



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-009

Proposal Title: Bluebird Creek Trail

Project Manager Information

Name: Dawn Vlamincck

Organization: City of Ghent

Office Telephone: (507) 428-3214

Email: dawn@ghentmn.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Improvement and expansion of walking/biking trail to create connectivity, increase public access to conservation areas, and increase recreational opportunities in our community.

Funds Requested: \$10,906,000

Proposed Project Completion: October 31, 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?

Region(s): SW

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

Region(s): SW

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.

Our current Bluebird Creek Trail is over 20 years old. The trail is not ADA compliant, has no lighting or signage, and has cracking asphalt sections and broken/eroded edges due to poor storm water management. This current trail is 8' wide and 1/2 mile long and dead ends at County Road 5 and State Hwy 68. We propose a new non-motorized trail available for public use for walking/running/biking traffic. This project includes the reconstruction of the existing 1/2 mile trail including storm water control, and the addition of signage, & lighting. Funding would be used to increase the width of the 5' sidewalk along Hwy. 68 to a 8' wide trail as well as construct 2 miles of new 10' trail. This project, in cooperation with current local, county, state, and federally funded projects will create a 1, 1.5, or 2 mile loop that will create access to local parks, recreational facilities, business district, governmental offices, scenic conservation area, and future regional trails from our newly constructed daycare center, the Bluebird Court housing development, and future residential development areas, as well as connect people on the north and south sides of Highway 68 to each other.

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

We have a unique opportunity. In 2023/2024, the following projects are planned: The City of Ghent is planning a storm sewer drainage project in the Bluebird Court development that will solve the erosion issues that negatively affect the Bluebird Trail. Lyon County is reconstructing County Road 5 within the City of Ghent. They have included in their project plans; 3 blocks of curb and gutter with 8' trail from Hwy 68 to our existing trail. MnDOT is bringing the sidewalks into ADA compliance and have included in their project plans, 8' wide pedestrian ramps and trail crossings at Chapman and Maskell Streets. We have applied for a FEMA grant for a flood mitigation project that would construct a flood protection berm that would replace the existing trail base. The new trail surface would be placed on top of this berm. We have successfully partnered with these agencies and projects to create an opportunity to transform our small trail into a system that meets our goals of connecting community and expanding recreational opportunities. This project also gives us the opportunity to access/connect with future expansion of the Lyon County Regional Trail System.

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?

Along the southern border of the City of Ghent is located a 26.5 acre conservation area. This acreage was gifted to the Southwest Minnesota State University Foundation and has been placed within a (RIM) Reinvest In Minnesota perpetual easement. The area is maintained by SMSU students and is being used for research by the students. We have been working with the support of local BWSR and DNR to improve access to this area for natural resource management and to increase public access to this beautiful area so that it can be enjoyed recreationally while also being protected and studied.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Project Engineering, Design, Plans, Specifications, & Permitting for Phase I & II

Activity Budget: \$2,580,000

Activity Description:

Work with City Engineer to prepare plans, specifications, and obtain permitting to reconstruct existing 1/2 mile trail and construct 1/2 block of new trail along S Collins Street. Also, construct 1.5 miles of new trail around the perimeter of conservation area to include trail head parking, 2 creek crossings, signage, and lighting for entire project. Work will be done in cooperation with local drainage project, county, and state hwy projects to be completed during construction season 2023. City is coordinating with County and State Engineers to incorporate as much of this work into the county and state contracts as is possible with lowest possible cost to the city. Advertise project for bids and award contract.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Council Approval of Final Project Specifications	March 31, 2023
Advertise for Bids and Award Contracts	May 31, 2023

Activity 2: Project Engineering, Design, Specifications, & Permitting, for Phase III

Activity Budget: \$123,000

Activity Description:

Work with City Engineer to design, prepare plans, specifications, and obtain permitting to construct 7 blocks of new trail along Maskell, McQuestion, & English Streets to include drainage improvements and trail signage. Work will be done in cooperation with local Public Facilities Authority (PFA) funded sewer/water improvement project and Local Road Improvement Program project to be completed during construction season 2024. Advertise project for bids and award contract.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Council Approval of Final Project Specifications	March 31, 2024
Advertise for Bids and Award Contracts	May 31, 2024

Activity 3: Project Construction and Improvement of Trail: Phases I, II, & III

Activity Budget: \$8,203,000

Activity Description:

