



General

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

Park/Trail ID # 15-050D	Funding Application 19-021F	Park/Trail Name Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail
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Last Update
July 26, 2019

Project Name Silent Lake Segment of the Perham 3 to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail	District 3	Existing Acres or Miles 8.11
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Project Description

Otter Tail County is requesting GMRPTC funding for the construction of the Silent Lakes Segment (8.11 miles) of the 32-mile Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail that will connect the two communities via Maplewood State Park. The completion of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail will create new and expanded park and trail opportunities by expanding access to Maplewood State Park and eventually connect the Heartland and Central Lakes Trails. To date, the East and West Segments of the trail have been funded. The Silent Lakes Segment will extend the trail from Maplewood State Park east toward the City of Perham. Maplewood State park is a significant destination for residents and visitors alike. Maplewood State Park hosts 160,000 visitors annually with attendance trends on the rise. However, there is not currently a safe, non-motorized transportation alternative from Maplewood State Park to any local communities.

Project Area Maps

Trail Overview Map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/Perham-Pelican-Trail-SilentLake_e3587c.pdf

Organization Otter Tail County	Lead Contact Full Name Charles Grotte	Lead Contact Title County Engineer
Mailing Address 505 South Court Street Suite 1	City Fergus Falls	State Minnesota
Zip 56537	Phone 218-998-8497	Email cgrotte@co.ottertail.mn.us

Funding

Development Type Development	Acres of Park Land to be Acquired 0
New Trail Miles to be Acquired 8.11	Types Existing Easement
New Trail Miles Developed 8.11	Miles of Trail Restored or Improved 0
Trail head facilities developed 2	Number of trail bridges/culverts to be developed/restored 0
Number of Connecting People to the Outdoors Programs created/administered 0	

Project Outcomes

Evaluation of Impact

We have identified four broad areas to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of this project. They include:

Impact #1: Transportation Alternatives

This project will provide important transportation alternatives for Maplewood State Park and communities of Perham and Pelican Rapids. There is not currently a safe, non-motorized transportation alternative to Maplewood State Park from any local communities or the thousands of businesses, residences or recreational properties in the area. We anticipate state park attendance via non-motorized transportation to increase exponentially and will work with the DNR to collect those metrics.

Impact #2: Equity

According to a DNR report, only 2.8 percent of state park visitors identified themselves as non-white. Pelican Rapids is the most diverse community in Otter Tail County, and one of the most diverse rural communities in Minnesota. Over 46% of the residents of Pelican Rapids identify as persons of color and 62% of the population are non-native English speakers. 25% of Pelican Rapids residents have less than a high school education and this census tract has the highest concentration of poverty in Otter Tail County, with a poverty rate of 18.2%. The city of Pelican Rapids itself has an estimated poverty rate of 23.0% according to 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. According to the same data, the estimated poverty rate is 41.3% for residents under the age of 18. The estimated median family income in Pelican Rapids is \$42,206, well below the state average. The benefit of trails is greatest for those who live closest to these resources, and a disparity in access can have significant health, social, and economic implications, while also exacerbating environmental justice concerns in communities. The proposed trail has the promise of increasing non-motorized transportation opportunities for the residents who need it most. This trail will provide outdoor recreational opportunities for members of racially and ethnically diverse cultures who have not traditionally benefited from Maplewood State Parks facilities and resources. We will work with the DNR and local communities to evaluate demographics and other data related to trail usership.

Impact #3: Connections

This proposal is a critical next step for connecting the City of Pelican Rapids the City of Perham via Maplewood State Park. In 2014, the Glendalough Trail opened, connecting the City of Battle Lake to Glendalough State Park. The trail quickly became ingrained into the areas identity. The trail has brought much needed economic infusion to Battle Lake whose downtown has become a bustling scene of restaurants, shops, arts and business services. Downton Battle Lake is not the only beneficiary of the trails

boom. Glendalough State Park is seeing a lot more action too. Prior to the Glendalough Trail, the state park was struggling to attract users. Now, Glendalough is experiencing its highest visitation ever. The connection between Pelican Rapids and Perham offers the same promise, including the future connection to the Central Lakes and Heartland Trails. However, we anticipate the development of many other connections to this trail, including the development of shorter spur trails from communities, resorts, campgrounds and other nature-based recreational amenities. We will monitor and facilitate additional connections to ensure maximum access.

Impact #4: Economic Development

The economic benefits of trail development are well documented. Trails attract local and non-local visitors who stimulate the local economy, contribute to local and state taxes and create jobs. One of the most important ways that trails promote economic growth is through tourism. However, trails are also vital for attracting new business and talented workers and help keep established businesses competitive. We will be evaluating several economic variables associated with this project, including but not limited to: property values and tax revenues, new housing and commercial development, population trends, existing business owner surveys, lodging and sales tax revenues, etc.

