

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

# 2023 Request for Proposal

## **General Information**

**Proposal ID:** 2023-212

**Proposal Title:** Enhancing Habitat Connectivity within the Urban Mississippi Flyway

## **Project Manager Information**

**Name:** Adam Arvidson

**Organization:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

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

**Email:** aarvidson@minneapolisparks.org

## **Project Basic Information**

**Project Summary:** A pilot project that will enhance connectivity within the Mississippi Flyway by linking urban neighborhood parks to the Mississippi River through restoration and implementation of identified habitat corridors.

**Funds Requested:** $190,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** December 31, 2025

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Small Projects (H) **Secondary 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.**

Creating additional habitat in an urban setting is an opportunity to respond to community concerns and to address environmental concerns related to species biodiversity loss, habitat loss, and habitat fragmentation. Throughout the community engagement processes for Minneapolis's neighborhood park master plans and the Ecological System Plan, many people have voiced their support for habitat, wildlife, pollinators, birds, natural and naturalized areas, and restoration. As a result, many new areas were identified in park master plan designs for naturalization and restoration in varying forms. The city-wide Ecological System Plan also adds new habitat corridors that build upon the existing metro conservation corridors identified by the DNR. Minneapolis is blessed with contiguous wildlife corridors along its water bodies—especially the Mississippi River—but the habitat becomes more fragmented as one moves away from these corridors and into the city’s neighborhoods. This project seeks to build on community momentum from adopted plans and enhance or create additional habitat for a variety of species, primarily birds and insects. It also seeks to develop additional community support and awareness around habitat benefits and the Mississippi Flyway, which encompasses the entire city.

**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.**

LCCMR funds would be used to develop and implement a pilot project to enhance habitat connectivity between neighborhood parks and the Mississippi River. This would occur through habitat enhancement in neighborhood parks and potential enhancement of urban rights-of-way through boulevard and street tree plantings. MPRB proposes to create one or more habitat fingers reaching from the Mississippi River corridor into the city’s neighborhoods. These fingers would benefit animals, plants, and neighborhoods traditionally disconnected from nature. Identification of the pilot project location options would be guided by data and by habitat corridors outlined in the MPRB’s Ecological System Plan. The location will be selected based on where there is greatest habitat benefit, what will be most economical, and which areas have been historically disconnected from nature. Results from this pilot will help MPRB prepare to seek funds to expand this project and implement habitat restoration within the city on a larger scale. With more than 1,000 acres of neighborhood parkland and maintenance responsibility of all the city’s boulevard trees, MPRB is well positioned to enhance and expand habitat connectivity throughout the city.

**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 pilot will result in restoration of one or more areas (fingers) within the Minneapolis park system that will increase the range of available habitat and provide respite for wildlife that utilize the Mississippi Flyway. Additionally, there will be increased community awareness around the city's relationship to the Mississippi Flyway on local, state-wide, and nation-wide scales. The project will also fulfill community promises by implementing features of neighborhood park master plans. Finally, this will be a real-world demonstration of habitat restoration in built-up urban environments, which could result in additional habitat enhancement or restoration projects on more Minneapolis parkland.

## **Activities and Milestones**

### **Activity 1: Identification of Pilot**

**Activity Budget:** $6,000

**Activity Description:**Gather, synthesize, and analyze data on the MPRB park system related to habitat, natural resources, future park projects, master plan park designs, and resident connectivity to nature to identify areas that will provide the greatest benefit for Mississippi Flyway habitat connectivity and for underserved communities. Data sources include: Ecological System Plan, MPRB's Capital Improvement Program, service area master plans, and additional resources as needed for analysis. Partner with other government agencies (City of Minneapolis), non-profit organizations, community groups, and multiple MPRB departments to develop criteria for ranking locations, based on the available data sources. Determine the optimal pilot project location options and communicate results in a report to staff and community members so feedback can be collected and a pilot project location can be selected. Once the location is selected, communicate to staff and the public and transition to construction and implementation.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Gather and synthesize data / Develop criteria for determining locations | October 31, 2023 |
| Analyze data and develop report of possible locations / Communicate results, ask for community input | February 28, 2024 |
| Select location | April 30, 2024 |

### **Activity 2: Construction**

**Activity Budget:** $145,000

**Activity Description:**Competitively hire necessary consultants and contractors to develop a detailed plan and set of construction documents to install the pilot project. Develop communications on the purpose of the pilot and any site related park user impacts to start the public education process around the pilot project.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Develop Construction Plans | June 30, 2024 |
| Initiate Construction | August 31, 2024 |
| Construction Completion | June 30, 2025 |

### **Activity 3: Public Education**

**Activity Budget:** $39,000

**Activity Description:**Increase public awareness around the importance of habitat restoration for wildlife within the urban Mississippi Flyway. Signage will be developed for the pilot location to communicate information related to the site. It will also highlight the fact that Minneapolis is entirely within the Mississippi Flyway and the importance the flyway has for migratory species.   
  
