



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-110

Proposal Title: Scandia Gateway Trail to William O'Brien State Park

Project Manager Information

Name: Kenneth Cammilleri

Organization: City of Scandia

Office Telephone: (651) 433-2274

Email: k.cammilleri@ci.scandia.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Complete construction-ready Gateway State Trail segment between Scandia Village Center and William O'Brien State Park with highway tunnel and trailhead parking lot on ROW already acquired by DNR.

Funds Requested: \$3,070,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2023

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): Metro

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 project takes significant step towards fulfilling Minn. Stat. §85.015 Subd. 14, by financing the final engineering and construction of the Gateway State Trail on an already acquired easement between the Scandia Village Center and William O'Brien State Park. William O'Brien is one of the State's most accessible and heavily used parks due to its location and amenities, particularly its very heavily used campgrounds. This link will serve the long-term statutory goal of establishing a recreational trail connection between the City of Taylors Falls and the State Capital and connecting two State Parks via the Gateway Trail. In the short-term this trail will connect the State Park and the City of Marine on St. Croix with the City of Scandia's Community Center Park, which will offer a variety of new recreational opportunities to the State Park users, including several playgrounds, tennis/pickleball courts, ice rinks, a skatepark, a t-ball field and year-around park restroom facilities. The trail, which will pass through natural and agricultural areas, will also serve as a trail connection to Scandia's Gammelgården Museum—a statewide resource honoring Swedish immigrant history-- and the much-anticipated Scandia Regional Arts and Heritage Center.

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.

This project proposes the construction of the segment of the Gateway Trail between William O'Brien State Park and the Scandia Village Center. This construction ready project includes the addition of a trailhead parking lot in Scandia Village Center on a city-owned property, an approximately 1-mile trail segment from the trailhead to Washington County Highway 52 where a trail tunnel under the Highway 52 road grade will be added to facilitate safe highway crossing. The final 0.8-mile connection from the Highway 52 tunnel crossing will be completed at a later time when the Minnesota DNR completes internal park trail improvements, which is anticipated in the next two years or so. Acquisition of necessary easements has been accomplished and in 2019-2020 the DNR funded trail engineering work on this segment, so it is shovel ready. A City legislative initiative from several years ago was successful in encouraging the passage of legislation to allow immediate use of recreational trail easements on land in Metro Agricultural Preserves in anticipation of an early start on this segment.

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?

Protection of natural resources will be achieved by avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to water, wildlife and wetlands along the trail corridor. Conservation and Preservation will be achieved by complying with all state environmental laws including the Minnesota Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) and the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) through a consultant accredited by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Enhancement of the state's natural resources will be achieved by providing greater access for Minnesotans to appreciate the natural beauty along the trail route.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Environmental, final engineering, Construction of highway Realignment, Ped. Tunnel, and 2,000ft of trail on north side of CR52

Activity Budget: \$2,460,000

Activity Description:

All environmental research work, including environmental assessments and a cultural survey will be prepared to comply with MEPA environmental review, WCA requirements, and any other applicable laws in accordance with requirements by DNR Parks and Trails Division staff. The city will coordinate with DNR staff to obtain any and all applicable permitting including the US Army Corps of Engineers. This work is in-kind and will not require use of the project budget. Any permit required additional engineering will be done simultaneously.

Construction to re-align Washington County Road 52 (Oakhill Road) will be completed for 2,000 feet to accommodate approx. 2,000 feet of trail on the north side of the highway, pursuant to the trail plan. The 2,000 feet trail segment will be constructed along to reach the underground tunnel necessary for safe crossing of the County highway as required by DNR trail standards.

