



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-024

Proposal Title: Duluth Traverse Accessibility and Progression

Project Manager Information

Name: Ansel Schimpff

Organization: Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores

Office Telephone: (608) 320-2731

Email: executivedirector@coggs.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: COGGS seeks to enhance the Duluth Traverse trail network, improving accessibility and sustainability across the system while increasing opportunities for progression and skills building for all users.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$285,000

Proposed Project Completion: July 31, 2026

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation (G)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): NE

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

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

Duluth is home to one of only 6 internationally recognized Gold Level Imba Ride Centers. The Duluth Traverse Trail connects the City from end to end, providing access to world-class outdoor recreation to all residents and visitors to the city. COGGS has identified several gaps in our trail offerings, with limited opportunities for new or less experienced riders, trail users who use adaptive bikes, and kids or adults seeking skills-building opportunities. Our trail system also has several sections of trail with chronic drainage and erosion issues that threaten our local streams and rivers. This project encompasses several reroutes and trail hardening efforts, and the widening or rerouting of several trail segments to better meet the needs of our community.

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 Duluth trail enhancement project targets the Duluth Traverse Trail, aiming to address accessibility gaps, erosion concerns, and the need for skills-building opportunities. Rerouting and widening sections will cater to various user levels, including new riders, adaptive bike users, and families. Simultaneously, efforts will address chronic drainage and erosion issues to ensure sustainability.

To foster community engagement and skill development, dedicated areas along the trail will be established for both adult and youth skills-building activities. Collaboration with adaptive sports experts will ensure inclusivity for users with adaptive bikes. Educational outreach programs will provide information on responsible trail use and environmental conservation.

Critical to the project is the creation of a monitoring and maintenance plan for long-term sustainability, encouraging community involvement through volunteer programs and partnerships. Grant funds will be strategically allocated to cover all aspects, with additional efforts to secure funding and partnerships for maximum impact. The proposed solution offers a comprehensive approach to transforming the Duluth trail system, promoting inclusivity, sustainability, and community engagement.

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 project safeguards the state's natural resources through trail rerouting and hardening to mitigate erosion, protecting water quality and habitats. Educational programs foster community engagement in conservation, instilling a sense of responsibility. Trail widening and adaptive features ensure inclusive access to diverse community members, enhancing connections with the natural environment. The monitoring and maintenance plan promotes long-term sustainability, aligning with the public purpose of protecting, conserving, and enhancing the state's natural resources.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Trail analysis and project prioritization

Activity Budget: \$35,000

Activity Description:

This phase will require hiring a consultant experienced in adaptive mountain bike trail design, skills loops, and progression trail development. This consultant(s) will create the plans needed to create bid documents for the construction and maintenance phase.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Maintenance and trail upgrade bid documents	October 31, 2024
Bids posted and contracts awarded	December 31, 2024

Activity 2: Trail construction

Activity Budget: \$250,000

Activity Description:

This phase will see any reroutes constructed and the larger maintenance contracts completed

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction begins	May 31, 2025
Construction complete	July 31, 2026

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Lucas Spate	MN DNR	Grant Committee	No

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 project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will comprise of an analysis and categorization of the existing trails in partnership with an adaptive trail consulting team. From this, we will develop a list of prioritized projects and put these projects out for bid. The second phase will be the construction of any reroutes and upgrades and maintenance to the existing corridor to maximize the use of our current trail system.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Ansel Schimpff

Job Title: Executive Director

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Ansel is a professional trail builder, community advocate, and leader in the outdoor recreation industry

Organization: Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores

Organization Description:

The Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS) is a leading non-profit mountain bike advocacy organization in the Duluth/Superior Twin Ports Area of Minnesota and Wisconsin. COGGS was established in 1994 as a nonprofit 501-c3 organization. We are committed to sustainable trail development, equitable trail access across the Twin Ports, and to developing a welcoming outdoor recreational culture by promoting opportunities, education, programming, partnerships, and healthy outdoor fun.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Adaptive Mountain Bike Trail Consultation				-		\$15,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction Pre-design				-		\$20,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Trail construction				-		\$250,000
							Sub Total	\$285,000
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	\$285,000

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
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Total Project Cost: \$285,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [ed361ccd-4c0.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Duluth Traverse Spine Maintenance Needs...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2022 COGGS 990	d1d2a282-3dc.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution Letter	9f63e325-190.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

Yes

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Ansel Schimpff, Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores

