



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2022 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2022-088

Staff Lead: LCCMR General Universal Staff User

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: August 25, 2022

Project Title: St. Louis River Re-Connect

Project Budget: \$500,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Cliff Knettel

Organization: City of Duluth

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Web Address: <https://duluthmn.gov/>

Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: September 6, 2022

Reporting Schedule: March 1 / September 1 of each year.

Project Completion: October 31, 2024

Final Report Due Date: December 15, 2024

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 09d

Appropriation Language: \$500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Duluth to expand recreational access along the St. Louis River and estuary by implementing the St. Louis River National Water Trail outreach plan, designing and constructing upgrades and extensions to the Waabizheshikana Trail, and installing interpretive features that describe the cultural and ecological significance of the area.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: Enhance strategic quality natural resources and expand outdoor recreational access to the St. Louis River through additions and connections to state, regional, and local parks and trails.

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

The St. Louis River Estuary Area of Concern (AOC) is one of the most severely impacted areas in the Great Lakes Basin. Historical municipal and industrial waste disposal and unchecked land use practices, including dredging and filling habitat, resulted in AOC listing in 1987 for nine beneficial use impairments. These include fish consumption advisories, deformities, and tumors; excessive nutrient and sediment loading; degraded fish and wildlife populations and habitats; and beach closings and body contact. Residents recall being admonished by parents, "don't touch the water."

West Duluth neighborhoods that line the AOC once had vibrant commercial corridors linked to industry and maritime commerce. After mining collapsed in the 1980's, the retail areas were abandoned and housing and infrastructure fell into disrepair. Many residents suffer high rates of poverty, un- and under-employment, poor educational attainment, and poor health. Adults and youth do not have access to quality outdoor environments and activities that research shows are so important to developing environmental values. This is especially true in low-income neighborhoods where quality green space is lacking and residents have limited access to transportation.

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.

Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail and the National Water Trail together will expand access to the recovering river and promote education about AOC remediation and habitat restoration. Our vision includes a new and rehabilitated pedestrian/bike trail along the St. Louis River to create recreational opportunities and estuary access to the surrounding low-income neighborhoods that have historically lacked connection to these resources.

Waabizheshikana: the Marten Trail will provide access to the St. Louis River National Water Trail that includes 11 paddling routes over 12,000 acres of water. Waabizheshikana will include interpretive elements to tell the story of the geography, ecology, history of human impacts and AOC reclamation efforts. Rest stops along the way will invite reflection and serve as outdoor classrooms.

The final plan for the Waabizheshikana system is to include 7 miles of new trail and 3.3 miles of rehabilitated existing trails to create a 10-mile-long accessible trail from 63rd Ave West to Jay Cooke State Park. The ENRTF funding will be used to design and construct approximately 1 mile of trail from Munger Landing to Blackmer Park. Concurrently, another 1.7 miles of trail will be created with leveraged non- ENRTF fund to total 2.7 miles

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?

Long-term results:

Outcome: Further the awareness of the many recreational uses, environmental, and conservation steps completed and underway.

Outcome: Added visibility and increased visits increases resources to achieve the vision for the river restoration.

Outcome: Showcase the cultural history of the river and world's largest freshwater estuary.

Measurable results:

Outcome: 1 mile of ENRTF-funded new trail along the river

Outcome: 1.7 miles of additional new trail along the river funded through other means

Outcome: 6 miles of newly connected trails

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?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Construct Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Segment 2

Activity Budget: \$499,999

Activity Description:

The Waabizheshikana trail complex will ultimately include 7 miles of new trail and 3.3 miles of existing trail (previously known as the Western Waterfront trail) on city- owned land. The entire 10-mile stretch is being divided for planning purposes into eight segments (one existing, seven new) so that construction can occur as resources allow.

ENRTF funding will be used for Segment 2, which includes design and construction of an approximately 1-mile-long ADA-compliant crushed limestone trail from Munger Landing to Blackmer Park located in the Morgan Park neighborhood. This trail component coincides with scheduled Estuary cleanup and enhancements to Munger Landing that will be funded through additional sources

The City of Duluth completed preliminary design in 2021. As a part of this project, we will complete the final design, prepare construction/bid documents and for construction management through project completion. Once the final design and construction documents are completed, we will submit a summary to LCCMR staff for review.

Our contractors will be responsible for securing grading and storm water permits from the City of Duluth, NPDES permit from the MPCA, and wetland permits from US Army Corps of Engineers.

We will photo document progress during construction and at project

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Complete Final Engineering and Design	May 31, 2023
Project Bidding and Contractor Selection	August 31, 2023
Trail Segment 2 Construction	October 31, 2024

Activity 2: Construct Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Segments 1 and 3

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

We will use City of Duluth funds and US Steel/US EPA as match to finance the development of Segment 1 and 3 respectively, together totaling 1.7miles.

At the end of this grant period, we will have 2.7 miles of new trail and 3.3 miles of existing trail, totaling 6 miles of connected trails. Rehabilitation of some of the 3.3 miles of existing trail is needed and will be accomplished outside this grant period and these ENRTF funds.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Complete Final Engineering and Design of Segments 1 & 3	May 31, 2023
Project Bidding and Contractor Selection for Segments 1 & 3	August 31, 2023
Trail Segments 1 & 3 Construction	October 31, 2024

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.

This project has included substantial community involvement throughout the three separate planning processes (Trail, Interpretive Plan, Water Trail Plan). Prior to putting the project out for bid, the City will issue a press release and make the final plans available for review by the public. Comments will be collected, reviewed, and responded to as necessary. The City of Duluth will also create a project website that includes the previous planning documents, final designs, copies of all public notices, and project schedule.

Prior to construction start, we will hold a groundbreaking ceremony, with invitations to project funders, partners, and community members.

The City will take several actions that will include acknowledgements to ENRTF including a ribbon cutting event, project signage, project website and social media posts, press releases. Dissemination will occur prior to, during and after construction.

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?

Implementation will be executed in segments, with facilities/amenities particular to each trail constructed concurrently. Long-term development and sustainability of the Trails depends heavily on strong partnerships. We will partner with state and federal funders, leveraging city resources to secure grants to continue implementation.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Engineering Firm	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Final engineering and design for Segment @				0.5		\$50,000
General Contractor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Trail Construction				2		\$450,000
							Sub Total	\$500,000
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								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$500,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

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

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	City of Duluth	Segment 1 final design and construction	Secured	\$400,000
Cash	US Steel and US EPA	Segment 3 Final Design and Construction	Pending	\$1,000,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$1,400,000
			Funds Total	\$1,400,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [9097e034-a82.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Maps include the Final work plan project area of Segment 2 to be funded with ENRTF funding, and depicts Segment 1 & 3 to be completed with other non-ENRTF funds....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City of Duluth Resolution UPDATED	1e931744-ea7.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
City of Duluth Support Letters	68a969c9-99b.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Since we received \$500k of a \$2M request, we had to eliminate several scope items. For this phase, we will now focus solely on the final design and construction of Segment 2, as Segment 1 and 3 are being constructed with other funding and other partners. Once Segments 1, 2 & 3 (2.7 miles) are completed by October 31, 2024, we will have a total of 6 miles when added to the original Segment 0 of 3.3 miles. We eliminated the Segment 0 refurbishments, as they are a lower priority and will need to be completed with other funding sources. We also eliminated Segment 7 and the National Water Trail funding for the St. Louis River Alliance. Interpretation Plan implementation has also been eliminated from this scope, but will be completed after these three trail extensions are completed, in part with a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society.

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?

