

*Recommended Approval 6/29/94*

# STATE TRAIL ACQUISITION AND BETTERMENT

## ACCOUNT HISTORY

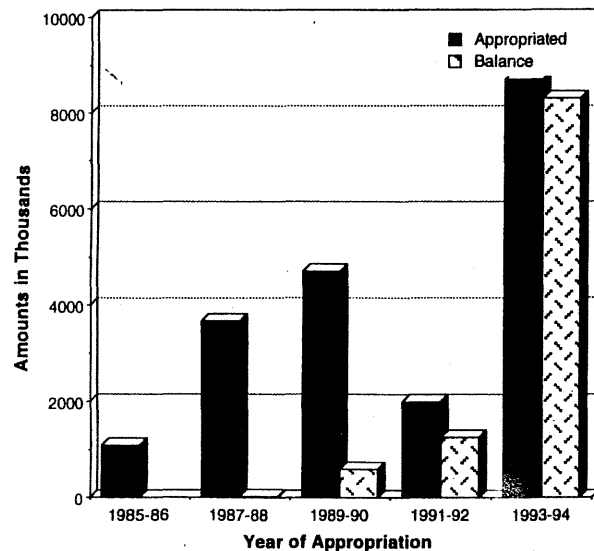
Program Manager: Thomas R, Danger      Phone Number: 296-4782      Division: Trails and Waterways      Department: Natural Resources      Address: 500 Lafayette Road

Amounts in thousands

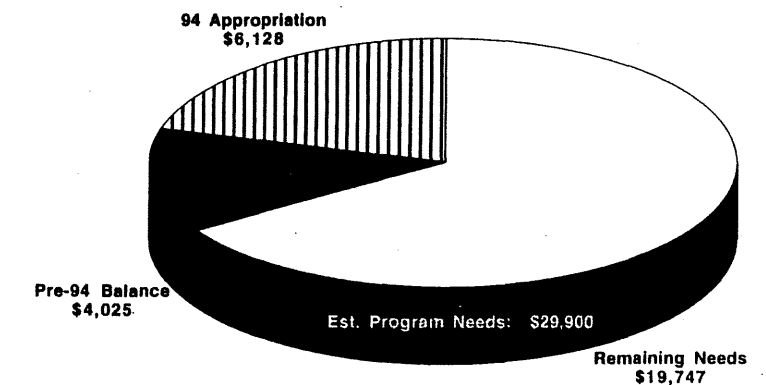
BONDING	Year	Appropriated	Liquid.	Encumb.	Balance	1994 Appropriation Language
Better State Trails	1985	779	669	110	0	1 M.L. 1994, Chapter 643, Section 23, Subd. 13. Trail Rehabilitation. To upgrade, repair, or rehabilitate improvements of a capital nature at Willard Munger trail, Luce Line trail, Sakatah Singing Hills trail, and Northshore trail. Of this amount, \$500,000 is for the completion of the Sakatah Singing Hills trail. \$150,000 is for the Northshore trail, and debt service on the bonds sold to finance this appropriation must be paid from the snowmobile trails account in the natural resources fund to the commissioner of finance as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.643. \$1,350,000
Acq Trails OR Sys	1985	300	300	0	0	
Betterment State Trails	1987	3,676	3,292	365	19	
Acquire and Develop Trails	1989	1,200	1,091	10	99	
Acquire and Develop Trails	1990	3,500	3,004	10	486	2 M.L. 1994, Chapter 643, Section 23, Subd. 21. Trail Acquisition and Development. For acquisition and betterment of state trails as specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.015. This appropriation includes \$378,000 for the Northshore trail. Debt service on the bonds sold to finance the Northshore trail part of this appropriation is appropriated and must be paid from the snowmobile trails account in the natural resources fund to the commissioner of finance as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.643. Of this appropriation, \$100,000 is to build a nonmotorized trail between the entrance to Lake Louise State Park and the city of LeRoy. The commissioner shall determine all other project priorities as appropriate based on need. \$4,778,000
Acquire and Develop Trails	1991	1,000	191	20	789	
Better State Trails	1992	1,000	439	102	459	
Trail Rehabilitation <sup>1</sup>	1994	1,350	0	0	1,350	
Trail Acquisition and Dev <sup>2</sup>	1994	4,778	0	0	4,778	1993 Appropriation Language
SUBTOTAL		17,583	8,986	617	7,980	
<b>TRUST FUND</b>						3 M.L. 1993, Chapter 172, Section 14, Subd. 10(d). Initiate Acquisition of the Gateway Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail into Downtown St. Paul. Of this appropriation, \$200,000 is from the trust fund and \$54,000 is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acquisition and development of the trail right-of-way of the gateway segment of the Willard Munger state trail into downtown St. Paul. This appropriation is for acquisition and development only and must be done in cooperation with the city of St. Paul. \$254,000
Initiate Gateway segment <sup>3</sup>	1993	200	0	0	200	
Acquire and Develop Trails <sup>4</sup>	1993	2,327	323	85	1,919	
SUBTOTAL		2,527	323	85	2,119	4 M.L. 1993, Chapter 172, Section 14, Subd. 10(g). State Trail Development. This appropriation is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to start development of the Paul Bunyan state trail, the development of an abandoned railroad grade located between Barnum and Carlton, and provide for the acquisition and development of a trail connection from Harmony to the Root river state trail. \$2,327,000
<b>FUTURE RESOURCES FUND</b>						
Initiate Gateway segment <sup>3</sup>	1993	54	0	0	54	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20,164</b>	<b>9,309</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>10,153</b>	

Appropriation amounts are net of any cancellations or abandonments. See Appendix B for history.

