



## LOCAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

### 2011 APPLICATION



**Before completing this application read the program manual that contains instructions on completing this form.**

*Type all responses within the boxes associated with each question.*

*Handwritten applications will not be accepted.*

*DO NOT change the format of this document.*

**GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION:**

1.	Grant Applicant (Unit of Government required):	<b>City of Ramsey</b>
2.	Contact Person:	Mark Riverblood
3.	Contact Title:	Parks Supervisor
4.	Mailing Address:	
	Building Name (if applicable):	
	Street:	7550 Sunwood Drive NW
	City, State Zip:	Ramsey, MN 55303
5.	Daytime Phone:	763-238-1733
6.	Fax Number:	763-427-5543
7.	E-mail Address:	mriverblood@ci.ramsey.mn.us
8.	Website (if available):	www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

**TRAIL CLUB OR ORGANIZATION/PROJECT PARTNER (If applicable):**

9.	Contact Person and Title:	
10.	Organization/Club Name:	
11.	Mailing Address	
	Building Name (if applicable):	
	Street:	
	City, State Zip:	
12.	Daytime Phone:	
13.	Fax Number:	
14.	E-mail Address:	
15.	Website (if available):	

**LOCATION OF PROJECT:**

16.	County Project is located in:	Anoka
17.	State Legislative (House) District:	48B
18.	Legislative House Representative:	Jim Abeler
19.	State Senate Representative:	Mike Jungbauer
20.	Congressional District:	6
21.	Congressional Representative:	Michele Bachmann

**GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION:**

22.	Project Title:	Trott Brook Greenway to Elmcrest Park Trail			
23.	Total Project Cost:	\$988,090			
24.	Amount Requested:	<b>\$100,000</b>			
25.	Local Match:	\$888,090			
26.	Source of Local Match:	Trail Fund			
27.	Has the local match been secured? (mark one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
28.	Will other non-local funds be used for this project? (mark one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
	If yes, give amount:				
29.	What is the source of the non- local funds?				
30.	Have the non-local funds been secured? (mark one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
31.	If this project has received federal funding through the Enhancements Program, please indicate which year your organization is programmed for construction? ( <i>please include a copy of the award notification as attachment "G"</i> )			FFY:	
32.	If this project is for a new trail development, please indicate estimated length:	Feet (if less than ½ mile):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miles:	1.3
33.	Below, indicate which primary and secondary recreation uses will directly benefit from the proposed project:				
	Primary Use	Secondary Use			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Walking/Hiking		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Bicycling		
			Mountain Bicycling		
			Horseback Riding		
			Cross-Country Skiing		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		In-Line Skating		
			Snowmobiling		
			ATV Riding		
			Off-Highway Motorcycling		
			4 X 4 Trucking		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Other (specify):	Jogging/Running	

## QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

All applications must address each of the following five qualifying requirements.

*Failure to provide information on each of the requirements will result in the disqualification of the application.*

**Please complete each section as outlined in the instructions.**

<b>34.</b>	<b>Project Description:</b>  <p>The City of Ramsey is seeking funding assistance to construct a new 1.3 mile trail from Elmcrest Park in central Ramsey to the Trott Brook Greenway to the north, as well as to add restrooms at Elmcrest Park to provide a trail user amenity. The proposed trail will generally be located along the western side of MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard. This trail project is designed primarily as an off-road, multi-use trail on City-owned property along the western side of MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard.</p> <p>The City's Parks, Recreation &amp; Open Space Plan is based upon the National Recreation and Park Association Standards, which calls for trails to be located so that they connect important community features. This proposed trail is a critical north-south trail connection for the eastern portion of the community that will enable connections to Elmcrest Park, the Trott Brook Greenway, Rivers Bend Park (community park), Fox Park, Ramsey Elementary School, Rum River Boy Scout Camp, and commercial nodes along MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard. At this time there are no other complete north-south trails in the community.</p> <p>The proposed project will also add much needed restroom facilities at Elmcrest Park. As the only large park along Highway 47, Elmcrest Park is poised to become an important trailhead for the City's overall park and trail system. (Presently the parking area is utilized as a trailhead for snowmobilers.) Currently the park has soccer fields that are used by the Northern Lights Soccer (NLS) Club weekly for their 38 teams (approximately 1,300 kids) in the spring and fall. The next phase of the park's improvement would be the installation of a playground and restroom facilities.</p>
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<b>35.</b>	<b>Costs Associated with the Project:</b>  <p>The construction of the trail identified as part of this grant will cost \$988,090. The City's match will be provided through the City's Trail Fund. These funds will be budgeted for in 2011 and available in 2012. The projected breakdown of costs include:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Mobilization and Surveying</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 46,300</td></tr><tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Clearing and Grubbing</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2,250</td></tr><tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Earthwork</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 86,450</td></tr><tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Retaining Walls</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 45,000</td></tr><tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Utilities</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 6,000</td></tr><tr><td style="padding-left: 40px;">Trail Construction</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 166,200</td></tr></table>	Mobilization and Surveying	\$ 46,300	Clearing and Grubbing	\$ 2,250	Earthwork	\$ 86,450	Retaining Walls	\$ 45,000	Utilities	\$ 6,000	Trail Construction	\$ 166,200
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Trail Construction	\$ 166,200												

Signage	\$ 7,200
Restoration and Landscaping	\$ 4,000
Contingency	\$ 54,690
Boardwalk (if needed)	\$ 140,000
Building with Restrooms	\$ 430,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 988,090</b>

It is estimated that the five year operations and maintenance costs for this project will be \$6,700 a year. Day-to-day operational needs include litter and graffiti removal and trail surface cleaning (snow and debris). Long-term maintenance costs will include seal coating, crack filing and resurfacing. The funds for operations and maintenance costs will be from the City's Park Maintenance Fund 452. The restroom facility to be constructed as part of this project will be maintained in collaboration between the City and Northern Lights Soccer.

<b>36. Project Timeline:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detail design and engineering — Winter 2012</li> <li>• Clearing and site preparation — Summer 2012</li> <li>• Trail construction — Fall 2012/Spring 2013</li> <li>• Landscaping and restoration — Spring 2013</li> <li>• Open for public use — Spring 2013</li> </ul>

<b>37. Project Readiness:</b>
<p>This project can be undertaken as soon as funding is secured. The trail and restroom facilities were identified on the City's Park &amp; Trail Plan, which was adopted as part of the updated 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Preliminary engineering was completed to determine the preferred trail alignment along the western side of MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard. No land acquisition is necessary since the trail will generally be constructed within the public road right-of-way and the restrooms will be constructed within Elmcrest Park. Depending on final design, a small trail easement may be needed over a retail center's property at the southwestern corner of 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue and MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard; (but is not critical for construction). As demonstrated by the attached letter of support, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has preliminarily approved the proposed alignment and use of the right-of-way with a notation that a limited use permit will be required for the project. No additional approvals are needed for the construction of this trail project. Detailed design and engineering will begin this winter in order that clearing and site preparation can occur in Summer 2012. Trail construction would occur over two construction seasons – Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 – with landscaping and restoration work completed in Spring 2013. It is anticipated that the trail will be open for public use in Spring 2013.</p>

**38. Year Round Trail Usage:**

The City of Ramsey maintains its loop trail system and its other most popular trails for year-round usage by walkers, runners/joggers, bicyclists, and inline skaters. During the spring, summer and fall, routine maintenance and cleaning is performed to ensure safety. In the winter, trails are plowed to allow users a safe surface for their chosen mode of transportation. Depending on weather conditions, plowing of trails usually begins as soon as practicable after completion of the streets. Since this trail would be part of the City's loop trail system, the City would maintain it for year-round usage.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

All applicants must address each of the following seven evaluation criteria that are listed, and in the order that they are presented below. *Failure to provide information on each of the criterion will result in the disqualification of the application.*

**39. Site and Project Quality:**

The proposed Trott Brook Greenway to Elmcrest Park Trail along MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard will provide a primarily off-road multi-use trail on the western side of this busy state highway. Two short segments of the trail will use existing roadways and be designed as on-road segments:

- at the trail's southern end (less than ¼ mile) on Quicksilver Street, which is also the entry road into Elmcrest Park. A paved trail is not included in this project because this area is anticipated to be a part of a development project in the short-term. When development occurs, a new paved road and separate multi-use trail will be constructed.
- at the trail's mid-section, where Quicksilver Street briefly runs adjacent to MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard (approx. 450 ft.). An on-road segment has been chosen due to the limited space available in the right-of-way between the two roads and because this is such as low-volume road that on-road striping is a more economical use of limited trail funding.

The costs for striping and signing these roadways has not been included as part of the proposed project budget but will be completed with other city funds.

The preferred trail alignment would cross one wetland area utilizing an environmentally-sensitive boardwalk to be constructed over the wetland. However, if impacts to the wetland remain a concern and/or construction of the boardwalk is too costly, an alternative trail alignment is possible by shifting the trail a bit closer to the roadway.

Existing traffic volumes on MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard is estimated at almost 15,000 average annual daily traffic (AADT). Providing a trail that is separated from this busy highway for non-motorized transportation modes will ensure a safe and convenient trail that is a critical connection between several important community destinations, including Elmcrest Park, the Trott Brook Greenway, Rivers Bend Park (community park), Fox Park, Ramsey Elementary

School, Rum River Boy Scout Camp, and commercial nodes along MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard – in addition to the historic Trott Brook Cemetery at the north end of this project. This proposed trail segment will also provide a critical connection needed to create a loop trail system in the eastern portion of the community as part of the larger, planned city-wide loop trail system.

The installation of restrooms at Elmcrest Park will provide an amenity for trail users. At over 100 acres, Elmcrest Park is the only large park along Hwy 47 and is located about halfway between Hwy 10 and the proposed Trott Brook Greenway. Elmcrest Park already has a parking lot so it can serve as a trailhead for the City’s proposed loop system.

**40. Accessibility:**

The City is committed to providing for accessibility for users of all ages and abilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This trail will be designed in accordance with ADA guidelines and the MN/DOT Bicycle Facility Design Manual.

**41. Public Need for and Benefit of Project:**

The City of Ramsey has a goal of developing a system of safe trails throughout the community as part of its Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan. This plan is a chapter of the City’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan, which was recently updated and adopted by the City Council. The City has placed a priority on providing a loop trail system that knits all of its parks and natural resource areas together, while providing a desirable recreational resource unto itself for walkers, joggers/runners, bicyclists, and inline skaters. As traffic levels increase within urban areas, trail development is a significant element of park planning as a means of providing safe and convenient connections between residential areas and places to work, shop, and recreate. Since MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard is the primary north-south arterial roadway in the eastern portion of the community and, likewise, the primary planned north-south trail route, this trail segment is a critical need for enabling walkers, joggers/runners, bicyclists, and inline skaters safe access to the community’s loop trail system and nearby community destinations, including Elmcrest Park, Rivers Bend Park (community park), Fox Park, Ramsey Elementary School, Rum River Boy Scout Camp, and commercial nodes along MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard.

The proposed Trott Brook Greenway to Elmcrest Park Trail along MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard fills in a critical gap in the community’s loop trail system and provides a much safer option for non-motorized travel along this busy State highway. Currently trail users must travel along the very narrow shoulder of MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard. With an annual average daily traffic (AADT) volume of almost 15,000 vehicles, non-motorized travel along this corridor will continue to be intimidating and dangerous. The proposed trail will eliminate these safety concerns, as well as provide the north-south connectivity the community is currently lacking in its loop trail system.

The proposed trail will connect directly to Elmcrest Park, which is a community park with soccer

fields. Restroom facilities are proposed to be added as part of this project to serve as an amenity for trail users and park patrons. Elmcrest Park is currently used by the Northern Lights Soccer (NLS) Club on a weekly basis in the spring and summer for its 38 teams, approximately 1,300 children. In addition, for the last four years, the NLS has hosted a three-day soccer tournament in July that brings several thousand visitors to Ramsey.

This trail will also contribute to another of the City's top priorities, which is to provide connectivity between local parks, regional parks, and the Trott Brook Greenway. Ultimately, this trail segment is a critical piece in linking the City's loop trail system to the Rum River Central Park, which is a regional park in the northeast corner of the community. When this trail project is completed and opened to public use in Spring 2013, it will connect to the County Road 47/St. Francis Boulevard trail south of Elmcrest Park, which connects to several important community features in the southern portion of the community, including the high school, library and the city of Anoka and Regional Trail system.

**42. Community Commitment to Trail Use:**

The City's Master Park & Trail Plan identifies the importance of providing facilities and amenities to support trail users, which include amenities throughout the park and trail system like the drinking fountain and mister presently within Elmcrest Park.

Every June, the City of Ramsey sponsors a two-day, daytime Kids Safety Camp for 180 second and third graders (2010-11 school year). The goal of safety camp is to teach children how to prevent themselves from becoming victims of unintentional injuries such as when they are on bicycles. The Safety Camp is held at the 160 acre Boy Scout Camp, which is also along MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard and served by a trail along the highway immediately south of Elmcrest Park.

Additionally, the Ramsey Police Department and Safe Kids Anoka County also facilitate bike helmet sales and fittings for both kids and adults. They are also happy to fit helmets that residents already own, at no charge. Each September, the City of Ramsey facilitates the 15K Family Bike Tour for residents to explore the many parks and trails that Ramsey has to offer in a safe and fun environment. Participants are led by tour leaders and Ramsey Police Officers as they make their way from stop to stop on a clearly marked path through Ramsey.

**43. Impact on Adjoining Landowners in the Vicinity of the Project:**

The proposed trail will be constructed primarily on City-owned land and public road right-of-way. Most of the existing and planned land uses in this area of MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard are residential with the exception of the corner of 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue & MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard, which is commercial. Landowners who seek to use the City's loop trail system will now have a means of safely and easily accessing it. Landowners will also see a reduction in the number of conflicts between motorized and non-motorized transportation with the construction of a separated trail which moves users off of the road shoulder and prevents the

need for crossing the busy State highway. The small retail node at the intersection of 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue and MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard will also benefit from the ability of residents from surrounding neighborhoods to reach their stores via non-motorized transportation. In addition, as the entire loop system is created, the retail center will benefit from trail users who use Elmcrest Park as a trailhead.

For adjoining landowners who do not value improved trail access, the proposed trail will not likely have much impact. The trail will be constructed almost entirely on City-owned land and public road right-of-way. Since most of the adjoining residential properties do not actually front onto MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard, the proposed trail will only cross a couple of private driveways.

44. **Attention to the Potential Environmental Impact of the Project and Efforts to Avoid or Mitigate Adverse Effects:**

The City of Ramsey's 2030 Comprehensive Plan, which was recently updated, includes an Environmental Protection/Resource Management Chapter. In 2007, the City completed a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) that collected and evaluated information on the community's natural resources, as well as identifying potential strategies for protecting these natural resources. This proposed trail may cross one wetland area utilizing an environmentally-sensitive boardwalk to be constructed over the wetland. However, if impacts to the wetland remain a concern and/or construction of the boardwalk is too costly, an alternative trail alignment is possible by shifting the trail closer to the roadway. Overall trail design will be carefully considered in conjunction with the Anoka County Transportation Department and the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization. The City's Environmental Protection/Resource Management Chapter specifically identifies as one of its policies that the use and protection of native species for private and public development should be promoted by the City. Trail construction will include landscaping that incorporates plants native to Minnesota. Erosion control best practices will be used to minimize any impacts on nearby wetlands.

45. **Connectivity:**

The construction of this proposed Trott Brook Greenway to Elmcrest Park Trail along MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard will complete a trail connection between Elmcrest Park and existing trails to the south and Trott Brook Greenway to the north. This trail will provide a critical non-motorized connection to important community destinations to the south, including the Elmcrest Park, Rivers Bend Park (community park), Fox Park, Ramsey Elementary School, Rum River Boy Scout Camp, and commercial nodes along MN Hwy 47/St. Francis Boulevard. To the north, this trail will provide a critical non-motorized connection to the Trott Brook Greenway, which is a natural greenway corridor that spans east-west across the entire community. This greenway includes significant tracts of public land and conservation and trail easements that were acquired utilizing LCCMR funds, and includes existing trail segments and over 1,200' feet of boardwalk. Ultimately, this trail segment is a critical piece in linking the City's loop trail system to the Rum River Central Park, which is a Metropolitan Council designated regional park in the northeast

corner of the community. Consistent with the community's goal to create a loop trail system throughout the community, this proposed trail is a critical connection for creating a loop trail in the eastern portion of the community as part of the planned city-wide loop trail system.

### ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST

<b>Required Attachments (All attachments MUST be 8 ½ by 11 ONLY)</b>	
X	Attachment A – Required Certifications
X	Attachment B – Resolution Supporting Application
X	Attachment C – Letters of Support
X	Attachment D – Project Location Map (8 ½ X 11 ONLY)
X	Attachment E – Site Level Map (8 ½ X 11 ONLY)
<b>Additional Attachments (if applicable)</b>	
NA	Attachment F – Transportation Enhancement Award Letter
X	Attachment G – Photos from Trott Brook Greenway and Elmcrest Park

**APPLICATION DUE DATE: Received or postmarked by Thursday, March 31, 2011.**

**Send 6 copies of the application with attachments to the following address:**

Traci Vibo, Grant Coordinator  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Trails  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4052  
Phone: (651) 259-5619