Legacy Pillars:

- Connect People and the Outdoors
- Acquire Land and Create Opportunities
- Coordinate Among Providers

Connection to Pillars

This proposal is consistent with the following Legacy pillars:

Connect People and the Outdoors: better develop Minnesotas stewards of tomorrow through efforts to increase life-long participation in parks and trails.

This proposal specifically aims to expand outdoor recreational opportunities through additions and connections Maplewood State Park and the regional trails. Of particular significance is this projects potential for expanding outdoor recreational opportunities to untraditional populations. Racial and ethnic minority populations tend to participate less in most nature-based outdoor recreation activities, including visiting state parks and trails. In fact, according to a DNR report, only 2.8 percent of state park visitors identified themselves as non-white. Pelican Rapids is the most diverse community in Otter Tail County and one of the most diverse rural communities in Minnesota. Over 46% of the residents of Pelican Rapids identify as persons of color and 62% of the population are non-native English speakers. This project will afford outdoor recreational opportunities to members of racially and ethnically diverse cultures who have not traditionally benefited from the parks facilities and resources.

Acquire Land, Create Opportunities: create new and expanded park and trail opportunities to satisfy current customers as well as to reach out to new ones.

Otter Tail County is in a beautiful part of Minnesota with an abundance of lakes, wetlands, rolling hills and agricultural areas. Outdoor recreation is an important part of the quality of life and the tourism economy in Otter Tail County. However, relative to other areas of the state, west-central Minnesota has fewer trails of statewide significance. Furthermore, despite being one of the largest state parks in the Minnesota system, annual attendance at Maplewood State Park is approximately 150,000. The Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail will fill a critical gap in the state and regional trail system by eventually connecting the Central Lakes and Heartland Trails. It will also dramatically increase access to Maplewood State Park.

Coordinate Among Partners: enhance coordination across the large and complex network of public, private, and non-profit partners that support Minnesotas parks and trails to ensure seamless, enjoyable park and trail

experiences for Minnesotans.

This project is a wonderful example of public, private and non-profit partners working together on a shared vision. Otter Tail County, the Cities of Perham and Pelican Rapids, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the West Central Initiative and the PartnerSHIP4Health worked together to develop the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail Master Plan. Since that time, the trail project has evoked rousing support among residents and businesses, and unanimous support from the County Board and both City Councils. Upon request, we are happy to provide letters of support from dozens of public and private entities ranging from health care organizations to utility companies.

Connection to a Regionally Substantial Component of the Master Plan

The Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail Master Plan divided the trail into four distinct and manageable phases/segments. We have secured funding for the East and West Segments and will begin construction on those segments in 2020. If funded this project will allow us to complete the next logical (and longest) segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Trail.

In the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan (2011), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources set a goal of paving 1,300 miles of trails by 2035. The Parks and Trails Legacy Plan also set nine criteria for prioritizing investment in trails. The Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional trail meets eight of these nine criteria:
Connects to communities-schools, work opportunities, central business districts: The Regional trail will connect to schools (Viking Elementary School and Pelican Rapids High School) and job opportunities in both Perham and Pelican rapids (both downtowns and major employers including West Central Turkeys, Inc. and Lake Region Electric Cooperative) via existing trail facilities. There are over 50 businesses and public offices within the City of Pelican Rapids.

Connects with existing state or regional trails: The Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail will connect to the abundance of trails in Maplewood State Park.

Connects with high-quality natural resources or recreation areas: The Regional Trail will connect to Maplewood State Park and Public Accesses to various lakes, passing through scenic rolling hills, lakes and a mix of prairie and hardwood landscapes.

Connects to multiple destinations: The Regional Trail will connect two rural communities with Maplewood State park and several smaller recreation spots.

Fills a critical gap in an area with a recreation opportunity shortage: While there are many recreational opportunities in the area, most are accessible only by automobile. The Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail will allow for enjoyment of recreational areas on foot, by bicycle or other non-motorized mode.

Secures a unique opportunity or experience: Trail users can enjoy a small-town experience, biking jogging or inline skating among the diversity of flora and fauna, and all the amenities of Maplewood State Park along the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail.

Has financial commitment from the agency or organization proposing the investment: Otter Tail County is committed to matching funds for Phase Two and the pursuit of funds for the remaining segments of the Regional Trail.

Fills a critical gap for commuting: The Regional Trail serves two communities and provides safe and direct connections to their central business districts. The Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail fills a critical gap for rural bicycle commuters working in either community.

