Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)

LCCMR ID: 033-A3

Project Title:

Middle Rice Creek Resotration

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

A. Water Resources

Total Project Budget: $ $2,784,352

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, 2010 - 2012

Other Non-State Funds: $ $350,000

Summary:

Stream and floodplain restoration project resulting in enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and increased public recreational use of Rice Creek in the north metro area.

Name: Douglas Thomas

Sponsoring Organization: Rice Creek Watershed District

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Blaine MN 55449

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Fax: (763) 393-3088

Web Address: ricecreek.org

Location:

Region: Metro

County Name: Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

City / Township:

_____ Knowledge Base _____ Broad App. _____ Innovation

_____ Leverage _____ Outcomes

_____ Partnerships _____ Urgency _____ TOTAL

PROJECT TITLE: Middle Rice Creek Restoration

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

1. Rice Creek extends from Howard Lake to the Mississippi River for 17.5 miles in Anoka and Ramsey Counties. Restoration of Rice Creek has the ability to undo the consequences of past efforts to control Rice Creek through channelization and confinement which has resulted in increased sedimentation of downstream Long Lake, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and increased downstream flood flows. The project will also increase the recreational use of Rice Creek as a regional water trail now that the physical barriers that prevented access across land owned by the US Army (Twin Cities Ammunitions Arsenal) were removed in 2008. However, without canoe launches physical barriers still exist for safe access both into and out of the creek by canoeists and kayakers which the project will also address.

2. Goals for the project include:
   - Restoring the shoreline and riparian habitats of Middle Rice Creek thereby enhancing the quality and diversity of fish and wildlife habitat in the creek and adjoining floodplain.
   - Restoring the water quality and stream biota, in this portion of the creek.
   - Providing environmental education via the re-introduction of people to this part of Rice Creek, by providing unrestricted access from the headwater lakes to the Mississippi River.

   Rice Creek is unique in many ways, but most notably is that 90% of the adjoining land is publically owned or controlled providing for the opportunity for the restoration of the creek in the midst of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Although the project is located in a regional park it is not considered a capital improvement which could be funded by regional park funding sources. The project is innovative in that it will demonstrate on a large scale restoration through floodplain reconnection and re-meandering.

3. Project goals will be achieved through 1) the physical restoration of the creek and floodplain by physical re-meandering and connecting the creek to its floodplain along approximately 3.1 miles of the creek, 2) establishing up to of six environmentally sensitive points of access along the creek, and 3) providing signage and educational stations along and within the restored portions of the creek.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Creek Shoreline and Floodplain Restoration **Budget:** $ 2,784,000

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. 16,425 feet of restored and re-meandered channel. The project is broken down into 5 reaches which can be treated as separate project areas.	June 2012
2. Reduce downstream sedimentation by 15,000 cu. yds./5 years	
3. Sustained Index of Biological Integrity scores above impairment threshold of 46 for fish and 57 for invertebrates	
4. Six environmentally installed access points	

Result 2: Environmental Education **Budget:** $ 250,000

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Three educational kiosks	October 2011
2. Creek signage at major road crossing	October 2011
3. Link new USGS gauge site to RCWD web-site for canoe ability	June 2011

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Team Leader - Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) – Doug Thomas, District Administrator.
Project Team Members

- Rice Creek Watershed District – RCWD will provide for overall project leadership, coordination, and oversight. Specifically RCWD will work with the partners on final site planning, conduct required final survey, design and construction plans and specifications, acquire permits, and construction management.
- Ramsey County – the County will provide technical assistance via Park Department staff to participate on project teams and to assist in signage and access point improvements.
- Anoka County - the County will provide technical assistance via Park Department staff to participate on project teams and to assist in signage and access point improvements.
- Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) – FMR will provide technical assistance through participation on project teams, mobilizing volunteers when needed, and in publicizing the project.
- National Park Service , River's and Trails Program – planning assistance

B. Timeline Requirements

July 1, 2010 to November 2010 – Final project design and preparation of plans and specifications, bidding and contractor selection.
November 2010 to May 2011 – Project construction of re-meanders and floodplain connections along with other in-stream work.
May 2010 to November 2011 – Off channel construction activities and locating and installing permanent signage such as mile markers, road crossing, access points etc...
November 2011 to May of 2012 – Making physical connection of creek to new re-meandered/constructed channel segments which allows for one growing season to establish vegetative plantings and stabilization of stream banks, etc..
May of 2012 to June of 2012 – Installation of information kiosks and other education signage

