

Access Fund Grant Application

* required fields

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant's Organization/Group Name*	Duluth Climbers Coalition
Address*	P.O. Box 3321
City*	Duluth
State*	MN
Zip Code*	55803-2633
Telephone Number*	218-724-2254
Contact Person's First Name*	David
Contact Person's Last Name*	Pagel
Contact Person's Title*	Board Member
Director (if different from Contact Person)*	Lucas Kramer
Email Address*	info@duluthclimbers.org
Grant Amount Request*	\$5,000
Project Name*	Quarry Park Land Acquisition, Duluth, MN
Period Grant will Cover*	8/1/15 to 12/31/15
Earliest Grant Funds Release Date*	8/1/15
Latest Grant Funds Release Date*	12/31/15
Have you applied to the Access Fund for a grant before?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
If Yes, give year and name of project.	
Are you a 501(c)(3) organization?*	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
EIN (If Applicable)	
<i>If you have a fiscal sponsor instead of your own 501(c)(3), please provide the following:</i>	
Fiscal Sponsor	City of Duluth, MN
Contact Person/Title	Kathleen Bergen, Manager, Duluth Parks & Recreation
Fiscal Sponsor Phone Number	218-730-4309
Fiscal Sponsor Email	kbergen@duluthmn.gov

Type of grant request*:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Outreach: Brochures, Kiosks, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Area Facilities/Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/> Grassroots Activism: Start-Up Costs	X Land Acquisition
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Description how Access Fund Grant Criteria is met* (please provide a brief description of 50 words or less for all applicable criterion)
Is action-oriented:
<i>This grant will help fund the conversion of private land encompassing part of Casket Quarry—an important ice and mixed climbing crag (no climbing officially permitted)—into city parkland where climbing will be a recognized and welcome form of outdoor recreation.</i>
Builds local climber involvement and support:
<i>The Duluth Climbers Coalition was created to put forward this climbing park proposal and partner with the City of Duluth on this project. The Coalition represents climbers of all disciplines, advocates for local climbers and climbing resources, and draws upon resources from throughout Duluth's diverse climbing community.</i>

Is strategic and forward-looking in its targeting and goals:
<i>This proposal capitalizes upon local government's current willingness to invest in and promote diverse outdoor recreation opportunities. City administration and Council have demonstrated strong support for this project; matching funds have been allocated from an existing city fund.</i>
Accomplishes specific goals and objects that can be effectively measured:
<i>This grant will help fund the purchase of 7.22 acres of private land from the Oneota Cemetery Association. This land acquisition will result in the creation of Quarry Park: a new city park with a significant climbing component.</i>
Encourages access or enhances opportunities for climbing:
<i>As private property, access to this climbing resource has historically been surreptitious. As public parkland, present and future climbing access will be secured. The climbing component of the new parkland will eventually include ice farming infrastructure which will result in exciting new climbing opportunities, particularly for intermediate and novice climbers.</i>
Develops knowledge about natural and cultural resource values where the information is used to open climbing areas or mitigate climbing impacts:
<i>This proposal has opened local government's eyes to Casket Quarry's potential as an exciting recreational resource. The quarry has heretofore been regarded as a public nuisance; it is now viewed as a valuable asset to be developed for the public good, to promote tourism, and enhance quality of life.</i>
Reduces climber impacts on natural and cultural resources within the climbing community:
<i>The proposed Quarry Park project includes an expanded and improved parking area and new access trails designed and sited to minimize erosion.</i>
Raises awareness about climber responsibility toward conserving the climbing environment:
<i>The Duluth Climbing Coalition is an advocacy organization made up of representatives from throughout the local climbing community. This project initiates a long-term partnership and commitment between city government and local climbers to create a city-owned, climber-managed ice park.</i>
Supported by the climbing community:
<i>Despite access uncertainties, local and regional climbers have long been drawn to the ice and mixed routes at Casket Quarry. The local and regional climbing community is excited at the prospect of welcome access to this site and the opportunity to further develop it into a destination-worthy climbing venue.</i>
Utilizes matching agency or local funds (ideally this will be at least 50%):
<i>The City of Duluth will match funds raised by the Duluth Climbers Coalition. In addition, the City is actively seeking ways to mitigate projected costs through land swaps, grants, etc.</i>
Incorporates a degree of volunteer labor and/or pro bono services:
<i>The Duluth Climbing Coalition is a volunteer-run organization. Additionally, all phases of the project will draw upon volunteer input/labor from the local climbing community that will facilitate a sense of "ownership" and stewardship.</i>
Project area in the United States:
The project area is located in Duluth, Minnesota.

