

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

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 171-DH**

Cook County Invasive Species Project

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

**Sub-Category:** D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 200,000

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

**Summary:**

The project will work towards the goal of preventing and limiting the impacts of terrestrial invasive species in Cook County through a coordinator position.

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**Name:** Ilena Hansel

**Sponsoring Organization:** Cook SWCD

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Grand Marais MN 55604

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**Email** ilena.hansel@co.cook.mn.us

**Web Address** n/a

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**Location**

**Region:** Northeast

**County Name:** Cook

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

The attached map shows area of invasive species treatment and different projects.

_____ 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: Cook County Invasive Species Project**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The county is in a unique position to prevent some of the widespread ecological, social, and economic impacts caused by non-native terrestrial invasive plants that plague other parts of Minnesota. Due to its remote location and short growing season, there are relatively few non-native invasive plant infestations in Cook County relative to other counties. However, this situation is changing rapidly; for example, in 2017 three new invasive plants were detected in Cook County for the first time. Cook County is mostly publicly owned (91%) leaving only 9% of the County as private land with a small tax base approximately 5,286 people. To address invasive species, a cooperative weed management area was developed and is comprised of 11 different agencies and partners called the Cook County Invasive Team (CCIT) with the goal to work together towards preventing and limiting the impacts of terrestrial invasive species in the County. This project will accomplish the goal of preventing and limiting the impacts of terrestrial invasive species through a combination of the following:

- public education with a special emphasis on prevention training
- inventories focused on early detection of key new invasive species
- treatments designed around an integrated pest management approach that target high visibility public areas to maximize public education benefit
- installation of native plant materials at treatment sites where appropriate.

These efforts would be accomplished by a coordinator that is steered by the Cook County Invasives Team, and would help maintain the ecological and economic integrity of Cook County.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1: Early detection of invasive species and rapid response plan**

- Systematic inventories will be conducted during the appropriate flowering season, both on public roads and public recreation sites
- Results of early detection would be used to inform integrated pest management treatments
- Rapid response plan for terrestrial invasive species would be developed
- Result in long term benefits to native plant communities in Cook County
- New target invasives include: Japanese Knotweed, Garden Valerian, Garlic Mustard, Marsh Thistle

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$57,000**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Inventories of new and current invasive species	October 2021
2. Development of treatment strategies of invasive species	November 2021
3. Rapid response plan for Cook County	May 2020

**Activity 2: Invasive species prevention and awareness training for the public**

- Education booths and trainings at different venues – public meetings, recreation sites, events, schools
- Resulting in public awareness of invasive species and prevention and management strategies
- Reduction of the spread of invasive species in Cook County

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$50,700**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. 10 Public Education Events	October 2019
2. 10 Public Education Events	October 2020
3. 10 Public Education Events	October 2021



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

**Activity 3: Invasive Species Management**

- Maximize educational impact by using integrated pest management approach to treat invasive species at highly visible public sites.
- Treatments carried out through the coordinator and involving CCIT partners.
- Native plants will be planted following treatment as necessary to provide competition for invasive species and improve habitat.
- Control and eradication of invasive species would improve wildlife habitat and ecological integrity of native plant communities, and increase public awareness.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$93,250**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. 50 acres of NNIP control high public visibility sites	October 2019
2. 50 acres of NNIP control high public visibility sites	October 2020
3. 50 acres of NNIP control high public visibility sites	October 2021
4. 10 acres of eradication of new invaders	October 2021

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Ilena Hansel	District Manager	Cook SWCD	Grant Administrator

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

(CCIT members) Krysten Foster, Cook County Highway Engineer; Diane Booth, Director, Cook County Extension; Molly Thompson, Executive Director, Sugarloaf North Shore Stewardship Assn; Dave Hanseon, Transportation Program Specialist, MNDOT; Anna Heruth, Program Forester, MNDNR; Brandon Seitz, Resource Assistant, Grand Portage National Monument; Public Member, Gunflint Rail Scenic Byway Assn; Jack Greenlee, Ecologist, Superior National Forest; Amanda Weber, AIS Coordinator, Cook County

**IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

The results from the early detection portion of this project will be added to EDDMaps, which is the repository for Cook County invasive plant occurrence information; they would help inform future management in the county. The results of the outreach efforts will be evaluated to determine what was effective and should be repeated. To support future efforts, outside funding would be sought.

**V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:**

The timing for project activities is driven, in part, by the phenology of the target invasive species, and also in part by when visitation to the county peaks. The majority of activities would be accomplished in May-October, when the invasive plant flowering season and county visitation peaks. The coordinator will spend November-April updating weed databases, preparing education programs, and preparing for the field season.

