

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-190

Proposal Title: Pollinator Central V: Habitat Improvement with Public Engagement

Project Manager Information

Name: Rebecca Tucker

Organization: Great River Greening

Office Telephone: (651) 272-3982

Email: rtucker@greatrivergreening.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Continuing pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on 10 sites from Mankato to Little Falls, with public engagement and education centered on native pollinators and community participation in natural resource stewardship.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,114,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2029

LCCMR Funding Category: Land (F)

Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro, Central, SE,

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

Region(s): Metro, Central, 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.

Current urban corridors are largely undeveloped habitat for pollinators, often with turf or degraded woodlands serving as boundaries between pavement and other impermeable surfaces. These patches of vegetation can be opportunities for municipalities and educational institutions to develop low-maintenance, high reward ecological areas that benefit the pollinator community as well as the neighborhoods that these parks, nature centers, and public spaces serve. However, public landowners are hindered by budget or lack of expertise in natural resource management, making these types of tangible projects not possible without assistance.

In addition to the restoration and establishment of habitat for imperiled pollinator species, there is an opportunity for stewardship, community education, and hands on monitoring to understand how pollinators interact with these restored spaces. Partners have expressed the need for more direct facilitation of public engagement as a part of these habitat creation projects. Communities are either understaffed or benefit from the expansive education on native plants and pollinators that is provided with this partnership. Continuing the habitat creation, enhancement, and public education creates paths to sustainable communities.

This fifth phase of Pollinator Central projects will partner with a wide range of municipalities to support pollinator habitat stewardship on publicly accessible project sites.

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.

Following recommendations from the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection and other habitat assessment guides, we will restore habitats in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes to support a 'hopscotch' corridor for pollinators, as well as improve core habitat areas. Shoreline turf conversion to small, high quality native patches will join project work on grasslands, savannas, wetlands, and woodlands all within flight distance of year-round habitat.

Proposed implementation will follow recommendations provided by the Habitat Assessment Guide for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (Xerces), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Monarch Conservation Database and other guides, field surveys and expert review. Emphasis will be placed on adjacency within a landscape mosaic to provide forage habitat throughout the year, as determined by using state-of-the-art pollinator habitat 'core and - patches' adjacency mapping analysis. Restoration and enhancement activities will be guided by ecological plans, and implemented by a variety of labor forces including subcontractors, field crews, landowner in-kind, and volunteers.

Direct inclusion of groups in these communities looking for education on native plant and pollinator species, as well as the participation in the hands-on creation and establishment of these habitats, will add value to these healthy environmental spaces through creative, public engagement.

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 improvements on 157 acres over 10 sites with 0.53 miles of shoreline will increase floral resources and improve nesting and over-wintering habitat for pollinators, while engaging a total of 300 habitat volunteers in field activities. In addition, we will monitor several sites using accessible techniques, guided by Greening staff and trained local stewards learning from previous years monitoring projects, to collect data on pollinator response to habitat improvements, engaging 100 community scientists in monitoring efforts, public stewardship and education. Management reports will be generated and disseminated to landowners that will help guide future habitat enhancement.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Activity Budget: \$1,064,400

Activity Description:

Habitat restoration and enhancement steps with 8 public landowners on 157 acres over 10 sites: Site assessment; plan development including goals, timelines, outline of labor forces such as volunteers, landowners, Greening crew, subcontractors and partners, with long-term management; active site preparation, installation, establishment; and monitoring throughout. We will restore pollinator habitat with a focus on Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including bumble bee species and monarch butterflies as examples, on an expanding corridor in 7 counties from Mankato up the Minnesota River to the Twin Cities and up the Mississippi River to Little Falls.

Following recommendations from the Governor's Committee and others, this includes non-traditional pollinator habitat areas, including turf conversion and woodland understories recently cleared of the invasive buckthorn. Typical restoration activities will include turf conversion and prairie establishment; shoreline restoration and enhancement; judicious use of invasive removal and woodland restoration, restricted in size and to locations that are adjacent to season-long habitat emphasizing forbs, select flowering shrubs and trees, and habitat needs for overwintering and nesting pollinators. Restoration and enhancement activities will be guided by ecological plans and implemented by a variety of labor forces including subcontractors, field crews, landowner in-kind, and 300 volunteers.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate
	Completion Date
Site selection and contracting / native planting plan completion for 10 sites.	December 31, 2026
Implementation of restoration activities on all 10 sites, including public volunteer events where	June 30, 2027
applicable.	
Restoration and enhancement completion on 10 sites for a total of 157 acres, 300 volunteers.	December 31, 2029

Activity 2: Community Science Pollinator Monitoring

Activity Budget: \$49,600

Activity Description:

Monitoring will occur pre and post restoration/enhancement to determine the pollinator habitat value of the site and the response to the improvements. This monitoring will take several forms and at escalating levels of rigor, depending on what has been shown to be accomplishable as well as informative during Phase I and II. We have taken input from what communities were interested in learning and participating in during the first four phases of this grant series (Phase III and IV are still online currently), and are incorporating repeatable community stewardship monitoring with education to allow for observations to continue into the future independently beyond this grant funding period.

Direct pollinator monitoring, with a minimum 100 community scientists engaged, will encompass this suite of approaches including observational science techniques of timed meander counts on multiple sites, with training, and infield photography with identification on multiple sites. Monitoring will include a timed count of 3 categories of pollinators (honeybees vs. native bees vs. other floral visitors) and camera 'trapping' using skilled photographers and expert identification through the public website iNaturalist. A minimum 5 sites will receive pollinator species education / outreach or monitoring over the duration of the grant period.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate
	Completion Date
Pre-restoration habitat baseline observations for each of the 10 sites.	November 30, 2026
Site specific monitoring plans for minimum 5 sites and types of monitoring (counts or photography)	April 30, 2027
Continuing monitoring on applicable sites, with at least 3 visits or stewardship events per season.	December 31, 2028
All surveys complete, 100 community scientists engaged, final report on pollinator populations created	December 31, 2029
and disseminated.	

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
City of St. Louis Park	City	Landowning municipality that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 2 publicly accessible project sites.	Yes
City of St. Cloud	City	Landowning municipality that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	
City of Carver	City	Landowning municipality that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
City of Plymouth	City	Landowning municipality that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
Morrison County	County	Landowning county that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
City of North Mankato	City	Landowning municipality that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
LeSueur County	County	Landowning county that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 1 publicly accessible project site.	Yes
Blue Earth County	County	Landowning county that will be receiving natural resources work (including invasive removal and native plant establishment) as well as public education and engagement on 2 publicly accessible project sites.	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?

This is the fifth phase of the Pollinator Central grants presented to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations, and owing to the volume of interest we have received each time we have released RFPs to land-owning partners, we anticipate that there will be critical need and opportunity for future phases in this Pollinator Central corridor. These projects are well matched by cash and in-kind funding from landowners and other sources, and the landowners will commit to long term maintenance of the restoration sites. The restoration monitoring information will be disseminated with grant assistance.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount
		Awarded
Pollinator Central: Habitat Improvement with Citizen	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2,	\$750,000
Monitoring	Subd. 08a	
Pollinator Central II: Habitat Improvement With	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2,	\$631,000
Community Monitoring	Subd. 08c	
Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05d	\$300,000
Stewardship		
Biochar Implementation in Habitat Restoration: A Pilot	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 07b	\$185,000
Pollinator Central III: Habitat Improvement with	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08g	\$190,000
Community Monitoring		

Restoring Forests and Savannas Using Silvopasture -	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h	\$674,000
Phase2		
Building Resilient Urban Forests for Climate Change	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 07b	\$752,000
Pollinator Central IV: Habitat Improvement with Public	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 08e	\$698,000
Engagement		ļ

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Rebecca Tucker

Job Title: Program Manager, Twin Cities Metro

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

Rebecca has a Master of Science in Botany from Purdue University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and has been at Great River Greening since fall 2017. During this time, she has successfully managed two full LCCMR projects to completion (Pollinator Central I and II), and is currently managing two active LCCMR projects (Pollinator Central III and IV). She has developed partnerships with public landowners as well as written and executed contracts for those projects and numerous others including multiple phases of similar Outdoor Heritage Fund projects. Rebecca currently manages the Twin Cities Metro Program which involves supervising two project managers, coordinating over 30 active parcels, and stewarding the numerous associated community volunteer efforts in this program.

Organization: Great River Greening

Organization Description:

Great River Greening's mission is to inspire, engage and lead local communities in conserving and caring for the land and water that enrich our lives.

Great River Greening (GRG) as a non-profit has been restoring, adapting, and sustainably managing ecosystems to address climate change, providing benefits for both people and the environment since 1995. To achieve our vision of healthy, climate change resilient ecosystems throughout MN, GRG leans into the practices and projects that can truly impact our shared climate future. Our land-based restoration centers on three pillars of impact: (1) Restoring resilient landscapes, (2) Addressing critical biodiversity loss, and (3) Increasing carbon sequestration and storage.

Environmental stewardship is one of our core commitments. We partner with the communities we serve to increase environmental connection, teach environmental restoration, and ultimately empower committed individuals to join us in caring for our shared natural resources, engaging 6,000+ volunteers annually.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineli gible	% Bene fits	# FTE	Class ified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Grant Manager		Oversees Project Managers, Ecologists and Field Coordinator. Approves contracts, invoices and budgets.			21.83%	0.42		\$42,500
Project Manager Ecologist		Manages day to day project execution, crew, contractors, project budget and timeline.			21.83%	1.22		\$125,200
Field Crew		Conducts on-site work to support project deliverables			21.83%	0.18		\$10,700
Events & Outreach		Manages and conducts tasks related to volunteer acquisition, event development and event execution			21.83%	0.73		\$51,900
Grant Administration		Tracks grant and project budget compliance, develops status reports and amendments, develops documentation for reimbursement, and processes reimbursement requests			21.83%	0.35		\$25,700
							Sub Total	\$256,000
Contracts and Services								
Restoration and Enhancement Sub-Contracts, organizations TBD	Service Contract	Activity 1. Site preparation, prairie seeding, native plug planting, invasive species control, woody harvest, thinning, forestry mowing, herbicide treatment, prescribed fire, haying, and related natural resource management activities.				2.16		\$674,500
							Sub Total	\$674,500
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Activity 1 - Native plant materials (example seeds, plugs, shrubs, and trees, price dependent on species, number of individuals, and availability of species during the year of purchase), herbicide, and hand tools such as trowels and shovels, and other restoration supplies.	To create native pollinator habitat on 157 acres on the 10 projects as described in the narrative and required by in-house or volunteer activities to accomplish the restoration and enhancement goals,					\$158,800

			the individual number and price of			
			which are determined during the			
	Tools and	Activity 2. Domilation requires and community	active projects.			¢1.000
	Supplies	Activity 2 - Population monitoring and community science education supplies including transect tape	To facilitate volunteers observing and monitoring pollinators on the habitat			\$1,000
	Supplies	measures, pin flags, nets, educational materials,	restoration projects.			
		etc.	restoration projects.			
					Sub	\$159,800
					Total	,,
Capital Expenditures						
					Sub	-
					Total	
Acquisitions						
and						
Stewardship						
					Sub	-
					Total	
Travel In Minnesota						
	Miles/ Meals/	Activity 1 R/E Travel	Support travel to accomplish			\$16,000
	Lodging		deliverables based on estimated			
			number of project site visits required			
			to complete the Activity goals.			
	Miles/ Meals/	Activity 2 Monitoring Travel	Support travel to accomplish			\$1,200
	Lodging		deliverables based on estimated			
			number of project site visits required			
			to complete the Activity goals.		Code	647.200
					Sub	\$17,200
Travel Outside					Total	
Minnesota						
Willinesota					Sub	
					Total	_
Printing and					Total	
Publication						
					Sub	-
					Total	
Other Expenses						
		Volunteer event related expenses, Activity 1	Tent, table, chairs, food, latrine, etc.,	Х		\$4,500
			as required to support project			

		volunteer event deliverables and the promotion of LCCMR strategy and objectives to volunteers.				
	Volunteer event related expenses, Activity 2	Tent, table, chairs, food, latrine, etc., as required to support project volunteer event deliverables and the promotion of LCCMR strategy and objectives to volunteers.	Х			\$2,000
					Sub Total	\$6,500
					Grand Total	\$1,114,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Other Expenses		Volunteer event related expenses, Activity 1	Event-related expenses will support participant and volunteer hours needed to accomplish project deliverables and to provide education to participants and volunteers on the ecological benefits of the project and awareness of LCCMR's commitment and funding to this project.
Other Expenses		Volunteer event related expenses, Activity 2	Event-related expenses will support participant and volunteer hours needed to accomplish project deliverables and to provide education to participants and volunteers on the ecological benefits of the project and awareness of LCCMR's commitment and funding to this project.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Great River Greening - cash match	GRG direct expenses required to do the work for this grant	Pending	\$73,920
Cash	City of St. Louis Park	Labor expense	Pending	\$10,000
Cash	Morrison County	Labor expense	Pending	\$5,000
Cash	City of Carver	Labor expense	Pending	\$20,000
Cash	City of Plymouth	Labor expense	Pending	\$30,000
In-Kind	Volunteers	Volunteer labor directly related to the deliverables of the project (400 volunteers, average 2 hours, at \$33.49/hr) based on Independent Sector's 2024 calculations.	Potential	\$26,790
Cash	LeSueur County	Labor expense	Pending	\$5,000
Cash	Blue Earth County	Labor expense	Pending	\$20,000
			Non State	\$190,710
			Sub Total	
			Funds	\$190,710
			Total	

Total Project Cost: \$1,304,710

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Belle Prairie Phase 2	Morrison	Woodland preparation, seeding, and native species establishment in a large, multi-habitat park along the Mississippi River.	Restoration	24	-	\$117,100	Public		Has Not Begun
Bluff Park	Nicollet	Expanding a successfully established prairie restoration in a city park.	Restoration	2	-	\$36,700	Public		Has Not Begun
Cedar Manor Park Phase 2	Hennepin	Continued forest enhancement with invasive species removal in a public park in an urban area.	Restoration	7	0	\$43,850	Public		Has Not Begun
Heritage Park Phase 3	Stearns	Continued establishment of native prairie and savanna adjacent to small lakes and with well utilized walking trails.	Restoration	10	-	\$47,700	Public		Has Not Begun
Ney Nature Center	Le Sueur	Prairie enhancement, reconstruction, and oak savanna restoration at a large public nature center.	Restoration	69	-	\$136,900	Public		Has Not Begun
Parkers Lake Park	Hennepin	Lakeshore turf to prairie habitat conversion in a very utilized urban park.	Restoration	2.5	0.34	\$148,900	Public		Has Not Begun
Red Jacket Park	Blue Earth	Prairie expansion and invasive species control at a large park on the banks of the Le Sueur River.	Restoration	12	-	\$84,700	Public		Has Not Begun
Riverside Park	Carver	Turf conversion to prairie and native plantings at a city park.	Restoration	4	0.19	\$83,200	Public		Has Not Begun
Westwood Hills Nature Center Phase 6	Hennepin	Continued forest and wetland enhancement with invasive species removal at a heavily used public nature center with multiple ecosystems.	Restoration	7.5	0	\$111,150	Public		Has Not Begun
Williams Nature Center	Blue Earth	Oak savanna restoration at a public nature center on the banks of the Minnesota River.	Restoration	19	-	\$254,200	Public		Has Not Begun
Totals				157	0.53	\$1,064,400			

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 completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

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.

Restoration plans include target community, timelines, methods, budgets and long-term maintenance. These plans are filed electronically by unique project numbers and can be referenced by staff or landowner as required by the needs of the site.

- 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. All plans will follow the most recent version Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.
- 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 needs of the parcel being restored with these funds become the responsibility of the landowner. Greening seeks to assist when possible.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

Great River Greening contacts the Conservation Corps of Minnesota once the grant is secured to seek their interest for any restoration activities.

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.

Evaluations will be completed during the process, initially after activity completion and three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations will 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.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: f7dfbe42-c1a.pdf

Alternate Text for Map

Map of proposed project sites in Pollinator Central V....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
12.31.23+GREAT+RIVER+GREENING+-+990	<u>fc992963-ab2.pdf</u>
12.31.23 GREAT RIVER GREENING - Audited Financial	<u>69f97989-ba4.pdf</u>
Statements	

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution Letter	<u>8eaf706d-b04.pdf</u>

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File	
PCV GRG LCCMR Proposal Flyer ML26	60183a65-a76.pdf	
PCV - Great River Greening - LeSueur Co Letter of Support	<u>d2268e45-342.pdf</u>	
PCV - Great River Greening - Carver Letter of Support	<u>2b4963f0-9e3.pdf</u>	
PCV - Great River Greening - Morrison County Letter of Support	447d638d-8b2.pdf	
PCV- Great River Greening - Ney Nature Center Letter of	<u>a0809420-f65.pdf</u>	
Support		
PCV - Great River Greening - St. Louis Park Letter of Support	<u>1b64fc9d-c07.pdf</u>	
PCV - Great River Greening - Plymouth Letter of Support	<u>d58a5b2b-6e2.pdf</u>	
PCV - Great River Greening - North Mankato Letter of Support	aa1ee543-cfd.pdf	
PCV - Great River Greening - Blue Earth County Letter of	6629a810-27e.pdf	
Support		
Map of Pollinator Central I through the proposed Phase V	<u>b81dbe01-903.pdf</u>	
project sites.		

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

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?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

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")?

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:

Applicable staff from all listed public landowning partners were consulted on the proposed plans and project budgets for individual parcels and will be partnered with during the duration of the work.

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