



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-305

Proposal Title: Carey Lake Accessible Trailhead Building Project

Project Manager Information

Name: Nick Arola

Organization: City of Hibbing

Office Telephone: (218) 421-5565

Email: nickarola@hibbingmn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: A new ADA-compliant, accessible trailhead with restrooms at Carey Lake Park providing inclusive access to recreation and nature.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,124,000

Proposed Project Completion: October 31, 2028

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?

During the Project

Narrative

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

Hibbing, Minnesota, is a rural community (population 16,057) in Northeast MN. 32% of the population is aged 60+. While the city boasts of city parks and some trails, none feature an ADA accessible, educational outdoor trailhead or facility built for people of all ages and abilities, obstructing access for a large portion of our regional population. A new, ADA-compliant, universally designed trailhead (built for people of all ages and abilities) will open outdoor recreation and access to nature for everyone: children, aging, Veterans, those with cognitive or physical challenge, or anyone in a wheelchair. The city is currently investing in Carey Lake Park renovation and has built a new trailhead parking area for the existing trails, grubbed and cleared, and installed well and septic. With funding, the city will be able to add the proposed trailhead/restroom facility and ADA-compliant gathering space, providing the opportunity to make the park inclusive to and usable by all residents and visitors.

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 proposes to build a new ADA-accessible, educational trailhead/restroom facility at Carey Lake Park. The ~1,400 SF facility will include ADA-compliant restrooms with grab bars, turning spaces, accessible sink and toilets, and 32-inch clearance for doors. Outside of the facility, the trailhead will include lighting, a paved pad with accessible benches and trash receptacles, interpretive and way-finding signage and firm stable surfaces with a slope no steeper than 1:20. The trailhead will be the entry point for the existing recreation trails and a planned ADA accessible bogwalk trail (not included in this application). With ADA-compliant, universal design, the trailhead will facilitate inclusive access to public land and water and new natural resources-based experiences.

Comprehensive community input in the Orange Places Walkability Study (2024), Hibbing Parks and Trails Master Plan (2023), and Hibbing Age-Friendly surveys and focus groups (2025) articulates a need for an ADA accessible, all-ages-friendly recreational destination. Creation of these new, safe, accessible amenities will facilitate recreation and engagement with nature for all 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?

Expanding equitable access to natural areas. By meeting ADA standards, the trailhead ensures that public natural resources and recreation are available to all, regardless of age (young or old), ability or mobility aid--allowing new experiences for those previously excluded (by virtue of access).

Containing human impact by providing clean, accessible facilities (benefiting the environment).

Educating about local ecosystems, native plants and wildlife, and stewardship through interpretive signage, inspiring a long-term, action-based conservation ethic among visitors of all ages and physical abilities benefiting the environment and natural resources.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Design & Permitting

Activity Budget: \$134,000

Activity Description:

Complete 60% SD and 90% DD, and 100% CD/issued for bid design drawings and specifications

Architectural design for the building

Structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering

Site electric, utilities design

Utilities connections (water, sanitary, fiber)

Civil site engineering

ADA compliance verification (trail slopes, cross slopes, surfacing materials, accessible signage and parking)

Prepare final engineer's cost estimate

Prepare bid documents (project manual)

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Bid-ready documents	November 30, 2027

Activity 2: Bidding & Contractor Selection

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

Advertisement for bids

Pre-bid meeting

Addenda preparation

Bid review & award process

Legal review & contract execution

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Notice to Proceed	January 31, 2028

Activity 3: Construction

Activity Budget: \$915,000

Activity Description:

Site Preparation & Utilities:

Clearing & grubbing

Erosion control

Rough grading

Utility, (electric, sewer, water) development connections

Parking surfacing and accessible signage

Building reinforced concrete

Footings and foundations construction, including any soils testing and soils correction.
 Building erection (park-style insulated CMU or other concrete block framing)
 Interior fittings, furnishings, and finishes
 Building electrical and lighting
 HVAC (heating included)
 ADA-accessible toilets, showers and accessories
 Restoration
 Paved pad, lighting, signage, benches

NOTE: Budget total includes contingency, inflation and restoration

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Establishing erosion control, subgrade prep, and utilities development	May 31, 2028
Footings and foundations	June 30, 2028
Building erection and finishing	September 30, 2028
Construction substantially complete	October 31, 2028

Activity 4: Final Inspections and Close Out

Activity Budget: \$60,000

Activity Description:

Building inspections
 Health department, Department of Labor and Industry approvals
 Complete substantial and final completion walkthrough inspections, including punchlist
 ADA verification, if required
 As-built drawings
 Contingency drawdown

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final acceptance by City (project fully operational and contractually complete)	October 31, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Miriam Kero	Hibbing Age Friendly	Technical Assistance & Expertise on developing age-friendly, ADA facility	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.

