

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on February 26, 2025

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: Plumbing the Muddy Depths of Superior Hiking Trail

Project Manager: Lisa Luukkala

Affiliation: Superior Hiking Trail Association

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Website: <https://superiorhiking.org/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h

Appropriation Amount: \$187,000

Amount Spent: \$187,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Superior Hiking Trail Association made significant strides in "plumbing the muddy depths" of our trail through improved water management repairs on one mile of tread, 12 reroutes around perennially wet areas ranging from a few 100 feet to 1.5 miles in length, and installing six new stone step crossings.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA) is continually challenged to keep water off, and people on, the Trail. Heavy use, deferred maintenance, and poor original design all play a part. Thanks to ENRTF funds SHTA had great success in implementing solutions to address water-causing erosion, which included addressing some of the most pressing deferred water management maintenance along our trail corridor. An instrumental ingredient to our success continues to be the utilization of volunteers. For this project, our match exceeded our original estimate, nearly 3,800 hours contributed by volunteers!

SHTA met all goals initially laid out in the project scope except for a decision to reroute sections of Trail initially planned for recontouring, thus increasing our the number and size of our reroutes, but reducing our water management mileage.

A large focus of the funds were directed towards 12 reroutes, these ranged in length from 100 ft to 1.5 miles. Reroute locations spanned from the Duluth all the way to the Lutsen area. Locations included Knowlton Creek, Brewer Park, Sargent Creek, Kingsbury Creek, Woods Creek, Leskinen Creek, Mystery Mountain, Encampment River, Reservoir Road, Indian Camp Creek, Green Street, and East Haines Road.

The second focus of the funds were stone step crossings, the largest and most prominent project being Encampment River crossing, where 23 small boulders were placed strategically across the riverway with DNR hydrologist design guidance. This crossing has become a focal point along the Trail and it's praised by hikers during the wet months.

SHTA continues to receive praises from our land managers on the outcomes of our work to provide high quality access while actively working to improvement the trail corridor to reduce impacts to the land and water. In the case of these projects, land managers included Lake County, City of Duluth, and Forest Service.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

SHTA highlighted our ENRTF projects as completed through our print materials, website, social media and other media outlets. 2022 project completed were highlighted in our Fall 2022 Ridgeline and upcoming 2023 projects were shared in our Spring 2023 Ridgeline. Each of our RPFs includes recognition of ENTRF. Sign installation took place at some of the large project locations such as Bean & Bear reroute, Leskinen reroute and Encampment River reroute/stone step crossing.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: March 13, 2025

ID Number: 2021-137

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Project Title: Plumbing the Muddy Depths of Superior Hiking Trail

Project Budget: \$187,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Lisa Luukkala

Organization: Superior Hiking Trail Association

Office Telephone: (218) 834-2700

Email: lluukkala@superiorhiking.org

Web Address: <https://superiorhiking.org/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: February 26, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: February 26, 2025

Project Completion: November 30, 2023

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h

Appropriation Language: \$187,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Hiking Trail Association to install and implement water management practices to prevent erosion and improve access to the Superior Hiking Trail.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Bring "plumbing," or serious and effective water management devices and techniques, to the Superior Hiking Trail. This includes building structures and sculpting and managing soil and rock.

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

Much of the Superior Hiking Trail was not built to modern, national trail building standards. That fact, plus extremely heavy usage of the Trail due to its popularity, coupled with the ravages of climate change, means that water is damaging the Trail by either flowing onto or along it, and not moving off the Trail at all. The result is serious erosion and the proliferation of mud holes. Hikers tend to avoid muddy and wet spots on the Trail; by doing so, they exacerbate the problem by widening the Trail and causing more erosion and creating even more mud.

A lack of "plumbing" on the Trail creates three distinct problems: (1) Increased erosion of the tread into nearby bodies of water, (The SHT follows and crosses nearly 100 named rivers and streams, as well as many lakes and ponds.) (2) A need for expensive fixes, such as boardwalks and reroutes, when erosion and mud holes are left unplumbed for too long, (3) An unsatisfying experience for the tens thousands of annual visitors to the SHT.

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.

The solution to this problem is not technically complicated but it is logistically complex. There's hardly a mile of the SHT that doesn't require what we call "plumbing," or reworking the tread of the Trail. The goal of this plumbing is to make the SHT shed water quickly -- allowing it to move across, not along, the tread -- and to make certain that the SHT, and use of it, is no longer a cause of erosion. Plumbing can be as simple as re-contouring the tread, by cutting back berms that form on the edges of the path or installing dips and drains, to allow water to flow off the Trail. It can mean building simple rock or wooden walkways in perennially wet areas. The solution for each section of the Trail will be determined by the surrounding landscape and how water flows through the area.

Due to the nature of construction projects in the outdoors and the variability of weather in northern Minnesota, we anticipate needing two full trail seasons -- typically June to November -- to complete this project.

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?

As a part of our broader Trail Renewal Program initiative, efforts to plumb the SHT will ensure that every mile of this natural footpath along the North Shore is sustainably built and will be enjoyed by tens of thousands of annual visitors for decades to come -- all without causing unnecessary harm to surrounding lands and waters. With more precipitation expected in the coming years due to climate change, our efforts to make the SHT resilient and well-drained now will pay dividends later to protect and preserve the sensitive habitats and ecosystems through which the Trail passes.

Project Location

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

Region(s): NE

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

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: A Resilient Trail By Way of Rebuilt, Reinforced, and Re-plumbed Tread

Activity Budget: \$187,000

Activity Description:

There is no "One Size Fits All" approach to ensuring the SHT sheds water effectively; in fact there are several solutions. We'll employ the right techniques in the right places keep water off the Trail and restore, reshape and rebuild the tread to nationally established sustainable standards.

Our efforts in this activity will include excavating worn sections to establish new contours and installing water management/drainage devices (e.g. drainage dips, swales, ditches) so that water is deflected away from the tread. This will reduce or eliminate erosion and mud holes.

In sections where plumbing is not feasible, we'll make mud holes more resilient and more appealing to trail users by installing stone steps. There is no shortage of native, local stone along the Trail, and well-built stone features have a long useful life expectancy with little maintenance required. And, where needed, we'll build "puncheon" -- simple boardwalk -- to keep trail users from tearing up wet soils and causing erosion.

We will use these techniques, developed by professional trail builders across the country, to make the Trail enjoyable, sustainable, and resilient for years to come.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
2021 trail plumbing projects (3-6 total projects) completed	November 30, 2021
Identify 2022 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s)	February 28, 2022
If necessary, identify 2023 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s)	February 28, 2023
5 to 10 stone step crossings installed to fix perennial mud holes	November 30, 2023
10 to 20 short reroutes (under 1,000 feet each) constructed	November 30, 2023
5 miles of tread restored and re-contoured to effectively shed water	November 30, 2023

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Jim Shoberg	City of Duluth Parks Department	Liaison to SHTA from Duluth Parks to assist in planning and executing trail projects within the limits of the City of Duluth	No
Mike Young	Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry	Liaison to SHTA from DNR to assist in planning and executing trail projects within northeastern Minnesota forest lands	No
Christa Maxwell	Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails Division	Liaison to SHTA from DNR to assist in planning and executing trail projects within North Shore state parks	No
Derrick Passe	Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District	Advises on environmental regulatory matters in Lake County	No
Jon Benson	U.S. Forest Service	Liaison to the SHTA for any work done on the SHTA within the boundaries of Superior National Forest.	No
Cathy Quinn	U.S. Forest Service	Liaison to the SHTA for any work done on the SHTA within the boundaries of Superior National Forest.	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. We would highlight our LCCMR projects as completed through our print materials, website, social media and other media outlets. In addition, we will include recognition of ENRTF in our Request for Proposals. We will comply with ENRTF 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?

The Trail Renewal Program has focused the Association's energy, resources, and systems so that the lofty goal of creating and supporting a hiking trail that lasts a century is achievable. The Trail Renewal Program has brought about a significant increase in private donations that support the operations of the SHTA. Continued efforts to plumb the SHT will utilize support from wherever we can get it, including public sources (local governments, IRRRB, ENRTF, Federal Recreational Trails Program) and private sources (private foundations, major donors, and investors).

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Enhancement Plan for Superior Hiking Trail	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09f	\$100,000
Restoring Five Sections of the Superior Hiking Trail	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09o	\$191,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Trail Operations Director		Trail operations director oversees trail construction and plumbing projects.			25%	0.48		\$26,894	-	-
							Sub Total	\$26,894	\$26,894	-
Contracts and Services										
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Qualified and reputable professional trail building entities paying prevailing wages will be contracted to complete trail restoration and plumbing projects. They will be sourced via competitive RFP process. Services would include tread reconstruction, puncheon/boardwalk construction, and stonework.				0.73		\$129,160	\$129,160	-
Trail Eyes, LLC	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Trail building -- trail reroute				0.06		\$15,000	\$15,000	-
							Sub Total	\$144,160	\$144,160	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
	Tools and Supplies	Construction Materials, Tools, and Supplies	This includes construction materials, such as milled lumber, metal supports, and related hardware, and necessary hand tools and supplies to complete the activities of the project.					\$15,946	\$15,946	-
							Sub Total	\$15,946	\$15,946	-
Capital Expenditures										

