



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-157

Proposal Title: Pierz Gravel Pit Restoration - Park Development

Project Manager Information

Name: Bob Otremba

Organization: City of Pierz

Office Telephone: (320) 468-6471

Email: bobo@pierzmn.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Purchase land adjacent to city owned park and campground for the purpose of restoration and expansion. Create a master park plan to enhance the regional park, trail, and campground.

Funds Requested: \$200,000

Proposed Project Completion: July 31, 2024

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary 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.

Adjacent to the city owned park, campground, and golf course is a gravel pit that the city has been interested in purchasing for several years. The city wants to purchase the land to expand their campground that is very popular, but prone to flooding because of the close proximity to Skunk River. The city has added seasonal sites and has seen the demand for camping increase dramatically in the past several years. The city wants to allow for more camping and recreational options for its residents and guests. The old gravel pit has been significantly mined and is used mainly for temporary stock piling and crushing of this material. The owner has currently ceased mining because they own a gravel pit less than two miles away with more productive material. This purchase and master plan would restore this unsightly property in our city as well as boost the economic development in our city and region. Many current campers utilize the Soo Line ATV Trail system which is less than a half mile away. Additional camp sites would increase accessibility of this regional trail that crosses several counties and to connects to larger trail systems in 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.

The City of Pierz is proud to offer a 47-site campground with bathroom and shower facilities, new in 2003. The city currently has 11 seasonal campsites. All sites have water and electric hookups. A dump station is available on site. The restoration of this adjacent site would create additional camping, trails, and park activities that would enhance this regional recreation center. Future trail systems in and through the property will enhance economic development. Land purchase and creation of a master park plan will enhance the city's regional park demand that is currently very popular. The purchase of the land secures the future of this park expansion, while the master plan ensures proper alignment with the park expansion goals. With a regional campground already in place as well as a popular golf course next door, the city feels this is a natural fit for the community's desire to have more campers, recreation, and walking trails to serve the community, as well as region for many years to come. This is a unique feature in the region with a walkable recreation and a sustainable park system in the community. Restoration of the gravel pit would transform an unsightly property into a park.

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 land purchase secures the land that gives the city an opportunity to preserve and redevelop it for recreation. The land will be preserved for recreation for future generations to enjoy with the protection of city protocols of land and resource management. The Master Park Plan will help identify the best uses and land management practices to accommodate recreation with conservation in mind. Our state's natural resource of gravel was mined out of this pit to enhance our roads and cities. We will now enhance our state's natural resources of water, trees, and wildlife as a showcase in this park.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Purchase land (gravel pit)

Activity Budget: \$200,000

Activity Description:

Purchase 33.53 acres of land (2 parcels) adjacent to the city owned campground (47 sites with water and electric hook-ups), golf course, and park. This property would be for the purpose of camping, park, and trail expansion. The property is currently used mainly for temporary stockpiling of material and has been significantly mined out of its gravel resource. The owner has mined out gravel below the water table creating "man-made ponds" that will be a focus point for future development of the property. Future users will be able to enjoy the pond side wildlife, calming effects, and recreation opportunities that ponds offer. The city owns 10 acres adjacent to its current campground and the gravel pit that is very difficult to access without the purchase of the gravel pit. The gravel pit purchase would allow the city to develop this parcel into many other recreational opportunities. The city has brainstormed several options including a disc golf course, fishing piers, canoeing, kayaking, ice skating facility, sledding hill, education area for the adjacent school, community gardens, ski trail, and dog park to name a few. These will be addressed in the future Park Master Plan immediately after property purchase.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Enter into a purchase agreement	September 30, 2023
Execute on land closing	October 31, 2023
Master Park Plan	July 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 work be funded?

Long term funding of the park will be within the city's budget. Findings from the Master Park Plan will allow the city to identify the park needs, best land uses, best camping and park areas, (how many and where) as well as the total budget for future investments. Once the Master Park Plan is complete and budgets are known, the city can then apply for future grants as well as plan for city investment. This plan will include several areas of distinct attention for park expansion, recreation, land management, and economic development.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Bob Otremba

Job Title: City Administrator

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

City Administrator Bob Otremba is responsible for all city staff and executive oversight of all city contracts, financials, grant administration, and project management for the City of Pierz. The city has administered and reported on several grants and state allocated funds in the past several years.

Bob started his career with the city in 2000 as the Assistant Park Complex Superintendent at the Pierz Golf Course and Campground. From 2003-2019 Bob served as the city's public works director and in 2019 was hired as the city administrator. He has lead multiple grant projects in public works and parks.

