



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2018 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: February 20, 2018

Date of Next Status Update Report: January 31, 2019

Date of Work Plan Approval: 06/05/2018

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2020

Does this submission include an amendment request? No.

PROJECT TITLE: Expanding Nature Knowledge and Experience with New Interactive Exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park

Project Manager: MaryLynn Pulscher

Organization: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

College/Department/Division: Environmental Management

Mailing Address: 3800 Bryant Ave S

City/State/Zip Code: Minneapolis MN 55409

Telephone Number: 612 313 7784 or 612 499 9240

Email Address: mpulscher@minneapolisparcs.org

Web Address: www.minneapolisparcs.org

Location: Metro Region. Hennepin and Anoka County serving Brooklyn Center, Columbia Heights, Fridley, Minneapolis, Robbinsdale

Total Project Budget: \$500,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$500,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 05h

Appropriation Language: \$500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to develop new interactive exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park to encourage the approximately 326,000 annual visitors to better understand and explore the river and surrounding natural area.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board proposes to create compelling, new, interactive exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park to spark curiosity about Nature, increase knowledge about Nature, entice visitors to explore the outdoors, and become better stewards of the environment.

The exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park's Carl Kroening Interpretive Center are old and worn, and one-third of them have been removed due to safety concerns. The old exhibits focus on human relationships to the river (transportation corridor, job source, and recreational use). However, the last 15 years of on-site public programs prove this is not what most park visitors are interested in. People want to learn more about the natural resources found in the park - the land, the water, animals, birds and insects - and connect with Nature in a hands-on, immersive way.

The goal of the project – **Expanding Nature Knowledge and Experience with New Interactive Exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park** – is to better serve the park's visitors, and respond to interests of diverse user groups. The exhibits will feature current research, compelling interpretation and visuals, and interactive components to spark wonder and curiosity. Utilizing hands-on elements, technology, and equipment, the exhibits will engage visitors on these major themes:

- Water: the Mississippi River & Shingle Creek, what impacts its health, who lives there
- Native plants and pollinators: wild bees and honey bees, butterflies and moths
- Wildlife and their adaptations to city living: coyotes, crows, and beavers
- Flight: dragonflies, monarch migration, flight mechanisms, the Mississippi flyway
- Citizen science: phenology, sharing data, opportunities to take action

Portions of the exhibits will change with the seasons, and will also promote ways people can take action to benefit land and water. Supporting components of the exhibits will allow park visitors to apply new knowledge in the park, engaging them in citizen science work while using hip waders, dip nets, turbidity tubes, binoculars, and beekeeper suits. The exhibits will encourage visitors to get outside and explore the park, and make better decisions to positively impact the natural world.

North Mississippi Regional Park attracts 326,000 visitors a year, serves the north metro and Minneapolis, and is adjacent to a Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) with 50% or more of the residents below the poverty line. There is no entrance fee to enjoy the park or to visit the Kroening Interpretive Center and its exhibits. Kroening Center staff lead public programs, school fieldtrips, summer and winter break camps, and free pop-up programs for all ages. Many of the Centers programs are free, and scholarships are readily available. New exhibits will provide a means to better serve the park's visitors, and respond to interests of diverse user groups.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES: See Activity 1 below

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Create interactive nature exhibits for north Minneapolis and north suburban residents

Description: New exhibits will be created beginning with concept development and schematic design and ending with fabrication and installation. Each phase has specific tasks and deliverables; details below.

Secure exhibit design firm (3 months)

TASKS: Issue an RFP and select an exhibit design firm; secure MPRB Board approval; award contract.

DELIVERABLES: Selection of exhibit development firm; MPRB Board approves contract; contract signed.

Concept development, schematic design and development (6 months)

TASKS: Develop messages and strategies to engage audiences; review with community; make models or prototypes; test prototypes with potential audiences; develop floor plan and exhibit arrangement; develop

graphic design for signage; research images; draft sign text; describe interactive components and any audiovisual needs.

DELIVERABLES: statement of exhibits' learning goals and strategies; floor plan with sketches and elevations; final inventory of exhibit components; overall graphic look finalized and list of required signs; refined budget.

Final design (3 months)

TASKS: Develop construction/fabrication drawings; finalize lighting and electrical plan; select images and artifacts; finalize sign text including scientific review; select props; create production schedule; review budget.

DELIVERABLES: Final components list; construction/fabrication drawings for each component; production ready graphic design for signs and other elements; prop list; artifact list; specs for lighting and electricity; fabrication schedule; installation schedule; cost estimates; final budget allocation.

Fabrication and installation (6 months)

TASKS: locate fabricators and secure bids; award contracts; build exhibits; create or purchase props; purchase and/or mount artifacts; produce signs and window graphics; compile audiovisuals (if doing); install exhibits.

DELIVERABLES: Exhibits are fabricated and installed; as-builts and graphic files turned over to MPRB; staff trained on care and use of exhibits.

Within the Kroening Interpretive Center, the exhibit space will be divided into different zones with the overarching theme of Nature in the City. Final zone designations will be decided during the design phase and it is anticipated the zones will include Water: the Mississippi River & Shingle Creek; Native plants and pollinators; Wildlife and their adaptations to city living; Flight (dragonflies, monarch migration, and more); and Citizen Science incorporated throughout the exhibits. Exhibit content will be reviewed by science experts including Dr. Elaine Evans, Amy Thompson (PhD student), and others to be determined.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$500,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. RFP and selection process complete	October 1, 2018
2. Exhibits concept development, schematic design, and design development complete	April 1, 2019
3. Exhibits final design phase complete	July 1, 2019
4. Exhibits production and installation complete	February 1, 2020

First Update January 31, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2019

Third Update January 31, 2020

Final Update June 30, 2020

IV. DISSEMINATION:

The new interactive exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park will serve all ages, and be available for free to all visitors when the Kroening Interpretive Center is open. Currently the building is open seven days a week from May to October, and is open six days a week November to April. The building is closed for some major holidays. The Center offers summer day camps for children, weekend programs for families and adults, school field trips, drop-in programs, teen adventures, and summer school classes. The Center offers both free and fee-based programs, and program fee waivers are available. In 2016, the overall park served 326,000 visitors.

First Update January 31, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2019

Third Update January 31, 2020

Final Update June 30, 2020

V. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview: See attached budget spreadsheet

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 0

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours:	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE:
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: 6

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 12,500	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 6
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B. Other Funds:

SOURCE OF AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS	Amount Proposed	Amount Spent	Status and Timeframe
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	\$100,000	\$	Secured. Available FY 2018–2020
City of Minneapolis	\$50,000	\$	Secured. Available 2018–2019
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A			
	\$	\$	
In-Kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Period:			
MPRB, Project Management	\$31,000	\$	Secured
MPRB, Mississippi River Green Team (concept review, prototype testing)	\$8,000	\$	Secured
MPRB, North Mississippi Kroening Center Program Staff (concept review, prototype testing, community engagement)	\$18,000	\$	Secured
City of Minneapolis (clarity, message relevance, technical review of water exhibit content)	\$5,000		Secured
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:			
Invasive Carp Applied Research in Lake Nokomis Subwatershed. Legal citation: M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 06g	\$189,936		Legally obligated
Other Funding History: N/A			

	\$	\$	
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Elaine Evans, Phd	Extension Educator	Dept. of Entomology, University of Minnesota	Scientific review
Amy Thompson	Conservation Biology PhD Student (researching dragonflies)	Monarch Lab, Univeristy of Minnesota	Scientific review

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
MaryLynn Pulscher	Manager, Environmental Education	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Project Manager
Abby Moore	Training and Community Learning Specialist	Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	Part of project team, inform and review exhibits for clarity & messages
Elizabeth Stout, PE, CFM	Water Resources Regulatory Coordinator	City of Minneapolis Public Works – Surface Water & Sewers Division	Inform and review water focused exhibits, provide technical review, message clarity

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

In 2016, the MPRB’s long term partner at North Mississippi Regional Park’s Karl Kroening Interpretive Center reallocated their staff and resources to other sites. Beginning in 2017, the MPRB approved new funding of \$130,000 (slated to increase to \$190,000 in 2018) to support on-site staff and programs.

Our long-term strategy is to continue to fund programming staff at North Mississippi Park and utilize the new exhibits as inspiration for enhanced public programs, improved visitor self-directed exploration, and richer programs for schools and summer camps. The impacts of the project will be tangible for many years to come: park visitors will gain new Nature knowledge that impacts their decision making and changes their behavior; new user groups feel comfortable in Nature and spend more time engaged in outdoor experiences; and the number and diversity of citizen scientists increases.

The impact and use of the new exhibits will be tracked using existing MPRB systems including annual attendance and participation reports of center visitors and program participants, plus evaluations from participants, teachers, and volunteers. In addition, exhibits include social marketing components to help track what kinds of action people are willing to take to be better stewards of the environment.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- The project is for two years, will begin on July 1, 2018, and end on June 30, 2020.
- Periodic project status update reports will be submitted January 31 and June 30 of each year.
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2020.

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

A. Budget Spreadsheet: attached

B. Visual Component or Map: attached

D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements: N/A

E. Research Addendum: N/A

Attachment A:
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2018 Budget Spreadsheet



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 New Interactive Exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park

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 College/Department/Division: N/A
 M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation:
 Project Length and Completion Date: July 1, 2018 to June 20, 2020
 Date of Report: 20 February 2018

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	TOTAL BUDGET	AMOUNT SPENT	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
<i>Exhibit design estimated at \$70,000; exhibit fabrication and installation estimated at \$425,000; these contracts will be determined using a competitive process</i>	\$495,000		
<i>Scientists: review exhibit content for accuracy and messaging</i>	\$5,000		
COLUMN TOTAL	\$500,000		

