



Rotary International District 5580

District Grant-Local Community Project

2017-18 Application

Grant # 18.1.02

Note: Rotarians completing this District Grant Application should submit this form to the appropriate Rotary International District 5580 Grants Committee Mentor (GCM) and D5580 Grants Committee Chair (GCC). Contact information is available at www.clubrunner.ca/5580 **Forms to be submitted typed, not hand written.**

NOTE: Select a box, double click on it. Then, from the sub-menu select checked or not checked, then click on Okay.
Application [document must be completed in its entirety, including signatures]

District Grant Project Title:	Bog Walk		
Primary Contact's Name:	Jeff Hardwig	Rotary Club:	International Falls
Phone (B):	218 283-9431	@:	
Phone (H):	218 286-4029	(F):	
Email:	jeffhardwig@gmail.com		
Mentor's Name:	David Gottenborg	Phone:	(218) 863 2134 (O) 863 2133 (H)
		Email:	gott2134@loretel.net
Date Submitted	25March2017	Estimate d Timeline	Start Late summer, finish by winter 2017

SECTION 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Explanation: District Grants support the humanitarian service projects of Rotary clubs and districts. In this section, describe in detail the humanitarian need your project will address, the intent of the project, how the project will be implemented, and how Rotarians will be directly involved in the project. **Rotarian involvement is required and a one year timeline is requested (start to finish).**

Please provide the name of the project site, the city or village, state or province, and country. List multiple locations, if applicable.

Project site:	Tilson Creek Cross Country Ski Trail
City / Village:	8 miles East of International Falls, adjacent to Tilson Bay, Rainy Lake
State / Province:	Minnesota
Country:	USA

Describe the project and the problem or need it will address, including the intended beneficiaries and how the project will benefit the community in need. Provide the estimated length of time needed to complete the project including a START (cannot start prior to July 1st) and END DATE.

An 8' wide, ½ mile long boarded walkway is proposed across the Tilson Bay Bog on Rainy Lake. This will provide 4 season access to the beauty, flora and fauna of the bog but also 15 miles of upland ski trail which is currently inaccessible except in winter. This will benefit not only the ski club which is responsible for trail maintenance but also hikers, fat tire and trail bikers, birdwatchers, photographers and students on field trips. There currently is no access to the trail system except across private property, except in winter when the bog is frozen. This makes trail

maintenance difficult. The walkway solves this problem and simultaneously creates tourism, recreational, fitness, quality of life, and educational opportunities for the community.

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

How will this project meet the mission of Rotary Foundation?

The Bog Walk will create a variety of fitness activities which are sorely needed in our community. On a number of health and wellness metrics Koochiching County ranks poorly among Minnesota Counties.

[http://www.bridgetohealthsurvey.org/images/pdfs/CountyReports2015/KOOCHICHING 2015 %20BTH%20County%20Report%20First %20Edition.pdfhttps://apps.health.state.mn.us/mndata/](http://www.bridgetohealthsurvey.org/images/pdfs/CountyReports2015/KOOCHICHING%202015%20BTH%20County%20Report%20First%20Edition.pdfhttps://apps.health.state.mn.us/mndata/)

We have obtained strong letters of support from elementary, high school, and college teachers who are eager to make use of the Bog Walk as an outdoor classroom. The Bog Walk will open up a currently unavailable natural setting to study the ecology of the bog and surrounding land and water. One of the college professors added in conversation that aside from its potential as a classroom, she was looking forward to its recreational potential.

The quality of life enhancing potential of the Bog Walk may help the community retain people that choose to move to the area. Koochiching County has had a declining population for 40 years.

The Bog Walk will be a destination for local and statewide Birdwatchers and photographers who have said they will use the Bog Walk to observe species particular to the bog environment.

SECTION 2: PROJECT BUDGET

Explanation: For detailed information on what TRF will fund, please see *The Guide to Matching Grants* (144-EN). Official RI exchange rates can be found at www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/SiteTools/DownloadLibrary/Pages/ridefault.aspx . Please use the most recent rate. Your estimated costs below must include quotes from a bona-fide vendor if costs for items exceed \$100.

Budget Item	Name of Supplier	Amount
2640 linear feet of 8-foot wide boardwalk, made of 6X6 treated timbers, 2X8 treated deck, and 2X4 treated stiffeners	To be determined	\$200,000
	Up North Builders estimate from last year is attached. Cost estimates, material and labor, have gone up and a new estimate has been requested.	

