



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-205

Proposal Title: Norpine Trail Association - Thomas Dambo

Project Manager Information

Name: Patrick Kindler

Organization: Norpine Trail Association - Cook County Trail system

Office Telephone: (651) 245-7448

Email: patrickkindler1@gmail.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: To protect the natural resource of the North Shore of MN and beyond, and expose more people to the sport Cross Country skiing through the Arts and Cultural Heritage.

Funds Requested: \$325,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2026

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): NE

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

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

To protect natural resources while nurturing recent popularity in cross country skiing and to continue that growth post pandemic. Using story telling/education through art instillations of Scandinavian folklore our goal is it increase education and stewardship of our natural resources. According to the Cross Country Ski Area Association, more than 5.2 million people cross country skied in the United States during the 2019-20 season, a 6% improvement from the previous season. Also according to the Cross Country Ski Area Association total units of cross country equipment sold in the 2019-20 season totaled 507,512 and jumped to 673,469 for the 2020-21 season. Prior to the jump in popularity due to the pandemic the Norpine Trail Association had the need to upgrade many of its trails to address erosion, drainage issues, grading, and bridge repair. Upgrades to the Trail system would also address the recent increase in cross country skiing popularity.

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.

To commission two art pieces by the artist Thomas Dambo from Copenhagen, Denmark. The pieces would be interactive as well as educational and located on the Norpine Ski Trail. Thomas Dambo's work is known internationally and would garner interest from a wide range of individuals in the state and region. Educational plaques and information about the natural environment, land stewardship, and cross country skiing would be included on site as well as the organizations website. To accommodate increases in trail usage the organization would use funds to upgrade 14 kilometers of our 57 kilometers of trail. Upgrades include drainage issues, erosion, bridge maintenance, grading, trail widening, and culvert replacement.

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?

Project Outcomes

1. Increase in usership of the Norpine Trail system specifically from people new to the sport of cross county skiing
2. Decrease liter on trail
3. Increase in environmental awareness and importance of natural resources
4. Decrease in erosion on the Trail system
5. increased cultural awareness about Scandinavia including the history of cross country skiing and Scandinavian folklore related to trolls

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Project Development

Activity Budget: \$49,000

Activity Description:

During the Project Development phase the Norpine Trail association along with the artist will meet and discuss the project. The artists will visit the site and present the Board with a concept project. The Norpine Board will review the concept and make any suggested changes/updates until a final work is decided upon. Once the concept has been agreed upon the project calendar will be formalized and contracts finalized with the artists as well as local contractors. We will use this time to put everything necessary in place for a smooth and environmentally conscious process. Specific activities include:

1. Coordinating and/or partnering with local organization to secure 4-6 volunteers a day for 2-3 weeks
2. Sourcing reclaimed materials/wood
3. renting/securing power tools
4. secure engineering approval/input as needed
5. concrete foundations/work when/if needed
6. indoor workspace secured

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Concept Planning meeting scheduled with Thomas Dambo (artist)	July 31, 2023
Scheduled Build date agreed upon with Thomas Dambo (artist)	August 31, 2023
Concept of project presented to Norpine Board by Thomas Dambo (artist)	March 31, 2024
Approval of concept	June 30, 2024
Site visit by Thomas Dambo (artist)	July 31, 2024

Activity 2: Project/Art build including site and trail upgrades

Activity Budget: \$267,500

Activity Description:

This phase of the project will include site preparation, trail upgrades and building the approved art concept on site. Site preparation includes over 14 kilometers of Norpine Trail improvements including culvert replacement, widening of embankments, drainage improvements, trail alignment and larger radius turns, grade and fill needs, erosion prevention efforts, and bridge abutment improvements. Trail maintenance can be done anytime prior to the art installation. The actual installation of art will include the coordination of the (Project Manager;Patrick Kindler) volunteers, local collaborating agencies, Thomas Dambo and staff etc.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Trail and Site upgrades completed	October 31, 2024
Art Construction installed and completed	October 31, 2026
Environmental and Cultural educational materials created	October 31, 2026

Activity 3: Project grand opening, ongoing maintenance and evaluation

Activity Budget: \$8,500

Activity Description:

The opening of the project will be announced in a press release upon completion and celebrated at the beginning of the ski season. Educational materials will be located at the sculptures as well as trail heads, organizations website, and with visit Cook county. Ongoing maintenance and evaluation tools will be evaluated on a monthly basis during regularly scheduled Norpine Trail Association Board meetings. Any needed changes to evaluation tools or maintenance schedules will be addressed immediately. The potential sale of merchandise from copywritten artwork from the project will be discussed and possibly sold once the project has opened. Net proceeds from sales will be used towards trail maintenance, upkeep, and any ongoing printed educational and promotional materials.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Installation of educational signs	November 30, 2026
Project announcement	November 30, 2026
Opening Celebration	December 31, 2026
Ongoing evaluation of maintenance and educational materials	December 31, 2026

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?

