



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Work Plan

### General Information

**ID Number:** 2021-363

**Staff Lead:** Corrie Layfield

**Date this document submitted to LCCMR:** July 21, 2021

**Project Title:** Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum Project

**Project Budget:** \$825,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Lisa Vollbrecht

**Organization:** City of St. Cloud

**Office Telephone:** (320) 255-7225

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**Web Address:** www.ci.stcloud.mn.us

### 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. 09t

**Appropriation Language:** \$825,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of St. Cloud to reroute and upgrade an existing stormwater system in the Highbanks Ravine area to improve an existing bat hibernaculum, reduce erosion, and create additional green space for wildlife habitat.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2024

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** The City of St. Cloud will be rerouting and upgrading their existing stormwater system in the Highbanks Ravine area working with the DNR to preserve an existing bat hibernaculum.

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

A brick and mortar storm sewer, also known as the bat cave, is a bat hibernaculum protected by a DNR easement. The brick and mortar storm sewer outlet is the entrance used by bats to enter the bat cave. The City has been working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for guidance regarding the regulations associated with the bat hibernaculum easement that protects the brick and mortar storm sewer. The DNR completed bat surveys of the hibernaculum, in 1992, 2012 and 2016, all surveys were completed by Gerda Nordquist with the DNR. The oldest recorded bat in Minnesota was surveyed within this particular bat hibernaculum. After the 2016 survey, Ms. Nordquist indicated that “there is evidence that the tunnel floods to the top which would be detrimental to any bats roosting there”. This flooding is caused by stormwater flow during rain events. During a conference call with the DNR on September 11, 2017 the DNR indicated a decrease bat population due to stormwater presence in the bat cave. The DNR would require improvements to the bat hibernaculum and they would like to see all drainage removed from the bat hibernaculum to create a better and more favorable habitat for the bats.

**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.**

Extending the primary storm sewer before it enters the bat cave by re-routing it around the ravine and out of the bat cave, would eliminate 98% of the stormwater flow through the ravine and eliminate 100% of the stormwater flow within the bat cave. Stormwater flow and surges through the ravine cause significant erosion, creating a sediment island at the mouth of the ravine, and turbulent discharges to the Mississippi River during heavy rains. Rerouting of the storm sewer would address bat hibernaculum concerns, these erosion issues, and looming impacts to adjacent properties and a downstream 30-inch sanitary sewer that crosses the ravine. The new storm sewer route would be located within City owned right-of-way. Filling of an adjacent deep and dangerous depression will also help improve safety in the area, improve conditions for bats, and provide for a natural green space for wildlife habitat. Trash and debris management will include removal and disposal of the trash and debris within the ravine and provide education for the surrounding property owners to help prevent future trash dumping. Overland flow management will be provided by working with property owners to re-route yard drains, down drains and roof drains to city roads and

**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?**

Installation of a new storm sewer within City owned right of way to re-route stormwater flow away from the bat hibernaculum and around the ravine (See Attached Visual). This will address all the identified issues, including preservation and enhancement of the bat hibernaculum, erosion within the channel and associated impacts to adjacent properties and structures, and protection of the sanitary sewer main. To address ongoing erosion from existing failures and to protect the ravine against the remaining stormwater flow from a 12-inch storm sewer outlet and overland discharges, the ravine channel and the toe and bank failures will be stabilized.

## Project Location

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

Watershed(s): Mississippi River - St. Cloud

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

Region(s): Central

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Engineering Design and Construction Administration

**Activity Budget:** \$150,000

**Activity Description:**

The engineer will be responsible for project design, project administration, plans/specifications, bidding documents, survey, staking, onsite observation, permitting, material staking and public meetings/communications.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
Project Design Start	August 31, 2021
Project Design Completed	November 30, 2021
Construction Administration Completed	November 30, 2023

### Activity 2: Project Construction

**Activity Budget:** \$675,000

**Activity Description:**

Project construction includes rerouting and extending the existing stormwater system (See Attached Visual). General contractor will be responsible for all aspects of the project including, sewer pipes, stormwater structures, connections to the current systems, pipe rerouting, yard drain corrections, erosion and sediment control, ravine stabilization and flow management.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
Project Bid Awarded	May 31, 2022
Construction Start	June 30, 2022
Construction/Project Completed	November 30, 2023

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
General Contractor	General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process	Responsible For All Aspects Of The Project Construction	Yes
Consulting Engineer	Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Project Management/Project Design/Construction Administration	Yes
Andrew Horten	US Fish and Wildlife	Project Oversight/Bat Expert	No
Rich Baker	DNR	Project Oversight/Bat Expert	No
FEMA Staff	FEMA	Funder	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.**

Description:

The City has regular project meetings. Documentation of these meetings are developed in the form of meeting minutes that are presented and approved by the City Council. All council meetings are public and reports discussed are available to the general public.

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.