Implement Phases I, II, & III Construction Plans.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Construction of Phases I & II	October 31, 2023
Construction of Phase III	October 31, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
City of Ghent City Council & Administrator	City of Ghent	Project Administration	No
City of Ghent Public Works Director	City of Ghent	Trail Planning & Maintenance	No
Alexander Weniger	Minnesota Department of Transportation	Assistant Designer/ADA Engineer MN DOT-District 8: Engineer for project SP 4210-56 ADA sidewalk/crosswalk project along State Hwy. 68 within the City of Ghent. Partnering to incorporate trail crossings and widen sidewalks from 5' to 8'.	No
Aaron VanMoer	Lyon County Highway Department	Lyon County Highway Engineer: Engineer for 2023 reconstruction of Lyon County Road #5 South within the City of Ghent. Partnering to install curb and gutter and extend current deadend residential trail to connect to State Hwy 68 crosswalk and trail as part of this project.	No
David Palm	Bolton & Menk, Inc.	Project Engineer: Project Designer/ Construction Administration/ Project Management	Yes
General Contractor	TBD	Project Construction - Hired through Competitive Bidding Process	Yes
Luke Olson	Lyon County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	Conservation Technician: Lyon County liason to achieve public access to the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement while protecting the natural resources.	No
Dusy Van Thuyne	Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)	CREP Coordinator: Minnesota State liason to achieve public access to the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement while protecting the natural resources.	No
Kyle Jarcho	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Local DNR Representative: Liason to achieve public access to the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement while protecting the natural resources.	No
Nathan Polfliet	Southwest Minnesota State University	Co-Executive Director of Advancement and Foundation: Owner of (RIM) Easement. Partner to achieve public access to RIM Easement while protecting the natural resources.	No
John Hansel	Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)	CREP Coordinator: Minnesota State liason to achieve public access to the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement while protecting the natural resources.	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 work be funded?

The trail system will be monitored and maintained by the Ghent Public Works Department as part of their everyday duties. The Ghent City Council is planning to create a budget item for future maintenance costs and/or necessary improvements as part of their 2025 General Fund Levy.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Dawn Vlaminck

Job Title: ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK

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

Dawn has 13 years of experience overseeing capital improvement projects of every kind for the City of Ghent. As relates to this proposal her experience includes floodplain management and mitigation, establishment of and cooperation with RIM easements within city limits, as well as park and recreation management.

Organization: City of Ghent

Organization Description:

The City of Ghent is a municipal government in the southwest region of Minnesota. We have a population of 376. Our close proximity to Marshall makes us a perfect bedroom community. We attract families of all sizes and ethnic background because of the employment opportunities in Marshall and choice of School Districts. In 2001, we constructed the Bluebird Court Addition. This housing addition attracts young families, retired farmers, as well as first time home owners. Our rural city is connected to neighbouring communities by State Highway 68 running east and west and County Road 5 running north and south. Our City welcomes all to join us for a game of Rolle Bolle, a great meal at KB's Bar & Grill!!

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Dawn Vlaminc		Administrator/Clerk			23%	0.08		\$1,690
Jesse Christianson		Public Works Director			24%	0.16		\$3,864
							Sub Total	\$5,554
Contracts and Services								
Bolton & Menk	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Project Engineering, Design, Plans, Specifications, & Permitting for Phase I, II, & III				0		\$2,203,000
State of Minnesota Department of Transportation	Sub award	Construct 200' of 8' trail and increase the width of 375' of trail from 5' to 8' as part of a State Highway Project scheduled for the same construction year.				0		\$50,000
General Contractor - Hired through competitive bidding process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Project Construction				0		\$8,153,000
City of Ghent	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Permitting, Legal Fees, Materials Testing, Easements				0		\$245,000
							Sub Total	\$10,651,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								

							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Trail Easement Acquisition	Parcels: 1 Miles: 1.5						\$249,446
							Sub Total	\$249,446
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$10,906,000

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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
SMSU FOUNDATION, INC.	Lyon		Conservation Easement	26.5	1.5	\$249,446	Private	Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)	Has Not Begun
Totals				26.5	1.5	\$249,446			

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.

All of the trail pieces are on public right of way except for Phase II. This entire parcel was gifted to Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) by the City of Ghent. The University uses the parcel to run studies on the environment as part of their classes. This parcel was chosen because it is included in a perpetual conservation easement within city limits. The City and SMSU are working on a joint venture to create access to this conservation area for research as well as public access.

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [2ba4ce9a-99a.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

GHENT PROPOSED TRAIL IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION MAP...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Council Resolution	3ed42d2c-bd1.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Lyon County Trail Plan	9d5c7110-664.pdf
Letter of Support from Lyon County	d8947810-029.docx

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Easement (Other) 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?

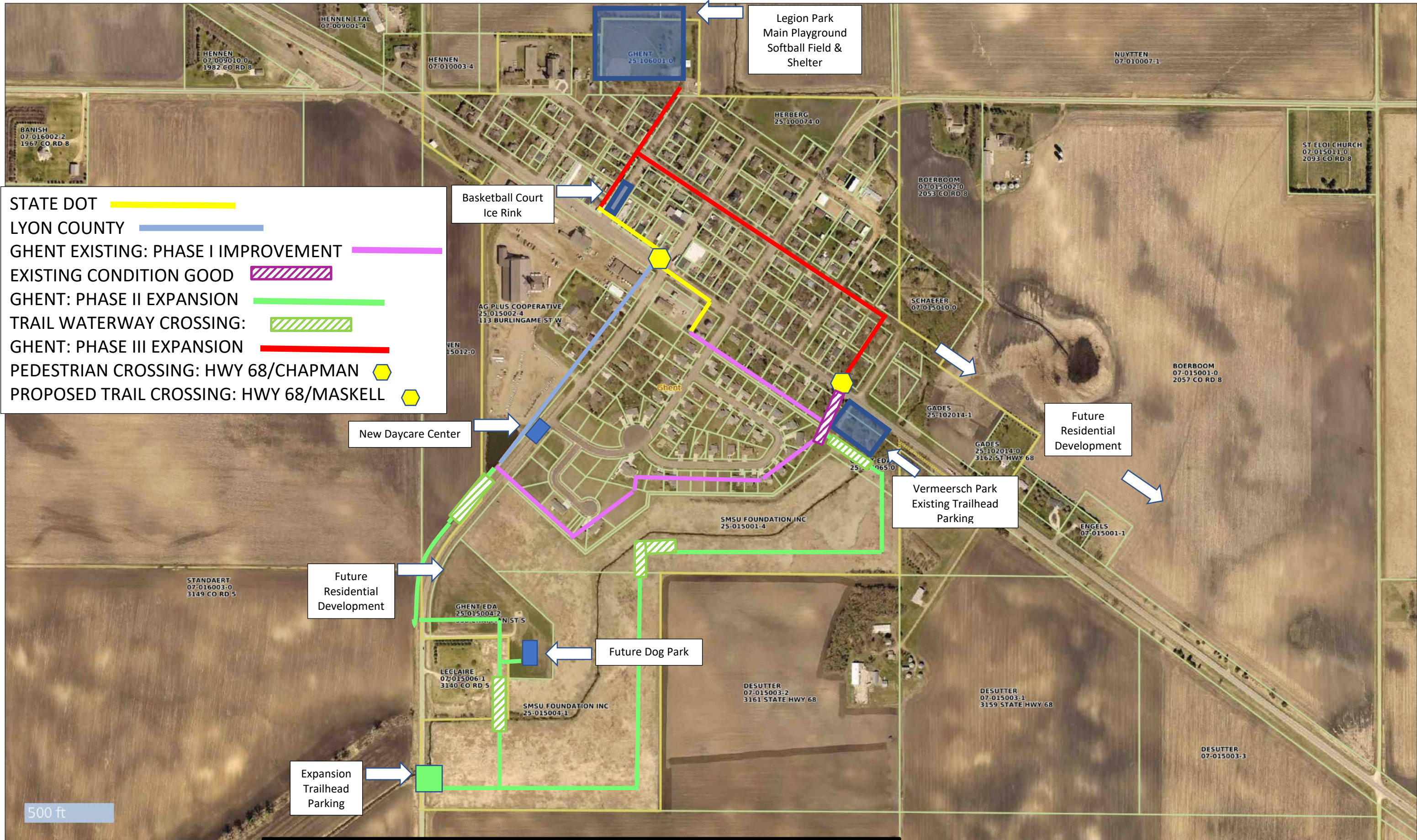
N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



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GHENT PROPOSED TRAIL IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION MAP

