



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-040

Proposal Title: Howard Lake Habitat Restoration

Project Manager Information

Name: Alicia O'Hare

Organization: Wright Soil and Water Conservation District

Office Telephone: (763) 614-2919

Email: alicia.ohare@mn.nacdnet.net

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Howard Lake's water quality suffers from low biodiversity. This project will improve water quality by restoring shoreline, nearshore, and aquatic zones habitat by planting native plants and removing invasive species.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$297,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2035

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Water (B)

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 and In the Future

Narrative

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

Howard Lake, located near the City of Howard Lake within Middleville Township in Wright County, spans 745 acres with a maximum depth of 39 feet. In 2008, it was classified as not "fishable and swimmable". The lake is dominated by invasive curly-leaf pondweed, which grows rapidly in the spring but dies off in early July. As a result, mid-summer algae blooms form, causing high decomposition rates reducing oxygen levels and stressing aquatic animals. These blooms can pose risks to pets and humans and further deplete biodiversity.

Lakeside development has increased, natural shorelines have been replaced with riprap, leading to a decline in native species. A 2022 survey of the lake identified 17 native plant species, but 11 of these species had very low frequencies (5% or less), while invasive plants like curly-leaf pondweed now dominate the ecosystem.

Historical agricultural and urban runoff significantly degraded the water quality. Wright SWCD has worked with stakeholders for years, building multiple projects to reduce runoff pollution. However, nutrients continue to cycle within the lake due to the lack of biodiversity. Phosphorus within the lake contributes 84% of the total load. Howard Lake cannot be fishable and swimmable without restoring the internal load.

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.

To improve the water quality in Howard Lake we propose restoring habitats in the shoreline and aquatic zones.

Many of the shoreline areas on Howard Lake are rip-rap and Kentucky blue-grass lawns. We plan to educate lakeshore owners on lakeshore best management practices. We propose encouraging simple changes such as eliminating fertilizer and strategic mowing. Additionally, Wright SWCD will engage lakeshore owners to increase native plant buffers in their shoreline and aquatic zones by their property.

Further into the lake curly-leaf pondweed releases 460 lbs of phosphorus into Howard Lake every year when it senesces in July. By replacing it with native aquatic plants phosphorus will instead be sequestered for the entire growing season, leading to drastically reduced algae blooms. Removal of the curly-leaf pondweed will begin in 2026 using state and federal sources. ENRTF funds will extend those treatment practices, and importantly, implement revegetation practices to restore native plants.

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?

Current perceptions of the ideal lakeshore include manicured lawns and riprap. Through multiple points of interaction this project will work to change the perception of a natural shoreline, so it fits within a new ideal.

Implementation of the native habitat both in shore zones and aquatic zones will draw additional bird, insect, fish, and other species to the area.

Improved water quality is expected to result from the habitat improvements. Natural shorelines will prevent erosion and filter runoff. Native plants will improve the internal nutrient cycle in the lake.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Education and Outreach

Activity Budget: \$20,000

Activity Description:

Objective: Inform and engage stakeholders about project progress and fostering support for sustainable practices.

Task 1: For shoreline workshops, mailers will be sent to Howard Lake shore owners. We hope to accomplish transparency for the project and opportunities for feedback.

Task 2: For project implementation outreach, mailers demonstrating project benefits and available cost-share funding will be sent to lakeshore owners to encourage project participation.

Task 3: Stakeholder meetings will be coordinated with the lake association and the city. All meetings will be held within the City of Howard Lake or Middleville Township. Advertising for the meetings will include public notices, emails, social media, and mailers.

Specific Outputs: Number of meeting attendees, workshop participants, and mailers sent.

Impact and Usage: Increased stakeholder awareness and involvement, leading to broader adoption of native shoreline restoration practices and informed community support.

