



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-292

Proposal Title: Lake Brophy Park Trail Armoring and Trail Improvements

Project Manager Information

Name: Jefferson Brand

Organization: Big Ole Bike Club

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Email: jbrand@heartlandorthopedics.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Trail Armoring of the skills area at Lake Brophy Park. Revision of technical features on the Bomber Trail. Adding features to existing trails.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$70,000

Proposed Project Completion: September 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Land (F)

Project Location

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

Region(s): Central

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.

Trails maintenance at Lake Brophy Park has been challenging due to its exposed nature and frequent use. The trails are not covered by trees or tree canopy. Although the single track trails dry quickly because of the exposed nature. The trails are close to Alexandria, connected by the Central Lakes Trail and are ridden even when the trails are muddy. The untimely use increases erosion. The challenge is exaggerated for the skills course with increased slopes.

The Bomber trail was rebuilt with our last successful grant from LCCMR. However, the table tops could be tuned to improve the rideability of the trails. There are very few rock gardens in the Lake Brophy Park single track trails. Our Minnesota Cycling Association team predominantly trains and rides at the Lake Brophy single track trail system. Strategically positioned rock gardens will improve our rider's skills and help them with riding other race courses with more rocks and roots.

The initial funding is through Douglas County and Douglas County Parks. They are also the fiscal agents.

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.

Maintenance has been co-operative between Big Ole Bike Club and Douglas County Parks. According to the trail builder that created the skills trails, we have done a nice job with trail maintenance. But Trail Armor MTB, trailarmormtb.com, offers protection for sloped trails, reducing maintenance needs and preserving the original design. Trail Armoring of the Skills Area will decrease erosion, ruts and maintenance. Trail Armor is a commercial mat that covers the trail tread of sloped surfaces. It would be professionally installed with hardware to anchor it. The surface rides similarly to dirt. Over time, it becomes enmeshed with the dirt trail surface. It repels water and resists ruts. After trail preparation, it would be professionally installed. The skills park develop essential skills for mountain biking, including balance, neuromotor, muscle training, cardiovascular capacity, and attentiveness or situational awareness.

Tune and improve the table top features on the Bomber trail at Lake Brophy Park.

Strategically positioned rock gardens as option to the primary trail will improve our rider's skills and help them with riding other race courses with more rocks and roots. Improved skills make for safer and more efficient riders.

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?

We have developed single track trails at Lake Brophy Park and Kensington Rune Stone Park protecting, conserving, preserving and enhancing the states natural resources and have seen increased park usage. Several team member's parents have purchased bikes and now ride with their kids on existing trails in the two parks. Big Ole Bike Club members along with the county park's employees, using a groomer purchased by Douglas County Parks to groom trails for winter biking or what is known as "fat tire" biking. Increasing protection, conservation, preservation of the state's natural resources by improving visibility and engagement with the community.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Lake Brophy Park Trail Armoring of the Skills Area

Activity Budget: \$50,000

Activity Description:

Trail maintenance of the skills trails at Lake Brophy Parks' sloped trails can be challenging particularly during last years' wet summer. Trail Armoring of the Skills Area will decrease erosion, ruts and maintenance. Trail Armor is a commercial mat that covers the trail tread of sloped surfaces. It would be professionally installed with hardware to anchor it. The surface rides similarly to dirt. Over time, it becomes enmeshed with the dirt trail surface. It repels water and resists ruts. After trail preparation, it would be professionally installed. The skills park develop essential skills for mountain biking, including balance, neuromotor, muscle training, cardiovascular capacity, and attentiveness or situational awareness. These skills help reduce injuries during mountain biking and promote community health.

Trail maintenance has been co-operative between Douglas County Parks and Big Ole Bike Club. Rune Stone Off-Road Cyclists have had regular volunteer days to repair erosion and cap berms with clay based soil provided by Douglas County Parks to improve riding and resist degradation.

The skills park develop essential skills for mountain biking, including balance, neuromotor, muscle training, cardiovascular capacity, and attentiveness or situational awareness. These skills help reduce injuries during mountain biking and promote community health.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Preparation for the Trail Armor application	March 31, 2027
Application of Trail Armor to the skills area trails	March 31, 2027

Activity 2: Improve the features of the Lake Brophy Bomber Trail

Activity Budget: \$10,000

Activity Description:

Some riders have difficulty timing the tabletop features of the Bomber Trail at Lake Brophy Park. The second activity would be to remodel the tabletops so that more riders could enjoy them. The revised trail should be safer.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Reduce the height, approach angle and length of the tabletops.	March 31, 2027
Smooth and pack the tabletops.	March 31, 2027

Activity 3: Build and create rock gardens at Lake Brophy Park Single Track Trail System

Activity Budget: \$10,000

Activity Description:

The high school and middle school Minnesota Cycling Association Team ride and train at Lake Brophy Park most of the time. While it has many advantages: proximity to Alexandria, connection by Central Lakes Trail, fun flowy trails with substantial elevation change (for the Midwest). There are not any rock gardens, so our riders aren't accustomed to

them. The third activity is build and create rock gardens that can be bypassed from the primary trail. Those who choose, can ride them, others can elect not to ride don't have to. These skills help reduce injuries during mountain biking and promote community health.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Plan and select locations for rock gardens	March 31, 2027
Build and create rock gardens	March 31, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Douglas County	Douglas County Parks	Douglas County Parks if the grant is approved would pay for the Trail Armor installation on the skills trails and for the trail improvements to Bomber and strategically build rock gardens in the single track trail system.	Yes

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?