							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$187,000	\$187,000	-

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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
In-Kind	Volunteers	1000 hours of volunteer support for the project, valued at \$25/hr.	Secured	\$94,837	\$94,837	-
Cash	Donations and memberships	Various related expenses, including: materials, tools, volunteer support, lodging, travel, and other professional services to support this project.	Secured	\$19,794	\$19,794	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$114,631	\$114,631	-
			Funds Total	\$114,631	\$114,631	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [23be29bb-741.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

A two-page document that includes photos and outlines the following:

Our Problem: Year-round mud holes and wet areas that cause erosion, push hikers off-trail, and damage surrounding vegetation.

Our Solution: Install devices that shed water off and/or reinforce the tread to keep users on the Trail....

Financial Capacity

File: [3ef2a330-2f4.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
SHTA Board Resolution	cd71a07b-df8.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Background Check Form -- Superior Hiking Trail Association	97d27012-965.pdf
Ridgeline (Spring 2022)	f88e324e-7a2.pdf
SHTA Volunteers at Wilson Creek Stone Step Project Site_2023	c4487a06-3d9.jpe
Mystery Mountain Renewal Project_Building Boardwalk and Steps	ffe66dbe-e2d.jpe
Mystery Mountain Boardwalk Building 2023	8586d176-d65.jpe
Encampment River Stone Step Crossing Project_2023_Highlining Rock	c089fd52-ded.jpe
Encampment River Stone Step Crossing Project_2023_Completed	2ac6293a-1f6.jpe
Encampment River Stone Step Crossing_Highlining process closeup	17e27dd1-1bd.jpe
Mystery Mountain Project_Completed step and run boardwalk_2023	470d4a63-290.jpe
Encampment River Crossing Before & After	84adfa90-edc.jpe
Springdale Creek Before & After_2023	4580673a-d20.jpe
Dept. of Labor & Industry Notification of Findings	0fc908f4-e3c.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
Fall 2023 Ridgeline	https://superiorhiking.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SHTA-001-Ridgeline-Fall-2023-Final.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

After review of the milestones with SHTA's Trails Operations Director, we realized that the original Milestone #2 has redundancies to Milestone #1. Upon further discussion amongst our trail maintenance experts, it was determined that Milestone #1, which is our most important indicator of success, would require many drainage devices, but each section of trail is so unique it would be difficult for a contractor to quantify each and every technique they used on such a large amount of trail. Milestone #1 referred to trail restored and re-contoured to shed water effectively and a multitude of strategies will be employed to make that happen.

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"> Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts 	Of the \$140,000 Contractor funds allotted in the original budget, \$15,000 was spent in June 2022 on trail building a 1,600 ft. reroute by Trail Eyes, LLC. The remaining \$125,000 will be spend later this construction season and/or during the 2023 construction season.	July 15, 2022	Yes	July 20, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities and Milestones 	Due to the increased cost of paid contractor services, SHTA will not be able to meet the mileage renewed milestone. We will be able to complete 5 miles by the end of the grant term. Contractor costs are running higher than anticipated and our volunteers are already putting double the estimated hours anticipated on completing the outcomes of the grant deliverables.	June 1, 2023	Yes	June 14, 2023
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget - Personnel Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed 	<p>As SHTA approached final spend down of the grant, SHTA identified the following budget line items that required adjustment --</p> <p>Expenses</p> <p>Salary -- \$32,5000 to \$26,894, 17% decrease</p> <p>Professional/Contracts -- \$140,000 to \$144,160, 3% increase</p> <p>Equipment/Supplies -- \$14,500 to \$15,946, 9% increase</p> <p>Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed (a \$39,631 increase, or, 34%)</p> <p>Volunteer Hours from \$25,000 to \$94,837</p> <p>Cash Donations from \$50,000 to \$19,794</p>	March 22, 2024	Yes	April 26, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update January 14, 2024

Date Submitted: January 16, 2025

Date Approved: January 22, 2025

Overall Update

The budget reflects the final spend down. We received official word in writing from the Department of Labor about the prevailing wage investigation that we ourselves initiated to clarify a sub-contractor project. The DLI notice can be found as an attachment.

The budget spending report now reflects an amendment in the following areas of the budget, salary, contracts, supplies, and final adjusted in match through volunteer hours and final cash match. We ended up using generating more expenses in our supply and contracts line items than initially anticipated, but utilized less staff time than initially anticipated. Our match far exceeds our original. In part this was due to the need to complete the projects with volunteers versus paid contractors to stay within budget of the grant. This is nearly 3,800 hours contributed by volunteers!