C. Long-Term Strategy

The project builds off of a successful pilot restoration project in 2004, which led to a project feasibility report (2007) which quantified project scope and cost estimates. The project is part of a long range goal of restoring altered natural water courses in the Rice Creek Watershed. The District and the Counties are committed to continuing to improve public access and recreation opportunities in the project area. On-going costs are expected to come from the Rice Creek Watershed District for operation and maintenance and from the countries for trail head improvements and land and vegetation improvements in the floodplain and adjoining uplands.

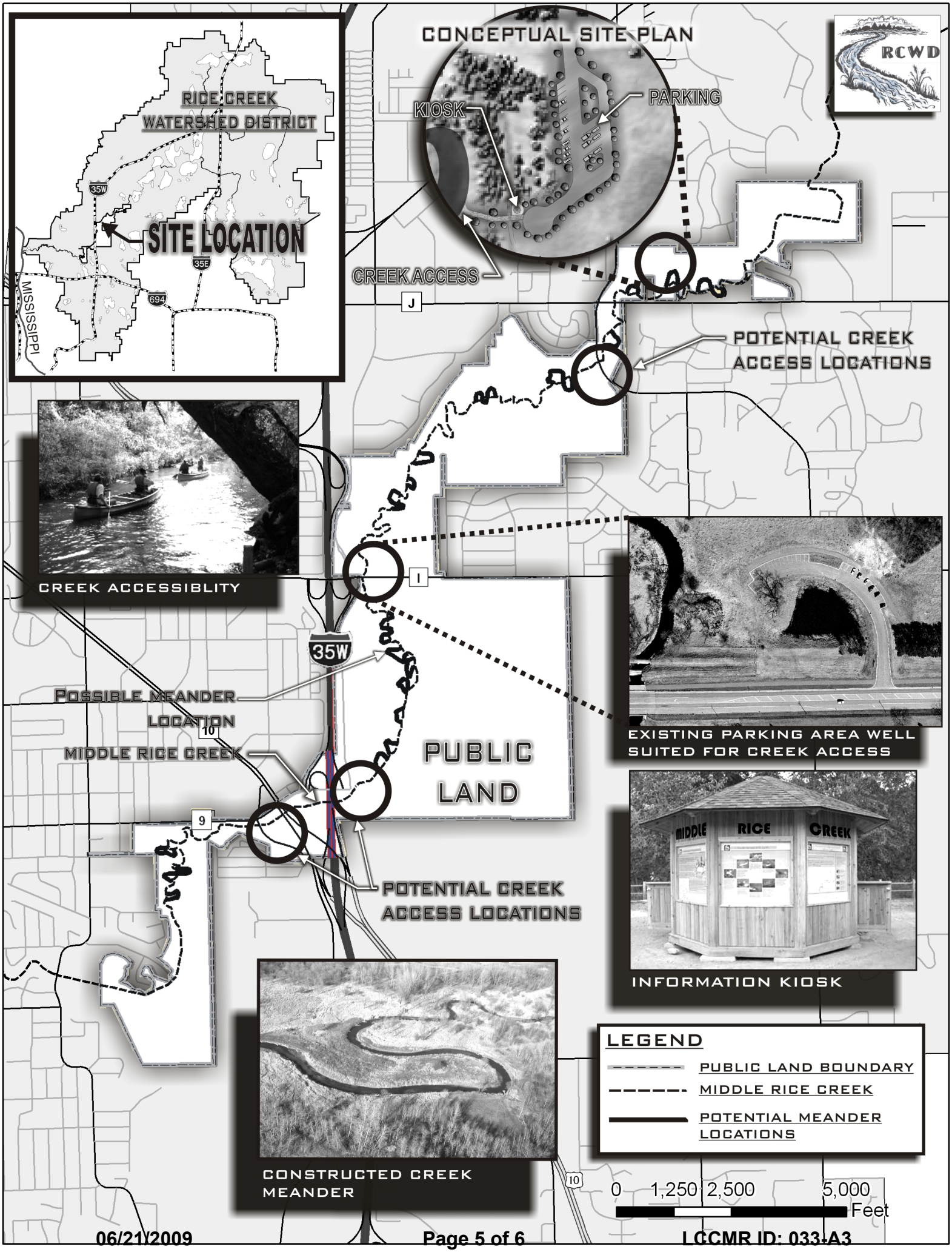
Project Budget - Rice Creek Restoration

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

BUDGET ITEM *(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)*			**AMOUNT**
Personnel:			NA
Contracts:			$ 2,784,352
River Reach	Restored Channel	Construction Cost	
#1	2,675 feet	330,131	
#2	0	79,300	
#3	5,600	647,376	
#4	4,975	579,589	
#5	3,175	384,361	
Canoe access points, signage		250,000	
Contingency (20%)		165,552	
Legal and Engineering (12.5%)		348,044	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:			NA
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):			NA
Travel:			NA
Additional Budget Items:			NA
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR			$ 2,784,352

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	**AMOUNT**	**Status**
Other Non-State $ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Rice Creek Watershed District - General levy for surface water management restoration projects.	$ 350,000	*Pending 2010 Budget*
Other State $ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Potential exists for application under the new Clean Water Fund	???	*???*
In-kind Services During Project Period: Provided by Anoka Co., Ramsey Co., RCWD and National Park Service - approximately 1100 staff hours to assist in planning, information kiosks, signage and access point development over the two year implementation period.	$ 70,000	committed
Remaining $ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):	NA	
Funding History: Pilot restoration/remander project in 2004/2005 by RCWD local levy	$ 473,261	


RICE CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
35W
SITE LOCATION
35E
694
MISSISSIPPI
CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
KIOSK
PARKING
CREEK ACCESS
RCWD
J
POTENTIAL CREEK
ACCESS LOCATIONS
CREEK ACCESSIBLITY
I
35W
POSSIBLE MEANDER
LOCATION
10
MIDDLE RICE CREEK
PUBLIC
LAND
9
POTENTIAL CREEK
ACCESS LOCATIONS
EXISTING PARKING AREA WELL
SUITED FOR CREEK ACCESS
MIDDLE
RICE
CREEK
INFORMATION KIOSK
CONSTRUCTED CREEK
MEANDER
LEGEND
PUBLIC LAND BOUNDARY
MIDDLE RICE CREEK
POTENTIAL MEANDER
LOCATIONS
10
0
1,250
2,500
5,000
Feet

MIDDLE RICE CREEK RESTORATION

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager: Douglas J. Thomas, Administrator, Rice Creek Watershed District

Education: Bachelor of Science degrees in Soil Science and Agronomy, University of Minnesota, 1978

Work Experience:

- 1978 – 1980 USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Conservationist
- 1980 – 1989 Washington Co. Soil and Water Conservation District, District Manager
- 1989 – 2007 MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
    - Hydrologist
    - Land & Water Section Supervisor
    - Assistant Director
- 2007 – 2009 Rice Creek Watershed District, Administrator

Project Experience

- Conservation practice planning and design (USDA & Washington SWCD)
- Construction supervision and inspection (USDA & Washington SWCD)
- Site investigation (Licensed Soil Scientist)
- Project management experience with BWSR State Cost-Share Program, RIM Reserve Program, EPA grants and LCCMR grants while employed by BWSR.

Organization Description

The Rice Creek Watershed District was established in 1972 under the Minnesota Watershed District Law (MS 103D). The District coordinates activities and programs affecting water resources for a variety of governmental entities within the District including four counties, 26 cities and two townships. The principal counties are Anoka, Ramsey and Washington, with a minute portion lying in Hennepin County. The District encompasses 186 square miles of urban and rural land and contains 39 lakes, 3 named creeks, numerous marshes, wetlands and wildlife areas, and over 100 miles of public drainage ditches. Rice Creek is the principal stream of the watershed originating from Clear Lake in Forest Lake and then running through a chain of lakes in the City of Lino Lakes and then onto the Mississippi River in the Fridley. Rice Creek has two major tributaries: Hardwood Creek and Clearwater Creek.

The primary functions of the district include restoration and protection of water quality, preventing flooding, protecting wetlands as the local unit of government under the MN Wetland Conservation Act, and the maintenance, operation, and improvement of its ditches and creeks.