



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Draft Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2023-249

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: February 24, 2023

Project Title: Maplewood State Park Trail Segment

Project Budget: \$2,514,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Nicholas Leonard

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Project Reporting

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

Project Completion: December 31, 2024

Final Report Due Date: February 14, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: Construction of the Maplewood State Park Segment (4.2 miles) of the 32-mile Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail that will connect the City of Pelican Rapids to Maplewood State.

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

In partnership with the MN DNR, this proposal specifically aims to expand outdoor recreational opportunities by connecting the communities of Pelican Rapids, Perham and surrounding areas to Maplewood State Park via a recreational trail. It will also expand existing state trail systems by connecting the Central Lakes and Heartland Trails in the future. Otter Tail County is in a beautiful part of Minnesota with an abundance of lakes, wetlands, rolling hills and agricultural areas. Outdoor recreation is an important part of the quality of life and the tourism economy in Otter Tail County.

This proposal also improves access to outdoor recreational opportunities to diverse and changing populations. Racial and ethnic minority populations tend to participate less in most nature-based outdoor recreation activities, including visiting state parks and trails. In fact, according to a DNR report, only 2.8 percent of state park visitors identified themselves as non-white. Pelican Rapids is the most diverse community in Otter Tail County and one of the most diverse rural communities in Minnesota. This project will afford outdoor recreational opportunities to members of racially and ethnically diverse cultures who have not traditionally benefited from the park's facilities and resources.

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.

LCCMR funding will be used to construct the Maplewood State Park Segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail - a 10-foot wide, 4.2-mile bituminous multi-use trail entirely within Maplewood State Park. This project will complete the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail by connecting an existing trail segment at the west boundary of Maplewood State Park on CSAH 3 to an existing trail segment on the north boundary of Maplewood state Park on State Highway 108.

There has been considerable collaboration and coordination with the MN DNR to establish an acceptable trail route, with an emphasis on protecting the natural, cultural and archeological resources. Nearly 90% of the corridor design is complete and over 75% of the environmental review and permitting is complete. We anticipate being shovel ready by April 2023.

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 will expand outdoor recreational opportunities through additions and connections to state, regional, or local parks and trails to members of racially and ethnically diverse cultures who have not traditionally benefited from the park's facilities and resources.

This project will also fill a critical gap in the state and regional trail system by eventually connecting the Central Lakes Trail to the Heartland Trail. Both existing state trails are located within or adjacent to Otter Tail County. Their connection will create one of the most impressive trail systems in the country.

Project Location

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

Region(s): Central

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

Region(s): Central

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Construction of the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail (Maplewood Segment)

Activity Budget: \$2,514,000

Activity Description:

LCCMR funding will be used to competitively bid and construct a 10-foot wide, 4.2-mile bituminous multi-use trail entirely within Maplewood State Park. This project will complete the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail (formerly known as the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail) by connecting an existing trail segment at the west boundary of Maplewood State Park on CSAH 3 to an existing trail segment on the north boundary of Maplewood state Park on State Highway 108.

The mechanism that allows the County to construct, operate and maintain a trail within the state park is a Joint Powers agreement executed between the State and Otter Tail County. Below is a statement from our existing agreement with the DNR noting the intended approach:

“WHEREAS, upon the determination of the feasibility of the development of the Trail, the State and the County shall cooperatively develop a separate Agreement for the development, administration, operations, and maintenance of the Trail; and”

The existing agreement along with sample agreements with Chisago County for the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail are attached.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Finalize Engineering, Environmental Review and Permitting	September 30, 2023
Complete Construction Bidding	December 31, 2023
Initiate Construction	April 30, 2024
Execute Joint Powers Agreement with MN DNR for Admin, Operations and Maintenance of Trail	November 30, 2024
Complete Construction	December 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.

We will be sharing news about funding and project progress via press releases and social media. We will acknowledge the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications and outreach.

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?

Despite being in a state park, this will be a regional trail through an easement granted by the MN DNR. Once the project is completed, Otter Tail County will assume financial responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the trail. The trail will be maintained to the DNR's standards. The ability to complete and maintain the project long-term is of utmost importance. Per the attached resolution, the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners have approved this grant application for the Maplewood Segment.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Perham To Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (McDonald Segment)	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$2,245,000
Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (West Segment)	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n	\$2,600,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Contractor selected through competitive bid process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Funds to be used to construct a 10-foot wide, 4.2-mile bituminous trail - the Maplewood Segment of the Heart of the Lakes Trail (previously referred to as the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail).				0		\$2,514,000
							Sub Total	\$2,514,000
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	\$2,514,000

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				
Cash	2020 Capital Bonding Bill	Pre-design and design for engineering and all environmental review and permitting costs	Secured	\$375,000
			State Sub Total	\$375,000
Non-State				
Cash	Otter Tail County	Design Engineering and all Environmental Review and Permitting Costs	Secured	\$75,000
Cash	Otter Tail County	Construction engineering, materials testing, and administration	Secured	\$120,000
Cash	Otter Tail County	Wetland mitigation costs	Secured	\$100,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$295,000
			Funds Total	\$670,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [79d7acfa-e1b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Exhibit details the segments of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail, highlighting the proposed Maplewood Segment....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board of Commissioner Resolution	fceb9dd4-332.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	a92560a5-791.pdf
Trail Design Agreement with DNR	fcd0a2a9-92d.pdf
Sample DNR Joint Powers Agreement	1d17fae5-e19.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Responded to questions and added missing information.

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