



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

### 2026 Request for Proposal

#### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2026-232

**Proposal Title:** Hermantown Community Connector Trail- 2026 Segments

#### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Trish Crego

**Organization:** City of Hermantown

**Office Telephone:** (218) 729-3613

**Email:** tcrego@hermantownmn.com

#### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** The proposed project is for 2.83 miles of trail which are part of an overall 9 mile trail system throughout the City of Hermantown.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$2,352,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** November 30, 2026

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

#### 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?**

Region(s): NE

**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.**

This proposal expands outdoor recreational opportunities through the development of culturally relevant, accessible, and resilient outdoor recreation infrastructure. More specifically, it expands outdoor recreational opportunities by connecting the existing Hermantown Community Connector Trail system trail segments built in 2021, 2019, and 2023. This proposal will fill a critical gap in the regional trail system, the 9 miles within Hermantown are part of the overall 16 mile Proctor-Hermantown Munger Trail Spur, which is a recognized master plan by the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission.

This proposal will assist Minnesota in achieving reliance on nonpolluting, renewable energy in all sectors, including transportation. This project specifically aims to increase non-motorized transportation routes by connecting Hermantown, Proctor, Duluth and the Willard Munger Trail. Safe, appropriate infrastructure is critical if non-motorized transportation is going to continue to expand between urban and rural areas.

**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.**

The requested proposal is for construction of segments 3 (0.85mi) and 4 (0.8 mi) of a 10' wide paved non-motorized and ADA compliant trail within the City of Hermantown. These trail segments are located between Hermantown Road. and Stebner Road and will provide a connection between two trail segments built in 2021 and thus completing and enhancing a 4.2 mile trail connection. The new trail segments would also complete the much-needed connection between Stebner and Keene Creek Parks.

With the construction of segments 3 and 4, the access points would more than double and provide a touch down point with the City of Duluth. The Cities of Hermantown, Duluth and Proctor are continuing to discuss how this built trail system in Hermantown can be extended to the south and west in order to eventually link to the Willard Munger Trail.

**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 trail project will assist Minnesota in achieving reliance on nonpolluting, renewable transportation alternatives by creating safe, non-motorized route in the Twin Ports area. The additional trail will increase outdoor recreational opportunities through additions and connections to regional and local parks and trails. This trail project will decrease social, economic, and physical barriers to outdoor recreation for the residents of Hermantown, Proctor, Duluth and the surrounding areas.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Design and Land Acquisition activities

**Activity Budget:** \$815,000

**Activity Description:**

Acquire property and easement for trail

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Public meetings	September 30, 2025
Easement equitation	November 30, 2025
Design	December 31, 2025

### Activity 2: Bidding and Construction

**Activity Budget:** \$1,537,000

**Activity Description:**

Bid and Construct Trail

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Approve plans	March 31, 2026
Bid	April 30, 2026
Construction Complete	October 31, 2026

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Legacy Parks and Trails funding	Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission	Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (often referred to as the Legacy Amendment) in 2008, taking historic action to impose a three-eighths of one percent state sales tax to protect and enhance Minnesota's parks and trails, water quality, natural resources and arts and cultural heritage.	Yes
YMCA at the Essentia Wellness Center	Duluth Area Family YMCA	User and supporter	No
Greater Minnesota Transportation Alternatives	Minnesota Department of Transportation	The Transportation Alternatives Solicitation replaces the funding from historical programs including Transportation Enhancements, Scenic Byways, Safe Routes to School, and several other discretionary programs with a competitive program to be developed by states.	Yes
Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bikeways Plan	Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC)	We partner with elected officials, planners, engineers, businesses, and residents to envision and plan for an effective and equitable transportation system. Covering everything from roads to port facilities to bike paths.	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 results will be building sections of the trail in the year 2026. There are several other funding sources that are to be utilized for this section of the trail system including GMRPTC funding, MNDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant, and a special sales tax. The City of Hermantown, through a 1/2% sales tax increase approved by the residents in 2022, has \$4,500,000 designated for trail segment construction within Hermantown. These several sources of funding will not only help to build the trail but maintain it the future it as well.

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Trish Crego

**Job Title:** Utility and Infrastructure Director

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

U&I Director has the responsibility to coordinate and oversee contract construction activities of city improvement and maintenance projects.

**Organization:** City of Hermantown

**Organization Description:**

On February 11, 1975, the Municipal Commission declared that the Town of Herman could become the City of Hermantown on December 31 of that year.

Since that point, the City of Hermantown has grown to more than 10,000 residents and become well-known for its balance of country living and proximity to large-city amenities. Still centered around strong schools, Hermantown also features growing business opportunities, outdoor experiences, and a tight-knit community.

Over the past several years, Hermantown has been one of the few growing communities in northern Minnesota. This growth is due to the vast array of quality of experiences provided in the community, as well as forward-looking planning

that continues to show a bright future for Hermantown.

