

**Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission**

**Evaluation Team Draft Report**

**October 17, 2014**

**Submitted by JFC Strategic Services for GMRPTC Consideration**

The enclosed report contains the results of the ETeam’s inaugural project ranking and scoring for 2014. The following narrative highlights both the summary of the evaluation and several issues that may need to be addressed by the Commission. The last section of this report documents the ranking and scoring result for each application.

**Process Results Summary**

Application Distribution

Projects Received and Scored by District and Classification

Class	District 1		District 2		District 3		District 4		District 5		District 6	
	<i>Rc'd</i>	<i>Scored</i>										
<b>Trail</b>	7	1	3	0	8	0	9	5	1	0	6	0
<b>NR Park</b>	2	1	2	0	9	2	15	11	3	1	7	2
<b>SU Park</b>	4	1	3	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	7	2
<b>Total</b>	<i>13</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>4</i>

Total Applications: 92

Application Ranking Results

	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium +</b>	<b>Medium -</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>DNE</b>	<b>Incomplete</b>
<b>Trail</b>	5	1	7	8	11	3
<b>NR Park</b>	7	10	12	5	0	4
<b>SU Park</b>	3	2	2	10	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>

Ranking Descriptions

With over 90 applications to review, the ETeam (with its consultants) agreed that a simplified ranking system was needed to narrow down their work to those projects that merited full scoring. The ranking session began with a simple High/Medium/Low assessment of whether each application met the Commission’s criteria for Regional Designation. As projects were reviewed, additional categories were added to deal with specific issues, which will be detailed in the next section.

*High:* A “High” ranking was given to those projects that found nearly complete consensus among the ETeam. These projects are of excellent quality and most likely to receive high scores under full evaluation.

*Medium +:* Applications received a Medium score based on either 1) their potential to score well when fully evaluated, or 2) the ETeam rankings varied widely and would need full evaluation to determine the consensus. Facilities in this category were designated with a “+” if the consensus ranking was just shy of “High,” or if there was enough quality information in the application to complete a full scoring evaluation.

*Medium -:* Facilities in this category were designated with a “-” if the consensus ranking was just above “Low,” or if the ETeam noted that the application needed more development to complete a full scoring evaluation.

*Low:* “Low” ranking was given to those projects that received nearly complete consensus among the ETeam. These projects were typically well below the Commission’s criteria for Regional Designation and did not merit inclusion in the scoring process. In some cases, these applicant’s rankings could improve with a significant improvement in the concept or narrative information; however, that may still not raise these facilities to a Regional designation.

*Did Not Evaluate (DNE):* Several projects were not forwarded to the evaluation/scoring round due to the need to deal with that particular facility on a multi-jurisdictional or state-level basis. Those issues are detailed in the next section

*Incomplete:* These applications were missing critical information to complete a ranking.

## **Initial Issue Overview**

The ETeam will be meeting with GMRPTC Leadership and Consultants to review the inaugural application and evaluation process in detail. Recorded here are several issues identified during the ranking and scoring process for Commission consideration. Additional topics may be identified and discussed during the upcoming review process and dealt with appropriately at that time.

- The Commission needs to find a way to raise the bar for future applications so that they will be competitive on this level. This was expected, as there is no history for applicants to follow this inaugural year.
- Applicants need to understand that if their application does not clearly address the criteria, evaluators will use their best judgment based on the application, personal knowledge or other data.
- Understanding the above point, some criteria may not be easily score-able until there is a master plan to help with a complete evaluation. Future cycles may improve with on-site visits by the ETeam.

- Some applications for trails that were the same as State Designated Trails were clearly for high quality facilities. The ETeam ranked these as DNE, as they may rank above the Regional criteria and into the category of a State-level facility. Examples include the Heartland Trail, Soo Line Trail, Minnesota River Trail, Glacial Lakes Trail, Superior Hiking Trail, or North Country Hiking Trail.
- If some of those facilities, such as the Soo Line Trail or Heartland Trail, are determined to be regional in nature, their applications would be significantly strengthened if the jurisdictions along their length would cooperate into one joint plan and application.
- Some trails that connect to state trails can be very difficult to differentiate from the state trails themselves (e.g. Chisago Trails).
- All applications for mountain bike trail or park systems were not evaluated. Many of these systems were geographically clustered in the Northeast, making it difficult to determine the rankings for quality and filling the gap. It is recommended that ranking and scoring these projects be done in line with a statewide mountain bike trail system plan, understood to currently be in development.
- Applications that included motorized uses as the primary use for that facility were not ranked. Facilities were ranked if motorized uses, such as snowmobile use in the winter, is an incidental or minor part of the facility.
- The Commission will need to make a determination as to whether some uses fit the High Quality Natural Resources criteria present for each classification. Of particular discussion this cycle was the Beltrami County Shooting Sports Park.

### **Individual Application Result**

The following chart details the results of the ranking and evaluation/scoring process for each application submitted. The first column is a unique identification number assigned to each project by the System Plan Coordinator. The next four columns include information pulled from each application, including the name of the project, the number of acres of park or miles of trail, if the application indicates that the facility has already received Legacy funding, and a brief description pulled from the application narrative.

The last four columns include the High/Medium/Low ranking assigned by the ETeam and the raw score calculated from the ETeam’s evaluation. The weighted score is the raw score adjusted for the weightings developed by each District Planning Committee for that District. The final column includes ETeam comments recorded during the H/M/L ranking process. Further project details and scoring comments are recorded in spreadsheets maintained by the ETeam.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
140714	St. Cloud Beaver Island Trail	11.5		The trail corridor contains environmentally sensitive land classification types and is also designated as "Mississippi River Wild and Scenic." The project corridor features commercial zoned properties, Regional Parks and community facilities. Natural features along the corridor include trees, river bluff views, significant landforms, topography and vacant lands.	H	381.3	388.5	Excellent connection
140814	Stearns Co Dairyland Trail	20		The trail is open for walking, running, biking, hiking and horseback riding. The trail will ultimately run through western Stearns County from Albany to Brooten on the former Canadian Pacific Soo Line rail corridor. The Stearns County Regional Rail Authority has owned this corridor since 1999.	H	256.3	242	
141514	Chisago Co Sunrise Prairie Trail	24 current, unknown extension		Initial trail development included two bridges over the Sunrise River, three parking areas and trail head amenities in Wyoming, Stacy and North Branch. The trail continues nine miles south into Washington County this section known as the Hardwood Creek Trail. The City of North Branch is working to extend the trail north to the City of Harris.	H	362.5	386	
141614	Chisago Co Swedish Immigrant Trail	19		A 19 mile hard surface highly scenic trail connecting cities in an east-west alignment across Chisago County from Taylors Falls to Wyoming/I35.	H	381.3	378.5	

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
142214	Stearns Co Lake Wobego n Trail	62 curren t/7 plann ed	Unkno wn	The Lake Wobegon Trail is regionally significant because starts in St. Joseph, MN and runs west-northwest to Sauk Centre, MN. The total length of the Lake Wobegon Trail is 54 miles in Stearns County, eight miles of the trail occurs in Todd County. The ultimate goal is to extend the Lake Wobegon Trail all the way into St. Cloud, reaching the Mississippi River.	H	400	406.5	
230714	Douglas Co Kensingt on	380		The park contains the historic farmstead where the rune stone story began. 15 miles of cross country ski trails, connections to the 400 mile D.A.T.A snowmobile trail system, and tobogganing form the basis for winter outdoor recreation. Multiple picnic areas, game fields, interpretive displays and the wooded hills surrounding two lakes provide natural attraction for 15 to 20 thousand summer visitors.	H	362.5	369.25	
231014	Granite Falls Memori al Park	141		The park offers access to the Minnesota River for fishing, canoeing or kayaking, swimming and other natural resource based recreation. In addition, it contains many other unique natural features, such as a pond and granite outcroppings which are unique to this area of Minnesota.	H	337.5	335	May compete with other parks in area.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
241114	Stearns Co Rockville e Park	284		Currently, park amenities include a picnic area, hiking trail, horse trails, a group camping area, a canoe campground and a fishing area. Rockville County Park is regionally significant because it contains roughly 1.2 miles of river frontage along the Sauk River and it provides insight into the local quarrying industry via rock out crops that occur throughout the park.	H	337.5	341	
241214	Wright Co Bertram Park	1052		Current public use of the existing 750 acres includes trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing, a parking area, fishing pier, carry-in water accesses, a picnic area and group camping.	H	387.5	386	
242314	Stearns Co Quarry Park	643		Quarry Park, a former granite quarry in Waite Park, has been acquired and developed for multiple uses, including rock climbing, scuba diving, swimming, nature trails, picnic areas, skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, biking, group camping and environmental education.	H	450	457	
250314	Redwood Falls Alexander Ramsey Park	256	Yes - 2009 & 2011	Alexander Ramsey Park is the largest municipal park in Minnesota. The FY 2016 Alexander Ramsey Park Complex Facilities Renovation Project consists of renovating existing amenities now that infrastructure, accessibility and parking have been addressed.	H	425	423.5	

