



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-272

Proposal Title: Expanding Youth and Family Fishing Opportunities

Project Manager Information

Name: Brian Nerbonne

Organization: MN DNR - Fish and Wildlife Division

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Expand fishing opportunities in urban areas, teach more kids and families how to fish, and inventory and inform the public about safe and legal shore fishing sites throughout Minnesota.

Funds Requested: \$1,162,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Environmental Education (C)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

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

Statewide

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.

Fishing is an important part of the culture of Minnesota, providing a way for people to connect with nature that for many becomes a lifelong passion. Fishing is also an important part of Minnesota's economy, contributing over two billion dollars annually. However, participation in fishing has been shrinking relative to Minnesota's population. Kids may not have someone to teach them how to fish or don't have access to places to fish. This represents what has been called "nature deficit disorder", where people experience nature less and less, missing out on the documented mental health benefits from being in nature. People without a connection to nature are also less likely to make choices to protect it.

Most anglers learn to fish through a family member or other mentor who takes them fishing and teaches them the basics. However, many youth do not have someone to teach them, especially in some recent immigrant communities. People living in urban areas also often lack fishing opportunities close to home, so that people who cannot afford to travel do not have access to places to fish. People without a boat need shore fishing options. Families with limited financial resources may also lack fishing equipment.

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.

DNR's Fishing in the Neighborhood (FIN) program works to eliminate the barriers to people participating in fishing. In urban areas, we select locations where local fishing opportunities are lacking. We stock catchable-sized fish into small lakes and ponds that might otherwise have limited fishing opportunities, and partner with municipalities to make fishing accessible at those locations by installing fishing piers and other structures where people can fish from shore. We partner with cities and organizations to provide fishing equipment that is available on loan or used by partners in fishing education programs. Through partnerships with local organizations we will conduct fishing education events where people are taught how to fish. Recognizing that it is important that kids need an adult to take them fishing, we include adults in these education classes to increase the chances that participants can continue to fish once the class is over. Additional resources from ENRTF will allow more programming to be offered, more fishing locations enhance, and for the program to move beyond the Twin Cities metropolitan area to other cities in greater Minnesota. An inventory of statewide shore fishing sites will be done and shared with the public to expand people's fishing location options.

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?

Create or enhance additional fishing opportunities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and in cities in greater Minnesota through fish stocking and the enhancement of facilities, including six piers that allow fishing from shore and 36 "fishing block" shore structures. Expand fishing education programming in partnership with local organizations, teaching basic fishing skills at an additional 30 clinics annually. Provide training and equipment for partner organizations to teach more people to fish. Inventory shore fishing sites throughout Minnesota and publish results on the DNR website, informing anglers who fish from shore on available safe and legal locations.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Enhancement of local fishing opportunities

Activity Budget: \$430,000

Activity Description:

Work with municipalities in the Twin Cities and in greater Minnesota to identify locations where enhancement of fishing opportunities is needed. Prioritize locations where nearby fishing options do not exist, and where local partnership is present. Identify fishery and access enhancement needs, including fish stocking and infrastructure improvements to provide better access for shore fishing. Where needed, partner with local governments to restore shoreline areas to native vegetation. Implement fish stocking through DNR trap-and-transfer efforts or private purchase. Contract for the purchase and installation of fishing piers and/or stone blocks placed along the shoreline to create better locations for fishing from shore.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Initiate fish stocking activities on six new lakes/ponds.	June 30, 2027
Enhance shore fishing infrastructure at ten different waterbodies	June 30, 2027
Native shoreline restoration at two locations	June 30, 2027

Activity 2: Fishing clinics to teach kids and other new anglers how to fish

Activity Budget: \$511,000

Activity Description:

Work in partnership with municipalities and other organizations to put on an additional 30 fishing clinics per year, teaching angling skills and providing hands-on opportunities to go fishing. The potential partners will be broad, from scout groups to churches to park and recreation programs, with priority to groups where we can train leaders to take the lead on their own similar programs in the future. Programs will emphasize the need to involve adult mentors for youth participants so that they will have someone who can take them fishing in the future. Fishing clinics will utilize close-to-home locations for participants to showcase local fishing opportunities. Purchase fishing equipment that can be used to put on programming and to distribute to partner organizations who can conduct their own fishing clinics to help build capacity beyond DNR events.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Purchase fishing equipment for use at events and for distribution to partner organizations.	April 30, 2025
Establish partnerships with 20 new organizations to conduct fishing clinics	June 30, 2027
Annually conduct an additional 30 fishing clinics with local partners beyond DNR's typical 20-30 per	June 30, 2027

Activity 3: Identify and improve shore fishing opportunities in greater Minnesota

Activity Budget: \$221,000

Activity Description:

Some anglers do not own a boat and can only fish from shore. However, safe and legal shore fishing locations are not currently inventoried and readily known by the public. This limits people's options and may result in anglers fishing in places that either are unsafe or illegal. This proposal would fund positions that work with local DNR staff throughout the

state to inventory shore fishing opportunities that meet criteria for suitability as a public fishing location. The results of the inventory will be shared with the public via the DNR's website. Another outcome of the inventory will be information about potential shore fishing sites that could be suitable for public angling if some basic infrastructure investments were made, such as parking spaces or a path to the water. Sites in areas with limited other options for shore fishing that have infrastructure needs will be targeted for improvements from other ongoing and future funding sources.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Inventory of shore fishing locations.	June 30, 2026
Identification of sites where shore fishing opportunities could be improved	June 30, 2026
Publication on DNR website of inventory results	June 30, 2027

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?

The DNR has provided ongoing support to the Fishing in the Neighborhood program through its Game and Fish Fund. ENRTF support would allow us to grow the program to reach more people both within the Twin Cities and in cities in greater Minnesota. We will also grow capacity for partner organizations to offer this programming themselves into the future once leaders have participated and become educated on how to offer a fishing clinic. The DNR will continue to support this program into the future at a smaller scale if ENRTF support is not available.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Applying New Tools And Techniques Against Invasive Carp	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 06d	\$478,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Brian Nerbonne

Job Title: Regional Fisheries Manager

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

Brian Nerbonne has managed two previous invasive carp LCCMR projects, successfully completing required status updates, amendments and final reports documenting meeting planned objectives. Similarly, Brian has managed seven different Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations, each greater than one million dollars, to complete stream habitat restorations. Brian fulfilled all reporting requirements and demonstrated accomplishments to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Brian oversees an annual budget within his region of DNR Fisheries in excess of \$100,000.

Organization: MN DNR - Fish and Wildlife Division

Organization Description:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works to integrate and sustain the interdependent values of a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, and livable communities. DNR's integrated resource management strategy shares stewardship responsibility with Minnesotans and partners to manage for multiple interests. DNR protects the state's natural heritage by conserving the diversity of natural lands, waters, fish, and wildlife that provide the foundation for Minnesota's recreational and natural resource-based economy. DNR manages natural lands such as forests, wetlands, and native prairies; maintains healthy populations of fish and wildlife; and protects rare plant and animal communities throughout the state. DNR manages the state's water resources, sustaining healthy waterways and ground water resources. DNR provides access to enrich public outdoor recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife-watching, camping, skiing, hiking, biking, motorized recreation, and conservation education through a state outdoor recreation system that includes parks, trails, wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, water trails, and other facilities. DNR supports natural resource-based economies, managing state forest lands for multiple forest values, and ensuring the maximum long-term economic return from school trust lands.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Fisheries specialist		Inventory shore fishing opportunities, improve fishing sites, lead fishing clinics			49%	6		\$540,000
Fisheries interns		Assist with fisheries enhancement work, lead fishing clinics			10%	3		\$70,000
							Sub Total	\$610,000
Contracts and Services								
Shoreland restoration	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Remove invasive vegetation and install native shoreline plants				-		\$50,000
Fishing pier installation	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Install purchased fishing piers on lakes				-		\$40,000
DNR Creative Services Unit	Internal services or fees (uncommon)	DNR Creative Services Unit created materials for previous versions of the Youth and Family Fishing Guide. They will be able to update the content to include new fishing sites for publishing a new edition.				-		\$10,000
DNR Creative Services Unit	Internal services or fees (uncommon)	DNR Creative Services Unit has a template for signs used at other Fishing in the Neighborhood locations. They can more easily update that template than contracting with a new vendor to start from scratch.				-		\$3,000
Organizations conducting fishing education with key audiences	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contracting with organizations to provide outreach to key demographics such as underserved racial minorities. Organizations with connections in those communities and staff who reflect those communities will increase the chances of success in attracting participants.				-		\$20,000
							Sub Total	\$123,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								

	Tools and Supplies	Fish purchase from private aquaculture vendor and/or commercial angler. Quantity and species will be determined once waterbodies are identified.	Enhance fish community in new lakes/ponds managed through this program to improve fishing opportunities..					\$60,000
	Tools and Supplies	Purchase and deliver 36 fishing blocks	Enhance shore fishing opportunities on managed lakes/ponds					\$8,000
	Tools and Supplies	Signage for each of six new managed waterbodies	Describe fishing opportunities at newly managed waterbodies					\$3,000
	Tools and Supplies	300 fishing poles, line included	For use at fishing clinics and for donating to partner organizations					\$8,000
	Tools and Supplies	Bait for use at fishing events	Used at fishing events, usually worms or wax worms					\$3,000
							Sub Total	\$82,000
Capital Expenditures								
		Six fishing piers	Fishing location out on the water	X				\$240,000
							Sub Total	\$240,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Fleet costs for 30,000 miles over three years	Travel of staff to conduct activities outlined in this proposal					\$12,000
							Sub Total	\$12,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Printing of 10,000 copies of Youth and Family Fishing Guide	Previous edition will be updated to include new fishing locations managed by the Fishing in the Neighborhood program					\$14,000

							Sub Total	\$14,000
Other Expenses								
		Agency direct and necessary costs	Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$16,512), Safety Support (~\$3,433), Financial Support (~\$15,266), Communication Support (~\$2,123), IT Support (~\$42,958), and Planning Support (~\$1,036).					\$81,000
							Sub Total	\$81,000
							Grand Total	\$1,162,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		Six fishing piers	Fishing piers are critical to providing quality angling opportunities at many lakes, getting anglers out beyond shallow and plant-filled water to where fishing success is higher. Additional Explanation : DNR will obtain partnership agreements with local governments to manage piers after installation and beyond the life of the ENRTF appropriation.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
In-Kind	DNR Game and Fish Fund	Staff costs for Fishing in the Neighborhood personnel who will lead and assist staff hired by this appropriation in completing outlined work.	Secured	\$300,000
			State Sub Total	\$300,000
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$300,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [ba6d78b9-915.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Handout that outlines proposal to enhance urban fishing locations, expand the number of fishing clinics offered and create a publicly available inventory of safe and legal shore fishing sites. Includes photos of kids fishing, kids stocking fish and DNR staff teaching fishing skills....

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?

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?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

