



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2024 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2024-111

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 6, 2024

Project Title: Increasing Access to Environmental Education Youth Camps

Project Budget: \$163,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Bryan Wood

Organization: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 20, 2024

Reporting Schedule: June 1 / December 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2027

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2027

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2024, Chp. 83, Sec. 2, Subd. 05k

Appropriation Language: \$163,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center to provide hands-on environmental education learning opportunities to underserved children through scholarships and transportation to Osprey Wilds' day-use and residential summer camps.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2027

Narrative

Project Summary: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center will provide meaningful, hands-on environmental education learning opportunities to underserved rural and metro area children through our day-use and residential summer camps.

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

Children today are increasingly deprived of time in nature, spending an average of 7-12 hours looking at a screen, and only 7 minutes outdoors daily, resulting in a lack of awareness, understanding and contact with the environment. For students low on the socio-economic spectrum, this is further compounded as there are typically no outdoor areas accessible near where they live. Thirty-eight percent (over 323,000 children) of Minnesota's K-12 students qualify for free and reduced-price (FRP) meals, meaning day and residential youth camps are not affordable for hundreds of thousands of children. By offering camp scholarships for children and families who need financial support, we will provide meaningful hands-on nature experiences to a minimum of 500 children. Every child experience will include multiple learning sessions that are directly focused upon the learning outcomes of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund's (ENRTF) constitutionally declared goals and objectives. We are collaborating with the Multicultural Kids Network, a Maple Grove, MN based 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that provides support and information to African families and their children in the United States. Many of these families have limited access to resources within their adopted community.

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.

We will provide scholarship assistance for youth and family camp fees as needed, with each child spending a minimum of three days (24 hours) at Osprey Wilds, including a minimum of 18 instruction hours. Residential camps would be up to five days (96 hours) at Osprey Wilds, with 40 instruction hours. Our camps range in price from \$200 - \$750, based on duration, age level and learning materials needed. We will reach underserved regional rural populations of Pine, Kanabec and Carlton county children, as well as underserved metro area children showing a clear financial need through our scholarship application process. There is an urgent demand for financial support for these immersive, nature-based learning experiences. Without scholarship support, Minnesota will not reach its ENRTF goals with our younger citizens. As an accredited school, Osprey Wilds provides evidence-based, hands-on outdoor programs that increase the number of children recreating and learning outdoors. Due to the nature of these multi-day camp learning experiences where the level of engagement is very high, learning is such that it creates lifelong memories, which are the basis for developing the outdoor ethic Minnesotans are famous for. All Osprey Wilds staff have passed background checks and are fully trained.

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?

Provide a minimum of 500 Minnesota youth multi-day learning experiences at Osprey Wilds.

By giving children extended time in nature, we help Minnesota achieve ENRTF's goals and help children develop environmental awareness, appreciation and interest, crafting a future where environmental protection, conservation and stewardship are recognized, valued and implemented.

Through financial support to underserved student populations, we address social, economic, and physical barriers to outdoor recreation.

More individuals will go into environmental careers, like the former K-12 student-participants now employed at residential environmental learning centers.

Project Location

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

County(s): Pine

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

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Outreach

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

We will make underserved youth and families aware of this opportunity and make connections with underserved communities and organizations by promoting our camp opportunities to our network of schools, through social media and digital and print advertisements, as well as groups specifically serving underserved communities including Multicultural Kids Network, Outdoor Afro, Melanin in Motion, BIPOC Outdoors Twin Cities, and Outdoor Latino Minnesota. We will promote this funding opportunity through our authorized charter schools, where we have 40 schools broadly across Minnesota serving over 9,000 students, of which 67% are BIPOC students, and 25% English Language Learners. We will transport campers to Osprey Wilds for their camp experiences.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Arrange for face-to-face in-person and virtual meetings with BIPOC groups to share camp opportunities	December 31, 2024
Contact BIPOC focused and local youth populations & groups & target market through social media, schools, web-ads	May 31, 2027

Activity 2: Offer Camp Scholarships and Transportation to Underserved Youth

Activity Budget: \$162,999

Activity Description:

Provide transportation in Osprey Wilds' vehicles to youth campers receiving scholarships at specified local and metro area pick up locations, based on enrollments of camps. We anticipate this to be between 10 to 20 round-trips per week, for each week of camps offered for each summer of the grant. Provide scholarships to underserved campers.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Provide 150 camp scholarships for underserved youth with 18-40 instruction hours, based on camp.	June 30, 2025
Provide 175 camp scholarships for underserved youth with 18-40 instruction hours, based on camp	June 30, 2026
Provide 175 camp scholarships for underserved youth with 18-40 instruction hours, based on camp.	June 30, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Samba Fall	Multicultural Kids Network	Executive Director	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.

Osprey Wilds will disseminate information about this grant opportunity through multiple outlets including: printed and electronic promotional materials to Minnesota's public and private schools, individuals, and families advertisements and promotion on our accounts with various social media platforms, print and electronic newsletters to our mailing and emailing lists, and in-person promotion and acknowledgements at our onsite programs and offsite programs.

Acknowledgement of the ENRTF will be included in all project communications and outreach – including press releases, media interactions, signs, publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media. All written communication will use at minimum the following wording "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)." For each program, staff will state verbally to the entire group that their visit had "Funding provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund."

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?

By broadening our reach, Osprey Wilds will build more community networks opening more funding avenues to help families attend our environmental education focused programs. We plan to reach out to Outdoor Afro, Melanin in Motion, BIPOC Outdoors Twin Cities, and Outdoor Latino Minnesota and our network of 40 authorized charter schools to promote these learning opportunities. Building these relationships could create potential partners for future funding. We will leverage ENRTF dollars to secure other financial support from donors and foundations. Osprey Wilds is one of the significant employers in Pine County, with a staff of nearly 30 employees.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Increasing K-12 Student Learning to Achieve ENRTF's Goals	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05b	\$1,602,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Providing shuttle transportation for three years of camps locally, and to and from the metro area. Estimate 20,000 miles total. Reimbursed at the mileage rate in the Commissioner's Plan	Provide transportation					\$13,000
							Sub Total	\$13,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								

							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Camp Scholarships	Provide minimum of 500 youth camp scholarships, resulting in a minimum of 9,000 instruction hours. Scholarships cover camp expenses including program expenses (instruction, staffing, lodging, food, materials, related expenses)					\$150,000
							Sub Total	\$150,000
							Grand Total	\$163,000

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	Osprey Wilds - Bids for Kids Fundraiser	Scholarship Support	Secured	\$35,000
Cash	Caroline Vernon - Donor	Scholarship Support	Secured	\$10,000
In-Kind	Osprey Wilds	Marketing Efforts from Osprey Wilds Marketing & Communications Staff	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$55,000
			Funds Total	\$55,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [e2f6f91e-cdc.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This visual aid by the Children and Nature Network illustrates some of the many cognitive, behavioral and social-emotional benefits children experience when spending time in nature....

Financial Capacity

File: [ddb2c156-064.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Osprey Wilds Board Resolution	bb937a1d-dcf.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Broke out activities into 2 categories. First is promotion and transporting campers to Osprey Wilds. Second is completion of their weeks at camp through scholarships. Adjusted language for travel reimbursement, and added a resolution and letter of support from the board of directors.

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, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

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

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes