



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2025 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2025-293

**Proposal Title:** Echo Bay County Park - Phase 1 Construction

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Kevin Fellbaum

**Organization:** Otter Tail County

**Office Telephone:** (218) 998-8492

**Email:** kfellbaum@ottertailcounty.gov

### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** Construction of access roads, access trails, parking and bathroom facilities within the County's recently acquired 165-acre, Echo Bay County Park.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$1,250,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** July 31, 2027

**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): Central

**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

## Narrative

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

In 2006, a developer received approval to construct the Preserve at Echo Bay. The 165-acre development was to include 209 housing units, 60 boat slips, a golf course and many other community amenities along the shores of the Pelican River and 261-acre Fish Lake.

The property was eventually acquired and donated to Otter Tail County so the public could enjoy this beautiful 165-acre property, formally named Echo Bay Park. Because of Echo Bay Park's conservation easement and pristine natural features, we have worked closely with the Minnesota Land Trust to ensure that any park enhancements conform with the conservation easement and increase the public's understanding of the need for better conservation, preservation and restoration of critical habitats and landscapes.

Since receiving the property in 2021, public access has been limited to foot traffic to protect the habitat, native species and water quality. This project would allow us to expand access to the park as was originally intended while simultaneously protecting its natural features. Increasing free, public outdoor recreational opportunities is a priority for Otter Tail County as identified in our long-range strategic plan. Despite having 1,048 lakes and significant natural resources, they aren't equally accessible by all community members.

### **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.**

This project will allow us to continue to protect and preserve this beautiful tract of land while simultaneously increasing access to outdoor recreation. LCCMR funding will be used to complete Phase 1 of the Echo Bay Park Master Plan (attached), including the construction of critical infrastructure and amenities at the 165-acre park property on the south side of Fish Lake in Dunn Township, Otter Tail County. More specifically, Phase 1 of the Master Plan includes the construction of one mile of access roads that will bring visitors into the heart of the property. Phase 1 also includes the construction of two parking areas that would hold 60 vehicles along with 4,000 ft of 10 ft wide paved access trails that will provide two different access points to Fish Lake from the parking areas.

While the funding will allow for increased access to outdoor recreation by the public, Phase 1 of the master plan is particularly important for habitat protection. Currently, the public has unfettered access by foot across the property. This funding will allow us to create designated corridors for the public to access the park.

### **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 proposal specifically aims to 1) protect and promote habitat, native species, and water quality through land protection and protection from invasive species, 2) increase the public's understanding of the need for better conservation, preservation, and restoration of Minnesota's habitats and landscapes, and 3) encourage participation in outdoor recreation, particularly among members of racially and ethnically diverse cultures who have not traditionally benefited from outdoor opportunities and resources. Pelican Rapids, 8 miles south of Echo Bay Park, is the most diverse community in Otter Tail County and one of the most diverse rural communities in Minnesota.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Construction of ECHO Bay Park- Phase 1 Infrastructure

**Activity Budget:** \$1,250,000

**Activity Description:**

LCCMR Funding will be used to competitively bid and construct one mile of paved access road into the Echo Bay Park property. Construction will also include the construction and paving of two separate parking locations that will hold up to 60+ vehicles. Also included in the project would be the construction of 4000+ ft of 10ft wide paved walking trails that provide access to Fish Lake in several locations along with the construction of vault toilets at each parking area.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Finalize Engineering, Engineering Review and Permitting	December 31, 2025
Complete Construction Bidding	March 31, 2026
Initiate Construction	April 30, 2026
Complete Construction	October 31, 2026

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Sue Steinwell	Minnesota Land Trust	Land Trust Monitor	No
Mike McGarvey	SRF Consulting Group	Master Plan Designer	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 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 Echo Bay Park Project and the local match.

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

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Perham To Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (McDonald Segment)	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$2,245,000
Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (West Segment)	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n	\$2,600,000
Phelps Mill Wetland and Prairie Restoration	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08r	\$974,000
Maplewood State Park Trail Segment	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09o	\$2,514,000

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Kevin Fellbaum

**Job Title:** Parks and Trails Director

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

Kevin Fellbaum will serve as the project manager for the Echo Bay County park- Phase 1 Construction project. Kevin is currently the Parks and Trails Director and oversees a dedicated staff of maintenance personnel who maintain the County Parks and Trails. Over the last couple of years, the County Parks and Trails Dept has implemented and managed several large county-wide trail construction projects along with several building rehabilitation projects at Phelps Mill County Park. This year Otter Tail County will be completing the 32-mile Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail from Perham to Pelican Rapids with segments of that trail receiving funding from LCCMR. The Parks Dept. is well versed in all facets of project planning, development, construction, and operation.

**Organization:** Otter Tail County

**Organization Description:**

Otter Tail is a county located in West Central Minnesota. It has over 10% of Minnesota's beautiful lakes and boasts many miles of scenic highways, rolling hills, and is home to two Minnesota State Parks (Glendalough and Maplewood) as well

as historic Phelps Mill County Park. Otter Tail County's mission is to enrich lives, innovate services and enhance resources so people can live their best life here.

Otter Tail County is dedicated to developing a robust park and trail network to expand outdoor recreational opportunities and enhance the quality of life as well as economic opportunities. County-wide Park and Trail Master Plans have been adopted by the County Board and the Parks and Trails Dept is working towards completing the projects within the Master Plans. By the fall of 2024 we will be completing the last segment of the 32 mile Heart of the Lakes Trail from Perham to Pelican Rapids. In 2025 we will be utilizing LCCMR funding to add 7+ miles of trail to add direct city connections to the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail from the cities of Vergas and Dent.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Contractor selected through Competitive Bid Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Funds to be used to construct 1 mile of paved access roads, 2 parking lots, 4000+ft of paved 10ft wide trail, 2 vault toilets.				0		\$1,250,000
							Sub Total	\$1,250,000
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<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>								

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</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
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Otter Tail County	Design Engineering and all Environmental Review and Permitting	Potential	\$125,000
Cash	Otter Tail County	Pre-design and design for engineering and all environmental review and permitting costs	Potential	\$138,225
Cash	Otter Tail County	Construction engineering, materials testing, and administration	Potential	\$75,640
Cash	Otter Tail County	Wetland Mitigation	Potential	\$125,000
Cash	Otter Tail County	Master Plan Creation and Public Outreach	Secured	\$53,505
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$517,370</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$517,370</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$1,767,370**

**This amount accurately reflects total project cost?**

Yes

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [eeb3d7ad-54a.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

The Map provided shows the entire layout of the Echo Bay Park Property, including all four unique project phases of the Master Plan...

#### *Financial Capacity*

Title	File
Otter Tail County Audit	<a href="#">46d4052c-1e8.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Otter Tail County- LCCMR Application Resolution	<a href="#">d0f7b39a-b63.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Echo Bay Master Plan	<a href="#">d8bef449-b89.pdf</a>
Echo Bay Park- HEI Cost Analysis	<a href="#">db23f2f7-498.pdf</a>

## 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?**

No

**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:**

Nick Leonard, Otter Tail County Deputy County Administrator

