

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Designation Application

General Section

Designation Application #: 16-007D Date Submitted: 04/29/2016

Park or Trail Name: Moorhead River Corridor

District #: 3 Map Coordinates (Latitude and Longitude): Latitude: 46.8772 Longitude: -96.7787

Location Description:

Over 18 miles of River Corridor Trails along the Red River of the North that are visible and publicly accessible source of pride, beauty, culture and recreation for the region.

Lead Applicant Organization: City of Moorhead

Lead Contact First Name: Kristie Last Name: Leshovsky

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Joint Applicant #1 Organization:

Joint Applicant #2 Organization:

Joint Applicant #3 Organization:

Joint Applicant #4 Organization:

Describe other project supporters:

Fargo-Moorhead CVB, Fargo Marathon, FM Metropolitan Council of Governments, Partnership4Health, Prairie's Edge Nordic Skiers, River Keepers, Trollwood Performing Arts School, YMCA and FM Trailbuilders

Description Section

Regional Significance Statement: The Moorhead River Corridor Trail serves residents of the City of Moorhead with a population of approximately 40,000, the greater Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan (est. pop. 225,000) area, as well as visitors from the larger west central Minnesota region. The regional appeal of the Moorhead River Corridor Trail and the attractions it passes through, proximity to Downtown Moorhead and Fargo, coupled with several annual events at the Parks connected by the trail system, draw people to Moorhead, resulting in a positive economic impact for the city. Moorhead anticipates a future planned Heartland Trail connection at the Moorhead River Corridor Trailhead located at MB Johnson Regional Park; other nearby non-motorized trails in the area include Buffalo River

State Park trails, Future Perham to Pelican Rapids Trail runs through Maplewood State Park, and Future Northern Cass Pass, a 6 mile asphalt Rails to Trails project near Arthur, ND that is under construction.

Classification: Regional Trail (Non-Motorized)

Total proposed length (mi): 18.5

Overview/Description of Park or Trail:

Moorhead's River Corridor Trail will provide over 18 miles of trail connectivity, recreation, interpretation, habitat enhancement and water quality for the region. The Trail will compliment and connect with existing and proposed trails that link residents and visitors to the Red River as well as trails throughout the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan region. The continuous River Trail is intended for both recreation and non-motorized transportation throughout the region while preserving and promoting the history and culture of the region through education to improve the quality of life for future generations.

What is the Acquisition and Development Status?

- New Park or Trail (no land acquired or developed)
- Existing Park or Trail
 - Land Acquisition
 - Status:
 - Percentage of Land Acquired:
 - Development Status
 - No Development
 - Some Development, but more Proposed
 - New Facilities Proposed
 - Existing Facilities to be Upgraded
 - Fully Development

Facility Listing Section

Classification: Regional Trail (Non-Motorized)	
Existing Facility List	Proposed Facility List
Asphalt paved trail (10 feet or more), Asphalt paved trail (less than 10 feet), Aggregate surfaced trail (10 feet or more), Natural-surfaced trail - user created, Natural-surfaced trail - purpose built for specific use,	Asphalt paved trail (10 feet or more), Aggregate surfaced trail (10 feet or more), Natural-surfaced trail - purpose built for specific use, Trailhead parking, Trailhead information kiosks, Trailhead restrooms, Benches along trail, Picnic shelters at trailhead,

Trailhead parking, Trailhead restrooms, Benches along trail, Picnic shelters at trailhead	Fishing Piers, Lighting, Waste Receptacles, Gazebos, Restrooms, Concession/Rental Stands (Canoe/Kayak/Cross Country Skiis/Snowshoes/etc.), Community Gathering Spaces, Improved boat launches/portages.
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Master Plan Status Section

Master Plan Status: Master Plan meeting requirements of strategic plan is available

Describe Other Supportive Information:

Moorhead River Corridor Master Plan and ongoing projects also available at www.cityofmoorhead.com/river. River Corridor Plan includes estimated costs for development, ongoing maintenance and operations, programming, and implementation phasing options.

Classification Details Section

Classification: Regional Trail (Non-Motorized)

Criteria #1 Provides a High-Quality "Destination" Trail Experience: As a result of recent flood mitigation projects along the Red River, 225 acres of private property along the river has been transferred to public ownership. The Moorhead River Corridor Trail will provide users a variety of highly scenic, cultural destinations and natural settings that stretch the length of the City and provide linkages to the entire Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan region and beyond. The Red River corridor is a defining natural feature in the region and provides scenic views, natural habitat and trails along the corridor will provide beautiful and unique variation to the otherwise flat terrain of the Red River Valley. The Moorhead River Corridor Trail includes construction of new trails to fill in the gaps along the entire River Corridor as well as the realignment and/or rehabilitation of existing trails that have experienced damage due to slope stability or frequent flooding to provide a continuous trail to serve the region. There are currently multiple regional and community parks along the River including regional attractions such as Bluestem Center for the Arts, Gooseberry Mound Park (51 acre regional park in central Moorhead), River Oaks Park and MB Johnson Park (natural resource focused parks), and Horn Park and the Bob Fogel Riparian Forest (naturally wooded areas with open space and parkland). The small segments of existing River Corridor Trails already experience high bicycle and pedestrian trips; having a continuous connection along the entire River will increase trip generation from residents and visitors.

