



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

### 2026 Request for Proposal

#### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2026-287

**Proposal Title:** Minnesota State Trails Development

#### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Kent Skaar

**Organization:** MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

**Office Telephone:** (651) 259-5636

**Email:** kent.skaar@state.mn.us

#### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** This project proposes to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the development of select new State Trail Segments.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$6,500,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2030

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

#### Project Location

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

Statewide

**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.**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is legislatively authorized under MS 85.015 to establish, develop, maintain and operate those State Trails or State Trail systems specifically identified. As defined by MS. 85.015 the authorized State Trail System is to consist of more than 2600-miles of dedicated State Trail when complete. Presently the MN DNR has developed and administers more than 1300-miles of improved recreational state trail, including paved, gravel and natural surfaces on a total of 24 separate authorized State Trails or State Trail systems. This Project proposes the improvement and expansion of the State Trail system through the development of two new State Trail Segments and the development of one new Trail Bridge on three State Trails. The new state trail segments and State Trail bridge identified for this project have been prioritized based on user interest, partner participation and identified by the MNDNR as opportunities enhance and expand the recreational experiences provided by the Minnesota State Trail System and connections to destinations locations along the individual State Trails. As proposed, this project is to result in the development of 5.8 miles of new State Trail and the installation of a new State Trail Bridge.

**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.**

This proposal will provide for the completion of the required engineering, design and construction of a new State Trail Bridge to be located on the Minnesota River State Trail and the development of 5.8 miles of new, paved recreational state trail, including 4.2 miles on the Glacial Lakes State Trail and 1.6 miles along the Minnesota Valley State Trail. The new proposed Minnesota River State Trail Bridge will carry a new State Trail segment over the Pomme De Terre River, west of the community of Appleton. The remaining two projects, located on the Minnesota Valley and Glacial Lakes State Trails, each representing the development of new State Trail segments, are currently in-progress with the final construction plans scheduled to be complete in 2025. The Glacial Lakes State Trail development as proposed will provide a direct off-road trail connection between the existing Glacial Lakes State Trail in the City of New London and Sibley State Park. The completion of the 1.6 mile segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail will provide for both an expansion of the State Trail within the community of Bloomington but will also provide for a critical connection to the Community 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?**

This proposal will result in the completion of the formal engineering and construction necessary to construct a single new State Trail Bridge and new trail segments on the Minnesota River, Minnesota Valley and Glacial Lakes State Trails. The required engineering and design for the new Minnesota Valley and Glacial Lakes State Trail segments is currently underway. All three projects will be designed to limit unnecessary resource impacts, enhance resources and provide for unique recreational experiences. Each of the projects is considered a priority and identified as critical connections by the local communities, trail users and the MNDNR.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Minnesota River State Trail Bridge Development

**Activity Budget:** \$2,000,000

**Activity Description:**

This project proposes the development of a new trail bridge that will carry the Minnesota River State Trail over the Pomme de Terre River, approximately 3 miles southwest of Appleton, Swift County. This bridge represents a critical component of the 4.5-mile trail segment that is to extend between Appleton and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Minnesota River Recreational Area. Currently the State Trail terminates approximately 2.5 miles west of Appleton and 1 mile east of the proposed bridge location. This bridge is to be constructed on a former access road, abandoned and breached for the restoration of the historic Pomme de Terre River channel in association with the reconstruction of the Minnesota River / Marsh Lake Dam in 2019/2020. This bridge represents the second phase in the development of the 4.5 new trail segment that will extend between Appleton to the Federal Recreation Area. The first phase of this new trail segment, which extends approximately 2.5 miles west of Appleton, was completed in 2023. It is intended that ENRTF Funding under this Activity will be limited as possible to bridge construction and the funding match will provide for all engineering and supplementary construction funding.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Completion Project Engineering - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	December 31, 2027
Construction Contract Awarded - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	June 30, 2028
Completion Project Permitting and SHPO Consultation	June 30, 2028
Project Construction Completed - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	June 30, 2030
Project Closeout and Final Reporting - Minnesota River State Trail Bridge	June 30, 2030

### Activity 2: Glacial Lakes State Trail – New London to Sibley State Park Segment

**Activity Budget:** \$4,000,000

**Activity Description:**

This project proposes to the development of a new 4.2-mile state trail segment, extending between the existing Glacial Lakes State Trail in New London and Sibley State Park Segment. This trail segment represents a priority for the community of New London, Kandiyohi County and the MNDNR and a critical safety improvement for pedestrians/bicyclists that currently travel between New London and the State Park. The proposed trail is to be comprised of a 10-foot-wide bituminous trail with 2-foot-wide grass/gravel trail shoulders, to be constructed on a state-owned trail corridor and State or County administered rights-of-ways. In addition to the development of the new trail segment, the project will also require the installation of a trail tunnel and a trail bridge both located on New London's western limits. Project engineering is currently in-progress, with final construction plans scheduled for 2025 completion. The project will provide a direct trail connection between communities along the existing the Glacial Lakes State Trail, including Willmar, Spicer, Paynesville and New London, to Sibley State Park. ENRTF funding is to provide the supplementary construction funding. A 2023 Bond appropriation will provide required engineering and partial construction funding. The current project construction estimate is approximately \$7000000.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Contract Awarded - Glacial Lakes State Trail / New London to Sibley State Park	August 31, 2026
Completion Project Permitting and SHPO Consultation	August 31, 2026

Project Construction Complete - Glacial Lakes State Trail / New London to Sibley State Park	December 31, 2028
Project Closeout - Glacial Lakes State Trail / New London to Sibley State	June 30, 2029

### Activity 3: Minnesota Valley State Trail – Lyndale Ave to Nine Mile Creek Segment

**Activity Budget:** \$500,000

#### Activity Description:

This project proposes the development of a 1.6-mile state trail segment extending along the west bank of the Minnesota River, between Lyndale Avenue and Nine Mile Creek in the City of Bloomington, Hennepin County. This trail segment will be contiguous to a 3.5-mile-long segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail, between Lyndale Ave and TH77/Cedar Ave. constructed in two separate phases between 2021 and 2024. Although not contiguous with the southern segments of the State Trail, the existing Bloomington State Trail segment provides a connection to for several City recreational trails. This trail segment will provide a direct connection to another City trail, located along Nine Mile Creek. The proposed trail segment is to be comprised of a 10-foot-wide trail surface with 2-foot-wide gravel trail shoulders. This trail segment is proposed to terminate with a new bridge crossing of Nine Mile Creek and a connection to the City's Nine Mile Creek Trail. ENRTF funding will provide the funding match for a federal grant secured by the City of Bloomington and assigned to the MNDNR in 2023. The \$2,350,000 Federal Grant is available in 2026. Project engineering is in-progress and scheduled for 2026 completion.

#### Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Contract Awarded - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	September 30, 2026
Completion Project Permitting and SHPO Consultation	September 30, 2026
Project Construction Complete - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	December 31, 2028
Project Closeout and Final Reporting - Minnesota Valley State Trail / Nine Mile Segment	June 30, 2029

## 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?**

Each of the identified projects are all existing components of the Outdoor Recreation System and will be implemented through the MnDNR Parks and Trails Division staff. All project engineering, design, contract administration and construction inspection will be completed by or under the direct oversight of the MN DNR Operation Services Division. The MnDNR Parks and Trails Division will operate, maintain and protect each of the facilities when complete. The implementation of these projects will also not significantly increase the Parks and Trails Division's annual operational costs for the defined trail segments and bridge for 10 to 25 years.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	\$994,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09s	\$4,266,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09g	\$7,387,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e	\$4,952,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$5,036,000

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Kent Skaar

**Job Title:** Parks and Trails Division - Senior Project Manager

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

Kent Skaar has been an employee of the State of Minnesota for more than 30 years. For the last 25 years, as an employee of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division he has been principally responsible for the development of MNDNR administered public water accesses, state trails and motorized off-highway recreational facilities. His experience includes facility design, construction, and project management for project of all sizes. Many of the projects include multiple disciplines and local partners. Mr. Skaar has extensive experience with the grant management, procedures and the requirements associated with a variety of federal and non-federal funding.

