

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

LCCMR ID: 139-E1

Project Title:

Mid-Cities Natural Resources Plan (Southeast Minneapolis)

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$23,675

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

Phase I of a project to create a natural resources stabilization, reclamation and expansion plan for a built urban area located over the significant Middle Mississippi Watershed.

Name: Justin Eibenholz

Sponsoring Organization: Southeast Como Improvement Association

Address: 837 15th Avenue SE
Minneapolis MN 55414

Telephone Number: (612) 676-1731

Email: secomo@secomo.org

Fax: (612) 676-1731

Web Address: www.comogreenvillage.info

Location:

Region: Metro

County Name: Hennepin

City / Township: Minneapolis/St. Paul

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The **Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA, www.secomo.org)** is a 501(c) 3 that stands apart as an organization that gets results. Our award winning projects have led to our **Como Green Village** vision (www.comogreenvillage.info). By partnering with surrounding communities, municipalities, the University of Minnesota and others we seek to develop a natural resources retention, reclamation and expansion plan for the large watershed located in the mid-cities metro area. This is a region with a history of piecemeal development, polluting industries, limited public green space and very few remaining surface natural resources in a densely populated area. Due to these issues, SECIA is requesting funding from the LCCMR to hire a consultant to create an area plan for this region, something that currently does not exist, and that could be used by this community (see map) and other regional planning authorities (i.e. City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, City of St. Paul, & Ramsey County).

Similar in concept to the **Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan**, we seek to develop an area-wide plan for a long range vision to stabilize the existing wetland remnants, expand wetlands where possible, and assess day-lighting segments of the historic Bridal Veil Creek and to generally recreate a functioning water-based ecosystem within this built urban environment. Besides the wildlife benefits, this will also work to address the pollutants that flow from this watershed into the Mississippi River. This process will build off lessons learned from our other work such as the **Bridal Veil [Pond] Restoration Project**.

Regionally there have been numerous studies, development plans and environmental assessments done by various entities and municipalities. In each case, they were implemented in response to a single development project or an identified environmental problem. However, this disconnected process has meant that our natural resources have suffered from this lack of a cohesive vision. Given our location, this existing documentation has been created by three cities, two counties, the State of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota and the Federal Government. In order to proceed with large-scale natural resources planning, we need to start by compiling existing documentation, plans and environmental assessments into a single comprehensive overview of the area. This will allow us to assess and hopefully remediate problems (through other sources) as well as map and identify areas with the best potential for wetland recovery and greatest options for building an interconnected water-based ecosystem.

LCCMR funding would allow us to hire an environmental consultant or firm to do a thorough review, analysis and report including appropriate area maps from existing documentation. The consultant will also research for all relevant sources of information. Known documentation includes: Southeast Minneapolis Industrial (SEMI) area plan, Gopher Stadium EIS, University Corridor LRT planning and EIS, Bridal Veil geologic and historic survey (MPCA), General Mills Superfund Site documentation (EPA), Glidden Paint Superfund Site (EPA), area brownfield pollution assessments (City records), City of Minneapolis Plan, Minneapolis Park Board Grand Rounds plan, relevant rail-line pollution assessments (BNSF) and spraying issues, single business site environmental assessments (Phase 1 and Phase 2 reviews) and any related soil/water surveys or information related to the Middle Mississippi Watershed.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Project Management **Budget:** \$5,675

PROJECT TITLE: Mid-Cities Natural Resources Plan (Southeast Minneapolis)

SECIA will develop an RFP, publish, interview and hire an environmental consultant and/or firm. SECIA staff will monitor the project, handle the budget and contracting and meet regularly with the consultant throughout the project.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Develop RFP & publish	July 2010
2. Interview, select consultant/firm and contract	Aug 2010
3. Working with Consultant, set timeline, review dates and due dates	Sept 2010
4. SECIA staff will monitor progress and meet regularly with consultant throughout project	Dec 2010

Result 2: Create Resource Natural Resources Plan – Phase I **Budget:** \$18,000

Hired consultant/firm will do an in-depth review of existing reports, plans, EIS studies and other relevant documentation (identified pg 1). Consultant will provide assessment, analysis, recommendations, and maps and compile documentation in a form that can easily be used in conjunction with proposed next steps in the natural resources planning process.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Consultant begins existing documentation reviews	Aug 2010
2. Preliminary draft available for community review	Oct 2010
3. Final version complete	Dec 2010

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

SECIA is a City of Minneapolis recognized official non-profit neighborhood organization. SECIA will be the project host and manage it through its assigned staff – James De Sota our Neighborhood Coordinator and Justin Eibenholz our Environmental Coordinator. In addition we will be working with our existing environmental and natural resources partners Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), the newly formed University District Alliance and the six recognized communities lying over the watershed (Como, Marcy-Holmes, Prospect Park, St. Anthony Park, West Bank and the University of Minnesota).

B. Timeline Requirements

We hope to be able to establish our proposed outcome – a complete documentation review and compilation report – by the end of February 2011 so that we can proceed to Phase II and begin work on the natural resources planning.

C. Long-Term Strategy

This proposal is the first step in a much longer-term vision. It is our intent that by creating this comprehensive overview of current conditions we can proceed to Phase II, a more detailed watershed and wetland stabilization, reclamation and expansion plan. Phase II is envisioned to take approximately one year. With the completion of a natural resources plan for the area, Phase III would be to focus volunteer resources, seek additional funding, utilize partnerships and work to implement plan recommendations over a number of years.

Our goal is to create a plan model within a specific geographic area (to keep the project manageable), which could then be used as a template for other communities, and municipalities that wish to reclaim natural wetland resources within a built urban environment.

Project Budget

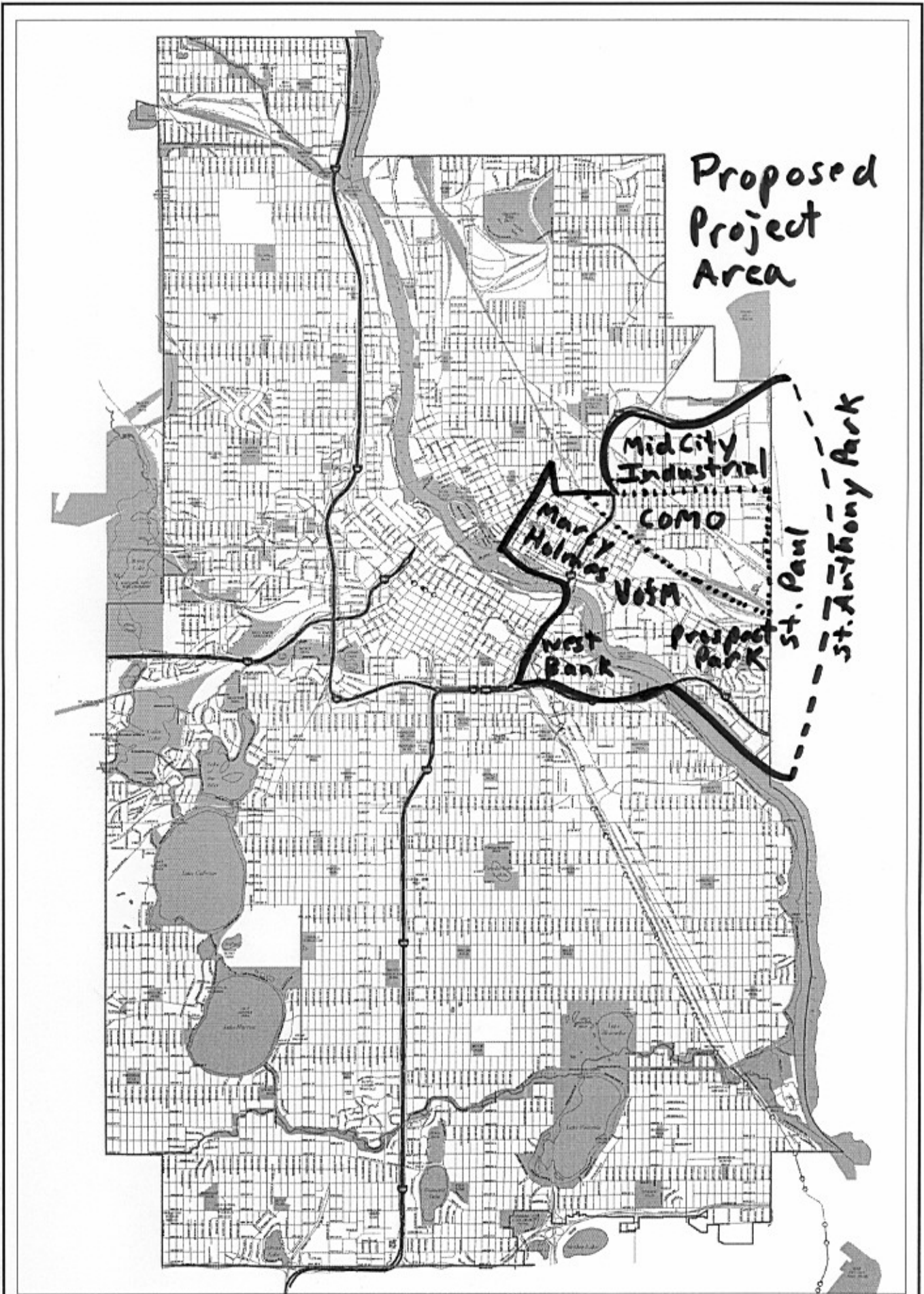
PROJECT TITLE: Mid-Cities Natural Resources Plan (Southeast Minneapolis)

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (project year 2010)

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel:	\$ -
Justin Eibenholz, SECIA Environmental Coordinator: Project Manager Salary: 80 hours x \$40, Benefits calculated at %18	\$ 3,775
James De Sota, SECIA Neighborhood Coordinator: Budget and Staffing Manger Salary: 40 hours x \$40, Benefits calculated at %18	\$ 1,900
Contracts:	\$ -
Environmental Consultant/Firm (determined by RFP) Environmental review, compelation, mapping and presentation of existing documentation and assessments	\$ 18,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: (See in-kind)	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): N/A	\$ -
Travel: N/A	\$ -
Additional Budget Items: N/A	\$ -
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 23,675

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: N/A	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period: SECIA staff: additional 20 hours x \$40 Office rent - \$100 month x 6 months Indirect costs (phones, internet, equipment, computers) - \$20 mo x 6 months Communications, printing, mailing - \$300	\$ 1,820	Secured
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): N/A		
Funding History: N/A	\$ -	



Proposed
Project
Area

MidCity
Industrial

COMO

Vostm

Prospect
Park

West
Bank

Marcy
Holmes

st. Paul
st. Anthony Park

City of Minneapolis

PROJECT TITLE: Mid-Cities Natural Resources Plan (Southeast Minneapolis)

Project Mangers Qualifications and Organization Descriptions

Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA)

837 15th Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-676-1737

The City of Minneapolis recognized official body of the Como neighborhood is directed by a 14 member volunteer board consisting of community residents, business owners and two student reserved seats connected to the undergraduate and graduate student associations of the University of Minnesota. SECIA is an officially registered 501c3 non-profit and has been managing complex projects and budgets for over 10 years, and has existed as a community advocate for over 40 years. SECIA's work has been recognized statewide with such recognitions as:

- An honorable mention by the Mayor and City Council of St. Paul for our Solar Thermal Pilot Project which resulted in 17 solar thermal hot water system installations in Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- A 2009 special council resolution by the City of Minneapolis recognizing our environmental programming and it benefits to the City of Minneapolis.
- A 2008 Governors Award for Pollution Prevention for our air quality project which resulted in three good neighbor agreements with local industries and drastic reductions in the amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOC) being release.
- Finalist for a 2009 Minnesota Environmental Initiative award in two categories; one for the Solar Thermal Project and a second as a partner in the Bridal Veil Restoration Project.

SECIA will be the project host and manage this project through its assigned staff and Environmental Subcommittee.

Justin Eibenholz – Environmental Coordinator

Justin is a community based environmental media specialist. His successes include three Good Neighbor Agreements, a bulk purchase of 17 solar thermal installations and the launch of SE Como's multi-faceted Como Green Village Project. Justin helps SECIA execute community and area based environmental projects, large and small, from clotheslines, to rain barrels, to earth-friendly lawn care, to tree planting.

James De Sota – Neighborhood Coordinator

James supports the SECIA board and is the organization's budget manager. He publishes the 'Comotion' newsletter, serves as liaison for residents, businesses, outside partners, City staff and SECIA board members. He has worked in a variety of community oriented positions including serving in the Peace Corps as an Agro-Forestry Extensionist, developing community woodlots and gardens in West Africa.