



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-141

Proposal Title: Hull Rust Mine View Park

Project Manager Information

Name: Nick Arola

Organization: City of Hibbing

Office Telephone: (218) 362-5951

Email: narola@ci.hibbing.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Hull Rust Mine View located within Hibbing, MN City limits, is an overlook park residing on top of a stockpile overlooking the massive Hull Rust Mine.

Funds Requested: \$1,416,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation (G)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

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

Statewide

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.

In September of 2016, the original Hibbing Mineview site was closed for the season and needed to be relocated to a new location to accommodate future mining at a site adjacent to the Hull Rust Mine View. Since that time the City of Hibbing has worked to relocate the Mineview to a new home. Over the past 5 years, the city has provided the groundwork for a new overlook park. The new overlook site now provides a 360-degree viewing access of Hibbing Taconite's mine operations and the historic City of Hibbing. It is a beautiful setting and a great tourist attraction for the City of Hibbing. The one main thing that the new park is lacking that the old park provided is a visitor center. That is our main problem we seek to address. We need to provide basic amenities for the public such as a visitor center, restrooms, and a geological center to provide mining education to the thousands of visitors that visit Mineview each summer. The ground work is set, and we are nearing the finish line, but we just need a little bit more help to begin moving dirt and start the final construction.

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.

This project consists of a two phased approach to complete the park. Phase one included site prep, sidewalks, footings, overlook viewing station and truck displays. The total cost of Phase One was \$1,200,000. These funds were provided by the IRRRB (\$300,000), Cleveland Cliffs (\$176,000) Mining Company and the City of Hibbing (\$724,000). All of phase one work has been completed from 2019-2022. The Phase Two portion of the project which we are currently at, consists of a pair of two-season buildings overlooking the Hull Rust Mine in Hibbing, MN. These overlook buildings are to house a visitor's center, giftshop, restrooms, exhibition space, and a maps plus geology room. Also included in the park will be walking trails, interpretive signage, multiple viewing points, and a park where kids can climb on mining equipment artifacts.

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?

The mine view is an natural resource enhancement opportunity to educate local residents and tourists about the significant impact that mining has in our region of the state. Mining plays a huge role in how we live, work, and play in northeastern Minnesota, and the Hull Rust is one of the regions most popular tourist destinations averaging 40,000 visitors every summer. Guests get to see real-time equipment operations of Hibbing Taconite. There is no better way to actively see the states natural resources at work than the Hull Rust Mineview.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Park Design and Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$200,000

Activity Description:

Activities include site work, permitting, building design, construction administration, construction observation, environmental review and wetland review, structural inspections, equipment layout and technology installation.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Engineer/Architect Selected through a competitive process	September 30, 2023
Begin project oversight and construction administration	October 31, 2023
All permits secured	March 31, 2024
Begin site design, architectural/engineering plans and specifications	May 31, 2024
Construction administration completed and work approved by the city	December 31, 2025

Activity 2: Park Construction

Activity Budget: \$1,216,000

Activity Description:

Building construction, utilities (water, septic, electrical), site prep, traffic control, road restoration, hydrants, booster stations, valves, signage, trails and landscaping.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Contractor selected and bid awarded to construct the project	September 30, 2023
Begin construction of the park	October 31, 2023
General contractor will be hired through a competitive bid process to construct the park	December 31, 2025
Park completed and approved by the city	December 31, 2025
Entire park is open to the public.	December 31, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Mayor Canatta	City of Hibbing	Project Oversight	No
Council	City of Hibbing	Project Oversight	No
Melissa Versich	Hibbing Tourist Center	Facility Operator	No
Shelly Hanson	Chamber of Commerce	Public Relations	No
Greg Pruszinske	City Administrator	Project Oversight	No
Jesse Story	City Engineer	Project Oversight	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?

This park will be owned and maintained by the City of Hibbing. Monies to operate and maintain will be budgeted through the annual city budget. The city is committed to perpetuity.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Nick Arola

Job Title: Director of City Services

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

In my current position as Director of City Services with the City of Hibbing, I am responsible for the management and operation of multiple city owned properties. Facilities for the City of Hibbing include Hibbing Memorial Building (Hockey Arena & Community Center), City Hall, Greyhound Bus Museum, 30 city parks, pavilions & sports complexes. I currently manage a department budget of roughly three million dollars and responsible for capital improvements and project management to existing and future facilities.

In previous employment positions, I was apart of a \$15 Million dollar hockey arena construction project where I was one of the lead City representatives on the project and worked hand in hand with Architects and General Contractors from the concept stage to completion of the project.

Taking on the addition of the Hull Rust Mine View Park construction project is a welcomed opportunity for me. I look forward to seeing this project through to the end. This overlook park is a staple of pride and tradition of the Hibbing community and I take pride in providing quality oversight of all Hibbing facilities.

Organization: City of Hibbing

Organization Description:

Hibbing is organized as a full service Statutory City in Northern MN, apart of St Louis County, MN with an estimated population of 16,230 residents.

The Hibbing City Council and its Boards, Commissions and Staff are committed to provide a community environment that is managed in an effective, accountable and efficient manner.

Further, we shall enhance that quality of life which characterizes our community by providing Hibbing's residents with the amenities that make it a desirable place to live, work and play.

We are the people-oriented organization that will reflect the highest standards of public services consistent with the trust and responsibilities given us. We strive to inform all residents of public issues and listen to their concerns for consideration in community policy. Because city government is its people, we are constantly striving for excellence and are committed to quality and professionalism in providing the best in public services to the citizens of Hibbing. Hibbing openly embraces growth and change. The people of Hibbing encourage enhancement of economic, educational and cultural opportunities by focusing their vision on: Character, Commitment, and Opportunity.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Engineer/Architect hired through a competitive process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Park site design, utility design, building design, construction administration, observation and permitting				4		\$200,000
General contractor hired through a competitive bid process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	General Contractor will be responsible of a aspects of the project construction				8		\$1,216,000
							Sub Total	\$1,416,000
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	\$1,416,000

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				
Cash	IRRRB	Construction Phase Two	Secured	\$92,000
Cash	Bonding Bill	Construction Phase Two	Secured	\$1,300,000
			State Sub Total	\$1,392,000
Non-State				
Cash	City of Hibbing	Construction and design Phase Two	Secured	\$92,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$92,000
			Funds Total	\$1,484,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [093454bf-111.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Renderings of the two proposed buildings. Larger building is the visitors center and the smaller building is the geological center and maps building....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Council Resolution	c139087b-2f0.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Hibbing Tourist Center Support Letter	41f7143f-ccb.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































