



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2023-105

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 5, 2023

Project Title: Pollinator Central III: Habitat Improvement with Community Monitoring

Project Budget: \$190,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Rebecca Tucker

Organization: Great River Greening

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 22, 2023

Reporting Schedule: February 1 / August 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08g

Appropriation Language: \$190,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Great River Greening to restore and enhance pollinator habitat in parks, schools, and other public spaces to benefit pollinators and people and to build knowledge about impacts of the pollinator plantings through community-based monitoring.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: Small phase promoting the restoration and enhancement of 29 acres of pollinator habitat on 4 new sites, with community engagement and education through public planting and pollinator monitoring events.

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

Current urban corridors are largely undeveloped habitat for pollinators, often with mowed turf serving as boundaries between pavement and other impermeable surfaces, or with degraded spaces serving no ecological benefit. These patches of vegetation can be opportunities for municipalities, cities, and utilities to develop low-maintenance, high reward ecological areas that benefit both the pollinator community as well as the neighborhoods that these parks, schools, and public spaces serve. In addition to the restoration and establishment of pollinator habitat for imperiled species, there is an opportunity for stewardship, community education, and hands on monitoring to understand how pollinators interact with these spaces.

This is the third phase of the Pollinator Central grant presented to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations, the first two of which were initiated in fall 2021 and are progressing well as of spring 2022. Phase III proposes to continue addressing the still present opportunities regarding pollinator habitat establishment, public education and engagement, and pollinator insect population monitoring on four new sites throughout the Twin Cities Metro and adjacent spaces. A larger set of projects is anticipated for the subsequent Phase IV, with these four proposed projects ready to start within this round of funding.

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

Following recommendations from the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection and other habitat assessment guides, we will restore habitats in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes to support a 'hopscotch' corridor for pollinators, as well as improve core habitat areas. Turf conversion of small, high quality patches will join grassland, edge, wetland, shoreline, and limited amounts of forest and woodland all within flight distance of year-round habitat.

Proposed implementation will follow recommendations provided by the Habitat Assessment Guide for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Xerces*), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Monarch Conservation Database and other guides, field surveys and expert review. Emphasis will be placed on adjacency within a landscape mosaic to provide forage habitat throughout the year, as determined by using state-of-the-art pollinator habitat 'core and - patches' adjacency mapping analysis. Restoration and enhancement activities will be guided by ecological plans, and implemented by a variety of labor forces including subcontractors, field crews, landowner in-kind, and volunteers.

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?

These improvements will increase floral resources and improve nesting and over-wintering habitat for pollinators, while engaging a total of 100 habitat volunteers in field activities. In addition, we will monitor every site through several direct pollinator monitoring techniques, guided by both Greening staff and pollinator monitoring experts, to collect useful data on pollinator response to habitat improvements, effectively engaging 50 community scientists in monitoring efforts that require reasonable time, skill, and expense, making the approach scalable. A final report will be generated and disseminated that will help guide the implementation in future phases of this program.

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 and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Activity Budget: \$172,700

Activity Description:

Habitat restoration and enhancement steps will typically follow: Site selection and ranking; habitat improvement plan including goals, timelines, plans for labor forces such as volunteers, landowners, Greening crew, subcontractors and partners, and long-term management; site preparation, installation, establishment; and monitoring throughout. We will restore pollinator habitat with a focus on Species of Greatest Conservation Need bumble bee species and monarch butterflies on public locations through a pollinator corridor following the Mississippi River throughout the Twin Cities metro area, contributing to the continuing and popular multi-phase "Pollinator Central" effort extending from Hastings to St. Cloud.

Following recommendations from the Governor’s Committee and others, we will include non-traditional habitat areas, with this phase focusing on turf conversions of areas adjacent to traditional habitat cores. Typical restoration activities will include turf conversion and prairie establishment; wetland and shoreline restoration and enhancement; judicious use of invasive removal and woodland restoration, restricted in size and to locations that are adjacent to season-long habitat emphasizing forbs, select flowering shrubs and trees, and habitat needs for overwintering and nesting. Restoration and enhancement activities will be implemented guided by ecological plans and implemented by a variety of labor forces including subcontractors, field crews, landowner in-kind, and volunteers.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Site selection and management plan completion for 4 new sites.	June 30, 2024
Completion of restoration and enhancement on all sites.	June 30, 2026

Activity 2: Community Science Pollinator Monitoring

Activity Budget: \$17,300

Activity Description:

Monitoring will occur pre and post restoration/enhancement to determine the pollinator habitat value of the site and the response to the improvements. This monitoring will potentially take several forms and at escalating levels of rigor, depending on what has been shown to be accomplishable as well as informative during Phase I and II. These two initial phases are only in their first year of monitoring as this grant is being written, and future phases (including Phase III) will take guidance from what is learned in 2022 and 2023, prior to application in 2024 and beyond.