**VI. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:**

**A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet**

**B. Visual Component or Map**

**F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

**G. Letter or Resolution**

**H. Certified Audit or 990 Tax Information**

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Cook County Non-native Invasive Plant Project

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel: 3 years - Cook County Invasive Team Coordinator (RFP issued)	\$148,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Invasive plant treatment contractor	\$ 30,440
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Native Plant Materials	\$ 5,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Supplies	\$ 2,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ -
Travel: Mileage for personal vehicle use	\$ 9,860
Travel: Attendance at Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference	\$ 700
Additional Budget Items: Grand administration and coordinator assistance	\$4,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>

### 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: Invasive species treatments by partners in Cook County in support of project	\$ 34,000	Pending
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	\$ -	
Other Funding History: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	\$ 4,000	Pending

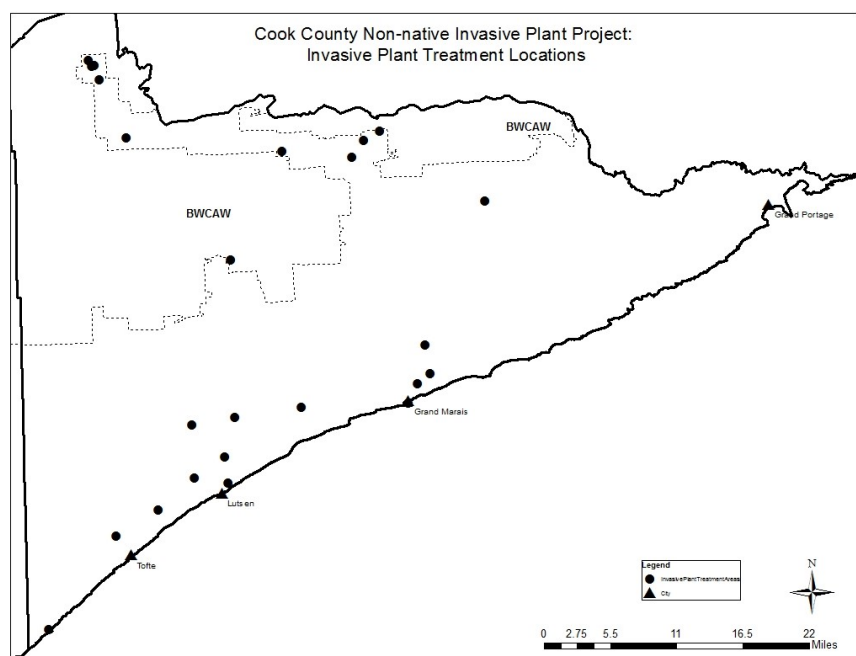
# Invasive Species Plant Project



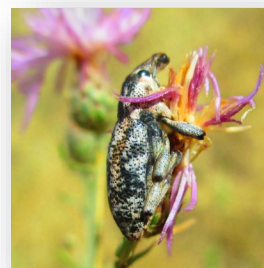
Spotted Knapweed—treatment

## —Treatment — Prevention — Education

- Early detection of Invasive Species and Rapid Response Plan
- Invasive Species prevention and awareness training for the public
- Invasive Species Management



Tansy—treatment



Weevil for Spotted Knapweed  
—treatment



Treatment area—re-vegetation



Treatment area—outreach



Healthy native area—outreach

#### ***F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description***

***Ilena Hansel, District Manager.*** Ilena has a degree in Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She has been with the SWCD for over 6 years. She has been District Manager for 1.5 years. Currently there are three staff that she works with in the SWCD office. A sample of her field work experience includes 6 years of water monitoring, waterfowl inventory, water management in flowages, along with over 5 years of experience in environmental education. She works closely with the Water Plan Advisory Committee, Cook County Invasive Species Team, and the Cook County Coalition of Lakes Association. Ilena has completed the revision of Cook County's Comprehensive Water Plan and the Lake Superior North One Watershed, One Plan. Ilena has completed Wildland Hydrology's Level 1 Applied Fluvial Geomorphology course and Level 2 River Morphology and Applications course, LiDAR Training Basics, Terrain Analysis, and Hydrologic Applications, attended BWSR Academy (2013,2014 2017), Groundwater training (2017), completed a 15 month Civic Engagement training, and completed a Watershed Specialist training. She has managed five MPCA SWAGs (\$17,000-\$80,000 – each grant is for 2 years), six Lake Superior Coastal grants(\$5,249 - \$19,483), the AgBMP program for the County (average \$400,000/year), Beach Monitoring grants (\$5,000 annually), three MPCA SSTS fix up grant (\$22,000 - \$34,000), BWSR Lake Protection Challenge Grant (\$5,000), BWSR CWF SSTS Accelerated Implementation Grant (\$149,855) and BWSR CWF One Watershed One Plan grant (\$156,650). She is responsible for carrying out the grants, including the fiscal management of the grants, overseeing staff and projects, managing the water resource plans and other responsibilities within the SWCD.

***Cook County SWCD.*** The mission of Cook County Soil & Water (SWCD) is to improve water quality in Cook County by fostering responsible land use and by controlling soil erosion and non-point source pollution. Cook County Soil and Water was formed in 1969 and has worked for a balance of responsible use and protection of the County's soil and water resources. Cook SWCD encourages local conservation efforts by providing educational, technical, and financial assistance for local land users.

Cook SWCD has successfully completed (and/or is in the progress of completing) conservation grants with a variety of grantees including:

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Great Lakes Commission
- Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (Minnesota DNR)
- Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR)
- Sustain our Great Lakes (SOGL)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation