



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-104

Proposal Title: Lost Creek Hiking Trail Facilities Development

Project Manager Information

Name: Timothy Gossman

Organization: Bluff Country Hiking Club

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: To build infrastructure to support the Lost Creek Trail, specifically installation of one composting toilet within a small weathertight structure.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$9,000

Proposed Project Completion: October 31, 2026

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

Project Location

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

Region(s): SE

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

Region(s): SE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Narrative

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

The Lost Creek Hiking Trail, built in 2011, provides access for hiking across 6.5 miles of private and public lands, starting in Chatfield, and running west, deep into rural Jordan Township. The trail stands as an example of a successful endeavor requiring cooperation between volunteers, private land owners, and city and county civic groups. The rural west end of the trail is remote; 6.5 miles and potentially a 3 hour hike away from any public restroom. This proposal aims to place the toilet at the current Jordan Township Hall. The recently community-renovated Hall supports meetings for civic, education, and social events.

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.

A compostable toilet would provide environmentally safe restroom facilities in the remote rural area that lacks access to running water. A solid weathertight structure built over the toilet provides protection from the elements and privacy. Having a designated area for people to relieve themselves saves these activities from needing to be accomplished on private land.

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?

The protected composting toilet provides environmentally-safe management of human waste. As other trails, such as the Minnesota Driftless Hiking Trail are developed in southeast Minnesota, the project will demonstrate the feasibility of composting toilets in remote rural areas, specifically those areas that do not have available infrastructure for running water or access for a pumping truck. The composted waste can be disposed of on site adding nutrition to the soil.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Installation of Composting Outhouse

Activity Budget: \$9,000

Activity Description:

Obtain the composting toilet and build a structure to contain it.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Purchase Composting Toilet	August 31, 2026
Construction of Outhouse	September 30, 2026
Installation of the toilet and training of community volunteers	October 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?

Volunteers would service the outhouse. Our current engaged and numerous trail volunteers maintain the trail by clearing downed trees, mowing accessible paths, repairing damage from extreme weather events, building bridges, and updating maps and signage. The maintenance of the outhouse would be added to list of responsibilities for the volunteer corps.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Timothy Gossman

Job Title: Project Manager

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

Currently employed as an agricultural lender for a local bank. Serves as a Supervisor for the Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District. Experience managing and developing Savanna Spring Nature Area located at Chatfield Public School used for education on native species and ecosystems. This community project included management of state and federal grants. Received and successfully executed a SHIP grant used primarily for installation of signage on the Lost Creek Hiking Trail.

Organization: Bluff Country Hiking Club

Organization Description:

The Bluff Country Hiking Club maintains and promotes the Lost Creek Hiking Trail. Our mission is to promote stewardship, to provide education, and to encourage appreciation of our natural resources while improving the health of our community through the development and promotion of hiking and snowshoeing trails in Southeastern Minnesota. The Lost Creek Hiking Trail is a natural surface hiking path that traverses 6.5 miles of public and private land accessible to the general public.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Carpenter	Service Contract	Building the structure of the outhouse				0		\$5,500
							Sub Total	\$5,500
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	Composting Toilet	Toilet for the outhouse					\$3,500
							Sub Total	\$3,500
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
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	\$9,000

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				
In-Kind	Bluff Country Hiking Club	Cleaning and maintenance of composting toilet at \$200 per year x 10 years	Pending	\$2,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$2,000
			Funds Total	\$2,000

Total Project Cost: \$11,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [967adc69-466.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

A map showing the route of the Lost Creek Hiking Trail from Chatfield, Minnesota to rural Jordan Township, Fillmore County, Minnesota. In the Supplemental Attachments, there is a brochure describing the Lost Creek Hiking Trail. These are also available on our website: bluffcountryhikingclub.org...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
BCHC 2024 990-N	db7ce8d1-9ef.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
LCCMR Letter of Support	c9ed4a40-cab.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
LCHT Brochure	fe9dcc2d-d25.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

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?

Yes, Bluff Country Hiking Club

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")?

No

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

None

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand