

**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 Vlaminck

**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 eachother.

**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 pulic access to this beautiful area so that it can be enjoyed reacreationally 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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified Staff?** | **$ Amount** |
| **Personnel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dawn Vlaminck |  | 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** |

### **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 perpectual 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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/2ba4ce9a-99a.pdf)

#### ***Alternate Text for Map***

GHENT PROPOSED TRAIL IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION MAP...

#### ***Board Resolution or Letter***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| Council Resolution | [3ed42d2c-bd1.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/3ed42d2c-bd1.pdf) |

### **Optional Attachments**

#### ***Support Letter or Other***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| Lyon County Trail Plan | [9d5c7110-664.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/9d5c7110-664.pdf) |
| Letter of Support from Lyon County | [d8947810-029.docx](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/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