



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

### 2026 Request for Proposal

#### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2026-564

**Proposal Title:** Excelsior Commons Park Restoration

#### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Tim Amundsen

**Organization:** City of Excelsior

**Office Telephone:** (952) 653-3676

**Email:** tamundsen@excelsiormn.org

#### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** Excelsior Commons Park is heavily utilized by the public with degrading lakeshore in addition to consistent programming and aging facilities has impacted our natural resources and visitor experiences.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$1,151,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 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.**

Excelsior Commons Park is an iconic and historic public open space on the southern shore of Lake Minnetonka. The park is one of the first public commons established in 1854 and is both a cherished community asset and a destination within the greater region. The Excelsior Commons and Port of Excelsior are historic, dating to the origins of the city, and are widely recognized as Excelsior's chief assets. The 13-acre park includes open recreation areas, picnic sites, playgrounds, two swimming beaches, tennis courts, baseball fields, a band shell, bathhouse, public restrooms, and docking for public excursion boats that provide lake access for those who do not own personal boats. The park's heavy public use, erosive lakeshore, consistent programming, and aging facilities have impacted existing natural resources and visitor experience which requires a need for changes to the park. A number of phases of the overall project have been completed which include design and construction of the Pavilion/Bandshell, Concessions Plaza, Oak Knoll Picnic Area, and Baseball Field Improvements. The City of Excelsior's objective is to continue forward with stakeholders to pursue funding for the trail system and lake shoreline improvements.

**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 proposed capital construction project is part of an overall phased restoration project for Excelsior Commons Park. This project phase concentrates on the recreational trail, lake shoreline improvements and natural resources educational outreach. The following project elements are included in the funding request; East Beach improvements include installation of a plug plantings of cordgrass and manna grass along the upper slope to stabilize sand placements and prevent sand from eroding down to the beach and Lake Minnetonka. East and West Knoll, hazard trees will be removed to allow for more sun exposure to assist with establishing a native plant community to protect the topsoil from further erosion. Stabilization activities on the West Knoll include removing invasive species, such as buckthorn and creeping bellflowers, and restoring native plant communities. Shoreline improvements include living shoreline or a combination of vegetation and riprap along the lake shoreline to establish native plant communities and protect the existing shoreline. Trail improvements of existing and new trail construction from Port of Excelsior to West Lake Street to not only provide pedestrian connections to park amenities but also educate park users on our natural resources within Excelsior Commons Park and Minnesota.

**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?**

Restoration techniques that will be utilized removing invasive species, such as buckthorn and creeping bellflowers, and restoring native plant communities. A shade-tolerant native pollinator mix, and a woodland edge seed mix will be planted in areas where foot traffic has eroded the existing soil in addition to use of Proganics Biotic Soil Control to aid establishment of plant species. Shoreline improvements include a combination of vegetation and riprap along the lake shoreline or living shoreline to reference the desired balance between establishing a native plant community and protecting the existing shoreline.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Final Design, Engineering, Permitting and Construction Administration of Lake Shoreline Restoration and Trail System.

**Activity Budget:** \$251,000

**Activity Description:**

Activity includes engineering, design, permitting, construction administration and as-built survey.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Engineering/Construction Plans and Bid Specifications	June 30, 2027
Permits (MNDNR, MPCA, USACOE, City, Watershed District)	October 31, 2027
Construction Administration	June 30, 2028
Project Closeout (As built Survey, Construction Finalization)	June 30, 2028

### Activity 2: Construction - Lake Shoreline Restoration and Trail Segment

**Activity Budget:** \$840,000

**Activity Description:**

The activity includes construction materials and construction services for the shoreline improvements and trail segment.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Project Kickoff	October 31, 2027
Construction of Shoreline Restoration	May 31, 2028
Construction of Trail Segment	June 30, 2028

### Activity 3: Education and Public Outreach

**Activity Budget:** \$60,000

**Activity Description:**

This activity includes development of educational materials and signage to be placed in naturally restored areas along the newly constructed trail segment.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Development of educational materials and signage	June 30, 2028
Public Outreach Events	June 30, 2028

## 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 restoration project is designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Once the project is completed and vegetation well established, some maintenance will be required to sustain project outcomes. We anticipate that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections by the City of Excelsior. Monitoring and maintenance will not require separate funding. In the event that there are other maintenance costs, volunteer labor and other funds sources will be obtained to complete required maintenance.

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Tim Amundsen

**Job Title:** Public Works Director

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

The City of Excelsior operates under the council-manager plan. Under this form of government, all legislative power is vested in the elected, part-time City Council. This Council consists of a mayor and four councilmembers who are elected at large. The mayor is elected for a two-year term and the councilmembers are elected for four-year staggered terms. The Council adopts policies and ordinances and appoints a professional, full-time city manager to carry them out. The city manager is solely responsible for the administration of city business and may delegate authority to promote efficient use of staff time.

As the public works director for the City of Excelsior we rely on multiple funding sources including a local option sales tax and multiple partnerships. These partnerships include Community for the Commons, Hennepin County, Clean Water, MN State Bonding and Federal Funds. We utilize funding from our partnerships on numerous city projects each year. The City of Excelsior in cooperation with Hennepin County, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and the MNDNR continue yearly watershed monitoring and reporting results. Longstanding partnerships with these groups allow available funding and commitment sources needed to achieve goals set to improve and maintain city projects.

**Organization:** City of Excelsior

**Organization Description:**

The City of Excelsior operates under the council-manager plan. Under this form of government, all legislative power is vested in the elected, part-time City Council. This Council consists of a mayor and four councilmembers who are elected at large. The mayor is elected for a two-year term and the councilmembers are elected for four-year staggered terms. The Council adopts policies and ordinances and appoints a professional, full-time city manager to carry them out. The city manager is solely responsible for the administration of city business and may delegate authority to promote efficient use of staff time.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
TBD	Service Contract	Design, Engineering, Permitting, Construction Administration				2.5		\$251,000
TBD	Service Contract	Construction of Lake Shoreline Improvements				2.5		\$445,000
TBD	Service Contract	Construction of the Trail Segment				4		\$395,000
TBD	Service Contract	Educational Materials, Signage and Public Outreach Events				1		\$60,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,151,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								

							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$1,151,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
---------------	---------------------	-------------	--

## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Local Sales Tax Funds	Shoreline Restoration Feasibility Study	Secured	\$25,000
Cash	Local Sales Tax Funds	Excelsior Commons Park Masterplan	Secured	\$50,000
Cash	Local Sales Tax Funds	Pavilion/Bandshell	Secured	\$1,400,000
Cash	Local Sales Tax Funds	Concessions/Plaza	Secured	\$3,900,000
Cash	Local Sales Tax Funds	Oak Knoll Picnic Area Restoration	Secured	\$100,000
Cash	Local Sales Tax Funds	Baseball Field Improvements	Secured	\$1,600,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$7,075,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$7,075,000</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$8,226,000**

**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
				-	-	-			
Totals				0	0	-			

## 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.**

The Excelsior Commons Park is protected by 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.**

A long-term monitoring/maintenance plan will be implemented to assure all constructed restoration measures are adequately functioning as designed for the project.

**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 live plant material and seed planted purchased for the project will be regionally native plant species. Installation of seed and live plant material will follow MNDOT and MNBWSR specified planting guidelines.

**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.**

A long-term monitoring/maintenance plan will be implemented by the City of Excelsior to assure all constructed restoration measures are adequately functioning as designed for the project. This will include long term vegetative monitoring to identify the progress of native vegetation establishment in addition yearly evaluations of fish and wildlife populations. All required yearly maintenance completed will be documented in the yearly monitoring reports.

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

Conservation Corps will be contracted regarding removal and management of invasive species and potentially live plantings within the project area.

**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.**

As part of the annual monitoring reporting for the project; Year 1 monitoring includes existing conditions prior to restoration, site evaluation during restoration and post restoration. Year 2 monitoring includes evaluation of vegetation and required maintenance. Year 3 monitoring includes evaluation of vegetation and required maintenance. Year 4- Ongoing Yearly vegetation monitoring. All maintenance required for the project will be complete by the City of Excelsior.

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Map*

File: [fda15b66-4fe.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

Excelsior Commons Site Plan...

#### *Financial Capacity*

Title	File
2023 Executive Governance Summary	<a href="#">9842ba72-f61.pdf</a>
2023 Annual Financial Report	<a href="#">29eec2e3-ddf.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Resolution Letter	<a href="#">155a5a74-067.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	<a href="#">54af7b5e-593.pdf</a>
City of Excelsior Letter of Support	<a href="#">3186c0e1-a21.pdf</a>
Capital Construction Budget	<a href="#">0d674b9c-33d.xlsx</a>

## 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:**

None

**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