

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 12, 2024

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: Woodcrest Trail Expansion

Project Manager: Kevin Harguth

Affiliation: Foundation for Healthcare Continuums - Woodcrest of Country Manor

Mailing Address: Foundation for Healthcare Continuums 520 First Street NE

City/State/Zip: Sartell, MN 56377

Phone: (320) 258-8972

E-mail: kharguth@countrymanor.org

Website: www.countrymanorcampus.org

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$16,000

Amount Spent: \$16,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Existing trails on the property were extended into undeveloped areas to allow community members to safely walk the trails and gain an appreciation for native plants and wildlife of this local area.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This is a senior living community, and we wanted to provide members living here access (with their families) to view the natural surroundings of the area in a safe manner. To accomplish that, we extended existing walking trails another 0.4 miles into a wooded area. Brush for the trail was cleared and Class II Granite was poured/graded over the cleared new trail bed. Area outside of the trail bed remained largely untouched. Signage and markers were installed to provide information/direction. Interpretive signs for native plants and wildlife will be added in the Spring, in collaboration with various local educational institutions. The intent is to improve the quality of life for those seniors that live here and give them an opportunity to learn more about the natural habitat of this local area. In addition, we hope local educational institutions take advantage of the project - a local elementary school is very close to the trail. Hopefully, we will be able to foster some inter-generational activities that can take place on the trail with seniors and children.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The project was completed in the Fall of 2023. We were able to take advantage of warm weather to have tours for seniors and their family members on the path, viewing the Fall colors as the leaves started to change. The facility has a large recreational cart that was used to transport seniors who are unable to walk that distance, so that they could participate with others on the trail.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: September 9, 2024

ID Number: 2021-229

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Project Title: Woodcrest Trail Expansion

Project Budget: \$16,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Kevin Harguth

Organization: Foundation for Healthcare Continuums - Woodcrest of Country Manor

Office Telephone: (320) 258-8972

Email: kharguth@countrymanor.org

Web Address: www.countrymanorcampus.org

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: January 12, 2024

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: January 12, 2024

Project Completion: September 30, 2023

Legal Information

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

Appropriation Language: \$16,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Foundation for Health Care Continuum, doing business as Country Manor Campus, LLC, to construct a trail for public recreational use on land owned by the senior living facility in central Minnesota.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Country Manor requests \$16,000 to extend groomed trails through adjacent woodlands on the property of a senior living facility in Central Minnesota.

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

Nearly half of all Americans participate in some form of outdoor activity each year resulting in an increased reliance on access to public lands for recreation opportunities. A 2016 study published by Nature Sacred and the TKF foundation, found that the number of people living in towns and cities hovers around 80%, stressing the importance of the availability of parks and green space. The study also found that there are unmatched benefits to older populations in close proximity to nature, including affordable physical activity, improved mental health, and increased social interaction.

However, the emphasis on user-benefits and heightened energy around the demand for outdoor recreation opportunities highlights the importance to conserve the natural landscape, promote environmental stewardship, and work to create managed green spaces. As a result, there is an unprecedented need for private landowners and managers to further efforts to protect and preserve, as well as provide access to, natural areas. Woodcrest of Country Manor has a unique opportunity to address both concerns by offering safe and accessible outdoor recreation and education, in addition to conserving and restoring the surrounding ecosystems and native habitats.

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 goals of this project are to restore and protect the natural landscape surrounding Woodcrest of Country Manor, as well as create a safe and accessible community trail system. Phase one will connect the trails to previously established paths to create 1.1 miles of groomed walkway, suitable for hiking, running, biking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, geocaching, and other outdoor recreational activities. Trails will be excavated and graded for maximum safety and stability, as well as marked with directional and interpretive signage to discourage users from disrupting local ecosystems, and to provide education about native species of plants and animals. Printed guides will provide residents, visitors, and enthusiasts information on the entire project, including trail maps, local history, and the underlying conservation efforts and benefits of outdoor recreation.

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?

This project intends to protect and preserve native woodlands on the 137 acre property of Woodcrest of Country Manor. By creating managed green space for outdoor recreation, the trail system and conservation of the surrounding woods will protect the habitats of indigenous plants and animals, as well as provide ecological value and diversity to the local environment.

Project Location

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

City(s): Saint Joseph

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

City(s): Saint Joseph, Saint Cloud,

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Trail Extension and Interpretive Signage

Activity Budget: \$16,000

Activity Description:

The addition of 0.4 miles of trail to the existing 0.7 miles will include excavation, grading, and supply and installation of class II granite. Utilizing the existing trail and service access, Since trail design and engineering have already been done, Henkemeyer Excavating will use those plans to perform site preparation by clearing the proposed length of the trail and hauling away any unusable, non-compostable material. Henkemeyer will then grade the trail for walkability. Once grading is finished, Class II granite will be hauled to the work site, and poured over the cleared path to create the trail bed. With the trail completed, directional signage and markers will be added to guide trail users. Interpretive signage for native plants and wildlife will also be posted at a later date, after research and identification. This step is not part of the project proposal, and will be performed in collaboration with the Stearns County Extension of Master Gardeners and various local educational institutions (unidentified at this time).

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Installation of Trail Markers and Directional Signage	October 31, 2021
Supply and Installation of Class II Granite Trail Bed	October 31, 2021
Excavation and Grading	October 31, 2021

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Master Gardener Volunteer	Extension Master Gardener Program	Upon the completion of the trails and prairie restoration, the Stearns County Extension of the Master Gardeners volunteers will conduct field research to identify plant and wildlife species. Signage of identified species will then be marked along the trail and used in trail brochures.	No
Scott Keho	Country Manor Campus, LLC	Mr. Keho serves as the Capital Project Coordinator for Country Manor Campus, and will oversee all technical, construction, and maintenance elements of this project. Scott will be responsible for organizing all contracts, as well as providing supervisory leadership on-site.	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.

