



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2026 Draft Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2026-287

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: December 16, 2025

Project Title: Minnesota State Trails Development

Project Budget: \$4,943,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Kent Skaar

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

Office Telephone: (651) 259-5636

Email: kent.skaar@state.mn.us

Web Address: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails/index.html

Project Reporting

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

Project Completion: June 30, 2030

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2030

Legal Information

Legal Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2030

Narrative

Project Summary: This project proposes to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the development of select new State Trail Segments.

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

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is legislatively authorized under MS 85.015 to establish, develop, maintain and operate those State Trails or State Trail systems specifically identified. As defined by MS. 85.015 the authorized State Trail System is to consist of more than 2600-miles of dedicated State Trail when complete.

Presently the MN DNR has developed and administers more than 1300-miles of improved recreational state trail, including paved, gravel and natural surfaces on a total of 24 separate authorized State Trails or State Trail systems. This Project proposes the improvement and expansion of the State Trail system through the development of two new State Trail Segments and the development of one new Trail Bridge on three State Trails. The new state trail segments and State Trail bridge identified for this project have been prioritized based on user interest, partner participation and identified by the MNDNR as opportunities enhance and expand the recreational experiences provided by the Minnesota State Trail System and connections to destinations locations along the individual State Trails. As proposed, this project is to result in the development of 5.8 miles of new State Trail and the installation of a new State Trail Bridge.

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 provide for the completion of the required engineering, design and construction of a new State Trail Bridge to be located on the Minnesota River State Trail and the development of 5.8 miles of new, paved recreational state trail, including 4.2 miles on the Glacial Lakes State Trail and 1.6 miles along the Minnesota Valley State Trail. The new proposed Minnesota River State Trail Bridge will carry a new State Trail segment over the Pomme De Terre River, west of the community of Appleton. The remaining two projects, located on the Minnesota Valley and Glacial Lakes State Trails, each representing the development of new State Trail segments, are currently in-progress with the final construction plans scheduled to be complete in 2025. The Glacial Lakes State Trail development as proposed will provide a direct off-road trail connection between the existing Glacial Lakes State Trail in the City of New London and Sibley State Park. The completion of the 1.6 mile segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail will provide for both an expansion of the State Trail within the community of Bloomington but will also provide for a critical connection to the Community Trail System.

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 proposal will result in the completion of the formal engineering and construction necessary to construct a single new State Trail Bridge and new trail segments on the Minnesota River, Minnesota Valley and Glacial Lakes State Trails. The required engineering and design for the new Minnesota Valley and Glacial Lakes State Trail segments is currently underway. All three projects will be designed to limit unnecessary resource impacts, enhance resources and provide for unique recreational experiences. Each of the projects is considered a priority and identified as critical connections by the local communities, trail users and the MNDNR.

Project Location

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

Statewide

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: Minnesota River State Trail Bridge Development

Activity Budget: \$1,000,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the development of a new trail bridge that will carry the Minnesota River State Trail over the Pomme de Terre River, approximately 3 miles southwest of Appleton, Swift County. This bridge represents a critical component of the 4.5-mile trail segment that is to extend between Appleton and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Minnesota River Recreational Area. Currently the State Trail terminates approximately 2.5 miles west of Appleton and 1 mile east of the proposed bridge location. This bridge is to be constructed on a former access road, abandoned and breached for the restoration of the historic Pomme de Terre River channel in association with the reconstruction of the Minnesota River / Marsh Lake Dam in 2019/2020. This bridge represents the second phase in the development of the 4.5 new trail segment that will extend between Appleton to the Federal Recreation Area. The first phase of this new trail segment, which extends approximately 2.5 miles west of Appleton, was completed in 2023. It is intended that ENRTF Funding under this Activity will be limited to bridge construction and the funding match will provide all project engineering and as well as construction.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final Project Engineering and Design Initiated - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	July 31, 2026
Final Project Engineering and Design Complete - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	December 31, 2027
Completion of State Historic Preservation Office Consultation - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	June 30, 2028
Completion of Final Project Permitting - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	June 30, 2028
Construction Funding Secured - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	June 30, 2028
Construction Contract Awarded - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	July 31, 2028
Project Pre-Construction / Contractor Meeting - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	August 31, 2028
Project Construction Complete - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	June 30, 2030
Project Closeout / Final Reporting / ENRTF Acknowledgment Signs Installed / Open for Public Use	June 30, 2030
Notice of Funding Restrictions Completed	June 30, 2030

