



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-304

Proposal Title: North Creek Greenway Trails and Trailhead Construction Project

Project Manager Information

Name: Kellee Omlid

Organization: City of Farmington

Office Telephone: (651) 280-6851

Email: komlid@farmingtonmn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Constructing trailhead facilities and approximately 11,730 linear feet of bituminous multi-use trail in Rambling River Park to serve the North Creek Regional Greenway.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$2,095,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2030

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.

Rambling River Park in Farmington includes a segment of Dakota County's 14-mile North Creek Greenway (NCG), providing opportunities to walk, bike, and roll between Farmington and regional destinations such as the Minnesota Zoo and Lebanon Hills Regional Park, connecting users to the Vermillion River corridor. The 78-acre park, developed in the 1960s, has seen recent reinvestment reflecting strong City Council support through funding commitments, including installation of an inclusive playground with poured-in-place rubber surfacing.

Trails within the park are deteriorating and require replacement to meet regional greenway and ADA standards. Several segments near the Vermillion River experience frequent flooding and streambank erosion, creating safety concerns and impacting sensitive riverbank habitat. Rerouting these segments will improve resilience while supporting streambank stabilization, shoreline restoration, and long-term protection of the Vermillion River corridor.

The City is coordinating with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) to improve public fishing access. The MN DNR annually stocks the Vermillion River with thousands of trout, making it a heavily used regional fishing destination. Additional facilities—including restrooms, drinking water, benches, and a bike fix-it station—are needed for the park to function effectively as a regional greenway trailhead serving both park visitors and greenway 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.

This project will reconstruct approximately 11,730 linear feet of trail within Rambling River Park and develop trailhead facilities to serve users of the NCG. Improvements will make the trail segment compliant with Dakota County's regional greenway and ADA standards while relocating vulnerable sections out of the Vermillion River floodway to improve long-term resilience and reduce river corridor impacts. Trailhead improvements will include a two-stall restroom building, bike fix-it station, drinking water, greenway information kiosk, benches, and trash and recycling receptacles. The park already includes vehicle and bicycle parking and picnic facilities that complement the proposed trailhead amenities. The NCG Plan recommends trailheads every three to five miles along the greenway to support regional and local access.

The City is collaborating with the MN DNR to improve fishing access to the Vermillion River. If awarded, this funding would allow the City to partner with the MN DNR and Vermillion River Watershed to focus on shoreline restoration to improve aquatic habitat and fishing access, reflecting the City's broader commitment to protecting the river corridor.

Together, these improvements will enhance resilient trail access and expand opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the Vermillion River corridor and Dakota County's regional greenway system.

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?

Segments of the existing trail are located within the Vermillion River floodplain and have sustained damage from flooding and ongoing bank erosion. This project will relocate vulnerable trail segments and restore disturbed areas along the river corridor. Improvements will stabilize slopes, remove invasive vegetation, and establish native plantings to enhance native plants along the riverbank and improve bank stability. By reducing erosion and restoring native vegetation along this designated trout stream, the project will help protect water quality and aquatic habitat while allowing visitors to safely experience and learn about the Vermillion River and its natural resources.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Finalize trailhead and trail design in Rambling River Park

Activity Budget: \$150,000

Activity Description:

In coordination with Dakota County, the City of Farmington is in the process of finalizing designs and construction plans for the trailhead facilities and trails within Rambling River Park in preparation for construction. Dakota County is currently working to plan the alignment for the trails within the park as part of the North Creek Greenway planning process. Once this process is complete, the City and County will finalize design and construction plans for the identified trail alignment within the park. If awarded ENRTF funds, Farmington will use the finalized greenway alignment information along with the Rambling River Park Master Plan to complete design and construction documents for trailhead facilities. This includes the restroom, greenway kiosk, and monument sign; and site plans for the location of the bike fix-it station, water fill station, benches, and trash and recycling receptacles.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Design review processes: SHPO consultation and notifying legislative committees when work is ready to begin.	December 31, 2027
Development and approval of final designs (DD-CDs)	March 31, 2028
All construction funds legally secured	April 30, 2028
Preparation and advertisement of bid	May 31, 2028

Activity 2: Construction of Greenway Trail and trailhead facilities and installation of trailhead amenities

Activity Budget: \$1,945,000

Activity Description:

Once the design and construction documents are complete, the second main activity of this project is trail construction and construction or placement of the trailhead amenities. Existing areas of trail will be removed, and restoration work will take place in those areas (primarily alongside the Vermillion River). Areas where new trail segments are planned will be prepared and paved following regional trail standards. Concrete pads will be poured for the trailhead amenities including the bike fit-it station, greenway kiosk, trash and recycling receptacles, and benches. Other trailhead features such as the restroom, water fill station, and monument sign will require connection to utilities and construction as part of the installation process.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction, oversight, and administration begins	October 31, 2028
Project close-out with notice of funding restriction recorded, and certificate of occupancy obtained	May 31, 2030
Signage installed with ENRTF logo	May 31, 2030
Construction, oversight, and administration ends	July 31, 2030
Trail and trailhead facilities open for public use	July 31, 2030

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Rita Trapp	HKGi	Grant Writing Support	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.

