

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Phase 2 Request for Proposals (RFP)

LCCMR ID: 023-A1

Project Title: Olmsted County's Decorah Edge

Total Project Budget: \$ \$103,380

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: December 31, 2010

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0.00

Priority: A1. Critical Lands Analysis

First Name: Philip

Last Name: Wheeler

Sponsoring Organization: Olmsted County

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Region:

County Name:

City / Township:

SE

Olmsted

Summary: Olmsted County's "Decorah Edge" is an ecologically sensitive area. The project will map transportation corridors to minimize impact on these areas as development occurs, thereby protecting sensitive habitats and groundwater.

Main Proposal: 1008-2-049-proposal-2009_Olmsted _main_proposal.doc

Project Budget: 1008-2-049-budget-Olmsted RFP_2009_Project Budget.xls

Qualifications: 1008-2-049-qualifications-STAFFING.doc

Map: 1008-2-049-maps-Decorah Edge in Rochester Fringe.pdf

Letter of Resolution: 1008-2-049-resolution-CB minutes .doc

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Olmsted County's - Decorah Edge

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Decorah/Platteville/Glenwood formations separate the upper and lower aquifers. Olmsted's "Decorah Edge" is an ecologically sensitive area with deep-rooted vegetation, organic and hydric soils, and wetlands that significantly reduce nitrate levels contained in the upper aquifer. Relatively small focused recharge areas within the Decorah Edge account for 50% to 60% of the recharge water to the lower aquifer. The City of Rochester (100,000 people) along with other communities depend upon these lower aquifers for their supply of drinking water.

Rochester and Olmsted County have adopted amendments to their wetland and zoning ordinances in September of 2006 protecting focused recharge along the Decorah Edge as development occurs. The project seeks to improve methods for identifying transportation corridors in advance of development to improve Edge protection efforts.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Identify Collector Corridors _____ **Budget: \$ 10,600**

Deliverable	Completion Date
Identify potential transportation corridors crossing or impinging on the Decorah Edge and Till Edge areas. Assemble more precise map information where available from partner agencies on geology, soils, and vegetation associated with focused discharge/recharge areas in those potential corridors.	08/31/2009

Result 2: Detailed Corridor Data _____ **Budget: \$ 93,000**

Deliverable	Completion Date
Conduct soil survey and other detailed corridor mapping. Integrate with LIDAR imagery and contour data when available.	Field work 12/31/2009; GIS work 06/30/2010

Result 3: Corridor Delineation & Protection _____ **Budget: \$ \$52,160**

Deliverable	Completion Date
Map planned collector corridors to minimize impacts on Edge features; develop strategies to protect highly significant areas.	12/31/2010

II. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners

The Work Plan will involve the following partner agencies:

Natural Resource Agencies: Rochester – Olmsted County Planning Department (ROPD) wetland staff; Rochester Public Works Department (RPW) stormwater management staff; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regional geologist and non-game wildlife staff; regional Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff; Minnesota Board of Water and Soil

Resources (BOWSR) wetland staff; Olmsted County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff; Minnesota Geologic Survey (MGS) staff; Rochester Public Utilities (water supply) (RPU) environmental staff; and Olmsted County Environmental Services (OCES) staff.

Transportation Planning Agencies: Rochester Olmsted Planning Department transportation planning staff (the staff serving ROCOG); Rochester Public Works Director and Transportation Engineer; Olmsted County Highway Engineer; and Mn/DOT District 6 planning staff.

GIS Assistance: ROPD GIS Division and environmental/land use planning staff.

B. Project Impact

Olmsted's "Decorah Edge" is an ecologically sensitive area. Delineating collector corridors in such a way as to minimize both direct and indirect impacts from development will protect the County's drinking water supply for generations. The same or a similar approach can be applied to Olmsted County's "Till Edge," to parts of the County impacted by other threats to focused recharge areas, and to other parts of the State where aquitards create sensitive areas of focused recharge.

C. Time

The major time issue affecting the timing of the project is the need to complete the activities delineated in Result 1 in time to complete detailed soil mapping. Our schedule is based on the assumption that those activities will be completed in time to complete soil field work before snowfall in the first year of funding. The budget is based on roughly 1,920 hours of staff time, which does not include time for work activities associated with adoption of corridor plans

D. Long-Term Strategy (if applicable)

Develop strategies (for example, regulation, conservation easements, substitution for required parkland dedication, and establishment of DNR Scientific and Natural Areas) to protect highly significant areas. Depending on the outcome of this project, ongoing work may entail development of official maps for specific collector routes or adoption of generalized general development plans with specific corridor delineations.

Olmsted County's Decorah Edge Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>% FTE</u>
Personnel:		
Phil Wheeler, Planning Director	\$ 21,340	7%
Jan Chezick, GIS Supervisor	\$ 7,070	3%
Dave Wittman, Senior GIS Analyst	\$ 25,410	17%
John Harford, Senior Planner	\$ 28,030	14%
Sandi Goslee, Senior Planner	\$ 14,660	8%
Dave Pesch, Principal Transportation Planner	\$ 8,250	4%
Contracts:	\$ -	
Consultant to perform the soil survey and site analysis.	\$ 50,000	
Equipment/Tools:	\$ -	
Acquisition (Including Easements):	\$ -	
Restoration:	\$ -	
Other: Travel Expenses	\$ 1,000	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$ 155,760	
AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM LCCMR	\$ 103,380	

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation	\$ -	
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period:	\$ -	
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period:	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$ 52,380	
Past Spending:	\$ -	

Philip H. Wheeler, AICP, ROCOG Executive Director and the ROPD Planning Director.

Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department, September, 1990 to Present: Planning Director. Direct a joint city-county department of 44 professional and support staff (42 FTE), with an annual operating budget in 2008 of \$4.45 million (excluding pass-through housing assistance). The department is responsible for six program areas, including housing and community development (as staff of the Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Rochester Olmsted Community Housing Partnership); building, well, and septic system code enforcement; geographic information systems; zoning, subdivision, flood plain, and wetland controls; transportation planning; and land use and environmental planning.

December, 1987 to September, 1990: Assistant Planning Director. Supervised division heads and oversaw grant and budget administration for department. Responsible for project leadership in urban development aspects of the Comprehensive Water Plan and in GIS development.

June, 1976 to December, 1987: Supervisor of Planning. Supervised 19 staff members performing land use, environmental, and transportation planning; GIS development; and land development controls for the Rochester and Olmsted County. Supervised development of the General Land Use Plan for the Olmsted County Area, the Rochester Urban Service Area Land Use Plan, Rochester-Olmsted County Housing Plan, and the ROCOG Long Range Transportation Plan.

St. Mary's University of Winona Graduate Program in Management

1988-89 and 1989-90 School Years: Adjunct Professor (Assistant Professor level) Taught graduate course in research and statistics covering questionnaire design, sample design, and statistical analysis tools relevant to business, government, and non-profit organizations.

Central Virginia Planning District Commission, Lynchburg, VA 24501

June, 1973 to June, 1976: Regional Economist/Environmental Planner. Provided staff assistance to the Central Virginia Manpower Planning Council; assisted in the development of county land use plans and zoning ordinances for area communities; and developed long range employment and population forecasts. Provided staff assistance to the Central Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission; assisted in the development and adoption of regional and community water quality management plans.

EDUCATION

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 1971 – 1973; Master of Urban Planning

Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota 1967 – 1971; BA (History)

