



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-235

Proposal Title: WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure: Sparking Next Generation Nature Enthusiasts

Project Manager Information

Name: Sheila Boldt

Organization: WonderTrek Children's Museum

Office Telephone: (121) 883-9049

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: WonderTrek is on a mission to spark new generations of nature enthusiasts by maximizing the power of playing in nature, outdoor recreation, & citizen science from the earliest ages & up.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,158,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2028

LCCMR Funding Category: Environmental Education (C)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Central, NE,

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 enjoys a rich heritage of natural resource stewardship. Many of us working in and caring for the natural world can cite childhood experiences of exploring and playing outside, that sparked our life-long relationships with nature. Today childhood has changed, unfortunately a majority of children are not growing up playing outside in nature like previous generations. According to Sanford Health, on average US children spend just four to eight minutes a day playing outside while spending seven or more hours a day on screen. Not only is it impacting childhood outcomes such as health and well-being, it's an ominous warning for the future of conservation and preservation. The National Recreation and Parks Association states, "Those who do not spend time in nature are less likely to protect it, leaving the future of conservation, our nation's immense natural resources and America's hunting and angling legacy at risk." That is why WonderTrek is on a mission to grow new generations of nature enthusiasts by planting the seeds early. Tapping existing curricula and networks, WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure models a 360 approach to give children from birth and up regular, ample, and supported experiences that spark their life-long affinity for the great outdoors.

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.

WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure is designed to holistically connect children, their families and teachers, to a wide range of outdoor experiences to instill a life-long love of being outside. With a deep commitment to understanding and providing for children and a prime location at the gateway to lake country, WonderTrek is uniquely positioned to create new levels of access to nature play, outdoor recreation, and environmental education. After years of dedicated planning and with generous local support, WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure is a 360 immersion into the great outdoors with a 2,500 square Adventure Outfitters Studio, five-acres of nature play environments and accessible outdoor recreation, plus, a diversity of citizen science and environmental education activities. Specializing in making it fun and easy to get outside from birth and up, WonderTrek scaffolds a continuum of outdoor activity setting the disposition for life-long nature enthusiasm. From splashing in a shallow creek, to first time on cross country skis, to testing storm water qualities, WonderTrek scaffolds developmentally appropriate engagement opportunities for all ages and abilities. Combined with plentiful parking, child friendly cleaning stations, and trained environmental education staff, WonderTrek is that rare place that's irresistible to children and parent approved.

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?

WonderTrek projects to reach 40,000 children, parents, caregivers, and teachers every year through environmental education programming, 12,000 participants experiencing outdoor recreational activities such as, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, and 1,200 instances per year of youth partaking in real-world, hands-on, citizen science activities. WonderTrek will conduct surveys amongst participants, with a total goal of 1,000 within the first two years. Findings will inform environmental education program modifications and will be widely disseminated through existing networks including the coalition of MN children's museums, the Nature Network, and the MN Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights working group.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Maximizing the Power of "Nature-play" to Instill a Life-long Love of Nature from Birth and Up

Activity Budget: \$292,800

Activity Description:

At least 40,000 annual participants will experience the joys and benefits of playing in nature each year at the WonderTrek campus, sparking a life-long love of nature from birth and up. After checking in and getting outfitted with discovery packs at WonderTrek’s Adventure Outfitters Studio, explorers are naturally drawn to several acres of towering pines and scattered hardwoods. Amongst the trees, explorers discover treehouses and thickets, some high up, others easy to reach, all are connected by rope bridges, net tunnels, and treeweaves. Thickets, logs, and loose branches are perfect materials for adding on to the treehouse or building their own. Emerging from the woods, explorers encounter a landscape of hills, hollows, and hideaway places just right for rolling down, hiding away, and exploring earthen tunnels, nooks, wild flowers patches, and a grassland meadow. A playable shallow streambed with stepping stones, smaller rocks, sticks, sand, and dirt meanders into a wetland pond lined with cattails, sedges, and marsh plants. A nearby mud kitchen and sandy cove add to endless nature play. Environments and exhibits will be completed by the end of FY2026 and a minimum of 10 partner organizations will be engaged in "nature-play" activities throughout WonderTrek's 9-acre campus.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Nature-play environments and exhibits installation	June 30, 2026
Engage 5 curriculum providers and partner organizations in children's "nature-play" activities.	June 30, 2027
Engage 40,000 (general public) participants in WonderTrek's "nature-play" activities.	June 30, 2027
Engage 5 curriculum providers and partner organizations in children's "nature-play" activities.	June 30, 2028
Engage 40,000 (general public) participants in WonderTrek's "nature-play" activities.	June 30, 2028

Activity 2: Cultivating Next Generation Nature Enthusiasts Through Outdoor Recreation and Cross-Disciplinary Access Strategies for All Ages & Abilities.

Activity Budget: \$426,500

Activity Description:

Designed to scaffold developmentally accessible outdoor recreation starting at the earliest ages and continuing through life, WonderTrek’s Outdoor Adventure starts by making it easy to be active outside in every season, regardless of age, ability, or family make-up. The 9-acre campus is designed for a diversity of accessible recreational opportunities including: hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, sledding, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, ice-skating, camping, birding, biking, and climbing. Connectivity to the extensive regional paved trail system, including snowmobile trails, can add to the family outing. WonderTrek staff members are trained in outdoor recreation, child development, and family learning and are skilled at adapting proven curriculum to scaffold recreational experiences for all ages and abilities. All members of any family come with their own abilities and needs, making it difficult to really enjoy outdoor recreation all together. WonderTrek's campus is designed for the whole family, making it easier for each family member to find and follow their outdoor passions. Partnering with local recreation enthusiasts and clubs to provide demonstrations and trainings sparks interest and advancement. Tapping the Disability Foundation for adaptive equipment and specialized programming will help overcome barriers and increase access across the campus.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Engage 4000 school district students in outdoor recreational equipment activities	June 30, 2027
Host 4 Adventure Outfitter Studio outdoor recreation hands-on workshops.	June 30, 2027
Engage 5 recreational enthusiasts, local organizations, or clubs in family recreational activities.	June 30, 2027
Engage 4000 school district students in outdoor recreational equipment activities.	June 30, 2028
Host 4 Adventure Outfitter Studio outdoor recreation hands-on workshops.	June 30, 2028
Engage 5 recreational enthusiasts, local organizations, or clubs in family recreational activities.	June 30, 2028

Activity 3: Creating Earlier Entry Points for Future Environmental Scientists, Educators, and Stewards Through Citizen Science Experiences.

Activity Budget: \$438,700

Activity Description:

Environmental education through hands-on citizen science takes place throughout WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure. Studies show that active learning methods result in, on-average, a 75-90% retention of information versus simply lecturing, resulting in as little as 5% retained (The Learning Pyramid, Edgar Dale, NTL inst.). By layering hands-on scientific experiments, observations, data collection, and reportings with nature-play experiences throughout the WonderTrek campus, aims to spark new generations of conservationists, educators, and scientists. Trained staff will lead young explorers through a wide range of diverse environmental education and citizen science activities including: seasonal workshops (phenology reporting, native planting, invasive species scouting, to entomology encounters (insect), ornithology (birding), herpetology (amphibians & reptiles), bioblitz, Master Naturalist. To ensure efficacy, program staff start with proven curriculum such as: Project Wet, Project Wild, Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District testing equipment, Izaak Walton League of America Salinity test kits, Children & Nature Network, National Wildlife Federation, Triangle Land Conservancy, National Environmental Education Foundation, Audubon Adventures, Cornell Lab of Ornithology K-12 Education Program, Leopold Education Project, EPA Educator Resource Center, Encyclopedia of Life, US Forest Service Educator Toolbox, Kids Gardening, National Geographic Explorer Classroom, and others. WonderTrek's Adventure Outfitters Studio serves as the centralized hub for all citizen science programming.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
'Enrollment in the Minnesota B3 Guidelines Tracking Tool'	July 31, 2025
'Consultation with SHPO'	July 31, 2025
"Complete Predesign Review through the Dept. of Administration"	July 31, 2025
Engage 1,200 participants in hands-on citizen science programming.	June 30, 2027
Host 4 seasonal hands-on children's citizen-science workshops.	June 30, 2027
6 Partnership meetings with other children's museums or environmental orgs.	June 30, 2027
500 participant surveys are collected, analyzed and shared amongst partners.	June 30, 2027
Engage 1,200 participants in hands-on citizen science programming.	June 30, 2028
Host 4 seasonal hands-on children's citizen-science workshops.	June 30, 2028
6 Partnership meetings with other children's museums or environmental orgs.	June 30, 2028
500 participant surveys are collected, analyzed and shared amongst partners.	June 30, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Peter Olson	WonderTrek Children's Museum	Museum Project Director	No
Heidi Hahn	Brainerd Independent School District 181, Superintendent	Educational Partnership	No
Keri Haul	Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Trails Area Supervisor	Compliance & Educational Partnership	No
Tim Terril	The Mississippi Headwaters Board	Educational Partnership	No
Quinn Swanson	Happy Dancing Turtle, Executive Director	Educational Partnership	No
Rachel Long	Ashdown Forest School	Educational Partnership	No
Jon Mobek	The National Loon Center	Educational & Equipment Partnership	No
Eleanor Burkette	Brainerd Lakes Area MN Master Naturalists	Educational Partner & Volunteers	No
Christina Kickhafer	Roots & Wings Forest School	Educational Partnership	No
Louis Dickmeyer	Greater Minnesota Children's Museum Coalition	Educational Partnership	No
David Northbird	The Leech Lake Boys & Girls Club	Educational Partnership	No
Trevor Pumnea	The Northland Arboretum	Educational Partnership	Yes
Judd Brinks	Bee Nay She Bird Council	Educational Partnership	No
Haley Blank	Brainerd Parks & Recreation	Venue Provider	No
Melissa Barrick	Baxter Parks & Trails Commission	Venue Provider	No
Melissa Barrick	Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District	Educational Partnership	No

Cheryal Hills	Region 5 Development Commission	Connecting to Regional Priorities & Resources	No
Paul Drange	Sourcewell	Predominant Funder & Networking with Regional School Districts	No
Darrel Olson	City of Baxter, Mayor	Regional Promotion	No
David Badeau	City of Brainerd, Mayor	Regional Promotion	No
Marisa Bengtson-Loerzel	The Arc Minnesota	Educational Partnership & Design Recommendations (based on intellectual & developmental disability accessibility)	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?

WonderTrek has secured more than \$5.5MM in funding from multiple sources including Sourcewell, Nor-Son, Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union, Essentia Health, Riverwood Bank, Happy Dancing Turtle, and additional public sources. LCCMR funding will allow WonderTrek to activate full operations of WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure, generating 60% of operating costs through earned income. In addition, sponsorships, events, access drives, grants, and school visit scholarships provided by Sourcewell will ensure the annual budget is realistic and sustainable. On-going development work and partnerships with existing environmental education curriculum providers will ensure programming remains current and effective over time.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Sheila Boldt

Job Title: WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure: Sparking Next Generation Nature Enthusiasts

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

Sheila Boldt has worked in the natural resource field since 2006 in the very city, Baxter, MN, where this outdoor museum is proposed for development. From a variety of grants successfully received (MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grants (SWAG) 2016-2022 & LCCMR 2018, Protecting North Central Minnesota Lakes, Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09h) to on-the-ground field work implementing those grants with citizen-led water testing, volunteer and intern coordination and proper work plan reporting, Sheila has the experience and expertise to see this project through from start to finish. Along with grant management experience, a personal passion to bring well-coordinated, community building, Central Minnesota outdoor education for all, is what will drive true success. The board & staff of WonderTrek are well organized, motivated & focused to see this project through completion. With a great team of staff and state, regional and local partnerships, the sky is the limit for WonderTrek and they are ready to showcase their dedication to this project.

