

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Phase 2 Request for Proposals (RFP)

LCCMR ID: 032-A3

Project Title: Gateway Trail Planning/Design for Recreation & Land Protection

Total Project Budget: \$ \$125,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years (July 2009 - June 2011)

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0.00

Priority: A3. Technical Assistance for Conserving Land

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Vogel

Sponsoring Organization: U of M

Address: 151 Rapson Hall, 89 Church Ave SE
Minneapolis MN 55455

Telephone Number: 612-626-7417

Email: vogel001@umn.edu

Fax: 612-626-7424

Web Address: ccl.design.umn.edu

Region:

County Name:

City / Township:

Metro

Chisago, Washington

Marine, Scandia, Taylor Falls

Summary: The Gateway Trail's planned/designed alignments and amenities create national, state, and local strategies and citizen/government partnerships for preserving, enhancing, and celebrating the Saint Croix Valley's many environmental and cultural assets.

Main Proposal: 1008-2-060-proposal-CCL LCCMR Main Pr 9.30.08 IV.doc

Project Budget: 1008-2-060-budget-budget.xls

Qualifications: 1008-2-060-qualifications-Description.doc

Map: 1008-2-060-maps-CCL 2009 Gateway Tra#126B57.pdf

Letter of Resolution:

PROJECT TITLE: Gateway Trail Planning/Design for Recreation & Land Protection

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Gateway Trail Status: Currently the completed segment of the Gateway Trail is the most extensively used state trail in Minnesota during the summer. Land acquisition for a second segment is underway. The existing master plan for the final segment from William O'Brien Park to Interstate State Park needs revision and updating. When complete the trail will start in Saint Paul and end at Interstate State Park. It will pass through the Saint Croix Watershed on some of the most beautiful, ecologically sensitive, beloved, and fast developing lands in the Metropolitan Region and provide access to the great outdoors to city, suburban, and exurban residents and visitors.

The Opportunity: There is an opportunity to link trail planning to a larger environmental agenda by using recreational trail planning/design as a tool for raising environmental awareness, creating consensus for the preservation/protection of environmental assets, and making environmentally-informed land use decisions while enhancing recreation opportunities in the East Metro Area. Trail planning/design can help preserve the quality of the Saint Croix River, its tributaries, and its watershed by addressing land use issues in the Valley that are beyond the National Park Service's limited jurisdiction.

Overall Aim: This project goes beyond the scope of traditional trail planning to demonstrate how larger context trail planning can identify ecological sensitive lands and create state and local strategies for preserving, enhancing, and celebrating natural and cultural environmental assets. Working with the Gateway Trail Association, Saint Croix River citizen advocacy groups, the DNR, the National Park Service, local units of governments, and citizens in a community-engaged process, the design team will use the trail design process to identify sensitive ecological areas and important natural and cultural sites. It will propose alternative trail alignments and amenities that are driven by strategies for preserving, enhancing, and experiencing those assets. It will work with the cooperators to recommend land use and preservation/protection strategies to be implemented by advocacy groups and local, regional, state, and federal governments.

Challenges & Need: Working on environmental issues and asset preservation in a fast developing area with rapidly increasing land values and a variety of jurisdictions is a challenge; however, trail planning/design can be a powerful vehicle to create understanding and develop consensus within and among a variety of stakeholders. While planning/designing the trail, assets and areas of concern will be identified, and people will be brought together to create consensus on ways to preserve and enhance those assets. Alliances among a variety of citizen and governmental groups needed for the implementation of the plans will be created.

Project Goals: The goals of the plans/designs are to promote environmental stewardship through recreational trail planning/design:

1. Identify sensitive and ecologically significant areas and significant cultural areas in the Saint Croix Watershed between William O'Brien State Park and Interstate State Park.
2. Identify the potential trail alignments and trail head locations for the Gateway Trail Segment that support and promote appropriate recreational uses and environmental awareness, preservation, protection, and stewardship by addressing issues of land use patterns, community form, environmental and cultural assets, and environmental type and quality along the proposed trail corridors and in the larger trail landscapes.
3. Leverage the effectiveness of existing and planned local, regional, state, and national recreational, natural, and cultural assets such as parks, trails, historic sites, conservation lands;
4. Identify alternative land acquisition techniques and considerations available for the segment alternatives;
5. Create community/agency consensus around trail alignments, trail amenities, and land protection opportunities; and
6. Inform land acquisition, land protection, and the development of the Gateway Trail and other local planning efforts in the study area.

Result One: Gateway Trail Segment Design/Plan **Budget:** \$125,000

Deliverable 1: Collect & Analyze Data **Completion Date:** December 31, 2009

Existing data describing the physical environment from both the natural systems and cultural perspectives will be gathered and mapped to identify local, regional, state, and national resources. These include ecological, recreational and cultural inventories, current and historic maps and photos, water quality data, land use and ownership data, comp plans, capital improvement plans.

Deliverable 2: Identify Issues for the Segment: 3-6 Public Meetings Completion Date: December 31, 2009
Work with the county, community, and the Gateway Trail Association will ensure local and user input on natural resource, recreational, tourism, agricultural, and community issues. Feedback will be sought in three to six public meetings held in Marine on Saint Croix, Scandia, and Taylor Falls.

Deliverable 3: Develop Alternative Trail Alignments Completion Date: July 1, 2010
Using the data and the issues, planning/design concepts for the trail segment that connects to the current and planned local and state parks and trails and to the communities will be created. Environmental and cultural features and amenities that can be visited or observed from the trail will be identified as well as sensitive off-limits areas. Places for environmental interpretation for use by trail users, environmental educators, and other local teachers will also be identified as well as relevant land acquisition alternatives.

Deliverable 4: Presentation of Plans/Designs for Feedback: 3 Public Meetings Completion Date: September 1, 2010
Public meetings for discussion and feedback will be held in Marine on Saint Croix, Scandia, and Taylor Falls. Citizens, environmentalists, state and local officials, and special interest groups such as trail groups, environmental groups, tourism organizations, agricultural groups, other citizen organizations will be invited.

Deliverable 5: Refine and Complete Plans/Designs Completion Date: April 30, 2011
The feedback received from the public meetings will inform the final designs.

Deliverable 6: Presentation of Final Plans/Designs: 3 Public Meetings Completion Date: May 31, 2011
Public meetings will be held in Marine on Saint Croix, Scandia, and Taylor Falls to present the final alignments and specific areas plans/designs to citizens, environmentalists, federal, state, and local officials, and special interest groups such as trail groups, environmental groups, tourism organizations, agricultural groups, and other citizen organizations.

Deliverable 7: Publish Results in Written & Electronic Form Completion Date: June 30, 2011
A Gateway Trail segment design framework plan and designs for specific trail-related areas will be produced in digitized and printed formats. They will be understandable, accessible, and useful tools for trail funding efforts.

II. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners: The project will have the following cooperators: Gateway Trail Association, Trails and Waterways Division of DNR, Washington County's Land & Water Legacy Program, Marine, Scandia Parks & Trail Committee, Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District, National Parks Service, Ice Age, Saint Croix Riverway Association, Chisago County Parks and other groups. Cooperators will serve as resources for the project, serve on an advisory committee, and participate in community meetings.

B. Project Impact: Going far beyond moving the completion of the Gateway Trail forward and creating consensus and setting priorities for land acquisition and protection, the project will be a tool inform future land use decisions, a catalyst for creating alliances among citizen and governmental groups, and a resource for environmental education programs that involve children in outdoor experiences and the growing Valley tourism sector. It will impact the Saint Croix River's Watershed in the study area through the DNR's Gateway Trail master planning efforts, local governments' capital, comprehensive, and trail plans, Washington and Chisago Counties' land acquisition plans, local healthy community efforts, Saint Croix River citizen advocacy groups' activities, watershed district projects, school's environmental efforts etc.

C. Time & Budget: Because of the nature of the environmental and land ownership issues, the many jurisdictions and groups involved, and the need to have many public meetings; this is a staff intensive project. Most of the project budget is for staff time for data gathering and analysis, design, public meetings, and final production of the accessible and usable project materials. \$125,000 and two years will be required to complete the work.

D. Long-Term Strategy: This Gateway Trail Project can help organize a coordinated effort to protect the future of a nationally significant area. It can promote land policies in an ecologically sensitive area that is under considerable development pressure. To delay would put some of these lands out of reach forever. By its consensus building it can help advance other St Croix River protection and management efforts by governmental units and citizen organizations. The project will hasten the building of the trail, a trail whose use can enlighten and inspire current and future generations of environmentalists and will have an impact on the Metro's quality of life and the health of citizens by increasing active recreational opportunities in the Metro Area for all.

Project Budget

Gateway Trail Planning/Design for Recreation & Land Protection

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>% FTE</u>
Personnel: Project Leader (24% of a 60% appointment for two years)	\$ 31,607	14%
Research Fellows (2 Fellows at 40% for two yrs.) Will provide assistance with designs.	\$ 75,347	40%
Senior Fellow (32 hrs. at 75 per hr. two years) Leadership and assistance with designs.	\$ 5,296	2%
Administrative Staff (two years) will provide administrative help.	\$ 6,250	3%
Other: Duplicating and supplies	\$ 6,500	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 125,000	

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):	\$ -	
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period:	\$ -	
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period:	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period: Time is being spent in each county by local citizens, citizen groups, and local government staff working together to develop the trail plans/design. At \$15.00 an hour for citizen time and \$25.00 for state and local government staff time, the estimate for the in-kind match exceeds \$40,000.	\$40,000	
Past Spending:	\$ -	

Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description

Project Manager:

Mary Vogel, Co-Director, Center for Changing Landscapes

Mary Vogel is the co-director with Alan Ek of the Center for Changing Landscapes and has led a broad range of community engaged research projects that have focused on the intersection of natural resource preservation, resource management, and sustainable development issues throughout the State of Minnesota. She has worked extensively on state and local recreational trails. She has been a leader at the University and in her college in interdisciplinary efforts to connect University expertise to applied research efforts that address important Minnesota issues. She is skilled at producing usable project work that informs public and private decision makers at the state, regional, and local levels.

She has extensive experience in engaging citizens in research efforts. Her research is community engaged and for three years she was the statewide director of the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, a citizen driven program that focuses on natural resources, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource based tourism.

She is very familiar with both the LCMR and the LCCMR and has led many projects funded by the LCMR. Her education includes the Master of Architecture, (M Arch) University of Minnesota. She participated in the team that wrote the LCCMR's *Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan*; she co-led the recreation efforts.

Organization:

Center for Changing Landscapes

College of Design & College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Sciences

