

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

# M.L. 2025 Final 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

**Office Telephone:** (612) 400-1454

**Email:** AaronRL@phylliswheatley.org

**Web Address:** https://www.phylliswheatley.org/

## **Project Reporting**

**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 Codding | 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 Inquirty | 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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified 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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/c81ac46e-729.pdf) |
| Secretary of State Proof of Good Standing | [861a6ed8-946.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/861a6ed8-946.pdf) |
| Audit | [4352eb57-103.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/4352eb57-103.pdf) |

#### **Board Resolution or Letter**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| Board Authorization | [afd83542-56c.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/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