



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2022 Request for Proposal

## General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2022-111

**Proposal Title:** Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Acquisitions

## Project Manager Information

**Name:** Shelby Kok

**Organization:** MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

**Office Telephone:** (651) 259-5590

**Email:** shelby.kok@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:** \$4,250,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30 2024

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Land Acquisition, 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:** \$3,825,000

**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. There is a potential need for site cleanup after acquisition of the property. The priority properties to be considered for acquisition under this project are proposed in Forestville Mystery Cave, Great River Bluffs, Jay Cooke, Maplewood, McCarthy Beach, Tettegouche, and Wild River State Parks 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.

**Activity Milestones:**

| Description  | Completion Date  |
|--|------------------|
| Priority park inholdings identified and preliminary work or agreement made | December 31 2022 |
| Other or secondary inholdings identified if needed                         | June 30 2023     |
| LAM acquisition services complete priority park inholdings                 | June 30 2023     |
| Priority inholdings complete   | December 31 2023 |
| LAM acquisition services complete secondary inholdings                     | December 31 2023 |
| Secondary inholdings complete  | June 30 2024     |
| Restoration priority inholding complete                                    | June 30 2024     |
| Restoration secondary inholding complete                                   | June 30 2024     |

### Activity 2: Legislatively Authorized State Trails

**Activity Budget:** \$425,000

**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. There is a potential need for site cleanup after acquisition of the property. Potential high priority parcels include in-holdings in the following locations: Goodhue-Pioneer, Gitchi Gami, and Glacial Lakes State Trails.

**Activity Milestones:**

| Description   | Completion Date  |
|---|------------------|
| Priority trail inholdings identified and preliminary work or agreement made | December 31 2022 |
| Other or secondary inholdings identified if needed                          | June 30 2023     |
| LAM acquisition services complete priority trail inholdings                 | June 30 2023     |
| Priority inholdings complete  | December 31 2023 |
| LAM acquisition services complete secondary inholdings                      | December 31 2023 |
| Secondary inholdings complete   | June 30 2024     |
| Restoration priority inholding complete                                     | June 30 2024     |
| Restoration secondary inholding complete                                    | June 30 2024     |



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

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Shelby Kok

**Job Title:** Parks and Trails Division - Acquisition Consultant

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

Shelby Kok has been an Employee of the State of Minnesota for 7 years. For the last 2 years, as an employee of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division she has been principally responsible for the expansion of renewable energies and energy consumption reduction at Public Water Accesses, State Parks, and State Recreation Areas. Her experience includes project management. Many of the projects include multiple disciplines and local partners. Mrs. Kok has 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](http://MNDNR.gov)

## Budget Summary

| Category / Name                       | Subcategory or Type                        | Description   | Purpose | Gen. Ineligible | % Benefits | # FTE | Classified Staff? | \$ Amount   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------|-----------------|------------|-------|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>Personnel</b>                      |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |
|                                       |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | -           |
| <b>Contracts and Services</b>         |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |
| 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. |         |                 |            | 6     |                   | \$300,000   |
|                                       |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | \$300,000   |
| <b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b> |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |
|                                       |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | -           |
| <b>Capital Expenditures</b>           |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |
|                                       |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | -           |
| <b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>   |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |
|                                       | Fee Title Acquisition                      | Acres: 199 Parcels: 14  |         |                 |            |       |                   | \$3,950,000 |
|                                       |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | \$3,950,000 |
| <b>Travel In Minnesota</b>            |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |
|                                       |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | -           |
| <b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>       |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |
|                                       |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | -           |

|                                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Printing and Publication</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |
|                                 |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | -                  |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>           |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |
|                                 |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | -                  |
|                                 |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>\$4,250,000</b> |



Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

| Category/Name | Subcategory or Type | Description | Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|--|
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|--|

Non ENRTF Funds

| Category         | Specific Source   | Use   | Status                     | Amount           |
|------------------|---|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>State</b>     |   |   |                            |                  |
| Cash             | Parks and Trails Legacy Funds FY22 - No citation until appropriated | Parks and Trails Division Allocation for State Parks and State Trail property acquisitions and related transactions | Pending                    | \$500,000        |
|                  |   |   | <b>State Sub Total</b>     | <b>\$500,000</b> |
| <b>Non-State</b> |   |   |                            |                  |
|                  |   |   | <b>Non State Sub Total</b> | -                |
|                  |   |   | <b>Funds Total</b>         | <b>\$500,000</b> |

## Acquisition and Restoration

### Parcel List

| Name                                | County    | Site Significance                    | Activity  | Acres | Miles | Estimated Cost | Type of Landowner | Easement or Title Holder                  | Status of Work |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|----------------|-------------------|---|----------------|
| Cuyuna Country SRA                  | Crow Wing | Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area | Fee Title | 40    | -     | \$460,000      | Private           | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Has not begun  |
| Forestville Mystery Cave State Park | Fillmore  | Forestville Mystery Cave State Park  | Fee Title | 16    | -     | \$75,000       | Private           | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Has not begun  |
| Gitchi Gami State Trail             | Cook      | Gitchi Gami State Trail              | Fee Title | 6     | 0.5   | \$75,000       | Private           | Gitchi Gami State Trail                   | Has not begun  |
| Glacial Lakes State Trail           | Kandiyohi | Glacial Lakes State Trail            | Fee Title | 1     | 0.1   | \$5,000        | 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 Natural Resources | Has not begun  |
| Great River Bluffs State Park       | Winona    | Great River Bluffs State Park        | Fee Title | 4.2   | -     | \$30,000       | Private           | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Has not begun  |

|                           |            |                           |           |              |            |                    |         |   |               |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------------|---------|---|---------------|
| Jay Cooke State Park      | Carlton    | Jay Cooke State Park      | Fee Title | 40           | -          | \$120,000          | Private | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Has not begun |
| Maplewood State Park      | Otter Tail | Maplewood State Park      | Fee Title | 3            | -          | \$75,000           | Private | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Has not begun |
| McCarthy Beach State Park | St. Louis  | McCarthy Beach State Park | Fee Title | 14           | -          | \$500,000          | Private | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Has not begun |
| Tettegouche State Park    | Lake       | Tettegouche State Park    | Fee Title | 50           | -          | \$2,500,000        | Private | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Has not begun |
| Wild River State Park     | Chisago    | Wild River State Park     | Fee Title | 1            | -          | \$65,000           | Private | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Has not begun |
| <b>Totals</b>             |            |                           |           | <b>199.2</b> | <b>2.6</b> | <b>\$4,250,000</b> |         |   |               |

## 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 selected 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: [085aad05-197.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

Attached is a map of Minnesota. There are red polygons representing proposed priority state park in-holdings and blue lines representing proposed priority in-holdings along legislatively authorized state trails....

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

Yes: Fee Acquisition,

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?**

No

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Acquisition Proposal



