



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-221

Proposal Title: Mississippi River Water Trail Access in Dayton

Project Manager Information

Name: Maggie Heurung

Organization: Three Rivers Park District

Office Telephone: (763) 694-7797

Email: maggie.heurung@threeriversparks.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Mississippi River water trail access development, including a non-motorized boat launch and staging area, paved trail connection, parking, and natural resource restoration, on Three Rivers Park District's property in Dayton.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$500,000

Proposed Project Completion: October 31, 2028

LCCMR Funding Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro

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

Region(s): Metro

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.

Like many areas along the Mississippi River, the lack of public access for recreation or viewing the river is due to extensive private property ownership and steep bluffs along the river. Three Rivers and the City of Dayton recognize it is critical to provide approachable connections to the river so people can experience it and gain an appreciation for protecting this treasured waterway and the land along it. This is especially important as the project is located on public land with a gradual slope to the river that is not yet accessible to the public and is within both the NPS Mississippi National River Recreation Area and MNDNR Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area. Further, the City's, MNDNR's, and NPS' water trail plans all aim to make the river more accessible in this area. The addition of this non-motorized boat launch creates a series of inviting, approachable, and easily navigable river stretches for new paddlers as there is a planned DNR non-motorized boat launch about 1.65 miles upstream and an existing non-motorized boat launch 1.85 miles downstream at Elsie Stephens Park.

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.

Since this public property offers gradual access, it provides one of the best opportunities for a publicly accessible shoreline within the City. This project will result in:

- ADA amenities that support public river access, including a gravel parking lot, an 8-foot paved trail to the boat launch, a canoe/kayak launch with railing, a gravel overlook and staging area, picnic tables, and shoreline fishing access
- Land restoration activities that increase tree canopy, enhance the native plant community, and provide wildlife habitat through shoreline armoring and revegetation

Further, this public land is the future convergence of the Diamond Lake and West Mississippi River (shares route with National Mississippi River Trail/US Bikeway 45) Regional Trails and is planned to serve as a trailhead (wayfinding, bathrooms, bicycle fix-it station, etc.) for these multi-use trails. To accomplish this Three Rivers has been actively acquiring, protecting, and restoring land along the river on a willing seller basis. This project is about creating public access to public lands to build public support and appreciation of Three Rivers' efforts to protect and restore land, water quality and critical habitat along 3.5+/- miles of Mississippi River flyway and shoreline in Dayton.

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 will allow visitors from the region, state and nation to experience the river in a variety of ways, including non-motorized boating, shoreline fishing, and nature viewing and picnicking, thus leading to a greater respect and admiration for the Mississippi River and the surrounding natural resources as residents learn conservation and stewardship of critical land and water resources. This project will also build upon Three Rivers' and partner efforts to restore and enhance public lands along this stretch of river, providing essential habitat for wildlife in the Mississippi Flyway migratory corridor.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Water Trail Trailhead Construction - Design and Engineering, Construction, and Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$500,000

Activity Description:

Three Rivers will hire a professional consultant firm from its consultant services pool with engineering, landscape architecture, and other required qualifications to design the project, coordinate with partners, obtain permits, prepare bidding and construction documents, and lead construction administration. Construction will include mobilization, site preparation (site clearing, grubbing, erosion control), grading, hardscape construction (backfilling, compaction, pavement), softscape installation (ground cover, native trees and shrubs), and signage installation. The budget for Activity 1, including ENRTF funding (59%) and non-ENRTF match (41%), is \$850,000.

Construction will include the following recreation access features:

- ADA amenities that support river access, including a non-motorized boat launch, gravel overlook and staging area, shoreline fishing, picnic tables, paved trail connection, and gravel parking lot

Three Rivers will obtain a building permit from the City of Dayton. Based on high quality natural resources and the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area, other state and federal permits may be required. Need for these permits will be determined through state and federal review process, which will occur during design.

Three Rivers will also provide in-kind restoration services during this activity, including trees and native plants from the Park District's nursery planted by Three Rivers crews (estimated at \$64,000).

