



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-325

Proposal Title: Veterans on the Lake

Project Manager Information

Name: Neil Olson

Organization: Veterans on the Lake

Office Telephone: (218) 365-6900

Email: terri.olson.tennis@gmail.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: \$650,000 is respectfully requested for accessibility/handicap renovations to existing structures and roadway and trail construction for upgrading accessibility for our clients 81% of which are disabled American Veterans.

Funds Requested: \$650,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2022-09-30

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation (G)

Project Location

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

Region(s): NE

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

Statewide

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.

Veterans on the Lake is a resort and recreational facility for disabled American Veterans and their families, created on a lake partially within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in 1982 as a 501c3 non-profit organization. The resort is made up of more than 30 aging cabins, pathways, trails, common areas, pool, boat house, docks, lodge and supporting facilities. For 38 years, these facilities have been adequate to addressing our mission to provide quality access to the wilderness and outdoor recreation for our guests and their families. Now, with a limited budget that covers our operating expenses and maintenance, it is time for targeted upgrades focusing on increasing accessibility and repairing our trails, pathways, docks, and roadway to allow barrier free access as the first priority. The second priority will be to increase the accessibility of our existing cabins and lodge and improve their energy efficiency in order to reduce long-term operating costs. Some cabins will be razed and replaced due to structural issues.

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.

First, trails, pathways, docks, and the roadway will be upgraded to allow barrier free access, including below grade work, paving, and dock renovation. Second, upgrades for our cabins and lodge will include widening doorways, building new accessibility ramps, adding grab bars, walk-in showers and bathtubs, upgrading flooring, closets, automatic doors/handles, accessible kitchens as well as energy improvements including windows, roofing, insulation, and heat plant infrastructure. Finally, some cabins will be razed and replaced.

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?

This is an effort to increase public access for recreation, particularly in the area of providing high quality access for disabled American Veterans and their families to access Minnesota's BWCAW and nearby outdoor recreation opportunities and educational/cultural programs through area attractions near Ely such as the International Wolf Center, the North American Bear Center, the Dorothy Molter Museum, and the US Forest Service BWCAW information center.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Project Construction Engineering

Activity Budget: \$50,000

Activity Description:

Construction engineering includes construction administration, onsite observations, and architectural plans.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Construction Engineering Start	2021-05-31
Construction Engineering Complete	2021-11-30

Activity 2: Project Construction

Activity Budget: \$600,000

Activity Description:

Construction includes paving and trail construction to meet ADA requirements, and also reconstruction/remodel of 4-cabins to meet ADA requirements.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Project Bid	2020-10-31
Construction Begins	2021-06-30
Construction Complete	2021-12-31

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
U.S. Forest Service	Government	The lands used by Veterans on the Lake to serve disabled American Veterans is leased in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.	No
Lake County	Government	Lake County is supportive of the project, considering a grant and will act as our fiscal agent.	Yes
Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources	Government	The Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources is supportive of the Veterans on the Lake project and considering a grant toward the project.	No
St. Louis County	Government	St. Louis County is supportive of the Veterans on the Lake project and has contributed \$100,000 toward it.	Yes

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 results will be implemented by working with our fiscal agent, Lake County, to publicly bid and award the construction and repair work described above according to county purchasing rules and some matching funding has already been received and committed to the project. Ongoing operations of the resort will continue, as it has since 1982, by a combination of revenues from guests, donations, and support from local communities, local government, and veterans organizations.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Neil Olson

Job Title: Board Chair

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

Neil Olson represents a board of directors and staff at Veterans on the Lake in Ely, Minnesota. The board is a dedicated group of volunteers who work in coordination with the paid staff at Veterans on the Lake to both operate the resort and work on and manage upgrades to the facility.

Organization: Veterans on the Lake

Organization Description:

Veterans on the Lake is a resort and recreational facility for disabled American Veterans and their families located on Fall Lake near Ely with direct access into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. It is a 501c3 non-profit organization created in 1982 from two private resorts purchased by the federal government as a result of the creation of an expanded BWCAW in 1978. The organization's mission is to reduce barriers and provide safe year-round access to recreational experiences for veterans, the disabled, and the general public. Further, Veterans on the Lake Resort focuses on providing veterans, the disabled, and the general public opportunities for inclusion in outdoor recreational activities and mental respite. Our resort is designed to honor those who have contributed to and sacrificed for our nation, in order to help them heal from the pain and suffering they endure. We strive to make the Veterans on the Lake Resort facilities and outdoor amenities safely accessible and barrier-free. Vets from the St. Cloud VA Medical Center to groups from Minnesota State Veterans Homes in Minneapolis, Hastings, and Fergus Falls to the Duluth Vets Clinic have enjoyed the Resort. To make it affordable, scholarships and discounts are available.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Engineering Firm Hired Through A Competitive Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The engineering firm will be responsible for project design and construction administration.				-		\$50,000
							Sub Total	\$50,000
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								
		General Contractor for Construction	G.C. Hired Through Competitive Bid Process					\$600,000
							Sub Total	\$600,000
							Grand Total	\$650,000

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	Saint Louis County, Minnesota	The grant from Saint Louis County will be used for the trail and path accessibility project and serve toward matching funds for ENRTF funds.	Secured	\$100,000
Cash	Lake County	We are seeking a \$10,000 grant from Lake County, Minnesota.	Pending	\$10,000
In-Kind	Pre-engineering - JPJ Engineering	JPJ Engineering has provided in-kind support for early planning of project.	Secured	\$15,000
Cash	Veterans on the Lake	Veterans on the Lake will be contributing a minimum of \$10,000 to the project.	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$135,000
			Funds Total	\$135,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [cd29c2e9-b6e.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Site map of Veterans on the Lake.

Financial Capacity

File: [417af615-df6.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Veteran on the Lake Resolution	b201dccb-039.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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?

Yes, Cook County



-  1" BITUMINOUS WEARING COURSE
-  2" BITUMINOUS NON WEARING COURSE
-  8" AGGREGATE BASE, CLASS 5
-  GEOTEXTILE FABRIC

WEST PORTION

WEST

FALL LAKE

EAST PORTION

EAST PARKING LOT

WEST PORTION

EAST PORTION

EAST PARKING LOT

FERNBERG ROAD