## 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?**

The City of St. Cloud will continue to partner with the DNR and the US Wildlife to ensure that the bat hibernaculum is maintained on an annual basis for at least twenty years in order to preserve this endangered species. The City is committed to operating and maintaining the storm sewer system in the Highbanks Ravine area for the system's useful life. The City will include funds in their annual budgets to cover these O&M costs. All construction related to this project will be completed to minimize the impacts to the area environment.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Engineering Firm Selected Through A Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The Engineering Firm Will Be Responsible For Project Design and Construction Administration				4		\$150,000
General Contractor Hired Through a Competitive Bidding Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	General Contractor Will be Responsible For All Aspects of Project Construction Activities				-		\$675,000
							Sub Total	\$825,000
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								

8/22/2021

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$825,000</b>

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
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	FEMA	<p>FEMA monies will be used for construction costs for the overall project.</p> <p>Project would not be possible without FEMA funding however the City is confident, considering the considerable time and communications with FEMA that these funds will be available. It is anticipated that these funds will be available in 2021.</p>	Pending	\$2,675,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,675,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$2,675,000</b>

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [9dd5d70c-03a.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

The Visual shows the project site and work that will be completed....

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Resolution	<a href="#">b61c7a62-4ed.pdf</a>
Background Check Form	<a href="#">a02a70a5-d17.pdf</a>

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter or Other*

Title	File
Support Letter	<a href="#">867aa7e0-ad9.pdf</a>

## Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

#### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

Budgets for Activities 1&2 have been adjusted to reflect the \$825,000 award. Other funds have been adjusted. Dissemination category has been added. Hibernaculum spelling corrected in the title.

## 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

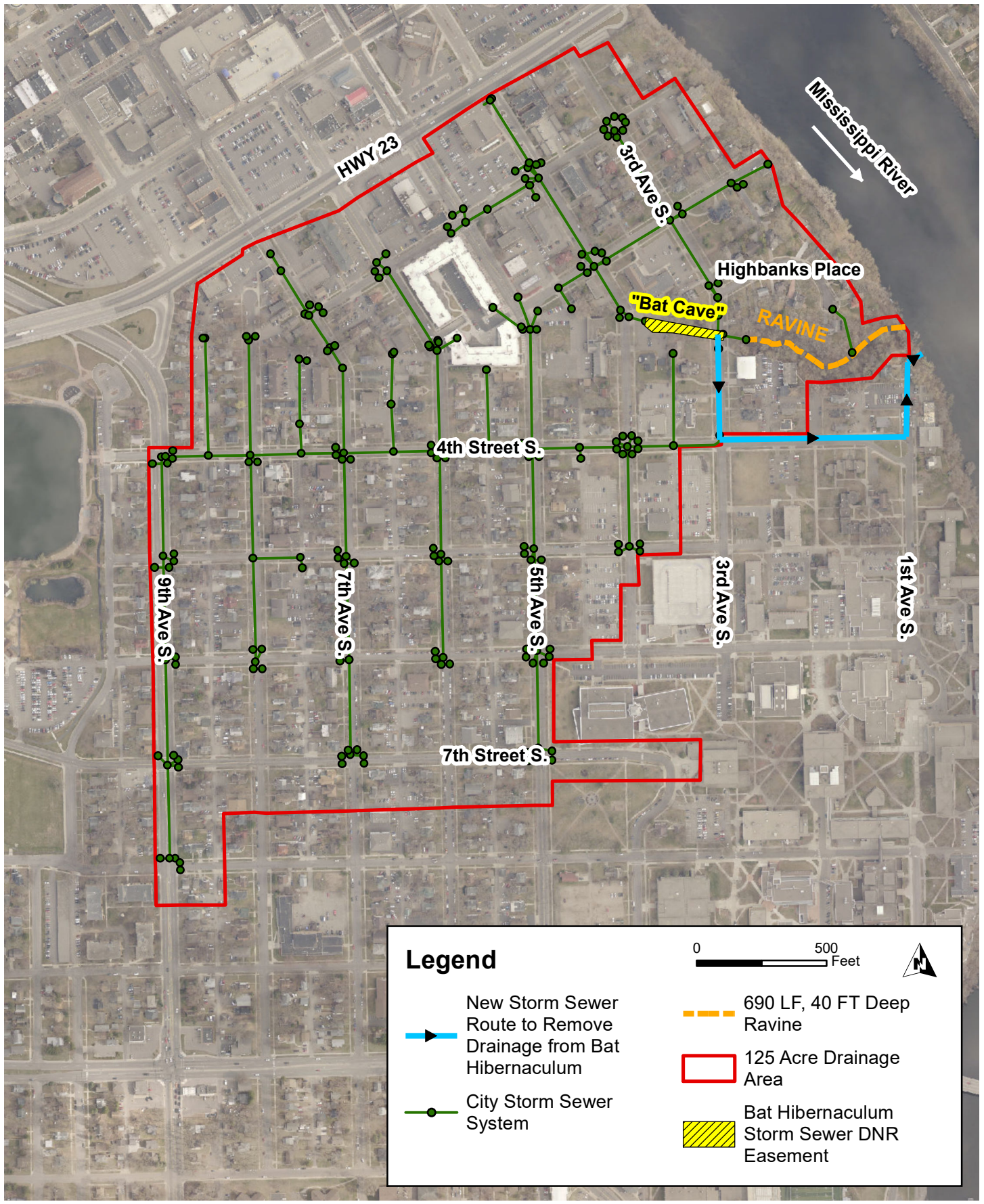
**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

Path: P:\PT\STCLO\152596\5-final-dsgn\51-drawings\90-GIS\GISFigure\_Project Map.mxd



Project Number: STCLO 152596  
Print Date: 3/18/2020

Map by: timleke  
Projection: Stearns County Coords.  
Source: St. Cloud, Stearns County, SEH

# HIGHBANKS RAVINE BAT HABITAT ENHANCEMENT & PROTECTION PROJECT ST CLOUD, MINNESOTA

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