

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 153-CH

The Longspur Prairie Fund Urban Prairie Learning Lab

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

Sub-Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 62,943

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2023 (3 yrs)

Summary:

The Longspur Prairie Fund, an organization dedicated to conservation in the Red River Valley, will establish an urban micro-prairie and stormwater bioretention "learning lab" at the Rourke Art Museum.

Name: Peter Schultz

Sponsoring Organization: The Longspur Prairie Fund

Job Title: Dr.

Department: _____

Address: 1217 Elm Street South

Moorhead MN 56560

Telephone Number: (701) 866-8660

Email schultz@longspurprairie.org

Web Address: www.longspurprairie.org

Location:

Region: Northwest

County Name: Clay

City / Township: Moorhead

Alternate Text for Visual:

Visual Rendering of the Proposed Bio-Infiltration Basin Plan with Native Plantings

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2020 Main Proposal Template

PROJECT TITLE: The Longspur Prairie Fund's Urban Prairie Learning Lab

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

In collaboration with the City of Moorhead, MN, the Longspur Prairie Fund, a grassroots non-profit dedicated to conservation work in the Red River Valley, will establish an urban micro-prairie and a storm water bio-retention "learning lab" at the Rourke Art Gallery + Museum. The established site will serve as a pilot project for other urban prairies and rain gardens in our area. It will also serve as a learning laboratory for local scientists, urban planners, and students. The "tool kit" resulting from this project will document all steps and impacts of the new site, thus providing a "road map" for other communities interested in addressing ecological challenges in their own urban centers.

The City of Moorhead currently has little green infrastructure, especially as it pertains to storm water management. This pilot provides a step towards solving that challenge. This project addresses issues of water quality, urban green space, pollinator conservation, urban permaculture, responsible storm water treatment, kid-friendly ecology & geo-science, and more.

The proposed learning lab site will be open to the public year-round; it will serve Clay and surrounding counties. Programming will include targeted lectures, workshops, and seminars from local and regional educators. The learning lab's "curriculum" will be based around three features of the new rain garden: (1) the proposed micro-habitat; (2) the proposed bio-filtration basin; and (3) the proposed site-based community outreach and programming. With more of our community members living in areas defined by urban sprawl, urban conservation sites can address a lack of access to educational green spaces, can improve knowledge of our native landscapes, can cultivate the understanding of our natural resources, and can inspire citizens towards environmental action. This pilot project addresses these concerns in a way that is both pragmatic and innovative.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1 Title: Prairie Restoration and Habitat Creation

Description:

In order to create an urban micro-prairie, the existing site will be expanded. Two asphalt parking stalls will be "reclaimed." The current curb design will be adjusted. The new site will also accommodate a piece of sculpture that has been generously donated from a private citizen, entitled "The Cultivator," a work of art that speaks to progress and the cultivation of bold ideas. The prairie plot will be seeded with native grasses and forbs. The site will be designed by Contour Design Studio and executed by a to-be-determined contractor selected on a qualifications-based bid selection process.

This green space fulfills current public and municipal goals of adding green spaces to existing urban neighborhoods. The site will be open to environmental study for both community members, scientists, and their students. This first activity will be considered complete when all native seeding and planting has been established. A local pollinator expert, Dr. D. Bryan Bishop, will be evaluating the viability of the site as a habitat for pollinators.

Activity 2 Title: Bio-Filtration Basin Installation and Regrading of Site

Description:

In order to establish rain garden infrastructure on the proposed site, the lot of eleven parking stalls will be demolished and regraded. A new infiltration point will be constructed in the new curb design to allow for the proposed flow line to lead to a bio-filtration basin in the restored prairie. The lot will be repaved and striped. (A basic assessment of parking needs has already been completed.) The rain garden will be designed to collect and retain stormwater runoff and to maximize groundwater infiltration. Moorhead does not currently require stormwater bio-retention management methods to capture and treat runoff. This pilot provides an ideal vehicle through which we can educate our community as to the importance of water retention and treatment.

The design and vision for the site has been articulated by Contour Design Studio; it will be executed by a to-be-determined contractor selected on a qualifications-based bid selection process. The resulting "tool kit" from the project will provide local business owners and urban planners data for replicating the project on other sites. Area universities will also be invited to study the effectiveness of the management system.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2020 Main Proposal Template

Activity 3 Title: Community Awareness, Outreach, and Programming

Description: The Longspur Prairie Fund's first micro-prairie at the Rourke Art Museum was installed on the eastern side the Museum building. That project was funded in part by a grant from the Becker County SWCD in 2016 and demonstrated the utility of small-scale urban prairie sites for conservation education and outreach.

In order to continue to raise community awareness of urban habitat creation and responsible storm water treatment, the Longspur Prairie Fund will schedule, facilitate, and encourage the following educational activities on the installed site: on-site data collection and scientific study by resident scientists, graduate students, and undergraduates; conservation education workshops for community members; plant and pollinator identification activities; school tours; urban sketching and *plein-air* sessions in collaboration with the Rourke Art Gallery + Museum; habitat workshops; water quality discussions with River Keepers, a local organization dedicated to the health of the Red River; and more.

The host site, The Rourke Art Museum, will also play a valuable and unique role in offering new creative perspectives to approaching innovative conservation education through the arts. Due to the variety of possible programming, the outcomes are wide-ranging. This pilot will serve as an "activator" for our urban landscape. Outcomes will be gauged by total attendance, survey of community members served, and initiatives instigated by education at the test site. We will also track dispersal of the project "tool kit" to other cities and organizations in greater Minnesota.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 62,943

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Restoration of a micro-prairie to create urban habitat and serve as a learning incubator for environmental study.	September 15, 2020
2. Establishment of rain garden/bioretention stormwater system for proposed site.	September 15, 2020
3. Increased community awareness and advocacy for conservation and habitat creation, sustainable practices , and responsible stormwater treatment	September 15, 2022

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:

Dr. Peter Schultz – Project Manager, Executive Director, The Longspur Prairie Fund
Cady Rutter – Administration and Logistics, Assistant Director, The Longspur Prairie Fund
Brian Leininger – Landscape Architect, Contour Design Studio: President of the Board, River Keepers
Craig Larson – Landscape Architect, Craig Larson Landscape Architects
Jonathan Rutter – Executive Director, The Rourke Art Gallery Museum
Dr. D. Bryan Bishop – Chair, Department of Biology, Concordia College
Su Legatt – Public Art Consultant
Derrick LaPoint – Executive Director, Downtown Moorhead, Inc.
Shelly Carlson – City Council Member, City of Moorhead

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Due to the nature of low to no maintenance costs for restored prairie, the inputs are minimal after initial start-up investment and establishment. The site is owned by City, but will be managed by the Longspur Prairie Fund and the Rourke Art Museum. The habitat and storm water treatment will be permanent benefits to the host site once established. Conservation and natural resource education will continue beyond the funding of the project and will be supported by the operating budget and facilitated by the staff of the Longspur Prairie Fund as a responsibility of its mission to the public. The results and findings will be reported by the Longspur Prairie Fund in its quarterly newsletters, on its website, and in its annual reports.

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Dr. Peter Schultz

Project Title: LPF Urban Prairie and Stormwater Treatment Learning Lab

Organization: Longspur Prairie Fund

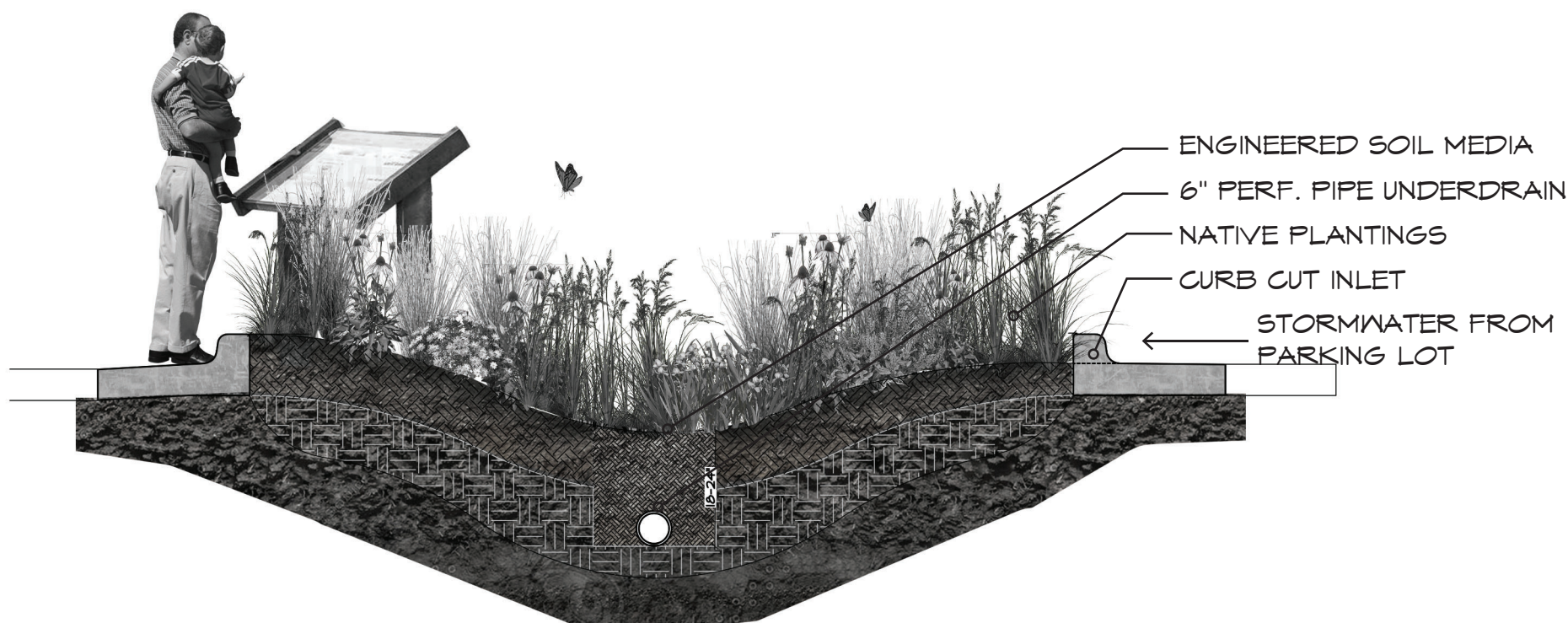
Project Budget: \$62,943

Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years, 75 days; September 15, 2022

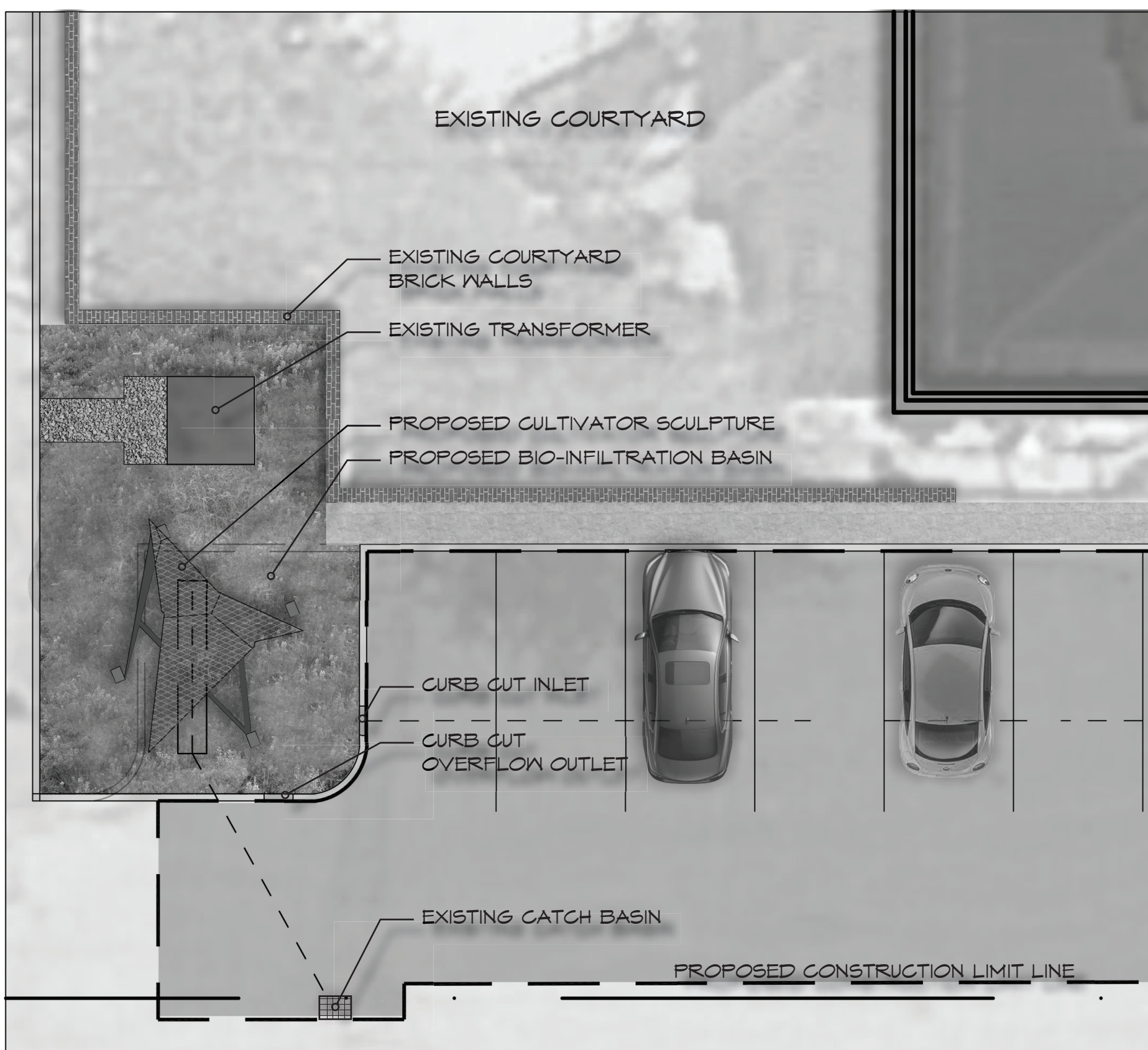
Today's Date: 11 March 2019



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)		\$ 2,540	\$ -	
<i>Dr. Peter Schultz, Project Manager</i> Duties: Oversight and management of project execution, management of professional contracts, and oversight of educational programmatic aspects. \$1,540 (100% salary), (0.1FTE)				
<i>Cady Rutter, Administration and Logistics</i> Duties: Execution and management of all organizational and project filings and administration, development of public educational programming, and communication with professional contractors. \$1,000 (100% salary), (0.1FTE)				
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts				
Contract with Contour Design Studio is to be made for design services and construction administration services. Contour Design Studio was selected through a qualifications-based bid selection process.		\$ 9,997	\$ -	
Contract with a TBD contractor(s) is/are to be made by Contour Design Studio on behalf of the Longspur Prairie Fund for all pursuant miscellaneous costs of installations on proposed site, including: asphalt demolition and removal, curb modification, earthmoving and grading, parking lot re-striping, installation of underground stormwater pipe and infrastructure, and contingencies. TBD contractor(s) will be selected through a qualifications-based bid selection process.		\$ 25,708		
Contract with Su Legatt of Legatt Design Services is to be made for liaison services with the City of Moorhead for all modifications and installations that require municipal approval and cooperation as the proposed site is city-owned land and includes a utilities box owned by Moorhead Public Services. Su Legatt was selected as a service contractor based on her qualifications and connections with City of Moorhead officials to execute the necessary communications.		\$ 374		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
<i>Hardscape:</i> 6" Std. Concrete Curb and Gutter (qty. 30 LF), \$900.00, Asphalt parking lot - 7" (qty 3,100 sq. ft.), \$21,050.00		\$ 21,050		
<i>Softscape:</i> Seeding, native (qty 700 sq. ft.), \$350.00, Plugs, native grass and forbs (qty 175), \$875.00, Steel Edging (qty. 20 LF), \$80.00, Rock Mulch (qty 23 sq. ft.), \$70.00		\$ 1,375		
<i>Site signage:</i> Interpretive panels (qty 2), \$800, Custom wrap for utility box on proposed site with installation (qty 1), \$1,000.00		\$ 1,800	\$ -	
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Easement Acquisition				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing				
<i>Educational Brochures and Packets</i>		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Travel expenses in Minnesota				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 62,943	\$ -	\$ 100
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT				
	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS				
	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -



ROURKE ART GALLERY - PROPOSED BIO-INFILTRATION BASIN SECTION



ROURKE ART GALLERY - PROPOSED BIO-INFILTRATION BASIN PLAN

Project Manager Qualifications

Dr. Peter Schultz is the Executive Director of the Longspur Prairie Fund. Under his leadership, LPF has successfully enrolled over 800 acres of tallgrass prairie into conservation easements in central and western Minnesota; three more sites are currently under negotiation in Clay and surrounding counties. Dr. Schultz serves on the Local Technical Teams for Mahnomen and Agassiz Beach Ridge Prairie Cores for the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. He is the architect of multiple annual events that promote conservation education in west-central Minnesota, including LPF's Annual Bee Hunt and LPF's Annual Tent Fest. He also oversees the LPF's Fellowships in the Natural Sciences, a program which supports individual researchers of exemplary talent whose work focusses on the prairies and wetlands of central Minnesota.

Organization Description and Mission

The Longspur Prairie Fund facilitates three types of projects in the High Plains. First, we actively conduct prairie and wetland restoration -- the planting of marginal farmland with native grasses, forbs, and aquascapes -- in west-central Minnesota. Second, we support research, education, and youth programming directly connected to our area's wildlife, agriculture, and ecology. Third, and finally, we develop voluntary habitat adoption strategies in partnership with local farms, businesses, churches, and industries that are passionate about sustaining the natural legacy of our region.

Mission: The Longspur Prairie Fund is dedicated to fostering the experiences, insights, and pleasures found in the native landscapes of the Red River Valley by way of advocacy, education, and conservation. We respect farmers, hunters, business owners, their properties, and their communities. We protect native plants, animals, habitats, and their ecologies. We teach the wisdom of the prairie through the arts and sciences. We restore native landscapes and preserve them for all time.