



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-348

Proposal Title: Lake Marion Greenway – Ritter Farm to Dodd Blvd

Project Manager Information

Name: Joe Masiarchin

Organization: City of Lakeville

Office Telephone: (952) 985-4601

Email: jmasiarchin@lakevillemn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Construction of the Lake Marion Greenway between Ritter Farm Park and Dodd Blvd in the City of Lakeville, including new trails, improvements to existing trails, trailhead facilities, and interpretive elements.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$2,843,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2029

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): Metro

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

Region(s): Metro

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.

The Lake Marion Greenway master plan developed in 2013 by Dakota County identifies a 20-mile proposed trail and greenway system through Burnsville, Savage, Credit River Township, and downtown Lakeville and Farmington that will link the Minnesota River and the Minnesota River Greenway to Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve. In addition to outlining the preferred alignment and design for the greenway, it “expresses an integrated vision for recreation, nonmotorized transportation, habitat and water quality.” In 2021, the City of Lakeville completed a feasibility study for the proposed trail segments within the City of Lakeville starting from downtown Lakeville into Ritter Farm Park and ending at 185th Street / County Road 60 for eventual trail connections that will extend to Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve. The Lake Marion Greenway trail segments through Lakeville are envisioned to connect to multiple destination areas that include the downtown business shopping district, local city parks and schools, and Lake Marion, providing access to highly valuable natural resource spaces, scenic settings and a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. The City of Lakeville seeks funding to implement the vision advanced through the 2021 feasibility study.

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 City of Lakeville has a consultant under contract to complete pre-design and final trail plans from Ritter Farm Park to downtown Lakeville. This effort is currently underway. In addition, the City recently completed trail improvements within Casperson Park in anticipation of this project based on recommendations from the feasibility study. ENRTF funds are being requested for construction activities for the segment between Ritter Farm Park and Dodd Blvd. As a result of outcomes specified in the feasibility study, the proposed capital construction project includes the following elements:

- 10-foot minimum width multi-use trail to be placed primarily within a greenway system to address trail gaps
- Improvements to existing trails to meet regional trail design standards
- Installation of a box culvert at Dodd Blvd to create a grade-separated pedestrian crossing, which will improve access to natural areas from Lakeville’s residential areas and downtown
- Trailhead facilities at several locations including the existing Juno Trail Trailhead and Ritter Farm Park
- Lake Marion Greenway trail wayfinding signage
- Installation of interpretive signage, public outreach and other features to educate the public about the natural resources along the greenway route

Specific greenway improvements are outlined in the Capital Project Questionnaire and shown in the attached map.

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 City plans to develop natural resources-based educational outreach opportunities along the greenway in the form of interpretative signage, displays and open space environmental assembly with the public. The purpose of these installations is to educate trail users about important resources along the trail, which connects a wide range of ecosystems in a short distance. The City has identified preliminary messaging and signage locations along the trail which are discussed in more detail in the Capital Project Questionnaire and shown in the attached map. Key topics identified include prairie ecosystems, shorelines, lake ecosystems, the Ritter woodland ecosystem, and wetland ecosystems.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Feasibility and Community Engagement

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

A feasibility study for the proposed trail improvements was completed in 2021 as noted in the project description. The City's current pre-design effort will build on the feasibility study to complete additional site investigation and public engagement. This work will occur concurrently with the pre-design process over the course of 2025. Public engagement will involve open houses as well as meetings with individual stakeholders. It will focus on inclusive, targeted, and timely communication that conveys the project's objectives in a public-friendly, easy-to-digest manner while encouraging feedback and participation from diverse community groups. Note: No ENRTF funds are being requested for these activities. An activity budget of \$0 could not be entered.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Environmental Site Assessment	July 31, 2025
Community Surveys and Open Houses	November 30, 2025

