



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-068

Proposal Title: Shakopee Riverfront Habitat Restoration and Education Project

Project Manager Information

Name: Michael Kerski

Organization: City of Shakopee

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Riverfront Project will restore Shakopee's Memorial Park back to its native prairie land, control riverbank erosion, and implement nature park structures to educate visitors of the area's historic significance.

Funds Requested: \$200,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2023-06-30

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat (F)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Metro

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Memorial Park is Shakopee's oldest park and is located along the Minnesota River. It is the primary location where the Dakota Indians resided during the summer 600 plus years ago. Called Tínta Otunwe (meaning "Prairie Village") by the Dakota Indians, it was home to one of the largest Dakota populations in the mid-nineteenth century.

Because of the historical and culturally sensitive significance of the Memorial Park area, the city has conducted archaeological studies for two projects in the west end of Memorial Park. One is replacing the park bridge which connects trails on the north and south side of the Minnesota River in the park. The bridge was removed in 2016 due to safety concerns. The second is rerouting stormwater which is currently flooding the historic Steele Burial Mounds. Using LiDAR and geophysics, the studies gave the city up to date information where culturally sensitive objects (sacred Dakota Indian burial grounds, archaeological artifacts, etc.) are located. Given the vast number of areas discovered, the city would like an archaeological study done of the remainder of the park, including the south side of Hwy. 101 and to renovate the area back to its native state.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

In summer 2019 the City of Shakopee developed a Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan, which includes renovating Memorial Park to its native state when the Dakota Indians lived there. First, an archaeological study of the remaining area (approximately 17 - 20 acres) will be conducted. Once completed, the city will remove various park items – the playground, the volleyball court, etc. The last piece for this funding request is planting native vegetation on the land which also will aid in controlling further erosion of the Minnesota River riverfront and construction of a non-invasive nature playground. To complete the project, the city will incorporate at a later date way-finding signs, an informational kiosk, and other components which will educate visitors of the significance of the land and its history. These structures will not penetrate the ground and instead, will be anchored to stone boulders above ground. This phase is not part of this funding request. However, it is provided to paint an overall picture of the entire project.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The outcomes of the Shakopee Riverfront Habitat Restoration and Education Project will be as follows:

1. Conservation of Dakota burial mounds located in the park.
2. Preservation of the Minnesota Riverbank by planting native prairie vegetation and maintain erosion and sediment control.
3. Conservation of 17 - 20 acres of park land by removing existing volleyball court and playground and planting native prairie vegetation.
4. Enhancement of Memorial Park by restoring it back to its native prairie state, educating the public of the history of the area and creating a natural play area.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Archaeological study

Activity Budget: \$25,000

Activity Description:

In 2019 the City of Shakopee developed a Park, Trails and Recreation Plan which included converting Memorial Park back to its native state. An archaeological study has been completed at the west end of the park and revealed the presence of Dakota Indian burial grounds. The results of the study indicated more burial grounds exist. Because of the cultural sensitivity and burial mounds are protected, the remainder of the park needs to be studied. The study will include LiDAR, Light Detection and Ranging, and geophysics, a survey that detects archaeological structures and features that may be hidden beneath soil. Once the study is completed, the city will use the findings to ensure areas which are culturally sensitive or indicate burial mounds will be protected. The study will also provide an up to date mapping of said sensitive areas.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Request for Proposal	2021-07-31
LiDar and Geophysics study of area	2021-10-31
Archaeological Report completed.	2021-12-31

Activity 2: Removal of Park Elements

Activity Budget: \$6,000

Activity Description:

Upon the completion of the archaeological study, the excavation and removal of park elements will occur. Because the intent of this project is to return the park to its native state, the current volleyball court and playground will be removed. This activity also includes temporary erosion control to prevent sediment from going into the Minnesota River which runs next to the park and further erosion of the riverbank. The temporary erosion cost of \$3,000 will be covered by the City of Shakopee.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Removal of playground	2021-05-31
Removal of volleyball court	2021-05-31

Activity 3: Landscape Architecture and Site Design for Riverfront and Park Area

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

The City of Shakopee will request bids from a minimum of three vendors to design the new Memorial Park. The plans will include landscape architecture consisting of native prairie vegetation and the specific locations of planting. For instance, native prairie vegetation which aids in preventing of erosion of the riverbanks will be used alongside the Minnesota River area. Other design elements include the nature playground, way-finding signs and other educational fixtures.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Landscape Architecture will be determined based on RFPs,	2021-01-31
Request for Proposal	2021-01-31
Site Design will be created.	2021-02-28

Activity 4: Restoration of Riverfront Area and Park Land**Activity Budget:** \$129,000**Activity Description:**

Restoring approximately twenty acres of park land back to its native prairie state. This activity includes excavation, permanent erosion control, planting prairie vegetation and maintaining a prairie establishment period of three years.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Planting Native Vegetation	2021-06-30
Excavation of Approximately 20 Acres of Park Land	2021-06-30
Erosion Control	2021-09-30
Prairie Establishment (Maintenance)	2023-06-30

Activity 5: Construction of Nature Playground**Activity Budget:** \$25,000**Activity Description:**

The new nature playground will replace the one removed and will contain natural play equipment (i.e., wood logs, climbing boulders, etc.).

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Order play equipment.	2021-02-28
Prep playground area.	2021-05-31
Install playground equipment.	2021-08-31

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Bill Walker	Three Rivers Park District	Bill Walker is the Cultural Resource Manager for Three Rivers Park District. He will serve as a consultant to the project.	No
Nicole Hendrickson	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC)	Nicole Hendrickson is a Tribal Planner with SMSC and will act as a consultant and liaison on behalf of them.	No

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

The city, through its park maintenance division, will maintain the native grass areas, erosion control and nature playground. Currently, the existing burial mounds are managed under a joint agreement with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. For instance, goats were used last and this year to remove buckthorn from the mounds.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Michael Kerski

Job Title: Planning and Development Director

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

With a Bachelor of Science in Architecture with a Minor in Historic Preservation and a Master of Architecture in Urban Design, over the past 30 years Michael Kerski has placed more than 4,000 buildings and sites on the National Register of Historic Places and has completed numerous Section 106 Reviews, including hosting several site visits by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Mr. Kerski also has worked on numerous site investigations which have included ground penetrating radar and hand digging. Prior to moving to Shakopee, Mr. Kerski was involved in the development of Unity Park, a \$70 million centerpiece park which includes portions of an early African American neighborhood and Negro baseball league park.

Mr. Kerski has been with the City of Shakopee for four years. He oversees Economic Development, Redevelopment, Current and Long Range Planning, Building Inspections, Park Planning, and Permitting and Customer Service. He assists companies with site locations, expansion, business development while also building a world-class community with a historic downtown and riverfront. He is currently managing a \$400 M tax Increment redevelopment project at Canterbury Park. He handles all property acquisition, relocation, and dispositions for the city. The city recently acquired the former Shakopee Marina and the historic Schroeder House, who was the founder of the Shakopee Brick Company. This area will include a complete archaeological study by the 106 Group, historic house evaluation, and planning for public access to the Minnesota River.

Organization: City of Shakopee

Organization Description:

The City of Shakopee is a "Plan A" city. This means Shakopee operates on a weak Mayor-Council plan. Administrative and legislative authority is the ultimate responsibility of the City Council unless the council has created an independent board.

Residents are represented by the mayor and four City Council members. The mayor and council members serve four-year, "at-large" staggered terms. The mayor and each council member have one vote apiece. City elections are held in even-numbered years during the general election in November.

