

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 100-C3+4

Project Title: MPRB Comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan

Category: C3+4. Technical Assistance and Community-Based Planning

Total Project Budget: \$ \$190,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1.5 yrs, July 2011 - Dec 2012

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

We manage natural areas and landscapes with no cohesive plan. Help us integrate stakeholders, sustainability, and existing site plans, providing priorities and methods for efficient and cost effective conservation system-wide.

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Sponsoring Organization: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

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Location

Region: Metro

Ecological Section: Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

County Name: Hennepin

City / Township: Minneapolis

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: MPRB COMPREHENSIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The MPRB maintains a wide variety of natural areas and landscape types in neighborhood and regional parks without a comprehensive system wide plan or process. This has led to disjointed uncoordinated efforts for activities ranging from maintaining and protecting natural areas, to manicuring athletic facilities, to fighting invasive species. Truly sustainable efforts require a holistic coordinated approach. In order to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of vegetation management activities, a comprehensive plan is urgently needed. The plan development process would integrate stakeholder input, sustainability, state of the art practices, and existing management plans. The plan will produce documentation of lessons learned and provide clear delineation of priorities and operational methods.

The goals of this project are to:

- inventory the landscape resources in the MPRB system,
- identify important and rare vegetation resources,
- identify opportunities to restore or develop lost or endangered eco-types,
- manage landscape resources toward optimal value and sustainability,
- document MPRB experience in managing various landscapes,
- Examine research and apply new science and ideas,
- provide a comprehensive road map for the management and maintenance of park landscapes and vegetation, and
- provide a coordinated implementation plan from which to prioritize and apply funding.

The vegetation management plan will consist of two major components. The first will be a map and inventory of the entire MPRB system categorized by vegetation management potential and methods. For example, these categories might include classifications such as water body buffer, prairie area, mowed turf area, golf course, oak savanna, riparian corridor, and others.

The second major component of the plan will include sections on each category of vegetation. These sections will include:

- detail regarding past management experience including successes and failures,
- incorporation of existing management plans that are up to date and operational,
- strategies toward successful and sustainable management,
- maintenance methods,
- analysis and planning for forestry issues,
- long term goals,
- recommendations for future implementation actions, and
- measurable outcomes for evaluating the plan effectiveness.

The plan will include implementation and action items designed to improve existing habitat and restore or develop new natural areas based on analysis of sustainability and stakeholder input.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Inventory, Mapping, and Background Budget: \$ 76,000*

Outcome	Completion Date
1. A collection of existing individual site plans	December 2011
2. A field inventory of vegetation types including a GIS map and database	December 2011
3. A history of past and present practices	December 2011

Activity 2: Develop Issues and Priorities Budget: \$ 19,000*

Outcome	Completion Date
1. A compilation of input from MPRB Commissioners, Stakeholders (2 meetings) and MPRB staff input (3 workshops)	April 2012

Activity 3: Draft Plan Development Budget: \$ 68,000*

Outcome	Completion Date
1. A draft comprehensive management plan that includes the inventory, management categories by vegetation category, sustainability opportunities, management strategies, and an implementation plan	May 2012
4. Documentation of interagency and stakeholder feedback on the draft plan	June 2012

Activity 4: Final Plan Creation Budget: \$ 27,000*

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Produce a final Comprehensive Management Plan based on feedback and distribute the plan	October 2012

* These numbers do not include MPRB staff in-kind hours.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

A committee of MPRB staff will lead the project. The project manager will be the MPRB Environmental Operations Manager who will form a committee of staff members that will review consultant proposals for the bulk of the work to be done and lead the selected consultant(s) through the process. The total project cost is estimated to be \$340,000 including \$150,000 in MPRB staff in kind. The grant proposal is to cover the consultant estimated cost of \$190,000.

B. Timeline Requirements

The project is expected to be complete within the grant timeframe and additional time is not necessary.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The MPRB will seek funding for implementation tasks and maintenance programs that arise from the management plan as appropriate and as opportunities arise. The plan will save money in the long run as coordinated efforts and better methods make operations more effective and efficient.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Contracts: A consultant will be selected based on a Request for Proposals. The consultant will provide services including but not limited to the following: environmental inventory and review, sustainable vegetation management practices, environmental mapping, GIS mapping, invasive species management expertise, regulatory issues review, meeting facilitation, and plan writing.	\$ 190,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 190,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
In-kind Services During Project Period: MPRB staff will be instrumental in directing the consultant and providing input regarding values and current practices. A 3+ member project committee will be created and input from MPRB staff will be developed at every level.	\$ 150,000	Secured

MPRB System & Remnant Native Plant Communities

LEGEND

- ▲ Parkland less than 1 Acre
- Existing Parkland
- ◆ Remnant Native Plant Communities

- 1 Theodore Wirth Park Back 40 Restored Prairie
- 2 Theodore Wirth Quaking Bog
- 3 South Wirth Oak Forest
- 4 William Berry Park Woodland
- 5 Thomas Sadler Robert's Bird Sanctuary
- 6 West River Parkway and 36th Street East
- 7 West River Parkway and 44th Street East
- 8 Minnehaha Park - Black Ash / Skunk Cabbage Seep
- 9 Minnehaha Park - Motley's Prairie

Park properties shown are those where the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has site control through ownership or lease. Water bodies shown are those where the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has site control of part or all of the land surrounding it.



15,400,000	Regional park visits	20	Miles of lake shoreline
5,000,000	Neighborhood park visits	9	Miles of Mississippi riverbank
182	Park properties	7	Fishing piers
6,732	Acres of parkland and water	6	Boat launches
12	Authorized beaches	4	Canoe launches
17	Lakes and ponds	345	Sailboat buoys
1,491	Acres of surface water	438	Canoe/kayak racks
170	Managed natural areas	12	Gardens
500	Acres of managed natural area	7	Golf courses
2	Bird sanctuaries	396	Multipurpose sports fields

PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS:

Tim P. Brown, P.E., P.G.
MPRB Environmental Operations Manager

Licensure Registered Professional Engineer, State of Minnesota
Registered Professional Geologist, State of Wisconsin

Experience

Tim Brown has 18 of years of experience in a diverse range of municipal water resource engineering and hydro-geological work. Tim's work has included water quality monitoring, modeling, and management services. He has also created natural resource inventories and park planning for municipal and state government, including the cities of Minneapolis, Lakeville, Minnetonka, Golden Valley, Eden Prairie, Rosemount and the State of Nevada. His project work includes:

- Environmental Operations Manager, MPRB, 2008-present. Supervise, direct and lead planning efforts for the MPRB Environmental Operations Department including the water quality, natural resource and environmental education programs. Serve as the primary environmental liaison internally, with outside agencies, and with the public. Lead development and implementation of short and long term work plans and resource management plans.
- Project Manager, Barr Engineering Company, 2007-2008. Preparing and managing the development of comprehensive water resource management plans to help municipalities meet federal, state, and local watershed regulations. Designing and administering water quality and permanent erosion control capital projects. Developing and implementing a groundwater recharge model.
- Parks Engineer, MPRB, 2001-2007. Managing and implementing capital improvement projects for the MPRB. Work included selecting and managing consultants, supervising design and bid package development, securing permits from various organizations, managing contracts, and interacting with elected officials.
- Environmental Engineer, City of Lakeville, 1998-2001. Project work included designing, managing, and implementing water quality improvement projects; developing and implementing city surface water management programs and budgets; managing the development of a trout stream management plan; and developing and implementing water quality monitoring programs and lake management strategies.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:

In 1883 the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) was created by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature and a vote of Minneapolis residents. It serves as an independently elected, semi-autonomous body responsible for governing, maintaining, and developing the Minneapolis park system. Every four years, nine commissioners are elected to this Board – one from each of the six park districts within the city and three that serve at-large. In 2008 the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will celebrate 125 years of providing outstanding park and recreation services to residents and visitors of Minneapolis. The MPRB has a long and successful history of implementing projects of all sorts funded by public dollars.