



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2022 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2022-065

Proposal Title: Hastings Lake Rebecca Park Area

Project Manager Information

Name: Chris Jenkins

Organization: City of Hastings - Parks & Recreation

Office Telephone: (651) 480-6176

Email: cjenkins@hastingsmn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Lake Rebecca Park Area Redevelopment & Restoration

Funds Requested: \$2,000,000

Proposed Project Completion: October 31 2024

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 and In the Future

Narrative

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

This park area sits between the Mississippi River to the north and west, and Lake Rebecca to the south and is targeted to remain as natural and open space for the community and visitors. Major issues observed include: consistent high water events leaves much of this park unusable for any type of recreation, boat launch parking lot for the lake unusable during high water events, and in poor condition, much of the park area is also very thick with brush inhibiting passive recreation/exploration in the area, lack of access, habitat types are also degraded, and would benefit from enhancement.

This area needs an ecological master plan to be completed, as well as the investigative/research processes to gather current ecological information. Without this vision the area has an uncertain future. There are however some important elements/outcomes that are currently known, and those have been included in this proposal.

The City of Hastings Comprehensive Plan outlines the city's philosophy which includes 1) Enhancing the health of the ecosystem in Hastings, 2) Preserve and enhance biological diversity of native habitats, 3) Provide an appropriate balance between resource preservation, recreational use, and development.

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.

Development of a vision, planning documents, and project implementation that meet the city's philosophy as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. Some known outcomes to currently known issues follow below.

Propose to raise and reconstruct the boat launch at Lake Rebecca so that it is useable during most high water events, this is a safe boating area during high water and is an excellent, well managed fishery. Propose to identify select areas for leisure recreation opportunities and raise those areas so they can be used during high water for years to come. Propose to remove brush and some canopy trees and install walking trails and interpretive trails that introduce users to the unique habitats in the area. Propose to enhance habitat, install native grasses, flowers, etc. to increase wildlife/pollinator habitat.

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?

First and foremost, a well constructed ecological based park master plan including recreational uses and purpose. Increased native plant and animal habitat and populations, increased habitat for pollinators, protecting shore land and wetland areas from repeated high water intrusion, increased passive recreation and interpretation opportunities, encourage user engagement with the natural resources of this area. Blend these enhancements into enhancements being completed by the USACOE, City of Hastings and our partners.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Developed Recreation Enhancements

Activity Budget: \$900,000

Activity Description:

Investigate to determine proper finished elevation for reconstructed parking lots, access roads, boat launch area, developed recreation areas and trail network. Complete design and construct these portions of the project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Topographical site survey and comparison to river water levels.	September 30 2022
Design parking lot, access roads, and trails.	December 31 2022
Conduct the construction of these elements.	August 31 2023

Activity 2: Habitat and ecological resources enhancement.

Activity Budget: \$900,000

Activity Description:

Complete a habitat survey to understand the current environment, develop desired outcomes related to flora and fauna. Removal of non-native invasive trees/shrubs/grasses/flowers from the landscape. Install native, beneficial plants, trees, shrubs to enhance to overall quality of habitat. Manage the new habitat.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Develop working plan from Master Plan	July 31 2023
Removal of undesirable plant species and preparation for new.	November 30 2023
Complete habitat improvement (planting of native desirables)	June 30 2024

Activity 3: Master Planning

Activity Budget: \$200,000

Activity Description:

Conduct a master planning effort which balances ecological diversity and health with intended recreational and educational uses. This will include researching current conditions, development of planned outcomes and public engagement efforts that ultimately guide the future of this park area.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Kickoff	July 31 2022
Ecological survey and research	October 31 2022
Public Engagement	December 31 2022
Plan completion and adoption	April 30 2023

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?

Implementation through thoughtful planning processes, project design, construction and implementation. Master planning and full scale project design will be completed as a part of this grant funded effort. Continued efforts to maintain and enhance habitat and recreation opportunities will continue beyond project completion through inclusion in the City of Hastings Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Project Plan, and through continued partnerships with partners like Hastings Environmental Protectors, Friends of The Mississippi River, USACOE, DNR Fisheries and others.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Chris Jenkins

Job Title: Hastings Parks & Recreation Director

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

Park development and redevelopment projects are the responsibility of the Parks & Recreation Director. Multiple other City staff will contribute as needed, to include Community Development Director, Public Works Director, City Administrator, Park Maintenance and Operations Supervisor, Economic Development Coordinator, and others as needed.

Organization: City of Hastings - Parks & Recreation

Organization Description:

City of Hastings Parks & Recreation Department.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Ecological Services Contractor (unknown)	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Design, develop, implement project.				0		\$100,000
Parking lot, road, trail contractor (unknown at this time)	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction of designed/engineered parking lots, roads, trails, developed recreation areas.				0		\$800,000
Professional Engineering Firm	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Design and engineer parking lots, roads, trails and developed recreation areas.				0		\$100,000
Habitat enhancement contractor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Conduct the designed habitat improvement projects as designed by others.				0		\$800,000
Master Planning Consulting Team (unknown)	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Develop overall master plan for park areas identified.				0		\$200,000
							Sub Total	\$2,000,000
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								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$2,000,000

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	Resident estate	Funds may be able to be used towards habitat projects and enhancement efforts.	Potential	\$250,000
In-Kind	Land donation from Flint Hills Resources 14 acres	Donated land will be included in the plan and park area as natural and open space lands to be used and enjoyed by residents and visitors.	Pending	\$100,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$350,000
			Funds Total	\$350,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
190210060010	Dakota	Wetlands, river bottom forest, lake	Restoration	146	-	\$2,000,000	Public	USACOE and City of Hastings	Has not begun
Totals				146	0	\$2,000,000			

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.

The land addressed in this proposal is either a current City of Hastings owned park, park lands on long term lease with the US Army Corps of Engineers and one parcel that is currently being considered for donation to the City by Flint Hills Resources. All lands within the project area will remain public lands.

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.

Lands restored would be identified through the proposed master planning and ecological master planning process. As a part of those plans, prescriptive restorations would be identified and ultimately adopted by the City of Hastings as part of the project. Those long term plans would be carried out through partnerships the City has annually with organizations like Friends of The Mississippi River, and will be documented in the City's Capital Improvement Plans.

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.

The City will direct the ecological planning firm to ensure all requirements are met, and will require a report from the planning firm to ensure all requirements are met or exceeded. Pre and post project evaluations will be completed.

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.

Hastings partners annually with Friends of The Mississippi River for ecological restoration and enhancement services, and has continually been very successful. This area will have a Natural Resource Management Plan as part of the overall planning process, and together with FMR the City will ensure prescriptive maintenance is completed as scheduled. The City contributes funds annually through our budget process to support FMR and FMR often leverages those funds for grant opportunities, increasing the amount of work that can be completed. This is a very successful model.

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

CCM will certainly be included when contractors are sought to provide bids on work to be performed.

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.

Evaluations will be completed pre project, post project and intermittently for years to follow after project completion to ensure the project has long term benefit and the landscapes are retaining their desired outcomes.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [c7239978-afa.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Aerial view of Lake Rebecca Park and surrounding areas....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Authorization to submit proposal	b99c06cc-e50.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
2040 Comp Plan_ Natural and Open Spaces	d144df10-2b2.pdf
2016 Aerial_ Normal Water	179a9cf7-4d5.pdf
2019 Aerial_ High Water	97150dd5-8e4.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Dakota County, MN



January 26, 2021

