

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 3, 2024

## M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

**Project Title:** Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (West Segment)

**Project Manager:** Kevin Fellbaum

**Affiliation:** Otter Tail County

**Mailing Address:** 505 South Court Street, Suite 1

**City/State/Zip:** Fergus Falls, MN 56537

**Phone:** (218) 998-8470

**E-mail:** kfellbau@co.ottertail.mn.us

**Website:** <https://ottertailcountymn.us/>

**Funding Source:**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n

**Appropriation Amount:** \$2,600,000

**Amount Spent:** \$2,600,000

**Amount Remaining:** -

### Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Otter Tail County with the help of funding provided by LCCMR were able to build a 7.02-mile multi-modal trail system that connects the city of Pelican Rapids and residents of Otter Tail County to Maplewood State Park. This infrastructure allows people to get outside and enjoy the natural environment.

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

Otter Tail County was able to create a multi-modal trail corridor by constructing the West Segment of the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail. This trail connection from Pelican Rapids to Maplewood State Park enhances the recreational opportunities by connecting one of the most racially-and ethnically-diverse rural communities in outstate Minnesota to the state park. Maplewood State Park is a significant environmental destination for visitors and residents alike, as it hosted over 154,000 visitors in 2017 alone. Residents and visitors are now provided with a low cost and safer off-road option in order to commute between Pelican Rapids to Maplewood State Park. This trail corridor also provides for a safer alternative route for residents to be outside and enjoy outdoor recreation opportunities and enjoy nature while improving their health by walking, bicycling, roller blading, and running. This trail corridor does not allow the use of motorized vehicles during the non-snowy months, but we are working with the local snowmobile clubs to have the

corridor groomed for snowmobile usage during the winter. The Pelican Rapids High School men's and women's cross-country teams use the trail as a training ground for their sport, as the trail provides a safer corridor for them to train away from vehicular traffic on the roadways. During the upcoming 2024 construction season, the final segment of the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail will be constructed through Maplewood State Park that will then connect the communities of Pelican Rapids to Perham by a multi-modal trail.

**Project Results Use and Dissemination**

Otter Tail County has created and placed wayfinding maps at kiosks along the Trail. The ENRTF logo is used on the kiosks and on the County website on the segment-specific pages of the Trail. Otter Tail County will also be creating a trail promotional video in the spring of 2024, which will also display the ENRTF logo.



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** August 28, 2024

**ID Number:** 2020-049

**Staff Lead:** Becca Nash

**Project Title:** Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (West Segment)

**Project Budget:** \$2,600,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Kevin Fellbaum

**Organization:** Otter Tail County

**Office Telephone:** (218) 998-8470

**Email:** [kfellbau@co.ottertail.mn.us](mailto:kfellbau@co.ottertail.mn.us)

**Web Address:** <https://ottertailcountymn.us/>

### Project Reporting

**Final Report Approved:** January 3, 2024

**Reporting Status:** Project Completed

**Date of Last Action:** January 3, 2024

**Project Completion:** July 31, 2023

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n

**Appropriation Language:** \$2,600,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Otter Tail County to construct the west segment of the 32-mile Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail that will connect the city of Pelican Rapids to Maplewood State Park.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2024

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** Construction of the West Segment (6.83 miles) of the 32-mile Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail that will connect the City of Pelican Rapids to Maplewood State Park.

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

This proposal specifically aims to expand outdoor recreational opportunities by connecting the communities of Pelican Rapids, Perham and surrounding areas to Maplewood State Park via a recreational trail. It will also expand existing state trail systems by connecting the Central Lakes and Heartland Trails in the future. Otter Tail County is in a beautiful part of Minnesota with an abundance of lakes, wetlands, rolling hills and agricultural areas. Outdoor recreation is an important part of the quality of life and the tourism economy in Otter Tail County.

This proposal also improves access to outdoor recreational opportunities to diverse and changing populations. Racial and ethnic minority populations tend to participate less in most nature-based outdoor recreation activities, including visiting state parks and trails. In fact, according to a DNR report, only 2.8 percent of state park visitors identified themselves as non-white. Pelican Rapids is the most diverse community in Otter Tail County and one of the most diverse rural communities in Minnesota. This project will afford outdoor recreational opportunities to members of racially and ethnically diverse cultures who have not traditionally benefited from the park's facilities and resources.

