Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2026 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2026-542

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: May 19, 2026

Project Title: Anoka Rum River Dam Reconstruction and Modification Project

Project Budget: $3,110,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Ben Nelson

Organization: City of Anoka

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Web Address: https://www.anokaminnesota.com/

Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 17, 2026

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2029

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2029

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2026, Chp. 104, Sec. 2, Subd. 04r

Appropriation Language: $3,110,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Anoka for predesign, engineering, and final design of improvements to the Anoka Rum River Dam to enhance dam safety, restore aquatic habitats, and expand recreational opportunities in the Rum River just upstream of its confluence with the Mississippi River.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2029

Narrative

Project Summary: Project includes pre-design/design for reconstruction and improvements to the Anoka Rum River Dam; restoring fish passage, recreation, navigation lock, pedestrian bridge, and safety near the confluence with the Mississippi

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

The Anoka Rum River Dam in historic downtown Anoka has existed since the early 1850s. It is located next to Anoka City Hall, about ¾ mile upstream of the confluence of the Mississippi and Rum Rivers.

The original timber dams powered sawmills, woodworking plants, and copper shops along the east bank of the Rum River. In 1891, the Rum River recreational pool was created by placing log timbers and flashboards on the dam to raise water levels. During the 1930s, the City of Anoka was granted flowage rights, purchased the dam, and became its sole owner. In 1969, the City replaced the aging timber structure with the current dam, which now supports a six-mile recreational pool upstream.

However, today critical operational safety risks, outdated infrastructure, lack of fish passage, and restricted vessel access make modernization essential. The flashboard system is antiquated, manually operated, and incapable of providing flood control. In response, the City is pursuing comprehensive improvements to enhance safety, restore ecological connectivity, and expand public access by connecting the upper Rum River to the Mississippi River.

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.

In 2024, a project team evaluated strategies for improving the dam and completed a feasibility study aimed at enhancing safety, restoring aquatic habitats, and expanding recreational opportunities. The study identified viable solutions, including removing fish passage barriers by incorporating a fish passage and lock feature, with additional benefits guiding the selection of a preferred alternative.

This project will reconnect the upper Rum River to the Mississippi River, creating new recreational opportunities and benefiting communities across Anoka and Hennepin Counties. The navigational lock and fish passage will support native fish migration from Mille Lacs to the Mississippi River, restoring natural stream processes and improving riparian and floodplain habitats.
The selected alternative will minimize stream disturbance, enhance worker safety, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and limit recreational disruptions caused by fluctuating water conditions.
Upgrades will allow Anoka to actively manage water levels for flood control, mitigate environmental impacts, and provide recreational access above the dam through a lock feature. Additionally, a new river recreation feature below the dam would introduce activities like tubing, whitewater kayaking, and river surfing.

This application advances key next steps in engineering, including pre-design and design, providing a thorough evaluation of improvements while maintaining environmental and recreational integrity.

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 Anoka Rum River Dam Reconstruction and Modification Project will restore fish passage, reconnecting native species to vital habitats and enhancing aquatic biodiversity. The project retains the upstream pool, preserving water levels for ecological stability and recreational use. By mitigating safety risks, including outdated infrastructure and hazardous maintenance procedures, it protects public resources while improving resilience. Additionally, expanded recreational opportunities—such as safe boating access, whitewater features, and improved connectivity to the

Mississippi River—will increase public interaction with natural resources while supporting conservation efforts. These enhancements would provide long-term sustainability, accessibility, and ecological integrity of the Rum River.

Project Location

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

City(s): Anoka

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

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Pre-Design Elements

Activity Budget: $1,555,000

Activity Description:
The pre-design phase of the Rum River Dam Improvement Project will focus on regulatory outreach, stakeholder engagement, and preliminary design development. Meetings with regulators will identify necessary environmental field studies and establish a strategic communications plan to ensure effective stakeholder involvement.

A phased project approach will be developed to align with available funding, as discussed with the Senate Capital Investment Committee in October 2024. A detailed survey will capture dam dimensions, topography, bathymetry, property boundaries, and utilities to establish an accurate baseline for future work.

Environmental documentation will include a geotechnical investigations, sediment analysis, and regulatory compliance requirements. These studies will support project phasing, cost management, and long-term sustainability. Public engagement efforts will be prioritized to keep community members and stakeholders informed. A Pre-Design Report will summarize findings, shaping the next phase of engineering and construction.

Environmental studies will include if required a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA).

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Enrollment in the Minnesota B3 Guidelines Tracking Tool	September 30, 2025
All matching funds legally secured	July 31, 2026
Strategic Communication: Regulatory and Stakeholder Outreach; Strategic Communication Plan Developed	December 31, 2026
Survey or Delineation Work: Topographic survey; Environmental studies; Geotechnical investigation; Sediment analysis	April 30, 2027
B3 Tracking, Dept. of Administration Pre-Design Review, SHPO Consultation	April 30, 2027

Activity 2: Design Elements

Activity Budget: $1,555,000

Activity Description:
The design phase will advance the project through final engineering, geotechnical analysis, and public engagement. Engineers will refine project plans, ensuring regulatory compliance, structural integrity, and environmental sustainability.

A geotechnical investigation will assess soil and foundation conditions to guide construction methods. Findings will support risk mitigation, cost management, and long-term stability of the dam improvements. Public engagement will continue to be a key priority, with meetings and outreach efforts ensuring stakeholder input is incorporated into the final design. Transparent communication will address community concerns, project benefits, and expected timelines.

By the end of this phase, the project will have completed construction-ready designs, final regulatory approvals, and a clear implementation strategy, setting the stage for the permitting and construction process.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Approval of Draft and Final Plans	December 31, 2027
Permitting and Other Agency Review	December 31, 2027
Advertisement for Bids	December 31, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Lisa LaCasse	City of Anoka	Project Manager	Yes

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.
Dissemination Plan
The City of Anoka, in coordination with HDR, will ensure the results, benefits, and progress of the Anoka Dam Improvement Project are shared broadly and accessibly with entities and individuals who may benefit from the work. Our dissemination efforts will include:

1. Stakeholder and Agency Outreach
- Regular updates and milestone presentations to project partners, including Minnesota DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Anoka Conservation District, and other organizations as applicable.
- Coordination with regional recreational, environmental, and safety advocacy groups to provide the opportunity for project input and awareness of project benefits.
2. Public Engagement and Education
- Public meetings, open houses, and on-site informational signage during and after construction to inform residents about safety, ecological, and recreational improvements.
3. Technical and Project Documentation
- Development of technical summaries and reports for submission to LCCMR and other funding partners.
- Archival of final design documents, environmental review findings, and monitoring data with the City of Anoka and relevant state agencies to promote longevity and accessibility for future research or project replication.
4. Promotion and Acknowledgment of ENRTF Support
- Use of ENRTF attribution language and logo on all printed, digital, and physical materials, including presentations, reports, public displays, and construction site signage.
- Inclusion of ENRTF acknowledgment and social media tags in all press releases, website updates, and social media postings related to the project.
5. Long-Term Accessibility of Results
- Public access to project updates and outcomes will remain available on the City of Anoka's website following project completion.
- Coordination with Minnesota DNR to integrate habitat and recreational improvements into ongoing state-managed data, mapping, and public access tools.

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 project received state and local funding, with more anticipated as design elements are further developed. The project was allocated $500,000 from the 2023 State Bonding for the completed feasibility study, which determined the total cost range of $25M to $55.5M. There are two bills totaling $6.5M that have been signed by the governor during the 2025 legislative session. To address future costs, the City submitted a $31.94M request to MMB in 2026 of $4.696M in was approved awaiting governs signature. State and Federal funding will be pursued.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	**-**
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	Engineering and contractor fees for Design activity. Based on the results of the pre-design report, project design elements will be completed under a single or multiple contracts.				9		$1,555,000
TBD	Service Contract	Engineering and contractor fees for Pre-Design activity. The tasks to be completed under single or multiple contracts would support the milestone of a pre-design report.				7		$1,555,000
							Sub Total	**$3,110,000**
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	**-**
Capital Equipment								
							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	**$3,110,000**

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	$ Amount
State				
Cash	2023 MN state session law - spent	Engineering and final design development for all elements of the project	Secured	$500,000
Cash	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Ch. 8, Art. 1, Sec. 19 – 2025 MN State Special Session Law (2025 MN State Special Session Law)	Engineering and final design development for all elements of the project	Secured	$6,200,000
			State Sub Total	**$6,700,000**
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	**-**
			Funds Total	**$6,700,000**

Total Project Cost: $9,810,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: f1bc48db-2c1.pdf

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Rum River Dam Concept –Looking downstream from west side of the Rum River. The fish passage and recreational features are in the foreground on west bank, with the upgraded navigational channel on the background, along east bank. Runners, walkers, and spectators cross the river on the raised trail feature....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	c882c951-173.pdf
Financial Statement	cd787074-723.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
RESOLUTION RES-2025-023	faa27b94-ac6.pdf
Authorization Letter	f804a4a9-ab8.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Legislative Handout and Future Renderings	70b99096-dbd.pdf
Budget Addendum Form	96b0c428-475.xlsx
Capital Project Questionnaire	a3262759-da8.pdf
Minnesota Session Laws - 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 8 - H.F. No.14	f2b0b78b-8b7.pdf
Revised Budget Addendum	5a7169fa-cd8.xlsx

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Updated budget numbers based on recommended funding amount, attached 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to address financial capacity assessment comment, and included a dissemination plan.

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?

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

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

Lisa LaCasse, City of Anoka; Dan Kvasnicka, HDR; and Anna Stritecky, HDR

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