

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 105-D

Project Title: State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$7,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Acquire land from willing sellers within the statutory boundaries of State Parks, State Recreation Areas and authorized State Trails. State land acquisitions provide ecological and recreational benefits to the public

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Web Address: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: STATE PARKS AND TRAILS LAND ACQUISITION

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Acquire land from willing sellers within the statutory boundaries of state park (SPK), state recreation areas (SRA) and designated state trail (ST) corridors. The State Parks and Trails acquisitions will provide significant and safe recreational trail connections between communities and other public recreational facilities; assist in the preservation or restoration of diverse, locally significant natural plant communities; create contiguous wildlife corridors between diverse habitats; provide riparian buffers along wetlands, creeks and lakes; help reduce impacts of potential development; and allow for better control over access to other state-owned property that currently suffers as a result of unauthorized use.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund funding will allow for the:

The Department of Natural Resources to acquire over 1,110 acres of land within the statutory boundaries of the Minnesota State Parks and State Trail System.

- Acquire 700 acres in Central Region which is comprised of four parcels located in two State Parks and one State Trail - Forestville/Mystery Cave, Mille Lacs Kathio SPK and Willard Munger ST. These acquisitions will provide for the protection of prominent limestone cliffs, talus slopes and karst features, a natural greenway, and trout streams in Brown's Creek and Root River. Acquisition will also provide for additional recreational opportunities between the Brown's Creek Segment of Willard Munger ST and the City of Stillwater as well as access to the Root River and Shakopee Lake.
- Acquire 70 acres in Northeast Region which is comprised of six parcels located within two State Parks-Crow Wing, Tettegouche and Cuyuna Country SRA. These acquisitions will provide protection of watershed, biodiversity of native plants, wetlands, a spring fed pond and add to the recreational opportunities such as hiking and access to the Mississippi and Brule River.
- Acquire 80 acres in Northwest Region in Maplewood SPK. This acquisition will provide additional wetland, open grassland and maple basswood hardwoods protection, add to wildlife habitat for neotropical forest song birds and lends itself to prairie and savanna community restorations.
- Acquire 260 acres in Southern Region comprised of parcels on two State Trails and one State Park-Blazing Star and Casey Jones ST and Sibley SPK. This acquisition will provide additional protection along the margins of a small tributary on the East Branch of the Rock River, which contains the federally endangered Topeka Shiner habitat, improve the access and/or facilitate the preservation of significant plant communities, natural areas and locally significant historic sites within the proposed trail corridor as well as lakeshore and wetland protection and restoration.

Activity 1: Acquire approximately 700 acres of State Park and State Trail land in the Central Region.

Budget: \$ 3,800,000.00

The DNR proposes to acquire parcels located in the Central Region including parcels in Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park, Mille Lacs Kathio and Brown's Creek Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail. These parcels have significant and unique biological resources including protection for prominent limestone and significant cultural resources along the Shakopee Lake shoreline. These acquisitions will provide additional recreational opportunities such as a link between the Gateway Segment of Willard Munger State Trail and the City of Stillwater as well as access to rivers and lakes with unique recreational experience opportunities.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 30, 2011
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2012
3. Acquire Parcels	December 30, 2012

Activity 2: Acquire approx. 70 acres of State Park land in the Northeast Region.

Budget: \$ 1,950,000.00

The DNR proposes to acquire 70 acres in Northeast Region which is comprised of six parcels in located in two state parks - Crow Wing, Tettegouche and Cuyuna Country state recreation area. These acquisitions will provide protection of watersheds and sites with outstanding biodiversity with native plants and wetlands, a spring fed pond, shoreline protection and add to the recreational such as hiking, and access to the Mississippi and Brule Rivers.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 30, 2011
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2012
3. Acquire Parcels	December 30, 2012

Activity 3: Acquire approx. 80 acres of State Park land in the Northwest Region.