Organization: WonderTrek Children's Museum

Organization Description:

WonderTrek is on a mission to spark a new generation of nature enthusiasts by maximizing the power of playing in nature, outdoor recreation & citizen science from the earliest ages & up. With over 5.5MM raised, WonderTrek is preparing to break ground on phase 1 of its 9-acre campus, "WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure". Located alongside HWY 371 on a wooded parcel in Baxter, the highly visible WonderTrek campus is Lake Country's new gateway to play. Part of what makes WonderTrek so special is its strong connection to the natural beauty and outdoor spirit of North Central Minnesota. Today, too many children grow up with limited playtime in natural settings. Through reaching more than

22,000 participants with mobile programming across seven counties, WonderTrek knows the challenges families and schools face in providing children ample time outside. That is why great care has gone into designing a site that inspires visitors of any age or ability to get outside. With innovative indoor-outdoor design techniques, environmental education curriculum partnerships, and self-directed learning experiences that start inside and continue right outside, WonderTrek makes being outdoors fun, easy, and for everyone. Now, LCCMR funding is the final piece in making WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure a reality.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Outdoor Adventure Program Supervisor		Refine, coordinate, and oversee all aspects of Outdoor Adventure programming & project management. Will oversee adaption of proven environmental education curriculum, such as Project Wet, Project Wild, Leopold Education Project, and several others.			30%	1.5		\$162,000
Outdoor Adventure Program Lead		Lead organizing events, adapting curriculum, and engaging visitors in nature-play, outdoor recreation & citizen science programs. With the oversight of the Program Supervisor, will adapt proven environmental education curriculum, such as Project Wet, Project Wild, Leopold Education Project, and several others.			30%	1.5		\$127,000
Outdoor Adventure Program Assistant		Assist implementation of events and engaging visitors in nature-play, outdoor recreation & citizen science programs. With the oversight of the Program Supervisor and Program Lead, will implement proven environmental education curriculum, such as Project Wet, Project Wild, Leopold Education Project, and several others.			25%	1.5		\$82,000
							Sub Total	\$371,000
Contracts and Services								
Northland Arboretum	Sub award	Treehouses and Thickets is community engagement program between WonderTrek, Northland Arboretum, children, volunteers, and community partners, to create an installation of treehouses among the trees, connected by rope bridges and wooden platforms, providing places that children make their own through storytelling, placemaking with nature play.				0.25		\$25,000
Northland Arboretum	Sub award	Posts and Platforms is a community engagement program between WonderTrek, Northland Arboretum, children, volunteers, and community partners to make together an installation that is a				0.25		\$25,000

		blend of trees, shrubs, and partially complete structures with strategically placed posts to facilitate construction and transformation for children take ownership of these places.						
Northland Arboretum	Sub award	Pollinator Gardens: These gardens are planted to emphasize the important role that pollinators play in maintaining a healthy and diverse world, including food production. Working with local experts from the Northland Arboretum, plant selection is based on local growing conditions and native plants.				0.3		\$18,000
							Sub Total	\$68,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	Snowshoes (40)	Necessary for winter outdoor recreational experiences with the wetlands pond, especially in large, diverse, group settings.					\$4,800
	Equipment	Canoes (3)	Necessary for summer outdoor recreational experiences with the wetlands pond, especially in large, diverse, group settings.					\$4,900
	Equipment	Kayaks & Paddles (5)	Necessary for summer outdoor recreational experiences with the wetlands pond, especially in large, diverse, group settings.					\$4,000
	Equipment	Paddle Boards & Paddles (10)	Necessary for summer outdoor recreational experiences with the wetlands pond, especially in large, diverse, group settings.					\$3,600
	Equipment	Non-permeant (movable) Storage Tote/Cabinetry	To prolong the life of small tools, equipment and provide quick access for staff.					\$2,100
	Equipment	Life Jackets (45)	Necessary for summer outdoor recreational experiences with the wetlands pond, especially in large, diverse, group settings.					\$3,600
	Equipment	Sandy Cove Sun Sail	Sun sail canopy to extend the time children and parents explore the Sandy Cove on hot days					\$4,800

