

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: 157-E2**

**Project Title:**

New Vision for State Parks and Trails System

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**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$175,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 years, 2010 - 2012

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$0

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**Summary:**

Create a system plan for DNR-Division of Parks and Trails outdoor recreation units, strengthening their value as gateways for current and future generations to experience and appreciate Minnesotas natural environment.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** DNR

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**Location:**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

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# MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE: A New Vision for Minnesota's State Parks and Trails System**

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Creating a new system plan for Minnesota State Parks and Trails is an essential step for remaining relevant to Minnesotans and meeting their changing outdoor recreation needs. Recognizing the declining trends in nature-based outdoor recreation, this project is both timely and critical. With the recent integration of the Divisions of Parks and Recreation with Trails and Waterways, the time is right to step back and better understand how the distinct parts of the system fit together.

The department's responsibility for providing outdoor recreation opportunities, as established by the Outdoor Recreation Act (ORA MS86A), has evolved over the course of more than 100 years. The new division manages a wide array of units: state parks, state recreation areas, state trails, state forest trails and recreation areas, state wild and scenic and recreational rivers, state historic sites, state waysides, and water access sites. Building on the strengths of the newly positioned division, the department will be better able to integrate the spectrum of recreational opportunities to increase participation and enhance people's connection with the outdoors. Taking a fresh look at the state system will ensure the new division will be better able to serve current and future generations as a gateway to experiencing and appreciating Minnesota's natural environment.

The overall goal of the project is to better understand how the state's recreation system provides a connection with the outdoors. Elements of this project include:

- Defining an integrated vision for a new system of outdoor recreation opportunities. Understanding existing opportunities supported by the division and how they should connect and relate.
- Tiering a system of opportunities across the recreation spectrum, from rustic to developed.
- Positioning the division to provide outdoor recreation offerings that meet the public's needs

The System Plan will provide overall direction for how other plans and initiatives will be implemented across the recreation system, such as the Building Next Generation Nature-based Parks, Trails and Open Spaces project.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1: State Parks and Trails System Plan**      **Budget:** \$175,000 LCCMR request  
\$350,000 total project budget

The process for developing the system plan includes the following steps:

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • Initiate project and establish project team | <b>Timeline</b><br>August, 2010 |
| • Establish draft vision for system plan      | October 2010                    |
| • Engage public in development of system plan | April 2011                      |
| • Draft System Plan                           | January 2012                    |
| • Public Review of System Plan                | March 2012                      |

- Finalize Minnesota State Parks and Trails System Plan and implement

June 2012

**Deliverable**

1. Minnesota State Parks and Trails System Plan

**Completion Date**

June 2012

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

The Project Team will consist of a Division of Parks & Trails Manager, the Project Manager, project support staff, the University of Minnesota, DNR OMBS Conservation Agenda Planner and a staff Principal Planner. **Partners** may include representatives from the National Park Service (NPS), the Metropolitan Council and metro regional parks (specifically those working on the 2030 visioning for Three Rivers Park District), Parks of Regional Significance in greater Minnesota and the outdoor recreation retail industry. The Project Team will have primary responsibility for managing the project, assuring public involvement and meeting deadlines. The Partners will be asked to contribute and participate at key points in development of the system plan.

**B. Timeline Requirements**

The System Plan will be completed at the end of the two year period. Initial stages of the project include gathering public input and conducting research to help inform the plan. The timeline also includes a period for public review and comment on a draft prior to completing the plan.

**C. Long-Term Strategy**

The System Plan will guide the division's decision-making for investing in recreation opportunities for the citizens of Minnesota and visitors to the state. It will support future planning for facility development, programming and operating expenditures across the DNR-managed outdoor recreation system. Implementation of the plan will take place over a period of years and may suggest supplemental but separate project proposals to LCCMR.

# Project Budget

## 2010 LCCMR State Parks and Trails System Plan

### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

BUDGET ITEM	LCCMR AMOUNT	AGENCY*
<b>Personnel:</b> Project Manager - lead efforts for development of System Plan, supervise work of project interns and coordinated efforts other division staff participating in project effort. Position may be a time-limited hire or part of a contract. One position at @ \$90,000 per year.	\$ 35,000	\$ 145,000
<b>Personnel:</b> Project support staff - provide mapping and other technical support, provide organization and logistical support for public involvement efforts. Positions may be time-limited hires or part of a contract. Two positions @ \$15,000 each per year.	\$ 30,000	30,000
<b>Travel:</b> In-state travel for staff related to meetings with stakeholder groups, open houses, focus groups, and other public involvement efforts during the project	\$ 2,000	
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Research - inventory existing recreational opportunities in system, investigate recreational systems and opportunities offered by other providers, develop criteria for an integrated system and possible tiers for providing recreation opportunities across the system	\$ 70,000	
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Public involvement - conduct focus groups and other public involvement efforts, including discussions with special interest groups.	\$ 30,000	
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Printing costs for final plan, estimated for 500 copies	\$ 8,000	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>

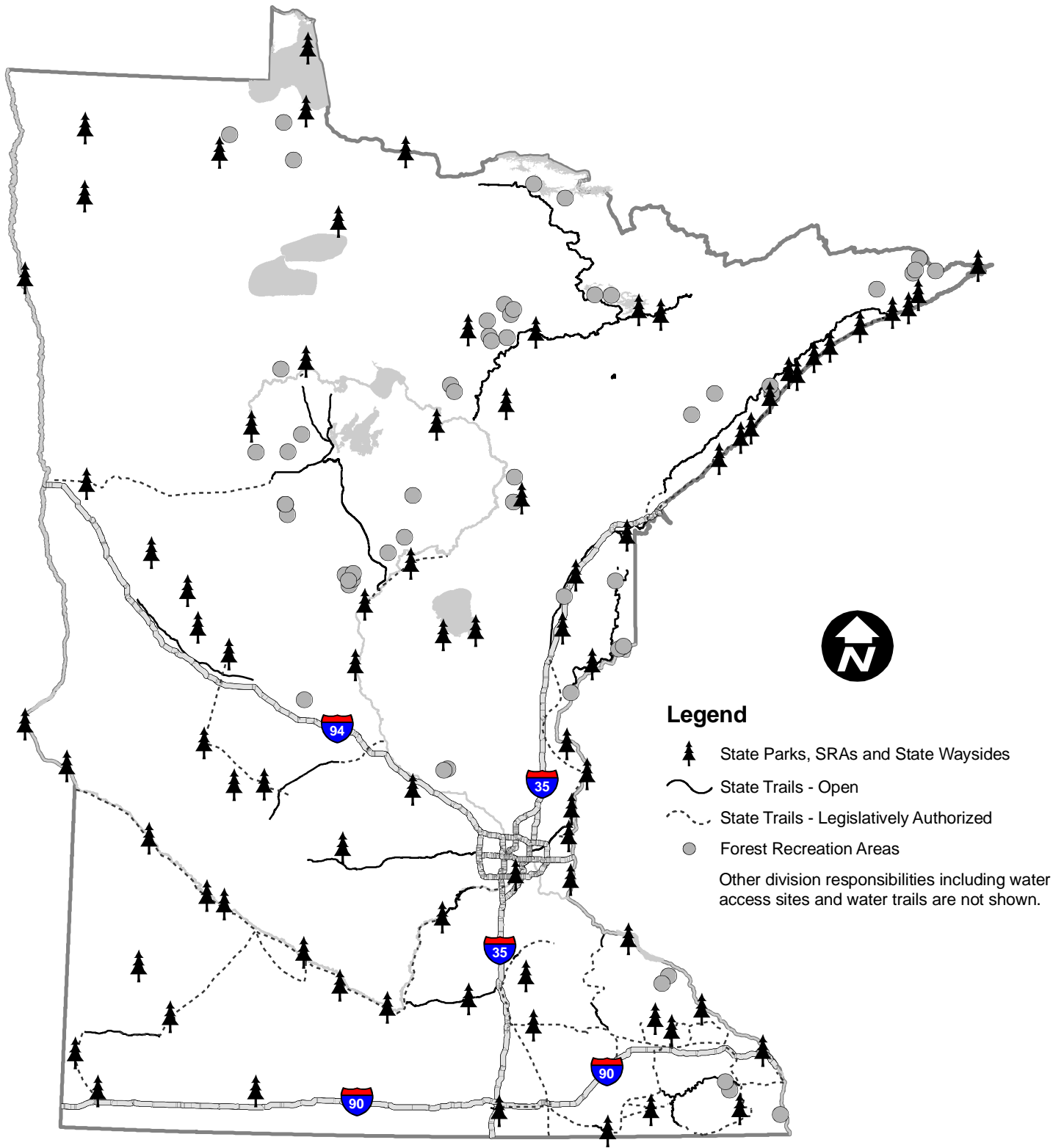
\*Agency funding will include Parks and Trails Legacy funding and other DNR Division of Parks and Trails funding.

### V. OTHER FUNDS





SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> In-kind services of existing staff allocated to the project @ \$75,000 per year.	\$ 150,000	

# LCCMR 2010

## Minnesota State Park and Trail System Plan Proposal



**Legend**

-  State Parks, SRAs and State Waysides
  -  State Trails - Open
  -  State Trails - Legislatively Authorized
  -  Forest Recreation Areas
- Other division responsibilities including water access sites and water trails are not shown.



### **Project Manager Qualifications**

Pat Arndt is currently the Planning, Public Affairs and IT Manager for the Minnesota DNR Division of Parks & Trails. She has worked for the Minnesota DNR for 29 years in 13 different positions. She has conducted project management for the Minnesota State Parks Strategic Plan 2006-2011, Minnesota State Park System Land Study, Minnesota State Parks Fee Strategy, and currently supervises the management planning efforts for Minnesota State Parks and Recreation Areas and leads the Gateway effort for the DNR, which focuses on getting the Next Generation of Minnesotans Outdoors.

### **Organization Description**

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails operates 66 state parks, 7 state recreation areas, 575 miles of surfaced state trail, 1610 water access sites, 316 fishing piers and 27 shore fishing areas, 30 water trails and 9 state waysides throughout Minnesota. The Division connects people to the state's natural resources by providing access to outdoor recreation, conservation education and natural resource restoration and management.

Our mission is to create outstanding outdoor recreation and education experiences, support healthy people and communities, and conserve Minnesota's unique natural and cultural resources.