



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-227

Proposal Title: Shingle Creek Aquatic and Shoreline Habitat Enhancement

Project Manager Information

Name: Adam Arvidson

Organization: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This request will transform 1.6 miles of Shingle Creek in north Minneapolis into a functioning ecological corridor, leveraging an additional \$3.27 million in planned recreational improvements.

Funds Requested: \$1,100,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2029

LCCMR Funding 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.

Urban creeks are expected to be functional first. Typically, they are asked to whisk stormwater downstream, not impede transportation networks, and never flood. Their ecological purpose is secondary. In dense neighborhoods of the urban core, creeks may be little more than overgrown ditches.

No example tells this story better than Shingle Creek in north Minneapolis. Once a marshy watercourse, Shingle Creek today is a straight and uniform, steep-banked, habitat-poor flume primarily meant to move suburban water through Minneapolis. It was planned this way. Following World War II, Minneapolis' housing boom moved toward the low swampy area in the far northern part of the city. Over decades, Shingle Creek was lowered and "simplified," in order to drain and dry this area, with parkland acquired and improved all along its banks. The area developed and is now home to neighborhoods with high BIPOC populations (Shingle Creek is 71.4% BIPOC).

The access to the parklands along the creek is a significant benefit. However, the creek itself—a sunken trench—is inaccessible to humans and provides very little in the way of natural habitat. In 2019, MPRB adopted a plan for the creek that envisions significant ecological enhancement, including of the creek itself.

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.

MPRB has allocated both local and Regional Parks funding to the Shingle Creek corridor. These funds will implement a \$3.27 million renovation of trails, bridges, and amenities, while also adding new elements, such as sepak tawka and pickleball courts, desired by the diverse local community.

LCCMR funds would augment this investment, so ecological restoration can be completed alongside infrastructure improvements. LCCMR funds would focus on transforming the creek itself into a functioning wildlife corridor. A system of riffles and pools would provide habitat variety, protect animals in both low and high water, and oxygenate water for a healthier ecosystem. Expanded floodplains would create a natural ecological cycle. Shoreline and emergent vegetation would create a complete habitat spectrum. All these activities will turn this ecologically non-functional urban creek into a rich home for aquatic invertebrates, fish, insects, birds, and mammals.

With the requested \$1.1 million in LCCMR funds, MPRB will execute a comprehensive \$4.37 million project that makes improvements for both humans and wildlife. Local and Regional Parks funds are available now and the project will begin community engagement soon. Now is the time to match infrastructure funding with ecological enhancement and move these dual efforts forward simultaneously.

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?

If funded, this project would complete in-creek and creek-bank enhancements along 1.6 miles of Shingle Creek in North Minneapolis. Improvements called for in the adopted vision plan for the creek include riffles and pools, expanded floodplain, stormwater pre-treatment to improve water quality, shoreline and emergent vegetation, removal of invasive species, and re-grading of steep and undercutting streambanks. The overall outcome will be to transform what was created as a drainage ditch in the 1950s into a true creek. This transformation would make these 1.6 miles into an ecologically functional, habitat rich, accessible, and climate resilient urban waterway.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Restoration Planning

Activity Budget: \$105,000

Activity Description:

MPRB will hire an ecological restoration professional through a competitive process and work with them to prepare a restoration plan for the site. The restoration plan will become part of the construction plans for the project that will be publicly bid (Activity 2). The restoration plan will guide all construction, the process for ongoing monitoring, and long-term maintenance. Construction plans will be based on the restoration plan.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Selection of Restoration Ecologist Professional	September 30, 2024
Completion of Restoration Plan	January 31, 2025
Completion of Construction Plans for Bidding	March 31, 2025

Activity 2: Site Preparation and Construction

Activity Budget: \$935,000

Activity Description:

The construction phase will include the hiring of a construction contractor through the public bidding process. Following construction contract award by the MPRB Board of Commissioners, permitting and construction mobilization will commence. The contractor will complete the restoration under the observation of the MPRB hired consultant and MPRB staff that will oversee construction administration activities. Specific tasks include grading, excavation, rock placement, soil amendment and/or remediation, invasive species removal, native species planting, and erosion control.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Contract Award	April 30, 2025
Construction Commencement	May 31, 2025
Construction Completion	June 30, 2026

Activity 3: Establishment and Ongoing Monitoring

Activity Budget: \$60,000

Activity Description:

A baseline plant survey and aquatic biota survey will take place after germination in the first growing season after construction. The area will be monitored for plant and aquatic animal health and diversity for three years after construction, with annual plant and aquatic animal surveys taking place for that same duration. This work will be performed by the same consultant hired by MPRB under a competitive process to create the restoration plan. The construction contractor will be responsible for maintenance and management of plant material for the first three years. MPRB and other agencies are finding that making the installation contractor responsible for initial performance of restoration and enhancement activities as part of the construction contract and warranty leads to improved installation and early establishment. Though this necessarily pushes the grant timeline longer, it is a critical aspect of long-term success. The information gained from these studies will be made public on the MPRB website.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Post-Construction Plant and Aquatic Animal Survey	July 31, 2026
Annual Plant Health and Animal Presence/Absence Surveys and Ongoing Monitoring	May 31, 2029

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 and are supported by the state and Metropolitan Council through regional parks operations and maintenance (O&M) funding. Additional work necessary after initial construction will be covered by the contractor's warranty and will not require additional funding. Additional restoration and enhancement work after the warranty period will be funded by MPRB.

