



## General

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

<b>Park/Trail ID #</b> 15-016D	<b>Funding Application</b> 17-0081-F	<b>Park/Trail Name</b> Irving & John Anderson County Park
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**Last Update**  
July 13, 2017

<b>District</b> 4	<b>Project Name</b> Hanon Property Acquisition
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### Project Description

This funding request is for acquisition of approximately 149 acres known as the Hanon Property. The property currently consists of 10 acres oak woodlands consistent with that of the Anoka Sandplain, 7 acres grassland with native remnants, 10 acres Type II wetlands, a 1 acre home site, with the remaining acres in agriculture. This property also contains 1,500 feet of shoreline on Horseleg Lake. Once acquired management would focus on conversion of agricultural acres into a diverse native prairie restoration effort dependent on soil classifications. This restoration would continue the investment of water quality within the Horseleg Lake watershed. Removal of structures within the one acre home site with potential for future barn restoration as a group facility. Recreational opportunities would include adequate parking with trail head facilities providing access to 3 miles of non-motorized multi-use trails, with potential for native prairie seed collection, Nature Camp for kids, as well as group camping. Acquisition of this property would expand Irving & John Anderson Park to 403 acres as well as preserving 1.2 miles of shoreline on Horseleg Lake. As shown on the map this property is not currently adjacent to the existing park, but potential for a trail along road right of way and future property acquisition would provide access between the two.

### Project Area Maps

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/Hanon\\_Map\\_69f6bb.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/Hanon_Map_69f6bb.jpg)

<http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/>

<b>Organization</b> Isanti County Parks Department	<b>Lead Contact</b> <b>Full Name</b> Barry Wendorf	<b>Lead Contact</b> <b>Title</b> Parks Director
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## Funding

### Legacy Pillars:

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

### Project Outcomes

#### Connection to Pillars

Connect People and the Outdoors - this pillar will be met by providing a welcoming environment with adequate parking, signage, and open site lines helping visitors feel safe and comfortable. ADA facilities and amenities would provide access to all types of abilities they can use and afford. Visitors will be afforded a quality experience by providing well designed facilities and interpretation signage of the areas natural surroundings. Furthermore Irving & John Anderson County Park partners with the Friends of Anderson Park to provide programming throughout the year to a wide variety of park visitors.

Acquire Land and Create Opportunities - the addition of 149 acres to the park will provide expanded opportunities in one of the most rapidly growing parts of the state filling a gap in an area that does not have another regional designated park within 40 miles. The park is within close proximity to the regional population centers of Cambridge and North Branch and is well connected with interstate 35 and the Sunrise Prairie Regional trail three miles to the east. This acquisition would aid in the conversion of agricultural land into native prairie habitat protecting important water resources within the Anoka Sandplain which is highly susceptible to ground water pollution.

Take Care of What We Have - Today, less than 1 percent of Minnesota's native prairie remains. Within this property these natural communities have been lost due to impacts of past agricultural activities. Reconstructing this natural community on public land where they can be protected and managed provides habitat for rare species that depend on these communities.

#### Connection to Regional Values

Prairies are vitally important to the history and function of Minnesota's landscape. At the time of European settlement, tallgrass prairie covered approximately one-third (approximately 18 million acres) of Minnesota. Prairie habitats support a diverse community of plants and animals, such as bison and elk, which have disappeared over the last 150 years. The grass and sedge species with deep root systems cultivated the rich soil which served as the foundation of agricultural use across the state. Today, less than 2% of the original prairie exists within the state (235,076 acres). (Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, 6) Within Anderson Park, there are approximately 13 acres of remnant prairie, containing species such as little bluestem, stiff goldenrod, wild strawberry, pussytoes, hoary puccoon, round-headed bushclover, spiderwort, Indian grass, prairie sage, and yarrow. (Natural Resource Management Plan, 5). Restored prairies cover over (68) acres within the park. Species that have been planted in these areas are big bluestem, indiagrass, little bluestem, sideoats grama, and prairie dropseed, to name a few. The prairie areas overlap the valuable oak savanna areas, which provide additional habitat and contribute to the diversity of flora and fauna within the Park. Acquisition of this property would further the efforts to restore this critical habitat within this region.

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With a projected population increase, and the projected success of Principle #1 in the master plan (to increase visitor counts at Anderson Park), additional land area dedicated to the Park is desired. The current trend of agricultural land conversion to residential or commercial use in areas of increasing development (like Isanti County) creates a further need for high-quality wildlife habitat to be restored, and preserved. Adjacent lands that can serve as additions to the existing Anderson Park will increase the quality of the existing and added lands, as larger, contiguous patches of natural areas are able to provide better habitat within an ecosystem, over smaller, separated patches.

One of the only conflicts which exists for visitors at Anderson Park revolves around the damage that is caused to the existing mowed trails by horses on the trails. Deep divots in the earth pose as a safety risk for hikers and joggers along the trail, along with contributing to surface-level soil erosion. There have been a few isolated incidents involving horses on the boardwalks, which is strictly prohibited due to weight capacities of the boardwalk structures, and some complaints that horse droppings throughout the trails and at high-traffic areas are a nuisance. It has been determined that the current conditions of the Park do not facilitate trailer-transport of horses to the Park, as the existing parking area does not have space for trailer-turnaround; most horseback riders who visit Anderson Park ride their horses into the Park, implying that the recreational offering of horseback riding is somewhat limited to local riders. Coinciding with this, is the fact that the existing trails, while lengthy enough to create challenging and interesting hiking trails, are considered short for horseback riding. This property would add approximately three miles of trail and an opportunity for a larger parking area suitable for horse trailers.

## **Project Readiness**

### **Project Lead**

The Isanti County Parks Department led by its Parks Director has been successful in past acquisitions and development of park land throughout the county with various types of funding sources. The Parks Director is responsible for all aspects of applications and record keeping based on grant awarded projects with nine years of history in these activities.

### **Implementation Timeline**

If recommended for funding and approved by the Legislature, this acquisition would take place in the fall of 2018.

### **Design Standards**

Isanti County is committed to providing ADA accessibility within all aspects of future development of this property. Included in this, but not limited to, would be the required number of handicapped parking stalls along with accessible routes from the parking areas to group areas and amenities. Accessible drinking fountain and restroom as well as accessible trails within the acquired property.

### **Project Cost Breakdown**

Park Legacy Grant Request = \$594,000

Isanti County Local Match = \$66,000

Total Acquisition Cost = \$660,000

## **Funding Request Breakdown**

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

### **Grant Funding Request**

\$594,000

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<b>Local Match #1</b> \$66,000	<b>Funder #1</b> 0
<b>Local Match #2</b> 0	<b>Funder #2</b> 0
<b>Local Match #3</b> 0	<b>Funder #3</b> 0
<b>Local Match #4</b> 0	<b>Funder #4</b> 0
<b>Local Match #4</b> 0	<b>Funder #5</b> 0

**Non-Eligible Local Match**  
8500

**Non-Eligible Item Description**

The below items have been funded or are planned to be funded by the Isanti County Parks Department Budget:

State Certified Appraisal of Property (3500)  
Property Boundary Survey (3000)  
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (2000)

**Total Funding**  
\$660,000

**Percentage of local match**  
0.10

**Completion Timeframe**  
3 months

**Funder #1**  
Isanti County

**Funder #2**  
NA

**Funder #3**  
NA

**Funder #4**  
NA

**Funder #5**  
NA

## Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Project Area Map		<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/Hanon_Map_69f6bb.jpg">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/Hanon_Map_69f6bb.jpg</a>

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Additional Attachment		<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/</a>
Additional Attachment	Resolution	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/Resolution Funding Application_91373c.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/Resolution Funding Application_91373c.pdf</a>
Additional Attachment	Appraisal	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/2017-19 Hanon Property Report_08d02d.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/2017-19 Hanon Property Report_08d02d.pdf</a>
Additional Attachment		<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/17-0081-F/</a>