

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 288-GH

Enhancing Winona's Prairie Island

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

Sub-Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 126,500

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (2 yrs)

Summary:

The City of Winona aims to increase community access to the Mississippi River through updates to its riverfront campground, day use area, and boat launch.

Name: Ross Greedy

Sponsoring Organization: City of Winona

Job Title: Outdoor Recreation Coordinator

Department: _____

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Winona MN 55987

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Web Address: www.cityofwinona.com

Location:

Region: Southeast

County Name: Winona

City / Township: Winona

Alternate Text for Visual:

The map outlines Prairie Island Park and the proposed amenity upgrades to the area.

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



PROJECT TITLE: Enhancing Winona's Prairie Island

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Winona aims to increase access to the Mississippi River, its Backwaters, and the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge through improvements to Prairie Island's boat launch and campground. Prairie Island is nestled along the banks of Straight Slough, surrounded by the backwaters of the Mississippi, providing a remote feel despite being only 3 miles from Downtown Winona. Prairie Island is the only public boat launch with a connected riverfront campground in all of Pool 5 on the Mississippi River. In addition, it is adjacent to U.S. Fish & Wildlife's McNally landing— located in Pool 5A which is also without a public campground on the Minnesota side of the river. With its proximity to Winona's Downtown and both Pools 5 and 5A, Prairie Island Park is a key regional connection to the Mississippi River ecosystem.

Prairie Island Park consists of a day use area with a shelter, 2 boat launches, and a campground with 106 electrical/water sites, 70 primitive sites, a camp store, beach, and a bath house. The City of Winona is committed to the enhancement of access and amenities at Prairie Island, and has initiated multiple upgrades to the park. In 2017 the City bonded \$230,000 to upgrade the campgrounds electrical and water systems and initiate the replacement of aging vault toilets throughout the facility. In 2018 \$25,000 was budgeted to install two new dock facilities and \$4,000 in 2019 to repair one boat launch this season. The City awarded a new campground operator contract in 2018, which included the addition of online reservations, a community garden, and several public events for the community. As a result of these updates, Prairie Island is beginning to see a resurgence of community use and for many— Prairie Island is their primary exposure to nature. The City would like to continue to upgrade Prairie Island Park as a primary river access for the regional community.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1 Title: Mississippi River Access Improvements

Description: In 2018 the City purchased two new docks to begin improving river access at Prairie Island's boat launches. To increase capacity and user access we aim to add 3 additional docks located along the campground to improve boating access to the campground. This will allow visitors to access their campsites via the river. In addition, the boat launches are in need of repair to ensure safe access for users. The City is repairing one of two launches in 2019 and is requesting funding to complete the repair of the second launch. This includes replacement of deteriorating ramps and realignment of approaches.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$28,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Installation of 3 New Boat Docks- to increase visitor capacity	August 2020
2. Boat Launch Restoration- to increase user access	December 2020

Activity 2 Title: Campground/Park Improvements

Description: As outlined above the City is in the process of renovating and upgrading Prairie Island to maintain a high quality outdoor experience as well as to promote new users— there are a number of small projects that will assist with this. The City would like to update signage and wayfinding to increase visibility and user navigation, improve the campsite experience by including native plantings throughout the facility, and provide more



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

accessible picnic tables. The additional of a naturescape natural playground and discovery area at the campground will broaden the amenities for families while connecting them with the outdoors. The City initiated the replacement of old vault toilets at the campground in 2018 to reduce potential failure of the aging facilities. To meet the demand of this high use area we would like to add 2 additional single vaults and one double vault. All vault facilities are built and installed in concert with current MN DNR vault facility standards.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$98,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Access Signage- to increase awareness and visibility	August 2020
2. ADA Accessible Picnic Tables	August 2020
3. Floodplain Compliant Vault Toilet- to meet user demand	November 2020
4. Native Landscaping	June 2021
5. Naturescape Playground	June 2021

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:

Partners in this project include:

Front Porch Management- the contracted campground operator,
Winona State University's Outdoor Education and Recreation Center (WSU's OERC) – provider of equipment rentals and programs within the park area and adjacent backwaters,
Recreation Alliance of Winona- a local outdoor recreation advocacy nonprofit

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

City staff is prepared to initiate contracts and implementation of the listed projects in short order as permitting processes and relationships with vendors are already established from current projects. In addition, inter City department coordination is already underway to facilitate timely completion of City aspects of these projects. Once complete these facilities will be maintained through the general parks maintenance budget for their functional lifespan.

2020 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Enhancing Winona's Prairie Island

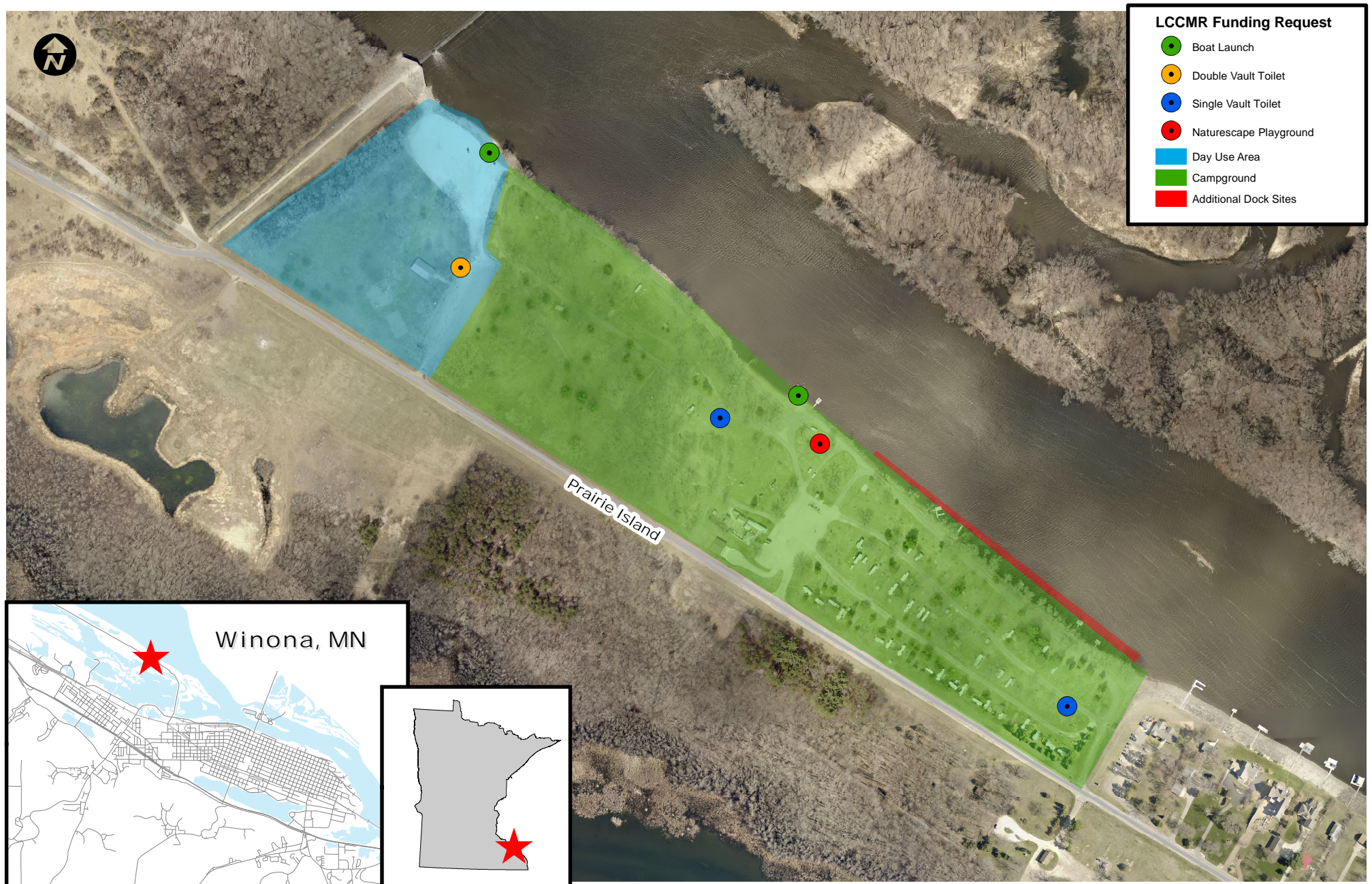
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Boat Launch Repair	\$ 4,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Boat Docks	\$ 24,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Flood Plain Compliant Vault Toilets	\$ 73,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Native Vegetation Plantings	\$ 8,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: ADA Accessible Picnic Tables	\$ 5,500
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Naturescape Playground Design and Installation	\$ 12,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	N/A
Travel:	N/A
Additional Budget Items:	NA
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 126,500

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:	N/A	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Project Management - 50 hours at \$35/hr	\$ 1,750	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Contracted Campground Operator - 50 hours at \$30/hr	\$ 1,500	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: City Park Maintenance staff - 50 hours at \$20/hour	\$ 1,000	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Volunteer Maintenance - 100 hours at \$20/hour	\$ 2,000	
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	NA	
Other Funding History: 2017-2019 City Budgeted Facility Upgrades and Improvements	\$ 259,000	

EXHIBIT: Winona's Prairie Island Improvement 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.

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.