

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 052-AH

Cannon Valley Trail Natural Resources Inventory/Management Plan

Category: H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

Sub-Category: A. Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information

Total Project Budget: \$ 50,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (2 yrs)

Summary:

Cannon Valley Trail traverses an ecologically diverse environment and stewards plant and animal species with protected status. This Project will update a 30-year old biological inventory and provide management direction.

Name: Scott Roepke

Sponsoring Organization: Cannon Valley Trail

Job Title: Trail Manager

Department: _____

Address: 825 Cannon River Avenue

Cannon Falls MN 55009

Telephone Number: (507) 263-0508

Email trailmanager@cannonvalleytrail.com

Web Address: cannonvalleytrail.com

Location:

Region: Southeast

County Name: Goodhue

City / Township: Cannon Falls

Alternate Text for Visual:

Cannon Valley Trail traverses an ecologically diverse environment and stewards' plant and animal species with protected status. This project will update a 30-year-old biological inventory and provide management direction.

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



PROJECT TITLE: Cannon Valley Trail Natural Resources Inventory/Management Plan

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Cannon Valley Trail (CVT) Natural Resources Inventory and Management Plan proposes to update a 30-year-old Biological Resources Management Plan with a comprehensive inventory of native and rare plant and animal species, and native plant communities found within CVT's 360 acres. This work will inform the development of effective management strategies for implementation by CVT and partners with the overarching goal of substantially improving ecological conditions over time. To optimize the ecological benefits beyond CVT boundaries, this effort will be coordinated with three adjacent landowners including the MNDNR (six locations), Goodhue County and one non-profit organization.

Why this Project needs to be done

CVT is steward to a wide variety of imperiled native plants, animals and plant communities, including the federally endangered Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily, that if not managed, are at risk of serious degradation. CVT seeks to comprehensively address this degradation through the activities proposed in this Project.

Specific Direct Outcomes

1. Comprehensive Natural Resources inventory – Species and native plant community identification and mapping, element occurrence ranking, comprehensive species inventory.
2. Wildlife and Habitat Inventory and Assessment – with a focus on species of special concern, threatened and endangered status, and other species as warranted.
3. Management Plans – with clear priorities, detailed recommendations and effective near- and long-term strategies.
4. Effective joint management with adjacent landowners to optimize ecological benefits.

How Project will achieve the Goals

The Project proposes to achieve the goals through;

1. Extensive field work and research for a comprehensive inventory of existing native plant and animal resources which is foundational to successful improvement in ecological condition.
2. Assess the condition, occurrence, distribution, and status of the resources; and determine priorities for management.
3. Developing site-specific management plans and implementation strategies that will improve ecological condition.
4. Close coordination with key adjacent landowners.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Comprehensive Native Plant Survey

This baseline survey will provide foundational information on the occurrence, distribution and ecology of native plants and communities. Extensive field surveys and database research will be accomplished. Outcomes include mapping, documentation of sites and species of interest, and identification of priorities. These outcomes will guide the development of the Management Plan. The work will be performed by qualified consultants from a list developed by the MNDNR for their work. Contract will be awarded on a competitive basis.

ENRTF Budget: \$25,000

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---------|-----------------|
|---------|-----------------|



| | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Baseline Field Survey – for a comprehensive survey a minimum of two efforts are required 1) Spring as certain species (e.g. early blooming woodland plants) are most visible and some animal species not active (e.g. reptiles), 2) Summer-Fall for other plant and animal species. | September 2021 |
| 2. Mapping, ranking, research, documentation | November 2021 |
| 3. Identification of priorities | December 2021 |

Activity 2: Comprehensive Wildlife and Habitat Survey

This baseline survey will provide foundational information on the occurrence, distribution and ecology of animal species including reptiles and amphibians, with a focus on imperiled species. Extensive field surveys and database research will be accomplished. Outcomes include documentation of sites and species of interest, and identification of priorities. These outcomes will guide the development of the Management Plan. This work will be done by the consultants.

ENRTF Budget: \$10,000

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Baseline field survey | September 2021 |
| 2. Mapping, ranking, research, documentation | November 2021 |
| 3. Identification of priorities | December 2021 |

Activity 3: Management Plan

The Management Plan will provide site-specific management direction and implementation strategies that will improve ecological condition, including sites with low value but potential for improvement. The goal is to substantially improve ecological condition over time. The Plan will identify opportunities for coordination with three adjacent landowners to optimize benefits. The outcome will be clear management direction and cost estimates. This work will be done by the consultants.

ENRTF Budget: \$15,000

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Draft Management Plan | February 2022 |
| 2. Final Management Plan | April 2022 |

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

| Name | Affiliation | Role |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| MNDNR - Russell Smith | MNDNR – SNA Program | Landowner representative |
| MNDNR | MNDNR – Forestry Program | Landowner representative |
| MNDNR | MNDNR – Wildlife Management Area Program | Landowner representative |

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

The Project proposes to result in a detailed, action-oriented management plan for CVT's 360 acres and coordination opportunities with key adjacent landowners. Management of natural resources is often labor intensive and requires long term commitment for optimal ecological improvement and maintaining that improvement. CVT will seek to fund the Management Plan recommendations through 1) Annual allocation of a portion of its existing operations budget, 2) Additional funding through grants and donations to accelerate implementation. A cost-effective strategy to secure skilled labor is using Conservation Crews of Minnesota and Iowa and similar programs.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS

CVT will complete all three Activities April 2022.

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Scott Roepke

Project Title: Cannon Valley Trail Natural Resources Inventory/Management Plan

Organization: Cannon Valley Trail Joint Powers Board

Project Budget: \$50,000

Project Length and Completion Date: Approx. 2 years - Completion July 2022

Today's Date: March 14, 2019



| ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET | | Budget | Amount Spent | Balance |
|--|--|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| BUDGET ITEM | | | | |
| Personnel (Wages and Benefits) | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| | | | | |
| Professional/Technical/Service Contracts | | | | |
| Qualified firm will be contracted through a competitive process to accomplish field surveys (minimum two - Spring and Summer/Fall required for complete survey), research, documentation, priority identification and authoring a management plan. | | \$ 48,750 | \$ - | \$ 48,750 |
| Equipment/Tools/Supplies | | | | |
| Allocation for vehicle use to access sites, chainsaw use to establish transects, signage to inform public of surveys in process, similar. | | \$ 750 | \$ - | \$ 750 |
| Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000 | | | | |
| None | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Fee Title Acquisition | | | | |
| None | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Easement Acquisition | | | | |
| None | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Professional Services for Acquisition | | | | |
| None | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Printing | | | | |
| Interim reports/products, maps, photos, final Plan copies | | \$ 500 | \$ - | \$ 500 |
| Travel expenses in Minnesota | | | | |
| None | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Other | | | | |
| None | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| COLUMN TOTAL | | \$ 50,000 | \$ - | \$ 50,000 |
| | | | | |
| SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT | Status (secured or pending) | Budget | Spent | Balance |
| Non-State: | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| State: | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| In kind: CVT trail staff, including Manager, Trail Technician and laborers to assist field work, manage project, grant administration, similar. 100 hours | | \$ 3,000 | \$ - | \$ 3,000 |
| | | | | |
| Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS | Amount legally obligated but not yet spent | Budget | Spent | Balance |
| None | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |



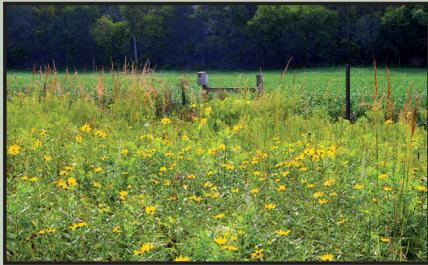
CANNON VALLEY TRAIL

Natural Resources Inventory - Management Plan

Cannon Valley Trail

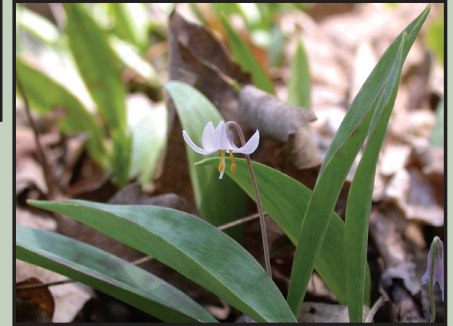
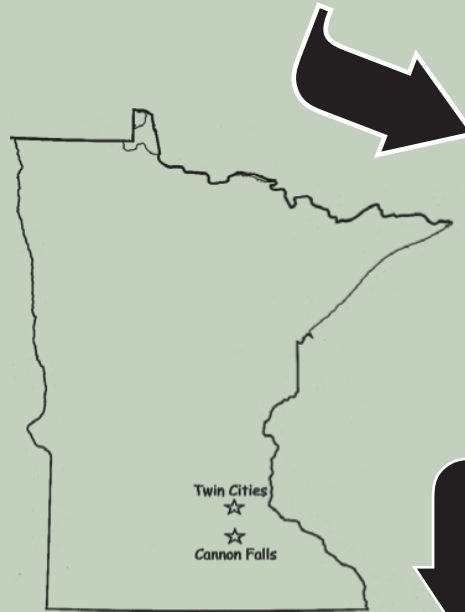
Biological Resources Management Plan

October 1988 (*Out of Date*)



GOAL:

Informed, effective
natural resources
management!



