



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2026 Draft Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2026-190

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: October 16, 2025

Project Title: Pollinator Central V: Habitat Improvement with Public Engagement

Project Budget: \$750,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Rebecca Tucker

Organization: Great River Greening

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Project Reporting

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

Project Completion: December 31, 2029

Final Report Due Date: February 14, 2030

Legal Information

Legal Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2030

Narrative

Project Summary: Continuing pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on 7 sites from Mankato to Little Falls, with public engagement and education centered on native pollinators and community participation in natural resource stewardship.

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

Current urban corridors are largely undeveloped habitat for pollinators, often with turf or degraded woodlands serving as boundaries between pavement and other impermeable surfaces. These patches of vegetation can be opportunities for municipalities and educational institutions to develop low-maintenance, high reward ecological areas that benefit the pollinator community as well as the neighborhoods that these parks, nature centers, and public spaces serve.

However, public landowners are hindered by budget or lack of expertise in natural resource management, making these types of tangible projects not possible without assistance.

In addition to the restoration and establishment of habitat for imperiled pollinator species, there is an opportunity for stewardship, community education, and hands on monitoring to understand how pollinators interact with these restored spaces. Partners have expressed the need for more direct facilitation of public engagement as a part of these habitat creation projects. Communities are either understaffed or benefit from the expansive education on native plants and pollinators that is provided with this partnership. Continuing the habitat creation, enhancement, and public education creates paths to sustainable communities.

This fifth phase of Pollinator Central projects will partner with a wide range of municipalities to support pollinator habitat stewardship on publicly accessible project sites.

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.

Following recommendations from the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection and other habitat assessment guides, we will restore habitats in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes to support a 'hopscotch' corridor for pollinators, as well as improve core habitat areas. Shoreline turf conversion to small, high quality native patches will join project work on grasslands, savannas, wetlands, and woodlands all within flight distance of year-round habitat.

Proposed implementation will follow recommendations provided by the Habitat Assessment Guide for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (Xerces), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Monarch Conservation Database and other guides, field surveys and expert review. Emphasis will be placed on adjacency within a landscape mosaic to provide forage habitat throughout the year, as determined by using state-of-the-art pollinator habitat 'core and - patches' adjacency mapping analysis. Restoration and enhancement activities will be guided by ecological plans, and implemented by a variety of labor forces including subcontractors, field crews, landowner in-kind, and volunteers.

Direct inclusion of groups in these communities looking for education on native plant and pollinator species, as well as the participation in the hands-on creation and establishment of these habitats, will add value to these healthy environmental spaces through creative, public engagement.

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 improvements on 108 acres over 7 sites with 0.19 mile of shoreline will increase floral resources and improve nesting and over-wintering habitat for pollinators, while engaging a total of 250 habitat volunteers in field activities. In addition, we will monitor several sites using accessible techniques, guided by Greening staff and trained local stewards learning from previous years monitoring projects, to collect data on pollinator response to habitat improvements,

engaging 100 community scientists in monitoring efforts, public stewardship and education. Management reports will be generated and disseminated to landowners that will help guide future habitat enhancement.

Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro, Central, SE,

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

Region(s): Metro, Central, SE,

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Activity Budget: \$700,400

Activity Description:

Habitat restoration and enhancement steps with 6 public landowners on 108 acres over 7 sites: Site assessment; plan development including goals, timelines, outline of labor forces such as volunteers, landowners, Greening crew, subcontractors and partners, with long-term management; active site preparation, installation, establishment; and monitoring throughout. We will restore pollinator habitat with a focus on Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including bumble bee species and monarch butterflies as examples, on an expanding corridor in 6 counties from Mankato up the Minnesota River to the Twin Cities and up the Mississippi River to Little Falls.