Preliminary engineering was completed by the Washington County Public Works Department and the City's Engineering firm, Bolton and Menk. Final engineering and design specifications will need to be prepared. Services will be acquired through the City's contract and bidding process.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Completion of any applicable wetland delineation and applicable survey work	August 31, 2023
Completion of Environmental and Cultural Assessments	August 31, 2023
Completion of remaining reports and final engineering for receipt of permit approvals	September 30, 2023
CR 52 Realignment	December 31, 2023
2,000ft of trail built along northern edge of highway right-of-way	December 31, 2023
Pedestrian Tunnel Crossing under CR52	December 31, 2023

Activity 2: Environmental, final engineering, Construction Trailhead parking lot and connecting trail to northern edge of CR52 right-of-way

Activity Budget: \$610,000

Activity Description:

All environmental research work, including environmental assessments and a cultural survey will be prepared to comply with MEPA environmental review, WCA requirements, and any other applicable laws in accordance with requirements by DNR Parks and Trails Division staff. The city will coordinate with DNR staff to obtain any and all applicable permitting including the US Army Corps of Engineers. This work is in-kind and will not require use of the project budget. Any permit required additional engineering will be done simultaneously.

A trailhead parking lot will be constructed at the Scandia Village Center terminus located at 14800 Oakhill Rd along with a 0.8 long recreational trail segment to the northern edge of CR 52.

Preliminary engineering was completed by the Washington County Public Works Department and the City's Engineering firm, Bolton and Menk. Final engineering and design specifications will need to be prepared. Services will be acquired through the City's contract and bidding process.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Completion of any applicable wetland delineation and applicable survey work	August 31, 2023
Completion of Environmental and Cultural Assessments	August 31, 2023
Completion of Final Engineering, design, and specification work and receipt of permit approvals	September 30, 2023
Completion of trailhead parking lot at 14800 Oakhill Rd (CR 52)	December 31, 2023
Completion of approximately 0.8 miles of trail from Village Center to County Road 52	December 31, 2023

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Wayne Sandberg	Washington County Public Works	Project Partner and Fiscal Agent	Yes
Ryan Goodman, P.E.	Bolton & Menk	Scandia City Engineer (preliminary engineer of project)	No
Kent Skaar	DNR Parks And Trails Division	Project Partner	No
Project Administrator and Engineer	TBD	To be contracted to complete final engineering and to carryout project administration. Funds to be paid during the course of the project. Selection through City contracting and bidding process.	Yes

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?

This project will result in the construction of a state trail which will be under the maintenance and stewardship of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). No results, findings or other unanswered questions are anticipated to result from this project. Additional construction of future trail segments may be obtained through state appropriation and/or other grant opportunities available to the City of Scandia and/or the DNR based on their respective budgets and priorities. The short-term goal, which is encompassed in this project, is to connect the state park to the Scandia Village Center.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Kenneth Cammilleri

Job Title: City Administrator

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

The listed project manager is experienced in the administrative oversight of projects, including road projects and stormwater management projects with prevailing wage and other applicable reporting requirements in order to meet state and federal financial requirements. However, this project proposes that contract administration also utilize qualified engineering firm for project administration to assure that the project will be completed in conformance with any and all grant agreement requirements. Contracting will be conducted through the City of Scandia's public contracting and bidding procedures. The Project Administrator will oversee all work conducted over the project with the contractor's assistance. The Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails Division will maintain regular involvement and oversight. The agency will assume responsibility for completion of all environmental and historical analysis, approve all project plans, and assist with permitting to assure project compliance. Washington County will serve as project fiscal agent and will play a key project role in oversight of work conducted within its right-of-way, which includes design and construction of the pedestrian tunnel, road realignment and trail segment within the County right-of-way.

Organization: City of Scandia

Organization Description:

The City of Scandia is a statutory City located in Northeastern Washington County. Scandia is a community that is committed to maintaining and enhancing its environmental and recreational assets for the greater benefit of its residents, region, and the state at large. The agency has partnered with several governmental entities to carry out projects dedicated to the enhancement of water quality, the preservation of natural areas and habitat, and the

advancement of recreational opportunities that offer the opportunity to appreciate the natural environment. Scandia seeks to continue this effort, going forward.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Project Engineer and Project Administration	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The Consultant will complete final engineering, design, and specifications for the project and carryout project administration responsibilities including prevailing wage, compliance under the supervision of the City.				0		\$60,000
							Sub Total	\$60,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Construction of state Trailhead parking lot at Scandia Village Center and connecting trail to County Road 52	Both components are critical capital elements that are essential to fulfilling the goals of this project.					\$580,000
		Construction of CR52 Realignment, Ped. Tunnel, and 2,000ft of state trail on north side of CR52	This expenditure is a key element of the purpose and intent of this grant request. The tunnel is a safety requirement of State Trail design guidelines and must be constructed simultaneously with the trail segment on the north side of Oakhill (CR 52).					\$2,430,000
							Sub Total	\$3,010,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-

Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$3,070,000

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				
In-Kind	City of Scandia	Dedicated city-owned land to locate trailhead parking lot. The land is be retained by the City of Scandia as parkland.	Secured	\$100,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$100,000
			Funds Total	\$100,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [4f9b8f63-9d7.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Gateway to Scandia Presentation...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Authorizing Resolution	beddf2ea-c6e.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
DNR Parks and Trails Letter of Support & Authorization	5bb4c37d-3b1.pdf
Preliminary engineered plans	fc896076-554.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?

Yes, Washington County

Gateway to Scandia

Building Community Connections



Summary

- Cycling is a growing trend and can be a growth driver for communities
- The DNR has addressed this trend with a planned extension of the highly popular Gateway Trail that has over 125,000 visitors a year
- The project has legislative and widespread community support
- The Scandia section of the trail is a great place to make an immediate impact
- The Gateway to Scandia project is ready to go

Your support is needed and appreciated!





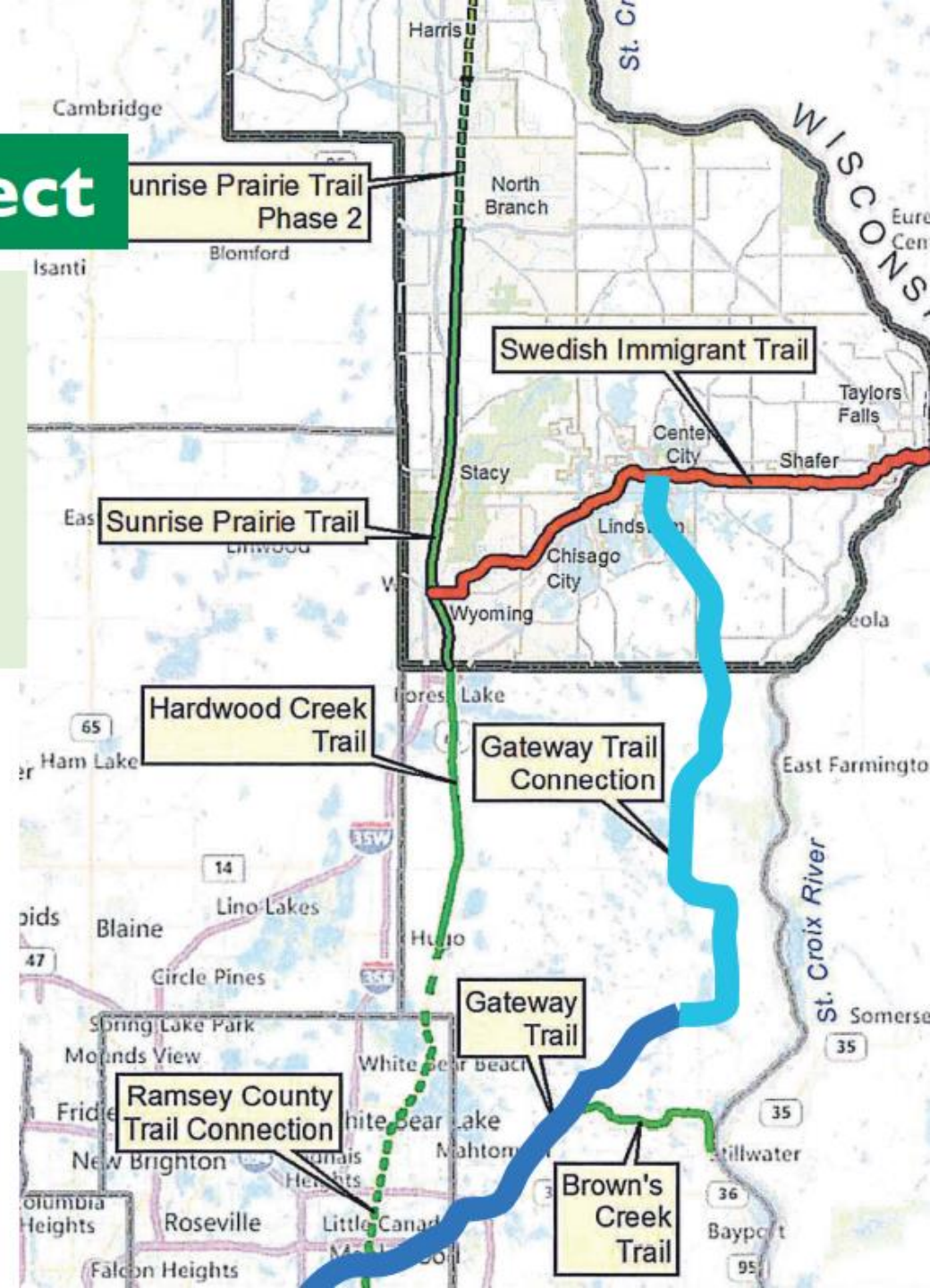
Cycling **macro** trends

- The pandemic has brought a sizable increase of bike riders across many demographics and regions
- E-bike growth continues unabated and has introduced a large group of new people to cycling across several demographics
- Protected bike lanes can add desirability and increase home value while providing safe recreation and transportation for families and children
- Cycling contributes a number of positive mental and physical health impacts
- Bike trails can enhance the economic value of a region as seen in Crosby (Cayuna MTB), Lanesboro (Root River Trail) and Bemidji (Paul Bunyon Trail)

DNR Gateway extension project

The long-term vision is to develop the Gateway Trail to Taylors Falls and eventually to connect with other trails and recreation areas in a Twin Cities-to-Duluth Trail System, connecting surrounding communities

- Currently the Gateway State Trail runs from St. Paul to Pine Point Park in Washington County, a distance of 19 miles
- The DNR, along with community partners, are working to extend the Gateway Trail from Pine Point Park, through Wilder Forest and William O'Brien State Park, to the City of Scandia, MN.
- In 2017 the State completed acquisition of the final linkage for connecting the Gateway State Trail from Marine on St. Croix, through William O'Brien State Park to Scandia
- The DNR will own the trails via easements across private property and on already owned public land within the State Park. The extension will be a State Trail and will be operated by the DNR



There is widespread support to extend the Gateway

Area cities, counties, businesses & associations



Maklin Bike Shop

And many others including:

- Scandia Trails Parks & Recreation
- Friends of Scandia Parks & Trails
- Gateway-Brown's Creek Trail Association
- Forest Lake YMCA

What area residents say...

"Time for it to be done, this will be a great amenity"

"I have been waiting for this for 20 years"

"It is a great way to encourage people to enjoy the beauty of Minnesota and encourage healthy exercise in a safe manner"

"PLEASE make this available to my children"

"This would be an amazing asset to our state and our region"

"Thank you in advance for making us safe!!"

"The Gateway is truly one of the great trails of Minnesota. Extending it makes it greater"

"Help us stay healthy and happy!"

"What better use for our tax dollars?"

*quotes are excerpts from a 2020 petition fielded by the GBCTA

Scandia is great place to start the project!

Scandia is a highly popular cycling destination, and there is a community need for off-road trails to provide greater appeal and safety for families and children that use William O'Brien State Park including the Scandia Elementary School population

Bringing the Gateway Trail into Scandia will allow access from the State Park to Scandia Village Center including two tot-lots, a skating rink, multiple sports fields, restaurants and other commercial facilities, including the pride of Minnesota's Swedish Immigrant Heritage—the Gammelgården Museum.

As it brings in trail users to the Scandia Village Center, it will also add to the city's economic vitality as it works to increase its appeal to residents and visitors to enjoy and utilize the natural and historic resources of the city.



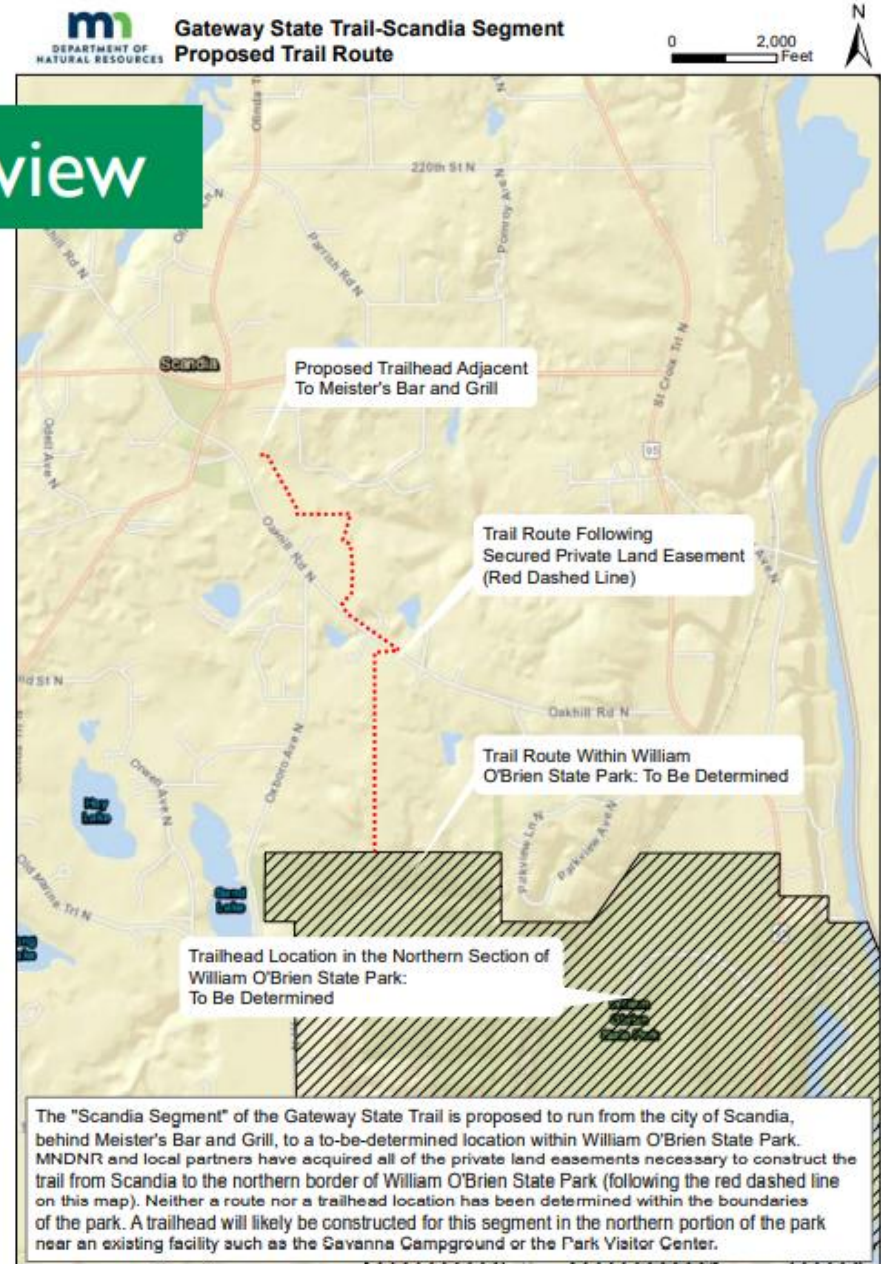
Scandia Connection project: overview

The State has already acquired the land and has engineered the trail from Scandia Community Center to Oakhill Road

The Park Master Plan for William O'Brien State Park developed in 2007 includes a corridor for the Gateway Trail to extend through the park.

DNR staff have examined a number of possible routes for the trail. Funding will allow the completion of engineering detail and of natural resource investigations in order to arrive at a preferred route and destination.

It will also allow for construction of the trail from the northern border of William O'Brien State Park to a terminus within the park determined by the DNR Parks and Trails, thus completing a bicycling trail system from the Scandia Village Center.