Trails will be maintained by the Douglas County Parks (DCP) and Big Ole Bike Club (BOBC). DCP have dedicated employees for trail maintenance and development. BOBC, together with our Cycling League team has volunteer days for trail building and maintenance for existing trails.

An example of the partnership between Douglas County Parks and Rune Stone Off-Road Cyclists may be grooming the single track trails for fat biking. One of the employees has trained 8 of us to date to groom the trails with machinery purchased for trail grooming.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Lake Brophy Single-Track Trail Expansion	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I	\$100,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Jefferson Brand

Job Title: Trail Boss, Volunteer Trail Builder, Board Member of Big Ole Bike Club

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

The first project is trail armor installation on the skills course to reduce erosion and subsequent maintenance.. The Bomber trail will be improved so the technical features ride more appropriate to the incline of the trails. Rock gardens will be added strategically to the trail system. All projects will be cooperatively managed by Brad Bonk, Douglas County Parks Supervisor and Jeff Brand, Volunteer Trail Builder. The project will be competitively bid per Douglas County requirements for a project of this size. Together Brad Bonk and Jeff Brand have successfully overseen professional single track trail building at Lake Brophy Park, in spring of 2019 and an addition of skills area, downhill trail and trail revision. Together, they supervised and built with volunteers, 8 miles of single track trails at Kensington Rune Stone Park (KRP) with signage, marking, and maintenance of both Douglas County Parks with single track trails.

Brad Bonk has a long history as a parks supervisor. In Douglas County, he as managed the development of two county parks. At Lake Brophy Park, the progress included the aforementioned single track professional build, a very large playground, parking lot, a beach and a visitor center. At KRP, development included road and parking lot rerouting, the above-mentioned 8 miles of single track trails and a visitor center.

Jeff Brand, MD, a Sports Medicine Fellowship trained Orthopaedist, has had leadership experience in medicine and with trail development, maintenance and trail improvement. Together with Brad, the aforementioned single track trails at Lake Brophy and KRP were developed.

Organization: Big Ole Bike Club

Organization Description:

The strength of Big Ole Bike Club (BOBC) is its membership. It is a volunteer organization with no overhead. The infrastructure- the 501(c)3 organization, website, digital communication, digital invitations for meetings-were all created by active board members. Club members also groom the winter bike trails. Big Ole Bike Club members have served as team manager, head coach, assistant head coach, and ride leaders for the Alexandria Mountaineers. With volunteer trail workers, BOBC members worked over 700 hours to build and develop professionally designed single track trails at Kensington Rune Stone Park (KRP).

Brad Bonk, Douglas County Parks Superintendent has been a great partner in our efforts to build and develop single track trails in two county parks. Douglas County Parks (DCP) funded \$10,000 for a professional trail design at KRP. They purchased a trail groomer used for winter biking. Together BOBC and DCP groom the trails at KRP for winter biking. Also, DCP has purchased a utility bike with BOBC contributing a portion. The bike will be used for trail maintenance, a task shared between BOBC and DCP. This partnership has been effective in managing the over 15 miles of trails in two parks.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Trail Builder	Service Contract	The trail builder will create, design, modify, and install the Trail Armor. The same builder will modify or revise the Lake Brophy Park Bomber Trail and create and build the rock gardens.				1.25		\$45,000
							Sub Total	\$45,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Trail Armor	Trail Armor is a commercial mat that covers the trail tread of sloped surfaces. It would be professionally installed with hardware to anchor it. The surface rides similarly to dirt. Over time, it becomes enmeshed with the dirt trail surface. It repels water and resists ruts. loped trails where erosion and rutting are problems. the features. The rock features will develop mountain bike skills to more safely ride the rock gardens both at Lake Brophy Park and at other race courses with more of those features.	X				\$25,000
							Sub Total	\$25,000
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	\$70,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		Trail Armor	<p>This is the best solution to the maintenance problems with the skills area.</p> <p>Additional Explanation : Trail Armor is a commercially available product specifically designed for armoring sloped trails where erosion and rutting are problems. the features. The rock features will develop mountain bike skills to more safely ride the rock gardens both at Lake Brophy Park and at other race courses with more of those features.</p>

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Total Project Cost: \$70,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [9b287b68-d8a.docx](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Letter of support, Honorable Torrey Westrom, State Senator. Letter of Support from Tara Bitzan, Chamber of Commerce. Letter of Support, Edward Reif from Alomere, the area health care system. Letter of Support, Head Coach of youth mountain bike team, Map of Douglas County with the location of Lake Brophy County....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Big Ole Bike Club 990 N	99d105e5-6f9.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Fiscal Agent Resolution Lake Brophy Park	259c7633-9c2.docx

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Map of Douglas County with the location of Lake Brophy County	13666bd2-7b4.jpe
Letter of Support, Head Coach of youth mountain bike team	178c58af-413.pdf
Letter of Support from Edward Reif from Alomere, the area health care system.	94d1b097-e84.pdf
Letter of Support from Tara Bitzan from the Chamber of Commerce.	7a7e2965-cfb.pdf
Letter of support from Honorable Torrey Westrom, State Senator.	2a41deb4-e91.docx

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, Douglas County

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:

Brad Bonk, Douglas County Park Supervisor on behalf of Douglas County Parks.

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