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
260814	Rochester Quarry Hill Park	320		Quarry Hill Park and Nature Center features woods, prairie, oak savanna, creek, pond, sandstone caves, fossil quarry, hiking/skiing trails as well as paved trails. The park also includes demonstration gardens for butterflies and hummingbirds, playgrounds, turf, picnic shelters, tennis courts, baseball fields, a Nature center and park operations storage area.	H	387.5	383.25	Expensive.
310914	Sandstone Robinson Park	65		Robinson Park is a long and narrow park nestled between the Kettle River and the old sandstone quarry bluffs. It is connected to Banning State Park both at the southern end and at the northern by a primitive trail the runs the 3500+foot length of the park.	H	393.8	402.5	Complementary with Banning State Park, good example of Special Use Park
330414	Detroit Lakes Detroit Mountain	200		A ski resort in the winter and a lift accessed bike park in the summer. The bike and trail facilities, with 9.75 miles of trails, will benefit from the lodge parking areas and ski lifts that have been constructed at a cost of over 6 million dollars on the DMRA site. The goal of this facility is to draw people to the mountain during the summer through a variety of trail and bike related experiences.	H	362.5	359	

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
360914	Winona Aghami ng Park	1800	No	Aghaming Park consists of approximately 1,800 acres of land and water in the Mississippi River Valley bottoms adjacent to the City of Winona. In giving the land to the city in the early 1900s, local philanthropist John Latsch envisioned that it would allow citizens the ability to access and enjoy the area's beauty.	H	362.5	360.5	
110614	Mille Lacs Co Plains to Port Trail	12	No	The proposed development of the section of the Great Northern Trail from Princeton to Milaca is an extension of the trail system from Elk River to Princeton.	M +	325	323.5	Serves multiple populations with connections between communities.
242114	Morrison Co Belle Prairie Park	145		The park facilities offer hiking trails, paved loop road, historic cemetery site, playground equipment, horse shoe pits, volley ball court, 9-hole disc golf course, shore fishing, boat launch river access, outdoor toilets, water hand pumps, barbecue grills with grates, picnic shelter with fire hearth and electricity. The park provides a high quality outdoor recreation experience with diverse natural and historic landscape.	M +	268.8	271	Good size, river frontage, lacks other natural amenities.
211214	Milaca Regional Park	600	No	The entire area contains a school forest, park preserve, tilled farm lands, the Rum River, trail system, and Rec Park accessed through a new pedestrian walking bridge.	M +	293.8	293.75	Questions about Natural Resource based amenities

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
240314	Isanti Co Springvale Park	211		Amenities include 1.5 miles of paved trail, 2.5 miles of mowed multi-use trail, and 1.5 miles of single track mountain bike trail. The paved and mowed trails are also groomed for skiing in the winter months. The park also offers a picnic shelter, canoe access to Johnny's Lake and a twelve hole Disc Golf Course. The park is located in the center of the county and draws visitors from many different communities.	M +	287.5	277	
240414	isanti Vegsund Park	80		The park provides family outdoor recreation based opportunities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, canoeing, picnicking, skiing, sledding, wildlife observation, along with environmental education to the surrounding communities.	M +	231.3	213.5	Small size, OK features.
240514	Koronis Park	62	Yes (2)	Lake Koronis Park and Campground includes lake shore, heavily wooded areas, and small meadows. The Park and Campground offer, camping, swimming, open-air shelters, restroom/shower facilities, modern playgrounds, hiking, biking, volleyball, shuffleboard, softball field, arboretum, and connects to the Lake Koronis bike path which runs the perimeter of Lake Koronis.	M +	293.8	297	

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
241314	Wright Co Clearwa ter/Plea sant Park	210	No	Development was completed in 1990 to include a beach area, restrooms, picnic shelter, trails and play structure. Since that time improvements such as horseshoe pits, volleyball, ADA accessibility, 18 hole disc golf, redesigned play structure, asphalt trails and resigning the beach.	M +	250	258.5	
241414	Wright Co Robert Ney Park	866	No	An environmental education center hosts a variety of programs throughout the year. Trail uses now include hiking, biking, dog sledding, sjourning, cross country skiing, equine, and self-guided interpretive trails. Connected to Maple Lake by trail.	M +	300	309	
241714	Isanti Co Irving & John Anderso n Park	174		Amenities include 3 miles of mowed multi-use trail, three boardwalks, and a large picnic shelter available for reservations. The mowed trails are also groomed for skiing along with ample routes for snowshoeing in the winter months. The park also offers a canoe access and an observation platform overlooking Horseleg Lake.	M +	275	268	

