



## General

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

<b>Park/Trail ID #</b> 16-010D	<b>Funding Application</b> 17-0075-F	<b>Park/Trail Name</b> Red Lake River Corridor
<b>Last Update</b> July 07, 2017		
<b>District</b> 2	<b>Project Name</b> Red Lake River Corridor 2017 Funding Request	

### Project Description

The RLRC Joint Powers Board (JPB) was established in 2003 to encourage residential use of the river, grow tourist interest in the river, and establish an avenue for long-term planning for the corridor. To accomplish these goals and ultimately increase resident and tourist use of the river, the JPB created, prioritized, and are now submitting several project descriptions, including: -Constructing and upgrading 11 access points along the river (river miles 52A, 52B, 53, 55, 58, 67, 98, 116A, 124, 125, 128) -Installing three kayak and canoe ramps in Thief River Falls (river miles 128, 125, 124) -Installing a physically accessible kayak and canoe ramp in St. Hilaire's Island Park, downstream of other kayak and canoe launches and upstream of Crookston's physically accessible Central Park (river mile 116) -Laying fill and wood chips and taking care of existing trails in St. Hilaire's Island Park (river mile 116) -Replacing a shower house and adding RV campsites in Red Lake Falls' Sportsman's Park (for non-permanent camping-- 2 week limit) (river mile 92) -Central Park access and campsites in Crookston (river mile 55) -Community outreach through hosting community paddling events and partnering with local schools for watershed and recreation education -Signage and materials to make access easier for residents who have not engaged with the Red Lake River The JPB is also discussing overland trail connectivity within and between cities as a next phase after it achieves consistent, gap-free river access. As a result of infrastructure improvement, the JPB expects the following outcomes: -Increased residential use of the river, resulting in a better quality of life, better public health outcomes, and more equitable access to outdoor recreational opportunities -Increased tourism, contributing to local economies and improving the overall economic development of all six cities and three counties -Better physical accessibility to the river, expanding health and recreation equity outcomes -Better ability to maintain new access points and sites -Better individual stewardship of public lands and waters as a result of strong corridor identity and education

### Project Area Maps

Maps of enhancement projects

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[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC Maps GMRPTC Funding Request 2017\\_68a6b5.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC%20Maps%20GMRPTC%20Funding%20Request%202017_68a6b5.pdf)

Project descriptions of each enhancement, with maps, budgets, descriptions, and eye-level pictures

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC Project Descriptions Summer 2017\\_5\\_ba5e71.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC%20Project%20Descriptions%20Summer%202017_5_ba5e71.pdf)

<b>Organization</b> City of Crookston	<b>Lead Contact</b> <b>Full Name</b> Shannon	<b>Lead Contact</b> <b>Title</b> Stassen
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## Funding

### Legacy Pillars:

- Connect People and the Outdoors
- Acquire Land and Create Opportunities
- Take Care of What We Have
- Coordinate Among Providers

## Project Outcomes

### Connection to Pillars

Connect People and the Outdoors

The main purpose of this grant and the Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board is to increase recreational use of the river by both residents and tourists. This grant will increase the number of people using the river by making access to the river safer and more continuous, educating residents and children about responsible recreation through paddling and school events, and building facilities that people of all abilities are able to enjoy. Additionally, this grant seeks to make access to the river easier through user-friendly, easy-to-understand signage and maps.

While a growing number of tourists are attracted to the Red Lake River Corridor, as evidenced by full-nearly-every-weekend private and public campgrounds and anecdotes from residents who report seeing an increasing number of kayaks floating downstream, the river remains underutilized by residents--especially those without knowledge of river recreation, who do not have access to equipment, and those with ambulatory disabilities. Local leaders in each corridor city report increasing residential interest in outdoor activities for recreation as well as health goals, and the JPB's plan to improve residential access addresses those barriers to residential use to connect people to the outdoors.

This project is unique because the river provides a variety recreational activities other trails simply cannot provide due to its length, geological features, and existing locally-supported infrastructure. Even in the winter, residents and tourist enjoy cross country ski trails and snowmobile trails; in the warmer months, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, walking or bicycling on surrounding trails, camping, and visiting one of many parks on

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the river are possibilities. The natural elements provide an area in which residents and tourists can truly “experience it all,” and to connect more residents and tourists to the river, the JPB needs to improve/build access points, support meaningful community engagement and outreach (including signage), and reconsider infrastructure’s physical accessibility.