Budget: \$ 400,000.00

The DNR proposes to acquire 80 acres in Northwest Region in Maplewood State Park. This acquisition will provide additional wetland, open grassland and maple basswood hardwoods protection, add to wildlife habitat for neo-tropical forest song birds and lends itself to prairie and savanna community restorations.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 30, 2011
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2012
3. Acquire Parcels	December 30, 2012

Activity 4: Acquire approx. 260 acres of State Park and State Trail land in the Southern Region.

Budget: \$ 850,000.00

The DNR proposes to acquire 260 acres in Southern Region comprised of a parcel in Sibley State Park and Blazing Star and Casey Jones State Trails. This acquisition will provide lakeshore, wetland and federally listed endangered species protection and add to the recreational opportunities now offered in this area such as hiking, biking and access to the lake with opportunities for prairie and wetland restoration.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 30, 2011
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2012
3. Acquire Parcels	December 30, 2012

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota is working collaboratively with the DNR to secure five parcels within the state park system located in Crow Wing and Mille Lacs Kathio state parks and Cuyuna Country SRA. These critical parcels are being pursued when willing landowners are ready to sell but DNR funds aren't available.

B. Timeline Requirements

All projects will be completed by June 30, 2013. Timing depends heavily on the length of negotiations and the acquisition process. Funding will be used for land costs, appraisals and professional services costs.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

To acquire critical in-holdings within state park boundaries and along authorized state trail corridors. The DNR currently owns approximately 84% of the 268,000 acres within state park boundaries and have yet to acquire 50% of the 2,597 miles statutory authorized state trails. Each year the DNR Parks and Trails Division receives well over \$5 million worth of requests from willing sellers.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Proposed 1,100 acres in Fee Title by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.	\$ 680,000,000
Additional Budget Items: Professional services for land acquisition such as appraisal, survey, and title work.	\$ 200,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 7,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): 2009 ENRTF appropriated \$700,000.00 for Brown's Creek Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail which is unspent.	\$ 700,000	Unspent

