

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 3, 2025

M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: Rocori Trail - Phase III

Project Manager: Pete Weber

Affiliation: Rocori Trail Construction Board

Mailing Address: 27 Red River Avenue South

City/State/Zip: Cold Spring, MN 56320

Phone: (320) 685-3653

E-mail: pweber@coldspring.govoffice.com

Website: <https://www.rockvillecity.org/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$1,200,000

Amount Spent: \$547,133

Amount Remaining: \$652,867

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The Rocori Trail Phase III project successfully constructed a 2.3-mile-long bituminous surfaced trail segment that is safe, efficient, ADA-compliant, and scenic. This new segment completes the final connection between the cities of Richmond, Cold Spring, and Rockville, providing access to numerous natural features, attractions, and parks in the area.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The planning, design and construction of the Rocori Trail has been a decades-long collaborative effort with support from the Rocori Trail Committee; the cities of ROckville, COld Spring, and RIchmond (ROCORI); Cold Spring 20/20; Stearns County; MN DNR; National Parks Service; Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota; and the Rocori Area Community Foundation, schools, and the residents. Starting as a grassroots initiative in the early 2000's, the vision was to provide a safe, efficient, scenic, and ADA compliant connection for pedestrians and bicyclists between the cities of Richmond, Cold Spring, and Rockville, and adjacent townships along the former BNSF rail corridor along State Highway 23 in Stearns County. The Rocori Trail Construction Board (RTCB), made up of the representatives of 3 ROCORI cities, is the formal (legal) body governing design, construction, and ownership of the Rocori Trail and corridor.

2.3 miles of 10 feet wide, bituminous surfaced, and ADA compliant trail between Cold Spring and Rockville were constructed with Phase III. The funding provided by the Environmental Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the LCCMR filled a significant funding gap for the Rocori Trail. Other key funding sources included federal Transportation Alternative Program funds administered by the MN Department of Transportation and Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program funds administered by the MN Department of Natural Resources. Construction of Phases 1 and 2, and overall property acquisition were completed with local, state and federal dollars.

The 7-mile long Rocori Trail provides connections to many area features/attractions along the trail route including recreational facilities, historical and natural resources, elementary and secondary schools, commercial, industrial, and retail businesses, and specifically, the Sauk River, Historic Downtowns, Cold Spring Dam and Falls, Scenic and Recreational Parks, Rockville Granite Quarry, Eagle Park, Scenic Rural Countryside Vistas and the Rockville County Park.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

An early press release was issued regarding the award of ENRTF grant funds as recommended by LCCMR. The bid documents acknowledged said funding and signage requirements including loon logo which were installed. A grand opening celebration was held on 06-17-2023 with ribbon cutting ceremonies in Richmond & Rockville followed by a speaking event/ gathering in Cold Spring attended by state & local politicians, trail board members, city staff, engineers, and the public. The event was advertised on social media, radio, and newspaper. LCCMR ENRTF funding was acknowledged orally and in writing including the logo and funding statement in written materials.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: January 7, 2025

ID Number: 2020-057

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Project Title: Rocori Trail - Phase III

Project Budget: \$1,200,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Pete Weber

Organization: Rocori Trail Construction Board

Office Telephone: (320) 685-3653

Email: pweber@coldspring.govoffice.com

Web Address: <https://www.rockvillecity.org/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: January 3, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: January 3, 2025

Project Completion: June 30, 2024

Legal Information

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

Appropriation Language: \$1,200,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Rocori Trail Construction Board to design and construct Phase III of the Rocori Trail along the old Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail corridor between the cities of Cold Spring and Rockville.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: This project consists of the design and construction of Phase 3 of the Rocori Trail along the old BNSF rail corridor and will connect Cold Spring, Richmond and Rockville.

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

The planning, design and construction of the Rocori Trail has been a collaborative effort with support from the Rocori Trail Committee, City of Rockville, City of Cold Spring, City of Richmond, Cold Spring 20/20, Stearns County, MN DNR, National Parks Service, Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, the Rocori Area Community Foundation, Schools, and the residents of the participating communities. The total estimated cost of Phase 3 of the Rocori Trail is estimated to be \$2,437,270. The RTCB has expended \$365,000 to date on the project. The RTCB received \$812,270 from the MN Department of Transportation through its FY'21 Transportation Alternatives Program eligible for construction and is requesting \$1,260,000 from the LCCMR for the balance of the project cost. The Rocori Trail provides connections to many area features/attractions along the trail route including recreational facilities, historical and natural resources, elementary and secondary schools, commercial, industrial, and retail businesses, and specifically, the Sauk River, Historic Downtowns, Cold Spring Dam and Falls, Scenic and Recreational Parks, Rockville Granite Quarry, Eagle Park, Scenic Rural Countryside Vistas and the Rockville County Park.

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 Rocori Trail Construction Board (RTCB) is applying to the LCCMR for funds to complete the design and construction of Phase 3 (2.3 miles) of the Rocori Trail. The trail will be constructed on the former BNSF railroad corridor along Trunk Highway 23 in Stearns County and will connect the cities of Richmond, Cold Springs, Rockville and two adjoining Townships. The entire Rocori Trail corridor is owned by the Rocori Trail Construction Board. Upon completion of Phase 3, the trail will be approximately 7 miles long, 10 feet wide, paved and ADA compliant (See attached map). Phases 1 and 2 have been completed with local, state and federal dollars.

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 primary users of the Rocori Trail will be pedestrians, bicyclists, roller bladers and will be accessible for wheelchair use in and around the cities of Richmond, Cold Springs, Rockville, the Townships of Wakefield and Munson, and most of Stearns County. The Rocori Trail is also connected to the Glacial Lakes State Trail that runs approximately 50 miles from Willmar to Richmond. Future links include connections to the Lake Wobegon Trail (St. Joseph/Todd County), Central Lakes Trail (Fergus Falls/Alexandria), Lake Koronis Trail (Paynesville) and Beaver Island Trail (St. Cloud) which would create over 100 miles of trail connectivity.

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?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Project Engineering

Activity Budget: \$308,270

Activity Description:

Trail Design, Wetlands Permitting and Mitigation, Right of Way, Material Testing, Staking, Inspection, and Construction Administration of Phase 3 of the Rocori Trail.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final Design Review	September 30, 2021
Completion Of Plans and Specifications	November 30, 2021
Complete Bidding Documents	March 31, 2022

Activity 2: Project Construction

Activity Budget: \$891,730

Activity Description:

Construction of the Rocori Trail Phase 3. Construction will include grubbing and clearing, excavation, fill, rip rap, culverts, landscaping, paving and any signage needed for the completion of Phase 3 of the Rocori Trail. Phase 3 of the trail will be approximately 7 miles long, 10 feet wide, paved and ADA compliant.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Project Bid	April 30, 2022
Construction Start	May 31, 2022
Construction Complete	June 30, 2023

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Richmond Elected Officials	City of Richmond	Project Oversight	No
Cold Spring Elected Officials	City of Cold Spring	Project Oversight	No
Rockville Elected Officials	City of Rockville	Project Oversight	No
MNDOT Staff	MNDOT	Funder	No
MNDNR Staff	MNDNR	Funder	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.

Description: Upon receipt of a signed grant agreement, Rocori Trail will issue a press release announcing the project, the plans for the reconstruction of the Rocori Trail Phase 3, and will include special thanks and acknowledgement to the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for their assistance.

The Trail Board shall use the City's web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

The City's Facebook pages will be used to advertise trail closures, project updates, address comments and questions, etc. Each post by the City's related to this project will include the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo or acknowledgement such as "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed approximately 30 days prior to construction and shall remain until completion of the project in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo.

At the time of bid solicitation and contractor selection, the City's shall include in all documents language that acknowledges Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as a participating sponsor of the project.

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 operation and maintenance of all phases of this project is under the auspices of the Rocori Trail Construction Board

(RTCB) and the cities of Richmond, Cold Springs, and Rockville have agreed to share on the maintenance for the RTCB for a minimum of 20 years. The trail will be constructed with materials that require a low level of maintenance over the next 20 years. The cities annually evaluate the condition and operations of the trail. Seasonal maintenance (mowing, weed control, sweeping, trail repair, etc.) is estimated to be \$15,000 annual for all three phases of the project. This will be a line item in each of the cities' annual budget.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Engineering Firm Will Be Responsible For Project Design and Construction Administration				4		\$270,000	\$142,325	\$127,675
Knife River Corporation - North Central	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Responsible For All Aspects Of The Project Construction				8		\$914,373	\$389,181	\$525,192
Minnesota Department of Transportation - Lab Testing Services	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction Materials Testing - Verification Testing				-		\$4,107	\$4,107	-
Braun Intertec Corporation	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction Materials Testing				-		\$11,520	\$11,520	-
							Sub Total	\$1,200,000	\$547,133	\$652,867
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures										
							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	\$1,200,000	\$547,133	\$652,867

