



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2021 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2021-295

**Proposal Title:** Kenilworth Channel Riparian Restoration and Enhancement

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Adam Arvidson

**Organization:** Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board

**Office Telephone:** (612) 230-6470

**Email:** aarvidson@minneapolisparcs.org

### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** This project will stabilize, restore, and enhance the ecology and public safety and access of the Kenilworth Channel's shorelines extending westward from the future SWLRT bridge to Cedar Lake.

**Funds Requested:** \$930,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** 2025-05-31

**LCCMR Funding 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

## Narrative

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

The wood retaining walls constructed in the 1960s that line the channel have failed. An assessment of the retaining wall structure completed in 2002 noted that the walls “are in poor overall condition ... they have seen their useful life and replacement should be planned.” Without immediate remediation of some type, this critical hydrological, ecological, and recreational connection runs the risk of being severed. MPRB is pursuing this project in a manner that maintains these critical connections while leveraging the opportunity to enhance the ecology and wildlife habitat capacity of the area. MPRB intends to limit structured retaining walls for this project only to areas where natural stabilization methods are not feasible due to site constraints or channel access needs. The ecologically based bank solution will be designed with consideration for resiliency, public safety, and aquatic and habitat benefits. The naturalized bank solution will require minimal long-term maintenance. MPRB funding exists to complete the design phase of the project and initiate construction, but is not sufficient to complete the full scope of channel stabilization and enhancement with the ecological results this landmark location deserves.

### **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.**

The failure of the existing wood retaining walls provides an opportunity to apply current best practices for shoreline stabilization and long-term, ecologically inclusive designs. The channel segment is integrated physically into the ecology of the interconnected chain of four lakes, but does not provide beneficial aquatic or riparian habitat under current conditions. The proposed solution will provide approximately 1200 linear feet of riparian and aquatic habitat in a shallow-water, off-lake environment that will benefit fish, insect, aquatic invertebrate, small mammal, and bird species throughout the chain. The design team proposes a naturalized bank with a rock toe that will provide long-term sub-surface slope stability. The rock will provide spawning habitat to walleye and smaller fish, while supporting macrobiotic health and suppressing growth of undesirable aquatic vegetation. The rock toe will support an upper bank consisting of a rock/soil matrix, planted with submergent and emergent riparian vegetation requiring minimal ongoing maintenance. The channel banks are primarily impacted by ice and recreational use, both of which can be accommodated with the proposed bioengineered banks. Specific site access points will be stabilized to accommodate recreational use. Tree cover within the adjacent terrestrial zone will be maintained, by working within the channel footprint.

### **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 project will create aquatic and riparian habitat that has been lost within the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes over the last 100 years. Although the channel is man-made, it provides a unique opportunity to create lakeshore habitat in an urban area. The project will provide an aesthetically and ecologically sensitive solution to a highly utilized waterway, while providing needed stability of adjacent banks. The design will incorporate native vegetation as well as preserve and enhance riparian tree cover. Site safety will be improved by eliminating failing wooden walls, which pose a hazard to boaters and to public access.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Construction

**Activity Budget:** \$860,000

**Activity Description:**

The construction phase will include the hiring of a construction contractor through the public bidding process. Following construction contract award by the MPRB Board of Commissioners, Permitting and Construction Mobilization will commence. The Contractor will complete the shoreline enhancement project under the observation of the MPRB hired consultant that will oversee Construction Administration activities. Demobilization from the site will occur when the contractor has completed the Work as described in the bidding documents. NOTE: Project activities prior to construction include community engagement, detailed design, development of construction plans, and public bidding. These activities will take place prior to availability of LCCMR funds and will be funded by other sources.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
Construction Contract Award	2021-07-31
Construction Commencement	2021-10-31
Construction Completion	2022-03-31

### Activity 2: Biological Surveys and Monitoring

**Activity Budget:** \$70,000

**Activity Description:**

Prior to construction, MPRB and its consultants will perform a baseline biological survey of the channel, focusing on aquatic species. A second baseline survey will take place immediately after construction. The area will be monitored for plant health and diversity for three years after construction, with annual biological surveys taking place for that same duration. This work will be performed by a consultant hired by MPRB under a competitive process. The information gained from these studies will be made public on the MPRB website.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
Baseline Biological Survey	2021-09-30
Post-construction Biological Survey	2022-05-31
Plant Health Monitoring and Annual Biological Surveys	2025-05-31

## 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?**

Long term maintenance and management will be performed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board as part of its overall natural resources maintenance programs. Such activities do include paid staff work, volunteers, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations. Maintenance and management activities are funded by the MPRB tax levy and are supported by the state and Metropolitan Council through regional parks operations and maintenance (O&M) funding. Additional work necessary after initial construction will be covered by the contractor's warranty and will not require additional funding. Additional restoration and enhancement work after the warranty period will be funded by MPRB.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Expanding Nature Knowledge and Experience with New Interactive Exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 05h	\$500,000
Invasive Carp Management Research in Lake Nokomis Subwatershed	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 06g	\$189,000