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
242014	Stearns Co Warner Lake Park	241		The initial establishment of this site occurred in 1973 when the Campfire Girls Inc. donated the 33 acres known as Camp Suima to Stearns County for public recreation purposes. Stearns County's Comprehensive Plan has some land acquisition occurring to the southeast of the park to buffer the existing swimming beach and woodland from potential development.	M +	312.5	304	
261514	Rochester Cascade Lake Park	225		This park is within a developed area of Rochester which is close to the downtown core of the City. This park setting is unique because we are recreating a natural based park out of a former channelized creek and mining operation. This project also includes components which not only create the natural scenic area but also provides new opportunities for visitors and residents to the City.	M +	300	294.75	Possible project for funding (large).
261614	Rochester Gamehaven Park	360		The property has several important features related to development potential, including its large size, it's vicinity to significant local populations, and its many natural and untapped features. If developed, this park has the potential to enhance thousands of lives through outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the outdoors in general.	M +	306.3	304.25	Great natural features, but local use.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
320114	Beltrami Co Northland Sports Park	360		Phase I plans call for the development of three major physical spaces within the park: (A) the Trail Head; (B) the Rifle-Pistol Area; and (C) the Shotgun Area. Plans also specify construction of a park entrance, which will include a main entrance sign and orientation station. Future development (Phase II) will include construction of a training and education center, expanded skeet and trap ranges, and expanded rifle ranges.	M +	300	293	Natural and scenic setting was lacking, scored low in that criteria.
111314	Mille Lacs Co Great Northern Trail	12 new		The proposed development of this section of trail runs from Princeton to Milaca. It is an extension of the trail from Elk River to Princeton. Rail bed follows US169 and MN23.	M -			indicated possible land use issues
131314	Moorhead River Corridor Trail	Unkn wn		The River Corridor Plan addresses the need for linear trails along the Red River of the North which runs throughout the City of Moorhead. The plan calls for a construction of new trails to fill in the gaps along the River Corridor as well as the realignment of existing trails that are in poor condition with slumping and sinkholes due to the proximity to the river and the continual flooding.	M -			Many questions about mileage, etc. hurt the ranking. Project sounds good.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
141914	Montice llo Greater Montice llo Loop Trail	15	No	The Greater Monticello Loop Trail exists as a conceptual regional trail connecting two large regional park areas, the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park and the Pelican Lake area, and linking to an existing and proposed trail along the Mississippi River, the Great River Trailways.	M -			Questions about ownership, mostly out of the City.
150414	Luverne Loop Trail	6	Other State \$	The Luverne Loop Trail project will construct a new 10 foot wide hard-surfaced, multi-use bicycle/pedestrian trail around the city of Luverne. It will offer residents and visitors of all ages a safe and scenic natural place for healthy recreation and transportation.	M -			Intent to lease a significant amount of the property may reduce project viability. Fills a gap, large tourism project.
160514	LaCrescent Wagon Wheel Trail		No	The trail will provide the key bike linkage between Minnesota and Wisconsin, connecting the city of LaCrosse to the Root River Trail System as well as connections to the Mississippi River Trail.	M -			Important link, key questions still unanswered. Map unclear, mileage unclear.
161214	Goodhue Hastings to Red Wing Trail	18-25	No	The Hastings – Red Wing Trail would provide the missing connection between these metro and non-metro trail systems, while offering a very high recreational value given the scenic qualities of the Vermillion and Mississippi River corridors.	M -			Partially in the metro county area, which would require coordination with Met for that portion. Otherwise a good rural project. For Goodhue Co portion, rank as a priority if the metro counties show formal partnership.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
161314	Houston Co Trail Connect ion	60		The proposed project would branch off from the existing Root River Trail network from Houston to Hokah to La Crescent to Wildcat Park in Brownsville. It would also include a leg of trail down from Houston to Caledonia to Spring Grove which would connect with Beaver Creek Valley State Park.	M -			Application was missing information. Is it a connection or an extension of the state trail? If not state, then ranking applies.
220514	Itasca Co Park & Trail Comple x	75/44 ac-6 mi		The Itasca Regional Park and Trail Complex improves the connection between Grand Rapids and these communities as well as with important destinations including the Itasca County Fairgrounds, Prairie Lake, Gunn Park, Hill Annex Mine State Park, the Hull Rust Mine Pit, the Minnesota Discovery Center, the Minnesota Museum of Mining, Giants Ridge, and much more. In addition, it would improve connectivity to neighborhoods, business districts, and industrial parks in Grand Rapids.	M -			Questions on classification, many local features.
230114	Becker Co Mountai n View Park	105	App 2014	Currently Mt. View provides recreational opportunities for cross country skiing (3 miles of trails) and single track mountain biking (4 miles of trails). The cross country ski trails are also used for hiking/walking in the spring, summer and fall while the mountain biking trails are also used for winter snowshoeing.	M -			Lack of information; needs a better narrative tying it in to Detroit Mountain. Need better plan for the amenities. May not fill the gap due to proximity to Detroit Mountain.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
230614	Detroit Lakes Sucker Creek	118.7		Centers around a designated trout stream, with hiking and biking trails, bog walk, picnic shelters, and interpretive center.	M -			Almost a Special Rec Use Area, limited regional draw, good size. Unique place, need to prove regional draw or future draw.
230814	Douglas Co Lake Brophy Park	150	Yes/Ac quisitio n (3)	Douglas County has budgeted funds for a Park Unit Master Plan for the 2015 budget year. Potential uses include include water recreation (shore fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking etc.); hiking, biking, skiing, & snowmobiling trails; large outdoor picnic facilities, access to the scenic view areas; access to the Central Lakes State Trail and camping opportunities areas related to the state trail.	M -			Need more proving narrative.
231214	Moorhead M.B. Johnson Park	110	Yes - 2014	M.B. Johnson Regional Park is located on the Red River of the North in north Moorhead, MN. The 110 acre Park has a varied topography – from grassy meadows to sloped wooded areas – providing numerous opportunities for a variety of outdoor activities that are primarily natural resource based.	M -			Little light on outdoor rec experiences, but the facility's ranking benefits as a part of the river corridor trail system.
231914	Renville Co Skalbek ken Park	400		The park provides opportunities for picnicking, rustic and group camping, hiking, snow shoeing, horseback riding, fishing, biking, snowmobiling, and birding. The park contains a developed horse camp with shelter, toilet, manure dump, and natural surface horse trail system.	M -			Wonderful potential, need to further develop the application and facility concept.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
232014	Renville Co Beaver Falls Park	358		The park provides opportunities for picnicking, rustic camping, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, birding, and biking. Beaver Creek Recreational Area was completed in 2014, which offers accessible walking trails for all ages, scenic views of Beaver Creek, and educational panels providing history, culture, and environmental information about the area	M -			Wonderful potential, need to further develop the application and facility concept.
232114	Renville Co Vicksbur g Park	241		The park is located along the Minnesota River and is traversed by Sacred Heart Creek. The park is named after the abandoned ghost town of "Vicksburg", which was located along the parks easterly border. The park provides opportunities for picnicing, rustic and group camping, hiking, snow shoeing, snowmobiling, fishing, biking, and birding.	M -			Wonderful potential, need to further develop the application and facility concept.
240914	Stearns Co Kraemer Lake/Wi ldwood Park	265		Kraemer Lake – Wildwood County Park is regionally significant because it has ½ mile of undeveloped shoreline which attracts visitors along with the pristine natural features as was mentioned previously. Future development plans include a swimming beach, picnic shelters, bathrooms, a non-motorized boat landing and an open play area.	M -			Good facility, but lacks information in the application to fully agree on its ranking.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
241014	Stearns Co Mississi ppi Park	209		The park features 1.1 miles of roadway, and open air shelter, two open play and picnic areas, 2.5 miles of year round trails 1 mile of winter trail only, a disc golf course, a boat launch and a prairie restoration site. Currently, one third of the park is forested and future long-range goal is to restore the majority of the park back to native vegetation. Mississippi County Park offers group camping opportunities to non-profit youth organizations and also has a canoe camping site.	M -			Good facility, but lacks information in the application to fully agree on its ranking.
242114	Sartell Sauk River Park	44		The Sauk River Regional Park has extensive existing trails and is a pristine natural area in the middle of the St. Cloud metropolitan area. It provides the opportunity for a variety of recreational amenities including the existing trails, canoe access (on state route), snow shoeing, cross country skiing, bird and nature observation, and picnicking.	M -			Only ranks as a medium if it had the bridge connection to the larger park across the river.
261014	Goodhu e Co Lake Bullesby Park	61		This well-maintained park contains amenities that facilitate picnicking, walking, hiking, swimming, lake access for boating, fishing, volleyball, and a children's play area. Recent land acquisitions will soon link this park to Dakota County's Lake Byllesby Park and the Cannon Valley Trail, drawing new users.	M -			What's the relationship with Dakota Co Bullesby Park? Physical, management, planning, etc.? Is the proposed project ready?

