

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2017 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 171-G**

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition

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**Category:** G. Land Acquisition, Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 1,500,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 years, July 2017 - June 2020

**Summary:**

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails land acquisition proposes to acquire the highest priority parcels with critical natural and cultural resources attributes to protect, preserve and enhance Minnesotas environmental stewardship.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** MN DNR

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St. Paul MN 55155

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**Email** Jennifer.Christie@state.mn.us

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

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Statewide map of Minnesota identifying location of activities

<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL <input type="checkbox"/> %



**PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

This Minnesota State Parks and State Trails land acquisition proposal is to acquire 373 acres of the State’s highest priority parcels that contain critical natural and cultural resources to protect, preserve and enhance Minnesota’s outdoor heritage and environmental stewardship.

Currently, the MnDNR does not own approximately 15% (41,900 acres) of land located within the statutory boundary of the 66 Minnesota State Parks and nine State Recreation Areas. Minnesota has 25 statutory authorized State Trails. The MnDNR currently owns 50% of the land needed to complete the State Trail system.

The main benefit of State Park and State Trail land acquisitions is 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 plant and animal communities; Reduction of fragmentation from potential development impacts; 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 that 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. A workplan amendment will be requested, if an acquisition attempt is not successful.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1:** Maplewood State Park Land Acquisition, Otter Tail County **Budget: \$250,000**

Acquire approximately 80 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Maplewood State Park. This property will preserve high quality hardwood forest, wetlands and wildlife habitat. This acquisition is located within the southeast portion of the state park which contains a large contiguous tract of maple basswood hardwood forest over a rolling topography. This forest is similar to what is known to exist at the time of European settlement of the area. This undisturbed/undeveloped forest is important nesting habitat for neo-tropical forest song birds. The Maplewood State Park Management Plan dated 1998 recommends maintaining the southeast part of the park to favor forest neo-tropical song birds and other wildlife species requiring interior forest habitats.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 80 acres of land in Maplewood State Park	June 30, 2020

**Activity 2:** Sibley State Park Land Acquisition, Kandiyohi County **Budget: \$500,000**

Acquire 153 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Sibley State Park. This property affords park visitors approaching along TH71 a glimpse of Minnesota’s original prairie landscape with rolling grasslands and wetlands. Recreational trail users on this parcel would have views of the transitions from prairie to savanna to woodlands. This parcel will also provide a route for the Glacial Lakes State Trail connection to Sibley State Park.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 153 acres of land in Sibley State Park	June 30, 2020



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**2017 Main Proposal**  
**Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions**

**Activity 3: Minneopa State Park Land Acquisition, Blue Earth County**

**Budget: \$500,000**

Acquire 135 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park. According to the natural heritage database, rare and endangered species such as the American bald eagle, western foxsnake, shovel sturgeon and small white lady's slipper are documented in this corridor. Depending on which parcels the landowner is interested in selling, the property may, or may not, river frontage. Acquisition will protect cultural resources, provide for sustainable wildlife habitat and new hiking, bird watching and facilitate interpretive programming opportunities. It is located adjacent to existing DNR ownership along the river corridor which will contribute to the consolidated management efforts to maintain and restore native vegetation as well as protection of the river watershed.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 135 acres of land in Minneopa State Park	June 30, 2020

**Activity 4: William O'Brien State Park, Washington County**

**Budget: \$250,000**

Acquire approximately 5 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of William O'Brien State Park. This parcel is located in the southern portion of the park adjacent to the City of Marine on St. Croix along Washington County Road 4. It will contribute additional woodland habitat as well as remnant grasslands. It also contains one of the best remnant native prairies in this area of the state. There is also a major hydrological feature on this property in terms of numerous springs as well as a trout stream.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 5 acres of land in William O'Brien State Park	June 30, 2020

**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. Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota has their own Land Acquisition account to purchase parcels directly from landowners, then the MnDNR purchases the parcels from Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota.

**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 233,400 acres, resulting in approximately 41,900 acres of in-holdings within the statutory boundaries of the 67 Minnesota State Parks and eight State Recreation Areas. Minnesota manages half of the land needed for the 25 statutory authorized State 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 be completed by June 30, 2020. 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 a land acquisition transaction.

## 2017 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>
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> 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
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> Propose to acquire 373 acres with the title to be held by the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.	\$ 1,450,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>

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

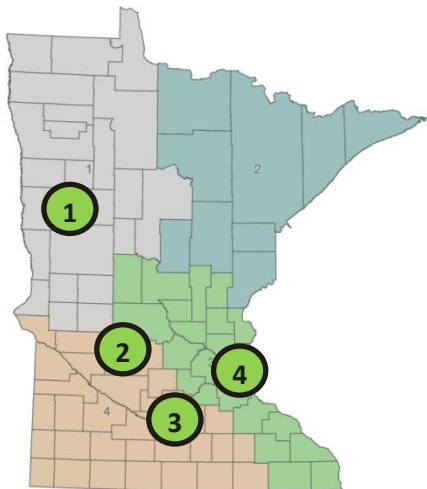
<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (FY17)	\$ 535,500	Secured
<b>Funding History:</b>		
ENRTF M.L. 2016 (Proposed)	ENRTF \$2,455,000	
M.L. 2015	ENRTF \$1,500,000	
M.L. 2013	\$1,000,000	
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	
<b>Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>		
ENRTF M.L. 2015	\$453,500	Unspent-In
ENRTF M.L. 2013	\$234,500	Negotiations

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2017 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

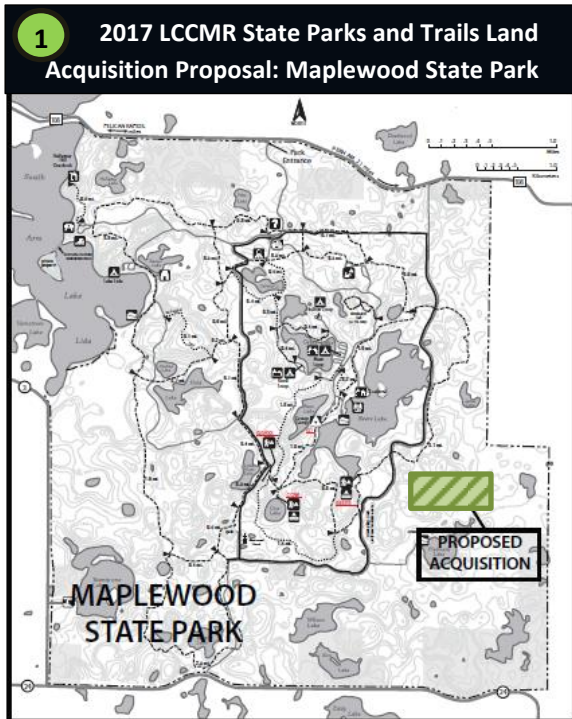
**Project Title:** State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions  
**Project Manager Name:** Jennifer Christie  
**Organization:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
**ENRTF \$ Request:** \$1,500,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude									
1	Maplewood State Park	46° 30' 33" N	95° 55' 20.1" N	\$250,000	\$938	Otter Tail	This property will preserve high quality hardwood forest, wetlands and wildlife habitat that contains a large contiguous tract of maple basswood hardwood forest over a rolling topography.	Acquire Land	80	None	Private	Fee
2	Sibley State Park	45° 18' 2.6" N	95° 0' 51.7" N	\$500,000	\$1,875	Kandiyohi	This property affords park visitors a glimpse of Minnesota's original prairie landscape with rolling grasslands and wetlands. Recreational trail users on this parcel would have views of the transitions from prairie to savanna to woodlands.	Acquire Land	153	None	Non-Profit	Fee
3	Minneopa State Park	44° 11' 29.4" N	94° 8' 38.2" N	\$500,000	\$1,875	Blue Earth	According to the natural heritage database, rare and endangered species such as the American bald eagle, western foxsnake, shovel sturgeon and small white ladyslipper are documented in this corridor. The property may, or may not, river frontage.	Acquire Land	135	TBD-Based on parcel	Private	Fee
4	William O'Brien State Park	45° 12' 1.7" N	92° 46' 46.5" N	\$250,000	\$938	Washington	This parcel will contribute additional woodland habitat as well as remnant grasslands. It also contains one of the best remnant native prairies in this area of the state. There is also a major hydrological feature on this property in terms of numerous springs as well as a trout stream.	Acquire Land	5	150 feet	Private	Fee
<b>NOTES:</b>												

# Land Acquisition Proposed Projects



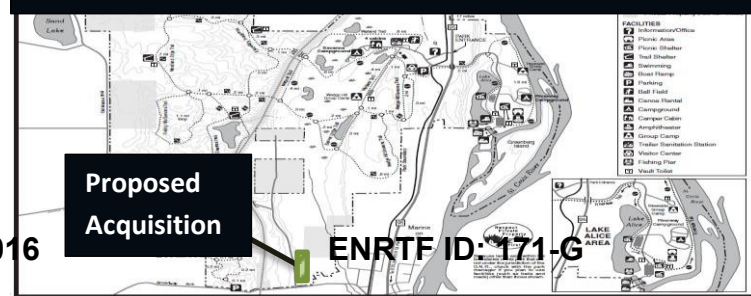
Map #	Facility Name	County
1	Maplewood State Park	Otter Tail
2	Sibley State Park	Kandiyohi
3	Minneopa State Park	Blue Earth
4	William O'Brien	Washington



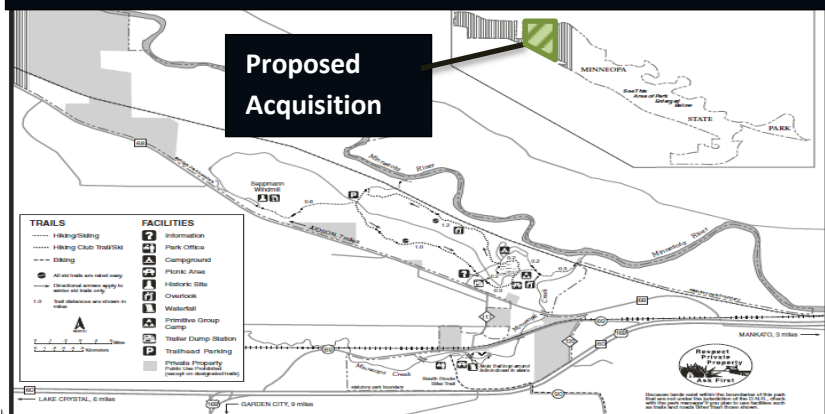
**2 2017 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Sibley State Park**



**4 2017 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: William O'Brien State Park**



**3 2017 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Minneopa State Park**



## **Environment Trust Fund 2017 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 25 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 seven years as the land acquisition and real estate consultant 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.