Activity 2: Glacial Lakes State Trail – New London to Sibley State Park Segment

Activity Budget: \$3,743,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the development of a new 4.2-mile state trail segment, extending between the existing Glacial Lakes State Trail in New London and Sibley State Park Segment. This trail segment represents a priority for the community of New London, Kandiyohi County and the MNDNR and a critical safety improvement for pedestrians/bicyclists that currently travel between New London and the State Park. The proposed trail is to be comprised of a 10-foot-wide bituminous trail with 2-foot-wide grass/gravel trail shoulders, to be constructed on a state-owned trail corridor and State or County administered rights-of-ways. In addition to the development of the new trail segment, the project will also require the installation of a trail tunnel and a trail bridge both located on New London's western limits. Project engineering is currently in-progress, with final construction plans scheduled for 2025 completion. The project will provide a direct trail connection between communities along the existing the Glacial Lakes State Trail, including Willmar, Spicer, Paynesville and New London, to Sibley State Park. ENRTF funding is to provide the supplementary construction funding. A Non-ENRTF funding will provide required engineering and partial construction funding. The current project construction estimate is approximately \$7000000.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final Engineering and Design Complete - Glacial Lakes State Trail / New London to Sibley SP	December 31, 2025
Completion of State Historic Preservation Office Consultation - Glacial Lakes State Trail	December 31, 2025
Completion Final Project Permitting - Glacial Lakes State Trail / New London to Sibley SP	June 30, 2026
Construction Funding Secured - Glacial Lakes State Trail / New London to Sibley SP	July 31, 2026
Construction Contract Awarded - Glacial Lakes State Trail / New London to Sibley SP	August 31, 2026
Project Pre-Construction / Contractor Meeting - Glacial Lakes State Trail / new London to Sibley SP	September 30, 2026
Project Construction Complete - Glacial Lakes STate Trail / New London to Sibley SP	December 31, 2028
Project Closeout / Final Reporting / ENRTF Acknowledgement Signs Installed / Open for Public Use	June 30, 2029
Notice of Funding Restrictions Completed	December 31, 2029

Activity 3: Minnesota Valley State Trail – Lyndale Ave to Nine Mile Creek Segment**Activity Budget:** \$200,000**Activity Description:**

This project proposes the development of a 1.6-mile state trail segment extending along the west bank of the Minnesota River, between Lyndale Avenue and Nine Mile Creek in the City of Bloomington, Hennepin County. This trail segment will be contiguous to a 3.5-mile-long segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail, between Lyndale Ave and TH77/Cedar Ave. constructed in two separate phases between 2021 and 2024. Although not contiguous with the southern segments of the State Trail, the existing Bloomington State Trail segment provides a connection to for several City recreational trails. This trail segment will provide a direct connection to another City trail, located along Nine Mile Creek. The proposed trail segment is to be comprised of a 10-foot-wide trail surface with 2-foot-wide gravel trail shoulders. This trail segment is proposed to terminate with a new bridge crossing of Nine Mile Creek and a connection to the City's Nine Mile Creek Trail. The ENRTF and State funding will provide the funding match for a federal grant secured by the City of Bloomington and assigned to the MNDNR in 2023. The \$2,350,000 Federal Grant is available in 2026. Project engineering is in-progress and scheduled for 2026.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final Engineering and Design Complete - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	May 31, 2026
Completion of State Historic Preservation Office Consultation - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	May 31, 2026
Completion Final Project Permitting - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	May 31, 2026
Construction Funding Secured - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	July 31, 2026
Construction Contract Awarded - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	September 30, 2026
Project Pre-Construction / Contractor Meeting - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	October 31, 2026
Project Construction Complete - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	December 31, 2028
Project Closeout / Final Reporting / ENRTF Acknowledgment Signs Installed	June 30, 2029
Notice of Funding Restrictions Completed	December 31, 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 plans and specifications for each project will include the LCCMR/ENRTF Logo, the Minnesota River State Trail bridge will have the LCCMR/ENRTF logo affixed to the structure in public view upon completion. For the Glacial Lakes and Minnesota Valleys State Trail Projects, signs will be installed at State administered trailheads that will include acknowledgment of LCCMR/ENRTF support and all DNR originated project media notifications and public outreach regarding the projects will also include an LCCMR/ENRTF acknowledgment

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?