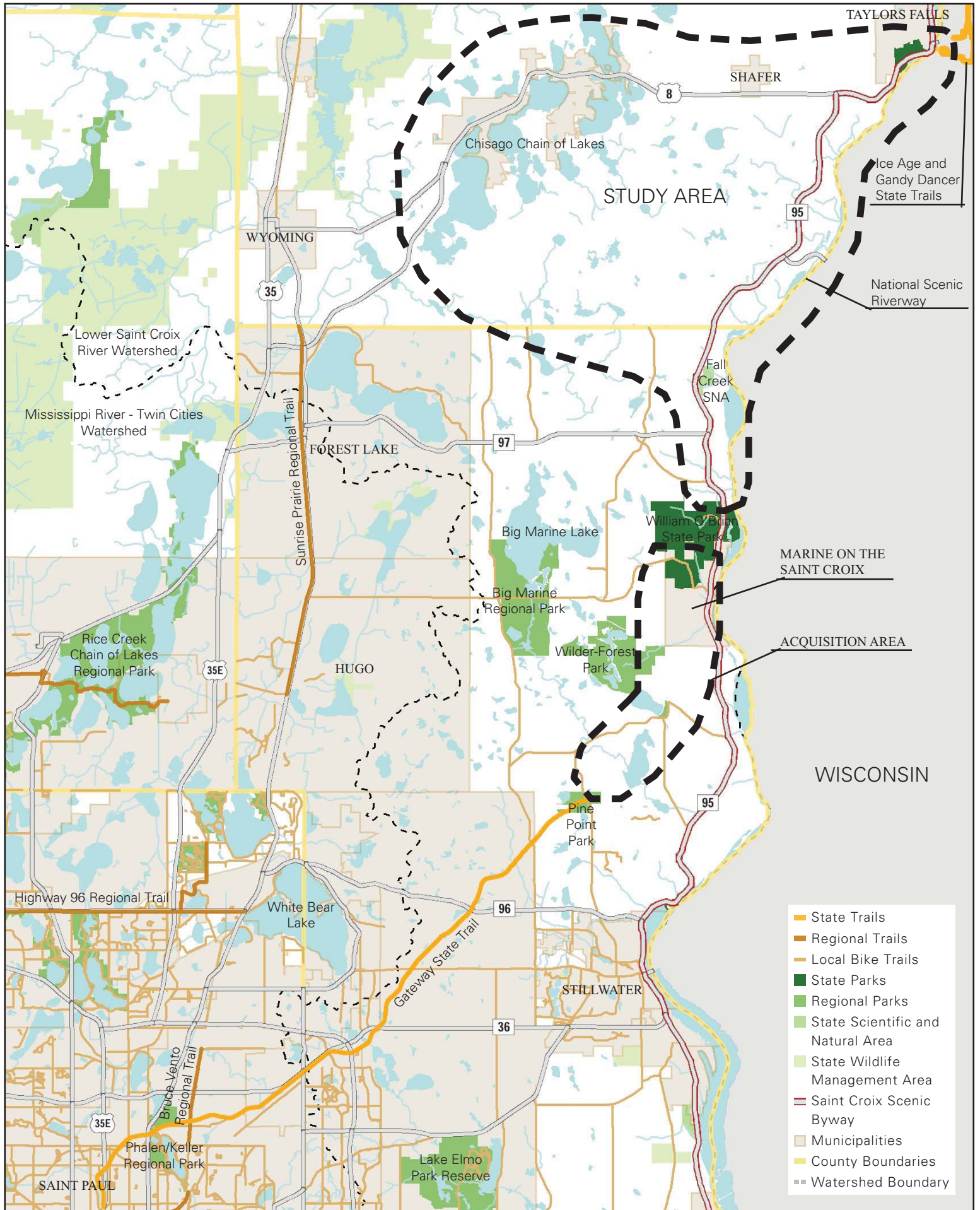
University of Minnesota

Description: The Center for Changing Landscapes is an interdisciplinary research and outreach center in two colleges. The Center's work combines design/planning expertise with natural resource expertise and knowledge to support land use decision-making at the local, regional and state levels to protect, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's landscapes and their related natural and environmental resources in the face of changing development patterns and resource use. Hallmarks of the Center's environmentally sensitive work are its quality, relevance, and publicly engaged character.

Environmentally Informed & Honored Work: The Center's recent environmentally driven work has focused on large linear regional infrastructure (state trails, transit corridors, scenic byways, and highways), their local connections, and the communities along them in rural, suburban, and urban landscapes. Its regional, district, and site scale design/plan work has received many design awards and has been used by citizens, advocacy groups, local units of government, and state agencies to plan, promote, and fund environmentally informed projects all over Minnesota. Some publications are at ccl.design.umn.edu.

Staff: Alan Ek of Forest Resources and Mary Vogel of the College of Design co-direct the Center, and it is staffed by very skilled, experienced landscape architects, architects, urban designers, natural resource professionals/professors and talented recent graduates and graduate students.

Community, Citizen & Government Connections: The Center's projects are informed by working with citizens, citizen groups, and governmental units. Examples of some of those that we have worked include: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Forest Resources Council, Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Transit, Arrowhead Redevelopment Commission, USDA Forest Service, Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership, Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners, Saint Paul, Golden Valley, Saint Louis Park, Minnetonka, Thief River Falls, Crookston, Fisher, East Grand Forks, Red Lake Falls, New Ulm, Saint Peter, Marshall, Fisher, Saint Hilaire, Beaver Bay, Knife River, Tofte, Grand Marais, Bovey, Coleraine, Knife River, New York Mills, North Shore Scenic Byway, Duluth Township, Lutsen, Lyon County, Saint Louis County, Cook County, Lake County, Sherburne County, many trail groups, private consulting firms, etc.



GATEWAY TRAIL PLANNING/DESIGN FOR RECREATION & LAND PROTECTION