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
350514	Lyon Co Twin Lakes Park	40		. The 27.5 acres located between the two lakes is currently under construction. This portion includes a 20'X20" ADA compliant restroom/shower facility and a 30'X40' shelter. There will be 13 available campsites; 1 pull through site and 1 ADA compliant campsite with electric hookups at each site. Each campsite will include a fire ring, and picnic table.	M -			Clarify the size of the facility. Resubmit with further information in the future.
360114	Chatfield Chosen Valley Park	79		The Park currently provides access to or the facilities to enjoy: trout stream access, handicap accessible fishing pier, hiking/walking/biking on paved and unpaved/natural trails, softball and baseball fields, horseback riding/arena, public canoe water access, picnic shelters, playground equipment, skate park, horseshoe pits, volleyball, soccer, and hockey/ice skating. Multiple parking facilities are also included in the park.	M -			Submitted as Special Use Park, features indicate Natural Resource Park. Too many athletic complexes, very similar to a local park
130914	Glacial Lakes Trail	75		This extension and completion of the Glacial Lakes Trail would extend from New London northwest to Sibley State Park, then northwesterly to Glacial Lakes State Park, around Lake Minnewauska, to Glenwood, then northerly to Lake Carlos State Park.	D N E			Great application/idea, need to make a determination on the state vs. local trail issue. Proximity to other state trails lowers gap scoring.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
110714	Mille Lacs Co Soo Line Trail	11+?	No	This is a former rail grade that is now a multi-use recreational trail across northern Mille Lacs County and is part of a regional network. It is classified as a Class 2 ATV as well as snowmobile for its entire length.	D N E			All Soo Line applicants need to coordinate better, come back with a cohesive app for non-motorized trail. This is motorized, does not qualify.
111014	Superior Hiking Trail	300	No	The SHT starts at Jay Cooke State Park and ends at the Canadian border. SHTA-contracted trail crews and over 300 volunteers maintain the SHT. It largely follows the scenic ridgeline overlooking Lake Superior on Minnesota's North Shore.	D N E			Qualified because its non-govt application, this is a higher state-level interest and funding should be explored there.
131514	Minnes ota River Trail	200	No	The Minnesota River Trail would extend throughout the Minnesota River Valley connecting many communities and outdoor recreation sites all along the Minnesota River. The vision for the trail is to be a paved trail that is at least 10 feet wide.	D N E			This is a state trail level concept and designation, above the regional criteria.
131814	North Country Trail	775	Yes	The NCNST cuts across three of the State's four biomes from the tallgrass prairie in the Red River Valley near Abercrombie, ND to the coniferous forest near Jay Cooke State Park south of Duluth. Currently, about 570 miles are completed in two separate sections (both are long and contiguous) that are open for day use and backpacking.	D N E			Ranks higher than regional criteria, explore funding on a state or national level.