SECTION 3: PROJECT PLANNING

Explanation: Before an application is submitted to Rotary International District 5580 GC, project partners should discuss various planning details. The questions below are a guide to aid project planning. Note that a Rotary club/district or Rotarian may not own or benefit from anything purchased with grant funds.

Identify who will own equipment and maintain, operate, and secure items purchased with grant funds. (A Rotary club or Rotarian cannot own equipment.)

Polar Polers Ski Club

Will training in use and maintenance of technical equipment (including software) be provided? If so, who will provide training?

NA

Describe how the benefiting community will maintain this project after grant funding has been fully expended.

Polar Polers Ski Club, founded in 1984 is a State Grant In Aid Club. It is the Clubs responsibility to maintain the 15 miles of ski Trail. The proposed Bog Walk covers ½ mile of the existing trail which crosses the bog south of the trailhead. The Ski Club will continue to maintain the Bog Walk as part of the Ski Trail. The Polar Polers Ski Club is pending 501(c)3 Not for Profit status.

Describe specific activities of the benefiting community partners in implementing the project.

Community members have written letters of support including Voyageur's National Park's Superintendent. Park employees are members of the Ski Club and our ski trail Connects with Voyageurs National Park trails.

Elementary, high school and college teachers support the project with letters of support given its potential as an outdoor classroom.

A local sporting goods store which sells fat tire bikes has donated money and written a letter of support.

The executive director of Friends of Sax-ZimBog, a not for profit whose mission is to preserve, promote and protect important bird areas has written a letter of support.

Rotarians are in the Ski Club and have volunteered time on the Ski Club Board and have volunteered labor to expand and maintain the existing trail.

Local restaurant and Motel owners have donated to the project.

Our biggest donor so far is the Essentia Health Foundation which is convinced of the wellness promoting potential of the Bog Walk.

How will Rotarians be involved the project? Please note that financial support is not considered active involvement. (See the District Grant application instructions for suggestions.)

As mentioned above. Rotarians serve on the Board of the Ski Club and as general members. Rotarians have volunteered labor to expand and maintain the trail system. Rotarians are actively fundraising to get the project built. Rotarians will volunteer labor to build the Bog Walk and maintain the trail as they have for years.

Indicate what financial arrangements have been made to pay for this project (i.e. Are you working with other organizations or are Rotarian contributions a part of your funding)?

The Koochiching County Board of Commissioners has agreed to fund the total cost of the project up front which is a requirement of the Federal Recreation Trail Program Grant.

The County Boards funding is contingent on the successful award of the Federal Grant which will give 75% of the total cost or \$150,000

This leaves up to \$50,000 for the Polar Polers Ski Club to raise through fundraising. A small portion of the \$50,000 dollars can be offset through volunteer labor which will earn a maximum of

\$16 dollars an hour, likely less than \$3000 dollars, given the plan to hire Minnesota Youth Corps volunteers.

Federal Recreational Trail Program Grant.....150,000

Polar Polers Responsibility.....50,000

The 50,000 dollars will be raised by in kind labor reimbursed at 16 dollars an hour (less than 3000 dollars)

Donations from private citizens, club members, service clubs, local businesses and foundations.

Other grants: 5000 dollars is being requested of Koochiching Community Development Association.

Our efforts so far, not including this request is9000

Have the sponsor clubs/districts planned and agreed to fund plumbing or electrification for equipment and appliances in existing buildings (hospitals, schools, libraries, orphanages, etc.)?

NA

SECTION 4: ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5580 - PRIMARY CLUB

Explanation: The Rotary International District 5580 primary club is the club sponsoring the project. A committee of at least three Rotarians from this club must be established to oversee the project. The primary project contact must be a member of the primary club identified below. The project committee must be composed of members of the sponsor Rotary club for club-sponsored projects or district for district-sponsored projects. The committee members must be committed for the duration of the grant process. Please provide the primary address for all committee members, as all Rotary information will be sent to this address. It is highly recommended that the primary contact (who receives all information from the District Grants Subcommittee) have an e-mail address to expedite communication.

Primary Club

Club

1403 International Falls
5580

Club ID

number 1403
Country USA

Primary Contact:

Name: Jeff Hardwig

Member ID: 2072132

Club

: International Falls

Rotary

position: Past President

Address

s: 2593 County Road 103

City

: International Falls

State/Province

e: Minnesota

Postal

code: 56649

Country: USA

E-

mail: jeffhardwig@gmail.com

Cell

phone: 218 324 1364 (doesn't work at my home)

Home phone: 218 286-4029

Office

phone: 218 283-9431

Fax:

Project Contact #2:

Name: Randy Pozniak

Member ID: 425753

Club

: International Falls

Rotary

position: Treasurer

Address

s: 213 3rd Street

City

: International Falls

State/Province

e: MN

Postal

code: 56649

Country: USA

E-

mail: rpozniak@frontiernet.net

Cell

phone: 218 240 5233

Home phone: 218 286 3307

Office

phone: 218 283 8148

218

283

9616

218 283 9616

Project Contact #3:

Name: D. Carol Grim

Inter 1645763

Club

: International Falls

Rotary

Past President

position:			
Address:			
s: 2636 County Road 94			
City: International Falls			
State/Province: MIN		Postal code: 56649	Country: USA
E-mail: CLgrim57@midco.com		Cell phone: 218 240 5101	
Home phone: 218 286 5649		Office phone:	Fax: 218 540 0122

SECTION 6: PROJECT FINANCING

Explanation: Clearly list all financing in U.S. dollars noting which funds will be contributed in cash and which will be contributed from District Grant Funds (DGF). The district Rotary Foundation Committee Chair must authorize use of District Grant Funds.

Project finances must match projected project budget.

NOTE: No funds should be spent and no work should be started on this specific project prior to official Rotary International District 5580 Grants Committee approval. Upon approval, a notice will be sent to the sponsors informing them of approval and providing detailed instructions on how and where to submit their contributions and reports.

RI District 5580 Rotary clubs	Cash (US\$)	DGF (US\$)	DRFC Chair D-5580	DRFC Chair Authorization	Dist. Governor D-5580	Dist. Governor Authorization
Rotary of International Falls	\$1000	\$1000				
Total D-5580 Club & DG Funds	\$1000	\$1000	Keith Brokke		Debra Warner	
Subtotals, Cash and DGF						
TOTAL Cosponsor contributions	\$2000					
Additional non-Rotarian outside funding (not matched by or forwarded to RI District 5580)	\$198,000					
Total project financing (Must equal Project Budget page Total)	\$200,000					

SECTION 7: AUTHORIZATIONS

Explanation: Authorizations ensure that all partners are aware of, and interested in, pursuing the described project. By signing below, the current club presidents for club-sponsored projects and current district grants subcommittee chair for district-sponsored projects, as well as the committee members, agree to the criteria listed and affirm their support of the project.

All Rotary clubs, districts, and Rotarians involved in this project are responsible to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) for the implementation of the project and its subsequent reporting. The signatures of all involved parties confirm that they understand and accept responsibility for the project. Parties may either sign this page or submit a separate letter of commitment.

By signing the next page below, we agree to the following:

- **All information contained in this application is, to the best of our knowledge, true and accurate, and we intend to implement the project as presented in this application. Any alterations or changes in scope must have the expressed approval of the D5580 Grants Committee Chair.**
- **The club/district agrees to undertake this project as an activity of the club/district.**
- **We ensure all cash contributions (as detailed in Project Financing) will be forwarded directly to the project account after RI D-5580 Grants Committee approval of the grant.**
- **RI D-5580, RI and TRF may use information contained in this application to promote the project by various means such as district publications, The Rotarian, the RI international convention, RVM: The Rotarian Video Magazine, etc.**
- **The partners agree to share information on best practices when asked, and RI D-5580 and TRF may provide partners' contact information to other Rotarians who may wish advice on implementing similar projects.**
- **To the best of my knowledge and belief, except as disclosed herewith, neither I nor any person with whom I have or had a personal or business relationship is engaged, or intends to engage, in benefiting from TRF grant funds or has any interest that may represent a potential competing or conflicting interest. A conflict of interest is defined as a situation in which a Rotarian, in relationship to an outside organization, is in a position to influence the spending of TRF grant funds, or influence decisions in ways that could lead directly or indirectly to financial gain for the Rotarian, a business colleague, or his or her family, or give improper advantage to others to the detriment of TRF. (NOTE: Any and all exceptions must be explained in an attached statement.)**
- **The club agrees to comply with all applicable terms and conditions of "The Rotary Foundation Memorandum of Understanding" and "The Rotary Foundation Future Vision RI District 5580 Addendum to The Rotary Foundation Club Memorandum of Understanding". The Rotary Foundation, RI D-5580 Audit Committee and/or the RI D-5580 District Foundation Compliance Officer have the authorization to audit the project at any time.**

