

**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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified 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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/fb57b9b0-a49.pdf)

#### ***Alternate Text for Visual Component***

Artist overview and examples of past commissioned pieces...

#### ***Financial Capacity***

File: [5cc1498b-027.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/financial_capacity/5cc1498b-027.pdf)

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| 5.3.22. Board meeting minutes | [56e90614-14a.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/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