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. 09g	\$950,000
Bohemian Flats Savanna Restoration	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 08i	\$286,000

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.

Adam Arvidson is a registered landscape architect in the State of Minnesota and MPRB's Director of Strategic Planning. He has more than 20 years of experience in the planning, design, and administration of publicly funded projects. He has managed multiple LCCMR-funded projects at MPRB.

Organization: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Organization Description:

With 185 park properties totaling more than 7,200 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. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Design Project Manager		An MPRB registered landscape architect and project manager will hire consultants through a competitive bid process, will administer the preparation the construction plans for bid based on the restoration plan, and will administer the construction and ongoing monitoring processes.			25%	0.5		\$45,000
							Sub Total	\$45,000
Contracts and Services								
Ecological Professional to be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Selected consultant will prepare the restoration and enhancement plan and will perform all biological surveys. Consultant will prepare summary reports for MPRB, which will be compiled into the project's biological report at the end of the project. Consultant will have specific expertise in aquatic and stream restoration and enhancement.				1.25		\$125,000
Construction Contractor to be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contractor will be selected by competitive bid and will perform all construction work, as directed by the approved construction plans. Contractor and hired sub-contractors will provide site preparation, planting, erosion control, and other construction tasks.				10		\$930,000
							Sub Total	\$1,055,000
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	\$1,100,000

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				
Cash	Regional Parks O&M Lottery	Creek restoration and enhancement is part of a larger improvement project in the park. O&M Lottery funding will be utilized for rehabilitation of other park elements, such as trails and bridges.	Secured	\$600,000
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy	Creek restoration and enhancement is part of a larger improvement project in the park. MPRB will use a portion of its Parks and Trails Legacy funding for implementation of other elements in the park's vision plan, including trails, bridges, active recreation activities, play areas, wayfinding, and interpretation.	Pending	\$1,400,000
			State Sub Total	\$2,000,000
Non-State				
Cash	Dibble-Hornstein Parkland Dedication Fund	Creek restoration and enhancement is part of a larger improvement project in the park. Park dedication funding (a fee on development) will be utilized for implementation of other new elements in the park's vision plan, including trails, active recreation activities, and play area expansion.	Secured	\$11,000
Cash	MPRB Neighborhood Capital Levy	Creek restoration and enhancement is part of a larger improvement project in the park. Local funding from MPRB's tax levy will be utilized for implementation of other elements in the park's vision plan, including trails, bridges, active recreation activities, play areas, courts, wading pool rehabilitation, wayfinding, and interpretation.	Secured	\$162,000
Cash	20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (local bonds)	Creek restoration and enhancement is part of a larger improvement project in the park. Local funding from MPRB's "NPP20" program, funded by local bonds, will be utilized for implementation of other elements in the park's vision plan, including trails, bridges, active recreation activities, play areas, courts, wading pool rehabilitation, wayfinding, and interpretation.	Secured	\$1,097,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$1,270,000
			Funds Total	\$3,270,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1111821120158	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	10.4	-	\$185,120	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1111821130137	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	14	-	\$249,200	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1111821140090	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	10.3	-	\$183,300	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1111821210157	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	10.7	-	\$190,460	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	In Progress
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1111821410005	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	6.1	-	\$108,580	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1211821330096	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	1	-	\$17,800	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1211821330102	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	2.6	-	\$46,280	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1211821330104	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	4.7	-	\$83,660	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1311821210001	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	1.4	-	\$24,920	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Shingle Creek Regional Trail PID: 1311821210025	Hennepin	Regional park facility with trails, varied vegetation, and a degraded creek.	Restoration	0.6	-	\$10,680	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Totals				61.8	0	\$1,100,000			

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).

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, with a focus on in-creek and creekside aquatic habitat; description of the target restoration efforts, including pools and riffles; a timeline for restoration; and guidance for ongoing management of the creek. The restoration plan will be included in the creation of construction plans for the project and will guide both construction and ongoing management. This 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.

Because efforts will largely focus on in-creek habitat enhancements for fish, birds, aquatic invertebrates, and insects, only limited native vegetation may be reestablished. Where appropriate along shorelines and in created pools with emergent vegetation, MPRB and its partners will fully utilize BWSR’s guidance document. 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 and are supported by the state and Metropolitan Council through regional parks operations and maintenance (O&M) funding.

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.

As described in Activity 3, evaluations of plant and animal species diversity and ongoing health will be performed after the first year after construction, and then annually for three years. Analyses will focus on the long term viability of the restoration and will recommend corrections if problems arise. The three-year summary report will be made public on the MPRB website.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [09f0c42e-a0b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Page from the park's vision plan document showing commitment to and location of environmental improvements....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	d84740ba-692.pdf
Board Resolution 2023-52	d6cdceb6-f70.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

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