Following recommendations from the Governor's Committee and others, this includes non-traditional pollinator habitat areas, including turf conversion and woodland understories recently cleared of the invasive buckthorn. Typical restoration activities will include turf conversion and prairie establishment; shoreline restoration and enhancement; judicious use of invasive removal and woodland restoration, restricted in size and to locations that are adjacent to season-long habitat emphasizing forbs, select flowering shrubs and trees, and habitat needs for overwintering and nesting pollinators. Restoration and enhancement activities will be guided by ecological plans and implemented by a variety of labor forces including subcontractors, field crews, landowner in-kind, and 250 volunteers.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Site selection and contracting / native planting plan completion for 7 sites.	December 31, 2026
Implementation of restoration activities on all 7 sites, including public volunteer events where applicable.	June 30, 2027
Restoration and enhancement completion on 7 sites for a total of 108 acres, 250 volunteers.	December 31, 2029

Activity 2: Community Science Pollinator Monitoring

Activity Budget: \$49,600

Activity Description:

Monitoring will occur pre and post restoration/enhancement to determine the pollinator habitat value of the site and the response to the improvements. This monitoring will take several forms and at escalating levels of rigor, depending on what has been shown to be accomplishable as well as informative during Phase I and II. We have taken input from what communities were interested in learning and participating in during the first four phases of this grant series (Phase III and IV are still online currently), and are incorporating repeatable community stewardship monitoring with education to allow for observations to continue into the future independently beyond this grant funding period.

Direct pollinator monitoring, with a minimum 100 community scientists engaged, will encompass this suite of approaches including observational science techniques of timed meander counts on multiple sites, with training, and in-field photography with identification on multiple sites. Monitoring will include a timed count of 3 categories of pollinators (honeybees vs. native bees vs. other floral visitors) and camera 'trapping' using skilled photographers and expert identification through the public website iNaturalist. A minimum 3 sites will receive pollinator species education / outreach or monitoring over the duration of the grant period.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Pre-restoration habitat baseline observations for each of the 7 sites.	November 30, 2026
Site specific monitoring plans for minimum 3 sites and types of monitoring (counts or photography)	April 30, 2027
Continuing monitoring on applicable sites, with at least 3 visits or stewardship events per season.	December 31, 2028
All surveys complete, 100 community scientists engaged, final report on pollinator populations created and disseminated.	December 31, 2029

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
City of St. Louis Park	City	Landowning municipality that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 2 publicly accessible project sites.	Yes
City of Carver	City	Landowning municipality that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
Morrison County	County	Landowning county that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
City of North Mankato	City	Landowning municipality that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
LeSueur County	County	Landowning county that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
Blue Earth County	County	Landowning county that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 2 publicly accessible project sites.	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. Funding acknowledgments will be included in all outreach efforts, social media posts, and reporting. Acknowledgement will also be provided verbally at in-person events. Great River Greening will share information about each event with volunteers and youth engagement on our social media platforms, newsletter, and communications efforts. Feedback and demographic information will be tracked and reported on. This feedback will help us ensure we are meeting the needs of Minnesotans and adjusting as the project moves forward. We will continue to document our successes and lessons learned as we move forward. This project will provide Great River Greening with the foundation needed to continue engaging Minnesotans in environmental restoration. Any temporary or permanent signage will include acknowledgement of the ENRTF.

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 is the fifth phase of the Pollinator Central grants presented to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations, and owing to the volume of interest we have received each time we have released RFPs to land-owning partners, we anticipate that there will be critical need and opportunity for future phases in this Pollinator Central corridor. These projects are well matched by cash and in-kind funding from landowners and other sources, and the landowners will commit to long term maintenance of the restoration sites. The restoration monitoring information will be disseminated with grant assistance.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
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Pollinator Central: Habitat Improvement with Citizen Monitoring	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08a	\$750,000
Pollinator Central II: Habitat Improvement With Community Monitoring	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08c	\$631,000
Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05d	\$300,000
Biochar Implementation in Habitat Restoration: A Pilot	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 07b	\$185,000
Pollinator Central III: Habitat Improvement with Community Monitoring	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08g	\$190,000
Restoring Forests and Savannas Using Silvopasture - Phase2	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h	\$674,000
Building Resilient Urban Forests for Climate Change	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 07b	\$752,000
Pollinator Central IV: Habitat Improvement with Public Engagement	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 08e	\$698,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Bene fits	# FTE	Class ified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Grant Manager		Oversees Project Managers, Ecologists and Field Coordinator. Approves contracts, invoices and budgets.			21.83%	0.21		\$22,000
Project Manager Ecologist		Manages day to day project execution, crew, contractors, project budget and timeline.			21.83%	0.95		\$97,800
Field Crew		Conducts on-site work to support project deliverables			21.83%	0.14		\$7,800
Events & Outreach		Manages and conducts tasks related to volunteer acquisition, event development and event execution			21.83%	0.63		\$43,700
Grant Administration		Tracks grant and project budget compliance, develops status reports and amendments, develops documentation for reimbursement, and processes reimbursement requests			21.83%	0.25		\$18,500
							Sub Total	\$189,800
Contracts and Services								
Restoration and Enhancement Sub-Contracts, organizations TBD	Service Contract	Activity 1. Site preparation, prairie seeding, native plug planting, invasive species control, woody harvest, thinning, forestry mowing, herbicide treatment, prescribed fire, haying, and related natural resource management activities.				1.34		\$415,300
							Sub Total	\$415,300
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Activity 1 - Native plant materials (example seeds, plugs, shrubs, and trees, price dependent on species, number of individuals, and availability of species during the year of purchase), herbicide, and hand tools such as trowels and shovels, and other restoration supplies.	To create native pollinator habitat on 108 acres on the 7 projects as described in the narrative and required by in-house or volunteer activities to accomplish the restoration and enhancement goals,					\$125,600

			the individual number and price of which are determined during the active projects.					
	Tools and Supplies	Activity 2 - Population monitoring and community science education supplies including transect tape measures, pin flags, nets, educational materials, etc.	To facilitate volunteers observing and monitoring pollinators on the habitat restoration projects.					\$1,000
							Sub Total	\$126,600
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Activity 1 R/E Travel	Support travel to accomplish deliverables based on estimated number of project site visits required to complete the Activity goals.					\$12,600
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Activity 2 Monitoring Travel	Support travel to accomplish deliverables based on estimated number of project site visits required to complete the Activity goals.					\$1,200
							Sub Total	\$13,800
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Volunteer event related expenses, Activity 1	Tent, table, chairs, food, latrine, etc., as required to support project	X				\$2,500

			volunteer event deliverables and the promotion of LCCMR strategy and objectives to volunteers.					
		Volunteer event related expenses, Activity 2	Tent, table, chairs, food, latrine, etc., as required to support project volunteer event deliverables and the promotion of LCCMR strategy and objectives to volunteers.	X				\$2,000
							Sub Total	\$4,500
							Grand Total	\$750,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Other Expenses		Volunteer event related expenses, Activity 1	Event-related expenses will support participant and volunteer hours needed to accomplish project deliverables and to provide education to participants and volunteers on the ecological benefits of the project and awareness of LCCMR's commitment and funding to this project.
Other Expenses		Volunteer event related expenses, Activity 2	Event-related expenses will support participant and volunteer hours needed to accomplish project deliverables and to provide education to participants and volunteers on the ecological benefits of the project and awareness of LCCMR's commitment and funding to this project.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Great River Greening - cash match	GRG direct expenses required to do the work for this grant	Pending	\$89,248
Cash	City of St. Louis Park	Labor expense	Pending	\$10,000
Cash	Morrison County	Labor expense	Pending	\$5,000
Cash	City of Carver	Labor expense	Pending	\$20,000
In-Kind	Volunteers	Volunteer labor directly related to the deliverables of the project (350 volunteers, average 2 hours, at \$33.49/hr) based on Independent Sector's 2024 calculations.	Potential	\$23,443
Cash	LeSueur County	Labor expense	Pending	\$5,000
Cash	Blue Earth County	Labor expense	Pending	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$162,691
			Funds Total	\$162,691

Total Project Cost: \$912,691

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Belle Prairie Phase 2	Morrison	Woodland preparation, seeding, and native species establishment in a large, multi-habitat park along the Mississippi River.	Restoration	24	-	\$117,100	Public		Has Not Begun
Bluff Park	Nicollet	Expanding a successfully established prairie restoration in a city park.	Restoration	2	-	\$36,700	Public		Has Not Begun
Cedar Manor Park Phase 2	Hennepin	Continued forest enhancement with invasive species removal in a public park in an urban area.	Restoration	7	0	\$43,850	Public		Has Not Begun
Ney Nature Center	Le Sueur	Prairie enhancement, reconstruction, and oak savanna restoration at a large public nature center.	Restoration	50	-	\$120,400	Public		Has Not Begun
Riverside Park	Carver	Turf conversion to prairie and native plantings at a city park.	Restoration	4	0.19	\$83,200	Public		Has Not Begun
Westwood Hills Nature Center Phase 6	Hennepin	Continued forest and wetland enhancement with invasive species removal at a heavily used public nature center with multiple ecosystems.	Restoration	6	0	\$80,450	Public		Has Not Begun
Williams Nature Center	Blue Earth	Oak savanna restoration at a public nature center on the banks of the Minnesota River.	Restoration	15	-	\$218,700	Public		Has Not Begun
Totals				108	0.19	\$700,400			

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.

All restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

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.

Restoration plans include target community, timelines, methods, budgets and long-term maintenance. These plans are filed electronically by unique project numbers and can be referenced by staff or landowner as required by the needs of the site.

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.

All plans will follow the most recent version Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

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.

Long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds become the responsibility of the landowner. Greening seeks to assist when possible.

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

Great River Greening contacts the Conservation Corps of Minnesota once the grant is secured to seek their interest for any restoration activities.

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.

Evaluations will be completed during the process, initially after activity completion and three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations will 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.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [15c098ef-7dd.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of proposed project sites in Pollinator Central V updated after allocations....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
12.31.23 GREAT RIVER GREENING - Audited Financial Statements	69f97989-ba4.pdf
12.31.23+GREAT+RIVER+GREENING+-+990	fc992963-ab2.pdf
GRG Good Standing	c2dd877d-1e8.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution Letter	93828bc9-e97.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Map of Pollinator Central I through the proposed Phase V project sites.	b81dbe01-903.pdf
PCV - Great River Greening - Blue Earth County Letter of Support	6629a810-27e.pdf
PCV - Great River Greening - North Mankato Letter of Support	aa1ee543-cfd.pdf
PCV - Great River Greening - Plymouth Letter of Support	d58a5b2b-6e2.pdf
PCV - Great River Greening - St. Louis Park Letter of Support	1b64fc9d-c07.pdf
PCV- Great River Greening - Ney Nature Center Letter of Support	a0809420-f65.pdf
PCV - Great River Greening - Morrison County Letter of Support	447d638d-8b2.pdf
PCV - Great River Greening - Carver Letter of Support	2b4963f0-9e3.pdf
PCV - Great River Greening - LeSueur Co Letter of Support	d2268e45-342.pdf
PCV GRG LCCMR Proposal Flyer ML26	60183a65-a76.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

To accommodate the reduced budget, 3 projects were zeroed out and are no longer being considered, and 3 projects were reduced in scale. All associated statistics were adjusted to those changes. We have also added the requested Good Standing attachment, as well as attached an updated and signed Board Letter with the required sentence that was previously missing. All additional requested changes were made to the work plan prior to resubmission.

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?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

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:

Applicable staff from all listed public landowning partners were consulted on the proposed plans and project budgets for individual parcels and will be partnered with during the duration of the work.

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