



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-125

Proposal Title: CP Rail Regional Trail - South Segment Construction

Project Manager Information

Name: Maggie Heurung

Organization: Three Rivers Park District

Office Telephone: (952) 250-5282

Email: maggie.heurung@threeriversparks.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project will construct a 4.7-mile, 10-foot-wide, paved, off-road, multiuse trail between Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Edina to the southern boundary of Hyland Park Reserve in Bloomington.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$2,000,000

Proposed Project Completion: August 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?

During the Project

Narrative

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

Through extensive regional trail and bicycle transportation planning in partnership with Hennepin County, local communities, and community members, Three Rivers learned one of the most significant needs in the regional trail network is north-south regional trail corridors that connect community members to local and regional destinations, including parks.

The CP Rail Regional Trail - South corridor has the following deficiencies that impact pedestrians' ability and/or willingness to travel via walking, biking or rolling:

- Lack of continuous off-road walking and biking facilities as they are fragmented with inconsistent facility types, signage and striping as well as outdated accessibility standards.
- Vehicle conflicts/collisions with pedestrians and bicyclists since more than half of the project segment lacks safe infrastructure for people walking, biking and rolling. Right-of-way users share the road with moving vehicles (e.g., 14,800 vehicles per day along East Bush Lake Road), making them vulnerable. Minnesota Crash Mapping Analysis Tool data for the project corridor identified 18 vehicle-only accidents (2019-2021) and four bicycle and pedestrian accidents since 2012 (three resulting in minor injury).
- Major crossing barriers at CP Rail/Dewey Hill Road and the north I-494 off-ramp, and outdated crossing facilities at three other crossings.

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 creates a highly desirable, consistently designed north-south recreation and active transportation facility across two communities. This project addresses the corridor's deficiencies in the following ways:

- Provides a consistent, fully accessible, off-road, multi-use trail with consistent and clear wayfinding signage.
- Connects to local and regional trail/transportation networks, including Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail (which directly connects to 5 other regional trails, and Hopkins SWLRT), Bloomington Ferry Road and the Minnesota River Valley State Trail, local trails around Normandale Lake and greater local trail networks in Bloomington and Edina. Future expansion creating a continuous 21-mile corridor across six communities with direct connections to six regional trails.
- Connects to important natural resource and recreation areas, including Nine Mile Creek, Hyland Park Reserve, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
- Reduces the crash potential for people walking, biking and rolling by providing a safer travel experience for trail users of all ages, experience levels and abilities.
- Improves two major crossing barriers (CP Rail and I-494 north off ramp) and adds Accessible Pedestrian Signals at four crossings (East Bush Lake Road (CSAH 28), American Boulevard, I-494 off ramp and 78th Street).

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?

Three Rivers' regional trail network serves as both an important nature-based recreation and transportation resource. This project will expand nature-based recreation opportunities by connecting bicyclists, walkers, in-line skaters, dog walkers and more to nature-based recreation opportunities, including Nine Mile Creek, Hyland Park Reserve and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, encouraging an appreciation for, and thus the preservation of, nearby natural resources. This project supports further development and maintenance of the active transportation network by offering a safe transportation alternative, which will ultimately result in decreases in vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gases and pollution.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Design and Engineering, Construction, and Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$2,000,000

Activity Description:

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

Three Rivers will hire a professional consultant firm from its consultant services pool with engineering and other required qualifications 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.

Three Rivers will obtain permits from the City of Edina, City of Bloomington, Hennepin County, Nine Mile Creek 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
Predesign review	March 31, 2027
Consultation with SPHO	March 31, 2027
Begin design	April 30, 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)	August 31, 2027
Begin ROW acquisition	November 30, 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
Construction start	April 30, 2029
Substantial completion	August 31, 2030

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Christine Stehly	Hennepin County	Project Partner	No
Chad Milner	City of Edina	Project Partner	No
Amy Marohn	City of Bloomington	Project Partner	No
Mackenzie Turner Borgen	MnDOT	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.

1. Engagement of Benefiting Entities

Throughout planning, design, and construction, we will continue to actively engage stakeholders who will benefit from or be affected by 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 near Nine Mile Creek), 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?

Three Rivers will assemble internal and external partners, hire a consultant for design/construction administration, and solicit competitive bids for the 4.7-mile trail project. As a high-priority initiative, Three Rivers is committed to fully funding construction through grants and agency resources. To date, \$904,674 from Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and \$4,595,326 in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program - Transportation Alternative funds have been secured. Three Rivers Park District also submitted a FY2027 Community Project Funding request for \$2,214,958 to Representative Morrison's office. Additional funding will be pursued through GO bonds and Legacy funds.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Shoreline Stabilization, Fishing, and ADA Improvements at Silverwood Park	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08o	\$200,000
Karner Blue Butterfly Insurance Population Establishment in Minnesota	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b	\$405,000
Mississippi Gateway Shoreline Stabilization and Fishing Improvements	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08g	\$735,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Maggie Heurung

Job Title: Planner

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

The project will be ultimately reassigned to the Three Rivers civil engineering and design team, led by Josh Bowe, P.E. Bowe, Senior Manager of Engineering (Acting Director of Design). Josh is responsible for managing Three Rivers' infrastructure including project management, design, construction administration, and preventative maintenance. The Three Rivers civil engineering and design team supervises and delivers all the trail, road, parking lot and structure capital projects throughout the 27,000-acre regional park system which includes over 176 miles of regional trails.

Organization: Three Rivers Park District

Organization Description:

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system in suburban Hennepin County founded in 1957 by the Minnesota Legislature to acquire, develop and maintain regional parks, park reserves and trails. Three Rivers now manages 27,000 acres of parkland and over 176 miles of regional trails by a passionate staff of more than 2,500 employees (full-time, part-time and seasonal) working together to carry out our mission to promote environmental

stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. The name Three Rivers comes from our parks' geography, situated within the watersheds that flow into three significant rivers to this region: the Mississippi, the Minnesota and the Crow. Three Rivers' goal is to enhance the quality of life, local and statewide, through recreation and education while acquiring, developing and maintaining nature spaces for today and tomorrow.

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.				0		\$700,000
Three Rivers will hire a consultant from their professional services pool to perform contract administration services and closeout for the project.	Service Contract	Contract administration Provide construction oversight and documentation of the project to verify it is being constructed to the project plans and specifications.				0		\$100,000
Three Rivers will publicly bid the construction of the project and will be awarded to the lowest	Service Contract	Trail construction				0		\$900,000

responsible bidder.								
Three Rivers will hire a consultant from their professional services pool to manage the acquisition process for the project.	Service Contract	Acquisition management				0		\$120,000
							Sub Total	\$1,820,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Trail Easement Acquisition	Parcels: 10 0.64						\$180,000
							Sub Total	\$180,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								

							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$2,000,000

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	FY2027 Community Project Funding	Construction and Construction Administration	Potential	\$2,215,000
			State Sub Total	\$2,215,000
Non-State				
Cash	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program - Transportation Alternative funds	Construction and Construction Administration	Secured	\$4,595,326
Cash	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program	Construction and Construction Administration	Secured	\$904,674
Cash	GO Bonds and/or Legacy funding	Design, Construction, Construction Administration and Acquisition	Potential	\$1,580,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$7,080,000
			Funds Total	\$9,295,000

Total Project Cost: \$11,295,000

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
Parcel 1 - PID 0811621110024	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.03	0.06	\$16,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 10 - PID 1711621110014	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.02	0.05	\$14,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 2 - PID 0811621110010	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.02	0.04	\$11,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 3 - PID 0811621110019	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.01	0.03	\$8,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 4 - PID 0811621110020	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.02	0.03	\$9,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 5 - PID 0811621110022	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.01	0.02	\$7,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 6 - PID 0811621110023	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.04	0.08	\$23,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 7 - PID 0811621140001	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.04	0.08	\$23,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 8 - PID 0811621140002	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.08	0.18	\$50,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Parcel 9 - PID 1711621110008	Hennepin	On Trail Corridor	Easement - Other	0.03	0.07	\$19,000	Private	Easement	Has Not Begun
Totals				0.3	0.64	\$180,000			

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 long-range plan for this segment. The plan 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 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.

CP Rail Regional Trail - South Segment Long-range Plan

(<https://www.threeriversparks.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/construction/03-21%20CP%20Rail%20Reg.%20Trail%20Master%20Plan%20DRAFT.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: [c14fb0c3-8c6.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Attached is a map of the entire 4.7-mile project, identifying the 1.7 miles of new construction, 3 miles of reconstruction, and potential trail easement acquisition parcels....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Three Rivers Park District Third Quarter (2025) Financial Information	bc509933-31a.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Three Rivers Park District Board Resolution	81c80426-f90.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
MnDOT Letter of Support	f24d1c08-dcb.pdf
CP Rail Regional Trail - South Segment Layout	3ee16c2b-9ba.pdf
CP Rail One-page Overview	f65ea6d0-38e.pdf
Budget Addendum	0b1c4d3b-d85.pdf
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	aa25652e-2f7.pdf
City of Bloomington Letter of Support	9900e03c-6c0.pdf
City of Edina Letter of Support	fa28d3a2-22b.pdf
Hennepin County Letter of Support	efe01a64-e34.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:

Kelly Grissman, Director of Planning at 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