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Completion of Design and Engineering	July 31, 2027
Consultation with SHPO	December 31, 2027
Completion of Bidding and Award of Contract	March 31, 2028
All Permits Secured	April 30, 2028
Construction Begins	May 31, 2028
Construction Completion and Final Inspections	September 30, 2028
Facilities Open for Use	October 31, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
City of Dayton	City of Dayton	Project Partner	No

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?

Three Rivers will contract with consultant firms to design and construct the water trail access. Three Rivers and the City of Dayton are partnering to assist with financial support/non-ENRTF (41%) for the project. Once the project is constructed, Three Rivers will coordinate with the City to assume operations (i.e., lawn mowing, seasonal bathrooms, etc.) as part of their Goodin Park operations until the broader Mississippi River Trail is developed through this area. If additional work is needed, Three Rivers will fund this work through future grant requests, GO bond funds, and/or legacy funds.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Shoreline Stabilization, Fishing, and ADA Improvements at Silverwood Park	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08o	\$200,000
Karner Blue Butterfly Insurance Population Establishment in Minnesota	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b	\$405,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Maggie Heurung

Job Title: Planner

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

As a planner at Three Rivers Park District, I have expertise in long-range planning, community engagement, and project management, particularly in park and trail development. I have experience leading and coordinating planning efforts, managing budgets and grants, overseeing consultants, leading multidisciplinary teams, engaging diverse stakeholders, and utilizing tools like ArcGIS and Adobe InDesign for data visualization and reporting.

Organization: Three Rivers Park District

Organization Description:

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system in suburban Hennepin County. We were founded in 1957 by the Minnesota Legislature to acquire, develop and maintain regional parks, park reserves and trails. We manage nearly 30,000 acres of parkland and over 170 miles of regional trails. Our passionate staff of more than 2,000 employees (full-time, part-time and seasonal) work together to carry out our mission to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. The name "Three Rivers" comes from our parks' geography, situated within the watersheds that flow into three significant rivers to this region: the Mississippi, the Minnesota and the Crow. Three Rivers goal is to enhance the quality of life, locally and statewide, through recreation and education while acquiring, developing and maintaining natural spaces for today and tomorrow.

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	Park design and engineering contractor will be selected from Three Rivers' consultant pool and will develop the site design, engineering, and construction specifications for all recreation features (non-motorized boat launch, trail access, parking lot, shoreline fishing)				3		\$84,000
TBD	Service Contract	Contractor will be selected from Three Rivers' consultant pool and will prepare the site and construct all recreation and access features according to the construction plans and specifications. Contractor will provide site preparation, construction, erosion control, and other construction tasks.				5		\$416,000
							Sub Total	\$500,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
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	\$500,000

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				
Cash	Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)	Funds will be used towards design, construction and construction administration	Secured	\$200,000
			State Sub Total	\$200,000
Non-State				
Cash	Three Rivers GO Bonds and/or Legacy Funding	Funds will be used towards design, construction and construction administration	Potential	\$150,000
In-Kind	Three Rivers Park District Natural Resources	Three Rivers Natural Resources team will provide in-kind native plantings and restoration to this property. Estimated cost is \$64,000.	Secured	\$64,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$214,000
			Funds Total	\$414,000

Total Project Cost: \$914,000

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
Three River's Property Adjacent to Goodin Park in Dayton	Hennepin	This site is both lowland floodplain and upland forest as it is along the shoreline of the Mississippi River. The protection and restoration of this site is critical as it is in the Mississippi River Flyway migratory corridor. Three Rivers Park District has already spaded 43 trees on the east half of the property, but will further restore this property by increasing the tree canopy, enhancing the native plant community and providing wildlife habitat through shoreline armoring and revegetation. The project will allow the public to enjoy the river and the land along it while also protecting and restoring this site to enhance the environment for all.	Restoration	7.3	0.16	\$64,000	Public	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
Totals				7.3	0.16	\$64,000			

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 will occur on land permanently protected in public ownership by Three Rivers Park District. The project area is within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area and the Mississippi National River Recreation Area where there is an emphasis to protect and preserve the natural ecological and historic cultural significance for the public benefit.

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.

A detailed site restoration plan will be included in the final design plans and specifications for the project to guide both construction and ongoing management efforts. The restoration plan will be site specific and include specific seed mixes, plant material, and quantities for the site restoration, taking into consideration the soil, geology, and topography that ensures the best chance for long-term success of the restoration project. The plan will document the existing conditions prior to construction, along with detailed diagram of post construction restorations. Tree planting will be included in and documented through Three Rivers' forestry planting plan. All spade planted trees will be added to the park district's GIS inventory along with attribute info including location, species, origin, and conditions. These planted trees will be monitored annually for five years after planting, and then periodically as staff inspect 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.

Restoration will use native plant species within restored areas according to the Board of Water and Soil Resources native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. Native plantings and seeding will include an appropriate diversity of native species to provide habitat for pollinators throughout the growing season where growing conditions are suitable and practical. Three Rivers Park District will provide the local origin seed, trees and native plant material from its district nursery, or identify appropriate BWSR seed mixes and procure from reputable local vendors. Three Rivers Park District staff (wildlife, forestry, or water resources representatives) will participate in pre and post-construction site inspections with the consultant and contractor.

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.

The long-term maintenance and management of the restored project areas will be the responsibility of the Three Rivers Park District. Three Rivers has a district nursery (Crow Hassan Park Reserve) that is able to provide native plant material (seedlings, rooted plants, and live stakes) for those areas that do not successfully vegetate properly. All replacement planting, if necessary, will be conducted by experienced Three Rivers nursery, wildlife, or forestry staff. Three Rivers Park District Water Resources staff will be responsible for administration of the long-term success and maintenance of the restoration sites regarding native plantings as well as the shoreline. Maintenance and management activities are funded Three Rivers Park District operations and capital budget and also supported by the State and Metropolitan Council through regional parks operations and maintenance funding.

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

The Conservation Corps of Minnesota will be contacted to see if they are interested in assisting with restoration activities for the native planting and long-term maintenance of the project areas. Three Rivers contracts with CCMI on an annual basis for dedicated crews working in our forestry, wildlife management, and invasive species programs.

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.

Three Rivers Park District will periodically inspect the native plantings and armored shoreline to evaluate restoration success. An as-built survey will be conducted immediately after construction is completed. Inspection of shoreline and restoration areas will occur every year for the first five years. Site conditions will be compared to the as-built survey and planting plans. If there is evidence of significant erosion or revegetation planting failures, then maintenance actions will be implemented to re-stabilize the site. Site inspections will also include the evaluation of the long-term health and viability of native planting success for the restored areas. Those areas that do not vegetate successfully may require additional maintenance as well as replacement planting to ensure successful restoration. All spade planted large trees will be added to the Park District's planting inventory and recorded in GIS. Inspection information will be documented with corresponding photos of the sites; and will be available to improve implementation of future restoration efforts for similar projects.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [2c1999a9-65e.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Attached is a concept graphic of water trail access and support amenities for current project (launch, staging area, parking lot, trail connection). This graphic also notes the future regional trail routes on the property and the associated investments once constructed (e.g., trailhead kiosk, bike repair station, shelter with restrooms)....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2023 Three Rivers Financial Report - Financial Statement and Auditors' Report	0b491b51-b91.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
DRAFT of Board Resolution of Support to be approved on March 20th	47e44c2e-67e.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
LCCMR One Pager	2bb5c0f6-b51.pdf
Friends of the Mississippi River Letter of Support	6b315571-809.pdf
City of Dayton Water Trail Feasibility Study	71d39776-e4e.pdf
City of Dayton Letter of Support	c7d84095-c04.pdf
National Park Service Letter of Relevancy	8fe72de2-123.pdf
Capital Construction Budget Addendum	ec726925-c1f.pdf
Capital Project Questionnaire	4a31f8b0-4ec.pdf

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?

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?

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?

Yes

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:

Jami Markle, Three Rivers Park District

Kelly Grissman, Three Rivers Park District

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

