

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on August 25, 2026

M.L. 2023 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2026

Project Title: Redhead Mountain Bike Park

Project Manager: Char Conger

Affiliation: Minnesota Discovery Center

Mailing Address: 1005 Discovery Drive

City/State/Zip: Chisholm, MN 55719

Phone: (218) 421-7588

E-mail: cconger@mndiscoverycenter.com

Website: <https://www.mndiscoverycenter.com>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n

Appropriation Amount: \$1,666,000

Amount Spent: \$1,666,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Redhead Mountain Bike Park enhanced public access to Minnesota's natural resources by transforming previously disturbed mining lands into an outdoor recreation system. The project added over 12 miles of trails, pump track with a skills course and improved trailhead amenities. Helping people experience reclaimed mine lands while supporting environmental stewardship.

Summary of Project and Outcomes

Redhead Mountain Bike Park is located on previously disturbed iron-mining lands next to Minnesota Discovery Center in northern Minnesota. The existing trail system provided a unique opportunity to connect people with reclaimed landscapes, but it lacked enough beginner-friendly, adaptive, and longer-distance trail experiences to serve the full range of visitors.

This project expanded Redhead as a managed outdoor recreation destination while increasing public access to Minnesota's land and natural resources. The project added over 12 miles of multi-use trail to total over 25 miles of trails in the complex, including "The Pines," an adaptive trail designed to improve access for people using adaptive cycles and

for visitors with different physical abilities. New trail connections created longer routes, expanded beginner through advanced opportunities, and helped organize recreation within a planned trail system on reclaimed mining property.

The project also completed a paved pump track, skills course, and major trailhead improvements including paved parking, bike parking and washing facilities, drinking water, lighting, seating, updated restrooms, signage, and accessibility improvements. These facilities help beginners, youth, families, and adaptive users build skills and enjoy the outdoors in a safe and accessible setting.

By improving access to an already disturbed landscape, the project provides additional opportunities for outdoor recreation without relying on development of an undeveloped recreation site. It also gives visitors direct exposure to the Iron Range landscape and demonstrates how former mining lands can support new public uses.

The completed project strengthens connections between people and Minnesota's natural resources, promotes responsible outdoor recreation, and supports long-term appreciation of land stewardship and reclamation. It also contributes to northern Minnesota's recreation and tourism economy while increasing opportunities for residents and visitors of many ages and abilities to experience the outdoors.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Project results were shared through the May 29, 2026 Grand Opening, public events, websites, newsletters, social media, and regional television, print, and online news coverage. The Mesabi Tribune, WDIO, and Fox 21 News highlighted the new trails, pump track, skills course, accessibility improvements, and visitor amenities. Minnesota Discovery Center, Redhead Mountain Bike Park, project partners, and community stakeholders also promoted the completed project through their communication channels. These efforts informed the public about new recreation opportunities on reclaimed mining lands and encouraged visitors to experience the expanded trail system and surrounding Iron Range landscape.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: September 15, 2026

ID Number: 2023-231

Staff Lead: Erin Barton

Project Title: Redhead Mountain Bike Park

Project Budget: \$1,666,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Char Conger

Organization: Minnesota Discovery Center

Office Telephone: (218) 421-7588

Email: cconger@mndiscoverycenter.com

Web Address: <https://www.mndiscoverycenter.com>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: August 25, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: August 25, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n

Appropriation Language: \$1,666,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Chisholm as the fiscal agent for the Minnesota Discovery Center to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities by adding trails and amenities to the Redhead Mountain Bike Park in Chisholm. Amenities may include such things as pump tracks, skills courses, changing stations, shade shakes, and signage.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: The Redhead Mountain Bike Park will add up to 12 miles of additional trails and accommodations to Redhead Mountain Bike Trail System at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm,

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

Minnesota Discovery Center in northern Minnesota recently became the trailhead of the state's newest multi-use public trail system, Redhead Mountain Bike Park. Carved from the walls of several abandoned mine pits adjacent to MDC's historic 660-acre campus, Redhead offers 25 miles of easily accessible picturesque trails that circumnavigate and descend into water-filled iron ore mine pits and are free to the public 7-days a week. Redhead compliments four existing recreational amenities, the Mesabi Trail, Giants Ridge, Tioga, and Cuyuna making northern Minnesota perfectly situated to become an international destination for mountain bikers, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels.

With the first phase (\$1.77M) of the park build (most difficult trails built first) complete – a partnership between MDC, City of Chisholm, and Iron Range Off-Road Cyclists – and with outdoor related activities rapidly growing in Minnesota, Redhead is poised for continued growth and recreational expansion. Our mission is to build out the Redhead to its full potential, enhancing user experience by adding trail and accommodations making Redhead a premier recreational destination that compliments existing state investments and offers a unique and historic experience people of all capabilities can enjoy, including those with disabilities.

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.

With the most difficult 25-miles of trails complete, we seek funds to capitalize on the opportunity to build out Redhead to its full potential - constructing up to 12 additional miles of already flagged multi-use backcountry trail that will be better suited to accommodate beginner-expert level and family friendly mountain biking, adaptive cycling, hiking, side by side racing, and many other uses that require wider trail corridors. Moreover, we seek to enhance user experience and accessibility along new and existing trails by adding multi-use handicap accessible structural and recreational amenities that will better serve our thousands of visitors and continue to fuel the growth of Redhead, creating a world-class recreational destination.

