

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 266-G**

Vergas Long Lake Trail

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

**Sub-Category:**

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 291,111

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2021 (2 yrs)

**Summary:**

Long Lake is a community asset for Vergas, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. This project will construct a trail bordering Long Lake, maintaining public access and restoring the shoreline.

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**Name:** Julie Lammers

**Sponsoring Organization:** City of Vergas

**Title:** Clerk-Treasurer City of Vergas

**Department:**

**Address:** 111 Main St, PO Box 32

Vergas MN 56587-0032

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**Location**

**Region:** Northwest

**County Name:** Otter Tail

**City / Township:** Vergas

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Trail along the lake from the City Beach to the DNR boat landing.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			

**PROJECT TITLE:** Long Lake Trail

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The City of Vergas is requesting \$291,000 through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to construct the third phase of Long Lake Trail, connecting the Long Lake Beach to the Long Lake Boat Access. The intent of the Long Lake Trail Project is to construct a recreational trail, but the overall goal of the project is the protect the area bordering Long Lake from private development, restore and stabilize the existing Long Lake shoreline, and enhance shoreline habitat for wildlife.

The Long Lake Trail Project includes a 10-foot wide paved trail that will connect to Vergas Park, which includes a public beach, picnic area, and fishing pier to the Long Lake Boat Access. The paved trail will be .31 miles in length total. In addition to paved trail along the lake, this project includes a floating boardwalk which will cross a corner of Long Lake that is unsuitable for a paved trail. The section of shoreline that the floating boardwalk will span was deemed too steep to construct a paved path. A floating boardwalk will eliminate the need for significant grading along the shoreline and below the normal high watermark of Long Lake. The proposed boardwalk will be 8' wide and 735 feet in length.

Shoreline protection efforts consist of restoring and protecting banks of Long Lake against erosion by incorporating slopes at 4:1 versus the current 3:1 and re-vegetating the shoreline with native plants. These efforts will regenerate sustainability and restore the ecological functions of the Long Lake shoreline. Bank restoration and stabilization efforts within the Long Lake Trail Project will restore the physical, biological, and chemical functions of the Long Lake shoreline and will improve water quality through reduction of chronic sedimentation.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Trail Construction to devote and maintain lake shore for public access

**Description:** The Long Lake Trail Project will construct a .31 mile 10-foot wide paved trail that will connect to Vergas Park to the Long Lake Boat Access. In addition to paved trail along the lake, this project includes a floating boardwalk which would cross a corner of Long Lake which will be 8' wide and 735 feet in length.

**ENRTF BUDGET:** \$277,500

**ACTIVITY 2:** Shoreline Restoration and Bank Stabilization

**Description:** The Long Lake Trail Project will restore and protect banks of Long Lake against erosion by incorporating slopes at 4:1 versus the current 3:1 and re-vegetating the shoreline with native plants.

**ENRTF BUDGET:** \$13,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Trail Construction to protect area from development	July 2019
2. Shoreline Restoration and Bank Stabilization	July 2019

### III. PROJECT PARTNERS

#### A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
City of Vergas	Applicant	Decision Making Body	Project Implementation; Paying engineering fees

#### B. Partner NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Vergas Trail Committee	Committee	Fund Raising Body	Has raised significant community funding; continues to fundraise and attain contributions from private sources

### IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

The City of Vergas will assume fiscal responsibility and will oversee project implementation. The City of Vergas has also committed to funding \$15,000 in engineering fees associated with this project. If additional work is needed, outside the current scope, the City is prepared to cover those costs.

The City of Vergas Trails Committee has fundraised for this project and will continue doing so until the outcome of this grant opportunity is known. The Vergas Trail Committee is an integral leader in fundraising and generating community understanding and support for the project.

