

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 178-G

Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail, Interstate State Park Connection

Category: G. Land Acquisition, Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 1,785,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3.5 years, July 2017 - November 2019

Summary:

A paved trail and bridge within Interstate State Park providing connections to internal trails, a trail head and providing accessibility and a logical terminus for a developing regional trail.

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Chisago

City / Township: Taylors Falls, and Shafer Twp.

Alternate Text for Visual:

Maps include both Master Plans and project context proposed for this project by MNDNR Parks and Trails.

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



PROJECT TITLE: Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail within and through Interstate State Park in Taylors Falls, MN

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Chisago County has completed a multi-use non-motorized regionally-designated recreational trail up to the west property boundary of Interstate State Park. The County built this trail with the understanding that Minnesota DNR will complete the trail in the state park. The trail as recently constructed connects to Wildwood Campground and soon will connect the City of Shafer and then the Chisago Lakes Area (Center City, Lindstrom and Chisago City) but dead ends at the State Park leaving trail users bewildered as to where to go. This situation could jeopardize natural areas within the state park, confuse trail users and create a negative experience. The completion of the trail in the State Park will address these issues and will eliminate the undesirable consequence of a dead-end trail.

The proposed trail project will complete a necessary section of regional trail, will be a vital link to several major trail systems (including the Gateway and Willard Munger state trails) and will direct human activity to a planned hardscaped area thus protecting natural resources. As the terminus point of a regional County trail, the proposed trail in the State Park will facilitate a connection with nature, provide for increase physical activity with related health benefits for visitors to the area and to those at the nearby campgrounds. This segment of the trail will provide an accessible opportunity for all ages and abilities to access the areas of the park not previously open for some people. The trail will provide an outdoor recreation opportunity for several user groups and is located to serve a significant user population. There are 380,000 state park visitors each year and there are 400,000 guests to nearby Wildwood Campground and Wild Mountain recreation area. While this segment of the trail will be in the State Park, it should not be considered a state trail but rather the eastern end of an eight-segment regional trail.

This project will meet the evaluation criteria and the goals of the ENRTF by providing context sensitive engineering and development of a hard surface, accessible multi-use non-motorized trail in and through the unique hardwood forest area of the state park. The trail will connect the existing trail at the west edge of the State park with a scenic overlook of the St. Croix Valley and to the Taylors Falls City Hall (which has parking and accessible facilities).

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

- Activity 1:** Cultural and natural resource evaluation of trail route. **Budget: \$60,000**
Outcome: All cultural resources and significant natural resources in the trail corridor will be located and identified. **Completion Date**
December 2017

- Activity 2:** Trail design and construction engineering and bid documents. **Budget: \$270,000**
Outcome: Complete all necessary construction and bid documents for trail and provide engineering and technical services for project. **Completion Date**
January, 2018

- Activity 3:** Relocation of sensitive vegetation and remove vegetation from trail corridor. **Budget: \$15,000**
Outcome: Relocate all sensitive vegetation and clear the trail corridor for construction. **Completion Date**
June, 2018

- Activity 4:** Excavate and grade trail corridor, prepare trail subgrade and install trail base. **Budget: \$240,000**
Outcome: Completion of first steps in trail construction. **Completion Date**
November, 2018

- Activity 5:** Install 1 180-foot-long pedestrian bridge. **Budget: \$850,000**
Outcome: Successfully install 1 bridge for trail project. **Completion Date**
March, 2019



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2017 Main Proposal

Project Title: Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Connection Through Interstate State Park

Activity 6: Install 10-foot-wide trail surface with 2-foot wide recovery zones.

Budget: \$130,000

Outcome: Successfully install trail surface and side recovery zones.

Completion Date

August, 2019

Activity 7: Finish final grading, turf and vegetation establishment and planting.

Budget: \$20,000

Outcome: Complete all project grading and vegetative restoration and planting.

Completion Date

September, 2019

Activity 8: Install fencing, signage and contingency costs.

