

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 201-G

Local Parks, Trails and Natural Area Grants

Category: G. Land Acquisition, Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 3,000,000

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

Summary:

Provide approximately 25 matching grants for local parks, acquisition of locally significant natural areas and trails to connect people safely to desirable community locations and regional or state facilities.

Name: Audrey Mularie

Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

The visual includes and short summary and photo of each program. Outdoor Recreation Grant Program with graph showing increasing demand, Local Trail Connections Grant Program with photo of biker on trail, Natural and Scenic Area Grant Program with photo of waterfalls in Nicollet County.

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



PROJECT TITLE: *Local Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Grant Programs*

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Outdoor Recreation (Local Parks), Natural and Scenic Area and Local Trail Connections Grant Programs provide competitive matching grants for local parks, natural areas and trails to local governments for land acquisition and improvements related to parks and trails statewide. Local governments provide at least a 50 percent cash and/or in-kind match for local parks and natural areas and at least a 25 percent cash match for local trails, as required under MN Statutes 85.019. Many projects include renovation of existing facilities to improve safety and accessibility, acquisition of locally significant natural and scenic areas, completion of trail linkages to safely connect where people live to desirable locations within the community and/or connecting local trails to regional or state facilities.

These programs are at the front line of the DNR’s effort to partner with local communities in providing access to outdoor recreation opportunities. It is especially important given that most funding sources have greatly diminished for these local programs, and they are not eligible for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, which only funds projects of state or regional significance. Connecting citizens with the outdoors through park and trail facilities enhances Minnesota’s stewardship ethic and further the goals of the Department’s Strategic Conservation Agenda.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: *Grants for the Local Parks, Natural and Scenic Areas and Trail Connections.* **Budget: \$2,925,000**

This request will provide approximately 25 matching grants to cities and counties for acquisition development and/or redevelopment of local parks, natural and scenic areas and trail connections. Two grant rounds are proposed. The local match for projects funded at the requested level would exceed \$2 million.

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Provide approximately 11 matching grants through two funding rounds for Local Parks.</i>	<i>Fall 2018, 2019</i>
<i>2. Provide approximately 3 matching grants through two funding rounds for Natural and Scenic Areas.</i>	<i>Fall 2018, 2019</i>
<i>3. Provide approximately 11 matching grants through two funding rounds for Trail Connections.</i>	<i>Fall 2018, 2019</i>

Activity 2: *Grant Program Administration* **Budget: \$75,000**

The requested funding will be used to support personnel costs for administering the grant programs and DNR direct and necessary costs associated with this funding. Grant staff persons are involved in grant solicitation, evaluation and ranking, grant agreement management, project billings, project inspections, compliance monitoring and project close out.

As shown in the Detailed Project Budget, work program approval is requested for personnel expenses to be incurred by DNR classified staff involved in administering these grant programs. The requested amount represents approximately 2.5% of the proposed Activity 1 budget equivalent to approximately 0.25 FTE per year over the three year period including the direct and necessary costs that are detailed in the project budget.

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Administer RFP, application process and grant contracts.</i>	<i>June 30, 2021</i>



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2018 Main Proposal

Project Title: *Local Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Grant Programs*

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Partners are local governments, primarily counties and cities. They will acquire, own, develop, and manage the parks or trails. The local governments will provide at least \$2 million match with approximately \$1.6 million in cash match and approximately \$400,000 in in-kind services. In addition, they cover the costs of appraisals, land transaction costs, and required archeological/historical surveys and assume all ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

Outdoor Recreation (Local Park) Grants: Local governments are struggling to acquire, develop and redevelop their local and community parks. The goal of this program is increase and enhance close to home recreation facilities to provide safe and accessible recreation facilities. This aim is achieved through competitive, matching grants that provide financial incentive and ensure the parks acquired and developed under this program are retained for public use in perpetuity. The Outdoor Recreation Grant Program requires a 50% match and the local government recipients are responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Natural and Scenic Area Grants: Opportunities for local governments to acquire and protect natural and scenic areas statewide are diminishing due to development, especially in high growth areas, shore lands, bluff tops and areas where land use changes may limit future opportunities. The goal of this program is to ensure protection of natural and scenic resources by helping and encouraging local governments to acquire and protect such land for appropriate public use, protection of natural communities, species protection, appreciation of scenic vistas, and scientific and environmental education purposes. This aim is achieved through competitive, matching grants that provide financial incentive and ensure that the land acquired and natural resources are retained for public use in perpetuity. These areas complement state protected areas and provide close-to-home natural resource-based benefits. The Natural and Scenic Area grants require a 50% local match and the local government recipients are responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Local Trail Connections Grants: Local Trail Connections grants fund projects to acquire, develop and re-develop local trail connections across Minnesota. The projects are primarily for shorter distance connections between residential areas, schools, businesses, parks, and regional and/or state facilities. These projects help to expand the connections between individuals and the outdoors by providing funding for local outdoor recreation infrastructure that also provides for alternative transportation options and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The Local Trail Connections grants require a 25% local match and the local government recipients are responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs for trail development projects a minimum of 20 years. Land acquisition is permanent.

