



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2025 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2025-134

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 17, 2025

Project Title: Camp Parsons Mississippi Summer

Project Budget: \$225,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Aaron Raivo-Lynch

Organization: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center

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Web Address: <https://www.phylliswheatley.org/>

Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 26, 2025

Reporting Schedule: March 1 / September 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2028

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2028

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05k

Appropriation Language: \$225,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center to provide environmental education to Minneapolis urban youth through the Camp Parsons Mississippi Summer program that fosters connections to nature and encourages responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2028

Narrative

Project Summary: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center (PWCC) will provide environmental education to Minneapolis youth through Camp Parsons Mississippi Summer, a program that fosters connections to nature and encourages responsible stewardship.

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

PWCC is a 100-year old organization that since the 1930s has provided opportunities for Black children and families to explore the outdoors and benefit from immersion in nature. While the Twin Cities region is rich in parks and recreation opportunities, these resources are not equitably available to communities of color, which continue to experience cultural and economic exclusion. The families we serve reside in an urban area where violence is prevalent and public safety an urgent concern. It is uncommon for children and families to spend time outdoors and form connections to nature. As a result, PWCC has for decades designed and implemented summer camps and family programs that are both restorative and educational. From 1957 to the early 2000s, these programs took place at PWCC's Carver County property, Camp Katharine Parsons. Although the Camp was shuttered for some time, we are now in a five-year process of restoring the grounds. In the meantime, PWCC has relaunched programming focused on outdoor equity. Our goal is to create pathways for all Minnesotans to become land stewards by increasing access to natural resources, and exploring environmental issues through education and recreation.

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.

PWCC creates accessible, culturally-appropriate programming that encourages young people to explore the outdoors, connect with nature, and take responsibility as environmental stewards. We offer summer activities for youth that expose them to natural resources, introduce them to environmental concepts, and provide meaningful engagement during out-of-school time that might otherwise be unstructured or unsupervised.

During the grant period, we will conduct Camp Parsons Mississippi Summer, a program held annually between July and August. 5 one-week sessions will take place each summer, in 2025, 2026 and 2027. Bus trips will take campers from PWCC to sites along the Mississippi River located within the Twin Cities Metro, including Coon Rapids Dam, Wabun Park and Harriet Island. Throughout this journey, campers will learn about local ecology and the history of the Mississippi watershed. We will discuss industrialization along the river, the environmental harm it caused, and how it impacts the shape of our communities today. Cross-curricular activities will help students gain an understanding of policy decisions, and how they have affected access to environmental resources. Students will come away understanding the interconnectedness of people and water systems. They will also develop a deeper sense of responsibility to protect the local environment.

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?

The proposed project will have the following outcomes:

Increased awareness of local ecology including water resources

Expanded awareness of environmental issues in a historical, social and cultural context

Increased knowledge and skills that supports healthy and sustainable lifestyles, and resilient communities

Transformed attitudes regarding care, stewardship and conservation

Increased opportunities for recreation in the outdoors

Increased engagement by communities of color with a focus on inclusive, culturally-appropriate and restorative activities

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?

County(s): Hennepin

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Camp Parsons Mississippi Summer

Activity Budget: \$225,000

Activity Description:

PWCC will offer five 1-week camps focused on environmental education and exploration of the Mississippi River where it passes through the Twin Cities. Each year, 200 youth ages 8-12 will benefit from excursions along the river, guided by educational partners delivering a high quality curriculum that includes the following topics: watersheds, the biomes in Minnesota, the history of industrialization and deforestation, birds and wildlife, and social justice issues related to environmental policy, public health and water quality. Campers will gain an appreciation of the Mississippi as a recreational corridor with the opportunity to enjoy boating and being on the water. They will broaden their worldviews by exploring natural spaces outside of their urban neighborhoods, fostering a connection to nature that supports healthy lifestyles and resilient communities.

We also plan to add paddling experiences on the Mississippi river, available on the weekends for families. This will enhance the programming by adding a multi-generational component.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Summer Camp 2025	August 31, 2025
Summer Camp 2026	August 31, 2026
Summer Camp 2027	August 31, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Molly Coddling	Department of Natural Resources	Education partner (serving as a guest instructor/presenter)	No
To be determined	Owámniyomni Okhódayapi	Providing First Nations perspective on history and culture in the curriculum	Yes
To be determined	Wilderness Inquiry	Canoe experience	Yes
Adam Flett	Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	Delivering educational content	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.

We will document and share the outcomes from the program in our Annual Report, which will be shared with community members and stakeholders. We will maintain a webpage for the program, where we will feature your support and logo. We will pursue public relations and media partnerships to grow awareness of the program.

We will acknowledge the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (name and logo) on promotional flyers and our web page, and agree to comply with all acknowledgement requirements.

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?

Grant funds will allow PWCC to sustain and strengthen our environmental education programs, which will remain a key component of Phyllis Wheatley's holistic family services in the long-term. We have a strong record of success in establishing public and private partnerships to fund our no- and low- cost programming, benefiting low income Black families on the Northside of Minneapolis. Philanthropic support remains our largest revenue source.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Camp Director		Designs, implements and manages the program. \$13,720 x 3 years (2025, 2026, 2027)			0%	0.6		\$41,160
Summer Coordinator 1		Oversee staff, manage day to day operations during camp sessions \$6,000 x 3 years (2025, 2026, 2027)			0%	0.36		\$18,000
Summer Coordinator 2		Oversee staff, manage day to day operations during camp sessions \$6,000 x 3 years (2025, 2026, 2027)			0%	0.36		\$18,000
Camp Counselor 1		Implements activities and supervises campers \$2,400 x 3 years (2025, 2026, 2027)			0%	0.24		\$7,200
Camp Counselor 2		Implements activities and supervises campers \$2,400 x 3 years			0%	0.24		\$7,200
Summer Coordinator 3		Oversee staff, manage day to day operations during camp sessions \$6,000 x 3 years (2025, 2026, 2027)			0%	0.36		\$18,000
							Sub Total	\$109,560
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	First Nations Educational Partner \$2,500 / yr x 3 years. Will provide lessons on Dakota history and culture, with a focus on the key role of waterways and sites along the Mississippi.				0.12		\$7,500
TBD	Service Contract	Bus Transportation Services \$13,000 / yr x 3 years				0.48		\$39,000
Wilderness Inquiry	Service Contract	Boating Services - family paddling opportunities \$5,000 / year x 3 years				0.12		\$15,000
							Sub Total	\$61,500
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Supplies: Waterfront Activities / Park Admissions \$3,800 x 3 years (2025, 2026, 2027)	Camp activities					\$11,400
	Tools and Supplies	Supplies: Camper Snacks and Lunches \$9,210 x 3 years	Feeding campers during sessions	X				\$27,630

	Tools and Supplies	Supplies: Camper tshirts and water bottles \$4,170 x 3 years. These are essential supplies for campers, as the tshirts serve as a uniform and the water bottles ensure youth have access to water without relying on single-use plastic.	Camp activities					\$12,510
	Tools and Supplies	Supplies: Safety \$210 x 3 years	Safety					\$630
	Tools and Supplies	First Aid and CPR training \$390 x 3 years	Safety and staff preparedness					\$1,170
							Sub Total	\$53,340
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Camper Survey	Measure youth's perceptions of the river before and after the summer program.					\$600
							Sub Total	\$600
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$225,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies		Supplies: Camper Snacks and Lunches \$9,210 x 3 years	Cost per child is \$11.51 (under the lunch max in the Commissioner's Plan)

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Hennepin County Green Partners Grant	Fund staffing and program costs prior to LCCMR funds being available.	Secured	\$12,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$12,000
			Funds Total	\$12,000

Total Project Cost: \$237,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [952825e8-74b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Promotional flyer for the 2024 Camp Parsons Mississippi Summer...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Form 990	c81ac46e-729.pdf
Secretary of State Proof of Good Standing	861a6ed8-946.pdf
Audit	4352eb57-103.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Authorization	afd83542-56c.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Letter of Support from MN Land Trust	8f01b68e-86e.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

No significant changes. We addressed the comments and suggested revisions.

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 understand that travel expenses are only approved if they 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?

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

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this project:

Aaron Raivo-Lynch, Senior Director of Camp Parsons

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand