



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-259

Proposal Title: Mississippi River Trail Expansion in Champlin

Project Manager Information

Name: Heather Nelson

Organization: City of Champlin

Office Telephone: (763) 923-7120

Email: hnelson@ci.champlin.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project will construct a 1.7-mile, 10-foot-wide, paved, off-road, multiuse trail along West River Road (CSAH 12) between Douglas Drive and 109th Avenue in Champlin, MN

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,500,000

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): 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 and In the Future

Narrative

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

Residents along the West River Road (CSAH 12/Great River Road) corridor from 109th Avenue N to Douglas Drive N lack access to the Mississippi River because adjacent properties are privately owned and offer no public entry. The corridor also lacks a safe, continuous facility for walking, biking, or rolling to reach a 1-mile, off-road Mississippi River Trail (MRT) segment connecting to Mississippi Gateway Regional Park (MGRP).

Users must rely on narrow, inconsistent shoulders alongside traffic volumes nearing 10,000 vehicles per day and speeds up to 50 mph. In some areas, shoulders disappear entirely - often where mobility challenges are greatest - creating hazardous conditions and increasing crash risk.

Due to documented safety concerns, Hennepin County has not fully mapped or signed the MRT along much of this corridor, leaving a critical gap in the nationally significant trail. Federal and County guidance recommend an off-road facility under these conditions. The Project closes this gap by constructing a separated, accessible off-road trail, connecting key Mississippi River destinations - including MGRP's new visitor center featuring interactive Mississippi River exhibits, classroom and community spaces, observation decks and panoramic views, Mini-Mississippi water play feature and Mississippi River-based programming.

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 solution is to construct a continuous, separated 10-foot-wide bituminous multiuse trail along the 1.7-mile West River Road (CSAH 12/Great River Road) corridor essentially extending the existing Mississippi River Trail (MRT) from 109th Avenue N to the existing trails along Douglas Drive N. This physically separated, off-road facility will provide a safe, ADA-accessible space for approximately 39,323 people within 1-mile of the project area.

A 10-foot width accommodates two-way bicycle travel while safely serving pedestrians, runners, wheelchair users, and families with strollers, consistent with state and federal design guidance for shared-use trails in high-volume corridors.

The bituminous surface will provide a smooth, durable, and low-maintenance walking, riding and rolling experience suitable for users of all ages and abilities. The project will eliminate reliance on inconsistent road shoulders, reduce conflicts between motorists and trail users, and address documented safety concerns that have prevented the MRT from being fully mapped and signed in this area.

By filling this critical gap, the project will provide continuity to the MRT and Great River Road network, improve access to nearby Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and other riverfront destinations, and expand safe transportation and recreation options for Champlin residents and regional users.

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 project protects and enhances Minnesota's natural resources by directing pedestrian and bicycle use to a designated 10-foot-wide bituminous trail, reducing vehicle miles traveled, lowering fossil fuel reliance and improving air quality. By providing defined access within the Great River Road corridor, the trail will connect people to the Mississippi River and foster water quality, wildlife and natural landscapes stewardship.

Concentrating use on a durable surface supports conservation by minimizing environmental impacts while increasing public awareness of river resources. The project also expands equitable access to outdoor recreation, encouraging appreciation, responsible use and long-term preservation of this iconic river corridor.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Mississippi River Trail - Design and Engineering, Construction, and Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$1,500,000

Activity Description:

The project will design and construct a 10-foot wide, paved, off-road, multiuse trail.

The City of Champlin in partnership with Three Rivers will hire a professional consultant firm to design the project, coordinate with partners, acquire easements, obtain permits, prepare bidding and construction documents, and lead construction administration.

Construction activities will include mobilization, site preparation (site clearing, grubbing, erosion control), grading, hardscape construction (backfilling, compaction, pavement), stormwater features, restoration, and signage and striping installation.

Permits will be obtained from the Hennepin County, West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions and other state and federal permits that may be required. The need for these permits will be determined through state and federal review processes, which will occur during design.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Begin Design	February 28, 2027
Topographic survey, wetland delineation, preliminary engineering, geotechnical evaluation	May 31, 2027
30% Review submittal	June 30, 2027
Stakeholders meeting (City, Three Rivers, County, Watershed)	July 31, 2027
Begin ROW acquisition	August 31, 2027
60% review submittal	November 30, 2027
90% review submittal	April 30, 2028
ROW acquisition, permit submittal, environmental document submittal	July 31, 2028
Final plan review submittals	September 30, 2028
Bidding	January 31, 2029
Construction Start	April 30, 2029
Substantial completion	October 31, 2029

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Jenny Max	City of Champlin	Project Partner	Yes
Holly Henrickson	National Park Service	Project Partner	No
Christine Stehly	Hennepin County	Project Partner	No
Danny McCullough	Three Rivers Park District	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.

This trail construction project will incorporate intentional dissemination, documentation, and outreach efforts to ensure participation, practical application, long-term stewardship and public awareness of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) investment.

1. Engagement of Benefiting Entities

Throughout planning, design, and construction, we will actively engage stakeholders who will benefit from the trail including: local government partners, state and regional natural resource agencies, and adjacent landowners. Engagement will occur through public meetings, open houses, stakeholder briefings, website updates, and coordination with agency staff. This will ensure the trail reflects community needs, improves equitable access, and supports long-term management goals.

2. Sharing Results to Improve Resource Management

Project documentation and results will be shared with entities that can apply lessons learned to future trail development and resource protection efforts in Minnesota. Materials may include: a) final design plans and construction documentation, b) environmental review findings, c) before-and-after photography, and d) GIS data (as applicable). These materials may be shared through our organizational website, presentations to park boards, city councils, and regional partners, professional conferences or practitioner networks and coordination with state and regional agencies. This dissemination will support improved planning, sustainable trail construction practices and inclusive access design across Minnesota.

3. Longevity of Trail Assets and Documentation

The constructed trail will be built to meet applicable engineering, ADA accessibility, and sustainability standards to ensure durability and long-term public use. Maintenance plans will be documented and incorporated into long-term operations budgets. All digital records (design files, environmental documentation, GIS data, and reports) will be stored in secure, stable formats and retained for long-term access. If interpretive elements are included, they will be fabricated with durable materials appropriate for outdoor conditions.

4. Promoting Stewardship and Positive Behavior

The project will promote behavior that protects and enhances Minnesota's natural resources by sharing trail etiquette guidance to minimize user conflicts, providing educational messaging about water quality protection, native vegetation, and invasive species prevention (located nearby at Mississippi Gateway Regional Park), encouraging stewardship and community ownership, public-facing materials will be written in clear, accessible language and designed to reach diverse audiences, including first-time trail users.

5. Public Awareness and ENRTF Acknowledgement

All outreach, signage, and project materials will acknowledge support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). In compliance with ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines, we will include required ENRTF attribution language on printed and digital materials, display the ENRTF logo according to current branding standards, install permanent ENRTF signage at the trail site as required for capital improvement projects, include acknowledgment language and required social media tags in digital communications, press releases, and announcements, and ensure acknowledgment appears in presentations, reports, and public communications. Through these efforts, the project will ensure transparent communication, practical knowledge-sharing for future trail initiatives, long-term stewardship of public assets, and clear recognition of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund's investment in Minnesota's outdoor recreation infrastructure.

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 City of Champlin in partnership with Three Rivers Park District will complete design and construction administration for the 1.7-mile trail Project. As a high priority initiative of both parties, we are committed to fully funding construction through grants and agency resources. To date, \$500,000 has been secured from the Federal Lands Access Program. Applications have been submitted for \$250,000 in design and \$360,000 in construction funding through the National Park Service's MNRRA Alternative Transportation Program. Additional funding will be pursued through STIP, GO bonds, Legacy funds, and other opportunities.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Elm Creek Habitat Restoration Final Phase	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08r	\$521,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Heather Nelson

Job Title: City Engineer

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

Heather Nelson, P.E., serves as the City Engineer for the City of Champlin and is responsible for overseeing the City's infrastructure systems, including project management, design oversight, construction administration, and long-term asset maintenance. The Engineering Department manages and delivers a majority of the municipal capital improvement projects citywide, encompassing roads, water distribution, sanitary sewer, stormwater systems, trails, and parking facilities.

With nearly 25 years of experience in municipal and water resources engineering, Heather has successfully managed a wide range of multi-disciplinary projects involving public pathways, pedestrian facilities, and trail system improvements. Her background includes planning, designing, and administering construction for community trail enhancements, ADA accessibility upgrades, regional trail connections, and surface rehabilitation projects—ensuring each project meets safety standards, environmental requirements, and long-term durability objectives.

Heather's expertise in stakeholder coordination is central to trail development and improvement. She regularly works with residents, developers, park and trail user groups, watershed organizations, utility partners, and elected officials to ensure project goals reflect community priorities. Her experience includes securing and managing grants, navigating permitting processes, and coordinating with state and local agencies to maintain compliance with environmental and accessibility regulations.

As project manager for the proposed trail improvement project, Heather brings proven leadership in scope development, schedule and budget management, consultant coordination, and construction oversight. Her analytical approach, commitment to quality, and deep familiarity with Champlin's existing trail network will ensure that the proposed project is delivered efficiently, safely, and in alignment with the City's long-term vision for multimodal transportation and recreational connectivity.

Organization: City of Champlin

Organization Description:

The City of Champlin is a full-service municipal government located in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Incorporated as a city in 1971, Champlin has grown into a thriving community of approximately 24,000 residents. The organization provides a comprehensive range of municipal services, including public safety, public works, engineering, parks and recreation, planning, finance, and utility operations—ensuring that critical infrastructure and community amenities are well maintained and responsive to resident needs.

The City employs roughly 85 staff members across all operations. With an annual operating budget of about \$45 million (which includes both general funds and enterprise accounts), Champlin manages its resources responsibly to deliver high-quality, reliable public services. The City remains committed to fostering an efficient, transparent, and community-focused government that supports long-term growth, strengthens local connectivity, and enhances the overall quality of life for its residents.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Three Rivers will hire a consultant from their professional services pool to perform design and predesign services for the project.	Service Contract	Design/predesign Design the trail project, coordinate with partners, acquire easements, obtain permits, and prepare construction documents.				-		\$200,000
Three Rivers will publicly bid the construction of the project and will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.	Service Contract	Trail construction				0		\$745,600
Three Rivers will hire a consultant from their professional services pool to perform acquisition	Acquisition services	Consultant fees to acquire easements				-		\$300,000

services for the project.								
							Sub Total	\$1,245,600
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Trail Easement Acquisition	Parcels: 25 0.77						\$254,400
							Sub Total	\$254,400
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$1,500,000

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	Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) - National Park Service - Mississippi National River & Recreation Area	Funds will be used towards construction and construction administration	Secured	\$500,000
Cash	National Park Service Alternative Transportation Program Funds 2027	Funds will be used for trail construction and trail construction administration	Pending	\$250,000
Cash	National Park Service Alternative Transportation Program Funds 2029	Funds will be used for trail construction	Pending	\$360,000
Cash	Active Transportation Met Council	Funds will be used for trail construction and trail construction administration	Potential	\$3,500,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$4,610,000
			Funds Total	\$4,610,000

Total Project Cost: \$6,110,000

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
2812021330001	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.05	0.05	\$23,500	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
2812021330002	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.03	0.03	\$13,000	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
2812021330003	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$8,700	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
2812021330004	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$8,700	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
2812021330043	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.12	0.13	-	Public	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
2812021330066	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$10,700	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021130026	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$8,700	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210001	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$8,200	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210064	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.04	0.04	\$19,900	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210065	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$9,500	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210066	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.03	\$11,700	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210067	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.01	0.01	\$5,300	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210075	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.05	0.05	\$23,500	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210076	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$7,800	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210077	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$7,800	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210078	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$7,800	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021210079	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.03	\$11,800	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021240021	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$8,700	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun

3312021240041	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.03	\$12,100	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021240053	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.03	0.03	\$13,000	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021420016	Hennepin	Parkland	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	-	Public	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021420018	Hennepin	Parkland	Easement - Other	0.03	0.04	-	Public	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021420085	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$9,800	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3312021420086	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.02	0.02	\$7,800	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
3412021330008	Hennepin	Urban Residential	Easement - Other	0.03	0.04	\$16,400	Private	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
Totals				0.71	0.77	\$254,400			

Easement (Other) Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The parcel list was developed based on the preferred trail alignment identified in the feasibility study for this segment. The study included a technical evaluation to determine the most suitable side of the roadway for the trail, recognizing that the facility is being retrofitted within an existing County roadway corridor with limited available right-of-way. As a result, both permanent and temporary easements are required from adjacent parcels.

The technical evaluation considered several factors, including multimodal connectivity, adjacent land use, property access, topography, and existing utilities. These elements were used to determine the preferred trail location and, consequently, which parcels would be affected.

Additional considerations such as right-of-way limits, anticipated construction costs, and environmental impacts were also reviewed. While these factors informed the overall feasibility of the project, they did not differentiate from the preferred side of the roadway.

Parcels were included on the acquisition list based on their location adjacent to the selected trail alignment and the extent to which easements are needed to accommodate construction and long-term operation of the trail.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

West Mississippi River Regional Trail Feasibility Study (Chandler Park to 109th Avenue N) dated September 19, 2023

https://www.threeriversparks.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/planning/grants/West_Mississippi_River_Regional_Trail_Feasibility_Study.pdf

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

No parcels will be acquired in fee title for this project. The proposed improvements can be constructed within existing right-of-way and through the use of permanent and temporary easements; therefore, full property ownership is not required.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

N/A

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

N/A

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [61ac9b9a-706.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Concept layout of trail along West River Road. Trail is located on the west side of the roadway from Douglas Drive to 109th Ave....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Champlin 2024 Audit	854367f7-af9.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Champlin Letter Authorizing Proposal	fe32520f-42d.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Hennepin County Letter of Support	b6a7745b-565.pdf
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	81fa49fd-68b.pdf
TRPD Letter of Support	947bf1e5-ecd.pdf
NPS Letter of Relevancy	429dec8f-Off.pdf
MRT Summary	69af0189-339.pdf
Budget Addendum	6cc9aabf-5af.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Easement (Other) Acquisition,

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

Is the purpose of the acquisition for construction of a building(s), trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration, either now or in the future?

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:

Ann Rexine, Three Rivers Park District

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