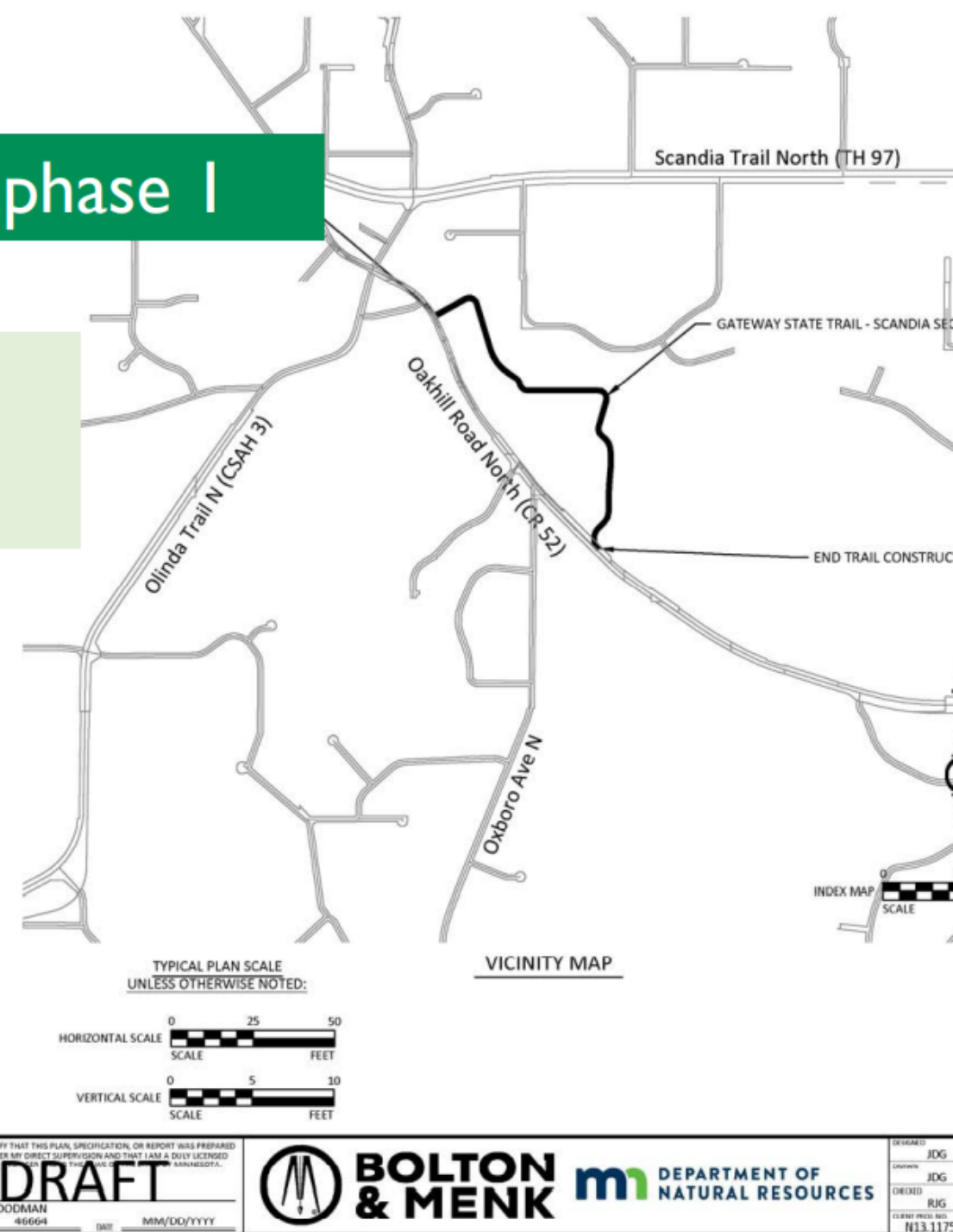


Scandia Connection project: phase I

Approximately one half of the segment between the Park's northern border and the Scandia Village Center has been fully designed

This one-mile trail addition and tunnel works towards connecting the City of Scandia to William O'Brien State Park.

Funding is now needed to complete the trail design which will include a tunnel and re-design of a portion of Oakhill Road, and subsequently construction of this segment of trail.



