



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2020-066

Staff Lead: Corrie Layfield

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: August 27, 2021

Project Title: Upper St. Anthony Falls Enhancements

Project Budget: \$2,800,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Kjersti Monson

Organization: Friends of the Falls

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: August 26, 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. 09I

Appropriation Language: \$2,800,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Friends of the Lock and Dam in partnership with the city of Minneapolis to design and install green infrastructure, public access, and habitat restorations on riverfront land at Upper St. Anthony Falls for water protection, recreation, and environmental education purposes. Of this amount, up to \$600,000 is for planning, design, and engagement. No funds from this appropriation may be spent until Congress directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to convey an interest in the Upper St. Anthony Falls property to the city of Minneapolis for use as a visitor center. After

this congressional act is signed into law, up to \$100,000 of the planning, design, and engagement funds may be spent. The remaining planning, design, and engagement funds may be spent after a binding agreement has been secured to acquire the land or access and use rights to the land for at least 25 years. Any remaining balance of the appropriation may be spent on installing enhancements after the Upper St. Anthony Falls land has been acquired by the city of Minneapolis.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Acquire, preserve, and improve land on the Central Riverfront in Minneapolis abutting the Upper Lock (but not the Lock structure itself) for recreation, conservation, natural restoration, and education.

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

The Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility, was closed to navigation by an act of Congress in 2015. Federally owned riverfront property is now subject to disposition. FOF and the City of Minneapolis have the expertise and wherewithal to protect and enhance this land as an iconic public amenity. The project implements adopted plans and resolutions including City Resolution 2018R-098 (2018), the City's Downtown Public Realm Framework (2016); Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Central Riverfront Regional Parks Master Plan (2016); Meet Minneapolis' Destination Transformation 2030 (2016); and the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board's Changing Relationships to the Power of the Falls (2014). The City of Minneapolis and FOF have worked with members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation on the Water Resources Development Acts of 2018 and 2020 to expedite federal disposition, and are working in coordination with the City of Minneapolis on due diligence for acquiring the property so that it does not turn into industrial land or fall into disrepair.

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.

The City of Minneapolis and FOF will undertake activities necessary to acquire property abutting the Lock from the federal government. The property will be donated or conveyed to the City of Minneapolis, who will, with FOF, ensure its long-term stewardship. ENRTF funded activities will include capital improvements to enhance public connectivity to the river and river trails, restore natural systems, conserve and protect public land for public use, preserve and improve a naturally and culturally significant site, and provide visitor services. Programmatically, the project will enable place-based research and education programs, including environmental and cultural education and the potential for citizen science focused on the river.

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?

Capital Improvements will be achieved with ENRTF funds. Capital improvements may include water access improvements (kayak/canoe access, dock & marina improvements, fishing); improvements to connectivity, especially bike and pedestrian facilities (paths, wayfinding, preliminary placemaking); environmental and natural restoration improvements (shoreline, restoration), and will be prioritized based on cost and available funds. Also funded: Design, engineering, and engagement soft costs to implement capital improvements.

ENRTF funds will also enable the development of a strategic plan, partnerships & programs to advance research, education, and cultural heritage opportunities on the site.

Fee title acquisition will be achieved with matching dollars by FOF.

Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro

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

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Protect the public interest through fee title acquisition of land (no ENRTF funds will be expended on fee title acquisition).

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

Acquire federally owned parcels identified by the City of Minneapolis and Friends of the Falls as priority areas for cultural interpretation, enhancement, recreational value, historic resource quality, park connectivity gaps, scenic qualities, water quality, and water access. Friends of the Falls will conduct due diligence activities including appraisals, environmental reviews, title investigations, and survey work. Acquired land will be donated or conveyed to our public agency partner, the City of Minneapolis, for joint site improvement, enhancement, and planning for long term stewardship.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Congressional legislation enacted in Water Resources Development Act directing conveyance to City of Minneapolis.	December 31, 2020
City of Minneapolis/FOF MOU signed, binding parties to partner on Acquisition	December 31, 2021
City of Mpls /FOF MOA with USACE signed, binding terms of conveyance	May 31, 2022
Closing	June 30, 2023

Activity 2: Strategic plan, partnerships, & programs for research & education

Activity Budget: \$100,000

Activity Description:

Engage NACDI, Wilderness Inquiry, Minneapolis Public Schools, the Science Museum of Minnesota, the St. Anthony Falls Hydrology Lab (UMN), the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board, and others to develop partnerships and plans for research, interpretation, education, programming, place based learning, credit recovery, and citizen science on the site, focused on water. These funds can be spent after the congressional act (see above) is signed into law.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Procure Consultant(s)	October 31, 2021
Complete Study	June 30, 2022

Activity 3: Capital improvements to enable connectivity, recreation, & restoration.

Activity Budget: \$2,699,999

Activity Description:

Plan, design, permit & install capital improvements that increase public access to the site and the river; introduce green infrastructure and restore habitat; and improve public safety. Up to \$500,000 of this can be spent on planning, design, and engagement. None of these Activity 3 funds may be spent until after a binding agreement has been secured to acquire the land or access use rights to the land for at least 25 years (est. May 31, 2022 per Activity 1).

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
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Facilitate stakeholder engagement through concept, schematic, and design development.	June 30, 2022
Complete all required studies and pre-development due diligence.	June 30, 2023
Construction bid process completed.	September 30, 2023
Complete construction (e.g. trail connections, lighting, wayfinding, kayak/canoe access, shoreline restoration).	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Jeff Johnson	City of Minneapolis	Jeff is our Primary Point of Contact for the collaborative efforts of the Friends with the City of Minneapolis & Meet Minneapolis at the Upper Lock.	No
Alan Robbins-Fenger	National Park Service	Division Manager, Resource Management, Mississippi National River Recreation Area. We will work with Alan on coordinating efforts related to the NPS visitor center and park programs as well as restoration activities.	No
Katie Nyberg	Mississippi Park Connection	Executive Director of MPC. Katie is our Primary Point of Contact for coordination of ongoing programming by MPC at the Upper Lock.	No
Robert Lillgren	Native American Community Development Institute	Robert is our Primary Point of Contact for coordination with First Nations on the future of the Upper Lock.	No
Kim Keprios	Wilderness Inquiry	Executive Director. Kim is our Primary Point of Contact in coordinating with Wilderness Inquiry on research, recreation, and place-based education opportunities.	No
Michael Schroeder	Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board	Michael is the Planning Director at Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board. We will work with Michael to ensure that the project is coordinated with Park Board plans for Water Works Park phase 2 (abutting property) and the Central Riverfront Regional Park.	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 ENTRF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines. Dissemination will occur via Friends of the Falls website (www.thefalls.org) and through our media efforts as well as through our key partners and professional consultants. Further dissemination plans will be developed during Activity 1, the Programming & Partnership Study. Friends of the Falls is committed to ensuring that ENTRF is acknowledged according to its guidelines.

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?

If awarded these funds, the City of Minneapolis and Friends of the Falls (FOF) will undertake activities necessary to acquire property abutting the Lock from the federal government, and protect and improve it for public use and enjoyment. The property will be donated or conveyed to the City of Minneapolis, who will, with FOF, ensure its long-term stewardship.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	AEC Services (architecture, landscape architecture, engineering and construction related services)				6		\$500,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Friends of the Falls will engage a consultant to facilitate the Research & Education Partnership Plan and draft a report and recommendations. This consultant will work in coordination with the design team to ensure that programming, education, and partnership priorities are reflected in the site plan.				2		\$100,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The general contractor will build the capital improvements, including procurement of materials, management of subs necessary to complete the work, and construction. Trail connections, canoe/kayak/boat access, natural restoration, access & use, wayfinding, lighting, etc.				20		\$2,200,000
							Sub Total	\$2,800,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								

	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 3 Parcels: 2						-
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$2,800,000

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 Falls (formerly Friends of the Lock & Dam)	Costs of acquisition, professional services associated with engagement, design, project management, and implementation, and capital improvements.	Secured	\$2,500,000
Cash	Friends of the Falls	Project Director	Secured	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$2,500,000
			Funds Total	\$2,500,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
2302924430004	Hennepin	Riverfront land at St. Anthony Falls guided by adopted plans for a public interest	Fee Title	1	0.2	\$750,000	Public	City of Minneapolis / Friends of the Falls	Negotiations in Progress
2302924430005	Hennepin	Riverfront land at St. Anthony Falls guided by adopted plans for a public interest. Partial Acquisition.	Fee Title	2	0.2	\$1,750,000	Public	City of Minneapolis / Friends of the Falls	Negotiations in Progress
Totals				3	0.4	\$2,500,000			

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

Restoration and management plans will be compiled in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and all appropriate authorities, and will be kept on file within the appropriate City department. Long term plan implementation, maintenance, and management will be guided by the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board, and undertaken by Friends of the Falls. A plan for ongoing sustainable stewardship of the site will be coordinated by Friends of the Falls.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

Restoration planning, design, and implementation will be done according to Board of Soil and Water Resources guidelines and professional best practices. Guidelines will be provided to the prime design consultant (a landscape architecture firm) as part of the design criteria for the site.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

Long term plan implementation, maintenance, and management will be coordinated by Friends of the Falls with the City of Minneapolis and other stakeholder parties, and long term sustainable stewardship will be ensured by Friends of the Falls.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

Conservation Corps of Minnesota will be among the resources considered in the Project.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Specific restoration activities and goals will be defined by the consulting landscape architect and environmental team as a part of the Project. Any restoration that takes place as a part of the Project will be defined, documented, evaluated after completion, and evaluated again after three years to analyze whether the stated goals have been met. The goals and methodology for evaluation will be designed with input from relevant conservation resources and tribal representatives. Problems that are encountered will be defined, and useful findings will be documented and shared with on-site managers and others in the interest of future improvement.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [0e2d46a6-167.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

The graphic depicts the two subject parcels for acquisition and improvement on the Minneapolis Central Riverfront abutting the Upper Lock at St. Anthony Falls: Hennepin County PID #2302924430005 and PID #2302924430004....

Financial Capacity

File: [fda6b7b5-f53.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	011a54bf-8bb.pdf
Board Written Action	34dfcc4d-afe.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Coalition Support Statement	5dc8e810-958.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

I made changes according to the staff comments on the COMMENTS & REVISIONS tab except for comment numbers 928 and 929, because (1) the state is committing \$0 to acquisition so that number is correctly stated as \$0 [if I put the acquisition cost into the BUDGET tab, "Acquisition Details" it gets double counted since it also appears in the ACQUISITION tab, "Parcel List"; and (2) plans are yet to be finalized so there is no way to separate each capital expenditure into separate buckets with any confidence yet. Please let me know if you wish to discuss or seek additional revisions. I changed the end date of the project to July 2023 as requested. Kjersti 612-836-8266

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

ALL PINK TRACTS DEPICTED ON THIS MAP ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FOR DISPOSITION IN THE USACE "ST. ANTHONY FALLS PROJECT" DISPOSITION STUDY, AND EACH IS DEPICTED HERE WITH ITS USACE RE TRACT NUMBER. TRACTS WITH "E" IN THE TITLE ARE EASEMENTS; OTHER TRACTS ARE OWNED BY THE US GOVERNMENT.

THIS LCCMR APPLICATION IS FOCUSED ON ACQUISITION & IMPROVEMENT OF USACE TRACTS #400-5 AND #400-4, WHICH CAN ALSO BE IDENTIFIED AS HENNEPIN COUNTY PID # 2302924430005 AND HENNEPIN COUNTY PID # 2302924430004.

ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT APPLICATION IS FOCUSED ON THESE TWO PARCELS ONLY, WHICH ARE THE PRIMARY PROJECT LOCATION, ALL TRACTS SHOWN ARE IMPORTANT TO THE PROJECT FOR THE PURPOSES OF FUTURE COMMUNITY FISHING AND RECREATION ACCESS, ROADWAY EASEMENTS, AND PARKLAND. THE PROJECT WILL PURSUE PUBLIC ACCESS THROUGHOUT IN FUTURE PHASES OF PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION.

HENNEPIN COUNTY PID #
2302924430005

HENNEPIN COUNTY PID
2302924430004

400E-1

ST. ANTHONY
FALLS

400-5

400-4

STONE ARCH BRIDGE

400-2

404E-6

400-3

400-1

A-3

A-5

A-4

A-2

A-11E

A-1

100E

A-6E

DOWNTOWN
MINNEAPOLIS

Saint Anthony Falls Project

USACE RE Tracts