**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.**

LCCMR funding will be used to construct the West Segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail - a 10-foot wide, 6.83-mile bituminous multi-use trail from the south end of the City of Pelican Rapids south along Trunk Highway (TH) 59 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 3, and then east on CSAH 3 to the west boundary of Maplewood State Park

There is considerable momentum for the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail. The East Segment has been funded and construction will begin the summer of 2020. The Silent Lake Segment has been funded and construction will begin the summer of 2021. The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners has already invested \$433,000 in the planning, detailed engineering and property acquisition for the West Segment of the trail to ensure the project is shovel ready in the event this request is approved.

**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?**

This project will expand outdoor recreational opportunities through additions and connections to state, regional, or local parks and trails to members of racially and ethnically diverse cultures who have not traditionally benefited from the park's facilities and resources.

This project will also fill a critical gap in the state and regional trail system by eventually connecting the Central Lakes Trail to the Heartland Trail. Both existing state trails are located within or adjacent to Otter Tail County. Their connection will create one of the most impressive trail systems in the country.

## Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Region(s): Central

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Region(s): Central

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project and In the Future

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Construction of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (West Segment)

**Activity Budget:** \$2,600,000

**Activity Description:**

LCCMR funding will be used to competitively bid and construct a 10-foot wide multi-use trail from the south end of the City of Pelican Rapids south along Trunk Highway (TH) 59 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 3, and then east on CSAH 3 to the west boundary of Maplewood State Park. The proposed project will run parallel along TH 59 and CSAH 3 and link to the newly constructed Pelican Rapids Trail in Pelican Rapids.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Completion of Final Design and Specifications	December 31, 2021
Construction Bidding	March 31, 2022
Initiate Construction	May 31, 2022
Complete Construction	December 31, 2022

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
PartnerSHIP4Health	PartnerSHIP4Health	Helped to develop the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail Master Plan.	No
West Central Initiative	West Central Initiative	Helped to develop the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail Master Plan.	No
City of Pelican Rapids	Municipal City	Helped to develop the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail Master Plan.	No
Minnesota Department of Natural Resource	State Agency	Helped to develop the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail Master Plan.	No
City of Perham	Municipal City	Helped to develop the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail Master Plan.	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 ENTRF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

Signs will be created and installed along the trail with the ENTRF logo. The County's website for the trail will attribute its success to ENTRF funding and all related media will include acknowledgement.

## 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 ability to complete and maintain the project long-term is of utmost importance. Per the attached resolution, the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners have approved this grant application for the West Segment and the local match. The 6.83 mile West Segment trail is estimated to cost \$3,983,0000 in total. \$2,600,000 would be from this grant with all remaining costs borne by the County.

Once the project is completed, Otter Tail County will assume financial responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the trail.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>Personnel</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>										
Riley Bros. Construction Inc.	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction of the the 10-foot wide, 6.83-mile West segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail to be awarded by competitive bid.				2,600,000		\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	-
							Sub Total	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	-
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>										



							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,600,000</b>	<b>\$2,600,000</b>	-

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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>State</b>						
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Non-State</b>						
Cash	Otter Tail County	<p>These funds contributed will be used as the County's portion of the project costs.                      Funds will be used to share in the construction costs of the 10-foot wide; 6.83-mile West Segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail. Staff expenses to manage the project and fulfill grant requirements are included in the Non-ENRTF funds contributed.</p> <p>10/20/2022- To date, we have received 4 pay requests from Riley Bros Construction Inc, which have all been paid, and we have also received 2 individual pay requests from sub-contractors that have been paid. Total for all 6 requests= \$4,072,621.89                      ENTRF Grant= \$2,600,000.00                      Non ENTRF (match)= \$1,472,621.89</p>	Secured	\$1,472,621	\$1,472,621	-
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,472,621</b>	<b>\$1,472,621</b>	-
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$1,472,621</b>	<b>\$1,472,621</b>	-

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [e0368cbb-125.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Exhibit details the segments of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail, highlighting the proposed West Segment...

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Board of Commissioner Resolution	<a href="#">1c703dc1-34e.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	<a href="#">b173f98b-12f.pdf</a>
Pelican Segment- Trail Photo	<a href="#">4cb793f5-638.jpe</a>
Pelican Segment- Temp Parking Banner	<a href="#">e9801ef8-36d.jpe</a>
Pelican Segment- Map Mock Up	<a href="#">e862ccda-77e.pdf</a>

### Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

#### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

Updated the Narrative and Budget per comments. Uploaded background check form.

## Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

**Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?**

N/A

**Do you agree travel expenses must 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

## Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed</li> </ul>	Riley Bros Construction Inc was added as the Prime Contractor for construction of the trail project. Updated Budget pages to show that ENTRF and NON-ENTRF funds have been spent as requested.	October 20, 2022	Yes	October 27, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attachments</li> </ul>	Added photos of Trail showing ENRTF Logo along with pics of Trail, will add more photos once Trailhead building is complete being built by school, still be constructed. Once the building is built a trail kiosk will be placed with wayfinding maps that include the ENRTF Logo.	December 15, 2023	Yes	December 19, 2023

# Status Update Reporting

## Final Status Update September 14, 2023

**Date Submitted:** December 15, 2023

**Date Approved:** December 19, 2023

### Overall Update

On December 12/2023, The Otter Tail County authorized the last payment for the contract with Riley Bros Construction for the West (Pelican) Segment. All punch list items are complete and the Trail is fully open and functional to the Public. Mn-DOT ADA concerns were addressed along TH 59. Project Construction Total Cost \$4,366,304.52. LCCMR Grant: \$2,600,000.00 County Cost: \$1,766,304.52

We are still working on updating our County website, with pictures and mapping for the segments of the trail. We were able to add the ENRTF Logo to the webpage and will add it in more locations as we update our website over the coming weeks. The Heart of the Lakes video in the attachments will be replaced in the Spring 2024, when we shoot a new promotional video for the completed trail, which we will make sure to add the ENRTF logo to the new video.

### Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Dissemination

Otter Tail County is currently working with the Pelican Rapids School District and City of Pelican Rapids on a joint concession/bathroom facility on the school grounds. This facility will serve multiple purposes, with one of them being a trailhead for the Heart of the Lakes Trail. At this facility we will be posting wayfinding materials and maps that will include the ENRTF Logo. We are also currently working on updating the County website which include these same maps that will include the ENRTF logo on our website pages that are specific to the Heart of the Lakes Trail.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** April 10, 2023

**Date Approved:** May 10, 2023

### **Overall Update**

The West Segment of the Heart of the Lakes trail was constructed, paved, and open for use as of mid July/2022. Once the snow melts this Spring, we will be doing our final walk through to make sure that the Trail meets all of our specifications and that there is no defects in the product after going through one freeze thaw cycle. We will also make be making sure that the Trail meets all of the ADA requirements set by MN-DOT. We will also be installing all of our final trail amenities at this time (Benches, Trash Bins, Way Finding Signage).

### **Activity 1**

Construction is complete for this segment of Trail. We will be running through our final punch list items this spring to make sure the project is complete before finalizing the contract with our Contractor. There may be some clean up items to address after the infrastructure goes through it's first freeze thaw cycle and before we close out the contract we want to make sure that the contractor completes all of these tasks before finalizing the project.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### **Dissemination**

We will be placing ENRTF logos and signage on our trail maps that will be located at the trailheads, this will take place this Spring/Summer as the map designs are almost complete. We will also utilize the logos on our new County Website that we are currently rolling out.



# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** October 20, 2022

**Date Approved:** October 27, 2022

### **Overall Update**

With construction nearly complete, we are already seeing daily usage of this infrastructure. (Bikers, Walkers, Roller Bladers, and the Pelican Rapids Cross Country Team is using the trail as a training corridor)

### **Activity 1**

Currently we are in the final stages of construction, finishing up some punch list items to complete construction (seeding, signage, cleanup)

### **Dissemination**

We most recently (two days ago) put up a Temporary Trailhead sign for parking and included on that is ENTRF Logo.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** April 1, 2022

**Date Approved:** April 8, 2022

### **Overall Update**

Construction Bids for the West Segment of the Perham to Pelican Trail were opened on Feb/23/22. A preconstruction meeting was held Mar/22/22. Clearing and grubbing activities will begin the week of April/4/22 followed by corridor construction.

### **Activity 1**

Milestones #1 and #3 are complete. Milestone #2 will begin April/4/22.

### **Dissemination**

We just began Trail Sign and Kiosk design. We are planning to have all appropriate funding partners (ENTRF Logos) on our trailhead and Kiosk signs.