ID#	Facility/ Project	Acres /Miles	Legacy Funded	Description	H/ M /L	Raw Score	Weight ed Score	Ranking Comments
132214	Becker Co Heartlan d Trail Extensio n	60	Other State \$	The Heartland Trail extension is a State multi-use trail that will accommodate a wide variety of recreational users, and that when completed, will stretch from Park Rapids to Moorhead. The extension of trail that goes through Becker County begins at the Becker County line with Hubbard County and heading west will intersect with the following communities: Osage, Wolf Lake, Frazee, Detroit Lakes, Audubon and Lake Park.	D N E			Not rated because it is a state trail; excellent project if coordinated with Clay County's application.
310314	Cook Co MTB Trail	?		Consists of one cluster of Mountain Bike Trails at Pincushion Mountain Rec Area near Grand Marais and the other near Britton Peak near Tofte. Each will consist of approximately 25 miles of varied level trails.	D N E			Needs to be a part of a statewide mountain bike plan to conduct a thorough evaluation of the project. Beautiful site. Non-profit applicant is a challenge.
130214	Clay Co Heartlan d Trail	35		The Heartland Trail Extension from Moorhead to the Becker County Line will be located within a corridor about four miles either side of US Hwy 10 which bisects Clay County from east to west.	D N E			Should be considered as a higher level state trail, combine applications among jurisdictions. Needs to be combined as one master plan with other heartland trail extension.

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110214	Cohasset Tioga Rec Area	450		To develop a professionally designed 25 mile mountain bike trail system on approximately 450 acres of Minnesota (School Trust) Land, and Itasca County Land. This area is centrally located less than 2 miles from both the Cities of Cohasset and Grand Rapids. The area is primarily a mining reclamation area with very low grade waste piles.	D N E			Need more information, seems to be single use for the area. Some concern about School Trust land. Might rise to a higher ranking as a part of a statewide Mountain Bike trail plan.
310514	Lake Co MTB Trail	5 acres	No	5 areas have been identified in the Lake County Comp Trail Plan as having high potential for desitnation quality mountain bike trails. The desired length of trails for one area would be 10 miles; with a goal of over 25 miles to be considered a true destination trail.	D N E			Needs to be part of a statewide plan. Lacked information. Great area/scenery.
110114	Carlton Co Soo Line Trail	200+		The Soo Line (motorized) Trail radiates out from Moose Lake. South spur heads to Genoa, north spur heads to Cass Lake, and east spur to Superior, WI. Also connects with the Willard Munger State trail in Moose Lake.	D N E			All of these Soo Line trails need to be packaged into a single master plan; concerns about amount of OHV use. Prove how it is going to be used.
140614	Morrison Co Soo Line Trail	9		The Soo Line Recreational Trail is a multi-use (non-motorized) 10-foot paved surface on the old railroad grade between Lake Wobegon Regional Trail in Stearns County and US Hwy 10 approximately 3 miles north of Royalton. The trail is approximately 9 miles from Stearns County line to the Soo Line ATV Trail at US Hwy 10.	D N E			All of the Soo Line trails need to be packaged into a single master plan.

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140214	Chisago Trail				In co m p l e t e			Unrated, lack of information
120714	Nisw Paul Bunyan Connect or Trail				In co m p l e t e			
161114	Goodhu e Cannon Valley Trail				In co m p l e t e			
261414	Olmsted Co Root River Park	135/5 00 possib le		Root River Park, now encompassing 135 acres, adjoins 290 acres of State Forest Land in South Central Olmsted County and together the two public holdings encompass nearly 3 miles of shoreline bracketing the Root River on both sides. Olmsted County and DNR officials are presently in meetings to develop a strategy plan that will allow further collaboration to leverage and combine these acreages into a singular Park and Recreation area	In co m p l e t e			Application is incomplete. Lacking narrative. Need to complete and resubmit.

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261914	Olmsted Co Chester Woods	1135		Chester Woods Park opened in the spring of 1995 and in part due to the tragic flood of 1978 where several lives were lost in the city of Rochester. In response to the flood, Federal and State funds were secured to construct several reservoirs on the watersheds surrounding the city to better guard against a second tragedy of like scope.	In co m p l e t e			Application is incomplete. Lacking narrative. Need to complete and resubmit.
362014	Olmsted Co Oxbow Park	620		Further amenities include but are not limited to: 8 miles of hiking trails, 4 different and distinct picnic areas, 5 shelters, a youth camp area, a 29 site campground (featuring a modern shower and restroom), handicapped accessible camp sites, and 10 electrical sites. The park is also equipped with a certified storm shelter in the campground, and an outdoor weather warning siren system. Oxbow Park and Zollman receives an estimated 180,000 visitors a year.	In co m p l e t e			Application is incomplete. Lacking narrative. Need to complete and resubmit.
260714	Northfie ld Dundas Park	105	Yes 2013	The Northfield/Dundas Regional Park is currently proposed to follow the Cannon River in Northfield and Dundas.	In co m p l e t e			Incomplete application
250214	Redwoo d Co Plum Creek Park				In co m p l e t e			Needs more info, missing description section.

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130514	Detroit Lakes Multi- Use Trail	30		The City of Detroit Lakes Multi Use Trail is currently 23.3 miles long. The hope is to integrate the Heartland Trail into the existing system along with adding 7.2 miles of additional trail. The trail currently runs around Big and Little Detroit Lakes as well as running through downtown	L			Not natural resource based, urban-based on road facility.
320214	Bemidji Paul Bunyan Park	12	2013	. The master plan includes improvements to the festival area (utilized for both regional and local events), family and group gathering area – including relocating a pavilion, picnic area, seating areas near the lake, central plaza and tourist information center improvements, dock and fishing pier improvements including improving accessibility, parking lot and trail improvements for better connectivity to other parks and the Paul Bunyan State Trail; landscaping and shoreland improvements. The Master Plan also identifies overlooks/lookouts on a scenic lakeshore trail, kayak and canoe rentals, and access to Lake Bemidji.	L			May not rise to the level of being special feature park. Not unique in its use across Minnesota.

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320314	Bemidji South Shore Park	7.7	Yes 2014	This project includes the development of a swim beach, concessions and changing/restroom facility, day docks, vehicular access point/drop off zone, connection/gateway to the State Trail, playground equipment, splash pad, shade structures, and picnic area that would include tables, grills and other supporting amenities. The master plan also includes a trailhead plaza that serves park users, but also provides amenities for those biking/walking on the state trails –including water fountains, trash receptacles, bike racks and picnic tables.	L			
330314	Detroit Lakes City Beach	44		The Detroit Lakes City Park and Mile Long Public Beach on the north shore of Detroit Lake comprises 44 acres and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since its founding, it has been the City’s main park drawing residents and visitors for picnicking, swimming, dancing, concerts, baseball games, reunions, social gatherings and festivals.	L			
160214	Faribault Straight River Trail	7.8		This trail starts in North Alexander Park and will be the final connection between Mill Towns State Trail and the Sakatah State Trail	L			Local connector

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360314	Lanesboro Arts Campus	Entire City		The City provides multiple points of entry to recreational activities in Southeast Minnesota as well as amenities for day trippers, campers, overnight guests, bikers, hikers, tubers, kayakers, fisherman, art enthusiasts, theatre-goers and more. The Lanesboro Arts Campus vision works on multiple levels, involving parking, walkways, public art, the DNR Bass Pond and access to both the Root River and Root River State Trail.	L			Looking to establish the entire City as a special use park. Better fits under the Legacy arts program.
220614	Itasca Co Bass Lake Park				L			
360414	Houston Trailhead Park	30		The Trailhead Park is approximately 30 acres in size and is located on the eastern terminus of the Root River State Trail. The site has served as a regional destination since the Trailhead/Houston Nature Center building was built there in year 2001.	L			Want to know more about the Owl feature to rank as a special use park. Confusing park vs. trail.
131114	Jacob Brower Regional Trail	40-50		Eight Cities want to construct a trail from Wadena to Long Prairie, picking up the Jacob Brower Trail and heading north. Multi-user, non-motorized and motorized.	L			Too many questions, needs more information.

