



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2021-175

Staff Lead: Corrie Layfield

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: July 21, 2021

Project Title: Minnesota Master Naturalist: Nature For New Minnesotans

Project Budget: \$293,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Robert Blair

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: July 20, 2021

Reporting Schedule: December 1 / June 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. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 05d

Appropriation Language: \$293,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota in partnership with English-language-learning organizations to adapt and incorporate materials developed for Minnesota Master Naturalists into English-language-learning programs to introduce immigrants and English-language learners to Minnesota's great outdoors.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Nature for New Minnesotans introduces English language learners to Minnesota's great outdoors using materials from Minnesota Master Naturalist and implemented in partnership with English learning programs that serve immigrants.

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

Immigrants and ethnic minority groups participate in outdoor recreation at lower rates than their white counterparts. This can be for many reasons including cost, distance, time, perception of safety, familiarity, and knowledge. Avoiding outdoor spaces means these communities do not get the benefits of being out in nature including physical activity, relief from stress, and connection to natural communities. Unfamiliarity with local natural areas and regulations can also result in foraging in locations that are unsafe due to herbicide application, fishing and hunting out of season, or overharvesting plants.

New immigrants often participate in English Language Learning (ELL) classes to gain and practice life skills, such as grocery shopping, but these classes do not typically include ways to safely participate in and enjoy outdoor activities. Learning a new language, city, and culture is difficult and new residents typically do not have time to attend classes that seem purely recreational. Additionally, signs in parks and published materials may not be available in students' native languages or at their literacy levels.

All of these barriers lead to less time spent outdoors, less enjoyment of natural areas, and underappreciation of Minnesota's natural resources, which leads to less support for conservation and stewardship.

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 Minnesota Master Naturalist program will partner with established programs that offer English Language classes in Minneapolis and St. Paul to meet these learners where they already gather. Nature for New Minnesotans will present a modified version of the Master Naturalist program's Big Woods, Big Rivers written curriculum and activities that will be selected to introduce new residents to the natural history of their new home.

Staff at the community organizations will guide the adaptation of the Big Woods, Big Rivers curriculum to ensure cultural relevance and that materials are appropriate for students' language skills. Classes will be co-led by an ELL professional and a Master Naturalist staff member. They will include a combination of in-class time discussing the readings, activities to explore and learn about nature, and visits to nearby parks. These activities will introduce students to local green spaces as well as demonstrate the ways to access these natural areas on their own either by walking or taking the city bus. This will give the students the skills, knowledge, and confidence to return to these areas with their family and friends after the class is completed.

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?

Nature for New Minnesotans will introduce immigrants to one of Minnesota's greatest assets – the great outdoors. It will take the well-developed Minnesota Master Naturalist program and tailor it to the needs of the immigrant community. The motto of Master Naturalist is "Explore! Teach! Conserve!" The program aims to do this by educating the public about Minnesota's natural history and building a community that explores Minnesota's natural areas and actively conserves them. Nature for New Minnesotans will adjust this approach by educating immigrants about their new home; focusing, in particular, on the natural world near where they live.

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?

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Develop and offer professional development for ELL instructors in Nature for New Minnesotans curriculum and materials.

Activity Budget: \$1,550

Activity Description:

The final stage of Nature for New Minnesotans is to create and offer a professional development workshop for ELL instructors who want to implement the Nature for New Minnesotans program in their teaching. Specifically, we will create a day-long workshop that introduces the ELL teachers to the adapted curriculum materials and shows them how to work with them within their existing program structure. The Minnesota Master Naturalist staff specializes in teaching adults how to teach about the environment and this will be an extension of that expertise. Depending on future demand, the Master Naturalist program will be able to train instructors using this workshop model well beyond the length of this grant.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Offer professional development training for one cohort of 20 ELL teachers.	June 30, 2024
Develop professional development training model for ELL teachers.	June 30, 2024

Activity 2: Adapt, pilot, and revise Minnesota Master Naturalist materials and instructional texts.

