

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2012-2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 060-D**

State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition

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**Topic Area:** D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 2,000,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 yrs, July 2013 - June 2015

**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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**Name:** Jennifer Christie

**Sponsoring Organization:** MN DNR

**Address:** 500 Lafayette Rd  
St. Paul MN 55155

**Telephone Number:** (651) 259-5633

**Email** jennifer.christie@state.mn.us

**Web Address** http://www.dnr.state.mn.us

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Crow Wing, Kandiyohi, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Wabasha

**City / Township:**

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<input type="checkbox"/> Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/> Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/> Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL <input type="checkbox"/> %



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2012-2013 Main Proposal

## PROJECT TITLE: State Parks and State 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 for critical land protection; generate significant and safe recreational trail connections between communities and other public recreational facilities; provide riparian buffers along wetlands, creeks and lakes; help reduce fragmentation and impacts of potential development; allows for improved access and better management of other state-owned property; 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 overall site restoration.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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

The Department of Natural Resources to acquire approximately 330 acres of land within the statutory boundaries of the Minnesota State Parks, State Recreation Areas and within State Trails statutory authorized corridors.

- Acquire 40 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Frontenac State Park. The land consists of lowland forested wetland, a small stream, plus native prairie and some upland trees.
- Acquire 80 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Maplewood State Park. This property is rolling topography with wetland, open grassland and hardwoods. Restoration potential.
- Acquire 16 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Sibley State Park. Purchase of this property will allow the state park to have complete ownership around Lake 21.
- Acquire approximately 115 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. Provides for protection and restoration of over a mile of lakeshore.
- Acquire approximately 6 miles, 80 acres of land located in the statutorily authorized corridor of the Mill Towns State Trail. Acquire approximately six miles of trail corridor from one landowner.

#### Activity 1: Frontenac State Park Acquisition

**Budget:** \$300,000

The DNR proposes to acquire approximately 40 acres of land. The property adjoins Frontenac state park on one side and the Perched Valley WMA on another side. The property has two important resources worth noting, a 200+ year old cottonwood tree and sites that in the recent past that were active sunning and den sites for the timber rattlesnake. This property has the potential to provide a connecting link to existing hiking trails.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 31, 2013
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2014
3. Acquire Parcels	December 31, 2014

#### Activity 2: Maplewood State Park Acquisition

**Budget:** \$350,000

The DNR proposes to acquire approximately 80 acres of land. This property provides an open vista between the highway and forested park lands. There are wetland reclamation possibilities and prairie restoration would provide a permanent natural vista between the highway and the wooded hills in the park. This property has had development threat and pressure in the past. This is the direction most park visitors travel to the park and is one of the first views of the park to the south.

Outcome	Completion Date
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1. Appraise Parcels	December 31, 2013
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2014
3. Acquire Parcels	December 31, 2014

**Activity 3:** Sibley State Park Acquisition

**Budget:** \$350,000

The DNR proposes to acquire approximately 16 acres of land. These two parcels are on the north end of Lake 21 and would give the state park complete ownership around Lake 21. Through restoration efforts, the DNR can improve the lake quality. Acquisition of the property would allow for the expansion of the summer and winter trail systems. The park surrounds the property on three sides, with the statutory boundary on Highway 9 being the fourth side. There have been development threats in the recent past.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 31, 2013
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2014
3. Acquire Parcels	December 31, 2014

**Activity 4:** Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Land Acquisition

**Budget:** \$400,000

The DNR proposes to acquire approximately 115 acres of land, 75 acres in fee title and 40 acres in undivided interest. The acquisition of this property is key to the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area for protection and restoration of the lakeshore of June Lake and Lake Portage. Obtaining full ownership in the land will allow for better management and a consolidated access into the recreation area. This location is key to connect and provide for more trail and access opportunities.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 31, 2013
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2014
3. Acquire Parcels	December 31, 2014

**Activity 5:** Mill Towns State Trail Land Acquisition

**Budget:** \$600,000

The DNR proposes to acquire approximately 6 miles and approximately 80 acres of land. Portions of the corridor have mature timber while other portions are actively farmed by adjacent landowners. The corridor enjoys a rural setting, has a width of 66 to 250 feet, and has no driveway crossings. The adjacent railroad is lightly used and the trail corridor would be well screened from the active tracks by established vegetation.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Appraise Parcels	December 31, 2013
2. Negotiate Acquisition Amount	June 30, 2014
3. Acquire Parcels	December 31, 2014

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners:** The Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota works collaboratively with the DNR to secure property located within the state park system.