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120414	Kittson Co Lake Bronson Trail	24.5		The project will eliminate deep cross cracks and potholes which have grown up with vegetation and cause for a bumpy ride for its users in its current conditions. The trail is 12' wide with gravel shoulders. Another project will include resurfacing of the paved trails within the State Park.	L			
110414	Lake Co ATV Trail	36		Lake County is seeking a "regionally significant" designation of the proposed ATV route/trail connecting Two Harbors to the start of the Lake County Regional ATV trail. The trail will connect Lake County's largest city to the newly created Lake County Regional ATV Trail.	L			Motorized trail doesn't qualify.
360514	Lewiston Ponds	61	No	The City of Lewiston is looking to create a nature preserve park that will have a perimeter trail that will be a main feature for Lewiston, which in the County Trail plan has as an artery of three trails in the future.	L			
250114	New Ulm River Parkway	131	Yes - 2009	The City of New Ulm's Minnesota River Parkway (Parkway), along the banks of the Minnesota River, entails Minnecon Park, Riverside Park and associated trails.	L			

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210814	Princeton Riverside Riebe Park	35	No	Riverside and Riebe Parks are located at the convergence of the main and west branch of the wild and scenic-designated Rum River in the heart of Princeton. Riverside Park is located on the west bank of the Rum River; Riebe Park is located directly across the Rum River on the east bank. Both parks are located along the regional trail corridor being developed by the Rum River Recreation and Resources Board	L			
231414 24xx14	Sartell Pinecone Park	200		In addition to the Park's proximity to a protected Minnesota water body (Baker's Lake), the unique combination of organized sports and independent outdoor recreational activities within one regional park will provide natural outdoor recreational experiences to those who would not otherwise participate in them.	L			Not natural resource based; urban in center of town.
331614	Yellow Medicine Co Timm Park	11.8	No	Timm Park is a Yellow Medicine County Park just north of the City of Wood Lake on the north shore of Wood Lake. The park currently offers a recently developed campground with water and electrical service to each site, restrooms, a picnic shelter, swimming beach, boat ramp and two fishing docks or piers, playground equipment a volleyball court and basketball court.	L			

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121414	Bigfork Riverwalk Trail	2.3		The proposed trail project will connect the City of Bigfork with the Bigfork River access, Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway, Veterans Memorial Park, City Hall, Bigfork School, Edge Center for the Arts, Bigfork Valley Health Care Center, playgrounds, downtown, etc.	L			Need more on regional significance.
161814	Rushford Bluff Tracks			Overall goal is to create a minimum of 500 miles of various trails to attract the widest possible set of users on a 365-day basis. Close and collaborative working relationships with local cities, townships, counties and the DNR Trails & Waterways and Forestry Departments, as well as local, regional and national trail user groups will be fostered.	L			Underdeveloped application; tough to understand what is being proposed.
261714	Rochester Indian Heights Park	37		Because of the unique cultural heritage of the park and the recent affirmations made by the Park Board this Park is already becoming a destination unto itself. Since 2011 there have been Dakota & Native American ceremonies and meetings at the park attracting visitors from Prairie Island across Minnesota to South Dakota.	L			

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311114	Aitken Co Mississi ppi Park System	2521		The Mississippi River water trail, the Mississippi River Bike trail follow the river through Aitkin County much of it intersecting Tax Forfeited and State Forest Lands. There Aitkin County maintains a series of parks that provide amenities and facilities along the different river trail routes. Some of the amenities that Aitkin County manages along the river include six boat accesses, three public campgrounds.	L			Incomplete application, need info for something less than the entire county-wide park system. Candidate to resubmit in 2015.
342314	Morriso n Co Pike Creek Boat Landing	0.7		The Pike Creek Boat Landing Park is 0.7 acre with 150 feet of frontage on Pike Creek just upstream as it enters the Mississippi River. The land is primarily a boat access with shore fishing. The landing has concrete ramp with boat dock, handicap portable lavatory and paved parking lot.	L			
342414	Morriso n Co Pinehur st Park	0.05		The Pinehurst County Park is 0.05 acre with 33 feet of frontage on Lake Alexander owned and operated by Morrison County. The land is mostly sugar-sand used for swimming and beach recreational activities.	L			
141814	Maple Lake Ney Park Trail Connect ion	1.1	TE funding	Non-motorized trail connecting the City of Maple Lake with Robert Ney Memorial Park. Year round multi-use facility.	L			