Like our community, our parks and trails are growing in Hermantown. Our city-wide, long-term plan connects key areas of Hermantown via trails, so that our parks are connected for your use. And we are connected to the great trails and parks that are a part of our neighboring communities.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineli gible	% Bene fits	# FTE	Class ified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
Civil Engineer		Design and manage project		X	0%	2,340		\$282,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$282,000</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
SRF Real Estate	Acquisition services	Acquisition of Easement, property, and ROW for the trail		X		1,560		\$74,000
Construction Contractor	Service Contract	Construct the trail				1,500		\$600,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$674,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
	Tools and Supplies	Excavation and Fill	Trail Construction					\$601,000
	Tools and Supplies	Trail Bituminous material	Trail Construction					\$475,000
	Tools and Supplies	Culverts	Drainage Trail Construction					\$115,000
	Tools and Supplies	Top Soil and Seeding	Permanent Stabilization for Trail Construction					\$38,000
	Equipment	Benches and Signage	Amenities for Trail					\$87,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,316,000</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
	Trail Easement Acquisition	Parcels: 6 Miles: 1.5						\$80,000

							Sub Total	\$80,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$2,352,000

## Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
<b>Personnel</b> - Civil Engineer		Design and manage project	Covered by Community Registration Initiative funding
<b>Contracts and Services</b> - SRF Real Estate	Acquisition services	Acquisition of Easement, property, and ROW for the trail	Covered by Community Registration Initiative funding



## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
<b>State</b>				
In-Kind	GMRPTC	The funding is planned 2026//2027 work on two segments from the Lavaque Junction /Ugstad Road intersection to the Stebner Road//Maple Grove intersection. This 2.83-mile trail will connect two existing segments built in 2021 and 2023.	Secured	\$950,000
In-Kind	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant Funding	The grant is for proposed project is for 2.83 miles of trail, which are part of an overall 9 mile trail system throughout the City of Hermantown known as the City of Hermantown Community Connector Trail, which in turn is part of the 16 mile Proctor-Hermantown Munger Trail Spur master plan	Secured	\$540,000
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,490,000</b>
<b>Non-State</b>				
In-Kind	Community Registration Initiative funding	This is funding voted and approved in 2023 as a half-percent increase to Hermantown's local option sales tax. The increase moved Hermantown's sales tax to 8.875%, which is the same as neighboring Duluth. The change occurred on April 1, 2023, following several process steps by the City of Hermantown and communication to local businesses by the State of Minnesota. The funding help pay for the Trail System, the hockey arena, and Fichtner Park updates.	Secured	\$600,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$2,090,000</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$4,442,000**

**This amount accurately reflects total project cost?**

Yes

## Acquisition and Restoration

### Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
395-0010-03770	St. Louis	Trail Easement	Easement - Other	1.23	-	\$15,000	Private	City of Hermantown	Has Not Begun
395-0010-04100	St. Louis	Trail and utility easement	Easement - Other	1.5	-	\$20,000	Private	City of Hermantown	Negotiations In Progress
395-0010-04102	St. Louis	Easement for Trail	Easement - Other	0.25	-	\$5,000	Private	City of Hermantown	Has Not Begun
395-0010-04110	St. Louis	Trail and Utility Easement	Easement - Other	3.5	-	\$40,000	Private	City of Hermantown	Negotiations In Progress
<b>Totals</b>				<b>6.48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>			

## 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.**

The selection process for the parcels was three factors. One, the parcels connected many of the city's amenities, ie three parks, the schools, and the community center. Two, the parcels provided a logical connection between several neighborhoods and the natural environment. Three, several of the parcels will have a combined trail and utility easement on them providing infrastructure to the community in more than one way.

**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.**

<https://dsmic.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/DS-Metro-Bikeways-Plan-Final-20MB.pdf>

[https://www.hermantownmn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2016-01-21\\_Master\\_Plan\\_Document.pdf](https://www.hermantownmn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2016-01-21_Master_Plan_Document.pdf)

[https://grmptc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=9234f900d7c24d38977dbcb928d4ac77&center=-95.3008;46.9133&level=10&hiddenLayers=shp\\_trans\\_regional\\_trails\\_exst\\_plan\\_shapefile\\_4123](https://grmptc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=9234f900d7c24d38977dbcb928d4ac77&center=-95.3008;46.9133&level=10&hiddenLayers=shp_trans_regional_trails_exst_plan_shapefile_4123)

**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.**

The proposed trail system plans will minimize damage to the natural environment as it the one of the main assets to the trail. However, the plans will also include a SWPPP to protect the environment from erosion control and establish permanent native vegetative cover.

As part of previous funding sources, the trail system is required to be maintained and accessible year-round. The city has passed resolutions and hired additional staff that require this maintenance to be upheld.

**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.**

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Map*

File: [83c08676-f94.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

This map is for the 2026-2028 portions of the trail project see supplemental attachments for the overall map...

#### *Financial Capacity*

Title	File
Hermantown Audit 2023	<a href="#">7d191a6c-f86.pdf</a>
City of Hermantown Digital Budget Book	<a href="#">4bb7f571-60d.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Resolution	<a href="#">38c9f2eb-f2d.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
YMCA Letter of Support	<a href="#">85a27fdc-e63.pdf</a>
City trail map	<a href="#">3458b893-5ab.pdf</a>
Trail Future Location	<a href="#">f315f195-42b.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

Yes: Easement (Other) Acquisition,

**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?**

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

**Is the purpose of the acquisition for construction of a building(s), trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration, either now or in the future?**

Yes

**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:**

Trish Crego, Utility & Infrastructure Director for the City of Hermantown

**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

