

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2018 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 200-G

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition

Category: G. Land Acquisition, Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 5,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July 2018 to June 2021

Summary:

Minnesota State Parks and Trails land acquisition proposal is to acquire high priority parcels within legislatively authorized boundaries from willing sellers to protect Minnesota's environmental stewardship and enhance outdoor recreation.

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Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

Map of land acquisition proposals within the State of Minnesota 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: Minnesota State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails land acquisition proposal is to acquire high priority parcels from willing sellers within State Parks and State Trails legislatively authorized boundary to protect Minnesota’s environmental stewardship and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for all citizens of Minnesota.

Currently, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) does not own and manage on behalf of the public approximately 15% (41,900 acres) of land located within the legislatively approved and statutorily described boundaries of the 66 Minnesota State Parks and nine State Recreation Areas. The MnDNR currently owns and manages on behalf of the public 50% of the land needed to complete the 25 legislatively authorized State Trails.

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; and Protection of view sheds and locally significant historical sites and cultural resources. State Trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities to reconnect with each other and ourselves while travelling between communities. State Parks and State Trails investments generate and give back positive financial impacts to the local economy.

Most of Minnesota State Parks and State Trail acquisitions are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities because landowners approach the MnDNR with the vision to have their family land included in a state park or a state trail for the public to enjoy and appreciate into perpetuity when the time comes to sell their family’s real estate assets.

Each outdoor recreation unit in the Minnesota State Park and State Trail system goes through a rigorous master planning process that includes a public and local jurisdiction input component to identify key land attributes and define desired boundaries and corridors to include as a part of the public outdoor recreation system. MnDNR has identified and ranked each state park in-holding parcel within the designated boundary and maintains a general statewide priority list that is reviewed and analyzed annually. If an acquisition is not successful, a workplan amendment may be requested.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Tettegouche State Park Land Acquisition, Lake County, ~7 acres **Budget: \$1,500,000**
 Acquire approximately seven acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Tettegouche State Park. This property protects the iconic view shed of the Palisade Coast from Shovel Point to Palisade Head along the Lake Superior shoreline. Inclusion of this property was a primary recommendation of the Tettegouche State Park management plan updated in 1997. The property allow for public access to a spectacular cobblestone beach, protection of ~350 feet of shoreline, and is located immediately adjacent to the Tettegouche cart-in campground.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~7 acres of land within Tettegouche State Park	June 30, 2021

Activity 2: Sibley State Park Land Acquisition, Kandiyohi County, ~ 16 acres **Budget: \$250,000**
 Acquire ~16 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Sibley State Park. This property is a rare opportunity to acquire and manage the property adjacent to the primitive group campground. It is the last private parcel remaining on Lake 21. Acquisition of this parcel would eliminated any future incompatible uses



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2018 Main Proposal

Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition

adjacent to the primitive group camp and create an opportunity to expand recreation trails. Protection of ~400 feet of shoreline. This is a different parcel than 2017 LCCMR workplan proposal.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~16 acres of land within Sibley State Park	June 30, 2021

Activity 3: Minneopa State Park Land Acquisition, Blue Earth County, ~80 acres **Budget: \$250,000**
 Acquire ~80 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 slipper are documented in this corridor. This acquisition will protect cultural resources, provide for sustainable wildlife habitat and new hiking, bird watching and facilitate interpretive programming opportunities. This is a different parcel than 2017 LCCMR proposal.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~80 acres of land in Minneopa State Park	June 30, 2021

Activity 4: Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail, Goodhue County, ~60 acres **Budget: \$500,000**
 Acquire ~60 acres located along the legislatively authorized Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail. The property contains woodlands, prairie blufflands and an abandoned railway right-of-way. This parcel would add over 2.75 miles to the existing multi-use state trail from Hay Creek to Red Wing and will eventually connect the cities of Red Wing and Zumbrota. Protection of ~600 feet of Hay Creek shoreline.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~60 acres of land in Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail	June 30, 2021

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 sources. 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 MnDNR 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 66 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 within three years, by June 30, 2021. 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.

2018 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

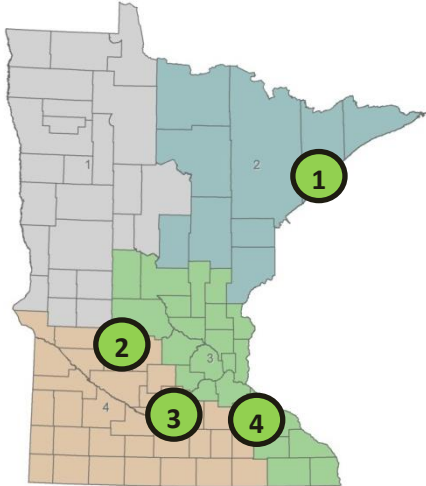
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<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.	\$ 150,000
Acquisition (Fee Title): Propose to acquire highest priorities of in-holdings (land located in state park statutory boundary and state trail legislatively authorized corridors) in Fee Title with the ownership to be held by the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.	\$ 4,850,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 5,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:		
Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (FY17)	\$535,500	Secured
Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (FY18)	\$500,000	Secured
Funding History:		
ENRTF M.L. 2017 (LCCMR 2017 Recommendation to the Legislature)	\$1,500,000	Pending
ENRTF M.L. 2015, Subd. 9a	\$1,500,000	Closed
ENRTF M.L. 2013, Subd. 4a	\$1,000,000	Closed
ENRTF M.L. 2011, Subd. 4b and M.L. 2014, Subd. 19	\$3,000,000	Closed
ENRTF M.L. 2010, Subd. 4d	\$2,200,000	Closed
ENRTF M.L. 2009, Subd. 4b and M.L. 2011, Subd. 18a	\$1,590,000	Closed
ENRTF M.L. 2008, Subd. 3h	\$1,500,000	Closed
ENRTF M.L. 2007, Subd. 4e	\$1,500,000	Closed
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:		
All Spent		