Criteria #2 Well-located to Serve Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination: The FM Metro is a regional hub for northwest Minnesota, eastern North Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, and southern Manitoba, Canada. The Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area had a 2010 MSA population of 208,777 and is rapidly growing with a projected MSA population near 250,000 by 2020. The Moorhead River Corridor Trail will provide links to trails of local, regional and statewide significance. The River Corridor Trail will connect the cities of Fargo and Moorhead as well as provide connections from rural Clay County, MN and Cass County, ND. As the Heartland Trail makes its way from Detroit Lakes to Moorhead, it is

anticipated that the Moorhead River Corridor Trail will connect to this trail of statewide significance. The Moorhead River Corridor Trail will provide a link to multiple bike/pedestrian bridges crossing into Fargo, ND and connect to regional and community parks, the Village Green Golf Course, and Colleges and Universities. Nearly one hundred percent of Moorhead residents live within three miles of the River Corridor Trail and a high concentration of Fargo, ND residents also live within three miles of the Trail. The estimated length of the Moorhead River Corridor Trail is 18.5 miles, although connections to Fargo trails and existing Moorhead trails would provide nearly 500 miles of non-motorized trail connections.

Criteria #3 Enhances Connectivity to Regional Destinations: The Moorhead River Corridor Trail is proposed to be a trailhead connection to the Minnesota State Heartland Trail system. This proposed extension will connect the Heartland Trail to the Red River. The River Corridor Trail will connect the cities of Moorhead with Fargo as well as provide connections from rural Clay County, MN and Cass County, ND. The Trail will connect to four regionally significant parks in Moorhead (MB Johnson, Memorial, Viking Ship and Woodlawn Parks) and five regionally significant parks in Fargo and well as multiple community parks in both the Moorhead and Fargo sides of the Red River. The River Corridor Trail will connect multiple regional destinations in Moorhead, including the Hjemkomst Center, Historic Log Cabin, Heritage Garden and Amphitheater, fishing piers, two bike/ped River bridge crossings, and Bluestem Center for the Arts. The River Corridor Trail will connect to multiple amenities in Moorhead including basketball courts, playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms, multiple frisbee golf courses, and the canoe and kayak launch area. The River Corridor Trail will connect to various events which draw tourists to the region including the Fargo Marathon, Streets Alive, River Arts Festival, Midwest Viking Village, Arts Shows, and multiple festivals (Scandinavian Festival, Pangea, Celtic Festival, German Folk Festival, etc). The River Corridor Trail will link to the existing trail system in Moorhead that will connect to the south side elementary school, multiple business centers, the Village Green Golf Course, and numerous (non-River) regional and community parks.

Criteria #4 Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within a Region: Non-motorized trail systems in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area are an important fabric in our transportation network. The Fargo-Moorhead Metro area was named a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists in November 2014 and implemented a Bike Share program in 2015. Although there is an extensive trails system in the FM Metro area, no regional or state-level trail opportunity currently exists within 10 miles of the FM Metro, a growing urban area. Although the Heartland Trail is proposed to be extended to the Red River of the North through Moorhead to MB Johnson Park, it is still in planning and early development stages. Trails exist in Buffalo River State Park 15 miles from Moorhead, but are not as accessible to the urban area as the Moorhead River Corridor Trail would be. Completion of the Moorhead River Corridor Trail would provide a unique regional trail system that would accommodate not only residents of the region but also attract tourists and visitors to the area. The Moorhead River Corridor Trail would provide important connections to regional and community parks throughout the river corridor (north and south of Interstate 94), connect to K-12 and collegiate institutions, link to multiple business and commercial centers including the F-M downtown area, and provide direct access to regional destinations such as the Bluestem Center for the Arts (a regional hub for large special events with nationally renowned performers and theater performances throughout the summer).

Attachment List Section (only lists up to 10 documents)

Type	Description
Letters of Support	Letters of Support
Other	Progress Update
Resolution	Moorhead City Council Resolution
Other	Excerpt of Moorhead Parks Programming Brochure outlining River Corridor activities and events.
Other	This is the entire Moorhead River Corridor Master Plan document which includes the River Corridor Trail, as well as bolstered descriptions of development trailhead parks.
Master Plan	Moorhead River Corridor - Trail Specific Master Plan
Location Map	Moorhead River Corridor map
site_map_uploads_2	
regional_map	
acquisition_plan_overview_uploads	Current Land Acquired - Information