C. Timeline Requirements

Three years. This request is for two annual grant solicitations in the spring of 2018 and 2019 with agreements completed in the fall of 2018 and 2019 and projects completed by June 30, 2021.

2018 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: *Local Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Grant Programs*

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: .25 FTE Grant Specialist position each year for the three year project period. <i>Includes salary and benefits.</i>	\$ 68,093
Capital Construction Costs: <i>Development/ Redevelopment of Parks and Trails</i>	\$ 1,950,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): <i>Acres and grantees to be determined through the application process each grant cycle.</i>	\$ 975,000
Additional Budget Items: To support the costs related to the program administration *Direct and Necessary expenses: HR Support (~\$1113), Safety Support (~\$256), Financial Support (~\$890), Communication Support (~\$1,271), IT Support (~\$2,306), and Planning Support (~\$1,072) necessary to accomplish funded programs/projects.	\$ 6,907
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 3,000,000

*Direct and Necessary expenses include Department Support Services (Human Resources, IT Support, Safety, Financial Support, Communications Support, and Planning Support). Department Support Services are described in the agency Service Level Agreement and billed internally to divisions based on rate that have been developed for each area of service. These services are directly related to and necessary for the appropriation. Department leadership services (Commissioner's Office and Regional Directors) are not assessed. Those elements of individual projects that put little or no demand on support services such as large single-source contracts, large land acquisitions, and funds that are passed through to other entities are not assessed. Direct and Necessary costs for those activities.

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: <i>Estimated</i> Local Government cash match to be committed during the application/contract process.	\$ 1,600,000	Pending Grant Award
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	N/A
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Estimated</i> in-kind service/donations from local units of government, organizations and/or individuals to be committed during the application/contract process.	\$ 400,000	Pending Grant Award
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation: ML 2011 Regional Park, Trail, and Connections Acquisition and Development Grants, \$100,000 committed for a local trail project with federal matching funds. \$122,192 will be cancelled from projects completed under budget.	\$ 222,192	\$100,000 Legally Obligated \$122,192 Unspent/to be cancelled
Other Funding History:	N/A	N/A

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2018 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: Local Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Grant Programs

Project Manager Name: Audrey Mularie

Organization: MNDNR Division of Parks and Trails

ENRTF \$ Request: \$2,925,000 acquisition and/or development grants.

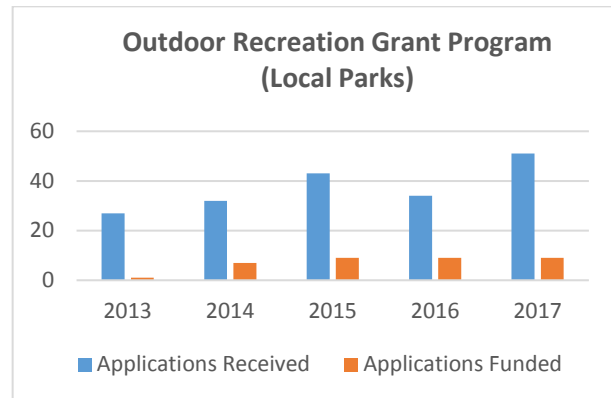
#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
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9											
10											

NOTES: Acquisition and development sites will be determined during the application and selection process. Information will be provided for all grants awarded.

Local Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Grant Programs

Outdoor Recreation Grant Program (Local Parks):

Local governments are struggling to acquire, develop and redevelop their local and community parks. The goal of this program is increase and enhance close to home recreation facilities to provide safe accessible recreation opportunities. Demand for grants has been increasing each year.



Local Trail Connections Grant Program:

Local connections grants help local governments provide trail linkages to safely connect people from where they live to desirable locations within the community, to regional or state facilities and provide alternative transportation options.

Natural and Scenic Area Grant Program:

Opportunities for local governments to acquire and protect natural and scenic areas statewide are diminishing due to development, especially in high growth areas, shore lands, bluff tops and areas where land use changes may limit future opportunities. These areas complement state protected areas and provide close to home natural resource-based benefits.

Photo:
Minnemishinona Falls, Nicollet County



Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager: Audrey Mularie
Affiliation: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails
Telephone Number: 651-259-5549
Title: Grant Coordinator

Experience:

Audrey Mularie has worked for the State of Minnesota for over 28 years. She administers federal and state grant programs to local units of governments for park, natural areas and trail acquisition and improvements. She has extensive experience with the grants management policies, procedures and additional requirements associated with a variety of funding sources including federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), Future Resources Fund, Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, Park and Trail Legacy Fund, Lottery in Lieu funding, Remediation Fund, bonding and general fund dollars.

Organization Description:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division's vision is to create unforgettable park, trail, and water recreation experiences that inspire the public to pass along the love for the outdoor to the next generation. More information on the Minnesota DNR can be found at MNDNR.gov