-MINNESOTA DWARF TROUT LILY-
Discovered along CVT circa 1991

Activity 1:

Comprehensive Natural
Resource Survey

*Add discoveries since 1988,
inventory and evaluate*

Activity 2:

Wildlife and Habitat Survey

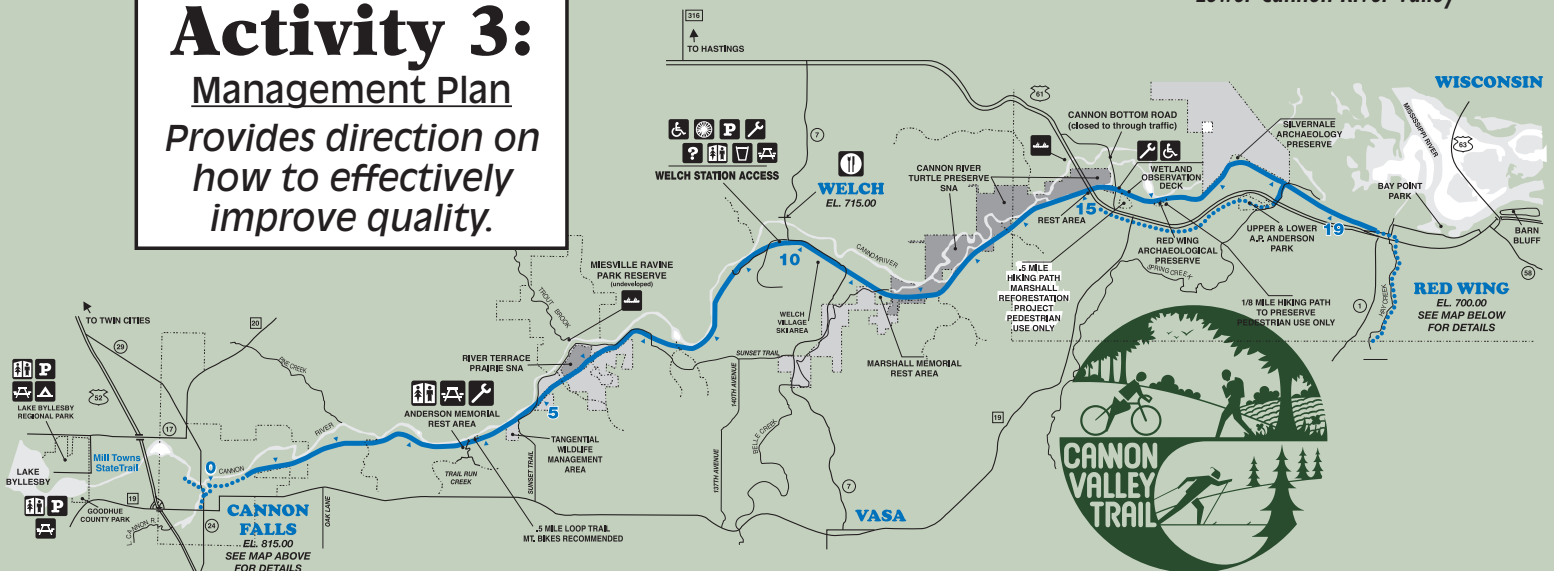
*What at-risk species
would benefit from
management projects?*



-WOOD TURTLE-
*Known to inhabit the
Lower Cannon River Valley*

Activity 3:

Management Plan
*Provides direction on
how to effectively
improve quality.*



Cannon Valley Trail

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager

Mr. Scott Roepke

597.263.0508

trailmanager@cannonvalleytrail.com

Mr. Roepke has supervised the operation, maintenance, natural resource program, development and staff of the Cannon Valley Trail for 20 years. These responsibilities are performed in accordance with the policies, priorities and direction established by the Joint Powers Board. Mr. Roepke has managed numerous natural resource management activities. He provides oversight including general planning, burn planning and implementation, invasive species control management and public education.

Mr. Roepke received a Bachelor of Science degree in Park and Land Management from the University of Wisconsin in 1993. College courses included forestry, natural resources, plant science, interpretive services, soils, natural resource protection, principles of management, natural resource policies, woodlot management and park and land management. He also holds an interagency certification in Firefighting with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest Service.

Organization Description

Cannon Valley Trail is governed by a local Joint Powers Board (JPB) comprised of three members each from the Cities of Cannon Falls and Red Wing; and Goodhue County. The City Councils and County Board of Commissioners each appoint at least one elected official and one citizen to the JPB, while the third position can be either at the governing body's discretion. The responsibilities of the JPB are defined in a founding document. The three units of government financially contribute to the operations budget.

In a cooperative arrangement, the City of Red Wing serves as the Trails fiscal agent while Goodhue County owns the property. The Joint Powers Board is assisted by a full-time trail manager, part-time office assistant, seasonal staff, and volunteers and professional services provided by staff of the three units of government.

CVT was founded through citizen action and opened in 1986. It now hosts 100,000 annual visitations, with 60% from outside Goodhue County. Developed for non-motorized use, hikers, bicyclists, inline skaters and cross-country skiers enjoy a quiet, nature immersed experience through the Cannon River valley. CVT is a vital regional trail connection to the Mill Towns State Trail at Cannon Falls via City Trail and to the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail in Red Wing via the City Hay Creek Trail, as well as to downtown Red Wing via the City Riverfront Trail. Significant trail connections are being planned by other agencies from Red Wing south to Lake City and north to Hastings.