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

Project Title: **ENRTF ID: 209-F**

Restoration, Engagement, Soil Health: St Cloud, Twin Cities

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

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: $ 2,180,000

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

Summary:

Restore 830ac, 0.5mi shoreline, engage 3150 restoration volunteers 1) in St. Cloud for the first time, and 2) sustaining/expanding in Twin Cities; assessment of soil health will inform restorations.

Name: Wiley Buck

Sponsoring Organization: Great River Greening

Title: Program Manager

Department:

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St. Paul MN 55107

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Web Address greatrivergreening.org

Location

Region: Central, Metro

County Name: Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

The visual aid shows numbered project locations on an area map with county boundaries; a thumbnail of where Greening works; and a number of site and volunteer thumbnails.

_____ 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?			

PROJECT TITLE: Restoration, Engagement, and Soil Health: Greater St Cloud and Twin Cities areas

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

We will restore **830 acres and 0.5 miles of shoreline, engaging 3,150 volunteers** in the process. We will bring our successful approach and resources to the greater **St. Cloud area for the first time**, while also **sustaining and expanding our work in the Twin Cities metro**. Assessment of **soil health**, a key indicator of water infiltration and plant growth/health, across all sites will inform our restoration practices and site potential.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: *Restore 537 acres and engage 250 volunteers in greater St. Cloud area*

Greening will apply our successful community-based restoration approach to St. Cloud area for the first time. We have identified timely and important opportunities, and are already active in the area under the OHF-funded Anoka Sand Plain partnership; Trust Fund resources will allow us to emphasize the community engagement component in ecological restoration. Engaging local volunteers will occur on regionally significant sites to the greater St. Cloud area; upland restoration will occur on over **530 acres at two SNAs, one City park, and one Department of Corrections site,** including areas of outstanding habitat for species of greatest conservation need (SGCN), and biodiversity. All sites are used for various types of recreation and are also important habitat cores / corridors. A total of **650 volunteers will be engaged** in select, meaningful and appropriate restoration activities, led by ecologists, and will receive relevant and transferable information on restoration processes, techniques, and importance during these activities.

ENRTF BUDGET: $929,600

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 537 upland acres restored	*June 30, 2022*
2. 250 volunteers engaged	*June 30, 2022*

Activity 2: *Restore 300 acres, 0.5 mi shoreline, and engage 2,900 volunteers in Twin Cities metro*

Greening will sustain and expand our successful community-based restoration in the Twin Cities metro area. Upland and wetland restoration will occur on over **300 acres and 0.5 mi of shoreline** (including some with difficult access; full permit requirements), at **14 state, county, municipal, watershed district, private easement, and ISD sites**, containing four areas of significant biodiversity, habitat for at least five rare species including one federally endangered. Many sites are used for various types of outdoor recreation and all provide important habitat. **Over 2900 volunteers will be engaged** in select, meaningful and appropriate restoration activities, led by ecologists, and will receive relevant and transferable information on restoration processes, techniques, and importance during these activities.

ENRTF BUDGET: $1,207,400

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 302 upland and wetland acres restored	*June 30, 2022*
2. 0.52 mi. shoreline restored	*June 30, 2022*
3. 2,900 volunteers engaged	*June 30, 2022*

Activity 3: *Soil Health Assessment to Inform Restoration*

Soil characteristics will be collected four times at each restoration site to identify and monitor trends in soil health over the course of restoration. A baseline sample and three annual samples will be taken at each site. Detailed analyses will be conducted and data analyzed to detect trends over time, location, activities, and

vegetation. **Correlations between soil health, pre- and post-restoration, and initial restoration success will be documented. These results will inform restorations** and possibly identify future research needs such as economic analysis of soil health characteristics and the resulting ecosystems services. Examples of change may include: increases in **soil organic matter content** which is an indication of improved water holding capacity; greater **available carbon** for microbial populations; and **ecosystem resilience**. A conference-ready PowerPoint or poster presentation will be developed.

ENRTF BUDGET: $43,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Soil monitored and multiple samples analyzed over time at 18 restoration sites	*June 15, 2022*
2. Soil characteristics analyzed for trends	*June 25, 2022*
3. Conference-ready presentation developed	*June 30, 2022*

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

Activity 1: MN DNR-SNA; City of St. Cloud; Department of Corrections.

Activity 2: Dakota Co., Chisago City, Mendota Heights, Lake Elmo, Maplewood, St. Louis Park, Richfield, Newport, South Washington County ISD 833, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, private landowners with easements, MN DNR-SNA.

Activity 3: All landowners listed above; Land O'Lakes agricultural cooperative

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding : none

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding : All partners listed above

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Landowners will be required to agree to long -term maintenance of restoration sites. Engaging **volunteers will increase community awareness** and promote restoration as a cultural value.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS: 3 years: 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2022

VI. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet
B. Visual Component or Map
C. Parcel List Spreadsheet
D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements
E. Research Addendum (not required at proposal stage)
F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description
G. Letter or Resolution
H. Certified Audit or 990 Tax Information

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Restoration, Engagement, and Soil Health: Greater St Cloud and Twin Cities areas

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 **years**

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	**AMOUNT**
Personnel:	$ 132,400
Project Manager: 0.04 FTE each year for 3 years ($9,500)	
Grants Manager : 0.05 FTE each yr for 3 years ($7,200)	
Director of Conservation: 0.02 FTE each year for 3 years ($5,400)	
Ecologists: 0.15 FTE each year for 3 years ($32,000)	
Project Assistants: 0.15 FTE each year for 3 years ($18,800)	
Field Coordinator: 0.10 FTE each yr for 3 years ($15,300)	
Restoration Technicians : 0.10 FTE each year for 3 years ($9,900)	
Volunteer Manager: 0.10 FTE each year for 3 years ($13,800)	
Volunteer Outreach Coordinator: 0.10 FTE each year for 3 years ($11,300)	
Director of Finance: 0.02 FTE each year for 3 years ($6,000)	
Financial Operations Manager : 0.02 FTE each year for 3 years ($3,200)	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Competitive RFP: site preparation and prairie seeding; invasive species control; woody removal / thinning; forestry and grass mowing; herbicide treatment; prescribed fire and burn breaks; conservation haying/grazing; monitoring; soil analysis	$ 1,875,300
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
Fencing; erosion control; herbicide; seed, plugs, shrubs, trees	$ 127,500
Personal protective gear and hand tools for volunteers and technicians; repair and replacement of mowers, ATV, UTV, chainsaws, brushcutters, sprayers.	$ 3,600
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): n/a	$ -
Travel: Truck and POV mileage; travel reimbursement per Commissioner's Plan	$ 10,200
Additional Budget Items: Volunteer Event expenses: Healthy food/bvg; table/chair/portable toilet/large tent rentals. 3100 volunteer contacts @ $10/per	$ 31,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND $ REQUEST =	$ 2,180,000

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:		
Private, landowner, and lgu donations	$ 25,000	to be applied for
Chisago City, Mendota Heights, Excelsior, Maplewood, Newport	$ 70,000	to be applied for
City of Lake Elmo	$ 7,000	Pending
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	$ 15,000	Pending
City of Lakeville	$ 26,200	Pending
Private donations	$ 6,000	Secured
Friends of Wood Lake	$ 5,000	Secured
City of St. Louis Park	$ 15,000	Secured
Dakota County	$ 40,000	Secured
Other State $ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	$ -	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:		
7875 Vol. hrs @$12/hr	$ 94,500	Pending
Brush handling, removal; equipment operation; infrastructure services by landowners / partners. Soil analysis services.	$ 39,600	to be applied for
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation: Past: ML 2009 $155K, ML 2011 $400K, ML 2013 $208K, ML 2014 $300K; Current: ML 2015 $400KML 2016 $509K; ML 2017 $524K	$ 2,496,000	
Other Funding History: State Funds 2009-present OHF Anoka Sand Plain (ASP): ML 2010 $747K, ML 2012 $559K, ML 2014 $901K, ML 2016 $813K, M.L. 2017 $345K OHF Metro Big Rivers (MBR): ML 2010 $170K, ML 2011 $150K, ML 2012 $375K, ML 2013 $210K, ML 2014 $400K, ML 2015 $400K, ML 2016 $1,170K	$ 6,240,000	

Attachment C:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2019 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet
Project Title: Restoration, Engagement, and Soil Health: Greater St. Cloud and Twin Cities areas
Legal Citation:
Project Manager: Wiley Buck
Organization: Great River Greening
College/Department/Division:
M.L. 2019 ENRTF Appropriation:
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, 6/30/2020
Todays's Date: April 11, 2018

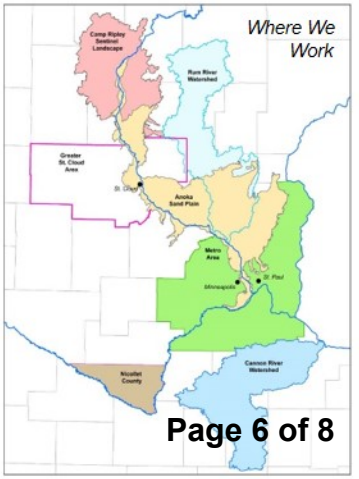
#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.] Latitude	Longitude	Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities
1.1	Quarry Park SNA	45° 31' 36.48" N	094° 13' 52.68" W	$ 463,900		Stearns	Oak woodland, grassland, savanna, remnant prairie enhancement	invasive species management, cedar removal, prescribed burning, brush piling volunteer event	190		State	N/A	
1.2	Avon Hills Forest SNA	45° 37' 28.91" N	094° 29' 58.92" W	$ 134,000		Stearns	Prairie/Oak restoration	tree maintenance, seeding, fencing, oak reconstruction volunteer event	30		State	N/A	
1.3	George Friedrich Park	45° 33' 04.67" N	094° 07' 38.28" W	$ 68,600		Sherburne	Enhancement of city park with trails for public education and recreation	buckthorn removal, brush piling volunteer event	60		Municipal	N/A	
1.4	St. Cloud Reformatory	45° 32' 50.64" N	094° 07' 19.92" W	$ 263,100		Sherburne	Forest enhancement	invasive species management	257		State	N/A	
2.1	Lebanon Hills Regional Park Phase II	44° 47' 12.12" N	093° 08' 01.67" W	$ 360,000		Dakota	Oak woodland enhancement	tree thinning, woody invasive removal, seeding	80		Municipal	N/A	
2.2	Ojiketa Regional Park Phase II	45° 21' 41.04" N	092° 51' 53.99" W	$ 18,800		Chisago	High quality terrace forest, bluffland, shoreline restoration	invasive species management, tree and shrub removal, herbaceous layer restoration	3	0.2	Municipal	N/A	
2.3	Rogers Lake Park	44° 52' 16.32" N	093° 08' 31.55" W	$ 26,700		Dakota	Oak Community with FIN shoreline, recreation trail	buckthorn removal, seeding, brush piling volunteer event	10		Municipal	N/A	
2.4	Minnehaha Creek, Methodist Hospital Easement	44° 55' 52.31" N	093° 21' 53.99" W	$ 32,000		Hennepin	Wetland/Floodplain easement	wetland management	15		Watershed District	N/A	
2.5	Minnehaha Creek, Broin Easement	44° 56' 40.91" N	093° 28' 03.36" W	$ 18,000		Hennepin	Mesic/Grassland easement	invasive species management and native species seeding	7		Watershed District	N/A	
2.6	Minnehaha Creek, Diercks Big Woods	44° 56' 48.48" N	093° 40' 05.51" W	$ 38,000		Hennepin	Big woods enhancement	invasive species management, tree thinning, nursery plots, tree planting	19		Watershed District	N/A	
2.7	Lake Minnetonka Shoreline	44° 54' 31.32" N	093° 34' 12.35" W	$ 75,000		Hennepin	Shoreline restoration	slope and bank stabilization and beach reduction		0.13	Municipal	N/A	
2.8	Ritter Farm Park	44° 40' 29.27" N	093° 18' 18.35" W	$ 26,200		Dakota	Prairie and woodland enhancement	prairie and woodland enhancement, volunteer event	16		Municipal	N/A	
2.9	Sunfish Lake Park	44° 59' 58.56" N	092° 53' 50.64" W	$ 88,000		Washington	Oak Wodland enhancement	invasive species management, tree thinning, oak wilt removal	35		Municipal	N/A	
2.1	Wood Lake Nature Center	44° 52' 22.44" N	093° 17' 44.87" W	$ 41,000		Hennepin	Prairie/Savanna enhancement	invasive species management, tree thinning prescribed burning, mowing, volunteer planting/seeding event	15		Municipal	N/A	
2.11	Maplewood Nature Center, City Hall, Joy Park	44° 58' 04.80" N	092° 59' 36.23" W	$ 283,200		Ramsey	Woodland and shoreline restoration of interpretive center	wetland engineering, woodland plug planting and seeding volunteer event, deer exclosure fence installation	22	0.19	Municipal	N/A	
2.12	Bailey School Forest	44° 52' 53.75" N	092° 59' 21.48" W	$ 50,000		Washington	Oak woodland enhancement	buckthorn and honeysuckle invasive species management	20		Municipal	N/A	
2.13	Westwood Hills Nature Center Phase IV	44° 58' 01.91" N	093° 23' 29.39" W	$ 73,000		Hennepin	Wetland, woodland, and prairie enhancement	Invasives management and reseeding/planting	29		Municipal	N/A	
2.14	Wood Rill SNA	44° 58' 58.07" N	093° 32' 39.12" W	$ 77,500		Hennepin	Big woods enhancement	buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard invasive species management	31		State	N/A	

NOTES:

GREAT RIVER GREENING

RESTORING LAND, WATER AND WONDER

Project__	name
1.1	Quarry Park SNA
1.2	Avon Hills SNA
1.3	George Friedrich Park
1.4	St. Cloud Reformatory
2.1	Lebanon Hills RP
2.2	Ojiketa Regional Park
2.3	Rogers Lake Park
2.4	Methodist Hospital MCWD Easemen
2.5	Broin MCWD Easement
2.6	Diercks MCWD Easement
2.7	Lake Mtka Shoreline
2.8	Ritter Farm Park
2.9	Sunfish Lake
2.10	Wood Lake NC
2.11	Maplewood: NC, Joy Pk, City Hall
2.12	Bailey School Forest
2.13	Westwood Hills NC
2.14	Wood~Rill SNA



Restoration Requirements Statement

All restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement and/or in public ownership. A management plan will be developed (or followed, in the case of DNR lands with existing plans) for each project that will include: target community based on historic and existing conditions including size, location, adjacency, ecosystem resilience, and native biodiversity; habitat considerations for specific rare species; invasive species control; restoration timeline and activity description; adaptive management and guiding principles for making decisions; opportunities for community engagement; ten year maintenance schedule; and visual aids. These plans are stored electronically in our office files by unique project number.

Key features of our long term restoration implementation include: the maintenance schedule included in the management plan; identifying community engagement opportunities to promote assistance, long term engagement and stewardship; requiring a written agreement from landowners to agree to maintain the site beyond the grant period; executing a Cooperative Agreement with each landowner including securing in-kind and/or cash match from the landowner (as a measure of landowner commitment), current BWSR native vegetation guidelines, our requirement to offer work to CCM, acknowledgement guidelines, DNR's invasive species and pollinator bmp operational orders, and our evaluation requirements including site access. Our restoration plans are designed to have the site in maintenance phase once the grant period ends, and when possible secure match from the landowner for beyond the grant period.

Evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations using the procedure developed earlier by the Trust Fund (Galatowitsch and Boenen) will analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

GREAT RIVER GREENING
RESTORING LAND, WATER AND WONDER

Project Manager Qualifications

Wiley Buck (M.S. Wildlife Conservation, University of Minnesota) has over 20 years of experience leading restoration projects, coordinating partnerships, and overseeing Outdoor Heritage Fund and Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund grants as Program Manager at Great River Greening. Wiley manages several research and monitoring projects including oak ecotype growth and survival, the effects of conservation grazing on vegetation, and pollinator surveys. In addition, Wiley manages the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership and serves as Greening's representative for the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership. Wiley's restoration expertise builds upon prior experience with McHenry County Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Chicago Wilderness, and Minnesota DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program.

Organization Description

Great River Greening's mission is to secure the legacy of Minnesota land and water through community-based restoration, stewardship and partnership, striving to improve Minnesota's natural resources, protect clean air and water, and increase community access to sustainable open space. Since 1995, Greening has engaged 40,000 volunteers (12,000 of them youth) in hands-on education and stewardship activities, helping restore over 10,000 acres of habitat in 400 communities across Minnesota. Greening focuses our work in locations and on activities that provide conservation impact, ecosystem services, and community benefits, with projects including: developing planting designs and/or restoration management plans for natural areas; planting native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses; stabilizing shorelands and ravines; conducting ecological inventories; implementing conservation practices on farmland; and completing restoration and management activities including exotic species removal, prairie seed collection, and prescribed burns.

In addition, Greening engages community members from schools, faith groups, civic groups, businesses, and veterans groups in public volunteer events and engages over one hundred youth each year in the Field Learning for Teens service-learning Program. Through field activities and team-building, youth learn about the role of technology and science in enjoying and improving our environment, build skills in restoration activities, and explore environmental science and technology careers. Through community education and engagement, Greening is restoring natural resources, while building environmental leaders and stewards of tomorrow.