



## General

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

<b>Park/Trail ID #</b> 15-093D	<b>Funding Application</b> 20-016F	<b>Park/Trail Name</b> Lake County Mountain Bike Trails (Split Rock Wilds)
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**Last Update**  
July 21, 2020

<b>Project Name</b> Split Rock Wilds	<b>District</b> 1	<b>Existing Acres or Miles</b> 10 complete in 2020
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### Project Description

Split Rock Wilds Trail is being built as a rugged backcountry trail with waterfalls, cliffs, wooded valleys and Lake Superior all within view of the trail. The rocky terrain and Lake Superior views combined with the backcountry feel will make this trail unique not only to the region but globally. The new Split Rock State Park Campground addition (Shipwreck Creek Campground) on the south end of the trail system will give riders a place to camp and refill water. 2021 Legacy funds will build a trail that allows users to make a loop between the Split Rock Campground and the Cove Point Resort area. The trail we are requesting funding for will be less technical and easier to ride than the trail currently being built because the terrain is gentler and less rocky. The new trail will increase the amount of beginner and intermediate level terrain and will make the trail system more inclusive to riders of all abilities including families and young riders. Building the Split Rock Wilds trail into a large loop will allow the trail system to host races and other events that will support the local communities, especially Beaver Bay and Silver Bay. The "trail capping" portion (#3 on map and budget) is intended to make the beginner portion of the trail directly adjacent to the campground an all-weather trail. Capping the trail with aggregate creates a trail that is rideable during or after wet weather. The goal is to have a portion of the trail open even during wet weather to give those who have traveled some place to ride. It also hardens the surface of the trail to withstand the expected high use next to the campground.

### Project Area Maps

Trail Plan Map

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/2020 SRW Funding Map\\_73d837.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/2020%20SRW%20Funding%20Map_73d837.pdf)

**Organization**  
Lake County Forestry

**Lead Contact  
Full Name**  
David Cizmas

**Lead Contact  
Title**  
Recreation Forester

**Mailing Address**  
601 3rd Ave

**City**  
Two Harbors

**State**  
Minnesota

**Zip**

**Phone**

**Email**

## 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

0

### New Trail Miles to be Acquired

8

### Types

### New Trail Miles Developed

8

### 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

The goal of this phase of the project is to create a trail loop throughout the area and increase the ability diversity of the trail system. Adding a trail loop option will drastically improve the trail user experience and open area up to a more diverse range of riders. Success of this phase will be measured by building enough trail to connect the trail currently being built. The trail proposed for 2021 will have a completely different feel than the trail currently being built while still a world class destination trail. Success of the trail will also be measured by the diversity of the riders of the trail.

### Legacy Pillars:

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

### Connection to Pillars

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#### \*Connect People and the Outdoors

These trails will allow more people to enjoy a natural north shore experience. High-quality trail facilities will also help solidify the areas potential. While accessible through roads and parking, most of the trails will be away from roads and designed to provide a wilderness-type experience. Close proximity to population centers and tourist attractions and amenities will enable trail users convenient access to a world-class mountain bike trail system. The trails not only attract tourists to the area but create amenities to for those looking for housing. Lake County intends this to be an incentive for those looking to relocate or decide to keep residence in the area.

#### \*Acquire Land and Create Opportunities

The trails will be built using sustainable designs that are ride-able by a wide variety of skill levels. Beginner-style trails will provide those new to mountain biking a place to learn and practice, while more advanced trails, looping off beginner trails, will draw mountain bikers from across the country and allow local residents a chance to develop their skills. Filling a gap between two current mountain bike systems in Duluth and Grand Marais, the Lake County system would also be contributing to a larger regional recreational network. However, with its size and quality facilities, the purpose-built singletrack trails in Lake County alone will become a primary destination within this larger system. The MNDNR campground expansion at Split Rock State Park will directly benefit from having a world class trail system that will be built to IMBA standards. Situated near population centers in Lake County (i.e. Two Harbors and Beaver Bay), within 30 miles of the City of Duluth, and close to or directly adjacent to regionally significant recreational facilities in state parks and trails, the areas identified for mountain bike development in Lake County are well-located to serve local and regional residents, as well as tourists, on the North Shore. Currently, local residents in Two Harbors, Silver Bay, and Beaver Bay comprise more than half the Countys population. Split Rock Wilds abuts Split Rock Lighthouse State Park. Undoubtedly the primary recreational attractions in the County, Gooseberry Falls, Tettegouche, and Split Rock Lighthouse State Parks are among the top five most-visited of the 67 state parks in Minnesota, accounting for a total of about 1.6 million visits in 2015. In addition to camping facilities at these three state parks, Two Harbors and Silver Bay provide tourists with amenities, such as lodging and dining. Related to mountain biking, a bike shop opened in Two Harbors in 2016 and will also provide necessary supplies to bikers.

#### \*Coordinate Among Partners

Coordination among partners is demonstrated by the current relationships between interested stakeholders. Split Rock Lighthouse Campground has been instrumental in providing access to the southern terminus of the trail. They are also providing paved bike trail access from the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. The local bike shop is forming a volunteer crew to help with trail maintenance by hosting weekly trail volunteer days. We have partnered with One Track Mind Foundation to bring MCC crews in to help build and maintain trails. Additionally, through communication with other mountain bike trail clubs in the area, we have determined the type of trail we are building is a missing kind of trail in the area. The rocky terrain of the area leads this to be a more "backcountry" feel that many riders are looking for. Having a full suite of trail styles in the area creates an attraction to bike riders from around the world. Trips to the area will be extended in order to ride many different types of trail. There will be incentive to ride each trail system making the area as a whole more attractive. The coordination of the community stakeholders has been and will be a key to success. Silver Bay has recently started the development of multi use trail head to be used for all types of trails including snowmobile, ATV, hiking, and biking. This trailhead, while not directly tied to Split Rock Wilds, will allow riders to add additional miles to their day should the desire to base their adventure out of Silver Bay. The new Black Beach campground in Silver Bay will also be connected via the Gitchi-Gami State trail the Split Rock Wilds bike trail.

#### **Connection to a Regionally Substantial Component of the Master Plan**

This trail, Split Rock Wilds, is the "primary site" of the "Lake County Mountain Bike Trail System Master Plan." According to the plan, "Lake County feels that Split Rock Wilds in particular, due to its boreal forest and scenic Lake Superior ridgeline setting, will be the crown jewel of the Northeast Minnesota mountain bike trails." Split Rock Wilds is mentioned numerous times in the Master Plan relating to being well-located, enhancing connectivity, economic development/tourism opportunities, and programming plans. This portion of the project helps create a robust trail system as part of the Master Plan.

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## Project Readiness

### Project Lead

Lake County has hired a full time Recreation Forester based out of the Two Harbors office. This Recreation Forester is in charge of overseeing the trail building crews and has the skill set to ensure a high quality trail. The position does the site inspections as well as planning for future projects. This position also oversees volunteer groups responsible for trail maintenance. Our department has recently purchased a mini-excavator and dump trailer for maintenance and construction purposes. We are also planning to purchase other equipments with an FRTP grant for trail maintenance and construction.

### Implementation Timeline

Early July 2021 Start building on north end of proposed trail. (environmental and cultural surveys have been completed)

Early July 2021 Start Archeological review, wetland delineation and botanical survey on south end of proposed trail.

Late October 2021 Finish trail building.

June 2022 officially open trail to the public.

### Availability for Public Use

The first phase of this trail will utilize to-be-constructed trailhead within the Split Rock Lighthouse State Park Campground expansion. Therefore, a vehicle pass will be required to park and follow campground hours. A future trailhead outside of Beaver Bay will be free. The trails will be closed during the fall deer rifle season (2 weeks), but open the remainder of the year when trails are suitable for riding.

### Design Standards

Trails in the phase of the project have been designed and will be built to IMBA trail design standards. Trail corridors have been designed by Dirt Dojo, Dirt Candy, both professional trail builders and Lake County Forestry.

### Project Cost Breakdown

2021 Split Rock Wilds project and funding

Phase 3 Southern Loop Distance (ft) Cost per ft Total cost

Southwest Trail (loop) 25872 \$11.50 \$297,528.00

Southeast (loop) 15200 \$11.50 \$174,800.00

Trail capping 9577 \$10.00 \$95,770.00

Advanced trail 9600 \$11.50 \$110,400.00

Wetland/Botanical \$28,002 (wetland impacts are negligible due to the extensive use of boardwalk)

SWPPP \$3,000

Archeological Study \$12,000

Total \$721,500.00

## Funding Request Breakdown

### Grant Funding Request

\$400,000

#### Local Match #1

\$321,500

#### Funder #1

0

#### Local Match #2

0

#### Funder #2

0

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**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**

Archaeological Study not eligible

**Total Funding**

\$721,500

**Percentage of local match**

0.45

**Completion Timeframe**

24

**Funder #1**

Lake County

**Funder #1 Resolutions**

Resolution for Grant Application

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/20071402.17 Resolution for MnDNR PTL Grant Application\\_59068d.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/20071402.17%20Resolution%20for%20MnDNR%20PTL%20Grant%20Application%2059068d.pdf)**Funder #2**

None

**Funder #3**

None

**Funder #4**

None

**Funder #5**

None

**Budget Worksheet**

Budget Worksheet

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/ProjectBudgetTemplate\\_2020SRW\\_9cc2e4.xlsx](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/ProjectBudgetTemplate_2020SRW_9cc2e4.xlsx)

## Attachments

**Doc Name****Description****Url**

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Project Area Map	Trail Plan Map	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/2020SRW_Funding_Map_73d837.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/2020SRW_Funding_Map_73d837.pdf</a>
Budget Worksheet	Budget Worksheet\	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/ProjectBudgetTemplate_2020SRW_9cc2e4.xlsx">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/ProjectBudgetTemplate_2020SRW_9cc2e4.xlsx</a>
Additional Attachment	Letters of Support	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/1472068871174-CombinedLOS_1466cc_fb1c30.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/1472068871174-CombinedLOS_1466cc_fb1c30.pdf</a>
Additional Attachment	Access Intent	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/CovePointLetter9.2.16_f7a1bd_ee545e.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/CovePointLetter9.2.16_f7a1bd_ee545e.pdf</a>
Additional Attachment	Photos of current trail at Split Rock Wilds	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/SRW_Photos_5a0232.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/SRW_Photos_5a0232.pdf</a>
Additional Attachment	Approval of Memorandum Agreement	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/20081102_08 Approving Memorandum Agreement for GMPT Grant Application for Split Rock Wilds Phase 2_3">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/20081102_08 Approving Memorandum Agreement for GMPT Grant Application for Split Rock Wilds Phase 2_3</a>
Additional Attachment	Photos of current trail at Split Rock Wilds 2	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/SRW_Photos_2_75c894.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/SRW_Photos_2_75c894.pdf</a>
Funder Resolution One	Resolution for Grant Application	<a href="http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/20071402_17 Resolution for MnDNR PTL Grant Application_59068d.pdf">http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-016F/20071402_17 Resolution for MnDNR PTL Grant Application_59068d.pdf</a>