



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2021 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2021-340

**Proposal Title:** Bohemian Flats Savanna Restoration

### 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 restore approximately 5 acres of compacted urban parkland adjacent to the Mississippi River to an oak savanna ecosystem.

**Funds Requested:** \$424,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** 2026-05-31

**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.**

Since Minneapolis came to be, this low-lying land next to the Mississippi River has been utilized for housing and industrial purposes. It was then purchased by the MPRB and turned into a large open park space as part of the extension of the Minneapolis Grand Rounds Parkway along the Mississippi River Gorge. Historically, this landscape would have been a mix of forested bluffs with grassland and savanna ecosystems on the flatter areas near the river, where fire would periodically remove all but the sturdiest oaks. However, because of the rarity of flat land in the gorge, Bohemian Flats has been used recreationally as a great lawn. As such, it provides limited ecological benefits.

That flatness near downtown infrastructure also made Bohemian attractive as a construction staging area. Beginning with the I-35W Bridge collapse (when bridge materials were laid down here for inspection and analysis), multiple construction projects by other agencies (the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis) have utilized the space. This has led to severe soil compaction and the total elimination of any remnant native landscape. Our proposal seeks to reverse years of abuse and compaction of the site and implement a natural solution.

### **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.**

Our proposal seeks to take this open turf field space and transform it into a vibrant savanna habitat with grasses, wildflowers, and oaks as it may have looked more than 200 years ago. The space can serve not only park visitors, but insects like bees and butterflies, birds, bats, and mammals like the fox and the river otter. Reestablishing a native savanna is no easy task. It takes weeks or months to prepare the soil, kill off weed species that have been growing on site for decades, and eliminate undesired seed species within the soil itself is essential. The new native plant species must out-compete the old weed species. This is accomplished by robust soil preparation, sowing an annual cover crop to shade out weeds, and by planting not only seed, but grown wildflower and grass plugs and oak seedlings. Though the site is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi River, we do not propose to perform shoreline restoration as part of this project. The shoreline in this location is a hard-edge wall and it is unclear whether the Army Corps of Engineers will approve of that wall's removal. All restoration activities will be upland habitat types.

### **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 project will create a natural space for urban inhabitants to experience a natural environment, and will provide habitat for numerous river species, including mammals, birds, and insects and other pollinators. The Mississippi Flyway is a critical state resource. Every habitat enhancement along this migratory corridor enhances the entire corridor by providing way stations that lead to migratory success. In addition to putting a natural system in close proximity to urban residents—especially those of Cedar-Riverside, one of the most dense and diverse neighborhoods in the state—this 5-acre restoration will benefit species traveling the entire length of Minnesota.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Restoration Planning

**Activity Budget:** \$33,000

**Activity Description:**

MPRB will hire an ecological restoration professional through a competitive process and work with them to prepare a restoration plan for the site. The restoration plan will become part of the construction plans for the project that will be publicly bid (Activity 2). The restoration plan will guide all construction, the process for ongoing monitoring, and long-term maintenance. Construction plans will be prepared by MPRB staff and will be based on the restoration plan.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
Selection of Restoration Ecologist Professional	2021-07-31
Completion of Restoration Plan	2021-09-30
Completion of Construction Plans for Bidding	2021-10-31

### Activity 2: Site Preparation and Construction

**Activity Budget:** \$364,000

**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 restoration under the observation of the MPRB hired consultant and MPRB staff that will oversee Construction Administration activities. Construction will likely include one year of site preparation to remove established turf grass and other invasive species, with seeding and planting taking place in the second year. Demobilization from the site will occur when the contractor has completed the Work as described in the bidding documents.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
Construction Contract Award	2022-03-31
Construction Commencement	2022-04-30
Completion of Site Preparation	2022-11-30
Completion of Plan Installation	2023-06-30

### Activity 3: Ongoing Monitoring

**Activity Budget:** \$27,000

**Activity Description:**

A baseline plant survey will take place after germination in the first growing season after construction. The only existing plant material on site is mown turf grass so a pre-construction survey is not necessary. The area will be monitored for plant health and diversity for three years after construction, with annual plant surveys taking place for that same duration. This work will be performed by the same consultant hired by MPRB under a competitive process to create the restoration plan. The information gained from these studies will be made public on the MPRB website.

**Activity Milestones:**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Post-Construction Plant Survey	2023-04-30
Annual Plant Health Surveys and Ongoing Monitoring	2026-05-31

## 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>								
Design Project Manager		An MPRB registered landscape architect and project manager will hire consultants through a competitive bid process, will prepare the construction plans for bid based on the restoration plan, and will administer the construction and ongoing monitoring processes.			25%	0.2		\$22,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Ecological Professional to be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Selected consultant will prepare the restoration plan and 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.				0		\$50,000
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 site preparation, planting, erosion control, and other construction tasks.				0		\$352,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$402,000</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>	\$424,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
---------------	---------------------	-------------	--



Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	MPRB tax levy as part of the General Fund as directed to tree purchasing and labor for planting and maintenance.	MPRB Forestry crews will be utilized for all tree planting on site, following the restoration plan and in coordination with the general site contractor. Tree purchasing will also be funded through MPRB's general fund as part of the organization's annual tree purchase.	Secured	\$75,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$75,000</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
Bohemian Flats Park	Hennepin	text	Restoration	5	0.5	-	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has not begun
<b>Totals</b>				<b>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).

**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 soil type and quality (no native vegetation currently exists on the site); description of the target restoration community, an upland savanna 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 but envisions a savanna plant community, we expect that the recommended number of plant species will be on high end of the "Disturbed Sites" row 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). Primary project type guidance will come from the section on native prairie reconstruction (p. 37).

**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 3, evaluations of plant germination and ongoing health will be performed after the first germination after construction, and then annually for three years. Analyses will focus on the long term viability of the restoration and will recommend corrections if problems arise. The three-year summary report will be made public on the MPRB website.

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Map*

File: [3326dc5b-736.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

An aerial view of the site, with the Mississippi River in the foreground and downtown Minneapolis in the background. Below this view are three images of restoration character.

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
MPRB Approved and Signed Resolution 2020-175	<a href="#">5090db4e-65e.pdf</a>

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter or Other*

Title	File
Letter of Support from Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	<a href="#">fac7c5af-2ac.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



Downtown Minneapolis

University of Minnesota

Washington Avenue Bridge

Bohemian Flats Park

West River Parkway

Tree Nursery

Savanna Restoration Site

← Mississippi River

University of Minnesota

Character Imagery

**Prairie/Savanna Restoration at Bohemian Flats Park**



