



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-024

Proposal Title: New Ulm Pollinator Park Expansion

Project Manager Information

Name: Joey Schugel

Organization: City of New Ulm

Office Telephone: (507) 233-2121

Email: joeys@newulmmn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The New Ulm Pollinator Park Expansion project goal is to both protect the natural resources, restore native vegetation, and further connect people to nature through recreation and educational opportunities.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$246,000

Proposed Project Completion: July 31, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

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

Narrative

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

Our proposal seeks to address the protection of natural resource areas, the connection of people to nature, and educating on the importance of pollinators. We believe the most effective way to do this is to expand our current Pollinator Park to include additional features such as a nature based play area, additional trail areas, improved picnic area, native prairie restoration, and additional educational opportunities throughout the park. Expansion is very possible in this area with 20 acres of City owned land directly surrounding the current Pollinator Park. Additionally the location of our park is located directly across from a mobile home park that is currently underserved by our City park system. This project would provide more access to park amenities and encourage a further connection with the outdoors to the surrounding neighborhoods, community, and visitors.

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.

Our current Pollinator Park consists of 2.64 acres of outdoor recreation learning space and native species habitat. We have a huge opportunity to expand the Pollinator Park by protecting 20 additional acres of land with the goal of restoring native prairie, expanding recreational opportunities through nature based and educational play, and provide gathering spaces such as a picnic area and trail areas. This proposal seeks funding to expand the current Pollinator Park to make room for a nature based play area, additional trail areas, improved picnic area, native prairie restoration, and additional educational opportunities throughout the park. None of the funding needed would be for land acquisition, all land is controlled by the City.

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 successful this project when completed would consist of 22.64 acres of land that connects people with natural resources and amenities that not only connect them with nature but also educate them at the same time. This project is designed to conserve, preserve, and enhance the state's natural resources and would be not only a neighborhood and community attraction, we feel it would also be a regional attraction drawing visitors to this unique experience.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Acquire balance of funding; review plans and finalize bid specifications; advertise for bids and award contract

Activity Budget: \$30,000

Activity Description:

The main objective is to complete all plans, reviews, contracts, and other documents for the expansion of 20 acres of the New Ulm Pollinator Park. The expansion includes nature based play features, native prairie plantings, educational recreation amenities and signage, trails, and invasive species management.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Apply and acquire funding for the balance of the expansion project costs.	July 31, 2025
Assure necessary documents are reviewed and filed as needed.	December 31, 2025
Work with landscape architect consultant to finalize plans and construction specifications for bidding process.	January 31, 2026
Provide robust community engagement opportunities for community, especially with neighboring mobile home community.	January 31, 2026
Advertise for competitive bid process and award contract to qualified low bidder.	February 28, 2026

Activity 2: Construction on 20 acre expansion of Pollinator Park.

Activity Budget: \$216,000

Activity Description:

The main objective is the construction and development of the 20 acre expansion of the Pollinator Park. Includes constructing nature play area with features, picnic shelter, trail development, native prairie, invasive species management, and educational signage and features.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Invasive Species removal, common excavation, and other earthwork.	May 31, 2026
Develop nature play area with features	July 31, 2026
Construct assessable picnic shelter.	July 31, 2026
Educational Signage and features installations.	July 31, 2026
Trail and native prairie development.	September 30, 2026

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 Pollinator Park if expanded would continue to be part of our parks and recreation system for the City of New Ulm. Operationally we will continue to use resources to maintain and enhance this park as we do our other parks. Additionally we have a very active volunteer group that pours countless hours into this park and we expect that to continue if this project is successful.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Joey Schugel

Job Title: Park and Recreation Director

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

Experienced parks and recreation professional with over 17 years experience in the field of parks and recreation. Most recently 7 years experience as a Parks and Recreation Director with the cities of St. Peter and New Ulm. One of the core job duties over the last 7 years included project management, which has included projects related to park expansion, development, and redevelopment. Additionally have had the opportunity to lead projects that included natural resource management and development, including the Halletts Pond Park Nature Area project in St. Peter and Adams Park trail development in New Ulm.

Additionally in my current position in New Ulm we have a qualified team that will assist with this project, including our Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, City Engineering Department, and Community Development Office. We also have an active group of volunteers with environmental education backgrounds that have assisted and will continue to be part of this Pollinator Park Expansion effort.

Organization: City of New Ulm

Organization Description:

The City of New Ulm Park and Recreation Department is a municipal department committed to enhancing the lives of residents and visitors to the City of New Ulm. The Park and Recreation Department is responsible for operating a Recreation Center, Civic Center, Community Center and 43 park units. Additionally staff provides opportunities throughout the community through programming and activities that engage and enhance experiences for participants.

The department is made up of 17 full-time employees, 70-100 seasonal and part-time employees depending on the time of year. The 2025 department operating budget is approximately 4.5 million dollars.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	Professional or Technical Service Contract				-		\$30,000
TBD	Service Contract	Construction Contractor				0		\$65,000
							Sub Total	\$95,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Nature Based Play Equipment	Play equipment for Nature Based Playground	X				\$47,000
		Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle Equipment	Educational interactive equipment for park expansion	X				\$14,000
		Picnic Shelter	Provide much needed shade and gathering space option with expansion.	X				\$90,000
							Sub Total	\$151,000
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	\$246,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		Nature Based Play Equipment	<p>Our current pollinator park does not offer play features so this expansion project and equipment would offer neighborhood residents, community users, and tourists the opportunity to enjoy our park in a unique way, with the goal of further connecting park users with nature in this setting.</p> <p>Additional Explanation : Nature Based play features are a huge part of this expansion project. This play equipment will offer a unique experience to park users that is driving this expansion project. The nature play area would be added to our City park system and inspected along with on a replacement schedule ensuring long term investment in this park amenity.</p>
Capital Expenditures		Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle Equipment	<p>The Monarch Butterfly equipment is an important theme for this pollinator and natural resource area and will help us tell the story on how important protecting our natural resource areas are and the impacts they can have on our community.</p> <p>Additional Explanation : The Monarch Butterfly has been a theme of our pollinator park so adding some destination type of equipment that educates park users in an interactive way is the goal with these funds. With this being a theme of the park since 2017 we plan to continue to enhance this experience with these funds for the foreseeable future.</p>
Capital Expenditures		Picnic Shelter	<p>Picnic Shelter funding is important part of the expansion providing a park amenity that currently does not exist.</p> <p>Additional Explanation : The Picnic Shelter area would be placed closed to the trail system and nature based play area, giving park users a gathering space with shade, along with a safe place to supervise children using the play area. This will be a fixed facility that would be tied to the Pollinator Park permanently. This space could also be used as a gathering space for programming to get out of the sun.</p>

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	City of New Ulm	Landscape and Design Plans	Secured	\$14,000
Cash	New Ulm Area Foundation	Monarch Butterfly Interactive Statue	Potential	\$5,000
Cash	City of New Ulm	Park accessibility improvements	Secured	\$25,000
In-Kind	City of New Ulm	Engineering & Project Coordination	Secured	\$9,500
			Non State Sub Total	\$53,500
			Funds Total	\$53,500

Total Project Cost: \$299,500

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [7a6d468a-904.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Current Pollinator Park land area on page one of attachment, with expansion concept on page two of attachment....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Current Audit Report / Financial Statements	516a65d0-e9e.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Pollinator Park Expansion Grant Application - City Council Resolution	5ba8b535-f3a.docx

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Pollinator Park Media Links	f522e3a3-573.docx
Friends of Pollinator Park - Letter of Support	5b8a77ef-dc4.pdf
Pollinator Park Program 5	51e1fb05-1a0.jpe
Pollinator Park Program 4	02e3b8c6-54e.jpe
Pollinator Park Program 3	a040d1e9-23e.jpe
Pollinator Park Program 2	af1d92f1-0b1.jpe
Pollinator Park Program 1	b56888ac-1f8.jpe
Pollinator Park	7c4f7525-8a1.jpe

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

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?

Yes, City of New Ulm

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")?

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

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

Joey Schugel, City of New Ulm

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand