goodhue to Zumbrota Segment and Great River Ridge State Trail - Co Hwy 9 Trailhead - TH14 Segment.

Activity Milestones:

Description	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 land owner negotiations and priority inholdings transaction complete	June 30, 2024
Final land owner negotiations 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 provides support and advocacy for State Park Improvements and In-Holding Acquisition.	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.

DNR will promote land acquisition activities to ensure public awareness of the value that new parcels or easements add to individual facilities. 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 corridor. 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 sources. All property surveys, valuations, negotiations and transactions will be completed by 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								
MNDNR Lands and Minerals Division	Acquisition costs	The Lands and Minerals Division staff provides for or directly oversees all land acquisitions for the Parks and Trails Division, including all land valuations, land surveys, recording and legal services.				3		\$150,000
Contractor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contract for services to bring acquired parcels to minimum public use standards.				1		\$50,000
							Sub Total	\$200,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 277 Parcels: 7						\$2,110,000
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 21 Parcels: 2						\$250,000
							Sub Total	\$2,360,000
Travel In Minnesota								

							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$2,560,000

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	\$450,000
			State Sub Total	\$450,000
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$450,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Cascade River Parcel 1	Cook	Cascade River State Park	Fee Title	20	-	\$350,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Goodhue Pioneer State Trail (Multiple Parcels)	Goodhue	Goodhue Pioneer State Trail	Fee Title	3	0.25	\$50,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Great River Ridge Parcel 1	Olmsted	Great River Ridge State Trail	Fee Title	18	1.5	\$200,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Maplewood Parcel 1	Otter Tail	Maplewood State Park	Fee Title	135	-	\$500,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
McCarthy Beach Parcel 1	St. Louis	McCarthy Beach State Park	Fee Title	40	-	\$430,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Myre Big Island Parcel 1	Freeborn	Myre Big Island State Park	Fee Title	40	-	\$450,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Myre Big Island Parcel 2	Freeborn	Myre Big Island State Park	Fee Title	30	-	\$330,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Nerstrand Parcel 1	Rice	Nerstrand Big Woods State Park	Fee Title	5	-	\$100,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Nerstrand Parcel 2	Rice	Nerstrand Big Woods State Park	Fee Title	7	-	\$150,000	Private	Minnesota Department of	Has not begun

								Natural Resources	
Totals				298	1.75	\$2,560,000			

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 boundaries and alignments for State Parks and 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

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

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. All resource management plans for individual parks and trails facility are maintained by the Division Resource Manager. Long term maintenance and management of the slected properties will be assumed by the existing Parks and Trails Division Facility Managers and Staff.

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 each property purchased will be subject to County Board Approval per DNR administrative direction.

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.

Confirmed.

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

After acquisition, site preparation and restoration of the property will occur if needed to bring it to minimum public use standards. Improvements on site will be divested and the site will be restored to a natural plant community. The resource staff will determine appropriate restoration specifications and implementation plans. The resource staff will conduct or contract the restoration. Long-term management of the restored parcels will be managed by the unit managers along with the resource staff. Plans will be kept on file at the managing unit along with the project document folders.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

Site restoration are advised through division resource assessments conducted by the resource assessment staff. Restorations are informed by Native Plant Community determinations and department pollinator guidelines.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

Initial site restoration will be funded with LCCMR funds. Once those funds are no longer available, future maintenance and management needs will be funded with regular operational budgets.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

DNR currently funds Conservation Corps crews for resource work on state park and trails lands. If appropriate, the Conservation Corps crews will conduct resource work on these projects.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Once the sites are restored, they will go into a normal management rotation including restoration evaluation along with the rest of the unit. Resource staff will conduct the evaluations and management.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [ce65b86f-1cf.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of State of Minnesota with each state park and state trail where land acquisition under this project is proposed are identified....

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	86b5bf5c-Of8.pdf
2021-07-02 ENRTF 2021s Appropriations spreadsheet FY22-Final(003)	3485d55b-1f4.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Changes to the workplan reflect the final recommended appropriation amount as well as minor changes to our priority list.

General Information Tab: Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights? (please check all that apply)
– Fee acquisition was previously selected. Restoration was added.

Narrative Tab: Updated the Appropriation End Date to be consistent with 2021-07-02 ENRTF 2021s Appropriations spreadsheet FY22-Final(003).pdf Appropriation End Date. The spreadsheet is saved in the attachments tab.

Activities and Milestones Tab: Updated the Milestones Dates to be consistent with updated Appropriation End Date. Updated parcel locations to be consistent with the updated parcels list.

Budget Tab: Updated Acquisition costs and acreage to be consistent with the updated parcels list.

Attachments Tab: Uploaded background check form. Uploaded updated map with current proposed projects. Uploaded 2021-07-02 ENRTF 2021s Appropriations spreadsheet FY22-Final(003).pdf for reference to appropriation end date change.

Acquisition and Restoration Tab: Since Restoration was selected in the General Information Tab, the restoration questions became available to answer. All questions answered.

Updated the parcel list to remove Charles A Lindbergh and Casey Jones parcels. Those projects were amended to ML19 LCCMR project list due to landowner readiness and unknown if this proposal would have been approved. Added a new parcel with the removal Charles A Lindbergh and Casey Jones parcels, new parcel is at McCarthy Beach State Park. Adjusted some estimated costs to be more accurate, did not change the overall budget.

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 In-Holdings