Evaluation Plans: Track attendance at meetings and workshops, count mailers sent, and record responses to site visit invitations to measure engagement and effectiveness.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
20 workshop attendees	September 30, 2028
500 mailers sent	September 30, 2029
75 engagements with lakeshore owners	June 30, 2030
200 cumulative meeting attendees	June 30, 2030
Shoreline Tour	September 30, 2031
Shoreline Tour	September 30, 2034

Activity 2: Site Visits and Technical Engineering

Activity Budget: \$40,000

Activity Description:

The objective is to customize habitat restoration projects to each landowner and site. It will include on-site consultations and engineering designs.

Task 1: The first task is to conduct site visits on lakeshore properties. Using the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Shoreland Stewardship program, homeowners will do a self-evaluation of their property. Then SWCD technical staff will visit the property to consult on needs and goals for the property. Together they will come up with action steps and funding sources.

Task 2: Creating designed plans for larger projects that require earthwork, drainage, etc. Wright SWCD has engineering staff to create designs. Outputs will include the number of plans.

Task 3: Construction oversight and site visit follow ups will be conducted by technical staff to ensure the plan was implemented as designed and maintained ensure long-term effectiveness.

Specific Outputs: The number and location of site visits and designs

Impact and Usage: Site Visits offer an opportunity to build trust with stakeholders even if they don't agree to a project right away.

Evaluation Plans: Tracking of the percentage of parcels that engaged in a site visit and tracking of the percentage of parcels that request a plan or design will indicate success.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
30 Responses to site visit invitations	September 30, 2029
50 Responses to site visit invitations	September 30, 2032

Activity 3: Habitat Implementation

Activity Budget: \$135,000

Activity Description:

This objective is to increase the number of native species in the near shore, shoreline, and aquatic zones. It may also include shoreline stabilizations or grading.

Task 1: Homeowner implementation. This task includes activities that homeowners can implement without a contractor. Items might include changing lawn mowing habits to increase buffer areas or planting natives. Projects using grant dollars would have a 10-year contract.

Task 2: Contractor Shoreline Implementation. These items would need engineered plans, and may include, rip-rap removal/augmentation, grading, or other earthwork. Projects using grant dollars would have a 20-year contract.

Task 3: Aquatic Habitat restoration. This task is for activities that support native aquatic plant growth. This includes planting plugs or seeding. Additionally, it includes fencing off and signing areas of native plantings.

Specific Outputs are number of acres enhanced.

Impact and Usage. These sites will bring more habitat to the area in and around Howard Lake. They will promote health for fish, wildlife, and the ecology of the lake.

Evaluation Plans. Sites will be checked at years 1, 5, and 9 for 10-year projects. Additionally checked at years 15 and 19 for 20-year projects.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
-------------	-----------------------------

10 Homeowner Implemented Projects	September 30, 2031
2 Contractor implemented projects	November 30, 2033
60 Acres of Native Vegetation	August 31, 2034

Activity 4: Invasive Plant Removal

Activity Budget: \$80,000

Activity Description:

This objective is to remove invasive species from the aquatic zones of Howard Lake to reduce competition for native plants and improve sunlight penetration.

Task 1: Surveying of native and invasive species will be accomplished by hiring a certified contractor. The contractor will be a third-party to the chemical contractor. Surveys will be used to determine the next treatment areas and determine how native plants are responding.

Task 2: There are currently 150 acres of curly-leaf pondweed on Howard Lake. Chemical treatments will be accomplished by hiring a licensed pesticide applicator. Treatments areas will be determine by a third-party surveyor and permitted through the DNR. Treatments and surveys will begin in 2026 with other grant funds. The purpose of the early start is so new plantings can avoid the chemicals during a lake-wide treatment.

Outputs include the number of acres treated on an annual basis.

The impact of the treatments is to reduce the invasive species populations so native plants can regrow and water quality improves.

Evaluation Plans are within the surveying task. We will track the decrease of invasive species as well as the increase in native species.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
75 acres of Curly-leaf Pondweed remaining	June 30, 2028
15 acres of curly-leaf pondweed remaining	June 30, 2030
Annual treatment of curly-leaf pondweed no longer required	June 30, 2034

Activity 5: Grant Administration

Activity Budget: \$22,000

Activity Description:

The objective is to provide the necessary paperwork for the grant to LCCMR.

Activities will include review and approve grant agreement, submitting reports to BWSR, tracking hours toward other grant activities, preparing contract forms, gathering signatures, and making modifications to the grant as needed.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Grant Closure	June 30, 2035

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Lily Carr	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers	Shoreland Stewardship Coordinator	No
Curt Forst	Howard Lake Watershed Alliance	Local stakeholder contact	No
Nick Haggemiller	City of Howard Lake	City Administrator	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

In addition to the stakeholder meetings included in the proposal, Wright SWCD holds meetings with the Wright County Coalition of Lakes to showcase its work, maintains a website, publishes a quarterly newsletter and annual report, and manages a Facebook page. Wright SWCD also participates in the Wright County Fair and other expos. All publications will include the required logos and funding credits.

Wright SWCD also participates in several professional conferences, including the Minnesota Water Resources Conference, Minnesota Lake Management Society, North American Lake Management Society, and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Wright SWCD will consider submitting abstracts to these organizations during and after the project timeframe.

This proposal is intended to be a demonstration, not a research study. However, Wright SWCD is partnering with MAISRC and universities in the state to include Howard Lake in research efforts. Through those collaborations, Wright SWCD will contribute to or support scientific publications related to this demonstration.

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?

Wright SWCD, the City of Howard Lake and the Howard Lake Watershed Alliance have agreed to financial contributions for the treatment of AIS until 2035. The City and the lake association will treat AIS for the foreseeable future after that.

The project is a demonstration of how an improvement to restoration of habitat will improve water quality. Shoreline projects can continue to be funded through watershed-based implementation funding or other cost-share options, all projects will have operation and maintenance plans. Federal funding is expected to be available in the area under the Section 319 Small Watershed grant program through 2037.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Alicia O'Hare

Job Title: Water Resource Specialist

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

Alicia O’Hare has been the Water Resource Specialist at Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for 10 years. O’Hare manages the three comprehensive watershed management plans in the county. Additionally, she coordinates the aquatic invasive species program and water quality monitoring program for Wright SWCD. O’Hare is the project manager for the EPA 319 Small Watershed Program, Howard Lake is included in that project area. In 2025, the first phase of the EPA 319 program closed a \$320,000 grant. O’Hare developed the workplan for the second phase, which started in 2026, as well as secured supplemental funds that were unspent by other grant recipients during the Phase 1 grant. Additional support in the organization will come from the District Manager, Project Coordinator, and Operations Specialist, who combined have over 30 years of project management and implementation experience.

Organization: Wright Soil and Water Conservation District

Organization Description:

The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District is a specialized, local government agency in Minnesota focused on protecting and preserving natural resources. It acts as a trusted partner to landowners and agencies, providing technical expertise, cost-share funding, and educational services to manage water, soil, wetlands, and wildlife habitat while aiding with environmental regulatory compliance.

Wright SWCD has an annual budget between two and three million dollars with annual project implementation between half and one million dollars. Wright SWCD utilizes local, state and federal grants to financially assist project installation, with extensive experience managing and coordinating the projects and the financial tracking.

There are eight full-time employees at Wright SWCD, all of whom may be contributing to this project in their area of expertise. Vegetation establishment will be assisted by our Conservation Technician and Wetland Resource Conservationist. Structural work will be led by our Natural Resources Engineer, Engineering Technician and Project Coordinator. Project management point of contact will be our Water Resources Specialist, with financial support for the Operation Specialist and District Manager.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Water Resource Specialist		Project Manager, site evaluator			21.6%	2		\$20,000
District Manager		Oversight of project management, technical engineering, and budget			21.6%	0.8		\$5,000
Project Coordinator		Coordinate with contractors and landowners for large scale shoreline restorations			21.6%	0.7		\$5,000
Wetland Resource Conservationist		Consult on plant selection for shoreline plantings			21.6%	0.6		\$3,000
Conservation Technician		Conduct site visits, technical support for all shoreline projects, consult on plant selections			21.6%	1.6		\$20,000
Operations Specialist		Administration of budget, invoicing, coordinating payments to contractors			21.6%	0.8		\$5,000
Natural Resources Engineer		Conduct site visits, creating engineered designs for shoreline restorations			21.6%	0.7		\$10,000
Engineering Technician		Assist engineer with technical designs and construction oversight			21.6%	0.7		\$10,000
							Sub Total	\$78,000
Contracts and Services								
Aquatic Plant Surveyor, TBD	Service Contract	The aquatic plant surveyor will identify locations of invasive and native plants to help plan treatment areas				0.8		\$30,000
Invasive Plant Pesticide Applicator, TBD	Service Contract	The invasive plant pesticide applicator will be a licensed applicator to apply pesticides to control aquatic invasive species				0.8		\$50,000
Shoreline Restoration , TBD	Service Contract	This may be multiple entities as each large scale project will be bid separately. They include entities that can conduct earthwork etc. It will also cover native plantings done by contractors or landowners				0.6		\$60,000
Aquatic Native Plant	Service Contract	This will be plantings of native plugs or seeds to restore native plant habitat as well as protection of the plantings				0.8		\$75,000

Restoration, TBD								
							Sub Total	\$215,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Mailers, approximately 2000 post-cards and postage	Invite stakeholders to meetings and site visits					\$3,000
	Publication	Informational signs, 5-10 signs	Post signs near vegetation restorations in the lake to inform recreators on purpose and safety					\$1,000
							Sub Total	\$4,000
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$297,000

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
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	EPA 319 Small Watershed	Aquatic Invasive Species Removal and Surveying	Secured	\$50,000
Cash	Howard Lake Watershed Alliance	Aquatic Invasive Species Removal, Outreach	Pending	\$25,000
Cash	City of Howard Lake	Aquatic Invasive Species Removal	Pending	\$65,000
Cash	Landowner Match	Landowner contributions for shoreline projects	Potential	\$5,000
Cash	SWCD Project Funds	Project funds for shoreland projects	Potential	\$15,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$160,000
			Funds Total	\$160,000

Total Project Cost: \$457,000

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
210	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
304	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
4630	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
4704	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
4735	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.3	-	Private		
4827	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.09	-	Private		
4861	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
4869	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		

4889	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
4905	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
4929	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
4965	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.11	-	Private		
4995	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.08	-	Private		
5004 & 5030	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.07	-	Private		
5017	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.06	-	Private		Has Not Begun
5043	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
5055	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
5059	Wright	This is a farm property that is adjacent to the lake. The county highway runs through the parcel and there is an portion of the parcel adjacent to the lake. Shoreline restoration would	Restoration	-	0.19	-	Private		

		prevent contaminant from entering the lake and provide habitat.							
5065	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5081	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5091	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
5101	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
5109	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5117	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5133	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5161	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
5187	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5203	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		

5219	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5233	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.1	-	Private		
5235	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5249	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5249	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5261	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
5275	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5283	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		

		contaminants from coming across the highway							
5292	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5317	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.06	-	Private		
5321	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5329	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5337	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5345	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5345	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	-	-	Private		
5353	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5361	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		

		contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.							
5369	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5369	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
5383	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
5387	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5403	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5415	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5419	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5435	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		

		access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway							
5441	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		Has Not Begun
5453	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5453	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5467	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5483	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5491	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5509	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5519	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5536	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent	Restoration	-	0.12	-	Private		

		contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.							
5538	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.07	-	Private		Has Not Begun
5539	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.06	-	Private		
5567	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.2	-	Private		Has Not Begun
5579	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5580	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.09	-	Private		
5589	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5605	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5608	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5617	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5651	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		

5663	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5681	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5703	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
5715	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.01	-	Private		
5721	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.08	-	Private		
5733	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.01	-	Private		
5751	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.02	-	Private		
5763	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
5779	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		

5800	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.07	-	Private		
5828	Wright	This is shoreline between a county highway and the lake. The home is across the highway and the homeowner has access through on the lake side. An improved shoreline will help prevent contaminants from coming across the highway	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
5831	Wright	This parcel is is a farm field and is adjacent to the lake. Shoreline restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and add habitat.	Restoration	-	0.06	-	Private		
5838	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
5842	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
5862	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.01	-	Private		
5912	Wright	The is a campground along the lakeshore. It would be very a public facing project and provide a significant about of habitat	Restoration	-	0.33	-	Private		
8847	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.03	-	Private		
8903	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
8905	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent	Restoration	-	0.07	-	Private		

		contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.							
8937	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.04	-	Private		
8959	Wright	This is a shoreline property of Howard Lake. Restoration would prevent contaminants from entering the lake and improve habitat.	Restoration	-	0.05	-	Private		
Howard Lake 86-0199-00	Wright	This is Howard Lake itself, currently dominated by AIS.	Restoration	300	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
				-	-	-			
Totals				300	4.33	-			

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.

Restoration activities within the lake will occur in areas of public ownership. Shoreline activities will not be protected by an easement. Homeowner implemented activities with grant funds will be bound by a ten year contract. Contractor implemented activities with grant funds will be bound by a 20-year contract.

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.

Each parcel to be restored by our organization will have a comprehensive restoration and management plan that includes a detailed diagram or engineered design, a plant list tailored to site conditions, and a schedule for maintenance visits. These plans are systematically kept on file for seven years following the end of the project's effective life, ensuring thorough documentation and accountability. To support long-term implementation, SWCD technical staff will conduct regular site inspections to monitor practice maintenance and evaluate progress toward ecological goals. The expected outcomes of these plans are improved habitat quality, enhanced native vegetation, and sustained ecological integrity, achieved through ongoing oversight and adaptive management strategies.

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.

Wright SWCD will ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement by adhering to the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" throughout all restoration efforts. For shoreline projects, the Shoreline standards for native vegetation establishment will be utilized to select appropriate native species that support habitat diversity and pollinator populations. In aquatic zone restoration, Wright SWCD will collaborate with a certified plant surveyor and the University of Minnesota to identify and implement native plant selections that align with the guidelines and promote ecological balance. Additionally, Wright SWCD routinely coordinates with the Board of Water and Soil Resources to verify that all state-funded projects incorporate native plantings that meet or exceed recommended standards, thereby advancing both ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement goals.

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.

Ongoing maintenance costs for shoreline projects will be the responsibility of the landowner, ensuring that each restored parcel receives continued care and management beyond the initial restoration period. Wright SWCD will conduct periodic maintenance checks during the life of the project to support long-term success, with site visits scheduled at years 1, 5, and 9 for 10-year projects, and additional checks at years 15 and 19 for 20-year projects. For in-lake vegetation, maintenance and monitoring will be performed through point-intercept surveys funded either by the lake association or through available grant funds. This approach secures both the financial and operational sustainability of restoration efforts, as responsibilities are clearly defined and funding mechanisms are established to support ongoing management needs into the future.

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

Conservation Corps of Minnesota would be a welcome contractor for projects that don't require heavy machinery but are more labor intensive than a landowner would like conduct. Projects may require terrestrial invasive plant removal, tree and shrub trimming, native seed and plug plantings, installing coir log, etc. They could also participate in planting and fencing aquatic plants.

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.

Sites will be checked at years 1, 5, and 9 for 10-year projects. Additionally checked at years 15 and 19 for 20-year projects. In-lake vegetation will be checked with point-intercept surveys funded each year until 2030 and at least once more in 2034.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [3d5b8f2f-30b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

The map shows Howard Lake and its location in the state. A buffer surrounding the lake represents potential shoreline restoration projects. Light blue polygon represents the area that plants are likely to grow. The hatched area is where aquatic invasive species are currently dominant....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2024 Audit File	f4b4d180-23c.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Wright SWCD LCCMR Approval	72dcca7d-804.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?

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:

Luke Johnson, Wright SWCD

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