Activity Budget: \$96,831

Activity Description:

The first year of Nature for New Minnesotans will center on adapting the Minnesota Master Naturalist instructional model and texts to be used in programs that teach English to adult immigrants in Minnesota. Specifically, we will work closely with staff from our partner English language programs (the English Learning Center, Pillsbury United Communities, the International Institute, and the Neighborhood House). The first six months will be spent analyzing the existing Minnesota Master Naturalist program and implementing changes that would make it work better for immigrants and ethnic minority groups in the state. This would be paired with adapting the texts used in the Master Naturalist program for a variety of reading levels. We will pilot these materials with an English Language Learners (ELL) class for immigrants (15 students) at the English Learning Center (ELC). Finally, we will revise all materials with feedback from staff members from our partner ELL programs and the ELC pilot class participants.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Adapt instructional texts of Minnesota Master Naturalist program in consultation with ELL staff.	December 31, 2021
Adapt Minnesota Master Naturalist program model to make it more accessible for immigrant populations.	December 31, 2021
Revise instructional model and texts based on the pilot in consultation with ELL staff.	June 30, 2022
Pilot program with adult students enrolled in ELL class and receive feedback.	June 30, 2022

Activity 3: Implement Nature for New Minnesotans in courses offered by ELL program partners.

Activity Budget: \$194,619

Activity Description:

The second and third years of Nature for New Minnesotans will be devoted to using the updated and revised materials

with immigrants enrolled in ELL classes at our partner centers around the Twin Cities. Typically, these centers, such as the English Learning Center, hold 15-week-long, four-days-a-week classes in the spring, summer, and fall with ~15 participants one each class. We will offer Nature for New Minnesotans during these classes at a minimum of three different centers during each season for two years. With this effort, we will reach approximately 3 seasons x 2 years x 3 centers x ~15 students = ~270 adult learners and their families.

Specifically, we will use one class period per week to focus on the Nature for New Minnesotan materials. The objectives for this class period will be to:

1. Use texts about the natural history of Minnesota to teach English.
2. Introduce the students to Minnesota's outdoors.
3. Help the adult learners develop a sense of place in their community..
4. Show them places to visit and things to do outdoors by themselves and with their families.
5. Encourage the adult learners to participate in public conservation and citizen science projects in their communities.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Offer Nature for New Minnesotans ~45 students per season: fall 2022, spring and summer 2023.	June 30, 2023
Offer Nature for New Minnesotans ~45 students per season: fall 2023, spring and summer 2024.	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Kaija Bergen	Neighborhood House	Host organization that works with immigrant groups and teaches English for language learner classes.	Yes
Andrea Echelberger	Literacy Minnesota	Host organization that works with immigrant groups and teaches English for language learner classes.	Yes
Stacy Dietrich	International Institute of Minnesota	Host organization that works with immigrant groups and teaches English for language learner classes.	Yes
Jenne Nelson	English Learning Center at Our Savior's	Host organization that works with immigrant groups and teaches English for language learner classes. Will assist in adapting and piloting initial materials.	Yes
Tsega Tamene	Pillsbury United Communities	Host organization that works with immigrant groups and teaches English for language learner classes.	Yes

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.

This project is focused on dissemination. It will train more than 320 new adult immigrants who are learning English about Minnesota's outdoors. We will specifically introduce activities that are youth friendly so that these new immigrants will be able to share their new knowledge with their families. All adapted reading materials from the Minnesota Master Naturalist program will be available online for free download from the University of Minnesota Extension website at the end of the grant. The new materials and activities will also be used in training approximately 35 English Language Learner educators on how to introduce Minnesota's outdoors to their students. The materials for this training will be available for free download online as well after the grant ends. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 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 Acknowledgment 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?

