

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2012-2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 078-D

Northland Arboretum & Paul Bunyan Conservation Area Expansion

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ 5,496,300

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2013 - June 2016

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

To acquire & manage large tract of important natural watershed land adjacent north of Northland Arboretum to preserve against fragmentation, urbanization & private development. Top priority to preserve this land.

Name: Dale Braddy

Sponsoring Organization: Northland Arboretum

Address: 14250 Conservation Dr PO Box 375
Brainerd MN 56401

Telephone Number: (218) 829-8770

Email arboretum@brainerd.net

Web Address http://www.northlandarb.com

Location

Region: Central

County Name: Crow Wing

City / Township: Brainerd

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Outcomes | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Base |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extent of Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Tech Basis | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Readiness | <input type="checkbox"/> Leverage | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL <input type="checkbox"/> % |



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2012-2013 Main Proposal

PROJECT TITLE: Northland Arboretum & Paul Bunyan Conservation Area Expansion

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

To protect and preserve the natural resources within the Brainerd Lakes Area, we are proposing the expansion of the Northland Arboretum and Paul Bunyan Conservation Area. An opportunity exists to acquire and place into conservation management over 1,110 acres consisting of various tracts of land adjacent to the present Northland Arboretum and stretching to the North Long Lake area on east highway 371 corridor. The Northland Arboretum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the heart of the cities of Brainerd and Baxter, Minnesota. The Arboretum's current 540+ acres of green space serves as a wildlife sanctuary and has been designated by the Department of Natural Resources in 2009 as an ***Important Bird Area (IBA)***. The placement of the proposed acquired property into public control would preserve a unique natural eco-system and the water supplies of the area by: Preserving the natural ecological systems and teaching the sustainability of wetlands, flora, wildlife and forests; Providing an area which will serve as a biological buffer and filter for water quality, air quality and well-being for residing flora and fauna of the area; Providing an opportunity for education utilizing these lands as an outdoor classroom for all levels. Placing the proposed acquired property under conservation management would prevent wetland and forest fragmentation and further urbanization from private development, thus halting any further destruction of the watershed and ecosystem. Finally, the project will provide Minnesota's only native forested wetland bike/hiking trail ending at a one-mile native natural beach on North Long Lake. This recreational resource will be directly accessible from the Paul Bunyan Bike Trail.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Survey the proposed lands by mid 2014. **Budget:** \$30,500

All proposed acquisition parcels will be surveyed to determine boundaries, wetland types, terrestrial forested areas and habitat resources.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Completion of concept plan and surveys done for area. | July 1, 2014 |

Activity II: Purchase the lands by end of 2014. **Budget:** \$3,305,800

Parcels will be purchased and an Environmental Responsibility Committee (ERC) will be formed. The ERC will consist of representatives of the neighboring properties & governing city, county and state agencies.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Land purchase completed and ERC formed. | December 31, 2014 |

Activity III: Develop ongoing education programs and partners. **Budget:** \$150,000

The unique character of this property consisting of isolated terrestrial islands in a sea of wetland provides the base for a "Bugs to Beavers" education program that will integrate seamlessly with the Arboretums current wildlife, forestry and bird programs. The Arboretums current real-time live observation area website will be expanded to provide real-time images of the wetland, forest and the wetland/forest interface. U of M MN Master Naturalist grads to help with programs.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Programs created and cameras in place. | July 1, 2015 |

Activity IV: Plan and develop the educational trail system. **Budget:** \$1,873,000

The first-of-its-type educational bike/hike trail will be lined with live observation areas integrated with the Arboretums video system. For example: The observer will bike or hike a distance along the trail bordering

a wetland marsh controlled by an active beaver dam. The observation station will contain monitors with live feeds showing the inside of a beaver hut, live images underwater passages and food stores.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Trails & stations completed, signage up, camera working. | July 1, 2015 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

- a. Paid Project Partners:
 - i. *Dale Braddy - Project Manager.* Current Executive Director of the Northland Arboretum. Will supervise the entire project and work in depth on many aspects, especially the educational programs and partners.
 - ii. *David Winkelman - Communications Manager.* Past Executive Director of The Water Foundation. President - Winkelman’s Environmentally Responsible Construction, LLC. Will supervise contracts & communications when purchasing the lands & identify certain ecosystems that need to be restored and improved.
 - iii. *Alan Cibuzar - Survey Manager.* President of AW Research Labs, Inc. Will conduct aircraft surveys and supervise on-land surveys. Help in planning the trail system, educational activities and hydrology studies.
 - iv. *Kevin Warner - Surveyor.* Partner at Widseth, Smith and Nolting. Will conduct on-land surveys, assist in planning of trail system & develop overall concept plan.
- b. Non Paid Project Partners and Contributing Organizations:
 - i. *Jim Chamberlin - Past President of the Sustainable Farming Association and a current director of the Northland Forestry Co-operative.* Will survey the forest areas, woodlots and forest ecosystem to determine best educational programs.
 - ii. *Others:* Al Kern - Primary land owner of lands proposed to be purchased, Crow Wing County Soil and Water District, Minnesota Conservation Corps, U of M MN Master Naturalists, Mississippi Headwaters Board, MPCA, MN DNR, Brainerd – Baxter Area Chambers of Commerce, Central Lakes College, North Long Lake Association, Nature Conservancy, Area bicycle and hiking clubs

B. Timeline Requirements

- A. *First Year:* Land Surveys, Acquisition Process Begun, Bike Trail Planning
- B. *Second Year:* Land Purchases Completed, Activities Planned, Trail Started
- C. *Third Year:* Trail Completed, Activities Started, All Partners Engaged

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

- A. *On-going:* Developing Additional Programs; Activities and Monitoring
- B. Publish data on this model program for Minnesota and other states to emulate by 2017.
- C. This proposal is part of a larger effort of the Arboretum and affiliated organizations to create green space, preserve ecosystems, conduct environmental education and encourage tourism in the area. One possible future project is an electric train system to cart tourists through the green space, conducting further eco-education and interfacing with area businesses. Area businesses engaged in serving tourism will all be asked to contribute their share of future funding for the projects. The Northland Arboretum & Paul Bunyan Conservation Area Expansion Project will create hundreds of jobs in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Presently the unemployment rate in this area is over 14% - the highest in the State of Minnesota.

2012-2013 Proposed Acquisition List

Project Title: Northland Arboretum & Paul Bunyan Conservation Area Expansion

Project Manager Name: Dale Braddy

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$3,220,550.00

| # | Parcel Name | Acquisition Type (Fee Title or Conservation Easement) | County | Ecological Significance | Proposed # of Acres | Proposed # of Shoreline Miles (if applicable) | Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable) |
|----|----------------------------------|--|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 10051400000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Nature Conservancy |
| 2 | 010051101B00009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 20.79 | | Nature Conservancy |
| 3 | 10051202000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 42.34 | | Nature Conservancy |
| 4 | 80324300000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Nature Conservancy |
| 5 | 080321400000AB0 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 10.00 | | Sullivan, F C |
| 6 | 080321400000AA0 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 30.00 | | Tax Forfeited - Crow Wing Cty |
| 7 | 080321100000009, 080321100000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 36.44 | | City of Brainerd |
| 8 | 080294400000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 39.75 | | Minnesota North District, LCMS |
| 9 | 970294100000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Minnesota North District LCMS |
| 10 | 970291400000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 11 | 970291307000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 39.96 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 12 | 970291100000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 13 | 970291201000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 38.50 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 14 | 970204400000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 15 | 970204100000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 16 | 970213200000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 17 | 970201400000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 18 | 970212300000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 19 | 970201100000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 20 | 970201100000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 21 | 970212200000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Tax Forfeited - Crow Wing Cty |
| 22 | 970174400000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 23 | 970163300000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | State of Minnesota |
| 24 | 970174101000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 24.00 | 0.3996 | Kern, Doreen A & Alvin M |
| 25 | 970163200000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | State of Minnesota |
| 26 | 970163100000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | Jackson, Charles & Diane |
| 27 | 970162202000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 38.70 | 0.4161 | State of Minnesota |
| 28 | 970162400000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | | State of Minnesota |
| 29 | 970162101000009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 40.00 | 0.1215 | State of Minnesota |
| 30 | 970093403A00009 | Title | Crow Wing | Forested Wetland | 29.93 | 0.3004 | Thesing, John Joseph |
| | | | | | 1,110.41 | 1.2376 | |

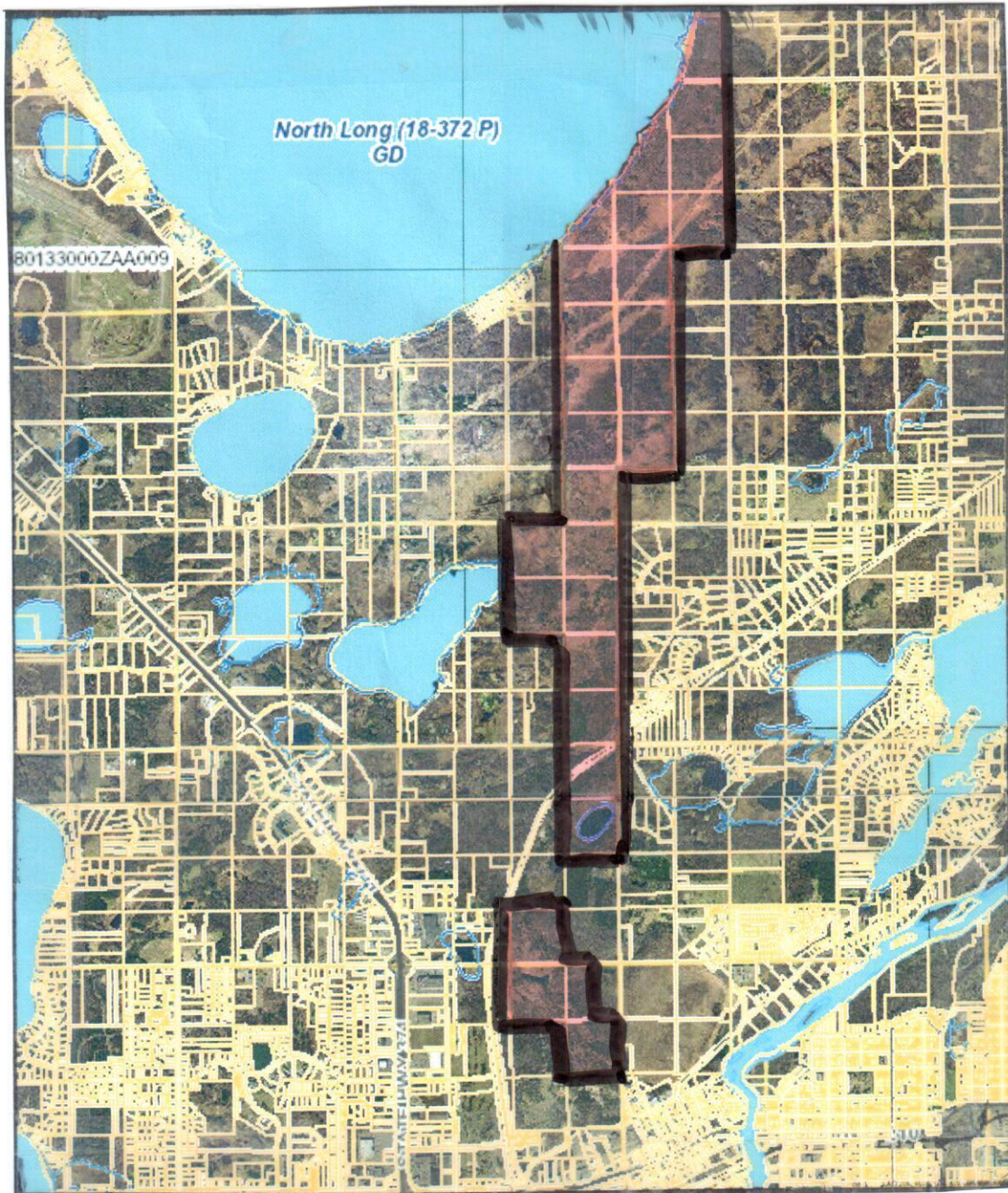
2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

Northland Arboretum & Paul Bunyan Conservation Area Expansion

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

| <u>BUDGET ITEM</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|---|------------------------|
| Personnel: | |
| Dale Braddy-General Manager, 33% ft, 100% salary, 0% benefits, 3 yrs, 1 person | \$ 33,000.00 |
| David Winkelman-Purchasing Mgr, 33% ft, 100% salary, 0% benefits, 3 yr, 1 person | 33,000.00 |
| Alan Cibuzar-Survey Mgr, 33% ft, 100% salary, 0% benefits, 3 yr, 1 person | 33,000.00 |
| Peg Serani-Administrative Mgr, 20% ft, 80% salary, 0% benefits, 3 yrs, 1 person | 7,000.00 |
| Naturalist Program Guides, 20% ft, 80% salary, 0% benefits, 3 yrs, 4 people | 25,000.00 |
| Personnel Total | \$ 131,000.00 |
| Contracts: | |
| Close-Converse, Realtor - all real estate paperwork , commission & contract | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Alan Cibuzar, parcel boundaries, surveys, survey contract (amount listed above) | - |
| David Winkelman, communications, sales, purchasing contract (amount listed above) | - |
| Deerwood Technologies - educational monitoring, interfacing with website | 125,000.00 |
| Widseth, Smith Nolting Engineers - Surveying, engineering, planning | 20,000.00 |
| Contracts Total | \$ 345,000.00 |
| Equipment/Tools/Supplies: | |
| Trail maps, habitat lookout stations and education demo signs | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): | |
| 1,110.51 acres, Northland Arboretum to hold title on all land | \$ 3,105,800.00 |
| Travel: | |
| Meeting & travel expenses | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Aerial surveys | 10,500.00 |
| Travel Total | \$ 16,500.00 |
| Additional Budget Items: | |
| Plan and build bike/hike trail (\$35 per foot for 10 miles) | \$ 1,848,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous for unknowns/additional consultants | 25,000.00 |
| Additional Budget Items Total | \$ 1,873,000.00 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST = | \$ 5,496,300.00 |

Northland Arboretum & Paul Bunyan Conservation Area Expansion



Highlighted areas show 1,110.41 acres of forested wetland that the Northland Arboretum is hoping to purchase with this grant. This large watershed must be preserved for the health and sustainability of the entire Brainerd/Baxter Lakes Area community.

Northland Arboretum & Paul Bunyan Conservation Area Expansion

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

I. Project Manager:

Dale E. Braddy, current Executive Director, has been Executive Director of the Northland Arboretum for the past eight years. Dale holds both a Bachelor and Master Degrees in Science. He has successfully managed many multi-million dollar projects throughout his professional career. In addition he has held the position of CEO for several medical companies. Mr. Braddy will have a team of experts assisting him in the management of the proposed expansion.

II. Organization Description:

The Northland Arboretum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which began 40 years ago after the closure of the City of Brainerd's landfill site. The Arboretum has a 15-member Board of Directors which meets quarterly, has over 1,200 members and services the entire central Minnesota area. The Northland Arboretum's 540+ acres serve as a wildlife sanctuary, and includes a Red Pine Plantation along with over 20 miles of trails. The Visitor Center and grounds are used seven days a week, 365 days a year for educational and civic events. The many gardens throughout the Arboretum are tended to by Master Gardeners and volunteers. During the winter months, the Arboretum trails are groomed for both cross country skiing and snow shoeing.

This important green space in the heart of the cities of Brainerd and Baxter, Minnesota has over 26,000 visitors yearly, not counting the over 25,000 that visit the Arboretum for our annual Sertoma Winter Wonderland light displays in late November and all of December.

Mission Statement:

To preserve, promote and celebrate our natural environment.

Vision Statement:

To be recognized and supported as the premier public environmental facility in the Brainerd Lakes Area, promoting preservation, recreation, education and environmental research.