	Tools and Supplies	Mud Kitchen Tools & Equipment	Tools and supplies, some purchased off the shelf, others customized, stock the outdoor nature-play “Mud Kitchen”. Children, starting as toddlers, thrill at exploring the qualities of tools and supplies and then putting them to use in their nature play. They use these tools in enumerable ways, like discovering the properties of mud, mixing dirt and water to make mud, ways to mold and form the mud, and ways to customize mud textures. It’s all about developmentally appropriate ways for young children and their caregivers to enjoy experiences in nature from the earliest ages. In a diversity of materials and sizes, pots, pans, bakeware, utensils, and lots of mud make this a unique dramatic play experience.					\$4,200
	Equipment	Treehouse 1	Co-created with children, these themed treehouses are built among the trees, connected by rope bridges and wooden platforms, providing places that children make their own through storytelling, placemaking with natural props like small tree stumps, leaves, tree branches. Tree house 1 is themed Entomology (birds).					\$4,900
	Equipment	Treehouse 2	Co-created with children, these themed treehouses are built among the trees, connected by rope bridges and wooden platforms, providing places that children make their own through storytelling, placemaking with natural props like small tree stumps, leaves, tree branches. Tree house 1 is themed Dendrology (trees).					\$4,400
	Equipment	Treehouse 3	Co-created with children, these themed treehouses are built among the trees, connected by rope bridges and wooden platforms, providing places that					\$4,200

			children make their own through storytelling, placemaking with natural props like small tree stumps, leaves, tree branches. Tree house 3 is themed entomology (insects).					
	Tools and Supplies	General Outdoor Equipment (Binoculars (35), Compasses (35), Adventure Packs (18))	Tools and supplies to support orienteering, birding, and environmental education curriculum. In addition, explorers can check-out tools and supplies from the Adventure Outfitters Studio.					\$4,100
	Tools and Supplies	Citizen Science Outfitting	Science and environmental education come to life in the Adventure Outfitters Studio. Equipment, materials, and prompts make it easy for WonderTrek's guests to become active contributors to Minnesota's efforts to sustain, protect, and conserve our natural resources. Partnerships with Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation, KAXE Phenology reporting, the Mississippi River Headwaters Board, and other organizations provide a diversity of ways for participants of any age to get in on the fun of citizen science.					\$3,200
	Equipment	Child-friendly Zip Line	Zip Line This landscape is a blend of trees, shrubs, and partially complete structures with strategically placed posts to facilitate construction and transformation. A zipline runs down the middle of this area, providing a surprising and delightful way to move around the space. This is where children become place makers, creating their own worlds. .					\$4,500
	Tools and Supplies	Nature Play Exploration Loose Parts	Loose parts: An abundance of authentic building materials makes this a rich and open-ended experience for children: tarps, fabrics, rope, lumber, branches, boards, and clamps are all available for building. This space is constantly					\$2,300