Project Readiness

Project Lead

The ability to complete and maintain the project long-term is of upmost importance. Per the attached resolution, the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners have approved this grant application for the Silent Lake Segment and the local match of \$1,615,785. As mentioned above, the East and West Segments are fully funded and construction will commence next year. The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners has also approved funding for the planning, engineering and property acquisition for the McDonald Segment of the trail and are actively pursuing funding for construction.

Once the project is completed, Otter Tail County will assume financial responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the trail. The trail will be maintained for biking, walking and other non-motorized uses during spring, summer and fall. In the winter, the trail will be open for winter activities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Prompted by the momentum and support for the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail, Otter Tail County developed a County-Wide Trail Master Plan, of which the Perham to Pelican Regional Trail is an integral component. The master trail plan (<https://ottertailcountymn.us/project/trail-master-plan>) provides a long-term vision for the establishment of various trail types within Otter Tail County.

This project will be managed by the Otter Tail County Highway Department. Day to day project oversight will be handled by Charles Grotte, County Engineer. Otter Tail County has extensive experience working with various grant programs and with the MN DNR, Mn/DOT and SHPO. Over the past 15 years Otter Tail County has constructed or paved over 30 miles of trails.

Implementation Timeline

Complete the environmental documentation needed for the Grant Contract - April 2020

Complete design including, plans and project proposal - July 2020

Acquire any needed right off way or construction easements - September 2020

Execute Grant Contract - September 2020

Bid - March 2021

Construct - May to October 2021

Closeout - March 2022

Availability for Public Use

The facilities will be available for use by the general public during daylight hours. There are no fees to use the facilities.

Design Standards

The project will be designed in accordance with the FHWA-Mn/DOT Stewardship Plan. For this project, the following design standards are applicable:

State Aid Geometric Design Standards:

8820.9995 State Aid Minimum Bicycle Path Standards.

State Aid Minimum Geometric Design Standards.

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act.

MMUTCD Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Other Design Standards.

The project will be constructed in accordance with the current edition off the Minnesota Department of Transportations "Standard Specifications for Construction, including all Supplemental Specifications.

Project Cost Breakdown

Mobilization \$175,000

Trail Grading \$1,712,800

Bituminous Trail \$1,370,240

Trailhead Bituminous & Concrete \$70,000

Pedestrian Ramps \$18,000

Rest Stop Concrete Pads \$6,000

Signage \$14,600

Rest Stop Elements (Benches, etc.) \$18,000

Trailhead Elements (Benches, etc.) \$18,000

Turf Establishment/Erosion Control \$70,000

Traffic Control \$35000

Funding Request Breakdown

Grant Funding Request

\$2,141,855

Local Match #1

\$1,615,785

Funder #1

0

Local Match #2

0

Funder #2

0

Local Match #3

0

Funder #3

0

Local Match #4

0

Funder #4

0

Local Match #4

0

Funder #5

0

Non-Eligible Local Match

490000

Non-Eligible Item Description

Otter Tail County views the Perham to Pelican Rapids Trail as crucial to its future vitality and therefore have entered into a contract with an engineering firm to complete the surveying, environmental documentation, final design and acquire any necessary land rights for the trail to be built knowing that these costs will not be eligible for grant reimbursement.

Total Funding

\$3,757,640

Percentage of local match

0.43

Completion Timeframe

18 months

Funder #1

Otter Tail County

Funder #1 Resolutions

Otter Tail County Board Resolution Approving Memorandum Agreement

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/Resolution 59_884d90.pdf

Resolution

<http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/>

Funder #2

NA

Funder #3

NA

Funder #4

NA

Funder #5

NA

Budget Worksheet

Project Budget Spreadsheet

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/ProjectBudgetTemplate_5a6446.xlsx

Project Budget Spreadsheet

<http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/>

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Project Area Map	Trail Overview Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/Perham-Pelican-Trail-SilentLake_e3587c.pdf
Funder Resolution One	Otter Tail County Board Resolution Approving Memorandum Agreement	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/Resolution_59_884d90.pdf
Funder Resolution One	Resolution	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/
Budget Worksheet	Project Budget Spreadsheet	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/ProjectBudgetTemplate_5a6446.xlsx
Budget Worksheet	Project Budget Spreadsheet	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/
Additional Attachment	Trailhead Design	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/TypicalTrailheadDesign_9c67bb.pdf
Additional Attachment	Trailhead	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/
Additional Attachment	Proposed Maplewood Trail Route	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/PtoPRegionalTrailOct2018_c55077.pdf
Additional Attachment	Maplewood Trail System	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-021F/MaplewoodAllTrails2018_f05353.pdf