

# Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

## Designation Application

### General Section

Designation Application #: 16-015D      Date Submitted: 04/27/2016

Park or Trail Name: Proctor Hermantown Munger Trail Spur

District #: 1      Map Coordinates (Latitude and Longitude): Latitude: 46.7727 Longitude: -92.1866

#### Location Description:

Hermantown: The proposed trail route travels from central Hermantown, starting at the Hermantown Schools campus and proposed Regional Health and Wellness Center, east to the Hermantown City hall area, Lightning Drive industrial area, then Stebner Park and Hermantown Marketplace. From there, the trail alignment travels south to Keene Creek Park and then west along the Hermantown/Proctor municipal border to St. Louis River Road. Proctor: In Proctor, the trail alignment heads south to the future North Proctor Park, then south to Downtown Proctor, the Proctor Schools, and Proctor Community Center. From there, the trail goes through south Proctor to Spirit Mountain via the Kirkus Street bridge over the rail line and the Ugstad Road underpass of I-35, then down the ridge through the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area to Duluth's Cross City Trail and the Munger State Trail.

Lead Applicant Organization: City of Hermantown

Lead Contact First Name: Eric      Last Name: Johnson

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Joint Applicant #1 Organization: City of Proctor, MN

Joint Applicant #2 Organization:

Joint Applicant #3 Organization:

Joint Applicant #4 Organization:

Describe other project supporters:

City of Duluth Spirit Mountain Valley Recreation Area

### Description Section

Regional Significance Statement: A regional trail connection between Proctor and Hermantown and down to the Munger State Trail is called for in the 2007 Proctor Master Trail Plan and the 2010 Hermantown Trails Master Plan. In addition, this regional trail provides an opportunity to connect to Duluth's Lakewalk, Cross City Trail, and Duluth Traverse (mountain biking trail), as well as the Superior

Hiking Trail (a 300-mile trail along the Lake Superior ridgeline). With Proctor's population of 3,100 and Hermantown's population of approximately 9,600, this regional trail connection will directly serve the needs of approximately 13,000 residents. In addition to Proctor and Hermantown residents, this trail will serve the needs of businesses and employees, as well as the greater Duluth-Superior metropolitan region.

Classification: Regional Trail (Non-Motorized)

Total proposed length (mi): 16

Overview/Description of Park or Trail:

The Proctor-Hermantown Munger Trail Spur will be a regional destination trail linking the communities of Proctor and Hermantown to the Munger State Trail and Duluth's trail system. This 16-mile, 10-foot wide paved trail will be a unique regional recreational resource as there are no paved trails above the ridge line today. The trail will connect numerous recreation destinations and activity centers within the communities of Proctor, Hermantown, and Duluth, including schools, parks, city halls/community centers, and downtown business areas. In addition to the Munger State Trail, the trail will connect to the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, 300-mile Superior Hiking Trail, Duluth's Lakewalk, Cross City, and Duluth Traverse trails, creating a variety of recreational loop opportunities. The trail route will highlight the communities' natural features, including four creeks, northern hardwood forests, wetland areas, and a variety of natural and active parks. The proposed trail route travels from central Hermantown, starting at the Hermantown Schools campus and the proposed Regional Health and Wellness Center, east to the Hermantown City Hall area, the Lightning Drive industrial area, then Stebner Park and Hermantown Marketplace. From there, the trail alignment travels south to Keene Creek Park and then west along the Hermantown/Proctor municipal border to St. Louis River Road. In Proctor, the trail alignment heads south to the future North Proctor Park, then south to Downtown Proctor, the Proctor Schools, and Proctor Community Center. From there, the trail goes through south Proctor to Spirit Mountain via the Kirkus Street bridge over the rail line and the Ugstad Road underpass of I-35, then down the ridge through the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area to Duluth's Cross City Trail and the Munger State Trail.

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 (less than 10 feet), Trailhead parking, Trailhead restrooms, Picnic shelters at trailhead	Asphalt paved trail (10 feet or more), Trailhead parking, Trailhead information kiosks, Trailhead restrooms, Benches along trail

Master Plan Status Section

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

Describe Other Supportive Information:

A regional trail connection between Proctor and Hermantown and down to the Munger State Trail is called for in the 2007 Proctor Master Trail Plan and the 2010 Hermantown Trails Master Plan. In addition, this regional trail provides an opportunity to connect to Duluth's Lakewalk, Cross City Trail, and Duluth Traverse (mountain biking trail), as well as the Superior Hiking Trail (a 300-mile trail along the Lake Superior ridgeline).

