



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2024 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2024-104

**Proposal Title:** KNA Boulevard and Watershed Grant

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Jon Erickson

**Organization:** Kenny Neighborhood Association

**Office Telephone:** (218) 248-5776

**Email:** chezjon@icloud.com

### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** This project creates rain gardens on the boulevard portions of Kenny Neighborhood, which will help manage stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

**Funds Requested:** \$75,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2025

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

**Secondary Category:** Water Resources (B)

### 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

## Narrative

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

Grass Lake is part of the Chain of Lakes Regional Park, a popular recreational area for residents and tourists. However, Grass Lake faces significant watershed management issues due to urbanization and urban water runoff.

Urban water runoff, which is generated when rainwater or snowmelt flows over impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops, carries pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, and animal waste into nearby bodies of water like Grass Lake. This can cause water quality problems and harm aquatic ecosystems by increasing nutrient levels, degrading habitat quality, and promoting the growth of harmful algae and other aquatic plants.

The watershed management issues for Grass Lake are also exacerbated by climate change, which can result in more frequent and intense storms, leading to higher volumes of runoff and increased erosion.

We believe that native rain gardens together with enhanced participation in existing City of Minneapolis programs will greatly enhance the quality of the Grass Lake watershed area and create a program that can be easily duplicated in other urban environments.

### **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.**

We are proposing a seed project to create a program to address urban water runoff that will create an integrated solution using natural rainwater gardens integrated with existing local initiatives such as the City of Minneapolis's Adopt-A-Drain program. During this project we will convert the boulevard spaces for 30 to 40 residential lots from existing grass-based surfaces to native rain gardens with the proper drainage techniques and using native local perennials.

During the project we will create two samples - one being a base sample of residential lots where we do not implement any of the new techniques and a second sample where we will implement the conversion. The goal is to create demonstrable results that show the benefit of using native rain gardens to address the issue of urban water runoff and the associated increases in water pollution to our local lakes and rivers.

### **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?**

We are excited to show Kenny Neighborhood the numerous benefits of implementing boulevard rain gardens and promoting the adoption of the Adopt-A-Drain program. By doing so, we can:

1. Reduce urban water runoff and prevent water pollution in our local watershed.
2. Enhance the natural landscape and provide more pollination opportunities for our local wildlife.
3. Improve pedestrian safety, especially in the winter and spring seasons, by reducing the risk of ice buildup.

Together, we can create a healthier, safer, and more vibrant community for everyone to enjoy.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Recruitment of Participants and Volunteers

**Activity Budget:** \$2,000

**Activity Description:**

We will recruit 30-40 participants who will have their properties transformed to implement natural rain gardens and drainage. This phase will run from the date we are notified of the grant approval until the commencement of the grant on July 1, 2024.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Hold small neighborhood gatherings to educate residents about the project's goals and objectives	March 31, 2024
Address concerns and sign up enough residents to ensure a proper test case sample.	April 30, 2024
Develop a test case sample for the base case sample	June 30, 2024
Coordinate participation of volunteer organizations to assist in developing the watershed testing procedures	June 30, 2024

### Activity 2: Transformation of the Properties

**Activity Budget:** \$66,000

**Activity Description:**

During this phase, we will engage with Field Outdoors to perform necessary hardscape renovations such as removing old soils and reshaping the properties to properly drain into the aquifer.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Execute the transformation of the selected properties	September 30, 2024

### Activity 3: Collection of Sample Data

**Activity Budget:** \$7,000

**Activity Description:**

We will spend the remainder of 2023 and early 2024 collecting various base case test samples. This will include:

1. Collecting basic information about the amount of rainwater, testing the water quality of Grass Lake, and qualitatively assessing the amount of general water ponding at risk in the neighborhood.
2. Capturing the same information but segmented by the three different test groups from July 1, 2024, until April 30, 2026.
3. Analyzing the test results from May 1, 2026, until June 30, 2026, and obtaining additional volunteer assistance from groups like the University of Minnesota.
4. By following this plan, we can effectively evaluate the success of our project and make recommendations for future improvements.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
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Collection of Sample Data	April 30, 2025
Analysis of test vs. base line sample data	June 30, 2025

## 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?**

We do not foresee any long-term implementation or funding needs.

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Jon Erickson

**Job Title:** Co-Chair of KNA Board

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

During my professional career I have been responsible for the implementation of many large development projects and have demonstrated the operational and financial management capacity to ensure the projects are delivered on time and on budget. I have also been the Executive Director of a not for profit medical center where I had extensive experience with grants and foundations.

**Organization:** Kenny Neighborhood Association

**Organization Description:**

Kenny Neighborhood is one of 81 Minneapolis neighborhoods. Its most conspicuous boundaries are Lyndale Avenue, on the east, and Highway 62, on the south. It is a residential neighborhood comprised of 1700 homes, 96% of which are owner occupied. It is regarded by most Kenny neighbors, and Minneapolis residents, as a safe and stable neighborhood.

The Kenny Neighborhood Association (KNA) existed for many years as a loosely structured community group that organized a summer festival and published a newsletter. KNA received a big, organizational "shot in the arm" with the introduction of NRP (the Neighborhood Revitalization Program) to the neighborhood in 1994. Since this time, KNA has created bylaws, filed and been accepted as a non-profit, hired staff, prioritized neighborhood concerns and developed plans to address them, initiated a pollution prevention campaign concerning Grass Lake, and educated residents on community issues.

KNA has a very active Environmental Committee that is driving many climate change initiatives such as this grant application, encouraging organic recycling, reducing fossil fuel energy consumption and protecting the Grass Lake watershed area.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
KNA Coordinator		This project will be run primarily by volunteer personnel and the Kenny Neighborhood coordinator. We have budgeted \$5,000 for the costs of the coordinator's salary and other administrative costs.			0%	0.2		\$5,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Field Outdoor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Tthe landscape transformation services to be provided by Field Outdoors. We have attached as an attachment to this application the basic per property quotation for the transformation of the property. The amount listed below is the net amount after the resident contribution of \$20,000.				0		\$66,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$66,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
	Printing	We estimate that we will be spending \$2,500 in printing and publication expenses mainly related to the recruitment of the residents to participate in the program and for the publication of the results of the evaluation of the test case samples.	These will be posters, mailings, printing of results, etc.					\$2,500
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
		Water quality testing supplies and disposable equipment	We will be performing numerous samples of the water quality of Grass Lake and various other areas where water ponds at high quantities.					\$1,500
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

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
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Contributions From Residents	We are looking to the 30 to 40 resident participates in the test case sample related to the implementation of the rain gardens to contribute \$500 each to offset the costs of the project and to ensure proper resident buy-in to the project and the successful outcome of the project.	Potential	\$20,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [8184f745-d01.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

This is a diagram of the Grass Lake watershed and the storm sewer drainage into the watershed....

#### *Financial Capacity*

File: [048c1595-2f8.pdf](#)

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
KNA Board Resolution	<a href="#">2b6efa41-e21.pdf</a>

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

Title	File
KNA Letter of Support City of Minneapolis DPW	<a href="#">bd4782d4-032.pdf</a>
KNA Letter of Support Palmisano	<a href="#">89d1615b-f3b.pdf</a>
Quotation from Field Outdoor	<a href="#">36c0d120-181.pdf</a>
Boulevard Rain Garden design	<a href="#">6e193dc4-0ea.pdf</a>

## 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?**

Yes

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

**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