



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2021 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2021-363

**Proposal Title:** Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum Project

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Lisa Vollbrecht

**Organization:** City of St. Cloud

**Office Telephone:** (320) 255-7225

**Email:** lisa.vollbrecht@ci.stcloud.mn.us

### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** The City of St. Cloud will be rerouting and upgrading their existing stormwater system in the Highbanks Ravine area working with the DNR to preserve an existing bat hibernaculum.

**Funds Requested:** \$1,100,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** 2023-11-30

**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): Central

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

Region(s): Central

**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.**

A brick and mortar storm sewer, also known as the bat cave, is a bat hibernaculum protected by a DNR easement. The brick and mortar storm sewer outlet is the entrance used by bats to enter the bat cave. The City has been working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for guidance regarding the regulations associated with the bat hibernaculum easement that protects the brick and mortar storm sewer. The DNR completed bat surveys of the hibernaculum, in 1992, 2012 and 2016, all surveys were completed by Gerda Nordquist with the DNR. The oldest recorded bat in Minnesota was surveyed within this particular bat hibernaculum. After the 2016 survey, Ms. Nordquist indicated that “there is evidence that the tunnel floods to the top which would be detrimental to any bats roosting there”. This flooding is caused by stormwater flow during rain events. During a conference call with the DNR on September 11, 2017 the DNR indicated a decrease bat population due to stormwater presence in the bat cave. The DNR would require improvements to the bat hibernaculum and they would like to see all drainage removed from the bat hibernaculum to create a better and more favorable habitat for the bats.

### **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.**

Extending the primary storm sewer entering the bat cave by re-routing it around the ravine and out of the bat cave, would eliminate 98% of the stormwater flow through the ravine and eliminate 100% of the stormwater flow within the bat cave. Stormwater flow and surges through the ravine cause significant erosion, creating a sediment island at the mouth of the ravine and turbulent discharges to the Mississippi River during heavy rains. Rerouting of the storm sewer would address bat hibernaculum concerns, these erosion issues, and looming impacts to adjacent properties and a downstream 30-inch sanitary sewer that crosses the ravine. The new storm sewer route would be located within City owned right-of-way. Filling of an adjacent deep and dangerous depression will also help improve safety in the area, improve conditions for bats, and provide for a natural green space for wildlife habitat. Trash and debris management will include removal and disposal of the trash and debris within the ravine and provide education for the surrounding property owners to help prevent future trash dumping. Overland flow management will be provided by working with property owners to re-route yard drains, down drains and roof drains to city roads and city storm sewer systems. This will help prevent ravine erosion and help establish vegetation and wildlife habitat in the area. The requested LCCMR funds will cover the storm sewer re-routing and overland flow management portions of the project. St. Cloud is seeking funds from FEMA to complete the other portions of the 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?**

Installation of a new storm sewer within City owned right of way to re-route stormwater flow away from the bat hibernaculum and around the ravine (See Attached Visual). This will address all the identified issues, including preservation and enhancement of the bat hibernaculum, erosion within the channel and associated impacts to adjacent properties and structures, and protection of the sanitary sewer main. To address ongoing erosion from existing failures and to protect the ravine against the remaining stormwater flow from a 12-inch storm sewer outlet and overland discharges, the ravine channel and the toe and bank failures will be stabilized.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Engineering Design and Construction Administration

**Activity Budget:** \$200,000

**Activity Description:**

The engineer will be responsible for project design, project administration, plans/specifications, bidding documents, survey, staking, onsite observation, permitting, material staking and public meetings/communications.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
Project Design Start	2021-08-31
Project Design Completed	2021-11-30
Construction Administration Completed	2023-11-30

### Activity 2: Project Construction

**Activity Budget:** \$900,000

**Activity Description:**

Project construction includes rerouting and extending the existing stormwater system (See Attached Visual). General contractor will be responsible for all aspects of the project including, sewer pipes, stormwater structures, connections to the current systems, pipe rerouting, yard drain corrections, erosion and sediment control, ravine stabilization and flow management.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
Project Bid Awarded	2022-05-31
Construction Start	2022-06-30
Construction/Project Completed	2023-11-30

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
General Contractor	General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process	Responsible For All Aspects Of The Project Construction	Yes
Consulting Engineer	Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Project Management/Project Design/Construction Administration	Yes
Andrew Horten	US Fish and Wildlife	Project Oversight/Bat Expert	No
Rich Baker	DNR	Project Oversight/Bat Expert	No
FEMA Staff	FEMA	Funder	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 of St. Cloud will continue to partner with the DNR and the US Wildlife to be ensure that the bat hibernaculum is maintained on an annual basis for at least twenty years in order to preserve this endangered species. The City is committed to operating and maintaining the storm sewer system in the Highbanks Ravine area for the system's useful life. The City will include funds in their annual budgets to cover these O&M costs. All construction related to this project will be completed to minimize the impacts to the area environment.

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Lisa Vollbrecht

**Job Title:** Public Utilities Director

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

Lisa Vollbrecht has over 20 years of public utilities experience including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater management and hydroelectric power generation. Lisa has managed St. Cloud's stormwater system for the last 13 years. Lisa and her staff have completed a large number of water, sewer and storm projects over the last 13 years and are always involved in the projects from inception to final completion. Lisa, and her city team, will be working very closely with the DNR and the US Wildlife Service to enlist their assistance and expertise related to bat habitat preservation. Lisa and the City Staff have been very successful in securing funding for a wide variety of projects from state and federal agencies and are experts in managing grants and city monies.

**Organization:** City of St. Cloud

**Organization Description:**

The City of St. Cloud the 8th largest city in Minnesota and is a fast growing metropolitan area with a regional population of over 250,000. The City's values are square in the center of "Minnesota Nice". With outstanding recreational opportunities, exceptional healthcare services, beautiful gardens, rich history, historic downtown, vibrant arts, restaurants and shopping, friendly neighborhoods, excellent education facilities, fun events throughout the year and growing opportunity everywhere you can see why St. Cloud is a great place to live, work, and play! St. Cloud is home to

over 80 city parks, Mississippi River attractions, and the stunning beauty of Munsinger and Clemens Gardens. The Stearns History Museum and Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame offer a fascinating glimpse of times-past. The City prides itself on nearly a dozen arts and theater options, including the legendary Paramount Theatre in the vibrant, historic downtown district. There are also dozens of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in Downtown St. Cloud and Crossroads Center Mall. As a Central Minnesota hub of major attractions, events, and recreation opportunities, St. Cloud is a great place to explore. The City of St. Cloud has the first drinking water facility on the Mississippi River with a daily service population of >70,000. The City spends considerable time, money and effort to ensure the continued protection and preservation of the Mississippi River in Central Minnesota, This is clearly demonstrated in almost every Public utilities Department Capital Improvement Project in recent history.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Engineering Firm Selected Through A Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The Engineering Firm Will Be Responsible For Project Design and Construction Administration				4		\$200,000
							Sub Total	\$200,000
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							Sub Total	-

<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
		General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process	General Contractor Will Be Responsible For All Aspects Of Project Construction Activities.					\$900,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$900,000</b>
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</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>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	FEMA	FEMA monies will be used for construction costs for the overall project.	Pending	\$2,400,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,400,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$2,400,000</b>

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [9dd5d70c-03a.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

The Visual shows the project site and work that will be completed.

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Resolution	<a href="#">b61c7a62-4ed.pdf</a>

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter or Other*

Title	File
Support Letter	<a href="#">867aa7e0-ad9.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

No

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

No

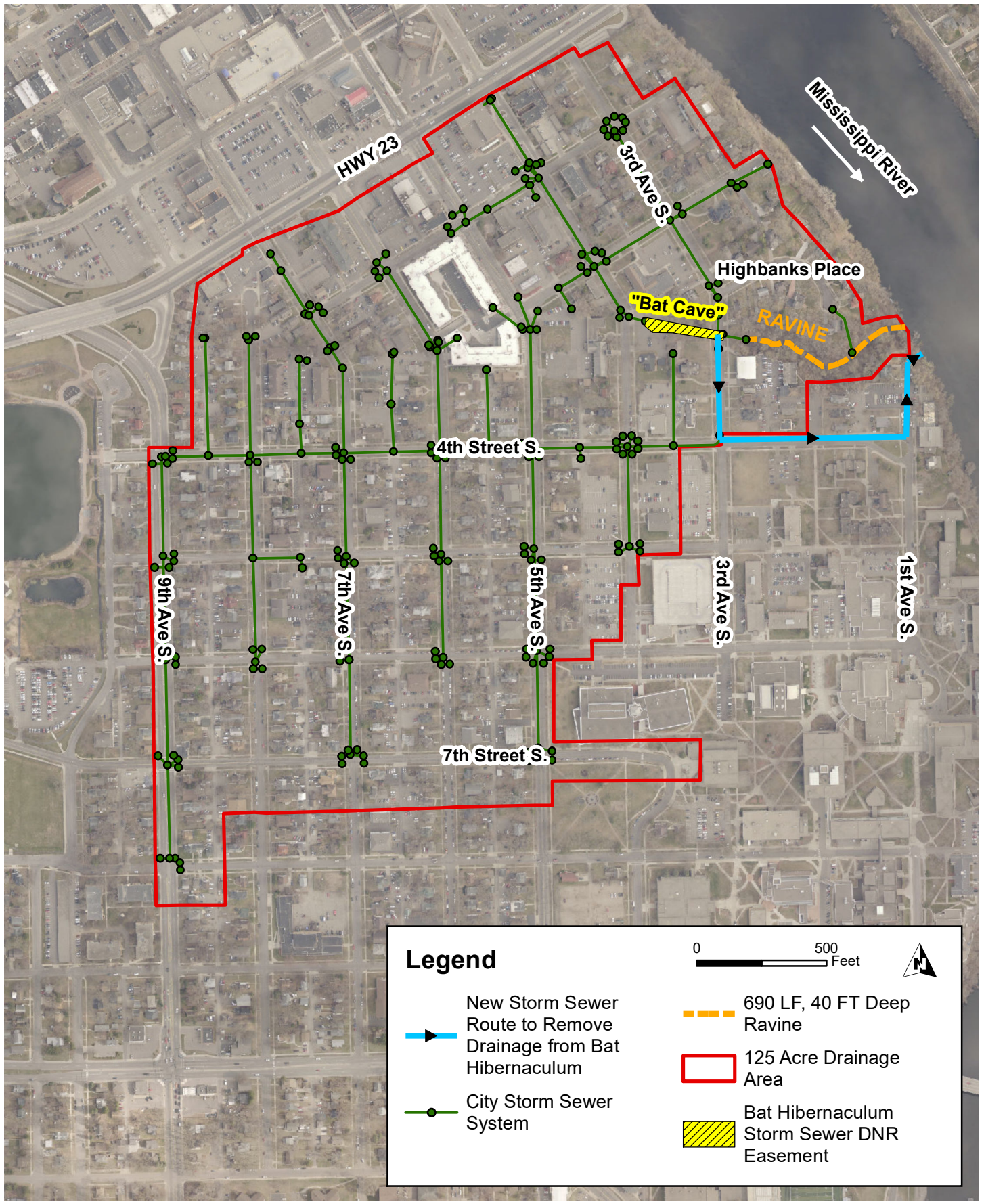
**Does your project include research?**

No

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

No

Path: P:\PI\T\S\STCLO\152596\5-fina\dsgh\51-drawings\90-GIS\GIS\Figure\_Project Map.mxd



Project Number: STCLO 152596  
 Print Date: 3/18/2020

Map by: tmdleke  
 Projection: Stearns County Coords.  
 Source: St. Cloud, Stearns County, SEH

### HIGHBANKS RAVINE BAT HABITAT ENHANCEMENT & PROTECTION PROJECT ST CLOUD, MINNESOTA

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