Primary Contact #1 (RI District 5580)	
Name	Jeff Hardwig
Signature	<i>Jeff Hardwig</i>
Date	25 MAR 2017
Project Contact #2	
Name	Randy Poverly
Signature	<i>Randy Poverly</i>
Date	25 MARCH 2017
Project Contact #3	
Name	Carol Thum
Signature	<i>Carol Thum</i>
Date	3/25/2017

#4 club President (2016-2017)
Rotary Club of Int'l Falls.
David McKee

David McKee
Date 4/21/17

Club President (2017-18)
#5
Name *Ty Pat*
Signature *Ty Pat*
Date 5-17-17

SECTION 8: COOPERATING ORGANIZATION

Explanation: A cooperating organization is an organization that is directly involved in the implementation of the project, offering technical expertise and project coordination. A benefiting entity is the recipient of goods or services and is not considered a cooperating organization.

If this project involves a cooperating organization (neither a Rotary club nor the beneficiary of the project), provide the following:

Name of organization: Polar Poles Sld Club (501(c)3 pending)

Street Address: PO Box 1555

City, State/Province: International Falls, Minnesota Postal code: 56649 Country: USA

Office phone: none Fax: Web address:

E-mail: PolarPoles@gmail.com

In addition to the above, the following must be attached:

- Letter of participation from cooperating organization that specifically states:
 - its responsibilities and how it will interact with Rotarians
 - The organization's agreement to cooperate in any financial review of the project

SECTION 9: FINAL REPORT

Explanation: Although all partners are responsible for completing progress and final reports, the D-5580 Grants Committee requires that one partner takes primary responsibility for submitting the final report to the D-5580 Grants Committee Chair Person. It is recommended but not required that the club or district receiving the funds should take primary responsibility. In any case, this signature of reporting responsibility should be that of one of the primary club's/districts project contacts.

"By signing below, our club/district accepts primary reporting responsibility."

Print Name: Jeff Hardwig

Signature

e:

District: 5580 Rotary Club:

International Falls

Jeff Hardwig

SECTION 10: D-5580 GRANTS COMMITTEE MENTOR REVIEW

Explanation: The D-5580 Grants Committee Chair will assign a mentor to help in preparing the District Grant. Once the mentor is satisfied that the application is complete, the mentor will sign off (below). Applications cannot be submitted without the mentor's signature.

"On behalf of the committee, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and ability this grant application is complete, meets all TRF guidelines, and is eligible for funding."

GC Mentor:Gottenborg

Signature

Reviewed by David Gottenborg DC

District: 5580

Date

3-22-2017

SECTION 11: COMPLETION CHECKLIST

Before submitting your District Grant application, please take a moment to review this checklist. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the appropriate District Grants Mentor or D-5580 Grants Committee Chair Person.

NOTE: To select a box, double click on it. Then, from the sub-menu select checked or not checked, then click on Okay

- ☐ The project meets all grant policies and guidelines (see *The Guide to Matching Grants* [144-EN] or the RI Web site at www.rotary.org).
- ☐ The project description clearly states how the project will assist those in need.
- ☐ The activities of Rotary International District 5580 clubs are clearly explained. The Rotarians will be actively involved in the project.
- ☐ The District 5580 club(s) and partners have created committees to oversee the project. These individuals are correctly listed on the application with their complete contact information.
- ☐ A detailed, itemized budget is included in the application.
- ☐ All partner contributions are listed in the application, noting which contributions will be cash and which will be DGF.
- ☐ The Rotary Club President and District Grants Committee Chair from District 5580 (and partner(s)) have provided their authorizing signatures.
- ☐ All committee members (three for projects within D-5580) have provided their authorizing signatures.
- ☐ or ☐ N.A. If a cooperating organization is involved, the following letters are included with the application:
 1. ☐ or ☐ N.A. A letter from the organization specifically stating its responsibilities, how it will interact with Rotarians, and agreeing to cooperate in any financial review of the project.
 2. ☐ or ☐ N.A. A letter of endorsement from the NGO partner confirming that the cooperating organization is reputable and works within the laws of that community / country,
 3. ☐ or ☐ N.A. If the project involves a revolving loan or microcredit, are the Revolving Loan Fund Supplement and Credit Group Plan included?
- ☐ The DRFC chair has provided his/her signature authorizing the use of District Grant Funds.
- ☐ The District Governor has provided his/her signature authorizing the use of District Grant Funds.
- ☐ The D-5580 Grants Committee Mentor has certified the application as complete and eligible.
- ☐ The Rotary Club (and partners) have made copies of all documents for their files prior to submitting electronically to District 5580 Grants Chair David Long long@arvig.net and Diane Collins bigfish@uslink.net Diane will post to the District website www.clubrunner.ca/5580 for the D-5580 Grants Committee to review.



Jeff Hardwig <jeffhardwig@gmail.com>

Fw: Bog Walk Quote

5 messages

Burgess Eberhardt <bur2gess@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Burgess Eberhardt <bur2gess@yahoo.com>
To: Jeff Hardwig <jeffhardwig@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 23, 2017 at 7:36 AM

Will this do it? All I used on the original request was a printout.

Burgess

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Michael Gedde <mgedde@upnorthbuildersinc.com>
To: 'Burgess Eberhardt' <bur2gess@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:43 PM
Subject: RE: Bog Walk Quote

Burgess,

Attached is our labor and materials breakdown. Please let me know if there is anything else we can do for you.

Mike

Michael G. Gedde
Project Manager
Up North Builders Inc.
P: (218) 285-3635
F: (218) 285-3638



From: Burgess Eberhardt [mailto:bur2gess@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 4:33 PM
To: Michael Gedde
Subject: Re: Bog Walk Quote

Hi Mike,

Can you provide a breakout of labor and materials?

We'll need that for the State and so I can see how much donated labor can amount to. After I see that, I'll stop in again to discuss it with you.

Estimate Totals By Category

Customer ID: Ski Club

Customer Name: Ski Club

Project ID: Bog Walk

Project Description: Bog Walk

Estimate ID: cost summa

Estimate Description: Cost Summary

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Labor	68,160.00	47.54 %	0.00
Material	75,214.00	52.46 %	
Equipment	0.00	0.00 %	0.00
Subcontract	0.00	0.00 %	
Other	0.00	0.00 %	
Total Estimate	143,374.00		

21 March 2017

LETTER OF PARTICIPATION FROM COOPERATING ORGANIZATION

Dear Rotarians

This letter is being provided as part of the Rotary International District 5580 District Grant Local Community Project Application. I represent the Cooperating Organization, the Polar Polers Ski Club which is pending Not- For- Profit 501(c)3 status. I am its immediate past president and have been working with the board of directors of the ski club on this project for the past two years. I have also been a Rotarian since 1993 and was a past president of the Rotary Club of International Falls. The scope of this project which greatly expanded the ski club's usual cross country skiing mission to benefit the larger community beyond skiers, led us to seek a charitable organization status.

The Poler Polers Ski Club has the Responsibility as a Grant-In Aid recipient to maintain the integrity of the ski trail and groom it in winter.

The proposed Bog Walk project covers one half mile of that same trail.

We will continue to have primary responsibility to maintain the trail and Bog Walk.

We are a club of volunteers and will seek in the future as we have in the past, community volunteers to expand and maintain the trail system. Rotarians have volunteered for this work for years. Another Rotarian's father, now deceased, helped create the original trail in 1984. She has been and continues to volunteer for the ski club, currently its treasurer and has been a Rotarian for around 20 years.

The ski club has taken the initiative to seek funding for the project, a huge task for a group our size but we are determined to see it through. Apart from this grant application, Rotary has assumed no other fundraising role.

Poler Polers will abide by the reporting requirements of this grant. We will make announcements as to the progress of the project at our weekly Rotary meetings.

We appreciate the support the Rotary Club of International Falls has shown and they are the best examples of generosity and hardworking service above self. We value our relationship and look forward to continued cooperation on the ski trail and Bog Walk.

