

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2015 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 139-G

State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 2,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July 2015 - June 2018

Summary:

Acquire the states highest priority parcels of land within State Parks and State Trails that contain critical habitat and natural resources to protect, preserve and enhance outdoor recreation in Minnesota.

Name: Jennifer Christie

Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd
St. Paul MN 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5579

Email Jennifer.christie@state.mn.us

Web Address www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

Statewide location map for proposed state parks and state trails land acquisitions

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	

PROJECT TITLE: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This State Parks and State Trail land acquisition proposal is to acquire 360 acres of the state’s highest priority parcels that contain critical natural and cultural resources to protect, preserve and enhance Minnesota’s outdoor heritage and environmental stewardship.

Currently, the DNR does not own approximately 16% (42,800 acres) of land located within the statutory boundaries of the 67 Minnesota State Parks and eight State Recreation Areas. Minnesota has 25 statutory authorized State Trails. The DNR currently owns 50% of the land needed to complete the State Trail system.

The main benefits of State Park and State Trail land acquisition is to provide long-term, consolidated management of pristine natural areas representative of diverse landscapes throughout the entire state of Minnesota. Other land acquisition benefits include:

- Riparian buffers along rivers, wetlands, creeks and lakes
- Preservation of significant ecological, plant and animal communities
- Reduction of fragmentation and potential development impacts of fragile ecosystems
- Protection of view sheds and locally significant historical sites and cultural resources
- Connectivity between local communities to share and better understand our resources

Each State Park and State Trail amenity goes through a rigorous master planning process which includes a public input component to identify desired boundaries and corridors. DNR has identified and ranked each in-holding parcel and manages a general statewide priority list that is reviewed annually. This ENRTF proposal is to acquire the highest priority State Park in-holdings statewide with significant ecological values and key parcels of land located within designated State Trail corridors from willing sellers.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Minneopa State Park Land Acquisition

Budget: \$400,000

Acquire 160 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Minneopa State Park. According to the natural heritage database, rare and endangered species such as the American bald eagle, western foxsnake, shovel sturgeon and small white ladyslipper are documented in this corridor. While not river frontage, the land is adjacent to Minnesota River shoreline. Acquisition will protect cultural resources, provide for sustainable wildlife habitat and new hiking, bird watching and interpretive programming opportunities. It is located adjacent to existing DNR ownership along the river corridor which will contribute to the consolidated management efforts to maintain and restore native vegetation as well as protection of the river view shed.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 160 acres of land in Minneopa State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 2: Banning State Park Land Acquisition

Budget: \$100,000

Acquire six acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Banning State Park. This property is adjacent to the Rutabega Falls and would contribute to resource viability of an adjacent restored area. Development of this parcel would degrade the natural and visual aspect of the Kettle River. This acquisition would also provide riparian buffer and shoreline management for the River. The Kettle River is a designated Wild and Scenic River.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire six acres of land in Banning State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 3: Myre-Big Island State Park Land Acquisition**Budget: \$350,000**

Acquire 109 acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Myre-Big Island State Park. This property contains many wetlands and a large restored prairie. It also contains a small oak grove. A large portion of the parcel is restored prairie planted with local genotype seed that is representative of pre-settlement landscape. The prairie seed collected from this parcel could be harvested as a good seed source for the DNR to use for grassland restoration in the area. This property has a high risk of development pressure to be tilled for agriculture or residential development.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 109 acres of land in Myre-Big Island State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 4: Scenic State Park Land Acquisition**Budget: \$300,000**

Acquire approximately 20 acres located within the statutory authorized boundary of Scenic State Park. This property would provide protection and riparian buffer for half a mile of shoreline of Lake Issac. This acquisition would also help protect the north woods forest and vegetation, limit lake development and maintain excellent water quality. If acquired, the entire Issac Lake would be within state ownership when combined with state forest land to the west. This property would provide excellent fishing and canoeing opportunities.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 20 acres of land in Scenic State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 5: Crow Wing State Park Land Acquisition**Budget: \$350,000**

Acquire five acres of land located within the statutory authorized boundary of Crow Wing State Park. This property would provide for riparian protection and preservation of 300 feet of Crow River shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi. This property is one of the two last parcels along the peninsula which would add to the approximately one mile of shoreline along the Crow River. This parcel allow for the opportunity to protect and preserve one of the last undeveloped tributaries along the Mississippi River for upland habitat and river users.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire five acres of land in Scenic State Park	June 30, 2019

Activity 6: Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail Land Acquisition**Budget: \$500,000**

Acquire 60 acres of land located along the statutory authorized corridor for the Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail. This wooded bluff parcel is an essential piece of land needed to connect two viable segments of the State Trail. Acquisition of this property from one landowner would connect four miles of developed trail with two miles of DNR owned land for a six mile segment. This segment will increase connectivity between local communities to share and better understand our state's natural resources and foster environmental stewardship.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire 60 acres of land along designated Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail State Trail	June 30, 2019

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners: The DNR is working collaboratively with the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota to acquire the Goodhue-Pioneer parcel and other property if needed to secure in-holdings located within the state park system.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy: The DNR's strategy is to acquire critical in-holdings within state park boundaries and along authorized state trail corridors. Currently the DNR does not own 42,800 (16%) of the 268,000 acres within state park boundaries and have yet to acquire 50% of the 2,600 miles of authorized trails.

C. Timeline Requirements: All projects will completed by June 30, 2019. Timing depends heavily on the length of negotiations and the acquisition process. Funding will be used for land costs, appraisals, professional services, and other transaction related costs associated with the acquisition transaction.

2015 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Acquisition (Fee Title): Propose to acquire 360 acres with the title to be held by the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.	\$ 1,950,000
Additional Budget Item: Professional service expenses and other transaction related charges including, but not limited to, the appraisal, survey and title work necessary for the proposed land acquisitions.	\$ 49,061
Additional Budget Items: Direct support services. DNR's direct and necessary costs pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. In addition to itemized costs captured in our proposal budget, direct and necessary costs cover Financial Support (~\$0), Communication Support (~\$0), Planning Support (~\$704), Procurement Support (~\$235), and division and regional program management (~\$0) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects	\$ 939
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 2,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A	\$ -	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Parks and Trails Legacy Fund	\$ 1,500,000	Secured
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A	\$ -	
Funding History: ENRTF M.L. 2013 ENRTF M.L. 2011 ENRTF M.L. 2010 ENRTF M.L. 2009 M.L. 2008 M.L. 2007	 \$1,000,000 \$3,000,000 \$2,200,000 ENRTF \$1,590,000 ENRTF \$1,500,000 \$ 750,000	
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation: M.L. 2013 M.L. 2011	 ENRTF ENRTF \$995,352 \$841,227	Unspent-In Negotiations

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2015 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition

Project Manager Name: Jennifer Christie

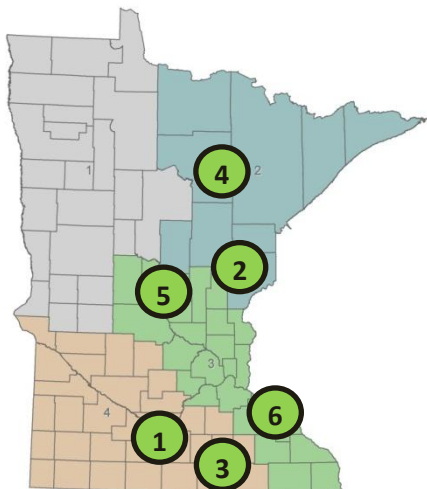
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division