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Adam Arvidson

**Job Title:** Director of Strategic Planning

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

Mr. Arvidson is MPRB's Director of Strategic Planning, in which role he is responsible for large-scale planning of public lands. He is a registered landscape architect with 20+ years of experience in the public and private sector and has worked on numerous habitat and environment projects, including several funded through LCCMR and the Lessard-Sams Council. He is currently the project manager for the MPRB's Ecological Systems Plan and is also leading the agency's effort to create new environmentally sound master plans for each neighborhood park.

**Organization:** Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board

**Organization Description:**

With 179 park properties totaling nearly 6,800 acres of land and water, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) provides places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment. Each year, approximately 20 million visits are made to the nationally acclaimed Minneapolis park system. Its urban forests, natural areas, and waters endure and captivate. Its Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway, neighborhood parks, recreation centers, and diversified programming have made the Minneapolis park system an important component of what makes Minneapolis a great place to live, play and work.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Ecological Professional to be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Selected consultant will perform all biological surveys and will monitor plant health and diversity. Consultant will prepare summary reports for MPRB, which will be compiled into the project's biological report at the end of the project.				-		\$70,000
Construction Contractor to be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contractor will be selected by competitive bid and will perform all construction work, as directed by the approved construction plans. Contractor and hired sub-contractors will provide demolition, excavation, grading, rock placement, planting, erosion control, and other construction tasks.				0		\$860,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$930,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-

<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$930,000</b>

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
<b>State</b>				
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Funds as directed to Minneapolis Chain of Lakes under a Metropolitan Council Grant. 2017 Session Laws, Chapter 91, Article 3, Section 4a.	Matching funds will be used for all personnel costs, including community engagement, project administration, and design. Funds will also be used for contracts with professional design consultants and a significant portion of project construction.	Secured	\$930,000
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$930,000</b>
<b>Non-State</b>				
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	-
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$930,000</b>



## Acquisition and Restoration

### Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Kenilworth Channel	Hennepin	The parcel is a human-made water connection and associated shoreline between two lakes. Its ecological value is significantly degraded. It serves high public recreational value and importance as part of the most visited park site in the state.	Restoration	1.5	0.5	-	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has not begun
<b>Totals</b>				<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-</b>			

## 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 restoration activities will occur on land permanently in public ownership (owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board) or within public waters of the state of Minnesota, under coordination with the Minnesota DNR.

**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.**

Components of the restoration and management plan will include a description of current conditions, with a focus on hydrology, geology, and the aquatic biotic community as they apply to small lakes and shallow aquatic habitats; description of a target restoration community, which is most likely to be an aquatic to emergent wetland/riparian system; a timeline for restoration; and guidance for ongoing management of the restored areas. The restoration plan will be included in the creation of construction plans for the project and will guide both construction and ongoing management. This plan will be kept both in MPRB staff project files and in the MPRB archive, as well as posted publicly on the MPRB website.

**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.**

MPRB and its partners will fully utilize BWSR’s guidance document. Because this project occurs in an urban site and will focus on soil stabilization and water quality, we expect preliminarily that the recommended number of plant species will be on the low end according to the “Minimum Recommended Number of Species” matrix (p.8). The project will utilize and source seed as recommended for the project location (Ecological Section 8, Big Woods Subsection). Particular attention will be paid to guidance on aquatic plant installation (p. 30). Primary project type guidance will come from the section on lakeshores (p. 52).

**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.**

Long term maintenance and management will be performed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board as part of its overall natural resources maintenance programs. Such activities do include paid staff work, volunteers, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations. Maintenance and management activities are funded by the MPRB tax levy and are supported by the state and Metropolitan Council through regional parks operations and maintenance (O&M) funding.

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

Prior to the commencement of construction activities, the project manager will contact the Conservation Corps of Minnesota to determine desire and availability to perform applicable work.

**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.**

As described in Activity 2, the project includes periodic biological surveys as well as ongoing vegetation monitoring to ensure goals are being met. A biological survey is scheduled for immediately after completion of construction and again annually for three years.

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Map*

File: [94771b9c-6ff.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

Four images, clockwise from upper left: concept sketch showing channel restoration in cross section; site location map; precedent image of restored channel bank; photograph of existing channel

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
MPRB Approved and Signed Resolution 2020-175	<a href="#">eac17341-42c.pdf</a>

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter or Other*

Title	File
Support Letter: Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	<a href="#">35c812a3-ba3.pdf</a>

## 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?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

# Kenilworth Channel Proposed Improvements

