



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-012

Proposal Title: The Missing Link: Fairview Township Trail Part 2

Project Manager Information

Name: Marla Yoho

Organization: Fairview Township

Office Telephone: (218) 825-9322

Email: fairviewtownship@msn.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: To complete construction of northern 3.7-mile “missing link” segment of Fairview Township’s portion of Gull Lake Trail. (Part 2)

Funds Requested: \$1,443,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 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): Central

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

Region(s): Central

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.

The Gull Lake Trail, the newest regionally significant trail system in the Brainerd Lakes area, is a nearly complete 21-mile route along a picturesque county road that is heavily traveled by residents, tourists, and vacationers. Fairview Township lies in the middle of the route where the last section of 3.7 miles remains to be completed. This section is the “missing link” to making the project fully functional. The Gull Lake Trail is a connecting link to the Paul Bunyan State Trail, Minnesota’s 120-mile paved multi-recreational trail. From here, users have access to the Heartland State Trail, Blue Ox Trail and the Pillsbury State Forest trail system. Without the completion of this 3.7-mile "missing link", the trail would not serve its greater recreational purpose for the area, region or state.

There's also an opportunity to increase safe recreation options. Completing this trail around Gull Lake will provide residents, visitors and guests at the many resorts along this route a safe place to bike, walk, run or push baby strollers. County Road 77 has narrow shoulders and cars often surpass the 55 MPH speed limit on the hilly, windy highway making access to active, healthy lifestyle choices difficult.

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.

Fairview Township proposes to continue the trail construction that was partially funded by the LCCMR in 2022. Requested funds in this application would complete the northern section of 3.7-mile, 10-foot wide, paved portion of the Gull Lake Trail that connects the segment in Lake Shore to the recently completed 4.1-mile segment in southern Fairview Township.

Preliminary plans and specifications were prepared for the 3.7-mile segment when Fairview was planning for the construction of the southern 4.1 miles of trail.

Expenditures and approvals include:

- Bolton & Menk Engineering: plans and preliminary bid specifications;
- Wetland delineations;
- soil borings;
- archaeological survey and approval from the Department of Indian Affairs;
- approval from the DNR Natural Heritage Department;
- topographical surveys;
- County and DNR environmental approvals.

As shown under the Non-ENRFT Funds section of this application, GMRPT has awarded the township a State grant of \$167,280 covering plans and design.

The preliminary plans have been approved by Cass County. Current GMRPT and LCCMR 2022 funding will allow bid specifications to be prepared, but contract letting would be delayed until all funding is in place. This segment is truly a “shovel-ready” project.

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?

This project embodies and correlates to the LCCMR 2023 Funding Priority G: Land acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation, section 7.

It proposes the following outcomes: Expansion of outdoor recreational opportunities through connecting two sections of existing trails to state, regional, and local parks and trails. It will run exclusively within the road right-of-way, lessening the environmental impact. The trail will provide safe access to the natural and scenic environment. Being ADA

compliant, it offers an easy way to introduce activity to every age and ability. Additionally, environmentally-friendly alternative transportation, such as e-bikes, can use it to access local attractions and businesses.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Complete construction of 3.7-miles of "shovel-ready" Fairview Township trail, connecting existing trails in Cities of East Gull Lake, LakeShore

Activity Budget: \$1,443,000

Activity Description:

The main objective is completion of the final 3.7-miles of the Fairview Township portion of the Gull Lake Trail on the northern end of CSAH77 that was started in 2022.

Tasks include:

- 1) Engineer continues construction management per plans developed in Part 1 (LCCMR funding 2022);
- 2) Advertise for bids early Spring 2023 based on LCCMR 2022 funding already in place;
- 3) Construction begins May 2023;
- 4) Construction ends December 2024.

The outcome will be a complete Gull Lake Trail with connections to other regional and state trail systems. This will have an enormous impact on residents, guests, and local businesses by creating a continuous 21-mile route from the city of East Gull Lake to Nisswa. The route will be a safe and easily accessible place to enjoy the beautiful natural environment of this area. Construction will be managed and evaluated by both engineering firm and township staff.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Trail grading	August 31, 2023
Aggregate base	September 30, 2023
Trail paving	September 30, 2023
Mobilization, erosion control	December 31, 2023
Turf restoration	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Jenny Gunsbury	Fairview Trail North Portion-Gull Lake Trail Part 2	Fairview Trail Committee Chair, co-grant writer	No
Josh Stevenson	Cass County	Cass County Administrator	No
Karl Samp	Brainerd Lakes Community Foundation	Fundraising partner	No
Renee Mattson	Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission	Executive Director	No
Darrick Anderson	Cass County Highway Department	Cass County Highway Engineer	No
Mai Neng	MN Department of Natural Resources	Grant administrator	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?