Funds would construct up to 12-miles of already flagged multi-use trail and enhance user experience along existing and new trail by adding multi-use/handicap accessible structural and recreational amenities such as a circular paved pump/warm up track (a pump track uses gravity and momentum to aid user around track/wheelchair accessible/kid friendly), an educational mining-themed circular dirt skills course, changing stations, shade shacks, recreating areas, restroom facilities and other enhancements such as informational signage kiosks, and additional family/kid/handicap accessible amenities to accommodate a wider array

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?

Redhead promotes healthy lifestyles and connects bikers, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts with the outdoors and the history of the Iron Range. These upgrades will better serve and enhance the experience of the 15,000+ annual visitors (this number continues to grow), and to better utilize Redheads unique setting, trails, and MDC's historic and cultural 660-acre campus. By expanding Redhead accommodations, we will connect more people to MN history, mine-land reclamation, and the outdoors and further repurposes this iconic site into a world class biking and hiking experience.

Project Location

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

City(s): Chisholm

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: Paved Pump Track, Skills Course, and Trail Amenities

Activity Budget: \$496,400

Activity Description:

The Redhead Mountain Bike Trail system has limited capacity for experiences that align with the skill and fitness of new trail enthusiasts and those using adaptive bikes, wheelchairs, or youth riders. The Redhead system offers the chance to provide unique opportunities for trail-based exploration and for individuals to build the skills, confidence, and fitness to explore more challenging trails at Redhead and elsewhere.

This activity will enhance the existing hands-on learning and interpretive environment of the Minnesota Discovery Center and Redhead park by adding active kid and beginner-friendly elements. We propose the addition of an asphalt pump track, and a beginner single track loop, all integrated into the existing trail system. We will also create Discovery Center/Redhead Trailhead and event staging improvements that include bike parking, fencing, trail access, drinking water, kiosk, start/finish area, and tot-track. We would also add trail improvements including drinking water, sitting areas, restroom facilities, information kiosk, a shade shack, changing stations, and accessibility enhancements throughout the system.

Feasibility and conceptual designs for additional park amenities and the pumptrack/skills course were completed with the first round of investment around 5/1/2020. Additionally, EAW and landowner permissions have already been obtained.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Refinement of trailhead amenity development, amenity locations, and connectivity to main trails.	November 30, 2023
Field design of proposed additional miles and pumptrack/skills course.	December 31, 2023
Compliance with regulatory entities regarding permitting (i.e. Stormwater Prevention/SHPO consultation/Grading, etc.).	May 31, 2024
Contractor outreach initiated.	May 31, 2024
Contracting outreach commenced for amenity, pumptrack, and skills course trail development.	June 30, 2024
Tentative construction of amenities, pumptrack, & skills course (upon avail/alternative start June 2025).	September 30, 2024
Construction of amenities, pump track, & skills course done (completed sooner if contractor can).	December 31, 2025

Activity 2: Trail Construction

Activity Budget: \$1,169,600

Activity Description:

Taking full advantage of the Redhead landscape, this activity will implement the complete development of the designed trail system that will offer longer distance trails, more challenging trail experiences, as well as more inclusive terrain features for individuals with disabilities, families, and destination-oriented visitors; -additions that will stretch visitation to multiple days. These approximately 12-miles of trail system additions will add options to the Redhead experience, including the longest backcountry loop, a circumnavigation of almost 20-miles around the landscape (linking trails 31, 33, 41, 42, 50, 46, and 32 to the loop around the mining pits) and a number of beginner through expert gravity-oriented trails (44, 46, and 47/50) down the largest tailings pile on the Redhead property. Improvements will also include enhanced signage, safety information, and supporting structures and amenities along the trail. The additional (up to)12-miles and amenities will allow us to schedule more of these types of races, enhance user experience, and better

accommodate trail users here at Redhead. Feasibility and conceptual designs for additional trails have been previously completed (5/1/2020) and EAW/Landowner permission has already been obtained for proposed project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final refinement of project planning & trail field designs for additional miles.	December 31, 2023
Outreach to contractors for construction of up to 12 additional miles begins.	January 31, 2024
Contractor tentatively begins construction of additional miles if schedule allows it/alt start June 2025.	August 31, 2024
Additional miles completed, integrated into local emergency plans, public use begins.	December 31, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Stephanie Skraba	City of Chisholm, Minnesota	City Administrator, Fiscal Agent	Yes
Pat Cassingham	Iron Range Off-Road Cyclists (IROC)	Trail Boss and Representing IROC Officer	No
Devin Ceglar	City of Chisholm	Clerk - Treasurer	Yes

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.

The Minnesota Discovery Center and City of Chisholm will have a robust dissemination effort that includes but is not limited to issuing a regional press release, newsletter, and social media campaign. Updating our website for Redhead to feature a mention of the awarded funding and ENRTF logo. Strategically placed signs throughout the park and within the proposed project areas, including at the main trailhead will recognize project funders/partners and include logos. MDC will also post progress pictures during and after the project to use on social media and for stories in local and regional papers that will be presented in a way that promotes funders and project partners. .

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 long-term strategy for Redhead is to build-out at least 45-miles of trail for the system. We will continue to seek eligible grants to complete the project. We will look for future funding opportunities to continue to maintain the trail system.

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										
Barr Engineering	Service Contract	Project planning, engineering, trail design.				0.13		\$116,025	\$116,025	-
Rock Solid	Service Contract	Trail construction				2		\$685,931	\$685,931	-
Erik Carlson	Service Contract	Construction management and environmental compliance.				0.5		\$40,575	\$40,575	-
Fineline	Service Contract	Trail Construction				0.25		\$51,000	\$51,000	-
Bougalis Inc	Service Contract	Trail Head Construction				1		\$292,469	\$292,469	-
American Ramp Company	Service Contract	Design and build of an asphalt pump track				2		\$480,000	\$480,000	-
							Sub Total	\$1,666,000	\$1,666,000	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Equipment										
							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	\$1,666,000	\$1,666,000	-

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						
Cash	MN Dept of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation	Funding will assist with completion of trailhead projects	Secured	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-
			State Sub Total	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [febebe70-e7a.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Redhead Map...

Financial Capacity

File: [1072fbbc-19e.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
IRS Determination Letter	ad296aac-792.pdf
W9	e0cb5194-66c.pdf
MN Discovery Center Board Resolution	623f984c-fde.pdf
Updated MN Discovery Center Board Resolution	5cd52602-d86.pdf
Chisholm Council Resolution of Support	ca47da8b-1f0.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Articles of Incorporation	78f9673c-af4.pdf
Board of Directors	f16471a0-8f3.pdf
Chisholm Mayor Champa Letter of Support	a64d08bf-6bf.pdf
IROC Letter of Support	f1814af7-376.pdf
Chamber Letter of Support	bcc70fec-a12.pdf
St. Louis County Letter of Support	d1555272-4c8.pdf
Letter of Support from Rep Dave Lislegard	a0a97e94-9d8.pdf
Letter of Support from MN Discovery Center	a70a2a80-605.pdf
Background Check Certification Form	016c90e8-4c4.pdf
Updated Visual 2 New Trails, Amenity Location, Pump track and Skills Course	6dc276a5-a51.pdf
Proposed Trail Development	28ad71f7-170.pdf
Proposed (draft) Redhead Trailhead Concept Plan	0bee315f-d5b.pdf
New Trail A Adaptive	67b0a0eb-d82.jpe
New Trail Orange Crush Connector	bae6ccce-6c6.jpe
New Trail Split off Roller Derby	33bb8f2a-d09.jpe
New Trail Split off Roller Derby 2	8fa1c89a-906.jpe
New trail pines extension	d47dcc21-979.jpe
New trail pines extension	998d0e3d-6bd.jpe
New intersection bridge	7d3c17c3-d52.jpe
Spell Bound Connection	4813606b-2bf.jpe
New trail secret garden	afc7c625-7c5.jpe
Pump Track	1aa0b9c9-fa7.jpe
pump track 2	5d45dc02-8a6.jpe
pump track 3	b2b83177-087.jpe
pump track 4	1710ae2f-6ac.jpe
Trails Completed with LCCMR Funds	25d76966-a23.pdf
aerial of pump track and skills course.jpg	e3f86c7b-233.jpe
adaptive trail.jpg	eae5fa0d-a66.jpe
amenities 3.jpg	48fb02ac-068.jpe

Amenities IP.jpg	0b28619f-96d.jpe
amenities 3.jpg	b00eb147-33a.jpe
Final Amenities - Wash Station	d7b5a9fb-064.jpe
Amenities - Hydrant	4d73acb2-b25.jpe
LCCMR ack sign 1	3fc82427-b04.jpe
LCCMR ack sign 2	9937cfff-1e9.jpe
Final list of LCCMR funded trail construction	cfecf845-3a0.pdf
Ore Bit Trail - New construction	fb2e0a3b-f9d.jpe
Final Trail Map with LCCMR funded trails highlighted	e293ed42-935.pdf
Original Redhead Map	0c9160e2-c8b.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
Sept 27, 2024 Facebook Status offering call out to LCCMR	https://www.facebook.com/RedheadMTBPark/posts/pfbid035TiQCH6Be881R7ucEmkeiY84FQsp7FB4XLgXm7k9sYtbenFTjAktne4Ad7xoqXTI?rdid=v9CbPtzg9dYuuhIP
August 14, 2024 Facebook Status Welcoming Trail Constructors, thanking LCCMR	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/yvWkBmPRTW4BaoK1/
June 17, 2023 Facebook Status announcing funding	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/M6JhKw5ELg9yotC/
Redhead Website Section	https://www.redheadmtbpark.com/ourstory