### V. TIMELINE REQUIREMENTS

Submit Draft Application – March 2018

Final Submission – April 2018

Award Funding – July 2018

Begin Permitting – August 2018

Plans and Specifications Complete – December 2018

Advertise for Bid – January 2019

Bid Opening – February 2019

Construction Begins – May 2019

Construction Complete – July 2019

In addition to the timeline above, an outline of anticipated permitting is provided below. Each of these requirements have been thoughtfully built into the City of Vergas' approach to planning and completing the first phase of the Long Lake Trail Project.

- Soil & Water Conservation district and/or MN Board of Water and Soil Resources- 'Combined Project Application' form
- MN DNR – May not need a permit if not filling within the high-water mark.
- US Army Corps of Engineers – Wetlands Permit, Includes MN Pollution Control agency
- US Fish and Wildlife Service – Endangered species
- State Historical Preservation Office – Impact on Cultural Resources
- MN Wetland Conservation Act – for wetlands not covered by DNR, MN board of water and soil resources.

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

**Project Title: Long Lake Trail**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 1 years

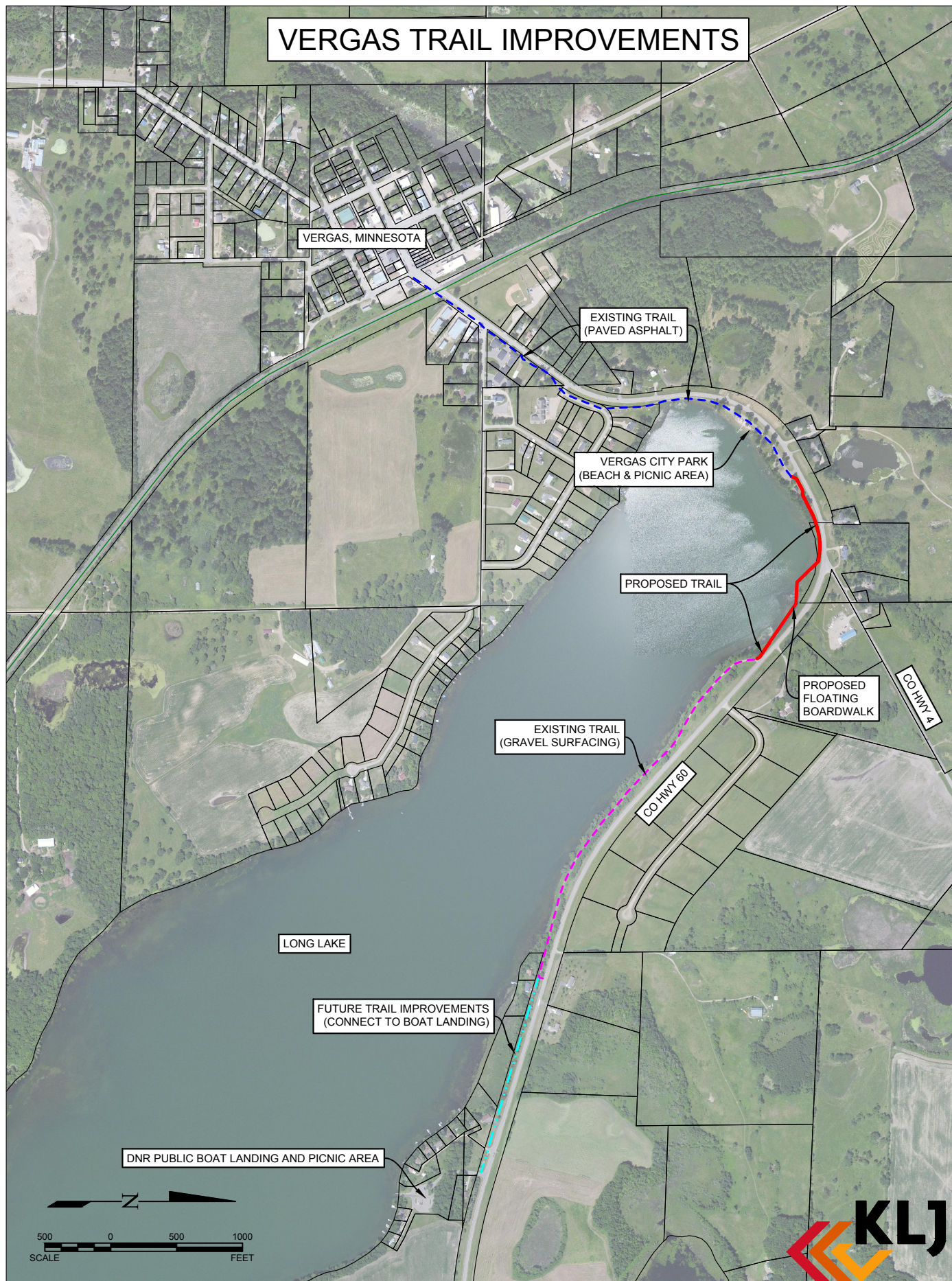
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> A group of 20-25 volunteers is organized to install the dock. Several volunteers will be providing and operating a boat to transport volunteers to the site, and another set of volunteers will be laying and assembling prefab dock pieces.	\$ -
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> <b>General Contractor - Construct Trail and Floating Boardwalk: \$276,000</b> <b>Design Engineering: KLJ - Design Plans and Specification: \$ 15,000</b> *Professional/Technical/Services Contracts will be attained through competitive bidding process.	\$ 291,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	\$ -
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	\$ -
<b>Travel:</b>	\$ -
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 291,000</b>

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

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> <b>City of Vergas: \$50,000</b>	\$ 50,000	<i>Resolution signed by City</i>
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	N/A	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> <b>Marks Sand &amp; Gravel - Donation of Aggregate Base Material for Shared Use Path</b> <b>Dock Installation: 25 volunteers, 40 Hours, \$15 Hourly Rate</b>	\$8,100 \$15,000	<i>Need written commitment</i>
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>	N/A	
<b>Other Funding History:</b>	N/A	



# VERGAS TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS





## Organization Description

### City of Vergas

The City of Vergas and Otter Tail County both have experience implementing and completing trail projects in the past. The City of Vergas has completed a previous section of trail within the community utilizing TE funding in 2008, and the second stage of the Long Lake Trail which was completed in 2014. Otter Tail County has been the sponsor for numerous communities including Vergas, Battle Lake, and Ottertail on their recent trail projects.

The City of Vergas has worked continually on the development of their trail network throughout their community and has the personnel and processes in place to manage trail projects efficiently. The City is very familiar with the financial responsibility and the overall management of project implementation.

In 2013, Vergas completed a strategic plan that identified multi-use trails in the community as a priority. The strategic planning group consisted of various community members and mentioned it was very important to provide more activities for the community, believing by providing the community with multi-use trail it would accomplish the lack of activity options. The plan was also approved by the City Council and the strategic planning group presented the plan to the public on January 25, 2014. The Vergas City Council continues work and progress on trail development through regular City Commission meetings, funding pursuits, and project oversight. The City will have the assistance of their engineer who has completed numerous trail projects.

### City of Vergas Trail Committee

Vergas has developed a trail committee consisting of a Council Member, Community Club board member, member of the North Country Trail Association, beautification committee board member, the Utilities Superintendent and the City Clerk. The committee has now subdivided to separate committees made up of business owners and citizens from Vergas and the surrounding townships to do trail marketing and fundraising. The Vergas Trail Committee has diligently worked to raise funds for the further development of the community's trail network and recreational assets, while also engaging the entire community, residents and businesses alike, in the process.

### Project Manager Qualifications

Julie Lammers has long been committed to trail fundraising and project completion. Lammers has helped support trail development efforts through her role as City Clerk as well as her role with the Vergas Trails Committee which has been raising money through various fundraisers including the sale of bricks and granite plaques which are placed on a flower garden by the trail's parking lot, raffles each year of donated prizes from area artists, a concert and bake sale and holding the Hairy Man Run. Lammers has promoted the annual National Trail Day with the community going for a walk and picnic in the park.