



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2024 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2024-170

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 6, 2024

Project Title: Completing the Mississippi River Greenway: Dakota County

Project Budget: \$657,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Tom Lewanski

Organization: Dakota County

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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: December 31, 2027

Final Report Due Date: February 14, 2028

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2024, Chp. 83, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h

Appropriation Language: \$657,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Dakota County to restore and enhance habitat on public lands, establish linear native plantings, and install electric-vehicle charging stations within and along the 27-mile Mississippi River Greenway in Dakota County. Net income generated as part of this appropriation may be reinvested in the project if a plan for reinvestment is approved in the work plan. This appropriation is subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10, and is available until June 30, 2028, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2028

Narrative

Project Summary: Restore and enhance 51 acres of natural areas, five miles of linear natural signature plantings and install seven EV charging stations along the 27-mile Mississippi River Greenway.

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

While the recreational trail part of the Mississippi Greenway is nearing completion, significant work is still needed to achieve the full greenway vision. Through this LCCMR grant request, Dakota County is proposing implementation of two goals that further the greenway vision.

Goal 1 – Enhance the ecological functions of the greenway by restoring and establishing habitat along the corridor. The greenway extends from Dakota/Ramsey County boundary to the City of Hastings. The landscape within this greenway corridor ranges from highly altered industrial areas in the north, transitioning to relatively high-quality natural communities in central part of the corridor, which then trends to a more agricultural landscape as it approaches Hastings. This presents the opportunity to restore and enhance the ecological health along the river in the south metro, providing important connectivity for species that utilize this internationally significant river as a migration corridor. This river serves as the natural frame upon which habitat improvement can be developed, helping to restore natural resource connectivity in an otherwise fragmented and highly altered urban area, to the benefit of local and statewide ecosystems.

Goal 2 – Green the greenway by integrating EV charging at parks and trailheads. Improve access to EV charging opportunities.

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.

Dakota County is proposing to conduct habitat restoration and enhancement activities, often in collaboration with other public landowners, to improve the natural resources along the Mississippi River corridor. This project will restore and enhance 51 acres, five miles of focused native signature plantings and add seven EV charging stations along the greenway. This project will enable the County to partner with public landowners along the Mississippi River Greenway to restore and enhance prairies and woodlands that are adjacent to or in the vicinity of the greenway. Specific activities include exotic invasive plant control, soil preparation, seeding, plant installation and long-term vegetation maintenance on publicly owned land in the corridor.

This grant will also support the installation of seven level 2 EV chargers spaced along the 27-mile corridor at existing parks and trailheads. These chargers will support people travelling to and along the river in electric cars, bikes and personal mobility devices. As a national/state/regional facility EV charging will further encourage and support cleaner transportation alternatives.

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?

Restoration of this section of the Mississippi River Greenway will increase diverse natural communities that will provide the following: increased habitat for an array of wildlife species especially pollinators in high-potential Rusty Patched Bumblebee zones and migrating birds, improved water quality by reducing soil erosion and sediment pollution, reduced storm water runoff by increasing the capacity for water infiltration; and enhanced experiences for people using the Mississippi River Greenway. Providing charging facilities in conjunction with parks and trails further promotes the transition to cleaner transportation options and provides opportunity to market the Mississippi River Greenway as a "Green" recreational corridor.

Project Location

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

County(s): Dakota

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: Restore and establish habitat along the Mississippi River Greenway

Activity Budget: \$289,000

Activity Description:

Dakota County is proposing to conduct habitat restoration and enhancement activities on eight identified areas comprising 51 acres along greenway. This project will restore and enhance the habitat condition along the Dakota County side of the river corridor within existing public owned properties. Dakota County has a history of effectively working with cities to restore and enhance natural areas on city properties. Specific activities include exotic invasive plant control, soil preparation, seeding, plant installation and long-term vegetation maintenance on publicly owned land in the corridor.

Activity Milestones:

| Description | Approximate Completion Date |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Assess condition of eight identified restoration areas along greenway. | July 31, 2025 |
| Develop and release a request for proposal and hire restoration contractor. | December 31, 2025 |
| Restoration or enhancement of 4 identified areas totaling 26 acres | December 31, 2026 |
| Restoration or enhancement of the remaining 4 identified areas totaling 25 acres | December 31, 2027 |

Activity 2: Establish native plantings along 5 miles of greenway within existing road right of way

Activity Budget: \$242,000

Activity Description:

This activity will focus on creating a natural signature along 5 miles of the greenway that have limited opportunity to incorporate larger restoration areas. Based on a native landscaping plan this activity will integrate linear tree planting, pollinator plantings and native prairie seeding. The goal is to provide a consistent natural signature along the greenway sections that follow roads, while providing habitat value despite space constraints. Plant selections will be determined based on soil types, space availability and durability along road corridors. Coordination will take place with County Transportation staff for County ROW and with City Engineers/public Works Directors for local ROW to ensure that plant selection and placement are suitable and do not interfere with road safety and utilities.

Activity Milestones:

| Description | Approximate Completion Date |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Prepare native planting landscape plan. | December 31, 2025 |
| Develop and release request for proposals and complete contract process. | July 31, 2026 |
| Secure all relevant permits | July 31, 2026 |
| Implement native planting plan for 2.5 miles on greenway. | December 31, 2026 |
| Implement native planting plan for the remaining 2.5 miles of greenway. | December 31, 2027 |

Activity 3: Install 7 EV charging stations along the Mississippi River Greenway

Activity Budget: \$126,000

Activity Description:

Our project will fund the installation of 7 level 2 chargers along the 27-mile corridor at existing parks and trailheads. These EV chargers will support people travelling to and along the river in electric cars, bikes and personal mobility

devices. A first step will be for the County to contract with electrician(s) and work with local utilities to site and install each station. County will purchase Chargepoint EV chargers from State contract and have them installed at each site, once utilities are in place. All work would be completed within 29 months of getting approval for funding. As a national/state/regional facility, EV charging further encourages and supports cleaner transportation alternatives. Installation of EV Chargers will occur at the following locations:

- Kaposia Landing – South St Paul
- Wakota Bridge Trailhead – South St Paul
- Swing Bridge Trailhead – Inver Grove Heights
- Pine Bend Bluffs Trailhead – Inver Grove Heights
- Spring Lake Regional Park Reserve – West Trailhead – Rosemount
- Spring Lake Regional Park Reserve - Schaar’s Bluff Visitor Center
- Lake Rebecca Park - Hastings

Activity Milestones:

| Description | Approximate Completion Date |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Assess individual sites for existing utilities to service charging locations. | December 31, 2024 |
| Secure any required permits | May 31, 2025 |
| Complete installation of utilities for each charging station. | October 31, 2025 |
| Develop and release request for proposals and complete contract process. | December 31, 2025 |
| Complete Installation of 7 EV charging stations. | December 31, 2026 |

Project Partners and Collaborators

| Name | Organization | Role | Receiving Funds |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chris Klatt | Dakota County | Project Lead | No |
| Joe Walton | Dakota County | Ecological consultation to the project | No |
| Kevin McNamara & Michael Hermann | School District 199 | As the school's representative, they will coordinate the planning and implementation of the restoration on school property. | No |
| Brian Swoboda | City of Inver Grove Heights | Project Representative for the City of Inver Grove Heights | No |
| Shannon Young | City of South St. Paul | Project representative for the City of South St. Paul | 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.

Information about this project and ENRTF funding will be presented on Dakota County's parks website using the ENRTF logo, during interpretive programs, with interested media and to natural resource and land management professionals. In addition, Dakota County and City partners will display ENRTF signs in several locations along the Mississippi River Greenway.

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?

Dakota County has a strong natural resource program with staff that have expertise in natural resource management who will lead implementation of the proposed habitat elements of the project. The EV charging elements will be implemented and managed by our Capital Facilities staff with ongoing operations and maintenance likely managed through contracted services. As part of the regional greenway system Dakota County assumes ongoing maintenance and operational costs related to proposed improvements along the greenway. Funding for ongoing operations and maintenance will be programed in our capital improvement program.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

| Name | Appropriation | Amount Awarded |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Reintroduction Of Bison To Spring Lake Park Reserve | M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08q | \$560,000 |

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 | Native plant community restoration services associated with activity 1. | | | | 1.5 | | \$143,000 |
| TBD | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Native plant community restoration services associated with activity 1. The restoration activities will take place at several locations. In order to finish the restoration work within the time frame of this grant, we may need to contract with an additional contractor. We are experiencing capacity issues with some contractors. | | | | 1.5 | | \$146,000 |
| TBD | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Landscaping and planting services within greenway corridor that is more manicured, such as along roads or in more urban areas. This is associated with activity 2. | | | | 1.5 | | \$242,000 |
| TBD | Professional or Technical Service Contract | 7 level 2 chargers EV Charging Equipment and Installation associated with activity 3. | | X | | 1.5 | | \$126,000 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$657,000 |
| Equipment, Tools, and Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Capital Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Acquisitions and Stewardship | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Travel In Minnesota | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Travel Outside Minnesota | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Printing and Publication | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| | | | | | | | Grand Total | \$657,000 |

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

| Category/Name | Subcategory or Type | Description | Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Contracts and Services - TBD | Professional or Technical Service Contract | 7 level 2 chargers EV Charging Equipment and Installation associated with activity 3. | The EV charging equipment purchased with this appropriation will be used along the greenway for the use by the public through equipment's useful life. We understand and acknowledge that Dakota County will repay the State of Minnesota if the use of the EV charging stations changes from the stated use. There will not be any net income from the sale of the electricity from the EV charging stations. Any and all income will be used for the maintenance and operation of the charging stations. \$10,000 per unit for installation and utilities, \$8,000 per unit (State contract pricing) for each dual Chargepoint station. |

Non ENRTF Funds

| Category | Specific Source | Use | Status | \$ Amount |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| State | | | | |
| | | | State Sub Total | - |
| Non-State | | | | |
| Cash | Dakota County Capital Improvement Plan | 10% match to requested LCCMR funds | Secured | \$75,000 |
| | | | Non State Sub Total | \$75,000 |
| | | | Funds Total | \$75,000 |

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

| Name | County | Site Significance | Activity | Acres | Miles | Estimated Cost | Type of Landowner | Easement or Title Holder | Status of Work |
|----------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Dehrer Park | Dakota | wooded park adjacent to Greenway | Restoration | 3 | - | \$16,000 | Public | Dakota County, City of South St Paul/Corp of Engineers | Has Not Begun |
| Ernster Park | Dakota | Invasive vegetation management, replanting, ash tree management | Restoration | 2 | - | \$12,000 | Public | City of Inver Grove Heights | Has Not Begun |
| Heritage Park Floodplain Forest | Dakota | Invasive vegetation management, ash tree removal with select replanting | Restoration | 6 | - | \$33,000 | Public | City of Inver Grove Heights | Has Not Begun |
| Kaposia Oak Savanna | Dakota | Part of Kaposia Ravine area of South St. Paul with creek draining directly to Mississippi River. | Restoration | 9 | - | \$50,000 | Public | City of South St. Paul | Has Not Begun |
| Pine Bend Elementary School - Woodland | Dakota | Woodland restoration, including exotic invasive plant control. | Restoration | 12 | - | \$64,000 | Public | School District 199 | Has Not Begun |
| Simons Ravine | Dakota | Bottom of Ravine within Kaposia Park in South St Paul | Restoration | 14 | - | \$82,000 | Public | City of South St Paul | Has Not Begun |
| South Kaposia/Bryant Ave | Dakota | Prairie restoration on land within Kaposia Park | Restoration | 3 | - | \$20,000 | Public | City of South St Paul | Has Not Begun |
| Wakota Trailhead Levee | Dakota | Turf to prairie restoration on levee next to Mississippi River/Greenway | Restoration | 2 | - | \$12,000 | Public | City of South St Paul/Corp of Engineers | Has Not Begun |
| Totals | | | | 51 | 0 | \$289,000 | | | |

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.

Yes. All restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership. All infrastructure related to the EV charging will be maintained and operated by Dakota County for its useful life.

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.

Dakota County develops Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP) for each of its parks and greenways. Each plan includes information on historic conditions, current conditions, target conditions/natural communities, timelines, budget and maps. The River to River Greenway NRMP was completed in 2020 and presents key restoration projects within the area in the scope of this project. Additionally, the NRMP for the Mississippi River Greenway is scheduled to be completed in 2024 and it will guide the specific actions and goals for all areas along the greenway. These documents are guides used by project managers for specific restoration projects. The NRMPs are living documents that are updated every 5- 10 years. Dakota County's Natural Resource staff are responsible for implementing these plans and implementation commences upon their completion. All natural resource restoration projects and activities are documented with GIS files for ongoing monitoring and documentation of ongoing restoration efforts.

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.

This project will use native seed and plant material sourced from the local region, as much as possible, to ensure that the plants are viable and adapt to the conditions of the site. Seed selection will include a high diversity of species that provides functions of pollinator habitat, foraging habitat for wildlife species, floodplain management, and soil stability.

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.

Dakota County Parks Department will be responsible for the long-term maintenance and management needs of the project sites. Funding will be available through its annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

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

Dakota County will consider contracting with the Conservation Corps Minnesota to conduct some of the activities associated with this project. Dakota County's partnership with CCMI has been successful in the past for establishing initial plantings within the project area, which will be expanded upon with the activities outlined in this proposal.

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.

Dakota County Natural Resource Staff will complete evaluations during and after the project is completed, monitoring will be completed throughout the growing season annually into the future and a summary of our monitoring data will be completed three years after the initial habitat installation.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [7c12e9a1-cb7.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map representing the location of project elements....

Financial Capacity

File: [9c168ad7-8a9.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

| Title | File |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| County Board Resolution | c3de7f67-404.pdf |

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

| Title | File |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Linear Native Planting Illustration | aba94790-bcf.pdf |
| 2022 DC ADFR [gs 21-24 | 4f587901-b8d.pdf |
| 2022 DC pgs 35-60 | 7f114b75-0a8.pdf |

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Reduced the acres to be restored to correspond with the recommended funding level, swapped out one restoration parcel and modified the estimated costs per site to correspond with the recommended restoration portion of the budget. Also added names of project partners. The suggested changes were made to the work program (5/7/2024).

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, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

Yes

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

Yes

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here (1) the source and estimated amounts of any revenue and (2) how you propose to use those revenues:

Yes, County fee schedule provide for \$1.00 hookup and .15 cents per kwh for use of County owned Chargepoint stations. We will use this revenue to offset the management, operational and maintenance costs of these units once installed. Annual revenue is predicted to be approximately \$5,040 from the charge stations.

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?

Yes

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")?

No