

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2017 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 167-F**

Mississippi River Habitat Restoration at Halls Island

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

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 1,451,500

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 4.5 years, July 2017 - December 2021

**Summary:**

A large-scale project to restore lost Mississippi River habitat by re-creating Halls Island in Minneapolis, through construction activities based in sound restoration science.

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Hennepin

**City / Township:** Minneapolis

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Halls Island Graphic Depictions

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



**PROJECT TITLE: Mississippi River Habitat Restoration at Hall’s Island**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and its scientific partners, including malacologist Mike Davis, ornithologist Dave Zumeta, and others, request \$1,451,500 from the ENRTF for a large-scale project to restore lost Mississippi River habitat at Hall’s Island. The Upper Mississippi River in Minneapolis used to be rich in habitat for native birds, reptiles, and mussels. With the advent of navigation and associated dredging and industrial development, this habitat has been all but lost—especially the critical island and back-channel habitat so necessary for resident and migrating wildlife. MPRB will take a significant step toward re-establishing Mississippi River habitat with the creation of Hall’s Island, a historic natural island that was eliminated for industrial use in 1966. Navigation on the upper river has ceased with the closure of the St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. The opportunity is ripe for restoration of lost habitat and for wildlife reintroduction to the riverway.

Located near the Plymouth Avenue Bridge in Northeast Minneapolis, the restored Hall’s Island will be approximately 1,100 feet long and 200 feet wide. It is part of a larger park development on the former Scherer Brothers lumber yard property, which is now owned by MPRB. Hall’s Island and the park on the Scherer site are part of the RiverFirst initiative, a multi-year, community-driven process to remake the Upper Mississippi as a natural and recreational landscape. Through this request, ENRTF funding would be used to plan habitat restoration and reintroduction of mussels and reptiles; to construct all restored habitat elements on the island, including vegetation, grading, and aggregate placement both on the island and underwater; to reintroduce native mussel and reptile species; to monitor plants, mussels, reptiles, and birds on and around the island for three years; and to develop a long-term management plan to ensure the success of island habitat.

Under state statute, MPRB has until 2020 to construct Hall’s Island. Additional funding from various sources has been secured, the adjacent shoreline is in public hands, and the negative habitat impact of navigational dredging has ceased. Hall’s Island provides one of very few opportunities in the urban reaches of the Mississippi to create habitat from scratch. By collaborating with respected scientists and leveraging additional public funding, MPRB can utilize ENRTF funding to have a tangible, large-scale impact on riverine habitat in Minnesota.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1: Habitat Restoration and Wildlife Reintroduction Plan**

**Budget: \$25,500**

In consultation with scientists, prepare a restoration and reintroduction plan for Hall’s Island. The plan will describe specific habitat restoration practices and desired outcomes that will guide construction of the island, and will determine how and which species to reintroduce to the site.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Completion of restoration and reintroduction plan</i>	<i>November, 2017</i>
<i>2. Determination of species to reintroduce and processes for reintroduction</i>	<i>February, 2018</i>

**Activity 2: Hall’s Island Restoration**

**Budget: \$1,296,000**

Construct all habitat improvements associated with the restoration of Hall’s Island. Funding request includes design and construction of all habitat elements, including but not limited to creation of the island itself, native plantings, on-shore and in-water aggregates, and habitat structures.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Preparation of habitat restoration construction plans to be released for public bid</i>	<i>December, 2017</i>
<i>2. Construction of habitat elements along with construction of Hall’s Island</i>	<i>December, 2018</i>



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**

**2017 Main Proposal**

**Project Title:** *Mississippi River Habitat Restoration at Hall’s Island*

**Activity 3: Wildlife Reintroduction and Ongoing Monitoring**

**Budget: \$130,000**

Reintroduce some native mussel and reptile species to newly constructed habitat, based on reintroduction plans developed in Activity 1. Monitor four main species groups—mussels, birds, reptiles, and plants—to determine success. Prepare long-term management plan for island, based on initial monitoring results.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>Reintroduction of animal species to island</i>	<i>April, 2019</i>
2. <i>Completion and publication of three-year monitoring report</i>	<i>October, 2021</i>
3. <i>Preparation of long-term management plan for Hall’s Island</i>	<i>October, 2021</i>

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

MPRB will serve as the project manager, owner, and primary designer of the project. MPRB is currently engaged with Barr Engineering and Tom Leader Studio to design Hall’s Island and the park on the Scherer site. ENRTF funds will augment existing funding and allow these consultants to include scientifically-based habitat elements in the designs and construction plans for the site. MPRB will partner with scientists in four specific areas, to ensure that habitat restoration is effective for four species types: plants, mussels, birds, and reptiles. Several other partner organizations are involved in the creation of Hall’s Island but will not receive ENRTF funding.

- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board: project manager, owner, primary designer (includes construction contracting and materials): \$1,200,000 ENRTF (\$2,748,500 match from other sources)
- Barr Engineering and Tom Leader Studio: engineering and landscape architecture: \$96,000 ENRTF funds
- Plant restoration ecologist to be determined: \$26,000 ENRTF funds
- Mike Davis, Minnesota DNR, and Steve Zigler, USGS: malacologists: \$42,500 ENRTF funds
- Dave Zumeta, Minnesota DNR, MN Forest Resources Council: ornithologist: \$51,000 ENRTF funds
- Herpetologist to be determined: \$36,000 ENRTF funds
- Other project partners not receiving funding: City of Minneapolis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Minneapolis Parks Foundation, Hennepin County, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

**B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy**

MPRB is requesting ENRTF funding for the specific habitat-related portion of a much larger project. The total cost of the restoration of Hall’s Island is expected to be \$4,200,000 (exclusive of costs associated with previous acquisition, design, and environmental remediation). MPRB is requesting 35% of that total cost from ENRTF. Other secured and pending current and previous funding sources include MPRB’s local tax levy, grants from Hennepin County and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, and regional parks funding. MPRB will fund staff time. Because Hall’s Island will be constructed all at once, it is unlikely additional ENRTF funding will be requested, making this a project with high immediate positive impact on the state’s habitat picture. Ongoing maintenance will be funded by leveraging adjacent private development, creating a self-sustaining fund that will be directed to upkeep of the island and park site, including habitat enhancements funded through this request.

**C. Timeline Requirements**

It is expected that construction of Hall’s island will take place in 2017 and 2018. Restoration planning activities will commence in 2017, as soon as funding is available. Upon completion of construction, reintroduction and monitoring will begin and will continue during the years of 2019, 2020, and 2021. At that time the final management plan will be prepared and the three-year monitoring data will be disseminated through public channels to serve as a resource for other restoration efforts statewide. This project requires more than 36 months due to the expected duration of construction and the desire to monitor habitat for a full three years.

## 2017 Detailed Project Budget

**Project Title: Mississippi River Habitat Restoration at Hall's Island**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 4.5 years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Mike Davis, MN DNR, and Steve Zigler, USGS: preparation of restoration and reintroduction plans for mussels, reintroduction of mussels, mussel monitoring, long-term management plan for mussels	\$ 37,500
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> David Zumeta, Formerly Minnesota DNR and MN Forest Resources Council: preparation of restoration plan for birds, bird monitoring, long-term management plan for birds	\$ 51,000
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Herpetologist to be determined: preparation of restoration and reintroduction plan for reptiles, reintroduction of reptiles, reptile monitoring, long-term management plan for reptiles	\$ 36,000
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Plant restoration ecologist to be determined: preparation of restoration plan for plants, plant success and diversity monitoring, long-term management plan for plants	\$ 26,000
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Barr Engineering (civil and hydrological engineering) and Tom Leader Studio (landscape architecture): design and construction plans for habitat restoration, construction observation and administration	\$ 96,000
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Contractor to be selected through public bid: all construction activities associated with habitat restoration	\$ 480,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Miscellaneous supplies for species reintroduction	\$ 5,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Construction materials, including plants, aggregate, stone, wood, and specialty items	\$ 720,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 1,451,500</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> MPRB Capital Levy	\$ 899,000	Secured
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Regional Park Funds (Met Council/State Bonding)	\$ 1,796,000	Secured
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Mississippi Watershed Management Organization stormwater management grant (a portion would be applied to Hall's Island and a portion to the adjacent park on the Scherer site)	\$ 1,500,000	Pending
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> n/a	\$ -	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> n/a	\$ -	
<b>Funding History:</b> Land acquisition of Scherer Bros parcel--MPRB local tax levy, Metropolitan Council Regional Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund, Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment	\$ 7,700,000	Expended
<b>Funding History:</b> Environmental remediation of Scherer site, from which earth will come to create Hall's island--Hennepin County Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 1,000,000	Expended
<b>Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> n/a	\$ -	



## **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2017 Main Proposal**

**Project Title:** *Mississippi River Habitat Restoration at Hall's Island*

### **Project Team Qualifications:**

#### **Adam Arvidson, FASLA, PLA**

Mr. Arvidson is MPRB's Director of Strategic Planning, in which role he is responsible for large-scale planning of public lands. He is a registered landscape architect with 17 years of experience in the public and private sector and has worked on numerous habitat and environment projects, including several funded through LCCMR and the Lessard-Sams Council. He is currently the project manager for the MPRB's Ecological Systems Plan and is also leading the agency's effort to create new environmentally sound master plans for each neighborhood park.

#### **Jon Duesman, PLA**

As a registered landscape architect with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Jon Duesman has been involved on the Hall's Island project since 2014, coordinating site cleanup, permitting requirements, and design consultant management. Jon will be the construction manager for the re-creation of Hall's Island.

#### **Dave Zumeta, Ornithologist**

Since retiring from a 33-year career with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2015, Mr. Zumeta has worked with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in helping developing a bird habitat restoration plan for T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary. From 2003-2015, he helped assess and recommend 54 Important Bird Areas in Minnesota as a member of the National Audubon Society's Minnesota Important Birding Area Technical Team. He also maintains an on-line bird list of the Birds of the Mississippi River Gorge Area. From 2001-2015, he served as Executive Director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, a 17-member body appointed to advise the Governor, legislature, and federal, state, county and local governments on sustainable forest policies and practices.

#### **Mike Davis, Aquatic Ecologist**

Mr. Davis began his Minnesota DNR career in 1986 when he completed a native mussel survey of the Cannon River System and documented the presence of a species not previously reported in the state. From 1989-1990 he led the startup of the federally funded Long Term Resource Monitoring of the Mississippi River. He implemented with LCCMR funds a Statewide Mussel Survey Program in 1999 that continues with other funding today. He served 5 years as a river ecologist on the US Army Corps of Engineers' Upper Mississippi River Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program's Science Panel made up of 10 river experts across the nation. He is a founding member of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society and an author or coauthor of numerous publications on native mussel ecology. In 2014 he established the MNDNR Center for Aquatic Mollusk Programs in Lake City, MN

#### **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.