n annou ncing projec ts and fundin g	
Redhe ad Websi te Blog Post about trail constr uction and fundin g	https://www.redheadmtbpark.com/news/redhead-welcomes-back-rock-solid
Redhe ad trail expan sion bids award ed	https://www.mesabitrubune.com/news/local/redhead-trail-expansion-bids-awarded/article_b378034c-f476-11ef-800c-bb9a00dd6313.html?utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwY2xjawJP1J5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHU1eoLLVdF_Ofbicb1DH2TqxdU275mQL99ZfQ56iWAGIMVbgH9KQ_nbzAg_aem_1DLfU7cq1JcXz5tGvvyiww
Trail impro vemen t Faceb ook	https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.facebook.com_RedheadMTBPark_posts_pfbid0DHvA8qLc9JnfDQ2t8cmmYYi6FnQpdQ1X1CDgYtDpajYg8ChQGgZ6WxgXNnFuSi3nl&d=DwMFAg&c=euGZstcaTDIlvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=ATSmm67je40ssQwsr0TJMK76UDUQjHmamZ3u3vWS8b0&m=ivKriS94gW6NwZPdh9cji_hrV-CISV97kFEuMTZl_45EoeTallIHZfsekgUFafvf&s=hztSo360OabEd5IVorLYqQ6ML_iFWAayC8YpWuK6eOE&e=
Trail Impro vemen t Faceb ook	https://www.facebook.com/RedheadMTBPark/posts/pfbid02jgtqr3V9YaYyhP8qBkmtFSW6VpwYeBNJ7CaM7rnzEPey5pdrfE3iWKx7nG2Q1jtEI
Trail Impro vemen t Faceb ook	https://www.facebook.com/RedheadMTBPark/posts/pfbid02jgtqr3V9YaYyhP8qBkmtFSW6VpwYeBNJ7CaM7rnzEPey5pdrfE3iWKx7nG2Q1jtEI
Trail expan sion	https://www.facebook.com/RedheadMTBPark/posts/pfbid02UFospDKQU6B1V4CAKzZphPJUTWfLomG8EzDUYGjgxYZKFERfGKPMQtoDN8fdGLxEI
Redhe ad MTN pump track/ skills course grand	https://www.facebook.com/share/18VNpCV7F9/

openi ng	
Discover the Range (tourism dept) PR on Redhead Grand Opening	https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1BS5cUypyM/
krforadio PR	https://krforadio.com/ixp/150/p/new-trailhead-opening-chisholm/
Mesabi Tribune	https://www.mesabitribune.com/news/local/trail-expansion-upgrades-celebrated-at-redhead-mountain-bike-park/article_f5cd2d88-826c-4b05-9501-61360006ce28.html
WDIO Grand Opening	https://www.wdio.com/front-page/top-stories/grand-opening-of-the-new-trailhead-pump-track-and-skills-course-at-redhead-mountain-bike-park/
WDIO pump track preview	https://www.wdio.com/lift-online/redhead-pump-track-skills-course-opening/
Mesabi Tribune Preview	https://www.mesabitribune.com/news/local/redhead-ramps-up-for-an-awesome-2026/article_383c7e08-18fb-4547-927b-3da29245d470.html
Fox 21 News Grand Opening	https://www.fox21online.com/news/local/mn-discovery-center-unveils-iron-ranges-first-bike-pump-track/article_f8ea17d2-977a-4ad7-908f-fb59d31fd0b2.html
City of Chisholm Facebook Post	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1439038901358131&set=a.744047894190572
MN Discovery Center Facebook Post	https://www.facebook.com/mndiscoverycenter/posts/pfbid02LX6KAPQXmp9G1ZvSSTgb7r6Lh2oPkn8FjapTbizhM62mT1zAuRULx8iNvTbiFNn1I
Blaze Air Productions	https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheRange/posts/pfbid02Sr3BPMKH6KHhiiA7PZNCBRgUdK2dpBi9zE52wmLuxgpexfeHaB2tksYoXKJZ2xkYI

Media Cover age	
Discover the Range (tourism bureau) Grand Opening Cover age	https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheRange/posts/pfbid025jgcmEyw9GRNSx8Ab9CTwUFYZa4qu8dGtBUWMaedUHE4stN8VLzUb7kie63DQ7al

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Changes made in this proposal reflect the recommended funding amount for this project of \$1,666,000. The first change was to the project budget. Each of the two activity budgets were decreased by 16%. Activity 1 went from \$591,000 to \$496,400 and Activity 2 went from \$1,386,000 to \$1,164,200. An additional adjustment of the total new miles from 14 miles to up to 12 miles to account for a 16% decrease of the project budget. Lastly, an adjustment to the project schedule was made to reflect a timeline more in line with the project activities and milestones. Specifically, we adjusted the reporting schedule and extended the project time to be in line with the 2-year average, completing the project by December 31, 2025. We changed the location of attachments to appropriate areas within the work plan as requested in LCCMR comments and revisions.

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?

Yes, City of Chisholm

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Justification For Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Donna Johnson (donna.johnson@mndiscoverycenter.com) New Manager: Jordan Metsa (jmetsa@mndiscoverycenter.com)	Donna Johnson no longer works for the Minnesota Discovery Center	October 24, 2023	Yes	October 24, 2023
2	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Jordan Metsa (jmetsa@mndiscoverycenter.com) New Manager: Char Conger (cconger@mndiscoverycenter.com)	Jordan Metsa is no longer with the MN Discovery Center.	March 12, 2024	Yes	March 12, 2024
3	Amendment Request	• Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Other • Project Collaborators - Project Partner Info • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	Addition of City of Chisholm Administrator and Parks and Trails Manager added as project collaborators for LCCMR. They are leading the project construction procurement and management as the fiscal agent and construction lead. Project Planning and Engineering firm added, Barr Engineering 5/7/2024	May 7, 2024	Yes	May 7, 2024
4	Amendment Request	• Other • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed • Attachments	Professional/Tech Contracts added to Budget including, Rock Solid, Fineline, Erik Carlson with contracted budgets. Non ENRFT, IRRR grant funds secured November 2024 and will now move forward with contract for pump track construction with American Ramp Company. Construction to start Spring 2024. Barr line increase due to underestimating time to complete planning in original budget.	December 13, 2024	Yes	December 16, 2024
5	Amendment Request	• Project Collaborators - Project Partner Info • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Attachments	Removing Bridgit Maruska. She is leaving her position with the City of Chisholm. Adding Devin Ceglar in her place. Devin is the City Clerk - Treasurer and will be a collaborator on reporting.	April 25, 2025	Yes	May 1, 2025

			Barr agreement amount is increased due to underestimating time to complete planning. In order to increase the Barr allocation required a decrease in trailhead construction that will now be paid for by non ENRTF funds (IRRR).			
6	Amendment Request	Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	Bougalis Inc will be the contractor for the trail head construction for partial of total amount for the trail head construction. The remaining amount from Bougalis will be put towards the IRRR Non ENRFT grant.	June 4, 2025	Yes	July 7, 2025
7	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 12/31/2025 New Completion Date: 06/30/2026	Spring installation of water to site and remaining signage at the trailhead and adaptive trail installed in the spring.	October 27, 2025	Yes	October 27, 2025
8	Amendment Request	- Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts - Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed - Attachments	Budget amounts adjusted with final expenditures for the LCCMR. The allocations have been adjusted to spend down the LCCMR grant funds out first and then use the IRRR non enrft funds for the remaining amounts. The contracts are still the same. More money was allocated to trail construction from LCCMR and the Non LCCMR funds will cover the remaining invoices from American Ramp company due to timing of invoices.	April 16, 2026	Yes	April 22, 2026

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2026

Date Submitted: August 10, 2026

Date Approved: August 13, 2026

Overall Update

The Redhead Mountain Bike Park Expansion Project successfully achieved its primary objectives of expanding recreational opportunities, improving accessibility, and enhancing visitor experiences at Redhead Mountain Bike Park. Project funds were used to construct approximately 12 miles of new multi-use trail, including "The Pines," an adaptive trail section designed to increase accessibility and outdoor recreation opportunities for users of all abilities. These additions complement the existing 25-mile trail system and expand opportunities for beginner, intermediate, and advanced riders, hikers, families, and adaptive cyclists. The project also delivered numerous visitor amenities and accessibility improvements, including a paved pump track, mining-themed skills course, interpretive signage, improved trailhead lighting, bike wash station, restroom facilities, paved parking area, seating areas, and drinking fountain. These enhancements improve safety, accessibility, comfort, and overall user experience while accommodating the park's growing number of visitors. A major milestone was reached with the successful Grand Opening of the expanded Redhead Mountain Bike Park on May 29, 2026. The completed project continues the transformation of reclaimed mine lands into a world-class recreation destination, promotes healthy lifestyles, supports northern Minnesota's outdoor tourism economy, and better serves the park's 15,000+ annual visitors while connecting users to the history of the Iron Range.

Activity 1

Activity 1 since last report was successfully completed and significantly expanded beginner friendly, family oriented, and adaptive recreation opportunities at Redhead Mountain Bike Park. The project delivered a paved pump track and mining themed skills course designed to help youth riders, new cyclists, adaptive users, and visitors of all abilities build confidence, develop skills, and safely progress to more challenging trails throughout the Redhead system.

In the last 6 months:

- o Provide and install outslope Class 2 edging - completed 5/2026
- o Install cobble reject buttress material - completed 5/2026
- o Fix artificial turf on pump track islands - completed 5/2026
- o Install filler in open holes on wall ride backing - completed 5/2026
- o Fix the one high drain.- replaced 5/2026
- o Rock armor the pipe outlet on the upslope of High Road - completed 5/2026

The project also completed major trailhead and visitor amenity improvements, including a paved parking lot, bike wash station, bike parking, drinking fountain, trailhead lighting, seating areas, restroom facilities, and signage. These improvements created a more welcoming, accessible, and functional trailhead experience while supporting large events and daily recreational use.

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

Activity 2

Activity 2 was successfully completed and achieved the project's goal of expanding the Redhead Mountain Bike Park trail network and enhancing the visitor experience. A total of 12.254 miles of new multi use trail were constructed, including "The Pines," an adaptive trail section designed to increase access and outdoor recreation opportunities for individuals of all abilities. The new trail segments expanded riding and hiking opportunities for beginner, intermediate, and advanced users while creating longer route options and a more connected trail system.

In the last 6 months:

Main trail construction is 100% complete.

- o .05 miles on secret garden rock work, Completed 5/2026
- o .25 miles of red hop reroute and jump line - completed 5/2026 and renamed Ore Bit
- o .24 miles of though mama decent - completed 5/2026
- o adjustments were made to culverts to provide better drainage and safety - not needed after reassessment in spring
- o signage at intersections - completed 6/2026

The completed trail additions enhance Redhead's ability to serve destination visitors by offering extended riding experiences, including connections that support long distance backcountry loops and gravity oriented trail experiences unique to the reclaimed mining landscape.

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

Dissemination

Dissemination activities focused on promoting project completion, celebrating new recreational opportunities, and increasing public awareness of the Redhead Mountain Bike Park expansion. A major outreach milestone was the Grand Opening celebration held on May 29, 2026, which highlighted the completion of the new trailhead, pump track, skills course, trail expansion, and visitor amenities.

