

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 157-CH

Establish an Environmental Education Activity Center in Coleraine

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

Sub-Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 81,800

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

Summary:

Renovate building and playground to establish a center for environmental education and outdoor recreation including a STEAM based outdoor water play area, natural playground, and flexible use indoor classroom space.

Name: Christa Berg

Sponsoring Organization: ISD 316

Title: _____

Department: _____

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Web Address

Location

Region: Northeast

County Name: Itasca

City / Township: Coleraine, Bovey, Taconite, Marble, Pengilly, Nashwauk, Keewatin, Grand Rapids

Alternate Text for Visual:

The center is two blocks from the schools, next to the lake, beach and public boat launch, and offers great access from the highway.

_____ 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: Establish an environmental education activity center in Coleraine.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT Summary: Renovate building and playground to establish a center for environmental education and outdoor recreation including a STEAM based outdoor water play area, natural playground, and flexible use indoor classroom space.

Statement: Trout Lake Outdoor Education and Activity Center is a non-profit organization that will provide education and outdoor opportunities to people of the Bovey/Coleraine/Grand Rapids area and visitors exploring Trout Lake and its surroundings. Inside will be permanent and seasonal displays about the environment, history, and current issues as they relate to the flora, fauna, water quality, and environment of the western range area. The space will also be used to host classes and meetings, to rent for special events, and to house non-motorized watercraft for use in classes, by school and after school activity groups, and for rental. Outdoor spaces will also be incorporated into instruction and experience through a redesign of the adjacent playground and park spaces. The new play area will include a natural play area, a water play area with features that encourage discovery of STEAM principals, group initiative stations, and areas that encourage reading and open ended play. A cohesive and artful design will tie all the center and outside spaces together and will include native species plantings and landscaping that meshes with the lake front location, discourages geese (water quality issue in the area), reduces the need to mow and trim, and is done with best clean water practices. Staff of the center will teach on site and off site on the topics of environment and outdoor activities and will work to dovetail offerings with local schools and groups.

In an area with high poverty and obesity rates and with limited access to exercise facilities, the center will work with local groups to further encourage and facilitate active lifestyles in the community and to provide access to those who might not have it otherwise. Bike and boat rentals, outdoor classes, and the location within walking distance of Bovey Coleraine and the Greenway schools in addition to work on continued development of a bike loop through the towns, and a paddling trail on the lake, will enhance active lifestyles in the area.

The site is unique for an environmental learning center. Not only is it in a traditional mining town, it is also adjacent to a public boat landing, on the edge of Trout Lake, next to a swim beach and playground, and 2 blocks away from the Greenway High/Middle School, Van Dyke Elementary School, Boys and Girls Club, and the school forest path along the shore of the lake. Students and people in town can walk to the center. The site is also easily visible and accessible from Highway 169 making it a perfect welcome center to Coleraine and an easy stop for buses and travelers.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1:

Environmental Education Description: 1. Work with ISD 316 teachers at all levels to dovetail environmental education and Trout Lake Outdoor Education and Activity center programs, spaces, and staff with their current environmental, natural resources, and science curriculum. 2. Develop permanent displays for indoors and outdoors that educate people about aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in the area, water quality challenges and solutions for Trout Lake, label native plants and trees, and connect current challenges and opportunities to historical uses of area resources. 3. Offer at least one free class quarterly on sustainable living or ecofriendly living such as landscaping for nature and water quality, alternative energy implementation at your home, how to make your home more efficient, boat cleaning demo and class on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, or best practices for fishing. These classes can be offered in collaboration with other non-profit or governmental groups.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$30,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>Written plan on how Trout Lake Center will work with ISD 316 and ISD 318 teachers and students to enhance their curriculum with hands-on environmental and outdoor education.</i>	<i>September 2020</i>
2. <i>At least 6 permanent and 4 seasonal(on a rotation basis) displays will be in place inside the building and at least one outdoor display and 10 plant labels will be in place outdoors.</i>	<i>September 2020</i>
3. <i>4 free classes on sustainable living or ecofriendly living have been advertised, offered, and held.</i>	<i>February 2021</i>

Activity 2:

Outdoor Activity and Education Description: 1. Purchase 12 canoes, 12 paddleboards, 50 PFDs in adult and child sizes, 30 canoe paddles and 12 paddleboard paddles for classes and rental at the Trout Lake Outdoor Education and Activity Center. These will be used to offer classes in canoeing and paddle boarding and also in environmental education and group activities on the lake. On site boats offer all people in the area an opportunity to get out on the lake and be physically active. They can also be rented out as needed to supplement the center’s ability to stay open longer hours or offer more



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

education opportunities. 2. Purchase or build canoe and paddleboard storage shelves for 20 canoes and 20 paddleboards. Extra spaces will be rented out to local people who wish to leave a boat at the lake. The goal is to make it easy for people to be active, to spend time on the lake, and to make an on-the-lake experience accessible to people of all income levels. Also create organized storage for the PFDs and paddles.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$31,300

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 12 canoes, 12 paddleboards, 50 PFDs, 30 canoe paddles, 12 paddleboard paddles have been purchased.	May 2020
2. Shelves for 20 canoes and 20 paddleboards and storage for 50 PFDs and all paddles has been build and is in place.	April 2020

Activity 3:

Native plantings and landscaping **Description:** Planning and implementation of native plantings and landscaping that reduces the need to mow or irrigate, models native landscaping, enhances biodiversity, discourages geese from the beach area, and improves water quality by reducing runoff. These plantings will be around the building and in the adjacent park areas and will be coordinated with the play space and water play area planners. All planning checked with Soil and Water Conservation staff for best practices and modeling water quality protection through landscaping.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 20,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Native landscaping is planted. Water quality in the beach swimming area has improved (baseline measurement as an average over 5 days in August 2019 and follow up average over 5 days in August 2020 and again in August 2021)	August 2021

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding N/A

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
ISD #316 and City of Coleraine			fiscal agent and owner of park/building

ENRTF funding will be supplemented by other grants and fundraisers to fully develop the Trout Lake Outdoor Education and Activity center as a place for environmental education, community classes, and outdoor activity and learning and to integrate its programming into the schools and communities of the area. The pieces funded by ENRTF will be part of the whole. All ENRTF funding will be used by August 2021. At its completion, the center will operate on funding from various sources including grants, fundraisers, book/gift shop sales or space rental, rental fees from boats and bikes, registration fees for classes, and venue rental.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:

Beginning in June 2018 with pilot projects and ending with grand opening in 2020.

The center will offer pilot programs in the community. These are offered through Itasca Area Community Education.

These are funded by registration fees along with time and equipment donations and pending local grant applications.

Fall/Winter/Spring 2019

Volunteer work inside the building and play area planning. Quarterly classes or activities offered in the area. Build relationships and collaborations with other organizations and the schools. Play area planning. Grant applications made for outdoor play areas.

July 1, 2019

Complete plans for play area and plantings. Set up meeting dates to work on curriculum coordination with schools.

Begin planning for displays. Order boats. Design and build boat and gear storage areas. Plan sustainable living/ecofriendly living classes.

Fall/Winter/Spring 2019-2020

Complete and install displays. Install boat storage, gear storage and boats. Implement plans for outdoor plantings and play areas as weather and worker schedules dictate. Plan grand opening for the summer. Hold quarterly classes.

May/June 2020

Finalize all outdoor work. Grand opening.

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Establish an environmental education activity center in Coleraine

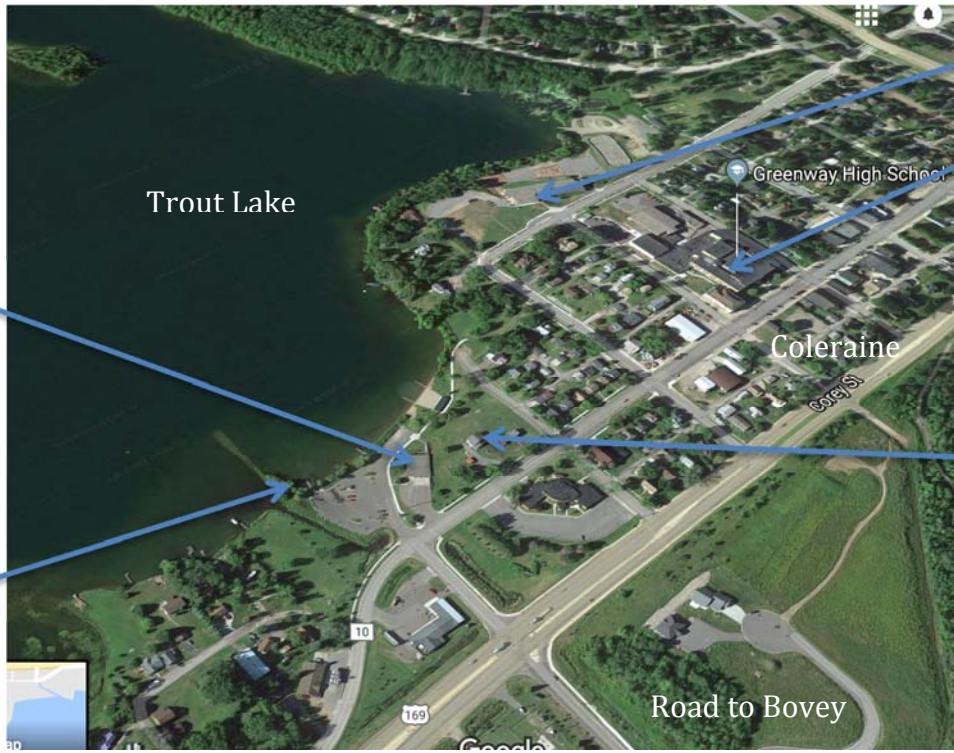
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET [Insert # of years for project] years \$81,800 (2years)

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel: 1.educator planning hours for coordination and implementation with local school districts including a written plan (\$25/hour for 60 hours =\$1500))2.educator planning of displays, getting expert feedback on displays, and implementing displays (\$25/hour for 32 hours=\$800) 3. educator planning, collaboration, and teaching of quarterly classes on sustainable and ecofriendly living (\$25/hour for 40 hours and 8 classes over 2 years=\$1000)	\$ 3,300
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: 1.Seek bid from professional display planner and designer to finalize and construct displays(\$7200) 2.Seek bid from native plant landscaper to work with playground designers on creating and implementing plans (\$8000)	\$ 15,200
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: 12 canoes at \$1000each, 12 standing paddleboards at \$1000 each, 24 Canoe paddles at \$50 each, 12 paddleboard paddles at \$50 each, 50 PFDs of various sizes at \$50 each, storage shelving for boats \$3000	\$ 31,300
N/A	\$ -
N/A	\$ -
Additional Budget Items: 1. funding for native trees, shrubs, plants, and landscaping (\$12,000) 2.material, printing, and acquisition for displays (\$20,000)	\$ 32,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 81,800

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
Laura Musser Fund for playground (planned ask for spring 2018)	50,000	<i>pending</i>
Blandin StartUp Funding (planned request for spring 2019)	90,000	<i>pending</i>
MN Power (planned request for spring 2019) for solar hotwater, solar electricity, and living roof	50,000	<i>pending</i>
N/A	\$ -	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:Volunteer educators, community members, artists, masons, painters, carpenters, planners will spend 100s of hours working on the building, education, and outdoor areas	\$ 50,000	<i>pending</i>
N/A	\$ -	
Other Funding History: Pilot project funding for 2018 through fees and requests to Beefy Lawson Memorial Fund and Pengilly Booster Club	416 1371.05	<i>pending</i> <i>pending</i>

Planned site of Trout Lake Outdoor Education and Activity Center



VanDyke Elementary and Greenway Middle and High School

New Playground with Native Plant Landscaping

Public Boat Landing

Street view of planned center from the north. Currently a vacant fire hall.



Project Manager: Christa Berg

Christa is a volunteer manager of this project. She will oversee all groups working on different components of the overall plan. Her background includes three years as a public school classroom teacher, coordinating summer programming at a Grand Rapids pool, writing grants for water based activities in the Grand Rapids area, developing and directing the TimberKids Triathlon for the past three years, serving on the Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program (housed at the Reif Center) board for many years and during the Reif Center remodeling, serving as secretary and volunteer pool coordinator on the Grand Rapids Swim Association Board and being president of the Grand Rapids Nordic Ski Association, working as an environmental educator at several residential environmental learning centers, and as a water educator at the Lake Superior Center (pre-cursor to the Great Lakes Aquarium), and home schooling four children from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Fiscal Manager: ISD 316 Superintendent David Pace
EIN#41-6001596

Organization Description:

Trout Lake Outdoor Education and Activity Center is a nonprofit organization under the fiscal sponsorship of Independent School District 316. Our mission is to provide accessible and inclusive quality environmental education and hands-on experiential outdoor opportunities to all people in the western range area, to facilitate better understanding of our region, resources, sustainability, and environmental challenges, and to immerse all community members in an active life that integrates community engagement and outdoor activities.

Letters of Resolution: Pending. Independent School District 316 and City of Coleraine Boards will have letters ready by May 30, 2018. They are both informed and receiving copies of this grant application.

990 Tax Information: Pending. ISD #316 will send this out with its letter of resolution by May 30, 2018.