Classification Details Section

Classification: Regional Trail (Non-Motorized)

Criteria #1 Provides a High-Quality "Destination" Trail Experience: The Proctor-Hermantown Munger Trail Spur will be a regional destination recreational trail that accommodates multiple non-motorized uses including walking, jogging, hiking, bicycling, inline skating, and cross-country skiing. There are many public trail opportunities in Duluth, but there is a gap above the ridgeline in Hermantown, Proctor, and connecting communities. The Proctor-Hermantown Munger Trail Spur will be designed as a recreational trail for non-motorized users including walkers, hikers, runners, recreational and commuter bicyclists, rollerbladers, and cross-country skiers. The preferred trail corridor is intended to offer a high quality natural, scenic, and non-motorized trail experience. Where the proposed trail alignment is located within existing trail corridors for other types of trail users, the trails will be separated as much as possible to accommodate the unique needs of the various trail users. The trail will be designed as a 10-foot wide paved regional trail that meets the Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR). The trail will provide a high-quality experience as a primarily off-road recreational corridor through diverse landscapes, including natural, rural, and urban. As a continuous trail that will be approximately 16 miles in length, it is intended to function as

both a regional destination trail and a local connector trail.

Criteria #2 Well-located to Serve Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination: Within Hermantown, the trail corridor environment will consist of a large wetlands area near the City's northernmost trailhead, which is actually part of the Rocky Run branch of the Midway River; the Keene Creek corridor; two City parks - Keene Creek Park and Stebner Park; wooded power line corridors; and along roadways. Within Proctor, the trail corridor environment will include wooded areas on public land (owned and easements), including the future North Proctor Park; the City's Community Center and outdoor recreation area - Egerdahl Field and the municipal golf course; small portion of the Kingsbury Creek corridor; the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area and Knowlton Creek corridor; and along roadways, both rural and downtown Proctor. Finally, within Duluth, the preferred alignment will travel through the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area and Knowlton Creek corridor. The future potential trail segment that would connect Hermantown and Duluth will travel along the Keene Creek corridor. This regional trail will be designed as a fully accessible ADA-compliant trail. The paved trail corridor and all trail access points are located and planned for universal accessibility to provide all trail users with a meaningful experience. Also, this trail corridor provides a prime opportunity to improve non-motorized ADA access to the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, as well as other recreation destinations and activity centers along the corridor.

Criteria #3 Enhances Connectivity to Regional Destinations: Inherent to a regional destination trail is its ability to link to recreation destinations and activity centers. The preferred alignment of the Munger Trail Spur will serve as the connector trail between the communities of Proctor and Hermantown, and West Duluth. In addition, it will connect to most of the major destinations within these communities, including the following: Recreation Destinations: Keene Creek Park and Stebner Park in Hermantown; Future North Proctor Park, South St. Louis County Fairgrounds, Egerdahl Field, and Klang Park in Proctor; Spirit Mountain and the Lake Superior/St. Louis River waterfront in Duluth. Activity Centers: Hermantown Schools campus, future Arrowhead Regional Health and Wellness Center, Hermantown City Hall, Hermantown Marketplace; Downtown Proctor, Proctor Schools, Proctor Community Center. In addition to the Munger State Trail, the trail will connect to the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, 300-mile Superior Hiking Trail, Duluth's Lakewalk, Cross City, and Duluth Traverse trails, creating a variety of recreational loop opportunities. The trail route will highlight the communities' natural features, including four creeks, northern hardwood forests, wetland areas, and a variety of natural and active parks.

Criteria #4 Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within a Region: This 16-mile, 10-foot wide paved trail will be a unique regional recreational resource as there are no paved trails above the ridge line today. Hermantown and Proctor have existing informal and unofficial trails throughout the communities. These trails primarily consist of natural surface paths for walking/hiking, and potentially mountain biking, through park areas. Keene Creek Park is the only city park with an existing trail system. Located near Hermantown City Hall are the Minter Trail and the Rocky Run Trail. There are no paved trails in Hermantown and Proctor. In Duluth, the only major paved trails are the Munger State Trail and the Lakewalk. Other non-paved trail destinations close to Proctor and Hermantown are the Superior Hiking Trail, Piedmont Mountain Bike Trails, Spirit Mountain ski and bike trails, and Western Waterfront Trail in

Duluth.

Attachment List Section (only lists up to 10 documents)

<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
Resolution	Joint Applicant #1 Organization added from general tab
Master Plan	Master Plan Document
Letters of Support	City of Duluth Letter of Support
Letters of Support	Spirit Mountain Letter of Support
Photo	Keene Creek Photo
Photo	Keene Creek Photo 2
Photo	Trees Along the Trail
Photo	Fall along the Trail Route
Other	Preferred Trail Alignment
Other	Segment 1 Trail Map