Year 1 of Nature for New Minnesotans focuses on adapting the Master Naturalist program and its instructional texts for immigrants who are enrolled in programs that teach English as a second language. This year includes piloting the materials at the English Learning Center and revising them based on feedback from students and instructors. Years 2 – 3 involve implementing the materials in at least 18 courses at our three additional partner ELL centers. The materials and curriculum will be available to ELL teachers and, if warranted, the Master Naturalist program will continue to offer annual training to ELL teachers.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Minnesota Native Bee Atlas	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 03g	\$790,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Web Support		Manages project web site.			31.8%	0.12		\$7,675
Project Coordinator, Britt Forsberg		Adapts materials, works with ELL centers and staff, teaches classes			31.8%	3		\$199,445
Project Director, Robert Blair		Manages project and personnel, adapts material			36.5%	2.25		\$45,735
							Sub Total	\$252,855
Contracts and Services								
English Learning Center at Our Savior's	Sub award	Staff will assist in adapting program and written materials; piloting course, and revising materials in the first year. Staff will work with project to deliver materials in second and third years.				0.3		\$5,500
Pillsbury United Communities	Sub award	Staff will review adapted materials in first year. Staff will work with project to deliver materials in second and third years.				0.15		\$3,000
International Institute of Minnesota	Sub award	Staff will review adapted materials in first year. Staff will work with project to deliver materials in second and third years.				0.15		\$3,000
Neighborhood House	Sub award	Staff will review adapted materials in first year. Staff will work with project to deliver materials in second and third years.				0.15		\$3,000
Literacy Minnesota	Sub award	Staff will review adapted materials in first year. Staff will work with project to deliver materials in second and third years.				0.15		\$3,000
Graphic Designer	Sub award	Graphic designer for design and layout of adapted instructional texts to be used with adult English language learners.				0.1		\$4,500
							Sub Total	\$22,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								

8/22/2021

	Tools and Supplies	Teaching Supplies	Supplies used to teach courses (markers, post-its, demonstration materials, flip charts) (\$50 per course * 19 courses)					\$950
	Tools and Supplies	Participant Materials	Supplies used by adult learners for nature-based activities (hand lenses, field guides, field notebooks) (\$20 per participant x 285 participants)					\$5,700
	Tools and Supplies	Printer Toner	For printing instructional materials during pilot year and limited materials for courses offered in Years 2 and 3.					\$450
	Tools and Supplies	ELL Instructor Workshop Materials	Materials for ELL Instructors including sample participant materials and instructor guides (\$50 per ELL Instructor X 20 Instructors + \$610 to round off total LCCMR request)					\$1,610
							Sub Total	\$8,710
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Mileage for coordinator to work and teach with partner programs.	The coordinator will be working with and teaching with staff at organizations dispersed throughout the Twin Cities region. (2,000 miles per year at \$0.575 per mile)					\$3,450
	Other	Bus tickets for adult learners to participate in two field trips per course.	Each three-month course will include two field trips to nearby natural areas. (\$2.50 per ticket x 2 per participant x 285 participants)					\$1,425
							Sub Total	\$4,875

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Instructional materials.	Adapted materials for adult English language learners. (\$16 per participant X 285 participants)					\$4,560
							Sub Total	\$4,560
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$293,000

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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [c09d122f-bc9.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The graphic outlines the three major phases of the Nature for New Minnesotans project:

Step 1: Minnesota Master Naturalist and community partners adapt lessons and reading materials on Minnesota natural history for adult English Language Learners.

Step 2: Materials are piloted and then revised based on ideas from adult English Language Learners and their instructors.

Step 3: Hundreds of new Minnesotans learn about the natural history of their state in their English classes and, with their ...

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Nature for New Minnesotans Background Check	c31fee08-d9a.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

To meet the new expected budget, we decreased the amount of time that project principal investigator will be devoting to the project from two months per year to one month per year. Additionally, we adjusted the materials given to students and the projected number of students from 25 students per class to a more realistic 15 students per class. This adjustment actually brought into line the original budget (which was higher) and made it consistent with the original narrative. The original narrative projected reaching a total of ~325 students. We now expect to reach ~285 students during the pilot course and the subsequent 9 regular courses. These changes brought the overall budget down from \$345,000 to \$293,000.

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?

Yes, I agree to the UMN Policy.

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?

Yes, Sponsored Projects Administration

Nature for New Minnesotans

Nature for New Minnesotans will introduce English language learners to Minnesota's great outdoors using materials from Minnesota Master Naturalist and implemented in partnership with English learning programs that serve immigrants.

Step 1: Minnesota Master Naturalist and community partners adapt lessons and reading materials on Minnesota natural history for adult English Language Learners.



Step 2: Materials are piloted and then revised based on ideas from adult English Language Learners and their instructors.



Step 3: Hundreds of new Minnesotans learn about the natural history of their state in their English classes and, with their families, become part of a community that explores Minnesota's natural areas & actively conserves them.

