



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-362

Proposal Title: Minnesota State Trails Development

Project Manager Information

Name: Kent Skaar

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project proposes to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the rehabilitation and enhancement of existing state trails and replacement or repair of existing state trail bridges.

Funds Requested: \$6,000,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2023-12-31

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation (G)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Each of the individual state trail projects identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource (MN DNR), Parks and Trails Division represent opportunities to enhance recreational opportunities and improve user safety by completing the repair and/or replacement of approximately 14.5 miles of existing trail and up to 8 existing trail bridges. Each specific project is a MNDNR a priority given current condition as determined by formal inspections and user comments. The individual trail upgrading projects represent some of the oldest and most deteriorated paved trail surfaces in the state trail system. Each of the individual state trail bridges subject to replacement have recently received condition rating of Fair to Serious, with one currently closed to all use. The remaining two bridges are former railroad structures that have subject to structural rehabilitation and the current proposal would replace the weathered timber deck-trail surface and safety railings. As proposed, these improvements will be completed as 12 separate projects, located on nine different state trails. One of the projects will provide matching funds for an existing Federal Grant

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

This proposal will repair and/or replacement of 14.5 miles of existing state trail and up to eight individual state trail bridges. The proposed state trail upgrading and improvement is to be completed as four separate projects, on four separate state trail corridors, including the Paul Bunyan State Trail, the Cuyuna Lakes State Trail, the Casey Jones State Trail and the Minnesota Valley State Trail. Each trail improvement project is to consist generally of the resurfacing of the existing bituminous trail and widening the trail surface to the current 10' wide trail standard where necessary, including the reconstruction and improvement of the granular trail base, the installation of ADA compliant trail/roadway intersections and the replacement of a number of small culverts. Of the eight separate bridges identified for replacement or repair, four are former railroad bridges and the remaining are small, timber structures developed by DNR staff and have now exceeded their design life. A total of six of the bridges identified are to be replaced with modern steel truss structures. The remaining two bridges will have new bridge deck/trail surfaces installed and new safety railing installed.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The individual projects identified, once complete, will permit the continued, safe use of nine of the MN DNR administered state trails, including the David Dill-Arrowhead, Taconite, Luce Line, CJ Ramstad/Northshore, Root River, Cuyuna Lakes, Paul Bunyan, Casey Jones and Minnesota Valley state trails and one MN DNR administered ATV Trail, the Alborn-Pengilly Railroad Trail. While only one of the state trail bridges, located on the David Dill-Arrowhead State Trail is currently closed to all users, recent inspections have approved each of the other structures for continued use. Annual inspections will be implemented until replacements are complete or closed.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: State Trail Bridge Renewal or Replacement

Activity Budget: \$2,150,000

Activity Description:

This project includes the renewal or replacement of up to eight existing state trail bridges, six of which have a Conditional Index Rating of Fair to Serious, as determined by formal inspection and are recommended for complete replacement. One of the six bridges, which carries the David Dill-Arrowhead State Trail over Flint Creek north of the Community of Cook, in St. Louis Co. and identified for replacement, was closed to all traffic following the completion of the 2019 inspection. Two of the bridges, both located on the Root River State Trail west of the City of Lanesboro, are large former railroad structures originally built in 1905. Both of these bridge have been previously subject to structural rehabilitation and currently require replacement of the timber deck/trail surface and the safety railing. Each of the proposed replacement bridges will be a new steel truss trail bridge on concrete footings with a conservative useful life of 50 years.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Completion of Required Engineering	2021-06-30
Construction Contract Award	2022-12-31
Project Construction Complete	2023-09-30
Project Closeout - Final Reporting	2023-12-31

Activity 2: Paul Bunyan State Trail - Hackensack to Backus Segment Rehabilitation and Renewal

Activity Budget: \$1,500,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the upgrading and rehabilitation of an approximately 7.5 mile long segment of the existing Paul Bunyan State Trail located between the communities of Backus and Hackensack. The proposed trail upgrading is to consist principally of the resurfacing of the severely deteriorated 10' bituminous trail surface original installed in 1999, the installation of ADA compliant trail/roadway intersections, and the replacement of numerous small culverts.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Completion of required project engineering	2022-04-30
Construction Contract Awarded	2022-06-30
Project Construction Complete	2022-11-30
Project Closeout and Final Reporting	2023-06-30

Activity 3: Cuyuna Lakes State Trail - Cuyuna State Recreation Area Segment Rehabilitation and Renewal

Activity Budget: \$775,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the upgrading and rehabilitation of an approximately 2.5 mile segment of the existing Cuyuna Lakes State Trail that is located immediately west of the community of Crosby and traverses the Cuyuna Country State

Recreation Area. The proposed trail renewal is necessary to address the poor condition of the existing bituminous trail surface originally constructed in 2005. The upgrading of this trail segment will consist principally of the resurfacing of the 8' bituminous trail and widening to the current 10' standard, bio-vegetation control, the installation of ADA compliant trail/roadway intersections, and the replacement of a number of small culverts. The proposed reconstruction is also to include additional accommodations through formal intersections and parallel trail segments with the expanding natural surface mountain bike trail system within the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Completion of Project Engineering	2022-04-30
Construction Contract Award	2022-06-30
Project Construction Complete	2022-11-30
Project Closeout and Final Reporting	2023-06-30

Activity 4: Minnesota Valley State Trail - Fort Snelling / Snelling Lake Segment Rehabilitation and Renewal

Activity Budget: \$775,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes a second phase of the upgrading and rehabilitation existing portions of the Minnesota Valley State Trail located entirely within the boundaries of Fort Snelling State Park. This project is proposed to consist of the widening and resurfacing of the existing 1.3 mile long bituminous surfaced trail segment that goes from the Park Office and the Visitors Center, along the Minnesota River and Snelling Lake. This trail segment, which was originally developed in the 1980's provides the primary off-road bicycle/pedestrian trail corridor through the state park. Conceptual Plans and Specifications for this section have been developed.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Project Engineering Complete	2022-04-30
Construction Contract Awarded	2022-06-30
Project Construction Complete	2023-05-31
Project Closeout and Final Reporting	2023-06-30

Activity 5: Casey Jones State Trail - Lake Shetek State Park to Currie Segment

Activity Budget: \$800,000

Activity Description:

Proposed upgrading and rehabilitation of the 1.5 mile long segment of the Casey Jones State Trail, that extends between the State Park Contact Station and the community of Currie. This trail segment which provides the primary off-road bicycle/pedestrian trail corridor within the State Park, was originally developed in the 1990's and is confined entirely to state park lands and Murray County Highway Rights-of-way. The proposed trail renewal is to be confined to the most deteriorated portion of the approximately 6 mile long trail segment extending between Lake Shetek State Park to Currie Trail, located along the park's eastern boundary. As currently defined, the trail upgrading is to consist principally of the widening and resurfacing of the existing 8' bituminous trail to the current 10' wide trail standard, including the reconstruction and improvement of the granular trail base, the installation of ADA compliant trail/roadway intersections, and the replacement of a number of small culverts.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Project Engineering Complete	2022-05-31
Construction Contract Awarded	2022-06-30
Project Construction Complete	2022-12-31
Project Closeout and Final Reporting	2023-06-30

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

Each of the identified projects are all existing components of the Outdoor Recreation System and will be implemented through the MNDNR Parks and Trails Division staff. All project engineering, design, contract administration and construction inspection will be completed by or under the direct oversight of the MNDNR Operation Services Division. The MNDNR will operate, maintain and protect each of the facilities when complete. The implementation of these projects will also significantly reduce the Parks and Trails Division's annual operational costs for the defined trail segments and bridges from 10 to 25 years.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09d	\$5,000,000
Minnesota State Trail Development	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j	\$2,500,000
Minnesota State Trails Acquisition, Development and Enhancement	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09d	\$1,038,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Kent Skaar

Job Title: Parks and Trails Division - Senior Project Manager

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Kent Skaar has been an employee of the State of Minnesota for more than 30 years. For the last 19 years, as an employee of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division he has been principally responsible for the development of MNDNR administered public water accesses, state trails and motorized off-highway recreational facilities. His experience includes facility design, construction, and project management for project of all sizes. Many of the projects include multiple disciplines and local partners. Mr. Skaar has extensive experience with the grant management, procedures and the requirements associated with a variety of federal and non-federal funding.