Budget: \$200,000

Outcome: Successfully install all necessary fencing and signage for trail.

Completion Date

October, 2019

Estimated Total:

\$1,785,000

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Mapping and preliminary design and profile plan are attached for clarification. The project team and partners for the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail include Chisago County, the Cities of Taylors Falls, Shafer, Center City, Lindstrom and Chisago City and the State MN DNR Parks and Trails. Chisago County received regional designation for the trail in 2014 and completed and adopted a Master Plan for the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail in 2015. The Master Plan identified 8 segments for the trail with a length of 20 miles. Chisago County has been building segments of the trail as property and funding become available. For more information, please review the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Master Plan Document at <http://www.chisagocounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/6641>

This segment of the County regional trail, the subject of this grant request, is within Interstate State Park. Due to its location, the responsible partner for this project will be MN DNR Parks and Trails. Chisago County would receive the grant from the ENRT Fund for this trail project and then enter into an agreement with the MN DNR Parks and Trails for the trail construction. The Parks and Trails Council of MN has identified the Interstate State Park section of this trail as a priority in their 2016 legislative agenda.

This project will provide benefits to the areas environment and natural resources and has clear objectives that will result in a measurable, demonstrated and meaningful outcome including (Connecting the Swedish Immigrant Trail with existing trails inside the park, congregating trail users on a hard-surfaced pathway and providing a meaningful terminus at the east end of the trail through Interstate State Park, connecting to a trail head and parking area in cooperation with Taylors Falls City officials).

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail, as planned by Chisago County to run through the center of the county, will be a safe, non-motorized transportation alternative for residents and visitors to Chisago County. When completed, the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail will connect Taylors Falls to Shafer, Center City, Lindstrom, Chisago City and Wyoming. The State has awarded Chisago County regional Legacy funds in recent years to complete portions of this trail but due to the location of this segment, regional Legacy funding cannot be used. The County expects future commitments from each of the participating entities, potentially federal transportation funds through the trails grant programs and possibly legacy funding through the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails funds.

C. Timeline Requirements

The MN DNR will complete this trail project in 24 to 36 months (July 2017 – November 2019).

2017 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: [Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail State Park Connection]

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

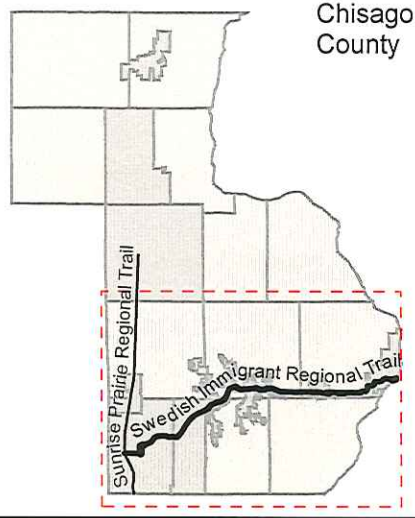
<u>BUDGET ITEM</u> (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A general budget has been provided as part of the Main Proposal, A detailed budget will follow upon request. The detailed budget completed by project design engineers will include but not be limited to: Mobilization, haul routes, clearing, grubbing, bituminous pavement, signs, excavation granular borrow, subgrade preparation, aggregate base, structural concrete, bridge slab, reinforcement bars, structural excavation prefabricated steel bridges, pilings, culverts, construction drainage structures, riprap	\$ -
geotextile filter material, fences traffic control, sign panels, sign install, trees, silt fence, rock ditch check, erosion control blankets, turf reinforcement mats, rapid stabilization, bituminous surfacing and all.	\$ -
	\$ -
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ -

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>
On adjacent projects, ie the East End Project and the Demonstration Project several funding sources have assisted with acquisition and development: Federal Transportation Funding through the DNR Grants program, County Park Funding, Legacy Funding through the GMRPTC and local contributions from the Chisago County Parks and Trails Foundation have provided a mix of funding for the Swedish Immigrant Trail Segments completed to date. More detail is available upon request.	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>



Chisago County



Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Connections



Sunrise Prairie Trail

Swedish Immigrant Trail Chisago City Segment Completed in 2004

Swedish Immigrant Trail Lindstrom Segment Completed in 2012

Demonstration Project Completed in 2007

East End Project Tern Ave to State Park 2015-2016 Construction

Future Trail Connection to Sunrise Prairie Trail

Future Trail Connections

Future Gateway Trail Connection

Hardwood Creek Trail



Project Manager Qualifications:

Kurt Schneider the Environmental Services Director, Ken Roberts County Planner and or Laird Mork will provide project management. Schneider Environmental Services Director works with the Chisago County Park Board and oversees the Parks Division. Laird Mork is the Park Director and heads up the parks division. Mork with a B.S. degree in Recreation and Park Management from the University of Minnesota has served in Chisago County for over 3 decades, has provided project management for park and trail projects within the county. A 16 mile paved multi-use trail developed on the former Burlington Northern Railroad line was completed in 1997 and has been operated by the County since that time. Following years of land acquisition, Chisago County has started constructing segments of the planned East West Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail under Mork's direction. In 2007 a two mile demonstration project was completed and currently the east end project is under construction. Mork has worked extensively with the Regional Parks and Trails Organization and the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. The Commission is now recommending funding for several Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Projects. Funding to be available in 2017 for a connection trail between the east end project and the Shafer demonstration project.

For the purposes of the Interstate State Park Connection project, responsibilities will largely fall on the State of Minnesota Parks and Trails organization staff. It's undetermined at this time what part of the design, engineering and construction will be contracted and what will be completed in-house.

Chisago County Environmental Services Department will require and expect the State or its contractors to comply with all State and Federal laws and requirements related to the proposed trail project. The county will require copy and evidence of compliance with Minnesota Environmental Review Rules, wetland regulations, cultural resource review and copy of cultural resource review documents and environmental assessment as typical by the RGU.

About the County

Chisago County, located just northeast of the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area in east central Minnesota, was established in 1851, seven years before Minnesota became a state. The county seat, first at Taylors Falls, moved to Chisago City in 1865 and to Center City in 1875.

Chisago, the name of our county, comes from the Chippewa Indian word, Ki-Chi-Saga, which means Fair and Lovely Lakes. Chisago County was organized September 1, 1851. This was before Minnesota was organized as a state, but our forefathers realized that something had to be done to cope with their problems. The first election was held October 14, 1851 with 23 votes cast. The first Board of County Commissioners were: Samuel Thompson, Y.F. Moreton and N.C.D. Taylor. The first meeting was held at the home of Samuel Thompson on January 5, 1852, and Taylors Falls was chosen as the County seat. It was not called Court House, but the Seat of Justice of Chisago County.

Taylors Falls had been the seat since 1852, when the county (which then included parts of what are now Pine, Carlton, and Kanabec counties) was organized. But by 1860 the county was reduced to its present borders. The Swedes and other immigrants in the central and western parts, who outnumbered the Yankees on the St. Croix River, wanted to move the center of government to a more conveniently located place. In an 1860 election, the voters chose Center City, but no move was made. The law under which the county had voted was challenged in the courts, and after 2 years of battling, found unconstitutional.

Subject to the approval of the voters in the 1863 election, the legislature provided for Chisago County's seat to move to Chisago City. The vote was again challenged, this time on charges of election fraud. After another 2 year delay, the state Supreme Court ruled the results valid. The Court House was moved to Chisago City November of 1865 in what is now called Old Town, where it remained until 1875 when it was decided for a second time to move the seat to Center City. This time the move was made and has remained since.

The new Court House at Center City was to be built by John L. Bullard for a cost of \$5,023.70, and was accepted October 13, 1876. The old Court House in Old Town, Chisago City, was sold to Zion Lutheran Church in 1876 and used as a parsonage until they built their present parsonage next to the church. The wood frame