

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

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 259-G**

Restoration of Winona's Prairie Island

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**Category:** G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

**Sub-Category:**

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 352,201

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

**Summary:**

The City of Winona aims to improve ecosystem health and provide quality recreation at Prairie Island Park through prairie restoration, tree planting, storm water management, and redesigned access.

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**Name:** Ross Greedy

**Sponsoring Organization:** City of Winona

**Title:** Outdoor Recreation Coordinator

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

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Winona MN 55987

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**Web Address** www.cityofwinona.com

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**Location**

**Region:** Southeast

**County Name:** Winona

**City / Township:** Winona

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

The map outlines the areas for restoration and redevelopment within the park.

_____ 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 of Winona's Prairie Island**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The City of Winona aims to improve ecosystem health and provide quality recreation at Prairie Island Park through prairie restoration, tree planting, storm water management, and redesigned access.

Prairie Island (PI) is located on the Mississippi River 3.5 miles from downtown Winona. The park is comprised of 560 acres of backwaters, remnant prairies, and park land offering a multitude of nature based recreation opportunities including fishing, camping, paddling, hiking, biking, and river access. PI serves as Winona's gateway to the Mississippi Rivers backwaters affording access to roughly 675 additional acres of City land and thousands of acres of the adjacent Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, connecting the community and visitors to our natural landscape. PI is in need of attention to address deteriorating natural resource and recreation conditions. The park is home to the only remaining dry sand-gravel prairies in the county but they are being threatened by encroaching invasive species, and emerald ash borer (EAB) has eliminated a majority of the tree canopy in some sections. Parking areas contribute to surface water contamination as they do not mitigate runoff and are in need of redesigning to assist with traffic flow and parking efficiency to meet growing demand.

The City will address these issues through prairie plantings, invasive species control, planting trees suitable to the area, and resurfacing parking areas with inclusion of pollinator friendly rain gardens. To accommodate increased use, parking areas will be redesigned to include defined parking. These changes will enhance the landscape and surface water quality, increase community access to outdoor recreation, and serve as an education platform for visitors. We are currently working with local DNR representatives on shoreline restoration / water access enhancements and have over \$250,000 of investment underway to replace aging docks and enhance the campground electrical, water, and restroom facilities. Southeast Minnesota is a socioeconomically diverse region, and as the community continues to grow, the City of Winona is committed to creating high quality, locally sourced, access to nature.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1: Prairie Restoration:** Map areas of the only dry sand-gravel ecotype remnant prairie in the County, and compare to DNR maps of historical range. Initial evaluation shows approximately 20 remaining acres. Seek expert advice on restoration practices that will remove invasive species, such as silvergrass (*Miscanthus spp.*), cool season European grasses, buckthorn, black locust and non-native honeysuckle. Once invasives are removed, seed with a diverse mix of natives that have local genotypes. Specific species well suited to these prairie areas include little and big bluestem, bergamot, false boneset, white wild indigo, Joe Pye weed, yarrow, round headed prairie clover, panic grass, white sage and heath aster. Priority will be given to establish beneficial pollinator habitat. Remove invasive scrub from the vicinity to reduce the potential for reinvasion by non-native shrubby species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 66,775.50**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Remnant prairie mapping and analysis	August 2019
2. Invasive species removal	June 2022
3. Planting plan with focus on pollinator species	October 2019
4. Establish restored prairie	May 2022
5. Continued maintenance and evaluation	Ongoing



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

**Activity 2: Replace tree canopy lost to emerald ash borer (EAB):** Over 150 ash trees in a 14 acre area at the Prairie Island campground are being removed due to an extensive EAB infestation. The City will replant with trees well suited to the area such as silver maple, basswood, and elms resistant to Dutch elm disease with some butternut, bitternut hickories and tamarack. The City will likely utilize a gravel bed nursery to save on cost.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 17,800**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>Tree Planting Plan</i>	<i>November 2019</i>
2. <i>Purchase trees</i>	<i>March 2020</i>
3. <i>Plant saplings</i>	<i>November 2020</i>

**Activity 3: Redesign water Access:** The boat launch area will be improved to reduce sediment and other surface runoff from flowing directly to the Mississippi River. Stormwater will be directed to rain gardens for filtration. The benefit is cleaner water, as well as a more useable and attractive boat launch area. As part of this effort, pollinator friendly plants will be incorporated into the raingardens. Also a portion of the boat launch will be designed to accommodate an AIS decontamination station – likely the clean, drain, dry and dispose (CD3) model.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 267,625**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>Redesign and construction Plan</i>	<i>November 2019</i>
2. <i>Construction</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
3. <i>Raingarden establishment</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
4. <i>Aquatic invasives control station and associated infrastructure</i>	<i>May 2020</i>

### **III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

#### **A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding – N/A**

#### **B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>USFWS Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge (Preliminary approval)</b>		<b>Winona District of the Upper Mississippi River NW&amp;FR</b>	<b>Liaison on prairie restoration</b>
<b>Winona Area Pollinators</b>		<b>Local education and advocacy group</b>	<b>Advise on planting plans to ensure maximum pollinator benefit.</b>
<b>Winona State University's Outdoor Education and Recreation Center</b>		<b>Local education and user group</b>	<b>Will participate in a volunteer capacity</b>

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

Continued management of the prairie areas will be directed by City staff with extensive support from local organizations. Funding for equipment and replacement seed will be provided by the City following the conclusion of the grant period. Maintenance of the boat launch parking area will be an ongoing task for the City's Park Maintenance and Street staff.

### **V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:**

The most time critical items will be developing the plans for prairie restoration, tree replanting and the boat launch area reconstruction. Plans ideally will be complete within 6 months of project initiation. The plans will define the time line, with work hopefully commencing by spring of 2020.

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

**Project Title: Restoration of Winona's Prairie Island**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	\$ 6,450
Personnel: City Staff - Project Manager - 70 Hours @ \$35/hour (\$2,450)	
Personnel: City Staff - Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator - 50 hours @ \$30/hour (\$1,500)	
Personnel: City Staff - Ecosystem management technicians (125 hours @ \$20/hour) (\$2,500)	
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b>	\$ 315,251
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Prairie Evaluation & Restoration (\$28,261)	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Invasive Scrub removal (\$13,250)	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Prairie Planting (\$21,240)	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: EAB Tree Replacement (\$16,000)	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Boat launch area design (\$19,000)	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Boat launch area construction (\$217,500)	
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	\$ 30,500
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: AIS decontamination station (Clean, drain, dry and dispose model) and design, well water for station (\$29,250)	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Prairie drip torches, equipment for invasive plant removal (\$1,250)	
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	N/A
<b>Travel:</b>	N/A
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	NA
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 352,201</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: The US Fish and Wildlife Service intends to contribute towards the restoration of the prairie areas labeled as "savannah" (orange) and "established prairie" (green) on the map. Contributions may be as in-kind work hours.</b>	Unspecified	
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	N/A	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Project Management - 50 hours at \$35/hr</b>	\$ 1,750	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: City Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator - 50 hours at \$30/hr</b>	\$ 1,500	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: City Park Maintenance staff - 50 hours at \$20/hour</b>	\$ 1,000	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Volunteer Maintenance - 400 hours at \$20/hour</b>	\$ 8,000	Pending organizational approval
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>	NA	
<b>Other Funding History: None for this area.</b>	NA	

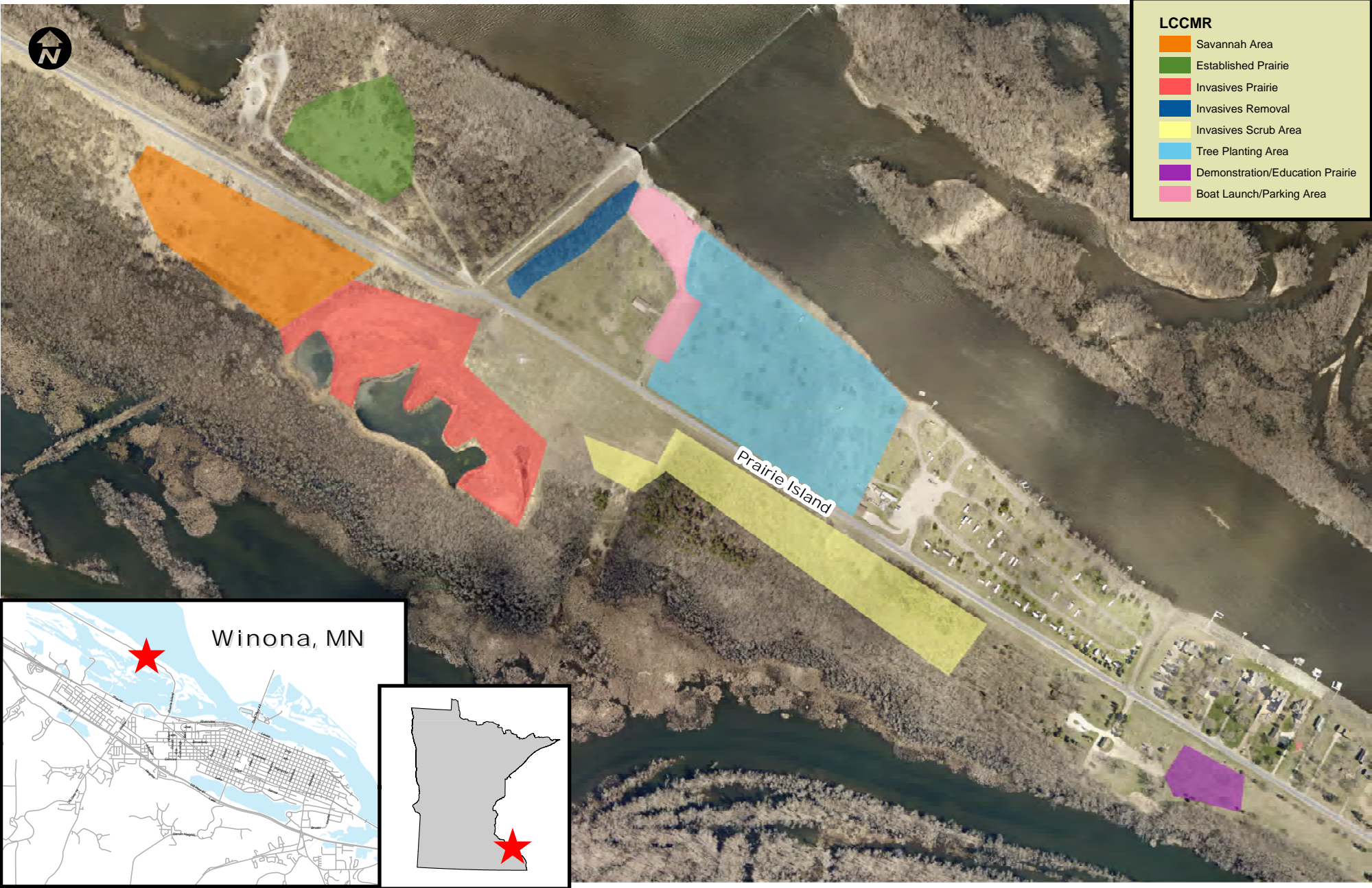
Attachment C:  
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2019 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet  
Project Title: Restoration of Winona’s Prairie Island  
Legal Citation:  
Project Manager: Ross Greedy  
Organization: City of Winona  
College/Department/Division: Parks & Recreation, and Natural Resources  
M.L. 2019 ENRTF Appropriation:  
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, August 2022  
Today's Date: April 9, 2018



#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		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)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Prairie Island sand-gravel ecotype prairie	-91° 41' 14.9" W	44° 04' 43.5" N	\$ 53,526		Winona	This prairie is the last remnant of the sand-gravel ecotype prairie within Winona County according to the DNR's Natural Communities map prepared by the Minnesota County Biological Survey in 1996. At the time of the survey, 40 acres of the prairie existed, but that number has shrunk to approximately 20 acres of degraded prairie that is addressed by this grant. Restoring the prairie would provide an opportunity for public education and keep a unique habitat within Winona County.	Site mapping and surveying of species, restoration by removal of invasive species and re-establishment of native species.	22	0	Federal land		USFWS has some invasive removal work planned for the near future on the northern and western most portions of the prairie.
2	Scrub removal between levee and boat launch	-91° 41' 03.7" W	44° 04' 45.2" N	\$ 3,295		Winona	This area is currently a scrub forest of low value trees and invasive species such as buckthorn and non-native honeysuckle. Such an area is not compatible with the park or adjacent natural areas.	Removal of invasives and establishment of native species	1.4	0	Local government (City of Winona)		Planning stage, US Corps of Engineers may wish to clear areas closest to the levee.
3	Rain gardens	-91° 40' 59.9" W	44° 04' 44.7" N	\$18,500		Winona	The raingardens will contain native species, and provide pollinator friendly plants. They will also filter runoff, so that potential contaminants will not enter the Mississippi	Design the gardens, excavate and plant species. Periodic maintenance.	0.5	0	Local government (City of Winona)		Planning stage
4	Invasive scrub removal between prairie and forest	-91° 40' 58.1" W	44° 04' 36.7" N	\$10,250		Winona	This area currently is being overrun by invasive species scrub that includes buckthorn and non-native honeysuckle. Such an area is not compatible with the park or adjacent natural areas.	Removal of invasives	8.3	0	Local government (City of Winona)		Planning stage
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													
NOTES:													



# EXHIBIT B: Winona's Prairie Island Restoration Project



This map was compiled from a variety of sources. This information is provided with the understanding that conclusions drawn from such information are solely the responsibility of the user. The GIS data is not a legal representation of any of the features depicted, and any assumption of the legal status of this map is hereby disclaimed.

05/08/2018

## Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

### Acquisition/Restoration Information:

*The information to be included in this section is to help fulfill specific requirements pertaining to fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, and restoration efforts completed using Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars. More detailed information explaining these requirements is available in separate documents that are available on the "Project Manager Info" page of the LCCMR website under "Requirements for ENRTF Land Acquisitions and Restorations": [http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/pm\\_info/manager\\_info\\_index.html](http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/pm_info/manager_info_index.html). Please fill out the relevant portions below. Please delete any sections that do not apply to your project. For example, if your project only involves fee title acquisition, answer all five items under fee title acquisition and then delete all of the text for the portions relating to conservation easement acquisition and restoration.*

### Restoration

1. *Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.*

All lands being considered in this grant proposal are publicly owned.

2. *Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.*

The prairie restoration work will return approximately 22 acres of degraded prairie to a thriving prairie. Specifically, the prairie areas are the last remnants of the county's dry sand-gravel ecotype, and therefore are a rare ecotype which may be lost without restoration work. The first step will be to have a professional prairie restorer evaluate and plan a restoration effort, followed by removal of invasive species and re-establishment of native species. The plans and documentation of work will be retained by the City.

The scrub forest removal and restoration will remove a harbor of invasive species, and improve the aesthetics of the park and natural areas. City staff will need to continually monitor for re-establishment of invasive species.

The raingardens will function as green infrastructure, and therefore act as stormwater control and filtration, and a mini-habitat/feeding pod for pollinators.

A comprehensive park plan is being developed with user and resident input. The park plan should include a focus on natural habitat restoration and maintenance.

3. *Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.*

BWSR's guidelines will be utilized in the planning and planting of native species. Specifically, local seeds and plant genotypes will be sought, and a variety of plants will be incorporated for resilience and diversity. BWSR's Dry Prairie Southeast seed mix (# 35-621) will be consulted for the prairie areas. The BWSR guidelines indicate at least 35 species should be used for restoration of prairie sites, which the project team will try to exceed.

Pollinators are a major consideration for this project, so the project team intends to follow the BWSR guidelines for 30-50% forbs, and will consult the USFWS plant list for Rusty Patched Bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) habitat, as this endangered species is known to be in the Winona area. The project team will avoid using seeds treated with insecticides in order to prevent harm to pollinators.

4. *Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.*

City staff and volunteers will manage the areas into the future. The City's fire department is interested in doing practice burns for training, and could utilize the restored prairie areas. A number of Prairie Enthusiasts live in the area, and will be sought to assist in long term management of the prairie areas. City staff will supervise the ongoing maintenance and cleaning of the rain gardens added to the boat launch area, and monitor the tree health of the replacement trees.

5. *Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.*

Upon award of the grant, the City will contact the Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM), and request a quote to perform the work items.

6. *Provide a statement indicating that 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 should 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.*

The Project manager will complete activity evaluations after the work is completed, and three years after completion. The project team fully intends to comply with reporting and grant requirements.



## **City of Winona**

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

#### **Organization Description:**

The City of Winona's Park & Recreation Department's mission is to enhance community through people, parks, and programs. The department recently restructured and hired a full time Outdoor Recreation Coordinator to oversee the development and restoration of the City's outdoor spaces and recreation areas. Winona is host to more parkland than any other city in Minnesota except Duluth. To manage this amount of land the City has a robust Park Maintenance Department that works diligently to maintain and restore our public spaces.

#### **Project Manager Qualifications:**

Project Management will be administered by the City's Outdoor Recreation Coordinator with close collaboration with the City's Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator. The Project Manager (PM) will administer the grant funds and serve as the main point of contact with the contractors. The PM will liaison with the organizations partnering on the project and the other members of the City team. The PM will ensure work is meeting objectives.

The City's Outdoor Recreation Coordinator and PM for the project is Ross Greedy. Mr. Greedy holds a bachelor's degree from Winona State University where he focused on outdoor and environmental education. Additionally, he holds a Master's of Science degree in Education Leadership from Winona State University with a focus in program leadership. Mr. Greedy is tasked with the development and implementation of Winona's outdoor recreation infrastructure, partnerships, and funding.

The City's Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard. Mr. Howard holds a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College where he focused on biology with an environmental concentration. He additionally has a Master's of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy. Mr. Howard is the project manager for the East Lake Winona Shoreland Restoration project in the Conservation Legacy Partners program.

