

Submitted on:

1/30/2014

Managing Entity:

**NDPRD
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58503**

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Trail Project Name:

**PGSRA - Non-
Motorized Phase
II**

Description of Proposed Project:

The PGSRA - Non-Motorized Phase II project will add 2-3 miles of trail to an existing trail located in the Little North Pembina Gorge within the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area. The trail will be

designated as a non-motorized trail open to hiking, biking, and equestrian use, as well as other quiet recreation uses.

Property Location Information

Urban or Rural Development: **Rural**

Address Line 1: **101 5th St**
Address Line 2: **Walhalla**
City: **Walhalla**
County: **Pembina**
State: **ND**
Zip Code: **58282**
Township: N **163.00**
Range: W **57.00**
Township Section: **18**
Length of New Trail: **3.00**
Length of Total Trail if Project is an Extension: **6.00**

General Funding and Property Information

Total Cost: **100,000.00**
Fund Amount: **80,000.00**

Is this Project an Extension to an Existing Trail Project?

Who Holds the Title to the Project Land?

The state of North Dakota holds title to the project land.

Estimated Start Date: **7/15/2015**

Estimated End Date: **10/31/2015**

Classification of Land:

State **Federal** **Local** **Private**

Check all of the uses the Project impacts:

Walking/Hiking **Bicycling** **Horseback Riding** **Cross-Country Skiing**

In-line Skating **Snowmobiling** **ATV Riding** **Off-road Motorcycling**

4x4 Trucking Other:

Does the Project fall substantially within a federal highway right-of-way? **No**

Federal Funding Sources

Local Funding Sources

Requirement

1. A project description sufficient to understand the project. Indicate prominently whether this is primarily a maintenance request, an enhancement to an existing trail, new development, acquisition, length of trail etc. Please explain if the application is for one or more phases of a multi-phase project.

The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area trail development is a multi-phase project for the ND Parks and Recreation Department in which the primary goal is to establish a corridor to develop a multi-use trail system open for motorized and non-motorized recreation. Currently, we have created a 22 mile looped multiuse system and approximately 2.5 miles of strictly non-motorized trails. In this project, we'd like to add another 2-3 miles of non-motorized trails to provide specifically for quiet recreation users including hikers, bikers, equestrian users and birders.

2. Clearly defined goals for the project (with a delineation of which user groups would benefit from the project).

The goal for this project is provide the infrastructure for trail users to experience the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area utilizing non-motorized recreation methods such as hiking, biking, birding, etc. Adding additional trails designated for these purposes expands our user base and allows the PGSRA to be a destination for multiple users or even the same users utilizing different methods of recreation.

3. Costs associated with the project (with estimates of the following components: material/service purchases including hardware, paint, lumber, sand/gravel concrete, landscape materials, signs, design/engineering services and contractor services).

1. 3 miles of new trail construction:	\$90,000
2. Surfacing/Armoring Material (gravel, rock)	\$6,500
3. <u>Trailhead and Trail Signage:</u>	<u>\$3,500</u>
Total:	\$100,000

4. Evidence of local/area support (e.g., council resolutions, minutes of public meetings, letters of support, etc).

Local and area support has been great for this project. The city of Walhalla recently went through a strategic plan building process. The project was called Beginning Again North Dakota (BAND). Through this process, goals of the city were identified as to what needs to happen for Walhalla to survive and prosper. One of the goals identified was to "Increase Tourism in Area". According to their plan, one way to do that was to develop natural resources as a way to bring in tourists to the area. The Pembina Gorge Recreation Area was at the top of their list to reach this goal. The adjacent land owners understand the importance of building, maintaining and patrolling a trail system throughout the Pembina Gorge as a way to control the use of the gorge and manage it responsibly. Refer to the Master Plan for Trail Development in the Turtle Mountains and Pembina Gorge areas. (<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/recreation/planning/trailplan.pdf>).

5. Availability/access to 20% match for eligible elements of the project proposal. Matching funds must not be from other federal sources such as Transportation Enhancement through the Department of Transportation. A resolution from the sponsor of the project regarding the availability of funds will be required prior to any award of a grant.

Matching funds will be available and provided by the State of North Dakota.

6. Identification of the sponsor of the project: This organization or unit of government will be legally responsible for the project.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department will be legally responsible for this project.

7. Evidence of applicant capability (e.g., ability to carry out project, and for development projects, to operate, maintain, and protect trail and facilities when completed).

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's plan for developing and maintaining the project includes on-site management. The Pembina Gorge Project Manager is stationed in Walhalla and is responsible for managing the lands associated with the trail project. The manager is also responsible for enforcing the laws associated with the trails.

8. Written Assurances (if applicable). Produce leases or written assurances that the project will be open for public use.

Project Description – Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area Hiking Trail Phase II

The Pembina Gorge Hiking Trail Phase II project is an extension of the Phase I project in the Little North Pembina River Gorge that will include 2-3 miles of new trails designated for non-motorized use. This project will extend the newly constructed 2.5 miles of trail, providing an approximate 5 mile looped hiking opportunity in the Pembina Gorge. The Pembina Gorge and surrounding area is quickly becoming a destination for hiking, biking, birding, horseback riding, as well as the motorized trail uses. The goals of the NDPRD are to provide access to and build sustainable trails that provide users with a challenging and enjoyable experience, while maintaining and enhancing the integrity and sustainability of the natural resources of the Pembina Gorge and surrounding area. This area of the Little North Pembina Gorge provides the landscape for the department to do this. The Little North Pembina Gorge offers an opportunity to provide a network of non-motorized trails through woodlands, overlooking rivers, and traversing terrain not commonly found in North Dakota. The trail will overlook a large beaver pond, run a ridge overlooking the Little North Pembina River, and traverse through a beautiful mix of oak/ash/aspen woodland. It will provide a wonderful opportunity for quiet recreation in the area.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Site and project quality:** consideration of the needs of the intended trail user group(s); aesthetic quality of the trail location; appropriateness of the trail for the intended or existing uses; clarity, detail, and quality of project plan/design; quality of existing development (if any) on site or in corridor; attention to safety, accessibility and health considerations.

The Pembina Gorge provides a picturesque trail opportunity in North Dakota. The trail will traverse over a variety of terrain through the Pembina Gorge, which contains the largest continuously, undisturbed forested land in North Dakota, which provides for a very unique trail experience in North Dakota. The trail will be built according to IMBA standards and be suitable for a variety of users including hikers, bikers, birders, etc. The addition of more non-motorized trail opportunities will provide those user groups with more opportunities to recreate in the way they have been accustomed and will lessen the burden of the main multiuse trail to provide suitable opportunities for all users. The Master Plan for Trail Development in the Turtle Mountain and Pembina Gorge (<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/recreation/planning/trailplan.pdf>) outlines the process of trail building and design criteria to build safe and sustainable trails.

2. **Public need for and benefit of project:** safety concerns, urgency of action, potential to lose the opportunity, number of people who would benefit from the project when compared to cost. Why should this project be funded? How many people could be expected to use the trail over the course of the year as a result of funding the project?

The need for this project is very clear in the ND SCORP. With trails and trail development the number one priority for recreational development, this provides a perfect opportunity to expand the user base for the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area to include more of the non-motorized users. The focus up to this point has been mostly to deal with the issue of unauthorized motorized use. This trail extension will provide other users an opportunity to explore the Pembina Gorge in a quiet recreation fashion. The trail could potentially be used by thousands of people throughout the course of the year as more and more people become familiar with the Pembina Gorge and see the value in its uniqueness in the Red River Valley as well as the entire state.

3. **Context of the project in a wider plan:** demonstrated compatibility with local/region/area trail plans and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. For proposed facilities, what relationship does the proposed development/acquisition have to other outdoor recreation facilities and trails?

The Pembina Gorge Recreation Area was identified in the Master Plan for Trail Development in the Turtle Mountain and Pembina Gorge (<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/recreation/planning/trailplan.pdf>) which outlines the need for managed trail systems in North Dakota. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified trails and trail development as the number one priority for recreational development. This project will support the development of trails according to this plan.

4. **Attention to the potential environmental impact of the project and efforts to mitigate adverse effects:** Possible areas of consideration include but are not limited to: noise, odors, dust, surface erosion, fish and wildlife populations, damage to wetlands, or other ecologically sensitive natural resources or historical/archeological remains. A cultural review letter or document should be included with the application. All applications are subject to review by the State Historical Society.

The environmental impacts are addressed in the design criteria set forth by the Master Plan for Trail Development in the Turtle Mountain and Pembina Gorge (<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/recreation/planning/trailplan.pdf>). As impact effects vary from location to location, care will be taken to minimize adverse effects along the trail and the surrounding area. The natural resource division will inventory the trail corridor for sensitive plant communities and address any other natural resource issues in construction of the non-motorized trail.

5. **Impact on adjoining landowners in the vicinity of the project:** Identify adverse impacts that might be realized as a result of completing the project, and how the projects design attempts to mitigate adverse impacts. How might the project improve conditions for adjacent landowners?

The impact on adjoining landowners can be positive or negative depending on the person. By creating a trail system, it would provide residents with a recreational opportunity which in most cases betters the quality of life in that area. If a person is not open to new people in the area, they might see this in an adverse light. By proper enforcement and education of the users as well as the adjacent landowners, we can work to minimize any adverse impacts that might come from a trail system.



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SOCIETY
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Director

Accredited by the
American Association
of Museums since 1986

August 22, 2012

Mr. Mike Duerre
ND Parks and Recreation Department
101 5th St
Walhalla ND 58282

ND SHPO Ref.:12-0963 ND Parks & Recreation Dept. Pembina Gorge State
Recreation Area's multi-use trails four miles of new trail in portions of
[T163N R58W Section 18] Cavalier County, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Duerre,

We reviewed ND SHPO Ref.:12-0963 ND Parks & Recreation Dept. Pembina
Gorge State Recreation Area's multi-use trails four miles of new trail in portions
of [T163N R58W Section 18] Cavalier County, North Dakota, and the
associated Metcalf report "North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's
Pembina Gorge Non-Motorized Trails: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory
in Cavalier County, North Dakota." If consulted by a federal agency, we would
concur with a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination, provided the
project remains as described and mapped in the above-captioned report.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions
please contact Susan Quinnell, Review and Compliance Coordinator at (701)
328-3576, e-mail squinnell@nd.gov

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
and Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

12-0963

Project Location



Pembina Hills

Pembina County

Walhalla

32

Tetrault Woods State Forest

Cavalier County

North Dakota

Charles V. Pulver



