



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-188

Proposal Title: Environmental Learning by Bicycle for Ages 8-80

Project Manager Information

Name: Dorian Grilley

Organization: Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota

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Email: dorian@bikemn.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This program will teach 4,000 children and adults about natural resources while also teaching them to safely explore trails, parks, wetlands, lakes, and rivers and their communities by bicycle.

Funds Requested: \$197,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Environmental Education (C)

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.

Minnesota has many state, regional, and local trails and parks that connect communities to environmental learning opportunities in and adjacent to prairies, forests, wetlands, lakes, and rivers. But, on the whole, our trail systems are underutilized and the natural resources along them are not well understood. An exception to this is that the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area has been successfully hosting their Bike with a Ranger Program for several years. But, even this Metro Area opportunity is underutilized. Our goal is to bring this type of programming to other places in Minnesota and provide people with the skills, confidence, and knowledge to explore and learn about the environment while bicycling in and around their communities confidently and safely.

But there are barriers to getting outdoors and to biking more. Most people would like to ride more but do not feel safe doing so. In addition, many do not know these outdoor opportunities exist. This program will combine needed bike safety education with environmental education with the vision that this will lead to a deeper reverence for Minnesota's natural environment and an incentive for greater utilization of the trails and parks we have collectively invested in.

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 propose to use existing bike safety curricula and Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota's (BikeMN) bike fleets, and some local bike fleets, and combine them with existing environmental education and natural resource interpretive materials and programs. This will create a new program that provides people, especially BIPOC, new immigrants, senior citizens, and youth, the skills and knowledge to explore and learn about the outdoors in and around their communities confidently and safely. This will:

- Create programs that could be sustained locally as more communities, nature centers/ELC's, schools, and businesses acquire bike fleets and more safety instructors are trained.
- Leverage the investments Minnesota and its communities have made in trails, parks, nature centers, and environmental learning centers (and related interpretive resources).
- Build on strong partnerships BikeMN has developed with hundreds of teachers, schools, dozens of public agencies, community leaders, and many community organizations.

BikeMN has developed several curricula and currently has 160 bicycles that will be used to teach target populations. BikeMN's many existing partners statewide will provide local assistance and additional resources. Environmental Learning by Bicycle will specifically target regional centers throughout the entire state, many of which have aging populations and significant populations of new immigrants.

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?

Increased use of Minnesota's great outdoors and a better understanding of our environment is the primary outcome. BikeMN has developed and delivered bike safety curricula for children and adults of all ages and abilities. We recognize that bicycling is great for the environment; that Minnesotans place tremendous value on natural resources; that there are many environmental education resources already available; and that our state and communities have made massive investments in thousands of miles of trails, parks, and nature and environmental learning centers. We feel that all this adds up to a unique opportunity to leverage these values and investments.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Integrate the Walk! Bike! Fun!, Smart Cycling, and Adaptive Cycling Toolkit curricula with existing youth and adult environmental education curricula

Activity Budget: \$37,000

Activity Description:

BikeMN has been working with partners for more than a decade to develop bike safety curricula that suit a variety of needs and deliver education to children and adults of all ages and abilities.

By utilizing BikeMN’s fully-developed skill and confidence-building curricula and equipment in conjunction with existing environmental learning materials and naturalists, we are confident that we will engage more people from ages 8 to 80 with Minnesota’s amazing outdoor recreation facilities and natural resources. BikeMN has the capacity to make resources available and deliver these programs in English and Spanish and the elementary school safety curriculum is available in Hmong and Somali.

For this activity we would:

1. Convene Project Steering Team
2. Conduct outreach to partners on how to best meet needs with existing programming schedules, including but not limited to parks, community education, and schools.
3. Plan single and multi-day curriculum modules that utilize existing materials, are best practice in standards, that fit with confidence/skill-building classes, and that are optimized with localized materials for roll-out and implementation with partners throughout the state.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Convene Project Steering Team	July 31, 2023
Complete Steering Committee Work	March 31, 2024
Partner outreach	April 30, 2024
Develop and refine curriculum	April 30, 2024

Activity 2: Rolling Outdoor Youth Explorers (Pilot) and Rolling Adult Environmental Observers (Pilot)

Activity Budget: \$150,000

Activity Description:

Conduct separate adult and youth classroom bicycle safety and natural resource interpretive education that includes skills drills and on-bike education followed by a trip to explore a local trail with a naturalist and/or teacher. This program will be offered in communities that have an existing trail that has interpretive opportunities or connects with a park, nature center, or environmental learning center. It will be offered to a minimum of 500 adults in at least 10 locations and 1,500 youth in at least 20 locations per year throughout the state. The adult target audience will be senior citizens, new immigrants, and parents with children older than 10. Youth programming will be done in partnership with school districts, community centers, YMCAs and YWCAs, and other youth programs with at least a partial target audience of economically disadvantaged kids. Free Bikes 4 Kids, The Recyclery, and Bikes 4 Kids have all pledged to donate bikes and helmets for some or all of the participants to keep.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Promote program offerings with partners	August 31, 2023

Host first program event	September 30, 2023
Produce marketing materials	March 31, 2024
Host approximately 50 program activities for about 4,000 people	June 30, 2024

Activity 3: Project Evaluation

Activity Budget: \$10,000

Activity Description:

As part of this project BikeMN would contract with an outside evaluation firm to review and refine the program and its implementation for future years. We anticipate that the evaluation, interim report, and final report will cost about 7 percent of the total budget.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Find contractor and sign contract	August 31, 2023
Evaluate initial programming and refine	May 31, 2024
Produce final evaluation report	June 30, 2025

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 pilot project will be evaluated, refined, and reported upon. After an initial boost from LCCMR, many of the programs created by this project could be sustained locally as more communities, nature centers/ELC's, schools, and businesses acquire bike fleets and more safety instructors are trained. There will always be a need to train new naturalists and instructors and to update the curricula and programs, but much could be done locally and sustained with local and other public and private funds. This could be done using a similar model as and partnering with Project Get Outdoors in Wabasha.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Dorian Grilley

Job Title: Executive Director

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

Dorian will provide strategic oversight and manage BikeMN project staff and budget. He will also assist with promoting and marketing the program, enlisting partners, and assisting with all other areas of the project including technical assistance and assisting with trainings. He has been involved with development and implementation of the Walk! Bike! Fun! safety curriculum from the initial phases. Dorian co-chaired the steering committee that developed the vision and mission and launched BikeMN and has been its executive director since start-up in 2008. He has worked with nonprofits as a volunteer or staff for nearly forty years. He was the Executive Director of the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota (PTC) from 1996 to 2008. Before that, he worked for the Minnesota DNR for 17 years. He graduated from the U of M with a Bachelors of Landscape Architecture and did his graduate work in natural resource policy and worked as a research and teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Organization: Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota

Organization Description:

The BikeMN mission and vision are to engage people, provide education, and advocate for biking and walking. BikeMN envisions a Minnesota where every person everywhere can easily walk, bike, and roll as ways to move in daily life. BikeMN works to implement this vision and mission through education, advocacy, and encouragement. Specific programs in our first 13+ years include development and implementation of the Walk! Bike! Fun! school safety curriculum, adapting the national adult Smart Cycling for use in Minnesota, development of an adaptive curriculum in partnership with MDH and CDC, developing an Adult Learn to Ride program (funded by the Metropolitan Council) and the training of nearly 1,000 teachers, other educators, and volunteers to use these curricula. We also have worked with more than one-hundred communities and businesses throughout the state that have applied or are interested in applying for national recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community (currently 33) or Bicycle Friendly Business (currently 112 plus 7 universities). BikeMN also manages 3 large community bicycling events, including, the Saint Paul Classic Bike Tour which features a rest stop hosted by the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area staff.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Project Manager		Project lead			20%	1.6		\$64,000
Education Coordinator/Naturalist		Program development and delivery			20%	0.5		\$20,000
Greater MN Program Manager		Project outreach, development, & delivery			20%	0.1		\$4,000
Education Director		Curriculum development, review and evaluation			20%	1		\$4,000
Intern (two)		Program implementation			0%	1.8		\$25,000
							Sub Total	\$117,000
Contracts and Services								
Evaluation contractor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Project evaluation				0.2		\$10,000
Teachers/Naturalists	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Steering committee and partner naturalists and teachers will be paid a modest stipend				-		\$12,000
Schools/Nature Centers/other	Professional or Technical Service Contract	room/facility rental (about \$100/event)				-		\$5,000
Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota	Internal services or fees (uncommon)	Using bike fleets and trailers 50 times and BikeMN's van 35 times				-		\$28,000
							Sub Total	\$55,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	van rental/lease	BikeMN has 200 bikes, 5 trailers, and one van. We'll need to rent a second vehicle to pull trailers.					\$10,000
	Tools and Supplies	Event supplies	Snacks, printed materials, etc. (about \$100/event)					\$5,000

							Sub Total	\$15,000
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Travel to and from 50 events	Travel to program host facilities (schools, nature centers, etc.)					\$10,000
							Sub Total	\$10,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$197,000

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	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [8372bf67-e10.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The attachment is a map of nationally ranked bicycle friendly communities, locations of teachers trained to use the walk bike fun elementary school safety curriculum showing the statewide reach of the program, and engaged community leaders/mayors....