The project received substantial regional media coverage through television, print, online news outlets, and social media. Coverage included articles and features in the Mesabi Tribune, including "Trail expansion, upgrades celebrated at Redhead Mountain Bike Park" and "Redhead ramps up for an awesome 2026." Television and online coverage was provided by WDIO through stories highlighting the Grand Opening and previewing the new pump track and skills course. Additional regional coverage was provided by Fox 21 News, which featured the unveiling of the Iron Range's first bike pump track and highlighted the project's accessibility, recreation, and tourism benefits.

Minnesota Discovery Center, Redhead Mountain Bike Park, project partners, and community stakeholders also promoted the project through websites, social media platforms, newsletters, and public events. These dissemination efforts increased awareness of the completed improvements and encouraged visitation to the expanded trail system and amenities.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update April 8, 2026

Date Submitted: April 16, 2026

Date Approved: April 22, 2026

Overall Update

“NA, submitted by mistake”

Activity 1

“NA, submitted by mistake”

Activity 2

“NA, submitted by mistake”

Dissemination

“NA, submitted by mistake”

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2026

Date Submitted: April 16, 2026

Date Approved: April 22, 2026

Overall Update

Friday, May 29th at noon is the official grand opening of the pump track and new trailhead amenities supported by the LCCMR grant. Trails in activity 2 are open. There are few finishing touches on the sloping of the trails, but they are open and available to use. The pump track final water lines will be finished as soon as the weather is above freezing. All LCCMR funds will be spent out with the final reimbursement request from the City of Chisholm following this report. Total project completion is expected in June 2026 .

Activity 1

Final waterline and electric (ebike charging, drinking fountain, bike wash) , concrete pouring (wheel stops, pads for charging station, race gates, removable bollard) and signage (LCCMR signs, traffic signs, interp sign, waiver sign MDC directional) will be installed once weather improves. Changing station and picnic tables to be delivered mid May. The American Ramp Company will be out to do some final adjustments to the skills course and pump track before the grand opening.

American Ramp Company Punchlist (projected completion May 4-8)

- o Provide and install outslope Class 2 edging
- o Install cobble reject buttress material
- o Fix artificial turf on pump track islands
- o Install filler in open holes on wall ride backing
- o Fix the one high drain.
- o Rock armor the pipe outlet on the upslope of High Road

Activity 2

Main trail construction is 99% complete with just a few minor adjustments once the weather improves. .05 miles on secret garden rock work, .16 miles of red hop reroute and jump line and .24 miles of though mama decent will be completed by May 29, 2026 weather depending on timeline. Pines is a new adaptive trail section with connection to the trail head, safety rebuilds were completed on 8 sections, adjustments were made to culverts to provide better drainage and safety, signage at intersections were improved to create safer conditions on return trails. Bike wash and ebike charging amenities added. Trails completed by LCCMR funding list in attachments.

Dissemination

Marketing regarding the grand opening is in progress. Once completed will be uploaded. Grand opening is Friday May 29th. LCCMR staff is encouraged to attend. Formal invitation coming soon. New photos and links submitted.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2025

Date Submitted: October 27, 2025

Date Approved: October 27, 2025

Overall Update

Since our last update trail and pump track construction has made significant progress. Barr engineer reports as of 10/14/2025 that the asphalt pump track and tot track is 100% complete, mountain bike skills course surrounding the pump track is 90% complete and the additional trailhead amenities are 60% complete. The additional trail miles are 95% complete and crews will continue to work on the trails until weather prohibits. We will need to pursue an extension request until 6/30/2026 to complete the project due to seasonality of the construction and the need to install water service onsite in the spring and spring installation of signage at the trailhead and adaptive trail.

Activity 1

- The asphalt pump track and tot track is now 100% complete.
- The mountain bike skills course (surrounding the pump track) is 90% complete, with the anticipated completion date being November 30, 2025.
- The additional trailhead and amenities construction is approximately 60% complete.

Work to date has included the following items:

- o Complete construction of concrete building pads
- o Partial construction of concrete walks for accessible site access to pump track, skills course, restrooms/changing rooms, and other trailhead areas
- o Construction of the parking area
- o Construction of the race finish area with special "red gold" aggregate surfacing
- o Site lighting bases have been installed
- o Electrical service to the site has been installed
- o New prefabricated storage and bike maintenance building has been installed
- o Shade shack improvements have been constructed

Items still in progress:

- o Construction of the site water service
- o Construction of the bike wash and drinking fountain
- o Construction of remaining concrete walks
- o Fence construction
- o Changing room/restroom area
- o Interpretive and funding acknowledgement signage
- o Sign kiosk construction
- o Landscaping
- o Amenities installation (bike racks, benches, trash and recycling receptacles)

Activity 2

A new adaptive section of trail was designed for riders of all abilities and new trails completed. The added trails will ensure that riders will have multiple days of riding and help drive the local economy by multi day stays to the area. In addition to the 3 miles completed last summer (2024) since May 2025 roughly 8 more miles have been completed bring

total completion to around 95% at the time of reporting. Roughly one more mile to complete. Fineline trail crew with .6 miles and Rock Solid with roughly .08 miles to complete.

Dissemination

Multiple attachments including photos added to attachments page.

August 7 Facebook post on the trailhead redesign had 14 shares, 7 comments and 119 likes
<https://www.facebook.com/RedheadMTBPark>

June 27 Facebook post recognizing LCCMR

Throughout summer 2025, MN Discovery Center launched interpretative historical tours on Redhead (mtn biking, hiking and kayaking)

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update March 20, 2025

Date Submitted: April 25, 2025

Date Approved: May 1, 2025

Overall Update

During the winter season portions of the new trail build were groomed and used for winter recreation included snowshoeing and fat tire biking. Redhead planning meetings have continued since the last update. Progress during the Redhead committee meetings included final trailhead design planning and contractor presentations on the pump track and skills course construction.

Activity 1

Progress since last update: The design phase has progressed through multiple Redhead committee meetings and as of 3/25/2025 the committee will determine final design elements for the trailhead with engineer estimates. Next step is to get three bid estimates for fencing, concrete, asphalt, shed build, mining equipment relocation (for placemaking/interpretive/skill park elements) and working with state bid contractor, Sourcewell to conduct skill course bidding.

Activity 2

Progress since last update: no further construction progress we are waiting for the snow to melt and the build season to begin. In the meantime, the RFP process was conducted for the 2025 trail building season and awarded to Rock Solid and Fineline who were the previous builders on the last 6 miles constructed.

Dissemination

Trail Builders article: https://www.trailbuilders.org/projects-for-bid/35-miles-of-new-trails-and-added-skills-areas-jump-lines-amp-more-in-mn?fbclid=IwY2xjawJP1UxleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHaKCtFRJ-3jti2r8apVVIQ81bh_021A7mQFkouhP0uXkjs745EpimEC4pA_aem_fJXsxf3H_FxbBenC9Wqujg

Redhead expansion article in Mesabi Tribune: https://www.mesabitribune.com/news/local/redhead-trail-expansion-bids-awarded/article_b378034c-f476-11ef-800c-bb9a00dd6313.html?utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwY2xjawJP1J5leHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHU1eoLLVdF_Ofbicb1DH2TqxdU275mQL99ZfQ56iWAGIMVbgH9KQ_nbzAg_aem_1DLfU7cq1JcXz5tGvyiww

Note for scheduled posts in April 2025: Future trailhead maps and LCCMR and IRRR funding information shared via website <https://www.redheadmtbpark.com/news>

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2025

Date Submitted: April 25, 2025

Date Approved: May 1, 2025

Overall Update

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Redhead expansion article in Mesabi Tribune: https://www.mesabtribune.com/news/local/redhead-trail-expansion-bids-awarded/article_b378034c-f476-11ef-800c-bb9a00dd6313.html?utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwY2xjawJP1J5leHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHU1eoLLVdF_Ofbicb1DH2TqxdU275mQL99ZfQ56iWAGIMVbgH9KQ_nbzAg_aem_1DLfU7cq1JcXz5tGvyiiww

Note for scheduled posts in April 2025: Future trailhead maps and LCCMR and IRRR funding information shared via website <https://www.redheadmtbpark.com/news>

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update November 15, 2024

Date Submitted: December 13, 2024

Date Approved: December 16, 2024

Overall Update

The addition of six miles of new trails has expanded recreational opportunities for cyclists, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. The added trail miles to date cater to a range of skill levels, encouraging more people to engage in healthy, active lifestyles. Many repeat local trail users have been raving about the new trail miles, saying they love the additions. The park continues to connect visitors with the unique landscapes of the Iron Range, blending outdoor and adventure with appreciation for local history and land reclamation efforts. Design work has begun on trailhead amenities that will enhance the overall visitor experience. The Velo Solutions paved pump track will provide a dynamic new feature for families and riders of all abilities. Features like a bike wash, drinking fountain, and improved site utilities will meet visitor needs and support the growing popularity of the park. The skills course being planned will expand the park's appeal and offer unique training opportunities.

Activity 1

Progress since last update: Since our last report, we have initiated the design phase for the paved pump track, skills course, and trailhead amenities. This includes site planning for utility installation to provide water access, a bike wash, and a drinking fountain. These amenities are essential for enhancing visitor convenience and sustainability. The lighting design is also in progress, focusing on ensuring safety and extending usability during evening hours. Lights provide security as well.

We did realize our original idea of adding full-service restrooms to the trailhead is not feasible, even with the added \$1M acquired from IRRR in December, 2024.

The design work represents a significant step forward in achieving the stated outcomes for Activity One. These features will elevate Redhead MTB Park as a premier destination for outdoor recreation, improving both the functionality and appeal of the site. The paved pump track and skills course will cater to riders of varying experience levels, expanding accessibility and engagement. We've entered into contract with American Ramp Company and their Velo Solutions product is the only pump track certified to be a UCI approved course for competition. Hosting pump track competitions will be an important economic stimulus for Chisholm.

Activity 2

We have successfully completed approximately six miles of new trails, expanding Redhead MTB Park's network to accommodate a growing number of visitors and offer diverse riding experiences. These new trails are designed to cater to various skill levels, furthering the park's mission to promote healthy lifestyles and connect people to the outdoors. Work has also included site preparation and initial planning for the remaining trail mileage, ensuring alignment with overall park development goals. One really great outcome of the trail work has been the reworking of trail intersections so as to move two-way trails into one-way trails which makes the system immeasurably safer.

