

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 153-CH

Environmental Education Through the Generations Ages 5-105

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

Sub-Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 199,908

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2021 (2 yrs)

Summary:

To teach healthy and sustainable lifelong skills to K-12 students within our economically disadvantaged school and surrounding communities with multiple benefits to nature's pollinators, and humans while incorporating -multigenerational opportunities.

Name: Gregg Allen

Sponsoring Organization: Mesabi East Schools ISD 2711

Title: Superintendent

Department: _____

Address: 601 N 1st St W

Aurora MN 55705

Telephone Number: (218) 229-3321

Email gallen@isd2711.org

Web Address www.isd2711.org

Location

Region: Northeast

County Name: St. Louis

City / Township: Aurora, Biwabik, Hoyt Lakes

Alternate Text for Visual:

Our visual represents our newly acquisitioned Mesabi East Environmental Center and Greenhouse as the central component of our multigenerational gardening program for community, self-sustainability and increased awareness of pollinators.

_____ 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 Template

PROJECT TITLE: Environmental Education Through the Generations Ages 5-105

I. PROJECT STATEMENT - To teach healthy and sustainable lifelong skills to K-12 students within our economically disadvantaged school and surrounding communities with multiple benefits to nature's pollinators, and humans while incorporating multigenerational opportunities.

1. For the first time in approximately thirty years, the community is without a greenhouse. Since Mesabi East has a high percentage of students living in poverty it is essential that low-cost healthy nutritional options are available. With this funding the Mesabi East School District would be able to provide school-wide training to all students and community members so that they may enjoy a healthy and cost effective lifestyle. Students would learn and experience:

- proper planting techniques for maximum production
- companion planting of plants and vegetables that are noted for pollinators
- raised-bed community gardens to allow accessibility for all ages and abilities

2. The Mesabi East Environmental Education Center and Greenhouse would increase pollinator habitats on a large scale by the following:

- through the availability of annual and perennial plants with a focus on pollinator-specific varieties
- student and community classes that promote the importance of environmental responsibility
- implementation of Junior Master Gardener program
- multigenerational gardening and partnering with several local assisted living sites and the nursing home

3. With the acquisition of a weather station Mesabi East Schools would record and maintain a cumulative database. Students would also participate in the National Phenology Network which collects, stores, and shares phenology data and information throughout the United States.

- STEM/STEAM classes would have access to all electronically transmitted information
- rainfall and soil temperature would be logged and monitored by students.
- heat and wind index information would be logged and monitored by students.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Cultivation of pollinating perennial and annual flower and vegetable plants

Hands-on learning through the cultivation of pollinator identified flower perennials, annuals, and vegetables in the greenhouse and Environmental Learning Center would be used in community gardens and sold to surrounding communities. Increase student and public awareness of pollinators while providing beneficial habitats in the community. Students would be taught proper seeding and growing methods of identified plants. Monies generated would be reinvested into the program for lifelong learning gardens and landscapes connecting students and community members to nature.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$39,450 raised bed frames, seeds, soil, containers, tillers

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. A minimum of 1,500 community members and students would be taught to plant seeds, transplanting of plants and care of bedding and pollination plants to provide a sustainable healthy lifestyle for both pollinators and themselves.</i>	<i>May 2020/21</i>
<i>2. A minimum of 30 raised garden beds would be utilized on-site and at regional assisted living facilities..</i>	<i>May 2020/21</i>
<i>3. A minimum of 20 pollinator specific garden sites would be constructed and maintained for continuous habitat sustainability.</i>	<i>May 2021</i>

Activity 2: Junior Master Gardening Program and Weather Monitoring

Students would be provided with the educational curriculum to become Junior Master Gardeners in addition to



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

acquiring lifelong sustainability skills and responsible environmental stewardship while meeting Minnesota Education Standards with a STEAM emphasis and fostering multi-generational interest and participation with onsite learning.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$2,000.00 curriculum materials and weather station

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Mesabi East will have 20+ Junior Master Gardeners per year.	May 2020/21
2. Junior Master Gardeners would be able to facilitate 4 multi-generational community events per year.	May 2020/21
3. Cumulative weather data would be collected for onsite STEAM records and disseminated to the National Phenology Network.	May 2020/21

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
N/A			

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Carrie Mashuga	CDM-CFPP Supervisor	Essentia Health	Community Advisor
Karen Doyea, Jan Moore	Presidents	Garden Clubs	Community Gardens

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Mesabi East has a high percentage of students with special needs (18%) and a high percentage of students living in poverty (41%). With the initial funding from the LCCMR grant, Mesabi East School District #2711, which is in the final stages of the acquisition of a campus Environmental Education Center and Greenhouse, could continue educating the region on the importance of pollinating species and help facilitate a lifelong sustainable lifestyle that will continue to expand to other areas of the world as students grow and become productive adults. In fostering the multigenerational education component all students would benefit and learn along with community members. By continuing the greenhouse as a community and student-driven program, the local communities will help in supporting a learning curriculum that allows for hands-on education. The data collected through the pollinator specific annuals and perennials would be disseminated through the Minnesota Extension Office and projects such as Bumble Bee Watch, The Great Sunflower Project, and United States - National Phenology Network.

V. TIMELINE REQUIREMENTS: Project needs are yearly beginning as funding becomes available July 2019, with growing cycles of flower annuals commencing each January and gardening activities completed at the end of September. Community and student-driven projects will occur throughout the year.

VI. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

- A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet
- B. Visual Component
- C. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description
- D. Letter or Resolution

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Environmental Education Through the Generations Ages 5-105

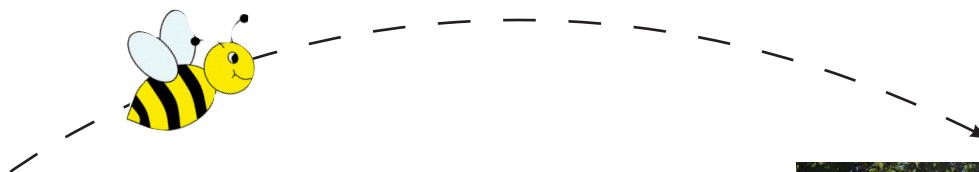
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel:	
Greenhouse Coordinator - 2years - paid to daily manage facility plantings, impliment school and community environmental education 100% full time employment. Salary 63%. Benefits 37%.	\$ 158,458
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 41,450
30 - 4X8 AND 4X12 Durable Green raised bed garden frames for sustainable community garden beds increasing pollinator species and promoting a multi-generational learning environment. \$6,500	
Soil for raised bed gardens \$2,500	
Soil medium, containers and organic fertilizer for starting pollinator annuals and vegetable plants. \$19,000	
Pollinator specific annual flowers and vegetable seeds \$5,500	
Pollinator specific perennials \$4,000	
Mulching Lawnmower TB240 Troybuilt \$400	
Troybilt Bronco CRT Garden Tiller cultivating and maintaining new gardens \$700	
Troybilt tb146-ec-4cycle-garden cultivator \$350.00 For cultivating raised bed gardens \$350	
Garden Spades, forks and rakes for establishing and maintaining pollinator gardens \$500	
Davis Vantage Pro2 Wireless Weather Station with Weatherlink IP for data collection of plant growth \$1000	
Junior Master Gardener program for 60 students. Educational material to teach and certify students.	
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	N/A
Travel:	N/A
Additional Budget Items:	N/A
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 199,908

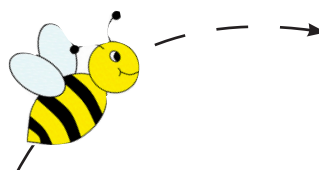
V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	N/A	
Other Funding History:		
Whole Kids - establish gardening program with students, soil, seeds, curriculum.	\$ 2,000	Secured
Thrivent - plants for reminiscence therapy gardens at community assisted livings.	750.00	Secured
Essentia Health - BEGIN ESTABLISHING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES NDS ARE FOR soil, vegetable seeds, trays, and pots to grow bedding plants.	3,985.56	Secured
Johnny's Seeds - Seeds to encourage growing and trying new vegetables and fruits for a healthy sustainable lifestyle.	150.00	Secured

Environmental Education Through the Generations Ages 5 - 105



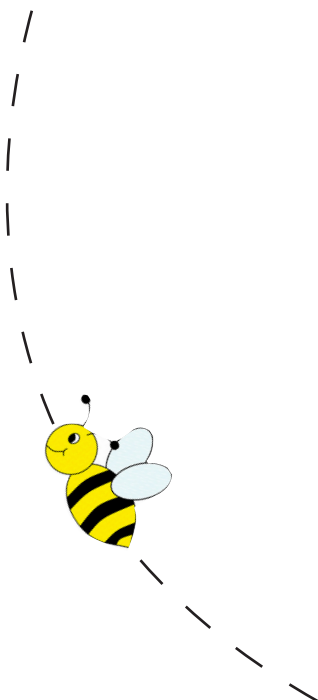
Increasing pollinator awareness through
student and community gardens



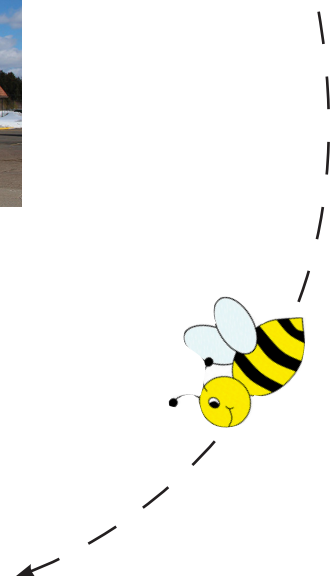
Learning through cultivating
and nurturing pollinating plants



Mesabi East
Environmental Center and Greenhouse



Multi-generational environmental
education gardening at
community assisted living



Mesabi East Environmental
Education Center and Greenhouse
Aurora, MN

Project Manager Qualifications

Gregg Allen
Superintendent

Address: 601 North 1st Street West, Aurora, MN 55705
Telephone: 218-229-3321 ext. 301
Fax: 218-229-3736
Email: gallen@isd2711.org

Gregg Allen has served as the Superintendent at Mesabi East School District for seven years. He has been an active Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) member for 15 years. He has served on the MASA Board of Directors since 2015, Regional Leader for Region 7, and has been a member of the legislative finance committee since 2015. Allen is also an active member and board member of many other organizations including: Range Area Municipalities and Schools, Range Engineering Council, Education Innovation Partners, Applied Learning Institute, Northland Learning Center, Northern Lights Music Festival, Mesabi East Foundation, East Range Lions Club and the East Range Knights of Columbus. Gregg earned a 6th year certificate and a master's degree in Educational Administration and a bachelor's degree in Industrial Education from St. Cloud State University. He was also named the MASA 2017 Administrator of Excellence.

Organization Description

Mesabi East School District is located in the northeast portion of the State in St. Louis County, approximately 60 miles north of the City of Duluth and 200 miles north of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The District encompasses approximately 254,720 acres, serving the residents of the Cities of Aurora and Hoyt Lakes, as well as most of the City of Biwabik and all or a portion of the Towns of Colvin, Lakeland, Loon Lake and White.

The district has an enrollment of 950 students in grades K-12. The district also has approximately 60 preschool and early learning students as well as hosting another 15 students in the Head start program. The population of students includes about 18% students with special needs and about 40% students with free/reduced lunch.

It is the mission of the Mesabi East Schools to enable all students to achieve high levels of success, so they can become self-directed, life-long learners and informed, productive citizens in a changing world.