



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Draft Work Plan

## General Information

**ID Number:** 2023-231

**Staff Lead:** Mike Campana

**Date this document submitted to LCCMR:** February 24, 2023

**Project Title:** Redhead Mountain Bike Park

**Project Budget:** \$1,666,000

## Project Manager Information

**Name:** Donna Johnson

**Organization:** Minnesota Discovery Center

**Office Telephone:** (218) 254-1220

**Email:** donna.johnson@mndiscoverycenter.com

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

## Project Reporting

**Reporting Schedule:** April 1 / October 1 of each year.

**Project Completion:** December 31, 2025

**Final Report Due Date:** February 14, 2026

## Legal Information

**Legal Citation:**

**Appropriation Language:**

**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
Donna Johnson	Minnesota Discovery Center	Executive Director of Minnesota Discovery Center and project manager.	Yes
Stephanie Skraba	City of Chisholm, Minnesota	Economic Development Coordinator, Fiscal Agent	Yes
Jordan Metsa	Minnesota Discovery Center	Fund Development & Marketing Coordinator at the Minnesota Discovery Center and Assistant Project Manager	Yes
Benji Neff	Iron Range Off-Road Cyclists (IROC)	President of IROC, a volunteer mountain bike club that provides regular trail maintenance and consulting for trail system.	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.**

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
<b>Personnel</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Project planning, engineering, trail design.				0.13		\$21,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Trail construction, pumptrack construction, skills area and trailhead construction.				2		\$1,582,500
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction management and environmental compliance.				0.5		\$62,500
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,666,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-

<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,666,000</b>



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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [27ab4c29-03a.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Redhead Map...

#### *Financial Capacity*

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

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

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

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter or Other*

Title	File
Articles of Incorporation	<a href="#">78f9673c-af4.pdf</a>
Board of Directors	<a href="#">f16471a0-8f3.pdf</a>
Chisholm Mayor Champa Letter of Support	<a href="#">a64d08bf-6bf.pdf</a>
IROC Letter of Support	<a href="#">f1814af7-376.pdf</a>
Chamber Letter of Support	<a href="#">bcc70fec-a12.pdf</a>
St. Louis County Letter of Support	<a href="#">d1555272-4c8.pdf</a>
Letter of Support from Rep Dave Lislegard	<a href="#">a0a97e94-9d8.pdf</a>
Letter of Support from MN Discovery Center	<a href="#">a70a2a80-605.pdf</a>
Background Check Certification Form	<a href="#">016c90e8-4c4.pdf</a>
Updated Visual 2 New Trails, Amenity Location, Pump track and Skills Course	<a href="#">6dc276a5-a51.pdf</a>

## 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 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?**

Yes, City of Chisholm