



General

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

Park/Trail ID # 14-010D	Funding Application 20-001F	Park/Trail Name Bertram Park
Last Update April 01, 2020		
Project Name Connecting People Program Equipment	District 4	Existing Acres or Miles 0

Project Description

Studies have shown people are losing their connection to the outdoors. Our goal at Wright County Parks & Recreation is to create opportunities for people to discover, explore, or re-engage to the natural world around them. To accomplish this we are looking to add outdoor recreational equipment that will be housed at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park. We are looking to establish two identities with the equipment, rental equipment and program equipment. There will be times that rental equipment might be utilized for programs and vice versa. An example of this would be a kayak fleet. We will make sure that a minimum of 3 kayaks would be available for rent at all times at Bertram which would allow for another kayaking program to take place with the rest of the fleet. When there is no program we would have more kayaks available to rent through the park office. The equipment that we are seeking was determined by customer evaluation, past program success, current trends in recreation programming, and future possibilities within our system. You will find a map of Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park that shows the lake access points and trails that will be utilized within it for programs and rentals. Also attached is a copy of our county wide map that locates all of our parks within our park system that programs have the potential to be hosted in. This includes other regionally designated facilities and some that are not.

Project Area Maps

Bertram Chain of Lakes Park Map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/Bertram Hiking Trails 2019_b4309f.pdf

Wright County Parks & Recreation System Map

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/27x36_Map_Back_20191010CMYK \[Converted\]_d611ed.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/27x36_Map_Back_20191010CMYK[Converted]_d611ed.pdf)

Organization Wright County Parks & Recreation	Lead Contact Full Name Brad Harrington	Lead Contact Title Parks & Recreation Operations Manager
Mailing Address	City	State

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Buffalo

Minnesota

Zip

55313

Phone

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Email

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Funding

Development Type

Development

Acres of Park Land to be Acquired

0

Funding Category:

- Connecting People to the Outdoors

Anticipated number of participants/users in Connecting People to the Outdoors project

500

New Trail Miles to be Acquired

0

Types

New Trail Miles Developed

0

Miles of Trail Restored or Improved

0

Trail head facilities developed

0

Number of trail bridges/culverts to be developed/restored

0

Number of vault toilets built

Number of Shower/restrooms

Number of campsites built

Acres of prairie restored

Acres of invasive species removed

Number of Connecting People to the Outdoors

Programs created/administered

12

Project Outcomes

Evaluation of Impact

We currently track all of our program offerings throughout our park system on an annual basis which includes; attendance, number of programs, and location of those programs. Some of the existing programs are done in coordination with other partners such as Prairie Woods ELC, YMCA Day Camp Manitou, Otsego Parks and Recreation and the Monticello Community Center. Even with the number of partners we have, there is still a noticeable gap in our program offerings that only we as a department can fill. The proposed equipment will be used to create more programs and opportunities for individuals and families to connect to the outdoors. We will continue to measure and track our programs to view what is working and what is not. This is done through program registration, program participation, participant evaluations, tracking of equipment rentals and comparing them year to year to each other to gauge success. We also survey our program participants and people that utilize the new rental equipment to get feedback on how we are doing and where we can improve. Initially we hope to see an increase of 12 programs per year estimating attendance at 240, with an additional 500 participants through rental offerings.

Legacy Pillars:

- Connect People and the Outdoors

Connection to Pillars

This funding request is directly related to Connecting People to the Outdoors. In requesting the funds to purchase outdoor recreational equipment to establish a new rental fleet for year round recreational opportunities not only at Bertram but throughout the entire Wright County Parks & Recreation system we will directly impact the amount of opportunities people will have to get outside and experience parks and trails for the first time or in ways that have not ever done. As the research has shown more and more people are losing their connection to the outdoors as people move into cities and depend on technology for their entertainment. This something that we, Wright County Parks & Recreation, feel we are strategically positioned to help bring these outdoor experiences to people. As one of the fastest growing county populations in the Minnesota we are seeing the need for more programming in our system. Specifically at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park. As the park continues to develop with addition of the campground, the infrastructure will be in place to establish an outdoor recreation hub for Wright County. This will include staff to assist in rentals and the addition of an outdoor recreation program staff to the department. The equipment that is needed is the final piece of the puzzle that will allow for us to move forward with great momentum to impact the lives of communities in a positive way through connecting to the outdoors.

Connection to a Regionally Substantial Component of the Master Plan

Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park is currently in Phase 2 of it's overall development with construction of a modern campground that includes camper cabins in 2020 with an opening date in 2021. Looking historically at the development of Bertram Chain of Lakes we have been able to move forward at a steady pace to bring this park not only to fruition but online. Once the campground is completed, substantial development from the county side is essentially complete with only a few capital projects left to be completed at the park that will have more of an impact on staff than on visitors. Our focus as this park has developed is to get the public facing amenities up and running first and then we can look at the projects such as a maintenance facilities or other revenue making facilities such as a banquet facility on the south side at a later time. Developing and providing recreational opportunities through the park is next essential part of the overall master plan of Bertram Chain of Lakes. We envision Bertram to be a hub of outdoor activity that will also feed into surrounding parks and trails. Having equipment at this park will allow for this to become a reality. Additionally, the department will be capable of utilizing all the equipment in all the parks in our system impacting other regionally designated facilities such as Collinwood Park & Campground, Crow River Regional Trail, and Stanley Eddy Regional Park Reserve. With this capability you will notice an over arching impact into our department strategic plan that is approved by the Wright County Parks & Recreation Commission in which they identified the program growth as an integral part of our five and ten year vision.

Project Readiness

Project Lead

Wright County Parks & Recreation has shown is ability to lead this type of project with past successes in programming and implementation. Most recently we completed a Connecting People Grant with Stearns County to advertise, select, and manage a two year venture to add programs to our regional settings. This venture was successful and brought in more than 4,000 participants through 45 different programs and five different marketing events. The success of this program has led to the request for more of that type of programming including kayaking classes, cross-country ski lessons and opportunities, snowshoe availability, and introductory camping experiences that will include environmental education. We have continued to find creative ways to fill these gaps as much as possible but we are to a point that we need to progress past what we are doing and offer a full program load through our department. The county board has approved the addition of a full time outdoor recreation program position for our department in 2020 to help lead this next phase of growth in our department. With the support of our Commission, County Board, residents, and our demonstrated ability to complete grant projects of this type, we are poised for this next adventure.

Implementation Timeline

If we are awarded this grant request we will be ready to move forward with the acquisition of the equipment as soon as contracts are finalized. Once the equipment is purchased our program offerings will be developed and rolled out to the public. If contracts are finalized in July of 2021 we would hope to have the winter recreation equipment purchased and in place to start rental and program operations for the winter of 2021/2022 and expanding spring and summer offerings such as a Family Camp Out, kayak rentals and lessons, Stand Up Paddleboard rentals, and developing a series of geocache courses by the summer of 2022.

Availability for Public Use

Winter recreation equipment would be available to rent 7 days week starting after the first groom able snow fall until snow conditions are no longer favorable every year at Bertram. Hours of operations will mimic our current operations at Robert Ney Regional Park. Summer equipment such as kayaks and stand up paddleboards will be available for rental from ice out and until conditions become favorable for winter recreation. GPS units for geocaching would be available year round through the park office. Any equipment not being used for programs offered by the county will be available for use upon request when applicable. Meaning what season we are in and upon availability. Availability could be limited from time to time due to a program offered through the department.

Design Standards

All equipment that will be purchased is designed to current industry standards and has been researched by current county staff. Current staff has communicated with industry professionals at R.E.I. Coop, Scheels, and other agencies that currently have equipment available to determine what equipment would be best to have for the general use of the public and for programming. Once equipment is purchased the Parks & Recreation Department will develop a replacement cycle for necessary equipment to make sure we keep up with industry standards and have safe equipment. All watercraft will be inspected annually the Wright County Sheriff's Office Recreational Division.

Project Cost Breakdown

Estimated cost based on 2020 retail prices for all of the requested equipment is \$66,630.00. In the attachments is spread sheet that shows the equipment, quantities, and brand that have been priced out.

Funding Request Breakdown

Grant Funding Request

\$67,000

Local Match #1

0

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

0

Non-Eligible Item Description

N/A

Total Funding

\$67,000

Percentage of local match

0

Completion Timeframe

May 2022

Funder #1

Wright County

Funder #1 Resolutions

Signed County Board Resolution

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/Signed Connecting People Resolution_174b30.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/Signed_Connecting_People_Resolution_174b30.pdf)

Funder #2

Updated Wright County Board Resolution

Funder #2 Resolutions

Updated Board Resolution

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/SKM_C36820082109000_256e5f.pdf

Funder #3

n/a

Funder #4

n/a

Funder #5

n/a

Budget Worksheet

Equipment Budget

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/BetramEquipmentBudget_70ac26.xlsx

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Additional Attachment	Equipment Price Sheet	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/Inventory_list_fc4646.xlsx
Budget Worksheet	Equipment Budget	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/BetramEquipmentBudget_70ac26.xlsx
Project Area Map	Bertram Chain of Lakes Park Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/u

		ploads/funding/20-001F/Bertram Hiking Trails 2019_b4309f.pdf
Funder Resolution One	Signed County Board Resolution	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/Signed Connecting People Resolution_174b30.pdf
Project Area Map	Wright County Parks & Recreation System Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/27x36_Map_Back_20191010CMYK [Converted]_d611ed.pdf
Funder Resolution Two	Updated Board Resolution	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-001F/SKM_C36_820082109000_256e5f.pdf