



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2025 Approved Work Plan

### General Information

**ID Number:** 2025-201

**Staff Lead:** Tiffany Schaufler

**Date this document submitted to LCCMR:** June 11, 2025

**Project Title:** Scandia Gateway Trail Connection: Recreation, Wetlands, Environmental Education

**Project Budget:** \$907,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Kyle Morell

**Organization:** City of Scandia

**Office Telephone:** (651) 433-2274

**Email:** k.morell@ci.scandia.mn.us

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

### Project Reporting

**Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR:** June 24, 2025

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

**Project Completion:** June 30, 2028

**Final Report Due Date:** August 14, 2028

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h

**Appropriation Language:** \$907,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Scandia to engineer, design, and construct a bike and pedestrian trail to connect recreational, cultural, and environmental resources in Scandia to the state Gateway Trail. This appropriation is also to create and install educational interpretive signage about wetlands and rain gardens near the trail.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2028

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** Bike/pedestrian connection via a wetland trail connecting the state Gateway Trail to recreational/cultural/environmental resources in Scandia -- Gammelgården Museum, playgrounds, athletic facilities, amphitheater, splash pad, and

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

Scandia is located at the north terminus of the Gateway Trail, which will pass through William O'Brien State Park before landing at a trailhead in the Scandia Village Center. In close proximity to the trailhead, Scandia offers multiple current and under-development resources to greatly enhance Trail users' environmental education and recreation experiences. The project opportunity is to make these resources far more accessible and integrated for users while simultaneously providing access to natural resources and education about the value of wetlands and rain gardens.

**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.**

This proposal will create a destination and trail network between the Gateway Trails terminus and multiple Scandia facilities. A new bike/pedestrian trail around and across the Community Center wetland will connect recreational amenities at the Scandia Community Center, the future Water Tower Barn Scandia (Water Tower Barn) arts and heritage center, and the Gammelgården Museum. This new trail and Gateway connection will greatly enhance outdoor recreational options for trail users and those visiting William O'Brien State Park by providing access to the following amenities.

- Gammelgården Museum, internationally known for preserving Swedish pioneer buildings;
- Scandia's playgrounds, recently upgraded, along with tennis courts, baseball and t-ball fields, and ice-skating rinks;
- Water Tower Barn, including a new Museum/ /Cultural center, a splash pad, and the only large-scale amphitheater in the St. Croix Valley. Water Tower Barn programming will focus on water quality, wetland protection, and the historical interpretation of early windmill engineering for public water distribution.

The LCCMR request includes interpretive signage about the wetlands and rain gardens. This signage will complement the water engineering, water quality, and education components of the Water Tower Barn project, enhancing the water-oriented environmental programming proposed for Scandia Elementary School.

**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?**

The project will construct a wetland boardwalk across the publicly owned wetland, which is the centerpiece of the Community Center Commons. The boardwalk will feature interpretive signage about the wetlands and rain gardens, promoting environmental education and wetland conservation. The boardwalk will connect to a 2,850-foot pedestrian and bicycle trail that surrounds the wetland and extends across the boardwalk, creating two safe road crossings for access from the Gateway Trail to the Community Center Commons and from the Commons to the Gammelgården Museum.

## Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro

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

Region(s): Metro

**When will the work impact occur?**

In the Future

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Completion of Design Process

**Activity Budget:** \$72,000

**Activity Description:**

A consulting engineer has completed the preliminary design of the wetland trail system. This design was developed based on a 2022 field survey of the site, and a wetland delineation was completed in 2020. The field survey selected the best locations on the site for wetland observation. The City Council reviewed and approved the preliminary plans at their December 2023 meeting before submitting the grant request. The City's engineer will finalize the design and obtain the necessary permitting from the local watershed district. No Department of Administration pre-design review is required for this project.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Wetland Delineation	May 31, 2020
Preliminary Site Survey	May 31, 2022
Completion of any application topographical and survey work	July 31, 2025
Authorization of Design and Specifications	July 31, 2025
Approval of Design and Specifications	December 31, 2025