Activity 2: Pre-Design/Design/Permitting

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

The City of Lakeville has a consultant under contract to complete pre-design, and development of final trail plans from Ritter Farm Park to downtown Lakeville. This effort is underway as of February 2025 and will be funded by the City. It will include all necessary investigation, design, and permitting activities to develop final approved plans for the project and prepare for bidding. In addition to surveys, a Level 2 wetland delineation will be completed within 50 feet of the trail alignment and in locations where additional stormwater features may be located. All required agency reviews, including SHPO, will be completed. Throughout the design process, the City of Lakeville will engage Dakota County and MnDOT with open and clear communication. Note: No ENRTF funds are being requested for these activities. An activity budget of \$0 could not be entered.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Survey or Delineation Work	July 31, 2025
Consultation with SHPO	July 31, 2025
Approval of Draft Plans	August 31, 2025
Approval of Final Plans	December 31, 2025
Advertisement for Bid – Trail	January 31, 2026
Advertisement for Bid – Dodd Blvd Tunnel	January 31, 2027

Activity 3: Pre-Construction/Construction/Close-Out

Activity Budget: \$2,842,998

Activity Description:

The final activity includes construction prep, construction, and all close-out/finalization activities. Construction of the

city-funded segment of the trail from Dodd Blvd to downtown Lakeville will begin as soon as possible during the 2026 construction season, however no work will occur on the ENRTF-funded portion of the greenway between Ritter Farm Park and Dodd Blvd until funds become available in July 2026. The proposed Dodd Blvd tunnel would be constructed as part of a separate contract associated with improvements to Dodd Blvd in 2027. In addition to trail improvements, this activity will also include installation of educational displays as discussed elsewhere in this application to support nature resources education along the greenway route. The use of ENRTF dollars for the project will be acknowledged on signage along the greenway as well as in print and electronic media used by the city to conduct public outreach and communications related to the project. All elements of the project are anticipated to be open for public use by September 2028, however portions of the trail will be accessible to the public prior to this date. Milestones marked with an asterisk will be funded by City of Lakeville. See Budget Addendum for details.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Permits Secured*	November 30, 2025
Construction Contractor Selected*	March 31, 2026
Pre-construction Meetings*	April 30, 2026
Staking, Mobilization, and Site Preparation*	May 31, 2026
All Construction Funds Legally Secured*	July 31, 2026
Construction, Oversight, & Administration Begins	July 31, 2026
Change Orders	August 31, 2026
Final Trail Grading	September 30, 2026
Begin Construction – Dodd Blvd Tunnel	April 30, 2027
Substantial Completion – Trail	May 31, 2027
Stabilization – Trail	June 30, 2027
Punch List Items – Trail	June 30, 2027
Signage Installed with ENRTF Language or Logo	June 30, 2027
Substantial Completion – Dodd Blvd Tunnel	December 31, 2027
Final Restoration Activities Completed	August 31, 2028
Construction, Oversight, & Administration Ends	August 31, 2028
As-builts Approved	August 31, 2028
Notice of Funding Restriction Recorded	August 31, 2028
Open for Intended Use	September 30, 2028
Final Reimbursement Requests Submitted	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?

Following construction, the City of Lakeville and Dakota County will be responsible for maintaining all trails and associated improvements described in this application. Maintenance will be funded through the annual budgets of the Parks & Recreation Department and Public Works. Educational displays and other environmental elements part of this project will be the responsibility of the Lakeville Parks & Recreation Department to maintain and update as needed to reflect changes in departmental priorities and the surrounding context of the greenway. These activities will be funded through the existing Parks & Recreation Department budget.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Joe Masiarchin

Job Title: Parks & Recreation Director

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

The Project Manager for the Lake Marion Greenway Trail Project is Joe Masiarchin, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Lakeville. Joe has worked in the Parks and Recreation field for over 26 years, as a Recreation Supervisor, Manager and Parks and Recreation Director. He has overseen a multitude of projects during his career, including the current construction of a new 60 acre community park in Lakeville named Grand Prairie, as well as the development of miles of new trails tied to the 2021 Park Bond Referendum. The project team also includes an experienced group of individuals, including City Engineers, Inspectors and Parks Superintendents, all of whom have extensive experience working on similar projects.

Organization: City of Lakeville

Organization Description:

The City of Lakeville is a southern exurb of Minneapolis-St. Paul located in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. It is the largest city in Dakota County, with a population of over 75,000 people. The Lakeville Parks & Recreation department maintains nearly 150 miles of pedestrian and bike trails, 1,848 acres of public parks and open space, 70 public facilities, and offers diverse recreational opportunities for all ages.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD - Contractor to be selected	Service Contract	Trail Construction (Ritter Farm Park to Dodd Blvd)				0		\$2,479,911
TBD - Contractor to be selected	Service Contract	Dodd Blvd Tunnel Construction				0		\$363,089
							Sub Total	\$2,843,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
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	\$2,843,000

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				
Cash	City of Lakeville	Feasibility Study	Secured	\$27,000
Cash	City of Lakeville	Community Engagement	Secured	\$38,917
Cash	City of Lakeville	Trail Pre-Design / Design	Secured	\$381,712
Cash	City of Lakeville	Dodd Blvd Tunnel Design	Secured	\$17,600
Cash	City of Lakeville/Dakota County	Trail Construction (Dodd Blvd to Downtown Lakeville)	Secured	\$692,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$1,157,229
			Funds Total	\$1,157,229

Total Project Cost: \$4,000,229

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
Ritter Farm Park PID: 220230001010	Dakota	Prairie/woodland - Proposed for restoration following trail construction.	Restoration	35.13	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
Ritter Farm Park PID: 220230002011	Dakota	Prairie/woodland - Proposed for restoration following trail construction.	Restoration	20.72	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
Ritter Farm Park PID: 220240028012	Dakota	Prairie/woodland - Proposed for restoration following trail construction.	Restoration	15.7	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
Ritter Farm Park PID: 220240028013	Dakota	Prairie/woodland - Proposed for restoration following trail construction.	Restoration	19.04	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
Totals				90.59	0	-			

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All restoration activities completed using ENRTF funds will occur within public right of way, public lands, or areas with existing easements.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

Restoration activities included in the project will consist of restoring areas disturbed during trail construction using native plant species. The majority of these activities would be conducted within Ritter Farm Park where a new trail will be constructed on an alignment where a paved trail does not exist today. The expected outcomes of these activities are to minimize disturbance to the surrounding parkland and expand areas of native vegetation. The City of Lakeville Parks & Recreation Department will continue to manage and maintain these areas following construction, and will maintain internal records outlining the activities undertaken, species planted, and long-term maintenance needs to ensure these areas are preserved.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

Restoration efforts included in the project will follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” through all phases of the process including site preparation, planting and maintenance. Native plant species will be utilized to the greatest extent feasible to advance the city’s goals for promoting diversity in natural areas such as Ritter Farm Park. The restoration process will address seed and plant sources, planting dates, plant diversity, and other considerations.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

Long-term maintenance and management will be a partnership between the Parks & Recreation Department and the Environmental Resources Department. There are currently over 105 acres of land restored to native vegetation within Lakeville’s municipal boundary, all of which is managed by the Environmental Resources Department to limit weed encroachment and promote continued plant diversity. Environmental Resources staff and projects are primarily funded through the Environmental Resources Utility Fund. This quarterly fee is collected through water bills and funds water quality improvement projects, inspections, maintenance of the stormwater system, monitoring, and education and outreach.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

The City of Lakeville will consider contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for assistance with restoration activities following trail construction.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

The City of Lakeville will evaluate restoration work in two stages. All work will first be inspected following completion of construction to identify issues with installation, the extent to which project goals have been met, and other potential takeaways. A follow up evaluation will be conducted three years following completion of construction to review the initial evaluation results and determine how the restoration work has held up over time. The City’s Environmental Resources staff have the necessary expertise to conduct these evaluations.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [12d98ea9-462.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map showing proposed greenway route with specific improvement types and educational signage locations....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
MN Legal Compliance Letter	4c31fa16-d8c.pdf
Internal Control Letter	74c73a14-762.pdf
Governance Communications Letter	193ed41f-a2e.pdf
EAS	f314efe5-ce9.pdf
ACFR	969442e8-e80.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Council Resolution	5ed3cc83-fda.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Lake Marion Greenway Project Handout	2f93ad3a-39c.pdf
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	38d26853-1ca.pdf
Capital Construction Budget Addendum	372b4407-cfe.xlsx
Lakeville Cycling Association Letter of Support	de0a255b-362.pdf
Dakota County Letter of Support	712b7a65-684.pdf
Lakeville City Administrator Letter of Support	54d78138-5d1.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

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:

NA

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