

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 134-G

Transforming Decaying Urban Landscape into Recreational Green Space

Topic Area: G. Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 150,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 yr. July 2013 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

The goal of this project is to transform decaying urban landscape into multi-use recreational green spaces for the purpose of building community, addressing food security, education and carbon sequestration.

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Sponsoring Organization: Dribble Daily Foundation

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Ramsey

City / Township: Saint Paul

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

Transforming Decaying Urban Landscape into Recreational Green Space

I: Project Statement

The goal of this project is to transform decaying urban landscape into multi-use recreational green spaces for the purpose of building community, addressing food security, education and carbon sequestration. Specifically, we are seeking to provide the City of St. Paul artificially turfed soccer courts surrounded by beautiful urban gardens.

Why soccer?

No other activity known to man has done more to tear down the barriers of language, race and ethnicity than the game of soccer, or futbol as it is known around the world. The shared love of the game is what brings people together. With the influx of immigrants to our cities, the changing demographics of the United States and current division of the country driven by the political climate, one has to wonder how we will we get along as a nation in the next few decades. Will we continue to focus on the 15% of things that divide us? Or will we unite around the 85% of things that unite us? Dider Drogba, Ivory Coast soccer superstar, is credited with ending a gruesome civil war by uniting his country around the game of soccer during the 2010 World Cup.

Why gardens?

Are our cities sustainable? The answer is no, not yet. For instance, the city of Los Angeles has a 3 day food supply; what happens if fuel prices hit \$20/gallon and it's too expensive to ship food into the city? We need to start addressing the issue of food security. By beginning to better utilize our available urban space, such as the flat rooftops of apartment buildings and strip malls, we can create a greener, healthier urban environment.

Did you know that Minneapolis is the 5th largest food desert in the country? "Food desert" is a term used to describe communities with little to no access to healthy food. It has been estimated that 1/2 of Minneapolis and nearly 1/3 of St. Paul fall under the status of food desert. Minnesota's obesity rate has increased 66% in the past 15 years; consumption of unhealthy food has been to blame.

Not only can urban gardens provide our communities with healthy foods, they can also serve as carbon sinks for our emissions. There is unprecedented potential on our city skyline to reduce our carbon footprint and create a more beautiful city.

II: Description of Project Activities

Phase 1: Acquire land parcel

We hope to acquire underutilized urban land and begin transforming "parking lots into parks." The Dribble Daily foundation has been in contact with the City of St. Paul and is in the process of negotiating land usage for various brownfield spaces within the city. According to the city's Environmental Policy Director one particular site the city is looking to redevelop is the land owned by Xcel energy near the Smith Avenue High Bridge. This land has been remediated of contaminants and is ready for park implementation in conjunction with an off-leash dog park.

We are seeking to redevelop land that is currently owned by the City of St. Paul, whom would retain ownership rights. Thinking beyond traditional parks, we envision transforming flat rooftops of apartment and commercial buildings into urban gardens and rooftop soccer courts. These underutilized areas of the city are perfect for growing vegetables and providing

recreational space for youth, giving them a rare and eye-opening perspective of their city. Rooftop soccer courts are quite common outside of the United States, with a few domestic courts in New York, Miami and Los Angeles. We believe these courts are the wave of the future, and where better place to bring them than the Twin Cities?

Outcome	Completion Date
Identify land to redevelop	11/30/2012
Chose specific site with aid from City of St. Paul	2/30/2013

Phase 2: Soil Testing and Remediation

Once site has been chosen, soil samples can be tested for nutrient quality and heavy metal contaminants by the use of an X-ray fluorescence (XRF) gun. Soil analysis testing will be done voluntarily by the University of St. Thomas environmental science department whom owns both the XRF gun and the soil analysis kit. Once land quality has been tested, remediation techniques can be implemented to help reduce contaminant levels if needed. Possible remediation techniques include the setting of new top soil or bio-remediation (uptake of contaminants by plants). Remediation can be as simple as building raised garden beds.

Outcome	Completion Date
Test soil for contaminants	3/30/2013
Implement remediation strategy (if necessary)	7/30/2013

Phase 3: Lay Foundation for Soccer Court + Garden

Once funding becomes available the Twin Cities based company ForeverLawn will be contracted to turf the first court. It is our goal that the field will be turfed and ready for use by October 2013. We estimate a 2,800ft² court at \$11ft²

Because of the growing season we anticipate the urban garden aspect to be implemented during the spring of 2014. Depending on available funding and resources, hydroponic systems and garden architecture can be built and completed by November 2013. We will utilize Dribble Daily's network of master gardeners to get the initial garden started (master gardeners are required to donate time to community service in order to retain their title), and work with the Twin Cities Urban Agriculture Alliance to build and maintain a longterm strategy for continued gardening success.

Outcome	Completion Date
Site planning development	6/30/2012
Turf installation	10/30/2012

Budget Item	Amount
<p>Personnel: 2 full time salaries This money will go to funding 2 part time salaries for the Dribble Daily developers. They are in charge of organization and project operation, from meeting with the city to contracting architectural entities to physical labor.</p>	\$50,000
<p>Contracts: ForeverLawn ForeverLawn is the company responsible for laying the turf. Student Frenzy Student Frenzy will be contracted to operate the youth after school program</p>	ForeverLawn: \$50,000 Student Frenzy: \$20,000
<p>Tools/ Equipment/Supplies: Gardening supplies, materials for construction, soccer equipment</p>	\$30,000
<p>Acquisition: 3 acres, owned by the City of St. Paul</p>	n/a
<p>Travel:</p>	n/a
<p>Additional Budget Items:</p>	n/a
<p>Total Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Requested:</p>	\$150,000

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EXPERIENCE:

Video Production Intern, *Best Buy Corporate, Richfield, MN*

May 2011-August 2011

- I worked as a production assistant on numerous commercial sets as well as internal corporate videos. I also created a mini-documentary about electronic waste & how Best Buy was addressing the issue.
- Supervisor: Emily Peterson-Boone (651 717-8481)

Vice President, *Student Frenzy, Minneapolis, MN*

August 2010 - Present

- Started a service based dotcom company that connects university students with their neighbors. Our team specializes in tutoring, caretaking and general labor. My duties include interviewing student workers, marketing, graphic design and formulating expansion strategies. Student Frenzy was the 2010 winner of the University of St. Thomas' Fowler Business Concept Challenge. Visit us at www.StudentFrenzy.com.

Guest Creative Assistant, *Night in the AARC*

January 2011

- Direct assistant to the director of the music video *Night in the AARC* contracted by the University of St. Thomas to profile their new athletic facility. I helped choreograph dancers, set up shot angles, lighting and costume design. *Night in the AARC* can be viewed on vimeo.com.

Event Manager, *University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN*

September 2010 – Present

- On site manager for 3rd party contractors of University facilities. I am responsible for any and all issues that should arise while contractor is in use of facility.
- Supervisor: Dan Taylor (651 328-1752)

CSA Agent, *Regional Elite Airlines, MSP Airport*

May 2009 – January 2010

- Was responsible for all ground operations including loading, unloading and taxiing aircrafts as well as performing security sweeps on international flights.
- Supervisor: Patrick Kulishek (ask@regionalelite.com)

Youth Mentor, *Patchwork Quilt, Minneapolis, MN*

February 2009- June 2009

- Hung out, did crafts and played sports with at-risk elementary school children in North Minneapolis.
- Supervisor: Katharine Caffrey (651 962-6800)

Legal Assistant, *Cottrell Law Firm, Mendota Heights, MN*

August 2008 – December 2008

- Responsible for data entry, client records, and delivering summons and complaints.

EDUCATION:

University of St. Thomas

- Pursuing a Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Science: Geosciences

Expected Graduation: 2012

Organization for Tropical Studies

- Performed field research on the social dynamics of Capuchin, Spider & Howler monkeys during January 2012 at Corcovado Biological Station, Costa Rica

University of Victoria (Wellington, New Zealand)

- Attended the spring 2010 semester through the Butler University study abroad program

