



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2026 Approved Work Plan

## General Information

**ID Number:** 2026-348

**Staff Lead:** Tom Dietrich

**Date this document submitted to LCCMR:** May 22, 2026

**Project Title:** Lake Marion Greenway: Ritter Farm Park to Dodd Blvd

**Project Budget:** \$1,797,000

## Project Manager Information

**Name:** Joe Masiarchin

**Organization:** City of Lakeville

**Office Telephone:** (952) 985-4601

**Email:** [jmasiarchin@lakevillemn.gov](mailto:jmasiarchin@lakevillemn.gov)

**Web Address:** <https://www.lakevillemn.gov/>

## Project Reporting

**Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR:** June 17, 2026

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

**Project Completion:** June 30, 2029

**Final Report Due Date:** August 14, 2029

## Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2026, Chp. 104, Sec. 2, Subd. 05cc

**Appropriation Language:** \$1,797,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Lakeville to construct new trails and pedestrian crossings, improve existing trails and trailhead facilities, and install interpretive and wayfinding signage as part of the Lake Marion Greenway.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2029

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** Construction of the Lake Marion Greenway between Ritter Farm Park and Dodd Blvd in the City of Lakeville, including new trails, improvements to existing trails, trailhead facilities, and interpretive elements.

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

The Lake Marion Greenway master plan developed in 2013 by Dakota County identifies a 20-mile proposed trail and greenway system through Burnsville, Savage, Credit River Township, and downtown Lakeville and Farmington that will link the Minnesota River and the Minnesota River Greenway to Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve. In addition to outlining the preferred alignment and design for the greenway, it “expresses an integrated vision for recreation, nonmotorized transportation, habitat and water quality.” In 2021, the City of Lakeville completed a feasibility study for the proposed trail segments within the City of Lakeville starting from downtown Lakeville into Ritter Farm Park and ending at 185th Street / County Road 60 for eventual trail connections that will extend to Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve. The Lake Marion Greenway trail segments through Lakeville are envisioned to connect to multiple destination areas that include the downtown business shopping district, local city parks and schools, and Lake Marion, providing access to highly valuable natural resource spaces, scenic settings and a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. The City of Lakeville seeks funding to implement the vision advanced through the 2021 feasibility study.

**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.**

The City of Lakeville has a consultant under contract to complete pre-design and final trail plans from Ritter Farm Park to downtown Lakeville. This effort is currently underway. In addition, the City recently completed trail improvements within Casperson Park in anticipation of this project based on recommendations from the feasibility study. ENRTF funds are being requested for construction activities for the segment between Ritter Farm Park and Dodd Blvd. As a result of outcomes specified in the feasibility study, the proposed capital construction project includes the following elements:

- 10-foot minimum width multi-use trail to address trail gaps, with restoration using native plant species for areas disturbed during construction
- Improvements to existing trails to meet regional trail design standards
- Trailhead facilities at several locations including the existing Juno Trail Trailhead and Ritter Farm Park
- Lake Marion Greenway wayfinding signage
- Public outreach and installation of interpretive signage to educate the public about the natural resources along the greenway route

Specific greenway improvements are outlined in the Capital Project Questionnaire and shown in the attached map.

**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?**

In addition to building 0.72 miles of new trail, improving 2.32 miles, and improving trailheads, the City plans to develop natural resources-based outreach opportunities along the greenway in the form of interpretative signage and open space environmental assembly with the public. The purpose of these installations is to educate users about resources along the trail, including prairie ecosystems, shorelines, lake ecosystems, the Ritter woodland ecosystem, and wetland ecosystems. The City has identified preliminary messaging and signage for five locations along the trail which are discussed in detail in the Capital Project Questionnaire and shown in the attached map.

## Project Location

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

City(s): Lakeville

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

County(s): Dakota

**When will the work impact occur?**

In the Future

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Feasibility and Community Engagement

**Activity Budget:** \$1

**Activity Description:**

A feasibility study for the proposed trail improvements was completed in 2021 as noted in the project description. The City's current pre-design effort will build on the feasibility study to complete additional site investigation and public engagement. This work will occur concurrently with the pre-design process over the course of 2025. Public engagement will involve open houses as well as meetings with individual stakeholders. It will focus on inclusive, targeted, and timely communication that conveys the project's objectives in a public-friendly, easy-to-digest manner while encouraging feedback and participation from diverse community groups. Note: No ENRTF funds are being requested for these activities. An activity budget of \$0 could not be entered.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Environmental Site Assessment	July 31, 2025
Community Surveys and Open Houses	November 30, 2025

### Activity 2: Pre-Design/Design/Permitting

**Activity Budget:** \$1

**Activity Description:**

The City of Lakeville has a consultant under contract to complete pre-design, and development of final trail plans from Ritter Farm Park to downtown Lakeville. This effort is underway as of February 2025 and will be funded by the City. It will include all necessary investigation, design, and permitting activities to develop final approved plans for the project and prepare for bidding. In addition to surveys, a Level 2 wetland delineation will be completed within 50 feet of the trail alignment and in locations where additional stormwater features may be located. All required agency reviews, including SHPO, will be completed. Throughout the design process, the City of Lakeville will engage Dakota County and MnDOT with open and clear communication. Note: No ENRTF funds are being requested for these activities. An activity budget of \$0 could not be entered.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Survey or Delineation Work	July 31, 2025
Consultation with SHPO	July 31, 2025
Approval of Draft Plans	August 31, 2025
Approval of Final Plans	December 31, 2025
Advertisement for Bid – Trail	January 31, 2026
Advertisement for Bid – Dodd Blvd Tunnel	January 31, 2027

### Activity 3: Pre-Construction/Construction/Close-Out

**Activity Budget:** \$1,796,998

**Activity Description:**

The final activity includes prep, construction, and all close-out activities. Construction of the city-funded segment of the

trail from Dodd Blvd to downtown will begin as soon as possible during the 2026 construction season, however no work will occur on the segment between Ritter Farm Park and Dodd Blvd until funds become available in July 2026. The proposed Dodd Blvd tunnel would be constructed as part of a separate contract for improvements to Dodd Blvd in 2027. This activity will also include installation of educational displays as discussed elsewhere in this application to support nature resources education along the greenway route, as well as restoration of areas disturbed during trail construction using native plant species (see “Restoration” section for details). The use of ENRTF dollars for the project will be acknowledged on signage along the greenway as well as in print and electronic media used to conduct public outreach and communications related to the project. All elements of the project are anticipated to be open for public use by September 2028, however portions of the trail will be accessible to the public earlier. Milestones marked with an asterisk will be funded by City of Lakeville. See Budget Addendum for details.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Permits Secured [non-ENRTF]*	November 30, 2025
Construction Contractor Selected [non-ENRTF]*	March 31, 2026
Pre-construction Meetings [non-ENRTF]*	April 30, 2026
Staking, Mobilization, and Site Preparation [non-ENRTF]*	May 31, 2026
All Construction Funds Legally Secured [non-ENRTF]*	July 31, 2026
Construction, Oversight, & Administration Begins	July 31, 2026
Change Orders	August 31, 2026
Final Trail Grading	September 30, 2026
Begin Construction – Dodd Blvd Tunnel	April 30, 2027
Substantial Completion – Trail	May 31, 2027
Stabilization – Trail	June 30, 2027
Punch List Items – Trail	June 30, 2027
Signage Installed with ENRTF Language or Logo	June 30, 2027
Substantial Completion – Dodd Blvd Tunnel	December 31, 2027
Final Restoration Activities Completed, Including Native Plantings Along New Trail Alignment	August 31, 2028
Construction, Oversight, & Administration Ends	August 31, 2028
As-builts Approved	August 31, 2028
Notice of Funding Restriction Recorded	August 31, 2028
Open for Intended Use	September 30, 2028
Final Reimbursement Requests Submitted	June 30, 2029

## 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 City of Lakeville has developed an accessible project website (LakeMarionGreenway.com) to share comprehensive information about the project, including preliminary design details, environmental documentation (such as the EAW), the project's purpose and benefits. It will also include updates throughout the design, construction, and post-construction phases. Regular updates during construction will keep the public informed about ongoing work. In addition to the website, project outreach will involve multiple channels such as electronic notices, flyers, stakeholder meetings, local events, social media, City of Lakeville publications, parks brochures, and direct mailings. The project will also be presented to the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee at key milestones. On-site signage during and after construction will describe the project and recognize support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Permanent signs will be installed along the route showcasing how ENRTF funding contributed to the project. All digital, print and on-site materials will prominently feature the ENRTF logo and attribution.

## 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?**

Following construction, the City of Lakeville and Dakota County will be responsible for maintaining all trails and associated improvements described in this application. Maintenance will be funded through the annual budgets of the Parks & Recreation Department and Public Works. Educational displays and other environmental elements part of this project will be the responsibility of the Lakeville Parks & Recreation Department to maintain and update as needed to reflect changes in departmental priorities and the surrounding context of the greenway. These activities will be funded through the existing Parks & Recreation Department budget.

## 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 - Contractor to be selected	Service Contract	Trail Construction (Ritter Farm Park to Dodd Blvd), including construction administration, educational signage, construction contingency, and inflation.				0		\$1,797,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	\$1,797,000
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Capital Equipment</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>\$1,797,000</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
<b>State</b>				
Cash	DNR Local Trail Connections Program	Trail Construction (Ritter Farm Park to Casperson Park)	Secured	\$250,000
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	City of Lakeville	Feasibility Study	Secured	\$27,000
Cash	City of Lakeville	Community Engagement	Secured	\$38,917
Cash	City of Lakeville / Dakota County	Trail Pre-Design / Design	Secured	\$381,712
Cash	City of Lakeville/Dakota County	Trail Construction (Ritter Farm Park to Dodd Blvd, Dodd Blvd to Downtown Lakeville), including construction administration, construction contingency, and inflation.	Secured	\$1,188,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,635,629</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$1,885,629</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$3,682,629**

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

Yes

## Acquisition and Restoration

### Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Ritter Farm Park PID: 220230001010	Dakota	Prairie/woodland - Proposed for restoration following trail construction.	Restoration	0.83	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
Ritter Farm Park PID: 220230002011	Dakota	Prairie/woodland - Proposed for restoration following trail construction.	Restoration	0.64	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
Ritter Farm Park PID: 220240028013	Dakota	Prairie/woodland - Proposed for restoration following trail construction.	Restoration	1.12	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
<b>Totals</b>				<b>2.59</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>			

## Restoration

### **1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.**

All restoration activities completed using ENRTF funds will occur within public right of way, public lands, or areas with existing easements.

### **2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.**

Restoration activities included in the project will consist of restoring areas disturbed during trail construction using native plant species. The majority of these activities would be conducted within Ritter Farm Park where a new trail will be constructed on an alignment where a paved trail does not exist today. The exact acreage of areas to be restored will not be known until the trail design has progressed further. The expected outcomes of these activities are to minimize disturbance to the surrounding parkland and expand areas of native vegetation. The City of Lakeville Parks & Recreation Department will continue to manage and maintain these areas following construction, and will maintain internal records outlining the activities undertaken, species planted, and long-term maintenance needs to ensure these areas are preserved.

### **3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.**

Restoration efforts included in the project will follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” through all phases of the process including site preparation, planting and maintenance. Native plant species will be utilized to the greatest extent feasible to advance the city’s goals for promoting diversity in natural areas such as Ritter Farm Park. The restoration process will address seed and plant sources, planting dates, plant diversity, and other considerations.

### **4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.**

Long-term maintenance and management will be a partnership between the Parks & Recreation Department and the Environmental Resources Department. There are currently over 105 acres of land restored to native vegetation within Lakeville’s municipal boundary, all of which is managed by the Environmental Resources Department to limit weed encroachment and promote continued plant diversity. Environmental Resources staff and projects are primarily funded through the Environmental Resources Utility Fund. This quarterly fee is collected through water bills and funds water quality improvement projects, inspections, maintenance of the stormwater system, monitoring, and education and outreach.

### **5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.**

The City of Lakeville will consider contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for assistance with restoration activities following trail construction.

### **6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.**

The City of Lakeville will evaluate restoration work in two stages. All work will first be inspected following completion of construction to identify issues with installation, the extent to which project goals have been met, and other potential takeaways. A follow up evaluation will be conducted three years following completion of construction to review the

initial evaluation results and determine how the restoration work has held up over time. The City's Environmental Resources staff have the necessary expertise to conduct these evaluations.

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Map*

File: [12d98ea9-462.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

Map showing proposed greenway route with specific improvement types and educational signage locations....

#### *Financial Capacity*

Title	File
ACFR	<a href="#">969442e8-e80.pdf</a>
EAS	<a href="#">f314efe5-ce9.pdf</a>
Governance Communications Letter	<a href="#">193ed41f-a2e.pdf</a>
Internal Control Letter	<a href="#">74c73a14-762.pdf</a>
MN Legal Compliance Letter	<a href="#">4c31fa16-d8c.pdf</a>
Current Board Approved Financial Statement (Q1)	<a href="#">d92f58b7-27f.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
City Council Resolution	<a href="#">5ed3cc83-fda.pdf</a>
City Resolution - 08/28/2025	<a href="#">2f9215b2-179.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Lakeville City Administrator Letter of Support	<a href="#">54d78138-5d1.pdf</a>
Dakota County Letter of Support	<a href="#">712b7a65-684.pdf</a>
Lakeville Cycling Association Letter of Support	<a href="#">de0a255b-362.pdf</a>
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	<a href="#">38d26853-1ca.pdf</a>
Lake Marion Greenway Project Handout	<a href="#">2f93ad3a-39c.pdf</a>
Budget Addendum	<a href="#">5e5b50e8-a5c.xlsx</a>

### Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

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

Substantive changes have not been made to the project at this time. Changes that have been made to the work plan were based on requested revisions, including clarification to our restoration narrative and updates to the budget based on the proposed funding amounts. Project description and budget addendum were modified to remove Dodd Blvd tunnel design and construction. This change was made to further clarify that this improvement will be undertaken through a separate contract for roadway improvements anticipated to begin in 2027.

## 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:**

NA

**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