Each of the identified projects are all existing components of the Outdoor Recreation System and will be implemented through the MnDNR Parks and Trails Division staff. All project engineering, design, contract administration and construction inspection will be completed by or under the direct oversight of the MN DNR Operation Services Division. The MnDNR Parks and Trails Division will operate, maintain and protect each of the facilities when complete. The implementation of these projects will also not significantly increase the Parks and Trails Division's annual operational costs for the defined trail segments and bridge for 10 to 25 years.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	\$994,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09s	\$4,266,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09g	\$7,387,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e	\$4,952,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$5,036,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Bene fits	# FTE	Class ified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Project General Contractor - TBD	Service Contract	The Project General Contractor will provide construction services for the installation of the new Minnesota River State Trail / Pomme De Terre River Bridge				-		\$988,152
Project General Contractor - TBD	Service Contract	The Project General Contractor will provide construction services for the development of the new Glacial Lakes / New London to Sibley State Park Segment				-		\$3,697,975
Project General Contractor - TBD	Service Contract	The Project General Contractor will provide construction services for the development of the new Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment.				-		\$197,630
							Sub Total	\$4,883,757
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								
		MN DNR Direct and Necessary Costs	Pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$0), Safety Support (~\$0), Financial Support (~\$55,970), Communication Support (~\$1,902), IT Support (~\$0), and Planning Support (~\$1,371) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.					\$59,243
							Sub Total	\$59,243
							Grand Total	\$4,943,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
---------------	---------------------	-------------	--

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Appropriation (FY26-27)	To design and construct a new State Trail bridge on the Minnesota River State Trail corridor, over the Pomme de Terre River west of the community of Appleton, Swift County.	Secured	\$500,000
Cash	2023 Capital Bond Appropriation. ML23, 072.01.007.17	To construct the final trail segment for the Glacial Lakes Trail, established under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.015, subdivision 5, between the city of New London and Sibley State Park	Secured	\$3,000,000
Cash	Future Capital Bond Appropriation / ENRTF Appropriation / Federal Transportation Grant (2026-2029)	To construct a new State Trail bridge on the Minnesota River State Trail corridor, over the Pomme de Terre River west of the community of Appleton, Swift County.	Potential	\$1,000,000
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Appropriation (FY26-27)	To construct the final trail segment for the Glacial Lakes Trail, established under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.015, subdivision 5, between the city of New London and Sibley State Park	Secured	\$357,000
			State Sub Total	\$4,857,000
Non-State				
Cash	2023 Federal Transportation Grant	MN Valley Trail from Lyndale Ave to Nine Mile Creek in Bloomington – Construct Trail and Pedestrian Bridge over Nine Mile Creek.	Secured	\$2,350,000
Cash	2024 Federal Recreational Trail Grant	To construct a new segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail within the City of Bloomington, Hennepin County.	Secured	\$200,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$2,550,000
			Funds Total	\$7,407,000

Total Project Cost: \$12,350,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [01a8bb6f-e21.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

2026 LCCMR MN State Trail Development Proposal - Project Location Map...

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Capital Project Questionnaire - Minnesota State Trails Development	7589eab7-bf9.pdf
Capital Construction Budget Addendum-2026-287	0f994bab-4e6.xlsx
Capital Project Questionnaire - Minnesota State Trail Development - Revised 8/9/2025	702941ab-9b9.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Revisions to the Proposal Workplan principally reflect budget adjustments necessary to address the recommended ENRTF Appropriation. A limited schedule revision is also required for the Minnesota River State Trail 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:

MNDNR Parks and Trails Division, Development Section Staff

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