Direct pollinator monitoring will encompass this suite of approaches including citizen science techniques of timed meander counts on multiple sites, with training, and non-lethal photography with identification on multiple sites. The simplest monitoring will include a timed count of 3 categories of pollinators (honeybees vs. native bees vs. other floral visitors) and camera ‘trapping’ using skilled photographers and expert identification.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Pre-restoration baseline surveys for each of the chosen sites.	June 30, 2024
Site specific monitoring plans - community count surveys and photographic surveys.	June 30, 2024

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.

Great River Greening will coordinate multiple volunteer events and widely distribute digital media to showcase individual projects and educate the community on the specific restoration and enhancement work being done. This will include e-news letters, social media, and online articles written with partners on their websites, describing the activities as well as the benefits these activities have to the natural environment and the surrounding communities.

We will also document the method and results of the pollinator insect monitoring on these restoration sites. The collected data will be given to the site partners individually and collectively, as well as disseminated in the form of written summaries and presentations and talks to the site owners and general conservation community. This will allow other restoration practitioners as well as the general public to use the knowledge gained on successful pollinator habitat improvement techniques on projects of their own in the future.

The Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund will be acknowledged in all dissemination, as well as with on site signage as required by the associated 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 work be funded?

This is the third phase of the Pollinator Central grants presented to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations and owing to the volume of interest we have received each time we have released RFPs to land-owning partners, we anticipate that there will be critical need and opportunity for future multiple phases in this Pollinator Central corridor. These projects are well matched by cash and in-kind funding from landowners and other sources, and the landowners will commit to long term maintenance of the restoration sites. The restoration monitoring information will be disseminated with grant assistance.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Upland, Wetland, and Shoreline Restoration in Greater Metropolitan Area	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 08g	\$509,000
Community Stewardship to Restore Urban Natural Resources - Phase Ten	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08i	\$524,000
Pollinator Central: Habitat Improvement with Citizen Monitoring	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08a	\$750,000
Pollinator Central II: Habitat Improvement With Community Monitoring	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08c	\$631,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Grant Manager		Oversees Project Managers, Ecologists and Field Coordinator. Approves contracts, invoices and budgets.			21%	0.03		\$2,300
Project Manager Ecologist		Manages day to day project execution, crew, contractors, project budget and timeline.			21%	0.33		\$25,700
Events & Outreach		Manages all tasks related to volunteer acquisition, event development and event execution.			21%	0.24		\$15,900
Field Crew		Conducts on-site work to support project deliverables.			19%	0.15		\$8,400
Grant Administration		Tracks grant budget, project budgets, develops status reports and amendments.			24%	0.03		\$1,700
							Sub Total	\$54,000
Contracts and Services								
Restoration and Enhancement sub-contracts following state competitive RFP requirements.	Professional or Technical Service Contract	We expect that multiple contracts will be engaged to provide the following types of services: site preparation, turf removal, invasive species control, native species planting, woody harvest / thinning, forestry mowing, herbicide treatment, prescribed fire, haying, and other activities. These contracts will be executed as part of Activity 1.				0.4		\$82,450
							Sub Total	\$82,450
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Activity 1 Tools & Supplies	Seeds, plugs, herbicide, tools for R/E activities conducted by Greening crew, volunteers, and landowners as needed to satisfy project deliverables.					\$48,900
	Tools and Supplies	Activity 2 Tools & Supplies	Sampling supplies and other required equipment to support project deliverables.					\$500

							Sub Total	\$49,400
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Activity 1 Related Travel	Support site visits to accomplish deliverables.					\$1,550
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Activity 2 Related Travel	Support site visits to accomplish deliverables.					\$500
							Sub Total	\$2,050
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Activity 1 Related Printing	Promotional material for volunteer coordination, signage for event site instructions and logistics.					\$150
	Printing	Activity 2 Related Printing	Promotional material for volunteer coordination, signage for event site instructions and logistics.					\$500
							Sub Total	\$650
Other Expenses								
		Activity 1 Volunteer event related expenses	Tent, table, chairs, food, latrine, etc., as required to support project volunteer event deliverables and the promotion of LCCMR strategy and objectives to citizen volunteers.	X				\$450
		Activity 2 Volunteer event related expenses	Tent, table, chairs, food, latrine, etc., as required to support project	X				\$1,000

			volunteer event deliverables and the promotion of LCCMR strategy and objectives to citizen volunteers.					
							Sub Total	\$1,450
							Grand Total	\$190,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Other Expenses		Activity 1 Volunteer event related expenses	Volunteer Event Related expenses will support volunteer hours needed to accomplish project deliverables and to provide education to volunteers on the ecological benefits of the project and awareness of LCCMR's commitment and funding to these projects.
Other Expenses		Activity 2 Volunteer event related expenses	Volunteer Event Related expenses will support volunteer hours needed to accomplish project deliverables and to provide education to volunteers on the ecological benefits of the project and awareness of LCCMR's commitment and funding to these projects.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
In-Kind	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Funding from the OHF to be used on the same project sites for restoration and enhancement activities that cannot be funded by this LCCMR grant.	Potential	\$24,000
			State Sub Total	\$24,000
Non-State				
Cash	City of West St. Paul	A variety of expenses directly related to the individual landowner or partners sites such as contracting, material purchase, or indirect expenses related to management of the projects.	Pending	\$4,000
Cash	Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District	A variety of expenses directly related to the individual landowner or partners sites such as contracting, material purchase, or indirect expenses related to management of the projects.	Pending	\$10,000
In-Kind	Total of 150 volunteers at \$24/hr (MN-DNR posted rate) averaging 4 hours of service per volunteer.	Restoration and enhancement volunteer hours for planting and seeding native species as well as monitoring the pollinator species on the projects.	Potential	\$14,400
In-Kind	GRG administrative match	GRG staff indirect administrative expense to do the work for this grant.	Secured	\$10,000
Cash	GRG cash match	GRG direct expenses to do the work for this grant.	Secured	\$8,000
In-Kind	Partner In-Kind	Landowner labor contributing to the direct execution of the projects, as well as the administrative labor going in to the project management.	Potential	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$56,400
			Funds Total	\$80,400

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Cranberry Lake	Washington	Wetland edge buckthorn and hazard ash tree removal, with native tree and pollinator plantings.	Restoration	20	-	\$77,000	Public	Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District	Has Not Begun
Loeb Lake, Marydale Park	Ramsey	Lakeside turf conversion to prairie and native plantings in a popular city park.	Restoration	3	0.5	\$34,200	Public	City of St. Paul	Has Not Begun
Riverside Park	Carver	Turf conversion to prairie and native plantings at a city park.	Restoration	4	-	\$38,500	Public	City of Carver	Has Not Begun
West St. Paul Municipal Campus	Dakota	Turf conversion to prairie and native plantings at the City municipal complex.	Restoration	2	-	\$23,000	Public	City of West St. Paul	Has Not Begun
Totals				29	0.5	\$172,700			

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 plans include target community, timelines, methods, budgets and long term maintenance. These plans are filed electronically by unique project numbers and can be referenced by staff or landowner as required by the needs of the site.

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.

All plans will follow the most recent version Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

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 maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds become the responsibility of the landowner. Greening seeks to assist when possible.

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

Great River Greening contacts the Conservation Corps of Minnesota once the grant is secured to seek their interest for any restoration activities.

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.

Evaluations will be completed during the process including initially after activity completion and three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations will 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.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [cb7e289b-cae.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

M.L. 2023 Pollinator Central III - Great River Greening map of proposed project sites labeled with Pollinator Central I and II sites marked....

Financial Capacity

File: [7d3591e4-401.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
GRG Board Resolution LCCMR ML2023FY2024 Pollinator Central 3	f14e7510-338.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Letter of Support - City of West St. Paul	a6f3cd09-c8b.pdf
Letter of Support - Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District	af7896be-e5a.pdf
LCCMR PC3 ML2023 Flier	33eea46c-421.pdf
GRG Background Check Certification Form 2022	d991f6ee-6c6.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

1. Added (2022) Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship (Amy Kilgore) as an "Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years". 2. Confirmed Project Location. 3. Requested new reporting schedule. 4. Updated the Dissemination language.

November 8, 2022 (RCT) - Updated "Other" expenses to generally ineligible and added a brief reasoning for their need.

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 Commissioner's Plan.

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