

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Funding Report

General Section

Park or Trail Name: Moorhead River Corridor

Park ID: 16-007D Funding Application #: 16-022F

Date Designated: 2016-08-12 District3

Lead Organization: City of Moorhead

First Name: Kristie Last Name: Leshovsky

Mailing Address: 500 Center Avenue

City: Moorhead State: MN Zip: 56560

Phone: 218-299-5332 Email: kristie.leshovsky@cityofmoorhead.com

Project Name: Homestead Trail and Downtown Link Trail Segments

Project Description:

The City of Moorhead requests funding consideration for two trail segments along the regional Moorhead River Corridor Trail. Both projects are integral to the River Corridor Trail system, although if funding is only available for one segment, Project 1 would be the first priority for the City.

Project/Priority 1: New Paved Trail Segment Connecting Downtown Link Trail with existing trail facilities at 15th Avenue North (AKA Homestead Trail). The Homestead Trail (1.1 miles) is a key segment of the approximately 18 mile Moorhead River Corridor Trail. The Homestead Trail connects major downtown parks in Moorhead including Woodlawn, Viking Ship, Riverfront, and Davy/Memorial Parks, with multiple parks in north Moorhead including Five-Nine, Original Homestead, and MB Johnson Parks. The Trail also connects to trails in Fargo, ND at both ends of the Trail (multiple downtown bridges and the Memorial Park Pedestrian Bridge on the south and the 15th Avenue North bridge at the north). Other important public features along the Trail include the unique multi-use Hjemkomst Center, Matson softball fields, Moorhead Country Club golf course, Moorhead Public Housing facility, Clay County Government Campus (Courthouse, Family Services Center, Law Enforcement Center), Robert Asp Elementary School and the Bergquist Cabin. The Homestead Trail is 1.1 miles in length, but provides key connections to over 500 miles of trails throughout Moorhead. Project/Priority 2: Realignment and Reconstruction of the Downtown Link Paved Trail. The 1.5 mile Downtown Link Trail is in the heart of downtown Moorhead, experiences the highest bicycle and pedestrian trip generation counts in the entire City and includes two of the three bicycle/pedestrian river bridge crossings between Fargo and Moorhead. The proposed realignment (above 24 foot flood stage) and reconstruction of this Trail will provide multiple benefits for pedestrians, including increased availability for use in the spring and summer due to realigning the trail to a higher elevation (currently the trail is unusable during minor flood events) and a safer trail system due to less pavement heaving and debris (as a result of wet, saturated soils exacerbated by frequent flooding). The Downtown Link Trail is extremely popular amongst bicycle commuters, as the Trail allows bicycle commuters to avoid high traffic roadways and

busy railroad tracks. The Downtown Link Trail is a key connector for multiple amenities and destinations including: Hjemkomst Center, Stave Church Replica, Historic Log Cabin, Heritage Garden and Amphitheater, Frisbee golf courses (3 courses, 49 holes in 2 states), fishing piers, farmers market, three regionally significant parks in Moorhead (Memorial, Viking Ship and Woodlawn) and five in Fargo (Oak Grove, Wildflower Grove, Dike East/West, Island Park, South River Front Parks). The Downtown Link Trail realignment and reconstruction would eliminate current conflicts between bike/pedestrian users and cross-country skiing users by constructing the proposed new bike/pedestrian trail for bike/pedestrian users while still retaining the existing, lighted groomed path for skiers (allowing use of ski areas during day and evening hours). Realizing the importance of the downtown bike/pedestrian trail system, the realignment and reconstruction of the Downtown Link Trail was identified as a top priority by community members and other stakeholders within the Moorhead River Corridor Master Plan.

Funding Section

Project Cost Breakdown: Please see attached "Project Cost Breakdown" for additional details. Project 1. Homestead Trail: \$261,250 (funding request) - 1.1 mile, 10' paved trail with 12 bench/litter container locations. \$65,670 (local match) - Pavement markings, on-road signage, overall trail signage, archeological/env review, design and engineering, construction administration. The Homestead Trail segment of the River Corridor Trail provides a key linkage between the existing downtown trail facilities and trails and other facilities of regional and local significance - including cultural amenities, regional parks, trail/pedestrian systems (including bridges spanning the Red River) and public institutions. The Trail will attract tourists from the Fargo-Moorhead region and beyond by connecting parks, cultural and historical attractions. The Homestead Trail is an integral segment of the River Corridor Trail that will connect to the anticipated future trailhead to the MN State Heartland Trail System. Finally, the Trail provides not just a bicycle and pedestrian connection to various amenities in the community and region, but it will provide scenic, natural views of one of the regions most defining features - the Red River of the North. The trail will be made available to the public year round. Project 2. Downtown LINK Trail - Realignment and Reconstruction: \$449,500 (funding request) - 1.5 mile, 10' paved trail with 20 bench/litter container locations. \$95,600 (local match) - overall trail signage, archeological/env review, design and engineering, construction administration. The Downtown LINK Trail segment of the River Corridor Trail is an existing trail segment of the River Corridor Trail and boasts the highest bicycle/pedestrian usage of all trails in Moorhead. Although its the most traveled trail, it is unavailable during flood events and has experienced pavement heaving and debris. The proposed reconstruction and realignment (reconstructing a deteriorating trail along with realigning a portion of the trail above 24 foot flood stage) will allow increased availability of the trail and provide a safer trail due to less heaving and debris. This trail provides an integral link between two bicycle/pedestrian bridges crossing the Red River into Fargo, ND which link multiple regionally significant parks in both communities. The trail provides access to a vehicular-bike/pedestrian bridge crossing of Statewide significance (US Highway 10) and is the primary transportation link for bicycle users in downtown and connecting downtown businesses. The trail will be made available to the public year round.

Grant Funding Request: \$710,750

Local Match: \$161,270 Funder: City of Moorhead

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:
Local Match: 0 Funder:
Local Match: 0 Funder:

Total Funding: \$872,020 Percentage of Local Match: 18.5%

Completion Timeframe: 2018