If awarded, the new trailhead will include interpretive signage that will educate the public about local ecosystems, native plants and wildlife, and stewardship (i.e., leave no trace, invasive species, water protection) to inspire users' behavior to protect and conserve Minnesota's environment and natural resources. Signage will attribute the contribution from the ENRTF. In addition, the City of Hibbing will utilize its website and social media (Facebook "Hibbing Has That" and LinkedIn) with the opening of the trailhead to share messaging about local ecosystems, native plants and wildlife and stewardship, and acknowledge the ENRTF (using the prescribed language). Press releases announcing trailhead construction and opening will also acknowledge the ENRTF.

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?

Owned and maintained by the City of Hibbing, the city will continue to fund operations of the new trailhead through the annual city budget. Additionally, community organizations (e.g., Range Nordic Gliders) are committed to assisting with maintenance through volunteering. The city has a master development plan (2023) for the park, which includes the proposed restrooms as well as an ADA bog walk trail (not included in this application). The city plans to fund these projects through a mixture of public and private dollars.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Nick Arola

Job Title: Director of City Services

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

As Director of City Services, project manager Nick Arola is well qualified to manage this project. As part of the city's leadership team, he is currently co-leading the \$29.6 million Hibbing Public Safety Building project, one of the largest capital investments in the community's history. This summer, he will be leading a \$2 million dollar exterior project on Hibbing's City Hall. In 2025, Arola oversaw the completion of a \$10 million-dollar industrial building project. And in 2024, Arola oversaw the completion of a \$2.5 million construction project at the Mine View Park, a \$1.7 million dollar renovation of Hibbing City Hall, and the first phase of the Carey Lake recreation area project.

In addition, Arola manages and oversees the operation of multiple city-owned properties including the Hibbing Memorial Building (Hockey Arena & Community Center), City Hall, Greyhound Bus Museum, 33 parks totaling approximately 1,890 acres, the Hibbing Municipal Golf Course, and various pavilions & sports complexes. With a departmental budget of roughly three million dollars, Arola is responsible for capital improvements and project management to existing and future facilities.

Through these efforts, Arola has established a strong track record of leadership, coordination, and fiscal oversight across multiple large-scale public infrastructure and facility projects.

Organization: City of Hibbing

Organization Description:

The City of Hibbing is a Statutory Plan A City with a population of 16,214 located on the Mesabi Iron Range in northeastern Minnesota. The City of Hibbing is governed by City Council and is mission driven to improve the quality of life for all residents through the delivery of quality and sustainable services through leveraging resources, opportunities, and strengths. The city acts as a major hub for the Iron Range, serving as a center for employment.

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	Final Design and Permitting; final inspections and closeout				0.2		\$209,000
TBD	Service Contract	Construction: site preparation, utilities, boardwalk, trail, restroom/shower house				20		\$915,000
							Sub Total	\$1,124,000
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	\$1,124,000

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 Funds	Construction costs	Secured	\$375,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$375,000
			Funds Total	\$375,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,499,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [4c969b0f-4c0.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Map of project location with Proposed Trailhead Project circled and highlighted in yellow....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2024 Final Annual Financial Report	ac5ff63f-27d.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution and Letter	63aef1f7-81b.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Letters of Support	8a266947-19e.pdf
Overall site plan with Building circled	d980ab33-44a.pdf
Budget Addendum	a0cdba07-f24.pdf
Trailhead Building Drawings	99921d10-d97.pdf
Capital Construction Questionnaire	396eed3c-b2c.pdf
SHPO Review Letter	7982da32-dc0.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:

Miriam Kero, Hibbing Age Friendly

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