**Organization:** MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

**Organization Description:**

The Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails Division operates 67 state parks, 8 state recreation areas, more than 650 miles of surfaced, improved state trail, 1,610 water access sites, 30 water trails and 9 state waysides throughout Minnesota. The Parks and Trails Division connects people to the state's natural resources by providing access to outdoor recreation, conservation education and natural resource restoration and management. The vision of the Parks and Trails Division is to create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations. More information on the Minnesota DNR can be found at [MNDNR.gov](http://MNDNR.gov)

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Minnesota River State Trail – Pomme De Terre River Bridge Development	Development of a new steel, truss recreational trail bridge over the Pomme De Terre River, Swift Co.	X				\$1,976,166
		Glacial Lakes State Trail: New London to Sibley State Park Segment Development	Development of a new 4.2 mile segment of the Glacial Lakes State Trail, Kandiyohi Co.	X				\$3,952,331
		Minnesota Valley State Trail – Lyndale Ave to Nine Mile Creek Segment Development	Development of a new 1.6 mile segment of the Minnesota Valley State Trail in the City of Bloomington, Hennepin Co.	X				\$494,618
							Sub Total	\$6,423,115
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
		MN DNR Direct and Necessary Costs	Pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$0), Safety Support (~\$0), Financial Support (~\$73,612), Communication Support (~\$1,902), IT Support (~\$0), and Planning Support (~\$1,371) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.					\$76,885
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$76,885</b>
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$6,500,000</b>

## Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		Minnesota River State Trail – Pomme De Terre River Bridge Development	All anticipated costs are considered to be eligible. Additional Explanation: The proposed trail improvements will be maintained by the MnDNR for the improvements with a useful life. <b>Additional Explanation :</b> The MnDNR is committed to the long term operations, maintenance of the State Trail and the State Trail through it Parks and Trails Division.
Capital Expenditures		Glacial Lakes State Trail: New London to Sibley State Park Segment Development	All anticipated costs are considered to be eligible. Additional Explanation: The proposed trail improvements will be maintained by the MnDNR for the improvements useful life. <b>Additional Explanation :</b> The MnDNR is committed to the long term operations, maintenance of the State Trail and the State Trail through it Parks and Trails Division
Capital Expenditures		Minnesota Valley State Trail – Lyndale Ave to Nine Mile Creek Segment Development	All anticipated costs are considered to be eligible. Additional Explanation: The proposed trail improvements will be maintained by the MnDNR for the improvements useful life. <b>Additional Explanation :</b> The MnDNR is committed to the long term operations, maintenance of the State Trail and the State Trail through it Parks and Trails Division.



## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
<b>State</b>				
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Appropriation (FY26-27 / FY 28-29)	To design and construct a new State Trail bridge on the Minnesota River State Trail corridor, over the Pomme de Terre River west of the community of Appleton, Swift County.	Potential	\$500,000
Cash	2023 Capital Bond Appropriation. ML23, 072.01.007.17	To design and construct the final trail segment for the Glacial Lakes Trail, established under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.015, subdivision 5, between the city of New London and Sibley State Park	Secured	\$3,000,000
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	2023 Federal Transportation Grant	MN Valley Trail from Lyndale Ave to Nine Mile Creek in Bloomington – Construct Trail and Pedestrian Bridge over Nine Mile Creek.	Secured	\$2,350,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,350,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$5,850,000</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$12,350,000**

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

Yes

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [01a8bb6f-e21.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

2026 LCCMR MN State Trail Development Proposal - Project Location Map...

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Capital Project Questionnaire - Minnesota State Trails Development	<a href="#">7589eab7-bf9.pdf</a>

## 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?**

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?**

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:**

MNDNR Parks and Trails Division, Development Section Staff

**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**

N/A

