**PROJECT TITLE: West Fork Singletrack Trail in SW Minnesota**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The essence of the project is…To create a multi-mobility competitive single-track off-road trail.

The Friends of the Jackson County Trails in cooperation with Jackson County have found an opportunity to create a singletrack off-road trail, in an underutilized county park. In order to get the ball rolling, the Friends of the Jackson County Trails along with the Jackson Health Care Foundation invested $7,500 to develop a feasibility review and preliminary plan for the trail. The 4.6 total miles of trail can be utilized by both off-road bicycles as well as hikers who want to enjoy the natural flora and fauna. While being environmentally sensitive, the trail design and construction will meet the requirement necessary to be National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) certified. This would be the "first of its kind" in SW Minnesota. There are currently only four NICA certified trails in Greater Minnesota. Recently the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) has sanctioned this as a high school sport. Hosting MSHSL sporting events would bring recognition to this part of the state.

The repurposing of the park and construction of the trail will also lead to economic opportunities for the surrounding communities as these riders and families will have need for “securing a wide range of local services”. It will also introduce tourists to other resources in the area. We look at this as a recreational destination. Annually, there are over 1,200 student participants that represent over 100 schools in Minnesota. This is a new and emerging sport that continues to grow.

Jackson County’s Belmont Park is an 80-acre park, located on the east bank of the West Fork of the Des Moines River, and is in near proximity to Kilen Woods State Park on the opposite bank of the river. Currently, the facilities that exist in Belmont Park include: restrooms, log shelter house with fireplace and electricity, a hand pump well, grills and picnic tables. The anticipated increase usage of the park by cyclist and hikers is driving the need for the repairs to the existing shelter house and amenities.

Other foreseen opportunities as a result of the trail include: anticipated increase use of the camping facilities of Kilen Woods State Park; creation of a 7th-12th grade high school league racing team; year-round physical activity; potential to draw young professionals to move to our rural communities; improvements to livability/quality of life and aging in place; creating local events versus travelling hours to other events.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1:** West Fork Singletrack Trail plan development

The Jackson County Engineering Department (JECD) will be responsible with all items associated with developing plans for the construction of the trail including; surveying, hiring consultant to complete a Hydrologic and Hydraulic design of drainage structures, construction plans, specifications, and inspection

**ENRTF BUDGET: $5,000**

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| --- | --- |
| **Outcome** | **Completion Date** |
| *Jackson County Engineering – Surveying, plans, specifications – NO grant cost* | *May 2021* |
| *Consultant Engineer - Hydrologic and Hydraulic design – (selected by qualifications)* | *April 2021* |

**Activity 2:** West Fork Singletrack Trail Construction

Construction of the singletrack trail is expected to take one month. A trail construction contractor will be chosen based upon qualifications and competitive bids. The JECD will administer the contract and provide inspection of construction activities. Trail signage will be produced by Jackson County Sign Shop and be installed by trail contractor.

**ENRTF BUDGET: $152,000**

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| **Outcome** | **Completion Date** |
| *Jackson County Engineering – Administration and inspection – NO grant cost* | *August 2021* |
| *Construction of singletrack trail - (Contractor selected by qualifications & competitive bids)* | *August 2021* |
| *Trail Signage – Supplies for signs – produced by Jackson County Sign Shop – NO grant cost* | *August 2021* |

**Activity 3:** Roof Repair of Belmont Park Shelter and Amenities

A qualified roofing contractor will be chosen based upon a competitive bid process. The JECD will administer the contract and provide inspection of construction activities.

**ENRTF BUDGET: $8,500**

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| **Outcome** | **Completion Date** |
| *Repair of Shelter House Roof – (Contractor selected by competitive bids)* | *September 2021* |

**Activity 4:** Improvements to entrance road and parking area

The JCED will be responsible with all items associated with improving the access and amenities within the park.

**ENRTF BUDGET: $29,000**

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| **Outcome** | **Completion Date** |
| *Gravel for entrance road and parking area (Placement by Jackson County Maintenance)* | *June 2021* |
| *Purchase & Construction of Picnic Tables – (County forces to construct)* | *September 2021* |

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Affiliation** | **Role** |
| **Jackson County Parks and Recreation** | **County Engineer/Public Works Director** | **Jackson County** | **Engineer/Project Manager** |

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Affiliation** | **Role** |
| **Friends of the Jackson County Trails** | **Trails Committee** | **Jackson County** | **Trail Advocacy** |

**IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

Ongoing funding for maintenance will be provided by Jackson County Parks Department. There is also anticipation of volunteers from the West Fork Mountain Bike Club and local supporters of the trail to provide maintenance to the off-road trail. Local fundraising may be used for routine beautification of the off-road trail and Belmont County Park.

**V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:**

The Jackson County project will require only one year of construction. We anticipate funding for fiscal year 2021.