			changing as new projects are under construction every day, directed by the children who are visiting that day. Staff are present to support the interests and needs of visitors.					
							Sub Total	\$59,600
Capital Expenditures								
		Cross-country Ski Supplies (ski, poles, goggles & helmets) (40)	Necessary for winter outdoor recreational experiences, especially in large, diverse, group settings.	X				\$34,400
		Environmental Education Wetlands Pond (Exhibit)	Wetlands Pond: Grasses, sedges, and cattails abound on one end of the stream bed where water pools and marsh plants grow. The transition between the land, the pond, and the stream afford children new investigations into the natural ecosystems and how one zone blends and impacts the other. The pond will cover about one acre, accessed from a shallow shore or floating dock. During the winter months, the pond can be transformed for ice skating.	X				\$175,000
		Outdoor Stream Bed Exhibit	Stream Bed: A focal point of the outdoor space, a shallow stream bed meanders through and around the landscape. Playing in the stream is encouraged here and children will get wet. Sticks, rocks, and dirt provide the materials for exploring water: constructing devices to direct the water, observing how water changes materials, and discovering what happens to water when it encounters sticks, rocks, or roots. Logs and rocks, both fabricated and natural, line the edges of the stream, and provide just the right landing surface for exploring the stream if visitors don't want to get into the stream.	X				\$215,000

		Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage	Adventure Trail Signage: WonderTrek Adventure holds many destinations. Here, at the east end of the building, is where families decide which way to go, guided by wayfinding signs and maps with place names. For groups, this can function as a staging area, a place to stop and get organized before heading out. Trail and path signs throughout the campus relay important wayfinding information, topical environmental education information, and parent tips for supporting childrens nature exploration.	X				\$28,000
		Tree Weaves, Rope Bridges, & Rope Tunnels	Tree Weaves, Rope Bridges, and Rope Tunnels: A state-of-the-art "nature play" experience that connects explorers to nature like nowhere else in Minnesota. Utilizing the mature woods already on site, Rope tunnels, Tree Weave netting, and Rope Bridges provide for ending exploration and discovery between as climbers traverse through the woodland canopy.	X				\$172,000
		Environmental Education Gathering Place	Stone Hearth: Built with local stone and rock, this large working hearth serves as a landmark and a central gathering place. It is a spot for comfort, safe risk, and connecting with previous generations: making and tending campfires, cooking, providing warmth during the cold months, and a backdrop for programs like storytelling.	X				\$35,000
							Sub Total	\$659,400
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	\$1,158,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		Cross-country Ski Supplies (ski, poles, goggles & helmets) (40)	The equipment necessary for outdoor recreational activities with large groups does come at a necessary cost to reach the museum's program goals. Additional Explanation : This recreational equipment is intended to remain on-site the children's museum for perpetual use by program participants. WonderTrek Museum provides a commitment to pay back the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund an amount equal to either the cash value received, or a residual value approved by the LCCMR director if it is sold.
Capital Expenditures		Environmental Education Wetlands Pond (Exhibit)	Connecting children, parents, care-givers, and teachers to accessible natural environments is critical to the future of conservancy, this program, and makes this exhibit necessary to reach the goals, vision and mission of WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure. Additional Explanation : The exhibit will serve WonderTrek's participants perpetually. WonderTrek's general budget will provide for regular maintenance and upkeep to sustain through heavy usage. If needed, WonderTrek will pursue additional funding to replace or upgrade if any portion of the exhibit degrades beyond repair. WonderTrek Museum provides a commitment to pay back the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund an amount equal to either the cash value received, or a residual value approved by the LCCMR director if it is sold.
Capital Expenditures		Outdoor Stream Bed Exhibit	Connecting children, parents, care-givers, and teachers to accessible natural environments is critical to the future of conservancy, this program, and makes this exhibit necessary to reach the goals, vision and mission of WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure. Additional Explanation : The exhibit will serve WonderTrek's participants perpetually. WonderTrek's general budget will provide for regular maintenance and upkeep to sustain through heavy usage. If needed, WonderTrek will pursue additional funding to replace or upgrade if any portion of the exhibit degrades beyond repair. WonderTrek Museum provides a commitment to pay back the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund an amount equal to either the cash value received, or a residual value approved by the LCCMR director if it is sold.
Capital Expenditures		Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage	Wayfinding and interpretive signage is an important element in connecting children, parents, care-givers, and teachers to accessible natural environments, which is critical to this program and foundational to the Mission of WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure. Additional Explanation : The signage will serve museum participants perpetually until any portion of the materials used to develop reach their expected lifespan. WonderTrek Museum provides a commitment to pay back the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund an amount equal to either the cash value received, or a residual value