We have met all milestones initially laid out in the project scope minus Milestone 6. SHTA was only able to account for approximately 1 mile of recontoured tread. This is in part to the decision to reroute sections of Trail initially planned for recontouring, thus increasing our the number and size of our reroutes, Milestone 5, but reducing Milestone 6.

Activity 1

Milestone 1: COMPLETE

2021 trail plumbing projects (3-6 total projects) completed November 30, 2021

Milestone 2: COMPLETE

Identify 2022 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s) February 28, 2022

Milestone 3: COMPLETE

If necessary, identify 2023 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s) February 28, 2023

Milestone 4: COMPLETE

5 to 10 stone crossings installed to fix perennial mud holes November 30, 2023

Stone step crossings at Sargent Creek (2021), Nature Boy Creek (2022), Bean and Bear stepping stones (2022), Springdale (2023), Indian Camp Creek (2023), Wilson Creek (2023), Encampment (2023)

Milestone 5: COMPLETE

10 to 20 short reroutes

12 reroutes were completed.

Knowlton Reroute, Brewer Reroute, Sargent Reroute, Kingsbury Reroute, Woods Creek Reroute were completed in 2022.

Leskinen Reroute, Mystery Mountain, Encampment, and Reservoir Rd, Indian Camp Creek, Green St., and East of Haines were completed in 2023.

Milestone 6: UNABLE TO COMPLETE

1 mile of tread were recontoured to shed water.

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

Dissemination

SHTA continues to highlight our ENTRF projects as completed through our print materials, website, social media and other media outlets. 2023 projects completed were highlighted in the Autumn 2023 Ridgeline. Each of our RPFs includes

recognition of ENTRF. Sign recognition installation was completed at the Bean & Bear reroute. Signs will be installed at other major reroute or renewal locations in the spring of 2024, including Leskinen and Mystery Mountain. When the Leskinen Reroute, the 1.5 mile reroute, is officially opened in the spring of 2024 SHTA will send out a press release to local media to highlight the investments being made in renewing the Trail and incorporating more sustainable alignment to protect the underlying resource.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: June 19, 2023

Date Approved: June 26, 2023

Overall Update

2023 plumbing projects along the SHT corridor are nearing their start dates. With a late spring, May was not a viable month to start any construction and volunteers and staff focused all their attention to the the heavy windfall of trees, branches and debris that litters the Trail after intense series of winter storms that caused severe damage to the forests along the North Shore. Spring field visits by staff and volunteers to 2021 and 2022 plumbing projects sites have ensured that our hard work and investment have paid off. Newly installed drainage devices and stone steps are holding up well after installation which means we have been successful in our board of reducing harm to the surrounding lands and waters and enter the 2023 trail season ready for heavy flow of new and returning visitors.

While we are on schedule the majority of our grant milestones and goals, we are experiencing challenges in meeting one of the Milestone deliverables - 25 to 50 miles of tread renewed or restored. This goal was incredibly lofty at the start and with the cost of goods and services increasing we will be unable to meet this very ambitious goal.

Activity 1

Milestone 1: COMPLETE

2021 trail plumbing projects (3-6 total projects) completed November 30, 2021

Milestone 2: COMPLETE

Identify 2022 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s) February 28, 2022

Milestone 3: COMPLETE

If necessary, identify 2023 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s) February 28, 2023

Milestone 4: IN PROGRESS

5 to 10 stone crossings installed to fix perennial mud holes November 30, 2023

Stone step crossings at Sargent Creek (2021), Nature Boy Creek (2022), Bean and Bear stepping stones (2022)

An additional four additional stone crossings projects are ready for construction this season.

Milestone 5: IN PROGRESS

10 to 20 short reroutes

Knowlton Reroute, Brewer Reroute, Sargent Reroute, Kingsbury Reroute, Woods Creek Reroute were completed in 2022.

Leskinen Reroute, Mystery Mountain, Encampment, Bagley, and Reservoir are slated for 2023.

Milestone 6: IN PROGRESS

1 mile of 5 miles of tread were recontoured to shed water.

Dissemination

SHTA continues to highlight our LCCMR projects as completed through our print materials, website, social media and other media outlets. 2022 project completed were highlighted in our Fall 2022 Ridgeline and upcoming 2023 projects were shared in our Spring 2023 Ridgeline. Each of our RPFs includes recognition of ENTRF. Sign installation at the completed Bean & Bear reroute will be installed this month and additional at major reroutes, such as Leskinen are planned for later this season after its completion.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: December 1, 2022

Date Approved: December 7, 2022

Overall Update

In 2022 the Superior Hiking Trail Association was able to make some really great strides in "plumbing" the Trail. What is most impressive about the improvement projects is the commitment of our volunteers. The 2022 projects alone clocked over 1,800 volunteer hours and by the close of this grant we will double our anticipated volunteer in-kind hours!

Overall, the slate of plumbing projects are moving along smoothly. The visible impacts on the Trail, particularly due to heavier rainfall in 2022, made our work ever more apparent to our users. The Bean and Bear reroute was one of those highly visible projects and attracted a lot of local attention due to the high number of users who were able to witness the transformation and benefit from the improvement.

A powerful outcome of these projects is the knowledge and skills that are gained by our volunteer community when they have an opportunity to work on plumbing project under the direction of our staff and paid contractors. Their learnings can then be applied to future improvement projects on the Trail and have a positive impact on the long-term maintenance of the SHT for years.

Activity 1

Milestone 1: COMPLETE

2021 trail plumbing projects (3-6 total projects) completed November 30, 2021

Milestone 2: COMPLETE

Identify 2022 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s) February 28, 2022

Milestone 3: IN PROGRESS

If necessary, identify 2023 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s) February 28, 2023

Project sites and scopes of work have been confirmed. RPFs for contractors are currently be developed and will posted this week (December 1).

Milestone 4: IN PROGRESS

5 to 10 stone step crossings installed to fix perennial mud holes November 30, 2023

Stone step crossings at Sargent Creek (2021) and Nature Boy Creek (2022) are complete.

An additional five stone step crossings projects are ready for construction in 2023.

Milestone 5: IN PROGRESS

10 to 20 short reroutes (under 1,000 feet each)

Knowlton Reroute, Brewer Reroute, Sargent Reroute, Kingsbury Reroute, Woods Creek Reroute were completed in 2022.

Leskinen Reroute, Mystery Mountain, Encampment are slated for 2023.

Dissemination

Superior Hiking Trail Association has recognized ENTRF in our publications, including the most recent Fall 2022 Ridgeline Newsletter. All RFPs acknowledge ENTRF as the funder of the project and the language used is that identified in the Communications Guidelines set forth both LCCMR. Additionally, an ENTRF sign will be installed along the Bean and Bear Reroute -- a notably 1,600 ft. reroute and a prominent visitor attraction along the trail corridor. The sign has been purchased and will be installed in the spring of 2023.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: July 15, 2022

Date Approved: July 20, 2022

Overall Update

The juxtaposition of this year's spring thaw/melt and precipitation compared to 2021 is quite telling of the need for better water management on the Trail. More than ever we see the need to improve the "plumbing" of the Trail to keep water off the tread. Progress has been made in 2021 on many elements of the plumbing projects including the milestones listed below. In early 2022 we identified and hiring a contractor for two of the major plumbing projects. One will reroute 1,700 ft. of trail onto higher and drier ground. This reroute alignment has been flagged and construction will begin June 15, 2022. The construction is anticipated to last two weeks and will rely heavily on volunteers. The other major 2022 project will replace end-of-lifespan boardwalk, install stone steps and renew .5-mile section of Trail with water-shedding devices. In addition, SHTA staff spent time conducting field assessments and securing the necessary permits related to another sizeable reroute, 1.5 miles, around a known muddy, wet section of Trail. Staff are devoting time during the 2022 field season to final the project scope and associated planning/permits for 2023 projects to proceed. Overall, we are making great headway.

Activity 1

The following progress was made on milestones 1 through 3:

Milestone #1: 1 of up to 6 stone step crossings was installed

Milestone #2: 3 of up to 20 short reroutes were completed (under 1,000 ft)

Milestone #3: 1 mile of approximately 25 miles of tread were recontoured to shed water

Milestones 4 and 5 were fully completed.

Milestone #4: 2021 trail plumbing projects (3-6 total projects) - (1) Sargent Creek bridge removal (2) Knowlton Creek Reroute (3) Brewer Reroute

Milestone #5: Identify 2022 project sites, develop scope of work, and hire contractor(s)

Dissemination

SHTA is committed to using our communication platforms to share the positive impacts ENRTF funds are having on the Superior Hiking Trail. Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund was acknowledged in our most recent Spring 2022 Ridgeline Publication that goes out in hard copy to over 6,000 households. The publication is also available online for viewing as well.

<https://superiorhiking.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Ridgeline-Spring-2022.pdf>