

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

LCCMR ID: 138-E1

Project Title:

St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$200,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 year, 2010 - 2011

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$25,000

Summary:

The project establishes a common vision and strategies to preserve the Mississippi River as a community asset through stewardship and sustainable development practices along the urbanized areas river front.

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Sponsoring Organization: Cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids

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Location:

Region: Central

County Name: Benton, Sherburne, Stearns

City / Township:

_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The cities and counties that comprise the St. Cloud metropolitan area take great pride in the community asset that is the Mississippi River. “The Mississippi River; the Father of Waters, it spawned St. Cloud” (3 Towns into 1 City, Stearns History Museum et. al.). The Mississippi River remains the source of life for flora, fauna, and urbanity in central Minnesota.

The St. Cloud area also prides itself upon proactive planning and coordination. The St. Cloud Area Joint District Plan was the first community based planning initiative funded by the State of Minnesota in 2000 and remains the largest regional planning initiative beyond the Twin Cities’ Met Council. The Joint District Planning Board remains active in coordinating area planning.

Despite this commitment to proactive planning for the appropriate utilization and stewardship of the community’s built, human, and environmental assets; none of the area’s prior planning initiatives have focused specifically on the Mississippi River. Prior planning initiatives within the St. Cloud metropolitan area have addressed the broad vision and goals for the Mississippi River, while other local plans have addressed the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas in the path of urban growth. However, St. Cloud, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids have all inventoried natural resources along the River and adopted natural resource protection regulations because of their commitment to developing in harmony with land and water resources. This MLCCS data will provide the foundation for the new corridor plan.

The intent of the plan is to establish a clear vision, implementation actions, and best practices for the preservation and conservation of the Mississippi River and its frontage through the urban area. The plan will also review numerous existing plans developed by government and private entities within the urban area to ensure that these initiatives have incorporated sustainable practices and techniques, such as: open space preservation, site restoration, and sustainable design practices. Preservation recommendations will be prepared given the unique characteristics of specific river stretches defined by previous natural resource inventories.

A consolidated statement of the current condition of the Mississippi River corridor’s built and natural environment, as well as the character of development and natural resource conservation and restoration activities that will occur adjacent to the river corridor is vital to enhancing and promoting the St. Cloud area’s quality of life. Users of the plan will likely include existing residents, tourists, potential home buyers, and entrepreneurs seeking information regarding the benefits of residing, visiting, or investing in the community.

Founded upon the banks of the Mississippi River, the St. Cloud Metropolitan Area remains uniquely positioned to thrive given its natural and urban amenities. Balancing the occasionally conflicting goals of river preservation and utilization will ensure that the Mississippi River will continue to be seen as a source of community and national pride well into the future. Establishing a stakeholder based vision for the urban area’s river corridor is a vital first step to riverfront preservation and stewardship.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

The following project results are a general summary of the anticipated outcomes resulting from local contributions and requested LCCMR funding for the overall project budget of \$225,000.

<p>Result 1: Community Engagement Deliverable</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Kick-Off Event with National Speaker 2. Promotional Materials/Advertising for Seeking Community Involvement 3. Hosting of Multiple Community Workshops 	<p>Budget: \$ 20,000 Completion Date September 2010 September 2010 May 2011</p>
<p>Result 2: Data Collection and Consolidation Deliverable</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review/Consolidation of St. Cloud Joint District Plan 2. Review/Consolidation of Specific Plans of Communities/Private Sector 3. Consolidation of Natural Resources, Infrastructure, and other Data 	<p>Budget: \$ 55,000 Completion Date November 2010 November 2010 November 2010</p>
<p>Result 3: River Corridor Plan Preparation Deliverable</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advisory Committee Meeting Facilitation/Administration 2. Mapping and Graphics for River Corridor and Specific Sites 3. Plan for Vision, Existing Conditions, Opportunities, and Implementation 	<p>Budget: \$ 100,000 Completion Date May 2011 May 2011 May 2011</p>
<p>Result 4: Community Promotion/Celebration/Implementation Deliverable</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Celebration Event 2. Identify and Design Promotional/Celebration/Implementation Actions 	<p>Budget: \$ 50,000 Completion Date July 2011 July 2011</p>

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The project will build upon momentum recently generated by public and private initiatives focusing on the Mississippi River. City of St. Cloud staff will serve as the project manager, with staff from the cities of Sartell and Sauk Rapids assisting in the facilitation of meetings, preparation of project deliverables, and general administration of the process. Mississippi River Connections, a diverse cross section of St. Cloud's environmental, entrepreneurial, government, and academic stakeholders, will continue its successful mobilization of private parties interested in river corridor stewardship to serve as a base for community involvement and promotion. The urban river plan will be coordinated with the regional river corridor planning initiatives being undertaken by Mississippi River Renaissance through the rural portions of Central Minnesota. The Central Minnesota Community Foundation has sponsored public luncheons during the last 12 months to build interest and support for river planning and implementation in St. Cloud; these efforts will continue through the river corridor planning process.

B. Timeline Requirements

The project process will take approximately 12 months to complete.

C. Long-Term Strategy

The St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan will build upon and expand the anticipated success of the Mississippi River Renaissance initiative that is defining and implementing a broader vision for preservation of the Mississippi River corridor both north and south of St. Cloud through central Minnesota. A clear community based vision and action plan for river and riverfront preservation through the St. Cloud urban area is necessary to guide the future actions and decisions of the area's stakeholders. The cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids are committed to proactively protecting the Mississippi River and enhancing its position as a local, regional, and national asset.

Project Budget - St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (*[Insert # of years for project]* years)

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Personnel:	NA
Contracts:	
Landscape Architect Consultant-Review of existing planning documents, preparation of new site specific images and recommendations	\$ 50,000
Environmental Scientist Consultant-Consolidate and supplement existing natural resources data, assist in document drafting	\$ 50,000
Planning Consultant-Lead for community facilitation and visioning process, primary consultant for preparation of plan document and implementation actions	\$ 75,000
GIS Consultant - Assist in collection, consolidation, analysis, and presentation of natural resource and urban characteristics	\$ 25,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	NA
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	NA
Travel:	NA
Additional Budget Items:	NA
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 200,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Central Minnesota Community Foundation and Initiative Foundation funding of community engagement activities	\$ 5,000	<i>pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	NA	
In-kind Services During Project Period: City staff assistance to consultant team.	\$ 20,000	Secured
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):	NA	
Funding History:	NA	

PROJECT DETAILS

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority: E. Natural Resources Conservation Planning/Implementation

Total Project Budget: \$200,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: July 2010 to July 2011

Other Non-State Funds: \$25,000 Local In-Kind Services or Grant Funding

PROJECT MANAGER

Project: St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan

Project Manager: Matt Glaesman, Community Development Director

Sponsoring Organization: City of St. Cloud on behalf of the cities of Sartell and Sauk Rapids. The project area includes the existing and planned growth areas of the cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids adjacent to the Mississippi River. The St. Cloud metropolitan area is situated at the convergence of Interstate 94, US Highway 10, Minnesota Trunk Highways 15 and 23, and the Mississippi River approximately 73 miles northwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. The urbanized area of the St. Cloud metropolitan community is comprised of three counties, six townships, and seven cities. The St. Cloud metropolitan statistical area has a population of more than 125,000 residents and has experienced significant growth in recent decades, which is expected to continue into the near future to more than 200,000.

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Location: Central Minnesota - Stearns, Sherburne, and Benton Counties

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project establishes a common vision and strategies to preserve the Mississippi River as a community asset through stewardship and utilization of sustainable development practices along the urbanized area's riverfront.

