

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2016 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 174-G

State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 2,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July 2016 to June 2019

Summary:

Acquire the highest priority State Park and State Trail land in-holdings statewide from willing sellers with significant ecological, historic and recreational attributes to protect, preserve and enhance Minnesotas environmental stewardship.

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Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

A map shows geographically where the proposed acquisitions are located as statewide reference and within each state park.

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



PROJECT TITLE: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This State Parks and State Trails land acquisition proposal is to acquire the highest priority State Park in-holdings statewide from willing sellers with significant ecological and historic values, and key parcels of land located within designated State Trail corridors to protect, preserve and enhance Minnesota’s outdoor heritage and environmental stewardship.

The benefits of State Park and State Trail land acquisitions are to provide long-term, consolidated management of pristine natural areas representative of diverse landscapes throughout the entire state of Minnesota. Other land acquisition benefits include: Riparian buffers along rivers, wetlands, creeks and lakes; Preservation of significant ecological, plant and animal communities; Reduction of fragmentation and potential development impacts of fragile ecosystems; Protection of view sheds and locally significant historical sites and cultural resources; Connectivity between local communities to share and better understand our natural and historical resources.

Each State Park and State Trail outdoor recreation unit goes through a rigorous master planning process which includes a public input component to identify desired boundaries and corridors. DNR has identified and ranked each in-holding parcel and manages a general statewide priority list that is reviewed and analyzed annually.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Scenic State Park Land Acquisition, Itasca County

Budget: \$350,000

Acquire approximately 20 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Scenic State Park. This property would provide protection and riparian buffer for half a mile of shoreline of Lake Isaac. This acquisition would also help protect the north woods forest and vegetation, limit lake development and maintain excellent water quality. If acquired, the entire Isaac Lake would be within state ownership when combined with state forest land to the west. This property would provide excellent fishing and canoeing opportunities.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 20 acres of land in Scenic State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 2: Crow Wing State Park Land Acquisition, Cass County

Budget: \$350,000

Acquire three acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Crow Wing State Park. This property would provide riparian protection and preservation of 300 feet of Crow River shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi. This property is one of the two last parcels along the peninsula that would add approximately one mile of shoreline along the Crow River. This parcel allow for the opportunity to protect and preserve one of the last undeveloped tributaries along the Mississippi River for upland habitat and river users.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire five acres of land in Crow Wing State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 3: St. Croix State Park Land Acquisition, Pine County

Budget: \$300,000

Acquire approximately 100 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of St. Croix State Park. This property would provide needed access to the northern end of the largest State Park in the Minnesota system and contains a wolf den, and a trout stream on the property. A portion of the Matthew Lourey State Trail would also be secured. This state trail connects to other state forest recreation amenities and would provide additional outdoor recreation activities, would also be secured.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 100 acres of land in St. Croix State Park	June 30, 2019



Activity 4: Minneopa State Park, Blue Earth County

Budget: \$200,000

Acquire approximately 3 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park. This property is located adjacent to the proposed bison area and would allow for greater oversight and increased security of the new bison area. The parcel also contains an old access road to the historic Seppmann Mill site, which would help facilitate maintenance and future interpretive projects of this historical site. It may also support a future Minnesota Valley State Trail alignment.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 3 acres of land in Minneopa State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 5: Forestville State Park Land Acquisition, Fillmore County

Budget: \$250,000

Acquire approximately 16 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Forestville State Park. This parcel would provide protection of wooded parcels adjacent to the Cave Visitor Center that also feeds surface runoff into the Mystery Cave system. There's also an opportunity to utilize the sinkhole entrance to enhance the current State Park interpretive program.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 16 acres of land in Forestville State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 6: Whitewater State Park Land Acquisition, Winona County

Budget: \$550,000

Acquire two parcels approximately 11 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Whitewater State Park. One parcel contains a small section of the Whitewater middle branch running through it. The other parcel contains hardwood forest with state park land to the south and west with a county highway to the north.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 11 acres of land in Whitewater State Park	June 30, 2019

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails maintain an active priority parcel list of potential acquisitions to pursue based on available funding. The restoration parcel list and activity items may be modified to add parcels if the status of a parcel changes, or result of unsuccessful negotiations.

A. Project Team/Partners

The DNR is working collaboratively with the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, and other non-government organizations as appropriate to acquire high priority parcels located within the state park system, or parcels along statutory designated state trails.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

Currently, there are approximately 275,300 acres within state park statutory boundaries. On behalf of the public, the DNR manages approximately 231,700 acres, resulting in approximately 43,600 acres of in-holdings within the statutory boundaries of the 67 Minnesota State Parks and eight State Recreation Areas. Minnesota has 25 statutory authorized State Trails. The DNR estimates 5,200 acres of the land is needed to complete the State Trail system. The DNR manages approximately 2,600 acres, and needs the remainder 2,600 acres to complete the authorized Trails. A Parks and Trails Legacy allocation is anticipated to complement and enhance this funding request to work toward goal of acquiring all the state parks in-holdings. Anticipate some bonding for the acquisition and development of state trails during bonding cycle to complement and enhance efforts to ultimately complete and fulfill the state trail system.

C. Timeline Requirements

All projects will completed by June 30, 2019. Timing depends heavily on the length of negotiations and the acquisition process. Funding will be used for land costs, appraisals, professional services, recording fees, deed tax and other transaction related costs associated with an acquisition transaction.

2016 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Professional service expenses and other transaction related charges including, but not limited to, the appraisal, survey, title work, closing costs-recording fees and deed tax required and necessary for the proposed land acquisitions transfer of clear title.	\$ 50,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Propose to acquire 153 acres with the title to be held by the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.	\$ 1,950,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 2,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

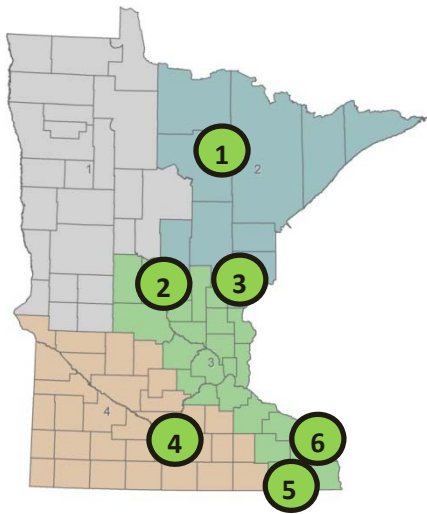
<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Parks and Trails Legacy Fund	\$ 640,000	Secured
Funding History:		
ENRTF M.L. 2015	\$1,500,000	
ENRTF M.L. 2013	\$1,000,000	
ENRTF M.L. 2011	\$3,000,000	
ENRTF M.L. 2010	\$2,200,000	
ENRTF M.L. 2009	\$1,590,000	
ENRTF M.L. 2008	\$1,500,000	
ENRTF M.L. 2007	\$ 750,000	
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:	\$262,649	Unspent-In
ENRTF M.L. 2013		Negotiations

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2016 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

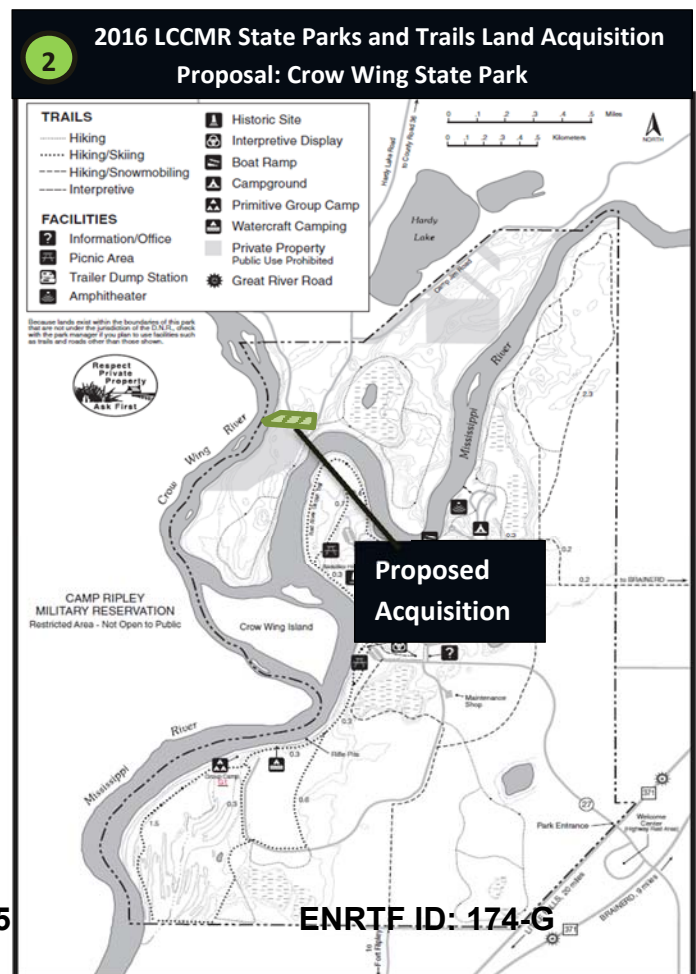
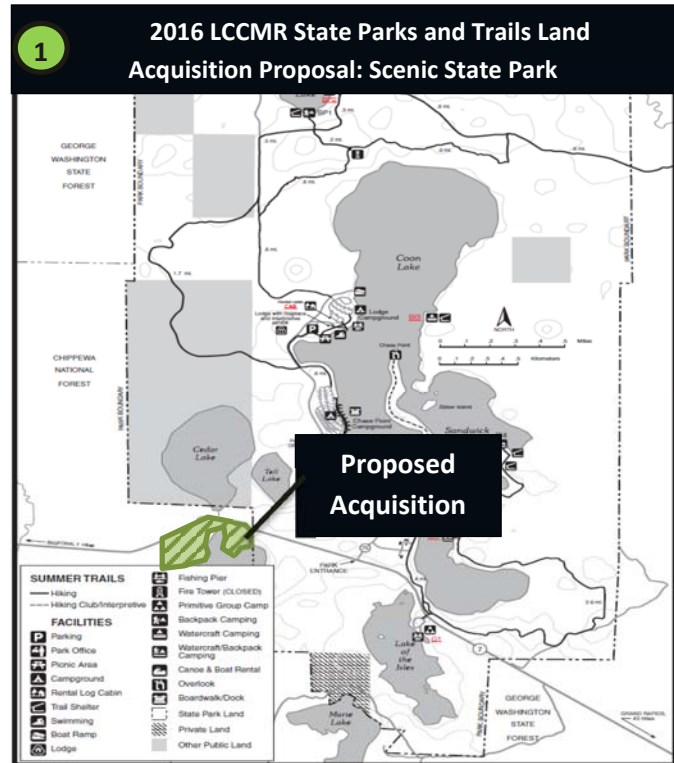
Project Title: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition
Project Manager Name: Jennifer Christie
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
ENRTF \$ Request: \$ 2,000,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	Scenic State Park	47° 42' 14.4" N	93° 34' 54.4" E	\$350,000	Itasca	Riparian buffer, watershed protection and maintain water quality of an undeveloped shoreline around entire Issac Lake.	Acquire Land	20	1/2 mile	Private	Fee
2	Crow Wing State Park	46° 16' 58.0" N	94° 20' 44.3" E	\$350,000	Cass	Protection of the Crow Wing River shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi River adjacent to existing DNR ownership.	Acquire Land	5	300 feet	Private	Fee
3	St. Croix State Park	46° 0' 2.8" N	92° 28' 8.3" E	\$300,000	Pine	Provide access to the northern end of the largest Mn State Park, contains a wolf den, a trout stream on the property, and a portion of the Matthew Lourey State Trail.	Acquire Land	100		Private	Fee
4	Minneopa State Park	44° 9' 44.73" N	94° 6' 34.86" E	\$200,000	Blue Earth	Adjacent to the proposed new bison area, contains an old access road to the historic Seppmann Mill site, and potential Mn Valley State Trail alignment.	Acquire Land	3		Private	Fee
5	Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park	43° 37' 9.4" N	92° 18' 50.4" E	\$250,000	Fillmore	Provide protection of wooded parcels adjacent to the Cave Visitor Center that also feeds surface runoff into the Mystery Cave system. Create an opportunity to utilize the sinkhole entrance to enhance the current State Park interpretive program.	Acquire Land	16		Private	Fee
6	Whitewater State Park	44° 3' 48.4"	92° 2' 8.1" E	\$550,000	Winona	One parcel contains a small section of the Whitewater middle branch running through it. The other parcel contains hardwood forest with state park land to the south and west with a county highway to the north.	Acquire Land	11	755 feet, including east and west sides	Private	Fee
NOTES:											

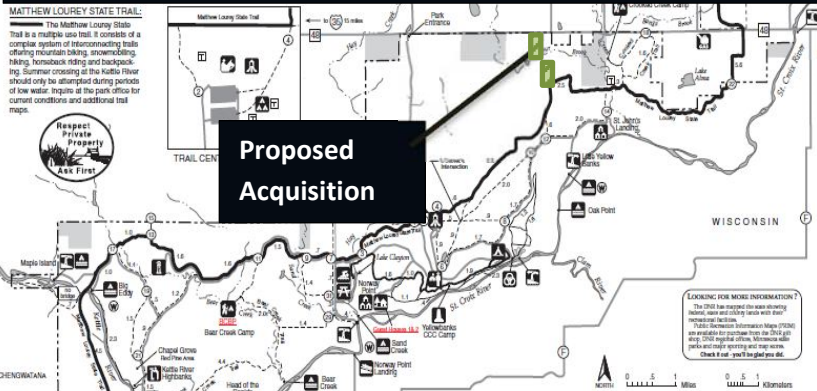
Land Acquisition Proposed Projects



Map #	Facility Name	County
1	Scenic State Park	Itasca
2	Crow Wing State Park	Cass
3	St. Croix State Park	Pine
4	Minneopa State Park	Blue Earth
5	Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park	Fillmore
6	Whitewater State Park	Winona

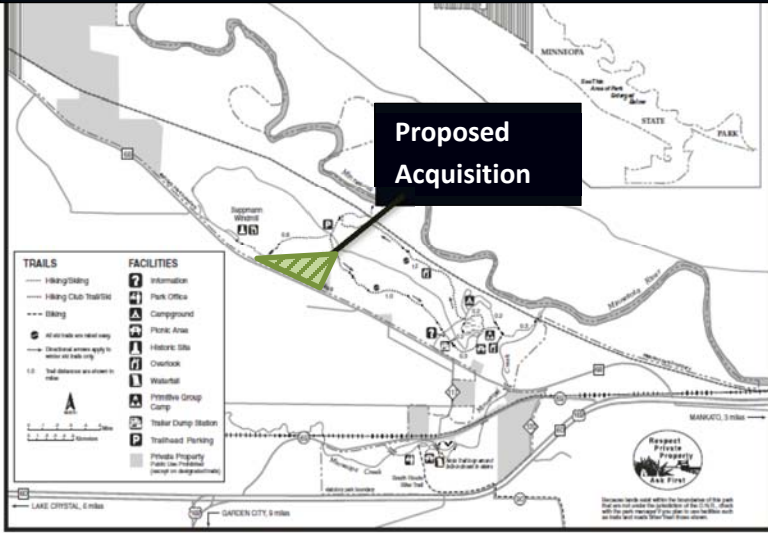


2016 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: St. Croix State Park



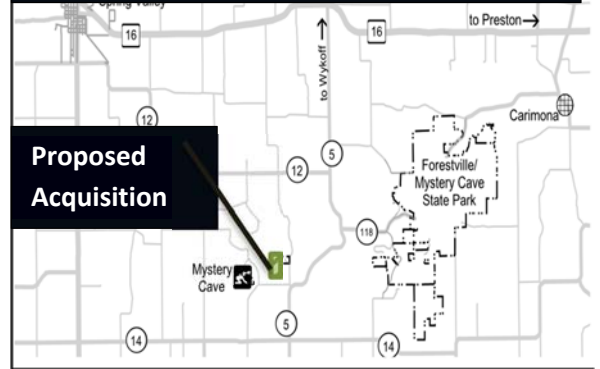
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2016 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Minneopa State Park



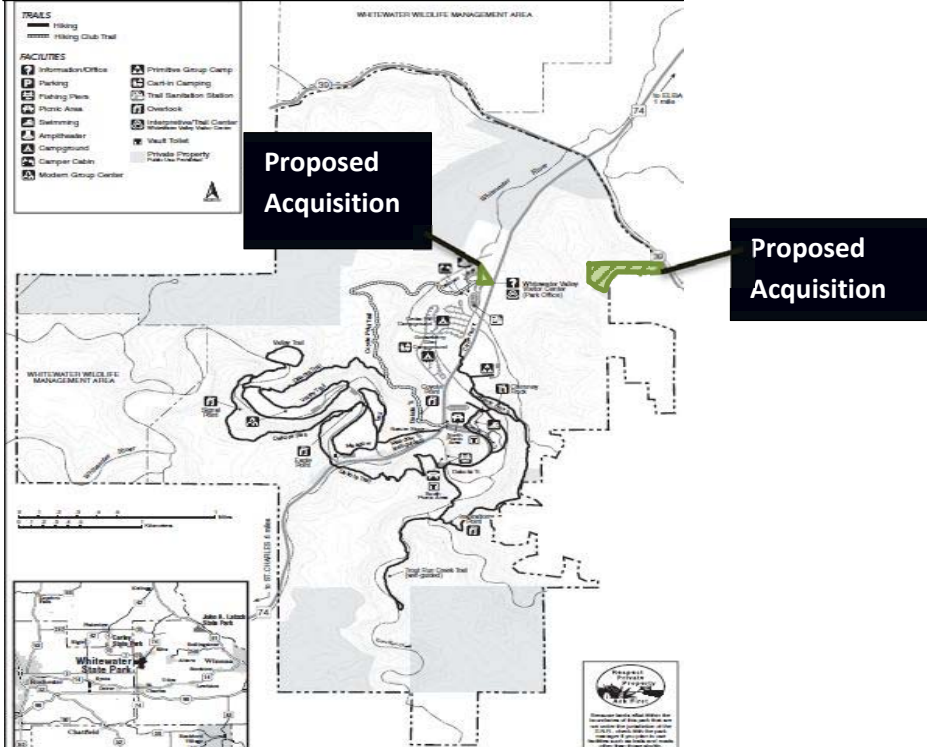
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2016 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park



6

2016 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Whitewater State Park



Environment Trust Fund 2016 Project Proposal

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

Project Manager Qualifications

As the Acquisitions and Real Estate Consultant for the Division of Parks and Trails, Jennifer Christie coordinates the land acquisition planning process for parcels within state parks, state recreation areas, state trails, and public water access throughout the state to ensure acquisition of critical parcels that further the conservation of Minnesota's natural and cultural resources and provide enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities.

Collectively, 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, and parks and natural resources projects coordinator, to her current role for the past six years as the land acquisition and real estate coordinator for the Parks and Trails Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division. Jennifer has also worked in the private sector real estate industry 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.

The vision of the Parks and Trails Division is to create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations.