

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 242-FH

Promoting Environmental Urban Agriculture

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

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

Total Project Budget: \$ 59,280

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

Summary:

This project surveys policy and practical barriers that prevent conservation efforts in metropolitan farming, analyzes alternatives, and assists urban farmers to share knowledge that can effectively promote conservation in farming.

Name: Valentine Cadieux

Sponsoring Organization: Hamline University

Title: _____

Department: Food and Society Workshop

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

City / Township: St. Paul, Minneapolis, Maplewood, Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Plymouth, Eagan, Woodb

Alternate Text for Visual:

No visual included

_____ 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: Promoting environmental urban agriculture

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Farmers in metropolitan Minnesota face insecure land tenure that discourages conservation efforts and makes conservation funding inaccessible. Farm production in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, for example, is substantial, but most farmed land is rented year to year. This land tenure insecurity discourages investment in conservation as an economic matter. Further, conservation programs, particularly from USDA, which spends billions of dollars per year on agricultural land conservation efforts, are generally premised on secure land tenure. Organic certification, which requires three years of organic farming practices, is similarly impractical for farmers without secure tenure. Market pressure, as a result, pushes farmers into environmentally harmful practices. Some sustainable practices, such as some forms of horticulture, can be practical in metropolitan areas with some financial support. Federal conservation programs, therefore, are essential for farmers. Metropolitan use of conservation programs, however, is further hampered by uneven policy landscape of urban agriculture, the unknown status of urban agricultural policies, and the vast difference in available knowledge about availability of conservation programs.

This project surveys policy and practical barriers that prevent conservation efforts in metropolitan farming, analyzes alternatives for effectiveness, and assists those working in this area to share knowledge that can effectively promote conservation in farming. The three-year learning effort will be led by Valentine Cadieux's Food & Society Workshop at Hamline University, and will assemble a research team as described below, working with the Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust, Farmers' Legal Action Group, and the Global Land Alliance. In addition to a survey of the policy frameworks of urban agriculture across Twin Cities metro counties and municipalities (starting with those of population >50,000, plus Maplewood because of its high profile urban ag policy work), this project will build on prior funded projects on equitable farmland access over the past three years to convene a series of twice yearly roundtable conversations that will highlight peer-to-peer sharing of what is working well and working poorly.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Survey supports and challenges for environmental conservation in MN urban agriculture – focusing on the metro Twin Cities, surveying and summarizing relevant environmental opportunities, policy supports, and experienced barriers and challenges, from the perspective of both the government (via legal research) and producers (via focus group workshops). This project will be able to leverage work by an existing Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education funded research project about the extent of urban agriculture in the Twin Cities (which will be halfway through its three years when this project begins, led by Dr. Nic Jelinski), and a three year USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program project on Farmland Access in the Upper Midwest (led by Renewing the Countryside) that will be two years through its three years when this begins, bringing a dozen organizations together focused on gaining urban farmland access.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$59,280

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Policy survey across metro policies, opportunities, barriers	April 2021
2. Focus groups & workshops at Emerging Farmer Conference or other venue x 2 years	March 2021
3. Policy framework report: supports and challenges for urban MN food producing environments	April 2022



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

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Lead: Valentine Cadieux (plus research assistant)	Director of Environmental Studies & Sustainability	Hamline University Food & Society Workshop	Coordinator and lead researcher (+ assistant)
Research Team to be assembled	Farmland conservation policy research team	Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust, Farmers' Legal Action Group, Global Land Alliance, Renewing the Countryside, CURA	Legal and policy researchers and GIS specialist
Community Partners	Urban farmers	Starting with Farmland Access Hub (including the Main St. Project, MN Food Assn., Hmong American Partnership, Hmong American Farming Association, and reaching out to Urban Farm and Garden Alliance & MDA)	Focus Group Workshop participants, providing perspectives on experience of policy and legal barriers to conservation, and opportunities for better alignment with federal program support opportunities

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Policymakers and legal teams in metro municipalities and MDA			Review of policy review and suggestions

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

This policy review will convene conversations with many of the policy entities and support programs that could be better aligned to qualify urban agriculturalists for Federal conservation support, and to incentivize investment in conservation. Working with the Department of Agriculture, American Farmland Trust, and others, we hope to make policy recommendations that will address the problem posed.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:

Year 1: Start survey of Metro policies, beginning with St. Paul, Minneapolis, Maplewood, and Dakota and Hennepin Counties (as governing entities most engaged with urban agriculture policy), along with Metropolitan Council comprehensive plans; Convene first workshop with Farmland Access Hub

Year 2: Expand survey to remaining Metro policy entities; Work with GIS data and GIS specialist(s) to locate and review current and historical data showing farmland conservation; Convene further workshop; Draft and peer review report

Year 3: Circulate draft report to municipalities for comment and response; work with implementers to identify demonstration case studies showing where alignment is working (such as in Dakota County)

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Promoting Environmental Urban Agriculture

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel: (a.) PI: Valentine Cadieux: 1 summer month @ \$7250/year for first two years; .5 summer months year 3, based on need to dedicate .083 FTE to coordinating this project and conducting some of this policy research (\$18,125 plus 7.65% fringe \$1387); (b.) Research Assistant: Summer: 1 assistant @ \$10/hour x 10 weeks x 30 hours/week in the first two years, during Cadieux's concentrated time conducting policy research, and helping to coordinate the development of workshops and coordinating research between the other subcontracted researchers (\$6000 plus 7.65% fringe \$459)	\$ 25,971
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: (a.) Policy Research: 267 hours @ \$45/hour, over two years Researchers from the Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust, the Global Land Alliance, Farmers' Legal Action Group, and Renewing the Countryside have expressed interest and willingness to work on this project. They will form a team, which will require ~3.5 weeks between them in each of the first two years to complete this research (\$12000); (b.) Professional Services Fees (Workshops, Farmland Access Hub): 20 organizations @ \$200/organization x 2 years – stipends covering travel and time for some of the 22 organizations (currently working on the Farmland Access Hub project as funded by the USDA BFRDP grant) plus new organizations identified in the course of this research to participate in a workshop to explore the policy experience, barriers, and opportunities as described in the proposal. These workshops will be timed during events that may already convene some of these actors (such as the Emerging Farmers Conference) to reduce expenses of lodging, etc., and increase participation (\$8000); (c.) Professional Services to develop and deliver workshops: The contracted organizations doing policy research will be paid to develop reporting and research frameworks for these workshops, and to manage their delivery and expenses (\$2000 for personnel time for development of 1 workshop per year; \$2000 for workshop delivery and expenses = \$8000); (d.) Locating Farmland Preservation: Two weeks of work with specialist in Farmland Preservation (likely through the U of M Applied Economics, working with researchers above -- 80 hours @ \$45/hour = \$3600); (e.) GIS Specialist: Possibly working with the U of M GIS labs (for example at the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, which has accrued some of these maps already), and possibly along with GIS expertise in municipalities to be surveyed. (Rates based on existing projects with the U of M: 25 hours @ \$60/hour = \$1500.)	\$ 33,100
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: No expenditures necessary	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): No expenditures necessary	\$ -
Travel: In-State Travel to Survey Agricultural Land \$.545/mile x estimated 200 miles, circuit of Twin Cities metro region	\$ 109
Additional Budget Items: Photocopies for Peer Report: Anticipating a brief report, @5c/page, 20 pages, 100 copies	\$ 100
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 59,280

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: PI Cadieux will be on sabbatical in 2021-2022, so can dedicate 10% FTE in that year to the conclusion of this project beyond what's funded here.	\$ 6,526	secured
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	\$ -	
Other Funding History: Ramsey County Statewide Health Improvement Funds (\$10,000) supported work of the Food & Society Workshop and TCALT that helped foreground some of these issues being researched. Two prior Center for Urban and Regional Affairs student assistantships (2012 and 2018, \$11,000) helped lay the groundwork for this research. A Headwaters capacity building grant brought us together with many of the partners (\$10,000), and the USDA BFRDP Farmland Access Hub funding dedicated to TCALT and convening activities (\$5000) as well as their non-financial support in the form of farmland access navigators has been significant.	\$ 36,000	secured

Two model signs: San Francisco's "Friends of the Urban Forest" and the local "Adopt-a-Drain" sign



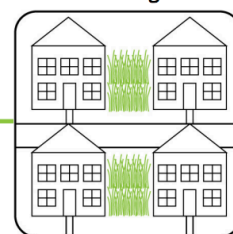
The new Minnesota Department of Agriculture program supporting urban agriculture lists these criteria below as "positive environmental impacts" providing concepts to start with in creating icons for our signs:

*promotes clean water; builds healthy soils
sequesters carbon; pollinator habitat
uses energy efficiently; intercepts waste nutrients
uses water efficiently; uses nutrients efficiently*

*promotes organic and sustainable agriculture (we will expand to explain habitat building implications)
protects land tenure; expands urban lands available for agricultural use – (plus these community- health components): reduces health disparities related to food access; urban youth agricultural education; community engagement.* (see <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/urbanaggrant>)

Finally, the Saint Paul Central Corridor Public Art Plan (2015) provides a set of visual icons that it calls an "Urban Language of Food Systems," such as these icons pictured for urban agriculture and community gardens. Given Public Art Saint Paul's role in facilitating the development of this plan and public engagement around the concepts pictured, this provides an excellent place to start to expand the set of concepts included in this visual language, to provide icons illustrating the various ecosystem services, for example, where the leaves are used in the Friends of the Urban Forest sign in the upper left.

Local Urban Agriculture



Community Gardens





Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2019 Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description
Project Title: Promoting environmental urban agriculture

The Food and Society Workshop is a research and teaching lab coordinated by Professor Valentine Cadieux at Hamline University. We recognize that many people work to support and improve food systems in a wide range of ways—and that people struggle to work together across difference and to sustain equitable and publically accountable processes in this work. Responding to these challenges, we support the process of learning how people feed each by developing action research practices that center participatory learning in relationship and in place. The Food and Society Workshop provides opportunities for community-university research, pairing service learning for college and K-12 students with community food research questions—and also providing opportunities for community members to participate in university-housed projects and courses.

Focused around summer institutes and ongoing projects in collaboration with organizations such as the Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust (TCALT) and the Urban Farm and Garden Alliance, the Food and Society Workshop has housed several participatory action research projects in the past ten years (in its prior version at the University of Minnesota, and now at Hamline). These include the ongoing documentation and analysis of the food infrastructure story building around the Art of Food in Frogtown and Rondo (involving the partners above plus the Asian Economic Development Association, Frogtown Farm, and Public Art Saint Paul <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/the-art-of-food-in-frogtown-and-rondo/index>), and a project involving many of the partners assembled for the currently proposed project to survey existing financing models for urban farmland in metro MN (supported by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota).

The partners: Farmers' Legal Action Group, the Global Land Alliance, and Renewing the Countryside are three of the programs in the Upper Midwest (and Country) most experienced in engaging farmers and communities around the linked questions of supporting successful sustainable farming, land conservation, and community conservation. Researchers in these organizations have worked together on successful projects for decades, and have a strong track record of successful conservation and policy intervention. They have connections across government, agricultural finance, and technical assistance on the questions of land access and alignment with federal programs that will be crucial to this project.

Project manager Prof. Valentine Cadieux directs the Environmental Studies and Sustainability programs at Hamline University, along with the Food and Society Workshop (her research lab). She is widely published in the areas of urban land management, agricultural systems, and food justice, and has been involved with the Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust since its founding. She has degrees in Geography and Visual and Environmental Studies focused on urban agriculture and environmental management (from Harvard and the University of Toronto), and has been working in the field of food-environment-society research and public education for over twenty years. She is a core member of several existing projects upon which this proposed research project will build: (1) the Kresge-funded Art of Food in Frogtown and Rondo, (2) the USDA-funded Farmland Access Hub Beginning Farmer and Ranching Developing Project, and (3) the SARE-funded Collaborative Evaluation of Ecosystem Services Provided by Urban Agricultural Best Management Practices in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. This project will be a central part of the summer field schools she coordinates with TCALT and the Hamline University Food and Society Workshop over the next three years, in partnership with a wide range of community food organizations, particularly focused on the many orgs involved in these projects led by Indigenous farmers and farmers of color. In addition, this will be a core focus of her upcoming sabbatical, which will be timed during the final year of the project, during which time she will concentrate on finalizing the policy report.