

**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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified 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** |

### **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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/b99c06cc-e50.pdf) |

### **Optional Attachments**

#### ***Support Letter or Other***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| 2040 Comp Plan\_Natural and Open Spaces | [d144df10-2b2.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/d144df10-2b2.pdf) |
| 2016 Aerial\_Normal Water | [179a9cf7-4d5.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/179a9cf7-4d5.pdf) |
| 2019 Aerial\_High Water | [97150dd5-8e4.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/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