### Activity 2: Bidding and Construction

**Activity Budget:** \$835,000

**Activity Description:**

The City engineer, Bolton and Menk, will design the wetland trail system. It will consist of 2,850 feet of trail on City property, 390 feet of wetland boardwalk, and 500 feet of new sidewalk along County Road 3 in Scandia. The wetland trail system will feature interpretive signage highlighting the value of wetlands and rain gardens in filtering stormwater, thereby acting as natural water purifiers to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems downstream. The Scandia Heritage Alliance, a local partner on the trail project, will offer water-focused environmental day camps for kids, elementary school field trips, and rain garden workshops for adults. The wetland boardwalk will allow kids and adults to get up close to the wetland, and for kids to gather water for scientific experiments. Once final engineering is completed, construction services will be acquired through the City's contract and bidding services. The project will be bid out over the winter of 2025/2026. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2026 and is expected to be completed the same year. Funding for the project will be acquired through the LCCMR grant award and local contributions.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Authorize Preparation of Bids for Construction	January 31, 2026
Approve Bids and Award Project	March 31, 2026
Complete Construction of Wetland Trails and Interpretive Signs	December 31, 2026
Notice of Funding Restriction Recorded	December 31, 2026
Certificate of Occupancy	December 31, 2026
Signage Installed with ENRFT Language or Logo	December 31, 2026
Open for Intended Use	December 31, 2026

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Susan Rodsjo	Scandia Heritage Alliance	Scandia Heritage Alliance Board Chair and Marketing Communications Manager	No
Ryan Goodman	Bolton & Menk	Scandia City Engineer	No
Peter Hilger	University of Minnesota	Consulting architect on the Scandia Heritage Alliance Water Tower Barn Arts and Heritage Center	No
Adam Thiele	Anderson Consulting	Consulting engineer on the wetland trail project	Yes
John Hermna	Scandia Heritage Alliance	Scandia Heritage Alliance Board member, retired real estate attorney, and former LCCMR citizen board member	No
Greg Amundson	Scandia Heritage Alliance	Scandia Heritage Alliance Board member and SHA construction manager	No
Ann Rinkenberger	Gammelgården Museum	Executive Director of Gammelgården Museum	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.**

Acknowledgment of ENRTF's project funding will be denoted on signage along the trail system. The City of Scandia will also prepare a press release for the newspaper, city website, City Facebook page, and Next Door account, recognizing ENRTF's significant role in making this project possible. This notice will be done following ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines. Our Fall newsletter includes full acknowledgment to ENRTF and LCCMR. The press release will also attempt to include additional optional language and the fund logo.

## 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?**

This project will result in the construction of a wetland trail system connecting Scandia's Gateway Trail terminus to recreational, cultural, and environmental educational resources in the Scandia City Center. No results, findings or other unanswered questions are anticipated to result from this project. Additional construction of future trail segments may be obtained through state appropriation and/or other grant opportunities available to the City of Scandia. The short-term goal, which is encompassed in this project, is to connect the Gateway Trail to the Scandia City Center and its various amenities.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Scandia Gateway Trail to William O'Brien State Park	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09g	\$2,689,000

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Project Engineer and Consulting Architect	Service Contract	The Consultant will complete the final design, engineering, and specifications for the project and carry out project administration responsibilities under the supervision of the City				1.5		\$72,000
TBD	Service Contract	Construction of Wetland Trails				10		\$835,000
							Sub Total	\$907,000
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							Sub Total	-

Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$907,000

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
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Scandia Heritage Alliance	Pre-Design of Wetland Trail System	Secured	\$10,680
Cash	Scandia Heritage Alliance	Designs of a wetland overlook and walkway through the Water Tower Barn property	Secured	\$78,000
Cash	City of Scandia	Design and construction contribution	Secured	\$266,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$354,680</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$354,680</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$1,261,680**

**This amount accurately reflects total project cost?**

Yes



## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [db02dc7b-257.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

The Visual Component maps the wetland trail system on the Water Tower Barn and Community Center properties. As well as an overhead picture of the project location in Scandia...

#### *Financial Capacity*

Title	File
2022 Audited Financial Statements	<a href="#">c5bcd0a6-736.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Authorizing Resolution	<a href="#">90b17c57-18f.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	<a href="#">4e53d0f6-dcb.pdf</a>
Scandia Elementary School Letter of Support	<a href="#">3a7de1db-b96.pdf</a>
Budget Addendum_ Received post-close	<a href="#">d5207ed5-bec.xlsx</a>
Page 4 Capital Construction Project Checklist	<a href="#">be15dcbb-ecd.pdf</a>
Updated Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	<a href="#">6455c134-138.pdf</a>

### Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

#### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

Changes to the project's budget were made to reflect the funding amount awarded to the project.

## 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?**

No

**Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?**

Yes

**Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?**

No

**Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this project:**

John Herman, Scandia Heritage Alliance

**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