

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 127-F

Cannon River Watershed Invasive Species Volunteer Stewardship Network

Topic Area: F. Outreach/Education/Training

Total Project Budget: \$ 237,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

To heighten public awareness of invasive species issues, improve habitat quality for native plants and animals, and train volunteers to reduce the impact of invasive species in the watershed.

Name: Nancy Braker

Sponsoring Organization: Carleton College

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Web Address http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/arb/

Location

Region: SE

County Name: Rice, Steele, Waseca

City / Township:

<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: Cannon River Watershed Invasive Species Volunteer Stewardship Network

I. PROJECT STATEMENT: This project consists of: 1) General public education regarding invasive aquatic and terrestrial species; 2) Volunteer recruitment and training on methods of invasive species control; 3) Centralized volunteer organization and hosting of volunteer activities at public protected private lands and; 4) Development of a long-term strategy for the reduction of invasive species issues in the Cannon River Watershed.

Invasive non-native species are an ongoing challenge for Minnesota natural resources. While many citizens are aware of particular invasive species problems, they are not as aware generally of the threat of invasive species to our native habitats and why it is critical to reduce their introduction and spread. As stated by the National Invasive Species Council (www.invasivespecies.gov), development of a successful strategy to address invasive species issues will depend on the public’s understanding of the problem and the actions needed to protect valuable resources.

We propose utilizing outreach capacities of the Cannon River Watershed Partnership; local land and water management expertise of nature preserves including the Carleton Arboretum and River Bend Nature Center; and existing training programs such as Master Naturalists to educate and mobilize citizens regarding the issues and actions needed to reduce or eliminate these threats.

The Cannon River Watershed, which involves a six county area in SE Minnesota, is threatened by both terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants and animals. Non-native invasive species have been and continue to be introduced to the lands and waters by unintentional movement, natural movement, or intentional planting in landscaped areas. The Cannon River Watershed contains many areas of unique and valuable habitat as well as rare and endangered plants and animals and has been recognized by the MNDNR and other conservation entities as an important conservation area. Many public and privately conserved lands and water resources in the watershed (>24,650 acres) do not have enough management resources directed at them. This project aims to bring more attention to these areas as well as land owned by private citizens.

Goal: Reduce the impact of invasive species on the land and water of the Cannon River Watershed and improve habitat quality for native plants and animals.

Outcomes

- Increased public awareness in the watershed about the impacts of invasive species;
- Reduction of the spread of invasive species;
- Increased levels of volunteer activity to combat invasive species;
- Development of a Cooperative Weed Management Area (www.weedcenter.org) or other long-term strategy to maintain momentum on this critical issue.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: With local experts, land managers, and county and state agency staff, identify, prioritize and plan for invasive species education and control actions in the watershed. **Budget:** \$27,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Written 2.5 year action plan for invasive species education and control actions.	12/12/2013

Activity 2: Public outreach campaign to educate watershed residents about invasive species issues, prevention and control methods. **Budget:** \$32,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Monthly press release (12 x 2.5 years) on invasive issues in the watershed.	12/31/2016
2. 12 public speaking engagements (2/yr in each of 6 counties for 2 years).	12/31/2015
3. Utilize existing information on invasive species prevention and control, or adapt as needed, prepare and distribute material for websites, bulletin boards, local display areas etc. for use in public locations and land/water management sites.	6/31/2016

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Activity 3: Volunteer steward education		Budget: \$64,000
Outcome	Completion Date	
1. Host 4 Master Naturalists courses for 20 people each: 80 people trained.	12/31/2015	
2. Host 8 trainings on specific invasive control techniques for 20 people each: 160 attendees.	4/30/2016	
Activity 4: Volunteer recruitment and organization		Budget: \$60,000
Outcome	Completion Date	
1. Recruit volunteers at all public presentations and training events and through media efforts; contact with service clubs and youth groups (scouts, etc.).	6/30/2016	
2. Develop database of volunteers and provide to all property managers.	6/30/2016	
Activity 5: Publicize and host volunteer work events for each property or site with identified invasive prevention or control needs		Budget: \$27,000
Outcome	Completion Date	
1. Each site plans and hosts events throughout the year based on need – sites are located throughout the watershed and represent the diversity of protected lands (private non-profit organization, city, county, state).	6/30/2016	
2. Volunteer activity increases at each participating site by 50%.	6/30/2016	
Activity 6: Evaluate project success and evaluate opportunity to organize a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) or similar long-term strategy		Budget: \$27,000
Outcome	Completion Date	
1. Each site will summarize increase in site activities since project inception.		
2. Group meeting of site managers to evaluate program.	4/30/2016	
3. Write summary of success/failure of activities, determine interest in a CWMA.	6/30/2016	

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Partners receiving funds:

Carleton College Arboretum: Coordinate project (Nancy Braker), provide public programming, train volunteers, provide work site for volunteer activity.

Cannon River Watershed Partnership: Recruit, coordinate and organize volunteers, develop database of volunteers, publicize volunteer work events, seek or develop and distribute invasive species information, develop publicity and public service communications, provide speakers for public programs.

River Bend Nature Center, Faribault: Provide public programming, train volunteers, and provide work site for volunteer activity.

Partners providing work sites and supervising volunteers (not to receive funds): Many conservation entities exist in the watershed; these are only a few that represent the breadth of possible work sites that would benefit from trained volunteer workers.

- Rice County Parks
- MN DNR
- The Nature Conservancy
- Circle Lake Association

B. Timeline Requirements: The three-year timeline will allow the Invasive Volunteer Stewardship Network adequate time to recruit, train and implement the volunteer program. This process will provide two field seasons (when most invasive species work is conducted), as well as time to plan for and evaluate the success of the project.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs: Invasive species awareness, prevention and control will require a long-term commitment from the public and land owners. The project will provide training and resources (e.g., signage, strategies) that each organization will use in ongoing efforts to recruit, train and manage volunteers. The project aims to ensure long-term citizen knowledge about and commitment to participation in invasive species prevention and control. If a Cooperative Weed Management Area or other strategy is developed, funding from appropriate sources will be sought for advancement of watershed goals.

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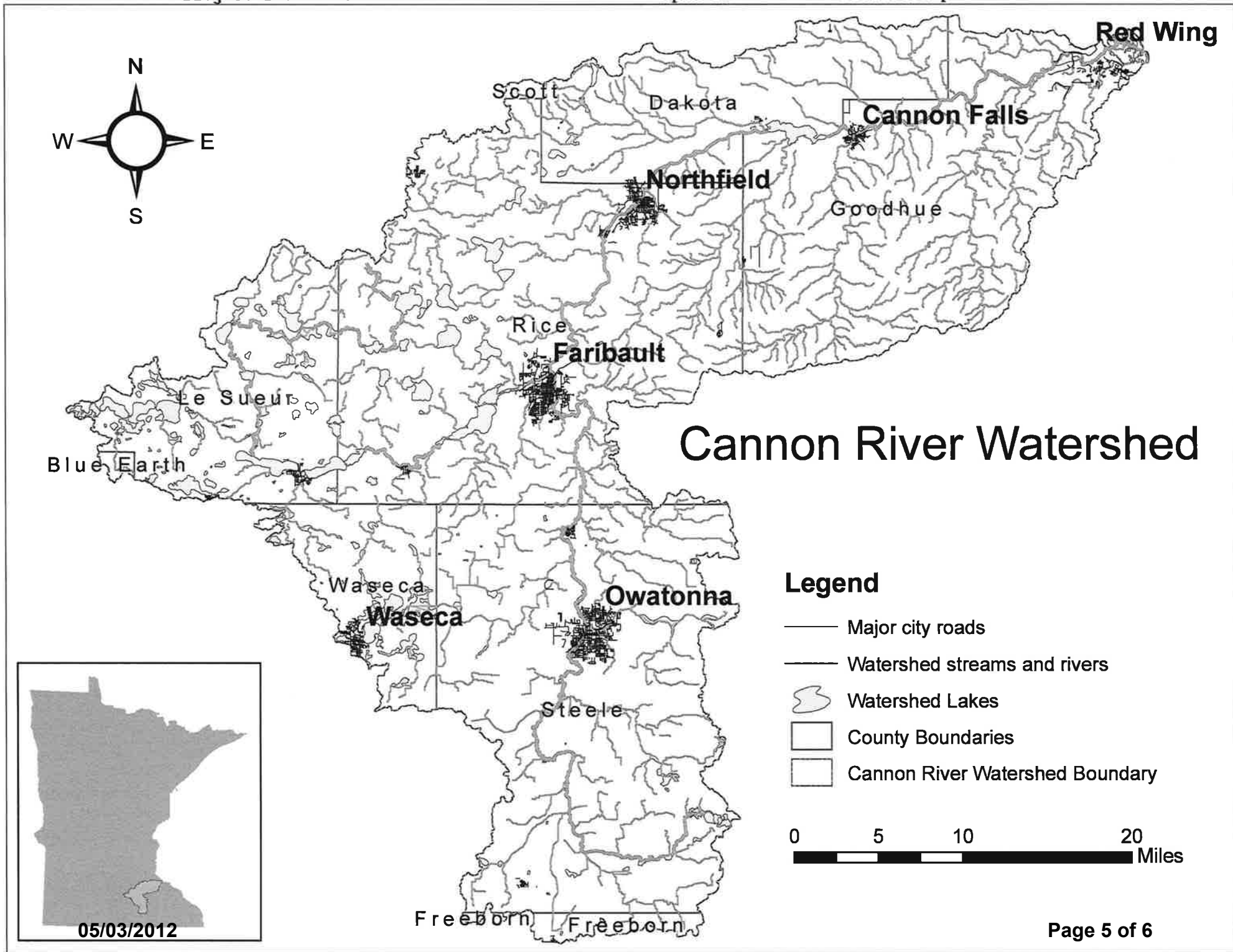
2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel:	\$ 57,000
Carleton College Arboretum Educator/Trainer:	
Organize volunteers	
Promote work events	
Organize and teach 2 Master Naturalist classes	
Organize and teach 4 invasive species specialized classes	
Contracts:	\$ 172,000
Contract with Cannon River Watershed Partnership:	
Coordinate and produce action plan	
Volunteer recruitment and organization	
Public outreach campaign	
Publicize and host work events	
Volunteer steward education	
Evaluate project success	
Contract with River Bend Nature Center:	
Host training: 2 Master Naturalists, 4 specialized invasive species classes	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 6,000
Educational signs/displays at public locations	
Printing of educational materials	
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): N/A.	\$ -
Travel:	\$ 2,000
Travel costs for presentations and project meetings	
Additional Budget Items: N/A.	
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 237,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ 24,000	Secured
Arboretum Director (.1 FTE)		
In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$ 117,000	
Invasive training and eradication hours:		
Master Naturalists training and specialized training		
Carleton College student workers hours		
Volunteer worker hours		
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	\$ 64,603	Unspent
Funding from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund		
Invasive Species Biomass Project (Carleton College Arboretum)		
Grant Award Date: February 23, 2012		



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Nancy Carol Braker, Director, Cowling Arboretum; Lecturer in Biology
507-222-4543 • nbraker@carleton.edu, Carleton College • Northfield, Minnesota 55057

Education:

Carleton College	Biology	B.S. 1981
University of Minnesota	Entomology	M.S.1986

Professional Appointments

Carleton College **2007 - present**

Director of the Cowling Arboretum and Lecturer in Biology

Oversee all aspects of Arboretum management including restoration and management of 880 acres of natural lands, collaboration with faculty on academic use, education and outreach.

The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter – several positions **1988 - 2007**

Largest private international conservation organization protecting biological diversity through land and water conservation efforts.

Director of Conservation, Baraboo Hills and Western Uplands **2003 - 2007**

Oversaw the work of a five person office implementing strategies to conserve and manage a large forested landscape.

Agency Relations Director, Fire and Invasives **2002 - 2003**

Developed strategies and implemented projects to address broad issues on a statewide basis related to the use of ecological fire as a management tool and reducing the threat of invasive species.

Director of Science and Stewardship **1988 - 2001**

Directed all aspects of land management, planning and science efforts within the state, and served as liaison to public agencies on land management issues.

Other Activities

- Developed an effective working group of staff from 15 agencies, organizations and private consulting firms to address fire management issues on private and public lands in Wisconsin (now the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council www.prescribedfire.org). Served as the Chair of the fledgling organization for the first two years, helping build an organization that is now recognized as a leader in Wisconsin in training, education and outreach, and public policy regarding the ecological management of natural land with applied fire.
- Guided the formation of the broad-based Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (www.ipaw.org); serving on the founding board of directors as Secretary from 2001 – 2004. During that time the organization developed an active outreach program with land owners, public land managers and researchers around the state and set the stage for ongoing communication and action regarding the problem of invasive plants.

Organization/Arboretum Description. Carleton College, an independent and nationally-ranked liberal arts college, is located in Northfield, forty minutes south of Minneapolis-St. Paul. Carleton enrolls 2,000 students, who come from all fifty states and twenty-seven countries. The Carleton Arboretum consists of approximately 880 acres (360 hectares) of land adjacent to the College, developed under the leadership of President Donald J. Cowling and Professor Harvey E. Stork in the 1920s. It is located on a natural border between prairie and forest habitat. The flame tolerant species of the prairie and oak savanna communities evolved to thrive with fires, while the fire intolerant species of the maple-basswood deciduous forests were set back. As a result of this process, the species found throughout different sections of the Arboretum today serve as reminders of the historic locations of native plant communities.