



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2020-036

Staff Lead: Rory Anderson

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: August 13, 2021

Project Title: Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Supplemental Teaching Staff

Project Budget: \$225,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Luke Reese

Organization: City of Austin

Office Telephone: (507) 437-7519

Email: luke.reese@hormelnaturecenter.org

Web Address: <http://www.ci.austin.mn.us/>

Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: August 13, 2021

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2024

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2024

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 05e

Appropriation Language: \$225,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Austin to expand the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center environmental education program beyond the city of Austin to students in southeastern Minnesota for three years.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: The Jay C. Hormel Nature Center would like to offer its environmental education curriculum to more southeast Minnesota students by hiring an additional naturalist and interns for three years.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Since 1988, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center has provided environmental education curricula to every Austin Public or private school student for the first eight years of their education, K – 7th grades. In 2017, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center opened a new interpretive center that more than doubled our teaching and exhibit spaces. Though the new building greatly expanded teaching spaces, staffing remained the same. Following completion of the new Interpretive Center, demand for school, children’s and family programs has increased at the Hormel Nature Center. Schools that do not make early requests are turned away. Currently, we are not able to expand the environmental education programs because we are limited by staffing resources, as each class requires two teachers; a full-time staff member and an intern.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

Hiring additional staff will allow the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center to provide our high-demand environmental education to additional schools in the surrounding communities (Albert Lea, Hayfield, Lyle, Grand Meadow, Blooming Prairie, NRHEG, LeRoy, Southland, etc.) to participate in our programs. No other opportunities like this exist within a 25-mile radius of Austin and few (Quarry Hill Nature Center, Riverbend Nature Center, and Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center) within a 50 mile radius. For a long time HNC has provided environmental education with few resources. It is time to demonstrate the reach and positive impact these programs have to southeastern MN by providing more classes and programs to meet the needs of students in southeast Minnesota.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state’s natural resources?

This project will expand the HNC environmental education program to surrounding communities in greater Mower County and southeast Minnesota by funding a new teacher/naturalist for 3 years and one intern per year for three years. Those employees would be tasked with scheduling up to 80 additional school groups (over 1600 students) and 15 additional summer programs for each of the three years of this grant, proving that the demand exists for such programming.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): SE

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): SE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Expand Environmental Education Opportunities with Additional Educator & Intern

Activity Budget: \$225,000

Activity Description:

The objective of this activity is to provide additional educational programming to surrounding communities by hiring an additional environmental educator / naturalist for three years, as well as an intern, on a one-year term for each of the three years of the grant, to assist the environmental educator / naturalist with programming. The educator and intern will use curricula that is already developed. The curricula are tied to state science standards and include the following themes: nature discovery, seasons, five senses, living vs. non-living nature, seed dispersal, animal habitat requirements, tree anatomy (maple syruping), winter survival, and aquatic macroinvertebrates. Summer curricula themes expand on these ideas and include: monarch butterfly life/migration, radical raptors, canoeing/kayaking, fish ecology, climbing, water programs, nature at night, sounds of nature, and nature art, photography, and music.

Activities will be evaluated by surveying teachers and adjusting programming to meet individual school or class requirements. A log will be kept to track the numbers and origins of classes participating in programs.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
1. Schedule at least 80 additional school groups for the 2021-22 school year.	June 30, 2022
2. Provide 15 more summer programs than were provided in the summer of 2021.	August 31, 2022
3. Maintain 250+ school groups attending HNC programs for the 2022-23 school year.	June 30, 2023
4. Provide at least 45 summer programs for the 2023 summer.	August 31, 2023
5. Maintain 250+ school groups attending HNC programs for the 2023-24 school year.	June 30, 2024
6. Provide at least 15 summer programs for the 2023 summer.	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Tim Ruzek	Friends of the Hormel Nature Center	President The Friends of the Hormel Nature Center have agreed to fund the ~20% not awarded by the LCCMR committee.	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines. This will be accomplished through: social media, such as Facebook (@hormelnaturecenter) and Instagram (@hormel_nature_center), the nature center's website (hormelnaturecenter.org), newsletter (by mail or through hormelnaturecenter.org), annual reports to the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board, as well as other misc. media coverage such as newspaper (Austin Daily Herald) and radio (KAUS-AM).

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

This grant will also serve as a pilot project to prove the environmental education demand and that we can successfully meet the needs of more of the region's schools. After the grant period, we would, with local and regional organizations' support, work to permanently fund these positions.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
81% of 2nd Naturalist		Bring in school groups and hold programs for outside-of-Austin kids			34%	2.43		\$130,368
83% of FY2022 Intern		Intern supporting the 2nd naturalist in growing Jay C. Hormel Nature Center education programming beyond Austin.			39%	0.83		\$31,261
81% of FY2023 Intern		Intern supporting the 2nd naturalist in growing Jay C. Hormel Nature Center education programming beyond Austin.			39%	0.81		\$31,551
78% of FY2024 Intern		Intern supporting the 2nd naturalist in growing Jay C. Hormel Nature Center education programming beyond Austin.			39%	0.78		\$31,820
							Sub Total	\$225,000
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$225,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Friends of the Hormel Nature Center	Inservices x 3 years	Pending	\$3,000
Cash	Friends of the Hormel Nature Center	Mentorship program for 3 years	Pending	\$12,000
Cash	Schools attending programs	Program fees generated: 80 additional groups x 20 students/group x \$5/student	Potential	\$8,000
In-Kind	Schools	Bussing 80 additional groups x \$100/bus	Potential	\$8,000
In-Kind	City of Austin	Grant administration and supervision (10% of director's time) x 3 years	Secured	\$26,150
In-Kind	City of Austin	Supplies July 2021 - June 2024	Pending	\$7,500
In-Kind	Volunteers	Volunteers assisting with school groups. 150 opportunities x 4 hours x \$13/hr x 3 years	Pending	\$23,400
In-Kind	Volunteers	Special program volunteers. 245 opportunities for 667 hours x \$10/hr x 3 years	Pending	\$20,010
Cash	Friends of the Hormel Nature Center personnel contributions over 3 years for the second intern and additional naturalist.	Approximately 19% of the total project funds (\$279,167) July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 Intern @ \$13/hr plus 39% benefits: \$6,747 July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 Intern @ \$13.50/hr plus 39% benefits: \$7,592 July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Intern @ \$14/hr plus 39% benefits: \$8,736 July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024 naturalist @\$19 + 2% annual COLA + 34% benefits: \$31,366	Secured	\$54,167
			Non State Sub Total	\$162,227
			Funds Total	\$162,227

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [e8670d0b-689.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Text:

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Supplemental Teaching Staff

Established in 1971

Owned and operated by the City of Austin

GMRPTC Regionally Significant Park

529-acres of land

New \$6.8 million Interpretive Center completed in 2017

-Taught 194 classes to 5,330 SE MN students in 2019

-Pre-K through 7th grade curricula in place for over 30 years

-Provides ~30 summer classes and ~70 community programs annually

-HNC staff cannot meet the demand from all schools requesting environmental education p...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City of Austin Council Resolution	f73e4cfa-a8d.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Friends of HNC Support Letter	e5e9e831-e0b.pdf
Background Check Certification Form	dc2231c9-690.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Timeline dates were adjusted by LCCMR staff. Outcomes were adjusted following LCCMR staff recommendations in January 2020. The budget was adjusted to reflect the \$225,000 recommended by the LCCMR. Friends of the Hormel Nature Center cash match for the project was increased to reflect changes in City of Austin pay scales. A letter of support from the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center was uploaded.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Supplemental Teaching Staff



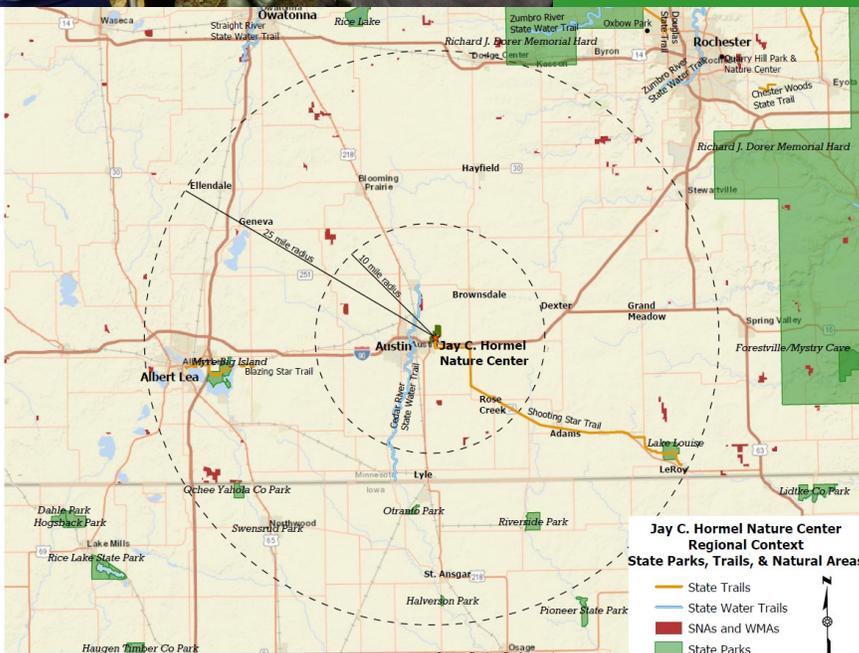
- Established 1971
- Owned and operated by the City of Austin
- GMRPTC Regionally Significant Park
- 529-acres of land
- New \$6.8 million Interpretive Center completed in 2017



- Taught 194 classes to 5,330 SE MN students in 2019
- Pre-K through 7th grade curricula in place for over 30 years
- Provides ~30 summer classes and ~70 community programs annually
- HNC staff cannot meet the demand from all schools requesting environmental education



- Curricula topics follow state science standards and include: nature discovery, seasons, five senses, living vs. non-living nature, seed dispersal, animal habitat requirements, tree anatomy (maple syruping), winter survival, and aquatic macroinvertebrates.
- Summer curricula themes, for ages 6 months to 18 years, include: monarch butterfly lifecycle, raptors, canoeing, fishing, climbing, water quality, nature at night, sounds of nature, and nature art and music.



This project will:

- Build capacity to reach more students at more schools in greater Mower County and Southeast Minnesota
- Fund 1 naturalist for three years
- Fund 3 additional interns for 1-year increments
- Serve as a pilot project to prove the environmental education demand and show that we can meet the needs of more of the region's schools.

