



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-371

Proposal Title: State Parks and State Trails In-Holdings

Project Manager Information

Name: Kent Skaar

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

Office Telephone: (651) 259-5636

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Acquire top priority in-holdings within legislatively established boundaries of Minnesota's 75 State Parks and State Recreation Areas and 26 State Trails from willing sellers

Funds Requested: \$3,725,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2023-06-30

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.

This proposal is an investment in the future, fulfilling legislative direction to acquire parcels from willing sellers within legislatively authorized and defined state parks, state recreation areas and state trails systems. This project will protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources, promote positive economic impacts and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Minnesota citizens and visitors. Most Minnesota state parks and trails in-holdings are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Interested willing sellers often have a vision to include their family's treasured property as a part of a State Park or State Trail for the public to enjoy their land into perpetuity. If funding is unavailable to pursue an acquisition, the property is at risk to be subdivided, developed or taken off the market for decades.

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.

Currently, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) does not own and manage on behalf of the public approximately 15% (41,900 acres) of land located within the legislatively approved and statutorily described boundaries of the 66 Minnesota state parks and nine state recreation areas. The MN DNR currently owns and manages on behalf of the public approximately 50% of the land needed to complete the 26 legislatively authorized State Trails. The MN DNR has identified and ranked each parcel within legislatively defined boundaries and alignments for state parks and Trails. The MN DNR maintains, reviews and annually updates a general statewide priority list of willing sellers. Potential projects are analyzed using investment criteria established in the DNR Parks and Trails System Plan.

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 successful acquisition of the identified properties will result in expanded natural and cultural resources protection and restoration, environmental educational programming, increased economic activity in local communities, and enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities to engage current and future generations in Minnesota's great outdoors. .

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: State Park In-Holdings

Activity Budget: \$2,850,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the acquisition of high priority property in-holdings located entirely within the boundaries of state parks and State recreation areas. The successful acquisition of these properties will eliminate the potential for future development and associated resource fragmentation within the statutory boundaries of state parks and state recreation areas that are inconsistent with legislative intent and the unit’s management plans. The primary benefit of State acquisition of the identified properties, however, is the opportunity provided to conserve and protect substantial areas that contain rare, unique or high quality natural resource communities and areas of significant bio-diversity while also expanding the potential for public recreational access to areas which were previously inaccessible or privately held. The priority properties to be considered for acquisition under this project are proposed in Nerstrand Bigwoods, Myre Big Island, Cascade River, Maplewood, and Charles Lindbergh State Parks and the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. Should one of these acquisitions be unsuccessful, the MN DNR will request an amendment to the Project Workplan that will identify a replacement property selected from a statewide priority list of willing sellers of in-holding properties maintained by the Parks and Trails Division.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Individual Property Acquisitions Complete	2022-06-30
Individual Property Acquisition Documents for all Properties Prepared	2022-06-30
Individual Property Valuations Complete	2022-12-31

Activity 2: Legislatively Authorized State Trails

Activity Budget: \$875,000

Activity Description:

Acquire high priority in-holdings along legislatively authorized state trails from willing sellers statewide to fulfill master plans throughout the State of Minnesota. Potential high priority parcels include in-holdings in the following locations: Paul Bunyan State Trail – Mississippi River to CSAH 48 Segment; Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail - Goodhue to Zumbrota Segment; Casey Jones - Lake Wilson Trailhead; and Great River Ridge State Trail - Co Hwy 9 Trailhead - TH14 Segment.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Individual Property Acquisitions Complete	2022-06-30
Individual Property Acquisition Documents for all Properties Prepared	2022-06-30
Individual Property Valuations Complete	2022-12-31

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Brett Feldman	Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota	The Parks and Trails Council provides support and advocacy for State Park Improvements and In-Holding Acquisition.	No

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 properties identified for potential acquisition are located within existing state park or state recreation area boundaries or along authorized state trail corridor. All facilities are components of the Outdoor Recreation System which require individual master plans to guide land acquisition, development and improvement, public use and resource management. The Parks and Trails Division maintains an active priority parcel list of potential acquisitions to pursue, based on available funding sources. All property surveys, valuations, negotiations and transactions will be completed by the staff of the MN DNR Lands and Minerals Division

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-Holdings	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c	\$2,000,000
Minnesota State Parks and State Trails	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09k	\$2,500,000
Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c	\$1,500,000
State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$1,500,000

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 Lands and Minerals Division	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The Lands and Minerals Division staff provides for or directly oversees all land acquisitions for the Parks and Trails Division, including all land valuations, land surveys, recording and legal services.				4		\$200,000
							Sub Total	\$200,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 269 Parcels: 9						\$2,698,145
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 54 Parcels: 8						\$824,382
							Sub Total	\$3,522,527
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 (~\$0), Communication Support (~\$1,324), IT Support (~\$0), and Planning Support (~\$1,149) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects					\$2,473
							Sub Total	\$2,473
							Grand Total	\$3,725,000

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				
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Funds FY21, MN Session Laws 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 3, (a)	Parks and Trails Division Allocation for State Parks and State Trail property acquisitions and related transactions	Pending	\$500,000
			State Sub Total	\$500,000
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$500,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Cascade River Parcel 1	Lake	Cascade River State Park	Fee Title	20	-	\$350,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Casey Jones Parcel 1	Murray	Casey Jones State Trail	Fee Title	1	-	\$30,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Charles Lindbergh Parcel 1	Morrison	Charles Lindbergh State Park	Fee Title	12	-	\$325,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Cuyuna Country Parcel 1	Crow Wing	Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	Fee Title	40	-	\$250,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Cuyuna Country Parcel 2	Crow Wing	Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	Fee Title	40	-	\$250,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Goodhue Pioneer Parcel 1	Goodhue	Goodhue Pioneer State Trail	Fee Title	9	0.75	\$125,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Goodhue Pioneer Parcel 2	Goodhue	Goodhue Pioneer State Trail	Fee Title	6	0.5	\$85,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Goodhue Pioneer Parcel 3	Goodhue	Goodhue Pioneer State Trail	Fee Title	6	0.5	\$85,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Goodhue Pioneer Parcel 4	Goodhue	Goodhue Pioneer State Trail	Fee Title	3	0.25	\$50,000	Private	Minnesota Department of	Has not begun

								Natural Resources	
Goodhue Pioneer Parcel 5	Goodhue	Goodhue Pioneer State Trail	Fee Title	3	0.25	\$50,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Great River Ridge Parcel 1	Olmsted	Great River Ridge State Trail	Fee Title	18	1.5	\$200,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Maplewood Parcel 1	Otter Tail	Maplewood State Park	Fee Title	75	-	\$500,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Myre Big Island Parcel 1	Freeborn	Myre Big Island State Park	Fee Title	40	-	\$450,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Myre Big Island Parcel 2	Freeborn	Myre Big Island State Park	Fee Title	30	-	\$325,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Nerstrand Parcel 1	Rice	Nerstrand Big Woods State Park	Fee Title	5	-	\$100,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Nerstrand Parcel 2	Rice	Nerstrand Big Woods State Park	Fee Title	7	-	\$150,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Paul Bunyan Parcel 1	Crow Wing	Paul Bunyan State Trail	Fee Title	8	1	\$200,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
				-	-	-			
Totals				323	4.75	\$3,525,000			

Fee Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) has identified and ranked each parcel within legislatively defined boundaries and alignments for State Parks and Trails. The MnDNR maintains, reviews and annually updates a general statewide priority list of willing sellers. Potential projects are analyzed using investment criteria established in the DNR Parks and Trails System Plan

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

MNDNR Parks and Trail Division Park and Trail Management Plans

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

The scope and nature of restoration of acquire parcels will be based upon the nature of the potential use. All resource management plans for individual parks and trails facility are maintained by the Division Resource Manager. Long term maintenance and management of the slected properties will be assumed by the existing Parks and Trails Division Facility Managers and Staff.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

For each property purchased will be subject to County Board Approval per DNR administrative direction.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Confirmed.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [ce65b86f-1cf.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of State of Minnesota with each state park and state trail where land acquisition under this project is proposed are identified.

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Fee Acquisition,

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 Parks and State Trails In-Holdings