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

Organization Description:

The Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails Division operates 67 state parks, 8 state recreation areas, more than 650 miles of surfaced, improved state trail, 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. More information on the Minnesota DNR can be found at MNDNR.gov

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
MNDNR Operation Services Division	Professional or Technical Service Contract	All proposed project engineering, design, contract administration and construction inspection will be completed by or under the direct oversight of the MNDNR Division of Operation Services / Construction and Design.				5		\$600,000
							Sub Total	\$600,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Arrowhead State Trail - Flint Creek Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient Trail Bridges					\$199,877
		Taconite State Trail -East Two River Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient Trail Bridges					\$199,877
		Pengilly-Alborn Railroad Trail - West Swan River Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient Trail Bridges					\$222,112
		Luce Line State Trail - Watertown Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient Trail Bridges					\$488,899
		CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail - Big 39 Creek Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient Trail Bridges					\$244,347
		CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail - West Branch Beaver River Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient Trail Bridges					\$110,953
		Root River State Trail - Bridge 6 Deck Replacement	Replacement of deteriorated trail bridge decking and railing					\$222,112
		Root River State Trail - Bridge 7 Deck Replacement	Replacement of deteriorated trail bridge decking and railing					\$222,112

		Paul Bunyan State Trail - Trail Rehabilitation and Renewal	Proposed upgrading and rehabilitation of the approximately 7.5 mile trail segment					\$1,333,712
		Cuyuna Lakes State Trail - Trail Rehabilitation and Renewal	Proposed upgrading and rehabilitation of the approximately 2.5 mile trail segment					\$688,984
		Minnesota Valley State Trail - Trail Rehabilitation and Renewal	Proposed upgrading and rehabilitation of the approximately 1.3 mile trail segment located within Fort Snelling State Park					\$688,984
		Casey Jones State Trail - Trail Rehabilitation and Renewal	Proposed upgrading and rehabilitation of the approximately 3 mile trail segment					\$711,214
							Sub Total	\$5,333,183
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		MNDNR Direct and Necessary Costs	Pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$0), Safety Support (~\$0), Financial Support					\$66,817

			(~\$64,344), Communication Support (~\$1,324), IT Support (~\$0), and Planning Support (~\$1,149) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.					
							Sub Total	\$66,817
							Grand Total	\$6,000,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Federal Recreation Trail Grant	For the replacement of the CJ Ramstad/Northshore Trail Bridge over the West Branch Beaver River	Secured	\$150,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$150,000
			Funds Total	\$150,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [560ed96b-926.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Map of the State of Minnesota with the specific State Trail rehabilitation and renewal projects identified. State Trail bridge locations are not specifically identified.

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?

No

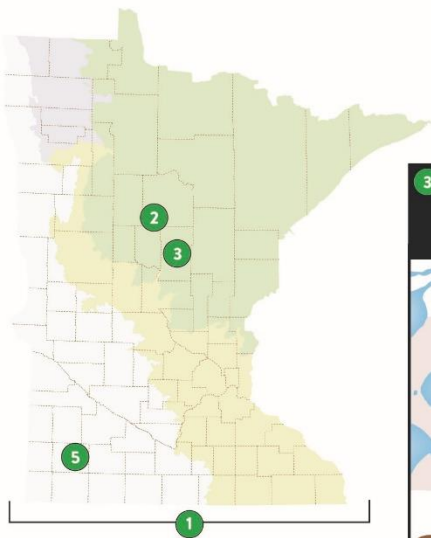
Does your project include research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Minnesota State Trail Development and Enhancement



1 Statewide Bridge
Renewal and/or Replacement

