



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-090

Proposal Title: Restoration of Riverside Park

Project Manager Information

Name: Ted Gray

Organization: City of Long Prairie

Office Telephone: (320) 732-2167

Email: tgray@cityoflongprairie.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Project will mitigate the effects of climate change by restoring water retentive capabilities to 7 acres on the Long Prairie River while also creating both recreational and educational opportunities.

Funds Requested: \$141,000

Proposed Project Completion: November 30, 2026

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): Central

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

Region(s): Central

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.

Riverside park was designed by the Minnesota DOT as a tourist park and constructed by the WPA in 1936. Water was diverted into a ditch which was dug by WPA workers to deliver water to 2 ponds dug for ice skating. The ditch then delivered overflow back to the river. Three concrete bridges were constructed on paths which crossed the ditch. The Sportsmen's Club financed the building of a clubhouse made of fieldstone, and a fieldstone tower provided light for evening skating. During WWII, the park flooded. Neither men nor machines were available to maintain the park. In 1953 the land was sold to a private individual. It was sold again in 1960 to a contractor who used part of the north pond as a dump for demolition debris. Over the years, the ditch filled with sediment and tree roots. The stonework became a canvas for graffiti, and the ground became littered with trash. The land changed hand several times. The most recent owner offered to give the land to the city if funding became available for restoration and in 2017 following his death, his family gave the land back to the 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.

Today the ponds at Riverside present an opportunity to offset predicted extreme events of climate change by providing a reservoir. The ditch will be cleaned and sediment removed from the ponds so that the ponds can retain more water and mitigate future flooding. Two culverts will be placed where park paths have been washed out. Park paths will be leveled and seeded to prevent future erosion. Plant life in the park has been inventoried by a MN Master Naturalist; invasive species will be removed while pollinator plants and other native species will be encouraged. The demolition debris in a section of the north pond will be leveled in order to create a parking area for visitors.

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 outcomes of this project will be to enhance the water retention of this area and restore native vegetation while providing a nature area for public hiking and biking in the summer and ice skating or x-country skiing in the winter.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Restore the Original Park Paths

Activity Budget: \$45,000

Activity Description:

The original park paths were 12 feet wide and provided an entrance and exit loop from Riverside Drive as well as a path to the Sportsman's Lodge. During the past 87 years, trees and bushes have grown on the paths in some places while dirt and demolition debris have been dumped in other places. These paths will be cleared, leveled and seeded. Approaches to Riverside Drive will be provided. Two culverts will be installed to allow the flow of water under the paths.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Paths will be cleared of brush and tree stumps.	July 31, 2024
Two culverts will be installed.	August 31, 2024
Paths will be graded and seeded	September 30, 2024

Activity 2: Clear the Waterways and Ponds.

Activity Budget: \$96,000

Activity Description:

During the last 84 years, the ditch leading to the ponds and back to the river has partially filled with sediment and tree roots. The ponds have partially filled with sediment and demolition debris. The ditch will be dredged. Debris and sediment will be removed from the ponds.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Tree roots and sediment will be removed from the ditch.	October 31, 2024
Sediment will be removed from the north and south ponds	September 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Ted Gray	City of Long Prairie	Project Manager	Yes

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?

Private contractors will be hired to level the demolition debris, reconstruct the original paths and clean the waterway and ponds. Riverside Park will be maintained by the Public Works Department of the City of Long Prairie and managed by the Long Prairie Park Board with seasonal help from local volunteers and the Sentenced to Serve crew.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Ted Gray

Job Title: City Administrator

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

Ted Gray is the city administrator for Long Prairie. He has managed past improvements for both streets and parks in our community. He works well with all members of our city council He also had experience in banking before becoming our city administrator.

Organization: City of Long Prairie

Organization Description:

Long Prairie, which was named after the river flowing through the city, is located in central Minnesota and is bordered on the south by beautiful Lake Charlotte. One of the oldest settlements in the state, it began 175 years ago in 1845 when it was selected by the U.S. government as the site of the Winnebago Indian Agency. Later Long Prairie became the county seat of Todd County because it was centrally located at the junctions of US Hwy 71, State Hwy 27 and County Hwy 287. The city today offers quality medical facilities, diverse industrial opportunities, excellent schools, and a variety of businesses and recreational activities. Today's current population of 3,597 is almost as diverse as the original community with over a quarter of our citizens speaking Spanish. The rural area around Long Prairie is home to both small and large farms, a large community a Amish farmers, some lake homes and several businesses.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Aquatic Restoration Service	Professional or Technical Service Contract	This service will clean the ponds.				0		\$45,000
J & J Dirtworks	Professional or Technical Service Contract	This company will reconstruct original paths, install 2 culverts and clean the ditch leading from the river to the ponds and back to the river as well as cleaning the waterway between the ponds.				0		\$96,000
							Sub Total	\$141,000
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	\$141,000

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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [f16b197c-cf7.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This map shows a satellite view of Riverside Park in 2018....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Council Approved Resolution for Park Grant	18304f9c-b21.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?

Yes, City of Long Prairie

Does your project include the design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7?

No