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition

Project Manager Name: Peter Hark

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$ 7,000,000.00

Final Title Holder(s): Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

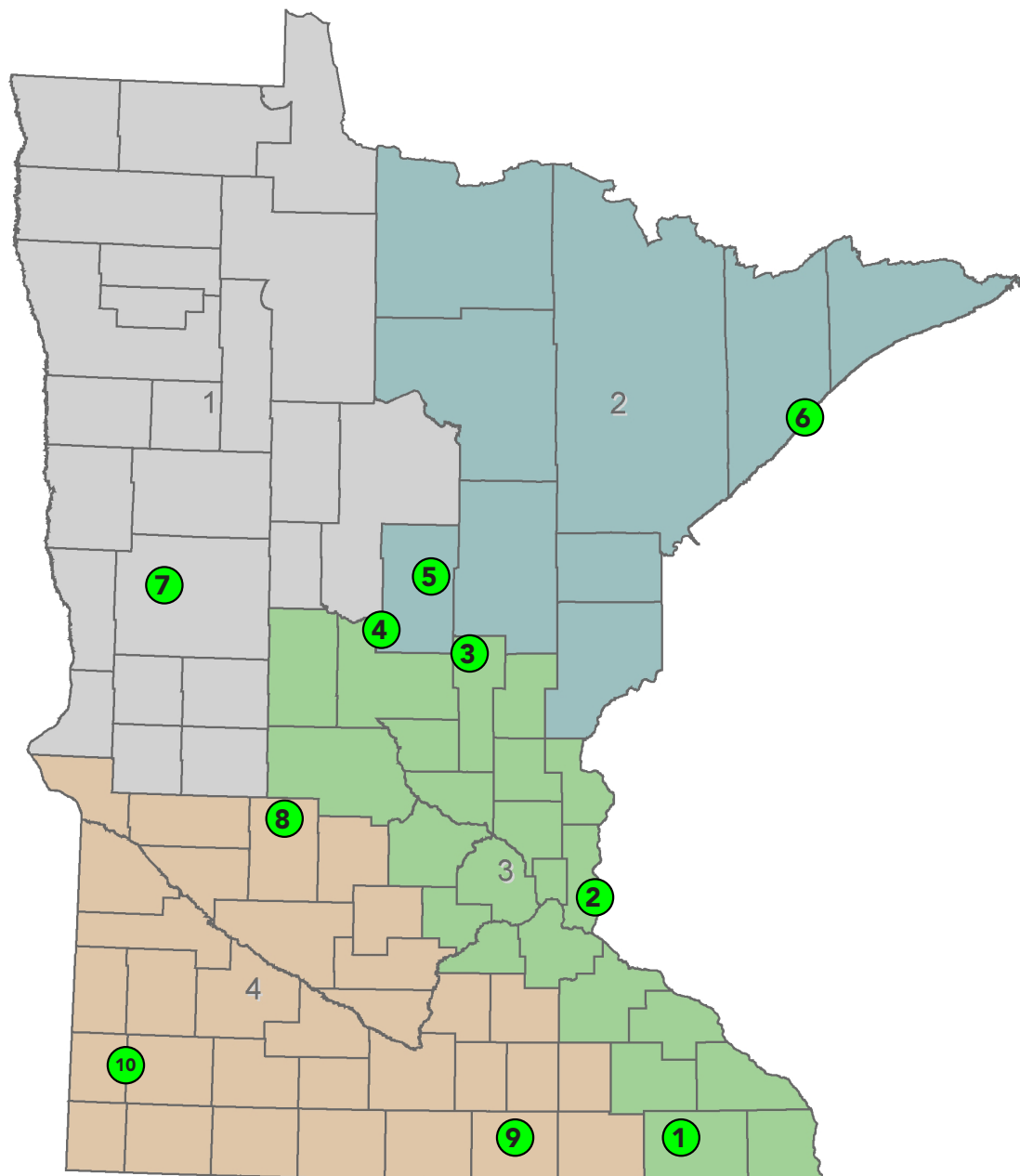
#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)			
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y
1	Forestville/ Mystery Cave State Park	Fee Title	Fillmore	470			563594	4831545
2	Willard Munger State Trail Brown's Creek Segment	Fee Title	Washington	70			511834	4991007
3	Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	Fee Title	Mille Lacs	140			442849	5108470
4	Crow Wing State Park	Fee Title	Cass	20			397167	5126063
5	Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	Fee Title	Crow Wing	0			423039	5149183
6	Tettegouche State Park	Fee Title	Lake	50			633178	5245319
7	Maplewood State Park	Fee Title	Otter Tail	80			273504	5156305
8	Sibley State Park	Fee Title	Kandiyohi	106			339409	5021218
9	Blazing Star State Trail	Fee Title	Freeborn	100			471873	4833042
10	Casey Jones State Trail	Fee Title	Murray	54			258693	4876192
NOTES:								

Land Acquisition Proposed Projects

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND TRAILS

LCCMR 2011-2012



Map #	Facility name	County
1	Forestville/ Mystery Cave State Park	Fillmore
2	Willard Mungar State Trail- Brown's Creek Segment	Washington
3	Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	Mille Lacs
4	Crow Wing State Park	Cass
5	Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	Crow Wing
6	Tettegouche State Park	Lake
7	Maplewood State Park	Otter Tail
8	Sibley State Park	Kandiyohi
9	Blazing Star State Trail	Freeborn
10	Casey Jones State Trail	Murray

Peter Hark, Manager of Strategic Management Section of the Parks and Trails Division, oversees all aspects of the division's acquisition, development, real estate management and planning activity. For the past 17 years, Hark has served in a number of management and coordination roles within the DNR.

Organization Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division's vision is to create unforgettable park, trail, and water recreation experiences that inspire the public to pass along the love for the outdoor to the next generation. More information on the Minnesota DNR can be found at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