In 2013, Bob lead the city through a Safe Routes to School grant project that included approximately one mile of new sidewalk in Pierz, reconstruction of the traffic flow adjacent to Pierz schools, and traffic control improvements to assist children to safely walk to school. Bob worked through another Safe Routes to School grant project in Pierz which was constructed in 2021. This project included construction of Segment 2 of the Pierz Trail Loop Plan that will eventually create a 5-mile trail loop around and through many of the beautiful areas that Pierz has to offer including the proposed gravel pit restoration area. In 2020, Bob received an award from the Minnesota Erosion Control Association for leadership on the Hillman Creek restoration project on the Pierz Golf Course. The grant project accomplished much needed creek bank restoration on a sensitive golf course site that had many issues. As the secretary for the Pierz Fire Department, Bob was involved with a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to procure extrication equipment for the fire department.

Organization: City of Pierz

Organization Description:

The City of Pierz had its beginnings in 1869 when Pierz Township was established under the namesake of Father Francis Xavier Pierz. Incorporated under the name of Rich Prairie in 1892, the 48 citizens voted unanimously to change the name of their city to Pierz in honor of Father Pierz, a Slovenian-born Indian missionary priest who established St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Today, the population of Pierz maintains its strong German Heritage, with nearly 60 percent of the population being of German descent. MN State Highways 25 and 27 connect residents to regional jobs and bring tourists through the city on their way to the North Central Lakes Region. The population has grown to over 1,400 residents, with a large senior base and a growing number of young families. The city operates its own police and fire department, as well as the Pierz Municipal Golf Course and Campgrounds. The city also owns and operates its own electrical utility and, in cooperation with other communities, established a Water and Sanitary Sewer district. In 2002,

Pierz constructed a new Industrial Park which currently home to Smude Sunflower Oil, Smude Popcorn, Rich Prairie Wood Products, and other businesses.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Work with the city to create a Master Park Plan to include campgrounds, trails and land management use of old gravel pit. This plan would also include the existing park, its future use that would expanded with the new land purchase. This new expansion will provide recreation and educational opportunities.				0		\$60,000
							Sub Total	\$60,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Other Acquisition	33.53 Parcels; 2 Miles; 0						\$140,000
							Sub Total	\$140,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								

							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$200,000

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				
In-Kind	City park budget	City Staff hours, park board volunteers, and public meetings to work on Master Park plan. City will budget park dollars to help facilitate more hours for staff in Parks , Planning and Zoning, Administration departments.	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$10,000
			Funds Total	\$10,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Knife River Gravel Pit	Morrison	Adjacent to city owed park, campground, golf course, and undeveloped city property	Fee Title	33.53	0	\$140,000	Private	City of Pierz	Has Not Begun
Totals				33.53	0	\$140,000			

Fee Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

These 2 parcels are adjacent to the city park, campground, trail, and golf course. They are contiguous to the city owned properties and will make a contiguous future park expansion, campground expansion, and trail expansion to the Soo Line Regional Trail.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

N/A at this time. The city will create a Master Park Plan that will outline all future land management and conservation practices. These management practices will adhere to all state, federally required regulations, with land management and conservation practices.

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

In the Master Park Plan these will all be outlined, kept at City Hall and presented to Planning and Zoning, the Park Board as well as the City Council for further actions with land management considerations. Long term planning will be a part of the Master Park Plan. Maintenance and management strategies will be addressed in the plan. These will be financed by the regular city budget.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

N/A

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [bcaf2499-dfc.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Parcel locations and overall layout map...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City of Pierz Resolution	37ecd7e0-326.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
City of Pierz Map with Acquisitions	ea7052c9-d47.pdf
Acquisition Layout	7cc0a743-b2c.pdf
Letter of Support - ISD# 484	11c47e4a-16a.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Fee Acquisition,

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?

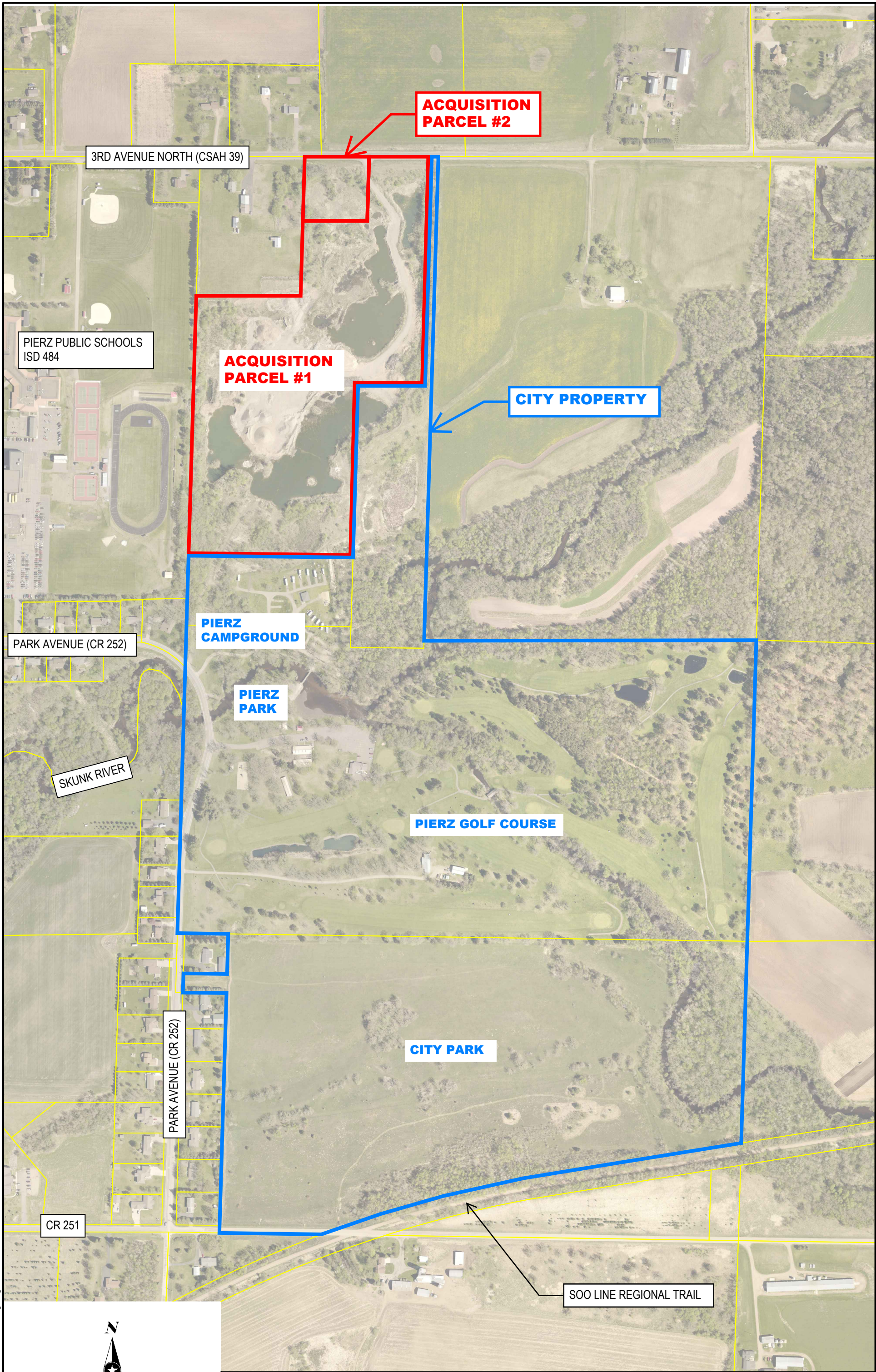
N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



**ACQUISITION
PARCEL #2**

3RD AVENUE NORTH (CSAH 39)

PIERZ PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ISD 484

**ACQUISITION
PARCEL #1**

CITY PROPERTY

PARK AVENUE (CR 252)

**PIERZ
CAMPGROUND**

**PIERZ
PARK**

SKUNK RIVER

PIERZ GOLF COURSE

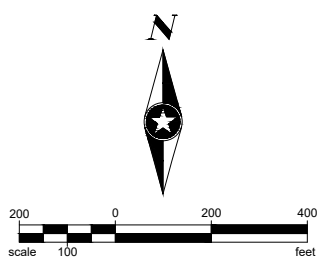
PARK AVENUE (CR 252)

CITY PARK

CR 251

SOO LINE REGIONAL TRAIL

Save: ...: jgriffith Plot: 3/19/2021 9:26 AM Drawing3.dwg



FILE NO.
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DATE:
3/19/2021

**LOCATION MAP
PIERZ PARK & CAMPGROUND EXPANSION PROJECT
PIERZ, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT
NO. 1**