Scandia Connection project: phase I funding

This request will be for \$3,070,000. This funding request would be enough to complete construction of the Gateway Trail extension from the Scandia Village Center to Oakhill Road and to also construct a tunnel under Oakhill Road and realign Oakhill to accommodate the tunnel

The breakdown is as follows:

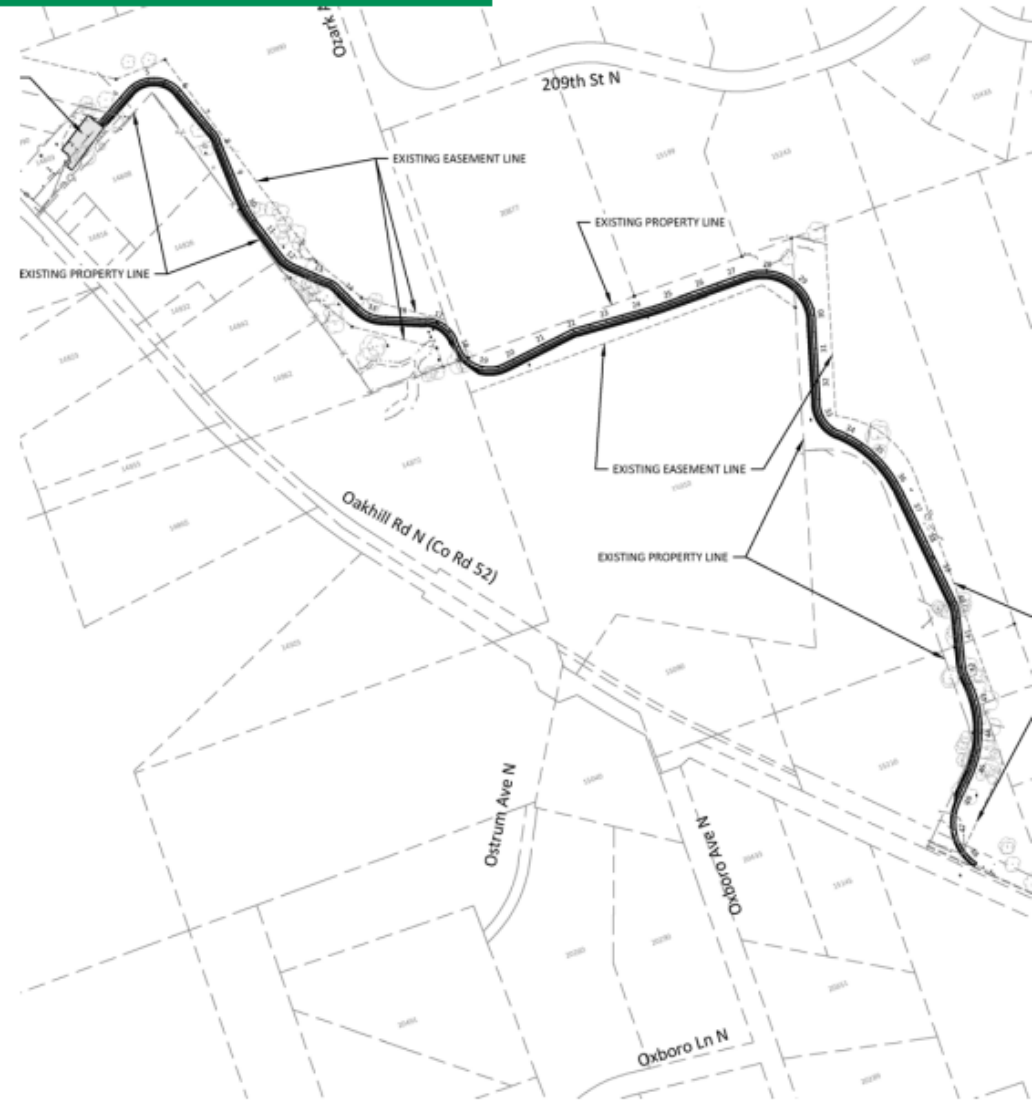
- \$580,000 – for the trail and trailhead

- \$60,000 – for engineering

- \$2,430,000 – for Oakhill Road realignment and tunnel

Future funding will be needed to complete the trail from the tunnel to William O'Brien State Park boundary and through the park.

We ask that you support funding the development of this exciting recreational and community enhancement opportunity



Thank you!