This trail expansion marks significant progress toward our stated outcomes, providing enhanced recreational opportunities and attracting both local residents and tourists. The newly constructed trails highlight the park's unique setting, featuring reclaimed mine land and stunning Iron Range landscapes, while connecting more users to Minnesota's history and outdoor opportunities. We are on track to achieve the full scope of trail construction. These additions complement the park's growing reputation as a world-class outdoor destination, supporting visitor engagement and advancing Redhead MTB Park as a hub for mountain biking, hiking, and cultural exploration.

Dissemination

Dissemination to date is included in the provided links. Trail building doesn't elicit a lot of social media or news attention;

thus we plan the majority of dissemination will occur once the trailhead projects (pump track, skills course) are started and finished.

The new Redhead website includes two pages identifying ENRTF as a funding source for the Phase II additions.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/GVAS4fSqGTD8CGWt/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/yvWkBmPRTW4BaoK1/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/M6JjHkW5ELg9yotC/>

<https://www.redheadmtbpark.com/ourstory> (scroll toward the bottom to see a section dedicated to ENRTF and IRRR)

<https://www.redheadmtbpark.com/news/redhead-welcomes-back-rock-solid>

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2024

Date Submitted: December 13, 2024

Date Approved: December 16, 2024

Overall Update

Progress to date on the outcomes of promoting healthy lifestyles and connecting people with the unique outdoor setting of Redhead MTB Park includes design work on trailhead and the start of trail construction. The City of Chisholm entered two trail building contracts, one with Fineline Trailbuilders LLC and the other with Rock Solid Trail Construction, resulting in increased miles throughout the park going from 25 to 29 miles with additions and revisions of existing trails for added safety and accessibility. The trailhead design work is going through multiple revision stages and the City of Chisholm is seeking additional funding to finish the project.

Activity 1

Tentative construction for the trailhead and pump track is slated for June 2025. Preliminary designs and approval of engineering from the Redhead committee are processing. Application for 1.0 million Non-ENRTF funds to Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation are in the approval process, set to be voted on at the IRRR board meeting December 2024 to complete construction of the trailhead amenities and pump track. Barr Engineer has been awarded the project management contract for the design and engineering of the pump track, skills course and overall trailhead amenities. In addition to design, Barr will assist with bidding and construction administrative services. Velo Solutions has been identified as firm for construction of the pump track. Contract will be finalized once Non-ENRTF funding is secured in December 2024. Milestones 1-5 are complete.

Activity 2

Rock Solid and Fineline trail construction companies were selected through an RFP process. Trail construction of 12 new miles of trails began on 8/12/2024 by Rock Solid and on 9/19/2024 by Fineline. Erik Carlson, entity contracted for construction management is overseeing the new trail construction. Portions of the new trails are open and in use as of Fall 2024. Work will continue on the up to 12 new miles as weather permits. Any remaining miles will be finished Spring/Summer 2025. Milestones 1-3 are complete, milestone 4 is in progress.

Dissemination

Dissemination to date is included in the provided links. Trail building doesn't elicit a lot of social media or news attention; thus we plan the majority of dissemination will occur once the trailhead projects (pump track, skills course) are started and finished.

The new Redhead website includes two pages identifying ENRTF as a funding source for the Phase II additions.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/GVAS4fSqGTD8CGWt/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/yvWkBmPRTW4BaoK1/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/M6JjHkW5ELg9yotC/>

<https://www.redheadmtbpark.com/ourstory> (scroll toward the bottom to see a section dedicated to ENRTF and IRRR)

<https://www.redheadmtbpark.com/news/redhead-welcomes-back-rock-solid>

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: May 7, 2024

Date Approved: May 7, 2024

Overall Update

Progress to date on the outcomes of promoting healthy lifestyles and connecting people with the unique outdoor setting of Redhead MTB Park include design work for upgrades to the main trailhead which will expand usership and appeal, increased miles primarily on the south side of the park, and revision of an existing trail from green level to adaptive trail, accommodating more riders including youth and those using adaptive bikes, wheelchairs. An RFP for trail construction has also been released.

Activity 1

Work completed to date on Activity 1 include design work on the main trailhead which includes pump track, skills course, tot-track, kiosk, water, bathroom facilities, shade shack, event space, connection to trail system, and signage. The trailhead concept design is attached and will undergo revisions. Milestones completed or in progress are #1 and #2. Payment for design work has been made and reimbursements will be sought.

Activity 2

Work completed to date on Activity 2 include final refinement of project planning & trail field designs for additional miles (as seen in attached proposed trail development map) and outreach to contractors for construction of trail miles via an RFP released on March 20, 2024. Milestones #1 & #2 are complete or processing. The flagged miles to be added are diverse in style, accommodating both advanced and new riders which enhances the current trail offerings. On 5/7/2024, updated project planning and engineering firm to Barr Engineering.

Dissemination

To date, minimal press releases and information has been provided to the public on this project. The initial press release in June, 2023 via WDIO and the Mesabi Tribune shared only high level information about the amount of funding Redhead is receiving through LCCMR, State Legislature, IRRR, and the public. Press releases and social media announcements will be made as the work on the project begins. Dissemination requirements will be fulfilled at that time.