



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-443

Proposal Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Inholdings

Project Manager Information

Name: Kent Skaar

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

Office Telephone: (651) 259-5636

Email: kent.skaar@state.mn.us

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: \$3,500,000

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

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 along state trail corridors. 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 parcels identified in this project represent in many cases unique landscapes and natural resources that will be managed for the benefit of the public statewide. 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: Glendalough State Park, Otter Tail County - State Park In-holding

Activity Budget: \$1,000,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the acquisition and protection of approximately 155 acres, which contains over 2,200 feet of Blanche Lake shoreline and over 700 feet of pristine creek frontage with abundant emergent and aquatic vegetation contained entirely within the legislative state park boundaries. The upland areas contain high quality oak forest that is contiguous with the forested State Park lands. This parcel is located in a major migratory corridor for forest birds and waterfowl. The parcel also provides potential for additional public outdoor recreational opportunities through expansion of existing State Park hiking trails.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Property Acquisition Documents Complete	2021-12-31
Property Valuation Complete	2022-06-30
Property Acquisition Complete	2023-06-30

Activity 2: Tettegouche State Park, Lake County - State Park In-holding

Activity Budget: \$1,000,000

Activity Description:

The proposed acquisition of the referenced property will result in the conservation of approximately 650 feet of Lake Superior shoreline and preserve the famous views from Palisade Head. This property is comprised of approximately 18 acres and is identified as the "Palisade Coast" in the State Park management plan. The property also contains the mouth of and nearly 1,500 feet of the designated trout stream "Palisade Creek", a number of unique natural communities with rare plant and animal species and significant geologic features. These qualities, qualify Palisade Head for inclusion in the Minnesota Natural Areas Registry.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Property Acquisition Documents Complete	2021-12-31
Property Valuation Complete	2022-06-30
Property Acquisition Complete	2023-06-30

Activity 3: Tettegouche State Park, Lake County - State Park In-holding

Activity Budget: \$1,000,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the acquisition of a 146 acre property and represents the largest in-holding in the park. Public ownership of this property will result in the preservation and protection over 1,300 feet of undeveloped shoreline and a significant high quality northern hardwood tract. Preservation will eliminate the potential for forest and resource fragmentation that would result from future private development and will secure the contiguous park setting and

experience. The property also provides for inland views of Lax Lake and Cedar Creek Valley. The County Biological Survey ranks the property as Outstanding Biodiversity

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Property Acquisition Documentation Complete	2021-12-31
Property Valuation Complete	2022-06-30
Property Acquisition Complete	2023-06-30

Activity 4: Legislatively Authorized State Trails In-Holdings

Activity Budget: \$500,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the acquisition of high priority in-holdings located along legislatively authorized State Trail corridors from willing sellers to fulfill the legislative intent for the referenced state trails. Potential high priority parcels include in-holdings in the following locations: Gitchi Gami State Trail – Lutsen Trailhead (Cook County), Gitchi Gami State Trail – Community of Tofte (Cook County), Blufflands State Trail-City of Preston to Forestville-Mystery Cave State Park (Fillmore County), Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail in-holdings (Goodhue County) and Great River Ridge State Trail in-holdings (Wabasha and Olmsted Counties) .

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Individual Property Acquisition Documents Complete	2021-12-31
Individual Property Valuations Complete	2022-06-30
Individual property Acquisitions Complete	2023-06-30

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Brett Feldman	Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota	The Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota works with many public partners to ensure that urgently needed lands are acquired for parks and trails.	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 corridors. 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. All property surveys, valuations, negotiations and transactions will be completed by or under the direct supervision of 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.				1		\$105,000
							Sub Total	\$105,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 320 Parcels: 3						\$2,925,000
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 27 Parcels: 7						\$470,000
							Sub Total	\$3,395,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								

							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$3,500,000

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
Gitchi Gami State Trail	Lake	Proposed Lutsen Trailhead	Fee Title	1.5	-	\$195,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Glendalough SP	Otter Tail	Glendalough State Park - Blanche Lake Shoreline and Hardwood Forest	Fee Title	155	-	\$975,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
State Trail Corridor In-Holdings	Statewide	Properties required to enhance and expand legislatively authorized State Trails	Fee Title	25	-	\$275,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Tettegouche SP - Lax Lake	Lake	1300 feet of undeveloped Lax Lake shoreline and large hardwood forest	Fee Title	146	-	\$975,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Tettegouche SP - Palisade Creek	Lake	Contains Lake Superior shoreline and the mouth of Palisade Creek	Fee Title	18	-	\$975,000	Private	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Has not begun
Totals				345.5	0	\$3,395,000			

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 State Park boundaries and along the alignments for State 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. Division selected parcels are then subject to review by the MnDNR Regional Managers to ensure that all parcels also meet and exceed the Department's Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) goals and objectives, which include proactive and frequent communication with local governmental agencies.

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.

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/parks/strategic/0212_pat_strategic_plan.pdf

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/parks_trails/trails.html#completed

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 as defined by State Park and/or State Trail Master Plan.. All resource management plans for individual parks and trails are maintained by the Division Resource Manager. Long term maintenance and management of the selected properties will be assumed by the existing Parks and Trails Division Facility Managers and Staff. Restoration of acquired State Park and State Trail properties has previously been funded through a variety of funding sources including State Bonding, Legacy and General Fund appropriations and the State Parks working capital fund.

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.

Each property purchased for State Parks and State Trail will be subject to County Board notification and approval per DNR administrative direction and operational order.

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.

Land acquisition projects selected for ENRTF funding are vetted and reviewed through MnDNR internal fact sheet acquisition approval process.

Easement (Other) 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.

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The scope and nature of restoration of acquire parcels will be based upon the nature of the potential use as defined by State Park and/or State Trail Master Plan.. All resource management plans for individual parks and trails are maintained by the Division Resource Manager. Long term maintenance and management of the selected properties will be assumed by the existing Parks and Trails Division Facility Managers and Staff. Restoration of acquired State Park and State Trail properties has previously been funded through a variety of funding sources including State Bonding, Legacy and General Fund appropriations and the State Parks working capital fund.

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Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [9ff30ea0-3d0.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of State of Minnesota with each state park in-holding acquisition identified and an inset map with additional parcel specific detail provided. A small inset map of the State of Minnesota is also provided that shows the locations of each State Trail although specific parcels are not identified.

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Fee Acquisition, Easement (Other) Acquisition,

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

No

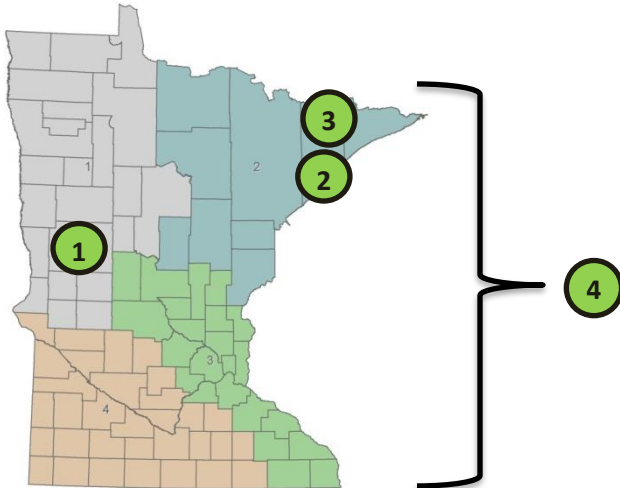
Does your project include research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Inholding Proposal



Map #	Facility Name	County	Acres
1	Glendalough State Park	Otter Tail	155
2	Tettegouche State Park	Lake	18
3	Tettegouche State Park	Lake	146
4	State Trails-Top Priority Inholdings	Statewide	5