If approved Thomas Dambo will be contracted to fulfill the portion of the project related to art pieces. The project could be completed prior to November of 2026 but until funding is approved we are unable to secure a date with the artists. A local contractor will be hired for the portion of the project related to trail improvements. Project expansion will depend on project outcomes and funding would be secured through grants and donations. No additional funding is needed for this portion of the project.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Patrick Kindler

Job Title: Norpine Trail Association Board member

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

Patrick Kindler has been the Executive Director of One Heartland Inc. a 501c3 for over 10 years with an annual operating budget of \$1,300,000. He manages 7 year round employees and 50 seasonal employees. Operating a 93 acre Retreat Center and Summer Camping program located in Willow River MN. Patrick has over 16 years of experience at One Heartland managing and reporting on hundreds of grants while in his current position.

Organization: Norpine Trail Association - Cook County Trail system

Organization Description:

The Norpine Trail Association is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including maintaining, preserving, and enhancing the historic Norpine Trail System in Cook County, Minnesota, (which includes Cascade River State Park trails, Deer Yard Loop trails and Hall-Massey trails) by:

Building and maintaining trail systems for public use;
Educating trail users about safe and responsible trail use;
Educating the public about the values and benefits of cross country skiing;
Promoting appreciation of and care for public lands;
Encouraging dialogue between trail users, public/private landowners and other user groups;
and organizing events that utilize the Norpine Trail System.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Thomas Dambo	Professional or Technical Service Contract	For this project Thomas Dambo and his team will be constructing 2 Trolls including one Huge Troll between 7-10 meters in length build to withstand heavy activity as well as a smaller troll between 2.5 - 3 meters in size.				0		\$171,850
Lamb Construction	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Trail maintenance on 14 Kilometer of trail located on the Norpine Trail System				0		\$72,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Fees for engineering approval				-		\$2,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Carpentry work on the project				0		\$12,600
							Sub Total	\$258,450
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	Freight charge for 40 foot container from Copenhagen Denmark	Portions of the Art installation are constructed at the artists studio in Copenhagen and shipped to the location prior to on site construction starting					\$4,500
	Tools and Supplies	Purchasing and sourcing locally reclaimed wood	All wood used for the project is recycled from local sources either purchased or donated if possible.					\$4,750
	Equipment	Large equipment rentals	Tele handler rental for 1 month, mini excavator rental for 1 month					\$4,475

	Tools and Supplies	Rental of battery powered tools including saws, drills, and nail guns etc.	For the construction of the art installation					\$3,750
	Tools and Supplies	Concrete	For use in securing structure to the ground/foundation					\$110
	Tools and Supplies	3 large outdoor educational stations located at installation and trail heads	Purpose is to educate visitors about the project, cross country skiing and the natural environment including the superior national forest					\$2,200
							Sub Total	\$19,785
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	1 Rental car for one week	Rental car for Thomas Dambo and an additional staff member during their planning trip and site identification					\$150
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	3 rental vans	Transportation as well as supply movement for 4 people total					\$6,000
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Lodging	To house 2 people for 5 nights during the planning and site identification trip					\$1,650
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Lodging	To house Thomas Dambo and 5 staff during the 3 week installation					\$14,645
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Food	Food for Thomas Dambo and one staff member during planning and site identification trip					\$868
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Food	To feed Thomas Dambo and 5 staff during the 3 week installation					\$6,476
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Food	To feed 6 volunteers during the 3 week installation					\$6,476
							Sub Total	\$36,265
Travel Outside Minnesota								

	Other	Flights for Thomas Dambo and 3 staff from Copenhagen Denmark 4 tickets total	Artists is locate in Copenhagen Denmark, Flights necessary for project to commence	X				\$6,500
	Other	2 Flights for Thomas Dambo and 1 staff member	Planning trip including site identification	X				\$3,100
							Sub Total	\$9,600
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		1000 Square foot rental space for 3 weeks	Used for construction of art/installation					\$900
							Sub Total	\$900
							Grand Total	\$325,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Travel Outside Minnesota	Other	Flights for Thomas Dambo and 3 staff from Copenhagen Denmark 4 tickets total	Thomas Dambo and his staff are located in Denmark and require travel to the US for the project
Travel Outside Minnesota	Other	2 Flights for Thomas Dambo and 1 staff member	Artists is located in Denmark and requires travel to the US

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: [fb57b9b0-a49.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Artist overview and examples of past commissioned pieces...

Financial Capacity

File: [5cc1498b-027.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
5.3.22. Board meeting minutes	56e90614-14a.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?

Yes

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

No

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here:

Yes, We may sell merchandise including pictures of "Thomas Dambo Trolls". We propose to use revenue generated from the sale of merchandise for continued trail maintenance costs.

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

THE GREAT STORY OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE

Project by Thomas Dambo



THE PROJECT

Mission

"The Great Story of the Little People" is a unique and magical ongoing sculpture and folklore fairytale project developed by recycle artist Thomas Dambo. Through Thomas Dambo's unique storytelling of the trolls, the project aims to get people out of the cities, exploring nature, and tell a story about the importance of protecting mother nature while discovering the magic of the giant trolls and their universe.



THE TROLLS

T h o m a s D a m b o ' s V i s i o n

Thomas' vision is to create art that inspires people to go explore and have adventures in nature and "secret" spots within the cities. By getting people outside with an endgame location to see art, it creates a spark of imagination and people get to see a lot of things on the way that they wouldn't normally see.

The project becomes an open ended fuse that initiates excitement, adventure and wonder and it initiates people to go see the world through the lens of the mysterious modern day folklore- fairytale as they go do that. Since everything is made of recycled materials, it shows people the importance of recycling, things without value, and that you should protect . nature and nature will protect you.

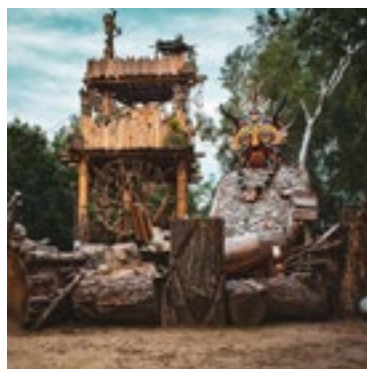
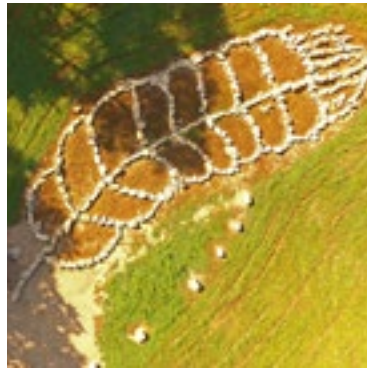


A UNIVERSE

Filled with troll magic

Often, Thomas likes to create extra elements that adds life to the story and to the troll universe. These elements can give people a hint that trolls are living in the area. The elements can be anything from a few supersized tools, artifacts, instruments and rock formations to a temple or large habitat.

Extra add-ons give people the feeling of being small and offers plenty of opportunity to crawl and play in the universe of the trolls.



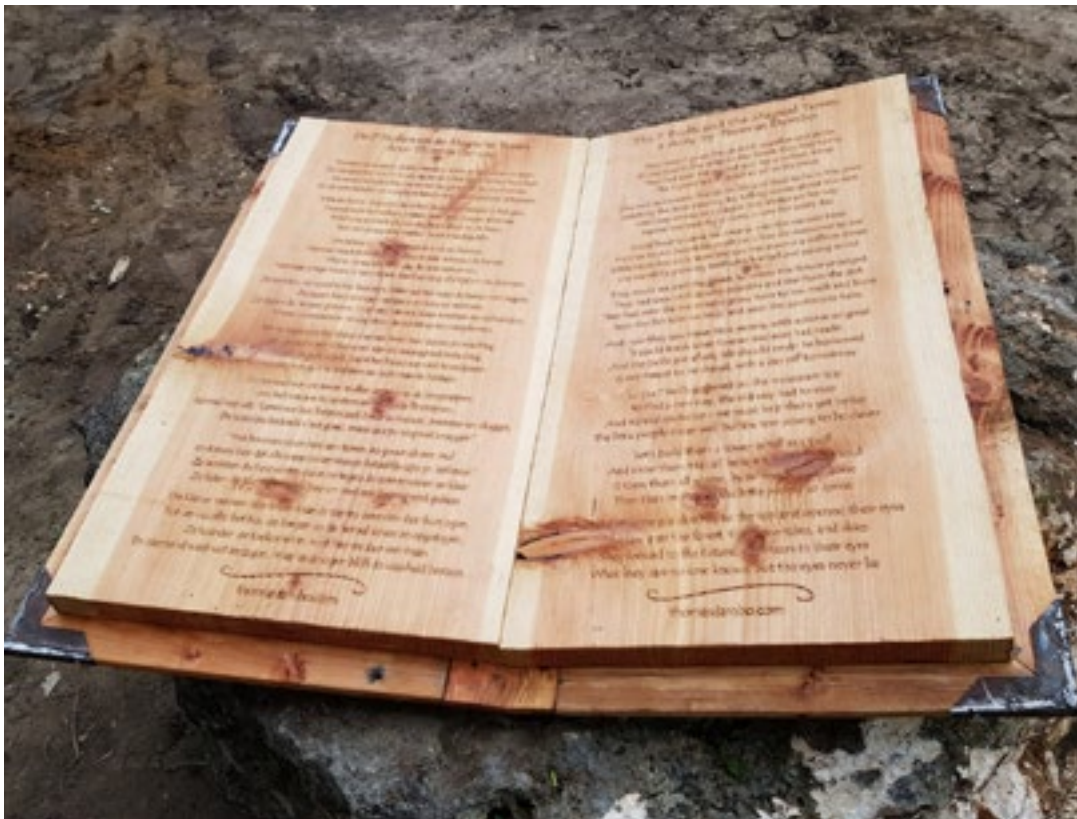
THE GREAT STORY

The Great Story of The Little People and The Giant Trolls

“The Great Story of the Little People” Is a modern day folklore story written by Thomas Dambo, one troll project at a time. Thomas uses his background as a songwriter to create stories that gives extra life and meaning to the trolls.

All of the stories are connected to the same topics of protecting nature, taking care of the world and the consequential impact the “little people” (human beings) have on nature and the world. The story is told through the eyes of the trolls, whom often wonder why the little people act the way they do.

The Great Story, connects over 70 trolls scattered throughout the world and unites stewards of sustainability, nature lovers, adventurers and art enthusiasts of all ages.



See and listen to The story of the 7 trolls and the magical tower here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCl7bU76E3Q&t>

PROCES

Parts of the trolls, together with certain elements will be made in Thomas Dambo's workshop in Copenhagen, after which they will be shipped to location, finished and installed on site by Thomas Dambo's team of approximately 6-8 people together with 2-3 local carpenters and 3-5 daily volunteers using locally sourced scrap wood and materials.



THOMAS DAMBO

Artist biography | Thomas Dambo

About Thomas Dambo

Thomas Dambo is considered the world's leading recycle artist, and is famous for his various art installations around the world, most notably his troll sculptures. His work has reached millions of people through photos, videos and stories shared online, and through international media sources such as BBC, The Huffington Post, ABC, Lonely Planet, Treehugger, El País, Reforma and many more



Thomas Dambo is one of the fastest growing personalities in the art scene of Scandinavia, and his trolls are on the lists of the most significant attractions in Denmark. He is experienced in executing large scale art projects, often in challenging natural environments. Thomas Dambo's workshop is based in Copenhagen, and includes a skilled team of professionals within the fields of fine arts and design.

PRESS

Q U O T E S f r o m p r e s s a n d p r e v i o u s p a r t n e r s

"Troll Hunt, the collection of giant recycled-wood figures crafted by latter-day Danish hippie Thomas Dambo and secreted on the grounds, turned out to be Chicago's only blockbuster museum exhibition of 2018"

- Chicago Tribune

"A posse of grand-scale wooden troll sculptures carried Morton Arboretum to the highest attendance in its 97-year history during 2018, as 1.276 million people visited the west suburban nature park."

- Chicago Tribune



"In the six month period that the giants have been installed that we have already surpassed our last year attendance record by 100,000. With six more months of the fiscal year left, we are likely to see a double/triple increase in attendance overall. Can't thank you enough."

- Jenny Zeller, Bernheim Arboretum

"The town reported that the use of one of their free shuttles busses called the Purple Route (nicknamed the "Troll Trolley"), exploded after the installation in August, jumping from 7,500 riders in October 2017 to 16,500 riders in the same month of 2018."

- Atlas Obscura

PRICING EXAMPLES



LARGE SCRAP WOOD SCULPTURE (4-5 METERS TALL)
FROM 80.000 EUROS



HUGE SCULPTURE (7-10 METER LONG), BUILT TO
RESIST HEAVY ACTIVITY, FROM 100..000 EUROS



SMALLER SCULPTURE (2.5-3 METERS TALL), PRICES
FROM 65.000 EURO



PLAYGROUND & SAFETY APPROVED SCULPTURE WITH
ENGINEERED CONSTRUCTIONS. PRICES FROM 110.000 EURO



SMALL-MEDIUM SIZE TROLL HABITAT, WITH 15-30
INSTALLATIONS, PRICES FROM 70.000 EURO



GIANT TROLL HABITAT WITH 90+ INSTALLATIONS:
FROM 180.000 EURO

PRICES INCLUDE: MATERIALS FROM THOMAS DAMBO'S WORKSHOP DURING PREFABRICATION, WORK LABOR OF THOMAS DAMBO AND TEAM, DESIGNS, LICENSING, AND ARTIST FEE.

PRICES DON'T INCLUDE: SHIPPING, TRAVEL AND ACCOMADATION, GROUND TRANSPORTATION, VISA FEES, LOCAL LABOR, FOOD FOR THOMAS DAMBO TEAM, MATERIALS, MACHINERY AND TOOLS. NEEDED ON SITE