

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 4, 2024

## M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

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

**Project Manager:** Kevin Fellbaum

**Affiliation:** Otter Tail County

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

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

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

**Funding Source:**

**Fiscal Year:**

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

**Appropriation Amount:** \$2,245,000

**Amount Spent:** \$2,245,000

**Amount Remaining:** -

### Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Otter Tail County with the help of the funding provided by LCCMR was able to build a 5.760-mile multi-modal trail system that serves as the missing connection between two trail segments connecting the City of Perham and Maplewood State Park.

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

Otter Tail County was able to create a multi-modal trail corridor by construction of the McDonald Segment of the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail. This 10 foot wide multi-use trail connects the city of Perham to Maplewood State Park and thus enhances the outdoor recreational opportunities of county residents and visitors. Maplewood State Park is a significant environmental destination for visitors and residents alike, as it hosted over 154,000 visitors in 2017 alone. A large collaborative effort took place between Otter Tail County, City of Perham, City of Pelican Rapids, MN DNR, and MN-DOT in order for this project to become a reality. This trail segment in conjunction with the rest of the trails segments that comprise the Heart of the Lakes Trail is designated as a Trail of Regional Significance by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. Residents and visitors are now provided with a low cost and safer off-road option in order to commute from Perham and surrounding areas to Maplewood State Park and vice versa. 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, riding bike, 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. 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 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. 2021 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** September 9, 2024

**ID Number:** 2021-012

**Staff Lead:** Becca Nash

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

**Project Budget:** \$2,245,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Kevin Fellbaum

**Organization:** Otter Tail County

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

### Project Reporting

**Final Report Approved:** January 4, 2024

**Reporting Status:** Project Completed

**Date of Last Action:** January 4, 2024

**Project Completion:** July 31, 2023

### Legal Information

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

**Appropriation Language:** \$2,245,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Otter Tail County to construct the McDonald Segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail to connect the cities of Perham and Pelican Rapids to Maplewood State Park.

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

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** Construction of the McDonald Segment (5.83 miles) of the 32-mile Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail that will connect Perham and Pelican Rapids via 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 McDonald Segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail - a 10-foot wide, 5.83-mile bituminous multi-use trail from the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 41 and 440th Street going east along 440th Street to CSAH 35, and then east along CSAH 35 to the intersection of CSAH 35 and CSAH 34.

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 with a local investment of \$1,162,500. The West Segment has been funded, pending final LCCMR approval and the Silent Lake Segment has been funded with a GMRPTC grant; both segments with a total local investment of \$3,767,210. Finally, the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners has approved \$818,000 to ensure the McDonald Segment is shovel ready in the event the request is approved. The planning, detailed engineering and property acquisition for the McDonald Segment of the trail is underway.

**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?**

County(s): Otter Tail

**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 (McDonald Segment)

**Activity Budget:** \$2,245,000

**Activity Description:**

LCCMR funding will be used to competitively bid and construct a 10-foot wide multi-use trail from the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 41 and 440th Street going east along 440th Street to CSAH 35, and then east along CSAH 35 to the intersection of CSAH 35 and CSAH 34. The proposed project will run parallel along 440th Street and CSAH 35 and link to the newly constructed East portion of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail.

**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
Minnesota Department of Natural Resource	State Agency	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
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 ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

A wide variety of tools and technologies will be employed to share information about the project. We will use an existing project website (<https://ottertailcountymn.us/project/perham-to-pelican-rapids-trail>) to provide updates. Users can subscribe to receive updates anytime new information is added. Press release and Otter Tail County social media sites will also be utilized for project updates. Finally, there will be considerable public outreach, including direct mailings to keep area property owners apprised of project developments.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

## 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 McDonald Segment and the local match.

Once the project is completed, Otter Tail County will assume financial responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the trail. The trail will be maintained for biking, walking and other non-motorized uses during spring, summer and fall. In the winter, the trail will be open for winter activities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

## 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>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>										
		Construction Costs - Contractor selected through competitive bid process	Construct a 10-foot wide; 5.83-mile bituminous trail					\$2,245,000	\$2,245,000	-
							Sub Total	\$2,245,000	\$2,245,000	-
<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>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-



<b>Other Expenses</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,245,000</b>	<b>\$2,245,000</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	County share of funding to construct the 10-foot wide, 5.83 mile long McDonald Segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail. Included in this are the staff time to manage the project and funding requirements.	Secured	\$961,000	\$961,000	-
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$961,000</b>	<b>\$961,000</b>	-
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$961,000</b>	<b>\$961,000</b>	-

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [c4b69439-ee1.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

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

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Board of Commissioners Resolution	<a href="#">10d1282a-e88.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	<a href="#">496723c1-ec4.pdf</a>
Aerial Photo of Recently Completed Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (McDonald Segment)	<a href="#">86f5cd56-4a1.jpe</a>
McDonald Lake Segment- East Lot Map	<a href="#">0541163f-c77.jpe</a>
McDonald Lake Segment- East Lot- Close up	<a href="#">0520b459-d06.jpe</a>
McDonald Lake Segment - East Lot Rest Area	<a href="#">8a74f909-7bc.jpe</a>
McDonald Lake Segment- West Lot Map	<a href="#">5877495f-0db.jpe</a>
McDonald Lake Segment- West Lot- Close Up	<a href="#">128344df-99f.jpe</a>
McDonald Lake Segment- West Lot Rest Area	<a href="#">3b1c91a6-d13.jpe</a>
McDonald Lake Segment- Berend Lake Rest Stop	<a href="#">3a0255d8-1dd.jpe</a>

#### *Media Links*

Title	Link
(Youtube) Video of Heart of the Lakes Trail progress	<a href="https://youtu.be/PrQ9HPpFbU4?feature=shared">https://youtu.be/PrQ9HPpFbU4?feature=shared</a>

### Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

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

Uploaded the 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?**

Yes

**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

No Amendments Entered

# Status Update Reporting

Final Report Approved: January 4, 2024

**Project Status:** Project Completed

Final Status Update September 14, 2023

**Date Submitted:** January 2, 2024

**Date Approved:** January 3, 2024

## Overall Update

On December 12/2023, The Otter Tail County authorized the last payment for the contract with Riley Bros Construction for the McDonald Lake Segment. All punch list items are complete and the Trail is fully open and functional to the Public. Project Construction Total Cost \$3,333,249.12. LCCMR Grant: \$2,245,000.00 County Cost: \$1,088,249.12

We are still working on updating our County website, with pictures and mapping. 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

On this Segment of Trail, we have constructed two Trailhead Parking areas. At these trailheads we have kiosks with wayfinding and mapping materials. As part of these maps, we have included the ENRTF logo. Otter Tail County is also currently working on updating our county website. The ENRTF logo will be incorporated and placed on each one of the segment specific pages of the Heart of the Lakes Trail.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update June 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** June 5, 2023

**Date Approved:** June 9, 2023

### **Overall Update**

The Trail Construction is substantially complete and open to the public for use. We are working on finalizing the punch list to clean up a few items from over the winter. We are also working on putting out all our signage for way-finding along the trail. We are also working on tying up a few loose ends pertaining to some ROW questions.

### **Activity 1**

The Trail construction is substantially complete and open for public use. We are working on finalizing the punch list to clean up a few items from over the winter. Once the punch list is complete we will work on finalizing out the project and closing out the contract with the contractor.

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

### **Dissemination**

We are currently going through a county wide redesign of our website, on a project specific page for the Heart of the Lakes Trail we will be posting the logos of our sponsors. We will also be posting sponsor logos at all of the Trail Way Finding Kiosks. Trails Maps should be complete and installed in the next month.



# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update December 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** February 8, 2023

**Date Approved:** February 8, 2023

### **Overall Update**

With this Trail Segment construction being at about 98% complete, prior to winter setting in, we were already starting to see good usage of the trail. You could drive by at any time during the day and see bikers, walkers, and joggers. One local school district was using the trail corridor as a training route for its cross-country team to train, which allowed for a safer place to run than along the side of a road. With winter here now and measurable snow piling up, we are starting to see snowmobiles utilizing the trail corridor. This trail corridor I believe allows for an increase in safe outdoor recreation for people that gets the people off of the dangerous roadside and onto a safer corridor away from traffic in order to recreate.

### **Activity 1**

This Trail Segment construction is 98% complete, we will just need to finish up some punch list items come springtime. That will include, some turf establishment, signage, and construction cleanup.

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

### **Dissemination**

As part of our project finish-up this spring, we will be posting maps and signage at all of our rest stops. On this signage and maps, we include the ENRTF Logo. During Construction, we had signs informing the public what project was taking place, on those signs we had the ENRTF Logo.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update June 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** June 17, 2022

**Date Approved:** August 5, 2022

### Overall Update

Bids for the McDonald Segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail were opened on Feb/23/2022. Riley Bros Construction was awarded the construction jobs of the West, Silent lake, and McDonald Segments of the Perham to Pelican Trail. Construction began on the West Segment of Trail on 4/24/2022 with a proposed completion date of July/1/2022. From there, Riley Bros will move on to the Silent Segment and then to the McDonald Segment. Proposed Completion Date for all 3 segments is Oct/1/2022, as of right now.

### Activity 1

The McDonald Segment was bid Feb/23/2022 along with the West Segment of Trail. One contractor was awarded 3 of the 5 segments of Trail. The contractor is starting work on the West segment, after completion of that, he will move to the Silent Lake Segment and then to the McDonald Segment. The only work to date to be completed on the McDonald Segment would be some minor clearing and grubbing. Completion Date for all 3 segments is slated for Oct/1/2022.

### Dissemination

At the beginning of construction, Otter Tail County placed signs on both ends of the the specific section that is being worked on that shows the sponsors of the Trail Construction. As we move forward to the other segments of the trail, these signs will be moved to that segment in order to show the public who the sponsors are for the project. On the sign, each one of the sponsoring organizations logo is displayed.