

2019 RPI Project Application Form

Region 1B Prosperity Council

The Central U.P. Prosperity Council maintains a collaboratively developed regional plan with a strategy for achieving a prosperous future. The [10-Year Plan](#) is intended to be a roadmap for future success; by completing the Plan’s action items and meeting its objectives, the region will take steps toward achieving the goals that have been identified. Funding from the Regional Prosperity Initiative will help build capacity and add support for the projects that align with this strategy.

Please complete the information below to help the Central U.P. Prosperity Council understand the scope of your project.

General Information	
Project submitter, title, and organization:	Emily Leach, Program Manager, Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP)
Project title:	BUILDING SUSTAINABLE TRAILS AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMIES
Phone and e-mail address:	906-228-6095 ex. 15; emily@superiorwatersheds.org
Type of funding request:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2019 RPI Project Funds <input type="checkbox"/> 2018 RPI Remainder Funds
Summary of project (in less than 100 words):	A well designed, four-season trail system is crucial for a vibrant, sustainable, tourism-based economy. While some larger cities successfully promote their trail networks many smaller, local units of government would like to start, expand or improve a trail system but lack the expertise, labor or funding. The SWP Great Lakes Conservation Corps (GLCC) designs, builds and maintains trails, footbridges and boardwalks for many local, state and federal landowners and trail organizations. RPI funding is requested to fund GLCC crews (with trucks, tools, etc.) to assist local communities, organizations and businesses with tourism-related trail projects during the 2019 field season.
Project Description	
<i>*Be sure to include answers to all questions below to receive full consideration – attach additional sheets if necessary*</i>	
What geographic area does the project cover and who does it benefit?	The Building Sustainable Trails and Sustainable Local Economies Project will cover all six counties of the central UP region (RPI 1b) (Marquette, Alger, Schoolcraft, Delta, Menominee and Dickinson Counties). This includes 52 cities/towns, 1 Native American Tribe and 70 townships.
If the project addresses needs across multiple sectors (e.g. economic development, education, workforce development), explain how.	This project addresses needs across multiple sectors. Local municipalities in the Central UP region are in need of well-designed, four season trail systems to promote vibrant, sustainable, tourism-based economies. The trail work will be completed by the Great Lakes Conservation Corps (GLCC), which is an entry level job in the environmental field for 18-25 year olds. Many crew members are Northern Michigan University students with related environmental field degrees. By providing employment and related training for this age demographic, more young adults are able to stay in the Upper

	<p>Peninsula and create professional connections to further their career locally. The GLCC assists with many projects that incorporate volunteers and school groups to complete projects to benefit the greater community.</p> <p>Local municipalities in the Upper Peninsula are often in need of support for their recreational trails. Ironically, some regions of the Upper Peninsula have seen a dramatic increase in nature tourism while others have seen tourism remain stagnant or decline. Recent national media coverage and tourism campaigns (<i>Delta Sky Magazine, Pure Michigan, etc.</i>) has increased the potential for all local units of government to benefit from increased nature tourism. For example, as the gateway to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the City of Munising has seen a three-fold increase in annual visitors in recent years (2016 approached 1 million tourists) while in the city of Escanaba, just 60 miles away, nature tourism has remained relatively static. Some municipalities could benefit from the Great Lakes Conservation Corps to maintain natural areas that are impacted by excessive visitors while others need to improve public access to natural areas (beaches, trails, rivers, etc.) to attract more nature tourism.</p>
<p>How does this project relate to strategy items found in the RPI 10-year plan?</p>	<p>The proposed project scope encompasses many of the strategies in the RPI 10-year plan. Signage will be installed at the trail work locations to promote the UP Branding Campaign and build awareness in the region as a destination for tourism, recreation and business (Strategy 1.1). The SWP GLCC will work with local municipalities and Downtown Development Authorities (DDAs) to enhance their capacity and attract and grow new business and investments by supporting their nature tourism and recreation plans (Strategy 1.2).</p> <p>The SWP GLCC will foster collaboration between schools, Michigan Works and local groups to develop and improve training opportunities and workforce development by providing hands-on, entry level jobs which open up networking opportunities for the incoming workforce (Strategy 2.1)</p> <p>By improving and building new trail and creating trail connectors between existing trail networks, the GLCC will encourage and support safe, efficient and affordable transit options (Strategy 3.3).</p> <p>The trail project will directly enhance programs (Great Lakes Conservation Corps), which increase experiential learning and entrepreneurial training for students (18-25 years old) by creating hands-on learning experiences and internships (Strategy 4.3).</p> <p>Lastly, if this project is funded, it will encourage investment in vibrant, walkable and healthy Central UP communities and</p>

	strengthen collaboration between communities. This includes collaboration with the Up North Trails Mapping project, funded in 2018. (Strategies 5.1 and 5.2).
How can the success of this project be measured upon completion?	Specific activities and the expected outcomes of this project include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Jobs created for 12 young adults entering the workforce (age 18-25) 2) Total distance of trail construction and/or restoration and maintenance along a minimum of six miles of trail, performed by the GLCC. Trails will be sustainably developed and/or improved through intense manual implementation of green infrastructure and best management practices. 3) Number of new established partnerships between the SWP and local municipalities.
From your organization’s perspective, what is the priority for this project?	<p>The priority of the proposed project is to support Central UP municipalities with design and construction/maintenance of their local trail systems. This service will promote vibrant, sustainable, tourism-based economies. The lasting impacts will in turn support the ongoing RPI economic development efforts.</p> <p>Funding from RPI will provide employment opportunities for 18-25 year olds entering the workforce and will allow for the implementation of cost-effective priority recreation projects. Employing young adults through the Great Lakes Conservation Corps will have the added benefit of providing valuable experience in the conservation field and providing for mentorship and training opportunities with SWP, and other local, State, Tribal, and Federal partners.</p>
Organization and Partners	
Describe how the organization will complete the work outlined in the proposal	The 4-person Great Lakes Conservation Corps (GLCC) crews will work with the local municipalities in the six county central UP region to accomplish maximum trail benefits. SWP planning staff will coordinate with local municipalities to effectively prioritize and design projects. The GLCC program has boots on the ground from May through October.
Explain skills, experience, and capacity of your project team. List all partners and their roles.	The GLCC crews consist of 4-person crews that are trained and supervised by experienced crew leaders and are equipped with a truck, tools, safety equipment, and camping gear for overnight stays at remote sites if needed. All crews wear uniforms and receive First Aid training along with other project-specific training prior to each field season. The GLCC has successfully built trails for local, state and federal partners including numerous sections of the Iron Belle Trail/ North Country Trail. Over the past two years, the GLCC built or improved over 40 miles of trails including numerous bridges and over 1,000 feet of new boardwalk in Marquette, Baraga, Alger, Delta, Ontonagon and Luce Counties in the UP.

	<p>The SWP GLCC management staff has an established history with many local units of government already, and the proposed RPI funding would strengthen relationships and create new relationships. Partners will include city, village, township and county planning, public works, and recreation staff. SWP staff will collaborate and best identify projects to connect existing trail networks and maintain high priority trails managed by municipalities in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>The following state and federal agencies also provide support for the Great Lakes Conservation Corps: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Environmental Protection Agency.</p>
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Timeline and Budget	
<p>Create a budget that includes general categories of expenses, such as wages, travel, equipment, and materials. Describe any other project funds you expect to receive from sources beyond RPI.</p>	<p>Please see attached.</p>

Provide a timeline that includes project milestones with parties responsible for their achievement. If it is a phased project, be sure to include past or future phases in the timeline.

Project Milestones and responsible person	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Trail project coordination and scheduling	X	X	X	X	X							
GLCC trail projects			X	X	X	X	X	X				
Reporting and Project Data Organization								X	X	X	X	X

Choose one:

- A partner representing this proposal will be available to present at the Special Meeting of the RPI Council on Thursday, September 27th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM
- The proposal will not include a presentation.

Key Dates:

2019 RPI Project Application window opens	August 20, 2018
Due date for 2019 RPI Project Applications	September 26, 2018
Presentations to the RPI Council on proposed 2019 projects	September 27, 2018
RPI Council completes project scoring forms	October 5, 2018

List of proposed projects submitted in FY 2019 RPI Grant Application	October 15, 2018
RPI Council receives award notice for FY 2019	early February 2019
RPI Council recommends revised spending plan based on actual award	February 14, 2019
CUPPAD Executive Committee approves RPI revised spending plan	February 28, 2019
RPI Project applicants notified of awards	early March 2019
Contracts executed	mid-March 2019
Project funds disbursed	mid-late March 2019

Submission Deadline:

Proposals are due by the close of business on Wednesday September 26, 2018. Please email your replies to Ryan Soucy at Rsoucy@cuppac.org If you need additional information, contact can be made at the same email address or by calling Ryan at (906) 339-1371.