Land Acquisition Proposed Projects



1 2018 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Tettegouche State Park
~7 acres

Proposed Acquisition

2 2018 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Sibley State Park
~16 acres

Proposed Acquisition

Map #	Facility Name	County	Acres
1	Tettegouche State Park	Lake	7
2	Sibley State Park	Kandiyohi	16
3	Minneopa State Park	Blue Earth	80
4	Goodhue-Pioneer	Goodhue	60

4 2018 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail
~60 acres

Proposed Acquisition

3 2018 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Minneopa State Park
~80 acres

Proposed Acquisition

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2018 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: \$5,000,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological and Recreational Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	Tettegouche State Park	47° 19' 54.6" N	91° 12' 16.2" N	\$1,500,000	\$11,250	Lake	This property will protect the iconic viewshed of the Palisade Coast from Shovel Point to Palisade Head along the Lake Superior shoreline. The parcel would allow for public access to a spectacular cobble stone beach.	Acquire Land	7	350 feet	Non-Profit
2	Sibley State Park	45° 19' 51.1" N	95° 2' 43.1" N	\$250,000	\$1,875	Kandiyohi	This property is a rare opportunity to acquire and manage the property adjacent to the primitive group campground. It is the last private parcel remaining on Lake 21. This parcel will also create an opportunity to expand recreation trails in the State Park.	Acquire Land	16	400 feet	Non-Profit
3	Minneopa State Park	44° 11' 26.9" N	94° 8' 34.2" N	\$250,000	\$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	80	TBD	Private
4	Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail	44° 24' 39.9" N	92° 38' 7.8" N	\$500,000	\$3,750	Goodhue	The property contains woodlands, prairie bluffs and an abandoned railway right-of-way. This parcel would add over 2.75 miles to the existing multi-use state trail from Hay Creek to Red Wing and will eventually connect the cities of Red Wing and Zumbrota.	Acquire Land	60	600 feet	Non-Profit
5	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
6	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
7	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
8	Maplewood State Park	46° 32' 43.8" N	95° 57' 54.0" N	\$500,000	\$3,750	Otter Tail	Contains high quality hardwood forest-covered hills that blend into a series of scenic rolling agricultural fields, meadows, and wetlands. Fritz Lake is partially included within this parcel along with numerous ponds and wetlands supporting a wide variety of wildlife habitat (trumpeter swans, eagles and sandhill cranes).	Acquire Land	135	~320 feet	Private
9	Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	various	various	\$1,000,000	TBD	Crow Wing	Acquire 100% interest in land located within statutory boundary of Cuyuna Country State Recreation area to facilitate future development plans and to fulfill the master plan.	Acquire Land	TBD	Dependent on parcel locations	Private
10	Frontenac State Park	44° 31' 22.2" N	92° 20' 57.4" N	\$250,000	\$1,875	Carver	Acquire land along the bluffline overlooking Lake Pepin. Security of land located adjacent to Frontenac State Park entrance. Restored prairie bluffs. The statutory boundary will need to be changed to add this valuable parcel.	Acquire Land	160	None	Non-Profit
11	State Trails-Gitchi Gami, Heartland, Blazing Star, Blufflands, and Minnesota River	Multiple	Multiple	\$1,000,000	TBD	Statewide	Acquire parcels needed to complete viable State Trail segments that are ready for development. Segments will be contiguous to existing state managed land to continue build upon and fulfill the State Trail master plans.	Acquire Land	TBD	TBD	Private

NOTES: 1) Pending 2017 Legislative Session outcome, land acquisition projects unfunded from the MnDNR 2017 LCCMR State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition Proposal would be included in the additional potential acquisitions priority list. 2) Based on the final allocation by the 2018 legislature, and if unable to close on any of the above items, a workplan amendment will be requested to add other top State Park and State Trail priority land acquisitions. 3) State Park and State Trail top priority in-holdings total estimate amount is more than requested to show a sampling of available, high priority land acquisitions from willing sellers located within legislatively authorized boundary.

Environment Natural Resources Trust Fund 2018 Project Proposal

Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition

Project Manager Qualifications – Jennifer Christie

As the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division Land Acquisitions and Real Estate Consultant, Jennifer Christie manages the statewide land acquisition prioritization, planning and transaction process for property located within legislatively authorized State Parks, State Recreation Areas, State Trails and Public Water Access from willing sellers. She strives to ensure successful acquisitions of high priority, critical parcels that provide protection of Minnesota's natural and cultural resources and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for all the citizens of Minnesota to enjoy and appreciate.

Jennifer has over 25 years of experience and knowledge from working in the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources field and the Real Estate industry.

She has worked in various outdoor recreation capacities from numerous seasonal front-line positions, an internship, a Park Manager, a Parks and Natural Resources Project Coordinator to her current position for the past nine years as the Land Acquisition and Real Estate Consultant for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division.

Jennifer has also worked seven years in the private sector real estate industry as a Mortgage Underwriter, Title Closer, Construction Finance Administrator and Valuations Supervisor.

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Management.

Organization Description

The Department of Natural Resources-Division of Parks and Trails manages and operates 66 state parks, 9 state recreation areas, 25 state trails, 1,610 water access sites, 30 water trails and 9 state waysides throughout Minnesota. The Parks and Trails 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.