The project is on*:		
(please provide evidence of land owner/manager permission if applicable—see Sec. VIII)		
<input type="checkbox"/> National Park	<input type="checkbox"/> State Forest/Park	
<input type="checkbox"/> City/Town Park	<input type="checkbox"/> National Forest	
X Private Land	<input type="checkbox"/> BLM Property	
x Other:	County Tax-forfeit	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

II. ORGANIZATION/AGENCY INFORMATION

Mission statement, brief statement of organization's history, goals, and/or objectives. We want to know who you are, what you've accomplished, what your mission is, what your goals are and how you plan to achieve them (250 word limit):

The Duluth Climbers Coalition (DCC) is an advocacy organization made up of local climbers, outdoor recreation educators, and business owners. Our goal is to secure and preserve access to climbing crags located within the city of Duluth, Minnesota, and to promote local climbing opportunities for participants of all ages, abilities, and across all climbing disciplines (bouldering, rock, ice, and mixed climbing).

The DCC was formed in 2014 in order to submit a proposal for developing the abandoned Casket Quarry (located within the city limits but on a combination of private and county tax-forfeit land) with a long history of surreptitious ice and mixed climbing into a city-owned, climber-managed ice park. In 2015, the proposal was selected by City administration for inclusion in a broad package of St. Louis River Corridor outdoor recreation projects and voted unanimous support by the Duluth City Council.

As part of the proposed Quarry Park agreement, the DCC will partner with the City to raise funds for land acquisition, infrastructure, and climbing management. This goal will be achieved by soliciting grants, private gifts, corporate giving, and fund-raising events.

In addition to the Quarry Park Project, the DCC is actively working to popularize and protect Duluth's other climbing resources. To date, this includes helping facilitate a "Bouldering and Climbing Outcrops" inventory for the City, meeting with developers where commercial developments conflict with or threaten urban climbing crags, and holding public climbing events to draw attention to Duluth's diverse climbing assets and grow the city's climbing community.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Summary of the project (100 word limit) – **Please edit carefully** – this summary, along with one representative photo, will be shared online with Access Fund members to rate the project, assisting the Access Fund Grant Committee to determine final funding approval:

Land acquisition is the crucial, first step for transforming Casket Quarry in Duluth MN—an important regional ice and mixed climbing crag—into a new city park that will welcome and promote winter climbing. The land is currently privately held, but the owner has indicated a willingness to sell. The City of Duluth has voted support and earmarked matching funds and other resources for this project. Included in the City's overall vision: Quarry Park's climbing component will include state-of-the-art ice farming infrastructure to enhance and supplement natural ice formation and increase climbing opportunities for novice and intermediate climbers.

B. Brief statement of problem to be addressed (250 word limit):

For decades, access uncertainties have prevented Casket Quarry from being developed to its full potential as a mixed and ice climbing venue. The principal obstacles have been private land ownership and associated liability concerns. As a result, climbing here has been historically surreptitious and in perpetual jeopardy. Nevertheless, for over forty years, spectacular ice formations at the quarry have regularly attracted ice and mixed climbers from throughout the region. The quarry's potential as a legitimate Midwestern ice park cannot be overstated: a 1000-foot band of vertical cliff that is easily accessible, predisposed to ice formation, already developed for climbing (fixed anchors, etc.), and located within a city that embraces diverse forms of outdoor recreation.

Currently, the quarry is located on a combination of private and county tax-forfeit land. As the result of a proposal submitted by the Duluth Climbers Coalition, the City of Duluth has recognized the valuable recreational asset that Casket Quarry represents. Acquisition of the land by the City of Duluth is at the core of this proposal and essential for legitimizing ice and mixed climbing at this site. The City is currently negotiating with the county for free transfer of the tax-forfeit parcels (outlined in green on the attached illustration). However, the property on private land (7.22 acres, outlined in yellow) will need to be purchased from the current landowner, the Oneota Cemetery Association, who has indicated willingness to sell.

C. Please provide description of your proposal that includes the overall goal of the project and a brief explanation of how you would use Access Fund's grant monies (500 word limit):

The Quarry Park proposal is a two phase project. The first phase is securing access to the resource. This includes land acquisition, improving/expanding the parking lot and creating/improving access trails. Phase two will be the installation and implementation of ice farming infrastructure and other amenities, and climbing management. This Access Fund grant is intended to provide partial funding for the land acquisition component of phase one. As part of the DCC's agreement with the City of Duluth, our organization is responsible for raising 1/2 the funds required for land acquisition. The City will match this amount from an existing fund dedicated to enhancing/creating outdoor recreation opportunities in West Duluth. The market value of the private land has been independently assessed at \$43,320 or \$6,000 per acre (see attached appraisal document). This Access Fund grant, if awarded, will be applied toward purchasing this property.

IV. BUDGET

A. ITEMIZE EXPENSES:

Item	Cost
Land acquisition from Oneota Cemetery Assn.	\$ 43,320
TOTAL COST (A)	\$ 43,320

B. MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM:

Gifts & Grants (pledged or paid)	
Trustees	
Corporations	
Foundations	
Individuals	
Government	\$21,660
Other (special events, membership)	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE (B)	\$21,660
BALANCE REQUIRED (A minus B)	\$21, 660
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$5, 000

V. PARTNERSHIPS

A. Please list all organizations participating in planning or contributing to the project, including land managers, retailers and business partners, and other non-profit organizations.

Org #1:	City of Duluth
Contact:	Jim Shoberg
Address:	Duluth City Hall, Parks and Recreation Dept., 411 West 1 st Street, Duluth, MN, 55802
Email:	jshoberg@duluthmn.gov
Phone:	218-730-4316

Org #2:	Minnesota Land Trust
Contact:	Hansi Johnson (Project Manager/Coordinator)
Address:	394 South Lake Avenue, Suite 404, Duluth, MN, 55802
Email:	hjohnson@mnlasnd.org
Phone:	218-336-1914

B. The Access Fund is committed to giving back to the community that supports our work. In order to assure that we are supporting projects that are important to our members, the Access Fund gives preference to applications from organizations that have active Access Fund members involved. For organizations whose mission is not directly tied to protecting climbing access (for instance USFS, BLM, etc), we only ask that the project directly supports a valued climbing area.

What has your organization done to support the Access Fund and what do you plan to do? (150 word limit)

The DCC currently promotes the Access Fund (as an important national partner as well as AF-related events) on our website and social media. We promote and encourage AF membership among our board members and climbing community. The DCC has applied to be an AF Affiliate organization. Board members have worked closely with the Access Fund in the past: as the Access Fund Regional Coordinator that helped craft and implement state-wide climbing management plans for Minnesota State Parks, and on the Board of the Minnesota Climbers Association, our statewide access advocacy organization and an Access Fund Affiliate. As the DCC grows we will continue to work closely with the Access Fund and the Minnesota Climbers Coalition, to support and enhance the efforts of all these organizations.

If you or anyone from your local climbing community are interested in becoming an Access Fund member, [click here](#).

VI. ADDITIONAL NOTES/COMMENTS/SPECIAL REQUESTS (150 word limit)

Although some warm-weather rock climbing also occurs at this site, in general, the walls are too persistently porous and wet to permit quality free climbing. However, for the same reason, Casket Quarry features one of the finest concentrations of naturally occurring steep ice formations in the region.

VII. EVALUATION MEASURES

Please describe expected results during the funding period and how you will define and measure success (150 word limit)

In addition to this grant, the DCC will continue to seek additional revenue to meet our obligations of the phase one objectives, including land acquisition costs. Meanwhile, the City of Duluth will move forward with negotiations to transfer ownership of the county land and purchase the private land that comprises the proposed Quarry Park. Once this land is acquired by the City (potentially by the upcoming winter climbing season), climbing at Casket Quarry will be possible for the first time as a legitimate and welcome form of outdoor recreation.

VIII. ATTACHMENTS (PDF, Word, and JPG formats are preferred)

A. One representative photo (JPG) of the property or proposed project area to share with Access Fund members to rate the project.

B. Please attach a statement or letter of approval from the landowner/manager for projects that involve construction or improvements to facilities, trails, signage, or parking areas. Review grant guidelines for examples.

C. For grant requests over \$5,000.00 please include the following:

- ☐ Proof of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with your letter
- ☐ Organization's most recent financial statement
- ☐ Organization's most recent 990 form
- ☐ Organization's most recent W9 form
- ☐ Organization's bylaws
- ☐ Organization's articles of incorporation
- ☐ Organization's list of current board of directors

C. If you have a fiscal sponsor, you will need to include the following:

- ☐ The fiscal sponsor's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt letter
- ☐ Consent letter from the fiscal sponsor

D. For land acquisitions, please review grant guidelines. If the property is already under contract, please attach the fully executed purchase or option agreement.

E. Attach any other relevant maps and/or photos (optional)

