

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 151-CH

1,000 Trees for Frogtown: Restoring Inner City Canopy

Category: H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

Sub-Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 88,350

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

Summary:

In St Pauls most diverse neighborhood, resident volunteers seek support to grow and plant hundreds of trees, tackling Frogtowns deficient urban tree canopy while demonstrating innovative tree nursery technology.

Name: Patricia Ohmans

Sponsoring Organization: Frogtown Green

Title: Director

Department: _____

Address: 843 Van Buren Avenue

St. Paul MN 55104

Telephone Number: (651) 757-5970

Email patricia.ohmans@gmail.com

Web Address www.frogtowngreen.com

Location

Region: Central

County Name: Ramsey

City / Township: St Paul

Alternate Text for Visual:

Visual shows aerial view of tree nursery, gravel bins with installed trees, and a parcel-by-parcel map of tree canopy in Frogtown.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2019 Main Proposal

PROJECT TITLE:

1,000 TREES FOR FROGTOWN: RESTORING INNER CITY CANOPY

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Frogtown, a racially diverse neighborhood, has fewer trees than any other neighborhood in St Paul. Funding would more than double the capacity of Frogtown Green's resident volunteers, who—with very minimal funding—have planted more 360 free trees over the past 7 years. Our goal is 1,000 trees for Frogtown, by 2025! Funding would help us purchase hundreds of trees in the next 3 years; maintain an educational tree nursery and environmental demonstration park; and support outreach to property owners, in order to plant 360 *more* trees.

We envision a tree nursery as part of an environmental park and community gathering space at 625 Dale Street, a city-owned vacant lot leased to Frogtown Green. The 20,000 square foot lot, comprising 5 contiguous parcels, has been vacant since 2008. Our tree nursery will use simple, gravel-filled beds to house and water bare-root (not potted) trees over the summer growing season. This novel, cost-effective technology leads to greater transplant survival through the development of sturdy root masses. Bare-root trees grown this way are planted in fall.

Emerald Ash borer has killed many trees in Frogtown, on both public and private property. For the next few years, the city Forestry department will be overwhelmed, replanting trees that have been removed from public boulevards on the neighborhood. But increased tree canopy is most deficient on *private* property in Frogtown. Funding for outreach to landlords is critical; Frogtown is over 62% rental property.

Frogtown Green, a neighborhood initiative led by a 37-year Frogtown resident and driven by neighborhood volunteers, has credibility and a decade-long history of environmental work. We enjoy partnerships with a wide variety of community-based organizations and have the support of our city councilmember, as well as St Paul's Forestry department, the Capitol Region Watershed District, and the Urban Outreach program of the US Forest Service.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$117,600 (\$39,200 per year, please see attached annual budget)

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Objective	Tasks	Specific Outcomes	Completion Date
<i>Increase tree canopy in Frogtown</i>	Each spring, 120 bare root trees will be installed in gravel-filled, hydroponic nursery beds at 625 Dale Street. Native and hardy varieties of shade and fruit trees, such as burr oak, linden, and serviceberry will be selected. Each fall, once the trees have grown solid root masses in the gravel beds, they will be removed and planted by volunteers on Frogtown properties.	360 six-foot, bare-root trees planted in Frogtown over three years (120 per year).	Fall, 2020, 2021, 2022
<i>Demonstrate gravel bed technology</i>	Three, wood-framed beds (15 x 8 feet) set on asphalt will be filled with pea gravel and watered daily, to maintain 40 bare root trees in each. Signage will explain the purpose and function of the gravel beds and the role of urban tree canopy in mitigating heat and reducing air pollution.	Three gravel beds and related durable, weather-resistant signs installed	Fall 2020, maintenance through 2022
<i>Increase trees on residential property</i>	Each summer, Frogtown Green staff and volunteers will conduct door-to-door outreach to property owners and residents in Frogtown. Landlords will receive a financial incentive to plant trees on their rental properties, which will be repeated if the tree is maintained for a year or more.	Recruitment of at least 33% rental property owners for new trees (40/ year)	Fall 2020, 2021, 2022
<i>Improve watershed protection and pollinator habitat</i>	Best management practices will be employed in the installation of an infiltrating rain garden on the site. Maintenance of perennial plantings of native and pollinator-friendly flowers, shrubs and trees on the lot will increase ecological variety and viability of the space. Signage on the site will increase public awareness of environmental issues in our diverse urban community.	Raingarden and plantings installed and maintained. Durable signage installed	Fall 2020, maintenance through 2022



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2019 Main Proposal

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Patricia Ohmans, MPH	Director	Frogtown Green	Ohmans will coordinate the work of Frogtown Green with project partners. Ohmans' resume is attached to this application.
To be hired	Coordinator	Frogtown Green	A tree program coordinator will manage the tree installation, maintenance and planting, and to oversee the outreach program. This person will be a seasonal contractor with Frogtown Green.

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Cy Kosel	Director	St Paul Forestry Unit	Kosel directs the urban forestry program for the city of St Paul. City foresters will provide technical assistance and consultation, as they have in an established partnership with Frogtown Green since 2011.
Teri Heyer	Urban Outreach Manager	US Forest Service	Heyer directs the urban outreach program for the US Forest Service and has worked closely with Frogtown Green's volunteer tree planting program. The Forest Service will also provide technical assistance, and educational materials for tree recipients.
Lindsay Schwantes	Outreach Coordinator	Capitol Region Watershed District	Schwantes directs community outreach for the Capitol Region Watershed District, which includes Frogtown. CRWD has funded Frogtown Green since 2014 and provides technical assistance on water best management practices.

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Frogtown Green is actively seeking funding through a variety of sources, including but not limited to ENRTF. However, most of these sources offer funding only on an annual basis. ENRTF funding would enable multi-year planning and economies of scale. With support from the ENRTF, we can more than double our capacity to increase tree canopy in Frogtown, and transform the lot at 625 Dale Street from a long-neglected eyesore into a community asset.

Environmental outcomes will include not only a much larger number of trees available to replace Frogtown canopy losses due to disease and removal, but also the creation of diverse and extensive native plantings for increased pollinator habitat; improved watershed protection; and a safer and more inviting environment for pedestrians and residents near the site.

Most importantly, we will address the gross existing disparity in tree canopy between our neighborhood and other, better-resourced communities. Frogtown Green and our partners in this project recognize that the best long-term use for the city-owned lot at 625 Dale is most likely one which combines commercial and residential space with greenspace. But any commercial development is, at minimum, several years away. In the meantime, the lot's use as an environmental park and an incubator for hundreds of new trees in our neighborhood is a highly appropriate one, benefitting both the community and the environment.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS: Annual timetable

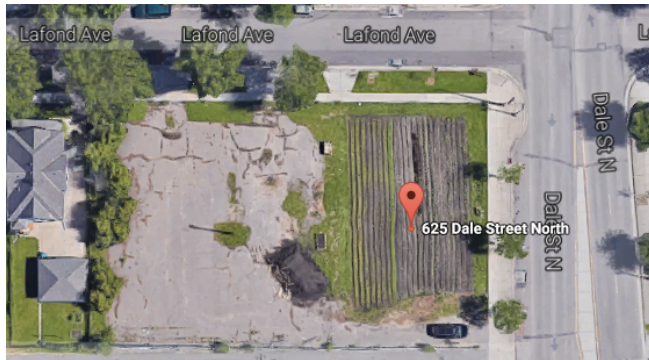
Task	Season
Plan each year's activities, hire contractors and staff	Winter
Build gravel beds (year one) or repair/replenish gravel beds (years 2 and 3)	Late winter
Arrange for water and supplies	March
Schedule volunteer work groups	April
Install trees and plantings	May
Recruit property owners to receive trees	May-August
Confirm tree locations, check utilities, plant trees	September
Evaluate activities	October-November
Produce annual program and financial reports	December

1,000 TREES FOR FROGTOWN: ANNUAL BUDGET*

EXPENSES		Notes
Personnel		
Director, Frogtown Green	\$12,000.00	Patricia Ohmans, MPH will oversee the project all three years, handling partner liaison, administration and staff management. This position is compensated at \$50 per hour, for 5 hours per week, 48 weeks per year.
Coordinator, tree program	\$7,200.00	A seasonal coordinator will be contracted to manage the nursery for six months, from April through September, each year. This person will be paid \$20 per hour for 15 hours per week, for 24 weeks.
Supplies		
Nursery supplies	\$900.00	construction, repair and replacement supplies such as hoses, sprinklers, lumber and gravel for 3 tree beds; \$300 per bed
Trees	\$4,200.00	\$35 per 120 bare-root trees per year; (total of 360 trees in 3-year grant period)
Utilities	\$1,500.00	city electricity and water hookup and usage
Signage	\$1,000.00	all signage installed in first year, cost spread over 3 year grant period
Misc		
Incentives for property owners	\$2,000.00	\$50 paid per tree to 40 landlords per year, payment released over the number of years the tree is maintained.
Printing	\$500.00	Educational materials and handouts
Office supplies	\$150.00	Paper, printer toner
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$29450.00	TOTAL REQUEST IS FOR THREE YEARS FUNDING: \$88,350

B. Visuals and description: 1,000 TREES FOR FROGTOWN

Frogtown Green's neighborhood tree nursery, on a vacant lot in Frogtown



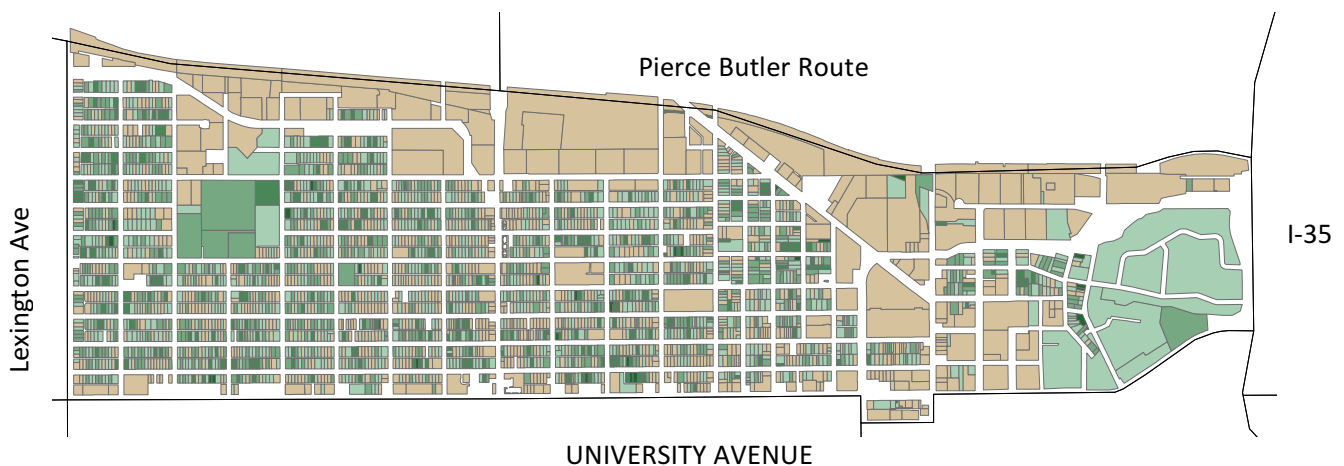
Frogtown Green envisions a non-profit neighborhood tree nursery as part of an **environmental park and community gathering space** being created at 625 Dale Street, a large city-owned lot. At left is an aerial view of the lot, which has been vacant since 2008.

The Frogtown Green tree nursery will use **gravel-filled, regularly watered beds** like one pictured, right, to house bare-root (not potted) trees over the summer growing season. This novel and cost-effective technology, promoted by the city's foresters, leads to greater transplant survival through the development of sturdy root masses.



Emerald Ash borer has already killed many trees in Frogtown, on both public and private property. For the next few years, the city Forestry department staff will be overwhelmed, replanting trees that have been removed from public boulevards in the neighborhood.

But as the urban tree canopy map of Frogtown (below) shows, more trees are most needed on *private* property. Brown areas indicate between 0% and 20% tree canopy; many brown parcels are residential homes or multi-unit dwellings. Outreach to landlords is critical; Frogtown is over 62% rental property. (Map courtesy of St Paul Forestry unit, 2015)



F. 1,000 TREES FOR FROGTOWN

Applicant Organization description: Frogtown Green, an environmental sustainability initiative

Frogtown Green is a resident-led initiative that envisions our neighborhood as St Paul's greenest and healthiest community. Since its inception, Frogtown Green has served as a powerful **advocate for environmental awareness and activism** in our low-income neighborhood. From 2009 to 2012, Frogtown Green volunteers and supporters successfully championed the creation of a new, 13-acre city park incorporating an urban farm. Frogtown Park and Farm is St Paul's newest completed public park, inaugurated in 2014. In partnership with the Trust for Public Land, our advocates raised \$4.5 million to purchase the park land and establish the Farm, now a separate non-profit organic farming organization.



Advocates at the Capitol



Neighborhood tree planters

Frogtown Green volunteers also created and still manage five additional greenspaces on vacant lots throughout the neighborhood, including pollinator gardens, an elders' garden and a 40-bed community plot. Since 2011, in partnership with the city's Forestry Unit, Frogtown Green **volunteers have planted 360 trees**. Each winter, we sponsor an annual "Green Gathering" of neighborhood environmental activists. Supported by the Capitol Region Watershed District, Frogtown Green offers free summer **environmental workshops** (below, right) at Hmongtown

Marketplace, a large immigrant-owned market in the neighborhood. In 2018, these

free workshops, which focus on water stewardship, will also be offered at neighborhood recreation centers. We work collaboratively with a wide variety of neighborhood groups, including our district planning council and Ward One city councilmember.



Environmental educators



Frogtown Green is directed by **Patricia Ohmans**, a 37-year Frogtown resident and public health professional. She is a Master Gardener with Ramsey County since 2005, and has a masters' degree in public health from the University of Minnesota. Ohmans' environmental leadership in Frogtown has been recognized by the Bush Foundation (she was a Bush Leadership Fellow 2011-2013); the Capitol Region Watershed District (Watershed Citizen of the Year award, 2016) and the city of St Paul (Gardening Advocate of the Year, 2012.)



Frogtown Green is a **resident-led, volunteer-driven initiative**, sponsored and administered by Health Advocates, a public health consulting firm owned by Ohmans and partner Anthony Schmitz. Health Advocates also publishes the neighborhood newspaper, *Greening Frogtown*. More information about Health Advocates is available at www.healthadvocates.info. Frogtown Green's website

is at www.frogtowngreen.com. Back issues of the newspaper are viewable at www.greeningfrogtown.com/archive.