

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 263-G

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-Holdings

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: \$ 5,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2023 (3 yrs)

Summary:

Acquire high priority State Park, State Recreation Area and State Trail in-holding parcels from willing sellers to protect Minnesotas natural and cultural heritage, enhance outdoor recreation and promote tourism.

Name: Jennifer Christie

Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

Job Title: Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Consultant

Department: Parks and Trails Division

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St. Paul MN 55155

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Location:

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

An overview map of Minnesota showing locations of proposed inholding projects along with map inserts of each State Park showing located of proposed projects and State Trail throughout Minnesota.

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



PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Acquire top priority in-holdings within legislatively established boundaries of Minnesota’s 75 State Parks and Recreation Areas and 26 State Trails from willing sellers.

This proposal is an investment in the future, fulfilling legislative direction to acquire parcels from willing sellers within legislatively defined State Parks, Recreation Areas and Trails systems. This project will protect and enhance Minnesota’s environment and natural resources, promote positive economic impacts and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Minnesota citizens and visitors.

Each State Park, Recreation Area and State Trail has a master plan. These plans include public, county and other local jurisdiction input; and they define desirable land to be included within legislatively defined boundaries and alignments. These parcels represent unique landscapes and natural resources for the benefit of the public statewide. In addition to preserving and protecting Minnesota’s natural resources and cultural heritage, these projects also generate positive local economic impacts created by enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities.

Most Minnesota State Parks and Trails in-holdings are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Interested willing sellers often have a vision to include their family’s treasured property as a part of a State Park or Trail for the public to enjoy their land into perpetuity. If funding is unavailable to pursue an acquisition, the property is at risk to be subdivided, developed or taken off the market for decades.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) has identified and ranked each parcel within legislatively defined boundaries and alignments for State Parks and Trails. The MnDNR maintains, reviews and annually updates a general statewide priority list of willing sellers. Potential projects are analyzed using investment criteria established in the DNR Parks and Trails System Plan. If an acquisition listed on the project workplan is not successful, MnDNR will request a LCCMR workplan amendment to include the next priority State Park, Recreation Area and State Trail acquisition.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1 Title: Glendalough State Park, In-holding, Otter Tail County, ~155 acres

Description: Protect over 2,200 feet of Blanche Lake shoreline and over 700 feet of pristine creek frontage with abundant emergent and aquatic vegetation. The forested area contains high quality oak stands contiguous with the State Park. This area is located in a major migratory corridor for forest birds and waterfowl. There is also potential for additional public recreational opportunities through expansion of the State Park hiking trails.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 1,000,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire ~155 acres within Glendalough State Park boundary	June 30, 2023

Activity 2 Title: Tettegouche State Park, In-holding, Lake County, ~18 acres

Description: Conserve 650 feet of Lake Superior shoreline and preserve the famous views from Palisade Head. This property is the largest private in-holding identified as the “Palisade Coast” in the State Park management plan. The property also contains the mouth of and nearly 1,500 feet of the designated trout stream “Palisade



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2020 Main Proposal Template**

Creek”. This property also contains many unique plant communities, rare plant and animal species and significant geologic features that qualify Palisade Head for inclusion in the Minnesota Natural Areas Registry.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 1,000,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>Acquire ~18 acres within Tettegouche State Park boundary</i>	<i>June 30, 2023</i>

Activity 3 Title: Tettegouche State Park, In-holding, Lake County, 146 acres

Description: Preserve and protect over 1,300 feet of undeveloped shoreline and high quality northern hardwood tract. Reduce fragmentation and secure contiguous park-like experiences from possible future development pressure. Potential for backcountry hiking trail through hardwood forest with views of Lax Lake and Cedar Creek Valley. The County Biological Survey ranks the property as Outstanding Biodiversity.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 1,000,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>Acquire ~166 acres within Tettegouche State Park boundary</i>	<i>June 30, 2023</i>

Activity 4 Title: Legislatively Authorized State Trails

Description: Acquire high priority in-holdings along legislatively authorized State Trails from willing sellers statewide to fulfill master plans throughout the State of Minnesota. Potential high priority parcels include in-holdings in the following locations: Gitchi Gami State Trail – Lutsen Trailhead, Gitchi Gami State Trail – Community of Tofte, Blufflands State Trail-City of Preston to Forestville-Mystery Cave State Park, Goodhue-Pioneer State Trail.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 2,000,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>Acquire ~20 acres of in-holdings along Legislatively Authorized State Trails</i>	<i>June 30, 2023</i>

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS: *Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota*

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: The long-term implementation goal is to acquire priority in-holdings within State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails as identified in each master plan. The Parks and Trails Division maintains an active priority parcel list of potential acquisitions to pursue, based on available funding sources. The restoration parcel list and activity items may be modified to add parcels if the status of a parcel changes, or if negotiations are unsuccessful.

V. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

- A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet**
- B. Visual Component or Map**
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet**
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**
- F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

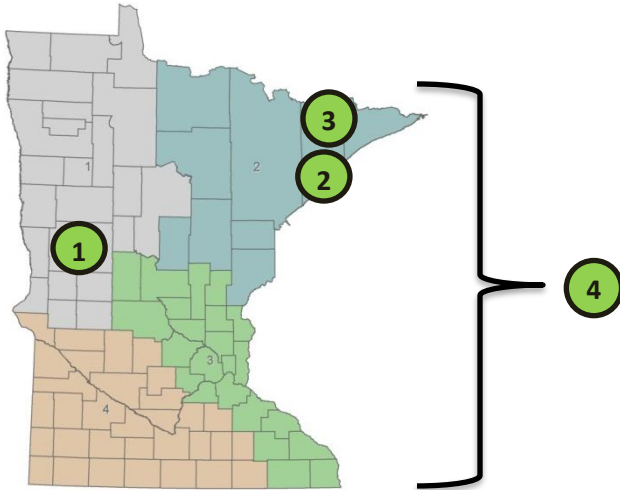


Legal Citation:
 Project Manager: Jennifer Christie
 Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings
 Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 Project Budget: \$5,000,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2023

Today's Date: March 15, 2019

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
Fee Title Acquisition		\$ 4,850,000	\$ -	\$ 4,850,000
Professional Services for Acquisition		\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT		Budget	Spent	Balance
	Status (secured or pending)			
State: Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (FY20)		\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS		Budget	Spent	Balance
	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent			
ENRTF M.L. 2019, TBD (LCCMR 2019 Recommendation to the Legislature)		\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000
ENRTF M.L. 2018, Chap. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09k		\$ 2,499,715	\$ 285	\$ 2,499,715
ENRTF M.L. 2017, Chap. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c		\$ 952,220	\$ 547,780	\$ 952,220
ENRTF M.L. 2015, Chap. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 9a		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
ENRTF M.L. 2013, Chap. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04a		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -

Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Inholding Proposal



Map #	Facility Name	County	Acres
1	Glendalough State Park	Otter Tail	155
2	Tettegouche State Park	Lake	18
3	Tettegouche State Park	Lake	146
4	State Trails-Top Priority Inholdings	Statewide	20



Attachment C:
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet
 Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings
 Legal Citation: TBD
 Project Manager: Jennifer Christie
 Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 College/Department/Division: Parks and Trails Division
 M.L. 2020 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 5,000,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2023
 Today's Date: March 14, 2019



#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Glendalough State Park	46° 20' 36.4"	95° 40' 49.0"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Otter Tail	Shoreline protection of 2,200 feet of Blanche Lake and 700 feet of creek frontage with emergent and aquatic vegetation. High quality oak stands.	Fee Title Acquisition	155	2,900 feet	Private	MnDNR	Landowner is a willing seller
2	Tettegouche State Park	47° 19' 28.2"	91° 12' 38.5"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Lake	Preserve 650 feet of Lake Superior shoreline and 1,500 feet of Palisade Creek, a designated trout stream plus many unique and rare plants, animal species and geologic features.	Fee Title Acquisition	18	2,150 feet	Private	MnDNR	Landowner is a willing seller
3	Tettegouche State Park	47° 20' 4.0"	91° 18' 23.2"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Lake	Preserve and protect over 1,300 feet of undeveloped shoreline and high quality northern hardwood tract.	Fee Title Acquisition	146	1,300 feet	Private	MnDNR	Landowners have indicated willingness to sell in-holdings
4	State Trails Top Priority In-holdings			\$ 2,000,000	\$ 15,000	Statewide	Pursue high priority State Trails in-holdings from willing sellers to enhance public outdoor recreation opportunities.	Fee Title Acquisition	20	TBD	Private	MnDNR	Landowners have indicated willingness to sell in-holdings

NOTES:

Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

Acquisition/Restoration Information:

DNR maintains an active priority list for future State Park, State Recreation Area, and State Trail acquisitions. The priority list evolves as new parcels are added to the statutory boundary of a park, when the status of a parcel changes, after additional information is evaluated, and when willing sellers approach the DNR to sell their land to the State.

Fee Title Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The DNR Parks and Trails Division utilizes a two-filter evaluation process to initially identify and help prioritize parcels based on the active willing sellers list. Division selected parcels are then reviewed by the DNR regional managers from other DNR Divisions within the Department to ensure parcels meet and exceed Department's Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) goals and objectives, which include proactive and frequent communication with local governmental agencies. The Division's System Plan provides direction and criteria for setting acquisition division priorities.

The first filter is for each state park manager or area supervisor to assign a priority ranking for the private parcels located within the statutory boundary or alignment, also known as in-holdings. The local parks and trails staff and managers review these rankings before submitting the priority report to the Resource and Asset Management Section of the Division of Parks and Trails. This first filter priority ranking helps us decide if greater assessment is needed. The ranking is divided into four levels of priority, A through D. Lands considered the highest importance to the mission of the state park or trail, such as high resource or high recreational potential, is given an A-ranking.

This second filter evaluation looks into greater detail at a wide range of factors that determine the importance for acquiring the parcel. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Rare geological features
- Quality or quantity of natural or cultural resources present
- Historic buildings or cultural sites
- Riparian and watershed protection
- High restoration potential
- View shed preservation
- Threat due to development or timber harvesting
- Buffer potential
- Links to other recreation opportunities, such as a trail connection, development of a new recreational facility or improved trail system, or expansion of a facility
- Improved access to park or facilities
- Reduced fragmentation of parcels for better management
- Urgency to acquire due to landowner's needs
- Resolution of visitor safety concerns
- Funding leverage with potential partnerships and bargain sale opportunity.

Then internal discussions and rankings determine which parcels should be included in the upcoming funding request proposals. During a funding cycle, the identified funding proposal list may be revised due to failed negotiations or another priority parcel being identified.

When a parcel is identified for acquisition, the park manager or area supervisor discusses the priority ranking with the

Regional Manager and/or the Acquisition Program Consultant. If they determine the site merits greater review and evaluation, the park manager or area supervisor is asked to fill out a Real Estate/Acquisition Proposal Form.

The Regional Parks and Trails Manager, Resource and Asset Manager, and Acquisition Program Consultant evaluate various factors and land attributes described on the Real Estate/Acquisition Proposal Form. They discuss what other priority acquisitions are available, the current funding availability, and then decide whether to present the new parcel to the Division Director.

The Division Director determines if staff should proceed with the acquisition. Depending on the funding availability and/or urgency of the acquisition, staff pursue the acquisition with current funds or the parcel is placed on the priority list for future acquisitions as funding becomes available. Division Directors and Regional Directors have delegated authority to approve acquisitions when the properties are identified as a high priority. The proposed land acquisitions are reviewed, evaluated and approved within each region's respective spring SLAM meeting, which includes a representative from the Commissioner's office, to ensure proposed acquisitions meet and exceed program criteria and to ensure that proactive, effective communications occurs with local government units.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.

Each State Park, State Recreation Area and State Trail has a management plan which is the basis for acquisition and development within that unit. In addition, these plans provide guidance for priority-setting on a statewide basis.

2015 Division of Parks and Trails System Plan:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/pat/system_plan/system_plan.pdf

2012 – 2022 Division of Parks and Trails Strategic Plan:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/parks/strategic/0212_pat_strategic_plan.pdf

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

State Parks and Trails resource management staff are responsible for the restoration and management of natural/undeveloped areas. Landscape architects and local staff are responsible for restoration and management of areas being planned for facility development. For restoration efforts like converting an old field to a prairie, bonding and Legacy funds are eligible and used. Legacy monies and other sources, such as general fund and the State Parks working capital fund are used for long-term maintenance of the communities once the site has been restored.

Any restoration needs will be determined in accordance with each state park and/or state trail master plan and all available natural resources restoration best management practices. Any additional operations, maintenance and/or restoration costs required to manage the additional land will be determined and taken into consideration during the next budget planning cycle. Operations and maintenance costs are not anticipated to increase significantly with these acquisitions, and these duties and costs will be absorbed by existing staffing and within pre-existing Division restoration plans.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

For State Park and State Trail land acquisitions, county board approval is not required, nor obtained. When legislation is proposed to change the statutory authorized boundary, an informational presentation to the county board is offered to the respective counties.

To enhance and maintain positive working relationships on mutually beneficial State Park and State Trail acquisitions, DNR follows Operational Order #6 Land Acquisition procedures, which include county notification communications procedures.

- 5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.**

Land acquisition projects selected for ENRTF funding are vetted and reviewed through DNR internal fact sheet acquisition approval process. The Division follows Operational Order #6 Land Acquisition procedures, which is approved by the Commissioner.

Environment Natural Resources Trust Fund - 2020 Project Proposal

Project Title: Minnesota State Parks and State Trails In-holdings

Project Manager Qualifications – Jennifer Christie

As the Land Acquisitions and Real Estate Consultant for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division, Jennifer Christie manages the statewide land acquisition prioritization, planning and transaction process for property located within legislatively-defined State Parks, State Recreation Areas, State Trails and Public Water Access systems from willing sellers. She strives to ensure successful acquisitions of high priority, critical in-holdings that provide protection of Minnesota's natural and cultural resources, promote positive economic impacts and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for all the citizens of Minnesota to enjoy and appreciate.

Jennifer has over 25 years of knowledge and experience from working in the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources field and the Real Estate industry.

She has worked in various parks, and outdoor recreation capacities from numerous front-line, seasonal and full-time park positions including: Gate, Boat Rental and Concession Attendant, Lifeguard, Camp Counselor Team Leader, Summer Site Coordinator, Intern, to Park Manager, Parks and Natural Resources Project Coordinator and her current position for the past 11 years as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Trails Division Land Acquisition and Real Estate Consultant.

Jennifer has also worked seven years in the private sector real estate industry as a Mortgage Underwriter, Title Closer, Construction Finance Administrator and Valuations Supervisor.

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Management.

Organization Description

The Department of Natural Resources-Division of Parks and Trails manages and operates 66 State Parks, 9 State Recreation Areas, 26 State Trails, 1,610 Public Water Access Sites, 35 State Water Trails and 9 State Waysides throughout Minnesota.

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.

The Parks and Trails Division connects people to the state's natural and cultural resources through natural and cultural resource restoration and management, and providing access to conservation education and outdoor recreation opportunities.