



General

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

Park/Trail ID # 16-007D	Funding Application 20-013F	Park/Trail Name Moorhead River Corridor
Last Update July 13, 2020		
Project Name Midtown Trail	District 3	Existing Acres or Miles 12

Project Description

Midtown Trail is an essential trail segment that is currently a mid-city gap (see additional attached Midtown Gap Map for extra reference) that once completed, will complete 16.1 miles within the 18 mile Moorhead River Corridor Trail Master Plan. It will connect Woodlawn Park and Gooseberry Mound Park (two centrally-located regional parks) that will serve as trailheads along the River Corridor Trail. The Midtown Trail is 1.28 miles in length and the funding being requested is for 0.83 miles off-road paved trail (primarily ten foot wide concrete trail with a short segment 8 feet in width) which will run along the flood protection levee system. The remaining 0.45 miles (on-street) will be funded by the City. An on-road trail segment is due to private ownership of Riverfront property along the route. If the City gains an opportunity to purchase these properties to install flood mitigation levees it will seek off-road trails for optimal River connection. The Midtown segment of the River Corridor Master Plan runs through residential neighborhoods and connects to other segments through trailheads located near commercial centers. Natural features along the trail include: ability to see and watch wildlife, maintained open space, natural prairies, forested areas and views of the river. The completion of this segment will provide a continuous connection along the riverfront between North and South Moorhead and will help the community reach two of its top goals of having more paved trails and connections along with better connectivity between Downtown and Gooseberry Mound Park. In addition, Midtown Trail will connect with existing trails and bicycle-pedestrian bridges providing access to the regional parks and trails in Fargo, ND, providing additional high-quality recreation opportunities. The Midtown Trail will further help Moorhead residents connect to Commercial/shopping areas, other trails and paths connecting to Moorhead's three main Colleges (Concordia College, Minnesota State University – Moorhead, and Minnesota State Community and Technical College – Moorhead), as well as numerous cultural opportunities such as Bluestem Performing Arts Center, numerous historical sites along the Red River, and the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center in Downtown Moorhead.

Project Area Maps

Full River Corridor Progress

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/River_Corridor_Progress_2020_bf007e.pdf

Area location of Midtown Trail with amenities and outside bike/pedestrian connections

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Trail_Area_2020 - FINAL_3bf611.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Trail_Area_2020_FINAL_3bf611.pdf)

Organization
City of Moorhead

**Lead Contact
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Funding

Development Type
Development

Acres of Park Land to be Acquired
0

Funding Category:

- Linear Trail

**Anticipated number of participants/users in
Connecting People to the Outdoors project**
68000

New Trail Miles to be Acquired
0

Types

New Trail Miles Developed
1.28

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**
0

Project Outcomes

Evaluation of Impact

Filling the Midtown Trail gap will complete another 1.28 miles, bringing the total of completed miles to 16.1 in the 18 mile Moorhead River Corridor Trail Master providing users with improved access and connections to existing River Corridor Trail segments and other local and regional trails. There has not been a formal study to determine how many people will use the trail, however the Fargo-Moorhead Council of Governments (MetroCOG) completed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report in 2018; only two places in Moorhead near

Midtown Trail received a count. An automated counter located in Gooseberry Mound Park (future trailhead) at the pedestrian/bicycle bridge to Fargo, ND recorded an average of 315 users per day in 2017 which translates to 114,660 users per year. A manual count of a downtown street approximately 5 blocks north of the start of the Midtown Trail in Woodlawn Park had approximately 187 users per day which would translate to 68,141 per year. With a more complete trail system and as new development occurs we expect these numbers to rise.

Success will be defined by filling in the existing trail gap, increased use and visits, and continued commitment to sustainability through habitat restoration and installing site furnishings which are made from 97% recycled materials.

In the future, the City of Moorhead will partner with MetroCOG to conduct user counts on metro-wide trail system including the regionally designated Moorhead River Corridor Trail.

The City of Moorhead and its community partners will continually work to increase visits and experiences that provide enjoyment for residents and visitors with a wide array of fun recreational opportunities that will promote lifelong health and wellness along Moorheads Red River of the North riverfront and trailhead parks.

Legacy Pillars:

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

Connection to Pillars

Connect People and the Outdoors: Moorhead and its partners have strived to connect people and the outdoors through the seven key strategies of this pillar along the Midtown Trail and River Corridor.

Welcoming Environment: Moorheads River Corridor Trail connects the community to the Red River, the existing trail system, trailheads, and neighborhood parks. Moorheads 2018 Arts and Culture Framework plan outlined a goal for the City to embrace and celebrate its diversity, heritage, work ethic, and strong sense of home, from Native Americans to settlers and now to new immigrant cultures. We value Moorhead becoming known for creating opportunities for its culture keepers. Moorheads Parks and Rec department along with community partners annually host celebrations of some of our cultures with Celtic, German and Scandinavian festivals near our replica Stave Church and Viking ship along with Pangea a celebration of world cultures, all of which are promoted throughout the region. Visitors to the River Corridor Trail from the Moorhead community, region, and beyond will experience the Red River along with the numerous unique environments and amenities along the trail.

Access: Users of the trail will be able to access the new trail segment through the trail heads at Woodlawn and Gooseberry Mound Parks as well as at various points where the off-street trail segments become on-street segments.

The River Trail Corridor is also located near four MATBUS transit routes Downtown, near the future Midtown Trail, and in South Moorhead near the Blue Goose Trail. All buses are fitted with a bike rack capable of carrying up to three bikes at a time which could increase overall visits and use by cyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorized recreational users.

Concordia College features its own bike share program called COBBikes providing students with free bike use for up to four hours to commute and explore the F-M Area.

Fargo, additionally, features a Bike Share program which started in 2015 and broke a national record during its busiest day at 20 rides per bike taken - called Great Rides. To date it has provided over 450,000 rides and has been proposed to expand into Moorhead. A report was drafted in 2016 showing potential docking station locations. Several of the proposed docking stations would be located Downtown and would be easy access

points to the Midtown Trail and the River Corridor in general. There is no timeline for implementing the expansion.

Marketing: New signs will be installed every 1KM indicating to people that they are on the River Corridor Path. New message boards will inform residents of events, provide wayfinding, and historical information about areas along the river corridor. Additionally, the trail will be promoted by numerous organizations in the Fargo-Moorhead region such as the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, F-M Trail Builders, Fargo Parks, Prairies Edge Nordic Skiers, PartnerSHIP 4 Health, Riverkeepers, YMCA, and Fargo Marathon, all of which will help contribute to regional draw.

Quality: Moorhead has been the recipient of several different awards for its efforts in planning and biking. In 2014 the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area was awarded the Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the League of American Bicyclists, the River Corridor Master Plan was awarded the Planning in Context award by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association in 2015, in 2017 Concordia College received the Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly University Award and Moorhead was ranked 261 out of 5,000+ cities for Best Cities for Outdoor Lovers by Millennial Personal Finance.

Programming and Special Events: Moorhead Parks and Rec Department features several different programming activities in Woodlawn Park including Movie Nights in the Park and outdoor concerts at the Heritage Garden and Amphitheater. Local groups including River Keepers, Audubon Dakota, and Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative also work to provide programming by hosting educational programs, controlling invasive species, restoring native habitats, and providing other recreational programs on and along the Red River.

Partnerships: Moorhead partners with River Keepers, Audubon Dakota, and Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative to help educate the public and maintain and enhance the environment and corridor.

Infrastructure and Amenities: The trailhead parks that will connect to the Midtown Trail feature contain numerous recreational and outdoor amenities. Woodlawn Park features other paths and trails, playground equipment, picnic and grilling areas, parking, frisbee golf course, baseball/softball fields, and basketball courts and the Heritage Garden and Amphitheater. Gooseberry Mound Park features paths and trails, playground equipment, picnic and grilling areas, parking, restrooms, and an indoor shelter with electricity. Both parks have bridge connections to Fargo, ND with the bridge in Gooseberry connecting to Fargos Lindenwood Park and Campground.

The future trail will also provide bench seating, lighting, and trash/pet waste receptacles.

Acquire land, create opportunities: Fargo-Moorhead is a population center of 241,356 that provides regional services to northwest Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. After record floods from 2009 2012 Moorhead acquired properties along the riverfront to construct permanent flood protection levees and by 2013 had acquired 195 acres. The 2014 the River Corridor Master Plan outlined a strategy to provide flood protection, provide connections and recreational opportunities, and enhance the environment. The proposed Midtown Trail Segment is one of the last trail segments to complete the corridor.

In the future, the Heartland Trail will connect Moorhead with an extension from Park Rapids. The current (2018) proposed alignment provides connections with Buffalo River State Park and its trail system, other cities in the region, and ends in Moorhead at Centennial Park. Centennial Park features newly constructed paths which connect directly to the existing River Corridor trails.

Take Care of What We Have: The City of Moorhead has actively worked to maintain or realign (out of the floodplain) existing River Corridor Trail segments to provide users with quality experiences as well as fill gaps in the continuous river trail. This maintenance of the trail has included a partnership with Audubon Dakota and their Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative which removes invasive species and restores grassland and woodland areas along the Red River with native vegetation to restore ecological functions. Moorhead also features a group called River Keepers who have received recognition and awards from the EPA and Clay County Soil & water Conservation District. River Keepers helps maintain the Red River Corridor by striving to

improve water quality, providing restoration, education, and programming events such as the annual Race the Red competition.

Coordinate among Providers: The City of Moorhead has coordinated and applied for funding to build a continuous river corridor trail and awarded funding locally. Legacy grants and Federal Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grants to fill gaps in the Moorhead River Corridor Trail with the aspirations to be a regionally significant 18+ mile outdoor recreation amenity that connects outstanding trailhead parks that host a broad variety of cultural and artistic events to create a world-class outdoor recreational opportunity and experience for users.

Connection to a Regionally Substantial Component of the Master Plan

The Midtown Trail segment is the critical mid-city segment necessary to complete a vision for a continuous river corridor trail along the Red River of the North from the northern city limits to the southern city limits of Moorhead. The River Trail is intended to provide opportunities for economic vitality, ecological stability, link residents and visitors to four seasons of recreation and transportation along the trail and balance the public and private ownership dynamics to link Moorhead and Fargo while preserving and promoting the history and culture of the region and quality of life for future generations. The River Corridor Master Plan established 6 principles from the Moorhead River Corridor:

1. Flood protection The land ownership change from private to public was driven by the acquisition and construction of flood mitigation levees that protect neighborhoods throughout the City of Moorhead. The Midtown Trail will be constructed on land utilized for flood protection.
2. Attractive River Corridor The City and its partners are continually working to maintain and enhance the attractiveness of the river corridor as an attractive community destination. The Midtown Trail will connect people to the river.
3. Connectivity Midtown Trail segment will connect the gap between other existing and funded trail segments and will enhance an existing bridge to connect Moorheads River Corridor with Fargo, NDs parks and trails system.
4. Recreation The Trail will be used for recreation and transportation and filling the critical mid-city gap with the requested grant funding would enhance the Moorhead River Corridor Trail and trail head parks.
5. Habitat Enhancement & Water Quality Moorhead has partnered with River Keepers and Audubon Dakota to enhance and improve habitat and water qualities along the Red River of the North (these features will be highlights along the River Corridor Trail)
6. Interpretation The City of Moorhead is working with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, River Keepers, and other partners to enhance the river corridor with physical interpretive panels as well as classes, torus, and other interactive tools to provide information to residents and visitors.

Project Readiness

Project Lead

The primary project lead will be Tom Trowbridge, Assistant City Engineer and co-project lead Kristie Leshovsky, Community Development Director. Tom has been the lead project administrator on numerous State Aid and Federal Aid projects. Many of these projects have included on and off road bike and pedestrian trails including bridges, underpasses, lighting, and other pedestrian amenities. Kristie has been the lead grant coordinator for multiple projects including: Airport improvement projects at the Moorhead Municipal Airport and Community Development Block Grant Projects.

Implementation Timeline

After July 1, 2021 Award and Engineering Design
2022 Bid (spring), Construction (Summer), Completion (Fall)

Availability for Public Use

Moorheads River Corridor Trails are free to use and open 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year.

Moorheads trailhead parks are open daily from 10 am to 10 pm which provide access to restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds, parking, and other amenities.

The Midtown Trail will also be free and available for all to use. The usage of Moorheads River Corridor Trail is anticipated to substantially increase the connectivity provided by these segments given their close proximity and connectedness to downtown and college campuses. Primary users of the Midtown Trail segment will be recreational and commuters who will enjoy the filled in gap in the urban center trail that connects Gooseberry Mound Park with Downtowns Woodlawn, Viking Ship, and Davy Memorial Parks.