ENRTF \$ Request: \$ 2,000,000.00

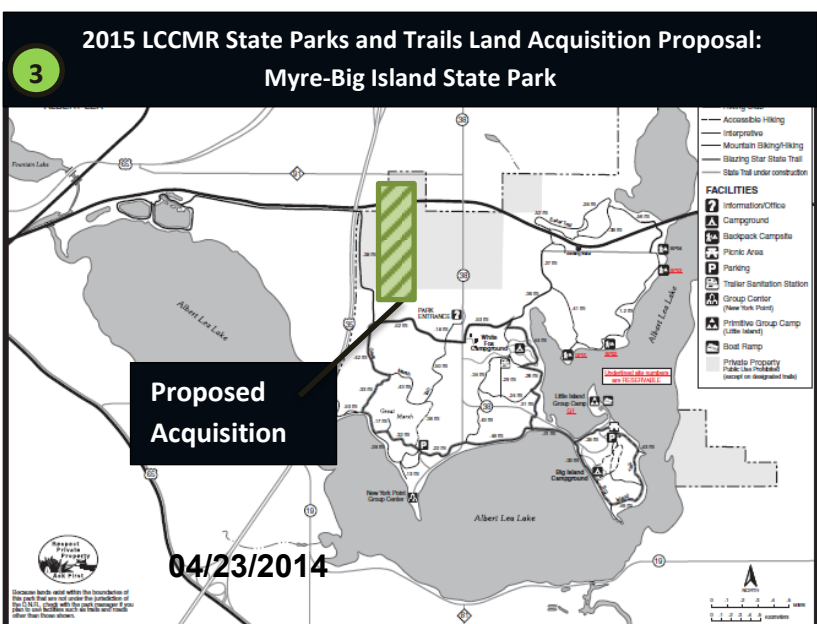
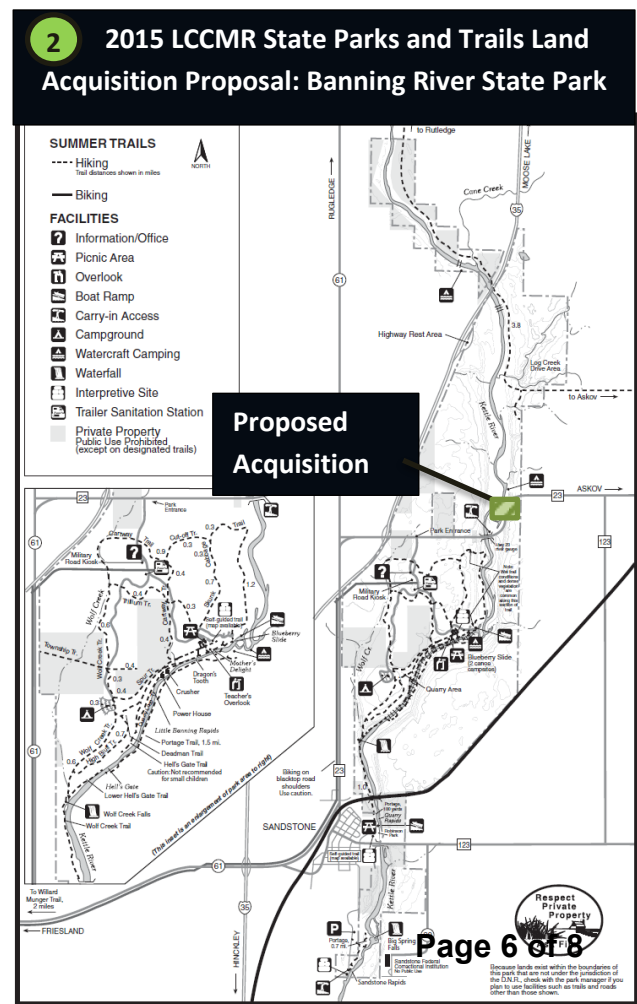
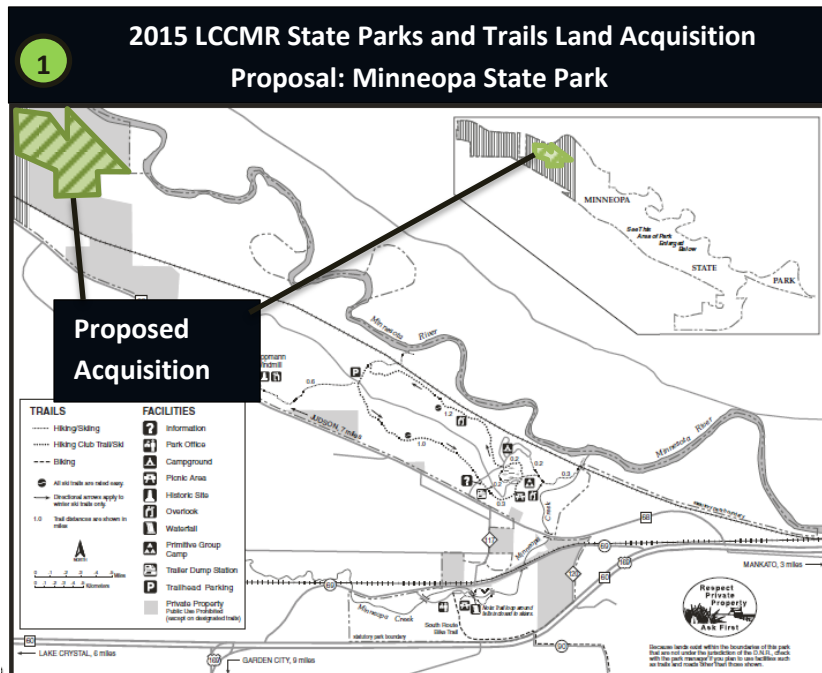
#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	Minneopa State Park	44° 10' 59.5" N	94° 8' 16.2" W	\$400,000	Blue Earth	Protection and preservation of Minnesota River corridor habitat for rare and endangered wildlife and plant species.	Acquire Land	160		Private	Fee
2	Banning State Park	46° 11' 0.5" N	92° 49' 34" W	\$100,000	Pine	Adjacent to Rutabaga Falls. Development would degrade the natural & visual aspect of the Kettle River; a Wild & Scenic River.	Acquire Land	6		Private	Fee
3	Myre Big Island State Park	43° 38' 43.7" N	93° 19' 0.9" W	\$350,000	Freeborn	Preservation of wetlands and native restored prairie from local genotype seed representative of pre-settlement grassland.	Acquire Land	109		Private	Fee
4	Scenic State Park	47° 42' 14.4" N	93° 34' 54.4" W	\$300,000	Itasca	Riparian buffer, watershed protection and maintain water quality of an undeveloped shoreline around entire Issac Lake.	Acquire Land	20	1/2 mile	Private	Fee
5	Crow Wing State Park	46° 16' 58.0" N	94° 20' 44.3" W	\$350,000	Cass	Protection of the Crow Wing River shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi River adjacent to existing DNR ownership.	Acquire Land	5	300 feet	Private	Fee
6	Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail	44° 24' 39.9" N	92° 38' 7.8" W	\$500,000	Goodhue	Protection of wooded bluffs, river watershed, & cultural resources. Connectivity to existing trails and DNR ownership.	Acquire Land	60		Private*	Fee
Total								360			

NOTES: *Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail parcel is currently in private ownership, but Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota may buy the property before funding becomes available. Total PILT estimate is \$15,000.

Land Acquisition Proposed Projects



Map #	Facility Name	County
1	Minneopa State Park	Blue Earth
2	Banning State Park	Pine
3	Myre-Big Island State Park	Freeborn
4	Scenic State Park	Itasca
5	Crow Wing State Park	Cass
6	Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail	Goodhue



Environment Trust Fund 2015 Project Proposal

Project Title: State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails Land Acquisitions

Project Manager Qualifications

As Coordinator of Acquisitions and Real Estate for the Division of Parks and Trails, Jennifer Christie coordinates the land acquisition planning process for parcels within state parks, state recreation areas, state trails, and public water access throughout the state to ensure acquisition of critical parcels that further the conservation of Minnesota's natural and cultural resources and provide enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities.

Collectively, Jennifer has worked in the parks, recreation and natural resources field and the real estate industry for over 20 years. She has worked in various outdoor recreation capacities from a park manager, and parks and natural resources projects coordinator, to her current role for the past six years as the land acquisition and real estate coordinator for the Parks and Trails Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division. Jennifer has also worked in the private sector real estate industry as a mortgage underwriter, title closer, construction finance administrator and valuations supervisor.

Organization Description

The Department of Natural Resources-Division of Parks and Trails operates 67 state parks, 8 state recreation areas, 575 miles of surfaced state trail, 1,610 water access sites, 30 water trails and 9 state waysides throughout Minnesota. The Division connects people to the state's natural resources by providing access to outdoor recreation, conservation education and natural resource restoration and management.

The vision of the Parks and Trails Division is to create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations.