#### Acquire Land and Create Opportunities

The majority of projects submitted in this grant are access point improvements, which create new, safe opportunities for recreation. The Red Lake River winds 175 miles through three counties, crossing through downtowns as well as backyards. Many of the access points included in this funding request are near residential areas, creating convenient opportunities to get out on the river for an afternoon paddle through trees, cliffs, and fields. Still other access points connect the river to a city’s downtown-- for example, Crookston’s Central Park, which the city is requesting improvements to in this funding request, is adjacent to the city’s downtown; coming off the river, it is a 5-minute walk to the public library, movie theater, restaurants, and specialty shops. Because of the river’s length, users can choose what type of experience they would like to have on the river; that versatility appeals to a multitude of populations, again accomplishing the JPB’s goal of increasing use of the Red Lake River.

#### Take Care of What We Have

Many of the projects included in this request, such as trail improvements in St. Hilaire, the rock portage in Crookston, and the Highway 32 access in Red Lake County, help Corridor cities and counties care for existing assets. These projects maintain the integrity of the river and the parks and trails located on the river, ensuring a high-quality experience for users no matter which of the river’s 175-miles they choose. More specifically, Crookston’s portage around their rock jetty at Maplewood Park ensures safety for paddlers and installs a fishing pier at one of the city’s best peers, taking care of an existing access point. Trail improvements in St. Hilaire address natural erosion of dirt trails and prevent further damage from motorized vehicles, while establishing a parking lot to reduce impact on the environment from vehicles. In Red Lake County, improvements funded by this request upgrade an existing access point to improve safety for paddlers and to protect the access point for further use. Many of the other projects in this request, including access points and facilities upgrades, maintain and build upon existing assets to ensure residents and tourists can use them for years to come.

#### Coordinate Among Providers

This funding request consists of several projects, each supported by a local government. Each government as a part of the Joint Powers Board has engaged in considerable collaboration and coordination in order to plan for the region. The JPB collected and prioritized projects, which cities and counties drafted after listening to community input and discussing opportunities for improvements with staff. Rather than each local government applying for funding for their own projects, planning collaboratively enabled the board to request smart investments from the Commission as well as their own citizens. An example of this “smart planning” is choosing to strategically place a physically accessible kayak and canoe ramp in St. Hilaire, upstream from Crookston’s accessible Central Park, so that paddlers with ambulatory difficulties could choose from a variety of trip types and lengths.

Applying together for this grant also enables some of the smaller cities to request higher-quality items than if they were to apply to GMRPTC on their own: smaller cities are unable to contribute a high local match, but applying together, the local match is considered as a whole rather than for each project in each city. The JPB collectively approves projects to submit in the funding request; as an example, for this funding cycle the city of St. Hilaire was able to submit a request for more expensive ADA-accessible kayak and canoe ramps as a result of applying together.

Finally, in addition to coming together to fund improvements, collaboration among JPB members benefits users and improves use of the river by standardizing information and creating a unified corridor identity. The Red Lake River is more than just the part of the river that is in Thief River Falls or Fisher or East Grand Forks, and each of the JPB members understand the interconnectedness of the partners and the role it plays in ensuring a high-quality river experience.

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## Connection to Regional Values

The main goal of the Joint Powers Board and the master plan is to increase residential and tourist use of the river through improving the number and quality of access points, leading to more continuous, gapless connectivity. Additionally, the JPB has identified a need for more user-friendly and ubiquitous signage to make it as easy as possible to identify access points and to generate interest in recreational use of the Red Lake River. At these access points, upgraded facilities--including public bathrooms-- increase physical accessibility to the river and improve overall quality of users' experiences, creating more equitable recreational opportunities in Northwest Minnesota. The six cities, three counties, and watershed district anticipate significant public benefits as a result of corridor enhancement, including public health, economic development, and community development outcomes:

### Public Health

The public health benefits of creating spaces people love to visit and use for physical activity are numerous. Increasing access to canoeing, kayaking, and fishing on the river and generating interest in physical activity in areas adjacent to the river, such as the walking trails in St. Hilaire's Island Park, will contribute to more residents enjoying the outdoors and becoming more physically fit as a result of their use. Additionally, encouraging family use of the Red Lake River, whether paddling the river, walking local trails, or camping overnight, has the potential to be a preventative tool in keeping children healthy. Children who have access to outdoor spaces are more likely to be more physically active and have more opportunities to develop a lifelong love of the outdoors, which promotes physical and mental wellbeing and contributes to healthier kids, families, and communities.

Just as importantly, corridor enhancement accelerates development of a more healthy, more active culture for Corridor cities. One of the best ways local governments can support healthy lifestyles is to create opportunities for physical activity, and each enhancement specified in this grant has been thoughtfully coordinated with the other improvements to create a seamless experience for visitors.

### Economic Development

Increases in residential use of the river can help spur economic development, especially in cities like Crookston whose access points and proposed campsite improvements are close to the downtown. However, the growing tourist use of the river would be a large boon for the entire region. With tourists already coming from the Grand Forks, Fargo, and Winnipeg metro areas, the Corridor appeals to several markets and a total of about one million people in those three cities alone. The economic impact of increased use of public campgrounds, private resorts, hotels, downtowns, and shopping centers as a result of Red Lake River tourists, contributes to the local economy--whether it's a family camping overnight at Red Lake Falls' Sportsman Park that decides to rent boats from a local outfitter, or a group of kayakers who decide to stay in a hotel overnight and have lunch in Thief River Falls before kayaking down the river.

Additionally, a more cohesive identity, supported by this grant and a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation for signage and branding, helps tourists connect the Red Lake River with other attractions in Northwest Minnesota. As expanded upon in the master plan, Northwest Minnesota is home to a variety of attractions that complement a trip to the Red Lake River; promoting tourist use of the river, which requires strong corridor identity, has the potential to bring thousands of dollars into local businesses and public campgrounds.

### Community Development

Corridor enhancement also provides for significant community development outcomes by creating more opportunities for individuals and families to become connected to the outdoors. In this enhancement plan, upgrades to existing access points make public spaces more inviting, safer, and physically accessible, while creation of new access points provide users with more choices in length and difficulty of paddling trips. Additionally, community development outcomes occur as a result of community paddling events and watershed education in public schools, as these events educate users and demystify outdoor recreation for first-time paddlers. Corridor cities are experiencing growing interest in outdoor recreation, and the enhancements included in this proposal accelerates that growth while improving facilities and access points

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to accommodate increased use.

## **Project Readiness**

### **Project Lead**

Crookston City Administrator Shannon Stassen will serve as Project Lead for the RLRC Enhancement Project. Stassen has at his disposal a team of qualified professionals including: Public Works Director/ City Engineer, Parks and Recreation Director, Building Official, Finance Director and Accountant. Stassen has successfully written several grants and managed projects to their completion over the past several years, including MnDOT Alternative Transportation Program Grant, NW Regional Sustainable Development Grant (Green Step Cities initiative implementation), MN Housing Finance Agency Capacity Building Grant (Downtown Neighborhood Development) and NWRDC Comprehensive Planning Grant.

### **Implementation Timeline**

Because each city has requested different projects, the projects will be constructed concurrently but completed at different times. All improvements, excluding Red Lake Falls' Sportsman Park and Crookston's Central Park, are expected to be complete by summer 2018. Sportsman Park and Central Park are expected to be complete by summer 2019, with construction on Crookston's Central Park commencing in late summer 2018. The Community Paddle and River of Dreams events are scheduled for fall 2018 and 2019.

Due to Council cycles during the summer, some resolutions will be forthcoming (St. Hilaire and Thief River Falls). The County of Red Lake Falls' resolution supporting the improvements is also forthcoming.

### **Design Standards**

The JPB made physical accessibility of the new access points and facilities a priority. According to 2015 census data, an estimated 6,275 individuals in the tri-county region have a disability. Of these 6,275, almost half have an ambulatory difficulty.

The proposed kayak and canoe ramp in St. Hilaire, Crookston's ADA-compliant dock/access point, and the bath houses in both Red Lake Falls and Crookston meet or exceed the standards of the ADA. Additionally, the physically accessible kayak and canoe ramps feature physically accessible paths to get to the dock, an extra-large dock, a bench, and a sliding seat so that people with ambulatory disabilities can more easily enter their boats and the water.

#### **Crookston's Central Park**

Widseth, Smith and Nolting has provided design work and cost estimates for Crookston projects. This engineering firm is highly qualified and is familiar with all ADA and Minnesota regulations.

About WSN, from their website: Widseth Smith Nolting is an engineering, architecture, land surveying and environmental services firm with eight offices in Minnesota and North Dakota and 190 employees. We design roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems, and buildings of all types. Our engineering practice includes civil, structural, mechanical and electrical engineers who work on a wide range of projects for public and private clients—from large-scale public works improvements to facility and site design for individual companies. Our land survey crews and environmental specialists work throughout the Midwest. Our architectural portfolio includes schools, clinics, senior living, retail, offices, factories, historic buildings and more. Together, this multi-discipline team provides our clients a complete package of services to lead their project from concept to completion. WSN was established in 1975.

#### **Red Lake Falls' Sportsman Park**

Bolton & Menk, who facilitated the Sportsman Park design process for Red Lake Falls, has extensive experience working all over the midwest. From their work, Bolton & Menk are well-equipped to draft plans complying with ADA guidelines and Minnesota design standards.

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About Bolton & Menk, from their website: Bolton & Menk, Inc. is ranked #161 among the Top 500 Engineering Surveying Firms in the United States by Engineering News-Record. Bolton & Menk's reputation, together with expanding expertise and depth of experience, has enabled us to maintain long-lasting relationships with our clients and expand our market share throughout the Upper Midwest. With 16 offices and more than 450 employees, Bolton & Menk provides public infrastructure solutions to communities large and small.

### Project Cost Breakdown

Attached is a line item budget. Here is a short breakdown of each project's cost (total cost/GMRPTC Request):

Access Point--Kayak and Canoe Launch, (32300/28,000)  
Trail Improvements (5,000/3,750)  
Sportsman's Park Improvements (400,000/320,000)  
Access Point--Highway 32 (25,000/20,000)  
Central Park (973,000/523,000)  
Rock Rapid Portage (30,150/22,613)  
Access Point-- Floating Pier at Woodland Park (18,950/14,213)  
Access Point--Floating Pier at 6th Street (18,950/14,213)  
Access Point-- Highway 2 and Highway 9 Junction (12,700/9,525)  
Access Point--Gentilly Bridge (84,029/63,022)  
Access Point--Finsbury Park (28,500/23,500)  
Access Point--Oakland Park (29,200/24,200)  
Community Engagement-- Paddle Events (104,056/83,224)  
Community Engagement-- River of Dreams (128,584/102,867)

TOTAL: 1,890,419/1,252,148 MATCH PERCENT: 33.76%

### Funding Request Breakdown

Please use valid currency formats (e.g. \$100,000/100,000/100000)

#### Grant Funding Request

\$1,233,648

<b>Local Match #1</b>	<b>Funder #1</b>
\$580,643	0
<b>Local Match #2</b>	<b>Funder #2</b>
\$46,528	0
<b>Local Match #3</b>	<b>Funder #3</b>
\$5,000	0
<b>Local Match #4</b>	<b>Funder #4</b>
0	0
<b>Local Match #4</b>	<b>Funder #5</b>
0	0

#### Non-Eligible Local Match

50000

#### Non-Eligible Item Description

Administrative costs-- Crookston's finance department will be taking the lead on this project.

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**Total Funding**

\$1,865,819

**Percentage of local match**

0.34

**Completion Timeframe**

Summer 2018

**Funder #1**

Cities of Crookston, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Thief  
River Falls

**Funder #1 Resolutions**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLF Crookston Resolutions\\_805dbf.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLF Crookston Resolutions_805dbf.pdf)

**Funder #2**

International Waters Institute

**Funder #2 Resolutions**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/IWI Letter of committment to RLRC \(1\)\\_1ed86f.docx](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/IWI Letter of committment to RLRC (1)_1ed86f.docx)

**Funder #3**

County of Red Lake-- Forthcoming

**Funder #4**

N/A

**Funder #5**

N/A

## Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Project Area Map	Maps of enhancement projects	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC Maps GMRPTC Funding Request 2017_68a6b5.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC Maps GMRPTC Funding Request 2017_68a6b5.pdf</a>
Funder Resolution One		<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLF Crookston Resolutions_805dbf.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLF Crookston Resolutions_805dbf.pdf</a>
Funder Resolution Two		<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/IWI Letter of committment to RLRC (1)_1ed86f.docx">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/IWI Letter of committment to RLRC (1)_1ed86f.docx</a>
Project Area Map	Project descriptions of each enhancement, with maps, budgets, descriptions, and eye-level pictures	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC Project Descriptions Summer 2017_5_ba5e71.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC Project Descriptions Summer 2017_5_ba5e71.pdf</a>

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Additional Attachment	Line-item combined budget for all projects, outreach, and signage	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/2017%2F28%20(3)_ddfa39.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/2017 GMRPTC Grant Budget - Current 7%2F28 (3) ddfa39.pdf</a>
Additional Attachment	Project descriptions of each enhancement, with maps, budgets, descriptions, and eye-level pictures	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC%20Project%20Descriptions%20Summer%202017_5_f5e209.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0075-F/RLRC Project Descriptions Summer 2017 5 f5e209.pdf</a>