



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-263

Proposal Title: Increasing Resilience of Voss Park Campground

Project Manager Information

Name: Kristina Rehnelt

Organization: City of Butterfield

Office Telephone: (507) 956-2501

Email: clerk@butterfieldmn.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The City of Butterfield's Voss Park Campground is under threat from Emerald Ash Borer which could potentially impact the Ash trees.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$81,000

Proposed Project Completion: July 31, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Methods to Protect or Restore Land, Water, and Habitat (F)

Project Location

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

Region(s): SW

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

Region(s): SW

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.

As Minnesota's climate and environments change it is important that we are proactive as stewards of our natural spaces to make sure they remain intact and accessible for generations to come. The City of Butterfield in rural southern Minnesota is home to Voss campground which plays an important role in our region's environmental, cultural, and economic wellbeing. This campground provides opportunities for community connection and environmental appreciation through its towering tree canopy, the lovely lake, and accompanying walking trails and campsites. Unfortunately, this natural space is under threat from Emerald Ash Bore. 95% of the nearly 200 trees in Voss Park are Ash trees, which if they die and aren't replaced will impact the comfort and appeal of our campground and if they remain, they will be a threat for the continued spread of Emerald Ash Bore to our neighboring counties.

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.

With this grant the City of Butterfield will remove 120 ash trees and replace them with a mix of 150 climate resilient and native tree variations including Hackberry, Skyline Locust, and Princeton Elm. While these trees are being removed and replaced, we will also improve our electrical infrastructure to be able to welcome more community members to enjoy this natural space and amenities. This work is needed because Voss Campground is an important social, cultural, and economic driver of our community. The campground hosts the Thresher Bees, a volunteer organization that hosts events to preserve and pass on the historical ways we grew and harvested food. These events draw hundreds of people to our small community and are only possible because of the amenities and infrastructure at Voss Campground. If our Ash trees die and are not replaced our region will lose an important natural space. This project will allow us to ensure Voss Campground remains an important part of Butterfield, southern Minnesota, and the Midwest for generations to come.

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?

- Reduce the spread of invasives with best management practices: The University of Minnesota Emerald Ash Bore guide says removing ash trees while they are alive is a valid option. We will utilize the wood locally for campfires to reduce the spread of EAB.
- Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities through additions to local parks: During removal of trees, we will expand the number of electrical and water hookups for our campground.
- Restore lands with native vegetation as practicable: Working with the DNR Forester and UMN Extension we selected climate resilient and native tree varieties to replace our ash trees.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Activity # 1: Ash tree Removal

Activity Budget: \$25,261

Activity Description:

The objective of this activity is to remove Ash trees that are infested or that are prone to infestation by Emerald Ash Borer from the campground. This will be completed by Certified Diversified Services an arborist contractor from the neighboring community of St. James. The outcome of this will be the removal of ash trees and a reduction in the speed at which the Emerald Ash Borer moves across Minnesota and neighboring states.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Removal of Ash Trees	October 31, 2026

Activity 2: Activity # 2: Camp Site Utility Extension

Activity Budget: \$10,014

Activity Description:

The objective of this activity is to take advantage of the occurring disturbance of removing Ash trees to also improve the infrastructure of our campground. The first step in this process will be soliciting competitive bids for this project from local contractors. After a contractor and bid are selected, their work will involve digging trenches and laying utility infrastructure throughout the campground so we can add hookups in the future. Another objective of this is to make our campground more attractive and accessible for a variety of campers from our community and across the region. The outcome of this activity will be that Voss campground will have improved infrastructure and be able to attract more campers to enjoy this natural area and our community.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Extension of Utilities	August 31, 2026

Activity 3: Activity #3: Ash tree Replacement

Activity Budget: \$45,725

Activity Description:

The goal of this activity is to replace the loss of 120 Ash trees with a mixture of 150 climate resilient and native trees. This will help protect our campers from the hot sun during the day, provide habitat for local wildlife, and help collect and filter rainwater that flows into the local lake and waterways. The results of this grant funding will be seen during the performance period. That said, the long-term upkeep of the trees will be done through the partnership between the City of Butterfield and the Thresher Bees, a volunteer organization who manage most park maintenance, upkeep, and programming. Both groups will be well equipped to take care of the newly planted trees as City Council member Jeff Durham and the campground groundskeeper Doug Wolle will attend the U of M tree steward program. The city will also be purchasing the trees through a local nursery, Redwood Falls Nursery, which will support us with proper guidelines for tree planting and maintenance.

To remove and replace the remaining 80n Ash trees we will continue to host community fundraisers and apply for grants such as the ReLeaf grant.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Planting of 150 Trees	July 31, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Kristina Rehnelt	CITY OF BUTTERFIELD	Project Administrator and City Clerk	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?

The ash trees have already been identified by the DNR Forester Vanessa Zachmann. With this information we have established that Certified and Diversified Services out of St. James, Minnesota will remove 120 ash trees and replace them with 150 trees including but not limited to Hackberry, Skyline Locust, and Princeton Elm. Once the trees are replaced City Council Member Jeff Durheim and Voss Campground Groundskeeper Doug Wolle will attend classes provided by the UMN Tree Steward Program. This will ensure that staff and city leadership have the knowledge required to care for these trees.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Kristina Rehnelt

Job Title: City Clerk/Treasurer

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

Being the City Clerk I am responsible for most of the projects in Butterfield for the funding and payments. I also help delegate what needs to be done with the help of the council and citizens that volunteer.

Organization: City of Butterfield

Organization Description:

The City of Butterfield is in Watonwan County in south central Minnesota. We are home to a small but diverse community which consists of 601 individuals who are 64.5% White, 28.4% Hispanic or Latino, and 7% Asian. The community's main employer is Butterfield Foods which has attracted many of our BIPOC residents and their families to the community. We are also home to Voss Campground which hosts an annual Threshing Bee festival which highlights our agricultural history through live demonstrations and education on how we used to harvest wheat, spinning wool, and many other historical skills. Our City staff includes one full time employee, four part time employees, and two contracted public works employees. The City of Butterfield provides services for water, sewer, a municipal liquor store and is filled with a community that is full of volunteers to help make our community and parks better.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
City of Butterfield	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Removal of Trees including cutting down, chopping and/or wood chipping of trees to remove trees infested or soon to be infested with Emerald Ash Bore and slow the spread of this invasive species through Minnesota and the United States.				0		\$9,100
City of Butterfield	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Funds for purchasing and planting of a diverse mix of 150 native and climate resilient tree varieties. Trees to replace those that were removed at the campground. The trees will ensure our campground is protected from summer heat and provide ecosystem benefits.				-		\$45,000
City of Butterfield	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Grow tubes and tree staking supplies. Contractor will organize purchase of equipment to ensure proper protection for young trees. Equipment to ensure young trees are protected from wildlife.				-		\$600
City of Butterfield	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Stump Grinding. Removal of tree stumps to prepare for replacement with new tree We will need to remove the tree stumps to allow for the placement of new trees and the extension of our utility service.				-		\$7,800
City of Butterfield	Professional or Technical Service Contract	U of M Tree Steward Program. Funding to cover the cost of 5 community members (the minimum required) to have the Tree Steward Program in Butterfield. To educate local community members on caring for newly planted trees				-		\$125
							Sub Total	\$62,625
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-

Capital Expenditures								
		Utility Extension	Extension of campground utilities to increase accessibility and appeal of Voss campground to local and regional community.	X				\$9,999
							Sub Total	\$9,999
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		ENTRF/LCCMR Sign	Sign from DNR website to acknowledge the ENTRF role in funding this project at the campground.					\$15
		Contingency Fund	10% contingency fund in case of increased costs for equipment, personnel, and deliverables.					\$8,361
							Sub Total	\$8,376
							Grand Total	\$81,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		Utility Extension	Utilizing more utilities at the campground would be beneficial to more campers. Additional Explanation : Utilities added to the campground could potentially help bring in more campers.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Total Project Cost: \$81,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [c4c5b724-c48.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Voss Park and it's campground.....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Most recent audit as of 3/22/2024	f4609247-045.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Letter of Approval for applying	052d9219-ad9.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

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 pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

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 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Kristina Rehnelt, City of Butterfield Sabri Fair, Region 9