



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-302

Proposal Title: Mississippi Flyway Habitat Fingers

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 would pilot a means of connecting neighborhood parks and the Mississippi Flyway through habitat restoration and the development of habitat corridors in the urban core.

Funds Requested: \$171,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2022-12-31

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

Narrative

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

Creating additional habitat in an urban setting is an opportunity to address concerns related to habitat loss and habitat fragmentation. Guidance from MPRB's neighborhood park service area master plans and the Ecological System Plan seeks to connect smaller neighborhood parks throughout the city to the nationally significant Mississippi Flyway. This opportunity aligns not only with MPRB's mission, but also responds to community priorities. Throughout the community engagement processes of neighborhood park service area master plans and the Ecological System Plan, many have voiced the importance of habitat, wildlife, pollinators, birds, natural and naturalized areas, and restoration. It was through this community feedback that areas were identified in future park designs for naturalization and restoration in varying forms. The city-wide Ecological System Plan calls for the development of new habitat corridors that build upon the existing metro conservation corridors identified by the DNR. Minneapolis is blessed with contiguous wildlife corridors along its water bodies—especially the Mississippi River—but the habitat becomes more fragmented as one moves away from these corridors and into the city's neighborhoods. This project will enhance or create additional habitat for a variety of species, primarily birds and insects.

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 MPRB will use this funding to create a pilot project to enhance habitat connectivity from neighborhood parks to the Mississippi Flyway through habitat enhancement in neighborhood parks and potential enhancement of urban rights-of-way through boulevard and street tree plantings. The pilot project would result in the expansion of habitat that would support wildlife who utilize the Mississippi Flyway and educate the local community about the importance of habitat. MPRB proposes to create one or more habitat fingers reaching from the Mississippi Flyway into the city's neighborhoods. These fingers would benefit animals, plants, and neighborhoods traditionally disconnected from nature. Identification of the pilot project location would be guided by data and habitat corridors outlined in the Ecological System Plan. The location will be selected based on where there is greatest habitat benefit and what will be most economical. Results from this pilot will aid MPRB in preparing for and seeking funds to implement habitat restoration within the city on a larger scale. With more than 1,000 acres of neighborhood parkland and maintenance responsibility of all the city's boulevard trees, MPRB is well positioned to enhance and expand habitat connectivity throughout the city.

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 pilot will result in restoration of one or more areas (fingers) within the Minneapolis park system that will provide an additional habitat connection and respite for wildlife that utilize the Mississippi Flyway. The pilot will enhance the Mississippi Flyway by increasing the range of habitat available for wildlife. Additionally there will be increased community awareness around the importance of habitat areas and their relationship to the Mississippi Flyway on local, state-wide, and nation-wide scales. The project will provide a real-world demonstration of habitat restoration, which could result in additional projects on more parkland throughout Minneapolis.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Identification of Pilot

Activity Budget: \$3,000

Activity Description:

Analyze data on the MPRB park system related to habitat, natural resources, future park projects, master plan park designs, and the Mississippi Flyway to identify areas that will provide the greatest habitat benefit and ecological value and be most cost effective. Collect data from the following sources: Ecological System Plan, Capital Improvement Program, service area master plans, and additional resources as need for analysis. Partner with other government agencies (City of Minneapolis), non-profit organizations, community groups, and multiple MPRB departments. Develop a criteria ranking system based on the different data sources to determine the optimal pilot project location. Communicate results of the data analysis in a report to staff and community members so a pilot project location can be selected. Once the location is selected, communicate to staff and the public and transition to construction and implementation.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Gather Data and Prepare Report of Possible Locations	2021-08-31
Communicate Data Results and Engage with Community	2021-10-31
Select Pilot Location(s)	2021-12-31

Activity 2: Construction

Activity Budget: \$130,000

Activity Description:

Hire necessary consultants and contractors to develop a detailed plan and set of construction documents to install the pilot project. Hire installation contractor through public bid process. Contact Conservation Corps of Minnesota to gauge interest in the project. Complete all construction activities, including planting and grading.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Develop Construction Plans	2022-02-28
Initiate Construction	2022-04-30
Construction Completion	2022-08-31

Activity 3: Public Education

Activity Budget: \$38,000

Activity Description:

Increase public awareness around the importance of habitat restoration for wildlife and the relationship between additional habitat throughout the city to the Mississippi Flyway. Signage will be developed for the pilot location to communicate information related to the site. It will also highlight the relationship the site has to the Mississippi Flyway and the importance the flyway has for migratory species.

In addition to on-site information, there will be informational materials available in print and digitally to more broadly communicate to the public about habitat fragmentation, habitat expansion opportunities, wildlife, and connections to existing habitat corridors including the Mississippi Flyway area. These informational materials will be shared through MPRB staff and communication channels as well as partner and community organizations.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Develop and Install On-Site Signage	2022-08-31
Develop and Disseminate Digital and Print Materials	2022-08-31

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.

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
Personnel								
GIS Technician / Community Engagement Professional		Compile, develop, and analyze data. Coordinate and communicate with partners and the community. Provide written and graphic information for the production of educational materials.			25%	0.1		\$6,000
Construction Project Manager		Oversee all activities related to preparation of construction plans, and perform construction oversight			25%	0.05		\$4,000
							Sub Total	\$10,000
Contracts and Services								
Graphic Designer to be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Graphic Designer will be selected competitively through the City of Minneapolis target market program (TMP). The graphic designer will be responsible for producing educational materials associated with on-site signage and print and digital media.				0		\$25,000
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		\$125,000
							Sub Total	\$150,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								

		Interpretive signs: 6 signs at \$1,500 each	Provide educational information on project, habitat benefits, and connectivity to the Mississippi Flyway.					\$9,000
							Sub Total	\$9,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Printed educational materials (brochures): 6,600 @ \$0.30 each	Provide project overview, educate the public about connections to the Mississippi Flyway, describe park-to-river habitat walking tour.					\$2,000
							Sub Total	\$2,000
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$171,000

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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Public neighborhood park to be determined	Hennepin	The current pilot site(s) is yet to be selected, though as a neighborhood park it will likely be a turf-grass managed landscape with little existing ecological value.	Restoration	3	-	-	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has not begun
Totals				3	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.

All restoration activities will occur on land permanently in public ownership (owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board) or within public rights-of-way of the City of Minneapolis, in coordination with that agency.

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, description of a target restoration communities, which would most likely be upland prairie or savanna or possible wet meadow; a timeline for restoration; and guidance for ongoing management of the restored areas. The 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 will fully utilize BWSR’s guidance document. Because part of the project includes the identification of specific pilot site(s), it is difficult to be specific at this time about the exact guidance that will be used. However, the recommended number of plant species will reference "disturbed sites" be on the high end of that row, because of the likelihood of restoring native prairie, savanna, or forest (“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).

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.

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.

MPRB staff will evaluate the installation of the pilot habitat fingers after initial construction activity. Those staff will provide ongoing evaluation and management during the course of their normal work with natural areas across the MPRB system.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [31f80bd7-3db.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of DNR Conservation Corridors and MPRB habitat corridors, overlain on a suitability analysis for potential pollinator habitat.

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
MPRB Approved and Signed Resolution 2020-175	49269a42-548.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?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Flyway Fingers

Minneapolis Habitat Corridors MPRB and DNR Identified Areas

Legend

- Parkland
- ▬ DNR Conservation Corridor
- ▬ MPRB Habitat Corridors
- ★ Biodiversity Hot Spots

Expanded Pollinator Habitat Suitability Range

- Low Suitability Area
- High Suitability Area

Suitability Analysis for Expanded Pollinator Habitat
This analysis has been completed to help MPRB and its project partners determine areas of strategic prioritization and investment for the expansion of pollinator habitat.