The City of Shakopee provides services in the areas of public safety, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, building inspections, public works (streets, sanitary sewer and storm sewers) and general administration. Daily operation of the city is performed by various departments under the supervision of the city administrator. City services are provided by a staff of 150 full-time, 200 part-time and more than 300 seasonal employees.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Archaeological study, including LiDAR and geophysics				25,000		\$25,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Landscape architecture and site design for Riverfront and Park.				15,000		\$15,000
							Sub Total	\$40,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								

							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Playground Removal (\$5.50/sq. yd. X 925 = \$5,078)	The existing playground (925 square yards) will be removed and replaced with a nature playground (i.e., log play elements and natural surface).					\$5,000
		Permanent Erosion Control (\$1.77/sq. yd. X 4500 = \$7,965)	Provide 4,500 square yard of permanent control of sediment and erosion (blanket at riverbank).					\$8,000
		Prairie Restoration (17 acres X \$6,250 per acre = \$103,250)	Planting native prairie vegetation in 17 - 20 acres of park land.					\$103,000
		Nature Playground Construction (\$25,000 Total)	Construction of new natural playground (replaces playground which will be removed).					\$25,000
		Prairie Establishment Period (\$4500/year X 3 = \$13,500)	Prairie establishment for the first three years after planting (i.e.. spot-spraying or mowing of invasive weeds).					\$14,000
		Common Excavation (\$20/sq. yd. X 200)	Excavation for 17 - 20 acres of park land restoration.					\$4,000
		Removal of Volleyball Court (\$1,000 total)	The current volleyball court will be removed for future planting of native prairie vegetation.					\$1,000
							Sub Total	\$160,000
							Grand Total	\$200,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	City of Shakopee's Park Development budget, funded by city park dedication fees and general funds.	Temporary erosion control during park construction to prevent sediment and potential erosion of the Minnesota River Riverfront which runs next to Memorial Park.	Secured	\$3,000
Cash	City of Shakopee's Park Development budget, funded by city park dedication fees and general fund.	20% budget contingency. The City of Shakopee will cover the contingency amount, if the project goes over budget.	Secured	\$32,000
Cash	City of Shakopee's Park Development budget, funded by city park dedication fees and general fund.	Construction observation and administration.	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$45,000
			Funds Total	\$45,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
PID 279050270	Scott		Restoration	11.5	-	-	Public	City of Shakopee	Has not begun
PID 279060500	Scott		Restoration	5	-	-	Public	City of Shakopee	Has not begun
Scott County Right of Way	Scott		Restoration	3.5	-	-	Public	Scott County	Has not begun
Totals				20	0	-			

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.

Shakopee Riverfront Habitat Restoration and Education Project will be completed with LCCMR funding to restore a public land protected and owned by the City of Shakopee.

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 park is largely turf grasses and was planned to be restored to its native vegetation in the adopted 2040 Parks Master Plan. The city will work with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) and Three Rivers Park District on appropriate naturalization of the area in cooperation with a landscape architect. The long term plans for this park is native grasses and vegetation and interpretative spaces in cooperation with the SMSC.

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.

The area will be restored using the Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines in cooperation with the SMSC and Three Rivers Park District. The goal is to provide a habitat that represents the original native vegetation found in this area.

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.

The city has worked with the SMSC on maintenance of the existing burial mounds which are currently planted with native vegetation. We will continue that partnership into the project area. Maintenance has included the use of goats to eat invasive species. City park maintenance staff will continue to work with the SMSC on maintaining the native vegetation that will be planted. The city has a parks maintenance budget and staff which will cover the costs and upkeep of the project parcels.

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

The SMSC has worked with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota in the past on the burial mound maintenance. Given the archaeological sensitivities in this area, the city will be monitoring removals and also the replanting to minimize any ground disturbance in cooperation with the State Archaeologist and the SMSC.

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.

City staff working in cooperation with the SMSC and the contractor will be monitoring the project area to ensure the native plantings thrive . Over-seeding will occur, as necessary to ensue the area fills in, and vegetation planted is viable. Since both the SMSC and Three Rivers Park District have been restoring native vegetation for many years, they have agreed to assist the city to ensure the area is a model for native plant restoration. Any issues identified will be shared between the groups and with other organizations.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [b53387a2-ac4.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Aerial view of Riverfront and Memorial Park in Shakopee, Minn., including outlying parcels.

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City of Shakopee Resolution R2020-033	d8811f01-3a5.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
SMSC Letter of Support	6047bc0d-5cb.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?

No

Does your project include research?

Yes

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



Memorial Park Locator

Parcels

Memorial Park

