



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-228

Proposal Title: Quarry Hill Nature Center Invasive Species Removal Replacement

Project Manager Information

Name: jeff haberman

Organization: City of Rochester

Office Telephone: (507) 328-2516

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Reduce presence of woody invasive species through a combination of mechanical, chemical and prescribed burn tactics. Introduce desirable vegetation by seeding native grass and forb species.

Funds Requested: \$46,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 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): SE

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

Region(s): SE

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.

The areas we are addressing in this project have all had previous management activities to remove invasive woody species. Previous work has included mechanical cutting, and goat grazing. This work is ongoing and with out intentional follow up these invasive species rebound by re-sprouting and reseeding. Most of the areas have been impaired by invasive species for so long there is no viable natural vegetation capable of re-establishing with out this assistance. This project is intended to continue active management of the woody invasive plant mitigation.

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 intend to utilize two management techniques that we have not previously tried. We intend to use a basal bark spray on mature plants and leave them standing after they have succumbed to the chemical treatment. The second new management activity is to conduct a woodland prescribed burn in 3 of the 4 management areas included in this grant followed by introduction of desirable native seed.

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 project is intended to improve ecological health in the project management areas by decreasing undesirable vegetation and increasing native species composition. A mixture of grasses and forbs will be planted following the prescribed burns. We also intend to harvest seed from our existing savannah prairie and plant the harvested seed in the adjacent management areas 2 and 4 with the goal of expanding the savannah.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Invasive Species Removal

Activity Budget: \$28,750

Activity Description:

We plan to use a combination of management techniques to eliminate the woody invasive species present in all 4 management areas included in this proposal. Basal bark herbicide applications will be applied to all large woody invasive plants. Goats will be used to graze the re-sprouts and new seedlings. We plan to do woodland prescribed burning as the final seed bed preparation in management areas 1,2 and 4. This will be the first time using this management technique on park lands in Rochester. Area 3 will need to be mowed in spots where woody invasive plants have established and have not responded to previous prescribed burns. The native vegetation will be allowed to grow back and we will monitor the effectiveness of the mowing. We will monitor the invasive species re-growth and follow up with a second mow if need be.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Basal bark spray with Garlon 4	July 31, 2025
Goat grazing and mowing will occur in mid to late summer.	August 31, 2025
Mechanical mowing	August 31, 2025
Fall woodland prescribed burning	October 31, 2025
Seeding with native seed	November 30, 2025

Activity 2: Establish Native Vegetation by reseeding

Activity Budget: \$17,250

Activity Description:

We will introduce native vegetation by seeding management areas 1,2 and 4. Seed will be harvested from the existing savannah prairie (management area 3) and the harvested seed will be used to seed management areas 2 and 4 with a goal of expanding the existing savannah footprint. The existing savannah prairie includes native tall grass prairie grasses such as Big Bluestem and native forbs such as Prairie Cone Flower. Harvesting and replanting the seed from the existing savannah will help retain the local genetic strains of the plant material. We plan to purchase short grass woods edge savannah seed mix for management area 1. This area is characterized as a goat prairie. Goat prairies are rare in S.E. Minnesota and are found on steep hillsides and the top of bluffs in this region. Goat prairies are comprised of short grass prairie species and forbs. We plan to purchase this seed because we have no option to harvest seed locally.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Harvest seed from existing savannah prairie	October 31, 2025
Seed dispersal in all areas to be seeded	November 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Dustin Looman	Conservation Corps of Minnesota	Oversee field work including chemical applications and brush removal. Conduct prescribed burns.	Yes
Pam Meyer	Quarry Hill Nature Center	Project support	No
TBD	TBD	Goat Grazing Contractor	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?

Ongoing maintenance of the project areas will be monitored by department staff and park volunteers. If problematic species re-appear they will be controlled by staff or volunteer help. All costs for follow up management will be paid for through operational dollars or dedicated CIP funding for natural area management activities.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: jeff haberman

Job Title: City Forester

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

I have a B.S. in plant sciences from North Dakota State University and for the past 8 years have been overseeing the City of Rochester's urban forestry program. This includes tree care on public lands across the city. I also oversee management of all park natural areas. In 2022 we worked with Resource Environmental Solutions to create a Natural Area Management Plan. The intent of the plan is to manage natural areas thorough out the city and reduce the incidence of invasive and non-native vegetation while encouraging native and naturally occurring vegetation to provide healthier natural areas and improve ecosystem health and water quality for the benefit of our residents.

Organization: City of Rochester

Organization Description:

The City of Rochester is the county seat of Olmsted County and is the 3rd largest city in the state. The city lies alongside the south fork of the Zumbro River on the northwest edge of the Driftless area. The Parks and Recreation Department has played an important part in the quality of life for both residents and visitors alike. The department is responsible for land management of more than 5,000 acres of park lands. Over 1,500 acres is undeveloped natural areas. Park lands contribute to neighborhood identity, environmental sustainability, resident health and well-being and economic vibrancy. The department strives to ensure all community members have equitable access to parks and natural areas, ideally within a 10-15 minute walk from every resident.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Conservation Corps of Minnesota	Professional or Technical Service Contract	All labor related to basal bark spraying, burn preparation, prescribed burning, seed preparation, seed dispersal, harvesting of seed and mowing services.				0.86		\$31,200
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Goat grazing services				-		\$8,250
							Sub Total	\$39,450
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Garlon 4	Basal bark spray					\$750
	Tools and Supplies	Short grass woods edge savannah seed mix	native seed for goat prairie (area 1)					\$5,800
							Sub Total	\$6,550
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	\$46,000

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: [2445f538-e1f.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Management Areas Quarry Hill Nature Center Invasive Species Removal and Replacement...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
LCCMR COR Resolution	a4efd7b4-b45.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Conservation Corps of Minnesota Letter of support	1a750c54-cb8.pdf
Friends of Quarry Hill Park Letter of Support	af1f70c1-f81.pdf
Management Areas Map	221d89e3-2f6.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 Rochester

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