Our efforts to inform and educate our residents and the surrounding community about the project and the recommended funding from LCCMR, include a direct mailing to all Woodcrest tenants and families, press releases in local newspapers, and utilization of various web platforms, such as our websites and social media pages. Information will also be available in full-color brochures, as outlined in the work plan. All communications will include the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo and appropriate attribution language per the ENRTF Acknowledgment 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?

Ongoing implementation efforts will be funded and overseen by the Foundation for Healthcare Continuums. If additional funding is necessary, Country Manor Foundation will solicit cash and in-kind contributions from the serviced communities.

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										
Henkemeyer Excavating	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The proposed contract will include excavating, grading, supply and installation.		X		1		\$15,475	\$15,475	-
							Sub Total	\$15,475	\$15,475	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
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										
		Trail Signs and Wood Mounting Posts	Trails signs will provide location markers and directional navigation to users					\$525	\$525	-
							Sub Total	\$525	\$525	-
							Grand Total	\$16,000	\$16,000	-

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Contracts and Services - Henkemeyer Excavating	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The proposed contract will include excavating, grading, supply and installation.	Henkemeyer Excavating previous won a competitive bidding process for a trail building process (the existing 0.7 miles of trail) in 2018. Henkemeyer Excavating is the preferred service provider for this project due to their familiarity with the Woodcrest property, access points to the designated trail area, and knowledge of the specific equipment and services needed. We would like to bring them back as a single source contract for these reasons, knowing that they offer competitive pricing based upon their previous winning bid for the contract in 2018.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
Cash	Country Manor Foundation	These funds will be used for full-color printed brochures to be used as trail guides and provide educational information about the conservation project and process. These brochures will be available at the trail-head, in the lobby of Woodcrest of Country Manor, as well as published on the Woodcrest website. Additionally, this money will be used to supply the interpretive signage of native species, once research and identification are concluded. To cover additional costs of trail construction.	Secured	\$5,823	\$5,823	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$5,823	\$5,823	-
			Funds Total	\$5,823	\$5,823	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [18d175d5-62c.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The attached image is a satellite view of the 137 acre property at Woodcrest of Country Manor, prior to construction of the senior living facility. The wooded portion of the property has a .7 mile nature trail with a proposed addition of .4 miles of trail....

Financial Capacity

File: [5afb7cce-8b6.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Country Manor Authorization Letter	fc60a2ed-2ee.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
References	a225b340-d70.pdf
DBA Country Manor Campus	7c271034-a72.pdf
Signed Background Check Cert Form	51dd434d-355.pdf
Completed Project Photos - 1	6c6ff429-69e.pdf
Completed Project Photos - 2	5da37c79-2ae.pdf
Final Expense Summary	0ae6ab69-ffb.xlsx
Original Visual Component	f6495ccd-754.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

I have changed the budget section to include the service contract as a generally ineligible expense, as well as included the requested justification. Please let me know if further evidence is needed to support our proposal.

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, 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	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 07/31/2023 New Completion Date: 09/30/2023	Unplanned Delay due to other priorities that needed to be resolved before we could address this project. We plan on doing preliminary site excavation work this week. Then a contractor will come in to do approximately 1 week of work developing the trails. Once the contractor is done, we will address signage. That will complete the physical work and leave a few days for invoices and paperwork.	July 25, 2023	Yes	July 25, 2023
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Other • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed • Attachments 	Signs costed less than originally expected, and there were also inflationary increases in other costs associated with the project. Additional funds to cover these increases beyond the grant amount were provided by Country Manor (project owner). Budget has been amended to more accurately reflect these items.	December 28, 2023	Yes	December 29, 2023

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update November 14, 2023

Date Submitted: December 28, 2023

Date Approved: December 29, 2023

Overall Update

Phase I project was completed in September, 2023. Trail is complete, ad signs installed. I have attached photos of the completed project in the attachments section (section 7).

Activity 1

I have attached a summary of expenses incurred on Phase I in the Attachment section (7). Expenses were slightly higher than the original projection (\$21,823.97 vs. \$16,000) that was made in 2020.

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

Dissemination

All people living in the St. Joseph complex have been informed that the trail is now complete, and the Facility is using equipment to provide tours of the trail to those that are unable to walk it. We will now follow through with the remainder of the dissemination plans.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: July 11, 2023

Date Approved: August 8, 2023

Overall Update

We have not yet started excavation work on these trails, other higher-priority projects needed to be completed first. We are hopeful to start and complete the project in July 2023.

Activity 1

We have not completed Activity 1.

Dissemination

Nothing has been completed since our last update.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: December 1, 2022

Date Approved: December 6, 2022

Overall Update

We are still in the planning and preparation phase of Activity 1. We had some delays this late summer/fall due to hail damage repairs that had higher priority at the facility. Hopefully (weather permitting), we will begin excavation on the trail site now that the ground has frozen and can support the use of heavy equipment during December.

Activity 1

We have continued to review plans for the trail.

Dissemination

No progress. We have kept residents living in the facility aware of the status.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: June 1, 2022

Date Approved: July 5, 2022

Overall Update

Project has been temporarily delayed

Activity 1

Due to labor shortages caused by COVID, and economic climate, start of the project has been temporarily delayed. Hopefully, we will engage in Fall 2022.

Dissemination

We have communicated our intent to the residents of Woodcrest, but not the general public.