Jeff Hardwig (Immediate Past President Polar Polers Ski Club)
2593 County Road 103, International Falls, Mn. 56649
218 286-4029 (H)



KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE
715 4th Street
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN 56649

March 3, 2017

District 1
Wade Pavleck
P.O. Box 1253
Intl Falls, Mn 56649
218-286-5273

To Whom It May Concern:

District 2
Kevin Adee
3176 Co. Rd. 24
Intl Falls, Mn 56649
218-283-2035

I am submitting written support from Koochiching County for the Polar Polers Ski Club Federal Recreational Trail Grant Application to construct a one half mile boardwalk across swamp land to access the Tilson Creek Ski Trail. This access will greatly expand recreational opportunities for the public in providing year-round access to the trail for skiing, biking and hiking.

District 3
Brian McBride
2311 2nd Avenue East
Intl Falls, Mn 56649
218-283-3613

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Adee

District 4
Ron Norby
2699 Town Road 403 W
Intl Falls, Mn 56649
218-283-4113

Kevin Adee
Koochiching County Board Chair

District 5
Wayne Skoe
11966 Highway 1
Northome, MN 56661
218-244-5748



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**Voyageurs National Park
360 Highway 11 East
International Falls, MN 56649**



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4.B.1 (temp 5 yrs)

December 28, 2016

Subject: Letter of Support
Tilson Creek Ski Trail Bog Walk

Dear Sir or Madam:

As Superintendent of Voyageurs National Park, it is my pleasure to offer a letter of support for a Polar Polers Ski Club grant application. Funding of this project will make it possible to build a half mile long, eight foot wide, boarded walkway into the Tilson Creek ski trail system.

Voyageurs National Park has a cooperative relationship with the Polar Polers Ski Club, and a common interest in promoting cross country skiing to the community and visitors. Numerous park employees and their family members are also active in the ski club.

The Tilson Creek trail system connects with one of Voyageur's National Park ski trails, which also connects with hiking and snowshoe trails at the Rainy Lake Visitor's Center. Trail maintenance is a challenge due to limited access, other than winter when the bog is frozen. The boarded walkway will provide four season access for trail maintenance. It will enhance recreation uses and enable access to the unique bog habitat, which is home to particular bird species of interest to bird watching enthusiasts.

Because of our interconnected trails, the bog walk will increase access and enjoyment to both trail systems. Please consider supporting this project, which will greatly increase recreational opportunities in a peaceful outdoor setting.

Sincerely,

Robert J. DeGross
Superintendent

December 22, 2016

ISD 361

1515 11th Street

International Falls, MN 56649

To whom it may concern:

Innovative educational opportunities are the academic spice of life for teachers and students. The *addition of a "bog walk" across the Tilson Bay black spruce bog would provide students, from around the region, a unique, cross disciplinary bonanza of educational resources.*

The Tilson Bay bog is a unique ecosystem situated within the eroded remnants of the ancient Rainy Lake Seine River Fault Zone. The ecosystem includes a variety of pristine wetland habitats ranging from spruce and tamarack bog, cattail marsh, to ash swamp along the fringes. Including rare insectivore plants like sundew and pitcher plants, a unique geological environment, and the opportunity to explore, firsthand, the historical and ecological significance of the timber industry, the bog is an ideal example of a perfect natural outdoor classroom. Currently, however, access to the bog is limited by the nature of the bog itself and because of the fragility of the ecosystem in the absence of a boardwalk.

ISD 361 and many members of our teaching staff would welcome and most definitely utilize the diverse educational possibilities inherent in the construction of a wooden bog walk across the Tilson Bay bog. Not only would the boardwalk provide access to the bog itself, but also enable quick and efficient passage for students and teachers to access the well groomed trail system throughout the upland forest south of the bog. With the construction of a boardwalk the entire region and its ecological diversity becomes accessible as an outdoor learning classroom both academically and as a prime outdoor physical education resource.

As conscientious educators, the below signed teachers and staff are a small fraction of the faculty at ISD 361 excited about the potential to teach beyond the brick and mortar walls of our classrooms.

Therefore, we highly support the construction of a boardwalk across the Tilson Bay bog and the obvious educational opportunities that would become available for our students.

Sincerely,

Kevin Grover Superintendent ISD #361

Carol Jaksa Science Teacher

Don Rolando Science Teacher

Lisa Auran Elementary Teacher

Heather Ebel Elementary Teacher

Katie Winkel Elementary Teacher

Chris Hemstad Science Teacher

Tony Casareto Science Teacher

Lisa West Sixth Grade Science Teacher

Kim McDonald Elementary Teacher

Nicci Wood Elementary Teacher



WWW.RAINYRIVER.EDU

1501 HIGHWAY 71
INTERNATIONAL FALLS
MINNESOTA 56649

TEL: 218.285.7722
FAX: 218.285.2239

A member of
Minnesota State

12/15/2016

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Tilson Creek bog walk trail project. I teach Biology classes at Rainy River Community College in International Falls, and would love to be able to use the Tilson Creek area as a field site for lab projects. I tried to take a class there a few years ago, but it was too wet to walk in very far so we were limited to what we could see and do. There are no boggy areas in the region with walkable access in the late summer and fall when my biology classes are studying ecosystems and biological communities. The species of trees, ground cover vegetation, insects, birds, and other animals are unique, and an interesting lab project would be to compare the biodiversity of the Tilson Creek area to the drier forested habitat we have on campus.

Besides having educational value, the trail would also increase extra-curricular options for our students, as well as myself. I love to hike and this region does not have many hiking trails, in part because of the wet ground. The college has recently started an Outdoor Experiential Learning program to provide students with healthy, stress-relieving activities in the area, and I know the trail would get use from our students looking to get out of the dorm and do something fun with friends. Local (and traveling) bird-watchers, nature photographers, and outdoor enthusiasts would also appreciate having a trail that is accessible year-round.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Sjerven".

Kelly Sjerven

Rainy River Community College

Biology Instructor



FRIENDS *of* Sax-Zim Bog

February 4, 2017

Friends of Sax-Zim Bog is a 501c3 non-profit whose mission is to Preserve, Promote and Protect the Sax-Zim Bog Important Bird Area. We feel that the remote bogs and peatlands of northern Minnesota are a valuable asset to the state's citizens, but access is often difficult. Experiencing the bog's beautiful but small orchids, catching a glimpse of the rare Connecticut Warbler, or wondering at the tiny complexity of our carnivorous plants is a difficult task without a boardwalk. Not everyone owns rubber boots, or enjoys soggy sneakers!

Bogs are home to an amazing array of critters, many of which are not found in any other habitat. Birds such as the Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse, Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Bay-breasted Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Cape May Warbler; Mammals including Moose, Pine Marten, Fisher, Canada Lynx, Snowshoe Hare; Wildflowers such as Pink Ladyslipper, Showy Ladyslipper, Ram's-head Ladyslipper, Calypso, Arethusa and other orchids; Carnivorous plants including Pitcher-Plant, Round-leaved Sundew, Intermediate Sundew, and Bladderworts. All are unique and restricted to bogs.

We feel that any project that enables access to these remote bog peatlands is an important addition to the landscape and community. A boardwalk that would allow easy passage to the magical biome we call bog **WITHOUT** visitors getting their feet wet, would be especially valuable.

Though this boardwalk is primarily to allow ski trail grooming equipment to access the cross country trails, it would certainly be utilized in the non-snow months by many groups/individuals —visiting naturalists, local school groups, birders, photographers, botanists, area community education groups and more.

Friends of Sax-Zim Bog supports the Tilson Creek Trails bog boardwalk project.

Sparky Stensaas
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February 25, 2016

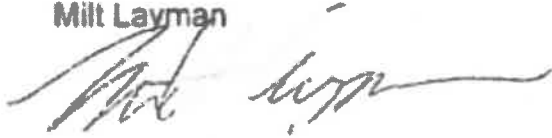
To whom it may concern:

This letter is meant to express my support of the construction of a boardwalk at the entrance to the Tilson Creek ski trail. This boardwalk would provide better access for trail maintenance equipment, as well as allowing more types of users on the trail such as cyclists and hikers. If this boardwalk was constructed, I believe trail use would rise dramatically and the trail would be used over a greater portion of the year.

We need more recreational trails of this type in northern Minnesota, and constructing the boardwalk would allow more people to enjoy the outdoors.

Thanks for you consideration.

Milt Layman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Milt Layman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

owner