Design Standards

Midtown Trail, as well as other segments of the River Corridor trail, will be designed to meet City of Moorhead trail standards and the MNDOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual, both of which comply with applicable ADA requirements. Tom Trowbridge, Assistant City Engineer, has been the lead engineer on multiple bicycle/pedestrian trails and facilities (including pedestrian underpasses and bridges).

Project Cost Breakdown

Mobilization: \$25,000 (Grant request helps contractor mobilize their equipment to the construction site and to begin project implementation).

Clearing & Grubbing: \$7,500 (Grant request clears the top soil and plantings from the trail route).

Common Excavation: \$69,125 (Grant request excavate the trail route for proper slope and levelness in anticipation for trail installation).

Aggregate Base, Class 5: \$69,300 (Grant request adds 6 of Class 5 gravel for slope and substrate for concrete trail).

6 Reinforced Concrete Walk: \$432,000 (Grant request - \$420,000 and local match 12,000 installation and materials for concrete trail)

ADA Ramps: \$17,600 (Local match six locations have been identified necessary to provide ADA ramps within the trail path for accessibility requirements).

Signing/Striping (Off-Street Path): \$4,000 (Local match trail signs and striping once the trail is complete).

Turf Establishment (seed & hydromulch): \$25,000 (Grant request \$10,000 and local match - \$15,000 seed and installation on the topsoil that grades and finishes the trail with the existing sound grades).

Miscellaneous Removals: \$68,500 (Grant request 60,000 and local match - \$8,500 removal of existing sidewalk, approaches, or other obstructions).

Furnishings: \$40,000 (Local match at least five locations have been identified for trail furnishings that may include benches, trash receptacles/pet stations, and/or concrete pads throughout the trail alignment).

Design/Engineering/CA: \$123,400 (Local match includes staff and professional engineering to design, engineer, bid and administer/monitor construction of trail).

Non-Eligible Items: \$55,732.50 (Local cost archeological and environmental review, construction contingencies).

-Pavement Markings (Sharrows On-Street Path): \$15,000 (Local match these are areas where private homes still remain and this will allow bikes to continue directed by signage around the private property, city cost).

-Signing (On-Street Path): \$3,000 (Local match these are areas where private homes still remain and this will allow bikes to continue directed by signage around the private property, city cost).

-Contingency: \$28,732.5 (Local match)

-Archeological & Environmental Review: \$9,000 (Local Match)

Total Midtown Trail Project Costs: \$937,157.50

Funding Request Breakdown

Grant Funding Request

\$660,925

Local Match #1
\$220,500

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
55732.5

Non-Eligible Item Description

Non-Eligible Items: \$55,732.50.5 (Local cost archeological and environmental review, construction contingencies, on-street signing, and pavement markings).

Total Funding
\$881,425

Percentage of local match
0.25

Completion Timeframe
Fall 2022

Funder #1
City of Moorhead

Funder #1 Resolutions

City of Moorhead Resolution

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown Trail Segment of Moorhead River Corridor Trail - approved resolution_623cdc.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Trail_Segment_of_Moorhead_River_Corridor_Trail_-_approved_resolution_623cdc.pdf)

Funder #2
0

Funder #3
0

Funder #4
0

Funder #5
0

Budget Worksheet

Midtown Trail Budget

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown Budget 7-22-2020 Midtown 8333d3.xlsx](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Budget_7-22-2020_Midtown_8333d3.xlsx)

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Project Area Map	Full River Corridor Progress	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/River_Corridor_Progress_2020_bf007e.pdf
Project Area Map	Area location of Midtown Trail with amenities and outside bike/pedestrian connections	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Trail_Area_2020_FINAL_3bf611.pdf
Budget Worksheet	Midtown Trail Budget	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Budget_7-22-2020_Midtown_8333d3.xlsx
Additional Attachment	Letters of Support	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/!Letters_Of_Support_03ea5e.pdf
Additional Attachment	Signed Midtown MOU	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Signed_MOU_6eebec.pdf
Additional Attachment	Map highlighting the Midtown Gap between the existing trail system and the soon to be completed Blue Goose Trail	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Gap_9b3c25.pdf
Funder Resolution One	City of Moorhead Resolution	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-013F/Midtown_Trail_Segment_of_Moorhead_River_Corridor_Trail_-_approved_resolution_623cdc.pdf