



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-180

Proposal Title: Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course and Hiking Trail

Project Manager Information

Name: John Santi

Organization: North Branch Disc Golf Association

Office Telephone: (612) 231-3812

Email: blackriverhousing@gmail.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: To expand the highly successful Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course and Hiking Trail to be a relevant and easily accessible multi-use gathering space for the community.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$40,000

Proposed Project Completion: July 31, 2029

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary 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?

During the Project

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

The project expands the existing 18-hole disc golf course and 1.66-mile trail by adding 18 new holes and 2 additional miles of hiking paths. Disc golf and trails are highly compatible; new holes can be integrated into wooded, natural terrain while preserving mature trees and existing wildlife. This multi-use approach increases the park's utility without the high maintenance costs of traditional golf courses. Adding 2 miles of hiking paths more than doubles the existing 1.66-mile trail, creating a 3.66-mile network. This expansion improves health and wellness for residents and can serve as a safer, more extensive route for pedestrians.

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.

Our vision is to transform a conceptual framework into a premier, multi-use recreational hub. By expanding our current system into a professional-grade 36-hole disc golf course and an interconnected trail network, we aim to bolster community wellness, stimulate the local economy, and ensure landscape preservation. This site will serve as an educational sanctuary, offering classes that introduce disc golf which is one of America's fastest-growing sports, alongside environmental stewardship programs integrated via interpretive signage across the course

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 proposed disc golf and hiking facilities bridge the gap between sustainable recreation and ecological preservation. With pollinator gardens and educational signs across all 18 holes, this project fulfills core state goals of protecting biodiversity and fostering environmental literacy.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course and Hiking Trail

Activity Budget: \$40,000

Activity Description:

The Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course and Hiking Trail project, led by the North Branch Disc Golf Association (NBDGA), aims to create a multi-use recreational space in the Chisago Lakes community.

Objective: To provide free, accessible outdoor recreation by developing a year-round 18-hole disc golf course and a 2-mile perimeter hiking trail on land offered to the community from the Chisago Joint Sewage Treatment Commission.

Tasks & Accomplishment: Construction involves clearing trail corridors, installing cement and turf tee pads, and mounting Dynamic Discs Veteran baskets. These tasks are primarily accomplished through volunteer labor and community sponsorships for baskets and benches.

Outputs: Specific deliverables include 18 playable holes with dual basket positions, a marked hiking trail suitable for walkers and birders, and wayfinding signage.

Impact: The outputs offer a "lifetime sport" venue that promotes physical activity and community engagement. The trail is used for hiking, snowshoeing, and educational programming through local school districts.

Evaluation: Outcomes are monitored via UDisc community ratings (currently 4.2/5 stars) and "trail adoptions," where volunteers maintain specific sections to ensure long-term sustainability

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Design disc golf course and trail layout	July 31, 2027
Install concrete tee pads and clear path for trail	September 30, 2027
Install baskets and trail signs	July 31, 2029

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
John Santi	North Branch Disc Golf Association (NBDGA)	Project Partner	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Based on the goals provided, the dissemination and data sharing plan for the Wildcat Woods project focuses on transparent communication and long-term stewardship. Key strategies include:

Sharing Results with Stakeholders: Project data and management recommendations will be shared with local conservation partners, municipal leaders, and Minnesota resource managers (e.g., DNR) to improve natural area stewardship.

Public Access and Education: Information, maps, and findings regarding environmental impacts will be accessible via a project website and on-site signage, promoting sustainable behavior among users.

Documentation and Longevity: All collected data, surveys, and physical site improvements will be documented in a final report to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to ensure lasting impact.

Engagement: Community engagement, such as volunteer planting days and open meetings, will be used to ensure participation and increase awareness of the ENRTF-funded work.

These efforts ensure all products are transparently shared, promoting, and, and enhancing Minnesota's natural resources.

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?

Upon project completion, responsibility for all maintenance will transition to the current Phase 1 volunteer group. All future upkeep will be performed by volunteers currently engaged in Phase 1 of the project.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: John Santi

Job Title: Project Manager

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

I successfully managed phase 1 of the Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course and Hiking Trail completed October 2025.

Organization: North Branch Disc Golf Association

Organization Description:

The North Branch Disc Golf Association (NBDGA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to expanding and maintaining disc golf courses in the North Branch and Chisago County areas of Minnesota. Founded in 2021, the association serves the local community by providing accessible outdoor recreation and entertainment through the sport of disc golf.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Project Director		Coordinate the completion of the project			0%	1		-
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	18 Disc Golf Baskets	Baskets for 18 holes					\$20,000
	Tools and Supplies	Concrete tee pads	Tee Pads					\$20,000
							Sub Total	\$40,000
Capital Equipment								
							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	\$40,000

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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Total Project Cost: \$40,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [3c74d4ed-a66.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Overview of proposed Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course and Hiking Trail...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
IRS-990	da860e33-2b4.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
page 1	8cbc5c52-f4d.pdf
Page 2	4661b3c9-014.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Fact Sheet for current course	9f9e8f53-e06.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")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

North Branch Disc Golf Association

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