In addition to on-site information, there will be informational materials available in print and online to more broadly communicate to the public about habitat fragmentation, habitat expansion opportunities, wildlife, and connections to existing habitat corridors including the Mississippi River. These informational materials will be shared through MPRB staff and communication channels as well as partner and community organizations.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Develop and install signage on site around this habitat area | October 31, 2024 |
| Develop and share informational materials | October 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 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.

## **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 |
| Mississippi River Aquatic Habitat Restoration And Mussel Reintroduction | M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e | $1,800,000 |
| Above The Falls Regional Park Acquisition | M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09q | $950,000 |

## **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 was the project manager for the MPRB’s Ecological Systems Plan and also led the agency’s effort to create new environmentally sound master plans for each neighborhood park.

**Organization:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

**Organization Description:**With 171 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** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data Insights Analyst / Community Engagement Professional |  | Compile, develop, and analyze data. Coordinate and communicate with partners and the community. Provide written and graphic information for the production of educational materials. |  |  | 25% | 0.1 |  | $7,000 |
| Construction Project Manager |  | Oversee all activities related to preparation of construction plans, and perform construction oversight |  |  | 25% | 0.05 |  | $5,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$12,000** |
| **Contracts and Services** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Graphic Designer to be determined | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Graphic Designer will be selected competitively through the City of Minneapolis target market program (TMP). The graphic designer will be responsible for producing educational materials associated with on-site signage and print and digital media. |  |  |  | 0 |  | $30,000 |
| Construction Contractor to be determined | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Contractor will be selected by competitive bid or equivalent and will perform all construction work, as directed by the approved construction plans. Contractor and hired sub-contractors will provide demolition, excavation, grading, rock placement, planting, erosion control, and other construction tasks. |  |  |  | 0 |  | $137,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$167,000** |
| **Equipment, Tools, and Supplies** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Capital Expenditures** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Interpretive signs: 6 signs at $1,500 each | Provide educational information on project, habitat benefits, and connectivity to the Mississippi Flyway. |  |  |  |  | $9,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$9,000** |
| **Acquisitions and Stewardship** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Travel In Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Travel Outside Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Printing and Publication** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Printing | Printed educational materials (brochures): 6,600 @ $0.30 each | Provide project overview, educate the public about connections to the Mississippi Flyway, describe park-to-river habitat walking tour. |  |  |  |  | $2,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$2,000** |
| **Other Expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Grand Total** | **$190,000** |

### **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** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **Non State Sub Total** | **-** |
|  |  |  | **Funds Total** | **-** |

## **Acquisition and Restoration**

### **Parcel List**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **County** | **Site Significance** | **Activity** | **Acres** | **Miles** | **Estimated Cost** | **Type of Landowner** | **Easement or Title Holder** | **Status of Work** |
| Public neighborhood park to be determined | Hennepin | The current pilot site(s) is yet to be selected, though as a neighborhood park it will likely be a turf-grass managed landscape with little existing ecological value. | Restoration | 3 | - | - | Public | Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board | Has Not Begun |
| **Totals** |  |  |  | **3** | **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) or within public rights-of-way of the City of Minneapolis, in coordination with that agency.

**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; descriptions of target restoration communities, which would most likely be upland prairie or savanna or possibly wet meadow; 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 part of the project includes the identification of specific pilot site(s), it is difficult to be specific at this time about the exact guidance that will be used. However, the recommended number of plant species will reference "disturbed sites" and be on the high end of that row, because of the likelihood of restoring native prairie, savanna, or forest (“Minimum Recommended Number of Species” matrix, p.8). The project will utilize and source seed as recommended for the project location (Ecological Section 8, Big Woods Subsection).

**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 installation of the pilot habitat fingers 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: [31f80bd7-3db.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/31f80bd7-3db.pdf)

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

Map of DNR Conservation Corridors and MPRB habitat corridors, overlain on a suitability analysis for potential pollinator habitat....

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| MPRB Resolution 2022-201 | [fd97ef35-55e.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/fd97ef35-55e.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