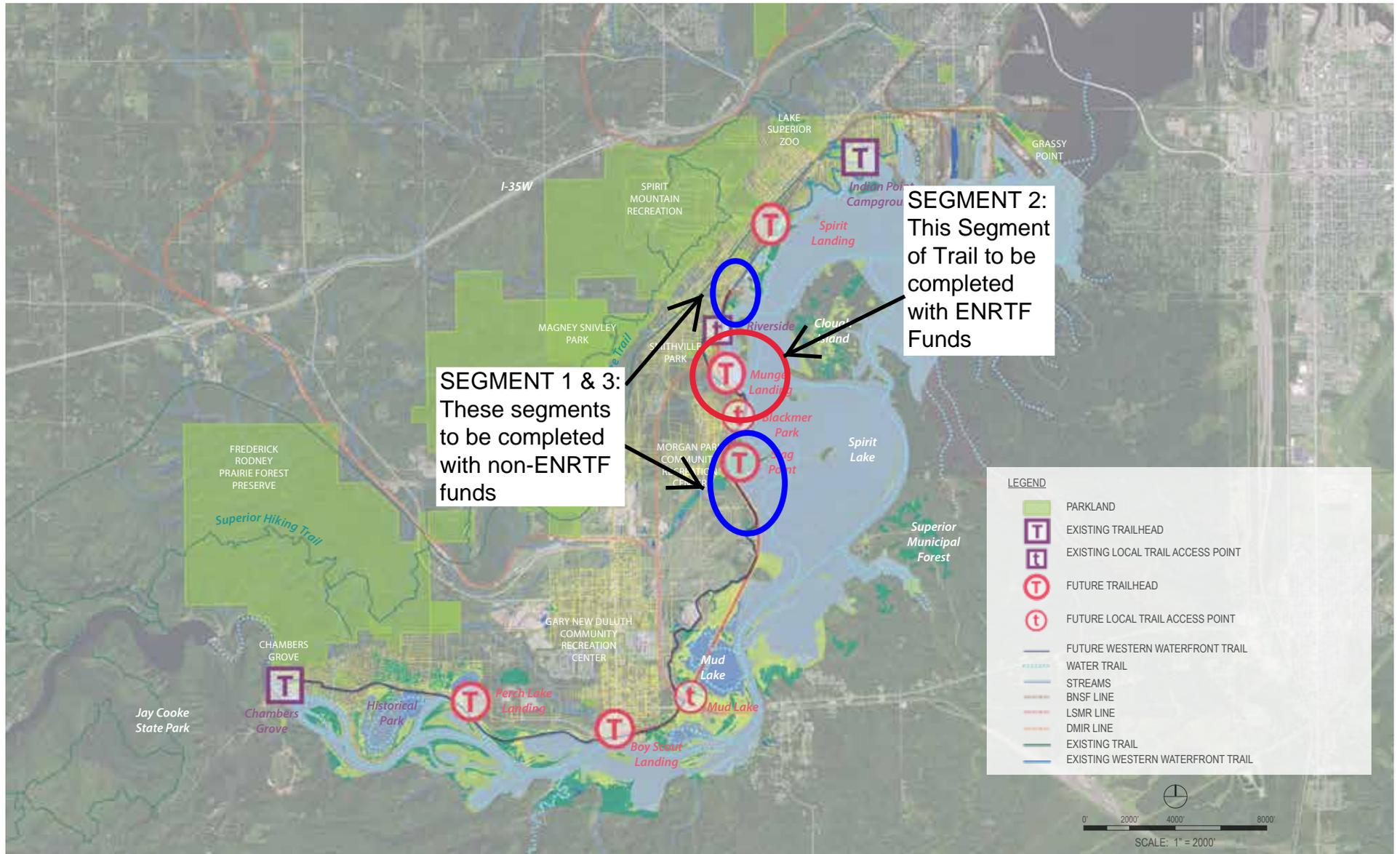
N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

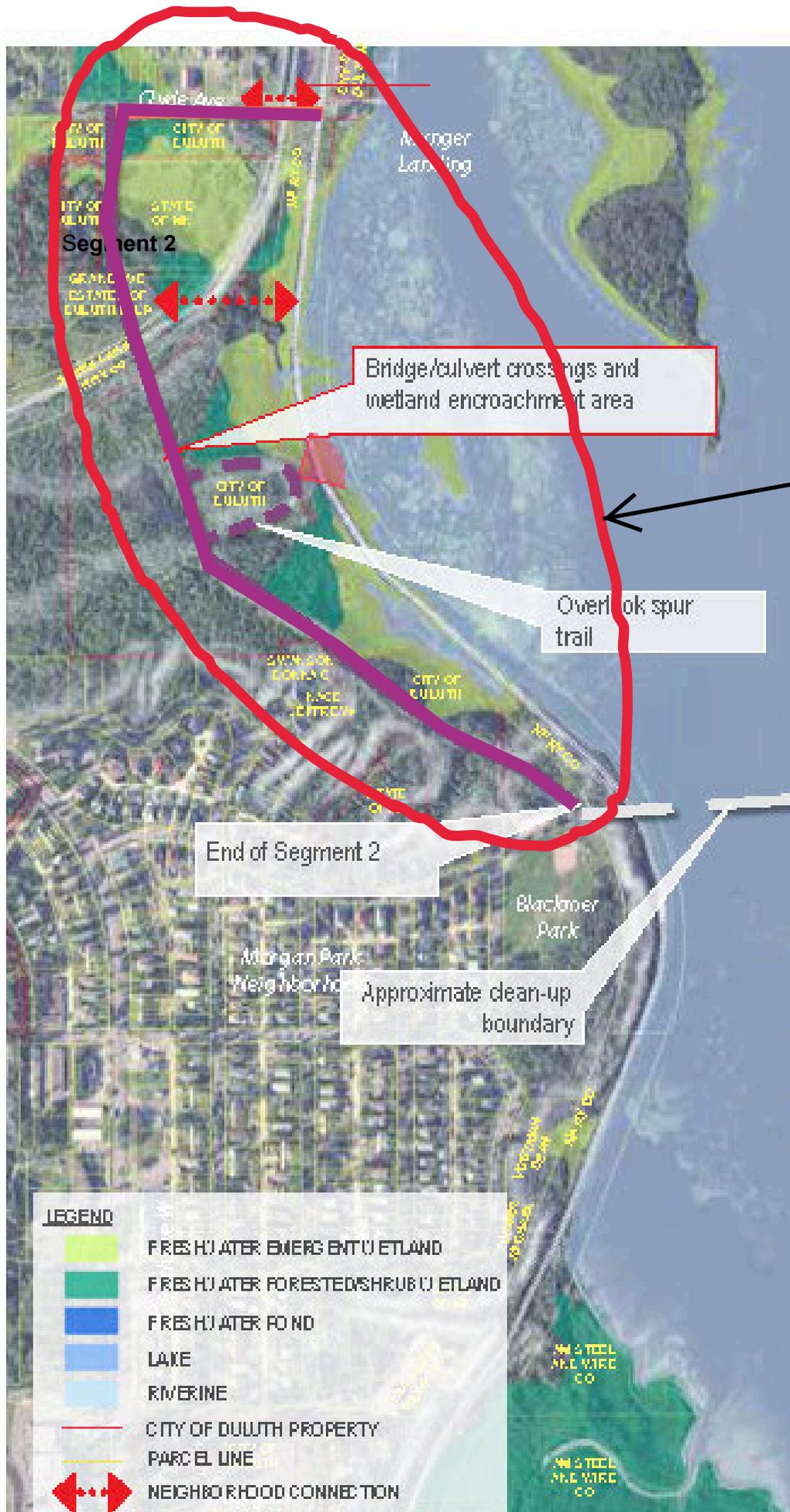
No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



Waabizheshikana Trailheads & Local Trail Access Points Overview Map



THIS SEGMENT OF TRAIL TO BE COMPLETED WITH ENRTF FUNDING