			approved by the LCCMR director if it is sold.
Capital Expenditures		Tree Weaves, Rope Bridges, & Rope Tunnels	<p>A necessary component of the "nature play" exhibit to reach the goals, vision and mission of WonderTrek Children's Museum.</p> <p>Additional Explanation : Tree Weaves, Rope Bridges, and Rope Tunnels: A state-of-the-art "nature play" experience that connects explorers to nature like nowhere else in Minnesota. Utilizing the mature woods already on site, Rope tunnels, Tree Weave netting, and Rope Bridgects provide for ending exploration and discovery between as climbers travers through the woodland canopy.</p>
Capital Expenditures		Environmental Education Gathering Place	<p>Having an attractive, year-round outdoor gathering space is an important element in connecting children, parents, care-givers, and teachers to accessible natural environments, which is essential this program, and makes this exhibit necessary to reach the goals, vision and mission of WonderTrek's Outdoor Adventure.</p> <p>Additional Explanation : The exhibit will serve WonderTrek's participants perpetually. WonderTrek's general budget will provide for regular maintenance and upkeep to sustain through heavy usage. If needed, WonderTrek will pursue additional funding to replace or upgrade if any portion of the exhibit degrades beyond repair. WonderTrek Museum provides a commitment to pay back the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund an amount equal to either the cash value received, or a residual value approved by the LCCMR director if it is sold.</p>

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Sourcewell	Capital project donor supplying funds for phase 1 capital project build-out	Secured	\$3,922,000
Cash	Nor-Son	Capital project donor supplying funds for phase 1 capital project build-out	Secured	\$50,000
Cash	Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union	Capital project donor supplying funds for phase 1 capital project build-out	Secured	\$50,000
Cash	Essentia Health	Capital project donor supplying funds for phase 1 capital project build-out	Secured	\$50,000
Cash	Riverwood Bank	Capital project donor supplying funds for phase 1 capital project build-out	Secured	\$50,000
Cash	Happy Dancing Turtle	Capital project donor supplying funds for phase 1 capital project build-out	Secured	\$50,000
Cash	Orb Management	Capital project donor supplying funds for phase 1 capital project build-out	Secured	\$30,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$4,202,000
			Funds Total	\$4,202,000

Total Project Cost: \$5,360,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [bece67bf-5a5.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

WonderTrek Children's Museum Phase 1 (focus project for this round of funding request) & Phase 2 Site Plan...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Attorney General Annual Report Confirmation	1d021a81-069.pdf
WonderTrek Children's Museum 990	ad1415ed-f10.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
WonderTrek Children's Museum 2024-Mar 27 SIGNED LCCMR Resolution	622f3507-ec0.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
WonderTrek Children's Museum Handout	3f276900-898.pdf
Letter of Support, Independent School District 181	c9b20eb5-5d5.pdf
Letter of Support, National Loon Center in Crosslake, MN	48c19969-60c.jpe
Letter of Support, City of Baxter, MN	ec1b2af5-f93.pdf
WonderTrek Host Organization List (have partnered on education)	ee90c07e-acb.pdf
WonderTrek Children's Museum Pre-existing Programming Activity 1	46a414ec-216.pdf
WonderTrek Children's Museum Pre-existing Programming Activity 2	4ba8a256-879.pdf
WonderTrek Children's Museum Pre-existing Programming Activity 3	a2c6a799-b0b.pdf
WonderTrek Visitor Experience Compendium	f421aac9-a59.pdf
WonderTrek Children's Museum Captial Construction Project - Budget Addendum	7f99ef18-517.pdf
WonderTrek_Childrens_Museum_capital_construction_project_questionnaire	1c22bc9f-e49.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

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

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Sheila Boldt, Boldt Pine Haven (private contractor for grant writing on behalf of WonderTrek Children's Museum)

