

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Funding Report

General Section

Park or Trail Name: Kensington Park

Park ID: 14-004D Funding Application #: 15-030F

Date Designated: 2015-10-07 District3

Lead Organization: Douglas County

First Name: Brad Last Name: Bonk

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Project Name: Kensington Rune Stone Park Visitors Center

Project Description:

Douglas County would like to build a visitors center that would allow for interpretation of the park to take place as well as a site for the public to gather. The park has an extensive grant in aid cross country ski trail system in addition to Snow Shoeing, and the only free public sledding hill in the four county area (Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens). These same trails are used in the summer time to bike, hike, run, and view wildlife. Providing a space for the public to warm, and use restrooms would enhance these experiences. Creation of a visitors center would allow for an exhibit hall telling the stories of the how our environment was formed by glaciers, of breaking the land and life on the farm in the 1890s, as well as the story of Olaf Ohman and the Kensington Rune Stone. Using information provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on Glaciation in Minnesota we will be able to show the public how the area they are viewing out the window was formed. This also allows for the public to see how these formations are used by the wildlife that they see in the park. Tying together the how and why certain wildlife is present in West Central Minnesota. Describing the story of farming in the 1890s includes the Ohman farm yard. The barn is currently being used as the parks visitor center. By creating a visitors center Douglas County then could start the process of restoring the barn to the look and uses of the 1890s. This is consistent with the park master plan. In planning for telling the story of the Rune Stone, Douglas County has sought the help of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Upsalla University in Norway. Runic Professor Henric Williams has taken a liking to the Kensington Rune Stone and has come to visit twice in the last 5 years. Sparking the conversation on how to educate the public on what purpose Rune Stones served humanity in the past. We hope to address the question of why rune stones were made as well as what happened to the Kensington Rune Stone after Olaf Ohman made public his discovery.

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Project Cost Breakdown: 4 season park building - \$925,000 Concrete Sidewalk (8 ft width) - \$34,580
Bituminous Roadway - \$24,000 Concrete Plaza - \$18,900

Grant Funding Request: 802,480

Local Match: 200,000 Funder: Douglas County

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Total Funding: 1,002,480 Percentage of Local Match: 20%

Completion Timeframe: 16 month construction