



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-091

Proposal Title: East Park

Project Manager Information

Name: Nate Keller

Organization: City of St. Joseph

Office Telephone: (320) 363-7201

Email: nkeller@cityofstjoseph.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Complete the first phase of East Park along the Sauk River in St. Joseph, including a canoe/kayak access, floating dock, paved and mowed trails, and parking/entrance enhancements.

Funds Requested: \$700,000

Proposed Project Completion: November 30, 2024

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition, 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?

In the Future

Narrative

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

East Park presents a wonderful opportunity to continue the preservation and restoration of 95 acres of land along the Sauk River and to create an opportunity for students, residents, and visitors of all ages and abilities to connect with the natural world in multiple ways. The land is owned by the City of St. Joseph, but is currently not utilized because it's undeveloped and inaccessible, which severely limits current use for all people. The City has a vision for creating a park that serves the broader community and region, including those who are interested in canoeing/kayaking, fishing, trails, and picnicking. Development of East Park will provide the city with the ability to host educational classes centered around the river and the prairie restoration area through Community Education and for the adjacent Kennedy Community School, the College of St. Benedict, and St. John's University. Those using the park will also have an opportunity to learn about the natural world through plaques (through partnership with St. Benedict's and St. John's) and placed throughout the park, which will be completed in multiple languages including those most commonly used by non-native English speaking residents of the region.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

Construction of paved and mowed trails, an ADA accessible canoe/kayak access, floating dock, parking, and entrance area provides recreational and educational amenities for the community and region. Accessibility is a priority for the City so that people of all ages, abilities, and income levels can enjoy the park amenities. All paved trails and amenities will be ADA accessible. The City is working closely with groups to ensure that everyone in the community is aware of and feels welcomed at East Park. Specifically, the City has partnered with a senior living facility and three schools to discuss educational programming and recreational opportunities for residents and students and is working with a local organization called Cultural Bridges to help foster connections between park access/amenities and immigrant groups in the region.

Use of the Sauk River as a regional water trail is a great asset to the entire Central Minnesota region and expands opportunities for residents to enjoy the river and East Park. The City is collaborating with other communities in the region on a canoe/kayak share system for residents or visitors who may not have access to their own personal canoe/kayak.

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?

East Park will preserve and enhance 95 acres of land along the Sauk River. This includes approximately 20 acres of prairie restoration area and 10 acres of woodland re-establishment area. The trails, canoe/kayak launch, and floating dock will allow residents and visitors access to the park and river for educational and recreational opportunities, providing current and future generations an enjoyment and better understanding of our natural world.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Project Engineering

Activity Budget: \$92,000

Activity Description:

Design, Construction Materials Testing, Staking, Inspection, and Construction Administration of Phase I

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Completion of Plans and Specifications	August 31, 2023
Final Design Review	September 30, 2023
Completion of Bidding Documents	November 30, 2023
Construction Administration	October 31, 2024

Activity 2: Project Construction

Activity Budget: \$608,000

Activity Description:

Construction of East Park Phase I

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Project Bid	January 31, 2024
Construction Start	May 31, 2024
Construction Completed	November 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Kennedy Community School Staff and Students	Kennedy Community School	Utilize park for outdoor education and recreational opportunities for pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade students	No
Cultural Bridges Leadership Team and Participants	Cultural Bridges	Connecting diverse communities to recreational amenities and outdoor learning opportunities at East Park.	No
College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University Faculty, Staff, and Students	College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University	Utilize park for outdoor education and recreation opportunities for students, alumni, faculty, and staff.	No
Woodcrest Senior Living Facility Staff and Residents	Woodcrest Senior Living Facility	Utilize East Park for recreation and educational opportunities.	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 work be funded?

If grant funds are awarded, engineering/designs will be finalized and construction will begin and be completed in 2024. The ongoing effort of maintaining East Park will be completed and paid for by the City of St. Joseph. Additional park phases are anticipated in the future and will be funded through grants and the City of St. Joseph.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Nate Keller

Job Title: Community Development Director

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

Community Development Director Nate Keller has vast and diverse experience with multiple kinds of grants, including both grant writing and administration, and specifically with a past successful project through the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant program. Additional project management and oversight will come from the consulting engineering team, which has extensive experience in project management and construction oversight. The City of St. Joseph and their engineering team have successfully worked together to complete numerous projects in the community.

Organization: City of St. Joseph

Organization Description:

Local Unit of Government.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Engineering firm selected through qualifications process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Engineering and construction administration				0.5		\$92,000
General contractor hired through a competitive bidding process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction of East Park				0.75		\$608,000
							Sub Total	\$700,000
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	\$700,000

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				
Cash	DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program	Construct East Park	Potential	\$250,384
			State Sub Total	\$250,384
Non-State				
In-Kind	City of St. Joseph	City staff will mark, clear and mow 4,775 feet of mowed trails at East Park	Secured	\$6,720
			Non State Sub Total	\$6,720
			Funds Total	\$257,104

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [3440e333-2b6.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Site Plan for the first phase of East Park....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution - City of St. Joseph	d110c88b-75f.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
East Park Photos	4b3fad53-d5f.pdf
East Park Phase 1 Amenities	e83819cc-20f.pdf
Kennedy Community School Letter of Support	2c0063f2-842.pdf
Cultural Bridges Letter of Support	182db1e0-b18.pdf
College of St. Benedict and St. John's University Letter of Support	72e74808-03a.pdf
Woodcrest Senior Living Facility Letter of Support	15a44440-fbc.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

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