The City of Farmington will share project information and outcomes through multiple accessible communication channels to reach residents, regional partners, and park users. On-site signage will be installed in Rambling River Park, incorporating the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) logo and required attribution language to inform visitors about the project and its funding source. Project updates and outcomes will also be shared on the City's website, in the City's Currents newsletter, and through official social media platforms. These efforts will increase public awareness, highlight environmental benefits, and promote stewardship of the Vermillion River corridor while ensuring transparency and recognition of ENRTF support.

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 results proposed in the grant will be implemented through the full construction of the trails and trailhead facilities proposed. Additional capital improvements proposed in the NCG Plan and the Rambling River Plan will be funded through Farmington's annual capital improvement budgeting process. Farmington, in partnership with Dakota County, has received an Active Transportation Grant to construct 1.7 miles of the NCG north of the proposed project area. This project and park have received strong support from both the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission of Farmington as a priority investment in the community's recreational infrastructure.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Kellee Omlid

Job Title: Parks and Recreation Director

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

Kellee Omlid, Farmington's Park and Recreation Director, has extensive experience in parks and recreation management, grant administration, and facility development. With over two decades in the field, she has demonstrated her ability to oversee complex projects, manage city-owned recreational assets, and secure funding for major initiatives. Her leadership in overseeing a \$2 million facility renovation—with a significant portion funded by a federal grant—shows her ability to successfully manage large-scale projects, ensuring compliance with grant requirements, budgeting, and construction oversight. Additionally, her collaborative approach was instrumental in securing a \$1.58 million Active Transportation Grant for a greenway trail project for the City of Farmington. By working closely with the application writers and Dakota County, she provided critical insights, strategic planning, and expertise in infrastructure development, highlighting her ability to build partnerships and leverage external resources for community improvements.

Kellee's educational background includes a master's degree in Public Administration and a bachelor's degree in Recreation and Leisure Services. Given her track record of managing parks, trails, and recreational facilities, along with

her ability to secure funding and oversee construction projects, Kellee Omlid is well-equipped to lead the planning, funding, and development of this project.

Organization: City of Farmington

Organization Description:

The City of Farmington is located in Dakota County and is bisected by the Vermillion River. Farmington is the youngest community in Dakota County, with a growing population of over 24,000 residents. The city is a welcoming and desirable community for families, supported by innovative schools and an extensive system of parks, trails, and natural areas. The City of Farmington Parks and Recreation Department is committed to enhancing quality of life through stewardship of natural resources, sustainable park planning, and resilient infrastructure that protects and connects residents to the city's landscapes and waterways. This work is strongly supported by the City Council, which has demonstrated a consistent commitment to parks and recreation through funding approvals and strategic investments in community amenities. Through thoughtful planning and investment, the Department works to ensure parks and open spaces remain healthy, accessible, and environmentally responsible for current and future generations.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	Planning/engineering contractor will be selected by competitive bid and will develop the site design, engineering, and construction specifications.				0		\$150,000
TBD	Service Contract	Contractor will be selected by competitive bid and will prepare the site and construct all recreation and access features according to the construction plans and specifications. Contractor will provide site preparation, construction, erosion control, and other construction tasks.				0		\$1,945,000
							Sub Total	\$2,095,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
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	\$2,095,000

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	Dakota County	Construction costs	Secured	\$275,958
Cash	City of Farmington	Construction costs	Secured	\$422,418
			Non State Sub Total	\$698,376
			Funds Total	\$698,376

Total Project Cost: \$2,793,376

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [10335cb1-165.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

1:24,000 ft USGS Map of the City of Farmington with Rambling River Park marked in Red overlaying a graphic aerial park map zoomed into Rambling River Park with key surrounding destinations and features identified....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Farmington Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	d98d8113-f4c.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City of Farmington Resolution 2026-021 Funding from Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund	c93492a3-63c.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Farmington City Council Letter of Support	9096081e-7e5.pdf
Dakota County Letter of Support	c074ec8a-454.pdf
Grant Summary Page	36a0e7d0-02e.pdf
SHPO Review Request Email Receipt	f16dde29-961.pdf
Capital Construction Budget Addendum	50b4cc55-bf6.pdf
ENRTF Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	6aa34d9e-7cf.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?

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:

Kari Kubicek, City of Farmington; Kellee Omlid, City of Farmington, Rita Trapp, HKGi; John Mertens, Dakota County

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