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
State						
Cash	MNDNR	Project Design and Construction	Secured	\$130,839	\$130,839	-
			State Sub Total	\$130,839	\$130,839	-
Non-State						
Cash	MNDOT - Transportation Alternatives Program (Federal Funds)	Trail Construction	Secured	\$1,340,125	\$1,340,125	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$1,340,125	\$1,340,125	-
			Funds Total	\$1,470,964	\$1,470,964	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [5e4698d8-015.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Visual Shows Trail Location...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	58ea2972-817.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Organization Documents	9dc0620f-fd4.docx
ENRTF BCC Form	f457e65b-2b0.pdf
Rocori Trail Phase 3 Post Construction Photo 1	d5bf6a00-109.jpe
Rocori Trail Phase 3 Post Construction Photo 2	6083c0a6-9a4.jpe
Rocori Trail Phase 3 Post Construction Photo 3	97be06b3-5c8.jpe
Rocori Trail Phase 3 Post Construction Photo 4	be7a15b3-96e.jpe
Rocori Trail Phase 3 Post Construction Photo 5	3d18e8ae-ab9.jpe
Rocori Trail Phase 3 Post Construction Photo 6	db657f09-bdf.jpe
Rocori Trail Phase 3 Post Construction Photo 7	ee87044a-885.jpe

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

All changes were made as recommended in the comments and revisions section.

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 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?

Yes, Stearns County

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"> • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed 	The selected engineering firm's name and contract amounts were entered. The awarded construction contractor company's name and contract amount were entered. The Non-ENRTF project funding amounts were updated to actual amounts.	June 23, 2022	Yes	July 1, 2022
2	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024 New Completion Date: 12/31/2024	LCCMR administrative workaround related to final update.	July 30, 2024	Yes	July 30, 2024
3	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 12/31/2024 New Completion Date: 06/30/2024	LCCMR administrative workaround for final update.	July 30, 2024	Yes	July 30, 2024
4	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed 	Adjusted the Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed amount for the Federal Funds (MnDOT administered Transportation Alternatives program) to reflect the \$1,760,657 received; this amount was increased shortly before construction started and resulted in a decreased amount of ENRTF Funds needed to complete the project. The Budget was also updated to include Braun Intertec and MnDOT Lab Testing Services as Contractors. Lastly the amount spent for each group was updated to actual final numbers.	November 2, 2024	Yes	November 13, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2024

Date Submitted: November 1, 2024

Date Approved: November 13, 2024

Overall Update

In May 2024 the construction contractor completed outstanding punch list items including turf restoration touch ups. Construction is complete. Stearns County, the Rocori Trail Construciton Board, and SEH have been working on project closeout paperwork activities since then. The DBE Final Clearance Letter from MnDOT Office of Civil Rights was received on 8/21/2024 which was the last piece of paperwork needed to closeout the MnDOT funded portion of the project.

Activity 1

In May 2024 the construction contractor completed outstanding punch list items including turf restoration touch ups. Construction is complete. Stearns County, the Rocori Trail Construciton Board, and SEH have been working on project closeout paperwork activities since then. The DBE Final Clearance Letter from MnDOT Office of Civil Rights was received on 8/21/2024 which was the last piece of paperwork needed to closeout the MnDOT funded portion of the project.

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

Activity 2

Construction is complete.

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

Dissemination

There are no new dissemination activities to report.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2024

Date Submitted: June 3, 2024

Date Approved: July 30, 2024

Overall Update

Per LCCMR staff guidance, due to system logic, this is place holder text for final update to be submitted in August 2024.

Activity 1

Per LCCMR staff guidance, due to system logic, this is place holder text for final update to be submitted in August 2024.

Activity 2

Per LCCMR staff guidance, due to system logic, this is place holder text for final update to be submitted in August 2024.

Dissemination

Per LCCMR staff guidance, due to system logic, this is place holder text for final update to be submitted in August 2024.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: June 3, 2024

Date Approved: July 30, 2024

Overall Update

In May 2024 the construction contractor completed outstanding punch list items including turf restoration touch ups. Construction is now complete. Stearns County, the Rocori Trail Construcion Board, and SEH are working on project closeout activities.

Activity 1

Construction phase project engineering has been ongoing since the last update. There was field monitoring and meetings with the Contractor in April and May. In May 2024 the construction contractor completed outstanding punch list items including turf restoration touch ups. Construction is now complete. Stearns County, the Rocori Trail Construcion Board, and SEH are working on project closeout activities.

Activity 2

In May 2024 the construction contractor completed outstanding punch list items including turf restoration touch ups. Construction is now complete.

Dissemination

There are no new dissemination activities to report.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2023

Date Submitted: October 9, 2023

Date Approved: December 12, 2023

Overall Update

Construction of the project is substantially complete. We are monitoring turf establishment and the contractor is addressing punch list items.

Activity 1

Construction phase project engineering has been ongoing since the last update. The first half of the reporting period saw active construction through June 2023 with completion of final lift bituminous paving, pavement markings, and final turf restoration activities. Engineering activities included construction observation, materials testing, staking, and administration. We are currently monitoring establishment and preparing to close the project out by spring of 2024.

Activity 2

Construction was substantially completed in June 2023 with final lift bituminous paving, pavement markings, and final turf restoration (seeding) activities. Turf restoration punch list/monitoring remains.

Dissemination

A grand opening celebration was held on June 17, 2023 that including dual ribbon cutting ceremonies and pedal pubs starting in Richmond and Cold Spring, that met in Cold Spring where a speaking event and gathering was held. The event was attended by local and regional dignitaries including state representative and senator, trail board members, city council members and staff, county commissioner, as well as engineering staff and the public. The event was advertised on social media, radio, and local newspaper. LCCMR ENTRF funding was acknowledged orally and in writing including the logo and funding statement in written materials.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2023

Date Submitted: May 24, 2023

Date Approved: May 25, 2023

Overall Update

The project is nearing end of the construction phase. Fine grading of inslopes, Sauk River Road intersection crossing resurfacing, final turf restoration, and pavement marking work remains. Construction is planned to be substantially complete by 6/30/2023

Activity 1

Design and Bidding phase engineering is complete. Incorrectly previously reported this entire activity was complete. Construction phase engineering has been ongoing since the spring of 2022 including Material Testing, Staking, Inspection, and Construction Administration activities. Construction phase engineering is anticipated to be completed by 12/31/2023.

Activity 2

The project is nearing end of the construction phase. Fine grading of inslopes, Sauk River Road intersection crossing resurfacing, turf restoration, and pavement marking work remains. Construction activity is anticipated to be substantially completed by 6/30/2023 with project closeout by 12/31/2023.

Dissemination

Project press releases and communications have referenced ENRTF and LCCMR funding/ involvement. ENRTF / LCCMR signage including loon logo have been installed on the ends of this segment of the Rocori Trail.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2022

Date Submitted: November 3, 2022

Date Approved: November 7, 2022

Overall Update

Construction on the project started July 25, 2022. The first lift of bituminous surfacing has been paved on entire 2.3 miles of trail. Construction in 2022 is planned to continue until freeze-up. Work in the spring of 2023 will included final lift paving and turf establishment. We are on schedule to complete construction by 6/30/2023.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

Milestones 1 & 2 are complete. We are winding down construction in 2022. Work completed to date includes all of the underground work, paving the first lift of bituminous surfacing on the entire 2.3 miles of trail, and installation of most of the safety fencing. Work planned to still be completed in 2022 includes masonry drainage structure/culvert rehabilitations and temporary turf establishment. Work planned for the spring of 2023 includes final lift bituminous paving, concrete ped ramps, final turf restoration, and punch list work. We are on schedule to complete Milestone 3 by 6/30/2023.

Dissemination

The bid documents acknowlege the project funding and signage requirements which have been installed.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2022

Date Submitted: June 23, 2022

Date Approved: July 1, 2022

Overall Update

The project has been bid and awarded. Construction is anticipated to begin in July, be substantially complete in the fall of 2022, with final completion in 2023.

Activity 1

Milestone 1: Complete

Milestone 2: No review required by LCCMR per Becca Nash.

Milestone 3: Complete

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

Activity 2

Milestone 1: Bids were opened 5/12/2022. The project was awarded to the low bidder Knife River Corporation - North Central on 5/24/2022.

Milestone 2: The anticipated construction start date is 7/18/2022.

Milestone 3: The anticipated construction completion date is 6/30/2023.

Dissemination

A press release was issued regarding the award of grant funds provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).