

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 171-F

Ecological Management Plans - Mississippi River Watershed and Minneapolis

Category: F. Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat

Total Project Budget: \$ 228,800

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 Year, July 2014-June 2015

Summary:

To improve on-the-ground operations and management of natural resources in Minneapolis and the Mississippi River watershed through the creation of ecologically based management plans for vegetation and water.

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Sponsoring Organization: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey

City / Township: Minneapolis

<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"/> %



I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) are preparing the first-ever ecological system plan. This plan is a critical step forward in the management of natural resources and public lands in the state’s largest city, and will become a national model for improving resiliency in the face of climate change, decreasing water quality, explosion of invasive species, increasing runoff, and fragmentation of habitat. The ecological system plan will be executed between June 2013 and July 2014 and will provide city-wide ecological data, a vision for natural resources and public lands within the watershed and city, and guiding principles for management. The MPRB is requesting ENRTF funding to apply the ecological system plan to real-world, on-the-ground maintenance and operations through the preparation of two detailed management plans: one for vegetation and another for water. These management plans will set new policies, detail best practices, establish evaluation and management procedures, and set measurable outcomes for improving the environmental health of public lands within the city and watershed.

Managing a single park (or even a collection of parks) ecologically is not enough. Each public parcel should be managed as part of a broader ecological system within the parks network and the city, watershed, and region. These two management plans will leverage work of the ecological system plan and create best practices for maintenance, operations, and capital improvements. The management plans will consider a more ecologically focused method for maintaining all land types to promote natural resource protection. They will consider how the urban forest can better contribute to water quality and climate change resilience. They will consider how the nearly 400,000 residents within the project area can have a positive effect on the region’s ecology and natural resources through habitat restoration, water management, and other practices on their own properties. The management plans will involve the community extensively, in order to reach beyond public lands for the benefit of metro area lands and waters. With the ecological system plan, the two management plans will set the framework for a wholesale change in how public lands are operated and maintained—by linking decision-making and on-the-ground practices to ecological systems and to the real threats facing our natural resources.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: *Vegetation and Water Management Plan*

Budget: \$ 153,296

Preparation of comprehensive, systems-based, agency adopted management plans for the ecologically minded management of public vegetation and water within the city. The plans will be utilized across the departments within the MPRB and MWMO, and will be made available to other collaborating agencies working in the region (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, neighborhood groups, the City of Minneapolis, etc.)

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Approval of vegetation and water management plans</i>	<i>April 2015</i>
<i>2. Introduction of management plans to agencies and departments, including training</i>	<i>May 2015</i>

Activity 2: *Community Engagement*

Budget: \$ 75,504

Involvement of residents of Minneapolis and the watershed in the creation of the management plans, and education of residents about what they can personally do to improve the ecological health of vegetation and waters. Community engagement will involve meetings with neighborhood groups, open houses, statistically valid citywide survey, and digital applications (civic tech) during the creation of the management plans. After completion of the management plans, ENRTF funding will support educational efforts.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2014 Main Proposal

Project Title: Ecological Management Plans - Mississippi River Watershed and Minneapolis

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>Community involvement events for the management plans that engage over 3,000 residents from across the city</i>	<i>March 2015</i>
2. <i>Educational and informational events, brochures, and appearances</i>	<i>July 2015</i>

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board: Primary co-funder of the ecological system plan. Leader of the management plans process and primary decision-maker. Repository and disseminator for all generated data. Recipient of ENRTF funding.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization: Primary co-funder of the ecological system plan. Will serve as major resource and decision-maker during the preparation of the management plans.

Technical Team: A group of scientific, engineering, and ecological consultants selected through competitive RFP process. Will generate ecological data and consult on the content of the ecological system plan and the two management plans.

Treeline Landscape Architecture: Project manager and lead author of the ecological system plan and the water and vegetation management plans, under contract with MPRB and MWMO. Lead author and facilitator, and manager of public involvement and of the Technical Team for the project.

B. Timeline Requirements

July 2014	Completion of the ecological system plan (non-ENRTF funds) and commencement of vegetation and water management plans. Determination of public involvement strategies and management plan process.
July 2014-March 2015	Research, data gathering, agency coordination, and preparation of management plans. Ongoing public involvement, including comment period.
March-April 2015	Final writing, editing, and publication of the management plans
May 2015	Management plans made publicly available
May-July 2015	Public education and promotion campaign

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The ecological system plan sets a course for more environmentally sound management of public lands in the state’s largest city. ENRTF funding will leverage the data and vision in that plan to create two critical management plans that will provide long-term strategies for maintenance, operations, and capital improvement activities related to vegetation and waters. The MPRB currently manages more than 6700 acres of public lands (16% of the entire city), and also the entire urban forest, which serves as a link to every household in the city and watershed. Managed in a more ecologically sound and community-driven way, these lands (and in fact all the land within the city and watershed) can improve habitat, clean urban runoff, reduce flooding, and improve resiliency in the face of climate change. Based on these management plans, MPRB and MWMO expect to change practices throughout their systems. This will have immediate impact and will also guide larger capital improvement projects over time. This is the next legacy moment for the nation’s best system of public lands, following Cleveland’s original plan, Superintendent Theodore Wirth’s building spree, and the 1960s update to the Grand Rounds parkway system. ENRTF funding will move the city and region toward a future focused on ecology and natural resources.

2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Ecological Management Plans - Mississippi River Watershed and Minneapolis

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET *ten months project duration*

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel:	hours
<i>MPRB Assistant Superintendent for Planning</i> : one full time salaried position throughout 10-month duration of project; 5.7% total project period salary = \$5930; 5.7% total project period benefits = \$1920	average 10 hours/month for 10 months 7,850
<i>MPRB Planning Staff Member</i> : one full time salaried position throughout 10-month duration of project; 9.2% total project period salary = \$6965; 9.2% total project period benefits = \$2665	average 16 hours/month for 10 months 9,630
<i>MPRB Planning Staff Assistant</i> : one full time salaried position throughout 10-month duration of project; 5.7% total project period salary = \$2400; 5.7% total project period benefits = \$1320	average 10 hours/month for 10 months 3720
<i>MPRB Technical Staff</i> : administration, recreation, equipment/fleet, forestry, maintenance, natural/water resources, park police; 210 salary hours at an average of \$37.14/ hour	7 departmental liaisons @ 30 hours each for review and meetings 7800
	\$ 29,000
Contracts:	
<i>Treeline Landscape Architecture</i> : project management, technical team management, public involvement coordination, writing/editing/layout of management plans, data dissemination, interagency meetings, creation of communication tools for various departments, agencies, and the public	800 hours @ \$120 / hour \$76,800
<i>Technical Team Members</i> (experts in the fields of ecology, hydrology, stormwater management, forestry, etc.): research, data collection, participation in community involvement events, writing of draft management plan elements	400 hours @ \$150 / hour average \$60,000
<i>Phone Survey/Civic Tech Public Involvement</i> : utilizing digital media to expand respondent base in city and watershed, employing statistically valid citywide phone survey	\$50,000
	\$186,800
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
<i>Printing</i> : materials for community involvement, draft reports for review, letters and memoranda	8000
<i>Distribution</i> : postage for community notifications and general correspondence	5000
	\$ 13,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): N/A	\$ -
Travel: N/A	\$ -
Additional Budget Items: <i>In this column, list any additional budget items that do not fit above categories. List by item(s) or item type(s) and explain how number was reached. One row per type/category.</i>	\$ -
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 228,800

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash dollars to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional state cash dollars (e.g. bonding, other grants) to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Indicate any in-kind services to be provided during the funding period. For each type of service, list type of service(s), estimated value, and indicate whether it is secured or pending. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): N/A	\$ -	
Funding History: <i>MPRB and MWMO jointly funded an ecological system plan to be completed between June, 2013 and July, 2014. This plan creates the vision and the underlying data for the</i>	\$ 190,000	secured

ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM PLAN

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Vegetation Types

- »Emergent and submergent (lakes, creeks, and wetlands) ←
- »General park lands ←
- »Native grasslands
- »Forests
- »Park trees
- »Street trees ←
- »Boulevard turf and plants

Management

- »Equipment (mowers, blowers, pruning, heavy equipment)
- »Nutrients, fertilization, and soil augmentation
- »Watering and irrigation ←
- »Plant materials and plant pots
- »Green waste
- »Burning

Measurable Goals

- »Reduce fossil fuel use
- »Reduce synthetic fertilizer use ←
- »Reduce urban heat island effect
- »Increase habitat ←
- »Increase species diversity ←

Collaborations

- »Homeowners and residents (habitat increase, boulevard plantings)
- »Hennepin County
- »City of Minneapolis
- »Watershed Districts
- »State of Minnesota
- »National Park Service

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Water Types

- »Lakes
- »Creeks and Rivers
- »Wetlands
- »Groundwater
- »Runoff: park areas
- »Runoff: public roads and sidewalks
- »Runoff: private rooftops and yards
- »Potable water for landscape use

Management

- »Runoff rate control (retention, storage)
- »Runoff volume control (infiltration, catchment)
- »Water quality
- »Groundwater recharge
- »Irrigation volume and sources
- »Habitat considerations

Measurable Goals

- »Improve water quality in lakes and creeks
- »Reduce runoff into lakes and creeks
- »Increase wetland habitat
- »Increase diversity of open water habitat

Collaborations

- »City public works departments (streets and sidewalks)
- »Homeowners and residents (roof runoff, water use)
- »Hennepin County
- »City of Minneapolis
- »Watershed Districts
- »State of Minnesota
- »National Park Service

FUTURE TOPICAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Project Manager Qualifications: Adam Regn Arvidson, FASLA

Mr. Arvidson will manage the ecological system plan and the vegetation and water management plans under contract to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). He will work with MPRB staff to set the schedule, process, and timeline for these projects; design public involvement methods; manage the selection process for the technical team; manage the technical team; and serve as lead author and editor of the plans.

Management of the ecological system plan and the management plans requires a broad cross-section of expertise, ranging from an understanding of ecology and park design to project management to consultant selection to writing and editing. Mr. Arvidson has extensive experience in all these areas. He is a registered landscape architect with more than 16 years of experience in public park master planning and design, trail system planning and design, community involvement, and design writing. His writing has appeared in national and international design magazines and he is a recipient of the Bradford Williams Medal for excellence in landscape architecture writing. He was named a Fellow of ASLA primarily for his contributions in writing, education, and editing. In 2012 he published “Greening the Landscape” (W.W. Norton): a guide to environmentally sound landscape installation and maintenance.

He is the long-time consultant for the Willmar Design Center, for which he has managed consultant selection processes, overseen technical consultants for specialized projects, and shepherded approvals through city government. He has also managed interdisciplinary design teams for major park projects and has consulted on communications and public involvement for park system planning projects.

Organization Description – Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

With 197 park properties totaling nearly 6,744 acres of land and water, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) provides places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment. Each year, approximately 18 million visits are made to the nationally acclaimed Minneapolis park system. Its urban forests, natural areas and waters endure and captivate. Its Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway, neighborhood parks, recreation centers and diversified programming have made the Minneapolis park system an important component of what makes Minneapolis a great place to live, play and work.

MPRB Mission:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board shall permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board exists to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

To learn more about the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org.