**B. Timeline Requirements:** All projects will be completed by June 30, 2015. Timing depends heavily on the length of negotiations and the acquisition process. Funding will be used for land costs, appraisals, professional services, and site restoration costs as time and funding allows.

**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.

**2012-2013 Proposed Acquisition List**

**Project Title:** State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails Land Acquisitions

**Project Manager Name:** Jennifer Christie

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$2,000,000

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee Title or Conservation Easement)	County	Ecological Significance	Proposed # of Acres	Proposed # of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
1	Frontenac State Park	Fee Title	Goodhue	Lowland forested wetland with a small stream and exposed dolomite bluff face partially covered with a mix of native prairie and some upland trees.	40		MnDNR
2	Maplewood State Park	Fee Title	Otter Tail	Rolling topography with wetland, open grassland and hardwoods. Potential for native plant and prairie restorations.	80		MnDNR
3	Sibley State Park	Fee Title	Kandiyohi	State park would have complete ownership around Lake 21. Facilitate consolidation of restoration efforts and reduce ownership fragmentation.	16	Approximately 500 feet of shoreline.	MnDNR
4	Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	Fee Title and Undivided Interest	Crow Wing	The parcels have a mixture of mature tree growth and approximately 1 mile of lake shoreline.	115*	Over 1 mile of shoreline- approx. 5,800 feet	MnDNR
5	Mill Towns State Trail	Fee Title	Rice	Portions of the corridor have mature timber while other portions are being farmed by adjacent landowners. Corridor representative of a rural setting.	80		MnDNR

**NOTES:** \*Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area project proposal is for 75 acres in fee title and 40 acres in undivided interest.

## 2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> Propose acquiring approximately 330 acres in Fee Title, Permanent Easements and/or Undivided Interest	\$	1,840,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Professional services and charges for proposed land acquisition transaction related items such as appraisal, survey and title work.	\$	30,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Direct Support Services expenses. DNR used a rate of 6.5% to calculate costs for direct support services, which are DNR's direct and necessary business services required to support this proposal.	\$	130,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

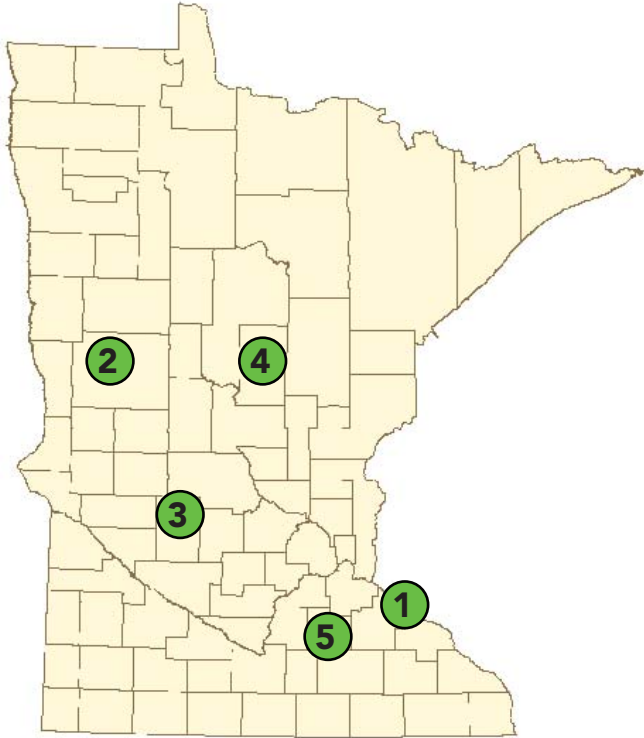
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Bonding	\$ -	Indicate: Pending/Unknown
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> The Division of Parks and Trails has funds remaining from M.L. 2010, (Chap.362), Sec.(2), Subd. 4(d); and M.L.2011, 1st special session (Chap.2), Sec.(2), Subd.4(b); and	\$ 2,534,000	Indicate: Acquisitions in Progress--some funds are encumbered and some funds unspent (avail. 7/1/12)
<b>Funding History:</b> M.L. 2011 \$3,000,000 M.L. 2010 \$2,200,000 \$1,590,000 M.L. 2008 \$1,500,000 M.L. 2007 \$ 750,000	\$ -     M.L. 2009	

# Land Acquisition Proposed Projects



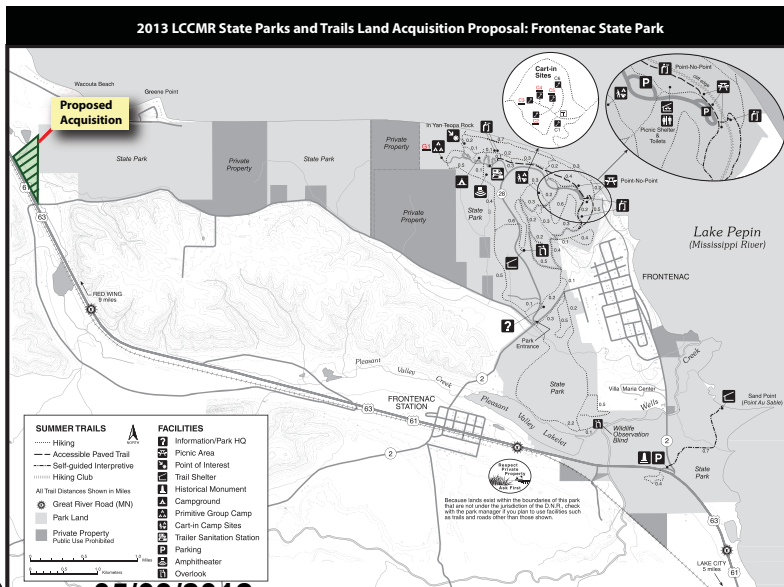
## Map Location Indicator

Numbers correlate with result numbers in small maps showing inholdings.



