

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

# 2022 Request for Proposal

## **General Information**

**Proposal ID:** 2022-246

**Proposal Title:** Roberts Bird Sanctuary and Lyndale Gardens

## **Project Manager Information**

**Name:** Adam Arvidson

**Organization:** Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board

**Office Telephone:** (612) 230-6470

**Email:** aarvidson@minneapolisparks.org

## **Project Basic Information**

**Project Summary:** Environmental restoration and accessibility improvements at Roberts Bird Sanctuary and Lyndale Gardens, with implementation of sustainability practices and chemical reduction at the gardens, to protect the sanctuary and Lake Harriet.

**Funds Requested:** $995,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** December 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

## **Narrative**

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

Roberts Bird Sanctuary was designated in 1936. Park Board guidance suggests the need for managing the landscape to better address invasive species, enhance ecological function, and repair infrastructure. Replacement of invasives with habitat-supporting plants that will become self-perpetuating remains a core goal. As a designated sanctuary, enhanced vistorship and access is highlighted by other Park Board plans, with improvements balanced on accessing the sanctuary for education and recreation without overly intruding on habitat. Maintaining the integrity of the ecologic underpinnings of the sanctuary is key, especially for introduced infrastructure.

The Bde Maka Ska-Lake Harriet Master Plan addresses the future of the Lyndale Park gardens, which are adjacent to Roberts Bird Sanctuary. The plan calls for accessibility upgrades to the various gardens, in order to foster education and recreation opportunities for users of all capabilities. The gardens are evolving in terms of horticultural practice, with the Park Board aiming to significantly reduce the use of horticultural chemicals and better manage water applied to garden plantings. In addition, the Rose Garden could reestablish rose trials for northern climate gardens, a function it has pursued on various occasions since its creation in 1907.

**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.**

At the Roberts Bird Sanctuary, efforts would be directed to enhancing accessibility to gravel-surfaced pathways and replacement of a failed floating walkway with a more resilient boardwalk, both of which will allow greater access by visitors of all capabilities. Areas with invasive species would be managed and replanted with species appropriate for the periodically inundated wetland forest. New vegetation will be more supportive of the wildlife function of the sanctuary, with a particular focus on birds, insects, and amphibians—which would likely be more prevalent in the sanctuary’s many vernal pools if vegetation were modified. Other activities to be pursued include corrections or repairs to failing infrastructure, including fencing and stormwater pipes.

Improvements at the Rose Garden and other Lyndale Park gardens relate to horticultural practices and reductions in horticultural chemicals that are already starting to occur. Gardening staff note that the use of mist irrigation would be a significant improvement which would, as a consequence, allow for reductions in the use of most horticultural chemicals. Other improvements are similar to those in the Bird Sanctuary, where access using new hard-surfaces will increase visitorship across a spectrum of user capabilities.

**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?**

Enhanced accessibility in both areas for persons with disabilities or in need of mobility assistance, as a means of encouraging nature-based recreation.

Roberts Bird Sanctuary:
-- Removal of plastic infrastructure so those materials are not available to wildlife as they degrade.
-- Introduction of habitat-supporting plantings and associated removal of invasive species.
-- Correction of failing fencing and stormwater infrastructure.

Lyndale Park Gardens:
-- Reduced reliance on horticultural chemicals in proximity to lake and sanctuary.
-- Introduction of more appropriate irrigation methods as a core horticultural practice.
-- Restoration of perimeter fencing to eliminate predation of garden species by wildlife.

## **Activities and Milestones**

### **Activity 1: Accessibility improvements at the Sanctuary and Gardens**

**Activity Budget:** $361,000

**Activity Description:**The removal of the existing failed boardwalk, which is degrading in the landscape and intruding upon the experience of the sanctuary, will be accomplished by contracted labor. Replacement of the boardwalk ensures that a similar experience in those portions of the sanctuary can be perpetuated, except that a more limited expanse of boardwalk resonates with the notion of a landscape reserved for wildlife. Park Board staff will design the replacement boardwalk, reviewing locations and design configuration with sanctuary stakeholders, and reviewing development alternatives for increased access for persons with disabilities. The replacement boardwalk and any access improvements will be constructed using contracted labor.

The Rose Garden and other gardens of Lyndale Park will be reviewed for access limitations following guidance of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Plans for enhancing access will be developed to ensure similar experiences for users regardless of mobility level. Park Board staff will design the improvements and contracted labor will be used to implement the access improvements.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Assessment of conditions related to access including stakeholder involvement | October 31 2022 |
| Completion and bidding of plans for enhanced access | March 31 2023 |
| Implementation of access enhancements | September 30 2024 |

### **Activity 2: Sanctuary habitat improvements**

**Activity Budget:** $114,000

**Activity Description:**The sanctuary is comprised of landscapes that have been degraded by the presence of invasive species. The Park Board will revisit areas identified in a previously prepared management plan and generally survey the entire sanctuary to determine zones of encroachment by invasives. The Park Board will work with volunteers and, to the degree practicable, with contracted labor to remove areas of invasive species and restore those areas with habitat supporting native species.

In addition, Park Board staff will update a condition survey of fencing and other infrastructure, primarily stormwater pipes, to ensure they are in fair operating condition, and will continue to incrementally replace areas of failure. Park Board staff will develop plans for additional fence replacement and stormwater pipe replacements to ensure integrity in the bounding fence exist and operational capacity remains in stormwater pipes in an effort to best manage water movement through the sanctuary. Improvements, where needed will be bid according to plans and contracted labor. Similar to the landscape improvements, these efforts will better align the operations of the sanctuary with ecological integrity.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Assessment of landscape and infrastructure condition | October 31 2022 |
| Completion of landscape restoration planning | March 31 2023 |
| Completion and bidding of plans for habitat-impacting infrastructure improvements | March 31 2023 |
| Construction of infrastructure upgrades | October 31 2023 |
| Completion of landscape restoration and native species planting | October 31 2024 |

### **Activity 3: Enhanced environmental garden practices**

**Activity Budget:** $520,000

**Activity Description:**Improvements to horticultural practices, many of which have already been initiated, are targeted to lessen the use of chemicals and standardize ecologically sustainable methods of perpetuating the attraction of the gardens. Park Board staff will identify the best methods of reducing chemical use aligned with more strategic and appropriate irrigation of garden plantings, especially roses in the Rose Garden. Park Board staff will also develop, in concert the consulting expertise, a new irrigation system for the gardens meeting best methods identified by staff. Park Board staff will bid the irrigation improvements for implementation using contracted labor and will modify applications of horticultural chemicals, creating a best practices guide based on their success with irrigation practices.

Fencing will be assessed as method to limit plant predation by wildlife, especially in the Rose Garden as it tends to be quite susceptible. Fence plans will be developed by Park Board staff and consultants and shared with stakeholders. Park Board staff will bid the fence improvements, awarding construction to qualified labor. The efforts directed to fencing improvements will restore a condition common to the Rose Garden for several decades after its inception but no longer present in the garden’s landscape.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Assess horticultural practices and identify environmental stratergies | December 31 2022 |
| Completion and bidding of plans for fencing and irrigation improvements | March 31 2023 |
| Initiate transition to environmentally sound horticultural practices | March 31 2023 |
| Construction of fencing and irrigation improvements | October 31 2023 |
| Complete standardization of environmentally sound horticultural practices | December 31 2024 |

## **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 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** |
| Invasive Carp Management Research in Lake Nokomis Subwatershed | M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 06g | $189,000 |
| 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 |

## **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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified Staff?** | **$ Amount** |
| **Personnel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Design Project Manager |  | Provide design expertise and administration for all construction-related project tasks. |  |  | 25% | 0.3 |  | $45,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$45,000** |
| **Contracts and Services** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Technical design consultant | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Design and preparation of construction plans for boardwalk, accessibility improvements, fencing, stormwater infrastructure, and irrigation. Consultant will be selected through a competitive process. |  |  |  | 0 |  | $54,000 |
| Construction contractor: hardscape and infrastructure | Professional or Technical Service Contract | A contractor will be selected through a competitive process to construct all accessibility and utility improvements, including boardwalk demolition, pathway and boardwalk construction, and stormwater infrastructure construction |  |  |  | - |  | $351,000 |
| Construction contractor: restoration | Professional or Technical Service Contract | A contractor will be selected through a competitive process to install all restoration activities within the Sanctuary, including invasive species removal and native plantings. The contractor may be assisted by volunteers and/or MPRB staff. This contractor could be the Minnesota Conservation Corps. |  |  |  | - |  | $40,000 |
| Construction contractor: fencing | Professional or Technical Service Contract | A contractor will be selected through a competitive bid process to install all fencing at the Sanctuary and Gardens, including removal or repair of existing fencing. |  |  |  | - |  | $384,000 |
| Construction contractor: irrigation | Professional or Technical Service Contract | A contractor will be selected through a competitive process to upgrade and install the irrigation system at the Rose Garden. |  |  |  | - |  | $121,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$950,000** |
| **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** | **$995,000** |

### **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** |  |  |  |  |
| In-Kind | MPRB tax levy-funded staff time and activities | MPRB environmental and maintenance staff will work with contractors to review restoration activities and provide initial and ongoing maintenance. MPRB staff will also coordinate volunteers if necessary. | Secured | $50,000 |
| Cash | Community fundraising | Fundraising in underway by community group Voices for the Roses, for contributions to support fencing, irrigation, and accessibility. | Pending | $250,000 |
|  |  |  | **Non State Sub Total** | **$300,000** |
|  |  |  | **Funds Total** | **$300,000** |

## **Acquisition and Restoration**

### **Parcel List**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **County** | **Site Significance** | **Activity** | **Acres** | **Miles** | **Estimated Cost** | **Type of Landowner** | **Easement or Title Holder** | **Status of Work** |
| PID: 0902824130001 | Hennepin | The site is currently owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and is a mix of forest and forested wetlands of moderate quality, as well as formal gardens and mown turf. The site is heavily visited as part of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, which sees more than 7 million visits per year. | Restoration | 50 | - | - | Public | Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board | In progress |
| **Totals** |  |  |  | **50** | **0** | **-** |  |  |  |

### **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, description of a target restoration communities, which would most likely be wetland, forested wetland, and upland forest; a timeline for restoration; and guidance for ongoing management of the restored areas. The 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 will fully utilize BWSR’s guidance document. Because this project area has "Some Intact Ecological Characteristics," we expect that the recommended number of plant species will be on highest end of that row according to the “Minimum Recommended Number of Species” matrix (p.6). 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 sections on wetland restoration (p. 34) and forests/woodlands (p. 45).

**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.

**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.**MPRB staff will evaluate the habitat restoration after initial construction activity. Those staff will provide ongoing evaluation and management during the course of their normal work with natural areas across the MPRB system.

## **Attachments**

### **Required Attachments**

#### ***Map***

File: [6969a0d1-745.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/6969a0d1-745.pdf)

#### ***Alternate Text for Map***

Page from the Lake Harriet Master Plan showing planned improvements at Roberts Bird Sanctuary and the Lyndale Park Gardens...

#### ***Board Resolution or Letter***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| Resolution 2021-149 | [6f7deec5-b5b.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/6f7deec5-b5b.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