



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-577

Proposal Title: Scenic Acres Trail and Boardwalk

Project Manager Information

Name: Jodi Knaus

Organization: Town of White

Office Telephone: (218) 229-2813

Email: jodi.knaus@townofwhite.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Town of White will construct a 10-foot-wide, shared use trail segment along Scenic Acres Road and Highway 135 that will connect to the Mesabi Trail.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$2,800,000

Proposed Project Completion: October 31, 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): NE

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

Region(s): NE

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.

Pedestrians walk or bike within a vehicle travel lane or roadway. While the 1/2-foot shoulder is wide enough for one pedestrian, pairs or groups are often seen in the vehicle drive lanes. This greatly increases the chance of collision between a pedestrian and vehicle. The project corridor was recognized as dangerous for non-motorized users because of its limited sight lines due to several steep horizontal curves in the roadway. Due to the limited sight lines, there is low stop and yield compliance for pedestrians and bicyclists along the roadway where non-motorized users are commonly seen walking and biking on the narrow shoulder or the side of the roadway. The proposed shared-use trail will be ADA-compliant and separate non-motorized users from vehicle traffic, greatly increasing safety for vulnerable users.

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 proposed project will construct a 10-foot-wide shared use trail segment along Scenic Acres from approximately 900 feet south of Lake Court to approximately 900 feet west of Lane 58. The proposed segment would be constructed in 2026 as Phase 1 of a larger project. Phase 2 of the proposed project would connect the Scenic Acres Roat trail segment to Highway 135 by constructing a boardwalk over the wetlands. Phase 2 would then continue along Highway 135 and connect to the existing Mesabi Trail, a 165-mile trail that is connected to over two dozen communities throughout Northern Minnesota. The project will also add ADA-compliant ramps at the start and end points of the trail segment.

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?

Safety for non-vehicular travelers will be improved with the addition of a trail on the north side of Scenic Acres Road. The proposed project will also include curb ramps constructed to be ADA compliant which are not currently available in the project area. ADA ramps will ensure that people of all ages, abilities, and mobilities can access nearby destinations and the Mesabi Trail when the project is complete.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Complete engineering and bidding documents.

Activity Budget: \$2,800,000

Activity Description:

Review project scope and determine Phase 1 of the project with Bolton & Menk Engineering. Review completed plans, specifications and bid documents. Advertise for bids and award contract.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction of Scenic Acres Trail & Boardwalk	October 31, 2026
Phase 2 of the Scenic Acres Trail & Boardwalk	October 31, 2028

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 Town of White Board was able to plan this improvement based on community feedback and suggestions. Residents have made it clear that they are highly supportive of the project and understand the need for the proposed improvements and required future maintenance. The proposed improvements are also supported by the Town of White's Comprehensive Plan, published in 2017.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Jodi Knaus

Job Title: Town Manager & Clerk

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

Over 20 years of experience in state and local government. Under the general direction of the Town of White Board of Supervisors the Town Manager is responsible for planning, organizing, and managing all township activities. The Town Manager serves as the chief administrative officer coordinating all of the day to day affairs of the township. Oversees and coordinates the operation of all departments. Establishes programs, goals and objectives to accomplish work; evaluates potential projects, programs and services to determine feasibility and community impact; makes recommendations to the Town Board. Provides leadwork and direction to all Town employees directly or indirectly. Coordinates the development and implementation of the Town's goals and strategic plan. Develops short-term and long-term goals with the Board and oversees implementation and action plans. Serves as the chief financial officer for the township. Manages all accounting functions for the Town, oversees accounts receivable, accounts payable, and payroll functions; oversees preparation of information for annual audit and reviews reports. Oversees administrative portion of all public improvement projects; reviews plans and specifications, advertisement for bid notices, contracts, pay requests and change orders. Administers grants and/or loan money that is received and prepares all related reports.

Organization: Town of White

Organization Description:

Local Government Entity. The Town of White is a close knit community in Northern Minnesota, located in St. Louis County and encompassing a beautiful segment of the Iron Range.

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								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Mobilization and Clearing & Grubbing	Beginning of Construction of Trail					\$115,000

		Common Excavation	Construction of Trail					\$145,600
		Geotextile Fabric Type 11	Stabilization					\$103,000
		Select Granular Embankment (CV)	Construction					\$258,000
		Aggregate Base (CV) Class 5	Construction					\$148,000
		Type SP 12.5 Bituminous Pavement (2,B)	Trail Construction					\$270,000
		CMP Culverts and connections	Construction					\$41,000
		Boardwalk and Pedestrian Bridge	Construction					\$1,045,000
		Rock Excavation	Construction					\$175,000
		Traffic Control	Safety					\$4,000
		Erosion Control	Construction					\$40,000
		Turf Establishment	Construction					\$80,000
		Contingency	Cost Overruns ect					\$148,400
		Engineering	Project Oversight					\$227,000
							Sub Total	\$2,800,000
							Grand Total	\$2,800,000

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				
Cash	AT Grant Application	Construction of Trail and Boardwalk	Potential	\$400,000
Cash	IRRRB	Construction Phase 1	Potential	\$200,000
			State Sub Total	\$600,000
Non-State				
Cash	Capital Project Funds	Township funds designated for Capital Projects	Secured	\$175,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$175,000
			Funds Total	\$775,000

Total Project Cost: \$3,575,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [a56bd20a-0ee.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

2023 Town of White Audit Report...

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Support Letters	5fb3c313-b0b.pdf
Project Area Map and Budget	4e24f26a-897.pdf
Letter Authorizing Proposal	0c45349a-f6f.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?

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

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:

Bolton & Menk

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