Financial Capacity

File: [6b58f09d-8df.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution Letter	55cf76af-c52.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Potential Program Sites for Environmental Learning by Bike	8f5014d4-e37.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?

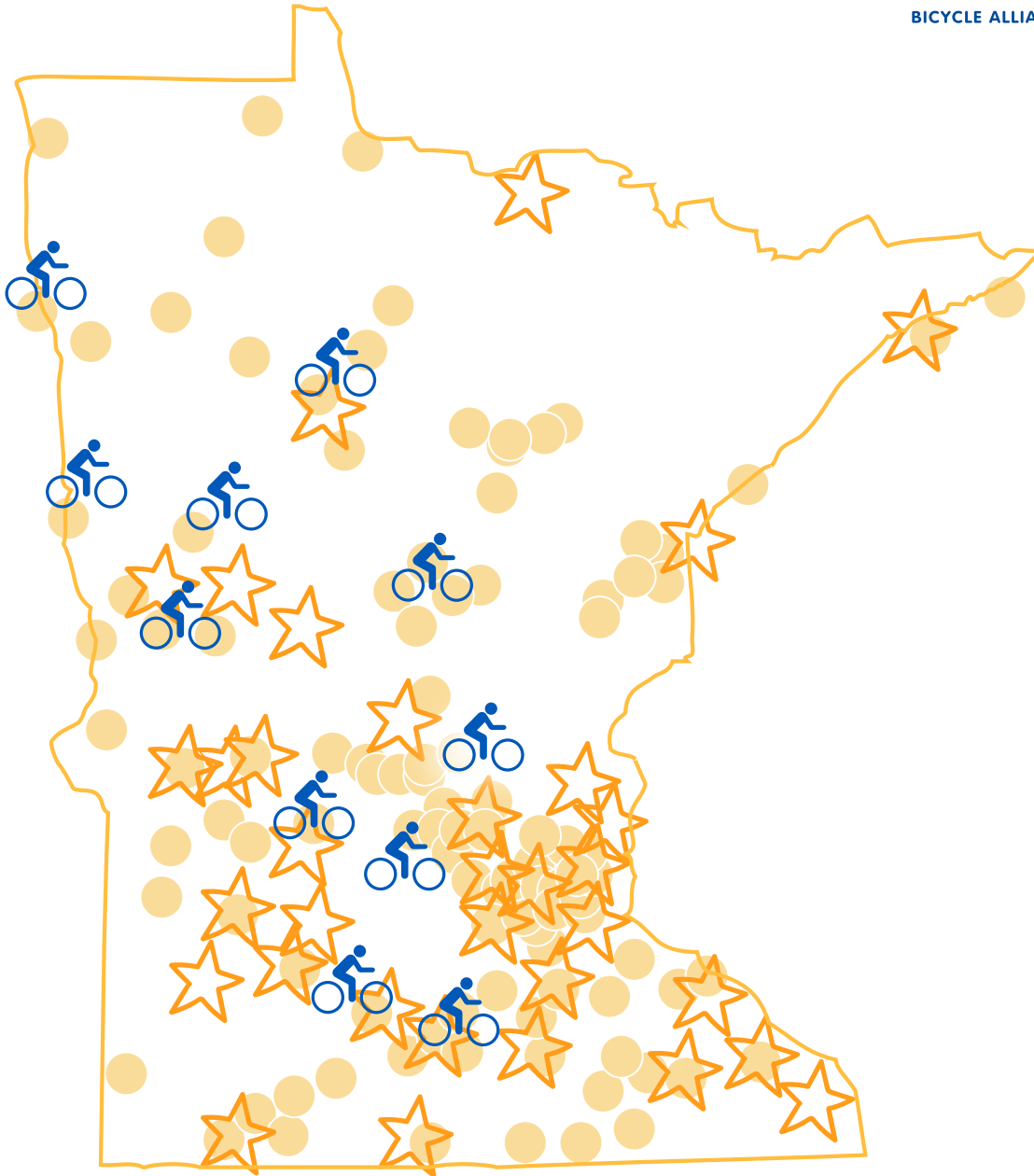
N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



City Mayor is a member of the MN Mayoral Active Transportation Caucus. Complete list at www.bikemn.org/Caucus



City is a nationally recognized "Bicycle Friendly Community." Complete list at www.bikemn.org/BFC



Trained educator who can teach safe walking and biking to elementary students