Upon completion of the final 3.7-miles through Fairview Township, the Gull Lake Trail master plan will be complete and no further work is currently anticipated. Fairview Township has a 20-year trail maintenance agreement in place with Cass County. The associated costs and funding are accounted for in township budgets going forward.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Marla Yoho

Job Title: Clerk-Treasurer

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

As Township Clerk-Administrator, Ms. Yoho has successfully handled co-writing grants and processing paperwork needed through the construction of the first (4.1-mile) portion of the Fairview Trail. She has successfully worked with the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission and the DNR for prior funding; the DNR, township property owners and the Cass County Highway Department for highway right-of-way easements; and has worked with various Minnesota state agencies to complete and get approval on archaeological surveys, wetland mitigation, and environmental requirements. She is directly supervised by a Board of Supervisors who must approve any actions which encumber the township.

She and the Board of Supervisors will work with a Licensed Professional Engineer who must be experienced in highway and street design, trail and sidewalk design, municipal utility design, site design, stormwater management, and residential and commercial development. Their background must include experience in preparing preliminary and final construction documents, project specifications, contract administration, and project management. They must be

certified in the design of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPS) to meet the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Permit.

Organization: Fairview Township

Organization Description:

Located in the southeast corner of Cass County, Fairview Township is home to many beautiful natural resources, including lush forests, beautiful lakes and rich agricultural land.

Fed by rapid growth in the nearby cities of Brainerd and Baxter, Fairview has a year-round population of 895. That number is multiplied many times over in the summer with resort guests and visitors to the area.

The recreational opportunities on Gull, Agate and Rock Lakes as well as in the Pillsbury State Forest and at Mount Ski Gull attract tourists, campers, fishermen, horseback riders and hunters in the summer, and skiers and snowmobilers in the winter. Fairview is home to and surrounded by some of the finest resorts and golf courses in Minnesota.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Firm providing engineering, legal, financial review, and administrative support for bidding, contract letting and overall construction of the trail.				105,000		\$105,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction costs. Contractor selected through competitive bid process for 3.7-mile segment of overall trail.				0		\$1,325,000
							Sub Total	\$1,430,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								

							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Publication	Advertising of bid requests	Publication of requests for trail construction bids					\$1,000
							Sub Total	\$1,000
Other Expenses								
		Purchase Wetland Credits from Aitkin County	To replace wetlands that will be disturbed during trail construction					\$12,000
							Sub Total	\$12,000
							Grand Total	\$1,443,000

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	Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails	Planning and design expense	Secured	\$167,280
			State Sub Total	\$167,280
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$167,280

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [e4fb0ad0-a3b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This map shows the entire Gull Lake Trail system along the western border of Gull Lake, and how it connects to the Paul Bunyan Trail.

The red line identifies the final 3.7 miles in this application and boldly illustrates the "missing link" that would connect the existing trails...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Fairview Township Board Resolution	cacfd21a-c96.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Highlights along the Gull Lake Trail	e42b0573-4ff.pdf
Preliminary Cost Estimate	c0d26d23-b3d.pdf
Gull Lake Trail Cooperative Agreement	007b408b-7e1.pdf
Cass Cty Trail Easement Certification	6c937a97-351.pdf
Gull Lake Trail Location Map	c808f149-466.pdf
Primary Letters of Support	bc692c0a-fdf.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

GULL LAKE TRAIL LOCATION MAP

FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MN



Legend

- Gull Lake Trail - City of East Gull Lake (Constructed)
- Gull Lake Trail - City of Lakeshore (2019)
- Gull Lake Trail Fairview Township (2021)
- Gull Lake Trail - Cities of Lakeshore & Nisswa (2022)
- Gull Lake Trail - Fairview Township (Final Segment)
- Future Trail
- Paul Bunyan State Trail

