

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 226-F

Serving Community Forests by Assisting Low-Income Homeowners

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

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: \$ 415,024

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

Summary:

75% of Minnesota's land is private, requiring citizens to depend on their trees and neighbors' for benefits. The DNR with Habitat for Humanity will help low-income landowners care for trees.

Name: Valerie McClannahan

Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

Title: Senior Planner

Department: Division of Forestry

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St. Paul MN 55155

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Web Address

Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Anoka, Beltrami, Carver, Clearwater, Dakota, Fillmore, Freeborn, Hennepin, Mower, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, Winona

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

Habitat for Humanity home with under managed tree that if maintained will provide benefits for not only low-income homeowner and surrounding community.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL <input type="checkbox"/> %
<input type="checkbox"/> If under \$200,000, waive presentation?							



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

PROJECT TITLE: Serving Community Forests by Assisting Low-Income Homeowners

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Over 75% of Minnesota's land being privately owned, cities and towns are often not able to assist their citizens when they face a crisis. With private land making up a large portion of a communities canopy, Minnesotans depend on their trees and their neighbors' trees to provide benefits.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will work with the Habitat for Humanity to help private landowners whose household income is below 80% of Minnesota's median income to care for their trees. The project will help manage and maintain existing trees for safety, health, and structure, plant trees, and provide tree care education. The grant will provide \$305,000 to 300 to 400 homes and help an estimated 1,200 people.

Habitat for Humanity has identified tree care as a need for low-income households. Families that live paycheck to paycheck do not have the funds to pay for tree work. Furthermore, communities seldom have the means to help low-income households care for their trees. Well-maintained trees provide important benefits to low-income households, such as lower energy bills and lower asthma rates. Well-maintained trees also benefit the community by reducing nonpoint source pollution to lakes and rivers and removing airborne pollutants.

The Environmental Pollution Control Agency has identified economically disadvantaged as vulnerable and more exposed to environmental hazards because they live in areas with lower tree canopy cover. This grant assists this vulnerable population where they live and ensures they receive numerous tree canopy benefits.

ENRTF funds will be used toward:

1. Conducting initial needs assessments with landowners.
2. Providing needed tree care for private, low-income citizens.
3. Quantifying impact of activities by projecting future environmental and economic benefits.
4. Providing homeowner education on tree maintenance such as watering and small tree pruning.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: *Promote program, accept applications and conduct initial needs assessments with landowners.*

The DNR and project partners will promote program. Based on anticipated tree care needs from citizens it is expected that each landowner will require \$750-1,000 of tree care work. We expect to fund tree care work on, between 300-400 homes depending on the scope and size of needs. Program will begin accepting applications from homeowners. Eligible applicants in Habitat for Humanity's work areas are selected on a first come first serve basis. Grant funded activities will include: tree planting, tree pruning, plant health care, tree removal. Habitat for Humanity project representatives will conduct site visits and complete initial tree assessments with homeowner and will work with the DNR to provide additional tree care education. This hands-on assistance will serve as an important first step in building relationships between project partner representatives and citizens. Work plans will be finalized between Habitat for Humanity and homeowner.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$34,340

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Accept homeowner applications for assistance	May-December 2019, 2020
2. Site visit and assessment of applicable homeowners	2020,2021
3. Develop work plans with partners and homeowners	2020, 2021

Activity 2: *Low-income homeowners receive necessary tree work based on developed work plans.*

Grant work plans, as developed by Habitat for Humanity and homeowner, are implemented by professional arborists. Professional arborists will implement necessary tree care work through planting trees, pruning trees for safety and structure, treat trees with health issues, and remove hazardous trees for safety.

Program Partners will work together to ensure:

- High quality and realistic work plan development



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

- Use of arboriculture best practices for tree care activities (e.g. planting, pruning)
- Data tracking or program metrics throughout project for evaluation and quantification of impact.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$346,344

Outcome	Completion Date
<p>1. Community forests protected and improved through necessary tree care on private land for low income citizens. Work plans will characterize needed work and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new trees planted (site-appropriate species) • Number of trees pruned for safety and structure • Number of trees treated for health issues • Number of hazardous trees removed for safety • Number of people served 	2020, 2021

Activity 3: Quantify environmental, public health, and economic impact.

DNR with its project partners will develop performance metrics to track results and measure progress. Outputs and outcomes will be identified, tracked and collected in periodic grant reports. Final reimbursement payments of grant funds will be made to Habitat for Humanity pending completion of grant reports. Final grant reports will be collected with outcomes identified. Where appropriate, outcomes will be quantified utilizing tools such as iTree software, to measure the benefits to citizens served and the community as a whole. Activity 3 represents the grant closeout period where documented tasks and accomplishments will be reported based on identified environmental, public health, and economic benefits of work performed and the return on investment will be calculated.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$34,340

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Quantify value of environmental, public health, and economic benefits of work performed: energy conservation, air quality improvement, stormwater mitigation, and carbon dioxide reduction.	March -June 2021
2. Calculate return on investment based on ENRTF seed funds.	March -June 2021

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Gary Michael & Unclassified Staff	Natural Resources Forestry Administrative Supervisor and Unclassified Staff in Forestry Division	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Provide grant administration, grant compliance checks, grant reporting, education and outreach to homeowners, communications, and unclassified staff supervision.
		Habitat for Humanity (Beltrami-Clearwater, Twin Cities 7 County Metro, Freeborn-Mower, Winona)	Conducting initial tree needs assesment with homeowner, and contract management with professional arborists.

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Serving Community Forests by Assisting Low-Income Homeowners

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel: Department of Natural Resources Project Administrator: \$60,600 (73% salary, 27% fringe) 0.25 FTE - DNR will hire an unclassified Project Administrator who will provide grant administration, grant compliance checks, grant reporting, education and outreach to homeowners, and communications.	\$ 60,600
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Habitat for Humanity (Beltrami-Clearwater, Twin Cities 7 County Metro, Freeborn-Mower, Winona): \$340,400 total (\$35,400 administrative, \$305,000 tree care).	\$ 340,400
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Printing education materials for outreach to participating low-income citizens.	\$ 5,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ -
Travel: Travel will consist of meeting with grantees and conducting compliance checks.	\$ 2,000
Additional Budget Items: DNR's direct and necessary costs (~\$7024 total) pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$1,108), Safety Support (~\$230), Financial Support (~\$867), Communication Support (~\$1,251), IT Support (~\$2,510), Planning Support (~\$1,059)	\$ 7,024
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 415,024

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:	\$ -	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	\$ -	
Other Funding History:	\$ -	

SERVING COMMUNITY FORESTS BY ASSISTING LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS



Minnesotans rely on their trees and their neighbors' trees to provide benefits since more than 75% of Minnesota's land is privately owned. Low-income communities historically have less tree canopy and planting space so citizens are more dependent on the benefits provided by private trees. Trees need to be well-maintained to provide benefits.

Habitat for Humanity has identified tree care as a need for low-income households. LCCMR funds would ensure low-income homeowners have safe and healthy trees.

Low-income communities, are often more exposed to environmental hazards and live in areas with lower tree canopy cover. This grant assists Minnesota's vulnerable population where they live and ensures they receive benefits from tree canopy cover.



This tree will provide long-term benefits and is less likely to become a hazard if it is maintained.

Boulevard is too small for public tree is common in low-income areas.

Well-maintained trees benefit communities by reducing nonpoint source pollution to lakes and rivers and removing airborne pollutants. Respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma rates are lower in urban areas with more trees because trees clean the air.

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Organization Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

Project Responsibilities: The project manager will be responsible for providing overall program management and technical direction for the project; directing project staff, contracting for professional services and grant contracts in support of the program; coordinating with project partners; preparing and submitting work plans, updates and final reports.

Project Manager: Valerie McClannahan

Education

Bachelor of Science, Horticulture

Emphasis on Sustainable Agriculture, Minor in Urban Forestry

Graduated December 2011

University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

Master of Education

Emphasis on Adult Education

Graduated December 2016

University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

Qualifications

Senior Planner – Urban and Community Forestry Program and Grant Manager *03/2016-Present*
Minnesota Department of Forest Resources, St. Paul, MN

Assist the Statewide Urban and Community Forestry programs within the Division of Forestry to ensure shade tree and community forest resources are maintained and managed to enhance the physical, social and economic well-being of the state's communities.

Volunteer and Program Coordinator

University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

01/2012-03/2016

Built relationships with municipalities, non-profits, UMN Extension, and Soil and Water Conservation districts and coordinated input to develop unique programs and education courses that enhanced community forests statewide.

Committee Work

Minnesota Society of Arboriculture

President, manager of staff and agency liaisons

01/2018-Present

Vice President, manager of Programs and Education

01/2015-12/2017

Work collaboratively to advance the practice, science, and technology of tree care through education.