**Appropriations and Remaining Balances**



**Estimated 10-Year Capital Needs**  
Estimated amount to be expended during the next 2 years: \$8,000



# STATE TRAIL ACQUISITION AND BETTERMENT

## PROGRAM NARRATIVE

### I. Activity Description

Acquisition and betterment of trails administered and managed by the Department of Natural Resources; this includes the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of state trails (e.g., Root River, Sakatah Singing Hills, North Shore, etc.).

The acquisition plan for state trails is composed of the legislatively authorized state trail alignments as authorized in M.S. 85.015 or allowed in M.S. 84.029, Subd. 2. Appropriation legislation often stipulates specific segments of the legislatively authorized system for acquisition and development of each appropriation. The funding of the State Trail Development program is broken down by the following projects and amounts as identified by LCMR: Paul Bunyan State Trail, \$609,000; Barnum to Carlton, \$609,000; Harmony to Preston (Blufflands trail system), \$1,109,000.

### II. Accomplishments Since 1983

The accomplishments for the last ten years include the following: acquisition of 125 miles of abandoned railroad grade; development of over 100 miles of off-road bicycle trail; major rehabilitation of 12.5 miles of state trail; development of 156 miles of state trail primarily for snowmobiling; and rehabilitation and development of 350 miles of trail in 29 projects in state units (state parks and state forests).

### III. Issues from DNR's Directions 1993 Strategic Plan that are addressed by this program

*We will provide opportunities to enjoy our outdoor recreation resources by: developing and maintaining safe, accessible outdoor recreation facilities and providing quality recreation services; documenting the benefits people and communities receive from recreational activities.*

*We will use natural resources to create and share wealth for Minnesota by: ensuring that natural resource products and services are available to meet the needs of society, consistent with our commitment to sound environmental management; supporting opportunities for sustainable resource development and recreation that benefit state and local economies; advocating economic policies that encourage ecosystem protection or reduce abuse.*

## 10-YEAR PROGRAM GOALS

### GOAL A

**The acquisition and development of the Minnesota Valley Trail.**

Source: Laws of MN, 1985, 1987 and 1989.

We estimate that an additional \$5,000,000 will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** Acquisition has been slow because we deal only with willing sellers. Also, a major contract was to be let this summer but due to flooding it had to be postponed. Acquisition and development of the total authorized alignment is expected to be \$5 million. Acquisition and development of the next phase will cost approximately \$1.5 million.

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$69,000.

### GOAL B

**The rehabilitation of the Heartland Trail.**

Source: Laws of MN, 1989, 1994.

We estimate that an additional \$2,245,800 will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problem, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** Initiated bridge rehab but funding was not sufficient for a contract, with additional funds from the new bonding appropriations this project can be completed and the rehab of the trail can be initiated.

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$249,000

### GOAL C

**To acquire and develop the Root River Trail.**

Source: Laws of MN, 1991, 1994.

No additional funds will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** The project consists of the extension of the Root River Trail to Houston. Acquisition has been somewhat difficult due to negotiation problems with some landowners. A contract is about to be let on bike trail from Rushford to Money Creek Woods (6 miles).

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$1,289,000

### GOAL D

**To rehabilitate the Sakatah-Singing Hills Trail and to connect into Faribault and Mankato.**

Source: Laws of MN, 1992, 1994.

No additional funds will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** The trail has been connected into the Mankato bike trail system and 5 miles of trail rehabilitated with black top on the west end. Cost share agreement with the City of Faribault has been negotiated with the city's share to be up to \$40,000. ~~The middle 20 miles still awaits rehab funding.~~ During the summer of 1994, we anticipate paving 10 miles for \$152,000. The remaining twenty miles are planned to be paved the summer of 95 with the new bonding appropriations.

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$637,000

# STATE TRAIL ACQUISITION AND BETTERMENT

## 10-YEAR PROGRAM GOALS

### GOAL E

**To acquire and develop the Blufflands Trail system (Harmony to Preston).**

Source: Laws of MN, 1993, 1994.

No additional funds will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** Acquisition by the trail towns association is near completion. Once completed, the DNR will initiate the acquisition and planning of the trail. Project behind schedule due to unexpected acquisition problems, however they are near resolution.

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$2,009,000

### GOAL F

**To acquire & develop the Willard Munger State Trail.**

**Objective A. Development of Gateway segment**

Source: Laws of MN, 1990.

We estimate that an additional \$3,000,000 will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** The bicycle and horseback trails were developed from I-694 to Pine Point Park in 1992. Response by the public has proven overwhelming in certain areas necessitating enlargement of parking lots, installing water sources and public information systems. Engineering work being done for small projects to rectify erosion problems due to initial trail development. The additional funds needed are for the trail connection to downtown St. Paul. A complete description is in the separate Gateway work program.

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$313,000

**Objective B. Acquire & Develop the Barnum to Carlton segment & rehab the Carlton to West Duluth segment**

Source: Laws of MN, 1990, 1993, 1994.

No additional funds will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** Acquisition of this segment is nearly complete. The only segment still being acquired is the route around the railroad yard in Carlton. Design and construction will be difficult due to the existence of major wetland areas. Anticipate letting of development contract this summer. The additional funds from the new appropriation will be used to rehab slumps on existing trail from Carlton to West Duluth.

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$959,000

### GOAL G

**To acquire & develop the Paul Bunyan State Trail.**

Source: Laws of MN, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994.

We estimate that an additional \$3,100,000 will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** Acquisition is all but completed. Initial development activities include grading, signing, and install bridges. Four bridges installed.

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$3,434,000

### GOAL H

**To develop the Glacial Lakes Trail (Wilmar to Richmond).**

Source: Laws of MN, 1992.

We estimate that an additional \$1,400,000 will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** Preliminary development has been initiated, improvements include culvert replacement and horse trail development. Current plans differ from original development plan in that one segment of the trail will not be paved due to anticipated low useage. This segment will be paved later if use warrants the expense of paving.

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$166,000

### GOAL I

**To acquire & develop the Shooting Star Trail (Lake Louise to LeRoy)**

Source: Laws of MN, 1994.

No additional funds will be needed to complete the Lake Louise to LeRoy Segment. Additional funds will be needed to complete the legislatively authorized segment from LeRoy to Austin.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:**

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$100,000

### GOAL J

**To rehabilitate the Luce Line Trail (Plymouth to Winsted)**

Source: Laws of MN, 1994.

We estimate that an additional \$258,000 will be needed to complete this goal. (Does not include bituminous resurfacing)

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:**

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$350,000

### GOAL K

**To determine the feasibility of the Kettle River Trail**

Source: Laws of MN, 1994

No additional funds will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:**

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$50,000

### GOAL L

**To rehabilitate and extend the Northshore Trail**

Source: Laws of MN, 1994

We estimate that an additional \$160,000 will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:**

**Planned Use of Balance:** \$528,000

### GOAL M

**To rehab existing state trails and to acquire/develop additional state trails**

Source: Laws of MN, 1994

We estimate that an additional \$4,583,200 will be needed to complete this goal.

**Significant Progress & Problems, 01/01/94 - 06/30/94:** The total for this goal does not reflect all of the newly expanded (Douglas & Blufflands) or additional trails (Shooting Star & Prairie Wildflower) added to the system during the last session. Estimates will be made in the near future.

**Planned Use of Balance:** 0

# STATE TRAIL ACQUISITION AND BETTERMENT

## CURRENT BUDGET BY GOAL

### Appropriation Balance Programmed by Goal and Year of Appropriation

Appropriation	Balance as of 05/01/94	GOAL A	GOAL B	GOAL C	GOAL D	GOAL E	GOAL F		GOAL G	GOAL H	GOAL I	GOAL J	GOAL K	GOAL L	TOTAL PROGRAMMED
		Minnesota Valley Trail	Heartland Trail	Root River Trail	Sakatah - Singing Hills Trail	Blufflands Trail	Willard Munger Trail	OBJ A Gateway Seg.	OBJ B Barnum to Carlton Seg.	Paul Bunyan Trail	Glacial Lakes Trail	Shooting Star Trail	Luce Line Trail	Kettle River Trail	
Betterment Bond 1987	19	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Acquire & Develop Bond 1989	99	50	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99
Acquire & Develop Bond 1990	486	0	0	0	0	0	59	250	177	0	0	0	0	0	486
Acquire & Develop Bond 1991	789	0	0	789	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	789
Betterment Bond 1992	459	0	0	0	137	0	0	0	156	166	0	0	0	0	459
Initiate Gateway T. F. 1993	200	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
Initiate Gateway FRF 1993	54	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
Acquire & Develop T.F. 1993	1,919	0	0	0	0	1,109	0	609	201	0	0	0	0	0	1,919
Trail Rehab Bond 1994	1,350	0	200	0	500	0	0	100	0	0	0	350	50	150	1,350
Acq. & Develop Bond 1994	4,778	0	0	500	0	900	0	0	2,900	0	100	0	0	378	4,778
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,153</b>	<b>\$69</b>	<b>\$249</b>	<b>\$1,289</b>	<b>\$637</b>	<b>\$2,009</b>	<b>\$313</b>	<b>\$959</b>	<b>\$3,434</b>	<b>\$166</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$528</b>	<b>\$10,153</b>

See "Program Exhibits" on pages 27-28 for trail map.

# State Trail Map