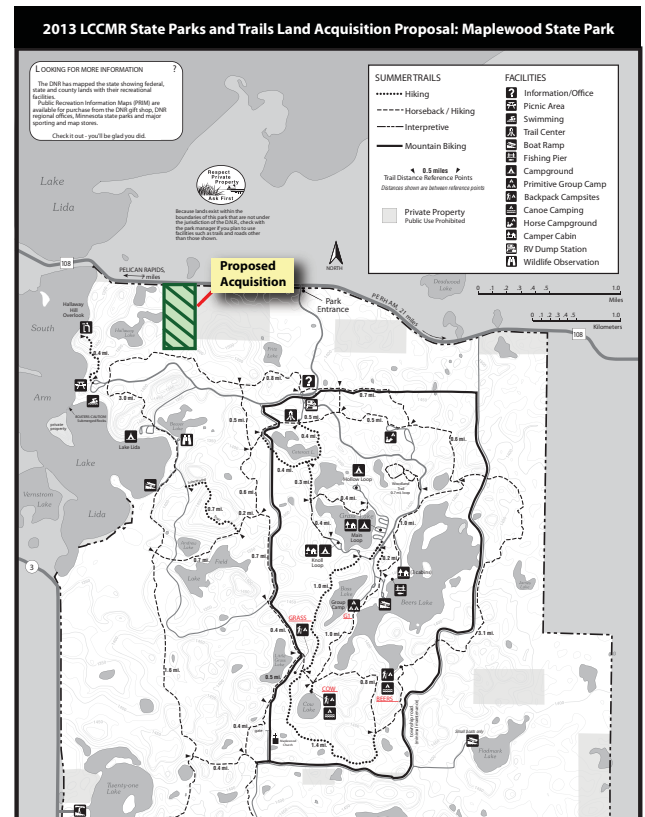
## Result 1

Acquire ~40 acres in Frontenac State Park



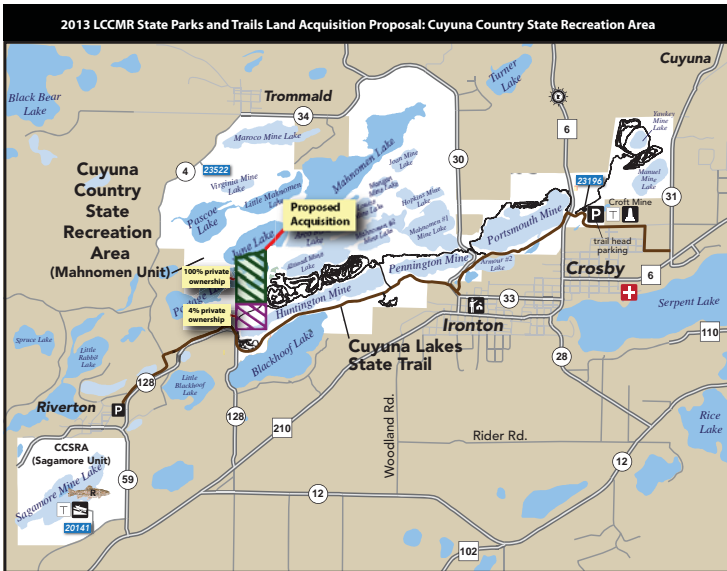
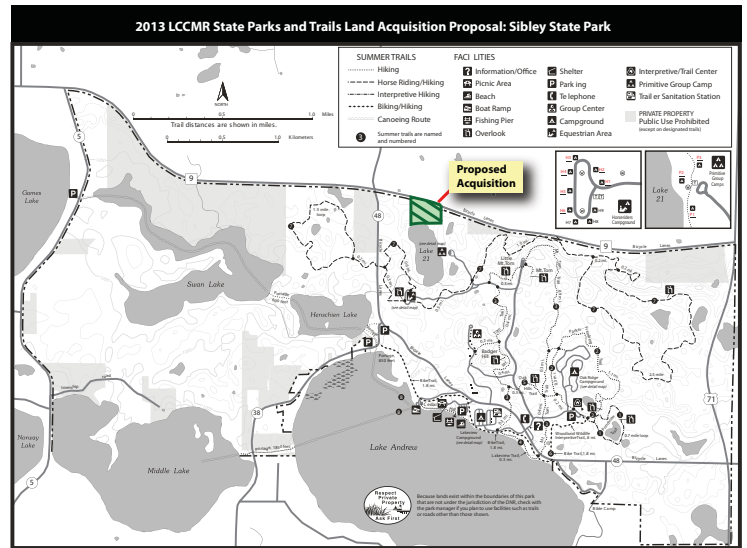
## Result 2

Acquire ~80 acres in Maplewood State Park.



### Result 3

Acquire ~16 acres in Sibley State Park

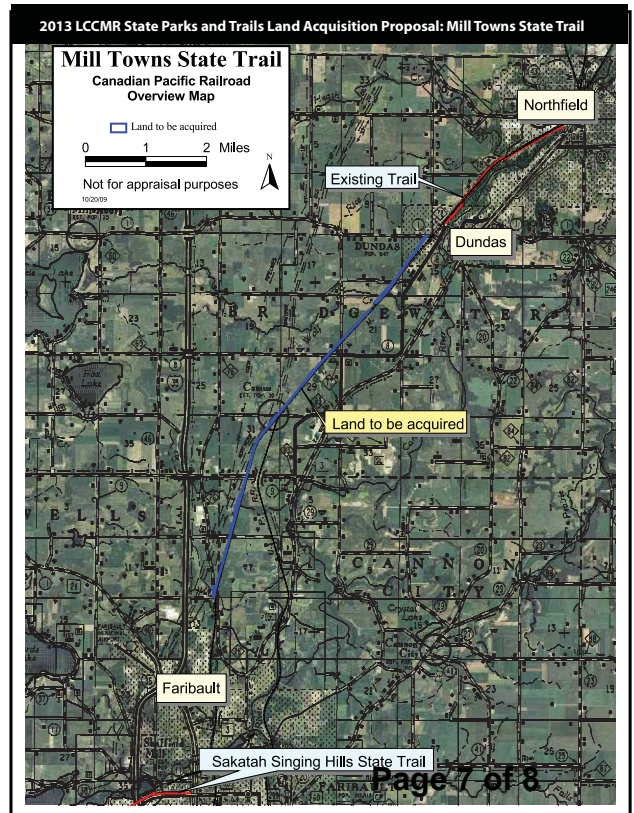


### Result 4

Acquire ~155 acres (75 fee title and 40 undivided interest) in Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area

### Result 5

Acquire ~80 acres (~6 miles) for Mill Towns State Trail





## **Environment Trust Fund 2012-2013 Project Proposal**

**Project Title: State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails Land Acquisitions**

### **Project Manager Qualifications**

As Coordinator of Acquisitions and Real Estate for the Division of Parks and Trails, Jennifer Christie coordinates the land acquisition planning process for state parks, state recreation areas and state trails to ensure the Division acquires critical parcels within state park, state recreation areas statutory boundaries and within statutory designated state trail corridors.

Jennifer has worked in the parks, recreation and natural resources field and the real estate industry for over 20 years. She has worked in various outdoor recreation capacities from a park manager, parks and natural resources projects coordinator to her current role at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division for the past four years as acquisition, development and real estate coordinator. In the real estate industry, Jennifer has worked as a mortgage underwriter, title closer, construction finance administrator and valuations supervisor.

### **Organization Description**

The Department of Natural Resources-Division of Parks and Trails operates 67 state parks, 8 state recreation areas, 575 miles of surfaced state trail, 1,610 water access sites, 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.